



Family History Newsletter

Contents

Unexpected Connections	1
Online Resources	2
Out and About	2
Family History Events	2

The Family History Group meets on the first Wednesday of each month at 7pm at the Maple Ridge Library.

Find us on the web:
www.mapleridgemuseum.org

Editors: Annette Fulford, Andrea Lister

Contributors: Andrea Lister, Annette Fulford

Production: Val Patenaude, Allison White

Distribution: Brenda Smith

The views expressed in this publication are not necessarily those of the Maple Ridge Historical Society.

Submissions to this publication are welcome. Copy deadline is the 7th of each month. The publisher will take all reasonable care but will not be responsible for the loss of any manuscript or other material.

Readers are welcome to reprint articles from this publication provided that formal permission is obtained from the Editor.

Subscriptions are a benefit of membership in the Maple Ridge Historical Society. Please send membership applications, with \$20 to the Maple Ridge Historical Society.

Family History Group Meetings

The December meeting will be December 7, 2011.

Unexpected Connections

By Andrea Lister

I recently researched a friend's family tree and found unexpected connections with my own family tree.

William Surby was born in Otford, Kent, England about 1798. He enlisted with the 2nd Battalion, 66th Foot, May 3, 1815. The 2nd Battalion embarked for St. Helena accompanying Napoleon to exile, January 2, 1816 remaining there until June/July 1817 when the regiment was relieved by the 1st Battalion, 66th Foot. My ancestor Lieutenant John Ussher (forth cousin 5 times removed) was part of the 1st Battalion, 66th Foot that relieved Private William Surby. Being of different ranks they may not have shared a drink but they did cross paths.

William Surby was sent to Quebec in June 1827 accompanied by his wife Mary. He was on detachment at Fort George, Upper Canada (now Niagara-on-the-Lake, Ontario), during 1834. He was discharged from service there on May 31, 1835.

My 4th great-grandfather, also named John Usher, enlisted with His Majesty's Fifth Regiment of Foot in 1797. He was born about 1771 in Galway, Ireland. In 1797 the Fifth Regiment was dispatched to Europe where it fought under the Duke of

Wellington. The Fifth Regiment was sent to Canada and served on the frontier during the War of 1812. John and his wife Mary lived in a house on Mary's father Samuel's land. The Battle of Chippawa was fought on Samuel Street's property on July 5, 1814 and Mary is noted to have driven their cattle to safety on orders of Major General Phineas Riall. However, I have not yet learnt when John was discharged from service.

I found the burial record in 1830 for William and Mary Surby's infant daughter Helena in the Drouin Collection on Ancestry. On the same page I found a baptismal record for Harriet Elizabeth Thomson, John Usher's granddaughter.

I found another connection in a file called "Claims for Rebellion Loses in Lincoln and Welland Counties" dated March 4, 1846 found at the Ontario Archives - MU 2144, 1846 #12 and published by in *Notes From Niagara* the newsletter of the Niagara Peninsula Branch, OGS in February 1998. The early citizens of old Lincoln and Welland Counties were entitled to money to compensate for loses that they occurred during the Rebellion of 1839 although the compensation did not come till a few years later. This document is signed by William Surby, and several representatives from my family tree: the Estate of Samuel

Street, John Usher, the Estate of Edgeworth Usher, and Henry Mittelburger.

It is amazing to think that as the world's population reaches 7 billion that these two families likely knew each other almost 200 years ago.

Online Resources

Historypin

Historypin allows users to pin digital images to Google map. It allows users to compare the old photos with how the world looks now using Google street view.

You can search for a specific place or browse through the collections. Contributors range from individuals to institutions such as the City of Vancouver Archives and City of Burnaby Archives.

<http://www.historypin.com>

Out and About

Members of the Family History Group were out and about making history presentations on November 5, 2011.

Brenda Smith and Andrea Lister were at the Surrey Library's Third Annual Family History Show & Tell! Brenda presented the Hammond project and Andrea presented her Grossman family and their connection to the building of the first hospital in Chilliwack and the creation of the Chilliwack Hospital Auxiliary.



Annette Fulford was at Richmond Library talking about 100 Years of Canadian War Brides talk as part of their Remembrance Day program.



Standards for Sharing Information with Others

By Andrea Lister

I was reading the LostCousins newsletter and they have a piece on standards for sharing information with others and a link to a document compiled in 2000 by the National Genealogical Society in the US. It is worth having a look:

[http://www.lostcousins.com/pdf/NGSstandards-sharing.pdf/](http://www.lostcousins.com/pdf/NGSstandards-sharing.pdf)

Family History Events

Delta, George Mackie Library

- **Family Curator – Taking Care of Your Family Artifacts**

Wednesday, January 18, 2012,
7:00pm–8:30pm. Drop-in.

Langley Library

- **Casting the Net: Where to Seek Your Ancestors on the Internet**, with Brenda L. Smith, Saturday, Jan 28th 2:00pm–3:00pm. Registration required.

Surrey Libraries

5642-176A Street, Surrey offers free orientations the 1st Saturday of every month 9:30 – 10:30am.

- **Were Your People Really Irish?** with Eunice Robinson, Saturday, November 26, 2011, 10:30am – Noon. Fee: \$10.
- **Discover Your Past, Discover Yourself! An Introduction to Family History** with Laurie J. Cooke, Saturday, January 28, 2012, 10:30am – Noon. Fee: \$10.

Pre-registration is required – please check the Family History section of the Surrey Libraries website www.spl.surrey.bc.ca or call us at 604-598-7328.

Vancouver Public Library

- **Getting Started with the FamilySearch Website**, November 29, 2011, 2:30 pm–4:00 pm. Computer Training Room, Level 7, Central Library, Prerequisite: Basic computer and Internet skills. Registration is required and beings on Tuesday, October 4, 2011. Fee: free.

For more information please contact Fine Arts and History at 604-331-3716.