

Family History Newsletter

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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**

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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 October meeting will be October 5, 2011.

Revisit Online Databases

By Annette Fulford

Ancestry recently updated a few records so I thought I would revisit some of these databases and see if anything new had been added for the families that I research. Much to my surprise I found my mother's family in the border-crossings.

I knew that my mom's family came to BC from Saskatchewan circa 1936 but had no details about how or when they arrived here. I had previously located my grandfather in the BC Directories for 1937 living at Coghlan and later Langley Prairie in the Fraser Valley.

I put their surname in the search engine and found a border crossing record for my uncle and grandfather. The family crossed the border at Raymond, Montana on September 29, 1936 en route to BC. Raymond is directly below Pangman, Saskatchewan where they lived. The family included my grandfather Steve and his wife Lena, sons John, Joe and Steve, and daughters, Lena, Lizzie and Katie.

Grandpa was recorded as 5 ft 5 inches tall with a medium complexion, brown hair and brown eyes. He was 50 years old. He lists his son Andrew at 717 Beadie St, Vancouver as his next of kin in country he came from.

Grandpa had \$800.00 dollars with him. This seems like quite a bit of money for the depression era. He says he crossed the border into the US once before in 1921. I am still looking to see if I can find a record for that border crossing.

The only other person to have a border-crossing card was my Uncle Joe. It says that his parents and siblings accompanied him, all of which are all listed. Joe is reported to be 5 ft 7 inches tall with a medium complexion, brown hair, and blue eyes. He was 22 years old at the time. On both of their cards they list their race as German, not Hungarian. The family was originally from a German village in Hungary.

It pays to revisit databases even if you have already discovered records for them. This is not the first time I have found items in a database that weren't there previously. Records get updated or transcribed names get corrected over the course of time making previously undiscovered documents available.

Family History Survey

We are two professors –Leighann Neilson and Del Muike – from Carleton University in Ottawa, Ontario who are conducting research on family history. We are not affiliated with any of the commercial genealogy databases or software providers. We are

researchers and family historians ourselves, who want to learn more about the surge of interest in family history. In order for our research to accurately capture what's happening in family history in Canada today, we need the participation of as many family historians as possible.

The survey is available online at: www.cusurveycentre.ca/gensurvey and takes about 20 to 30 minutes to complete. If you're interested in learning about the results of the survey, we'll be posting updates on our blog Genealogy in Canada <http://genealogyincanada.blogspot.com>.

We anticipate sharing the results of our research with museums, archives, and genealogy societies, all of who are trying to meet the needs of family history researchers. Individual family historians will be able to learn more about how others are conducting their research by reading and commenting on the survey results as we report them on our blog.

Online Resources

Saskatchewan Newspapers online at Peel's

Moose Jaw Herald Times, 1890 - 1899

<http://peel.library.ualberta.ca/news/papers/MJH/>

The Prince Albert Times, 1882 - 1895

<http://peel.library.ualberta.ca/news/papers/PAT/>

Qu'Appelle Progress, 1885 - 1900

<http://peel.library.ualberta.ca/news/papers/QPP/>

1871 Canadian Census

The 1871 census is now fully searchable with digital images at Library and Archives Canada.

<http://www.collectionscanada.gc.ca/databases/census-1871/index-e.html>

Family History Events

Finding Your Roots: Tri-Stake Seminar

- Saturday, October 15, 2011, 8:30am – 4:00pm.

6270 - 126th Street, Surrey, BC

<http://www.findingyourroots.ca/>

Chilliwack Library

- **First Steps on the Ancestral Trail** with Brenda L. Smith, Tuesday, Sep 20th 7:00pm – 8:30pm. Registration required for this program

Hope Library

- **Find Your Family in the Library** with Brenda L. Smith, Tuesday, October 25, 2011, 7:00 – 8:00pm. Drop-in.

Surrey Libraries

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

- **Start Searching Your Family History** with Brenda L. Smith, September 19, October 3 & 17, November 7 & 21, 2011, 5:30pm – 8:30pm. Fee: \$100 for series.
- **Discover Your Past, Discover Yourself!: an Introduction to Family History** with Laurie J.

Cooke, Saturday, September 24, 2011, 10:30am – 12:00pm. Fee: \$10.00.

- **Third Annual Family History Show & Tell!** For the last 2 years we've invited people who document their family history to bring in their creations – there have been family quilts, artfully done scrapbooks, storyboards, digital collages and much more. We invite you once again to join us and bring whatever you've made to honour your ancestors. Visitors without stories are welcome to see and listen. Note! Participants will be strictly limited to a maximum of ten minutes talk time! Saturday, November 5, 2011, 10:30am - 12:30pm
- **Were Your People Really Irish?** with Eunice Robinson, Saturday, November 26, 2011, 10:30am – Noon.

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

- **Scandinavian Ancestors**, Wednesday, November 2, 2011, 7:00pm – 8:30pm. Fee: Free.

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