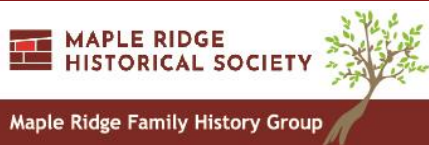


Community, Past, Present & Future



Family History Newsletter

September 2021

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The Family History group supports members in researching their family history research.

Members have ancestors from around the globe. We respectfully acknowledge that the land on which we live, work, and play is the traditional and unceded territory of the Katzie First Nation and the Kwantlen First Nation Peoples.

We meet on the first Wednesday of each month at 7pm virtually until further notice.

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150th Anniversary of BC Joining Confederation

by *Andrea Lister*

The history of what is now known as British Columbia dates back 14,000 years before July 20, 1871—the date that the colony became a Province of the Confederated Empire of British North America. An ancient wetland-gardening site in Pitt Meadows found that as early as 1,800 BCE, ancestors of the Katzie People were cultivating wapato, a tuber also known as a swamp potato. Preserved footprints found on Calvert Island, east of Queen Charlotte Sound are dated at 13,000 years old or towards the end of the last major Ice Age. To put it in a global context, Stonehenge was completed in 2200 BCE; the Shang Dynasty in China began about 1600 BCE.

However, from a family history point of view, we tend to rely on government and church records created by settlers and explorers. This edition of the *Family History Newsletter* endeavours to highlight some of the places to look for your ancestors in British Columbia.

Pots and Pans Become a Story

By *Brenda L. Smith*

I encourage my fellow family historians to make connections with the places where their families have lived. We find so much information in the libraries, archives and museums that treasure the remnants of local history. It is important that we give back to maintain the sometimes fragile chains linking us to our ancestors.

For over fifty years my mother cooked in a set of Wear-Ever pots and pans. With my younger brother and sister, I learned to prepare meals “the waterless cooking way.” I loved baking with the mixing bowls and pans.

My family has donated the collection to the South Peace Historical Society in Dawson Creek, British Columbia. My part has been to prepare the provenance to accompany the artifacts, explaining why they have significant for the museum collection.

Usually, writing the life story of an item being donated to a museum or archival repository is quite straightforward historical writing, but this time, I have been making new discoveries about my own history. The work has helped me remember the dinner parties my parents hosted when they were selling the cookware.

My parents, William “Bill” Kehler (b. 1918 d. 2004) and Dorothy Louise Nock (b. 1926 d. 2006) were married by Major C. C. Clitheroe, the Salvation Army chaplain, in Dawson Creek 08 August 1945. They spent the next

next seven months in Olds and Didsbury, Alberta, returning to the Peace River Country in March 1946.



Bill and Dorothy's wedding 1945

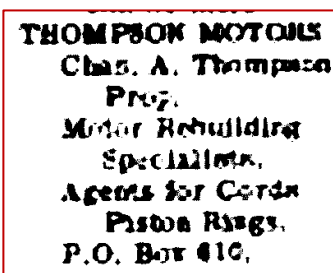
William "Bill" Kehler and Dorothy Louise Nock, married in Dawson Creek, BC 08 August 1945.

BRENDA L. SMITH
COLLECTION

To locate Bill and Dorothy in the time and place where they sold Wear-Ever, I researched our landlord, and learned more about why my parents had been married by Major Clitheroe, since both families had been involved with the Anglican Church.

Following their return to Dawson Creek, Bill and Dorothy started a mechanics shop in the 900 block between Alaska and 101 Avenues. The business was later moved to 1432-107th Avenue where they rented a house and shop from Arthur Stevens Chamberlain (b. 1882 d. 1959) until June 1959. According to the Calverley Papers on the South Peace Historical Society web site, Chamberlain was one of the three village commissioners when Dawson Creek was incorporated in 1936. He was also instrumental in providing meeting space for the Salvation Army in 1943.

Bill and Dorothy were entrepreneurs who undertook many small business opportunities. Between 1946 to 1953 they sold Watkins Products and Wear-Ever cookware to supplement their income from the mechanics shop.



British Columbia and Yukon Directory, Sun Directories Limited Vancouver BC, 1947.

In 1953 Bill and Dorothy purchased Thompson Motors from Charles A. Thompson (b. 1897 d. 1957) and moved the shop to the northeast corner of 8th Street and 108th Avenue, renamed Kehler Motors. The new shop demanded full attention for some years, and so the Watkins and Wear-Ever enterprises were set aside. When Charlie Thompson and his family left Dawson Creek they bought a motel in Qualicum, BC and Charlie served stints as a lighthouse keeper up the BC coast. I recall him coming back up north with a slide projector to show us pictures of lighthouse life. In 1956 our family visited them in Qualicum with the final payment for the engine rebuilding business. Charlie died in Victoria just over a year later.

These pots and pans, with many of the sales premiums, were part of the Kehler kitchen from the late 1940s until Dorothy's death. The sales model used by "Specialty Salesmen" who demonstrated the virtues of stove top, waterless, low temperature cooking involved at home dinner parties. Bill prepared dinners for fifteen to twenty guests seated at a large table watching him present a complete meal cooked on the range top; his masterpiece conclusion was the glory of his perfect angel food cake popped out of a saucepan.



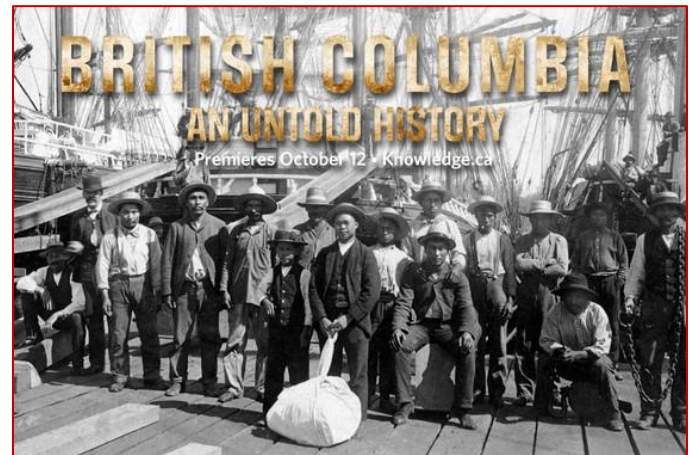
JANET (KEHLER) TRACY
COLLECTION

The Kehler family Wear-Ever utensils lived first at 1432-107th Avenue, Dawson Creek until 1959 when the family moved to property at Mile 5½ on the Alaska Highway. In 1988, Bill and Dorothy became snowbirds, living year-round in a series of fifth wheel trailers. The pots were given handmade covers to protect them from abrasion while travelling. They toured North America until 1998, when Bill and Dorothy settled in Maple Ridge, BC.

"Thank you" is hardly enough to commend the gifts that we find when those passionate about history keep and make available the glimpses of our past that abound in local museums and archives. As family historians, we can add to the stories that lend meaning to these collections.

British Columbia: An Untold Story

www.knowledge.ca/program/british-columbia-untold-history



The retelling of "BC" from the diverse people, families, rebels, and dreamers who shaped the province. The four-part series debuts October 12 at 9:00 pm on the Knowledge Network.

Terms of Service

by Andrea Lister

You may have seen much discussion about the changes in the terms of service with Ancestry in regards to "User Provided Content." Ancestry is not claiming copyright over the content you upload, however, you are granting them "a perpetual, sublicensable, worldwide, non-revocable, royalty-free license to host, store, copy, publish, distribute, provide access to, create derivative works of, and otherwise use such User Provided Content."

Despite the uproar, the terms of service through MyHeritage are very similar, you grant them a "royalty-free, worldwide, perpetual and non-exclusive license to host, copy, post and distribute such content." FindMyPast's terms are also along the same lines.

So what does this mean? You could never claim copyright over your tree, as it is a compilation of facts and facts are not protected by copyright, so nothing has changed there. You still have copyright over any photos you took and uploaded to Ancestry or Find-a-Grave or MyHeritage but you have given them, and other users of the websites, the ability to use your content without asking your permission.

Ancestry has just made it clear that if you upload a story or photo to their website you cannot complain to Ancestry if another user adds it to their tree.



Wear-Ever

Wear-Ever Cookware was launched in 1903 by the Aluminum Company of America (ALCOA) as a way to increase the market for its aluminum. In Canada, Wear-Ever products were made by the Northern Aluminum Company, later known as Alcan. The aluminum products were marketed by door-to-door salesmen across Canada and through home parties. They could also be purchased from Eaton's catalogue or a local store.

The image is page 527 from the *Eaton's Catalogue Fall and Winter 1948-49*.

T. EATON CO. CATALOGUE [ENGLISH EDITION] FALL & WINTER -- TORONTO: T. EATON CO., [188--197-] -- V. -- P. 1-574 © SEARS CANADA INC. REPRODUCED WITH THE PERMISSION OF SEARS CANADA INC. 029006-NLC003958

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Theodoresu, I. (n.d.) *Fancy Kitchen in Canada: A report on 20th century industrial design for domestic appliances*.

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calverley.ca.

Technology Tips: Keeping Passwords Safe

By Darren Durupt

In the July newsletter I gave you tips on how to generate and remember your passwords. At the May meeting I talked about processes for backing up all your data.

All your personal data and information is super safe and secure now, right?

Maybe, maybe not...I am sure everyone has seen all the little "fun" quizzes, and chain questionnaires circulating on social media.

You know the "What's your Elf name?"

What's Your Elf Name?

First letter of your first name:

A- Sweetie	N- Cookie
B- Jolly	O- Sparkle
C- Bubbles	P- Cheerful
D- Tootsie	Q- Delightful
E- Joyful	R- Spunky
F- Sugarplum	S- Candy
G- Twinkle	T- Sprinkles
H- Candy	U- Cupcake
I- Merry	V- Perky
J- Flirty	W- Frosty
K- Chipper	X- Precious
L- Angelic	Y- Sunny
M- Happy	Z- Pinky

Your Birth Month:

- January- TwinkleToes
- February- Sugarplum
- March- McJingles
- April- SparklePants
- May- PeppermintBuns
- June- SugarSocks
- July- SprinklePants
- August- AngelEars
- September- SugarBells
- October- PointyToes
- November- McSprinkles
- December- JollyToes

Or maybe it was Harry Potter; what Hogwarts house are you? I could go on because there really is an almost endless array of them, but I'm sure you get the idea.

WHOSE POSTER WAS ON YOUR BEDROOM WALL WHEN YOU WERE A TEENAGER?

WHAT WOULD YOUR NAME BE IF:

- 1- It started with the first 3 letters of your FATHER's name
- 2- It ended with the last 3 letters of your MOTHER's name

Without naming the city where you were born, what is that city famous for?

Just curious how many remember this song?

174 In the Garden

1 I come to the gar-den a - lone, while the dew is still on the
2 the rocks and the ground of his voice is so sweet the birds hush their
3 I'll stay in the gar-den with him through the night a-round me be

one - ecc and the voice I hear, fall - ing on my ear; the
ing, and the word - s of life that he gave to me with
full - ing, but he bids me go through the voice of woe his

These are social media scams. Social media scams are ubiquitous and generally look innocuous and entertaining but are incredibly effective at divining people's personal information.

Another form of these scams is the "Get to know you" chain posts. You know, the ones where you answer a list of questions like, your favourite colour, your first job, your favourite book, or author.

You should never, ever, ever participate in these types of social media posts, quizzes, or polls.

They may seem like a little bit of harmless entertainment between friends, but it is all your personally identifying information and they frequently correlate in some way back to the security questions you answer when creating accounts for some online services. The very security questions you use to reset your passwords.

These are five of the most common security questions used:

- What is the name of the road you grew up on?
- What is your mother's maiden name?
- Where did you go to high school/college?
- What is your favorite food?
- What city were you born in?

In the worst scenarios, you can see how participating in these scam posts provides all the information nefarious individuals require. Even in the best of though, participating in posts like this freely gives your personal data to corporations, who in turn buy and sell it for targeted marketing purposes.

Many people, rightfully, feel they should be safe from this because they have secured their social media profiles. They believe that only those they have approved can see what they post. The problem is that by the simple act of clicking on the link and/or posting a response you agree to what is commonly know as the EULA (End User License Agreement); which gives the original poster full access to your social media platform.

Honestly, the best approach with this type of thing is to just not do it. Seriously, just stop.

Online Resources

Ancestry—Library Edition

Ancestry and ProQuest have extended remote access to Ancestry.com. Library card holders can use Ancestry.com at home until December 31, 2021.

Resources

- Surrey Libraries guides: www.surreylibraries.ca/services/family-history#F
- Cyndi's List: <https://www.cyndislist.com/canada/provinces/bc/>
- FamilySearch Research Wiki: [www.familysearch.org/wiki/en/British Columbia, Canada Genealogy](http://www.familysearch.org/wiki/en/British_Columbia,_Canada_Genealogy)

Oral Histories

Oral histories are sometimes overlooked as a resource. Check with a local archives to see what they have in their collection.

- The BC Archives: <https://royalbcmuseum.bc.ca/bc-archives/what-we-have/indigenous-material>
- Northern BC Archives: <https://libguides.unbc.ca/c.php?g=709633&p=5059024> and <https://libguides.unbc.ca/oral-histories/princegeorge>

Newspapers

- The Ancestor Hunt lists digitized BC newspapers that are available to search for free: <https://theancestorhunt.com/blog/british-columbia-online-historical-newspapers-summary/>
- British Colonist: <https://britishcolonist.ca/>
- UBC Historical Newspapers: <http://historicalnewspapers.library.ubc.ca/>
- Chilliwack Progress: <https://theprogress.newspapers.com/>
- The Native Voice: <http://nativevoice.ca/>
- SFU Digitized Newspapers: <https://newspapers.lib.sfu.ca/newspaper-categories/british-columbia-canada>

- \$\$ Newspapers.com: www.newspapers.com/
- \$\$ NewspaperArchive.com: <https://newspaperarchive.com/>

Databases

- Points to the Past—via the Fraser Valley Library: <https://pointstothepast.ca/index.html>
- Canadiana: www.canadiana.ca
- HathiTrust: www.hathitrust.org

Resources for Indigenous People

- Aboriginal Genealogy Society: www.facebook.com/aboriginal.ancestors/
- Stó:lō Research and Resource Management Centre: www.srrmcentre.com/genealogy

Annette's Favourites

- BC Archives—Genealogy—search their indexes for: births (1854–1903); marriages (1871–1945); deaths (1872–2000); colonial marriages (1859–1872); and baptisms (1836–1888): <http://search-collections.royalbcmuseum.bc.ca/Genealogy>
- Bowell Funeral Home records: www.nwheritage.org/heritagesite/genealogy/index.htm
- British Colonist 1858-1980 <https://britishcolonist.ca/>
- UBC Open Library—BC Historical Newspapers <https://open.library.ubc.ca/collections/bcnewspapers>

Family History Events

Abbotsford British Columbia Family History Centre

https://www.familysearch.org/wiki/en/Abbotsford_British_Columbia_Family_History_Centre

Free online webinars

- **Casting the Net: Seek Your Ancestors on the Internet** with Brenda L. Smith, Thursday, September 23, 2021, 7:00 pm
- **Military Men on Our Family Tree** with Marlene Dance, Thursday, October 21, 7:00 pm.

BYU Family History

<https://fh.lib.byu.edu/classes-and-webinars/>

- The BYU Library is offering virtual Sunday classes for anyone interested in family history. They also offer webinars, instructional videos, and tutorials.

BECOME A MEMBER

The Family History Group is a standing committee of the Maple Ridge Historical Society and we encourage, but do not require, that our members join the society.

We meet on the first Wednesday of the month, 7pm on Zoom until further notice. Email us at: mrfamilyhistory@gmail.com for information on how to join the meeting.

Sept 8, 2021: The Series: Some Things People Do In the Cemetery—Picnicking, Polishing, Pulling Weeds

Cemeteries serve people in many ways: social centre, recreation ground, public garden, and religious observance.

October 6, 2021: The Maple Ridge Family History Group—Who We Are & Our Community Relationships with the Maple Ridge Historical Society & Maple Ridge Museum & Community Archives

October is the month Canada celebrates Women's History. What better way than to review our family history and search for that special woman who made a difference for her family, community or even more.

Have something to share? There's always time to hear about an exciting new find or an interesting family story.