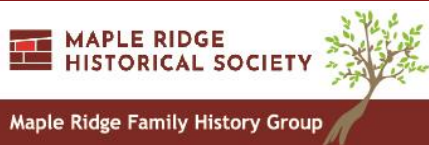


Community, Past, Present & Future



Family History Newsletter

January 2022

The Family History Newsletter is a publication of the Maple Ridge Historical Society

ISSN 2564-0895 (Print)

ISSN 2564-0909 (Online)

22520 116th Avenue

Maple Ridge, BC V2X 0S4 CANADA

www.mapleridgemuseum.org

Email: mrfamilyhistory@gmail.com

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.

In This Issue

Benefits of an Online Tree	1
Family Literacy Day Take & Make	2
The 1950 United States Census	2
52 Ancestors in 52 Weeks	3
Beware the Autorenewal	3
Family Members Serving in the Second World War	3
While We Are Apart.....	3
Technology Tips: Follow-Up.....	6
Online Resources.....	6
Family History Events.....	7

Unexpected Benefits of an Online Tree

By Andrea Lister

In the genealogy world we often talk about online trees as "cousin bait" — a way to attract cousins who are willing to share and collaborate. Online trees can have other unexpected benefits. On October 17, 2021 I received the following message through *Ancestry*:

Hello! I recently purchased a cabinet card photo of Fred Rounsefell. From what I can see I think he is the nephew of your great great grandfather. My hobby is returning these old photos to family members doing research. You seem to be the closest relative who is active on ancestry. He was a confirmed bachelor who died at 40-something in Boston. The photo is incredibly striking. I hate to see it lost to family histories. Let me know if you are interested and I can mail it to you (for free). If I don't hear back within a few weeks I may look for someone else but will try to post a picture of it on Ancestry. Best—Michael

Of course, I replied with my PO Box information and immediately started researching Fred Rounsefell while I waited for the mail. Frederick Rounsefell was born on August 25, 1875 in Halifax, Nova Scotia, Canada to David Henry Rounsefell and Anna Bell Preston. He was their third child.



Frederick, his parents, and his four siblings moved to Boston in 1879.

Frederick was a first cousin to my great-grandmother Margaret DeWolf (Rounsefell) Richardson.

The photograph arrived and it is indeed striking. It captured Frederick in 1900 at age 22. According to the 1900 US census he lived at 24 Forest Rox and was employed as a clerk. The *Boston Directory for 1898* shows that Frederick worked for insurance and real estate agency, Carroll & Peers.

Fred Rounsefell, 1900 (as noted on the back).

ANDREA LISTER COLLECTION, PHOTOGRAPHER
JAMES EDWARD PURDY, 1900

The photograph was taken by James E. Purdy, the leading photographer for the Boston-area high schools for much of the 20th century. Purdy died in 1933 (which means the photo is in the public domain).

In 1902 Frederick petitioned to become a citizen of the United States. In 1907 Frederick was initiated into the Washington Lodge of the Freemasons. In 1908 he was noted in the *Boston Directory* as a Justice of the Peace.

In September 1918, Frederick filled out a draft registration card. He was forty-three and employed as a bookkeeper at the Exchange Trust Co. bank. The physical description on Frederick's registration noted he was of medium height with a slender build, blue eyes, and brown hair. The First World War ended on November 11, 1918 so it is unlikely that Frederick went overseas.

The *Boston Directory of 1932* noted that Frederick was a clerk for the Exchange Trust Company.

In April 1932 the Exchange Trust Company was one of the over 1,400 banks that suspended operations in 1932 and one of over 9,000 banks that failed during the Great Depression in the United States.



The Exchange Trust Company was taken over by the state in April 1932. The June 4, 1932 issue of the *Fitchburg Sentinel* noted that the assets of the Exchange Trust had been placed in the hands of a liquidator.

"EXCHANGE TRUST COMPANY, BOSTON CLOSES DOORS", FITCHBURG SENTINEL, APRIL 25, 1932, 1, NEWSPAPERS.COM.

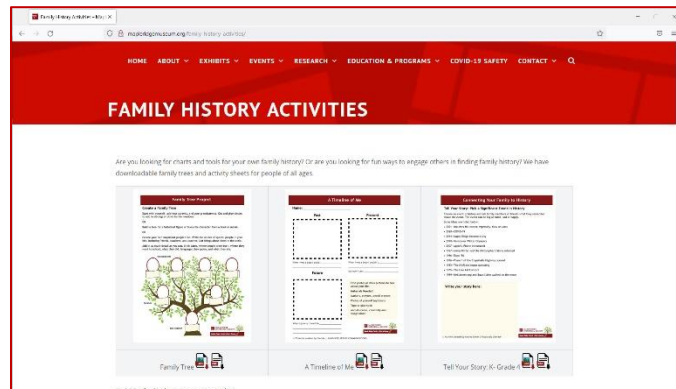
Frederick Rounsefell died July 1, 1932 at age fifty-six. His cause of death still to be researched.

I am grateful to Michael for his generosity in purchasing and returning the photo to me. His gift spurred me to research a member of my tree whom I had neglected. Everybody has a story.

Family Literacy Day Take & Make

<http://mapleridgemuseum.org/family-history-activities/>

The Maple Ridge branch of the Fraser Valley Library is putting together Take & Make bags for Family Literacy Day. The Family History Group has contributed an activity sheet aimed at the preschool to grade 2 age range.



We have also added a family history activity page to our website corner with downloadable family trees and activity sheets for people of all ages. We hope to continue to add to the collection.

The 1950 United States Census on Track for April 2022 Release

www.archives.gov/news/articles/1950-census-pandemic

The United States National Archives staff are working to ensure researchers around the world can access the records as planned on April 1, 2022.

Some information, like 1950 census enumeration district maps, is already available in the online Catalog.

"Researchers can use modern maps to orient themselves to where those addresses/locations are (or were), and then consult the enumeration district [ED] maps and descriptions to determine which EDs they will need to search," said Kluskens.

Enumeration district descriptions will also be available in the National Archives Catalog after staff itemize them. In the meantime, enumeration district descriptions and other tools are available on <https://stevemorse.org/>.

For information on how to research the 1950 data when it becomes available, visit the guide for the 1940 census.

Additionally, the 1940 census data is now available for download as a full dataset.

52 Ancestors in 52 Weeks

www.amyjohnsoncrow.com/52-ancestors-in-52-weeks/

Sign up for a series of weekly prompts from Amy Johnson Crow to get you writing about your ancestors. "It's about getting over the hurdles of writer's block and maybe a bit of procrastination, all while helping to tell the stories of your ancestors."

Beware the Autorenewal

By *Andrea Lister*

At this time of year, we tend to be bombarded with discounts for the various genealogy sites. By all means take advantage of any deals or free trials but be aware of the auto renew setting. Some services will send you a reminder email to let you know that your free trial is ending or that your subscription is due to auto renew.

However, some services do not send the reminder email and a year later you may have forgotten that the renewal date is fast approaching. You do not want the only notification you receive to be the charge on your credit card bill.

When you sign up for a new service, check under your account details and plans or purchases to see if the service is set to auto renew.

Save 50% on an Ancestry semi-annual membership

www.ancestry.ca/c/newyears

Six-month subscriptions for Ancestry are 50 percent off in Canada and the United States until Monday, January 10 at 11:59 pm Eastern time.

Family Members Serving in the Second World War

By *Brenda L. Smith*

In classes and conversation, I am often asked how to research Canadians who served in the military during the second half of the 20th century. Finding family in very modern history is a search constrained by privacy regulation and unsupported by records generally available from earlier times such as census and vital records. Recently I found a video that might help answer the question. Glenn Wright of the Durham Branch, Ontario Genealogical Society, on November 2, 2021 presented "Proudly They Served: Researching Canadian Men and Women Who Served in the Second World War, 1939-1945"

www.youtube.com/watch?v=ont2epw62xY&t=261s

While We Are Apart...

By *Brenda L. Smith*

As we go to print on this Ninth Day of Christmas, I reflect on the events since the pandemic has been teaching us new ways of moving forward. Almost two years ago, I thought, "While I wait out this virus, I will wrap up all my unfinished projects." Without even a moment to make a list, I set that idea aside to move my teaching online.

I am proud of our family history group for its fast footwork. We have learned so much about optimizing online participation. Thank you especially for the coordinating team's leadership and generosity. Andrea Lister's technological skills have been invaluable in sustaining our members' ability to work virtually. Alberta McNamara has delivered an even more interesting program, and Gina Leigh has kept us all on track and connected. Thank you too, to the members of the community history project. Stay tuned for news of its launch to our larger audience.

We welcome those who have joined us from farther afield. So good to meet you. At the same time, we have worried about keeping in touch with those who are digitally challenged. To that end we have selected newsletter content, including this column, and improved our pages on the Maple Ridge Museum and Community Archives we site. Thanks to Andrea for these enormous improvements.

www.mapleridgemuseum.org

In the past six months our part of the world has been slammed by fire, flood, and exceptional cold. I asked my friend and former business partner Linda Sanford to allow us to share part of her Christmas letter about how these forces have affected her home in tiny Brookmere, south of Merritt, BC. She eloquently evokes the way that she and her husband have managed in the face of repeated challenges.

2021 Christmas Letter by Linda B. Sanford, Sandman Hotel, Kelowna, B.C. Emergency Evacuation Residence for Flood Victims, November 30, 2021.

Writing this Christmas letter from the Sandman Hotel is like asking the Sandman to 'Bring me a dream.' I keep humming the tune but waking up each morning with the same hangover of agonizing unfulfilled wishes.

Barrie and I are long-term planners, however today we can't tell you where we will be sleeping on

December 16th. By the time you get this we will be somewhere. If I can't predict the future then I'll tell you about our past—living through the three major events of flood, fire and COVID pandemic.

April 15 to October 15 is our usual fire season. The last week of July, for many years, we have had family get together at our Sulphurous Lake property. This annual reunion has been cancelled for the last two years due to wildfires. Taking a chance on family visits proved hit and misses. Our favorite retreat was on evacuation order then rescinded to an alert. Brookmere, our primary residence, was put on evacuation order. We knew a fire was at July Mountain and threatening to close the Coquihalla Highway but the winds shifted it up our way suddenly. With the added fuel from a burning pickup truck on Brookmere Road, the fires converged moving to the edge of town. The wind direction changed blowing the fire back on itself. Barrie and I had been fortunate that Sulphurous had been downgraded to an alert so we evacuated there. The lake had no boats and the air was clear of smoke, unlike Brookmere. We were happy to think of Sulphurous as our 'Forever Home.' It only took a week to replace 29 hydro poles that had burned up along Brookmere Road. Once the wires were re-strung, we had electricity permitting us into our home.

The grandchildren who visited us at Brookmere got a touch of reality. Their time visiting us was spent discovering they could do things in a different way. Our ten year old granddaughter climbed the stairs of our clothesline platform to stage a gymnastic dance using the clothesline pole like a Cirque du Soleil prop. Her encore was seven cartwheels along the front of the scenery of the Rocky Mountain Juniper hedge. When our eight-year-old climbed the stairs to the platform to hang out washed clothes, he turned the clotheslines into a zip line. He spent 20 minutes sending the clothes back and forth making them dance precariously, barely able to hang on at the tremendous speed he made them zip by!

After 30 days without rain, Barrie helped harvest the apples and threw them on the ground for the bears hoping they wouldn't break the fence and branches to get at the fruit. Something ate all the carrots. The peas dried on the vine but there were enough potatoes to last us until Halloween. There were lots of leeks and garlic. Nobody came for

handouts this year except for a small herd of range cattle that chewed up our lawn.

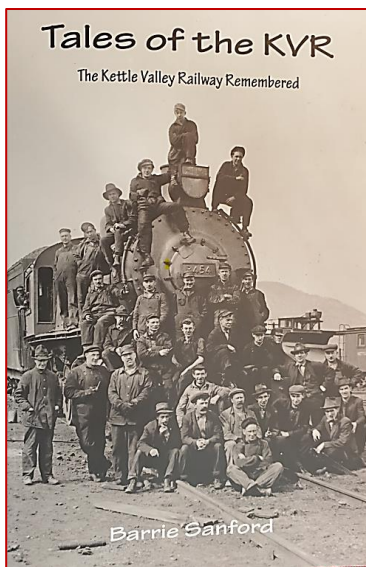
November 15th the flood at Brookmere was a surprise. Long time residents had never seen it rain for more than two days in a row. This year was different. When things usually freeze up in the fall, Brookmere got hammered with rain instead. Trees along Brook Creek were undercut by rising water and fell, causing dams holding back huge amounts of water. As dams burst, the creek overflowed its banks, flooding the whole community. Logs floating in the swiftly flowing water rammed into many structures which destroyed them. All our buildings were spared. At first we were going to stay and tough it out with no land phone, no electricity and no water. As the flood water got deeper the police told us the only way out was the back road. We couldn't go the usual way because a bridge had washed out and part of the road had slid away with the power poles. We evacuated into the night in a chain of vehicles. By midnight we registered at Kelowna. We were assigned free accommodation and meals at the Sandman Hotel. We won't be going back to live in Brookmere until heavy equipment can fix the road and restore the electricity. With all the debris that floated from one house to another we will have a very unusual Christmas gift exchange this December 25.



A Close Call: Brookmere November 2021.

IMAGE CONTRIBUTED BY LINDA B. SANFORD

Barrie's book publisher found a way to get paper to print his latest book, *Tales of the KVR: The Kettle Valley Railway Remembered*. As we prepared to brave the Duffy Lake Road to North Vancouver, Barrie welcomed the arrival of the new book at the warehouse in Kelowna.



In bookstores now: a seasonal gift to railway and family history fans from Barrie Sanford.

The COVID pandemic for almost two years now has globally put us into a most unsettling time of our lives. Travel restrictions have greatly reduced our human face-to-face visits. Wearing masks have made it difficult to understand expressions on faces. Social distancing has taken away our connection with each other through physical touch. Yet finding we can still communicate shows how resilient we are. We have not let the setbacks depress us. There is so much to shore us up.

What a train of events we've had to make us realize how fragile life can be. We are amazed at how goodness has surfaced through flood, fire and COVID. People are really trying to be nice and not just because it's Christmas.

Our friend and colleague Diane Rogers has concentrated on her range of family history projects. Here she reflects on her work, and you can see more on her blog *CanadaGenealogy*, or '*Jane's Your Aunt*'. www.canadagenealogy.blogspot.com

M. Diane Rogers

One thing this experience of 'being home' has lent me is time and a stronger inclination to explore new topics, some like food history were on my 'back burner', others like the sky and stars, I thought I'd learn more about when really old.

Over the last year and a bit, I've had time to clean up old research, chucking out unwanted 'paper' and indexing more cookbooks, as well as to take on a new 'Lewises in Scotland' genealogy project, journal my dreams for 6 weeks, and tweet for days first about Swedish genealogy and then Scottish.

I've always liked the idea of challenges; often I did them all on my own. Turns out it's more fun to share as the Maple Ridge Family History Group knows!

Right now I'm nearing the end of an Advent challenge I made up. I'm e-mailing snippets from my own memories, mostly about my parents, my brother and myself – almost ninety in total. Included is some 'genealogy' – like about how we got our names. One set each for my son/daughter in law; my daughter/son in law; and the grandson. I've sent them their bit every day and broken it up so far with 4 days of different photos – ones I'm pretty sure they've never seen (or paid attention to). I'm saving my Christmas Eve memories til last!



Diane (front left) and her family 1962.

IMAGE
CONTRIBUTED BY
M. DIANE ROGERS

Originally I intended to have these all handwritten nicely, tied in ribbon, for them to open every day before Christmas. But with the sudden flood/transportation crises, I knew we likely wouldn't be together at the end of November or around Christmas as planned. My hope was that they would share their sets with each other. Likely they will get to do that some day soon.

So far they seem to be reading! This could be a Twelve Days of Christmas or an Easter or a birthday countdown challenge too. If you do something similar, I'd love to hear from you.

It will be a while before we can safely be in one room together again. Meanwhile, you are welcome to join us in this newsletter, and via Zoom. We wish you a New Year that helps you thrive as we all tell the family story.

Technology Tips: Follow-Up

By Darren Durupt

Happy New Year all! I had originally planned this article to discuss cloud storage options.

That was until 2021 decided it had to kick over the desk on its way out the door. So, being the New Year, it seems a good time to discuss follow up—major calendar dates can be a great reminder to review where you are at and where you want to be.

Now I'm sure you're thinking "Wait a minute, we just did all that work and everything is running great, what else is there to do?"

Well yes, we did just work through planning and implementing a great system. But now you need a plan for maintaining that system. I was firmly reminded over the holidays that those awesome systems don't maintain themselves. Even the pros drop the ball sometimes.

What we need now is a maintenance schedule to ensure your data is safe and organized.

There are key factors to monitor in any setup.

Data Set

The volume of data you have is never static. Your data (documents, photos, family trees) has its own life cycle. We keep working and researching so the quantity of data keeps growing. Measure the size of your backups so you can predict the rate of growth, of course with a bit extra (10 percent is typical), just in case. You need to predict when you will run out of space.

File Organization

How your files are organized will likely change. New projects, new topics, new interests, they can all affect how you organize your data. Be sure you are capturing any new files/folders and take some time to clean up anything you no longer need.

Frequency

Do you still need to backup all that data with the same frequency? Again, new projects, new topics, new interests, all impact how often you are updating files. Perhaps you are done with a one-time project and now those files can be permanently archived. Files updated less often need to be backed up less often.

Duration

Let's be honest, there's always more to find right? As your data set grows it will take longer to complete your backups. Long running backups will impact your ability to work. Reducing the amount of files being backed up is an easy way to reduce the duration, but you may also need to look at your equipment.

Software and Hardware

The age of your hardware and software directly impacts the stability and reliability of your backups. Hardware and software age far faster than we like. Consider tracking the age of equipment by month and year. Ensure any software you are using is still fully compatible and up to date.

Reliability

There is no point in making all the effort to implement the system if you don't test to ensure its working as designed. Technology is complex. Systems

can fail in part or in in whole without any obvious error messages. It is well worth the time to be sure your backups are working as expected AND that you can access and recover your data.

Final Thoughts

Regardless of how simple your setup, review it regularly to be certain it still meets your requirements and is working as implemented. I recommend checking your setup twice yearly.

I assure you regular reviews of your setup do not need to take much time, and the more you do it the easier they will get. It will save you much disappointment and frustration in the long run.

As for pros dropping the ball, I speak from recent experience. New files were created in several folders that were only backed up monthly and over the holidays, our hard drive failed. All work that was done after November 29th was lost—including the original draft of this newsletter.

Online Resources

Canadiana

www.canadiana.ca

Canadiana has a vast collection of materials including newspapers and government collections.

Newspapers.com

www.newspapers.com

There are now 333 newspapers in the Canadian collection on *Newspapers.com*.

National Archives Playlists

www.youtube.com/c/TheNationalArchivesUK/playlists

Browse the playlists to update your research skills and develop contextual understanding.

Family History Events

Abbotsford British Columbia Family History Centre

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, January 27, 2022, 7:00 pm
- **Fact of Fiction?** with Andrea Lister, Thursday, February 24, 7:00 pm.

Guild of One-Name Studies

<https://one-name.org/>

- **Introducing the 1921 Census of England & Wales** with Myko Clelland, Wednesday, February 16, 2022, 7:30 pm GMT. Free. Live event open to the public.

MyHeritage and FamilyTreeWebinars.com

<https://familytreewebinars.com/upcoming-webinars/>

- **2022 Legacy Family Tree Webinars series**, choose from 120 classes. Live webinars are free and their recordings are free to watch for the first 7 days. Webinar membership for \$49.95 USD/year.

Qualicum Beach Family History Society

www.qbfhs.ca/category/speakers/

- **My Ancestors in the Hudson's Bay Fur Trade** with Janice Nickerson, Tuesday, January 11, 2022, 7pm via Zoom. Fee: Free for members, \$10 for non-members.
- **The Discriminating Genealogist**, with Judy G. Russell, Tuesday, February 8, 2022, 7:00 pm. Free for members, \$10 for non-members.

Québec Genealogical eSociety

<https://genquebec.com/en>

- **2022 Virtual Genealogical Conference: The Art & Science of Quebec Genealogy**, 24 topics in French and English, February 9–13, 2022. Free Exhibitor's Day, Fee: \$10 per session.

RootsTech 2022

www.familysearch.org/rootstech/next/

- Unlimited access to over 1,500 sessions, March 3–5, 2022, Virtual, Fee: Free.

Skagit Valley Genealogy Society

<https://skagitvalleygenealogy.org/>

- **Americans in Luxembourg in World War II, What's in a Name?** and **The Gold Rush and the Pacific NW** with Dave Obee, Saturday, January 8, 2022, via Zoom at 12:45–2:30pm. Register by Jan 6, 2022.

Surrey Libraries

www.surreylibraries.ca/services/family-history

Online via Microsoft Teams. Free.

- **First Nations, Inuit and Métis Nation Genealogy** with Library and Archives Canada, Saturday January 8, 2022, 1:00–2:15 pm.
- **Eastern European Genealogy Research** with Chris Bukoski, Thursday Jan 27, 2022, 11:00 am–12:00 pm.
- **The Historical Photo Detective: Roadshow** with Maureen Taylor, Thursday February 24, 2022, 10:00 am–12:00 pm.

Vancouver Genealogy Group

www.meetup.com/vancouver-genealogy/

- Second Tuesday every month, 1–3:00 pm, via Zoom. Sign up for the meeting free and you will get the link by e-mail.

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.

Jan 5, 2022: Built for the Future: Structures in the Cemetery and 2022 New Year's Challenge: What Makes You, You

Cemeteries have always functioned as sites for storing and honouring the dead. Today, many private and municipal cemeteries recognize their role as vital community resources for history, recreation, and ecological good health.

2022 New Year's Challenge: Fast forward 100 years—a family historian has found you, another ancestor for their family tree. This researcher has compiled all available records but still hopes to gain a better sense of who you were. What three aspects of your life, not found in the usual records would you want this family historian to know?

Feb 2, 2022: Family History Community Connections
Abbotsford Family History Centre

Director, Jen Haddad will give an overview of the many resources and services available at the Centre.

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