

Community, Past, Present & Future



Family History Newsletter

May 2022

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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.

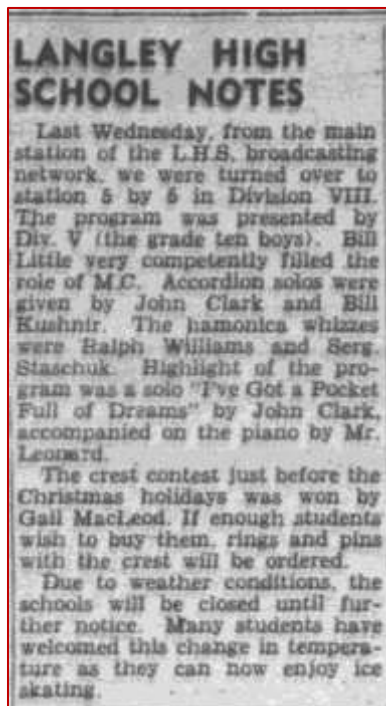
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A Pocket Full of Dreams

By Annette Fulford

When searching the *Langley Advance* newspaper for articles about my family between 1942 to 1968, I came across a school report about the Grade 10 boys from Langley High School putting on a musical program in January 1943.



My grandparents moved to Langley in late 1942 so this was the only year my father John Clark attended Langley High. It was a nice surprise to find him mentioned in a report about the school.

Several boys played solos on their instruments which included accordions and harmonicas. My father was one of the accordion players.

The newspaper reports that the highlight was a solo "I've Got a Pocket Full of Dreams", by John Clark with his teacher Mr. Leonard accompanying him on piano.

I'm not surprised to learn he participated because he was a lifelong accordion player, but this was a song I had never heard him play or sing before. I found a version of the song online at [Bing Crosby](#):

[I've Got A Pocketful Of Dreams—YouTube.](#)



I have a photo of my father's grade 10 class. I wonder which guys were the musical ones? My father is located in the back row, 4th person from the right.

Grade 10 class.
ANNETTE FULFORD COLLECTION

FHG Meetings at the Library

The Maple Ridge Library is starting to host in-person programs and meetings. Whether there will be any sort of protocols in place has not been determined yet.

The library hours have changed — they now close at 8:00 pm so our previous meeting time will not be possible.

We are also considering that we continue with monthly Zoom and then host a larger show and share event or learning opportunity every few months. Hybrid meetings (if the equipment is available) are also a possibility.

We are looking for feedback from our members for the following options:

1. In-person, virtual, and hybrid?

- Are you comfortable with in-person? Yes | No
Is your preference for virtual? Yes | No
Would you be interested in hybrid? Yes | No

2. Are you in favour of continuing with the first Wednesday of the month, but starting an hour earlier (6:00 to 8:00pm)?

- 1 2 3 4 5

Not in favour

In favour

3. Moving the meeting to a weekday afternoon?

- 1 2 3 4 5

Not in favour

In favour

4. Moving the meeting to a weekend?

- 1 2 3 4 5

Not in favour

In favour

5. Do you have some suggestions, comments, or ideas?

Please email us your thoughts at mrfamilyhistory@gmail.com or fill out our MailChimp survey: <https://us17.list-manage.com/survey?u=852873053ac240dbc8d55a324&id=a982fa924f&attribution=false>

Emotional Response to Genealogical Research

Paul Jones, “Roots” columnist, *Canada’s History* magazine

reprinted from Canada’s Anglo-Celtic Connections

www.anglocelticconnections.ca/2022/04/19/do-you-have-a-story-of-strong-emotions-arising-from-genealogical-research/

I’m inviting members of various genealogical groups to share their experiences for an upcoming “Roots” column in *Canada’s History* magazine. John D. Reid and his Canada’s Anglo-Celtic Connections blog are supporting the project.

The goal is to explore the extremes of emotions triggered during genealogical research, whether by unexpected findings, out-of-the ordinary interactions with others, the unintended consequences of your actions, whatever... To that end, I welcome your stories of “The Good, the Bad and the Ridiculous of Family History”.

The Good: The most pleasant, satisfying or exciting moment that you’ve experienced as a result of doing family history.

The Bad: The most annoying, humiliating or upsetting.

The Ridiculous: The most bizarre, baffling or hilarious.

In the magazine column, which will appear during the summer, I will select and describe one exemplar in each category. I also plan to find another platform, perhaps online, for a lengthier analysis of the submissions.

If you have one or more experiences you’d be happy to share, drop me a line at pauljones@rogers.com indicating for each story whether good, bad or ridiculous. And, yes, a single-story could conceivably fall into a couple of categories.

Should your anecdote be chosen for commentary, please advise whether you’d prefer to be identified by your full name, your initials or Anonymous. (If you’d like to submit anonymously, feel free to do so, e.g., via a non-identifying Hotmail or Gmail account.)

You don’t need to provide more than 100 words per story. Point form will do if your feelings and the reasons for them are clear. I’ll get back to you if there’s something I don’t understand. Best wishes. I look forward to hearing your stories.

Technology Talk: Dropbox

By Andrea Lister

We have used Dropbox for all of our Community History Projects as a way to share our research with team members rather than filling up our email inboxes with files, but what is Dropbox and how does it work?

Dropbox is a cloud storage service—essentially, we are using Dropbox's computers across the United States to store our files—we access their computers through the internet. Users need a free Dropbox account and can use Dropbox as a backup and for file sharing and collaboration. Dropbox provides 2 gigabytes (GB) of storage for free and up to 100 GB on various for-fee plans.

Store and access files from anywhere

Users can install the Dropbox application on their computer and back-up important folders like your “Desktop” — any changes will sync across their account. Users can store their files in one safe place, accessible from their computer, phone, or tablet.

Working Collaboratively

You can invite others to share a Dropbox file or folder. Alternatively, you may be invited to share someone else's Dropbox file or folder. You receive a notification from Dropbox and you can add this folder to your Dropbox account. **Remember that all added folders use up some of the 2 GB storage space.**

The person who shared the folder with you may have given you either editor or viewer permissions. Viewer permissions allow the person to view but not edit. Editor permissions allow people to edit, upload, and delete files.

Editing and Deleting Files

It is important to remember that Dropbox is a shared space. If you edit a document in a Dropbox folder, those edits change the document for everyone on your team. Similarly, if you delete a document, that document is deleted for everyone on the team.

Ack, my Dropbox is Full!

Dropbox is sending you messages that your Dropbox is full. **Do not panic and start deleting files** — remember that you will be deleting those files for everyone in a shared folder. Instead, you can remove your access to a shared folder and free up the space for yourself without impacting the team folder.

Learn more: <https://help.dropbox.com/>

Maple Ridge Library Display Cases

Maple Ridge Library is preparing to expand services. We have managed the three display cases that held *On the River: The Fishing Industry* in Maple Ridge during February and March. The cases were refreshed with previous community history project display boards for April and May. You are invited to prepare a display for one or all of the cases for June and July. Display boards are good ways to tell our family stories. There are glass shelves available for three dimensional offerings.

Points to the Past

By Brenda L. Smith



www.pointstothepast.ca

Points to the Past is a portal for original publications provided free to the residents of British Columbia through the Electronic Learning Network, a consortium of the libraries of University of British Columbia, University of Victoria, and Simon Fraser University. The agreement allows access to Gale Primary Sources, nearly 200 million pages of digitized historical content—maps, photos, newspapers, manuscripts, pamphlets, portraits, and more. Access is available either through libraries or directly at the site with no log in or authentication.

This column will explore a selection of individual collections to introduce some of the potential for family historians to further their research. For a list of the collections see

www.pointstothepast.ca/files/P2TP_Flyer_2018.pdf



Bibliotheca Americana was initiated by Joseph Sabin in 1868 to catalogue original writings about North, Central and South America, and the Caribbean. The project attracted many volunteer contributions over 60 years. Family historians may find ancestors whose work is published here, historical context, and even individual family members, locations, and events.

The collection offers monographs on a range of topics: Before the Civil War, Biography, Art, and Literature, The Civil War and After, Colonization and the Colonial Era, Early Republic, Economics and Geography, Immigrants and Women in History, Race, Religion, Science and Medicine, Slavery.

To dip into the collection, I searched for a site that I know one of our members is interested in: Fort Totten, North Dakota. A sample of the 88 results were heavy on military information, directories, and Lists of distances: compiled for the information and guidance of officers doing duty in the Quartermaster's department, in making payments for mileage: approved by the secretary of war July 8, 1868, United States. Quartermaster's department, Gov't print. Off (Washington).

While We Are Apart...

By Brenda L. Smith

Reflection is an essential historian's tool. Taking time to think about what we have harvested in the course of our research is placed in our own context. Creating space for reflecting on our work process can be balanced with our life experience and our family's challenges and achievements. We also reflect on the influences of our colleagues on our progress.

Soon after I arrived in Maple Ridge twenty-six years ago, I met Sheila Nickols. In her first greeting I recognized someone who would be a touchstone for my new future. With her mild, un-presumptive encouragement I developed a new career in supporting family historians as they learn about their families. Over the years I spoke with Sheila from time to time about how I might participate in our community.

I was honoured to follow her footsteps to serve on the Maple Ridge Heritage Commission (CHC). The CHC honoured her by establishing the Sheila Nickols Heritage Achievement Award in 2003, and I was honoured to receive the renamed Sheila Nickols Heritage Achievement and Heritage Research and Publication Award in 2006. Other family historians who are recipients of the award include: Annette Fulford, Andrea Lister with Sheila herself, Gina Leigh, and Erica Williams. CHC named Sheila the 2018 History Hero Award.

When the CHC engaged the community in re-thinking the Heritage Resources of Maple Ridge, Sheila was my first candidate for figuring out what was missing from

the catalogue, what we knew that hadn't been reflected in the original inventory. When I had questions about how our community has functioned, and how best to deliver the stories revealed through that process, and in our family history group's community history projects, Sheila offered thoughtful wisdom.

Sheila was recognized further afield. In addition to recognition by the BC Historical Federation, in 2003 Heritage BC (formerly Heritage Society of BC) presented to Sheila the Outstanding Heritage Conservation Award that included \$10,000 for a community heritage project of the recipient's choice. True to form, Sheila designated the purse, which still waits, for a new Maple Ridge Museum.

Sheila left us abruptly on October 31, 2020, and I am so grateful that her family created a beautiful memorial service for her that was held on April 6, 2022, at Golden Ears United Church. While I miss being able to talk with Sheila, I know that her sharp wit and generous spirit support us as we strive to continue telling the Maple Ridge story.

For this issue I invited contributions from two members who were newcomers to our community history projects, joining our recently launched *On The River: The Fishing Industry in Maple Ridge*. While COVID eliminated our in-person work, including our cookies and coffee work sessions and visits to local institutions, we were able to roll into a complete online schedule that stretched much longer than previous projects. The earlier four projects had focused on single settler families. This time, we started by reviewing the 1891 census of Maple Ridge to discover participants in an entire industry that has disappeared from modern view. These projects have several goals. We challenge experienced researchers to stretch their skills, encourage the exploration of local and far-flung library and archival collections, and support less experienced members as they develop new skills. Importantly, we share our discoveries with the local and wider family history communities, as well as contributing the research product to the Maple Ridge Museum and Community Archives.

Debbie Spouler bravely joined the project while new to family history and new to our group. Her personal starting entry point is the treasure of a research collection compiled by an older relative. Here she describes how she came to join us.

Debbie Spouler

I started attending the MR Historical group meetings shortly after starting my genealogy research. My aunt, who was very involved in doing research, passed away and because I didn't want her research to be forgotten I decided to find out what it was all about.

I started by taking an introductory class through the Elder College in Chilliwack and started researching my husband's family. Shortly afterwards I got involved with the Maple Ridge Family History Group and attended a few meetings.

The MR FHG started a project about the history of Fishing in Maple Ridge, *On the River*, it was suggested that getting involved in the project would be a good way for me to explore researching techniques, so I volunteered and got involved.

We were able to have a couple face-to-face meetings before COVID hit. During COVID, all future meetings were done via Zoom. Each of us took on different areas of research—I was given the task of gathering information from the census—researching first who noted their occupation as fishermen and then looking at each family more closely. Did the subsequent census show the same occupation, did the war have any affect on the numbers, what other related occupations were there?

As time went on there were a lot of discussions about which direction the project would take—over time it went through a number of twists and turns.

I was very enthusiastic about getting involved and tried to learn what I could. A lot of what was being discussed went above my head—I soon realized I was very limited in what I could do to contribute as I didn't have the understanding, the knowledge or the contacts required. I found it hard when we weren't meeting in person as the thought process that was involved in pulling it all together wasn't always clear to me.

Overall, it was a good experience and the outcome was amazing.

Gunter Rebele has been researching for many years and has been part of the family history group for some time. He describes his first experience with community history.

Gunter Rebele

In the spring of 2020, I joined eleven other members of our Family History Group who volunteered to do a project *On the River* in the early years of the Maple Ridge area.

At first, we limited the project, to show the role that fishing played in Maple Ridge; we picked two representative fishing families, the Indigenous family, the Chiers (Cheers) and the Norwegian family, the Nelsons.

As we all did extensive research, we accumulated a large pool of data. With that, the scope of the project widened, and we included commercial fishery on the Fraser River and the whole of the Lower Mainland, as well as canning and freezing fish.

In the end, because of limited space, we could by far not use all the collected data. After finishing the project in January 2022, I looked at the unused information again and found a common thread, which connected nine of the original settler families in this area. It showed how the different families of the Indigenous nations, the Hawaiian immigrants, the early European settlers, and French Canadian fur traders, mixed, lived and worked together and built a thriving community.

The July Meeting

Problem solving will be the topic of our July 6, 2022 meeting. You are invited to work up a research question to present to the group for consideration. If you would like us to put your problem into PowerPoint form, please be in touch by June 15 so we can work the technology aspects.

mrfamilyhistory@gmail.com

Online Resources

ProQuest

<https://go.proquest.com/BCHistoricalNewspapers>

Anyone in BC or the Yukon with a computer or mobile device can access 125+ years of digital news archives for free from home without a login. This online access is made possible through a collaboration of academic, public, and school libraries across BC. Access the *Vancouver Province* (1894–2010); *The Times Colonist* (1884–2010); and the *Vancouver Sun* (1912–2010).

BC Vital Statistics Release

<https://search-collections.royalbcmuseum.bc.ca/Genealogy>

The annual release of death (2001) and marriage (1946) events from the BC Vital Statistics Agency is expected in May 2022.

1950 U.S. Census Indexed on My Heritage

<https://www.myheritage.com/research/collection-11006/1950-united-states-federal-census>

As of April 19, the searchable index currently contains all records from Alaska, American Samoa, Delaware, Guam, New Hampshire, Panama Canal Zone, Vermont, Virgin Islands, and Wyoming. This index is updated weekly and is estimated to be complete with all 150 million records by June 2022.

Archion

www.archion.de/

Research German historical church registers online with Archion. Over 125,000 (mainly Protestant) church registers online. A for-pay site, you can look at which parishes are represented on the site without a subscription.

Matricula

<https://data.matricula-online.eu/en/>

Church registers from various European countries (currently Austria, Germany, Poland, Serbia and Slovenia). Catholic registers from Münster and Paderborn, as well as the historically German Grand Duchy of Luxembourg. The site also has a large collection of Roman Catholic Militärkirchenbücher—the “barracks parishes” of garrisoned soldiers.

Meyers Gazetteer

www.meyersgaz.org

A digital version of the *Meyers Gazetteer* (Second German Empire from 1871 to 1918). The geographical dictionary contains an enormous amount of information about German villages. A Toggle Historical Map feature lets you view a 19th-century overlay from another key German map collection, Karte des deutschen Reiches. As part of the toggling process, both the historical and Google maps can be annotated with “pins” showing Protestant and Catholic parishes as well as sites of Jewish synagogues.

Kartenmeister

www.kartenmeister.com/preview/databaseuwe.asp

Focussed on the post First World War era when borders changed it contains 10,8928 locations with over 45,115 name changes once, and 5,500 twice and more. All locations are east of the Oder and Neisse rivers and are based on the borders of the eastern provinces in Spring 1918. Included in this database are the following provinces: Eastprussia, including Memel, Westprussia, Brandenburg, Posen, Pomerania, and Silesia.

FamilySearch

www.familysearch.org

FamilySearch added 15 million new parish and civil registrations from France Côtes-d'Armor (1467-1920) and Brazil São Paulo (1925-1995), while expanding other collections for Bolivia, England, Germany, Mexico, Paraguay, Peru, Mexico, Samoa, S. Africa, and the Ukraine. In the United States over 1 million more records are now searchable for Massachusetts Boston Tax Records, California Cemetery Records, Bureau of Land Management Tract Books, and New York Birth Indexes Outside New York City.

Family History Events

American Ancestors

www.americanancestors.org/events

- **New England Town Records**, with Ann Lawthers, May 26, 2022, 3:00 pm EST. Free
- **Researching Loyalist Ancestors**, with Sheilagh Doerfler, David Allen Lambert, Melanie McComb, May 4, 11, 18, 2022, Live Broadcasts 6-7:30 pm EST. Fee: \$85 USD.

BCGS

www.bcfgs.ca/bcfgs-events

- **Shetland's Long Reach**, with Wendy Wickwire, (Zoom) May 11, 2022, at 7:30 pm PST.
- **On the River: The Fishing Industry in Maple Ridge**, with members of the Maple Ridge Family History Group, (Zoom) June 8, 2022 at 7:30 pm PST.

Legacy Family Tree Webinars

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

- There are 88 upcoming live webinars on a variety of topics.

British Isles Family History Society of Greater Ontario

www.bifhsgo.ca

- **2022 Virtual Conference: England and Wales: at home and on the move**, Explore English and Welsh ancestry and migration with 12 international speakers in 12 presentations over 4 days. Conference, Vendor and Society Connect sessions, Wednesday, September 28–Sunday, October 2, 2022. Price: \$40 CDN.

Campbell River Genealogy Society

www.crgenealogysociety.ca

- **Maps and your Genealogy Research** with Rita Balboni and Christol James, May 5, 2022, 6:30 pm PST via Zoom.
- **FamilySearch: Be a Power User**, with by Jeannie Vance, on May 7, 2022, 9:30 am PST via Zoom.
- **The Quest Reveal**: The Quest team reveals their findings for a member's Brick Wall, June 2, 2022, 6:30 pm PST, via Zoom.

Ontario Ancestors Virtual Conference 2022

<https://conference2022.ogs.on.ca/>

- Twenty-nine different presentations and an Expo Hall. All presentations will be recorded for your viewing by registrants for a month after the conference ends. Includes **The Journey to Genealogy Services at Ādisōke** session—you can help shape the soon-to-be-built new Library & Archives Canada (LAC) and Ottawa Public Library (OPL) joint facility on June 24. June 24–26, 2022. Fee: \$79.

Nanaimo Family History Society

<https://nanaimofamilyhistory.ca/>

- **Researching Your French Canadian Ancestors**, with Johanne Gervais, May 16, 2022, 7:00 pm PST via Zoom.
- **Genealogy by Google**, with Dave Obee, June 20, 2022, 7:00 pm PST via Zoom.

Qualicum Beach Family History Society

www.qbfhs.ca/category/speakers/

Fee: Free for members, \$10 for non-members. Via Zoom, register to get the link.

- **The Orphan Train Movement**, with Jill Morelli, Tuesday, May 10, 2022, 7:00 pm PST.
- **Breaking Down Brick Walls**, with Lisa S. Gorrell, Tuesday, June 14, 2022, 7:00 pm PST.

Southern California Genealogical Society

<https://genealogyjamboree.com/>

Three online virtual conferences. There are two registration package options for each conference (Standard & Plus) as well as member and early bird pricing (before May 31, 2022).

- **Genetic Genealogy 2022**, over 20 renowned Genetic Genealogy experts, Friday & Saturday, August 19–20, 2022. Price: \$190 USD Standard. \$260 USD plus.
- **jamboree 2022**, Learn from 47 speakers from the USA, Canada, Ireland, Israel and the UK, Friday & Saturday, August 26–27, 2022. Price: \$185 USD Standard. \$265 USD plus.
- **jamboFREE 2022**, over 16 classes, Monday August 22–Wednesday August 24. Free.

THE Genealogy Show

<https://thegenealogyshow.uk/>

- **Summer Event**, 50+ speakers, exhibitors, articles, games, and competitions. July 1–August 1, 2022, virtual. Fee. £20
- **Winter Event**, December 2, 2022–January 6, 2023.

Strathcona County Library

www.sclibrary.ca

- **Family Tree Trackers: A Fresh Light on Old Newspapers**, with David Obee, Thursday, May 12, 2022, 7:00 pm to 8:30 pm MST. Free. Zoom program, registration required.

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.

May 4, 2022: Part 3—Cemetery Series: CRITTERS IN THE CEMETERY: Fauna and Flora Abound.

Presentation by Brenda L. Smith. Not just people visit the burying ground. The landscape is home to many other animals and plants, most of them welcome. This program thrills the family historian and the naturalist.

June 1, 2022: One Name Studies

Presented by Diane Rogers. Why study a surname?

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