

# Community, Past, Present & Future



## Family History Newsletter

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

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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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### Memories of Queen Elizabeth II

Annette Fulford

My grandparents travelled from Chelan, Saskatchewan to Regina with their children to watch the 1939 Royal Tour by King George and Queen Elizabeth. I have pictures of them camping and one photo may be from the Regina Fairgrounds.



## Memories of Queen Elizabeth II

Cathy Magee

A few years ago (pre-COVID) I was at a family memorial service for my husband's aunt. Another aunt told me that she had yet another aunt's old scrapbooks and she didn't know how to deal with them. She didn't want to keep them, but didn't think anyone else would want them. I opened my big mouth and said that they could be scanned so that everyone had a copy. So you-know-who (yep—me) inherited the scrapbooks and the task. They are now all scanned, and I've been working on an index—a huge job. The scrapbooks contained everything from local events, BMD notices, wedding pics, cartoons, movie stars, and Royalty from roughly the 1940s to the 1970s. The main one is a small 8-page album of Elizabeth's life to that time (I think about 1961.



## Technology Talk: To Colorize Or Not To Colorize

By Ellie of Ellie's Ancestors

Reprinted with permission.

<http://elliesancestors.blogspot.com/2022/09/to-colorize-or-not-to-colorize-in-which.html?m=1>

When MyHeritage announced the release of its colorization technology, there was a hue, (no pun intended), and cry from traditionalists who likened it to drawing a mustache on a cherished photograph of great-grandma. I intensely dislike colorized movies, so I saw their point, it wasn't something I was terribly interested in pursuing but then again, adding color to photos is not all that new. One can see civil war era examples that were hand tinted by the photographer in the early 1860's. So I cautiously stuck my toe in and have since tempered my opinion somewhat. I uploaded a few of my photos to the MyHeritage site, only a few because that's all they allowed without a subscription. Then I noticed Ancestry had also jumped on the color bandwagon. Since I do have a subscription there, I decided to first try colorizing the ones I had already done at MyHeritage, just to see how they compared.



Anna Ryan from left to right: original image, MyHeritage, Ancestry.

COLLECTION OF ELLIE'S ANCESTORS

The image of my great-great-grandmother Anna Ryan from Tipperary on the left is the original, the one in the middle was done at MyHeritage. and the one on the far right is from Ancestry. I think Ancestry's technology did a better job in this instance. There is too much red in the MyHeritage. version.

In the next case however, MyHeritage definitely wins out. Pictured is John White, brother of James, my great-great-grandfather from Queens County Ireland. John's original on the left looks quite washed out with the face and hair blending together. The middle image is from Ancestry and MyHeritage. is on the right. In my opinion the use of more saturated color worked



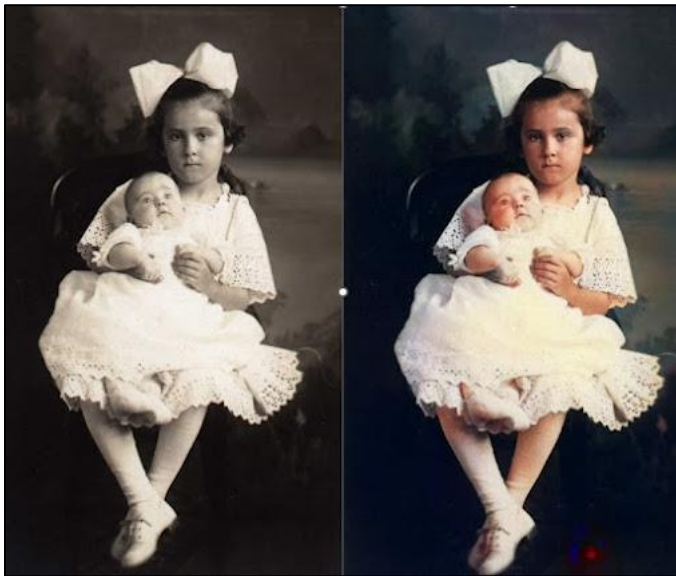
well here, giving more definition to the forehead, and left facial areas.



**John White from left to right: original image, Ancestry, MyHeritage.**

COLLECTION OF ELLIE'S ANCESTORS

Neither website has very sophisticated technology, but I have to admit I enjoyed seeing the effects on my black and white pictures. Black and white is actually a misnomer, those old photos are actually grayscale, which doesn't lend itself to picking out minute details. Below is a photo of my second cousin Inez Worden and her baby sister Gladys taken in 1914 and colorized at Ancestry. When I saw it the first time I was amazed at how much I had missed! The lake in the background really pops when colorized and the details in Inez's dress stand out much more. I hadn't even realized that was a lake behind them.



**Inez and Gladys Worden from left to right: original and Ancestry.**

COLLECTION OF ELLIE'S ANCESTORS

The same goes for the MyHeritage picture below of my grandmother, (far right), and her siblings with their father taken about 1919, shortly before his death. The background is really enhanced by color.



**Ellie's grandmother and siblings from left to right: original and My Heritage colourization.**

COLLECTION OF ELLIE'S ANCESTORS

The image of Terrence Sheehan was done at Ancestry and is what I mean by the technology being unsophisticated. I know the color is completely wrong because US Army uniforms during World War 1 were not blue, they were khaki. A professional colorizing a photo like this would never have chosen blue for the uniform. On the other hand, it is free with a subscription.



**Terrace Sheehan from left to right: Ancestry, original.**

COLLECTION OF ELLIE'S ANCESTORS

After trying the process, I have to say there are some circumstances where I find colorization somewhat jarring, like the weird blue uniform, but others where it is useful. I'm still attached to the originals that reflect the historical period in which they were taken, and I would never discard them. In only one instance have I replaced the profile image of an ancestor on Ancestry with the "improved" version, and only then because MyHeritage's "enhance" tool repaired the blurred photo. Having said that, I also enjoyed finding details that were hiding there all along, but I had missed and would have continued to miss had I not given colorizing a try.

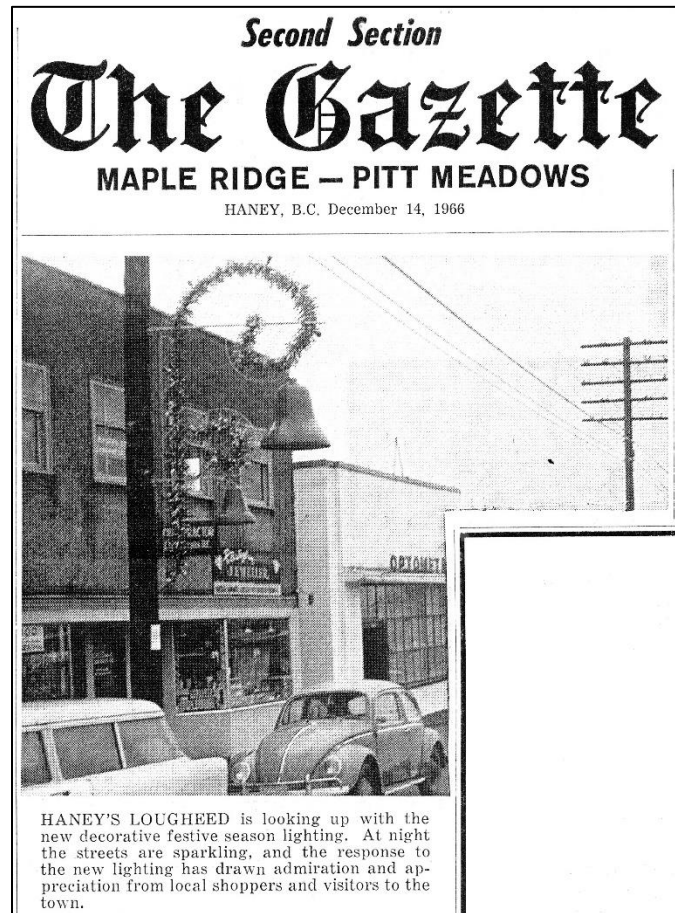
## When did the Christmas Bells first appear on the streets of Haney? (Part Two)

By Lynne Currie

In December 2020 I had written about my own personal experience with the Haney Christmas Bells which I have fond memories of over the years.

I had convinced myself that the stories I read about the timeline of the bells were not correct. I had opined, "Am I about to learn a poignant lesson about family lore not being as reliable as the local newspaper?"

And I had promised that I would "let you know next Christmas, whatever I may learn about the origin of the Haney Christmas Bells." Hmm, I did not realize how long it would be before the library was able to fully re-open to the public after the start of the COVID-19 Pandemic. And more importantly how hard it would be for me to feel comfortable to sit for hours in the library searching through the *Gazette* microfiche collection. Even the newly acquired microfilm scanner and dedicated computer could not entice me to spend time in the library until the Spring of 2022.



My personal connection with the bells is that one used to hang from the BC Electric pole outside my bedroom window. I had lived with my parents and sister in the suite above my parents' business from November 1957 until March 1970. My bedroom looked over Dewdney Trunk Road, but even with that close connection neither my sister nor I could remember the first Christmas we had our own special Bell.

This past summer I interviewed a number of people about their memories of the bells. My cousin, Reverend Henry Dunbar, was the only person I have spoken with who had a clear memory of the first time he saw the bells. He remarked how impressed he was when he returned home on Christmas break and first saw the bells on Lougheed Highway. He also said he did not remember any bells on Dewdney before then. I was now prepared for the inevitable truth that the story I had invented in my mind did not match the truth about the bells.

I was also reminded by Brenda Smith to connect with the Maple Ridge Museum to see what they have on the bells. They now have an online booking system for reserving time to use the archives with the help of the archivist. This enabled me to meet the new full-time archivist, Gordana Dimovska. She walked me over to the newly repurposed Haney Brick Yard Office. This is where some of the fragile copies of the *Haney Gazette* are currently stored.

And while I lost myself in the 1965 editions of the *Gazette* and reminisced out loud, Gordana checked the digital files on the computer. Having spent so much time reminiscing while looking through the *Gazette* my time was up before I had made a dent in the many editions of newspapers which I had planned to search.

Gordana had been going through her digital files while we chatted and found a number of newspaper articles which referred to the Haney Christmas Bells. Many of these files were Sheila Nickols' "Looking Back" columns. Sheila had interviewed Ro Vienotte and Owen Fuller for her December 1996 column about their part in obtaining the bells.

I remembered reading Sheila's columns about the bells over the years, but when I read her December 1996 column, I finally had the answers to my quest. I have included that column for your enjoyment. It has many details about the business people of Haney who were involved in acquiring the bells. And it gives a good explanation of the progression from the Trade Show which Ro Vienotte and Owen Fuller attended in



## LOOKING BACK

# Decorations look great after more than 30 years

To people growing up in Maple Ridge, the decorative Christmas lights that adorn our downtown each year have been there forever.

Not quite, but much longer than most people suspect, for it was in December of 1966 that they first appeared. These decorations must have been of excellent quality and well taken care of by the municipal crews that put them up and store them away each year, because many of the same bells and garlands still grace the town.

Ro Vienotte recalls the struggle it took to buy and install those decorations. He and Owen Fuller of Fuller Watson's Department Store were attending a Link Hardware meeting in Edmonton in 1966 when they met a light vendor from Saskatchewan who was strongly recommended.



**SHEILA  
NICKOLS**

The downtown merchants in Haney had been trying to finance strings of lights over the streets such as the ones in New Westminster, but with no success.

The salesman came to Haney, and designed a lighting plan that would cost \$10,000, unassembled and not installed. With the encouragement of the municipality, the merchants went to work calling on all property owners to apply for a downtown improvement loan, with each of them putting in \$20 annually for five years. Graham Mowatt and George Neilson mustered a crew to visit everyone with a business downtown in Haney.

When the decorations arrived, the merchants led by Art Emery and Dick Dewhurst worked hard to assemble the frames and garlands in the dingy basement of E&D Sports on the Lougheed Highway. Then in December, electrician Bob McCullough, with the co-operation of B.C. Electric, wired the finished decorations onto telephone poles on both sides of the Lougheed Highway between 6th and 10th, (222nd and 225th Street), and on 8th Avenue

(224th Street) between the Lougheed Highway and Dewdney Trunk Road.

When the lights came on, people from all over the Lower Mainland came to see them and marvel. Reeve Peter Jenewein called Veinotte the next day to complain that people had been calling him at home all night to compliment him of Maple Ridge's new Christmas lights. The merchants on Dewdney Trunk Road who had declined to participate in the scheme soon raised some money to be part of the annual event.

Part of the package was a tall Christmas tree of lights that stood on the roof of our former municipal hall on 224 Street. It has not been seen for many years, and Veinotte would like to know what has happened to it.

He recalls the days when local merchants donated \$10,000 worth of gifts to be placed in a draw at Modern Motors building, to encourage people to shop locally at Christmas time. Those were the days, in his estimation, when Haney was both a happy and active town. Today's photographs shows the



MAPLE RIDGE MUS

**Christmas lights on Haney Boulevard, after 1972.**

lights down the median of Haney Boulevard, which was built during the time after 1972 that Gerry

Trerise was mayor. Massed there, with a light fall of snow, they really give you that Christmas glow.

**"Looking Back: Decorations look great after more than 30 years by Sheila Nickols.**

MAPLE RIDGE NEWS, DECEMBER 1996

Edmonton through to Bob McCoulough, a local electrician, helping BC Electric hang the Bells in time for the 1966 Christmas Season.

Ro painted a picture of the days when the business people of Haney would roll up their sleeves while working together for a common cause. Knowing some of them through my parents and others through their children who were my classmates, I can imagine what a good time they had working on assembling the bells in the basement of the E&D Sports shop that first Christmas season.

Gordana was also able to forward a copy of an article from the November 9th, 1966 *Gazette* which described how the City Council of Haney had arranged for the \$10,000 purchase to be paid for by 100 of the town core businesses over 5 years at \$20 per year. Not a bad business expense for something which has been so admired and such a special part of Christmas in our Community for the past 56 years.

So now I can concede that my family story of the Haney Christmas Bells is an example of how family lore can be proven wrong by the local newspaper. And how important it is to have help from others with our research when things become stagnant.

Ever the optimist, I have decided to learn more about the evolution of the businesses in the Haney Town Core. I also want to learn about other events in which the bells have been used since Sheila wrote about them in December 1996. I am curious how many of the Hallmark movies have used the bells for Christmas Romance movies? And how many local romances have been touched by the Bells over the years as well? Ro Vienotte was correct when he had said that the bells could be used for local events other than Christmas.



**Downtown Maple Ridge, December 2017.**

ERICA WILLIAMS

# Maple Ridge Public Library Anniversary

By Gina Leigh

In 2021 Maple Ridge Public Library celebrated 20 years at their current location, #130 – 22470 Dewdney Trunk Road. As part of the planned anniversary celebration to mark the milestone, library staff asked the Maple Ridge Family History Group (MRFHG) to put together a display about the previous 20 years. And then COVID struck and there would be no anniversary party in 2021.

The library's archive files were entrusted to the group. Archives begun by, added to and preserved by long-retired librarians as well as current staff, held a wonderful history not only of the Maple Ridge branch, but of the creation of the Fraser Valley Union Library, as it was then called. Soon the project began to morph into a history of the Fraser Valley Regional Library (FVRL) system as well as the Maple Ridge Public Library.

The Provincial Public Library Commission conducted a survey of library services in 1927–1928 which resulted in a report recommending the creation of library districts to serve rural populations. In 1929 the Carnegie Corporation of New York responded to a submission for financial assistance to establish a rural library project in the Fraser Valley and maintain it for five years. \$100,000 dollars (more than \$1.6 million in 2022 dollars)<sup>1</sup> was provided for The Demonstration Project which ran from 1930–1934 and covered an area of 2,500 kilometres.

Dr Helen Gordon Stewart, a professional librarian with extensive experience as a director in libraries across North America, was appointed the first director of the Fraser Valley Union Library in 1930. Dr Stewart was responsible for everything from hiring staff to purchasing books to opening branches and setting up the bookmobile service.

Library services began in August 1930, with the Haney branch opening in October – the fifth branch to open in the first two months. A year later the Demonstration Project had established 9 branches, 6 deposit stations, 50 bookmobile stops and 3 elementary school libraries in the Fraser Valley; over

13,000 residents were registered and book circulation totaled 230,000.<sup>2</sup>

When the Demonstration funding period ended in 1934 residents were asked whether they wanted to support the library through local taxes. Dr Stewart and her staff worked tirelessly on a massive public campaign. In the midst of a severe economic depression a referendum was held in the Fraser Valley and 20 of the 24 areas voted “yes”, and the Fraser Valley Union Library was created.

The first Haney library was housed on the second floor of the municipal hall on Callahan Street. In 1951 the library moved up the hill and through six locations continues to be in the downtown core; now in a purpose-built two storey facility. The library has always been a hub in the community. Today it is much more than simply a place to borrow books, although that is certainly an important role.

Two presentation boards were created by the MRFHG—the first lays out the chronology of FVRL and the Maple Ridge Public Library, including one map showing the various library locations over the years, and a second map showing the local elementary schools with libraries then stocked by FVRL and former bookmobile stops. The Maple Ridge Museum and Community Archives, FVRL and Maple Ridge branch shared historical photos.



Erica Williams and Brenda Smith (MRFHG), Sally Gwyn and Liza Morris (Maple Ridge Public Library), Gina Leigh (MRFHG).

PHOTO CREDIT: ERICA WILLIAMS

Maple Ridge Public Library also wanted to showcase the library of the 21<sup>st</sup> century, and this is the focus of the second presentation board. Staff provided photos

<sup>1</sup> \$100,000 CDN in 1929 converts to approximately \$1.6 million CDN in 2022 money. “Inflation Calculator,” Bank of Canada, [www.bankofcanada.ca/rates/related/inflation-calculator/](http://www.bankofcanada.ca/rates/related/inflation-calculator/).

<sup>2</sup> Ley, Ronald, Director, Fraser Valley Regional Library, *A Brief History of the Fraser Valley Regional Library and an Outline of the Library System, 1934-1971*. Abbotsford 1971



showing programs, events, staff and patrons. Retired staff were contacted and provided anecdotes about their time working in the branch, along with photos from personal collections.

The “anniversary” display was unveiled during the library’s annual Customer Appreciation Day held on October 7<sup>th</sup> and is currently in the library’s display cabinets.

Eight short years from now, in 2030, the Fraser Valley Regional Library system will celebrate the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of their establishment. The Maple Ridge Public Library was there from the beginning.

## Points to the Past

[www.pointstothepast.ca](http://www.pointstothepast.ca)

By Brenda L. Smith



*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 explores a selection of individual collections from the 30 data sets nested within the site 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](http://www.pointstothepast.ca/files/P2TP_Flyer_2018.pdf)

The British Newspaper Archive is perhaps the largest collection of internationally published newspapers and other periodicals in the world. At last count, nearly 60 million pages are available to researchers.

These newspapers, dating from the early 1700s through the 20<sup>th</sup> century, provide researchers with a unique, first-hand perspective on history printed in more than 160 newspaper titles.

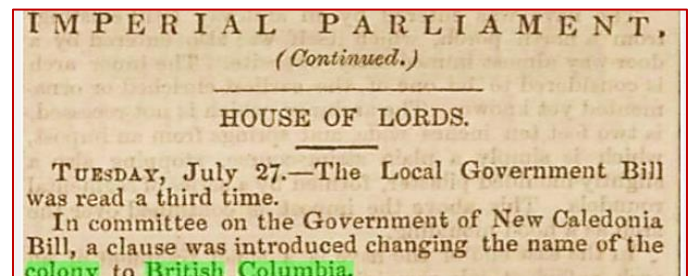
For tips and hints about using the Points to the Past free access, check the British Newspaper Archive blog [blog.britishnewspaperarchive.co.uk/category/hints-tips/](http://blog.britishnewspaperarchive.co.uk/category/hints-tips/)

I looked for an example of how broadly the collection addresses a historical event that affects my present locality. Using the keywords “British Columbia

Colony”, I discovered a new perspective on a critical year in our provincial history.

In 1858 Vancouver Island Governor James Douglas had forcefully written to the Colonial Office asking for help to keep the peace as 25,000 gold seekers flooded north from the California gold fields into the lower Fraser River, overrunning the resident Indigenous and fur trade population.

I found 1,733 results including the moment-by-moment news from the UK Parliament as it legislated a solution to a far off problem. In the *London Morning Post* of 27 July 1858 (Issue 26388) “The bill for the government of New Caledonia was last night read a second time in the House of Lords”. The next day, 28 July 1858, an amendment was announced in the *LONDON Daily News*, (Issue: 3807). The amendment was arranged in short order to change the name of the new colony.



“IMPERIAL PARLIAMENT,” *THE BATH CHRONICLE AND WEEKLY GAZETTE*, 29 JULY 1858, VOL. 101, ISSUE 5230.

And only four days later, Queen Victoria signed the bill conferring on James Douglas new governance powers on the mainland, while requiring him to cede his allegiance to the Hudson’s Bay Company.

“PROROGATION OF PARLIAMENT” *CORK EXAMINER* (CORK, IRELAND), 02 AUGUST 1858, VOL. 17, ISSUE 3215.

A quick search with keywords “Canada” (1,539,196 results), my hometown “Dawson Creek, BC” (6 results), and for “Barrie, Ontario” (120 results). So have a look at this massive collection of newspapers that can help you find genealogical bread crumbs and build the context for your family story.

## Down the Research Rabbit Hole

By Brenda L. Smith



Since 1865 when Lewis Carroll send Alice a-tumbling, “down the rabbit hole” has been part of our colloquial conversation. According to dictionary.com, a rabbit hole currently connotes “a time-consuming distraction of one's attention as happens when clicking through online links, following social media posts, or pursuing information.”

Family historians speak of “brick walls” and “rabbit holes” as undesirables in our quests for the family story. But I think that Alice’s Wonderland experience was quite a success. At every turn she discovered stunning new possibilities.

With this issue of the Family History Newsletter, we are retiring the COVID-inspired “While We Are Apart...” in favour of inviting readers to share their rabbit hole experiences. This is a safe space for you to confess your whims, because we have all been lost in the rabbit warren. And we especially welcome hearing about the amazing finds you make on these journeys.

This column debuts with a wonderful discovery by Andrea Lister, skilled historian and our in-house tech wizard, who was the editor of *British Columbia History* magazine, author and freelance editor.

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## The Sylvester Question

By Andrea Lister

My cousin recently asked me why my father had the name “Sylvester” as his middle name. The family mythology is that an ancestor, Sylvester Lister carried a halberd into battle during the War of the Roses (1455–1487). A halberd was 1.5 to 1.8 metres (5 to 6 feet) long axe with a spike at the end of the staff used by foot soldiers. The halberd carried by Sylvester Lister still hangs at Barden Tower, a medieval fortified manor house, standing between historic Bolton Abbey and the village of Burnsall in Wharfedale, the Yorkshire Dales National Park. There is a photo of my father pointing at the halberd hanging in the rafters. There is also a book by writer Helliwell Sutcliffe in which this story is recorded:

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*With him, into this sanctuary of the living dead, comes often Sylvester Lister, who carried a pike under Clifford's leadership. The Listers, even at that day, had been settled for generations at Barden Tower. They are there still, their honour rooted deep in the Dale's tradition; and it is fitting that the pike Sylvester carried to the Border is guarded by the centuried walls of his old home.*<sup>3</sup>

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Robin Sylvester Lister pointing at the halberd at Barden Tower in 1999, reportedly carried by a Sylvester Lister

PHOTO BY SHEILA LISTER

My Lister family tree does not go back that far so I decided to put this information together for my cousin so I began to dig into the story a bit more to see if I could prove the myth. I researched Yorkshire born author Halliwell Sutcliffe. He wrote over forty books between the 1890s and 1930s. His novels are historical romantic dramas set in the Yorkshire Dales, thus he was not a historian, nor was he alive during the War of the Roses.

Next, I researched the Clifford family in relation to Barden Tower. The area of Barden in the North Yorkshire district of Craven came into the possession of the aristocratic Clifford family in 1310. The Cliffords held large estates in the north of England and were staunch supporters of the House of Lancaster during the Wars of the Roses. John Clifford, 9th Baron Clifford, was killed in 1461 during the War of the Roses.

His son Henry went into hiding for twenty-five years. In 1485, when Henry Tudor defeated the Yorkist King Richard III at the Battle of Bosworth and became King Henry VII, the Lancastrian families, including the Cliffords, regained their estates and possessions and

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<sup>3</sup> Halliwell Sutcliffe, *The Striding Dales* (London: Frederick Warne & Co. Ltd., 1929), 32–33.



Henry Clifford was appointed hereditary Sheriff of Westmorland. Henry Clifford, 10th Baron de Clifford, took up residence at Barden Tower rather than his main seat of power at Skipton Castle. He enlarged Barden Tower and built the chapel at the Priests House.<sup>4</sup>

In 1513 the Scottish King, James IV, declared war on England. Sixty-year-old Henry Clifford brought 207 archers and 116 billmen from Yorkshire under his banner of the Red Wyvern and on September 9, 1513, led them into what became known as the Battle of Flodden. The Scottish were defeated and King James was killed in battle.



**The Battle of Flodden, a halberd is pictured on the left and an English bill or pike to the right.**

FROM P. 135 OF THE 1873 BOOK *BRITISH BATTLES ON LAND AND SEA*,  
VOLUME 1, COLLECTION OF THE BRITISH LIBRARY

At this point, I realized that the Sylvester Lister with the halberd was associated with the Battle of Flodden, not the War of the Roses. I focused my research on Henry Clifford, Barden Tower and the Battle of Flodden and came across a history book written in 1904 by Edmund Bogg. Two family names jumped off the page—Lister and De Maine—both names in my tree. Bogg states that the Listers and the De Maines have lived at Barden Tower for generations. He states that the De Maines took part in the Norman Conquest in 1066, and the Listers had lived on the same spot since sometime in the early 1200s. “The claim of the Listers will be most readily admitted, for the ancestor

who gave them that name had it himself from his trade he was a dyer.”<sup>5</sup>

*In the archives of Skipton Castle, the names of the Craven men who fell on the field of Flodden were preserved in memory of this fight. The Lister family at Barden, and the Blands of Woodhouse, have each still in their possession a halberd used by an ancestor at this famous fight.*<sup>6</sup>

#### Headstone of John and Sylvester Lister.

PHOTO BY CINDY  
HIESLER, 2010



The Bolton Abbey Parish Register notes that my third great-grandfather, John Lister, died at Barden Tower, Bolton Abbey, Skipton-in-Craven on January 27, 1793.<sup>7</sup> The memorial inscription on his headstone in the Churchyard of the Priory Church, Bolton Abbey, Skipton reads:

*Here Lieth the Body of John Lister, of Barden Tower, who departed this life, the 27th day of January, in the year of our Lord, 1793, in the 39th year of his age. Also Sylvester Lister, of Barden Tower, who died October 31st 1853 aged 76 years.*

<sup>4</sup> “Barden Tower,” Yorkshire Guide, accessed September 9, 2022, [http://www.yorkshireguides.com/barden\\_tower.html](http://www.yorkshireguides.com/barden_tower.html).

<sup>5</sup> Edmund Bogg. *Higher Wharfedale: the dale of romance, from Ormscliffe to Cam Fell; being a description of its picturesque features, history, antiquities, rare architecture, tradition, old world story, and also its flora, etc.* (York: John Sampson; London, Manchester, John Heywood; Leeds, 1904), 199.

<sup>6</sup> Edmund Bogg. *Higher Wharfedale*, 194.

<sup>7</sup> Bolton Abbey Parish Register (1689-1812), edited by A.P. Howes, M.A. (Rector of Bolton Abbey). [“Craven Herald” Office, High Street, Skipton: 1895], accessed through <http://www.wharfeagen.org.uk/>

His son, Sylvester Lister (born 1777, died 1853) married Ellen Demaine in 1803 connecting the two families.

The Lister tree in the Wharfegen Family History database takes some of the Lister (Lyster) family back to 1386, however, so far, my lines' trail ends with Christopher Lister born in Fewston somewhere around 1576--1596. The database also does not include a Sylvester Lister who could have fought in the Battle of Flodden in 1513. Of course, some historians date the halberd to the English Civil War (1642-1651) rather than the Battle of Flodden. Lady Anne Clifford, (1590-1676) was the last Clifford to own Skipton Castle. Skipton Castle withstood a three years siege during the war. Barden Tower played no part in the Civil War. Edmund Bogg's writing indicates that there are records at Skipton Castle so there are more avenues yet to explore.

## Research News

### Family History Centre News

[www.familysearch.org/en/wiki/Abbotsford\\_British\\_Columbia\\_Family\\_History\\_Centre](http://www.familysearch.org/en/wiki/Abbotsford_British_Columbia_Family_History_Centre)

The Abbotsford Family History Centre open again and looking forward to helping you with your family history.

Location: 30635 Blueridge Drive, Abbotsford BC

Their hours are as follows:

Monday 10:00 am-1:00 pm

Tuesday 6:00 pm-9:00 pm

The Abbotsford and Surrey Family History Centers have new directors. In Spring 2022 we said goodbye with best wishes as Jen Haddad left Abbotsford for new opportunities in Nova Scotia. Her position as Director of the Abbotsford FHC has been filled by Lyn McGonigal. A longtime director in the Surrey FHC she led the creation and development of the Finding



Lyn McGonigal

Your Roots Seminar. Her passion for family history has led her to pick up Jen's baton. In addition to ensuring that volunteers make the FHC available to researchers, Lyn has recently announced the 2023 Abbotsford Family History Day planned for April 15.



Jeannie Vance

Wayne Walker will follow Jeannie as Director, supported by Assistant Director Terry Rogers.

In Surrey, Jeannie Vance has announced her retirement after five years as Assistant Director to Salley Heysom, followed by ten years as Director. Jeannie promises to stay involved so that we will still benefit from her knowledge and expertise, and we wish her a successful retirement.

### Taking a Fresh Look: Navy Jack House

Andrea Lister and Brenda L. Smith have re-opened Brenda's 2020 research of John "Navy Jack" Thomas and his family in a search for documentary evidence of the community memory of the builder of Navy Jack House in West Vancouver. The 2020 report was guided by the need to support the local community's efforts to preserve what is believed to be the oldest residential structure in West Vancouver.

While the bulldozers were turned away two years ago, the future of Navy Jack House is still undecided. Our new project expands on the earlier findings. Our new goal is to describe the family that inhabited the house through a deeper search for contemporary writing, to re-evaluate community memories of John Thomas, his wife Slawia and their children.

Finding the real person whose own voice has been stilled by time is the theme of a new presentation under the Maple Ridge Family History Group banner: *Taking a Fresh Look at Community Lore*. Andrea and Brenda have used examples from our personal research and previous Maple Ridge FHG community history projects to demonstrate how, starting from "what everyone always said", we can find the clues that bring the real story to light.





## Online Resources

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### Métis in BC

<https://metisinbc.mnbc.ca/>

“Métis identity is not an individualized identity, rather it is formed and expressed through Métis community. Métis are not simply a mixed ancestry people; they come from historic communities that emerged before Canada was Canada. There were distinct networks of communication from Western Ontario across the homeland and into BC. Although connected to both the Fur Trade and to First Nation’s communities, Métis are recognized as being distinct and separate from their First Nation and European relatives.”

Learn about the Métis in BC through this online exhibit that includes videos, photographs, and information.

### Women's Land Army

[www.ancestry.co.uk/search/collections/62020/](http://www.ancestry.co.uk/search/collections/62020/)

The UK National Archives and Ancestry have announced that more than 90,000 index cards revealing the employment details of the ‘land girls’ who served in the wartime Women’s Land Army have been digitized and made available online by Ancestry. Despite the huge numbers of women involved, original service records of the Women’s Land Army have not survived. What has survived are microfiche copies of alphabetical index cards from 1939 to 1945.

### Revelstoke Archives

<https://bcrdh.ca/islandora/object/revelstoke%3Aroot>

The Revelstoke Museum and Archives have digitized a number of photos and records through the British Columbia Regional Digitized History (B.C.R.D.H.) project including C.P.R. Accident Reports.

### Abbotsford Genealogical Society

The Abbotsford Genealogical Society (AGS) Resource Centre is located in the Archives of The Reach Gallery Museum at 32388 Veterans Way Abbotsford; there is free parking, disabled access and complimentary computers with Ancestry Library Edition.

The Reach’s holdings also include several local newspapers: the *Abbotsford Post* (1910-1924), *Abbotsford, Sumas & Matsqui News* (1922 to present), the *Abbotsford Times* (1992-2008) and *Punjabi Patrika*.

Genealogical information contained in the local newspapers has been made easily accessible through indexes listing obituary, marriage and some birth announcements, searchable by family name.

There is also a library with history books such as the *Journals of the Colonial Legislatures of the Colonies of Vancouver Island and British Columbia 1851-1871*.

There is no charge for the use of the archives and staff are available to help you when you make a research appointment.

### BCGS Genealogical Library

The BCGS Genealogical Library includes over 18,000 books, magazines, maps and other printed materials and is one of the largest in the province.

Address # 211 – 12837 76th Avenue, Surrey, BC

Operating Hours: Tuesday, Thursday & Saturday  
10am – 3pm.

The Library houses the collection of the Vancouver Branch of the United Empire Loyalists.

The library is affiliated with FamilySearch.org and has extended access to their records.

Five computer workstations are available for your research. Wifi is available for anyone that brings their own laptop. Two large meeting areas allow for group discussion, Special Interest Groups, and training sessions.

## Remembrance



War memorial outside Maple Ridge Royal Canadian Legion Branch 88.

ERICA WILLIAMS

## Family History Events

### Abbotsford Family History Day

- **All Day Family History Event**  
Presentations are for beginners to seasoned researchers and lunch is included. Mark your calendars and watch for further details in the coming months. April 15, 2023. Free.

### BCGS

[www.bcfgs.ca/bcfgs-events](http://www.bcfgs.ca/bcfgs-events)

- **From Researcher to Writer (Part II): Writing Your Ancestor's Story** Karen Inkster Vance, (Zoom) November 19, 2022 at 9:30 am PST. Fee: Free for BCGS Members and Members of BCGS Affiliates; Non-BCGS Members: \$25.
- **Military Ancestors and Remembrance Day** with Colin McGregor Stevens, via Zoom on November 9, 2022 at 7:30pm.
- **Are You an Endling?** With David Landers, via Zoom on December 14, 2022 at 7:30pm.

### Chilliwack Fraser Valley Library

<https://fvrl.bibliocommons.com/evnts/62d829f17a5c6b360009cc59>

- **Remembrance Day Theme**, November 16, 2022, 10:30am–12:00pm. Chilliwack Library, 45860 First Avenue, Chilliwack, BC.

### Surrey Libraries

[www.surreylibraries.ca/services/family-history](http://www.surreylibraries.ca/services/family-history)

- **Fun Family History Fridays**, Nov 25, Dec 23, 2022. 2:30pm–3:30pm, Cloverdale Branch.
- **Family History DNA Chat**, Friday Dec 9, 2022 & Jan 13, 2023. 2:30pm–3:30pm.

### THE Genealogy Show

<https://thegenealogyshow.uk/>

- **Winter Event**, 50+ speakers, exhibitors, articles, games, and competitions. Virtual. Fee. £20. December 2, 2022 to January 6, 2023.

### RootsTech 2023

[www.familysearch.org/rootstech/event/rt2023](http://www.familysearch.org/rootstech/event/rt2023)

The 2023 theme is "Uniting". Hybrid event: in-person and virtual. 180+ in-person class sessions with Q&As. 200+ NEW on-demand class sessions and classes. March 2–4, 2023. Fee: on-line = free, in-person = \$98US.

### Strathcona County Library

Zoom program, registration required.

[www.sclibrary.ca/calendar?month=2022-03](http://www.sclibrary.ca/calendar?month=2022-03)

- **Saving the WWII Canso Aircraft**, with members of the Fairview Aircraft Restoration Society, Tuesday November 8, 2022, 7:00 pm to 8:00 pm MST. Free.
- **Family Tree Trackers: World War Brides**, with Annette Fulford, Thursday, November 10, 2022, 7:00 pm to 8:30 pm MST. Free.

### Surrey British Columbia Family History Centre

[www.familysearch.org/en/wiki/Surrey\\_British\\_Columbia\\_Family\\_History\\_Centre](http://www.familysearch.org/en/wiki/Surrey_British_Columbia_Family_History_Centre)

Pre-register to receive Zoom link.

- **English Research** with Rob Whitlock, November 21 at 10:00am or November 23, 2022 at 7:00pm.

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](mailto:mrfamilyhistory@gmail.com) for information on how to join the meeting.

**November 2, 2022: Lest We Forget: Remembering our ancestors who served in the military.** Given the number of wars fought throughout history, most of us have ancestors who served in the military. This is an opportunity to acknowledge the courage and sacrifices these men and women made for their country during a major conflict.

Share their story—lest we forget.

**December 7, 2022: Community Connections: The British Columbia Historical Federation.** The BCHF encourages interest in the history of BC through research, presentation, and support in its role as an umbrella organization.

Our guest presenter, K. JANE WATT PhD, Honorary President of the British Columbia Historical Federation, managing editor of *British Columbia History* magazine, principal of Fenton Street Publishing House, is the author of numerous regional histories including *Surrey: A City of Stories*, and *High Water: Living with the Fraser Floods*.

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