

Community, Past, Present & Future



Family History Newsletter

January 2023

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

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ISSN 2564-0895 (Print)

ISSN 2564-0909 (Online)

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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.



The Gratitude Bowl

Brenda L. Smith

A few years ago, friend and member Janice Davis gave me a gratitude bowl, a little crocheted cup to hold my thoughts of gratitude. It has filled up. Here is a sample of 2022 additions to my bowl. I added the gifts of enthusiasm as we brought our *On The River: The Fishing Industry in Maple Ridge* to maturity, and I am grateful that the Family History Group was recognized for its contributions to local history. I am grateful that the people affected by fire and flood are resilient and able to build new lives after catastrophe. I am grateful for finding more people have taken part in find the stories of my own family and others that have been lost in time. There is always room for more gratitude in my bowl, and I look forward to adding new thoughts in 2023.

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2023 MRHS Membership Renewal

It is that time of year again to renew your membership with the Maple Ridge Historical Society (MRHS) for 2023! The MRHS relies on memberships from community members to survive—your membership keeps the MRHS operating, not just financially, but as a registered society, not-for-profit, and charity. The Family History Group is a standing committee of the MRHS. With the community's support in 2022, the MRHS put on dozens of events, including Paranormal Nights, Mother's Day, Apple Harvest Festival, monthly walking tours, and the popular monthly DARS Open House. Through your annual membership, you can continue to be involved in your community and help celebrate the heritage of Maple Ridge and its residents. Renew here:

<http://mapleridgemuseum.org/contact-2/join-us/>

The 1921 Scottish Census

By Andrea Lister

The 1921 census was due to be taken on April 24; however, due to industrial unrest it was postponed until June 19, 1921. Unlike 1921 England and Wales census records which are the original household schedules, completed by the head of the household, the 1921 Scottish census records are the enumeration books which contain information transcribed from the household schedules, as with all previous censuses.

The impact of the First World War and the Flu Influenza epidemic are reflected in the questions asked. The number of orphans living at each address were surveyed for the first time and asked whether the father, mother or both parents were deceased:

- BA = both parents alive
- FD = father dead
- MD = mother dead
- BD = both parents dead

For the first time, a question was asked on whether a marriage had been “dissolved by Divorce.”

For more information on the 1921 census go to the research guide at the Scottish National Archives.

www.nrscotland.gov.uk/research/research-guides/research-guides-a-z/census-records/1921-census

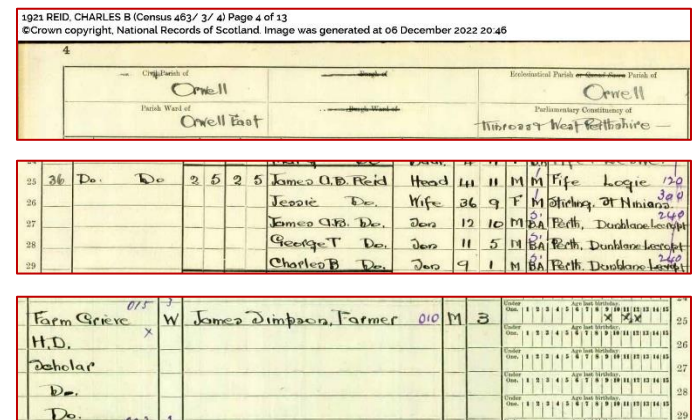
The 1921 census for Scotland was released on *ScotlandsPeople* on St Andrews Day. Records cost 6 credits to view £1.50 (\$2.33 CDN)—30 credits for £7.50 (\$11.65) is the smallest number of credits you can purchase.

Searching on *ScotlandsPeople* is challenging when you are uncertain where your family might have lived and if they have a common name. A good tip for double-checking before you pay your credits is to filter by county and district, remove the forename, and sort by the reference number. All my REID family have reference 463/ 3/4 so they are in the same household in Orwell, Kinross.

REID	CHARLES B	1921	M	9	463/ 3/ 4	ORWELL	KINROSS
REID	JAMES A B	1921	M	12	463/ 3/ 4	ORWELL	KINROSS
REID	JAMES A B	1921	M	41	463/ 3/ 4	ORWELL	KINROSS
REID	GEORGE T	1921	M	11	463/ 3/ 4	ORWELL	KINROSS
REID	JESSIE	1921	F	36	463/ 3/ 4	ORWELL	KINROSS

I was excited for this release as it captures my grandfather and his family two years before they immigrated to Canada.

The 1921 census captured my great-grandfather was the griever (the overseer on a farm) for James Simpson. According to my great-uncle George, this was the first house they had lived in with running water and inside plumbing. It also had a brand new flat top stove with an oven and a water reservoir—a treat for the boys as they did not have to pack water in buckets.



1921 Census for REID family, 163/3/4 page 4 of 13.

CROWN COPYRIGHT, NATIONAL RECORDS OF SCOTLAND

I also looked for Ann (Annie) Reid, age 60, in the 1921 census but had no success. I have only been able to find Annie Reid in the 1861 and 1881 census when she lived with other family members. She worked for a family in Edinburgh but sadly I do not know the name of the family. *ScotlandsPeople* does not have the option to filter by marital status or search by occupation, so it makes it very challenging to find single individuals.

Genealogy TV

Finding Your Roots: Season 9

Season 9 of *Finding Your Roots* with Henry Louis Gates, Jr begins on Tuesday, January 3rd at 8:00 on KCTS. The first guests are Julia Roberts and Ed Norton

Family History Mysteries: Buried Past

Genealogist Sophie McClaren is an expert at bringing families together a new original series, *Family History Mysteries: Buried Past*, premiering on Hallmark Movies & Mysteries in January 2023. When her close friend Jonathan urgently needs to find a bone marrow donor, the case becomes personal. Starring Janel Parrish and Niall Matter.

City of Maple Ridge Heritage Awards

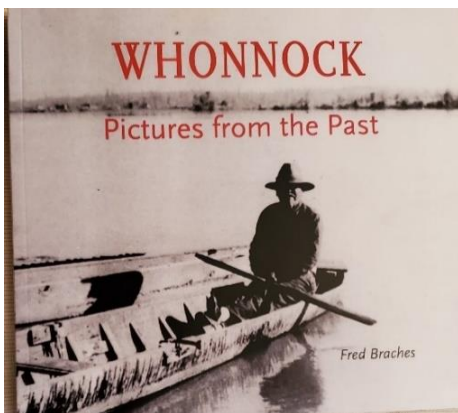
Date: February 24, 2023

Time: 7:00 pm

Place: Hammond Community Centre, 20601 Westfield Ave. Maple Ridge, BC



Whonnock: Pictures From the Past



Historian Fred Braches has produced a new photograph album that delivers a new view of the history of this historic neighbourhood of Whonnock

in the southeast of Maple Ridge. In Fred's words:

"Local history is very much family history. Thousands of people lived in Whonnock, but only a fraction of their photos survived and have found their way to the collection."

This book is the result of more than twenty-five years of searching for, collecting, copying, and sharing pictures of the past. Most of the images have been used to illustrate writings, and appeared in historic calendars produced every year since 2005. A collection like this can never be complete, but the images will offer at least a glimpse of the past of Whonnock and its people."

You can pick up your own copy at Black Bond Books.

Technology Tips: Happy New Year

By Darren Durupt

Happy New Year folks!

It seems like we just had this article a month or so ago...but it is that time of year again.

As we discussed previously, major calendar dates can be a great reminder to review your technology situation. The New Year is an excellent time to assess your data storage requirements.

Data and Backups

How are your backups running? Is the frequency and volume of data you are backing up still relevant? Have you tried restoring your data from a recent backup?

Are you using the 3-2-1 rule? If so, be sure to rotate your offsite long-term media.

Software and Hardware

New Years is handy in that there are frequently good sales on technology so it's the perfect time to look at your hardware and software situation. Consider the age of your equipment and how it is performing. Now may be an opportune time to upgrade or update something at a great sale price.

Patching and Updates

Now is a great time to also look at whether any of your software or drivers need patching or updates. Much like Windows itself the hardware in some machines requires patching or driver (software) updates to function properly and efficiently. Remember your scanners and printers as well!

www.pointstothepast.ca

By Brenda L. Smith

Points to the Past



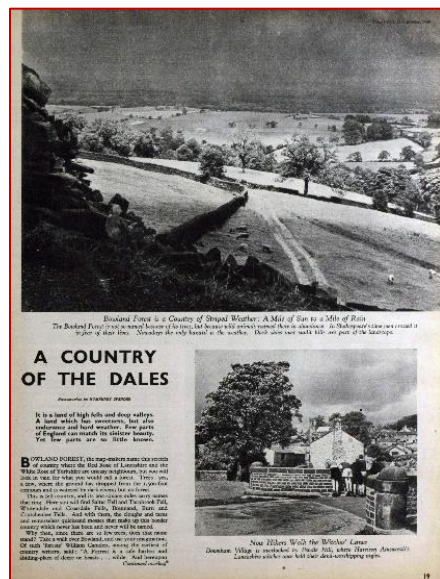
Points to the Past is a portal for original publications provided free to the

residents of British Columbia's 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/resources.html



The Picture Post Historical Archive comprises the complete archive of the Picture Post magazine from 1938 to 1957. Its photo-journalistic style was aimed at the general British audience, and became a window on the world's social and political issues. Dip into these illustrated essays of the mid-20th century.

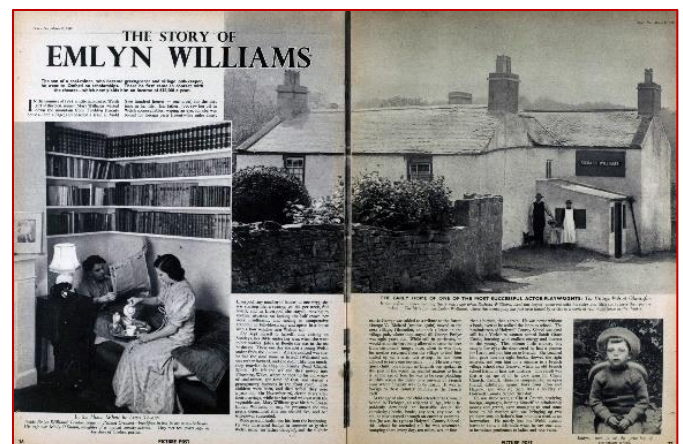
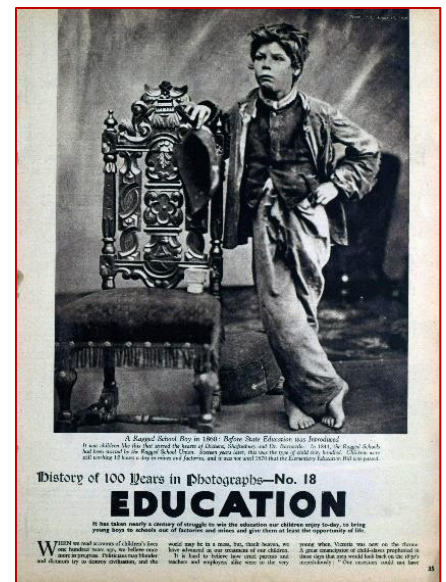


TOURISM
PROMOTION: "A
COUNTRY OF THE
DALES", BY
GARRY HOGG,
PICTURE POST,
LONDON, 23
SEPTEMBER 1950,
VOLUME: 48,
ISSUE: 13.



"REPORTING THE
SECOND WORLD
WAR IN ITALY:
"AFTER THE R. A.
F.'s VISIT", PICTURE
POST (LONDON, 02
OCTOBER 1943,
VOLUME: 21, ISSUE:
1.

DESCRIPTIONS OF
SOCIAL HISTORY:
"HISTORY OF 100
YEARS:
EDUCATION",
PICTURE POST,
LONDON, 19
AUGUST 1939,
VOLUME: 4, ISSUE:
7.

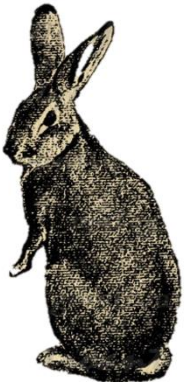


BIOGRAPHIES: "THE STORY OF EMLYN WILLIAMS", PICTURE POST
(LONDON, 16 MARCH 1940, VOLUME: 6, ISSUE: 11.

Down the Research Rabbit Hole

Ed. Brenda L. Smith

Share the stories of your discoveries off the beaten track.



Since 1865 when Lewis Carroll sent 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.

This column takes you with me into the journals of the British Columbia Legislative Assembly Archives. On one of the side trips that Andrea Lister and I have taken while research into John Thomas, a mid-nineteenth century arrival on the north shore of Burrard Inlet. I have isolated the references in this summary of land decisions that took place in Maple Ridge from 1872 to 1875, when Maple Ridge included what is now Port Coquitlam from Coast Meridian through Pitt Meadows to the present-day eastern boundary of the City of Maple Ridge.

archives.leg.bc.ca/civix/content/leg_archives/legarchive/s/1736000202/?xsl=/templates/browse.xsl

Archived Journals of the Legislative Assembly

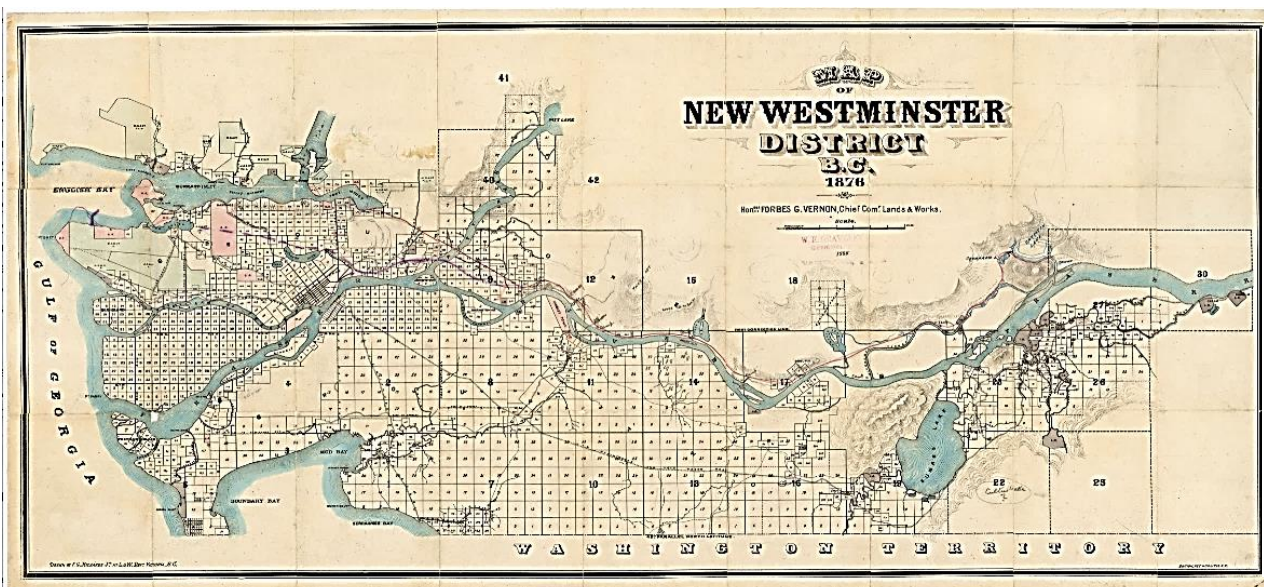
By Brenda L. Smith

The list is interesting to me as a more recent resident of Maple Ridge, helping me to understand who was active in the area when British Columbia had just joined confederation in 1871, and when Maple Ridge became an incorporated municipality in 1874. As a family historian, I am attracted to such records for their name, date, and location data which can lead me to the original land acquisition documents.

The extract below includes accepted applications to claim land grants, and unsurveyed and purchased applications for permission to survey. Some of the applicants are from the Royal Engineers contingent that was in the colony from 1859 to 1863, who elected to stay when the unit withdrew to other assignments. Other names are familiar in fur trade history. Most of the applications were for 160 acres (64.75 Ha) or ¼ section.

PRE-EMPTED AND SURVEYED LANDS, NEW WESTMINSTER DISTRICT 1872 TO 1875 1872

Date	Name of Pre-empter	Acres and Location
Feb 2	John Hammond	160 between Maple Ridge and Pitt Meadows
June 24	Newman C. Johnson	160 Kanaka Creek
1873		
Feb 27	John Thomas Scott	160 Pitt Lake
Mar 25	George Henry Howison	160 Maple Ridge



New Westminster District, 1876

CITY OF VANCOUVER ARCHIVES AM1594: MAP 2

Date	Name of Pre-empter	Acres and Location
1873		
Apr 5	Albert G. Anderson	160 Maple Ridge
Apr 8	Daniel James Robson	160 Pitt River Meadows
Apr 8	Charles George Major	160 Pitt Meadows
May 7	John C. Bevan	160 Pitt River
May 8	James Bell	160 Pitt Lake
	Howard L. DeBeck	"
	Clarence C. DeBeck	"
	Warren DeBeck	"
May 16	Robert Howell	160 Pitt Lake
	Phillip Jackman	Pitt Lake
June 6	Abraham Reed	160 Opposite Langley Island
June 14	Thomas Armstrong	160 Pitt River Road
June 18	Albert G. Anderson	160 Maple Ridge
	George Henry Howison	160 Maple Ridge
Aug 29	Thomas Frazer	160 Keatzie Meadows
Nov 24	George Apnat	160 Maple Ridge
1874		
Feb 17	Henry Frost	160 Maple Ridge
	Wellington T. Harris	160 Pitt Meadows
	William H. Smith	160 Pitt Meadows
	Thomas Henderson	160 Keatzie Meadows
Mar 9		
	Thomas Lindsay	160 Pitt Measows
	Thomas West	160 Pitt Meadows
Mar 16	Robert Winacarry	160 Kanaka Creek
June 1	Thomas West	160 Maple Ridge
Apr. 22	Wellington J. Harris	160 Pitt Meadows

May 19	George Feneton	160 Kanaka Creek
Aug 4	Captain George Pittendrigh	160 Pitt Meadows
Aug 4	Captain George Pittendrigh (Military Grant)	400 Pitt Meadows
Sep 9	Frances Bates	160 Maple Ridge
Dec 9	Robert Granville McAwley	160 Kanaka Prairie
Dec 10	James Girlin Metcalfe	160 Kanaka Creek
Dec. 10	William C. McDougall	160 Pitt Meadows
1875		
Feb 15	Peter Ferguson	160 Maple Ridge
Feb 18	George Brown	160 Pitt Meadows
Feb 25	George Wesley Crawford	160 Pitt Meadows

UNSURVEYED AND PURCHASED IN NEW WESTMINSTER DISTRICT UNDER "LAND ACT 1870" AND AMENDMENTS

Withdrawn Albert Johnson 160 Pitt River

APPLICATIONS TO PURCHASE UNSURVEYED LAND. NEW WESTMINSTER DISTRICT

Applicant	Acres	Locality	Surveyor	Remarks
Lethro R. Chelsea	150	Township 12	Captain Jemmett	Survey not authorized
Alexander Johnson	160	Pitt River	Captain Jemmett	Survey not authorized
Captain J. Pittendrigh	560	Pitt River	Captain Jemmett	Survey not authorized
James Turner	160	Maple Ridge	Captain Jemmett	Survey not authorized
George Turner:	160	S.W. ¼ Sec. 3, Township No. 17	John McClure	Survey authorized
A. E. Russ	300	Maple Ridge	George Turner, or W.G. Pinder	Survey not authorized
James Cunningham	306	Maple Ridge	W.G. Pinder	Survey not authorized
George H. Howison	160	Maple Ridge	W.G. Pinder	Survey not authorized

Research News

52 Ancestors in 52 Weeks Returns for 2023

www.amyjohnsoncrow.com/52ancestors52weeks/

For those of you who don't know, 52 Ancestors is a way of chronicling our ancestors by writing about them in a prompt every week given by Amy Johnson Crow. Individuals do this through a blog, their website, whatever works for them and isn't too much effort—we're going for telling stories, not getting bogged down in how they're told.

52 Ancestors is about many different things. One is accountability to keep telling the stories of our ancestors, but do it in a way that keeps us invigorated and not burned out.

52 Ancestors in 52 Weeks will be returning for 2023. They will be getting started right after the New Year, so now is the time to sign up.

Online Resources

Colonial Despatches

<https://bcgenesis.uvic.ca/>

The Despatches—the official correspondence between the governors of the colonies of Vancouver Island (1849-1866) and British Columbia (1858-1871) with the British Colonial Office and associated branches—have been transcribed, are fully searchable and indices have been prepared for all the people, ships and places mentioned. The transcripts link to images of the original letters; the numerous enclosures, containing supporting information sent with the letters, including over 200 maps.

Archived Journals of the Legislative Assembly of British Columbia

<https://archives.leg.bc.ca/>

This site provides public access to British Columbia's historical Journals of the Legislative Assembly, from pre-confederation to 2021. The Journals are presented in "searchable" PDF Image format so that you can view the Journals as they were originally published.

The journals include pre-emptions, voter's lists, and applications for mining licences.

FindMyPast

www.findmypast.co.uk

The fourth annual rolling release of 1939 Register records has arrived. What does that mean? You may have found your ancestors and noticed that some of

the family members marked as "officially closed." This is due to United Kingdom privacy regulations preventing them from publishing records of anyone born less than 100 years ago and still alive. The Register was updated until 1991, meaning the record of anyone who died after 1991 might still be closed. Each year, new records are released so it can be worth revisiting your 1939 downloads to see if your ancestors is one of 65,000 new records have passed the 100-year rule within the last three months.

FindMyPast has also added:

- Protestation Returns 1641-1642
- Ireland, Licences To Keep Arms 1832-1836

Graphic symbology incorporates many different designs, sometimes in multiple layers. The symbols represent many cultural expressions, changing with time, place and belief system.

2023 New Year's Challenge

Do you have an ancestor who was a member of a fraternal order, charitable organization or community group?



Shriner band playing in a parade along Burrard Street, 1942.

CITY OF VANCOUVER ARCHIVES, PHOTOGRAPHER: JACK LINDSAY, CVA
1184-1246

Most likely you do. The challenge is to find that ancestor and research the following:

- Name of the group, when it was founded and is it still in existence
- The primary focus of the group
- Year your ancestor became a member
- Did your ancestor take on a leadership role
- Any other interesting aspects you have found

Share your research efforts at our March meeting!

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

- **Spring 2023 Seminars** with Mags Gauden, January 28, 2023. Details coming soon.
- **Spring 2023 Seminars** with Fintan Mullan & Gillian Hunt, February 18, 2023. Details coming soon.

Island Mountain Arts

<http://support-imarts.com/workshop-registration/unlock-your-family-story>

- **Unlock Your Family Story: Sharing Your Family's History**
Participants engage in 14 hours of workshops and discussion facilitated by Brenda L Smith and Andrea Lister. Runs from April to May 21, 2023. Early Bird Fee (Ends February 20, 2023): \$330 | Fee: \$355 + GST

Chilliwack Fraser Valley Library

www.fvrl.bc.ca/

- **Genealogy Group**, January 18, February 15, 2023, 10:30am–12:00pm. Chilliwack Library.

Kelowna & District Genealogical Society

<https://kdgs.ca/>

- **Me and My 1,000+ DNA 4th Cousins**, with Diahna Southard. January 9, 2023, 7:00 pm PST. Via Zoom. Fee: \$10 (or free for KDGS members).

Maple Ridge Library

www.fvrl.bc.ca/

- **Winter Fun Fair**, Join in an action-packed day to celebrate Family Literacy Day! Everyone is welcome! Saturday January 28, 2023, 11:00am–2:00pm. Maple Ridge Library.

Surrey Libraries

www.surreylibraries.ca/services/family-history

- **Fun Family History Fridays**, Jan 27, Feb 24, 2023. 2:30pm–3:30pm, Cloverdale Branch.
- **Family History DNA Chat**, Friday Jan 13, 2023 & Feb 10, 2023. 2:30pm–3:30pm.
- **Ancestry and Find My Past - Tips and Tricks**. Saturday Jan 14, 1:00 pm–2:30 pm. Cloverdale Branch.
- **Historical Photo Detective: Roadshow!** with "The Photo Detective" Maureen Taylor. Friday Feb 17, 10:00 am–12:00 pm | Digital Branch.

RootsTech 2023

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.

West Vancouver Memorial Library

<https://westvanlibrary.ca/>

- **Local Voices: The Rush for Gold in British Columbia: Multicultural Dream Chasers and the Birth of a Province** with Greg Dickson and Mark Forsythe, February 8, 2023 at 6:00pm. Free.

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.

January 4, 2023: Part 4 of our Cemetery Series: presented by Brenda Smith, **Subtle to Blatant: Graphic Imagery in the Cemetery**. Graphic symbology incorporates many different designs, sometimes in multiple layers. The symbols represent many cultural expressions, changing with time, place and belief system.

February 1, 2023: **Canadian Census: Finding Indigenous People in BC**. The first census of Canada that includes BC is the 1881 census, after the province joined Confederation. However, Indigenous People are under-represented in the census records and can be challenging to find. Join Andrea Lister, a census expert, whose ancestors came from England, Ireland, Scotland, and Germany to explore techniques to help people find their ancestors and researchers learn more about the community in which their ancestors lived. **CONTENT/TRIGGER WARNING:** Mentions of Residential Schools, assimilation, colonialism, racist language.

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