Community, Past, Present & Future



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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.

In This Issue

A Love Letter from the Cariboo1
Points to the Past3
Navigating the Gaps in LAC Digital Access
Senator Lorna Milne Passes the Torch
of Canadian Census Release4
Historic Site News5
Down the Research Rabbit Hole5
2023 Community History Project:
Maple Ridge Cenotaph7
Research News8
Family History Events9

Family History Newsletter

A Love Letter from the Cariboo

By Brenda L. Smith



Letter From J. E. Kama to Mrs. J. E. Kama c/o Mrs. D. Fetterly, Chilliwack, BC BRENDA SMITH COLLECTION

Page 1 — Transcription

The Crown Hotel, Chas. Moxon, Prop.

Deka Lake Williams Lake, BC Aug. 13, 1929

My darling N_____

Here I am sitting at the crossroads below Deka Lake waiting for the mail truck to come back from Bridge Lake east of here and take this letter in.

I wrote you last from Marble Canyon that day we went to 100 Mile and from there into Forest Grove & Canim Lake, the Indian George Charlie is taking Downton [?] the manager, into Clearwater today and staying for two week. Hence he can't take me in there till Sept. 1. That'll be my last field trip & I'll come straight home from there & leaving from there tomorrow on a horse from Deka Lake up past Hathaway Lake to Irving Lake, and across to E from the N up Bowers Lake & over to the divide. Then back to the end of Bowers Lake.

Page 2 — Transcription

South on the E side of it down to Needa Lake & out across W to the bottom end of Deka Lake again. I expect it to take 5 or 6 days rush travelling. Then on the road we'll go from Horsefly to the head of Moffat Creek (ten day trip with horses) After which come the Canim Lake area about which I'll tell you when I come home.

My Golly, N____, I am ___ sure hoping the time flies till Sept. 15. Then you and I will be together again for a long time.

Bye bye for now dearest,

oodles of love

and kisses. Here comes the truck

Love Joe



Letter From J. E. Kama to Mrs. J. E. Kama c/o Mrs. D. Fetterly, Chilliwack, BC

BRENDA SMITH COLLECTION

This letter was included in a spur-of-the-moment exercise presented at the June 2022 meeting of the Maple Ridge Family History Group. Participants were invited to strategize how to approach discovering the identities of those named in the letter. Exploration of the puzzle continued in the months after the meeting. As always, there is more work to do, but you are offered the findings about the five individuals named on the envelope and in the letter. With thanks to all the contributors, here is an interim report of discoveries:

The letter is written in pencil on stationery from a Williams Lake hotel, while the author waits in his truck for the mailman to arrive at Dekka Lake, BC.

Joseph Ernest Anthony Kania was born in Austria in 1901 and came to Trail, BC with his family in 1913. He married Anne Fetterley in 1928. In August 1929 he was working for surveyor G M Downton in the Cariboo, preparing to return to complete his masters degree in geological engineering at University of British Columbia. The following year, he and Anne left for the US to earn a PhD at Massachusetts Institute of Technology. Returning to Canada, Joe worked for Pemberton Securities for 44 years. He supervised UBC graduate students in geological engineering and economics and served on the University Senate. Kania died in 2000.

Anne Fetterly Kania was born in 1899, the daughter of David Fettely and Isabella Kerr. Her parents were dairy farmers at 219 Prest Road (now 8837 Prest Road). The Fetterlys had seven daughters: Lila, Ann, Alma, Agnes, Ethel, Nellie and Edith, and three sons: Corliss, Walter, and Wilfred. Anne died in 1987. Isabella Kerr Fetterly died at 94, in Vancouver in 1963, at 4585 Bellevue Drive, the Kania home. Kania Castle, built in 1936, is recognized by the Vancouver Heritage Foundation as an excellent example of Spanish Colonial Revival style.

In 1929 Kania seems to have been working for BC Land Surveyor Geoffrey Murray Downton, who was born in England. He enlisted in the 88th Regiment (Victoria Fusiliers) of the Canadian Expeditionary Force in 1915. Downton was transferred to the 48th Battalion (later the 3rd Canadian Pioneer Battalion). In 1917, he was transferred to the Canadian Machine Gun Corps. In 1919 Captain Downton returned to his profession in Lillooet. The province has several geographic features named for Downton. Before his death in 1972, he and his wife donated the park next to the Lillooet Museum in memory of their son, Flight Sergeant Charles Murray Downton of the 420 Squadron R.C.A.F, killed on active service overseas in 1943.

The correct home for this glimpse of the BC story is the Chilliwack Museum where the letter was sent. George Archie has not revealed himself clearly to any of the researchers so far. More detail about the Kania family, including their children, may tell us about life in Kania Castle. The nature of the work referenced in the letter suggests an extensive survey of the province's central interior. Meantime, thank you to all the researchers who have helped so far.

Points to the Past

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'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 *Nineteenth Century UK Periodicals* series opens the door to explore the events, lives, values, and themes that shaped the world from the Napoleonic Wars to Queen Victoria's death. Use this fully-searchable resource to study British life in the nineteenth century—from art to business, and from children to politics. Few of the materials in this extensive collection have ever been reissued, in any format since original publication.

Part I covers the advent of commercial lifestyle publishing in Britain, drawn from the British Library, National Library of Scotland, National Library of Australia, and National Library of South Africa. *Part II* looks at the role Britain played as an imperial power, and contains periodicals from Australia, Canada, Ceylon, India, New Zealand, and South Africa.

I am updating my presentation about Western Canadian land records for Cloverdale Family History Collection, and looked at this periodical collection to refresh my knowledge of the drive to bring settlers into the four western provinces. The Dominion Land Survey launched by Canada's Department of the Interior in 1872, mapped the prairies starting in the southwest corner of Manitoba. I am interested in how the world viewed this drive to settle the western expanse with farming families. Surveyors were followed by homesteaders, merchants, missionaries, and refugees. By 1885 the Canadian Pacific Railway had pushed its way to the Pacific Ocean.



My English ancestors were farmers and millers. I imagine them, as producers and manufacturers, reading "Farming Notes" to understand the economics of agricultural developments and markets.

The family that stayed in England could read contextual information about how their immigrant children were faring in Canada. And they could see the changes coming to their industry as technology shifted away from small local milling to large factory mills that processed grain imported from Canada and around the world.

"FARMING NOTES", London: *The Sporting Gazette*, vol. XXII, issue 1146, 26 April 1884.

WESTERN CANADA—BEFORE AND SINCE CONFEDERATION.

MANITOBA, the North-West Territories, and British Columbia are now fairly familiar in the United Kingdom as parts of the Dominion of Canada. It is rather less than thirty years ago since the district comprising the two first-named was still under the administration of the Hudson's Bay Company, and less than forty years since British Columbia passed from the control of the same corporation, With your permission, I propose this evening to give you a slight sketch of their rise and progress in the earlier days, and of their more recent development. Western Canada is bound to become not less important, to say the least, than the other provinces. It needs to be still more widely known, and there is no better way of bringing it prominently before the public than through the medium of the Royal Colonial Institute, the educational work of which is so valuable to the different parts of the Empire, in addition to the other useful functions it performs. The history of British Columbia up to 1859, and of Manitoba and the North-West Territories up to 1869, is bound up with that of the fur-traders and of the Hudson's Bay Company, which received its Charter in 1670, and is the most ancient of our Chartered Companies. As its name implies, its Seeing the birth of Canada described by British policy makers with their contemporary pens in hand is a wake up call for family historians who repeat our family legends. We tell of how we came to Canada, of the parts our family has played. Part of our job as historians is to examine the evolution of our origin stories. Contextual study is a way of challenging the transportation of the untested stories. For esample, in 1858, while British parliamentarians were creating the colony of British Columbia to manage the Fraser Gold Rush and curtail the power of the Hudson's Bay Co., they were equally beset by the 1857 Indian Mutiny, curtailing the power of the British East India Company. In both cases decision makers were designing new governance models Two decades later, this article expresses pride in their North American experiment.

"Western Canada-Before And Since Confederation", London: Journal of the Royal Colonial Institute, 01 May 1897, vol. XXVIII, issue 6..



andience spell-bound in a crowded Social meeting, held in the Congregational

The day after Christens was full of work for Biological and the second second second second trained second second seco Cantral Pacific Railroad Depot to see the lass or the General. The train bore binn out into the dark-ness to carry salvation and light to the Par North, and his Californian Campaign was ended. To quote from the Frame of "Experisor": "Fremo has been honored and blessed by a "it's form cond the generator provided by a

Rev. G. E. Haws, Minister of the First Un Presbyterian Church, said: "We ministers Presbylarian Church, said: "We manisters business men are thoroughly in sympathy u your work. You exemplify the spirit of the I Jesus Christ. We are before you to hear (you what is commanded you of God." In the afternoon, two hundred officer soldiers received the message sant to them by the much the Granm through the General.

General William Booth founded the Salvation Army in 1865 in London, England and was its leader until his death in 1912. News reached London of the visit by General Booth to California, British Columbia, and Alberta 30 years later, as reportered in the Army's house publication.

My parents were married by Salvation Army Major Cyril Clitheroe in Dawson Creek in 1945. I anticipate a possible discovery in this publication of articles describing the establishment at the Salvation Army in north eastern British Columbia during the Second World War

"THE GENERAL'S TOUR", London, All the World: A Monthly Record of the Work of the Salvation Army, 01 March 1895, vol. XV, issue 3.

Navigating the Gaps in LAC Digital Access

Have you lost all your Collections Canada bookmarks? Are you resisting the changes at Library and Archives Canada (LAC) or being asked to create an account? Are you confused about the difference between LAC and Heritage Canadiana (HC)?

You as a user of LAC services, can choose to avoid using the rich resources held by our national archives, or you can communicate your questions and suggest solutions both to LAC and to your fellow researchers. Blogger Linda Yip, specialist in researching Chinese heritage, has posted a method for working around the often less than satisfactory changes to LAC access to digitized images. You are encouraged to check out her recent Past Presence post:

"Don't overlook free digital records with my Library and Archives Canada / Heritage Canadiana hack, part 1": past-presence.com/2023/04/09/dont-overlookfree-digital-records-with-my-library-and-archivescanada-heritage-canadiana-hack-part-1/

Senator Lorna Milne Passes the Torch of Canadian Census Release

As family historians we often discount the value of our personal journeys through the practice of finding our ancestors' historical highlights. And we are astonishingly negligent about telling the story of how that research has been enabled by the dedicated and sometimes accidental preservation and sharing of our record.

Senator Lorna Milne (retired), Honourary Patron of the Society, is part of the history of how family historians petitioned to ensure that, for the time being, the Government of Canada is compelled by law to release to the public our national census after 92 years. Milne carried the banner for access to census records successful to the Senate of Canada resulting in passage of Bill S-18, An Act to Amend the Statistics Act, being passed into law on 29 June 2005. It required that "all censuses conducted until 2001 be released after 92 years".

British Columbians were part of the fight. I summarized the situation in the Fall 2001 (Vol. 34.4) British Columbia Historical News with "Trapped in Amber or Placed on a Pyre: Will Researchers Ever See Original Post-1901 Canada Census Data?" Gordon Watts, Abbotsford Genealogical Society, the BC

Genealogical Society, and many others promoted petitions in support of the legislation.

Senator Lorna Ann Milne brought her passions for community service and family history to the floor of the Senate, and left us all on March 1, 2023. It is up to us to ensure that access to our historic records remains part of her legacy. To learn more about her amazing career and achievements see the following tributes:

www.anglocelticconnections.ca/2023/03/13/senatorlorne-milne-r-i-p/

www.legacy.com/ca/obituaries/theglobeandmail/name/l orna-milne-obituary

Did you know...

National Archives of Canada, formerly the Public Archives of Canada until 1987, merged with the National Library of Canada in 2004 to become Library and Archives Canada. Established in 1872, it continues its mandate as part of Library and Archives Canada. The Canadian Encyclopedia www.thecanadianencyclopedia.ca/en/article/nationalarchives-of-canada

Historic Site News

Yale Historic Site

www.abbynews.com/news/yale-district-historicalsociety-no-longer-to-manage-yale-historic-site/After 40 years of service, the Provincial Heritage Branch has removed the Yale & District Historical Society as managers of Yale Historic Site as of April 20, 2023. Instead, the site will now be managed by Forager Foundation, a Canadian organization which, in the Heritage Branch's own words, has little experience managing heritage sites.

Point Ellice House Museum and Gardens www.timescolonist.com/local-news/point-ellice-housecloses-we-werent-bluffing-6744230

Point Ellice House Museum and Gardens announced on March 22, 2023 that it was closing down effective immediately.

"Although we were able to successfully weather three years of the pandemic and address a significant amount of deferred maintenance at the site, we have been unable to secure sustainable funding for our operations from the Province of B.C.," reads the statement.

Down the Research Rabbit Hole

Ed. Brenda L. Smith



Share the stories of your discoveries off the beaten track.

def. 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."

dictionary.com

You are invited to share your 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.

A "Sitting in the Shade" Challenge

My friend Marg and I love murder mysteries, bookstores, and ephemera. Marg likes shopping much more than I do, especially in stores that specialize in once-loved items. She takes pleasure in sending her friend the family historian, potential treasures that combine our shared passions.

I picked out a book from the latest bag to arrive from Marg's Salmon Arm house. The blurb on the back of *Murder Once Removed*, by S C Perkins, starts:

"Except for a good taco, genealogist Lucy Lancaster loves nothing more than tracking down her clients' long-dead ancestors, and her job has never been so exciting as when she discovers a daguerroetype..."

I found tucked into the book a pair of small black and white snapshots and Marg's note explaining that the photos were found deep in a sofa left in her house by the previous owner. No one, including the previous owner, recognizes the subjects of the pictures or the notations on the backs.

Because I refuse to go down this rabbit hole alone, the images are shared here with you on page 6.

The person who comes up with the best strategy for discovering the story of these snapshots has the opportunity to give our copy of *Murder Once Removed* a new home.

Submission deadline: August 20, 2023. Please send your research suggestions to me directly or to **mrfamilyhistory@gmail.com**

"Sitting in the Shade" Challenge Photos





Pearl Lidstone 68

2023 Community History Project: Maple Ridge Cenotaph

By Gina Leigh

The Maple Ridge Cenotaph is located at the west end of Memorial Peace Park just off 224th Street. It was built in the 1920s by the Haney and Hammond Women's Institutes. It was unveiled in May 1923 and was first located on Dewdney Trunk Road by the Maple Ridge Cemetery. It was moved to its current location in 2003.



Photo courtesy of Annette Fulford

The cenotaph commemorates men who died during the First World War and Second World War from the communities of Albion, Pitt Meadows, Port Hammond, Port Haney, Ruskin, Stave Falls, Webster's Corners, Whonnock and Yennadon. The cenotaph is engraved with the names of the 49 men from the community who lost their lives during the First World War — 1914 to 1918, as well as the names of those who fell during the Second World War.

In the lead up to the First World War Maple Ridge was a small rural community of mostly farmers and

loggers, with a population of less than 1900 people. Yet 220 young men joined the Canadian Expeditionary Force during the four years of war, approximately one third of the 650 adult white males.

Forty-nine of these soldiers did not return home, many died of their wounds on the battlefield or shortly afterwards from their injuries, and of those who returned many suffered life altering mental and physical injuries.

As the years passed many of the soldiers who perished have been forgotten except, perhaps, by some of their descendants. The custom of engraving surname and only first initials on cenotaphs and grave markers also takes away from their identities. Who are these men who valiantly died during war and are commemorated on our local cenotaph? Research shows some were barely out of their teens yet most people today do not know who they are.

We would like to rectify this and bring their stories to the forefront of local history.

For many years Annette Fulford has researched our First World War fallen soldiers out of her personal interest. She has gathered an extensive volume of material, though there are still gaps in information and records. For our next community history project the Maple Ridge Family History Group would like to fill those gaps by building on Annette's work. We also plan to prepare biographies for those soldiers from Maple Ridge who made the ultimate sacrifice during the First World War.

November is the time when we remember those who sacrificed their lives for our freedom. Our goal is to work towards November 2023 as a completion date.

FHG Community History Projects

http://mapleridgemuseum.org/community-historyprojects/

The Community History Projects help participants gain new research skills while learning about and sharing a new and deeper understanding about the Maple Ridge area, its residents and neighbours, and historical events that have impacted past decisions and actions. These displays travel to family and local history events, and members of Maple Ridge Family History Group are available to speak on project methodology and the various topics explored by the projects. At the conclusion of every project all of the research materials are donated to the Maple Ridge Museum and Community Archives.

Research News

New Brunswick Irish Portal https://archives.gnb.ca/Irish/databases_en.html

The databases associated with this site include those of the Saint John Almshouse which cared for many of the Great Famine immigrants, a selection from the Brenan's Funeral Home records, Teacher's Petitions featuring Irish immigrant applicants, letter collections, newspapers articles with Irish content, and Irish Immigrants in the New Brunswick Census of 1851 and 1861.

British Newspaper Archive www.britishnewspaperarchive.co.uk

Nearly 400,000 historical newspaper pages are being released to the public online for free by family history platform Findmypast as part of the British Library's Living with Machines project, one of largest digital humanities projects ever funded in the UK.

The digitised pages, sourced from the British Library's extensive collection of historical newspapers, are being added to a further two million already available for free via the British Newspaper Archive — a platform jointly managed by the British Library and Findmypast.

The GG Archives www.ggarchives.com

The GG Archives is a large, privately held, archives of family history materials, military, and other ephemera dating from the mid-1800s through the 2000s. The site contains over 20,000 documents and photographs, including passenger lists, original immigrant passage contracts, steamship brochures, immigration-related papers, and more.

Nations to Nations: Indigenous Voices https://library-

archives.canada.ca/eng/collection/engagelearn/publications/ebooks/pages/nations-to-nationsindigenous-voices-lac.aspx

Nations to Nations: Indigenous Voices at Library and Archives Canada (LAC) is a free multimedia e-book featuring 28 essays and over 140 images. Indigenous staff at LAC wrote the essays to offer personal interpretations of collection items such as journals, maps, artwork, photographs, publications and audiovisual recordings. This e-book provides unique perspectives of First Nations, Inuit and the Métis Nation, and it shows the diversity of the histories, languages and cultures of Indigenous peoples.

Smithsonian Open Access www.si.edu/openaccess

The Smithsonian has put 4.5 million high-res 2D and 3D digital items online and into the public domain, making them free to use. The collection includes "CAD models of the Apollo 11 command module to Horatio Greenough's 1840 sculpture of George Washington." There are items from British Columbia in the collection such as this hotel key check token from the Fraser Canyon House hotel located in North Bend.



Fraser Canyon House Owney tag, 1888–1897. National Postal Museum Collection, Smithsonian Institute,Object NUMBER: 0.052985.96.15

GEDCOM Files: Sharing, Merging, Exporting...

https://familytreemagazine.com/resources/gedcombasics/

You see the term GEDCOM everywhere in the family history world, but handling GEDCOMs can be intimidating. Fear not: the *Family History Magazine* staff have created a primer that provides step-by-step instructions for creating and using GEDCOM files.

New Brunswick death registrations for 1972 online

https://archives.gnb.ca/Search/VISSE/?culture=en-CA

The Provincial Archives of New Brunswick has added 5,100 death registrations for 1972 to its website. This is a searchable collection with digital images of the registrations available to view online and download. Marriage and death registrations for 1972 are planned to be released in June.

Rossland Museum

www.rosslandmuseum.ca/news/genealogy-help

RMDC volunteer Linda Gomez is finishing up and extensive training course in the art and science of genealogy research, and she'd like to help those of you who are interested in studying your family history or genealogy by providing tips, answering questions, and offering consultations.

Family History Events

British Columbia Genealogical Society

www.bcgs.ca/bcgs-events

• 133 year history of the new Chinese Canadian Museum with Linda Yip, May 10, 2023 at 7:30 PM. Via Zoom.

British Columbia Historical Federation

- Annual General Meeting, Saturday, June 3, 10am, Online.
- 2023 Annual Conference, Hosted by the Princeton & District Museum, the 2023 BCHF conference will be held in beautiful Princeton this summer. July 30-23, 2023.

Campbell River Genealogy Society

www.crgenealogysociety.ca

• Tips to using Ancestry Library Edition and Find My Past with Jamie Brown, May 4, 2023, 6:30 pm to 9:00 pm PST. Zoom presentation.

Legacy Family Tree Webinars https://familytreewebinars.com/

- Convicts: From Trial to Freedom, with Kerry Farmer, May 2, 2023 at 7:00 pm PDT.
- Andiamo! Finding Your Italian Family with Margaret R. Fortier, CG, Jul 18, 2023: 5:00 pm PDT.
- Six Top Sites for Queensland Research with Helen V. Smith, Aug 1, 2023: 7:00 pm PDT.
- Six Free Websites Every Ontario Genealogist Needs, with Janice Nickerson, August 18, 2023: 11:00 am PDT.
- Gold! Gold! Gold! The 1897 Klondike Rush, with Jill Morelli, CG, Oct 13, 2023: 11:00 am PDT.

Genealogy Pants

https://genealogypants.com/resear ch-and-consultationservices/classes-and-study-groups/

• Mastering Genealogical Documentation Study Group, September 27-October 15, 2023, on Zoom. Fee \$ 75 USD.

Orange County Genealogical Society

www.ocgsny.org

 All-Day Virtual Seminar: "Mastering Digital Filing for Genealogists"; "Pin Your Ancestors Down with Google Maps and Google Earth"; and "Tracking Your Digital Bread Crumbs: Bookmarks, Toolbars, Notes, and Other Applications" with Cyndi Ingle, May 6, 2023, 10:00am to 2:00 pm Fee: \$20.

Société généalogique du Nord-Ouest

https://www.sgno.ca/8uncategorised/10-home

• Genealogy and Indigenous Identity, with Jean Teillet, May 1, 2023 at 7:00 pm MST.

Surrey Libraries

www.surreylibraries.ca/services/fam ily-history

Free. Registration required. Email or call to register

- Fun Family History Fridays, May 26, June 23, 2023. 2:30pm– 3:30pm, Cloverdale Branch.
- Family History DNA Chat, May 12, & June 9, 2023. 2:30pm–3:30pm.
- Western Canada Land Grants Unscrambled with Brenda Smith. Thursday June 8, 11:00 am–12:00 pm. Cloverdale.

Vancouver Public Library https://www.vpl.ca/

• Chinese Canadian Genealogy Resources, May 25, 2023, 2:00 pm to 4:00 pm, Central Library • Explore Indigenous archival records at Library and Archives Canada, June 29, 2023, 2:00 pm to 3:30 pm.

> 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 3, 2023: Celebrating Mothers: Canada celebrates Mothers' Day the second Sunday in May. It's the day we show our appreciation for the important role mothers play in family and community. Sharing a story of your mother or one of your grandmothers or a special person filling one of these roles is a great way to acknowledge a significant woman in your family.

June 7, 2023: Celebrating Fathers: Canada celebrates Fathers' Day the third Sunday in June. Fathers have many roles in the family. Providing guidance is one that is greatly valued and often even an asset in community development. Share a story of your father or one of your grandfathers or a special father figure. This is an opportunity to honour one of these key men in your family.

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