

Community, Past, Present & Future



Family History Newsletter

July 2023

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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An Artifact I Treasure

By Catherine Magee

One artifact I treasure is a 1913 calendar. It is made of thick paper and is 16" x 19.5" in size. At the top and bottom are small metal rods meant to help it hang on a wall by a small square of durable paper and a hook affixed to the top designed to hang on a nail in the wall. The edges are slightly worn with time but there are no tears or markings on it. The actual calendar is at the bottom and is made up of 12 white 3" x 6.5" pages representing each month that are stapled to the larger sheet. January 1st was a Wednesday that year.



CATHERINE MAGEE COLLECTION

The larger piece has a painted picture of a young curly-haired blonde boy who has fallen asleep in a chair in the yard of his home after playing with the red and white ball that is beside the chair. You can see the white porch of the house and tree branches in the background. The chair is wooden with flat armrests and a rattan seat where the boy is curled up and resting his head on his arm. He is wearing a long-sleeved beige top made in the fashion of a sailor suit with red trim at the cuffs and a red outline on the large square collar. He's wearing short pants, grey socks, and black Mary Jane-style shoes. His wide-brimmed straw hat has fallen to the grass in front

of the chair and his faithful dog is on alert beside him. It's a picture of tranquility. Printed between the calendar and the picture, are the words COMPLIMENTS OF J.A. FLEMING, GROCERIES AND CROCKERY, CORONATION, ALBERTA, so it is an advertising calendar for my grandfather's business. Underneath the calendar pages are the words LAWSON AND JONES, LTD. LONDON, CAN.—the company and place where it was printed.

For me, the calendar represents an idyllic time in my grandmother Mabel's life. She had survived Typhoid where two of her brothers had not; she married the man she adored, and by the start of 1913 she had one daughter and a second one due in May (my father was born in 1915). She was part of a new prairie town community, and the war that would cost Grandma her husband, and the future and prosperity they had looked forward to together, had not yet begun.

Happy Birthday! City of Vancouver Archives

Rightly proud of its past, City of Vancouver Archives is the custodian of 5 km of textual records, 7.2 million photographs, 82,800 maps and architectural drawings, 2,800 audio recordings, 2,900 film and video recordings, and 91 TB of born-digital and digitized records.

Since the founding, the collection has been a leader in preserving and sharing the history of the Lower Mainland. Even if your personal geography only recently includes this area, the CVA collection promises to help you develop appreciation of this metropolitan history.

Read more: AthentiCity: The CVA Blog
www.vancouverarchives.ca/2023/03/14/happy-90th-anniversary-cva/

www.vancouversun.com/news/local-news/this-week-in-history-1933-2023-vancouver-archives-marks-90-years-of-saving-the-city

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.

Some rabbit holes are worthy of return visits. I've been updating a few of my presentations with newly available information. Among them is Tracking Robert Souter. Souter was a Scottish Canadian veteran of the First World War who first met my family in 1929 in the Peace River Country and spent the last 35 years of his life in Maple Ridge.

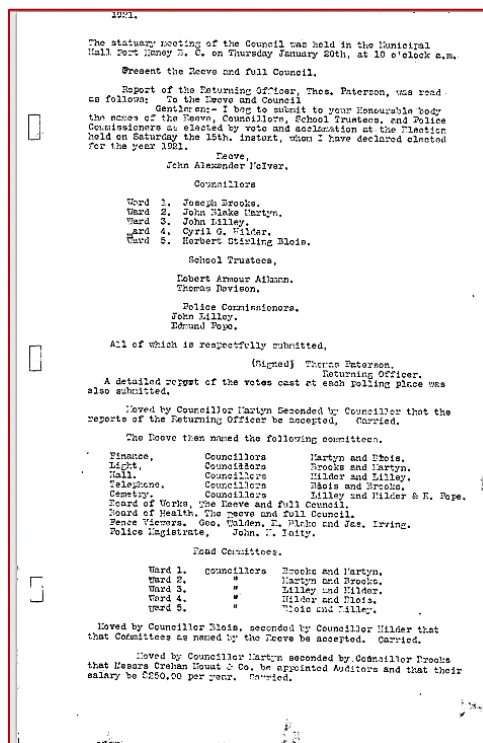
What took me back to Souter was his service in the Canadian Army Medical Corps from 1915 to 1919. I thought our current community history project might

benefit from the information I collected when I researched his military experience. I had found Souter in the Library and Archives Canadian Expeditionary Force personnel records, war diaries, his Land Settlement Board claim, and community memories.

Another rabbit warren I am revisiting is on the City of Maple Ridge Web site, Maple Ridge Historic Council Meeting Minutes. These documents are dominated, then as now, by development and transportation concerns. Frequent delegations petitioned Council to fill pot holes, provide property access, and limit traffic speed. Discover the rabbit hole for yourself here: <https://www.mapleridge.ca/2317/Historic-Council-Meeting-Minutes>

In the second decade of the 20th century, the District Municipality was coping with first, an influx of settlers, then the First World War loss of about 300 young men and women to war service. In the 1920s, I find political change as well. In 1921 the first council elected under a ward system was faced with a redundant collection of armaments that had been provided by "the Authorities in Ottawa". The machine gun and other weaponry had been used for training the Non-Permanent Active Militia formed in Maple Ridge in August 1914, formed just after war was declared.

I look forward to discovering Council deliberations on the placement of the Cenotaph, now standing in Memorial Peace Park, in its original 1923 site at Maple Ridge Cemetery.



MINUTES OF THE
FIRST MEETING
OF THE DISTRICT
MUNICIPALITY
OF MAPLE RIDGE
COUNCIL, 20
JANUARY 1921,
FOLLOWING
ESTABLISHMENT
OF WARD
ELECTORAL
SYSTEM. CITY OF
MAPLE RIDGE,
MAPLE RIDGE
HISTORIC
COUNCIL
MEETINGS.

A “Sitting in the Shade” Challenge

Don't forget “The Sitting in the Shade Challenge”. The person who comes up with the best strategy for discovering the story of the two snapshots published in the May 2023 Maple Ridge Family History Newsletter has the opportunity to give our copy of of *Murder Once Removed*, by S C Perkins, a new home.

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

Technology Tips: Canva—An Application Worth Exploring

By Susan Sullivan

<https://www.canva.com/>

The Canva App is free with a step-up to Pro. Lots can be done at the free level though. Charities and non-profits can apply for a Free Pro license.

As a tried and true user of the Adobe Creative Suite (InDesign, Illustrator, Photoshop & Acrobat Pro) I was really surprised at all the things I can do quickly and beautifully in Canva. I'll still use my Suite for professional work, although I find myself requiring it less and less. Canva also creates fantastic presentations, so I have no need to ever open PowerPoint again!

Once signed up, you can use it on your desktop computer, iPad or iPhone. There is also stand-alone app (this may be for Pro users only). Canva works equally well on iMacs or PCs.

I find it VERY intuitive. Learning more or removing the fear of using something new can be remedied with watching a short beginners video:

www.canva.com/designschool/courses/canva-101/?lesson=using-and-customizing-templates

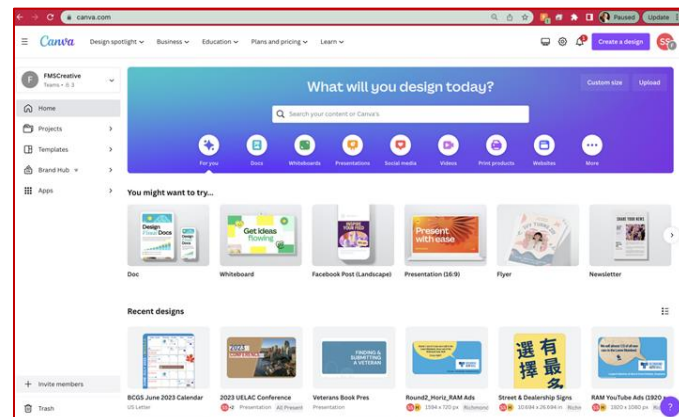
The huge advantages—I still cannot believe the amount of imagery available within the app.

This is more than worth the price at the FREE level and cheaper than buying images from Shutterstock or Dreamstime at even the Pro level. Take a look at what's included:

1. Incredible range of ready-made templates that you can edit (Design).
2. Massive range of searchable graphics (Elements).
3. Searchable library of photographs (Photos).
4. Fantastic library of fonts (Text).
5. A large variety of videos (Videos).
6. Drag & Drop images to import (Uploads).

The libraries are all available down the left-hand side of the app. Personally, I work in the desktop app as using the tools on your phone or iPad is not as smooth as when you can use a mouse instead of a finger!

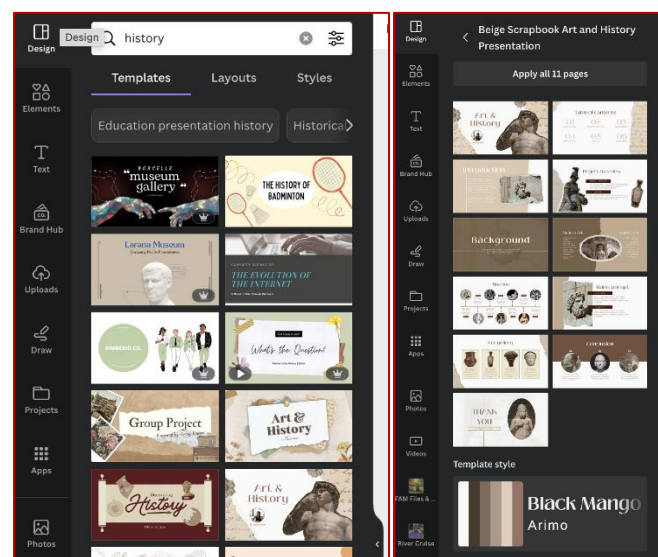
Creating a Project / Design



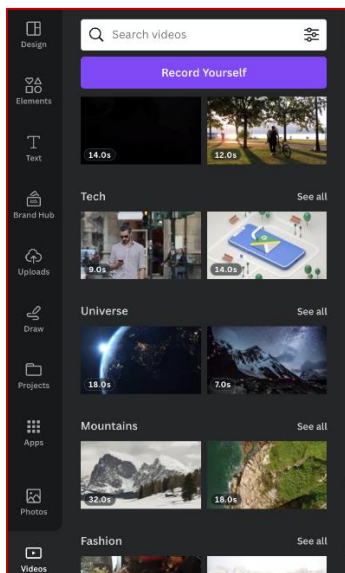
1. From the HOME page, top right, click the CREATE button.
2. Type in what you want to create and Canva will suggest pre-determined “usual” sizes
3. OR—you can use custom and put in the dimensions you want.

For example: if it's a presentation you want, just type in “Presentation.” Canva offers quite a few, I prefer (16:9), (4:3) is the old school PowerPoint size. The app auto opens a blank 1-page document at the 16x9 orientation and because it's a presentation you can even add some animations!

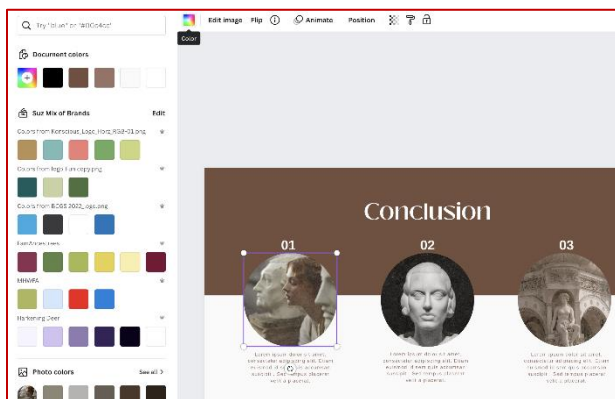
4. Type the style of theme in the DESIGN field for a presentation and a bunch of suggestions come up. If you don't like the colours—you can change them—don't stress. Just like PowerPoint you can add notes that you can see in “Presentation Preview” mode.



5. The Templates appear under DESIGN on the top of the Black bar along the left-hand side. Once you choose a design it shows the variety of pages you can use within your presentation.
 6. You can change the suggested fonts and drag & drop your images to update the photos.
 7. All your uploads get added to the library of uploads so you can go back to find what you previously “dropped”.
 8. Need an arrow? Type “arrow” into ELEMENTS to find one that suits you. See one? Just drag it onto your page. You can size it up or down and change the colour.
 9. Need a photo from a specific area, type in the location you want. Any images with a Crown icon are only available to Pro users. Need a photo of a senior woman reading a book or talking with someone? Type it in to see what comes up.
 10. Don't forget to name your project!
- Look at these choices!



Not only can you add and change elements, you also make other changes i.e.: Photo editing, positioning (changing the order of layers or aligning objects), colour changes.

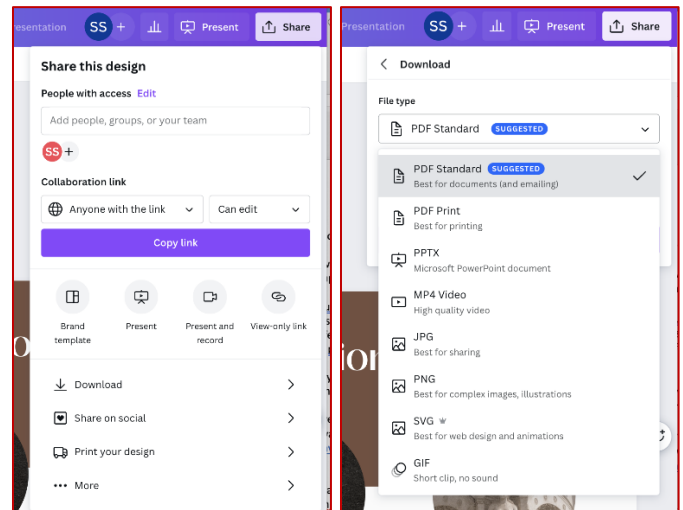


From the Top Menu bar you can access FILE, RESIZE (available to Pro Users), FILENAMING and SHARE.

I do not use FILE very often. I do use it to save a copy.

You can Share with a link to others. You can download in different formats (png, jpg, PDF).

You can even save projects and order printing from the SHARE menu.

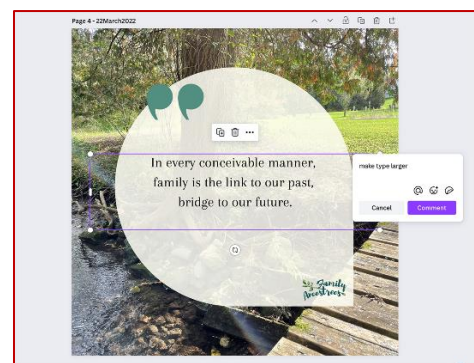


Like all things it get easier and more intuitive to use as you practice using it.

Drawbacks

It is frustrating for multi-page type heavy documents. Type will not flow from one page or column to another. You do need to manually cut/paste.

Resize elements & text boxes from the corners and side “handles” noting that if you touch a text box from a corner it resizes the type and the box.



Bonus

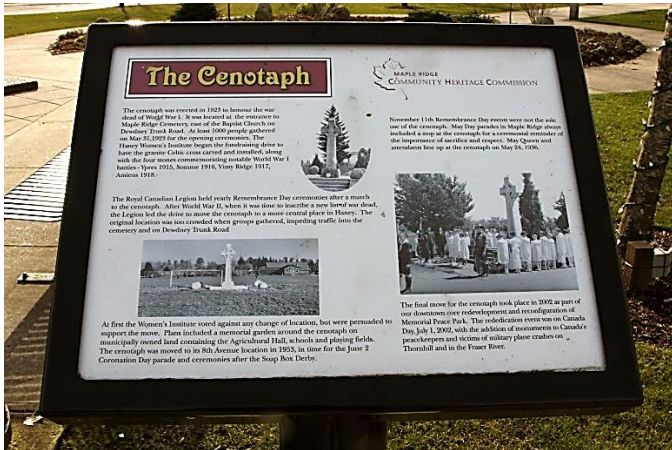
You can get an overview of a multipage document.

You can add comments as notes to yourself or a person that you've shared the file with.

If you are into it, play with animations—it's fun although I find it is not intuitive.

Honouring Those Who Served

By Brenda L. Smith

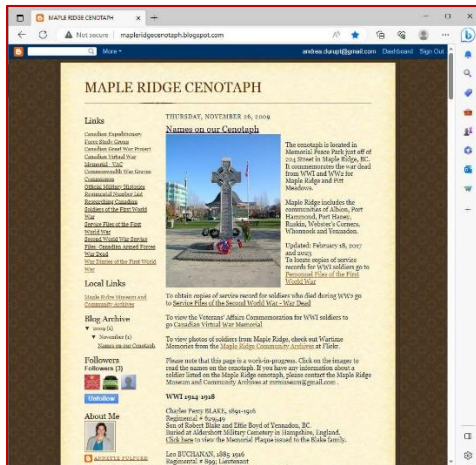


Memorial Peace Park Information Panel.

IMAGE ERICA WILLIAMS

Our most recent collaborative research adventure started in May when twelve members of the Maple Ridge Family History Group launched investigations of citizens who served in the First World War, mostly in the Canadian Expedition Force.

The Family History Group's community projects are opportunities for participants to enhance research methodology skills and conduct deep explorations of specific topics that help build the Maple Ridge story.



At local historian Annette Fulford's request, we have started with her two decades of research. Our goal is to discover the stories of the people

named on the First World War face of the Maple Ridge Cenotaph. During the project, we hope to expand the story of the monument, and perhaps, my personal wish, bring to light those whose names may have been missed. We are planning to unveil a phase of the project in time for Remembrance Day.

If you have information, photographs, or memories of someone with connections to Maple Ridge who saw service during the First World War please contact the Cenotaph Project at mrfamilyhistory@gmail.com

Points to the Past

www.pointstothepast.ca

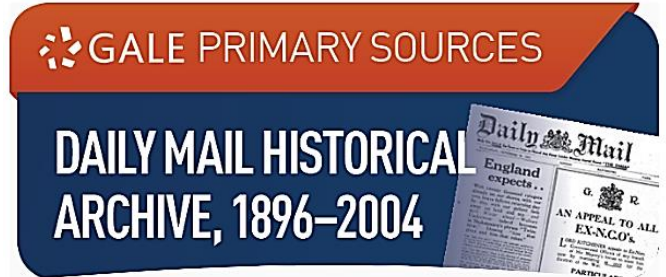
By Brenda L. Smith

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 *Daily Mail Historical Archive* contains the regular edition and the Atlantic Editions, blending the news of Europe and North America. The *Daily Mail Atlantic Edition* was published aboard the cruise ships that sailed between New York and Southampton from 1923 to 1931. Copies were printed and sold to passengers on every day of the five-day voyages, with news transmitted from London and New York to the middle of the Atlantic by wireless radio transmission. These editions published different content to the regular London version of the paper and contained articles specifically commissioned for the journey, with a heavy emphasis on American content. One hundred years of this UK newspaper contain advertisements, news stories, and images that capture twentieth-century culture and society.

[illegible]

Visualization: ☒ Tiles ☐ Wheel

RESULTS FOR TOPIC: **NEWS SHIPS (34)**

Shipping News

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Shipping News

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The train journey followed their ocean crossing in the worst weather the North Atlantic had experienced in four decades. These articles join a growing collection of clippings from across the English-speaking world, reporting one of the worst train crashes to that time.

EMIGRANT TRAIN SMASH.

MOTHER AND TWO BABY GIRLS AMONG THE DEAD.

FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.
Montreal, Monday.

Another dead body in the train wreck on Friday near **Onawa, Maine**, where 24 passengers from the Canadian Pacific liner **Empress of France** were killed, has been identified as **Thomas Crothers**, aged 27, and bound for **Hafford, Saskatchewan**.

Ivy Bingham, aged 7, was found sobbing beside her dead mother and two baby sisters. Little **Ivy** was unhurt and was cared for by other passengers, who promised to deliver her to her relatives at **Isabella, Manitoba**.

Mrs. Potley was going to join her husband at **Winnipeg** with a 6-year-old son, **John**, and a 4-year-old daughter, **Eileen**. Both children were killed and the mother had a leg broken.

An entire family of nine, **Mrs. E. Bromley**, her daughter and son-in-law, **Mr. and Mrs. William Folkard**, **Mrs. Folkard's** two sisters, **Mrs. E. M. Folkard**, and **Mrs. Dora Day**, were hurt. Four children going to **Grinrod, B.C.**, escaped with cuts and bruises. **Folkard** is a South African veteran and also holds the **Mons star**.

Miss Julia Anthony had to have her arm amputated.

The injured arrived at the **Royal Victoria Hospital, Montreal**, this morning.

Mrs. D. Phillips, of **Haverfordwest, Wales**, bound from **Denman Island, British Columbia**, with her little boy, said that they were eating breakfast from a luncheon basket when the crash threw the boy under the seat, saving him. **Mrs. Phillips** was wedged between the seats of the first coach and cut and bruised about the head. She was an hour buried in the debris.

Research News

Library and Archives Canada

<https://library-archives.canada.ca/eng>

- **C.I.44 records of registration:** a significant addition to Chinese Canadian genealogy resources. The forms were created through section 18 of the *Chinese Exclusion Act*. The forms include an individual's name and known alias(es), address, occupation, age, marital status, and the name and address of their spouse and/or children in Canada, and it includes a photograph.

Past Presence

<https://past-presence.com/>

A wonderful resource for those doing Canadian and Chinese genealogy. Linda Yip specializes in the history of the Chinese in Canada. The goal of her site is to provide a one-stop shop for all the useful sites and tips for Saskatchewan, British Columbia, and Chinese Genealogy.

FindMyPast

www.findmypast.co.uk

- **1931 Canadian Census**, with 234,606 images now available for you to browse.
- **Ireland, Genealogical Office Manuscripts, Marriages:** Covering between 1732 and 1800, this set contains marriage licenses from the Dublin diocese as well as marriage notices that appeared in *Exshaw's Magazine* and *Hibernian Magazine* between 1771 and 1800.
- **1911 Irish Census**, 5,483 new records that were missed during the original transcription process.

Ancestry

www.ancestry.ca

- Northern Ireland, Valuation Revision Books, 1864-1933 collection
- Northern Ireland Freeholders Records
- Oregon, U.S., County Court Naturalization Records, 1840-1982
- Missouri, U.S., Slave Owner Compensation Claims, 1866-1867
- Palatine German Immigration to Ireland and U.S., Hank Z Jones collection, 1654-1878
- Florida, US, Early Auto Registrations, 1905-1917
- U.S., Partnership List of Chinese Firms, 1893-1943
- Wisconsin, U.S., Divorce Records, 1907-2015
- Scotland, Postal Directories, 1825-1910

RBCM's Release of BC Death and Marriage Records Delayed

<https://royalbcmuseum.bc.ca/about/our-work/publications-news/latest-news/vital-events-release-2023-moved-late-summer-1686139200>

The annual release of death (2002) and marriage (1947) events from the BC Vital Statistics Agency originally anticipated in May has been moved to late summer 2023.

Did You Know? 1931 Canadian Census

By Andrea Lister

<https://publications.gc.ca/site/eng/9.832323/publication.html>

Our instinct when a new record set is released is to just jump in and start searching. However, it is good to step back and understand how that record set was created. For example, there is quite a bit in the *Seventh census of Canada 1931, Instructions to Commissioners and Enumerators* on how to deal with absent families and the use of the "closed house" notation.

59. Absent families. When the enumerator finds a dwelling in his district which is usually occupied by a family, closed and the family temporarily absent, he should first try to obtain the required information for this family from some neighbour or other person from whom he feels confident that he can secure accurate information. If, however, he is unable to obtain reliable information with regard to this absent family he should find out the family's present address if possible and report the same at once to the Dominion Bureau of Statistics at Ottawa on the "Closed House Card" as directed in the instructions regarding the use of same in the following paragraph.

61. Non-Resident Families or Persons. When an enumerator finds families or persons, such as summer residents in temporary residence in his subdistrict he is to take their census on the regular schedules although their fixed or permanent home may be elsewhere—having first satisfied himself by inquiry of a responsible member of such family in temporary residence that they have not been enumerated at their permanent or usual place of abode; and he is to mark with a star or asterisk (thus *) on the left hand margin of the sheet the name of every person so entered. He is also to make a report on the "Absentee Family Card" (blue) as directed in the following paragraphs.

Family History Events

British Columbia Genealogical Society

www.bcgs.ca/bcgs-events

- **What's in a Name?** with Kris Foulds, July 12, 2023 at 7:30 PM. Via Zoom.
- **Surrey Archives** with Stacey Gilkinson, August 9, 2023 at 7:30 PM. Via Zoom.

British Columbia Historical Federation

- **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.

British Isles Family History Society of Greater Ottawa

www.bifhsgo.ca/2023-conference

- **Leaving Their Scottish Homes: What Were They Thinking?** with five key speakers, Saturday/Sunday October 28-29, 2023. VIRTUAL. Fee: \$30 for BIFHSGO members / \$40 for non-members

Every Place, A Story—Historic Places Days

www.historicplacesdays.ca

- **Historic Places Days** is a platform through the National Trust for Canada for individuals and organizations to showcase the places and stories important to them in their own words. The National Trust recognizes that Canada's history and heritage is complex and contentious, dominated by settler perspectives, and that individually or collectively the stories may lack diversity. They welcome your input on how they can be more inclusive. July 8–23, 2023.

Maple Ridge Museum & Community Archives

<http://mapleridgemuseum.org/>

- **Headstone Preservation Project.** The Maple Ridge and Whonnock cemeteries have graves dating back hundreds of years. Many of the people buried there do not have anyone left to care for their resting place. The Museum will be carrying out their annual cleaning and maintenance of headstones in the cemeteries. Contact the Museum if you want to help with this valuable historical preservation.
- **Maple Ridge Cemetery:** July 15, 9:00 am to 12:00 pm and August 17, 5:00 pm to 8:00 pm.
- **Whonnock Cemetery:** August 12, 9:00 am to 12:00 pm.

Ontario Ancestors

- **Diversity in Genealogy, Virtual Conference**, September 8–10, 2023. Fee: \$75.00 members / \$85.00 non-members.

Surrey Libraries

www.surreylibraries.ca/services/family-history

Free. Registration required. Email or call to register.

- **Genealogy Orientation**, Saturdays, July 22, August 19, September 9, November 25, 10:30 to 11:30am. Cloverdale.
- **Researching Your England Ancestors from Home.** Thursday September 28, 10:00 am–11:00 pm. Cloverdale.
- **Locating Ontario Land Records** with Emma Robinson, Friday, October 13, 10:00 to 11:00am, ONLINE.
- **Publishing Your Memoirs or Family History** with Andrea Lister, Thursday, October 26, 10:00 to 11:30am, Cloverdale.

- **Caring For Your Family Treasures with Surrey Archives and Artifact Collections staff**, Saturday, December 2, 11:00am to 12:00pm. Cloverdale.

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.

July 5, 2023: Researching in Canadian First World War, CEF War Diaries—

Introduction and Discussion: Canadian Expeditionary Force (CEF) units were required to maintain a daily account of their "Actions in the Field". These logs were called War Diaries. Presented by M. Diane Rogers.

August 2, 2023:

Cemeteries—The Archival Collection: These priceless and irreplaceable resources are essential to family historians. Join Brenda L. Smith for an overview of the archival considerations these collections pose: landscape and architectural organization, imagery and textual information, risks to the Collection, and conservation concerns. The value of cemeteries to the community story parallels the importance of the documentary history.

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