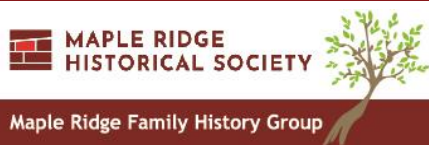


Community, Past, Present & Future



Family History Newsletter

September 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.

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Devastating Wildfires

Words fail to convey the extent of devastation that wildfires are inflicting upon our fellow Canadians.



There are numerous fires across the province threatening communities. Thousands of people are under evacuation orders, and tens of thousands more are on evacuation alert.

As we face the worst wildfire season ever in British Columbia and are currently in a state of emergency our thoughts are with our fellow genealogists in the Kelowna and District Genealogical Society, and to all British Columbians, Canadians, and people around the world as they navigate through this exceedingly challenging period.

Canada is seeing its worst wildfire season on record this year, and fires are expected to continue burning through September. Nearly all provinces and territories have been impacted by poor air quality, forced home evacuations, and loss of wildlife due to forest fires. Firefighters are working around the clock putting their lives at risk in heavy smoke and dangerous environments to mitigate the devastation of the fires and protect communities.



Canadian charities responding to wildfires across the country urgently need your help. Your donations will help them provide much-needed emergency services, fire-fighting equipment, food, and shelter.

www.canadahelps.org/en/support-2023-canadian-wildfire-relief-efforts/

Backup Reminder

As we watch the devastation play out across the province we cannot help but reflect on everything people have lost – family photos, mementoes, and artifacts. Nothing will replace what they have lost but it is a chilling reminder to make sure that you have a backup of your digital files in a fireproof location other than your home. You may opt for a portable drive in a safety deposit box at the bank or a cloud storage site or both.

For more backup tips reread “Technology Tips: Managing Backups” by Darren Durupt in the November *Family History Newsletter*.

http://mapleridgemuseum.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/11/FHG_Nov2021.pdf

Casualty Identification Program

<https://www.canada.ca/en/department-national-defence/services/military-history/history-heritage/casualty-identification-military/casualty-identification-program.html>

The Department of National Defence's Casualty Identification Program works to identify newly found skeletal remains and pre-existing unknown graves of Canadian service members from the First World War, the Second World War, and the United Nations Operations in Korea (Korean Conflict).

The Casualty Identification Program needs help. They have found living DNA donors for ten of the sixteen Canadian Army soldiers missing in Korea, but they are having trouble finding the families for six of the soldiers.



If you are related to: Private Donald Frederick Bradshaw (Bracebridge, ON); Private Robert Gendron (Donnacona, QC); Corporal Donald Perkins Hastings (North Vancouver, BC); Private John Paul Keating (Toronto, ON); Private Joseph Edward Kilpatrick (Montreal, QC); or Sergeant Gordon William Morrison Walker (Montreal, QC), who went missing more than seventy years ago, you are encouraged to register. Family members of these missing soldiers can provide DNA information that can be key to identification.

When skeletal remains are discovered, the Program attempts to identify the Canadian service members and provide them with a proper military burial. When historical research suggests a Canadian occupant of an unidentified war grave, the Program attempts to confirm the identification and, if successful, requests a new headstone with the service member's name.

The Casualty Identification Program promotes a strong sense of continuity and identity within the Canadian Armed Forces. The attempt to give a name to each missing Canadian military fatality is a very important goal for the Canadian Armed Forces.

Why are the 1931 census returns organized geographically?

<https://thediscoverblog.com/2023/07/27/why-are-the-1931-census-returns-organized-geographically/>

Have you ever wondered why the census returns from the 1931 census of population are organized geographically—by census district and sub-district? The staff at Library and Archives Canada have answered this question.

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.

Joy (McDougall) Mooney been fascinated by family history since a child growing up in Maple Ridge. An interest in Genealogy was reignited when visiting Ellis Island in 2010 and finding names of extended family members on passenger lists. She has a BA in History and is in the process of completing a Certificate in Genealogical Methodology through PLCGS. Her research interests focus on communities in BC, Ontario, PEI, Scotland, mid-Atlantic US, Netherlands, and Italy.

Joy shares our delight in off-road research and share one of her adventures with us here:

No one can deny that genealogical rabbit holes are fun! Nothing is more exciting than finding yourself utterly enthralled by some unexpected tidbit of information that leads you down a surprising pathway...albeit one that often doesn't have much to do with your original research question. Although all serious genealogists know that the best way to solve genealogical problems is to stick with research that relates to your current research question, I've found

that exploring “rabbit holes” can lead to interesting discoveries. Discoveries that can help you deepen your understanding of historical context and create new research questions to pursue.

As a volunteer researcher with “Honouring Those Who Served” project, I became fascinated with the names listed on the St. John the Divine Church First World War Honor Roll list. These names represent some of the people from Maple Ridge who served during the First World War. The ones who lost their lives during service in the Canadian Expeditionary Force (CEF) are the focus of our research, however other names rang a bell with me as they relate to my own personal family history research. Of course, I had to follow some of these names “down the rabbit hole”!



Honor Roll, Municipality of Maple Ridge, Lest We Forget at St. John Divine Anglican Church, Maple Ridge.

PHOTOGRAPH COURTESY GINA LEIGH, TAKEN JULY 13, 2023

I “inherited” my Aunt Islay’s writings and photograph collection in 2004 but have not yet done much with this collection. My Aunt Islay L.A. McDougall (1928–2004) was born in Haney, BC, the youngest child of Colin McDougall, my grandfather, who, after serving overseas in the First World War, moved to Maple Ridge to become Principal at Alexander Robinson Elementary school. About the same time as I first saw the St. John’s Honor Roll list, I

was looking over some of my Aunt Islay’s writings. Two names popped out to me, Gower and Kershaw.

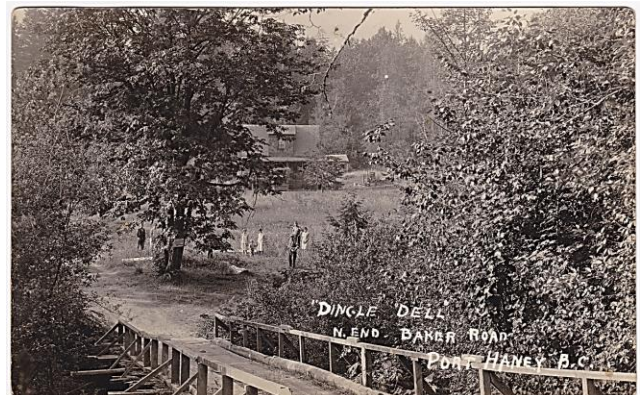
My rabbit hole diving began here! In Aunt Islay’s papers was a story she wrote about swimming at Gower’s Pool and playing at Dingle Dell likely in the mid-1930s.

Swimming at Gower’s pool (Alouette River) – Playing at Dingle Dell – I loved playing in those acres of sand in my “bading toot” – someone took a picture (I have it) of Helen Franklin and I in our swim suits and I was no glamour puss! I usually went with Murray and Alex and the Isherwood boys along the A.N.L. railroad tracks. It was quite a hike and I could only go (I hated the trestle) if I walked part of the way and one of the boys (usually Jackie) would piggy back me when I got tired. On the way home, Mrs. Kershaw and/or Mrs. Gower would have cool lemonade or homemade fruit juice with freshly baked cookies, cake, sandwiches, watermelon, cantelope, wild strawberries or some goodies for us little piggies! – sure hit our greedy little spots (tummies) *!*: everything tasted so good, even the water. Mr. Gower used to let us take our turn at the pump (doubt if we would think it such a novelty if we had to do it all the time) and we would drink cold water until you could hear the water bouncing around in our tummies!! My how they spoiled us – thought we were so cute, but it was yummy and memorably good.

Excerpt from Islay L.A. McDougall Stories, Personal collection, McDougall family.

HELD BY JOY MOONEY

A search of the Maple Ridge Museum website came up with a photo of the Kershaw family farm and an article in the October 2010 *Maple Ridge Historical Society Newsletter* about Dingle Dell. “



“Dingle Dell” Kershaw family farm in the 1920’s.

MAPLE RIDGE MUSEUM AND COMMUNITY ARCHIVES. P02741.

At the north end of 240th, there was a family named Kershaw who had a big poultry farm plus they grew sweet peas and other flowers for the florist market. They named their place, “Dingle Dell,” in the English fashion common to areas with no address” (Patenaude, 2010). “Dot Kershaw (Mrs. L. Desjardins) Youbou, VI” is an entry in my Aunt’s 1950’s era address book (Personal collection, McDougall family). I then located William John Kershaw’s CEF attestation papers for 121st Battalion listed him as a farmer from Whonnock, BC (LAC, Digitized Service File for William John Kershaw).

“Gower, Harry, 17th Ave, RR 1 Haney” is another entry in Islay’s address book (Personal collection, McDougall family). Doing a bit of sleuthing I learned

that 17th Ave was originally Baker Road and in 1963 renamed to 240th Street (District of Maple Ridge, Historic Maps). I also learned that Harry Gower had served with the 131st Battalion, Canadian Expeditionary Forces (CEF) during the First World War (LAC, Digitized Service File for Harry Gower). Harry Gower was also located in the Maple Ridge Archives, Assessment Roll 1925 as owning land in Township 12, section 21, quarter NE (District of Maple Ridge, Assessment Roll 1925, p.102).



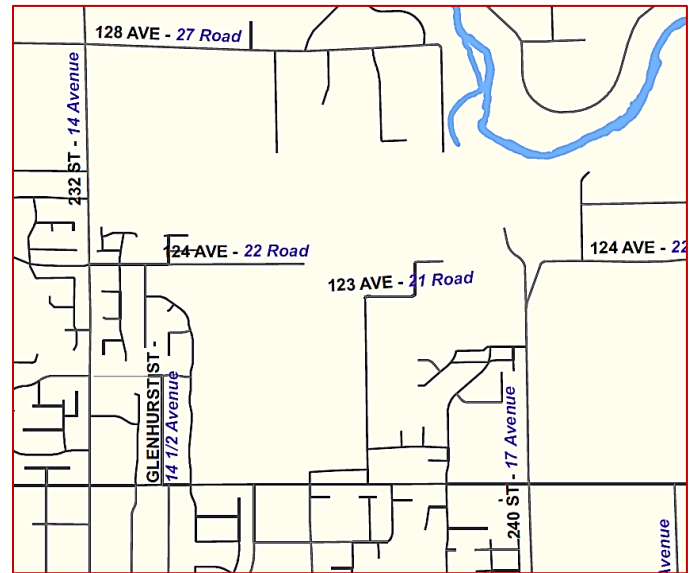
McDougall Family circa. 1933 at 23259 Dewdney Trunk Rd, Maple Ridge, Front Row L-R: Colin, Murray (Joy's dad), Islay & Alex. Middle Row Dougald and Nellie. Back Row: Stewart and Lillian.

PERSONAL COLLECTION, MCDUGALL FAMILY. HELD BY JOY MOONEY

In the 1931 Census for the District of Maple Ridge, both the John Kershaw family (including 11-year-old daughter Dorothy) and the Harry Gower family are listed as living on Baker Road. My McDougall family appear on page 6, living on "Trunk Road" (LAC, 1931 Census).

All this rabbit hole research has confirmed that Gower's Pool and Dingle Dell are likely located at the end of 240th Street North of Dewdney Trunk Road on the Alouette River. The Gower, Kershaw and McDougall families were all neighbours in the 1930s and their kids played together in the cool waters of

the Alouette River. My next goal is to locate the photo of my Aunt Islay and Helen Franklin in their "bathing toots". Plus get back on track with my original research goals!



District of Maple Ridge, Historic Resources and Research, Historic Maps, Numbered streets in 1928 and 1963.

RETRIEVED FROM [HTTPS://WWW.MAPLERIDGE.CA/2038/HISTORIC-RECORDS-AND-RESEARCH](https://www.mapleridge.ca/2038/HISTORIC-RECORDS-AND-RESEARCH); ACCESSED 25 AUGUST 2023.

Resources

City of Maple Ridge. Historic Resources and Research, "Historical Tax Assessment and Collector's Rolls, Assessment and Collectors Rolls 1924-1925". Retrieved from <https://www.mapleridge.ca/2038/Historic-Records-and-Research>, accessed 25 August 2023.

Library and Archives Canada; Ottawa, Ontario, Canada; *Seventh Census of Canada, 1931*; Folder T-27362; Fraser Valley, British Columbia, Canada, Page 11. Retrieved from <https://www.ancestry.ca/discoveryui-content/view/6551601:62640>; accessed 25 Aug 2023.

Library and Archives Canada RG 150, Accession 1992-93/166, Box 5125 – 45, Item:498369, *Personnel Records of the First World War, Canadian Expeditionary Force (CEF)*, Digitized Service File for William John Kershaw retrieved <https://www.bac-lac.gc.ca/eng/discover/military-heritage/first-world-war/personnel-records/Pages/item.aspx?IdNumber=498369>, accessed 25 August 2023.

Library and Archives Canada RG 150, Accession 1992-93/166, Box 3687 – 47, Item: 423738. *Personnel Records of the First World War, Canadian Expeditionary Force (CEF)*, Digitized Service File for Harry Gower, Retrieved from <https://www.bac-lac.gc.ca/eng/discover/military-heritage/first-world-war/personnel-records/Pages/item.aspx?IdNumber=423738>, accessed 25 August 2023.

Patenaude, V. "DINGO DEL", *Maple Ridge Historical Society Newsletter*, 20 October 2010. p. 3.

Technology Tips: Copy and Paste

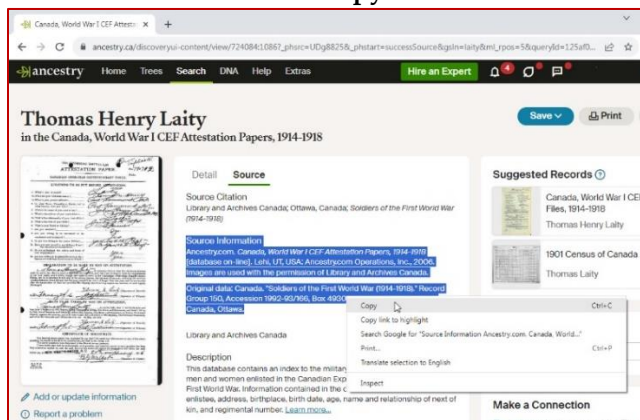
By Andrea Lister

Have you ever copied text from another document or a website into a Word document and the font has changed and the formatting has done strange things?

Copy and Paste into Word

For our example I will copy a citation from Ancestry to a Word document.

1. Select the text, right-click on Windows or Control-click on a Mac and select **copy**.



2. Switch to your Microsoft Word document.
3. From the **Home** menu, click on the ~ down arrow under **Paste** or right-click to access **Paste Options**.



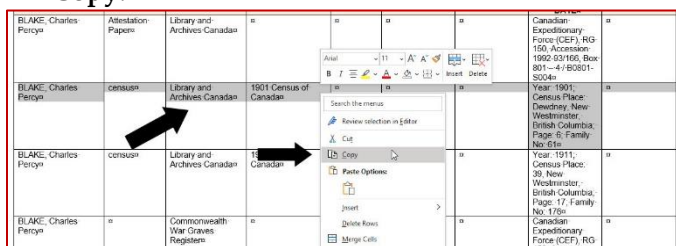
4. Select **Keep Text Only**.

The text without the formatting and links will be pasted into your document.

Copy and Paste from a Table into a Table

The challenge of copying from table to table is not to add in rows or columns from another table or nest cells within cells.

1. Ensure there is an empty row in the destination table that you want to add the new information to.
2. From the original table, right-click and select **Copy**.

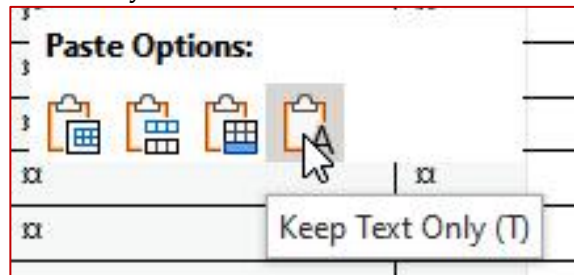


3. Switch to the destination table and select the desired empty row.

The row will appear in grey.

SOLDIER-SURNAME-GIVEN-NAMES	RECORD-TYPE	AUTHOR	TITLE/HOME-PAGES	CHAPTER/WEB-PAGES	PUBLISHER/PUB-ADDRESS	PUBL D
	Newspaper		"Town Parliament: Our Heroes To Have a Fitting Monument"		Gazette	Febru
	Word file--transcription		"Town Parliament: Our Heroes To Have a Fitting Monument"		Gazette	Febru

4. Right-click and from **Paste Options** select **Keep Text Only**.



The text will paste into the cells without any formatting.

Note that if the original table and the destination table do not have the same numbers of columns some of your information may not copy over.

Word for the Web

Copy and paste functionality differs if you are editing a Word document in a web browser. Right-click does not work. Also there are variations depending on the browser and Windows versus Mac.

1. Click **Edit in Browser**.
2. From a Windows machine press **Ctrl+C** to copy; or on Mac press **⌘+C**.
3. From a Windows machine press **Ctrl+V** to paste or on Mac press **⌘+V**.
4. On Chrome, Firefox, and Chromium-based Edge, you can also use **Ctrl+Shift+V** and **⌘+Shift+V** to paste text only (pastes text without source formatting).

If you are using Firefox and you want to use the Copy, Cut, and Paste commands on the Word for the web ribbon, you need to allow JavaScript to use the clipboard.

On Chrome, you can install the Office — Enable Copy and Paste Extension, which allows you to cut, copy, and paste with your mouse on all the Office Online apps.

The Microsoft website is a great resource for more tips: <https://support.microsoft.com/en-us/word>

The Story of The Cenotaph

By Andrea Lister



Maple Ridge Cenotaph situated next to Baptist Church on Dewdney Trunk Road, photo taken after 1923.

MAPLE RIDGE MUSEUM AND COMMUNITY ARCHIVES, P01201

While the other members of the Cenotaph Research Project focus on researching the soldiers inscribed on the Cenotaph, I have been researching the story of the Cenotaph itself.

The community story has lost some of the complexity over time and gives credit to the Hammond and Haney Women's Institutes for the Cenotaph. However, the Hammond Women's Institute did not exist until the mid-1930s.

The May 23, 1919 *Abbotsford Post* noted that when the Maple Ridge Returned Soldiers Reception Committee consisting of Reeve William Henry Ansell, Councillors James Dale, Ernest Edgar Adair, John Lilley, and Edmund Pope met in April to discuss an honour roll or tablet. They thought it would be "advisable to have two ladies on the committee." The Returned Soldiers Reception Committee communicated with the Red Cross, the War Relief Societies of the district, and the Women's Institute of Port Haney and requested one representative from Port Haney and one from Port Hammond.

The newspaper went on to report that Margaret Simson and Isabel Tapp "presented credentials from the Red Cross and War Relief Societies, and the Women's Institute, and took their seats with the committee." Simson represented Port Haney and Tapp represented Port Hammond. By June 1919 plans were already underway by the Returned Soldiers Reception Committee to create a Memorial Tablet. Council passed the motion at their June 7, 1919 meeting.

The municipal council meeting minutes for December 6, 1919 record that the bronze memorial tablet was created by O.B. Allan Jewellers at a cost of \$317, (about \$5,000 in 2023 money). The September 25, 1919 *Fraser Valley Record* reported that the plaque was unveiled at the Haney fall fair and that "the tablet contained the names of those who had paid the supreme sacrifice, those who had gone overseas and those who had worked in munitions.

By 1922, the existence of the bronze memorial tablet had almost been forgotten. The Haney Women's Institute wrote a letter to council requesting that the bronze tablet "no longer be concealed in the municipal vault but be erected in some public place, suggesting the new High School for consideration, but refraining from any attempt to influence the Council." Members of council stated that the tablet was in the vault for safety against fire with the intention to place it at a new municipal hall. Further action was referred to the Returned Soldiers Committee.

In February 1923 Mr. Lilley of the Returned Soldiers Committee reported to council that some mistakes had been made in the past regarding the monument. Mr. John Laity "explained it did not seem proper that this tablet with the names of the living as well as those of the dead should be placed together in a memorial monument for those who had died in the war." The committee proposed a war monument in the form of a Celtic cross with the names of thirty-six Maple Ridge soldiers who had died in the First World War. The committee reassured the council that the names of the soldiers were soldiers of Maple Ridge and had been carefully scrutinized and every effort had been taken to be accurate. Council accepted the report and granted \$1,500 for the monument (about \$25,600 in 2023 dollars).

The cenotaph was unveiled at the cemetery on May 27, 1923. The over four metre high, light grey granite was provided by Nelson Island for the Celtic Cross. Art Monument Co. of Vancouver executed the memorial, designed by Captain Thornton Sharp. Four large boulders were placed on the corners with the name and date of key battles from the First World War: Ypres 1915; Somme 1916; Vimy Ridge 1917; and Amiens 1918. At some point three more First World War soldier's names were added to the Cenotaph.

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 thirty 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



The 19th century embodies the Industrial Revolution and is curated in this collection as access to a dynamic period of innovation, revolution and reform, nationalism and nation building, the expansion of empire and colonialism, growing literacy and education. Users are presented with a range of topics that listed below:

- Asia and the West
- British Politics and Society
- British Theatre, Music, and Literature
- Children's Literature and Childhood
- Europe and Africa, Colonialism and Culture
- European Literature, the Corvey Collection, 1790-1840
- Maps and Travel Literature
- Photography

- Religion, Reform and Society
- Science, Technology, and Medicine: 1780-1925, Part I and II
- Women and Transnational Networks

I am always interested in where my family has lived and their migration stories. *Maps and Travel Literature* is a curated collection of 19th century “materials that support multidisciplinary research on topics such as the evolution of travel and transportation, social values, military and economic interests, colonialism, and exploration.” The results are from a selection of libraries in the United States, United Kingdom, and Canada.

My cross-collection search for “British Columbia maps” yielded the following results: 110 monographs, 1 manuscript, 488 newspapers and other periodicals, 1 magazine, and 36 maps. The following examples illustrate some of my choices.

Published at the dawn of the 20th century by the Canadian Department of Agriculture, this manual takes its place among a host of similar books and pamphlets intended to attract and inform potential immigrants about what to expect if they chose Canada as their new home.

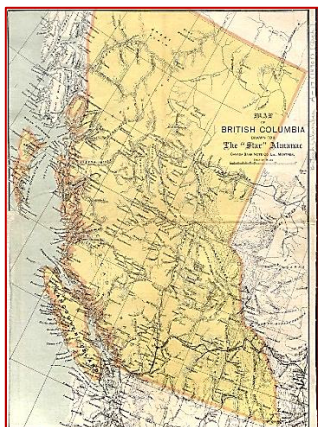
E507.73
Buffalo
1901

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Table of contents from *Canada: Its History, Productions and Natural Resources* prepared by George Johnson F. S. S. Under the Direction of Honorable Sydney Arthur Fisher, Minister of Agriculture, Canada.

BY GEORGE JOHNSON
AND PAN-AMERICAN
EXPOSITION 1901,
BUFFALO, NY:
DEPARTMENT OF
AGRICULTURE OF
CANADA (OTTAWA),
1901.

An annual type of publication, the almanac was often published by local newspapers to inform about the environment, government, transportation, and important occasions. Maps were often included, and this brightly coloured example, which includes the recently completed rail lines serving the province.



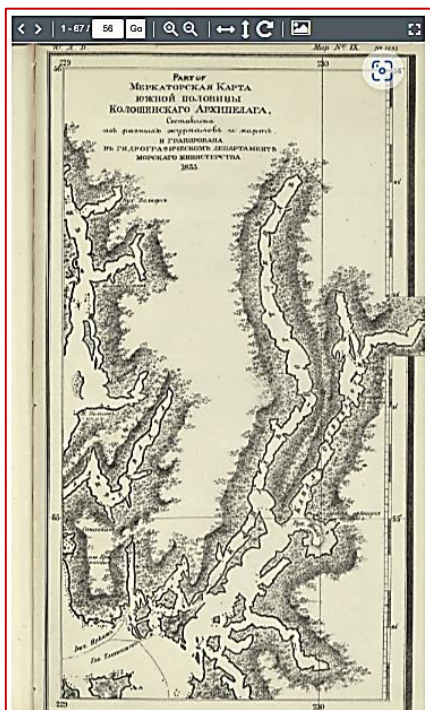
Map of British Columbia Drawn for the *Star Almanac*.

WILLIAM C. WONDERS MAP
COLLECTION, CAMERON LIBRARY,
UNIVERSITY OF ALBERTA, 1890.

Another search result is this report to the Government of Canada regarding a sensitive part of the Pacific Coast.

Alaska was a colony of the Russian Empire from 1732 until 1867 when the

area was purchased by the United States. British Interests intersected with first the Russian and then the American fur trade along the northwest coast. The Canadian government inherited the sensitive situation at Confederation. This report contains several maps that show the intricate fjords and landforms of what we now call the Alaska Panhandle.



Report on the Location of the British-Alaskan Boundary under the Anglo-Russian Convention of 1825, by Colonel D. R. Cameron, RA, CMG'. (89 Pages, Some in English, Some in Russian).

BY D. R. CAMERON,
KEW, UK: THE
NATIONAL ARCHIVES
CO 880/9/24 CANADA,
1886, PAGE 58.

The border between Alaska and both British Columbia and Yukon Territory became crucial to Canadian

sovereignty when gold was discovered in the Yukon in the early 1890s. The Northwest Mounted Police were dispatched to maintain order in the goldfields, and explore an all-Canadian route parallel to the Pan Handle border.

In addition to their potential to enrich the telling of our family and community stories, these glimpses of our shared past are tantalizing lures to learn more.

Further reading

"The Alaska Purchase". Library of Congress, Meeting of Frontiers Collection, 2006.

www.loc.gov/collections/meeting-of-frontiers/articles-and-essays/alaska/the-alaska-purchase/

The Real Klondike Kate. Ann Brennan. Fredericton: Goose Lane Editions, 1990. See also: Historical Canada Education Portal

www.education.historicacanada.ca/en/tools/166

When Russia Colonized North America. Suzanne McGee. History Channel updated 20 June 2023.

www.loc.gov/collections/meeting-of-frontiers/articles-and-essays/alaska/the-alaska-purchase/

Fort Langley National Historic Site Community Consultation

Join the conversation and help to shape the next 10 years at Fort Langley National Historic Site!

Fort Langley was first commemorated as a National Historic Site in 1923, making 2023 the centennial of its designation. As we look back and reflect on a century of commemorating history at Fort Langley National Historic Site, Parks Canada is also looking ahead to the next decade with the development of an updated management plan for this special place.

From August 21 to September 30, Parks Canada is inviting the public to contribute ideas through an online platform and meetings that will inform the site's updated management plan.

Anyone with interest in the national historic site is encouraged to get involved and join the conversation. Visit their website at <https://parks.canada.ca/lhn-nhs/bc/langley/plan/politique-policy/developpement-development> or <https://www.letstalkparks.canadawestcoast.ca> to learn more about the Parks Canada management planning process and how to participate.

Halloween With A Family History Twist—October 4, 2023



Do you have a ghost story that has been passed down for generations? Do you have a family ghost among your ancestors? Did any of your ancestors live in a haunted house?

If yes to any of the above, we want to hear your story on October 4 at our family history meeting via Zoom. Email us at: mrfamilyhistory@gmail.com for information on how to join the meeting.

Research News

Royal Canadian Navy Service Ledger Sheets, 1910 to 1941

<https://library-archives.canada.ca/eng/collection/research-help/military-heritage/Pages/royal-canadian-navy-ledger-1910-1941.aspx>

This database includes personnel records of those who served in the Royal Canadian Navy and the Naval Reserve between 1910 and 1918. It also includes some people who enlisted between 1919 and 1941, and some who served in the Newfoundland Royal Naval Reserve. These records are not digitized.

Search the database:

1. Go to **Collection Search** and click on **Advanced search**.
2. In **All these words**, enter a last name with or without a first name. Try various spellings of the name or use the * wild card character (for example, Alex* for Alexander, Alexandre)
3. In **Database**, from the dropdown menu select **Royal Canadian Navy Service Ledger Sheets, 1910 to 1941**.
4. Optional: In **Date**, enter a year of birth or range of years
5. Optional: In **Service number**, enter the number if you know it. Enter numbers only; do not include letters such as "ON" or "VR".
6. Click the **Search button**.

Prisoners of the First World War, ICRC Archives

<https://grandeguerre.icrc.org/>

During the First World War (1914–1918), 10 million people, servicemen or civilians, were captured and sent to detention camps. The belligerent countries involved provided lists of prisoners to the ICRC, which created an index card for each prisoner and detainee. Search through all five million of them.

Official Histories of Canadian Military Events

<https://www.canada.ca/en/department-national-defence/services/military-history/history-heritage/official-military-history-lineages/official-histories.html>

The official histories are vetted for accuracy by the Directorate of History and Heritage and include histories of the Canadian Expeditionary Force, Canadian Army, RCAF, Canadian Medical Services, and the Naval Services from the First World War through to the Korean War.

Record of service—Overseas Military Forces of Canada Medical Units

www.canada.ca/en/department-national-defence/services/military-history/history-heritage/official-military-history-lineages/ledgers/ww1-medical-units.html

These records about Canadian Expeditionary Force medical units provide information throughout the duration of the First World War on: locations overseas; commanding officers; unit organization dates; and detailed remarks about unit history.

A Street Near You

<https://astreetnearyou.org/>

This project currently contains records for over one million men and women who died whilst serving in the First World War, with over 600,000 locations worldwide, tens of thousands of images, cemeteries, war memorials and much more. It is map based and draws on a variety of sources including the Imperial War Museum—Lives of the First World War; Commonwealth War Graves Commission; Imperial War Museums Collections; War Memorial Register; and the New Zealand Memorials Register.

Free National Trust 1921 Census records

<https://www.findmypast.co.uk/national-trust>

The 1921 Census is a snapshot of life in England and Wales. Findmypast has partnered with the UK National Trust to make the 1921 Census records for over 200 National Trust properties completely free.

Go back in time to find out who was living at your favourite National Trust place, what they were doing and who they were with on 19 June 1921.

RBCM's 2023 Release of BC Death and Marriage Records Now Online

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

British Columbia's marriage registrations from 1947 and death registrations from 2002 are now available to search online. These records are part of the BC Vital Statistics Agency's annual release.

Births (1854–1903), marriages (1871–1947), and deaths (1872–2002) can all be searched in BC Archives' online Genealogy section.

Create Genealogy Maps Using PowerPoint

<https://myfamilypattern.com/create-genealogy-maps-using-powerpoint/>

A tutorial by Rick T. Wilson on how to create your own customized maps for your genealogy research using Microsoft's PowerPoint.

Family History Events

American Historical Society of Germans from Russia Edmonton & District Chapter

www.wall-breaker.com/wall-breaker-conference

- **Wall Breaker Conference 2023 Dark Histories & Sad Truths**, with John Althouse, Judy Russel, Dave Obee, Kaily Carson, Daniel Hubbard, Merv Weiss, Otto Pohl, Stacy Kaufeld. Friday September 8 to Sunday, September 10, 2023. Virtual. Fee: \$60 CDN.

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 to 29, 2023. VIRTUAL. Fee: \$30 CDN for BIFHSGO members / \$40 for non-members.

Family History Writing Retreat

www.familyhistorywritingstudio.com/loon-lake-retreat/

- **2-Day/3-Night Writing Retreat** with Lynn Palermo, Monday October 30 to Wednesday November 2, 2023. Loon Lake Resort, Maple Ridge, BC. Fee: All rooms are shared accommodation for 2 people, \$1,650 CDN Per Person.

Maple Ridge Library

<https://fvrl.bibliocommons.com>

- **Drop-in Tech Help.** Practical, hands-on sessions with library staff. Bring your tablets, laptops, eReaders and your questions!

Ontario Ancestors

<https://conference2023.ogs.on.ca/>

Diversity in Genealogy, Virtual Conference, September 8 to 10, 2023. Fee: \$75 CDN members / \$85 non-members.

Scottish Indexes

www.scottishindexes.com

- **Conference XXI** with Alison Spring; Kate Keter; Chris Paton; Robert Urquhart; Margaret Fox; and Graham and Emma Maxwell, Saturday, September 9, 2023. Time-zone friendly. Via Zoom. Fee: Free.

Surrey Libraries

www.surreylibraries.ca/services/family-history

Free. Registration required. Email or call to register.

- **Genealogy Orientation**, Saturdays, September 9, November 25, 10:30 to 11:30am. Cloverdale.
- **Monthly Family History DNA Chat and Fun Family History Friday Chats** are resuming this fall. Contact library for dates and times.
- **Get Started with Organizing Your Family History** Saturday, September 23, 10:30am to 12:00pm. Cloverdale.
- **Researching Your England Ancestors from Home.** Thursday September 28, 10:00 to 11:00 am. Cloverdale.
- **Introduction to Researching Your Family History** Wednesday, October 11, 6:00 to 7:30pm. Semiahmoo.
- **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.

- **Top Ten Family History Databases – 20 Ways to Use Them Best**, Saturday, November 4, 1:00 to 2:30pm, 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.

September 6, 2023:

Tracking Family Lore: So, your great grandmother was an Iroquois princess? Or was she? Researching connections to aboriginal and Metis ancestors can be especially challenging, as written records are not always easy to locate. You follow the trail through vital statistics, church documents, census records and personal family trees posted on-line. As dedicated genealogists from many ethnic backgrounds, each of us has come across these family stories, handed down over generations - some of which we can verify, but some will remain interesting bits of family story-telling. Presented by Sharon Surrette who has a lifelong interest in genealogy, history, storytelling, and community building.

October 6, 2023: Halloween With A Family History Twist: Ghost stories.

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