

# Community, Past, Present & Future



## Family History Newsletter

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

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The Family History group supports members in researching their family history research.

Members have ancestors from around the globe. We respectfully acknowledge that the land on which we live, work, and play is the traditional and unceded territory of the Katzie First Nation and the Kwantlen First Nation Peoples.

We meet on the first Wednesday of each month at 7pm virtually until further notice.

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### Finding Family in the 1931 Canadian Census

By Annette Fulford

When the Library and Archives Canada announced at the beginning of the year that they would be releasing the *1931 Canadian Census* in June, I looked forward to viewing it with great excitement. This would be the first census that I could see information about my parents. My father was alive for the *1926 Prairie Census* but he was born in England while his mother was visiting her parents. They didn't arrive back in time to be included on the census taken in June that year.

For my mother's family, this would be the first census to include all my mother's siblings as she was the last child born in her family. I was curious about my mother's information because her birth was not registered and the only other record, her baptism, listed her name as Katherine, not Kathleen, the name she was known by.

Since the index for the census would not be ready when it was released, I had already done preparation work on where to locate my families in rural Saskatchewan by gathering the grid location (Section, Township, Range, and Meridian) of the local area they lived in. They would not be found in a local town or village but at a farm nearby.

When the census was released at Library and Archives Canada on 1 June, I was ready to view the records the old-fashioned way page by page. I was not expecting much on the first day because I knew that a lot of people would be trying to view these records at the same time. I was only able to view two full pages before the website ran into technical issues.

It was the following day at 8 am that I was alerted to the fact that Ancestry had loaded the original images on their website but they were still working on the index. I went online and didn't see them on the main page, so I clicked on the catalogue and found that they had been added. I went directly to the section for Weyburn, subdistrict 42 in southern Saskatchewan near Pangman and found my great grandfather Martin Kaufman within 5 minutes of searching. He was now a widow living with a granddaughter. Included on the same page was my grandparents Steve and Lena with their 6 or their 7 children including my mom Kathleen Barbara who was only 3 years old!

Next, I headed to the Melfort district in northern Saskatchewan and located my great grandparents John and Winnifred Clark in Chelan. They were running the post office in town. My great grandmother was listed as the Postmaster. I kept searching and found my grandparents Hugh and Grace Clark near Chelan by the homestead coordinates 17-42-10-W2 from

my grandfather's land grant. By 8:17 am I had located 4 families. It was a good day!

About a week later Ancestry uploaded an index and I was able to find many of my other relatives who were living in the larger cities. One surprise I found was for my father-in-law. He was born on 5 June 1931 in Winnipeg and was not supposed to be included on the census which was to be counted on 1 June 1931. He and his parents were visiting with family in the census. Such a pleasant surprise!

## Aerial Photographs: An Eye on What Lies Beneath the Surface

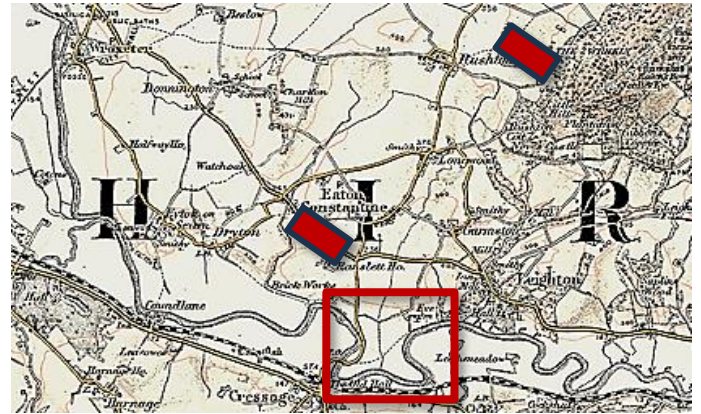
By Brenda L. Smith

Have you considered aerial photography as a way of exploring or illustrating your family story? On 17 August 2023, John Reid, in his blog *Anglo-Celtic Connections*, announced that "Historic England Archive: Aerial Photo Explorer" has added to its online collection of about 400,000 aerial photographs.

As I reached back into Shropshire's archeological history, I was intrigued with the intersection of cultures during the Roman occupation of Britain. Celts, especially the Cornovii, and western European settlers encouraged to support the military occupation, may have been agrarian forebears of my much more recent farming ancestors.

One of my favourite daydreams is imagining what my ancestors saw when they were at work or simply looking out the window. My great grandmother Louisa Smith Nock grew up west of Shrewsbury at Ranslett House, a Grade II Georgian farmhouse built about 1812 by her great great grandfather Thomas Smith. To the northeast she would have seen the Wrekin, a volcanic hill at the northern limit of the Shropshire Hills, about 400 metres at its summit. Between the Wrekin and Louisa's home lies the village of Eaton Constantine where she played the organ in St. Mary the Virgin church and visited her cousins. The Severn River forms the southern border of the Ranslett House fields.

Recently I discovered aerial photographs that include evidence of Roman camps in the fields where my Smith family lived for generations in Shropshire. [www.cambridgeairphotos.com/location/cjq44/](http://www.cambridgeairphotos.com/location/cjq44/) While Louisa probably couldn't see that evidence for herself, I imagine that she was very aware of the long history of human habitation on her homeland.



Ordnance Survey ca. 1861. The forested area, top left, indicates the Wrekin, the dominant geological feature of northern Shropshire. Ranslett House is indicated by the centre arrow. The circle contains the fields where Roman soldiers constructed three marching camps and a more permanent fort ca. AD 47-50.

### Further reading

Explore the Wrekin. [www.exploretthewrekin.co.uk](http://www.exploretthewrekin.co.uk)

Historic England Archive: Aerial Photo Explorer  
[www.historicengland.org.uk/images-books/archive/collections/aerial-photos/Roman Britain](http://www.historicengland.org.uk/images-books/archive/collections/aerial-photos/Roman Britain)

The History Files: Celtic Kingdoms of the British Isles.  
[www.historyfiles.co.uk/KingListsBritain/BritainCornovii.htm](http://www.historyfiles.co.uk/KingListsBritain/BritainCornovii.htm)

Roman Britain: Leighton Roman Marching Camps.  
[www.roman-britain.co.uk/places/leighton-temporary-marching-camps/](http://www.roman-britain.co.uk/places/leighton-temporary-marching-camps/)

*The Shropshire Gazetteer, with an Appendix, including a Survey of the County and Valuable Miscellaneous Information, with Plates.* Printed and Published by T. Gregory, Wem, 1824

## Do You Look at Your Old Genealogy?

<https://blog.familyhistoryhound.com/2023/08/do-you-look-at-your-old-genealogy/>

On 16 August 2023 Ellen Thompson-Jennings, The Family History Hound, posed two questions:

What do you do with those bits and bobs of information you've found over the years that didn't connect with your tree?

If you do have a storage system for those unknown items. How often do you look at them?

These questions are for all of us, as we accumulate verified ancestors, what do we do about the information that doesn't fit yet? She invites you to join the conversation on her blog.

## Digitized Books

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By Brenda L. Smith

I remember when we were dreaming of the World Wide Web as a barrier-free access to knowledge and communication. Was that only the 1980s? There are places on the Internet where the dream is sustained, and I use them all the time. Internet Archive and the Wayback Machine, Google Books, and Wikipedia are go-tos for many family historians.

Two that may be less familiar are the Digital Public Library of America (DPLA) and FadedPage. DPLA has recently added a new feature to combat censorship called “The Banned Book Club”.

“The Banned Book Club” has been created to ensure that readers have access to the books they want to read, making e-book versions of banned books available to readers in locations across the United States where titles have been banned via the free Palace e-reader app.

In addition to this new service, you can access a range of library user and research guides from the landing page.

Faded Page is an archive of eBooks, provided completely free to everyone, produced by volunteers all over the world. These books are public domain in Canada, follow Canadian copyright law, but if you are in another country, you should satisfy yourself that you are not breaking the copyright laws of your own country by downloading them. You are free to do whatever you like with these books, but the Faded Page volunteers hope that mainly you will enjoy reading them.

Faded Page boasts nearly 8,000 e-books, searchable by author, title, and subject. Well-weighted with Canadian content, you can find fiction ranging from James Bond to Janey Canuck, and non-fiction such as Great Lakes shipwrecks, and claims for losses in the Upper Canada Rebellion of 1837.

- Digital Public Library of America: [www.dp.la](http://www.dp.la)
- Fadedpage: Free Books Forever: [www.Fadedpage.com](http://www.Fadedpage.com)
- Internet Archive: <https://archive.org/>
- Wayback Machine: <https://web.archive.org/>
- Google Books: <https://books.google.ca/>
- Wikipedia: <https://en.wikipedia.org/>

## Honouring Those Who Served

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By Gina Leigh

More than twenty years Annette Fulford was volunteering at the Maple Ridge Museum and Community Archives transcribing handwritten diaries. (*Maple Ridge Family History Group Newsletter*, November 2003 issue “Maple Ridge Soldiers in the War to End All Wars” by Annette Fulford).

Reg Goffin was mentioned several times by one of the diarists, including a notation in late 1914 that he was off to join the war effort. One day Annette happened to stop at the Maple Ridge Cenotaph and read the name R.G. Goffin, and noted as well another Goffin surname. Those names inscribed on the cenotaph ignited Annette’s interest to learn more about the men, and about the others named on the cenotaph. Thus began decades of research interspersed with family, work and other interests.

Earlier this year Annette, a member of the Maple Ridge Family History Group, asked whether the group would be interested in furthering her research as a community history project. This was an easy decision, and twelve members of the group quickly volunteered to participate, and the Maple Ridge Cenotaph Project began. The name has since evolved to Honouring Those Who Served, for this is indeed our goal.

Initially we intended to look only at the names on the Cenotaph. However, we realized that of the ten men named on the plaque outside the Whonnock Lake community centre, eight of those names also appear on the cenotaph. One name on the Cenotaph is that of a Pitt Meadows resident and he is also commemorated on the Pitt Meadows Cenotaph. (Maple Ridge and Pitt Meadows became separate municipalities in 1914.) We decided to research all fifty-one of the men from the area whose names appeared on the Maple Ridge Cenotaph and the Whonnock Lake plaque who had died during the war years of 1914–1918, or shortly after the end of the war.

While overseas some of the men died of diseases easily treated today with antibiotics. Others lived through some of the most horrific battles of the First World War before meeting their deaths.

We wanted to learn more about the men, and when the Cenotaph was inscribed, there were only men, named. We especially wanted to know about their connections to Maple Ridge. We found that some had

a fleeting association while others had early roots and generations of descendants.

We learned that the youngest was seventeen when he enlisted and the oldest was forty-four. The others fell in between with the majority in their teens and early twenties, but a good number were in their thirties. There were veterans of the South African War or other military services. There were men of business, self-reliant farmers and fishermen, tradesmen and other occupations, even minor nobility. Some of the men who enlisted were recent arrivals from Great Britain, but also from other countries; some were born in Maple Ridge or elsewhere in British Columbia or Canada.

In the years since Annette began researching these soldiers more records have become available, enabling us to add to the hundreds of records Annette had already discovered. The research sources include but were not limited to: soldiers' personnel files at Library and Archives Canada; the records of Canada and other nations for censuses, birth and marriage registrations; immigration; military service files; newspapers, and so on.

We have benefitted from recent connections made with descendant family members, and from the records of the Maple Ridge Museum and Community Archives, Pitt Meadows Community Archives, and commemorations at St John the Divine Anglican Church and Holy Spirit Anglican Church, to name a few.

While most of the team focused on the soldiers, others read municipal council minutes and newspaper accounts to learn the history of the cenotaph. (See the September 2023 issue of this newsletter "The Story of the Cenotaph" by Andrea Lister, p 6.)

We are looking to launching/unveiling the stories of the fifty-one soldiers in several stages in 2024. As we work towards completion of this first phase, we intend to continue researching and discovering the stories of others from our community who served during the First World War.

We encourage and welcome communications to [mrfamilyhistory@gmail.com](mailto:mrfamilyhistory@gmail.com) by family or the public who may have photographs and further information about the lives of the soldiers from the area who fought in the First World War.

## Research News

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### Writing About Slavery? Teaching About Slavery?

<https://naacpculpeper.org/resources/writing-about-slavery-this-might-help/>

Many family historians encounter the challenge about how to write about slavery in their family history. This short guide, put together by senior slavery scholars of colour, is a set of suggestions that raises questions and sensitivities about language that has been passed down and normalized.

Language to Consider Adopting/Preferred Terms:

- Enslaved (Africans, people, mothers, workers, artisans, children, etc).
- Using enslaved (as an adjective) rather than "slave" (as a noun) disaggregates the condition of being enslaved with the status of "being" a slave. People weren't slaves; they were enslaved.
- Captive (Africans, fathers, families, workers, infants, etc). Note that this term nuances depending on geography vis-a-vis the slave trade, as Ana Lucia Araujo notes.
- Enslaver instead of master. The term "master" transmits the aspirations and values of the enslaving class without naming the practices they engaged.

Read the full resource at the link above: P. Gabrielle Foreman, et al. "Writing about Slavery/Teaching About Slavery: This Might Help" community-sourced document, September 30, 2023.

This community-sourced document is protected by a Creative Commons Attribution-NonCommercial-ShareAlike 3.0 License.

### New at FindMyPast

[www.findmypast.co.uk](http://www.findmypast.co.uk)

- Church of Ireland baptism and marriages from Dublin
- Dublin Church of Ireland Burials
- *Commercial Daily List* (London) newspaper

### Toronto Newspapers Online at Newspapers.com

[www.newspapers.com](http://www.newspapers.com)

*The Star Weekly* was a weekend magazine published in Toronto, Ontario, Canada and with 255,803 searchable pages from 1910–1973 on Newspapers.com.

*The Toronto Star*, established in 1892 as the *Evening Star*, already available, was renamed the *Toronto Daily Star* in 1900, has been added from 1900–2020.

## Updated Search for FindMyPast Newspapers

[www.findmypast.co.uk/blog/help/newspaper-search-tips](http://www.findmypast.co.uk/blog/help/newspaper-search-tips)

The newspaper search on FindMyPast has been updated. You can search for more than one name to find articles that mention both people. For example: Lloyd George, Bonar Law. They have also improved phrase searching so you can specify how close the words appear next to each other. For example: "suton coldfield rail crash"~2 – could be up to 2 word between terms. There is also an exclusion option for keywords. For example, Britannia –Yacht.

## Roots Ireland

<https://www.rootsireland.ie/>

Addition of 924 baptisms of children born in Galway Union Workhouse between 1853 and 1922. Mostly Roman Catholic, with a small number of Church of Ireland entries as well, and give an important insight into baptisms which took place outside the normal parish system in Galway in the post-Famine period up until the creation of the Free State in 1922.

## Maple Ridge Historic Resources

[www.mapleridge.ca/2038/Historic-Records-and-Research](http://www.mapleridge.ca/2038/Historic-Records-and-Research)

The city has digitized historic minutes and bylaws as well as tax assessment and collector rolls. The digitized council minutes are now available from 1874 to 1958.

## Provincial Archives of New Brunswick (PANB)

<https://archives.gnb.ca/Search/Collections/default/en-CA>

PANB are taking steps to "enable members of the public to search PANB's holdings using a tool very similar to what the archivists who acquire, organize, and arrange access to the records use 'behind the scenes' at their desks." Initially, photograph collections that have been fully digitized and described in both official languages will be available.

## Genealogy Starter Kits

<https://atms.alberta.ca/paa/store>

Many people have old family documents in storage somewhere. The Genealogy Starter Kits, available at the Archives Store, contain everything you need to begin organizing your own family archives.

The boxes come in four different sizes, so you can select the one that will best accommodate your documents and fit on your shelves. They come with thirty file folders, ten photo negative envelopes, thirty Plastiklips, a pair of white gloves, and a notebook.

## Peel's Prairie Provinces is Moving

<https://archive.org/details/peel/>

Peel's Prairie Provinces is a collection of digitized materials related to western Canada. Originally hosted online through the University of Alberta Library, the collection is being migrated to the Internet Archive platform.

Although English-language titles predominate the collection, it also contains a substantial body of materials in French, Ukrainian, and other languages.

## Naval and RAF records online

<https://www.ancestry.co.uk/>

This month Ancestry have added two datasets that are likely to be of interest to those of you who have Royal Naval or Royal Air Force officers in your tree.

The smaller of the two datasets contains over 32,000 wills of Royal Navy and Royal Marines warrant officers and ratings, covering the period 1786-1882, though the vast majority seem to relate to men who served in the Napoleonic Wars. In some cases there is additional correspondence included. Most of the wills were made on pre-printed forms, though there can be quite a lot of handwritten information.

- UK, Wills of Royal Navy and Royal Marines Personnel, 1786-1882
- UK, RAF Officer Service Records, 1918-1919

There are over 100,000 records for RAF officers who served during 1918-19 which generally include the serviceman's permanent address, and the name and address of their next of kin – as well as rather cryptic details of their postings.

It's worth bearing in mind that a higher proportion of RAF personnel were officers than in the other services.

## Acadian Archives at the University of Maine at Fort Kent

<https://www.umfk.edu/offices/archives/>

The Acadian Archives are located in the Upper St. John Valley, the ancestral territory of the Wəlastəkwewiyik (Maliseet). Their holdings include over 500 distinct archival collections. (diaries, ledgers, maps, newspapers, scrapbooks, etc.) and physical artifacts representing the rich craft traditions of the Upper St. John Valley. The Archives are also home to a large collection of genealogical reference works and a lending library of materials focused on French-heritage peoples across the Northeast.

## Family History Events

### British Columbia Genealogical Society: Member Events

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

- **Begin with Books Event**, with Jeannie Vance, George Caldwell, Susan Sullivan, Corrine Jubb and Judy Rosmus. Sunday November 12, 2023, 9:00 AM – 3:30 PM.
- **Kindertech**, hands-on workshop; bring your own computer intended to teach very simple computer techniques, each month has a different topic with facilitators, Margaret Sharon, and Ann Buchanan. Third Saturday of each month, 10:00 AM–Noon. BCGS Library.
- **NEW Zoom coffee chat – Family Tree Maker Users Group** with Sharon Syrette and Janet White, beginning November 20, 2023, 3:00 PM – 4:30 PM.
- **Digitizing Your Family History** with Margaret Sharon, Saturday, November 25, 2023, 10:30 AM – 1:30 PM. For Individual BCGS Members and Members of Current BCGS Affiliate Societies. Registration required.

### Kelowna & District Genealogical Society

<https://kdgs.ca/>

- **The War of 1812-1815: Essential Sources for Family History Research** with Glen Wright, Monday, November 6, 2023, 7:00 PM via ZOOM. Fee: KDGS members Free; non-members \$10.

### 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!

### Mission Library

<https://fvrl.bibliocommons.com>

- **Genealogist in Residence**. Drop in to share your family tree, get answers to your questions and help with research. Tuesdays, 11:00 AM–2:00 PM.

### Strathcona County Library

<https://sclibrary.ca/>

- **Family Tree Trackers: Finding Indigenous Ancestors in the Canadian Census** with Andrea Lister, Thursday, November 9, 2023, 7:00 PM – 8:30 PM MST. Via Zoom, registration required.

### Surrey Libraries

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

Free. Registration required. Email or call to register.

- **Genealogy Orientation**, Saturdays, September 9, November 25, 10:30–11:30 AM. Cloverdale.
- **Monthly Family History DNA Chat and Fun Family History Friday Chats** are resuming this fall. Contact library for dates and times.
- **Top Ten Family History Databases – 20 Ways to Use Them Best**, Saturday, November 4, 1:00 to 2:30 PM, Cloverdale.
- **Caring For Your Family Treasures** with Surrey Archives and Artifact Collections staff, Saturday, December 2, 2023, 11:00 AM–12:00 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](mailto:mrfamilyhistory@gmail.com) for information on how to join the meeting.

**November 1, 2023: LEST WE FORGET – Honouring Those Who Served, The Maple Ridge Cenotaph Project** Each team member will give us a preview of their soldiers (most have five they are researching) and will share his story. While the focus of the November Short Program is our Cenotaph Project, members are also encouraged to share the story of an ancestor who served in the military during the FWW.

This is an opportunity for all of us to reflect - Lest We Forget.

**December 6, 2023: The Family Historian Christmas Gift:** We have the perfect Christmas gift to help with your family history – RESEARCH TIPS

These tips include using more effectively resources such as Library Archives Canada, Newspapers and Directories. But there's more! Members are invited to share other research tips that have yielded results with breaking down brick walls, opening the way to another generation or simply making that family connection.

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