

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.

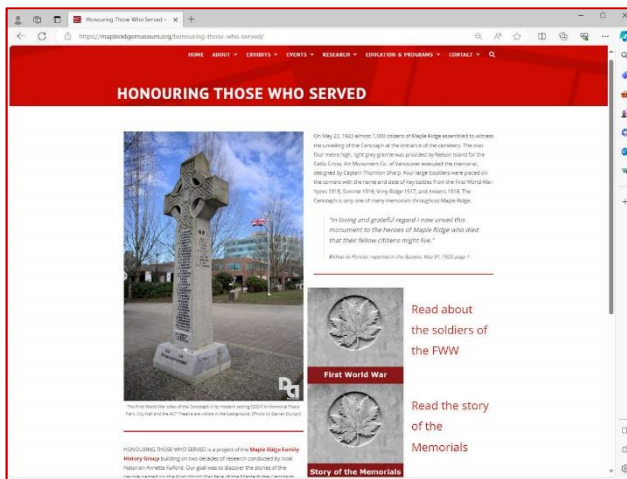
Members have ancestors from around the globe. We respectfully acknowledge that the land on which we live, work, and play is the traditional and unceded territory of the Katzie First Nation and the Kwantlen First Nation Peoples.

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

In This Issue

Launch of "Honouring Those Who Served".....	1
Fred Braches.....	2
Index to Maple Ridge Family History Newsletters 1999-2023.....	2
History Round Up.....	2
Down the Research Rabbit Hole.....	4
Technology Tips: What is AI?.....	6
Points to the Past.....	7
Using Family Tree Diagrams.....	8
Research News.....	10
Challenge—Mapping Their Journey.....	11
Family History Events.....	12

Launch of "Honouring Those Who Served"



The Maple Ridge Family History Group is pleased to announce the online launch of *Honouring Those Who Served*—a community history project that builds on two decades of research conducted by local historian Annette Fulford.

The goal of the 12-member team was to

discover the stories of the people named on the First World War faces of the Maple Ridge Cenotaph and other memorials throughout the area.

Annette wanted to know the stories and full names of the soldiers inscribed on the Cenotaph and many more records have become available in recent years since she began her research. At Annette's request, the team started in May 2023 researching 49 names, as well as the history of memorials and honour rolls in the area. The aim was to augment the research already done and package all the stories in a way that would make it accessible to students and researchers from around the world.

The team have spent approximately 1,000 hours of volunteer time researching attestation papers, census data, directories, birth records, burial records, tax rolls, passenger lists, newspapers and more. The stories of the First World War names inscribed on the Maple Ridge Cenotaph can now be read on the Maple Ridge Museum and Community Archives website. <https://mapleridgemuseum.org/honouring-those-who-served/>

Many of the men who enlisted were brothers, cousins, former classmates, and local athletes. The 17 February 1917 *Vancouver Daily World* made the claim that the Port Haney Basketball Club had disbanded as they had "sent practically every eligible player to the firing line." Women joined as nurses and munitions workers. Men were employed as munitions workers and volunteered for home defenses.

We acknowledge that there may be names missing from the Maple Ridge memorials. We invite the community to contact the Maple Ridge Museum and Archives with contributions.

Fred Braches

By Brenda L. Smith



Fred in front of Andrea's garage door with the BCHF 2009 award for best website for "Slumach: a website for people who enjoy fact over fiction."

PHOTO BY ANDREA LISTER

When I first lived in Maple Ridge, I enrolled in a technical writing program with an assignment to write a magazine feature based on an interview. I had met Fred Braches at a Maple Ridge Historical Society meeting and chose him as the subject of the interview.

Fred and Helmi welcomed me to their Whonnock home, and Fred shared his personal story with candor. A few months later, he invited me to write family history themed items for *British Columbia Historical News*.

Since then, Fred has challenged me to diligently investigate and communicate our past. I still have a treatise on historical writing that he gave me. His own passion for story telling takes form in books, articles, and the *Whonnock Notes* occasional papers. His legacy includes the valuable advice he shared. Our community history projects have drawn heavily on his skills as researcher, editor, and storyteller.

My last few communications with Fred included reminders that he wouldn't live forever. So, when I heard the news that he had left us on 01 February 2024, my first thought was of a project that I promised to follow past all its brick walls. My second thought was that we honour Fred by building on his determination to discover and tell the Maple Ridge story.

Further Reading

"In Memoriam: Fred Braches 1930-2024." British Columbia Historical Federation, 07 February 2024.
www.bchistory.ca/news/13311886

"In Memoriam: Fred Braches (1930-2024)." Heritage House, 06 February 2024. www.heritagehouse.ca/in-memoriam-fred-braches-1930-2024

Corbett, Neil "Dedicated Maple Ridge Historian Passes Away." *Maple Ridge/Pitt Meadows News*, 10 February 2024.
www.mapleridgenews.com/news/dedicated-maple-ridge-historian-passes-away-7316631.

Whonnock Notes, Whonnock Community Association.
www.whonnock.ca/whonnock-history/whonnock-notes.php

Index to Maple Ridge Family History Newsletters 1999-2023

<https://mapleridgemuseum.org/family-history-newsletter-index/>

Have you ever had a half memory of an article that was published in one of our past newsletters and tried to find it? Well, thanks to Annette Fulford you can now search an index of articles published from 1999 to 2023.

From the link above, on a PC press Ctrl + F, on a Mac, press Command + F to open the search box in the top right corner of the screen. You can then type in a keyword to search the index. Newsletters are online from 2009 to the present. Return to the Family History Newsletter page to open the desired PDF.

History Round Up

Reimagining the Royal British Columbia Museum



The Royal BC Museum engagement team will continue hosting events on-site at the museum, as well as participating in community events. On January 28 the first virtual information session discussed the BC Archives move to the new archives collections and research facility in Colwood.

On January 29 Maple Ridge Museum and Community Archives hosted an in-person workshop to discuss the future of the RBCM and its buildings.

Chose any of the following ways to join the conversation:

- Attend a Community Conversation or Event
- Register for an information session
- Complete the online survey
- Take a virtual tour
- Submit a comment card
- Email your feedback or join RBCM on social media

You can register for an event, or stop by one of their information booths. To learn:

www.royalbcmuseum.bc.ca/community-engagement

www.royalbcmuseum.bc.ca/community-engagement/bc-archives-engagement

The Aging Family Genealogists and Long-Lost Relatives Study

www.sfu.ca/gerontology/research/agegen2.html

In this study, through the Department of Sociology/Anthropology at Simon Fraser University and funded by the Social Sciences and Humanities Council of Canada (SSHRC), they want to learn more about the experiences of diverse older aged Canadians (aged 55+) who have searched for and located a previously unknown immediate or closely related genetic relative.

How will your personal information be protected?

Your privacy and confidentiality will be respected. Your name will remain confidential, using a pseudonym, and your individual answers will not be linked with your name or department in any reports of data. Your identity will remain confidential, unless otherwise stated by you, to ensure there are no potential risks to your participation in this study (full details and an informed consent form are provided on the survey link provided below).

Who can participate in AGEGen2?

- Are you an older aged Canadian (aged 55+)?
- Have you searched for, and located a previously unknown immediate or closely related genetic relative (i.e., parent, child, sibling, grandparent) using DNA testing and databases within the past 5 years?
- Have you had at least one meaningful contact (i.e., face-to-face visit or phone call) with that long-lost immediate genetic relative? OR, if they are deceased or you have been unable to contact them, have you had contact with another relative who knew them and is also genetically related to you?

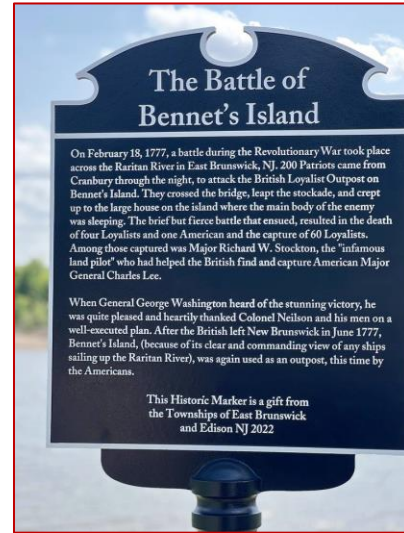
How to participate

If you are interested in participating, we would love to hear about your experiences and would greatly appreciate your participation in this study. All you need to do is to fill out a web-based survey, which will take less than half an hour of your time.

www.surveymonkey.ca/r/PH28RZL

If you have any questions email: aeo@sfu.ca

Loyalist Battle of Bennett's Island Finally Receives Historical Recognition



Chris Hay has done it again! His story in the Fall 2023 edition of *The Loyalist Gazette* recounts the story of how Bennett's Island, the site of an important Loyalist battle of the American Revolution has received official recognition with an historic marker.

During the raid, Major Richard Stockton, Chris's ancestor, and three other officers of the British forces were captured.

Transcribe Revolutionary War Pension Files

The United States National Archives and the National Park Service are collaborating on a special project to transcribe Revolutionary War pension files.

You can help make these important records of the first veterans of the United States easier to find and read in their online catalog. It's easy to get started, and you can transcribe as much or as little as you like. Learn more on the Citizen Archivist webpage: www.archives.gov/citizen-archivist/missions

10 Rules for Accepting (or Rejecting) Online Family Tree Hints

<https://familytreemagazine.com/research/online-family-tree-hints/>

If you have built a family tree on a subscription site, you are probably familiar with the hints to look at the records that have been discovered for you.

The hints can make it easy, too easy, to add people and events to your family tree. They can also make it easy to add in the wrong people and incorrect information. Diane Haddad provides advice in *Family Tree Magazine* for how to evaluate those hints.

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.

The community history project team members have toppled into quite a few underground habitations. Here Andrea Lister shares her journey to discover the story of Mrs. R.H. Harris.

Mrs. R. H. Harris and the QAIMNS

By Andrea Lister

While researching for the *Honouring Those Who Served Project* Gina Leigh noted that Mrs. R.H. Harris is on the *St John the Divine Anglican Honor Roll* as a nurse with the English Red Cross and on the Maple Ridge Legion Branch #88 Memorial Plaque. Using Annette Fulford's research as a base, I started researching Mrs. R.H. Harris.

Annette Constance (nee Browne-Clayton) Harris was the widow of Second Lieutenant Robert Hugh Harris (1877–1916). Born on 20 December 1868 to William Browne-Clayton, Esquire, and Caroline Barton of Browne's Hill, County Carlow, Ireland.



Detail of Browne-Clayton family on the steps of the stable on the grounds of Browne's Hill House circa 1889. Left to right: Robert 1870–1939 (the heir), Annette 1868–1948 Mary Caroline 1867–1955.

SOURCE: MICHAEL PURCELL, IRELAND GENEALOGY PROJECTS, [HTTPS://WWW.ICGP-WEB.COM/CARLOW/ROBERT_BROWNE.HTM](https://www.icgp-web.com/Carlow/Robert_Browne.htm)

The family descends from Sir William Browne of Abbas Roding, Essex and thus were considered part of the peerage. Sir William's second son Robert went to Ireland as an officer with Oliver Cromwell's army in the 1640s. By the 1700s, the Brownes owned extensive property in Carlow, Dublin, Kildare, and beyond, and were one of the most powerful dynasties in Ireland. Her father was William Clayton-Browne, Esquire.

The 1901 English census records Annette Browne-Clayton as a student nurse at the Derbyshire Royal Infirmary.

Annette left Liverpool on 10 August 1912 on the SS *Canada* with 1,235 other passengers arriving in Quebec on 18 August. Annette Browne-Clayton, age 43, listed her destination as Whonnock, BC and her intended occupation as fruit farmer. She married Robert Harris on 13 May 1913 at St. Paul's Church in Whonnock. Their wedding was to be "fashionable and personal" according to the 10 May 1913 *Carlow Sentinel*. Annette's rank was noted as "Lady" on the wedding registration.

The 25 September 1912 minutes of the Ladies Club of Whonnock note that Miss Browne-Clayton was elected as a member of the club.

Robert headed back to England within weeks of the declaration of war and enlisted with the British Army in August 1914. The 28 January 1915 *Vancouver Daily World* noted that Annette was part of the Women's Education Club of Columbian College along with Miss Edge. Robert was killed in action 28 September 1916 at the age of 39.

The 5 April 1916 minutes recorded the presentation to the Ladies Club of a *Roll of Honour of those from Whonnock serving in the C.E.F.* Mrs. Robert Harris is one of the names on the roll of honour. She is also one of the war widows who helped pay the mortgage for the hall.

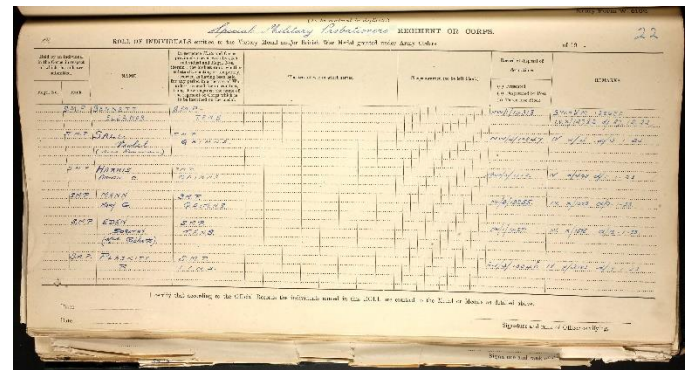
I initially looked for Annette in the Red Cross Volunteer Database (<https://vad.redcross.org.uk/>) and had no results. Then, I search for her in FindMyPast and found a link to her in the *British Army Medal Index Cards, 1914–1920*. Annette apparently put her nursing training to use and joined Queen Alexandra's Imperial Military Nursing Service Reserve as a Special Military Probationer—women who had little or no formal training as nurses, but who served under almost identical conditions of service to members of Voluntary Aid Detachments and did similar work.

The Queen Alexandra's Imperial Military Nursing Service (QAIMNS) was established in March 1902. Initially, nurses had to be single women of good social standing between 25 and 35 years old, and to have trained for three years at one of only 34 UK hospitals approved by the Nursing Board. However, owing to high casualty rates and the huge wartime expansion of the British Army, the restrictions were quickly relaxed. For the first time, married and working-class women were allowed to join. Annette, as a married or widowed woman in her forties, would now have been eligible.

By 1918, there were over 10,000 QAIMNS nurses. They served on every front and in every campaign including France, India, East Africa, Italy, Palestine, Egypt, Mesopotamia, Salonika, and Russia. The majority were demobilized between January and September 1919, though some women ventured overseas to seek new opportunities.

It appears that Annette Constance Harris qualified for her British War Medal and Victory Medal in 1922 so she was one of the women who sought new opportunities after the war. Unfortunately, few primary sources have survived for the British military nurses during the Great War so these medal rolls may be the only record of her service.

By 1939 she was living in Guildford, Surrey, England. Annette Constance (nee Browne-Clayton) Harris died in Salisbury, Wiltshire, England in 1948.



THE NATIONAL ARCHIVES OF THE UK; KEW, SURREY, ENGLAND; WAR OFFICE AND AIR MINISTRY: SERVICE MEDAL AND AWARD ROLLS, FIRST WORLD WAR. WO329; REF: 2324

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Annette Constance Harris, Salisbury, Wiltshire, England, Death date: 15 Feb 1948. England & Wales Government Probate Death Index 1858-2019.

Birth registration for Annette Clayton Browne. (indexed as Annette Clayton) Carlow. Group Registration ID: 7826806. Entry 174. www.irishgenealogy.ie

"British Nursing Services in the Great War," The Long, Long Trail, www.longlongtrail.co.uk/army/regiments-and-corps/british-nursing-services-in-the-great-war/

"British Military Nurses and the Great War: a Guide to the Services," The Western Front Association, www.westernfrontassociation.com/world-war-i-articles/british-military-nurses-and-the-great-war-a-guide-to-the-services/

"History and Heritage of British Army Nurses," British Army Nurses, <https://britisharmynurses.com/>

Marriage of Annette C Browne Clayton and Robert Hugh Harris. British Columbia Vital Statistics Agency. Marriage Date: 13 May 1913; Marriage Location: Whonnock; Registration Number: 1913-09-099936; BCA Number: B11381; GSU Number: 1983709.

QAIMNS World War I Queen Alexandra's Imperial Military Nursing Service QAIMNS Nurses, QARANC—Queen Alexandra's Royal Army Nursing Corps, www.qaranc.co.uk/qaimns.php

Queen Alexandra's Royal Army Nursing Corps, National Army Museum, www.nam.ac.uk/explore/queen-alexandras-royal-army-nursing-corps

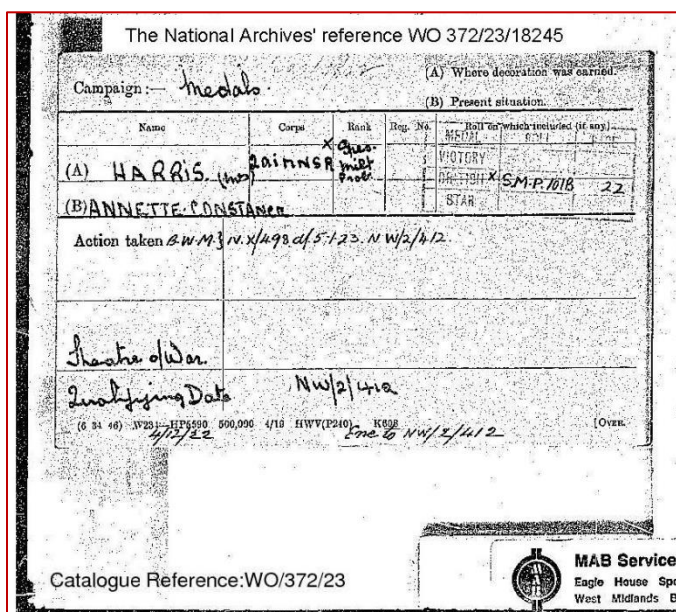
Robert Browne of Browneshill Co. Carlow, Ireland Genealogy Projects, www.igp-web.com/Carlow/Robert_Browne.htm

Royal Red Cross Database, British Army Nurses, <https://britisharmynurses.com/royal-red-cross-database/>

William Clayton Browne-Clayton, The Peerage, www.thepeerage.com/p36606.htm

"The Ladies Club minutes 1911 – 1919." *Whonnock Notes* No. 16 – Winter 2006/2007.

"In Memory of Those Who Fell." *Whonnock Notes* No. 22 – Spring 2016.



Annette Constance Harris's medal card.
UK NATIONAL ARCHIVES WO-372-23-18245

Technology Tips: What is AI?

By Darren Durupt

Artificial Intelligence or AI as it's more commonly referred to. The all seeing, all knowing, all dancing, amazing technology superhero. Whatever your technology task, or blocker, or unanswered question, just offer it to the AI wizard and all shall be resolved. But what is it really? How much should you really trust the capabilities of AI and just how accurate is it?

Like so many aspects of technology the answer is complex, and in some cases contentious. To start, I think it's important to understand what AI is, and isn't, before you can feel comfortable with its value and capabilities.

I'm sure most of us commonly identify AI as the pop culture concept of a sentient, free thinking, and most often, malevolent machine. The contemporary iteration of AI is, at least to date, much less sinister than pop culture would have us believe.

The *Oxford English Dictionary* defines artificial intelligence as "the capacity of computers or other machines to exhibit or simulate intelligent behaviour. The key word here is "simulate", though I think it's also key to question how we define intelligence. Modern AI doesn't really learn, you feed it data and YOU learn to refine your requests to more specific parameters to get your eventual result. You give it specific input, it processes the available and specified dataset, and then gives you output. If the output isn't exactly what you're looking for, refine, lather, rinse, repeat. In my world we call that a bot, not AI, and a bot is just a tool. A complex tool certainly but still just a tool. Don't let the marketing fool you. I see modern AI (bot) systems as analogous to printers at this stage.

There are some amazing printers on the market these days. Incredibly advanced 3D printers capable of creating profoundly complex structural shapes and details. Large format high resolution printers capable of printing the most amazingly rich pictures.

AI is the same in that it can perform tasks that are complex and large-scale and produce equally complex yet detailed results. The similarity between the tools is neither one performs these tasks without input and specific direction. And if the input is flawed, the output can, and most likely will be, equally flawed.

A printer will print whatever you send to it. If that data is formatted incorrectly the printer cannot differentiate. The printer provides you with what you

told it to print. Accidentally insert an image upside down, the printer prints your image upside down. Enter your 3D print measurements in centimetres instead of millimeters, the printer doesn't care. Copy a whole block of text from somewhere and paste it into your document before printing; the printer doesn't care, it still prints everything, but you've also still plagiarized. Your printer has no ability to analyze.

Equally, any AI tool will only utilize the informational prompts and parameters it is provided. The AI has no concept of right or wrong, fact or fiction, it simply provides you with output based on your specified input. To my knowledge, AI (bots) have no capacity to critically analyze and evaluate your data. I would not discourage anyone from using AI in your work but be aware of the limitations of the tool.

There are any number of ways you can apply AI in your research and writing. These systems are ideal for processing large datasets like census records and photo or DNA analysis. Ellen Thompson-Jennings (<https://blog.familyhistoryhound.com/>) has an interesting three-post series on her first experiences in using AI. A colleague of mine described using AI as akin to getting a brilliant eight-year-old to do their homework. It is very capable but profoundly lackadaisical. It will perform the exact task you give it but will take every shortcut possible. However, you apply the technology, always review the results carefully. There are many cases where AI has wholesale copied material from an existing source, or completely fabricated information to provide a result.

A recent legal case in British Columbia is a valuable cautionary tale in the use of AI.

<https://globalnews.ca/news/10238699/fake-legal-case-bc-ai/>

I particularly like the phrase "AI Hallucination". A much more marketing friendly term than falsifying data. Essentially, AI chatbots produce realistic sounding but incorrect information.

There are a plethora of spectacularly helpful tools in the world. Both physical and digital tools and AI can certainly be a valuable tool in your toolkit. Just remember, any tool is only as good as the maker who wields it.

Ask A Technology Question

Do you have a technology question? Email your tech question to mrfamilyhistory@gmail.com and your question will be answered anonymously in an upcoming column or become a presentation at one of our monthly meetings.

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



British Columbia's Logging Industry: Reports From the Early 20th Century

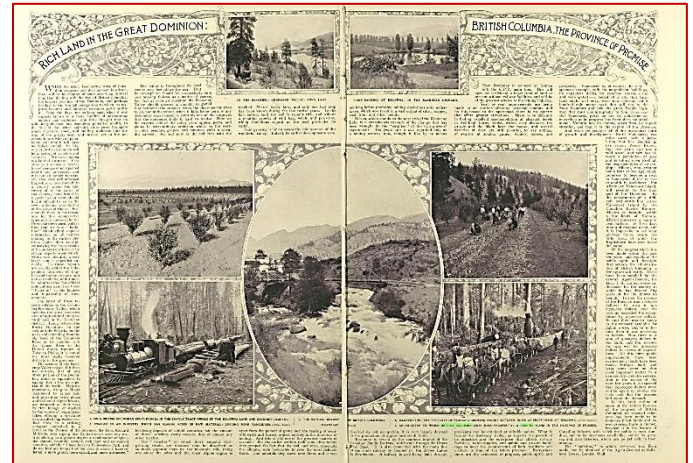
If you check out "The End of Big Logging" on the Maple Ridge Museum & Community Archives website, you will find a story that partly explains why timber harvesting and processing is no longer the dominant industry in our community.

I looked for economic context in *Points to the Past*, checking *The Economist* and *The Illustrated London News*. Both magazines provide an international perspective of the local logging industry.

In 1901 the population of British Columbia was about 190,000. By 1911 about 3,000 people lived in the

District of Maple Ridge, reduced to about 2,100 during the First World War, rising again to about 4,000 by 1921.

The lumber industry grew across the parts of the province served by national railways that could deliver to international markets. The *Illustrated London News* devoted a two-page spread to the industry in 1912.



British Columbia supplied timber products to international markets.

"RICH LAND IN THE GREAT DOMINION: BRITISH COLUMBIA THE PROVINCE OF PROMISE" *THE ILLUSTRATED LONDON NEWS*, VOLUME: 140, ISSUE: 3803, 09 MARCH 1912, PAGES 18-19.



Then, as now, fire spelled dire consequences for the timber industry. As the world economy recovered from the Great War, new uses for technological developments.

"FIGHTING FOREST FIRES IN BRITISH COLUMBIA: A NEW USE FOR AEROPLANES—TO REPORT AND CHECK OUTBREAKS", *THE ILLUSTRATED LONDON NEWS*, 27 OCTOBER 1923, PAGES 752-753.

However, the local economy suffered later in the post war decade, as you can learn in "Looking Back: The Fire That Wasn't" by Val Patenaude. Weather and forest fires took their toll.

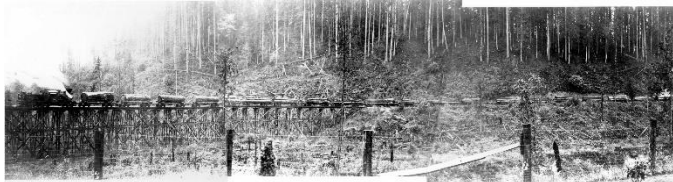
The slide into the Great Depression began with prairie droughts in the late 1920s. International trade declined, and the October 1929 stock market crash seriously impacted the economy of the natural resource dependent western-most province of Canada.

In July business activity was maintained just about the same level as in June, which was slightly better than a year ago. In the basic natural industries the greatest improvement has been in the newsprint industry where it was badly needed, and an increase of the export demand from the United States has led to an enlargement of output. There have also been improvements in other forestry industries and an expansion of both lumbering and logging operations in British Columbia and the Maritime Provinces. The Canadian lumbermen are still pressing the Government to insist upon British action to eliminate Russian competition. Mining has also been stimulated by

Four years into the Great Depression, *The Economist* provided a conflicted, but hopeful report on Canada's natural resource economy. This issue seems to settle on a message of gradual improvement.

"CANADA: POOR HARVEST, BUSINESS STUDY, BANKING COMMISSION."
THE ECONOMIST. VOLUME: 117, ISSUE: 4698, 09 SEPT 1933, PAGE 497.

Natural resources economies are vulnerable to the whims of international trade and supply exhaustion. The Maple Ridge timber industry that dominated the local landscape a hundred years ago, has faded from our everyday awareness. Understanding our current context is made easier by exploring the historical world view of where we live and work today.



Locomotive 55 sometime between 1921 and 1930 bringing logs out of timber berths W, Y, and Z for the Abernethy and Lougheed Logging Co. Each train car carried in the thousands of "feet board measure".

IMAGE P01468, MAPLE RIDGE MUSEUM & COMMUNITY ARCHIVES

SOURCES

"The End of Big Logging", Maple Ridge Museum & Community Archives, <https://mapleridgemuseum.org/the-end-of-big-logging/>

Canada Year Books, Dominion Bureau of Statistics
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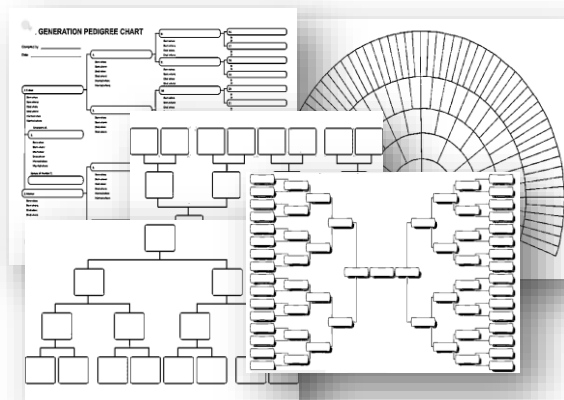
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Patenaude, Val "Looking Back: The Fire That Wasn't". *Maple Ridge/Pitt Meadows News*, Black Press Media, 17 August 2017,
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Roots to Branches: Using Family Tree Diagrams

By Brenda L. Smith

We speak of our family tree as an entity in our imaginations, an understanding of our place in the world. Sometimes the tree is a picture of our family in a frame on the living room wall. We speak of online trees and we build trees online. For the family historian, tree diagrams take several formats and serve a range of uses. Tree charts are a traditional way to display the results of research—a graphic report in chart form.



Pedigree, ancestor, descendant, fan, and hourglass charts.

BRENDA L. SMITH

Traditional charts, used across the world and over centuries, illustrate family lineages, primarily to document rights to wealth and power. The professions of genealogist and herald grew out of this requirement for authentication. While the diagrams are used by family historians in the modern era for some of the same purposes, tree charts support the common drive to know our roots for their own sake.

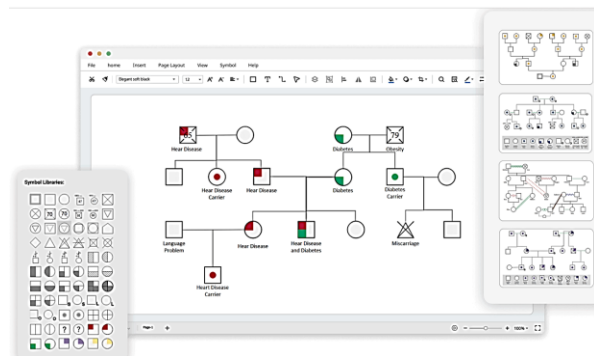


The Marriage of the Prince of Wales with Princess Alexandra of Denmark, Windsor, 10 March 1863 1863-65

WILLIAM POWELL FRITH (1819-1909), OIL ON CANVAS | 222.7 x 309.8 CM | ROYAL TRUST COLLECTION, RCIN 404545

The right to wealth and power is an essential motive for the creation of family trees. For example, between Queen Victoria, mother of the groom, and King Christian IX of Denmark, father of the bride, in this gathering represent the royal families of Belgium, Denmark, Germany, Greece, Luxembourg, Norway, Romania, Spain, Sweden, and the United Kingdom at the dawn of the 20th century.

Charting relationships within a family is a valuable method for solving research problems. A chart can serve analytical technique by mapping research results. It can be useful for unpacking a document, such as a letter filled with family news, or local history in newspapers or memoirs, that name numerous individuals. Sketching relationships mentioned during an interview/conversation is helpful for fact checking. Specific interests can be demonstrated using specialized charts such as genograms and DNA sequencing.



“Free Online Genogram Maker”. Counsellors and medical practitioners use genograms to elicit and analyze interpersonal relations.

WWW.EDRAWMAX.COM/GENOGRAM/GENOGRAM-MAKER

Since the 1980s software generated trees have become easy, efficient information management tools. Not only can they store vast quantities of text and images, but include organization, fact checking, and reporting functions. Many family history applications offer online support and collaboration options.

The ability to share data is based on the charts you build to express your research findings.

Digital trees are tools for harvesting and collating data. For visual learners a diagram can facilitate the shared understanding of lineage and relationships. The researcher is able to isolate details such as patterns of migration behaviours, occupations, and medical occurrences. Online collaborative trees engage research partnership and audience participation. Family tree software can generate trees

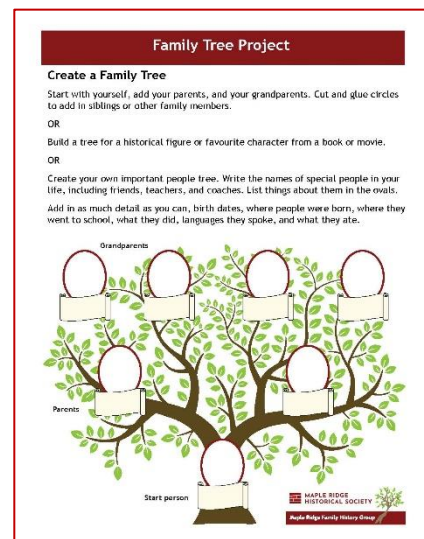
from local use and from imported data via the GEDCOM universal format www.gedcom.org.

There are numerous sources for chart templates. Check your family history application for blank forms or use the app to create a range of reports from your accumulated data. You may choose to search for online templates such as:

- Cyndi’s List “Charts and Forms” www.cyndislist.com/charts
- National Genealogical Society “Free Charts and Templates” www.ngsgenealogy.org/free-resources/charts
- FamilySearch Blog “Free Printable Family Tree Templates and Online Family Tree Creator” www.familysearch.org/en/blog/family-tree-templates-family-tree-make

You can download this family tree template and other activities on the Maple Ridge Family History Group’s “Family History Activities” page.

www.mapleridgemuseum.org/family-history-activities



Research News

2024 BC Vital Events Release expected in May

<https://royalbcmuseum.bc.ca/about/our-work/publications-news/latest-news/vital-events-release-2024-expected-be-released-may>

The annual release of death (2003) and marriage (1948) events from the BC Statistics Agency is expected in May 2024.

Ontario Marriage Registrations

www.ancestry.ca/search/collections/7921/

Ancestry has added 247,918 Ontario marriage registrations for 1940 from the Archives of Ontario to its collection, Ontario, Canada, Marriages, 1826-1940.

Department of Immigration: Juvenile Inspection Report Cards

https://heritage.canadiana.ca/view/oocihm.lac_mikan_161388

This collection consists of juvenile inspection report cards created by Immigration officials as they carried out regular inspection of children brought to Canada by various organizations in Great Britain, such as Barnardo's, Middlesmore, Quarrier's, the Salvation Army, the Catholic Emigration Association and the British Immigration and Colonization Association. There are also inspection cards for European children, including those brought to Canada by the Armenian Relief Association of Canada and the Canadian Jewish War Orphans Committee. The inspections were conducted by departmental inspectors or individuals designated by them, such as local ministers. The eight reels in this collection consist of inspection report cards arranged in alphabetical order by child's surname. Most of the cards date from 1920 to 1932, with a few as early as 1913.

Each card includes the following information: name, age or date of birth, date of arrival, name of ship, name of Home/Union, dates and results of inspections, and name and address of employer(s). Many of the cards include follow-up comments.

Parks Canada Heritage Sites

<https://parks.canada.ca/lhn-nhs>

There are 171 national historic sites in Canada administered by Parks Canada. National historic sites include sacred spaces, archaeological sites, battlefields, heritage houses, historic districts, places of scientific discovery, and much more. The Parks Canada website includes information about the history and culture the historic sites they administer.

Update on PRDH

www.prdh-igd.com/en/home

The Drouin Institute has made a huge update to the Programme de recherche en démographie historique (PRDH – Research Programme in Historical Demography) database.

A subscription to PRDH-IGD.com now provides access to all French Canadian individuals and families who lived in Quebec from the very beginning of the French colony up to 1861. PRDH is a database of Catholic, and some Protestant, baptisms, marriages and burials recorded in Quebec between 1621 and 1861, as well as a genealogical dictionary of families commonly known as family reconstructions.

New at RootsIreland

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

- Electoral Register for Co. Monaghan, 1938-1939
- Addition of 1539 baptismal records and 362 marriage records in County Tipperary for the Roman Catholic parish of Clerihan, 1852-1900
- Addition of 4,778 new Cork RC baptismal and marriage records

Age Calculator

<https://freepages.rootsweb.com/~fgris/family/brown/agecalc.html>

Have you ever struggled with calculating what age an individual was at a specific event? This calculator will do four different calculations regarding age. It has two methods of calculating a birthdate, given the date of death and age at death.

South Africa Church Records

www.findmypast.co.uk/blog/new/south-africa-records

FindMyPast has added:

- over 785,000 baptism records spanning 1660–2011
- over 314,000 new church marriage records
- 4,800 new burial records
- South Africa Church Membership Lists

Plus, they've added over 102,000 pages to their newspaper archive including the *Morecambe Visitor*.

Introducing BanyanDNA

<https://familytreemagazine.com/podcasts/introducing-banyandna-an-interview-leah-larkin/>

In this episode of Best Websites, New Media Editor and Guest Host Rachel Christian interviews Leah Larkin about an exciting new genealogy tool called BanyanDNA.

The New Year's Challenge—Mapping Their Journey

At the January meeting members were challenged to choose an ancestor and create a map illustrating their travels. Each of us surely has an ancestor/family that changed location during their lives. It might have been moving to a neighboring village/town/city or to another province/state/county or even to another country. It would be interesting to do a map of their journey, particularly if you are putting together a family story.

The Challenge is for you to choose an ancestor and create a map of their travels (maybe this ancestor changed location more than once in their lifetime).

- Consider the following:
- When did they travel – timeframe.
- What travel means were available at the time (on foot, horseback, boat, train, ship). Don't discount the distances people travelled on foot.
- Places that they stopped along the way. If they travelled to another country, after arrival, did they still have to travel to reach their final destination?

A detailed map will put this all in perspective, enhancing your story.

The results will be shared at our April Meeting. If you already have maps that is great. Share your work!

Mapping Resources

A Letter From Private D Aikin of the 186th Battalion

<https://uploads.knightlab.com/storymapjs/aba81b1e3abac802db85fe05d3facc9a/the-letter-of-private-private-david-aikin/index.html>

An interesting project that maps Private David Aikin's journey to England through a letter he wrote to his wife in March 1917.

Lisa Louise Cooke's Genealogy Gems

www.youtube.com/@GenealogyGems/

Lisa Louise Cooke's Genealogy Gems YouTube channel has a number of videos on how to map your research that might be useful for the January challenge.

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.

Goad's Fire Insurance Map for Vancouver 1912 (georectified)

<https://opendata.vancouver.ca/explore/dataset/goads-fire-insurance-map-1912-georectified/map/?location=12,49.24813,-123.13076>

In 1912, Vancouver, Point Grey and South Vancouver were three separate municipalities District Lot 301 and Hastings Townsite had both been annexed by the City of Vancouver in 1911. All three municipalities are included in the map, but Stanley Park was not included. This map shows the location, building materials and footprint of buildings; the original water line where it differs from the 1912 shoreline; some proposed developments; electoral wards; legal land descriptions; lot sizes; street and lane widths; and old street names that had been recently changed.

The digitized maps are available to download in ECW and TIFF format. This map is in the public domain.

David Rumsey Map Collection

www.davidrumsey.com

The David Rumsey Map Collection was started over 35 years ago and contains more than 200,000 maps. More than 57,000 maps are now keyword searchable. You can search for place names or keywords such as mill, cotton, winery, or search for the name of a business.

Images from the *David Rumsey Map Collection* may be reproduced or transmitted, but not for commercial use. Please give image credit to "David Rumsey Map Collection, David Rumsey Map Center, Stanford Libraries."

Maps at U.S. NARA

www.archives.gov/research/genealogy/maps

The National Archives and Records Administration (NARA) has custody of over 5 million maps. Maps and related cartographic records are often useful for genealogical research.

Scottish Maps

<https://maps.nls.uk/>

The Scottish National Library's Map images website, you can access and view over a quarter of a million maps as high-resolution, colour, zoomable images.

Welsh Tithe Maps

<https://places.library.wales/>

Search and browse over 300,000 entries and their accompanying apportionment documents using original and present-day maps.

Family History Events

Abbotsford Genealogical Society

<https://abbygs.ca>

Clearbrook Library, 32320 George Ferguson Way, Abbotsford. Must pre-register.

- **Beyond BMD** with Erica Williams, March 2, 2024, 1:30 PM (PST). Free.
- **Daughters of the American Revolution** with Barbara Chaworth-Musters, April 18, 2024, 1:30 PM (PST), Free.

BCGS

www.bcgs.ca/bcgs-events

- **BCGS Members' Virtual Meeting & AGM & The Joy of Discovery**, with Walter Udell, (Zoom) March 13, 2024, 7:00 to 9:00 PM (PST).
- **BCGS Writers Group** facilitated by Sue Sullivan, March 26, 2024, 6:00 PM -8:00 PM. In person at the BCGS Library

Legacy Family Tree Webinars

<https://familytreewebinars.com/upcoming-webinars/>

- **Using DNA To Identify Irish Ancestral Locations** with Michelle Leonard, March 6, 2024, 11:00 AM (PST). Free.
- **Getting the Scoop on Your Ancestors from Old Newspapers** with Moshe Etlis, Mar 12, 2024: 11:00 AM PDT
- **Top 10 Digital Repositories for Mexican Research** with Lisa Medina, March 15, 2024: 11:00 AM PDT
- **Non-Conformism in England and Wales** with Jenny Joyce Apr 2, 2024: 6:00 PM PDT.
- **Why can't I find it? Locating surnames in online databases** with Carol Baxter Apr 11, 2024: 9:00 PM PDT.

Nova Scotia Genealogy Virtual Conference

www.nsgenconference.ca

- **Explore Your Ancestral Ocean Playground**, May 4–5, 2024. Via Zoom. register before March 18th and you can submit a query for their Brick Wall Buster presentation. Fee: \$39 CDN for GANS Members; \$69 for non-members

Ontario Genealogical Society

<https://conference2024.ogs.on.ca/>

- **2024 Conference, An Interactive Experience: Explore, Engage, Enjoy!**, June 14-16, 2024. In person in Toronto. Fee: \$239 CDN members / \$279 non-members. A la carte options available.

Surrey Libraries

www.surreylibraries.ca/services/family-history

Free. Registration required. Email or call to register.

- **Genealogy Orientation**, Saturdays, March 16, 2024, April 20, 10:30 AM to 11:30 AM. Cloverdale.
- **Family History DNA Chat** Fridays, March 8, April 12, 2024, 2:30 to 3:30 PM. Cloverdale.
- **Fun Family History Friday**. Fridays, March 22, April 26, 2024, 2:30 to 3:30 PM. Cloverdale.
- **Top Tips for Researching Your German Ancestors** with James M. Beidler. Thursday, March 7, 2024, 11:00 AM to 12:00 AM (PST). Online.
- **Prison and Court Records** with Andrea Lister, Thursday, March 14, 2024, 10:30 AM to 12:00 PM, Cloverdale.

Vancouver Public Library

<https://www.vpl.ca/>

- **Blue Pencil Writing Consults: Get Professional Editing Advice on Your Writing Project**, March 12, 2024, 7:30 PM to 8:30 PM. Online event. Please register at least 14 days in advance and email your submission.

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.

March 6, 2024: Short Program Planning Session (rescheduled from our February Meeting): An opportunity for member input. We need your suggestions — research guides, shared topics, guest presenters, challenges, or simply more time for answering your questions. Share your thoughts.

April 3, 2024: New Year's Challenge: Mapping Their Journey—The Results: At the January meeting members were challenged to choose an ancestor and create a map illustrating their travels. The focus was to include—reason for the journey, timeframe, types of transportation, description of stops along the way and any other highlights that enhanced their ancestor's journey.

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