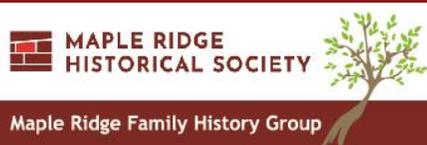


# Community, Past, Present & Future



## Family History Newsletter

November 2024

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

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The Family History group supports members with 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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### A Secret Identity and a Family Reunited

By Ron Williams

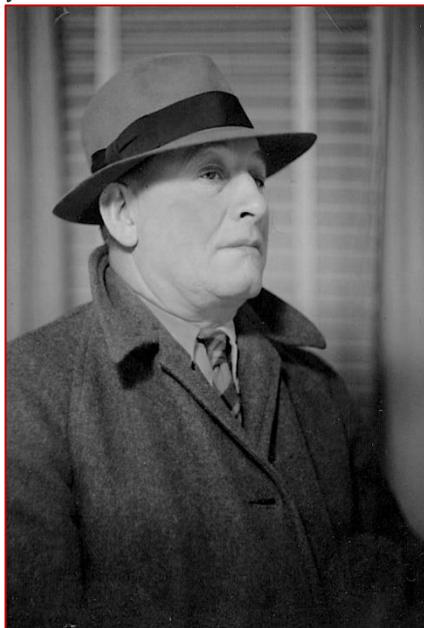
“He probably had a family that he abandoned.”

“He said we were from nobility, and he was researching a lost inheritance.”

Growing up, these were the wild theories bandied around concerning my paternal grandfather. While these bombastic proclamations made for wonderful family lore, they remained untested, an unfortunate truth my father sadly rued. It would remain that way until 2015 when I decided to try and change it.

I was hopeful I’d be able to prove or refute some of the legend. Never did I expect to discover scandal and a secret identity, all while putting back together an estranged family.

My grandfather—Alfred Victor Williams—arrived on the streets of Vancouver in 1947, quickly becoming a homeowner with a new bride and a child. He was fifty-seven years old. He’d live another twenty years, but when he died in 1968, he took with him all details of his first fifty-seven years.



Thus, my goal was set: discover everything and anything about my grandfather’s first fifty-seven years.

Emotionally seduced, I began with a subscription to a well-known web-based genealogy site. Immediately, I learned that my grandfather was born in 1889 in Worcestershire, England, and that he sailed abroad at age sixteen, destined for Saint John, New Brunswick, Canada. Sadly, there seemed no online trace of my grandfather in the ensuing years.

In addition to online resources, I soon came to possess a magical box containing some important clues.

When my grandfather passed in 1968,

my father and aunt kept a number of photographs and documents and placed them in a cardboard box. It

seems this box was dragged from house to house but never really examined. This box proved to be the key to unlocking the mystery.

In a 1959 Social Security Application my grandfather entered that he had indeed traveled from England to Saint John in 1906 and that he ventured immediately to Toronto until departing in 1910. He further reported a 1942 return to Toronto, followed by a short stay in Edmonton before finally settling in Vancouver in 1947.

9. Addresses where you have resided in the twenty years immediately preceding the date of this application. This is to include residence **outside** Canada as well as **within** Canada. Give complete detail. Changes in street address within the same city or town do not need to be given. If more space is needed, use an ordinary sheet of paper and pin it to this form.

FROM		TO		City, Town, Village or Post Office	County or District and Province or Territory	Country
Month	Year	Month	Year			
1.	Nov 1944	Oct 1944	1944	Toronto	Ontario	
2.	Oct 1944	July 1947		Edmonton	Alberta	
3.	July 1947	March 1959		Vancouver	BC	
4.						

**An unmailed 1959 social security application provided some answers to the puzzle.**

COLLECTION OF RON WILLIAMS

Also, I discovered two photos each featuring children. There was a class picture marked with an "X" beside the face of one bright-eyed, primary student, denoting, "my son, Donald Roy Williams." While I recognized my father's name, the date displayed on the sign predated my father's birth by twelve years. Was this evidence that my grandfather had an earlier child? A child who curiously bore the same name as my father?

A second photo looked to be taken in the 1940s and featured two young girls around the ages of four and six. Consulting my modest family tree, I was unable to identify them as nieces. Were these my grandfather's children?



**Circa 1940s photo of two young girls. Could one, or both, be Alfred Victor Williams' daughters?**

COLLECTION OF RON WILLIAMS

Next was a 1942 letter my grandfather received from his elder brother, Charles. I read, "Dear Alfred, I think I got one of the pleasantest shocks of my life when I was handed your letter yesterday, as I had long given you up for dead...in the last war." Turns out my grandfather had been estranged from his England family for the entirety of his adult life.

Another family letter shared that my grandfather was expecting a not unsubstantial inheritance. According to my dad, this was a promise my grandfather would pursue until his final days.

Another letter from an Uncle George maintained that the Williams family was "castle bred" at Corbet Castle and had originated with the arrival of William the Conqueror.

A final item was a legal affidavit featuring the testimony of one William Turley, a first cousin. I took notice of declaration seven explaining "since his entry into the United States...[my grandfather] had been known as Roy Hammond." Roy Hammond—the secret identity was the detail that both perplexed me but also served as the essential clue to discovering my grandfather's missing years.

6. The said Alfred Victor Williams has recently returned to Toronto, Canada, and he is, I am convinced, my first cousin.  
 7. Since his entry into the United States he informs me he has been going under the name of Roy Hammond.  
 AND I make this solemn Declaration conscientiously believing it to be true, and knowing that it is of the same force and effect as if made under oath, and by virtue of "The Canada Evidence Act."

**Legal affidavit from William Turley with Alfred William's alias, while perplexing, also provided the essential clue.**

COLLECTION OF RON WILLIAMS

Some progress, but I still lacked concrete details of my grandfather's life between 1910 and 1942, from age twenty to fifty-two.

Exhausting all avenues, I decided to turn my attention to the people. While my grandfather's contemporaries would be long gone, I reasoned that their descendants may possess documents or letters.

After much fuss, I was able to connect with and establish a warm relationship with, Nicki Branigan, a granddaughter of Charles Williams, my grandfather's older brother. Playing a hunch, I forwarded Nicki the school photo, which she identified as her father, Bernard.

Also, I was able to connect with descendants of my grandfather's younger brother, Dennis Williams. It turns out the Dennis Williams' family had been separated for years, first cousins blindly living only

kilometres apart. It was an unsolicited honour when I was told that I had “put the Williams family back together.”

I was pleased to have connected my father with his lost family in England. My progress on the mystery, however, had stalled. Time for more desperate measures.

A DNA test by my father would divulge no smoking guns. In truth we couldn't be sure nothing was revealed. Potential half-siblings to my father could have been born as early as 1907, meaning we were more likely to find half nieces or half nephews or even half grandnieces and grandnephews. Centimorgans made these relationships possible but we were unable to ascertain anything concrete.

Next was Michelle Osbourne, “professional psychic medium and teacher.” My father and I were dazzled with curious details and soon believed the key to discovering my grandfather's whereabouts was to follow the water. Could that mean he was in the navy? Perhaps incarcerated at Alcatraz?

I'd been avoiding consulting an expert in the spirit of “doing things myself.” It was, after all, my mystery to solve. However, it was time to admit I'd bitten off more than I could chew.

I was fortunate to connect with a wonderful expert who eventually shared two missives:

1. "You're lucky. You have a mystery."
2. "You have all you need to discover your grandfather's missing years. Go back and do a comprehensive check of all available census records."

While I'd perused all census reports covering Canada, the United States and England, my research techniques were often lacking due to my tendency to become easily distracted.

I decided to focus on my grandfather's alias in the 1940 United States Federal census as stated in the 1942 affidavit by William Turley. Made sense, right?

Getting started, I identified several Roy Hammonds with details somewhat matching my grandfather. However, it seemed that each time I identified a potential match, I was able to just as quickly eliminate the said match with some other document. I was determined to persevere.

After some months, the online research stars united and in divine intervention, I was able to link my Alfred Victor Williams to his confusing alter ego.

Divine intervention was a Social Security Application record for a Gordon Roy Hammond; however, the birthdate and mother's name matched my grandfather. Discovering this document introduced several other documents. With corroborating details such as eye colour, profession, immigration date, and matching signature, I was certain I'd discovered the majority of my grandfather's missing years.

There were marriage certificates and divorce documents. I found newspaper clippings, arrests, and court records. And, yes, there was plenty of scandal including bigamy and adultery.

So, what of the fantastical theories presented in the introduction? It turned out he was residing in the United States and he was married prior...not always to only one woman at a time.

As for children, in the 1940 census he is listed as father to a daughter. Perhaps one of the two girls in the photo? It's possible.

Castle bred? My genealogical efforts did link a Williams to a member of the Corbet family. How close—or distant—may form the basis for my next genealogical project.

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*The Lost Fifty-Seven: A Genealogical Journey of Discovery, Deception, Secrets and Scandal* by Ron Williams will be available in all formats on Amazon and other locations this November. Visit <http://www.ronwilliamsmemoirs.com>



Alfred Victor Williams, looking dapper and ready for a sale, Granville Street, Vancouver, BC (circa 1950s).

PHOTOGRAPH BY  
FONCIE PULICE.  
COLLECTION OF RON  
WILLIAMS

## Technology Tips: Does AI Cite Real Sources?

By Andrea Lister

Generative artificial intelligence (AI) tools like Grammarly, Chat GTP, and so forth can make up the information they provide. It is important to remember that many of these tools are not searching the internet for information but are only referencing information in a database.

AI tools can create fake citations for real authors for sources like books and journal articles including information and quotes from sources that do not exist.

Titles of articles are often false, generated from words from other titles that the author may have written. It is important to validate sources, facts, and quotations before using them in your family history.

Search for the resource's title and author using a library database or Google. Often citations are incomplete. For example, the link is only to the home page of a website but not a specific article within that website.

Always fact check.

### November 6, 2024: “Lest We Forget”; Remembering the First World War

The November Short Program has three parts:

#### The Maple Ridge Cenotaph Project—Honouring Those Who Served:

Presentations by team members, sharing their research of the soldiers listed on the cenotaph. The project goal was to discover the story of their lives before enlistment, details of their military service and the circumstances of their death.

#### Remembering a Returning Soldier

The story of a returning soldier with a connection to Maple Ridge will also be part of our “Lest We Forget” segment.

The soldiers who survived the devastation of the First World War faced new challenges on returning home, adjusting to civilian life and changes within families and communities.

#### Your First World War Ancestor

Most of us have an ancestor who served in the First World War. This is an opportunity to acknowledge the courage and sacrifices these men and women made for their country. Share their story.

## The Maple Ridge Cenotaph Project—Honouring Those Who Served Update

By Gina Leigh

The approach of Remembrance Day is a fitting time to summarize the latest community history project undertaken by the Maple Ridge Family History Group. Articles about this project appeared in issues of this newsletter in 2023—May, September, and November.

The goal was to discover the stories of those men who lost their lives during the First World War or shortly afterwards, and who are named on the Maple Ridge Cenotaph and Whonnock Lake plaque. Over the past year and a half our team of researchers located hundreds of records to add to the hundreds of records previously located by Annette Fulford, who undertook the original research on her own initiative.

Of the 51 men named, only one continues to elude us—L Griffin. The other men, boys of 15 and 17 in two cases, enlisted in the Canadian Expeditionary Force and shipped off for England and France, leaving their worried families behind. It has been a privilege to undertake this work and bring back a little of the history of those from our community who lost their lives in the First World War.

Biographies summarizing the war service and connection to our community were written for each man. Andrea Lister created an interactive website to enable a greater number of people to have access to the biographies. A history of the Maple Ridge Cenotaph also appears on the webpage. This digital resource can be viewed at

<https://mapleridgemuseum.org/honouring-those-who-served/>

The biographies are a small part of the records located. Now we turn over our entire research to the Maple Ridge Museum and Community Archives (MRMCA). A USB with the research was presented to museum and archives Executive Director Shea Henry at a meeting of the Maple Ridge Historical Society, on October 30, 2024. Those wanting more information than what is contained in the biographies can contact MRMCA.

We welcome people to contact us at [mrfamilyhistory@gmail.com](mailto:mrfamilyhistory@gmail.com) by anyone who has photographs or further information.

## 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.

### Maiden Name Meander

By Gina Leigh

My friend Mike is well aware of his Icelandic and English heritage. Recently he mentioned that his Dad’s second name was Maspero, which he quite liked, but didn’t know where it had come from. I thought it might have been a female ancestor’s surname—as we know, it wasn’t uncommon for a woman’s birth name to be given to her children, or to grandchildren. I also had a niggling suspicion of the origins of the name. I asked for and received Mike’s permission to research his family.

Mike told me his grandparents’ names (he only knew his grandmother’s given name, Daphne). Using the BC Archives genealogical records I quickly found the death registrations for both grandparents. Details were sparse on Daphne’s death registration: her father’s surname (which wasn’t Maspero) and her mother’s given names. Daphne was known by both her father’s and stepfather’s surnames and initially I followed the wrong track. Her parents were married in Seattle, Washington which also contributed to going in the wrong direction.

As it turned out both Daphne’s parents had been married twice. (Interestingly, her stepfather died in Hammond.) Eventually I matched the correct set of parents and discovered Daphne’s mother’s birth name was Maspero.

A further search for Maspero resulted in a BC marriage registration for a woman who turned out to be Daphne’s aunt—the full names of both parents

were recorded. The vital records also showed that Daphne’s mother and aunt were born in England.

After that it was a matter of searching the English censuses and piecing together records and families to discover what I suspected – Maspero is an Italian surname. The first Maspero arrived in England in early 1800 and married an English woman. Now wasn’t that a surprise for my Icelandic/English friend!

## Points to the Past

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

By Brenda L. Smith



*Points to the Past* is a portal for original publications provided free to the residents of British Columbia’s through the Electronic Learning Network, a consortium of the libraries of University of British Columbia, University of Victoria, and Simon Fraser University. The agreement allows access to Gale Primary Sources, nearly 200 million pages of digitized historical content – maps, photos, newspapers, manuscripts, pamphlets, portraits, and more. Access is available either through libraries or directly at the site with no log in or authentication.

This column explores a selection of individual collections from the 30 data sets nested within the site to introduce some of the potential for family historians to further their research. For a list of the collections see [www.pointstothepast.ca/resources.html](http://www.pointstothepast.ca/resources.html)

### Charles Eugène Bedaux: 1886-1944

During my childhood in the Peace River Country of northeast British Columbia, I heard the adults around me sometimes share memories of “the Crazy Frenchman” and his expedition. There was occasional mention of abandoned relics found out in the mountains, or a horse descended from those animals that had been left behind.

More recently, I researched the trapper Frank “Shorty” Weber who was briefly involved with the expedition. Curiosity peaked, I went looking for more and found *The Champagne Safari*, a documentary of the 1,200 mile (over 1,900 km) expedition undertaken by Charles Bedaux and friends from Edmonton, Alberta to Fort Ware, BC during the summer and fall of 1934. Taking with them five Citroen half-track tanks, 130

horses, gourmet foods and champagne, a library, a film crew, and automobiles, Bedaux with his wife and friends, set off for Telegraph Creek on the Stikine River.

Bedaux was a French engineer and manufacturing consultant who advocated efficiency through assembly line production called the Bedaux System. His grandiose Bedaux Canadian Sub-Arctic Expedition was a failure due to extravagant aspirations unmatched by efficient planning.

# WHAT WAS WRONG WITH HIM?

READING TIME • 10 MINUTES 55 SECONDS

**W**HAM—as they say in the comic strips. The Duke and Duchess Windsor had their seventy bags packed and on the pier, and were about to embark for America to stop housing and industrial conditions, when an angry barrage from the public press forced a last-minute cancellation of the trip. What happened?

The astounding attack was inaugurated when the Baltimore Federation of Labor, a unit of the American Federation of Labor, adopted a resolution censuring the visit. Particular condemnation was aimed at dapper Charles E. Bedaux, variously referred to as adviser, guide, and sponsor of the famous couple on their proposed tour. Other labor groups joined in the battle, and the trip was off—mainly because of Mr. Bedaux.

One million workers in more than 1,000 factories throughout the world knew the name Bedaux. His system of human-power measurement had directly affected their lives and incomes. But Mr. John Reading Public picked up his newspaper and wondered: "Who is this fellow Bedaux? And what's so wrong with him anyway?"

In the newspapers at that moment Mr. Bedaux was being denounced. He was being referred to as "the father of the most odious, inhuman 'efficiency' scheme ever invented." He was being described as Mephistophelean, a monster who had "made his money from the sweat of the textile workers." He was charged with having invented an "antilabor stretch-out system," with having thrown thousands out of employment.

He was accused of concealing "ill-tor motives" in offering himself as sponsor of the Duke and Duchess. He was denounced for "attempting to promote Nazism." By implication, he was called a notorious reactionary and a schemer, and the "wages company" for His Royal Highness the Duke of Windsor.

So spiteful was the envenomed lambasting of Charles E. Bedaux in newspapers, so unmitigated was the hatred manifested toward the man by labor organizations, that it seemed incredible that so tremendous a bogeyman, if these attacks were truly justified, should not have been called sooner to public attention.

Mr. Bedaux, to use his own phrase, was "butchered" by the press—and the best of it was still to come.

It might be apt to write a few lines now, in calmer days, about Charles Bedaux, and to write something besides hysterical vilifications.

He's not in Who's Who. He is in the Social Register. Until this year he had more than the Duke or Duchess of Windsor. They met them through mutual friends. They were married in his 100-room, four-century-old Chateau de Candé, near Monts, France.

**W**EAVER facts about the man have appeared since those stormy days when Bedaux cabled the Duke recently that he must withdraw as guest on the proposed tour in America. Most of the general picture the public has obtained of the man comes from here. Briefly, is the true story of Charles Bedaux, industrial engineer, inventor, amateur explorer. It is the type of story for Charles Bedaux has a fondness for a success story. It is a mixture of Horatio Alger and Peck's Bad Boy for Charles Bedaux is a devotee of an otherwise estimable family.

He was born in France on October 10, 1886. His family was scholarly, respectable, possessed of a flair for mathematics. Bedaux's father was a mathematician and designer of bridges, his three brothers, mathematicians, today are in government service. A sister holds three doctor's degrees.

Charles was the only member of the family who did not do well at school. Roistering, life-loving, adventurous,

## What manner of man, what kind of past turned the Windsors back so suddenly from America? Here is the true story BY FRED ALLHOFF

He cut most of his classes in favor of Paris taverns. At nineteen, with the help of his mother, he ran away to America. He arrived here in 1906, knowing no one, unable to speak a word of English.

In a French saloon on Sixth Avenue, in New York City, not far from the old Hippodrome Theater, Charles Bedaux got his first job—washing bottles. He lost it later because it included delivery of cases of liquor which he was not then sturdy enough to carry.

Shortly after that he got work as a weaver in a silk mill in Hoboken, New Jersey. He lived in a cheap board-house, where he met an older man, a typesetter on a Hoboken newspaper, who took a liking to young Bedaux and patiently taught him the English language.

Bedaux says he has often tried to find that friend of thirty years ago. So far, he has not succeeded.

It was in the Hoboken silk mill, Bedaux says, that he first recognized the necessity for some method, in labor, to protect the workman. Himself a worker, he was earning fair wages doing piecemeal, when competition forced his employer to cut drastically the rate being paid Bedaux and his fellow piecemealers.

A Negro laborer he met on the street told him to try to get work on a new construction job—the building of the first tunnel beneath the East River.

Bedaux has often been referred to as a former "sand bender." He was not that. He worked for a contractor, tunnel. For many weeks he earned what was to him insignificant wages. He contracted the "bends" and was hauled away to a hospital.

When he got out, he found waiting for him at his boardinghouse a postcard from a school of languages where, some weeks previously, he had applied for work.

He was sent to Philadelphia, where he taught French for ten dollars a week. One of his pupils, with whom he discussed the piecemeal system of American labor, told him to get back into the industrial field.

He did that, and, landed with a chemical manufacturing concern at St. Louis, Missouri.

Three things happened shortly in St. Louis: He married Blanche Allen, who had won, in a contest, the title of "most beautiful girl in Missouri." He had a son, Charles E. Bedaux II, born in St. Louis, June 18, 1906. And he hit upon the "Bedaux system of human-power motion." The "Bedaux system" of human-power motion, which he has since patented, is a method of measuring the efficiency of the worker. Many explanations have been advanced covering the invention of the Bedaux System. Bedaux's own explanation, given to me recently in his sixty-third-floor office in New York's Chrysler Building, is this:

## "MEASUREMENT OF HUMAN POWER"

Mr. Justice Luxmoore dismissed an action yesterday in which certain workmen complained of the employment by the defendants, Richard Johnson and Nephew, Limited, of certain observers or "time studiers" in their works under the Bedaux Company's system of "human power measurement," which involved timing men at their work. Charles E. Bedaux, Limited, were also joined as defendants.

The case is reported on page 4.

Many commentators suggest that Bedaux undertook the Canadian adventure for publicity to distract from legal challenges and growing resistance to his business methods. THE TIMES OF LONDON, 30 NOVEMBER 1934, ISSUE 46925.

Back at his Chateau de Candé in France, Bedaux and his wife hosted the wedding of Edward, Duke of Windsor and Wallis Simpson in June 1937. For their honeymoon he arranged a tour of Nazi Germany.

**BOGEYMAN**

**REACTOR**

**ARCHIVE OF LABOR**

**SCHEMER**

**ANTI PROLETARIAN**

**INFLUENTIAL**

**FASSCIST**

**INFLUENTIAL**

"While in St. Louis I made a study in my spare time of the function of power plants. Later, with four other Americans, he formed the American Volunteer Corps and joined the French Foreign Legion. He saw seven months of service, was decorated with the Legion of Honor, broke his foot and was invalided out. He returned to the United States, still cherishing his scheme—the Bedaux System—and installed it, in 1918, in the Imperial Furniture Company in Grand Rapids, Michigan. He claims that it produced immediate results—increasing wages for the workers, decreasing costs for the manufacturer. The plant is still using it.

From that point on, Charles Bedaux was catapulted into riches and success. His system was installed in eighty-five plants within six years. Today he employs hundreds of trained engineers, has put his system to test in twenty-two countries. He points out that the French Socialistic government—a government of labor—has imposed the Bedaux System there.

Today, at fifty-one, Charles Bedaux is a full fall of the nervous energy that brought him astounding success while yet a young man. Short but well built—he is invariably described as Napoleon—he has a large and handsome face, a broad determined jaw, dark eyes, and a high forehead. He has a warm smile and cordial manner and an astounding habit of answering almost any question about himself, with unabashed candor. His speech retains a faint French flavor. His English vocabulary is large and fluently used. His habit of heavy drinking he left back in Paris when he first came to America. He smokes cigarettes. He can't sing, doesn't play cards. He rides and plays golf, but prefers hunting as an outdoor sport.

He is an erratic if indefatigable worker. Possessed of an idea, he will work for days without pausing to sleep. Then he will go to bed and stay there for days.

HE has married a second time. His present wife was Fern Lombard of Grand Rapids. It is Mrs. Bedaux, who, when he has been working too feverishly, will suddenly insist that it is time for an expedition. She is as calm as he is high-strung, and they share the same enthusiasm. Both are voracious readers and they prefer to do their reading in a tent on mountain or desert rather than in their apartment on Fifth Avenue.

Bedaux has led scientific expeditions into the bleak Canadian Rockies and into the South Seas. He is the first man to have crossed the Sahara Desert, from coast to coast, in an automobile. Mrs. Bedaux accompanied him on all of these expeditions.

The Bedaux System is not his only invention. At the present time he has obtained patents on a new one, in which several large industrial firms are exhibiting interest. It is a selector-system method of tabulating by the photoelectric cell.

He has a ready and often brittle wit and does not hesitate to turn it upon himself. He has the ability to express himself well, both verbally and in writing. He is proud to ask and raise angry, dignified, but this multilingualism can find time to sit down at that desk as he did—write this letter to a little girl friend of ten years.

My dear ———

If ever, at any time, the souling of Father and Mother in your patient me. I freely suggest that you run away from home and join me.

To achieve this end, I have a very good plan. Throughout the year, there are beautiful old ladies who constantly sail from New York to Europe. These old ladies are usually loaded with flowers and fruit that they can't use. When you make up your mind, just go and stand by a flower shop and plant yourself in one of the flower baskets.

For food, it will be easy. Just reach out for a fruit in one of the baskets. . . . Then, when you get to Paris, just cry: "Hi ———" I will be sure to hear and will be there, ready to take you in charge. . . .

This, then, is the many-sided Charles E. Bedaux—international, industrial engineer, amateur explorer, ex-bottle washer, and friend of His Royal Highness the Duke of Windsor.

THE END

the American-born, Mrs. Ernest Simpson, wife of a British ship broker, her first marriage to a young U. S. Naval officer, Earl Winfield Spencer, had ended in divorce.

The British press kept silent about the romance, meanwhile, Edward advised the government and his family that he intended to marry Mrs. Simpson, Prime Minister Stanley Baldwin, Edward's family and the Church opposed the marriage. In the midst of the furor Mrs. Simpson issued a statement offering "to withdraw from a situation that has been rendered both unhappy and untenable, Edward would not let her go.

Baldwin announced to the House of Commons that Edward told him "I'm going to marry Mrs. Simpson and I am prepared to go."

On Dec. 11, 1936 he abdicated in favor of his brother the Duke of York who became King George VI. As plain Edward Windsor—George VI created the Dukedom of Windsor for him—Edward made broadcast to the British people.

"You must believe me," he said, "when I tell you that I have found it impossible to carry the heavy burden of responsibility and to discharge my duties as King. I would wish to do without the help and support of the woman I love."

The Duke went to Austria where he waited for five months while Mrs. Simpson got a divorce. They were married June 3, 1937 in the Chateau de Candé at Ments, France, home of the American industrial engineer, Charles E. Bedaux.

Edward's political and financial associations. The Rev. Robert Anderson Jardine, the Episcopal clergyman who married them despite the Church of England prohibition against the marriage of divorced persons, was banned from pulpits of his church. He came to the United States where he lived for 12 years before returning to England.

During World War II the British government summoned him to serve as governor and commander-in-chief of the Bahamas. The Windsors remained there for five years and then returned to France.

Referring to his abdication and marriage in his memoirs "A King's Story," the Duke said:

"The Duke went to Austria where he waited for five months while Mrs. Simpson got a divorce. They were married June 3, 1937 in the Chateau de Candé in Ments, France, home of the industrial engineer Charles E. Bedaux." This newswire summarizes the life of the Duke of Windsor, 1964-1965.

MANUSCRIPT NUMBER: AP17.14; BOX 53, FOLDER 4, ASSOCIATED PRESS CORPORATE ARCHIVES.

"WHAT WAS WRONG WITH BEDAUX?", BY FRED ALLHOFF, LIBERTY, 18 DECEMBER 1937, VOLUME 14, ISSUE 51, PAGES 44-45, LIBERTY LIBRARY CORPORATION.

Bedaux's political connections came into play with the 1940 surrender of France. He was involved in sabotage to facilitate the German seizure of the Anglo-Persian Oil Company. He was captured by the French in North Africa in December 1942, later turned over to the United States. He was imprisoned in Florida where he died by suicide in February 1944.

## Obituary

### Mr. Charles Bedaux

Mr. Charles Bedaux, the inventor of the Bedaux Industrial System, whose death at Miami, Florida, is announced on Page 1, was born in France in 1888 and became an American citizen in 1917.

He started work as a labourer. It was the experience he gained doing odd jobs that gave him the idea for increasing production which brought him a fortune.

After the fall of France he was reported to have been rounded up in Paris. A year after the North African landings he appeared in North Africa. There he was arrested by the Allies and charged with trading with the enemy, and was flown to the United States in the company of a number of Army officers.

A special board of inquiry had decided that Bedaux was a United States citizen and could be admitted to the United States.

THE SUNDAY TIMES, LONDON, 20 FEBRUARY 1944, ISSUE 6306.

The connection between Second World War espionage and the wild eastern slopes of British Columbia's Rocky Mountains, is a story that lingers in the north, relevant to our time. While the end of Bedaux's life is still cloudy, his rise to influence is well documented in the press of his time.

### Further research

*Bannock and Beans: A Cowboy's Account of the Bedaux Expedition*, by Bob White and Jay Sherwood, Royal British Columbia Museum, 2009.

"The Champagne Safari", Canadian Film Encyclopedia  
<https://cfe.tiff.net/canadianfilmencyclopedia/content/films/champagne-safari>

You can watch *The Champagne Safari* on the Knowledge Network:  
<https://www.knowledge.ca/program/champagne-safari>

## Community Votes Ridge Meadows 2024

<https://ridgemeanows.communityvotes.com/>



The Maple Ridge Family History Group has been nominated in the Services > Community Organization category for the Community Votes Ridge Meadows.

Only the businesses with the most number of nominations move on to the voting round so please click the Nominate button.

Please have your nominations in before Sunday December 8 at 11:59 PM.

## Research News

### Qualicum Beach Family History Society Update

The Qualicum Beach Family History Society has made the difficult decision to dissolve the society. 2024 will be our final year after 20 terrific years of friendships, research successes and gatherings.

I will be sending out our final journal, *Voices of the Past*, towards the end of November.

Best Regards,

Sheila Albrecht, Voices of the Past Journal Editor, QBFHS

### BC Vital Statistics Release

BC Archives has received the release from vital statistics for marriage registrations from 1948 and death registrations from 2003.

They are data testing and hope to have the index entries and images available soon.

### New Brunswick's Daily Gleaner Online

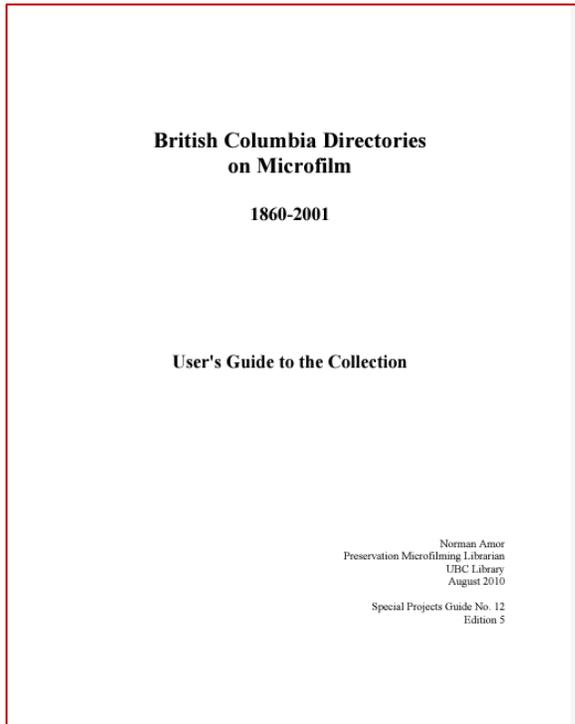
[www.newspapers.com](http://www.newspapers.com)

Fredericton, New Brunswick's *Daily Gleaner*, between 1884 and 2024, has been added to Newspapers.com.

## British Columbia Directories on Microfilm, 1860-2001: User's Guide To The Collection

[doi:http://dx.doi.org/10.14288/1.0445481](http://dx.doi.org/10.14288/1.0445481)

Have you ever wondered if a directory is available on microfilm for a specific time and area of BC?



The "British Columbia Directories on Microfilm, 1860-2001: User's Guide to the Collection" by Norman Amor has been digitized and is now downloadable as a PDF. Microfilming of some 1200 titles BC directories has been an ongoing project at UBC Library since 1994. In 2001 they completed filming practically all the provincial and local directories published from 1860 through 2001.

### Internet Archive Back Online

<https://www.theverge.com/2024/10/14/24269741/internet-archive-online-read-only-data-breach-outage>

The Internet Archive is back online in a read-only state after a cyberattack brought down the digital library and Wayback Machine last week. A data breach and DDoS attack kicked the site offline on October 9th, with a user authentication database containing 31 million unique records also stolen in recent weeks.

The Internet Archive is now back online in a "provisional, read-only manner," according to founder Brewster Kahle. "Safe to resume but might need further maintenance, in which case it will be suspended again."

## Kelowna Capital News Online

<https://bcrdh.ca/>

Copies of the *Kelowna Capital News* covering from 1930 to 1986 have been uploaded to UBCO Library's Okanagan Special Collection and Archives.

In addition to the papers, 265 photographs from *Capital News* from 1980 to 1984 are available online.

### Free Access to Hussey-Walsh Database

<https://www.irishancestors.ie/husseywalsh>

The Hussey-Walsh set of manuscripts has recently been digitised and is now available to search online. For a limited time, until the end of 2024, non-members of the IGRS can access Volume 1 completely free of charge. This includes images of the original pages.

This collection consists of twelve handwritten, large volumes collated by family historian, Valentine Hussey-Walsh (1862-1925). The material contained within each volume was compiled using archives and records that were subsequently destroyed in the fire which consumed the Public Record Office of Ireland in June 1922. While the information pertains largely to families called Hussey and Walsh, nonetheless there are many thousands of references to other associated surnames and families.

In total, there are 2,883 pages of information and there are references to over 100,000 persons, mainly drawn from merchant, middle and upper class Irish Catholic families. These manuscripts represent a rare resource for there is much in them relating to the 18th century, a period for which it can be difficult to trace records of Irish Catholics.

### The National Archives Shop for Christmas Giving

<https://shop.nationalarchives.gov.uk/products/spydle>

Looking for a Christmas gift for your passionate family history friend? Or looking for ways to sharpen your own research skills?

The National Archives and Britain's leading puzzle masterminds, Dr Gareth Moore and Laura Jayne Ayres, have drawn on five centuries of British spycraft and cryptography to compile an unputdownable history of real-life codebreaking and espionage through a series of addictive puzzles.

Using original documents, maps, ciphers, plans, letters and telegrams from plots and espionage relating to Mary, Queen of Scots, the Gunpowder Plot, Mata Hari, Agent Zigzag and dozens more, Spydle's puzzles are based on real codes and conundrums.

# Family History Events

## BCGS

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

- **Military Memories**, Please bring your stories of your military ancestors to share with the group, (Zoom) November 13, 2024, 7:00 to 9:00 PM (PST).

## Heritage BC

<http://www.heritagebc.ca/events-activities/heritage-week/pasttimes>

- **Heritage Week 2025: Pastimes in Past Times**, February 17 to 23, 2025



## Kelowna & District Genealogical Society

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

Fees: Free for KDGS members; \$10 CDN for non-members

- **The Italians in World War II Canadian Internment Camps** with Gord Hotchkiss, November 4, 2024: 7:00 PM (PDT) via Zoom.

## Legacy Family Tree Webinars

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

- **AI and Family History: Extending Beyond the Basics** with Andrew Redfern, September 11, 2024: 5:00 PM (PDT). Free.

- **Practical chromosome mapping: gaining insights from segments of DNA** with Jonny Perl. September 18, 2024, 11:00 AM (PDT).

## Mission Genealogy Club

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/383052287973196>

The boardroom of the Mission Regional Chamber of Commerce, 34033 Lougheed Hwy, Mission BC. Take the outside ramp and stairs to the second floor. 2nd Thursday; 1:00 PM to 3:00 PM.

- **Christmas Social** December 11, 2024; 1:00 PM to 3:00 PM (PST).

## Qualicum Beach Family History Society

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

- **Fall Seminar 2024 Joint Seminar** with Campbell River Genealogy Society with Diane Rogers, November 2, 2024, 9:30 AM to 12:00 PM PST. \$10 for non-members.

## Strathcona County Public Library

<https://scl.bibliocommons.com/v2/events>

Pre-registration required.

- **Across the Border** with Kathryn Lake Hogan, UE, PLCGS, Thursday, November 14, 2024, 7:00 PM MST, Online
- **Irish Genealogy Workshop**, with Colleen Murray, Tuesday, November 19, 2024, 10:00 AM MST, Online

## Surrey Libraries

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

Free. Registration required. Email or call to register.

- **Genealogy Collection Orientation** Monday, November 25, 2024, 6:00 to 7:00 PM Cloverdale.

- **Fun Family History Friday.** Fridays, Nov 22, 2024, 2:30 to 3:30 PM. Cloverdale.

## Vancouver Public Library

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

- **In the Trenches, Among the Tanks: First and Second World War Records and Resources**, November 7, 2024, 1:00 PM to 2:30 PM. Online event.

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 6, 2024: Lest We Forget": Remembering the First World War**

The November Short Program has three parts, refer to page 4 for details.

**December 4, 2024: Designing a Family History Christmas Gift** We revisit this shared topic because members continue to come up with exciting new ways for gift giving that highlights their family history. We have volunteers ready to showcase their gifts and encourage others to share their creations. These family history gifts/ideas will inspire us to start a Christmas tradition!

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