

# Community, Past, Present & Future



## Family History Newsletter

January 2025

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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### Ready or not, the New Year is here

By Brenda L. Smith



As we stand on the brink of this opportunity to re-start our best intentions, I thank all the people who have made Maple Ridge Family History Group a success. Thank you for your technical and history expertise. And thank you for your generous participation in our projects and our gatherings.

I have two family history resolutions for the coming twelve months. The first is to review the research and write the narrative for a family story every three months. The first resolution will be given a big boost if I meet my second resolution. Our wonderful program magician, Alberta McNamara, offers regular challenges to dig into our own research and think about our findings in different ways. I pledge to accept every challenge, because experience has taught me that meeting the challenges yields better work and finished research projects.

Sharing the projects with family and colleagues has been a great way to soothe my worries about what to do with my years of research.

I hope you will meet Alberta’s challenges with the same joy that I feel when I hear the next one.

### Maple Ridge Historical Society 2025 Membership



Maple Ridge Family History Group is a standing committee of the Maple Ridge Historical Society. While we welcome everyone to our family history group, we encourage participants to join the Historical Society to support its valuable work.

You may know that the Maple Ridge Family History Group web pages are hosted on the Maple Ridge Museum and Community Archives website. You will find our projects, news, and

activities there. [www.mapleridgemuseum.org/about-us/family-history](http://www.mapleridgemuseum.org/about-us/family-history)

To join or renew your membership, visit [www.mapleridgemuseum.org/about-us/mrhs](http://www.mapleridgemuseum.org/about-us/mrhs)

# The Elusive Soldier—L. Griffin

By Andrea Lister

In May 2023 a group of researchers from the Maple Ridge Family History Group undertook a community history project to discover the stories of those men who lost their lives during the First World War 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.

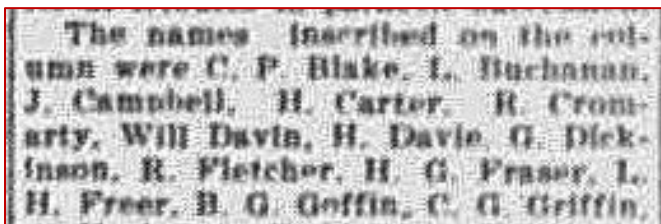
Of the 51 men named, only one continues to elude us—L. Griffin.



West side of Maple Ridge Cenotaph with L. Griffin.  
CROPPED PHOTO TAKEN BY ERICA WILLIAMS, 2016

L. Griffin was listed as one of the names inscribed on the Cenotaph in the “Unveil Monument to Heros of Maple Ridge” article published in *The Gazette* on 31 May 1923. Griffin is also listed on the Maple Ridge Legion Branch #88 Memorial Plaque. However, he is not listed on the *Municipality of Maple Ridge Honour Roll* at St John the Divine Anglican Church or in *The Gold Stripe Roll of Honour* published in 1919; nor in *The British Columbian, Victory Edition*, published on 24 June 1919.

Interestingly, in the 31 May 1923 *Fraser Valley Record* article about the unveiling of the Cenotaph, he is listed as C.G. Griffin.



C.G. Griffin is reported as the name on the Cenotaph in the *Fraser Valley Record*.

“SQUAD ATTENDS MEMORIAL UNVEILING” *FRASER VALLEY RECORD*, 31 MAY 1923, 1

Research is hampered by the fact Maple Ridge did not have its own newspaper until 1922 and compounded by the fact that directories were not published for the Lower Mainland of British Columbia from 1914 through to 1917.

The Returned Soldiers Reception Committee began to make plans to create a memorial tablet and monument in 1919. *The Gazette* reported on 8 February 1923 that the committee reassured the council that “the names had been carefully scrutinized and every precaution taken to be accurate. The names engraved were soldiers of Maple Ridge.”

While the minutes of the council meetings have survived and been digitized, the reports of the committees have either not been unearthed or were not retained. We can dream that descendants of one of the committee members (Ernest Edgar Adair, William Henry Ansell, James Dale, John Lilley, John A. McIver, Edmund Pope, Margaret Simson, and Isabel Tapp) has a box with reports in their attic, yet to be uncovered.

The initial sentiment of the Cenotaph committee was that the names of the soldiers were soldiers of Maple Ridge, however, research shows that some of the service men did not reside in Maple Ridge or Pitt Meadows prior to enlistment but had relatives who settled in the area after the war.

An Ethel E. Griffin appears in the 1917 *District of Maple Ridge Collectors Roll* as a property owner in Ruskin in subdivision 13 and 14 at the southwest quarter, lot 9. Nothing definitive has yet been found on Ethel Griffin.

Corporation of the District of Maple Ridge						
No. on Assessment Roll, 1917	NAME	ADDRESS	DESCRIPTION OF LAND			No. of Acres
			Sub-division	Sec. Div.	Quarter Section or Lot	
1806	Griffin, Ethel E.	Ruskin	13	SW	9 2/15 11/15	9.25
1807	"	"	14			9.25

Griffin, Ethel E., address Ruskin, entries 1806 and 1807.

1917 DISTRICT OF MAPLE RIDGE COLLECTORS ROLL, PAGE 133. CITY OF MAPLE RIDGE

The Commonwealth War Graves website and Library and Archives Canada’s First World War Personnel Records database for L. Griffin turn up a Leo Patrick Griffin who enlisted in Vancouver and worked as a marine engineer. However, there is nothing in his personnel record that connects him to Maple Ridge.

Research for other soldiers also shows that sometimes the soldiers were known by their middle name or by a nickname. Also, some of the names are misspelled. As well, it is possible that Griffin did not join the Canadian Expeditionary Force but was a merchant marine or enlisted in England with the British

Expeditionary Force, the Royal Air Force, or the Royal Navy.

If anyone has information on the identity of L. Griffin, or any of the soldiers on the website, we invite you to get in touch at [mrfamilyhistory@gmail.com](mailto:mrfamilyhistory@gmail.com).

## 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](http://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.

Janice Davis, talented family history sleuth, found interesting connections to her Fraser Valley forebears with this creative approach to the messages left behind in a collection of early 20th century books.

### Inside the Cover—Clues in In Book Inscriptions

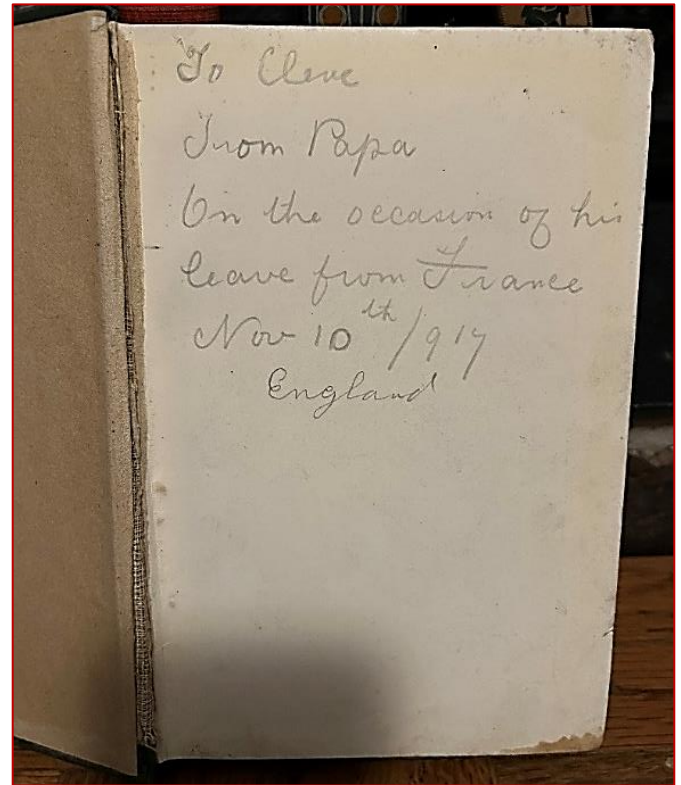
By Janice Davis

I've always been interested in returning items to the families they originally belonged to. Recently, while going through a stack of old books that had been sitting on my shelf for the past eight years, I decided it was time to do something about them. These books came from my dad's house after he and his wife passed away. Some of the books had names written in them, but I wondered how I could possibly trace who they belonged to with so little information. This rabbit hole took me about six hours of intense research over two days.

The inscriptions in the books I found are as follows (in the order I opened them):

1. "Wm Howard Wright, Xmas 1916," in *Strive and Succeed* and "Howard Wright," in *The Curse of the Gyro-Car*
2. "George Hine, Langley BC" in *Prince Goldenblade, a Rational Fairy Tale*

3. "To Cleve, From Papa, on the occasion of his leave from France, Nov 10, 1917, England," in *Yarns on the Beach*
4. "Enid C. Wright, Langley Fort, Xmas 1917," in *Joseph's Little Coat*



"To Cleve, From Papa, on the occasion of his leave from France, Nov 10, 1917, England," in *Yarns on the Beach*.

PHOTO BY JANIS DAVIS

I wondered if these people were related. I wasn't making much progress with the first three names as there wasn't much to go on, but the fourth one seemed more promising, so I decided to focus there.

The first clue I found was in the *Vancouver Sun*, dated July 1923, where a high school entrance exam result listed "Enid C. Wright" under the heading "Murrayville." Encouraged by this lead, I continued my search. Using the Royal BC Museum and Archives genealogy database, I found that Enid had married Cleveland W. Slone Potter. The name "Potter" sounded familiar, but I couldn't place it right away. However, "Cleveland" caught my attention—this was the same name as the inscription in the book to "Cleve."

From there, I wondered if Cleve's Papa had served in the First World War. I looked up his name on Ancestry.com and found that he had been granted fourteen days of leave to the UK on November 11, 1917. This matched the timing of the book inscription,



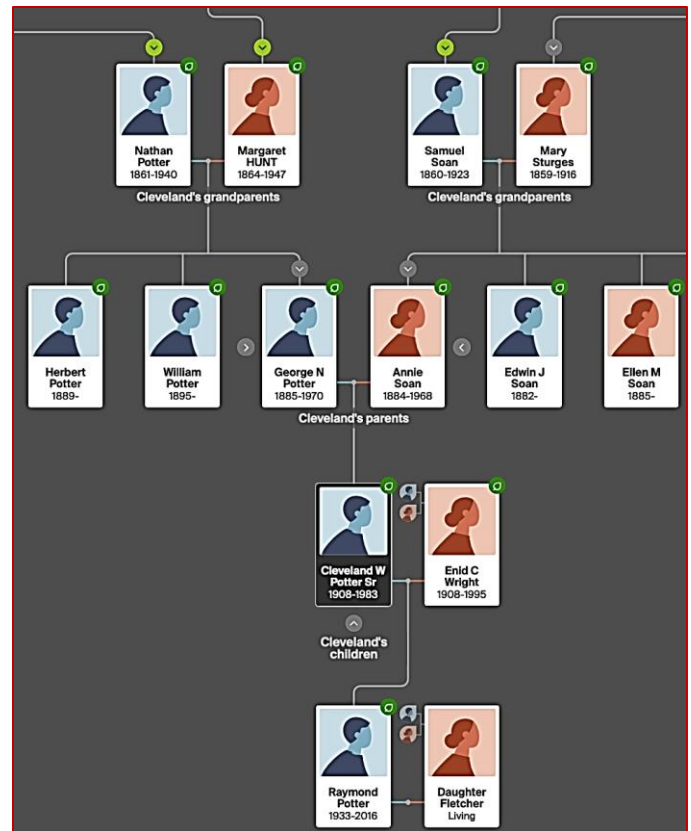
confirming that Cleveland likely sent the book to his son while on leave during the war.

Next, I turned to obituaries to piece together more details. I discovered that Howard Wright was Enid's brother. Enid and Cleveland had a son, Raymond Potter, who was mentioned in the obituary of a woman named Mary Fetcher. Mary's daughter was Rosalie, a name that stood out to me. My step-mom, Loraine, had a close friend named Rosalie. Loraine had worked for the Potter family at their egg company in Langley. I also remembered that I had a book of poems that belonged to Rosalie. Inside the book was a letter from Rosalie's grandmother in England. Although the grandmother didn't write her name, she did include her address and the date of the letter, which gave me another clue to pursue.

After checking newspapers.com for Potter Eggs in Langley, I went further down the rabbit hole by checking the 1939 Register and was able to confirm which grandmother wrote the letter.

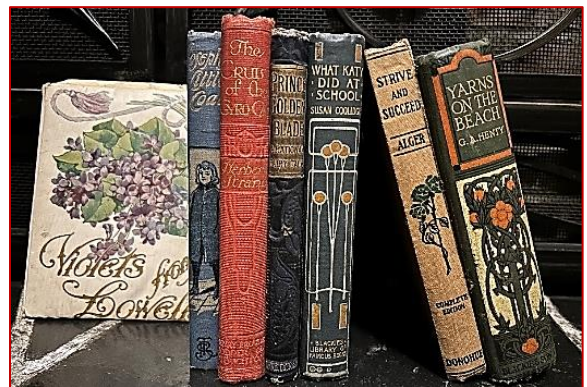
With most of the family connections in place, I turned to the final inscription in the books: "George Hine, Langley BC." I needed to determine whether George was also part of this family or if he was unrelated. By extending the family tree, I discovered that George Hine was actually the brother of Enid Wright's mother, making him part of the family.

All that is left to do is to find someone close to the family who will appreciate and treasure these books and the letter.



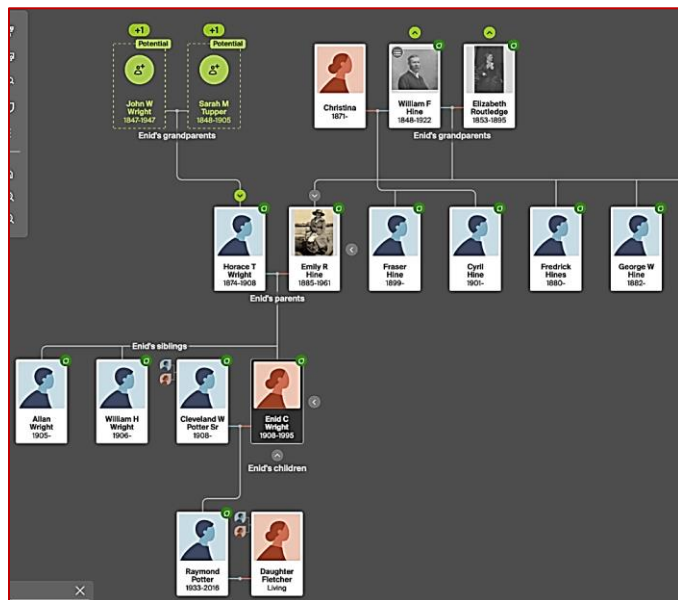
The Potter Family

TREE BY JANICE DAVIS



Selection of old books with inscriptions.

PHOTO COURTESY JANICE DAVIS



The Wright Family

TREE BY JANICE DAVIS

## 2025 New Year's Challenge

### Is This My Ancestor?

Do you have an ancestor of questionable character? Someone who was a free spirit and didn't always follow the rules or was involved in unlawful activities. These are the individuals that grab our attention. Unfolding the details of their life will make an interesting story! As always, review your research and check for that certain ancestor whose life led you to finding the unexpected. Challenge results will be shared at the March meeting.

# Points to the Past

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

### Gas and Oil and Pipes Across the Canada/US Border

As we hear so much about energy transmission, pipelines, and climate change, I took time to review my family's involvement in the petroleum industry. Oil was first tapped in Alberta in 1907, at the dawn of the automobile industry. My family became involved in the 1930s when my father drove an oil tanker from Turner Valley, Alberta. When my grandmother's cousin Kitty married on Boxing Day 1941, her groom was employed as a radio operator at British Columbia's first well site at Commotion Creek.

During the early 1950s my parents had work near Pine Pass where the Pacific Great Eastern, the John Hart Highway, and the first pipeline carrying natural gas from the Peace River Country to the Fraser Valley, were being built. Later, my parents' engine rebuilding business held a contract to service generators on another pipeline just east of Dawson Creek.

Today's political climate provides the impetus to use *Points to the Past* to investigate the historical context for my family's involvement of this industry. But first, I looked for a map showing the web of pipelines that deliver the product to the rest of Canada and to our southern neighbours.



An interesting overview of western Canada's fossil fuel industry. Map of all pipelines regulated by the Canadian Energy Regulator that originate from Alberta.

ARISTARCHUS VALEN (CREATOR). 2020-04-14. "TIMELINE OF THE PETROLEUM INDUSTRY IN ALBERTA," ACCESSED DECEMBER 19, 2024 FROM [HTTPS://EN.WIKIPEDIA.ORG/W/INDEX.PHP?TITLE=TIMELINE\\_OF\\_THE\\_PETROLEUM\\_INDUSTRY\\_IN\\_ALBERTA](https://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Timeline_of_the_Petroleum_Industry_in_Alberta)

The 19th century was stirred by gold and silver rushes. The eastern slopes of the Rockies and across the Canadian prairie held the promise of petroleum-generated wealth changed everything, including international relationships. The 1872 *Dominion Land Act* had isolated water, mineral and coal rights so that homesteaders did not receive ownership of subsurface minerals. Consequently, private investors negotiated with federal and provincial governments for access to the anticipated riches.

**ABRIDGED PROSPECTUS.**  
The SUBSCRIPTION LIST will OPEN on MONDAY, the 20th day of November, 1911, and will CLOSE on or before WEDNESDAY, the 22nd day of November, 1911.

**DOMINION OF CANADA.**  
**THE CANADIAN WESTERN NATURAL GAS LIGHT, HEAT AND POWER COMPANY, LIMITED.**  
(Incorporated under the Laws of the Province of Alberta.)  
**CAPITAL (Issued and Fully Paid), \$8,000,000, in 80,000 Shares of \$100 each.**

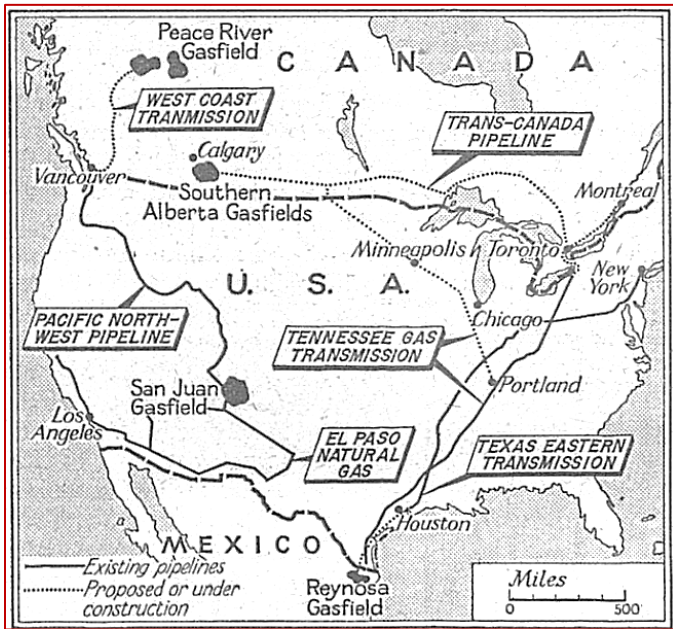
It is further confidently expected that the Revenue will considerably increase with the growth of population and the manufacturing development of the Province...

An advertisement to encourage investment in "The Canadian Western Natural Gas Light, Heat and Power Company, Limited".

THE ECONOMIST, 18 NOVEMBER 1911, VOLUME 73, ISSUE 3560

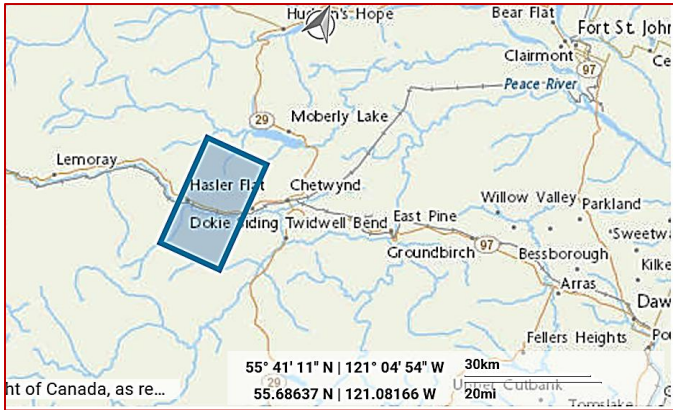


In the post-Second World War period, an appetite for shipping fossil fuels to Canada's southern neighbours blossomed. Plans for moving oil and gas over the Canada/US border were promoted worldwide. Many of those dreams have been made real in the past 70 years.



**Big dreams. "Gas Across the Border".**

*THE ECONOMIST*, 15 DECEMBER 1956, VOLUME 181, ISSUE 5912, PAGE 975



**My family's involvement in the industry is mapped here. Beginning in the 1930s between Pine Pass and present-day Chetwynd.**

BRITISH COLUMBIA; CANADA, COMMOTION CREEK, NATIONAL TOPOGRAPHIC SYSTEM (NTS) [093P/12NW, 093P/12SW]; NORTH AMERICA [HTTPS://MAPS-CARTES.SERVICES.GEO.CA/SERVER2\\_SERVEUR2/REST/SERVICES/BASEMAPS/CBMT3978/MAPSERVER/TILE/9/470/407](https://maps-cartes.services.geo.ca/server2_serveur2/rest/services/BaseMaps/CBMT3978/MapServer/TILE/9/470/407)

In the past century, the global economy has become dependent on petroleum fueled energy. My family, from extraction to transmission to consumption, has been involved in the industry in a variety of ways. When the village of Dawson Creek supplied household natural gas, we replaced our oil heater for

a natural gas furnace. Our family business maintained the internal combustion engines that ran on processed petroleum. As children we breathed the pungent off-gassing of the sulphur extraction plant and were taught to think of it as the smell of money.

The maps will be useful as I trace my family story through the second half of the 20th century. They help me see beyond my locally restricted childhood memories to put us in the wider context of petroleum and the impact of the internal combustion engine.

**For more fossil fuel context**

Bowes, Gordon E. *Peace River Chronicles*, Prescott: Vancouver, 1963.  
 Clare, Gerald. *History of the Oil & Gas Industry in the South Peace: An address to the Oil and Gas Conference 2003*, The Calverley Papers 12-020. South Peace Historical Society. 30 September 2003, [www.calverley.ca/article/12-020-history-of-the-oil-gas-industry-in-the-south-peace/](http://www.calverley.ca/article/12-020-history-of-the-oil-gas-industry-in-the-south-peace/)  
 Rutherford, Dr. Ralph L. "Geology and Water Resources in Parts of the Peace River and Grand Prairie Districts", *Report 21*, Government of Alberta, 1930.

**Technology Tips: How Should AI Involvement in Your Writing Be Acknowledged**

Have you been using artificial intelligence (AI) in your family history writing? Do you need to acknowledge its use? It depends on what you used the AI tool for.

If you used a tool like Grammarly or Ginger for spellchecking and grammar you do not need to acknowledge its use. However, if you used a tool like Grammarly, ChatGPT, CoPilot, or Storied to assist you with your research and/or writing you should acknowledge their role in your work.

Here are a few YouTube videos that may help you out. Keep in mind that generative AI tools can be used to infringe on a copyright owner's exclusive rights by producing derivatives. As well, both YouTube videos are American and are using American copyright laws. Under Canadian copyright laws, you could never use four full paragraphs of someone else's work without obtaining permission.

Dyer, Nicole. "How Should AI Involvement in My Report Be Acknowledged." YouTube video. November 14, 2024. [https://youtu.be/agYuBC\\_G\\_Sc?si=xbTeibwQbMmL6ltu](https://youtu.be/agYuBC_G_Sc?si=xbTeibwQbMmL6ltu).  
 Becker, Dr. Kimberly. "How to Acknowledge Generative AI in Academic Writing." YouTube video. July 23, 2023. <https://youtu.be/IBDrDjBdQOQ?si=hc4uQpvMIehBKswr>

## Research News

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### BC Vital Statistics Release

BC Archives has updated BC Vital stats with records from the Vital Statistics Agency—Government of British Columbia to include marriages to 1948 and deaths to 2003.

In 2004, the *Vital Statistics Act* was amended and the holdback period on births was extended to 120 years. This should mean that births from 1904 were included in this release, however, they were not. Also, some researchers are reporting that not all records seem to be included in the release.

Email [access@royalbcmuseum.bc.ca](mailto:access@royalbcmuseum.bc.ca)

Phone: 250-387-1952

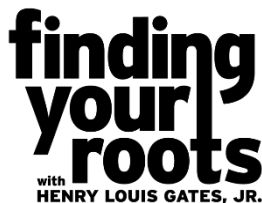
### Congratulations to Canada's Newest Accredited Genealogist!

[www.past-presence.com/2024/12/07/on-becoming-an-accredited-genealogist-professional-canada-western-provinces/](http://www.past-presence.com/2024/12/07/on-becoming-an-accredited-genealogist-professional-canada-western-provinces/)

The good news is that our friend and colleague Linda Yip of Saskatoon has completed her certification goal. Brenda met Linda in 2018 when she was considering her genealogy future. Her blog *Past Present* has been informing us about the practice of researching family history for some time. Her most recent post tells the story of her journey to this achievement. (We have our furry mascot Merlot, Alberta's kitty. Check the blog to meet Linda's feline helper.)

### Finding Your Roots with Henry Louis Gates, Jr. — Season 11 starts January 7

PBS's Finding Your Roots, hosted by Henry Louis Gates Jr., will return for its eleventh season on January 7,



2025. This season will feature a new group of celebrities exploring their family histories. Guests include Joy Behar, Kristen Bell, Laurence Fishburne, Debra Messing, Michael Imperioli, Melanie Lynskey, Natalie Morales, Sheryl Lee Ralph, Lea Salonga, Amanda Seyfried, Dax Shepard, Sharon Stone, Chrissy Teigen, celebrity chefs José Andrés and Sean Sherman, novelist Amy Tan, poet Rita Dove, historian Lonnie Bunch, and singer Rubén Blades.

### City of Maple Ridge: Updated Historical Resources Portal

[www.mapleridge.ca/explore-maple-ridge/about-maple-ridge/explore-our-heritage](http://www.mapleridge.ca/explore-maple-ridge/about-maple-ridge/explore-our-heritage)

The Heritage Resources links have been fixed and the page has been made more intuitive. On the new City of Maple Ridge website, users can now access links to documents and heritage resources by clicking Explore Maple Ridge > About Maple Ridge > Explore Our Heritage.

- Historic Street Maps: pre-1938, 1938, and 1963
- District of Maple Ridge Council Minutes: 1874 to 1958
- Historic By-Laws: 1876 to 1913
- Historic Tax Assessment and Collector's Rolls: (including some Tax Aears and Tax Sales) 1892 to 1921

With the expansion of the City's Records and Information Management Team, they now have more ability to further digitize and make accessible archival records. Users are welcome to contact Gordana Dimovska, Records Coordinator | Legislative Services, [gdimovska@mapleridge.ca](mailto:gdimovska@mapleridge.ca), regarding historical records that are not available on the site and can be referred to their Freedom of Information and Privacy Coordinator if required.

Another page you will want to visit: Heritage Resources of Maple Ridge 2018:

[www.mapleridge.ca/build-do-business/planning-land-use/heritage-conservation/heritage-inventory-register](http://www.mapleridge.ca/build-do-business/planning-land-use/heritage-conservation/heritage-inventory-register)

### The Ancestor Hunt

<https://theancestorhunt.com/subscribe.html>

If you don't already subscribe to The Ancestor Hunt, you might add this newsletter by Kenneth Marks to your regular reading list. In the December 2024 issue he announced his new book: *Finding Your Ancestors in Historical Newspapers: A Practical Guide to Improving Your Online Newspaper Research Results*.

### Canadian Museum of Immigration at Pier 21

[www.timeline.pier21.ca](http://www.timeline.pier21.ca)

The Museum team is proud to announce the launch of our new web-based discovery portal The Timeline: Immigration and Impact - An exploration of significant events and developments connected to the history of colonization and immigration in what is now known as Canada. Explore content through three lenses and their perspectives: Indigenous Presence, Arrivals (Immigration), and Government Policy and Legislation.

# Family History Events

## Heritage BC

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

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



## Canadian Genealogy eSIG—Genealogical Society of Collier County (Florida)

<https://alsqda.wordpress.com/>

- **Canadians in North America: Where They Came from and Where They Went**, with Bryan L. Mulcahy, Tuesday, January 28, 2025, at 2:00 PM (EST) via Zoom.

## Kelowna & District Genealogical Society

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

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

- **Scottish Wills, Testaments and Related Documents** with Bruce Durie, January 6, 2025, 7:00 PM (PST) via Zoom.

## Maple Ridge Library

[www.fvrl.bc.ca](http://www.fvrl.bc.ca)

- **Family Literacy Day event—Maple Ridge Winter Fun Fair**, Saturday, January 25, 11:00 AM to 2:00 PM.

## 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.

- **Visiting Ancestral Places in Scotland** with Judy Teague & Ken Hood, January 9, 2025; 1:00 PM to 3:00 PM (PST).

## Strathcona County Public Library

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

Pre-registration required.

- **Seafaring Ancestors** with Andrea Lister, Thursday, January 9, 2025, 7:00 PM (MST), Online
- **Never Seen Again**, with Brenda L. Smith, Thursday, February 13, 2025, 7:00 PM (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.

- **Family History Orientation** Saturday, January 18, Monday, February 24, Saturday, March 22, 2025, 10:30 to 11:30 AM Cloverdale.
- **Fun Family History Friday**, Fridays, January 24, February 28, March 28, 2025, 2:30 to 3:30 PM. Cloverdale.
- **Family History DNA Chat**, Fridays, January 10, February 14, March 14, 2025, 2:30 to 3:30 PM. Cloverdale.
- **Chronicling the Times of Our Ancestors: Researching in Newspaper Archives** with Margaret M. Sharon, Thursday, January 30, 2025, 2:00 to 3:00 PM. Cloverdale Branch.

## Vancouver Public Library

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

- **Chinese Canadian Genealogy Resources**, with Library and Archives Canada, January 23, 2025, 1:00 to 2:30 PM (PST). Online event via Zoom. Free.
- **Family History and Genealogy with Library and Archives Canada**, February 18, 2025, 11:00 AM to 12:30 PM (PST). Online event via Zoom. Free.

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.

**January 8, 2025: Favourite Finds 2024**—What was the most exciting breakthrough you made in your family history research in 2024? Share the details of your “favourite find” either with a short presentation or simply showing us any new records you found and how they led to expanding your research.

**February 5, 2025: 2025 New Year’s Challenge—Is This My Ancestor** Do you have an ancestor of questionable character? Perhaps a free spirit who didn’t always follow the rules or was involved in unlawful activities. Unfolding the details of their life makes an interesting story! Challenge results to be share at the March meeting.

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