

Community, Past, Present & Future



Family History Newsletter

March 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.

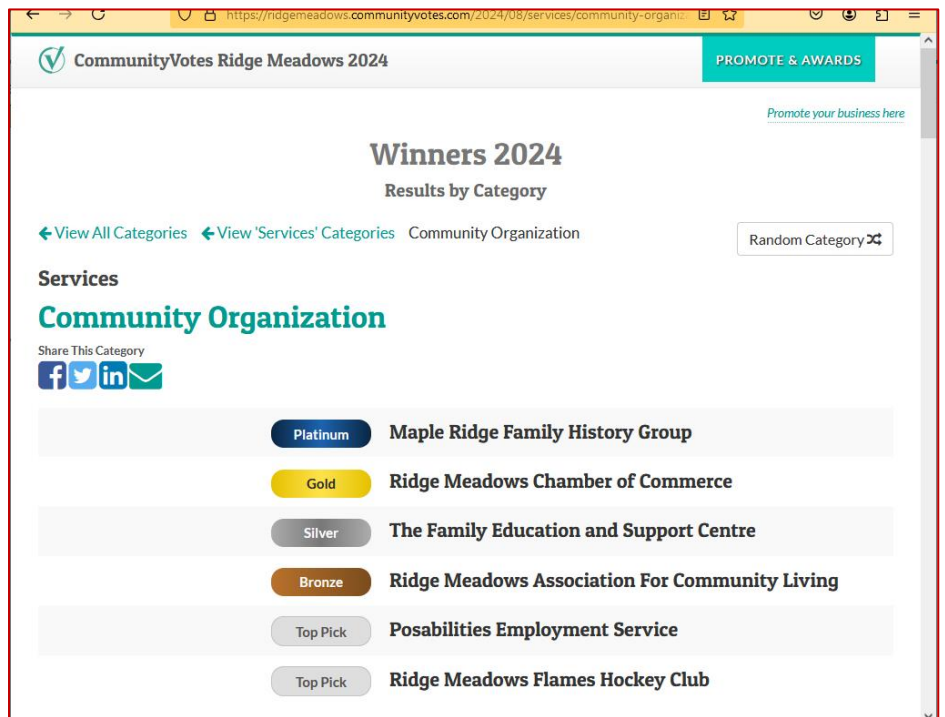
Members have ancestors from around the globe. We respectfully acknowledge that the land on which we live, work, and play is the traditional and unceded territory of the Katzie First Nation and the Kwantlen First Nation Peoples.

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

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Maple Ridge Family History Group Wins Platinum



The members of the Maple Ridge Family History Group are so thrilled to win PLATINUM in the Community Organization category for Ridge Meadows Community Votes! Thank you so much Ridge Meadows for voting for our group!

<https://ridgemeadows.communityvotes.com/2024/08/services/community-organization>

With the loss of the Maple Ridge Heritage Commission and the City of Maple Ridge Heritage Awards it is wonderful to see history being recognized.

Canada’s Flag 60th Anniversary



How did you acknowledge National Flag of Canada Day? Those of us born in Canada prior to 15 February 1965, started life under the Red Ensign. The Maple Leaf Flag has served since then to tell Canadians and the world that we are a nation. It was in 1996 that the day of special acknowledgement of the emblem of nationality was first declared.

A couple of weeks ago, remembering the uproar when Parliament voted to adopt the flag, declaring our independence within the British Commonwealth of Nations, a stray thought led me to look for more of the story. Although “Dr. Sheldon Cooper’s Fun With Flags” from the *Big Bang Theory* never addressed our flag, Library and Archives Canada’s blog brought us some of the back story.

Sheldon did bring his generation a word that had slipped my mind—the study of flags, vexillology. And in the best tradition of rabbit hole diving, I recalled that in the Shropshire fields south of my Smith family’s mansion, are remnants of three Roman marching camps and a vexillation fort.

What is a vexillation? It seems that it was a detachment from the main body of the Roman Army. And the standard or flag that identified the detachment was a vexillum. Following these words through history from the Roman occupation of my mother’s ancestral ground, to my youthful memories of the 1960s flag debate, and the moment sixty years later when Canadian flag manufacturers are doing a booming business, has been an interesting reflection on my nationality and ethnicity.

It turns out that I am not alone in this rabbit hole. I discovered journalist Alicia Vandine visited the burrow too. See the link below.

Read more

Declaration of Nation Flag of Canada Day—15 February 1996, www.canada.ca/content/dam/pch/documents/campaigns/national-flag-canada-day/declaration_flag-canada-declaration_drapeau.PDF

“A Sweet Proposal... For a New Canadian Flag”, Library and Archives Canada Blog, 11 February 2025. www.thediscoverblog.com/2025/02/11/a-sweet-proposal-for-a-new-canadian-flag

“The Big Bang Theory’ and the making of the Canadian flag” by Alicia Vandine in the Northumberland News, 12 February 2025. www.northumberlandnews.com/opinion/the-big-bang-theory-and-the-making-of-the-canadian-flag/article_3f00a8cc-46bb-5c09-a148-a63152cfce28.html

A Fan Letter to Historian Lucy Worsley

Lucy Worsley is a British historian, author, curator, and presenter whose television programs reconsider the accepted history of her homeland.

Dear Lucy

On public television in British Columbia, for years I’ve been watching you model methodology for

bringing new light to old stories. Thank you for your skepticism and humor.

I thrill to your analytical acuity. Phrases like “interrogate the source” signal that we must each internalize skepticism to manage the information flood of the 21st century.

Your presentation style is crisp, witty, and brings your audience inside your own, and your colleagues’ multi-disciplinary expertise. I am always entertained but always provoked by new understanding.

I appreciate your production team’s skill as they waste no viewing time on endless, often meaningless, striding about the countryside or city streets. Your use of costume to draw viewers close to the realities of events long past, and their implications for our choices today. Your pedi-cab ride dressed as Elizabeth I is an excellent example of building movement into the program while dramatically tying her past to our present. But you didn’t stop there. You illuminated Elizabeth’s political savvy and influence by showing how women in leadership have learned from Elizabeth I.

Having spent most of my life in a former British colony, I hope that you will devote some of your attention to the outer shores of the Empire. We need support as we re-think our places in the world.

Thank you for exemplifying the maxim that, if we don’t understand what has gone before, we are doomed to repeat it.

Yours in telling the story,

Brenda

For more about Lucy

Her official website www.lucyworsley.com

Find her on YouTube on the BBC channel as well as on Spotify if you prefer podcasts.



Work in Progress

Editor Brenda L. Smith



Report your research undertakings here!

We want to hear about your research projects as they happen. Since we hear from people who discover information in our newsletters, you can take this opportunity to reach out to the world.

The Marc/Pichon Family Story

Honouring Those Who Served was launched as a community history project in May 2023. By November 2024 the research team delivered the history of the Maple Ridge Cenotaph and biographies of the First World War casualties listed on the cenotaph. There were many topics and mysteries left as the team rested from 18 months of hard work.

Project Background

Emile André Marc was a French immigrant to British Columbia. As a reservist, when war was declared in August 1914, Marc returned to serve in the French Army. His name is on some of our local memorials:

- Great War Plaque, Canadian Legion Branch #88 Maple Ridge BC
- *Honour Roll*, St. John the Divine (Anglican), Maple Ridge BC

In 1921 Marc returned with wife Alice Claudie Pichon and their children:

- Marcel Edmond, born 04 April 1914 in Maple Ridge, BC. He seems to have spent his life in Maple Ridge, and died 25 December 1993 in Maple Ridge, buried in Maple Ridge Cemetery.
- Anne Marie Thérèse, born 09 June 1919 in Versailles, Yvline, France. Marie married Frank Grisak 09 February 1945, and died 26 May 1992 Vancouver, BC,

Project Goals

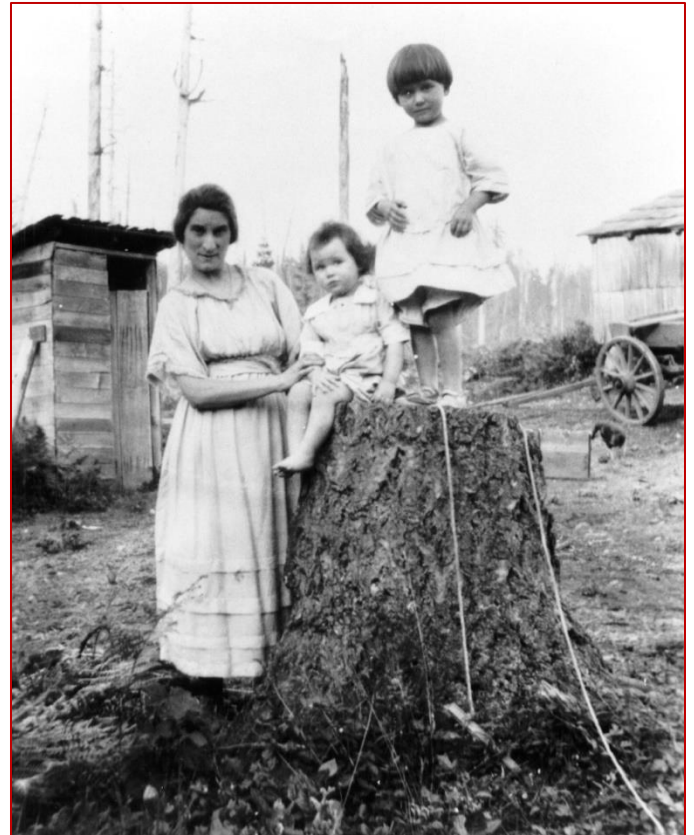
- To refresh the community memory about the Marc/Pichon family.
- To discover what brought them to Maple Ridge, and how they participated in the community.
- To thoroughly analyze the Marc family fonds holdings of Maple Ridge Museum & Community Archives.
- To develop, expand, and share the Marc/Pichon family narrative.

So far...

We have developed a timeline that clarifies available census, travel, legal, and property records. Volunteer Linda Reverchon of Abbotsford Genealogical Society is translating family letters and other documents. In addition, Linda has been handling communications with a French researcher studying the Marc and Pichon history abroad. We are analyzing the available photographs. We are finding a wealth of newspaper reports.

André and Alice built their home at Loon Lake, now in the Malcolm Knapp Research Forest. They arrived in 1911. Andre died in 1959, and Alice died a few months after her 100th birthday in 1987. Their house is on the Maple Ridge Heritage Register. You are welcome to contribute to this study. Otherwise, stay tuned for updates on the story.

Get in touch with Brenda if you have a work in progress to share in an upcoming newsletter.



Members of the Marc family at their Yennadon home, located in what is now the UBC Research Forest.

MAPLE RIDGE MUSEUM & COMMUNITY ARCHIVES, IMAGE P00947

Down the Research Rabbit Hole

Editor 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.

A Hidden Aristocratic Lineage

By Gunter Rebele

It all started when I asked my brother-in-law in Berlin for a photo and the birth and death dates of his parents, which I needed for my family tree. He soon provided these details, including a birth certificate for his father that listed the names and dates of his grandparents. Armed with this new information, I felt compelled to delve deeper in search of his forbears

During my initial internet research, I discovered that his father was an engine fitter in Berlin and his grandfather a city engineer. I didn't expect to uncover much more, or anything particularly captivating. But when I looked two generations back, I found his great-grandfather, Ludwig August Koch, a lawyer and mayor in the city of Borna, who married an aristocratic woman named Bertha Renate Cölestine von Zobel.

That was the moment I jumped into the proverbial "rabbit hole", emerging only in the year 1380. Once you enter a rabbit hole, there is no turning back — you must keep going, just like a mole, until you reach the

"brick wall" or come out at a different time or place.

In Germany, most genealogy records end in 1648, the Thirty Years War, when most church registers were destroyed. That does not apply to aristocrats who maintained their own detailed records.



This Zobel nobility line started in the late Middle Ages when some commoners became very successful and rich business people. To me it looks as though the overlords of the area then arranged for these men to be knighted and therefore made members of their exclusive club. And thus through intermarriages, they ensured that the money and influence stayed in the family.

Timeline of the Zobel Family

- The first Zobel family emigrated from the state of Franconia to Saxony in 1380 and was naturalized in 1406 in the town of Wunsiedel near the German-Czech Republic border. He was a merchant.
- His son was Kunz Zobel born 1405.
- His grandson Hans Johann Zobel born 1435, was a city councillor and wagonner.
- His great grandson Hans Jacob Zobel born 1570, was a city councillor and merchant.
- His second great grandson Hans Georg Endres was mayor, hospital director, and tin plate merchant.
- His third great grandson was Hans Andreas Bathasar von Zobel born 1537, was mayor, hospital director, and city councillor, city accountant, council member, and owner of a tin plate hammer plant in Blauerthal. He moved to Schneeberg and was knighted by Emperor Ferdinand in 1557.
- His fourth great grandson Hans Johann von Zobel born 1578, was owner of a tin plate hammer plant.
- His fifth great grandson Wolf von Zobel born 1618, was a merchant, and later a Zehentner (tithe collector) and moved back to Wunsiedel.
- His sixth great grandson Johann Jacob von Zobel born 1655, merchant and amtmann (bailiff, senior administrator).
- His seventh great grandson Johann Jacob von Zobel born 1701 in Gröppendorf.
- His eighth great grandson Heinrich Sigismund von Zobel born 1748 in Wemsdorf, Saxony. He was a government official, chamberlain, and hunting squire, Royal Saxony Trustee, and government councillor in Wurzen, and owner of a knight's mansion.
- His ninth great grandson Johann Carl Heinrich von Zobel born 1773 in Gröppendorf. He was a cleric and advocate at the faculty, Wittenberg. Later he was professor of theology at the University of Borna, and became an honorary citizen of Borna. His daughter Bertha Renate Cölestine von Zobel married Ludwig August Koch in 1833 in Leipzig.

Traditional Occupations

- Merchant – Handelsherr
- City Councillor – Stadtrat
- Mayor – Bürgermeister
- Tin Plate Dealer – Zinnblechhändler
- Hospital Director – Hospitalvorsteher
- Hammer Mill Owner – Hammerherr
- Tithe Collector – Zehentner
- Bailiff, Senior Administrator – Amtmann
- Mansion Owner – Rittergutsbesitzer
- Theologian – Theologe
- Professor – Professor
- City Treasurer – Stadtrkämmerer
- Armour Maker – Harnischmacher
- City Physician – Stadtphysikus
- Minister of Culture – Kulturminister
- Magistrate – Magister
- Hunting Squire – Jagdtjunker
- Chamberlain – Kämmerer

This excursion into the rabbit hole resulted in a 40 page booklet about my brother-in-law's Koch family and about the von Zobel family, which I have condensed for this article.

Accessing Essondale Hospital Records at the BC Archives

By Janice Davis

Have you ever wondered how to gain access to Essondale Hospital Records at the BC Archives?

Email: privacy@royalbcmuseum.bc.ca

Here's what I included in the email:

I am interested in reviewing the files related to my maternal grandfather <insert name> who was admitted to Valleyview at Essondale Hospital I believe on <insert date> and died there on <insert date> (copy of death certificate attached). I understand that Essondale files may be available under: Series GR 2880 Mental Health Services patient case files Accession 93-5683 and/or File GR3019.2.4 – Provincial mental Hospitals admission books – Patients numbers 45,982 - 53,196 (for period 1958-1960).

I am interested in reviewing these files for purposes of genealogical and family health research.

Living On the Parish

Workhouses, Asylums, Infirmaries, Houses of Industry, Prisons, and Bridewells

At our January gathering, Janice Davis described discovering ancestors in what functioned as social support for those fallen on hard times. In United Kingdom research, this topic is well described and supported by lavish records. While it wasn't only the English who addressed social problems, their example provides information about where to look for hard to find ancestors in other cultures world-wide, across time.

To set the stage, check out historian Ruth Goodman's Victorian Life video series. Goodman demonstrates what life was like if our ancestors were among the working poor.

Harsh Realities of Victorian Working Life: Ruth Goodman on the Industrial Revolution: <https://youtu.be/dADFk6Qy3s?si=wt3n0GLiPRt2sa2X>

Here are some opportunities to learn more:

"1601 Poor Law: Video Interview With Rachel Gadsden", UK Parliament. www.parliament.uk/about/living-heritage/evolutionofparliament/2015-parliament-in-the-making/get-involved1/2015-banners-exhibition/rachel-gadsden/1601-poor-law-gallery/

"Bridewell Prison and Hospital", London Lives 1600 – 1800. www.londonlives.org/static/Bridewell.jsp

1834 Poor Law: What did people think of the new Poor Law?, The National Archives. www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/education/resources/1834-poor-law/

The Workhouse: the Story of an Institution. www.workhouses.org.uk

Why Are There So Many Bridewells? Prison Project. www.prisonhistory.org/2021/09/why-are-there-so-many-bridewells/

"The Changing Face of the Workhouse: 'Asylums in everything but...'", Historic England. www.historicengland.org.uk/research/inclusive-heritage/disability-history/1832-1914/the-changing-face-of-the-workhouse/

The Workhouse Encyclopedia by Peter Higginbotham. www.archive.org/details/workhouseencyclo0000higg

Royal Hospital Chelsea Pensioner Records

<https://chelsea-pensioners.co.uk/heritage/tracing-ancestors>

From 1692 until 1955, the Royal Hospital Chelsea was responsible for administering and paying all Army pensions, leading to the term "Chelsea Pensioners" being used for all Army pensioners.

The attestation and discharge documents in this series constitute the most detailed record of a soldier's service.

The Royal Hospital Chelsea maintains an archive with some records of residents from 1871 to the present. Records prior to 1871 are available at the National Archives, Kew:

<https://discovery.nationalarchives.gov.uk/details/r/C14305>

An index to the records is available through Ancestry: www.ancestry.ca/search/collections/60917/

Viewing Originals

Original records can be viewed through Fold3: <https://blog.fold3.com/uk-royal-hospital-chelsea-pensioner-soldier-service-records/>

Electronic images of WO 97 Piece numbers 1 to 6383 can be searched online through FindMyPast: <https://search.findmypast.co.uk/search-world-records/british-army-service-records>

MRHS AGM and Potluck



Join us at St Andrews Heritage Church for a potluck dinner and socializing about our shared love of heritage. We will review our amazing 150th anniversary year of 2024! All are welcome but only current members will have voting powers.

Join the Maple Ridge Historical Society for the Annual General Meeting and Potluck

DATE: March 27, 2025

TIME: 6:30 PM

PLACE: St. Andrews Heritage Church, 22279 116 Ave, Maple Ridge

All are welcome for a potluck dinner and socializing but only current members have voting powers.

Research News

Upgraded Microfilm Computer at Maple Ridge Public Library

Thank you to Fraser Valley Regional Library for maintaining this service, which gives researchers access to otherwise unavailable local historical data.

Below is the summary of the work FVRL IT carried out with the Microscan device setup:

- Old tower type computer has been replaced with slim type
- New Computer has Windows 11 operating system
- Acquired PerfectView software, new licenses and configured with existing ST-ViewScan (Microscan) device
- Maintained the Patron sign in feature
- Provided a copy of the “quick guide documentation” for the customers as the software is new

Library staff will be familiarizing themselves with the upgraded equipment in the coming weeks. Feel free to come by anytime to use!

We recommend you call ahead if you intend to use the microfilm reader, to ensure staff support and ensure that other users aren't needing the service at the same time.

Maple Ridge Public Library 604-467-7417

Irish National Archives Website Refresh

<https://cbgenealogy.ie/irish-national-archives-has-a-new-site/>

Claire Bradley has written up a post outlining the changes to the Irish National Archives website refresh.

Bank of Montreal's Corporate Archives

<https://ourheritagebmo.com/collections/>

The BMO Human Resources Ledger Books, spanning the 1880s to the 1920s, have been digitized and are searchable by: first name, last name, date of birth, and place of birth. You can also search the Notman photo albums for photos of BMO employees taken at the studio of 19th century Montreal photographer William Notman.

New Brunswick Birth Registrations Available

<https://archives.gnb.ca/Search/VISSE/?culture=en-CA>

The Provincial Archives of New Brunswick has added 516 digitized images for late registrations of birth recorded in 1929 to its database.

BC Vitals Records Release

www.royalbcmuseum.bc.ca

The BC Archives announced February 10, 2025 that the annual release of birth (1904), death (2004) and marriage (1949) events from the BC Vital Statistics Agency is expected at the end of March 2025. The BC Archives will add them to their database in the coming months.

This is exciting news for researchers as no birth records have been made available for twenty years since the *British Columbia Vital Statistics Act* was extended to 120 years due to privacy concerns.

New at FamilySearch

www.familysearch.org/en/blog/new-records-february-2025

In February, FamilySearch expanded its free online archives with over 28 million new records from 31 different countries including: national civil registration records from the Philippines, dog license registration records from Ireland, civil registration records from Italy and additions to the collections for Argentina, Brazil, Croatia, Peru, Scotland, and Venezuela.

- Democratic Republic of the Congo, National Identity Cards, 1884-2019
- Ghana, Census, 2010
- Zambia, Archdiocese of Lusaka, Church Records, 1908-2019
- Zimbabwe, Diocese of Masvingo, Catholic Church Records, 1893-2022
- Philippines Civil Registration (National), 1945-1996

What Women Say of the Canadian North-West

https://archive.org/details/cihm_30717/page/n5/mode/2up

www.canadiana.ca/view/oochm.16869

Published in 1886 by the Canada Pacific Railway Company, "a simple statement of the experiences of women settled in all parts of Manitoba and the North-west Territories." Scanned from a CIHM microfiche of the original publication held by Library and Archives Canada. While a blatant advertising booklet, it includes quotes from women from across Canada and provides insight into the experiences of immigrants.

The Canadian Council of Archives (CCA)

<https://archivescanada.ca/>

Search the holdings of over 800 archival repositories across Canada. contains linked archival repository databases for each province through the ARCHIVESCANA.ca national database. Includes

holdings such as documentary records, maps, photographs, sound recordings, videos and more.

Getty Museum Open Content Program

<https://search.getty.edu/gateway/landing>

The Open Content Program makes high-resolution images of public domain artwork from the Getty collections freely available, without restrictions, to advance the research, teaching, and practice of art and art history. Over 88,000 downloadable artworks and over 78,000 images of art and archival material from the Getty Research Institute's collections, including prints, maps, photographs, and study images documenting the history of European art.

Digital images of Getty-owned artworks in the public domain marked with the CC0-public domain icon are available for download under Creative Commons Zero (CC0).

Nauticapedia

www.nauticapedia.ca

Celebrating and highlighting the maritime heritage of western and northern Canada, as well as the Naval Forces of Canada. The mariner and naval biography database now contains 58,599 entries (with 4000 images).

Geneanet

<https://en.geneanet.org/explore/international-guide/>

Geneanet has created a page in their Search Your French Ancestors genealogy guide which shows maps of France with the main digitized archives available at Geneanet (Premium or free access), indexed or not (i.e. surnames, first names and places available in search engines), with or without images available; as well as maps showing the digitized archives available at the sites of the Archives Départementales (County archives -- free access, unindexed names). This page can be very useful for locating records at Geneanet or at the ADs if you know where your ancestors lived in France!

Library and Archives Canada

A year ago today, Library and Archives Canada (LAC) embarked on an ambitious project in collaboration with Internet Archive Canada (IAC) to digitize a collection of up to 80,000 out-of-copyright publications from 1322 to 1920. Since the project began in February 2024, over 10,847 books have been digitized, generating a total of 2,502,272 images. Once the project is completed, up to 80,000 books will be made freely accessible online starting in the spring.

Family History Events

BC Genealogical Society

www.bcgs.ca/bcgs-events

- **Spring Seminar: Scottish Burgh & Trade Incorporation Records & What is Ireland? Understanding the Lay of the Land** with Chris Paton, March 8, 2025, 10:00 AM to 12:15 PM (PST) via Zoom. \$20 for non-members.
- **Members' Meeting and AGM** March 12, 2025, 7:30 PM (PST).

BC Historical Federation

www.bchistory.ca

- **2025 BCHF conference: Williams Lake**, May 1 to 4, 2025, Fees: Full conference \$375; Banquet only \$50; Workshop \$100.

Campbell River Genealogy Society

www.crgenealogysociety.ca

- **Artificial Intelligence Experiences** with Robert Scales, March 6, 2025, 7:00 PM (PST), hybrid event.

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

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

- **Timeline Canada: Immigration and Impact** with Jan Raska, from the Canadian Museum of Immigration at Pier 21, Tuesday, April 22, 2025, 2:00 PM (EST) via Zoom.
- **Between Friends / Entre Amis: Cousins Across the Border** with Dave Obee, Tuesday, May 27, 2025, 2:00 PM (EST) Zoom.

Chilliwack Genealogy Club

www.fvrl.bc.ca

- **Monthly meetings** facilitated by Marlene Dance, Wednesdays, March 19, April 16, 2025, 10:30 AM TO 12:00 PM, Chilliwack Library

Kelowna & District Genealogical Society

www.KDGS.ca

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

- **Researching Genealogy at the National Archives Records Administration (NARA), USA: More than just the Census!** with Eric Flores, March 3, 2025, 7:00 PM (PST) via Zoom.

Mission Genealogy Club

www.facebook.com/groups/383052287973196

Boardroom of Mission Regional Chamber of Commerce, 34033 Lougheed Hwy, Mission BC.

- **Canadian Census: Techniques for Finding People** with Andrea Lister, March 13, 2025; 1:00 PM to 3:00 PM (PST).

Nova Scotia Genealogical Society

www.nsgenconference.ca

- **Virtual Conference**, May 3 to 4, 2025, \$69 for non-members.

Surrey Libraries

www.surreylibraries.ca/services/family-history

Free. Registration required. Cloverdale.

- **Family History Orientation** Saturday, March 22, April 28, May 4, 2025, 10:30 to 11:30 AM
- **Fun Family History Friday**, Fridays, March 28, April 25, May 30, 2025, 2:30 to 3:30 PM.
- **Family History DNA Chat**, Friday, March 14, 2025, 2:30 to 3:30 PM.

Victoria Genealogical Society

www.victoriags.org

- **Find a FAVE with Find a GRAVE** with Mark Woodcock, March 22, 2025, 10:00 AM to 12:00 PM (PST). Hybrid event. Registration required. \$14 for members; \$21 CDN for non-members.

- **Genealogy Resources** available through the **Victoria Public Library**, with Caitlin Ottenbreit, April 12, 2025, 10:00 AM to 12:00 PM (PST). Hybrid event. Registration required. \$14 for members; \$21 CDN for non-members.

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 5, 2025: **New Year's Challenge—Is This My Ancestor Results**—Members were challenged to examine their family history to search for an ancestor of questionable character. Be sure to join this meeting as members present some intriguing and no doubt amusing stories of these notable ancestors.

April 2, 2025: **Taking Another Look at Those Old Photos—Do You See the Resemblance?** This shared topic has members searching through old photos for family resemblances. Share your photo resemblance finds, including how the individuals are related. Also, give some thoughts on how you might showcase these connections—a specific photo album or perhaps including in a family story.

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