Community, Past, Present & Future



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

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The Family History group supports members 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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Family History Newsletter

Searching for Dutch Ancestors?

By Alice Regina Campbell

Are you considering searching for your Dutch ancestors, but don't know where to start? Help is on the way, all in the form of an excellent site created by Yvette Hoitink, a professional Dutch genealogist. Through her site and links, you will discover that there is a straightforward path to researching your Dutch ancestors. Read on...

When Yvette Hoitink was 15, she learned that her grandfather, who had passed away recently, might have been a twin. She reasoned that she could inadvertently meet his twin, and so she sought to verify the rumour. Alone, she travelled by train across the Netherlands to the archives. She discovered that not only was her grandfather not a twin, but that her grandmother had a child out of wedlock 18 months before her grandfather's birth. Instant scandal! Yvette was hooked. And so, in 1991, began a lifelong passion for genealogy.

Two years later, she created the first genealogical website in the Netherlands (probably one of the earliest in the world). This got her in touch with descendants of Dutch emigrants all over the world, which made her realize how many people were searching for their Dutch roots. It was her aha! moment.



Yvette's Dutch Genealogy website created in 1998.

"15th anniversary of Yvette's Dutch Genealogy Homepage", Dutch Genealogy, www.dutchgenealogy.nl/15-years-of-dutch-genealogy/ Yvette Hoitink, MLitt, CG®, QG™ is a professional genealogist, writer, and lecturer in the Netherlands.. Through her own company and her position at the Nationaal Archief, the National Archives of the Netherlands, Yvette has been involved in the development of the largest genealogical websites in the Netherlands.

My own heritage is pure Dutch from 1750 onwards. As a cousin had researched my maternal lines, Segstro and Baas, many decades ago, it seemed that there was no more work to be done. On the converse, my father's line, van Boeschoten and Twilhaar received no attention for the simple family belief that "we were the last of the line." My father was the only son of an only son, or so we thought. All wrong as I later discovered.

Fast forward into the 21st century and to being both retired and an empty nester. My interest was piqued when I stumbled across a blog, or website from a Dutch genealogist named Yvette Hoitink. Other than my cousin, she was the first person that I knew who had an interest in Dutch genealogy and furthermore seemed very knowledgeable. I signed up for her free weekly newsletter. It was remarkable and both directed and furthered my research in ways that I had not thought possible.

From <u>www.dutchgenealogy.nl</u> you can access her blog, sign up for the weekly newsletter and read older posts. It is always interesting reading!

The format of her newsletter is simple and always informative.

- weekly updates on a project which she is researching (eg. Is Eleanor of Aquitane My Ancestor?)
- Dutch term of the week, usually one found in records, e.g. Echetgenoot husband
- online resources, both existing and new additions
- quick tips
- extras old maps, photographs or documents, plus their online sources

From Yvette's blogs I learned about Delpher, https://www.delpher.nl/nl/kranten, a site for digitized newspapers and radio broadcasts (1685–1995) in the Netherlands, the Dutch East Indies, the Antilles, America and Suriname. I found so many articles about my family in the late 1800's, and the 1900's, and I've only just begun.

Example 1

My great grandfather, Arie Segstro, was to inherit the ship's wharf in Aalsmeer from his father, but Arie died in 1880 at the young age of 35. His son, my grandfather Jan Segstro, was age 7 — too young to inherit the wharf. A newspaper article a week later told that the wharf and all its effects were being sold by Arie's father, Cornelis Segstro, leaving Arie's wife, my grandmother Neeltje, destitute with 3 young children. I had heard stories of how bereft my grandmother was, and how she moved from place to place after her husband's death. The newspaper article shed light on her situation.

Example 2

I knew that my maternal grandparents, Jan and Wijntje Segstro had 13 children, but that only 7 survived to adulthood. I knew of the deaths of two children, a 2-year-old and a 6-year old, within a 4 week period in 1919, during the Great Influenza epidemic. Through the Delpher site, I found the heartbreaking obituaries for these two children, Grietje age 6 and Gerrit Jan age 2 1/2. (Obituary announcements were always bordered in black.)



The obituary reads: "Still grieving deeply over the recent death of our little daughter, we now announce that, in our time of heartache, we have been struck yet again by the sorrowful loss of our littlest darling, Gerrit Jan at the tender age of 2 1/2 years. His heartbroken parents, brothers and sisters, J. + W. Segstro and Children. Hilversum, 16 June 1919."

DE GOOI- EN EEMLANDER, 18 JUNE 1919, 2

Then there were the archives, all free, to which Yvette directed my searching for old maps, military records (which included physical descriptions!), vital records and more. Phenomenal. She was truly my guide and not only directed me to more and more Dutch archives, but in so doing, gave me a true window into the lives and experiences of my ancestors.

Two years ago, Yvette's blog answered a query regarding Dutch research on Ancestry, a paid site. Here is a summary with updated links to her reply:

Most Dutch records on Ancestry can be found for free on these websites:

- 1. Open Archives. www.openarchieven.nl This website gathers information from various archives in the Netherlands and Belgium. Available in English.
- 2. WieWasWie. www.wiewaswie.nl A website where several Dutch archives make their records available. Start here first. Available in English. Advanced search options require a subscription but the basic version is free.
- 3. Dutch Archives. www.archieven.nl While similar, this is a different website to the first one above, and is limited to the Netherlands. Available in English.
- 4. Nationaal Archief. www.nationaalarchief.nl
 Website of the National Archives. Again, different site from numbers 1 and 3. When I entered Hilversum, it generated over 3,000 historical photos.
- 5. FamilySearch. <u>www.familysearch.org</u> Search for records or check the catalog by place name.
- 6. Digital Resources Netherlands and Belgium. www.geneaknowhow.net/digi/resources.html

In a nutshell, Yvette Hoitink is the expert on genealogy in the Netherlands and its colonies, including New Netherland, now New York. While she can research on your behalf, she prefers to be your guide, and encourages research by providing links, suggestions and examples.

She also champions correct research techniques and cautions you to verify, verify, verify. Her series of articles in her newsletter on "Is Eleanor of Aquitane my Ancestor?" are both fascinating and superb technical examples of historical research done right.

If you have Dutch ancestry, Yvette's site and weekly newsletter should be your go-to for guidance, resources, inspiration and information. It will serve as a springboard to both starting and furthering your search. Veel succes. Veel geluk. Good luck!

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 Lighthouse Keeper in Maple Ridge? By Brenda L. Smith

When I am checking a historical directory for one project, I usually look for other possible items on my checklist. So many underground tunnels offer themselves for exploration. Recently, in the 1911 Henderson's Directory of Greater Vancouver, checking for Port Haney in the Fraser Valley section, my eye caught on "lighthouse kpr". In Maple Ridge? And where is Scarlet Point?

Hunt W lighthouse kpr (Scarlet Pt)

The rabbit hole beckoned. Maps show Scarlett Point on Balaklava Island off the northern tip of Vancouver Island, near Port Hardy, British Columbia. According to Wikipedia, the lighthouse has warned of the rocky shore since it was built in 1905, and replaced with a new light in 1985. The lighthouse is currently operated by the Canadian Coast Guard.



It appears that William Hunt was the lighthouse keeper from 1908 to 1939. He was born in Fort Rupert, BC in 1866 and died in Victoria, BC in 1949.

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Registration of Birth (delayed), William Hunt, 17 January 1866.

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Registration of Death, William Hunt, 12 November 1949.

Royal BC Museum and Archives, 1949-09-010252

This cursory look at William Hunt doesn't answer why he was listed in Port Haney in 1911, but he is a tempting research topic. You are invited to take up the challenge to explain Hunt's connection to our community.

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.

A Tangled Adoption Story

Gina Leigh tackles a tangled adoption story in this project.

Background and Goal

Gina's work started with a conversation. During a recent visit my friend and I talked about her 96-year-old father. Bill was adopted and Sandy said he had long hoped to learn who his birth parents were.

So far...

The family had contacted the Ontario provincial adoption agency who had little information to share.

Bill had taken a DNA test that hadn't helped them narrow the possibilities. However, the results indicated he was primarily of Irish and Ashkenazi Jewish ancestry.

Over the years the family had tried to make headway with the little information Bill had. He knew the names Swallow, Lapp, and Florence. One difficulty the family had to contend with in their searches was that Bill's adoptive father had remarried when Bill was about 10 years old. Relations with his stepmother were so bad that Bill left home at age 13 and never had further contact with his parents.

Bill was born in 1929, probably in Ontario. He was named after his adoptive father. He believed at least some, and possibly all, of his siblings were also adopted. His now deceased sister who was six years older than Bill had always refused to tell him whatever she knew about the family.

I looked at the 1931 Canadian census for Ontario and found the family: father William 35 (born 1896, Scotland), mother Florence 35 (born 1896 in Ontario of parents born in the USA), children George 18 (born 1912, USA), Lawrence 16 (born 1916, ON), Pearl 8 (born 1923, USA) and William 2 (born 1929, ON).

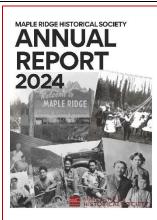
The census continued: William senior's racial origin was Scottish (as were all the children although this could have been because children were considered to be their father's ethnic origin). Florence's racial origin was German. George and Pearl immigrated to Canada in 1926.

Bill remembered the family made frequent border crossings in the 1930s. A search of border crossings between Ontario and New York turned up records of the family travelling together and separately under the names Swallow and Lapp, in fact, occasionally recorded as "also known as" the other name.

In 1940, 11 year old Bill had attempted to cross the border at Buffalo, New York, after taking the bus and hitchhiking from Toronto. It's clear the border officials had difficulty sorting out the relationship of the family members he named because there is a question mark with each name: Uncle (?) William Swallow of Toronto; Father (?) George Lapp; Mother (?) Florence Lapp of Buffalo. A note said that George Lapp had appeared at the border crossing and said he was not related to young Bill. However, Bill had a letter signed "from your loving [Lapp] sister". Bill was turned over to Canadian immigration.

I have discovered other information which I've chosen not to include here. I'm at the early stages. Sandy has returned home and will talk to her father to see what other information he remembers that might aid this research.

Maple Ridge Historical Society



Read the 2024 Maple Ridge Historical Society Annual Report

www.mapleridgemuseum.or g/wpcontent/uploads/2025/03/A nnual-Report-2024-4combined.pdf

Finding Directories at Canadiana

By Andrea Lister

www.canadiana.ca

Canadiana has over 60 million pages of digitized heritage content available free of charge but it can be a bit daunting to access.

If you type British Columbia Directories into the main search bar you get 3,184 results. How do you narrow that down to something manageable?

- 1. Click on the first result, the Henderson's British Columbia gazetteer and directory and mining encyclopædia for 1897.
- 2. Scroll down past the image to Document Record.
- From Subject, click on British Columbia
 Directories.



Your search is now narrowed down to 36 results.



Within these 36 results you can find some unexpected results such as *Bradstreet's reports of California*, *Colorado*, *Nebraska*, *Nevada*, *Oregon*, *the Territories and British Colombia*, published in New York in 1879. Bradstreet (now Dun & Bradstreet) publishes business credit reports that provide information on a company's financial health and payment history.



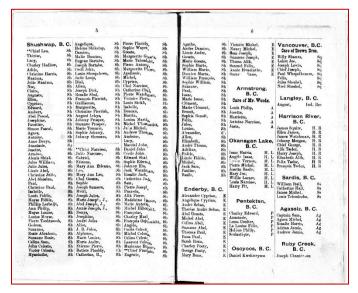
J. Webster in New Westminster, General Store, estimated worth between \$5,000-\$10,000 (U) and fair credit (D).

Bradstreet's reports of California, Colorado, Nebraska, Nevada,
Oregon, the Territories and British Colombia. New York:
Bradstreet Company, 1879, Canadiana,
Https://www.canadiana.ca/view/oocihm.14320.

The Ontario gazetteer and directory, including the provinces of British Columbia, Manitoba and the North-West Territories, also the City of Montreal, published in 1892/93 by Might's Directory Co. has a good cross section of Canada.

There are medical, timber, and merchant directories and even a *Who makes what in British Columbia* guide published in 1914.

The *Kamloops Wawa* was a newspaper published by Father Jean-Marie-Raphaël Le Jeune, superior of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Kamloops in British Columbia, Canada, beginning May 25, 1891, and continuing into the 1900s. Canadiana has the *Kamloops Wawa Directory* published in January 1895. It is essentially the subscription list to the newspaper and thus is a directory to many of the reserves in British Columbia. As Indigenous people living on reserves were not included in the mainstream directories like Henderson's it is a wonderful resource.



A snapshot in time of Shuswap, Enderby, Armstrong, Okanagan Lake, Penticton, Osoyoos, Vancouver, Langley, Harrison, Sardis, Agassiz, and Ruby Creek.

> KAMLOOPS WAWA DIRECTORY, KAMLOOPS, FATHER JEAN-MARIE-RAPHAËL LE JEUNE, JANUARY, 1895, CANADIANA, HTTPS://WWW.CANADIANA.CA/VIEW/OOCIHM.15429/13.

A shout out to Doug Brigham, Head, Koerner Library at The University of British Columbia for reminding me of the vast resources within the Canadiana collection.



Canadiana

BC Historical Directories: A New Approach

May 7, 2025, 7:00 PM, via Zoom

The Maple Ridge Family History Group is pleased to present Doug Brigham, Head, Koerner Library at UBC, as our guest speaker.

Email mrfamilyhistory@gmail.com for information on how to join the meeting



Doug Brigham is the Head, Koerner Library at UBC. Doug has worked previously in systems, collections management and research data management and has been an adjunct professor at UBC's School of Information.

He was Secretary of the BC Historical Federation from 2019 to 2022.

BC Historical Directories: A New Approach

Doug has been developing a map-based search interface for British Columbia directories for the past year. The interface builds on the indexing work of John Lutz and George Young, the microfilming done by UBC Library's Preservation Microfilming Program, and the digitization work done by many local and international organizations. Doug will demonstrate the data behind his interface, which includes information about print, microform and digitized directories, as well as the interface itself. He hopes that local historians will find the system a useful tool to support their research.

Research News

WWII: what is a genealogy pack? www.past-presence.com/2025/04/13/wwii-what-is-a-genealogy-pack/

This blog post by Linda Yip's on her Past Presence website compares our options for ordering Canadian military Second World War records held by Library and Archives Canada. Linda contrasts the yield of information when you order the Genealogy Pack or the Complete Military Service File. This post also discusses some of the additional records in the complete file.

Ship Registries at Library and Archives Canada https://thediscoverblog.com/2025/03/06/all-aboat-searching-for-ship-registries-in-lacs-collections/

Library and Archives Canada (LAC) has digitized and transcribed 84,000 ship registration records dating back as far as 1838. The transcriptions include the ship's name, port of registry, registration number and year of registration.

Podcasts—Family History While You are Out and About

Whether you are on the bus, in the car, or just tired of your screen life, try these titles to perk up your day.

Recent titles, freely available, include:

British Columbia Museums Association Podcasts, www.museum.bc.ca/brain/musenews-ep-46-year-end-favourites/

- Coast Salish knowledge helps researchers deepen study of 160-year-old pelt from now extinct woolly dog
- 'Incredible treasures' at core of reimagined and redesigned Museum of Anthropology
- Historic Martin Mars water bomber completes final flight in B.C.
- Proposed Inner Harbour attraction would present Indigenous, settler experiences 'side by side'

The National Archives Spotlight Podcast Series – On The Record:

www.media.nationalarchives.gov.uk/index.php/category
/podcasts-2/

- Working Women in History explores the lives, struggles, and resilience of working women through the centuries.
- Second World War: Legacies, Language and Diaspora explores the legacies of Britain's multilingual, multi-ethnic troops.
- Pauper Voices brings you the words of those who are often absent from history.

Online Tools for Sharing Family Photos and Stories

Family Tree Magazine by Rick Crume

www.familytreemagazine.com/projects/online-toolssharing-family-photos-stories/

Attention Shoppers!

Global Genealogy has a new web address, and a revamped site. Change your bookmark or visit for the first time if you are in the market for genealogy publications.

Vancouver 2010 Olympic and Paralympic Collection

www.olympic.ca/games/2010-vancouver

It's been fifteen years since we waved our maple leaf mittens at the Vancouver Winter Olympics. You can now browse a web archival collection documenting this significant event in Canada's history. This issue of the Library and Archives blog by Tom Smyth reveals some of the contents, and also describes the characteristics of web archiving, useful information for all family historians.

Does your family story include Olympic participation as athlete or spectator? LAC has developed a collection of Olympic archival material that also includes:

- 2006 Winter, Turin, February 10-26, 2006
- 2008 Summer, Beijing, August 8–24, 2008
- 2010 Winter, Vancouver, February 12–28, 2010
- 2012 Summer, London, July 27-August 12, 2012
- 2014 Winter Games, Sochi, February 7–23, 2014
- 2016 Summer, Rio de Janeiro, August 5–21, 2016
- 2018 Winter, Pyeongchang, February 9–25, 2018
- 2020 Summer, Tokyo, July 23–August 8, 2020
- 2022 Winter, Beijing, February 4–20, 2022
- 2024 Summer, Paris, July 26-August 11, 2024

FamilySearch: Full-Text Search www.familysearch.org/en/search/full-text

This project allows you to, for example, enter an ancestor's name and get results in documents such as land records, and wills and probate documents where your person's name appears.

Guernsey Collection www.findmypast.co.uk/guernsey

Online for the first time, German occupation ID and order documents, evacuee return forms, and the *Channel Islands Monthly Review* newsletter tell the definitive story of wartime life in Guernsey.

Women's Land Army

www.findmypast.co.uk/discover/military-armed-forcesand-conflict/regimental-and-service-records/englandand-wales-womens-land-army-service-cards-1939-1950

Originally set up in 1917, the Women's Land Army was reformed in June 1939 in preparation for the Second World War. Over 200,000 Land Girls served from 1939-1950.

Family History Events

Abbotsford Family History Day

All Day Family History Event

Presentations are for beginners and light refreshments provided at noon. Saturday May 10, 2025, 9:00 AM to 12:00 PM (PST). The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints, 30635 Blueridge Drive, Abbotsford, BC. Free.



BC Genealogical Society www.bcgs.ca/bcgs-events

The History of the Murchie's
Tea Company with Sharon
McKenzie, May 14, 2025, 7:00
PM (PST) via Zoom. \$20 for
non-members.

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

Ontario Land Records with Claire Smith-Burns of the KDGS, May 1, 2025, 7:00 PM (PST), hybrid event.

Chilliwack Genealogy Club www.fvrl.bc.ca

Monthly meetings facilitated by Marlene Dance, Wednesdays, May 21, June 18, 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

Hidden in Plain Sight with Steve Hall, May 5, 2025, 7:00 PM (PST) via Zoom.

Nova Scotia Genealogical Society

www.nsgenconference.ca

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

Surrey Libraries

www.surreylibraries.ca/services/fam ily-history

Free. Registration required. Cloverdale.

Family History Orientation

Saturday, May 24, June 30, 2025, 10:30 to 11:30 AM (PST)

Fun Family History Friday,

Fridays, May 30, June 27, 2025, 2:30 to 3:30 PM (PST).

Family History DNA Chat,

Friday, May 9, June 6, 2025, 2:30 to 3:30 PM (PST).

Ancestry and Travel with Brenda Jones, Friday, May 16, 2025, 2:00 to 3:30 PM (PST).

Nanaimo Family History Society

https://nanaimofamilyhistory.ca/

Ella's Story: Expanding that empty branch on the family tree with Marianne Rasmus, May 12, 2025, 7:00 PM to 9:00 PM (PST). Zoom event. Registration required. Guests are allowed one free presentation.

Vancouver Public Library www.vpl.ca

Chinese Canadian Genealogy Resources with Library and Archives Canada, May 29, 2025, 2:00 PM to 3:30 PM (PST). Online or in-person event. Registration required.

> 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.

May 7, 2025: BC Historical Directories: A New

Approach—Doug Brigham, Head, Koerner Library at UBC, has been developing a mapbased search interface for British Columbia directories. Doug will demonstrate the data behind his interface, which includes information about print, microform and digitized directories, as well as the interface itself.

June 4, 2025: Read All
About It: Newspapers for
Family History Newspapers
can be a great resource for
birth, marriage, death
announcements as well as a
source of stories, photos, and
more. However, searching
digitized newspapers can be
frustrating with too many
results or no results at all.
Join Andrea Lister as she
shares some tips to make your
newspaper searches more
effective.

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