

Community, Past, Present & Future



January 2026

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 7:00 PM PST.

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Family History Newsletter

Stir the Pot



Stir the Pot

FEB 16 - 22, 2026



The 2026 BC Heritage Week theme is Stir the Pot—food and its connection to culture and community, traditions, families and ancestors. In the spirit of food and how it evokes connection to us and our family history, the Maple Ridge Family History Group invited readers to contribute to our Stir the Pot themed newsletter. We received contributions from so many people, enjoy the feast.



By Gina Leigh

When I was fourteen my family travelled to Italy where we stayed with my grandparents on their farm for three months. Two large fig trees grew in the yard, and in August the figs were ripe and ready to be plucked and eaten. My first taste of fresh figs.



Figs from Gina's tree.

PHOTO BY GINA LEIGH

Some years ago, I planted a fig tree in a large pot—figs planted in the ground can be massive. This year was my biggest crop (only about forty figs), ripening, a few at a time.

Because I eat fresh figs infrequently, when I see my figs and bite into those luscious fruits, I'm reminded of that wonderful summer with my family, my grandparents and aunts and uncles and cousins.

Chilean Squash

By Sally Gwyn, staff member of Maple Ridge Public Library

Growing up, my mom always made a special dish for Christmas Eve called Chilean Squash. As an adult, I still enjoy it very much! It's mashed squash mixed with green and red bell peppers, corn, eggs, and topped with cheese, then baked in the oven. It's simple, nutritious, and delicious. I can see why it became a go-to dish, it's easy, quick, light, and healthy, and perfect for throwing in the oven before rushing out the door for the Christmas Eve service. As a child, however, it wasn't a big favourite, especially for my younger brother and sister. It became a family tradition, though, even if it wasn't always something we looked forward to. Year after year, we still ate it.

I remember one year, my aunt bribed my brother to try a bite just to stop the fighting about it! Eventually, my mom started adding a second dish to the menu: Tortière, a French Canadian meat pie, which the whole family loved. These two dishes, especially when served together, will always remind me of Christmas Eve with great fondness. It brings back memories of cold winter nights, rushing to finish wrapping presents, dressing up for church, and the anticipation of special family time and traditions that made me feel safe and loved. This year, I plan to make both dishes for my own family on Christmas Eve, hoping to carry on this tradition (minus the dramatics). Meals are more than just food; they're memories. The traditions we create shape our family experiences, stirring up all the good, the bad, and everything in between that makes families what they are.



Grandmother's Apple Strudel

By Sarah Nelson

It was just after the second World War ended that my grandparents and mother immigrated to Canada by boat to Halifax. They were greeted by the smells of people and food, as volunteers offered them Corn Flakes and oranges as they walked into the building at Pier 21. However, my grandmother was horrified, thinking they were being offered animal feed. She even swatted it out of my mother's five-year-old hand. My mother was thrilled, though, as she stepped aboard the train that would take them west to

Toronto, carrying her first ever orange. She'd never had one due to war rations and her early life and recalled how the smell of citrus juice hovered for hours after as the train chugged forward.

My grandmother brought with her food traditions from her homeland of Austria blended with those from her second home in England where she'd spent the previous six years. These were the scents that filled my soul every time we visited, especially the sweet scent of my favourite dessert. When it came to holidays, while other families celebrated with pies, I dreamed of my grandma's apple strudel, filled with apples, cinnamon, raisins, and toasted breadcrumbs. She tried several times to teach me how to make it, but as a non-baker, I never quite gained her magic touch making the delicate pastry. Years later, long after she'd passed, I met a cousin overseas who tried to teach me the way they made it in her village, and I was struck by the way she taught me. There was no recipe card and no way to look it up online or watch a video. The tradition was oral, the feel was simply touch, and the ingredients were selected visually. I still don't make apple strudel as I'll never quite have her touch, but I seek it out every year as a way to honour my grandmother's memory.

Woodward's Recipes from Bea Wright's Kitchen

By Alberta McNamara

My mother-in-law, Margaret McNamara worked for Woodward's Food Floor (Abbott & Hastings) for over 35 years. In 1954 when *Woodward's Recipes From Bea Wright's Kitchen* became part of the Food Floor, she began collecting those blue mimeographed sheets. Years later, she made copies of her collected recipes for my sister and me.



Bea Wright's Chili Con Carne recipe was by far the favourite. Over the years, if a chili dinner was offered as an enticement to help with a home repair project, everyone volunteered. Later, when most home renovations were completed, chili still remained a family favourite. When we got together at one of the homes for Halloween, it became that easy "help yourself" dinner as everyone took turns answering the door to hand out treats. Chili became the traditional Halloween dinner and still is today!

Boterkoek or Dutch Almond Cake

By Alice Campbell

There is no doubt that foods take us back in time—to an occasion, a place or even an individual. I was born in the Netherlands and my Christmas memories are brought back instantly by the treats that my mother made: speculaas, banket, boterkoek, gevulde koek, and marsepein.

Of these, I have made one recipe without fail every Christmas since 1980—boterkoek, or, as we call it, Dutch almond cake. Not only has it connected me to my mother and my childhood, it also connected my children to their Netherlands heritage.

How delicious is Dutch almond cake, our family's favourite Christmas baking? Here is the answer in 1981 from my then 6-year-old daughter, whose class was asked to finish the sentence, "If I had one wish...." Among her classmates, the wishes were typical for 6-year-olds: a puppy, a kitten, a certain toy and so on. What was my daughter's wish?

I wish my mom made
almond cake every day
because it's good.

COLLECTION OF ALICE CAMPBELL

Table Tradition: Walmesley Family Dinners

By Maureen Cruise

Thanksgiving or Christmas dinners (some birthdays) were celebrated at Grannie and Grandpa Walmesley's home, alternating most years with the Cruise family home. Ada Maude (Joyner) Wood Walmesley was my maternal grandmother, Grannie, or Maude. Oswald Joseph Walmesley, Grandpa W, was Maude's second 'husband'—since she and Milton Howard Wood never divorced; Oswald and Maude were never officially married (no one would admit to or discuss that!). Maude had two daughters with Milton Wood, Margaret and Thelma (my mother), and two sons with Oswald Walmesley (Oswald and Walter). The Walmesley apartment at 1185 Haro Street was originally two storeys (second and third floors), but after the girls married, and a fire damaged the top part of the building, the family lived in four rooms on the second floor of the building. Until the boys married, the dining room was their bedroom.

Back to family dinners. The food served was guaranteed to follow the same pattern. Carrots and celery sticks lying flat in a shallow cut glass dish,

tomato juice to start, (the grown-ups may have had a drink before dinner, if they did, we kids had ginger ale), and Coleman's mustard or horseradish was available in tiny pots with little spoons. Water was served with the meal, I don't remember any wine; milk for us kids. The meal would be roast beef with Yorkshire pudding, mashed potatoes, carrots, peas, green beans, maybe beets, or ham with cloves stuck in it and pineapple circles on top and a maraschino cherry in the middle of each pineapple slice. There might be a pork roast, in which case applesauce would be served. Dessert was usually pie, with real whipped cream. Pumpkin or apple pie. There would be Jell-O for us children because we loved how it jiggled and was bright red and shiny, and good with whipped cream. There would be nuts to crack after dinner. Brazil nuts were too hard to crack; hazel nuts or walnuts were better. And cheddar cheese and apple slices would be served with tea or coffee. I don't remember much cake, but then cakes would be more difficult to cook in a stove that didn't have automatic heat control. Grannie's stovetop had four round metal plates that could be lifted with an iron handle device, and one could look in at the flames. Marg and Mom did all the helping for Grannie, the men sat around talking in the living room until dinner was served.

Grandpa W insisted that his dinner plate be set out just so, the meat in front, the potatoes to one side, the peas in a certain place and the carrots somewhere else. Grannie would fix his plate, because none of the rest of us (including Marg or Mom) would get it right.



Oswald Joseph Walmesley and Ada Maude Walmesley, about 1960.

COLLECTION OF MAUREEN CRUISE

Mettensuppe

By Gunter Rebele

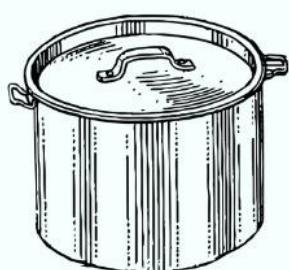
The Mettensuppe is a soup served after the Midnight Mass (Mette) on Christmas Eve. This is customary in Bavaria and Upper Austria, where the population is usually Catholic, and Christmas Eve is a fasting day until midnight. As the soup contains some sausages it can be eaten then. The basis of this soup is usually stale bread, beef broth, blood and liver or other sausages, onions, sometimes vegetables and spices. There are many variations in the different regions to make the soup.



IMAGES FROM COLLECTION OF GUNTER REBELE



After sitting in a cold church at midnight, then trudging through snow on a frigid winter night back home, everyone looked forward to the freshly made hot, hearty midnight soup.



Family Food Stories

By Cathy Magee

August, 2017 marked the 100th anniversary of the death of my paternal grandfather, John Fleming, in the First World War. He was reported missing on August 25, 1917 during the Battle of Hill 70 at Lens, France and many months later was deemed to have died on that day. Grandpa John's grandchildren wanted to acknowledge the occasion so a family luncheon was planned.

For the occasion, my talented cousin, Sue, also spearheaded a cookbook with pictures, stories, recipes, games, and quizzes, that was given out to family groups. That way, some of the special recipes we all enjoyed over the years could be carried on, and it rekindled many memories to keep us happily occupied during the luncheon. The cookbook contained, or reminded us of, many funny stories around the food we enjoyed — here are a few.

JOHNNY CAKE

One of the things my mother made so well, but not often, was Johnny Cake. It was made with cornmeal and when it came hot from the oven we covered it with butter, and smothered it with syrup. It was a special occasion lunch and became our Christmas morning brunch in later years. The only thing I could never understand as a child, was why my brother, John, had a cake named for him, when there was no Cathy cake equivalent. I got over that slight quickly, though, as I dug into the delicious treat. Of course, it wasn't named after my brother because the history of "Johnny" cake is that it was originally known as "Journey" cake because it kept well in saddle bags on long journeys.

MEN MAKING MANLY DINNERS

My dad and my uncle were friends before they became family through marriage so spent a lot of their youth together as housemates because my grandmother took in borders during the Depression. As young men, they found themselves alone for a few days while all the women were away, so they had to cook for themselves. My uncle made a real effort to put hot meals on the table for when my dad came home from work. When it was my dad's turn to cook, he had a different idea. One-and-a-half cups of Corn Flakes in a bowl. Add one cup of milk and enjoy! They survived.

Happy food memories to all!

A Tale of Kase Paska

By Laurie Woolley

Having Mennonite grandparents made for delectable holiday taste treats: German “Skinny” Pancakes rolled-up with homemade applesauce, Christmas Stollen and Cherry Soup. But my favourite has always been Kase Paska—an extravagantly rich cottage cheese spread that adorns the more familiar dome-shaped Easter bread, Paska. My mother made it annually until we kids moved out, yet I’ve been the only one of my siblings to carry on the tradition. It’s notoriously difficult to find a recipe for; so I treasure the one which was handed down. Despite my husband having little taste for it, I lovingly recreate the recipe each Easter, sometimes sharing with friends, but often eating the entire treat myself.



PHOTO BY LAURIE WOOLLEY

It is a labour of love, requiring the hand-pressing of cottage cheese, hard-boiled egg yolks, cold butter and sugar through a sieve not once, but twice, before the addition of cream, vanilla, and melted chocolate. Then comes the torture of delayed gratification with the three-day wait required to have the whey slowly drip through cheese cloth and sieve, allowing the dessert to firm up. I adore being able to phone my mom (who is ninety-three living on the other side of the country) and announce that “I’ve made the Kase Paska for this year,” and hear her exclamations of delight that I’ve celebrated my love of her cooking and heritage yet again. It keeps us close and my Mennonite roots alive.

In Memory of Grandma Kehler

By Brenda L. Smith

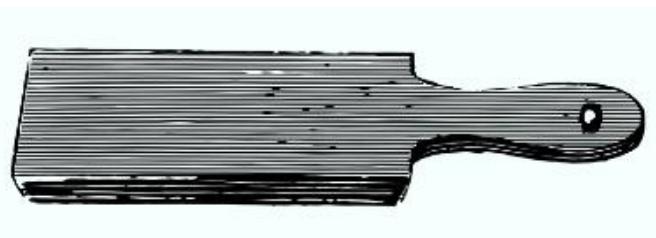
My Volga German grandmother Margaret Scheidt Kehler was a wonderful cook. As a small child I spent time with her while the rest of the family was engaged in farm work. While she was unenthusiastic about my pastry skills, I learned about pickling, baking, churning butter, and harvesting herbs. Leaving the Peace River Country in the mid-1960s, I kept the flavours and aromas of her kitchen in my heart.

I attended the American Historical Society of Germans from Russia (AHSGR) 2014 convention in Lincoln, Nebraska. The field trip to immigration sites was a step back into Grandma’s house. At Henderson Mennonite Heritage Park we were greeted with wafts of fresh ground coffee and cinnamon-scented coffee cake (kuchen).

The lunch that was served in the American Legion Hall in Sutton NE could have been cooked by my Grandma. The button noodles (Rahmnudeln) swimming in their creamy sauce, baby lettuce salad with dill and its own tart creamy dressing, sausages, red cabbage (Rotkohl), and pickles. Yum.

Henderson Heritage Park: www.hendersonheritage.org

Sie Unser Gast: German and Russian Recipes. From the members and friends of the North Star Chapter of AHSGR. Minneapolis MN, 2012. www.northstarchapter.org



Technology Tips: Sharing On Zoom

By Andrea Lister

More of our members are interested in sharing at our meetings. This is wonderful but the technology can prove to be a barrier so I thought I would write a step-by-step to hopefully relieve some of the anxiety.

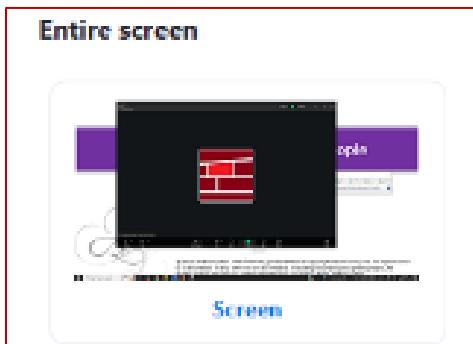
Sharing Your Entire Screen

The easiest way to share is to share your entire screen. Be warned, this means, your emails and anything else you have open will also be shared.

1. Before you join the meeting, have the folder of images you want to share, or document, or PowerPoint open.
2. When it is your turn to share, from the bottom of the Zoom window, click on the green **Share** button.
3. When it is your turn to share, from the bottom of the Zoom window, click on the green **Share** button.



A window will open with thumbnails of everything open on your computer.

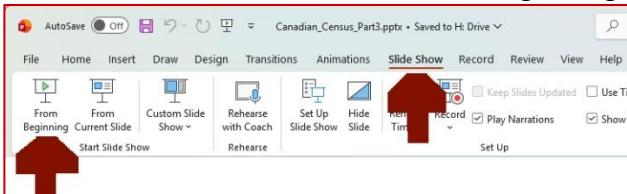


4. Select **Entire Screen** and click **Share**.

Now you will be able to share images from a folder or share a PowerPoint presentation.

Sharing Only Your PowerPoint Show

1. Open your PowerPoint before you join the Zoom meeting. It makes it easier to start the slide show before you share.
2. From the **Slide Show** menu click **From Beginning**.

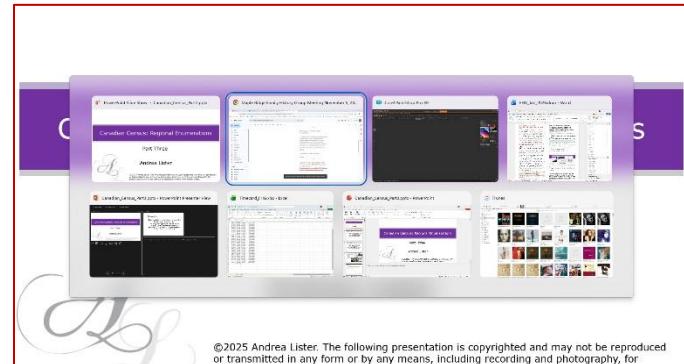


Your whole screen will be taken up by your PowerPoint. DO NOT PANIC.

3. On your keyboard, press **ALT + TAB**.

You will see thumbnails of all of the items that are open on your computer. Hold down the **ALT** key and use the **TAB** button to scroll through the thumbnails until you highlight your email.

4. Select your email so you can join Zoom meeting.

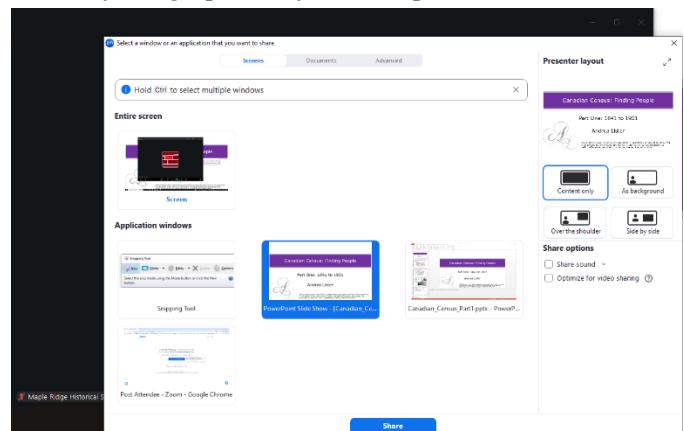


5. Join the Zoom meeting.

6. When it is your turn to share, from the bottom of the Zoom window, click on the **Share** button.



A window will open with thumbnails of everything open on your computer.



You will see two thumbnails for your PowerPoint.

7. Select **PowerPoint Slide Show** and click **Share**.

Tell your story.

History News

A space to share news about our members and their projects.

Honouring Those Who Served

Gina was at Mountainview Cemetery in November and some of the Remembrance Day arrangements were still in place and she couldn't help but walk over to this one and take a picture. What an amazing way to pay tribute to the military veterans of the Gibson family.



A poignant sign of the sacrifices of one family through both world wars and a Silver Cross Mother. Mountain View Cemetery, Vancouver.

PHOTO BY GINA LEIGH

Library and Archives Canada Explores AI

www.anglocelticconnections.ca/2025/12/04/lac-explores-ai

John Reid of Canada's Anglo-Celtic Connections explores AI initiatives at Library and Archives Canada from 2018 to 2025.

Maple Ridge Historical Society 2026 Membership



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

To join or renew your membership, visit
www.mapleridgemuseum.org/about-us/mrhs

Nominations Are OPEN for the 2026 Maple Ridge Heritage Awards!



Know someone helping preserve our community's history? Nominate them today! The Heritage Awards celebrate the people, places, and projects that protect and share Maple Ridge's unique stories.

Award Categories:

- Heritage Site Award
- Bernice Gehring History Hero Award
- Sheila Nickols Award
- Stewardship of a Community Cultural Asset Award
- Youth Heritage Award (age 25 and under)

Nomination Deadline: **January 4, 2026**

Recipients will be honoured during Heritage Week at the Albion Community Centre.

Learn more and submit nominations:

https://www.mapleridge.ca/build-do-business/planning-land-use/heritage-conservation/heritage-awards

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."

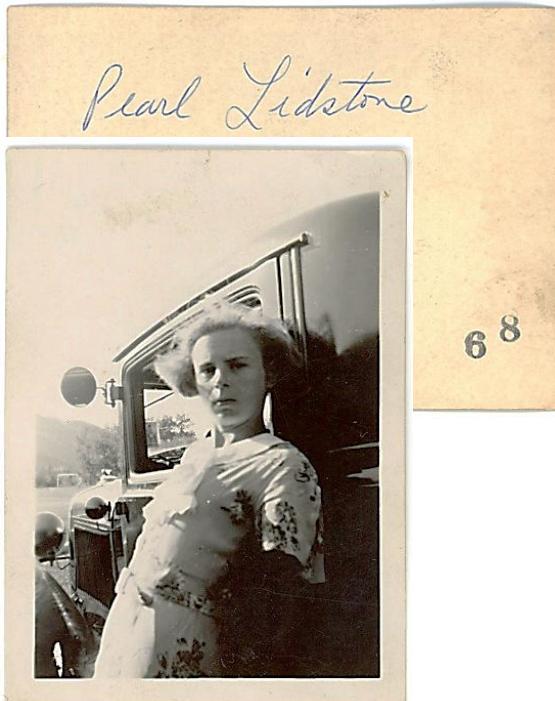
dictionary.com

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.

In the May 2023 *Family History Newsletter* I issued a "Sitting in the Shade" Challenge. My friend Marg had found photos deep in a sofa left in her house by the previous owner. Andrea wandered down the Rabbit Hole.

Sitting In the Shade Challenge

By Andrea Lister



Pearl Emily Lidstone was born in Algoma, Ontario February 2, 1902 to Albert Lidstone and Sarah Punt. Pearl married Stanley Vernon Barber 24 March 1923 in Laird, Ontario. Stanley was a veteran of the First World War.



The car is a Ford Model A, built between 1927 and 1932, so the photos have to be after 1927.

MARRIED
BARBER-LIDSTONE— At the John Street Methodist parsonage, Sault Ste. Marie, on Monday, March 19, Miss Pearl Emily Lidstone, and Mr. Stanley Vernon Barber, both of the Sault, Rev. W. J. Mumford, M.A., B. D., officiating.

Wedding announcement for Pearl Lidstone and Stanley Barber of Sault St. Marie, Ontario.

THE SAULT STAR, TUE, MAR 20, 1923 · PAGE 1

21	2/7	2/8	Barber	Margaret
22			"	Stanley
23			"	Pearl

Stanley and Pearl living with Stanley's mother Margaret in Korah, Ontario, Canada in 1931.

CROP OF SEVENTH CENSUS OF CANADA

Stanley died in July 1969. "Beloved husband of Mrs. Pearl Barber, dear father of Mrs. Bryan McDougall (Joy) of Thessalon" according to the obituary in July 5, 1969 *The Sault Star*.

Neither Pearl or Stanley had a sibling named Emil so that mystery remains.

Sources

Archives of Ontario; Toronto, Ontario, Canada; Registrations of Marriages, 1869-1928; Reel: 643.
Barber, Stanley Vernon. Regimental number: 754056. First World War Personnel Records. Library and Archives Canada. RG 150, Accession 1992-93/166, Box 421 - 53.
Birth Registration of Pearl Lidstone. Archives of Ontario; Toronto, Ontario, Canada; Series: Registrations of Births and Stillbirths, 1869-1913; Reel: 157; Record Group: RG 80-2.
Seventh Census of Canada, 1931; Folder Number: T-27256; Census Place: Algoma West, Ontario, Canada; Page Number: 21.

Work in Progress

Editor Brenda L. Smith



Report your research undertakings here!

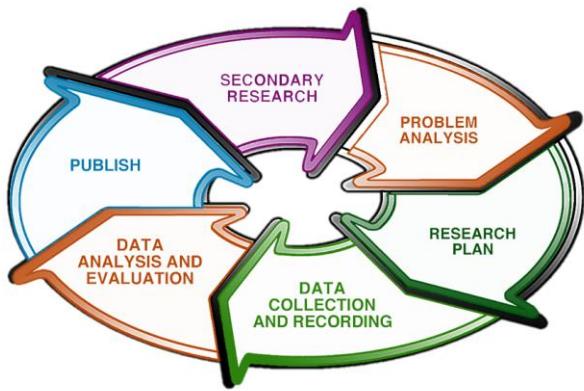
We want to hear about your research projects as they happen. Since we hear from people who discover information in our newsletters, you can take this opportunity to reach out to the world.

This issue of "Work in Progress" takes the form of a handout for the January Family History Group gathering on Zoom. The New Year Challenge is to develop your own research strategies for 2026. The following is a summary of the planning presentation.

Strategizing for Success: Concepts and Methods for the Family Historian

First a word from Benjamin Franklin: "If you fail to plan, you are planning to fail."

In family history, the well built and maintained research plan can carry your efforts from dreams of a wonderful ancestral story to the reality of shared history. Once the plan is in place you can step into the cycle of research, analysis and reporting that will satisfy your long term goals.



The research cycle is recursive in nature, building on background knowledge and proven evidence, the cycle uses context and collateral evidence to extend your search.

The SMART Planning Model is based on five criteria that, if practiced, will keep your plans in useful condition.

SPECIFIC: Use language that expresses exactly what you are going to do.

MEASURABLE: Describe what success will look like.

ACHIEVABLE: Only express what you can reasonably achieve.

RELEVANT: Stay on topic, as described in your objectives.

TIME BOUND: Assign and keep a timetable of tasks and evaluation.

Honouring Those Who Served Project Coordinator Gina Leigh offered one of the soldiers from Phase I as a sample for creating a plan.

Arthur Norman Hackney's records span several countries. He was born in England, served in the Second South African War. He came to Canada and settled in Whonnock. He left Canada before the First World War and settled in New Zealand.

After being seriously wounded and discharged from the New Zealand Expeditionary Force, with impaired vision, he returned to Canada. The day after arriving, he enlisted in the Canadian Expeditionary Force in Vancouver. He died in France.

The Phase II Problem: To find documentation for his origins, relationships, migration, and time spent in Maple Ridge.

Goal: To Research and Report the Life of Arthur Norman Hackney.

Objective 1: To extend Hackney research in the *Honouring Those Who Served* Project Phase I.

Objective 2: Build a tree of three generations of Hackney's family.

Objective 3: To develop a report for the Maple Ridge Museum and Community Archives.

Method

Analyze the large number of well-catalogued documents in the *Honouring Those Who Served* folder for Hackney.

Build a timeline of Hackney's life.

Isolate other countries and military service.

Summarize available data, including a timeline of Hackney's life.

Develop action plans to extend the project.

Project Timeline

February 01 to March 31: Locate and analyze FWW files.

April 01 to May 31: Examine and report Hackney's life prior to arriving in Maple Ridge.

June 01 to July 31: Examine and report Hackney's experience in the New Zealand Expeditionary Force.

August 01 to September 15: Examine and report Hackney's life in Canada

September 16 to October 15: Examine and report Hackney's life in New Zealand and NZEF

October 16: to November 01: Examine and report Hackney's return to Canada and CEF

November 02 to November 10: Summarize in time for Remembrance Day.

Action plans target specific objectives, delineating methods and tasks.

Sample Action Plan

Goal: To Research and Report the Life of Arthur Norman Hackney

Objective 1: To extend Hackney research in the *Honouring Those Who Served* Project Phase I.

Action 1: Analyze the large number of well catalogued documents in the FWW folder for Hackney.

Timeline: February 01 to March 31: Locate and analyze FWW files.

Resources:

Anglo-Boer War.com www.angloboerwar.com/forum/19-ephemera/9710-cdv-imperial-yeomanry

Forces War Records: www.forces-war-records.co.uk/medals/queens-south-africa-medal

MRMCA: Honouring Those Who Served: Hackney folder.

The National Archives: WO 128: War Office: Imperial Yeomanry, Soldiers' Documents, South African War

Evaluation Report: Records visited and findings, timeline to date,

Next Steps:

Resources Required for completing the tasks in the larger plan or specific actions.

Evaluation is the measurement tool for regular review of the plan, updating and revising.

Beyond Action Plans: The Research Log

A research log functions as:

- Calendar
- Record of work completed
- Planning tool for focussed research
- Cross referencing based on person, record type or source, repository, event, citation

Date	Searched for...?	Source	Results
2014-01-23	<p>Request for court records for John, Katherine, and children, Adam, Augustus, John, Jacob, Lizzie, and Theresa</p> <p>Copy of letter & image in Froman working file</p>	<p>Kathy Koos, Register of Wills Register of Wills & Clerk of Orphans' Court Mercer County 112 Mercer County Courthouse Mercer, PA 16137</p>	<p>Janet Whitehouse about which do -Proceeding to children are liste -John Froman microfiche. The cost is 50 48 pages.) The</p>
2014-01-31	<p>•Proceeding book 6 shows all six of the minor children who are listed on a Petition # 7 Dec 1872 (16 pages)</p> <p>•File for John Froman at #O.S. 3410, which is on microfiche (32 pages)</p> <p>Enclosed money order for \$24.00 plus several self-addressed envelopes</p>	<p>Janet Whitehouse Register of Wills 112 Courthouse Mercer, PA 16137 (Money order made payable to Register of Wills, Mercer County, PA.) (They do not accept personal checks.)</p>	<p>Received on 8 F O.C. Record na Adam, Catharin and Augustus F guardian O.S. 3410-D for</p>
2014-05-05 2014-05-12	<p>On 5/5 I emailed Janet Whitehouse at the Mercer Co. Courthouse to ask about the availability of Catherine Froman's will and probate file, File No. 11906 in Vol. 6, 187, #10.</p> <p>She responded a few days later that it was available, was 28 pages long, could be printed at 50 cents/page, and that in the future each name researched would cost \$5.00 in addition to the cost of copies.</p> <p>Request and money order mailed on 5/12/15.</p>	<p>Janet Whitehouse Register of Wills 112 Courthouse Mercer, PA 16137 Money order for \$15.00 sent along with a large self-addressed stamped envelope with enough postage for 28 pages.</p>	<p>Received on Ma Why am I surpri</p>

Resources for Planning

Booth, Wayne C., Gregory G. Colomb, Joseph M. Williams, Joseph Bizup, and William T. FitzGerald. *The Craft of Research*. Fifth edition. Chicago: The University of Chicago Press. 2024.

“How to Create a Genealogy Research Plan: a 5-Step Example.” Family Tree Magazine.

<https://familytreemagazine.com/research/sample-research-plan/>

“Need a Research Log? Try One of These 6 Family Tree Programs”. Genealogy Software Showcase Ep11.

<https://www.youtube.com/live/5MPhsMQrnJE?si=WmhOFLB0ztiaJyd6>

"Studying History through the Ages Using a Timeline". <https://www.halfahundredacrewood.com/studying-history-through-the-ages/>

Todd, Andrew. *Nuts and Bolts: Family History Problem Solving Through Family Reconstitution Techniques*. By 2nd ed. rev. Bury, Lancs: Allen and Todd, 2000.

Research News

Research Guide to Royal Navy Service Records

www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/help-with-your-research/research-guides/royal-navy-ratings-service-records-1853-1928/

The UK National Archives have over 700,000 Royal Navy service records for ratings who entered the service between 1853 and 1928. You can search and download the records in their *Discovery* section (charges apply).

B.C. Workers News Online

<https://bchdp.arcabc.ca/bc-labour-heritage-centre/bc-workers-news>

The *B.C. Workers News*, which began publishing in 1935, is now available online. It changed its title several times in ensuing years. Other titles were *People's Advocate*, *Advocate*, *The People*, *People*, *Pacific Advocate*, and *The Pacific Tribune*.

This collection includes issues of the newspaper since its inception in 1935 until 1946. The newspaper, which was published by the Communist Party, was forced to cease publication for over two years from 1940 to 1942 under censorship provisions of the *War Measures Act*.

New Brunswick Historical Newspapers Project

<https://newspapers.lib.unb.ca/>

The University of New Brunswick has recently digitized more newspapers from New Brunswick and Nova Scotia. The collection dates back to the late 1700s in some cases. You can search by newspaper title or do a full-text search, such as searching for a family member's name.

How to Spot Fake AI-Generated Facebook Stories and What to Do

<https://genealogybargains.com/how-to-spot-fake-ai-generated-facebook-stories/>

Thomas MacEntee of Genealogy Bargains investigates why AI-generated posts are flooding your Facebook feed, how to recognize them, and what steps you can take to handle or report them.

Grenville County Ontario Newspaper Archive

<https://vitacollections.ca/grenville-county-newspapers/search>

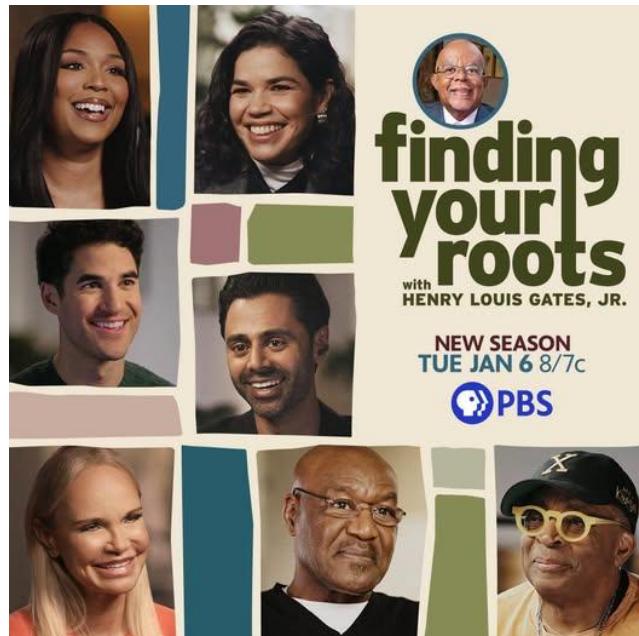
35,000 scanned and OCR'd pages of newspapers, dating 1889 to 1965, from the Prescott, Ontario area are now online, courtesy of a Grenville County Historical Society initiative. There are search and advanced search capabilities.

FindMyPast adds Records for Merchant Seamen

<https://search.findmypast.com/search-world-records/merchant-seamens-campaign-medal-records-1939-1945>

The Merchant Navy was a lifeline for Britain during the Second World War, carrying food, fuel, munitions, and raw materials from across the world. Service in the Merchant Navy was among the most hazardous roles of the war. At least 30,000 British merchant seamen lost their lives—proportionally one of the highest casualty rates of any service. You may find information including: first name, last name, date and year of birth, event year, discharge number, honours.

Finding Your Roots with Henry Louis Gates, Jr.



Finding Your Roots premieres January 6, 2026 at 8/7c on PBS. Season 12 includes: America Ferrera, Barry Diller, Brittney Griner, Chris Paul, Danielle Deadwyler, Darren Criss, Delroy Lino, Flea, Hasan Minhaj, Kristin Chenoweth, Lisa Colón-Zayas, Lizzo, Lizzy Caplan, Rhiannon Giddens, Sanaa Lathan, Sara Haines, Spike Lee, Tracy Letts, and Wiz Khalifa.

Ireland Census 1926 Digitization Project

<https://nationalarchives.ie/engage-and-learn/census-1926-public-programme/census-1926-digitisation-project/>

The 1926 Census of Ireland will go live on 18 April 2026. Total Household Returns: 562,633. The 1926 Census consists of two forms:

- Form A—Household Return: Lists all individuals present in a house or institution on 18 April 1926.
- Form B—Enumerator's Abstract: Summarizes information for each townland or street.

Family History Events

Kelowna & District Genealogical Society www.KDGS.ca

Free for KDGS members; \$10 CDN for non-members, online

- **Prison & Court Records** with Andrea Lister, January 5, 2026, 7:00 PM (PDT).
- **Broad Context; How to Find it and Use it!** with Jill Morelli, February 2, 7:00 PM (PDT).

Ontario Ancestors Webinars

Online. Free

<https://ogs.on.ca/2026-webinar-lineup/>

- **Genealogical Miracles** with Ken McKinlay, January 8, 2026, 7:00 PM (EST).
- **Investigative Genetic Genealogy: What Is It and How You Can Help** with Marie Palmer, February 5, 2026, 7:00 PM (EST).

RootsTech by FamilySearch

www.familysearch.org/en/rootstech

- **RootsTech Online:** 200+ online sessions in over 26 languages, March 5 to 7, 2026. free.
- **RootsTech In-person:** Salt Palace Convention Center, Salt Lake City, Utah, March 5 to 7, 2026. Fee: 3-day pass \$129 USD (\$99 Early Bird pricing).

Strathcona County Public Library

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

Pre-registration required.

- **Family Tree Trackers: British Home Children** with Emma Kent, Thursday, January 8, 6:30 PM (MST), Online. Free.
- **Internet Archive & Internet Archive Canada: A Digital Library at Your Fingertips** with Internet Archive & Internet Archive Canada,

Tuesday, February 3, 4:00 PM (MST), Online.

- **Family Tree Trackers: Unravelling Orphan Origins – A Methodological Journey**, with Heather Brewster, Thursday, February 12, 7:00 PM (MST), Online. Free.

Surrey Libraries

www.surreylibraries.ca/services/family-history

Free. Registration required. Cloverdale.

- **Family History Orientation**, Saturdays, January 26, February 21, 2026, 10:30 to 11:30 AM (PST)
- **Fun Family History Friday**, Fridays, January 30, February 27, 2026, 2:30 to 3:30 PM (PDT).
- **Family History DNA Chat**, Friday, January 9, February 13, 2026, 2:30 to 3:30 PM (PDT).
- **Finding Records For Impossible Genealogy** with Linda Yip, February 26, 2026, 2:00 to 3:30 PM (PDT).

Vancouver Public Library

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

- **Indigenous History Research History and Genealogy** with Library and Archives Canada, September 11, 2025, 2:00 PM to 3:30 PM (PST). Online event via Zoom. Free.

Victoria Genealogical Society

www.victoriags.org

- **How to Digitize Your Family Photos** with Mark Thompson, January 17, 2026, 10:00 AM to 12:00 PM (PST). Online. \$21 CDN for non-members.
- **From Research to Story: Writing and Sharing Your Family History** with Sonia Nicholson, January 31, 2026, 10:00 AM to 12:00 PM (PST). Attend via Zoom or in person, \$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.

January 7, 2026: New Year's Challenge—Planning Your 2026 Family History

Research with Brenda Smith
Setting a goal with a doable plan is key to a successful family history research year. Brenda will help us set a plan in place, using tools such as Research Logs and much more to achieve our goal. Using these tools will have you ready to reveal your research plan at the March meeting and following that, sharing how successful you have been at the September meeting.

February 4, 2026: Do You Have an Ancestor Who Worked in the Food

Industry? This shared topic is keeping in mind the 2026 BC Heritage Week theme, Stir the Pot but making the program more person focused for family history. Maybe you have a chef/cook, caterer, restaurant/pub owner or an ancestor who worked in some other food related occupation in your family history. If not, we all have that relative who had a signature dish that no matter how hard we tried, we just couldn't match it. Stir the Pot by sharing their story!

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