

Community, Past, Present & Future



Family History Newsletter

May 2026

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

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ISSN 2564-0895 (Print)

ISSN 2564-0909 (Online)

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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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Was Charlemagne my nth Great-grandfather? Fact or fiction?

By Gunter Rebele



1594 engraving by Nicolas de Bruyn of Charlemagne—Charles the Great.

BLANTON MUSEUM OF ART, THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT AUSTIN, THE LEO STEINBERG COLLECTION, 2002.2034

The Frankish king Charlemagne (742-814), also known as Carolus Magnus, Charles the Great, Karl der Große and Charles I, and Holy Roman Emperor. He was the son of Pepin (The Short) 714-768 and Betrada. He is also called the “father of Europe” for good reasons. He had about 20 children who went on to establish Europe’s royal houses, and nearly all Europeans today can trace their lineages back to Charlemagne.¹ Charlemagne died January 28, 814—Aix La Chapelle, Aachen, Rhineland, age 71 years.

Several years ago, when doing research for family members in England, I came across several claims of descent from William the Conqueror and Charlemagne. I usually dismissed such claims as false or as a product of wishful thinking. However, recently,

when exploring the concept of Pedigree Collapse and the early European aristocracy, I realized that there is a great possibility that this can also apply to me.

Charlemagne had about twenty children, of whom we know at least seventeen by name. Through their descendants, his genetic legacy spread throughout the whole of Europe. By the year 1200 CE, thousands of his descendants were already part of the European aristocracy, and over the centuries, noble bloodlines blended with those of the common populace. Twenty generations later, this could amount to 300 million descendants, representing the entire population of Europe.

From a purely mathematical perspective, it is therefore very likely that every person whose family has lived in Central Europe for several generations carries at least one drop of Carolingian blood.

1. Kelli Finger, “The Royal Rundown on Charlemagne’s 20 Children: Charlemagne isn’t called the ‘father of Europe’ for nothing.” Mental Floss. Apr 12, 2024. <https://www.mentalfloss.com/posts/charlemagne-descendants-family-tree>.

The compelling question is not whether this is the case, but whether it can be proven.

Regardless of this, I found myself intrigued by how the genes of Charlemagne made their way to Bavaria and Swabia, the region where my wife and I grew up.

What I found true for Bavaria applies equally for any part of Europe.

Charlemagne held the titles of both Emperor of Europe and Duke of Bavaria. His first wife was Hildegard von Vinzagau (758–783) from Swabia (a district of Bavaria). Furthermore, Charlemagne's connection to the House of Scheyern, which later became the House of Wittelsbach, can be traced through his son Louis the Pious and subsequent generations, ultimately leading to Otto I, and to Count of Scheyern in Bavaria.

The Empire was partitioned amongst the three brothers.

Descendants of Charlemagne in Bavaria and Allemania

- Emma, (Imma) von Alemannia (present Alsace, Switzerland and Swabia) born 730, Duchess of Swabia, mother of Charlemagne's first wife Hildegard von Vinzagau (758–783).
- Charles the younger, (769–811) s/o Charlemagne and Hildegard, King of the Franks and Duke of Ingelheim.
- Louis the Pious, s/o Charlemagne and co-emperor, born CE 778, died 840 in Ingelheim, (Present Rhein Hesse), Austrasia (Present Hesse). In 837 he gifted all of Burgundy, Alemannia, and much of Bavaria to his son Charles.
- King Charles, The Bald, (823–877), s/o Louis the Pious and Judith of Bavaria, born in Darmstadt, Frankfurt, Hessen, King of West Francia and Emperor. (Died while crossing the pass of Mont Cenis, France).
- Louis the German, (806–876) s/o Louis the Pious, King of East Francia, (present Saxony, Bavaria and Allemania). He was given the Duchy of Bavaria. He died in Rhine Hesse.
- Lothar I, Emperor and Duke of Bavaria (817–855), s/o Louis the Pious and Ermengarde
- Carloman, King of Bavaria, (830–877), s/o Louis the German and Hemma of Bavaria.

- Louis the younger (or Louis the Saxon or Louis III), King of East Francia and Bavaria (830–882), s/o Louis the German and Queen Hemma.
- Hildegard, (828 -856). d/o Louis the German. Abbess of Fraumünster.
- Judith of Bavaria (797–843) was the Carolingian empress as the second wife of Louis the Pious. Marriage to Louis marked the beginning of her rise as an influential figure in the Carolingian court. She had two children with Louis, Gisela and Charles the Bald.
- Judith of Friaul, (838–870) Duchess of Bavaria d/o Margrave Eberhard of Friuli and Gisela of Francia. She married in 852 as the first wife of the East Frankish Count Heinrich.
- The other Judith, born 910, d/o Eberhard, count Süllichgau & Gisela, Judith married Arnulf der Böse, (The Bad), Duke of Bavaria (888–937).²

It would be impractical to create an exact genealogical family tree that traces every step from Charlemagne to a living individual in Bavaria. From Charlemagne's death in 814 onwards, his genes had over 1,200 years or 32 generations to spread over the whole continent.

The practice of primogeniture resulted in daughters and younger sons of aristocrats marrying into lower social classes. This pattern, repeated over generations, could see a lineage evolve from knight to gentleman, to merchant, then to farmer, tenant farmer, and ultimately labourer.

In our area of Bavaria, within a 50 km radius, seven confirmed royal descendants of Charlemagne were living just a century after his death, essentially at our doorstep. (e.g. Dietrich v. Wasserburg, Louis the German in Traunstein, and others from Regensburg and Öttingen,

It is quite possible that numerous unacknowledged illegitimate children, fathered by aristocrats with Carolingian DNA, have played a role in spreading these genes throughout the population. The presence of even one or two such individuals in a relatively small community could lead to a situation where, after 200 years, all residents are related to Charlemagne. If anyone boasts being a descendant of Charlemagne, you can agree with him or her, as you might be part of that family tree as well.

Editor's Note: But we still want the proof.

² "Sanborn/ Arrington Family Tree", database, Genealogy Online (<https://www.genealogieonline.nl/sanborn-arrington-family-tree/P2758.php>)

Research News

Nova Scotia Surname Mapper

<https://mapper.nsgenconference.ca/>

A new, free interactive mapping tool from the Genealogical Association of Nova Scotia. The Nova Scotia Surname Mapper lets you explore nearly 1.6 million historical vital statistics records—births, deaths, and marriage—across more than 17,500 locations throughout Nova Scotia.

Search for a surname, and the map will show you where those families were concentrated across the province. Search by surname with spelling variants; view results by county or by individual place; filter by date range (1763–1974); and click through to the original records at Nova Scotia Archives; or search births, deaths, and marriages separately.

Exploring All RootsTech Has to Offer from Home with Andrew Koch

<https://familytreemagazine.com/podcasts/exploring-all-roots-tech-has-to-offer-from-home-with-andrew-koch/>

RootsTech is a large, multi-day genealogy conference that takes place annually in Salt Lake City, Utah. But not being able to make the trip doesn't mean you have to miss out on excellent talks, groundbreaking news, and more. Andrew Koch explores the RootsTech website in this episode of Best Websites.

Changes to Accessing Divorce Records at BC Archives

<https://bcarchives.ca/2026/01/08/changes-to-accessing-divorce-records-at-bc-archives/>

BC Archives is enforcing new protocols for accessing divorce records in their custody, in order to comply with all provincial laws and ensure appropriate access is provided to personal information. This change is in line with current practice at all BC court registries.

Under Supreme Court Family Rule 22-8(1)(a), the BC Archives can only provide divorce orders and case files to:

- Any lawyer,
- A party named in the divorce proceeding,
- A person authorized in writing by a party or their lawyer

Previously, anyone could request access to a divorce order at the BC Archives. These retroactive restrictions apply to all divorce records, up to and including those under BC's first divorce legislation, the *Divorce and Matrimonial Causes Act* of 1857.

How to Hire a Professional Genealogist

www.apgen.org/how_to_hire_a_professional_gen.php

A professional genealogist does more than data entry. They make sure the ancestors added to your tree are your ancestors. You want to work with someone who specializes in a place, a time period, or subject relevant to your research goals. Do they teach or publish? Do they have a passion for family history?

Most professional genealogists charge an hourly rate for research or similar work. Hourly rates can vary from \$40 to well over \$250 per hour, based on experience, location, project type and uses, demand, time constraints, and other factors. There may also be additional expenses, including travel, photocopies, digital record fees, and postage.

Branchline: Canada's Rail News Magazine

www.bytownrailwaysociety.ca/index.php/branchline

From the Princeton Museum “There is a wonderful resource for learning about the section of the Kettle Valley Railway (KVR) that is now under consideration for abandonment. The *Branchline* magazine is published by the Bytown Railway Society.”

“They are very generous in allowing downloads of their past issues and so these articles are available. There are three issues: Nov/Dec 2023, Jan/Feb 2024 and Mar/Apr 2024 that give a detailed overview of the Princeton Subdivision of the KVR. Please respect their republishing caveats!”

New England Planters Database

<https://planters.nsgenconference.ca/>

This searchable database, formerly available at now defunct Acadia University's Planter Studies website, indexes over 3,200 archival records documenting the New England Planters who settled in Nova Scotia following the expulsion of the Acadians. Search by name, place, repository, document type, and more.

Lost Cousins

www.lostcousins.com/newsletters2/Easter2026LostCousinsNewsletter.htm

Lost Cousins lost its creator, Peter Calver, in early 2026. The site and newsletter is in the process of transitioning to Sian Lloyd. Lost Cousins allows you to enter the relatives on your family tree who were recorded in selected US, Canadian, British, or Irish Censuses—then click the Search button and it matches you with others researching the same ancestors. The newsletter has tips, new resources, etc.

Technology Tips: Family Group Sheets

By Gina Leigh

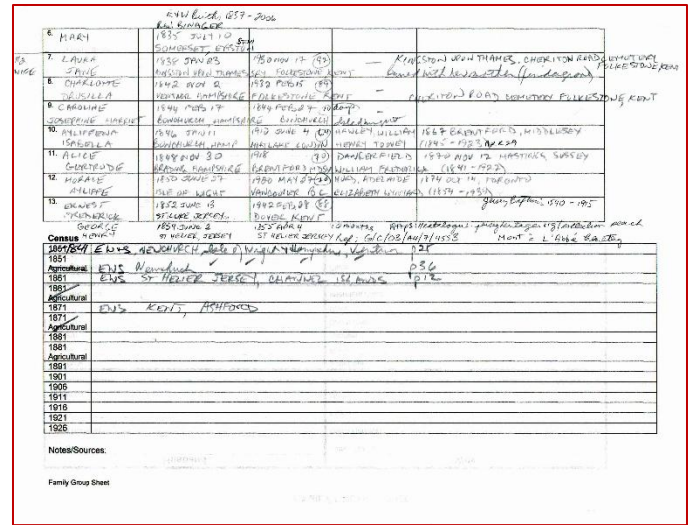
Family Group Sheets (FGS) are a low-tech tool with which to organize your families. When you're beginning research on a person how do you record them by family group? A FGS lets you record parents and their vitals; children, their vitals and spouses if applicable; and grandparents. All these details recorded on a handy worksheet which allows you to add to, correct, and delete easily and quickly while you're building the family.

As you learn about grandparents and extended families additional FGS let you record their information. The FGS is especially useful while building the family unit when you may not yet know who all the children or siblings are. A census may name parents and children living in the family at time of enumeration—you can start listing them on the FGS with approximate birth years and places. Subsequent censuses may name additional children or possible spouses—add them to the appropriate section of the FGS.

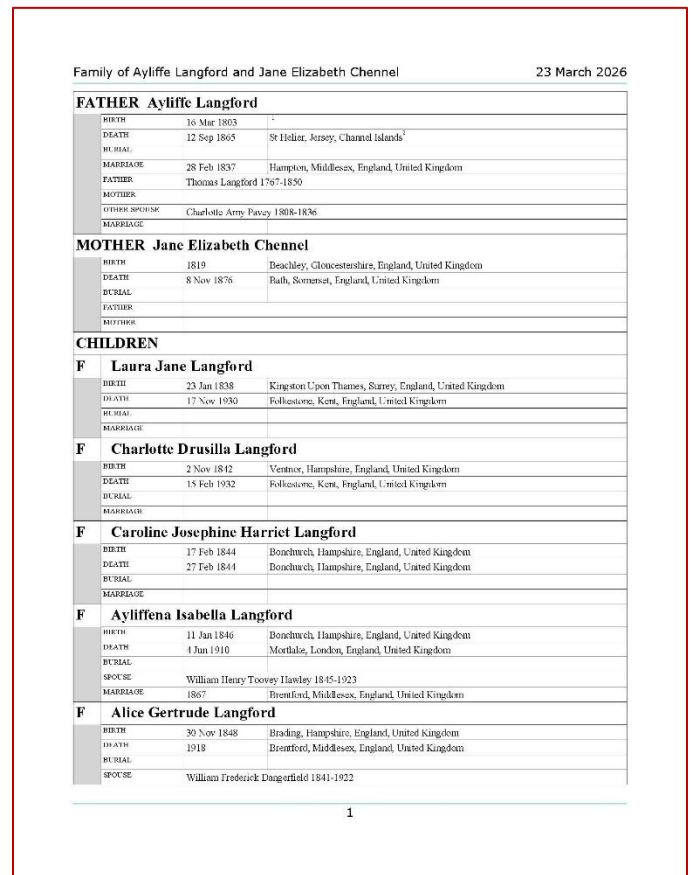
We've all come across families where siblings have given their children the same name and the birthdates are about the same. A FGS is an easy visual to sort out in whose family children belong.

With approximate birth years you can search for birth, marriage and death registrations. Did someone have two or more spouses—here's the place to record that information.

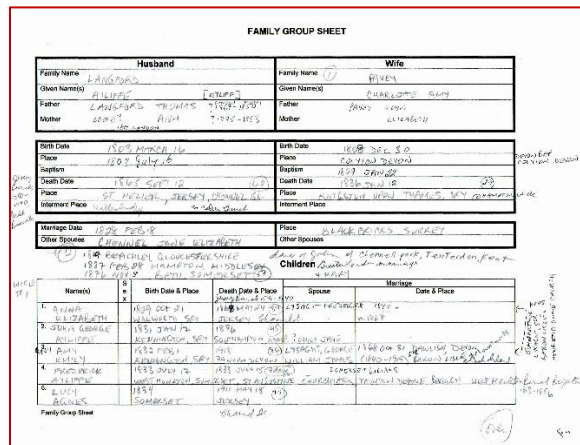
Family tree software programs and free or paid genealogical sites have a variety of blank family group sheets which can be downloaded to get you started. Or you can customize a FGS to capture information you want, such as in the example.



As your research progresses and you've found those vital records, you can enter the information into your family tree program or genealogical program, then print them from the program's Family Group Sheet option, such as the example generated by Roots Magic.



Family group sheet generated by Roots Magic. COURTESY GINA LEIGH



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” Doug Brigham provides an update on his map-based search interface for British Columbia directories.

BC Historical Directories

By Doug Brigham, Head, Koerner Library at UBC

https://bcdirectories.wikibase.cloud/wiki/Main_Page

Goal

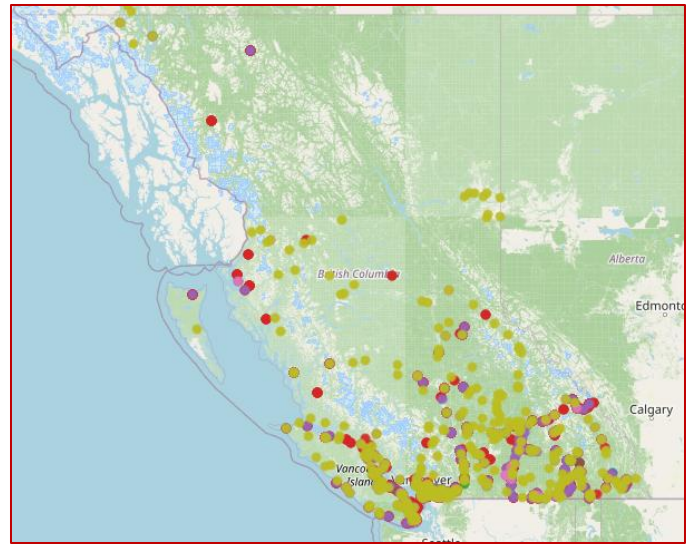
I started this project as a way to provide people with simpler, more complete access to the rich historical information found in directories. Directories aren't always easy to locate, and this is one way to try and bring together as many as possible.

The British Columbia Directories database is an effort to bring together a comprehensive set of information about British Columbia directories on one platform. It tries to solve the problems of knowing which directories exist, which ones have been digitized, and which places are listed in them. It builds on earlier indexes by John Lutz and George Young at the University of Victoria, as well as by Mary Bond at Library and Archives Canada.

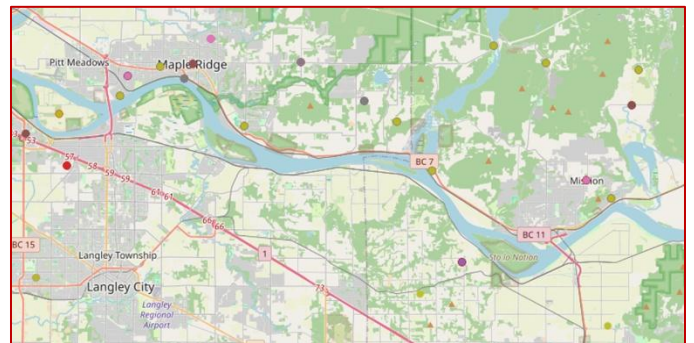
So Far... "what has been done to date:"

The scope of the project includes directories with information relating to places in British Columbia, from any time period. It includes the usual provincial and municipal directories (*Henderson, Wrigley, Sun*), less common directories (a Japanese telephone directory from 1931, a Chinese business directory from 1913) and specialized directories (theatrical, agricultural, newspaper, medical, labour organizations).

The data is searchable by keyword, but the platform also provides a map-based search. This allows you to find places of interest, and find other locations nearby, without necessarily knowing their names.



It's a great way to explore the history of an area, even if you don't have a lot of background knowledge. Also a great way to find places that have changed names or become ghost towns. Of course, the database links to digitized version of the directories, so once you've found a place you're interested in, you're only a couple of clicks away from the directory itself.



Next Steps

The British Columbia Directories database is very much a work in progress. I'm adding data from the existing indexes and finding more and more directories online that need to be indexed. The work will take a few more years and is meant to be an ongoing project in the future. There are more directories out there, waiting to be discovered, and lots more information to be added. If you're interested in contributing to the platform, I'm always looking for people to work with.

Please reach out at doug.brigham@ubc.ca if you're interested, and let's make the information even richer than it already is!

Family History Group News

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

Andrea Lister, takes Second Prize in the OGS's Keffer Essay Writing Contest for 2025

<https://us13.campaign-archive.com/?u=3e3cad1080cdad19159195373&id=c79d436933>

The Ontario Genealogical Society, through its *Families Journal*, has announced the winners of the 2025 Keffer Essay Writing Contest.

- Drew von Hasselbach for "The History of Isaac Walker of Niagara: Correcting the Record"
- Andrea Lister for "Left out of the Story"
- Wendy Smith for "STIGMA - An Abridged Version"
- Jeff Airth for "History of William Airth ca. 1815-1880"
- An Honourable Mention goes to Debra Honor for her article entitled "2021 Canadian Census".

The purpose of the competition is to recognize unpublished genealogical writing by awarding winning authors with prizes and by publishing their essays in *Families*.

Mother's Day and Related Family Celebrations

By Brenda L. Smith



On my first Mother's Day in 1973, I received, not flowers and breakfast in bed, but my now ex-husband's announcement that he had decided not to acknowledge the "crass commercialism made up by greeting card companies." Suffice to say,

during our marriage he never repeated that mistake.

What he didn't know was that every culture and nation has celebrated motherhood, fertility, and rebirth since antiquity. Across the globe, mothers are honoured at different times of the year, often associated with Spring Equinox and Winter Solstice. *Wikipedia* offers a list of the dates and associated family festivals.

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mother%27s_Day

In North America, the second Sunday in May has been the fixed date since 1912, beginning as a Sunday service in a Methodist Episcopalian church in West

Virginia. Eventually this opportunity to honour mothers and motherhood was established as a cultural practice that echoes private and public expressions such as Armenian "Vardavar", Nepalese "Mata Tirtha Pula" ("Mother Pilgrimage Worship"), and Portuguese "Dia da Mãe". In Malawi, Mother's Day coincides with the United Nations' World Rural Women's Day. In 19 countries, Mother's Day is 08 March coinciding with International Women's Day.

Whatever day on any calendar, whether Children's, Siblings, Grandparents', or Father's Day, it is always time to slice a cake, join a parade, serve breakfast in bed and share a hug with someone in your family.

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.

"BAD GEORGE": A Tale of a Reprobate

By Brenda L. Smith

A reprobate, defined by the *Cambridge Dictionary*, is a person of bad character and habits. I do my best to avoid judging the choices and actions of ancestors, since I wasn't there, and can only retroactively appreciate their circumstances. However, as I untangled the story of George Grove Boswell, I found two men, contemporaries living in the Vale of Evesham, Worcestershire, and that I had come to think of them as "Bad George" born 1832 and "Bad Bad George" born about 1838.

My 2025 research of Elizabeth Boswell, a blind music teacher, born to George Grove Boswell and Ann New in Evesham in 1866, revealed a drastic change in her family's circumstances in 1881 or 1882. Elizabeth had returned home from her long residence in the Home for Blind Children in London.

In looking at Elizabeth, I discovered George Boswell was found not guilty of perjury 22 April 1881, after spending some weeks in custody at Worcester Gaol. As reported in the newspaper, George of Bewdley Street had been acquitted.

**WORCESTERSHIRE SPRING ASSIZES.
FRIDAY.**

CHARGES OF PERJURY AT EVESHAM.

George Boswell, gardener, Bewdley-street, Evesham, was charged with committing perjury in the County Court held at Evesham, before Sir Richard Harington, on April 22nd. Mr. Darling prosecuted. Prisoner was undefended. The jury acquitted him.

BERROW'S WORCESTER JOURNAL, 07 MAY 1981, P. 6

With other projects needing attention, I finished the work on his daughter Elizabeth and let George go. But as researchers know, such loose ends beckon from the rabbit hole. This column is a great place to confess succumbing to stray research problems, so here is the travelogue of my surrender to the lure.

In April 1881 George and his family were recorded at 22 Bewdley Street, Evesham: George Grove Boswell, 43, head, married, gardener, Ann wife 39, Susanah daughter 13, Frank son 10, George son 8, Emma daughter 3, Frederick son 5, Alfred Thomas son 2, and Bertha daughter 9 months. Bertha was George and Ann's ninth child. Their eldest children, Henry New and Elizabeth were absent.

The census was taken 03 April 1881. George was charged with "committing wilful and corrupt perjury 22 April 1881.¹ He was found not guilty in Worcester, 29 April 1881.

CHARGE OF PERJURY.—George Boswell, market gardener, was charged at the instance of the judge of the Evesham County Court (Sir R. Harington, Bart.), with having committed perjury in that court on the previous Friday. Defendant in the present charge was plaintiff in the County Court case of Boswell v. F. George, in which he sued for damages for injuries sustained at the hands of defendant George; but, though medical evidence proved that injuries to ribs had been sustained by Boswell, no evidence went to prove George's liability. Another case heard before his Honour was that of G. Boswell v. Charles Byrd, in which plaintiff sought to recover for the alleged sale of some cauliflowers, which the defendant Byrd alleged were made a present of by plaintiff to him. The evidence of plaintiff in both these cases appeared to be of such a character as to warrant his Honour in refusing to deal with him in his court, and, after directing shorthand notes to be taken, he ordered the present proceedings. Mr. New appeared for the prosecution. After witnesses had been heard, the Bench committed defendant for trial.

BERROW'S WORCHESTER JOURNAL, 30 APRIL 1881, P. 4

George seemed to use litigation as early as 1866 when he repeatedly complained about the right to use of a road on land he was leasing.² But after the perjury trial he seemed to have left his family and market garden in the countryside southwest of Birmingham.

Next, I learned that George Grove Boswell had died, age 69, in early January 1906 in Bodmin Prison, Cornwall.³ Backtracking through newspapers I located George in a Cornwall court in 1884, in his new home since 1882, as the defendant in a suit by Jane Bennett Gittus for money owed. George and Mrs. Gittus exchanged lively versions of their financial and personal arrangements. Finally, the judge found for the plaintiff for an amount that approximately covered costs of board and lodging, and George's counterclaim was dismissed.⁴

in 1882. About Christmas in that year he met Gittus, a married woman, living apart practically from her husband. She informed him that she had some land which she was prepared to let for market-gardening purposes, and later on an agreement was drawn up, Boswell agreeing to pay £22 10s. per year. According to the plaintiff, she found that the defendant had no money, but represented that he was owed some £200. He could not get credit in the vicinity, and she obtained manures for him in her own name. With the fields she had let a storehouse, and this the defendant subsequently desired to have repaired and furnished by the plaintiff so that he might live there. At his request, however, she let him into her house as a lodger. The claim was £5 13s. 7d. for board and lodging, defendant, the plaintiff asserted, never having paid her anything in this respect.—Defendant, on his part, denied that he asked to be taken in as a lodger. He provided a portion of the food, which he and the plaintiff partook of together.—Replying to the Judge, the defendant asserted that they lived together as man and wife.—Plaintiff said the defendant was

*WESTERN
DAILY
MERCURY, 17
JULY 1884, P. 5*

Apparently, George went into business on arrival in Marazion, near Penzance, Cornwall. He placed advertisements for "best cabbage seed and onions" and achieved editorial favour in the *Cornish Telegram* boasting of his primroses, and warning of a rival salesman. Articles confirmed that he was doing business on Fore Street, Marazion, and seemed to have gardens at Goldsithney, St. Hilary Parish.

In the 1891 census, George's household return from Fore Street reported his age as 54; George was 59 years old. He was living with servant Jane Matthews age 39, and his daughter Matilda Boswell, born 07 July 1886.⁵ Note: In later years Matilda retained the surname Matthews as it appeared on her baptismal registration.⁶

George Grove Boswell appeared in numerous legal cases as both plaintiff and defendant, accusations included trespass, damages to property and reputation, and breach of contract. In court he participated in trading insults, which suggests that he was an uncomfortable neighbour. But the infractions escalated. His leasehold was offered at auction by the landlord in December 1898.

*Property Sale at Goldsithney—Lot 5 was a leasehold dwelling-house, garden, and premises, situate at Goldsithney, in the occupation of Mr. George Boswell, held for a term of 99 years, determinable on the death of two lives, aged 51 and 37, at a high rent of 7s 6d [\$57 CA in 2026] heriot [death duty] 5s [\$50 CA in 2026]. The bidding for this property was between Mr. Gilbert (who started at £25) [\$1450 CA in 2026] and Mrs. James. Eventually the property was knocked down to Mr. Gilbert for £29 [\$5030 CA in 2026].*⁷

In February 1901, George was in serious trouble:

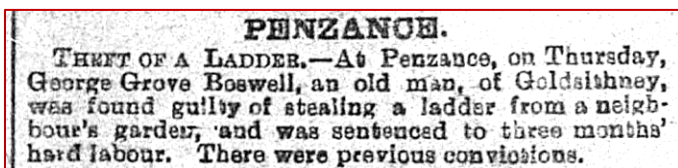
George Grove Boswell, Trial Age 69 Birth abt 1832, Trial Date 01 February 1901, Assize Hall, Bodmin, Cornwall, Gardener, Charge: Did feloniously steal, take, and carry away 52 and 47 trees valued together at £7 8s [\$2000 CA in 2026], the property of Francis Orazo, then growing in an Orchard [sic] in his occupation in the Parish of Ludgvan, on the 9th December 1900 and 4th January 1901.

In custody: 09 January 1901.

Verdict: Guilty. Stealing trees value exceeding £1 [\$185 CA in 2026], growing in orchard.

*Sentence: 9 cal[endar] months and hard labour.*⁸

George was recorded in Bodmin Prison in the 1901 census. Jane Matthews 44 on own account and her daughter Matilda Matthews 14 were recorded at Relubbus Lane, St Hilary, Penzance, Cornwall. A couple of years after his release, George was back in court, this time with a fatal outcome. In September 1905 he was found guilty of stealing a neighbour's ladder. The newspaper noted previous convictions.⁹



PENZANCE.
THEFT OF A LADDER.—At Penzance, on Thursday, George Grove Boswell, an old man, of Goldsithney, was found guilty of stealing a ladder from a neighbour's garden, and was sentenced to three months' hard labour. There were previous convictions.

WEST BRITON AND CORNWALL ADVERTISER, 07 SEPTEMBER 1905

George Grove Boswell, age 69 died 04 January 1906 in Bodmin Prison, Cornwall.⁹ One can suppose that hard labour was beyond his bearing. Going back to records of his life in Worcestershire, I could find no evidence of his personality to explain his disruptive behaviour in later years.

However, at the age of 50 George appears to have deserted his wife Ann New, with an infant daughter

and expecting another child, Arthur born in 1882. Ann moved with her five youngest children to the nearby hamlet of Offenham to live with her unmarried son, market gardener Frank Boswell. By the 1901 census, Ann had returned with her youngest to 22 Bewdley Street, Evesham with Frank, now married with five children.¹¹

George Grove Boswell was born in Evesham in 1832, son of gardener and innkeeper Henry Boswell and Hannah Grove. As for the criminal history of George Boswell, It clarified when I found George born about 1838 who was sentenced to five years with hard labour in 1891 for stealing three ducks. This second George was possibly the son of William Boswell and Susannah. If so, his first severe prison sentence was 9 months with hard labour and whipping, the punishment at age 17 for stealing 3 bags of cabbages.

There are many Boswell households in Worcestershire. But my conclusion is that, while the two men may have been cousins, they are not the same person, as George Grove Boswell was firmly established in Cornwall in 1891 when the second George Boswell was newly sentenced for stealing ducks.

As I returned to the surface of the rabbit warren I could hear the faint calls of Ann New, Mrs. Gittus, Jane and Matilda Matthews urging me to tell their stories too. Maybe another day...

ENDNOTES

1. The National Archives; Kew, London, England; HO 140 Home Office: Calendar of Prisoners; Reference: HO 140/56.
2. *Berrow's Worcester Journal*, 08 September 1966, p. 3. *Worcestershire Chronicle*, 05 September 1866, p. 2.
3. GRO. Death Registrations: Bodmin, Page 0049 Volume 5C Registered January - March 1906.
4. *Western Daily Mercury*, 17 July 1884, p. 5. Case brought by Jane Bennett Gittus against George Grove Boswell: unpaid debts *The Cornish Echo*, 26 October 1889.
5. TNA. Census of England and Wales, 1891. RG12 1855/31/8.
6. *West Briton and Cornwall Advertiser*, 07 September 1905. Baptismal announcement lists birth as 07 July 1886 Matilda Margaret? Matthews, mother Jane Matthews, Marazion.
7. *The Cornishman*, 22 September 1898, p. 4.
8. TNA. UK Calendar of Prisoners, 1868-1929. HO 140 Home Office: Calendar of Prisoners; HO 140/206.
9. *West Briton and Cornwall Advertiser*, 07 September 1905.
10. GRO Death Registrations: Bodmin, Page 0049 Volume 5c Registered January - March 1906. H M Civil Prison Bodmin Borough.
11. TNA. 1901 England, Wales and Scotland Census. RG13 2789/101/5/32.

Family History Events

Campbell River Genealogy

www.crgenealogysociety.ca

Monthly meetings are first Thursday of the month except July and August.

- **British Home Children** with Lois Thompson, May 7, 7:00 PM (PDT). Hybrid.
- **British Home Children, The Quest Reveal**, June 4, 7:00 PM (PDT). Hybrid.

Kelowna & District Genealogical Society

www.KDGS.ca

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

- **Using AI to Research Documents & Letters** with Mark Thompson, May 4, 7:00 PM (PDT).

Ontario Ancestors Virtual Conference 2026

<https://ogs.on.ca/virtual-conference-2026/>

- **From Steamships to Microchips** June 12–14, 2026. Registration opens April 15. Fee: \$79 CDN for OGS Members; \$89 CDN for non-members; \$15 CDN add on, Afternoon with MyHeritage

Ontario Ancestors Webinars

<https://ogs.on.ca/category/society-webinars/>

Presentations are the first Thursday of each month. Free and open to non-OGS members.

- **Discovering Industrial Ancestors in Mills, Logging Camps, and Company Towns**, with Kathryn Lake Hogan, May 7, 2026. 7:00 PM (ET).
- **Scrolling through Norwegian Genealogy Resources Online** with Eleanor Brinsko, June 4, 2026. 7:00 PM (ET).

- **Permissions Made Simple: Copyright for Family Historians** with Andrea Lister, July 2, 2026. 7:00 PM (ET).

Maple Ridge Museum

<http://mapleridgemuseum.org/historic-walking-tours/>

Join Erica Williams, local history expert and president of the Maple Ridge Historical Society, on a historic walking tours of Maple Ridge Cemetery and downtown Maple Ridge!

- **Cemetery:** May 2, June 6, July 4, August 2, September 5, 2026, 2:00 PM (PST), 75 minute tour.
- **Downtown:** May 3, June 7, July 5, August 2, September 6 2:00 PM (PST). 75 minute tour.

Nova Scotia Genealogy Virtual Conference

www.nsgenconference.ca

- **Explore Your Ancestral Ocean Playground**, May 2 to 3, 2026, 9:00 AM to 5:30 PM (UTC). \$39 CDN for GANS members; \$69 CDN for non-members.

Surrey Libraries

www.surreylibraries.ca/services/family-history

Free. Registration required. Cloverdale.

- **Family History Orientation**, Saturday, June 27, 2026, 10:30 to 11:30 AM (PST)
- **Fun Family History Fridays**, May 29, September 25, 2026, 2:30 to 3:30 PM (PDT).
- **Family History DNA Chat**, Friday, May 8, June 12, 2026, 2:30 to 3:30 PM (PDT).

Toronto Branch, Ontario Genealogical Society

<https://torontofamilyhistory.org/>

- **Seafaring Ancestors** with Andrea Lister, May 25, 2026, 7:30 PM (EST). Online.

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 6, 2026: Opening Research Avenues

with Andrea Lister. Every researcher eventually runs into a place, a time period, an occupation or a topic that is unfamiliar. Cyndi's List, a genealogical research portal, and FamilySearch Wikis, an online directory and handbook, are invaluable resources to move your research forward.

June 3, 2026: MRFH Group's Next Community History Project Gina Leigh, our Project Coordinator will share details of our next community history project, Part 2: Honouring Those Who Served, Maple Ridge FWW Returning Soldiers. These soldiers were much changed and post war life was often a difficult transition. Through research, our volunteers will work toward piecing together the lives of our returning soldiers so their stories are told—“Lest We Forget”.

July 8, 2026 (NOT July 1): LIFE CYCLE STUDIES: More Than Harvesting Names, Dates, and Places | Part 2: Going to The Chapel & The Honeymoon is Over

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