

Family History Newsletter

Contents

Census Excitement	1
Online Resources	1
Family History Show and Share	2
Family History Events	2

The Family History Group meets on the first Wednesday of each month at 7pm at the Maple Ridge Library.

**Find us on the web:
www.mapleridgemuseum.org**

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Subscriptions are a benefit of membership in the Maple Ridge Historical Society. Please send membership applications, with \$20 to the Maple Ridge Historical Society.

Family History Group Meetings

The May meeting will be May 2, 2012.

Census Excitement

By Andrea Lister

On April 2, 2012, NARA released the 1940 United States Federal Census to the public. Census images will be uploaded and made available on Ancestry.com, Archives.com, FindMyPast.com, and FamilySearch.org.

This census recorded an important moment in time as it includes people who survived the Depression and were hearing of the coming of another global war. Christian Salazar and Randy Hershaft assert in a March 18, 2012 Associated Press article that "researchers might be able to follow the movement of refugees from war-torn Europe in the latter half of the 1930s; sketch out in more detail where 100,000 Japanese Americans interned during World War II were living before they were removed; and more fully trace the decades-long migration of blacks from the rural South to cities."

The 1940 census included questions about internal migration by asking where people had been living on April 1, 1935. For people 14 years and older there were questions about employment status including wages. The census takers also asked if anyone had participated in the New Deal programs. These questions are keys to our understanding of how our

ancestors managed during the Depression.

The reality of finding your ancestor in the 1940 census must be tempered by the massive amount of indexing work that is ahead.

You can, however, speed things up by joining the 1940 U.S. Census Community Project <https://the1940census.com/getting-started/>

Next on the horizon is the countdown for the 1921 Canadian census. The 1921 Census was taken on June 1st, which means that it will be in the custody of Library and Archives Canada on June 1, 2013. They intend to make it available to researchers online, in the same format as previous censuses, as soon as possible after that date.

The overall population of Canada in 1921 was 8,788,483 individuals. The 1921 census dropped the questions on "infirmities."

All this exciting census news makes me think again about the loss of information to future researchers with the scrapping of the long form census.

Online Resources

Wartime Canada

<http://wartimecanada.ca>

Wartime Canada is a window into the Canadian experience

during the First and Second World Wars. Take a step back in time. The site has lots of original documents online.

Old Maps Online

The OldMapsOnline Portal is an easy-to-use gateway to historical maps in libraries around the world. It allows the user to search for online digital historical maps across numerous different collections via a geographical search. The search results provide a direct link to the map image on the website of the host institution.

West Vancouver Photos

<http://digital.westvanlibrary.ca/>

Approximately 5,000 historical photos depicting more than 70 years of the district's evolution are in the process of being converted to a digital format and posted online, thanks to the West Vancouver Memorial Library.

Titanic

With 100th Anniversary of the sinking of the Titanic, Ancestry has added a few new databases with records of this tragic event, including photographs of the graves in Halifax.

- Halifax, Nova Scotia, Canada, RMS Titanic Fatality Reports, 1912
- Halifax, Nova Scotia, Canada, RMS Titanic Graves, 1912

You can search these databases for free at:

http://search.ancestry.co.uk/search/group/Titanic_records

At Family Search Labs

Many of these indexes can help you pin point information about your family.

- Channel Islands, Births and Baptisms, 1820-1907 England, Births and Christenings, 1538-1975 England, Norfolk Parish Registers, 1538-1900 Great Britain, Births and Baptisms, 1571-1977
- Ireland, Births and Baptisms, 1620-1881
- Scotland, Births and Baptisms, 1564-1950 Scotland, Marriages, 1561-1910
- Wales, Births and Baptisms, 1541-1907
- Manitoba Probate Records, 1871-1930 (browse only)

Family History Show and Share

Join the Maple Ridge Family History Group at Maple Ridge Library for our **Show and Share**.

April 21, 2012 11:00am-3:00 pm

Join us in the computer lab for how-tos from 11:00 am-12:00 pm: and 12:00 pm-1:00 pm.

Meet us in the Fraser Room for presentations and displays

1:00 pm-3:00 pm.

Bring your scrapbooks and displays and share your stories.

Visitors without stories are welcome to see and listen. Light refreshments will be available.

Register by email avidgenie@hotmail.com or by phoning Maple Ridge Museum & Archives at 604.463.5311.

Family History Events

Langley Library

- **Find Your Family in the Library** with Brenda L. Smith, Saturday, May 12, 2:00pm-3:00pm. Registration required. Fee: free.

Surrey Libraries

5642-176A Street, Surrey offers free orientations the 1st Saturday of every month 10:00 – 10:50am.

- **Killing Them Softly: End of Life Documents are the Place to Start** with Brenda L. Smith, Saturday, April 14, 11:00am-12:30pm. Fee: \$10:00.
- **Social Networking 101 for Family History** with M. Diane Rogers, Saturday, May 12, 10:30-Noon. Fee: \$10:00.

Pre-registration is required – please check the Family History section of the Surrey Libraries website www.spl.surrey.bc.ca or call us at 604-598-7328.

Vancouver Public Library

- **Canadian Genealogy 101**, Sunday May 6, 2012, 12:30 pm-2:00 pm. Central Library. Registration required. Fee: Free.
- **British Columbia's Road to Gold: The story of the Cariboo Wagon Road in 1864**, Friday, May 25, 2012, 3:00 pm-4:30 pm. Central Library. Registration required. Fee: Free.

For more information please contact Fine Arts and History at 604-331-3716.