

Family History Newsletter

Contents

Family Stories – Fact or Fiction	1
Manitoba is opening birth records related to adoptions	2
Hugh Coleopy	2
Online Resources	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

Email us: mrfamilyhistory@gmail.com

Editors: Annette Fulford, Andrea Lister

Contributors: Toni Lush

Production: Val Patenaude, Allison White

Distribution: Brenda L. Smith

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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 March meeting will be March 4, 2015. The Maple Ridge Historical Society AGM is March 19, 2015.

Family Stories – Fact or Fiction

by Toni Lush

When I first met my husband 47 years ago, he told me his surname might be Venus, not Lush, as there was some confusion with his grandfather's name. The other persistent family story was that his grandfather, Herbert, served in the British Army in India as a motorcycle messenger. I have very little info on the Lush branch and no relatives to interview so I set about investigating.

What do I know? I have Herbert's death registration and the birth registration of one of his sons. From these, I found his birthdate and place as 4 May 1887 in Chichester, Sussex, England and arrival in Canada about 1923.

Using LUSH as the surname, I searched the Library and Archives Canada site and found an *Ocean Arrivals, Form 30A, 1919-1924* indicating that Herbert sailed from England 25 May 1922 on the *Scandanavian* [sic]. His nearest living relative in England is his mother, Mrs. E. VENUS.

In the 1911 England census, Herbert is enumerated in the Overseas Military census for Rawalpindi, Punjab, India. He is a private in the 1st Royal Sussex Regiment; born in Chichester, England.

In the 1901 census, Herbert is living with Levi VENUS and his wife Eliza and is described as 'son.' He was born in Lavant, Sussex, England. Ruth Lush, daughter, is also listed along with younger Venus children. The registration district is Westhampnett.

In the 1891 census, Herbert is living with his parents, Alan LUSH and Eliza and his younger sister Ruth. Again, the birthplace is Lavant and the registration district is Westhampnett.

At *Free BMD*, I found a death recorded in 3rd quarter of 1892 for Alan Lush in the district of Westhampnett. Age is stated as 30 which is close based on the 1891 census and may be worth following up.

I searched *Ancestry.com* for military records (free around Remembrance Day) and found Herbert's soldier number and that he was awarded the Victory and British medals. From his soldier number I determined that he likely joined the regiment in February 1908, armyservicenumbers.blogspot.ca. This regiment was stationed in Rawalpindi from 1905 to 1913. In the History of the Royal Sussex Regiment, eastbournemuseums.co.uk, I also found that "Despite many entreaties to be sent to Flanders, the 1st Bn spent the First World

War on the North West Frontier of India.”

Success! The surname is Lush; Herbert’s stepfather was Venus. British Army in India – yes; motorcycle messenger – unconfirmed.

Manitoba is opening birth records related to adoptions

Changes to *The Adoption Act* and *The Vital Statistics Act* will allow for more openness with respect to birth records related to adoption. The new legislation is expected to come into effect in June 2015 and will allow adoptees and birth parents to access available identifying information. It will also allow them to keep their information confidential if they wish.

Adoptees (18 years of age or older) can request pre-adoption birth registration information

- if they were born in Manitoba, and adopted in Manitoba or outside Manitoba
- if they were born outside Manitoba, but adopted in Manitoba
- unless a birth parent named on the pre-adoption birth registration filed a Disclosure Veto
- A birth parent named on the pre-adoption birth registration can request the child’s pre-adoption birth registration information and the child’s substituted registration of birth (which does not include the names of adoptive parents)
- when the adoptee is 18 years of age or older

- unless the adoptee filed a Disclosure Veto

If you are an adult adoptee or a birth parent, learn more about accessing birth record information or protecting your information at manitoba.ca/adoptionrecords or call 1-855-837-5542 toll free http://www.gov.mb.ca/fs/childfam/adoption_search.html.

Hugh Coleopy

Hugh Coleopy, a founding member of the Maple Ridge Family History Group, died 12 February 2015. For some time we have missed his humour and shrewd analysis of genealogical research problems. We enjoyed sharing frustration at elusive ancestors and benefited from his companionship and interest in history. We join his family in mourning his passing.

www.legacy.com/obituaries/theprince/obituary.aspx

Online Resources

Saskatchewan Historic Newspapers Online

<http://sabnewspapers.usask.ca/>
The first stage of the project focuses upon Saskatchewan newspapers published during the Great War period, from January 1914 through to the end of hostilities in 1918.

New at Ancestry

www.ancestry.ca

- Canada, Canadian National Railway Immigrant Records, 1937-1961
- Canada, Soldier Homestead Grant Registers, 1918-1931

- England, Queens Canadian Military Hospital Registers, 1914-1919

In From the Cold

www.infromthecold.org

The *In From The Cold Project* (IFCP) was formed to research and identify all service men and women missing from the official Commonwealth War Graves Commission (CWGC) list of casualties from the First and Second World Wars. We are determined to get these soldiers, sailors and airmen their due recognition – even after the passing of so many years.

Family History Events

BCGS

www.bcgsc.ca

- **A day with Jill Morelli:** Saturday, May 9, 2015, At the South Arm United Church, Richmond, BC, 10:30 am to 4:30 pm. Fee: \$55.

Clearbrook Library

32320 George Ferguson Way, Abbotsford, BC V2T 6N4

- **Workshop for Ancestry Library Edition** with Brenda L. Smith on Saturday, March 7, 2015 during the Clearbrook Library **Celebrate Your Roots Program**. 2:00 pm - 3:30 pm.

Cloverdale Library

5642 - 176A Street, Surrey, BC V3S 4G9, call 604-598-7327, or email familyhistory@surrey.ca

- **Using FamilySearch.org** with Terry Rogers, Saturday March 7, 11:00 am – 12:30 pm. Fee: \$10.