

# Family History Newsletter

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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](http://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 February meeting will be February 6, 2013.

## Romance at Melrose Café

By Andrea Lister

One of the family stories from my husband's side is that of how his grandparents met during WWII. Katherine worked as a waitress in Vancouver and James was in the Navy. While on shore leave he went to the restaurant where Katherine worked and a romance began. Another piece to the story is that she was a riveter and was the only woman small enough to get into the noses of the planes. Another tidbit from this period is that she built her own house in Vancouver.

I decided to see if I could find evidence to support the story. I have a copy of their 1944 marriage registration so I started there. Katherine's occupation is listed as expeditor in the aircraft industry. That matches up with the story except that Katherine lists her age as 27 instead of 32.

I started with the 1944 city directory on the Vancouver Public Library site. Katherine is living at 1851 E 38<sup>th</sup> Avenue and is an employee of Boeing. Excellent, now I have more details. A search on the City of Vancouver Archives site revealed that Boeing had plants at Georgia Street and Sea Island along with some great images of women in the factory. White jumpsuits and dark head scarfs just like on the TV show *Bomb Girls*.

Moving backwards, the 1943 and 1942 directories list Katherine as a school teacher. However, I hit pay dirt with the 1941 directory. Katherine is listed as a waitress at the Melrose Café. Back to the City of Vancouver Archives site and I found some wonderful images to accompany the story.



Southwest corner West Hastings Street and Granville Street: the Williams Building, Zieglers Chocolates, Fifth Avenue Millinery, Cunningham Drugs, Melrose Cafe and the Pacific Building. Circa 1940. City of Vancouver Archives, Detail of image A62615, Photographer: W.J. Campbell.

Now I needed to tackle the story of her building her own house. The directories show that Katherine lived at 1851 E 38<sup>th</sup> Avenue from 1936-1952 with her parents. Husband James moved in when he returned from the war. By looking under the Vancouver Street names section I can determine that her father was originally the owner. The directories after 1952 are not available yet but by 1959 Katherine, James and her mother were living at 1023 East 21<sup>st</sup> Street according to the death registration for her mother. It seems unlikely that she single-handedly built the house, though

perhaps she did some renovations to accommodate her growing family.

The Vancouver Public Library has a resource guide for how to find information on your Vancouver house so that is a project for another day. For now, I am satisfied that I have found solid evidence and some wonderful images to support two aspects of the story of Katherine and James.

### Sources

[www.vpl.ca/bccd/index.php](http://www.vpl.ca/bccd/index.php)  
[searcharchives.vancouver.ca/](http://searcharchives.vancouver.ca/)

### Online Resources

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#### HathiTrust

<http://www.hathitrust.org/>

Digital archive of library materials converted from print that is co-owned and managed by a number of academic institutions. Searches can be filtered by full-view or limited view; place; date of publication; institution; etc.

#### New At Family Search

Most of these are indexed with digital images included.

- Canada, Merchant Marine Agreements and Accounts of Crews, 1890-1920
- Dominican Republic, Civil Registration, 1801-2010
- England and Wales, Non-Conformist Record Indexes (RG4-8)
- Slovakia, Church and Synagogue Books, 1592-1910
- Washington, County Naturalization Records, 1850-

1982 United States, General Index to Pension Files, 1861-1934

#### New Research Lessons

Over 2 dozen lessons added to FamilySearch.org.

<https://familysearch.org/blog/en/research-lessons-added-familysearchorgjanuary-2013/>

#### New at LAC

Library and Archives Canada (LAC) announced the release of a new version of the Census of the Northwest Provinces, 1906 database. Previously, users could search only by geographical information such as province, district and sub-district. It is now possible to also search by nominal information such as name, given name (s) and age for an individual.

<http://www.bac-lac.gc.ca/eng/census/1906/Pages/1906.aspx>

### Family History Events

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#### Maple Ridge Library

- **Find Your Family in the Library**, with Brenda L. Smith, Wednesday, Feb 6th 7:00pm-8:30pm. Registration required for this program.

**Note:** Brenda L. Smith's program is offered at the same time as the February Family History Group Meeting.

#### Surrey Libraries

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

- **Start Searching Your Family History: A Beginners**

#### Workshop in Five Lessons

with Brenda L. Smith, Saturdays, Feb 2, 16, March 2, 16, 23, 2013, 10:00am to 1:00pm. Fee: \$100.

- **Start Writing your Family History: A Communications Workshop in 5 Lessons** with Brenda L. Smith, Saturdays, Feb 2, 16, March 2, 16, 23, 2013, 1:30pm to 4:30pm. Fee: \$100.
- **Autosomal DNA: Genealogy Testing that Delivers!** with Laurie J. Cooke, Saturday March 9, 2013, 10:30am – 12:00pm. Fee: \$10.00.
- **A la Carte: Using Maps in Family History** with Brenda L. Smith, Saturday, April 6, 2013, 11:00am – 12:30pm. Fee: \$10.00
- **Tracing your English Ancestors from Canada** with Susan Snalam. Saturday, May 4, 2013, 11:00am – 12:30pm. Fee: \$10.00.

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

#### Vancouver Public Library

Central Library, 350 West Georgia Street.

- **Ancestry Library Edition**, Sunday, January 20, 2013, 3:00 pm. Central Library. Fee: Free.
- **Software and Chinese Genealogy** with Doug Joe via teleconference, Saturday January 26, 2013 2:00 pm. Central Library. Fee: Free.
- **FamilySearch: Finding and Sharing Your Family Story**,
- Thursday April 18, 2013, 2:30 pm. Central Library. Fee: Free.