

Family History Newsletter



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The Family History group supports members in researching their family history research. Members have ancestors from around the globe.

They meet on the first Wednesday of each month at 7pm at the Maple Ridge Library.

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What to do on Vacation when you don't Make Time to Plan Ahead

By Susan Sullivan

In September I participated as a vendor at the New York Genealogy & Biographical Societies Conference. I booked my flights to leave me with an extra three and a half days to explore. I rented a car on the last day of the conference excited about what I was going to do first.

At the conference I stopped by the NY Archives booth and asked about driving north to Albany, NY to see what I could find on my United Empire Loyalist (UEL) Benjamin Baker. I was advised to get online and find stuffs, email them and head up and they would have things ready for me — once I directed them on exact items. I decided that I could do research on Monday and drive up Tuesday. It would only be a two hour drive each way. Then I merrily booked a tour of the Sleepy Hollow Cemetery. Hmmm I wonder if I will see the Headless Horseman?

Sunday I woke up late and enjoyed my slow start to the day. My tour was at 1pm and it was going to be a sunny day. The tour was great! The last monument we looked at was for the Lister family. I silently wondered if Andrea was related. I discovered they were glue manufacturers. How cool would it be if they were the missing link to my brick wall? — Also Glue manufacturers, from Montreal and married to a



reputedly New York woman. I went back to my awesome hotel — all on an estate with re-modeled mansions, carriage houses and gardens — to Google for glue links.

Monday, I woke early to see if I could get into the archives and have

enough day left to explore some estates I passed. Turns out the Estates (Rockefeller, Irving) were closed until Thursday. WHAT!! OK I had better make the archives trip a good one. After a few hours of searching I really could not find anything of significance to ask them to pull out for me. Without anything to drive two hours for I abandoned that thought. I decided to look at Google maps and see what was around me. Low and behold Connecticut was a half hour away. What is so special about Connecticut? In the fall of 2014 I was randomly Googling and found quite a bit on the Bakers and Avery's that immigrated to the colonies in 1635. They spent some time in Boston and then moved to the Connecticut coast. I immediately went to look for the locations in my Ancestry account.

Find-A-Grave became my friend. I proceeded to searches in Connecticut cemeteries for Bakers, Averys, and Pruddens. Within a short time I came out of my new rabbit hole with 4 destinations all plotted on Google maps. If I was up early and packed some snacks I would be at my first historic site in 1 hour. While North Carolina was bracing for a hurricane and New York was under advisory I hopped into the car and loaded up the route on my phone. The rain held off although skies were grey and I reached Milford in the hour. The heritage & commemorative bridge was

beautiful. There was a little park too with a monument to some forgotten people and late-comers to the area. This was just like the website photos that I found in 2014. I stopped at a coffee shop and chatted with the barista. I told her that I was here visiting my 11th Great Grandfather and his family. ☺

The Milford cemetery was about 10 minutes away. As I arrived there, I quickly noticed that the oldest burials were in a far corner. The weather was still nice so I locked the car and headed out. On arriving to the oldest section I noticed lots of slim slate-like headstones on angles. The stone work was simple not elaborate and the letters had thin chiseled lines in an



older language "HERE LIETH THE BODY OF WILLIAM ROBERTS WHO DEPARTED THIS LIFE IN THE 72 YEAR OF HIS AGE AVGVST 6 1689. I found a chart of the plots and

did my best to see what family could be found. The headstones were so delicate and worn with chips of slate missing between some letters. It struck me: I'm standing at the places my ancestors stood to say goodbye to their kin. Life was not easy and the country was new and undeveloped. There was a constant battle going on between the Indigenous population and the Colonists. This older area was left mostly ungrumbled. Was this the way it looked in the mid to late 1600s? I quietly walked back to my car as rain began to threaten me.

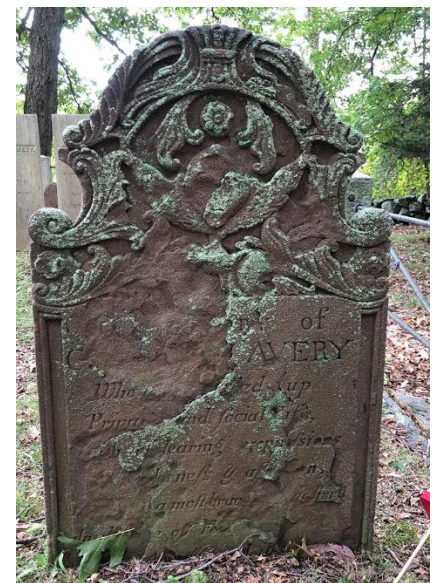
The next stop was going to be an hour's drive down the coast headed towards Rhode Island. The rain softly fell along the highway to Groton, Connecticut. I stopped along the way and found some nourishment. This location was a bit funny. *Find-A-Grave* said one thing the map said another. The Smith Lake Cemetery just off of Filtration Plant Road. When I zoomed in I did see a pond and a large plant. I also was confused when I saw Avery-Morgan Cemetery. Turns out it was all the same. Take the road to the Plant, turn left on a little dirt road, go up a slight hill and there was Stoney Lake Cemetery and then in the back (this time I could drive my car to the back), was the Avery-Morgan section — the older part. A good 1/3 of this

cemetery was pretty rough ground. It looked rocky but on closer inspection I think some rocks might have been markers. Captain James Avery was my 9th Great Grandfather. His daughter Mary married my 7th Great Grandfather, Benjamin Baker. Mary and Benjamin's grandson, also Benjamin left after the American Revolution and came to Stormont, Ontario and settled, receiving land grants as a United Empire Loyalist.



I spent almost an hour here. The sun came out. I tromped about the entire section taking as many Avery photos as I could — promising myself to sort through them all and build the family out when I had some time back home. Captain James had

a nice stone monument there although I was looking for a fancy spire. A week or so after returning home I saw that I had been very close to where it was — just not in front of it. It was a peaceful time and I helped a couple who stopped by to fix up her mom's grave site. I took photos for them and they were very happy. I told them I was on a cemetery road trip and that I lived in British Columbia. She said "wow South America that's pretty far away." Her hubby rolled his eyes and told it was in Canada — but still far. After they left, I sat and ate my lunch and checked out the route to the next and last stop.



In the following half hour I drove north through backroads and the rain started to come down. I questioned myself and what I was doing several

times. I rechecked my instructions and finally found the Raymond Cemetery. Hannah Raymond, mother to Mary Avery, was born, raised, married and died in the area around the little town of Montville. There were a few Bakers and lots of Raymonds in this cemetery. The rain let up as I parked safely at the side of the road. I grabbed my rain jacket just in case. The cemetery was not huge but somewhat spread out and the grass was longish. I had sandals on. The skies would not last so I moved quickly. I checked every stone for family sounding names, interesting details, interesting wear – took a pic and moved to the next one. It started to pour. My sandals and toes felt squishy. I remembered reading that Lyme, Old Lyme and New Lyme was where Lyme disease started and one should wear full shoes and covered legs in the cemeteries. Centuries of Ancestors tisk tisking me. Hopefully they would ward off the TICKS. Lyme was due south of me. I was done for.

Back in the car I took off my rain jacket it was soaked through. I laid it out on the back seat and cursed my sandals. There had been two or three other backwoods plots of Bakers. Too gross to look for them now. I didn't think I would be well received knocking on a door asking for permission to dig around out back for a plot. I reviewed the drive home and congratulated myself on a great idea on how to spend a day. A dream from 2014 now checked off an imaginary list. My phone had over 200 photos to be cataloged (only sort of done). It took two and half hours to get back to my estate. The rain was wicked. I made it, grabbed supper, had a shower to wash my Raymond ancestors out from between my toes, and then threw my sandals out.

The road trip had never been on my mind until research did not pan out for an Albany trip. It was wonderful to not feel rushed and to be able to enjoy each cemetery and think about all the situations that the families faced as they started life anew in a far from home (England) place. They built homes, cleared land, brokered with natives for peaceful land transactions that were not always that way.

Eventually they carved out pioneer communities and their families went on to live through the American Revolution and sometimes be divided in thought as some moved north to Canada.

Still a great adventure for a last-minute idea!

Family History Boards on Tour

By Andrea Lister

At the 2019 British Columbia Historical Federation's annual conference on Vancouver Island I did a workshop called "Engaging Genealogists" in which I talked about the Maple Ridge Family History Group's community projects.

I also took all of the boards and displayed them at the Ideas Fair.



Andrea Lister presenting. Photo by Meaghan Durupt



Maple Ridge Family History boards on display at the British Columbia Historical Federation's Ideas Fair in Courtenay, BC, July 7, 2019. Photo by Darren Durupt

Summer with the Maple Ridge Family History Group

By Alberta McNamara

For the summer we are taking a break from the Short Program segment of our meetings. The time will be spent sharing information about our research and/or asking for suggestions to help solve a research brick wall. We will be back with scheduled Short Programs starting on September 4, 2019.

Online Resources

Grandma's Window

www.grandmaonline.org

The GRanDMA database (Genealogical Registry and Database of Mennonite Ancestry) contains information on over a million individuals, most of whose ancestral lines can be traced to Low-German-Speaking Mennonite communities in Prussia (now Poland) and South Russia (now Ukraine).

Catholic Newspaper Collection

<https://crra.memberclicks.net/catholic-newspapers-program>

A list of 216 free links to historic and current Catholic newspapers in the U.S. and Canada.

NewsHound: Thompson-Nicola Region

<https://arch.tnrl.ca/>

Search 1000s of Thompson-Nicola Region published newspaper articles.

Centre for Irish Genealogical and Historical Studies

<http://homepage.eircom.net/~seanjmurphy/>

Various resources for Irish research including e-publications by Sean J Murphy.

Irish Records

www.irishgenealogy.ie

A few additional years have been added to the birth, marriage and death records. The full range of records available are:

- Births, 1864 to 1918
- marriages 1864 to 1943
- deaths 1878 to 1968

Netherlands

<https://www.wiewaswie.nl/>

WieWasWie offers open genealogy and historical family

research for any person. WieWasWie is the result of the common effort of a large number of archiving institutions.

British Columbia Vitals

<http://search-collections.royalbcmuseum.bc.ca/Genealogy>

The BC Archives has added another year of registrations to marriages and deaths.

- Baptisms, 1836-1888
- Births, 1854-1903
- Colonial marriages, 1859-1872
- Marriages, 1872-1943
- Deaths, 1872-1998

In 2004, *Bill 43, the Vital Statistics Amendment Act* was passed. Due to people living longer, access to birth registrations was extended to 120 years. Thus the 1904 birth registrations will not be available until 2022.

Family History Events

Abbotsford Genealogical Society

- **Abby Genealogy Expo**, September 14, 2019, 11:00 am to 3:00 pm. A range of organizations will participate. At Studio 2 The Reach.

Coquitlam Heritage

<https://www.coquitlamheritage.ca/eventslist/2019/5/16/family-interviews-101>

- **Maillardville Walking Tours** Start at Mackin House to explore the neighbourhood of Maillardville. Walks will be held rain or shine. Refreshments in the museum to follow each tour. Tours are bilingual (French & English). Two departure times: 10:30am & 1:30pm. Tours last 1 hour. Some uphill walking is required. Registration is appreciated. By Donation.

Cloverdale Library

www.surreylibraries.ca



The Family History Department will reopen at the Surrey Libraries City Centre Branch, 10350 University Dr, Surrey, BC on July 15, 2019.

Sardis Library Genealogy Group

www.fvrl.bc.ca

Prison and Court Records, with Andrea Lister, Thurs July 18, 2019, 10:30 am to 12:00 pm. 5819 Tyson Road, Chilliwack BC. Free.

Surrey Family History Centre

www.findingyourroots.ca

Finding Your Roots Seminar, Oct 19, 2019 all day. Schedule online. Free.

Vancouver Historical Society

www.vancouver-historical-society.ca

- **Surrey: A City of Stories** with K. Jane Watt, Thursday, September 26, 2019, 7:30 p.m. A behind-the-scenes glimpse at the creation of *Surrey: A City of Stories*, the first Surrey history book of its kind. It is an inviting visual record of Surrey's early years and its growth into the modern city of today.

Maple Ridge Family History Group, first Wednesday of the month, 7pm at the Maple Ridge Library.

July 3, 2019

August 7, 2019

Members are encouraged to suggest themes/topics for the Short Program.