

Community, Past, Present & Future

MAPLE RIDGE
HISTORICAL SOCIETY



Maple Ridge Family History Group

November 2026

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

Editorial team: Andrea Lister, Annette Fulford, Gina Leigh

ISSN 2564-0895 (Print)

ISSN 2564-0909 (Online)

22520 116th Avenue

Maple Ridge, BC V2X 0S4 CANADA

www.mapleridgemuseum.org

Email: mrfamilyhistory@gmail.com

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.

All of our subscribers can update their email preferences, update their contact information, or unsubscribe using the links at the bottom of every email.

We meet on the first Wednesday of each month at 7:00 PM PST.

In This Issue

Canadian War Graves Commission....	1
Down the Research Rabbit Hole	2
Technology Tips: Library and Archives Canada Data Export Tool	3
Work in Progress	4
Transcripts: Benefits and Pitfalls.....	5
Dreaming of Sugar Plums	7
Research News	8
Family History Events	9

Family History Newsletter

Canadian War Graves Commission

By Gina Leigh

The following article was contained in a mailing from Norm Christie, where he describes information that can be found in the records of the Commonwealth War Graves Commission. Canadian military historian Norm Christie spent six years with the Commonwealth War Graves Commission, including three years as Chief Records Officer. He is the author of numerous books about both world wars; presented the television series *For King and Empire* and *For King and Country*, amongst others. Further information can be found at www.battlefields.ca.

The person Norm used as his example is Arthur Hackney, one of the soldiers memorialized on the Maple Ridge Cenotaph and researched during the Maple Ridge Family History Group's 2024 community history project "Honouring Those Who Served."

Arthur Norman Hackney, born in England, immigrated to Canada and settled in Whonnock before emigrating to New Zealand. In New Zealand he joined the New Zealand Expeditionary Force and while serving in Armentieres lost vision in one eye due to an explosion. He was medically discharged from NZEF, sailed to Vancouver and immediately re-enlisted with the Canadian Expeditionary Force. He lost his life on 9 August 1918 at the Battle of Amiens.



Private Arthur Norman HACKNEY

Detail of 1916 image courtesy Onward Project www.onwardproject.co.nz

Information & Documents Unique to the CWGC

By Norm Christie, Reprinted with permission

In the postwar period the Imperial War Graves Commission undertook the massive job of making the war cemeteries, clearing the battlefields and undertaking a near impossible task of personalizing each identified grave and honouring the history of thousands of unique cemeteries. As the Cemeteries were gradually closed the IWGC contacted the families of The Fallen for particular family details; Next of Kin address, marital status, how killed, etc. to go in the Cemetery Register (one per each cemetery).

Plus a separate Final Verification form for information to go on the CH (Commission Headstone) such as Name, Age, Religion and Personal Inscription. Only 60% of these forms were returned to the IWGC (later Commonwealth WGC).

For example of unique information found only on the CH. In Rosieres Communal Cemetery the CH of Arthur Hackney; killed August 9th (I.B.26). His Personal Inscription states: "Discharged from NZ Forces as unfit, having lost the sight of an eye re-enlisted at Vancouver." This interesting detail only shows on his CH.

Often marital info was supplied by the families in the Register Entry, including whether a widow had remarried or had died postwar (mid 1920s). A brief analysis of the Vimy Register indicates that of the returned Forms 26% of widows had remarried and sadly 7% had died.

Average Ages can also be calculated by using Register Entries (Ages supplied by the families). Based on the analysis of the Vimy Memorial the average age of a CEF Soldier was 26.5 years.

FURTHER RESEARCH

For information about the work of the Commonwealth War Graves Commission, and to search their database for the fallen from the First World War and the Second World War, both buried and commemorated on memorials, go to: www.cwgc.org.

For Evermore: Stories of the Fallen accessed at www.cwgc.org/stories gives families and the public the opportunity to add photos and stories about the fallen from both world wars.



Donate to the Poppy Fund: www.legion.ca/donations

Down the Research Rabbit Hole



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."

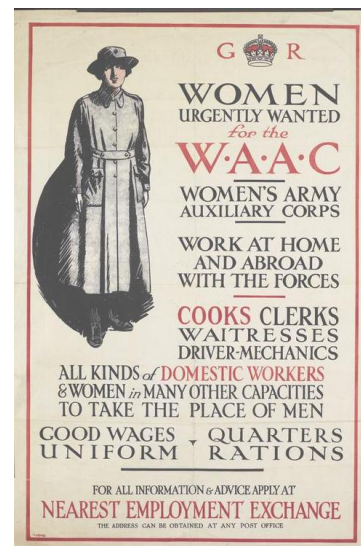
dictionary.com

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.

Mary Elizabeth Pugh and Queen Mary's Army Auxilliary Corps 1917-1918

By Brenda L. Smith

"The girl behind the man behind the gun."
Recruitment slogan



IWM (Art.IWM PST 13171)

For some time I have expressed my great grandmother Bertram Pugh's relationships on a FindMyPast family tree. Recently the service offered me a hint that my great aunt Mary Elizabeth Pugh (1884-1961) had served in the British Army during the First World War. And down the military rabbit hole I tripped.

Queen Mary's Army Auxilliary Corps (QMAAC) was established in March 1917 as the Women's Army Auxilliary Corps (WAAC) and disbanded in September 1921. The total force numbered 57,000 women of whom 17,000 served overseas, with a maximum of 9,000 per rotation. About 10,000 of those women served with the Royal Flying Corps (RFC) which became the Royal Air Force (RAF). Approximately 83 women were casualties of the conflict.

The British government's Department of National Service created this military service to move male

soldiers to the front from rear echelon administrative and supply work. Patriotism was a motivation that supported this goal. With Queen Mary's patronage recruitment was quickly successful. The suffrage movement saw military service as a route to securing women's right to vote.

On enlistment women committed to:

- Serve for the duration of the war and six months after armistice
- Sign willingness to obey orders from superior officers
- Serve in Britain only, or to serve anywhere either on home service or overseas
- Choose to join as a mobile or immobile (living at home) member

Assignments were in general areas which seem based on previous experience:

- Clerical, Telegraph, and Postal
- Transportation
- Mechanical
- Household and catering
- Miscellaneous workers of every trade including tinsmiths, chainmakers, welders, tailors, carpenters, shoemakers

Mary was the daughter of Charles Pugh (1857-1894) and Priscilla Ward (1857-1919), born in Birmingham suburb Shirley, Warwickshire. In the 1911 Census of England, Scotland and Wales, Mary was 27 years old, living with her widowed mother and two brothers, working as a postal and telegraph clerk.

The medal card (The National Archives. WO 372/23/33948) reports that Mary was awarded the British Medal and the Victory Medal. Her rank on demobilization was forewoman. Another record (The National Archives, War Office and Air Ministry: Service Medal and Award Rolls, First World War. WO329; 2311) suggests that she was assigned to the RAF.

Mary seems to have left little trace of her life following the war. She married machinist Frank Bird in 1919, and gave birth to son Eric (1924-1988) in 1924. In the 1939 National Register all three were living in Birmingham (The National Archives, 1939 Register. RG 101/5489A 180/30). Her death was registered in Birmingham 1961.

Queen Mary's Army Auxilliary Corps commenced demobilization immediately following Armistice. However, Mary was demobilized 23 August 1918. The QMAAC was fully disbanded September 1921.

Technology Tips: Library and Archives Canada Data Export Tool

By Andrea Lister

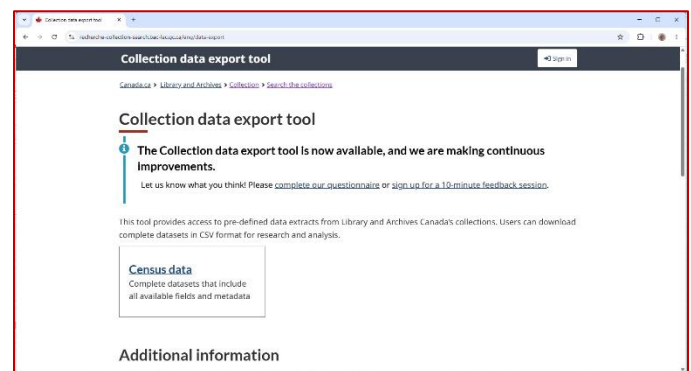
<https://recherche-collection-search.bac-lac.gc.ca/eng/data-export>

Library and Archives Canada launched the Collection data export tool in September 2026. It is a new feature that allows users to download large datasets from Library and Archives Canada (LAC) collections. This feature makes it easier to access, research, and analyze collection data.

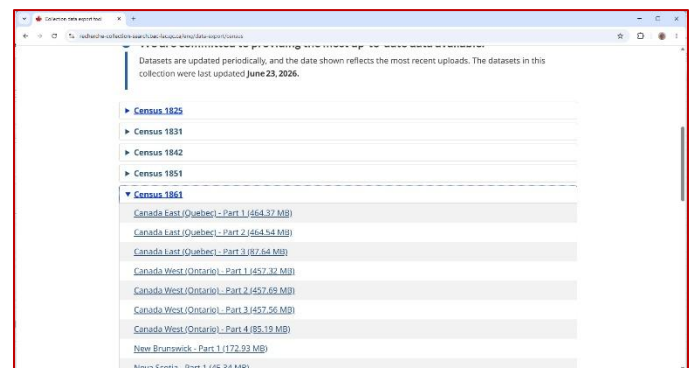
This is a very exciting innovation!

When the family history group was working on the fishing project I requested data extracts for the census so we could filter the data in a spreadsheet by place and occupation.

Now, we could download the census extracts with the click of a button. Hopefully, we can soon do the same for soldiers of the First World War.



Census datasets, which are the most requested resources at LAC, are currently available through the tool, but LAC has plans to add more datasets for export over time. LAC has designed the tool with ease of use in mind: you simply select a dataset, accept the copyright notice, and then download the data in just a few clicks.



This tool provides access to pre-defined data extracts from Library and Archives Canada's collections. Users can download complete datasets in CSV format for research and analysis.

Large datasets, particularly census data, are split into multiple files to make downloading easier.

- Exports include data only; document images are not included.
- Files are provided in CSV format. They are compatible with tools such as Microsoft Excel.
- Some datasets are updated periodically. The date displayed is the most recent update.
- These files include historical language and metadata that have not been translated. For more information, please consult Notices about the collections.

Giving users direct access to these datasets is just one way LAC is working to improve access, transparency, and efficiency while meeting evolving user needs.

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.

Join us at the regular gathering via Zoom to hear how members' plans have progressed in the New Year Challenge to develop and make progress on a personal research project.

Uncle Sam Dunn Project

Roslyn Mellish is a member of Maple Ridge Family History Group

GOALS FOR MY UNCLE SAM PROJECT

To research the life and war service of Samuel Frederick Dunn, the husband of my paternal aunt, Helen Parrott Dunn. Sam was taken as a prisoner of war after the Dieppe raid on 19 August 1942.

BACKGROUND

I chose this project because I don't have any real memory of my Uncle Sam and was intrigued to learn that he had been a prisoner of war in the Second

World War. In my mother's notes, I had found two conflicting accounts of this event. One was only that he had been captured at Dieppe. The other was that he had been a paratrooper captured at Dieppe.

My mother had helped look after him in his final illness and had saved the funeral leaflet. The leaflet had the location of the cemetery and his date of death.

WORK COMPLETED TO DATE

I contacted the cemetery and they were kind enough to send me the location of his grave, map and image of his gravestone. I was able to use this information to send a request for Uncle Sam's military records to Library and Archives Canada. I have received Uncle Sam's military records from Library and Archives Canada.

A bit of research on Ancestry led me to a prisoners of war list showing S.F. Dunn, trooper, service number M36243, Canadian Armoured Corps, liberated from Camp 9C (Stalag IX-C).¹

I messaged a possible relative on Ancestry who replied with what information she could quickly locate.

I paid for a membership on Newspapers.com and found an article about Uncle Sam's liberation and arrival home.

By chance I came across information that *The Necessary War* has a chapter on the Dieppe Raid. The book was written by Tim Cook, who was the director of research for the Canadian War Museum. I borrowed this book from the library and am making notes on the raid.

NEXT STEPS

- Collect and organize material on Uncle Sam's early life from Ancestry
- Review and organize the military records received and the information about the Dieppe Raid from *The Necessary War* by Tim Cook.
- Review Sam's obituary to see if other relatives are mentioned or members in other organizations.
- Research any membership in his local legion.
- Search Find-a-Grave to see if there is any further information about him.
- Search voters lists and directories before and after the Second World War.
- Download any further articles from Newspapers.com.

1. The National Archives; Kew, London, England; WO 392 POW Lists 1943-1945; Reference Number: WO 392/13

Transcripts: Benefits and Pitfalls

By Brenda L. Smith

"In today's digital era, preserving historical documents is more than an act of conservation—it is an opportunity to unlock hidden stories, cultural narratives, and valuable insights that can fuel informed decision-making."

Archivist Guide: Transcribing Historical Documents

www.datacalculus.com/en/blog/historical-sites/archivist/transcribing-historical-documents-a-guide-for-archivists

- Definitions
- Transliterate: convert from one alphabet to another eg. from Cyrillic to Arabic.
- Translate: convert from one language to another eg. from English to French.
- Transcribe: convert speech, print, or hand-written matter from one format to another.
- Extraction: selected portion of a larger document.

Three things to think about when you encounter transcription...

- Make your own transcription to learn the constraints.
- Make transcription work for you by learning the provenance.
- Beware of the problems transcription puts in your research path.

Create your own transcription to learn the intricacies of this tool. Before you tackle transcribing the words on the page:

Describe the sources of the material, identifying the creator, time and place of creation.

Describe the format and physical condition of the item,

Identify the transcriber/s of the document, and time the work has been conducted.

Record the technique used eg. abbreviations and punctuation used to denote variations in readability

Access to original documents is usually through an index, a list created by human or machine. Whether created by a person or group who review original documents and create lists of source material, or a machine generated selection of results, the information they contain is at least once removed from the original document.

Examples of transcriptions include:

The image shows two examples of transcriptions. On the left is a snippet from a 1901 Census of Canada index for Heinrich Kehler, showing his name, birth date (June 1, 1901), and other details. On the right is a snippet from a FamilySearch site-wide search engine report, showing a summary of the search results for Heinrich Kehler, including the number of lines transcribed (5,665,421) and pages proofread (88,145).

Online search results.

FAMILYSEARCH SITE-WIDE SEARCH ENGINE REPORTS.

The image is a screenshot of a FamilySearch site-wide search engine report. It shows the search results for Heinrich Kehler, including the number of lines transcribed (5,665,421) and pages proofread (88,145). It also lists the provinces and lines for each province: British Columbia (166,684), Manitoba (272,156), New Brunswick (342,169), Nova Scotia (474,385), Ontario (2,293,082), Prince Edward Island (108,659), and Quebec (1,730,502).

Searchable online extractions are shaped by the transcriber's choice of terms to include.

Automated Genealogy hosts several volunteer projects to index Canadian censuses and links to related projects.

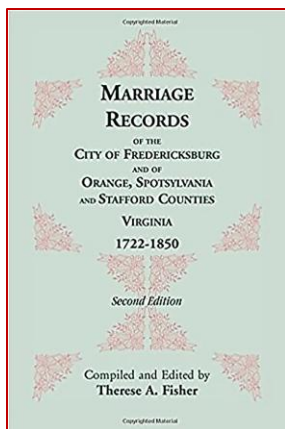
[HTTP:// AUTOMATEDGENEALOGY.COM](http://AUTOMATEDGENEALOGY.COM)

webtrees
Mel Lockie's Ancestry

The image is a screenshot of a webtrees page showing a transcription of a parish register entry. The entry is for William, s. of John & Elizabeth Warham, born and (sic) [This entry is on the paper lining of the cover.] 1684, Sep. 4. Mary, d. of Thos. & Martha Carver ... bap. " Oct. 22. Sarah, d. of Wm. & Sarah Carver ... bap. " Jan. 12. Anne, d. of Tho. & Frances Langley ... bap. " Jan. 14. Thomas, s. of John & Margaret Barkley ... bap. " Jan. 17. William Langley & Mary Baxter ... mar. " Jan. 27. Martha, d. of John & Elizabeth Mollard ... bap. " Mar. 15. Mary, d. of Saml. & Mary Cheshire ... bap. 1685, Mar. 25. Wm., s. of Wm. & Mary Langley ... bap.

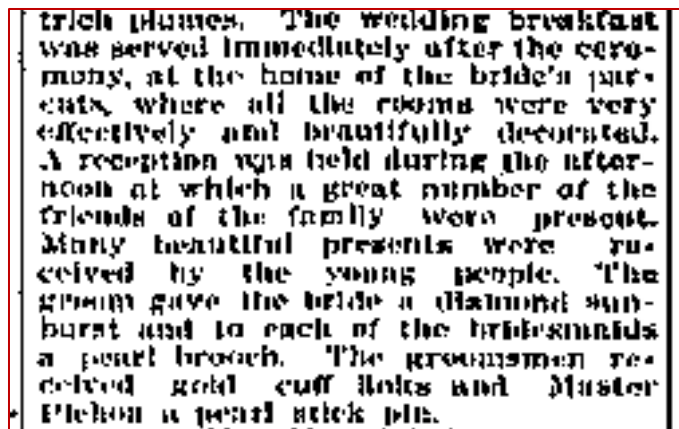
Personal projects: Mel Lockie's indexing is a finding aid for selected United Kingdom parish registers.

WWW.MELOCKI.ORG.UK/MELOCKISALOP.HTML



Extracts of from print publications of vital event notices, and other announcements.

MARRIAGE RECORDS OF THE CITY OF FREDERICKSBURG, AND OF ORANGE, SPOTSYLVANIA, AND STAFFORD COUNTIES, VIRGINIA, 1722-1850. HERITAGE BOOKS INC.

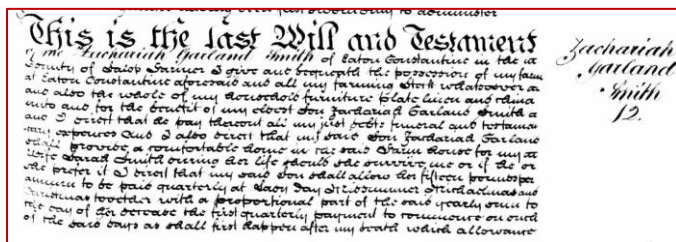


Benefits of Transcripts

Your search		Clear All		405 results	Last name	First name(s)	Year Of Birth	Year Of Death	Year	Record set	Location
First name(s)	Arthur				Percival	Arthur	1838	—	1861	British & Irish Roots Collection	Americas
☒ Include name variants					Percival	Arthur	1865	—	1865	Ireland Births 1864-1958	Cork, Ireland
Last name	Percival				Percival	Arthur	1874	—	1874	Ireland Births 1864-1958	Belfast, Antrim & Down, Ireland
☐ Include name variants					Percival	Arthur	1840	—	1880	British & Irish Roots Collection	Americas
Year Of Birth	Give or take										

Supports reviewing a group of online search results for suitable records.

WWW.FINDMYPAST.COM/SEARCH/



... "were very effecth'ly and hcautifuull.N' deco'ated. A receiption was held at the afternoon during which a number of the friends of the family were present. Many bi^autiful presents were received by the young people. The groom gave ttle bride a diamond Sunburst and the bridesmaids a j/eart brooch. The groomsmen rei:elved gold cuff links and a Jlastert'ic^hon stick pin. ..."

Improve accuracy by comparing the original document with an OCR [Optical Character Recognition] transcription. The highlighted items are the required corrections in the transcript.

THE DAILY COLONIST, 06 OCTOBER 1909, PAGE 9.

Pitfalls of Relying on Transcriptions

- Incomplete transfer of data
- A transformation of information from the original, causing opportunities for inaccuracy
- Insertion of bias

Experiences Using Transcripts

EXAMPLE 1

Annette Fulford, a specialist in Canadian war bride research, notes that some transcription software confuses "St. John, New Brunswick" with "St. John's, Newfoundland", and "Portland, Maine" with "Portland, Oregon".

EXAMPLE 2 BY CATHY MAGEE

I wanted to do a quick search for "John Waltham born 1891 in Canada". Took a look at Family Search first and got into the 1901 Census that came up. So here are the problems I found:

- Nowhere on the metadata could I find the name of the Township which was very hard to read on the original document. I had to go back a few pages in the actual census [images] to find a title page that told me it was "Enniskillen"

[Related](#)
[Full transcription](#)

be after my death We say answer transfer, county, address and dissipation of domains and lands parts of my said trust estate as does not consist of money other by public auction or private contract or partly by public auction and partly by private contract and other together or in parcels a with power for them my said Trustees to buy in any property offered for sale and to preserve condition of sole restrictive of purchasers nerally in such manner and form as my said Trustees or Director all

Improved readability of difficult hand-writing and poorly digitized content. Some transcriptions offer only a hint.

WWW.ANCESTRY.CA/IMAGEVIEWER/COLLECTIONS/

- The transcription shows “Alice Waltham” [who is no relation]. The original, which I know to be correct, is actually “Alex” who is listed as a son, and is a brother to John.

EXAMPLE 3 BY ANDREA LISTER

When researching John McIver, the transcription for the 1851 Scottish Census on Ancestry lists his father as Margaret Simson and his mother as Mary Mciver. The household includes Christian McGregor and Henrietta McLeod. After reviewing the actual census record (available through ScotlandsPeople and FamilySearch) it is clear that three households have been transcribed as one.

Transcription Resources

“How to Transcribe the Past”, Shannon Combs-Bennett,

FamilySearch. <https://cms-b-assets.familysearch.org/03/83/6bdb7a029b0538458384c6022981/how-to-transcribe-the-past-handout.pdf>

“Transcribing Documents: Because Every Word Counts”.

FamilySearch. <http://cms-b-assets.familysearch.org/1e/de/0889cb504b58bede8046e42a895e/transcribing-documents-because-every-word-counts.pdf>

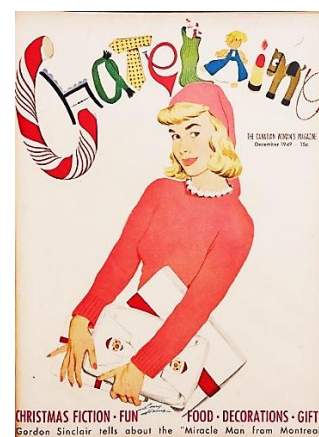
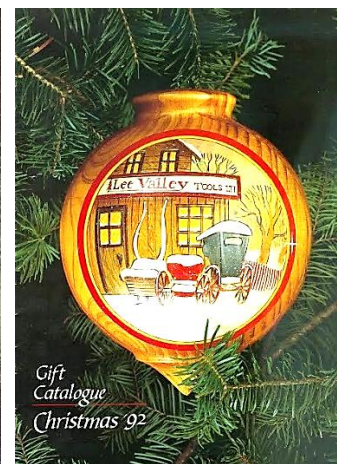
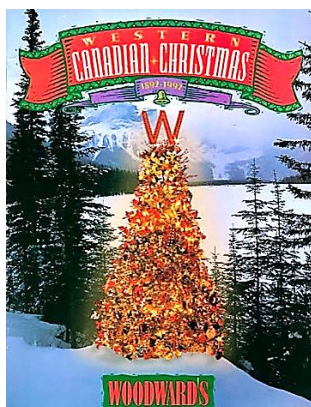
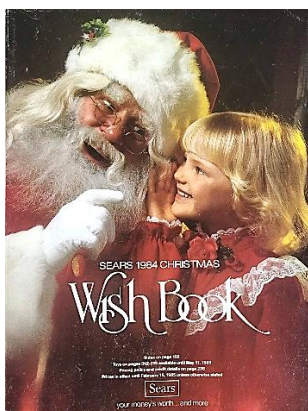
“12 Tips to Effortlessly Transcribe Historical Records Like a Pro”.

Genealogy Explained. www.genealogyexplained.com/blog/12-tips-to-effortlessly-transcribe-historical-records-like-a-pro/

Dreaming of Sugar Plums

By Brenda L. Smith

A while ago, in conversation, memories of Christmas catalogues warmed our hearts. Here are a few examples that might help you reminisce about the season on its way. As children we wore out the pages looking for hints to Santa. As adults we remember the feel of the shiny paper as we scroll online gift shops. Here are a few covers of our favourites, always worth a trip to the mailbox.



Further reading

“The Ancestor of Amazon: The T. Eaton Company Mail Order & Catalogue Building.” Discover It blog by Heritage Winnipeg.

<https://heritagewinnipeg.com/blogs/the-ancestor-of-amazon-the-t-eaton-company-mail-order-catalogue-building/>

Canadian Childhood Christmas The Magic of the Sears Wish Book, Sally Beaver Explores.

www.youtube.com%2fchannel%2fUC_gw4JnPTIZxwIkeHewzgRQ&FORM=VIRE

“Remembering When: The Sears Christmas Wish Book” by Keith Schell. *The Kerrobert and District Chronicle*.

www.yourwestcentral.com/articles/remembering-when-the-sears-christmas-wish-book

“Shopping at Sears: A Window into the Archives,” by Jennifer Anderson. Library and Archives Canada blog.

<https://thediscoverblog.com/tag/wish-book-christmas-catalogue/>

Research News

Gordana Dimovska is the new executive director of the Maple Ridge Historical Society

<https://mapleridgenews.com/2026/09/23/maple-ridge-museum-head-has-a-passion-for-telling-stories-from-history/>

She just started in the role, running the Maple Ridge Museum and Archives, on July 2, but has been involved with the society and the museum for about five years. Dimovska served as archivist from 2021 to 2024, and was the secretary of the board in 2025.

2026 Census of Population Data Release

<https://www12.statcan.gc.ca/census-recensement/2026/ref/prodserv/overview-apercu-eng.cfm>

“The final overall response rate is among the highest ever recorded for a Canadian census — 98.4%. The online response rate was 88.6%, and the self-response rate reached 91.2%, meaning that more Canadians than ever completed their questionnaire without assistance.” New insights from the data collected will be released throughout 2027. See the full release schedule through the link above.

A Vision of Britain through Time

www.visionofbritain.org.uk

A Vision of Britain through Time brings together historical surveys of the British Isles to create a record of how these islands and their localities have changed between 1801 and modern times. It uses maps, census, gazetteers, and historical writing.

Ukrainian Records

<https://lostrussianfamily.wordpress.com/2026/07/18/familysearch-fills-up-searchable-databases-with-more-than-100-million-ukrainian-records/>

The effort for digitizing Ukrainian archive records has built up the FamilySearch databases to more than 100 million records. All these records can be searched from FamilySearch’s free 21 databases in English.

Manitoba Archival Information Network—MAIN

<https://main.lib.umanitoba.ca/about>

The Manitoba Archival Information Network (MAIN) is a searchable database describing material in Manitoba's archives. The catalogue includes: letters, school records, digital objects, photographs, manuscripts, audiovisual records, legal documents, and maps. This union catalogue is available to members of the Association of Manitoba Archives to upload descriptions of their collections to MAIN.

Alberta Death Index, 1903–1974 on MyHeritage

www.myheritage.com

The Alberta Death Index can be found in the card catalogue under the Research tab. Search and then, with the date information, go to the Provincial Archives of Alberta and order the certificate.

Canadian Mounted Police Records, 1873-1904

www.ancestry.ca/search/collections/63520

This collection contains records for North-West Mounted Police (NWMP) personnel from Canada, who served between 1873 and 1904. Some records for members of the Dominion Police are also included. Original records are compiled into packets for each service member. Each packet may include correspondence, newspaper clippings, applications, medical exams, career summary forms, discharge reports, and death certificates. Most of these records are in the English language but there are also records in French.

Ontario Crown Land Patents 1782-1984

www.archives.gov.on.ca/topic/crown-land-patents/

This is a collection of Ontario letters patents and patent maps for land in what is now called Ontario, Province of Upper Canada from 1791, later Canada West.

Land patents were and remain the legal instrument used by the Crown to transfer its legal right to land to private interests, mostly individuals. Patents usually take the form of written declarations called “letters patent” signed by the British monarch or its agents. In Ontario (formerly Upper Canada and Canada West), letters patents were issued to individuals who fulfilled payment and other responsibilities required of them to settle lands they had been granted.

Canadian Publications added to Newspapers.com

www.newspapers.com

- *Info-Weekend*, Edmunston, New Brunswick, 2007-2026
- *La République*, Edmunston, New Brunswick, 2006-2010
- *L'Étoile*, Caraquet, New Brunswick, 2024-2026
- *The Bargain Hunter*, St. Andrews, New Brunswick, 2024-2025
- *Saturday Sun*, Toronto, Ontario, 1986-2015
- *Sunday Sun*, Toronto, Ontario, 1973-2015
- *Maclean's*, Toronto, Ontario, 1944-1986

Family History Events

BC Genealogical Society

www.bcgs.ca/bcgs-events

- **Last Post Fund** with Ted Usher and **Private Sentaro Omoto** with Debbie Jiang, November 11, 2026 at 7:00 PM to 9:00 PM (PCT) via Zoom. Free for BCGS & Affiliate members.

Kelowna & District Genealogical Society

www.KDGS.ca

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

- **Researching Your Canadian World War II Ancestors;** with Ken McKinlay, November 2, 2026, 7:00 PM (PCT).
- **Connecting with our Roots: How Family Stories Shape our Lives** with Tara Shymansk, January 4, 2027, 7:00 PM (PCT).

Mission Genealogy Club

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/383052287973196>

Meets at the Mission library (33247 Second Avenue) in the community meeting room on the second Thursday of each month, January through May from 1:00 PM to 3:00 PM.

- **Military Family Stories,** November 12, 2026, 1:00 PM (PCT).

Nanaimo Family History Society

<https://nanaimofamilyhistory.ca/>

Pre-registration required.

- **Writing Your Family Story: Why It Matters and How Anyone Can Begin** with Nancy Haight Penrose, November 23, 2026, 1:30 PM (PCT), In person & Zoom.

Ontario Ancestors Webinars

Online. Free

<https://ogs.on.ca/2026-webinar-lineup/>

- **Chelsea Pensioners in Upper Canada** with Linda Corupe, November 5, 2026, 7:00 PM (EST).
- **How Religion in Norway Affected Our Ancestors** with Eleanor Brinsko, December 3, 2026, 7:00 PM (EST).

Surrey Libraries

www.surreylibraries.ca/services/family-history

Free. Registration required. Cloverdale.

- **Family History Orientation,** Saturdays, Nov 23, 2026, 6:00 to 7:00 PM (PCT)
- **Family History DNA Chat,** Friday, Oct 16, Nov 13, Dec 18, 2026, 2:30 to 3:30 PM (PCT).
- **Family History for Beginners,** Wednesday, October 14, 21, 28 and Nov 4, 2026, 1:00 to 3:30 PM (PCT).
- **Fun Family History Friday,** Fridays, Nov 27, 2026, January 29, 2027, 2:00 to 3:30 PM (PCT).

Vancouver Public Library

www.vpl.ca

Free. Registration required.

- **In the Trenches, Among the Tanks: First and Second World War Records and Resources,** with Library and Archives Canada, Monday, November 9, 2026, 11:00 AM to 12:30 PM (PCT). Online event.

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.

November 4, 2026:

Honouring Those Who

Served — Part II Gina Leigh, Project Coordinator for our latest Community History Project will give an update on our research of Maple Ridge FWW returned soldiers. These individuals faced many post war challenges and through our research, we hope to share their stories. Members are also encouraged to share stories of their ancestors who served in the FWW, SWW or any other major conflict.

Lest We Forget.

December 2, 2026: THE

CANADIAN CENSUS SERIES | Join Andrea for **PART ONE: Before Confederation: 1841 to 1861.** Census records exist for what is now known as Canada from before Confederation in 1867. Records include the census of New France in 1666 to the Pre-Confederation censuses of Lower Canada, Canada West, and the Province of Canada (1825 to 1861).

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