

# 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.**

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Subscriptions are a benefit of membership in the Maple Ridge Historical Society. Please send membership applications, with \$15 to the Maple Ridge Historical Society.

## Documenting Objects

*By Andrea Lister*

Another method of gathering family stories is through objects in your family collection. As family historians we often get caught up in documenting the births, deaths and marriages of our family history and forget about the artifacts that are part of the story.

I was recently given a cream and sugar that were a wedding gift to my grandparents in 1935 with the intention that they could be passed down to my daughter. Sadly, neither my mother or uncle knows who the gift was from; only that they were always on the table when they were growing up. This lovely gift inspired me to start documenting the objects in my family.



*Wedding gift to Norma Jean Richardson and Charlie Reid. 09 Jul 1935*

Though the task of documenting the objects started as a simple inventory I soon learned interesting stories about my family. Through something as simple as Christmas ornaments I learned that my great-grandfather, James A. B. Reid, would not allow the family to have Christmas until after my

grandparents were married. Apparently, he was "off religion" because he had had a fight with the Baptist church. My grandmother, the daughter-in-law, insisted on having Christmas and my great-granny Reid wanted to be part of it and so purchased these ornaments in the late 1930s.

I also have a couple of Salish baskets. When I asked my mother about them I learned that in the early 1900s, my great-grandmother, Margaret Richardson, used to nurse the local native children in Chilliwack and help with English remedies, such as mustard poultice, when the children were sick; in return they gave her baskets. My mother had one of the baskets on her dresser when she was a child and kept her secret mail in it. She then passed the basket to me when I was a child.

I am going to continue to document china, jewellery, ornaments, furniture and so forth and make note of the manufacturer, where purchased, who has owned the item, the current condition, and, of course, the stories that make my family history come alive.

Look for a practical how-to article in the February issue for organizing this information.

## History Online

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*Victoria Times Colonist*

*Published: Sunday, December 30, 2007*

In conjunction with the University of Victoria and the University of British Columbia, we are scanning in early editions of the newspaper to be placed on this website. Those early editions will be searchable, and access to them will be completely free. We see this as a permanent gift to the citizens of British Columbia, and something that will stay long after our anniversary is over.

The early editions are now being processed. They are fragile, and their age makes it difficult to incorporate OCR technology - optical character recognition. It is this element that will allow you to search the back copies for names and events.

We'll post more news when the first editions are up on the website.

<http://www.canada.com/victoriatiemescolonist/features/150/index.html#>

## Online Resources

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Want to learn the latest genealogy news or find out about new resources available? Want to be inspired by stories about family history? Check out the following email newsletters and articles online:

Ancestry Library Articles  
<http://www.ancestry.com/learn/library/archive.aspx>

Ancestry Digital Magazine  
[www.ancestrymagazine.com](http://www.ancestrymagazine.com)

Family Tree Magazine Email Update  
[www.familytreemagazine.com](http://www.familytreemagazine.com)

Global Genealogy  
<http://globalgenealogy.com/admin/membership.htm>

Honouring Our Ancestors  
[www.honoringourancestors.com](http://www.honoringourancestors.com)

Rootsweb Review  
<http://newsletters.rootsweb.com/>

Vancouver Public Library Genealogical Resources Newsletter  
<http://www.vpl.vancouver.bc.ca/branches/LibrarySquare/his/Genealogy/Newsletter.html>

## Good Bye to WORD UP

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*By Brenda Smith*

We are sorry to say farewell to our favourite magazine and newspaper store – WORD UP NEWS. The shop on 224th Street in Maple Ridge closed on December 24. Now we must find our family history magazines elsewhere. But we wish Lynn the very best in the future.

## Family History Events

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**Abbotsford Genealogical Society**  
Holds regular meetings every 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday of each month at 6:30 pm at the Clearbrook Library meeting room 32320 George Ferguson Way Abbotsford, BC.

**Cloverdale Library**  
5642-176A Street, Surrey offers free orientations the 1<sup>st</sup> Saturday of every month 9:30 – 10:30 am.

**Winter 2008**  
• **Take your First Steps on the Ancestral Trail** with Brenda Smith,

Saturday, January 5, 2008, 10:30 am - 12:00 pm. Fee: \$10.

- **Start Writing Your Family – A Communications Workshop in 5 Lessons** with Brenda Smith. J Saturdays, 1:30 - 4:30 pm: January 19, February 2 & 16, March 1 & 15 2008. Fee \$100.
- **Start Searching Your Family History - a Beginners' Workshop in 5 Lessons** with Brenda Smith, January 19, February 2 & 16, March 1 & 15 2008. Fee \$100.
- **Archival Treasures for Genealogists** with Ryan Gallagher. Saturday, February 9, 2008, 10:30 - 11:30 am. Fee \$10.
- **BC Ethnic Communities** with Diane Rogers. Saturday, February 23, 2008, 10:30 - 12:00 pm. Fee \$10.
- **Make History!** with Tim Neilson and colleagues from Friesen's Publishing. Saturday, April 12, 2008, 10:00 am - 3:00 pm. Fee TBA.

Pre-registration is required – please check the Genealogy section of the Surrey Public Library website [www.spl.surrey.bc.ca](http://www.spl.surrey.bc.ca) or call us at 604-598-7328 for further information and updates.

## Maple Ridge Library

- **Slumach's Gold**, with Rick and Brian Antonson. Wednesday, February 13, 2008, 7:00 – 8:30 pm. Free.

## Vancouver Public Library

- **Genealogy in Ireland**, Tuesday, January 22, 2008, 2:00 – 4:00 pm. Registration required. Free.

## British Columbia Genealogical Society

Meetings are held on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday of each month through out the year, beginning at 7:30 p.m. at the Community Centre for the Retired, 7282 Kingsway (Kingsway at Edmonds), Burnaby BC. Visitors are always welcome.