

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 \$20 to the Maple Ridge Historical Society.

London Family Record Centre Update

By Brenda Smith

For anyone planning a trip to England this summer to do family history research, here is a note on the London Family Record Centre.

The Family Records Centre closed 15 March 2008. The records held by the National Archives and the General Register Office at the Myddelton Street Office are no longer available at that site.

The National Archives have transferred census returns and related services to their premises at Kew. These are also available via the internet. For more information please refer to The National Archives web site: nationalarchives.gov.uk

Wills proved after 1858 may be obtained at:

Principal Registry of the Family Division
First Avenue House
42-49 High Holborn
London WC1V 6NP
Telephone +44 (0) 20 7947 6000

There are a number of ways you can apply for a birth, death or marriage certificate:

- Online, at www.gro.gov.uk
- By post from GRO, PO Box 2, Southport. Merseyside, PR8 2JD

- By telephoning the GRO at +44 (0)845 603 7788
- From the local register office in the district where the event was registered.

The full range of General Register Office indexes held on microfiche will be available and can be accessed free of charge at the following locations:

- Greater Manchester County Record Office.
- Birmingham Central Library.
- Bridgend Reference and Information Library
- Plymouth Central Library.
- The National Archives at Kew.

The GRO indexes available at each of the above locations include Births, Deaths and Marriages from 1837 – 2006, Overseas from 1761 – 2006, Civil Partnerships from 2005 – 2007, Adoptions from 1927 – 2007 and Provisional indexes for Births and Deaths for 2007.

Each of these centres will receive the GRO indexes for more modern events as and when they become available and these arrangements will continue until GRO is able to offer free access to its indexes via the internet. For further information, please refer to:

<http://www.gro.gov.uk/gro/content/news/index-searches-new-arrangements-after-15-march-2008.asp>

Note: Microfiche copies of some of the births, marriages, deaths and overseas indexes from 1837 onwards continue to be available at many other local libraries, record offices and other facilities including third party web sites. For a list of places where microfiche copies are held or to obtain more information please visit the GRO web site: www.gro.gov.uk

Oxford County Library Resources

By Andrea Lister

Do you ever feel like your family just suddenly fell off the face of the earth? The children of James William Stiff and Alice Honoria Ussher seemed to disappear after the 1881 census. In 1881 they are living with their aunt Louisa Ussher in Ingersoll, Ontario and after that, I had no idea. I complained about my roadblock to Annette and she sent me the link for the Oxford County Library.

The Oxford County Library has a number of genealogical databases including:

- Ingersoll Chronicle - birth, death and marriage index
- Ingersoll Tribune - birth, death and marriage index
- Ingersoll and Area Cemetery Index
- Town of Ingersoll Historical Census
- Town of Ingersoll Directory (1894 - 1895)

From these records I was able to find the children, Jane, Kate, Beauchamp and Clement Stiff in

the 1891 census. I found a marriage for Kate and a death for Clement in the Ingersoll Tribune.

Feb 24, 1898

WALKER-STIFF—At All Saints' Church, Niagara Falls South, on February 22nd, by the Rev. Canon Bull, Clayton M. Walker, of Ingersoll, to Kate, second daughter of William Stiff

Some of the shorter transcripts are available online; others are available by contacting the library with the type of notice, newspaper name, the name of the individual, newspaper date, page and column number, and a transcription will be sent to you via email. There is a limit of one lookup per email per week. Transcriptions via email are free. Donations to the Ingersoll Public Library are always welcome.

Thanks to Annette and the Oxford County Library I was able to break through a roadblock in my research.

<http://www.ocl.net/genealogy/>

Family History Events

Abbotsford Genealogical Society

- **AGS Member Scotland's People Database**, with Chris Longley, May 20, 2008, 6:30 pm.
- **Using the Family Search Database**, with Donna Bohnet, June 17, 2008, 6:30 pm.

Cloverdale Library

5642-176A Street, Surrey offers free orientations the 1st Saturday of every month 9:30 – 10:30 am.

Fall 2008

- **Start Searching Your Family History - a Beginners' Workshop in 5 Lessons** with Brenda Smith, Mondays, September 29, October 13 & 27, November 24, 2008 5:30 pm – 8:30 pm. Fee \$100.

Classes fill up quickly; if the course is full, put your name on the waiting list for the next available class.

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

Surrey Archives

- **Light Rail Transit in Surrey**, Saturday, May 24, 2008. 11:00 am – 12 noon. Must pre-register. Fee: \$10.

Please pre-register by calling 604-592-6956, or 24-hr PhoneReg at 604-501-5100. Register online at www.surrey.ca/Living+in+Surrey/Heritage/Heritage+Services+and+Facilities/Surrey+Archives/Public+Programs.htm

Kelowna and District Genealogical Society

- **Harvest Your Family Tree Seminar and Market Place**, with speakers: Ann ten Cate, Bob Ell, Marina Garrison, Sherry Irvine, Dave Obee, Tracy Satin, Brenda Smith, Sylvie Tremblay, Sharon Weber, September 27, 2008.

<http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~bckdgs/seminar.htm>