

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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Lost in the Gold Rush?

By Andrea Lister

The family story on my father's Grand-Aunt Constance Harriet Stiff was that her husband, Clement Leopold Royds, had gone off to the gold rush in Alaska and had never returned.

I was researching this branch of the family tree to see if I could verify this story so I started with what I knew. I found their marriage record from 26 Jun 1907 in Chilliwack, BC on the BC Archives site, <http://search.bcarchives.gov.bc.ca/sn-4FD60DF/search>. I then found a newspaper article in 1908 where Leo Royds is participating in a minstrel show in May 1908 in aid of the Chilliwack Hospital Fund. Constance and Clement appear the 1911 Canadian Census living in Chilliwack with their son, Eric age 2. Clement is listed as age 30, born in the USA and working in a tobacco store.

Then, finally, something to support the family story from the Alaska Alien Arrivals on www.ancestry.ca; a passenger record of a Royds, Clement L. age 33 Citizen of Canada arriving on May 1, 1913 in the port of Ketchikan, Alaska on the CPR Steamer Princess May. It seems a little late to be heading to Alaska for the gold rush but at least there is a record of him in Alaska.

Then, also on Ancestry, I found a US WW1 Registration Card from October 1918 which listed his address as Red Bluff Bay, Alaska, his occupation as a cannery machinist for Baranof Packing Co., and nearest relative as Mrs. C.H. Royds in Chilliwack. Then the trail got interesting.

Through another family member, I made contact with Clement's granddaughter, Anne. She told me that her father had puzzled away all his life wondering what had happened to his father, who had gone "to the north" when he was 6 and disappeared. They assumed that perhaps he had been killed in a mining accident.

Anne and I had both found a 1930 census record for a Clement Royds with the right birth date living in Oregon, USA with his wife Lenore. Could this be the right Clement? Constance was living in Ottawa in 1939 with her son's family; if there was ever a divorce, she was unaware.

I then did a search on the BC Archives site through their textual records and found probate records for the will of Clement Leopold's father Charles. Armed with this information Anne sent away for copies of the records. What the probate documents revealed was that Constance wrote letters to his employers searching for him everywhere, and advertised in newspapers, without success.

She testified that she had received the pension for deserted wives for two years. In 1930, she had her husband declared dead, and petitioned to receive his share of his father's estate. Clement's siblings all supported her in notarized statements. One statement in the petition stood out "My husband was always of a roaming disposition, but there was no quarrel between us, and he was very proud of our young son."

We also found an Oregon Death Index entry for a Clement L. Royds, with a wife Lenore, who passed away 09 Dec 1951 in Lane, Oregon, USA. My cousin contacted the Random Acts Genealogical Kindness group, www.raogk.org, and was sent a scan of Clement's obituary.

He was born July 28, 1880, in Fairmont, Minn. He served with the Canadian Regiment in the Boer War. He was married to Lenore R. Titus October 13, 1928 at Florence, Oregon. He lived South of Florence from 1930 to 1932. Then they came to Eugene and lived in this area for about 15 years, where he was affiliated with the Eugene Fruit Growers for about 10 years. He lived for the past 6 years at Leaburg, Ore. He was a member of the Church of England and the Four Oaks Grange. He is survived by his wife and several brothers and sisters in Canada.

I checked the Library & Archives Canada Boer War records and confirmed his birth and parental information. It would seem that Clement Leopold Royds did not

disappear in Alaska but moved to Oregon instead.

New Online Resources

New At Ancestry: The Canadian Passenger Lists 1865-1935

www.ancestry.ca

Quebec Chronicle Online:
Currently includes newspapers images from 1847 to 1924
<http://bibnum2.banq.qc.ca/bna/qc/>

Family History Events

Surrey Arts Centre

Megan Smolenyak Smolenyak is coming to the Surrey Arts Centre for a day of lectures March 7, 2009!

For information about Megan, her ventures and expertise, see www.honoringourancestors.com

Don't miss out! Seating is limited! Tickets go on sale later this fall. (Details TBA)

You may add your name to our wait list by calling 604-598-7328, or emailing genealogy@surrey.ca

Cloverdale Library

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

Fall 2008

- **BC 150! Surrey's Early Years** with Jack Brown, Saturday, November 8, 10:30 am – 11:30 am. Fee \$10.
- **Land Ahoy! You See Land, but Where are the Records?** with Laurie J. Cooke, Saturday, November 29, 10:30 am – 12:00 pm. Fee \$10.

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.

Maple Ridge Library

- **Getting Started with Genealogy on the Internet** with Jacquie Haines, Thursday, October 23, 2008. 7:00 – 8:30 pm.
- **Our Earliest Days - Building Memories Series** with Val Patenaude, Thursday, November 6, 2008. 7:00 – 8:30pm.

Programs are free, but space is limited so reserve your seat by contacting the Main Floor Info Desk at 604-467-7417.

Tri-Stake Family History Seminar

Surrey Stake Centre, 6270 – 126th Street Surrey. For information 604-597-9695.

www.cangenealogy.com/tri-stake/

- **Finding Your Roots:** Enjoy a full day of family history seminars – bring your own bag lunch and spend the day. Saturday, October 18, 2008. 8:00am – 4:00pm.

Vancouver Public Library

- **Key Canadian Genealogy Websites**, Wednesday December 17, 2008, 10:30 am – 12:30 pm. Free.