

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.

Using the Five W's

By Sue Kellas

When I was in school we learned the five W's of reporting: Who, What, When, Where and Why. I decided to apply this formula to a recent family history problem.

Who: My husband's maternal great grandmother Annie (Maslin) Turner is the focus of my research. She immigrated to Montreal from England in 1867 at age seven and married William Randolph Turner in 1880. The couple had five children between 1881 and 1888 and two more children in 1894 and 1895. Annie was widowed in 1895.

What: A phrase in a letter written by Annie to her son Rowland stated "When I was teaching between Morse and Herbert, when William Wells from Leicester was Secretary Treasurer . . ." caught my attention. Could I trace this career?

When: It was possible that Annie taught before her marriage. Or did she teach during the six year gap in the birth of her children? Possibly Annie went 'out to work' when her husband died.

Where: I entered the names Morse and Herbert into various Goggle searches assuming that these were names of towns or schools in eastern Canada or the United States. Eventually I discovered that they were towns in Saskatchewan. I contacted the

Morse Museum and Cultural Centre but they had no records of teachers. They sent a map listing all the school districts between Morse and Herbert and advised me to research the Discontinued Teachers' Records at the Saskatchewan Archives.

I visited the Archives in Regina and found Annie's name in the alphabetical list of Discontinued Teachers. She used her 1879 McGill Normal School certificate as proof of her qualifications and taught in 1918 and 1919 in the Schoenthal District located just east of Herbert. I obtained the School Officials Record for that year and it listed William Wells as Secretary Treasurer.

Next I drove the 200 kilometers from Regina to Herbert, following the rail line Annie would have used. The Herbert Heritage Association has a photo display of old schools and I obtained a photograph of the Schoenthal School; it was torn down in 1969.

Why: The why question is the most difficult to answer. Since there are no personal journals to consult I turned to the Henderson Regina Directories. Annie is listed in the Directories beginning in 1917. Annie's third son William was listed in the Directories as early as 1907 and Annie's oldest daughter Violet and her husband Cecil Egg are listed beginning in 1918. Her

oldest son George had moved to Regina in 1905. The listings show that the family lived within a few blocks radius of each other.

So, I have concluded that Annie went to Saskatchewan in 1917 to be near her grown children. She may have decided to teach school so that she would be independent from her children.

In 1918 tragedy struck. Annie's son William and his wife Florence died within a week of each other in the influenza epidemic. Annie's brother Rowland died in Regina in 1921.

There are no further listings for Annie in the Henderson Regina Directory after 1924 so it is assumed that following the death of her son and brother Annie returned to Montreal. She died in Montreal in 1936.

Using the five W's helped focus my research. It allowed me to state what I knew and then break down the research into logical steps. The five W's proved to be a useful tool in solving a family history mystery.

New Online at Library and Archives Canada

Immigrants from China:
<http://www.collectionscanada.gc.ca/databases/chinese-immigrants/index-e.html>

That's My Family (Voici Ma Famille):
<http://www.thatsmyfamily.info>

Census of Canada, 1881:
<http://www.collectionscanada.gc.ca/databases/census-1881/index-e.html>

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

- **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.
- **BC 150! Surrey History Showtime!** with Ryan Gallagher, Saturday, September 20, 10:30 am – 11:30 am. By donation only.
- **Ancestry Library Edition: How to Navigate the World's Largest Genealogy Collection Online!** with Jacqui Haines, Saturday, September 27, 10:30 am – 11:30 am. Fee \$10.
- **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

- **Organize: The Second Prime Directive** with Brenda Smith, Thursday, October 9, 2008. 7:00 – 8:30 pm.
- **Getting Started with Genealogy on the Internet** with Jacqui Haines, Thursday, October 23, 2008. 7:00 – 8:30 pm.

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

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>