

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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The views expressed in this publication are not necessarily those of the Maple Ridge Historical Society.

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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.

Ancestry Library Edition at Maple Ridge Public Library

By Annette Fulford

The Fraser Valley Regional Library now has Ancestry Library Edition on their website. Ancestry Library Edition "is a searchable database of genealogical resources including U.S., U.K. and Canadian census returns, vital statistics, parish records, military records, court records, ships' passenger lists, directories, family trees, periodicals, local histories, maps and forms. Some records include digitized images."

These records are for in library use only. When you go to the library log on to the library website and click on Online Resources. Scroll down to Databases for in Library Use and you will find Ancestry Library Edition. Click on the link and it will take you directly to the databases at Ancestry.

Once you log onto to a terminal at the library you have an hour to use the computer. Make sure you check because some terminals are limited to 15 minutes only. These are used mainly for the card catalogue.

If you find information on your family you can print off copies of the document and any supporting information. It will cost you 15 cents per page. You

are not able to download the images onto a flash drive or any similar device. The library computers do not have the capability for downloads except on the computers used for word processing.

The British Colonist: A New Site for Exploring BC History

By Brenda L. Smith

<http://www.britishcolonist.ca/>

Read the daily news from 1858. Explore the beginnings of the new colony. Find out what life was like during the Cariboo Gold Rush. First hand — as history was being made.

Dave Obee, Managing Editor of the Times Colonist newspaper, and John Lutz, Associate Professor in History at the University of Victoria, have stick-handled the debut of this newest source of Canadian newspapers for local and family historians — The British Colonist.

Sponsors for the site are: The Victoria Times Colonist, University of Victoria Libraries, Irving K. Barber Learning Centre at University of British Columbia, Greater Victoria Public Library, BC Electronic Library Network, and the Public Library Services Branch of the BC Ministry of Education.

From the web site, which arrived in the world on 11 December 2008:

On December 11th, 1858, in the midst of a gold rush, a man with the improbable name Amor de Cosmos inked up an old hand press and launched a newspaper - the British Colonist -- into the world. Published in Victoria, it became the leading paper in the colonies of Vancouver Island and British Columbia, and was the paper for the province of British Columbia until the emergence of Vancouver and competitors in the 1890s.

"In every thing that concerns British Columbia we shall take a deep and permanent interest" said de Cosmos, the "Lover of the Universe", and so the paper did. From the extraordinary discoveries of gold and outbreaks of war, to the mundane shipping news and advertisements for insomnia cures, so much of the history of British Columbia and its people, exists only in the pages of this remarkable publication.

This website contains all the issues of the British Colonist (also called The Daily British Colonist, the Daily Colonist, and other variants) from its first issue in 1858 to June of 1910. Once trapped between its crumbling covers, the chronicle of Victoria and British Columbia is now available at the click of a mouse.

You can browse by date or use the search feature to mine the contents of the paper. The search

feature is, however, only as good as the 60 year old microfilm, so even the best software had a hard time reading this old paper.

Searching any given term will certainly miss some instances and insert others, so you may also want to refer to the index to the paper on Victoria's Victoria.

Heritage Quest is now available at the Cloverdale Branch

NEW! Heritage Quest is now available at the Cloverdale Branch! (In library only) combines digital, searchable images of U.S. federal census records with other genealogical and historic collections.

<http://www.heritagequestonline.com/hqoweb/library/do/index>

- US Federal Census records
- Family and local histories
- PERSI™
- Revolutionary War records
- Freedman's Bank records
- US Serial record set

Family History Events

Maple Ridge Museum & Archives

- **Start Searching Your Family History – A Beginners' Course in Five Lessons** with Brenda Smith, Sundays, February 1, 15, March 1, 15 & 22, 2009, 12:30 pm - 3:30 pm. Fee \$100 for MRHS members and \$125 for non-members.

Surrey Arts Centre

Introduction to Ancestry.com;
Trace Your Roots with DNA;
Reverse Genealogy: Techniques for

Finding Your Lost Loved Ones; Cases that Made my Brain Hurt! with Megan Smolenyak Smolenyak, Saturday, March 7, 2009, first session at 9:15 am. Early Bird price of \$45.00 includes lunch.

For tickets call 604-598-7328, or email genealogy@surrey.ca

Cloverdale Library

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

Winter 2009

- **Land Ahoy! You See Land, but Where are the Records?** with Laurie J. Cooke, Saturday, January 10, 2009, 10:30 am – 12:00 pm. Fee \$10.
- **Start Writing Your Family History** with Brenda Smith, Saturdays, January 17, 31, February 14, 28, & March 14, 2009, 1:30 pm - 4:30 pm. Fee \$100 for series.
- **Tracing Your Australian Connections: How to Locate an Australian in Your Family** with David Berry, Saturday, March 28, 2009: 10:30 am – 12:00 pm. Fee \$10.00.

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.