

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.

Find us on the web:
www.mapleridgemuseum.org

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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.

Canada at War

By Annette Fulford

November is a time of Remembrance. Each year we gather to remember those who sacrificed their lives for our freedom and pay tribute to the soldiers who survived the war.

With numerous websites now online, there has never been a better time to learn more about the Canadian soldier in your family tree. Here are just a few sites to help you begin your research.

Soldiers of the South African War 1899-1902

<http://www.collectionscanada.gc.ca/databases/south-african-war/index-e.html>

A total of 7,368 Canadians and 12 Nursing Sisters served in South Africa.

Soldiers of the First World War 1914-1918

<http://www.collectionscanada.gc.ca/databases/cef/index-e.html>

This database includes copies of Attestation papers for soldiers when they enlisted in the Canadian Expeditionary Force during WWI. The database includes papers for Nursing sisters as well. You can also obtain copies of their full service records using the reference information provided with each soldier or nurse's entry.

WWII Service Files: Canadian Armed Forces War Dead

<http://www.collectionscanada.gc.ca/databases/war-dead/index-e.html>

View details about a soldier who died during WWII and order a copy of his full service file. Results include: Name, Age, Date of Birth, Date of Death, Rank, Unit, Force, Service Number, Reference, and Volume. It may include extra information about the soldier such as next of kin.

Veteran's Affairs Canada – Records and Collections

<http://www.vac-acc.gc.ca/remembers/sub.cfm?source=collections>

Veteran's Affairs have a number of databases online. You can find out where a soldier is buried, view their entry in the Books of Remembrance or learn what type of music was popular during WWI to name a few.

Commonwealth War Graves Commission

<http://www.cwgc.org/>

You can learn where a soldier from WWI or WWII is buried.

Canadian Letters and Images

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

You can view original letters, documents or photographs of Canadian soldiers who served during the South African War (Boer War), WWI, or WWII.

Newspapers in the Library

Maple Ridge Library

- British Columbian (New Westminster) – Weekly 1882-1922 – Microfilms – 1882-1888 in Port Coquitlam Library
- Daily British Columbian – 6 microfilm reels
- Fraser Valley Record (Mission)
- Mainland Guardian – Irregular – 7 microfilm reels
- Maple Ridge News – 12 microfilm reels
- Maple Ridge/Pitt Meadows News – 8 microfilm reels + 12 microfilm reels
- Weekly Gazette (also called Hammond, Haney and Coquitlam Gazette) – Jan 1, 1943-Dec. 31, 1980 – 45 microfilm reels

Fraser Valley Regional Library

- Chilliwack Record – April 16, 1891-Microfilms – Chilliwack Library
- Coquitlam News – April 28, 1922-Dec. 26, 1924 – 1 microfilm reel – Port Coquitlam Library
- Coquitlam Star – Sept. 1, 1911-Nov. 2, 1915 – 1 microfilm reel – Port Coquitlam Library
- Coquitlam Times – May 24, 1917-Oct 19, 1918 – 1 microfilm reel – Port Coquitlam Library
- Port Coquitlam Times – Jan, 2, 1925-May 30, 1929 – 2 microfilm reels – Port Coquitlam Library
- Vancouver Sun – 1981-1998 – Microfilms – Port Coquitlam Library

New Online Resources

Historic Irish Maps

<http://ims0.osiemaps.ie/website/publicviewer/main.aspx#V1,600000,750000,0>

At the Ordnance Survey Ireland website you can view current and historic maps of Ireland. You can search by county, street address. Then you can switch from a modern satellite map to one of several 19th century maps.

Ancestors in the Attic

<http://www.history.ca/video/default.aspx?releasePID=9grqYvayPzNkS0rb4fLlylZxghukOzMG>

Watch the first 3 seasons of Ancestors in the Attic online at History Television.

Manchester Burial Records

<http://www.burialrecords.manchester.gov.uk/>

The Manchester City Council provides an online index with 800,000 entries which you can search free of charge: the date of burial, cemetery, and grave number are given and you can even see who else was buried in the same plot. If you wish you can then pay to view the entry from the burial register.:

Family History Events

Cloverdale Library

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

- **Family History Show and Tell!** Participants will be given up to 10 minutes to have the

floor for Show and Tell.

Saturday, November 21, 10:30 am – 12:00 pm. Free.

Winter 2010

- **Start Searching Your Family History - a Beginners' Workshop in 5 Lessons** with Brenda Smith, Saturdays: January 23, February 6 & 20, March 6 & 27: 10:30 am - 1:30pm. Fee \$100.00.
- **First Steps on the Ancestral Trail** with Brenda Smith, Saturday, January 9, 2010, 11:00 am – 12:30 pm. Fee: \$10.00.

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.

Vancouver Public Library

- **Genealogy in Scotland**, Monday, January 25, 2010, 10:30 am - 12:30 pm in the Alma VanDusen Room, Lower Level, Central Library. Fee: Free.

If you would like to attend please call 603-331-3716 or register in person with the information staff.

Membership Reminder

If you belong to the Family History Group you are encouraged to join the Maple Ridge Historical Society. Not only do you join a community of people who share your interests you show your support for the preservation of our community's heritage.

Please send membership applications, with \$20 to the Maple Ridge Historical Society.