

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.

Genealogy Resolutions

By Annette Fulford

As we begin another New Year, what are your genealogy resolutions for this year? What do you plan to accomplish with your family history in the next 12 months? Identify what you would like to know about your family and then break the task down into things you can do in 15 minutes (or more if you have the time). I started the year by making sure all the census pages I have for my family in the 1916 Canadian census are printed and transcribed. I will now add the details to the timeline I have created in my family history software. It's the little tasks like this that help to make your history come alive.

Pirates or Pilots?

By Andrea Lister

My grandma always claimed that her ancestors, the DeWolfs, were French pirates. My research thus far has traced them back to the Netherlands but not to France. However, As I have tracked the DeWolf family and their in-laws I started to come across the following occupations: ship owner, ship broker and ship chandler.

My second great-grand father, John ROUNSEFELL was a ship chandler. A ship chandler is a retail dealer in special supplies or

equipment for ships, who may also be responsible for the berthing and docking of the vessel before it arrives into port and is usually considered the liaison officer for the vessel's needs and demands in a foreign port. Apparently, they were also called ship pilots – hmm, maybe my grandma heard pirate instead of pilot?

To continue my research into the ship owning side of my family, much to my excitement, I received the Ships and Seafarers of Atlantic Canada CD for Christmas. This CD is a fully searchable CD containing data on the vessels, captains and crews of Great Britain and Atlantic Canada, 1787-1936 produced by the Maritime History Archive at the Memorial University of Newfoundland.

You can check the list of surnames included on the CD before ordering it from their website:
http://www.mun.ca/mha/holding_s/names/index.php. I checked it and found ROUNSEFELL, DEWOLF, DE WOLFE and MAHON.

The part of the CD that I have explored thus far is the owner database. The first database is compiled from the Certificates of Registry for 10 major ports of Atlantic Canada. It contains information on the vessels registered at each port and on

their owners. John ROUNSEFELL co-owned two schooners, two barques, and three brigantines from a period of 1865 to 1874. Most of the vessels were lost at sea. Some time before 1871 he leaves Nova Scotia and moves to Liverpool, Lancashire, England. The interesting thing is that he co-owns many of these ships with his brother-in laws and cousins of his wife, Margaret, nee DeWolf. The database is full of DeWolfs who were ship owners so I have only just cracked the surface of this part of my family's history.

I also did a search on the Google news Advanced News Archive Search http://news.google.com/archivesearch/advanced_search and found some Marine Intelligence notices from the New York Times that mention the arrival of the Schooner Grand Pre., one of John Rounsefell's vessels.



New York Times – October 26, 1867

Next stop – the book store. As part of the Atlantic Canada Shipping Project that produced the CD, they have also produced a book Maritime Capital: The Shipping Industry in Atlantic Canada, 1820-1914 by Eric W. Sager and Gerald E. Panting. Perhaps this book will answer some of my questions as to why they moved to England, with some of the same business

partner-relations and why they moved back to Canada.

New Online Resources

Ancestry.com

<http://www.ancestry.com>

- Canada, Ocean Arrivals (Form 30A), 1919-1924
- Gretna Green Marriage Registers, 1795-1895
- Ireland Casualties of WWI
- London, England, Births and Baptisms, 1813-1906
- London, England, Marriages and Banns 1754-1921
- London, England, Deaths and Burials 1813-1980
- London, England, Baptisms, Marriages and Burials, 1538-1812

Ancestry Magazine

Read back issues of Ancestry magazine from 2004 to 2009:

http://books.google.co.uk/books?id=FTgEAAAAMBAJ&rvview=1&source=gbs_navlinks_s

Family History Events

Maple Ridge Historical Society

- **Start Searching Your Family History - a Beginners' Workshop in 5 Lessons** with Brenda L. Smith, Sundays: January 24, February 7 & 21, March 7 & 28: 1:30pm - 4:30pm. Fee \$100.00.

Location: Maple Ridge Library, main floor seminar room.
Register by calling 604.463.5311

Cloverdale Library

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

- **Start Searching Your Family History - a Beginners' Workshop in 5 Lessons** with Brenda L. Smith, Saturdays: January 23, February 6 & 20, March 6 & 27: 10:30am - 1:30pm. Fee \$100.00.
- **Finding Your Female Ancestors: Paper Trails and DNA** with Diane Rogers and Laurie J. Cooke. Saturday, April 17, 2010, 10:30am – 12:00pm.
- **Ukrainian Roots** with Vera Shpolyansky. Saturday, April 10, 2010, 12:30 pm – 2:00 pm at the Surrey Museum, 17710 - 56A Avenue, Surrey, BC. Fee: \$10.00
- **Fast and Easy Digital Collages Using Picasa** with Laurie J. Cooke. Saturday, May 8, 2010, 10:30 – 11:30am. 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.

The Jewish Museum and Archives of British Columbia

- **Stephen P. Morse: One-Step Genealogical Tools**, Sunday, March 28, 2010, 2:00pm - 4:00pm.

For more details check: http://www.jewishmuseum.ca/info/current_events/.