

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

Editors: Annette Fulford, Andrea Lister
Contributors: Annette Fulford, Andrea Lister
Production: Val Patenaude, Allison White
Distribution: Brenda Smith

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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.

Family History Group Meetings

The June meeting will be June 2, 2010.

Tips for Using FreeBMD Effectively

By Annette Fulford

FreeBMD is an index of Births, Marriages and Deaths for England and Wales online at <http://freebmd.rootsweb.com/>. The database is a work-in-progress, which is up dated regularly and includes indexed records starting in 1837 with plans to index records up to 1983.

Births are currently indexed up to 1931 with sporadic coverage up to 1949. Marriages are indexed up to 1931 but have a break in coverage in 1887, and 1920 with various coverage between 1932 and 1949. Most of the death records have been indexed up to 1935 (with a few breaks in coverage), and sporadic coverage up to 1949. To view a graph of records that have been indexed, go to <http://freebmd.rootsweb.com/progress.shtml>.

Click on the search button and choose the record you would like to search for. Add a name (and year if known). Search results for births include surname, first name(s), district, volume, and page number. In mid 1911 they added the mother's maiden name to the search results for births making it easier to track families. If you are searching for children born to a couple after 1911, try adding just surnames and a date range.

For marriages add known details to the search engine. If you don't know the maiden name of the bride, leave it blank. The search results include surname, first name(s), district, volume, and page number. In 1912 they added an additional column for the spouses' surname making it easier to match up couples.

To find the full name of the bride (or groom) in the marriages prior to 1912, click on the page number and it will give you a short list of the people who were married at the same time, including the spouse of the person you've just searched for. If you don't find the spouse there could be an error in the transcriptions.

The results for deaths have the same headings, but in 1866 they also add another column for age (at death).

Common surnames often have thousands of entries. You can narrow the results down by year, district or county. You can also search the index phonetically if you are not certain of the spelling of a surname, which may have changed over time.

If you are not certain where the district is located, click on the entry and it will give the counties the district was found in.

If you know for a fact that there is an error in the index, it's best to view the original page by clicking the glasses icon. Just scroll down to the icon titled

View the original. If you can confirm that the transcription is different from the original index, then click on the red info link to submit corrections. You can also add a postem note with an entry on this same page. If you see a red question mark or an envelope by the glasses icon, then someone has provided the index with further information or comments.

FreeBMD is always looking for volunteers to help transcribe indexes. Click on join FreeBMD if you are able to help out.

Once you have found an entry that you would like to order a certificate for, go the General Registers Office (GRO) website at <http://www.gro.gov.uk/gro/content/> to order a certificate online using the reference information found on the FreeBMD site.

Further reading:

Morgan, George G. English and Welsh BMD's: What you need to know. Family Chronicle, April 2010.

Security, Privacy and Integrity Update

By Brenda Smith

Update on *Security, Privacy and Integrity* article from Maple Ridge Family History Newsletter February 2010, the article by Brenda L. Smith that discussed security, privacy and integrity related to family history online research.

See Lisa A. Alzo's article *Cloudy with a Chance of Genealogy!* in the April/May 2010 issue of Internet Genealogy. According to Alzo, "cloud computing . . . consists of

using applications hosted on the Internet as opposed to those downloading or installed on your computer, and/or storing your data with an online service, either for free, or for access prices based on a fee."

The article looks at the following aspects of virtual research:

- family tree building and sharing sites
- "saved searches" in online databases
- online data storage and synchronization programs
- document creation tools
- photo editing and sharing
- networking mapping tools
- online organizing and notifications
- library/notetaking publishing advantages and disadvantages to "cloud computing"

Check this article for further references to online sites discussing the phenomenon, and bring yourself up to speed on these developments.

Family History Events

Abbotsford Genealogical Society

Meetings at Clearbrook Library
32320 George Ferguson Way
Abbotsford, BC

Doors open 6:00 pm. Meeting starts at 6:30 pm

- **Chilliwack British Library** with Fred Hails, May 19
- **Sharing Genealogy Research** AGS Members, June 15

Cloverdale Library

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

- **Fast and Easy Digital Collages Using Picasa** with Laurie J. Cooke. Saturday, May 8, 2010, 10:30am – 11:30am. Fee: \$10.00.
- **First Steps on the Ancestral Trail** with Brenda Smith, Saturday, September 11, 2010, 11:00am – 12:30pm. Fee: \$10.00
- **Start Searching Your Family History** with Brenda Smith, September 20, October 4 & 18, November 1& 15, 2010, 5:30pm – 8:30pm. Fee \$100 for series.

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.

15th Annual Tri-Stake Family History Seminar

- **Finding Your Roots Family History Seminar**, October 23, 2010, 8:00am – 4:00pm. Fee Free.

6270 - 126th Street Surrey, BC,
604-597-9695

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

Vancouver Public Library

- **Using FamilySearch**, Sunday, May 30, 2010 3:00 pm – 4:30 pm Computer Training Lab, Level 7 Central Library. Fee: Free. Registration required.

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