

Family History Newsletter

Contents

Family Photographs	1
Archaic Medical Terms	2
Online Resources	2
Family History Events	2

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.

Family History Group Meetings

The November meeting will be November 3, 2010.

Family Photographs

By Annette Fulford

Family photographs mark the milestones in our family history. Each photograph captures a moment in time that will never be seen again once it passes. Most photographs, however, don't get the treatment they deserve. Many are placed in boxes, and are left to deteriorate in unstable conditions such as damp basements or in attics that are too humid. Many others are placed in unsafe photo albums, which slowly destroy the image that someone has taken the time to record and preserve.

How many have inherited old family photos but don't know who the people are in the photographs? Many of these precious images are not preserved so that future generations will know who they are.

What about the photographs you take – will your descendants in 100 years from now know who the people are in the photographs that have been passed down to them?

They will – if you remember to print them. If you put off doing so you can end up with hundreds of images to get processed before you realize it.

Ever since I got a digital camera for Christmas 2004, I've had a love/hate relationship with it. I

love the instant access to photos, the ability alter them or to send the images to family and friends right away. However, I am finding it difficult to actually make prints of them.

Before digital images, when you finished a roll of film you just had to take it in and your choices were easy: Matte or Glossy and do you want a second set of prints? The only downside was paying for images that didn't quite turn out.

Now, we have far too many choices. Should I crop the image? Do I fix the exposure? Does anyone have red eyes that need correcting? I could just take the images into the photo store and have them do it for me. But I know how I want my photographs to look so I do it myself.

At the beginning of the year I took advantage of the sale at the local photo store and got many of my photos printed. However, by August I still hadn't done anything with them. I decided that September would be the month I would finally complete this task.

It started out as a chore that needed to be done. But as I got into the process, I found that I actually enjoyed reliving the memories of each moment in our lives from the past few years. I realized that I missed flipping through my photo albums. I

started out with the pictures from fall 2005 and have now printed, labeled and put away my photographs for the past five years. Now future generations will enjoy my photographs and will know exactly who they are looking 100 years from now.

Brenda Smith will be giving at lecture on how to care for family papers and photographs at the Tri-Stake Finding Your Roots Family History Seminar, October 23, 2010 at Surrey, BC. To find out more go to

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

Archaic Medical Terms

By Andrea Lister

<http://www.antiquusmorbus.com>

Recently I acquired a death certificate for one of my ancestors, Ann Tough, and was stumped by the cause of death. To me it looked like Thliers Pulmnalis. I Googled that term and came up blank. Then I looked for archaic medical terms and came across a fantastic web site, Rudolf Schmidt's Antiquus Morbus – Rudy's List of Archaic Medical Terms. The site contains a collection of archaic medical terms and their old and modern definitions. The primary focus of the site is to help decipher the causes of death found on mortality lists, certificates of death and church death records from the 19th century and earlier.

I still could not find the cause of death in his database but I noticed that he offered a service where you can email him the death certificate and he will help

you out. I sent him the death certificate and within a day I had a response, "It is "Phthisis Pulmonalis". The same as Tuberculosis of the Lungs." What I thought was a T was a P. All Rudy asks is that you click on the one of the Google Ad to pay the hosting fees.

I decided to look up another ancestor's cause of death "Chronic Cerebritis Coup-de-Soleil". Cerebritis = Inflammation of the cerebrum and on the French list Coup-de-Soleil = A stroke of the sun; generally, any affection produced by a scorching sun. So James Stiff died of sun stroke in 1855.

Rudy's site is a great resource for decipher obscure causes of death and shedding some more light on how our ancestors lived and died.

Online Resources

Upper Canada Land Petitions 1763-1865

Index only

<http://www.collectionscanada.gc.ca/whats-new/013-479-e.html>

Family History Events

Abbotsford Genealogical Society

Meets on the third Tuesday of each month at 6:30 pm at the Clearbrook Library 32320 George Ferguson Way in Abbotsford.

- **Home Children** with Marlene Dance, October, 19, 2010.
- **Can You Prove That? Standards of Proof for Family**

History Research with Brenda Smith, Nov. 16, 2010.

Surrey Libraries

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

- **Second Annual Family History Show and Tell!** Last year we invited people who document their family history to bring in their creations - there were family quilts, artfully done scrapbooks, storyboards, digital collages and much more. We invite you once again to join us and bring whatever you've made to honour your ancestors. Saturday, November 13, 2010, 10:30am - Noon No charge, donations welcome.

- **Start Writing Your Family History: A Communications Workshop in 5 Lessons** with Brenda Smith, Saturdays: January 22, February 5, 19, March 5, 19, 2011, 1:30pm – 4:30pm. Fee \$100 for series.

Pre-registration is required – please check the Family History section of the Surrey Libraries 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/>