



# 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](http://www.mapleridgemuseum.org)

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Submissions to this publication are welcome. Copy deadline is the 7<sup>th</sup> of each month. The publisher will take all reasonable care but will not be responsible for the loss of any manuscript or other material.

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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 July meeting will be July 6, 2011.

## Tracking Family in BC Directories

*By Annette Fulford*

My great uncle John Gibson and his family came to BC circa 1918/19 to live at Vancouver. I was able to locate him in the Vancouver directories between 1919 and 1922 at Cloverdale library. However, I was in a rush at the time and didn't even think to look for additional family members in these directories. It wasn't until the directories became available online at the Vancouver Public Library that I had more time to peruse them from the comfort of my own home.

The first directory I found information for John Gibson in was 1919. He was an iron moulder and was listed as mldr in the directory living at 1712 - 19th E., Vancouver. Most of his children were at an age where they might have jobs so I looked for their names and for any additional people living at the same address. I was surprised to see two of John Gibson's daughters in these directories; both had occupations.

I was able to track them quite easily each year up to 1935 because they still lived at home with their parents. The family moved around quite a bit. Once I found the father in the directory and learned his address for that year, I was able to track down the

daughters because they had the same address. Later, when I could no longer find the father listed by his regular occupation as iron moulder, I found he switched jobs and was working as a janitor by comparing the addresses the daughters were living at.

What I was able to learn from the directories was that one daughter Elizabeth "Bess" Gibson worked for Spencer's department store as a cashier since 1919. In the last directory available online for 1935 she finally changed jobs to become a telephone operator at Associated Dairies. Her older sister Helen "Ellen" Gibson was either a stenographer or a bookkeeper at a number of Vancouver dairies. She switched jobs often. She also worked for R.P. Clark and in 1935 as a stenographer for the BC Govt. Both women married in the 1930s so now I have a better idea of when to search.

In the 1933 directory it listed my great aunt, their mother, Mrs. Ellen Gibson as the manager of The Seafield, which turns out to be the name of the apartment the family was living at on 1436 Pendrell street. The Seafield apartment building is still standing. It has been the subject of much controversy lately because the owners of the building wanted to kick out current tenants to renovate the building. I was able to view a

picture of the historic building at Google Maps to see where the family lived.

## Witnesses and Sponsors

*By Andrea Lister*

I was reminded again recently of the importance of taking note of the sponsors and witnesses on birth, marriage and death records.

I have been researching the SURBY/SURBEY tree for a friend of mine and had traced them back to William Surby and wife in the 1851 Canadian Census. It lists William as born about 1798 in England. William and wife Mary are living in the Niagara region with their sons Edward, Joseph, and James. All of the sons are listed as born in Upper Canada so I started looking for baptismal records.

I found baptismal records for Mary and Ellen from the Quebec Garrison. The July 4 1828 baptismal record for Mary in the Quebec Garrison records from the Quebec Vital and Church Records (Drouin Collection), 1621-1967 lists Joshua Surby as a sponsor. But, the clincher is the burial record for Mary on August 4, 1828. It lists Joshua Surby (uncle) as present. These two records prove Joshua's presence in Canada and establish that William and Joshua are brothers.

What is exciting about this is that the parentage of William has not been proven up to this point, whereas, the parentage of Joshua has been proven to be John Southby and Sarah Farnes.

Military records show that Private Joshua Surby was born at Sevenoaks, county Kent. By trade a labourer he enlisted in the 2nd Battalion 66th Foot 3rd May 1815 at Maidstone and embarked for St Helena 2 January 1816. He transferred to 1st Battalion 25 July 1817; to England 21 June 1821, and to Quebec June 1827. He requested a discharge at Montreal 15 November 1830.

## Online Resources

### Family Search

Canada, Ontario, Toronto Trust Cemeteries, 1826-1935

<https://www.familysearch.org/search/collection/show#uri=http://hr-search-api:8080/searchapi/search/collection/1627831>

It includes the following records:

- Mount Pleasant Cemetery
- Necropolis Cemetery
- Potters' Field Cemetery
- Prospect Cemetery

### VPL Directory Website

[www.vpl.ca/bccd/index.php](http://www.vpl.ca/bccd/index.php)

BC City Directories online collection now goes up to 1935.

### Seattle Public Library

Seattle City Directory Collection 1867 to 1928.

[http://cdm15015.contentdm.oclc.org/cdm4/index\\_p15015coll2.php?CISOROOT=/p15015coll2](http://cdm15015.contentdm.oclc.org/cdm4/index_p15015coll2.php?CISOROOT=/p15015coll2)

## Saskatchewan Provincial Records

Various documents housed in the Provincial Archives of Saskatchewan, including homesteads, voter lists, pioneer questionnaires, biographies, military and municipal records, teacher registries, township registers, and Henderson Directories. So far, they have added 1908 Homestead records. The records are not searchable; you can browse only. To view the images, you have log on or register at FamilySearch.

<https://www.familysearch.org/search/collection/show#uri=http://hr-search-api:8080/searchapi/search/collection/1916143>

## Family History Events

### Surrey Libraries

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

- **Start Searching Your Family History** with Brenda Smith, September 19, October 3 & 17, November 7 & 21, 2011, 5:30pm – 8:30pm. Fee \$100 for series.
- **Discover Your Past, Discover Yourself!: an Introduction to Family History** with Laurie J. Cooke, Saturday, September 24, 2011, 10:30am – 12:00pm. Fee: \$10.00.

Pre-registration is required – please check the Family History section of the Surrey Libraries website [www.spl.surrey.bc.ca](http://www.spl.surrey.bc.ca) or call us at 604-598-7328.