

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.

Family History Group Meetings

The November meeting will be November 7, 2012.

British Newspaper Archive

By Andrea Lister

www.britishnewspaperarchive.co.uk

British Newspaper Archive, the joint venture between the British Library and BrightSolid now has over 5,750,000 newspaper pages online, taken from historic copies of hundreds of local and regional newspapers. Currently you can get 15 free credits when you register for the first time – potentially enough to view 3 complete pages.

You can purchase credit packages. Images cost between 5 and 15 credits.

I thought I would try it out. Searching is pretty straightforward if you have an usual name like “Rounsefell”. However, it is more challenging if you have a name like “Thomas Richardson”. You can filter by place and dates and add key words but it is hard to tell from the snippet if it is the person you are looking for unless you have exact information. I played around with the advanced search features and had more success. A nice feature is the bookmark option.

I searched for “Thomas Richardson” and filtered for place as Newcastle and keyword “Jesmond”. I found a Thomas Morland Richardson’s obituary

for Feb 11, 1911. I knew that Morland was the maiden name of Thomas’ mother so I figured it was a good bet he was related. I used all of my 15 credits and downloaded the PDF. I was rewarded for my risk. Thomas Morland Richardson was the Thomas M. in my tree and my great-grand uncle. The obituary is quite extensive and lists everyone of note who attended the funeral, who sent wreaths, and where he is interred.

The unexpected tidbit of information that I gleaned from the obituary was that his father was Alderman Thomas Richardson. One of the census records list him as sheriff but not alderman. So I Googled this new information and found a picture of him on the Newcastle Libraries’ flickr site. The caption for the image states that Alderman Richardson was the Chairman of the Schools and Charities Committee. The Richardson Wing at the Home for Incurables, now Hunters Moor Hospital, was named after him. While the information is very exciting and opens up new research avenues there are few things that compare to being able to see the face of an ancestor.

I have added a subscription to the British Newspaper Archive to my wish list.

<http://www.flickr.com/photos/newcastlelibraries/>

Online Resources

NovaMuse

<http://novamuse.ca/>

NovaMuse is a collection of collections from 51 Nova Scotian heritage institutions. NovaMuse is a place to share knowledge. Maybe you donated something to a museum and would like to comment on your personal memories of that item. The goal of NovaMuse is to help tell the story of Nova Scotia through its material culture. Currently it has 141,744 records and 56,631 images online.

Nova Scotia Archives

<http://gov.ns.ca/nsarm/virtual/landpapers/>

Nova Scotia Land Papers 1765-1800

This is a searchable database for petitions made to government by individuals or groups of people seeking grants of Crown Land for settlement purposes in early Nova Scotia. The database contains 11,464 names, and will link from the petitioner's name to the fully digitized document file created for that particular land grant — 1890 files, containing 9259 image scans.

New at Ancestry

www.ancestry.ca

Canada's Voters Lists 1935 -1980

New At Family Search

<https://familysearch.org/search/collection/show#uri=http://familysearch.org/searchapi/search/collection/1827217>

Prince Edward Island Baptism Card Index, 1721-1885 — Browse only.

Library and Archives Canada

www.flickr.com/photos/lac-bac/sets/72157631100522816/

Digitized photos are presented in *Canadian Women and the Peace Movement* Flickr set.

Family History Events

BCGS

BCGS General Meeting: War of 1812, with Judith Ueland and M. Diane Rogers. Wednesday, November 14, 2012, 7:30 pm – 10:00pm. Edmonds Community Centre, Burnaby, BC. Fee: Free.

Surrey Libraries

5642-176A Street, Surrey offers free orientations the 1st Saturday of every month 10:00 – 10:50am.

- **Brick Wall: Sharing Strategies on Tough Genealogy Problems**, Saturday, November 3, 2012, 1:00 pm to 5:00 pm. Join their panel of experts (Diane Rogers, Brenda Smith, and Peter Whitlock) who will share their thoughts on overcoming difficult Family History challenges. The panel members will then individually meet attendees who have submitted questions for 1-on-1 fifteen minute consultations. 1-on-1 questions need to be paid for and submitted in advance. Meanwhile Librarian Paul MacDonell will present **Librarian Secrets: Easy(ish) Resources for Family**

Historians. Contact Cloverdale Library or the BCGS for details. Fee: \$15 (includes a light meal and refreshments) Additional fee for 1-on-1 consultation: \$10.

- **Fourth Annual Family History Show & Tell!**, Saturday Nov 24, 2012, 10:30am-12:30pm. Fee: free. Donations welcome. 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.

Terry Fox Library (Port Coquitlam)

- **Ancestry.com - Search For Your Roots**, Tuesday, Oct 23, 2012, 7:00 pm to 8:30 pm. Registration required for this program. Fee: Free.

Vancouver Public Library

Central Library, 350 West Georgia Street.

- **Begin, or Return to Your Family History**, Monday, November 5, 2012, 1:00 pm to 2:30 pm Alma VanDusen Room, Lower Level. Fee: Free.
- **How to Research Your Vancouver Home Using Online Resources**, Tuesday, November 20, 2012, 2:30 pm – 4:00 pm. Registration is required. Fee: Free.
- **Wired for Learning. Personal Digital Archiving: Safeguarding your digital assets**, Thursday, Nov 29, 2:30 pm to 4:00 pm. Registration required Training Zone, Level 5. Fee: Free.