

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.

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The views expressed in this publication are not necessarily those of the Maple Ridge Historical Society.

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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 March meeting will be March 5, 2014.

Genealogy Books on Familysearch.org

by Roslyn Mellish

Although I have been using Familysearch.org for almost four years now, I will admit that I rarely take the time to thoroughly explore the many options that their website offers. One of the options that I have only used twice is that of searching for books on the genealogy of various families. These books have all been microfilmed they were acquired by the Church of the Latter Day Saints and are then made available on their website. It is possible to view them in a PDF format as well as to copy or print them.

The first time I obtained a book there was two years ago. I had little information about my husband's maternal line as his mother died 30 years ago. Fortunately we remained in touch with her side of the family and some cousins shared a link to a book about their family's history that was on Familysearch.org.

It is easily found by clicking on the books tab of the Familysearch.org webpage and entering "Brice Wiseman Hammack" into the search box. There were close to 200 pages of information on the family. When I mentioned this discovery at a Family History meeting I found

that the other members were well aware of this resource.

Then this Christmas we were visiting our son and his family in Cincinnati. While there, I asked our daughter-in-law what was known about her family's ancestors. She told me that her grandfather had a book that had been published about one of her family's lines. Since it was quite large and bound, I only photocopied some of the pages. I mentioned the book at the next Family History meeting and was reminded to check Familysearch.org as well as abebooks.com to see if any copies were available. Much to my delight Familysearch.org did have the book I was interested in. All I had to do was enter the search terms "descendants Alexander Woods" and the title popped up.

The moral of this tale is first, don't procrastinate about asking family members about their families' history and secondly check with those more experienced than you.

I am most grateful to the members of the Family History group for sharing their expertise and giving advice. They are very patient, even if they have to repeat the information many times, not only to new members but also to some who forget the latest bit of information received.

Heritage Week 2014

The theme for Heritage Week, February 17–23, 2014, is **Heritage Afloat!** For more information:

www.heritagebc.ca/heritage-week-2014

Online Resources

LAC & Canadiana.org

<http://heritage.canadiana.ca/>

The partnership between Library and Archives Canada and Canadiana.org over the next ten years involves the digitization, indexing and description of millions of personal, administrative and government documents. It will triple LAC's digital content on the Web, and allow Canadians to access tens of millions of additional images regardless of where they live, at no charge.

Check out a total of 2.1 million images online so far.

The National Archives (UK)

www.nationalarchives.gov.uk

You can now explore the case papers of over 8,000 individuals from the Middlesex military service appeal tribunal. These records provide a unique insight into the impact of the First World War on families, businesses and communities far from the battlefields. They are free to search and download until 2024.

Netherlands newspapers

<https://www.wiewaswie.nl/>

You can search and view newspapers, books, magazines, and even radio news bulletins

free at the Delpher site. Unfortunately there isn't an English language version of the site.

New from FamilySearch

<https://familysearch.org/>

- Canada Passenger Lists, 1881-1922, these records now include digital images all the way to 1922.
- California, San Pedro, Immigration Office Special Inquiry Records, 1930-1936
- Missouri, Probate Records, 1800-1959
- Pennsylvania, County Marriages, 1885-1950
- Texas, Mills County Clerk Records, 1841-1985
- United States Census, 1850
- United States Naval Enlistment Rendezvous, 1855-1891

Soldiers of the First World War

<http://www.bac-lac.gc.ca/eng/discover/military-heritage/first-world-war/first-world-war-1914-1918-cef/Pages/search.aspx>

Make sure to use the new database for Soldiers of the First World War. LAC no longer update the old version. I did notice, though, that they have having issues with this database especially with the digital files not loading. Check out the advanced search functions. They include a lot of search options.

Family History Events

BCHF Annual Conference

Cloverdale: Surrey's Historic Centre, June 6–7, 2014

<http://bchistory.ca/conferences/2014/index.html>

BCGS May 2014 Seminar

- With Audrey Collins from England and Geoff and Marg Doherty from Australia. Saturday, May 31, 10:30 am to 4:00 pm. Fee: \$65 – non-members.
www.bcgsc.ca/?page_id=2511

Cloverdale Library

5642 - 176A Street, Surrey, BC V3S 4G9, call 604-598-7327, or email familyhistory@surrey.ca

- **Finding your Scandinavian Roots** with M. Diane Rogers, Saturday March 1, 11:00 am – 12:30 pm. Fee: \$10.
- **Cemeteries** with Lorraine Irving, Saturday April 12, 10:30 am – noon. Fee: \$10.

Langley Centennial Museum

- **Casting the Net** with Brenda L. Smith, Wednesday, January 22, 2014, 6:30-8:30pm. Fee: \$22.75.
- **Can You Prove That – standards of proof for family history research**, with Brenda L. Smith, Saturday, February 15, 2014, 2:00 – 4:00pm. Fee: \$22.75.
- **Creating Closure – how information about the end of a life can help guide your research**, with Brenda L. Smith, Sunday, March 9, 2014, 2:00 – 4:00pm. Fee: \$22.75.

Qualicum Beach Family History Society

- **Unlocking the Past**, Saturday May 24, 8:00 am – 5:00 pm. Fee: \$90 – non-members.
<http://qbfhs.ca>