

# 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)

Email us: [mrfamilyhistory@gmail.com](mailto:mrfamilyhistory@gmail.com)

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

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Readers are welcome to reprint articles from this publication provided that formal permission is obtained from the Editor.

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 February meeting will be February 5, 2013.

## New Contact Info

The Family History Group has a new email address:  
[mrfamilyhistory@gmail.com](mailto:mrfamilyhistory@gmail.com)

## Start Writing Your Family History

by Brenda L. Smith

So you started collecting your family's history fifteen years ago. Or you have just subscribed to [Ancestry.ca](http://Ancestry.ca) as a gift to yourself. And now you have piles of paper, or maybe just census and immigration images scattered throughout your computer.

Wherever you ride on the family history continuum, you probably haven't taken much time to reflect on your findings in a coherent way. Sure, you can reel off names and dates while you watch your dinner guests edge toward the hockey game in the media room. You have albums of photographs and binders of certificates and family group sheets.

But have you produced a narrative that will engage your nephew and his girlfriend? Have you assembled a record that includes grandmother's youth as a lady's maid? Have you used writing to help you develop your research plans?

Here are some ideas for using this important historians' tool:

1. **Set a goal.** Decide to write as little as a few paragraphs or as

- much as a book that will put your work in perspective.
2. **Strategize.** You will find the holes in your assembly of family data. You will see where there is more work to do. Plan interviews and travel to develop and enrich the story.
3. **Create context.** Learn more about the times and places experienced by your family.
4. **Brainstorm.** Work with other family historians, writers and editors to develop an authentic and readable story.
5. **Reflect.** Write a think piece on how you will tackle a research problem. Write a summary of how you achieved a research goal. Your experiences and pathways to discovering ancestors are a valid part of the family story.
6. **Share the wealth.** Your ancestors have been citizens of many communities. Honour their contributions by putting your story on deposit in local and specialist archives.
7. **Get between the covers.** If you apply for an International Standard Book Number (ISBN) for your published work, you will be asked to provide copies for deposit at Library and Archives Canada. Your name will then appear in the LAC Catalogue.
8. **Be quoted.** If you submit your work to scrutiny, other historians will include you in

their footnotes and bibliographies.

9. **Be reviewed.** Your work will be discussed on blogs and in book critiques. This means that other researchers will find your family. And other family members may find you.
10. **Win a prize!** Members of the BC Genealogical Society compete annually for the "Most Improved Genealogist" award. Your book might be considered for the BC Historical Federation "Lieutenant-Governor's Medal for History Writing" or the BCGS "Family History Book Award."
11. **Bask in the love** and appreciation of your family, friends and fellow historians. You have created a legacy.

It is never too soon to start writing your family story, but it can be too late. Don't miss the opportunity to ask well-researched questions of your elderly relative. Be well-prepared when you have the opportunity to travel. And give yourself the gift of time to reflect on your research experience.

## Online Resources

### Old Bailey Online

<http://www.oldbaileyonline.org/>

A searchable online edition of the court proceedings with supporting articles and bibliography. Also known as the *Old Bailey Sessions Papers*.

## Heritage Week 2014

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

[www.heritagebc.ca/heritage-week-2014](http://www.heritagebc.ca/heritage-week-2014)

### Huguenot Resources

[www.cyndislist.com/huguenot/general/](http://www.cyndislist.com/huguenot/general/)

<http://huguenot.ws/>

[www.huguenot.netnation.com/general/huguenot.htm](http://www.huguenot.netnation.com/general/huguenot.htm)

[www.olivetreegenealogy.com/hug/index.shtml](http://www.olivetreegenealogy.com/hug/index.shtml)

### Families In British India Society

[www.fibis.org](http://www.fibis.org)

The Families In British India Society (FIBIS) is a self-help organisation devoted to members researching their ancestors and the background against which they led their lives in 'British India'.

### FamilySearch

- Idaho, County Marriages, 1864-1950
- Massachusetts, Boston Passenger Lists Index, 1899-1940
- Maryland, Baltimore Passenger Lists Index, 1820-1897
- Michigan, Eastern District, Naturalization Index, 1907-1995
- Montana Naturalization Records, 1868-1999
- New England, Seamen's Identification Cards, 1918-1940
- United States, Passport Applications, 1795-1925
- Belgium, Namur, Civil Registration, 1800-1912

- Denmark Civil Marriages, 1851-1961
- Germany, Prussia, Saxony, Various Protestant Church Records, 1594-1951
- Italy, Catania, Diocesi di Acireale, Catholic Church Records, 1560-1950
- Italy, Frosinone, Cassino, Civil Registration, 1861-1930
- Russia, Tatarstan Church Books, 1721-1939

## Family History Events

### Burnaby Community College for the Retired (CCCR)

- **Genealogy 202** with M. Diane Rogers, Fridays, 1:30 – 3:30pm for 8 weeks. Fee: \$48.
  - **Intermediate/Advanced Internet Genealogy** with M. Diane Rogers, Wednesdays, 1:30 – 3:30pm for 8 weeks. Fee: \$48 + Class notes: \$3.
- Registration: call 604 517 8732  
[www.cccrburnaby.org](http://www.cccrburnaby.org)

### Cloverdale Library

5642 - 176A Street, Surrey, BC V3S 4G9, call 604-598-7327, or email [familyhistory@surrey.ca](mailto:familyhistory@surrey.ca)

- **Using Wills to Link the Generations** with Peter Whitlock, Saturday, February 1, 11:00am – 12:30pm. Fee: \$10.
- **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.