



# 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)

Editors: Annette Fulford, Andrea Lister

Contributors: Sandra Ayres

Production: Val Patenaude, Allison White

Distribution: Brenda Smith

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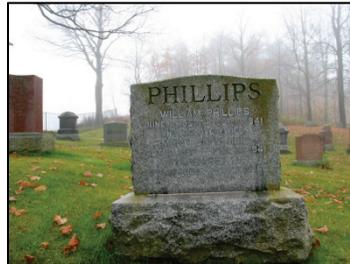
Subscriptions are a benefit of membership in the Maple Ridge Historical Society. Please send membership applications, with \$20 to the Maple Ridge Historical Society.

### Family History Group Meetings

The October meeting will be October 1, 2014.

## Headstones

by Sandra Ayres



The headstone pictured is of another family member taken at the Orangeville Greenwood Cemetery, Orangeville, Ontario. Courtesy of Sandra Ayres.

It is frustrating when you are researching an ancestor only to get to the point where you just cannot determine when they died. I was searching my husband's 2x great grandfather, John Ayres. I knew through many census records that he was born approximately in 1835. He lived the majority of his life in Burnham Thorpe, Norfolk England so I was confident I was following the correct gentleman. Then the trail went cold. All I could figure out was he died after 1901 and before 1911.

Looking on the England and Wales BMD, I could not narrow it down as to which John Ayres was indeed my John. His wife Ann Maria was also an issue as her name was too common for me to be sure.

I cast out a wider search [I was using [Ancestry.com](http://Ancestry.com)] to see if anything showed up. This proved to be time consuming so I

changed my tactic. I have had success on some fronts looking at headstones from specific cemeteries. Since I had no idea which church, I Googled "Burnham Thorpe Norfolk England cemetery". A few websites showed up. Investigating further I hit the jackpot! I had stumbled on the website

[www.gravestonephotos.com](http://www.gravestonephotos.com). A wonderful volunteer named Jackie Foster had photographed the headstones at All Saint's Church in Burnham Thorpe, Norfolk, England. A quick look up of the surname in question and I had not only a headstone for a John Ayres with the correct approximate birth year but his wife Ann Maria with the correct birth year too was included AND on the bottom a notation of their son Albert Ayres who had died in France in 1917. This was conclusive proof I had the right John Ayres!

This website was started by a gentleman named Charles Sale. He wants to preserve the information on headstones before they are lost due to such things as weathering and vandalism. To date the website has recorded 2660 cemeteries in 35 different countries. The work is donated by volunteers and all photographs are the property of said volunteers or the website. Copyright is straightforward enough for the average person to

understand. Upon requesting a photo, you receive a link to such photo [you used to receive attachments but due to issues the process has changed]. I was thoroughly impressed with the quality! If you care to volunteer, that is also possible.

Of course, this is not the only way to see headstones. Try other websites such as:

- [www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~cangmg/](http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~cangmg/)
- [canadianheadstones.com](http://canadianheadstones.com)
- [www.findagrave.com](http://www.findagrave.com)
- [www.interment.net](http://www.interment.net)

Googling the name of the town in question along with the word 'cemetery' might just be fruitful too!

I am looking forward to discovering what other headstones I might find. Apparently they have the cemeteries in Wick, Scotland I need to explore!

Maple Ridge Cemetery can be found on Interment.net. Additional information is easily obtained from the Maple Ridge Museum and Archives website.

## Online Resources

The British Colonist  
[www.britishcolonist.ca](http://www.britishcolonist.ca)

Updated! Now digitized from 1858 to 1920.

The Chilliwack Progress  
[theprogress.newspapers.com](http://theprogress.newspapers.com)

The *Chilliwack Progress* newspapers are now available for online, keyword searching dating from 1891 to 1983.

## Emerald Ancestors

[www.emeraldancestors.com](http://www.emeraldancestors.com)

Emerald Ancestors provides instant access to one of the largest collections of Northern Irish genealogy records available, containing birth, marriage, death and census records for over 1 million Irish ancestors.

## Digital Book Sites

- [www.ourroots.ca](http://www.ourroots.ca)
- [archive.org](http://archive.org)
- [books.google.ca](http://books.google.ca)
- [books.familysearch.org](http://books.familysearch.org)

## Family History Events

### WWI War Brides on CTV

In July Annette Fulford was interviewed by Melanie Nagy of CTV National about the WWI War Brides. Melanie was interested in the war brides from this era because it is the 100 anniversary of WWI. It was 95 years ago this month that Annette's grandmother came to Canada as a war bride. Watch for Annette's segment sharing her war bride collection, including excerpts from her grandmother's letter wrote on her journey to be aired in the near future.

### Abbotsford Genealogical Society

- **The Great War**, Thursday September 18, 2014 at 6:30 pm.
- **The Lady in the Search**, with Andrea Lister, Thursday November 20, 2014 at 6:30 pm; presentation at 7:00 pm.

### Cloverdale Library

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

- **Family History Collection Orientations:** Saturdays, 10:00–10:50 am: Sept. 6, Oct. 4, Nov. 1, Dec. 6. No charge.
- **Introduction to Family History**, Sept. 13, 10:30am. No charge.
- **Using Ancestry and HeritageQuest**, Sept. 27, 10:30am. No charge.
- **Start Searching Your Family History: A Beginners Workshop in Five Lessons** with Brenda L. Smith, Mondays 5:30 – 8:30 pm. Sept. 22, Oct. 6 & 20, Nov. 3 & 17, 2014. Fee: \$100.
- **Brick Walls, Part 2** in partnership with the BC Genealogical Society, Nov. 1, 2014. Fee: TBA.
- **6th Annual Family History Show & Tell!** Nov. 22 10:30am. Will feature a "home movie" theme this year. No charge.

## Finding Your Roots Tri-Stake Seminar

6270-126 St. Surrey, BC

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

Schedule TBA.

## Mission Genealogical Club

- **Accomplishments or Sorrows**, September 25, 2014, 7:00 pm.
- **Women in Your Tree**, with Andrea Lister, October 23, 2014, 7:00 pm.

## Nanaimo Family History Society

- **A Day with Cyndi** with Cyndi Ingle, owner / creator of Cyndi's List, Saturday October 11, 2014, 9:00 am – 5:00 pm.  
[www.members.shaw.ca/nfhs/DaYWithCyndi.html](http://www.members.shaw.ca/nfhs/DaYWithCyndi.html)