



Ancestry

The Nanaimo Family History Society Quarterly Journal
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President's Message by Ron Blank

Nag, nag and I shall comply: thanks again to Carolyn Kemp, our *Ancestree* editor.

Here we are, with warmer weather finally approaching. Most of you addicted genealogists take up other endeavours, but who might want to get involved with a summer project? Want to photograph the headstones in Nanaimo Cemetery on Comox Road and Bowen Road, and then GPS locate them? We also need to add to our Nanaimo Public Cemetery Records, bringing us more up to date.

Another project is to ask our "Transcribers Extraordinaire" to continue the good work started by Terry Hayes. Let's add to our on-line obituaries. We can start from 1988 and work backwards. The microfilm can be brought to our library or we may want to put the data on a CD, like the passenger lists.

You know we now have computer classes on the second and fourth Wednesday at our library and Gloria Saunders caters the learning to the students. Also, we will have a Lancashire Special Interest Group meeting on the third Wednesday of June, starting at 6:30 PM.

see President's Message page 2

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Save the Date!

| | |
|--|---------------------------|
| Nanaimo FHS June Meeting | June 18, 2012 |
| Nanaimo FHS Lancaster Interests | June 20, 2012 |
| Nanaimo FHS September Meeting | September 17, 2012 |
| Kelowna Seminar | Sept 28-30, 2012 |

"I can trace my ancestry back to a protoplasmal atomic globule. Consequently, my family pride is something inconceivable. I can't help it. I was born sneering."

W.S. Gilbert, British dramatist. *The Mikado*.

President's Message continued from page 1

[Ed Norman](#) is testing the waters and will be there on June 20. Come to the meetings if you want to learn more and share your knowledge of Lancashire.

In case you missed it, we are investigating changing our name to Nanaimo Genealogy Society. The rationale is simple. Too many people mix up "Family History Society" with local Nanaimo historians (as evidenced by the recent *Bulletin* reporter interview of myself). Everyone understands "genealogy" since genealogy research is the second largest use of the Internet. Depending upon costs, and subject to member approval, this is our plan.

We have also added another pay website, [GenealogyBank](#), on our third library computer. The site claims to have the largest historical American newspaper archives. You will need to book your time at

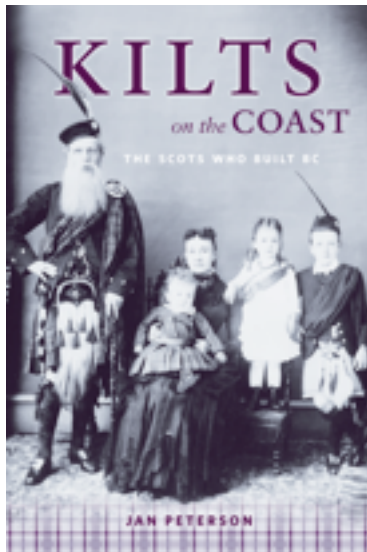
the library. Remember, we also have *Ancestry* and *findmypast* at the library. Any other pay sites wanted?

Here's an interesting idea, volunteer at our library, and you will learn more and maybe share some of your knowledge. Better yet, you will have a key, and might then come in and use our pay sites at your leisure. Just thinking . . .

That's my words for this month. A full list of your executive can be found on page 15, so talk to us, and let's see where we can take our society. We want to ensure that your membership has benefits.

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New Title from Jan Peterson



Local historian, Jan Peterson, has released her latest book, *Kilts on the Coast: The Scots Who Built BC*. The book focusses on Scottish immigrants to Vancouver Island from 1848-1854.

“From founding father James Douglas and other high-placed Company men to the humble miners from Orkney and Ayrshire who were brought over on harsh voyages around Cape Horn to work Nanaimo's mines, the Scottish influence on the young Colony of Vancouver Island was indelible. Nanaimo author and historian Jan Peterson focuses on events and people who sparked settlement and growth in BC's first Crown Colony over six critical years, 1848 to 1854, and delves deep into the roots of the Island's Scottish presence, tracing the lives of such pioneers as Dr. William Tolmie, Robert Dunsmuir and their descendants.”

Heritage House Publishing, 2012

New Titles in Our Library

by Grant Bridgeman

Quite a few new titles have been catalogued and added to the shelves in the last few weeks. The catalogue numbers can be accessed using the library holdings search screen on any of the computers at the library.

Title

Author/Editor

| | |
|---|------------------------------------|
| <i>Who's Who in Canada 1969-70</i> | E. W. Whelpton |
| <i>Cattle Ranch –Douglas Lake Cattle Company</i> | Nina G. Wooliams |
| <i>The Road Runs West</i> | Diana French |
| <i>Irish Emigration Lists 1833-1839</i> | Brian Mitchell |
| <i>A Century of Service – St. Paul's, Fredericton</i> | S. H. MacFarlane |
| <i>British Columbia Shipwrecks</i> | T. W. Paterson |
| <i>Land of the Midnight Sun</i> | Ken Coates and William R. Morrison |
| <i>Journey Down the Alberni Canal</i> | Jan Peterson |
| <i>History of the Lydiard Family</i> | William C. Lydiard |
| <i>Camas Chronicles of James Bay</i> | |
| <i>Come Give a Cheer</i> | Peter L. Smith |
| <i>The Mapmakers' Legacy</i> | Joan Dawson |
| <i>The UBC Alumni Directory 1992</i> | |
| <i>The Big Valley Story</i> | |
| <i>The Widdicombes of Canada</i> | Florence Widdicombe |
| <i>Monumental Inscriptions of South Perthshire</i> | Millar |
| <i>Burke's Peerage - 1953</i> | |
| <i>Burke's Peerage - 1914</i> | |

FAMILY HISTORY JOURNALS AND NEWSLETTERS

Did you know that our library has a newsletter exchange with many family history societies from around the world? After a newsletter is forwarded to the library, each is printed and is placed in a box by the cupboard for about a month. Have a look on your next library visit, as one of these newsletters may have information pertaining to your family history!

LIBRARY HOURS

Tuesday and Thursday 1 – 4 p.m.
Saturday 11 a.m. – 3 p.m.

Our library is open to all Family History Society members. A \$5.00 drop-in fee is charged for non-members, but drop-in fees can be applied to a full membership.

The library is located at 3999 Victoria Avenue, Nanaimo.

Researching the Nanaimo Public Cemetery

by NFHS member Marilyn Marshall

Recently I was asked to check out a grave site for a WWI war casualty cadet in the local cemetery. Since I had never actually tried to do that, I decided to see how that would work. First, since I volunteer at the NFHS library, I have seen the grave layout book from 1986, and the entries photocopied for us from city hall. They are in the computer room, against the bathroom wall.

I looked at the book (I had the date, name, and grave site information from the request) and found the map for the grave and the listing page, which I recorded. Then I went to the cemetery. I couldn't find the grave since I didn't realize that there was another sheet in the front of the book, and it had the location of the map in relation to the rest of the cemetery. I did wander up and down two rows and I took photos of any military grave stones that I saw. I thought it might be a fun project to transcribe those and make a list to send to those free sites that collect such things, or we could add it to our website.

Meanwhile, I decided I should check at city hall and find out where this map of a section of graves fit into the big picture. I was given – free – a copy of the new computerized page for the section, and part of the map page included the position I was seeking in the cemetery. Since I was there, I asked about getting current copies of all the maps. The answer was, no, not right now since the maps are in the process of being digitized. I was given a freedom of information form to fill out if I wanted to pursue it before they finished. I left that quest for the time being.

I took my new map and finally found the grave of the WWI cadet, **John Scott Rowan**. The stone is in good shape, so I photographed it.

I forwarded the photograph to the person who requested it, and she passed it on to a website.

I have since revisited our NFHS library book on the cemetery, and found the layout for the sections of the cemetery in the very front.

I have one recommendation – wait until the city has mowed and weed-whacked over and around the stones. I had to clean wet freshly cut grass off the stones, and the stones were partially obscured by long grasses covering the edges.



Nanaimo Mine Explosion Mining Victims from Many Nations

On May 3 of this year, Nanaimo marked the 125th anniversary of the Nanaimo mine explosion that occurred on May 3, 1887. On that day, a massive explosion erupted deep underground in the the Number One Coal Mine taking the lives of 148 souls, many of whom immigrated to Vancouver Island from countries around the world.

Previous editions of *Ancestry* have commemorated the event, with the list below published in 1996 in our newsletter. On the 125th anniversary of the event, it is fitting that the victims are again listed and remembered. The 1996 article noted that the list may contain errors and omissions due to damaged and missing newspaper clippings. In addition to the names below, 53 miners of Chinese origin were killed, but unfortunately, they were identified only by a number. The 1996 article refers the reader to Lynne Bowen's *Three Dollar Dream*, which paints a clear picture of the tragedy.

| | |
|--------------------------------------|--|
| Allen, Thomas (No. 5 Level) | Bristol, England, 24 yrs, single, runner |
| Benton, Edward (No. 1 Level) | Rothwell, Yorkshire, England, 34 yrs, left a wife & 6 children |
| Bertram, George S. (No. 3 Level) | Yorkshire, England, 37 yrs, left awife & 3 children |
| Bevilockway, Herbert (No. 3 Level) | Nanaimo, 24 yrs, single |
| Biggs, George (New Slope) | Nanaimo, 27 yrs, single |
| Bjurling, Arvid (No. 5 Level) | Sweden, 30 yrs, supposed to be single |
| Blundell, Jonathan (New Slope) | Maryport, Cumberland, England, 33 yrs, wife & 5 children |
| Buffington, Robert (No. 1 Level) | |
| Bone, William (No. 1 Level) | Penzance, Cornwall, England, 42 yrs, left a wife & 3 children |
| Bowden, George (No. 1 Level) | Cornwall, England, 71 yrs, widower |
| Bramley, Jonathon, Jr. (No. 1 Level) | Rothwell, Yorkshire, England, 36, wife & 3 children |
| Brun, H No. 5 Level - Old Slope | runner |
| Burns, William (New Slope) | Scotland, 35 yrs, single, won silver medal as soldier in Egypt |
| Byers, James (No. 3 Level) | Wrickbridge, Cumberland, England, 22 yrs, left a wife & child |
| Campbell, William R (No. 1 Level) | Cape Breton, Nova Scotia, 28 yrs, single, engineer |
| Campbell, James (No. 1 Level) | Rye, Sussex, England, 39 yrs, married no children |
| Cochrane, William L. (Sinking Shaft) | step-son of J. Crave, Wellington Rd, single |
| Corcoran, Michael (No. 5 Level) | County Kerry, Ireland, 46 yrs, left a wife & 6 children |
| Davey, William (No. 3 Level) | Whitehaven, Cumberland, England, 33 yrs, single |
| Davey, James (No. 3 Level) | Whitehaven, Cumberland, England, 33 yrs, single |
| Davis, William (Sinking Shaft) | Ruthin, Denbighshire, N. Wales, 36 yrs, wife & 2 children |
| Dawson, Daniel (New Slope) | Cletermore, Cumberland, England, 28 yrs, single |
| Dawson, Thomas (New Slope) | Cletermore, Cumberland, Engalnd, 32 yrs, single |
| Drake, Charles (New Slope) | Sweden, 27 yrs, left a wife & 3 children |
| Ducca, Peter (No. 5 Level) | Formaco, Italy, 25 yrs, single |
| Ellis, Arthur (No. 1 Level) | 21 yrs, son of David Ellis |
| Ellis, David (No. 1 Level) | Rothwell, Yorkshire, England, 48 yrs, left a wife & 4 children |
| Evans, Thomas (No. 3 Level) | Llwynpia, Glamorgan, S. Wales, wife & 4 children |
| Fallen, John C. (No. 1 Level) | Michigan, U.S.A., recently from California, 30 yrs, single |
| Fillipea, Anderoti (No. 5 Level) | Genoa, Italy, 28 yrs, single |
| Forrest, Joseph (No. 1 Level) | Longhurst, Northumberland, England, 28 yrs, just married |
| Gilbert, William (No. 1 Level) | Goldsmithney, Cornwall, England, 43 yrs, wife & 4 children |
| Gorman, Thomas (New Slope) | Middleton, County Cork, Ireland, 24 yrs, single, runner |
| Hague, William (New Slope) | Oldham, Lancashire, England, 23 yrs, left a wife & child |
| Hoggan, James (No. 3 Level) | Cape Breton, Nova Scotia, 21 yrs, single |
| Hoy, William (New Slope) | Sydney Mines, Cape Breton, 21 yrs, left a wife & child |
| Hughes, Thomas (New Slope) | Buckley, Flintshire, N. Wales, abt. 32 yrs, wife & children |
| Hunter, Andrew (No. 1 Level) | Nanaimo, 15 yrs |
| Isbister, James (No. 3 Level) | Nanaimo, 17 yrs, single |
| Johns, Nicholas (No. 5 Level) | Cornwall, England, 26 yrs, left a wife |

Mining Disaster continued on page 6

Mining Disaster continued from page 5

| | |
|---------------------------------------|---|
| John, Edward (No. 1 Level) | Wales, recently from Minnesota, 40 yrs, left a wife & family |
| Johnson, John (New Slope) | Sweden, abt 31 yrs, left a wife & 4 or 5 children |
| Jones, Evan (No. 3 Level) | Llanarmon Yu Tale, Denbigh, N. Wales, 40 yrs |
| Lee, Hudson (No. 3 Level) | Rothwell, Yorkshire, England, 22 yrs, single |
| Lee, Henry (No. 3 Level) | Rothwell, Yorkshire, England, 48 yrs, left a wife & 10 children |
| Lewis, Abraham T. (No. 3 Level) | Brymbo, near Wrexham, N. Wales, 47 yrs, wife & child |
| Linn, John (Sinking Shaft) | Ayresshire, Scotland, 34 yrs, left a wife & 5 children |
| Lukey, William, Jr. (No. 3 Level) | Wisconsin, U.S.A., 27 yrs |
| Lukey, William, Sr. (No. 3 Level) | Cornwall, England, 50 yrs, left a wife & 5 children |
| Lyons, James (New Slope) | Ireland, 44 yrs, left a wife & child |
| Lyons, Michael (No. 1 Level) | 15 yrs, son of miner James Lyons |
| Martin, Thomas (No. 1 Level) | Nanaimo, 23 yrs, single |
| Mattison, Frederick (Sinking Shaft) | Sweden, abt. 30 yrs, single |
| McDonald, Alexander (New Slope) | Pictou County, Nova Scotia, 23 yrs, single |
| McDonald, Roderick (No. 5 Level) | Cape Breton, Nova Scotia, 37 yrs, left a wife & child |
| McGuffie, John (No. 1 Level) | Nanaimo, 23 yrs, single |
| McLean, Malcolm (No. 5 Level) | Sydney Mines, Cape Breton, Nova Scotia, 31 yrs, single |
| Meakin, John, Sr. (No. 1 Level) | London, England, 57 yrs, wife & 9 children |
| Meakin, Arthur (New Slope) | Nanaimo, 19 yrs, youngest son of miner John Meakin, Sr. |
| Milton, James (No. 1 Level) | Indiana, U.S.A., recently from California, abt 30 yrs, single |
| Morgan, John W. (No. 5 Level) | County Down, Ireland, abt 28 yrs, single |
| Morgan, David (No. 1 Level) | Cowbridge, Glamorganshire, S. Wales, 27 yrs, single |
| Morris, William (New Slope) | Missouri, U.S.A., abt 30 yrs, left a wife & 3 children |
| Morton, John (No. 3 Level) | Lanarkshire, Scotland, 30 yrs, left a wife & 2 children |
| Morton, Andrew (No. 3 Level) | Lanarkshire, Scotland, 28 yrs, left a wife & child |
| Muir, Andrew (No. 1 Level) | Ayresshire, Scotland, 45 yrs, left a wife & 6 children |
| Muir, Archibald (No. 3 Level) | Ayresshire, Scotland, 57 yrs, left a wife & 3 children |
| Myles, John (New Slope) | Redding, Shropshire, Scotland, 39 yrs, single |
| Myers, Samuel H (No. 5 Level)- | Ireland, 49 yrs, single |
| Nicholson, Robert (New Slope) | Northumberland, England, 34 yrs, left a wife & 2 children |
| Old, George (No. 3 Level) | Penzance, Cornwall, England, 46 yrs, left a wife & child |
| Perry, Thomas (New Slope) | Backworth, Northumberland, England, 32 yrs, wife & 2 children |
| Popplewell, Benjamin (No. 1 Level) | Methley, near Leeds, Yorkshire, England, 28 yrs, single |
| Richards, John (No. 1 Level) | Birmingham, England, 45 yrs, wife (son in England by 1st wife) |
| Ridley, William (No. 3 Level) | Clifton near Workington, Cumberland, England, 28 yrs, single |
| Scales, William (New Slope) | New Westminster, B.C., 27 yrs, single |
| Simmons, George (No. 1 Level) | London, England, 35 yrs, left a wife & child |
| Smiley, Allan (New Slope) | Glasgow, Scotland, 34 yrs, left a wife & child |
| Smith, J.J. (No. 1 Level) | Liverpool, England, lately Australia, 25 yrs, Brakeman |
| Smith, John (Sinking Shaft) | Scotland, 21 yrs, single |
| Stephenson, William Henry (New Slope) | Macon County, Missouri, 18 yrs, married |
| Stevens, John (No. 1 Level) | Iowa, U.S.A., 23 yrs, single |
| Stove, John (No. 3 Level) | Nanaimo, 23 yrs, left a wife & child |
| Stove, Robert (No. 3 Level) | Nanaimo, 21 yrs, single |
| Tellaro, Jubert (No. 5 Level) | Turino, Italy, 29 yrs, single |
| Thomas, James (No. 1 Level) | Wales, 35 yrs, single |
| Thompson, Joseph (No. 1 Level) | Peltonfell, Durham, England, 37 yrs, wife & 3 children |
| Thompson, John (New Slope) | Maryport, Cumberland, England, 32 yrs, single |
| Tulley, Frank (New Slope) | California, 28 yrs, left a wife & child |
| Watson, Joseph (No. 1 Level) | Weardale, Durham, England, 30 yrs, single |
| Westfeldt, John Henry (No. 3 Level) | Holland, 43 yrs, left a wife & 5 children |
| Wilkins, Edward (No. 1 Level) | Cowbridge, Glamorganshire, S. Wales, 26 yrs, single |
| Willis, Caton (New Slope) | St. Charles, Canada, 40 yrs, left a wife & 3 children |
| Woobank, John (No. 3 Level) | Leeds, Yorkshire, England, 41 yrs, left a wife & 2 children |
| Woobank, Copley (No. 3 Level) | Rothwell, Yorkshire, England, 18 yrs, son of John |
| Zermani, John (No. 5 Level) | Matte, Parma, Italy, 38 yrs, left a wife & 3 children |

Library and Archives Canada

The March, 2012, Federal Budget included significant cuts to Library and Archives Canada. One cut of particular importance to genealogists is the end of interlibrary loan service. Latest news is that LAC is exploring a variety of models that will enable the availability of their holdings — financial constraints, though, will see the end of the loan service as we currently know it on February 15, 2013. The successor to the program will be announced in the fall of 2012.

If you are concerned about these changes or would like more information, please visit [Save Library & Archives Canada](#) and get involved.

Military Settlers — Perth, Ontario

Do you have ancestors who settled in Perth, Ontario? In 2016, Perth will celebrate the 200th anniversary of Scottish, Irish, and English settlers to whom the British government offered land in 1815. Almost 600 settlers arrived in 1816, supplementing military settlers who arrived following the War of 1812 as well as settlers from the United States, Switzerland, and other countries. The [Perth Historical Society](#) has an excellent website on which you'll find maps of the settlement area as well as lists of many of the military settlers.

SOG's *Who Do You Think You Are* — Live Presentation and Workshop Handouts

Following the finish of The Society of Genealogists' 2012 family history show, the society placed on line [presentation and workshop handouts](#). The presentations covered a wide range of family history interests — many valuable ideas and tools can be found on the site.

Ellis Island Photos

Some newly released photographs depict various scenes of [Ellis Island](#) before it was transformed into a immigration museum. The photos are rather haunting, showing locations on the island that felt the first steps of so many new immigrants to the United States. Many of these immigrants later journeyed to Canada.

British Records — Naturalization and Denization

The British National Archives has an excellent [guide](#) if you are looking for records of a naturalized Briton. "Foreigners wishing to become English (or later, British) could either apply for **denization** (which made them almost equivalent to native-born Britons and granted them most of a free subject's rights and the protection of the law) or **naturalization** (which granted them all the rights and made them a subject of the Crown). Before the mid-20th century, Britons from across the world were British citizens. After the **British Nationality Act 1948**, colonial Britons had to register British citizenship."

Fallen Firefighters

If your genealogy searches involve Canadian firefighters who have been killed on duty, you may wish to check out a site created by the Canadian Firefighters' Foundation. [The Fallen](#) contains the name, rank, province, and date of death of each firefighter.

Web Updates

Ancestry

[Middlesex, England, Convict Transportation Contracts, 1682-1787](#)
[New York, WWII Enlisted Men Cards, 1940-45](#)
[Iowa Marriages 1851-1900](#)
[1940 US Census](#)

FamilySearch

If you're looking for new databases in a particular location, choose your location from the FamilySearch home page and then skim the lists noting the dates that the data has been added. This is a great help when you're revisiting brick wall individuals in your research. Limited space allows us to post only a few recently added or supplemented databases that may be of interest to our members:

[Belgium, Births and Baptisms, 1560-1890](#)
[Brazil, Catholic Church Records](#)
[British Columbia, Naturalization Records, 1859-1926](#)
[British Columbia, Victoria Times Birth, Marriage and Death notices, 1901-1939](#)
[Canada, Marriages, 1661-1949](#)
[Quebec, Non-Catholic Parish Registers, 1763-1967](#)
[North Carolina, County Records, 1833-1970](#)

findmypast

[findmypast](#) has been awarded a digitization contract by the City of Westminster Council and the Westminster Archives Centre. This significant new project will have online 10 million historic records. As well as baptisms, marriages and burials, the collection includes rate books, orphan and apprentice records, vestry minutes, cemetery registers, charity documents, workhouse admission and discharge books, settlement examinations, churchwardens' accounts, bastardy and poor law records, wills, militia and watch records. The records are expected to launch later this year and will become fully searchable.

[Royal household records](#) are now available at findmypast. "The Royal Household establishment lists, or staff lists, contain extensive details of a range of people who worked in the Royal Household from 1526 to 1924." Researchers will be able to discover ancestors' names, "the post they held, their dates of employment and the relevant National Archives', printed or Royal Archives' references."

Free Searchable Databases

The following links will take you to a variety of searchable databases at no cost

| | |
|--------------------------|---|
| Australian Free Ancestry | http://sites.google.com/site/freeaustralianancestry/ |
| Canadian Free Ancestry | http://sites.google.com/site/freecanadianancestry/ |
| English Free Ancestry | http://sites.google.com/site/freebritishancestry/ |
| Irish Free Ancestry | http://sites.google.com/site/freeirishancestry/ |
| Scottish Free Ancestry | http://sites.google.com/site/freescottishancestry/ |
| US Free Ancestry | http://sites.google.com/site/ancestryresearchfree/ |

ScotlandsPeople

A detailed picture of wartime Scotland has been made available with the release of details from the Valuation Rolls for the year 1915-16, via the [ScotlandsPeople](#) website. "The rolls record the names of owners, tenants and occupiers of each property, unlike the full lists of family members to be found in the censuses. Usually the named person is the head of the household, but sometimes a husband and wife might be listed. Frequently, the wife is the named tenant of rented property."

Genealogy Brick Walls

If you've found a way to burrow through one of your brick walls, or wish to share your brick wall ancestor with other society members, please let the editor know, so we can run your story in one of the upcoming issues of *Ancestry*. Perhaps another member can suggest an answer. Networking our problems like this can be one of the best ways to find our solutions!

Can you help with the brick walls below? If you have an idea, email the [NFHS](#), and we will pass your response on to the researcher. If you would like to post your brick wall, please email us with the information you have.

Lost – MUIR AND DICK Scottish Roots

My greatest unfulfilled challenge is tracking down information on my great grandmother, **Sarah MUIR**, who in 1877 appears to be the first white woman buried in the "new" Nanaimo cemetery on Bowen Road. Her death certificate simply said, "born in the Quarter, Ayr." I have much other information on her, but no firm birth year and no assurance that she was born in the city of Ayr or the district of Ayrshire. I have a Sara Muir born in Ayr about the right time to a father Nicholas Muir but there is no proof that this is the correct record. My grandfather, **James DICK**, d.1885 is also something of a mystery – I would like to locate his birth year, residence, and so on. I would dearly love to contact the families of two of the sons who remained in Scotland.

Lost Before 1851

John Richardson CLARK b. abt 1819 in Milanthorp, Westmoreland, England. He is on the 1851 census in Liverpool and married Mary Newby. I found their marriage in Westmoreland in 1848 which gives his father as Thomas Clarke. Where was he before 1851?

Lost in England

Robert AUSTIN born ca 1630 emigrated from England, and appears in 1661 on a list of residents of Newport, Portsmouth, and Kingstown, Rhode Island. Seeking information on his English birth.

Lost – BOYES AND MCMURRAY Roots

A new member seeks information on the Scottish roots of her ancestors James Hudson **Boyes** and his wife, Annie McMurray. James was born November 27, 1856, in Scotland, the son of **William Boyes** and **Sarah OSBORNE**. Annie was born February 8, 1861, also in Scotland. She was the daughter of Alexander **MCMURRAY** and **Margaret BURNS**. Both James and Annie are buried in Nelson Memorial Park, Nelson, BC. Seeking information on place of birth of both James and Annie.

If you have ideas about the above queries, please let us know by emailing [NFHS](#)!

Attempt the end, and never stand to doubt
Nothing's so hard but search will find it out.

from "Seek and Find" by Robert Herrick, (1591-1674)

My Brick Walls – Torn Down by NFHS member Marilyn Marshall

I have a Scottish family I am researching, ancestors of my grandmother, Margaret Sinclair. Her grandfather, James Sinclair, was born 18 September, 1928, at Cullen, Banff, Scotland, and died 26 December, 1866. His home address was 9 Ann Place, Aberdeen, Scotland.

I knew he existed because his name was on Margaret's father's marriage registration, but I couldn't find his birth record until I could get his death record. I did find a likely record number on *Scotlandspeople* website. It gave me a year and a record number, but when I received the record, it was someone else's!

When I made a query online, the representative just said that illegitimate children were listed under the mother's maiden name, and he did not really look into the problem.

A trip to Scotland was in the works. My husband, David, wanted to go there for his 65th birthday and on the trip, we went to the Registrar General's office where we found the record!

First, I showed the clerk what the computer indicated would be the record, but the wrong one showed up on the screen again. So fine, out came the microfiche, but the microfiche record was still the wrong one. I begged! Please, I can't get anywhere further until I get this record. After my pleading, the man went into the deep archives coming back with an actual bound ledger. He opened it to the page that should have had my ancestor showing, and sure enough, there he was! It seems there was a Volume 2 for the same year, and it had the same numbering starting on page 1 as did Volume 1! I overheard the discussion between staff members, and it turned out that the computer data base was not designed to retrieve records from a second volume. The record was indexed, clearly. A researcher just couldn't get there from here. So if you were researching in that area

back in 2008, maybe now you can get the record for which you were looking!

I excitedly wrote the information down, but I thought that this was not going to cut it. I wasn't sure I could read my writing, and asked if there was a possibility I could get a copy of this original document. I thought that my request would be denied since that would mean exposing an 1866 document to the copy machine. Well, the man went away again. He came back and agreed to copy it for me, but it would cost me 50p — the exact price for a printout of any of my records! They printed it on blue paper (different from all my other records).

I went away from that day ecstatic. I told them that record was worth the \$7,000 the trip cost us. As a result, I was able to go back as far as 1777 in the Sinclair line in Cullen, Banff, Scotland.

What happened to Margaret's three siblings? Partially solved.

My grandmother, Margaret Sinclair, had a sister, Williamina. I couldn't find her on any census records. I finally found out her grandmother's address in Aberdeen on Margaret's ship's record when she came to Canada in 1921. When I looked the grandmother up on the census, lo and behold, Williamina was there, listed as the granddaughter. None of the 3 other Sinclair children were listed. I still can't find them. Williamina died in the poor house of heart failure at age 17 in 1906 in Aberdeen. I discovered her death because she was listed on the tomb stone we found in Aberdeen listing Williamina, her maternal grandmother and a whole slew of others from the household. One of the uncles was a stone carver; otherwise, such a tall tablet would not have been affordable.

see Sinclair Brick Walls page 11

Sinclair Brick Walls continued from page 10

I have since found birth records for the 4 children: Williamina b. 16 April 1889, Aberdeen; Alexander b. 8 May 1893, Spital, Aberdeen; Robert b. 4 November 1894 Leith; Margaret b. 2 January 1897, N. Leith, Midlothian. Their mother, Helen Malcolm (1863-1898), lived only a short time after Margaret was born in 1897. Their father was a seaman and had to send the children to relatives who cared for them. Eventually Margaret was placed in the care of a shipmate of his, Charles Stuart Ross and his wife Agnes who could not have children. I have found no records of them. I believe they most likely lived in Edinburgh because Margaret married there and they were witnesses at her wedding.

The boys are nowhere to be found. According to family legend, they went to India after joining the army. They came back when their father died, but were too late to retrieve the money left in trust with the lawyer. Hmm, I didn't find a will when I looked in the original volumes in Edinburgh, but there must be something to find about the disposal of his estate.

Where, when and why did Margaret's father Alexander James Sinclair (1861, Bengal, India – 1917 Scotland) die? A solved mystery.

Margaret's father died after he visited her to see his new grandchild Ethel b. March 1917. He drowned after falling off the ramp to his ship in 1917 at Aberdeen. Family legend said he was

returning to the ship with papers for the captain when he fell into the water. We couldn't find that death record until the first visit to Scotland in 2000. The records were finally being digitized. We had the wrong location due to family legend, but we had an approximate date. We checked the first record listed – back then you actually went to a bank of filing cabinets and removed the microfiche, read it, and submitted the page for printing. Another exciting day! The people who helped us by bringing us the copies we printed asked if we wanted the other document. What other document? The one referred to in the margin. We didn't even know to look for that! It was the coroner's report. Once I got home, I also was able to get a copy of a news article from the Aberdeen library. There was no obituary.

There are still a few brick walls with the family. Alexander is elusive as far as census records – so far I can't find him in any census records other than 1871 and 1881. Before that the family was in India (1861). After that, I presume he was at sea. I also cannot find anything on his sister Janet (Jessie) and brother James after the 1881 census besides their birth. Their mother's death record (Mrs James Sinclair in the census – Williamina Calder Mackay (or Mckay) 1829-?) also remains elusive. I had some information that indicated her death was in 1883, but when I look at my notes that clue did not pan out. I have done lots of looking in *Ancestry*, but to no avail.

The **Lancashire Special Interest Group** meets at our library at 6:30 PM on the third Wednesday of each month (except July and August). The next get-togethers then are June 20 and September 19. If your research includes Lancashire, you are welcome to attend with others so involved. For more information contact [Ed Norman](#).

What sez Lancasheer to thee?
Is it Blackpoo' by the sea?
Is it wet an' muggy days,
Ships on t' Mersey through the 'aze,
Blackpuddin's on a plate in' t' shops,
Industry as never stops?
Is it shawls or whippet dogs?
Or is it just the ring o' clogs?

anonymous from "Ring of Clogs"

IS THERE A SMUGGLER IN YOUR TREE?

As we explore our family trees, most of us will find rogues and rascals hanging from the branches. For those of you whose ancestors lived along the coasts of the British Isles, you may well find your rogue or rascal was a smuggler. Smuggling in the British Isles, especially during the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries was not seen in the same light as it is today. Indeed, noted economist Adam Smith defended the legitimacy of smuggling stating in *Wealth of Nations* that the “smuggler is a person who, though no doubt blameable for violating the laws of his country, is frequently incapable of violating those of natural justice, and would have been in every respect an excellent citizen had not the laws of his country made that a crime which nature never meant to be so.” Smuggling was supported by people from all classes who often viewed the transport of contraband as an assertion of traditional rights. Smuggled goods included wool, silk clothing, tea, coinage, tobacco, alcohol (particularly “geneva” or gin as it is known today), and many other items on which the government had placed import or export duties.

Two stories of smuggling ancestors come to us from our membership. In the first, George Peeble’s great great uncle writes of his grandfather on the shores of Eastern Scotland. This article was originally published by the Tay Valley Family History Society in 1996. In the second article, your editor shares an anecdote about one of her ancestors who was happily active in smuggling along the shore of Whitstable, Kent.

SMUGGLING?

By George W. Dickie

1844 - 1918

Near the mouth of the Dighty Water on the road from Monifieth to Broughty Ferry were two old Mills. One a betelling or as the natives called it, a splash mill for flax, also called the Little Mill. My grandfather leased the Little Mill from 1810 to 1830.

During the time my grandfather had the Little Mill smuggling was very prevalent on the east coast of Scotland, and many a French Lugger would manage to run into the mouth of the Tay River and get rid of his cargo in some sheltered nook and be off again before morning. The mouth of the Dighty Water was just the spot for that kind of enterprise and many a keg of French Liquor found a resting place along the banks of this stream until circumstances favoured its appearance amongst the honest kegs of legitimate trade.

One dark night my grandfather had gone up the Dighty Water to dig out a keg that had been placed there sometime before with many another of its kind. Everything went well with the recovery of the keg and my grandfather was quietly wending his way through the woods with the keg strapped securely to his back when he was accosted by two of the King’s Gaugers. He and the keg were taken into custody and his hands tied securely in front of him and the ends of the rope tied to the arms of the Gaugers my grandfather was led on a 10 mile march in the dark night to Forfar as that was the nearest place to find a magistrate.



Highland Smuggling from *The Graphic*, 1883

However, some of my grandfather’s friends found out what had happened and before the Gaugers and their prisoner had gone too far a silent figure stole up behind them and cut the ropes that held the keg and disappeared with the keg.

see Smuggling page 13

Smuggling continued from page 12

Forfar was reached in due time, the magistrate was found who knew my grandfather but didn't know the Gaugers. They dragged their prisoner into the light and asked for a commitment. But where was the evidence? The Gaugers had blundered. My grandfather was known as an honest man and should he make the complaint

the commitment must be issued against them. But my grandfather showed a true Christian spirit of forgiveness, and if they would provide a carriage at their expense to take him home he was willing to let the matter rest, and so it has rested all these years.

Let There Be Light — When the Excise Men are Abroad

by NFHS member Carolyn Kemp

The late eighteenth century and early nineteenth century marked a very busy time for the “free trade” of smugglers in Kent. The rise of smuggling during this time mirrors the increasing burden of taxation on the common folk necessitated by the need to fill government coffers especially during politically unsettling times such as during and following the Civil War years.

Whitstable, situated on the north Kent coast, has long been known for its native Whitstable oysters, but it was also the site of much smuggling. My family first appear in Whitstable early in the seventeenth century when in 1603 my 9th great grandfather, Gregory Kempe, was baptized there; his father, another Gregory, had left Wye, Kent a few years previously. Many of the Kemps in Whitstable over the next centuries were oyster dredgers and mariners, but there is no doubt that they, like many of their townfolk, were active participants in smuggling.

There are a string of Ozias Kemp(e)s in Whitstable records, and one of those, either my 4th (1751-1803) or 5th (1777-1853) great-grandfather, is described by Geoffrey Pike, a Whitstable historian, as a respectable man with a tobacco shop. Ozias also had a beach boat house where “he would sit betimes of an evening a-reading his Bible by the light of a candle. The showing of its flame was an indication to the smugglers that the Excise men were abroad and [the smugglers] should not attempt to land their cargo of tobacco.”¹ The dousing of Ozias's light, (and the closing of his Bible!) signaled an all-clear — Ozias and his customers would receive their cut from the contraband! Yes, smuggling was against the law, but among the people of Whitstable, it was a part of their life to be respected as an 1870 obituary

informs us: “. . . when young, he followed the then respectable calling of a smuggler as he was fond of telling us, at a time when, in his own words, he smuggled, the parish clerk was a smuggler, and he wasn't sure the parson didn't.”

I like to think Ozias was a kindly, respectable soul despite his smuggling prowess. I also like to think that he laughed one overcast, blustery day in Seasalter (a village adjoining Whitstable) when I visited his gravesite in a lonely cemetery that overlooks the smugglers' sea. That day, as I knelt in front of his tilting, weatherbeaten grave marker trying to read the inscription, a huge black snake suddenly emerged from under the stone. Fortunately, the snake quickly slithered left while I, even more quickly, leapt right. I'm sure Ozias was chuckling — I tried to.

¹ Pike, Geoffrey *et al.* *Ales and Tales*. Whitstable: Whitstable Improvement Trust, 1993, p23.

from “A Smuggler's Song”

If you wake at midnight, and hear a horse's feet,
Don't go drawing back the blind, or looking in the street.
Them that ask no questions isn't told a lie.
Watch the wall, my darling, while the Gentlemen go by!
Five and twenty ponies,
Trotting through the dark —
Brandy for the Parson,
'Baccy for the Clerk;
Laces for a lady, letters for a spy,
And watch the wall, my darling, while the Gentlemen go by!

Rudyard Kipling (1855-1936) in *Puck of Pook's Hill*

MEMBERS' MISCELLANY

A member warns . . .

Recently I got "stung" on a UK war history website. I was researching a relative who was wounded in the Crimean War. I hoped to find more than I found on a free website by just using Google and typing in his name and "Crimean War." Then a fellow researcher sent me a link to another website that looked very official with information on British wars. The site had a fee, and offered a monthly sign up fee. So I thought I would see if I could get the record. I was very disappointed when I enlarged the document that I received — it was actually a "template" made from one soldier's document at the top, with fancy script text inserted in the body of the document with exactly the same information, word for word, that I already had for free. To be fair, the site has a lot of history about British wars.

I contacted the site and was informed that soldiers of the Crimean War did not have unique numbers since there were duplicates. I had hoped to find more official information on this soldier. Anyway, I thought I signed up for only one month. Nothing I received in the mail about signing up said I was being billed monthly.

I caught the billing in the next month, emailed the site to complain and was told I had indicated I wanted a monthly subscription and had checked some "YES" box. I know I didn't knowingly do that. They replied that they would check the box as "NO." The next month I checked and I was charged again. I again contacted the site, and found out the next month's charge had already been put through the day before I emailed requesting a cancellation. I won't go into a lot more detail except to say the rate had gone up by almost 50%. This was more than the increase due to the increased value of the British pound! After more emails, eventually the third month's charge was refunded. I have cancelled that credit card to avoid any future surprises.

The lesson I have learned is clear. Check your profile at an unfamiliar site to see if they have settings different than those you intended. Also, if I had read the British Archives site warning before I went to this site, I would not have signed up in the first place. This warning states that there are non-official sources of information on the wars. The government site does not guarantee any other sources than their official site.

Forewarned is forearmed! Happy researching!

EDITOR'S NOTES

Thank you to the NFHS members who contributed to this edition, especially Marilyn Marshall and George Peebles. Marilyn's Scottish search alerts us to the fallibility of online databases, and reminds us of the importance of continued digging. The answers to our quests are out there! George's smuggling gem is a delight — family anecdotes such as these make exploring our history so interesting!

Amid a number of thank you emails following the last edition, we received one from Powell River in which a reader had passed along one of our links to an elderly lady who was finally able to locate her Jamaican family roots. She had previously searched for a number of years to no avail — our link allowed her to trace her family back a number of generations.

Please keep forwarding to your editor links and items of interest — you never know whom you may be able to assist! Don't forget, either, to take a "poke" into our brick wall queries to see if you can assist someone!

**Kelowna & District Genealogical Society
Harvest Your Family Tree 2012
Genealogical Conference and Marketplace**

**September 28-30, 2012
Okanagan College**

Friday September 28

- KDGS Library Open House.
- Three workshops at the Okanagan Regional Library, downtown branch.
- Dinner and meet the speakers, hosted by The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints.

Saturday September 29

- Twenty-Four concurrent workshops.
- Six professional speakers.
- Genealogical marketplace.
- Refreshments.

Sunday September 30

- Historic Pioneer Cemetery Walking Tour

For more information and registration form, download the [Brochure here!](#)

**Nanaimo Family History Society
Executive 2012–2013**

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