



Ancestry

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President's Message by Dean Ford

Well, it looks like summer is here again. Where has the year gone? It is time to take a break from our monthly meetings and enjoy the summer. Most of us take some time away from researching our families at this time of year and bundle up our projects, and take them to a family reunion. We will be taking some time to visit new family in Portland after receiving a DNA match for Veronica. You never know who you will meet on your travels. If you have a summer trip planned, have fun and drive safely.

The NFHS has now placed some of our library books at the LDS [Family History Centre on Glen Eagle Crescent](#) and we encourage our members to stop by and use the resources as well as sign out books. More books will be added over the months to come. As of this issue, the books from Alberta, Saskatchewan and Manitoba are available at the LDS for both NFHS and LDS members to sign out.

Don't forget to peruse our on-line catalogue. Our society has an impressive collection of history and genealogy related titles.

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Save the Date!

Nanaimo FHS Sept Meeting	Sept 16, 2019
Nanaimo FHS Oct Meeting	Oct 21, 2019
Nanaimo FHS Nov Meeting	Nov 18, 2019

"History with its flickering lamp tumbles along the trail of the past, trying to reconstruct its echoes and kindle with pale gleams the passion of former days."

1940 Sir Winston Spencer Churchill (1874-1965)

President's Message continued from page 1

Maureen Wootten has continued to set up great speakers over the first part of this year. She is already working hard lining up speakers for next year. If you know of anyone interested in speaking about genealogy at our meetings, please let a member of your executive know or send us an [email](#).

Sharon Davison has arranged great Mini-How-To's that take place before each meeting. If you have a topic and would like to host a table, please let her know. These sessions can be as brief as fifteen minutes. Thank you to all

members who have hosted a table. The executive has heard positive feedback about this program.

Also, thank you to the entire executive that continues to help build our membership and to provide assistance to all members. Finally, to the members who have stepped up to help the executive to fulfil its commitment to the society, thank you.

I would like to wish everyone a safe and happy summer.

Dean

Congratulations to our 2018 writing contest winners. One of their stories was printed in the spring edition of *Ancestry*. Two more will be found in this issue and another will be published in the fall edition.

In the photo below, our president Dean Ford, and vice president, Sharon Davison, flank the contest winners. **Left to right:** Sharon Davison, Lorie Heshka (2nd place) Susan Garcia and Maureen Wootton (3rd place), Beth Skala, (1st place) and Dean Ford. Missing is 3rd place winner, Grant Bridgeman.



GENEALOGY NEWS IN BRIEF

LIBRARY AND ARCHIVES CANADA

- * photographs of [railway stations across Canada](#).
- * [Hockey and the First World War](#)
- * LAC has just released its "Collection Tool" (an improved searching tool) that allows the user to search once rather than searching in each of the LAC's data base. Searches can be made, for example, with a family name, and results from numerous collections will be displayed. Recently added collections to the global database include WWI personnel files, WW II service files of war dead, NWMP personnel files (1873-1904), service files of the Royal Canadian Navy (ledger sheets)
- * LAC has also added a zoom feature to allow better viewing of digitized images

DO YOU HAVE QUESNEL CONNECTIONS?

Quesnel Word spinners (a writing group) is compiling a history of Quesnel and area from 1929 to 2000. The group is seeking stories, photographs, and other submissions. This book is a supplement to an earlier history, *A Tribute to the Past 1908-1928*. (Our NFHS library has a copy of this book.)

BRITISH COLONIST NOW FULLY DIGITIZED

[Victoria's Times Colonist](#) has now digitized 122 years of the *British Colonist*. All the issues from 1858 to 1980 are fully searchable using key words and can be browsed by date..

KAMLOOPS NEWSPAPERS DIGITIZED

Two Kamloops newspapers have now been digitized: *Kamloops Sentinel* (1948 to 1971) and the *Kamloops Standard* (1914 to 1923). Copies of the issues can be found on the [Newshound website](#).

DO YOU HAVE A RELATIVE BURIED ON MALTA?

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission is seeking information about service [men and women who died on the island of Malta](#). Stories and photographs of these people are sought to help commemorate the service of these people.

CANADIANS IN THE MEXICAN AMERICAN WAR 1846-1848

More than 1500 British North Americans (from Ontario, Québec, New Brunswick and Nova Scotia) joined the American Army during the Mexican American war, a war which saw the United States

PRICE OF UK PROBATE AND WILL RECORDS DROPS!

As of July the cost to download English and Welsh probate records and wills from the [Public Record Office](#) (1858-1996) has dropped Significantly. Different sites are quoting prices from £1.50 to £3.50. (about \$2.40 to \$5.60 Canadian). The documents are downloadable as PDF files.

OTTAWA ANCESTORS PLACE BMD ANNOUNCEMENTS ON LINE

The Ottawa Branch of Ontario Ancestors (Arnprior & McNab Archives) has placed on-line summaries of Eastern Ontario birth, marriage and death announcements 1888-1934. There is a [search index](#) and a link will appear if a digitized image is available.



GENEALOGY NEWS BRIEFS continue on page 4



WANTED: INDUSTRIAL ANCESTORS

Derek Taylor, a history author and former international correspondent is seeking stories from people whose ancestors were part of the Industrial Revolution:

"Just before 6 a.m. on a Monday in the autumn of 1889, a ten-year-old boy set off from the family home in Awsworth, west Nottinghamshire, across the fields to the nearby coal mine. It was his first day at work. He would spend the next ten hours in fierce heat, breathing black dust, with floods and roof falls a constant risk, and everywhere in near darkness. At the end of his shift, he was so tired his mother had to carry him back home. In 1889, it was illegal to employ children under twelve in mines. But the law was often flouted."

The boy was Jo **Kirkham**, my grandfather. He's the inspiration for the book I'm writing on the Industrial Revolution. And I'd like to hear from anyone who has a story to tell about their own ancestors in the period 1750 to 1900. I'm interested in diaries, memoirs or other first-hand accounts of their lives at home or work, in good times or bad. Many thanks in advance." [Derek Taylor](#).

AN AUTHOR SEEKS A BRIDE

Historian Jennifer Potter is trying to trace the family of Ann **Tanner**, who as a young English woman from Essex, England, was sent to Virginia in 1621, and traded for tobacco as a planter's bride. Ann's father, **Clement Tanner**, was a husbandman of Chelmsford, Essex, England. Two possible husbands of Ann are **Nicholas Baly** and **Thomas Doughtie**. More details can be found on [Jennifer's blog](#).

DESCENDANTS OF IMMIGRANTS FROM ROSCOMMON, IRELAND SOUGHT

Doctor Mark McGowan of the University of Toronto seeks descendants of emigrants from the estate of Major Denis Mahon, Strokestown, Roscommon, Ireland in 1847.

McGowan is "currently engaged in a major Ireland-Canada-USA research project, focused at the University of Toronto, trying to track down the whereabouts of the descendants of 1,490 assisted migrants off the estate of Major Denis Mahon, Strokestown, County Roscommon, Ireland, in April and May 1847 (in the midst of the Great Irish Famine).

These hundred and seventy-four families walked one hundred and fifty-five kilometres to Dublin, where they boarded boats to Liverpool. There they were given passage on four vessels to Quebec: the *Virginus*, *Naomi*, *Erin's Queen*, and the *John Munn*. They arrived in the last week of July and the first ten days of August at Grosse Ile. Close to thirty percent of them died either at sea or in quarantine. Upon hearing this devastating news, Mahon was assassinated — the first Irish landlord to suffer this fate during the Famine."

Over "forty children were orphaned, and clusters of the surviving families could be traced to Niagara, Hamilton, Holland Landing, and the Huron Tract."

This project is sponsored in conjunction with the National Famine Museum of Ireland at Strokestown Park, the Irish Heritage Trust, and the University of Toronto.

If you have Roscommon ancestry, or direct links to this group of emigrants, [Dr. McGowan](#) would like to hear from you.

TIMMINS, ONTARIO NEWSPAPER DIGITIZED

The Timmins public library has copies available of the [Porcupine Advance Newspaper](#) 1912-1950.





NEWS BRIEFS continued from page 4

ANCESTORS FROM TENNESSEE?

Tennessee State Archives now has a search engine that mirrors that of *Ancestry*. The [genealogy Index Search](#) accesses more than a million historic Tennessee names. Only a small number of entries contain a link to the original records, but this number is expected to grow.

BRITISH FAMILIES IN CHINA

The University of Bristol, England, has a freely searchable platform, *China Families*, designed to assist researchers whose ancestors spent time in China.

"From the 1840's to the 1950's tens of thousands of British men and women lived in China. Thousands are buried there. After the mid-nineteenth century 'opium wars', first five, and then increasing numbers of Chinese cities were opened to British trade and residence. Missionary societies sent large numbers of evangelical, medical and educational workers. Especially after 1860, traders and merchants were joined by lawyers, policemen, journalists, mariners, soldiers, local government employees, customs staff, accountants, teachers, nurses, theatre impresarios and even piano tuners.

Their backgrounds were as diverse as their experiences. They came from all over the British Isles, and while many returned, others went to Australia, New Zealand or Canada. Some spent short sojourns in China; but some families remained for two, three or four generations. All this came to an end in 1949 with the Communist revolution.

Our new free platform, [China Families](#), developed at the University of Bristol, aims to make it easier to research ancestors who spent time in China, and not just British ones. Incorporating sets of records developed by historians, and providing information about easily accessible sources, it currently has 65,000 entries. As well as links to 62 Asian business and residential directories from 1842–1937, it provides detailed information about 3,000 Shanghai policemen, Chinese Customs staff (in which 11,000 foreign nationals can be found), 15,000 wartime Allied civilian internees of the Japanese, another 15,000 foreign nationals in Shanghai who were not interned, and indexes and data from British consular records and now-destroyed foreign cemeteries in China.

"We will add material in future, and develop further our guides to researching Shanghai stories or Hong Kong ones, using the digitized English-language historic newspapers, and more besides. We are interested in your feedback, and in suggestions for improvement."

Did you know . .

Our society has 12 generation blank pedigree charts on sale at each meeting. These charts are ideal for beginners and "seasoned" genealogists who prefer to consult a paper visual rather than a smaller on-screen version.

Here's Sharon Davison displaying her hard work! Talk to Sharon about how the chart helps her research. See Jocelyn Howat to purchase one.



Settling in Saskatchewan The Story of Gregori Heshka and Magdalena Morgotch

by NFHS Member Lorie Heshka

Austria at the turn of the nineteenth century was a difficult place in which to live. The country was becoming over-populated and it was almost impossible to subdivide land holdings for future generations wanting to farm. There was a long history of political unrest with constant pressure from neighbouring countries such as Poland, Hungary and Russia. The Ruthenians (Ukrainians) were struggling to maintain their religious freedom and to have church services in their own language. At times the Ruthenian language could be spoken only in schools —not in churches. In addition, Ruthenians were being heavily taxed.^{1,2,3}

Gregori and Magdalena, my ancestors, lived in Kitsman within the Duchy of Bukovina in the west of what is now known as Ukraine. Kitsman was a centre for district administration with a district court and a state gymnasium where instruction in the Ruthenian (Ukrainian) language was given. The market in Kitsman hosted farmers from thirteen surrounding villages who brought their produce there to be sold.⁴ Austria had ruled this area since 1774 and would lose it to Romania in 1918 in accordance with the Treaty of Saint Germain-en-laye^{5,6}



It is understandable with these various problems in their homeland that Gregori and Magdalena Heshka chose to uproot their family of six children and leave Bukovina. They were looking for new opportunities for their young family and the lure to go to Canada was strong. But they would be leaving dear friends and beloved family members behind in their little village of Kitsman just east of the Carpathian Mountains. They were leaving behind their beautiful land and everything that was comfortable to them.



Ukraine

1. *Immigrants to Canada The Ukrainians (from c1892-1914);*

<https://personal.uwaterloo.ca/~marj/genealogy/ukrainian.html>

2. *History of Ukraine* http://torugg.org/History/history_of_ukraine.html#PARTSIX

3. *Kitsman-History* <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kitsman>

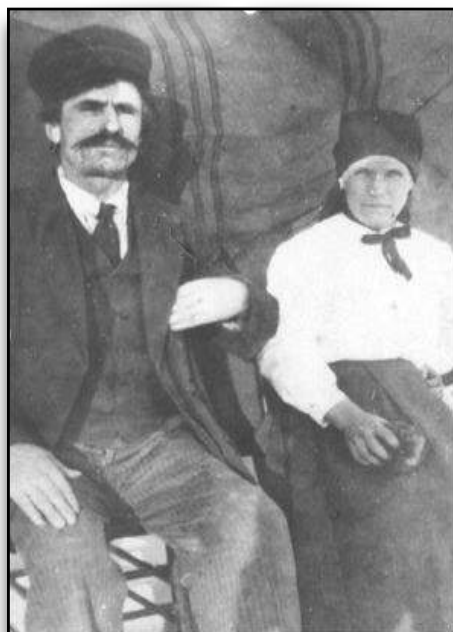
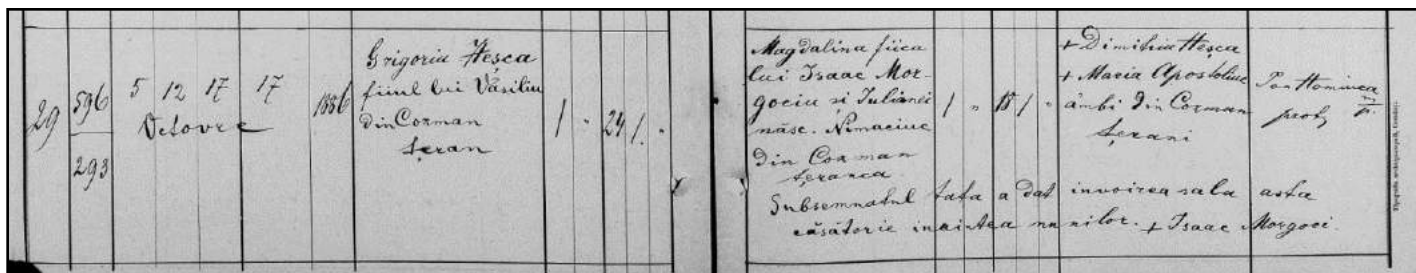
4. *Bukovina* <http://www.conflicts.rem33.com/images/Ukraine/bukovina.htm>

5. "What countries lost territory after WWI?" <https://www.quora.com/What-countries-lost-territory-after-WWI>

6. "Treaty of Saint Germain;" <https://www.britannica.com/event/Treaty-of-Saint-Germain>

SETTLING IN SASKATCHEWAN continued from page 6

Gregori Heshka and Magdalena Morgotch had been married in Kitsman on the 17th December 1886, following the reading of their marriage banns on the 5th, 12th and 17th of December. The marriage was recorded in the Austrian metrical books⁷ which record the marriage of "Gregori Hesca and Magdalena Morgoci. Gregori Hesca's father is listed as Vasiliu and Magdalena's parents as Isaac Morgociu and Julianii Nimaciuc. Prior to their marriage, Gregori lived in house #596 and Magdalena in house #293.



Six of Gregori's and Magdalena's children were born in Kitsman: Anna, 1888; Wasyl, 1891; Dmitri, 1893; Wasilina, 1895; Maria, 1898; and Domna, 1899. At the time of their departure from Kitsman in 1900, their six children ranged in age from ten months to eleven years.^{8,9}

In 1895, Dr. Josef Oleskow, of Galizien, Austria, wrote to the Canadian Department of the Interior: "A great number of Galician agriculturists of Ruthenian (Slavic) nationality desire to quit their native country." Oleskow stated that they were also looking at Brazil as a possible new home. (Many Ukrainians did migrate to Brazil.)¹⁰

Dr. Oleskow was instrumental in organizing the emigration of thousands of Ukrainians from Galicia and Bukovina who otherwise may not have had the skills to do so. By 1914 the Canadian government would issue a communication stating that over 150,000 Ukrainians had made their way to Canada.¹¹

The first leg of the Heshka family's journey was from Kitzsman to the port of Hamburg, Germany. We can only imagine that they would have taken the railway across land for this nine hundred mile trip. This would have been, at the very least, a challenging time with six young children. On September 30, 1900, the family set sail from Hamburg aboard the *SS Cap Frio*. The ship's manifest at Hamburg showed that Gregori's brother, John (born 1878 and, younger than Gregori by sixteen years, and John's wife, Anna, accompanied the family. John and Anna had no children at the time.¹² The ship anchored once in Boulogne-sur-Mer in Northern France before continuing its voyage across the Atlantic Ocean.¹²

7 Metrical Books — vital records kept by the church

8. Heshka King, Millie, Heshka, William and Heshka, Stanley. *Heshka History, 100 Years*. Unpublished document, ca. 2002.

9. Yuzik, Anne Heshka in Conversation with Lorie Heshka, May, 2018.

10. *op cit* Immigrants to Canada The Ukrainians (from c1892-1914)

11. *Ibid*

12. Hamburg State Archives Staatsarchiv Hamburg. *Hamburg Passenger Lists, 1850-1934* [database on-line]. Provo, UT, USA: Ancestry.com Operations, Inc., 2008. Original data: Staatsarchiv Hamburg, Bestand: 373-7 I, VIII (Auswanderungsamt I). Mikrofilmrollen K 1701 - K 2008, S 17363 - S 17383, 13116 - 13183.)

SETTLING IN SASKATCHEWAN continued from page 7

After fourteen long days at sea, the families no doubt welcomed the sight of the shores of the United States. They landed in New York City's harbour and would have been processed at Ellis Island, the site of the American immigration service. On the ship's manifest their destination was clearly marked as Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada.¹³ According to family stories, Gido Gregori had twenty-five cents in his pocket when they arrived in Winnipeg.



As they entered the English-speaking world, their names changed from Gregori Hyszka to Harry Heshka; Magdalena became Nellie; Wasyl changed to Bill and Wasylina to Lena. Name changes were only a small part of the changes that the family was about to encounter.

In 1871, the government had ordered a survey of the land that would be the future prairie provinces. The land was divided into townships of thirty six sections, and each section was further divided into four quarters of one hundred and sixty acres each. The coordinates (the township, range, section and meridian) of all pieces of land would identify exactly where that quarter was located. This system is still in effect today.

In 1879, the Canadian government passed the Dominion Lands Act, with amendments that followed. This act set up the conditions in which the western lands of Canada would be settled. For those willing to settle in this rugged unplowed wilderness, the government was offering one hundred and sixty acres of land. The homesteader needed to provide proof that he had increased the value of the land through cultivation, building construction, and so on. Once these improvements were made, the homesteader was granted the deed to the land.¹⁴

With the Canadian Pacific Railway joining the country east to west, the Canadian government was eager to settle the Prairies and beyond.¹⁵



The CPR's ceremonial last spike was driven into the railway line on November 7, 1885 at Craiggellachie, British Columbia, by Railroad financier Donald Smith.

13. [ancestry.com](https://www.ancestry.com) *New York, Passenger Lists 1820-1957 New York*; Microfilm Serial: T715, 1897-1957; Microfilm Roll: Roll 0154; Line: 11; Page Number: 303.

14. Library and Archives Canada "Land Grants in Western Canada" (1870-1930).

15. VIA Rail "Building the Canadian Railway" <https://corpo.viarail.ca/en/company/our-history/building-canadian-railway>

SETTLING IN SASKATCHEWAN continues on page 9

SETTLING IN SASKATCHEWAN continued from page 8

The family's life in their new country continued to provide challenges and hardships. The two youngest children, Maria and Domna, who had emigrated from Bukovina with the family, died shortly after they arrived in Canada. Another child, Roman, born shortly after their arrival, also died. A daughter of Wasyl's (the second oldest child) remembers her father telling her that the family dug a hole in the river bank in which to live during their first winter in Canada.¹⁶ Were these living conditions responsible for the deaths of their three young children? Their cause of death remains unknown as is their place of burial.

Hard luck followed Harry in his attempts to homestead in Canada. Possibly because of his limited English, he lost his claim to their homestead at NE 18-29-3 W2 in the Rural Municipality of Wallace. He moved his family about four miles away to the R.M. of Good Lake at 14-29-5 W2 where they rented land from a neighbour. However, disaster struck again when their house burned down.¹⁷ Their third and final move was to their farm in the R.M. of Clayton. This farm was north of Hvas, Saskatchewan.¹⁸

By 1916 they had had a further six children; Polly in 1902; Domka 1905; John 1908; George 1910; Nick 1912; and Steven 1916 all of whom lived to adulthood.¹⁹

Life on the prairies could be very isolating. For this reason, many Ukrainian settlers asked for homesteads close to those of the same ethnicity. Many "National Halls" were built for weddings and other gatherings. ^{20,21} While most of these have now been levelled, the author remembers attending a Ukrainian wedding in the mid-1970's where a teapot of a clear liquid was passed around. It was poured into a plastic glass that had already been used down the line. This had to be drunk immediately in case the police decided to check out the facility. Their children grew up, married and moved to places near and far. However, every five years, the descendants of Harry and Nellie's ten children who reached adulthood gather at a place near Canora, Saskatchewan to have a reunion. There are usually five hundred to seven hundred family members in attendance. They have been meeting every five years since the first reunion in the 1940's.²²

Harry died in 1943 after a lengthy illness; Nellie died in 1959. They are buried in the Dnipro Cemetery three miles south of Hvas, Saskatchewan.²³

The story of Gregori and Magdalena Heshka's journey from Bukovina to Saskatchewan is typical of thousands of other Ukrainian immigrants. It's a story of dreams and sorrow, hard work and good times, isolation and community. Without doubt, they have woven a beautiful tapestry into the culture of Saskatchewan.



Harry and Nellie (Gregori and Magdalena) in front of their farmhouse near Hvas, Saskatchewan circa 1941.

16. Yuzik, *op cit*

17. *ibid*

18. *ibid*

19. *ibid*

20. Kostash, Myrna. *All of Baba's Children*. New West Press, 1992.

21. Onufrijchuk, Theodore T. *The History of the R.M. of Sliding Hills No 273, Mikado*, 1967.

22. Yuzik, *op cit*

23. *ibid*

The Desire of My Heart by NFHS Member Helen Webster



The narrative below by NFHS member **Helen Webster** profiles Helen's grandmother's cousin, **Elizabeth Reynolds-Ryan**, after whom Helen was named.

Elizabeth was born in Mount Forest, Ontario, in 1860, and died in Victoria, BC in 1947. In 1885 she was one of the first women doctors to graduate from Queen's Medical College, and went on to be the first woman to be granted membership in the Canadian Medical Association. She was a successful doctor in Sudbury until 1907, when she and her husband and their five children moved to Victoria. At that time, women were not allowed to practice medicine in British Columbia, so Elizabeth, or "Aunt Nell" as Helen knew her, became very active in the suffragette movement, drumming up support for women's right to vote.

In her narrative, Helen has chosen to use the first person point of view. This allows her to explore what may have been Elizabeth's thoughts and draws the reader into Elizabeth Ryan's voice. First person viewpoint encourages the reader to identify with the narrator to understand her joys, her fears, her motives. Using this point of view will let you bring to life your ancestors who may exist now as only bare biographical facts and dates.



My name is Dr. Helen Ryan. My husband, T.J. Ryan, and I have lived in Sudbury since our marriage last year in 1891, and my medical practice, which largely consists of obstetrics and women's illnesses, continues to grow. Many times, seeing a patient means travelling by rail to lonely settlements and outposts in the surrounding northern Ontario bush, and I know that Thomas, although he supports me in my work, is often very worried.

This morning, the handcart I would travel on squatted before us in rusty splendour on the shining rails of the branch line leading from Sudbury to a small HBC post in the bush to the north.

Thomas, who would remain behind, stood at my side by the tracks, as we waited for the crew of four men who would run the hand pumper to take me the seventeen miles up the line. My patient was the elderly aunt of a good friend, and she had been feeling poorly for some time, so a doctor's visit was clearly necessary. My trip would take about three hours each way, and, all going well, the hand cart would bring me home that same evening.



THE DESIRE OF MY HEART continues on page 11

THE DESIRE OF MY HEART continued from page 10

When the crew arrived, Bill Jones, the lead hand, jumped aboard the cart, talking a mile a minute as he organized the men. "Morning, Doc. Ready to go? Morning, Mr. Ryan. How are things going in town? Still planning to run for Mayor? You got my vote, happy to see the last of that fool who thinks he knows what the workers need." Bill was always cheerful, and never hesitated to speak his mind on any topic as he welcomed me aboard. There was no cost to any medical personnel to go on the railroad, and we had travelled together many times. I had delivered his wife of a fine, healthy son not two months ago, so we were fast friends.

My husband answered Bill as I passed my medical bag up to one of the men on the cart and then, with Thomas's assistance, heaved myself aboard and settled on one of the wooden benches along the side. Thomas knew how strongly I felt about responding to my patient's requests for the doctor to come. The fact that I was seven months pregnant and would have to sit hunched over to avoid being hit by the pumper handles as the men pushed and pulled them up and down added both to my discomfort and his worries. He was even more concerned when he realized that I would have to sit with my feet dangling over open space above the tracks. In our last discussion at breakfast he had confessed that he was afraid that I was not only putting myself at risk, but was also endangering our unborn child. I had reassured him that all would be well, but his concern was obvious.

As I settled myself for the trip, he tried once more to dissuade me. "Nell, I know that you are sure all will be well, but, I wish you would not go, please."

"Thomas, I am fine. You know it is the desire of my heart to see to Aunt Oliver and I would not go if I believed I would come to any harm. The weather is clear, Aunt Oliver needs me. These fine gentlemen will see me home safely tonight."

I was most uncomfortable on my windy perch, and it was awkward bending over to avoid the pumper handles and watch the tracks below my dangling feet as we whizzed along. The only sounds were the muted screech of the iron wheels on the rails and the

harsh breathing of the men as they laboured to move the cart up the line. I could hardly hear the bird song in the autumn trees or the noise of the rushing water in the streams we passed. Still, the men pumped furiously and within three hours old Aunt Oliver's little house hove into view.

Such a hardy and strong-willed woman she was. Grey now and bent over with years of hard work, she remained determined to stay in the small forest home she and her husband had carved out of the wilderness years ago when the railroad came to the north. She had been alone now for five years, since her man had died in a mining accident. Her neighbours checked on her regularly and made sure she had sufficient wood for her fireplace and game for her larder. Her extensive garden and the chickens and a cow she kept in a shed to the rear of her house ensured she had enough to eat. Still, old age traps us all.

It appeared that she had recovered from her spell of feeling poorly and after I had examined her and given her a large bottle of a tonic I had brought for just that purpose, she insisted that we have tea and a visit before I left for home. I thought to myself that the visit would probably do her more good than the tonic, so happily agreed. She had baked some biscuits which she took to the men to have with their tea where they rested outside, enjoying the late autumn sunshine.

She had no money to pay me, of course, but when I clambered onto the cart for the trip home, I carried with me three freshly killed and dressed partridge, several jars of her blackcurrant jam, and an armload of fall flowers from her garden.

I must admit I was tired and my back was aching when Thomas met me at the station with the carriage, much relieved at my safe return, but still grumbling.

I had to promise that, unless there was an emergency, or I was needed at a birth, I would spend most of my time in my office and confine my travelling to trips on a freight or regular train, at least until after our baby was born in December.

Selected References

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 Ryan, Helen Elizabeth. Unpublished Correspondence, 1901-1907.
 Webster, Helen Charlotte. *Company Wife*. Borealis Press, Ottawa, Ontario, 2019.



Faces of Our Ancestors

A COLLECTION OF EARLY PHOTOGRAPHS SHARED
BY MEMBERS OF NANAIMO FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY

from NFHS member Penny Bent

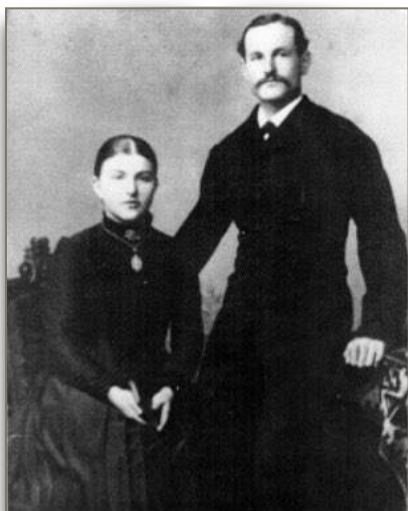


Left: Pretty teens, **Lucille May FRANCIS** (1866-1956) and her sister **Mary Elizabeth (Minnie) Francis** (1868-1948). The sisters came to Calgary with their family in 1885. They were educated, and their father was setting up a photography studio in the exciting new city in the North West Territories. Minnie and May went to all the dances and social events, and were a huge hit, as there were very few eligible women in a town full of cowboys, miners, explorers, trappers and farmers. It could have been predicted that both married North West Mounted Police.



Above and to the left is Penny Bent's grandmother, **Eveline (Eva) Nowell** (1881-1962). Eva was trained as a dressmaker, and at nineteen was a draper's assistant. She married in 1902, age twenty-one, in this magnificent lace edged shawl/veil. The dark dress would have been very stylish, and she wore it as a young bride.

BONNET FAMILY REUNION by NFHS Member Maureen Wootten



**Peter Daniel Bonnet married
Karolina Kern 1888 in Germany.**

A family reunion was organized for the descendants of my great grandparents, **Peter Daniel Bonnet** and **Karolina Kern**. The get-together was held at Cedar Springs Retreat, Sumas, Washington in 1996. The reunion began on the 26th of July with strangers meeting strangers and ended on July 28th with family waving goodbye to family with promises to keep in touch in the future.

The marriage of Peter Daniel Bonnet and Karolina Kern produced eleven Bonnet children: William Frederick, Eugene Peter, Charlie Henry, Theofield Ernest (my grandfather), Paul Gottfried, Lena Johanna, Daniel Gottlieb, Frederick Theodore, Herman Henry, Charlotte Marie Edith, and Frieda Esther.

At the reunion I learned that Lina Kern married Peter Bonnet in Germany around 1888 and they migrated to Chicago, Illinois, with two sons. They then moved to Wisconsin, and had nine more children. In 1908, they left for Canada to homestead in Ebenezer, Saskatchewan. Their final move was to Prince George, British Columbia, possibly in the early 1930's.

I drove down to Sumas, Washington, with my daughter Bonnie and my mother's cousin's son, Jeff Stanway. My mother travelled to Vancouver from Victoria and drove down with one of her sisters. My own sister, Doreen Henson, was camping in northern British Columbia so missed the event.



**Peter and Karolina in later life.
I had been told by my mother
that my great grandma "Lina"
was roly-poly and short, and
that great grandpa Peter had a
beard.**

The organizers had chosen a beautifully landscaped resort to hold the reunion. I can recall young children playing in a child-sized pool in the shade as the weather was hot. I can also recall walking around a small lake and seeing cousins in canoes. Not all the relatives stayed in the resort. Some drove down from their homes in and about Vancouver, British Columbia for the day. Relatives had come from Ontario, Saskatchewan, Alberta and British Columbia plus Arizona and California. We wore name tags and the women were given a fridge magnet in the shape of an old-fashioned bonnet.

On looking around the meeting place, my one memory was: "Wow! – my blood flows through all your veins and I do not even know your names. There are so many of us."

Earlier, in 1962, I had attended the Seattle World's Fair and stayed at my great Aunt Charlotte's home. Her two sons were away at that time so I was delighted to meet one of them, a Californian, in person at the 1986 reunion.

All invited descendants were to bring with them photos. One of the organizers, Carol Bonnet, from Arizona, took the photos and had them copied for whomever ordered them. Unfortunately, even though I received many photos, the names in the photos were not readily available.

BONNET FAMILY REUNION continues on page 14

BONNET FAMILY REUNION continued from page 13

At the retreat we were provided with a schedule of events and there was much entertainment. A word search "Bonnet One" was developed to challenge all attendees. This helped familiarize us with other relatives' names. Music was provided in various forms. I recall Les Bonnett (note the double't'), one of Uncle Walter's sons, playing the piano beautifully. Lots of talent in the Bonnet family apparently! There were also skits to entertain us, and a church service was held on the Sunday.

To me, the highlight of the reunion was when my mother, **Luella Lena Pollock (née Bonnet)** met her half-brother **Walter Bonnett** for the very first time. I can still remember her excited voice saying to Walter, "You look just like Dad!" – and then they hugged. Their sibling relationship continued from 1996 when my mother known as "Lena" lived in Victoria and then Courtenay, and Uncle Walter lived in Kamloops, and ended when my mother passed away on March 3, 2003, in Courtenay, BC. I had written the eulogy for my mother's funeral, but Uncle Walter insisted on reading it out, adding his own touches and feelings about my mother. Uncle Walter attended the wedding of our daughter on July 3, 2004, and kept in touch with our family for quite a few years until his birthday card was returned "moved." We found out, after a lot of searching, that he was in a nursing home and suffering from memory loss. I am grateful that my mother was able to enjoy her contact with him in her later years.

I have no idea how much communication was made between the majority of the guests after the reunion. However, I felt the warm fellowship on July 26, 27 and 28, 1996 and I feel our trip was a huge success.

After the reunion, we were provided a ten page list of our Bonnet relatives' current addresses. Whenever we had changes to our family numbers, with births, marriages, and deaths, we were to contact the Arizona connection of the Bonnet family namely Carol and Dan Bonnet. For a few years after the reunion we did receive emails advising of the passing of relatives. An attempt was made to hold a further reunion in Alberta, but that never materialized.

I am thankful that at least one Bonnet family gathering occurred in my lifetime. I am especially grateful that my mother, at the age of seventy seven and a half years, was able to attend, meet her half-brother and reconnect with her cousins. I am also pleased that my daughter, then twenty-three years, would be made aware of her Bonnet heritage.

My daughter now lives in Medicine Hat, Alberta. Her family have a lovely dental assistant who just happens to be a distant Bonnet relative.

I was also able to discover distant Bonnet relatives previously unknown to me who live in the Nanaimo/Parksville area.



Another Bonnet guest in appropriate attire and amazed at all her relatives!

**Let's Talk ...
GENEALOGY**

Don't forget to arrive early at each of our meetings and join our round table discussions between 6:00 and 7:00.



Meet members who share your interests or who can assist you with your research. Our "mini-library" is available at this time.

What Will Happen to Your Family Heirlooms?

by NFHS Member Beth Skala

Heirlooms — What are they, and more importantly, what do we do with them? In the article below, NFHS member Beth Skala tackles these questions and reminds us that heirlooms are stories, and it is these stories that we must preserve for our descendants.



In the spirit of downsizing, I walk around my house with a clipboard, preparing a list of our family heirlooms. I know there are also some special items out of sight in closets, so I add them as well. Isn't an heirloom simply anything my parents or grandparents owned? And perhaps there are a few of my own belongings which might also qualify. An hour later I sit down with a cup of tea to go over the list more carefully. Its length astonishes me. Counting the photo albums, I have over fifty items that could be potential heirlooms. My children live in tiny apartments and restrict the amount of "stuff" in their space. My list will totally overwhelm them! If I expect any treasures to be saved, I will have to make the list more manageable.

Obviously, I need help. I do what we all do, I consult Google. I read articles, listen to seminars, and scan book excerpts. The experts agree that an heirloom is an item that connects us with a previous generation, which it does through **story**. It is the story that adds life and emotion to an object. The story can be as simple as "I remember that this toothpick holder always sat on Grandma's kitchen table," or it can be much more complex. But a story there must be.

I reassess my list. Some of the items probably have no meaning for my children. Others I think would connect them to an ancestor if the story were known. Step one, then, is to write down the story for each potential heirloom. There are forms available online that only need to be downloaded and filled in. I begin the process of documenting the heirlooms, focusing on the story that goes with each one. I include a photo and state where it is stored. It's a long list and will take me several hours, but I have started. Ultimately, I want my children to choose the items that connect them with their ancestors. I plan to give each of them the stories and ask them what they want. Maybe they will want objects that are not on my list, but which hold special memories for them. Those can be added. Maybe they will not want anything. Or, worst case scenario, they will all want the same thing. We will have to deal with that.

Right now, it is step One — **write down the stories**. At least the stories will show them that the heirlooms are not just "stuff," but a connection to their heritage.

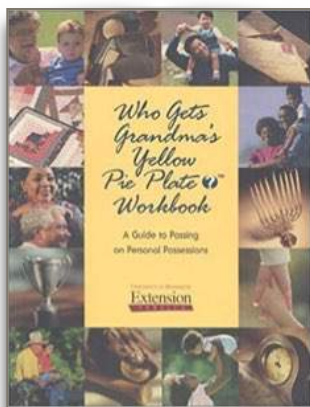
For those who care about family history, the physical objects that get passed down from generation to generation hold stories that connect us to our ancestors. It is important to tell those stories. But what if there are no descendants or if none of the descendants want your family treasures? Make sure you poll the extended family before giving up. Just because your close descendants don't want it, doesn't mean that a more distant cousin wouldn't be interested. A good suggestion is to post photographs of the heirloom and its story to your online family tree(s), attached to the appropriate ancestor. In future, anyone who accesses your tree will have the joy of discovering the heirloom and its connection to the family. This would be a good idea whether or not you pass the heirloom to a relative.

HEIRLOOMS continues on page 16

HEIRLOOMS continued from page 15

Another approach is to offer your heirloom to a museum, historical society, or special interest group. Unique items are more in demand than common ones. Always make a formal inquiry first. Don't just show up with the object. Organizations will be more interested if the heirloom is well-documented. In other words, be sure to attach the story, giving as many details about names, dates, and places as possible. In the end, you may just have to give the heirloom to charity or sell it yourself to someone who will be thrilled to get it.

At the opposite end of the spectrum, what if more than one descendant wants the same heirloom? While you are alive, you may give your belongings away to whomever you choose. Once you die, however, the decision passes to your executor. Choose your executor well, one you feel confident will follow your wishes. If you anticipate arguments among your heirs, talk to your lawyer about how to best handle the distribution of goods. A very helpful book is *Who Gets Grandma's Yellow Pie Plate Workbook A Guide to Passing on Personal Possessions*, by the University of Minnesota. It is available from Amazon.



The most important step is to open the discussion with your heirs now. Share the stories of the heirlooms with them. Ask them which treasures they want. Get them talking about what is important to them and why. What do they think is fair? Look at possible compromises and solutions. And if they don't want to talk about it, (it is a difficult discussion for many people) you could share this story, from an unknown source: A woman had a china bowl that all five of her adult children wanted. It reminded them of Christmas dinners when the bowl always held the mashed potatoes. The woman called her children together and placed the bowl on the table. She told them that she loved them all equally and wished she had five copies of the bowl so each of them could have this special keepsake. Then she brought out a hammer and laid it on the table. "The best I can do is smash the bowl and give each of you a piece. Or, you can decide right now what to do with the bowl." Her children were horrified. They realized they would rather see the bowl go to a sibling than have it destroyed. They decided that they would take turns hosting the family Christmas, with the bowl passing to the next sibling in line each year. In this way the bowl would circulate among them. Heirlooms are meant to bring a family together, not tear them apart. With some advance planning and open communication, your family treasures can continue to bring joy to your descendants for many generations to come.

Some Heirloom Links

- [Heirloom Registry](#).
- [Heirloom Inventory](#)
- [Heirloom Hunt](#)

HELP BUILD OUR MEMBERSHIP!



The larger our membership, the more resources we have and the more family connections that can be made. Do you have a friend wondering about his or her ancestry? Why not bring this person to our next meeting or perhaps purchase a membership for your friend to help start someone else's genealogy search?

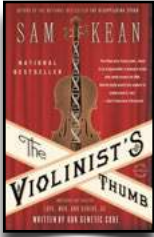
DNA CORNER

SUMMER READING

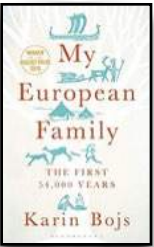
At our June Meeting, speaker Dave Obee recommended three titles to help our understanding of DNA and genealogy. All of these books are available at the Nanaimo Public Library.



1. The *Violinist's Thumb* by Sam Kean



"More incredible stories of science, history language and music . . . there are genes to explain crazy cat ladies, why other people have no fingerprints, and why some people survive nuclear bombs. Genes illuminate everything from JFK's bronze skin (it wasn't a tan) to Einstein's genius. They prove that Neanderthals and humans bred thousands of years more recently than any of us would feel comfortable thinking. They can even allow some people, because of the exceptional flexibility of their thumbs and fingers, to become truly singular violinists.(Amazon



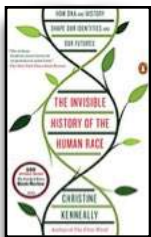
2. *My European Family* by Karin Bojs

Karin Bojs grew up in a small, broken family, and at her mother's funeral she felt this more keenly than ever. As part of the healing process, she decided to use DNA research to learn more about herself, her family, and the interconnectedness of society. She went deep in search of her genealogy, having her DNA sequenced and tested, and effectively becoming an experimental subject.

Remarkably, she was able to trace the path of her ancestors through recorded history and into prehistory. Through the course of her research, she met dozens of scientists working in genetic research. The narrative travels the length and breadth of Europe, from the Neanderthals of central Germany to the Cro-Magnon in France. Bojs visited the ancient caves, realizing that her direct ancestors must have been living in the area when the cave art was painted. A second DNA analysis later revealed she has Sami (*i.e.* Lapp) genetic material in her genome, and there were further revelations about her hunter-gatherer, Bronze-Age, and Iron-Age relatives, including the Vikings.

This fresh, first-person exploration of genes and genetics goes well beyond personal genealogy and reveals much about the shared history of European peoples.

My European Family tells the story of Europe and its people through its genetic legacy, from the first wave of immigration to the present day, weaving in the latest archaeological findings. Karin goes deep in search of her genealogy; by having her DNA sequenced she was able to trace the path of her ancestors.



3. *The Invisible History of the Human Race* by Christine Kenneally

"We are doomed to repeat history if we fail to learn from it, but how are we affected by the forces that are invisible to us? In *The Invisible History of the Human Race*, Christine Kenneally draws on cutting-edge research to reveal how both historical artifacts and DNA tell us where we come from and where we may be going" (publisher's summary)

LDS LIBRARY AUGUST HOURS

The Nanaimo LDS library is open from 10:00 to 2:00 on Tuesdays only. The library is located at 2424 Glen Eagle Crescent, Nanaimo.

Future Guest Speakers

Monday, September 16, 2019

Aha!

- Ben Wilkinson on Coinage
- AND Jolene Mackinnon on Memories
- AND other Members' Aha moments

Monday, October 21, 2019
A Grave Topic
Penny Bent



Penny Bent's interest in death and dying has her following the mourners to the graveyard in several different centuries. She will briefly discuss the cost of death, grave robbers, infant mortality and the problems of shrinking cemetery space.

Monday, November 18, 2019
Officers & Ladies
Canadian Military Nurses
in the Great War

Yvonne Van Ruskenveld



Women in the military are not a novelty to us but in World War I the only way Canadian women could enlist was as a nursing sister (military nurse). Over 3,000 Canadian women served in this way, some of them at home, others overseas. Those who served

close to the front experienced conditions unlike anything they had ever seen or would see again. Yvonne Van Ruskenveld will talk about the "bluebirds" (as the soldiers called them), including some from the Victoria area who died in the line of duty.

Yvonne is a long-time member of the Old Cemeteries Society (a local heritage group), the Pacific Coast Branch of the Western Front Association (a World War I history group) and the Victoria Historical Society. In addition to giving talks, she leads historical walking tours in Victoria's Ross Bay Cemetery.

Monday, December 9, 2019
Christmas Social
2:00 p.m.
Rooms 2 and 3

NFHS CO-OP FUND RAISER
Don't forget to use our membership number when you visit a Mid Island CO-OP!

In 2018, members helped to raise \$250.66 for NFHS. Well done!



An entertaining afternoon of genealogy talk, games, puzzles and great food!



Do you have ideas for future guest speakers? If you have a name or a topic in mind, please let a member of our executive know!

Web Updates

Ancestry (subscription)

[Caribbean Obituary Index 2003-2011](#)

[UK England and Wales Criminal Registers 1791-1892](#)

[UK British Army Muster Books and Pay Lists](#)

[US Evangelical Lutheran Church in America Records 1781-1969](#)

[Nova Scotia Land Petitions 1765-1800](#)

FamilySearch (free)

[Denmark Copenhagen Burial Records 1805-1968](#)

[Canada Immigration Records of Aliens preexamined at Halifax 1923-1933](#)

[Ontario Genealogical Society Provincial Index](#)

[Scandinavia Mission Emigration Records 1852-1920](#)

[Sweden Mission Emigration Records 1905-1932](#)

[US Hawaii Grantor and Grantee Index 1845-1909](#)

[US Michigan Church Records 1819-1991](#)

Findmypast (subscription)

Ireland [Donegal Workhouses Registers and Minute Books](#)

Ireland, [Irish Newspaper Transcript Archive, Ffolliot Collection, 1756-1850](#)

[Scandinavia Mission Emigration Records 1852-1920](#)

[UK British Officers Serving in Early America 1614-1787](#)

[UK England and Wales, Crime, Prisons & Punishment, 1770-1935](#)

[US Passenger and Crew Lists](#)

[UK Phillimore Parish Registers 1531-1913](#)

[Scotland, Dundee & Forfarshire \(Angus\) Hearth Tax 1691](#)

[RootsIreland](#) (free) Register and then proceed to data base.



A [Genealogical Guide to Finding Farms on the Canadian Prairies](#)

A handy guide from Dave Obee is now a PDF file on his site.



[BC Directories](#) — A collection of digitized Directories from UBC



Yukon Newspapers from *Google News*

- [Dawson Daily News](#) 1901, 1903-1924
- [The Dawson Record](#) 1903
- [The Yukon Sun](#) (Dawson) 1899-1904
- [The Yukon World](#) (Dawson) 1904-1905
- [The Weekly Star](#) (Whitehorse) 1903 and 1904
- [Whitehorse Star](#) 1901-1904.



Scottish Emigration Database

The database seeks to identify patterns of movement from Scottish ports between 1890 and 1960 using information transferred digitally from the passenger manifests of the Board of Trade's Statistical Department held at the National Archives. It contains the records of 21,090 passengers.



Action for Children

This site contains photographs of some of the children in the first care homes in the UK. Visitors to the site are asked to help identify the children by viewing the ancestry archive gallery. Some photographs are identified, but descendants are sought.



[Canadian Newspapers at Ancestor Hunt](#) This site continues to grow and currently has more than 3000 titles with 360 new titles after we last wrote about the site.



MEMBERS' MISCELLANY

EDITOR'S NOTES

This edition is a little late, and I would like to thank our members for your patience and continued support. If you submitted an article, link or pictures over the last four months and don't see it included in this issue, please let me know. My organizational skills are still a work in progress! Special thanks to **Maureen Wooten** for her eagle-eyed editing!

Two more of last year's contest winning articles are in this edition, and another two will appear in the fall edition.

Your editor hopes to run a contest again, although the due date will probably be next spring. Once the executive decides on the feasibility of a later contest, we'll let the membership know.

I would like to thank all of you who contributed to this edition of *AnceTree*. The variety of stories, photos, links and other submissions is a testament to the vibrant, active membership we have. I enjoy, very much, receiving your contributions — reading your stories is a delight, and knowing that more families have more legacies for future generations is a bonus!

Please continue to submit to our journal. If you haven't tried writing a short article about your family research, do consider the idea, not only for *AnceTree* readers, but also your descendants. If you have a submission, please forward it to our society — mark clearly in the subject line of your email that your article is for *AnceTree*. If you haven't received an acknowledgement from your editor within a day or two, please resend the submission.

Carolyn

MEMBERS' RECOMMENDED LINKS

- * from Cate Muir [Understanding Scottish Naming Patterns](#)
- * from David Blackburn [Seven Big Misconceptions About Heredity](#)
- * from Jacquie Jessup [Limits of DNA Ancestry Tests](#)

From member Cate Muir

Here's an idea for your next family reunion. The descendants of the Pauline family of Victoria are gathering this summer to reenact a three generation photograph from about 1890. About sixty descendants are gathering for the photo. See the [Times Colonist article about the reunion](#).





**Campbell River Genealogy Society
A Fall Seminar with Brenda L. Smith
Saturday, October 5, 2019**

Campbell River Heritage Centre – Rotary Hall

- Firm Steps On the Ancestral Trail
- Cite That! Citation Made Easy for the Family Historian
- Organize: The Second Prime Directive
- Search for Our Foremothers

[Registration Information](#)



**Surrey Family History Centre FINDING YOUR ROOTS
CONFERENCE**

**Saturday, October 19, 2019
6270 126 Street Surrey, BC**

Learn how to strengthen your family across generations. Hear encouraging messages from experts in the industry and other popular speakers who will help inspire you to

- build your family tree
- discover and share your family stories

[Registration Information](#)

**Nanaimo Family History Society
Executive 2019**

President	Dean Ford
Vice President	Sharon Davison
Secretary	Dave Blackbourn
Treasurer	Jocelyn Howat
Program Director	Maureen Wootten
Membership Director	Donna MacIver
Director at Large	Janis Nelson
Director at Large	Penny Bent
AnceTree Editor	Carolyn Kemp
Webmaster	Dean Ford

Contact Information

Nanaimo Family History Society
PO BOX 1027
Nanaimo BC V9R 5Z2

Email: info@nanaimofamilyhistory.ca

Web Page: www.nanaimofamilyhistory.ca