



# Ancestry

The Nanaimo Family History Society Quarterly Journal  
 ISSN 1185-166X (Print)/ISSN 1921-7889 (Online)

## President's Message by Sharon Davison

The Nanaimo Family History Society has had a busy, informative spring, and our last meeting before the summer break is fast approaching.

We were delighted to be able to host Chris Paton as our speaker at the April meeting, as well as have the chance to attend his lectures both at the Qualicum Beach Family History Society meeting and their conference the same week. Chris is a charismatic, informative speaker, and all events were well worth attending!

The executive approached Kathy Jones (Qualicum Beach FHS) with a request to overhaul completely the NFHS website. I am happy to report that she not only agreed, but also has completed a considerable amount of the work required, in consultation with Dean Ford and Ron Blank, our co-webmasters. We anticipate having the site up and running in the very near future. The website will have a completely different look, but will be more streamlined and user friendly, and we will have the ability to add and change the content more easily.

President's Message continues page 2

## What's Inside

<b>President's Message</b>	<b>Pages 1-2</b>
<b>Mary Conn Saunders</b>	<b>Pages 3-6</b>
<b>Help Wanted</b>	<b>Page 7</b>
<b>Faces of Our Ancestors</b>	<b>Page 8</b>
<b>Alberta Vital Stats Update</b>	<b>Page 9</b>
<b>News Briefs</b>	<b>Pages 10-12</b>
<b>Web Updates</b>	<b>Page 13</b>
<b>Future Guest Speakers</b>	<b>Page 14</b>
<b>Contest 2016</b>	<b>Page 15</b>
<b>Members' Miscellany</b> Short bytes from NFHS members	<b>Page 16</b>
<b>Contact Information</b>	<b>Page 17</b>

## Save the Date!

<b>Nanaimo FHS June Meeting</b>	<b>June 20, 2016</b>
<b>Nanaimo FHS Sept Meeting</b>	<b>Sept 19, 2016</b>

**History remembers only the celebrated;  
 genealogy remembers them all.**

**Laurence Overmire (1957-)  
 American author, poet, and genealogist.**

President’s Message continued from page 1

In addition to our writing roundtable that has been very well-utilized by members prior to our regular meetings, we asked some of our talented genealogist members to consider hosting fifteen minute "mini how-to" sessions starting in September. Currently our volunteers are putting together some topics and material. The goal of these how-to's is to present small, informational talks on topics that will be of use to new members, as well as reminders to seasoned genealogists. Topics suggested may include ordering BMD's from various locations, immigration/emigration documents, maps, LDS resources, and so on. One topic will be presented in the 6:00 - 7:00 p.m. time slot at each meeting, in conjunction with the ongoing writing session and informal member discussion groups. An email will be sent to members in advance advising the topic for a particular meeting and members are encouraged to come and participate. A huge thank you to our members for taking on this project!

We announced at our last meeting our 2016 "Meet My Ancestor" contest. We look forward to this year’s entries. For details see page 17 in this journal.

Summer is a good time to kick back and catch up on some reading. Why not peruse our library holdings and contact us with a selection of books you would like to borrow over the next few months? Please send an email to [NFHS](#) with your requests and we will arrange to have them for you at the June meeting.

Don't forget our last meeting before the break is Monday, June 20th. Room opens at 6:00 p.m.

Wishing everyone a wonderful and relaxing summer!

Sharon Davison



**MARY CONN SAUNDERS (née Robertson)  
1913-2001**

by NFHS Member Gloria Saunders

**The author, Gloria Saunders, has chosen to write using first person, as the voice of her mother, Mary Conn Saunders.**

The mother of Mary Conn Saunders, **Jemima Robertson née McArthur**, was born on March 22, 1885 at 79 North St. Mungo St, Glasgow. She died in Royston, B.C. on April 29, 1949. Her mother was **Agnes McArthur** (1864 – unknown). Agnes later married John Carswell on January 1<sup>st</sup>, 1895.

In 1901 Jemima was sixteen years old and boarding with the Conn family working as a general domestic servant at 1 Winston Street, Ardrossan, Scotland.

**Peter Robinson**, Mary's father, was born on October 13, 1882 at Hertfield House, Applecross, Ross Cromerty, Scotland. His birth certificate says his name was Peter Robertson McIntyre. He died at Pearson Hospital, on October 23, 1959. His mother **Maria McIntyre** later married William MacInnes and they lived at 20 Haarapool, Broadford, Isle of Skye.

**Peter Robertson**, Spirits Salesman, and **Jemima McArthur** married April 30, 1912 at "Eastfield," Gladstone Road, Saltcoats in Old Ardrossan, Ayr, Scotland.

Their daughter, **Mary Conn Robertson** was born on November 28, 1913 and baptized at 3:30 pm on December 23, 1913 at the Parish of Kelvin, 45 Agnes Street, Glasgow, Scotland. Her siblings were **Duncan George Robertson** (1915 – 2013), **Peter Colin Robertson** (1916 – 2003), **Jemima Montgomery Robertson** (1918 – 1997) and **John Conn Robertson** 1920 – 2005.

To the right is Mary Conn Saunders's story.



We lived in a small house in Glasgow. In the summer, our family would take the train from Glasgow to Saltcoats to spend time with the Conn family. I think that **Roberta Conn**, (née Montgomery) was my mum's half sister. My brothers, sister and I attended school in Glasgow until 1925 when we immigrated to Canada. The *Saturnia* sailed from Glasgow on May 29, 1925, and arrived in Montreal, Quebec June 8<sup>th</sup>, 1925. It was a very stormy trip. One night, Dad called us on deck as we passed by a very large iceberg. I couldn't believe how cold it was and how the lights reflected off it. It was beautiful in an eerie sort of way. After nine days at sea, we boarded the train and rode the rails from Montreal to Vancouver, B.C. Then we got on the ship *Princess Patricia* and sailed to Nanaimo. Our cousin **Frederick Curran** met us there in his 1925 Chevy and drove to Rosewall farm in Mud Bay, south of Fanny Bay on Vancouver Island. What a thrill, it was the first time any of us had ridden in a car.

Curran's had a 160 acre farm and I was taught how to milk a cow. Our groceries were shipped from the Hudson Bay store in Vancouver to Fanny Bay by barge every month. We picked them up and took them home in the car. It was a wonderful summer, playing in fields and forests and swimming in the ocean.

In September 1925, we started school in Fanny Bay, located near the community hall. I was eleven years old and walked four miles each way. My first teacher, Mildred Robertson, (no relation) taught grades one to eight. Later the classes were split into two rooms — grades one to four downstairs and five to eight on the top floor. My second teacher, Miss Isabelle Main, later married my cousin Robert John Curran. I continued going to school until I completed grade eight. In those days, it was not considered necessary for young women to get a further education, so I found a job. I started at the Fanny Bay Shingle Mill where I cooked three meals a day for twenty-eight men. My wage was \$15.00 a month. I spent the next few years working as a housekeeper.

Mary Conn Saunders continues page 4

Mary Conn Saunders continued from page 3



In the summer of 1938, two of my friends and I were sunbathing on a boom of logs, chatting and enjoying each other's company (along with three little bulldogs). A young man swam over to the boom of logs on which we were sitting. He was slim and good looking with black hair and blue eyes. He introduced himself as

Robert Saunders and he worked as a boom-man for Mr. MacMillan at Mud Bay. He threw the little dogs into the water, went to McMillan's house, changed and went to work on the boom that was our seat. He could walk a boom of logs just as if he was walking across a flat floor. Mrs. MacMillan formally introduced us and after a whirlwind romance, we were married on October 22, 1938, at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Fred Curran.

We went to the old Malaspina Hotel in Nanaimo for our honeymoon. Someone rolled my pajamas in a bunch of burrs. We had only a few days and then Rob had to go back to work. Before we got married, we had been working to fix up a small house. It was an ocean view property, supported on stilts that had been imbedded in

the beach. When the tide came in, it was underneath the floor boards. It was very cold and damp.

### THE FAMILY



Our daughter Gloria was born in the Cumberland Hospital. We used to purchase flour in fifty pound sacks that I kept in the pantry. One day, I saw something moving inside the sack, and when I opened it, I found three rats. I called the cat and it pounced on two of them. One got

away, but the cat got it later. Gloria was only three months old and that cat used to climb into the buggy and sleep on top of her. I worried that she might be suffocated, so we gave the cat away. We stayed in that house until 1942. Just before Rob joined the Canadian Army, we rented a forty-two acre farm on Pym Road in Parksville. We had chickens and one cow with which Gloria argued. I was in the house and could hear her screaming away. I rushed out to find the cow trying to come out of the barn and Gloria trying to go in. It was a Mexican standoff with the cow looking bewildered and my daughter with her arms crossed, defying that cow to come one step closer.



**ROBERT HENRY SAUNDERS** was born on June 24, 1912 on a homestead in Mervin, Saskatchewan. He died at Campbell River, B.C. Aug 25, 1993 and his ashes are scattered at Quathiaski Cove, Quadra Island. His parents, **William Robert Saunders** (1882–1953) and **Ethel May Alcott** (1883–1990) were married in Kenora, Ont, December 29<sup>th</sup>, 1909.

Robert's siblings were Francis Saunders (1911–1918) Ruth Edna Leaman (1914–2014), Bessie Grace Ash (1916–), Leslie Albert Saunders (1917– 2013) Ernest Roy (1918–1920) Raymond Sydney (1919– 2015) Alice Virginia Saunders and Constance Mildred Saunders (twins) (1922-1922), Nora Florence Saunders (1923 –1925) and Gertrude Ellen Boise (1925 - 20??).

They moved to Mervin, Saskatchewan where his grandparents, **William Robert Saunders Sr. and Fanny (née Huggins)** lived. In 1916, his dad decided to go to Prince George, B.C. With four children, Francis, Robert, Ruth and Bessie (only four months old), they loaded up a wagon pulled by a team of horses and a cow tied behind (milk to feed Bessie). Robert's mother said that she would have to unload the wagon (her and the kids would pack the gear up the hill), while his father rode up on the empty wagon. At Prince George they loaded everything onto an old raft or one of the riverboats, and went down the Fraser River to Hixon, B.C. The kids got the measles, so they returned to Saskatchewan. Francis died in 1918. (There is no gravesite – Rob's dad built a casket and they used part of the wedding dress to line it. Three more children were born before they came back to B.C. by train in 1920. They moved to Comox, where four more children were born. Of the eleven children born, only six lived to adulthood. Rob had a grade four education; however, he was very gifted and could figure out how to construct or fix many things.

Mary Conn Saunders continued from page 4

Rob went overseas to serve in the Canadian 5<sup>th</sup> Forestry. While Rob was away, I got the chance to buy a little house situated on the lane just behind the current Parksville Auto Repair shop. My mortgage payment was only \$25 per month. Every Sunday morning, I dressed Gloria up and sent her off to Sunday school. When I went to church one Sunday, the teacher told me that Gloria had been late and was rather wet when she got there. One morning I followed her. There was a small creek that ran under the highway and I solved the mystery. At the creek, Gloria picked up some big rocks and proceeded to dam it up. After that, I walked her right to the church for Sunday school.

Rob was discharged in 1946. I think the war had an effect on him; I found a change in his attitude and personality and he couldn't settle down. Rob and his brother Bert went up to the Cariboo and decided that both families would move there. In 1949, Rob said he wasn't coming back, so I was left with the chore of buying a truck and packing for the move. When the house was sold and everything ready for us to leave, Rob came home to drive us to our new adventure in life. We took the 12 a.m. CPR ferry from Nanaimo and landed in Vancouver at 4 a.m. It took us four days to travel to Quesnel on a two lane highway. The truck caught fire while chugging up one long hill but we managed to extinguish it and no damage was done. We saw our first bull moose with a large rack of horns near Clinton, B.C. Parts of the old Cariboo highway were still built with logs imbedded into the rocks with planks and gravel covering them. There were no guardrails, just a straight drop to the river.

We arrived in Quesnel in August just as the leaves were beginning to change colour. We moved into half of an old log house and Bert and his family lived in the other half. Most of the chinking had fallen out, so we could feel the cold air floating in. Gloria started grade 5 in a one room school. Mrs. Moxley was her teacher in Moose Heights. In October the temperature dropped to 64 degrees Fahrenheit below zero. Our main heater was a big drum and it burned four foot logs. We used kerosene lamps as there was no electricity. One of our horses had the habit of putting her warm nostrils onto the cold glass, which would crack and break. Our bed was underneath the windows and one night I heard a commotion outside. I woke Rob and told him "the damn horses were out – get up and get them away from the windows." He groaned, rolled over and went back to sleep. The next morning he shot a cow moose that was standing in the yard. I guess she cuddled up near the

house to keep warm and she ended up being our main source of meat for the rest of the winter.



Robert Gordon Saunders, our son, was born at the Old Nanaimo General Hospital on Machleary Street. In the spring of 1950, we moved to another house about two miles away. Gordon had just turned three years old. There was an old rusted car in the yard in which he

played. For reasons known only to himself, he usually took off all his clothes and left only his gum boots on. One day he came in crying saying that the rooster had pecked him. Guess it thought his little dinky was a nice fat worm for dinner. Another time I called him in for lunch and there was no answer. I ran down to the fast moving creek looking for him and Gloria headed up the road to ask neighbours if they had seen him. They said they didn't know if it was Gordon, but they had seen a small person walking up the road by himself. When Gloria got to the store, she found him buying a pound of butter and two packages of gum. The owner figured we were probably with him, so just waited. The butter was for me, one package of gum for himself and the other for his sister Gloria. He was lucky, because there were bears, cougars and lynx that roamed the woods nearby.

In the summer we heard that the DVA had approved the purchase of the Armstrong property at Bouchie Lake. We moved into a large log house with a quarter mile of lake frontage on 160 acres of land. We remodeled the house and all the bedrooms were downstairs. We didn't have electricity until 1952.

Rob bought his first milk cow. Her name was Betty and she ruled the roost. Her horns curved upward, so she could get them underneath the catch on the gate, walk in and help herself to my garden vegetables. I had a beautiful gladioli growing, but one day I came out and found dear old Betty devouring the last of it, swishing her tail and walking away. She tossed our dog over the fence, breaking two of the dog's ribs. She jabbed Gloria's horse, Lady, and then the horse chased her around the yard. Rob would get mad and tell Gloria to get her damn horse to stop. Gloria would cross her arms and retort with "well then tell your damn cow to stop poking my horse with her horns." Neither cow nor horse stopped and Rob and Gloria continued to argue about it.

Mary Conn Saunders continues page 6

**Mary Conn Saunders continued from page 5**

In March of 1955 on a beautiful night, Rob and I went to a dance at Six Mile community hall. When we came out, the weather had changed to gale force winds, driving snow and freezing temperature. Our old truck slid off the road, so we had to walk home. Our road ran between two open fields and the drifts were piled up to the power lines. We cut through the area that was mostly low trees so it protected us from the wind. I just wanted to lie down and go to sleep. Rob kept me moving and we finally got home. My legs were badly frozen and it took nearly six months for them to get back any feeling. When it gets cold, I can still feel the pain in my legs.

I was an active member of the Bouchie Lake Women's Institute. Every spring we held a concert to raise funds for our many projects. The score was written by Sue Spears (she had a radio show known as *Sunshine Sue*). All the members and sometimes their children were part of the cast. We used the funds for community projects and often helped out needy families.

Gloria went to Bouchie Lake School for grade 6 and then attended Quesnel Jr. Sr. High, grade 7 to 12 until 1957. She left for Kamloops in August to start a new life on her own. Gordon attended grade 1 to 6 at the new Bouchie Lake School located near the community hall. Then he went to Cariboo High School until we moved to Chetwynd in 1960.

Rob decided to buy a garage in Chetwynd, so after many happy years in Bouchie Lake, we were on the move again. For many years we lived in a single wide trailer. It was very difficult to get used to after having lived in our big log house. Rob was not very happy and quite often would just leave for days, weeks and even months at a time. The garage did not meet his expectations, so he sold it and went to work for Canadian National Railway out of McBride, B.C. We never divorced, but we never lived together after that. I worked at the Chetwynd Hotel and also cooked at the hospital. Gordon and I continued to live in the trailer, while I contracted a new house on a lot that overlooked the village of Chetwynd.

In 1964, Gloria came back north for a job at Pacific Petroleum Refinery in Taylor, B.C. She was sitting at the table one night and the whole trailer started to shake. Crabbily, I asked her what she was doing. Her equally crabby reply was, "nothing, we're probably having an earthquake or something." We turned on the 11 o'clock news and found that Alaska was a disaster area after a large earthquake.

The house was completed. Gordon continued his schooling until grade 10 and then left to drive a dump truck, building and upgrading roads for the expected influx of people to work in northern B.C. and I continued working. I joined the Royal Purple and served as vice president and secretary. I was the first Zone Commander for the Ladies Auxiliary of the Chetwynd Legion. I have donated many home made articles to both groups and also the Hospital Auxiliary, of which I served as president. In 1973 I became a legal Canadian citizen.

In 1974, I was shoved to the floor and broke both wrists, which forced me to retire. In 1977 I took my first airplane trip to Hawaii, where I met Gloria and we had a great time exploring the island of Oahu.

In 1978, Gordon and Rose were married in Stewart, B.C. They moved to Quesnel, where Gordon continued to drive a logging truck for a living. Kristy Ann and Tracy Jean are my granddaughters and both were born in Quesnel, B.C.

A few years later, my cousin Helen and her husband flew to Scotland and spent many happy hours exploring old and new memories of my birth place. Our old house in Glasgow was gone, but many places on the Isle of Skye were the same as they had been so many years ago. They met my dad's half brother and enjoyed many memories.

I sold the house in 1986 and moved to Nanaimo, as Gloria now lived in Cedar, B.C. I had a nice apartment on Prideaux Street and transferred my memberships for the Royal Purple and the Royal Canadian Legion. I am a member of the United Church on Fitzwilliam Street. I also joined the Nanaimo Seniors group at Bowen Park and have happy memories of travelling with them. My sister Mima and three brothers Duncan, John and Peter were still living, so the family reunions were a lot of fun. Mima and I used to fight and argue every time we met with each other, but I sure miss her.

I moved to an apartment on Sixth Avenue and then to the Seniors Complex on Seafield Crescent. I fell down a couple of times and found it difficult to live on my own. I received home care for about two years and then moved to Travelers Lodge. I participated in most of the programs that they offered including the bread pudding contest.

***Mary Conn Saunders suffered a stroke and passed away on June 9, 2001. She was cremated and her ashes are interred in the wall at Sandwick on the Hill, just north of Courtenay B.C.***

# HELP WANTED

A researcher from Michigan, Tod Poirier, is seeking information about possible Nanaimo links to his Finnish ancestors, the **Hentila family (records may have alternate spellings such as Hendila, Helman, Hellman or Hillman)**. Among his grandfather's items were the two pictures shown below taken in Nanaimo. Tod believes that his grandfather had several siblings, some of whom settled in the Seattle area. He suspects one may have moved north to Nanaimo and one of his grandfather's sisters may have married and moved to our city. He also knows that some of the next generation migrated to the Seattle area and family names may have included Naatus, Siuvatte, Jarvelin, and Kiiskila.

Tod writes: "I've done quite a bit of research online . . . but I haven't found any leads. At this point I'm not sure where to look next without being in the area trying to uncover who these girls might be. If you could point me in the right direction or if you have any records you could check to see what surnames might coincide with my family's names I would appreciate it."

If you have some ideas for Tod, please email him at [tpoirier@nmu.edu](mailto:tpoirier@nmu.edu).





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

**FROM NFHS MEMBER MARGARET JOHNSON**



This collection of pictures depicts **Stafford Leitch** and his family. Stafford was born 1871 in County Tyrone, Ireland, the son of **John Leitch** (1839-1893) and **Matilda Bell** who were married in Ballymena, Ireland in 1859. Stafford married **Annie Matilda Bell** in 1890 in Ireland where their daughter, Ann Eliza Nichol was born in 1893. A son Charles Leslie Rowlands was born Liverpool in 1896. In Glasgow, Scotland, another son, Alexander, was born in 1901, and a daughter Margaret Sarah was born in 1905. Stafford and family arrived in New York on the *Empress of Asia* October 26, 1918.



VITAL STATISTICS ALBERTA PROCEDURE CHANGE FOR ACQUISITION OF DOCUMENTS by NFHS member Carolyn Kemp

Acquiring vital statistics from Alberta has changed as of April 1, 2016 with older documents now at Provincial Archives of Alberta:

- a) birth records that are 120 years old or older (from the date of birth)
b) marriage records that are 75 years or older (from the date of marriage)
c) death records that are 50 years old or older (from the date of death)

Although this appears to be a positive step (see previous issues regarding ordering documents from Alberta), the procedure for actually acquiring the documents as of this date is complicated and certainly in no way resembles our freely and quickly obtainable documents from BC Archives. Ah well, at least it appears the fees for Alberta documents are cheaper than their old fees.

There are three steps to acquiring copies of documents:

- a) email the archives at paa@gov.ab.ca Make certain to specify birth, marriage, or death REGISTRATION (a "certificate" provides limited family information). In your email, provide all the information you can about the document required. This may include name of individual, dates, places, and so on.
b) wait up to 15 business days for the archives to contact you when a researcher has found the item (amazing that BC Archives can make it downloadable for you in a few seconds!)
c) If you want copies, you will need to indicate that to the Government Records Archivist when you two correspond. Once all the paperwork is filled out, the Public Receptionist will send you a secure payment link. You will follow this link and make payment. Once payment is received your order will be processed. The cost is 35 cents for a photocopy of the document plus \$3.00

postage if it is mailed to you. You can also have the copy picked up by a person in the area — the archives are in Edmonton.

A representative from the archives asks me to inform our membership that "the PAA is in a transition period with the vital statistics right now. The vital statistic legislation changes have affected both the holdings now available and the access conditions at the Provincial Archives of Alberta. It is expected that the current process will change again." Currently images are being digitized — hooray!

Hopefully the changes hinted at above will result in a site similar to BC Archives, and documents will be freely and quickly downloadable. We await with baited breath!

An Alberta death registration, as opposed to a certificate, may contain the name and birthplace of the deceased's parents.

## NEWS BRIEFS

### VICTORIA HISTORIC NEWSPAPERS ARCHIVE EXPANDED

[BritishColonist.ca](http://BritishColonist.ca) has expanded its archives now encompassing the years 1858 to 1950. The site includes the *British Colonist*, *The Daily British Colonist*, and *The Daily Colonist*. These are of course the same newspaper, still in publication as the *Victoria Times Colonist*. The expansion includes the years 1940 to 1950. The site is easily searched by key word, and access is free.

### DO YOU HAVE AN INTERESTING IRISH ANCESTOR?

The Irish Genealogical Research Society has launched a search for personal stories of Irish ancestors. The society has further details about the content, length, and composition of the tales they wish receive at their site [Tell Us About Your Irish Ancestors!](http://TellUsAboutYourIrishAncestors!)

Ireland has a long-cherished reputation as being a nation of storytellers, so to celebrate the IGRS's 80th anniversary we are calling for stories about your favourite Irish-born ancestor.

Perhaps you have a wayward great-uncle whose Australian adventures were the talk of the family; or perhaps a great great grandmother whose struggles to bring up a large family have touched you deeply and you feel moved to make sure her story is told and preserved for posterity? Maybe you have a grandfather who fought in the Great War or an uncle who was involved in the 1916 Rising or the Irish Civil War? Maybe your forbear was a Ulster-Scot pioneer seeking to start a new life in colonial America or a starving widow forced to leave Ireland during *An Gorta Mor*, the Great Famine of the 1840s?

### CHATHAM, KENT DOCKYARD RECORDS

The Kent Archaeological Society has transcribed and posted online almost one hundred 17th and 18th century wills of [Chatham Royal Dockyard](#) shipwrights. "The men were the dockyard's most highly-paid artisans, earning up to two shillings per 12-hour day, equal to about £150 in today's money. An elite workforce, they were wealthy enough to make provision for their families and dependents and leave generous bequests to others in need."



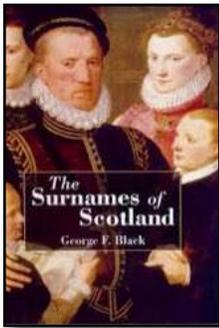
The wills have also been indexed by the society and allow a researcher to search for names of executors, place names, trades and occupations, and ship names. Access is free.

If you're touring England, the Chatham Dockyards are a must see. Many of the old buildings have been restored and you can see sailmaking, rope making and other nautical pursuits as they were historically done.

The [Kent Archaeological Society](#) has other online transcriptions pertaining to the county of Kent such as wills, settlements, accounts and monumental inscriptions from numerous parish cemeteries. It is well worth a visit if you have ancestors from Kent.



NEWS BRIEFS continue on page 11



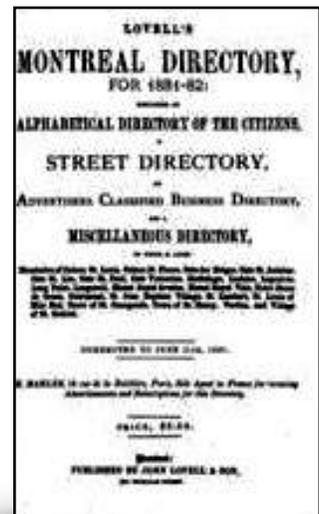
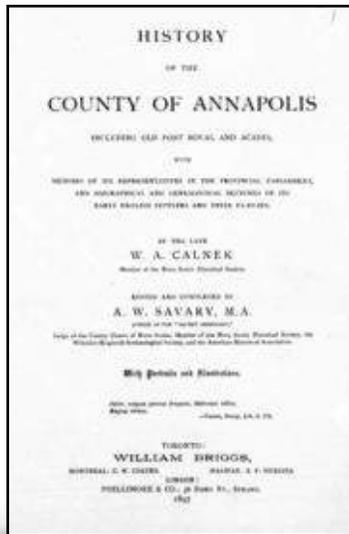
SCOTTISH SURNAMES

A useful research guide 'Surnames of Scotland Their Origin, Meaning and History' by George F. Black is now freely available on line at the Hathi Trust site. At over 800 pages, the book is a good reference for those of you with Scottish ancestors.

CANADIAN LIBRARY ARCHIVE

In 2004 a Toronto scanning centre was established at the University of Toronto. Since then over 50 Canadian institutions have added to the collections of Internet Archive Canada. This is a treasure trove of research sources, especially obscure Canadian ones. Titles are eclectic and too numerous to mention here, but contain city almanacs and many other books of interest to genealogists and historians such as biographical sketches of certain locations, and even specific genealogies of specific families and locations. The numbers of books and other sources is amazing: The University of Alberta Library, for example, has 87, 637 titles scanned.

The site is very easy to access — simply turn the pages of the title you wish to peruse. Screen shots can be saved if a particular page interests you.



DO YOU HAVE SOMERSET AND DORSET FAMILY PHOTOGRAPHS?

Somerset and Dorset Family History Society is planning to establish a searchable database of named photographs of individuals born in either Somerset or Dorset. If you have identifiable photographs of ancestors who were born in or lived in either of these two counties check out their site.





NEWS BRIEFS continued from page 11

**QUEBEC CITY’S ST. JEAN BAPTISTE CHURCH COULD BECOME GENEALOGY CENTRE**

An article in the CBC News web site states that Église St-Jean Baptiste, located on St-Jean Street in the heart of Quebec City, could house a genealogy centre for francophones across North America. Built in 1881, the parish held its last mass in May 2015 because it couldn’t afford the \$10 million in necessary renovations. Espace solidaire hopes not only to open a digital genealogy centre, but also to reopen the closed community spaces and develop a welcome centre.

with permission from Eastman’s Online Genealogy Newsletter April 14, 2016



**ARE YOU USING FAMILY TREE MAKER?**

As noted in the Spring *AncesTree*, Family Tree Maker has been acquired by [Software MacKiev](#), and the two companies are currently working on the transition hoping to secure good customer support which is available at [MacKiev’s support centre](#). Watch for regular updates to support your operating system. The updates contain “more than a hundred new royalty free backgrounds and a set of embellishment art” for your charts.

**GENEALOGY ON THE TUBE**

- A remake of Alex Hailey’s *Roots* (watched by so many in 1977) will premiere May 30th.
- a new season of *Genealogy Roadshow* is on PBS Tuesday Nights.



## Northwest Genealogy Conference

Sponsored by the Stillaguamish Valley Genealogical Society

*“Family Secrets Uncovered — Lost History Found”*

At the Byrnes Performing Arts Center  
18821 Crown Ridge Boulevard  
Arlington, Washington 98223

August 17–20, 2016

Register at [www.stillygen.org](http://www.stillygen.org)

Everyone Welcome!





---

Keynote Speakers



Blaine Bettinger

Blaine Bettinger, Ph.D., J.D., is an intellectual property attorney by day and a genetic genealogist by night. He is “The Genetic Genealogist.”



Lisa Louise Cooke

Lisa is the author/producer of the popular Genealogy Gems podcast, is an instructor of genealogy classes, writes blogs, and is a world-class speaker.



Claudia Breland

A researcher for over 40 years, Claudia has authored many articles & journals — including solving a real murder mystery from 1883, thru DNA.

## Web Updates

### Ancestry (subscription)

[Australia Newspaper Vital Notices 1851-1997](#) (browse by newspaper)  
[Australia Northern Territory Probate Index 1911 – 1994](#)  
[England and Scotland, Select Cemetery Registers, 1800-2014](#)  
[Germany, Mainz, Deaths 1876– 1950](#) (in German)  
[North America Family Histories 1500-2000](#)  
[UK Northamptonshire Baptisms, Marriages, Burials 1532-1812](#)

### FamilySearch (free)

[Canada Ontario District Marriages 1801-1858](#) (browse only)  
[Canada St. John New Brunswick Burial Permits 1889-1919](#) (browse by year)  
[France Saône-et-Loire Military Conscription Records 1867-1940](#)  
[London Lives, Culture & Society 1680-1917](#)  
[The London Gazette, Supplements August 1914-January 1920](#)  
[Paraguay Roman Catholic Parish Records 1754-2015](#)  
[Sussex Burials](#)  
[US Arkansas ex-Confederate pension records \(1891-1939\)](#)

### findmypast (subscription)

[Anglo-Boer War Records 1899-1902](#)  
[Australia, Queensland Funeral Records](#)  
[UK Historic Yorkshire Marriage Records](#) (expanded)  
[UK Westminster Baptismal Records](#)  
[UK Westminster Burial Records](#)  
[Uk Westminster Marriage Records](#)

### [Finland Genealogy](#) (free)

Still in its beta form, this site, the HisKi Project, is a free, searchable site for Finnish genealogy. Entries are in Swedish (historically, Finland was a part of Sweden and of Russia) but families are relatively easy to trace since village or farm names are included with register entries. Searches can be made using patronymic names or surnames. Searches can also include occupations. Most parish records date from the early 18<sup>th</sup> century to the late 19<sup>th</sup> century. Searches can also be made of individuals who moved into and out of the parish in the 19<sup>th</sup> century through to 1906. Printouts of parish entries can easily be made.

### [Mills Archive](#) (free)

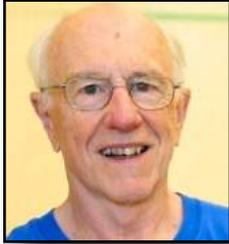
Now online, this archive preserves and protects records of milling heritage in England. The site has a searchable database for those of you who have ancestors who were mill workers. This is not limited to flour milling, but anything that required milling technology such as paper, bricks, brewing or making cotton.

### [New Zealand Papers Past](#) (free)

An improved version of this site for those of you wishing to research historic New Zealand newspapers. It includes historic magazines, journals, letters, diaries and parliamentary papers. In total, there are over four million digitized pages that are searchable by keyword (such as a name), date range, and title.

## Future Guest Speakers

**Monday, June 20, 2016**  
**Searching Ontario Records**  
**Gerry Poulton**



What records are out there? How can we access them? These are the topics which most interest genealogical researchers.

Gerry Poulton will attempt to give you some information on searching in Ontario, and will

- ◆ show you what is available on Ancestry sites (pay) and FamilySearch (free)
- ◆ show you what other sources there are for information specific to Ontario
- ◆ show you which general Canadian sources might be useful for Ontario research

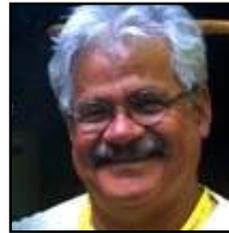
A number of Ontario sources will be discussed including census records, birth, marriage and death records, obituaries, cemetery compilations, wills, probate, land and tax records, newspapers and archives.

Time will also be spent on improvement of research skills. Questions are most welcome, before, during, or after the workshop.



**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!**

**Monday, September 19, 2016**  
**A Journey of Tradition**  
**Wedlidi Speck**



Wedlidi Speck is an hereditary chief of the Namgis First Nation and Director of Aboriginal Service Change with the Ministry of Children and Family Development.

Wedlidi is an accomplished story teller and will speak on his colourful journey with traditional genealogy, where mythology meets DNA, and how this changes the world.

**Monday, October 17, 2016**  
**To Be Determined**

**Monday, November 21, 2016**  
**An Unknown Soldier**  
**Catherine Whitely**

Catherine will speak on research of an unknown soldier, and will report on her amazing results.

**Monday, December 12, 2016**  
**2:00 p.m.**  
**Social Afternoon**

**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.**

**MEMBERS' MISCELLANY**

**A DIFFERENT RESOURCE**



At our April Meeting, NFHS member Bev Sherry approached your editor with a photocopy of an old medal that she had found. The medal, she believed, had been in her family for years. The image on the centre of the medal was difficult to discern, but the motto “One

Heart One Way” was clearly readable. Bev had no idea what the medal was for. A quick Google search of the motto (remembering to use quotation marks) revealed that the medal and others like it were given to Wesleyan Methodist members.

Good, we had an answer, but of what use for research are these church medals that many of us may have tucked away. The religion and/or denomination of our ancestors can be an important clue. In this case, a researcher may be led to the Wesleyan Methodist church records, many of which are on line:

- [Wesleyan Baptismal Register Ontario](#)
- [Ancestry — Wesleyan Methodist Baptisms](#)
- [UK National Archives — Non-Conformists](#)

*EDITOR'S NOTES*

Thank you to the many contributors this issue including Gloria Saunders, Bev Sherry, Jacquie Jessop and Margaret Johnson. Also a thank you to Jocelyn Howat for passing along the query from Tom Poirier on page 7.

Time to get started on your contest entry! We look forward to more entries this year, and we look forward to publishing them next year! Perhaps the poem below will provide incentive for you.

Don't forget to peruse your old family photos. If you have pre 1914 photos, we'd love to include them in our "Faces of Our Ancestors" page!

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 *AncesTree*. If you haven't received an acknowledgement from your editor within a day or two, please resend the submission.

**Stranger in the Box**

Come, look with me inside this drawer,  
 In this box I've often seen,  
 At the pictures, black and white,  
 Faces proud, still, serene.  
 I wish I knew the people,  
 These strangers in the box,  
 Their names and all their memories  
 Are lost among my socks.  
 I wonder what their lives were like,  
 How did they spend their days?  
 What about their special times?  
 I'll never know their ways.  
 If only someone had taken time  
 To tell who, what, where, or when,

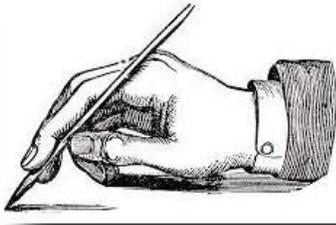
These faces of my heritage  
 Would come to life again.  
 Could this become the fate  
 Of the pictures we take today?  
 The faces and the memories  
 Someday to be passed away?  
 Make time to save your stories,  
 Seize the opportunity when it knocks,  
 Or someday you and yours could be  
 The strangers in the box.

© 1997 by Pamela A. Harazim.  
 All Rights Reserved.

May be used in unchanged form for non-commercial purposes if accompanied by this copyright message.

# Meet My Ancestor Contest 2016

## Nanaimo Family History Society



All our families have stories to tell. Perhaps in your research files you have a skeleton in the closet, an unsung hero or heroine, or like most of us, family members who experienced the perils of emigration, the hardships of war, or simply the rigors of daily life. It's time to write about these people!

Nanaimo Family History Society members are invited to enter a "Meet My Ancestor" contest. \$100.00 will be awarded to the entrant whose entry, in the opinion of the judging panel, best meets the contest criteria.

A panel consisting of three members of Nanaimo Family History Society will judge the entries based on eight criteria:

- 1) The author is a current member of the Nanaimo Family History Society on December 31, 2016.
- 2) The entry has not been previously published.
- 3) The entry is an interesting, coherent read with a specific focus of genealogical interest.
- 4) The entry demonstrates the researcher's methodology including problems encountered and their resolution.
- 5) The entry includes family tree diagram(s) and/or photograph(s) and/or other illustrations if appropriate. These visuals are appropriately placed to support the context of the entry.
- 6) The length of the entry is not more than 2500 words.
- 7) The entry includes footnotes as necessary.
- 8) The entry includes sources.

Entries are to be submitted to Nanaimo Family History Society and received by midnight, December 31, 2016. Submit entries by email or by hand to a member of the NFHS executive.

The winning entry will be announced at the Annual General Meeting in February, 2017, and will be published in the spring edition of *AnceTree*. Other submitted entries, at the *AnceTree* editor's discretion, will be published in later editions of our society's journal. Entries may be edited as necessary before publication in *AnceTree*.





[Kelowna & District Genealogical Society](#) is hosting one of Western Canada's largest conferences this fall, September 23 to 25. Ten speakers from Canada, United States and the United Kingdom will be speaking on 33 topics. As well, a variety of workshops are being offered:

***Be on the cutting edge!***

Hands-on learning about Microsoft Word and PowerPoint for Family Historians; Find out how to use MS Excel spreadsheets to shed new light on your Genealogical Problems; Harness the power of your iPhone and other Devices; Connect with Relatives and Records through Social Networking; bone up on DNA and take your Family History to a whole new level!

***Dig out the records!***

Get the most out of FamilySearch, Ancestry, The National Archives (England), Library & Archives Canada and the Cloverdale Genealogy Library.

***Hone your skills!***

Learn to use Timelines, Become a Master of Old Maps, Shine a Light on those elusive Female Ancestors, Make use of "Crowdsourcing," Stretch your Genealogical Dollars, Strategies for Building Ancestral Biographies.

***Location, Location, Location!***

Get on-the-ground advice for Ireland, Eastern Europe, England, Canada...

**Nanaimo Family History Society  
 Executive 2015-16**

President	Sharon Davison
Vice President	Penny Bent
Secretary	Dave Blackburn
Treasurer	Jocelyn Howat
Program Director	Maureen Wootten
Membership Director	Enid Lighthart
Director at Large	Janis Nelson
Director at Large	Wilfred Phillips
<i>AncesTree</i> Editor	Carolyn Kemp

*AncesTree*

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

**Email:** [nanaimo.fhs@shaw.ca](mailto:nanaimo.fhs@shaw.ca)

**Web Page:** [nanaimofamilyhistory.ca](http://nanaimofamilyhistory.ca)