



# AncestryTree

The Nanaimo Family History Society Quarterly Journal  
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## President's Message by Dean Ford

Here we are now three months into a new decade and our society has been busy and will continue to be busy with our upcoming "Steps to Our Ancestors Workshop" on March 28<sup>th</sup>. If you plan to attend, please get your registration form in to the committee soon. The sub-committee organizing the event has been busy and it looks like it is going to be a great one day workshop with a variety of speakers.

At our AGM on February 10<sup>th</sup> we had a change of executive committee members after a vote. I understand that it has been a long time since we had a vote. Prior to our meeting, Penny Bent stepped down after many years on the executive and the nominations of Bronwyn Frazer and Lorie Heshka created a list of ten members for a nine member executive. I would like to thank all those members who let their names stand for election. After the votes were counted, it was determined that Janis Nelson would not be a part of the 2020 executive committee. I would like to thank Janis for all her hard work over the years. She will be missed on the executive and I hope she enjoys her time continuing to be a member of our society. I would like to welcome Bronwyn and Lorie to the executive. At our next executive meeting, the committee will determine who will be filling what executive position. You never know — this could be my last president's message!

**"I united myself with my forefathers: the father, mother, and grandparents I loved. They and all my predecessors believed and lived, and they produced me."**

**Leo Tolstoy Russian author (1828-1910)**

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## Save the Date!

NFHS March Meeting	Mar 16, 2020
Nanaimo FHS Steps to Our Ancestors Workshop	Mar 28, 2020
NFHS April Meeting	April 20, 2020
Nanaimo FHS May Meeting	May 11, 2020

**President's Message Continued from page 1**



On another note, I would like to thank everyone for the Mini-How-To's that have been ongoing. It looked like every table was full at our February 10<sup>th</sup> meeting. These

round table discussions would not be possible without members stepping up to facilitate the discussion. Thank you to Sharon for finding members to continue with this format as it has been a huge success.

I know Maureen Wootten has once again been busy lining up guest speakers for our upcoming year. It always amazes me who she has in the background waiting to speak. If you know of anyone who would be interested in giving our society a presentation please let Maureen know. See page 13 of this issue for 2020 speakers.

The executive has been busy with sorting our library books that have been stored throughout

Nanaimo and Gabriola Island. With the cooperation of the LDS FHC, we have been able to place our Canadian collection at the centre.

Members of both the NFHS and LDS FHC can sign out the books for one month. Once all the books have been placed in the centre, our website will be updated. We hope this will give better access to our book collection.

On a final note, we lost a long time member and former president of our society. Sid Norman passed away January 5, 2020. Over the years Sid has provided our society along with other societies some great history of his family which I understand he didn't start to research until his retirement. I'm sure his children will have some interesting reading for future research. Sid will be missed by many people. Sid's celebration of life was on March 7<sup>th</sup> at Cedar Community Hall. Our sympathies go out to his family and friends.

*Dean*




**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.



**GENEALOGY NEWS IN BRIEF****FROM LIBRARY AND ARCHIVES CANADA**

-  [Was your ancestor a Volunteer in the Spanish Civil War? \(1936-1939\)](#)
-  [Ukrainian Immigrants 1891-1930](#)
-  [Indigenous Heritage](#)

**ELGIN COUNTY ONTARIO NEWSPAPERS AVAILABLE ONLINE**

[Elgin county archives](#) has digitized early county newspapers. "These newspapers are focused on specific areas within Elgin County and contain information about popular events, advertisements, obituaries and much more, dating as far back as 1853." "Individual newspapers can be searched by entering the name of the newspaper and the year you are looking for or you can use the advanced search option, entering the name of the newspaper and then sorting by electronic records. You can also visit our database to [see the entire collection](#). Newspapers are available in yearly segments or in individual issues."

**PARENTS OR GRANDPARENTS FROM ORKNEY OR SHETLAND ISLANDS?**

If at least two of your grandparents are from the Scotland islands of Orkney or Shetland, the University of Edinburgh "Viking Study" would like to hear from you. The aim of the study is to understand how "the effect of genes could lead to better ways of preventing and treating diseases. In many populations it can be difficult to investigate the part genes play, due to the variety of occupations, lifestyles and ethnic backgrounds.

The aim of VIKING II is to better understand what might cause diseases such as diabetes, heart disease, stroke and eye disease. These diseases really influence quality of life and this study has the potential to help many people in the future." For more information check out the University of Edinburgh's [Viking II webpage](#).

**BC ARCHIVES TO RELEASE MORE BIRTH AND MARRIAGE RECORDS**

At the end of March, the [BC Archives](#) will receive the annual release of records (death 1999, marriages 1944) from BC Vital Statistics Agency. The archives expects to have these records on line by this summer. Currently the BC Museum has on line births (1854-1903), marriages (1872-1943), deaths (1872-1998), colonial marriages (1859-1872) and baptisms (1836-1888). At their site you can easily download the files in PDF form for free. Too bad the other provinces don't follow BC's lead!

Canadian Genealogist Gail Dever states that the "next time a new collection of BC birth registrations will be released is 2024 — 120 years after the 1904 births were registered. In 2004, the British Columbia Vital Statistics Act added an extra 20 years to the release of births, extending it to 120 years."

GENEALOGY NEWS IN BRIEF continues on page 4

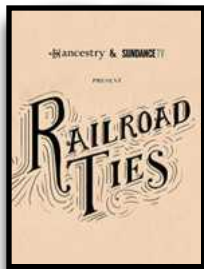
GENEALOGY NEWS IN BRIEF continued from page 3

## ROOTSTECH 2019 SESSIONS NOW AVAILABLE ONLINE

Although you couldn't attend RootsTech 2020 in February, you can [watch 2019's speakers on line](#).

There are a host of sessions:

- Discover Your Family at FamilySearch
- A Strategic approach to Irish Genealogy
- DNA is dynamite — How to Ignite your Ancestral Research
- Getting Started With DNA
- Comparing the Genealogy Giants, *Ancestry*, *FamilySearch*, *FindMyPast*, and *MyHeritage*
- Tracing 20<sup>th</sup> Century English Ancestors — The Joys and Challenges



### RAILROAD TIES —A GENEALOGY DOCUMENTARY WORTH WATCHING

[Railroad Ties](#) is a Sundance Festival entry in which "six descendants of fugitive slaves and abolitionists come together in Brooklyn to discover more about their lineage. Documenting each person learning about their ancestors, and featuring renowned historian, Henry Louis Gates Jr., the film interweaves powerful personal moments with contextual historical anecdotes.

"The very human story of the Underground Railroad unfolds through Ancestry records, each discovery revealing the dynamic impact our history has on identity, family and legacy. The film takes a personal look at how understanding our family's past can influence not just who we are, but how we see ourselves."

## PROVINCIAL ARCHIVES OF SASKATCHEWAN CATALOG

Saskatchewan Provincial Archives has released an [online catalogue](#): "This online catalogue puts the rich history of our province directly at the fingertips of our citizens," said Minister Responsible for the Provincial Archives of Saskatchewan Ken Cheveldayoff. "This will enable a broader audience to access historical documents anytime, anywhere whether their research be personal or academic." Researchers can search more than 900,000 descriptions of records from the permanent collection of the provincial archives.

The catalogue also links to more than 300,000 digitized original archival records such as photographs and individual family fonds. The catalogue will be supplemented over time, so Saskatchewan researchers will need to check regularly for new additions. Provincial Archivist Linda McIntyre said, "Our new catalogue provides a fresh, streamlined approach to accessing our holdings. It enables us to make content available online quickly and easily, for research use across the province and around the world."

## ALL MODERN HUMANS PROBABLY HAVE NEANDERTHAL DNA

A new study reveals the likelihood that all of us have some Neanderthal DNA lurking within us. This lurking DNA is the probable source of our hay fever, cat and dust allergies that plague some of us. A CNN article looks at a Princeton University study of our earliest ancestors. An [interesting read with a linked video](#).



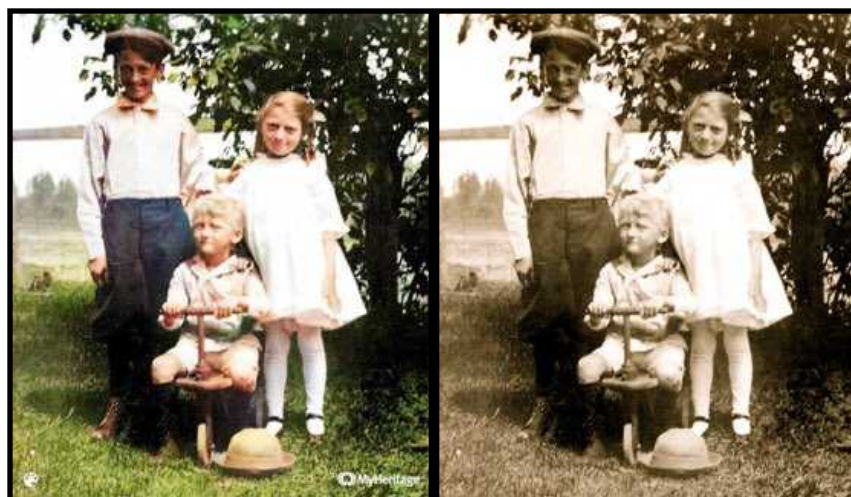
GENEALOGY NEWS IN BRIEF continues on page 5

GENEALOGY NEWS IN BRIEF continued from page 4

### MY HERITAGE COLOURIZATION PROGRAM

MyHeritage has introduced an easy to use [colourization program for photographs](#). The program is free for subscribers to *My Heritage* and to those who uploaded their DNA to the site. While colourization is not for all your old photographs, it does bring to life more fully some of our ancestors. The site is extremely easy to use: simply download your photo and let the program transfer colour. Your editor has experimented with the program. I've noted some inaccuracies in the colour of objects such as dresses or toys as I remember them or which I still have. Red in particular seems to be a problem. Regardless of some discrepancies, the program is fun and easy with which to work. I've also noticed that although old sepia photographs don't really colourize well, the process does seem to more sharply define individuals. When the photo is colourized, it can be downloaded to your computer. You can then trash the photo from the site.

The colourized photo below is of the editor's father **Gordon Curtis Kemp** on the tricycle with one of his older brothers, **Donald Edward** and his sister, **Marjorie Frances** taken about 1920. The hair colouring of the siblings is quite accurate.



. **A warning**, If you don't trash it, your photo will remain on the the *MyHeritage* site where the public can access it. Unfortunately, it seems the "free" colourization expires after a day or after reloading the program. There are however, other online colourization programs.

### IS YOUR RESEARCH ORGANIZED?

If you've been working on your genealogy for years or are just starting, organizing may be your biggest headache. Canadian genealogist Gail Dever has set out this year to look at her extensive files begun in 1970. In her blog "Organizing Family History Records with 2020 Hindsight" she explores how she has begun reviewing and organizing her files. There are some excellent organizing ideas for all of us in her blog, but of particular interest are her "new" discoveries when she revisited material she had collected years ago. Your editor has made similar discoveries going through her "treasured" files! [Gail's blog](#) is well worth a read!



# **BETTER NOT TO KNOW!**

## **A Southern Alberta Prohibition Story from The Journals of Dr. T. Robert Ross**

**by NFHS Member Helen Webster**

I had been in bed for less than two hours when the sudden boom and crack of gunshots startled me from an exhausted slumber. I had returned home following a long day of surgery and a late night maternity case that had seen a healthy boy delivered just before midnight. I had hoped for a few hours rest before returning to my duties at the small local hospital but it was not to be.

Within minutes of hearing the shots, a determined thumping on my door announced the arrival of a member of the Alberta Provincial Police urging all haste as a man had been shot in a surprise raid on a bootlegger's house. I strapped my revolver and holster on my hip as I dressed and grabbed my medical bag. Best to be prepared.

Since the Alberta Liquor Act had<sup>1</sup> been proclaimed in July, homicides had increased in southern Alberta. I hoped I would never have to shoot anyone, but had begun to carry my gun, especially on night calls, as it sent a message that the doctor could take care of himself. I thought the whole business of Prohibition quite foolish with its convoluted legislation that allowed the production and transport of liquor but forbade its sale.

Leaving his horse at my gate, the constable climbed into my motor car and we lurched and bounced along the rutted dirt roads to a ramshackle building on the far edge of town. As we drove, he told me the story.

Four young men, deemed unfit to go to war, had decided to augment their meagre incomes as farm hands by purchasing rum from Fernie, across the border in British Columbia. They transported the booze in a ramshackle farm vehicle to a shack on the edge of their own small settlement. They were sure they would see good profits, and in thirsty southern Alberta, where the majority had voted against going "dry," they had no shortage of customers. Prohibition had been in effect in Alberta for several months, but B.C. was still "wet" and there was no law against purchasing and transporting the liquor across provincial borders. Thus, the young entrepreneurs were not breaking any laws until they sold the alcohol.



It was an open secret in town that liquor was being sold at the run down house on the outskirts, and the men who had not gone to war cared little for the law. Similarly, the police, many of whom had also been rejected by the military and who were known to have been "bought off" with cash or bottles of the same booze they were supposed to confiscate, paid little attention to the illegal liquor sales. The trade in the ramshackle shack was well known, but like other speakeasies or "blind pigs" as illegal drinking establishments were called, it was ignored.

<sup>1</sup> An Alberta prohibition Act was passed in 1914, approved by popular vote in 1915, and followed by another act in July of 1916 . Prohibition was repealed in Alberta in 1924.

**PROHIBITION STORY continued from page 6**

However, a vocal and powerful contingent made up of the village's women folk, farm wives who saw their husbands drinking away their land, church people who saw drinking as a sin, and finally, the village council which had been elected on "dry ticket," had determined that at least this one blatant example of lawlessness must be shut down. Full of righteous indignation and with the Alberta Liquor Act on their side, they had pressured the reluctant police into a midnight raid. Ironically, many of the men deputized for this particular police action were known to be good customers of the young businessmen. What the outraged citizenry hadn't counted on were the guns.

The brash entrepreneurs, emboldened by the ease with which they had acquired and stored their alcohol and a trifle nervous about protecting their valuable merchandise, had decided that it would add to their stature as "hard men" if it was known by other area bootleggers that they had guns and were not afraid to use them. This was a decision that would prove to be very costly.

The police were not aware that the rum runners were armed, and neither were the local farmers and tradesmen who had been deputized to help. All the nervous men present carried some sort of weapons — pistols, rifles, shotguns — and all were loaded and ready.

The young men had been observed laughing and joking as they unloaded barrels and cases into the shack just after dark. The watchers waited until all was quiet and no lights shone, then shortly after midnight, made their move.

Confident that there would be no resistance to an armed force, the policemen and their excited deputies stumbled through the dark bushes around the house. Using a loud hailer, the constable in charge informed those inside that they were surrounded and should come out with their hands in the air. After this, the plan was that the liquor would be confiscated and, under the watchful eyes of the village council, poured into the ditches.

To the amazement of the police force, shots were fired from the darkened windows of the house and a loud voice informed them that if anyone wanted to enter the house, they had better be prepared to be shot!

Panic ensued and the policemen and their farmer deputies began firing wildly. Glass shattered and hundreds of shotgun pellets slammed into the walls of the house. Very soon a much less confident voice from within called out that they were willing to surrender but only if a doctor would come to the house as one of the young men had been shot and was bleeding badly. They would surrender if the doctor would come, see to the injured man, and act as a hostage for their safety as they were afraid they would all be shot when leaving the house. This was the situation when the young constable and I arrived on the scene.

The police constable in charge assured me that they would cover my back as I entered the house. Smiling bleakly at this reassurance, knowing that it would do little good if the frightened inhabitants decided to shoot me, I identified myself for the bootleggers and then strode firmly to the front door that was cracked open just enough to allow me to enter. It was well known that I was an excellent shot, which gave me more confidence than the thought of the trigger happy mob behind me.

**PROHIBITION STORY continues on page 8**

**PROHIBITION STORY continued from page 7**

The dark room stank of sweat and fear and the coppery smell of cordite and blood, but the wounded man, pale and trembling with shock, readily allowed me to examine him. The bullet had passed through his arm and bounced off the femur to lodge in the wall beside him. Relieved that I did not have to dig out a bullet, I made sure the wound was as clean as possible, wrapped it tightly and informed the terrified young man that he would probably live, but needed to get to the clinic quickly for more treatment. Ignoring the guns trained on me by the others in the shack, I walked to the door, opened it slightly and called for a stretcher, still more concerned by the undisciplined farmers and police than by the thoroughly worried bootleggers.

Now that they knew their friend was not going to die, the others regained some of their bravado and told me that I would now have to be their guarantee of safe passage out of town. Snorting in exasperation at their foolishness, I informed them briskly that an angry mob surrounded the house. The police and deputies, driven by moral outrage (and the prodding of their wives) were all prepared to shoot and didn't much care who was caught in the crossfire. At this reminder, the rum runners subsided into sullen silence.

Two strong young farmhands arrived at the door with the stretcher and I let them in, directing them to load the wounded man as carefully as possible. I ordered the now very quiet bootleggers to put their hands on their heads and walk close by the stretcher-bearers out the door, following me as I walked directly to the waiting constables. To be sure there was no further bloodshed, especially my own, I drew my pistol as I proceeded them out into the yard, demanding that all guns aimed at the sad little parade be pointed at the ground and stating that I would shoot the first person to fire on the subdued young men.

It was a sorry procession that stumbled under police guard to the local jail as the stretcher bearers loaded the wounded man into my car for the return trip to the hospital.

The deputies were left to guard the store of illegal booze, but very soon their righteous indignation at the crime of selling alcohol disappeared and their collective hearing and vision were somehow impaired. Within the hour the place had been cleaned out. On their return, the police found only a few, mostly empty, broken casks. Feeling more than a little foolish, they poured the remaining liquor into the ditch. I could not help but laugh when a gleeful farmer told me the end of the night's story. I did not ask him if he had been one of those filled with moral outrage at the selling of booze. Best not to know.



**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?





## *Faces of Our Ancestors*

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

**from NFHS member Beth Skala**

My grandmother, Anna Nörr, immigrated to the United States from Germany, arriving 1 July 1910, at the port of Philadelphia. She met my grandfather, Charles Neubauer, in Philadelphia after he landed on 11 March 1911. We do not know when they began their relationship, but their first child Blanka (later called Blanche) was born in Chicago on 15 August 1912. Their second daughter, Marianna (later called Marian) was born in Chicago on 27 January 1914. The first photo was taken of Anna around the time of her immigration in 1910. The photo with the pony cart shows Anna with Blanka and the baby Marianna, so it must be 1914. The formal portrait of the three is either late 1914 or in 1915. Subsequent children (there were five more) were all born after Charles moved the family to a house in the countryside outside the city limits. Anna and Charles formally married in 1924, after they had had six children together. Fortunately, all of the children had passed on by the time I uncovered the documents in 2018! They had always assumed their parents were legally married.



Faces of Our Ancestors continues on page 10

Faces of Our Ancestors continued from page 9

from NFHS member Susan Bates



My grandmother **Esther Bergland** as a young girl is (seated 4<sup>th</sup> from the right in the second row down with her siblings and cousins. My 2<sup>nd</sup> great grandmother, **Elsie Bergland**, is beside her. Grandma was born in 1886, so this photo was taken around 1898 to 1900. They are all of Norwegian ancestry. The great great grandparents immigrated to the United States in the 1840's.



Susan's grandfather, **Herbert J. Lowes** in his Boer War uniform. (1902).



Susan's father, **James Astle Bates** (left) with his father **Percy**, mother **Kate**, brother **George** and sister **Betty** in 1918

## TWISTING FAMILY LINKS

by Brian Excell

The story below is a fascinating look at family dynamics and the role chance circumstances have in our family stories. Incidentally, the author, Brian Excell, is a past president of the Nanaimo Genealogy Club (precursor to the NFHS) back in the mid 1980's. Brian's story originally appeared in the *Cowichan Chronicles*, February 2, 2019. Brian sent it into the *Chronicles* and it became the topic of columnist Tom Paterson, who wrote: "Every so often — not often enough! — a *Chronicles* reader steps forward with a story of their own that's so well told that there's little I need to do to improve it. Such is the case with today's column, courtesy of Brian Excell, an up-Island, online reader. In December, he wrote that he'd enjoyed my column of several years ago about my 'namesake,' the Hon. T.W. Paterson. (Alas, all similarity ends there: that T.W. was rich and better looking.)"

Here, in Brian's own words, is the story of his somewhat tenuous but fascinating link with B.C.'s lieutenant-governor of just over a century ago..."



T. W. Paterson<sup>2</sup> brings to my mind how a chain of events can dramatically affect the direction of one's life, for as it turns out this gentleman, without ever knowing it, did just that to mine.

John Spenlove Bennett arrived from England to settle in Victoria around 1911 with wife Louise and one small child; two more would be added by 1914. John had experience in the manufacture and selling of furniture so used this background to open an auction house in the 1100 block, Fort Street.

It was slow going at first, but by the spring of 1915 he had gradually built up the business to near profitability. For his May auction he received a consignment of a fine sterling silver canteen from a Mrs. Marie L. Brown who had recently moved from Victoria to Vancouver. The winning bid of \$274 was from the Hon. T. W. Paterson who had recently retired as British Columbia's lieutenant-governor.

It turned out, however, that Mrs. Brown never received the proceeds from this sale. Bennett's excuse that the cheque was lost in the mail did not sit well with Mrs. Brown who subsequently sued him. Paterson verified in court that the cheque he paid for the lot was his, proving that Bennett had duly received the money, but had not sent payment to Mrs. Brown.

The presiding magistrate, Judge George Jay, ignoring Bennett's plea that he would make restitution, sentenced him to six months in the local jail. To Jay, "...it was one of the most contemptible cases that had come before him," according to a newspaper account. Therefore justice appeared to have been served. In hindsight, perhaps this sentence was overly severe, for it may have had something to do with the Old Boys' network—a former lieutenant-governor should never be so compromised.

<sup>2</sup>Thomas Wilson Paterson (1850-1921) Lieutenant Governor of British Columbia 1909 to 1914.

Twisting Links continued from page 11

However, this had a profound effect on Bennett's young family for his wife and children were now without financial support. One drastic solution was to place the youngest child, year-old Leslie, into the local Protestant Orphans' Home with the hope of retrieving him once the Bennetts got back on their feet. But after two months had elapsed, it was agreed that he would be given up for guardianship to a childless couple in the Cowichan Valley by the name of Excell.

**Horace Excell** had arrived in New York State from England around 1880 and in 1893 married **Blanche Chalker** (of an old upstate family). Horace and Blanche left New York for Montana where he began to work in a Butte copper mine, and then around 1909 he was on to Duncan, Vancouver Island to work at the Mount Sicker copper mine. Despite never having been legally adopted, meaning a change in surname, young Leslie was raised as their own. He assumed the name "Excell" and was so known for the rest of his life.



**BERNIE SCHWENGERS**  
(1880-1947)

Around the same time, Magistrate George Jay was facing his own challenge. Jay's eldest daughter, Constance (Connie) was in the middle of divorce proceedings in 1921. She was the wife of local businessman and sportsman, **Bernie Schwengers**. Prior to the First World War,

Schwengers had made a name for himself as a

high profile all-round athlete; he had won the Canadian tennis open, was a member of Canada's first Davis Cup team, played Major League level baseball, was an accomplished golfer, soccer player and set records in track. Schwengers, it seems, was always on the go and perhaps occasionally absent from his domestic obligations. It appears Connie sought solace outside of marriage. The divorce was finalized leaving Connie with little support for her and their three children. It was decided that the oldest, a son, would remain under the care of Bernie who enrolled him as a Shawnigan Lake School boarder. Bernie and Connie's two daughters, **Helen Naomi and Olga Beverly**, were taken in and raised by their grandparents, magistrate Jay and his wife, Emily. Olga graduated from Vic High in 1935 and subsequently found work in 1936, through a connection of the judge, as a clerk stenographer in Duncan. It didn't take long for **Olga Schwengers** to meet **Leslie Excell** one day in the Duncan post office; they were married in Oak Bay in 1940 (also the year of her grandfather's death). George Jay, Olga, Leslie and their respective families would never know anything of Leslie's connection to George Jay's court sentence of twenty-five years earlier. As you may have guessed, Olga and Leslie were my parents. This has prompted me to ponder the chain of events, starting with the Hon. T.W. Paterson, which eventually led to my birth. It's a sobering thought that my great grandfather sentenced my grandfather to penal servitude. As for Leslie, he retired as a sergeant in the RCMP. The acorn does fall far from the tree. My parents were married for fifty-eight years, until Leslie's death in 1999. My thanks again to the Hon. T.W. Paterson.

**LDS LIBRARY HOURS**

The Nanaimo LDS library (Nanaimo Family History Centre) is open from 10:00 to 2:00 on Tuesdays only. The library is located at 2424 Glen Eagle Crescent, Nanaimo. **NFHS's collection of prairie, Ontario, Quebec and Maritime books is now available there and may be signed out..**



**FUTURE GUEST SPEAKERS**



**MONDAY, MARCH 16, 2020**

**EUNICE ROBINSON**

**RESEARCHING THE GREEN — IRISH GENEALOGY**

It has been said that Irish research is impossible, and that everything was burned. Fortunately, both those statements are untrue. More and more Irish records or substitutes are becoming available. Eunice will talk about how you can research your Irish roots, and prove you can wear *the green*.

**MONDAY APRIL, 20, 2020**



**RICHARD NASH**  
**HOME CHILDREN**



**BARRY HAGEN**  
**FAIRBRIDGE FARM SCHOOL**

**MONDAY, MAY 11, 2020**

**GUY PROUTY**

**BEYOND GENEALOGY: MAKE YOUR PERSONAL STORY COME ALIVE!**



New NFHS member, **Guy Prouty, PhD.** is a personal historian, film maker, and archaeologist. He will speak on historical documentaries as well as printed and bound storybooks.

**MONDAY, JUNE, 15, 2020**

**JAMIE BROWN**

**TOPIC TO BE ANNOUNCED**



Jamie has been interested in family history since she was a young girl on her grandfather's lap. Being a part of a pioneering family in Surrey, BC, gave her something to talk about – and sparked her interest. She spent years writing letters, trekking to cemeteries, archives and museums, and travelling, all on the genealogy quest. And then came the internet – fast forward and full speed ahead! Then in April 2011 she landed her “dream job” in the Family History Department at the Cloverdale branch of Surrey Libraries. Her interests include solving puzzles of any kind, including family history brick walls, and loves helping others so the same.



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!



# MEET MY ANCESTOR CONTEST 2020

## Nanaimo Family History Society



Nanaimo Family History Society members are invited to enter a "Meet My Ancestor" contest. Entries must be submitted by **midnight, December 31, 2020**. Cash awards of \$100, \$75, and \$50 will be awarded to the authors whose entries, in the opinion of the judging panel, best meet the contest criteria. The prizes will be awarded only if we receive at least four entries. All entries will be published in future editions of *Ancestry*.

### A Choice of Topic

This year NFHS has a variety of topics from which to choose. Length of papers should be approximately five hundred to one thousand words (about three to five double spaced pages).

#### 1. Pre 1900 Rogues and Rascals!

Yes, they lurk in most of our families. Write about them and share their stories. What did they do? Why? How did the family react? What happened to these people?

#### 2. Home is Where the Heart Is!

Describe a place (village, car, house, room, tree-house, lake, a rocking chair) that you loved as a child and the family or person you associate with it. How does that person fit into the family tree?

#### 3. The Secret!

Write about a secret that you have discovered in your family tree that no-one in the family knew. You can elaborate on the family's reaction, or tell the story and describe how you came to your discovery.

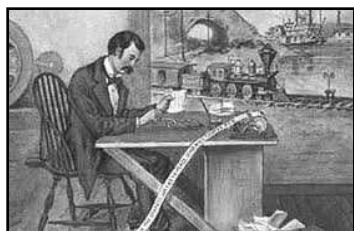
#### 4. The Explanation!

Describe a situation or tell a short story — then explain the real story. (For example — "my grandpa was always very quiet, didn't talk, and he walked with two canes. We children were afraid of him." Then tell what you found out about his history — it may have been a horrible accident or a war story or polio.

### CONTEST CRITERIA

1. The author is a current member of Nanaimo Family History Society on December 31, 2020.
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 reader's methods of research including any problems encountered and their resolution.
5. The entry includes family tree diagrams **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 1000 words and not fewer than 500 words.
7. The entry includes footnotes and /or sources as necessary.

## WRITERS' CORNER



### A FAMILY RASCAL

by NFHS Member Carolyn Kemp

While thinking about this year's N.F.H.S. writing contest, I paused on the "rogues and rascals" topic, wondering about whom I would write if I entered the contest. I also wondered if society members would feel reluctant to explore closet skeletons. Perhaps, I thought, I should write on the topic — let's face it, like most families, the choices in mine were numerous. Great Great Uncle George, the absconder of funds from the Whitstable Oyster Company in 1886, was a good subject, but I needed further research on him. Then, of course I couldn't forget Lord Richard Rich, voted by the *BBC History Magazine* in 2006 as one of the ten worst Britons in history. I believe he later won as the nastiest man in sixteenth century England. I discarded Lord Richard too — after all, he had much written about his notoriety including being a villain in the play and movie *A Man for All Seasons*. Besides, I had spent many years trying to disprove his relationship to me, and I wasn't now about to quit trying to erase him from my tree!

So, I settled on the family "sting" artist, one of my great grandfathers, **Edward Carter**. Years ago, I had overheard my mother and her brother reminiscing about their grandfather, my great grandfather, **Edward Carter**. This man, I heard, found himself in a spot of trouble — enough of a spot that the law was involved. Intrigued, I tried to get more detail from my mother, but learned only that she thought Edward was a telegrapher who used his job somewhat fraudulently. So the story sat, unfinished for a long time.

Years later, while idly Googling "Edward Carter" and "telegraph," I stumbled upon an early newspaper internet site from New Zealand. Aha! Mum's story was true, but very few facts of the case were given:

In October last, at Retford, England, George Albert Anfield, manager of one of Smith and Sons' bookstalls; **Edward Carter**, chief telegraph at the Great Northern Railway, Retford, and James Canthrey, Great Northern telegraph clerk, King's Cross station, were brought up in custody, charged with conspiracy to defraud, and with obtaining various sums of money during the months of July, August and September from a Lincoln bookmaker by means of fraudulently altered telegrams. After some evidence had been given in support of the charge, the prisoners were remanded in custody.<sup>3</sup>

Although I now had the bare bones of the case, I thought at the time I'd never be able to fill the gaps. How were the telegrams altered? What role did Edward play? What was my great grandfather's sentence? Did he serve time? How did his family deal with the situation?

It was not until 2018 when I accessed the English newspaper collection on *Findmypast* that the rest of the story emerged.<sup>4</sup> Since "Edward Carter" was too common a name to search, I entered "James Canthrey," one of Edward's accomplices, in the search panel and, with a little more digging, the gaps were finally filled.

<sup>3</sup> *Otago Witness*, Putanga 2491, 11 Hakihea 1901, page 46

<sup>4</sup> *Sheffield Daily Telegraph*, November 5, 1901, page 3

A Family Rascal continues on page 16

**A Family Rascal continued from page 15**

Born in Peterborough, Northamptonshire in 1856, Edward was the eldest son of **Edward and Sarah (née Mackley) Carter**. At age fifteen in 1871, he was a telegraph messenger in Peterborough and it seems from various censuses that telegraph operations became his career. By 1901, he was a senior telegrapher at the Great Northern Railway Station in Retford, Nottinghamshire. The scene was now set for the sting. As a telegrapher, Edward received horse race results from around England and these he would send over to the local bookies. Off track betting was perfectly legal in England at the time and still is. Edward simply delayed sending the results he received from a telegrapher friend at Kings Cross, London — delayed them long enough that the third man in the scheme could quickly run to his local bookie and place a bet. The bets, of course, would be rather lucrative since the results were already known.

The three men were accused of cheating horse racing bookmakers. Specifically, they were charged with obtaining divers sums of money from two bookmakers by conspiracy and false pretences. Edward represented himself in court (the other two had legal representation) and he had no funds to raise bail. Following two remands, Edward remained in Lincoln Gaol while awaiting his trial during which he represented himself. (His lack of legal aide is to be expected as he was married with six children at the time.) Edward did try to defend himself explaining that upon receiving the race results from his London cohort “other work had interfered” and that he “had wrongly coded the telegrams”<sup>5</sup> that were to be sent to the General Post Office and thence on to the bookies. Poor Edward — with that defence, he did need a barrister! At the trial it was noted that all three men were assumed to have good characters prior to their arrests, but all three were found equally guilty and sentenced to one year with hard labour.



**Edward and his wife  
Ellen Sarah (née Sillis) about  
1914**

I now know why my great grandfather changed careers from a telegrapher as recorded on the 1891 and 1901 UK censuses to a fish monger in 1911! I look forward to the release of the 1921 UK census to see in what other careers he engaged. I also wonder if Edward’s history prompted my grandfather, **John William Carter**, (1891-1966) to enlist in 1908 in the Coldstream Guards and to later distinguish himself during the First World War, and then to serve for over thirty years as a London Bobby with the Metropolitan Police. Ah, the twists and turns of our families!



**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!

<sup>5</sup> *Yorkshire Telegraph Star*, Evening Edition, December 4, 1901, page 4.

## WEB UPDATES

**ANCESTRY (subscription)**

[Nova Scotia Canada, Nova Scotia, Petitions in Favour of Female Suffrage, 1918](#)

**FAMILY SEARCH (free)**

[France Morbihan Parish and Civil Registration 1536-1894](#)

[UK Essex Non-Conformist Church Records 1613-1971](#)

[UK Gloucestershire Non-Conformist Church Records 1642-1996](#)

[UK Northumberland Non-Conformist Church Records 1613-1920](#)

[USA California Deaths and Burials 1776-2000](#)

[USA Illinois Deaths and Burials 1749-1999](#)

[USA Oklahoma Deaths and Burials 1864-1941](#)

[USA South Carolina State and Territorial Censuses 1829](#)

**FINDMYPAST (subscription)**

[Scotland Dundee & Forfarshire \(Angus\) Births and Baptisms 1562-1855](#)

[Scotland Dundee & Forfarshire \(Angus\) Deaths and Burials 1562-1855](#)

[Scotland Dundee & Forfarshire \(Angus\) Marriages and Banns 1562-1855](#)

[Scotland Lanarkshire School Registers and Records](#)

[Scotland Poor Law Lists](#)

[UK Surrey Baptisms](#)

[UK Surrey Burials](#)

[UK Surrey Marriages](#)

**MISCELLANEOUS (Free) LINKS**

[Canadian Obituary Links on Line](#)

[Ulster Historic Foundation Tithe Appointment Books 1823-37, School grant aid applications, 1832-1889](#)

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

[Irish Genealogy.IE Update to civil records B1864-1919 M 1845-1944, D 1878-1969](#)

[Images of Ireland's Civil Registration Marriage Registers 1845-1864](#)

[17 Best Free Online Scottish Resources](#)

[New Brunswick Vital Statistics BMD's](#)

[Québec Online Resources](#)

[Scotland's Criminal Database](#)

[10 Reasons You Can't Find Scottish Ancestors](#)

[Lost Russian and Ukrainian Family](#)

[Using Google to Translate in Russian and Ukrainian Genealogy](#)

[Browsing early Manitoba Census Records —1831-1870 Manitoba Census Indexes](#)

The links above are **new** links recently spotted by your editor. Remember, though, that sites such as *Ancestry* and *Family Search* are continuously adding to older collections. There is no room here to include all the additions, so remember to periodically re-check the sites you've used before — your editor has frequently found additional information about ancestors whom she began researching years ago.

MEMBERS' MISCELLANY

**EDITOR'S NOTES**

I look forward to our March 28<sup>th</sup> workshop. With two of my first cousins, once removed, children of two of my uncles, coming in from Manitoba and Saskatchewan for the event, I anticipate our mini-family reunion will be full of family stories and perhaps some lost details about our family may surface. Have you had a reunion lately? Perhaps with summer coming, it's time to think about one. If you do, keep those pens handy! Reunions make lovely stories for your family and for *Ancestry*.

As I finished this issue, I noted that we had a rogues and rascals motif in all our three larger stories — perhaps they have given you an idea for our writing contest!

With this issue, we are now back on track after last year's delays. With that in mind, and since we had no contest last year, your editor will be in need of member stories for the summer issue. Deadline for submissions is May 31<sup>st</sup>. Please continue to forward articles, links, and any other ideas for inclusion in *Ancestry*. We depend on your contributions to each issue.

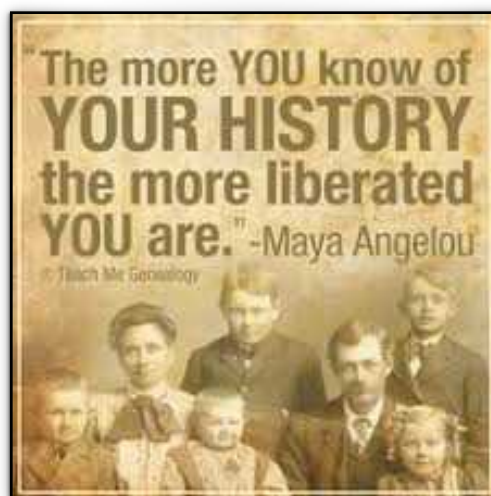
If you submit to *Ancestry* and haven't received an acknowledgement from your editor within a day or two, please resend the article.

As always, a special thanks to **Maureen Wootten** and **Jan Nelson** for their editing assistance!

*Carolyn*

**From Valerie Fort**

Valerie Fort met Penny Bent's challenge of strange names from last month with the name of a child baptized in Hastings County Ontario on September 20<sup>th</sup> 1855: Sarah Jarlina Eda Frances Parthena Wilhelmina Georgina Alberta Augusta Eliza Beauty Aurora Nancy Jane Charlotte Lucy Lucinda Almeda Rosalinge Rachel Ann Diane Victoria Farewell. It's interesting to note that at her marriage in 1883 she is recorded only as Sarah Victoria. It seems the other twenty-one names were a little too much!



from [pinterest.com](https://www.pinterest.com)

**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. Our meeting with speakers begins at 7:00.



**NFHS Steps to our Ancestors Workshop March 28<sup>th</sup>**  
**There's still time [to register!](#)**

**FIRM STEPS ON THE ANCESTRAL TRAIL****9:30-10:30****Brenda L. Smith**

Where do we start? What tools do we need? Where do we look? Are we on the right path?

Brenda L. Smith is a writer and researcher and presenter at genealogy seminars. She is Chair of the Maple Ridge Community Heritage Commission and is a founding member of the Maple Ridge Family History Group.

**CAN YOU PROVE THAT? STANDARDS OF PROOF FOR FAMILY RESEARCH.****10:45-11:45****Brenda L. Smith**

Examine qualities of evidence and apply standards of proof. Develop and practice data interpretation and assessment techniques that help you place each piece of evidence on the continuum of proof.

Brenda L. Smith is a writer and researcher and presenter at genealogy seminars. She is Chair of the Maple Ridge Community Heritage Commission and is a founding member of the Maple Ridge Family History Group.

**IMMIGRATION: DESTINATION CANADA****1:00-2:00****Dave Obee**

This session deals with a wide variety of immigration to Canada sources, including ship passenger lists, border crossing, naturalization and citizenship documents. Many of these sources have been indexed and placed online, however, it pays to know the scope and limitation of those internet resources and how to obtain information from other sources.

Dave Obee is a journalist and genealogical researcher who has written a dozen books and given more than six hundred presentations at conferences and seminars in Canada, the United States and Australia since 1997. He has worked as a journalist in British Columbia and Alberta since 1972.

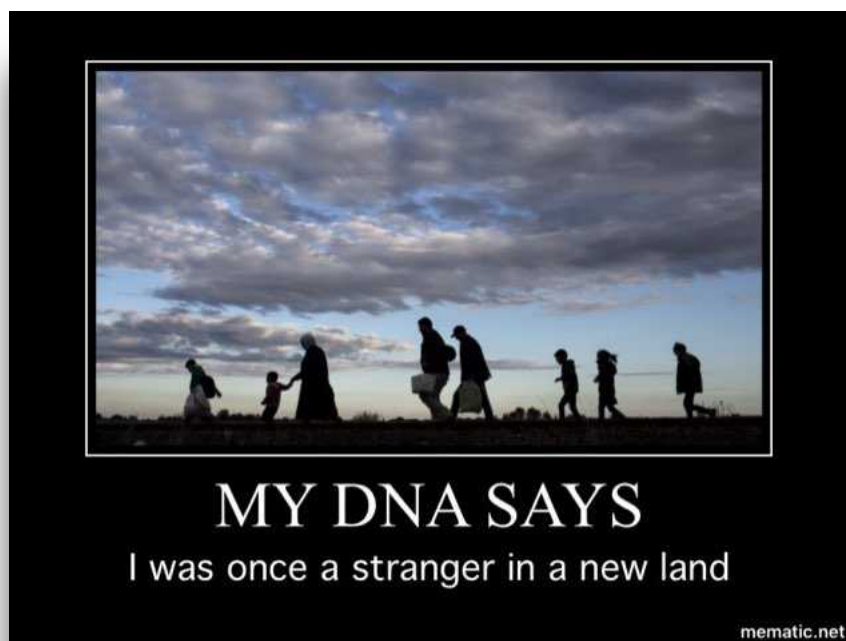
**GETTING STARTED WITH DNA TESTING****2:15-3:15****Marie Palmer**

Find out about the different types of DNA testing that are available and which might be best for your needs. This session will cover ethnicity estimates, privacy issues, and how to use your results and matches to help break through brick walls in your family tree.

Marie Palmer is a professional genealogist and educator, who teaches a variety of genealogy courses. She holds a certificate in genealogical research from Boston University, currently co-chairs her Pro-Gen study group, and has completed the Advanced DNA course at the Genealogical Research Institute of Pittsburgh.

**NOW LET'S PUT IT ALL INTO PRACTICE!****3:30-4:15**

At this session, you will be part of a small group discussion on what you already know about your ancestors, what you would like to know, and what your first steps will be. An experienced genealogist will be at the table to provide feedback and advice to help you to avoid any pitfalls. By the end of the session, you will feel comfortable in what you need to do to follow in the steps to your ancestors.



Can you help out with a small job at the March 28<sup>th</sup> workshop? Volunteers are needed. Please contact Sharon Davison or a member of the executive if you can assist.

### Nanaimo Family History Society Executive 2020

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