



# AncestryTree

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

## President's Message

By Sharon Davison

I hope everyone had a wonderful summer! The run of good weather was amazing.

I will just review a few of the decisions that your executive has made in recent weeks and which have been outlined in recent emails. It was a difficult decision to postpone meeting in-person at our monthly meetings, but we feel with the surge in COVID cases resulting from the Delta variant, that we needed to keep our members safe at this time. As a result, all our fall meetings will be held via Zoom and we will reconsider meeting in January if possible.

An email detailing the many Mini How-To's that have been arranged has also been sent to members. Our thanks to Terry Hartley for putting together a great line-up of speakers and topics, and a huge thank you to those who have agreed to facilitate these sessions. Please note that we are asking members to pre-register for any sessions via the links provided in the email or on page two of this issue. This is extremely easy to do; however, if you have a problem, please send an email to us and we will assist you.

President's Message continues on page 2

"We all grow up with the weight of history on us. Our ancestors dwell in the attics of our brains as they do in the spiralling chains hidden in every cell of our bodies."

Shirley Abbott, American Author  
from *Womenfolks Growing up Down South*

## What's Inside

President's Message	Pages 1-2
Genealogy News Briefs	Pages 3-8
The Summer Home	Pages 9-10
Clogs to Clogs	Pages 11-14
Ryerson, My Home Town	Pages 15-16
Faces of Our Ancestors	Page 18
King's Beekeeper	Pages 19-23
Writing Contest 2021	Page 24
Web Links	Page 25
Future Guest Speakers	Page 26
Members' Miscellany	Page 27
Editor's Notes	Page 28
Contact Information	Page 29

## Save the Date!

Nanaimo FHS Oct Meeting	Oct 18
Nanaimo FHS Nov Meeting	Nov 15

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

Plans for our genealogy seminar, which was originally slated for March of 2020, are still on hold due to COVID, but our hope is to reschedule it for some time possibly in late spring 2022. An email will be sent shortly to registered participants asking if they would like reimbursement of their registration fee at this time or wish to leave the fee with us until a decision is made.

The Wellington Cemetery Project has been put on hold once again and we will attempt to get this project up and running in the spring if possible. A written proposal has been sent to the City of Nanaimo outlining the scope of the work we would like to do and we are awaiting final approval.

Just a reminder that the LDS library is open once again and you can use the facility on Tuesdays, from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Also, a reminder that there are two large bookcases at the LDS library containing many NFHS books that you can borrow. If anyone has books outstanding from the library before the COVID closure, we would ask that they be returned. There are more books to be added to the collection in the coming months and the online library catalogue will be updated with the additional titles.

Maureen Wootten has arranged for great speakers again this year and I look forward to seeing everyone on Zoom! *Sharon*

All of the Zoom sessions will be held on Thursdays at 6:30 p.m. unless otherwise noted. **Pre-registration is required so please click on the blue links** below each session to register. Once your registration has been approved, click to add the session to your calendar. You will then be able to find the Zoom link in your calendar.

**VIRTUAL  
WORKSHOPS**

**Thursday Sept. 30th - Genealogy Software, Carolyn Kemp and Lori Heshka**

This short session will look at the advantages and disadvantages of working on and storing your family trees online at sites such as *Ancestry*, *Family Search* and other sites or solely on your own computer with genealogy software.

**Wednesday Oct 6th- Writer's Group, Helen Webster & Susan Garcia**

Join Susan and Helen for three mini-sessions on Basic Revision/Editing Skills. Participants will be introduced to six revision skills and they will be given an opportunity to put these skills into practice during each of the three sessions (Oct, Nov, Dec).

**Thursday, Oct 14th - Genealogy Pitfalls & Successes, Sharon Davison**

"Don't Believe all the Stories You Hear." Join Sharon Davison as she reveals how she separated fact from fiction on family stories passed down.

**Thursday, Oct 21st - DNA Painter Tools, Terry Hartley**

Terry will introduce you to Ancestral Trees at DNA Painter where you can test your tree completeness, track genetic ancestors, and visualize customized dimensions of your family tree.

**Thursday, Oct 28th - 1939 England & Wales Register, Bronwyn Frazer**

**[repeat of Spring session by request]**

Consider exploring the England & Wales Register as a 'living' document versus the static snap-shot that is the census. Understand why and how the register was used in Britain from 1939 to 1952 to get the most information out of it.

**Wednesday, Nov 3rd - Writer's Group, Helen Webster & Susan Garcia**

Join Susan and Helen who will assist you as you practice your revision and editing skills. Continued from Oct. 6th.

**Thursday, Nov 18th - DNA Painter Tools, Terry Hartley**

Let's learn about the Shared cM Project at DNA Painter. It's your "go-to" interactive tool for identifying the most likely relationship between you and your mystery matches.

**Thursday, Nov 25th - Genealogy Pitfalls & Successes, Donna MacIver**

"Searching Barbados" Follow Donna MacIver's genealogical journey to Barbados and learn how she found her ancestors using both traditional and genetic genealogy.

**Wednesday, Dec 1st - Writer's Group, Helen Webster & Susan Garcia**

Join Susan and Helen who will assist you as you practice your revision and editing skills. Continued from November 3rd.

## GENEALOGY NEWS IN BRIEF

## FROM LIBRARY AND ARCHIVES CANADA

- [Military CEF Infantry Battalions](#). LAC has a very large file relating to Units of the Canadian Expeditionary Force during WWI. Background information on specific battalions is available.
- [Immigration before 1865 at LAC](#) (part 3)
- [Immigration before 1865 at LAC](#) (part 4)
- **Biographies and other historical content on LAC's website—a statement from the Librarian and Archivist of Canada, Leslie Weir, Librarian and Archivist of Canada:**

"Much of the content on the Library and Archives Canada (LAC) website reflects the time at which it was written. We understand that much of this outdated historical content no longer reflects today's context and may be offensive to many. The senior management and staff of LAC have been aware for some time about issues related to outdated historical content on the LAC website, and they are firm in their commitment to address these issues. Last fall, we began an initiative to review and remove or revise content in consultation with subject-matter experts and advisors, including a team of Indigenous staff members.

As this is an enormous undertaking with over 7,000 web pages and more than 100 applications involved, LAC would like to thank its users and indeed all Canadians for their patience as our relatively small staff works to create an online home for our national documentary heritage that both this institution and the country can be proud of. This multi-year, multi-phase project is being carried out by LAC's in-house professionals, in consultation with a diverse range of external stakeholders including First Nations, Inuit and Métis Nation community members. LAC has also dedicated funds for additional work on culturally sensitive language on its website. With respect to the Canadian Confederation and Prime Minister biography pages, this content was immediately placed in an archived section of the LAC website as soon as issues were raised in October 2020. Each page was clearly marked with a disclaimer at the top indicating that it did not correspond to Government of Canada standards and that it included information and content that had not been updated."

**ANCESTRY EXTENDS FREE HOME ACCESS TO LIBRARY EDITION**

Remote access to Ancestry's Library edition has been extended for library card holders until December 31, 2021.

**BRITISH HISTORY ONLINE EXTENDS FREE ACCESS**

[BHO is still providing free access](#) to its English, Scottish, Welsh, and Irish resources which contain printed primary and secondary sources — a great site to get a feel for the time and places your ancestors may have lived. Many documents are easily downloadable.

**FINDMYPAST FREE RECORDS**

Although *Findmypast* is a subscription service, there are many records including newspaper pages, parish registers and more for those of you without a subscription. The site has a [list of available free records](#).

GENEALOGY NEWS IN BRIEF continues on page 4

## GENEALOGY NEWS IN BRIEF continued from page 3

**BRITISH WILLS TO 1858 STILL FREELY DOWNLOADABLE**

Due to Covid, the UK's National Archives is continuing free downloads of digital records from their website. Of particular note are wills to 1858. If you are researching in Britain, wills are exceptionally valuable resources. Wills prior to 1858 are available at the National Archives, which has a good [question and answer page regarding downloading digital records](#). [Wills and probate records from 1858 to 1996](#) can also be ordered online, but these have a download fee of £3.50.

**NATIONAL ARCHIVES OF IRELAND**

A vast collection of Irish records including petitions from people wishing to emigrate to Canada, Australia and the United States is available on Ireland's National Archives website. A [blog](#) by Alberta genealogist Patricia Greber discusses this great collection. "The records of the Chief Secretary of Ireland's Office constitute one of the most valuable collections of original source material for research into Ireland in the nineteenth and early twentieth century. This project by the National Archives, Ireland aims to catalogue to international archival standards, the registered papers of the Chief Secretary's Office from 1818 to 1852, and to offer these catalogues online in order to facilitate public access. The registered papers mainly comprise incoming correspondence of the Chief Secretary's Office 'registered' by a clerk in that office. The correspondence consists of letters, petitions, memorials, memoranda, affidavits, recommendations, accounts, reports, and returns." The [catalogue](#) is easily searchable.

The *Legal Genealogist*

**A BIG CHANGE AT ANCESTRY AND A LEGAL CAUTION**

In [her August 4, 2021 blog](#), *The Legal Genealogist*, Judy G. Russell, details the implications of Ancestry's recent terms amendment. Judy notes "Ancestry has just updated its terms of service and privacy statement — again — and this time there **is** a change buried deep in its language that **is** of significance to users. As of the change, effective [August 3, 2021], a user can't change his or her mind about any content uploaded to Ancestry: as of yesterday, you've just gifted the rights to that content to Ancestry, forever." Judy goes on to warn, "In plain English, the rights to use that family photo you posted, that story you wrote and uploaded, that snippet of family history you've shared basically now belong to Ancestry. You can continue to use it elsewhere if you wish, since you're still technically the owner, but you can't do anything to stop Ancestry from using it any way it wants, forever."

On August 6, Ancestry modified its August 4<sup>th</sup> statement, but users of the site should continue to follow the [discussion on Judy's blog](#).

**GAZETTEER FEATURE ADDED TO CENUS RETURNS ON FINDMYPAST**

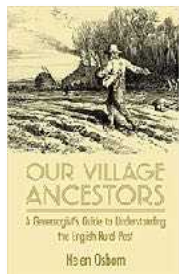
Findmypast (subscription site) has a new feature that connects an individual on the 1891, 1901, and 1911 census with the site's [Comprehensive England and Wales 1895 Gazetteer](#).

**NEW ZEALAND ANCESTRY?**

A new site, [New Zealand Family History Records](#) is now available and contains a remarkable collection of data collected and coordinated by Diane Wilson over the last forty years.

GENEALOGY NEWS IN BRIEF continues on page 5

## GENEALOGY NEWS IN BRIEF continued from page 4

**ENGLISH VILLAGE ANCESTORS OR AG LABOURERS IN YOUR FAMILY?**

“This book will be a source of help for anybody researching their farming and countryside ancestors in England. Looked at through the lens of rural life, and specifically the English village, it provides advice and inspiration on placing rural people into their geographic and historical context. It covers the time from the start of parish registers in the Tudor world, when most of our ancestors worked on the land, until the beginning of the twentieth century when many had moved to the towns. Helen Osborn demonstrates how genealogical records are integral to their place of origin and can be illuminated using local newspaper reports, and the work of local historians. She explores the stories

of people who lived in the countryside in the past, as told by the documents that record them, both rich and poor. The book will be particularly valuable to anyone who is looking for a deeper understanding of their family history, rather than simply collecting names on the tree.” (Amazon Canada) A detailed review can be found in a [blog from Jane Roberts](#). *Ancestry Editor's Note: This is a very readable and helpful book. I've made good use of it already!*

**FULL TEXT SEARCHES AVAILABLE FROM QUÉBEC ARCHIVES**

Québec newspapers (347 in French, 60 in English and 1 in each of Inuit, Greek, Italian and Russian) are now available from [BanQ](#). Genealogist Gail Dever in her July 16, 2021 blog provides [detailed instructions on how to search the historical newspaper archives](#). If you do not read French, Gail's blog translates all the instructions you will need. If you find an article written in French, don't forget that Google Translate or another on line translation program can assist you.

**OLD PARISH RECORDS FROM SCOTLAND**

FindmyPast has recently released 10.7 Million records from old Scottish parish records — this is now, apparently, [the largest collection of family history records](#). The records date from 1561 to 2017. A [YouTube video on the collection is also available](#).

BC ARCHIVES  
COLLECTION SEARCH**BC ARCHIVES TO INCLUDE MORE REGISTRATIONS IN SEPTEMBER**

BC Archives announced that Marriage registrations from 1945 and death registrations from 2000 will be released this September. Until 2024, Birth registrations remain available from 1854 to 1903.

**ALBERTA HOMESTEAD RECORDS**

A detailed blog from [Finding Your Canadian Story](#) about accessing Alberta Homestead records for free on *Internet Archive* is available. These homestead records can also be found at *Ancestry* if you have access to its records.

**IRELAND COUNTY CAVAN 1821 SURVIVING CENSUS**

If you have [County Cavan ancestors](#), you may wish to check the reindexed census records. *IrishGenealogy* has “rechecked numerous indexation and transcription errors ... content is now searchable by filter and predictive text.”

GENEALOGY NEWS IN BRIEF continues on page 6

## GENEALOGY NEWS IN BRIEF continued from page 5



## FAMILIES OF CANADIAN ARMY SOLDIERS MISSING IN KOREA SOUGHT

[Genealogist Gail Dever in her July 4, 2021 blog](#) notes:

The Republic of Korea's Ministry of National Defense Agency for Killed in Action Recovery and Identification, known as MAKRI, has been working toward locating and recovering the remains of soldiers from the Demilitarized Zone where Canadian soldiers are reported to have gone missing. Working in close relationship with MAKRI, the CAF is looking for relatives to help identify through genealogical, familial and/or historical research if any discovered remains are those of the missing Canadian Army soldiers.

In order to bring closure to the families of the 16 Canadian soldiers who went missing during the Korean war, the CAF is asking anyone who may know someone whose family member was declared Missing in Action between 1950 and 1953 to inform them of the Casualty Identification Program and encourage them to fill out the form found on the [program's website](#). Personal information will be protected in accordance with the *Privacy Act*. There are fifteen missing soldiers:

- **Private Marc André Bolduc** – 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion, Royal 22e Regiment Service No. E-800002 / Date of birth: 02-Oct-30 / Missing Presumed Dead: 24-Nov-51
- **Private Donald Frederick Bradshaw** – 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion, Princess Patricia's Canadian Light Infantry Service No. SH-61876 / Date of birth: 17-Jul-29 / Missing Presumed Dead: 23-Oct-51
- **Private John Nicholas Burak** – 3<sup>rd</sup> Battalion, Royal Canadian Regiment Service No. SK-5520 / Date of birth: 11-Oct-26 / Missing Presumed Dead: 03-May-53
- **Private Gerard Distefano** – 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion, Royal 22e Regiment Service No. D-801423 / Date of birth: 22-May-30 / Missing Presumed Dead: 23-Oct-51
- **Lance Corporal John Howard Fairman** – 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion, Royal Canadian Regiment Service No. SM-9462 / Date of birth: 21-Mar-32 / Missing Presumed Dead: 13-Oct-52
- **Private Robert Gendron** – 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion, Royal Canadian Regiment Service No. SE-103719 / Date of birth: 15-Jul-25 / Missing Presumed Dead: 06-May-52
- **Corporal Donald Perkins Hastings** – 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion, Princess Patricia's Canadian Light Infantry Service No. SK-12663 / Date of birth: 20-Mar-29 / Missing Presumed Dead: 15-Oct-52
- **Lance Corporal William Edward Johnstone** – 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion, Princess Patricia's Canadian Light Infantry Service No. SF-10453 / Date of birth: 14-Nov-29 / Missing Presumed Dead: 15-Oct-52
- **Private John Paul Keating** – 3<sup>rd</sup> Battalion, Royal Canadian Regiment Service No. SB-13903 / Date of birth: 15-Aug-30 / Missing Presumed Dead: 03-May-53
- **Private Joseph Edward Kilpatrick** – 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion, Royal Canadian Regiment Service No. SD-4685 / Date of birth: 04-Jul-33 / Missing Presumed Dead: 13-Oct-52
- **Acting Corporal Joseph Gaston Maurice Ladouceur** – 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion, Royal 22e Regiment Service No. SD-4552 / Date of birth: 08-Aug-30 / Missing Presumed Dead: 06-Sep-52
- **Private William Albert Stone** – 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion, Royal Canadian Regiment Service No. SF-22255 / Date of birth: 06-May-26 / Missing Presumed Dead: 23-May-52
- **Corporal John Richard Toole** – 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion, Princess Patricia's Canadian Light Infantry Service No. B-801850 / Date of birth: 30-Mar-29 / Missing Presumed Dead: 11-Oct-51
- **Private Joseph Georges Tremblay** – 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion, Royal 22e Regiment Service No. SD-4621 / Date of birth: 07-Dec-32 / Missing Presumed Dead: 23-Jun-52
- **Sergeant Gordon William Morrison Walker** – 3<sup>rd</sup> Battalion, Royal Canadian Regiment Service No. SD-800063 / Date of birth: 09-Apr-26 / Missing Presumed Dead: 12-Jul-53

DND officially established the Casualty Identification Program in 2007 to respond to an increasing number of discovered human remains of the more than 27,000 Canadian war dead with no known grave from the First World War, the Second World War, and the UN Operations in Korea.

GENEALOGY NEWS IN BRIEF continues on page 7



GENEALOGY NEWS IN BRIEF continued from page 6



### NEW ZEALAND WAR GRAVES PROJECT

A new site, [New Zealand War Graves Trust](https://www.newzealandwargraves.org/), contains photographs, research and background information. "The New Zealand War Graves Trust welcomes and appreciates contributions from visitors to our website. Many interesting stories have been forwarded to the Trust, casting light on the background of the New

Zealanders whose war graves are captured here. In particular, family members have been generous in sharing memories, information or photos. Each contribution is checked and prepared for publication on our website. But this is voluntary work and there is a queue of stories waiting to be posted on the website. We ask for your patience and understanding if material you have offered is yet to appear. In the end, the website will be richer for all your contributions. This website is a work in progress. Photographs and information will continue to be uploaded to the website over the next two years. Already there are over 40,000 photographs on the website. More will be added as they come to hand."

### FINDMYPAST DELETES CANADIAN NEWSPAPERS WHILE ADDING MORE THAN A MILLION UK PAGES

Sad news for those of you researching Manitoba, Saskatchewan, Alberta and Newfoundland ancestors — *Findmypast* has removed these newspapers. Apparently these newspapers were hosted by another source whose agreement with *Findmypast* has ended. These papers will be missed as so much of small town news appeared in them. Some Ontario papers remain in the collection and can be found in the British category on the site.

The good news from *Findmypast* is that the company has renewed its partnership with the British Library: "By providing free access to key areas of this unparalleled resource, *Findmypast* and the British Library are offering the public unique opportunities to uncover the stories behind historical events both great and small, as they happened; transforming their understanding of both the past and the present." There are currently 158 free newspapers on offer, dating from 1720 to 1880 and covering a diverse array of histories, locations, and topics. The newspapers selected were digitized as part of four special British Library projects."

### MAPPING OF ENGLISH GRAVEYARDS

Graves in 19,000 English graveyards are to be mapped for on line access. This is a seven year project launched by the Church of England that will "eventually list every grave memorial in every churchyard in England." A Guardian article suggests that it "will soon be possible to visit any Anglican burial ground in the country and see in real time the location of burial plots. For those researching at distance in the UK or overseas, the digital records will [provide] detailed information from churchyards " *The Guardian International Edition 2021*.



### NEW BRUNSWICK PROPERTY HISTORY

The Provincial Archives of New Brunswick has produced [a guide to assist researching New Brunswick property](#). The archives says, "We can't promise to identify the reported ghost in the attic, but if you are looking to research the history of your house or property this new guide will provide a starting point. This guide is intended to be the starting point for your research by providing information on resources and tips for navigating the research process."

GENEALOGY NEWS IN BRIEF continues on page 8

## GENEALOGY NEWS IN BRIEF continued from page 7

## IRELAND COUNTY CAVAN 1821 SURVIVING CENSUS

If you have [County Cavan ancestors](#), you may wish to check the reindexed census records. *IrishGenealogy* has "recorrected numerous indexation and transcription errors ... content is now searchable by filter and predictive text."

## NOVA SCOTIA CORONERS' INQUISITIONS 1755-1928

["Finding Your Canadian Story" blog](#) (Sept. 4, 2021) details how to access Nova Scotian coroners' Inquisitions that are available through *FamilySearch* for free. The blog site, through excellent visual, will take you step by step through how to access the inquisition details. Well worth a look if you have Nova Scotia ancestors.

## PhotoTree.com IDENTIFYING PHOTOGRAPH TYPES

If you're trying to date 19<sup>th</sup> century photographs, begin by identifying the type of photograph. [PhotoTree](#) has a brief guide that includes detailed analysis and sample photographs.

## RESEARCH STRATEGIES FOR OCCUPATIONS

When you're researching an ancestor, locating records about his or her employment can be a big help. Thomas MacEntee has built [a handy check list for researching occupations](#).



The Nanaimo LDS library is now open from 10:00 to 2:00 on Tuesdays. Most of our NFHS collection is at this location and available for borrowing. The library is located at 2424 Glen Eagle Crescent.



## CAN'T FIND A UK WILL?

If you're having difficulty finding a pre-1858 will at the [UK National archives](#), remember that names can be spelled in different ways. One trick is to search by place, especially if you know your ancestor lived in a small town or village. Still no luck? Try searching by county — in both cases leave the name of the ancestor blank. This will also help you determine different ways your ancestor's name may have been spelled.

**Everyone has a story and every story matters!**



## The Summer Home

by NFHS Member Gregory Skala

Early in the winter of 1938, my uncle and aunt bought the property which was to become known as “The Summer Home” to the extended family. The property consisted of two adjacent parcels of land on the bank of the Fox River in an unincorporated part of McHenry County, Illinois, USA. On one parcel stood a fisherman’s cabin, without electricity, or a telephone, or an indoor toilet. Food was kept cool in an icebox and a root cellar. A hand pump rose through the floor, requiring priming before use. A wood stove provided heat, and candles provided light.

My uncle, a gifted carpenter and builder, added a second storey with bedrooms atop the original cabin, improved the downstairs, established a proper bathroom and sinks, and reconnected the hand pump out in the yard where it still tapped into the well and continued to be useful for decades. His brothers helped him, and the improvements were ready by the following summer. Electricity became available in about a year’s time. The map below shows the course of the Fox River through McHenry County, Illinois.<sup>1</sup>



Although the nuclear family in which I was raised never shared in the ownership of this property, what makes it so memorable to me is that my uncle and aunt were generous and gracious about making friends and members of the extended family welcome at The Summer Home. I typically spent a month or more there during each summer of my youth, until I left Illinois after my marriage in 1970. My uncle and aunt sometimes lived there for extended periods of time, but mostly it was their recreational property and second home. They have since passed on, but, by my reckoning, four generations have blessed them and loved their property over eighty years.

What recreation indeed, did my sister, my cousins<sup>2</sup>, and I enjoy at The Summer Home! We swam in the river; boated and water-skied; ate berries, apples, plums, and pears from a small orchard; thrilled as stargazers during dark rural nights; conducted elaborate treasure hunts complete with hidden clues and store-bought or homemade prizes; helped to grow and eat fresh vegetables; and played on our version of a mini-golf course employing willow wands and ping-pong balls. Perhaps my greatest delight was when my uncle let us ride on the back of his makeshift tractor, which he had assembled from parts of several

vehicles. It could be started with a Model T’s crank and did not have brakes. He used it to slowly drag an old rowboat over the reeds that annually threatened to overwhelm his stretch of sandy waterfront. When finished, he

<sup>1</sup>Used as permitted, thanks to [GNU Free Documentation License](#) via Wikimedia Commons, altered only by being made smaller than the download and changed to a black-and-white image.

<sup>2</sup> All the details about the purchase of and improvements on the property were told to me during telephone conversations I had with a first cousin and a second cousin (who both asked to remain unnamed) on December 17, 2020.

**THE SUMMER HOME** continued from page 9

would aim the tractor, with kids still hanging on, at the open doorway of the shed he had built for it. He knew just when to cut the ignition so that the tractor would roll gently into its shed without banging out the back wall! The three photographs below provide a sense of past times at this beloved property. The first shows my mother, Olga, ready for a bicycle ride in the late 1930s or early 1940s. Next, a 1950 photograph shows me (Gregory) in my mother's arms, with my father Laddie and my sister Nancy alongside. The third photo is of my mother in the 1950s, also in front of The Summer Home.



**NEWS FROM NANAIMO HISTORICAL SOCIETY**

(note– this is not our Nanaimo Family History Society)

**LOOKING LOCAL**

from Susan Garcia



Nanaimo Historical Society (Nanaimo area history) has changed its meeting time on the second Thursday of the month to **7:00 pm**. September's meeting was via Zoom and October and November formats will be decided with the presenters, but will be available to view on YouTube following the meeting. **October 14** has speaker Greg Fraser author of *Joseph William McKay: A Metis Leader in Colonial British Columbia*. **November 18** (3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday due to Remembrance Day holiday) has Brian McFadden of the Vancouver Island Military Museum speaking about WWII "Dam Busters." No December meeting and in **January 13, 2022** members "Share and Show" personal items of historical interest. Please contact [nanaimohistoricalsociety@shaw.ca](mailto:nanaimohistoricalsociety@shaw.ca) to join or attend as a guest.

**NFHS CO-OP FUND RAISER**

Don't forget to use our membership number at a Mid Island CO-OP! In 2020, members helped to raise \$107.23 for NFHS. Well



## CLOGS TO CLOGS

by NFHS Member Penny Bent

The familiar expression, "Rags to rags in three generations" has a Lancashire equivalent: "Clogs to clogs in three generations". This is the story of the Gortons of Gorton Hall and Salford and it is a Lancashire clog story.

It was November 9, 1715, and the invading rebel Scottish Army was pushing south through Lancashire, heading towards Preston.

**John Gorton**, a miller's servant, nicknamed John-o-potbo, was delivering flour just outside Preston. He was called "John-o-potbo" because he was always begging for a bit of extra flour for a "bo" when doing his rounds. A "bo" was a pot-ball, a large dumpling.<sup>3</sup>

On his route, John saw a man acting suspiciously, hiding a bundle in some turf. He guessed that he was hiding valuables, before the army arrived. Troops entered Preston that night. There was shooting, and houses were set on fire. The town was then surrounded by the British army, and the Scots surrendered on Monday, November 14. When it was all over, the owner of the treasure, because that was what it was, found nothing where he left it, and John Gorton was gone. John in later years when he was very rich and successful said only that in his youth he was "very lucky."

Gorton is a locational name. It is taken from the Old English words "gor" and "tun" meaning "dirty farmstead".<sup>4</sup> There has been a village of Gorton, about four miles southeast of Manchester, for about a thousand years. Traditionally, the name Gorton would have been the name of the lord of the manor, though there does not seem to have ever been a lord of the manor here, certainly never one called Gorton. The major landowners lived elsewhere. The Booths and Byrons held the land for many years, so Gorton was a name mainly used to describe origins. People who left their birthplace were "of Gorton" and when it was necessary to have a head tax in the 1500's, residents may have just assumed the parish name. In 1655 there were no Gortons paying taxes in Gorton.

Some of the first Gortons found in church records were as far away as Kirkburton, Yorkshire (1571) and London (1563), so the name had travelled. This can explain why a miller's assistant named John Gorton was living and working near Preston when he became the lead player in the story.

John has alleged to have been born in The Fylde, a general area west of Preston, Lancashire, around 1690, so he was about twenty-five when the story starts in 1715. The name was so common I can not be sure of his birth.

Arriving in Manchester as a man of means, John invested his money in a warehouse on Market Street. Manchester was in the early stages of developing into a port city of importance. John had a very good head for business, made more money very quickly, and began to buy up the land in his namesake village. In 1722 he bought Gorton Hall and estate, (where he lived until his death at 80), and later a significant part of Gorton township, including Chapel Farm, Towncroft Farm, Green Stile Farm and Bridge House Farm. This property used to belong to the Byrons, who were in conflict with another actual local Gorton family, (no relation), so local history gets confusing, and many records mix up the Gorton families.

---

<sup>3</sup> Gorton Characters/Miscellanea Genealogica et Heraldica Vol.1 p.321

<sup>4</sup> <http://www.Lancetowns.co.uk/manchestertowns.htm>

**CLOGS TO CLOGS continued from page 11**

Around the time he arrived in Manchester John married a woman named Mary<sup>5</sup> John was soon a respected landowner. On May 30, 1732, we read "John Gorton, of Manchester, Gent, appointed one of the trustees of the Gorton parsonage estate." He has attained the status of a gentleman. When his son John became a successful businessman in Salford, a few miles away, they became "Old John" and "Young John."

Between 1735 and 1757 Old John was a frequent juror in the Manchester Courts Leets. A brief biographical item in the *Miscellanea Genealogica et Heraldica* v.1 1874 reads: "John Gorton of Manchester, one of the "Commissioners" for rebuilding Gorton Chapel. Though his place of business was in Manchester he resided at Gorton Hall. Either he or his son is mentioned in 1765; and he died before April 1774, leaving three sons John, Robert and Thomas. Gorton Old Chapel, dedicated to St. James, was a small half-timbered structure with overhanging eaves, and very picturesque. The entrance door was very narrow, and some of the family members of 'Old John's' family being dressed in tip-top fashion had to hold their hoops on one side when obtaining ingress within the sacred edifice."

The *Miscellanea* also repeats an item from the local newspaper, *Harraps Manchester Mercury* of March 7, 1770: "Mr. John Gorton of Gorton, formerly an eminent check manufacturer, a gentleman universally esteemed for his social virtues, died a few days since."



**Gorton Hall**

Of his three sons, John, Robert, and Thomas, Thomas is the most like his father and furthered the family fortune the most.

Robert is mostly unknown, and died before his brother Thomas. Young John, who did not marry, lived at Gorton Hall as the country squire. By the time his father died at eighty, most people had forgotten or never knew the family origins, and the Gortons of Gorton Hall, as far as most of the world was concerned, had been there since the Domesday Books.

*Burke's Landed Gentry* has a totally confused genealogy mixing several families and is inaccurate. Young John was, according to gossip, often seen riding into Manchester "with the bare-legged son of one of his tenants seated behind him. On arriving the boy served as "messenger and footboy." John was very rich, enjoying an annual income of 2,200 pounds from rents and property. On his death, he bequeathed Gorton Hall to his nephew, Richard, brother Thomas' son.

Robert, the second son, married Miss Margaret Wilkinson, of Manchester, in 1753 according to a local history, or Miss Davidson, according to the *Miscellanea*:"1755. Jan 2. Robert Gorton and Mary Davidson both of Salford, mar. cc. per licence. The local newspaper of the 7<sup>th</sup> inst. thus chronicles the event:"On Thursday last was married here Mr. Robert Gorton of Salford, to Miss Davidson of the same place an agreeable young lady with a handsome fortune." (This sounds like a sentence from *Pride and Prejudice*!)

<sup>5</sup> Many trees marry him to Mary Clegg (6 Feb. 1714), in Manchester

**CLOGS TO CLOGS** continued from page 12

With John as the country squire in residence at the Hall, most of the extended family lived at Salford, then about one mile West of Manchester. Salford is now described as "one minute from the centre of town". In the 1700's it was still country, but rapidly became in the early 1800's the worst industrial slum in England and was studied by Marx and Engels.

The third son, Thomas, was larger than life. He was already rich, backed with his father's money, he had become a Salford merchant, and then he acquired more property on the death of his father. He was already a Boroughreeve of Salford and he inherited the positions of the chapel-warden at St. Thomas' Gorton and trustee to the parsonage estate. He is also described as a check manufacturer or smallwares manufacturer. He was a supporter of the Booth Charities (in their Archive), as Thomas Gorton of Salford, Merchant.

In 1749 Thomas was one of the local businessmen who contributed ten pounds to putting down the Manchester food riots. He was charitable but he stood for law and order. Thomas married twice. His first wife was **Ann Graeme**, who died in 1761 leaving four children, three daughters and the son, Richard (born in 1753), destined to be his Uncle John's heir.

There is a story that Thomas gave his son Richard twenty thousand pounds when he came of age in 1774. He is supposed to have said "Now Dick, thour't Gorton's Gorton."<sup>6</sup> I have checked on the internet and the conversion rate for 20,000 pounds in 1774 to be fair is valued as purchasing power. The purchasing power of that amount in today's money is \$17,451,060, which can be shown as 29,197 horses or 42,826 cows.<sup>7</sup> I find this unhelpful because it is hard to envision nearly 43,000 cows!

In 1779, aged twenty-six, rich Richard married **Elizabeth Atkinson**, and the witnesses were Margaret Gorton, Thomas Gorton and John Massey. They had twelve children, ten of whom lived.

Thomas' second wife, **Mary Furnival** is described as "of Sandbach." They married in the early 1760's. She had three daughters and a boy, Thomas, who died as an infant.



**DISASTER ONE**

At some point, while Young John was still in charge, the Market Street warehouse, trading as John Gorton & Co., was seriously damaged by fire, resulting in uninsured losses of thirty thousand pounds. The family recovered from this blow, but it was a huge loss. Thomas died in 1779, before his older brother John, who lived ten more years.

It was Thomas's son Richard, Young John's nephew, who inherited Gorton Hall and estate, and Richard then became Gorton of Salford and Gorton Hall. With his inheritance from both his father and uncle, and his own business successes, Richard was rich. He continued to live in Salford. He and his wife, Elizabeth Atkinson, had



<sup>6</sup> Gorton Characters (above)

<sup>7</sup> [NationalArchives.gov.uk/currencyconverter](https://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/currencyconverter)



**CLOGS TO CLOGS** continued from page 13

twelve children, ten surviving. Richard had many businesses and in 1804 he spent an enormous amount on a new silk business in Cupnall, near Nottingham.

**DISASTER TWO** Shortly after the silk company opened, live coals fell from a coal-box onto the stair timbers and destroyed the premises and contents. It was a financial disaster. Added to the previous fire, Richard's family was bankrupt. In August 1805, there was an auction at the premises of Mr. Edward Stanney of all land and property. The Gorton Hall estate was bought by Mr. Samuel Barker. It was demolished in the late 1800's and rebuilt by the next owner. All that is left now is the gatehouse to the entry of the property.

Thomas' daughter Sarah, born in 1768, married in 1792 **William Bent**, the founder of Bent's Brewery and a wealthy man, and moved to Newcastle under Lyme. The Bent family were obviously pleased to add Sarah's mother's maiden name Furnival to their lineage, as the name has an ancient and illustrious background. The name reappears in the Bent family tree several times, ending with Dale Bent's great-uncle and godfather, Harold Furnival Bent.

Another of Thomas' daughters, Margaret, will circle around into the Bent family tree. She marries well, to William Holden of Baildon House near Leeds: "Mr. Holden of \_\_\_\_ Yorkshire married CC to Miss Gorton, dau. to Mr. Thomas Gorton, smallware manufacturer of this town."<sup>8</sup> The Holden's granddaughter Margaret marries William Bent and Sarah Gorton's son James.

I am not following the lives of the rest of the family, because we veer off from the Gortons to the main branch of the Bent tree when Sarah marries William Bent. However, I find this story a fascinating object lesson in upward mobility and the ease with which people could move socially in this era. There is a lot written about Manchester, Gorton, and Salford at this time. The factories are just starting, the industrial revolution is beginning, and in the mid seventeen hundreds the population is tiny. The Stuart rebellion flares up again in 1745, and again soldiers are marching through the country.

This is the beginning of quick fortunes, machines, and factories. In the Bent family, they will grow a beer empire and one of William's sons will be knighted by Queen Victoria. The Gortons quietly fade away, and resurface in America.

**NEED HELP VISUALIZING YOUR RESEARCH?**

Our society has 12 generation blank pedigree charts for sale. 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! Many members have found these extensive charts a boon to their research. [email NFHS](#) to purchase one.

<sup>8</sup> *Miscellanea op cit*



## Ryerson, My Home Town by NFHS Member Lorie Heshka

I took my schooling at Ryerson — Ryerson, Saskatchewan that is! How fondly I remember Bond School, our one-room school that I attended from grade one to five — no kindergarten in those days! The one room housed grades one to eight at the time I was there.

I still remember the smell of the schoolroom. It was probably the dustbane that the janitor sprinkled on the floor to keep the dust down when sweeping the wood floor. I We were chased outside for most recesses in summer and in winter. If it was extremely cold outside, we played Pic-Up-Sticks and marbles on the floor at the back of the classroom. There was no World Wide Web. Our library was a six-by-six cabinet in the wall and some books were exchanged monthly from the Regina Book Exchange through the mail.



**Bond School**



**This is the entirety of the student body at Bond School in 1959. Our teacher, Mrs. Althea Vold, is centre back. I'm the blonde in the middle row, second from left. I'm in Grade 3.**

At the back of the school was a boy's and girl's cloak room and toilet — very cold in winter! We hung our coats and stored our lunch kits in the cloak room since there was no refrigerator for meat sandwiches. On the other end of the small school was the science room, although I don't think any of us learned any science there. It was used mainly for storage and as a kitchen when there was an event in the school.

Maude Thompson brought us fresh drinking water in a large brown crock every day. There was one dipper which we all shared! That wouldn't happen in these days, but we thought nothing of it. One of our tasks was cleaning the blackboard and brushes at the end of the day. A couple of us would take all the brushes out the side door and clap them together until we had a big cloud of chalk dust.

strung from wall to wall, and all the old Christmas decorations were hung. Stanley Wilkinson, a bachelor from Yorkshire, England, was always the emcee. Of course Santa came with a bag of gifts, candy and oranges. Stanley was probably Santa also. But there was more to Ryerson than the school. There were two grain elevators – the Federal and the Pool. During the time I went to school in Ryerson, Buck Logel was the federal agent. There were four Logel kids, so they populated our school and town!

**RYERSON continues on page 16**

**RYERSON continued from page 15**

The boards are still up that bordered our outdoor skating rink. A lot of great times were spent skating outdoors. However, first we had to clear off the ice if it had snowed and even then it was usually pretty bumpy. We stayed out as long as possible, though, until our toes were so cold we had to go indoors.



**Christmas Concert about 1960 Bond School students square dancing to "Pop Goes The Weasel." I'm in the centre in white.**

The annual curling bonspiel was a busy time at the the old one-sheet curling rink with waiting room attached. Women from the community brought in pies and homemade soups. As you stepped into the waiting room, the smell of hamburgers and hotdogs would waft over you. The latter two items were foreign to my life at that time. All food items were sold at a nominal cost, monies going to the Rink Committee to keep up maintenance of the rink. Everyone crowded around the indoor bleachers to watch their team on the curling ice. Between games the ice would be cleaned and pebbled manually.

Entering Brady's grocery store was an experience in itself. There was a drink machine by the front window. This held soft drinks, in glass of course, that were stored in ice cold water. You put your money in a slot in the front then

slid your drink along metal brackets to get it out. That was an extremely rare treat for us. On the counter behind glass there was always a big round of the best tasting cheese. A wedge would be cut out and wrapped in brown waxed paper. The post office was at the back of the store where there were small wooden boxes holding the sorted mail for each family.

We were seldom babysat, but we did stay a couple times with Harvey and Cora Brady in their home behind the store. My most prominent memory of these times was eating store-bought bread for toast and store-bought cookies— unheard of in our home at the time.



**Brady's Store**



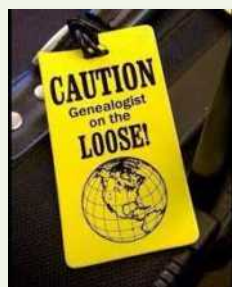
**Our very own license plate!**



**Photo courtesy of Myrtle Chambers whose late husband, Garry, collected Ryerson memorabilia.**

Plans from 1909 show an expansion of Ryerson north across the tracks on land purchased from the Bob & Dick Renwick. The streets are surveyed out and named. As far as I know this area was never developed any further, but this shows the forethought of our predecessors and the hopes they had for our little village.

As farms became bigger, schools closed, elevators were torn down or moved to bigger farms, small town Saskatchewan became a ghost of what it had been previously – vibrant communities that thrived on helping one another. That small town community spirit still lives in me today.



### A CAUTIONARY TALE FROM NFHS MEMBER PENNY BENT

I have sent away for my share of birth, marriage, and death certificates, and enjoyed a trusting faith that they were the definitive answer to the dates in question when I entered them into my expanding family tree.

My brother in law, WM, died at home in Toronto on November 15, 2020. The doctor came to the home and pronounced him dead, and filled out the handwritten death certificate. My sister asked for a copy, and was told she couldn't have one, so she took a picture of it with her phone.

A week or so later, she received in the mail a number of copies of his official death certificate, which stated he died on November 16, 2020. She used these as she had to immediately deal with banks, pension plans and other legal entities. She noticed the mistake, but did not have the energy to correct the error at the time. So, his incorrect date of death has been repeated on many official documents, although his obituary in the *Globe and Mail* has the correct date.



### SEE WHAT'S NEW AT FAVOURITE WEBSITES

Regularly check to see new databases. Use shortcuts at the different sites.

Ancestry — Bookmark its ["Recent Collections"](#) page.

FamilySearch — Under "Browse all Collections" click "Last Updated"

Findmypast — Click on "Help and More" and click on "What's New"



**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? Have your friend [send an email](#) to the society requesting to attend as a guest.



## FACES OF OUR ANCESTORS

from NFHS member Doug Toms

Found on Ancestry is the lovely undated picture below that is the oldest picture that Doug has in his collection and he believes the picture dates to about 1830 based on son Jonas under the table — Jonas (1818-1886) is Doug's 2<sup>nd</sup> great grandfather. Jonas's daughter Blanche married Doug's great grandfather Henry Lewis Toms. Seated right is William Paxton junior (1783-1859), with his family: wife Ann Pitkin (1781-1864, son James (1804-1831), son Thomas (1805-1896), daughter Charlotte (1807-1854), daughter Mary Ann (1809-1886), son George (1813-1861), daughter Eliza (1816-1892).





"King's Beekeeper" has been submitted by NFHS members Eva and Eldon Clegg. It is a genealogy story that explores an interesting ancestral occupation, as well as providing some insight into the life of Canadian prime minister William Lyon Mackenzie King. The complete story will appear in *BeesCene* in a few months, but in the meantime, you may want to browse [other editions of the journal](#).

## King's Beekeeper

By Ted Hancock

Reprinted and abridged with permission from *BeesCene* Vol 37, #2, Summer 2021

Beekeepers Eldon and Eva Clegg live in Nanaimo, BC. Eva recently sent me an email asking if the BCHPA archives at SFU accepts antique beekeeping artifacts (unfortunately they don't). While discussing this topic, I learned that Eldon's father **Henry Clegg** had managed hives for former Prime Minister William Lyon Mackenzie King (December 17, 1874 – July 22, 1950). I was curious to know more, so Eva contacted Eldon's older brother Malcolm. Malcolm looked through his papers and found the memoir his dad had written about his time working for the PM (included later in this article).

It seems that some beekeepers yearn to be Prime Minister and some Prime Ministers would rather be beekeeping. Mackenzie King was in this latter group. King purchased a few bee hives during the 1930s and kept them at his country estate, Kingsmere, which was located twelve miles north of Ottawa near Kingsmere, Quebec. The Prime Minister was not a hands-on beekeeper, so contracted experienced professionals to care for his three hives. The name of the first beekeeper King employed seems to have been forgotten. However, we know the second was Henry Clegg (1901-1980). Clegg owned a commercial apiary in the nearby town of Chelsea, Quebec.

Henry Clegg's grandfather, **Alexander Clegg** (1849-1922), had also been a beekeeper. His apiary was in Eastcombe, Gloucestershire, England. **Henry's father, Alex Clegg** (1874- 1942), emigrated to Canada at the age of nineteen. He too took up beekeeping and started a commercial apiary near Amherst, Nova Scotia. Alex operated his apiary at Amherst for forty years before his unexpected death at the age of 68.



From left, Malcolm, Henry Clegg, Mrs Henry Clegg (Grace), Barbara, Alex Clegg. circa 1939.



Henry Clegg in 1928 at one of his Chelsea bee yards. Note model-T converted to haul supers (boxes placed on beehives to store honey.)

Like his father, Henry Clegg left home at an early age to begin beekeeping on his own. He established his apiary in Chelsea, Quebec during the 1920s.

The Prime Minister's 500-acre Kingsmere estate was roughly divided into four sections, with each having its own driveway and cottage. King assigned names to each of these quarters; "Moorside," "The Farm," "Shady Hill," and "The Cottage". The three bee hives were kept on the edge of an orchard at Moorside.

Both Mackenzie King and Henry Clegg wrote about their mutual interactions during the 1940s; King in his personal diary and Clegg in his short memoir.

### Excerpts from Mackenzie King's Diary<sup>9</sup>

#### Saturday, October 19, 1946<sup>9</sup>

....When we arrived at Kingsmere, Mrs. Kelly told us in an excited way how the bears had been at the bees. Some bear had overturned one of the hives and eaten some of the honey. This word having reached H. L. in the morning, we arranged to call for Clegg at his house in Chelsea on the way out. Clegg is the one who looks after the bees. He came along later in the evening to see as to the damage and to straighten up the hives...."

#### Sunday, October 20, 1946

"....At noon, looking out the window and seeing someone near the bees, I went out and found Clegg fixing a bear trap. A bear had come last night and taken more of the honey...."

#### Monday, October 21, 1946



Henry Clegg with the P.M.'s Bear

"...I was awakened by little Pat jumping out of his basket and barking and growling quite excitedly. At that moment I heard a shot fired. I knew at once it was a bear who had been caught in his trap and was now killed. Pat and I looked out of the window together. Sure enough, down near the beehives, I saw the cars of men who had come out evidently to finish Mr. Bruin for his thievery. He had come back for the third time. In the meantime, the trap had effectively been set and his days were ended.

In a curious sort of way, I thought of the Russian bear and his encroachments on territory not belonging to him. I have not the least doubt that when the moment comes, should it be forced on the free nations of the world, that freedom will triumph. There is no doubt there is much tension in the world today and that feeling is mounting but I believe the secret ballot will yet defeat the secret police. I saw the bear being hoisted into the truck. Called to the men to bring it around to the front door where Jean, Louise and I together with little Pat had an opportunity of viewing it at the front entrance. It was quite a study to see the glee in the faces of Clegg, his companion and little boy Malcolm. I think there was as well a note of pride and satisfaction in my own countenance

in having the bear shot on my own premises within a stone throw of the house. This is the third bear I have seen on my property at Kingsmere. A huge one below the Abby Ruins, a couple of years ago. Another huge one, on a walk last year, and this one today. The men said this one was about one year old. Would weigh I should think

<sup>9</sup> Library and Archives Canada "Diaries of William Lyon Mackenzie King"



between 100 and 150 pounds. A beautiful young black bear. I patted his fur which was as clear and clean as if brushed this morning. I felt like Jean, sorry to see the little fellow deprived of his life, but felt the act was justified when he entered on his path of destruction. He has succeeded in destroying one hive."

#### Monday, August 30, 1948

"...drove into Chelsea to speak to Clegg about the bees and the honey. Came back with 40 pounds which he had taken away some days before to strain. Gave him instructions about fixing up hives for the winter. Apparently this year there has only been half the full quantity of honey that there should be..."

Sunday, April 10, 1949

"... We then walked thro' the kitchen garden and out across the moor almost the where little Pat II lies and there to see the bees, (hundreds seem dead and are being removed by slain (sic) former brethren. Kelly says that this is ok that Clegg has been out to see them and those living are in fine shape. I hope so..."

#### Saturday, April 16, 1949

During the evening Mr. Clegg brought his minister. They wanted assistance in the rebuilding or rather decorating of their little church at Chelsea. I did not give them any encouragement, though I found it difficult to refrain and intend to help, but wish to get on to my finances first – I was impressed with the quiet manner of the minister, his account of the families most without means, and families of workers at the power plant.

#### Excerpt from Henry Clegg's Memoir As Typed by Henry Clegg

##### "Prime Minister King His Bees and a Bear"

On a March day of the early 40's I was cleaning the snow from our laneway leading to the Gatineau Highway, eight miles North of Ottawa. A station wagon drew up and a rotund figure in a racoon coat and fur cap climbed out and approached with quick short steps.

Pulling off a fur mit he extended a chubby hand, and introduced himself as Mr. King. I had often seen him passing to and from his summer home at nearby Kingsmere, but this was the first time I had ever spoken to our Canadian Prime Minister.

The full account of Henry Clegg's beekeeping for the Prime Minister will be available later this year in [BeesCene](#).

He informed me that he had three hives of bees at Kingsmere, his summer home, and was looking for someone to operate them during the summer months. Since the man who had cared for them previously was no longer able to do so, he wondered if I would be good enough to take the job.

At the time I was operating 300 hives of bees in seven locations Canada, especially help for beekeepers, therefore, the prospect of even three extra hives was formidable. Needless to say however, I found it impossible to refuse the kindly, straight forward request of the Prime Minister of our country. After discussing a few details, we came to an agreement which lasted for several years.

The little Apiary was located just back of the orchard, about 100 yards from the house that overlooked the rolling acres of the estate. Mooreside was quite English in its appearance, with stone walls winding among the fields. Bird houses were much in evidence about the grounds, and the tenants ranged in size from the small house wren to the flicker. On a slope within sight of the house, deer appeared quite frequently at a salt lick.

It was a quiet restful spot to which the head of our government could retreat and gather strength to lead a country at war. On various occasions when I would have a hive of bees open, and with the hum of their wings drowning out all other sounds, I would look up to see the Prime Minister in his tweed jacket and cap watching proceedings at not too safe a distance from the agitated bees.

One time when my wife and young son of 5 had accompanied me to Mooreside, Mr. King strolled along with his walking stick, and extended a friendly hand to the wee lad who promptly scorned the gesture by claspings his hands behind his back, greatly to his Mother's embarrassment.

*Fanny Clegg  
Chelsea, Gloucest.*

BCHPA members Eldon and Eva Clegg overwintered seven hives this year and all survived in good shape. Their son Alex and grandson Clive are also interested in beekeeping and help with extracting.



Eldon and Eva Clegg with their bee hives



William Lyon Mackenzie King  
1874-1950  
Prime Minister 1935-1948



## NANAIMO FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY MEET MY ANCESTOR CONTEST 2021

Nanaimo Family History Society members are invited to enter a "Meet My Ancestor" contest. Entries must be submitted by **midnight, December 31, 2021**.

Cash prizes 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*.

### 1. MY ANCESTORS WERE HOMESTEADERS!

Why did they homestead? Where? What were the difficulties? The benefits?

### 2. OOPS, I WAS MISTAKEN!

Have you discovered a mistake in your earlier research or been misguided by your family's erroneous stories? What steps did you take to clarify the facts?

### 3. MULTI-GENERATION OCCUPATIONS

Did at least three or four generations of your family have the same occupation? Perhaps they were tailors, sailors, oyster dredgers, seamstresses or another occupation. Who were these ancestors? Describe their occupation in its historical and geographic context.

### 4. DINING WITH AN ANCESTOR!

With what ancestor born before 1900 would you like to share a meal? What do you know about this person? What questions would you have? What answers would you expect or hope to hear?

### 5. WHAT DID YOUR FAMILY EXPECT?

How did your ancestor's socio-economic origins influence family expectations? Were they emigrants? Why did they emigrate? War? Famine? What was important to your ancestors? Was someone the first in the family to receive a higher education? Did members of the family have similar occupations?

## CONTEST CRITERIA

1. The author is a current member of Nanaimo Family History Society on December 31, 2021.
2. The entry has not been previously published.
3. The entry is an interesting, coherent read responding to one of the five topics, 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 1500 words and not fewer than 750 words.
7. The entry includes footnotes and /or sources as necessary.
8. The entry has page numbers and is submitted in *PDF*, *Word*, or *Pages* format.

**ANCESTRY (subscription)**

[US Idaho Birth Index 1861-1967](#)  
[US Idaho, Marriage Records 1863-1969](#)  
[US New Hampshire Death Records 1650-1969](#)  
[US New Hampshire Divorce Certificates 1850-1969](#)  
[US New Hampshire Marriage Records 1700-1971](#)

**WEB UPDATES****FAMILY SEARCH (free)**

[Canada, Ontario Tax Assessment Rolls](#)  
[RCMP Obituary Card Index and Notices 1876-2007](#)  
[UK British Royal Navy Ships' Musters, 1739-1861](#)

[Finland Passport Registers 1900-1920](#)  
[UK Surrey Marriage Bonds and Licenses 1536-1992](#)

**FINDMYPAST (subscription)**

[Ireland, Court of Exchequer Bill Books 1627-1884](#)  
[Ireland, Petty Sessions Courts Registers](#)  
[Scotland, Dumfries and Galloway Census & Population Lists 1792-1821](#)  
[UK British Army Lists 1871-1889](#)  
[US British Loyalists](#)  
[UK Crime, Prisons & Punishment, 1770-1935](#)  
[UK 300,000 Historical Photographs](#)

**MISCELLANEOUS (Free) LINKS**

[Family Tree Best Genealogy Websites 2021](#)  
[BC Newspapers](#)  
[The Art of Avoiding Scams in Ukrainian and Russian Genealogy](#)  
[BC Free Historical Photographs](#)  
[Manitoba Newspapers](#)  
[Saskatchewan Newspapers](#)  
[Irish Government Free Website for B, M, D's](#)  
[Researching 20th Century Canadian Ancestors with the 1940 National Registration](#)  
[Ontario and Upper Canada Genealogy and History](#)  
[Free Online Canadian City Directories](#)  
[Find Lost Russian and Ukrainian Family](#)  
[Best Family Tree Builders of 2021](#)  
[Getting a Marriage Record from Ukrainian Archives](#)  
[Rhode Island Birth, Marriage, and Death Records 1853-1920](#)  
[USA 8 Tips for Finding Ancestors Prior to 1850](#)  
[Preparing the Victorian Home for a Funeral](#)  
[Victorian Mourning Clothes](#)  
[An Introduction to Thai Genealogy](#)  
[Researching War of 1812 Ancestors](#)  
[Dutch Genealogy News for 2021](#)

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.



### Future Guest Speakers

Our plans for meetings in 2021 and 2022 are still tentative due to the health situation. Members will be contacted once dates, topics, and speakers are confirmed. We will also inform members of the evening's format if changes from "normal" such as seating or "Zoom" presentation are needed.



Monday, October 18, 2021

**ZOOM SPEAKER MARIE PALMER**  
**TRUSTING YOUR SOURCES**

You've worked hard to collect records for your ancestors, but how do you know you have the right records for the right people? This talk gives tips on how to find and evaluate records and ensure your research is top-notch. Using the Genealogical Proof Standard (GPS) as our guide, we'll discuss a compelling case study that seemed watertight... until it wasn't.



Monday, November 15, 2021  
**ZOOM SPEAKER JAMIE BROWN**  
**PRAIRIE PROVINCES**

Jamie will explore digging into family history in the Prairie Provinces— three provinces, all with similarities and differences in settlement patterns, geography, and research resources. We will glance at some basic resources of census, vital records, and land records. Then we will introduce new avenues of thinking about your research plan, and new methods for online research. We will also look at new online resources so we can dig further into our Prairie families.

**CHRISTMAS PLANS ARE PENDING ...**  
**PERHAPS AHA! MOMENTS ON ZOOM ??**



### Did You Know ...

Nanaimo Family History Society has a [Facebook Page](#) hosted by NFHS director at large Lorie Heshka. If you would like to join this group, you will need a *Facebook account*. To do this, first click "Google "Facebook Account" and follow instructions to set up your account. Once you have an account, you can "Search" for "Nanaimo Family History Society" inside *Facebook* then click "Join." Currently there are one hundred and fourteen members in the group.



## MEMBERS' MISCELLANY

## From Penny Bent



How I found a murder most vile by being distracted in a search and by going off on a tangent, and why I never finish anything because I am easily led by curiosity.

I looked at *the Surrey, England, Church of England Burials, 1813-1987* for William Thomas, died 1854, and decided: "Nope, not my William Taylor," when my eye blinked at the other side of the church register page. It looked at first glance as if everyone dead had the same last name! Immediately forgetting Mr. Taylor, I tried to figure out what I was looking at.

Closer study showed six children with the surname Brough, aged eleven, eight, six, twins age three and a nine month old baby. My first thought was "what a tragedy. It must have been a house fire". My second thought was that this must be quite unusual, and I wondered if it made the newspapers in 1854.

Wow! Did it ever. This was a national and international event. Mary Ann Brough, who had actually been a wet nurse to Queen Victoria's oldest son, the future Edward VII, had cut the throats of her six children and then her own. She did not die, so there was also the drama of a very controversial trial. Known as "The Esher Murders" this combination of the horrific story of a mother killing her own six children coupled with the Royal Connection was headline news around the globe.

The case interested nearly everyone because there was evidence that Mary Ann had recently had a head injury, was exhausted with all of her children having

measles and her husband was threatening to leave her. There was the argument, put forward by an "alienist", a very early psychiatrist, that she suffered from temporary insanity, and was not responsible for her actions, an argument countered by the prosecution, who said the murders were planned and deliberate. Everyone in the newspaper-reading world had an opinion.

On October 14, 2017 the *Daily Mail* resurrected this story, largely in response to the ITV film series on Queen Victoria, calling it "Victoria's serial killer nurse: The gory story of the murderess who looked after the Queen's son that the ITV series DIDN'T touch on".

An article from the International Centre for the History of Crime, Policing and Justice<sup>10</sup> "*Policing the Victorian Countryside 1851-1901, 'The Esher Tragedy: Six Children Murdered by their Mother'*" contains the transcript of Mary Ann's confession, as well as a dreadful Victorian poem of no less than sixty-four lines describing the murders. I will quote a few lines:

"One little pretty boy amongst them.  
Of the name of Henry,  
He cried aloud with eyes of pity,  
"Mother, dear, don't murder me",  
She heeded not his prattling tongue,  
But like a demon fierce and wild,  
"My dear", she said, "it must be done",  
And thus she slew her other child."

Mary Ann was found not guilty by reason of insanity, and was sent to Bethlehem Mental Hospital in London (Bedlam).

I can't go into any more detail because **I really have to find William Taylor!** The [Daily Mail](#) has best full story.

<sup>10</sup> [Open.ac.uk/Arts/history from Police Archives/RB1/Pt1/pt1TL185261.html](http://Open.ac.uk/Arts/history%20from%20Police%20Archives/RB1/Pt1/pt1TL185261.html)



## EDITOR'S NOTES

Thank you to all our *AnceTree* contributors! Another member, president Sharon Davison, has been contacted by a relative who spotted one of Sharon's stories in an earlier edition of *AnceTree*. This reinforces how useful writing and submitting articles to our journal can be. And, more importantly, look at the legacy for your descendants with your research and writing! Please continue to contribute to *AnceTree*! Your editor looks forward to receiving more of your writing for the next issues. If you submit to *AnceTree* and haven't received an acknowledgement within a day or two, please resend the article.

Also, don't forget our 2021 writing contest. See page 24 for details. All contest entries will be published in the four 2022 issues of *AnceTree*. *AnceTree* needs your stories!

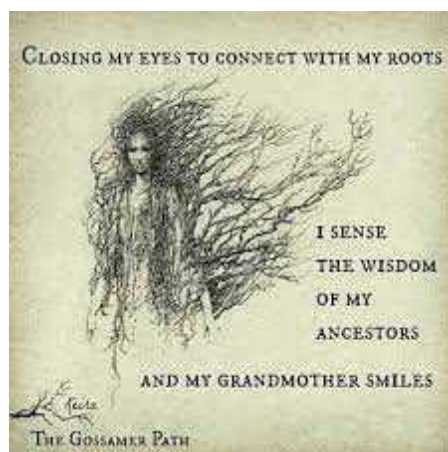
We've added a new feature, Quick Tips, which can be found throughout this issue. If you have discovered a source or method that has assisted you in your research, please forward it to your editor for inclusion in our journal!

As always, a special thanks to **Maureen Wootten** and **Jan Nelson** for their proof reading prowess!

## ADDRESS AND BIRTHDAY BOOKS



If you have your parents' or grandparents' address or birthday books, these can contain many clues for you. Perhaps you're not sure who the people are or if they're related to you, but the names and addresses can be traced. For example, using the 1939 UK Register, enter a name and address to see who the family members are.





To celebrate our **50th Anniversary**  
the **British Columbia Genealogical Society** presents  
three morning Zoom seminars with popular Genealogists

9:30 am to 12:30 pm PDT • Register at [bcgs.ca](http://bcgs.ca)

**BCGS Members FREE • Non-Members \$25 per seminar**

Attend All Seminars For FREE By Joining BCGS

**Blaine Bettinger**  
**SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 25**

DNA's Latest Development  
•  
DNA Case Studies

**Blaine Bettinger**, PhD, JD, is a professional genealogist specializing in DNA evidence. In 2007 he started *The Genetic Genealogist*, one of the earliest blogs on the topic. Blaine is the author of *The Family Tree Guide to DNA Testing and Genetic Genealogy*, and co-author with Debbie Parker Wayne of the award-winning *Genetic Genealogy in Practice*, the world's first genetic genealogy workbook.

He also co-authored "Genetics for Genealogy" with Judy Russell in 2018's *Professional Genealogy: Preparation, Practice & Standards* (ProGen PPS) (Elizabeth Shown Mills, Author and Editor).

**Dave Obee**  
**SATURDAY, OCTOBER 30**

Eastern Europe;  
• Finding Your Way  
• Changing Borders

**Dave Obee**, award-winning journalist, genealogical researcher and popular seminar presenter, is Editor and Publisher of the *Times Colonist* newspaper in Victoria. He has written a dozen books and given more than 600 presentations at conferences and seminars in Canada, the United States and Australia.

Among his awards are:  
2017: Bill Good Award  
2016: Heritage Advocates Award  
2014: The Governor General's Caring Canadian Award

Dave also runs *CanGenealogy.com*, and is a columnist for *Internet Genealogy* magazine and *Your Genealogy Today* magazine

**Johanne Gervais**  
**SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 27**

Quebec Notarial Records  
•  
Early New France  
Census Records

**Johanne Gervais**, BSc, MBA, worked for over 25 years in Montreal, developing and implementing computer business systems. She became interested in genealogy while helping her husband write a book about his family for his mother's 90th birthday. In 2008, she left the corporate world to dedicate herself to genealogical research.

Johanne is the founder of the **Quebec Genealogical eSociety**, a virtual non-profit society. Johanne has her own company Gervais-Loeas Services which includes *Quebec Family Search*. She lives in St-Bruno-de-Montarville, QC.

**Nanaimo Family History Society**  
**Executive 2021**

President	Sharon Davison
Vice President	Dean Ford
Secretary	Bronwyn Frazer
Treasurer	Donna MacIver
Program Director	Maureen Wootten
Membership Director	Jocelyn Howat
Director at Large	Terry Hartley
Director at Large	Lorie Heshka
AncesTree Editor	Carolyn Kemp
Webmaster	Dean Ford

**Contact Information**

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

Email: [InfoNFHS@gmail.com](mailto:InfoNFHS@gmail.com)

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