



# AncestryTree

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

## President's Message

By Sharon Davison

'tis the season once again! And despite COVID-19, NFHS actually had a good year. Our membership stayed strong and our lineup of speakers and mini how-to's were excellent. Using Zoom for our meetings allowed us to reach farther afield for speakers, and Maureen Wooten did a wonderful job of providing our membership with various topics. A special thanks once again to Terry Hartley and all the volunteers who agreed to do mini how-to presentations. If you have not participated in any of our how-to's, I strongly urge you to sign up in January for the upcoming sessions, which are detailed on pages 2-4. If you require assistance with Zoom or have any questions, please contact us through our website and we will be happy to assist you.

After much discussion and our request for feedback from members with regard to in-person meetings starting in January, the executive has decided that we will continue with Zoom meetings in January, February and March, and we will revisit the issue for April. Once we can meet safely in person, our proposal is to continue to offer our meetings both in-person and by Zoom.

President's Message continues on page 2

**"All we know for sure is what the ancients knew: each succeeding generation forms a link in the braided cord of humanity. Each of our lives is shallower if we do not know and pay homage to where we came from."**

Lewis Spence, *British Fairy Origins*

## What's Inside

President's Message	Pages 1-2
Mini How to Zooms	Pages 2-4
Genealogy News Briefs	Pages 5-8
Coming to Canada	Pages 9-11
Young Simon	Pages 12-13
Can you Help?	Page 14
Can't Find a PRO Will?	Pages 15-16
Faces of Our Ancestors	Page 17
Future Guest Speakers	Page 18
Writing Contest 2021	Page 19
Web Links	Page 20
Members' Miscellany	Page 21
Editor's Notes	Page 22
Contact Information	Page 23

## Save the Date!

Nanaimo FHS Jan Meeting (Zoom)	Jan 17
Nanaimo FHS Feb Meeting (Zoom)	Feb 14
Nanaimo FHS Mar Meeting (Zoom)	Mar 21

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

Please remember that pursuant to our bylaws, annual dues are payable by January 1<sup>st</sup> for the coming year. Information about how to pay membership dues is on [our website](#).

Our membership with the B.C. Genealogical Society has been extended for another year. If you require any information regarding access to the BCGS website or signing up for either the newsletters, education sessions or weekly GenBlasts, please contact us through the website.

Sharon



**Zoom "Mini-How-To" Sessions, Spring 2022**

All of the Zoom sessions will be held on Thursdays at 6:30 p.m. Pre-registration is required, so please click on the link in blue below each session to register. Once your registration has been approved, click to add the session to your calendar. Alternatively, you can save the registration to an email folder where you can find it later.

**January**

**Thursday, Jan. 20: Writer's Group, Helen Webster**

Editing is not easy...as writers we have to analyze, evaluate, and create new versions of our work in order to improve those first (and second and third!!) drafts. But, editing can be fun and together we'll keep working on specific skills and strategies that will help us all become better writers.

[Register in advance for this meeting \(you need to register only once for all Writer's Group sessions\)](#)

**Thursday Jan. 27: Family Tree Software, Carolyn Kemp & Lorie 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*, *FamilySearch* and other sites or solely on your own computer with genealogy software.

[Register in advance for this meeting](#)

**February**

**Thursday Feb. 3: Genealogy Pitfalls & Successes, Maureen Wootten**

"Searching for a Surname." Join Maureen Wootten as she attempts to locate her relatives in Great Britain. SPOILER ALERT — no luck so far!

[Register in advance for this meeting](#)

**Thursday Feb. 10: What to Consider before Testing your DNA, Susan Bates**

Please join Susan as she covers different types of DNA tests, which company's DNA test you should choose, and how to interpret your test results in terms of the amount of shared DNA and ethnicity.

[Register in advance for this meeting](#)

**Thursday Feb. 17: Writer's Group, Helen Webster**

[Register in advance for this meeting \(you need to register only once for all Writer's Group sessions\)](#) .

**Thursday Feb. 24: Organizing your Genealogy, Sharon Davison & Donna MacIver**

Do you have lots of records, photos and scraps of paper residing in boxes or in one binder? If you like the "old-fashioned" way of printing records and keeping paperwork, Sharon Davison will discuss ways to keep files organized. If you prefer to retain your records on your computer, Donna MacIver will give you pointers and examples on how to keep your research paper-free.

[Register in advance for this meeting.](#)

Zoom How To Sessions continue on page 3

## Zoom How To Sessions continued from page 2

### March

Thursday **Mar. 10: Genealogy Pitfalls & Successes, Ruth Stewart**

From Oral History to Fact in under 60 Years — How I Finally Got My Act Together!

[Register in advance for this meeting.](#)

Thursday **Mar 17: Writer's Group, Helen Webster**

[Register in advance for this meeting \(you need to register only once for all Writer's Group sessions\).](#)

Thursday **Mar. 24: Brick Wall Busters, Donna MacIver**

Do you have a dead-end on your tree that you're trying to break through? Please bring your problem to this session along with the ideas you've already tried. Donna MacIver will facilitate a discussion amongst the participants to brainstorm potential solutions.

[Register in advance for this meeting.](#)

Thursday **Mar. 31: Family Tree Software, Family Tree Maker, Lorie Heshka**

Please join Lorie Heshka as she demonstrates Family Tree Maker genealogy software.

[Register in advance for this meeting](#)

### April

Thursday **April 7: Genealogy Pitfalls & Successes, Sharon Bennett**

"Being Persistent." Join Sharon Bennett as she tells us how persistence paid off in finding biological parents.

[Register in advance for this meeting](#)

Thursday **Apr 14: A First Look at your Autosomal DNA Results from Ancestry, Susan Bates**

Please join Susan as she covers your ethnicity break-down, your matches, including how closely related they are to you, and the importance of "shared matches."

[Register in advance for this meeting](#)

Thursday **Apr 21: Writer's Group, Helen Webster**

[Register in advance for this meeting \(you only need to register once for all Writer's Group sessions\)](#)

Thursday **Apr 28: Charting your DNA Matches, Terry Hartley**

Diagramming the relationships with your DNA matches helps you to plan and organize your research, clarify your own understanding, and explain your work to others. Join Terry as she demonstrates several tools for charting your DNA matches.

[Register in advance for this meeting](#)

### May

May **5: Genealogy Pitfalls & Successes, Susan Garcia**

Murder on Mayne Island: Join Susan Garcia as she tells us about the murder of her 2<sup>nd</sup> Great Grandpa and its consequences.

[Register in advance for this meeting](#)

Thursday **May 12: Searching for Edward, Bronwyn Frazer**

Searching for Edward: Combing the Kent Archives for a Runaway Homechild

[Register in advance for this meeting](#)

May **19: Writer's Group, Helen Webster**

[Register in advance for this meeting \(you only need to register once for all Writer's Group sessions\)](#)

Thursday **May 26: Family Tree Software, Reunion for Mac, Carolyn Kemp**

Attention Mac Users! Please join Carolyn Kemp as she demonstrates *Reunion* Mac genealogy software for desktop and laptop computers.

[Register in advance for this meeting](#)

Zoom How To Sessions continue on page 4

Zoom How To Sessions continued from page 3

June

**June 2: Genealogy Pitfalls & Successes, Lori Heshka**

Who is Levi Jenkins? That must be a transcription error!" Join Lorie Heshka to find out the answer.

[Register in advance for this meeting](#)

**Thursday June 9: An In-depth Look at your DNA Matches, Susan Bates**

Join Susan as she covers using Ancestry's "Thru-Lines" to identify unknown matches, all about the risks, benefits and how-tos of copying your raw data over to GEDmatch and My Heritage.

[Register in advance for this meeting](#)

**Thursday June 16: Writer's Group, Helen Webster**

[Register in advance for this meeting \(you only need to register once for all Writer's Group sessions\)](#)



**DON'T FORGET!**

**2022 MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL**

**MEMBERSHIP EXTENDS FROM JANUARY 1<sup>ST</sup> TO DECEMBER 31<sup>ST</sup>**

As per our Bylaws membership dues are to be paid in full by January 1<sup>st</sup>. Dues must be paid for members to vote at our AGM in February.

- ◆ Senior \$25.00
- ◆ Non-senior \$30.00
- ◆ Additional family member \$10.00

Information about how to pay membership dues is on [our website](#).



**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 at our Zoom meetings.

## GENEALOGY NEWS IN BRIEF

### FROM LIBRARY AND ARCHIVES CANADA

- ◆ [Theses Canada](#) Theses and dissertations from Canadian universities. Searchable by name and subject matter. The index provides the location of the thesis or dissertation.
- ◆ [Acts of Divorce, 1841-1968](#)
- ◆ [Births, Marriages and Deaths Recorded in Canada](#)
- ◆ [Marriage Bonds, 1779-1858 - Upper and Lower Canada](#)
- ◆ [Names appearing on lists of marriage licences issued in Upper Canada \(RG 5 B9\) and Lower Canada \(RG 4 B28\)](#)
- ◆ [Historian Andrea Eldinger to Head Archives Canada website.](#) Part of her mandate is to improve user access



### 1921 BRITISH CENSUS

The 1921 British census is scheduled to be released on **January 6, 2022** and will be available only at *Findmypast* and the National Archives. This is the first census to recognize divorce and to capture people's employment details. Individuals were asked not only about their occupations, but also

their place of work, and employer. They were also given "Divorced" as an option for marital status. Access to the records unfortunately will be pay per view with a "a £2.50 charge for every record transcript and £3.50 for every original record image. *Findmypast* did this with previous census releases." Apparently those of you with a subscription to *Findmypast* will also be charged with a ten percent discount.

More details about the release and what the census contains are available on a [Findmypast blog](#).

### ANCESTORS FROM RUSSIA, UKRAINE OR BELARUS?

Vera Miller in her November 13, 2021 blog, "Find Lost Russian & Ukrainian Family" details a database that locates more than 270,000 [villages that have vanished from maps](#). She explains how to use the free site, *Familio*, a Russian database. Miller carefully explains how to use the site if you are unable to read the Russian language.



### ONTARIO TAX ASSESSMENT ROLLS 1834-1899

*FamilySearch* has supplemented Ontario Tax Rolls adding more than 350,000 records. The records, free to use, are easily searchable by surname and provide links to the original documents that include details of the properties and age of the principals listed. An

excellent source for researching early Ontario ancestors.

### VANCOUVER DIGITAL IMAGES

[Vancouver Archives](#) now has 20,000 objects digitized and freely searchable and downloadable. The archives blog "Authenticity" details the scope of the images available: "Many of these images are from our City of Vancouver Archives photograph collection (AM1376) comprised of material from various donors – usually one-offs or small donations of items. The subject matter within this collection documents a wide range of decades, events, people and places." The [Authenticity blog](#) details the project and provides many examples of images held at the archives.

**GENEALOGY NEWS IN BRIEF continues on page 6**

## GENEALOGY NEWS IN BRIEF continued from page 5

**CANADIAN TROOPS IN WORLD WAR II PHOTOS AND NEWSREELS**

The [World War II Newsreels, 1942-1945](#) and [Faces of the Second World War, 1941-1945](#) collections feature 2,500 photographic images and 106 video newsreels that bring to life many aspects of Canada's contributions to World War II, from combat and routine life on the front lines of France, Holland and beyond, to military training, war materials production, city building projects, and Armistice celebrations on home soil.

Information from these photographs and newsreels are indexed on *Ancestry*, making it easier to search for ancestors. If you have access to *Ancestry*, these are excellent photos and newsreels. Your editor has been busy viewing them! Since the photos are indexed, you may find views of your ancestors!

Genealogist Gail Dever in her [November 4, 2021 blog](#) describes the collection: "At the onset of World War II, the Canadian Government Motion Picture Bureau recommended the army form a special film and photographic unit, to distribute material worldwide to boost morale and further the war effort. As a result, the Army created a public relations unit in 1940 that would become the basis for photographic units formed by all three military branches (The army, air force and navy). The resulting material created by these units – available in these collections on *Ancestry* – was circulated by a variety of local and international newspaper and newsreels."

**FRANCO AMERICAN ANCESTORS?**

If you have ancestors from Québec who migrated to the New England states, a new site, [Franco-American Digital Archives](#) will be of interest to you. Genealogist Gail Dever reports: "The online, bilingual website makes Franco American records more searchable and accessible to researchers, educators, students, genealogists, and the general public. It addresses the need for online access to

Franco American cultural history by locating and identifying archival materials that concern French Canadian, Québécois, and Acadian diaspora communities in the US Northeast, and wherever these materials have been collected around the world. Users can access books, letters and other correspondence, scrapbooks, family and business records, photographs and other media depicting Franco American history, culture and people. The website makes the archival collections accessible by directing the user toward the institutions that collect and preserve them. Once a user selects an item to view, the site connects them to that item at its original source in a digital format or at a physical archive."

**RURAL AND NORTHERN ONTARIO STORIES**

Guelph University is hosting a new site The [People's Archive of Rural Ontario](#) that will "amplify rural voices." The site "aims to mobilize and amplify rural voices and stories and to contribute to the revitalization of rural Ontario. It was developed to organize, preserve, and make freely accessible the records and voices of rural Ontarians. PARO is currently engaged in collecting stories, highlighting personal and community narratives of rural resilience from a broad range of sources to be produced for the archive as text, audio, video, and/or photography. PARO welcomes submissions from all persons, particularly those who identify as Indigenous, racialized, having disabilities, and from persons of all sexual identities and gender identities.

**FREE ACCESS TO ANCESTRY LIBRARY ENDS**

As of December 31<sup>st</sup>, 2021, at home access to *Ancestry* library edition will end.

GENEALOGY NEWS IN BRIEF continues on page 7



GENEALOGY NEWS IN BRIEF continued from page 6

**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.

**BRITISH WILLS TO 1858 STILL FREELY DOWNLOADABLE**

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.



**NEW SEASON OF FINDING YOUR ROOTS**

Season eight of *Finding Your Roots* with Henry Louis Gates will begin on PBS from January 4, to February 22, 2022. The [scheduled stories this season](#) feature a variety of guests and heritages.



**MYHERITAGE DNA LABELS INTRODUCED**

Colour coding your DNA matches may help you to organize these matches. MyHeritage states: "We are excited to introduce labels for your DNA matches, a convenient way of organizing your DNA matches into groups. As more people test their DNA with *MyHeritage* or upload their DNA data, the MyHeritage DNA database continues to grow by leaps and bounds. The growing list of your newfound DNA Matches can be overwhelming. The handy colour-coded labels feature comes to your aid! Labels are a free feature that doesn't require a subscription. [Read more about it here!](#)



**ROOTSTECH 2022 MARCH 3-5 2022**

Registration is now available for RootsTech 2022. "RootsTech 2022 will be a virtual-only experience, with some enhancements and improvements. Registration is free and open to anyone at [RootsTech.org](#). A new set of educational classes will be featured during 2022, along with new technologies to explore in the virtual expo hall, and inspiring stories shared by a fascinating lineup of keynote speakers." Keynote speakers have yet to be announced, but updates are on *Facebook*, *Instagram* or *Twitter*.

**ANCESTRY WORKHOUSE RECORDS**

If your ancestors were in a UK workhouse, there are records available for you to search. Margaret O'Brien's blog, "[Workhouse Records on Ancestry](#)" takes you step by step through a search as well as providing background on the workhouses:

- What Were The Workhouses?
- Who Went Into The Workhouses?
- What Are In The Workhouse Records?
- How To Browse The Workhouse Records On Ancestry
- Are Workhouse Records Available Elsewhere?

GENEALOGY NEWS IN BRIEF continues on page 8

GENEALOGY NEWS IN BRIEF continued from page 7



**KITCHENER ONTARIO ANCESTRY?**

If you're researching the Kitchener Waterloo area, the new Kitchener [History in the Making](#) site is a must see site. Even if you're not researching this area have a look — too bad all local library sites are not set up as this one is. The library says, "Searching for details about your family's roots? Curious about the history of your neighbourhood? Interested in learning about the courageous local men and women who served our country? This is where you can get instant access to digitized historic photographs, postcards, soldier cards, recorded interviews and more."



**SIDNEY MUSEUM AND ARCHIVES TO LAUNCH NEW DATABASE**

[Digitization of BC's Peninsula News Review](#) will soon be available for free public access. This includes nearly 3,800 issues from 1912 to 2002.



Most of you have probably watched older genealogy shows on YouTube, but did you know there are other free genealogy channels available on line? These presentations are less formal than webinars and seem to regularly post new content. Content includes tips, how-tos and other useful genealogy resources. The following list was recommended by blogger Linda Stufflebean on November 1<sup>st</sup>, 2021:

- [American Ancestors](#)
- [DearMYRTLE](#)
- [Family History Fanatics](#)
- [GenFriends with Cheri Hudson Passey](#)
- [Lisa Lisson Are You My Cousin?](#)
- [Lisa Louise Cooke's Genealogy Gems](#)
- [Maureen Taylor The Photo Detective](#)



**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.

**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 done!





## COMING TO CANADA

by Barry Hagen

On May 31, 1947, Barry Hagen, at eight years old, arrived with twenty-eight other children at Fairbridge Farm, BC. He had spent his first eight years at Middlemore House, Birmingham, UK.

Barry was scheduled to speak at our NFHS April, 2020, meeting, but unfortunately he became ill, passing away June 8, 2020. The story he was planning to present is found below. Thank you to Barry's wife, Doreen, for permission to include Barry's story in this issue.

**Barry Hagen 1939-2020**

From a time lag of sixty years, some memories stick out and others are muddled. The peculiar thing is that the basic attitude of the child to the adult

undergoes very little change. This is startling in that, even today, we tend to write off children as immature and convince ourselves that they will change as they grow into an adult. The children may have important and even useful ideas about our present condition.

My early upbringing, as an infant and young child, was at Middlemore House in Birmingham, England. It was not a happy place, with officious, overbearing matrons who all seemed to have a "woe is me" complex. I remember collective punishments and the routine use of the cane on the back of the leg. A sad way to treat children who, for one reason or another, had no life other than the institution and had no control over their own circumstances. We had better relationships with the POW's, who worked on the streets, than with our "nannies."

However, I was somewhat of a rebel, and I must admit being quite adept at conning people. Imagine my surprise, at eight years of age, when I was taken to the principal. Rather than being condemned for my latest action, I was told, "You have been selected to go to the colonies. You have until tomorrow morning to decide if you want to go to Australia, New Zealand, Rhodesia or Canada." - "But Sir," — "You have until tomorrow morning."

I chose Canada, because it had the RCMP, and lumberjacks, and I always thought my name should have been "Jack Lumber."

Some of my cohorts thought it would be a good idea to run away from all this but, since I was among the chosen few, I decided not to prejudice opportunity, and besides which, a trip half way around the world was a more exciting prospect than living in the bush for a few days.

We left in the spring of 1947. I think there were six of us

**Middlemore House, Birmingham****BARRY HAGEN continues on page 10**

**BARRY HAGEN** continued from page 9

in the party, and we were transferred to another school in the south of England to await boarding a ship to Canada. While at this school, for a day or so, we were treated like special people with everyone being polite and deferring to us as if we had some royal commission. I always knew I was special, and I rather liked this approach to life.

We then joined the *SS Aquitania*, sister ship of the *Lusitania*, recently returned to passenger service after being a troop ship. My greatest concern, on joining the ship, was that it would fall over on us as we walked beside it toward the gangway. The hull and superstructure towered over us, and I had yet to learn about ship stability.

The initial part of the voyage was very physically confining. The bunks, somewhere down below in this vast cavern, were triple deckers, and everywhere we went we were in the company of adults whose relatively very large size obscured our view and limited our movements.

Nature, being able to rectify all inequities, came to our aid. We woke up one morning and everything was a shambles and reeked of vomit. A storm at sea has a way of separating the sheep and goats! A couple of my chums and I took advantage of the situation and escaped to the dining salon. The large area and tables with linen table cloths and silver was empty! We thought we had missed breakfast. The steward beckoned us over and each of us had our own personal steward. I remember asking about the goldfish on the menu. I was presented with this fish and after eating it, I said it was mild compared to kippers. The steward smiled, and it was the last goldfish I have ever eaten. Lack of opportunity I think.

That same day we got to meet the Polish soldiers. They were given the option of settling anywhere in the Commonwealth rather than returning to Poland under Russian control. This group of soldiers, hundreds, was still in uniform having no other possessions. They treated us like their own, and we had a tremendous time. This was the first time most of us had been exposed to normal affection. I remember being disappointed when the weather began to abate. At one stage, an announcement was made that the ship would be heaving-to over the last position of the *SS Titanic* and a wreath would be cast into the sea. It was at this time that I met the ship's captain on deck. There were only the two of us. The ship was slowing down and turning to create a lee, and we were approaching each other. I guess he saw the little blond boy in short pants, probably with hands in pockets, walking along the deck as if it were the most natural thing. I, on the other hand, saw this senior officer approaching. He was trimmed with gold and had on a greatcoat, which almost reached his ankles. I thought he was the oldest, wisest man I'd ever seen. He was probably about fifty years old but, in retrospect, if he had survived the war as a commanding officer at sea, he undoubtedly was old before his time. We smiled, talked and moved on.

The ship tried to go up the St. Lawrence River, but the ice forced a diversion to Halifax. During this time a children's choir was formed and it had these pesky, bossy girls (this was before I reached puberty.) Even though I could sing, I wouldn't join. They gave concerts here, there and everywhere and made, what I considered, a regular nuisance of themselves.

After landing in Halifax, we took a train to Montreal. Some of us went to Notre Dame Cathedral. We were told by



FOR BRITISH COLUMBIA.—The Lord Mayor (Sir Percy Vincent) at a farewell gathering of Fairbridge Farm children who sail to-day for British Columbia, at British Columbia House, yesterday. The children are bound for the Prince of Wales's Farm School on Vancouver Island.

**BARRY HAGEN** continues on page 11

**BARRY HAGEN continued from page 10**

our "nanny" to be quiet or we would not be allowed back. I thought it quite amusing, as I had no intention of returning to this out of date, restrictive, foreign place.

From there, I suppose, I was suffering through sensory overload, as I remember only little bits, of five days transiting Canada. The greatest thing I do remember is that the world seemed always to be in motion. It was hardly worth the effort of concentrating on the view because it would soon be gone.

When we arrived in Vancouver, I think we passed through Stanley Park and over the Lion's Gate Bridge. Somehow we got to yet another ship with Vancouver Island as the destination — complete blank — arrived at Fairbridge, and were met by the residents by the cottage near the south door of the dining hall. Spring had arrived and all was in bloom. Our obnoxious choir sang "Land of Hope and Glory" and this time I joined in. Now every time I hear that piece of music, I'm transported back to the very location — people, blooms and a feeling of collective experiences but, unfortunately, no faces.

My time at Fairbridge was generally a happy one and any violence was associated with my peer group rather than the staff who, I found, to be quite supportive. Material possessions were close to nil and wealth, or the lack of it, has always been incidental to my existence.

After the British currency collapsed in 1949, funding from Britain was no longer possible. An appeal was made to the Government of BC but was turned down on philosophical grounds. From this point on we were sent to foster homes. Some achieved success, but most only suffered until their majority and abuses abounded. Retrospectively, I think it was a mistake to send the children to foster homes rather than provide money, and with it better supervision, schooling and leadership. Initially, the children were brought to Canada on the frozen premise that, regardless of their capabilities, they would be farm hands and manual labourers, and the girls housekeepers.

The intention of the Fairbridge Farm School was honourable but, through lack of flexibility, lack of an historical perspective of progress on the part of the individual, the system was less than adequate. When this was compounded by a Minister of the government, female at that, who lacked the empathy to understand the dreadful circumstances from which these children were rescued, and then place many into unsupervised toxic environments, it is a wonder that so many emerged intact and successful.

From my viewpoint, my most difficult years were those that I spent in foster homes where it was immediately apparent that one's residence was conditional. If the normally rebellious teenager of today thinks living with Mom and Dad is a pain, let them try living where only perfect behavior will suffice.

I had the opportunity, when I was in the RCN, to return to England some twenty years after my departure. I was astounded to find that I could not understand my mother because she had such a heavy 'brum' accent. (Rather like Chinese where the common language is the written script.) I visited all the old places which were still fresh in my mind and was surprised how small everything had become. Unfortunately, the gap had become too great and, after a time, we lost contact.

# YOUNG SIMON: 1882 by NFHS Member Helen Webster

excerpt from unpublished manuscript of Simon Ross's story by Helen Webster.



**Simon Ross 1868-1944  
Great Uncle of Helen  
Webster**

Simon Ross leaned against the split-log wall of the HBC post store enjoying a few moments rest from his chores. He and his family lived on the shore of Whitefish Lake in the Northern Ontario wilderness.

The sunshine glittered on the lake, the warm breeze lifted his dark hair from his face. Relaxed and content with his life in the woods, he murmured, "This is great. I hope we never leave here. I know I could survive on my own in the woods if I had to...maybe I'll talk to Maman about going camping by myself next winter. I'll bet I could do it."

Simon was fourteen years old in 1882 and thought of himself as a man. After four years of exploring the wilderness with an older Ojibway companion, his parents now trusted him to go by himself into the woods surrounding the HBC post where he lived.

He had been on several hunting trips with his father and an Anishinabeg-Ojibway guide during the previous two winters. An excellent shot, he never broke the family rule of one musket ball for every partridge or deer that he had in his sights. He had seen Papa shoot game for the family larder, but Simon knew he

would never forget his own first deer, especially the gush of crimson blood on the snow when the buck staggered and fell. His nose crinkled now at the remembered smell of gun powder and he recalled his body jolting with the crack and boom of his musket. Pride in his ability to shoot his own deer mixed with carefully hidden horror at the animal's death struggles. He shuddered at his memory of skinning and dressing the animal, still haunted by the metallic odour, the sour taste in the back of his throat and the slipperiness of the blood-slicked skinning knife in his hands.

Shaking his head to dislodge that memory, his thoughts turned to his other survival skills. Familiar with all the trails around his home on the shores of Whitefish Lake, he traversed them in soft-footed moccasins in the summer and on silent snowshoes when the heavy snowfalls of winter cloaked the forest and the trails in white. A capable tracker and trapper of small game, he was proud to bring home a string of rabbits for his mother to make into a delicious stew with vegetables from their own garden, or, in the winter, from the root cellar attached to their small cabin. He knew that nothing could be wasted and he had been shown by his Ojibway friends how to stretch taut the pelts of rabbits or deer to dry over the willow hoops as he was also an expert handler of his father's small canoe which was kept at the post for speedy journeys when the ice was off the lakes and rivers. In the spring, he had paddled with his father and an Ojibway



**Hudson Bay Post Building Photo  
taken by Helen Webster 2018**

**SIMON ROSS continues on page 13**



**SIMON ROSS continued from page 12**

guide in the larger canoes to pick up supplies at Manitoulin Island and for the last two years he had traveled on a lake steamer with his father, the trader in charge of the Whitefish Lake post. This was a twice annual journey to Goderich on the eastern shores of Lake Huron to pick up six months of supplies. There he explored the town on his own while his father met with other HBC traders. On his return home, he could hardly find the words to describe the trip to his three younger brothers, George, Robert and Charles.

"It was almost scary storming down the rivers but paddling upstream on the trip back home, that was just plain hard work. My arms ached so much I could hardly sleep at night, and the mosquitoes!! They got in everywhere. We had to coat our faces with stinking bear grease or we couldn't see...ugh."

"Remember when we moved here four years ago? Same awful trip up the rivers, same swamps, same bugs. But, think how dull it would be if we lived anywhere else!" Rest time over, he pushed himself away from the wall of the post store and shoulders thrown back, marched to the wood pile, "Yeah, I'm going to live here for always."

**Sources:**

[ancestry.ca](http://ancestry.ca)

Simon Peter Ross, b. 1868, Metabetchouan, Quebec, Canada, d. 1944, Cleveland, Ohio, USA, Unpublished Letters

Thomas Robert Ross, b. 1871, Metabetchouan, Quebec, Canada, d. 1962, Calgary, Alberta. Unpublished Letters, Family Stories

**FROM NANAIMO HISTORICAL SOCIETY**

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

**LOOKING LOCAL**

**from Susan Garcia**

It's not genealogy, but if you have relatives on Vancouver Island and Gulf Islands or just an interest, explore Nanaimo and Area history with the Nanaimo Historical Society. Meetings began in-person November 8, 2021, at Bowen Park Complex, 500 Bowen Rd, 7:00 PM. Check our Facebook page for more information. A website should be up and running in December.

**Upcoming events include:**

- **January 13, 2022:** Members' Show and Share of historic items and stories.
- **February 10, 2022:** Historian and author Catherine Marie Gilbert speaking on the history of Strathcona Park.
- **March 10, 2022:** AGM and Speaker Susan Garcia: Topic: What Did Justice look like in the Gulf Islands in the 1870's? How one murder on Mayne Island played out.

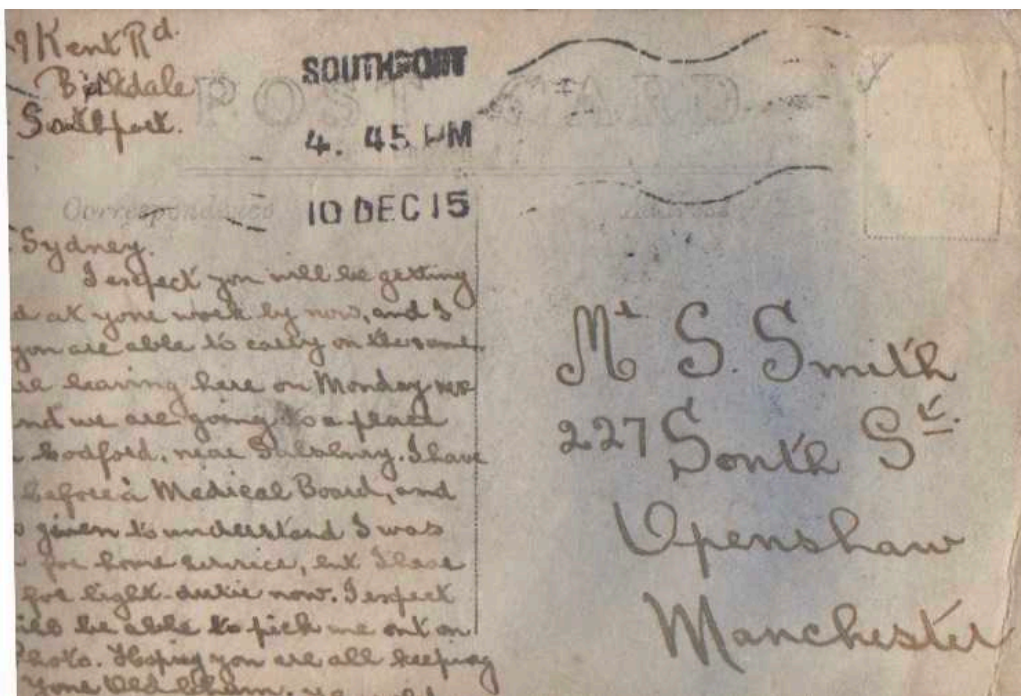


The Nanaimo LDS library is now open from 10:00 to 2:00 on Tuesdays. Most of our NFHS collection is at this location and available for borrowing. The library is located at 2424 Glen Eagle Crescent.

# LOST AND FOUND — CAN YOU HELP?



The photographs on this page were turned into Nanaimo RCMP who would like to return them to their owners. If you have any ideas about identifying the people in the photos, please [email your NFHS executive](#). We will forward our society's findings to the RCMP. Hopefully, with our society's help the photos will find their proper home! **Ideas submitted by Jan 31<sup>st</sup> could win a NFHS membership!**



“Our Mother”  
Photo by F.B. Wyles  
24 Dickenson Rd  
Rusholme

“Auntie Nan & me  
Fletcher at Moss 1986-7”





## CAN'T FIND A UK WILL AT THE PRO? DON'T DESPAIR!

by N.F.H.S. Member Carolyn Kemp

UK's Public Record Office is not your only source of wills and probate in the U.K. While researching different lines of my family over the last few years, I've learned there are alternate sources, especially for archived wills and probate documents. Many of these are to be found at various county archives. These documents are not free, but many can be obtained from the various archives.

Be forewarned — I've found that each county has different payment methods. Kent archives at Maidstone, for example asks that you fill out a form and from this you will be notified of the cost. If you're agreeable, you'll receive a pleasant phone call at (no charge and at a pre-arranged time) during which you can provide your payment information. Your documents will be sent within a day or two. Sounds complicated, I know, but the system works fine. From the Kent Archives, I received probate records for my 8<sup>th</sup> great grandfather, Gregory Kempe who died in 1690. The probate listed an inventory, from which I was able to picture his furniture and household goods. These details were so helpful when I was writing about his life. Google searches of antiques allowed me to further visualize these items.

A number of other documents in the Kent Archives catalogue pertained to my family, even extradition requests for one nefarious family member who absconded to the United States in the 1800's with stolen funds!

Recently, I have been researching an agrarian family from my maternal lineage. Yes, elusive ag labourers and farmers. For those of you who believe that there are none or few documents about "agricultural labourers" or farmers, don't give up! My third great grandparents, **Thomas Carter (1780-1829)** and **Eunice (1783-1852) (née Turnell)**, farmed in the early 1800's at a tiny village, Ailsworth, Northamptonshire. Census details were limited and there was no sign of a will listed at the PRO. A cold contact with a lady in Northamptonshire told me that there was, in fact, a will for Eunice Carter in 1852. Poking around at *Findmypast*, I found a source for Northamptonshire wills. The Northamptonshire and Rutland Probate index revealed what I needed to acquire Eunice's will, and also provided me with a list of other Carters in the area, many listing Ailsworth as their residence. I'll explore these at a later date!

Home / Articles / World Records / Search all UK records / Birth, marriage, death & parish records / **Wills and probate**

**Birth, marriage, death & parish records**

- Births and baptisms
- Churches and religion
- Deaths and burials
- Marriages
- Wills and probate**

**Wills and probate**

Wills and probate courts weren't just for the rich and famous (or infamous!), and their records can offer a unique insight into the lives and relative wealth of your forebears.

At first glance it would be easy to dismiss the Great Western Railway Shareholders records as unlikely to have any information about your relatives. However, the details you will find here are not dependent upon a family member having been a railway worker. Rather, over 440,000 individuals are named, alongside details of their address, marital status, dates of death and other events - which is actually a rather large number of the UK population!

Coupled with the fact that our Wills and probate records date back as far as 1462 (from various, countrywide sources, including the Bank of England and the Northamptonshire and Rutland Probate Index), and it's easy to see how useful, and interesting, these documents can prove to be.

**Records in this collection**

- Cheshire Wills and Probate 1492-1911
- Bank Of England Wills Extracts 1717-1845
- Billingshurst Burials and Probate
- Great Western Railway Shareholders 1835-1932
- Kent Probate Index 1750-1858
- London Probate Index 1750-1855
- Northamptonshire and Rutland Probate Index 1462-1857**
- Prerogative Court Of Canterbury Wills Index 1750-1800
- Suffolk Testator Index 1847-1857

First name(s)	Eunice	Folio or page	743
Last name	Carter	Reference	Consistory Court of Peterborough: Wills, Administrations and inventories
Birth year	-	Number	09 Oct
Year	1852	Record set	Northamptonshire And Rutland Probate Index
Place	Ailsworth	Category	Birth, Marriage, Death & Parish Records
Country	England	Subcategory	Wills & Probate
Type	Will	Collections from	Great Britain, England
Book or box	R4		

### Information needed to Acquire a will at county archives

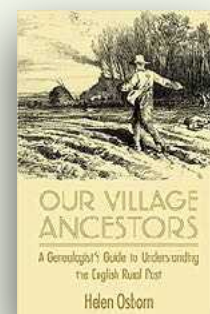
Now armed with will details, my next step was contacting Northamptonshire Archives and Heritage Service with whom I placed my order for Eunice's will. Her will, along with a local history book about Ailsworth that I acquired second-hand on line, provided me with information that Eunice and Thomas were copyholders on a manor farm at Ailsworth. The farm, which Thomas and Eunice obtained about 1815, was an extensive one for the area, and following Thomas's early death in 1829, the farm was Eunice's property. At the same time she raised eight children on her own. A very independent woman from all accounts thus far!

Currently, I am learning about and researching manorial records including freehold and copyhold. Unfortunately, there are not many manorial records on line, but with the assistance of a researcher at the Northamptonshire archives, I am now able to begin to piece together the history of my farming ancestors. My journey into manorial records will appear in a later edition of *AncesTree*.

In the meantime, take heart those of you with Ag Labourer ancestors ... or those of you unable to find a will from the PRO. **Explore county archives!** I haven't checked every county, but most if not all, will have an online catalogue with information about contacting the archives and acquiring documents. Simply Google the county name and "wills. —" For example, "Northamptonshire wills." This will take you to indexes of what's available as well as provide the information you need at the various archives. These indexes will often tell which archives to contact.



To understand the life of your rural ancestors, Helen Osborn's *Our Village Ancestors A Genealogist's Guide to Understanding the English Rural Past* is highly recommended by your editor. The book is not a difficult read — it provides the reader with an appreciation of our rural ancestors' lives and suggests many sources for further research.





## FACES OF OUR ANCESTORS

from NFHS member Beth Skala

This picture is the front side of a postcard postmarked "26 Jul 18." The man on the right is my maternal grandmother's half-brother, **Karl Wirth**. He was eighteen years old in this photograph. The clothing the young men are wearing was meant to keep their uniforms clean, and also to disguise their military affiliation in photos. The postcard is addressed to Karl Wirth at a German anti-aircraft searchlight unit in Hanover. Sometime between July and November 1918, Karl suffered a shrapnel wound to his shoulder and was captured, most likely by the French. I have found his prisoner-of-war index card with the International Red Cross. Unfortunately, the register that would describe the details of his capture and his personal history is missing from the archives and presumed lost. Karl immigrated to the United States in 1926, where he married and raised a family. In the 1940 US census, his occupation is listed as fireman. Karl's nephews, my mother's half-cousins, identified Karl for me in this photograph. One also wrote, "Not only was he a P.O.W., but he shed shrapnel out of his left shoulder, tiny pieces, all the rest of his life." Karl died at the age of eighty-three in Florida.



from NFHS member Carolyn Kemp



At left, we have my great grandfather **Edward Shire** (baptized Edmund) with his three children: **I-r** my grandmother, Edith Mary (1894), Florence Ellen (1896) and George (1892-1974).

Edward (1864-1933) was born at East Chinnock, Somerset, and married **Annie Rouse** in 1891. Edward was a brick mason, never, according to family lore, without his bowler hat, which served as a hard hat when wayward bricks descended on him.

To the right is my great grandmother Annie in her wedding photo. I'm not quite sure from what **that hat** may have protected her!!



Annie Rouse (1866-1940)

### Future Guest Speakers

Our plans for meetings in 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, January 17, 2022



**ZOOM SPEAKER MARALYNN WILKINSON  
UNITED EMPIRE LOYALISTS**

Maralynn will discuss who the United Empire Loyalists were, why they left the American colonies and where they settled in what is now Canada. She will also mention some prominent descendants who came to Vancouver Island.



**Monday, February 14, 2022  
ZOOM ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING  
CONTEST RESULTS AND**

**AHA! MOMENTS**



**Monday, March 21, 2022  
ZOOM SPEAKER JACQUELINE KANYUCK**

The *FamilySearch* website launched back in 1999, but like many other genealogical sites, it has undergone a plethora of transformations and updates. This presentation will provide a look into *FamilySearch* tools and their new updates and features. We will also discuss some free resources sponsored by *FamilySearch* and the Family History Library in Salt Lake City, Utah that will aid in your own research.



### 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"





## 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 *AnceTree*. Please [submit entries to our executive](#).

### 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)**

[Irish Emigration Lists 1833-1839](#)  
[UK Records of the Removal of Graves and Tombstones 1601-1980](#)  
[US Arizona Wills and Probate Records 1803-1995](#)  
[US Idaho Wills and Probate Records 1857-1989](#)  
[US Colorado Wills and Probate Records 1875-1974](#)  
[US Michigan Wills and Probate Records 1784-1980](#)  
[US Oregon Wills and Probate Records 1849-1963](#)  
[World War II Index to Allied Airmen Roll of Honour, 1939-1945](#)

**WEB LINKS****FAMILY SEARCH (FREE ... Just Register!!)**

[Canada British Columbia Naturalization Records](#)  
[Canada, Ontario Tax Assessment Rolls](#)  
[Canada Victoria Times Birth Marriage Death Notices 1901-1939](#)  
[UK Berkshire Parish Registers 1515-1919](#)  
[UK Kent Register of Electors 1570-1907](#)  
[UK Somerset Church Records 1501-1999](#)  
[UK Surrey Marriage Bonds and Licenses 1536-1992](#)

**FINDMYPAST (subscription)**

[Far East Directories & Chronicles 1833-1941](#)  
[Leeward Islands Census Substitutes 1678-1753](#)  
[UK Index to Death Duty Registers 1796-1903](#)  
[UK Crime, Prisons & Punishment, 1770-1935](#)

**MYHERITAGE (subscription)**

[Germany North Rhine Westphalia Deaths 1870-1940](#)  
[Sweden Household Examination Books](#)  
[UK Wales West Glamorgan Electoral Registers 1839-1928](#)

**MISCELLANEOUS (Free) LINKS**

[The Art of Avoiding Scams in Urainian 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](#)  
[DNA Explained Beginnings at Ancestry](#)  
[Free Online Canadian City Directories](#)  
[Find Lost Russian and Ukrainian Family](#)  
[Getting a Marriage Record from Ukrainian Archives](#)  
[Irish Genealogy How To Videos](#)  
[How to Preserve and Share Grandma's Recipes](#)  
[Ireland Civil registration records of birth, marriage and death from 1864, to 1921](#)  
[Holiday Gift Guide for Genealogists](#)  
[Hints for Formatting and Designing Family History Books](#)  
[Researching Agricultural Labourers in Scotland](#)

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**  
From former member Jacquie Jessop

**NEWS FLASH — 1852 NEW YEAR RESOLUTIONS SOLVE  
GENEALOGICAL MYSTERIES!**



It is New Year's Eve 1852 and our ancestors sit at their desk by candlelight. They dip their quill pens in ink and begin to write their New Year's resolutions.

1. No man is truly well-educated unless he learns to spell his name at least three different ways within the same document. I resolve to give the appearance of being extremely well-educated in the coming year.
2. I resolve to see to it that all of my children will have the same names that my ancestors have used for six generations in a row.
3. My age is no one's business but my own. I hereby resolve to never list the same age or birth year twice on any document.
4. I resolve to have each of my children baptized in a different church -- either in a different faith or in a different parish. Every third child will not be baptized at all or will be baptized by an itinerant minister who keeps no records.
5. I resolve to move to a new town, new county, or new state at least once every 10 years -- just before those pesky enumerators come around asking silly questions.
6. I will make every attempt to reside in counties and towns where no vital records are maintained or where the courthouse burns down every few years.
7. I resolve to join an obscure religious cult that does not believe in record keeping or in participating in military service.
8. When the tax collector comes to my door, I'll loan him my pen, which has been dipped in rapidly fading blue ink.
9. I resolve that if my beloved wife Mary should die, I will marry another Mary.
10. I resolve not to make a will. Who needs to spend money on a lawyer?

*RootsWeb Review*, December 28, 2005, Vol. 8, No. 52.

**NFHS member Susan Garcia** would like contact from any descendants of Hawaiians who came to the Nanaimo or Vancouver Island area in the 19<sup>th</sup> century. Please [email Susan here](#).

### EDITOR'S NOTES



Thank you to all our *AnceTree* contributors! As we approach the Christmas season, you may not be thinking of writing for our journal, but please remember we need your submissions for *AnceTree* to continue. Also, don't forget about our writing contest — deadline is midnight, December 31<sup>st</sup>. These contest entries are the backbone of future issues of *AnceTree*. See page 19 for contest details.

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

We are continuing 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!

*Carolyn*

### 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 twenty-one members in the group.


### WHAT IT'S WORTH TODAY ...



If you're wondering about a sum of UK money left in one of your ancestor's wills, and want to know its value today, the UK's National Archive has an excellent [currency converter](#) for you. Not only will it convert money, but it will also tell you what that amount would buy at that time. For example, £50 in the year 1750 would buy you 7 horses, 10 cows, 106 stones of wool or 500 days in wages for a skilled tradesman.

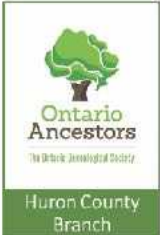


Search for your ancestor's name in *Google Books*. These books are not just what one thinks of in books, but also include annuals listing members of organizations, breeders of animals and many other sources. Check it out!



# DUTCH ROOTS?

**We would like family stories of Dutch immigrants to SW Ontario, especially Huron Co.**



**Send your family stories to**  
[huronchair@ogs.on.ca](mailto:huronchair@ogs.on.ca)  
**or mail to**  
**P.O.Box 1559, Clinton,**  
**ON, N0M 1L0**  
**by 31 Dec 2021**

Stories 1/2 page or 50 pages about...

- What was life in the Netherlands like before families immigrated to SW Ontario?
- How did families decide what country to immigrate to? Where to live in Canada/ Ontario?
- What was trip like coming to Canada?
- What were the challenges faced by new immigrants? What helped them cope?
- What customs have been maintained? Why are they important?

## 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)