



AncestryTree

The Nanaimo Family History Society Quarterly Journal
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President's Message

By Sharon Davison

Happy New Year! We had an enjoyable Christmas get-together, with 21 members attending. It was wonderful to get together in person to celebrate the season. The food was delicious, the door prizes great, and the conversations boisterous. Stephanie Williams was the winner of the Ancestry DNA kit. Congratulations! The society received \$88.00 in ticket sales.

On pages three and four of this issue there is a full slate of interesting speakers and informational mini Zoom sessions lined up for 2023. Please remember to sign up for the sessions that begin in January and continue until the end of June.

Three entries for the 2022 writing contest were received and a panel of judges will be reviewing the submissions. The winners will be announced at the February meeting.

Also in February, do not forget our AGM will be held on Monday, February 20th. The meeting will be held by Zoom only — members will be receiving an email outlining the voting procedures. You must be a paid-up member for 2023 to vote.

President's Message continues on page 2

What's Inside

President's Message	Pages 1-2
Mini How to Zooms	Page 3-4
Genealogy News Briefs	Pages 5-7
Adventure in Old Handwriting	Pages 8-9
Writing a Memoir	Pages 10-11
Forgotten Home Sources	Pages 12-14
It's a Small World	Page 15
Future Guest Speakers	Page 16
5 Photos At the Cemetery	Page 17
Web Links	Page 18
Members' Miscellany	Page 19-21
Editor's Notes	Page 21
Contact Information	Page 22

Save the Date!

"For who will testify, who will accurately describe our lives if we do not do it ourselves?"

Faye Moskowitz, American columnist and memoirist.
(1930-2022)

Nanaimo FHS Feb Meeting	Feb 20
Nanaimo FHS Mar Meeting	Mar 20
Nanaimo FHS Apr Meeting	Apr 17

President's Message Continued from page 1

We encourage members to visit the LDS Family History Library. There are a vast number of books on display and available for sign-out. It is possible that the LDS will be expanding their visiting hours to include Wednesday evenings as well as Saturdays. We will advise our members if that occurs.

Sharon

The Nanaimo LDS library is now open from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. on Tuesdays.

START THE NEW YEAR WITH GENEALOGY KINDNESS

The January 6, 2023 edition of [Legacy News](#) offered a unique suggestion for 2023. It lists a series of genealogy kindnesses that we may want to try, and in doing so we can help our genealogy community here in Nanaimo and beyond. The article suggests a variety of considerations:

- * Joining a Facebook group for the place you live or a genealogical topic and adding your expertise
- * Volunteering for a genealogy or historical society
- * Posting information you have gathered in your research
- * Transcribing or indexing records
- * Offering to do lookups at a library or archive
- * Taking part in a genealogically related project
- * Conducting oral history interviews
- * Passing on copies of photos or records to other family members

NFHS CO-OP FUND RAISER

Don't forget to use our membership number at a Mid Island CO-OP! In 2021, members helped to raise \$171.12 for NFHS. Well done!





Nanaimo Family History Society Spring 2023 Mini Zoom Sessions

You can register using the [blue](#) links with each session below.

[Jan. 19 – Writer’s Group, Helen Webster](#)

For the spring sessions, January 19 to June 15, the writing/editing group will move into some more complex strategies to consider when editing our work.

These will include character development, pace and momentum, plot and structure, and suspense and tension. We will also review showing and telling and have a look at transitions, both between paragraphs and chapters.

In session #1, we will decide as a group, which strategies we want to spend more or less time working on, and if there are others in which you would be interested...and I hope we will discuss how these editing skills are all applicable to writing your family history.

[Jan. 26 - Brick Wall Busting, 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.

[Feb. 2 – WikiTree, Barbara Winter](#)

Are you concerned that your genealogical research might get lost through fire, flood and other disaster? Do you want your family to have easy access to your research now and for generations to come? Join Barbara Winter as she explores keeping your work as digitally preserved as possible using Wikitree.

[Feb. 9 – Genealogy Book Club, Terry Hartley](#)

We’re working through the book called *The Family Tree Guide to DNA Testing and Genetic Genealogy*, Second Edition, by Blaine Bettinger. Blaine writes about DNA in easily understandable terms, making this the ideal book for those beginning their DNA journey, while still tackling complex subjects that are of benefit to more advanced practitioners. You can join us anytime.

[Feb. 16 – Writer’s Group, Helen Webster](#)

The writing/editing group will move into some more complex strategies to consider when editing our work. These strategies will include character development, pace and momentum, plot and structure, and suspense and tension. We will also review showing and telling and have a look at transitions, both between paragraphs and chapters. We will discuss how these editing skills are all applicable to writing your family history.

[Feb. 23 – Beginning Genealogy: What Do I Already Know, Beth Skala](#)

Most of us begin our genealogy research with some family stories, photos, and perhaps a few documents already in hand. This discussion will focus on how to collect “perishable” information stored in the heads and hands of family members—before it’s too late.

Mar. 2 – Session cancelled due to RootsTech

[Mar. 9 – Genealogy Book Club, Terry Hartley](#)

We’re working through the book called *The Family Tree Guide to DNA Testing and Genetic Genealogy*, Second Edition, by Blaine Bettinger. Blaine writes about DNA in easily understandable terms, making this the ideal book for those beginning their DNA journey, while still tackling complex subjects that are of benefit to more advanced practitioners. You can join us anytime.

[Mar. 16 – Writer’s Group, Helen Webster](#) The writing/editing group will move into some more complex strategies to consider when editing our work. These strategies will include character development, pace and momentum, plot and structure, and suspense and tension. We will also review showing and telling and have a look at transitions, both between paragraphs and chapters. We will discuss how these editing skills are all applicable to writing your family history.

VIRTUAL WORKSHOPS continues on page 4

VIRTUAL WORKSHOPS continued from page 3

[Mar. 30 – Genealogy Pitfalls & Successes, Susan Bates](#)

Lost Ancestors? Were they non-conformists?

[Apr. 6 – Researching in Lancashire, Penny Bent](#)

Penny is going to talk about her Lancashire research, with anecdotes about how some of her most surprising information came about. There will be suggestions for local records and finding your own historian.

[Apr. 13 – Genealogy Book Club, Terry Hartley](#)

We're working through the book called *The Family Tree Guide to DNA Testing and Genetic Genealogy*, Second Edition, by Blaine Bettinger. Blaine writes about DNA in easily understandable terms, making this the ideal book for those beginning their DNA journey, while still tackling complex subjects that are of benefit to more advanced practitioners. You can join us anytime.

[Apr. 20 – Writer's Group, Helen Webster](#)

The writing/editing group will move into some more complex strategies to consider when editing our work. These strategies will include character development, pace and momentum, plot and structure, and suspense and tension. We will also review showing and telling and have a look at transitions, both between paragraphs and chapters. We will discuss how these editing skills are all applicable to writing your family history.

[Apr. 27 – Beginning Genealogy: What Do I Want to Know, Beth Skala](#)

This discussion will focus on the reasons for doing genealogy and help beginners as well as experienced researchers prioritize their goals to make the most efficient use of resources. You can't find the answers if you don't know the questions!

[May 4 – Genealogy Pitfalls & Successes, Ruth Stewart](#)

Searching for the Robinsons: What Happened to the Descendants of My Great, Great Grandparents?

[May 11 – Genealogy Book Club, Terry Hartley](#)

We're working through the book called *The Family Tree Guide to DNA Testing and Genetic Genealogy*, Second Edition, by Blaine Bettinger. Blaine writes about DNA in easily understandable terms, making this the ideal book for those beginning their DNA journey, while still tackling complex subjects that are of benefit to more advanced practitioners. You can join us anytime.

[May 18 – Writer's Group, Helen Webster](#)

The writing/editing group will move into some more complex strategies to consider when editing our work. These strategies will include character development, pace and momentum, plot and structure, and suspense and tension. We will also review showing and telling and have a look at transitions, both between paragraphs and chapters. We will discuss how these editing skills are all applicable to writing your family history.

[May 25 – Brick Wall Busting, 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.

[June 1 – The Genealogical Proof Standard, Bronwyn Frazer](#)

What do you do when you have conflicting evidence? How do you know when you have enough information to satisfy your research question? Join Bronwyn in a review of the process for 'weighing'/evaluating evidence and the 3 linkages required to establish genealogical proof.

[June 8 - Genealogy Book Club, Terry Hartley](#)

We're working through the book called *The Family Tree Guide to DNA Testing and Genetic Genealogy*, Second Edition, by Blaine Bettinger. Blaine writes about DNA in easily understandable terms, making this the ideal book for those beginning their DNA journey, while still tackling complex subjects that are of benefit to more advanced practitioners. You can join us anytime.

[June 15 – Writer's Group, Helen Webster](#)

The writing/editing group will move into some more complex strategies to consider when editing our work. These strategies will include character development, pace and momentum, plot and structure, and suspense and tension. We will also review showing and telling and have a look at transitions, both between paragraphs and chapters. We will discuss how these editing skills are all applicable to writing your family history.

[June 22 – Beginning Genealogy: Where Did I Find That, Beth Skala](#)

This session will cover why it is important to keep records and note sources. It will outline some general considerations in deciding how and where to store your work, whether you are just starting out or already have a filing cabinet full of material.

GENEALOGY NEWS IN BRIEF







FROM LIBRARY AND ARCHIVES CANADA

- * WW II service records of war dead has been supplemented. As of November 8, 2022 more than 43,000 records have been digitized and are available for download. The records are for those who were killed in action or who died 1946-1947 from injuries.
- * LAC has introduced a new census tool designed for easier searches of Canadian families. "The [new Census Search tool](#) is a one-stop shop to search more than 44 million census records all at once, rather than searching 17 census databases individually. It includes pre-Confederation and Canadian census records from 1825 to 1926." "Census Search is part of Library and Archives Canada's efforts to improve the online experience of its website users. Users are encouraged to adopt Census Search as their primary census research tool. While the 17 stand-alone census databases will run in parallel for now, they will be decommissioned in 2023."
- * LAC is hiring additional staff to deal with backlog of "access to information requests." This includes a new complaints response team.
- * This January, LAC announced In an effort to address lengthy delays responding to Access to Information and Privacy requests, Library and Archives Canada ([LAC](#)) is [seeking analysts and senior analysts for its Access to Information team](#).



LEGACY TO CONTINUE ITS "CANADA" WEBINARS

[Legacy Family Tree webinars](#) will continue to run their "O Canada" bi-monthly series on

<p>PLACES AND ETHNICITIES * O CANADA</p> <p>Family History on the Canadian Prairies</p> <p> Dave Obee</p> <p>Fri, Feb 17, 2023: 11:00 AM PST</p> <p>Register for free</p>	<p>PLACES AND ETHNICITIES * O CANADA</p> <p>Daughters of the King to Mothers of a Nation</p> <p> Lianne Kruger</p> <p>Fri, Apr 21, 2023: 11:00 AM PDT</p> <p>Register for free</p>	<p>PLACES AND ETHNICITIES * O CANADA</p> <p>Finding Your Ancestors in Canadian Land Records</p> <p> Tara Shymanski</p> <p>Fri, Jun 16, 2023: 11:00 AM PDT</p> <p>Register for free</p>
<p>PLACES AND ETHNICITIES * O CANADA</p> <p>Six Free Websites Every Ontario Genealogist Needs</p> <p> Janice Nickerson</p> <p>Fri, Aug 18, 2023: 11:00 AM PDT</p> <p>Register for free</p>	<p>PLACES AND ETHNICITIES</p> <p>Gold! Gold! Gold! The 1897 Klondike Rush</p> <p> Jill Morell, CG</p> <p>Fri, Oct 20, 2023: 11:00 AM PDT</p> <p>Register for free</p>	<p>PLACES AND ETHNICITIES * O CANADA</p> <p>Landscape of Dreams: Jewish Genealogy in Canada</p> <p> Kaye Prince-Hollenberg</p> <p>Fri, Dec 15, 2023: 11:00 AM PST</p> <p>Register for free</p>

GENEALOGY NEWS IN BRIEF continued from page 5

SEVENTH CENSUS OF CANADA 1931 RELEASE PLANS

The 1931 Canada census is currently being digitized by Library and Archives Canada with public access to images by sub-district hopefully available by June 2023. A searchable nominal index will follow.

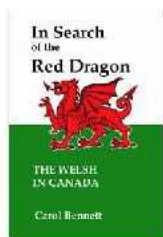


ROOTSTECH 2023 IN PERSON AND VIRTUAL

[RootsTech 2023](#) from March 2nd to 4th will be held both live and virtually. "With hands-on classes, engaging workshops, exclusive live entertainment, and the innovative Expo Hall, there is nothing quite like being in-person for RootsTech. Plus, get access to all of the virtual classes and events, even after the conference is over, all for one low price. Rootstech is a family history conference. An on-demand learning library. A way to grow closer to the people, places, and stories that matter most. RootsTech is all that and so much more. Join us as we celebrate the joy of connection."

CANADIAN ESTATE FILES DURING WORLD WAR I

If you have an ancestor who died while serving in the Canadian military, the soldier's estate files may reveal important details about his family for you. Jane MacNamara's [article at her website "Where the Story Takes Me"](#) provides information about accessing these estate files.



WELSH ROOTS?

If you have Welsh ancestors who immigrated to Canada, check out Carol Bennett's *In Search of the Red Dragon The Welsh in Canada*. The book describes "Welsh immigration and settlements, discusses the survival of the Welsh language and cultural institutions in Canada, and tells the story of a number of famous Canadians of Welsh extraction."



RESEARCHING ONTARIO ANCESTORS?

The [Our Ontario search site](#) has been updated with new features that allow you to quickly search more than 200 organizational collections that provide many visuals such as newspaper obituaries. "Find over 1.8 million items and collections from libraries, archives, museums, historical societies, community groups, and government ministries.

Discover – people, places, events and objects about Ontario. **View** and **access** photographs, maps, videos, oral histories, government documents, newspapers and more..."



FINDING YOUR ROOTS SEASON 9

Henry Louis Gates returns with a new season beginning January 3, 2023. "The season features actors Jamie Chung (*Lovecraft Country*), Brian Cox (*Succession*), Billy Crudup (*The Morning Show*), Claire Danes (*Homeland*), Jeff Daniels (*American Rust*), Viola Davis (*The Woman King*), David Duchovny (*The X-Files*), Richard Kind (*Inside Out*), Joe Manganiello (*True Blood*), Tamera Mowry (*The Real*),

Edward Norton (*Fight Club*), Julia Roberts (*Ticket to Paradise*) and Danny Trejo (*Machete*); pop star Cyndi Lauper; comedians Carol Burnett and Niecy Nash; athlete and sportscaster Tony Gonzalez; journalists Jim Acosta and Van Jones; activist Angela Davis; and statesman Jeh Johnson" and others.

GENEALOGY NEWS IN BRIEF continues on page 7

GENEALOGY NEWS IN BRIEF continued from page 6

US WORKS IN PUBLIC DOMAIN EXTENDED

As of January 1, 2023 copyright works from 1927 are free to copy, share and build upon. This includes any genealogy books published that year. This applies only to the United States.

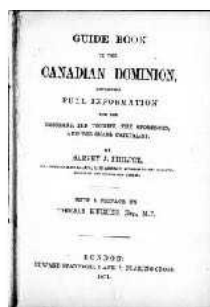
**GLOBAL NAME TRANSLATION**

MyHeritage popular for international genealogy announces its [Global Translation for DNA matches](#). "This newest application of Global Name Translation™ is great news for users who receive DNA Matches in Greek, Hebrew, Ukrainian, and Russian, or whose display language on MyHeritage is one of those languages. Both will now find the names of their DNA Matches transliterated, either from non-Latin characters to Latin letters (English), or from Latin letters to the selected language on their family site."

"As you scroll through your DNA Matches, you'll notice that for names of matches written in non-Latin letters, a set of square brackets with the transliterated name now appears directly after the original name. In the example below, the name of the match is originally written in Ukrainian, and an English transliteration appears in the brackets that follow. Further down the card, the link to contact this match also shows the transliterated name, making it easier for users to contact DNA Matches whose names they would not otherwise have known due to the language barrier."

WHY DID YOUR ANCESTORS EMIGRATE? HISTORIC TRAVEL BROCHURES

How our ancestors learned about emigrating is discussed in [Linda Stufflebean's January 9th blog](#) "Emigrant Travel Guides: Travel Brochures from the Past." The information here is very helpful for researchers writing about their ancestors' emigration experiences. Numerous examples of brochures are presented.

**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 thirty-four members in the group.



AN ADVENTURE IN OLD HANDWRITING

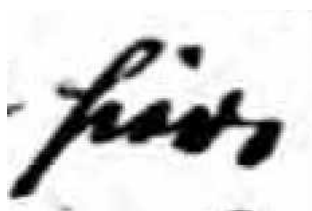
by NFHS Member Beth Skala

Priests, pastors, and clerks of the past were just like everyone else when it comes to handwriting. Sometimes in a rush they got sloppy. Sometimes they took the time to embellish their capitals in unique ways or used abbreviations known only to themselves. These are some of the challenges in reading old records. The difficulties are compounded when trying to read records in different languages.

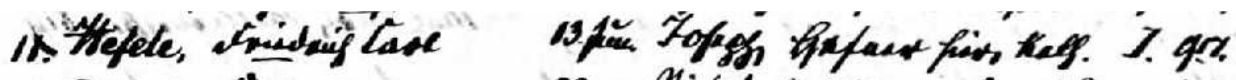
To assist me in reading old German church registers, I purchased several books and searched the internet for helpful websites. Recently I had to use all of my resources to figure out this word:



Comparison of letters h, f,
and s in German script



I came across it in Lutheran confirmation records of 23 April 1865 for the town of Weikersheim, Germany.¹ Here is the entire entry I was studying:



It reads: "11. Hefe, Friedrich Carl 13 Juni Joseph Hafner [mystery word] Kath I. 917." Using the headings at the top of the page for clarification, it translates to: The eleventh person to be confirmed on 23 April 1865 was Friedrich Carl Hefe, who went by Friedrich (because that is underlined), born 13 June 1851. His father was Joseph, a potter, [mystery word], a Catholic, and the family is in the church's Family Register Book I, page 917.

I dearly wanted to know my mystery word. Did it have something to do with Joseph's occupation? Or could it be related to the fact Joseph was Catholic? Looking at the entire page, I saw that the same word appeared on other lines, but only Joseph was listed as Catholic. So I discounted the idea that the mystery word had to do with religion. Perhaps it might have to do with occupation.

I looked ahead several pages in the same confirmation records to find entries written by a different hand. The next pastor's pages were much more legible, but none of those entries contained the mystery word. Whatever the first clergyman was trying to say was not deemed important by his successor.

ADVENTURE IN OLD HANDWRITING continues page 9

¹ Ancestry.com. *Württemberg, Germany, Family Tables, 1550-1985* [database on-line]. Lehi, UT, USA: Ancestry.com Operations, Inc., 2016. Weikersheim>Konfirmationen, Seelenregister U. Famillienbuch 1582- 1903: Band 21; slide 30, line 11.

ADVENTURE IN OLD HANDWRITING continued from page 8

I could read two letters of the mystery word. The word starts with an "h." Yes, in English it looks like an "f," but the loop is to the left of the down stroke rather than to the right, which means it is a small "h." ²

Also, the word is not a noun because all nouns in German start with capital letters. After the "h," one of the "bumps" must be an "i" because it is dotted and does not extend below the line. I decided to begin my word search with the assumption that the "i" comes directly after the "h." I went to *WordMine.info* and started a search for a German word of 4 to 5 letters beginning with "hi."



Word search on WordMine.info ³

This website allows you to search in 15 different languages including English. WordMine generated 55 hits for my search. The tenth word in the list was "hier" which means "here." That looked promising.

As a double check, I accessed *deutsche-handschrift.de*. On this website it is possible to type in a word in German and the site will display the word in different German scripts. I selected a script that looked similar to the one in the confirmation records. I typed in "hier"⁴ and this was the result:



Now that looked familiar! I went back to the original document. There were a few lines on the page with the Friedrich Carl Hefe entry which did **not** have the mystery word. After the occupation on each of those lines it says "in Queckbronn," a town less than five kilometers from Weikersheim. So my mystery word is telling me that Joseph Hefe was a potter "here," that is, in Weikersheim. **Mystery solved!**

Best Resources for Deciphering Old German Handwriting:

- Bentz, Edna M., *If I Can You Can Decipher Germanic Records*. San Diego CA: self-published, 1982. [By far the best book on the subject. Includes multiple alphabets showing variations in scripts.]
- Schober, Katherine, *The Magic of German Church Record*. Monee IL: self-published, 2020.
- Schober, Katherine, *Tips and Tricks of Deciphering German Handwriting*. San Bernardino CA: self-published, 2018.

² Katherine Schober, *Tips and Tricks of Deciphering German Handwriting*, (San Bernardino CA: self-published, 2018), 30.

³ <https://www.wordmine.info>, accessed 23 December 2022.

⁴ <https://deutsche-handschrift.de>, accessed 23 December 2022

WRITING A MEMOIR



Writing a memoir doesn't necessarily mean writing a whole book. It may be a short vignette such as the one below written as part of NFHS's writing group hosted by Helen Webster. You might want to write a series of vignettes for your family. What a wonderful legacy for your descendants! Notice in Maureen's story how precise description evokes the senses, allowing the reader to wander vicariously through her mother's kitchen.

STRAWBERRY VALE GROCERY

by NFHS member Maureen Wootten



When I was twelve, we moved to the Burnside area of Victoria and I was delighted to learn that we were to live in the back of a neighbourhood grocery store. Even more exciting was the news that the school bus stopped by our store. The children got off the bus and headed to our store to wait for a pick up by their parents. My mother knew all their names and treated the children kindly. They adored her, soon calling her Mum.

Our home in the back of the store had a large kitchen. I remember, summer and winter, the room was warm and welcoming. On grey rainy days the school children spent their time in our kitchen doing their homework or playing games with their friends. I can still smell the wet wool steaming in the warmth of the room, accompanied by the scent of freshly baked cookies or one of my mother's soups simmering on the back of the stove.

The children were not the only ones who enjoyed my mother's hospitality. Salesmen and neighbours, including seniors who had walked to the store to make purchases, rested in our kitchen with a cup of coffee or tea. The burbling kettle, always on a side burner of the oil stove, was part of the background of welcoming sounds that filled my ears whenever I entered the room. I heard soft laughter and the murmured conversations of the elderly senior citizens enjoying their social time. As soon as I got home from school and entered the kitchen and my mother smiled at me, I was content.



Mother also made sure that the crib board sat at the ready on the kitchen table. There were cards for double solitaire or other card games. I can clearly see two old fellows whose stern faces belied the pleasure they took in their games.

STRAWBERRY VALE GROCERY continues on page 11

STRAWBERRY VALE GROCERY continued from page 10

If there was a special sports event, such as the World Series, our small living room was crowded with all ages listening to the radio or watching our tiny black and white television set. Cheers and moans accompanied the on-screen action.



Sundays we were closed, but one of our elderly neighbours thought we were open day and night including weekends for her benefit. The sound of her quivery voice on the phone demanded that we deliver certain food then and there. More often than not, rain or shine, my mother agreed and my sister and I set out to deliver the requested groceries.



**Lena Pollock née Bonnet
1918-2003**

I recall a family with eight children who would send the little children to our store with a list of items to be sent home with the children, but no money. To this day, I can see my mother, knowing that they could not pay, sighing, then insisting we send them home with the groceries.

I am left today with so many memories of my mother's kitchen. They pop up unexpectedly bringing me a mixture of joy and sadness.

**Sometimes You Will Never
Know The Value Of A
Moment. Until It Becomes
A Memory.
-Dr. Seuss**

FIVE TIPS FOR WRITING YOUR MEMOIR

1. **Avoid beginning when you were born. Focus on an event, or item or place that evokes sharp memories.**
2. **Write the story you often think about.**
3. **Use first person point of view. This will pull your reader in.**
4. **Show, don't tell. Describe action and use dialogue.**
5. **Avoid including all your friends and loved ones. Focus on the people essential to your specific memory.**

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. All you'll need is a pencil and an eraser!

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.

FORGOTTEN SOURCES IN YOUR HOME

Much of our time researching is on line, but there are other sources that we may have tucked away in our homes. Old diaries and letters immediately come to mind, but there may be other treasures that we've neglected. Check through the sources below that some of our members have found in their homes!

1. BIRTHDAY BOOKS

GREAT AUNT LUCY'S LITTLE BLACK BOOK from NFHS member Stephanie Williams

I'm not sure how I got to be so lucky as to inherit Great Aunt Lucy's little black birthday book. But it is such a treasure. Each of the 365 days has a scripture and a space for a friend or relative to sign by his or her birthday. I think the most riveting page is the first one. "Lucy Mason with love Grandmama 1874." Looking at our family tree, her grandma would have been **Mary Westmoreland Chapman** who was born in 1808. Lucy would have been sixteen years old the year it was given to her.



Lucy's Little black book

It is a treasure just for its antiquity, but the pages are full of interesting notations of people who were much older than Lucy. I can imagine her meeting with people and shyly asking them to sign her book. She notes birthdays, wedding anniversaries, deaths, and some coming and goings. She notes when each of her brothers left for Canada and when some of them came back. During WW1, she notes the coming and going of nephews who served in the war. On January 17, 1919, she notes "Stanley left us, and Laurie arrived." Just to think that my dad, Laurie, went to visit her while he was in England after the war!



Lucy Mason

I have made so many genealogical excursions through that book. I noticed that my brother Ted is in there and I am not, so I entered my name and others in the family. I try to recognize handwriting wondering who entered each person. Did the book come to me through Nancy Mason? Did I get it from Dad? Did I steal it?

Using *Family Search* I have gone through the book and corrected dates and added people. I have noted tender moments. "My Zac died Jan 11 1943." "Papa and Mama's wedding anniversary Jan 8 1852." "Mollie our darling died aged 28 1915" and so on.

I love this little black book so full of memories, so full of Lucy, so full of Mason news and memories.

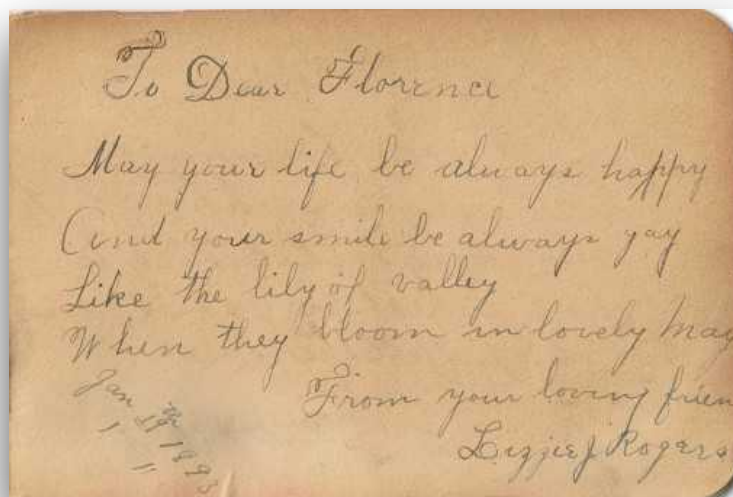
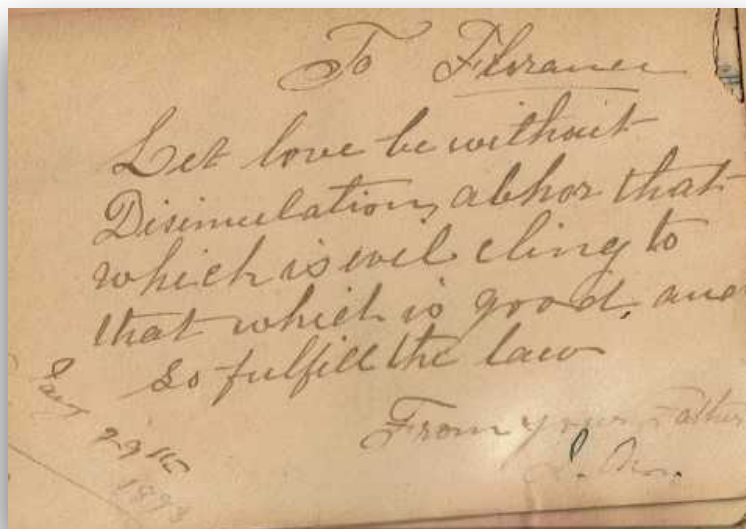
FORGOTTEN SOURCES continues on page 13

FORGOTTEN SOURCES continued from page 12
2. AUTOGRAPH BOOKS

from NFHS member Ross White



The autograph book entries below are from a book belonging to Ross White's wife's grandmother, **Florence Armstrong**. Florence was a farm girl from Arundel, Québec who was a model and worked in the clothing industry in Montréal. In later years she was a dress maker working from home with a large clientele. She was a sewing mentor for Ross's wife. Florence died about 1966. The names and dates with the autographs could provide valuable chronology details of an ancestor's life.

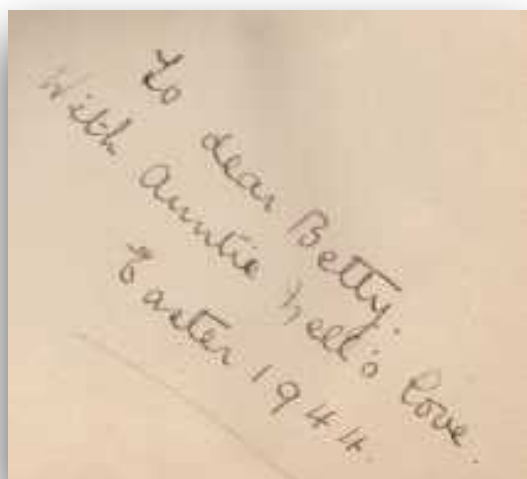


FORGOTTEN SOURCES continues on page 14

3. ADDRESS BOOKS AND BOOK INSCRIPTIONS

by NFHS member Carolyn Kemp

While researching my maternal grandfather, **John William Carter**, I knew from a variety of sources that he was related to a **Sidney Carter** born in 1917. It seemed that Sidney was my grandfather's nephew whose mother was one of two siblings of my grandfather, but which one? The Carter family, I knew, had lived in Gainsborough, Lincolnshire. While browsing through my mother's old address book, I found entries for a number of people in Gainsborough, which eventually allowed me to make contact with two of Sidney's daughters, my second cousins. From these two, I was able to ascertain that Sidney's mother was my great aunt, **Ellen Sarah Carter** (1890-1949).



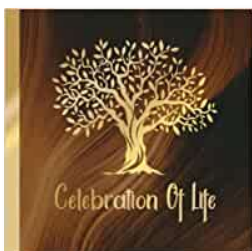
Then, this past December, another source that I had missed came to light when a visiting second cousin was thumbing through some of my books. Inscribed in my mother's volume of Rupert Brooke's poetry, was "with Auntie Nell's love — Aha! "Nell" is a diminutive of Ellen, so I now knew that Ellen Sarah Carter was probably back in England from Jamaica by 1944. This was borne out with further research.

My cousin continued thumbing through books, and in one of my father's old textbooks, she found inscribed, "If this book is lost and you cannot find Kemp, turn it in to the [?] and Welfare for incineration." Not much help genealogically, but certainly something to add to my father's biography!



4. GUEST BOOKS FROM WEDDINGS, FUNERALS, AND OTHER FAMILY GATHERINGS

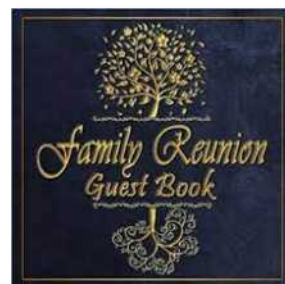
These books can be another valuable source. Do you know all the family members in these books? How do they tie into your family? What do the comments in them reveal about your ancestors?



Funeral and Memorials



Weddings



Family Reunions

IT'S A SMALL WORLD

by NFHS Member Donna MacIver

In May of 2021, I received a message through *Ancestry* from a woman named Shelley, informing me that she had found an old photograph with a couple of names on the back. She thought the person in the photo might be an ancestor of mine.

The photo was taken at the McCarthy Studio in Milton, North Dakota. Written on the back are the words "Mrs. John Matheson (Annie Black) Grandma Matheson (Neil's Mother)." Shelley searched family trees on *Ancestry*, and my public tree popped up as containing those names. She asked if I was interested in having the photo and of course I jumped at the chance!

The photo is of my great-great grandmother **Annie (née Black) Matheson**. Annie was born October 31, 1854 in Rothesay on the Isle of Bute in Scotland. She married **John Matheson** in Rothesay in 1874 and had eight children there. In 1888 Annie and John sailed for Quebec City with their six surviving children. They settled in Milton, North Dakota and had one more child (their only surviving son, Neil), in 1889. Annie died in Milton in 1942 at the age of 88. The photo looks like it might have been taken in the early 1900s when Annie was in her 40s or 50s.



Shelley's hobby is to peruse old photos in antique shops and secondhand stores. She purchases any that have names on the back, then searches for the family of the person in the photo. She also posts photos on [Ancient Faces](#), which is a free website dedicated to remembering our ancestors through photos. Shelley's goal is to reunite photos with descendants, asks only that the cost of the photo and shipping are covered.

Shelley is from Oregon but found the photo in an antique store in Moorhead, Minnesota, which is 167 miles from Milton. I am unaware of any family members from that branch of my family who lived in Minnesota. All of Annie and John's children stayed in North Dakota, except for my adventurous great grandmother who married a Manitoba man and moved to Vancouver. If only that photo could talk! I am so happy to have it — for \$19.00 US I was able to obtain a priceless family history treasure, thanks to a kind stranger and her hobby.



A FROG DECIDED TO TRACE HIS ANCESTRY ONE DAY AND DISCOVERED HE WAS A LITTLE ENGLISH, A LITTLE FRENCH AND A TAD POLE!

Nanaimo Family History Society Future Speakers

Hybrid meetings will be held live at Beban Park and on Zoom



Monday, February 20, 2023
ZOOM ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING



CONTEST RESULTS
AND
AHA! MOMENTS



Monday, March 20, 2023

TO BE ANNOUNCED



Monday, April 17, 2023
GENEVIEVE WEBER, ARCHIVIST ROYAL BC MUSEUM

Going Beyond Vital Events Records:
Finding Family at the BC Archives



The BC Archives is the provincial repository for records relating to British Columbia. The archives provides access to the vital events (birth, marriage and death) registrations. This is often the starting point for building a family tree, but did you know that there are many other records in our holdings that can unlock the mysteries of your family history? This workshop will cover the Top 10 record types to aid with genealogy research, and will also discuss navigating the BC Archives processes, including accessing restricted records, and how to obtain copies of material for your personal use or for publication.



Monday, May 15, 2023

TO BE ANNOUNCED



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

IF YOU SHAKE YOUR FAMILY TREE, WATCH FOR THE NUTS TO FALL!

FIVE PHOTOS YOU SHOULD TAKE AT THE CEMETERY!

from Amy Johnson Crow at amyjohnsoncrow.com



1. **The Cemetery Sign** (so you don't get mixed up sorting pictures later if you are visiting several cemeteries in one day)
2. **The Entire Tombstone** (get the back and sides of it, too)
3. **Close-up details of the stone** (so you can read everything on the tombstone)
4. **The wider shot** (so you can find the tombstone again)
5. **The neighbours** (in case other family members are buried close by)



ANCESTRY (subscription)

Canada, Newspapers.com Obituary Index, 1800s-current
 Canada, World War II, Faces of the Second World War, 1941-1945
 Nova Scotia, Canada, Antigonish Catholic Baptisms, Marriages, and Burials, 1823-1905
 Quebec, Canada, Vital and Church Records (Drouin Collection), 1621-1968
 Saskatchewan, Canada, Birth Index, 1875-1919
 Ontario Immigration Records 1865-1883
 Ontario Births 1832-1916
 Saskatchewan, Canada, Death Index, 1889-1949

FAMILY SEARCH (FREE ... Just Register!!)

Canada Manitoba Probate Records 1871-1930
 Austria Roman Catholic Church Records, 1565-2007
 Belarus, Minsk Church Books 1700-1965
 Belgium Antwerp, Civil Registration and Church Records 1803-1890
 Ireland, Dublin, Workhouses Admission and Discharge Registers, 1840-1919
 Zimbabwe, Archdiocese of Harare, Church Records, 1897-2021



FINDMYPAST (subscription)

Barbados Births & Baptisms 1637-1891
 Caribbean Association Oath Rolls 1696
 Gibraltar Census 1871-1921
 Gibraltar Marriages 1802-1942
 Montserrat, Methodist Marriages 1820-1841
 UK Protestation Returns 1641-1642

MYHERITAGE (subscription)

Israel Immigration Lists from 1919
 Utah Burials 1859-present

ROOTS IRELAND (FREE ... Just Register)

Antrim and Down Baptisms and Marriages
 Kerry Roman Catholic records
 Clare Tithe Applotment Book Records
 Write Your Own Obituary
 Cartophilica Old County Maps of England and Wales

MISCELLANEOUS (Free) LINKS

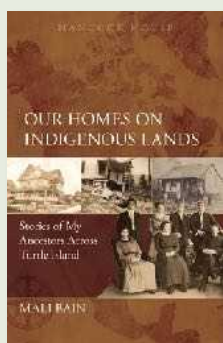
Free Canada College and High School Yearbooks Online
 Dating Family Photos by Clothing
 Australian WWI Records
 In Search of Red River Ancestors
 DNA Matches on Same Segment Not Necessarily Related to Each Other
 Ireland Civil registration records of birth, marriage and death from 1864 to 1921
 Preserving Christmas and Other Greeting Cards
 Dutch Genealogy November 2022
 Borrowing Books from Internet Archive
 Researching Outside of Dublin and Belfast
 Registry of Irish Deeds Project
 Digging for Deaths: Understanding the Census Mortality Schedule

Most of 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

A new book from NFHS member Mali Bain uses family history to interrogate thoughtfully Canada's settler past and asks: What stories are we passing on to our children? She writes:

For a long time, I have wanted to better understand where I come from, as well as the broader context of the places my ancestors lived and settled in Canada. Like many settler-Canadians, for a long time I knew little about my most recent ancestors who built their lives on Indigenous land. I realized without a thoughtful exploration of these stories, I wouldn't be able to pass on the fullness of our history, the good and the bad, to my own daughter. I wanted to be able to share with her the richness and the complexity of this country, so she would be prepared to contribute to a more thoughtful future.



After years of research and writing, my new book, ***Our Homes on Indigenous Lands: Stories of My Ancestors Across Turtle Island***, is the result of that work. *Our Homes* is a place-based family history. It looks at one family (mine) but makes connections between land, identity, colonization, and family that might emerge for many families. Since completing the research and writing for that book, I have had the good fortune to encounter others who are also thoughtful about their own past.

Here's a snippet of the introduction:

Years ago I attended a workshop (hosted by WUSC on Treaty 6 territory, Calgary) where, as participants, we stood on a map of Canada. The facilitator, an Indigenous woman, asked us to stand where we were born; then where our parents were born; then our grandparents.

By the time she got to our great-grandparents, the room had cleared to the edges of the map. But she was still standing there, in Treaty 6 territory, where her people had been since time immemorial. In each of the places my ancestors have lived, Indigenous peoples can go back two, five, fifteen generations and bring back a simple answer: since time immemorial, we have been in and of this place.

I feel a sense of responsibility to know my own people, to know where I come from, and perhaps from that journey, I will have a better sense of what I bring with me—consciously and unconsciously.

In the end, I wrote the book to interrogate that one question: What do I bring with me? What assumptions and beliefs do I carry within me as I raise my daughter, do my work, contribute to my community? My research took me back to the 1600s in New Sweden (Pennsylvania), the 1800s in PEI, and the early 1900s in Alberta, Manitoba, southern Ontario, PEI, and New England.

I wrote this book for my daughter, my niece and nephews, my cousins, and my cousins' children. And maybe for yours.

The book is now [available for order here](#). If you'd like to hear about an upcoming launch event, you can join my listserv at www.nextgenstory.com. I would be honoured to have you join me on my journey across Turtle Island. More importantly, I look forward to reading your version one day!

MEMBERS' MISCELLANY continues on page 20

MEMBERS' MISCELLANY continued from page 19

ElderCollege, University of Vancouver Island, Nanaimo

Genealogy 101: How To Begin And Prove Your Tree

This course will introduce you to the basics of good genealogy practice - what to record, how to record it, and how to find what you want to record. By the end of this course, you will know how to determine if your family's stories are fact or fiction and be able to share your work knowing it meets the Genealogical Proof Standard.

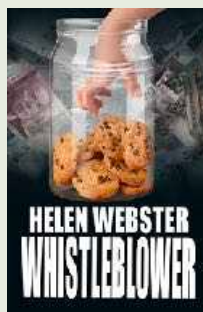
ELDK 076 - S23W70

6 sessions: Wed, Mar 8-Apr 12; 3:00-5:00pm

Location: Online

Cost: \$44.29+GST

Bronwyn Frazer (NFHS secretary) is a passionate family history researcher and a graduate (with distinction) of the National Institute of Genealogical Studies. She loves the thrill of the hunt, solving family mysteries, and helping others grow their family trees.



NFHS member Helen Webster has published another novel, *Whistle Blower*, which follows Lacey Purvis, the protagonist from *Damaged*, the first book in the Lucy trilogy, into her new life as Lucy Jackson, where she is enjoying her safe and comfortable existence.

But Lucy soon finds she must make another life changing decision. Should she blow the whistle on what she suspects is financial wrongdoing at the senior management level at the charity where she is employed? Or should she ignore what she suspects is malpractice and just get on with her life? And if she does report the fraud, will the inevitable publicity reveal her whereabouts to the prophet she managed to escape from as a teenager?



from Pinterest

MEMBERS' MISCELLANY continues on page 21

MEMBERS' MISCELLANY continued from page 20

**FROM NANAIMO HISTORICAL SOCIETY****(note — this is not our Nanaimo Family History Society)****LOOKING LOCAL****from Susan Garcia**

If you want to know more about the history of **this place where we gather**, Nanaimo and its area, please check out [Nanaimo Historical Society's website](#) or our Facebook site. The 70th anniversary of the society takes place in June 2023.

Every January, members participate in a popular Show and Share of artifacts or stories that relate to historic Nanaimo. The traditional practice of having guest speakers monthly at Bowen Complex will also be augmented by participatory historic tours and the showing of films over the next few months, with dates to be announced. On February 14, our historical society will attend a free screening of the film *Unarchived* 6:30-9:30 pm in Bldg 355 Room 203 at VIU. (open to the public.)

- * The society's first two Leynard Microgrants were awarded in 2022 to projects "telling a story about a person, place, event or natural history topic" relating to Nanaimo. Learn about accessing this funding at the website address above. If you have a project idea, please apply.
- * The Historical Society has obtained city approval for the creation of a memorial plaque acknowledging the 1951 crash of the Queen Charlottes Airlines flight 102-17 on Mt. Benson. There is a link to an article chronicling this event, written by Darrell Ohs, a Past President, under "Stories and Articles" on the website.

EDITOR'S NOTES

Thank you to all our Ancestry contributors. Also a special thank you to new submitter **Stephanie Williams**.

Currently our 2022 writing contest entries are being judged. Each entry will appear in Ancestry's future editions. Look for details of our 2023 contest in the next edition.

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!

Please consider writing about your ancestry research ... without your submissions, Ancestry would not exist!

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

Carolyn



FULL DETAILS at [QUALICUM BEACH FAMILY HISTORY](#)

	<p>Qualicum Beach Family History Society Invites you to a Zoom Presentation entitled: "Probate Records: Wills and a Whole Lot More" Presented by Annette Burke Lytle <u>Wednesday, 18th of January, 2023</u> Starting time: 7:00 PM, Pacific Time</p>
	<p>Campbell River Genealogy Society & Qualicum Beach Family History Society Invite you to a Zoom Webinar on "Google Earth Pro" Presented by Marie Palmer <u>Saturday, 25th of February, 2023</u> 9:30 AM – 12 Noon, Pacific Time</p>
	<p>Qualicum Beach Family History Society Invites you to a Zoom DNA workshop on "DNA Matches" & "DNA (Genetic Genealogy) Tools" Presented by Mags Gaulden <u>Saturday, 25th of March, 2023</u> 10:00 AM – 12 Noon, Pacific Time</p>
	<p>Qualicum Beach Family History Society Invites you to a Zoom Presentation entitled: "Through the Prairies to the Rocky Mountains: Records of Western Canada" Presented by Lianne Krüger <u>Wednesday, 19th of April, 2023</u> Starting time: 7:00 PM, Pacific Time</p>

Nanaimo Family History Society

Executive 2022

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Secretary	Bronwyn Frazer
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Program Director	Maureen Wootten
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