



# AncestryTree

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

By Sharon Davison

It looks like spring is on its way! That means the March 20<sup>th</sup> general meeting is the last Zoom only meeting until later in the fall. We look forward to the hybrid meetings which begin in April. At a hybrid meeting, members can attend our general meeting in-person at the Beban Park Recreation Centre or choose to join us at home by Zoom. It will be great to finally visit with members in person! Light refreshments will be available and our mini-library cupboard will be available for perusing and borrowing books.

The meeting on April 17<sup>th</sup> begins with doors opening at 6:15, so you'll have time to chat with other members before hearing our guest speaker. Guests are welcome — If you know of someone who is "into" genealogy and may be considering joining our society, bring them with you!

Memberships will be available at the door.

President's Message continues on page 2

Who am I? I am the conclusion of my ancestors' story. I am the prologue to my descendants' story. (unknown author)

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## Save the Date!

Nanaimo FHS Apr Meeting	Apr 17
Nanaimo FHS May Meeting	May 15
Nanaimo FHS Jun Meeting	Jun 19

President's Message Continued from page 1

We have established a membership committee that has been busy exploring ways to increase our membership. Yet another "gift" from Co-vid has been a slight decline in our numbers over the last couple of years. If you have ideas for expanding our membership, please let a member of your executive know!

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

Our AGM was held in February and I would like to thank all our executive who stood for another term. Terry Hartley, our Zoom mini sessions organizer, has stepped down. Thank you to Terry for the wonderful job she did organizing speakers and the sessions. Terry's work was much appreciated. Also at the meeting, Susan Bates agreed to stand for nomination and was elected by acclamation. Susan will take over the scheduling for the Zoom sessions. Welcome to the executive Susan!

*Sharon*



The 1931 Canada census is available June 1, 2023!

*"My work is done. I found everyone in my family tree and all my documents are organized"*

NEVER SAID BY A GENEALOGIST!



**HELP BUILD OUR MEMBERSHIP!** The larger our membership, the more resources we have and the more family connections that can be made. Do you have a friend wondering about his or her ancestry? Why not bring this person to our next meeting or perhaps purchase a membership for your friend to help start someone else's genealogy search?



## Nanaimo Family History Society Spring 2023 Mini Zoom Sessions

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

### [Mar. 23 — 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

### [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.

VIRTUAL WORKSHOPS continues on page 4

VIRTUAL WORKSHOPS continued from page 3

[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

- \* LAC has announced that free access to the 1931 Canada census will be **available June 1, 2023**. By law, data from this census cannot be made public until 92 years after the census was completed. This occurs on June 1, 2023. Users will first be able to browse the digitized returns by district and sub-district. A searchable index will probably be available later this year.
- \* LAC is hiring additional staff to deal with backlog of "access to information requests." This includes a new complaints response team.

### VANCOUVER PHOTOGRAPHS

[AuthentiCity](#), the City of Vancouver blog, has added 8,280 photographs from the city's planning department. The collection includes many street, house, and activity scenes as well as shots of individuals. Well worth a look if you have Vancouver roots.

### QUÉBEC CITY ANCESTORS?

The Morrin Centre, located in old Québec City, is "dedicated to educate the public about the historic contribution and present-day culture of local English speakers." The centre is asking for photos featuring the English speaking community of the city for a future exhibit. If you have old photos of English speaking relatives of Québec City, from homes, school, church or employment, please forward digitized photos to the Heritage Coordinator at [anthonyarata@morrin.org](mailto:anthonyarata@morrin.org)

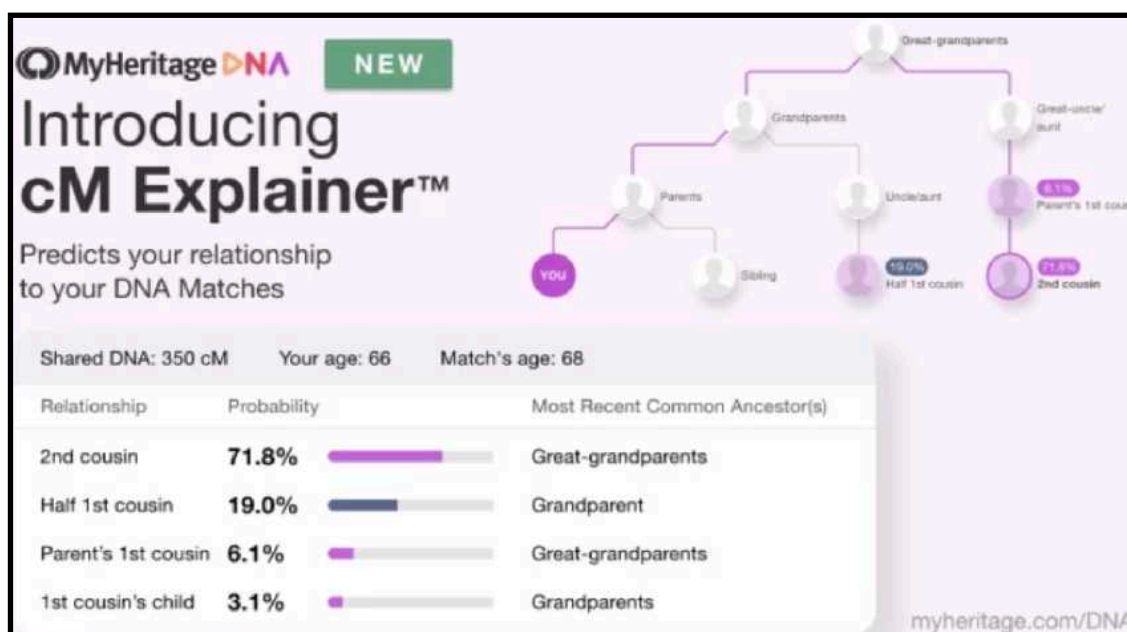
GENEALOGY NEWS IN BRIEF continues on page 5

GENEALOGY NEWS IN BRIEF continued from page 4

# **MyHeritage MYHERITAGE RELEASES "cM EXPLAINER"**

A new tool from MyHeritage "cM Explainer" that estimates "familial relationships between DNA matches with high accuracy. This helps overcome the challenge of understanding relationships to DNA Matches. For every DNA Match, cM Explainer™ predicts the possible relationships between the two people and the respective probabilities of each relationship, estimates who their most recent common ancestor(s) could be, and displays a diagram showing their relationship path." The program assists not only DNA found on MyHeritage, but is also [available to anyone whose results are not uploaded to MyHeritage](#). A detailed step by step explanation of "cM Explainer" can be found in Fiona Booker's blog ["Memories in Time", March 3, 2023](#), or on the [MyHeritage blog, March 2, 2023](#).

## **SAMPLE RESULTS AFTER ENTERING AMOUNT OF SHARED DNA AND AGES**



Statistics  
Canada

## **STATS CANADA PUBLIC CONSULTATION**

Statistics Canada is currently conducting a public "extensive consultation program that allows data users and interested parties across Canada to share their views on both the content and dissemination strategy of the Census. To maintain the relevance of the census, Statistics Canada evaluates and reviews the census questionnaire content at the start of each census cycle."

"This consultation with census data users and the public will allow Statistics Canada to identify whether or not the questions asked in the census are relevant, how census data are used, and how important the census is to Canadians. A report, detailing the content consultations and the process that was followed to test and determine possible changes to the 2026 Census, will be published online in mid-2024. Members of the public have until March 31, 2023 to complete the [online questionnaire](#) if they want to take part in the consultation."

GENEALOGY NEWS IN BRIEF continues on page 6

GENEALOGY NEWS IN BRIEF continued from page 5

### NEW ENGLAND QUAKER RECORDS TO BE DIGITIZED SOON

Quaker records from as early as mid 17<sup>th</sup> century are currently being digitized with the first group available on line by the end of summer, 2023. The vast numbers of documents are part of a project from the [Robert Cox Special Collections](#) and University archives at the University of Massachusetts Amherst Libraries.

### VANCOUVER HOUSE HISTORY APPRAISAL CARDS

If you are researching house history in Vancouver, [AuthentiCity](#), a Vancouver blog, provides information that can be obtained from real property appraisal cards for the city of Vancouver. [The Real Property Appraisal Cards](#), Series 296 of the [City of Vancouver fonds](#), is a group of records that contain detailed information from 1955 for 783 individual houses throughout Vancouver. These records are veritable gold mine for house history researchers with their detailed property information and inclusion of house photographs."

### ST. JOHN NEW BRUNSWICK ANCESTORS?

If you have ancestors from St. John, New Brunswick, [Canadiana](#) has added three newspaper to its site:

- [Progress](#) an eight-page weekly newspaper is available for 713 issues from 5 May 1888 to 25 January 1902.
- [Standard](#) has 1,048 issues from 25 March 1909 to 6 August 1912.
- [The Saint John Standard](#) has 2,930 issues from 7 August 1912 to 24 June 1922.



### ANCESTRY LAUNCHES "STORY MAKER STUDIO"

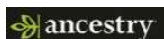
Ancestry has announced the launch of "Storymaker Studio" which allows users to create "bite-sized stories from their family history and share them within the Ancestry community and on their personal social media channels."

Ancestry states that "Storymaker Studio" is a centralized, one-stop destination to curate facts, images, records and memories and tell family history stories. With this new tool, members can upload and enhance photos and images, record and upload audio files (for the first time on Ancestry), integrate photos with audio, and publish their Ancestry stories to their trees."



### UNITED EMPIRE LOYALIST ANCESTORS?

The Victoria branch of the United Empire Loyalists has announced the posting of [an online interactive database of UEL descendants](#) who migrated to Vancouver Island. The data includes biographical information as well as some photographs of burial sites and individuals. The group has found over 550 descendants thus far and is requesting feedback including additions, edits, suggestions and so on. This is a very worthwhile project especially for those of you with UEL ancestors. Questions and feedback can be directed to the [president of Victoria UEL](#).



### TO DELETION OF WORLDCONNECT AND SHUT DOWN OF ROOTSWEB

RootsWeb Mailing Lists will disappear by April 6, 2023 and WorldConnect Trees will end on April 15, 2023. If you want data from either of these sites, save anything you can including locations or surnames of interest. Further details can be found on [Roberta Estes blog from February 19, 2023](#).

GENEALOGY NEWS IN BRIEF continues on page 7



GENEALOGY NEWS IN BRIEF continued from page 6

**UK MINISTRY OF DEFENSE SERVICE RECORDS**

Ancestry has been awarded the rights to digitize and publish more than 3 million UK Ministry of Defense Service Records that will be made available only on Ancestry between 2024-2029. This will be the largest project around a particular set of records The National Archives has ever awarded to a partner. The digitization of these valuable records will enable people to access never-before-seen documents from World War II online.

**GARDA REVIEW ARCHIVE ONLINE**

The University of Limerick has launched a digitized collection of the [Garda Review from 1923 to 1932](#). The *Garda Review* is the longest established magazine in Ireland. "The digitized collection covers 1923-1932, so roughly the first decade of the State and includes early accounts of policing and policing policy, divisional news and movements and transfers of individual Garda, Irish language articles and sporting accounts. The issues include numerous photographs, drawings, and period advertising and the new digital collection is completely searchable, rendering names and place names open to researchers.

**FIND YOUR ROOTS CONVERSATION SERIES**

The *Finding Your Roots National Conversation Series* features production team members and subject matter experts exploring family history, featuring audience questions and clips from this season. The series has been archived, and is [available on line](#).

**RECORDS OF WW 2 BRITISH AND ALLIED POWS IN GERMAN HELD TERRITORY**

The UK National Archives now has catalogued [200,000 prisoner of war records](#) that have been collected by a volunteer group. The group has catalogued thousands of personnel cards for British and Allied prisoners as well as civilian internees captured in German held territory. The records are searchable.

**OKANAGAN AND SOUTHEAST BC INTERESTS?**

The [British Columbia Regional Digitized History](#) site offers free access to "copies of regional historical resources including photographs, textual documents and publications from participating BC memory institutions." The site is fully searchable and contains an excellent collection including newspapers. "The British Columbia Regional Digitized History website (evolution of the Digitized Okanagan History project) is a partner in Arca, BC's collaborative digital repository. Arca is an initiative of BC's post-secondary institutions and is supported by the Province and the BC Electronic Library Network. There is a search engine and guides are available for users. Images can be viewed. There is a lot of Okanagan and southeastern BC content."

**BEGINNING TO TRACE YOUR FAMILY?**

MyHeritage is offering a **free** ["Introduction to Genealogy"](#) course. If you're looking to learn more about your family history, you're in the right place! In this free online course you'll learn genealogy for beginners and gain a detailed understanding of how to kickstart your family history research. Each lesson will provide a step-by-step walkthrough of different topics in the world of genealogy. You'll learn firsthand from top experts, and once you complete the course you'll have all the tools you'll need to grow your family tree and make exciting discoveries about your ancestors. The entire "Intro to Genealogy" course is completely free of charge."

by NFHS Member Gregory L. Skala  
(NFHS contest entry)

**Olga Kucera**, the person destined eventually to become my mother, was born on September 25, 1912, in Cook County, Illinois, USA,<sup>1</sup> into a home where Bohemian was spoken as much as, or even more than, English. She grew up as something of a bookworm, poetess, and wordsmith who had high academic goals. Olga was the only member of her nuclear family, which included four siblings, who ever attended a college or university,<sup>2</sup> and the story of her adventures in higher education turned out to be a real roller-coaster ride.

After finishing high school in 1930, Olga wanted to enrol at the College of the University of Chicago, intending to graduate with a bachelor's degree in English. Her parents encouraged and supported her, even though The Great Depression overlapped her four-year programme there. In the very last semester of the fourth year, she "came a cropper," as she described it to me decades later. She evidently had stayed up all night studying for the final examination in one required course, and she failed that last test. Apparently, her instructor and the college dean both encouraged her simply to return the following semester to re-take that required course, but she felt so chagrined that she dropped out without completing her degree. Poor Mom! I can only imagine how she must have felt, after having been such a ground-breaker for her family. In 1969, at that same university, I had to take an extra semester myself because I was short by two courses of the requirements for a degree in biology. If only I could have been a time traveller, I'd have been able to help my mother get over her embarrassment and take things in stride, to just re-take her one course, making sure, by all means, to catch plenty of ZZZs before the final!

During the rest of the 1930s and the first half of the 1940s, Olga worked as a secretary for businesses in both California and Illinois. On Valentine's Day in 1946, she married **Laddie Frank Skala**.



Miss Olga Kucera, ca  
1942<sup>3</sup>



Mr. and Mrs. Skala<sup>4</sup>

After my birth on October 16<sup>th</sup> of the following year, Olga was busy mothering me and also helping out in a deli/convenience store that my parents owned in Hinsdale, Illinois, until the store was sold and our family relocated to a house in Downers Grove, Illinois, in 1951. It was after this move that I got to see my mother in action as a secretary for the Foote Brothers Gear and Machine Company, and she was an excellent secretary. I know this because, when I frequently stopped by the plant after walking home from grade school, always hoping I might get a nickel for a candy bar from their vending machine, Mom's fellow employees kept telling me how great she was!

As Mrs. Olga Skala, my mother persisted in her determination to be a life-long learner.

<sup>1</sup> Ancestry.com. Cook County, Illinois, U.S., Birth Certificates Index, 1871-1922 [database on-line]. Provo, UT, USA Operations, Inc. 2011.

<sup>2</sup> Confirmed in a December 1, 2022, telephone call to cousin Lillian L. Conrad (*née* Kucera), of Darien, Illinois

<sup>3</sup> Photograph, original held by Gregory L. Skala, Nanaimo, BC, Canada, 2022.

<sup>4</sup> Photograph, original held by Gregory L. Skala, Nanaimo, BC, Canada, 2022.



**EDUCATION OF OLGA continued from page 8**

Even while I was still very young, Mom brought home books from the Great Books Foundation's study group that she attended regularly at a local library, and she explained these classics to me in a way that made me feel quite grown up. Ironically, it had been two U. of Chicago educators, Robert Maynard Hutchins and Mortimer Adler, who had launched that foundation in 1947, the year I'd been born. Their aim had been to encourage the public "to participate in a 'Great Conversation' with the authors of significant works in the Western canon. To make texts accessible, the Foundation publish[ed] paperback editions of its recommended readings, many of which are out of print or available only in costly editions."<sup>5</sup> I certainly had great conversations with my mother about Homer, Chaucer, Einstein, Matthew Arnold, *et al.*

Olga's dream of earning a university degree had never really died, and she began taking night school classes toward completing her U. of Chicago degree. Their department of English was happy to have her re-enrol; however, in the intervening years since her first try, the requirements for graduation had changed, as such expectations would have in almost any academic department, which meant that she needed credits in several more courses besides the one she had come so close to completing two decades earlier. She was successful, finally earning her bachelor's degree in 1958.<sup>6</sup> After that, she worked for several years as a public school teacher, both as a substitute and a regular classroom teacher, until she took a 1965 opportunity to work for the huge Argonne National Laboratory, Argonne, Illinois, as a technical editor for publications in their Energy and Environmental Systems Division<sup>7</sup>. She edited there until 1980, before retiring, even writing poetry on several occasions to add some pizzazz to departmental activities!

Still yearning for even further education, and feeling restless in retirement, my dear mother completed a so-called recreational degree programme at Mundelein College (subsequently absorbed into Loyola University Chicago) in 1988, graduating this time as a Master of English at the age of 75 and getting herself featured in a *Newsweek* article.

Way to go, Mom! A Chicago newspaper journalist, Jorge Casuso, who interviewed Olga Skala, reported: "'Today, you can be anything,' she said. 'I think there is a freedom from stereotypes that say you have to be young to go to school. You don't have to. Education is a lifelong experience.'<sup>9</sup>



Olga Skala with a fellow graduate <sup>8</sup>

<sup>5</sup> "History of the Great Books Foundation," on-line publication of Great Books Foundation © 2022 at <https://www.greatbooks.org/nonprofit-organization/history/>.

<sup>6</sup> *Chicago Tribune* newspaper article © 1958, archived on-line at <https://www.chicagotribune.com/news/ct-xpm-1988-06-06-8801050185-story.html>.

<sup>7</sup> cited in "Flue Gas Desulfurization and Its Alternatives: The State of the Art," Energy and Environmental Systems Division, Argonne National Laboratory, Argonne, Illinois, ANL/E#-39, archived on-line at <https://www.osti.gov/servlets/purl/5188518>.

<sup>8</sup> Graduate Masters photograph, "Grading of the Campus" from *Newsweek*, June 6, 1988, p. 56.

<sup>9</sup> *Chicago Tribune*, *op cit.*

**YOU'RE NEVER TOO OLD TO SET A NEW GOAL OR TO DREAM A NEW DREAM!**

**C.S. Lewis British Author(1898-1963)**

## MAGGIE'S MYSTERIOUS MARRIAGE, PART ONE

by NFHS Member Helen Webster

Coffee and liquors after a delicious meal meant it was time to talk about my latest writing effort. My five sibs and our partners lazed around the dinner table, relaxed and content with the world and ourselves. Erica had prepared a marvellous meal, we had all eaten too much, my younger brother Colin was his usual suave self and ensured the wine flowed. Firelight flickered, the candles burned low, and, having caught up on all the family news, we were all pretty mellow.

"So, Helen, what is happening with Maggie's story?" My older brother, Bob, was waiting impatiently for me to finish and publish the story of our great grandmother, **Margaret McLeod-Ross-McKenzie**."

"I'm stuck. Our three cousins, Serge in Quebec City, Arthur in Bar Harbour, Maine, and Darlene in Sudbury, have all been unsuccessful in their searches for that crucial period in Maggie's life. We know she left our great grandfather, **Thomas Barnston Ross**, behind her in Chicoutimi in 1895. She took the children and travelled to Sudbury to stay with her good friend **Dr. Helen Ryan**, another distant cousin on the Ryan side. Then Maggie reappeared in Montreal two years later as Mrs. Peter McKenzie,

"Serge, the most proficient of our genealogist-cousins, has searched for that crucial piece of Maggie's story for over ten years without success. Every source known, from the *Banque d'Archives Nationales Du Québec*, and the Parliament of Canada records and everything in between, has been examined. Every possible contact, every living relative, including the great-granddaughter of Simon, Maggie's brother-in-law from the Ross marriage, has been queried. Nothing."

A comfortable silence reigned around the table for a few moments, broken only by murmured thank you's as our glasses or coffee cups were refilled. A fruit and cheese platter had magically appeared and everyone choose a nibble to accompany their after dinner drinks.

"What are you going to do, Helen? Didn't you say the book was almost finished?" Jean leaned forward, elbows on the table, brandy snifter warming in her hands. She knew more about the progress of the book than the rest of the family. "Aren't you supposed to have it published in time for the book fair in the Interior next May? And don't you have an Alberta book launch just after that?"

I shrugged, what could I do? "I guess I'll just have to go ahead with it...but I don't know if I want to publish anything that suggests our great-grandmother was a bigamist...even if she was. Those launches aren't until next summer. That's a year from now, so I'll have time to get the book finished. If not, I'll just cancel the launches. My publisher doesn't expect the manuscript until later this year anyway."

Bob began to chuckle at the idea of our great granny being a bigamist. "How could she pull that off in Montreal high society of the late eighteen, early nineteen hundreds? Everything was still pretty Victorian then, wasn't it? Wasn't her second husband the top man for the Hudson's Bay Company in eastern Canada at that time? Good Lord, it would have taken a colossal nerve for Maggie to play the part of a proper society matron if her marriage to Peter McKenzie was illegal."

MAGGIE'S MYSTERIOUS MARRIAGE continues on page 11

**MAGGIE'S MYSTERIOUS MARRIAGE continued from page 10**

A few comments were made about what was proper and not proper in Victorian times and there was some delighted laughter at the idea of Maggie getting away with that deception.

Jim, my youngest brother, asked, "Can a woman be a bigamist? What's the feminine of bigamist anyway?"

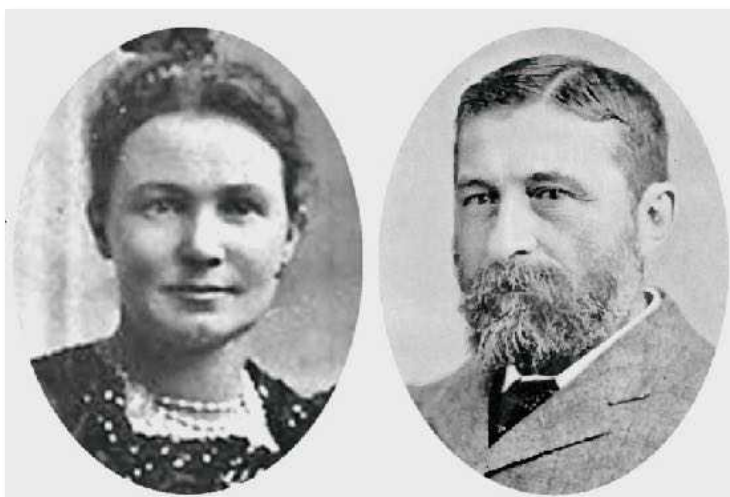
Bob, the lawyer, replied, "Bigamistin, though you never hear it used. Bigamist seems to cover both genders."

Conversation wandered off, as conversations do, to information about famous, or maybe infamous, bigamists we knew of, then into polygamy and the subject of cults in BC. All of which, while interesting, left me without an answer.

Was Maggie a bigamistin? Did it matter? How was I going to deal with this gap in her life?

**The answer**, which came from a completely unexpected source, arrived in my inbox a week later.

**TO BE CONTINUED in the summer issue of *AnceTree*!**



**Maggie McLeod Ross**

**Peter McKenzie**

In the tradition of Charles Dickens, whose novels were printed in instalments with readers around the world lining docks for the next chapter, the answer to Helen's family brick wall will appear in the next *AnceTree*. Was Margaret McLeod-Ross-McKenzie a bigamist?? Wait for the summer edition of *AnceTree*!

**IF YOUR FAMILY MEMBERS WON'T TALK ABOUT A PARTICULAR RELATIVE, A SEASONED GENEALOGIST KNOWS THEY ARE KEEPING MUM ABOUT SOMETHING VERY INTERESTING!**

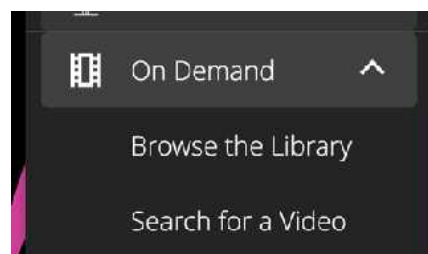
## Rootstech 2023: It's Not Over Yet! (How to Navigate the RootsTech Website)

by NFHS member Beth Skala

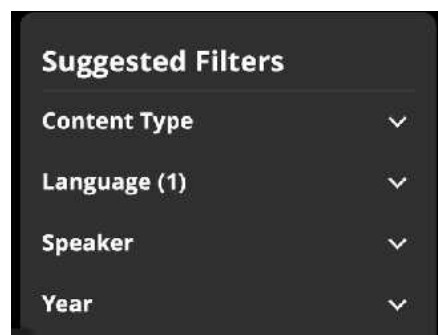
While the in-person Rootstech 2023 family history event is over, the online sessions are still available and will be for the next three years. That's a good thing, because there is so much to explore! Rootstech sessions online are a great way to learn new research techniques, get ideas on how to organize your findings, view new products, and much more.

To begin using this wonderful resource, type "RootsTech 2023" into your browser. Your first hit should be the *RootsTech* home page. Start by clicking on that page. Go to the upper right corner of the *RootsTech* home page and click on "Menu." Sign in using your FamilySearch user name and password. If you don't already have an account with *FamilySearch*, click on the "sign in" line anyway and it will take you to a page that offers a button to create an account. It's free.

Once signed in, you will be returned to the *RootsTech* home page. This can be an overwhelming page to navigate and can take you down numerous rabbit holes. When you have time to play, it is fun to scroll through and try new things. But to make the most of your time, a better approach is to click on "Menu" again and choose the downward arrow next to "On Demand" from the drop-down menu. This will give you two choices: "Browse the Library" and "Search for a Video."

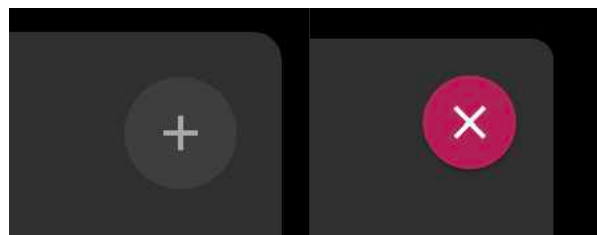


"Browse the Library" displays boxes with trending topics as well as top classes. If you click on "search the full library" you will get a screen that includes a sidebar on the left to filter your results. You may want to restrict your results to English, for example, or to the latest sessions only. You can change your filters at any time. The web site will remember what you set the last time you accessed the site. This is the same page you get if you click on "Search for a Video" from the drop-down menu.



To the right of the filters are boxes that are shortcuts to popular searches, such as "DNA" and "Research Methods." There is also a search line below the title at the top where you can type in a topic. A colourful box below the filters is called "Getting Started." If you click on "View Guides" in this box you will get a page of curated groups of sessions on the same topic.

I restricted my views to "English" and "2023 sessions." There were 378 results (38 pages with 10 results on a page). You don't want to have to scroll through these lists multiple times as many of the sessions will be of no interest to you. In the upper right corner of each session is a grey circle with a plus sign. If you want to view that video in the future, click on the plus sign and it will turn bright pink with an X. This means you have saved the session to your own personal playlist.



ROOTSTECH continues on page 13

**ROOTSTECH continued from page 12**

When you are ready to watch some videos, just click on "My Playlist" in the main menu and you will see only those sessions you have personally chosen to view. After you view a session you can remove it from your playlist or leave it to watch again.

This year I took the time to watch new product demos from some of the smaller sponsors. While I didn't see anything I wanted to buy, it was interesting to see what is out there. Most of the demos were less than five minutes long. I also watched longer sessions which explain new features on Ancestry and FamilySearch. This will be helpful the next time I use those websites.

And don't forget, when you watch a session, to scroll down below the video window. Many of the sessions have downloadable resources available.

Some of the sessions are terrific, packed with valuable information and well presented. Other sessions may not be as engaging. It would be great to share a list of our favourite sessions in future issues of *AnceTree*. I already have several to recommend. I look forward to hearing which sessions helped you in your research or just plain boosted your enthusiasm!



**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.



**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.

## Nanaimo Family History Society Future Speakers

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



**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**  
**Lianne Kruger**  
**HOME ON THE RANGE**

Lianne will speak on understanding homestead records in western Canada. Using her ancestors, who were homesteaders in Manitoba, Lianne will discuss how to obtain a copy of a homestead record and how to understand the record to determine where the homestead is located, convert to longitude and latitude, and view on *Google Maps*.



**MALI**



**Monday, June 19, 2023**  
**BAIN**  
**JEDEDIAH ISLAND FAMILIES and FAMILY HISTORY PUBLISHING**

Mali will share what she learned from her current work helping people publish their own life stories and/or family histories. First, she will share the process she went through starting with family history research "rabbit holes," years of being stuck, rounds of editing and lightbulb insights, and finally publishing. She will open for some discussion around how / where to choose a thread or theme within a family history, and the differences between types of family history publishing. She will also highlight some locally relevant family history in particular related to the Foote, Jelly, and Olmstead families on Jedediah Island. Finally, she will share some "lessons learned in family history publishing" — things that she hopes could save you hours while getting your own family history book. She will have (author-signed) books available for purchase for \$24.95.

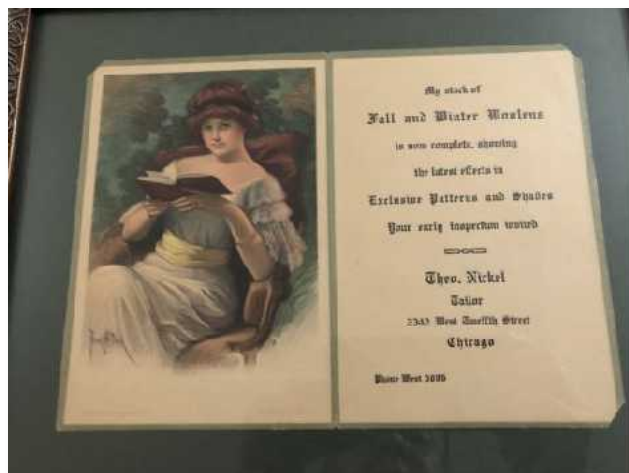
**Do you have ideas for future guest speakers? If you have a name or a topic in mind, please let a member of our executive know!**



## WHEN YOU'RE THE "GO-TO" PERSON

by NFHS member Beth Skala

Once people know you are interested in genealogy, they send you the most amazing things! I had two emails recently that I think are worth sharing.



The first is from my cousin's wife, Joyce. She wrote: "I had to hunt up a lot of documentation to have my aunt's funds released from the state. I was the executrix of her estate. The attached photo shows my great-grandfather's brochure for his tailor shop. I used it to prove my aunt had lived at that address at one time, above the shop."

Joyce's note made me realize how sometimes a trivial item may be important in the future, as was the case with her great-grandfather's advertising brochure.

The second interesting item I received was from our friend Kurt. He wrote: "My brother is currently clearing out our aunt and uncle's home near Chicago, preparing it for sale, as the aunt and uncle have moved to assisted

living. He came across the attached photo of my grandfather. I sent the photo to a random guy on the internet [Torsten Belger] who seemed knowledgeable about German uniforms and asked for the favour of any information he could share. His reply: That is a Freikorps uniform from the post WW1 German civil war era. The lion head badge on the arm looks as if he was a member of the Freikorps Epp specifically."



The photo Kurt sent is especially interesting because his grandfather looks far too young to be in the military. While the minimum age for conscription in Germany was seventeen, perhaps Kurt's grandfather volunteered at fifteen or sixteen. Or, perhaps he was wearing a friend's uniform just for the photo. I'll leave that for Kurt to explore. Interesting, though, wouldn't you say?

### NAME SPELLING TIME SAVER



Entering surnames into search engines on genealogy sites can be a bother especially if the name has a number of alternate spellings. Trying to remember all the spellings you've encountered is often difficult. To help with this, keep a running list of the various ways you've found a surname spelled. If you save the list as a document, you can easily cut and paste the variations in search boxes on the genealogy sites. Alternately, print out your list and have it handy while you do your searches.

**ANCESTRY (subscription)**

[Canada Newfoundland Census 1945](#)  
[Canada, Ontario, Niagara Indexes 1783-1977](#)  
[Canada, Nova Scotia Census, Assessment and Poll Tax Records](#)  
[Canada, Newfoundland Church Records 1793-1899](#)  
[US Illinois, Joliet, RC Diocese Sacramental Records 1800-1976](#)  
[US Philadelphia Church Records 1709-1760](#)  
[Wisconsin Compiled Marriages for Select Counties 1838-1900](#)

**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](#)  
[Croatia Church Books 1516-1994](#)  
[Finland Passport Registers 1900-1920](#)  
[Germany, North Rhine, Westphalia, Wuppertal Civil Registration 1810-1930](#)  
[Russia, Tver Confession Lists, 1728-1913](#)  
[UK Cumberland Parish Registers 1538-1990](#)

**FINDMYPAST (subscription)**

[Ireland, Inland Revenue Wills & Administration 1828-1879](#) (transcripts & images)  
[Scotland Modern and Civil Deaths & Burials 1855-12021](#)  
[UK Civil Service Commission, Appointments, Promotions and Transfers, 1871-1942](#)  
[Lincolnshire Baptisms \(1750-1812\)](#)  
[UK Surrey Burials](#)  
[UK London Greater London Burial Index](#)  
[UK Northumberland Baptisms 1571-1847](#)  
[UK Second World War Civilian Casualties in Britain 1940-1945](#)  
[UK Protestation Returns 1641-1642](#)

**MYHERITAGE (subscription)**

[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](#)  
[Cartophilis Old County Maps of England and Wales](#)

**MISCELLANEOUS (Free) LINKS**

[North Carolina Historical Records \(land grants\)](#)  
[Dating Family Photos by Clothing](#)  
[Finding Ontario Civil Death Registrations](#) (Beginner's Guide)  
[New Brunswick Provincial Archives](#)  
[Danish Demographic Database](#) (free and English available)  
[Dutch Genealogy February 2023](#)  
[Three Resource Wikis for Genealogy](#)  
[My Heritage Webinars](#) (an extensive list of topics, free to view)  
[How to Pass On Your Genealogy Research after You're Gone](#) (new on Cyndi's List)  
[Belgium State Archives](#) (free and English available)  
[Russian Genealogy Archives](#)

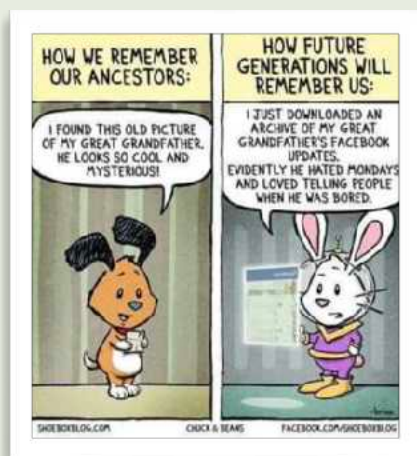


Most of the links above are **new** links recently spotted by your editor. Remember, though, that sites such as *Ancestry* and *Family Search* are continuously adding to older collections. There is no room here to include all the additions, so remember to periodically re-check the sites you've used before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

# MEMBERS' MISCELLANEA

**From NFHS member Beth Skala, some food for thought.** The excerpt below is from Robert R. McCammon's novel *A Boy's Life*. McCammon is an American novelist.

"I remember hearing this somewhere: when an old man dies, a library burns down. . . . I wondered about this as I walked amid the graves. How many stories were here, buried and forgotten? How many old burned libraries, how many young ones that had been building their volumes year by year? And all those stories, lost. I wished there was a place you could go, and sit in a room like a movie theater and look through a catalogue of a zillion names and then you could press a button and a face would appear on the screen to tell you about the life that had been. It would be a living memorial to the generations who had gone on before, and you could hear their voices though those voices had been stilled for a hundred years. It seemed to me, as I walked in the presence of all those stilled voices that would never be heard again, that we were a wasteful breed. We had thrown away the past, and our future was impoverished for it."



**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.

Do you enjoy a good mystery ... one with DNA intrigue? **NFHS member David Blackburn** recommends *Fair Warning* by Michael Connolly. The novel deals with a serial killer who utilizes corrupted results from a genealogical testing

**MEMBERS' MISCELLANEA** continues on page 18

MEMBERS' MISCELLANEA continued from page 17



forwarded from NFHS Member David Blackburn  
originally published Rootsweb 17 Feb 2002

I'm a geneaholic. My story is not a pretty one. I am sharing it here in the hope that it may help others avoid my pitiful fate. I want you to know that you are not alone. There are thousands of us worldwide struggling in the daily battle against this cunning, baffling and powerful addiction.

There was something "different" about me from the word go. Looking back, the signs were there for all to see. Even as a child, when relatives threw old Daguerrotypes in the rubbish, I would fish around among the tea bags and egg shells and pull them out. When old letters or diaries were discovered in musty trunks, I stayed up all night reading them. Obits, report cards, discharge papers, photos of unknown people— I hoarded them all. I didn't care what kind of document it was or whom it concerned. If was remotely connected to "family," I had to have it.

I'm making no excuses. I had a good upbringing. Genealogy certainly doesn't run in my family — I come from a long line of people who could take their ancestors or leave them alone. Yes, there were rumours of an aunt on my father's side who "did a little research on weekends," but she covered her tracks well, and I have never been able to prove for certain that she was a geneaholic. Aside from that one suspect, my relatives were all what we call "social genealogists." For them, a colourful forebear or two were good for party conversations, to be chuckled over at family gatherings, and that was it.

Not me. Right from the beginning, I was out of control. I could never stop with just one or two ancestors. Every ancestor I found triggered an insatiable craving in me for two more, and four more after that, and eight more after that. I could not stop once I got started. Eventually genealogy took over my life. Bouts of compulsive research would leave me babbling incoherently, slumped and exhausted, sometimes barely conscious, at a microfilm reader in some darkened room, surrounded by other addicts satisfying their own shameful cravings for genealogical kicks. Many are the times I've been thrown out of a library at closing time, kicking and screaming, begging for just five minutes more, just "one more ancestor for the road." It was humiliating.

As the years went by, things went from bad to worse. It was an endless downward spiral. I found myself sneaking from library to library in distant parts of town, even other countries, searching for the ultimate high — that mysterious ancestor, whose identity would make everything fall into place.

I hit rock bottom one hot August day in a cemetery in a far-off town. How I got there doesn't matter. Let's just say that after much research, I had located the grave of an ancestor who, according to family legend, had died in some kind of accident. As I stared at the weathered old tombstone, wondering how I could find out how he had died, the thought occurred to me: "I could dig him up and see."

Immediately I recoiled, aghast. "Eeeeeuuuuu," I cried, "That's gross."

That's when I knew I needed help. Since that moment of clarity, I've joined numerous genealogy support groups where we offer each other strength and hope, along with research tips and potluck dinners. And I have finally admitted, to myself and other human beings, that I am powerless over genealogy and my research has become unmanageable.

It may be too late for me. But science has found that young family historians — those that are as yet, only potential geneaholics — can sometimes stop in time. Answer a few questions to see if you are in the early stages of addiction:

- Has genealogical paperwork taken over any room in your house?
- Do people edge away from you at parties when you burst into tears over the 1890 census?
- Do you find dead people more fun than live ones?
- Do your relatives' eyes glaze over when you explain your latest research?

If you answered yes to even one of these questions you are on the road to genealogy addiction. When you feel an overwhelming urge to research, repeat the following until the urge goes away: My mother found me under a gooseberry bush, my mother found me under a gooseberry bush ... good luck and may the gods help you!



**FROM NANAIMO HISTORICAL SOCIETY**

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

**LOOKING LOCAL**

from Susan Garcia



2023 marks the 70th anniversary of the Nanaimo Historical Society. Our next general meeting at 7 pm, April 13, 2023 at Bowen Centre, 500 Bowen Road. We will present a video made in March 2023 of Cowichan's Old Hillcrest Chinese Cemetery. The 74-year-old cemetery is a Provincial Historic Site and serves as a resting place for 127 Chinese Canadians. May's program (date TBA) will be a walking historic tour of Buttertubs Marsh.

Visit our website's ["News and Events"](#) for more information!

**EDITOR'S NOTES**

Thank you to all our *AnceTree* contributors especially to Beth Skala and Helen Webster for their contributions to this issue.

The first of our 2022 contest winning entries appears in this issue with other entries to appear in future editions of *AnceTree*. Currently, we are choosing our 2022 writing contest topics and have received some excellent possibilities from Beth and Greg Skala, Susan Garcia, and Lorie Heshka. If you have an idea for a story you'd like to write, please let your editor know the topic about which you're thinking. Look for details of our 2023 contest in the summer edition of *AnceTree*!

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**, ...

***AnceTree* would not exist!**

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

Definition of mythology: genealogy without documentation





The **UELAC** Pacific Region branches of Chilliwack, Victoria, Thompson-Okanagan, and Vancouver will be the hosts for the 2023 conference and the 109th annual general meeting.

Registration for the virtual conference is \$50 for [11 recorded presentations](#) that will be available during the event and for a time afterward. The early bird registration fee for the in-person conference is \$375, plus additional fees for tours and meals.

Learn more on the [UELAC website](#).

### Abbotsford Family History Day Saturday April 15, 2023

Abbotsford Family History Day is designed to help you fortify and preserve family history across several generations. Through seasoned speakers and stories to helpful organization and technology based talks, you'll walk away with a better understanding of how to build your family tree and seek out your ancestors.

[More information and registration.](#)

### 24-Hour Genealogy Webinar Marathon

Join us on April 12–14, 2023 for our 4th annual 24-Hour Genealogy Webinar Marathon, hosted by *Legacy Family Tree Webinars*! Pop in for a session or two, or stick around for the full 24 hours – it's completely up to you. The event is free so MyHeritage users worldwide can improve their genealogy and DNA research skills.

[Register now](#)

By searching  
for our roots,  
we come closer together  
as a *human family*.

- Senator Orrin Hatch

### Nanaimo Family History Society

Executive 2022

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Vice President	Dean Ford
Secretary	Bronwyn Frazer
Treasurer	Aleda Spring
Program Director	Maureen Wootten
Membership Director	Lorie Heshka
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