## **SUMMER 2023**



## President's (Dessage By Sharon Davison

As we head into summer, I would like to take this opportunity to thank all the executive members for their contributions over the winter. Also a big thank you to the facilitators of our Zoom how-to's and to the members of the membership sub-committee.



One of the ideas that arose out of the subcommittee was to hold a NFHS summer barbecue! You should have received a notice to "save the date" of Saturday, July 8<sup>th</sup>.

Ruth Stewart has kindly invited us to hold the barbecue at her residence. More information will follow closer to the July date, but we are very excited at the prospect of getting together for a fun afternoon of food, drinks and games. Everyone is encouraged to bring their spouse or a friend! And please -- mark July 8<sup>th</sup> on your calendar!

#### President's Message continues on page 2

You are our living link to the past. Tell your grandchildren the story of the struggles waged, at home and abroad. Of sacrifices made for freedom's sake. And tell them your own story as well because everybody has a story to tell.

George H. W. Bush (1924-2018) US President

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## Save the Date!

Nanaimo FHS Barbecue	July 8
Nanaimo FHS Sep Meeting	Sep 18
Nanaimo FHS Oct Meeting	Oct 16
Nanaimo FHS Nov Meeting	Nov 20

## Volume 44-2 SUMMER 2023

#### AncesTree

#### President's Message continued from page 1



We are still finalizing plans for the LDS Family History Centre open house to be held Saturday afternoon, September 16<sup>th</sup>. We look forward to showing off the NFHS books that are stored

there, as well as the free programs offered by the LDS such as *Ancestry and Family Search*. Refreshments will also be served. Further details to follow.

General meetings for September and October will be hybrid: in-person at Beban Park or from home via Zoom. A new calendar of Zoom howto topics will also be available in due course for the fall season.

I hope everyone has a wonderful summer and I look forward to seeing you at the barbecue!

Sharon



Treat yourself to roomy tote bag and support our society too! The tote bags are available at our Beban meetings for \$15.

They chose be. My ancestors chose be to tell their stories, unravel their truths, and learn from their hardships, they chose be to inspire and encourage others with their stories. They chose be to keep their possessions, handle them with respect, and share them with family. My ancestors chose be. -mailcaurant

M. Dickerson Genealogy Girl Talks

Nanaimo Family Search Center Summer Hours Tuesdays 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Most of our NFHS collection is at this location and is available for borrowing. The library is located at 2424 Glen Eagle Crescent.

## **GENEALOGY NEWS IN BRIEF**

#### FROM LIBRARY AND ARCHIVES CANADA

\* LAC has announced that free access to the 1931 Canada census now available for browsing only. LAC is working with *Ancestry* and *FamilySearch* to index the census by this fall. This will allow name and place searches. Currently census is browsable by district and sub-district only, and due to the heavy demand, the LAC server is very slow and at times only blank pages are shown. Have patience! Access should get easier over the next weeks.

\* As of June 5, ancestry.ca has made the 1931 census available **FREE** to all Canadians. You do have to set up a free account — no credit card is needed. **Finally, as of midnight, Friday, June 9<sup>th</sup> the indexed census was available on** *Ancestry*. **Happy searching**!

Genealogist Gail Dever notes that "while there are no subdivision maps available for the 1931 census, LAC does have federal electoral district maps from 1924 which often align with the 1931 districts to help researchers determine which districts to browse. LAC warns that the images of the electoral maps are large and can take a while to upload.

#### FREE DIGITAL RECORDS AT LAC AND HERITAGE CANADIANA

In a detailed and informative blog, genealogist Yip discusses the difference between Archives Canada and *Heritage Canadiana*. Yip notes that there is a an "increasing gap between the finding aids at LAC and the matching digitized collection at Héritage Canadiana (HC)." Yip explains how you can make sure you're not missing any of these "secret" digital collections.



#### ANCESTORS FROM CORK, IRELAND??

The Cork Graveyard Project by Skibbereen Heritage Centre a volunteer created database of more than 57,000 burials. Searches can be made by name, place of burial, and year of death. The database works together with an interactive map of graveyards in Cork.



#### **TORONTO IMAGES**

The City of Toronto Archives has added another 18,000 images to its online database. The images including streetscapes, small businesses and neighbourhoods as well as notable Torontonians can be searched and downloaded.

#### VANCOUVER HOUSE STYLES

UBC If you're interested in the architecture of your Vancouver ancestors, UBC has digitized a collection of early Vancouver house styles. Most of the images on the site have accompanying addresses. Perhaps one of the homes belonged to your ancestor!



#### IMMIGRATION AND ETHNICITY FREE BOOKLET SERIES

The Canadian Historical Association has placed on line a series of booklets that are free to download. To date, 37 booklets in the Immigration and Ethnicity series are on line. These are excellent resources with historical background, maps, and other topics relating to a long list of

immigrant ethnicities. Well worth checking out!

#### GENEALOGY NEWS IN BRIEF continued from page 3

# FREE NEWSPAPER SEARCH SITE

*Elephind* offers free easy access to a growing list of newspapers. Great for genealogists as many of the digitized newpapers are from small areas, so there are often "hits" on social activities, funerals, marriages and so on. Well worth a poke about!

The company states the "goal of Elephind.com is to make it possible to search all the world's online historic newspapers from one place. We aren't there yet, but we are adding more newspapers every day. ... it is now possible for family historians, genealogists, and researchers to search historic digitized newspaper archives from around the globe. Elephind.com is much like Google, Bing, or other search engines but is focused on only historical, digitized newspapers. It enables you to search, for free, across many newspaper sites simultaneously, rather than having to visit each site separately. By clicking on the Elephind.com search result that interests you you'll go directly to the newspaper site which hosts that story.Many of the smaller newspaper sites are not well known and may be difficult to find with the usual search engines but are searchable from Elephind.

We're continuing to add more newspapers to Elephind.com, so if at first you can't find what you're looking for, please check back later. " An option is available for researchers to receive notice of new editions to the site.

## MyHeritage MYHERITAGE RELEASES NEW PHOTO APP, REIMAGINE

Reimagine is a mobile app that "harnesses the power of *MyHeritage's* world-class AI technologies for improving historical photos, and boasts a powerful photo scanner that enables high-speed scanning of entire album pages. Reimagine is available on both iOS and Android."



#### 1931 VIDEO FROM LIBRARY AND ARCHIVES CANADA

To celebrate the release of the 1931 Canadian Census on June 1<sup>st</sup>, LAC has produced a brief video about the census. The video has been produced like a newsreel that our ancestors would have seen in 1930 movie theatres. Film is very brief, simply mentioning notable Canadians who can be found on the census: Rocket Richard, William Shatner and others.

#### SASKATCHEWAN ARCHIVES — NEW WEBSITE

The Provincial Archives of Saskatchewan launched a newly designed web page that is easier to navigate. Genealogist Gail Devers writes: "The Family History Research link appears on the home page, directly below Search Our Collection. Clicking on that link takes family historians directly to a page with information to help beginners, along with quick links to government records, land records, court records, education and school records, and pioneer questionnaires.

There are also links to outside sources of genealogical information, such as adoption and foster care, births, marriage, adoption and death records, census records, church records, immigration, naturalization and citizenship records, military records, municipal records, and post adoption services in Saskatchewan. " "The provincial archives' website does not have birth, marriage and death records. For those records, you need to visit the eHealth Saskatchewan Genealogy website for an index of births registered more than 100 years ago, marriages registered more than 75 years ago, and deaths registered more than 70 years ago."

#### **GENEALOGY NEWS IN BRIEF continues on page 5**

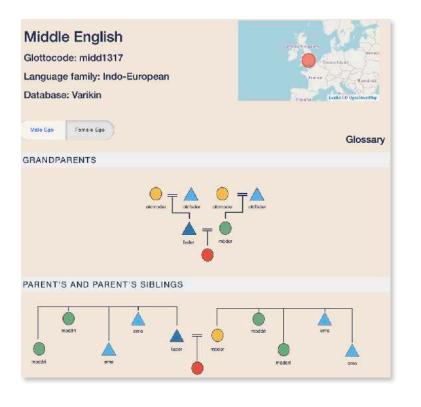
#### **GENEALOGY NEWS IN BRIEF continued from page 4**

#### KINBANK — DATABASE OF KINSHIP TERMINOLOGY

If you're wondering about the terms for family members in one of 1299 languages from Aché to Zulu, Kinbank is a great site. Kinbank is a "data base of kinship terminologies ranging from grandparents to grandchildren, parent's siblings and their children."

"A major advantage of Kinbank is the focused language family sampling and sampling based on occurrence in existing anthropological databases allowing us to test the relationship between languages and behaviour. This allows the use of phylogenetic methods to reconstruct the states of proto-kinship, account for common ancestry in models of kinship change, and test for correlated evolution between linguistic and behavioural patterns."

To use the site, simply choose a language and then tap on the map for a location and kinship terms in chart form will be revealed. Not only modern languages are found, but also archaic ones such as Middle English are included, which will help in will transcriptions. Canadian researchers can find Indigenous languages and dialects. As well as searching via the map, a search engine is available with which you can search by location or language.



#### SAMPLE KINBANK CHART

The chart to the left is a **partial chart only.** Full charts will include terms for many relationships such as son's daughter, younger sister's son, siblings, cousins and many others. The inclusion of archaic languages such as Old high German or Middle English is a bonus when transcribing wills!

If you are researching ancestors who spoke languages unfamiliar to you this is a must explore site!

#### AUSTRALIA WWI RECORDS DIGITIZED BY NATIONAL ARCHIVES



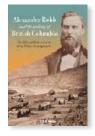
Australian National Archives and Ancestry have collaborated to digitize 95,000 WWI from the Australian Imperial Force Base Records Office. The site is free and easily searched. Original images can be Free Newspaper Search site.

#### GENEALOGY NEWS IN BRIEF continued from page 5

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*Canadiana* has added 34 University of Regina student publications. The collection is fully searchable and contains early issues of *The College Register* from 1914 to 1930. Student yearbooks from 1946 to 1968 are also in the collection.

#### ALEXANDER ROBB AND THE MAKING OF BRITISH COLUMBIA



A new publication by Brian R.D. White, Alexander Robb and the Making of British Columbia: the Life and letters home of an Ulster-Scots pioneer is now available from the Ulster Historical Foundation and Books Ireland.

"Alexander Robb, the subject of Brian White's book, is the author's great grandfather. He was one of a group of young men from County Down who arrived in British Columbia in the summer of 1862, among the thousands hoping to find their fortunes in the Cariboo. Disappointed in the goldfields and lucky not to starve, he and other members of the group remained in the colony,

labouring and then homesteading and laying the physical and social groundwork of the western province of the newly formed Dominion of Canada. A death in the family called Robb back to Ireland and the family farm; others remained. The cornerstone of the biography is the series of letters that Robb wrote to his family at home in County Down telling of his experiences in North America. Brian White has a deep interest in social and economic history and is committed to using family records in conjunction with more formal historical records to illuminate our study of the past." A lecture from the author Brian White about the book is now available on *You Tube*. The lecture, recorded June 1, 2023, "details the migration experience of Alexander Robb and his journey from County Down to British Columbia "

#### NEW FAMILYSEARCH HOME PAGE

*Familysearch* has recently made a number of changes to its homepage. The new tools and features are designed to make it easier to discover and learn about your family history:

#### New FamilySearch Home Page Tools and Features:

- \* New: Create a post to share photos, stories, and other memories with family, even friends!
- \* New Discovery Search: Quickly and easily find information about an ancestor
- \* See new record hints right at your fingertips
- \* Quickly see new memories recently found for your ancestors
- \* Get quick access to available record hints
- \* Quickly access your recently viewed people
- \* Create a To-Do List to plan your next research steps, ideas, or questions
- \* Easily see new volunteer opportunities
- Easily access the "Home" page, add "Friends" tool, "Hints," and "Recents" (another way to access recently viewed people)

#### TORONTO CITY DIRECTORIES DIGITIZED

With the addition of Toronto directories from 1970 to 2001 by Toronto Public Library and *Internet Archives* researchers now have access to Toronto directories from 1833 to 2001. Easy access to the directories can be found on the Ontario Genealogical Society website.

#### GENEALOGY NEWS IN BRIEF continues on page 7

#### GENEALOGY NEWS IN BRIEF continued from page 6

## MyHeritage MYHERITAGE UPDATES THEORY OF RELATVITY DATA

In May this year *MyHeritage* added millions of "theories" to its DNA matches. The company's May 24<sup>th</sup> blog states "since the last update, our DNA database has grown, as have the number of family tree profiles and historical records on *MyHeritage*. As a result, the overall number of theories has grown significantly":

- The total number of theories has grown to 136,713,021, representing a 61% increase.
- The number of DNA Matches that include a theory has increased by 78%, to 95,691,486.
- The total number of paths has grown by 51.2%, for a total of 998,325,515 paths.
- The number of DNA kits with at least one theory has grown by 23.6%, to 2,353,769 kits.
- An additional 402,255 users have one or more Theories of Family Relativity™.



Tell a

riend

## UK WHO DO YOU THINK YOU ARE - NEW SERIES

If you have access to BBC programming, watch for the new series of *Who Do You Think You Are?* beginning in June this year. The series includes Andrew Lloyd Webber, *The Crown* stars Clair Foy and Lesley Manville and others. *You Tube* has shows from previous years.

**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?



#### NFHS CO-OP FUND RAISER

Don't forget to use our membership number at a Mid Island CO-OP! In 2022, members helped to raise \$108.61 for NFHS.

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 forty-four members in the group.

#### **UNCLE JACK**

#### contest entry by NFHS member Stephanie Williams



Jack Mason age 17

I was looking for a name for my new cat and thought I'd like to name him after someone. I decided on "Uncle Jack." **Jack Mason** was a sailor who travelled the world. This cat wants to explore so that's why he got the name.

Then I began looking at the papers my mother, Elda, had left with me. She said a little about great uncle Jack Mason (grandpa Edward Mason's brother) and then I wondered, "Who will write his story?" So, here I am with some documents that are one hundred and fifty years old putting together a story about Uncle Jack Mason, the real Uncle Jack.

John Mason was born November 28,1854 in Northolme, Wainfleet, St. Mary, parish, Lincolnshire to parents **Byron Mason and Mary Chapman**. They called him Jack.

In 1861 Jack is listed on the census as age six living with his parents Byron Mason and Mary. His father is a farmer of one thousand acres employing twentyfive men. By that time there were more children — his older brother William

Wright, younger siblings Henry, Lucy and Charles. Also living at home with them is their grandfather Wright and

his wife Ann. There was also a governess,

dairy maid, housekeeper, nursemaid, groom, carter and shepherd.

It's interesting to note that Northolme Hall had burned to the ground only a year before the census. Jack's sister Lucy Mason wrote about their home: "Northolme Hall built in Queen Elizabeth's reign, burnt down in 1860. Supposed to have caught fire from a beam in the kitchen chimney after the family had gone to bed... A new home was built in 1866-67". That is the house that is still standing today.



Northholme House Painting by Lucy Mason

In the 1871 census Jack is listed as sixteen years old, a boarder in Leicester Rd. Grammar and Commercial School. There were seven other students, his older brother William W. was amongst them.

In 1873 at the age of eighteen, Jack and his father applied for an "Ordinary Apprentice's Indenture" in Liverpool to Nelson and Co., a sailing company. The fee was thirty pounds — a lot of money in those days. Jack records that he was paid four pounds in 1874, five pounds in 1875, six pounds in 1876, seven pounds in 1877 and eight pounds in 1878. So, the thirty pounds was returned as wages over the years of his apprenticeship during which he was supplied with food, medical care and instruction to be a seaman. He was to supply his own bedding and clothing.

#### UNCLE JACK continued from page 8

**Recommendations from Jack's school and Apprenticeship** 

15th Sund Int 6 MEMORANDUM " M." John Maron Mounflast, Boston FROM NELSON & CO. 9. RUNFORM GTREAT. LIVERPOOL. medla Deartin, have no neather received from your Captain we have much pleasure in afforing you the aption of staying a little longer on shorte thenhow the Thilip Ableta Capt Hurge. Alcase answer by return of yest -

AMar 6 9 I have to besitation in recommending him most warney to very me desirious of leaving to do with a steady hell fornicipled byoning Munca I. Wallace M.a. Stead hearten

Mar 8 ... 1873. I have very great fleature in certifying that She heard was under any Cane for some years (he left two Jean sice ) and that during the white of theat time he conducted humally hi very way to my Ostis faction - and a

UNCLE JACK continues on page 10

#### UNCLE JACK continued from page 9

For the next five years Jack spent his time at sea on the ships *Charlotte*, a barque, *Cecelia*, and *Phillip Nelson*. Not much is known about him and his experiences in those years as Uncle Jack was not a man to talk much about himself. All I learned from my father (Laurie Mason) was that he "sailed around the Horn before the mast. (In other words Jack was aboard a sailing ship.) He was shipwrecked at some time, but this was an experience about which he would not talk.

After many of his placements he received a certificate of discharge. In 1878 he received a certificate of competency and achieved a Master or Second Mate thus fulfilling his indenture and receiving his discharge.



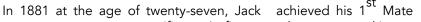
Cecilia

Certificate of Competence

FIRST MATE.

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First Mate Certificate





Jack Mason age 27

Image: State of the state o

Discharge from the Philip Nelson 1879

certificate. As first mate, he was second in command to the captain. He oversaw stores and cargo, and had a hand in navigation and safety.

In the 1891 census Jack was recorded as visiting his sister, Lucy Mason, who was living in Camberwell near London. She was caring for Muriel, daughter of Charles Mason, Jack and Lucy's brother who was recently widowed. In the census Muriel was listed as daughter, but she was really Lucy's niece. Jack is listed as a sailor.

In 1892 Jack became employed with the CPR steamships serving on numerous ships over the years: *Empress of India* engagement June 3, 1892, and discharge August 7, 1893. *Empress of China* engagement November 25, 1893, and discharged April 25, 1900, *Tartar May* 10, 1900,

to September 12, 1900, and Empress of India October 1, 1900, to March 6, 1901. Empress of China April 26,1901 to August 28, 1901.



Empress of China

*Empress of India* December 1901 to March 5, 1902 *Tartar* January 2,1903 to May 20,1905 *Empress of Russia* September 29, 1913, to November 22, 1913. At the end of each term of service he received a "Certificate of Discharge"

And so, Jack retired from sailing. He always managed to have his home port in Vancouver so he could be near Edward Mason and his wife Margaret (my grandparents) who lived in New Westminster.

UNCLE JACK continues on page 11

#### UNCLE JACK continued from page 10

In 1915 at the age of sixty-one, Uncle Jack was living in New Westminster near Edward and Margaret (my grandparents) and family. They had plans for acquiring a family farm and Jack and my dad spent time looking at real estate ads. One ad for 160 acres on Lasqueti Island for \$850.00 seemed attractive so they hired a gas boat to take them to look over the farm. It was a pleasant spot at the head of a long bay with several small buildings, a trout stream and an orchard. The decision was made to buy the property and run it as a family business.



Jack in middle age

After their move to Lasqueti Island Jack bought a boat and lived a quiet life, never being far from the sea. He built a shack on the rocks above Squitty Bay on the south

end of the Island. Every Sunday he would walk five miles to spend his Sabbath with his brother and their family. He always brought a fresh salmon for their dinner.



**Recommendation from CPR 1899** 

In 1934 Jack applied for old age pension and after much struggle and help from Justice of the Peace, Charlie Williams, he finally was granted the pension. It appears from the letters that the old age pension authorities were demanding his diaries and papers from his last sailing assignment. He did not want to part with his diaries, but finally did.My mother said they ripped out pages of his diary and treated him poorly. One letter mentions that he was completely out of funds and living on the charity of neighbours.



Mason Brothers Edward, Byron and Jack

The pension in those days was ten dollars per month. I would love to read his diary — perhaps it was burned when Edward and Margaret's home in Boat Cove was burned.

Being an elderly bachelor, Jack became eligible for the ladies of Lasqueti Island to make him a quilt. This was made from local sheep wool painstakingly carded and quilted by a group of ladies. I have this quilt to this very day.

Jack was a faithful member of the Salvation Army and after the older Masons on Lasqueti (Edward and Margaret) had passed away, he went to a senior's home in Gleichen, Alberta. He did not live very long there, so far from the sea, and passed away 8 April, 1943.

## A CEMETERY IS A MARBLE GARDEN NOT TO BE TAKEN FOR GRANITE!

The spring edition of Ancestree contained the first part of Helen Webster's story in which she detailed the mystery of her great grandmother's second marriage. The unanswered question in Helen's extensive research for her book Company Wife was if Margaret McLeod-Ross-McKenzie married twice, where did she marry? When? The answer is in the story below and relates an interesting insight into nineteenth century divorces.

#### MAGGIE'S MYSTERIOUS MARRIAGE, PART TWO

#### by NFHS member Helen Webster



Did I tell you about Darlene when I spoke of wondering whether Maggie and Peter's marriage was legal? No? Well, she's important to this story because Darlene is our newest cousin via *Ancestry* and she made the great discovery.

Maggie's first husband, my great-grandfather, TB Ross, was a miserable sod. Over the years of their marriage, while the family lived for almost twenty years in an isolated trading post on the shores of Whitefish Lake in the northern Ontario bush,

Maggie was aware of her husband's frequent liaisons with the local Anishinaabeg women. Maggie was also a victim of what we now call domestic abuse...but back then it was just a husband chastising his wife. Ugh!!

Anyway, back to Darlene. In early 2018, a new cousin introduced herself to the three of us who had been digging into Maggie's story. Darlene had sent her DNA to *Ancestry*, and there was a match to my cousin, Art Ross. Art was the great-grandson of Darlene's great-grandfather, TB Ross, who was the father of Charles Ross, who was Art Sr's younger brother. I know, I know, a family genealogy chart would make all that much easier to follow.

Darlene promptly contacted her newly found cousin Art who welcomed her into the family and we all sent warm good wishes to her. She is the great-granddaughter of a liaison Charles Ross had with an Anishinaabeg woman. Before discovering her Ross family, Darlene had been digging into her Anishinaabeg family history, most of it kept in the Roman Catholic church records of the time.

Knowing of her pursuit, one of her uncles had mentioned to her, in somewhat cryptic fashion, that her family was connected to the Boston Bruins hockey team. When she pressed him for more information, he would only say that her family was somehow related to the HBC family who had lived at Whitefish Lake near present day Sudbury, until the end of the nineteenth century. As Darlene would discover, that was the family of her great-grandmother, Maggie McLeod Ross.

Cousin Art was delighted with this new relative, and the emails, copied to all, flew back and forth. In one of them, I told Darlene about the book I was writing about Maggie and about our decade long struggles to learn about Maggie's mysterious second marriage. To my joy and astonishment, just like that, she replied, "Oh, I know about that. When I was searching for information about Maggie's divorce and her second marriage, I asked my Anishinaabeg cousins who live in North Dakota and they suggested I should look in the archives of North Dakota State University."

And there it was, the record of Maggie's divorce, along with a marvellous story about the Fargo, North Dakota, divorce mill. We soon discovered that in the late eighteen and early nineteen hundreds, Fargo, North Dakota was called the Divorce Capital of the World. Who knew?

MAGGIE'S MYSTERIOUS MARRIAGE continues page 13

#### MAGGIE'S MYSTERIOUS MARRIAGE continued from page 12

We had already learned from her letters that toward the end of the century, Maggie had left TB Ross, and was staying in Sudbury with her good friend, Dr. Helen Ryan, after whom I am named. Just to really confuse the issue, Dr. Ryan was the cousin of my maternal grandmother on the Ross side.

From newspaper records of the time, we knew that shortly after Maggie and her children had moved in with Helen, Maggie's eldest son, Simon, had left Moosonee, just south of James Bay, where he was the manager of an HBC post, to travel with his mother.

The newspaper report did not say where they had gone, but three months later, according to the NDSU library archives, Maggie had her uncontested divorce. The



Dr. Helen "Nell" Ryan Sudbury, *ca* 1900 courtesy Tom and Heather Reynolds



McKenzie House, Montréal

next record that we have, in addition to her letters, is the newspaper account of Maggie's wedding to Peter McKenzie in Sudbury. Following the wedding, they moved to Montreal. Maggie, after bearing ten children when she lived for two decades in a tiny log cabin in the wilderness of northern Ontario, now enjoyed her new life as a society matron.

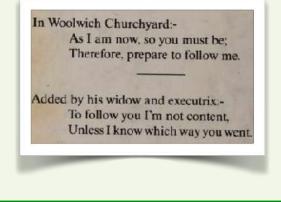
Thanks to Darlene, the puzzle of Maggie's mysterious second marriage had been solved. Our newest cousin had discovered the answer, and I could get on with writing *Company Wife*, the story of my great-grandmother.

#### ALTERNATE MARRIAGE PLACES

If you're stumped on marriage details for an ancestor, consider searching across borders or in nearby cities. Helen Webster's article is a good example of this. California residents, for example, often



opted for marriage or divorce in Nevada. The California state archives has records of Nevada marriages and divorces. Also, Washington state residents often married in Idaho where marriage licences were cheaper and required less paperwork. For English marriages explore the registers for both husband and wife. Often one would marry in the home parish of his or her spouse.



#### HOW TO PURCHASE A PRIVATE ISLAND... - IN 1890

#### by NFHS Member Mali Bain

My great-great grandfather, **Harry Foote**, purchased and later lived on Jedediah Island (between Lasqueti and Texada Islands). Today the island is a marine reserve, but you can still see the old house, as well as the apple trees planted by my great-grandfather over one hundred years ago.

When Harry purchased the island, it was, like most of British Columbia, legally Indigenous territory. The following excerpt from my book *Our homes on Indigenous Lands* explores some of that history:

The Foote family's connection with Jedediah island began in 1890, soon after Harry and Mary Ann Foote moved by horse and buggy across the country from Portage la Prairie, Manitoba. They arrived in Vancouver—part of Coast Salish territory, though they didn't recognize it as such—with four children, including my greatgrandmother Winnie. While living on Coast Salish territory, they had two more children, Myrtle and Lister.

When the Footes arrived in Vancouver, they assumed they had the right to purchase land. As non-Indigenous citizens, they were free to purchase as much land as they wished, anywhere on the coast.

Harry Foote purchased Jedediah from George Stubbins, who had obtained it as a Crown Land Grant earlier that year, in 1890. Though the lands were Indigenous and had never been "ceded" or legally transferred to the British Columbia government, Harry claimed "ownership" of the islands with the stroke of a pen and the exchange of funds in Vancouver. The title deed for Jedediah, given to the first owner by the government, This title deed text was justified by colonial jurisdiction over all of what was called British Columbia:

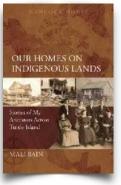
Victoria, by the Grace of God, of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland, Queen, Defender of the Faith, and so forth. To Whom these presents shall come, Greeting:

We give and grant \_\_\_\_\_ his heirs and assigns ... to have and to hold the said Parcel or Plot of Land and all and singular the premises hereby granted ...

There are a few pieces of Harry Foote's title deed which are important to note. At the time when Harry and Mary Ann purchased Jedediah, Indigenous peoples did not have access to their traditional lands because of the encroaching settlers; in addition, they were prevented by law from purchasing the lands that they had lived on for generations. Finally, the land that was sold was not legally owned by the Province of British Columbia at the time.

Nevertheless, Harry Foote, was able to purchase pieces of paper which gave him title to Jedediah Island in 1890. Starting in 1907, when their youngest, Lister, was thirteen years old, Harry cleared land and began to build a home at what they called Home Bay, on Jedediah Island.

This is just the start of my family's "Jedediah stories". The book explores that history, and then takes a similar approach to delve into Indigenous and settler histories following my ancestors back to the 1600s in New Sweden (Pennsylvania), the 1800s in PEI, and the last 1900s in Alberta, Manitoba, southern Ontario, PEI, and New England.





## Faces of Our Ancestors

## EARLY PHOTOGRAPHS SHARED BY NFHS MEMBERS from NFHS member Valerie Fort

The photo below is of the **Fort family** taken *ca* 1887. The family resided in East Wellington, which was a ranching settlement about three miles from Nanaimo and two and a half miles from Wellington. The 1901 *Henderson B.C. Gazetteer and Directory* lists Joseph and Fernand as ranchers.

A British Columbia "Heritage Marker" captures the history of Wellington: "In 1869 Robert Dunsmuir discovered coal in this area. The settlement of Wellington developed after 1871 when coal was transported first by wagon and later by rail to wharves at Departure Bay. When the mines closed in 1900, many of Wellington's buildings were moved to Ladysmith, which had been developed by the Dunsmuir interests as a shipping point."



L-R front row: Joseph Fort, Marie Fort, Paul Freer, Marie Freer, Rosalie Freer, Emilia Fort, Charles L. Fort, Fernand Fort, Elisa Fort. Lower Step L: Victor Freer. Lower Step R:Antoine Destrebec (brother of Elisa Fort). Upper Step: Unknown

We take photographs as a return ticket to a moment otherwise gone.



The house where William, John, and Humphrey lived in the early 1780's. I believe the photo and description were done in 1987 when the house was classified as a grade 2 heritage building. The description says "*circa* early C17" but the 1785 survey indicates the house was built just before 1785.

## EARLY TOM(S) FAMILY HOUSE AT PENDREE by NFHS member Doug Toms

A number of years ago I found a record of a lease that my 5<sup>th</sup> great grandfather **William Tom** (1717-1783) acquired in Pendree (now called Pendrift) near Blisland, Cornwall, on June 6, 1782. His two oldest sons were also noted as successors on the lease. They were John (age 30) and Humphrey (age 22). The record was obtained from *The Parochial and Family History of the Deanery of Trigg Minor* Volume III, pages 342 and 343 published in 1870 by Sir John MacLean. Humphrey Tom was my 4<sup>th</sup> great grandfather.

Last summer I contacted Angela Aylward of the St. Tudy History Society about my early Tom family in Blisland and I sent her the above information to her as we were swapping emails. She then told me that she thought the Tom family home still existed but she couldn't go there to check it out. I found two other contacts who might help but they were unsuccessful.

Angela contacted me again this spring about a potential

6<sup>th</sup> cousin who wanted to contact me. In my reply I also mentioned that I had no luck in finding the Tom family house and that I wondered if it still existed. Shortly afterwards she sent me a photo and description of the house as well as other information about it that she had just recently found:

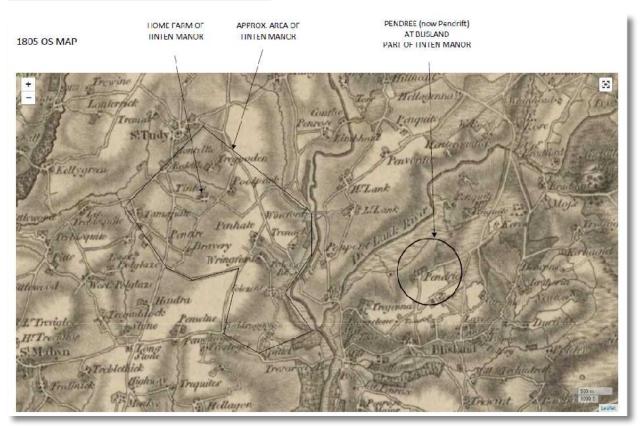
Farmhouse and garden wall to front. ...stone rubble with granite quoins. Rag slate roof with gable ends and stone ruble end stacks, the projecting right hand stack with cleom [clay or earthenware] oven in the end stack. Plan 2 room and possibly through passage plan with large hall on left heated by end stack. Kitchen on right with cloam oven in the end stack. Exterior: 2 storeys, asymmetrical 3 window front. Entrance to right of centre with circa 19<sup>th</sup> century stone rubble and ashier granite porch and six panel door. 3-light mullion window left and renewed 12-pane sash to right sash in opening for 2-light mullion window, the lintel surviving.First floor with 3 C19 2-light casements on the first floor. Circa late C19 or 20<sup>th</sup> c buttress on left hand gable end wall and circa C18 stone rubble outshot across rear. Stone rubble garden wall encloses garden to front of house. Interior: not inspected. An interior inspection may reveal several interesting features and may help establish a more accurate date. Especially attractive unaltered house.

(survey information supplied by the Duchy of Cornwall archivist in London) SURVEY NOTES: this Tenement hath a Farm House newly built, a Barn and other out Houses thereon all in good repair. this Estate lies in the Parish of Blisland about 3 miles from Trenarlet; great part of this Estate is poor land A Copy was granted to John Tom dated 7 <sup>th</sup> October 1783	1785 SURVEY	JOHN TOM	LEASED	PENDREE	34 acres	PART OF TINTEN MANOR IN BLISLAND
this Estate lies in the Parish of Blisland about 3 miles from Trenarlet; great part of this Estate is poor land	(survey informatio	n supplied by the D	uchy of Cornw	all archivist in London	)	
this Estate lies in the Parish of Blisland about 3 miles from Trenarlet; great part of this Estate is poor land	SURVEY NOTES: thi	s Tenement hath a	Farm House n	ewly built, a Barn and	d other out Houses t	thereon all in good repair.
					e de la companya de l	
	Jo	nn Tom and Humph	rev his Brothe	er are the only lives no	ow living	

This 1785 survey shows that the lease was granted to John Tom on October 7, 1783, after the death of his father William on January 27, 1783. It also noted that the farm house was recently built, presumably by William, John. and Humphrey.

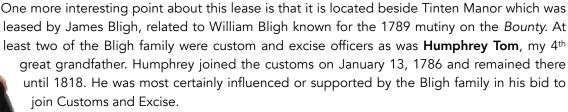
EARLY TOMS HOUSE continues page 17

#### EARLY TOMS HOUSE continued from page 16





Captain Wm Bligh 1754-1817





#### FINDING ELUSIVE WILLS AT THE NATIONAL ARCHIVES

If you haven't been able to find a pre 1858 will at the UK's National Archives, try searching by location rather than name. The search engine at the archives doesn't allow for "near" spellings of names, so if you know the village or town in which your ancestor lived, entering the location's name may lead you to your ancestor's wills, or the wills of other relatives of that person. The wills of these other relatives may in turn provide details of your ancestor.

#### NANAIMO FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY FUTURE SPEAKERS

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

Monday, September 18, 2023



Monday, October 16, 2023 DALYS BARNEY

TBA TO BE

Vancouver Island in 1935.

TELLING MY NORWEGIAN STORY Dalys Barney is the great granddaughter of Ole and Konstanse (Fyhn) Olsen who came to Canada separately from Norway prior to meeting and marrying in Bella Coola in 1914. Dalys's talk will cover the story of their individual emigrations from Norway; the life they built together in Hagensborg in the Bella Coola Valley; and their eventual move to

Drawing on her experience working as a library technician at Vancouver Island University, Dalys will also give a brief overview of some of the resources available at VIU that might be of interest to members of NFHS. In addition to her interest in family history, Dalys is also passionate about local history. In 2023, she self-published a booklet, *Message on a Bottle: Nanaimo's Soda History*, which is a look at the city's soda industry, focusing on single-serving glass soda bottles and local manufacturers. She's a member of the Nanaimo Historical Society, and blogs at Van Isle Explorer.



#### Monday, November 20, 2023 COLIN STEVENS MILITARY GENEALOGY



Colin MacGregor Stevens, CD is a retired Canadian army captain and is the curator of an official Canadian armed forces museum in Richmond, B.C. His presentation will be about researching and understanding the military service of your Canadian relatives, with emphasis on World War I as those records are open and available. Military records are amazingly detailed at times, but they frustratingly leave out many details that we want to know. They will usually not state which battles your relatives were in, but they will tell you their eye and hair colour as well as birthmarks or scars. There are, however, lots of clues that

can help to determine battles in which they participated, especially if they were wounded or killed. Finding information is one thing. Understanding the military jargon, abbreviations and so on is another thing altogether, somewhat like trying to understand a text message from a teenager today. Colin hopes that his talk will act a bit for you like the Rosetta Stone which helped scholars to understand Egyptian hieroglyphics.

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

## **MEET MYANCESTOR CONTEST 2023**

Nanaimo Family History Society members are invited to enter a "Meet My Ancestor" contest. Entries must be submitted by **midnight**, **December 31**, **2023** and meet the contest criteria. We must receive at least four entries for the contest to run. All entries will appear in future editions of *Ancestree*.

## 1. MEMORIES OF MY OLDEST RELATIVES

Trip down memory lane. What do you remember about these people who were part of your life?

## 2. MY FAVOURITE DISCOVERY

As you've been researching your family, what was a discovery about which you were particularly happy?How did you make this discovery? What did it lead to?

## 3. A FAMILY HEIRLOOM

Do you have a family heirloom with a story? A watch, a quilt, a walking stick, a fountain pen, a book? Tell us its story and what it can reveal about your ancestor!

## 4. WHEN I BEGAN GENEALOGY ...

What made you want to research your family? How and when did you begin? Why do you continue to research your ancestors? What insights about your family have you learned?

## 5. IF I COULD MEET AN ANCESTOR

Is there an ancestor whom you would like to meet? When and where did this person live? What would you like to talk about? What questions do you have? Why?

## 6. A DIFFERENT OCCUPATION

Did one of your ancestors have a rare occupation or one that we no longer often see? What did this occupation entail? What were the risks? The benefits?

## 7. CHOOSE A TOPIC!

Yes, a **free choice** topic that relates to genealogy! What would YOU like to write about? What would YOUR FAMILY like to hear about?

## **CONTEST CRITERIA**

- 1. The author is a current member of Nanaimo Family History Society on December 31, 2023.
- 2. The entry has not been previously published.
- 3. The entry is an interesting, coherent read responding to one of the topics, with a specific focus of genealogical interest.
- 4. The entry demonstrates the reader's methods of research including any problems encountered and their resolution.
- The entry includes family tree diagrams and/or photograph(s) and/or other illustrations if appropriate. These visuals are appropriately placed to support the context of the entry.
- The length of the entry is not more than 1500 words and not fewer than 750 words.
- 7. The entry includes footnotes and /or sources as necessary.
- 8. The entry has page numbers and is submitted in *PDF, Word*, or *Pages* format.

#### ANCESTRY (subscription)

Canada Nova Scotia Marriages 1763-1945 Canada 1931 census (browse only) Canada, Newfoundland Church Records 1793-1899 UK East Sussex Wills and Probate UK West Sussex Wills and Probate UK WestMinsterPoor Law Registers 1561-1900 US Hawaii News and Events Index 1800's-current



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

## FAMILY SEARCH ((FREE, (just register)

Canada Births and Baptisms 1661-1959 Canada Mortality Schedules, 1871 Canada Marriages 1661-1949 Austria Roman Catholic Church Records, 1565-2007 Belarus, Minsk Church Books 1700-1965 Czech Republic Censuses and Inhabitant Registers 1800-1990 Germany, North Rhine, Westphalia, Wuppertal Civil Registration 1810-1930 Germany Deaths and Burials 1582-1958 Russia, Lutheran Church Book Duplicates 1833-1885 UK British Armed Forces and Overseas Vital Records 1761-2005

#### FINDMYPAST (subscription)

Ireland Diocese of Dublin Marriage Licenses, 1638-1858 Ireland Diocese of Dublin Wills and Grants, 1270-1858 Ireland Return of Owners of Land 1876 Scotland Return of Owners of Land 1873 Scotland People of Nairnshire UK England and Wales Return of Owners of Land 1873 UK AngloBoer War Records UK Britain School and University Students UK Protestation Returns 1641-1642

#### MYHERITAGE (subscription)

Scotland Index of Paternity Decrees Processes and Case Papers

#### **ROOTS IRELAND (FREE Just Register)**

Antrim and Down Baptisms and Marriages Kerry Roman Catholic records

#### **MISCELLANEOUS (Free) LINKS**

New WWII Partisans of Belarus Data Base UK Tithe Records, Finding an Ancestor's Home British Acadia The Beginnings Accessing Ancestry's Free Collections Add Consistency to Your Source Citations (great hints on organizing your citations) Dutch Genealogy News April 2023 Free Alternatives for Genealogy in Netherlands Ireland Lease Abstracts for the Manor and Lordship of Monaghan My Heritage Webinars (an extensive list of topics, free to view) Ontario Land Records: Where are they online?

## **MEMBERS' MISCELLANEA**



## Did you know?

If you have blue eyes and are wondering If you may be distantly related to one or more of our NFHS members, look around you at the next meeting. According to *Science Daily* you're related to all the other blue eyed members.

Originally, all humans had various shades of brown eyes until a mutation in the HERCC2 gene occurred. This mutation switches off OACA2, the gene that decides how much brown pigment is made. Science Daily states "new research shows that people with

blue eyes have a single, common ancestor. A team at the University of Copenhagen have tracked down a genetic mutation which took place 6-10,000 years ago and is the cause of the eye colour of all blue-eyed humans alive on the planet today." So, at the next meeting say hello to some new cousins. Then again maybe your blue eyes are a more modern mutation!

## Did you know?

"Over 250,000 marriages took place in the environs of the Fleet Prison between 1678 and 1754? A staggering 6,500 marriages took place there every year by the 1740s, accounting for half of all the marriages in London. Priests in the Church of England, who had been imprisoned there, typically for debt, conducted these, as, since they had neither liberty nor benefice to lose, they were immune from the heavy legal penalties that they would otherwise incur. Frequently, more information is recorded in the Fleet registers than in a typical London register, though undoubtedly, some of the entries contain false information and occasionally names may be fictitious. Marrying in the Fleet Prison was popular because couples could avoid all the formalities and expense of banns or licences. Soldiers and sailors especially liked the fact that they could marry immediately. Only when Lord Hardwicke's Act came into force in 1754 was a stop put to these irregular and clandestine marriages. Couples now had to marry by licence or banns, have the consent of parents if under 21 years old, and the wedding had to take place in a parish where one of the parties resided. A special printed register was also brought into use. Gretna Green, just over the Scottish border where Hardwicke's Act had no jurisdiction, therefore became the destination of choice instead of the Fleet for those who didn't want to or often couldn't abide by the rules."

Records of Fleet Prison marriages are in series RG 7 and can be viewed at Ancestry. from The Institute of Heraldic and Genealogical Studies, Newsletter 224

#### MEMBERS' MISCELLANEA continues page 22

#### MEMBERS' MISCELLANEA continued from page 21



## FROM NANAIMO HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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

## LOOKING LOCAL from NFHS member Susan Garcia

On the local area history front, the Nanaimo Historical Society welcomed all to a super-sunny Buttertubs Marsh history walk on May 13, 2023 with host, Bill Merrilees.

People interested in the 19<sup>th</sup> century history of the Welsh in BC please come to a "Meet and Greet" informal afternoon 3-4 pm on Monday, July 24, 2023, with Dr. Gethin Matthews. Gethin is a University of Swansea history professor who is visiting Nanaimo on this day only. He will not do a presentation, but will make a presentation about his research available to us in December. The address for the event is Upstairs, 421 Milton Street, Nanaimo, V9R 2K9. Parking is on the street. Look for a biography on the Nanaimo Historical Society *Facebook* page soon.

On September 14, 2023, Seven Potatoes president, Tami Hirasawa will present on the history of the Japanese community in Nanaimo. (In Japanese *nana imo* means seven potatoes!) People may have heard Tami speak at the Lantern Festival August 6, 2022 (Hiroshima Day) in Maffeo Sutton Park.

Visit our website's "News and Events" for more information!

## EDITOR'S NOTES

Thank you to all our NFHS members who contributed to this issue of *AncesTree*.: Mali Bain, Valerie Fort, Susan Garcia, Doug Toms, Helen Webster and Stephanie Williams.

The second of our 2022 contest winning entries appears in this issue with another entry to appear in the next issue of *AncesTree*. Our 2023 writing contest is a "go" with topics and rules to be found on page 19 of this issue. Special thanks to members Beth and Greg Skala for their assistance with topic decisions.

We are continuing our "Quick Tips" feature, 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 next journal!

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

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

Although the poem below by Robert Service (1874-1958) captures the memories of his Scottish relatives left behind, it mirrors the memories of so many immigrants to Canada. Service is best known for his Klondyke verses such as "The Shooting of Dan McGrew" and "The Cremation of Sam McGee."

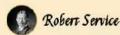
## My Ancestors

A barefoot boy I went to school To save a cobbler's fee, For though the porridge pot was full A frugal folk were we; We baked our bannocks, spun our wool, And counted each bawbee.

We reft our living from the soil, And I was shieling bred; My father's hands were warped with toil, And crooked with grace he said. My mother made the kettle boil As spinning wheel she fed.

My granny smoked a pipe of clay, And yammered of her youth: The hairs upon her chin were grey, She had a single tooth: Her mutch was grimed, I grieve to say, For I would speak the truth.

You of your ancestry may boast,-Well, here I brag of mine; For if there is a heaven host I hope they'll be in line: My dad with collie at his heel In plaid of tartan stripe; My mammie with her spinning wheel, My granny with her pipe.





#### Nanaimo Family History Society Executive 2023

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