



Ancestry

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

President's Message

By Sharon Davison

I hope that everyone had a great summer and that you are recharged and ready to work on your genealogy!

The mini Thursday Zoom sessions are all set until the end of this year. Please check out the topics and register ahead of time. Details and registration links for the sessions are found on pages eight and nine of this issue.

The open house held on September 16th at the LDS Family History Centre was a great success, with approximately thirty people stopping by. Special thanks to the LDS and the volunteers.

A huge thank you to Ruth Stewart for making a gorgeous quilt and donating it to our society as a fund raiser. Tickets have already been sold and are available to non-members, so be sure to approach friends and family! Tickets are three for \$5.00 and the cut-off is six hundred tickets. See Ruth's article about her quilt on pages nineteen and twenty. The raffle will be drawn on December 11 at our Christmas social.

President's Message continues on page 2

Every book is a quotation and every house is a quotation out of all forests, and mines, and stone quarries, and all people are quotations from all their ancestors.

Ralph Waldo Emerson (1803-1882 American essayist)

What's Inside

President's Message	Pages 1-2
Genealogy News Briefs	Pages 3-7
Fall Zoom Sessions	Pages 8-9
Striving Ever	10-12
Breaking a Brick Wall	Page 13
The Eye Has it	Page-14
Marriage Certificates — Fact or Fiction?	Page-15
Faces of Our Ancestors	Page 16
Future Guest Speakers	Pages 17-18
54-40 Or Fight	Pages 19-20
Those We Knew	Page 21
Writing Contest 2023	Page 22
Web Links	Page 23
Members' Miscellanea	Page 24
Editor's Notes	Page 25
Contact Information	Page 26

Save the Date!

Nanaimo FHS Oct Meeting	Oct 16
Nanaimo FHS Nov Meeting	Nov 20
Nanaimo FHS Dec Meeting	Dec 11

President's Message continued from page 1

Also, check out the topics on page twenty-two for this year's writing contest. Entries close at midnight, December 31st. Entering the contest is a great way to record your family stories. See Beth Skala's article on page twenty-four to see how entering the contest can be of benefit to you.

A reminder that our October meeting is our last hybrid meeting for this year. November's meeting will be by Zoom only and our December meeting, which is our Christmas party, is in person.



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

Nanaimo Family Search Center Fall Hours

Tuesdays 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m, Wednesday 6:30-7:45 and Saturday 10:00-Noon

Most of our NFHS collection is at this location and is available for borrowing.

The library is located at 2424 Glen Eagle Crescent.

SADLY, WE MARK THE PASSING OF TWO LONG TIME MEMBERS



On June 16, Patricia Margaret Portsmouth (1931-2023) passed away. Pat was an active member of NFHS for many years, missing few meetings and happily serving on numerous committees. Genealogy was a passion for Pat. Our condolences to daughter Louise and her family.



On August 9, William Emerson Phillips (1938-2023) passed away. Bill was an active participant at our meetings, often chatting with members about his genealogy pursuits in which he created a huge family tree. Our condolences to Bill's wife Evelyn and family.

GENEALOGY NEWS IN BRIEF**FROM LIBRARY AND ARCHIVES CANADA****CONNECTICUT ANCESTORS?**

A [free searchable database](#) of Connecticut births, marriages, deaths and civil unions is now available on the Connecticut Genealogy Index.

NEW FRANCE SETTLERS MAP

With the research of “former Quebec archivist Léon Roy, Nico Lefrançois of the Projet Patrimoine Québec, and Google Earth technology, researchers can now look at exactly where their ancestors' property was located on the large island in the St. Lawrence River.” Genealogist Gail Dever in her September 23rd blog provides an excellent [guide](#) to using this mapping tool that will allow you to see exactly where your ancestors lived on Île-d’Orléans in Québec.

**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!

**TORONTO ANCESTORS?**

Toronto Public Library [Digital Archive](#) now has over 180,000 digital images for free. If you're looking for images to illustrate your family tree check these archives that contain photos, postcards, and other items.

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!

**ROOTSTECH 2024**

Free Early Bird registration for [RootsTech 2024](#), February 29-March 2, 2024 is now open.

**GLOBAL GAZETTE ARTICLES**

[Global Genealogy](#) provides a freely accessible list of links to genealogical and historical articles that have been published in *The Global Gazette*. Some excellent sources here for your research!

GENEALOGY NEWS IN BRIEF continues on page 4

GENEALOGY NEWS IN BRIEF continued from page 3

DESCENDANTS OF CANADIAN KOREAN WAR CASUALTIES SOUGHT

The Department of National Defence's Casualty Identification Program needs help. The program has found living DNA donors for 10 of the 16 Canadian Army soldiers missing in Korea, but they are having trouble finding the families for six of the soldiers whose remains have been found in Korea. It is hoped that a DNA match can be made to identify these fallen men. If you are related to one of these men or can help, [please REGISTER your information.](#)



CHINESE IMMIGRATION RECORDS NOW AVAILABLE

FamilySearch and Ancestry have added Chinese immigration records which include photos of individuals, birthplace, physical description, arrival date and port of arrival. Infants were also registered. The FamilySearch collection, [Chinese Immigration Act Records, 1923-1946](#) contains about 177,418 records. Ancestry's [Canada Chinese Exclusion Act Records, 1923-1947](#) documents 155,000 people.



NEW HATHI TRUST WEBSITE FOR GREAT SEARCHES

"HathiTrust was founded in 2008 as a not-for-profit collaborative of academic and research libraries now preserving 18+ million digitized items in the HathiTrust Digital Library. We offer reading access to the fullest extent allowable by U.S. and international copyright law, text and data mining tools for the entire corpus, and other emerging services based on the combined collection." Searches can be narrowed by a number of fields including country, date published and numerous others. Over 40% of the sources are free to view online. Your editor has been having fun with this resource!

GENEALOGY NEWS IN BRIEF continues on page 5

GENEALOGY NEWS IN BRIEF continued from page 4



MYHERITAGE AVAILABLE AT BRITISH COLUMBIA GENEALOGY SOCIETY

MYHERITAGE is now available at the BCGS Library AND on-line to BCGS members only. Members can access MyHeritage through the Members Only section of the BCGS website.

CONTENT INCLUDES: Exclusive databases under license including tributes, obituaries, Wiki Tree, Billion Graves, and Canadian Headstones.

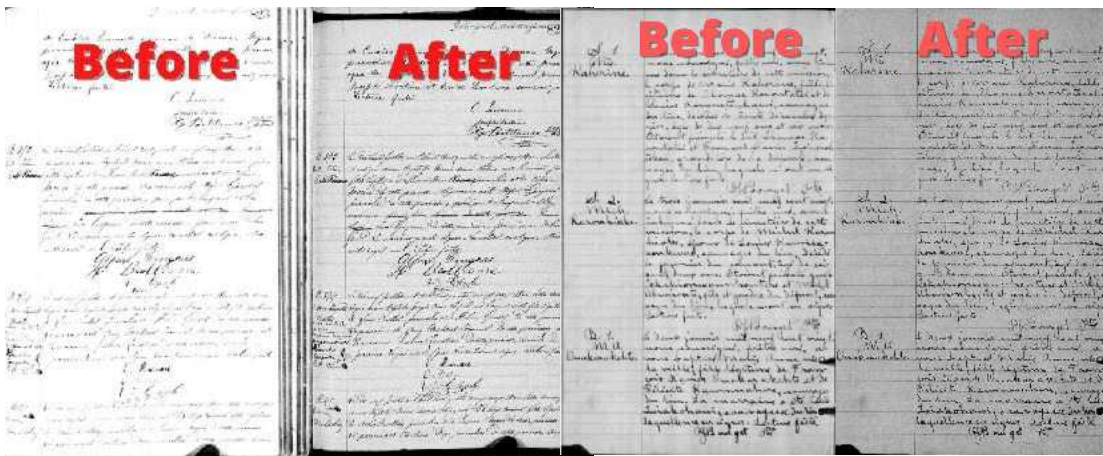
- More than 18.5 billion historical records from all over the world
- More than 5 billion exclusive family tree profiles
- More than 500 million historical photographs

MAJOR CHANGE TO MICROFILM REQUESTS AT FAMILY SEARCH

As of July 2023, requesting copies of microfilm to be viewed will no longer be possible due to a diminishing supply of microfilm. FamilySearch states that it is "currently working on alternate methods of access for microfilmed records that cannot be released to the public online." David E. Rencher, Director of the Family History Library in Salt Lake City, wrote, "They're not removing what's already there. This (decision) pertains to the service to request a microfilm that isn't in the FSL (FamilySearch Library). They're looking for alternatives now to still give access to the materials on the microfilm original that may have online restrictions. It's a complicated legal rights issue to navigate." Genealogist Gail Dever comments, "This sounds like a copyright/permission issue regarding digitizing records versus making them available on microfilm."

DROUIN COLLECTION RESCANNED

Over a million images from Québec parishes have been rescanned by the Drouin Institute to improve clarity. "The Drouin Collection Records are a collection of parish registers (baptisms, marriages and burials) covering all of Quebec and French Acadia as well as parts of Ontario, New Brunswick and the Northeastern United States, from the parish's foundation up to the 1940s and sometimes 1960s." You can browse the Drouin collection with a subscription to Genealogy Quebec at this address.



GENEALOGY NEWS IN BRIEF continues on page 6

GENEALOGY NEWS IN BRIEF continued from page 5

PHOTODATER INTRODUCED BY MYHERITAGE

A new feature from *MyHeritage*, Photodater, uses artificial intelligence technology to provide date estimates of family photos. This may be handy for those of you with undated photographs in your albums. More information about the feature can be found in a [MyHeritage blog](#).

 **1931 CANADIAN CENSUS NOW AVAILABLE AT MYHERITAGE**

The newly indexed [1931](#) census became available at *MyHeritage* on September 13th. After a quick check by your editor, the indexing seems more accurate than that available at *Ancestry*. Details are available on the [MyHeritage blog](#).



HUNTING FOR IRISH TOWNLANDS?

Irish genealogist John Grenham in his [September 5th blog](#) introduces a way to navigate Irish maps. "What this means is that for 98% of townlands in rural Ireland, you can now click through to the universally relevant records from the 1850s to the 1920s, while seeing the location of each townland in relation to its neighbours. An historical snooper's dream"

NEW QUICK ACCESS TO ENGLISH AND WELSH BIRTH AND DEATH RECORDS

Now you can immediately download 1837-1922 birth records, and 1837-1887 death records as digital images from the UK's [General Register Office](#). The images cost about \$4.25. You first need to register (free) and then log in.

GENEALOGY NEWS IN BRIEF continues on page 7

GENEALOGY NEWS IN BRIEF continued from page 6

CONNECTICUT ANCESTORS?



A [free searchable database](#) of Connecticut births marriages, deaths and civil unions is now available on the Connecticut Genealogy Index.

NEW FRANCE SETTLERS MAP

With the research of "former Quebec archivist Léon Roy, Nico Lefrançois of the Projet Patrimoine Québec, and Google Earth technology, researchers can now look at exactly where their ancestors' property was located on the large island in the St. Lawrence River." Genealogist Gail Dever in her September 23rd blog provides an excellent [guide](#) to using this mapping tool that will allow you to see exactly where your ancestors lived on Île-d'Orléans in Québec.



NORFOLK, ONTARIO ANCESTORS?

Family Search and the archives of Ontario have made available probate records and indexes from 1842 to 1967. More information can found on the [Family Search Wiki](#).



BC STORYTELLERS

BC's [Knowledge Network](#) offers many BC biographies and historical stories that can be freely viewed on your computer. You need to register, but the many selections are free to watch.



DON'T FORGET!

2022 MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

MEMBERSHIP EXTENDS FROM JANUARY 1ST TO DECEMBER 31ST

- ◆ Senior \$30.00
- ◆ Non-senior \$35.00
- ◆ Additional family member \$10.00.



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.

There's a fine line between a packrat and a serious family historian!



Zoom "Mini-How-To" Sessions, Fall Sessions 2023

The sessions are all on Thursday evenings, with presentations beginning at 6:30 and lasting for about an hour. They are open to all members of NFHS, at no charge, but you must register in advance. The link in blue below the description of each session will take you to the registration page for that session. Once registered, you will receive a confirmation email containing the link that will give access to the Zoom session on the day of the meeting. You can use the link to join in as early as fifteen minutes ahead.

October

Oct 5 - Stories of My Hawaiian Family, Susan Garcia

Susan will describe the places in Canada where her Hawaiian ancestors lived and how various gatherings have attempted to keep the Hawaiian descendants celebrating their culture, especially through dance. Similarly various descendants have different stories about their heritage and brick walls & red herrings abound for the few genealogists in the family.

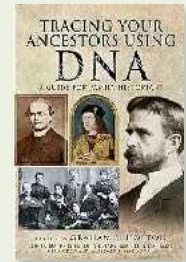
[Registration](#)

Oct 12 - Genealogy Book Club, Terry Hartley

The book club will study *Tracing Your Ancestors Using DNA*, edited by Graham Holt. The group will share questions and ideas which arise from reading the book. Everyone interested in the use of DNA for genealogy will enjoy the discussions, regardless of previous experience. The book will continue to be the focus of several more sessions in the spring of 2024. Register once for all Fall sessions.

Note. The print version of the book is only available to order. Try Chapters or Amazon. The ebook is on Kindle and Google. paper-free.

[Registration](#)



Oct 26 - Self-Publishing 101, Mali Bain

An Overview of Publishing Your Family History

This session will give an overview of the steps involved in moving from a draft text to a completed book. It will also compare traditional and self-publishing methods and share some of the options available to have your book printed for family and/or the public.

This how-to session happens one day after a similarly titled session at VIU Elder College. Come to this session with your questions specific to family history publishing. We'll go through your questions and the options available to you.

Mali is a family historian, facilitator, and certified Guided Autobiography instructor. She holds a B.A. (UBC), B.Ed. (SFU), and an M.A. in Adult Learning and Education (UBC). She has published her family history book and now helps others complete the books they have been dreaming of through NextGen Story: Custom Publishing

[Registration](#)

November

Nov 2 - Researching Your Elusive UK Agricultural Labourer or Farmer Carolyn Kemp.

Carolyn will present two case studies from her research into her own "Ag Labs". Carolyn is editor of our journal, *AnceTree*

[Registration](#)

Nov 9 - DNA Book Club, Terry Hartley.

Second session. See Oct 12 above for details.

Nov 16 - How To Use Google Photos, Beth Skala

Google Photos is a free app/program that provides utilities for organizing photo collections and sharing them with your family. Beth will demonstrate how she has used the program to organize her own photos and describe the benefits of it.

[Registration](#)

Zoom How To Sessions continue page 9

Zoom How To Sessions continued from page 8

Nov 23 - How and Why to Transfer Your Ancestry DNA to Gedmatch and My Heritage, Susan Bates

Ancestry has by far the largest database of persons whose DNA has been tested there. Unfortunately, it does not allow its subscribers to "see" their DNA at the chromosome level. Both *Gedmatch* and *MyHeritage* allow uploads of DNA data that was obtained in Ancestry testing, and they both have tools that provide analysis of DNA matches at the chromosome level.

[Registration](#)

Nov 30 - Did I Marry My Cousin? ...Eww!, Ruth Stewart

Ruth proves her relatives are in her husband's family tree through DNA and paper research.

[Registration](#)

December**Dec 7 - DNA Tools in My Heritage,** Gina Dingwell

Gina uses the DNA tools available in *MyHeritage* to research her matches. She will demonstrate the tools and talk about how they've benefited her research.

Gina's research into her family history began at the age of sixteen in the days of the IGI, handwritten logs and letters with SAS envelopes. As an amateur, the discovery of *Ancestry* greatly enhanced her research. The tools of *MyHeritage* allowed her to further expand her research and more deeply understand DNA relationships. Gina had a long career as an educator and researcher in health care (MA Ed).

She completed a Textile Arts degree in 2010.

[Registration](#)

Dec 14 - DNA Book Club, Terry Hartley

Third session. See Oct 12 above for details.



Did You Know ...Nanaimo Family History Society has a [Facebook Page](#) hosted by NFHS members Donna MacIver and Holly Martin. 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.



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?

STRIVING EVER, DISCOURAGED NEVER
(contest entry)

by NFHS member Beth Skala

My mother, **Irene Florence Newbauer** (1922-2014), left us many lovely heirlooms, from jewelry to knick-knacks to her favourite doll. For a family historian, however, the most interesting of the heirlooms is a faded, dog-eared duotang with "Sunnyside 1936" embossed on the front cover in gold lettering. The thirty-six inside pages are each printed on one side by a Gestetner duplicating machine. Black-and-white photographs are glued onto the pages. It is the yearbook prepared by Irene's Sunnyside School eighth grade graduating class.

The first Sunnyside School in Berkeley, Illinois, was built in

1848¹ The one-room wooden schoolhouse served a large farming community. By 1912, Sunnyside had two classrooms in a new brick building, and the original little schoolhouse was sold for \$10 for the lumber.² In 1914, about the time the large farms were giving way to new subdivisions, the roof of the school was raised and two more classrooms added in a top floor.³ When Irene attended Sunnyside in the 1930s, there were three additional elementary schools in the district and Sunnyside was reserved for the higher intermediate grades.



Sunnyside school 1936⁴

.Moving up to Sunnyside meant no more lunches at home for the Newbauer children. Sunnyside was far enough away —1.3 miles (2 km) — that they had to take packed lunches with them. Of course, they walked to school. According to the yearbook, Irene's eighth grade class at Sunnyside had sixteen students (four boys and twelve girls). Irene said that when they played intramural sports, the girls had to fill in as they didn't have enough boys to make up a team for their class. However, the whole school was able to field both a boys' baseball team and basketball team, as well as a girls' team which played a variety of sports.

We can extrapolate some information about the little town of Berkeley by perusing the *Sunnyside 1936* yearbook. While the world was still in the throes of the Great Depression, the parents of the Sunnyside students were able to provide sports uniforms, equipment, and simple hats and capes for the band members. Berkeley was apparently not as hard hit as many towns in the area.

STRIVING EVER continues page 11

¹ Rosemarie Johnson, *From Oats to Roses: The History of Berkeley*, Friends of the Berkeley Library, May, 1974, 8-9.

² *Ibid*, 16.

³ *loc cit*

⁴ *Sunnyside 1936 Yearbook* privately held by Beth Skala, Nanaimo BC

STRIVING EVER continued from page 10



First Day of school”Left to right: Irene, Betty, and Fritz Newbauer. Irene was still a student at Longfellow School, but Betty and Fritz went to Sunnyside as you can tell by their lunch packets. Photo held by Beth Skala.



Eighth Grade Band Members” at Sunnyside School, 1936 Irene is in front, second from left. She played the saxophone while at Sunnyside and all four years of high school. Years later she was still complaining that she had to carry her heavy saxophone to school while her older brother had to carry only his lightweight flute. *Sunnyside 1936, 20*



Sunnyside Girls' Team 1935-36; Irene standing second from right



Boys' Baseball and Basketball Teams” *Sunnyside 1936, 23.*

STRIVING EVER continues page 12

STRIVING EVER continued from page 11

When the eighth grade class decided to make a yearbook for their class project, the teacher said the students could do it all themselves. Later, the teacher started making suggestions and Irene indignantly said, "You told us we could do this all ourselves!" The teacher backed down. Irene told this story with some pride. Irene was thrilled when her class took her suggestion for the class colours: coral and powder blue. She once pointed out the colours in a sunset to our family and said, "Those were our class colours! And it was my idea."

In addition to hard facts, the yearbook is also full of youthful humour. There is a funny rhyme about each Grade 8 student. Irene's reads:

*"Irene Newbauer stood on the porch talking to her latest beau,
Her mother caught her and informed her daughter It was time for him to go"*

There is a grain of truth here. Irene, by her own admission, was more of a social butterfly than an academic in school and her classmates foresaw what was to come.

What else does *Sunnyside 1936* tell us about my mother? Next to her class picture, it lists Irene's activities as: "Basketball; Baseball; Red Cross; Band; Girls' Chorus; Operetta; Vice Pres. of Class; Assist. Ed. of Paper; Assist. Ed. for Class Day." And the comment is: "A smile that will never wear off." It also gives Irene's nickname as "Peony." Irene said they called her that because when her hair was freshly washed it stood out all around her head like a flower. And I love reading Irene's honest answers to the "Question Box" feature:

1. What have you enjoyed the most this year? Irene: *"I enjoyed Red Cross."*
2. What have you enjoyed the least this year? Irene: *"I did not like the geography tests."*
3. Why do you expect to enjoy high school next year? Irene: *"I expect to enjoy high school because of the clubs I want to join."*
4. What is your favourite pastime? Irene: *"My favourite pastime is cutting out pictures of movie stars."*
5. What have you made the most progress in? Irene: *"I have made the most progress in geography."*



*Irene Newbauer, Grade 8
portrait*

Not only is *Sunnyside 1936* a window into my mother's school life, it was also a jumping-off point for her to share her stories over the years. That she kept the yearbook for seventy-eight years shows how important it was to her. I believe it brought back happy memories of her childhood from a time when she and her classmates were just beginning to stretch their wings. Making the yearbook was certainly empowering for them. The class motto, became the principle on which Irene based her life:

Striving Ever, Discouraged Never ⁴

if you're luck enough to be a genealogist, you're lucky enough!

⁴ *Sunnyside 1936*, 6.

BREAKING A BRICK WALL

by NFHS member Joanne Burroughs



I am a retired professional genealogist. I haven't done any research for quite a while. I never seemed to have the time to work on my own family tree. I have always been interested in genetic genealogy, especially investigative genetic genealogy. This field has definitely come a long way in the last few years.

I ordered and read a book called *I Know Who You Are* by amateur genealogist Barbara Rae-Venter who is the person who researched the genetic genealogy which resulted in apprehending "The Golden State Killer." She wrote in layman's language how she was able to solve the case. Since then, there have been many solved cases using the technology. The book got me thinking about a brick wall in our family that has never been solved.

Our family was always told that my 2nd great grandfather, James Blair, was born in 1807 in Ireland. My late sister, Sandy, and I have researched in Ireland for any link to him since 1996. As every genealogist knows, Ireland is a difficult place to research.

This year, I went back to my old files. I had done a DNA test with *FamilyTree* DNA for my late father in 2012. However, did I still have the kit number and password? I rooted around and, amazingly, found that I still had it!! I have a password book from many years ago (I know, we're not supposed to write passwords down, yeah right!!) and, sure enough, there it was, penciled in. FTDNA uses their own passwords so you can't really guess what you might have used.

When I went into the site, someone had added their DNA and, most importantly, they added a MRCA (most recent common ancestor) named James Blair, born 1784 in Pitcur, Kettins, Angus, Scotland. From there, I decided to reverse the genealogy process and research forward instead of backward, the same as the Investigative genetic genealogy is done. I contacted the submitter and he had an old letter from a deceased uncle. The old letter stated that James born 1784 was one of three brothers who had all moved to Ireland later on. He also gave me two other Blair genealogists, so I was able to collaborate my findings with them to make sure I was correct in my thinking. The parents of James born 1784 were listed as **John Blair and Agnes Hill**. I was able to find, through *ScotlandsPeople* that there were actually three more brothers and a sister. No one seemed to be researching those three brothers or the sister.

I had a copy of a letter from my James Blair b. 1807 (as it turned out he was born in 1806) died 1871. In it, he asked his son, Patrick (my great grandfather) to look after his Aunt Catherine. I looked for all the remaining brothers and found that Thomas Blair b. 1767 in Kettins, Angus, Scotland and his wife, Euphemia Easson (a very old name in Scotland dating back to the 12 and 1300s) had several children and one was my Gr/Gr/Grandfather, James Blair, b. 1806 in Pitcur, Kettins, Angus, Scotland. He also had a sister named Catherine b. 1809, same place. To top it all off, he also had another sister named Agnes Hill Blair. I now have a couple more generations back. I'm still working on the other two brothers and John Blair and Agnes Hill, both born about 1737. Scotland has wonderful records. The Easson name is very interesting and has a lot of history. There are three Blair clans in Scotland connected with one another. I believe my Blairs might be the Balthayock Blair's because Kettins is often mentioned. My updated tree is under Blair Master in the Public Member Trees on *Ancestry*.

I'm still in the process of updating sources and information. I hope this story encourages other genealogists to never give up on their brick wall. DNA Technology is opening many new doors I guess another trip to Scotland is on the horizon. Special thanks to James Edward Blair, Rick Hutton and another James Blair from Pickering, Ontario .

Happy Hunting everyone!!



THE EYE HAS IT
by NFHS Member Carolyn Kemp

Earlier this year as part of Helen Webster's writing sessions. I was kept busy writing a story about one of my 2nd great uncles, George Kemp (1836-1911) . I had decided to try a little historical fiction based on the nefarious activities of George who, in 1886, had absconded with funds from the Whitstable Oyster Company. I knew the facts of the case from police bulletins and news accounts of the story. Trying to work fact into fiction, I thought I would include the fact that George had a glass eye. This was verified in anecdotal evidence as well as the police description. Thinking I could include a scene in which George, with head turned, missed seeing a constable closing in on him, I was thwarted when I realized I didn't know which was his blind eye — right or left? Ok, out went that scene.

A few weeks later while inserting some family pictures into a book I was writing on the Kemp family, I solved the mystery of 'Which eye'? First, I thought for fun I'd try enhancing and then colourizing a photo of George with three of his brothers. (Photo 1). To do this I used *MyHeritage Photo*. Given the ages of the brothers in the photo, I had thought that George was the young man standing on the right. I could never be sure, though, until I cropped the picture and using *MyHeritage* enhanced and colourized the photo. Aha! As shown in photo 2, it's very apparent that George's right eye was the glass one. Mystery solved! The only mystery now is why the *MyHeritage* program did not show the glass eye that was visible in the original photo 1. Could it be from the light reflection in the original photo taken about 1860? If one of our readers has the answer, I'd love to understand the science behind it!



Photo 1
Sons of Stephen and Mary Ann (née Carr) Kemp ca 1860

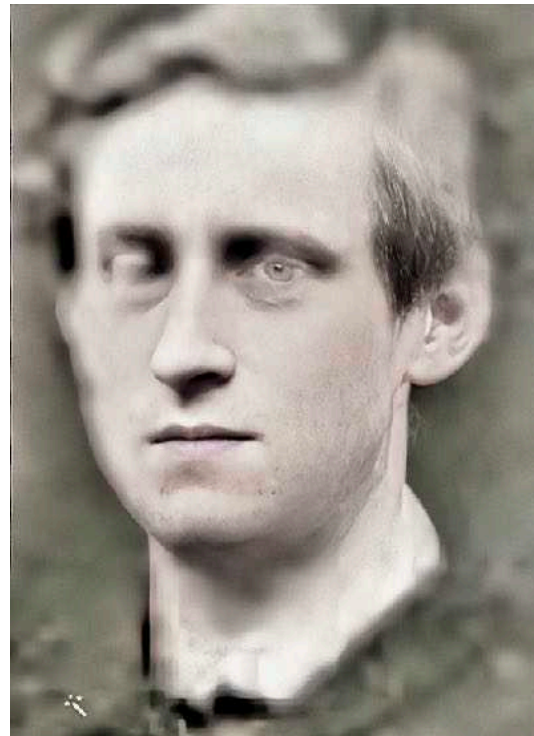


Photo 2 empty eye socket in right eye.

MARRIAGE CERTIFICATES: FACT OR FICTION? by NFHS Member Bronwyn Frazer



I was quite intrigued by the title "Marriage Certificates: Fact or Fiction?" in the most recent edition of *The Manchester* (Vol 59, No. 3, 2023; pp216-219) and the article didn't disappoint. I came away with three clues to look out for in late 19th century and early 20th century marriage certificates that may indicate, shall we say, falsehoods. They are: bride and/or groom state age of twenty-one; witnesses' surnames not from the couples' families; place of marriage different from where the couple lived.

In the article the author, Christopher O'Brien, reviews nine marriage certificates from his paternal line, each with at least one false entry. As he discusses each falsehood, he suggests the reason why it might have been made, the most likely being that one or both families were not in favour of the marriage.

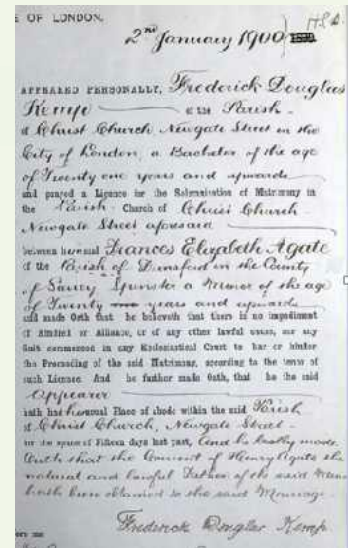
Twenty-one was a common age for getting married if parental approval had not been given earlier. It was also the false age given by those under the age of twenty-one when they didn't have parental approval! O'Brien found that age "adjustments" were more likely to be found if the couple married outside of their respective parishes and/or who had witnesses to their marriage who were not family members. Of course many such entries were actually correct, but their presence (age of twenty-one or non-familial witnesses or distant place of marriage) should alert us to a possible issue.

As O'Brien says, marriage certificates are valuable pieces of evidence when researching family history, but do be careful. I have always analyzed any information found in correlation with other sources, but now thanks to O'Brien's article, I have a few quick tips to put me on alert when it comes to marriage certificates.



MARRIAGE BANS, LICENCES, AND PARISH REGISTERS

Look for original records, not transcriptions of marriages. If the entry is for marriage bans, locate the actual wedding date in registers. Bans announced in a church can differ from the actual wedding, and just because bans were announced, it doesn't necessarily follow that a marriage occurred. Marriage bans were generally announced three times before a wedding to allow anyone to voice a concern, legal or canonical. Marriage licences were obtained as early as 1115 and were sought for a number of reasons such as speed of marriage or a marriage away from a local parish. They can provide additional information.



marriage licence



Faces of Our Ancestors

EARLY PHOTOGRAPHS SHARED BY NFHS MEMBERS from NFHS member Richard Nash

The photo to the left is of **Mary Ellen Redmile** (1881-1964) the grandmother of Helen, Richard’s wife. Richard writes that Mary Ellen was a lovely lady who doted on him from the first day they met. Richard thinks the hat is quite theatrical, but it was a very common style during the Victorian era. “The size of the hat fluctuated... determined by how women’s hair was cut and styled.” “Bonnetts were the number one women’s headwear choice in the 1830’s because this is when women liked big hair with many loops and knots. The Victorian bonnetts had large crowns and were often trimmed with frills, feathers, artificial flowers, ribbons, lace, or some kind of fruit or vegetable. It’s interesting to mention that wide-brimmed bonnetts were worn by both town and countryside women. [Local milliners were countryside women’s favourite source of information when it came to the newest bonnet.](#)”The late Victorian age saw hats adorned with bird feathers and even whole birds, much to the annoyance of the Audubon Society! Sara A. Hubbard, director of the Illinois Audubon Society, told the paper: "I expect to live to see the time when the wearing of bird plumage will be a brand of ignorance."



from Pinterest



from Pinterest



American actress Lillian Russell 1898 Wikipedia



from Pinterest

NANAIMO FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY FUTURE SPEAKERS

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



Monday, October 16, 2023

DALYS BARNEY

TELLING MY NORWEGIAN STORY



Dalys Barney is the great granddaughter of Ole and Konstane (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 Vancouver Island in 1935.

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,



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.

**Monday, December 11, 2023 Christmas Social
Details to Follow**

FUTURE GUEST SPEAKERS continues Page 18

FUTURE GUEST SPEAKERS continued from page 17



Monday, January 15, 2024

JAMIE BROWN

TIPS TO GET THE MOST OUT OF ANCESTRY AND FIND MY PAST



Monday, February 19 AGM and March 18 2024
TO BE ANNOUNCED



Monday, April 15, 2024

MARIANNE RASMUS

A RUSSIAN REVELATION:

A FAMILY SHAPED BY SIGNIFICANT HISTORICAL EVENTS



We have all hit our fair share of brick walls while doing family history research, but how about an 'Iron Curtain'? When Marianne Rasmus began exploring her family history, little was known about her maternal grandmother's ancestry. Her grandmother had died before Marianne knew to ask her about her childhood, her emigration from Communist Russia in 1926, or how she adjusted to life in Canada. Starting with a handful of names, Marianne will reveal the process and sources used to discover a deep maternal heritage about which she knew little, and the circumstances which made it challenging to learn. She will share how historical events in both Canada and Europe affected her grandmother in a life-altering fashion, and how perseverance and a little DNA shed light on long-unanswered questions.

After reluctantly taking *Canadian History* as a "filler" course in college, Marianne Rasmus discovered an interest in history she didn't expect. That interest took on new meaning, and some might say became an obsession, when she began her family history journey in 2008, and started uncovering long forgotten stories in both hers and her husband's family trees.

Born and raised in Vancouver, Marianne spent most of her life in BC, experiencing life on Vancouver Island, in BC's north and in the Fraser Valley. But when the opportunity for a mid-life adventure presented itself, Marianne and her husband, Bill, took the plunge and moved to Ottawa, Ontario in 2013.

Since moving to Ottawa, Marianne has become an active member of the British Isles Family History Society of Greater Ottawa (BIFHSGO) where she began sharing her families' stories with a wider audience. By weaving both historical context and her methodology throughout her presentations, she hopes to inspire others to explore new resources, and to find interesting ways to share their own families' stories.

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!



54 — 40 OR FIGHT by NFHS member Ruth Stewart

I was delighted to offer a quilt to Nanaimo Family History Society (NFHS) to use as a fundraiser. The pattern I chose was "54-40 or Fight" which is a reference to a territorial dispute between Britain and the United States over the northwest Pacific coast during the mid nineteenth century.

The land in question is west of the Continent Divide. Britain's most extreme position in the dispute favoured a border at the 42nd parallel (the northern border of California and at the time owned by Mexico). The Americans wanted the land south of the parallel at 54 degrees 40 minutes (the southernmost tip of the Alaska Panhandle which was Russian territory).

The focus of the disputed land was access to the Columbia River and the potential of deep water ports. The fur trade was the only industry in the area in the early days. The Northwest Company and later the Hudson's Bay Company had several trading posts throughout the area of the Columbia watershed in the early 1800's.

Several attempts at negotiations occurred in the first half of the nineteenth century. The slogan "54-40 or Fight" has been associated with the successful 1844 presidential campaign of Democrat James Polk. However, the slogan did not appear until 1846 as part of the Democratic press. The Oregon Treaty was finally signed in 1846, establishing the 49th parallel (and the entirety of Vancouver Island) as the border between Britain and the United States.

So, what is the history of this quilt block pattern and why is it associated with "54 - 40 or Fight"?

I asked this question at the Smithsonian Institution in Washington, DC and was directed to the International Quilt Center at the University of Nebraska. The Quilt Center responded with a link to [a blog by quilt historian and author Barbara Brackman](#).

According to Ms. Brackman there is no definitive answer to my question. In her blog she writes that the basic pattern of a spiky star appears as early as 1843. This is contemporary with the Oregon territorial dispute.

But the pattern of five, four patch blocks with the spiky star didn't come into vogue until much later. Ms. Brackman notes that this pattern has had many names including "Grandma's Star" as early as *circa* 1910 in a booklet published under the name of author Clara Stone and "Garden Walk" in a 1940 publication of the *Kansas City Star* newspaper.

Ms. Brackman also found this pattern identified as "54 - 40 or Fight" without any further comment in a book by Ruth Finley published in 1929. And she notes that in 1933 the pattern was published with this name by Nancy Cabot in the *Chicago Tribune* with the comment "women of the period (1844) 'had no effective outlet for their political opinions' and that this block is the 'spontaneous expression of patriotic American women.'" Ms. Brackman's opinion was that these were historical myths meant to fill space in books and newspapers. So the answer is, this pattern is not 175 years old. But like a lot of genealogy stories it was fun to research even if there was no basis in history.

54-40 or Fight continues page 20

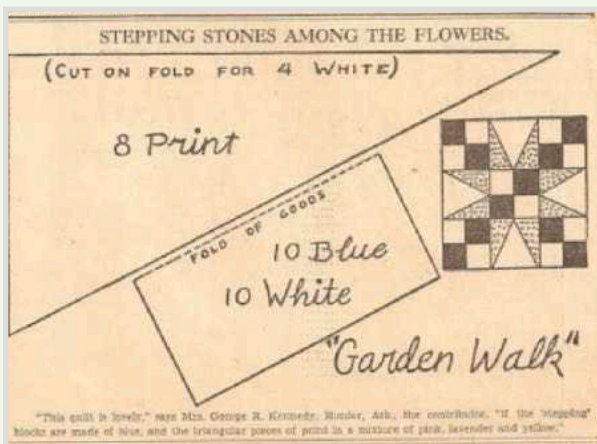
54-40 or Fight continued from page 19

The quilt on the lower right is the one I made. You can see that I have altered the pattern to include two alternating star blocks, one with four, four patches and the other with four half square triangles. Also the centres of each block are solid as opposed to four patches. I love the secondary circular pattern this version makes even though there are no curved lines in the pattern.



The pattern seems to have been popular from 1890-1920 when these grey, black, and navy blue prints were also popular.

From a set of blocks dated 1843 in the Philadelphia Museum of art.



Kansas City Star 1940



Ruth's Quilt

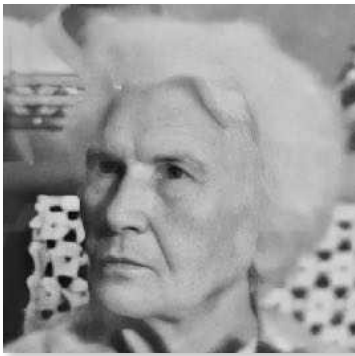
Raffle tickets for Ruth's quilt (3 for \$5.00) are available at our October and December meetings or by [email](#).

Our Memories of Those We Knew

We're inviting you to share your memory of the earliest born relative whom you knew personally. What do YOU remember about the oldest person you knew?

SARAH JANE WHITE

by NFHS member Eleanor Voysey, Sarah's Great Great Granddaughter



My earliest born relative whom I knew was my maternal great-grandmother. Grandma **Sarah Jane White (née Ettinger)** was eighty-eight years old the last time that I saw her. I was nine years old. She lived in Manitoba at that time, but was born in Nova Scotia in 1872. She was married in 1892 and had eight children. She and her husband moved from Nova Scotia to Manitoba and began farming near Alexander. One of my aunts told me that they raised sheep. After her husband died in 1939, she sold the farm and lived with each of her four daughters, three months at a time. My grandmother predeceased her in 1958.



WILLS OF SPOUSES' PARENTS

If you want to confirm a marriage or the name of a spouse, try to locate the will of the spouse's parent. Sometimes these wills will name the spouse of a child, especially the spouse of a daughter. The will may also name the residence of the spouse. In the example below a researcher was attempting to prove that **Rebecca Fish** married **William Shire**. The will of **John Fish** "gives and bequeaths "unto my daughter Rebecca wife of William Shire of East Chinnock aforesaid labourer the sum of one hundred pounds to be paid her in [?] after my decease with lawful interest for the same from twelve months after my death. I also give and bequeath unto my grand child Jane Shier daughter of the said William Shier the sum of twenty pounds of lawful money to be paid her on her attaining the age of twenty-one years or day of marriage whichever shall first happen or to be paid at the discretion of my executor . . . before she shall arrive at the age of twenty one years or day of marriage."

Prerogative Court of Canterbury PROB11/1539/353, Will of John Fish Yeoman of East Chinnock, 17 Dec 1812

Can a first cousin once removed be returned?

MEET MY ANCESTOR 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 *AnceTree*.

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.
5. The entry includes family tree diagrams **and/or** photograph(s) **and/or** other illustrations **if appropriate**. These visuals are appropriately placed to support the context of the entry.
6. The length of the entry is not more than 1500 words and not fewer than 750 words.
7. The entry includes footnotes and /or sources as necessary.
8. The entry has page numbers and is submitted in *PDF, Word, or Pages* format.

ANCESTRY (subscription)

[Canada, city of Calgary burials 1819-2023](#)
[Canada Prince Edward Island Baptisms, Marriages, Burials](#)
[Czech Republic Births and Bapatisms 1857-1921](#)
[Czech Republic Select Marriages 1654-1889](#)
[Scotland, Postal Directories, 1825-1910](#)
[UK East Sussex Wills and Probate](#)
[UK West Sussex Wills and Probate](#)
[UK Westminster Poor Law Registers 1561-1900](#)

**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](#)
[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](#)
[Canada Canadian Headstones Index](#)
[Ireland Diocese of Dublin Wills and Grants, 1270-1858](#)
[Scotland Poor Law & Poor Lists](#)
[Uk Kent Burial Records](#)
[UK London Lambeth Electoral Registers 1832-1886](#)
[UK Roman Catholic Parish Baptisms 1757-1913](#)
[UK Roman Catholic Burials 1759-1913](#)
[UK Roman Catholic Congregational Records 1798-1845](#)
[UK Roman Catholic Parish Marriages 1776-1913](#)
[UK Shoreditch Settlement Examinations 1758-1802](#)

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.

MYHERITAGE (subscription)

[Scotland Index of Paternity Decrees Processes and Case Papers](#)

ROOTS IRELAND (FREE Just Register)

[Antrim and Down Baptisms and Marriages](#)

MISCELLANEOUS (Free) LINKS

[Italian Immigration free Data Base](#)
[US NY Queens County and Bronx Naturalization Records 1794-1952](#)
[Accessing Ancestry's Free Collections](#)
[Add Consistency to Your Source Citations](#) (great hints on organizing your citations)
[50+ Mostly Free Essential Resources for Genealogy Research](#)
[New York City Queens and the Bronx Naturalization Records](#)
[Norway Heritage](#)
[Using Google Books](#)
[3 Essential Websites for Exploring German Parish Records](#)

MEMBERS' MISCELLANEA



FIVE REASONS TO ENTER THE NFHS ESSAY CONTEST

by NFHS member Beth Skala

I have entered the NFHS "Meet My Ancestor" Essay Contest every year since I joined the society. Here are some of the benefits I have experienced. Entering the essay contest . . .

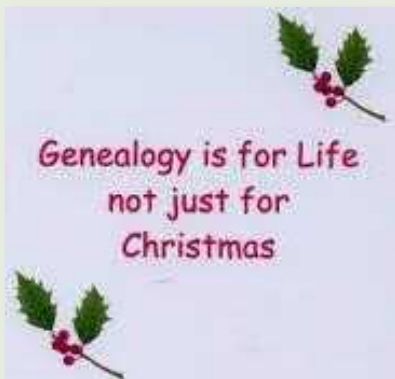
1. has inspired me to finally get a family story down on paper.
2. has given me a complete, coherent story to share with family and friends.
3. has prompted me to do a bit more research to pull my story together.
4. has helped me learn how to write footnotes and cite sources where needed.
5. has been a way to participate in our society.

I hope many people will enter the 2023 essay contest. The subjects this year are quite open- ended, so there are opportunities for everyone to share a tale about their family. I would love to read your stories and learn about **your research!**



CHRISTMAS GENEALOGY IDEAS (START NOW)

- family Tree charts (with or without photos)
- family history book (one person, one ancestral couple or more)
- digitized family photos
- transcribed family letters or diaries





FROM NANAIMO HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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

LOOKING LOCAL

from Susan Garcia

Nanaimo Historical Society (NHS) promotes the **area** history of Nanaimo, including its cultures and peoples. Were your ancestors coal miners? Gold miners? Indigenous? Chinese? Japanese? Welsh? Did any work on BC ferries or freighters? If so, please feel welcome to explore all these topics in “Stories & Articles” on the website: nanaimohistoricalociety.ca where recorded presentations about these histories may be viewed. There is also an NHS Facebook page.

Coming up **Oct 7, 2023**, Dave Bodaly and Ted Lord will tour Maffeo-Sutton Park area and offer histories of Indigenous settlements and industrial development. **Meet at the pole, 10 a.m.**

On Nov. 9, Mike Bonkowski will speak about the history of BC Ferries and Freighters. Attend in person at the Bowen Seniors Complex **500 Bowen Rd. at 7 p.m.** (or see the website 1-2 weeks after.)

On December 14, this summer’s visitor to Nanaimo, Welsh historian, Dr Gethin Matthews, gives an online talk to Glamorgan Family History Society in Cardiff. Interested folks may view this Zoom presentation “about Welsh gold seekers of the 18th Century. Save the date and time: **Watch for an invitation with Zoom link. TIME: 7:30 pm Welsh Time.**

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 *AnceTree*: Joanne Buroughs, Bronwyn Frazer, Susan Garcia, Beth Skala, Ruth Stewart, and Eleanor Voysey. Without contributions like these, there would be no *AnceTree*!

Our 2023 writing contest is a “go” with topics and rules to be found on page 22 of this issue. Special thanks to members Beth and Greg Skala for their assistance with topic decisions and for Beth’s reasons to enter the contest found on page 22.

Please consider writing about your ancestry research ... **keep your editor smiling!**

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

Carolyn

Genealogists do not gather facts, but breathe life into all who have gone before.

Qualicum Beach Family History Society

AND

Campbell River Genealogy Society

invite **You** to two presentations via Zoom on

Saturday November 4, 2023

Zoom Opens at 9:00 AM

Presentations at 9:30 and 11:00 PDT

Free to members of Campbell River and Qualicum

\$10.00 for non members

[Registrations](#)



[Dr. Janet Few](#)

Using a series of case studies, this presentation looks at those who may have found themselves on the margins of society and the sources that we can use to trace their stories. This may include the sick, prostitutes, those accused of crimes, those in asylums, the poor, the illegitimate and others who were stigmatized by society.



[Nancy E. Loe](#)

Family photographs may seem so complex that they defy organizing. Tame your digital family photographs adding names, dates, and other information to inside images. Scanning, tagging, organizing your family photos are covered step-by-step, so you can do it once and do it right.

Nanaimo Family History Society

Executive 2023

President	Sharon Davison
Vice President	Dean Ford
Secretary	Bronwyn Frazer
Treasurer	Aleda Spring
Program Director	Maureen Wootten
Membership Director	Aleda Spring
Director at Large	Susan Bates
Director at Large	Ruth Stewart
Webmaster	Dean Ford

Contact Information

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

Email: InfoNFHS@gmail.com
 Web Page: www.nanaimofamilyhistory.ca

AncesTree Editor Carolyn Kemp