

# Ancestry

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

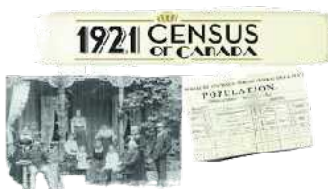
President's Message

By Ruth Stewart

This year, as they all seem to do, is flying past. Even though the days are longer, there aren't enough hours to finish all of the weeding, planting and dusting off the patio furniture. Thankfully there has been rain in recent weeks to help alleviate some of the drought conditions and let me stay inside to work on my family genealogy.

I was delighted to participate in our 1921 Mapping Project. Such a slice of life. In the enumerated areas I transcribed there were many, many single Asian men (and some families) living in bunkhouses owned by a local mine. Two of my heads of household were counted at home but that day were in the city lockup. And one family's address was on the "hillside" of a street. Fascinating! By the time you read this all of the

transcribing will be completed. Watch for more volunteer opportunities as the project moves into the next stage.



**President's Message Continues Page 2**

We all grow up with the weight of history on us. Our ancestors dwell in the attics of our brains as they do in the spiralling chains of knowledge hidden in every cell of our bodies. Shirley Abbott  
**Editor and memoir writer. 1934—**

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**Save the Date!**

<b>Nanaimo FHS Sep Meeting</b>	<b>Sep 16</b>
<b>Nanaimo FHS Oct Meeting</b>	<b>Oct 21</b>
<b>Nanaimo FHS Nov Meeting</b>	<b>Nov 18</b>

President’s Message continued from page 1

A baker’s dozen of members and guests met recently at the Smitty’s (Rock City) restaurant to socialize. What a fun morning getting to exchange stories and successes from our genealogy work.

Stay tuned for more coffee meetings.

For now plan to join us on the last Thursday of the next three months, June 27, July 25, and August 29. Reminders will be sent out the week of each get together.



I continue to marvel at the amazing executive with whom I work. Thank you (alphabetically because each one is the very best) Aleda, Bronwyn, Dean, Maureen and Susan. Thanks goes to Carolyn for all of the work she does on our *AncesTree*. Thank you also to the individuals who present and facilitate our mini zoom sessions. And a big thank you to Donna our *Facebook* administrator and Sharon, our librarian.

I hope you all have a fun, relaxing and smoke-free summer.

Questions? [email your executive here!](#)

*Ruth*

NANAIMO FAMILY SEARCH CENTRE SUMMER HOURS

Tuesdays 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

An appointment system to access the centre at other times is available. Appointments can be made by [email to the Search Centre](#). Most of our NFHS collection available for borrowing is at this location.



Did You Know ...

Nanaimo Family History Society has a [Facebook Page](#) hosted by NFHS member Donna MacIver. 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 sixty members in the group.

NFHS CO-OP FUND RAISER



Don't forget to use our membership number at a Mid Island CO-OP! In 2023, members helped to raise \$40.46 for NFHS.

## GENEALOGY NEWS IN BRIEF

## FROM LIBRARY AND ARCHIVES CANADA

\* **Women in the War: the Royal Canadian Air Force at 100 LAC Blog April 11,2024**

*Rebecca Murray, Literary Programs Advisor, Programs Division*

"The Royal Canadian Air Force (RCAF) is celebrating 100 years in 2024. Library and Archives Canada (LAC) holds records from the RCAF's earliest days through to the 21st century. From its role in Canadian aviation to operations abroad, the RCAF has an important place in Canadian military history. Other posts on this site address infrastructure like airports (specifically [RCAF Fort St. John](#)) and notable moments such as the [Avro Canada CF-105 Arrow](#). This post will focus on the photographic holdings of the RCAF at LAC, specifically the Second World War-era photographs of servicewomen."

\* The [Department of National Defence fonds](#) (RG24/R112) "holds photographs of these women and documents their service during the Second World War era. Comprising over 500,000 photographs, this collection is a rich resource for anyone interested in the period as it includes photographs from both Canada and overseas. Over the past six years, I have been working closely with the photographs to find the servicewomen. Some of them are documented clearly and given centre stage in photographs. Others are found on the fringes, sometimes almost indistinguishable at first glance from their male counterparts in group photographs."

## WESTERN CANADIAN MIGRATION BEFORE THE CPR

In [an interesting and informative blog](#), Linda Yip explores the life of Susan Allison said to be "the the first woman to write a memoir of pioneer life in interior British Columbia." The blog traces "how European settlers emigrated to western Canada." Well worth a read!



## TRACING THE VOYAGE OF THE PRINCESS ROYAL TO BC

Another blog from Linda Yip on western Canadian migration prior to the CPR traces the voyage that the ancestors of a number of our members took on their journey to Nanaimo in November of 1854. In her [May 19, 2024 blog](#) Linda explores "how European and British migrants may have travelled via Hudson's Bay Company ships to the Pacific Northwest by looking at records from the Hudson's Bay Company Archives (HBCA) in Winnipeg, Manitoba."

Linda writes, The Honourable *Princess Royal*, built in 1853 for 10,200 pounds [\$CAD1.6M in 2024], was a 583 ton solid oak frigate. She was built by Wigram & Sons in London, and designed to carry both fur and spars. Her maiden voyage (2 Jun 1854) carried miners from Staffordshire, UK, enroute to Nanaimo, Colony of Victoria. They arrived at Fort Victoria (modern day Esquimalt, BC) on 23 Nov 1854, a voyage of five months, 21 days. The *Princess Royal* docked back in England on 5 Jun 1855, a round trip voyage of one year, three days. She served the HBC until 3 Oct 1885 when she broke her keel on a sandbar at Moose Factory Island, MB." This is a well documented read that explores an important part of Nanaimo history!

## NEW BRUNSWICK ARCHIVES RELEASES LATE 1928 BIRTH REGISTRATIONS

New Brunswick provincial archives has published on [its website](#).

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### 200<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY OF PETER ROBINSON SETTLERS

2025 marks the 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the settlers from the Ballyhoura area of Ireland who established settlements at today's Peterborough, Ontario area. Ballyhoura Development, a non-profit organization has planned a "homecoming" for September 21, 2025.

Genealogist Gail Dever in her April 12, 2024 blog writes that "in May, 1825, nine ships set sail from Cork, Ireland with 2,024 emigrants aboard. Passenger lists from these ships are available on the Trent [Valley Archives website](#). Robinson interviewed families and individual males to make the long voyage. These families had to meet specific criteria in order to be eligible for the voyage. The specifics required for Robinson's settlers were that they had to be Catholic, poor and with a knowledge of farming. Males had to be less than forty-five years of age, in good health, and families were unrelated."

"The majority of the Irish emigrants hailed from northern County Cork and southeastern Limerick, but there were others from Tipperary, Kerry and Clare, as well as one from Wicklow and another from Kilkenny.

Ballyhoura Development has identified the families who left the region almost 200 years ago to Ontario and the Ottawa Valley in Canada. This is based upon the records of the emigration scheme maintained by Robinson. The records of the scheme list the passengers on each ship under family headings and give ages, occupations and former residences."

**Ballyhoura is Looking for stories!** "If you have ancestors who were on board the ships that left Cork for Peterborough, stories of those who left, those left behind, or of recent connections with family in the new world, Ballyhoura Development would like to hear from you. More information about the homecoming, the Peter Robinson Settlers, and related resources are available on [Ballyhoura Development's website](#). As for this side of the pond, watch for plans in the Peter Robinson Settlers in Canada Facebook group. You'll need to join the group to read posts and make comments."

### NEW FREE DATABASE FROM ANCESTRY TO HONOUR JAPANESE AMERICANS

Ancestry announced in May a new free record collection of [Japanese Americans incarcerated during and after World War II](#). The Japanese American Museum, states Duncan Ryuken Williams, director of the Irei Project that it is "proud to partner with Ancestry to make this accurate and comprehensive list of every person of Japanese heritage incarcerated during WWII available to everyone. By honouring their names, we proudly represent the individuality, their personhood, and their dignity, not afforded to them in their unjust incarceration."

### FAMILYSEARCH INDEXES QUÉBEC ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH RECORDS

The recently indexed [Québec Roman Catholic records](#) by FamilySearch contain almost 79,535 records searchable by name and location for the years 1621 to 1979. The collection can be browsed by parish. The collection includes some confirmation records as well as index entries for Montréal and Trois Rivières.

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Genealogy News in Brief continued from page 4

### FAMILYSEARCH UPDATES CANADIAN COLLECTIONS

Thirty-two FamilySearch [Canadian collections have been updated](#) in May, 2024. Thirty of the collections are name searchable while two are browse only.



### UKRAINIAN ANCESTORS?

Ukrainian archives continue to be speedily digitized. The blog, "[Lost Russian & Ukrainian Family](#)" posted May 18 by Vera Miller lists many free data bases organized into those from various regions of the Ukraine. A wealth of data here for Ukrainian research!

### QUÉBEC ADOPTION DETAILS NOW AVAILABLE

As of June 8, 2024, Québec legislation allows adopted people to learn names of biological parents and grandparents. [A June 7th article in Montreal's La Presse](#) covers the story. The article is in French so, translation may be needed by some of our members.

### LOOKING FOR GOOD GENEALOGY BLOGS?

Rob Taylor's April 2024 blog "[Ten Family History Bloggers You Should Know](#)" lists with descriptions a series of current blogs that could be most helpful to you. Your editor often finds "tidbits" for Ancestry readers on blogs such as these. You never know what you'll find!



### VIRTUAL GENEALOGICAL ASSOCIATION ON YOUTUBE

YouTube [videos from the Virtual Genealogical Association](#) offer many videos from instructional to specific family stories. The site is added to regularly. The length varies from five to forty-five minutes – it's a great place to browse when you want a break from other work!

### ANCESTRY COLLABORATION WITH U.S. NATIONAL ARCHIVES AND RECORDS

Ancestry announced on May 9<sup>th</sup> that it has a multi-year agreement with the U.S. National Archives and Records Administration to digitize, index and publish records that have not previously been on line. Ancestry states: "We're honoured to take a leading role in preserving the story of America through this partnership with the U.S. National Archives," said Howard Hochhauser, Chief Operating Officer at Ancestry.

### GRO INCREASES PRICES OF BMD RECORDS

The General Record Office for England and Wales has increased its prices for records from 1837 (when civil registration began) to date. Prices for digital images of a record are now £3 (about \$4.36 CDN. ) A full list of prices can be found in [an article by Rose Mary Collins](#) from *Who Do You Think You Are?*

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Genealogy News in Brief continued from page 5

### ONTARIO MARRIAGE RECORDS

Marriage registrations for 1940 from the archives of Ontario have been added to [Family Search Ontario marriage registrations](#) are still limited to 1869-1927.

### NEW BRUNSWICK DIGITIZED PHOTOGRAPHS

An additional 408 archival photographs have been added to the Provincial Archives of New Brunswick in its [online database](#).

### EXPLORING THE HUDSON BAY'S ARCHIVES

Another excellent blog from Linda Yip details [the story of Thomas Thomas, governor of the HBC](#). Another interesting read!

#### LOOKING FOR BC PHOTOS?

Photos can add much reader interest to your family stories. Below are links to an excellent array of BC photos, some of which contain photos of individuals.



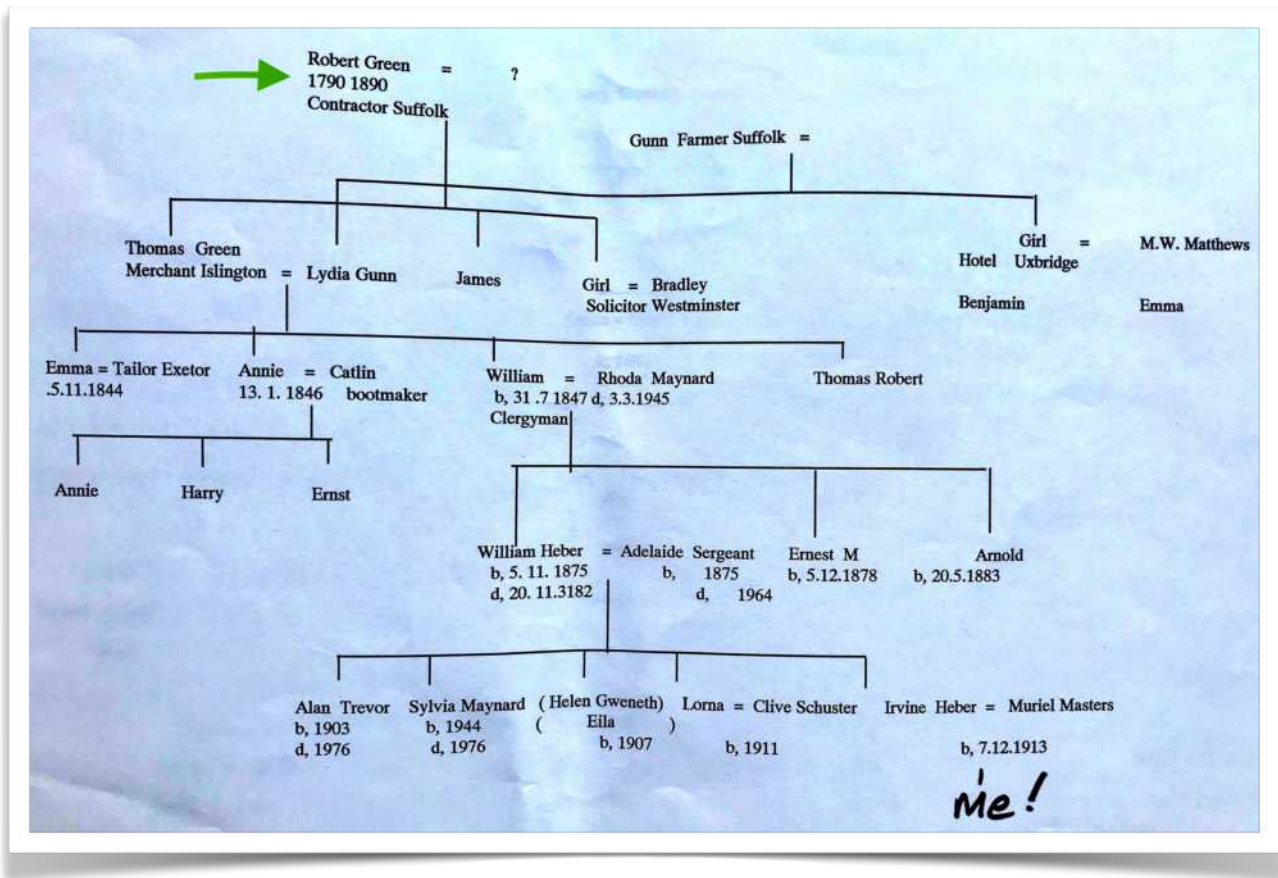
- [Alberni Valley Museum Historic Photograph Collection](#)
- [BC Institute of Technology Archives – Historical Photograph Repository](#)
- [Beautiful British Columbia Magazine Photo Archives](#)
- [Bella Coola Museum: B.C. Central Coast Archives Photograph Collection](#)
- [British Columbia Archives \(Royal BC Museum\) — Visual Records Online](#)
- [British Columbia Photographs – Picryl](#)
- [British Columbia, Ancient Faces](#)
- [British Columbia, Keystone-Mast Collection](#)
- [British Columbia, Vintage Air Photos](#)
- [Bulkley Valley Museum Photo Archive](#)
- [Campbell River Museum and Archives](#)
- [Chilliwack Museum and Archives](#)
- [City of Richmond Archives — Historical Photographs](#)
- [City of Surrey Archives](#)
- [City of Vancouver Photo Archives](#)

MY FALSE START INTO FAMILY TREES

by NFHS Member Tony Green

It's 1968 and the booming Melbourne suburb wants to widen their main road. But the oldest historic home in the district will have to be demolished. My mom and dad, then president and secretary of the local Doncaster and Templestowe Historical Society swung into gear, had the foot thick sandstone walls dismantled, numbered and moved to a new location where over the years they built an historic village. They worked tirelessly on society and the histories of pioneer families, writing many books and newsletters, so naturally I grew up interested in family history.

While I was a teenager, the family held a reunion with members driving in from many miles away. My beloved Aunt Eila, a mild-mannered "kennel proprietress" smiled as she vacuumed dog hair off the living room floor and said "you will see your relatives coming all the way from South Australia." She stitched pieces of paper together with cotton thread on her sewing machine and wrote out a giant hand-written family tree. Then, carefully balancing on a step tool, she unrolled it and posted it on the living room wall. As keeper of the tree she had old letters showing generations of Greens. Look, she said, "this traces you all the way back to 1790 and Robert Green, a contractor of Suffolk, England."



the family tree Aunt Eila gave me.

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In 1978, after finishing graduate studies in Canada, I took a side trip on my way home to Australia. I travelled to Ipswich, Suffolk to find my ancestors. Aunt Eila wrote by aerogramme "I did find the family tree on Grandpa Green's side very carefully put in a very old (I would almost think antique) little cabinet in the room where I'd been writing & so I'd thought it would be easy to find....It goes back to my great, great grandfather (an extra "great" for you) whose name was Robert Green 1790-1890, a contractor of Suffolk.....That seems very little to go on, so it will be a very pleasant surprise if you turn up anything."

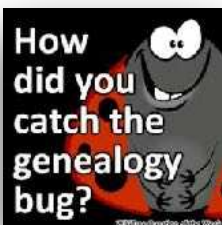
At the Suffolk County Archives I strode in confident I would find our ancestors. After a whole day ploughing through microfiche at the archives office I felt deflated and confused. Why couldn't I locate Robert Green? Before leaving I saw an ad on the wall offering research help. I engaged a Mrs P. Rodwell with a £ 50 travellers cheque and returned home. Two years later, a letter arrived from a Sue Rodman saying "I'm afraid my mother, Mrs P. Rodwell, died at the beginning of the year. I am, however, carrying on with the research and so will carry out your search if that is all right with you." Her every effort led to dead ends and by 1982 funds were exhausted and I had to say "Aunt Eila, I failed".

Years flit by and my father's generation passed away including my beloved Aunt Eila. Meanwhile, Fay Winkworth, a librarian in northern England, with a passion for research and family history, learnt her mother's Uncle William had emigrated to Australia. In 2002 Fay's boss Joan decided to holiday to Australia, so Fay asked her to see what she could find. Joan was better than any private investigator! She returned to Fay with a thick binder, no – a dossier – on the relative, one Rev. William Heber Green. Joan even found references to his descendants through the "Doncaster and Templestowe Historical Society Newsletter" at a local public library. Finally in 2006, Fay followed up on that lead which led to my dad Irvine Green, but had died some years earlier. After more emailing, the helpful librarian directed Fay to the President of the Historical Society, who contacted my stepmother and thence Fay reached me and wrote: "Many thanks for letting librarian Elaine Craig pass on your address. I am very pleased to make contact with you and your family." After exchanging some facts and dates, we swapped photos in an effort to confirm the link. We found each of us had a photo of a stern elderly lady but not the same pose or clothing. However, in each picture she wore a gigantic metal chain. The link was complete!!

Why did I fail back in 1978 at the Ipswich Archives? Because Aunt Eila's carefully preserved family tree had at its head "Robert Green", using the first name of Robert Gunn, contractor of Suffolk and father of Lydia Gunn (the lady with the chain), and the last name of William Green, father of Thomas Green, Lydia's husband. Thomas and Lydia were the parents of my great grandfather Rev. W.H. Green, Fay's mom's "Uncle William" who emigrated to Australia. Her mother knew him because he had returned to England twice, lastly in 1928 and tried to convince



her mother to move to Melbourne. As Fay says if that had happened, she would not be here today. Fay and I have kept in touch and we are still actively searching to extend the Green name back further than the Robert Gunn and William Green at the head of Aunt Eila's tree! Inspired by this success, I caught the bug and have been seeking family stories on every continent and loving meeting distant relatives along the way.



## LIBRARY HOLDINGS AND SUMMER RESEARCH

by NFHS Member Sharon Davison



Summertime is just around the corner. Are you travelling to visit family? Attending a family reunion? Off to do research in another province? Don't forget about our library holdings when you're planning your trip. [Our on line library catalogue](#) at our website is available for search by keywords. Below are examples of some of our titles – you may find something that helps you!

*Peace Country Heritage, Alberta*  
*Hemstitches and Hackanores - A History of Holden and District, Alberta*  
*Sedgewick Sentinel: A History of Sedgewick and Surrounding Districts, Alberta*  
*Leaves Green & Gold, Weldon and District, Saskatchewan*  
*Golden Memories of the Wood River Pioneers, Saskatchewan*  
*The History of R.M. of Dufferin in Manitoba, 1880-1980, Manitoba*  
*Morden Centennial, 1882 - 1982, Manitoba*  
*Celebrating Beresford 1880-2000, Manitoba*

These titles – and more – are available for the summer. If you wish to borrow any of our holdings, please [email a request here to our website](#) and arrangements will be made to get the book to you. Even if you're not travelling this summer, we have many books to assist you while you relax at home! Happy searching!



### Searching for Casper – My Schmidt Line by NFHS member Rosina T. Schmidt

My father was eighty-seven when he and mom arrived from Germany to visit me here in Canada, in what turned out to be for the last time. Luckily, I could take holidays to spend all the time with them. It was a good opportunity to ask questions about our ancestors, and I diligently noted it all down.



Map of Austro-Hungary in 1867

As dad being twelve years older than mom, I started with questions about his parents, who were living with us during my preteenager time. Dad knew that his father, **Georg Schmidt**, was born in Slavonia (now part of Croatia) in 1878, but at that time it was part of Austro-Hungary. He was not sure though, if his grandfather Konrad was born in the province of Slavonia or the province of Tolna both prior to 1923 part of the Austro-Hungary. Austro-Hungary. When I was in school in Zagreb, the capital of Croatia, I have been told that Slavonia was part of Yugoslavia, and myself a Yugoslavian citizen. Of course, I needed to solve that mystery.

There was no internet available in those days, so I wrote to the vital record office of the place of grandpa’s birth, Hrastovac in Slavonia, and eventually received his birth certificate. As I discovered, grandfather was born in a village that was established only thirteen years earlier in 1865, with settlers arriving there from the counties of Tolna, Baranya and Somogyi of the Austrian Empire, (today part of Hungary). Those three counties were known as *Little Hesse*, having been settled after the Ottoman Empire was pushed out to south of the river Sava in 1688. The settlers were mostly protestant colonists from Dutchy of Hesse, at that time also part of Holy Roman Empire (today part of Germany).



Greater Hungary with the 6 Danube Swabian Settlement areas

In the next few years, I was able to trace Konrad’s birth in 1827 in the village of Majos, in the Tolna County, as son of Johannes, who was also born in Majos thirty-nine years earlier, in 1788. Johannes’s father was Johann Jacob, born in 1761 in the town of Mekenyes, in county of Baranya, across the border to Tolna county. I found him to be a Godfather to baby **Johann Jacob Schmidt** in 1750 in the village of Kalazno where he was named as a brother to **Johann Georg Schmidt** of Kalazno, in Tolna County. I traced the baby Johann Jacob’s father’s marriage in Kalazno, Tolna, to 1741 and in the marriage certificate the groom’s father was named **Casper Schmidt**.

Casper continues page 11

**Casper continued from page 10**

EUREKA! Now I had the name of the next generation! Alas, the trail stopped there. There was nothing to find in the vital records about a Casper Schmidt's arrival at Kalazno, which was established in 1723 on the Count of Mercy's estate. I was able to discover Caspar as landowner and taxpayer in the census records of the year of 1741 in Kalazno. Knowing that the colonists had three years tax free time, Caspar had to arrive in town in 1738 or earlier. But from where? From a next village, from up in Hesse or another country?

I started now to follow the female lines, hoping that I might stumble on a Schmidt family heading to Kalazno in 1738 or earlier. On the way I discovered a huge pile of data and historical knowledge, but no Caspar to be found. There was only one thing still to do: Knowing that most of the settlers to Kalazno were coming from the Hesse Dutchies, I searched the church books of each town in Hesse

for that period. And yes, I found him twenty years of research later.!

He left the town of Ehringshausen in Hesse on 6<sup>th</sup> of April 1738 for town of Kalazno in Tolna county, as the pastor wrote in the church book while giving Caspar's daughter Anna Catharina confirmation. All the family left together, mom **Elisabetha Pfeil**, and their mostly adult seven children. The oldest being thirty years old and the youngest ten. Three of the oldest children brought their fiancées with them and married shortly after their arrival and purchased farms.

This must have been the reason that Caspar decided to emigrate at the ripe age of fifty-nine, as none of his children received the permission to marry back home.

[Casper Schmidt's family chart can be seen at this web page link.](#)

**AS THE CROW FLIES**

Finding distances to places might be easy with Google Maps, but these distances reflect travelling on modern roads. It might be helpful for you to determine distances between towns and villages that your ancestors may have travelled by foot or by horse and cart. [Free Map Tools](#) lets you determine distances both by land transport and "as the crow flies." This can be very helpful when trying to find neighbouring locations where your relatives may have lived, married, had children, or resided when they wrote their wills.



**Genealogy is not fatal, but it's a grave disease!**

## RECHECK, REREAD!

by NFHS Member Carolyn Kemp

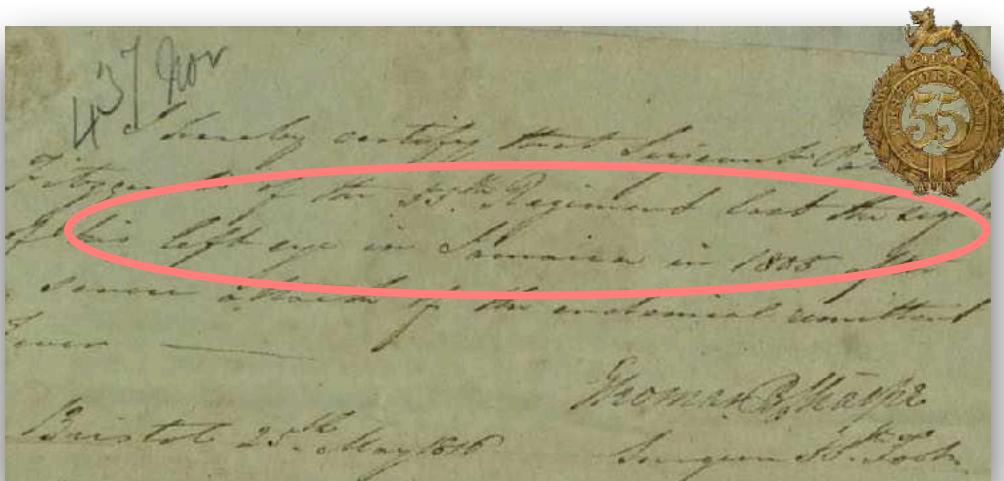
I'm sure you've heard seasoned genealogists advise "always go back through previous research" or "keep rechecking sources including the commercial sites as new data appear regularly." Recently, in a wandering moment from research on another family line, I thought I'd have a break, heed the above advice, and take another look at one of my 3<sup>rd</sup> great grandfathers, **Patrick Fitzgerald**.

I knew years ago from census returns that he was a Chelsea Pensioner residing in Great Yarmouth, Norfolk during the mid 1800's. He had been born about 1785 in Ireland. Oh, oh, I thought. Finding a "Patrick Fitzgerald" in Ireland sounded rather daunting. I did look for his military record on *FindMyPast*, but after searching through the long list of Patrick Fitzgeralds born in Ireland I was thwarted and left his ancestry hanging.

Recently returning to Patrick, I first reaccessed census records to compare the notes on Patrick that I had collected years ago. Dates and addresses had been accurately collected, but on closer look I noticed a scrawled notation in the far right column of the 1851 census: "blind in the left eye." Hmmm, I missed that previously. Interesting, but I little thought it would be of much use. How wrong I was!



Returning to *Findmypast* military records, began reading through the numerous entries for a Patrick Fitzgerald born Ireland about 1785. I soon found my Patrick. How? reading through discharge papers on one of the Patricks I found the notation, "I certify that Sergeant Patrick Fitzgerald of the 55<sup>th</sup> Regiment lost the sight of his left eye in Jamaica in 1805 ..."



Further details in the records state that my Patrick was born "in the parish of Dunkit, in or near the town of Waterford in the country of Kilkenny." So, on to further research in Ireland! By heeding the "recheck, reread your records" advice, methinks I'm now solidly on the track of my third great grandfather! On to Ireland!

## LIFE AND TIMES OF MY GREAT GRANDMOTHER NANCY (NÉE LEWIS) PHILLIPS

by NHS Member Wilfred Phillips



**Nancy Lewis** was born to **Richard**, a carman, and **Charlotte Lewis**, June 11, 1870, at Whitechapel, Greater London. It is said that because Nancy was the youngest girl with six brothers, she decided to immigrate to Canada through the port of Quebec in 1892 at the age of twenty-two. Nancy met and wed Thomas George Phillips in Calgary, Alberta, on January 18<sup>th</sup>, 1893. Family folklore suggested that they were married in Everett Washington, but a record was found that proved the Calgary marriage.

Thomas was noted as a rancher at Mitford, Alberta. While family stories suggested Thomas was a horse rancher in Cochrane, Alberta, who bred horses for the Northwest Mounted Police for use during the Riel Rebellion. This story was not true as a further research reveals that Thomas was, in fact, a hand on a sheep farm in Millerville,

Morley district area

After their marriage, Thomas and Nancy moved Vernon B.C. where a Vernon newspaper article welcomed the newcomers in error from Cochrane, Ontario rather than Cochrane, Alberta. In Vernon they had three children. Another Vernon newspaper had Thomas selling farm equipment and he also submitted bids for street cleaning contracts. There is a gap in their next move, but Nancy's last child Thelma was born in Vancouver in 1907. Folklore stepped in again with mention of Nancy and Thomas divorcing in 1908. No record has been found on this event.

The next information is from Elda Mason's book, *Lasqueti Island History and Memory*. Elda notes that Thomas and Nancy came with their family to Lasqueti Island in 1911. There are no photos of the family that include Thomas. Photos show Nancy with her family at their log house. It was said that Nancy cooked for the miners working on the island to support her family. While living on the island she lost her son John (Jackie) in France during WW1.

In 1909 Nancy married Al Smith in Vancouver and they had two children born on Lasqueti Island. They separated in 1916 as it seems, according to family information, Al could be brutal. Following the breakup, Nancy reverted to her maiden name, Lewis.

Nancy's eldest son, Thomas P. Phillips married **Violet Evelyn Anderson** about 1918. There is still a question unanswered about Violet's birth and family history since she was the daughter of **Mary Elizabeth Jane Thrift** before Mary wed **William James Cameron** in New Westminster B.C.

Thomas and Violet had two children before Violet's death from tuberculosis in 1924.: Helen (1921) and Maran Peter (in 1923).

Nancy stayed on Lasqueti Island until the early 1920's and then moved to Vancouver Island where she died at Nanaimo July 3, 1937.

Genealogy is about "her" story and history.

**ANCESTRY (subscription)**

[Czech Republic Births and Baptisms 1857-1921](#)  
[Czech Republic Select Marriages 1654-1889](#)  
[Northern Ireland Londonderry City Cemetery burials 1853-1961](#)  
[UK and US Blacksmiths and Related Trades Index 1720-1940](#)  
[UK Red Cross Volunteers 1914-1918](#)  
[UK East Sussex Wills and Probate](#)  
[UK West Sussex Wills and Probate](#)

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

[Canada Military Honours and Awards Index \(1812-1969\)](#)  
[Canada British Columbia Crown Land Grants 1869-1930](#)  
[Canada British Columbia Crown Land Pre-Emption Registers 1860-1971](#)  
[Canada Census Mortality Schedules 1871](#)  
[Austria Roman Catholic Church Records, 1565-2007](#)

**FINDMYPAST (subscription)**

[Ireland Diocese of Dublin Wills and Grants, 1270-1858](#)  
[UK Lancashire Wills & Probate 1487-1858](#)

**MYHERITAGE (subscription)**

[US New York City Births 1866-1909, Marriages 1866-1949 Deaths 1866-1948](#)  
[Antrim and Down Baptisms and Marriages](#)

**MISCELLANEOUS (Free) LINKS**

[Ireland Genealogy Projects Headstone Photos and Church Records from 9 counties](#)  
[Accessing Ancestry's Free Collections](#)  
[6 "Secret" Google Search Links for Genealogy" That Will Help you Find Your Ancestors](#)  
[Website Searches for Historical German Place Names](#)  
[3 Keys to Discovering your Hungarian Jewish Ancestors](#)  
[Italian Genealogy 21 Genealogy Tools](#)  
[How to Find where Your Dutch Ancestors were Buried](#)  
[Finding Women Ancestors in Your Genealogy Research](#)  
[Free Websites to UK Essential Genealogical Records](#)  
[Intro to German Genealogy Practical Tips for Family History Research](#)  
[9 Million boost to Largest WW2 Soldier database of Former USSR](#)  
[Digital Collection of Chinese and Japanese Canadian Communities](#)  
[Acadian Ancestors and Their DNA](#)  
[Downsizing and Family History](#)  
[Finding All the Daughters in the Family Tree](#)  
[Gypsy Surnames: How to Tell If you Have Gypsy Ancestry](#)  
[Dutch Genealogy News for 2024](#)  
[Unlocking Better Deals For Your Genealogy Research](#)  
[Preserving Our Ancestor's Military Medals](#)  
[Honouring My Matrilineal Grandmothers: A look at Mitochondrial DNA](#)  
[101 Best Genealogy WebSites of 2024](#)  
[School Records in Ireland](#)  
[Don't Dismiss Findmypast's Newspaper Hints](#)

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.

## GENEALOGY CHRONICLES WRITING CONTEST 2024

Nanaimo Family History Society members are invited to enter a "Meet My Ancestor" contest. Entries must be submitted by **midnight, December 31, 2024** 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*. Please submit your entry [here via email to your executive](#).

### 1. BE YOUR OWN PHOTO DETECTIVE

Provide a photo and describe how you determined who was in the photo.

### 2. SURPRISE PACKAGE

Describe your biggest surprise in your genealogy journey.

### 3. BRICKWALL BREAKER

Describe a genealogical brick wall and how you broke through it.

### 4. FACT OR FICTION

Describe how you unravelled a family story to discover how much was truth and how much fiction.

### 5. SAME NAME CONUNDRUM

Describe how you discovered and distinguished between same name individuals in your research. You may have to include a chart.

### 6. A EAST MEETS WEST

Do you have ancestors from divergent cultural backgrounds who wed and had a family? Describe how they met and overcame any difficulties.

### 7. DNA SINS AND OMISSIONS!

Describe any surprises you had with DNA testing. Did you find a close relationship you didn't know you had or perhaps you didn't find whom you were expecting?

### 8. 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, 2024.
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.

NANAIMO FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY FUTURE SPEAKERS



MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 16, 2024

DAVE OBEE

ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE (AI) AND ALGORITHMS



Dave Dave will appear in person to discuss AI and other factors, good and bad, currently affecting genealogy research.



MONDAY, OCTOBER 21, 2024



MONDAY, NOVEMBER 18, 2024

GLENN WRIGHT

RESEARCHING WOMEN IN THE CANADIAN MILITARY



MONDAY, DECEMBER 9, 2024

CHRISTMAS SOCIAL



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!



My ancestors must be in a witness protection program!

### FROM NANAIMO HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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



#### LOOKING LOCAL from Susan Garcia

Following a successful May 25th Nanaimo River tour with Dave Bodaly, Nanaimo Historical Society has a programme-free summer of 2024. However, for local area interest, be sure to check out **Beyond the Bar: Sampling Nanaimo's Culinary Past**, a collaboration project by two Vancouver Island University history classes, as well as the travelling exhibit from the Nikkei National Museum: **Broken Promises** at the [Nanaimo Museum](#) 100 Museum Way, Nanaimo. Always a treat, check out the Protection Island Cultural and Historical Society museum, open only in the summer months.

Visit the [Nanaimo Historical Society website](#) for updates and information about the September 12<sup>th</sup> 2024 speaker and please feel welcome to join in as a member or guest.



#### LIBRARIANS CAN HELP YOU!

Locate and contact the library in the towns and villages in which your ancestors lived. Sometimes for free or sending a small donation to local libraries can provide you with many details about your ancestors. Often they will forward copies of articles from local newspapers or from their files on local history.

On a recent zoom session KFHS member Jodi McGill shared a number of articles provided by the librarian in Chatham, Ontario. Your editor has also received some important details from the librarian in Brandon, Manitoba.



**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? Perhaps invite them to a zoom session!

**Genealogy without documentation is mythology.**

**MEMBERS' MISCELLANEA**

**EDITOR'S NOTES**

Three more of last year's contest writing contest entries appear in this issue. All are such interesting reads! We have another three entries to include in the next issues of *AncesTree*.

Thank you to all members who continue to write — your writing efforts are a wonderful legacy for your families and your continued support keeps *AncesTree* thriving! We hope you continue to write this year — hope you noticed our new contest on page 15.

As always, a special thank you to your editor's proofing team: Maureen Wootten, Jan Nelson, and Wilma Kennedy.

**Welcome our summer just as a thirteenth English speaker did!**

**Middle English**

Sumer is icumen in  
 Lhude sing cuccu  
 Groweþ sed  
 and bloweþ med  
 and springþ þe wde nu  
 Sing cuccu

Awe bleteþ after lomb  
 lhouþ after calue cu  
 Bulluc stertep  
 bucke uertep  
 murie sing cuccu

Cuccu cuccu  
 Wel singes þu cuccu  
 ne swik þu nauer nu

Sing cuccu nu • Sing cuccu.

**Modern English**

Summer has arrived,  
 Loudly sing, cuckoo!  
 The seed is growing  
 And the meadow is blooming,  
 And the wood is coming into leaf now,  
 Sing, cuckoo!

The ewe is bleating after her lamb,  
 The cow is lowing after her calf;  
 The bullock is prancing,  
 The stag cavorting  
 Sing merrily, cuckoo!

Cuckoo, cuckoo,  
 You sing well, cuckoo,  
 Never stop now.

Sing, cuckoo, now; sing, cuckoo;  
 Sing, cuckoo; sing, cuckoo, now!



**We are the accumulation of the dreams of generations**

**2024**  
**Ontario Ancestors**  
The Ontario Genealogical Society  
**CONFERENCE**  
**JUNE 14-16, TORONTO**  
AN INTERACTIVE EXPERIENCE!

**Not able to attend Conference 2024 in-person?**  
Announcing our **NEW VIRTUAL BUNDLE...**  
Now you can join us to become a better genealogist...virtually!

Our VIRTUAL BUNDLE includes:

- Bonus Tracks** - 18+ hours of pre-recorded sessions
- +
- Syllabus** - materials for all 40+ un-recorded sessions
- +
- Opening, Closing and Banquet Plenaries** - recordings of these live sessions, available after close
- +
- Hall of Ancestors** - access to database and map

**Accessible until August 1, 2024**

**All for the very low price of \$49 (CDN)**

ALSO, our **Artificial Intelligence and Genealogy** mini-conference on Thursday, June 13 is being offered as a **HYBRID** event!  
**ONLY \$99** for another whole day of virtual learning!

**DON'T DELAY - REGISTER TODAY!**  
[conference2024.ogs.on.ca/virtual-bundle](https://conference2024.ogs.on.ca/virtual-bundle)

**Nanaimo Family History Society**  
**Executive 2024**

President	Ruth Stewart
Vice President	Dean Ford
Secretary	Bronwyn Frazer
Treasurer	Aleda Spring
Program	Maureen Wootten
Membership & Privacy	Vacant
Education	Susan Bates
Communication	Vacant

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Ancestry Editor Carolyn Kemp