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Ances Tree

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President's Message

By Ruth Stewart

I hope your Holiday Season is surrounded by loved ones. At this time of year, my thoughts turn to refreshing my habits, reviewing my priorities reinvigorating my energy.

As you may know, I am also a quilter. Between genealogy and quilting I believe that I have chosen the two hobbies with the most potential for clutter. The sewing stays more or less in one (messy) room, but the family history has crept into most nooks and crannies of my home. There are books in my bedside table and living room, notes and charts in the small office at our back entry, photos in boxes in the house and the garage, folders and files in the dining room, on the kitchen island and yes, in my sewing room. And don't get me started on the state of my electronic data. Frankly, I need a do-over.

Each January for the past several years I have participated in a 'declutter challenge' as presented by one of my favourite quilting podcasters. It is a basic one step a day for thirty or so minutes throughout most of the month. I look forward to this each year as it gives me an opportunity to organize the important stuff and toss or donate what I don't use or need. I'm surprised each year at how much these relatively few hours in January can give me the boost I need to work on all those new quilts I've been thinking about.

President's Message Continues Page 2

I am bound to them, though I cannot look into their eyes or hear their voices. I honour their history. I cherish their lives. I will tell their story. I will remember them for I am the result of every love, struggle, sacrifice and journey of thousands.

Anonymous

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Save the Date!

Nanaimo FHS Jan Meeting	Jan 20
Nanaimo FHS Feb Meeting	Feb 10
March Meeting	Mar 17

President's Message continued from page 1

In September I joined Terry Hartley's Mini Zoom series, Research Like a Pro, with DNA. We are using the book by the same name authored by Diane Elder, Nicole E. Dyer and Robin Wirthlin. Terry is leading our group through the book and assisting us in overcoming our brick walls. The best part is we are getting hands on practise at doing all of our research properly.

By working through the book I have organized my previous traditional genealogy research on my great great grandmother, Mary Curtis. And just in the process of organization, I can see where to look and how to apply what I know to make better assessments of my DNA matches. By refreshing my research habits and reviewing my priorities, I think I will soon break this brick wall. This is my genealogical do-over. Talk about reinvigorating my energy!

As 2024 closes, we say good bye to *AncesTree our society's* journal. With a million thanks for all that she has done for this society, Carolyn Kemp, our editor, is stepping down. With no one to take over the editorial work, *AncesTree* will not survive.

Looking to 2025, we need at least four (out of nine) executive positions filled to keep your society running. We need your fresh ideas. Our AGM is in February. I urge you to allow your name to be put forward to be on the executive. Volunteering your time, just a few hours a month, to the Nanaimo Family History Society is essential for its survival.

Ruth Stewart
President





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.



DON'T FORGET!

2025 MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

MEMBERSHIP EXTENDS FROM JANUARY 1ST TO DECEMBER 31ST

- ♦ Senior \$30.00
- ♦ Non-senior \$35.00

GENEALOGY NEWS IN BRIEF

FROM LIBRARY AND ARCHIVES CANADA

* Women's History Month: Women at work: Economic growth past, present and future

In Canada, October marks Women's History Month, an invaluable opportunity to pay tribute to the inspiring women and girls who have shaped our country's history through their courage and achievements.

As a memory institution for all Canadians, Library and Archives Canada (LAC) is proud to highlight a wide range of experiences and stories by making the collections in its care accessible to the general public.

This year, we celebrate Women's History Month under the theme **Women at work: Economic growth past, present and future.** Throughout the ages, many pioneering women have made significant contributions to the advancement of different fields, including the sciences, education, the arts and entrepreneurship. And what about architecture? The collections in LAC's care are full of gems, including the Sarah Hall fonds. Internationally renowned for her technical innovations in architectural glass, Sarah Hall is the first female architect whose archives we have preserved. Stay tuned for the release of our brand-new video, immersing you in her fascinating world!

Discover the histories of other inspiring women:

- Blog: Marion Meadmore, Mary Guilbault, and Dorothy Betz: Celebrating Indigenous women's leadership in the early years of the Friendship Centre Movement and beyond
- Blog: Women in the War: the Royal Canadian Air Force at 100
- Blog: The Ladies' Auxiliary of the Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters
- Flickr album: International Women's Day
- Co-Lab challenge: Mary Ann Shadd Cary
- Co-Lab challenge: Women in the War

For active links to these posts, **click here.** LAC encourages you to explore our collections, which attest to the exceptional achievements of many women, whose contributions to Canadian society have paved the way for future generations. Visit the **Women's History Month** web page for more resources and information on the achievements of many women throughout history.

The following video and blog provide additional information into these new collection items:

- Video: Journal and correspondence of John Norton: a glimpse at a new acquisition
- Blog: A rediscovered manuscript: the first journal of John Norton (Teyoninhokarawen)

Acquiring historical material is an essential part of our mandate, which includes preserving documentary heritage for present and future generations. The John Norton archives offer exciting future opportunities for research into his life, as well as into the history of the Haudenosaunee and Canada.

We strive to build collections that reflect a diverse history and society. LAC would like to thank members of the Six Nations for their insight and discussions concerning the acquisition and wishes to acknowledge the support of the Foundation and the donors whose generosity has made this acquisition possible.

Genealogy News in Brief continues page 4

Genealogy News in Brief continued from page 3

FAMILYSEARCH EXPERIMENTAL LABS — FULL-TEXT SEARCH

Although limited in scope, this new feature, **Full-Text Search** is a VERY worthwhile site to explore. *FamilySearch* writes: A new era in search technology! With handwriting recognition and Optical Character Recognition (OCR) software, we can convert an image of text into a machine-readable text format giving you the ability to search the full text of these records before they are even indexed." Currently, content is limited, but already some valuable sources for your research are available such as Ontario probate records, US land and probate records, Australia and New Zealand wills and probate records. Canadian probate and homestead records can also be found. Much more is yet to come.

Your editor has been accessing the site over the last few weeks, and has found many documents to support and supplement her research. For example, entering a search for a Kent village and surname has provided detail on ancestors who emigrated to a number of countries. [This is a repeat from the fall edition, as the site has continued to grow since the last issue of *AncesTree*.] **See Genea-musings blog for updates**.

THE SHIPS LIST WEBSITE OFF LINE

Genealogist Gail Weber reports that "The Ships List website, previously located at <u>TheShipsList.com</u>, appears to have been taken offline in August. The free website was created by Sue Swiggum and Marj Kohli in 1999 to help people find their ancestors on ships' passenger lists to Canada, the United States, Australia and South Africa. These are passenger lists that are not readily available elsewhere. It was a particularly useful site when looking for ship lists to Canada prior to 1865.

The databases included company fleet lists, marriages at sea, ship descriptions, and voyage histories. But there is a glimmer of good news. Thanks to the **Wayback Machine**, the digital archive of the internet, it is still possible to look at much of The Ships Lists website. While the search function does not appear to work, it looks like many, if not all, of the lists can be opened to view.

FINDING YOUR ROOTS SEASON 11 BEGINS JANUARY 7TH, 2025

The guest roster for Season 11 includes actors Kristen Bell, Laurence Fishburne, Debra Messing, Michael Imperioli, Melanie Lynskey, Sheryl Lee Ralph, Lea Salonga, Amanda Seyfried, Dax Shepard, and Sharon Stone; celebrity chefs José Andrés and Sean Sherman; novelist Amy Tan; poet Rita Dove; historian Lonnie Bunch; talk show host Joy Behar; musician Rubén Blades; journalist Natalie Morales; and model Chrissy Teigen.



CORAM'S FOUNDLING HOSPITAL RECORDS ONLINE

London's Foundling Hospital was established in 1739 for babies whose mothers were unable to care for them. "The digital images and their transcripts are free to access **online**. In addition to the records about the children, the digital archive contains intimate and moving petition letters from mothers seeking the admission of their children into the Foundling Hospital, and books containing tokens leftlas a symbol of the connection between mother and child."

Genealogy News in Brief continues page 5

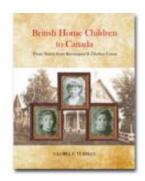
Genealogy News in Brief continued from page 4

QUÉBEC ADOPTION RECORDS RELEASE

Quebec recently made a big step forward regarding the rights of adopted persons. The right to know the identities of the members of your family of origin is now included in Quebec's *Charter of Human Rights and Freedoms*. Until recently, the general rule was confidentiality. However, as of June 8, adopted persons can find out who their biological parents were — even if the parents previously refused to have this information disclosed. Genealogist Gail Dever reports: "Adopted people will have access to the name of their mother, their father (whether or not he has been officially recognized), or their grandparents if they are registered in the file. Brothers and sisters can also be found in certain cases.

NEW BOOK ON HOME CHILDREN TO CANADA

a new book, *British Home Children to Canada by Gloria Tubman of Ottawa*. The author's research into the story of her grandmother Annie Bond Hodgins's life evolved into a case study of the lives of three sisters who emigrated to Canada under the British Home Children scheme.



Genealogist Gail Dever writes that" beyond being a deeply interesting true story of three children, this book provides the reader with an example of how to go about researching a British Home Child, where the records are, and what information you might expect to find. The book includes information Ms. Tubman discovered through 30 years of research. The sisters' lives are documented beyond the usual 16 years of age, using records from a Union Board of Guardians in England, a Canadian receiving home, the holdings at Library and Archives Canada, plus other sources cited and listed in the extensive bibliography. The three sisters had Quebec placements in North Hatley, Georgeville, Sutton Junction, East Farnham, and Pontiac County. Ms. Tubman said, "This book would be of particular interest to those who have relatives who came through the Knowlton Distribution

Home. The story of each of the sisters is from the information on their personal file from that home."

COMMONWEALTH WARGRAVES COMMISSION LAUNCHES CANADIAN PROGRAM

Commonwealth War Graves Commission (CWGC) Canadian office is launching a National Volunteer Program in 2025! We will invite people from across Canada to get involved—wherever CWGC markers are located. We'll need to find volunteers who are willing to visit local cemeteries to help us inspect and maintain the war graves in their own communities. We appreciate your feedback to determine the best way forward. Please take 5 or 10 minutes to answer a few questions for **our survey**. Your answers will help us plan and shape what a new volunteer program in Canada will look like. Thank you!

SIX NEW COLLECTIONS ADDED TO CANADIANA

New collections include historical atlases, of Ontario counties from McGill University. *London Advertiser* from Western University, and numerous others. have been added to the <u>Canadiana</u> site.

TORONTO CITY DIRECTORIES DIGITIZED

Toronto directories from 1833 to 2001 have been digitized and on line from the Toronto Public Library.

Genealogy News in Brief continues page 6

Genealogy News in Brief continued from page 5

MY HERITAGE INTRODUCES "LIVEMEMORY" TO BRING PHOTOS TO LIFE

LiveMemory™ enables you to turn any still photo into a short video clip using Al. It animates the scene in the photo, reimagining it as if you had traveled back in time to watch it live. It's the ultimate way to reminisce.

How it works

"LiveMemoryTM uses cutting-edge AI technology to animate whole photos and simulate the scenes depicted in them in a highly realistic way. When a photo is uploaded, the AI model analyzes it to create the most suitable animation to reenact the scene. In photos with multiple people, the algorithm will animate the gestures and make them interact based on what it thinks will be most realistic. The result is a stunning 5-second video clip. LiveMemoryTM is perfect for reenacting nostalgic family photos. It also works well on photos with non-human subjects such as pets or vehicles. The algorithm can simulate parts of the scene not pictured in the original photo, as if a camera is following the movement beyond the edges of the photo.reminisce." A MyHeritage blog provides more information and some great examples of this amazing program. A good instructional blog post by Lisa Cooke on November 27, 2024 provides answers to many questions you may have about the program.

TRAVEL TIMES ACROSS HISTORIC ENGLAND AND WALES

If you are wondering about the travelling experiences of your ancestors try "Travel Times", a free program that allows you to plan a journey on horseback ca 1680, by stagecoach ca 1830 and by train using a bicycle to get to the nearest train station. It's a little tricky to use, but worth exploring to add some realism when you are writing about your ancestors.

ANCESTORS AT CONCORDIA, UNIVERSITY OF MONTRÉAL?

Alumni archives from Concordia University of Montréal are now online. Concordia was created through the merger in 1974 of Loyola College and Sir George Williams University.

IRISH HERITAGE IN QUÉBEC CITY ON YOUTUBE

Irish Heritage Quebec was created in 1973 to encourage and aid genealogical studies of Quebec Irish families, to preserve information, artifacts and documents belonging to the Irish community of Quebec, and to promote research into the history of the Irish in Quebec. *Irish Heritage Quebec* has posted seven presentations on its **YouTube channel** that will interest those with relatives who lived in and near Quebec City.

Interested in learning more? On Irish Heritage Quebec's website, there are also almost 20 **PowerPoint presentations** to view and several <u>digitized archives</u> on the website, including the Irish Famine Relief Fund Record.

GREEK CANADIAN ANCESTORS?

Greek Canadian Archives at York University are now digital. The completion of innovative research and extensive digitization projects represents a significant achievement in the effort to preserve and elucidate the history of the Greek Canadian Community.

I'm not stuck. I'm only relatively challenged!



Zoom "Mini-How-To" Sessions January to June 2025

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 links 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. If you have ideas for topics that you'd like to present, or hear someone else present, please contact your executive.

Genealogy Book Club Study Group with Terry Hartley

The group meets the 2nd Thursday of every month from January to June, 2025. Sessions start at 6:30 pm and run for an hour. The next session is January 9th. Future sessions February 13, and March 13.



We're diving into Research Like a Pro with DNA by Diana Elder, Nicole Dyer, and Robin Wirthlin. Together, we'll read through this guide and apply its methodology to tackle one of the brick walls in our family trees. Over the course of ten months, you can expect to make substantial progress on your genealogical puzzle, identify actionable next steps, and perhaps even solve your mystery. This study group offers a unique opportunity to learn about the application of DNA in genealogy and to apply these techniques to your research in a supportive, collaborative environment. Terry Hartley, a graduate of the inaugural session of the Research Like a Pro course (2019) offered by the authors, will share her insights and experiences from the course. The book is available in paperback from Amazon for \$37.99

and \$9.99 for the Kindle version. Once registered, you'll receive information about the readings and other preparatory work for our next session. Embark on this journey with us and enhance your genealogy research skills using DNA! Use the link below to register for all sessions:

Registration

Researching in the Location of Your Choosing. with Bronwyn Frazer, Susan Bates, and others.

This special interest group will meet once a month, on the first Thursday of every month, from February to June, 2025. The geographic focus will vary from month to month, in response to interests expressed by participants. Join us if you have research questions, and join us if you have experience researching, and might be able to help brainstorm answers to the questions.

The topic for February 6th will be "Researching in Nanaimo: the NFHS 1921 Map Project". Volunteers from our society are working on a project to label a map displaying individual properties in the City of Nanaimo with the names of their occupants. The names are taken from the 1921 Census. Susan will briefly describe the objectives of the project, and then focus on the many sources that are being explored to verify the names and addresses. You will find these sources useful if you're researching anywhere in British Columbia during the first half of the last century.



Use the link below to register for all sessions: Future session March 6th.

Registration

Zoom "Mini How To" Sessions continue page 8

Zoom "Mini "How-To" Sessions continued from page 7

January 23, March 27, May 22 - Computer Talk for Technophobes with Susan Bates

Computer technology has evolved hugely over the last several years. It's pretty much impossible to keep pace with the changes. These sessions will address some useful features and applications that could help you with your work on family history. When time allows, there will be an open Q&A after the main topic is covered. The topic for January 23rd will be "How to Use Google Drive." Future session March 27th.

February 27 - My Oyster Dredging Family

Carolyn will share the methods in her madness exploring four hundred years of her oyster dredging family at Whitstable, Kent. A few stories, a few brick walls smashed, a few important sources, and even a very brief video from 1908.



Registration



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!



Remember that when a family member passes away, they take a library of memories with them. It's a genealogist's duty to record them before that happens.



The thing that interests me most about family history is the gap between the things we think we know about our families and the realities.

MEMORIES OF MARIE

by NFHS Member Susan Garcia

Memories of my maternal great grandmother, Anna Marie Huesken née Manske include feet in wide flat shoes and stockings, long white aprons, ever-present often-unlit dangling cigarette, short.hair in tight cropped curls, and doilies tacked to the arms of her living room chairs. Marie was always pleasant, never scolding. We called Marie "Nanny" and great grandpa Joseph Huesken was "Pop."

I remember the two of them in two different houses, the first in the 1950's on Brooke Road, North Delta. I played a version of the card game "Snap" there for the first time and loved it. Pick an animal and call out



your opponents' animals' name first to win. Meanwhile Nanny fed us cookies and treated us like important guests. Most of our visits to Brooke Road had a bunch of adults and the extended family's kids around. My great uncles George, Herman and Erwin lived nearby on 112th Avenue, 84th and 83rd Avenues and their children were my age, some even younger. The generations overlapped because my mother and Nanny's youngest son were only seven years apart. It turns out my great uncles were half-brothers to my grandma Clara, but I didn't know this until many years later.

In the early 1960's Nanny and Pop lived in an ultramodern, architect designed home on 84th Avenue with the first skylights I'd ever seen and post and beam construction. Both homes were in North Delta. Nanny and Pop owned Richardson Store on the corner of 84th (Richardson Road) and 112th Avenue (Oliver Road) which they operated during my elementary school years. I associate a lot of jawbreakers and root beer popsicles with that store. When we went "the long way" home from Richardson Elementary School, we passed the store and always bought something for a few pennies or a nickel, which was what popsicles cost then.

The last address was Pop's final one. He died in 1962 and his funeral was extremely upsetting to me, mainly because my grandparents were crying. Nanny remained in that house during the time I married and had children, until she had a stroke in the 1970's. She



ca 1961 Nanny and Pop in their new home.

then moved in with her daughter, Clara my maternal grandmother, a widow herself since 1975. I lived away from the Lower Mainland mostly and I just remember Nanny needing to be turned in her bed at Grandma's. Nanny died in 1976.

Nanny always had a German accent. She pronounced J's with a "y" sound and my mother was called "Yonie" instead of Joan. Of course, as kids, we were delighted by this. I remember calling my mother "Yonie" like a cheeky brat. Nanny seemed to like cooking, or at least to be always cooking. As a child I knew that Nanny and Pop had once farmed in Saskatchewan and also had owned a farming acreage property in Sumas Prairie.

Memories of Marie Continues page 10

Memories of Marie Continued from page 9



On Saskatchewan farm, *ca* 1935 Marie Back row 2nd from left. Susan's mother in front of Marie, German visitor in centre)

Nanny would have been twenty when she immigrated to Saskatchewan from Germany and my grandmother was four. A family story says Marie's second husband Joseph Huesken went to Germany to bring Marie and Clara to

Canada. He had heard about Marie from Marie's brother Gus Manske, a friend and farmer also living near Macklin. Nanny and Clara had two visits back to Rugen, Germany in 1964 and 1968 to see Nanny's elder sister Elisabeth. Travelling to East Germany involved bringing unattainable items like butter and coffee, and leaving behind a wardrobe of shoes and clothes.



Marie and Elisabeth, Germany ca 1964-68

Nanny was an easy-going woman and I feel lucky to have had a great grandparent around that I could visit and enjoy until I was twenty- six years old.

When I began my genealogy quest, I started with my father's side, not my maternal side. Having five generations alive on the maternal side for much of my life, many photos and stories, and photos going back many generations, made me a bit complacent about recovering the information about my mother's ancestry. I had my mother's and uncle's living memory for so long that I was content with that. I did have a ticket to go to Rugen Germany in 2020 to investigate any living relatives in Putbus, Rugen before the pandemic

cancelled that option. I also had some of Nanny's postcard correspondence with Germany translated by another NFHS family's relatives a few years ago as an early project in the Manske family history.

I treasure handwritten items from Marie and her daughter Clara. I have a family tree of Marie's parents and siblings written in pencil in Clara's handwriting before her death in 1981. It shows that Marie was one of four

daughters of Bertha Braun and August Manske; there were at least two sons also, older siblings of Marie. Another page discloses Marie's first husband's family from which daughter Marie's Clara descends. Clara's father was German, Walter Schwebke, son of Garth Devreux Schwebke and Johanna Weichman, according to this record.



I treasure my five generations photos with Nanny, Clara, my mother Joan and my children.

Since this is about my own memories of my great grandmother, Marie, I must close with gratitude to the legacy that my great grandparents left me. It turns out that Marie and Joseph Huesken had a very large one

Memories of Marie Continues page 11

Memories of Marie Continued from page 10

hundred sixty acre property in North Delta from which they carved off properties for their four children. I visited all those homes, sometimes riding horses at Uncle George's or visiting Uncle Erwin's service station. Erwin donated the land for Richardson School and land for the Evangelical church on 84th Avenue where Pop's funeral took place. I took for granted the friendliness of the community where I lived. I knew that I belonged. The hard times Marie and Joseph endured as immigrants and farmers were long behind them when I entered their well-established neighbourhood as a newborn. I recently discovered more information about the Hueskens in *Millennium* Milestones, 1999, a magazine put out by Tom Zytaruk of the *Now Community* newspaper.

WHAT ARE YOUR GENEALOGY GOALS FOR 2025??

Organize digital files? Take an educational course? Research an archives? Identify Photographs? Take/give an oral history? Document your heirlooms?

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On the twelfth day of Christmas, My true love gave to me, Twelve tombstone photos, Eleven naturalization records, Ten DNA matches, Nine death records, Eight Family Search microfilms, Seven land deeds, Six birth certs, Five probate records, Four gabby cousins, Three GEDCOM files, Two family bibles, And a branch in my Family Tree.

Twisted Twigs on Gnarled Branches

Most genealogists neglect telling their own stories, while in the midst of telling the stories about others. Don't let this happen to you!

FAMILY HEIRLOOM IDEA

If you're looking for a quick, simple, and creative way to preserve the stories of your heirlooms, the idea below is from blog "Michigan Family Girl" may work for you. Samples and tips are on the site. Your editor has already started on her heirloom story preservation! Plans are being made to document jewelry, artwork, furniture and other family heirlooms.

This rooster always sat in my grandmother's kitchen. Originally in her home in Detroit, Michigan on Asbury Park. Then in her home in Pompano Beach, Florida. Later when she moved to San Diego, CA and had an apartment, the rooster could be found in her kitchen. I came into possession of the rooster after my grandmother's death in 1970. It's been in my kitchen ever since then. It connects me to my grandmother and I cherish it.



Heirloom - Marie Gould's Ceramic Rooster

Description - Ceramic rooster, 9" tall, yellow, green, brown, red and black in color

Original owner - Marie Lindsay Gould (my paternal grandmother), wife of Harry W Gould

Our most treasured family heirlooms are our sweet family memories.

The past is never dead, it is not even past.

NANAIMO FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY FUTURE GUEST SPEAKERS

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



MONDAY, JANUARY 20, 2025 TONY GREEN LETTERS FROM THE CRIMEAN WAR



Charles William Thomas Cookesley, aged just fifteen was writing letters after the fact of the charge of the light brigade. From Bologne-sur-Mer on the French seaside, this privileged doctor's son starred as midshipman in the Crimean war, but failed on the Australian goldfields.





FEBRUARY 10, 2025 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING & ELECTION OF NFHS EXECUTIVE



MARCH 17, 2025 LINDA YIP THE VOYAGE OF THE PRINCESS ROYAL

Linda will trace the voyage of the *Princess Royal* to British Columbia and its arrival in Nanaimo, as well as the little known participation of the Hudson's Bay Company in western Canada



Linda has established herself as a trans-Canada genealogist who began her research with her own Chinese ancestry that expanded to research for clients of Dutch, German, French and other heritages. Her genealogy research has also included Japanese internment, Saskatchewan homesteaders, and WW I and II stories.

In November, 2024, Linda became an accredited genealogist for Ancestry Canada Board of genealogists in western Canada research.

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!

ANCESTRY (subscription)

Canada Québec Death Registers 1926-1997

Canada Trent Valley Ontario Obituaries

Canada Newfoundland and Labrador Death Certificates 1950-1968

Czech Republic Select Marriages 1654-1889

Isle of Man Wills, index 1600-1864

UK Red Cross Volunteers 1914-1918

UK London Freedom of the City Admission Papers 1681-1930

UK East Sussex Wills and Probate

UK West Sussex Wills and Probate

FAMILY SEARCH (FREE, (just register)

Canada British Columbia Crown Land Grants 1869-1930

Canada British Columbia Crown Land Pre-Emption Registers 1860-1971

Russia Lutheran Church Book Duplicates

FINDMYPAST (subscription)

UK England Directories 18th to 20th Centuries

UK Lancashire Wills & Probate 1487-1858

UK Prisoners of War 1715-1945

UK Southwark Poor Law Records

MYHERITAGE (subscription)

Ireland Marriages 1845-1958

Antrim and Down Baptisms and Marriages

MISCELLANEOUS (Free) LINKS

Accessing Ancestry's Free Collections

Italian Genealogy 21 Genealogy Tools

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

Dutch Genealogy News August 2024

137,859 Free Maps of England and Wales

101 Best Genealogy WebSites of 2024

10 Genealogy YouTube Channels You Shouldn't Miss

Unexpected Websites You Can Use for Genealogy Research

Data base Eases Search for Small Russian Towns and Villages

Polish Marriage Records

Free Searchable Database for Victims of Russian pogroms

Experimenting with AI in Oral History

DNA Genetic Networks

64 Genealogy Items to Collect Fom Your Home

14 Rookie Mistakes That'll Torpedo Your Family Tree (and how to avoid them)

Polish Genealogy Terms

How to Make a Family History Trivia Game

Genealogy Activities You Can Do With Children

Merchant Navy Crew Lists: Where to Find Them

Faces from Victorian Past Brought to Life



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 recheck the sites you've used before — your editor has frequently found additional information about ancestors whom she began researching years ago.



- The 1841 UK census doesn't record relationships within a household, so evidence is needed to confirm a parent-child relationship from the 1851 to 1921 census returns. The head of house hold was typically a working married man. Although his wife was usually the biological mother of any children in the household, this might not be factual. For example, they might be the children of a previous wife. Confirmation is needed from another source.
- An Alternative to Source To Search

 If you cannot find an ancestor in one source, try another. For example, search for ancestors in both parish registers and bishop's transcripts (copies of registers sent to the bishop). You can also search for your Irish ancestors in dog licence records to cover missing census years.
- Different genealogy websites may contain the same records but they were not transcribed by the same people. If you can't find an ancestor on *Ancestry*'s census records then try looking for them on *FindMy Past* or The *MyHeritage*. Keep a list of who you want to find and make the most of free trials or special open access weekends.
- If you can't find your ancestors try looking for their neighbours, their marriage witnesses their Friends, Acquaintances, Associates and Neighbours. The people around your ancestor might just lead you straight to him or her. Once you have found the gravestone, do not look only at the front; move around to the back and walk around the surrounding area to look for more information. Often there is writing that escapes the eye at first glance or gravestones of relatives nearby. Don't ignore flowers or other indications that a grave has been maintained these can be important clues that descendants exist and continue to visit. While you walk around, snap a photo of the entire area so you remember where stones are for future reference.
- * When labeling photographs, spell out individuals' names, birth/death dates, and the date the photo was taken.
- * Be picky. Don't accept something until you're sure it's correct or at least reasonably sure it's possible to be. Other peoples trees can be useful, but don't rely on them unless you've checked their sources. Some of them are atrocious and worse than useless.
- * Ask family members for permission to see certificates and make a record of family birth, marriage, death, and burial records (known as vital records). Also ask if family histories, Bible records, and ancestors' photographs exist.
- *You certainly don't have all the answers to your most pressing questions, and you're no less of a genealogist for asking others for assistance. By tapping into a network of family members and other genealogists, you can start to uncover new information and resources that you'd never have access to alone.

If you shake your family tree, watch for the nuts to fall!



FROM NANAIMO HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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

LOOKING LOCAL from Susan Garcia

If you're interested in learning more about the Nanaimo area, it's a great time to check out Nanaimo Historical Society. A popular event happens 9 January 2025: The members' Show and Share of historic artifacts that interest them. 13 Feb 2025 has Aimee Greenaway from Nanaimo Museum presenting women in 1he 1912 -1914 miners strike.and 13 March 2025 at the AGM will have an update from Susan Bates on the Nanaimo Family History Society 1921 Census Program.

Events are in Room 1 BOWEN Centre 500 Bowen Rd. (beside the lawn bowling) at 7 pm, 2nd Thursdays of the month.

• The NHS Website has videos of past presentations and interesting essays from scholarship recipients.

Please feel welcome to join as a member or guest. In-person meetings are held at 7 pm at Bowen Social Centre, 500 Comox Rd. on the second Thursday of each month, except December and June through August. Membership is \$10 per calendar year and \$15 per family. Guests are always welcome.

NANAIMO FAMILY SEARCH CENTRE WINTER 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 -three members in the group.

MEMBERS' MISCELLANEA

New book from NFHS member Helen Webster



An ambitious man grapples with a world in transition and the realization that his sons will not be continuing his legacy in the Hudson's Bay Company. A COMPANY MAN Book 4 in Helen's Canadian Historical Series.

In 1876, Thomas Barnston Ross, determined to follow his dream of advancement with the Hudson's Bay Company, uprooted his wife and five children—the oldest nine and the youngest an infant of three months—from their home near Chicoutimi, Quebec. The family travelled by paddle-wheeler and canoe hundreds of miles through the vast wilderness to an isolated HBC trading post in northern Ontario. There, they remained for a decade, raising a family that eventually totalled ten children.

Thomas was a proud, driven man, ambitious for himself and for his sons, whom he was determined would follow in his footsteps as employees of the HBC. However, despite his ability to thrive in the wild forests, he was ill-equipped to embrace the momentous changes that were to dominate the end of the 19th and the beginning of the 20th centuries.

The future he had always envisioned for himself and his nine sons was not to be. Where he was unable to adapt to change, they were. Rather than taking pride in their significant achievements in pursuits far from the wilderness, Thomas turned to alcohol to help him cope with his anger and disillusionment.



Season's Greetings from NFHS members December 2024

YOUR EDITOR'S FINAL NOTE

It is with some sadness that I write this final note. I am, however, looking forward to continuing my own research — I'm just beginning another family history book, and I anticipate assisting with NFHS Zoom evenings.

Despite my nagging members for articles, I am perhaps most pleased to have shared the many articles members have written over the last thirteen or so years. I have been especially happy to include articles not only from our regular contributors, but also from those of you who bravely began writing about your families. All these stories are such lovely legacies for your descendants! Do continue writing!

My full editing of these many journals would not have been possible over the years without the eagle eyes of proof readers Maureen Wootten, Jan Nelson, and Wilma Kennedy. Thank you all!

Finally, I look forward to welcoming a new editor or perhaps a collaboration of editors. This job can be most rewarding — my own genealogy research has benefited significantly from my work with AncesTree. Please consider volunteering and put your own "stamp" on our journal.

To all members, continue to share, learn, and enjoy your genealogical pursuits!





A BCGS trip is being scheduled for **April 27 to May 2, 2025** to go to the Family Search Library in Salt Lake City.

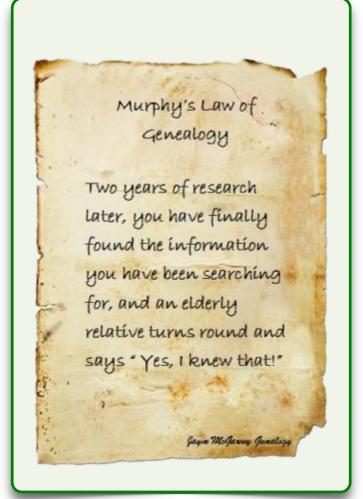
The trip is not a formal trip but rather each participant would book their own flight and own hotel. We would share mutual support on the trip. We would gather for a meet & greet on Sunday the 27th, plus further gettogethers throughout the week to share their research wins and brickwalls.

The trip is open to anyone interested in genealogy research. You do not need to be a member of BCGS. The group is trying to gather at least 20 participants so they can take advantage of a library orientation and specialized research groups. No commitment needed at this time.

A <u>Facebook Group</u> has been created where you can find more information, ask questions and join in discussion.

For further information contact either:

Linda Hurtubise. lindahurtubise@gmail.com Yvette Howard. president@bcgs.ca



Nanaimo Family History Society Executive 2024

President Ruth Stewart
Vice President Dean Ford
Secretary Bronwyn Frazer
Treasurer Aleda Spring
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Genealogy: In the end it's all relative.