

Ances Tree

VOLUME 11
NUMBER 1

SPRING
MARCH 1994



NANAIMO FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY

ISSN # 1185 - 166X

Publication Mail Registration No. 8568

AnceTree is published quarterly by the Nanaimo Family History Society, P.O. Box 1027, Nanaimo, B.C., V9R 5Z2.

All members of the society, as well as others who have an interest in genealogy, are invited to contribute by submitting ideas, articles, regular columns, etc. When submitting an article that has been published elsewhere, please give full source references. Please contact the Editor for further information. Neither the NFHS nor the Editor are responsible for errors of fact, nor for opinions expressed by contributors to the newsletter. When quoting from this newsletter, please credit the NFHS and the author of the article. Copyright 1990, Nanaimo Family History Society.

MEMBERSHIP is based on the current calendar year. Annual dues are \$20.00 individual, \$15.00 for seniors, plus \$5.00 for each additional participating member of a family in any household. Annual dues entitle a member or member household to one copy of each of the four issues of AnceTree, published March, June, September, and December.

GENERAL MEETINGS are held on the third Thursday of each month, except July, August, and December, at 7:00 p.m., in Room B202 of the Curriculum Resource Centre, 420 Selby Street, Nanaimo. Please use the lower rear entrance. Guests are most welcome to attend one meeting without obligation.

QUERIES. The NFHS is a volunteer, non-profit society, and as such can offer only limited research service. Attempts will be made to answer all requests for genealogical information by non-members for a fee of \$2.00, and a SASE (or an International Reply Coupon from out-of-Canada writers). This fee will also entitle you to the publication of your query in our newsletter. Queries are free to members.

AnceTree
International Standard Serial Number ISSN 1185-166X

NFHS	President	Leona Dettwiler	390-2288
EXECUTIVE	1st Vice Pres.	Sharon Davison	758-0618
1993	2nd Vice Pres.	Peter McIntyre	758-0908
	Secretary	Sue Strobbe	755-1776
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	Librarian	position vacant	
	Editor	Dianne Landers	758-7478

COMMITTEE CO-ORDINATORS

Historian	Joan Blair	753-8967
Membership	Carol Morley	245-7338
	Gladys Wagner	756-0109
Phoning	Betty Kinch	754-2268
Publications & Form Sales	Ken Biggs	468-7930
Social	Patricia Brass	754-7263

Presidents message

I have enjoyed this past year being your President. I hope I've done a good job and apologize to anyone that I failed to explain things to.

I wish to thank the rest of the executive, they have all done a tremendous job. Also our committee members for all their work and help. A special Thank you to Marj for the use of her home for the Library. Thank you, to the volunteers that have put in many hours at the LDS Library on our behalf. I would like to see more volunteers for the LDS library though.

Also I would like to hear from the members about anything they may be interested in doing or hearing in the future.

Remember our March meeting is the election of a new executive, so if there is someones name you would like to put forward, please do so.

Wishing all members the very best, our March 17 meeting is St. Patricks Day. Please wear something green and bring something for Show and Tell about Ireland.

Leona Dettwiler.

Dates to Remember

Library Days - Marj. McLellan's

March 5 - Saturday - 10 am-1 pm
March 15 - Tuesday - 11 am-3 pm
April 2 - Saturday - 10 am-1 pm
April 19 - Tuesday - 11 am-3 pm
May 7 - Saturday - 10 am-1 pm
May 17 - Tuesday - 11 am-3 pm

General Meetings:

March 17 - Thursday
April 21 - Thursday
May 19 - Thursday

For those of you new to our Club, Marj's address is:

4733 Laguna Way, Nanaimo

March 17 / General Meeting

Election time once again! Come and attend this meeting and ensure we elect a full slate of officers for the next year. Please consider allowing your name to be nominated for one of the offices (or feel free to step forward and volunteer!). You will find it rewarding to become involved in our club.

After the election of officers, we will be reading a selection of stories entered in our Short Story contest.

Remember we would like you to share something of Ireland with us.

Welcome to New Members

Tom Parkin 317
3522 Oakridge Dr
Nanaimo BC V9T 3E7

Robert L. Friberg 318
2186 Jinglepot Rd
Nanaimo BC V9R 6J2

Estelle Taylor 319
2445 Glenayr Dr
Nanaimo BC V9S 3R8

Please note address changes for:

Audrey Curtiss 270
3820 King Arthur Dr
Nanaimo BC V9T 6B9

Patrick Gage 313
761 Chelwood Rd
Site 1A C33 Gabriola Isl
V0R 1X0

TIME TO RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP!

It is that time of year again when membership renewal is due. Please see Gladys Wagner or Carol Morley at the March meeting or forward your renewal to: Nanaimo Family History Society
P O Box 1027
Nanaimo BC V9R 5Z2



Club News

We have received some very interesting Stories from our members:

Joan Blair - ("Vic" is Joan's brother, this article was published in the Northern Magazine, NSW Australia, June 29, 1980)

One day in 1941, 14 year-old Victor Haggith said goodbye to his parents and pedalled off to school.

At least that's where Mum and Dad thought he was going. A few hours later a telegram arrived at their Wembley, London, home, which read, simply, "Gone to sea. Vic."

Instead of going to school, young Victor went to London docks where he sold his bicycle, judiciously added two years to his age and signed up on a Dutch merchantman bound for Tampa, Florida.

It was the classic story of a boy running off to sea. And the adventures which followed for Victor Haggith read like something from the Boy's Own Annual.

Victor subsequently became the Merchant Navy's youngest ever gunner, he survived two U boat attacks within 24 hours and at 15 was sent on a coast-to-coast lecture tour of the United States.

Today Vic, 53 and a Tamworth businessman recalls how he ran away after his father refused to let him join the Merchant Navy. "I was too young," my father said."

AIR RAID - After the pride of the Royal Navy, HMS Hood, was sunk in action during May, 1941, and several of Victor's friends were killed in an air raid, he decided to go to sea anyway.

The Merchant Navy, which had suffered heavy casualties in the war's first two years, was desperate for new recruits.

Vic remembers the day he ran away, well, "It was June 12, 1941. After leaving home I met my mate Dennis and we set off for school. But on the way I suddenly announced that I was going to sea and not to school. "Dennis wouldn't believe me and said that he would wait at the street corner till I came back.

"Off I went to the docks, sold the bike for 30 bob, and bought a pair of sea boots, a jumper and jeans. That left me with eight pence. With that I headed for a telegraph office and sent that 'Gone to Sea' telegram. It cost nine pence but the girl behind the counter felt sympathetic to me and put in the other penny herself!"

His first four crossings of the U boat infested Atlantic were uneventful, but voyage No 5 was not.

There is more on Vic and his travels, and this will be printed later.

Joan Blair - (published Nov/Dec 93, Bank of British Columbia's Pioneer News)

A CHRISTMAS TO REMEMBER

I was in the Women's Land Army in England during WWII and was stationed in Sussex when I met my husband who was also stationed in Sussex with the Royal Canadian Corp of Signals.

We were married in my home town of Wembley, Middlesex in 1944. After our marriage I decided to take my discharge from the Women's Land Army and moved back to Wembley.

My husband was posted to Normandy in June just before the buzz bombs and rockets started to fall on London. A buzz bomb fell close to our house causing windows and debris to fall everywhere. Glass from the windows covered the chair I had been sitting on just before I ran downstairs to take cover in the Morrison shelter.

My husband and I thought it was time for me to go to Canada as by now I was expecting our first child. Before he left for France we had arranged that if I wanted to go to Canada before the end of the war, he would apply through Army Headquarters. Of course, the war was still on and we would have to make all the arrangements secretly, so we planned to have a code between us. When I knew the date I was to leave, I would tell him in a letter, "Uncle Harry will be leaving on his holidays on such and such a date," then he would know when I was leaving for Canada.

When the time came for me to leave England, no one else was to be told and I was not told what date or what port the ship would be leaving from or the name of the ship. My parents were only allowed to see me off at Wembley station, not Liverpool where I actually left from. I eventually told them the details of my departure after the war had ended.

Very few warbrides left for Canada before the end of the war. I sailed on the *Louis Pasteur*, a ship designed and built for the Mediterranean, on December 11, 1944. The ship was all blacked out at night and it was a very rough crossing--they had to put ropes around the toilets for people to hang on to. I was glad I had not had my baby when I saw women trying to handle small children on the trip. The *Louis Pasteur* was also carrying wounded servicemen who were being sent home. One day we had some excitement when we had to change course to shake off a shadowing German submarine. We were alone, not in convoy.

December 19 we arrived in Halifax and what a wonderful sight it was for us all. The snow was falling, there were lights, and the Salvation Army Band was playing Christmas music on the dock as we pulled alongside. It was like another world after the war-time one we had left.

Everyone boarded trains to continue our journey across Canada. We dropped women off along the way, some in very desolate places and lots of snow everywhere. Each place we stopped we would all jump off the train and run to the nearest store to buy fruit which we had not seen in England for five years.

Finally on Christmas morning at 11 am the train pulled into Vancouver station where my mother-in-law and sister-in-law were waiting for me. I was now six months pregnant so they had no trouble recognizing me in the crowd.

What a lovely Christmas it was. When I arrived at the house the tree was decorated with lights and there was more food than I had seen for years on the table. All the relatives were there with gifts for me and our forthcoming baby. I only wished that my husband could have been there as he had been away from Canada for five years now and was in action in Holland.

Our daughter was born in March. Her daddy arrived home from overseas May 8th, VE Day. We will celebrate our 50th anniversary in 1994.

Leona Dettwiler -

In the year of 1960, my husband decided it was time to move our family away from the big city. On one of his trips to the island on business he noticed a Sheriffs Sale of Animals (from a zoo) and he decided this would be great for the children to learn about these animals.

He telephoned me and said watch the CBC news tonight, you now own a Zoo. As my husband had a habit of pulling these things on me I laughed it off.

My sister was there visiting at the time and she said do you think he is serious, or pulling a prank. Well we watched the news and sure enough we owned a Zoo, with bears, seals, cougars, lions, monkeys, elk, fallow deer, emu, baboon, elephant and many birds.

I moved to Nanaimo June 1960 and became a zoo owner. Never having had any experience with wild animals, well I soon learned what it was all about. I raised cougar kittens, a coyote pup and wolf cubs by bottle. The children thought this was great, but I'm not to sure about this. I moved from a large farm house to a trailer that was 8 feet by 36 feet, with 5 children, my youngest child was just 18 months old and she would feed the bears grass threw the wire mesh, the emu ate grain from her hand. One day she crawled into the bull elk pen and sat and fed him hay, while I stood on the outside in terror fearful that he would trample her, she crawled back out.

After a couple of years the animals were sold and moved away, I missed them as you become friendly with them and learn a great deal about animal habits and behaviour. We have movies of them all, and our children enjoyed them.

There is one thing that I really remember and that is the first time I heard a lion roar at night, and an elephant trumpet. I wouldn't have missed this time in my life for the world. It was a real education believe me.

Sometime after we moved to a house on Hammond Bay road and one night we were out driving when a screech owl hit the side of our car. It was stunned and I got out and picked it up and took it home. I kept it in a bird cage and fed it meat, a few days later we decided to let him go and opened the cage door. I was putting a cake in the oven and I guess the owl decided I was lunch because he flew out and landed on my behind and sank his talons into me. But he could not take flight, my husband after he was finished laughing took the owl outside and let it go. I'm not sure but I may still have the marks of his talons.

A time in my life I will always remember, perhaps I should write a book.

WHAT DO BEANS HAVE TO DO WITH GENEALOGY ?

By Kay Warn

In 1899 my grandparents Wasył and Ann Jarema and family of seven children left Germakivka, Galicia, Austria (now Ukraine) to start a new life in Canada.

They knew very little about Canada except what they had read from the advertisements that were being circulated by the Canadian government, in an attempt to colonize the western provinces. Clifford Sifton of Manitoba was the main power behind this movement.

There was one thing they did know and that was the fact that they were farmers and the one hundred and sixty acre homestead for only ten dollars must have seemed like a miracle as they owned but a few acres in Galicia.

They knew they would be needing seeds for their crops and perhaps it was for a purely practical reason that they brought their seeds with them for the new crop they would plant. Or perhaps it was because they wanted to bring along something from the old land.

Grandmother Jarema saved the ripened seeds from the 1898 crop and tied them up in handkerchiefs to bring along with them to plant the 1899 garden.

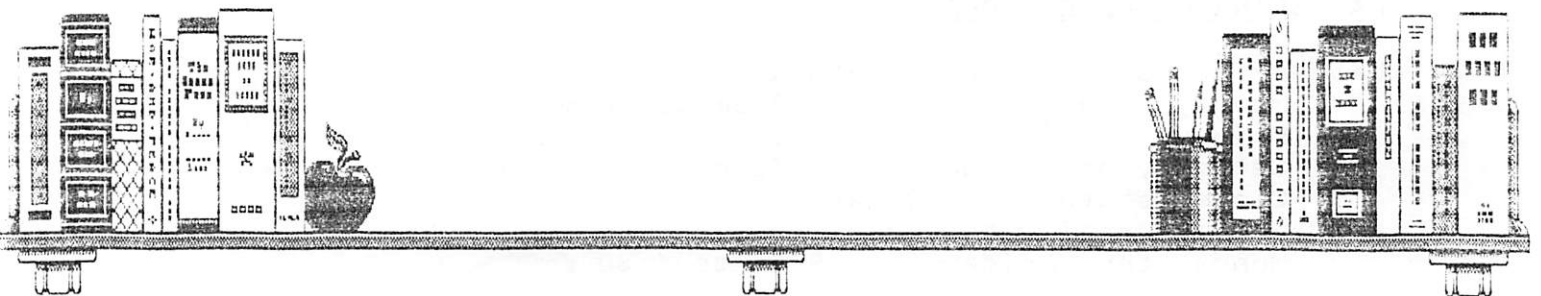
Their ship, the Californian arrived at the Port of Quebec on June 10, 1899 and within a few hours they were on the train heading west to Sifton, Manitoba. However it would be sometime before they were able to locate a homestead and 1899 was a bleak year for the Jaremas as it was too late to plant by the time they were settled. One wonders how they survived with no crop and little money.

Among the seeds Grandmother brought were some little brown beans. In 1900 Grandmother had an abundant crop and as the children grew and married, they were given a little handful of "grandmas beans" for their gardens.

My grandmother died in 1927 but since then, we the descendants, have continued to grow them in our gardens. If one of us has a crop failure, there is always a cousin to contact to replenish our seed stock.

I never met my grandmother, but somehow I feel a lifeline to her every spring when I see the first shoots appear above the ground.

Somehow I think Grandma would have approved our little living memorial to her. Grandmother also left many living memorials to herself-, many, many descendants!





HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO US!

Our Club is 13 years old in March.
How time flies when you are having fun!
The first meeting was held March 21, 1981 in the basement of the Nanaimo Regional Library on Fitzwilliam Street.

At that time we were known as the Nanaimo Genealogical Club, the name has since been changed to the Nanaimo Family History Society.

The club started when Pat Mahoney and myself advertised in the newspaper and on Channel 10 TV for anyone who would like to join the club. Thirty people came to the first meeting.

We have three original members still with us, Marj McLellan, Evelyn Dickson and myself. Terri Hunter, our first librarian is married now with a little girl and lives in Kent, England.

Over the years we have had a lot of interesting speakers. Periodically the club have conducted various workshops to assist members with their research. Each meeting members tell us some interesting stories about a lost relative they have found, which all helps to keep us working on our research.

We have come a long way since 1981. If we all contribute something to the club we may continue for another 13 years.

- submitted by Joan Blair.

LDS LIBRARY - NEW TEMPORARY HOURS

If you wish to book time on the microfilm readers, or on the computer, you can do so during library hours on Mondays and Tuesdays, either in person, or by phoning the library at 758-1360. PLEASE NOTE that the following are the new library hours

MALASPINA COLLEGE LIBRARY

Library hours up to April 29th are:

Monday thru Thursday	8 am to 10 pm
Friday	8 am to 5 pm
Saturday and Sunday	12 noon to 5 pm
Closed statutory holidays	

Hours after April 29th are:

Monday thru Friday	9 am to 4:30 pm
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Please check with librarian re procedure for booking the photocopier microfilm readers. To verify library hours after April 29th call the library at 741-8760.



For Your Information

Duties of the Executive Committee -

PRESIDENT: Chair all meetings and exercise general supervision over the various committees. Co-sign cheques for approved expenditures and prepare "President's Report" for the annual general meeting.

1ST VICE PRESIDENT: Chair meetings when president is absent. Help with the general running of the club. Act as Programs Director and arrange for guest speakers or programs for the monthly general meetings. Prepare a brief report for the Annual General Meeting.

2ND VICE PRESIDENT: Assume the duties of the 1st Vice President in their absence and act as Chairperson of Workshops/Seminars, etc. Prepare a brief report for the Annual General Meeting.

SECRETARY: Keep minutes of executive and general meetings. Give copies to executive before next meeting. Take care of correspondence. Pick up the mail and keep attendance book.

TREASURER: Receive all monies collected and arrange all payments due. Keep and maintain a record of all receipts and expenditures. Have available at all times a record of financial status. Co-sign cheques with the president. Present a financial report at each executive meeting. Present a full financial statement for the year at the Annual General Meeting. Book the meeting room.

LIBRARIAN: Select the books, exchange newsletters and other media relevant to genealogical research with approval of the executive. Take care of processing the books and all mechanics of the library. Keep up-to-date files and records. Keep an accession list. Be familiar with general contents of the library. Maintain definite library hours. Check out books. Replace books on shelves. Collect overdue fines. Present a report at each executive meeting and the Annual General Meeting. Maintain all research material generated by the club.

NEWSLETTER EDITOR: Be responsible for publishing a quarterly newsletter. Keep up-to-date records of inventory and printing costs. Purchase supplies and forward invoices to the Treasurer. Present a report at executive meetings and the Annual General Meeting. Distribute and/or mail newsletters to members and exchange societies. Keep the mailing list up to date. File one copy of the newsletter in the club library.

PAST PRESIDENT: Shall assume that share of the duties as determined by the executive, and act as Chairman of the nominating committee.

Well now that you have read all of this you have probably decided you do not have the time to volunteer for one of these positions. Just remember, it is with these positions and the volunteers that fill them that we have the fine group that we have. If everyone can give a little, there is less for everyone to do. The executive works together to fulfil the needs of our members, but it is the members that have to fill the executive positions.

UNITED STATES RESEARCH

By Kay Warn

USA Federal Census:

Using census in research is a must and there are census taken at different levels of jurisdiction: Federal, State, County, Township. Territorial etc.

Call numbers of films given are for National Archives Washington DC numbers and those of the Genealogical Lending Library .

For those wishing to borrow from the LDS Family History Library consult Locality Catalogue under the heading: USA, Census, State, County.

A Federal Census was taken every ten years from 1790 to the present. These are available on microfilm from 1790 and up to and including 1920.

The census counted the population as of the following dates:

1790-1820.....	First Monday in August of each census year.
1830-1900.....	June 1st of each census year.
1910April 15th, 1910.
1920January 1st, 1920.

The census prior to 1850 gave the name of the head of household and the others in the household, grouped by age and sex.

M 637 , 1790

Some of the 1790 census were destroyed by fire , when the British burned the Capitol at Washington in 1812. One of those lost has been compensated for by using state enumerations 1782-1785 (Virginia).

Those states destroyed by fire were: Delaware, Georgia, Kentucky, New Jersey, Tennessee and Virginia.

There are 12 rolls of original film in existence for research covering:

1. Connecticut, 2. Maine, 3. Maryland, 4. Massachusetts, 5. New Hampshire, 6. New York, 7. North Carolina, 8 & 9. Pennsylvania (2 rolls), 10. Rhode Island, 11. South Carolina, 12. Vermont.

There are three rolls of compiled film that were created by the Bureau of Census in 1907-8. These are indexed.

1790 Census # T 498

1. Connecticut, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, New Hampshire.
2. New York, North Carolina, Pennsylvania.
3. Rhode Island. South Carolina, Vermont, Virginia.

Film 3 has an added bonus in that it includes the list of living Revolutionary War Pensioners and names of whom they were residing with.

Caution: The 1820 Census can be misleading in that there is duplication of Male groupings 16-18 and 16-26. In this case if a son was 16-18 or 16-26 he was entered twice. The 16-18 was entered for military purposes.

After the first nominal census began in 1850 the amount of information on the federal census increased with each census, which was taken every ten years.

The 1890 census was destroyed by fire and only 6,160 names are left of the entire 1890 census. These are from the following states: Alabama. District of Columbia, Georgia, Illinois, Minnesota, New Jersey, New York, North Carolina, Ohio, South Dakota, Texas. These are only fragmentary census and are practically useless. There is an index on two films to cover these remaining census records:

1. A-J 2. K-Z

This means a child born after June 1, 1880 and before June 1st 1900 could be 19 years old and away from home. In the case of a daughter it would be doubly difficult as she may have married and her name changed. This is why state and county census are helpful.

In the case of state census , they usually were taken in between the federal census ie: 1875, 1885, 1895, 1905 etc.

I have used the 1885 and 1895 census for Iowa to compensate for the loss of the 1890 census. In the Iowa State Census I was able to look at 1852, 1854, 1856, 1859. I found my husband's families the same year they arrived in Winneshiek, County (1854) from Elkhart, Indiana and the female line in 1856 from Wood and Henry counties in Ohio.

Had I wished, I could have looked at several territorial census for Iowa after it was formed 12th June 1838, and prior to statehood in 1848. These territorial census are very helpful. There was no set time for territorial census. When a state was newly formed from a territory, census were often taken close together as there was a rapid rise in population as the settlers moved in. Again, these territorial, state and county census varied so you really need to know the dates etc.

Often there was more information given on a state, territorial or county census than on a federal census

Indexed Census:

The AIS Indexes (Accelerated Index Searches) are created to cover the period 1607-1850 There are some States up to 1880.

Search 1: 1607-1819. Entire USA.

Search 2: 1820-1829. Entire USA.

Search 3: 1830-1839. Entire USA.
Search 4: 1840-1849. Entire USA.
Search 5: 1850-1860. Southern States: AL, AR, DC,
FL, GA, KY, LA, MD, MS, NC, SC,
TN, VA.

Search 6: 1850 New England & Northern States:
CT, DE, ME, MA, NH, NJ, NY, OH,
PA, RI, VT.

Search 7: 1850-1906* Midwestern & Western States:
AK, AZ, CA, CO, ID, IL, IN, IA,
KS, MN, MI, MO, MT, NE, NV, NM,
ND, OH, OK, OR, SD, TX, UT, WA,
WI, WY.

Search 7a: 1850-1906* Entire USA (searches 5, 6,
7, combined)

Search 8: 1850-1885* USA Mortality schedules only.

* Indexing still in progress. The last I looked there
were some states up to 1880.

Mortality schedules are for those who died in the 12
months prior to the taking of the census.

These indexes are mostly taken from census but tax
records and other records were also used, especially in
the early days. There is said to be a 20% error rate,
but still a very helpful tool in tracing the movements
of ancestors.

These are very helpful if your family were in USA prior
to 1850 and especially if they were involved in the
westward movement as you can find your family as they
moved.

To read the usual original census you need to know the
county and the state in which your ancestor lived in
order to get the correct film. However if you know only
the state there are Sound-ex and Miracode indexes for
each state which will lead you to the county for some
of the census years.

These years are:

- 1880: The index cards only list families who had
 a child under 10 years old.
- 1900: Prepared by the Works Project Administration
 in 1930,s. Covers entire USA.
- 1910: Created by the Bureau of Census for 21
 states. They are AL, AR, CA, FL, GA, IL, KS,
 KY, LA, MI, MS, MO, NC, OH, OK, PA, SC, TN,
 TX, VA, WV.

These are not a substitute for the actual census but a good tool to lead you to the correct film. The actual film gives much more detail and I also like to look at who the neighbors were. So often they were connected by marriage or blood. This is why I like to take photocopies of the whole page and sometimes a page on each side. Large groups often migrated together and as you go back, you may find the same names cropping up in close proximity.

There is no church affiliation mentioned on US federal census. This is a real draw-back when it comes to trying to find parish registers. On Canadian census the church each person belonged to is mentioned.

We now have in our library the January 1994 Malaspina University-College Periodical and Newspaper List, and the Clark County Genealogical Society of Vancouver, Washington DIRECTORY 1993-1994.

UPCOMING CONFERENCES AND SEMINARS

see attached for information on the CAMPBELL RIVER GENEALOGY CLUB Genealogical Seminar -- Saturday, March 12, 1994 --

The Eastern Townships Genealogical Society, 275, rue Dufferin, Sherbrooke, Quebec is celebrating! November 12 last, marked the twenty-fifth anniversary of the date of their founding in 1968. As part of the celebrations, they have organized a conference to take place April 8, 9 and 10 1994 they welcome you to attend. A special exhibit will be opened April 9 as part of the conference, and will remain open to the public until August 31. For further information 1-819-821-5414.

WASHINGTON STATE GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY 1994 Conference is to be held at the Quay in Vancouver, WA April 28, 29, 30 and May 1, 1994. For further information call: Millie Beck, Chairperson, 206-254-9344. There will also be some brochures at the March meeting.

Excerpts from Richard Carr's Diary - will be continued next issue.

ODDS AND ENDS

The Central Library of the Ville de Montreal has closed to allow for major renovations as well as the automation of some of the collection. The Library will re-open in about a year. In the interim, the Central Library will offer reference and consultation services at the Lafontaine Building, located at 1301 Sherbrooke St. East. Please call to verify hours.

I would like to say THANK YOU to my fellow executive members and all of the members who have contributed to the newsletter. I have enjoyed this past year but do look forward to the extra time I will gain to put towards my own genealogy research. If I have confused you with some of the pages appearing to be out of order (some are numbered, some are not) I am sorry. It is sheer laziness on my part, Kay was kind enough to type out her information and since it was so nice and neat I did not feel the need to redo it.

SEE YOU AT THE MARCH MEETING! Dianne

The Campbell River Genealogy Club Invites
You To Our Annual Spring...

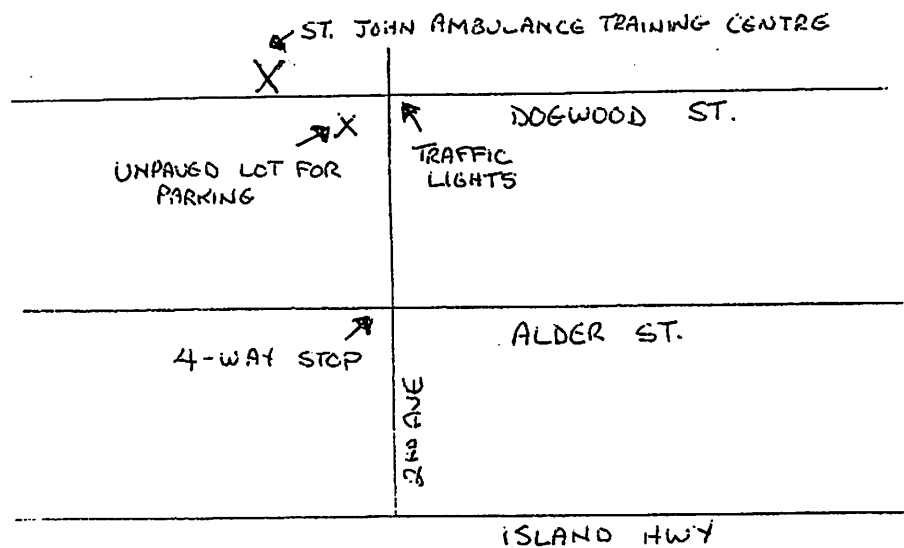
Genealogical Seminar

Saturday, March 12, 1994
9:00 am - 3:30 pm

St. John Ambulance Training Centre
170 Dogwood St.
Campbell River, B.C.

Cost: \$5.00
Includes Light Lunch

For Information or Pre-Registration, Phone
Irene at 287-4894 or Donna at 337-5363



Register for as many as 4 of the informative workshops!

Tracing Your "Family Tree" Is Fun, And Exciting - Join Us!

Time	Course		
9:00 - 9:30 am	Last Minute Registration, Coffee, Pastries		
9:30 - 10:45	Genealogy by Mail	Ontario Research	Beginning Your Genealogy
11:00 - 12:00	U.S. Census & Soundex Research	English Parish Records	Canadian Research - General
12:10 - 12:50	LUNCH		
1:00 - 2:15	Genealogy by Mail	Germanic Genealogy	English Census Research
2:30 - 3:30	English Military Research	Using L.D.S. Records	Hudson Bay Archives

The Instructors:

Gladys Smith - Campbell River's most noted genealogist, and one of the founders of the Campbell River Genealogy Club. She is the force behind most local genealogists, and keeps the closest L.D.S. centre going. Gladys is extremely knowledgeable in any aspect of genealogy (and computers too). Gladys is to genealogy, what Wayne Gretsky is to hockey!

Marion Summerer - Past-President of the Club, and instrumental body in the Club obtaining an official library, as well as getting the Club involved in local genealogical projects. Marion, who is a librarian at North Island College, has done research in German (and English) genealogy.

Candy-Lea Chickite - C.R.G.C.'s current President. Candy-Lea has done extensive research in the U.S., and has an extremely high success rate gathering new relatives - by mail.

Pat Goddard - has been the Club's treasurer since the birth of the Club in 1986. Pat hails from England, and has been researching for many years. Her knowledge of English records is well versed - you won't want to leave the class!

Phyllis Ring - C.R.G.C.'s Vice-President, and in charge of Club "Projects". Phyllis leads the "Special Interest Group for Beginners" (at our Club meetings), and was involved in a seminar last year, held especially for those beginning their genealogy and families history.

Donna Cox - has just vacated the Secretary position, after nearly 3 years on the job. She has done a considerable amount of Canadian research, and has a lot of information on Ontario to share. If you're currently doing, or believe you will soon be involved in Ontario research, Donna can shed some light.

Ed Bourque - is one of the Genealogy Club's founding members, and has years of research experience. He'll be available in the library from 9:30 - 10:45, and can give guidance if you're doing Quebec, Acadian or French research. He has done a lot of digging in Canadian records, and we're eagerly awaiting to hear what he's found in the Hudson Bay Archives.

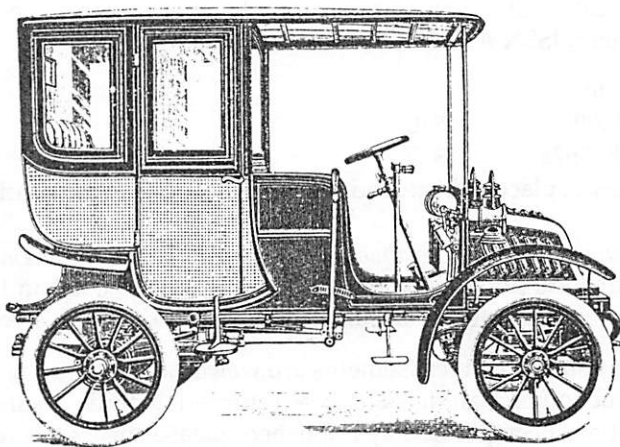
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Ancestry Tree

Newsletter of the Nanaimo Family History Society
Vancouver Island, British Columbia

Volume 11, issue #2

Summer 1994

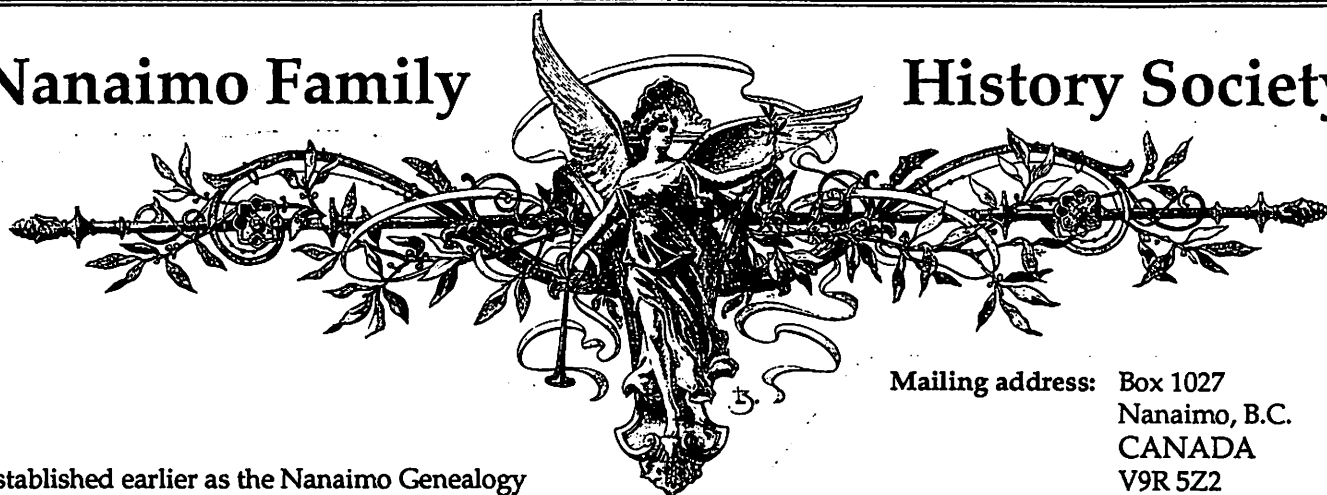


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Nanaimo Family

History Society



Mailing address: Box 1027
Nanaimo, B.C.
CANADA
V9R 5Z2

Established earlier as the Nanaimo Genealogy Club in 1981, the purpose of the NFHS is to:

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third Tuesday each month, 11 a.m. - 3 p.m.

1994/5 Executive:	President	Leona Dettwiler	390-2288
	First vice president	Sharon Davison	758-0618
	Second vice president	Peter McIntyre	758-0908
	Treasurer	Ron Zinck	754-8817
	Newsletter editor	Tom W. Parkin	758-1245

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Our editors are volunteers, cannot check accuracy of material submitted, nor accept responsibility for errors. Editors reserve the right to change and/or use copy as seen suitable. The Nanaimo Family History Society isn't responsible for the opinions of authors printed in its newsletter.

Every care is taken with all submissions, but no responsibility is accepted for material lost or damaged while in transit, or while in the hands of club members and their agents.

Editorial

AncesTree gets a facelift

We've had a facelift! (Kiss this cheek, baby). This issue of *AncesTree* is first in our new design which is intended to make it fun to read and to easy to extract information from. Do you like our new appeal? One thing we're doing to look professional is to use a news-style type font (it's called Palatino). We're also using a slightly larger-than-usual type size for the benefit of our slightly older-than-40 readers.

After another issue or two, we'll do a reader survey so you can let us know how you feel about our relationship. It's been years since our newsletter did a reader survey, and we'd like to make such feedback a more frequent event. First though, we want you to become accustomed to this new look. In the meantime, we'll still do whatever is in our power to improve. We'll accept every little thing you whisper in our ear or send us in a note. Some of you have done this already.

We're especially willing to chase a good story. We wanna know the news! You've got pictures? — GREAT. Let's show the others. What you should do is get ahold of editor **Tom Parkin** (his number is on the inside cover). Take a look there how you too, can send stories, pictures or art to *AncesTree*.

In particular, we'd like to use an interesting cover photo on each issue. By this we mean images of genealogical significance. Something that has a story behind it, or which represents our region in some way. Your photos may also be a way of teaching people about examining images — maybe it helped you discover a person or place in your research. Contact us with suggestions!

On the printed work side, we regret copyright laws don't permit the republication of any material without the written consent of its author or publisher. (Canadian copyrights remain with an author for 50 years after his or her death). There are no exceptions to this — photocopying of printed material — even cartoons — is unacceptable and illegal because it takes away income from the creator or the publisher.

Many people feel re-use of small items such as 'fillers', or even credited material, particularly for non-commercial use such as a club newsletter, is acceptable. This isn't so unless it's a short quotation or passage used for a review or other attribution. *AncesTree* intends to meet the same journalistic standards as larger publishers, and will no longer run previously-printed submissions unless it can be shown there is no liability in doing so.

Though it is harder to be an editor under such conditions, this decision should actually improve the quality of the material you will read here in the future. Our material will not only be original, but will have increased emphasis on mid-Vancouver Island. This, after all, is why people join the NFHS. We have in this issue a story by **Peggy Nicholls** which is just the kind of thing we'd like to see more often. Any other contributors out there?

In future issues, you may look forward to useful references on local history, stories on our past, and photos showing what our community was like. You are part of this mosaic, and are encouraged to provide material.

One project which you might help with is compiling a list of book titles relating to Nanaimo-area history, particularly as it involves people. There must be dozens of books covering the the last century. Can you recommend any? Some are out-of-print or may have been self-published, and so aren't always carried in popular stores. Let me know of any you feel would be helpful to a genealogist. Our deadline for the next issue is August 31st.

Mark these new venues on your calendar!

The June 16th meeting of the NFHS will be held at Rutherford Village Mall. We will gather at the regular time of 7 p.m. in the theatre opposite the Food Fair for a brief meeting. Afterwards, volunteers from the Nanaimo Military Museum will lead us through their displays and resources (see *They Shall Grow Not Old*, page 4xcxc).

In the fall, we will not be returning to the Selby Street location for meetings. We have found new quarters in the Maffeo Auditorium, which is in the Community Services Building, located at the corner of Prideaux and Fitzwilliam Streets. This is across from the RCMP building, the downtown library and next to Fire Station #1.

Entry is much easier — only three steps, and there is wheelchair accessibility. Nor will the door be locked if you arrive late! Use the door facing the fire hall, please.

Nanaimo's Comox Road Cemetery

feature story by Peggy Nicholls

Nanaimo's first cemetery was a lot bounded by Wallace and Comox Streets. This Pioneer Cemetery was in use until 1877, with a few family graves being used after that date. Today, it is a tiny, pleasant, but overlooked park with headstones set in a memorial wall.

It was soon evident this area was not only overcrowded, but becoming a health hazard. So on October 30, 1865, **Charles Alfred Bayley** brought this resolution into the House of Assembly:

"That his Excellency be prayed to cause to be laid before the House information regarding the burial ground at Nanaimo, whether any land is set aside for such purpose — whether the land in which now lie some 30 persons is consecrated ground or otherwise." The motion was seconded, but there seems to have been no follow-through.

After the city was incorporated in 1874, the municipal council applied to the Provincial Government for a land grant to establish a cemetery, stating the over-crowded state of the present cemetery made a new burial ground an imperative. Its application was refused on the grounds all government lands were reserved for railway purposes. A money grant was also requested, but was not forthcoming.

In October 1875, council asked the Vancouver Coal Company for a land grant. The company gave five acres situated on Comox Road for use as a public cemetery. Nanaimo's first mayor, **Mark Bate**, and **councilman Brinn** chose the site.

No money was available for development of this property, and it was another year before public pressure was brought to bear on the council. The cemetery committee attempted to raise money for clearing, draining and fencing. Subscription lists were put in local stores and saloons. About \$100 was collected, over half of which came from Departure Bay. A concert on February 24, 1876, raised another \$170.

The Cemetery Act stated the government should assist with public cemeteries. A petition was circulated and widely signed, asking for funds. No answer was received. A change in government occurred, and a second petition netted \$250.

Mr. Langdale completed a survey and a plan was laid out. By June, the land was cleared, and by fall, the cemetery was ready. Several families claim first internment in the new grounds. This is difficult to ascertain as several coffins

disinterred at the Pioneer Cemetery and moved to the new.

In 1881, a second plan drawn as some plots were now on roadways because boundaries had been changed and extra land purchased. Plots were renumbered in red on the new plan. Fraternal lodges were granted portions for exclusive use, as were Finnish settlers.

In 1897, after a discrepancy was found in the city budget, an audit was called. It discovered 163 persons were indebted to the cemetery. Of these, \$614 was owed from burial of the mine explosion victims of 1887, 34 indigenous persons were from the hospital and 51 persons were buried for whom there was no record.

Motions were made to write off the debts of the miners as their employer had donated the land. Plots used by the hospital were also written off, and the balance of Range 14 of the old plan was set aside for internments from the hospital.

Another motion was made that the cemetery committee take the list of 51 persons with no record, "and go to the cemetery to try to locate the graves . . ."

Review of the *Nanaimo Free Press* and city council minutes well into 1898 reveals no further mention of this committee. During the 20th century came further changes to both the Pioneer and the Comox Road Cemeteries.

Editor's note: NFHS has published two indices to this cemetery — details inside our front cover. NFHS secretary Paul Shaw, who helped assemble that data, and who has it on a computerized spreadsheet, tells of a lady from Edinburgh, Scotland, who wrote after the work had been done. She asked for details on an ancestor.

Paul was able to run a search, not only for that person, but of the all plots having that surname. This revealed seven people. He wrote the lady with the information.

She responded effusively, saying the information revealed another ancestor who had previously been thought to be buried somewhere in Scotland. Such are the joys of genealogical labour — not only for the researcher, but for those whose enormous effort compiled that information as a project four years ago.

Though queries to Nanaimo are infrequent, our work is invaluable, and will long outlive any of us. We share our legacy with the world.

They Shall Grow Not Old

Anyone seeking a person lost during WW II may now refer to a book written by veteran **Les Allison** of Roland, MB. Allison has collected the names of over 18,000 Canadian men and women, and some nationals, who gave their lives in the service of the RCAF. His book is titled *They Shall Grow Not Old*, and is available for reference in the Nanaimo Military Museum, Rutherford Village Mall.

Queries

Queries printed in *AncesTree* may be up to 75 words. They are free to all members; non-members are charged \$5.00 per name. We'll send you a copy of the newsletter in which your query appears. Please print or type your query, and don't abbreviate. Be sure to proof-read it before sending it to us.

SHRIMPTON is my mother's surname, and I am researching it in England. Most of the work is done by a lady doing a world-wide, one-name guild study for the surname. In return, I would like to add to the study any Canadian Shrimpton. Please let me know when and where, etc. Many thanks.

Contact: **D.C.H. Cox**, 13252 - 17A Avenue
Surrey, B.C. V4A 6R9
CANADA
Telephone: (604) 531-4789

Surviving relatives of **RICHARD BROOKS**, who died at age 31, October 31, 1918, during the influenza epidemic, are sought by his grand-daughter.

One of his brother's first name is believed to have begun with L, "but that is not necessarily correct," writes Mrs. S. Lee in the *Nanaimo Daily Free Press* (Friday, April 15, 1994).

Two brothers were born in England and lived in Fernie, B.C., where Richard Brooks worked as a coal miner before coming to Nanaimo.

Contact: **Mrs. Shirley Lee**
3 Sycamore Place,
Wanaka, NEW ZEALAND.

¿Qué quiere decir?

Did you know the Chamber of Commerce for Greater Nanaimo and the Central Vancouver Island Multicultural Society both maintain lists of translators available in the local area? They offer service in about ten languages. Negotiations are made directly between the translator and the client.

Latest library acquisitions

We remind Nanaimo readers that references in the NFHS library includes many books and newsletters helpful to research elsewhere in the world. Anyone with connections in such regions will find much of interest in such publications. Genealogical journals received in the last three months include:

Yesterday's Footprints

Alberta Genealogical Society: Lethbridge and District Branch
April 1994

Je me souviens

American-French Genealogical Society
Spring 1994

The Hampshire Family Historian

Journal of the Hampshire Genealogical Society (England)
May 1994

Oregon Genealogical Society, Inc.

Quarterly

Spring 1994

The Midland Ancestor

Journal of the Birmingham and Midland Society for Genealogy and Heraldry March 1994

The Newfoundland Ancestor

Newfoundland and Labrador Genealogical Society,
Spring 1994

Hamilton Branch

Hamilton Branch, Ontario Genealogical Society
May 1994

London Leaf

London & Middlesex County Branch, Ontario Genealogical Society
May 1994

Journal

Victoria Genealogical Society (B.C.)
May 1994

Ancestors West

Santa Barbara County Genealogical Society (CA)
Spring 1994

Journal

Nottinghamshire Family History Society (England)
January 1994 and April 1994

Journal

Cornwall Family History Society (England)
March 1994

Chowkidar

Newsletter of the British Association for Cemeteries in South Asia
Spring 1994

New acquisitions (con't)

Toronto Tree

Toronto Branch of Ontario Genealogical Society
March/April 1994 and May/June 1994

The Tracer

Oxford County Branch of ON Genealogical Society
May 1994

The British Columbia Genealogist

British Columbia Genealogical Society
March 1994

North Central North Dakota Genealogical Record

Mouse River Loop Genealogical Society
March 1994 and June 1994

The Treehouse

Campbell River Genealogy Club (B.C.)
March 1994

Tree Tracer

Prince George Family History Society (B.C.)
March 1994

The Bulletin

Saskatchewan Genealogical Society
March 1994

Huguenot Trails

The Huguenot Society of Canada
Spring 1994

American-Canadian Genealogist

American-Canadian Genealogical Society
Winter 1994

Trail Breakers

Clark County Genealogical Society, Vancouver, WA
Spring 1994

Newsletter

Clark County Genealogical Society, Vancouver, WA
March, April and June 1994

Address changes

Please correct your records

Alberta Health	B. C. Genealogical Soc.
Vital Statistics Division	Box 88054
10365 - 97 Street	Lansdowne Post Office
Edmonton, AB	Richmond, B.C.
T5J 3W7	V6X 3T6

Hamilton Branch, Ontario Genealogical Society
Box 904
Hamilton, ON
L8N 3P6
Telephone: (905) 529-0039

Hudson Bay Co. donates archives

The HBC has turned over its huge corporate archives to the Manitoba Archives in Winnipeg, reports Canadian Press. The collection covers everything from journals describing daily life to accounting ledges, maps, books, paintings and 160,000 photographs. The period covers three centuries. The collection was previously on loan to the MB archives, but is now publicly owned.

Ann, Anna or Hannah?

People are lazy when it comes to speaking. We use contractions, slang, short words and nicknames. They save us time, and they indicate familiarity. An interview might reveal the name of an ancestor, it will be hard to find their record unless you know their formal nomenclature. Here are some for men:

Given name	Nickname
Aaron	Ron
Alexander	Sandy
Andrew	Andy, Drew
Anthony	Tony
Augustus	Gus
Charles	Chick, Chuck
Christopher	Kit
Cornelius	Neil
Elijah	Eli
Elijah	Eli, Lige
Elisha	Eli, Lish
Eric	Rick
Ezekiel	Zeke
Francis	Frank
Frederick	Fred, Fritz
Geoffrey	Jeff
Harold	Hal, Harry
Henry	Hal, Harry, Hank
Ignatius	Iggy, Nace
Isaac	Ike, Zeke
Jacob	Jake, Jay
John	Jack, Jock
Michael	Mickey
Montgomery	Gum, Monty
Napoleon	Leon
Orlando	Lanny, Roland
Patrick	Paddy, Peter
Roger	Hodge
Russell	Rusty
Sheridan	Dan, Danny
Solomon	Sal, Sol, Solly, Zolly
Sullivan	Sully
Zachariah	Zach, Zeke

More places to write

International Vital Records Handbook by **Thomas J. Kemp** (1990) has prices for forms used for births, marriages and deaths in each province or state, and samples of various certificates. Its call number is R929.3 at the Fitzwilliam St. library.

The Genealogist's Address Book by **Elizabeth Petty Bentley** (1991) publishes the contact name and location of archives and libraries, genealogical societies, historical societies, and government departments throughout North America. Its call number is R929.106 in the same library branch.

Removing mildew

Sometimes mildew can be removed from papers and book pages by a good dusting with cornstarch. Allow the powder to remain on for several days before giving it the brush-off.

Share The Wealth II

Last winter, our Share The Wealth writing contest resulted in such interesting anecdotes that we now announce our second annual contest.

Genealogy research often turns up fascinating information which seldom gets publicity. We encourage you to share any which may have surfaced during work on your family tree.

Have you come across an incident, event or relationship of which you're particularly proud? One which your long-deceased relative may not have wanted reported in the paper? Something which illustrated particular courage or devotion? The further back in time the event occurred, the better.

Of a more practical and recent nature, how about your research itself? Have you made unexpected discoveries or experienced coincidences? Have you discovered a 'gold mine' which broadens or extends your tree? Have you met with relatives discovered only through your research? Have you travelled to do searches and been successful? Then it's time to put pen to paper!

Tell us about it, in short form or up to 500 words. Remember the emphasis is on the story, and the sharing of it, brief though it may be. If you have more than one story to tell, please use a separate sheet for each. Add your name, and turn it into any member of the executive at any meeting prior to the deadline of February 1995. The best will be published in our June newsletter.

We hope to hear from you.

What's in a name?

Road signs are markers not only for modern wayfarers, but indicate area pioneers or early events. Here are three of many thousands commemorating people who made a difference in the development of Vancouver Island. Though the Ministry of Transportation and Highways has a policy of naming roads after local residents, regrettably it keeps no records of value to genealogists.

Lee Road

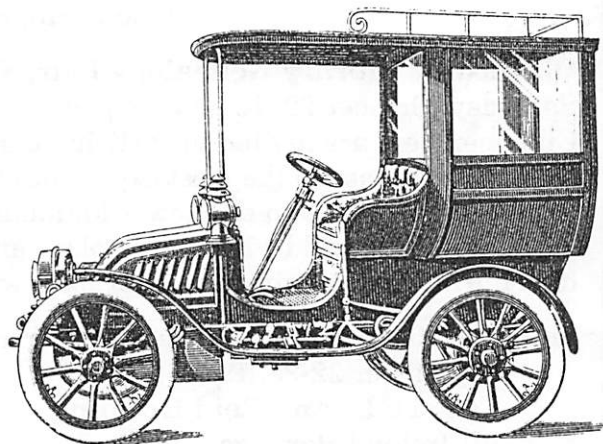
Island Highway at French Creek

Harry Lee was a child of the first settler at Frenchman's Creek, as the area was known in 1886. He was hired about 1911 by the Public Works Department as road foreman. "It helped considerably that he was a Conservative, as in those days politics dictated the availability of government jobs," reports *The Arrowsmith Star* (March 27, 1990). This article contains considerable information on this pioneer family.

The early road from French Creek to Qualicum was a three-foot trail hacked out by local farmers. Harry greatly improved it. That's probably why he survived later changes of government. He was still foreman when the second wooden bridge at French Creek was built in the 1930s.

On May 20, 1948, Harry was brought out of retirement to help cut the ribbon to open a new Englishman River bridge with premier **Bryon 'Boss' Johnson** and **E.C. Carson**, the minister of Public Works. Tom Parkin has photos of the event.

Harry was buried in the Old Timer's plot in the cemetery at St. Anne's churchyard in 1951. Lee Road is the only memorial to this outstanding family.



Continued on page 8

Godfrey Road

Nanaimo, Metral Drive & Big Bear Ridge
Amos Godfrey was born May 1861 on an English sheep farm. At 18, he emigrated to the U.S., ending up as a homesteader about two miles from the Wellington coal mines. His energy was enormous. After his work in the diggings, he found time to build a home, clear land and plant an orchard.

He quit coal mining the day of the great 1888 explosion which, along with 60 others, killed his younger brother. Ironically, it was in a mine that he met his own end. He was buried alive in a cave-in at McDame Post, on the Dease River in northern B.C. in 1929. His grave is unmarked.

Godfrey Road parallels his former property. Amos's grandson **Norman** still lives in Nanaimo, and spoke to the NFHS in April about organizing a large family reunion.

Braddock Road Errington

Wilson Braddock was another Englishman who came to Canada's west coast to farm. He was well-to-do and well educated, but chose a simple life with his wife. He moved from Nootka Island to Errington during WW II because supply ships no longer travelled the outer coast.

Wilson was a lover of the outdoors. Not infrequently he shot grouse or caught fish for his meals. He worked until he was 70 for the Department of Public Works as resident engineer. Each summer he left his farm to supervise paving projects around the province.

In memorium and gratias Ralph Vernon, M.A.

by **Paul Shaw**

On 18 May 1994, **Ralph Vernon**, at age 74, went to join his beloved wife **Jessie**, who died in June 1993. For over 10 years, Ralph and Jessie were strong supporters of the NFHS. In 1988, when our group needed a guiding hand, Ralph served as president. In 1990, he took over the duties of secretary. The records kept by him reveal an orderly mind.

Ralph was a quiet and thoughtful person. Those who had the privilege of working with him as members of the NFHS executive valued his wisdom and attention to detail.

A native of Ohio, Ralph taught in California before moving to B.C. In 1969, he joined the initial faculty of Malaspina College in Nanaimo, where he taught mathematics until retirement in 1985. In addition to his love of genealogy, he was active in the Power and Sail squadron, Westwood Racquet Club and the local NDP.

If friends so wish, they may make donations to the **Ralph Vernon Mathematics Scholarship** at Malaspina University-College, c/o Math Department, 900 5th St., Nanaimo, B.C. V9R 5S5.

— • —

Additional condolences to long-time member **Elsie Gardiner** on the death of her husband, **Harry**, on May 23rd.

Datebook

Upcoming events of interest to members

Cloverdale Library Genealogy Fair, Surrey, B.C.

Saturday, October 22, 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Club members are invited to participate in this event, the purpose of which is to provide genealogists from the beginner to the most experienced, information about all the services, societies, classes and collections available in the Lower Mainland, Vancouver Island and Washington State to support their research. There will be booths, displays and handouts (NFHS is participating). Short seminars will be held during the morning and afternoon, with a one-hour break for lunch.

2nd Irish Genealogical Congress, Trinity College, Dublin

September 22-28, 1994

Contact: **Donna Reid Hotaling**

All-Ireland Heritage

Post Office Box 7

Dunn Loring,

VA 22027

Or phone: (703) 560-4496

(This is a commercial business also offering heritage tours.)

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Ancestry Tree

Newsletter of the Nanaimo Family History Society
Vancouver Island, British Columbia

ISSN #1185-166X

Volume 11, issue #3

Fall 1994



Inside this issue:

Books on Nanaimo history
Latest library acquisitions
Cloverdale genealogical fair
Queries
Hours of local libraries
List of dead miners, 1877
Datebook

*Statue of longtime Nanaimo mayor
Frank James Ney (1918-1992). Photo
by member Joan Blair.*

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fourth Monday each month, 6:30 p.m. - 9 p.m.

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	Secretary	Paul Shaw	756-2626
	Treasurer	Ron Zinck	751-0921
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- | | |
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| 3 Name index of births, marriages and deaths published in the Nanaimo Free Press: April 1874 to December 1899 | \$6 |
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Publications about Nanaimo and environs

Where do I start? What's been published that could help me? These are questions many family researchers begin with. So, here is a list of publications which you should examine for information about local people. Needless to say, you should also review local newspapers on microfilm, back issues of *AncesTree*, plus the indexed publications of the the NFHS (see inside cover for details). Don't forget the community archives — they have much unpublished material which could be helpful.

There are many additional books about this region, but your editor felt these were the titles most worthy of examination for family names. Some of the books are still in print; others are available only through libraries or museums.

Nanaimo Pioneer Cemetery headstone transcripts
B.C. Genealogical Society, Richmond
4 pp.

Up in the morning, out on the job
by **George Dorman**
Published 1994 by the author, Nanaimo
192 pp.; reminiscences (some highly personal)

Discover Nanaimo
by **Charles Lillard**
Published 1992 by Greater Nanaimo Chamber of Commerce
149 pp.; photos and index

*Nanaimo Retrospective:
The First Century*
Edited by **E. Blanche Norcross**
Published 1983 (revised version) by Nanaimo Historical Society
169 pp.; includes index and photos

A History of Nanoose Bay
by **M. A. Nicholls**
Published 1958 by Nanoose Centennial Committee
55 pp.; very limited distribution

People of Gabriola
by **June Lewis-Harrison**
Published 1982 by the author, Gabriola Island
288 pp. of pioneer history

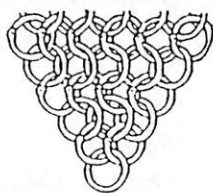
Nanaimo
by **Patricia M. Johnson**
Published 1974 by Trendex Publications and Western Heritage, Vancouver, B.C.
139 pp.

Boss Whistle (1982), *Three Dollar Dreams* (1987)
by **Lynne Bowen**
Both published by Oolichan Books, Lantzville, B.C.
Both cover coal mining history of Vancouver Island

Brass Roots: History of the Nanaimo Concert Band
by **Amy Campbell**
Published 1989 by the author, Nanaimo
68 pp.; lots of names

Nanaimo: The Story of a City
Published 1983 by Nanaimo Museum Society
68 pp.; lots of photos

HBC: The Nanaimo Memorandum
Unpublished journal of the fort, 1855-1857
Nanaimo Community Archives
55 pp.; many other papers also available



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visit to
Victoria

Latest library acquisitions

Publications received in the NFHS library since the previous issue of *AncesTree* include:

The Midland Ancestor

Journal of the Birmingham and Midland Society for Genealogy and Heraldry June 1994

Bulletin

Saskatchewan Genealogical Society
June and September, 1994

Kindred Spirits

Whitby Oshawa Branch, ON Genealogical Society
Spring 1994

Journal #51, May 1994

Aberdeen & North East Scotland Family History Society

The British Columbia Genealogist

British Columbia Genealogical Society
June 1994

Newsletter

British Columbia Genealogical Society
June 1994

Tree Tracer

Prince George Family History Society (BC)
June 1994

American-Canadian Genealogist

American-Canadian Genealogical Society
Spring 1994

AFGnews

American-French Genealogical Society
May-June and September-October, 1994

Journal

Cornwall Family History Society, ENG
June and September, 1994

Connections

Québec Family History Society
June and September, 1994

North West Kent Family History

North West Kent Family History Society, ENG
April and July 1994

Huguenot Trails

The Huguenot Society of Canada
Summer 1994

Trail Breakers

Clark County Genealogical Society, WA
Summer 1994

Ancestors West

Santa Barbara County Genealogical Society, CA
Summer and Fall, 1994

The Treehouse

Campbell River Genealogical Club, BC
June 1994

Hamilton Branch

Hamilton Branch, Ontario Genealogical Society
August 1994

OGS Quarterly

Oregon Genealogical Society, Inc.
Summer 1994

London Leaf

London & Middlesex County Branch of OGS, ON
August 1994

Toronto Tree

Toronto Branch, ON Genealogical Society
July/August 1994

The Tracer

Oxford County Branch, ON Genealogical Society
August 1994

Journal

Nottingham Family History Society, ENG
July 1994

Families

Ontario Genealogical Society
Volume 33: February, May and August 1994

Newsleaf

Ontario Genealogical Society
Volume 24: February, May and August 1994

North Central North Dakota Genealogical Record

Mouse River Loop Genealogical Society
September 1994

We also received a bundle of old journals from Alberta. In it were copies of *Clandigger*, the newsletter of the Edmonton Branch of the Alberta Genealogical Society, and *Relatively Speaking*, the publication of the AGS. The issues are not continuous, but pertain mainly to 1992 and 1993.

Theatre of the absurd

Reader **Keith Ketchen** writes to tell us of a piece in *The Globe and Mail* on Saturday, July 2, 1994. It describes how an English restaurant owner researched his family history for 30 years, travelled all over the country and met some 2,000 people he thought were relatives — only to finally be told that he was adopted. Imagine.

Cloverdale genealogical fair

NFHS members will be showing our group's wares and soliciting membership at an upcoming genealogy fair being held at western Canada's largest genealogical library in Cloverdale. The event is being held on Saturday, October 22nd, between 10 a.m. and 4 p.m. at 5642 176A Street

This will be a great opportunity to examine the resources of the library, learn about other organizations in the Lower Mainland and Washington State with similar interests, and to talk with fellow genealogists. Group travel arrangements will be discussed at our October meeting.

On the Cloverdale program will be short seminars, including:

Bruce Watson, Kwantlen College
Finding your ancestors in the fur trade
— with emphasis on western Canada

Lorraine Irving
Making sense of the census

Larry Bell, Kanaka descendent
The Hawaiian connection

James Stock
Multi media and family history

Philip Lothyan, U.S. Archives
Resources at the US Archives

In addition, seminar topics including Loyalist research, Mennonite family histories, bulletin boards for beginners, Scandinavian roots and more, will be presented. There will be displays, professional advice and material for sale. In short, stuff which could help your work considerably.

Former NFHS member **Norm Godfrey** called with a tip recently. He says Health and Welfare Canada won't give out information on any client, but said they would forward mail to them. If you're seeking a living, 'lost' relative who may be receiving government benefits, this could be a way of establishing contact. The H&WC office is at Box 1177, Victoria, B.C. V8W 2V2.

Nanaimo research hours

Here are new fall hours of local genealogical research locations:

NFHS library

New hours were set at our September meeting, and are listed on the inside cover of this newsletter. Note the Saturday time starts an hour earlier. The Monday time has been chosen for the convenience of working members who can't visit during the day. Thanks to **Marj McLellan** for opening her home.

Malaspina University College library

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Friday	8 a.m. - 5 p.m.
Saturday & Sunday	Noon - 5 p.m.
Statutory holidays	Closed

LDS Family History Centre

Monday	10 a.m. - 1 p.m.
Tuesday	10 a.m. - 1 p.m.
Wednesday	11 a.m. - 2 p.m.
Thursday	10:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.
Friday	10 a.m. - 1 p.m.

To reserve a microfilm reader, call 758-1360 during open hours.

Queries

Queries printed in *AncesTree* may be up to 75 words. They are free to all members; non-members are charged \$5.00 per name, per issue. We'll send you a copy of the newsletter in which your query appears. Please print or type your query, and don't abbreviate. Be sure to proof-read it before sending it to us.

SHRIMPSON is my mother's surname, and I am researching it in England. Most of the work is being done by a lady on a world-wide, one-name guild study for the surname. In return, I would like to add to the study any Canadian Shrimpton. Please let me know when and where, etc. Many thanks.

Contact: **D.C.H. Cox**, 13252 - 17A Ave.
Surrey, B.C. V4A 6R9
CANADA
Telephone: (604) 531-4789

Our Great Disaster!
Total Loss of Life in the Mine Will
Reach 148!!
96 White and 52 Chinamen.

46 Widows and 126 Orphaned Children!

These were just some of the multiple headlines used by the *Nanaimo Free Press* on Saturday, May 7, 1877, when it reported details of a gas explosion and fire in the No. 1 Esplanade Shaft of the Vancouver Coal Company at Nanaimo. Date of the explosion was May 3rd.

An accompanying story covers the event, survivors, rescue attempts and feeling in the community. We reproduce here the list of European dead (Orientals not mentioned). Anyone finding details of interest should refer to the original document. While every care has been taken to ensure accuracy in transcription, the worn type of the printer and the photocopy from which we worked made some letters illegible. Modern editorial asides are contained within square brackets. Readers should also note there are obvious discrepancies in names in the original version. These have not been corrected here.

NO. 1 LEVEL

George Bowden, native of Cornwall, ENG., aged 71 years, widower.

George Simmonds, native of London, ENG., aged 35, wife and 1 child.

John Sterens, native of Iowa, U.S., aged 23 years, single.

Thomas Martin, native of Nanaimo, aged 23 years, single.

David Ellis, native of Rothwell, Yorkshire, ENG., aged 48 years, wife and 4 children.

Arthur Ellis, aged 21 years, son of David Ellis.

Benjamin Popplewell, native of Methley, near Leeds, Yorkshire, ENG., ag about 28 years, single.

James Thomas, native of Wales, ENG., aged 35 years, single.

Jos. Watson, native of Weardale, Durham, ENG., aged 30 years, single.

Edward John, native of Wales, ENG., Minnesota, aged 40 years, wife and large family.

David Morgan, native of Cowbridge, Glamorgan-shire, South Wales, age 27 years, single.

Edward Wilkins, native of Cowbridge, Glamorganshire, aged 26 years, single.

Edward Benton, native of Rothwell, Yorkshire,

ENG., aged 36 years, wife and 6 children.

Jonathan Bramley, Jr., native of Rothwell, Yorkshire, aged 36 years, wife and 3 children.

James Campbell, native of Reyi, Sussex, ENG., aged 3[?] years, married but no family.

John Malcolm, native of Nanaimo, age 25, single.

Robert Buffington, native of Washington Territory, aged 26 years, single.

John McGuffie, native of Nanaimo, age 23 years, single.

John C. Fallon, native of Michigan, U.S., recently from California, about 30 years of age, single.

James Milton, native of Indiana, U.S., recently from California, about 30 years of age, single.

William Bone, native of Penzance, Cornwall, aged 43 years, wife and 3 children.

William Gilbert, native of Goldsithney, Cornwall, aged 43 years, wife and 4 children.

John Richards, native of Birmingham, ENG., aged 45 years, wife but no family, except a son in England by his first wife.

Joseph Forrest, native of Longhurst, Northumberland, ENG., aged 28 years, married but a few weeks.

Joseph Thompson, native of Peltonfell, Durham, ENG., aged 37 years, wife and 3 children.

John Meakin, Sr., native of London, ENG., aged 57 years, wife and 9 children, a pioneer resident of this city.

Andrew Muir, native of Ayrshire, SCOT., aged 45 years, wife and 6 children. [Elsewhere states that he was a fireman, and lead a group of men in an unsuccessful attempt to escape.]

William R. Campbell, native of Sydney Mines, Cape Breton, aged 28 years, single.

J. J. Smith, native of Liverpool, ENG., lately from Australia, aged 25 years and believed to be single.

Michael Lyons, whose father is in the mine, was taken out on Thursday morning by the exploring party. The body was found at the half-way switch, and is badly burned about the head and hands. He was aged 15 years. [Elsewhere states that he was a mule driver.]

Andrew Hunter, native of Nanaimo, aged 15 years. [Elsewhere states he was a mule driver.]

NEW SLOPE

Daniel Dawson, native of Cletermore, Cumberland, ENG., aged 28 years, single.

William Burns, native of SCOT., aged about 35 years, single. Burns was a soldier in the Egyptian Campaign and received a silver medal.

Thomas Perry, native of Backworth, Northumberland, ENG., aged 32 years, wife and 4 children.

Robert Nicholson, native of Northumberland, ENG., aged 34 years, wife and 2 children.
Jonathan Blundell, native of Maryport, Cumberland, ENG., age 33, wife and 5 children.
George Biggs, native of Nanaimo, age 27, single.
Thomas Dawson, native of Cletermore, Cumberland, ENG., aged 32 years, single.
Thomas Hughes, native of Buckley, Flintshire, North Wales, about 32 years of age, wife and 2 or 3 children.
Charles Drake, native of Sweden, aged 27 years, wife and 3 children.
Caton Willis, native of St. Charles, CAN., aged 40 years, wife and 3 children.
William Hague, native of Oldham, Lancashire, ENG., aged 23 years, wife and 1 child.
James Lyons, native of IRE., aged 44 years, wife and 1 child.
John Thompson, native of Maryport, Cumberland, aged 32 years, single.
Allan Smiley, native of Glasgow, SCOT., aged 34 years, wife and 1 child.
William Morris, from Missouri, U.S., aged 30 years, wife and 3 children.
William Hoy, native of Sydney Mines, Cape Breton, aged 21 years, wife and 1 child.
John Myles, native of Redding, Shropshire, SCOT., aged 39 years, single.
Alexander McDonald, native of Pictou County, Nova Scotia, aged 23 years, single.
William Scales, native of New Westminster, B.C., aged 27 years, single.
Frank Tully, native of California, aged 28 years, wife and 1 child.
William Henry Stephenson, native of Macon County, Missouri, aged 18 years, married but no children.
Arthur Meakin, native of Nanaimo, 19 years, youngest son of J. Meakin, Sr., who was also killed.
Thomas Gorman, native of Middleton, County Cork, IRE., aged 24 years, single.
John Johnson, native of Sweden, aged about 31 years, wife and 4 or 5 children.

NO. 5 LEVEL — OLD SLOPE

Michael Corcoran, native of County Kerry, IRE., recently of Sydney Mines, Cape Breton, aged 46 years, wife and 6 children.
Malcolm McLean, native of Sydney Mines, Cape Breton, aged 31 years, single.
Peter Ducca, a native of Kermaco, Italy, aged 25 years, single.
Jubert Tellaro, native of Turino, Italy, aged 38 years, wife and 3 children.

John Zermani, native of Matte, Parma, Italy, aged 38 years, wife and 3 children.
Anderoti Fillippea, native of Genoa, Italy, aged 28 years, single.
Nicholas John, native of Cornwall, ENG., aged 26 years, wife but no children.
Roderick McDonald, native of Cape Breton, aged 37 years, wife and child.
John W. Morgan, native of County Down, IRE., aged about 28 years, single.
Samuel H. Myers, native of IRE., age 49, single.
Thomas Allen, native of Bristol, ENG., about 24 years of age, single.
Arvid Bjuriing, native of Sweden, aged 30 years, supposed to be single.

NO. 3 LEVEL — NORTH

George Old, native of Fen[?]bee, Cornwall, aged 46 years, wife and 1 child.
Abraham T. Lewis, native of Brymbo near Wrenham, North Wales, age 47, wife and 1 child.
John Woobank, native of Leeds, Yorkshire, ENG., aged 41 years, wife and 9 children.
Copley Woobank, native of Rothwell, Yorkshire, aged 18 years, son of John Woobank above.
Thomas Evans, native of Liwynpia, Rhonda Valley, Glamorganshire, South Wales, aged 40 years, wife and 4 children.
Evan Jones, native of Llanarmon, Yu Tale, late Dog and Partridge, Denbighshire, North Wales, aged 40 years.
William Davey, native of Whitehaven, Cumberland, aged 33 years, single.
James Davey, native of Whitehaven, Cumberland, aged 36 years, single.
John Henry Westfeldt, native of Holland, aged 43 years, wife and 5 children.
Archibald Muir, native of Ayrshire, SCOT., aged 57 years, wife and 3 children.
Henry Lee, native of Rothwell, Yorkshire, ENG., aged 48 years, wife and 10 children.
Hudson Lee, native of Rothwell, Yorkshire, ENG., aged 22 years, single.
Robert Stove, native of Nanaimo, aged 21, single.
John Stove, native of Nanaimo, aged 23 years, wife and 1 child.
William Ridley, native of Clifton near Workington, Cumberland, ENG., aged 28, single.
John Morton, native of Lanarkshire, SCOT., aged 30 years, wife and 2 children.
Andrew Morton, native of Lanarkshire, SCOT., aged 28 years, wife and 1 child.
George Smith Bertram, native of Yorkshire, ENG., aged 37 years, wife and 3 children.

Herbert Bevilockway, native of Nanaimo, aged 24 years, single.

William Lukey, Sr., native of Cornwall, ENG., aged 50 years, wife and 5 children.

William Lukey, Jr., native of Wisconsin, U.S., aged 27 years.

James Hoggan, native of Cape Breton, aged 21 years, (son of Alex. Hoggan, Gabriola Is.), single.

James Byers, native of Wrickbridge, Cumberland, ENG., aged 22 years, wife and 1 child.

James Isbister, native of Nanaimo, aged 17 years, single. [Elsewhere states he was a runner.]

SINKING SHAFT

William Davis, native of Ruthin, Denbighshire, North Wales, aged 36 years, wife and 2 children.

John Linn, native of Ayrshire, SCOT., aged 34 years, wife and 5 children.

John Smith, native of SCOT., 21 years, single.

William Linkin Cochranic, step-son of J. Craven, Wellington Road, single.

Frederick Mattison, native of Sweden, about 30 years of age, single.

Following is the list of the men remaining in the mine, and whose bodies have not been recovered up to nine (9) o'clock last night:

NO. 1 LEVEL

George Bowden and **George Simmons**

J. Stevens and **T. Martin**

David Ellis and his son **Arthur**

Benjamin Popplewell and **Jas. Thomas**

Joseph Watson and **Edward Johns**

David Morgan and **Edward Wilkins**

Edward Benton and **J. Bramley, Jr.**

James Campbell and **John Malcolm**

Robert Buffington and **J. McGuffie**

John C. Fallon and **James Milton**

William Bone

William Gilbert and **John Richards**

Joseph Thompson

W. Campbell (engineer) and **J. J. Smith** (brakeman).

NEW SLOPE

Thos. Dawson and **R. Burns**

Thomas Perry and **Robert Nicholson**

Jonathan Blundell and **George Biggs**

George Dawson and **T. Hughes**

Charles Drake and **C. Willis**

William Hague and **James Lyons**

John Thompson

A. Smiley and **William Morris**

William Hoy and **John Miles**

Alexander McDonald

William Scales and **Frank Tully**

William Stephenson, **A. Meakin** and **J. Gorman**, (runners)

J. Johnson (bratticeman).

NO. 5 LEVEL — OLD SLOPE

M. Corcoran and **Malcolm McLean**

Peter Ducca and **Joseph Tellardo** (Italians)

John Zermani and **A. Deportec** (Italians)

Nicholas Johns and **Roderick McDonald**

W.J. Morgan and **S. H. Myers**

T. Allen and **H. Brun** (runners).

Datebook

Upcoming events of interest to members

Cloverdale Library Genealogy Fair, Surrey, B.C.

Saturday, October 22, 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.

NFHS members are invited to participate in this event, the purpose of which is to provide genealogists from the beginner to the most experienced, information about all the services, societies, classes and collections available in the Lower Mainland, Vancouver Island and Washington State to support their research. There will be booths, displays and handouts (NFHS is participating). Short seminars will be held during the morning and afternoon, with a one-hour break for lunch.

Maffeo Auditorium, Community Services Bldg., Nanaimo, B.C.

Thursday, ~~October 20~~, 7 p.m. *NOV 17th*

Members and guests are excited to meet this region's preeminent historian, speaker and author, **Lynne Bowen**. In researching her books, articles and courses on coal mining history, Mrs. Bowen learned a great deal about local families. Speaking at our monthly meeting at 285 Prideaux Street, her topic is "Passions and Perils of Family Stories."

JAN 12 1994

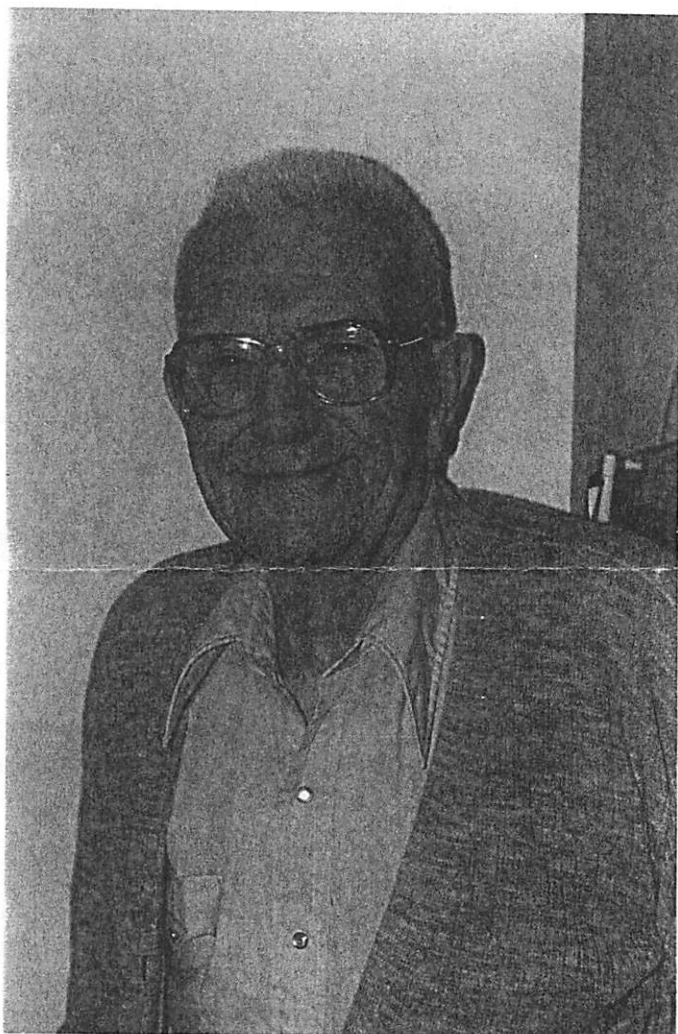
Ancestry Tree

Newsletter of the Nanaimo Family History Society
Vancouver Island, British Columbia

ISSN #1185-166X

Volume 11, issue #4

Winter 1994



Inside this issue:

Latest library acquisitions
Canada Post abbreviations
Henderson's 1910 Directory
Parkin's portable mill
Queries

*Opposite: William Merritt Parkin,
90, of Vernon, provided extensive
information for our feature article.*

Nanaimo Family

History Society



Mailing address: Box 1027
Nanaimo, B.C.
CANADA
V9R 5Z2

Established earlier as the Nanaimo Genealogy Club in 1981, the purpose of the NFHS is to:

- collect, preserve and disseminate information of a genealogical and related historical and biographical nature,
- establish and maintain for the use of members, a library of genealogical, biographical and local history material,
- hold meetings for the instruction and pleasure of members.

Library: Our library resides in the home of Marj McLellan, 4733 Laguna Way, Nanaimo (758-1283). Please phone ahead if you plan to visit. Hours are: first Saturday each month, 9 a.m. - 1 p.m.
third Tuesday each month, 11 a.m. - 3 p.m.
fourth Monday each month, 6:30 p.m. - 9 p.m.

1994/5 Executive:	President	Leona Dettwiler	390-2288
	First vice president	Sharon Davison	758-0618
	Second vice president	Peter McIntyre	758-0908
	Secretary	Paul Shaw	756-2626
	Treasurer	Ron Zinck	751-0921
	Newsletter editor	Tom Parkin	758-1245

Meetings: General meetings are held on the third Thursday of each month (July, August and December excepted) in the Maffeo Auditorium, Community Services Building at 285 Prideaux Street, Nanaimo, beginning at 7 p.m. Visitors are welcome without obligation.

Membership: Membership costs \$20 per individual (\$15 if over 65), plus \$5 for each additional participating household member. Memberships starting after November will be extended to the end of the following year. Membership entitles each address to a newsletter subscription and publication of free queries in *AncesTree*.

Publications: *AncesTree* is the quarterly publication of the Nanaimo Family History Society. The newsletter is distributed in March, June, September and December. NFHS has also published three indices which are for sale:

- | | |
|--|------|
| 1 Name index to the Nanaimo cemetery: 1876-1909 | \$10 |
| 2 Surname index to the Nanaimo cemetery: 1909-1926 | \$ 5 |

The booklets above include full names, age, residence, place of birth and date of death. NFHS holds additional information for some of these records.

- | | |
|---|-----|
| 3 Name index of births, marriages and deaths published in the Nanaimo Free Press: April 1874 to December 1899 | \$6 |
|---|-----|

Cheques must be made payable to NFHS. Please include additional \$2 per booklet to cover postage and handling costs. Foreign readers, please pay in U.S. dollars and allow six to eight weeks for delivery.

Submission of photographs, articles, illustrations and advertisements are welcome, and used as space permits. Photocopied images are not acceptable for reproduction. If materials are to be returned, include a self-addressed, stamped envelope. When submitting material that has been previously published, please ensure the republishing is permitted, and provide full source references. Reprinting from *AncesTree* is permitted, provided author and publication credit are given on subsequent publication.

Our editors are volunteers, cannot check accuracy of material submitted, nor accept responsibility for errors. Editors reserve the right to change or use copy as seen suitable. The Nanaimo Family History Society isn't responsible for the opinions of authors printed in its newsletter. Every care is taken with all submissions, but no responsibility is accepted for material lost or damaged while in transit, or while in the hands of club members and their agents.

Nanaimo research hours

Here are new fall hours of local genealogical research locations:

NFHS library

New hours were set at our September meeting, and are listed on the inside cover of this newsletter. Note the Saturday time starts an hour earlier. The Monday time has been chosen for the convenience of working members who can't visit during the day. Thanks to Marj McLellan for opening her home.

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Friday	10 a.m. - 1 p.m.

To reserve a microfilm reader, call 758-1360 during open hours.

Welcome new members

Being new to any club can be intimidating, especially with the amount a person has to learn when starting in genealogy. Please take a moment to introduce yourself to new members:

Majorie Rozenboom
Nanaimo
Phone 753-9495

Gordon Suddaby
Nanaimo
Phone 722-3767

Share the wealth contest

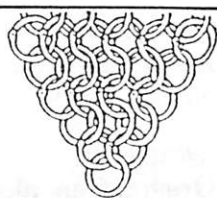
This year's contest is underway, and submissions are due at or before the February meeting. The contest is to write a story about genealogy, family history or a tale of success or failure in the field. Judging by conversations at **Lynne Bowen's** talk to NFHS on November 17, there are more than a few writers in our group.

They can be brief or up to 500 words. Don't be shy — try your hand at it. Pass them to any member of the executive (see inside cover). The results will be announced at the March meeting, and the winning stories published in *AncesTree*.

Free book covering

It has been reported by third parties that the Allen County Genealogical Department has offered to hard-cover copies of family histories for the writers. If you send in two copies, both will be covered and one kept for permanent storage in this genealogical library — the other will be returned.

Write for details before mailing any material:
Allen County Public Library
900 Webster Street
Box 2270
Fort Wayne IN 46801-2270 USA



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Agents for Ordnance Survey

drop in on
your next
visit to
Victoria

Latest library acquisitions

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for Genealogy and Heraldry September 1994

Kindred Spirits

Whitby Oshawa Branch, ON Genealogical Society
Summer 1994

The British Columbia Genealogist

British Columbia Genealogical Society
September 1994

Newsletter

British Columbia Genealogical Society
September 1994

Directory, 1994-1995

Clark County Genealogical Society, WA

Root Cellar Preserves

Sacramento Genealogical Society, CA
July 1994

Hampshire Family Historian

Hampshire Family History Society, ENG
August 1994

Yesterday's Footprints

Lethbridge Branch, AB Genealogical Society
September 1994

Journal

Victoria Genealogical Society, BC
August and November 1994

The Ancestor

Newfoundland & Labrador Genealogical Society
Summer 1994

Newsletters #70 and #71

P.E.I. Genealogical Society Inc.
September and November 1994

North West Kent Family History

North West Kent Family History Society, ENG
October 1994

The Okanagan Researcher

Kelowna and District Genealogical Society, BC
September 1994

Chowkidar

British Association for Cemeteries in South Asia
Autumn 1994

Toronto Tree

Toronto Branch, Ontario Genealogical Society
Sep/Oct 1994

Huguenot Trails

The Huguenot Society of Canada
Fall 1994

Tree Tracer

Genealogy Society of Prince George, BC
September 1994

Trail Breakers

Clark County Genealogical Society, WA
Fall 1994

The Tracer

Oxford County Branch, ON Genealogical Society
November 1994

Hamilton Branch

Hamilton Branch, ON Genealogical Society
November 1994

Newsleaf and Families

ON Genealogical Society
November 1994

London Leaf

London & Middlesex County, ON Gen. Society
November 1994

AFGnews

American French Genealogical Society
Nov-Dec 1994

Quarterly

Oregon Genealogical Society, Inc.
Fall 1994

NFHS has donated a large atlas/road map of
Deutschland and Europe to the Family History
Centre of the Church of Latter Day Saints in
Nanaimo. Written in German, the scale is
1:250,000.

Are you familiar with Canada Post's addressing standards?

- UPPER CASE LETTERS are preferred on all lines of the address block
- Don't use the # sign or punctuation such as commas
- Hyphens without spaces are used to separate street numbers and in some zip codes (U.S.)
- The postal code should be separated from the province by at least two spaces.
- Use the following symbols rather than the full name:

Alberta	AB
British Columbia	BC
Manitoba	MB
New Brunswick	NB
Newfoundland	NF
Northwest Territories	NT
Nova Scotia	NS
Ontario	ON
Prince Edward Island	PE
Québec	PQ
Saskatchewan	SK
Yukon Territory	YT

Sample: MR ROBERT SERVICE
1898 MALAMUTE TRAIL
DAWSON CITY YT B0W 0W0

New books in the NFHS library

Canadian Railway Records: Guide for Genealogists
by Althea Douglas and J. Creighton Douglas
1994, 64p, soft cover, ISBN 1-55116-932-0

This book tells how to locate lists of companies, addresses of libraries, museums, archives and historical societies, plus what sort of records you may find.

Important Genealogical Collections in Ontario Archives and Libraries

by Ryan Taylor

1994, 75p, soft cover, ISBN 0-7779-0185-4

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from Henderson's B.C. Gazetteer and Directory (1901)

East Wellington

A ranching settlement, 3 miles from Nanaimo, and 2 1/2 miles south of Wellington.

Badcock, William, dairyman.

Baker, Thos., miner.

Ballance, Joseph, rancher.

Comballey, Albert, rancher.

Crutchley, James, miner.

Dunsuir, R. & Sons, Colliery.

Ellice, Harry, miner.

Fort, Fernand, rancher.

Fort, Joseph, rancher.

Fowler, Arther, rancher.

Fountain, A., rancher.

Freer, Victor, rancher.

Holland, John, rancher.

Hosko, Charles, rancher.

Kelley, Robert, rancher.

Kelly, Harry, rancher.

Lucas, Alfred, rancher.

Marshall, James, engineer.

Pilltano, Alex., rancher.

Pride, Walter, miner.

Quinn, Michael, rancher.

Quinn, William, rancher.

Richards, John, saloonkeeper.

Richardson, William, rancher.

Westwood, David, rancher.

Westwood, Milton, rancher.

Big Qualicum

(Post office called French Creek.)

An Indian camp on the east coast of Vancouver Island, distant from Vancouver 50 miles; steamer weekly. 9 miles from Little Qualicum. 39 miles from Wellington.

Buss, Walter.

Buss, William.

Eccles, James, farmer.

Fitzgerald, Michael.

Fletcher, Joseph, farmer.

May, Harvey.

Qualicum, Tom, hotel.

Smith, William, farmer.

Parkin's portable mill

© Tom W. Parkin

Ancestry's editor has been interviewing his elders and gathering photos of recent kin. Among them, he learned of a pivotal character whose entrepreneurial effort kept the family going through tough times. Though the story takes place in the southern interior of B.C., it illustrates the detail which can be captured from taped interviews supplemented by library research.

The Great Depression affected British Columbia's forest companies as much as other workplaces in the province; unemployment, bankruptcy and widespread change in methods of doing business were forced onto their operations. But as Canadians are relearning today, spaces which appear in industry give opportunity to innovators and entrepreneurs.

In B.C.'s East Kootenay Region, this period saw the end of several logging railways in the Rocky Mountain Trench. Certainly forest fires and diminished availability of trees on easy topography were factors for some mill closures. But demand fell so precipitously after 1929 that long-stacked lumber in the yard of the Cranbrook Sash and Door Company is said to have begun to rot in the piles.

But there still was money to be made. Producers began to experiment with ways to maintain markets despite low commodity prices. One of these was **James Herbert Parkin**, a small mill owner/operator from Cranbrook. He and his extended family exploited a niche which kept them employed continuously from 1927 to 1942 — using a portable sawmill.

As equipment-intensive operations declined, some historians have expressed that truck logging gradually replaced logging by rail. This was true at the coast, but the 1930s was a decade which also supported paid-by-the-piece operators who cut railroad ties or lumber for planing mills and remanufacturers.

The Canadian Pacific Railway had ongoing need for replacement wood for trestles and ties, so formed a Tie & Timber Branch to manage its supply. It also ran its own logging and milling operations which cut timber on land grants which lay adjacent to its track. But the Tie and Timber Branch also let contracts to independent mills. One was owned and operated by Parkin.

Parkin had managed several mills in East Kootenay, beginning about 1907 when he logged land today owned by the Cranbrook Golf Club. By 1925,

he was running another small fixed mill at Ta Ta Creek, northwest of Kimberley. When timber on that limit ran out, he tore the mill apart and rebuilt it on two log skids, creating the first portable mill in that region of the province, and a design which was subsequently widely emulated.

Parkin's portable was powered by a 70 h.p. gasoline Caterpillar tractor. It was the invention of such powerful engines which allowed these small mills to outmaneuver their steam-driven predecessors. Parkin's Cat, a model 30, sat adjacent to the mill and powered it by an endless belt. **Bill Parkin** worked for his uncle Jim for 22 years as cat-skinner, mechanic and foreman:

"Years ago, you skidded everything you could reach with horses. Then you moved the mill. With the Cat. It was on runners 55-feet long. Shod with half by six-inch [iron] shoeing. And that was the first lumber mill. He had everything on it; head gear, tie trimmers and edger." These runners were former tires from huge wheel sets used to haul logs with horse teams at Ta Ta Creek. Seemingly not willing to trust the machines, they kept a "horse or two" around, but machinery enabled them to significantly increase production.

Jim Parkin didn't conceal his experiment from competitors. Nephew and employee **John R. Parkin** remembered the Cranbrook Sash and Door examining the family operation. The Sash and Door subsequently adapted two units for lumber production on Baker Mountain at Cranbrook (where John also worked). They used small gas engines, but added a flywheel to give the saw momentum. As they didn't have tractors to move the mill, they added a hoist to the frame and used snatch blocks so it could pull itself about by hooking onto distant objects with cables.

The idea quickly caught on. The C.P.R. Tie and Timber Branch soon had six mills working up the Kootenay River from Canal Flats. Cranbrook Foundry, which had been customizing many units for the

differing needs of its customers, began to market their own design, called a 'Standard'. By 1930, Vancouver Machine Works advertised in the *B.C. Lumberman* that they had sold 70 units to satisfied customers.

Indeed, friend and fellow bachelor **Pat McGrath** built one right in Parkin's mill yard near Canal Flats about 1938. Perhaps Parkin's confidence came from knowing he had the largest mill, and possibly from his efficiency. Bill Parkin recalls:

"We got contracts for a hundred thousand ties a year. And then, we would finish our contract, lots of times, and help somebody else finish up theirs.

"One time, the Crow's Nest [Pass Lumber Company] — they were loggin' the same locality we were. They were 40,000 ties short on their hundred [thousand], when the time was pret'near up. So we took that contract from them — 25,000 ties. Those 25,000 ties, the average, I think, is 520 ties a day. There's only five or six men on that mill."

Overall, such an operation would employ 20 - 25 men, who needed nearby accommodation. Parkin first set up his portable to cut Douglas-fir in the Columbia Valley across from Fairmont Hot Springs. He took over nearby abandoned ranch buildings for housing, an office and shops in the spring of 1927. Bill Parkin recalls those years of labor:

"Oh yeah, it all hadda go out by rail. There was no big trucks them days. When he first started at Fairmont, we went back into the bush about — well three miles I guess, was the furthest. There was no way of gittin' your ties out of the bush, only usin' the Cat that we were usin' to power the mill.

Nearby, those C.P.R. mills were floating their ties down the river to the railroad.

"So we bought three Athey wagons. They've a track on the back, and wheels on front, you see. They're supposed to be 10-ton wagons. I spent all my Saturdays and Sundays haulin' ties out of the bush! Besides, by this time we were skiddin' the logs with the Cat too. I never got a Sunday or a Saturday off. It was all just straight time, you know."

In 1931, a large fire burned all the west side of the valley — it started at the airport at Kimberley and went up to Dutch Creek. The community of Canal Flats was evacuated, but the wind changed at the last hour, and only a few buildings were lost. The fire didn't burn out until the fall. "The Forest Service wanted to get that timber out before the bugs got it," says Parkin. Thus they moved to their so-called "Black Camp."

Another nephew, **Dave Parkin**, was 16 or 17 and a cook's flunky at that time: "We had the best food money could buy. We couldn't pay much, but old 'Monk' [**Albert Urbanks**] was one of the best in the country. He used to cook for **Otis Staples**."

Staples' was a former large mill at Wycliffe which had been supplied by its own logging railway. When it closed in 1928, the town virtually deserted. Jim Parkin had managed their sash and door division for a few years, likely meeting Urbanks then. Unable to afford wages, tie mills paid most workers on production, but offered quality cooking to compensate.



Men are loading flatbed trucks with ties bound for C.P.R. siding. The mill is beneath the roof. Crew in background is stacking snow fence.

In 1933, the Parkins moved again, this time to Mud Creek, near Canal Flats. Bill Parkin recalls: "We put up just a rough camp. You could build a bunkhouse in a day. We built it outta what we used to called a snow fence — the side lumber off the ties? Maybe 15, 20 per cent of it would be edged, you see. It would be square, but most of it still had the bark on

it. And we put up a frame, and stood that all on end, and with two ply of [tar] paper in-between it, that was a bunkhouse.

"Heck, I always built a shack for myself, too. Oh, I say for myself — after I got that foreman job, the crew built my house. It'd only take a coupla days to build one of them things. The only dressed lumber in them was the floor! And the doors. The rest was all rough lumber. They weren't too bad. We didn't notice the cold so much, you know."

Here the crew cut Pondersoa (also know as Bull) Pine, fir and tamarack (Western Larch). Bill Parkin: "When we first moved onto that limit, they [the C.P.R.] wouldn't take pine for ties, so we left all of them. Then they changed their mind as long as you pickled [creosoted] them.

Nothing was wasted. Even snow fence, the slabs cut from the sides of logs to make them square, was hand-loaded into boxcars. It was shipped to the Prairies and used to prevent drifting snow from burying the tracks. Payment was \$100/car.

"With them little mills Jim had, it was all contract work," says Bill Parkin. "It had to be. We were puttin' number two ties, per 32 cents; number one, 42 cents; — we were puttin' them in the boxcar for that! Plus payin' expenses. You had to know where you were standin', you see. So we run all through the Hungry Thirties, and never missed any time at all."

By the late '30s, J. H. Parkin was prospering. Jim spent weeks away from camp, leaving Bill in charge. In 1937, he bought two diesel Cats: a RD8 (\$8,600) to power the mill, and a RD6 (\$5,500) for skidding. This was despite having rejected diesels during an inspection of an early model in Spokane two years before. "Jim walked around and around that Cat," says Bill. "He said: 'They'll never sell. They'll shake themselves to pieces. Just listen to that rattle.'"

Certainly vibration in these early machines was a concern. After years of running the gas models, Bill's driving days were ended by a painful back. Improvements in the equipment's design were too late for him.

In 1939, their limit exhausted, the Parkins moved to Donald, an abandoned divisional point on the C.P.R. mainline. They ordered two flatcars. On one they raised high sides and loaded all the equipment, including the mill, minus its runners. On the second, they loaded three Caterpillar tractors. The latter car was known to be overloaded, but they hoped to get avoid the cost of a third car. Hearing that a

C.P.R. inspector was due the next morning, they rose early to take one machine off and hide it in the bush . . . then loaded it again after he left. Fortunately, the journey to Donald was uneventful.

The Parkin mill at Donald continued briefly after its proprietor died in 1942, but the era of the tie mill was giving way to large operations again. Jim Parkin is buried in Golden, and many who worked with him are gone too. But the portable mill operators of the East Kootenay may claim some credit for the survival of their industry and the position it now occupies.

Queries

The following queries are from NFHS member **Bob Dahling**. Interested parties, contact him directly at:
488-B Bruce Avenue
Nanaimo, BC V9R 3Y4
CANADA

There seems to be a scarcity of HEATHERBELLS in the world. I have relatives 'Down Under', but it seems the name has died out elsewhere. A hint comes from Brighton and Chichester in Sussex, but my great-grandfather, George Heatherbell, was born in 1852 at Frankwell, Shrewsbury, Shropshire, ENG.

If you have a Heatherbell in your tree, or have even heard of one, please contact me.

I would also like to hear from anyone with at least three generations of LEMIEUX in their tree. I have about 12,000 marriages indexed, and would freely exchange information with any Lemieux descendent.

All Lemieuxs are descended from two brothers, one of whom first arrived in Canada in 1639. Which means all Lemieux of North America are related.

I'm also looking for descendants of my father who probably settled in Minnesota or North Dakota around the turn of the century:

Jens Alfred ANDERSEN,

b. 1880, Frogn, Ostfold, NORWAY
Anders/Andreas ANDERSEN,

b. 19 Oct 1885, Frogn, Ostfold, NORWAY
Hilmar, ABELSEN,

b. 1881, Frogn, Ostfold, NORWAY.