

# Ancestry Tree

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

ISSN #1185-166X

Volume 12, issue #1

Spring 1995



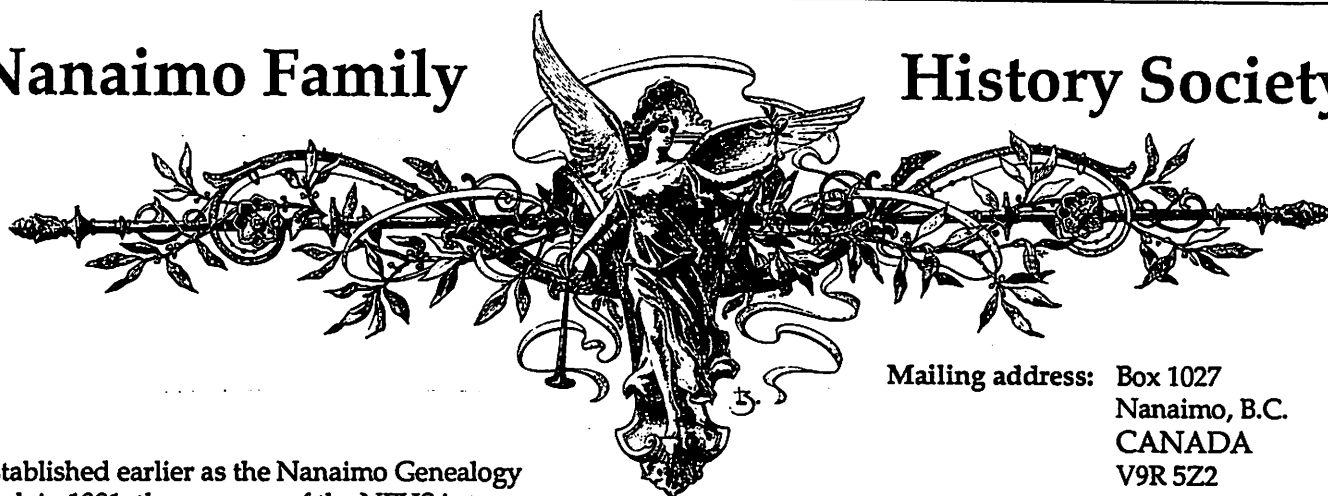
THE BASTION, NANAIMO, B.C.

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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:

- 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 7:30 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 four indices for sale:

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

These booklets include full names, age, residence, place of birth and death date. NFHS holds additional information.

- |   |      |
|---|------|
| 3 Name index of births, marriages and deaths published in the Nanaimo Free Press: April 1874 to December 1899 | \$6  |
| 4 1920 Nanaimo/Ladysmith and district voter's list  | \$15 |

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.

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# What is a genealogist?

by Kay Warn

## Detective

In being an amateur genealogist or family historian, you are something of a detective searching for clues and proof about your ancestors. Any good family story needs to be correct as possible. Stories told by family members are often incorrect in some way. Time tends to blur memories and a story can be distorted by the number of times it's repeated, especially by those who weren't present at the event.

However, don't dismiss family stories or myths, even if some information is known to be wrong; other parts of them may contain valuable clues. This is why we try to find proof of every detail.

To do this, we search for documents of birth, marriage and death, as well as census records, vital statistics, government and land records, military service records, naturalization dates, passports and passenger lists, etc. This requires time and effort, but is worth it, as your family story will be as believable as you can make it.

## Geographer

You need an understanding of geography of the area you're researching. Each region has its own soil, landscape and resources which influenced settlement.

In early times, settlement followed the courses of rivers, as they provided a means of independent travel, there being few public facilities. As well, watercourses provided fresh water for domestic use, crops and animals.

Industry developed on rivers because they were a practical source of power for operating equipment and generating electricity. In North America, most early roads followed valley bottoms; some were built over ancient Indian trails.

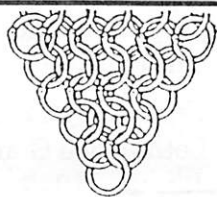
Map reading is essential in this research. There are many good ordinance maps available for England for example, as early as 1840, showing every natural feature and names of prominent buildings. In using maps, be sure to know what years interest you, as land ownership maps are also available. With this necessary skill is a background in placenames, as these can change with time.

## Historian

You must study history in the region you're researching. This includes religious history, government policy, causes of war, boundary changes and causes of migration. Township, county and parish boundaries need to be known. Each country has its own method of land division, so you need to know specifics of each.

One needs to know religious history and customs of various churches to find the correct parish records. We need also to know the start of civil registration. Before civil registration, parish records are our only proof of baptism, marriage and death.

*Continued on page five*



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your next  
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# 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, ENG  
September and December 1994

## *Kindred Spirits*

Whitby-Oshawa Branch, ON Genealogical Society  
Fall 1994

## *The Hampshire Family Historian*

Hampshire Genealogical Society, ENG  
November 1994

## *Toronto Tree*

Toronto Branch, ON Genealogical Society  
Nov/Dec 1994 and Jan/Feb 1995

## *The Treehouse*

Campbell River Genealogical Society  
September and December 1994

## *North Central North Dakota Genealogical Record*

Mouse River Loop Genealogical Society  
December 1994

## *Newsletter*

Clark County Genealogical Society, WA  
December 1994, January 1995 and February 1995

## *Root Cellar Preserves*

Sacramento Genealogical Society, CA  
Oct-Nov-Dec 1994

## *Journal no. 53*

Aberdeen & North East Scotland Fam. His. Society  
November 1994

## *The Okanagan Researcher*

Kelowna and District Genealogical Society  
December 1994

## *The British Columbia Genealogist*

### *Newsletter*

Both BC Genealogical Society; December 1994

## *North West Kent Family History*

North West Kent Family History Society, ENG  
Dec 1994/Jan 1995

## *Lost in Canada?*

Canadian-American Genealogical Journal  
Summer 1994

Future issues will be titled *Canadian-American  
Journal of History & Genealogy for Canadian,  
French and Metis Study.*

## *American-Canadian Genealogist*

American-Canadian Genealogical Society  
Fall 1994

## *AF News*

American-French Genealogical Society, RI  
Jan/Feb 1995

## *Hamilton Branch*

Ontario Genealogical Society, Hamilton, ON  
February 1995

## *The Tracer*

Oxford County Branch, OGS  
February 1995

## *Trail Breakers*

Clark County Genealogical Society, WA  
Winter 1994/95

## *Newsleaf and Families*

Ontario Genealogical Society, ON  
both February 1995

## *Tree Tracer*

Genealogy Society of Prince George, BC  
December 1994

## *London Leaf*

London & Middlesex County Branch, OGS  
February 1995

## *Toronto Tree*

Toronto Branch, OGS  
Jan/Feb 1995

## *Yesterday's Footprints*

Lethbridge Genealogical Society, AB  
January 1995

## *Ancestors West*

Santa Barbara County Genealogical Society, CA  
Winter 1995

## *PEI Genealogical Society*

Charlottetown, Prince Edward Island  
February 1995

## *Connections*

Quebec Family History Society  
December 1994

## *The Ancestor*

Newfoundland and Labrador Genealogical Society  
December 1994

## *What is a genealogist? (con't from page three)*

Censuses of an area tells us where a family lived, who was at home when the census taker called, and the occupation of adults. In the case of nominal census, one is able to obtain the names of the spouse and children, as well as the head of household. On some, religious affiliation is also listed, guiding us to the proper church records. Agricultural census records tell us a great deal about farming families.

Court records, especially probate and surrogate records, are also valuable. They often make family connections we didn't know about, and tell about the financial condition of a family. Wills are also good for learning the character of an ancestor, because people express their true character in such documents.

Military service and military pension records are also good sources. In the case of pensions, one can find not only about the veteran, but the files may even contain letters from the pensioner about his family, health, financial need, etc.

### **Economist**

You should know monetary values and terms for the area you're researching. Economic conditions were often a reason for migrating.

### **Sociologist**

Social conditions play a large role in migratory patterns, as hope of bettering life for children was often a reason families moved. Mass migrations were caused by poverty, religious or ethnic persecution, or by war. Again, we need to understand social customs in our area of interest. Customs dictate how births, marriages and deaths were handled. For instance, if you knew the custom was for a marriage to be held in a bride's parish, you wouldn't be spending time looking in the husband's hometown.

In Sweden, if a marriage celebration lasted more than three days, a penalty had to be paid to the church. Another record for researchers! Not only would you know whether they enjoyed themselves, but documenting such a penalty provides an indication of wealth. Poor people would not likely pay such a levy. However, even in this interpretation, there could be variables. If the custom was for a bride's family to pay wedding costs, then such a record is a statement about only one side of the union.

Again, in the case of Sweden, every parish once had to send a certain number of men to military

service. Each parish had to provision, clothe and equip such soldiers. More records for research!

When a soldier went to the army, he changed his name to a natural object or a human quality. Thus Sven Johnson might become Sven Elf, meaning river. When he left the service, he reverted to his original name or else could keep his army name.

Complicating Swedish research further, is the changing names each generation. Sven Johnson's son Olaf would be called Olaf Svenson. His daughter Helena would be Helena Svensdaughter. When Olaf's children were named, they would no longer be Svenson or Svensdaughter, but would have the surname Olafson or Olafdaughter.

To further complicate things, in the late 1800s, Swedish people were allowed to revert to old family names such as Bloomqvist, and do away with the patronymic system. Again, this was a matter of choice. So one could have an insurmountable research problem today. Fortunately, family roots in Sweden are helped greatly by the Lutheran Church's need to know everything about a family. Ministers were required by law to keep lots of records, and they are easy to access today.

These examples show why genealogists must study customs and laws. Otherwise, your effort could be largely futile or full of errors. One thing is sure — genealogy is challenging, full of surprises and certainly broadens one knowledge. It's also time-consuming, teaches one to be patient and can become addictive.

### **New NFHS publication**

#### *Nanaimo/Ladysmith district 1920 voter's list*

Contains names, addresses and occupations of 6295 eligible voters of central Vancouver Island between Ladysmith and Nanoose as of 13 September 1920.

In the absence of any city or rural directories for that period, this is the most complete record of the residents of Nanaimo, Ladysmith, Cassidy, Extension, Northfield, Cedar, Wellington, Lantzville, Nanoose Bay and Gabriola Island region of BC.

ISBN 1-895737-02-8. The coil-bound, 113-page book costs \$15 plus \$3 postage from NFHS.

# More extracts from *Henderson's 1919 Gazetteer and Directory*

## **Nanoose Bay**

A post settlement on the Alberni stage road, 7 miles north of Nanaimo, the nearest telegraph & express

Postmaster—**Wm Roberts**

**Carter Henry**, farmer

**Carter Robert**, farmer

**Claudette Frederick**, farmer

**Dindoufe August**, farmer

**Dinduff August**, farmer

**Doumont Joseph**, farmer

**Fletcher Mathew**, farmer

**Good Percival L**, hotel

**Grant Richard**, laborer

**Gueulet Joachim jr**, farmer

**Guillette Alexander**, farmer

**Guillette J**, farmer

**Harris J**, farmer

**Heath John**, laborer

**Kellett Richard**, farmer

**Knaggs Richard**, blacksmith

**Knight James**, farmer

**McNeill Andrew**, farmer

**Ohlsen Henry A**, farmer

**Puzey J**, farmer

**Roberts David**, farmer

**Roberts James**, farmer

**Roberts William**, postmaster

**Russell Arthur Arnold**, farmer

**Sander Charles**, farmer

**Sanders Wm Henry**, farmer

**Saunders Charles**, farmer

**Saunders Henry**, farmer

**Schovatts John**, farmer

**Sim David**, farmer

**Stewart John**, farmer

**Thomas George**, farmer

**Thomas Roy**, farmer

**Thick Charles Frederick**, farmer

**Thick David**, farmer

**Thomson John A**, carp

**Tippett Charles**, farmer

**Tippett John**, farmer

**Tippett John jr**, farmer

**Turner James**, farmer

**Wallis Richard P (J P)**, farmer

**White A C**, farmer

**White T**, farmer

**Williams James**, farmer

**Wilmarsh Edward**, farmer

## **Chase River**

(P. O. Nanaimo.)

A settlement on Chase River, two miles south of Nanaimo.

**Aitken Peter**, miner

**Blunt Adolphus**, farmer

**Brunt Harry**, miner

**Brunt James**, miner

**Custison Charles**, farmer

**Cuthbert George**, miner

**Custison Henry**, farmer

**Feilding Fred**, farmer

**Greenway Benjamin**, farmer

**Greenway John**, farmer

**Howson Charles**, farmer

**Isbister John**, farmer

**Keast Richard**, miner

**McNeil Robert**, miner

**Maki Victor**, farmer

**Miles Thomas**, farmer

**Paterson Thomas**, miner

**Phillips George**, miner

**Rowbotton John W**, miner

## **Queries**

NFHS member **Bob Dahling** requests that anyone with information on these people to contact him at: 488 Bruce Avenue, Nanaimo, BC V9R 3J1

**CHING**, Frank from Brokely, London, England  
**CUNLIFFE**, John, and **WILSON**, Catherine, known to be in Nanaimo around 1950.



# President's message

by Leona Dettwiler

This is my last report. I've been president for two terms now, and enjoyed it very much. I've had an excellent executive in both terms, and wish to thank them and also committee members for all their help. We have served to the best of our ability and feel we have done a good job.

This past year, we've had excellent speakers and round-table discussions, with knowledgeable members helping new members. It was a big disappointment that **Ron Bremmer** from Salt Lake City was unable to do the seminar scheduled last Fall, but the day wasn't a total loss. We managed to keep everyone occupied.

Your executive has tried to have something for everyone. Thanks to **Sharon Davison**, first vice-president. I must mention the work **Sue Castle** and **Dianne Landers** have done with the research card files. We thought, that by having these cards, it would help members, and provide records for the future. For members researching family roots, it would be great if they would fill out these cards with information they've found.

Here in Nanaimo we have many sources of information — old newspapers, the college library, Nanaimo Military Museum, LDS library and the NFHS library at **Marj McLellan's** home. Thank you, Marj, from all of us. Hopefully in the future we'll have a full-time librarian.

In September we began meeting in a new place so members don't have to use stairs, but not many more are attending meetings. We have the hall booked for the third Thursday each month.

Please try to get more stories and information to *Ancestry's* editor. As so many members were born in Nanaimo, you have lots of stories to tell. Our editor is a volunteer and could use help. Our journal goes to England, Scotland and many places in the US. There could be someone looking for a member of your family! Inquiries can also be put in at no cost to members.

I thank all our committees for the great job they have done. I wish the new executive the very best in their endeavours.

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## Exercises in research

by Peter McIntyre

Dates and ages — what can be more basic to genealogy? Or more frustrating, revealing or evasive? Here are a few dating quirks which have proved interesting to me.

Records received from Ottawa revealed that one forebear applied to the army for permission to marry. Permission was granted on 5 February 1919, which was just as well because the ceremony had been performed the previous 9<sup>th</sup> December!

The 1884 birth certificate of one lady from the past gave the name of her parents, and even their street address in Liverpool, but research in Nanaimo gave no further clues. A visit to London's St. Catherine's House might provide answers, but where to start? Family tradition suggested the lady's mother had died "as a young girl." How old is a girl? Three, perhaps? Start with the year of birth, add three, and start looking forward from that year in the large volumes of birth records, four volumes per year.

Many volumes later it leapt from the pages — the mother had died at age 40 when the daughter was 13. Thank goodness the names were distinctive.

It was easy now to work out the mother's year of birth and to find it in the room assigned to births in Britain, but how about the father? Well, being a simple thinker, I assumed he might be two years older than the mother, so naturally went back two years and started looking. No luck. Not two years, not even five years older. Try the other way, was my next decision. There he was — the groom was two years younger than his bride.

Now it was time to move to the room of marriage registers to find when these two were united. The quest started with the question of whether the daughter — the original "lady from the past" — was the oldest child in the family. Assuming this was the case, I began going backwards from her year of birth. Miraculously, she did turn out to be eldest, and the

marriage was recorded in 1883, one year prior to her birth. Similar clues aided by distinctive names and a locale helped uncover two other children of this marriage, but the details needn't bother us here.

From another branch of the family, the mail brought a photograph of a very elderly lady seated, a not-so-young man standing by her, a young female servant in the background and a dog. The old lady was a great great-grandmother, and the photograph was taken in August 1882, one month before she died "in her 100<sup>th</sup> year." I was quite excited to have a pictorial record of an ancestor who was born in 1783 — or was she? That she died 13 September 1882 in her 100<sup>th</sup> year must be correct as it is carved in stone — the family tombstone to be exact.

But fiche records say she was born in 1778, which would have made her 103, while the 1851 census lists her age as 63, which would have her born around 1788, a full 10 years later. The clincher was the lady's death certificate, which states she died not on 13<sup>th</sup> of September, but on the 5<sup>th</sup>, at 4 p.m. All of which leaves one wondering whether a lady's age is elastic, depending on who wants to know, and when. At any rate, don't believe everything you read.

The not-so-young man in the photo turned out to be one of three sons of the elderly lady. Other than his name, nothing else was known until the 'digging' began. Little by little, it came to light that he was born in 1821 and remained single until after his mother died. Then, at age 66, he married the maid in the photo, who was 22 at the time. The groom lost little time in starting another branch of the family. He fathered four children before he died in 1899, his wife following some forty years later, in 1939. This branch seems a little lop-sided as having a male in his sixties fathering children appears, at first glance, to leave a whole generation unaccounted.

Although the mental exercise of chasing all these dates was interesting, and the physical exercise in handling the tombs in St. Catherine's House many have been healthy, I was relieved not to have to follow the pedigree of the dog.

## My inventive family

by Doug Eastman

My dad (1913-1985) got me interested in family history when I was a still a boy. He purchased a two-volume book titled *That Man Eastman* by **Charles John Eastman** of Hollywood, California in 1954. I asked dad lots of questions about his father and grandfather, and learned that both were successful inventors.

Dad too, had dreams of inventing things. He always wrote things down which he thought might make a difference in the world, and which consumers might want to purchase. Sometimes, when he saw something new on the market, he would say that he had thought of it previously.

The inventions story piqued my interest again in 1988. To survive, grandfather **Harold David Eastman** (1887-1934) worked as a salesman for Coca-Cola, and up to 1918, as a chauffeur and mechanic for Mr. **E. L. Ruddy** in Toronto, ON. Great grandfather **David Eastman** (1844-1918) sold cutlery. I was able to get copies, descriptions and diagrams of two of their inventions through Consumer and Corporate Affairs Canada. They were: 1908 - metal tool handles (metallic hammers, hatches, axes and similar tools); 1902 - 1/2 patent on a pocket-knife improvement which locked the blade in position (all 'legal' pocket knives use this today).

I haven't yet located the US patents on several other items they co-invented, such as the door-chain lock, and an early automobile hoop-radio antennae. I also received a copy of the patent for the first 'boom chain', used today to fasten floating logs end-to-end, so to enclose loose logs in a corral. Boom chains were invented by **William H. Eastman**, of Minden, Haliburton County, ON. Further research may 'link' this man to one of the first Eastmans to immigrate to Canada from the US, **Benjamin Eastman** (1759-1836), a UEL from CT to Cornwall, ON, circa 1776.

A 10-year old boy often dreams of inventing things helpful to humanity, and of rich royalties that surely follow. But then I wondered, why we weren't rich if the royalties passed down from generation to generation? Alas, I found it wasn't so.

Dad's books told about another inventor, **George Eastman** (1854-1932) of Kodak fame. My vision of riches beyond imagination were shattered when I further learned that we weren't descended



from George Eastman after all (though we share a common ancestor, as do most North American Eastmans).

Perhaps there are subconscious inventors in all my family waiting to leap out with a bright idea. Now I find myself writing ideas down. Maybe one day I'll market either an idea or product as well.



*The author is willing to pass this photo of Joseph Eastman (possibly 1841-1902) to his descendants. Contact D. Eastman at: 6223 Rose Place, Nanaimo, BC, V9V 1N3 or phone (604) 756-1762.*

# George Eastman

by Doug Eastman

I first knew about **George Eastman** when I was a small boy in the mid-1950s. Books my dad purchased told of the Kodak camera inventor, George Eastman, son of **George Washington Eastman** (1815-1862) and **Maria Kilbourn** (1821-1907).

George and I are descendents of **Roger Eastman** (1610-1694), a carpenter and builder born in Charlton, near Downton, in Wiltshire, England. According to my relationship calculator on the LDS software *Personal Ancestral File*, I am his 5<sup>th</sup> cousin, three generations removed.

I became interested in researching my surname to continue genealogy work of my father had done when he died in 1985. I located more information about George Eastman in *Journey into Imagination: The Kodak Story* by the Eastman Kodak Company, 1988, and *George Eastman and the Early Photographers* by Brian Coe, 1973. *That Man Eastman* (Vol II, page 85) indicates he never married or had children. Having no family, he gave away most of his money. Based on his known philanthropies, it's estimated he distributed more than \$75,000,000 in gifts.

The University of Rochester received \$35,000,000; the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, \$20,000,000. Various other institutes, colleges and dental clinics received millions more. Loyal employees received \$5,000,000.

One book says his father died when George was eight; another when he was five. George Eastman, at the age of 77, without a close relative and in ill health,

sadly, committed suicide. He left a note saying: "To my friends; my work is done, why wait? G.E."

George was greatly interested in music, art and wildlife. He went on numerous safaris, including in Africa and here in British Columbia. His 50-room home (now a US National Historic Landmark) in Rochester, NY, is adorned with big game trophies.

*Continued on last page*

# 'Cause Grandma told me not to!

by Iris Biggs

In 1898, my great grandparents **Wasył and Melenia Moldowan** left Vaslovitsi, Ukraine, arriving in Halifax on the *S.S. Pisa* to take up a homestead near Insinger, Saskatchewan. A year later, in 1898, they were followed by my grandparents **Stephen and Anna Moldowan** and two boys.

Homesteads of 160 acres for \$10 to Ukrainian peasants was a dream come true. After many years of hardships, struggles and determination, they prospered. Along with the colourful traditions which they brought to this country, they brought many superstitions. Some which I heard as a girl still come to mind.

While tidying house in preparation for visitors, I was told not to sweep the floor because sweeping before arrival of guests brought bad luck.

Brooms seemed to play a significant role in their lives. On the Prairies were violent rain, hail and wind storms. My grandparents believed that a broom thrown out in a storm would make it subside. I remember a cyclone in 1938, when a storm raised the roof off our barn. We had the best-washed broom in the country!

Fear of death also played an important part in their lives. They believed that a dog howling long periods at night predicted death in the family. Also, dreaming of a wedding would ensure your attendance at a funeral. At funerals, a pregnant woman should wear a red ribbon to prevent her fetus from

being born pale or anemic.

Dog bites must have been common in those days, because animals were more than pets. Dog bites were taken seriously because a child might suffer nightmares. Some hair clipped from the dog must be burned in front of a bitten child to prevent such dreams. Probably it had the opposite effect!

Many haircuts were done in the home. A person's hair was swept neatly, then burned in the stove. This prevented headaches and confusion to the person. The wind was not allowed to blow loose hair outdoors!

While visiting a home, one was to be sure to depart by the same door they entered. This also prevented bad luck.

If mother had make a small repair or sew a button on a garment I was wearing, she would make me hold a piece of thread between my teeth to prevent my intelligence from being sewn up at the same time.

When my ancestors departed from the Ukraine, my grandmother would not have swept the floor. She probably washed it with her tears, but definitely not have swept. It must have worked, for after a long journey by ship and train, they raised nine Canadians who all prospered. So, no, I don't sweep before visitors arrive. But do you suppose grandmother Moldowan would approve of vacuuming?

## Little Ruth

by Pat MacKay

**Little Ruth** was born in Boston, USA, in 1905, to **Estelle and Fenwick Nelson Cougle**. Fen, as he was called, had been born in St. John, New Brunswick, and married in Vanceboro, Maine. Later he moved to Boston, Massachusetts. The family lived comfortably, and Fen had a good job with a railway.

About 1908, the Canadian Government advertised free land on the Prairies. Posters showed waving wheat fields which anyone could settle. Estelle's parents had earlier moved to Alberta, so the Cougles decided to move as well. In 1910, they left for the tiny community of Mechech, Alberta.

The trip was long and tiresome, especially for

the children. But the worst was yet to come. Grandma's house was made of sods and boards, had no bathroom and only the barest necessities. Their nice home was left behind, there were no friends to play with, and no relatives to visit. To make matters worse, the Cougles had to live with the grandparents until their own house was completed.

Years went by. Summers were hot; winters cold. There were hailstones and drought, but somehow, everyone survived and life became easier.

The Cougles moved to Drumheller, AB, some years later. By then Ruth had grown. In 1927, she

*Continued on next page*

### ***Little Ruth (con't)***

married and went to live in Vancouver. In all this time, no one had returned to Boston or St. John to visit family or friends. Of course, they kept in touch by mail, but now Fen's parents were dead and the rest of the relatives far away.

Ruth and her husband had two daughters and a happy life. Their family grew older, married, moved and produced grand-children. In 1981, little grandma Ruth lost her husband of 54 years.

Some years later, Ruth and a friend decided to take a trip. Both wanted to see the Maritimes and the colourful fall leaves. Their tour included a stops in St. John and Boston.

The bus trip was wonderful, but there were only a few hours in both ancestral homes. Ruth didn't know anyone at either location, but looked through local phone directories for people named Cougle.

When she returned home, she gave a list of names to her daughter, who was a member of the BC Genealogical Society. Letters were mailed, and after some months, a fat envelope arrived from St. John. A distant relative sent a family tree of eight generations which his father had assembled. This was great news. Now Ruth knew who her relatives were.

As you may have guessed, I am Ruth's daughter. My mother is now in her 90, and the circle is nearly complete. What was lost has been found.

### **Welcome new NFHS members**

**Paul Inscho** (758-2303), **Margaret Mann** (247-8101) and **Barbara Ann Scott** (758-8818), all of the Nanaimo area, have joined our group. Please take a moment to greet these folks and ask whether you might help in any way. In fact, Margaret may be able to help you! Her offer is below.

### **Info offers from local people**

Member **Margaret Mann** has made available her collection of Yorkshire and Lancashire material to local members. Contact her directly for details.

**Marven Strong** (758-4995) of Nanaimo has papers pertaining to Woodstock, New Brunswick families **Baker** and **York**. He is willing to share them with anyone researching that area. Please call to make arrangements.

### **Family photos seek to reunite!**

I've been rescuing photos from flea markets and garage sales for several years, and have such a large collection of pre-1930 Alberta portraits that I can look up surnames for the cost of a SASE. Most of the photos are from the Tofield-Ryley-Holden areas, Wainwright, Red Deer, Okotoks, Calgary, Edmonton, Nanton and Fort Saskatchewan. Also a few from Colorado, Indiana and Ohio.

There are too many surnames to list, but write with any you're interested in. I'm also taking donations of unwanted portraits you want reunited, provided names are clearly marked. Write with SASE to:

**Carol MacKay**  
609-25 Avenue NE  
Calgary, AB T2E 1Y6

### **Notice of intent to publish your address**

At the request of club members, the executive is planning to publish the names, addresses and telephone numbers of our members for local distribution in the summer edition of *AncesTree*. If you do not wish your details to be used, please contact the new editor prior to publication in June.

### ***George Eastman (con't)***

The International Museum of Photography is now run from George Eastman House (his restored mansion).

I also learned from the BC Archives that Eastman Creek south of Dease Lake in northwestern BC was named after him because George used to hunt, fish, hike and take pictures there. Last year, I found that NFHS editor **Tom Parkin's** grandfather **Campbell (Jack) Lewis** also guided Eastman on hunting trips in the Crowsnest Pass region in BC's southern Rocky Mountains.

My family research has taken me on safaris of sorts, too. Only my prey is ancestors — hunted through the halls of libraries, through membership in genealogical and historical societies, and through correspondence around the world. One day, I hope to visit many of the places I've researched so long. These are the dreams I have now; to find one more clue, to find one bit more proof. Who knows? Maybe my children or grandchildren have similar aspirations.

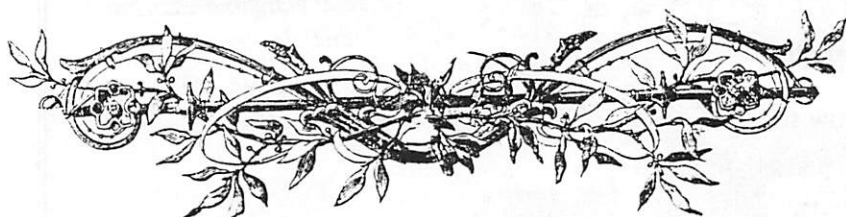
# Ancestry Tree

Volume 12 Issue 2 Nanaimo Family History Society

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The sweetest music  
is the harmony of happy memories.



## Inside this issue:

Member News	3
Quizzes & Queries	4
Programs/Events	5
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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:

- 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.

1995/96 Executive:	President	Patrick Gage	247-8604
	First V.P.	Len Gafka	756-4188
	Second V.P.	Peter McIntyre	758-0908
	A. Secretary	Sue Strobbe	755-1776
	Treasurer	Ken Biggs	468-7930
	News Editor	Sandy Watson	753-8967

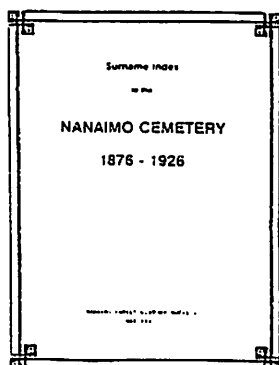
**Meetings:** General meetings are held on the third Thursday of each month (July, August and December excepted) in the Maffeo Auditorium, Community Services Building at 285 Prideaux Street, Nanaimo, beginning at 7:30 p.m. Visitors are welcome without obligation.

**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*.

**Library:** Closed July and August

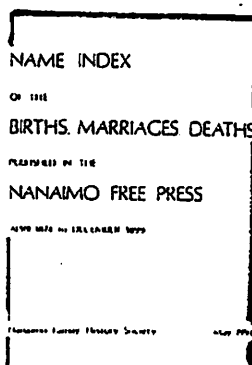
**Publications:** *AncesTree* is the quarterly publication of the Nanaimo Family History Society. The newsletter is distributed in March, June, September and December. Submission of photographs, articles, illustrations and advertisements are welcome, if suitable, as space permits. Editors reserve the right to change copy, cannot check accuracy of material submitted. If materials are to be returned, include a self-addressed, stamped envelope. Reprinting from *AncesTree* is permitted, provided author and publication credit are given.

## Mail Orders



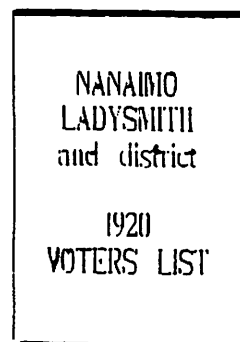
*Surname index to  
Nanaimo cemetery:*

includes full  
names, age,  
residence,  
place of birth  
and death date.  
1876 -1926



*Name index of births,  
marriages and deaths  
published in the  
Nanaimo Free Press:*

*April 1874 to  
December 1899*



*1920 Nanaimo/Ladysmith  
and district voter's list  
113- page coil-bound*

\$10 per book Our cost includes postage and handling  
Cheques must be made payable to NFHS.

Foreign readers, please pay in U.S. dollars and allow six  
to eight weeks for delivery.

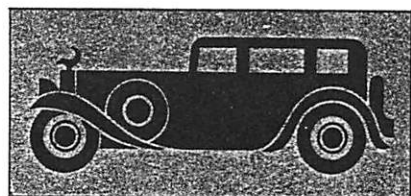


# We Keep Tinkering

You may have noticed a few changes in our meetings, programs and activities lately. Your suggestions and comments on recent surveys have helped us learn how we can improve our club.

## NEWCOMER?

Pick up a copy of our new Genealogy Starter Kit at the door next meeting and look for members wearing Buddy badges to help you.



## SAVE GAS - SHARE A RIDE

If you'd like a ride to attend our next meeting, call Pat MacKay, our membership director, at 756-2095, two weeks ahead and let us try to match you with a member who can give you a lift.

## SUMMER CLOSURE

The NFHS Library will be closed from now until September.



## You meet the nicest people

... at Woodgrove Mall on a sunny spring weekend. Warm thanks to volunteers Len and Lesia Gafka, Patrick Gage and Margaret Mann who spent a Saturday hosting a display to boost the profile of our club. Many shoppers stopped to chat and ask questions about genealogy and membership in NFHS.

## SMILE

Genealogy addiction is one of the fastest growing problems in our society today. Read the warning signs below and if you or anyone you know suffers from any one of these symptoms run, don't walk to the nearest meeting of Genealogists Anonymous. A chapter will be opening soon in your area.

### Warning signs of Genealogy addiction

- You can use a microfilm machine for more than 5 minutes without becoming dizzy.
- Library staff start asking you for advice on reference sources.
- You've traced your family tree back so far that the date on the passenger list information reads "Paleolithic" for the time period.
- You've been hanging out in the cemetery for so long that you and the caretaker are on a first name basis.

Editor's  
Note:  
This was  
developed  
by

LONDON LEAF,  
Vol 22, #2  
( May 1995 )



# Remember These?

AND THE WINNER IS ...

Doug Eastman's feature  
My Inventive Family was  
judged best among this  
year's entries in our  
SHARE the WEALTH contest.  
Doug's prize is the book  
Tracing Our Ancestors,  
reviewed on page six.

Contest theme for 1996:  
"Was I Surprised!"  
Submit up to 350 words  
(1 1/2 typed pages)  
before Nov. 16 to editor.



CAN YOU GUESS THE YEAR?

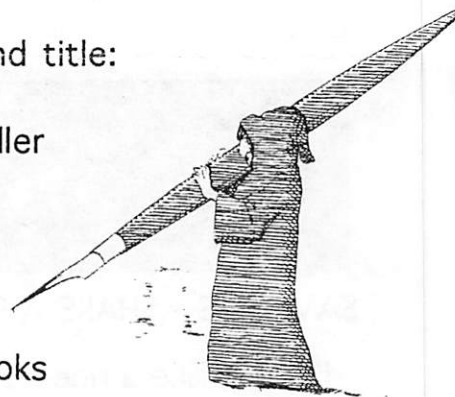
- \*First Family Allowance  
cheques are mailed to  
Canadians
- \*UN Charter signed by 50  
countries
- \*Rocket Richard scores 50  
goals in 50 games
- \*Hollywood signs Boris  
Karloff for 3 horror films
- \*Anne Frank, author of the  
famous diary, dies at 14
- \*Canadian troops liberate most  
of Holland

---

## OCCUPATIONAL QUIZ

Draw a line to match the correct description and title:

Costermonger	trinkets/cheap jewellery seller
Colporteur	notary or agent
Duffer	weaver
Fletcher	tinsmith or galvanizer
Scrivener	seller of Bibles/religious books
Webster	fruit/vegetable seller
Whitewing	bow and arrow maker



---

## QUERIES

**WOHLMAN** (often misspelled Whollman) **Frederick Thomas**, silver  
turner master mid 1850's living at 67 Lever Street, St. Luke's  
Parish Middlesex Married Susan **Brewster**. Son Frederick  
Godfrey (born Oct. 11, 1866) grew up to become watchmaker &  
jeweller in 1920's in Hackney m. Lizzie Agnes **Ross**. Their  
daughter, Mrs. Jean Cheney at 14 Currumbin Garden Villas, 2-  
10 Agean Avenue, Currumbin Waters, Gold Coast, 4223, Australia

Seeking roots of **MALLIN**, William Henry, glass beveller,  
lived at 10 Bridport Place, Hoxton Old Town, Shoreditch,  
London, m. Caroline **HAGGITH** (b. 1863), son (b. June 1,  
1892) Henry William Mallin won Olympic Gold Medal for  
boxing in 1924. Please write Joan Blair, 176 Acacia Ave,  
Nanaimo, British Columbia, V9R 3L5 Canada

COMING EVENTS  
EASTERN EUROPEAN RESEARCH

SEMINAR

Saturday, September 17, 1995

Vancouver

9:30am-5:00pm

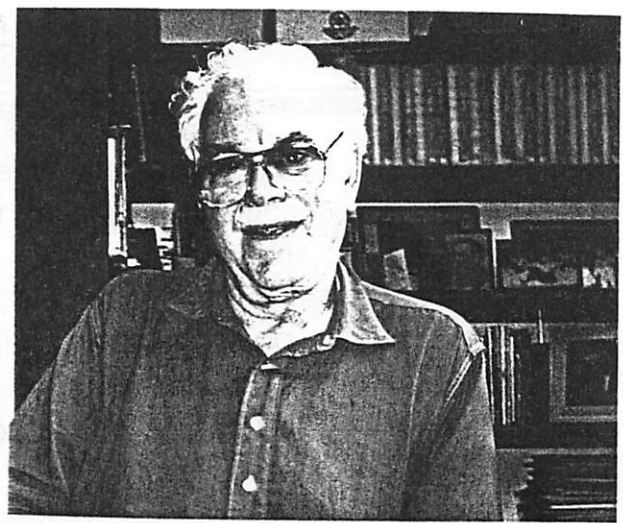
Fee: \$60 before Aug. 31

For details:

206-950 West 41st Ave

Vancouver, B.C. V5Z 2N7

Phone 604-321-9870



To commemorate the 50th Anniversary of V-E Day we invited Major Alex Greenwood to talk on How to Conduct Military Record Searches.

Delving into military history is of special interest to Mr. Greenwood, who served with distinction as a British Army officer in Norway, Iceland, India and Burma during World War II (including a one year stint as Aide-de-Camp to the Commander-in-Chief in India, Field Marshall Auchinleck).

NATIONAL GENEALOGY CONFERENCE

Seattle, September 20-23, 1995

130 lectures/workshops

4 days

50 speakers

300 page handout

Registration: \$90 before Aug. 1

Transportation/Hotel extra

New Amtrak train from Vancouver?

Catamaran vessel from Victoria?

Horizon Air from Victoria/Vancouver?

Group Car Pool from Nanaimo?

for details write:

FGS/SGS Conference

Box 3385

Salt Lake City, UT

84110-3385 U.S.A.

Techno-Peasants Arise!

How can a computer help a genealogist? Come to our September 21 meeting and see for yourself.

Whether you want to chart your family tree, contact others around the world with your surname, seek help with a research problem, access distant library files, organize your



family history or write your memoirs, there's a computer software program available.

Members will also share experiences on the Internet, demonstrate programs, answer questions, and help beginners.

Thank you...

Special Thanks to member Peter McIntyre for tape recording our speakers' presentations and transcribing these to typewritten records now available in our NFHS Library (along with copies of the handouts). An invaluable reference!

Have you ever wished you could step back in time and turn on a tape recorder for a few precious hours to listen to the stories that your grandparents told of their early years?

Maybe it's not too late. If you have a reunion or family visit coming up, you have an opportunity to initiate an "elder tale-telling" session that will preserve the remaining old timers' memories for future generations.

Family Tales, Family Wisdom sets out an easy-to-follow program for organizing family storytelling sessions so elders and younger relatives can share their common history and weave together the threads of a lifetime.

Author Akeret has laced the text with evocative photos and anecdotes from actual sessions to demonstrate how to use pictures, movies, music, dreams, and keepsakes to trigger memories

By getting the whole family involved, Akeret's methods seem guaranteed to bridge the generation gap and instill pride and understanding in the richness of family heritage.

This 234 page hard cover volume is an excellent addition to any library. SW Family Tales, Family Wisdom: How to Gather the Stories of a Lifetime and Share Them with Your Family by Dr. R. Akeret (Wm Morrow Publishing)

#### A LITTLE GEM

This week I came across a slim volume on English research entitled "Tracing Your Ancestors", by D.M. Field, published by Treasure Press. This 64 page book is well organized, with chapters devoted to BMD, censuses, wills, trades and professions, property and taxes, emigrants, and printed sources, amongst others. Each chapter is well illustrated with maps, old photographs, advertisements, and copies of various civil documents, parish registers, and wills. Good sources to consult are listed right in the text as well as in the bibliography, which is broken down into subject headings to help readers. There is an index of topics covered, and a section on useful addresses (libraries, record offices, and societies).

One or two addresses are outdated (the Censuses, including the 1891, are all now at Chancery Lane). These, however, do not detract from the value of this volume, which is suitable for either the beginner or the more experienced researcher. "Tracing Your Ancestors" would make a delightful gift for anyone with "the bug". It is well priced at \$6.95, and is available locally at P.B. Cruise, Booksellers. P.G.



## ALL IN A DAY'S WORK

Ever wondered what a "snobscat" did to earn his meagre wages?

Maybe you've wished you could peek back in time to see what kind of products your "peruker" forefathers produced. Have you puzzled over the meaning of the word "boniface" written under the OCCUPATION column on your great, great grandmother's marriage certificate?

The cobbler, wig maker and inn keeper above would have been surprised to learn that their job descriptions are no longer recognized as we approach the 21st century.

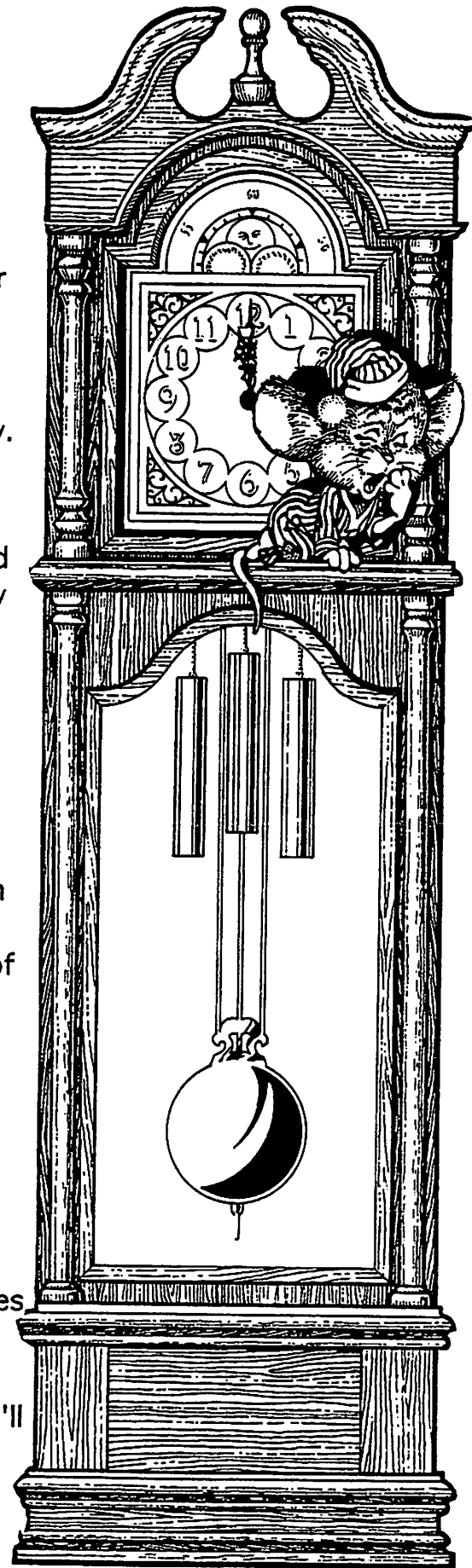
Londoner's Occupations: A Genealogical Guide is a comprehensive bibliography describing books and other resource materials that highlight trades, professions and dozens of "obsolete" careers. The booklet is organized by occupational categories, directing readers to published records and historical accounts of trade union memberships, political and business associations, and guild hall indexes.

Want to look up your ancestors' apothecary shop or find out which jewellers might have apprenticed your great, great uncle? The guide provides the titles of books that list the names of every London goldsmith from the 1300's to today. It mentions others which document five centuries of London shops, some including pictures of the old sign boards. Need an index of London coopers (barrelmakers) since the year 1440? You'll find a reference in this handy guide.

Some publications, such as the Middlesex County Cricket Club 1864-1899 will give the date of birth and death for each player listed, invaluable clues for family history researchers.

Others, such as The Coachmakers, include a complete history of coachmaking and harnesses along with the names of all masters and clerks from 1677-1977.

So whether your forebears were drovers or drapers, weavers or wheelwrights, swordmakers or scoundrels, you'll find a book that may record their "employment" by paging through Londoners' Occupations: A Genealogical Guide (Author: Stuart Raymond, Publisher: Federation of Family Histories, The Benson Room, Birmingham & Midlands Institute, Margaret Street, Birmingham, B3 3BS, U.K.)



BOOK REVIEW

# Do you Remember?

"Strange, isn't it,  
how a young man's  
life touches so many  
other lives. When  
he isn't around, he  
leaves an awful hole,  
doesn't he?"

- Clarence, the  
angel, in the  
film It's a  
Wonderful Life

"Wisdom springs from life experience well digested."

- Erik Erikson

NANAIMO FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY  
P. O. BOX 1027  
NANAIMO, B.C. V9R 5Z2

PUBLICATION MAIL  
REGISTRATION No. 8568

*American-Canadian GenSec.  
Box 668  
Manchester, NH, 03105  
U.S.A.*



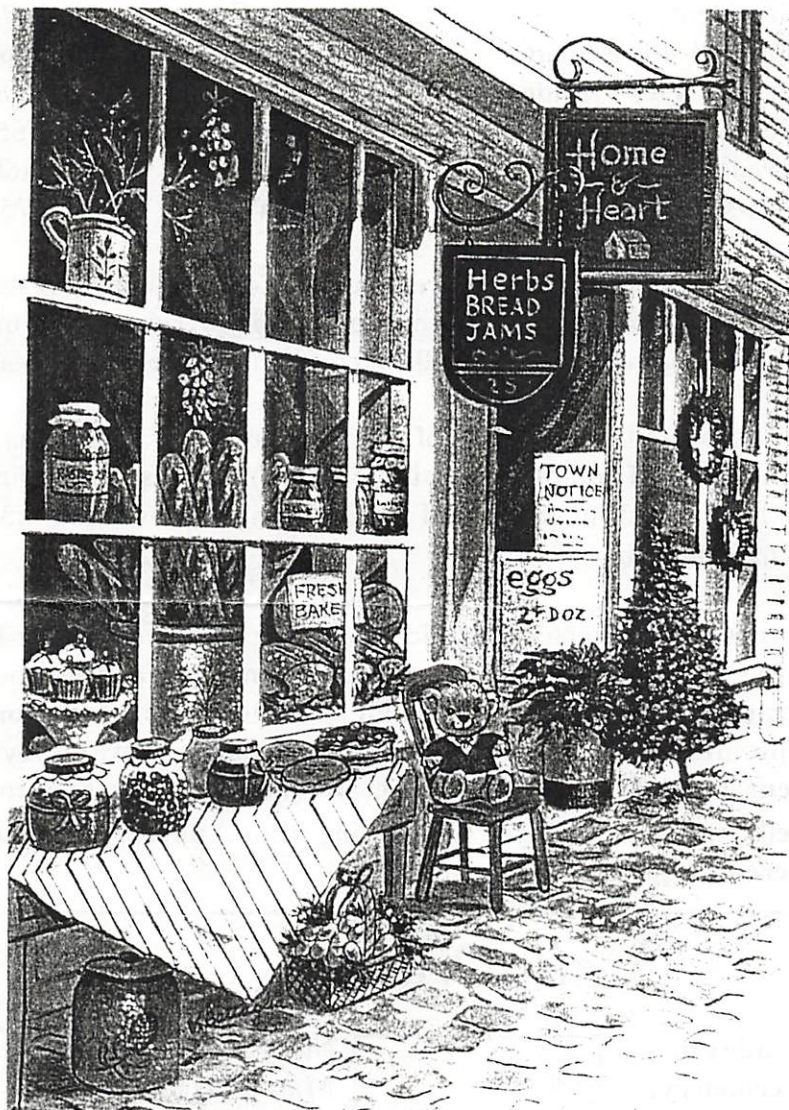
Volume 12 No. 4

Winter 1995

# AncesTree

ISBN 1185-166X

Nanaimo Family History Society



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# Nanaimo Family History Society

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

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

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	First Vice President	Len Gafka	756-4188
	Second Vice President	Peter McIntyre	758-0908
	Secretary	Sue Strobbe	755-1776
	Treasurer	Ken Biggs	468-7967
	Newsletter Editor	Sandy Watson	753-8967

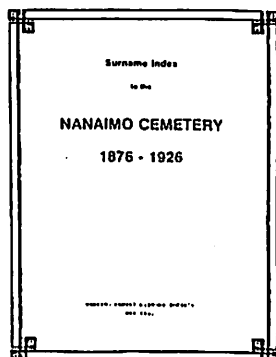
**Meetings:** General meetings are held on the third Thursday of each month (except July, August and December) in the Maffeo Auditorium, Community Services Building, 285 Prideaux Street, Nanaimo, beginning at 7:30 sharp. Visitors are welcome as guests.

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

**Publications:** *Ancestry* is the quarterly publication of the Nanaimo Family History Society. The newsletter is distributed in March, June, September and December. Submission of photographs, articles, illustrations and advertisements are welcome, if suitable and as space permits. Editors reserve the right to change copy, however cannot be responsible for the accuracy of material submitted. If materials are to be returned, please include a self-addressed, stamped envelope. Reprinting from *Ancestry* is permitted, provided publication credit is given.

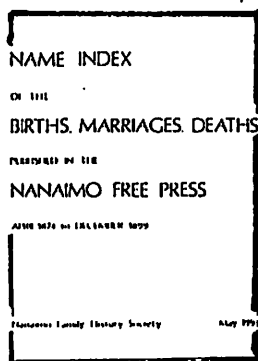
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## Mail Orders

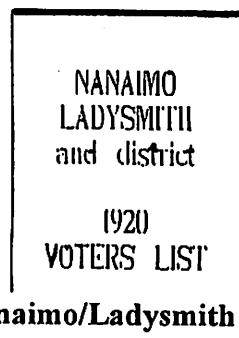


**Surname index to Nanaimo cemetery:**

Includes full names, ages, residence, place of birth, date of death.  
1876-1926 \$13



**Name index of births, Marriages and deaths**  
Published in the  
Nanaimo Free Press  
April 1874 to  
December 1899 \$10



**1920 Nanaimo/Ladysmith and district Voter's List**  
113 pages/coil-bound \$15

Our cost includes postage and handling. Cheques must be made payable to the Nanaimo Family History Society. Foreign readers, please pay in U.S. dollars and allow six to eight weeks for delivery.



## Yuletide Quiz

Is jolly old Saint Nicholas crinose?

What did Granny put in her jorum during the holidays?

Gramps worried all through his turkey dinner about aglutition. Why?

Why was the waldgrave the best person to cut the Christmas tree?

## Answers to September Quiz

If a newspaper article about one of your forefathers stated that he had eleutheromania, what was his problem? (He was obsessed with a need for freedom.)

If granny believed in nephalism, what was missing from her house? (alcohol)

If a death certificate listed an ancestor as having kyphosis, what was his condition? (hunchbacked)

If your great, great uncle was a fogleman, what was his job? (a soldier who demonstrated drill)

## Mystery Solved

Have you ever located an ancestor's cemetery headstone with no birthdate given, but the exact age recorded in years, months and days?

"Alvin Mugg died April 4, 1877 aged 77 years, 9 months, and 12 days"

Here's a handy formula to determine Alvin's birthdate:

Write his death date (start with the year)  
18770404

Write his age at death (year 1st) - 730912  
Subtract and record answer 18039492  
From there, subtract 8870 - 8870  
The final number is (from left) 18030622  
his birth year, month and day.

Try this trick and you will be amazed at how it works (within 1 day) every time.

- Patrick Gage

## Passive or Active?

Are you an active member, the kind that would be missed, or just content to simply have your name on the membership list?

Do you attend the meetings and mingle with the crowd, or stay at home and whine & fuss, complaining long and loud?

Do you give a little time to help us make things tick, or leave the work to just a few and talk about "the clique"?

We've got a program scheduled that spells success if done, but it is best accomplished with support from everyone.

So come to all our meetings and offer to do your part. We welcome ideas and assistance with open hands and heart.

\*\*\*\*\*

\*\*\*\*\*

## **"Long Lost" Letters**

\*\*\*\*\*

### **Found unclaimed in our files:**

Transcription of a 1884 letter from  
John (Jack) BILLER London, England

9 Old Jewry  
London E.C.  
Sept 25, 1884

My Dear Father,

I am very pleased to receive your letter this morning and to hear of your Honours. May you live long to enjoy them.

We are all pretty well at home - William and the children especially so. The former cannot yet get a ship and I think that worries him more than a little as he knows my hands are more than full.

George has turned out a d \_\_\_\_\_ thief and that is very trying to the old people and his sisters. He has made away with 1200 pounds of Louisa's money - 600 pounds from Mr. Smith and above all, he has used 1500 of the trust fund belonging to my little children.

How it will all end I know not, but the murder must out soon. His father and mother are dreadfully upset and unless he comes forward in a very different spirit to the independence he assumes now, I shall certainly send him to penal servitude.

Fancy taking the money knowing how hard I had been hit and that in the event of my death it was nearly half I had to leave for the little ones. Besides the above he has pledged a security of mine for 107 pounds and upon which I am liable.

I must try and run down and have a stroll across the heath as I much want a change. Sir F. is in Scotland, but I am consequently tied here. What is worse, still business is very quiet.

Let me hear from you a little more frequently. Your affectionate son,  
Jack

Addendum:

Vernon  
November, 1976

Dear Jack,

I have at last found the time to type this letter which you gave me in Glenavon last month. What a queer, wonderful thing, this letter surviving all this time.

I have probably made mistakes in copying, but the main point is clear - the writer is our grandfather John BILLER, telling his father, William, about the misdeeds of cousin George, brother of our grandmother Susannah Biller and father of George Biller, Bishop of North and South Dakota.

I'm trying to work it out from a family tree my sister Jill made up and from a newspaper clipping you gave me, describing the Bishop's life. I will copy the other two letters to send later. Kay sends love.  
Unsigned

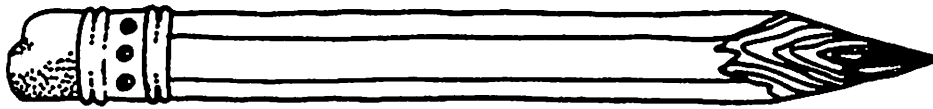
If you're related to the BILLER family or a BISHOP of NORTH/SOUTH DAKOTA contact NFHS to claim this letter.

\*\*\*\*\*

### **Family Friend Found**

Recently, Joan BLAIR read a Letter to the Editor in the Nanaimo Free Press from a 76 year old lady in Wales seeking facts about John HARRIES, a coal miner who, with his wife, Mary THOMAS left Pembrokeshire in 1888 and settled in Ladysmith, B.C.

Joan sent a page from the 1920 Ladysmith/Nanaimo Voter's List with the Harries entry and called Florence YORI who lives in Ladysmith. Florence contacted Ray KNIGHT, a pioneer who remembers the Harries family well. He has now written to Brenda EVANS in Wales to provide her with his personal recollections.



## Queries

\*\*\*\*\*

### BURROUGHS

William BURROUGHS, born June 6, 1820 in Ontario? Married Louisa between 1835-1842. Children Thomas, Charles Henry and John. Seek info/descendants.

Please write: Joanne Burroughs  
c/o 176 Acacia Avenue  
Nanaimo, B.C., V9R 3L5  
Canada

### DRUMMOND

Daniel DRUMMOND, born 1799, Scotland. He married Mary MACDOUGALL (b. 1802, Argyllshire, Scotland) on Dec. 12, 1832 in Paisley, Ontario. Seek info and/or descendants.

Please write to: Joanne Burroughs  
c/o 176 Acacia Avenue  
Nanaimo, B.C. V9R 3L5  
Canada

### RAE

Seek descendants of Robert RAE, may have lived briefly in Listowel, ON circa 1898. Born in Kilbride, LKS, Scotland, ca 1841. May have come to Canada with brother, Allan, and other siblings (Mary, Janet, Thomas, Margaret) in 1872.

Father Robert RAE m. Mary (WATT)

Please write to: Mrs. K. Beck  
#202, 220 Townsite Road  
Nanaimo, B.C. V9S 5S8  
Canada

### ROGERS

Seek descendants of Edith M. ROGERS, b. 1890, Thornton Heath, Surrey, England. Father Walter Henry ROGERS m. Isabella. Edith (known as Peggy) m. Mr. Inglis (Peter?), lived in France, then Canada. Please contact:

Mrs. June Smethurst  
13 Euston Mnt, Holbeck  
Leeds, England LS11 0BY

## More Queries

\*\*\*\*\*

### TURK/GOUDY

Seek information on descendants of Richard Nathaniel TURK and Margaret GOUDY, m. West London, 17 Feb., 1814. Known children, Ann, William, and Eliza Margaret. Listed as doctor on some documents, but 1842 London postal directory lists him as owner of Dolphin Tavern in lower Hungerford Market.

Please write to: Mrs. K. Beck  
#202, 220 Townsite Road  
Nanaimo, B.C. V9S 5S8  
Canada

### GENETICS AND GENEALOGY

Looking for others who share my interest in tracing links to hereditary disease, genetic disorders, medical information about ancestors. Please contact:

Joanne Burroughs  
c/o 176 Acacia Avenue  
Nanaimo, B.C. V9R 3L5

Internet EMAIL: [joburr@island.net](mailto:joburr@island.net)

\*\*\*\*\*

PHILPOTT/WOODMAN and FOSTER  
Descendants of Winnifred Philpott and Joan Foster who came from England to Canada, may want to view the historical information and photos of the Island Hall, a landmark hotel built by these two young women in 1917 on Vancouver Island. Miss PHILPOTT eventually married Dr. WOODMAN and moved to China in 1927, but Miss FOSTER remained in Parksville. The old hotel is still flourishing. For more details write:

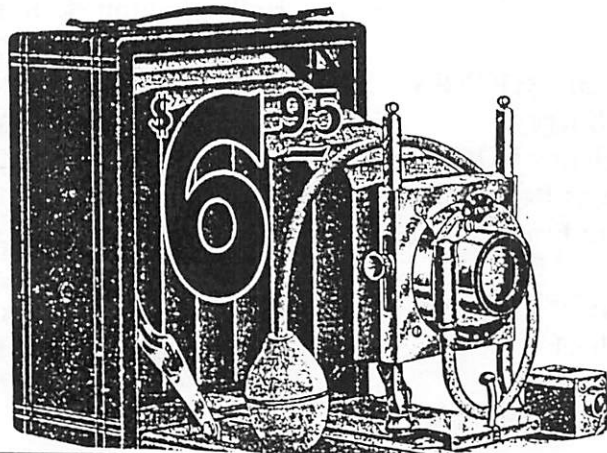
Island Hall Beach Resort,  
185 West Island Highway,  
Parksville, B.C. V9P 2G5

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## Uncovering Secrets in Old Photographs

Careful examination of old photos can offer clues that may:

- \* document important events in the lives of subjects
- \* reveal evidence about the social/economic status of the subjects
- \* suggest hobbies or interests of a little-known relative or friend
- \* convey hints about character traits, emotional state or behavior
- \* verify facts or clarify faded memories
- \* chronicle changes in physical appearance and/or attitude
- \* reflect details about the cultural or ethical values of an era
- \* pinpoint special relationships within a group or family
- \* help establish the decade and location of a picture based on
  - hairstyles of male and female subjects
  - clothing and other fashion accessories
  - background of studio, interiors, exteriors
  - props or background objects
  - size of portrait, photo print or negative
- \* open new research avenues for genealogists to pursue



## Dating Old Photographs

Ah, the holiday season - time to load the camera and snap a few photos of the extended family gathered around the dining table for the feast.

We take for granted these "Kodak moments", but 150 years ago, having your picture taken was a major event, often approached with fear and anxiety.

Just have a gander at some of those old photographic portraits: body as rigid as a fence post, neck muscles strained, eyes glazed by the light or the fumes, corsets and linen underwear stiff and itchy - who cared about smiling? Not a pretty picture.

But we cherish these old momentos as windows into the past. We pour over each photo hunting for clues that might reveal something about the character of a relative we have never met. Or we examine the picture for hints that will lead us to the identity of the subject, the time or the place.

Photo-analysis has become a useful tool for genealogists who have inherited old albums filled with pictures that have no names or dates on the back.

There are many methods for dating old photos, but one of the easiest is by researching fashion trends in hairstyles and clothing.

A picture showing trousers pulled tight by footstraps tells us the date was after 1855. In 1871, it was first fashionable for a man to grow a thin, jawline beard and mustache. A photo of a gentleman in a tuxedo confirms that it was taken after 1880 when this garment was introduced.



Photos of children also provide clues to the date of the sitting. Posing a baby on a fur rug was not stylish until the late 1890's. The child's sailor suit became all the rage after 1900. The first pram in which a baby could lie down? 1870.

The 1860 era is easily recognizable in women's fashions by the hoop skirt, large crinoline, and tightly fitted bodice cut to a V at the waist. Hair was parted in the middle, puffed at the sides and often showed sausage curls behind the ears.

A picture of a woman wearing a cameo or drop earrings suggests the 1870's when bustles were popular and a seamstress used braided trim to spruce up an outfit made on a new sewing machine.

A costume encyclopedia or photo guidebook will help genealogists too. "Understanding Old Photographs" and "Dating Old Photographs" by Robert Pols are particularly well-researched and readable. For more information, contact Robert Boyd Publications, 260 Colwell Drive, Witney, Oxfordshire OX8 7LW





## Pathway to the Past

January will mark the launch of a new periodical dedicated to preserving first-hand accounts of the past. Titled **YESTERDAY**, it will include articles, illustrations and photographs from readers who want to share their memories about the way life used to be.

Editor, John Tittford, plans to fill the pages with stories of the people, places and things many of us have almost forgotten, and he has presented several sample pages in the November 1995 issue of *Family Tree Magazine*.

Your club library now subscribes to *Family Tree Magazine*, so you can browse and find details on the new publication.

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## High Marks for New Genealogy Magazine

*Family History Monthly* is a refreshing new addition to the genealogy market. Recently found at Sears in Hillside Center, Victoria; this breezy British magazine is full of in-depth articles that tweek your interest, educate, entertain and satisfy your curiosity.

The second issue (November 1995) reveals fascinating secrets about the surnames Smith, Shaw and Howard along with stories behind familiar sayings, words and customs. There's a series on *Compiling a Family Tree* and a feature listing all the VC winners of WW1. A great read with a fresh point of view. For information write:

**Family History Monthly**  
45 St. Mary's Road  
Ealing, London W5 5RQ

## Library Surprises

The Nanaimo Family History Society Library not only holds a good selection of genealogical reference materials, members come in to browse among the periodicals and newsletters we exchange with dozens of other clubs in eastern Canada, the U.S., Britain, Ireland, Scotland, etc.

We also have old editions of the *Yorkshire Dalesman*, *This England*, *The Field*, *Heritage*, *The People's Friend* and others from the 1970's and 80's. It's surprising how many feature articles and photos about villages, cultural traditions, etc. are useful to genealogists.

Planning a trip to look up your roots? Check the maps and tourist guides in your club library. See Page 2 for hours.

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## Ancestors from Edmonton?

The Birth, Marriage and Death notices from the *Edmonton Journal* newspaper for 1907 have now been indexed and contain over 1000 names. This issue complements previously published 1904, 1905 and 1906 extracts (available for \$7.50 each). Request the 1907 index for \$10.00 from: Rob Milson

8616 - 176 Street

Edmonton, Alberta T5T0N3

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## Was Your Ancestor a Physician?

For information about an index listing every medical doctor in America since 1607, write:

**National Institute of Health Library**  
9000 Rockville Pike  
Bethesda, MD 20892 USA

## ONTARIO SLIM CHANCE PAYS OFF

*Patrick Gage*

Have you ever had a slim chance pay off for you? I had one such experience recently when I was browsing through an issue of Families magazine at the Club Library. I found an interesting article which stated that in 1853 the Department of Agriculture for Canada West (later Ontario) had sent out a questionnaire to farmers who had immigrated there. In addition to the expected questions about land, livestock, and harvests, the survey also asked which parishes people had come from, what occupations they had formerly worked in, which years they had arrived in Canada, whether they were married at the time of entry, and the ages of family members.

The drawback was that only 41 of these questionnaires had survived for the whole province, just those from the people named at the end of this article. "Have any survived from Goderich?" I wondered. Two had, and one of them was my 3 greats-grandfather's!

I wrote off to the National Archives, and they sent me a copy of his original questionnaire. From that I learned that he had reached Goderich in August, 1831, after arriving in New York in November, 1830. I was then able to locate him in New York shipping records as having arrived on the Helen Mar from London, England on Nov. 8, 1830. He was carrying about 200 pounds sterling with him, most of which he used to buy land from his future father-in-law, Joseph Wilson, who had arrived in Goderich in 1829. Incidentally, land cost the grand sum of 10 shillings per acre, 7 shillings and sixpence for land farther from the town!

I also discovered that my ancestor, before leaving England, had been a London goldsmith, something I would not have suspected for an Ontario farmer's previous career! As a result of that information, I am now going to trace his career further through London goldsmith's records.

If you have ancestors who were farming in Ontario in 1853 and who had immigrated there, check the names at the end of this article.

If your ancestor is listed, contact the Public Archives of Canada at 395 Wellington St., Ottawa, Ontario, K1A 0N3, quoting RG17 Vol.2325, and giving the name and file number (given below). And if your ancestor's name is John Blake from Goderich, Ontario, contact me; we're cousins!

Name	Arrival	Township	File#
Airth, Henry	1827	Horton	21
Alton, Thomas	1819	Nelson	34
Barnard, Joseph	1832	Monaghan	5
Beatty, Walter	1821	Yonge	39
Blake, John	1830	Goderich	2
Breckon, John	1831	Nelson	33
Brill, John	1838	Bagot	23
Cairns, Thomas	1844	Plympton	35
Cole, Samuel	1833	Sarnia	10
Corrigan, Thomas	1827	Clarendon	28
Cromar, Robert	1836	Woolwich	3
Earl, Thomas	1820	Blandford	36
Fee, Thomas	1820	Emily	7
Filliter, William	1842	Bagot	26
Hamilton, William	1821	Ramsay/Clarendon	31
Jenkins, Thomas	1834	Gorderich	41
Jowsey, Thomas (no date)		Eardley	18
Kelley, Patrick	1822	Elisabethtown	15
Lamb, Thomas	1833	Usborne	1
Lightfoot, John	1832	Monaghan	6
Mathewson, Joseph	1832	Toronto/Blandford	37
McCrea, Edward	1843	Bagot	25
McLean, Ewen	1847	Brock/Kincardine	11
McLean, Don. Chas.	1811	Eardley	20
McQueen, James	1822	Esquesing/Pilkington	4
Munro, John	1836	Horton	19
Richardson, Richard	1818	Gouldbourn/Clare.	30
Robertson, Charles	1843	Windham	40
Rowan, James Esq	1841	SantholdLk/Kincar	12
Rowlings, Henry	1831	Plympton	13
Shaw, James	1842	Clarendon	29
Shepherd, Samuel	1820	Plympton	14
Smart, Alexander	1826	Clarendon	32
Stewart, Joseph	1819	Elisabethtown	38
Sutton, James	1819	Hamilton/Cavan	8
Syme, Robert	1821	N. Sherbrook	9
VanKoughnet, Philip	1791	Cornwall	17
Wager, James	1815	Harwich	16
Wallon?, John	1838	Bagot	24
Wilson, John	1830	Albany/Guelph	22
Windle, John	1848	Bagot	27

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## All in a Day's Work



The basement level of the University of Victoria Library is a great place to spend a rainy day, drifting backwards in time.

If you want to learn what life was like for your ancestors, peruse the pages of a 19th century newspaper such as the Irish Times and a picture forms in your mind.

Recently, I found several gems that shed light on a typical day in Victorian England while pouring over an 1840 edition of the London Times.

"Mr. E. Soloman's Patent Spectacles extend great relief to the visual organs."

"Lord of the Realm, having returned from his travels, not wanting his Courier anymore, informs families who are going on the Continent that he knows all that is necessary respecting his situations, speaks French, Italian, English and German and that he will recommend him in person. "

"Mr. E. Soloman's voice conductors, when placed in the ear, are not perceptible in the least."

"Cob Galloway wanted - any gentleman having a handsome well-bred gelding may present same to the address below."

"Loss of teeth supplied without clasps or wires. Loose teeth fastened and filling of decayed teeth. Guaranteed for useful mastication and arbcutation."

"Young man aged 22, of good address and irreproachable character, writes a legible and expeditious hand and is a good arithmetician. Wants situation in a counting house or warehouse as clerk."

"The Thames Tunnel is now open to the public every day except Sunday from 9 until dark. Admission: one shilling. 1,140 feet in length. Brilliantly lighted with gas. Entrance on the Surrey side of the river close to Rotherhide Church."

### Prisoner's Dock -

"The intruder is 15 years of age, the son of a poor but industrious man, living at 16 Bellyard, York Street, Westminster. The boy has obtained a scanty livelihood by working as a tailor in a shed on Derby Street, Cannon Row.

In person, he is very short for his age, has a most repulsive appearance, is very meanly dressed, but affected an air of great consequence, repeatedly requesting the police to address him in a becoming manner.

He was committed to three months on the treadmill at the House of Correction in Tothill Street as a rogue and vagabond."

Somehow, today's worries do not seem so important after looking back to yesterday through the pages of the old papers.

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If you want details about the life of a Victorian ancestor, follow his or her occupational path. Enquire about trade union or guild membership, apprenticeship training or work records: The Guildhall Library, Aldermanbury, London EC2P 2EJ

## Aunt Meg ... who never married

When you sit down to write your family history, please remember to weave a little wonder in among the facts. Often, it's the small things that convey the most memorable images to our readers.

Here's an example of a personal recollection that reveals the true character of a dear, departed loved one.

"I remember the time Jim Foster went off to war. I saw the last brave flutter of Meg's handkerchief, and heard her sigh as the train steamed over the bridge and the whistle disappeared into the twilight.

Aunt Meg never talked about Jim Foster. She lived with us till we grew up, colouring my memories. I can still hear the far away songs she used to sing until her eyes glistened, the soft sound of her voice reading by the dim light the time Jane and I had measles. I see her graceful hands arranging roses in a silver bowl on summer mornings, watch her skating on the pond on winter evenings.

Aunt Meg never married. The hopes that beat within her heart departed with the train whistle that slipped into silence behind the mountains.

Aunt Meg died ten years ago, gone to her memories. And when I think of her, I see the beauty of all that touched her life ... warm words, the scent of roses, lost love, distant music, summer sunshine, frosty evenings and the shadow of a train."



Remember the moonlit skating parties?

For the sake of future generations, who want to know what mattered, please don't forget to paint a few descriptive pictures, whether happy or sad, when you write your family history. SW

## **Chapman Code Abbreviations for (pre 1974) Counties in the British Isles**

### **\*\*\*\*\*ENGLAND\*\*\*\*\***

Bedfordshire - BDF  
Berkshire - BRK  
Buckinghamshire - BKM  
Cambridgeshire - CAM  
Cheshire - CHS  
Cornwall - CON  
Cumberland - CUL  
Derbyshire - DBY  
Devon - DEV  
Dorset -  
Durham - DUR  
Essex - ESS  
Gloucestershire - GLS  
Hampshire - HAM  
Herefordshire - HEF  
Hertfordshire - HRT  
Huntingdonshire - HUN  
Kent - KEN  
Lancashire - LAN  
Leicestershire - LEI  
Lincolnshire - LIN  
London - LND  
Middlesex - MDX  
Norfolk - NFK  
Northamptonshire - NTH  
Northumberland - NBL  
Nottinghamshire - NTT  
Oxfordshire - OXF  
Rutland - RUT  
Shropshire - SAL  
Somerset - SOM  
Staffordshire - STS  
Suffolk - SUF  
Surrey - SRY  
Sussex - SSX  
Warwickshire - WAR  
Westmoreland - WES  
Wiltshire - WIL  
Worcestershire - WOR  
Yorkshire - YKS  
Yks. East Riding - ERY  
Yks. North Riding - NRY  
Yks. West Riding - WRY

### **\*\*\*\*\*WALES\*\*\*\*\***

Anglesey - AGY  
Brecknockshire - BRE  
Caernarvon - CAE  
Cardiganshire - CGN  
Carmarthen - CMN  
Denbighshire - DEN  
Flintshire - FLN  
Glamorgan - GLA  
Merioneth - MER  
Monmouthshire - MON  
Montgomeryshire - MGY  
Pembrokeshire - PEM  
Radnorshire - RAD

### **\*\*\*\*\*SCOTLAND\*\*\*\*\***

Aberdeen - ABD  
Angus - ANS  
Argyllshire - ARL  
Ayrshire - AYR  
Banffshire - BAN  
Berwick - BEW  
Bute - BUT  
Caithness - CAI  
Clackmannan - CLK  
Dunbarton - DNB  
Dumfries - DFS  
East Lothian - ELN  
Fife - FIF  
Inverness - INV  
Kirkcudbright - KKD  
Lanark - LKS  
Midlothian - MLN  
Moray - MOR  
Nairn - NAI  
Orkney Isl - OKI  
Peebles - PEE  
Perthshire - PER  
Renfrew - RFW  
Ross & Cromarty - ROC  
Roxburgh - ROX  
Selkirk - SEL  
Shetland - SHI  
Stirling - STI  
Sutherland - SUT  
West Lothian - WLN  
Wigtown - WIG  
\*Alderney - ALD \*Guernsey - GSY  
\*Jersey - JSY \*Sark - SRK  
\*Isle of Man-IOM \*Isle of Wight-IOW



\*\*\*\*\*

## **Snooping in Scottish Records**

Genealogists sometimes feel like intruders when they research Old Parochial Registers for records of Scottish ancestors because of the extremely private nature of the details revealed.

In Scotland, baptismal certificates contained the mother's maiden name, whether the birth was lawful or a product of adultery, the rank of the child in the family, and the name and relationship of the witness to the subject.

Parish records can also help if you cannot locate proof of death. The name of the family member you seek may be found in the annual church register of rentals for "morte cloths", commonly used for funeral services for any deceased individual over the age of ten.

Scottish birth certificates dating from 1855 can uncover many facts:

- \* Name, surname and sex of child
- \* Time, date and place of birth
- \* Name and occupation of father if known, if not, illegitimacy is declared.
- \* Name and maiden surname of mother, If illegitimacy, HER occupation given
- \* Date and place of parents' marriage (Except if between 1856 and 1860)
- \* Name, relationship and address of informant (if not present)
- \* Registry date, place, registrar's name
- \* Other children of parents - 1855 only
- \* Age, birthplace of parents - 1855 only

\*\*\*\*\*

## **Where in Wales?**

If you're digging for roots on a Welsh family tree, club member, Terry Baker recommends a book entitled "Welsh Family History - A Guide to Research" found in the Nanaimo Regional Library.

Or Write: Pembrokeshire Record Office,  
The Castle, Haverfordwest,  
Dyfed, Wales SA61 2EF

Carmarthenshire Records Council Hall  
Carmarthen,  
Dyfed, Wales SA31 1JP

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## **New PRO Publications**

If you can't get to the venerable British Public Records Office in person, you can purchase by mail order, several helpful books of interest to family historians. The PRO Christmas catalogue is available by writing to: The Bookshop

Public Record Office  
Chancery Lane  
London WC2A 1LR

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## **Puzzling Calendar Dates**

Sometimes old church records note dates in terms of religious celebration days rather than standard calendar format.

Here are some examples:

February 2	Candlemas
March 25	Ladyday
May 15	WhitSunday
August 1	Lammas
September 29	Michelmas
November 11	Martinmas





## Researching by Computer

After our interesting September meeting on the use of a computer for genealogical searching, you may have rushed out and bought a computer and modem and signed up on the Internet. If not, read on. Local Internet service providers have software and offer telephone assistance so you can access many fascinating information sites anytime of the day or night. If you are still not certain, ask any of the club members currently using the Net or Compuserve or other on-line computer services to share experiences.

### Newsgroups -

There are thousands of newsgroups on every topic imaginable, but for our purposes, we seek Internet sites where genealogy enthusiasts record, read and answer messages from others with the same interest. It's like a world-wide bulletin board of queries that offers the possibility of instantaneous replies.

When you type the following "addresses", you open up a whole new realm of research buddies:

alt.genealogy.misc  
soc.genealogy  
soc.genealogy.uk+ireland  
soc.genealogy.surnames  
soc.genealogy.computing

Between these newsgroups, upwards of 500 queries and/or answers appear daily. With that many to peruse, you soon become adept at finding only the messages appropriate to your needs.

Notations with the abbreviations FAQ are always a good place to start- Frequently Asked Questions can save time & money.

You will "meet" some amazing people in the newsgroups, from a retired British paratrooper who regularly offers help with Scottish Parish Registers just for the fun of it; to homebound researchers whose personal libraries contain rare collections they will consult for answers.

If you want to browse other networks, you can "fetch" using a Gopher search to access the PSI Net, for instance, where you'll find helpful directories that include a Beginners Genealogy Course that you can print out and use at home, a speech on Canadian Military Records, handy instructions on how to access the genealogy resources in the American National Archives which includes Ellis Island Immigration information.

### BC Archives Online -

Well, almost. You can contact the BC Archives at [Gopher.bcars.gs.gov.bc.ca](http://Gopher.bcars.gs.gov.bc.ca) and review their library publications catalogue, pull up photo images to view on screen, search the finding aids index, or enter a surname to get the reference number of a probated will. The Archives also offers a home page with more information at:  
<http://www.bcars.gs.gov.bc.ca/bcars.html>

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With NetScape or other world wide web browsers, you can cruise further afield. The Public Records Office in Britain has a web site listing all their addresses at: <http://www.open.gov.uk/pro/prohome.htm> or you can reach them at: <http://sable.ox.ac.uk/~malcolm/genuki/pro/>

The giant British Library in London: [portico@bl.uk](mailto:portico@bl.uk)

Cornwall, UK:  
<http://www.thenet.co.uk/~jlobb>

UK & Ireland:  
<http://midas.ac.uk/genuki>

Ontario Genealogical address data base:  
<http://www.islandnet.com:80/~anna/>

AFGS French Canadian background:  
<http://ids.net/~riwriter/afgshome.html>

Index to Genealogy Home Pages:  
<http://www.tic.com/gen.html>

Silicon Valley PAF Users Group:  
<http://www.rahul.net/svpafug>

German Genealogy Page:  
<http://www.genealogy.com>

New PBS TV Genealogy series:  
<http://kbyuwww.byj.edu/ancestor.htm>

NZ Marriage Witness Index:  
[hughwi@iconz.co.nz](mailto:hughwi@iconz.co.nz)

Club Member Terry Baker compiled most of this information. You can contact him on this subject or for help locating the address of a distant family history society: [terybakr@mail.island.net](mailto:terybakr@mail.island.net) Terry has also offered to help those with internet questions via telephone at 245-8499.

Compuserve ROOTS offers an excellent message forum for genealogy buffs. Sysop/Forum Manager is: Dick Eastman at 76701.263 Box 5273 Billerica, MA 01822

Adoption Search Specialist is: Vikki Schummer at 74040.1072

If you discover more internet or www sites that might be of interest to our members, please let us know.

We have been asked to publish a list of club members on internet. Send me your EMAIL address if you want participate.

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## Genealogy Computing

Cyberpunks, net surfers, GEDCOM, PAF, FTM, Kith & Kin, My Brother's Keeper and other computer program users may want to check out a newsletter: GENEALOGICAL COMPUTING which is available at the Cloverdale Library. Write for subscription information to: Box 476 Salt Lake City, UT 84110 or EMAIL : 76400.2667

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## Nanaimo Family History Society Annual General Meeting



**March 21, 1996**  
**Maffeo Auditorium**



**Committee Nominations Invited**

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**NANAIMO FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY**  
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NANAIMO, B.C. V9R 5Z2

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REGISTRATION No. 8568

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PORT PAYÉ

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