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BRITISH COLUMBIA GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

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The **BRITISH COLUMBIA GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY** was incorporated in 1978,
and registered with Revenue Canada as a charitable society.

*The Society promotes and encourages interest in genealogy and family history
in British Columbia.*

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The British Columbia Genealogist
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Join us on the 2nd Wednesday each
month, from 7:30-9:30 pm.

On our **Zoom** site.

*Details will be emailed to you prior to each
meeting.*

Meeting Location

Online for the present.

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A message from our President...

Another year has almost passed, and it
was a busy one for BCGS. We held
several very successful Zoom Saturday
seminars – again, thank you to Marie
Palmer, Janice Nickerson, Denyse
Beaugrand, Chris Paton and Karen
Inkster Vance. We really appreciated
them sharing their knowledge and ideas
with us. We have more Saturday
seminars planned for 2023.

We were finally able to celebrate our 50th
anniversary with our much anticipated
Alaska Cruise in September. It was a
wonderful week and especially enjoyed
the 'sea days' with lectures by Blaine
Bettinger. A big thank you to the Cruise
Team for all the work and organization
this created. And, must mention our cruise
director Robert Marcoux!

We held our Most Improved Genealogy
Contest this year, and I'm sure you will
enjoy the entries in upcoming issues of
our Journal. Hopefully these entries will
inspire you to work on your own research,
and perhaps enter the contest next year.

A reminder that now is the time to renew
your membership.

Or, perhaps
suggest to your
family that they can
give you the perfect
Christmas gift – a
membership in
BCGS.



Continued on page 4 . . .

From the Desk of the Editor

Our Winter Journal opens this month with a picture taken in Scotland by **Meg McLaghan**; she also explores her travels this year in her regular column, Genealogy on the Road.

We'll also remember the service of our WWII soldiers, with the assistance of researchers from Janice Kidwell's **Holten** project. They have contributed reports of three Canadian soldiers: Pte. Sutton, from New Westminster, Pte. Wilson, from Nanaimo, BC and Pte. Power, from Knutsford, BC.

If you, like me, enjoy working with plants and flowers, you will enjoy **JoAnn Fox's** story of the Bufton family, their life in East Vancouver and their contributions to the growth of Commercial Drive.

As well, we are going back in time to the 1890's with **Sheryl Wilson's** report of Notices from the Kootenaian .

To give a taste of the submissions for Most Improved Genealogist, **Brenda Jones** shares her research this month.

Janice Kidwell also brings us a timely (snowy) postcard from the Illecillewaet Glacier in Glacier National Park.

I hope that you will enjoy these reports, and perhaps consider sharing your research in our upcoming Journals.

Lynne Fletcher
Journal@bcgs.ca



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From Our President, cont'd . . .

I would like to acknowledge and thank all our volunteers for sharing your time and talents with us. And a special thank you to your Board of Directors, without whom, we wouldn't have our Society.

And though it might be a bit early, on behalf of the Board of Directors, we wish our members and their families, a Very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Eunice Robinson
President, BCGS

HOLTEN

SUTTON, Russell John, Private

Royal Canadian Ordnance Corps (RCOC) / WWII
Service #K/49864

Submitted by Sheryl Wilson
BCGS Member #4937

Date of Birth: 15 January 1924

Place of Birth: Hafford, Saskatchewan, Canada

Hometown: Surrey (Cloverdale), British Columbia, Canada

Residence: 272 Sandell Road, RR#4, Surrey (Cloverdale). At the time Surrey was a part of the New Westminster District.

Schooling: Star City High School, Star City, Saskatchewan, Canada, Completed Grade 9 at 16 years old

Employment: Sheet Metal Worker (4 months) for Smith & Sons, Vancouver & Truck Driver (1.5 years) 2 ton oil truck – 200 mile haul from refinery,
Cook (6 months) in small café, Vernon, BC

Date & Place of Death: 1 Jan 1946, Oldenburg, Germany (21 years old)
Occupation: Cook

Burial: Initially buried in Osterscheps, Germany then repatriated to Holten Canadian War Cemetery in Holten, Overijssel, Netherlands (Plot VII.A.6)

Personal Information from Canada WW11

Service Files of War Dead, 1939-1947

Single. Father farms in British Columbia. Four brothers – 2 are Smelter Workers, 1 sister – stenographer.

Sports: skating, swimming, fishing, softball

Average amount of reading – magazines and novels.

No hobbies. Likes dancing and attending shows.

Health is good.

Category B1 – result of injury to right foot in 1942

FAMILY:

Parents: Albert James SUTTON and
Margaret Ellen REID

Siblings: 4 Brothers and 1 Sister



HOLTEN

MILITARY HISTORY:

Date & Place of Enlistment: 3 February 1943 in Vancouver, British Columbia

Service Dates: Canada - Feb 3, 1943 to August 25, 1943, UK - August 26, 1943 to July 1, 1944, NW Europe - July 22, 1944 to January 1, 1946

Division: 2/203rd Inf. Ordnance Sub. Park (Unit: RCOC - Royal Canadian Ordnance Corps)

Service #: K49864, Private

Residence at Time of Enlistment: 272 Sandell Road, RR#4, New Westminster (Surrey)

Occupation: Sheet metal worker and truck driver

Personal Description at Enlistment: Age: 21, Single Brown Hair, Hazel Eyes, Medium Complexion, Height: 5 foot, 9 inches, Weight: 171 pounds

MEDALS:

1939-45 Star

France and Germany Star

Canadian Volunteer Service
Medal and Clasp



SOURCES:

- ◆ Canada, WWII Service Files of War Dead, 1939-1947 - www.ancestry.ca
https://search.ancestrylibrary.ca/cgi-bin/sse.dll?indiv=1&dbid=9145&h=5229&tid=&pid=&usePUB=true&_phsrc=WKo1472&_phstart=successSource
- ◆ Findagrave.com, Holten Canadian War Cemetery, Memorial #14041610
<https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/14041610>
- ◆ The Canadian Virtual Memorial (CVWM) Veteran Affairs Canada
<https://www.veterans.gc.ca/eng/remembrance/memorials/canadian-virtual-war-memorial/detail/2228039?Russel%20John%20Sutton>
- ◆ Commonwealth War Graves Commission
<https://www.cwgc.org/find-records/find-war-dead/casualty-details/2228039/russel-john-sutton/>
- ◆ Familysearch.org - Canada Prairie Provinces Census 1926, Saskatchewan, South Battleford, Mariposa, Household #44, Residence: N1/2 10, T35, R21, W3
<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:3Q9M-C395-G92X-G?i=5&cc=3005862&personaUrl=%2Fark%3A%2F61903%2F1%3A1%3AQP5Y-MNXT>

The Buftons of Commercial Drive: A Biographical Sketch

Submitted by JoAnn Fox
Article by Jak King

The Bufton family opened a store on Commercial Drive in the early 1920s. By the time they closed their business in the 1980s, they had become Drive royalty, both as a result of their corporate longevity and also because of their active involvement in so many of the issues that faced Grandview in those years.

Catherine Bufton (nee Drake) was born in Gloucester, England, in 1881. She emigrated to Manitoba where she married Hubert Bufton, an immigrant from Sussex, four years her junior, whom she had met in England. Hubert worked in the telephone service in England and was seconded as a lineman to Manitoba in 1909. They were living in St. Vital in 1911 when their son, Cyril Frank, was born. When World War I broke out, Hubert, then a clerk, enlisted with the Canadian Expeditionary Forces (CEF). At the time of his enlistment he was 5'5" tall, with blue eyes and brown hair, and a member of the Church of England. He was made a sergeant, probably because he had had four years of training with the East Kent Buffs of the British Territorial Army before his emigration.¹

Catherine and their son Frank moved to England, staying with her mother in Gloucestershire, until 1919, at which time the family returned to Canada. After Hubert's demobilization, they came to Vancouver as Hubert was invalided to Shaughnessy Hospital. Upon his release from hospital, Hubert worked as a telephone mechanic. They lived at first at 2815 Graveley, and then rented a 7-room house at 2541 E. 4th Avenue for \$30 a month. By the time of the 1921 census, Hubert was employed by the Canadian Westinghouse Co. making \$1,150 a year.² During the time he spent at Shaughnessy Hospital, Hubert and Catherine had learned the art of basket weaving. They put this to use by opening Grandview Florists & Basketry at 1520 Commercial in 1922, living first on Salsbury Drive and then in an apartment above the shop.³ The couple had a daughter, Mary Adeline, known as "Rosebud", in 1924. She had a difficult infancy, weighing only two pounds at birth and needing a long stay in hospital.

"Immediately after birth Rosebud was taken to the Vancouver General hospital and there placed in an Incubator and fed mother's milk through the medium of an eye dropper; one drop at a time. For weeks she lay in an almost unconscious state but gradually 'came to life' under the unremitting care and attention of Dr. K. Funk and Nurse Trethewey, the latter of whom devoted practically all her whole time to the wee tot."

By the time she was two, however, her health had improved so well that she was proudly entered into Beautiful Baby contests.⁴

At about this same time, their son Frank met George Wong at the Pacific National Exhibition (PNE). Wong helped pay for Frank to go on the rides, and they became life-long friends.⁵ Meanwhile, the florist business was doing well. The Buftons kept "an exceedingly choice stock of all kinds of plants and flowers" and in 1925 they even offered a silver cup as the prize for the best garden in Grandview. Though Hubert was fined \$25 and costs for paying girls less than the statutory minimum wage in 1928, this seems to have been an isolated incident and did not affect the family's standing in the community.⁶

BUFTON

In fact, the Buftons were great joiners. Hubert was presumably a Mason as Catherine was a senior member of the Order of the Eastern Star, a fraternal organization open to the spouses of Master Masons. Hubert himself was a member of the Grandview Chamber of Commerce and was elected to their board in 1927. During 1928, Catherine pressed for the formation of a Women's Auxillary for the Chamber and she was appointed the founding President of the section.⁷

The Auxillary's first major project, devised and organized by Catherine, was the War Memorial flagstaff and plaque in Grandview Park, which was dedicated in November 1930. On a day that suffered from "adverse weather", Mayor Malkin gave a brief but "stirring" speech and massed choirs sang "O Canada", "For All The Saints" and "O God Our Help In Ages Past." Finally, the solemn ceremony was completed with two minutes' silence, and the successful day was rounded out by the running of the Grandview Marathon.⁸

In the following year, Hubert was elected to the Executive Board of the Florists' section of the Retail Merchants' Asociation, and head of their Social Committee. In 1932, both he and Catherine were enthusiastic supporters of the newly-formed Co-operative Commonwealth Federation (CCF). By early 1936, Hubert was on the executive of the Grandview CCF Club and their son Frank, who was now working as a salesman in the store, had been elected as a District Council delegate.⁹

Frank was already involved with the Young Canada Club which met in Bufton's Hall, a space behind the store that was used by many local organizations for meetings. The Club had been formed in 1933, at the height of the Depression, by John Summers to lobby for unemployed youth:

"Our aim is to canvass business executives in the City. That is our first aim. We are anxious to place members in any work, preferably where they can learn trades or professions and thus become real citizens."¹⁰

Branches of the Club were formed in various part of the City and they were given a boost in a newspaper column written by Prof. Edward Odium. He wrote that he knew many of the young men involved and could speak well of their character.

"Such a club within our borders," he wrote "is of high value from every standpoint ... In these days, when so many men and women are driven into deepest anxiety and despair, it is a great oasis in the desert of human depression to find a body of men who are ready and willing to manfully earn a living and give honest labour to those who need their services."¹¹

By the beginning of 1934, Frank was president of the Club, which then had about 120 members, and he attended a number of important meetings in the City. In late December 1933, he was at a meeting sponsored by the Vancouver Lions Club at the Hotel Georgia during which George Murray MLA suggested that the opening up of the Peace River District and the development of the Pacific Eastern Railway were wonderful opportunities for unemployed youth. This message was repeated in early January at a packed meeting in Bufton's Hall attended by recently-elected CCF MLA Harold Winch.¹²

Also that January, Frank represented the Club, sitting at the head table, to hear Premier Bennett address about 1,000 youth in the Vancouver Hotel ballroom. In the following month he was at an even larger meeting of about 2,000 young people who gathered at Moose Hall, Burrard Street to try to organize a youth political party. Comrades there included the Young Communist League, the Young Socialists, and the Friends of the Soviet Union.¹³

BUFTON

The Club continued to meet at Bufton's Hall throughout 1934 where they enjoyed monthly lectures on social and economic policy. However, Frank's continued involvement is less clear.¹⁴

During this period, Catherine Bufton had made sure the Women's Auxillary remained active. After the War Memorial, the next project of the Auxillary was the creation of the Grandview Lawn Bowling Association's greens which took over Victoria Park, and the building of a large clubhouse on the Salsbury side of the park. It was opened for the first season in the spring of 1933. By dint of careful preparation, hard work and community fundraising, she and the Chamber persuaded the City Council and Parks Board to approve the work as a depression



Mayor's Opening Party

relief effort. The Echo called the \$4,000 enterprise "a challenge to the hopeless, pessimistic, disintegrating tide of events." The facilities, they said, "were a nod to the future in good faith." The money "was raised by community effort and spent entirely as a relief project. Carpenters and others gave their labor with the sole satisfaction that the labor was its own reward." The Mayor of Vancouver attended the opening in May 1933. Catherine Bufton was awarded a lifetime membership in the bowling club for her work. Her chief lieutenants had been her husband, Hubert, and Mabel Rutter but they were assisted by a number of others.¹⁵

BUFTON

Throughout the middle and late 1930s and, so far as wartime restrictions would allow, into the 1940s, groups of Grandview lawn bowlers traveled down to California each January or February to play in major tournaments. In the middle 1930s, some of the traveling bowlers included A.P. Squires of Magnet Hardware and his wife, J.A. and Edith Johnstone of Grandview Jewelers, Catherine Bufton, Charles & Phoebe Smith and Dr Thomas Agnew, in his seventies, who had practiced on the Drive since 1916. It took some managerial or ownership authority to get a few weeks off in winter to gallivant around Southern California playing lawn bowls, and a few bucks too. But this traveling apart, the Grandview Lawn Bowling Association was an equal opportunity recreation, its membership including owners, managers, professionals in law, banking and medicine, plumbers, car salesmen and sheet metal workers, and all of their wives. Dyed-in-the-wool Conservatives happily teamed up with upstart CCFers, Catholics with Masons, athletes with gourmands. All year long, in season and out, with pickup games, tournaments, Association elections, whist drives, teas and dinners, the Grandview Lawn Bowling Club was the social centre for most of the movers and shakers on the Drive. And, at least in the 1930s, the Echo, as the reflective mirror of this same group, tracked every game and event and item of gossip, often on the front page.¹⁶

In 1936, the neighbourhoods of Vancouver took turns hosting parades to celebrate the city's 50th Jubilee. When it was Grandview's turn, on 23rd July, the Echo reported that there were more people "than ever gathered in Grandview before." Led by the Police Pipe Band, a long procession of commercial floats, decorated cars and trucks made its way through the neighbourhood. As their contribution to the festivities, the Buftons decorated the Queen of Grandview's float with wonderful floral arrangements that were much admired.¹⁷

As prominent members of the Grandview Chamber of Commerce, the Buftons were also keen supporters of a Home Improvement Show the Chamber organized in May 1937 at the Masonic Hall on Salsbury Drive. Following an idea that had already proved successful in Kerrisdale and Kitsilano and across the country, the purpose of the Show was to "foster interest" in the Dominion Government's Home Improvement Program (HIP) and thus encourage the purchase of home building supplies. HIP was "a repair and rehabilitation scheme" which promoted "modernizing bathrooms and kitchens, and converting basements and attics to usable space" through low-interest, partly-guaranteed loans to homeowners. It was the perfect fit for Commercial Drive's mix of merchants. As usual, A.E. Hughes was the driving force behind the organization of the show – he "devoted almost the whole of his time for some weeks" on it -- and he must have been pleased with the participation of local merchants; in fact, requests for space were greater than available. Grandview Furniture, Fred Hamilton Plumbing, Manitoba Hardware and Furnishings, Warman Radio, Harry Hipwell Furniture and the Buftons were among the most prominent exhibitors, but the hall was "filled to overflowing" with all kinds of product displays. The show was opened by Mayor Miller, and visitors were regaled with chamber music from the Gratch Trio. In the end, the show was declared to have been "successful beyond expectations."¹⁸

When the BC CCF leader Robert Connell was ejected from the party for his refusal to accept a bank nationalization plank, Catherine Bufton defected to Connell's more centrist Social Constructivist Party. She even ran for the Constructivists in the 1937 Provincial election in Vancouver-Burrard, garnering just 364 votes. She gave a brief introductory speech on May 10 but I have been unable to find any further coverage of her campaign.¹⁹

BUFTON



Image of Catherine in 1937. *Highland Echo*

In November, Hubert continued his tradition of organizing the Remembrance Day ceremonies at Grandview Park; it was an annual tradition that he would maintain until his death.²⁰

After her brief fling with Provincial politics, Catherine threw herself back into local improvements. During the late 1930s, there was a movement among Grandview's leadership to push for a Community Centre. The Grandview Chamber of Commerce had floated the idea of a Centre that would include playing fields as well as buildings. A draft resolution from then-President Pete Brown suggested "an athletic club and a hall in which to hold public meetings would be of excellent service to the community, and especially of great value in keeping the youth of our community from frequenting the street corners at night, thereby promoting their physical and moral development and well-being." To press this idea forward, a sub-committee was formed with Catherine Bufton at its head.

The Parks Board supported the project, offering the north-west corner of Grandview Park as a site for the Centre. Unfortunately, they could not go ahead as the Federal Government still held title to the Park, they having merely leased it to the city in 1928. The lack of Parks Board ownership had led to numerous difficulties since the Park had been established, and years of discussion had proven fruitless. The senior BC member of the Federal Cabinet, the Minister of Health and Pensions Ian McKenzie, MP for Vancouver Centre, was approached by the Chamber. And while he promised to do what he could, nothing positive came from this.²¹

BUFTON

For all these public services, the Buftons continued to develop their business. For example, in November 1938, Hubert filed a patent for a new kind of wreath holder. He was awarded Patent No. 2200948 in May 1940. In the spring of 1939 he was on the committee to supply flowers for the Royal visit, and he was also a signatory to a pledge of loyalty to the King and Queen.²² They also enjoyed summers at their cottage in West Bay on the North Shore, a fine plot on the ocean. Eventually, they would develop this into a grand house with gardens, and a seawall that created a small pool.²³

In 1937, Frank opened his own florist shop at 3708 W. Broadway. In January 1939 he was asked his opinion about what the future held for the new year. Noting that, while 1938 had been full of “war scares, unemployed riots, and other facts that counteracted our ideal business conditions ... business was better this Christmas than ever before.” Joking that he hoped to retire by the end of the year, the 27-year old said that we should “keep calm and face realities cheerfully.”²⁴

When war did come, Frank closed his store and volunteered for the RCAF serving first in Ontario and later in Saskatchewan. His sister Adeline also joined the RCAF on her 18th birthday. While serving, Frank married Eileen Burke in Saskatoon in 1941. Their daughter, JoAnn was born in Yorkton the following February, with their son, Hugh, arriving in the fall of 1943.²⁵

In 1940, Hubert and Catherine moved from the apartment above 1520 Commercial to their spacious house in West Vancouver. However, both their business and civic interests remained firmly fixed on the Drive. Hubert was active in the Chamber of Commerce’s membership drive in January 1940, and he concerned himself with getting veterans groups organized in support of the new conflict. Both he and Catherine were heavily involved in the first War Bond fundraising drives, and Catherine organized knitting parties for the troops.²⁶

As the war began to take its toll on morale, the Buftons were at the heart of an idea to serve lunches for Chamber members each month, as an inducement to membership. It was the Ladies Auxiliary – Mabel Rutter, Mrs. Witt, Catherine Bufton, and others – that took the lead, as so often in the past, “making arrangements for catering, table decoration, and serving.” The Buftons of course supplied floral decorations, and Brown Brothers Bakery sponsored the hot courses. The menu for January 1940 included hot meat pie, baked potatoes, carrots and peas, finished off with apple pie, coffee and tea. Also during the war, both Hubert and Catherine were active in veterans’ issues and were on the Committee to publicize Victory Bonds. During the Buy Bonds campaign of June 1941, for example, they dressed the shop as if it were a home in London suffering under the blitz.²⁷

There were also more local matters to take care of. Local merchants had been upset by a proposal from the B.C. Electric Company to do away with conductors on the No 4 streetcar back in 1940. The company had applied to the Province at that time to allow them to operate new one-man cars, but both City Council and Grandview’s Chamber were vigorously opposed. The members of Commercial Drive’s business elite were unanimous in their opposition. Fred and Gordon Hamilton complained that the schedule of service was already “inadequate and that one-man streetcars would further impair it.” Stephen Brown of Manitoba Hardware was concerned about potential “traffic hazards”, and Hubert Bufton voiced a common thought that decreasing employment at that time was not a good idea, especially as the change brought no obvious benefits to the riders or to the district.

BUFTON

Moreover, he noted, Commercial Drive's residential hinterland had "too many elderly people who require the assistance and courtesy that only a conductor can bring them." It was a relief, then, to the neighborhood and a boost to the Chamber when the Provincial government disallowed the proposal in April 1940.²⁸

In August 1943 Hubert was reported as having a "serious illness" and was being treated in General Hospital. In February 1944 he died, aged 57, after "a long illness patiently borne." His pallbearers were Drive stalwarts Fred Hamilton, Harry Hipwell, Frank Frost, Stephen Brown, S.G. Brown and A.G. Holmes.²⁹

For a short while after her husband's death, Catherine was obliged to continue the florist business alone. In April 1944, she visited the North West Florists' Association Convention in Portland, Oregon. It must have been a great relief to her when, after his demobilization, Frank joined the business. They traveled together to the Florists Convention in Seattle in the late summer of 1946. It was Frank's active participation that eventually allowed Catherine to retire to her beautiful house and garden in West Vancouver in early 1950, and to begin a series of world travels.³⁰

Frank and his young family first lived in Mount Pleasant but, when he took over proprietorship of the store at 1520 Commercial in 1951, they moved into the apartment above the shop and his wife Eileen began working at the store. As well as looking after business, Frank also continued the family's tradition of civic responsibility. In 1947 he was vice-president of the Van East Lions Club, and was head of fundraising for the entire BC Lions Club organization in 1949. He was elected to the executive of the Grandview Chamber of Commerce throughout much of the 1950s.³¹

Frank and Eileen's children grew up on the Drive in the 50s and 60s. JoAnn attended Templeton and Britannia School and was a genuine local girl. She and her younger brother Hugh would go to the Grandview Theatre where a ticket cost 15 cents and popcorn was a dime. On other days, between the time Grandview School of Commerce at First & Commercial was closed and when it was demolished in the early 1950s, they would play in the empty old "eerie" building. JoAnn told me that the ice cream at the Crystal Dairy was just as good as they promised, and she remembers the horses that delivered milk who were stabled behind the Dairy.³²

Upon his return from the War, Frank was glad to re-establish his old friendship with George Wong. "George was so special to JoAnn and her brother as he felt like family to them and treated them as if they were his own children. George spent Christmas with the Buftons, and the Buftons would often visit Chinatown with George for dinner or to attend the Chinese Opera."³³

In the late summer of 1951, Frank Bufton drove his family to Washington DC for the Florists Telegraph Delivery Association convention. They drove through the States on the way down, and then across Canada for the return. By the time they got back they had clocked 10,000 miles. By this time, the Buftons had opened a second store, at 1685 E. Broadway. Frank's wife, Eileen, often worked at the new store, but they closed it in May 1953 "due to difficulty in maintaining competent staff."³⁴

Frank was one of the main speakers at the mass meeting called by the Chamber in February 1952 to make public the community's discontent with being ignored by City Council for so many years. Frank spoke of the problems with a lack of lighting on the streets.

BUFTON

He was also concerned that potentially dangerous high-tension cables were still being strung across the street. As with the other speakers that night, Frank received mighty applause and full support from the thousand-strong crowd packed into the Grandview Theatre.³⁵

The northwest corner of First & Commercial, site of the now-closed Grandview School, had been the subject of many years' dispute between the locals and the City Council. Eventually, it was agreed that a two-storey building, architected by Alan W. Grey, housing a new store for Bufton's Florists and Dr Porter's medical clinic, with offices upstairs, would be built along 90 feet of Commercial Drive frontage, set back seven feet. At the corner, twenty-five feet was to be set aside for a miniature park, which the Echo called a "novel and attractive feature." The main purpose for this was to improve traffic sightlines by not constructing the building to the pavement edge. Parking would be behind the Commercial Drive stores, in front of of the proposed Super-Valu, and Bufton's had already agreed to maintain the mini-park. However, these things are always subject to change and poitical pressure. The final building design was a typical one-storey flat-roofed structure, with the developers complaining that they would have built a second storey but "the city had tied the hands of the owners." The final configuration had the Bufton's new florist shop on the corner, with a new store for the Mary Lindfield's Bo Beep Baby Shoppe next door. Next to them was a new medical and dental clinic and the north end of the building was anchored by Dockstader Drugs. It was called the Benholme Building.³⁶

On December 3rd, 1955, the new Bufton store had a soft opening in the Benholme Building. Catherine Bufton made an appearance. A few weeks later, on 20 January 1956, the building was officially opened with Syd Bowman cutting the ceremonial ribbon in the pouring rain. Local ladies served tea and cake in the clinic offices.³⁷

Both before and after the move, the store became well-known for its award-winning window displays. Their wartime displays have already been mentioned. They were also pleased to work with other local businesses. For example, in June 1949, Bufton's displayed a special window of a wedding party with orchids, roses, and carnations. The gowns were from Mary Lindfield's Bo Beep Store, and the staging furniture came from Harry Hipwell's. Two examples of Bufton's window displays are shown below.³⁸



Bufton's Flowers Shop, 1520 Commercial, before 1955

BUFTON



Buften's at the Benholme Building, 1960s

In early September 1956, continuing his civic work, Frank arranged a large Pet Parade as a fundraiser for the Chamber of Commerce. It was quite a popular success and the Chamber even made a small profit. He maintained his seat on the Chamber executive throughout the 1950s and into the 1960s.³⁹

In the late 1950s, florists in BC were facing a delicate problem. In the previous year almost a quarter of all death notices had carried the phrase "No flowers by request". The dip in trade was causing consternation among the 121-150 retail florists in Greater Vancouver which employed some 700 people, not counting the 2,000 growers and wholesalers. Frank Buften, as chairman of the area's Joint Florists' Committee stepped forward to explain the issue in an interview with the Province newspaper. He noted that people adding the phrase to their notices assumed that money would instead be directed to local charities. However, the florists had examined this claim and discovered that very little additional monies actually reached the charities. The florists were, as discretely as possible, trying to improve the situation with a "Living With Flowers" campaign.⁴⁰

After the shop had moved to its new location, Frank and his family set up house at 640 Commercial. He owned a 19-foot motor boat which he used for fishing. In the summer of 1962, he cruised down to the Seattle World's Fair with his sister. His wife, Eileen, did not care for boating and took herself off to Ireland to visit relatives.⁴¹

By this time, their children were grown: Hugh was an accountant with Canadian Airlines, and JoAnn was a teller at the Royal Bank. JoAnn managed to save enough of her wages to buy an economy ticket on a four-month cruise sailing down to Los Angeles and then visiting Hawaii, Hong Kong, Ceylon, the Suez Canal, and Italy before reaching Southampton. Her "formidable" grandmother, Catherine, decided to also take the trip. However, JoAnn was in economy and the matriach traveled first class, so JoAnn had to get special permission to visit her relative aboard. Catherine would make one more ocean voyage, to New Zealand in 1967, before she died in May 1969.⁴²

JoAnn married Gordon Fox in 1965 and moved, for a while, to Ontario, returning in 1970. Meanwhile, her brother Hugh joined the florist business in September 1965 as a junior partner.

BUFTON

In September 1969, the Buftons opened another shop, this one in the lower level of the Bentall Centre downtown. In the early 1970s, Hugh purchased the business from his father and continued to run it successfully until the late 1980s.⁴³

Frank Bufton died in 1984, just a few years before the Bufton Florist's long life on the Drive finally came to a close when the Benholme Building was demolished to make way for the Il Mercato Mall in the mid-1980s.

Hugh continued to operate the store downtown. During the 1980s he developed a relationship with the multi-millionaire Edgar Kaiser jr. For several years, Hugh was hired to erect and decorate numerous Christmas trees at Kaiser's mansion on Belmont Avenue in Point Grey. At Christmas 1988, Hugh had argued with Kaiser without success about his demand for extra trees which Hugh believed might overload the house's electrical system. Sure enough, on Christmas Day the entire house -- and the \$18 million art collection inside -- was burnt to the ground in a fire caused by the trees and their lights.⁴⁴

Kaiser apparently assured Hugh that there would be no repercussions, but his insurance company was not so cavalier. They sued the City of Vancouver (for allowing him to have a home without sprinklers), the Vancouver Fire Department (because his drive way was too narrow for fire trucks to get close), the electrical company, and, of course Hugh Bufton. The legal fees needed for defence crippled the company and left Hugh a broken man. He died, aged just 58, in December 2001.⁴⁵

When Frank's wife, Eileen, died in 2005, she was the last of the Buftons to have worked at their store on the Drive. The family had operated the business for more than 60 years and had engaged thoroughly with the community and its needs. They shall be remembered.⁴⁶

Sources:

1. Military attestation, service, and demobilization papers
2. City Directory 1920 and 1921; Canadian Census 1921
3. City Directory 1922 and 1923; see also ad in Sun 1922 Nov 9, p.10
4. Sun 1926 Dec 7, p.1
5. Museum Of Vancouver, description of item DA 1150
6. Sun 1925 Jun5, p.14; 1928 Feb 25, p7
7. Province 1927 Apr 2, p.18; 1928 Jun 4, p.12
8. Sun 1930 Nov 11, p.4; News-Herald 1938 Jul 1
9. Sun 1931 Apr 30, p.10; Echo 1936 Jan 9; City Directory. The CCF was the fore-runner of the New Democratic Party (NDP)
10. Sun 1933 Feb 13, p.3
11. Sun 1933 Feb 28, p.6; see also 1933 Mar 23, p.4; Apr 18, p.3; Jun 6, p.3; Province 1933 May 27, p.5
12. Sun 1933 Dec 28, p.2; 1934 Jan 11, p.7; Province 1933 Dec 28, p.7
13. Sun 1934 Jan 11, p.7; Feb 10, p.2

BUFTON

14. From 1935, the Club seems to have moved its meeting to Gradview Hall at 941 Commercial.
15. Sun 1933 May 23, p.10
16. Echo 1938 Nov 3; 1939 Mar 2; 1942 May 21; 1944 Feb 17.
17. News-Herald, Prov, Sun July 24; Echo July 30
18. Echo May 20, 27
19. Sun May 8, p.22; Prov May 12, p.5; Jun 2, p.8
20. Prov Nov 3, p.5; Sun 1938 Nov 7, p.10; Prov 11, p.30; 12, p.5; Sun 1940 Nov 10, p.18
21. Echo 1937 Jun 17; 1938 Feb 10, 17, 24; Mar 14, May 9; Sun 1938 Feb 11, p.9; draft resolution in CVA Gordon Brown fonds AM 376 533-D-6, file 6
22. For patent see http://www.google.ca/patents?id=i_JWAAAAEBAJ&pg=PA1&lpg=PA1&dq=%22H.G.+Bufton%22&source=bl&ots=Q-KDLQ0haW&sig=xJ1SlgZwR0DpOHRPf1b_h-gm4zQ&hl=en&ei=Odl4S669IY6QsgPq1b3MBA&sa=X&oi=book_result&ct=result&resnum=4&ved=0CBMQ6AEwAw#v=onepage&q=%22H.G.%20Bufton%22&f=false on 28 Dec2009; Royal visit: Sun 1939 Jan 11, p.3; Echo May 25 and see When the King & Queen of England Came To Grandview (grandviewheritagegroup.ca)
23. The house and property were later purchased by Frank Giustra, and the seaward view was featured on a 50cent Canada Post stamp.
24. Sun 1939 Jan 3, p.2
25. Echo 1941 Jun 12; 1942 Sep 10; 1943 Oct 21; 1963 Feb 28; Prov 1942 Mar 11, p.17
26. City Directory 1941; Echo 1940 Jan 18; Jun 13; Prov May 13, p.9; for the War Bond committee's efforts see King 2011, p.129
27. Echo 1940 Jan 4, 18; 1941 Jun 12
28. Echo Apr 11, 18
29. Echo 1943 Aug 12; 1944 Feb 17; Obit in Province Feb 12, p.21
30. Echo 1944 Sep 21; 1946 Sep 19; 1950 Jul 6; in January 1954 she spent a month in Hawaii: Echo 1954 Jan 14
31. City Directories 1945-1951; Sun 1947 Jul 9, p2; 1949 Apr 9, p12; Echo 1950 Feb 23; 1951 Mar 22; Province 1952 Feb 2, p21; Echo 1953 Feb 26; 1954 Mar 4; 1955 Feb 3
32. Author's discussions with JoAnn Fox.
33. MOV, description of item DA 1150
34. Echo 1951 Aug 16, Sep 27; 1953 May 21
35. Echo 1952 Feb 14
36. See Battle For The School Site, 1940-1955 (grandviewheritagegroup.ca) ; Echo 1954 Mar 4, 25; Apr 22, 29; 1956 Jan 26
37. Echo Dec 8; 1956 Jan 19
38. Echo 1949 Jun 2; Images are © Bufton family
39. Echo 1956 Sep 6

BUFTON

40. Province Jan 23, p.15
41. Echo 1962 Jul 12; 19
42. Echo 1963 Feb 21; author's interviews with JoAnn Fox; Sun 1969 May 19, p.36
43. Province 1965 Sep 2, p.34; Echo Sep 23; 1969 Sep 4
44. Province 1988 Dec 27, p.5; Sun, p.1; 28, p.3
45. Sun 1989 Mar 15, p.3; May 25, p.19; interviews with JoAnn Fox; Hugh's obit: Province Dec 4, 2005, p.140 Dec 17, p.58
46. Eileen's obit at Province Dec 4, 2005, p.140

Meet the Author: JoAnn Fox (nee Bufton)

I started my genealogical research over 20 years ago. Initially, I was curious about my Mother's Irish side of the family – the Burkes. My maternal grandfather was from the Dublin area and while I did find information, I started hitting a few brick walls. I decided to give the Irish a rest and branched out to start searching the Bufton and Drake side of the family, as well as the Fox, Tambling, Tamblyn side. (My husband's heritage).

I also researched my maternal grandmother, Elsie Grace Viola Hamblin who was born in Warsaw, Ontario. My paternal grandfather, Hubert Cyril Griffiths Bufton, was born in Waldron, Sussex with various family members being born in Canterbury, Kent. I have

been doing research in this area and have been able to get back to the 1700's.

My paternal grandmother, Catherine Emily Drake, was born in Nailsworth, Gloucestershire. I discovered my great grandfather was instrumental in building a number of the buildings in Nailsworth. I've also done some research on my husband's family and with the assistance of his cousin found a lot of information on the Fox side. They originally came from Norwich, England.

My husband's mother's family were from Looe, Cornwall.

Meet the Author: Jak King

Jak has lived on the Drive for more than thirty years. He is the author of several books of local history, and is the webmaster for the Grandview Heritage Group.

<https://grandviewheritagegroup.ca/blog/>

@jacking4



POSTCARDS

Illecillewaet Glacier

Submitted by Janice Kidwell
Member # 5033



The Illecillewaet Glacier /[/ɪləˈsɪləwət/](#) lies high in the Selkirk Mountains in [Glacier National Park](#) west of Roger's Pass. The ice sheet is the source of the Illecillewaet River which flows 77 km west to join the Columbia River at Revelstoke. The Illecillewaet [névé](#) feeds three other glaciers: the Asulkan, Geikie and Deville. Its highest point is measured at 2,800 metres (9,200 ft).

Easily accessible by road and railway, it is one of the most-studied glaciers in North America. Its [retreat](#) in the last one hundred years has been extensively documented. A summary of the different information gathered by different means reveals that between 1887 and 1962 the glacier had retreated more than one kilometer and since 1972 it has advanced about 100 metres.

Illecillewaet was also the name of a mining settlement and CPR station 40 km northeast of Revelstoke where a 19th century lead-zinc smelter operated briefly.



POSTCARDS

History

CPR and Glacier House

Although [First Nations](#) people were present in valleys to the east and west, evidence of aboriginal settlement in the Illecillewaet area has not been found. The first European to visit the glacier was [Major A.B. Rogers](#), a railway surveyor, who examined the area in 1882 and 1883 in search of a viable pass. With the completion of the transcontinental Canadian Pacific Railway (CPR) through nearby Rogers Pass in 1885, the glacier and its surrounding area became one of western Canada's first tourist destinations. Glacier National Park was established in 1886, and [Glacier House](#), a small hotel run by the CPR was built near the base of the glacier in the same year. The hotel was expanded in 1892 and 1904, and by 1907 the glacier was described as the "most visited glacier in the Americas".

The name "Illecillewaet" is an [Okanagan](#) First Nations word for "big water", Another source gives the meaning as "rushing water" - and referred to the river before being applied to the glacier.

The influx of visitors to the glacier brought both mountaineers and glaciologists. The first recorded ascent of the glacier was by [A. O. Wheeler](#) followed by Edward Feuz and Charles Clarke in 1901. Wheeler and the [Alpine Club of Canada](#) built the [Arthur O. Wheeler hut](#) near Glacier House for mountaineering use.

Vaux family

The Vaux family were well-off [Quakers](#) from Pennsylvania who first visited Glacier House and Illecillewaet Glacier in 1887. On a later trip, they noticed a visible retreat of the glacier's terminus. The Vaux children, William, George, Jr., and Mary were amateur photographers and began a study of the glacier using pictures taken from fixed points - taking a photograph from the same point at intervals over a period of time - recording and monitoring visual changes within the landscape.

At first they used glass plates which were transported up and down the mountain and sent back to Philadelphia, and later they used more modern [Mamiya medium format cameras](#). William and George, Jr. presented their findings to the [National Academy of Sciences](#) in the U.S. Their study and methods were considered a "breakthrough" in the new field of glaciology. Mary Vaux continued to visit the area every summer until her death in 1940.

Trans Canada Highway

In 1916, the CPR constructed the [Connaught Tunnel](#), which bypassed the Glacier House site. The number of visitors declined, resulting in the closure of the hotel in 1925 and its demolition, in 1929. In 1962, the new [Trans Canada Highway](#) was completed and its route closely followed that of the original CPR line. Illecillewaet was again joined with a major transportation route. [Parks Canada](#) began to improve facilities at the glacier; the Illecillewaet campground was opened and new trails were constructed giving access to the glacier, now located much farther away.

POSTCARDS

Retreat

Since scientific research began in the late 1800s, Illecillewaet Glacier has been [retreating and shrinking](#), with shorter periods of small advances. Between 1887 and 1962 the terminus of the glacier retreated almost 1.5 km (0.93 mi). Parks Canada research indicates that there was a period of advancement from 1972 to 1986, with the terminus advancing 100 m (330 ft). In total, there was a net retreat of 1,433 m (4,701 ft) in the period of 1887 to 1984. The glacier lost about 28% of its mass by 1951; it regained maybe 1% by 1986.

There is neither a message nor a stamp on the back.

On the front of the card is the following: 781.A – Illecillewaet Glacier.

On the back is the following:

Made in Canada

Along the line of the Canadian Pacific Railway

Photographed and Copyrighted by Byron Harman, Banff Canada

Sources

<https://www.britannica.com/place/Glacier-National-Park-British-Columbia#ref7286>

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Illecillewaet_Glacier

<https://www.cambridge.org/core/journals/annals-of-glaciology/article/evolution-of-the-illecillewaet-glacier-glacier-national-park-bc-using-historical-data-aerial-photography-and-satellite-image-analysis/E154326C866916A2921E84A75E311EB4>

Encyclopedia of British Columbia, Daniel Francis – Editor. ISBN: 1-55017-200-x

FIRST NOTICE of CALL for NOMINATIONS

for the BCGS Board of Directors

We will be holding our March Meeting and AGM via Zoom on Wednesday, March 8, 2023 at 7:30 pm.

In addition to the regular business of the Society, elections will be held for several Board positions.

If you are interested in contributing to your society and helping to steer the future of the BCGS, please consider running for a position on the Board.

Please contact [Eunice Robinson](#) if you would like further information or to obtain a Nomination Application.

Nominations will not be accepted from the floor during the meeting.

HOLTEN PROJECT

HOLTEN CANADIAN WAR CEMETERY PROJECT PTE. JAMES ROBERT POWER

November 6, 1923 – April 21, 1845

Submitted by co-researchers:

Margaret Sharon,
BCGS Member #1521
Janice Kidwell
BCGS Member #5033

James Robert Power was born November 6, 1923 in Kamloops, B.C. to parents Samuel Avoca and Lillian Ann (Watts) Power. James had one sibling, a brother named Samuel. Of interest is that James' father (Samuel) was born "on the high seas off Falmouth, England" and that his middle name was the name of the ship his family had sailed on when traveling from Ireland to England. As well, James' grandfather Joseph (father of Samuel Avoca) named his farm Avoca Ranch.

James and his family lived in Knutsford, which is a rural farming community south of Kamloops. The family practiced mixed farming. Knutsford was the name given by settler Robert Longridge who took up farming/ranching in 1912 and named his property after his family seat in Knutsford, Cheshire, England. Knutsford is listed with the B. C. Government's BC Geographical Names office.

James – known as Jim - attended Anderson Creek Elementary in Knutsford

Jim's religion was listed as Church of England.

Jim enlisted May 14, 1943; his Enrollment form was signed May 15, 1943. Both took place in Vancouver. He enrolled for Home Services. He had the standard medical exams and receiving of vaccines and completed basic training in accordance with standard syllabus. For post-war re-establishment Jim indicated in his paperwork that he would work with his father on the farm and that he liked mechanical work.

Jim also took various courses and training including small arms range courses and a CRU refresher course. Training took place in Long Beach, B.C., Sault Ste Marie, Ontario and Sussex, New Brunswick.

Jim served with the following:

- 1st Battalion Rocky Mountain Rangers (June 1943 in Nanaimo)
- 1st Battalion Edmonton Fusiliers, C.A.
- 18th Canadian Infantry, BDE
- Royal Rifles of Canada and Brockville Rifles in Nanaimo, B.C.
- National Resources Mobilization Unit (NRMA), R.C.I.C. (Royal Canadian Infantry Corps). His Regimental Number was K74331. He was appointed Acting Sergeant. OTC at Gordon Head in Saanich, B.C. Noted on his papers was that he had previously served with the 2nd Bn Westminster Regiment 1940-1941-1942 to date. Regimental Number was K/459174

HOLTEN PROJECT

- On April 1, 1945 Jim went to serve with The Canadian Scottish Regiment, R.C.I.C. (Royal Canadian Infantry Corps). Regimental number was K607067.

Service

January 2, 1945 left Canada, disembarked in U.K. January 10, 1945

March 17, 1945 embarked from U.K.; disembarked in North West Europe March 18, 1945.

April 21, 1945 Jim was killed in Action.

Jim served a total of 109 days.

The initial burial took place at the Siddeburen Holland Reformed Church cemetery.

In September 1946 James' father received a letter from National Defense to say that James' reburial at Holten Canadian War Cemetery had taken place.

James grave reference is 111.G.2.

The wording on his grave stone is:

*Sadly Missed By All
"Blessed
Are The Pure in Heart
For They Shall See God"*



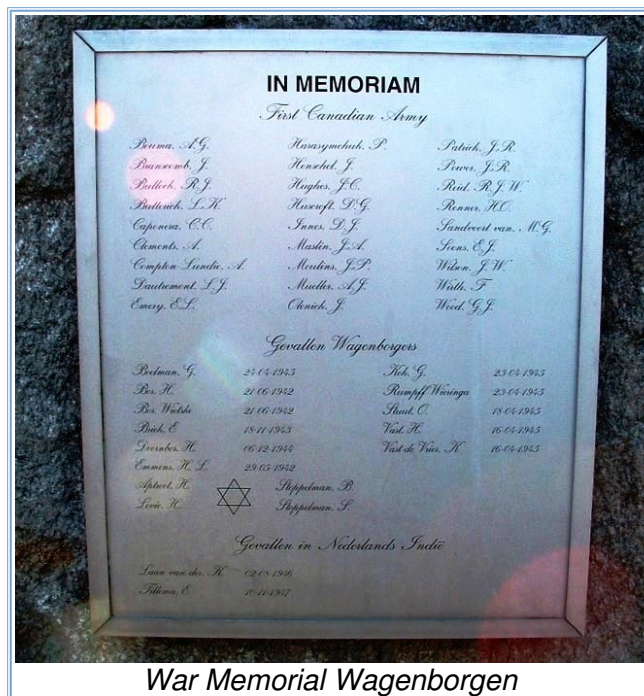
Medals

- 1939-45 Star (given to James' father)
- France-Germany Star (given to James' father)
- War Medal 1939-45 (given to James' father)
- CVSM & Clasp
- Memorial Cross was given to James' mother

HOLTEN PROJECT

James' name is listed on the Cenotaph in Kamloops, B.C. He is also remembered at the War Memorial Wagenborgen in Wagenborgen, Holland.

Pte. James Robert Power is commemorated on Page 555 in the Second World War Book of Remembrance. This page is displayed in the Memorial Chamber of the Peace Tower in Ottawa on November 21.



War Memorial Wagenborgen



HOLTEN PROJECT

Sources:

- Ancestry.com – military file
- B.C. Archives – BMD
- BC Geographical Names office – Provincial Government, Victoria
- Canadian Virtual War Memorial website
- Find a Grave
- Google.com
- Kamloops Cenotaph
- Kamloops Museum and Archives
- Traces of War
- War Memorial Wagenborgen
- Booklet: Bunch Grass to Barbed Wirejust a little south of Kamloops. ISBN 0-88925-445-1. Published by Heritage Committee, Rosehill Farmers Institute, Knutsford, B.C. First printing, 1984

CANADIAN WAR MEDALS

1939-1945 Star

The 1939-1945 Star is a Second World War medal that was issued between 02 September 1939 and 08 May 1945 (for service in Europe).

The medal was awarded for six months service on active operations for Army and Navy, and two months for active air-crew.

The six-pointed star is yellow copper zinc alloy, with the Royal and Imperial cypher, surmounted by a crown on the the obverse . The cypher is surrounded by a circlet containing the words 'The 1939-45 Star'.The ribbon consists of three equal stripes: dark blue, red, and light blue (representing the Navy, Army and Air Force).

A Bar was awarded to those members of the crews of fighter aircraft who took part in the Battle of Britain between 10 July and 31 October 1940, and for Veterans who served with the British Forces, the bar is worn on the Star. For Canadian Armed Forces Veterans, the bar is worn on the Canadian Volunteer Service Medal.



HOLTEN PROJECT

The France and Germany Star is a Campaign Star instituted by Great Britain in 1945 and authorised in Canada on 16 August 1946. It was awarded for one day or more of service in France, Belgium, the Netherlands or Germany between 6 June 1944 and 8 May 1945, and service in the English Channel, North Sea or Bay of Biscay in support of the campaign also qualified one for the star. The France and Germany Star awarded to 230,000 Canadians was produced at the Royal Canadian Mint in Ottawa.



France and Germany Star

The War Medal 1939-1945 is a Second World War medal, awarded to all full-time personnel of the Armed Forces and Merchant Marines for serving for 28 days between 03 September 1939 and 02 September 1945. In the Merchant Navy, the 28 days must have been served at sea. It was established on 16 August 1945. A circular, silver medal, 1.42 inches in diameter, they were made of cupro-nickel, and had a plain, straight non-swiveling suspender with a single-toed claw. The ribbon is 1.25 inches wide and consists of seven coloured stripes: red, dark blue, white, narrow red, white, dark blue, and red. On the back, the crowned coinage effigy of King George VI, facing left, and the legend GEORGIVS VI D : BR : OMN : REX ET INDIAE IMP : The reverse shows a lion standing on the body of a double-headed dragon. These two heads, an eagle and a dragon, signify the principal occidental and oriental enemies. At the top, right of centre are the dates 1939/1945 in two lines.



War Medal 1939 - 45

A single oak leaf emblem is worn to signify a Mention-in-Despatches and the silver oak leaf signifying a King's Commendation for Brave Conduct is worn on this medal. There is no bar other than these emblems.

HOLTEN PROJECT

The Canadian Volunteer Service Medal (CVSM) was established on 22 October 1943, and is granted to persons of any rank in the Naval, Military or Air Forces of Canada who voluntarily served on Active Service and honourably completed eighteen months total voluntary service from 3 September 1939 to 1 March 1947

This circular, silver medal, 1.42 inches in diameter, is linked to a straight suspender by a small ring passing through a small fixed ring at the top of the medal. On the obverse, seven marching figures are depicted, representing men and women of the Army, Air Force, Navy and Nursing service; and around the rim, the inscription 1939 CANADA 1945 VOLUNTARY SERVICE VOLONTAIRE.

The reverse shows the coat of arms of Canada.

The ribbon is 1.25 inches wide with a royal blue centre flanked by two equal stripes of scarlet and dark green.

The ribbon was issued during the war; the medal after the war. A silver bar (often called a clasp), a maple leaf at its centre, was awarded for 60 days service outside Canada.



CVSM : Canadian Volunteer Service Medal

The **Memorial Cross** is an award that was issued as a memento of personal loss and sacrifice on the part of widows and mothers of Canadian sailors, soldiers and airmen who died for their country during the war. It is granted by the Government of Canada and is frequently referred to as the Silver Cross.

The Memorial Cross is in the form of a sterling silver cross, 32 mm across, with arms slightly flared at the ends with a wreath of laurel leaves appearing between the arms of the cross. Prior to 1945 it was suspended from a light purple ribbon 11 mm wide, but in 1945 the presentation changed to a cross hanging under a bar brooch.

On the obverse, the Royal Cypher appears in the center of a Greek cross superimposed on the main cross, with the Royal Crown at the end of the upper arm and maple leaves on the three remaining arms.

The reverse of the Cross is engraved with the name and service number of the individual commemorated.



THE KOOTENAIAN

The Kootenaian Newspaper Index (Available at the BCGS Library)

Submitted by: Sheryl Wilson
Member #4937

I am a BCGS indexing volunteer who has been working on a few indexing projects for the library. Out of all the projects that I have completed I have found this particular indexing project the most interesting.

The Kootenaian newspaper index has records of births, marriages and deaths in the areas of Kaslo, Sandon, Argenta, Nakusp, etc., during the years 1895-1969. There are over 300 entries in the index and would be of interest to those members who have ancestors that lived in the Kootenays.

The newspaper articles give insight into the lives of these area pioneers. These people came from all parts of the world to make their fortunes. Many of them worked in the local mines, prospected, opened businesses or established mining operations. Their lives were filled with many hardships but many prospered and became prominent members of the community, shaping a viable Kootenay district.

Here are a couple of entries from the index:

Newspaper Date: 25-Jan-1917

BIGHAM, Mary Amy - Death - January 25, 1917

At 4:00 am on Saturday the 20th inst., there passed away in the Victorian hospital here, Mary Amy Bigham, who for many years has been a resident of Kaslo, having reached the town when it was only in its infancy. Mrs. Bigham was born at Builth, Badneshire, England, 60 years ago. After spending a part of her life in England she came over to America and in 1892 married James Bigham, her surviving husband at Great Falls, Montana. Shortly afterwards, Mr. and Mrs. Bigham decided to try their fortunes in the then newly discovered Kootenay country lying to the northwest of their location in Montana, and moved to Kaslo, where they have since resided. Shortly after their arrival at Kaslo, Mr. and Mrs. Bigham went through a somewhat startling and unpleasant experience. Mr. Bigham had just constructed a comfortable log house on the site of the present family residence. One day the famous Kaslo flood came along and washed away the newly constructed Bigham home and very nearly drowned Mr. and Mrs. Bigham in the bargain. Fortunately F.E. Archer and another resident of that period observed the plight they were in and went to their rescue. Mrs. D.C. MacGregor, wife of the late Mayor MacGregor, was drowned within sight of the Bighams. During the closing years of Mrs. Bigham's life, her mental faculties were clouded. During this time Mr. Bigham stayed with her almost constantly, doing everything he possibly could do to humour her slightest whim. As an example of devotion and self sacrifice, it would indeed be hard to equal. The funeral was held on Sunday afternoon from the family residence on B Avenue, where services were conducted by Rev. Dr. Calvert. Pall bearers were F.E. Archer, A. McQueen, John Loftus, H. Gillis, E. Alpaugh and A.T. Garland

THE KOOTENAIAN

Newspaper Date: 17-Nov-1898

HENNESSY/BLANCHET - Marriage - November 17, 1898 - Helena, Montana, November 10

This morning at the cathedral of the Sacred Heart, Reverend Father Day united in marriage William H. Hennessy of Spokane and Mrs. Genevieve Blanchet of Minneapolis. After spending a brief honeymoon in Montana, Mr. and Mrs. Hennessy will go to Spokane and reside. Mr. Hennessy is interested with his brothers J.J. and J.B. in mining in B.C. and Washington, with headquarters in Spokane. He is well known as one of the original discoverers of the famous Noble Five group of mines in B.C. The bride is the widow of the late Charles Blanchet, who lived for years in Spokane and was prominent in labour circles. She is a daughter of Mrs. Meegan of Spokane and sister of Mr. John Neston.

Newspaper Date: 20-Oct-1897

KANE, Infant - Birth - October 20, 1897

A ten pound boy arrived at Captain Will Kane's residence last Thursday morning. Mother and child both doing well, and the Captain, he's as happy as a boy with a new toy boat.

THINGS ARE A-CHANGING AT THE BCGS

We have several wonderful BCGS publications; ever-timely Gen-Blasts, monthly newsletters and quarterly e-Journals regularly fill up your inboxes.

Do you ever find yourself thinking "Oh, I've seen that already" and move onto the next thing, dismissing the most recent incoming news? Sometimes overlapping communication is deliberate, in order to jog memories about upcoming events. So to streamline duplications, we've created a new publications schedule. Please note the new deadlines for submitting your discoveries and stories — short or long.

We look forward to receiving them!

Our Publication Schedule will be changing in 2023:

<u>Month:</u>	<u>Publication:</u>	<u>Deadline:</u>	<u>BCGSMeeting:</u>	<u>Release:</u>
January	Newsletter	Dec 28	<i>Jan 11</i>	Jan 9
February	Newsletter	Jan 25	<i>Feb 8</i>	Feb 6
March	E-Journal	Feb 15	<i>Mar 8</i>	Mar 15
April	Newsletter	Mar 29	<i>Apr 12</i>	Apr 10
May	Newsletter	Apr 26	<i>May 10</i>	May 8
June	E-Journal	May 15	<i>June 14</i>	June 15

The newsletter team and the e-journal team look forward to suggestions of topics you would like to read about.

Email us here: newsletter@bcgs.ca and Journal@bcgs.ca

HOLTEN PROJECT

HOLTEN CANADIAN WAR CEMETERY PROJECT PRIVATE JOHN WILLIAM WILSON

April 9, 1908 – April 23, 1945

Submitted by Sheryl Wilson
BCGS Member 4937

Private John Wilson was born April 9, 1908 in Nanaimo, B.C. to parents Frederick R. and Sarah Jane “Jean” (Clarke) Wilson. His father was born in Bradford, Yorkshire, England; his mother was born in Durham, England. Pte. Wilson had four siblings – two brothers and two sisters.

John completed 8 years of school.

John married Myrtle Edna Crewe on December 24, 1927 in Oak Bay (Victoria), B.C. They had two children.

John enlisted January 1, 1942 at Gordon Head (Victoria), British Columbia. He was residing in Nanaimo at the time. He listed his occupation as a Coal Miner with Canadian Collieries, Nanaimo, B.C. His records indicate that he had 17 years experience in coal mining, all below surface, at all jobs particularly coal conveyors.

John’s Service Number was K/46642.

John was 33 years old when he enlisted and in his application he was described as having brown hair, blue eyes, medium complexion, round scar on left forearm, height of 5 feet, 8 inches and a weight of 150 pounds.

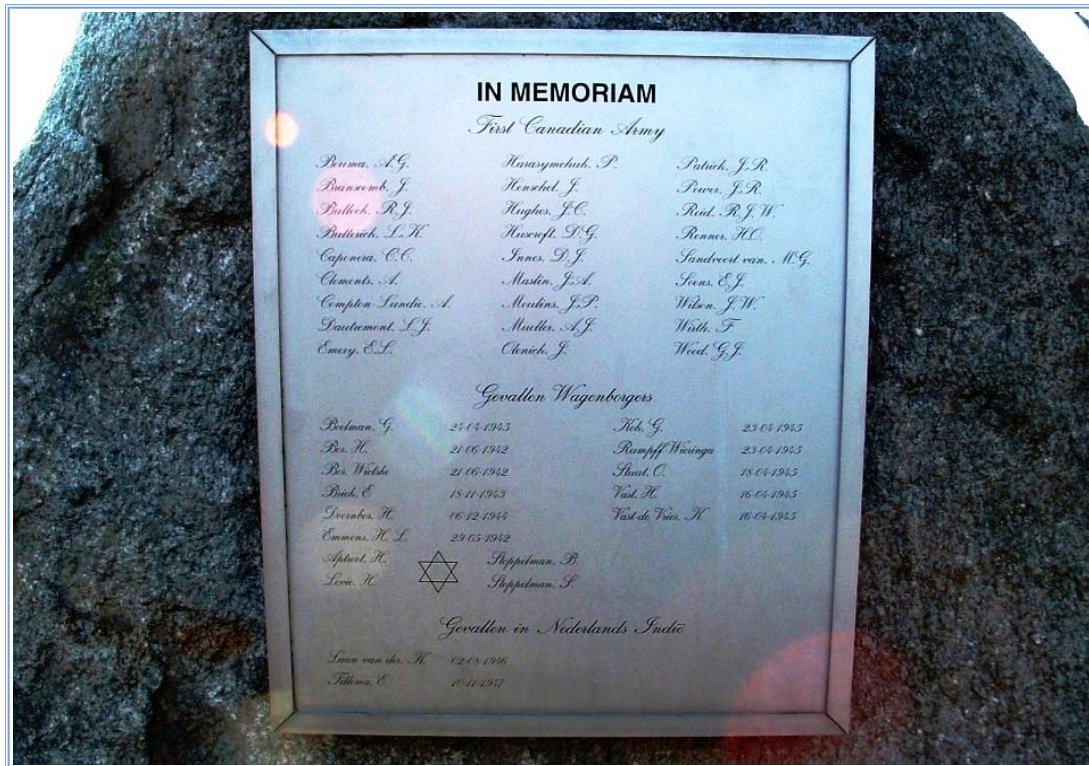
His sports were listed as baseball and football, his hobbies as fishing and hunting and that he liked to read a bit about history but preferred light fiction. He could drive a car but had very little experience at this. He had a lot of experience working with heavy machinery in coal mines but was not keen and had little experience with small mechanical contrivances. Pte. Wilson was seen as being sincere, ambitious, stable and reliable and keen to work with machinery.

On April 23, 1945, at the age of 37, Private Wilson died of wounds whilst a Prisoner of War. He was in a German hospital at the time. The informant was the Director of Records, Dept. of National Defense.



HOLTEN PROJECT

Pte. Wilson's initial burial was in Emden Germany at Bolardue Friedhof and afterwards his remains were repatriated to Holten Canadian War Cemetery in Holten, Overijssel, Netherlands. His Plot is VIII.E.7.



Pte. Wilson is also remembered at the War Memorial Wagenborgers, in Wagenborgers, Netherlands.

Pte. John William Wilson is commemorated on [Page 576](#) of the *Second World War Book of Remembrance*. This page is displayed in the Memorial Chamber of the Peace Tower in Ottawa on December 1st.

Pte. Wilson received the following Medals:

- Memorial Bar & Clasp
- 1939-45 Star
- France and Germany Star
- War Medal, 1939-45
- CVSM (Canadian Volunteer Service Medal) and Clasp

MOST IMPROVED GENEALOGIST

MOST IMPROVED GENEALOGIST CONTEST 2022

WHAT WILL HAPPEN TO YOUR FAMILY HISTORY – YOUR LEGACY

Most of us love the research and finding new pieces of information. But aren't always so diligent about filing this in our records. Or we are at a stand-still and wondering what we should do next or how to do it. Hope these entries in the Most Improved Contest will act as inspiration.

Each entry is unique, and each submitter has done a lot of work and all are definitely worthy of the title Most Improved Genealogist. Congratulations.

The full entries will appear in the upcoming issues of our digital Journal.

Self Nomination to BCGS, fall of 2022, for Most Improved Genealogist. Brenda Jones, BCGS member

Since you asked for self nominations for the improved genealogist award I would like to tell you my significant achievements this year in my genealogy research which has made a huge difference in knowing my ancestors and sharing what I have learned with my family.

The short version of my reports is that I found new ways to search family information, use historical background and organize in a way that ties together what I've learned and present it in a creative way that I hope will inspire future generations in my family to continue telling the story of our family history.

Here's a more detailed account of what I have accomplished this year.

The last two years I have been searching genealogy sites for documents and information on my ancestors but in Spring of this year I took a break from searching all the records and read through all the books, notes and emails I had been storing from family members and made notes on names and stories from the past.

I read all the emails I had kept from my father who often liked to communicate what he knew about our ancestors and I noted names, dates and places along with some stories he claimed were true.

I carefully looked through four books I had kept on my shelf from family members. Two written by a relative on my mother's side that told of their family life in Newfoundland, one written by a relative on my father's side who had research and documents on his grandmother's family history and one book written by my sister which focused on the life and story of my siblings but gave some information on family history for both my mother and father.

MOST IMPROVED GENEALOGIST

I made notes on two page documents on my computer - one document for notes on my mother's family and one document for notes on my father's family.

I looked through a large box I had stored containing letters, certificates, funeral notices and old family pictures with some notes on them. My sister had collected all these documents over the years from my parents and my brother-in-law gave the box to me when my sister passed away. The names on the funeral cards and the photos didn't have any meaning to me at first but soon became very familiar to me.

I had booked a trip to Toronto in June 2022 and decided I would use my time in Ontario to visit the places I had noted in all that I had read. I made notes of homes and churches my ancestors had built, towns where they lived and graveyards. Then I mapped out a travel route from Toronto to Guelph to Goderich and through Clinton back to Toronto.

My goal was to take photos and find out if the stories I read were true.

I stayed one night in Goderich and was able to arrange a morning meeting with the archivist at Huron County museum. The archivist found books and records on specific questions I had from my notes and he showed me how to do an advanced search with a new resource they developed with news articles dated back to the 1800s. In my search of the on line news items I found obituaries with details on my ancestors lives and experiences and some interesting gossip news items involving family members. Through all the information I found in my time with the archivist, I found out the stories of the original settlement of my ancestors in this town were supported in the historical information.

I had noted from one of my dad's emails that a collection of artifacts from an uncle who was a missionary to China in the early 1900s was donated to this museum in Goderich. When I asked the archivist about this collection, he arranged for the museum curator to show me all they had preserved of the amazing clothing and other items which were over 100 years old.

From the museum I learned about a town close to Goderich, Ben Miller, which was significant to my family history and where my ancestral grandfather built his home which was called "Cherry Dale Farm." I visited the Ben Miller Inn and found a historical book which gave more information on my family's settlement in the area and their history in Ben Miller. There were original family items displayed in the lobby of the Inn. Although I did not find my ancestral grandfather's farmhouse I had a note from one of the family books that there was a painting of it by an artist in Ontario. I did a google search and was able to connect with the artist studio who sent me a beautifully framed, limited edition of the painting for a very low price.

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I went to Clinton, Ontario on my way back to Toronto where my grandfather had built a home on a street with our family name. I took photos of the home and the street then I went to the graveyards where I used a website search to find my ancestors gravestones.

In a town outside Clinton, I found a church which I also had noted was founded by my great grandfather and where he had preached. The church's name was changed but in a quick google search I found it was the right church.

While my trip to Toronto gave me more information on my family background, it started me to ask more questions.

I wondered how did the four generational lines of my family come together in Ontario so that my mother and father met and married there.

I had one theory of my father's family connections. Since his mother's and father's families were located in the Goderich area, I thought my dad's grandmother's family must have attended the church where my his grandfather was preaching. Through some connections with church archives in Ontario I was directed to the United Church of Canada who kept all the records of churches in the area I was looking. I requested microfilm on the congregation records. Searching the microfilms I found evidence that my father's grandfather was the preacher at the Church and that my father's grandmother's family attended the church.

The information I was collecting was getting more complicated to organize. I found it easier to transfer all my notes to a Power Point which would allow me to share my information and keep together the information I had found on each line of my family.

As I organized and reorganized my information, I decided it would be better to focus on the four patriarchs of the family - my mother's father's patriarch, my mother's mother's patriarch, my father's father's patriarch and my father's mother's patriarch. Although I made notes of the siblings, children and grandchildren for each one, I limited my search to the direct lines for each patriarch to see how far back in history I could find documentation of the family journeys that brought them together in Canada and in the province of Ontario. Through all my searching I put together a journey of all 4 patriarchs from 4 different countries and the circumstances which brought them to the place where my parents met and married.

Looking at what I had discovered I wanted to write a family history called "Finding Home". My concern in writing a book was that I knew my family were not readers of history and were not too concerned with the books they already had been given from my father. I was also concerned that information on family history needs to be passed to the younger generation.

MOST IMPROVED GENEALOGIST

And if my siblings had no interest in the story of our family, I wasn't sure how my nieces and nephews and their children would develop a curiosity and desire to carry on the family research.

When I considered how to communicate the story of our family in a way that would engage my family interest, I decided to put together a creative production that would be interactive and engage the interest of all the generations in my family. I knew I would need the right offer of time and space to interest them in attending my presentation of our family story.

My first choice was a venue at Black Creek Pioneer village which was a church significant to our family. The rental would include free parking and admission to the Village for all my guests. My family liked the idea of a free family activity that included free parking and they responded they would attend. As it turned out the day I was planning to book, the Village would not be open for the general public. So I looked for another Venue that would offer the same quality of a historical family activity.

I found Pickering Museum Village which is located close to my siblings and had connection to the family story I wanted to tell. They offered a venue with more space and ability to cater lunch and I could book a fun historical education program prior to to my venue booking. I sent an invitation to my siblings and their children for a multi generational, interactive and fun presentation called Finding Home which would include lunch and a museum program. They all were excited and plan to come.

So now I have my presentation booked for October 22, 2022.

I have researched genealogy lessons for children and put together activities for the younger ones to engage their interest through the presentation and encourage the families to join in the learning of our history.

The theme of my presentation, Finding Home, will give me an opportunity to share stories of family challenges, sacrifice and perseverance which is the root of the story of Canada's history and settlement by pioneers who came to this land.

At the end of my presentation I will have some printed materials to inspire all the generations in my family to find out more of our history and keep track of their unique family stories from the patriarchs of their families.

Editor's Note:

The report from Brenda Jones is the first of nine submissions to the Most Improved Genealogist for 2022. There will be eight more reports printed in the 2023 eJournals.

GENEALOGY ON THE ROAD

Genealogy on the Road

Submitted by Meg McLaughlin
Member #3847

As we look towards the end of the year, it's time to reflect on the year past and make plans for the year to come. 2021 was a different year in the grand scheme of things. It was a year when travelling opened up again and more of us, myself included, were able to get out and about to take our family research on the road. It was also a year when multiple trips, planned for different years, came to fruition. That's how I ended up going to Scotland to look into my Caledonia roots in the same year as the BCGS 50th anniversary cruise.

Both trips were related to genealogy but in different ways. In Scotland, I did some research into my direct family lines. That involved trips to the places that researchers haunt, libraries and family history societies. The cruise, on the other hand, was more like an extended seminar with side excursions. The focus there, of course, was on DNA, although some traditional subjects of interest to genealogists were also covered.

It was my first trip to Alaska and I enjoyed exploring the different ports where we docked. I'm a history buff and the best attractions were the ones that recounted the stories of the state and the colourful characters who had lived there when it was the latest frontier. It was kind of a Wild, Wild West in the north, from what I heard. I got that impression from the story of the Skagway shootout between Frank H. Reid and Soapy Smith enacted for us in the Gold Rush Cemetery by our streetcar driver who had met us at the ship. That frontier feeling was carried further in Ketchikan when exploring Dolly's House Museum, the brothel where that entrepreneur had carried out her trade.

There were other tales too. Alaska was part of the gold rush of the 1890s. Trekking to the land of promised riches required endurance and a strong back. Prospectors were required to take 100 pounds of provisions with them. Our cruise state rooms seemed extra luxurious compared to the hardships those men had faced.



The stone that marks the border between Scotland and England



A Juneau street

GENEALOGY ON THE ROAD

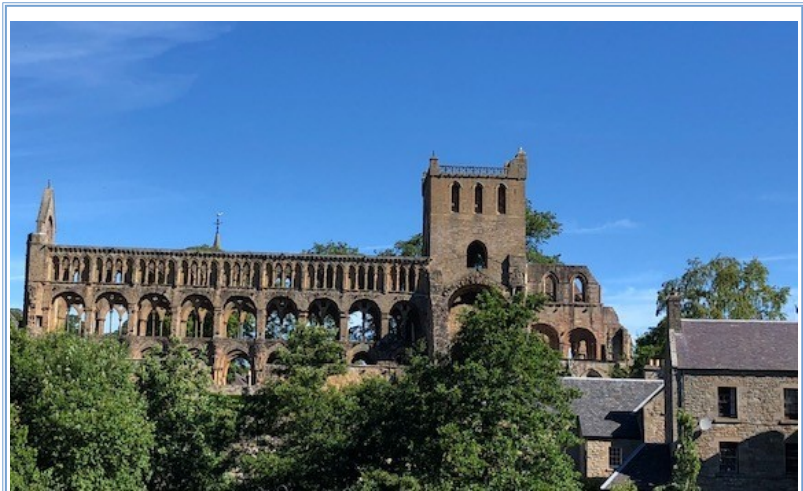
The stories we gathered were colourful and would have been wonderful to attach to an adventurous ancestor or collateral family member. Unfortunately, none of the twigs on my family tree appear to have taken off in that direction. Of all the cruise experiences, links to my family history were more likely to be found through information gleaned from the DNA lectures.

Now I just have to find the time to read the notes from the cruise lectures and put some of that information into practice. My intentions are good but there are so many interesting ways to spend time and my DNA learning curve still seems steep after all this time. Maybe some concentrated effort is needed or, at least, a DNA question to answer.



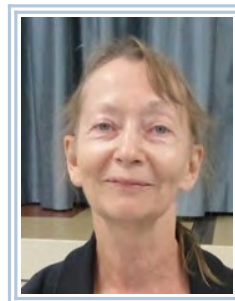
One of those recently showed up in my email inbox. A distant match found me on GEDmatch and we are currently trying to work out our connection. Maybe, if we do the work, it will be closer than I think. Maybe I will learn more about this DNA stuff than I anticipated.

With further exploration of DNA connections in my future, perhaps it is time to do some planning for the coming year. 2021's trips were the result of planning made ages ago. It has been a while since I actually planned out any genealogy trips. It's also hard to know how travel will be in the coming year. Hopefully air travel will have improved as the airlines get back into the swing of things. Maybe a domestic trip would be safer but then, more of my research is overseas. I'll have to exercise my research travel planning muscles again with these new considerations in mind.



Jedburgh Abbey, Scotland

Meg writes about history and genealogy in *A Genealogist's Path to History* at <http://genihistorypath.blogspot.ca/>. Read more about her findings in her blog.



BRITISH COLUMBIA GENEALOGIST

GUIDELINES FOR AUTHORS

The Genealogist is looking for submissions from authors in categories such as Feature Articles, "How-To" Articles, Historical Mysteries, and general genealogy-related submissions.

1. Author is currently a BCGS member.
2. Content is a unique tale, easily readable, with details of how you uncovered the answers to problems. Sources or endnotes may be included as needed.
3. Photographs, family diagrams or other illustrations will complement your story, These should be submitted separately as jpegs, tiffs or PDFs. Captions for pictures are helpful.
4. Entries will be between 500 and 2000 words (roughly two to six pages), and should be submitted in an electronic format (PDF, Word document) to the Editor at Journal@bcgs.ca

Questions or Ideas ?
Please contact the Editor.

Deadlines for Submissions:

March 2023 - due by February 15
June 2023 - due by May 15
September 2023 - due by August 15
December 2023 - due by November 15

BC RESEARCH

The BC Research Team is available to search sources at the BCGS Library for persons seeking information on ancestors residing in BC.
For details & rates, contact Ann Buchanan, BCGS Research Co-ordinator at queryrequest@bcgs.ca
or *by mail*: Box 88054, Lansdowne Mall, Richmond, BC V6X 3T6

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(near 76th Ave. & 128th St.)
Phone 604-502-9119
library@bcgs.ca

Library Administrator: Corrine Jubb

Hours of Operation:
Daytime hours: 10:00 am to 3:00 pm

Members who live outside the Lower Mainland who wish to visit, should call ahead of time so we can try to arrange for a volunteer to open the Library.

Visitors may request a tour of the Library holdings. Non-members may do research - there is a \$5.00 daily fee. At the end of that day, if you chose to take a membership, this fee will be credited toward the membership cost.

Parking: There are 3 stalls in front of the unit, and one stall (#211) near the 76th Avenue entrance. Check with the Librarian on duty for more information.

HONOUR A RELATIVE OR FRIEND

You can make a donation to the British Columbia Genealogical Society to honour a birthday, anniversary or the death of a loved one.

All donations of \$20 or more will receive a tax receipt.

