



THE BRITISH COLUMBIA GENEALOGIST



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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
is published four times per year (March,
June, September, December)

Meetings

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.

Membership Fees:

\$65.00 per year (Individual)

\$10.00 per year (associate)

\$22.50 (Youth)

\$65.00 (Affiliate Society)

Annual Membership includes four issues of
our e-journal, *The British Columbia
Genealogist*, monthly newsletters and use of
our BCGS Genealogical Library and Resource
Centre in Surrey.

For more information, contact
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Facebook Discussion Group:
[https://www.facebook.com/groups/bcgs
discussion/](https://www.facebook.com/groups/bcgsdiscussion/)

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A message from our President...

I set off 2023 with
good intentions. Not
all were achieved,
but the ones that
were, were great.
You may have heard
that *FindaGrave* will
allow you to add
family members who
were not buried in a



cemetery. This is great news for those of
us with family members who were
cremated, but their cremains spread
elsewhere. I added my parents to
FindaGrave, and then connected my Mum
to her parents and most of her siblings.
I connected my Dad with his mother, who
was buried in Winnipeg, and then
proceeded to add his siblings. So I am
very happy to say, that my Dad, his
siblings and his mother are finally together
– first time since 1931! I also added
photos where possible. Gave me a great
sense of accomplishment.

A friend was talking about some
mementos that she had from her mother.
They had been languishing in a box, in
her storage area for 7 or 8 years. She
decided to haul the box out, and see just
what treasures it contained. Several were
ornaments that she recalled in her
mother's home, but these were definitely
not her taste. I suggested she take a
photograph of them, alongside a ruler to
show size, take a photo, and then decide
what to do. She loved the idea, took the
photos, and then donated the ornaments
to a thrift store.

Continued on Page 35. .

From the Desk of the Editor

Our new year is off to a stormy start, weather-wise, but many of our members seem to be energetically returning to regular traveling, researching and learning. I see a hint of interesting reports and photos in our future!

This month, we are starting close to home, with three of our Most Improved Genealogists sharing their work. Chris Hay tells of his research, and an amazing Family Tree. Jan Graf reports on launching a web-site, and Susan and Harry Snalem tell us about their project to record their family's stories, and create an ebook to share them.

Janice Kidwell has been working with her Holten committee and reports on the service of Rifleman Victor Rawlings and Guardsman John Winfrey.

David Landers, who presented his work on Endlings at a meeting last fall, has sent an article from the Environmental Philosophy Journal that explores the use of "ending" in many fields beside genealogy.

Our president Eunice reports on all the happenings in our Society, and at our Library. It has been a busy year!

Janice Kidwell also brings a story of the tragic end of the CPR Steamship Princess Kathleen.

Our travelling Genealogist, Meg McLaughlin looks ahead and shares her plans for research in the upcoming year.

Sheryl Wilson shares pictures from long ago travels of a family member of a Chinese restaurant in Los Angeles.

To close our Journal this month, our Newsletter Editor, Sue Sullivan, sends an update on the Coffee Chats while she takes a break.

Looking forward to hearing about your travels and discoveries this year !

Lynne Fletcher
Journal@bcgs.ca

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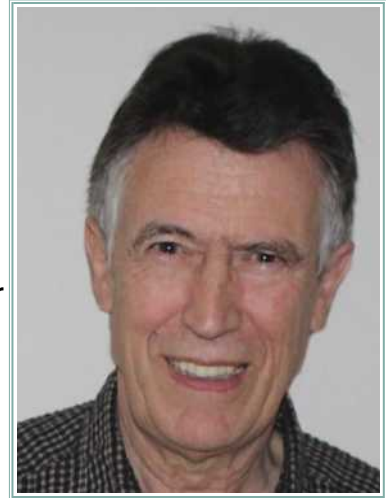
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On the Cover

The Cenotaph in Ladysmith has a special place in the city, and a long history.
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A Comment for a Published Historical Story leads to a Surprising Result

Chris Hay
Member #3893



Just prior to the outbreak of COVID-19 my research into my Loyalist ancestor Maj. Richard Witham Stockton of the New Jersey Volunteers continued to make interesting progress. In December 2015 I had first made contact with the Revolutionary War author Christian McBurney, a lawyer in Washington DC, with some new interesting information regarding proof that my 5th great grandfather, Loyalist Maj. Richard Witham Stockton, was the main guide who had led the British troops, commanded by Lt. Col. William Harcourt, to capture the American General Charles Lee on December 13, 1776. General Charles Lee, second in command to George Washington, was the highest ranking officer captured in the American Revolution. Maj. Richard Witham Stockton was to be captured by Col. John Neilson of the 2nd New Jersey Middlesex Militia just two months later on February 18, 1777 while commanding an outpost at Bennett's Island NJ and was held in prison for two years. Our story, *The Battle of Bennett's Island: The New Jersey Site Rediscovered* was published in the online Journal of the American Revolution on July 10, 2017. We had both waited for any interesting feedback to follow. A few comments appeared but were all very disappointing in content.

Both Christian and I were nonetheless pleased to have our story, with new previously unknown details, now published for the very first time. We were, however, still not finished in our quest for more details on the actual battle site of Bennett's Island in East Brunswick, Middlesex County, New Jersey. In the 1950's the original battle site was to become a major landfill which it still remains today. Fortunately, some surrounding portions of the original battle site still remain untouched and it was this fact that had kept us inspired. Another New Jersey historical researcher and contributor to our Christian McBurney story, despite having no personal connection to the Bennett's Island battle, was also very passionate as to its history. Although the Battle of Bennett's Island is listed as an official battle of the American Revolution it is virtually forgotten except for a few passionate historians.

Our small group had soon realized that we really could use more expanded help with our project. I suggested a DAR member from Ohio who had contacted us following our Journal story. With full agreement she was contacted and very interested in joining our group along with her cousin in South Carolina.

MOST IMPROVED GENEALOGIST

There were now three of us in our group that were actually descendants of soldiers in the battle – two patriots and one Loyalist (British) descendant.

It was near this very same time in March 2020 that I had decided to go back to the old Journal story to quickly check a fact. After I scrolled down to close, much to my amazement was a new comment by Rev. Fredric A. 'Rick' Freese Sr. just recently added after three years following the actual publication of the story. We all were now desperately wanting to know more of his knowledge regarding this historic site.



Rev. Fredric A. Freese, Sr

REPLY

March 6, 2020 at 8:59 pm

Thank you for an intriguing article regarding the Battle of Bennet's Island in East Brunswick, NJ. It was also referred to as Clancy's Island when I was growing up as a boy on School House Lane in the 1950's.

I use to ride my horse on the island long before it became a ugly landfill. Time does change things.

I remember the timber frame of a heavy beam and wooden peg structure still stood about half-way up the road leading to what must have been the farmstead. If one continued on the road it eventually followed a raised road surface through the marsh to the Raritan River. I can almost imagine battles taking place there and attempts to hinder the British from send supplies to New Brunswick.

It was a beautiful location and the farm land was rented out from time to time. I believe that Rutgers Agricultural College did some farming up there for a time.

By the way my distant relative owned 144 acres along the Lawrence Brook off Ryder's Lane (now part of Rutgers). His name was Johannis Ryder. Well, so much for fond memories! Great stories to tell my grandsons.

After some challenging searching we were soon able to contact Rev. 'Rick' Freese in Florida and when asked to join our group was delighted although he stated that he had no actual family connections to the actual Battle of Bennett's Island as with several of us. We said that that was not an issue of importance and would love to have him join with us. Our dream had now come true as we now had found someone who had actually lived and explored this site in the 1950's before the site had become a landfill.

MOST IMPROVED GENEALOGIST

Our group of now seven dedicated historians from Canada and four US states soon established the name *Patrons of the Heritage and Battle of Bennett's Island*. Our goal was to create the first comprehensive report on the historical Revolutionary War battle site to be titled *Battle of Bennett's (Clancy) Island, NJ Project: History and Geography to Present: Summary Reference Report*.

The outbreak of COVID-19 restrictions at this time had brought about many new research challenges both in Canada and the USA but by working together as a small group over the internet we overcame these difficulties. As our Bennett's Island report neared completion we received a letter from Rev. Rick Freese on December 28, 2021 to say he was trying to do some new research on his 'Ryder' family and he had attached his 'Ryder' family tree. I had made great use of the free *Ancestry* search during COVID which was soon to end on December 31, 2021 so I quickly decided to research Rev. Rick's tree without his knowledge. After finding two Ryder marriages with the name Van Voorhees I decided to mainly concentrate on this family line. This old Dutch family line from New Amsterdam proved very time consuming to research with its similar names etc. The results of my research on Rev. Rick's family history research were kept secret until the end of January 2022 when I finally finished. Much to the surprise of our Bennett's Island group, I sent out my new 'Ryder Family Tree' findings as seen below.

From: Chris Hay
Date: January 28, 2022 11:30 PM
Subject: Battle of Bennett's Island News Alert

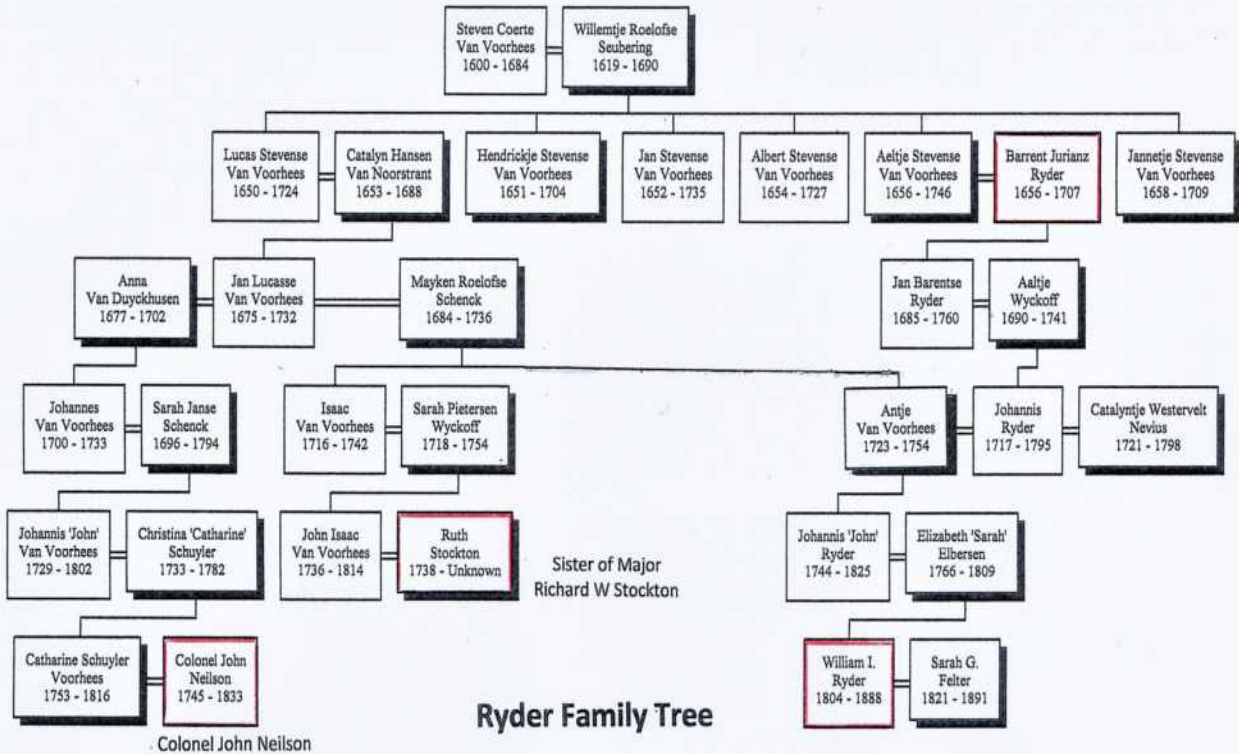
Hi Rick and everyone,

I have some fascinating news to start the year but buckle your seatbelts!

Chris

MOST IMPROVED GENEALOGIST

Descendants of Steven Coerte Van Voorhees



Rick – This is amazing!!!

While searching your 'Ryder family tree' I have now verified that you are actually related through family marriage to both **Colonel John Neilson** and also **Maj. Richard Witham Stockton**, through his sister 'Ruth Stockton.' Strangely enough, I am also related to both you and likewise to Colonel John Neilson, again through family marriage, to this very same 'Ryder Family tree.'

These are all of our family relatives!!!

Chris Hay – January 2022

MOST IMPROVED GENEALOGIST

500 Words: Genealogy In A Nutshell

Submitted by Jan Graf
Member #5382

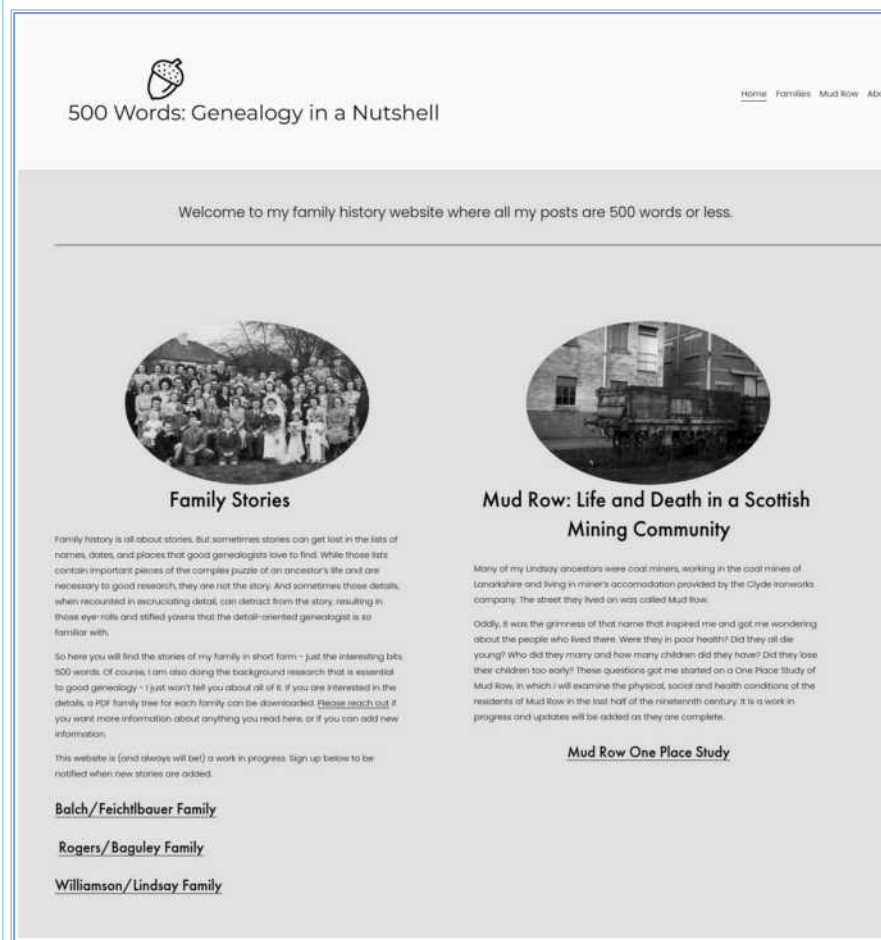
My entry is my new website 500 Words: Genealogy In A Nutshell- just published 5 minutes ago!

<https://genealogyinanutshell.com/>

The idea is to tell my family's stories in short bite-size pieces - all my stories are less than 500 words. I will also use the website to publish my One Place Study.

It is brand new, so there are still many stories to come.

But it's a start and the framework is there to make it easy to add more content.



The screenshot shows the homepage of the website. At the top left is a nut icon and the title '500 Words: Genealogy in a Nutshell'. A navigation menu includes 'Home', 'Families', 'Mud Row', and 'Abo'. A welcome message reads: 'Welcome to my family history website where all my posts are 500 words or less.' Below this are two featured sections: 'Family Stories' with a group photo and 'Mud Row: Life and Death in a Scottish Mining Community' with a photo of a mine. The 'Mud Row' section includes a link to a 'Mud Row One Place Study'. At the bottom, there are links for 'Balch/Feichtbauer Family', 'Rogers/Baguley Family', and 'Williamson/Lindsay Family'.

I am not actually entering so I can win the contest - what I want to do is demonstrate how volunteering for the BCGS can help the volunteer as much as it does the Society. I learned how to build a website by volunteering on the Website Committee. I was lucky enough to be in on the ground floor of our new website, and, along with Sheila and Ann, we learned the basics along the way. So I was then able to build my own website and share my genealogical research with my family and anyone else who is interested!

MOST IMPROVED GENEALOGIST

Life Stories

Submitted by Susan and Harry Snalam
Member # 4403



Harry and I have been attempting to get some of our life's stories down, to pass on to our children this coming Christmas. What started out a quite simple project in January, has taken on a life of it's own. Originally, we set limits of one or two pages maximum for each topic. That soon went by the wayside, as Harry is a great storyteller, and can write or dictate multiple pages explaining his exploits when he was younger. We are sharing this experience with a genealogist friend in London who we meet with every Sunday morning via Zoom.

We started out by writing a list of topics, then all writing about the same subject the following week. It was amazing to see that even though we had all been brought up in England in the same era, our stories were quite often very different. We then tried to write up about our relatives, which proved more difficult than any of us could have imagined, some people we knew a lot about, others very little. Now we are all doing subjects that apply only to ourselves, to round out the year.

All went well doing an article each week until the weather improved and gardening season began. We did slack off over the summer months, but have now picked up the pace again. We found that rather than have Harry dictate his memories, it was easier for me to take them down, and certainly more accurate. I think that this little project has been a winner for us as well as our three sons. We have learned things about each other that we didn't previously know, even though we have been married for more than 56 years!

I would encourage anyone of our ages to start writing their stories down. Even if it is only one or two, as long as they are passed on to family or friends it is a win, something the world didn't have previously. Our sons and daughter-in-law are anxiously awaiting the results. The most difficult part has been finding illustrations, either in the house, or on the Internet. I am intending putting our stories into an e-book format, I'm sure that there will be a lot of editing to do, and I think that an e-book will appeal to the younger generation more than a paper copy. Eventually, I may print a finished copy, just in case the Internet changes how it stores information in the future, you just never know.

MOST IMPROVED GENEALOGIST

Really this has been a joint venture from the start. To date we have both written about 17 short articles, not always on the same subject. So I think that this should be a joint submission, even though I've done most of the typing.

My Hobbies

When I was a little girl, I did go through a phase when I raised Silkworms and Stick Insects. These were ordered from a monthly magazine that arrived in the mail. I obviously wasn't afraid of insects and I guess it taught me about the life cycle and the responsibility of looking after living things.



I learned to knit when I was about 4 years old, taught by an old lady that lived down the road, I used to stay with her on a Wednesday while my mother went into Preston to do the weekly shop. I did knit on and off while I was a child, and still occasionally knit something even now. However, the cost of wool and patterns and the availability of ready-made clothing has made it a rather impractical hobby, other than it is a

relaxing way to spend the winter evenings.

I did spend quite a lot of time collecting stamps when I was in my teens. I still have all the stamps that I collected, and years after I arrived in Canada, my father brought out his own collection, as well as the stamps collected by his father before him, my grandfather. I have no idea how much these stamps are worth now. I do know that my grandfather has some quite early stamps, but right now they are just being stored in a dark dry environment. Eventually they should probably be evaluated and sold.



I learned to decorate cakes when I was in high school, and I did decorate cakes for friends and family on special occasions after I came to Canada. Nowadays, there are many stores that will produce a cake to order, and we even have a friend who has taken cake decorating to another level, as she has continued with her hobby and turned it into a small business.

MOST IMPROVED GENEALOGIST



While I was working as a groomer (aircraft cleaner) for CP Air in the 1980's, we often had downtime between the aircraft arriving, and many of us did crafts to while away the hours. One craft that was very popular at that time was macramé, which consisted of tying knots in string to make wall hangings etc.

In more recent years, I enjoy growing flowers in planters in the garden in summer.

Although we obviously can't eat the flowers, as we can the vegetables that Harry grows,

they do improve the look of the house and garden and demand little more than a nightly watering.



I guess that the hobby I have pursued the

longest has been genealogy that I have been doing since 2001. It all started when we got our first computer with Internet access, and of course, I put in our name to see what I could find. There were a lot of entries for a Freddie Snalam, who appeared to be in Boulder, Colorado. It took me a while, in those days there was only the IGI on the Internet, the rest of the research had to be done by searching through microfilm and microfiche in libraries, but we eventually figured out who Freddie was. I was lucky enough to meet him when my company sent me to Boulder

for a week, and we all spoke on the phone a few times. This is really what got me started in researching the Snalam name, and in the years since, I have also investigated my own family, and even helped friends and family with their family trees. We also joined BCGS (British Columbia Genealogical Society) in 2001, which has led to getting much better with my research and introduced me to many new friends who also enjoy genealogy. Nowadays, a lot more research can be done online in the comfort of your own home although not all records are online. The best way to research still has to be to go to where your ancestors lived and search the local records offices and even the graveyards. When everyone came from a country far away like England, that isn't so easy to do! It is a lifelong quest that never ends, but there is still a thrill when you find information that you hadn't previously found!

HOLTEN

HOLTEN CANADIAN WAR CEMETERY PROJECT RIFLEMAN VICTOR ALLOWAY RAWLINGS (later Signalman) NOVEMBER 23, 1916 – APRIL 9, 1945 (28 years old)

Submitted by Janice Kidwell
BCGS Member 5033

Rifleman Victor Alloway Rawlings was born November 23, 1916 in Victoria, B.C. to parents Frank Sidney and Miriam (Cannon) Rawlings. Victor had 6 siblings.

Victor's Attestation Papers were signed April 14, 1942 in Victoria, B.C. His military file indicated that his trade was as a plumber. He had worked three and a half years in plumbing and heating - two years as a plumber's helper and the balance as a plumber as well as 6 months working as an acetylene burner in the shipyards. Victor attended school for 12 years including 4 years at Victoria High School (Junior Matric). His hobbies were listed as different sports and building model planes. He was well known as an excellent basketball player. The following is an excerpt from the 1934 Victoria High School Yearbook – *The Camosun*: "Every now and then Vic takes the morning off, and we often wonder where he was the night before. Could it be basketball? We think so, and we hear he is a good player, too. If he works as hard as he plays, he's sure to get there. Good luck, Vic! During his service he played softball, volleyball and basketball.

Victor went through the traditional medical examinations, testing and vaccinations. His training took place at Esquimalt, Victoria and Vernon, B.C., Windsor, Nova Scotia as well as No. 11 Vocational Training School in Vancouver. Noted in Victor's military record was that his intelligence was superior and that he was alert, bright and pleasant in appearance.

Victor's previous military service was from July 16, 1935 – July 15, 1938 with Princess Patricia's Canadian Light Infantry. His Regimental Number was 21379. He also served with the Rocky Mountain Rangers (A.C.I.C.) and the Regina Rifles Regiment in 1944. His Regiment number was K45415.

Victor wished to work within the RCOC (Royal Canadian Ordnance Corps or the RCE (Royal Canadian Engineers) and had been accepted by an officer of the RCOC for training as an instrument tradesman.

In the Second World War, the RCOC had a strength of 35,000 military personnel, not including the thousands of civilian personnel employed at RCOC installations. They procured all the material goods required by the Army, from clothing to weapons. He wished to be an instructor, mechanic or a plumber.

HOLTEN

Embarked Canada August 27, 1943; Disembarked U.K. September 1, 1943
Embarked U.K. September 17, 1944; Disembarked France September 18, 1944

On April 9, 1945 and at the age of 28 years old Rifleman Victor Alloway Rawlings was Killed in Action in Deventer, a city and municipality in the Salland historical region of the province of Overijssel, Netherlands, approximately 20km from Holten. The temporary burial was Oxe Military Cemetery in Zutphen, Holland. At a later date, Rifleman Rawling's reburial took place at Holten Canadian War Cemetery – Grave.10, Row B, Plot 2 (11.B.10).

Rifleman Rawlings received Good Conduct Badges on July 16, 1937 (while serving with the P.P.C.L.I.), April 14, 1944 and July 20, 1944

Rifleman Rawlings received the following Medals

- 1939-45 Star
- France-Germany Star
- Defence Medal
- War Medal
- CVSM with clasp (awarded January 15, 1944)
- A Memorial Cross was given to both Victor's wife and to Victor's mother

Rifleman Rawlings Service was:

- Canada
April 21, 1942 – August 27, 1943
- U.K.
August 28, 1943 – September 17, 1944
- N.W. Europe
September 18, 1944 – April 9, 1945

Headstone Wording

K/45415 Rifleman
V.A. Rawlings
The Regina Rifle Regiment
9th April 1945 Age 28

Among The Noble Host
Of Those Who Perished
In The Cause of Right



HOLTEN

Rifleman Victor Alloway Rawlings is commemorated on Page 608 of the Second World War Book of Remembrance. This page is displayed in the Memorial Chamber of the Peace Tower in Ottawa on December 25.

Victor's name appears on the brass Victoria High School Memorial.



Sources:

- Ancestry.com – military file
- Find a Grave <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/14041454/victor-alloway-rawlings>
- The Canadian Virtual War Memorial <https://www.veterans.gc.ca/eng/remembrance/memorials/canadian-virtual-war-memorial/detail/2227887?Victor%20Alloway%20Rawlings>
- Canadian Fallen <https://canadianfallen.ca/>
- Victoria High School – Brass Shield that bears the names of almost all the 121 Vic High alumni who died during World War 11.

With thanks to a Vic High Alumni Association member for taking this photo.

HOLTEN

HOLTEN CANADIAN WAR CEMETERY PROJECT GUARDSMAN JOHN ROSS WINFREY AUGUST 7, 1921 to APRIL 24, 1945

Submitted by Janice Kidwell
BCGS Member 5033

Guardsman John Ross Winfrey was born August 7, 1921 in Calgary, Alberta to parents William Homer and Annie Cornelia (Saddler) Winfrey. He was part of a large family and had a number of siblings. The family lived in Grand Prairie, Alberta for 8 years before moving to British Columbia.

John's Attestation Papers were signed January 9, 1942 in Edmonton, Alberta. His hometown at that time was listed as Groundbirch which is a community in the north-east part of *British Columbia*. It is located on Highway 97 approximately halfway between Dawson Creek and Chetwynd. His Trade/calling was as a Tractor Man/Operator and motor mechanic. He had worked at Western Construction Company (Fort Nelson) for 3 months before enlisting. He also had 4 years experience in mixed farming.

John had the traditional medical examinations, testing and vaccinations. Training and postings took place in Edmonton, Calgary, Ontario (Camp Borden) and Nova Scotia (Camp Windsor). He became a part of the Canadian Grenadier Guards (22nd Armed Guardsman Regiment). Their Badge Motto was Nulli Secundus - Second to None. His Regimental Number was M67192

Other regiments mentioned were: No. 13A, District Depot, Canadian Army, Canadian Armed Corps – Battalion: Calgary Regiment Tanker (14), No 2 Canadian Armed Corps Regiment.

John embarked in Canada on July 17, 1942 and disembarked in the U.K. July 29, 1942. He was appointed A/Corporal Dec. 1, 1943. There were other embarked/disembarked dates but his last disembarked date was March 6, 1945 in N.E. Europe.

Guardsman Winfrey was Killed in Action in Germany on April 24, 1945. He was 23 years old. On May 5th John's father received a letter advising him of his son's death. The initial burial took place April 24 in Germany at the Green Route Cemetery MR 103971. The Plot number was P1 R1 G7. On June 29, 1946 John's father received a letter to advising that his son's remains had now been reburied at Holten Canadian War Cemetery. The Grave Reference is V11.E.10.

There is a cenotaph in Dawson Creek and Remembrance Day ceremonies are held there but there are no names listed on the cenotaph.

HOLTEN

Guardsman John Winfrey's service was 503 days in the Western Hemisphere and 699 days Overseas for a total of 1202 days.

The wording on Guardsman Winfrey's gravestone is:

M67192 Guardsman
J.R. Winfrey
Cdn. Grenadier Guards
24th April 1945 Age 23
+
GONE, BUT NOT FORGOTTEN

Medals and Badges Received:

Good Conduct Badge (received January 9, 1944)
1939-45 STAR
Italy STAR
France and Germany STAR
Defence Medal
War Medal 1939-45
CVSM & Clasp (awarded January 15, 1944)
Memorial Bar and Memorial Cross

Guardsman Winfrey is commemorated on Page 577 of the Second World War Book of Remembrance. This page is displayed in the Memorial Chamber of the Peace Rower in Ottawa on December 2.

John Ross Winfrey has a **B.C. Geographical feature** named in his honour – **Winfrey Creek**. This creek is located in the Peace River Land District of B.C. and flows SE into Belcourt Creek, Peace River Land District.

Poem written by Guardsman John Ross Winfrey

Victory

When the war is done, and each mother's son
Is back 'neath his native sky;
What will they do, those chosen few
Whose lot was not to die?

The ball and blade is the only trade
They know, at which to toil;
Will they as one lay down the gun
And return to the beckoning soil?

And those less strong, will they stagger on,
Or fall, on the long road back?
Be they thrust out to roam about,
Like the outcasts of the pack?

And for those that made the treacherous grade,
What is their reward?

Will the peace they won with blade and gun,
Be again severed by a sword?

And of those who fell, will the living tell
Of the pain they could not share?

And will mothers weep o'er the place they sleep
Where the ground is blasted bare?

When the deed is done and Victory won,
They the last word will be said.

God will provide for those who died,
We'll be the living dead.

By Gdsm. J.R. Winfrey
Grenadier Guards
Killed In Action, April 24, 1945

On the back of this page is a handwritten note from Guardsman Winfrey which reads:

Please accept this as a Token from a boy who knew what he wanted.

JRW

HOLTEN

Sources

- Ancestry.com
- B.C. Archives Vital Events – Birth, Marriage, Death. Death Registration: B.C. Archives number: 1945-09-703926
- B.C. Geographical Names <https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/governments/celebrating-british-columbia/historic-places/geographical-names>
- Canadian Fallen <https://canadianfallen.ca/112223/WINFREY>
- The Canadian Virtual War Memorial (CVWM) <https://www.veterans.gc.ca/eng/remembrance/memorials/canadian-virtual-war-memorial/detail/2228157>
- Commonwealth War Graves Commission
- Find A Grave <https://www.findagrave.com>
- Google
- Library and Archives Canada – Service Files of the Second World War – War Dead 1939-1947.

Inquiries

- Dawson Creek Legion (# 141). dawsoncreeklegion141@pris.ca
- City of Dawson Creek – Office of the Mayor
- Local Historical Society

The Ladysmith Cenotaph



The Ladysmith Cenotaph in its present location, near the Island Highway.



GENEALOGY ON THE ROAD

Genealogy on the Road

Submitted by Meg McLaughlin
Member #3847

When the year started off, it quickly left me behind. Lulled by the slow pace of the Christmas season, I was used to that rhythm and then, all of a sudden, everything speeded up again. I'm still struggling to catch up. Part of that may be that I'm involved in too many interesting things. Another is that, with two years of not venturing far from home, there had been no need to rearrange my schedule due to travel. I made up for that in 2022, my three excursions taking me to Scotland, Alaska and Mexico. The first two trips involved family history, the last, well it was cold and Mexico promised sun.

Only my Scottish trip involved on the road research. You know, one of those research expeditions with all that lovely prep work that is so necessary when you actually want to find out information relevant to your target family. For my trek to Scotland, it took a while to get back into the groove and remember what needed to be done. There was also an added wrinkle because the archives were not back working at full steam and that necessitated a few work arounds.

I'm hoping I won't run into anything similar on my next research trip but as I'm going to Salt Lake City, it shouldn't be a problem. In fact, looking at the information on the newly named FamilySearch Library, it looks like it has been newly renovated and is ready for business. Still, it might take a bit of getting used to and things have been moved around so no more blindly heading off to get a film or a book. The items will be there, just in a different area.



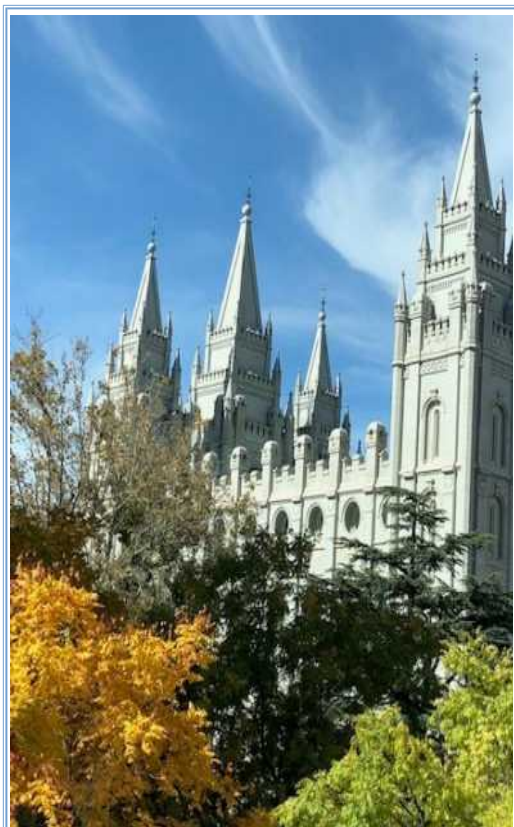
FamilySearch Library

When I was last at the Family History Library, as it was known then, they were experimenting with Sunday hours. For that, the computers on the main floor were available for research. The library was only open in the afternoon, a fact I found out after checking out of my hotel room. I spent a few hours wandering the streets in the cold as very few stores or restaurants were open in the Temple Square area. Even the mall down the street was mostly closed. I found one store open, Victoria's Secret.

GENEALOGY ON THE ROAD

Between that and lunch at the Cheese Factory I whiled away the hours before I could get in and wait for one of the computers at the library. They were popular.

Looking at the current opening hours on the website, it looks like the Sunday opening experiment was a bust. It seemed popular when I was there. I wonder if they will bring it back after they've been open for a while longer. According to their website, the physical library was closed for about 16 months, opening on July 6, 2022. Without any patrons roaming the floors, the library staff and volunteers were able to take advantage of the time for other things, such as renovations and digitization. But not everything is digitized and available online. I need to draft my research plan with that information in mind.



Temple, Salt Lake City

It's about time to unearth my research logs and thumbdrives from my last Salt Lake City trip. I last travelled there in October of 2019, not that long ago in some ways but, in others, it feels like a different era. At that time, I took part in the British Institute, which had classes in the morning allowing time in the afternoon to do library research. I signed up for the course on English research. Not that I learned much that I didn't know already as the information was geared towards people from the US. Still, there were one-on-ones with our instructor, Paul Blake. I still haven't followed up on his advice about my brickwall. He suggested a possible way to find information to get my Cavanaghs back to Ireland from London's East End. That piece of research would mean a trip to the National Archives at Kew. At the time, it seemed an easy addition to add to my next British research trip which I surely would take in the near future.

Pursing that potential lead is still on my mind but it hasn't happened as soon as I thought it would. Due to an abundance of caution, my travelling companion and I reconfigured the Scottish trip we took in 2022 to only take in that country. Perhaps my upcoming trip to Salt Lake City will also result in some advice on some other research conundrums in my family's past. I'm joining another group there this time, the Ancestor Seekers. They also have advisors to help with research questions. That means that I need to figure out what those are before I go. Looks like it's time to get started on the dreaded prep work for my research trip.

GENEALOGY ON THE ROAD

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.



Brigham Young Historical Park

Cover Picture: The Cenotaph in Ladysmith, B.C.

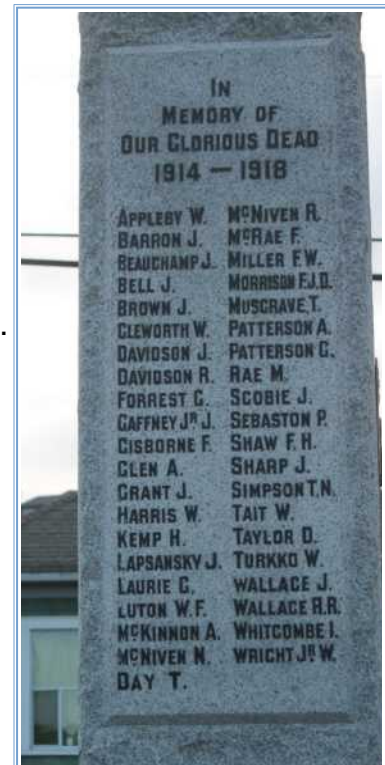
This year, on January 28th this Cenotaph marked its 100th birthday. It carries a long history in this community, as it was built to honour and remember the citizens who went off to war in WWI. Ladysmith sent 20% of its population, and many never returned. Some were casualties of war, others moved elsewhere after returning. An Ex-Servicemen's Association banded together to raise the funds to build this memorial, starting in October of 1922.

By January of 1923, it was ready for names. The gathering of names included not only those who died over seas, but also those who died later from the direct effects of the war. There were 41 names on this cenotaph from the war, but as these names were gathered by word of mouth, 17 men were missed. The local archive researched almost 500 residents who had gone off to WWI from Ladysmith and district; 58 never returned.

A listing of those on active service in WW2 shows 294 names. This listing is located outside the local Legion.



Reverse side shows a Plaque for the Merchant Navy servicemen.



Endling, the power of the last in an extinction-prone world

Dolly Jørgensen

Environmental Philosophy

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Published in Environmental Philosophy

In April 1996, two men working at a convalescent center wrote a letter to the journal *Nature* proposing that a new word be adopted to designate a person who is the last in his/her lineage: endling (Webster and Erickson 1996, 386). This had come up because of patients who were dying and were concerned that with their death, their family line would die out. The word was meant to recognize and honor the finality of the person's situation and their heritage. The suggestion of endling as the word for the last of a lineage was met with counter-suggestions in the May 23rd issue of *Nature*: ender (Chaucer used it to mean "he that puts an end to" anything), terminarch (because it has a more positive ring than endling which sounds pathetic according to the respondent), and relict (which means last remaining, but typically for a group). Nothing more appears to have been made of the suggestion or counter-suggestions in the scientific or medical literature. The word endling does not appear to have been used in scientific literature in the Web of Science database nor in any dictionary.¹

Yet the word certainly is a 'real' word. It has slowly seeped into popular culture, appearing in museum exhibits, symphonic music, performance art, science fiction stories, comics, poems, black metal music, and journalistic writing since 2001. Endling even has its own Wikipedia page (<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Endling>). In these contexts, the word endling has been appropriated as the term for the last individual of an animal species. With the death of that individual (the endling), the species as a whole is extinct. This shifted the meaning of the word from human care of the elderly to environmental care, which implies that humans have an emotional and ethical stake in these animals (van Dooren 2014). This change gave the word new life.

This article examines the history of the word endling as a history of an idea to explore the ways in which a newly coined environmental word might diffuse culturally. Using a mixture of cultural artifacts, media accounts, and personal interviews, I construct the history of the word endling and the meanings it acquired through its usage. Each person who wrote, spoke, sang, or sculpted ending makes references to other usages, yet each user also makes meaning for the word by exploring what it means at a personal level. I argue that this history reveals that the concept of endling as the last of a species holds cultural power, encouraging its mobilization in a world facing

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extinction around every corner.

All indications are that the rate of animal species loss on Earth over the last few hundred years qualifies as a mass extinction event (Pimm et al. 2014; McCallum 2015). Up to a third of all vertebrate (backboned) species are thought to be globally threatened or endangered, and at least 322 vertebrates have become extinct since 1500 (Dirzo et al. 2014, 401). The high number of species either recently extinct or facing imminent extinction and the great speed at which extermination is happening even exceeds the most well-studied extinction event—the dinosaur extinction at the end of the Cretaceous period.

Recognition of the extinction event in which we currently live has spread beyond the natural sciences to mainstream popular prize-winning journalistic books such as David Quammen's *Song of the Dodo* (1996) and Elizabeth Kolbert's *The Sixth Extinction* (2014). Narratives of endangerment and extinction are pervasive in contemporary society, from literature and film to databases and artworks (Heise 2016).

Because the sixth mass extinction is happening on such a large scale, it can be difficult to personalize. According to philosopher Philip Cafaro (2015), there are three common ways in which negative effects of the sixth mass extinction are portrayed: as a loss of resources, as interspecies genocide, and as evidence that human dominance on the planet is inevitable. All of these are aggregate approaches that focus on the grand scale of planetary species loss. But what about the individual level? How can stories be told about the specific individual animals and the end of their lineages in ways that maintain the connection with the grand narrative? There can be a problem with harmonizing narratives at the ideal abstract level of species extinction with the concrete level of individual bodies that must disappear for extinction to take place (de Vos 2007; Jørgensen 2016). This is where endling comes in. The endling label puts extinction on the human scale—it gives an animal a name, recognizes its worth, and asks for the human to empathize with the imminent end of a whole animal's line. The word recognizes the permanence of group extinction on an individual level.

A word of tangled destinies

Endling (n.) *The last surviving individual of a species of animal or plant.*

The definition pops out in black letters on the inside wall of the silver metal cube housing an exhibit of the thylacine in the National Museum of Australia (NMA). When I visited the NMA in 2016, a thylacine skeleton stood on the opposite side of the cube under the engraved word 'Extinct'. It gazes both toward the visitor and the definition of endling on the wall. The visitor knows instinctively that this is a story about an end.

In 2001, the NMA opened its doors to coincide with the centenary anniversary of the

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Australian Federation's foundation in 1901. The road to the museum's completion had been a long one. A national inquiry into the state of Australian museums issued in 1975, which became known as the Pigott Report, had identified the need for a national museum (Griffin and Paroissien 2011, 2). In spite of this conclusion, it would take until December 1996 for an official commitment to be made to open a physical museum (Drayson 2004, 3). Curatorial staff had been appointed much earlier, including the appointment in 1990 of the People and Environment section, which was responsible for collections attentive to the way environment shapes culture and vice versa (National Museum of Australia 1998).

As the planned permanent exhibition galleries of the NMA took shape, one of them was dedicated to the People and Environment section. This gallery was named *Tangled Destinies: Land and People in Australia* and included exhibits on scientific attempts to explain odd Australian animals such as the platypus, the introduction of animals to the Continent such as the rabbit, the conservation movement, understandings of deep time, the role of fire, and agricultural technology (Smith 2004). The gallery was later renamed *Old New Land* and changed in response to a 2003 evaluation of the museum. Mike Smith, an archeologist and the senior curator who led the People and Environment section during the design of *Tangled Destinies*, explained in an interview with the author that he wanted to bring together three domains of information—environment, technology, and social history—a triad inspired by the work of environmental historian Donald Worster.² A centerpiece exhibit of *Tangled Destinies* focused on the 20th century extinction of the thylacine, also known as the Tasmanian tiger and an iconic animal in Australian environmental thinking. Rhetorically the thylacine is bound up with identity of place in Tasmania (Turner 2009). Books about the Tasmanian tiger's extinction abound in Australia; the most well-researched and comprehensive recent treatments of the thylacine's history are Robert Paddle, *The Last Tasmanian Tiger: The History and Extinction of the Thylacine* (2000) and Carol Freeman, *Paper Tiger: How Pictures Shaped the Thylacine* (2014).

The last known thylacine died in 1936 as a captive in the Beaumaris zoo in Hobart on its home island of Tasmania. The thylacine's decline had been rapid after British settlers arrived in 1803, primarily because it was hunted as an unwanted livestock killer by farmers. The government issued a bounty for dead thylacines in 1888, after half a century of private bounties issued by companies and individuals. The government bounty appears to have nailed the thylacine's coffin shut, so to speak. Although naturalists and scientists began warning of the thylacine's imminent demise in the first quarter of the 20th century, the species was not protected until 1936—the same year that the last known thylacine perished behind bars. The failure to locate another thylacine was eventually considered confirmation of its extinction (Jørgensen

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2016). The thylacine has come to represent the environmentally destructive tendencies of Australia's colonial settlers and is a poster-child for the sixth mass extinction happening at the hands of humans. Remembering the thylacine's extinction also motivated the creation of Australia's National Threatened Species Day in 1996 on the 60th anniversary of the last animal's death.

The NMA exhibit module on the thylacine would take the name *Endling*. Smith said he chose the title as well as developed the concept for the exhibit, although a creative design company created the final visual presentation. As an archeologist, Smith was a regular reader of the journal *Nature* and had come across the letter correspondence from 1996 proposing endling as a term. Considering the heightened awareness of the thylacine tragedy with the founding of National Threatened Species Day that same year, connections between the proposal and the thylacine may have been easy for Smith to make. In an interview with the author, Smith called finding the word "serendipitous" with the gallery design process, a chance coming together rather than something intentionally sought.

The conceptual drawing of *Endling* by the design firm Anway & Company, Inc. features a walk-in box engraved with Endling on the top and the word projected through a stencil on the side so that the word is light on the floor of the box (National Museum of Australia 1999, 6). Inside, the drawing shows a thylacine skin with a monitor above it for video on one side. The actualized exhibit followed this general design with a few modifications: the lighted stencil was dropped and the galvanized iron metal box was engraved with the scientific and common names of Australian species, both plants and animals, which had become extinct since European contact.

Smith wanted the exhibit to be a "memorial" since "Australians often memorialize extinct animals" (Smith interview). The box does feel like a mausoleum as it stands in the middle of the gallery floor towering above the visitors. The written names engraved on the outside, as well as the word "Endling" on the front side, are reminiscent of names in the wall of a family tomb. The visitor does not see the entrance to the box from the gallery entrance, but two open doorways are on either side. The visitor walks through one of these doorways to see the vestiges of extinction.

The main artifacts displayed in the Endling cabinet alternated between a thylacine skin and a thylacine body preserved in formalin when it was newly opened (these have since been replaced with a skeleton). The skin had been a controversial acquisition made by Smith (Robin 2009). Although complaints had been made that the NMA should not collect natural history specimens, Smith believed that the cultural history of the skin was paramount.

The skin belonged to one of the last wild thylacines—it was trapped in 1930,

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which was the last year any wild thylacine was killed. The skin had been passed down through the family until it was sold in 1987 to Cascade Brewery in Hobart, Tasmania, which displayed the skin along with its logo that features a pair of thylacines. NMA bought the skin in 1999 (Smith 2004, 100). The preserved body of a young thylacine was from the Australian Institute of Anatomy collection housed at the NMA. Libby Robin, one of the curators who worked on the early exhibit design, commented on the “emotional rather than horrifying sight” of the “partially flayed and eviscerated” tiger with “a rather beautiful face” (Smith 2000, 521). Images taken in the Beaumaris zoo in Hobart of the last live thylacine complemented these still artifacts.

Above the artifacts on the opposite wall is the text: *Endling (n.) The last surviving individual of a species of animal or plant.* The form of this text is striking. Smith wrote the definition on the wall in the form of a definition copied from a dictionary complete with the part of speech designation as a noun. Yet as mentioned, there is apparently no Australian dictionary (or any other) that defines endling. The definitional form gave the word validity, making it appear as accepted, standardized word. I would note that the definition the museum exhibit displayed is not exactly what the original *Nature* letter had defined endling as—it ignores the main goal of the authors to describe “the last person surviving or deceased in a family line” (Webster and Erickson 1996, 386). It is also unclear from the exhibit design how endling was supposed to be read in conjunction with the artifacts on display, as neither the skin nor the preserved body was the true endling, the very last thylacine. The film did show the last known live animal, but the text would seemingly belong to the whole display, not just the film. Those ambiguities aside, putting the definition of endling on the wall was a powerful move.

The first publication in *Nature* that named endling as a term was a short, relatively insignificant text; it threw the suggestion out there, but it didn’t immediately get any positive attention. The word had reached a dead end until the museum staff took the endling concept and made it real. The museum, as a scientific institution, legitimized endling by adopting it and exposing it to the world.

Making endling news

After the National Museum of Australia opened, the word travelled, appearing in a variety of contexts, often through the actions of specific individuals who had seen or read about the *Endling* exhibition.

Professor of journalism Eric Freedman was one of the first who picked up the word. In 2001, Freedman was an assistant professor of journalism at Michigan State University and was leading the university’s Australia: Media, Environment and Culture Program when he visited the NMA in Canberra. He encountered the word

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He encountered the word ending as well as saw for the first time the film clips of the last thylacine (Freedman pers. comm.). Freedman, a practicing science journalist in addition to a professor, published an article on the extinction of the thylacine in his local university's journalism magazine in 2002. In the article he lamented the last Tasmanian tiger (which has been erroneously called Benjamin in many sources): "Too little by far, too late by far for Benjamin, which thus became what scientists call an ending, the last survivor of a species. Ending. A word with finality" (Freedman 2002, 17). Freedman used the word six times in addition to its appearance in the headline. In the last of these, he applied ending to another species, the Australia's paradise parrot, which was last confirmed seen in 1927. In an article published in 2003, Freedman also applied ending to another species, this time the Turan tiger of Uzbekistan where the last known survivor died in the 1970s and is displayed as a taxidermy mount in the remote city of Nukus.

Nearly a decade later, Freedman described the last passenger pigeon, who was named Martha and died in 1914, as an ending (Freedman 2011). Freedman documented his journey to see the endings—Martha's body in the Smithsonian, film clips of the thylacine in Hobart, and the Turan tiger in Nukus—and his efforts to "make the reality of extinction tangible." The word ending appears in the text as a marker both of the finality of extinction and the "human authorship" of ending status.

"They died because we killed them," is Freedman's claim. In addition to killing them, humans have named endings (like Martha or Benjamin), but Freedman points out that most endings "won't get a name, or even a numbered box in a museum, or a plaque at a zoo. In most cases, we're unlikely to even know the ending, let alone name it. The species simply disappears, anonymously." The title ending, then, is a mixed blessing for Freedman because it allows him to name the last, yet it also reveals the futility of the attempts to save them. In Freedman's use of ending, we see the move toward making extinction something personal, something that deserves our empathy.

Editor's note: These pages are part of an extensive report that covers the use of the term *Ending* in many other fields including art, music and literature. If you would like to do in further reading in this area, Dolly Jørgensen's full article (17 pages) is available at <https://doi.org/10.5840/envirophil201612542> (the web-site for the *Environmental Philosophy Journal*).

The article also includes an four page listing of publications on this topic.

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PRESIDENT'S REPORT 2022-2023

Many people feel that our lives have returned to normal, now that Covid no longer dominates everything that we do. But there are still a number of changes that have now entrenched themselves in our lives, such as Zoom.

BCGS has made exceptional use of the Zoom technology by holding our Monthly Meetings, Seminars, Team Meetings, and Coffee Chats on this platform. We plan to continue this into the future. Zoom has enabled not only our out-of-town members to attend, but also those who don't like to drive at night or when the weather isn't the best.

I'd like to thank the current Board of Directors for all the work that they have done this past year. Each and everyone of them not only serves on the Board, but volunteers for other activities. The Society couldn't function without them, and they all deserve a huge thank you.

I'd also like to thank those other volunteers who serve the Society in many other capacities and functions, from library volunteers, to indexers, to cataloguers, to researchers – your contributions have been invaluable.

Some highlights:

- **Website** - Our Webmaster, Sheila Albrecht, and Membership Team have developed an improved process for memberships coming in through the web site. The Website Team continues to update the website content to ensure all links are working. Should any members have any suggestions, please contact the Webmaster.
- **Postcards** – We have a huge collection of postcards. Several of these have been featured in our Newsletters and Journals. The collection has over 1,000 cards representing many countries, and categories such as art, animals, transportation. The collection is now housed at the BCGS library. We invite members to come and look through the cards – if you see one (or more) that interest you, we do sell them for 25 cents. Although we do have some rarer ones that are a bit more expensive. If you have postcards you'd like to donate, we'd welcome them. If you would like to go through the collection, contact Janice Kidwell.
- **Membership Team** – There are 5 members to this Team – Terri Mackenzie, Dorothy Jones, Trasey Allen, Cathy Smart, our Affiliate Concierge and Mary Worth, our Life Members Concierge. Technical support comes from George Caldwell, and they work in tandem with our Webmaster, Sheila Albrecht, and Treasurer, Judy Rosmus. They handle new and renewing memberships as

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well as the Exchange list, the Institutional subscriptions and our Affiliates. They continue to use *MailChimp* for the mass emails, thanks to Judy Galpin.

- ◆ **Holten Canadian War Cemetery Project** – May 5, 2023 will mark the 78th anniversary of the Liberation of the Netherlands. Twelve BCGS volunteers continue to research and produce a report on each of the 81 soldiers from British Columbia, who are buried there. To date, a total of 39 soldiers are being researched. Those completed projects have been featured in the BCGS Journal. If anyone is interested in joining this Project, please let us know. This can be done from home. Janice Kidwell is the Team Leader.
- ◆ **Find-a-Grave** – Since we started with this project in 2018, BCGS has added 9,156 memorials. We manage 12,611 memorials. We have added 38,711 flowers and 10,740 gravestone photos. We have worked on 175 cemeteries, with approximately 70 left to do. This can be done from home. We are looking for another Team Leader, as regrettably, Marianne Cote-Malley is stepping down.
- ◆ **Newspaper Indexing** – Housed in several file cabinets in the Library are the clippings files. Over the many years, Corrine Jubb has been involved with the indexing over 85,000 data lines and approximately 5,500 scans. Still more scanning to do. There has also been additional scanning of other newspapers. In 2022, an additional 3,629 lines have been completed. Bob Buchanan will continue with the photographing. Interested in indexing, this can be done from home.
- ◆ **Education** – Zoom has proven a very efficient and cost effective way for BCGS to bring great speakers to our members. Our seminar series are held on Saturday mornings from 9:30 am to about 12:00 noon. Presenters this past year: Janice Nickerson, Karen Inkster Vance, Chris Paton, Denyse Beaugrand, Marie Palmer, Mags Gauden, Fintan Mullan and Gillian Hunt. Attendance is often 65 plus – BCGS members, members of our Affiliate Societies, and even some non-members. Celia Lewis and Eunice Robinson have done several ‘outreach’ talks via Zoom to various libraries. Celia has conducted 3 – 6 week sets of classes, via Zoom. These have proven very successful and have been well attended.
- ◆ BCGS co-sponsored Maureen Taylor, the Photo Detective, along with the Cloverdale Library and Surrey Museum. Again, this brings a great presenter to BCGS without a large expenditure. Other presentations – the Newton Seniors Group, Mission Rotary Club.
- ◆ There are over 20 Coffee Chat groups hosted by BCGS members. The list of the Chats is found on the BCGS website. These are open to BCGS members

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and members of our BCGS Affiliates. The invitations/mailling lists for 14 of them are managed by Christol James, with Jan Graf as backup. These are held Thursday evenings at 7:00 pm. Other Coffee Chat groups hold their meetings at other times – Tracking Indigenous Roots – last Tuesday morning of each month, Exploring Genetic Genealogy – first Monday afternoon of each month. Other groups are managed independently by the group leader – The French Connection, Parental Puzzles, China, Advanced DNA. Information on how to join each group can be found on the website, in the Newsletter or in the GenBlast.

- **Communications – Journal, Newsletter, GenBlast, Facebook** – The BCGS' Communications Team continues to produce great publications. Lynne Fletcher, our Journal editor, is always looking for submissions, as is Sue Sullivan, our Newsletter editor. Have an idea for article, or just want to write about your family, let the ladies know. The weekly GenBlast produced by Judith Ueland and Susan Snalam fills in the gaps by letting us know last minute announcements. Our BCGS Facebook page, managed by Kim Kujawski also informs us on items of genealogical interest. Have an idea for an article, or wishing to share a new, great record source, please share.
- **Archives** – Work has begun on organizing the Societies' archives. Next step is to digitize these records. The Society has a collection of photographs that are being organized, and also will be digitized.
- **BC Research** – Our Research Team has assisted several clients this past year. Ann Buchanan will be stepping down from this Team, but Mary Turnbull is taking over. If anyone would be interested in doing this kind of research, let us know.
- **Facilities** – There have been a lot of changes in the library this past year. Some carpet and flooring replacement, painting, trim and moulding. We replaced several of the broken chairs. Some fans were installed to help with the air circulation. Bottle/can returns – this initiative has raised a lot of money for the ALM fund, which has been used for improvements to the library.
- **Alaska Cruise** – Finally happened – our 50th Anniversary Cruise, celebrated in our 52nd year. Sadly, due to Covid several people were unable to join the cruise, but those who did had a wonderful time. Blaine Bettinger was fantastic, giving lectures on both the seas days – Monday and Friday. Even the weather cooperated, raining at night, but for our shore visits and excursions the weather wasn't too bad at all. Thank you to the Cruise Team – Sharon, Sue, Terri, Terry, Marian, Claire and our wonderful travel Agent Robert Marcoux.
- **Library** – Last but not least is the BCGS Library. This has been a hive of

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activity over the past year.

- * The Acquisitions Team has met a couple of times to decide on whether or not donated books and materials will be added to the collection
- * Then the Cataloguing Team processes these new additions – this year alone, over 700 books have been added. Check out our Library Catalogue on our website. The *ResourceMate* programme has been a great addition, allowing the books to appear in the catalogue within 2 days of being input.
- * Next comes preparing the items to go onto the shelf. There has also been a huge amount of re-labelling. Two new categories have been added: Indigenous and DNA.
- * We are adding the city directories and telephone directories to the catalogue.
- * Sorting through the hundreds of CD's to determine if they can be used was another huge task. These will also be added to the catalogue.
- * Book Indexing – this work continues, we are now nearing the 180,000 names. But there are still many more to do.
- * Yearbooks and annuals – since advising that we are interested in adding these, we have had over 50 annuals donated.
- * Adding our cemetery publications to *FindaGrave*, meant that we could dispose of the index cards. Index cards for books were checked, and added to the Book Index database, enabling us to dispose of the index cards.
- * People are no longer interested in purchasing genealogy books, as so much is online, so we closed the Store.
- * Computer upgrades and improvements. New databases being added to the library computers.
- * FamilySearch affiliate, which means members can come to the library, log-on to FamilySearch and obtain records that they couldn't from home.
- * British Newspapers access – a year subscription was taken out for our members to use.

In conclusion, I'd like to thank you, the Members, for your support of our Society. If you are interested in volunteering for any project or team, don't hesitate. We can use all the help we can get. Hope to see you at our Zoom meetings, coffee chats or at the library.

Eunice Robinson

President, British Columbia Genealogical Society

March 3, 2023

POSTCARDS

CPR STEAMSHIP PRINCESS KATHLEEN

Submitted by Janice Kidwell
BCGS Member 5033

The SS Princess Kathleen was a passenger and freight steamship owned and operated by Canadian Pacific Steamships. She served the coastal communities of British Columbia, Alaska and Washington. Her tonnage was 5782 tons, length was 369 feet, beam was 60 feet and speed was 22.5 kn (41.7 km/hour).

The ship was named by Canadian Pacific President Sir Edward Beatty for his life-long friend Miss Kathleen Madill. One of Thomas Shaughnessy's daughters was Marguerite Kathleen Shaughnessy and her name may have also influenced the choice of the name for the steamer.

Both the Princess Kathleen and Princess Marguerite were built by John Brown & Co., Clydebank, west Dumbartonshire, Scotland and were built to replace the SS Princess Irene and SS Princess Margaret which had been requisitioned by the British Admiralty during World War 1.

The Princess Kathleen was launched in 1924 and in 1925 and on her maiden voyage she sailed from Glasgow to Vancouver via the Panama Canal.

The Princess Kathleen and the Princess Marguerite relieved the SS Princess Charlotte and SS Princess Victoria on the "triangle service" between Vancouver, Victoria and Seattle. With a capacity of 1500 passengers, 290 berths, 136 staterooms, a 168-seat dining room and the ability to carry 30 automobiles, the Princess Kathleen and Princess Marguerite quickly became the preferred ships on this service, successfully competing against the Black Ball Line. Both ships were later modified to carry 1800 passengers by reducing the number of staterooms to 123. In 1939 King George VI and Queen Elizabeth traveled aboard the Princess Kathleen en route to Victoria.

In September 1939 the Princess Kathleen and the Princess Marguerite were requisitioned by the Royal Canadian Navy for use as a troop ship. Princess Marguerite was lost in action but Princess Kathleen was returned to the Canadian Pacific in 1947 and resumed service on the "triangle service". Changing demands and increased automobile traffic saw Canadian Pacific transfer her in 1949 to the Vancouver - Alaska cruise service along the Inside Passage.

In September 1952 the Princess Kathleen left Vancouver on its last run of the season. It was during this assignment and at around 0300 local time on September 7th that Princess Kathleen, only 18 miles from Juneau, went aground in Alaska's Lynn Canal - around Lena Point - at low tide.

POSTCARDS

The crew tried to reverse off Lena Point, however as the tide rose, her stern became swamped.

It was later determined that radar had not been on at the time of the grounding and along with the vessel being hit by heavy rainfall and high winds, navigation proved difficult. An SOS was sent out but was sent on the wrong frequency. It was two hours before the United States Coast Guard (USCG) became aware a Canadian ship had been grounded on their shores. At 5:30 a.m. Captain Graham O. Hughes ordered passengers to abandon ship. Passengers and crew were transferred to lifeboats and sent ashore as the ship slid into deeper water and then sank stern first.

To keep themselves warm until the USCG arrived, the passengers that went ashore worked together to build campfires. The United States Coast Guard and a rescue cutter arrived at 0630. For the 150 remaining passengers on board, the US rescue cutter made two successful evacuations. By 9:00 a.m. all 425 passengers and crew were saved. Eventually this group would have to aggressively make their way through trees and bushes to a nearby road, where buses were waiting to take them to Juneau.

When the tide rose, the Princess Kathleen slid into deep water, but the extensive damage kept the bow aground and the stern swamped. Lawsuits from passengers and crew against Canadian Pacific Steamships began shortly after.

The wreck of Princess Kathleen sits in approximately 50 ft (15 m)-100 ft (30 m) of water and is accessible to and popular for divers, however, tides and currents in the vicinity of Lena Point are strong. In 2010, when it was determined that there was a significant threat of a large leak, a salvage operation recovered 130,000 US gallons (490,000 L) of petroleum products from the wreck.

In the early 2000s, the Vancouver Maritime Museum was gifted the bow letters from SS Princess Kathleen which are now a part of the museum's permanent collection. More artifacts and archival material from SS Princess Kathleen can be found at www.vmmcollections.com

FINAL DISPOSITION: Ran aground 7 September 1952 off Lena Point, Alaska and sank. The remaining fuel on the Princess Kathleen, some 110,000 gallons of bunker C oil, were removed in May 2010, at the cost of 12 million dollars.

POSTCARDS



The writing on the back is: C.P.R. S.S. Princess Kathleen is 5900 tons and is engaged in the coastal service in Pacific Waters. "Canadian Art Deeptone" Series. Pub. by Harry Smith, Vancouver, B.C. Made in Canada C.L.C. There is neither a message nor a stamp on the back.

Sources

<https://evergreenfleet.com/canadian-pacific-princesses/>
[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/SS_Princess_Kathleen_\(1924\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/SS_Princess_Kathleen_(1924))
<https://vmmcollections.com/Detail/vessels/274>
<https://vanmaritime.com/the-wreck-of-the-princess-kathleen/>

From Our President, *cont'd* . . .

For some of us, it isn't that easy to get rid of things, but baby steps – take the photo, and then decide.

March started off very busy with *RootsTech*. I hope you had a chance to take in some of the sessions. I saw a few, and learned some tips and tricks. Later this month, we will once again have our Begins with Books event at the library. Hope to see you there.

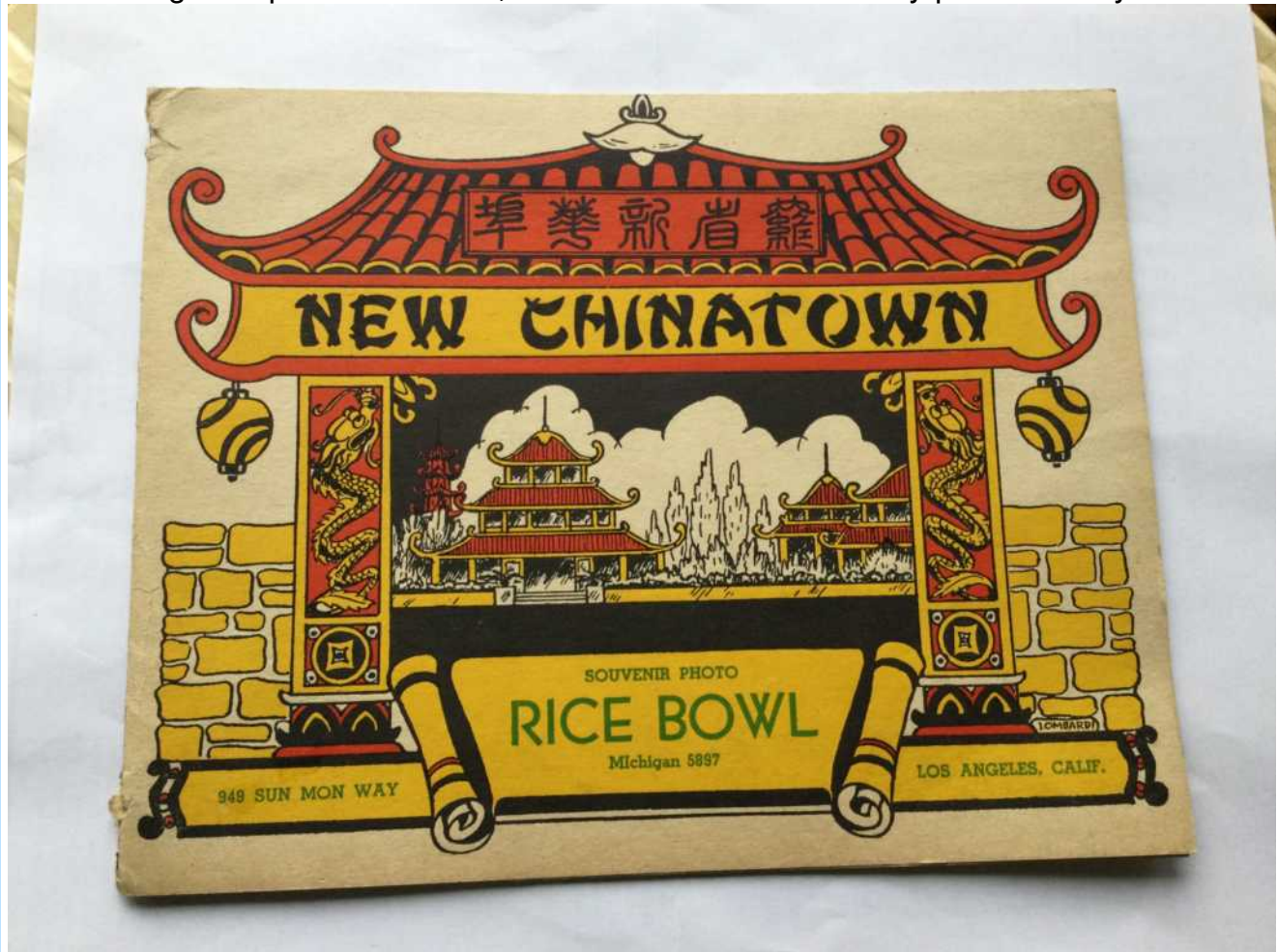
Until next month, happy researching!

Eunice Robinson President, BCGS

PICTURES

Submitted by Sheryl Wilson,
Member #4937

I was just going through some photos and came across this photo. It is from my husband's mom, Lenore Holmquist. She is the first girl on the left at the table in the second picture. I loved the cover of the folder because it's so colourful. These were taken on Jan. 2 or 27, 1947 in Los Angeles. There are no names on the back of the photo. Lenore was born in 1929 so she would have been about 17 years old at the time. She grew up in Bakersfield, California and unfortunately passed away in 1984.



PICTURES



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












AT THE BCGS GENEALOGICAL LIBRARY

Sunday March 19th
10am—3pm

Year Books & School Annuals **Corrine Jubb** 10:30am
FamilySearch.org at the Library **George Caldwell** 11am
United Empire Loyalists **Judith Ueland** 1:30pm
Cemetery Records **Eunice Robinson** 2pm

GENEALOGICAL BOOK SALE!
INCLUDING ALL SORTS OF PAPERBACKS

CALENDAR: MAR/APR 2023 • BCGS.CA

Sunday–Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
MARCH  Mon 13: French Connection Chat 6:45 pm	 15 Chinese Chat 10am 15-EJOURNAL 	 16 British Columbia Chat 7pm	17	 18 Digging into Irish Records 1pm 
 Sun 19: Begin with Books   Mon 20: DNA Parental Puzzles Chat 1pm Tues 21: Advanced DNA Chat 7pm	22	 23 England Chat 7pm	 24 Fun Family History 2:30pm 	 25 Mags Gauden DNA Workshop 9:30am \$10  Genealogy Orientation 10:30am MUSEUM OF SURREY Celtic Fest 1pm
 Tues 28: Indigenous Chat 10:30am 28-MARCH NEWSLETTER DEADLINE	29	 30 Canadian Prairies Chat 7pm	31	1
APRIL  Tues Apr 3 DNA Intro Chat 1 pm	 5 Chinese Chat 10am	 6 USA Chat 7pm	7	8
MON/10-NEWSLETTER 	 12 Meeting 7pm 	 13 Ireland Chat 7pm	 14 Family History DNA Chat 2:30pm 	 15 Abbotsford Family History Day at Abbotsford FamilySearch Library
 Mon 17: DNA Parental Puzzles Chat 1pm Tues 18: Advanced DNA Chat 7pm	 19 Lianne Krüger 7pm \$10 	 20 Scotland Chat 7pm	 21 Where to look when an Ancestor Disappears 1pm 	 22 Jenny Mallin 10am
 Tues 25: Indigenous Chat 10:30am Early Bird Pricing for UELAC Conference ends April 30	26	 27 BC Chat 7pm	 28 Fun Family History 2:30pm 	 29 Genealogy Orientation 10:30am 
MAY  Mon May 1 Chinese Chat 10 am Mon May 1 DNA Intro Chat 1 pm	3	 4 Scandinavia Chat 7pm	5	6

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:

June 2023 - due by May 15
September 2023 - due by August 15
December 2023 - due by November 15
March 2024 - due by February 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 Mary Turnbull, BCGS Research Co-ordinator at queryrequest@bcgs.ca
or by mail: Box 88054, Lansdowne Mall, Richmond, BC V6X 3T6

BCGS LIBRARY & RESOURCE CENTRE

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Library Administrator: Corrine Jubb

Hours of Operation: Tuesday, Thursday
and Saturday

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 \$35 or more will receive a tax receipt.

