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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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discussion/](https://www.facebook.com/groups/bcgsdiscussion/)

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A message from our President...

Have you visited our Website lately?
Check out the BCGS Activities &
Highlights listed at the bottom of our
Home Page.

CHANGE TO LIBRARY HOURS – TUESDAY NIGHTS

From June 20 to July 25, our Library &
Research Centre will be open until 8:00
pm on the Tuesday nights. A great
opportunity to log onto FamilySearch and
see those images that you can't see at
home or join the Writing Your Family
History Story or the BCGS Video Club
Sessions.

You might also
want to bring some
of those over-size
items that you can't
scan at home. Our
large scanner can
accommodate
11x14" items. And
don't forget to bring
your USB.



Last week I reviewed a couple of my
families. Each time, I find 'something'. In
the latest searches, I found some little
articles in the newspapers. For example,
I found that I had attended a 5th birthday
party for my girlfriend. The item listed all
the guests, and even the little games we
played. I phoned my friend and told her
how much I enjoyed her party, and then
told when it had been held. Those little
society columns can be a gold mine, so
do check them out.

Continued on page 4 . . .

From the Desk of the Editor

This month in our Journal, we're going to spend most of our time at home, in sunny British Columbia.

A visit to the Island is in the works, first to Duncan, a town with a long history and many stories to tell, with the help of Janice Kidwell. Then we'll head north to visit a special museum in Comox, the Air Force Museum, to learn the fine points of restoring Military Medals.

We have special visitors from the Island this month - two members from the Campbell River Genealogical Society share their stories with us. Mary Worth reports about the wartime journal written by Gilbert Meredith, and Barbara Benoit has a tale from her mother-in-law's family about their amazing trek from the Nass Valley to Terrace.

Janice is also continuing her reports from the Holten cemetery, this month we share the history of Daniel Cheer (from North Vancouver) and Charles Soucy (from Duncan).

Janice also shares a puzzle - two pictures from a school in ??? She's hoping that one of our members may be able to help locate the school where these pictures were taken.

Returning to long ago school years, we have a report on a unique BC invention, the MacLean Method of handwriting.

And just to inspire us to travel, Meg McLaughlin shares her research visit to Salt Lake City, with gorgeous pictures. As a treat from our Library, we have a book report by Ann Buchanan, one that goes back to the war years: *Exile from Latvia*.

I hope that enjoy your reading travel through our province, and your in person travels this summer as well!

Your Island Travelling Editor,
Lynne Fletcher
Journal@bcgs.ca

On the Cover

CN Caboose #79124 ---- See page 21

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From our President . . .cont'd.

Many of the Coffee Chat facilitators are taking a break in July and August, so be sure to check our calendar. But we will be ready to start again in September.

In the meantime, have a wonderful summer,

Eunice Robinson
President, BCGS

A WARTIME JOURNAL

MEDALS AND SERVICE

From a Journal written by Gilbert C. Meredith, 1920-2002

Submitted by Mary Worth.
Campbell River Genealogical Society
Member #4627

“Honors and Awards” are noted by the wearing of certain ribbons and medals. They are awarded for many different reasons and the ribbon tells a story of its own. Different colors denote a certain meaning. The 39 – 45 Star ribbon is dark blue, red and light blue, which denotes: Dark blue – the gathering of storm clouds and oppression in the World, Red – the conflict or battle that was waged and light Blue denotes the peace and tranquility that followed.

The highest award for bravery or valor in a theatre of action is the Victoria Cross. It is usually awarded posthumously or after death. However a few recipients were fortunate enough to beat the odds. Two I know of were Sgt. Snuffy Smith of B.C. and Padre Colonel Cecil Merritt.

During the Crimean war at the battle of Sebastapool, The Charge of the Light Brigade, when six hundred cavalry charged the Russian gun battereys. They were successful in taking the guns, but at an awful cost of life. Six hundred charged but only one hundred and ninety-seven lived to tell about it. Queen Victoria was so impressed with their gallantry that she decreed the Russian guns were to be melted down and the metal used to cast the highest award for valor in action that a grateful Monarch can give.

The George Cross is the Civilian equivalent of the V.C. and is given for acts of bravery to Civilians or Military personnel not in a theater of action.

Rare medals indeed and mostly found in Museums or other honoured places. The Gordon Highlanders club in Aberdeen, Scotland had three on display in their Lounge. The Gurkah Regiment of Nepal, India, has been awarded more than any other regiment in the British Empire.

There are other awards for bravery or outstanding service; among them are The Military Cross, The Military Medal and being mentioned in Despatches or a Monarchs Commendation.



A WARTIME JOURNAL

Most medals were struck to commemorate Theaters of Action or battles. To qualify one had to serve in that theater of action for a certain period of time. I know of Lads that landed in Western Europe on D Day, were wounded shortly afterwards and evacuated to England, that didn't qualify for the decoration as they had not been in Western Europe a sufficient number of days to qualify for the France and Germany star. Personally I disagree with this ruling for I always believed a person wounded in a theater of action should be entitled to receive that decoration for that theater.

The Atlantic star was awarded to Sailors - The African star for those who served in Africa - The Italian star for those who served in Italy and The France and Germany star for those who served in Western Europe.

The Defence Medal was awarded to those in military forces for the defence of their country. Some believe it was awarded to those who were in Britain in 1940 – 1941 when the battle of Britain was being fought by the Royal Air Force. As Churchill stated "Never was so much owed by so many to so Few". At one time there were only eighteen planes that were serviceable enough to take to the air against the German Luftwaff. At that time it was a common occurrence to have 1000 planes on a raid at one time by the Germans: Junkees, Dorniers (217) Fock Wolfs and Stukas dropping bombs and incendiaries. Many nights we were kept busy putting out incendiary (fire) bombs.

Incendiaries or fire bombs were a phosphorus bomb that had to be treated with respect otherwise it would blow up and spread; should the phosphorus get on you it would burn clean to the bone. However we did try to do our part and at that time were known as "MacNaughtons Travelling Circus". We patrolled the south coast of England along the Channel from Lands End to Dover and at that time was Britain's First line of defence. Rifles, Bren guns with a few Six-Eighteen and Twenty-five pounder field pieces. Had Hitler realized how weak we were, I believe he could have captured the British Isles at that time.

The Canadian Volunteer Service Medal was awarded to those who volunteered. If you volunteered within a certain time from the outbreak of hostilities you were awarded a clasp to go with this medal and attached to the ribbon to denote this fact. Thousands of Canadians wear both with pride on Nov. 11th and other special occasions.

The Victory Medal was awarded to all personnel in service at the time of victory. The efficiency Medal and long service medal was awarded for long service. There are several varieties of this medal; I qualified for the Efficiency Medal due to the fact I had been a member of the Non-permanent active Militia in 1935. Commonly known as the Saturday Night Soldiers.

A WARTIME JOURNAL

In 1935 at the ripe old age of Fifteen I joined the Canadian Machine Gun Company whose chief weapon was the Vickers Machine Gun. They later became the New Brunswick Regt. of Tanks (8th Princess Louise N.B. Hussars)

From there I went into active service with the Carleton & York Regt. (infantry) 1st Canadian Division – 3rd Brigade. I have served in the army:

1935 - 37 – Machine Gun Corp.

1937 - 40 – N.B. Regt. Tanks

1940 – 45 – Carleton & York Regt.

1949 – 57 – 28th Transport R.C.A.S.C.

1963 – 65 – 113th Transport R.C.A.S.C.

and I feel that is enough soldering for to satisfy any red blooded Canadian.



...During my military career I have gone from Buck private to hold the rank of Company Sargeant Major with the 113th Transport Company R.C.A.S.C. and have been awarded the following honours:

A WARTIME JOURNAL

The 1939-45 Star – Ribbon: Dark blue – red – and light blue in three vertical stripes.

The Italy Star – Ribbon: five vertical stripes of equal width – one in red at either edge and one in green at the center – the two intervening stripes in white.

The Defence Medal – Ribbon: Flame coloured with green edges upon each of which is a narrow black stripe.

The Canadian Volunteer Service Medal – Ribbon: Green, scarlet, royal blue, scarlet and green; each green and scarlet stripe 3/16 of an inch wide. A silver clasp with Maple leaf emblem in relief is worn on the ribbon.

The War Medal 1939 – 45 sometimes called the **Victory Medal** – Ribbon: a narrow central red stripe with a narrow white stripe at either side – a broad red stripe at either edge and two intervening blue stripes. The oak leaf emblem is worn on this ribbon and awarded to those who were mentioned in despatches or were awarded a Kings commendation.

The Efficiency Medal, awarded for long service to the Crown – Ribbon: Dark green with a gold stripe down each edge. Medal denotes 12 years of service. The bar or clasp denotes at least six years more.

Mountains

The “Apennines” Mountain range is found in Sicily & Italy. Mount Etna, 10,741 ft. and still growing due to the fact it is an active volcano, and therein hangs a tale of an event that happened to me personally, so if you are ready, I shall commence to relate the tale.

In early 1944 I had been awarded a seven day rest and recreation pass for being a good boy and posted to a large Eighth Army rest camp on the **Adriatic Sea** just outside of **Bori**. We were allowed to sleep as long as we wished without any interruption or tours of Duty, Go swimming in the Adriatic or catch a truck to go sightseeing in the town of Bori. Just to do as we wished for seven days.

We rode from Camp to town in open trucks so one morning I caught the truck and was on my way. We ran into what I thought was a light rain shower, so just brushed my hands over my face to get rid of surplus moisture. Later that morning had a color photo taken for the Folks back home, then I realized the rain was fall out ash from Mount Etna. She had blown her top a couple of days previously and the ash was falling back down from the atmosphere. I was almost as black as the proverbial pot and the picture bears witness to this fact. The Folks back home must have thought I had one terrific tan or had blackened my face in preparation for a night raid. They never remarked on the discoloration.

A WARTIME JOURNAL

In the Mountains at **Lanciano** We ran into the deepest snow and the coldest weather -45°F below. Boy you really needed fur lined mitts and four wheel drive there. I wore two suits of Dress serge, a great coat and had a Jerkin (that's a leather Surcoat) on top of that. As we came down out of the mountains – 20 miles by speedometer, we started to shed our clothes. At sea level the oranges were on the trees. We all peeled off and went swimming.

Between **Villa Grande** and **Caroville** was a distance of ten miles. At the time of this story, I was driving a supply Jeep. Transporting ammo & supplies from rear echelon to the forward troops, and evacuating the wounded if there were any to be taken out. If not we would usually pick up the Italian peasants to get them back out of the fighting and shelling area.

One day I stopped and loaded up with Women & Children – out of the corner of my eye, I saw one woman pass a parcel to her husband, but didn't think anything of it at the time. When I got down to **Coroville**, I stopped and told them that was as far as I could go. They wanted me to take them another five miles to **Agnone**. I told them I couldn't. They all unloaded but one old Girl who began to cry and say "Nienta scarpa, Nienta scarpa", No Shoes. Then it hit me; she had taken them off and passed them to her husband. She was bound I would take her to **Agnone**.

After five minutes I finally hit upon a solution. I turned the Vehicle and headed for **Villa Grande**; she soon bailed out Nienta Scarpa or No. One trip I evacuated Fourteen Nuns from a convent, all loaded on one small Jeep. Good job I knew the road blindfolded for I sure couldn't see much of the road that trip. But it must have been some sight to see.

While fighting across the **Bolzano** plains, the Jerries kept harassing us by use of a Mountain Gun. Some folks called it a railroad Gun for it was mounted on a train – A huge Gun that fired 210 MM shells. They would run the train out of a tunnel – Fire it a couple of times & then retreat back into the tunnel. We tried to knock it out by calling on the Air force – who sent a squadron (12 planes) of Hurricane bombers. It was a glorious sight to see them peel out of formation and run in to try for the Gun. But sad to say, they were unable to get it.

The bombing just stirred them up. The shells were so huge they sounded like boxcars coming in end over end. That was when I realized the boys near me were using me for a listening post. Due to my loss of hearing it would be coming in quite close if I noticed it. If I went to ground they knew it was time to duck also; at night you could see the flash of the Gun being fired, count to nineteen and the shell would be there. It was at this location I drove for five days and Four Nights Not stopping – only long enough to load & unload. Used to take a can of M&V rations, punch a hole in the tin and wire it to our manifold to get a hot meal.

A WARTIME JOURNAL

They finally got relief drivers from the Carrier platoon for us and I slept for 36 hours. Just waking up to attend to the necessities and grab a bite of food. Glad when we got past **Bolzano** & the plain there.

I

**CANADIAN ARMY (ACTIVE)
DISCHARGE CERTIFICATE**

FORM NO. 1 (REVISED)
1944

This is to Certify that No. Q 17797 (Rank) Private
 Name in full Gilbert Clifford Meredith enlisted 27/4/42
 entered in the Carleton and York Regimental Depot
 the **CANADIAN ARMY (ACTIVE)** at London, E.B. on the 10th
 day of March 1940.
 He served in Canada, United Kingdom and Central Mediterranean Area.
 and is now discharged from the service under Routine Order 1009(51a)(11) by reason of
EX-ENTRÉE TO CIVIL LIFE at his own request by reason of long service.
 Medals, Decorations, Mentions, Canadian Volunteer Service Medal and Clasp
 awarded in respect of service during this war //////////

THE DESCRIPTION OF THIS SOLDIER on the DATE below is as follows:—

Age <u>25 Years 1 Month</u>	Marks or Scars <u>3rd Scar anterior</u>
Height <u>5 Ft. 7 1/2 inches</u>	surface right wrist. <u>//////////</u>
Complexion <u>Light</u>	<u>//////////</u>
Eyes <u>Blue</u>	<u>//////////</u>
Hair <u>Brown</u>	<u>//////////</u>
<u>G.C. Meredith</u> Signature of Soldier	Other Active Army Service (This War) <u>//////////</u>

Date of Discharge 28 June 1945
Production, E.B.

W.A. McDonnell
 (W.A. McDonnell) Officer D.C.
 No. 7 District Dep't. C.A.
 Rank
 Date 28 June 1945

N.B. — As no duplicate of this Certificate will be issued, any person finding same is requested to forward it in an unstamped envelope to the Director of Records (Army), Department of National Defence, Ottawa, Canada.

HOLTEN

HOLTEN CANADIAN WAR CEMETERY PROJECT PRIVATE DANIEL CHEER AUGUST 27, 1922 – APRIL 12, 1945

Private Daniel Cheer was born August 27, 1922 in Vancouver, B.C. to parents Johnny and Agatha Miranda (Silerud) Cheer. He came from a large family and had a number of siblings

Daniel, known as 'Teddy', was a Member of the Skwxwú7mesh Squamish First Nation, located in North Vancouver, B.C.

Before enlisting Daniel had worked at both Burrard Dry Dock and as a stager at the North Burrard Shipyards in North Vancouver. Daniel had also been a fisherman and a logger.



Pte. Cheer enlisted May 3, 1944 in Vancouver. He had previously served with the N.R.M.A. (National Resources Mobilization Act), CAS (Canadian Army Staff), Canadian Regiment R.C.A. and 85th CST Bty before joining the Seaforth Highlanders of Canada. The Seaforth's badge had the motto *Cuidich'n Righ'* meaning Help The King. His Service Number was K3250. Upon enlisting Daniel went through traditional medical exams and vaccines as well as basic and advanced training. Training took place in Esquimalt and Calgary. Daniel trained to be a Gunner.

Daniel Cheer and Mabel Andrews were married August 3, 1944 at St. Paul's Catholic Church in North Vancouver. Father H. Quinlan officiated.



HOLTEN

Articles from the BC/Yukon Command Military Service Recognition Book, Volume VIII 2013, Page 117 and Squamish "Roll Call of Honour" – Diamond Head Branch 277 Royal Canadian Legion - tell of The Seaforth Highlanders advancing into northern Germany and across the Ems. In March 1945 the Seaforth Highlanders were transported to N.W. Europe. On April 7, 1945 they crossed the Germany-Netherlands Border.

The Seaforth Highlanders, of which Daniel served with, was being tasked to help carry out "Operation Cannonshot". The operation involving the crossing of the IJssel River and capture of Apeldoorn was launched on April 11, 1945. The mission was successful but the Highlanders suffered many casualties including Private Daniel "Teddy" Cheer who was Killed in Action on April 12, 1945. Daniel's wife Mabel who was living in Brackendale at this time received a letter dated April 20, 1945 from the Canadian National Defense notifying her of her husband's death.

The initial burial took place April 13, 1945 at 2 CIB Cem.sh. 3702, E. Holland/MR933023. At a later date a reburial took place at Holten Canadian War Cemetery in The Netherlands. Daniel's grave reference is 1.D.2. (Grave 2, Row D, Plot 1). There are some good articles on 'Operation Cannonshot' and for those who are interested there are two websites in the "Sources" section of this Report.

The 13 Feb 1945 Vancouver Sun and Province newspapers reported that Pte. Dan Cheer, whose wife lives at Brackendale had been "Slightly Wounded". The May 10, 1945 Vancouver Sun and Province newspapers reported that Pte. Dan Cheer, whose wife lives at Brackendale had been "Killed in Action".

Pte. Cheer received the following medals

- 1939-45 STAR
- Italy STAR
- France and Germany STAR
- War Medal
- CVSM & Clasp

Pte. Cheer's wife received her husband's medals as well as a Memorial Cross. Daniel's mother also received a Memorial Cross medal.

Pte. Cheer is commemorated on page 503 of the Second World War Book of Remembrance. This page is displayed in the Memorial Chamber of the Peace Tower in Ottawa on October 26.

Pte. Cheer is also commemorated in the BC/Yukon Command Military Service Recognition Book, Volume VIII 2013, Page 117.

HOLTEN

Wording on Daniel's headstone:

K3250 PRIVATE
D. CHEER
THE SEAFORTH HIGHLANDERS
OF CANADA
12TH APRIL 1945 AGE 24

MY BELOVED HUSBAND DANIEL
WHILE HE SLEEPS
A PEACEFUL SLEEP
HIS MEMORY I SHALL EVER KEEP



The Squamish Legion Cenotaph was constructed in memory of those who served and died during WW1 (1914-1918) and WW11 (1939-1945). During the November 11th Remembrance Day Service the Squamish Legion 277 ensures that all the names on the "Squamish Roll Call of Honour" are read out. The stone was erected in Woodfibre in the 1950s and brought to Squamish when the Legion closed. It sits with the Squamish Legion's Cairn.

The inscription on the Cenotaph reads:

In Memory of
Our Honoured Dead
1914-1918 - 1938-1945
LEST WE FORGET

Haw k'et máynexw
...Lest we forget



HOLTEN

Sources:

- Ancestry.com
- Canadian Virtual War Memorial: www.veterans.gc.ca/eng/remembrance/memorials/canadian-virtual-war-memorial
- B.C. Archives: Registration of Death
- <https://www.cdli.ca/monuments/bc/squamish.htm>
- <https://www.canadiansoldiers.com/history/battlehonours/northwesteurope/apeldoorn.htm>
- <https://liberationroute.com/the-netherlands/stories/o/operation-cannonshot>
- www.seaforth.nl › pages › Canada
- www.cdli.ca › monuments › squamish
- <https://www.vcn.bc.ca/~jeffrey1/tribute.htm> (Aboriginal Veterans Tribute Honour List (British Columbia))
- Permission to use a photo of St. Paul's Catholic Church, North Vancouver. The B.C. Catholic and Nicholas Elbers, Reporter bccatholic.ca

THE HOLTEN PROJECT: ARTICLES

June 2021 to June 2023

<i>Date:</i>	<i>Name:</i>	<i>Author:</i>	<i>Location:</i>
2021 - June	RENNER, Henry Oscar	Jenny Bakken	p.20
2021 – September	LAUGHTON, Harry	D'Arcy Murrow	p.5
	MURRAY, Alfred Arthur	Marlene Dance	p.9
2021 – December	GOW, James Richard	J. Amy Newman	p.5
	KEENAN, Bernard Oswald	Marlene Dance	p.10
2022 – March	PARR-PEARSON, Eric Goland	Marilyn Dance	p.23
	MCDONALD, Roderick Malcolm	Janice Kidwell	p.9
2022 – June	JAMIESON, Robert	Janice Kidwell	p.5
2022 – September	GOURLAY, John	Sheryl Wilson	p.10
	ROBERTSON, Clifford William	Jenny Bakken	p.8
2022 – December	SUTTON, Russel John	Sheryl Wilson	p.5
	POWER, James Robert	Margaret Sharon & Janice Kidwell	p.22
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2023 – March	RAWLINGS, Victor Alloway	Janice Kidwell	p.13
	WINFREY, John Ross	Janice Kidwell	p.16
2023 – June	CHEER, Daniel	Janice Kidwell	p.11
	SOUICY, Charles Ernest	Janice Kidwell	p.27

FRASER FAMILY

THE FRASERS TREK

Submitted by Barbara Benoit
Member of the Campbell River Genealogical Society
Affiliate # A5832

My mother-in-law, Gwen. Had a very interesting family story. She was the fourth of eleven children. Nine girls and two boys. Being born on the 8th of June in Stewart, B.C. Her father, Sid Fraser, decided to move his family from the Nass Valley to Terrace around 1933-1934. While they were able to grow a fantastic garden, there wasn't a market to sell his produce, nor was there a school for his elder children to attend. In Terrace, Sid hoped to find work and send his kids to school. Unfortunately, Terrace was over 70 miles away and there weren't any buses, trains or airplanes. So the move had to be made by foot! My mother-in-law said they hiked for nine days, slept under the stars, and darn near starved to death.

The trek started out with Sid, his pregnant wife Viola, nine year old Sid Jr., seven year old Pearl, six year old Gwen, four year old Beryl, two year old Marjorie, and six month old Muriel. Luckily they had an old horse to pack most things, a dog and two goats for milk. Unfortunately the horse fell exhausted and died on the first day. So Sid and Viola took on the job of carrying the load in relays. They left their children with some supplies, walked several miles ahead, cached their load and returned to their family and the rest of the load. The two eldest children often backpacked their sisters when the going got tough. Going over the lava was difficult until they reached Lava Lake where they found a dug out canoe to get them across the lake. Finally they reached Walter Warner's home in Rosswood, exhausted and out of food. Through the kindness of the Warners, the Frasers found shelter and food, remaining there overnight. The next day Sid inquired about hiring a boat to take his family down Kitsumkalum Lake to Terrace. Rough water on the lake made it impossible to use a boat, besides there wasn't a boat large enough to hold all the family plus two goats and a dog! Undaunted, they hiked around the lake.

When they finally reached Terrace, "Terrace Stirred By Arrival Of Hikers, Seven Children With Parents" was what the local newspaper wrote. Sid was able to obtain work at the local sawmill and they settled into a home almost next door to the school, which the four eldest were enrolled in.

FRASER FAMILY



Terrace B.C. 1938 – Front row: (L-R) Gwen, Muriel, Marjorie, Joyce and Neil. Middle row: Pearl, Verna, Beryl and Sid Jr. Back row: Viola holding Donna, Sid Sr. holding Dale.

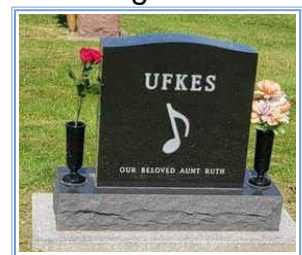
Singing the Praises of Tombstone Images

We put an eighth note on the back of my great-aunt's tombstone because of her lifetime of teaching music and playing the organ for her church. Music was important to her. The symbol was an attempt to show that. Images are frequently on stones to convey a message without using words.

Don't ignore those images on your relative's tombstone. Pictures or images on a stone may provide a clue to your ancestor's life, religious beliefs, club memberships, or more. Many articles and websites reference such images and what they mean. Here are a few:

- [ThoughtCo. article](#)
- [Stoneletters.com article](#)
- "[Symbolism on Gravestones](#)" from Association for Gravestone Studies
- "[Headstone & Memorial Symbols and Meanings](#)," from City of Grove, Oklahoma website—fairly comprehensive.

Don't neglect the non-textual information on a stone. It may be just as significant as the words in the inscription.



Genealogy Tip of the day <mjnrootdig@gmail.com>

POSTCARDS

DUNCAN, B.C.

Submitted by Janice Kidwell
BCGS Member 5033

Duncan is located on Vancouver Island, about ½ way between Victoria and Nanaimo. It is the smallest city by area (2.07 square kilometres, 0.8 square miles) in Canada.

Duncan is situated on the traditional lands of the [Quw'utsun \(Cowichan\) First Nation](#) who are the largest band among the [Coast Salish people](#). The Coast Salish men and women of the Cowichan First Nations are makers of the world-famous [Cowichan Sweaters](#).

By 1858, Vancouver Island was British-controlled but because of the danger of being lost to the Americans due to the influx of people seeking their fortune in the Gold Rush and in order to encourage settlement, land could be acquired cheaply through preemption.

The community is named after [William Chalmers Duncan](#) who was born in 1836 in [Sarnia, Ontario](#). He arrived in [Victoria](#) in May 1862, and in August of that year was one of the party of 78 settlers which Governor Douglas took to [Cowichan Bay](#). After taking part in several gold rushes, Duncan settled close to the present City of Duncan. In 1864 [Mr. Duncan](#), settled on 40 ha of land near Cowichan Bay, most of which now comprises downtown Duncan. He married in 1876, and his son [Kenneth](#) became the first Mayor of Duncan. There is both a Kenneth Street, and a Duncan Street, in the City.

Duncan's farm was named [Alderlea](#), and this was the first name of the adjacent settlement. In August 1886, the [Esquimalt and Nanaimo Railway](#) was opened. No stop had been scheduled at Alderlea for the inaugural train bearing [Sir John A. Macdonald](#) and [Robert Dunsmuir](#). However, at Duncan's Crossing, the level crossing nearest Alderlea, a crowd of 2,000 had assembled around a decorated arch and the train came to an unplanned halt. According to this legend, a train station was established at the settlement in 1887 and the city built around it. When a post office opened in 1891 it was called Duncan's Station, later shortened to Duncan. Between 1898 and 1908 there was a flurry of copper mining activity at nearby Mt. Sicker and the community boomed. Initially part of the [District of North Cowichan](#), Duncan felt its needs as an urban settlement in the largely rural municipality were not being met, in particular the need to have proper roadways. It separated from the district of North Cowichan and was incorporated as a city on March 4, 1912. With the enlargement of North Cowichan in the ensuing decades, there was an effort to re-unite the two municipalities but though a referendum held in June 1978 this was defeated.

In the early 1900s, Duncan's Chinatown, concentrated in a single block in the south-western corner of town, was the social centre for the Cowichan Valley's Chinese population. At its largest point, Duncan's Chinatown included six Chinese families and 30 merchants who supplied goods and services to the loggers, millworkers, cannery and mine workers from the area.

POSTCARDS

The buildings were torn down in 1969 to build a new law courts complex. Some materials from the original buildings were used at Whippletree Junction.

Duncan experienced a building boom prior to WWI. Merchants and trades people built their businesses catering to the needs of new settlers, farmers and miners. Herbert Keast's livery stable and blacksmith Robert Grassie prepared horses for their long journey up Mt. Sicker to deliver supplies. Dobson, Evans, Duncan, Whittome, Leather, Castley, Price, and Jaynes were just a few of the pioneer names that were integral to the development of Duncan.

Duncan was once described as "the Most English Town in Canada," due to the large number of British residents who felt strong ties to the old country. When WW1 began, so many young men enlisted it gained a reputation for contributing more soldiers per capita to the war than any other community in Canada. Following the war the city grew slowly as the business centre for agriculture and logging activities in the Cowichan Valley.

Duncan merchants began to cater to a relatively new breed of settler called "Remittance men". These were usually the younger sons of wealthy and sometimes titled British families who, through lack of opportunity at home, needed to find a place in which to start a new life. Accustomed to fine goods and services, Remittance men, who were occasionally referred to as the black sheep of the family, received a quarterly remittance, or stipend, and could afford both necessities and luxuries.

One hundred years ago, Duncan was establishing itself as the urban centre of the Cowichan Valley and what followed were the building of services – a hospital, power station, post office and schools.

Before the [Canada-United States softwood lumber dispute](#), Duncan and the whole Cowichan Valley were a thriving [lumber](#) centre in British Columbia.

In 1911, Norman Corfield drove the first car over the [Malahat Highway](#), opening up vehicle traffic to Duncan. Construction of the Duncan Garage Heritage Building started in 1912 and appeared in [Canadian Motorist Magazine](#) (May 1913 issue) as "The most complete and up-to-date fireproof garage on Vancouver Island." The Duncan Garage set a provincial record for the longest operating business in one location (65 years) and was designated a heritage building in 2002.

Notable people from Duncan include Victoria Cross recipient [Major Charles Ferguson Hoey](#) who served with the 2nd Battalion, Lincolnshire Regiment – Vancouver and who is buried at the Taukkyan War Cemetery in Myanmar (formerly Burma). [Charles Hoey Park](#) is named after him. This park is also where Duncan's Cenotaph is located. Along with [Major Hoey's](#) name being listed on the cenotaph, [Tpr. Charles Ernest Soucy](#), who was from Duncan, and who is buried at [Holten Canadian War Cemetery](#) also has his name listed.

Other notable people are former or current NHL players, CFL player, soccer player, actor, diplomat, university president, marine biologist, musician and songwriter.

POSTCARDS

The Cowichan Community Centre has the world's largest hockey stick which was made specifically for Expo 86 in Vancouver and purchased by the CVRD (Cowichan Valley Regional District) at the end of the Fair.

Attractions

There is much to see and experience in Duncan - vineyard tours, year-round farmer's markets, hikes, historical walks, the Pacific Northwest Raptors sanctuary, the BC Forest Discovery Center (open-air museum), the S'amunu/Somenos Conservation Area and the Cowichan Valley Museum and Archives where a series of archival photographs from the early settlement of Duncan is held. Just outside the Cowichan Valley Museum are small yellow footprints painted on the sidewalk that takes you on a self-guided tour of over 40 totems. Each is placarded with information about the totem and the carver and includes culturally significant animals like raven, bear, owl, and eagle. Duncan is home to the world's widest totem pole, a 6-foot (1.8 meter) diameter carving by artist Richard Hunt.

Totem Poles

The City of Duncan is known for one of the largest totem pole collections and in 1985 was officially named "City of Totems". An important part of First Nations culture in the Pacific Northwest, totems are a way of documenting stories, people, and historical events and is one of the top Duncan attractions for visitors who want to learn a bit of history while acknowledging and appreciating the intricate artwork and beautiful colors. The City had 44 totem poles in the collection, however one was destroyed in an auto accident, one was gifted to Kaikohe, New Zealand and one returned to earth. In 2007, the City of Duncan deemed copyright privileges of the totem poles.

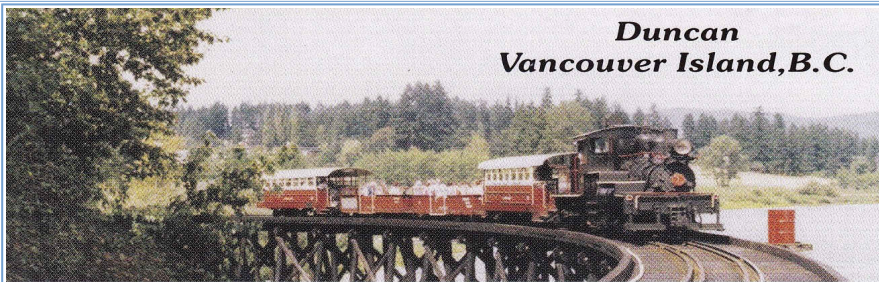
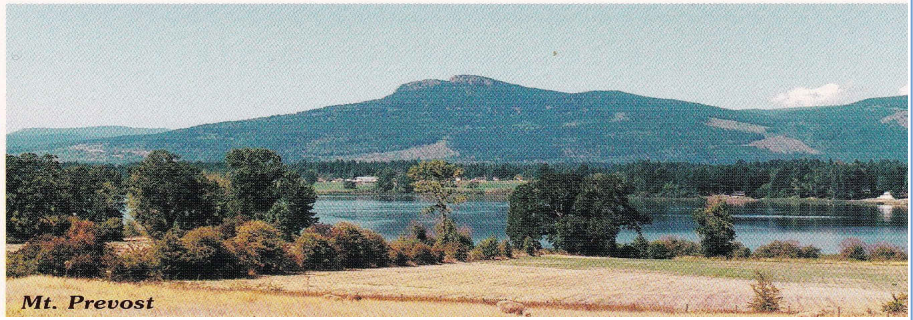
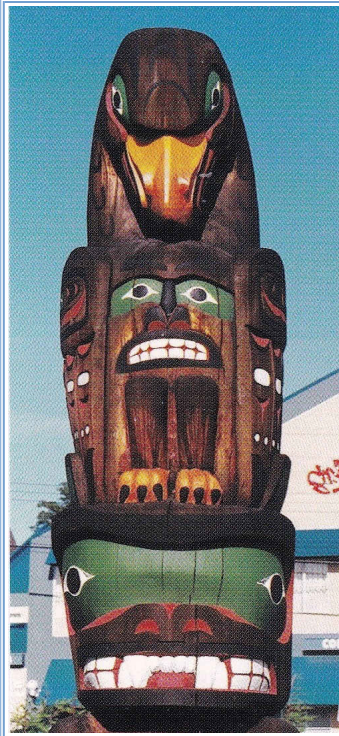
The two postcards of Duncan show a variety of things to see in the city and area including Mt. Prevost, B.C. Forest Discovery Centre, Cowichan Valley Museum and many beautiful Totem Poles. The totem pole "Cedar Man" - shown by itself - was carved by Master Carver Richard Hunt.

The first postcard is labeled **Duncan, B.C. – City of Totems**. The write-up is: An interesting town to explore. Totems everywhere you look, including the world's widest totem. Duncan is surrounded by beautiful countryside. Well worth a visit. Published by Ann's Island Photography, Victoria, B.C. (250) 727-2657. Copyrite – 140. There is neither a message nor a stamp on the back.

The second postcard is labeled **Duncan, B.C.** This city of Totems is a destination that must not be missed! See the many totems, including the world's widest. Visit the Cowichan Valley Museum and the B.C. Forest Discovery Centre. Explore the Native Heritage Centre. See the world's largest hockey stick, built for Expo in 1986, or enjoy some relaxing freshwater fishing on the Cowichan River. Totem Carver: "Cedar Man" by Richard Hunt.

Published by Ann's Island Photography, Victoria, B.C. (250) 727-2657. Copyrite – 237. There is neither a message nor a stamp on the back

POSTCARDS



POSTCARDS

Many thanks to Lynne Fletcher who purchased these two postcards on one of her and her husband's trips to Duncan. With the large number of postcards BCGS has there was only one for Duncan and although it is a great one, it did not represent all Duncan had to offer. As well, Lynne took the photos at Charles Hoey Park. The story of Duncan would not have been the same without her assistance.

Source:

<https://duncan.ca/visitors/history-heritage/>

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Duncan,_British_Columbia

Encyclopedia of British Columbia. Editor: Daniel Francis. ISBN: 1-55017-200-X
Canadian Virtual War Memorial

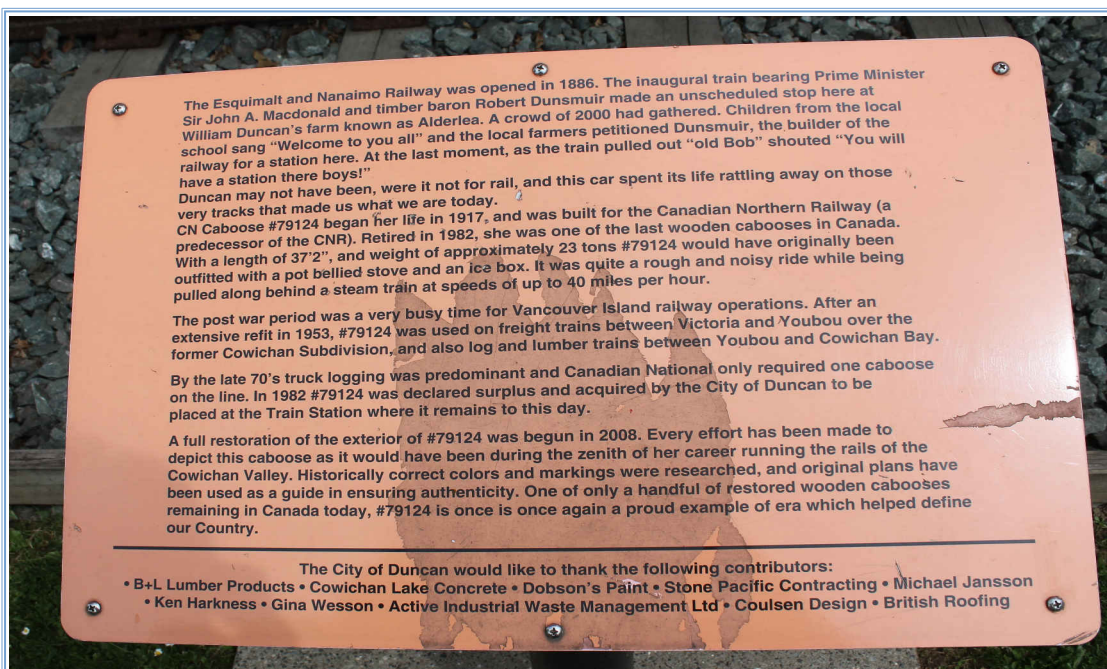


Beside the Museum in downtown Duncan sits CN Caboose #79124, gleaming with shiny red paint and reminding all passersby of the importance of the railroads on Vancouver Island. This museum was formerly the Railway Station in Duncan, and sits in the spot where Sir John A. Macdonald stopped and spoke to a crowd 2000 strong from the local area. Sir John promised a station on this spot - "You will have a station there boys" - to the crowd. This

station came to be, and helped to create the city that is located here today.

This caboose was built for the Canadian Northern Railway in 1917, and when she retired was one of the last wooden cabooses in our country..

She attracts the attention of many visitors to the city's museum, especially the children who pass by the rails.



MEMBER'S QUERY

MYSTERY SCHOOLS

Submitted by Janice Kidwell
BCGS Member 5033

BCGS recently received a donation of various Year Books (high school) plus some class photos. All the class photos except two had the traditional board in front naming the school, grade and year. The Grade 3 photo was taken in 1958; the Grade 4 photo was taken in May 1959.

BCGS is very interested in identifying which school/s these two photos represent. The photographer was Roy Houghton who was well known, especially in the North Surrey area. He took many wonderful photos. I visited the Surrey Archives in Cloverdale where they took photos of these two pictures and after searching their records found that they had many of Mr. Houghton's school photos but not these two. The photographer's family had donated his Fonds to the Archives.

The Surrey Archives, after looking at all the school photos they had, and looking at the background of the photos suggested three schools where they might have been taken. They are General Montgomery (was demolished/private school built on the site), Bridgeview and M. J. Norris.

An attempt to identify the photos through the Surrey School Board led to directing me to the Surrey Historical Society (online message left). I also contacted a Facebook Group – I grew up in BRIDGEVIEW and Live to tell about it – did not produce any results.

One point is that there are children I have identified as being in both photos. You'll note that the Grade 4 photo has more students; perhaps there were two Divisions. A hint is that there was a large park near by they could walk to or perhaps they and their chairs were taken by a school bus.

Thank you for any assistance you can give.

Janice Kidwell
e-mail: haggis@dccnet.com

MEMBER'S QUERY



GENEALOGY ON THE ROAD

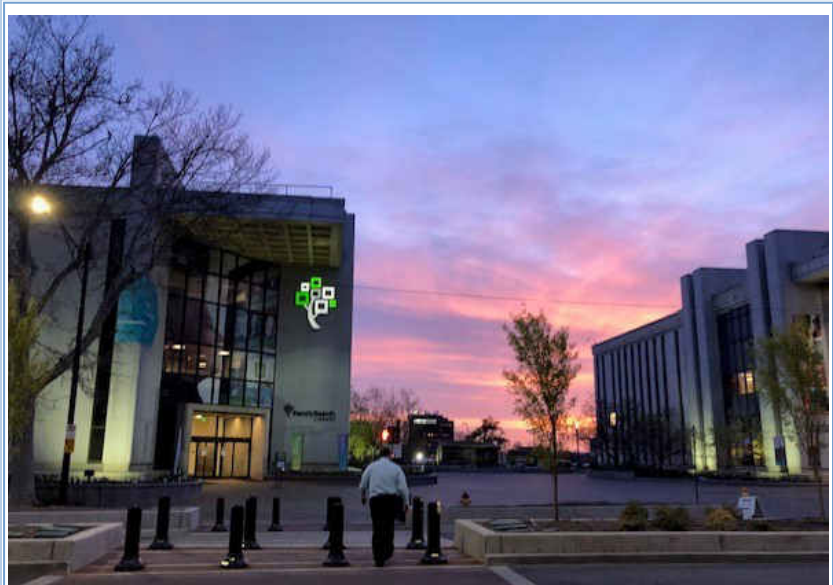
Genealogy on the road

Submitted by Meg McLaughlin
Member #3847

It's that time of year again, the warmer months when thoughts of getting out there and doing some on the ground research seems more possible. Sometimes that means travel to where family once lived. It can also entail in-person conferences in faraway cities or even visits to known repositories where lots of relevant data could be stored.

The trick, of course, is to have a research plan before you hit the library or archive so that you can get the most out of it. Somehow the time leading up to my trip to Salt Lake City got away from me. My plan of attack was sketchy at best. I wanted to see if I could get any further back with my Dorset ancestors. Could I find out the origins of Mary Rideout nee Maidment, my 2 x great grandmother? She's always intrigued me, particularly by being able to keep her family together in a small village after having her last child 4 years after the death of her husband. Does that mean she was a strong woman or was it a very tolerant village? As for the rest of my time, I thought I'd hit the books knowing that most of FamilySearch's physical library isn't online. I'd earmarked a few tomes to check out. My subjects of interest were the Cavanagh/Kavanagh clans of Leinster in case that's where my lot had come from and, way up on the US floor, a few books about the US Civil War to add to my knowledge of the Union soldier I was writing about.

For this time in SLC, my fellow researcher and I had signed up with Ancestor Seekers. There were about 35 people signed up for the week. We met most of them at a supper the night we arrived. There were packages to keep us informed and a timetable of optional activities like meetings for check in each day before going over to the library.



Sunset from Temple Square

The library itself, now called **FamilySearch Library**, had been renovated. Some of the computer stations were set up with three screens – and you thought you were cutting edge rocking two screens! I needed help from one of the Ancestor Seekers assistants to figure out how to make use of all of the screens at the same time. The assistants were there to help us and to answer any questions we had. In short, the idea was that their help would allow us to take our research further. From the success stories shared at our morning meetings, it sounded like it was working in many cases.

GENEALOGY ON THE ROAD

It wasn't all nose to the grindstone while we were there. There were optional events set up as a part of the package. Some of them were events that were happening anyway but they let us know about them and we went in a group. One day at noon we went to the Tabernacle to take in an organ recital and on Thursday evening we went back there to see the Mormon Tabernacle Choir rehearse. On the morning of that same day a tour of the Convention Center had been arranged if we wanted to go. We went. The art and artifacts were a treat to see.



Mormon Tabernacle Choir in rehearsal

From the roof garden of the Convention Center we got a bird's-eye view of all the construction going on in Temple Square. They are doing seismic upgrades on the old buildings there to be better prepared. The earthquake experienced in March 2019 had done some damage to the buildings. Luckily it happened just after Covid shut everything down. While lifting brick buildings to retrofit a network underneath to allow movement was impressive, strolling through the Temple Square grounds was limited.

There were other opportunities for walking though. We were staying at the Plaza and the attached restaurant went out of business so we went to Harmon's for supplies. Strangely, that grocery store carried beer but no wine. That necessitated an exploratory walk to find the Wine Store, a long and hot walk but at least there was an interesting bistro type restaurant across the street so we were able to gather our strength for the walk back which was much shorter without Google Maps leading us astray. I almost didn't end up taking anything home from the Wine Store, though.

GENEALOGY ON THE ROAD



Temple Square construction

They asked for ID and wanted a passport. The cashier let me skate through with my BC driver license. I wasn't looking forward to a walk to the hotel and back to pick up the correct ID.

The week was over too quickly but it had been enjoyable, even the walk to get wine had turned out fine in the end. I learned lots although much of it was not about my ancestors. The support of Ancestor Seekers was impressive and I have now become acquainted with FamilySearch's family tree. What's more, I also know how to enter the information about my great grandmother's partners. It was confusing because she married, had one child and then that husband was out of the picture and she took up with my great grandfather. One of the assistants showed me the correct way those relationships should be entered. Now I just have to find the time to continue filling in information on my ancestors.

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

HOLTEN

HOLTEN CANADIAN WAR CEMETERY PROJECT TROOPER CHARLES ERNEST SOUCY August 10, 1918 – APRIL 30, 1945

Submitted by Janice Kidwell
Member # 5033

Trooper Charles Ernest Soucy was born August 10, 1918 in Egremont, Alberta. Egremont is a hamlet in central Alberta within Thorhild County. It is located 2 kilometres north of Highway 28, approximately 37 kilometres north of Fort Saskatchewan. It is named after Egremont, Cumbria, England.

Charles was the son of Joseph Achille Soucy who was born in Saint-Pierre, Sorel, Quebec and Sarah Louisa (Major) Soucy who was born in Scarborough, Yorkshire, England. Charles had three siblings. The family spent time in Egremont - homesteading – and Charles' military file indicated that he attended one year of high school in Ellscott, Alberta.

Trooper Soucy's Attestation Papers were signed August 19, 1941 in Victoria, B.C. The family were living in Duncan by this time, although at the time of enlistment his military file lists Charles as living in Lake Cowichan. Charles had the traditional medical examinations and giving of vaccines. His medical exam took place at the Bay Street Armouries (Victoria, B.C.).

Trooper Soucy served with the British Columbia Dragoons, R.C.A.C., 9th Canadian. Armed. Regiment (BCD). Trooper Soucy's Service Number was K/83985

His Training took place in Vernon, B.C., Camrose, Alberta, and Borden and Hamilton, Ontario.

Charles had previously served with the N.R.M.A. (National Resources Mobilization Act – Canadian Army), T.C. 131, Edmonton Regiment, October 9, - November 8, 1940 (31 days). Regiment number was 537894. He was a Private, "D" Company.

Charles' Trade was as an auto mechanic and on December 9, 1942 he was deemed a Qualified Motor Mechanic operator Grade 11.

From August 1941 to April 30, 1945 Trooper Soucy embarked and disembarked from Canada, the United Kingdom, Italy and Northwest Europe.

On April 30, 1945, while in Holland, Trooper Charles Soucy was reported missing. On the same date he was declared as Killed in Action due to a Motor Vehicle accident. Trooper Soucy's temporary burial took place at the 5CAD Cemetery, No. 15, Wirdum, 36254, R.2.G.2. Trooper Soucy's mother received a letter dated May 15, 1945 informing her of her son's death.



HOLTEN

On July 2, 1946 a second letter was sent to Trooper Soucy's mother advising that her son's burial at Holten Canadian War Cemetery had taken place. The Grave Reference is 111. F. 7. (Grave 7, Row F, Plot 3).

Service:

Tpr. Soucy served a total of 1351 days, in Canada, U.K., Italy and Northwest Europe.

Western Hemisphere: 498 days - Canada: August 19, 1941 to December 26, 1942

OverSeas: 853 days - U.K.: December 23, 1942 to November 14, 1943

-Italy: November 15, 1943 to February 21, 1945

-Northwest Europe: February 22, 1945 to April 30, 1945

Trooper Soucy received the following medals:

1939-45 STAR

Italy STAR

France-Germany STAR

Defence Medal

War Medal

CVSM and clasp (awarded January 10, 1944)

All Charles' medals as well as The Memorial Cross were given to his mother.

During Charles' service he was also awarded two Good Conduct Badges.

Trooper Charles Ernest Soucy is Commemorated on Page 566 of the Second World War Book of Remembrance. This page is displayed in the Memorial Chamber of the Peace Tower in Ottawa on November 26.

Gravestone wording:

K83985 Trooper
C.E. Soucy
British Columbia Dragoons
30th April 1945 Age 26

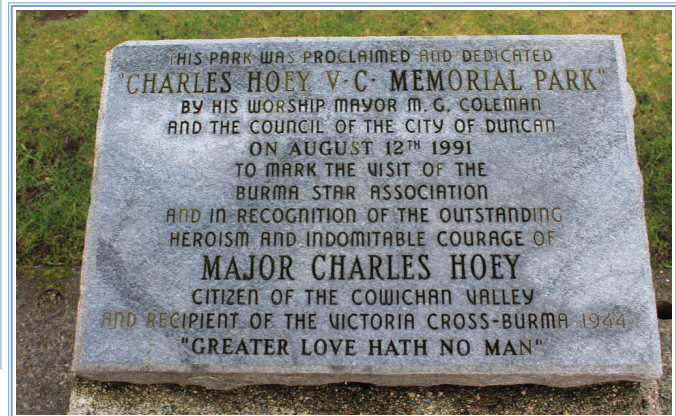
A Welcomed Guest
Welcomed To The Life Immortal
In The Mansions Of The Blest



HOLTEN



Trooper Soucy's name is also listed on the cenotaph in the Charles Hoey Park in Duncan, B.C.



British Columbia Dragoons Cap Badge:



Azure a maple leaf in autumnal tints proper within an annulus Vert edged and inscribed THE BRITISH COLUMBIA DRAGOONS in letters Or, enfiled in base by a scroll Vert edged and inscribed QUANSEM ILEP in letters Argent, the whole ensigned by the Royal Crown proper and flanked on both sides by maple leaves in autumnal tints proper.

Symbolism of Cap Badge:

The maple leaves represent service to Canada and also commemorate the 2nd Canadian Mounted Rifles Battalion and the 11th Regiment, Canadian Mounted Rifles, CEF. The Crown represents service to the Sovereign. "THE BRITISH COLUMBIA DRAGOONS" is the regimental title and "QUANSEM ILEP" is the motto of the regiment.

Motto: QUANSEM ILEP (Always first)

HOLTEN

Marches: Fare Ye Well Inniskilling (5th Royal Inniskilling Dragoon Guards)
Additional march for pipe band: Scotland the Brave

Alliance:

British Army
The Royal Dragoon Guards

Sources:

Ancestry.com
B.C. Archives
Canadian Virtual War Memorial <https://www.veterans.gc.ca/eng/remembrance/memorials/canadian-virtual-war-memorial/detail/2228009>
B.C. Dragoons <https://bcdragoons.army/about-us/>
Wiki: Hemond-Soucy Genealogy www.hemond.com
Cenotaph – Charles Hoey Park, Duncan, B.C.
Cowichan News Leader Pictorial – March 26, 2014 (published March 28, 2014)
Mar 26, 2014 · “by the way, did you hear: • Duncan trooper Charles E. Soucy died in the Second World War and is buried in Holten, Holland. Mike Muntain writes...” [issuu.com › blackpress › docs › i20140326070044974](http://issuu.com/blackpress/docs/i20140326070044974)

Contextual Clues Mean It's Not a Part of a Name

The middle entry on this page of 1838 baptisms from Aurich, Germany contains the entry for my ancestor. The fourth column contains the names of the sponsors.

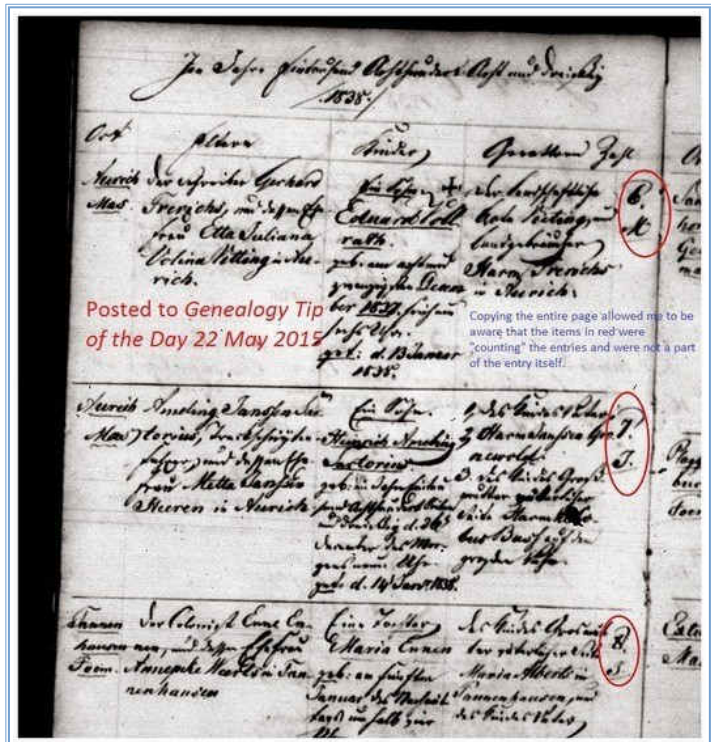
When I was trying to analyze the entry for my relative I thought the symbol in the middle red circle on the image were a part of the entry. Then I looked at the other two entries on the image I made and realized that the items in the circle were partially used to number each entry and were not a part of the names of the sponsors.

If I had only copied the entry for my ancestor and not other entries on the same page, I might have missed that.

Don't copy only the entry of interest on a page like this. Copy other entries on the same page.

You can't made comparisons if you don't.

Genealogy Tip of the Day <mjnrootdig@gmail.com>



COMOX AIR FORCE MUSEUM

Our very own 'Repair Shop'



Our amazing volunteers bring with them a lifetime of experience in a myriad of skills and talents. Head of Collections, Mel Birnie, CVAFMA Vice-President, Chris Chance, and Front Desk volunteer, Frank Foster are three such volunteers who spend many hours working in our collection to ensure our objects are cared for to a professional standard. Not only in cataloging and correct storage but by safely cleaning objects to ensure their long term preservation.

Occasionally people donate medals from family members to the museum; most being from the Second World War era. It is an honour for us to receive these medals and look after them.

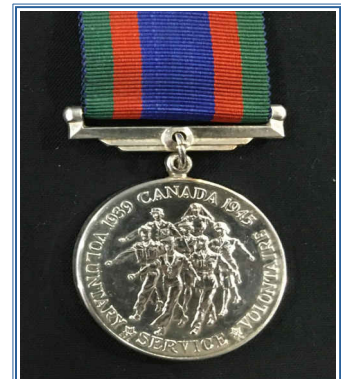
Sadly, many of these medals have seen the ravages of time and are in need of a little TLC.

An attempt has been made to rejuvenate a small sample of these medals and what follows is how it was performed.

First, the ribbons were removed and the medal was put into a small ultrasonic cleaner with a mild detergent solution for five minutes to remove any superficial debris. They then were carefully cleaned with "Tarnex" on cotton buds, washed with distilled water and dried and gently rubbed using cotton buds with "Silvo".



Defense Medal: Before and after



CVSM Medal: Before and after

COMOX AIR FORCE MUSEUM

After a second wash and dry, they were examined for any remaining debris in the small indentations in the surface, particularly in the raised lettering. Attempting to polish these areas could easily result in damaging the lettering so a very finely cut pointed piece of soft spatula material was used. Finally, the surface was gently hand polished with chamois leather. The ribbons were reattached with “invisible thread” to avoid any colour clash.



These medals will now stay in good order and continue to pay homage to the people who earned them in their service to us all.

Reprinted from “To The Stars”, Volume 4, Issue 1 from Spring 2023

*The Comox Air Force Museum is Open from Tuesday to Sunday, 10 am to 4 pm.
It's located at the corner of Ryan Road & Military Row, Lazo, BC V0R 2K0
Phone: 250-339-8162
www.comoxairforcemuseum.ca*

Documentation of Photos

I realize that we all have photos that we will have difficulty identifying. But often we have others where we are able to identify people and places. This photograph of me from 1969 provides an example of one way to create a “citation” for a photograph—with more than just who is in the picture. These are the elements included in the illustration:

- individuals in photograph;
- date of photograph;
- location of photograph;
- how photograph was identified;
- location of the original;
- date digital image made

Now I just need to do this for all my photos!

Note: Now that I think about it, I need to include provenance—how I came to obtain the photograph. A good place to do this would be before or after the current location of the photograph.



Genealogy Tip of the Day <mjnrootdig@gmail.com>

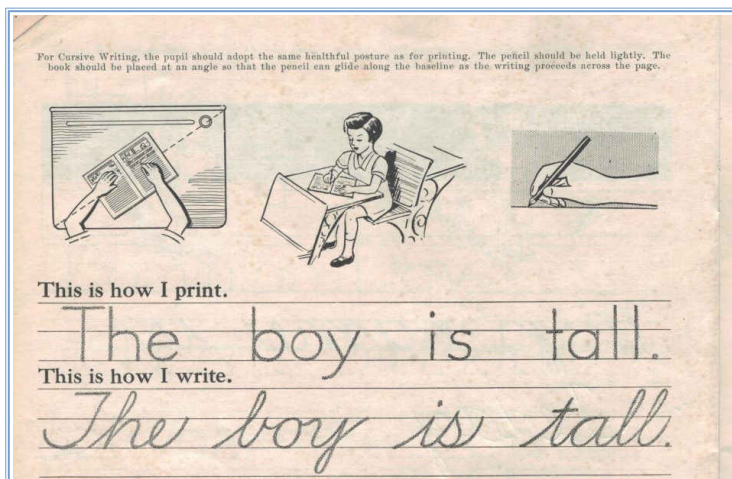
THE MACLEAN METHOD

The MacLean Method of Handwriting A British Columbia Innovation

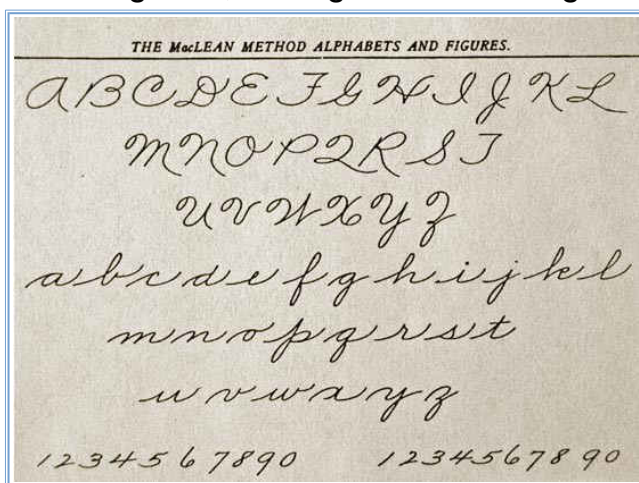
Submitted by Lynne Fletcher
Member #5353

I can still remember that bright red wooden pen, with a metal nib, and the small glass inkwell that sat in the corner of my desk in grade three. That was the year that we all learned to write in script, using the MacLean Method. This strict method was intended to create students with lovely, clear handwriting, but it also caused much distress to many young “clumsy-fingered” writers.

Each letter had to be set neatly into the lines in our notebooks, with rounded ‘o’s and ‘a’s, and straight backed ‘d’s and ‘t’s. The page must be set on your desk at a slant, one’s hand must hold the pen softly and at the proper angle, and the cursive line must continue interrupted through all the letters in each word. Liquid black ink had its own problems, causing many smudged and messy fingers. Starting out, pupils practiced each new letter, then complete words, and finally sentences (The quick brown fox...).

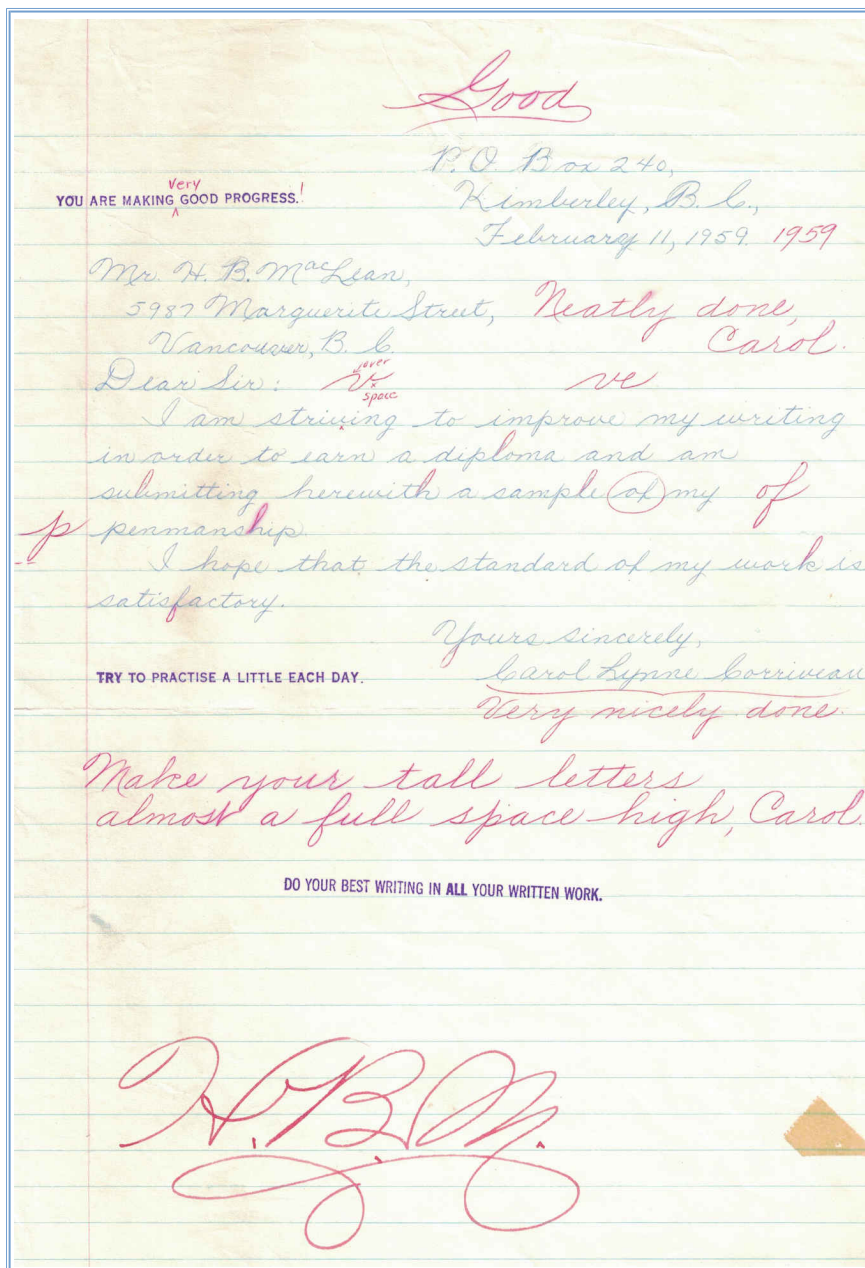


In fourth grade , and again in seventh grade, I can remember submitting examples of my handwriting to Mr. MacLean. The first was written with that red wooden pen, but by seventh grade, our classes had been allowed to use fountain pens, and hand writing got somewhat easier. I still have the certificate that I received, and my page with his comments.



handwriting. Mr. MacLean developed his MacLean Method of Handwriting using the scientific approach. His highly structured method proved successful and spread through many provinces on Canada, and through nations in the Commonwealth.

THE MACLEAN METHOD



Mr. MacLean was a minister's son born at Mount Herbert, PEI. He began teaching at a one-room schoolhouse on the Island, for which he earned the annual salary of \$125. He later became vice-principal at the new Macdonald Consolidated School at Hillsborough, Ontario. The construction of this new school had been sponsored by Montreal tobacco magnate Sir William Macdonald, who intended to replace dingy rural schools with modern facilities staffed by properly trained teachers.

In 1909, Mr. MacLean moved to British Columbia to become assistant principal at South Park Elementary. The following summer, he married May MacKenzie, a former pupil. He then began his term at George Jay Elementary.

THE MACLEAN METHOD

Mr. MacLean last visited George Jay school for the opening of a new gymnasium in 1972. His writing system was falling out of favour, even though it had been part of the curriculum longer than any other in the province. He died in Vancouver in 1976, aged 91. Newspaper reports mentioned that he had served as a handwriting expert in court cases involving forged wills and threatening letters.

The Vancouver Sun celebrated the educator in an editorial.

"Toward the end of his life the Method fell into some disuse, criticized for being too regimented, too opposed to individualism. Perhaps. But it was the work of a man who wanted us to communicate better with each other. No small ideal."

This 175-word editorial was rendered in a fine, readable version of the MacLean Method.

Sources:

>Special to The Globe and Mail. Tom Hawthorne. Victoria B.C. Published May 4, 2010

>the MacLean's method. <https://onsitereview.ca/25-identity/2011/8/23/the-macleans-method-.html>

>Penmanship! <https://crestonmuseum.ca/penmanship/>

Going Back...Sort of.

Do you need to just start from scratch on a problem?

Scrap what you already "think" you know or what you have compiled on the person. While going back to before you knew anything about the ancestor in question is not usually possible (after all, can you really intentionally forget what you know?). But there are some things you can do with the information you have already collected.

Go back and and make certain you have completely and accurately cited each record mentioning your problem person. Review those records and analyze carefully each piece of information you have discovered—paying particular attention to clues or names you may have overlooked originally. Write down each step in your logic and reasoning.

Maybe even argue with yourself slightly as you work on the problem. Question yourself.

Sometimes what we need is just a fresh start.

<http://genealogytipoftheday.com/michaeljohnneill>

BOOK REPORT

EXILE FROM LATVIA – MY WWII CHILDHOOD – FROM SURVIVAL TO OPPORTUNITY

Reviewed by Ann Buchanan

Date: May 26, 2023

Author/Editor: Harry G. Kapeikis

Publisher: Trafford Publishing

Date of Publication: 2007

Publisher's Address: Victoria, BC

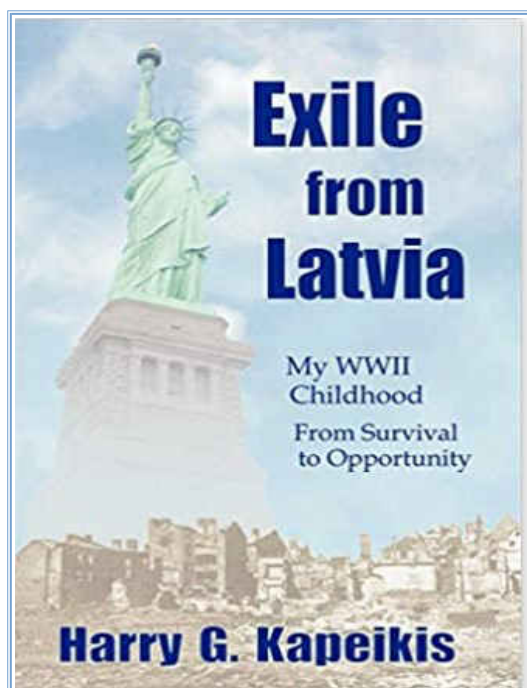
ISBN # 978-1-4251-3400-6

Number of Pages: 312 Indexed? NO

Illustrated? YES Maps? YES

PRICE (& currency): \$23.10

ORDERING INFORMATION: Amazon.ca



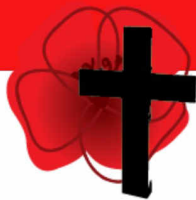
This book tells the story of Harry G. Kapeikis as a young boy exiled with his family from Riga, Latvia. The family was running from the Red Army. The story covers 1944 to 1949, the time period where the family ran from the Red Army to a Displaced Persons Camp near Augsburg, Germany. Here they spent 4 years waiting for approval to go to the USA.

Later, in his adult years, Harry would become a minister in Penticton, Canada. This book does not tell how he gets to Penticton, but there is a Kindle version of his sequel, *Beyond All Dreams – Exile from Latvia – Book 2*.

The book is written in a friendly, casual manner through the eyes of a young boy. He explains how he understood the many different experiences travelling during the war provided. Many of these stories, given from the point of view of a young child are quite funny.

I think this book is an important read for all genealogists that had ancestors in a DP camp. It tells of the daily life of the people. However, most importantly, it describes what displaced people needed to do to find a new home. It describes how the people were investigated and the difficulties that the varied languages presented. It also describes the fear and uncertainty of living through the war. This is knowledge that would help a genealogist understand why their ancestors made the choices they did.

Sunday–Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
JUNE 	 14 Meeting 7pm	 15 Canadian Prairies Chat 7pm EJOURNAL 	16	 17 Genealogy Orientation 10:30am 
 Mon 19: DNA Parental Puzzles Chat 1pm Tues 20: Advanced DNA Chat 7pm TUES - 20th Extended Library Hours to 8pm	21	 22 United States Chat 7pm	 23 Fun Family History 2:30pm 	24
 Tues 27: Indigenous Roots Chat 10:30am TUES 27-NEWSLETTER DEADLINE  TUES - 27th Extended Library Hours to 8pm	28	29	30	 Canada Day
JULY TUES - 4th Extended Library Hours to 8pm	 Summer Coffee Chat Break Begins			
TUES - 11th Extended Library Hours to 8pm MON/10-NEWSLETTER 	 12 Meeting 7pm	13	14	15
TUES - 18th Extended Library Hours to 8pm	19	20	 21 AUGUST NEWSLETTER DEADLINE	 22 Genealogy Orientation 10:30am   UELAC Picnic
TUES - 25th Extended Library Hours to 8pm	26	27	28	28
	 Would you like to facilitate a Coffee Chat? Contact Eunice coffeechat@bcgs.ca			
AUGUST TUES 15-EJOURNAL DEADLINE 	2	 3 NEWSLETTER RELEASE		 5 BC DAY Long Weekend



VETERANS BOOK 2023 EDITION



Entries and photos have been steadily arriving!

Most of the entries have been from **WWI & II**. Below are some other ideas of Battles your ancestors may have been entangled with. All men & women who served in one way or another (winners, loser and victims) are welcome for submission. Questions can be sent to veterans@bcgs.ca

Ideas of Wars, Conflicts, Rebellions and Revolutions:

CANADA

Seven Years War ((1756- 1763)
The Conquest (La Conquête) (1759-60)
United Empire Loyalists (Post 1783)
War of 1812 (1812-1815)
Rebellions (1837-38)
Fenian Rising (1867)
Red River Rebellion (1869-1870)
South African War (1899-1902)
World War I (1917-1918)
World War II (1941 -1945)
Korean War (1950-1953)
FLQ October Crisis (1970)
Gulf War (1990-1991)
Afghanistan (2001-2014)

UNITED STATES

French and Indian War (1754-63)
American Revolution (1775-1783)
War of 1812 (1812-1815)
Indian Wars (approx. 1817-1898)
Mexican War (1846-1848)
Civil War (1861-1865)
Spanish-American War (1898-1902)
World War I (1917-1918)
World War II (1941 -1945)
Korean War (1950-1953)
Vietnam War (1964-1975)
Desert Shield/Desert Storm (1990-1991)

PEACEKEEPING OPERATIONS

1956 - The first UN Emergency Force (UNEF) established to respond to the Suez crisis.
1960 - UN Operation in the Congo (ONUC).
1964 - The UN Peacekeeping Force in Cyprus is established.
1974 - The UN Disengagement Observer Force (UNDOF) is established in the Golan Heights between Syria and Israel. - Nine CAF members die when their plane is shot down in the Middle East.
1988 - The Nobel Peace Prize is awarded to all UN peacekeeping forces.
1991 - Canadian troops join the multinational peace support effort in the Balkans.
Canadian troops join the United Nations Advance Mission in Cambodia (UNAMIC).
1992 Somalia (UNOSOM) mission is established.
1993 - UN Assistance Mission for Rwanda (UNAMIR) begins.
1995 - Canadian troops join the UN Mission in Haiti (UNMIH).
1999 - Canadian troops join the UN Transitional Administration in East Timor (UNTAET).
2000 - Canadian peacekeepers join the UN Mission in Ethiopia and Eritrea (UNMEE).
2018 - Canada begins its participation in UN peacekeeping efforts in Mali.

ELSEWHERE IN THE WORLD

Australian Frontier Wars
Rum Rebellion (1808-1810)
New Zealand Wars
Eureka Rebellion
Mahdist War
Third Anglo-Burmese War
Boer Wars
Russian Civil Wars/Revolutions
Armenian-Azerbaijani War
Eighty Years War (1568-1648)
The Anglo-Dutch Wars (1652-1654)
Napoleonic Wars (1805-1815)
Polish-Swedish War (1600-1629)
Spanish-Ottoman War (1610-1614)
English Civil War (1642-1651)
Irish Confederate Wars (1641-1653)
Great Northern War (1700-1721)

Submit before
September
30th

BCGS.CA
home page

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:

September 2023 - due by August 15
December 2023 - due by November 15
March 2024 - due by February 15
June 2024 - due by May 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

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library@bcgs.ca

Library Administrator: Ann Buchanan

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.

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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.

