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BRITISH COLUMBIA GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

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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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On our **Zoom** site.

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

Meeting Location

Online for the present.

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A message from our President...

Why do we do our
family history? Is it
for the famous
people in our
ancestry? Or
looking for the 'gold'
at the end of our
family rainbow??



Like most of us, I
don't have any
famous people or any gold, but love
learning more about the times and places
our family lived in. What fun occupations
some of them had! I have one fellow who
was a 'silver chaser', and you might say –
well we all chase silver, but in his case,
he did the etchings on silver items.
Another was a 'quadrant case maker'.
So if you had a quadrant, then I guess it
needed a case. What about unusual
occupations in your family lines?

As summer winds down, like many of you,
I'll be turning to more indoor pursuits and
dusting off my family research. Who
knows what gems I'll find this go-round,
Till next time, good luck!

**Eunice Robinson
President, BCGS**



From the Desk of the Editor

It's been a hot, dry summer in my part of our province, the Island, but I have enjoyed visiting other parts of our province, with the help of our busy authors. I'm hoping that you will, too.

Janice Kidwell takes us to the Kootenays, to visit **Nelson**, a very old city with lots of stories to tell. In a second article, she also guides us through the history of a pioneer settlement, **Paldi**, on Vancouver Island, one that has now almost disappeared.

Meg MacLaughlin leads us on a tour of research places, and shares many good tips that you may find useful. Brenda Jones shares her bus trip around **Ireland**, and the memories and discoveries that she made on that ride.

A trip to a private retreat, **Twin Islands**, on Vancouver Island comes from Eunice Robinson's pen. She also reviews the life and letters of Alexander Robb, an early settler in the **Nicola Valley**.

Besides all of these spots, Janice Kidwell and Marilyn Dance remember two of our servicemen buried on **Holten Cemetery**, both from very different backgrounds. Trooper Allan Morrison came from Victoria, and Lieutenant Martin Van Santvoord came originally from the USA, but moved to Calgary, then Vancouver.

I hope that you enjoyed some travel time and some quiet time this summer. Now that the weather is cooling, it's time to come inside and collect those memories and discoveries into a print form. We are all looking forward to reading your story!

Your Island Editor,
Lynne Fletcher
Journal@bcgs.ca



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On the Cover . . .

Nelson, B.C.

A view of the city of Nelson in 1900, when it had grown from a mining camp to a sprawling city, one of the largest in the province. Our Post Card report this month explores Nelson's history, and its growth.

HOLTEN CANADIAN WAR CEMETERY PROJECT

TROOPER ALLAN DONALD MORRISON
AUGUST 31, 1922 – APRIL 3, 1945

Submitted by Janice Kidwell
Member #5033

Trooper Allan Donald Morrison was born August 31, 1922 in Victoria, B.C. to parents Allan McGillivray Morrison and Violet Grace (Molyneaux) Morrison. Allan had a half-brother - Hugh Carruthers Molyneaux.

Allan attended Cranleigh House - in Victoria, B.C. - which was a private preparatory school for boys established in 1923 by Charles V. Milton. It was located in the former Willows Hotel building located at Cadboro Bay and Eastdowne Roads. Allan completed 10 years of schooling leaving at the age of 16. Due to sickness, Allan missed quite a lot of school.

Allan was employed as a messenger boy at Canadian Pacific Telegraph before moving to Atlin, B.C. where he was employed by COLPE Mining Company. This company was involved in Placer mining. Through research I learned that COLPE Mining Company was the original name of the mine and later it became Spruce Creek Mining Company which is still listed as the name. This company was willing to rehire Allan when he returned from serving overseas. Allan spent 3 years in this profession. It was also noted that he was a Hoistman with specific mining duties.

Allan's Attestation Papers were signed March 6, 1942 in Prince Rupert, B.C. where Allan was living at this time. He was 19 years old. Allan had the traditional medical examinations and giving of vaccines. It was noted in his military file that he played a lot of hockey and baseball, enjoyed swimming and skiing, did some moose hunting and that he did quite a bit of reading – mechanical subjects, action, adventure stories. He also liked driving a car as well as a motorcycle.

Allan's basic training took place in Vernon, B.C., his advanced training took place at Camp Borden in Ontario.

Trooper Morrison wished to serve in the RECCE Battalion as a motorcyclist. Allan had owned and operated a motorcycle for 6 months and enjoyed it. He also wanted to do scouting work. Trooper Morrison did receive his wish and was posted to C.A.C. – 8th Canadian RECCE Regiment, 14th Canadian Hussars, R.C.A.C. for use as a motorcyclist. His Regimental Number was K/45077.

Badge of the 14th Canadian Hussars



HOLTEN CANADIAN WAR CEMETERY PROJECT

While in England Trooper Morrison met Miss Dorreen Moore of Woking, England and stated in his last letter to his parents that he planned to marry Dorreen on his next leave.

Trooper Allan Donald Morrison was Killed in Action on April 3, 1945. Place of death was Warken, Zutphen Municipality, Gelderland, Netherlands. A temporary burial took place in a farmyard in the Zutphenseweg in Laren. Trooper Morrison's father received a letter dated April 13, 1945 notifying him that his son had been Killed in Action. A second letter received June 26, 1946 by Trooper Morrison's father, confirmed that his son's reburial had taken place at Holten Canadian War Cemetery. A photo was enclosed showing the initial grave and marker. The grave reference is 11.E.4.

A notice of Trooper Morrison's death appeared in the April 20, 1945 edition of the Victoria Daily Colonist Newspaper, Victoria, B.C. It reads as follows:

*April 20, 1945,
Trooper Allan Donald Morrison, 22, son of Allan Morrison, Atlin, BC, killed in action April 3 in Holland. Born in Victoria, he attended school at Atlin, and Boys' Central School here. He enlisted in 1942, going overseas same year. He landed in France shortly after DDay, and served in Belgium, Holland & Germany. His halfbrother, Hugh C. Molyneaux, lives in Victoria.*



Tpr. Allan Donald Morrison, 22, son of Mr. and Mrs. A. M. Morrison of Atlin, was killed in action with the 8th Canadian Reconnaissance Regiment on April 3.

Tpr. Morrison had planned to marry Miss Dorreen Moore of Woking, England, during his next leave, he told his parents in the last letter they received from him.

Born in Victoria and educated there at Cranleigh and Boys' Central schools, he was a C.P.R. telegraph messenger before moving to Atlin, where he was employed by Colpe Mining Co. He enlisted in March, 1942, went overseas that July and to France in the early part of the invasion.

Besides his parents, he is survived by a brother, P. C. Molyneaux of Victoria.

Tpr. Allan D. Morrison, 22, son of Mr. and Mrs. Allan McG. Morrison of Atlin, where his father is government road foreman, was driver of a Bren gun carrier attached to Reconnaissance when killed in action in Germany. His half-brother, Hugh C. Molyneux, lives at 159 Cook Street, Victoria.

Young Morrison was born in Victoria and working in a gold mine near Atlin when he enlisted in March, 1942, went overseas in August of the same year, landed in France shortly after D-Day.

Portion of his Obituary in The Vancouver Sun Daily Province newspaper (page 3, May 7, 1945 issue).

HOLTEN CANADIAN WAR CEMETERY PROJECT

A letter from J. Smit, dated April 7, 1948, is included in Trooper Morrison's military file. The letter said that "my family has adopted the grave of your deceased relative." It was signed J. Smit, A34 Holten (0), Netherlands.

Holten April 7th 1948

To the next of Kin of:
Trooper A.D.Morrison
K-45077
8th Recce Regt.
Buried in Holten Cdn Mil Cem in Plot 2 Row E Grave 4.

Dept. of Veterans Affairs
War Service Records
MAY 17 1948
File No.

Dear Unknown Friends,

Through the Department of veterans affairs I am yet able to write You a few lines to inform You that my family adopted the grave of Your deceased relation. I do not know whether he was Your son or husband, or maybe Your fiancee.

Living in Holten about half an hour walk from the cemetery we may easily go there and tend the grave with flowers. The cemetery is situated between wood and moor on the slope of a hill and its surroundings are lovely indeed. About 1500 boys are buried there.

When the flowers on the grave blossom I hope to send You a picture of the grave so You may be able to see how it is like.

We can understand what You felt when You got the bad news of his death as we lost two cousins in underground work and one soldier during the war. My own son was a soldier too but he returned safely home. So God blessed us. He is married. I am a baker and have a bakery and shop of my own. We do hope You will write us back and tell us something about Your interred relation. Maybe there are special dates You should like some flowers on the grave. We hope to get into touch with You in this way and to make friends with You all.

Sincerely Yours
Your unknown friend,
J.Smit.

Address: A 34
Holten(0)
Netherlands.

J. Smit

HOLTEN CANADIAN WAR CEMETERY PROJECT



Wording on Allan's Gravestone:

K45077 TROOPER
A.D. MORRISON
14th Canadian Hussars
3rd APRIL 1945 AGE 22

WE HAVE ONLY MEMORIES DEAR
BUT THE SWEETNESS
WILL LINGER
OUR WHOLE LIFE THROUGH
MOTHER, DAD AND BROTHER
HUGH

Trooper Allan Donald Morrison is Commemorated on [Page 547](#) of the *Second World War Book of Remembrance*. This page is displayed in the Memorial Chamber of the Peace Tower in Ottawa on November 17th.

WAR SERVICE

- Canada March 6, 1942 – July 18, 1942
- U.K July 19, 1942 – July 5, 1944
- North West Europe July 7, 1944 – April 3, 1945

This included being involved in crossing the Twente Canal at Almen.

Total qualifying days of service: 1048.

HOLTEN CANADIAN WAR CEMETERY PROJECT

MEDALS

Trooper Donald Allan Morrison received the following medals:

- Canadian Volunteer Service Medal and Clasp. This specific medal was awarded to Trooper Morrison on January 15, 1944.
- 1939-45 STAR
- France and Germany STAR
- Defence Medal
- War Medal: 1939-45



Sources

- ◆ Ancestry.com
- ◆ Find a Grave
- ◆ Virtual War Memorial Index
- ◆ [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/8th_Reconnaissance_Regiment_\(14th_Canadian_Hussars\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/8th_Reconnaissance_Regiment_(14th_Canadian_Hussars))
- ◆ <http://workpoint.opcmh.ca/images/Jan-1945-to-Dec-`945.pdf>.... (Times Colonist obituary)
- ◆ There is also information that can be seen through the Regiment's War Diaries via Library and Archives Canada.

BOOK REPORT

SHELTERING IN THE BACKRUSH

Reviewer's Name:
Eunice Robinson

Title: Sheltering in the Backrush
A History of Twin Islands

Author/Editor: Jeanette Taylor

Publisher: Harbour Publishing
PO Box 219,
Madeira Park, BC
V0N 2H0
2023

ISBN # 971990776113
(soft cover)

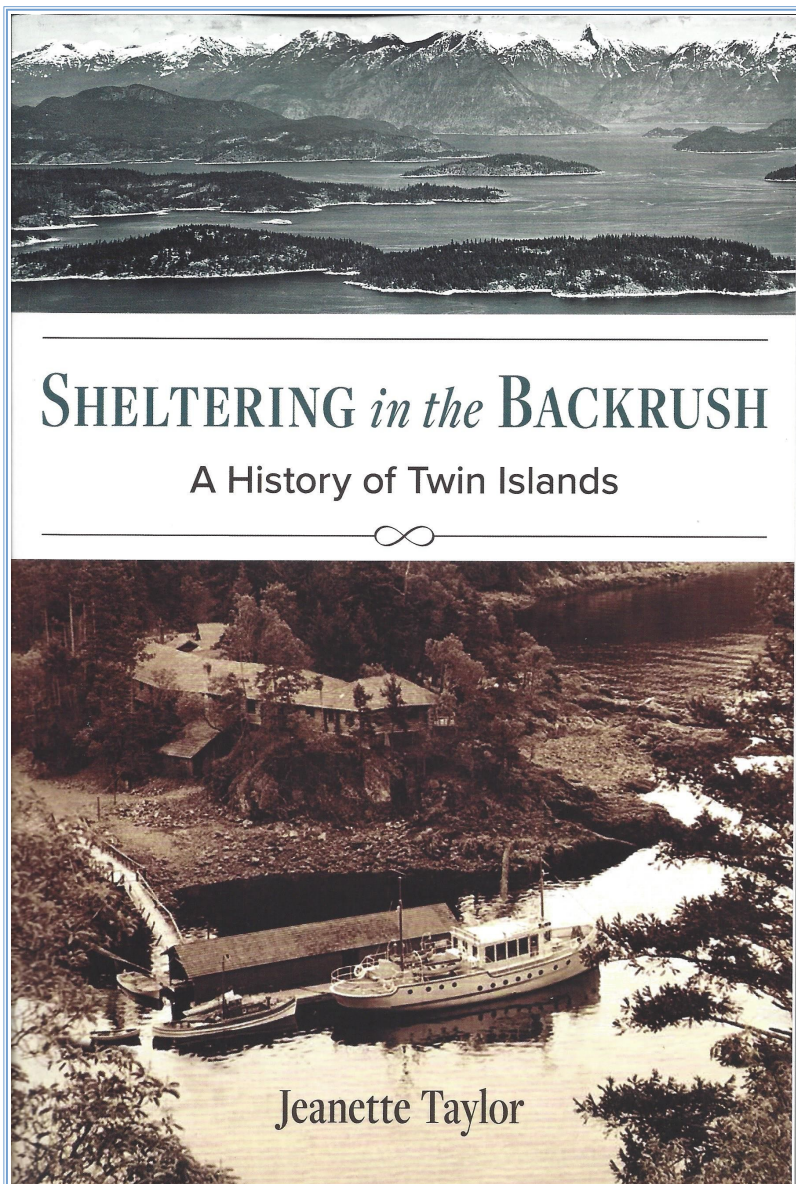
Number of Pages: 159
Indexed & Illustrated with
photos and Maps

Price: \$24.95 Canadian

ORDERING INFORMATION:
Harbour Publishing,
P.O. Box 219,
Madeira Park, BC V0N 2H0
www.harbourpublishing.com

Somewhat familiar with the geography of the British Columbia coast, Cortes Island, Quadra Island and Desolation Sound, I'd never heard of Twin Islands, a private retreat located south of Cortes, but north of Hernando Island. This area is a very wild and remote.

In her previous book *Tidal Passages*, the author had included some of the islands' characters, up to the current owner of Twin Islands. Descendants of one of the earlier families had sent him a large number of World War II-era photographs, including photos of the construction of the lodge built in the 1930's and several family photos. This intrigued the owner, so he and the author collaborated.



BOOK REPORT

Descendants were tracked down, memories were shared, and the result is this fascinating book written about a very little known part of British Columbia.

For example, this pair of islands is joined at low tide, and locally referred to as “Twin”.

The author takes us back to the discovery of Twin Islands in 1791 by Jose Maria Navarez of Spain in the pursuit of the North-West Passage. Other well-known explorers visited this area too, interacting with the Indigenous people, exchanging furs and pelts for muskets, blankets and beads. And sadly disease, where in 1862 smallpox killed a huge number of the population.

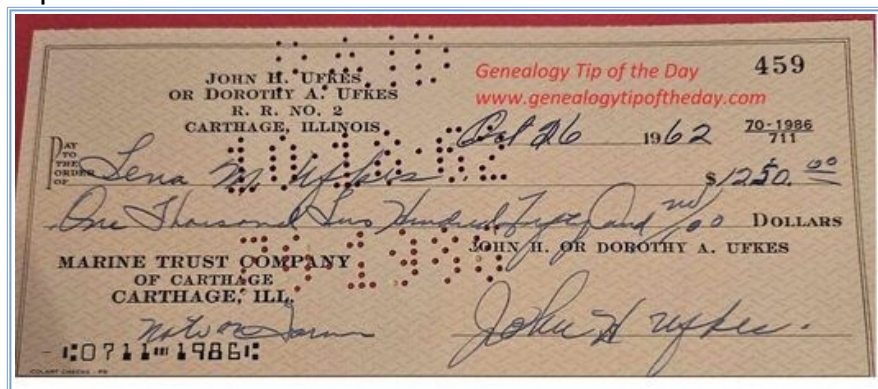
By the 1880’s settlers started to arrive in the area. Again the author tells the tale of these hardy adventurers such as Dan “Peg Leg” McDonald and Reverend Harpur Colville Nixon. As the Islands are sold to new owners, the author tells their tale. Royalty also visited Twin on a couple of occasions. In 1971, Queen Elizabeth, the Duke of Edinburgh and Princess Anne aboard the Royal Yacht Britannia anchored off Twin for a picnic. In 1999, the current owner purchased the Islands.

A very enjoyable read for the British Columbia history buff, but also for family historians.

What’s More Likely to Be Right

Michael John Neill : Genealogical Tip of the Day

The date on the 1962 check my grandfather Ufkes wrote was either October 26th or 16th. It’s clear that he either wrote a “2” first and then a “1,” or wrote a “1” first and then a “2” to replace it.



Based on the “paid” perforation on the check (indicating a paid date of 10-18-1962), the check would have been written on 16 October and not on 26 October. Granddad likely realized his mistake after he had written the date on the check. Of all the dates on the check, the “paid” one is the one that is mostly likely to be correct. Banks can always make a mistake, but it seems unlikely that the paid date would be incorrect.

HOLTEN PROJECT

In Memory of Lieutenant Martin George Van Santvoord

Submitted by Marilyn L. Dance
Member #3416

K/449577 Canadian Scottish Regiment R.C.I.C.
died age 28 on 22nd April 1945.

Son of Antonius F. and Theresa M. Van Santvoord.
Husband of Patricia E. Van Santvoord,
Father of Anthony (Tony) Martin
all of Vancouver, BC

Remembered with honour.
HOLTEN CANADIAN WAR CEMETERY

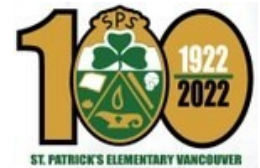


Commemorated in
perpetuity by the
Commonwealth War Graves Commission

HOLTEN PROJECT

Martin George Van Santvoord was born in Appleton, Wisconsin on July 19, 1916. His parents, Antonius F. and Theresa M (nee Smuldors) Van Santvoord, had immigrated to the United States from Tilburg, Holland going to Wisconsin in early 1914. But, by 1921, we find the family living in Calgary, Alberta, and a second child, sister Annie, has arrived. The 1921 Canadian census indicates that the family came to Canada about 1917. Father, Anthony, is listed as head of the household, occupation, carpet repairer. And mother, Theresa is listed as a dressmaker with the two children.

But the family soon makes another move and in 1925, the BC City Directory has the family living in Vancouver, BC. Records indicate that Martin began public school in Calgary, and then St. Patrick's Catholic School in Vancouver from 1925 onwards. The school was founded in 1922 and the anniversary logo is at right.



Martin left school in 1932 at age 17. He attended one year of Business College and later a three-month Machine Shop Course through a Government Training School. His employment history from the military records confirm nine years with Safeway Stores, working his way up from Clerk to a Manager, and nine months as a Machinist Inspector with Neon Products in Vancouver.

After Parliament debated the matter, Canada declared War on Germany September 10, 1939. Canada is now at War!

On October 25, 1939, Martin married Patricia Emmaline Scott. A lovely picture of the bride appeared in the Vancouver Province together with a writeup about the marriage and family celebration.

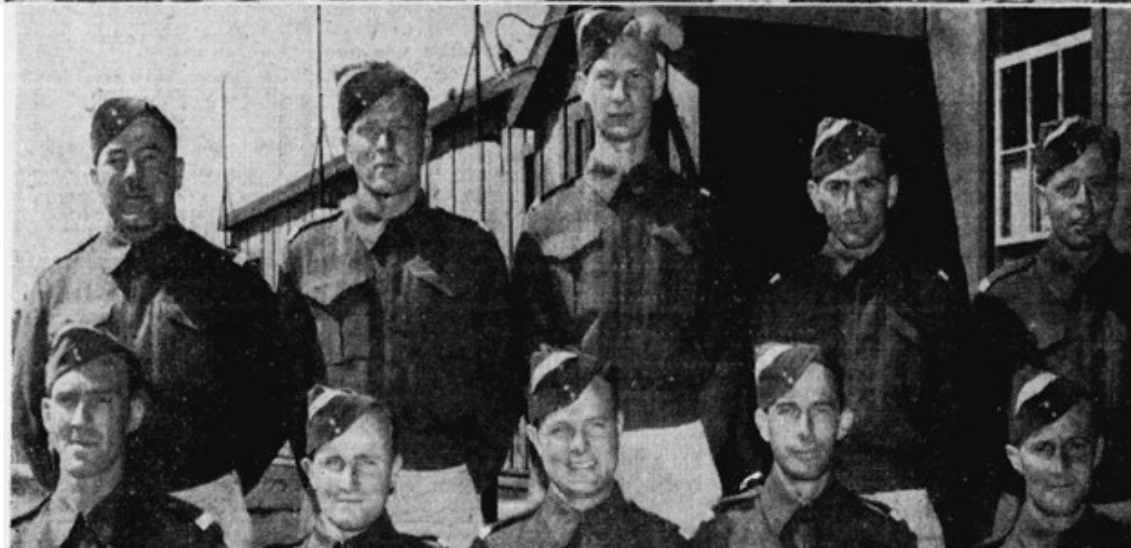


On July 22, 1940, Martin enlisted with the Non Permanent Active Militia. He is assigned to the 2nd Bat. Irish Fusiliers, Vancouver Regiment. Their insignia is at left.

On August 13, 1941, Martin and Patricia became parents, welcoming a son they named Anthony Martin. The military documents that cover July 1940 to March 1943 show Martin is sent to a number of places for training. This includes NCO School and map reading in Vancouver, BC in 1940, as well as assignments in Nanaimo, Vernon, Victoria and Currie Barracks in Calgary. The BC City Directories show him still living at home and maintaining his civilian job. It does not mention his Militia service. Martin is promoted to Sergeant on March 31, 1942.

HOLTEN PROJECT

Then, in March 1943, he is assigned to active duty. Martin is sent to Officers' Training School as a Cadet at Gordon Head, Victoria, BC and earns the rank of Lieutenant. (Martin is top left- Vancouver Province 1943) Training assignments have him going back and forth to Calgary and Vernon during 1943. He is sent to Camp Borden, Ontario in January of 1944, then Calgary, Brockville, Ontario and back to Calgary. He attends a Chemical Warfare Course in Nanaimo in October 1944 and then returns to Calgary in November. Leave is granted regularly during this time, and Martin is able to get back to Vancouver to see his family.



Graduates from Gordon Head Officers' Training Centre today included: (upper picture, front row) E. L. Heisler, 3397 West Seventh; L. A. F. Frith, 2124 West Forty-eighth; J. W. F. Stewart, 2958 East Fourth; R. C. Keary, 72 First Street, New Westminster; W. A. Rudkin, 3305 West Twenty-seventh; (rear row) M. G. Van Santvoord, 580 West Twenty-first; F. L. Fitzpatrick, 2586 Vine; D. J. A. McKenzie, 3527 West King Edward; R. C. Parsons, 1086 Bute; R. W. W. Salter, 4448 West Fourth.

Lower picture, front row: A. E. Rice-Jones, 5661 Cypress; A. Irwin, 114 East Fifteenth Street, North Vancouver; D. Adler, 2678 Lily Avenue, Burnaby; M. W. Berridge, 1850 Robson; G. R. H. Cameron, 1097 Hamilton Street, New Westminster (rear row) F. H. Norminton, 1111 Lonsdale, North Vancouver; N. C. Beaton, 2724 East Second; J. H. T. Bell, 2267 West Tenth; G. M. Grant, 1564 West Sixty-eighth, and V. G. Hodge, 60 Holland.

HOLTEN PROJECT

By the Fall of 1944, there was a need for reinforcements in Europe. So on November 24, 1944 Martin is assigned to Debert, Nova Scotia and on December 6th he is shipped overseas. Martin arrives in the UK on December 19, 1944. On February 12, 1945 he is assigned to the Canadian Scottish Regiment and flown into the Western European Theatre of War.

On February 8, 1945, the Allies launched a great offensive to drive the enemy back over the Rhine and bring about Germany's final defeat. Maps show the 1st, 2nd, 3rd and 4th Canadian Infantry Divisions together with Polish, Belgian and Dutch soldiers, sweeping across the north and east of Holland, at the same time supporting the Allied drive into Germany. The number of Canadian soldiers were upwards of 175,000.

More than 7,600 Canadians died in the eight-month campaign to liberate the Netherlands. Reports on Martin from various superiors mention the following: "very superior learning ability"; "an experienced instructor and a good supervising officer". Other comments include: "applied himself well and will make a good officer in field"; "A young officer, bright, alert and enthusiastic, looks keen and energetic. Good type"; "should develop into a better than average officer"; "I have no hesitation in recommending him as good officer material for the C.A".



In May of 1945, both the Vancouver Sun and Province newspapers published the recent casualty lists, including the death of twenty BC men, killed during fierce fighting in Holland and northwestern Europe.

Lieutenant Martin George Van Santvoord is among them.

Originally buried in the cemetery of the Dutch Reformed Church in Siddeburen, Martin was reinterred in Holten Cemetery in Holland Grave 7, Row G, plot 3.

<u>Detail</u>	Source
Name:	Lieutenant Martin George Van Santvoord
Port of Departure:	Halifax, Nova Scotia, Canada
Arrival Date:	19 Dec 1944
Port of Arrival:	Liverpool, England
Ports of Voyage:	Halifax, Nova Scotia, Canada
Ship Name:	Bayano
Shipping Line:	Cunard White Star
Official Number:	141870
Search Ship Database:	Search for the Bayano in the 'Passenger Ships and Images' database

HOLTEN PROJECT

For his service Martin was awarded the following medals:
1939-45 Star; France & Germany Star; War Medal; 1939-45 C.V.S.M. & Clasp.



In 1957 both Martin's mother Theresa and widow Patricia were presented with the Memorial Silver Cross.

Martin is also commemorated on the War Memorial Wagenborgen in the Netherlands.

WE SHALL REMEMBER THEM

With thanks to the following for information shared:

1. Chilliwack Military Museum, Docents: Ret. Corp Robert Bussell and Karen Gorden
2. Bruce Morton, Blogger and Military Researcher on the "North Shore (New Brunswick) Regiment"
3. CFB Esquimalt Naval and Military Museum, Victoria BC
4. Archives of British Columbia Newspapers from ProQuest (part of Clarivate)



HOLTEN PROJECT

As a footnote to this biography, we share a brief story of the family.

In the opening lines we mention the parents of Martin George, who were Antonius F. and Theresa M (nee Smuldors) van Santvoord, who immigrated to North America from Tilburg, Holland sometime in early 1914.

We move forward to 1949, - we find a passenger list for Martin and Theresa (ages 65 and 61) flying on KLM (Royal Dutch Airlines) to Holland. It is not hard to believe that they would not only visit the town they came from, but would also make a pilgrimage to Holten Cemetery to visit their son's grave. He was their only son. KLM, founded in 1919, had resumed scheduled flights in May, 1946. They were also the first European airline to resume travel to America.

Both Martin and Theresa died in Vancouver, BC in 1968, just two months apart.

Widow, Patricia Emmaline Van Santvoord, re-married in the early 1950's and had a son Peter Richardson. She was widowed again. She died in December of 2001 at age 86. Her obituary is below.

To the right we find the 2007 obituary of the son of Martin George and Patricia Van Santvoord. Named Anthony Martin after his father and Grandfather.


He was known as "Tony" in the family. He married and had two children and two grandchildren.



VAN SANTVOORD — Anthony Martin "Tony Van"
Passed away peacefully at his home on January 5th, 2007 in his 65th year. Devoted and loving father to daughter Sharbra and her husband Larry of Innisfil, Ontario and son Michael of Courtenay, British Columbia. Dear Grandfather to Jared and Jenna. Also survived by his half-brother Peter and his wife Joan of Smithers, British Columbia, Tony was born and raised in Vancouver but later retired in Courtenay, British Columbia. For over 47 years Tony has enjoyed entertaining people with his musical talents. His passion for playing music took him to Vietnam, where Tony Van, and the Ramrods entertained the servicemen and women, during the War. He played numerous cities in the Continental United States as well as a stay at the Devonshire Hotel. After playing with the Lorraine Smith Trio for many years, Tony finally settled down to a fifteen-year stay at the George V room in the Hotel Georgia, in Vancouver as part of Robert Stuart and the Publicans. A crowning achievement in the advanced stage of his career, Tony was asked to play in the orchestra pit on the stage production of the musical Chicago in Courtenay on Vancouver Island. Many friends and family in the music community will sorely miss him. A memorial service will be held at the First Memorial Funeral Home at 602 Kingsway Street in Vancouver on January 13th, 2007 at 11am. As an expression of sympathy, donations may be made to the Canadian Cancer Society.

049932

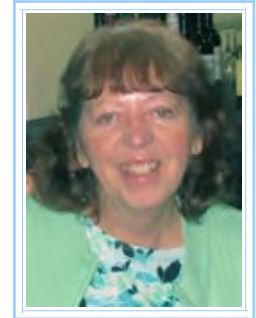
VAN SANTVOORD — Patricia Emmaline.
December 18th 2001, peacefully in hospital. Aged 86 years. A wonderful person, she will be missed by many. Widow of Martin Van Santvoord who died in 1945 during World War II, also widow of George Clark. Survived by her two sons Toni Van Santvoord and Peter Richardson and sister Lorraine Gibbs. Memorial Service at Richmond Pentecostal Church, 9300 Westminster Highway, Richmond on January 19th 2002 at 11:00 a.m. No flowers by request, donations to a charity of one's choice.

 First Memorial
Vancouver 604-876-5585

POSTCARDS

Nelson, B.C.

Submitted by Janice Kidwell
Member # 5033



The city of Nelson is located in the [Selkirk Mountains](#) on the West Arm of [Kootenay Lake](#) in the [Southern Interior](#) of [British Columbia](#). Known as "The Queen City", it is known for its impressive collection of restored heritage buildings from its glory days in a regional [silver rush](#). Nelson, along with Castlegar and Trail, form the commercial and population core of the [West Kootenay](#) region.

History

The western Kootenay region of British Columbia, where the city of Nelson is situated, is part of the traditional territories of the [Sinixt](#) (or Lakes) and [Ktunaxa](#) (Kutenai) peoples.

Gold and silver were found in the area in 1867. In August 1886 a group led by brothers Osner and Winslow Hall left Colville, Washington to search for gold. Although their endeavour to find gold did not bring them good luck, while the men were rounding up the horses for the trip home they found a copper-silver deposit, which began the rush to Toad Mountain and the establishment of Nelson. The population grew quickly and by the winter of 1887-88, between 300 and 400 people had set up tents along Ward Creek (now the centre of Nelson).

G.M. Sproul, gold commissioner and magistrate, laid out the government town site, which he named Stanley after Lord Stanley, Canada's Governor General. There was an argument about the name from Harry Anderson, mining recorder and constable, who had already named the town site Salisbury. The feud was settled when the townspeople applied for a post office 1889 under the name of Stanley. As there was already a town of that name in the Cariboo district, Nelson was named after the then-Lieutenant-Governor of B.C., Hugh Nelson.

Tents gave way to shake and log shacks, until lumber began to be produced in 1889 by the G.O. Buchanan mill. Frame buildings began to proliferate in the town site and the milled lumber supplied timbers for the area's hardrock mine tunnels. Lumbering overtook mining as the main industry and still remains important today.

Transport of the Silver King ores by pack train, boat and railroad to the nearest smelter in Butte, Montana proved costly but when the new British Hall Mining Company was organized in 1893, things began to improve.

By 1894 Nelson was served by two railroads, the Columbia and Kootenay (a CPR affiliate) and the Nelson and Fort Sheppard.

POSTCARDS

The City of Nelson was incorporated on March 4, 1897; the population at that time was 3,000. It had a number of beautiful homes, stores, hotels, churches, a school, a hospital and much more and the first hydro electric generating plant in BC.

By 1899 Nelson owned its own electrical utility and was making plans to move its electrical generation from Cottonwood Creek to a dam site on the Kootenay River at Bonnington Falls. This project was accomplished in 1907. A street car system begun by the Nelson Electrical Tramway Company in 1899 and a gasworks started in 1900 were also later taken over and operated by the city until the second half of the century, when they were replaced by bus transit and natural gas.

Francis Rattenbury, an architect most noted in British Columbia for the Parliament Buildings in Victoria, the Vancouver Provincial Courthouse, and the second Hotel Vancouver, designed chateau-style civic buildings made of granite, which stand today. By the 1900s, Nelson had a Hudson's Bay Company store and an electric streetcar system. The local forestry and mining industries were well established.

Many Nelson men and women distinguished themselves in the First World War, among them the Nelson-based 54th Kootenay Battalion and Nelson's first Victoria Cross winner, Lieutenant Commander Rowland Richard Louis Bourke, VC, DSO. In 1902 and after completing his formal education in London, he came to Canada and tried his luck in the Klondike goldfields, located in the Yukon Territory. In later years he worked on his family's fruit-growing ranch at Crescent Bay, located near Nelson.

The Depression years initiated many work projects to improve Nelson's facilities including the Nelson Civic Centre, a rink, badminton hall and theatre complex.

The Second World War produced another Nelson hero and Victoria Cross winner - Lieutenant Robert Hampton Gray, R.C.V.V.R.

As well, Nelson resident Captain Agner Emil Dalgas who served with the General List - Canadian Army - during World War II had also served during World War I.

Captain Dalgas did not return home and is buried at Holten Canadian War Cemetery. Captain Dalgas is mentioned on a number of pages in the book "Homefront & Battlefield" Nelson BC in World War II" written by the late Vancouver author Sylvia Crooks.

The town built its own hydroelectric generating system. English immigrants planted lakeside orchards, and Doukhobors from Russia, sponsored by Tolstoy and the [Quakers](#), tilled the valley benchlands. The Doukhobor Discovery Centre is located near Castlegar. www.doukhobor-museum.org

During the Vietnam War, many Americans came to Canada and settled in places such as Nelson, Lund, Tofino and Vancouver and the surrounding area. This influx of liberal, mostly educated young people had a significant impact on the area's cultural and political demographics.

POSTCARDS

Nelson's heritage potential was realized in 1977 with its centennial of incorporation and the heritage designation of over 350 buildings.

Baker Street

In the early 1980s, Nelson suffered a devastating economic downturn with the closure of the Kootenay Forest Products sawmill. Downtown merchants were already suffering from the opening of a large, regional shopping centre on Nelson's central waterfront, the Chahko Mika Mall. To save downtown and Baker Street, Nelson stripped aluminum facades and restored the buildings to their original natural beauty. About 350 buildings have been given heritage status, including the courthouse and city hall designed by Francis Rattenbury. This marked the beginning of Nelson changing transition from a resource-based town to an arts and tourism town

The street's restoration success came in 1986 when [Steve Martin](#) chose to produce his feature film [Roxanne](#) largely in Nelson, using the local fire hall as a primary set and many historic locations for other sets.

Yasodhara Ashram

Yasodhara Ashram, founded by [Swami Sivananda Radha](#) in 1963, is a yoga retreat and study centre, located in Kootenay Bay.

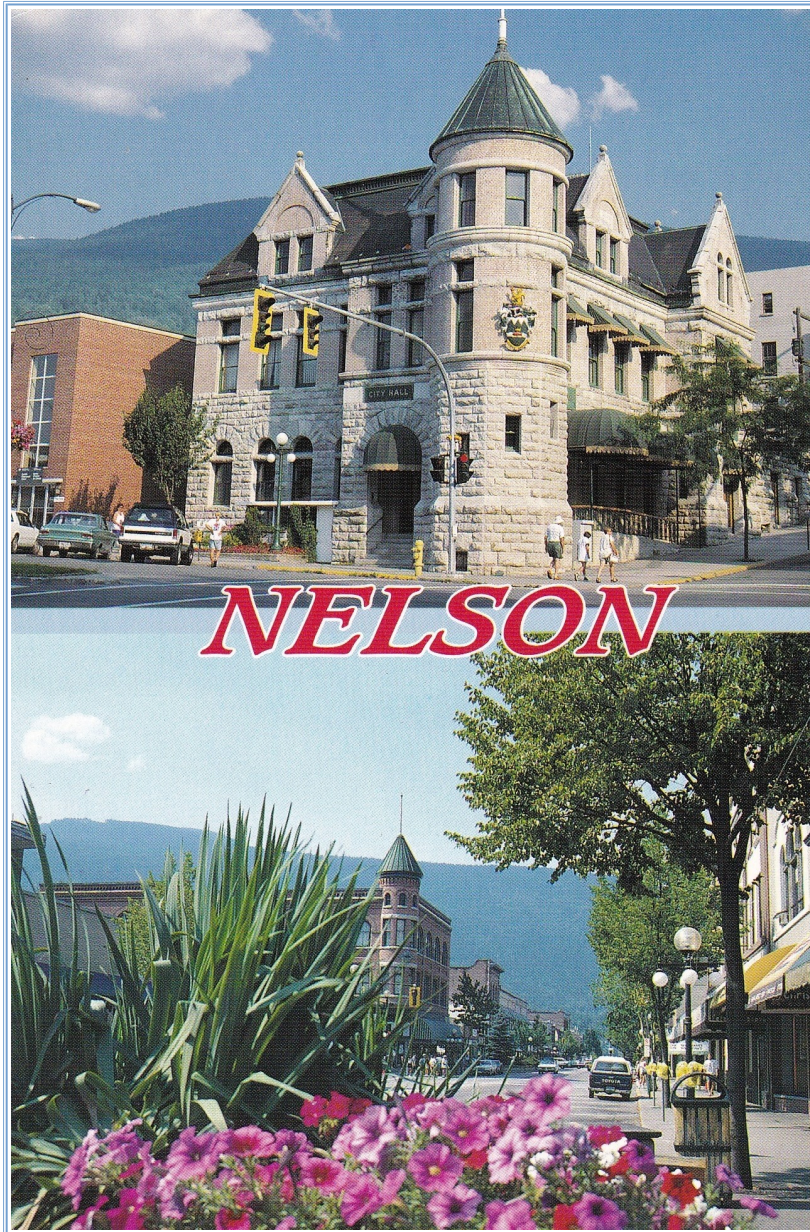
Activities to do in the Nelson area: hiking, mountain biking, rock climbing, skiing, snowboarding.

Notable people who were from Nelson are a number of professional athletes - hockey players, baseball league player, field hockey player, snowboarder, mountain biker, tennis player, actor, composer, dancer, poet, writer, director, musicians, singers - classical, country, folk - a bishop (Bishop Martin M. Bishop began Notre Dame College in 1950) and more.

The postcard of Nelson has the following wording on the back:

Historic Baker Street and City Hall, one of over 300 preserved heritage buildings in Nelson, British Columbia. – on the shores of beautiful Kootenay Lake. Photography by: John Bicknell. The postcard was Distributed and Published by: canadian souvenir sales ltd. P.O. Box 99, Radium Hot Springs, B.C. Canada V0A 1M0. There is neither a message nor a stamp on the back of this postcard.

POSTCARDS



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GENEALOGY ON THE ROAD

A Travel Report

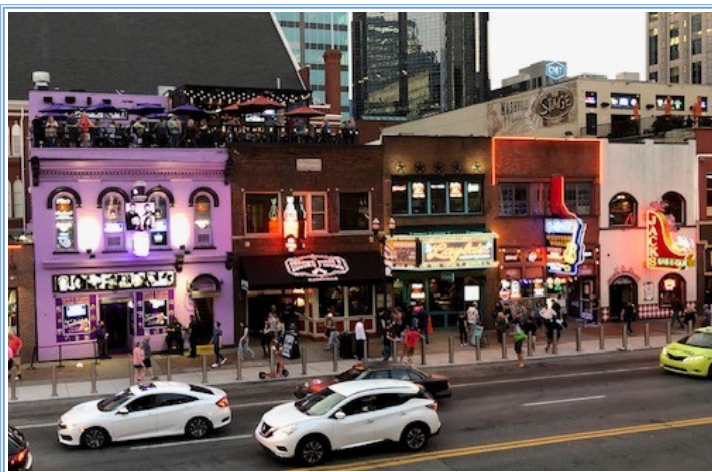
Submitted by Meg McLaughlin
Member #3847

Between the forays out into the world to research repositories that hopefully hold information that will fill in another facet of ancestors' lives, it's helpful to have time to look at what has been gathered and figure out what is needed next. That's ostensibly what I've been doing this summer. I know, I know, summer is prime time for genealogy related trips but, this year, it seems I've bookended that season with trips in the spring and fall.

At the end of April, I visited Salt Lake City as part of an Ancestor Seekers group. I still need to unpack the information I found at the FamilySearch Library. At the end of May, I took the Tennessee Music Trail to New Orleans on an Intrepid Travel tour. It was in Nashville that I discovered information about the Battle of Shiloh, a battle in which an ancestor of interest, Alexander Matheson, fought. Who knew I'd find a nugget of information related to family history on a musical tour?



Temple Square construction, April 2023



Broadway in Nashville

It's Alexander's story that I'll be concentrating on when I attend the Family History Writing retreat this September. I chose the retreat in Ontario hoping to combine my trip back east with visiting friends and family and maybe a bit of research on the side. Traces of my ancestors are heavier on the ground in Ontario compared to the faint footprints traceable in a few BC cities.

GENEALOGY ON THE ROAD

In my downtime between trips, I have not neglected my genealogy education. I signed up for Diahan Southard's DNA Study Group, hoping to get somewhere with my DNA research at last. That's given me further impetus to add collateral branches to my family tree on Ancestry. A lot of the techniques don't work unless descendants of other offspring from direct ancestors have been identified. But it's also a worry to have my main family tree on Ancestry. So it was timely that one of the things covered in the Starting Out or Starting Over sessions Kathryn Lake Hogan offered this spring was checking out the family tree software available. One of the group suggested Family Historian, which I am testing out.



Lorraine Hotel, site of Martin Luther King assassination at the Civil Rights Museum, Memphis

As I write, the trip to Ontario is in the future. Of course, research and writing need to



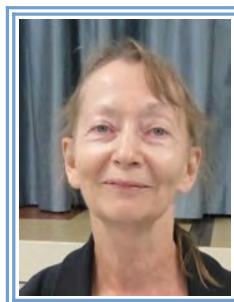
Bourbon Street, New Orleans

be done in preparation for the writing retreat. That will take a chunk of my time, time I'd planned on getting my family research in order. To that end, I downloaded the free trial from the UK based family tree software, Family Historian. As most of my family history research is UK based, that made sense to me. I wanted to update my own family tree software at the same time that I add collateral lines to my Ancestry family tree. I think I'm sold on the software. It has maps on which it places pins as different places are entered where the target person has lived. So far I'm on the first person I've entered, which is me! Have to be careful with how

the place info is entered, though. I ended up with a pin in Alberta when I entered my Strathmore address. I had to fix that to be clear I was in Quebec. As that points out, investigating new software has a bit of a learning curve and that, so far, has not helped the project of adding my collateral relatives. In fact, it's slowed it down!

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.



Index of Our Holten Cemetery Articles to Date

THE HOLTEN PROJECT: ARTICLES
 June 2021 to June 2023

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2021 – September	LAUGHTON, Harry	D'Arcy Murrow	p.5
	MURRAY, Alfred Arthur	Marlene Dance	p.9
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	KEENAN, Bernard Oswald	Marlene Dance	p.10
2022 – March	PARR-PEARSON, Eric Goland	Marilyn Dance	p.23
	MACDONALD, Roderick Malcolm	Janice Kidwell	p.9
2022 – June	JAMIESON, Robert	Janice Kidwell	p.5
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	VAN SANTVOORD, Martin George	Marlene Dance	p.12

BOOK REPORT

ALEXANDER ROBB AND THE MAKING OF BRITISH COLUMBIA, The life and letters home of an Ulster-Scots pioneer

Reviewer's Name: Eunice Robinson

Author/Editor: B.R.D. White

Publisher: Ulster Historical Foundation

Date of Publication: 2023

ISBN # 978-1-913993-41-2

Number of Pages: 177

Indexed & Illustrated with photos
and Maps

Price : 14.99 English pounds

ORDERING INFORMATION :

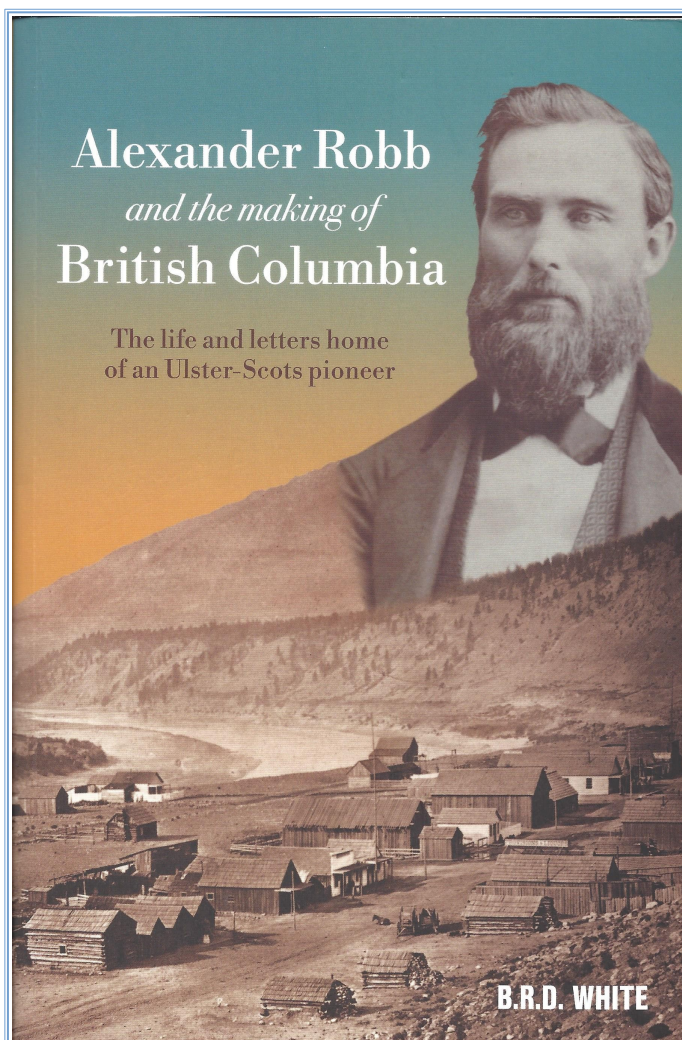
BooksIreland –

www.booksireland.org.uk/store

The title of the book was intriguing.
Who was Alexander Robb, and what
role did he play in the making of British
Columbia?

We learn that Alexander (1839-1910),
the author's great-grandfather, was just
one of a group of young men from County Down, Ireland who came to British Colum-
bia hoping to make their fortunes panning for gold. Some of these young men be-
came prominent in the history of British Columbia. Alexander wasn't successful in
the mine fields, but later homesteaded in the Nicola Valley in central BC.

Alexander wrote letters from British Columbia home to County Down, Ireland. These
letters have been transcribed and included in the book. They make interesting
reading of Alexander's experiences of what British Columbia was like at this time in
history.



BOOK REPORT

The book contains some lovely Robb family photos, maps, a couple of family pedigree charts, and old photos of the Cariboo. All enhance the story of this young man's adventure in British Columbia.

Alexander, due to family circumstances, did return to Ireland where he continued to farm. He married a third cousin, Jane Finlay in 1882. They had 7 children. Alexander became involved in many organizations as well as had a prominent role in the local Presbyterian Church.

The book contains an extensive bibliography, a personal name index, as well as a place name index.

A very fascinating read for anyone interested in the history of British Columbia.

**BCGS was very honoured to have the author, Brian White, speak on his book at our June 2023 meeting.*

Administrator De Bonis Non

Michael John Neill : Genealogical Tip of the Day

Researchers in probate records may encounter this term. It sounds fancier than it actually is.

Someone who is an "administrator de bonis non" of an estate is someone who was appointed to replace an estate administrator who was no longer able to complete their role as administrator.

Court records may indicate the reason the previous administrator was unable to complete their office as administrator or they may simply relieve him of his duties and appoint the replacement.

Just Changed Their Name

Michael John Neill : Genealogical Tip of the Day

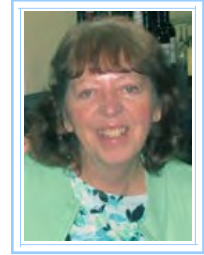
Remember that throughout much of US history, a person could easily change their name without going to court at all.

Don't expect to find a court record of a name change for your ancestor who started going by a different name in the 1860s. You might find comments about the varying names on land deeds (if the ancestor purchased land before the change and sold it after) or military pension records (where applications were made after the name change). It is possible that other records may reference the change—possibly a death certificate.

PALDI

PALDI COMMUNITY - VANCOUVER ISLAND, B.C.

Submitted by Janice Kidwell
Member #5033



Paldi is a former South Asian settlement and mill town on Vancouver Island, approximately 10km west of Duncan. It is significant as a town founded by Sikh Canadians, and its early exemplification of multiculturalism.

History

In 1906 Mayo Singh MANHAS, then 17 years old, traveled from the Punjab area of India to B.C. to join his brother and cousin in B.C. When the sawmill he worked at near Chilliwack went bankrupt Mayo took over and ran the operation, along with other Punjabi men who had worked at the same mill.



The Mayo Lumber Co. offices stand next to the train tracks in Paldi, late 1920s.
Cowichan Valley Museum and Archives, Public domain, via Wikimedia Commons

A few years later, Mayo went searching for a location to build a new mill. He chose a plot of land in the Cowichan Valley on Vancouver Island, near Duncan, because of its proximity to the new *Esquimalt & Nanaimo Rail* line, a nearby creek and a seemingly endless supply of timber. By 1917, the *Mayo Brothers Timber Company*, later renamed the Mayo Lumber Company, was in full production.

PALDI

The town was established in 1916 or 1917 – depending on the source - by Mayo Singh MINHAS, his brother Ganea Singh MINHAS and their cousin Doman SINGH - three Sikh businessmen from the [Punjab](#) region of India. The town was originally named Mayo, but was required to change its name in 1936 due to confusion caused at the post office with Mayo, Yukon. The name was changed to Paldi - the name of the town in [Hoshiarpur](#), Punjab where Doman, Ganea and Mayo had migrated from.

The town's most well-known founder, Mayo, was born Mayan Singh Manhas in 1888. Believing that having a more Anglicized name would be easier for Anglo Canadians to pronounce and benefit his business prospects, he began going by "Mayo".

Soon, Paldi grew to 1,500 people, many speaking a unique dialect of English that reflected the town's broad diversity. Residents later described life there as idyllic. "In those days when the mill was running, there were so many families. It was a wonderful place to be," recounted Dharm Singh PARMA, one of Mayo's relatives. Lum Buck CHEW, a former Chinese resident, remained struck by the community many years later. "Everyone was good to me. The East Indians, the whites and even the Japanese. I never had trouble with anyone while living in Paldi."

By 1919, a *Gurdwara* was built and established in the community and shortly after a school was constructed followed by a company store and post office.

The wooden Gurdwara was later re-built, and has undergone subsequent renovations and updates in the decades since. In 1923 the Japanese community of Paldi built a hall which was used as a Buddhist temple and a community hall where community life was centered. The wooden building was constructed next to the Gurdwara. Several forms of Buddhism were practiced by the Japanese families that used the hall. Meetings, celebrations, and occasionally United Church services also took place within its walls.

Sports events and festivals were part of life in Paldi and a large annual event was the "Jor Mella", a festival of events like soccer, volleyball and kabaddi. The street names reflected the origins of Paldi – *Bishan*, *Jindo* and *Ranjit* Streets and *Kapoor* Road.

India's first Prime Minister, Jawaharlal NEHRU visited Paldi on a trip to British Columbia in November 1949. He was accompanied by his daughter, Indira GANDHI, who later became prime minister. The visit was in part due to Mayo Singh who had a far reaching reputation of making large charitable donations to both Canadian and Indian organizations.

Herb, Ted, and Gordon Singh, sons of Doman Singh, went on to found the *Doman Lumber Company*, which became *Doman Industries*. The company, based in nearby Duncan, continued to grow and operated for decades on Vancouver Island.

PALDI

The Paldi Gurdwara was brought to national attention in 2012, after it was under a court-ordered sale order for developers to build over the former Paldi town site. The construction plans were opposed by the Sikh community who advocated for the temple to be given protected status. In order to protect the site from development, the Paldi Gurdwara was designated a Historic Site by the *Cowichan Valley Regional District* in 2014. In 2016, the government of British Columbia also designated the temple as a site of cultural importance due to the advocacy efforts of former Attorney General, [Wally OPPAL](#).

Some of the first inhabitants of Paldi were Japanese- Canadian labourers who had worked with Singh in Chilliwack. As the community expanded, so too did its ethnic diversity. Men, women and children of Indian, Chinese, Japanese and European descent all worked and lived together peacefully.

During a trip to India in 1927, Mayo married Sardani Bisham KAUR and returned to Canada. The couple and their three children lived in a large family home in Paldi and their home was a favourite spot for many of the community's children. Mayo was the first person in town to own a television, and on weekends neighbourhood children would assemble in his living room to watch programs.

The Mayo lumber mill temporarily shut down from 1931-1933 at the height of the Great Depression. Despite this, its population continued to grow and diversify.



A class at Mayo School in Paldi in 1938, reflecting the diverse make-up of the community. Paldi was home to families of East Indian, Japanese, Chinese, and European descent.- *Cowichan Valley Museum, CCO, via Wikimedia Commons*

In 1936, the village, first known as Mayo, officially became Paldi, an ode to its founder's home.

PALDI

By 1937, 150 single men and 100 families lived in Paldi. In 1945, the mill was closed again due to World War II, and never re-opened. During this period, Paldi also lost its Japanese inhabitants who were living on the west coast as Canadians of Japanese descent were forced out of their homes and sent to internment camps. Only a few families returned [after the war](#). By then, the mill had closed, and many residents had moved away. In 1955, Mayo - who had become a beloved philanthropist known as the "Cowichan Lumber King" - passed away. His mills fell quiet in honour of his death. Soon after, the company built a new operation in Nanaimo, and more Paldi residents trickled out. A few years later, the school closed. Paldi then became a haven for travelling hippies seeking a quiet life in the country. Eventually, it became a ghost town. The Sikh temple remains the last building still standing. In 2019, former residents flew from all over the world to celebrate the temple's 100th anniversary. Paldi left a lasting impression on those who once called it home.

Mayo Singh died in 1955 and the village continued until around 1965.

Today, Paldi is an historic site, and all that remains of the once bustling town center is an old water tower and the Sikh temple. Mayo Singh was remembered as a successful businessman who established two other lumber mills on Vancouver Island in addition to the one in Paldi, but he was also known for his generosity. Mayo made many large donations to schools and hospitals in the Cowichan Valley of Vancouver Island. At a time when jobs for immigrants were hard to come by, he hired workers across all racial backgrounds and acquired a reputation for giving a job to almost anyone who requested one.

This past Canada Day was a special day for Paldi and all the people associated with that once thriving community as the *Paldi Khalsa Diwan Society* held the opening ceremony for the new *Paldi Historical Museum*, which is located on the ground floor of the Paldi Sikh Temple.

Two newspaper articles that I found regarding the opening of the Museum were from:

- (The) Indo-Canadian Voice newspaper, July 8, 2023 edition, Volume 31, Number 27, Page 15 (regarding the opening of the Paldi Historical Museum). www.voiceonline.com
- The Times Colonist newspaper, <https://www.timescolonist.com/life/new-paldi-museum-celebrates-punjabi-sikh-history-7246142>

The story of Paldi village and its pioneering Indian founder remains an important but little known part of Canadian history.

In 1997 Mayo Singh's daughter in-law Joan MAYO wrote and published her book *Paldi Remembered: 50 Years in the Life of a Vancouver Island Logging Town*, which pays tribute to this once thriving multicultural mill town.

PALDI

Joan was also a member of the Cowichan Historical Society and in 2002 received the Queen's Jubilee Medal. In the 1980s Joan wrote the Indo-Canadian column for the now-defunct *Cowichan Leader* newspaper. Two other books written about Paldi are *Welcome to Paldi: A Place for Everyone* by Harman Singh Pandher and *The Making of Little Punjab in Canada, a study of the Sikhs in Paldi.* by Archana B. VERMA.

Joan Mayo had donated a large amount of photos, documents, film and other material to The Cowichan Historical Society and they are known as the Joan Mayo Fonds.

The South Asian Canadian Digital Archive (SACDA) has partnered with The Cowichan Valley Museum and Archives to digitize and describe the Joan Mayo Fonds and Mayo Singh Family Fonds for inclusion in the forthcoming SACDA portal. The two fonds document the town of Paldi, Mayo Singh's family and their companies. The Royal BC Museum also has material, courtesy of the South Asian Canadian Digital Archive.

Because of copyright these two sources have been included for people to access and view the Fonds and learn so much more about Paldi. and what a wonderful place it was and is.

The BC Geographical Names database contains official names and spellings of [towns](#), [mountains](#), [rivers](#), [lakes](#), and other geographic places. The database often has information, such as the history of geographic names and their use in history. It is no wonder that Paldi is included in this database.

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PALDI

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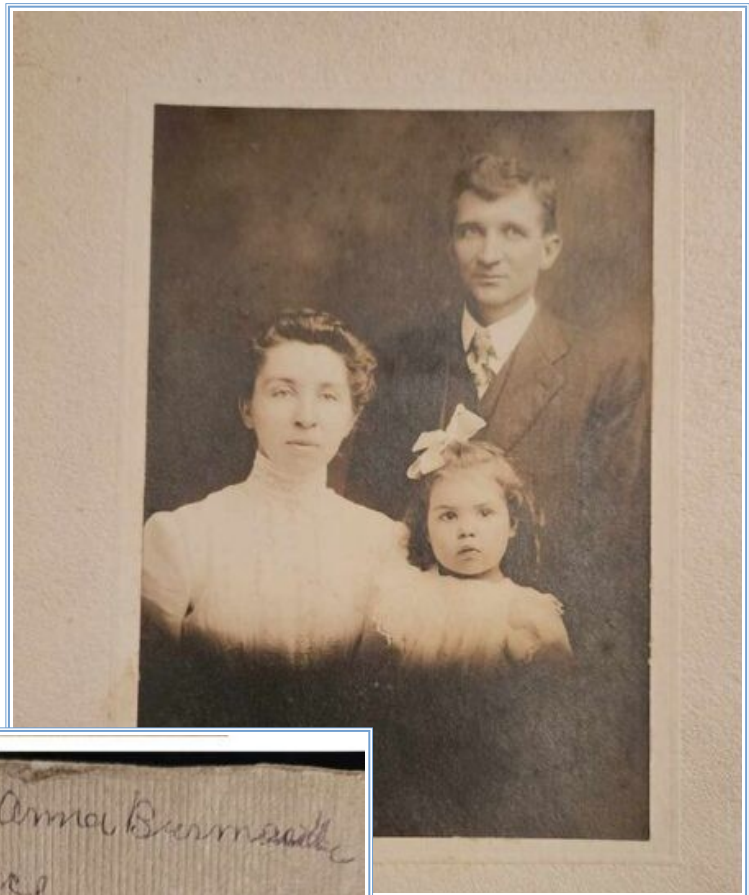
Don't Assume It Is Their Child

Michael John Neill : Genealogical Tip of the Day

I assumed before I flipped the picture over that the child pictured was one belonging to the couple. It was not. The girl in the photograph, Ethel Price, was the niece of John and Anna Burmeister.

Never assume that a child in a photograph is the child of the couple. The relationship might not be exactly what you expect.

Assumptions often get us in trouble in our genealogical research.



Ench John + Aunt Anna Burmeister
& Ethel Price

Reverse of photograph--believed by Michael John Neill to be handwriting of Tena/Trientje (Janssen) Ufkes. Ufkes was John and Anna's niece.

Original in possession of Michael John Neill. Digital image made September 2023.

RESEARCH IN IRELAND

My Irish Roots

By: Brenda Jones
Members #5852

We are Newfie! That's it!

Not the response I expected after discovering my Irish roots! I shouldn't have been surprised by this comment since the only stories I heard growing up was of my mother's family roots in Newfoundland.

My grandparents, and their parents and grandparents, lived in Newfoundland before it joined Confederation in 1949 and became the 10th province in Canada. In the 1920s, they left Newfoundland and immigrated to Canada.

My grandmother told my older sister that "she immigrated because she wanted her children to have better advantages than she did." My sister wrote in her family book that "Grandma brought Newfoundland to us" and grandpa "left Newfoundland, but Newfoundland didn't leave him".

Both of my grandparents spoke a dialect common in Newfoundland where the "h" is not heard in words, enjoyed food commonly served in Newfoundland such as salt cod and corned beef and showed the hospitality that is typical of the culture in Newfoundland.

I never thought about my grandparent's family roots beyond Newfoundland until I began researching my family history a few years ago. A family tree in my mother's Bible and a box of papers my mother had kept were all I found to begin tracing the past generations in my grandparent's family and discovering how they came to settle in Newfoundland before immigrating to Ontario. Although my mother never wrote birth, marriage or death dates in her Bible, the names of my grandparents, as well as their parents and grandparents, that she wrote in the tree, gave me a starting place to discover my Irish roots.

My grandfather's family name appeared to be Spanish decent. A family story told how his name was changed during the time of the Spanish Armada and his ancestors arrived in St. John's, Newfoundland in the 1700s. They had moved to Bona Vista before being the first settlers of Twillingate, Newfoundland.

My grandmother's family name was clearly Irish decent. I knew the "O" was dropped from the beginning of her maiden name when the family came to Newfoundland but I never heard any stories of her family location in Ireland or how they came from Ireland to settle in Newfoundland.

RESEARCH IN IRELAND

I needed to keep looking for clues of how my grandparents life in Newfoundland could connect to family roots in Ireland. I found a Baptism certificate in my mother's box for my grandmother that was from a Methodist church on Fogo Island. This lead me to search for a census record at the same time where I found her family living on Fogo Island and her father's occupation listed as a Cod fisherman.

It seemed possible that my Grandfather's family also lived on Fogo Island from a letter I read in the box that was written to my mother from my great Uncle. He told how my grandfather had purchased land on Fogo Island before he moved to Toronto with my grandmother's brother. The land was eventually used for a burial plot for my grandfather's step mother. I had visited my grandparent's family homes in Twillingate, Newfoundland and their family gravestone located in that area but I had never heard there was a time either or both families had lived on Fogo Island, possibly at the same time, and that they may have known each other before my grandparent's met.

Finding the connection of my grandparent's families to Fogo Island was significant to the theory I developed of my Irish roots. When I searched the history of the settlement on Fogo Island and its Cod Fishing Industry, I found that many Irish left the Port of Waterford, Ireland, for seasonal work in the fisheries and later remained permanently as settlers in Newfoundland.

If my grandfather's family dated back to the Spanish Armada, they could have been on the ships from Waterford, Ireland since many had moved there after being stranded on the coast of Scotland and travelling to England. I found a connection of my grandmother's family to Waterford when I discovered that Irish people wore Tartans based on their geographic location in Ireland and family names were connected to those locations. Since my grandfather was a Cod fisherman on Fogo Island, it was likely that he came on the ships from Waterford, where his family name is located, during the boom in the fishery industry.



My theory was that my grandparent's families lived in the same area of Waterford, Ireland and came together on the ships that sailed to Fogo Island, Newfoundland when many left Ireland to find New Hope in the New World with their fishing and farming skills. I wondered if my grandparents knew this story of the Irish roots in their families but just never talked about it. It could have been that ancestry wasn't discussed in their growing years in the way we talk about it today so it never came up in our conversations.

RESEARCH IN IRELAND

It could have been possible that my grandparents didn't know about their Irish roots or their ancestors journey to settle in Newfoundland.

The hardships their families endured while traveling to the New World and surviving in a rugged place may have consumed their time and energy so they did not talk about their homeland. They may have felt it was best to focus on making a living in the New World rather than to remember what they left behind and to feel any regret.

I had very little evidence and no family stories to support my theory so I resolved that it would be very difficult to prove my Irish roots. After spending so much time searching information about Ireland and the possibility of my Irish roots I was interested to visit the country and learn about the culture I felt was part of my family character and identity.



This summer I went on a 15 day bus tour around the coast of Ireland that began and ended in Dublin, Ireland. I never expected during my visit to find information that would help me connect my grandparents roots in Newfoundland to family in Ireland. So I was very surprised when a chance connection on my tour gave me hope that I could find truth in the theory I had put together of my Irish roots.

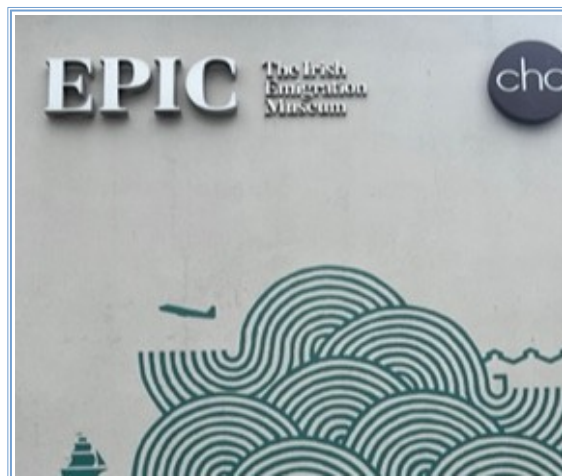
In the last few days of my tour, a 2 hour stop was planned in Waterford, Ireland. One hour for a historical walking tour of the city and one hour for free time. Just before our scheduled visit, I sent an email to the Waterford Heritage Society

to inquire of places I could search during my free hour for any records of my family living in the Waterford area. The woman who replied to my email offered some information for searching my family roots and let me know that she could do a basic search for me. There would be a small fee for her search but she would give me the results when I arrived for my visit in Waterford.

I was interested in the time it would save for me to have a basic search completed but I wasn't sure about sending family information to someone I didn't know. However, through a series of coincidences, I found the woman who offered to do the search was the wife of the local guide who was giving the tour for our bus group and that my bus tour guide knew him well. I felt it was safe to send my grandparents information to this woman. I let her know that I didn't have any dates to give her for births, marriages or deaths but she said she would search for what she could find for me.

RESEARCH IN IRELAND

In the last line of my email I mentioned that I would like to know if my grandfather's family could have been located in Waterford. At the end of the city walking tour of Waterford, the guide took me to a cafe where his wife was waiting to give me her report. The first part of her report gave some background information that would have affected my family's emigration from Ireland and their Methodist association that would have changed from being Irish Catholic when they settled in Newfoundland. Then she reviewed some possible families who could be my grandmother's ancestors.



I recognized the names and the information that was consistent with what I knew from the family tree in my mother's Bible.

Finally she gave me the amazing news that my grandfather's family was located close to my grandmother's family in Waterford, Ireland. She was surprised to find my grandfather's family name in that area as it wasn't a common place for them to be located.

In the report, she gave me only one family name that she felt sure would be my grandfather's ancestor. I couldn't believe it when I looked at the name she had found and saw that it was the first and last name for my great, great grandfather that my mother had written on her family tree.

I have a lot more searching to verify the information I was given in Waterford, Ireland and to make further connections to support the theory I have of my Irish roots but I have some evidence now for the story I never heard from my grandparents.

Even though I was told once again to "Leave it Alone! We come from Twillingate, Newfoundland" when I tried to share the information I found on my tour of Ireland, I won't give up the search that I feel is so important to generations in my family's past who came from Irish ports to settle in Newfoundland for a new hope for their families and immigrated to Canada for a better life for their children.

The life I have known in Canada.



RESEARCH IN IRELAND

Meet Brenda Jones ...



My interests in family roots came from the dedication of my father who told many stories during my growing years of his family and my mother's family. My dad always took us on visits to family and places that were important to our family in summer camping trips across Canada. When my father passed away, his notes on family history and family heirlooms were passed to my older sister who shared his family research interests. A box of all their research and historic artifacts was passed to me when my sister passed away a few years ago. With my experience and training in telling story and my interest in research, I enjoyed looking through all that my father and sister had discovered and finding stories that were told, never told or never known. My passion now is to learn, share and write those stories in honour of those lived them.

Return Flight From New York to Nome Alaska Crashes at Valemount in July 1929

Submitted by G.W. Udell

The year was July 1929 and there was some excitement in Valemount. An American Air Force pilot had crashed in the midst of the village! Captain Hoyt was a test pilot with the American Air Corp and he was on a mission. Captain Roy Hoyt had previously been a pilot on the famous "Question Mark" flight, which sought to establish records for sustained flight. The mission in this case was to accomplish a return flight from New York to Nome Alaska, a distance of approximately 9,000 miles. The objectives were "to connect the United States with a foreign possession by air, and to test the plane, motor and equipment".

The plane was a Curtiss "Hawk" otherwise known as a Curtiss Conqueror, which had a 600 hp engine. In order for the long flight the fuel tank capacity was increased from 100 gallons to 250 gallons. In addition, larger than standard tires were installed. While the engine had completed its ground testing it had not at this time been put through "strenuous testing in actual flight". Captain Hoyt left Michel Field, New York on the 18th of July 1929 at 1:40 p.m. EST. He flew to Minneapolis, then to Edmonton, to Whitehorse, then to Fairbanks and finally into Nome. The flight took approximately 38 hours, included the time breaks.

RETURN FLIGHT



Capt. Roy Hoyt and his plane, July 1929

Courtesy: Valemout Historical Society

Seventeen minutes after landing in Nome Captain Hoyt started his return flight. I am not sure of the reasoning, but he took a different route on return.

“About half way between Prince George and Jasper, the Newlaska engine sputtered. Captain Hoyt looked for a landing field and spotted a clearing within gliding distance below him. The field proved to be of soft sand with mounds two to three feet high. The right wheel struck a mound in landing, throwing the left wing into the ground and damaging the plane.” Well, that field was the clearing close to where the current Valemout library is located. Captain Hoyt reported the problem was caused by moisture in the gasoline.

This flight was a significant flight, to the extent that it was included in the “Aircraft Yearbook for 1930” as one of 18 “History Making Flights of 1929”, as follows:

- 1) Graf Zeppelin Girdles Globe
- 2) Yellow Bird Flies to Spain
- 3) Yancey and Williams Span Atlantic
- 4) Spaniards Fly South Atlantic
- 5) Two Others Span Atlantic
- 6) Trans-Atlantic Attempts
- 7) Moscow to New York Flight

RETURN FLIGHT

- 8) New Speed Record (357.7 m/hr)
- 9) Schneider Cup Race
- 10) Record Altitude Flights (39,144 ft)
- 11) Duration Records (35hrs 33min 22sec)
- 12) Record Distance Records (4,877 miles)
- 13) Hawks Cut Trans-Continental Records (NY to LA in 36hrs 46min 48 3/5 sec).
 - 14) New York to Nome Alaska
 - 15) Southern Cross Flies to England
 - 16) London India Non-Stop Flight
 - 17) Dornier Carries 169 Persons
 - 18) Byrd Flies to South Pole.

My wife's grandparents, Alex and Dora Kushnir, had been living in the area for about 10 years when this happened. So of course they went and had their picture taken in front of the plane. We received the above picture from Mary Lebens, daughter of Alex and Dora (Lukain) Kushnir. There was no information on the back of the picture but we can recognize most of the people in the picture.



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:

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

#211 - 12837 76th Avenue, Surrey, BC
(near 76th Ave. & 128th St.)

Phone 604-502-9119

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.

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.

