



# THE BRITISH COLUMBIA GENEALOGIST



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# BRITISH COLUMBIA GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

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from 10:00 am to 3:00 pm.

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:**

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### **A message from our President...**

By the time you read this issue of our  
journal, Christmas will be right around the  
corner! Are family members still having a  
tough time figuring out a gift for you?

Remind them they  
could give you a  
BCGS membership  
for 2024! Or maybe  
an external hard drive  
so you can back up  
your genealogy files?  
Or some help in  
scanning those  
photos?



And as a gift for family members, perhaps  
give them a story on an ancestor, or  
create a power point presentation that you  
could show them over the Christmas  
holidays.

Over the past couple of weeks, I've been  
reading some of the older magazines we  
have at the BCGS library. While some of  
the technology information might be  
outdated, there are still some excellent  
articles on research or websites that you  
can investigate. An interesting article by  
Dave Obee on a reminder that family  
members might not be buried where there  
is a memorial or headstone. I've run into  
that myself, where the one fellow is  
actually buried in London, England, but  
shows up on a memorial in County  
Kilkenny, Ireland too. Other issues had a  
two-part article on Researching the British  
Army records. So just a reminder – even  
though the magazines might be older,  
there is still a lot of value in articles and  
reading the older editions.

*Continued on page 14 . . .*



## From the Desk of the Editor . . .

In this 2023 Winter edition, we are exploring some new areas in British Columbia, starting with the East Kootenays (a train accident in Valemount), Vancouver (a postcard from Shaughnessy Hospital), the Georgia Strait (Croatian Fishing Fleets) and the Cowichan Valley (a special Veterans' project). Our travelling Genealogist takes us to Ontario and Boston, and we share a special letter from overseas! Our Holten Project reports on two B.C. soldiers and we connect the dots with a newspaper clipping.

This will be an exciting ride, bring your most comfortable chair, and settle in.



Then, as we close this year, I would like to send a big Thank You to the hard working members who contributed to this edition, as well as the Spring, Summer and Fall editions. Their reports and stories help us to understand the past and present times and to appreciate all the advantages that we have.

**Thank You**s go to:

*Barbara Benoit  
Brenda Jones  
Chris Hays  
Eunice Robertson  
Gordon W Udell  
Jan Graf  
Janice Kidwell  
Linda Maitland  
Mary Worth  
Meg McLaughlin  
Marilyn Dance  
Marilyn Ponting  
Sheryl Wilson  
Sue Sullivan  
Susan Snalam  
Harry Snalam*

Best Wishes for a happy Holiday break.  
May interesting treats arrive at your door !

Your Island Editor,  
*Lynne Fletcher*

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## WHISKEY FILL

### Train Accident at Whiskey Fill

Contributed by Gordon Walter Udell  
Member #5905

This is an article about a train wreck that occurred less than 4 miles south of Valemount, I believe in April of 1933. This event generated more than one story in the local community. These stories include whiskey cases still buried in the swamp and piles of whiskey cases stored in the woods.

First a bit about my wife's grandfather, Alexander Kushnir, who was the local section foreman who looked after the wreck. Alex started working at Resplendent BC near Mount Robson for 30 cents per hour in 1920. The pay was good and work was steady so he stayed. He worked for 2 years as a section-man; then he had an opportunity to fix the Road Masters car. He did such a good job he was asked to apply for the position of foreman and was posted to Canoe River for the next 3 years. The Canoe River station was located about 8 miles south of Valemount, which was known as Cranberry Lake at the time. Cranberry Lake was a significant lake located close to the community that was drained by the CNR.



Canoe River Station  
Steam Locomotive approaching

## WHISKEY FILL

In 1925 Alex was transferred to Swift Creek Station, located about 3 miles north of Cranberry Lake. In 1927 Alex was the foreman for the relocation of the Swift Creek CN Station 3 miles south to Cranberry Lake, working along with the Bridge and Building Crew. His son William was born in the upper floor bedroom in December of 1927. The famous local midwife, Minnie Gordon, looked after the birth.

As the local CNR authority, Alex was asked to canvass the town for a new name. Some residents wanted to call the town Burgoyne (after pioneer logger Jim Burgoyne) while the majority of residents and the CNR named it Valemount – Land of the valley of the mountains.

According to his son Bill, as a section foreman in those days, “Alex and his crew of 2 section-men changed 6,000 railroad ties per year (that meant an average of 20-25 ties per day for 6 months of the year.) He was also a foreman on many extra-gangs of 100 men or more. He had excellent eye-sight, and besides being very organized, his strong point on the railroad was lifting and lining tracks. He was ordered by railroad executives to straighten out and upgrade the Grand Trunk Western after US soldiers were killed in a train wreck as US troops were being transported to the Aleutian Islands. Dad retired in 1954 from the railroad with a #9 rank in seniority in the western region – Jasper to Vancouver.”

Now back to the story which I heard directly from Alex while sitting around Ralph and Mary Lebens dining table in Valemount. A train wreck occurred less than 4 miles south of Valemount. The wreck was in a small swamp located just to the north of the rise in the road close to where Irene Rhodes had her restaurant in the 1960s. The rise in the rail at that location is quite significant. Dale Felton, a long-time resident of Valemount, relates that “more than once trains have spun out because of the rails being lubricated by an infestation of caterpillars and had to back up to take another run at the grade.”



*Circa 1926 Alex on a Speeder at Swift Creek, B.C.*

## WHISKEY FILL

The train wreck included a box car loaded with cases of whiskey. Alex and his crew went out to the site to deal with the wreck and get the mainline back up and running. They worked for several days with little food or water. His crew got into the whiskey and Alex was fired by the Road Master. He was out of work for over a year. He was finally reinstated and assigned to the Blue River Yard and then to Chinook Cove Section in 1936. In 1941 he made it back to Valemount, where he had obtained the old Valemount Hotel in 1939. His wife Dora went to Valemount in 1939 to manage the hotel.

Most of the stories say the wreck happened in the 1920s. There are also numerous stories about cases of whiskey being spirited away by the locals.

Then in September of 2023 I obtained a brief memoir hand written by Alex. In that memoir Alex says he was dismissed in April of 1933 and was out of work for over a year. It also states the Road Master told him he was dismissed because of Rule G. That is all it says about train wrecks.

Alex worked for the CNR from 1920 to 1954 and was involved in a lot of train wrecks, a few include:

- ➔ The train wreck at Whiskey Fill;
- ➔ The Train wreck close to Lucerne Lake where the locomotive was pushed over the side and buried in fill;
- ➔ The wreck of Steam Locomotive 5123 in May of 1945, in this picture:



Train Wreck at Mile 20, 7 May 1945



## WHISKEY FILL

- ➔ The train wreck at Canoe, which is still listed (number 7) as one of the worst train wrecks in Canadian history. Seventeen soldiers on route to the Korean War were killed when two trains collided.

In searching CNR Rule G the following came up:

“The use of intoxicants or narcotics by employees subject to duty, or their possession or use while on duty, is prohibited.”

Interesting, I suspect that rule has not changed a lot over the past 100 years, but probably originally only referred to alcohol.

So based on his memoir Alex was dismissed in April of 1933. I doubt that it took much time for the Road Master to decide to dismiss Alex because of the consumption of the whiskey on the job. Therefore the wreck likely occurred in April of 1933 or a bit earlier. As to whether the car load of whiskey was spirited away by the locals was part of those stories I can't remember the details.

The small swamp was thereafter called “Whiskey Fill”.



## GENEALOGY ON THE ROAD

### September on the Road

Submitted by Meg McLaughlan  
Member #3847

When heading out on fact finding missions, I'm usually looking for information about ancestors but lately some of my finds haven't just been about the history of former members of my family, they have brought me to my own past. Not only has it been disconcerting at times, but those finds have awakened memories that had receded over time. Of course, it was not just about me. I found out information about former family members as well.

My September started out with a Family History Writing Retreat in Paris, Ontario. It was great getting to meet up in-person to learn and share our stories. I had thought the retreat would involve more actual writing and honing of our stories. But the sessions were about beefing up our skills through lessons in writing. For a change of pace, at one point we called on our artistic sides to illustrate a story. That brought to mind how much I enjoy drawing. Besides, the teacher had these amazing watercolour brush pens. I knew I needed to get some of those.

At the end of the retreat, my brother, who lives in London, Ontario, picked me up. Besides sightseeing and catching up with my brother and his wife, there was also some time for a little sleuthing into our past. Towards the end of my stay (it always

seems to happen when time is running out), he brought out some old slides and photos that my father had in his collection. There were the usual unidentifiable images, some letters which were open to interpretation as well as photos of faces I hadn't seen in while, or ever, in some cases. And, in the last box of slides, there they were, images of my older brother and I captured as toddlers. A little water has passed under the bridge since then.

There was also water involved in the trip that I took later in September. The plan was to take a cruise to see the autumn colours and to visit historic Boston. We went to Boston first. The city bristled with historic sites, mainly tied to the American War of Independence. I'm always interested in learning more about that conflict since I number a few patriots among my ancestors.



Statue of Paul Revere in Boston, another historic site that was usually mobbed by tourists

## GENEALOGY ON THE ROAD

If the sheer number of tourists were any indication, I wasn't the only one looking to find out more. In one historic graveyard it was hard to take photos because there were so many walking groups crowding around.

Before we were done exploring Boston, it was time to leave on the cruise. The itinerary took in some places that were new to me, like Bar Harbor and Saguenay but also some of my old stomping grounds, Halifax and Charlottetown. In Halifax, a friend drove me around to see all the changes since I had last been there. So I caught a glimpse of the house I used to live in on Prescott Street. The colour had changed and there was a large fence to separate it from the noise of traffic on Robie Street but the bones were still the same. The main sources of heat, when I lived there, were oil stoves. So I think that house has been there for a long time.

That driving tour wasn't the only thing that reminded me of times spent in Halifax. My last trip to the city had been in 2017, when I took part in the Great Canadian Genealogy Summit which was



The house on Prescott Street in Halifax in the '80s

held at the Lord Nelson hotel. The sessions were interesting but the organizers

hadn't laid anything on for attendees who were staying the hotel. One night I drifted down to the bar and came across another attendee. I was reminded of our conversation because of a book that I recently borrowed from the library. My fellow attendee was Barbara Rae-Venter who told me fascinating tales about the DNA investigations she had been involved in. When I look back at my year, it seems that it's not just information about ancestors that I'm finding these days. I'm also coming across traces of footprints of my younger self in a variety of places. I wonder if that will continue to happen as my explorations continue.



Halifax Genealogy Summit Sign

In case you are interested, and the name of Barbara Rae-Venter's book is *I Know Who You Are: How an Amateur DNA Sleuth Unmasked the Golden State Killer and Changed Crime Fighting Forever*.

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.



## POSTCARDS

### Shaughnessy Hospital – Vancouver, B.C.

Submitted by Janice Kidwell  
Member #5033

Shaughnessy Hospital, constructed by the federal government in 1917, had its origins as a Convalescent home for First World War veterans. By 1919 it had increased its capacity for medical services and patient care to become a military hospital. The Shaughnessy Hospital Ladies' Auxiliary and other charitable groups raised funds for equipment and supplies, and organized social events and entertainment.

The Shaughnessy Military Hospital was built in 1940 for the Department of National Defence. In 1941, a new 250-bed main hospital building opened, the first such hospital to be built by the Department of Veterans Affairs. Other facilities and additions were later constructed over the course of the hospital's history.

The hospital was a popular destination for many celebrities, officials, entertainers, and royalty, who often went out of their way to visit patients when in Vancouver. The hospital was the site of a royal visit in 1951 by Princess Elizabeth and Philip, the Duke of Edinburgh. Danny Kaye visited the hospital on November 12, 1952.

#### **Jean Matheson Pavilion, Shaughnessy Hospital**

The Jean Matheson Pavilion, built in 1946, was named for Jean Matheson, the director of nursing for Shaughnessy Military Hospital.

Designed by Mercer & Mercer Architects, in a Streamlined *Moderne* style, it was one of the last surviving examples of mid-twentieth century hospital architecture in Vancouver, featuring a grand symmetrical entranceway with ornate metalwork. It also served many veterans in Vancouver and served as an important point of care for servicemen injured in the line of duty as well as a workplace for nurses, doctors, and other medical professionals.

The building is also a very significant example of reinforced concrete construction, with concrete used as the cladding as well as the structure. Of particular interest are two relief panels - commissioned by *Architects Mercer & Mercer* and made by Nelson, B.C. born artist Beatrice Lennie who studied under Vancouver sculptor Charles Marega - framing the former main entrance of the hospital. The panel to the left of the doors depicts a nurse helping an injured soldier, while the panel to the right of the doors shows a doctor holding a wounded serviceman. The reliefs have been recognized by the Vancouver Heritage Foundation as part of the "Places that Matter" plaque project.

## POSTCARDS

“Into the stone panels for Shaughnessy Hospital went hours of research into details of doctors’ and nurses’ uniforms, crests, crowns and ample leaves, a Latin inscription”, wrote Charles J. Woodworth in The Province in 1940, expressing surprise that the works had been produced by a woman.

“And into them too went strenuous weeks of running up and down ladders and scaffolding carrying tools and heavy buckets of clay to form the figures for final casting in composition stone”.

**To find the Shaughnessy Hospital reliefs**, make your way to Children’s and Women’s Hospital, find the cafeteria and then go out into the courtyard. On your right and up one level will be the original main entrance. Make your way up the stairs and you will see the panels on either side of the doors at the top.

In 1974, the hospital was sold to the province of British Columbia for \$1. On February 15, 1993, the provincial government announced the closure of Shaughnessy Hospital, after which the buildings were integrated into the Oak Street campus of BC Children’s Hospital and BC Women’s Hospital & Health Centre, run by the Provincial Health Services Authority. Following the closure the Salvation Army withdrew administration in 1994 and the facility was renamed BC Women's Hospital & Health Centre.

Many people and groups were against the Shaughnessy Hospital being demolished. Below is an example of the movement in saving this treasured hospital.

### **Heritage Vancouver’s Position**

Shaughnessy Hospital should not be demolished.

Heritage Vancouver encouraged the Provincial Health Services Authority and the City of Vancouver to investigate the significant value of retaining the Shaughnessy Hospital building, an important and singular piece of Vancouver’s 20th century history, before finalizing the master plan for redeveloping the site.

It has an important place in Vancouver’s history and in the memory of many Canadians. Its preservation would highlight and honour the significant contributions of countless veterans involved in Canadian military operations. Retaining this historic building would also serve as an important reminder of the significant changes in health and social services that have taken place in BC during the 20th century.

In 2013, two wings of the Shaughnessy Hospital were demolished to make way for a new Acute Care Centre. Four heritage elements associated with the building – the former main entrance, columns, bronze grill and two Beatrice Lennie reliefs – were retained, although they no longer feature prominently as the hospital’s entryway. (See above for further information on the two panels).

## POSTCARDS

For over 75 years, Vancouver's Shaughnessy Hospital served veterans and civilians of British Columbia, providing medical care and rehabilitation services, and becoming a research and teaching centre. *Library and Archives Canada's* photos and other records of the hospital document this evolving role, with images including patient care and rehabilitation, buildings and equipment, and staff and volunteers.

Shaughnessy Hospital maintained its own photographic department, which allowed them to capture images of daily life and events at Shaughnessy including images of staff, therapy techniques, tools and technology for the disabled and patient recreation programs.



The postcard title is: Lounge – Red Cross Lounge, Shaughnessy Hospital, Vancouver, B. C.

The postcard was made by the Gowen Sutton Co., Vancouver, B.C.

It is addressed to Mrs. D.A. Gerow in New Westminster, B.C. and is postmarked Vancouver Hollyburn, B.C. In the middle of the postmark stamp it states:  
AM NO 3 47.

The postage stamp is of King George V1.\*AM NO 3 47. I believe this means that the postcard was picked up and processed in the morning of November 3, 1947.



## POSTCARDS

### Sources

- Gary Sim. "[Miss Edith Beatrice Catharine Lennie](#)" *British Columbia Artists*.
- Vancouver Art Gallery. "[Beatrice Lennie](#)."
- Heritage Vancouver. "[Shaughnessy Hospital](#)." *Top10 Watch List*, 2009.
- Nina Rumen. "[Vancouver's Monuments To Nurses](#)."
- Charles J. Woodsworth. "Symbolic Figures To Grace New Hospital" and "Woman shapes beauty in stone," *The Province*. Dec. 21, 1940, p. 20.
- <https://placethatmatter.ca/location/shaughnessy-hospital-lennie-reliefs/>
- <https://thediscoverblog.com/2015/12/21/shaughnessy-hospital-dedication-and-innovation-in-war-and-peace/>
- <https://www.google.com/search?q=Shaughnessy+Veterans+Hospital++Vancouver&ie=utf-8&oe=utf-8&client=firefox-b>

### On the Cover . . .



From the Chemainus Valley Courier, of November 9, 2023

### Veterans' Remembrance cross placements made at Westholme

Cadets Hannah Tiemer, Samantha Kostamo, Emma McClean (back) Coordinator Mike Bieling and Harmany Crossman and John Hayhurst (front) at the gravesite of Gerald Robert Poole to place a Remembrance cross.

*Photo taken by Dob Blodger, and reproduced with his permission.*

The story behind this Vancouver Island tradition can be found on page 33.

### A message from our President... *continued*

You never can tell if 'something' will help you break down a brickwall.

The year 2023 has been a busy one for BCGS. I'd like to thank all our many volunteers for their contribution in keeping our Society running.

On behalf of the Board of Directors, we wish our members and their families a Very Merry Christmas and a Happy (Genealogically Successful) New Year!

**Eunice Robinson**  
President, BCGS

## HOLTEN PROJECT

PTE. JOHN BRANSCOMB  
March 23, 1913 – April 23, 1945

Submitted by Janice Kidwell  
Member # 5033

Pte. John Branscomb, son of Guy Anderson and Mary Lenora "Nora" (Whitsell) Branscomb was born March 23, 1913 in Vancouver, B.C. This was a large family – a total of 13 children. Pte. Branscomb was 14 years old when his father died.

The June 1921 census shows the family living in the Lynn Creek Village, Lynn Valley in the District of North Vancouver. Later censuses list the family members at different addresses but still in North Vancouver.

John attended school - up to Grade 8 - in Princeton, B.C.

Pte. Branscomb's Attestation Papers were signed April 27th, 1944. He had enlisted at the Central Station, No. 11, District Depot, Canadian Army in Vancouver. His Attestation Papers indicated that John's Trade was as a welder at North Burrard Drydocks, North Vancouver (4 years). Another position was as a warehouseman/welder at Mac + Mac's. John's religion was listed as the United Church.

Pte. Branscomb had previously served as a Private with the RCOC (R), Regiment #K543289 from January 1943 - April 28, 1944. He was now serving with the Canadian Scottish Regiment (R.C.I.C.). John's Service number was K/3180

Pte. Branscomb had the traditional medical exams and vaccines.

On May 16, 1944 Pte. Branscomb left for training at Cornwall, Ontario. From August 12 – August 27 1944, Pte. Branscomb went for training at Camp Borden in Ontario.

Pte. Branscomb embarked in Canada on December 18, 1944 and disembarked in the United Kingdom on December 25, 1944. The following day – December 26 - he reported for duty.

John embarked in the United Kingdom on March 17, 1945; disembarked in North West Europe March 18, 1945 and was unfortunately Killed In Action April 23, 1945

Pte. Branscomb had an initial temporary burial spot but on June 19, 1946, Pte. Branscomb's mother received a letter advising that her son's remains had been carefully transported to Holten Canadian War Cemetery. The grave reference is Grave VI. D.11. Pte. Branscomb's mother received a follow-up letter dated February 12, 1949 which included a photo of her late son's Holten gravesite and temporary marker. A map was enclosed to show the location and a message that her son's burial site would receive care and maintenance in perpetuity.

## HOLTEN PROJECT

There were two small listings of Pte. Branscomb's death in The Vancouver Sun – "20 Dead Among 96 Casualties From Coast in Latest Release". This article is dated 14 MAY 1945 and on Page 7. In The Province and on page 9, the wording is the same. The wording for both read "Pte. Branscomb, son of Mrs. Lenora Branscomb, 69 Lonsdale, North Vancouver".

Pte. Branscomb's Length of Service was:

- Western Hemisphere: 236 days
- Overseas: 126 days for a total of 362 days.
- Service: Canada: April 27, 1944 – December 18, 1944;  
UK: December 19, 1944 – March 17, 1945;  
NW Europe: March 18, 1945 – April 23, 1945.

Medals received: 1939-45 STAR,  
France-Germany STAR,  
War Medal,  
Canadian Volunteer Service medal  
with clasp.  
Defence Medal – NW Europe.





## HOLTEN PROJECT



title and “DEAS GU CATH” – “Ready for the Fray” is the motto of the regiment.

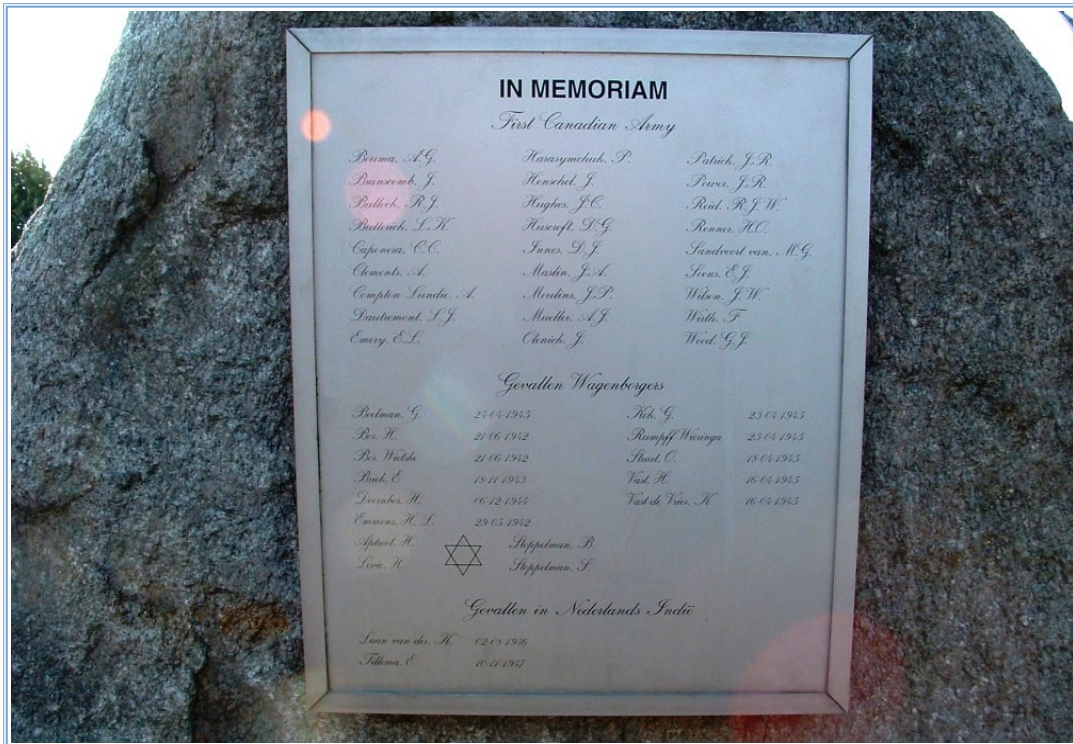
Pte. Branscomb is commemorated on page 498 of the Second World War Book of Remembrance. This page is displayed in the Memorial Chamber of the Peace Tower in Ottawa on October 23.

Pte. Branscomb is also remembered at the Scotland National War Memorial Index, 1914-1945.

Gravestone Inscription:  
K 3180 PRIVATE  
J. BRANSCOMB  
CANADIAN SCOTTISH REGIMENT  
23rd APRIL 1945



## HOLTEN PROJECT



Memorial plaque at Wagenborgers, Netherlands.

### Sources:

- 1921 Census – British Columbia
- B.C. Archives
- Ancestry.com
- Canadian Virtual War Memorial website
- <https://www.newspapers.com/>
- Scotland, National War Memorial Index, 1914-1945 (<https://.snwm.org/Roll-Search/>)
- <https://www.tracesofwar.com/sights/24193/War-Memorial-Wagenborgers.htm>

### Any One Source

Relying on just one source for a fact can be problematic. Any one source can be incorrect. One has to consider how reliable that source probably is and how knowledgeable the likely informant was. Sometimes those two things can be difficult to determine.

While more than one source for the same fact is ideal, it's not always possible to get multiple sources—particularly independent ones. But don't find one source and immediately think you've answered the question. You might have.

But you might not have either.

*michaeljohnneill*



# FISHING IN B.C.

## History of British Columbia Fishing Fleets

Contributed by Eunice Robertson  
Member #112

THE VANCOUVER SUN—Vancouver's Own Newspaper—SATURDAY, MAY 7, 1938 SECTION 4 PAGE 3

### Croatians Large Factor In B.C. Fishing Industry

#### 15 Licenses To Fish, Origin of Big Community

Hardy Men From Shores of Adriatic Had Many Obstacles to Overcome on Arrival Here

In these days when fishing licenses and their holders are the subject of much public interest and political discussion here and in the national capital, it is entirely apropos to turn the spotlight on a section of British Columbia's fishing community that very infrequently finds itself in the news.

Hard working, law-abiding and progressive and with a fine sense of their privileges, responsibilities and obligations as British subjects and citizens of Canada, there is in Vancouver a community the existence of which is at once attributable to the law governing the issuance of fish-

**Flying School Planning New Port Building**

Brisbane Aviation Co. Will

Hardy Craft Manned By Hardy Crews



would be invaluable.

#### VALUABLE FLEET

The ships of the fishing fleet and their owners are as follows: **Adriatic Star**, valued at \$33,000 and owned by Walter Car; **Anthony I**, valued at \$10,000, owned by Sam Jakšic; **Bacalhao**, valued at \$40,000, owned by Tom Fiamengo; **Bernie L.**, valued at \$12,000, owned by Frank Cvitanovic; **B.C. Kid**, valued at \$7,000, owned by Andro Martinolic; **Chief Y.**, valued at \$11,000, owned by Anton Stanic; **Daisy B.**, valued at \$7,000, owned by A. Martinolic; **Dalmatia**, valued at \$8,000, owned by Joe Borovic; **Easton**, valued at \$14,000, owned by Miko Lovric; **East**, valued at \$12,000, owned by John V. Percic; **East Bay I**, valued at \$11,000, owned by Miko Lovric; **East Bay II**, valued at \$13,000, owned by John Stefic; **Good Partners**, valued at \$13,000, owned by John V. Percic; **John V.**, valued at \$7,000, owned by Louis Percic; **Louis Percic**, valued at \$6,000, owned by John V. Percic; **Jessy Island II**, valued at \$9,000, owned by George K. Katnic; **Ryuo**, valued at \$20,000, owned by John V. Percic; **New Liverpool**, valued at \$10,000, owned by John V. Percic; **Rizana III**, valued at \$17,000, owned by Slavko Car; **Slavko Car**, valued at \$17,000, owned by Slavko Car; **Sun**, valued at \$11,000, owned by Slavko Car; **Sea**, valued at \$28,000, owned by Slavko Car; **West View**, valued at \$10,000, owned by Joe Borovic; **Joe Borovic**, valued at \$10,000, owned by Mike Katnic; **Mike Katnic**, valued at \$10,000, owned by Mike Katnic; **Mike Katnic**, valued at \$10,000, owned by Mike Katnic.

### Big Community

#### Hardy Men From Shores of Adriatic Had Many Obstacles to Overcome on Arrival Here

In these days when fishing licenses and their holders are the subject of much public interest and political discussion here and in the national capital, it is entirely apropos to turn the spotlight on a section of British Columbia's fishing community that very infrequently finds itself in the news.

Hard working, law-abiding and progressive and with a fine sense of their privileges, responsibilities and obligations as British subjects and citizens of Canada, there is in Vancouver a community the existence of which is at once attributable to the law governing the

**Flying School Planning New Port Building**

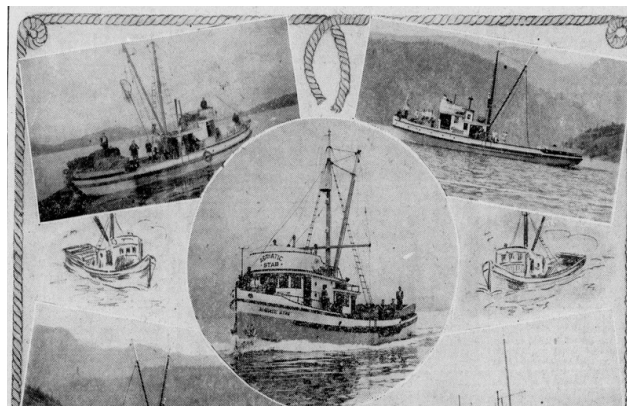
Brisbane Aviation Co. Will



## FISHING IN B.C.

### Listing of the Ships in the Valuable Fleet:

Adriatic Star	\$33,000.00	Walter Car
Anthony I	\$10,000.00	Sam Jaksic
Bacalhao	\$40,000.00	Tom Flamengo
Bernice L.	\$12,000.00	Frank Cvitanovic
B.C. Kid	\$7,000.00	Andro Martinolic
Chief Y.	\$11,000.00	Anton Stanic
Daisy B	\$7,000.00	A. Martinolic
Dalmatia	\$8,000.00	Joe Borojevic
Estep	\$14,000.00	Niko Lovric
Easy Point	\$12,000.00	Mike Martinolic
East Bay I	\$9,000.00	Miko Grskovic
Estep II	\$22,000.00	John Stefic
Exilda	\$13,000.00	Nick Jurincic
Good Partners	\$33,000.00	John Radil
Izumi IV	\$7,000.00	Louis Percic
Izumi	\$6,000.00	Marko Zuic
Jessy Island II	\$7,000.00	George Vukic
Martha K	\$9,000.00	Ivan Katnic
Ryuo II	\$20,000.00	Alfonso Veljacic
New Liverpool	\$11,000.00	Martin Car
Suzanna III	\$12,000.00	Slavko Car
Neptune I	\$17,000.00	Anton Anzulovic
Sunrise Maid	\$11,000.00	Anton Serka
Sea Ranger	\$28,000.00	Martin Stojcic
West View	\$12,000.00	Joe Katnic
Talamasso	\$12,000.00	Mike Katnic
Norma N	\$10,000.00	Tom Nikolie



## HOLTEN PROJECT

PTE. ROY JAMES SIM

November 29, 1924 to April 10, 1945

Submitted by Janice Kidwell,  
Member # 5033

Pte. Roy James Sim, the son of Marion James and Edith Mary (Kendrick) Sim was born November 29, 1924 in Vancouver, B.C., Canada. Pte. Sim had one brother – Walter Albert Sim - who served with the RCAF and did return home after the war.

Roy attended Sir Guy Carlton Elementary School and John Oliver High School - to Grade 13 for Junior Matriculation. Everyone liked Roy; he was an easy-going, nice guy. (See additional information regarding Roy's time at John Oliver High School).

Roy was a member of the Baptist Church.

Roy's Attestation papers were signed on February 7, 1944 in Vancouver at the Central Station No. XI District Recruiting Depot. He served with the Canadian Scottish Regiment, R.C.I.C. His Registration number was K2152. Previous service: reported for N.R.M.A. Service, February 7, 1944. Regmt #: K98923.

Roy's Attestation Papers indicated that he had been a truck driver for Ryan's Carriers (8 months) and as a Foundry Hand and Electrician's Helper in Sheet Metal work (3 years).



In late February 1944 Roy was posted to A.3 CATC in Shilo, Manitoba. He had basic training including small arms range courses. In May 1944 Private Sim was authorized to wear a Marksman Crossed Rifles Badge.

Pte. Sim embarked Canada July 12, 1944 and left July 13, 1944. He disembarked in the U.K. on July 19, 1944. On October 16, 1944 he embarked in the U.K. and on October 17, 1944 he disembarked in Belgium.

On April 10, 1945, within days of the end of the war, Pte. Sim was Killed In Action in the Western European Theatre of War (Holland). Pte. Sim was in the D Convoy during the battle of Deventer. Pte. Sim's temporary burial took place at the Canadian Military Cemetery near Deventer. A letter dated April 27, 1945 was sent to Pte. Sim's father advising him of his son's death.

## HOLTEN PROJECT

Services will be held at Collingwood Baptist Church at Joyce Road, two blocks north of Collingwood East tram station, Sunday, April 29, 1945, at 7:30 p.m., in loving memory of Private **Roy F. Sim**, son of Mr. and Mrs. M. J. **Sim**, 3518 Price St., Vancouver, B.C., and brother of **Walter Sim**, on active service. Services will be conducted by Rev. G. H. Harber, assisted by Rev. G. H. Findlay.



KILLED IN ACTION—Pte. Roy James Sim, 20, son of Mr. and Mrs. M. J. Sim, 3518 Price, was killed on April 10 in action with the 1st. Canadian Scottish in Holland. He enlisted in February, 1944, and went to the front last September. Born in Vancouver, he attended Carleton and John Oliver High schools. A brother, LAC. Walter Sim, is serving with the R.C.A.F. overseas.

### Pte. **Roy James Sim** Among Slain in Holland

Pte. **Roy James Sim**, 20, son of Mr. and Mrs. M. J. **Sim**, 3518 Price, was killed in action on



April 10 while serving with the Canadian Scottish Regiment in Holland, according to word received by his parents.

Pte. **Sim** joined the army in February, 1944.

He went overseas in September and has been in action practically ever since.

On December 17, 1945 Pte. Sim's remains were carefully and respectfully reburied at Holten Canadian War Cemetery. On July 4, 1946 Private Sim's father received a letter advising that his son's permanent burial had taken place at Holten Canadian War Cemetery, The Netherlands. The Grave Reference is: 1.B.3.

Pte. Sim's total days of service were:

429: Western Hemisphere: 157, Overseas: 272.

Canada: February 7, 1944 to July 12, 1944;

U.K.: July 13, 1944 to October 16, 1944;

N.W. Europe: October 17, 1944 to April 10, 1945



## HOLTEN PROJECT

Pte. Sim received the following Medals: 1939-45 STAR, France - Germany STAR, War Medal, CVSM with Clasp (Canadian Volunteer Service Medal) and the Defence Medal. Roy's mother received all her son's medals as well as the Memorial Cross.



Pte Sim is commemorated on page 564 of the Second World War Book of Remembrance. This page is displayed in the Memorial Chamber of the Peace Tower in Ottawa on November 25.

Wording on Pte. Roy James Sim's Gravestone:

K2152 Private  
R.J. Sim  
Canadian Scottish Regiment, R.C.I.C.  
10th April 1945

EVERY DAY SWEET MEMORIES  
MOM, DAD, WALT "MR"  
PRICE STREET  
VANCOUVER, B.C., CANADA



## HOLTEN PROJECT

### John Oliver High School

There were a number of students who had attended John Oliver High School, went to war and did not return. As you enter the school there is a beautiful Roll of Honour on the wall.



There had been correspondence received from some ex-students who were serving during WW11, only to receive news a short time later that these young men had been killed. One of those letters was from Pte. Roy James Sim who wanted to order a yearbook. This letter was received a few days before “the news of his death reached us”. This information was in the school newspaper “The Pep Master”, June 1945.

One of Roy’s John Oliver classmates remembers his friend: “

*Roy Sim lived up on Joyce Road on Price Street just a few blocks from me. He accepted his draft notice and went into the army. Everybody liked Roy. He was an easy-going guy. We had lots of fun. We used to go to Boundary Bay in a car, an old Nash that he and his dad revamped. We’d play hooky from John Oliver and go down there and sneak some beer. (Boundary Bay was the place to go for kids in those days). Unfortunately Roy got shell-shocked and got killed overseas”.*

(From: *The Story of South Vancouver and John Oliver High School* – page 491).

## HOLTEN PROJECT

### Sources:

- Ancestry.com – Military file and other links
- B.C. Archives – BMD
- Canadian Virtual War Memorial
- Find A Grave
- Google
- Newspapers.com
- John Oliver High School including a book on the school entitled ***The Story of South Vancouver and John Oliver High School*** by **Ken MacLeod**. This very large book is dedicated to JFE Palmer, Principal of South Vancouver/John Oliver High School, 1912-1945, who built the school into one of the most prominent high schools in British Columbia. This remarkable book is also dedicated to the memory of those 106 John Oliver High School students who gave their lives for freedom in the Second World War. One of those men was **Pte. Roy James Sim**.
- **Edie Kernighan** who is the sister of the late Ken MacLeod – author of the above book – as well as a member of the **JO Legacy Society** (<https://jolegacy.ca/>). This Society is very active and is the group who put together the Legacy window – In Remembrance – at John Oliver High School. Edie also e-mailed me a photo of what was the John Oliver High School Crest during the 1940s.

### The Uncles and Aunts With No Descendants

Sometimes it can be easy to overlook those relatives who left no descendants of their own. They also have their stories to tell and those stories are just as important as those of relatives who left families of their own.

A 1908 horse accident left Mary Trautvetter with her legs broken in three places, a broken arm, and other injuries. Her sister, Anna, was injured as well—but not as severely.

It's possible that the injuries from the accident impacted Mary for the rest of her life.

Mary never married. Her sister Anna (Trautvetter) McMahon died in the 1920s and Mary raised Anna's daughter who was left orphaned by the death of both her parents. Mary died in 1962 and is buried in the Lutheran Cemetery in Warsaw, Hancock County, Illinois.

*michaeljohnneill*



## MYSTERY SCHOOLS

### THE CASE OF THE CLASS SCHOOL PHOTOS - WHAT SCHOOL WAS IT?

Submitted by Janice Kidwell

Member #5033

In March of this year I attended a wonderful 2-part "Writing Your Memoirs" workshop at the Cloverdale Public Library. It was presented by BCGS member Sharon Syrette.

When Sharon found out I was a BCGS member she asked if I could take a large box of items she had in her vehicle that were to be donated to the BCGS Library.

While sorting through and listing the items in this great donation (school photos, school annuals, magazines, booklets, B.C. Maps, postcards, historic photos, some in black and white and matted), I noticed some black and white elementary school photos along with a coloured class photo. Two had the traditional board naming the school, grade and year and two did not. The two that did not were from 1958 and 1959. The 1959 photo had more children in it but a number of the same children were in both photos – Grade 3 and Grade 4.

The two black and white photos mentioned above were taken by well-known photographer **Roy Houghton** who took many photos especially in the North Surrey area.

I visited the Surrey Archives and showed the two photos to the volunteer. She took pictures of them so further research could be done at the Archives. I did hear back shortly after and learned that although Mr. Houghton's family had donated his Fonds to the Archives the two I presented were not amongst them.

From looking at the background of the two photos, three Surrey elementary schools were suggested as possible sites. I did online research and visited one of the schools and had a great conversation with the principal. Although this particular school had similar outdoor backgrounds to the May 1959 school photo, the principal did not think it was the same school and it turned out that she was correct.

Further research was carried out by contacting the Surrey School Board Office, Surrey Retired Teachers' Association (SRTA), Surrey Historical Society, Delta Archives, Surrey Archives, B.C. Archives, Ancestry.com and two Facebook Groups – I Grew up in Surrey and lived to tell about it and We Grew Up in Surrey, so I remember. Both groups were very happy to see my post and the story behind it, gave suggestions and cheered me on.

The big break was when I came across an on-line site where people could add to an existing post and there was one of attending schools in Delta. And there it was – a different class photo - but with the same teacher as in the Grade 3, 1958 photo. The posting gave the teacher's last name enabling me to do further research.

## MYSTERY SCHOOLS

He was also the principal at that time. The article mentioned that the Strawberry Hill elementary school had been so full that some children attended **Heath Elementary School – in North Delta**. The next day my husband and I drove there and after seeing the semi-cleared forest area knew that the Grade 4 photo could have been taken there. And - after walking around the school - we knew this was the correct school as the chimney in the photo is still there!



I would like to thank the following for helping out, in different ways, so this elementary school could be identified.

- Delta Archives (Kevin) – who gave me the initials and last names of the two Heath teachers for 1959 and 1966-67 and the initials for the teacher for 1958. Note: the 1966-67 Heath School photo is not included in this article as all the information is known. And Delta Archives now have three more photos for their collection.
- Surrey Archives – Stacey Gilkinson – and the volunteer who was on duty the day I visited and took photos of the two black and white photos. Stacey and I kept in touch with updates along the way.



## MYSTERY SCHOOLS

- The Surrey and North Delta elementary school Principals
- The two Facebook Groups
- The former student who posted the old photo that identified the Grade 3 principal
- And of course Sharon Syrette for her donation to the BCGS



### Trying to Solve a Puzzle? Hit a Brickwall ?

Lori from *Genealogy At Heart* has some "out-of-the-box" ideas to help:

Try looking into these areas -

- ◆ Fraternal Organizations that your subject belonged to
- ◆ Medical Records for next of kin or street addresses
- ◆ Employment Records will have personal details
- ◆ Church Records for the local area
- ◆ Military Buddies who may have served with your subject
- ◆ Pension records
- ◆ Look for Alias – inconsistencies in the records that you find
- ◆ Foreign Records, such as immigration and naturalization records



## LETTER

### Letter from Douglas Campbell Tuck to Marion Martin, from the front lines in Belgium on November 11, 1918

Submitted by Linda Maitland  
Member #4334

Captain Douglas Campbell Tuck was born in Dalhousie, N.B in 1878 and came to B.C. as a young lad. He was serving with the 104th Westminster Fusiliers of Canada, and had previously belonged to other militia regiments over a 20 year period when he attested on May 20, 1916 as Captain in the 131st Battalion, CEF. He was 38 years old and a student-at-law. He trained at Camp Vernon where he met and married Marion Martin on October 7, 1916 in Vernon.

He left for Halifax on October 24, 1916 and son Douglas was born in July 1917. In September 1917, he was transferred to the 29th Battalion (Tobin's Tigers) for the



duration and served 14 months in Belgium. He was demobilized and returned home in April 1919.

Post war, he earned his law degree and practiced in Vernon and Vancouver. Douglas died in Vancouver in 1949 at the age of 70 and is buried in Mountain View Cemetery.



The following is the letter he wrote home to his wife (pet name Honey Bunch) from the front lines on November 11, 1918. It was in the possession of his son, Douglas Stuart Tuck.

## LETTER

Belgium

11 November 18

My own darling Bunch,

This has been a wonderful day and will always be marked with a red letter in the calendar of my life, for this morning, while on the line of march, we got the welcome news that hostilities would cease at 11 a.m., an armistice having been agreed to. We had arrived at a small village where some artillery were billeted and received the news from them to whom it had just come on the wire. We wouldn't believe it at first but our Adjutant (Daniel) verified its accuracy in the battery Orderly Room and found it to be official.

Can you imagine our feelings, darling? I certainly can't describe mine. I can't yet realize what it may mean. Of course it is merely an armistice but Germany certainly never would have accepted our drastic terms unless she were "down and out" and unable to continue the war. From what we hear and read, the internal condition of the country is very serious (for the Hun) and disorders of a very grave nature have broken out all over Germany. Under these circumstances, I hardly think the war can be resumed by her, and we can look forward to returning to our loved ones and good old Canada when the peace terms are finally settled and the awful business wound up.

It seems too good to be true, darling, and my mind to-night is a chain of thoughts, plans, and hopes and all of them have your darling self, with wee Douglas as a pendant, for their centre. What wild scenes there will be throughout Canada to-day and what joy in the homes of those who have fathers, husbands, brothers and sons at the front! You must be thinking much of me at this moment, darling, for you seem particularly close to me, and all my thoughts are surely of you.

I'm afraid it will be a dreary wait till they send us home again, but each day will bring you closer, my Bunch, and one will have the relief of knowing that a more or less definite limit to the period of our absence can be fixed. Should we have to follow up the evacuating Boche, it will at least be interesting, and much better than doing nothing in a permanent camp. But I certainly would like to be travelling fast in the opposite direction - a speedy car to an Atlantic port, a fast cruise to Halifax and a special train across the continent, for preference.

We have been marching every day since my last letter but one and have had some most interesting experiences. Everywhere we have been acclaimed by the inhabitants - who seem to think the Canadians have done the whole thing!

The people are still somewhat dazed at the sudden and dramatic change from a condition of virtual slavery, and the tales they tell us make my blood boil. The people we have been billeted upon at night have been kindness itself and can't do enough for us.

## LETTER

We have had our hosts dine with us each evening and given them lots to eat for once - though to do so we had to go short ourselves. They are amazed at the difference accorded to them by Hun officers and ourselves, and continually remark upon it. The Boche officer - to say the least of him - was certainly not a gentleman.

As we passed through village after village the people cheered and rushed out to shake our hands, danced (particularly the old women) to the music of our pipes and brought us out coffee and milk at every halt. They also presented us with Belgian flags and favours of the National Colours as well as flowers. Like most of the people of this country they had no hesitation in asking for souvenirs and consequently the troops are minus most of their badges - particularly the Canada ones. Altogether it has been a wonderful time - particularly to-day, for to-night we expected to have to go into action, and now everything is quiet and peaceful as if there never had been a war.

The Hun only got out of this town this morning, so we were close on his heels. The people were ordered to remain in the cellars for three days on pain of shooting and were much astonished when our people appeared in the streets this morning. Most of them hardly realize what has happened yet, and it is quite pathetic to watch the realization sinking in.

I have a comfortable bed in a clean room while our company mess is in a better class house where formerly the "Orts Kommandantur" or German Town Major, had his H. Q. The people are kindness itself but are on short commons themselves. To their regret the Boche took away all wines etc. that he couldn't drink on the spot so they can't really celebrate.

I feel sorry for the wounded and sick who are in Blighty and haven't had our amazing experience of the last few weeks as some small compensation for the hard times they have had in the past. For these days do make up to some extent for the muddy trenches of last winter and the dark days of last spring when we thought we had our backs to the wall. As for Steve Knight, Ward, and chaps like that - well. Let us be mercifully silent. Thank God I've been a front-line soldier for fourteen months anyhow.

Please forgive an incoherent letter, dear. Everyone is excited to-night - as well they be. To-day has been a day which can never occur again in our time, and the journey of the last few days one to remember for the rest of our lives.

My warmest love and kisses for our little son. Love to Mother Martin.  
Regards to your Dad and Stuart.  
Oceans of love for your own dear self.

Your own husband,  
Douglas



## REMEMBERING OUR VETERANS

### Cowichan Valley Veterans' Burial Project 'Lest We Forget Where They Lie'

Submitted by Mike Bieling  
and Lynne Fletcher  
Member #5353

At the end of each October, at cemeteries in North and South Cowichan, volunteers set out to place veterans' remembrance crosses on the graves of veterans buried in local cemeteries.

The groups of volunteers come from parishes, from Legions and from Facebook to find the graves of veterans at each location, and to plan special services. They will place a small white cross decorated with a sprig of cedar and a lapel poppy at each grave. This placement is followed up with a salute by uniformed cadets or by veterans, and in some cemeteries often music from bagpipes, or a bugler or a recording of the Last Post.



The cross placements began some 70 years ago, around 1955 when the Legion Section of the new municipal Mountain View Cemetery was set aside there. Lately it has grown to include 11 cemeteries throughout the Cowichan Valley on Vancouver Island. The Veterans' Burials Project, which was intended to document the practice with fairly simple lists of names and grave locations, and to spread the cross placement idea to other cemeteries, began about 20 years ago.

Mike Bieling coordinates it, and with the help of his wife Sherry he has gathered names of veterans.

Mike remembers these white cross services at the local All Saints Anglican Churchyard in Westholme, with volunteers placing the crosses, and salutes by cadets. The services were followed by sandwiches and a picnic for all attendees. To date, 57 veterans have been identified at the Westholme site.

Over the years, Mike has researched the local burials of veterans going back as far as the Crimean War, British campaigns all over the Empire, the Northwest Resistance, and the South African Wars, as well as the World Wars, Korea, Canada's peacekeeping years, and Afghanistan. He's included police from all forces, from city to federal, as veterans, but have made a special effort to find those from the RCMP and its predecessor forces, who are considered actual military veterans.

## REMEMBERING OUR VETERANS

The Polish Resistance is actually remembered in a husband and wife pair at Mountain View, while the Dutch Resistance is represented by another couple now resting at All Saints'. Young civilians all, as far as he knows, and all the braver for that, they'd have got none of the consideration from the Nazis that uniformed soldiers would.

Most of these veterans served in the forces, but they're the ones who came back to live out their lives here, unlike the fallen who are the focus of the cenotaph observations. There are also six or eight War Dead interred across the Valley, who were serving during the WW 1 and WW 2 years but happened to die here at home. Several were skilled loggers who were sent back into the woods where they were needed more, but were still considered to be serving in their units, and died in logging accidents.

Concerned about the loss of these veterans names, Mike is developing a spreadsheet to record their details, and has about 1,600 names to date. He has been heard to say, "This is a project that's never going to end." He asks that you contact him at 250-748-5031 or [oldcemeterian@shaw.ca](mailto:oldcemeterian@shaw.ca).



St. Michael's and All Angels Cemetery, Chemainus B.C.

## REMEMBERING OUR VETERANS

### Locations for Veterans' Remembrance Cross Services

#### South Cowichan:

*Volunteers from the Mill Bay/Malahat Historical Society, the CS Area Association and parish volunteers place crosses at:*

St. Andrew's Anglican Cemetery, Cowichan Station  
Shawnigan Lake Cemetery  
Maple Bay Methodist Cemetery & Museum  
St. Francis Xavier Catholic Church and Cemetery, Mill Bay  
James Dougan Memorial Cemetery

#### Cobble Hill:

*Volunteers from the Parish place crosses at:*

St. John the Baptist Anglican Church and Cemetery

#### North Cowichan:

*Volunteers from the he Squadron 744 Air Cadets, other local cadet corps, and members from the Cowichan My Valley Facebook group place crosses at:*

Mountain View Cemetery, Somenos  
St. Mary's Somenos Anglican Cemetery

*Volunteers from the Admiral Mainguy Sea Cadet Corps, local cemetery volunteers, and Mike and Sherry Bieling place crosses at:*

All Saints' Anglican Cemetery, Westholme  
Halalt Cemetery, Westholme  
Queen Margaret's School Chapel

*Volunteers from the Parish place crosses at:*

St. Peter's Quamichan Anglican Church and Cemetery

*Volunteers members of the Royal Canadian Legion, Branch 191 place crosses at:*

Saint Michael & All Angels Anglican Cemetery, Chemainus

*Volunteers Mike and Sherry Bieling place crosses at:*

St. Ann's Church Cemetery, Tzouhalem Road, Duncan

*Note from Mike Bieling:* The different ways in which these events are organized reflects the true grass-roots, ad hoc nature of the cross placement tradition in the Cowichan Valley. There is no formal organization . . . the community just does this themselves. Researching the stories of all these veterans continually reveals connections with others. . . we're all in contact with each other and share leads and information. My database will record all of them, both as a guide for cross placers in the future and, I hope, posted on-line as a kind of community Roll of Honour and resource for other researchers.



## NEWSPAPER DISCOVERY

### William James Smith and Ann Scott

Submitted by Marilyn Ponting  
Member #3929

*Northampton Mercury* - Friday 22 March 1929: ABTHORPE'S DARBY AND JOAN.

"And they lived happily ever after" – the ending to all fairy stories – can be applied to the romance of the married life of Mr. and Mrs. James Smith, of Abthorpe, who on Christmas Day will celebrate the seventieth anniversary of their wedding.

Both are 90 years of age, both being born on March 11th, 1839, in the village of Paulerspury, a parish in which, up to two years ago, practically the whole of their lives have been spent.

"I found both Mr. and Mrs. Smith old in years, but young in spirit, when I visited them in the home of their daughter, Mrs. H. Brown, at Abthorpe, where they are spending the evening of their lives," writes a *Daily Echo* reporter.

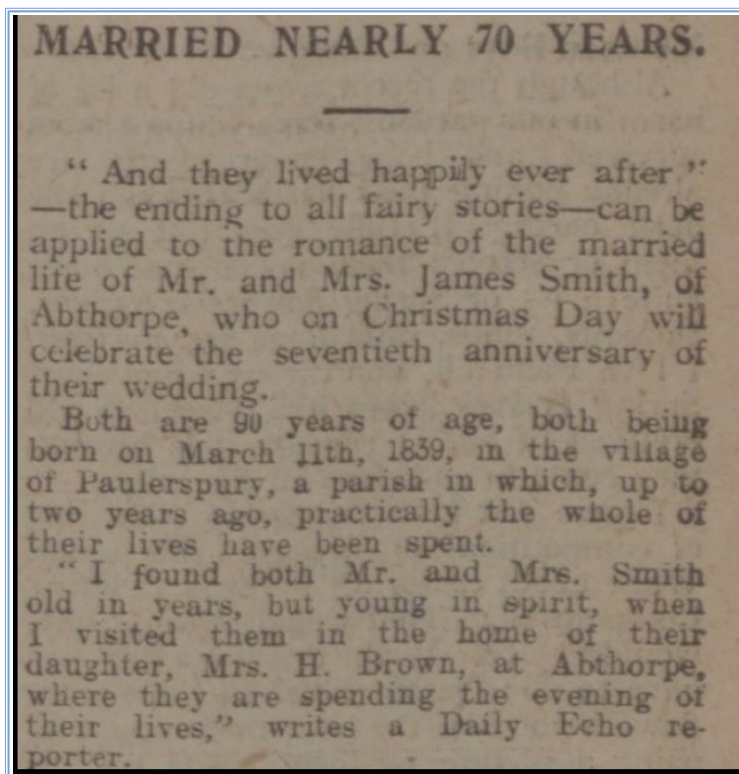
"We sat in front of the fire and gradually the story was told. Mr. Smith was the chief spokesman, but his wife nodded her approval or corrected him where necessary."

"He went out to work between the ages of seven and eight years, and earned twopence a day scaring crows off the corn. Then he got a rise, and for minding the cows on the side of the road made eighteen pence in a full week.

#### WAGES NEVER MORE THAN 13/- A WEEK.

"I started on 2d. a day, and I never made more than 13s. a week all my life," he told me, "except hay time and harvest, but I was happy, and I always had a shilling in my pocket. Times were different then.

Look here, I've got a little grandson, Donald, 19 years of age, who works for the Co-operative Society. He has as much in a week as I used to earn in five weeks."



## NEWSPAPER DISCOVERY

Mr. Smith laughed about it, and began to sing "There's a better day a-coming by and by," in which Mrs Smith joined him.

"Is that what you used to sing?" I asked. "That is what I sing every day," he replied. "Here I am to-day. Thank the Lord."

"She used to be a grand lace maker," he said, referring to his wife, admiringly. "She used to make it on her pillow when all the others were abed, and then the next morning she would say 'I'm going to Stony Stratford to-day, but I'll be back for dinner,' and she used to walk there and back."

Telling the story of how he came to be married, Mr Smith said: "Well, the girls and chaps used to meet in Clark's-road at Pury End, and one night I said, 'It's my birthday to-day,' and she said "It's my birthday too,' and then she said, 'I shall have to have you for my man.' That was the beginning of it." He laughed as he spoke, and Mrs. Smith gave an approving nod.

For sixty-nine years they lived in the same house, which they took from the day they were married. There was no chance for a honeymoon in those days, and he went to work the next day. Both Mr. and Mrs. Smith have been life-long members of the Wesleyan Methodist cause, and for fifty years he was a Sunday School teacher at the Paulerspury Chapel.

## OLD-TIME PRAYER MEETINGS.

Mr. Smith next gave me a specimen of a Sunday years ago: "My wife's brother, who belonged to the chapel, used to call for me at 8 o'clock in the morning for a meeting. Then we used to go home for breakfast, returning in time for school and chapel. After dinner to school again, and chapel at night. And then after that we would go and visit the sick, if there were any. I did that most of my days. During the week we had prayer meetings at our house. The house used to be so packed with people that when I came home I could hardly get in. There is nothing like that now. I never hear talk of prayer meetings now."

I asked him the secrets of their long life, and Mr Smith replied, quite simply: "The goodness of God." "I have never been a teetotaler," he added, "but I have never been a drunkard, and it is a good while since I had any beer. I never had a fight in all my life. My motto has been 'Love one another.'"

Mr Smith worked for a brief period in London, on the building of some of the docks in the Port of London, and this was, he said with some dignity, "the first time I saw the sea, and my wife has never seen it."

## NEWSPAPER DISCOVERY

Mr. and Mrs. Smith have had eight children, three sons and five daughters, but only four daughters survive. They are: Mrs. W. Bignell, of Northampton; Mrs. H. Mason, of Paulerspury; Mrs. H. Brown of Abthorpe; and Mrs. F. Wilson, of Silverstone. Of their 13 grandchildren, two of Mrs. Bignell's sons were killed in the war; and there are 16 great grandchildren. There is a proposal to have a big reunion next Christmas, when the seventieth anniversary of the Wedding is celebrated.

British Newspaper Archive

*Northampton Chronicle and Echo* - Monday 30 and  
*Northampton Mercury* - Friday 04 October 1929: ABTHORPE

THE DEATH took place on Saturday morning of Mr. Smith, formerly of Paulerspury, at the home of his daughter, Mrs. H. Brown. Mr. Smith, who was 90 years of age, had been ill for some time, but early in the summer was well enough to tend his garden. Mrs. Smith, who survives her husband, is very frail. She was born on the same day as her husband, February 14, 1839.

British Newspaper Archive

*Northampton Mercury* - Friday 04 October 1929: ABTHORPE

### FUNERAL OF MR. J. SMITH.

The funeral of Mr. J. Smith took place in Abthorpe Churchyard on Wednesday. Mr. Smith, who was 91, lived at Paulerspury all his life until four years ago, when he went to live with his daughter, Mrs. H. Brown, of Abthorpe. The Rev. J. B. White, vicar of Abthorpe, read the prayers, and the Rev. E. Smith of *Horsemarket Primitive Methodist Church*, Northampton, read the lessons. Mrs. White was at the organ, and Mr. Smith's favourite hymns were sung. The mourners were: Mrs. Bignall, Mrs. Mason, Mrs. Brown, Mrs. Wilson (daughters), Mr. H. Brown (son-in-law), Mrs. Smith, Mrs. Wootton, Mrs. Bennett (grand-daughters), and Mrs. Scott, Mrs. Bignall, Mrs. Cook, Mrs. Wesley, and Mrs. Mansell (friends). Others present included Mrs. Charles Lewis, Mr. John Lewis (Northampton), Mr. Sabin, Mr. Walker, and Mr. Moore (officials of the church). Wreaths were received from: Sarah, Emma, Dora, and Donald; Kate and Herbert; Dorren; Lizzie; Ern and Charlie; Mary and Emm; Letty and Harry; Mr. and Mrs. Mansell; and an old friend.

Mrs. Smith, who survives her husband, is blind and very frail. The marriage took place 70 years ago, and there were eight children, of whom four survive.

British Newspaper Archive



## NEWSPAPER DISCOVERY

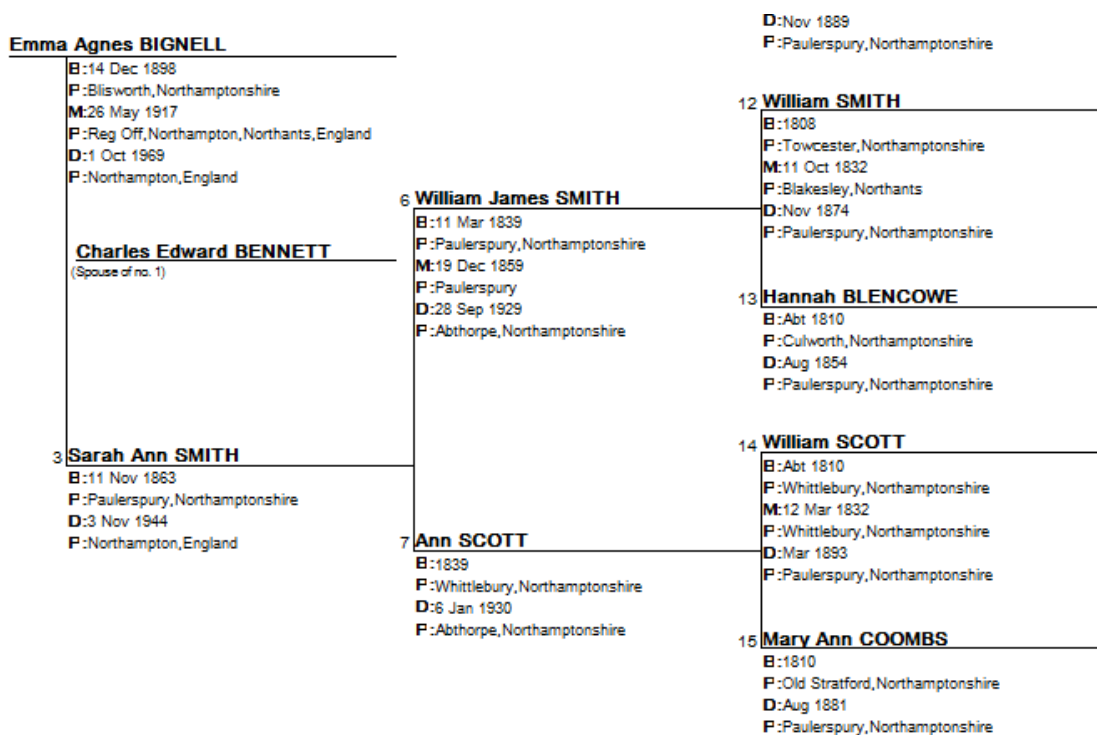
*Northampton Mercury* - Friday 10 January 1930 and  
*Northampton Chronicle and Echo* - Thursday 09 January 1930: ABTHORPE

MRS. ANNE SMITH, whose husband died less than three months ago, passed away on Monday, in her 91st year. Mr. and Mrs. Smith were born on the same day in 1839, and lived nearly the whole of their married life of 73 years in one house at Paulerspury.

There are four daughters, Mrs. E. J. Wilson, Silverstone; Mrs. H. Brown, Abthorpe; Mrs. Bignell, Northampton; and Mrs. Mason, Paulerspury.



British Newspaper Archive

Emma Agnes Bignell is my maternal grandmother:



# DECEMBER 2023 • JANUARY 2024

Sunday–Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>DECEMBER</b>	 <b>13</b> Meeting 7pm	 <b>14</b> Scotland Chat 7pm	<b>EJOURNAL</b>  <b>15</b>	 <b>16</b> Kindertech at the Library 10am
 <b>FAMILY TREE MAKER</b> Monday Dec 18 Chat 3pm	 <b>20</b> Last minute Ordering of the Book of Remembrance Who will receive a book from you this Season?	<b>21</b>	 <b>22</b> Fun Family History 2:30pm 	<b>23</b>
	 <b>27</b> NEWSLETTER DEADLINE	 <b>28</b> Quiet time to Research Genealogy?	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>
	 <b>3</b> Create your Genealogy Plan for 2024	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b> Chats will start back up in the New Year. Check the BCGS Calendar of Events	<b>6</b>
 <b>NEWSLETTER RELEASE</b> <b>Genealogy for Beginners Winter 2024</b> Starts Monday January 8th–February 12 Register at bcgs.ca 7-9pm 	 <b>10</b> Chinese Genealogy Chat 10am  Meeting 7pm	<b>11</b>	 <b>12</b> Family History DNA Chat 2:30pm 	 <b>13</b> Genealogy Orientation 10:30am 
 <b>FAMILY TREE MAKER</b> Monday January 15 Chat 3pm <b>Genealogy for Beginners Winter 2024</b> Monday Jan 15th–Feb 12th Register at bcgs.ca 7-9pm   Tuesday Jan 16 Advanced DNA Chat at 7pm	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b>	 <b>20</b> Kindertech at the Library 10am
<b>Genealogy for Beginners Winter 2024</b> Monday Jan 22nd–Feb 12th Register at bcgs.ca 7-9pm 	<b>Book of Remembrance delivery and Pick-ups around this time.</b> 	<b>25</b>	 <b>26</b> Fun Family History 2:30pm 	<b>27</b>
 <b>TUES - JAN 30 NEWSLETTER DEADLINE</b> <b>Genealogy for Beginners Winter 2024</b> Monday Jan 29th–Feb 12th Register at bcgs.ca 7-9pm 	<b>31</b>	<b>FEBRUARY 1</b> 	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>

 = Online Zoom meeting  
 = In-Person Meeting



# BCGS 2023 BOOK OF REMEMBRANCE

Ordering is **NOW OPEN** to purchase your  
very own printed copy!

**Click on the poppy at right to order**

This 160 page book is printed on high quality paper in full colour. Find Veteran bios from the time of **King Charlemagne to Present Day**. Every page is jam-packed with stories of our ancestors and relatives. Look up your family in the Index and add to the book with your own Veterans in the special pages provided at the end. Enjoy the detail of the many feature pages too. Every Section has an introduction that provides notes about the time and conflict.

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Ordering will be available until January—**once ordering is closed ordering will no longer be possible.** As a member you will be able to download the book, always. When the book goes for print that edition will replace the proofing editions currently up.

**A huge thank you goes out to everyone who contributed and assisted in making this possible**



*The Newsletter Team  
wishes everyone a  
very Merry Christmas  
and a Happy New Year.*



## 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](mailto:Journal@bcgs.ca)

Questions or Ideas ?  
Please contact the Editor.

#### *Deadlines for Submissions:*

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

### BC RESEARCH

The BC Research Team is available to search sources at the BCGS Library for persons seeking information on ancestors residing in BC.

For details & rates, contact Mary Turnbull, BCGS Research Co-ordinator at [queryrequest@bcgs.ca](mailto: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](mailto: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.

