



# THE BRITISH COLUMBIA GENEALOGIST



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# BRITISH COLUMBIA GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

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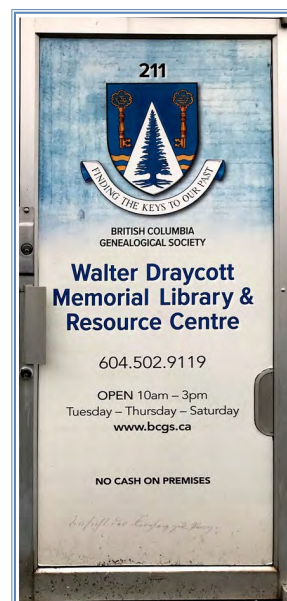
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The **BRITISH COLUMBIA GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY** was incorporated in 1978,  
and registered with Revenue Canada as a charitable society.

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

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**The British Columbia Genealogist**  
is published four times per year (March,  
June, September, December)

### **Meetings**

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

On our **Zoom** site.

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

### **Meeting Location**

**Online** for the present.

### **Membership Fees:**

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

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

Welcome to September! I hope you all  
had a wonderful summer and found time  
to enjoy your genealogical pursuits.

At August's Members' meeting we  
enjoyed a presentation by Claire  
Smith-Burns which was an inspiring  
example of a successful research project.  
She gave a detailed account of how she  
uncovered the circumstances of the 1862  
murder of her fourth great uncle in  
Victoria, B.C.

using newspapers,  
censuses,  
directories, church  
registers, wills and  
archives, she  
demonstrated how  
effective these  
resources can be  
to unravel the story  
of your ancestor's  
life.



If Claire's talk inspired you to add to your  
genealogical toolbox, the BCGS has  
many options for you this fall! There is a  
six-week [Genealogy for Beginners](#) course  
running, as well as a wide range of [Coffee  
Chat](#) groups, with many being focused on  
a researching a specific location. Other  
BCGS opportunities to build specific skills  
are our [Writer's Group](#), [Kindertech](#) and a  
new [Palaeography](#) group. We will also  
have three [Open Research Sunday's](#) to  
take advantage of this fall at the BCGS  
Library. It would be great to see you there  
and hear about what you are currently  
researching.

*Continued on Page 8 . .*



## From the Desk of the Editor . . .

The weather is changing, it's time to come inside and restart the projects that were put aside when the sun came out this Spring. Those books that you meant to finish reading, the histories that you were searching for background information, and all those pictures in that old shoebox, the ones with no names!



To help you begin, we have some reports for you to peruse – they may bring a feeling for the events in those years, and how they have changed some family members lives.

Our Holten Project group, *Janice Kidwell* and *Marlene Dance*, bring reports from three families, the Woods family of Cumberland, the Blatchford family of New Westminster, and the Cherry family of Saskatchewan.

*Gordon Udell* brings another story from Copenhagen in WWII, and a second story from his family that lived in the 1600's.

Our On the Road Genealogist *Meg McLaughlin*, shares her visit to an Ontario Conference, to Regina and to Victoria.

*Moyna Laing* retells secret tales from English relatives, if you missed her presentation at our June meeting.

Our Postcards lady, *Janice Kidwell*, shares a card from Port Moody, BC this month.

If you feel that you might need some help getting started with your research, we have an Invitation from Qualicum Beach Family History Society, on Vancouver Island, to three webinars, and a web-site update from Dictionary of Canadian Biography.

Happy Reading !  
Your Island Editor  
*Lynne Fletcher*

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## WORLD WAR II

### The Shell House Copenhagen

World War II

Submitted By Gordon Udell  
BCGS Member #5905

In the spring of 1945 my father, Gordon Wesley Udell, was asked to transport three officers from Hamburg to Copenhagen to go through and investigate the former Gestapo headquarters in downtown Copenhagen. This was shortly after the headquarters had been bombed (21 March 1945) and the country liberated in May of 1945. In recalling this incident to me he said that the citizens of Copenhagen were appreciative of the pilots, who had bombed the building, because they had done so in a precise manner that saved locals.

So my father drove the officers to Copenhagen. While father was in Copenhagen and walking down the street a person came running out of the restaurant and said Canada! Canada! While he did not speak English, this person escorted my father around Copenhagen for the time he was there and gave him a business card when he left. My father carried that business card in his wallet for many years. Years later when working at Hystad's planar mill in Valemount, a Danish person looked at the card and told father that the business card said that the person who had escorted him around Copenhagen was the Chief of Police.

Father enlisted in the summer of 1941 at the Prince of Wales Armoury in Edmonton. He was sent to Camrose for three months of basic training. He then went to Calgary for further training and then to Lethbridge where he took three months of mechanical training. He was then sent to Red Deer where he spent the winter in field training on such things as gunnery range. They trained anywhere from 4 a.m. until lockup at 10 p.m. the evening. Every day was varied and the food was good. Occasionally the soldiers got to go to a show.

In April of 1942 he got a furlough to allow him to go home. After being home for nine days he received a wire to report immediately for service overseas.



Gordon W. Udell 1945  
In front of Tovoli Gardens, Copenhagen

## WORLD WAR II

In May of 1942 they left Red Deer for England. They travelled four days and five nights by train to get to Halifax. The passage over to England was on the "Andes" in Convoy NA 8. The convoy left Halifax on 3 May, escorted by the carrier *HMS Avenger* and eight US Navy destroyers. There were thirty-eight ships in the convoy. Eight days out of Halifax submarines attacked them. One Jamaican family on the ship reported they had been torpedoed three times. The convoy crossed the North Atlantic without loss and reached the Clyde on 11 or 12 May.



Gordon W. Udell (upper left person)  
In England

The ship landed at Liverpool and they then went by train to Farnborough. There my father received four weeks of parade square training, three weeks of motorcycle training and two-weeks driver and maintenance training. He remained for nine months at Farnborough as a motor transport instructor.

He requested a field posting and joined the 39th Air Reconnaissance Wing, 1st Air Liaison Group in Dunsfold, England as a driver. This was a new group just being formed between the Army and the Air Force. On the 12th of June 1943, (D plus 6) he landed in Normandy. Most of the group arrived in France later in June. While he never told me why he was there first it was likely to allow him to get familiar with the roads in the area of Bayeaux or that there was an urgent need for dispatch riders at that time. The fact that several people in the group went over first is attested to in their magazine "Flap".

## WORLD WAR II

For most of the invasion of Europe my father was a dispatch rider. The 39th's first air field in Normandy was Airfield B8 in *Sommervieu*, located close to *Bayeux*. He did relate standing on a hill overlooking Caen on the 29th of June with thousands of other men while aircraft carried out a massive raid on the city. They stayed at Sommervieu until August 12th, at which time they moved to *Ste. Honorine-de-Ducy* (Airfield B21).

On 30 August they left Airfield 21 and headed to *Avrilly*, (Airfield B34) where they stayed until 22 September 1944. While at Avrilly, as Paris was being liberated, some of the men took the opportunity to hitch-hike to Paris for a day or two. On the 23th of September the 39th arrived at Diest in Belgium (Airfield B64). A couple of weeks later they landed at *Eindhoven*, Holland on 5 October at Airfield B78, where they stayed until 7 March 1945. They were living in tents and found it chilly until they moved into barracks on New Years' day. Father had the opportunity to move in with the local Vander Linden family.

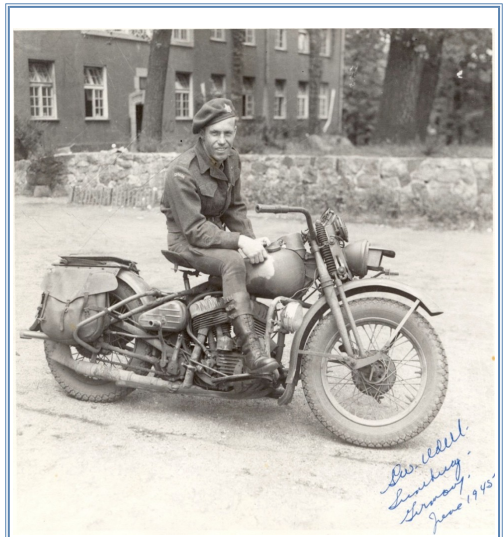


Gordon Wesley Udell and his Jeep

The next day they arrived at *Soltua*, Germany (Airfield B154) where they stayed until the 7th of May. The Germans surrendered the northern front to Montgomery on the 4th of May and total surrender came on the 8th of May. The 39th Recce were the deepest RCAF airfield into Germany at that time.

On the 8th of May they moved to *Luneberg* (Airfield B156), where they stayed until August 7th.

They moved to *Petit Brogel* in Belgium on 8 March (Airfield B90) and then crossed the Rhine and landed at *Damme*, Germany (Airfield B104) on 30 March 1944. The airborne had crossed the Rhine on the 24th of March and the 39th Recce crossed on 30 March, the first Allied airfield to do so. They relocated to *Rheine*, Germany (Airfield 108) on the 8th of April and were there until the 14th of April, when they moved to *Wunstorf* (Airfield B116) until the 25th of April.



Gordon Wesley Udell  
Luneberg June 1945



## WORLD WAR II

Some 67 years later my wife, sister, brother-in-law and I were in *Copenhagen* in 2012 and we decided to take the hop-on-hop-off bus-tour. The tour started close to Tivoli Gardens. We were very surprised, to say the least, when about the 5<sup>th</sup> thing mentioned was the story of the bombing of the former Gestapo headquarters. The bus went by the former Gestapo headquarters and the guide said that the Nazi's had put members of the local constabulary and Allied aircrew that had been captured on the top floors of the headquarters. The allied planes had managed to bomb the lower 3 floors, occupied by the Gestapo, and most of the occupants on the upper two floors had managed to escape into the city.

The rest of the story is that when the first of three waves of mosquito bombers came over the city one of the Mosquitos clipped a tower and crashed into the Jeanne d'Arc School some distance from the Gestapo headquarters. This distracted most of the bombers in the second wave of bombers which ended up bombing the school, rather than the Gestapo headquarters. While the Gestapo headquarters was taken out of commission and some of the people in the upper floors escaped, around 116 civilians were killed at the school site. In addition six of the bombers were lost during the event.

### ***On Our Cover . . .***

A wedding picture from Aug 5<sup>th</sup>, 1933. Moyna Laing notes that *"This picture shows my grandmother. She is sitting in the bottom right hand corner of the picture. From the right – her mother in law Anne Elson, her husband Thomas Conway and then Nana (Elizabeth Conway nee Attew). Also in this photo are all 14 of Nana's children. (needless to say it is a treasured record. BCGS published in their calendar of weddings a few years back).*

Moyna's story starts on page 16.



### **Our President's Message,**

*Continued from page 3 . . .*

*If you are looking for a more formal education, here are a couple of options you may want to consider (these courses are for a fee):*

[International Genealogical Institute](#), [University of Strathclyde](#) and [Research Like a Pro](#). As I

have taken courses from all three of these groups and had a positive experience with each, I am confident in recommending them to you.

Wishing you success in your family history research!

**Yvette Howard**

*President, BCGS*

## HOLTEN CANADIAN WAR CEMETERY PROJECT

### CORPORAL GORDON SCARTH WOOD

May 15, 1923 – April 21, 1945

Submitted by Janice Kidwell,  
BCGS Member #5033.

*The following Report is in memory of not only Corporal Gordon Scarth Wood who was eager to enlist and serve for his country and who unfortunately did not return home but also in memory of BCGS member Shelley McKelvie who was the initial researcher and who sadly passed away before she could complete her report. Shelley was very dedicated to learning as much as she could about Corporal Wood especially since she felt that she was related to him through his mother's side of the family, the McKee family. Shelley did do DNA testing and did come up with one match. I would also like to thank Shelley's long time family friend and BCGS member Cyndi Smith for bringing all the information (written notes, printed material) gathered by Shelley and meeting up with me to pass this material on. Also noted is that Shelley was able to have a couple of 'outdoor' meetings with one of Gordon's sister. I did find her contact information and did call her but was not able to leave a message for her.*

Pte. Gordon Scarth Wood was born May 15, 1923 in Cumberland, Vancouver Island, British Columbia to parents William Scarth and Margaret Deborah (McKee) Wood.

Gordon's father worked as a locomotive engineer on the Railway. Prior to this he had served during WW1 with the Canadian Scottish Regiment, 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion as an Engineer.

The 1931 Census finds the family living in Cumberland on Vancouver Island. Listed are parents William and Margaret, Gordon who is listed as a student and two sisters.

Gordon enlisted January 14, 1942 in Victoria, B.C. and had the traditional medical examinations, x-rays and vaccines which took place at the Bay Street Armouries in Victoria. His Regimental Number was K76374. Gordon listed his religion as Presbyterian and that he was a student with 2 years of high school.



Gordon Scarth Wood

## HOLTEN CANADIAN WAR CEMETERY PROJECT



Corporal Wood's training took place in Vancouver and Vernon, B.C. as well as in Winnipeg and Shilo, Manitoba. While in Vernon, Gordon was admitted to Vernon Military Hospital after being diagnosed with mumps. On April 13, 1942 Corporal Wood was transferred to Winnipeg – Canadian Scottish Regiment, Canadian Infantry Training Centre.

On June 2, 1942 Corporal Wood embarked for the U.K. leaving on June 3 and disembarked in the U.K. on June 12, 1942. On June 13, 1942 Corporal Wood was "Taken On Service" with the 8 Canadian Division Infantry Reinforcement Unit.

While in the U.K. Corporal Wood took part in a number of different training courses and at one point qualified as a Driver Mechanic. He also became part of the Division Infantry Reinforcement Unit. Corporal Wood was attached to 1 Canadian BOD – Base Ordnance Depot - (UK)

During the latter part of 1943 Corporal Wood was in the hospital for an ankle injury and a fracture of the left fibula and was transferred to Alton Convalescent Hospital in England. Once better he returned to France.

On January 7, 1944 Corporal Wood received the Canadian Volunteer Service and Clasp Medal and on January 23, 1944 and after having completed 2 years service Corporal Wood was entitled to wear one Good Conduct Badge. This was followed by a Good Conduct Stripe being granted on February 10, 1944.

On July 16, 1944 Corporal Wood was wounded - a gun shot wound to his right hand - and was admitted to hospital. It was deemed to be a superficial wound so was dressed and soon after Corporal Wood was discharged.

On April 21, 1945 Corporal Gordon Scarth Wood was Killed In Action in Vack n boorg (Wagenborgen) Holland and is commemorated on the monument plaque erected to all the soldiers that died there while attempting to 'free' Wagenborgen from the German forces. Among Shelley's material was a two page War Diary document giving detailed and precise information on what took place on April 21 between 0130 and 1000 (times) ending with how many soldiers were either killed, wounded or missing. After looking at the list of soldiers buried at Holten Cemetery, there are a number of them that died at Wagenborgen between April 21- 23, with most on April 21st.

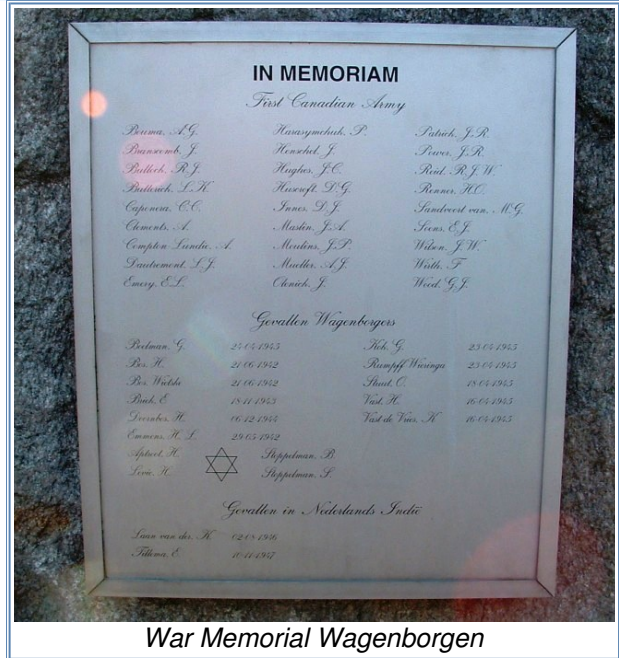


## HOLTEN CANADIAN WAR CEMETERY PROJECT

Corporal Wood's temporary burial took place at the Dutch Reformed Church Cemetery (Protestant) in Siddeburen, 417170 2707 Plot 31, Grave 3.

On May 1, 1945 a telegram was sent to Corporal Wood's father reporting with regret that K76374 Corporal Gordon Scarth Wood has been officially reported Killed In Action on the twenty first April 1945 and that further details will be sent by mail direct from the Unit in the Theatre of War to prevent possible aid to our enemies. It did not divulge date of casualty or name of his Unit.

A letter dated July 3, 1946 was mailed to Corporal Wood's father notifying him that his son's remains had been carefully and respectfully exhumed from the original burial location and had been reburied at Holten Canadian War Cemetery. The Grave Reference was 111.G. 8. A marked map was enclosed. His father was also told that the temporary marking would be replaced by a permanent marker suitably inscribed. A letter to Corporal Wood's father dated February 14, 1949 from Ottawa included a photo of his son's gravesite with a temporary marker.



War Memorial Wagenborgers



Gordon Scarth Wood.Gravestone

K76374 CORPORAL  
G.S. WOOD  
CANADIAN SCOTTISH REGIMENT  
21ST APRIL 1945 AGE 20

+

HE FOLLOWED  
HIS LORD AND SAVIOUR  
WHO GAVE HIS LIFE  
FOR ALL MANKIND

## HOLTEN CANADIAN WAR CEMETERY PROJECT

Corporal Wood's total service was from January 14, 1942 to April 21, 1945 equaling 1,194 days.

Western Hemisphere: 140 days, Over/Seas: 1,054 days

Corporal Wood received the following Medals:

1939-45 Star, France-Germany Star, Defence Medal, War Medal 1939-45, CVSM with Clasp (awarded January 1944).

The medals were given to Cpl. Wood's father with Gordon's mother receiving The Memorial Cross. Noted is that Corporal Wood's medals were donated to the Cowichan Royal Canadian Legion. In late May of this year I



contacted the Legion and asked if someone there could take a photo of the medals and e-mail the photo to me. In early June I received a very nice e-mail which included a photo of the medals.

There is a letter in Corporal Wood's military file from Ian Oostvogel (writing a bit hard to read), Piet.Heinstr 2, Enschede to let Gordon's family know that he had adopted their son's grave site.

Corporal Wood is commemorated on Page 577 of the Second World War Book of Remembrance. This page is displayed in the Memorial Chamber of the Peace Tower in Ottawa on December 2.

Corporal Wood is also commemorated in the Scottish National War Memorial Index which gives Gordon's Full Name, Rank, Service Number, Place of Birth, Date of Death, Theatre of War and who he served with.



## HOLTEN CANADIAN WAR CEMETERY PROJECT

### Geographical Feature

Corporal Gordon Wood has a Geographical Feature named in his honour – Gordon Wood Lake. This lake is located just north of Comox Glacier, east side of Strathcona Provincial Park and in the Clayoquot Land District.

Named to remember Canadian Army Corporal Gordon Scarth Wood, K76374, from Cumberland. Corporal Wood was 20 years old and serving with the Canadian Scottish Regiment when he was killed in action 21 April 1945. He is buried at Holten Canadian Military Cemetery in Holland. Plot 3, Row G, Grave 6. Earlier Wood had participated in the D-Day invasion at Normandy, was wounded at Caen and spent 2 months in hospital before returning to the front in northern France, then Belgium and later Holland. Corporal Wood was killed clearing land mines in newly-liberated western Holland.

#### *Postscript:*

By Lindsay Elms

Adopted 2 November 1999, **Gordon Wood Lake** is at the head of Kweishun Creek just below Milla Lake on map 92F/11. Named by Ruth Masters to remember Canadian Army Corporal Gordon Scarth Wood, K76374, from Cumberland. Corporal Wood was 20 years old and serving with the Canadian Scottish Regiment when he was killed in action 21 April 1945; buried at Holten Canadian Military Cemetery in Holland. Plot 3, Row G, Grave 6. Earlier Wood had participated in the D-Day invasion at Normandy, was wounded at Caen and spent 2 months in hospital before returning to the front in northern France, then Belgium and later Holland. Corporal Wood was killed clearing land mines in newly-liberated western Holland.

#### Newspaper articles:

- The Vancouver Province, Saturday July 14, 1923, page 8 – write-up on the marriage of Gordon's parents which took place on July 12, 1923 at St. Andrews Manse, Nanaimo, B.C. Rev. D. Lister presided.
- The Vancouver Province, Monday May 15, 1933, page 7, Tillicum Club – Happy Birthday to Gordon Scarth Wood.
- The Province, Vancouver, B.C. Friday August 18, 1944, page 7, wounded
- The Province Monday May 14, 1945, pg. 9, Vancouver Sun, same date, page 7.- Killed In Action.
- The Times Colonist, Victoria, B.C.: Friday November 12, 1999, page 3, regarding the naming of Gordon Wood Lake

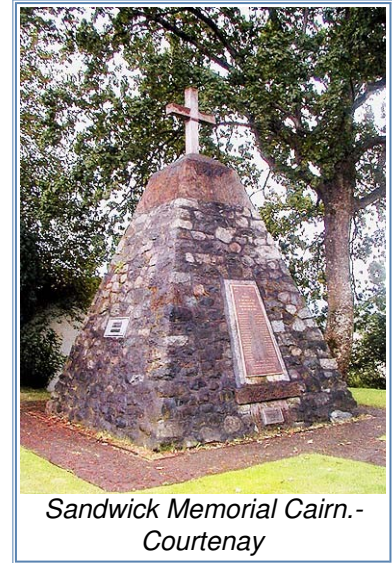
PTE. G. Wood Dies in Action

Reported in the *Comox Argus* Thursday April 26, 1945. p.1.



## HOLTEN CANADIAN WAR CEMETERY PROJECT

CUMBERLAND May 3—Mr. and Mrs. William S. Wood, Cumberland, have been notified that their only son, Pte. Gordon Wood, 20, was killed in action against the enemy in Holland on April 21. He was a native son of Cumberland, born and educated in this city. Pte. Wood enlisted in Vancouver Island's own Canadian Scottish Regiment in January 1942, directly after leaving high school. He had been overseas three years and saw action in the Normandy Invasion of Nazi-held France. He was wounded at Caen and spent two months in hospital, later returning to the front and serving in Northern France, Belgium and Holland. His parents received a letter from the young soldier Wednesday night. It had been written on April 17, just four days before his death.



*Sandwick Memorial Cairn.-  
Courtenay*

### *Concluding notes from Shelley McKelvie*

Corporal Gordon Wood died at the young age of 20 without a wife or children to tell his stories, hold his memories and share their grief in their hearts. But he is remembered by his two sisters.

Gordon never married, had no children. His elderly siblings retain some memories of him. But he is remembered in a bigger way. Gordon is connected to each of these people – the Reverend Kinney who first ascended the Comox Glacier, local historian and mountaineer Ruth Masters, local historian and photographer Tim Penney. They each contributed in their own way to keep Gordon's memory alive. Each of them gave a hand up to the next one in line and it is that connection/chain of humanity that keeps the memory of Gordon's great sacrifice alive.

### Sources

- Shelley McKelvie's notes and printed material
- [www.ancestry.ca](http://www.ancestry.ca)
- [www.newspapers.com](http://www.newspapers.com)
- [www.tracesofwar.com](http://www.tracesofwar.com)
- Royal Canadian Legion – Cowichan, B.C.
- Scottish National War Memorial: <https://www.snmw.org/roll-search/?id=2795423&searchid=1b9b183954dbe2314b6f0f117a9760bc&page=1>
- Alpine Club of Canada Vancouver Island Section <https://accvi.ca/history-of-acc-vi-introduction/1945-1949/>

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## FAMILY SECRETS

### Family Secrets or a Tale of Two Siblings

Contributed by Moyna Laing  
BCGS Member #1593

My mother was the 4th eldest of 14 children born and brought up in London England. She met and married my Canadian father in London during the second WW. She emigrated with him when he returned to Canada in 1946.

I was always fascinated by the fact that I had this large contingent of family (Grandmother, aunts, uncles and cousins) in London that I knew little about. In particular I wanted to know more about my grandmother as she was my only living grandparent. My mother was always evasive when I asked for details about this grandmother. I was only given the barest of details and was scolded for probing for more information. She alluded to a hush hush situation which just made me all the more curious.

Nana (as my grandmother was called) was born in June 1881 and she died in 1986 at the age of 105. A very feisty lady to be sure.

My genealogical diggings came up with the following information that revealed the following "scandals" that needed to be covered up and not discussed.

Scandal #1 Nana gave birth to an illegitimate child in 1900. On the UK census of 1901 Nana and baby show living at home with Nana's parents. Nana marries in Oct of 1901 to a Patrick Conway (acknowledged as the father of baby) Patrick dies in 1902.

Scandal #2 – In July 1905 she is 6 months pregnant when she marries Thomas Conway. Child conceived prior to marriage.

Scandal # 3 Violation of the law in 1905. In 1905 in the UK it was illegal for a man to marry his brother's widow. Pat and Thomas were brothers – Pat dies and Thomas marries his brother's widow. The Deceased Brother's Widow Marriage bill which repealed this law was not enacted until 1921. As an aside – this law was mostly ignored and the worst punishment or consequences that might result would see the marriage voided.

Pretty tame stuff from today's perspective but obviously Nana did not want to be gossiped about and her word was law. I did meet Nana in the 1970's in her home in London. I was told never to bring her flowers when I was going to visit – she much preferred a six pack of Guinness or a bottle of dark rum – Thank you very much. The picture attached is from that 1970 visit.



## FAMILY SECRETS



*The Aug 5<sup>th</sup> 1933 picture shows my grandmother. She is sitting in the bottom right hand corner of the picture. From the right – her mother in law Anne Elson, her husband Thomas Conway and then Nana (Elizabeth Conway nee Attew) Also in this photo are all 14 of Nana's children (needless to say it is a treasured record. BCGS published in their calendar of weddings a few years back).*

Nana was the youngest of six children – it is her eldest brother Alfred's life that continues my story. It appears his exploits were far more scandal worthy than his sister's.

Uncle Alfred was born in 1876, again in London England. He joined the Army Service Corp at the age of 19. I had no knowledge of this man until 4 or 5 years ago. My mother talked about Nana's sisters, but no mention was ever made about a brother. Considering Alfred died in 1954 when my mother was in her 40's she would likely have known him at some point during her lifetime. However once again it was "hush hush time".

When I began filling out the details of my great aunts and uncles I soon became fascinated with Uncle Alfred.

## FAMILY SECRETS

Alfred married Frances Overy in May 1898. Their child was born 6 months later but no scandal here as premarital sex was okay if you were the man in the relationship. It appears Uncle Alfred was not the nicest of husbands – in fact Frances filed for a divorce in 1913. The divorce papers cited 3 reasons: Frances claims Alfred struck and kicked her causing a still birth in 1908. She further stated he assaulted her again in 1912. The third reason for the divorce was her proof that he was a bigamist. He had married a lady by the name of Mary E. Stacy in 1912 and was living with her at the time the divorce was filed. The marriage documents confirm this union. As I was searching for further information, I discovered the Swansea Gaol records of 1915 showing Alfred being charged with bigamy. Oops, not married to Mary Stacey but rather married to Louisa Williams. The wedding certificate shows this marriage took place in Oct 1913. He pled guilty to the charge and served 3 months of hard labour. All 3 marriages are documented. It appears that at one point in time Alfred was married to 3 women at once.

Book, No. 24 Page 89		Certificate		of Marriage.					
1898 Marriage solemnized at <i>St Andrew Church, Chatham</i> in the District of MEDWAY, in the County of KENT.									
No.	When Married.	Name and Surname.	Age.	Condition.	Rank or Profession.	Residence at the Time of Marriage.	Father's Name and Surname.	Rank or Profession of Father.	
177	Eighth May 1898	Alfred Otter	23 Years	Bachelor	Private A.S.C.	South Hill Row Chatham	Frederick Otter	Carman	
		Frances Overy	21 Years	Spinster		107 New Road Chatham	William Overy (Accountant)	Labourer	
Married in the <i>St Andrew Church</i> according to the Rites and Ceremonies of the <i>Presbyterian</i>									
This Marriage was solemnized between us.		A. Otter		In the presence of us.		M. Donald		by Certificate by me.	
		F. Overy				R. Longman		E. D. Seawell, Minister	
								A. J. Whitehead, Registrar	
								A. J. Whitehead Registrar.	
Extracted this		Eighth		day of		May		1898	

Marriage #1 to Frances Overy

Excerpt from  
Divorce

2. That on the 5<sup>th</sup> day of October 1912 at Haslemere parish church in the County of Sussex a ceremony of marriage was performed between the said Alfred Otter and one Mary Elizabeth Stacy and that the said Alfred Otter hereby committed bigamy. That on the said 5<sup>th</sup> day of October 1912 and from that date to the present time at Haslemere aforesaid the said Alfred Otter and Mary Elizabeth Stacy have lived and cohabited together as husband and wife and have on divers occasions committed adultery with each other.



## FAMILY SECRETS

### Marriage # 3

<b>Alfred Attew, 39, Soldier</b> . . . . . 6 Mos., Sussex (Lewes) Assizes, 11th Dec., 1912 (bigamy).	o	T. W. Lewis, Esq., Police Court, Cardiff.
---	---	---

25th On the 25th day of October, 1913, at Cardiff, did feloniously marry and take to wife one Louisa Williams, Frances, his former wife, to whom he was previously married, to wit on the 8th May, 1908, being then alive.	Mr. Justice Atkin, Kt., 2nd March, 1916.	Pleaded guilty	Pleaded guilty, 11th Dec., 1912.	3 months hard labour.
--	--	----------------	-------------------------------------	--------------------------

One last note on my lothario uncle – the divorce proceedings instigated by wife # 1 Frances were never completed. No degree NISI issued. Some 26 years after this Frances and Alfred show as a married couple on the 1939 English and Wales register. Some sweet talker.

In discussions with my many English cousins – most will agree that they knew about Nana marrying 2 brothers. However, not a single cousin knew the story of Uncle Alfred. I can only feel sympathy for my grandmother who was widowed for a second time at the age of 52 – with 6 of her 14 children still at home.

As for Uncle Alfred – I believe he was considered a family pariah as his name was never mentioned.

#### Moral of the story:

You never know what you will stumble upon in your search for your past.

Name	Alfred Attew
Gender	Male
Marital Status	Married
Birth Date	7 Feb 1876
Residence Date	1939
Address	12 Somerset Road
Residence Place	Farnborough, Hampshire, England
Occupation	General Labourer Supply Dept
Line Number	8
Schedule Number	278
Sub Schedule Number	1
Enumeration District	Edkg
Borough	Farnborough
Registration district	105/2
Inferred Spouse	Frances Attew
Household members	
<b>Name</b>	<b>Gender</b>
Alfred Attew	Male
Frances Attew	Female

Happily ever after

## HOLTEN CANADIAN WAR CEMETERY PROJECT

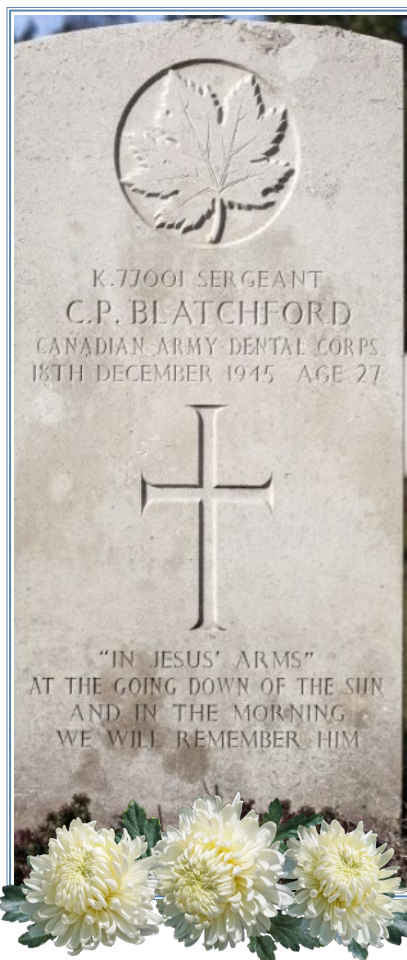
### In Memory of

Sgt. Cecil Phillip Blatchford  
K77001, Canadian Army Dental Corps,  
died December 18, 1945, age 27.  
Son of Thomas & Mary Blatchford and  
husband to Pearl Margaret Blatchford.

Remembered with honour:  
HOLTEN CANADIAN WAR CEMETERY  
Commemorated in perpetuity by the  
Commonwealth War Graves Commission



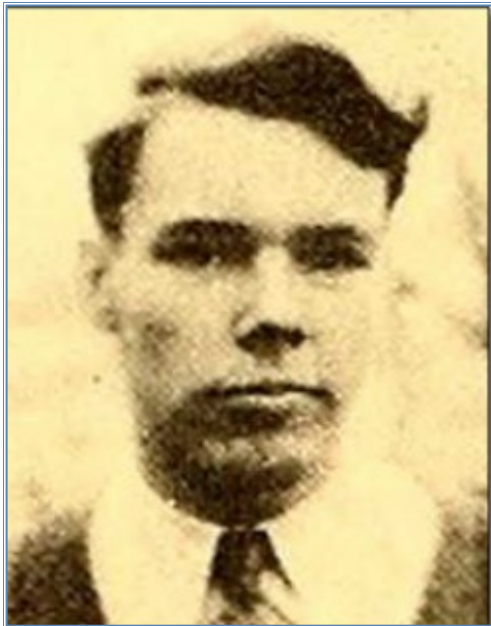
Sgt. Cecil Philip Blatchford died in Oldenburg, Germany, on Dec. 18, following a brief illness, according to official word received here by his wife, Mrs. Pearl Blatchford, 3071 Wascana Street.





## HOLTEN CANADIAN WAR CEMETERY PROJECT

Cecil Phillip Blatchford was born April 20, 1920 in New Westminster. His father was Thomas Latimer Blatchford, a farmer, born in Cornwall, England. His mother was Mary Ann Phillips, born in Tennessee. Their families were living in the Fort Langley area near McAdam Road. They met and married in 1918. The 1921 Canadian Census shows them still in the Fort Langley area with their only child. But by the 1931 Canadian Census they have given up farming and are living in Vancouver with Thomas listed in the Census and the City Directory as a Postman. Cecil attended school in the Vancouver area where he lived.



The picture at left is taken from his 1938 Grandview Commerce High School Graduation Year Book. The school was established in 1932 as part of the Britannia High School Department of Commerce and was located at E 1st Avenue and Commercial Drive. The beautiful old building was demolished in 1954.

Records of this graduation class in 1938 show all forty-five students with Mr. Abercrombie as the teacher. Eleven of these students are Japanese. Beginning in early 1942, some 21,000 citizens of Japanese descent in British Columbia were detained and their possessions seized under the guise of the "War Measures Act". They were then moved away from the Pacific coast for the duration of WW2.

Cecil went to work after graduation as a Steno-clerk/Accountant for a foodstuffs Importer. On September 23, 1939, he enlisted in the regular Army, having previously served in the Militia with the 6th Div. R.C.A.S.C. from March 6, 1939.

The military records include a physical description, and state he is 5' 7", with brown eyes, fair complexion, dark brown hair and wears glasses for reading. He lists his hobbies and interests as music, ivory carving, tennis, swimming and fishing. He was assigned to Esquimalt near Victoria as a Clerk Stenographer with the rank of Private. By November, he was an Acting Corporal and by June of 1940 had earned the rank of Sgt.

On June 16, 1940, he had his tonsils removed at the Esquimalt Military Hospital. Sometime after 1938, Cecil's father Thomas, is injured on the job and is no longer able to earn a living. He did receive a small pension from the Post Office and Cecil assigned \$60 per month from his pay to his father.

## HOLTEN CANADIAN WAR CEMETERY PROJECT

Later, another small portion went to his wife after their marriage. These payments continued until his death.

It was in Victoria that Cecil met his wife to be, Pearl Margaret Bissett (nee Cawsey), and he was granted permission and special leave to marry on April 25, 1941 in Victoria, BC. There is a lovely write up in the Victoria paper about an evening wedding at the home of the presiding minister with details of the dress and flowers. Special leave was needed, as he had already been assigned to Debert Camp in Nova Scotia.

He departed April 30, 1941. Then, on September 17, 1941, he was sent overseas to England arriving September 29th, 1941. The military "Statement of Service" record shows various Army Clerk "B" assignments marked H.Q. with many different Canadian Dental Corps units. All are in the United Kingdom over the next few years.

In October of 1943 he was sent to Italy, and then in March of 1945 he was moved to France. The war is declared over in Europe in May of 1945. Between March and early December of 1945 he moved with the Canadian Medical Dental Corps unit as they advanced north through Belgium, Holland and into Germany.

On December 14, he was found unconscious and taken to hospital. He was diagnosed with Pneumococcal Meningitis sub arachnoid. He failed to recover and died December 18th. Cecil had served 738 days in Canada and 1292 days overseas.

For his service he is awarded: 1939-45 Star, Italy Star, the France- Germany Star, Defense Medal, War Medal C.V.S.M & Clasp



His remains were buried in Osterchens, Germany in a Temporary Canadian Cemetery. Reburial took place June 18, 1948. He was moved to Holten Canadian Military Cemetery, Grave 15, Row A, plot 7.

We will remember him!

Submitted by by Marlene Dance

## POSTCARDS

### **CANADA'S HISTORIC PLACES Port Moody Station, Port Moody, B.C.**

Submitted by Janice Kidwell  
Membership #5033

The CPR Railway Station, which was relocated to its current site near Rocky Point Park on the Port Moody waterfront, is an example of the standardized station design developed by the CPR during the Edwardian era to facilitate their ongoing expansion in western Canada. Built according to the Company's standard station plan No. 9, it is a typical example of the railway stations that dotted the country in the heyday of the railroads. It is believed to be one of only three surviving No. 9 stations in Canada.

It is a wooden station design with a partial second storey. The Station has been adapted for use as a community museum. Railway tracks have been laid down to recreate its original function. A vegetable/flower garden representing the customary appearance of early CPR railway stations has been established on the grounds, and a restored 1921 "Glen" style CPR rail car has been placed south of the station. The building has been accurately restored to its original appearance and contains a significant artifact collection.

#### Heritage Value

Pacific Railway, which generated the original settlement of Port Moody. Chosen as the Western Terminus of the long awaited transcontinental railway, for a brief period Port Moody was the scene of intense speculation, which subsided when the rail line was extended to Vancouver. This circa 1907 station, which replaced the original 1882 Western Terminus station, represents the importance of the CPR railway to the building of a nation, as well as to this local community. From 1907 to 1971, it was also the entry point for many people beginning a new life in Port Moody.

It represents an important cultural feature for the public interpretation of Port Moody's history. In 1945, the CPR moved the station closer to downtown Port Moody by sliding it along the tracks to the foot of Queens Street, where it was used for passenger service until 1971. In 1978 it was purchased by the Port Moody Heritage Society and moved again, by truck, to its current location on Murray Street, where it was placed on a new foundation with a full basement. The station building became a museum in 1983 and contains a significant artifact collection that fulfills a strong educational and community building role.

The building's historic and aesthetic value to the community was recognized in 1978 when it was one of the first three buildings in Port Moody that were designated as municipal heritage sites in 1978, demonstrating an early commitment to heritage conservation.



## POSTCARDS



### Character-Defining Elements

The value of the CPR Railway Station lies in its association with the Canadian Key elements that define the heritage character of the CPR Station include:

- spatial relationship to railway tracks
- low narrow form, situated parallel to the tracks
- standardized, utilitarian form, style and use of materials
- prominent roof with cedar shingle roofing
- projecting ticket office bay on the facade facing the tracks, with banked windows with transoms
- "live-in" design with residential area on second floor that accommodated the Station Master
- original exterior features such as the wooden siding at ground level with cedar shingle cladding above, cornerboards and trim, prominent eave brackets, broad overhanging eaves and wooden doors
- double-hung wooden-sash windows, with multi-paned upper sash (4-over-1 and 6-over-1 configuration)
- original interior layout with original finishing such as wooden trim, wood floors, interior doors, etc.



## POSTCARDS

- the 1921 CPR rail car

### *Other Name(s)*

CPR Railway Station  
C.P.R. Station Museum

### Back of the postcard

*On the left side:* BC Heritage Branch, Ministry of Tourism, Sport and the Arts.  
[www.gov.bc.ca](http://www.gov.bc.ca)

### *On the bottom:*

Canada's Historic Places Initiative [www.historicplaces.ca](http://www.historicplaces.ca)  
Heritage for Kids [www.heritagebc.ca/kids/](http://www.heritagebc.ca/kids/)  
BC Heritage Digital Collections [www.bcheritage.ca](http://www.bcheritage.ca)

There is neither a message nor a stamp on the back of this postcard.

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### Sources

- Canada's Historic Places <https://www.historicplaces.ca/en/rep-reg/place-lieu.aspx?id=2562>
- Heritage Planning Files, City of Port Moody

### Genealogy Tip of the Day

by [Michael John Neill](#)

It can be easy to waste “research” time by mindlessly looking at online sites for one thing or another. Some ways to avoid these time wasting activities are:

- make a list of research tasks you wish to accomplish;
- turn your internet connection off;
- make a list of documents to transcribe;
- make a list of “done” ancestors that should be reviewed;
- set a schedule of when to go back and check a site for an update to a database (daily is probably excessive);
- lists in general are good.

Chasing some research leads down those “rabbit holes” can be a good thing – sometimes. But it can be easy to waste an inordinate amount of time chasing after half-baked, uncooked leads on your computer, when you’ve got three perfectly good cookies sitting on the counter. The only problem is that you have to get off your chair to get them.

## GENEALOGY ON THE ROAD

### Genealogy on the Road to Ontario

Submitted by Meg McLaughlin  
Membership #3847

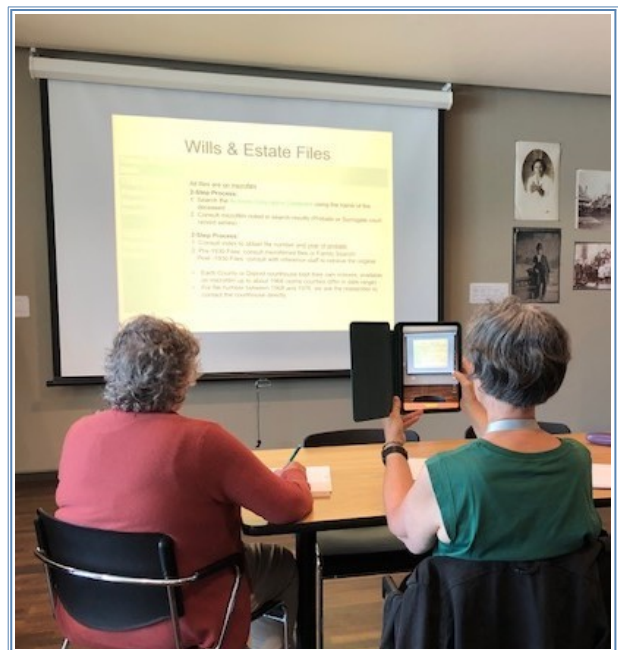
Lately any genealogical roads I've taken, at least physically, have been in North America. As many of my ancestral lines ended up here, that gives me plenty of scope, and if I look further into my son's roots that covers even more territory as well as history. But my most recent travels have involved my own maternal line.

When Ontario Ancestors, (OGS) announced that their conference for 2024 would be an in-person event, I was in two minds about going, but then I saw that one of the preconference events attendees could sign up for was a trip to the Ontario Archives in Toronto and I was sold on going. It seemed like the perfect opportunity to see what the archives had to offer. Maybe I would even be able to find the marriage of my 2 x great-grandparents, Catherine Matheson and Samuel Tripp. That record and the one for the birth of their daughter Charlotte in Bobcaygeon in 1865 are documents I've spent many hours trying to find.

On this trip, I spent even more time on this fruitless search. The Ontario Archives were very accommodating to the visitors from the conference though; giving us an overview of their holdings in the morning, then a tour, followed by free reign in the archives for the afternoon. I just wish I'd had a research question that their records could have answered.

The conference itself was great with lots of classes, often two that I was interested in at the same time. But that's the way it goes. The most fun was had in the evening gatherings, a mock Burns supper (nonalcoholic) one night and a celebrity trivia

contest another. It was nice to meet new people with the same interests and to find people I knew amongst the vendors. That's not something that happens at on-line events. There was one final meeting of attendees on the afternoon of the last day. Diahna Southard's keynote put our genealogical quests into perspective and after that the crowd dwindled as people left to catch transportation ahead of the conference end. Then the team for next year's Ontario Ancestors conference let us in the scope of the 2025 event. The plan is for a one day event with limited attendance which makes me wonder if big conferences are becoming a thing of the past.



## GENEALOGY ON THE ROAD



But I didn't have long to worry about that, as I was off to Regina to research my maternal grandparent's past for the eventful time they spent in that city. Not only did they meet and marry there but they survived a cyclone, separately, as far as I can make out. They didn't marry until 1918, when Harold was a member of the RAF stationed in Canada for the duration, if I'm reading his military records correctly. Those records are held by both Canada and the UK. Very handily they

record his changing addresses which took him from Regina to Winnipeg, as well as mentioning his next of kin before his marriage as a cousin in New South Wales.

Maybe I'll check out the Winnipeg addresses someday but I wasn't going to take that city in as well on this year's trip.

Another summer trip that I took, this time to Victoria, also had links to my maternal relatives. I was able to get a look at the house where my mother boarded in 1948. Come to think of it, her parents must have been in BC at the same time as the family came back from England together after the war. I have a sneaking suspicion they may have been in Vancouver. If so, I won't have as far to go to get a look at their address. Now I just have to find them in a directory for around

the same time as they were only in Canada for a short time due to restrictions on money leaving the UK. It's surprising how often officialdom resulted in a change in residence and/or country for my family. It keeps things interesting!



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.



## HOLTEN CANADIAN WAR CEMETERY PROJECT



### In Memory of

#### Clp. Frank Arthur Cherry

K57783 Canadian Scottish Regiment

MM – Military Medal

Awarded 4 November 44

Died April 10, 1945 age 21.

Son of Herbert Frank and Winnifred Cherry.

Brother to Robert Frank, Gerald Ernest,

Thelma Peggy and Phyllis Jane Cherry.

Note the inscription on the headstone:

“Five Brothers in Arms. Four Survive.

Remembered with honour

HOLTEN CANADIAN WAR CEMETERY

Commemorated in perpetuity by the  
Commonwealth War Graves Commission





## HOLTEN CANADIAN WAR CEMETERY PROJECT



Francis Arthur Cheery (known as Frank) was born April 28, 1924 in Prince Albert, Saskatchewan, as confirmed by the eHealth Genealogy Index Searches for Saskatchewan. His parents had met and Married in England, when the father was overseas during WW1. Herbert's picture is on the left.

Frank was the third of seven children. There were two girls and five boys. The eldest, Robert Frank, was born in Rochford, Essex, England and came to Canada with his mother in 1919. Frank first appears (age 7) in the June 1, 1931 Census for the Prince Albert hamlet of Davis, with his parents and five of his siblings. His father is listed as a labourer working on his brother's farm which is nearby.

Border crossing documents dated June 16, 1930 indicate that the family had left the Prince Albert area, and while their destination is unclear in the paperwork, there is mention of Culver City, California. Soon the parents separate. The father and children eventually settle in Victoria, BC by about 1937.

In 1940 we find Frank living in Penticton, BC, working for the past two years as a mill-hand at the Lear Plainer Mill earning about \$15 per week.

This information comes from his Attestation Papers. He enlisted on July 9, 1940, giving his birth date as 28 April, 1921. This would have made him 19 years old rather than his actual age of 16 years. He is described as 5'9", brown hair, fair complexion, and 140 pounds. The age discrepancy seems not to have been discovered, as he passes the various tests and is accepted. He is assigned to the Canadian Scottish Regiment and sent to Victoria, BC. Immediately, we find Frank in hospital in Victoria with measles. He is there nine days. As soon as he recovered, the records indicate that in August 1940 he is sent to Debert Military Camp in Nova Scotia.

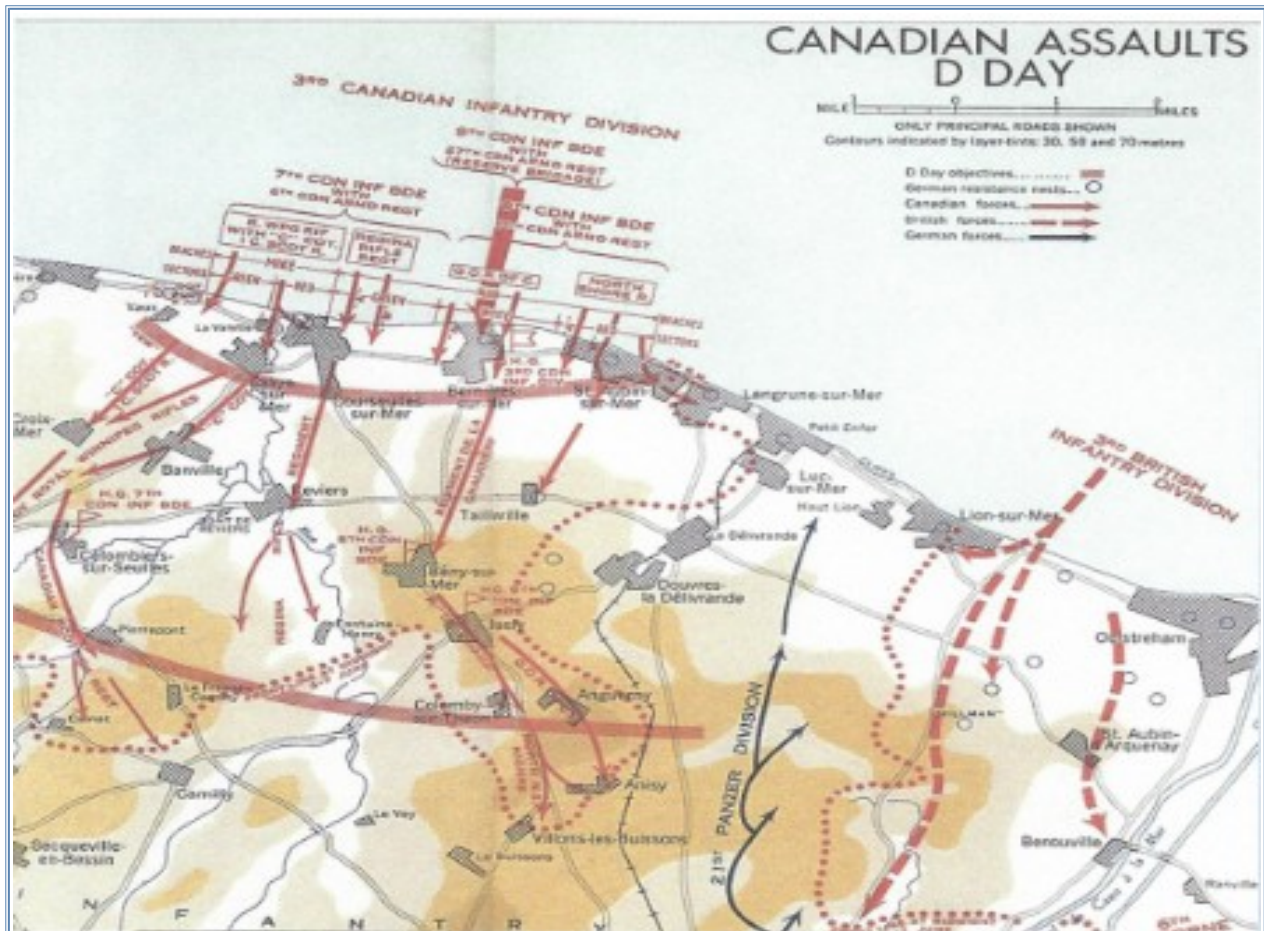
After additional training, he departs for the UK and arrives on September 30, 1941. Frank remains in the UK until June of 1944. There are numerous training assignments and occasional brief leaves. He is a bit of a "scamp" and finds himself being disciplined and/or fined occasionally for minor infractions.

Frank's record then indicate he is part of the D-Day landing with the Canadian Scottish.

Record of Promotions, Reductions, Transfers, Casualties, Reports, etc. (Continuation of Folio 2, M.F.M. 1 or M.F.M. 2)	
Embarked at	U.K. on 2 June 44
Disembarked at	France on 6 June 44

## HOLTEN CANADIAN WAR CEMETERY PROJECT

THE CANADIAN SCOTTISH REGIMENT. The map below of the D-Day landing by CP Stacey shows the Canadian Scottish Regiment landing in the Mike, Green sector of Juno Beach to the west of Courseulles-sur-Mer. They move inland and capture St. Croix-sur-Mer, then push south to Pierrepont. The regiment achieves both 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> objectives YEW and ELM on June 6. (with thanks to Bruce Morton – Military researcher and Blogger)



<b>MILITARY MEDAL</b>	C.G.45	4-11-44	4632	The KING has been graciously pleased to approve the following awards for gallant and distinguished conduct in the field:
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The Citation reads "On the night of 8/9 July 1944 in the attack on Cussy (France), Lance-Corporal Cherry's Section Commander was wounded, after the first row of defenses on the objective had been taken. Lance-Corporal Cherry carried his Section Commander to a place of safety under heavy aimed fire from the enemy, then rallied the section (Canadian Scottish) quickly and went on to capture the second line of defenses. He is an outstanding example to his men, and has won the praise of all around him. His quick thinking and coolness under fire undoubtedly were responsible for the taking out of the enemy defences by his section"

Taken from "TracesofWar" [Memorial.Cpl.Frank.Cherry.Schalkhaar - TracesOfWar.com](http://Memorial.Cpl.Frank.Cherry.Schalkhaar-TracesOfWar.com)

## HOLTEN CANADIAN WAR CEMETERY PROJECT

In October and November of 1944, the Canadian Scottish fought in the Battle of Scheldt and sustained over 6,360 Canadian casualties. The battle area was at the mouth of the Scheldt River to the west of Breskens. By April 10, 1945, the Canadian Scottish were attacking Deventer (the Netherlands). Deventer is to the west of Holten. This is the date and location of where Frank was killed in action. On May 5, 1945, the German surrender at Luneburg Heath led to the final liberation of Holland.

For his service, Cpl. Frank Cherry was awarded:

1939-45 Star; The France-Germany Star; Defence Medal;  
Canadian Volunteer Service Medal with Clasp; 1939-45 War Medal.



The inscription on Frank's grave marker reflects his actual age. The document settling his final pay and distribution of his estate to his father state the correct birth date and thus the records were amended.



The marker says:

Five Brothers in arms.

Four Survive.

Life's work well done. Now comes rest.

The four Chery brothers who survived were:

Robert Frank (1919-1977) Royal Canadian Artillery  
Grant Herbert (1921-2002) Sgt. Royal Canadian Artillery  
Gerald Ernest (1922-2003) Sgt. Royal Canadian Artillery  
Donald Kenneth (1926-1969) Royal Canadian Artillery

WE SHALL REMEMBER THEM

Submitted by Marlene Dance



## HOLTEN CANADIAN WAR CEMETERY PROJECT



## BC Geographical Names

Adopted 6 April 1950 on C.3742 Cherry Islets (small island)

Located south of Prince Rupert, east of Sandspit and southwest of Hartley Bay

The Citation reads:

Named to remember Canadian Army Corporal Frank A. Cherry, MM, K57783 from Penticton, serving with the

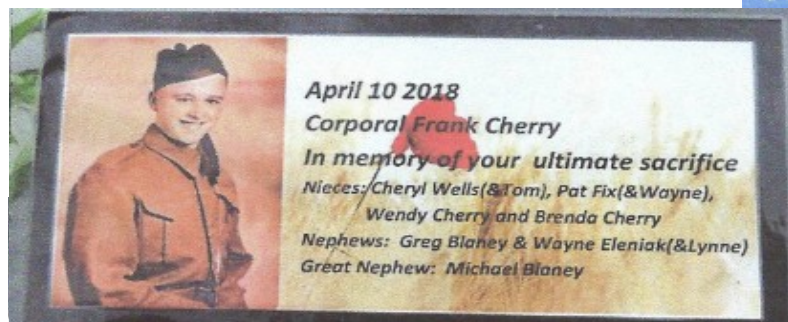
Canadian Scottish Regiment, when

Killed in action 10 April 1945 age 21.

Buried at Holten War Cemetery,

Overijssel, Netherlands,

grave 1.B.6



On April 10, 2018, on the 73<sup>rd</sup> anniversary of his death, Frank's Canadian family gathered at Schalkhaar, Holland. This picture was taken and the plaque placed near the home where Frank was shot by the enemy. In attendance were Edwin van der Wolf, Colonel Tim Young – Canadian attache and representatives of the Dutch Royal Canadian Legion. *Picture used with permission and contributed by family member Cheryl Wells.*

### Udell Family North American Pioneer Stories

Submitted by Gordon Udell  
Member #5905

This article is intended to speak to findings in my recent research on the ancestors of Margaret Degeer, my great-grandmother, and Eunice Spencer my great-great grandmother. In the past 45 years I have had much success in discovering my family's Canadian and European histories, and saw these women as a bit of a gap in the research. Similar to those previous results I was pleased to discover some very interesting great-grandparents in this process.

One of the themes that unites these families is a long mainly British, but some Dutch, North American heritage. A good number of these ancestors were Puritans, with a smaller percentage being Quakers as well as Dutch Reform Church. Several of them had a real impact on the development of freedom in America.

Margaret Degeer, my great-grandmother, was born at Markham, Ontario in 1847. On 5 November 1874 she married John Eli Udell in Stouffville, Ontario. Peter Degeer, her grandfather, was born at Fonda, Montgomery County, New York in 1772. He married Maryte Ostrander from Albany, New York on 17 December 1797 at the Dutch Reformed Church of Caughnawaga, New York.

Margaret Degeer's North American family goes back to her great-grandfather Jan Huyck who landed on Manhattan Island on 4 May 1626, after a voyage of 4 months. With him was Peter Minuit, the first Director of the Dutch West India's Company based in the New World. He is claimed as the founder of New York City, then New Amsterdam. Her great-grandparents also included the Van Valkenburg, Segers, Van Den Berg, Bentsen (Benson), Lansing, Van Den Poel, Ostrander and Traphagen families. Most of these persons lived in the Mohawk Valley and Albany, but a few were also in New York City. One of her great-grandfathers, Volkert Van Den Berg fought during the Revolutionary War with Schuyer's Regiment.

Eunice Spencer, my great-great-grandmother, was born in 1819 at Pickering, Ontario and lived just down the road from my great-great-grandfather John Udell. She married John Udell on 23 December 1840 in Pickering, Ontario. Her father, George D. Spencer, was born on 25 December 1797 in Hartford, Connecticut. Mary Wixson, her mother, was born in Scarborough, Ontario on 5 November 1802. Mary's family were from Massachusetts via Dutchess County, New York. At least 11 of our great-grandfathers are on the Founders Monument in Hartford, including her great-grandfather Sergeant Thomas Spencer.

## PIONEER STORIES

She has at least 110 great-grandparents who came to North America during the 17<sup>th</sup> century. One of the first of her ancestors to arrive was Walter Palmer who arrived in 1629 and then went on to found Rehoboth, Massachusetts in 1643 and Stonington, Connecticut a few years later.

Mary Ann Wixson's great-grandfather Robert Wixam came over in the Winthrop Fleet in 1630 as a 7-year-old indentured servant. He thrived and eventually married Alice Aspinet, daughter of Sachem Nauset Aspinet of the Cape Cod Nauset First Nation.

However, In this article I want to share a few of my favourite stories of some of my ancestors and relatives through Eunice Spencer.

1) Richard Norman is the first of Eunice's ancestors to come to New England. Richard was born about 1575 in England. He married Florence and in 1623 they came to Cape Ann, north of Boston, where he worked for the Dorchester Company as a shipwright and fisherman. They are my x10 great-grandparents. That company failed so they moved to the Salem area before 1628. They later moved to Marblehead, Massachusetts "beyond the immediate influence of the Salem church-state." A person could get the feeling that he may have had a mind of his own and wasn't impressed with some of the approaches of the Puritans.

2) Lieutenant Thomas Leffingwell was born on 10 March 1624 at White Colne, Essex, England. He migrated to Connecticut some time before 1637, maybe in the charge of an older sister. This was shortly after the settlement of Hartford, Connecticut in 1636. He married Mary White, daughter of Edward White and Martha King in about 1647. Thomas and Mary are my x9 great-grandparents.

Thomas Leffingwell was a friend of the first Mohegan, Sachem Uncas. The following account is from Dr. Trumbull's "*History of Connecticut*":

"Uncas, with a small band of Mohegan Indians, was encamped on a point of land projecting into the river, and there closely besieged by their most inveterate foes, the Narragansetts. Finding himself in danger of being cut off by the enemy, he managed to send to his friends, the English Colony at Saybrook, the news of his extremity, with perhaps some appeal for help. "Upon this intelligence," says Trumbull, "one Thomas Leffingwell, an ensign at Saybrook, an enterprising, bold man, loaded a canoe with beef, corn and pease, and, under cover of the night paddled from Saybrook into the Thames, and had the address to get the whole into the fort. The enemy soon perceiving that Uncas was relieved, raised the siege. For this service Uncas gave said Leffingwell a deed of a great part, if not the whole of the town of Norwich.



## PIONEER STORIES

In June, 1659, Uncas, with his two sons, Owaneco and Attawanhood, by a more formal and authentic deed, made over unto said Leffingwell, John Mason, Esq., the Rev. James Fitch, and others, consisting of thirty-five proprietors, the whole township of Norwich, which is about nine miles square."

Thomas is said to be the inspiration for James Fenimore Cooper's character "Hawkeye" in the "Last of the Mohicans". It is interesting to note that Uncas wasn't the "last of the Mohicans" but rather the first as he broke away from his mother Nation to establish the Mohicans. His friendship with Thomas and Uncas's wisdom is evident in how Mohegans survived and thrived.

3) Benjamin and Bridget Crisp migrated on board the "*Plough*" in 1631 to Watertown, Massachusetts. He may have been an indentured servant to Major Edward Gibbons. Benjamin was a Mason by trade. He was made a "freeman" in 1646. They were Puritans. Bridget died during King Phillip's War, it is thought as a consequence of a raid on Groton, Massachusetts. Their daughter Deliverance, along with her husband and 5 of her 8 children were killed in a raid on Groton on 27 July 1694. The other 3 were taken into captivity, where one daughter died of starvation, one entered a convent in Quebec and the remaining son was ransomed and reluctantly returned in 1699. Benjamin and Bridget Crisp are my x10 great-grandparents.

4) John Bowne was born in March 1627 at Matlock, Derbyshire, England and with his sister Dorothy, emigrated to Boston with his father In 1651. He married Hannah Feake in Flushing in 1656. They were Quakers. He is a brother-in-law of my x9 great-grandparents Elizabeth Feake and John Underhill.

In a story told by the Bowne family:

"Flushing was issued its charter by the Dutch West India Company (in1645). . . The Governor was Peter Stuyvesant. The leadership of the colony was deeply influenced by the heads of the Reformed Dutch church, who didn't approve of Quakerism. Stuyvesant issued an edict "forbidding anyone in the colony to entertain a Quaker or to allow Quaker meetings to be held in his or her house under penalty of a fine of fifty pounds." In direct defiance of the Governor's orders a gutsy Flushing colonist, Henry Townsend, held a Quaker meeting in his home, and was promptly fined and banished. They were tied up in controversy with Governor Stuyvesant over the freedom of Conscience of the Quakers."

"The townspeople of Flushing rallied behind Townsend, and presented Stuyvesant and the colonial government with a document that has gone down in history as "The Flushing Remonstrance".

## PIONEER STORIES

The document was drawn up and signed by Edward Hart, the town clerk, and Tobias Feake, the local sheriff. It was dated 27 December 1657. It states in part:

“..for if God justifie who can condemn; and if God condemn who can justie.. And because our Saviour saith it is impossible but that offenses will come, but woe unto him by they cometh, our desire is not to offend one of his little ones, in whatsoever form, name or title he appears in, whether Presbyterian, Independent, Baptist or Quaker, but shall be glad to see anything of God in any of them desiring to doe unto all men, as wee desire all men should doe unto us, which is the true law both of church and state.”

“They then reminded the Governor that their charter said “to have and enjoy the liberty of Conscience, according to the Custome and manner of Holland, without molestation or disturbance.”

Stuyvesant had Hart and Feake thrown in jail, and fired the entire town council, replacing them with men of his own choosing.

Then John Bowne and his wife Hannah Feake got involved by inviting the Flushing Quakers to hold a meeting in their home. “The Governor had John Bowne arrested and thrown in jail. Bowne refused to pay the fine or admit his wrongdoing, even refusing to escape when his prison door was conveniently left open for him. The Governor .. sent him packing on the next ship for Holland. But, told him he was free to get off the ship at any point before it reached Holland. Bowne disembarked in Ireland, but made his way to Holland and presented his case before the Dutch West India Company. He prevailed and they send a letter to the Governor establishing religious freedom in the colony. The letter said in part “The consciences of men at least ought ever to remain free and unshackled”.

When John Bowne returned from Holland they continued to hold Quaker meetings in their home for the next 20 years. Hannah went back to Ireland and England on several occasions to raise funds for the Quakers. On one of those trips she became ill in London and died. She is buried in the Bunhill Fields Burying Ground in London.

5) Frances Weekes was born about 1616 in England. He emigrated to Dorchester, Massachusetts in the early 1630s, at least before 1635. He is a cousin through the Feake and Townsend families. He came in the company of John Smith, 20 years his elder. He was probably working at the grist mill at Dorchester operated by John Smith, his mentor. John had been banned from the Massachusetts Bay Colony for holding dangerous opinions. He had written a book expressing negative opinions about the government.

## PIONEER STORIES

At the same time the Reverend Roger Williams was pushing the thought that individuals should be free to follow their own convictions in religious matters and was concerned how some of the immigrants were treating the Indians in land deals. Because of his opinions he was banished by the Massachusetts Bay Colony and not allowed to preach. Roger Williams was warned by Governor John Winthrop that the authorities were coming to get him and he fled, obtaining a lot on the edge of the colony at Seekonk. He crossed the Seekonk River in search of a new colony. He was accompanied by 4 other men, and Frances Weekes was one of those in the canoe with Roger Williams when they landed in what would become Providence, Rhode Island in 1636. Roger Williams referred to Frances as "A poor young fellow". There is a famous American painting of the canoe crossing the river. Roger Williams established the first Baptist Church in American at Providence in 1638. Frances is considered one of the Founders of Providence, Rhode Island.

Frances was a signatory to the 1637 Providence Compact and the 1640 Draft Combination. By 1639 he had married Elizabeth Luther, born about 1626 at Gravesend, Kent, England. She was a Quaker. He left Rhode Island by 1642. They moved to Hempstead, Long Island, New York. Elizabeth (Luther) Weekes was brought before Church authorities and accused of "contrary to the law of God, and the laws established for this place, not only absented themselves from public worship of God, but have profaned the Lord's Day by going to a conventicle or meeting in the woods, where there were two Quakers".

They were fined by the authorities for "entertaining Quakers". They left Hempstead and moved to Oyster Bay, Long Island, New York and spent the rest of their days there. On 31 March 1647 the four eldest children of Frances and Elizabeth were baptized in the Dutch Church of New York.

These stories are but a brief snippet of the many events that occurred in North America the 17th century. It may appear that there was nothing but turmoil during these early times, but I do not believe that is representative of the way things were. A lot of the time these peoples were working together for their mutual benefit and doing their best to care for each other. I will say that if you are fortunate enough to have ancestors that were in New England during this time period there is a lot of information readily available for most of them.



## INVITATION

### **Qualicum Beach Family History Society**

is pleased to invite all your members to 3 **FREE** webinars starting in September.

For more information, and biographies of the speakers, go to:

<https://www.qbfhs.ca/category/speakers/>

#1 September 18 @ 7PM Pacific Time:

#### **"Artificial Intelligence and Genealogy: Trouble Ahead?"**

presented by **Thomas MacEntee**

*While AI (artificial intelligence) might be the current “hot” buzz word, the fact is that many genealogy vendors and even genealogists have already been using this technology for years. The AI industry is at a crossroads and within the next five years, it will permeate almost every aspect of business and society. Learn how AI is currently being used to improve the genealogy experience, and whether or not you should seek out other uses of artificial intelligence for your own genealogy research.*

#2 October 16 @ 7PM Pacific Time:

#### **"Be a Super Sleuth: Accessing Images in Family Search"**

presented by **Jill Morelli**.

*Did you know that now over 95% of the online records of FamilySearch are not accessible by a surname search? Did you know that FamilySearch was now putting their newly digitized records in Images and NOT in the Card Catalog? How do you find these records and access the information you need? We will explore the access options Images to you and how to “read” the record for maximum efficiency. Also covered will be the new Beta Lab all-word document search.*

#3 November 20 @ 7PM Pacific Time

#### **"Destination Canada"**

presented by **Dave Obee**

*More than seven million people arrived in Canada from Europe, the United States and Asia between 1815 and 1930. This session deals with the wide variety of sources that deal with immigration to Canada, including ship passenger lists (available from 1865 through 1935), border crossing records, and naturalization and citizenship documents. Many of these sources have been indexed and placed online, making it possible to access them quickly and easily. It pays to know, however, the scope and limitations of those Internet resources, and how to obtain information from other sources. Dave is the author of the book *Destination Canada*.*

**NOTE: Registration is required in order to get the zoom link. Send an email to [presentations@qbfhs.ca](mailto:presentations@qbfhs.ca) with your name, email address and which webinar you are registering for.**

## DICTIONARY OF CANADIAN BIOGRAPHY

### New DCB/DBC Website

Dear Friend of the DCB/DBC,

Each week the Dictionary of Canadian Biography/Dictionnaire biographique du Canada sends an e-newsletter about the publication of a new biography or the recommendation of a previously published entry. This week is different. Today we are proud to announce the launch of our updated website, which has a refreshed look and important new features.

We have added more than 300 summaries about topics and events relevant to Canadian history. When reading a biography, refer to “Related Topics” in the left-hand sidebar; click to read the topic summary and discover links to other resources for more information. Readers can also browse by topic: click on [Browse](#) (at the top of the site under the Search bar) and then [Browse by Topic](#). As well as improving discoverability of our biographies on the Web, these related topics offer an overview of the many historical themes addressed in our entries. For example, the summary “Enslaved Black people in the Maritimes” provides context for more than 40 related biographies, including a group that we started publishing in Black History Month, among them Name Unrecorded and Lydia Jackson.

You will also begin to see biographical summaries at the head of new entries and, in the case of long biographies, subheadings; consult, for example, [Ward Chipman](#). The addition of summaries and subheadings will be ongoing in the coming weeks.

As well, the site’s display is now responsive, adapting to all screen sizes, whether desktop, tablet, or mobile phone.

We gratefully acknowledge the financial support of the Canada History Fund of the Department of Canadian Heritage, which made this major update possible. We thank their team: Debbie Vanderburgh, Tamara Davis, and Joel Ralph. We also thank Jeff Kilpatrick, our website engineer, for his ongoing and prodigious efforts in transitioning our online presence, as well as our editorial teams in Toronto and Quebec for their remarkable work on this project. Bravo à tous!

Please visit and explore our new [website](#)\*. Follow us on Facebook and/or [X](#) for more biographies and updates on DCB/DBC activities. To contact us, please write to [dbc@dbc.ulaval.ca](mailto:dbc@dbc.ulaval.ca) or reply to this e-mail.

Thank you for your interest in the DCB/DBC.

Alain Laberge  
*Directeur général adjoint*

\* <https://www.biographi.ca/en/>

David A. Wilson  
General Editor  
\* <https://www.biographi.ca/en/>

Submitted BY Jacqueline Gresko  
Member # 4927

## 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:*

December 2024 - due by November 15  
March 2025 - due by February 15  
June 2025 - due by May 15  
September 2025 - 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](mailto:queryrequest@bcgs.ca) or by mail: Box 88054, Lansdowne Mall, Richmond, BC V6X 3T6

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Daytime hours: 10:00 am to 3:00 pm

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