



AncesTree

A QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER OF THE NANAIMO FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY

Summer 2008

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Chris Watts Seminar, Nanaimo BC May 17, 2008



SESSIONS – a description

10:00 a.m. Sources for Family History at The National Archives of England, Wales & the United Kingdom

The National Archives of England, Wales and the United Kingdom (TNA) has one of the largest archival collections in the world, spanning 1000 years of British history, from Domesday Book of 1086 to government papers recently released to the public. Its on-line Catalogue list 9.5 million boxes, files and volumes; these occupy some 154 km of shelving and are accumulating at 1 to 2 km per year. In this talk a brief survey will be made of some of the material of significance to the family historian: divorce, wills, estate duty office, tax on apprentices, emigration and immigration, armed forces, coastguard, customs, excise, railwaymen, police (Metropolitan and Royal Irish) and records of the law courts.

1:00 p.m. Some Under-used Sources for English Genealogy

Those researching English ancestors will be familiar with the standard sources of civil registration, censuses, wills and parish registers. This talk will first remind us of some of the aspects of these sources that we may have overlooked. It will then go on to describe a selection of other material that we may have overlooked, or with which we may not be familiar, such as: Estate Duty Office Registers; the contents of the parish chest; marriage licenses; divorce; tithe maps, land tax, Lloyd George's doomsday; manor rolls.

3:30 p.m. English Occupational Records

One of the top research objectives of Family Historians, having compiled a basic family tree, is to discover their ancestors' occupations. There is no one single resource that will satisfy this need but there is a vast range of records that can help. In this talk we will look at some of what is available and what it might reveal. This will include those employed, or licensed by, central and local government, such as the armed forces, police, railway men, merchant seamen, inn-keepers and more besides. Some reference will also be made to the tax on apprenticeships.

President's Report – June 2008

It is soon time for the kids to be out of school for their summer break. With the summer break, the local LDS will also be taking a break. Their hours will be limited to Tuesday mornings so that those who have films there can continue to read them before their return due date.

There has been a decline in the number of people using the resources available at the LDS. Even though they do not have access to Ancestry any longer, there are thousands of films available to be ordered in for you to view. I hope that September brings a renewed interest in checking out what they have available to you. During their opening hours, our Society has volunteers there to help you.

Our library will remain open during the summer months so you can continue your research. The library volunteers will be there ready and willing to help you in your search for those elusive ancestors.

If anyone is interested in volunteering at our library, please contact Jill Stedman or myself. Even if you could put your name on a "Spare List" would be helpful so those who volunteer on a regular basis could have the odd day off would be appreciated. You don't need to have a lot of researching knowledge to volunteer. You do need to have an interest in helping others.

The Chris Watts seminar was a success. It was a day chalk full of information for those of us researching in U.K. Some of our members travelled to Campbell River the next weekend to hear Dr. Watts speak on some more specific topics. His talk has had me spending more time searching the National Archives site. I find the more time I spend on it, the more familiar I become with it.

The executive would like to hear from you with any suggestions you may have for speakers/topics at any workshops/seminars we will have in the future. There will be an e-mail sent to all members, please take the time to reply. We want to know what you would like to see from the Society. Please tell us how we can help.

Enjoy your summer.

Jocelyn Howat

Librarians Report June 2008

Summer is beginning to tantalize us with glimpses of warm weather once in a while. While the opportunities to use the Family History Center decrease through the summer, I attempt to make use of the time to review what I have found over the season, organize and file the many pieces of paper that accumulate, and determine which direction I wish to focus my research in the fall. Don't forget that while the Family History Center has reduced hours during the summer, our library's opening times remain the same. Tuesday and Thursday sessions tend to be the busier sessions with the Saturdays and Wednesday night sessions somewhat less busy. The computer with Ancestry on it can be booked for one hour sessions, or you can just show up and take your chances that it will have an opening (not likely on a busy day). If you are researching in Quebec and haven't heard it elsewhere, Ancestry have indexed the Drouin Collection from 1850 onwards. If you are searching 1850 or after and haven't found the persons you want, it might worth your while to book an hour and see if you can find them. All the other machines are first come first served with a one hour time limit on them if someone is waiting for the machine.

The re-labeling and re-cataloging project is coming along with almost all of the items in the two front rooms done. A catalogue organized by topic can be found on our web-site. The link to it is on the library page. That catalogue is updated every couple of months. All of the computers in the library have both a catalogue and a query program to find items. These are updated each day as the changes occur so the latest information is available there.

FamilySearch Labs (<http://labs.familysearch.org/>) is a web site where new family history technologies are being developed. The first item on the page "Records Search" is where you can search numerous records and view the originals. I believe that these are some of the early results of the FamilySearch Indexing project. You don't need to come into the library to use this site as you can view it from your home computer. You do need to download and install Adobe Flash Player (a free program, links are on the site) to use the Records Search. Quite a few areas have been added since the site came up. Well worth checking out however remember that this a developmental site so it will probably be down frequently for upgrades and such.

We are still looking for computers to replace our old Windows 98 machines. When you decide to upgrade your computer to the latest and greatest (or not so great), please keep us in mind and make a donation.

Happy Researching and have a good summer

Bud Pennington



Passenger List Transcribing Project

June 2008

After the bugs had been worked out of the system, we added the index to Library & Archive Canada Microfilm T-491 to our database in early May. This film had 37,517 passengers on 54 ships & covers 10 July 1907 to 6 Sept 1907.

Overall totals now on the database are 433,843 passengers on 817 ships, covering 29 May 1907 to 13 October 1910.

Work continues on Microfilm T-489, the indexing is finished and about half of the ships are already proof read. Many thanks to project volunteers for all their time and effort, you are greatly appreciated.

Summer is (almost) here and no doubt some of you will be taking a well earned break. Please have a good rest and come back in the autumn refreshed and ready to go!

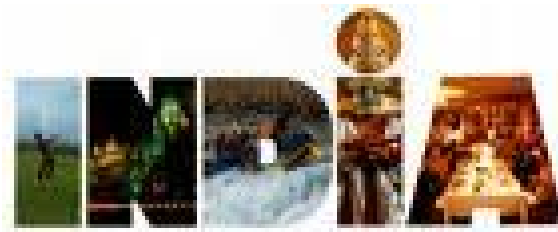
Please remember, when you are ready to start indexing another ship, send me an email requesting a ship. Some of you prefer to work from CD's and these are available at the society's library.

Take a look at the following photograph. Wouldn't it be nice if we all had a photo of our family arriving in Canada with a lifebelt showing the name of the ship they arrived on!



Saville family arriving in Canada, 1924 on the **SS Melita** (CPR)

Margaret. Project Co-ordinator.



One Response to “Fishing fleet found in BT27 passenger lists” by Jaffa Levy

Extracts from The Simon Wallenburg’s Press Books on Anglo Indian Heritage.

As years rolled on the practice of marrying Indian wives was successful but with the opening of the Suez Canal the necessity of it disappeared. Soon after, the opening of the overland route via the Suez Canal made voyaging to India less arduous, less expensive, and less dangerous than before; with the result that English women began to come out in considerable numbers in what was termed the fishing fleet, and the ugly head of claimed race superiority soon became ascendant as they had to compete with the better looking and educated Anglo Indian women. Marrying the local women even those of mixed blood fell into disrepute.

As Quoted in Alick Stark’s Hostages to India Simon Wallenberg Press

When the pure blooded Britisher, although born in India, resorted to a woman of the country he came from he wronged community to which he belonged he wronged British society in India by not providing a home to an Anglo-Indian who was precluded from marrying an Indian husband because of the virulent caste system.

Ships departing for India [e.g. *Kaiser I Hind* from London to Calcutta on 12th October 1893] show lists of Miss Max, Miss Cowell, Miss Blyth, Miss Graham and long sequences of a few thousand unmarried women, down to Miss Sandys and Miss Good.

This is the suspected “fleeting fleet”: marriageable young women sailing out to India in search of eligible bachelors, preferably the so-called “heaven-born” serving in the Indian Civil Service or officers in the Army. In that era of large families in England, the only prospect for girls without dowry or physical beauty was spinsterhood.

Victor Jacquemont, a French botanist visiting India at the time was not much impressed by the English ladies he met at Calcutta and other places. He wrote (1830): “*Portionless girls who have not succeeded in getting married in England arrive here in cargoes for sale on honourable terms,*” Another Frenchman, who served as an officer in the East India Company army, Capt Edouard Warren, considered the parents’ calculations of costs, risks and rewards rather sordid.

In this situation many of the girls became accomplished flirts. As long as the girl made a suitable catch in the end, flirting was accepted as a pleasant activity except when the girl overdid it. The young civilian was considered a prime catch, £ 300 a year dead or alive. The “fleet” sailed out from Britain in the autumn or early winter and spent the next few cooler Indian months socializing at the British clubs and angling for a groom. There was always a shortage of unattached British women in India, so the arrival of the fishing fleet was doubtless fondly awaited by sincere and ardent gentlemen ready to be affianced, not to mention by

dastardly bounders who enjoyed toying with a lady's affections for the season. Unsuccessful women - the "returned empties" - re-embarked for Britain in the spring.

Alick Stark In Hostages to India [Published by the Simon Wallenberg Press] says

Lt Col Alfred Rowe writes about the plight of the Anglo Indian girls at that time. "Almost overnight on the instigation of the 'ladies' from England if a mixed marriage or a marriage to an Anglo Indian girl took place, There was a revolt against his conduct his comrades practically ostracized him under pressure from their new English wives". Rowe writes "These English women caused grief and misery with their immoral ways in comparison with the native and Anglo Indian women".

A verse from the lays of Ind says in regards to the European women of the fishing fleet. Pale faded stuffs by time grown faint will brighten up through art; A Britain gives their faces paint For sale at India's mart. At times young English wives with old husbands got involved in scandalous affairs with younger men and even eloped with them.

Here is another verse from the 'Lays of Ind'.

Colonel White was over forty; Jane, his bride was seventeen; She was also very naughty For she loved a Captain Green"!

The ladies from England made sure that the prevailing public opinion should hold that when the occasion for intermarriage with Indians had disappeared, those who had recourse to it forfeited all claim to condemnation and it was made into wanton outrage on society. Clearly with the arrival of the European ladies in large numbers due to the easy access via the Suez route that manners and times suddenly changed. Mixed marriages would not be tolerated and preference was to be given fishing fleet arrivals over indigenous Anglo Indian girls, from this point of time.

As time passed, more and more European Memsahibs appeared on the scene and emerged as supporting stars in the great imperial drama of the white mans burden to rule over the coloured people. The Memsahibs inculcated a feeling of racial superiority and brought a little England in the midst of India. Anglo Indian officers of the company, however high their rank and length of service, now being of inferior and mixed blood ceased to be invited to the homes and functions of the pure European population.

Unfortunately those who paid the penalty were the hapless children of the British fathers and Indian mothers. The East India Company encouraged this type of apartheid as it was the dawn of "enlightened imperialism". For with the Victorian church preaching a new Christian morality in Britain, theft through conquest and subjugation of people outright could not be justified and was against Christian values. Therefore, in order to justify a Private company's conquest of a nation it had to show to all, that the inhabitants India were enslaved for their own good. It was now the "White mans burden to rule over the inferior races, the white man brought civilization to the childlike Indian and African who needed to be led and was incapable of managing his own affairs. Because to accept the Indians as civilized would meant that colonization over them could never be justified, and would be in contradiction with the Christian faith, there was no option but to disparage the natives and consider them inferior, in the scheme of things where one side was the master and the other the slave, one could say but its for their own good we are here."

<http://ancestorsonboard.wordpress.com/2007/02/08/fishing-fleet-found-in-bt27-passenger-lists/#comments>

INDIA OFFICE FAMILY RECORDS SEARCH (British Library)

The information included in the India Office Family History Search website is taken from a card index hitherto available only at the British Library. The card index was compiled by members of staff at the India Office Records from the mid-1970s onwards to meet the growing interest in genealogy. Users should note that probably less than 10% of the biographical sources available in the India Office Records were incorporated into the index, although future additions to this website are planned. As the biographical information included in this website is only a small part of the total available in the archives, users may need to search elsewhere in the records.

Where does the information on this site come from?

Most of the information comes from the India Office Records. In the records, the main source is: Returns of baptisms, marriages and burials. Records of these events for European and Eurasian Christians in India and in other places.

Other important sources are: Military Department records: these include records of officers' appointment to the armies of the East India Company;

Marine Department records: these include records of service for officers and seamen in the East India Company's maritime service.

Accountant-General's Department records: these include records of army officers contributing to the Madras Military Fund & Other record sources.

Other information comes from: Reference books, journals & newspapers, Memorial inscriptions, IOR Biographical File, Commonwealth War Graves Commission register.

Use this website <http://indiafamily.bl.uk/UI/Home.aspx> to search:

- 300,000 births, baptisms, marriages, deaths and burials in the India Office Records
- biographical notes from a variety of sources for mainly British and European people in India c.1600-1949

FIBIS transcriptions added May 2008 – Bonds (IOR: O), Registrar Marriages (IOR: N/11) and East India Register births, marriages and deaths.

NOTE: Families In British India Society (FIBIS) is an organization devoted to members with an interest in researching their ancestors and the background against which they led their lives in 'British India'. The Society was formed in November 1998 to provide a resource for people researching families and their social history in India from 1600 up to and even after, Indian Independence in 1947. <http://www.fibis.org/index.html>

BACSA, the British Association for Cemeteries in South Asia, was set up in 1976 to care for, and to record, European cemeteries wherever the East India Company set foot. It is estimated that some two million European men, women and children are buried in the Indian subcontinent alone. <http://indian-cemeteries.org/bacsa/>

FINDMYPAST: Passenger lists now complete with launch of the final decade. Search for ancestors from 1890-1960. The last decade of the Passenger Lists has now been added, allowing you to search from 1890 all the way up to 1960, for ancestors leaving the UK. There are now more than 24 million passengers, across 164,000 exclusive passenger lists.

Here are some facts about the 1500's CONTINUED

FOLLOW UP “These were not facts, but falsehoods. “

THE FOLLOWING MAY BE THE TRUTH!

Many people married in May or June because they were Catholics and the Church wisely proscribed marriages from being celebrated during the Lenten season, a time of abstinence and penance. By the way, this pious law continued to be followed by good Catholics until Vatican II swept out so many of the good traditions that developed in the Age of Faith.

As for the yearly-bath myth, medievalists have long laid to rest the idea that people rarely bathed in the Middle Ages. The Middle Ages was a period of hygiene and cleanliness. The first bit of evidence we have is the prevalence of soap, a common product used for washing clothes and washing people. Next, there are multiple references in literature and manuscripts to bathing, treated matter-of-factly, as something common place. Charlemagne, for example, used to bathe each morning in a large pool or river, where he would meet with his ministers, who were also invited to bathe. Bathing was part of a ritual before certain ceremonies, such as knighthood, and in the romances of chivalry we see that the laws of hospitality required offering guests a bath before they dined. The first etiquette manuals (13th century), as well as the various monastic Rules, specified washing the hands before eating, and keeping the hair, fingernails and clothing clean. Clearly, washing was frequent – there is evidence all over the place for people washing their hands, faces and feet on a daily basis. Monastic rules usually had provisions that stipulated washing one's hair and bathing once each week, usually on a certain day. We can also see how the medievals utilized running rivers or streams. The monks of Cluny were the first to take advantage of the nearby running stream to use as a type of indoor plumbing system. One can still find there numerous lavatories close to the refectories. A saying in France from those days shows how cleanliness was considered one of the pleasures of existence: Venari, ludere, lavari, bibere; Hoc est vivere! (To hunt, to play, to wash, to drink, - This is to live!)

As for the bridal bouquet, it was one of numerous beautiful symbolic customs that developed around the Sacrament of Matrimony that we have inherited. For the medieval mind, which saw in all nature a reflection of the Creator, each flower had a symbolic value and displayed a message: Orange blossom, popular for bridal bouquets & denoted chastity, purity & loveliness. A sprig of ivy was included in bouquets as a symbol of fidelity. Roses represented love, and the lily of the valley, happiness, and so on. The flowers of the bridal bouquet had real meaning; they were not meant to disguise foul odors from a supposedly unwashed bride and groom.

Baths and Babies

First, the bathing tubs for babies in the 1500s, like today, were small basins, different from the tubs used for adults. Second, the saying first appeared in English only in the 19th century in the writings of Thomas Carlyle (1853), who reported, 'The Germans say, 'You must empty out the bathing-tub, but not the baby along with it.' The saying, which in itself is proof that babies were bathed often, actually was used in a different context: 'Don't be careless. Don't confuse the essential with the dispensable.'"

FOR THE RECORD:

REST IN PEACE: STACEY (Bob) Robert Jack It's with great sadness his family announces the passing of a beloved husband, father, grandfather and brother. After a long battle with ill health, he passed away peacefully at home on May 6, 2008. Bob was born in Calgary on August 8, 1930 and moved to Nanaimo in 1944. Bob worked with his father at Stacey's Oil Service before starting 35 years of employment at McMillan Blodel. In his retirement years he spent many hours researching his Family Tree while belonging to the Nanaimo Family History Society (since 1999 & Honorary Life Member for his contribution as Vice President responsible for Programs) and walking with his morning coffee friends at Woodgrove Mall. Over the years Bob touched the lives of many and his greatest love was his family. Predeceased by his mother in 1987 and father in 2003, he will be lovingly remembered by his wife of 47 years Peggy, his children Cheryl (Peter) and Brad (Holly), his treasured grandchildren Marina, Taylor, Chloe and Clarke, brother Perk (Louise), sister Dorothy (Les), father and mother-in-law Albert and Rita, brothers-in-law Ken and Glen and numerous cousins, nieces, nephews and many dear friends.

A Memorial Service was held on Tuesday, May 20th, 2008 at 11:00 am. Donations may be made to the Heart and Stroke Foundation.

PUBLICATIONS available from Nanaimo Family History Society

- **Index of Births, Marriages & Deaths from the Nanaimo Free Press** – this covers April 1874 to December 1899. The date shown in each case is the date of publication rather than the date of the event. This will allow the reader to refer to the appropriate microfilm copy of the newspaper
Price: \$12.00
- **Nanaimo Cemetery – Surname Index** – Extracted from the Nanaimo Municipal Cemetery Records 1876 to 1926. These are NOT gravestone inscriptions 4467 burials.
Price: \$12.00
- **1920 Voters List – Nanaimo, Ladysmith & District** – Eligible voters of Central Vancouver Island, from Ladysmith north to Nanoose Bay, including Nanaimo, Cassidy, Extention, Ladysmith, Northfield, Cedar, South Wellington, Grant Mines (Lantzville), Nanoose Bay, Wellington, Gabriola Island.
Price: \$12.00
- **Early Catholic Parish Registers 1873 to 1925** – St Peter's Roman Catholic Church, Nanaimo BC 1877 to 1925 Burials to 1990's; St John's Roman Catholic Parish, Wellington BC 1892 to 1901; St Mary's Roman Catholic Parish, Ladysmith BC 1901 to 1925
Price: \$12.00
- **Pioneer Albertans 1912** – An index to Biographies of over 500 pioneer Albertans, with cross references to 950 spouses and mothers, extracted from History of Alberta, by Archibald Oswald MacRaw.
Price: \$12.00

NOW AVAILABLE at the **NANAIMO FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY LIBRARY** on Microfilm BC Vital Statistics Registrations from British Columbia Provincial Archives (Now you can avoid that trip to Victoria or Vancouver to search BC Registrations) Births: 1858 to 1887 (1888 to 1904 not available because of the 120 year restrictions) Marriages: 1895 to 1932 Deaths: 1872 to 1987 Overseas Casualties from WWII

AncesTree Newsletter

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LIBRARY HOURS:

Tuesday & Thursday 1-4pm; Wednesday 6:30-9 pm; Saturday 11 am – 3 pm

Visitors welcome - \$2.00 drop-in charge

Volunteers needed, no experience necessary - training provided. Don't miss this great opportunity to meet new people and learn things along the way. Our library is run by volunteers. Without whom we would have to close. We could really use a few more people to help. It doesn't have to be every week. A few hours every other week would be great. We are especially looking for help on Wednesday evening. We also need people to fill in occasionally when someone is away. Please contact Jill Stedman our Library Administrator at 758-9731

GENERAL MEETINGS

7:00-9:00 pm 3rd Monday of each month (except holidays, & July, August, December)

At Beban Park Lounge 2300 Bowen Road, Nanaimo BC

Coffee, Tea, Cookies available for a cost of \$.50 (vending machines also available)

VISTORS ALWAYS WELCOME AS GUESTS: Check the web site for events and speakers

2008/9 Executive

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Have a wonderful



of family history research, reunions and fun!