

June 2016

Abbotsford Genealogical Society Newsletter

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Message from Tess Strong Newsletter Editor

Summer and many of us scatter around the province, country and even the globe in search of ancestors. Likewise I joined the quest. My first goal was to find where my Grand Uncle Sylvester Dennis (Denny) Hogan worked, lived and was buried.

Continued Page 3



Message from President Jim McQueen

I had the privilege of representing the AGS at the Fraser Valley Regional Heritage Fair awards ceremony the end of April. More than 100 students participated. They represented their schools and districts throughout the Fraser Valley.

The projects were impressive and I would like to thank Pat Confrey, Lynda Paul and Graham MacDonell, AGS members that took on the formidable task of judging. The AGS sponsored the Family History category.

Genevieve Taylor of Richard Bullpit Elementary in Langley was chosen the winner for her compelling story "My Great Grandfather, Stories of WWII". You can read the story on page 4.

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President's Message continued from Page 1

Also I was invited to attend the Historic Cemetery Conservation Workshop in Agassiz, which was sponsored by the Old Cemetery Conservation Plan Sub-Committee of the District of Kent Parks & Recreation Committee. Guest presenter for the workshop was Wilf Bunch from the Old Cemetery Society of Victoria.

While the focus was on restoration and conservation, there was useful information on stone cleaning and distribution and sharing of information. It also reinforced that the AGS is doing things right and performing a needed public service.

Our cemetery project is moving along as we work on Hazelwood, Unfortunately, we will not meet the completion objective of this summer. Our volunteer base has shrunk and other commitments intervened. Nonetheless, we completed two more sections.

The importance of this project is evident by the increasing number of enquiries we receive. This spring we received requests from the United States, Germany, Sweden and Finland. If you have some time this summer, please come and help with this project.

At our January Annual General Meeting, members identified the educational topics the AGS should pursue. Following this direction, speakers were booked this spring. Nevertheless, we have seen a significant drop in meeting attendance.

Any feedback you can provide, in particular why you have not attended the meetings and/or participated would be appreciated. If we do not know what the obstacles are we cannot address them. You can contact me at president@abbygs.ca.

There are four Special Interest Groups: United Kingdom and Canada meet monthly. For more information regarding the SIGs, including Genealogy 101 and Investigative Techniques, go to <http://abbygs.ca/special-interest-group.html>.

Pat Confrey (librarian) reports that, after receiving a substantial donation of material earlier this spring, the catalogue is current. One of the significant benefits of AGS membership is the Resource Centre. It holds a wide range of research materials most of which are not available on the internet.

These include books, directories, periodicals, CDs and fiche, plus there is the use of complimentary computers and software. I encourage you to check out the Resource Centre: you may just find that fact or tidbit of information that helps break through that brick wall you've been struggling with. There is always something new.

A last thought: remember that when a family member passes away, they take a library of memories with them. It's a genealogist's duty to record them before that happens. **END**



THANK
YOU

Dear Judges, Helpers, People who gave tours, etc.,
Thank you so, so, so much for helping the Heritage Fair be a success! Also, I am so grateful that you took the time out of your days, time and weeks to come judge us. And, gosh! Thank you for being so nice and polite, but most importantly, you guys let me stop (while I was being interviewed) and kind of calm down, and let go of my nervousness. I hope I get to meet you guys again soon!

-Sharon Kim! ♡ (Capilano Suspension Bridge)

Newsletter Editor Message *continued from Page 1*

I knew most of Denny's nine children; my first cousins once removed. With a few exceptions most moved to Vancouver Island to raise their families. My second cousins and I experienced amazing Irish c  ilidhs and wakes during our youth.

Born in Chatham Kent Ontario in 1870, Denny worked most of his life in the Jasper area. He owned a construction camp [lower left] below Overlander Falls on both sides of the Fraser River during the building of the Grand Trunk Pacific and the Canadian Northern Pacific railways in the 1910s. Klapperhorn Mountain in the Fraser River Valley south of Mount Robson is also known as "Hogan Mountain."

After exhausting my resources I enlisted the assistance of the Alberta Genealogical Society to research various repositories. They found some land records; a plot number; and a priceless biographical article written by his son for Jasper Reflections [published 1996]. Of utmost interest was the image of Grand Uncle Hogan [lower right].

In mid-May during our annual family vacation, the six of us began our search. On a hike to Overlander Falls in Robson Valley, we found remains of Denny's camp. Also found was Denny's final resting place in Jasper and that of his youngest son James Andrew. "Big Jim" was winner of the first Canadian Junior Golf Tournament in 1938.



Shortly after you receive this issue I will be exploring the land of my Scandinavian ancestors. My DNA ethnicity estimates I am 99% European [69% Irish and 18% Scandinavian] and <1% South Asian. The First Viking Age lasted from 795 when Vikings raided Irish settlements in Lambay Island in the Bay of Dublin until 902 when the ruling Norse dynasty was expelled. Did one of my Scandinavian ancestors come to Ireland during those first invasions?

The author Linda Hogan says "There is a way that nature speaks, that land speaks. Most of the time we are simply not patient enough, quiet enough, to pay attention to the story." To gain a better understanding of my roots, I have visited Eire, Norway, Finland, Iceland, Greenland, L'Anse aux Meadows and the Shetlands. In July we will visit Sweden and Denmark. While I may never know where my Viking ancestors originated, their homeland will be familiar to me.

END



Editor's Note: below is the text from Genevieve's speech that she wrote for the Heritage Fair. After interviewing her Grandmother (Judy Taylor) Genevieve prepared her speech and practiced it every day for months. Judy had interviewed her father (Genevieve's Great Grandfather) about WW II prior to him passing away from cancer. Genevieve's Great Grandfather's name is Clarence Edwin Robertson.

The Story of My Great Grandfather by Genevieve Taylor 2016 Award Recipient FV Regional Heritage Fair; images courtesy Ted Taylor

"Hello, my name is Genevieve Taylor and today I am going to tell you some of the very interesting stories about my great grandfather. His name was Clarence Edwin Robertson. I decided to do my report on him because if it was not for a few events, I would not be talking to you right now, so I think that he is a very important person in my life. Also, what my Grandfather and all the men that fought for Canada did made a great impact on Canada and the world as we know it today.

I interviewed my grandma to tell me about her dad, my great grandfather. I found out that my grandfather was in World War II and he was a sergeant in the Air Force. He was a member of a very special flight crew called the 'Q' Queen's Crew. He was the tail gunner in a Lancaster Bomber. Here is a model I built with my Dad and Grandma of a Lancaster Bomber.



Editor's Note: information from spotters was relayed to a central control room within 30 seconds; wooden blocks were placed on a large map to indicate the location of aircraft and other data



There are many interesting stories about my great grandfather during the war, but I have selected two to share with you today. I hope it helps you to maybe feel what it may have been like to be there.

The first story is about my Great Grandfather flying in the Battle over Nuremberg, Germany. This was a very large attack on Germany. There were hundreds of airplanes all flying together. They were all around you: beside you, below you and above you. It was very loud with so many planes all around with all their engines running. They all assembled together and crossed the English Channel.

It was night time and it was pitch black. All of the cities and towns turned all their lights off at night so that bombers could not easily see where the cities were located. The darkness also made it more difficult for the Germans to spot them in the air. Everyone was worried as they approached the target that the bombers above them would drop their bombs on top of them. The Germans were firing at them and there was flak exploding all around them. That night there were 98 bombers shot down. That is 98 crews of men that all lost their lives in one night.

Continued Page 5

The Story of My Great Grandfather continued from Page 4

It was always freezing cold in the plane. It was not like a plane you fly in with heaters and nice windows. It was cold, dark, loud and you never knew when you might be shot down. You had a small electric suit to help keep you warm but it was still very cold. You received a juice to take with you and each trip it would turn to a solid block of ice and your oxygen mask would be covered in icicles.

The flak looked like fireworks exploding all around you. It was very loud, very bright and if just one hit your plane you could fall out of the sky. You had to concentrate on your machine gun and make sure not to look at the flak or it would ruin your night vision that you needed to shoot down the German fighters that would attack the bombers.

The battle of Nuremberg took place because most of Europe had been taken over by the German Nazis. England asked Canada for help and we sent over our young men to fight the Germans. The center of the Nazi regime was Nuremberg. Although we lost a lot of planes and young men, most of Nuremberg was destroyed and this was a big setback to Germany. My Great Grandfather said "you could see the city on fire 100 miles away."

And that story is only the beginning. [Upper Right: this is a picture of my Great Grandfather who is standing in front of the tail gunner position on the Lancaster Bomber he flew in many times. [Lower Right: Genevieve holding her Great Grandfather's medals]. Continued Page 6



The Story of My Great Grandfather continued from Page 5

The second story is one that directly impacts me. When my Great Grandfather was just a little boy in elementary school he was playing in the playground and another boy threw sand in his eye. For the rest of his life he had problems with that eye but most of the time it was fine.

After flying many missions one morning my Great Grandfather woke up and his eye had flared up. The flight surgeon told him that he could not fly that day. My Great Grandfather did not like being grounded and had to watch as the rest of his crew took off on a mission that night. That was the last time he saw them: they were shot down that night.

Some of them were killed and one of them was captured by the Germans and spent the rest of the war in a prisoner of war camp. My Great Grandfather named one of his sons after his best friend Donald that was shot down and killed that day. Here is a picture of his crew and Donald is in the center and also the top gunner as well.

So you see you never know what strange twists and turns life can bring. Something that was a negative his whole life turned out to be what saved his life that day. Since my Grandma was born after the war I would never have been born if my Great Grandfather would have been shot down that day.

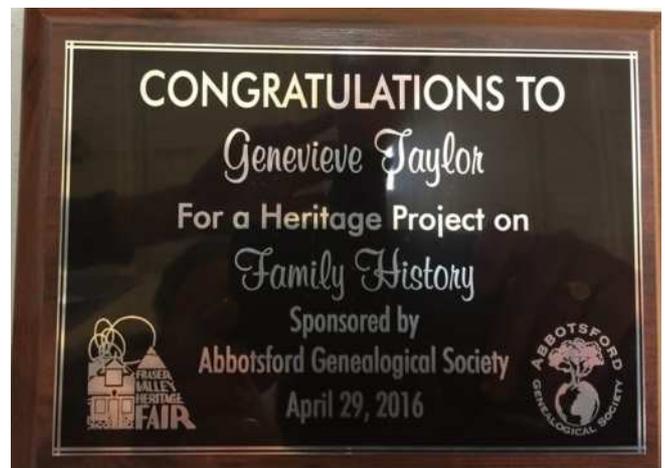
I sure am glad that I live in a free country. The sacrifice of all the young men that fought the Nazi's in World War II made a huge difference to the history of Canada. Without them it is very likely that England would have been taken over which would have changed the entire rest of the war. We must always remember that our freedom is not free ... a lot of people died to make sure we would be free today.

Thank you for listening to my speech about my Great Grandfather and the impact it had on me, Canada and the world."



Four members of "Q"-Queen's crew. L. to r.: Flying Officer E. E. Kirk, Sgts. C. Robertson, D. McEvoy, Flying Officer F. Hogen.

The above photo is from the Military Magazine "The Roundel" June 1957; the "Q" Queen's Crew with Genevieve's Great Grandfather second from the left and Donald third from left.



Editor's Note: the text from Genevieve's Heritage Fair Report continues on Page 28. There were three stories she included in her report that were told to Genevieve by her Grandmother Judy Taylor. Judy had interviewed her father (Genevieve's Great Grandfather) before he passed away from cancer.



New in the Resource Centre by Pat Confrey Resource Centre Librarian

The following were donated by former member Marlene Dance:

- The Loyalist Gazette: Vol. 38 No. 1 & 2; 2000; Vol. 40 No. 1&2; 2002; Vol. 42 No. 1&2; 2004; Vol. 43 No. 1&2; 2005; Vol. 44 – 52 No. 1&2; 2006 – 2014; Vol. 53 No. 1; 2015
- Bedfordshire Family History Society Journal: Vol. 20 No. 5; Mar 2016
- British Columbia History Magazine: Vol. 49 No. 1; Spring 2016
- Parish of Balmaclellan 1792 Census Stewartry of Kirkcudbright by Rev. James Thomson
- 1851 Census Records by Surname for the Parish of Balmaclellan by Andrea Mallaby
- Kent Family History Journal: Vol. 14 No. 10; March 2016; Kent Family History Society
- Metropolitan Journal of the London Westminster & Middlesex Family History Society: Vol. 32 No. 4; July 2010; Vol. 33 No. 1-4; Oct 2010 – July 2011; Vol. 34 No. 1; Oct 2011
- Herefordiensis: Journal of the Herefordshire Family History Society: Index to Vol. 6 No. 1-12; Apr 1995 –Jan 1998; Index to Vol. 8 No. 1-12; Apr 2001- Jan 2004; Index to Vol. 9 No. 1-12; Apr 2004 – Jan 2007; Index to Vol. 10 No. 1-12; Apr 2007 – Jan 2010.
- Herefordshire Journal Vol. 12 No. 5, 6 & 7; Apr 2014; Vol. 12 No. 8-11; 2015
- Argyllshire, McMILLAN Birth & Marriage Killean Parish Extracts

An Easter Parable submitted by Joe Bordeville

Once in a sheltered garden there bloomed a beautiful flower so sweet and pure that the south wind forsook all other spots to sweep ceaselessly, caressingly, around it, whispering soft words of love.

But one day the flower faded, nor could the South wind, with warm kisses, revive its drooping head.

Then came the gardener through his garden, who seeing the dying flower, plucked it from its stem, and tearing out its golden heart, buried it deep in the black earth.

“Cruel, cruel man!” shrieked the south wind, because it understood not.

All winter long the cold, white snow lay on the heart of the flower, and over it the south wind sobbed its rage at the pitiless gardener.

But, when the spring came, behold; the flower arose, more beautiful than before. And the South wind, understanding, kissed the bronze cheek of the gardener in joyous penitence.

For kind of heart is the gardener of the universes, though man, foolish and fickle as the South wind, understands Him not, and, as one who loves all growing things will stoop to brush a little blemish from the humblest flower, so stoops He to remove the smallest sorrow from the tiniest blossom in His garden of light petalled stars.

The Advance, Kemptville, Ontario; April 7, 1904, page 4



WHERE THERE'S A WILL submitted by Patricia Confrey, Member 1

This is the last will and testament of me Mary Ann Trethewey, widow, of the City of Vancouver, province of British Columbia, and Dominion of Canada. Bearing date the Twenty-seventh (27th) day of January, in the year of our Lord, One Thousand nine Hundred and eight (1908). Hereby revoking all former wills and codicils by me at any time heretofore made.

First, I hereby appoint my youngest son Richard Arthur Trethewey and my son in law Richard Brett (of Chilliwack) to be my Co-executors of this my last will and testament, directing my said executors to pay all my debts funeral and testamentary expenses out of my Estate as soon as conveniently may be after my decease.

Second, after payment of my debts as aforesaid, I give, devise and bequeath all my real and personal estate which I may now or hereafter be possessed of or interested in, in the manner following; That is to say:

Third, to my second son James Everett Trethewey, I devise & bequeath the property known as Lot Six (6) in Block (9) District Lot Three hundred and Two (302) in the City of Vancouver, Province of British Columbia.

Fourth, to my third son Samuel D. Trethewey I devise and bequeath the property known as Lots numbered Four (4) to Twelve (12) and Fifteen (15) to Eighteen (18) and Lot Twenty Four (24) all in Blk. Twenty One (21) and Situate at Mission City. Also to Samuel D. Trethewey, I give and bequeath all my interest and equity in an "Agreement for Sale" made between James Trethewey and James A. Gardner, dated First (1st) April, Nineteen hundred and five (1905) for the purchase by James A. Gardener of the Easterly half of the South West Quarter of Section Twenty Six (26) in Township Twenty Six (26) District on New Westminster.

Fifth, to my youngest son Richard Arthur I devise and bequeath Lot Eleven (11) in Block One hundred and three (103) District Lot one hundred and ninety six (196) in the City of Vancouver, Province of British Columbia.



Mary Ann Trethewey; courtesy Anthony Taulbut; Mission Community Archives

Fifth, to my youngest son Richard Arthur I devise and bequeath Lot Eleven (11) in Block One hundred and three (103) District Lot one hundred and ninety six (196) in the City of Vancouver, Province of British Columbia.

Sixth, to my Eldest Daughter, Elizabeth Dolby, wife of William Dolby, I devise and bequeath, Lot Ten (10) in Block Eighty four (84) District Lot One hundred and ninety six (196) in the City of Vancouver and Province of British Columbia.

Seventh, to my daughter Emma Brett, wife of Richard Brett, I devise and bequeath Lot Ten (10) in Block One hundred and three (103) District Lot One hundred and ninety six (196) in the City of Vancouver and Province of British Columbia.

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Where There's a Will continued from Page 8

Eighth, to my sons Joseph O. Trethewey and William G. Trethewey, I give and bequeath each the sum of Five Dollars (5).

Ninth, to my eldest daughter Elizabeth Dolby, wife of William Dolby, I give and bequeath all my personal property whatsoever, consisting especially of Interest in Mortgages, Providence mining shares, Interest in Harrison Mill Coy. Et cetera.

In Witness where of I have hereunto set my hand and seal this Twenty seventh (27th) day of January, in the year of our Lord, Nineteen Hundred and eight (1908). This writing being written and contained upon three sheets of paper.

Mary Ann Trethewey (seal); Signed by Mary Ann Trethewey,

The said Testatrix as her last Will and Testament, in the Presence of us present at the Same time, who at her request, In her presence, and in the presence of each other, have subscribed our names as Witnesses, Samuel A. McDowell Moodyville BC and Albert W. Jones N.P. Vancouver



Above: Mary Ann store east side of Horne Street; courtesy Mission Museum; Upper right: Mission RR Station & Main Street; Right: James Trethewey's Abbotsford Lumber Company on Mill Lake



NOTES: 1861 Census Township of Louth, Lincoln Co. Ontario:

James Trethewey 27 b. England W. Methodist Miller

Mary Ann	27 b.	England W. Methodist
Emma*	4	C.W. W. Methodist
Joseph	2	C.W. W. Methodist
James	1	C.W. W. Methodist

*Also known as Emily Rebecca; born York Township & County; died 24 Nov. 1870 of Intestinal Fever age 14.

1871 Census Ontario Dist. No. 85 Muskoka S. Dist. of Draper Ryde & Oakley:

James Trethewey 38 born England P. Methodist Miller

Mary Ann	38 b.	England P. Methodist
Joseph	13 b.	Ontario P. Methodist
James	11 b.	Ontario P. Methodist
Samuel	8 b.	Ontario P. Methodist
Elizabeth	7 b.	Ontario P. Methodist

Continued Page 22



**Kenneth McDermid Weir DCM, MM;
January 19, 1890 to April 20, 1916 by Jim
McQueen**

On 28 July 1914, Germany invaded neutral Belgium and Luxembourg. Consequently on August 5, Britain declared war on the Central Powers of Germany and Austria-Hungary. Canada was automatically at war: a war that was supposed to be short, "we'll be home by Christmas" was in fact going to last four years three months and six days.

By February 1916 Abbotsford families had sent 84 men to the war in Europe, seven of whom had already been killed. The eighth to be killed was Lance Corporal Kenneth McDermid Weir on April 20, 1916. He was far from the last; in total 36 "Abbotsford Boys" would make the supreme sacrifice.

Ken was born January 19, 1890, in Trenton, Ontario the oldest son of John F. Weir, clothing merchant and Jennie (McDermid) Weir. He would have four brothers over the next 10 years namely: Claude who would become an automotive mechanic; Eric was a pharmacist and assisted Dr. Swift as his anesthetist at the Cottage Hospital; Ray was also a pharmacist; and John had an electrical, heating & plumbing business.

By 1901 the family had moved to Nelson, BC and later to Ashcroft. After the outbreak of the war they moved to Abbotsford where John continued to ply his trade as a merchant. The family would remain in Abbotsford and are buried in Hazelwood Cemetery.

At the time of Ken's enlistment (429729) March 13, 1915, in New Westminster his occupation was a steel worker. Four days after enlisting he was assigned to the 47th battalion CEF; by May Ken was promoted to Lance Corporal. Things were moving quickly; by July 5th he was already in Shorncliffe England the staging camp for all CEF troops.



On the August 28, 1915 Ken was transferred to the 7th Canadian Infantry Battalion (1st British Columbia). They went "overseas" on October 30, 1915 and "taken on strength" in France.

His OC (Officer Commanding) granted Ken a special leave December 9 to 12, 1915. A second special leave was granted February 9 to 18, 1916. That was extended by the War Office to March 2, 1916.

"429729 Lance-Corporal K. Weir, 7th Canadian Infantry Battalion, 22 January 1916 awarded Distinguished Conduct Medal (DCM).

For conspicuous gallantry and resource near Messines, on the night of 16th/17th November 1915.

Corporals Babcock, Odlum, and Weir and L/Cpl Berry worked for four hours on a bright moon-light night cutting wire close to a heavily maned German trench. They also assisted in placing a bridge over the Douve River about 16 yards from the German parapet, and guided bombing parties through the lanes they had cut. It was largely due to their coolness and resource that the attack was a success.

L.G. 29447 21/1/1916"

Weir continued from Page 10

Ironically the Abbotsford Post reported in its April 20, 1916 edition that Ken was awarded the Military Medal.

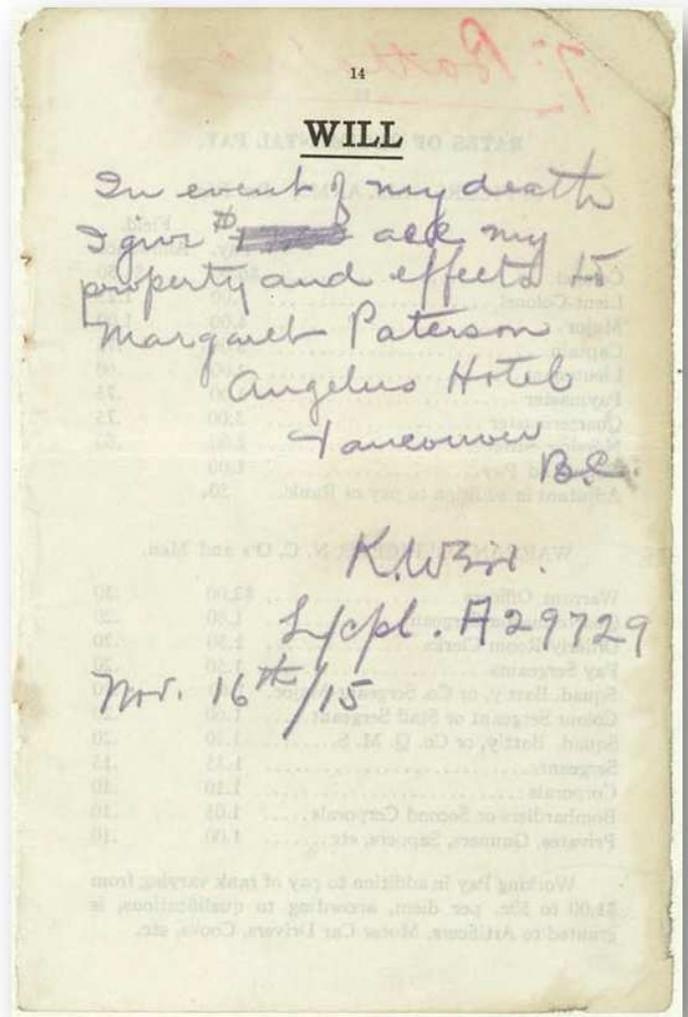
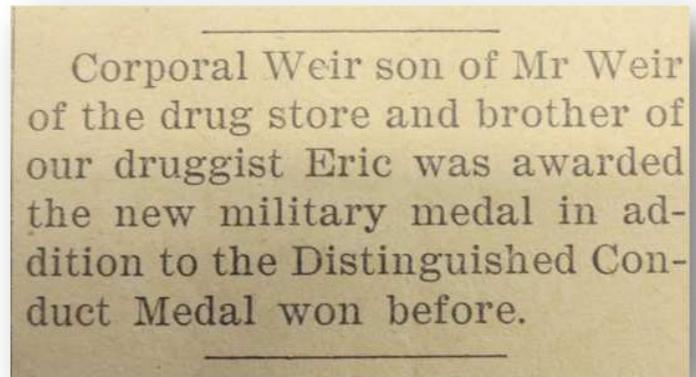
Corporal Weir son of Mr. Weir of the drug store and brother of our druggist Eric was awarded the new military metal in addition to the Distinguished Conduct Metal won before.

The citation reads: *For gallantry near La Petite Douve on the night of January 30th 1916, when although wounded he voluntarily returned to the front trenches to rescue his leader Lieut. Owen. His record has been that of consistent courage and devotion to duty extending over months. A.F.W. 3121.*

It was during the Battle of The St. Eloi Craters that Kenneth was wounded on April 20, 1916. He "died of wounds" at the Advanced Station #6, Canadian Field Ambulance that same day. Kenneth is buried in the Dickebusch New Military Cemetery, just beyond the village church in the village of Dikkebus, Belgium, Section J, Plot 6.

Throughout the war Kenneth earned \$1.05 per day sending \$15.00 per month to Miss Margaret Paterson, who was living in Vancouver. Margaret also received \$5.81, the balance of Kenneth's pay account. The relationship between Kenneth and Margaret has not been established; in all the military files "relationship" is blank. Kenneth was single when he enlisted.

Footnote: The DCM was awarded to Warrant Officers, non-commissioned officers and men serving in any of the sovereign's military forces, for distinguished conduct in the field. It was thus the second highest award for gallantry in action (after the Victoria Cross) for all army ranks below commissioned officers and was available to navy and air force personnel also for distinguished conduct in the field. The Military Medal is awarded to Warrant Officers, non-commissioned officers and men for individual or associated acts of bravery on the recommendation of a Commander-in-Chief in the field.



"In the case of my death I give all my property and effects to Margaret Paterson, Angelus Hotel, Vancouver, BC K. Weir L/Cpl A29729 Nov 16/15"

Continued Page 12

Kenneth Weir continued from Page 11

On October 10, 1921, Miss Paterson was presented the Medals and Decorations earned by Kenneth McDermid Weir, the most decorated Abbotsford war casualty:

Distinguished Conduct Medal
 Military Medal
 1914-1915 Star
 Victory Medal
 British War Medal

Sources:

Supplement to the Edinburgh Gazette,
 January 25, 1916. pp 180
 Abbotsford Post, 1916 editions
 Library and Archives Canada
<http://central.bac-lac.gc.ca/.item/?op=pdf&app=CEF&id=10206-42>
 The Great War, British WW1 Medals,
<http://www.greatwar.co.uk/medals/ww1-british-medals.htm>
 Royal BC Museum, BC Archives, Genealogy – Search

END.



SPECIAL INTEREST GROUPS (SIGs)

SIGs consist of a small group, which meets informally and has an interest in a specific country, geographic region or subject. The groups are a wonderful opportunity to connect informally with liked-minded individuals, share resources and assist each other in the challenges of genealogy. Meet for coffee, in someone's home or the Resource Centre if available.

The UK SIG includes England, Eire, Northern Ireland, Scotland and Wales. Check www.abbygs.ca for contact information.

Judy Teague coordinates the Canada SIG. Check www.abbygs.ca for contact information.

Dan Johnson coordinates the Investigation Techniques for Genealogy Researchers SIG. The group will explore how genealogy research is an artifact-based investigation to identify ancestors or living relatives. To participate, contact Dan directly at forensicbydesign@gmail.com.

Editor's Note: checkout the article on Page 13 to better understand the purpose of this SIG.

Jim Muirhead coordinates Genealogy 101 for Beginners. Depending on demand, this group will explore how to get started. Email sig_starters@abbygs.ca for details.

If you would like to coordinate a SIG, email the AGS webmaster@abbygs.ca.

Basic Investigation Principles for Genealogy Research by Dan Johnson

Introduction: genealogical research is a complex process that assembles historical records and stories from various artifact sources to create a family history (genealogy). Conclusions are then based from these sources. It is not uncommon for researchers ("genealogists") to question the accuracy of historical information or seek other methods for further research. The strategies and techniques used by forensic investigators may be of benefit to the genealogist when it is perceived that all sources have been exhausted.

An investigation is a logical process to find out something or an attempt to learn the facts about something hidden. Genealogists can use various investigation techniques ("tools") to trace lineage, study family history, locate living relatives (such as adoption) or overcome 'brick walls' to information or evidence. To use these tools effectively, the genealogist should have a basic understanding about the principles of conducting an investigation.

Background: as a forensic investigator with over 35 years of experience conducting complex criminal and civil investigations, genealogists may benefit from the same strategies and investigative techniques (methods) used in forensics. To use these methods effectively, the genealogist should have an understanding about the basic principles of investigations, which is the subject of this article.

Artifacts: an 'artifact' (fact) is something that was created by humans such as documents, letters, photographs, publications, etc. Genealogists seek artifacts for information or evidence about ancestors, relatives, lineage and historical family events.



Why Forensics? The field of forensics is defined as "related to or used in courts of justice." Forensic evidence is based on verifiable facts, which is important for accurate genealogy research.

It is human nature to want to believe that unverified lineage or historical family events are true. This truth could be motivated by several reasons such as lineage prestige, self-satisfaction and preservation of the past for future generations. It is not uncommon for relatives to suppress or alter family history because of shame. Conducting an investigation with unproven truths could result in the genealogist pursuing the wrong lineage or acquiring false historical family events.

Facts are real (provable). A fact cannot be logically disputed or rejected. Truths are reality (believable). Truths are the stories passed down by family and relatives.

The objective of the genealogist conducting an investigation is to verify or seek artifacts as facts that prove a truth and discover unknown relationships or historical family events. In the event a truth cannot be proven, conclusions to ancestry and historical family events can still be supported based on information assembled from numerous artifacts and original records (circumstantial evidence).

Continued Page 20



Trivia by Lynda Paul

Dunvegan Castle on the Isle of Skye in Scotland is the oldest continuously inhabited castle in that country. The castle stands on a high basalt rock overlooking Loch Dunvegan. For more than 800 years, it's been the ancestral home of the Chiefs of Clan MacLeod.



Official Tulip for Canada's 150th Anniversary Unveiled by Gail Dever; posted on Genealogy à la carte

I am a genealogist, a gardener, and a Canadian, so I must share the news about the official tulip for Canada's 150th anniversary next year. And I'll be buying at least one box of these beauties in the fall.

The Canada 150 tulip, the official tulip of Canada's 150th anniversary, was unveiled yesterday in Commissioners Park in Ottawa.

The Canada 150 tulip's white bloom with red flames bears a striking resemblance to our maple leaf flag. The National Capital Commission has partnered with the Kingdom of the Netherlands, Home Hardware, exclusive retailer of this special tulip bulb, and Communities in Bloom for the selection and distribution of the Canada 150 tulip.

His Excellency Cees Kole, Ambassador of the Kingdom of the Netherlands, said, "The tulip represents gratitude and the long-standing friendship between Canada and the Netherlands. Blooming in the colours of Canada's flag, Canada 150 tulips will bring both pride and joy to gardens and communities from coast to coast to coast."

The bulbs will go on sale this September so they will bloom in gardens across the country in spring 2017.

The first tulip beds in Ottawa were planted in 1945, when the Netherlands sent 100,000 tulip bulbs as a postwar gift of gratitude for the role that Canadian soldiers had played in the liberation of the Netherlands.



CANADA 150
1867-2017



INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF JEWISH GENEALOGICAL SOCIETIES CONFERENCE

The Association is very excited that this summer's conference of the International Association of Jewish Genealogical Societies will be held in Seattle, WA, USA from August 7-12, 2016. This annual conference brings together family researchers, academics, professional genealogists, historians and a wide variety of individuals from around the world who cherish the heritage and future of the Jewish people. For more information on this event, visit <http://www.iajgs2016.org/>.



Online Resources

Washington State Library Genealogy
<http://www.sos.wa.gov/library/genealogy.aspx>

Washington State Genealogical Society
<http://www.wasgs.org/>

National Archives (USA)
<https://www.archives.gov/research/genealogy/>

Mennonite Historical Society of British Columbia
<http://www.mhsbc.com/>

Manitoba Genealogical Society Inc.
<http://www.mbgenealogy.com/>

BC Genealogical Society www.bcgs.ca

Cloverdale Library (Genealogical Department)
www.surreylibraries.ca

Library & Archives Canada (Genealogy & Family History)
www.collectionscanada.gc.ca/genealogy/022-200-e.html

FamilySearch Learning Center
<https://familysearch.org/learningcenter/home.html>

Ontario Genealogical Society www.ogs.on.ca/

Alberta Genealogical Society
<http://www.abgenealogy.ca/>

Saskatchewan Genealogical Society
<http://www.saskgenealogy.com/>

Online Webinar Sources:
<http://familytreewebinars.com/upcoming-webinars.php>
<http://genealogybybarry.com/introduction-genealogy-webinars/>

What is Public Domain in Canada: copyright usually expires 50 years after the death of the creator at the end of the relevant calendar year. Example: Mordecai Richler died on July 3, 2001 therefore his novels remain copyrighted until December 31, 2051.



Our goal is to teach principles, methods and effective genealogical research techniques whether through speakers or member-driven sessions. AGS-sponsored get-togethers are posted on our website www.abbygs.ca. Secretary Judy Phelps works hard to inform you by email of upcoming events, activities, conferences, workshops and training offered by the AGS and other groups. The following is the status of topics, which were suggested at the Annual General Meeting for sessions and/or speakers in **2016/17**:

Topic	Status	Completion
Genealogy 101 for beginners	Ongoing	SIG established February 2016
DNA/Exploring Your Ancestry	Speaker Search	
Aboriginal & Métis research	Speaker Scheduled	Fall 2016
Breaking Down Brick Walls	Speaker Scheduled	September 2016 General Meeting
Pros/Cons of Paid Researchers	Speaker Search	
FTM and other Software	Ongoing	Fall 2016
Organizing your records	Speaker Search	
Developing a Disposition Plan	Speaker Search	
Timeline research: connecting ancestors to geography, economics & world events	Speaker Scheduled	M. Diane Rogers; May 2016 General Meeting
Artifact preservation	Speaker Scheduled	Kris Foulds; April General Meeting
Publishing your research	Speaker Search	
Refugees, home children, war brides, etc.	Speaker Scheduled	Marlene Dance; March General Meeting
Researching living relatives	Speaker Search	
Using social media	Speaker Search	
Show and Tell sessions	Ongoing	June General Meeting
Storing data; future Compatibility	Speaker Search	
Researching Wills	Speaker Search	
Land Records	Speaker Search	
Adoptions	Speaker Search	
Military Records	Speaker Search	

IN THE BEGINNING by Delores and Norm Grant

September 25, 1983 I came upon Hal Brown and Pat Confrey staffing a genealogy table/display in Seven Oaks Mall. As I'd just received photos of ancestors from England, I was keen to know more. The following week about six of us gathered at Pat's house and I was hooked.

On joining, one of the first venues for meetings was at a school. Later we managed to secure space in the old Clearbrook Library. This is where I went to try to solve the mystery of the ship and the year my father arrived in Canada.

On checking the files I would order passenger list reels and wait for them to arrive from Ottawa. As nothing was alphabetized I would diligently read every entry with no results. Now one can enter a name in a computer and up pops more info than you expected.

Speaking of computers, one of the first members I met was Cay Maynard. She owned a computer and was always willing to share info gleaned from it. I never saw it but believe it was the size of a small furnace. Now I believe they're available to fit in your purse.

In September 1984 Lord Teviot and Michael Burchell visited on a speaking tour. They arrived with Pam and Barry Shields of the BCGS and were joined by other members of our group for dinner. After finally deciding on the menu, my most outstanding memory is that when I went to serve dessert, I discovered the whip cream I'd bought that day was "off."

However we muddled through. I can't remember if it was at this time or a later visit that Merle and Dale Ward hosted Lord Teviot on an overnight stay. He was so taken with Merle's blueberry pancakes that she noticed he ordered them at lunch in a restaurant.

My experience with a woman speaker did not go so well. Her name is forgotten but she was very nice and knowledgeable. Her travel companion was a different story. She kept going out to her car and locking herself out of the house. I gave up counting the number of times up and down stairs to let her in.

Another early member was Maxine Dormer, who was researching some of my lines. She'd bought a couple of books on the family being researched which turned out to be the wrong generations. I bought one, and if I remember correctly, a relative back east bought the other full price.

Through researching lines in this family Pat and I discovered we are 10th cousins. Another instance of the benefit of sharing information was when Merle Ward moved to Kelowna and joined their group. Some of our members had sent records to Kelowna Genealogy Society. During research Merle came across a "Mayflower" link to one of my husband Norm's lines. After much research it was confirmed that he is a "Mayflower" descendant.

Continued Page 18



Elder Keiron and Lord and Lady Teviot; image by Steve Bills 2008

In the Beginning continued from Page 17

When the AGS executive was first formed I became Corresponding Secretary. I enjoyed this position for about ten years. About four years in we lost our Treasurer. I persuaded Norm to take the position for six months until we found a replacement. This exercise stretched into six years.

At this time the closest Family History Centre was in Ferndale, WA. A group of us would sometimes brown bag it for a day's outing. Norm and I learned not to go in the evening.

We once had to explain to a border guard the purpose of our visit. This was a mistake: he came out of his booth, gave us his family history, shared his problems and asked for advice. Meanwhile the line of cars behind us was increasing. We were sure they thought we were being detained. By the time we got to Ferndale they were about to close.

We never made it to Salt Lake, but are forever grateful to Hal and Louise for the research they did for us. Louise searched until she found a death for my missing bride. Who would think a bride would die after only 70 days of marriage. Hal located a death record for a female erroneously registered as a male. And how many trips into Cloverdale did they make to get certificates for us. Now they're available on the "net."

Cecil C. Coutts, a retired RCMP Officer, was another early member. He donated his research microfiche when his family history was completed. He then wrote a book regarding Fraser Valley Postmasters. The AGS was presented with a copy.

Upon reading the book I realized that one of Norm's cousin's great grandfathers was featured. A photo of this man was included, and as none of the family had ever seen one before, great interest was shown and sales increased considerably. Several years later Pat Confrey produced three wills related to the family.



Old Abbotsford Huntington Border Crossing

The sale of wills has become a great fund raiser for the AGS. Gil Bodkin introduced the sale of Entertainment Books. A great deal of money was raised due mostly to the efforts of Gil, Hal and Norm. We were sorry to see the sales discontinued.

Research trips were taken to UBC. On one occasion I remember getting settled into the library only to discover the material I required had been moved to the new underground Sedgewick Library. Moving cut into our time considerably. The following visit was an overnighiter at Gage House: a very productive visit.

On occasion we managed the loan of a van from MSA Ford. Gil would volunteer to drive a group of us into the Aberthau and other Vancouver repositories. At this time I remember going home and announcing 12 people attended a meeting. Our membership increased greatly when Donna Bohnet and fellow members of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints joined.

Lorene Lyle probably joined at this time too. I remember we were roommates in MSA Hospital in Abbotsford and thought of her as a new member. This was when my neighbour came to visit me and looked at my research. She mentioned that her mother was into this "crap" too.

Continued Page 19

In the Beginning continued from Page 18

She later borrowed some of my work to show her mother and eventually became hooked herself. She moved into Vancouver and next I knew she was editor of the BCGS Journal. Sometime later Norm drove a group of us into Vancouver to attend a talk given by her then companion regarding Brass Rubbings. All very interesting.

It was at this time I had committed to speak before the Kiwanis "K" Group. From this we gained three new members: Bonnie Corcoran and one couple. Later in 1995 Lady Teviot visited. A group of us took her to Fort Langley for lunch and a tour of the cemetery.

I remember the fine spread Lois Martin produced at her "Christmas at Home." Also attending Executive meetings at Hal's and enjoying Mrs. B's muffins. Another memorable feast was the variety of cheeses produced by Bob Spurgeon.

Bob was an early member, who despite having two jobs, dedicated himself to cemetery records. While rummaging about in a local junk shop I once came upon a battered portrait of a Reverend Spurgeon. On checking, Bob found the Reverend was one of his relatives and rushed off to purchase the portrait.

I hope Fay had as much success as me while serving as Corresponding Secretary. One query resulted in an invitation to tour Western Australia and visit a family sheep ranch. All the man had to go on was a group photo taken in the early 1900s by a studio in Lillooet; no names just a guess. I tracked down descendants in Washington State, talked to them on the phone and they visited Australia. My original query was ever so grateful; however, I gratefully declined his invitation.

My last direct contact with the group was at the 2008 garage sale. I used to see Chris Lamb at the Ducks Unlimited dinners. We would catch up on research news and I would pass on Family Tree Magazines for the group.

Margaret Finnis joined after I left. We were acquainted through our husbands; both were Bank of Nova Scotia retirees. Her article in the AGS Volume 13 Number 3 Fall/Winter (2008) Newsletter is of such great interest I think it's worth a reprint.

This is who we are: Dolores Grant Member 12 & Norm Grant Member 60. **END**

Editor's Note: the newsletter can be found in the Resource Centre for viewing



Christine Lamb receives Order of Abbotsford – Citizen of Year 2010 from Mayor George Peary In appreciation of her years of service to the community as a politician and as a volunteer; image Toireasa O'hOgain Strong

Investigation Principles continued from Page 13

Strategy and Intelligence: Genealogists may be challenged by legal barriers or the reluctance of individuals to disclose information or evidence. Investigation strategies based on intelligence from known facts or similar situations can be used as an attempt to overcome these challenges.

Document Management: Genealogy research will generate a large volume of artifact records and relationships to lineage. If these records are not organized in an efficient method, the genealogist's investigation may miss pertinent clues or hidden relationships. Therefore, a 'Document Management System' ("DMS") should be used. A well designed DMS exposes gaps in information, which the genealogist can pursue as new avenues for investigation.

Computers have made DMSs more effective and efficient. There are commercial DMS products for organizing genealogy artifact records; however, these products can be expensive, ineffective for analysis or too complex to manage. There is inexpensive software or open source (free) resources that can be customized to design your own DMS. An effective DMS should be able to do the following functions:

- ✓ Searching of records and text within documents
- ✓ Sorting of records to identify gaps or hidden relationships
- ✓ Scalable to accommodate additional artifact categories and record types
- ✓ Sharing of information to other genealogists or experts for analysis when challenged with 'brick walls'
- ✓ References to artifact sources (citations and audit trail)
- ✓ Easy to use and self-guiding.

Organizing and converting artifacts into records is time-consuming but necessary for analysis or the application of various investigation techniques when challenged with brick walls.

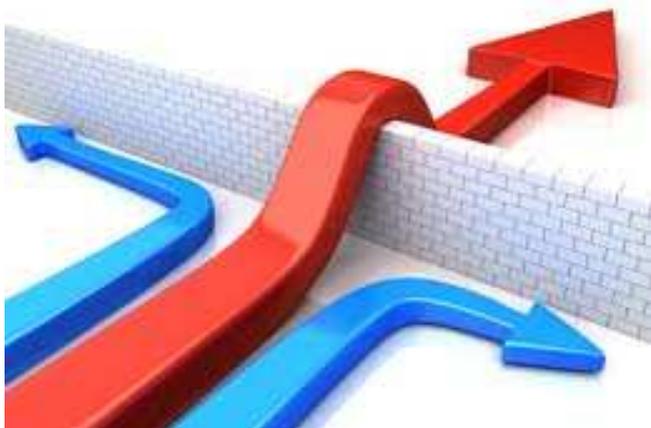


Privacy and Security: the best defense from identity theft is awareness. Genealogists should be aware that artifact records contain personal information that is of value to identity thieves. Thieves use social engineering techniques to compile a fraudulent identity assembled from numerous artifact sources such as social media sites or fake genealogy sites. If a profile can be created, the information is fraudulently used for credit applications or to pass security verification checks to access financial services.

The genealogist should ensure security measures (passwords) are used to reduce the risk to unauthorized access to artifact record information. The genealogist should use due diligence (know with who you are sharing information) if saving artifact information to online websites.

Sources for artifacts and information: Genealogy research involves searching for information generally held in repositories (libraries, archives, government, museums, online digital databases, etc.). There are genealogist experts (genealogy societies) who generally specialize in particular subject groups. The genealogist may not know such a repository exists or who is the subject matter expert. Investigation techniques can assist the genealogist to find these repositories and experts.

Continued Page 21



Investigation Principles continued from Page 20

Investigation Challenges: the genealogy researcher will inevitably be challenged by brick walls to information or assume the evidence being sought doesn't exist. Our ancestors existed and there are likely relatives who are still living; therefore, artifacts were created. Investigative techniques can be used to contact living relatives or discover hidden artifacts.

An investigation is essential for finding artifacts. Are you asking the right questions? Are you looking in the wrong place? Does the evidence exist? Are you being misled by 'red herring' fallacies? Analysis of genealogy information and evidence in possession can be a source of intelligence for new avenues of investigation.

Special Interest Group: Investigation Techniques for Genealogists. To assist genealogists in conducting investigations, a Special Interest Group ("SIG") has been formed. The SIG will provide investigation services, education and assistance for the membership. Genealogists are encouraged to bring their challenges to the SIG. It is also the intent of the SIG to collaborate with genealogists to develop innovative investigation techniques or projects for the benefit of genealogy researchers.

Summary: Investigation methodologies complement genealogy research as another resource when challenged with barriers. Our ancestors did exist; therefore, they left artifacts about historical events in their lives and lineage. What appears to be an insignificant piece of information could lead to hidden clues for further research. Understanding the basic principles of conducting an investigation will increase the researcher's success for information and evidence. **END**

Dan Johnson, CD, BTech, CFE
Forensic Investigator & AGS Member
forensicbydesign@gmail.com

Your Family: Building a Nation June 16 to 18, 2017 Ottawa, ON

The Ontario Genealogical Society's annual Conference provides for members and the public to learn and share information about the hobby. There are tours and workshops, lectures and Marketplace, awards, a Research Room, the annual Banquet, displays and special events.

The Ottawa Branch has hosted five times: 1972, 1977, 1988, 2000 and 2007. The 150th birthday of Canada is 2017. The Ottawa Branch will again host the OGS Conference. Details to be announced; feel free to check <http://ogsottawa.on.ca/>



Where There's a Will continued from Page 9

1881 Census Ontario Dist. 131 Muskoka S. Dist. of Draper Ryde & Oakley:

James Trethewey Miller	47	born England	Methodist
Mary Ann	47	b. England	Methodist
Samuel Dun. Farmer	19	b. Ontario	Methodist
Elizabeth Seamstress	17	b. Ontario	Methodist
William G. Farmer	15	b. Ontario	Methodist
Richard Arthur	12	b. Ontario	Methodist
Emma	9	b. Ontario	Methodist
Joseph Farmer	22	b. Ontario	Methodist
Mary	21	b. Ireland	Methodist
James Henry	1	born Ontario	Methodist
William Edmond	1/12	b. Ontario	Methodist
James Farmer	21	b. Ontario	Methodist
Elizabeth Jane	19	b. Ontario	Methodist
Olive El?	1	b. Ontario	Methodist

1891 Census British Columbia Dist No. 2 New Westminster S. Dist. 14:

James Trethewey Methodist	57	born England	Post Master
Mary Methodist	57	b. England	Gen. Store Keeper
Arthur Methodist	23	b. Ontario	Gen. Store Keeper

END

British Columbia Genealogical Society – Annual Library Week starts July 17, 2016

The 2016 BCGS Walter Draycott Library Week starts July 17, 2016 with the BCGS' annual Open House and continues Monday through Saturday that week. Check www.bcgs.ca for more information regarding talks, tours and more. Open free to all interested in genealogy and family history.

Planned are featured sessions with research specialists every day on different geographic areas or genealogical topics. Volunteers are on hand to assist you with finding books, CDs, film, unique databases, etc. each day.

No registration required; space is limited. The library is located at Unit 211, 12837 – 76th Avenue Surrey British Columbia. Contact the Library in advance if you would like to bring a group.



The Abbotsford Lumber Company built this “arts and crafts” style bungalow in 1920 for B.C. timber baron J.O. Trethewey (now home to the MSA Museum); image Toireasa O’hOgain Strong

John Cunningham Maclure: Abbotsford's Premier Pioneer Part II by Graham MacDonnell

How 'Abbotsford' began: If you look at a topographic map of Abbotsford, there is a small "isthmus" of a valley between the Matsqui Prairie and the Sumas Prairie, with the rise of land north and southeast of Five Corners on the west and the westerly foot of Sumas Mountain/Glen Mountain on the east. This "isthmus" would have a bearing on the routing of a railway south from Mission to Huntingdon and Sumas – something that was in the works after the CPR completed its transcontinental line to Vancouver.

The land forming that "isthmus" had not been pre-empted as the nearest homestead was Lewis Bronson's land, which came as far east as what is now Five Corners. Until the Maclures had thoughts about it, as Thomas E. Perry points out in his Master of Arts Thesis, "Land Use of the Matsqui Prairie Region of the Lower Fraser Valley in Southwestern British Columbia 1858–1892" (Western Washington University, 1984).

Rumours of a spur line from Mission to Huntingdon began to acquire credence when US railway officials showed interest in the construction of a railway line from New Whatcom (Bellingham) to Vancouver. Then the Canadian Government pressured the CPR by threatening to take away its monopoly class.



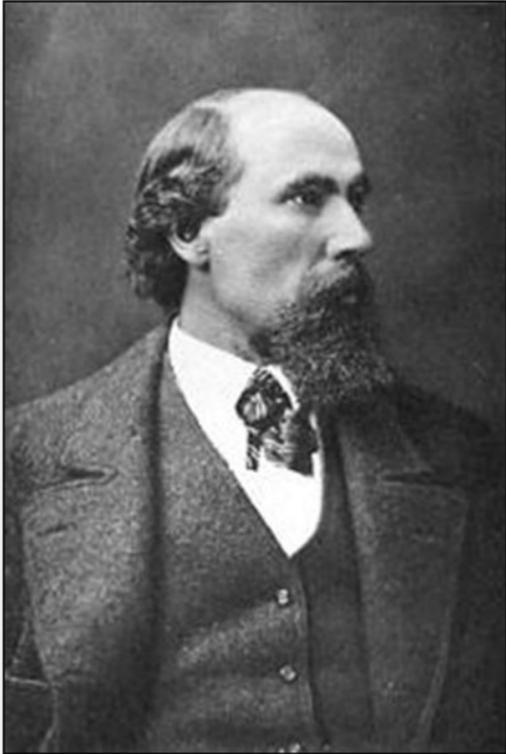
CPR Station Abbotsford; image courtesy Rick Horne

So, the idea quickly became a reality when CPR proposed a route that would necessitate a bridge across the Fraser, across the flat Matsqui Prairie before curving to the west so that steam trains could master the grade on the east side of what is now Babich Park before entering the "isthmus" of land that is now at the eastern edge of the downtown core – the area of the original Abbotsford village.

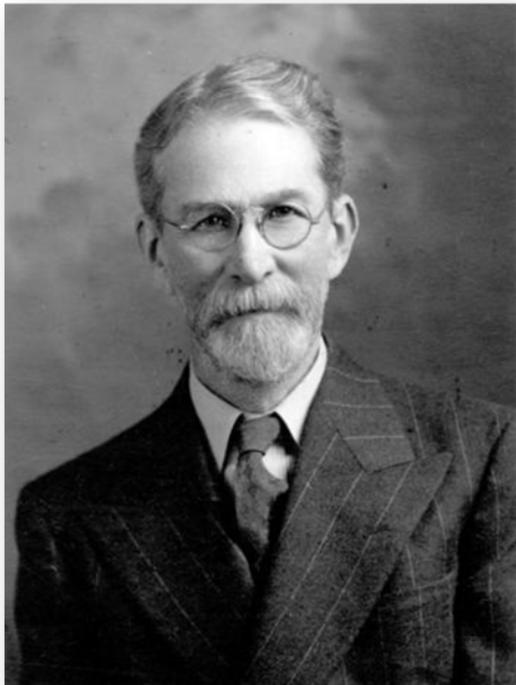
It was the federal government's threat and another one from the Great Northern Railway, headed by Canadian-born American James Jerome Hill, that made the CPR turn their attention to a north-south branch line in the Fraser Valley to beat Hill to the punch and reduce the flow of goods to the States via an American railway.

According to local historian Andreas Schroeder's "Carved From Wood – Mission B.C. – 1861-1992" (The Mission Foundation, 1991, Chapter One, "The Invention of Mission the City", page 1) word spread in 1888 about CPR's first railway junction linking B.C. with the U.S. railway system which would be located in a sparsely settled area called St. Mary's Mission, 40 miles east of New Westminster and on the CPR mainline.

Continued Page 24



James Jerome Hill – President Great Northern Railway c. 1890



John Charles Maclure; Vancouver Archives

Maclure continued from Page 23

John Charles Maclure, then age 26, undoubtedly picked up on the rumours and even before the CPR had carried out a preliminary survey of their proposed route, approached his father to acquire 160 acres of bush land south of their property by one and a half miles...what would become the subdivision of Abbotsford in 1891 and then a village in 1924.

That rumour prompted a rush to purchase land along the proposed route. John Cunningham Maclure and his son, Charles applied to pre-empt the southwest quarter of Section 22, Township 16, in a letter dated October 22, 1888. The land was at the extreme southern end of Matsqui Prairie, according to Perry, at a price of \$2.50 per acre, as extracted from John's diary. Once permission was granted, John Maclure transferred title to his son, John Charles, immediately and a right-of-way was granted to CPR on the condition that they build a railway station there (just south of Essendene today).

In a notation at the top of a page from John Cunningham Maclure's diary, the land he sought to obtain was southwest quarter of Section 22, Township 16 - one-quarter all part of his Investment in Matsqui land as the title of the two pages reads: June 11, 1888 "160 acres @ 2.50 purchase - 400." April 30, 1888 (third point): "Pd re purchase Freemans note for relinquishm(en)t of Tree on claim - 100."

According to Riggins and Walker, the first resident of 'Abbotsford' was Mr. Freeman. The second was John Cunningham Maclure, who purchased 160 acres from the government for only \$400 (\$10,000 in 2015). Then Maclure found Mr. Freeman squatting on a small portion and had to pay him \$100 (\$2,500 in 2015) to relinquish any land claim that he had, as he was living in a large tree stump on the section of the 160 acres that was going to be used by CPR. In turn, John Maclure sold the land to his son, Charles, and three other investors, including Robert Ward.

Continued Page 25

Maclure continued from Page 24

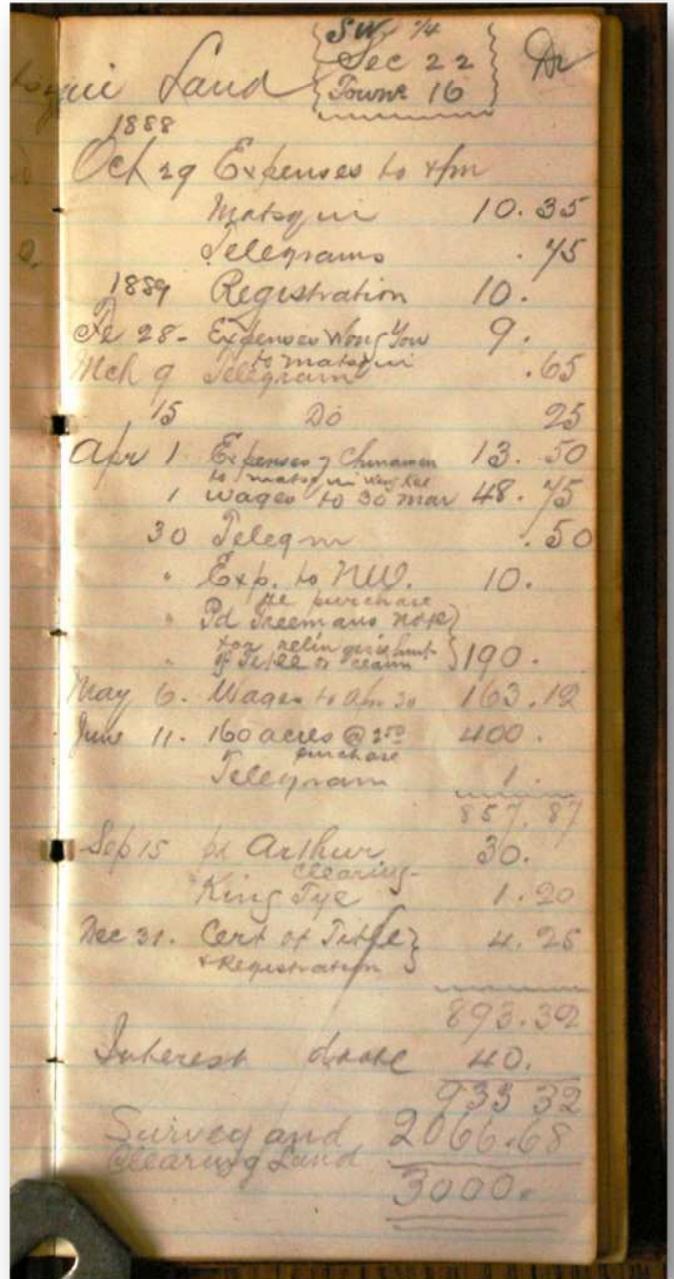
To oversee the construction of the CPR Branch Line from Mission to Huntingdon in 1890-91, and the construction of the railway bridge across the Fraser, the CPR sent its General Superintendent, Henry Braithwaite Abbott, out from Vancouver.

Henry hailed from St. Paul d'Abbotsford, Rouville Regional County Municipality in the Montérégie region, otherwise known as the Eastern Townships. During the construction of the branch line, it may be that Henry Abbott met John Cunningham Maclure, a civilian surveyor formerly attached to the Royal Engineers turned farmer, for it is noted in one of the many locally-written histories that the two men became the best of friends.

The first Mission Railway Bridge was built in 1889-90 using wood pilings, and was completed on February 14, 1891. It was the first and only bridge crossing the Fraser below Siska in the Fraser Canyon until the construction of the New Westminster rail bridge in 1904. The bridge was converted to steel starting in 1903 with all spans being converted in 1908 - 1910. The current bridge is supported by 13 concrete piers and is approximately 533 metres in length.

Before completion of the Mission highway bridge in 1972, highway traffic to and from Matsqui and Abbotsford with Mission used the bridge as a one-way alternating route, with traffic lights at either end to control direction. Rail traffic often held up car crossings, causing long and often very lengthy waits, which were a part of daily life in the Central Valley until the new bridge was completed.

A right-of-way through the 160 acres was granted to the CPR on the condition that a station would be built where the rail line crossed the Old Yale Road: one of the province's earliest roadways started in the early 1870s that ran from New Westminster to Yale so that the company could connect their line on the north side of the Fraser River with the Northern Pacific in Sumas, Whatcom County, Washington. Continued Page 26



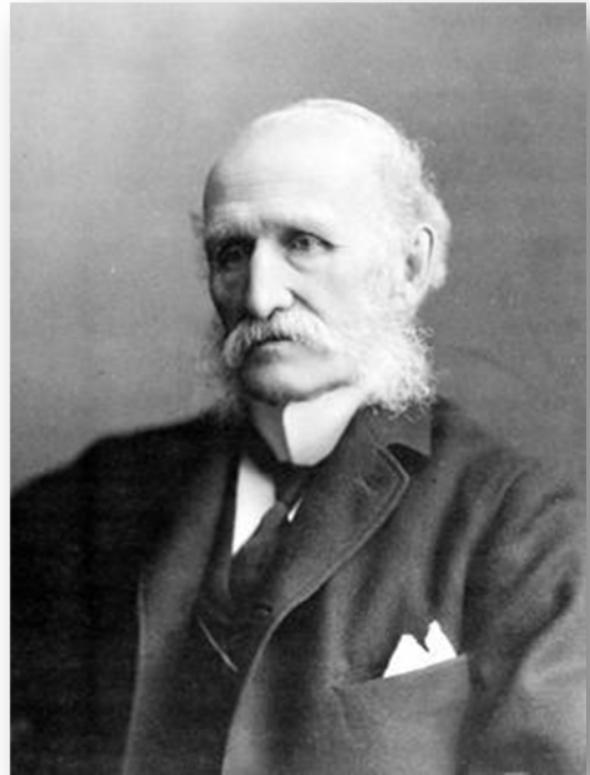
Maclure continued from Page 25

How Abbotsford Got Its Name: It is from that friendship between John Cunningham Maclure and Henry Braithwaite Abbott during the 1890-91 construction of the Mission Bridge and the rail line that John Charles Maclure, felt that the area should be named in honour of the man who was responsible for the opening up of Matsqui and Sumas Prairies (area not covered by Sumas Lake, which was not drained until 1924).

And thus 'Abbotsford' became the name of the settlement although one "t" was dropped possibly to link the area's name with the home of a very famous Scotsman... Sir Walter Scott, 1st Baronet (15 August 1771 – 21 September 1832), an historical novelist, playwright and poet, immensely popular throughout much of the world during his time whose famous titles include: *Ivanhoe*, *Rob Roy*, *The Lady of The Lake*, *Waverley*, *The Heart of Midlothian* and *The Bride of Lammermoor*.

But that is still a debatable issue. So was Abbotsford named after Henry Braithwaite Abbott or his hometown in Quebec or after Sir Walter Scott's palatial home in Scotland?

The Abbotsford Post of July 22, 1922 jumped into the debate with a front page article, "Abbotsford to be spelt with one 'T' only" that reported: At the regular monthly meeting of the Abbotsford and District Board of Trade, the question of the spelling of the word "Abbotsford" came up for discussion. Mr. N. Hill, President of the board, received a letter from F. Robertson, member of the Geographical Board of B.C. in regard to the name "Abbotsford". After interviewing Mr. J.C. McClure, son of Mr. McClure, Sr., who was one of the original owners of the townsite, Mr. Hill replied stating that the name is spelled with one 't' only. Mr. Robertson responded that this dispels the ideal that the place had been named after Mr. Abbott of the C.P.R. "



Henry Braithwaite Abbott; Vancouver Archives

This report in the Abbotsford Post of July 14, 1922, "dispels the idea that the place had been named after Mr. Abbott of the CPR", although the Great Northern Railroad, headed by James Jerome Hill, cites the name on the station, located on what is now South Fraser Way at Montvue, as "Abbotsford."

A photo, taken in 1912, supports the idea of two "t's", and it was not changed while the GNR served the area (until 1929).

One can only surmise that this recounting of Mr. John Charles Maclure's memory was in error and that Mr. Robertson has compounded that error in his letter to Mr. Hill. Chances are that the village was named after Henry Braithwaite Abbott rather than after the palatial home of Sir Walter Scott as we now reveal ...

Continued Page 27

Maclure continued from Page 26

From the BC Place Name Cards and correspondence to and from the B.C. Chief Geographer at the B.C. Geographical Names Office, we learn that:

Abbotsford was incorporated as a Village Municipality 22 February 1924. "Abbotsford, not Abbotsford (village)" adopted in the 18th Report of the Geographic Board of Canada, 31 May 1924. Amalgamated with Sumas District Municipality, and together re-incorporated as Abbotsford District Municipality 17 November 1972.

And from the same source, we find that it verifies the two 't' spelling as the label on John Charles Maclure's map, deposited on July 9, 1891. Abbotsford [sic] Post Office was opened on January 1, 1892, with Frank Munro postmaster; and the spelling was adjusted to Abbotsford Post Office on November 1, 1922. The settlement was incorporated as a "Village municipality" on February 22, 1924.

John Charles Maclure, who chose the original town site, is sometimes said to have named the town after Abbotsford, the baronial mansion [middle right] which Sir Walter Scott [upper right] built with the profits from his novels. In a 1924 letter, however, Maclure declared that when the town was laid out in 1889, he named it after Harry Abbott, General Superintendent, Pacific Division, Canadian Pacific Railway. Abbott, in his day a great man in the province, was a brother of Sir John Abbott, Prime Minister of Canada [1891-92].

The text of Maclure's July 4, 1924 letter (cited above) is contained in "Place Names of the Delta of the Fraser River" by Denys Nelson, 1927, an unpublished manuscript held in the Provincial Archives with the source being: "British Columbia Place Names" by Helen B. Akrigg and G.P.V. Akrigg, (Sono Nis Press, Victoria 1986 or University of British Columbia Press, 1997). So, hopefully, the debate is now concluded in favour of Henry Braithwaite Abbott.

So now we know about how the railway changed life in a quiet Fraser Valley farming community. How clay changed it even more is another story. **END.**



Saint-Paul-d'Abbotsford, Quebec

The Story of My Great Grandfather; continued from Page 6; images by Ted Taylor Ottawa 2011

"The first story is about your Great Grandfather flying in the 'Battle over Nuremberg, Germany. This was a very large attack on Germany. There were hundreds of airplanes all flying together. They were beside you and above you and below you.

When they had all assembled together and started to cross the English Channel it was night time so that it was more difficult for the Germans to spot them. As the squadron of bombers neared the target everyone was worried that one of the planes above you would drop its bombs and they would hit your plane. There were explosions around them as the Germans shot flak all around the bombers trying to shoot them down. German fighters would be trying to shoot them down as soon as they were spotted.

That night there were 98 bombers shot down. That is 98 crews of men all lost in one night. It was always very cold in the tail gunner section of the bomber. They were given a juice to drink during the flight, but every flight it would turn into a block of ice and your oxygen mask would have icicles hanging from it. You had an electric suit on that would keep you warm.

The flak looked like fireworks going off all around you in the air. You had to concentrate on your machine gun and not look around at the flak. If you looked at the bright flashes it would ruin your night vision because your eyes were used to being in complete blackness. If your night vision was ruined you may not see an enemy plane coming to shoot your bomber down. You had to always be ready to shoot at the fighters coming for your plane.

The 'Battle of Nuremberg took place because most of Europe had been taken over by the German Nazis. England needed help and asked Canada. We sent over our young men to help fight the Germans.

The center of the Nazi regime was Nuremberg. This one night saw a lot of our planes shot down, but most of Nuremberg was destroyed and this was a big setback to Germany. Your Great Grandfather said that you could see the city on fire 100 miles away."
Continued Page 29



The Story of My Great Grandfather; continued from Page 28; images by Ted Taylor Ottawa 2011

"The second story is about a night when your Great Grandfather was on a mission to bomb Germany. They were on their way back and had been flying for a long time, but it was very dark and they had to keep radio silence. Suddenly, they were under attack by fighter planes. That night they shot back but unfortunately your Great Grandfather's Lancaster Bomber was shot down.

Everyone was told to jump out of the plane as it was going to crash. Your Great Grandfather had to get out of the plane and jump and then pull the ripcord on his parachute. He pulled the cord and the parachute came out. He was now slowly floating down into blackness. He did not know if he was still in German territory or over the ocean in the English Channel or if they were over England.

Because both sides were bombing each other all towns and cities were under very strict orders that they could not have any lights on their homes so there was no way to see anything below you until you were very close to the ground. He could finally see the ground. He knew he was not over water but was not sure if he was in German territory or if he had made it home. They were trained to find the French Underground which was resistance fighters in France that were helping soldiers make it home safely if they were shot down so that they would not become prisoners of war.

Your Great Grandfather walked around and carefully went to several farm homes. They would not let him in as they thought he was a German. He was walking along a country road and a man picked him up with his parachute and your Great Grandfather found out that he was in England and he was safe."

"The final story is one that even affects you Genevieve. It all starts off when your Great Grandfather was just a little boy. He was about your age in Elementary School. He was playing outside with some other kids when suddenly another kid threw sand in his eyes. One of his eyes was damaged and was never quite the same. For the rest of his life it would sometimes flare up and would affect his vision.

He went to war in 1942 at the age of 19. He trained with the Royal Canadian Air Force (RCAF) and learned to be the tail gunner in a Lancaster Bomber. He had flown many missions successfully and had even been shot down and lived to tell the tale.

On this fateful day he woke up and his eye had flared up. He was not happy as they had to be ready to go at any moment. He went to see the flight surgeon and he inspected your Great Grandfather's eye and said that he was not able to fly that day. They knew that they needed someone in the plane that could see perfectly in the tail gunner position. This was the first time he had been grounded because of his eye.

That evening they were called into action and he watched his flight crew take off and head towards Germany. Unfortunately, that night his plane was shot down over Germany and he lost his best friend Sgt. Donald McEvoy. Another of the crew members parachuted safely but was captured and became a Prisoner of War.

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The Story of My Great Grandfather; continued from Page 29

Your Great Grandfather named his first child Donald after his good friend that was lost that night. Had your Great Grandfather been in that plane there is a very good chance that he may have died and would not have come home from the war. If he did not make it your Grandma would never have been born and your Dad would not have been born and that means that you would not have been born either Genevieve. So although it was very painful and caused my Dad problems throughout his life because a little boy threw sand in his eye when he was a child you never know how one small event may completely change the path of an entire family."

"I really enjoyed the stories that my Grandma told me about my Great Grandfather. I never met him because he died of cancer before I was born. I am glad to hear these stories and to learn about him and all that he did in WWII so that we can all be safe and live in our great, free country of Canada." Genevieve Taylor; age 10; Grade Five; Richard Bulpitt Elementary.

Genevieve was selected to represent Langley. She went to the next stage, which is the Fraser Valley Heritage Fair. There she won the award as the top student in the category "Family History." This award is sponsored by the AGS.

END



Message from Kelly Railton Executive Director MSA Museum Society: Heritage Fair 2016

"I wanted to personally thank the Abbotsford Genealogical Society on behalf of the The Reach and the MSA Museum Society for supporting the Fraser Valley Regional Heritage Fair and the wonderful projects on display at the University of the Fraser Valley. A special thank you as well for participating in the Awards Ceremony and presenting the award for "Family History" to the winning student.

I know that the students, parents and teachers appreciate your support and the Fair received great comments from all involved. None of what we do though would be possible without the generosity of our sponsors and donors: thank you from all of us.

I am happy to let you know that, thanks to the efforts of our volunteer judges we have been able to choose the three students that will represent the Fraser Valley at the Provincial Fair in July at UFV's Point Grey Campus in Vancouver. They will be joining 36 other students from throughout the province for heritage based field trips and activities and showcase their projects at the Provincial Exposition. Congratulations to

- ❖ Tyler Pretty; Grade 5; Prince Charles Elementary Abbotsford; project "A.N.D. Company"
- ❖ Ashlyn Holloway; Grade 4; James Kennedy Elementary Langley; project "Canada's Home Children" and
- ❖ Helen Kang; Grade 6; Dorothy Peacock Elementary Langley; project "The Diverse Artist, Emily Carr"
- ❖ Soon we will begin planning the 2017 program and I hope that you will join us once again."

Editor's note: AGS judges were members Graham MacDonnell, Lynda Paul and Pat Confrey; President Jim McQueen presented the Award

How to Prepare for a Genealogy Research Trip; courtesy Colonial Roots

Knowing how to prepare for a genealogy research trip is the best way to have a successful research trip. Here are a few suggestions to ensure your research trip is as fruitful as possible.

Logistics: print out directions to the repository or library you intend to visit. If you use GPS, be sure to have the address to plug into your GPS. Research the website of the repository or library to determine if parking is free or paid. Be sure to have change for parking meters or a form of payment for a parking lot or garage.

Check out lunch options in the area if you need to take a lunch break. Or pack a lunch for yourself and take a cooler. Maybe you only need some snacks. Most repositories do not allow food or drink, so plan accordingly.

Tailor your research plan to a specific repository (or repositories in the same locale). Most repositories feature an online catalog. Check to see which records are available. You can often jot down microfilm roll numbers or call numbers of books ahead of time. You might not think it would be a time saver, but when you are hot on the trail with only ten minutes to closing time, you will be happy you were able to save as much time as possible by preparing for your research.

Supplies: carry at least two pencils and a notebook with you. You never know when a pencil will run out of lead (I use mechanical pencils). Even if I am scanning microfilmed records to a thumb drive, I still keep the notebook for jotting down notes or source citations.

Speaking of a thumb drive, determine ahead of time if you can use a camera or thumb drive to copy the records you hope to find. Some repositories do not allow cameras, and others only allow printed copies. Find the cost of the photocopies ahead of time. You may need to deposit funds ahead of time to print copies as opposed to paying when you leave.

Upon Arrival: depending upon the repository, you will probably be asked to leave coats, purses, umbrellas, briefcases, totes, etc. in a locker. Some repositories offer lockers at no charge. Others may require a quarter to use the locker, but the quarter is refunded when you leave. Be prepared with a quarter, just in case.

You will probably need to sign in at the registration desk. If you have never been to that particular repository, you may be required to fill out a form and provide identification.

Some repositories provide you with "how to use this repository" paperwork upon your arrival. Others may have an information desk where you can ask for assistance.

Attire: many repositories keep the temperature rather cool in order to better preserve the documents in their care. You may want to wear long sleeves or bring a sweater. Dress in a professional manner: no shorts, flip-flops, tank tops, etc. Business casual is usually a good choice.

Do as much preparation as you can ahead of time for your research trip. Get to know as much as possible about the repository before you get there. You will be better prepared and have a more productive trip.



Plan Your Visit to the AGS Resource Centre



The **AGS Resource Centre** is located in the Archives of The Reach Gallery Museum at 32388 Veterans Way, Abbotsford, BC. The Centre is staffed by AGS volunteers two hours per day Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday within the hours of 10:00 AM to 5:00 PM; and 10:00 AM to 9:00 PM Thursdays (subject to volunteer availability and Reach hours). Volunteers are always needed; training is provided.

Members can access the Centre whenever The Reach is open. The monthly AGS Duty Schedule is posted in the Centre, emailed to AGS members and published on the AGS Website. Email resourceduty@abbygs.ca or visit www.abbygs.ca for more information. If an AGS volunteer is not working, Reach staff or volunteers will try to assist. For Reach opening hours, exhibitions and events check www.thereach.ca.

The AGS does not staff an office in the Resource Centre. If you need assistance, contact any Officer or Committee Coordinator.

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