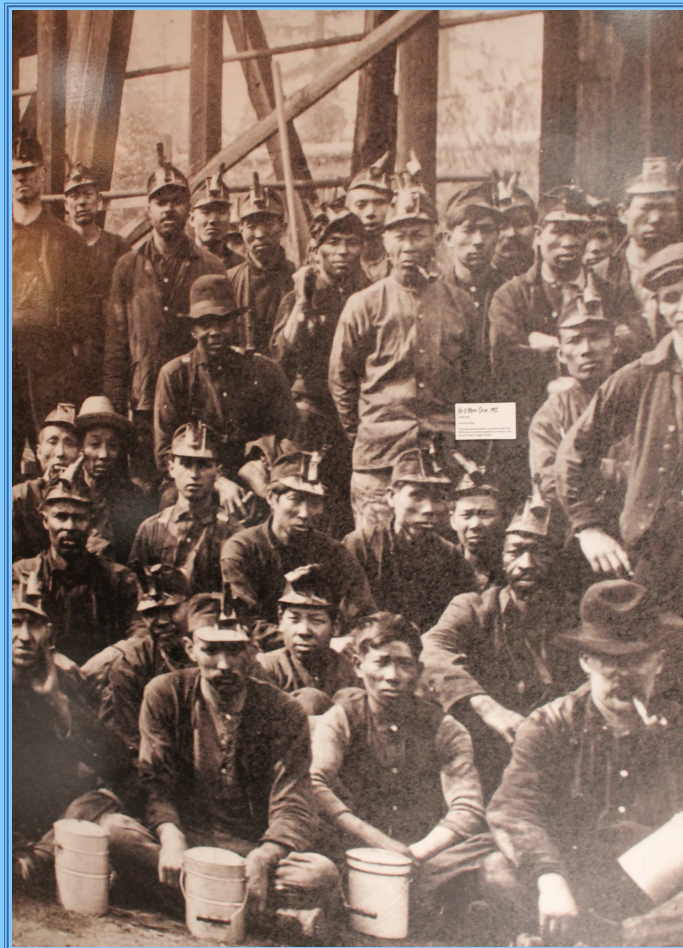




THE BRITISH COLUMBIA GENEALOGIST



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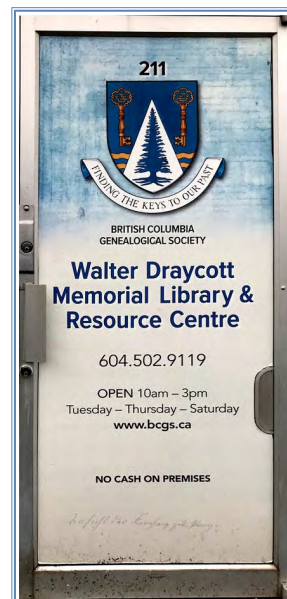
BRITISH COLUMBIA GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

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e-mail: info@bcgs.ca

BCGS GENEALOGICAL LIBRARY

211 - 12837 76th Avenue
Surrey, BC
Telephone 604-502-9119
Email: library@bcgs.ca

The BCGS Library will be open on Tuesdays, Thursdays
and Saturdays from 10:00 am to 3:00 pm.



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

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

OFFICERS AND BOARD of DIRECTORS 2025- 2026

Executive

President	Linda Fleury	president@bcgs.ca
Vice President	Jan Graf	info@bcgs.ca
Vice President	Terri Mackenzie	info@bcgs.ca
Society Secretary	Jane Baggott	info@bcgs.ca
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Administrative Secretary	Moyna Laing	info@bcgs.ca

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	Carol Rudek	info@bcgs.ca
2026 - 2029 Term	Lynne Fletcher	info@bcgs.ca
	Tara Sutherland	info@bcgs.ca
Past President	Eunice Robinson	info@bcgs.ca
Library Administrator	Eunice Robinson	library@bcgs.ca



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

Meetings

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

On our **Zoom** site.

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

Meeting Location

Online for the present.

Membership Fees:

\$65.00 per year (Individual)

\$10.00 per year (associate)

\$22.50 (Youth)

\$65.00 (Affiliate Society)

Annual Membership includes four issues of
our e-journal, *The British Columbia
Genealogist*, monthly newsletters and use of
our BCGS Genealogical Library and
Resource Centre in Surrey.

For more information, contact
Membership Committee at
membership@bcgs.ca

Web Page www.bcgs.ca

BC Research queryrequest@bcgs.ca

Facebook Discussion Group:
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/>

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A message from our President...

As another Society year concludes,
I'd like to thank our current Board of
Directors for all their work and support this
past year. As well a huge and grateful
thanks to all our Volunteers. Without you,
we wouldn't have such a vibrant society.

You'll read in my Annual Report of many
of the activities that have taken place.
Had to omit some of them, or the Report
would have been like "War & Peace".

Please consider visiting our Library. We
have some amazing resources there.
Check out website. Or volunteer for one
of the projects, several of which can be
done at home!

Till next time,
Eunice

President, BCGS



From the Desk of the Editor . . .

As Spring reluctantly steps into March, our Journal this month has a wealth of research stories, pictures and gems from our own Library to keep our members busy inside their warm homes.

Honouring our **Holten Project**, we have three reports, from **Janice Kidwell** and **Travis MacDougall**. These articles explore the military service for Private John Cook from Grand Forks and Trail, Major Frederick Shawcross from New Westminter, and Private John Gibson from Nova Scotia.

Meg McLaughlin shares her tips for researching in Nova Scotia, and some special books from her library. **Janice Kidwell** recalls the BC Ferries M/V Queen of the North ferry disaster that took place on our own West Coast.

From the Library, **Eunice Robinson** has found information about Mountain View burials that may help in your searches.

Hope that you enjoy reading through these pages, and that you find an item that contributes to your research journey. Hot Chocolate is optional!

Lynne Fletcher
Journal@bcgs.ca



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On the Front Cover . . .

From the Cumberland Museum and Archive, a picture of the miners from No. 5 Mine in Cumberland, gathered for the photographer as they begin their shift underground.

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PRESIDENT'S REPORT 2025-2026

I'd like to start off the recapping of last year's BCGS activities with recognition of the Board of Directors. We have been so fortunate to have this committed group. Each member not only serves on the Board, but volunteers with other aspects of the Society.

As the various Teams have submitted their Annual Reports, I am impressed by the amount of work that has been accomplished this past year. We have again achieved an impressive 10,831.75 hours of volunteer time, with the library contributing the lion's share of 4,759.25! Can you imagine how much this would cost if we had to pay our volunteers!

We continued to use Zoom for our Monthly, Board and Team meetings, Coffee Chats and Classes this past year. Members who have not yet joined us are encouraged to do so. While it isn't as friendly as meeting in person, it allows members to join from wherever they are, and based on some of the miserable nights, it is nice to be warm and dry.

Some Highlights:

Mary Turnbull and her assistants have had a busy year. Fielding requests from not only our BCGS members, but from the United Kingdom, Norway, Germany, China, the USA and Canada. Some lovely compliments have been received as researchers find those 'missing links'. Members are reminded that queryrequest@bcgs.ca will assist you as well, with one or two requests at no charge.

Postcards – We continue to collect postcards. Janice Kidwell, our coordinator, also submits features on BC locations and stories for our Newsletter and Journal. The postcards are sorted into various categories, and stored at the Library. Visitors/Patrons are encouraged to view or contribute to the collection. Recently, we had visitors from the Postcard Club, who left clutching some treasures for their own collections.

Holten Canadian War Cemetery Project – Another project coordinated by Janice Kidwell. May 5, 2026 will mark the 82nd Anniversary of the Liberation of the Netherlands. The goal of this project is to create a biography on every soldier from British Columbia, that is buried in this cemetery. Forty-five reports have been completed, including the 10 completed this past year. The BC Geographical Names Office has named features after 24 Holten soldiers.

Find-a-Grave – It has been 8 years since BCGS created our account. Yvette Howard, who coordinates this project, advises that to date we have created more than 15,000 memorials and added information to almost 81,000 memorials.

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This year alone, we added information to 4,500 memorials. BCGS has also partnered with several Find-a-Grave members (Mountain View, Lakeview and Nanaimo). Once the booklets have been completed, the plan is to take on a couple of related projects, such as ensuring BCGS members who have passed have memorials on Find-a-Grave. Also planning cemetery photo-taking outings.

Membership - Terri Mackenzie, our Membership Team Leader, advises we had 351 full members, 18 associate members, 4 youth members, and 16 life members. We also had 19 Affiliate groups. We had 17 Institutions that are mailed our digital e-Journal. Members come from all over BC, as well as Alberta, Saskatchewan, Manitoba, Ontario, Quebec, New Zealand, California, Colorado, Florida, Georgia, Minnesota, Missouri, Texas, Utah and Washington.

Website – The Team, consisting of Jan Graf (webmaster), Sheila Albrecht (web editor) and Terri Mackenzie (web assistant). Terri has been a great addition to the team, taking on the job of uploading the journal exchanges as well as participating in our team meetings and working with Sheila on the membership side of the website.

There were 26,610 visits to the website in 2025. The most popular pages were Researching in BC (2,887 visits), Members' Resources (2,161 visits), Research Inquiries (1,331 visits) and Genealogy Classes (1,170 visits). The Library page had 841 visits. We may want to look at how we can encourage more visits from our members to this valuable resource.

The bulk of our visitors are from Canada (22,792) with some from the United States (3,688) and the United Kingdom (691). The remaining visitors are from more than 70 other countries (although it may be that VPNs used to hide IP addresses are responsible for much of that).

The focus for the website team this year has been on maintaining the quality of our website, keeping it current and relevant for our members. We were able to add a significant batch of very useful content from the Qualicum Family History Society. That Society disbanded at the end of 2024, and they kindly donated their website content to the BCGS. Sheila worked hard to convert it and adapt it for our website, and it is now freely available to all. We very much appreciate the donation.

Communications – Journal, Newsletter, Facebook – BCGS members are very well served by the Communications Team. Our editors – Lynne Fletcher for the Journal and Sue Sullivan for the Newsletter produce extraordinary publications. Our BCGS Facebook page, managed by Kim Kujawski, provides another platform for sharing. The distribution for the Journal and Newsletter is sent out using MailChimp by Judy Galpin. We were sad to receive the resignation of Sue Sullivan at the beginning of 2026, due to her relocation to Alberta – we wish her well.

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We welcome our new Newsletter editor, Kim Brant.

Archives – Corrine Jubb continued to gather BCGS documents for preservation. Additionally, the Archives will be creating a policy for accepting genealogical donations. If you plan to deposit your family history with BCGS, please talk to Corrine about format, etc.

Education – Eunice Robinson and Celia Lewis continued to give their series of classes – Beginners and the Next Step. The classes have proven very popular, and we often have a wait list for the next class. The participant lists for the Coffee Chats were purged at the end of December. The new process developed by Jan and Sheila has simplified the sign ups. Making it less onerous for Lisa Blackwell sending out the notices. We have a couple of new facilitators – Linda Fleury for Ontario and Jan Graf for Scotland. The Coffee Chat schedule is posted on the BCGS website. We haven't had too many speakers this past year, but shared other information which the members have enjoyed. Kindertech is the one class that meets at the library once a month, on a Saturday. Thanks to Margaret Sharon and Meg Riter for their knowledge. Eunice has done a few outreach talks this past year providing good exposure for BCGS.

Library – The Library Administrator is Eunice Robinson. She, along with an amazing group of Volunteer Staff faithfully keep the library going. The library is still open Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday from 10:00 am to 3:00 pm. We have also scheduled an Open Research Sunday, once a month from 9:30 am to 4:00 pm.

- ▶ We were so fortunate to have FamilySearch install their digitizing equipment, manned by Paula & Roger Bentley and Molly Gordon. They were set up in our Board Room for almost 18 months. They finished their term at the end of January 2026, and digitized 707 books, which will soon be on FamilySearch. There were books that were surplus to us, and 3 boxes of books were donated to FamilySearch. This was a remarkable opportunity for BCGS, and beneficial to FamilySearch as well.
- ▶ We have not purchased any books this past year but the collection has grown through donations. Sadly, many of the larger donations have come due to a couple of genealogy societies in BC have either dissolved or their space has shrunk.
- ▶ Tuesdays have been established as Cataloguing Day – with Celia Lewis, Claire Belzer, Jacqueline Penney, Corrine Jubb and Eunice Robinson.
- ▶ We have had a number of 'family research' collections donated. We have been working on the best way to process.

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- ▶ The indexing of the microfilm and microfiche has been completed, but there is still the work of deciding if these are still valid for BCGS.
- ▶ George Caldwell has been working with some of the collection to hyperlink to FamilySearch. For instance, the Haldimand Papers films are still important for us to keep.
- ▶ The yearbook collection has increased mainly due to donations. Our new bookcases have been installed and they are much sturdier than the old ones.
- ▶ The indexing of the map collection continues, with more being donated.
- ▶ The subscriptions of MyHeritage and NewspaperArchive.com has been extended – as it is available to our members at home, not many people use it at the library.
- ▶ A lot of reorganization in the library collection, resulting in new Dewey Decimal numbers created for the Indigenous and DNA collections. Purging of old, outdated or no longer valid material is an ongoing task.
- ▶ While the FamilySearch team were here, we managed to get a few books digitized for individual members. We have now created a Digital Library. About 25 yearbooks were digitized and will be added to our collection. We have two digital books. A process of accessing these has been established.
- ▶ Elizabeth Christie bookmarked the Henderson's Directories. These are just about ready for our members to use them. Some of these directories were huge.
- ▶ Newspaper indexing has continued. We have added Vancouver Sun 2002 to 2007 to the database. A review of 2002, 2003 & 2004 was a tedious but necessary activity, and finally completed.
- ▶ The smaller newspapers have also been digitized – we are just about finished. Now the task of indexing is being done. Susan Kent looks after the uploading of these papers, and has done a remarkable job with this, too.
- ▶ We now have 3 considerable databases on the Library computers – Newspapers/Clippings, Church Records and Book Index.
- ▶ Corrine Jubb has continued to scan and index the huge Clipping File. This is part of the Newspaper database. It is very close to being completed.
- ▶ We only have one member working on the Book Indexing project – Maureen Cruise. Fortunately, she really enjoys this. Ann Ryder has volunteered for this now that she is unable to come to the library.

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- ▶ We now have the Holten Cemetery soldiers' bios added to the library computers. Although they are in the e-Journal, we felt it was another good resource for our library.
- ▶ The Vertical File collection has been updated, and now resides in the file cabinets on the 2nd floor. There have been a couple of requests for copies, which has been gratifying.
- ▶ Again, in December, we held a lunch for our Library Staff – a small thank you for all that they do. Unfortunately, a couple of our long-time staff – Ann Ryder and Gary Hamblin – have retired.

Facilities – Claire Belzer is the Team Leader. Our library was closed in August. But at that time, we installed a new heating/cooling system, which should make it more comfortable for visitors and staff. So far, it has proven to have been a great decision.

In conclusion, thank you to all the Team Leaders and Volunteers for sharing your expertise and valuable time. Thank you to our members for supporting our Society. There are many projects, both big and little. Many can be done from home, or you can come into the library and do them there.

Eunice Robinson
President, British Columbia Genealogical Society
March 6, 2026

A List of Places to Search for Your Missing Ancestor:

Do you know where the nearest three of these buildings, geographic features, organizations, social groups, etc. are, from these that were in the area where your ancestor lived? It could help you push through those research road blocks.

- churches,
- schools,
- newspapers,
- cemeteries,
- county seats,
- rivers,
- mountains,
- county lines,
- train stops,
- towns where people could trade and get supplies,
- employers who employed more than a few people,

HOLTEN CANADIAN WAR CEMETERY PROJECT

PRIVATE JOHN EDWARD COOK THE CANADIAN SCOTTISH REGIMENT November 26, 1925 to April 27, 1945

Submitted by Janice Kidwell
BCGS member 5033.

Private John Edward Cook was born on November 26, 1925 in Kooskia County, Idaho, U.S.A., to parents Edward Lee and Goldia Violet (nee Wren) Cook of Grand Forks, British Columbia. Pte. Cook's parents were both born in the United States and were married in Hanna, Alberta. Private Cook had three brothers and seven sisters.

The 1931 Census shows the family living in Red Deer, Alberta. The family was of Scottish descent and belonged to the United Church. The father's occupation was mixed farming and they owned their own farm.

Pte. Cook had attended public school in Grand Forks – up to Grade 6 – and while at school, he liked all school sports and his hobby of wood work. When John left school at age 14, he went to work for C.M.&S. (The Consolidated Mining and Smelting Company) in Trail. He left at one point as he did not like the work.

John reported for NRMA Service on June 29, 1944 at the Central Station No. XI Recruiting Detachment in Vancouver, B.C. His serial number was K-1723. He was living in Grand Forks at that time and his trade was listed as farmer and smelterman – a person who smelts ore/extracts metal from ore.

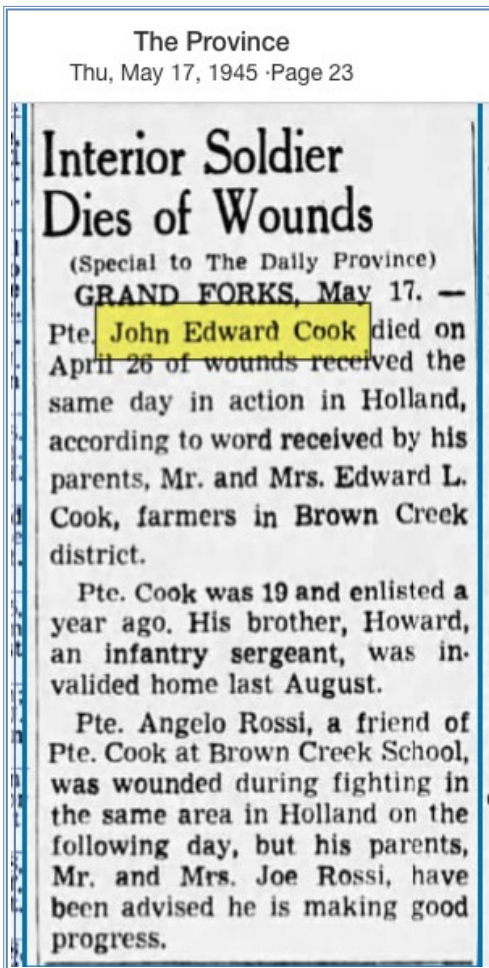
In June of 1944, Pte. Cook began his basic training and on August 3 was Taken on Strength at the 133 CIBTC (Canadian Infantry Basic Training Centre) from the 11th District Depot in Wetaskiwin, Alberta. On September 21, 1944 Pte. Cook was admitted to hospital and discharged September 24th. He was posted to the A16 Canadian Infantry Training Centre in Wetaskiwin. Alberta.

On September 30, Pte. Cook went to Canadian Infantry Basic Training Centre in Calgary, Alberta. While there he passed physical and associated tests as well as receiving traditional vaccines.



HOLTEN CANADIAN WAR CEMETERY PROJECT

During Private Cook's Advanced training, a letter from Pte. Cook's father dated October 4, 1944 to Col. L. Scott was asking for their son to be released from service due to his wife's poor health which resulted in leaving all duties on the farm as well as other family duties (six other children in family) to her husband. Included was a note from his wife's doctor confirming his wife's poor health. An Application for Discharge was filled in, but the request was not recommended. During this time, a note in Pte. Cook's file indicated that a brother was recovering at Shaughnessy Hospital in Vancouver after being wounded in Italy.



On February 1, 1945 Private Cook left Canada, disembarking in the United Kingdom on February 9, 1945. On April 10, 1945, he embarked in the U.K., disembarking in NW Europe on April 11, 1945.

Pte. Cook's father received an Official Canadian Army overseas casualty notification stating that his son had died of wounds received in action against the enemy ("in the field") on April 27, 1945. His son's death had taken place in Meppen, Landkreis Emsland, Lower Saxony, Germany.

In early May, Pte. Cook's father received a letter from the army expressing deep regret on the death of his son.

A letter dated June 8, 1945 was received by Pte. Cook's father advising him that his son had been buried with religious honours in a temporary cemetery located at Meppen Military Cemetery in Germany, MR702562, sh 3209. There was a temporary marker with a wooden cross and that in due course his son's remains would be exhumed and reburied in a recognized military burial ground.

Private Cook's father received a letter dated June 19, 1946 stating that his son's remains had been carefully exhumed from the temporary location of internment on March 18, 1946 and reverently reburied at Holten Canadian War Cemetery. His gravesite is X.D.3. The temporary cross will be replaced by a permanent headstone, suitably inscribed, and his parents are welcome to submit a short personal inscription of their own choice. His son's gravesite will receive perpetual care.

HOLTEN CANADIAN WAR CEMETERY PROJECT

Statement of War Service Gratuity:

303 days plus 83 qualifying overseas days = 86 days of service.

Private John Edward Cook is commemorated on page 505 of the
Second World War Book of Remembrance.

This page is displayed in the Memorial Chamber of the Peace Tower in Ottawa
on January 15th.



K. 3990 PRIVATE
J.E. COOK
CANADIAN SCOTTISH REGIMENT
27TH APRIL 1945 AGE 19



A BELOVED SON AND BROTHER,
"BLESSED
ARE THE PURE IN HEART
FOR THEY SHALL SEE GOD"

Sources

- Ancestry.ca: www.ancestry.ca
- B.C. Archives <https://www.royalbcmuseum.bc.ca/bcarchives/search-our-collections>
- Canadian Virtual War Memorial <https://www.veterans.gc.ca/en/remembrance/memorials/canadian-virtual-war-memorial/detail/2227075>
- Find A Grave: <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/14040629/john-edward-cook>

POSTCARDS

EVENTS THAT TOOK PLACE IN BRITISH COLUMBIA IN THE MONTH OF MARCH - **BC FERRIES M/V QUEEN OF THE NORTH**

Submitted by Janice Kidwell,
B.C.G.S. Member # 5033

On March 21, 2006, BC Ferries vessel Queen of the North departed Prince Rupert on its routine 18-hour route to Port Hardy, through the Inside Passage. Just after midnight, the ship sailed off-course, ran aground at full speed at Gil Island, then sank. All but two of the 101 people aboard escaped the sinking ship safely.

WCMRC mobilized immediately upon being activated by BC Ferries, with a team of responders arriving on-scene early the next morning. Due to passenger rescue operations, WCMRC was delayed in assessing the situation or deploying equipment. The team established an Incident Command Post in Prince Rupert, about 110 km north of the sunken vessel. They chartered an aircraft to observe the spill and used a computer program called Oil Map to input information about weather, tides, oil type and other factors. This program created a model that predicted where the oil would travel over time and allowed the team to accurately predict how the spill would spread despite sometimes severe weather conditions.

The response team worked from equipment barges anchored at Hartley Bay and out of WCMRC's Fisherman Oil Spill Emergency Team members' fishing boats.

- Nationality: Canadian
- Length: 125m
- Beam: 19.74m
- Draught: 5.24m
- Speed: 20 knots
- Tonnage: 8,806 GT
- Year: 1969
- Capacity: 700 passengers, 115 cars
-

Built by AG Weser in Bremerhaven, Germany, the single-hulled RO/RO (roll on/roll off) ferry *Stena Danica* sailed into service in 1969. Operated by Stena Line, the *Danica* operated on a route between Sweden and Denmark until 1974, when BC Ferries purchased it for around \$13 million. The ship was rechristened as *Queen of Surrey* and immediately put to work on the Horseshoe Bay-Nanaimo route. Unfortunately, the design of the vessel did not allow for the quick turnaround required on this busy route, and by 1976 it was retired from the run and left in a BC Ferry dockyard.

POSTCARDS



The government decided that the ship was better suited to longer, less hectic runs, and put it in for a refit. \$10 million and a new name (*Queen of the North*) later, the ship had staterooms and more restaurants, car capacity and cargo space. Over the years, BC Ferries would add other ships to their 36-vessel roster, but the *Queen*, even at fifth largest, remained the flagship and ultimate favourite of the brand.

By 1985, the *Queen* was back in service on the “Inside Passage”, running from Port Hardy on Vancouver Island to Prince Rupert. This 15-hour route serviced smaller communities in the area as well as these two major hubs, and was a scenic trip past deep fjords, gorgeous rivers, and beautiful mountains covered in rainforest. It was on this route, and in these waters, that the *Queen* would eventually sink.

On March 22nd, 2006, the *Queen of the North* was making its way from Prince Rupert to Port Hardy. On this particular night, the vessel carried 101 passengers and crew on board, and from all accounts it was a routine trip. The weather was windy with some rain, but nothing the crew couldn't handle, and as the light faded over Wright Sound, passengers began retiring to their cabins. By morning, they hoped, they'd be at Port Hardy and could finish their journey home.

POSTCARDS

On the bridge, Fourth Officer Karl Lilgert and Quartermaster Karen Briker were on duty. Lilgert, the navigation officer for the ship, was monitoring the vessel's position and radioing ahead to the area's traffic control. As the ship approached *Sainty Point*, a well-known marker along the route, Lilgert radioed that the vessel had made a necessary turn and was headed into the sound. This slight course correction was necessary to avoid *Gil Island*, which jutted out to the south of *Sainty Point*.

14 minutes later, he saw trees looming out of the darkness in front of the vessel.

The ship smashed into *Gil Island* going full speed, scraping and bumping along the rocky shoreline. Objects crashed to the deck and passengers were violently jolted awake. Water began pouring into the engine room immediately as, on the bridge, an officer ran to wake the captain. The *Queen of the North* was in trouble.

An immediate mayday was issued, but the initial coordinates reported by the crew put the ship on the wrong course. It took a few minutes for the crew to ascertain where they were, but when they finally provided traffic control with a location, a call for assistance was issued. The CCGS *Sir Wilfrid Laurier* received the call and immediately changed course to help, but they were an hour away. Fortunately, the *Gitka'a'ata* people of *Hartley Bay First Nation*, 20 minutes away, were able to assist. Numerous community members jumped into their fishing boats and headed for the *Queen*. Help was on the way.

Back on board, the situation continued to deteriorate. A few passengers and crew, trapped in their cabins by falling lockers or other objects, were freed by those heading up top. It became clear that the ship was going to disappear before help arrived, so the crew moved quickly to evacuate, launching the lifeboats and hurrying passengers aboard as the deck below them moved closer and closer towards the water. The captain performed a sweep of the decks, running down passageways, banging on doors, and calling out that everyone was to abandon ship. Eventually he, too, boarded a life raft and left the *Queen of the North*. He then sat and watched as the ship he had called "home" for years began to slip beneath the waves. Passengers reported hearing the crashes and rumbling as dishes, furniture, and vehicles slid towards the stern of the ship. The bow raised high out of the water and eventually disappeared from view.

The *Queen of the North* was gone, and the survivors had no choice but to drift and wait for rescue.

Thankfully, they didn't have to wait long. The fishing vessels from Hartley Bay and the Coast Guard were quickly on site.

POSTCARDS

The passengers were taken to Hartley Bay, where the community came together to offer warm clothes, cell phones to call family, and food. Everyone breathed a sigh of relief to be on solid ground again.

Everyone, that is, except for the captain.

No one seemed to be able to get a correct head count, and *BC Ferries* and the Transportation Safety Board were now aware of the loss of the *Queen of the North* and wanted answers – and numbers – as soon as possible. Eventually a roster was sent it to the Captain, and he tried to finalize his count. It was then he realized, to his horror, they were two people short.

The bodies of two passengers – Gerald Foisy and Shirley Rosette – were never recovered. The couple had been on a romantic getaway and were presumed lost in the sinking.

A number of red flags were raised during the investigation into the disaster. The coordinates that the crew had reported didn't match the course the ship had taken into the side of Gil Island. A team was sent to the wreck site to recover the ships navigation computer, and a forensic team was able to extract the data they needed just seconds before the water-damaged hard drive fried itself. The data supported the investigation team's hypothesis – that Fourth Officer Lilgert had never taken the turn he'd reported as he passed Saintly Point, nor had he made any move to correct the course for the fourteen minutes that followed.

The investigation found that human error was the cause of the accident. *BC Ferries* fired Captain Henthorne, Fourth Officer Lilgert, and Quartermaster Briker. Lilgert was later charged with two counts of criminal negligence causing death and after a jury trial in 2013 was sentenced to four years in prison. During his trial, Lilgert stated he could not explain why he hadn't changed the ships course, and that he thought he had in order to avoid a smaller vessel. This was later revealed to be untrue, and the argument was made suggesting he had forgotten after he had radioed the change.

Another argument for the accident, and one that was favoured by both the Crown Prosecutor and the media was that Lilgert had been distracted on the bridge. It was revealed during the trial that Lilgert and Quartermaster Briker had been having an affair for months, but that it had ended before the accident happened. The Crown Prosecutor argued in court that Briker's presence distracted Lilgert – that they were either having sex or arguing – which was why he did not correct the ships course. Both Briker and Lilgert denied that claim.

As is often the case after a tragic wreck, BC Ferries implemented new safety measures and training for all crew members.

POSTCARDS

These measures included a new training simulator, the addition of a senior officer to all night watches, and two navigators to be on the bridge at all times on northern routes. As CEO Mike Corrigan said in an interview with CBC in 2016 “We took the darkest day in our history and we turned it into something positive”.

As for the ship itself, it still rests upright and intact on the bottom of Wright Sound. An oil slick formed shortly after the sinking – both from the lubricants of the ship and the 16 cars it was carrying – which spread throughout the sound. The Coast Guard conducted an environmental assessment and issued containment measures in 2008, with the final report stating that no major damage appeared to have been caused by the wreck.

Sources

<https://www.originalshipster.com/blog/2020/10/21/disasters-at-sea-queen-of-the-north>
<https://wcmrc.com/past-incidents/queen-of-the-north/>

The Peace Tower

Nobody has ever said, “Which way to the Peace Tower?” It cannot be missed. With its four-faced clock and its massive, commanding flag, it is the centrepiece of our Parliament Buildings.

But it is so much more than that.

It is not just a good-looking front porch to Parliament, or a place from which to let our freak flag fly. It is not just a famous architectural feature, and it’s more than just symmetry and design. The tower was built as a memorial to those Canadians who were lost in the First World War. It houses, on its third floor, the Memorial Chamber, the permanent home for Canada’s seven Books of Remembrance, listing the names of all the Canadians who gave their lives in service to their country.

To this day, every morning at eleven the pages of these books are turned. This ensures that every name, at least once a year, is prominently displayed to visitors. So many of these names are no longer spoken, their stories no longer told. How many Canadians have vague recollections of hearing of a distant uncle, whose name escapes them, who was lost during the Great War? The tower stands so that those names will never be forgotten.

Memorials to those lost at war exist the world over. But unlike many other countries, when we named our monument, we didn’t use the word war at all. We called our tower “Peace.”

The Peace Tower.

And really, how cool is that?

– Rick Mercer, The Road Years

HOLTEN CANADIAN WAR CEMETERY PROJECT

MAJOR FREDERICK SHAWCROSS **The Westminster Regiment (Motor) (M. G.) C.A.S.F.**

July 16, 1910 – June 23, 1945

Submitted by Janice Kidwell
BCGS member 5033.

Major Frederick Shawcross was born July 16, 1910 in New Westminster, B.C. to parents Charles and Martha Alice (Fletcher) Shawcross of Vancouver. Major Shawcross' parents were both born in England.

The 1921 Canadian census shows the family living on 16th Avenue in New Westminster. The census lists father Charles, mother Martha Alice, sisters Edith, Alice and Clarice and brother John.

The 1931 census shows the family living at the same address as in 1921. Frederick's occupation is listed as a 'Tinsmith', industry – sheet metal worker. There is also information that he was working as the Service Dept. Manager at Chrysler Productions. Frederick is 20 years old.

Major Shawcross and Nora Isabella Angerman were married April 8, 1938 at St. Phillips Church which is located in the Dunbar area of Vancouver.

Frederick enlisted and an oath taken on September 11, 1939 in New Westminster. He would serve with The Westminster Regiment (M.G.) C.A.S.F. (Canadian Active Service Forces). Frederick had the traditional examinations, tests and vaccines. His Trade on enlistment was as a Service Dept. Manager at Chrysler Products.

Frederick's previous service was with the 1st Battalion, Westminster Regiment on October 16, 1927: Qualifications: Military: Warrant Officer II 'A' Wing, 'B' Wing Sgt, 'K' Course. Profession: sheet metal worker. Technical: 2 years – New West Tech.

On December 16, 1939, he was promoted to Platoon Sgt-Major from MHQ (Canadian Military Headquarters (MHQ)). On April 22, 1940, he became Company Sgt Major. The same day, he was awarded the Canadian Efficiency medal.



HOLTEN CANADIAN WAR CEMETERY PROJECT

On May 25, 1940, he traveled with his Regiment to a new station - Dundurn Military Camp located about 35km south of Saskatoon, Saskatchewan.

The area was first used as early as 1928 for militia exercises. For the first few summer militia exercises, men slept in tents as there were no permanent structures for habitation or operations. The land began to be cleared for a permanent militia training camp by local labour in 1930. Camp Dundurn was also used as an ammunition storage depot. During the Great Depression, a relief camp was established at Dundurn under the authority of the Department of National Defence. There, men worked for 20¢ a day plus meals, tobacco, lodging and work clothes. The relief camp included barracks-style accommodation for up to 2,000 men, a hospital, a recreation hall and a fully functional water system.

With the outbreak of World War II in 1939, Camp Dundurn was transformed into a busy military base, the largest in Saskatchewan. Facilities were expanded to accommodate an armoured corps training school, an engineer training unit, a large hospital, a nurses' residence, a Canadian Women's Army Corps barracks, a fire hall, and an extended training area. More than 50,000 soldiers trained at Camp Dundurn before being assigned to duty overseas. Reserve soldiers who were exempt from active service also went through compulsory training there. Since World War II, the camp has remained in military control, and it operates today as Canadian Forces Detachment Dundurn. Permanent personnel have been reduced to less than 200, but the site maintains its role as an ammunition storage and training area. Activity peaks in the summer, when cadet and reserve army units arrive for extended training exercises.

The RCAF also built a bombing range at the camp and the Canadian Womens Army Corps established one of its first units in Canada at Camp Dundurn.

A27 Canadian Armoured Corps Training Centre re-located to Camp Dundurn on 28 January 1942 from Camp Borden. The school was re-named A27 Canadian Reconnaissance Training Centre.

Although A27 CRTC closed in March 1945, the camp would remain open as a permanent Army camp. The No. 6 Ordnance Ammunition Depot opened at the camp in 1947 and permanent married quarters were constructed. Dundurn was a major cadet camp through the 1950s and 60s.

In the early to mid 1960s, a reorganization and consolidation occurred within the Canadian Military.

HOLTEN CANADIAN WAR CEMETERY PROJECT

Several Army, Navy and RCAF bases were either downsized, merged or closed. Camp Dundurn was downsized to a detachment of CFB Moose Jaw in 1966. No. 6 Ordnance Ammunition Depot was re-named Canadian Forces Ammunition Depot Dundurn.

Today, the camp continues to serve as the home of Canadian Forces Ammunition Depot Dundurn, as well as a training area and rifle range for militia and regular force units in Saskatchewan. The Canadian Forces Housing Agency still maintains 28 PMQs (now called Residential Housing Units) for military members. Dundurn is now a detachment of 17 Wing Winnipeg.

Source Material: information supplied by Will Chabun, Member Regina Chapter, Canadian Aviation Historical Society (2001), CF Det Dundurn Detachment Fire Service web site – <http://www.geocities.com/platoontwo>, History of the Air Cadets Glider Training web site – <http://www.mts.net/~rgspra/hist.html>, information supplied by the Canadian Forces Housing Agency (2011) & the Town of Dundurn web site – <http://sesd.sk.ca/dundurn/town/default.htm>.

On October 7th, 1940, Sgt Major Shawcross changed stations, from Military District.12 (Regina) to Military District 11 in Victoria, British Columbia.

On November 30, 1940 – Major Shawcross and his wife welcomed a baby girl, Nora Margaret. Major Shawcross was given 7 days Personal Leave.

On December 1, 1940, he was appointed provisional 2nd Lieutenant, and proceeded to Infantry Rifle from Centre Calgary. Major Shawcross continued to take further and varied training in Vancouver, Calgary and Camp Borden. He was promoted to Lieutenant in April 1941 and on August 8, 1941 became a qualified Driver of motorcycles.

Embarked in Halifax, Nova Scotia on November 10th, leaving for overseas the next day. Disembarked November 24, 1941 in Liverpool, England. Various and numerous training took place in 1941 and 1942. On March 14, 1942 Major Shawcross was to be a Captain.

On January 15, 1944, Major Shawcross was awarded the CVSM medal and Clasp. On different dates, Major Shawcross was appointed A/Major. During the next month, Major Shawcross left the U.K., embarked in Italy, disembarking in France on March 2, 1945.

HOLTEN CANADIAN WAR CEMETERY PROJECT

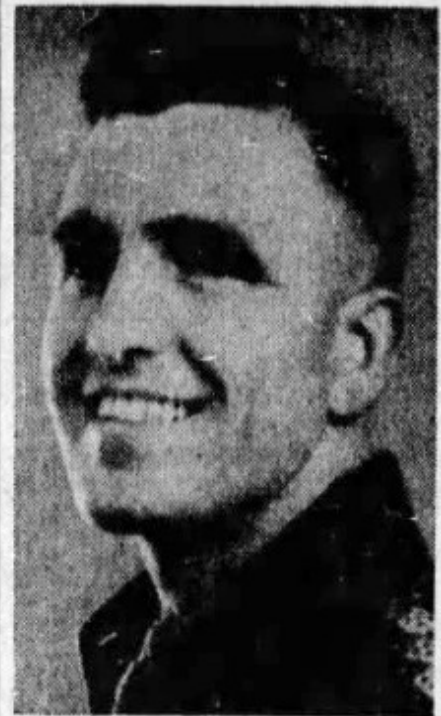
On June 23, 1945 Major Shawcross died from injuries received, including drowning in a canal, in an accident involving a Scout Car. A Court of Inquiry was assembled and held "In the Field" on June 24, 1945. Fatalities were Major Shawcross and two civilians who were authorized to be in the car.

Major Shawcross' temporary burial took place at #16 5 CAD Cemetery Gronigen Mr 225129, Groningen sh M -1 (west), row 5, grave 5. Major Shawcross' respective reburial took place at Holten Canadian War Cemetery on February 1, 1946. His gravesite is Grave 1, Row B, Plot 3.

A Burial Report was sent to next of kin July 11, 1946; a Royal Message dispensed July 13, 1945 and Canadian Message dispensed July 7, 1945.

Major Shawcross received the following medals:
1939-45 STAR,
Italy STAR,
Defence Medal,
War Medal,
CVSM & Clasp and the Efficiency Decoration Medal.

The Canadian Efficiency Decoration was a long service award to commissioned officers who had served meritoriously for 20 years in the Canadian Militia (Reserves). It was also awarded to officers in the Royal Canadian Air Force Auxiliary and Reserve until superseded by the Air Efficiency Award in August 1942. A bar to the Canadian Efficiency Decoration was awarded for an additional 20 years service. One year's service during wartime counted as double and if an officer had served in the ranks before being commissioned it counted as half. There were 3,700 awarded to Canadians and recipients were entitled to use the post-nominals E.D. The Canadian Efficiency Decoration was superseded by the Canadian Decoration in 1949.



DROWNED IN HOLLAND—Major Frederick Shawcross, whose wife lives at 3808 West Nineteenth, drowned in Holland. He was buried with military honors in the 5th Division cemetery, Groningen, Holland. Major Shawcross served in Italy and Holland. He was educated in New Westminster, and employed with Begg Motors before the war. He is also survived by two daughters, Nora and Sharon; his parents, Mr. and Mrs. C. Shawcross, New Westminster; a brother, Lieut. John Shawcross, and three sisters, Mrs. G. Smith, Burnaby; Mrs. James Smith, North Vancouver, and Mrs. D. Phipps, Vancouver.

HOLTEN CANADIAN WAR CEMETERY PROJECT



MAJOR
F. SHAWCROSS
THE WESTMINSTER REGIMENT
23RD JUNE 1945 AGE 35

+

IN LOVING MEMORY
OF MY DEAR HUSBAND
REST IN PEACEFUL SLEEP
LOVE, NORA

Major Shawcross is commemorated on page 563 of the Second World War Book of Remembrance. This page is displayed in the Memorial Chamber of the Peace Tower in Ottawa on November 25th.

Major Frederick Shawcross has a B.C. Geographic Feature named after him – Mount Shawcross. Its relative location is between Tathto and Joplin Creeks, south of Tuchodi Lakes in Northern Rocky Mountains Provincial Park, Peace River Land District. This geographical feature was named to remember Canadian Army Major Frederick Shawcross, from Vancouver, serving with the Westminster Regiment (Motors), RCIC, when he was killed in action on June 23, 1945, age 35.

Major Shawcross is buried at Holten Canadian War Cemetery, Netherlands, Grave 111.E.1. Major Shawcross was survived by his wife Nora Isabella Shawcross, his daughter Nora and parents Charles and Martha Alice Shawcross, all of Vancouver.

HOLTEN CANADIAN WAR CEMETERY PROJECT

Sources

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- Canadian Virtual War Memorial <https://www.veterans.gc.ca/en/remembrance/memorials/canadian-virtual-war-memorial>
- <https://veterans.gc.ca/en/remembrance/memorials/canadian-virtual-war-memorial/665086>
- https://esask.uregina.ca/entry/camp_dundurn.html by Bruce Forsyth (www.military-bruce.com), with permission
- <https://svwm.ca/camp-dundurn/>
- The encyclopedia of Saskatchewan https://esask.uregina.ca/entry/camp_dundurn.html
- [British Columbia-Tourism, Arts, Culture and Sport](http://BritishColumbiaTourism.com) (regarding Mount Shawcross)

Page Twelve TUESDAY, MAY 21, 1940 THE VANCOUVER DAILY PROVINCE

Boys of Westminster Regiment Pack Kits for Trek to Prairies

From Colonel to Raw Recruit Enthusiasm Pervades Ranks

"Ticked to death," was how Private "Tex" Labere felt. And he expressed the view of every man in the Westminster Regiment. For the Royal City unit is packing its kit, preparing to leave on Saturday for a training area on the prairies. From the colonel down to the rawest recruit, the machine-gunners sparkled with renewed enthusiasm as they went about their duties on Monday. And even Private "Joisey" Creighton said he was glad to go—despite the fact that only a week ago he was "adopted" by the girls of a Vancouver sorority. In his office Lieut.-Col. J. E. Sager, the O.C., worked away at a pile of papers that littered his desk. Outside the quartermaster's hut, a platoon truck, affectionately known as a "Jeep," was being loaded with stores to go ahead of the troops. In the library hut, the women of the Ladies' Auxiliary to the regiment were busily packing socks. "They're all donations, made by different women's organizations," said Mrs. G. D. Johnson, pointing to great boxes filled with woolen footwear. "We're sorting them into sizes," said Mrs. W. J. Williams. "Each man gets three pairs," said Mrs. G. R. Cerboud.

PRESS MOVES TOO. The job's got to be done, said "The Dial Sight," the regimental paper, is produced, Lieut. Jack Mahony, the editor, was packing the press—a mimeographing machine. For "The Dial Sight" will be printed wherever the boys happen to be—even in the trenches. One of the happiest men in the regiment was Regimental Sergeant-Major H. F. Hoskin as he supervised preparations for departures. "Just like everyone else—I'm glad to be on the move," said he. One of the youngest R. S. M.'s and one of the smartest soldiers in the Canadian army, he was picked to go to the Coronation. In Moody Park, just a stone throw from the barracks, a squad was brushing up on a little arms drill. Behind the long thin barrel of an anti-tank gun lay Sergeant A. G. Head, tough veteran, who besides the Mons Star, wears the blue ribbon of the Royal Humane Society medal for saving life.

ITCHING TO FIGHT. "I fought the Germans at St. Quentin and Le Cateau. Maybe I'll have another chance to fight them there," he said. Just a recruit is Private Jack Hoult, marathon runner, but he comes from a family of soldiers and marathon runners, for his father is Major Jack Hoult. "I feel all excited now we got the orders to go," he said. "I don't mind sayin' I'm getting a bit tired of this place," said Private Creighton. "Joisey," as he is known to the troops, due to his peculiar accent, is considered the luckiest man in the regiment. He was "adopted" by Beta Sigma Phi Sorority here, and was entertained to tea by 24 girls. "The girls got somewhat fooled," said "Joisey." "They picks me 'cause dey thought I had such a nice English name." "Dey sends a big car out here to get me and drives me to a private house where dere's a whole mob of Junes sittin' aroun' sippin' tea." "I'm strictly a woman-bater, but I get along good wid dese galls. After I samples a sandwich, I sits back and dey starts poppin' questions at me. Dey ask me how I likes de colonel. I say I tink he's a refined gent'lman. Yeh see I wants to be a corporal."

Private Creighton was born in the Bronx, New York, and once worked as a lifeguard on Coney Island, though he's "strictly a Canadian."

"The news is just fine," said Company Sergeant-Major F. Franklin who wears the violet and green Iraq decoration and buried a pal in the desert near Bagdad during the last war. "The job's got to be done," said Company Sergeant-Major F. Shawcross, and he might have been echoing the words of his father who served in the last war with the 47th Battalion which the Westminsters perpetuate. C. S. M. Shawcross was captain of a New Westminster soccer team. Another athlete who is going "to show them how" is Platoon Sergeant-Major Jack Hughes, who played lacrosse for the champion Salmonbellies.

Famed Town Of Arras Is Demolished

By DREW MIDDLETON.
Associated Press Staff Writer.
LONDON, May 21.—(AP)—Arras, the birthplace of Robespierre, "is dead and buried" under the German onslaught in northern France, I was told this morning just before returning to London with other war correspondents who have been with the British Expeditionary Force. "Arras as we know it last fall is dead and buried," a British

BRITISH LOSE TWO WARSHIPS

(By Associated Press.)
LONDON, May 21.—The 8550-ton British cruiser Effingham has been lost after striking an uncharted rock off the Norwegian coast, the admiralty announced today. She became a total loss, but all aboard were saved. The Effingham's normal complement was 740 officers and men. The Effingham was the first cruiser Britain has announced as lost in this war. The Raveland, sunk November 25 by the German pocket battleship Deutschland off Iceland with the loss of 280 men, was a merchant steamer converted to an armed merchant cruiser. Sinking of the mineslayer Princess Victoria by a German mine with four officers and 31 men missing and feared lost, was also announced today by the admiralty. The statement said: "The secretary of the admiralty regrets to announce that the mineslayer H.M.S. Princess Victoria, Captain J. B. E. Hall, R.N., has been sunk by an enemy mine. The commanding officer, three officers and 31 ratings are missing and it is feared that they have lost their lives. The next of kin have been informed. Eighty-five survivors were landed at an east coast port yesterday. Twenty-four required hospital treatment."

NEWSPAPERMEN SEE BIG BEND HIGHWAY

(Special to The Daily Province.)
VERNON, May 21.—The first privately-owned vehicle ever to travel over the entire 190 odd miles of the Big Bend highway, to be officially opened June 29, has returned to Vernon. Special permission of officials of the Dominion department of mines and natural resources and of the British Columbia Government was secured before the trip could be made. Occupants of the auto were two Vernon newspaper men, J. G. West and Frank Harris, and cameramen from Revelstoke. Purpose of the journey, both east and west over the road, was to obtain publicity material. The highway was in splendid condition, stated Mr. West on his return to this city. A feature of the trip was the wild life seen, including bear, mule and white-tailed deer, mountain goats, moose and elk.

JUDGMENTS GIVEN ON APPEAL CASES

Page 12

GENEALOGY ON THE ROAD

Researching in Nova Scotia

Submitted by Meg McLaughlin
BCGS Member #3847

I haven't been able to take my genealogy on the road lately. Maybe that's why I've decided to concentrate on some family roots that will take me far afield. Well, not that far, they're still in the same country where I live but on the other coast, the coast with a longer history of settlers with European backgrounds. I've decided to concentrate on the Acadian side of the family that I married into, the family line with the deepest roots in Canada.

That's not to say those roots go straight back to the earliest settlers readily. It's hard to find long uncomplicated roots among the Acadians given the disruption to their settlement in 1755 when the English who were in charge started deporting the Acadian settlers, a process that took



Louisberg Nova Scotia

years and displaced thousands, killing many in the process. The family I'm interested in ended up living in Cape Breton but just how did they end up there? Why are they in Nova Scotia when so many of their kin who remained in North America ended up scattered all the way down to Louisiana? Was their story ever talked about, passed down over the generations or did it get lost along the way?

I've uncovered my fair share of dramatic stories on my family history hunt and I'm hoping that I'll be able to add this one to their number if I can get back far enough. Will that discovery be possible if my research is limited to online and written sources? There's nothing like actually being in the spot you want to know about and seeing the lay of the land. It would be good to be able to head out on the road to do some research in the field, to actually walk where my research subjects walked.

GENEALOGY ON THE ROAD

Unfortunately, travel is not in the cards right now. That's probably a good thing because visiting Nova Scotia in March is not something to be taken lightly. Anyway, given how genealogical research has developed, there is online information to further my research. Then too there are books about the Acadians, their settlements and the Grand Derangement.



Nova Scotia Public Archives

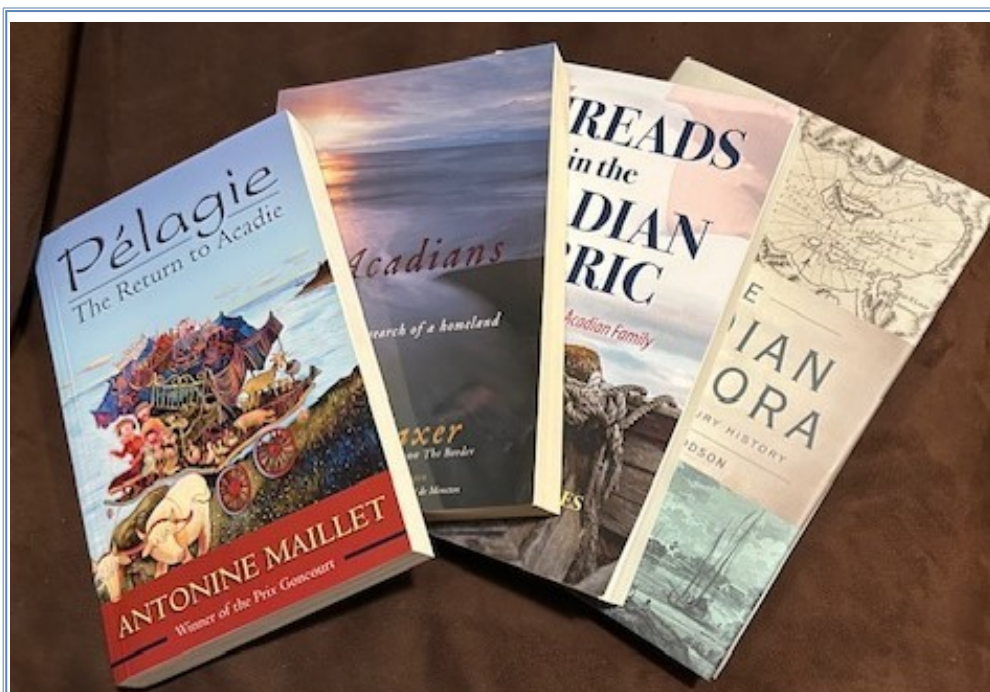
It helps too, that I've researched other family lines in Nova Scotia before. I've spent many hours at the Nova Scotia Archives in Halifax searching for elusive ancestral records. While most of my research when I was there in the past would have been into Scottish families in Halifax and Antigonish County, I may have strayed into records

about the Acadian part of the family. I'll need to check my notes from when I was there. And, of course, the Nova Scotia Vital Statistics available online on the archive's website will help with vital records for the later day family members in Cape Breton. For those that are interested, the Nova Scotia vital records can be accessed at <https://archives.novascotia.ca/vital-statistics/>.

I do have other advantages. Although it is not my own birth family, I still have access to family lore in a way. Old stories of daring-do or strange happenings come back to me sometimes. Then too, it helps that I've walked the land before. I lived in Nova Scotia for a time and have visited different areas of the province over the years. So in a way, as I remember the details of my past visits, it will be like I'm taking my genealogy on the road through my memories.

Meg writes about history and genealogy in
A Genealogist's Path to History at <http://genihistorypath.blogspot.ca/>.
Read more about her findings in her blog.

GENEALOGY ON THE ROAD



Some of my books about Acadia

Pélagie: The Return to Acadie by Antonine Maillet is a tale about a widow leading her people out of exile back to Nova Scotia so not a research book per se

The Acadians: in search of a homeland by James Laxer

Threads in the Acadian Fabric by Simone Poirier-Bures

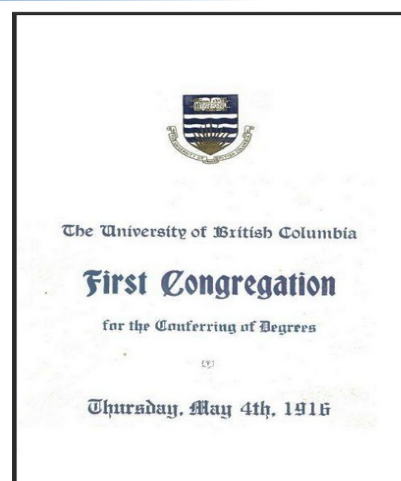
The Acadian Diaspora: An Eighteenth-Century History by Christopher Hodson

A Tip for Graduation Program Research

from Sean Vanderfluit:

I saw the item about a convocation program from UBC in the December issue of the Journal. Did you know that UBC has posted all its graduation programs back to 1916 online? It's a great resource!

<https://graduation.ubc.ca/event/about/graduation-programs/>



HOLTEN CANADIAN WAR CEMETERY PROJECT

PRIVATE JOHN CHARLES GIBSON THE LINCOLN AND WELLAND REGIMENT

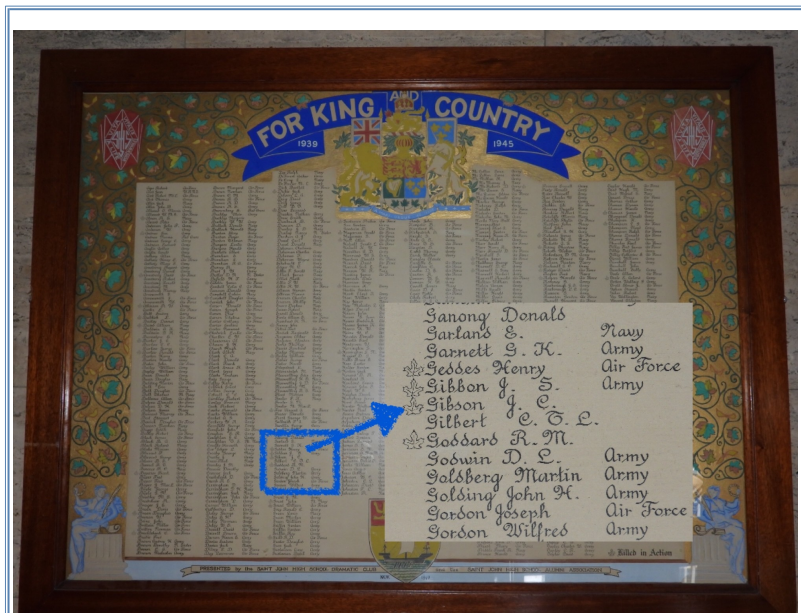
8 January 1921 - 3 April 1945

Submitted by Travis MacDougall
BCGS Member #6172

Private John Charles Gibson was born on 8 January 1921 in Saint John, New Brunswick. His father was Henry John Gibson from Hollingbourne, Kent, England, and his mother Eva Emily Hurst from Bexhill, Sussex, England. His parents married in 1917, then immigrated to Canada in 1919. John was an only child, as no records mention any siblings. He did have an uncle, named Edward Gibson, who was serving in the Royal Air Force in England during WWII.

At just five months of age, John is shown on the 1921 Canada Census living in Saint John, New Brunswick with his parents. His father worked as a 'checker', which was a clerk for the Canadian Pacific Railroad. John next appears on the 1931 Canada Census at the age of ten, and he likely would have been attending the New Albert School as John's family was Protestant, and this elementary school was for children of the Protestant religion. His home address was listed at 143 Wentworth, and his father, at this time, was now working as a night foreman for the Canadian Pacific Railroad.

A few years later, John attended Saint John High School until 1938. He would complete three years there, graduating with a Grade 11 education. There is today a plaque at this high school remembering and honouring the fallen heroes of WWII. He also appears in the 1938 graduating class photo. He would next attend a commercial vocational school for one year.



Saint John High School Plaque.

HOLTEN CANADIAN WAR CEMETERY PROJECT

In 1939, John started working at a company named Dun & Bradstreets, a mercantile agency. He worked as a bookkeeper there for two years. On 16 July 1940, at the age of 19, he now lived at 226 Rockland Rd in Saint John, and he would join the Non-permanent Active Militia of Canada, St. John Fusiliers, 2nd Battalion, a reserve unit at this time. On 30 September he would be transferred to the Canadian Active Service Force division of the Fusiliers, officially starting on 2 October 1940. The battalion served in Canada, in a home defence, role as a part of the 18th Canadian Infantry Brigade. A military document states that John enlisted 'for no particular reason', and describes him as 5'8", 146 pounds, blue eyes and brown hair.

John would be admitted to hospital just over a month later on 23 November 1940 for tonsillitis. He would be discharged in good health four days later. The next year, he would qualify as a 2nd Year Signaller on 22 September 1941 while stationed in Sydney, Nova Scotia, as the battalion focused on coastal defence and training.

The next year would see John back in Saint John, New Brunswick, where he was awarded the CVS (Canadian Volunteer Service) Medal on 2 April 1942. He would then qualify as a wireless telegraphy operator on 11 June. He was granted a leave in Saint John on 1 October for 14 days, afterwards qualifying in a Clerks trade on 9 November.

Sometime early in 1943, John would be sent with his unit to Nanaimo, BC. A disciplinary record on 9 April shows him receiving a punishment of 'Confined to Barracks' for one week. This was a common penalty for minor offences such as being late or improperly dressed. On 9 May, he was determined to be suitable for paratroop and overseas service if he completed all training.



PTE. J. C. GIBSON



CVS Medal

HOLTEN CANADIAN WAR CEMETERY PROJECT



On 12 March 1944, a commanding officer received an application for 'permission to marry' from John. While stationed in Nanaimo, he had met a Jean Margaret Graham, who lived with her parents, Henry and Janet, at 67 Kennedy St. She was born on 30 December 1925, making her 18 years of age at this time. The application says that John had known Jean for 13 months prior to this time, putting their first meetings around the time of John's punishment for being late... a coincidence? John was granted the permission to marry Jean on 1 May 1944. He would be granted leave on 11 May for 16 days, getting married on 12 May in Nanaimo.

A month later, there was a desperate need of troops overseas. This forced Prime Minister King to send NRMA (The National Resources Mobilization Act) Men overseas despite promises not to. John was moved out of Nanaimo and sent to Camp Debert, a major training camp in Nova Scotia, at the end of June. On 11 July, John was awarded seven days 'confined to barracks', this time for being AWOL from 1955 hrs, 2 July until 2200 hrs, 10 July. On 29 August they set off across the Atlantic Ocean, disembarking in the United Kingdom on 5 September.

John would then embark in the United Kingdom on 1 October 1944 and disembark in France the next day, and on 1 November he would join the Lincoln and Welland. This regiment would then advance through the Channel ports and into Belgium and the Netherlands as part of the broader North-West Europe campaign, including the Battle of the Scheldt. Following the Scheldt, the Lincoln and Welland Regiment moved into defensive positions along the Netherlands– German frontier. The winter of 1944/45 was a harsh one, marked by freezing temperatures, flooded trenches, and relentless patrols. Though the German Ardennes offensive (Battle of the Bulge) raged further south, the regiment maintained pressure along its sector, conducting aggressive patrols and limited attacks to pin down German forces and prevent redeployment.

HOLTEN CANADIAN WAR CEMETERY PROJECT

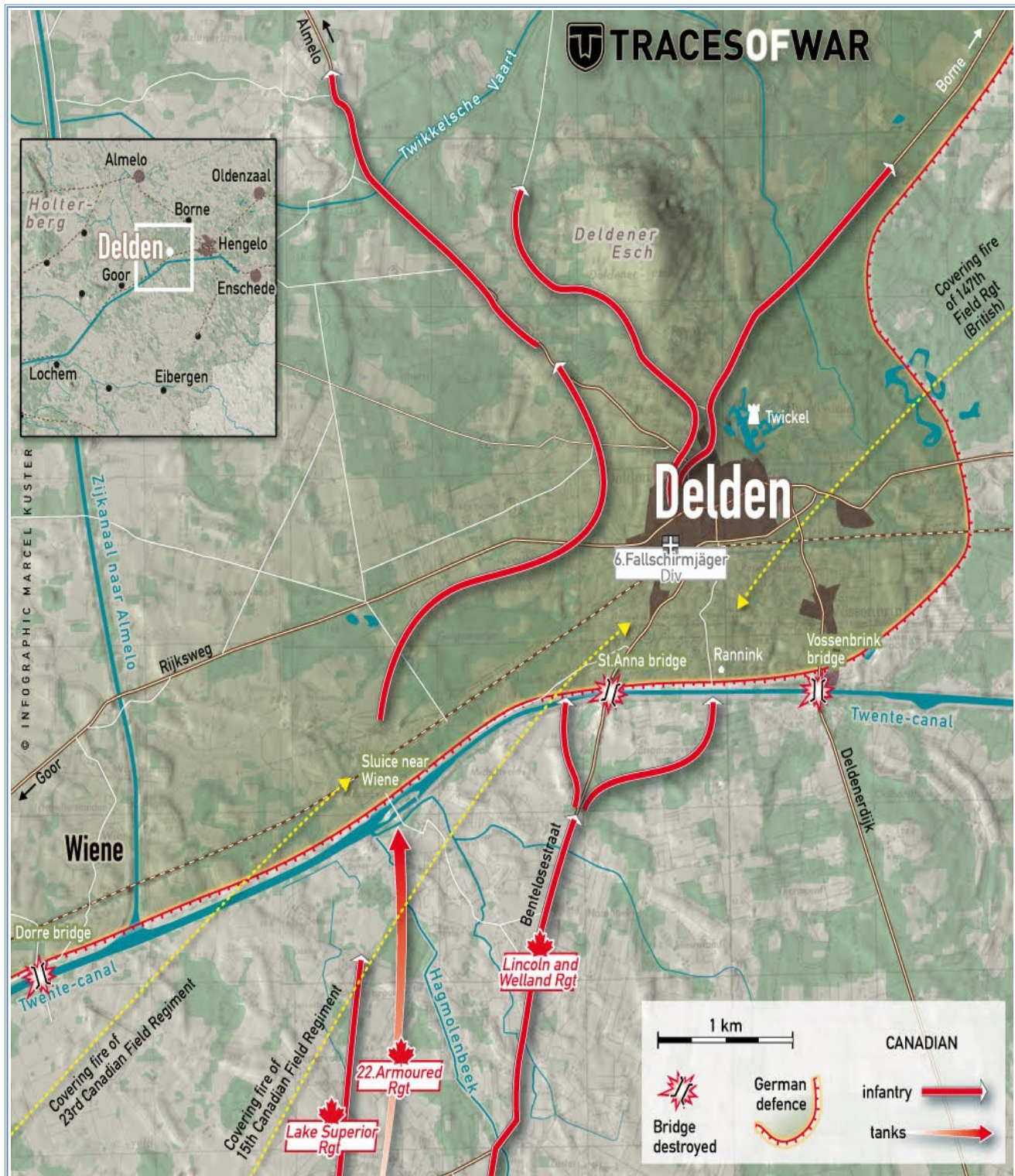
In February 1945, the regiment took part in the Rhineland Campaign, including Operation Veritable, the massive Allied assault to clear German forces west of the Rhine. Fighting through the Reichswald Forest and surrounding villages, John and the Lincolns faced determined resistance, heavy artillery fire, and difficult terrain churned into mud by rain and shelling. Despite this, the regiment steadily advanced, contributing to the collapse of German defences in the region. On 13 March, a field medical card reports John getting sick, but discharged five days later as his condition improved.

The last week of March 1945 found the Lincoln and Welland Regiment on the south side of the Rhine River near Best, Holland. The morale was fairly low, the regiment was getting many casualties. On 28 March, the regiment learned of Operation Haymaker, the final thrust into Holland and then into Germany itself. On 30 March a regimental convoy pulled out of Best and moved back up through Nijmegen, and Cleve and across the Rhine River, unopposed, via the Black Frier's bridge at Rees. 1 April was spent on a rainy day in open country between Rees and Emmerich. This was where John and the Regiment learned that the enemy was in full retreat. They were expected to see no opposition until they advanced as far north as the Twente Canal. So the regiment moved up quickly, moving through Ruurlo on 2 April and planning to take the Twente Canal at dawn on the 4th.

The Lincoln and Welland Regiment was in place on the south side of the Twente Canal by 12:30 PM on 3 April. As the Commanding Officer, Lt. Col. Coleman, was taking the time to outline the next morning's attack, orders were given for him to attack as soon as possible. Fierce resistance was met at the canal to the west. An artillery barrage had softened up the Germans, plus a strategy of providing machine gun covering fire made the crossing easy, so two companies went over the canal with little resistance. Within the hour, both companies were on their objectives over the canal, and a third company had been brought up to reinforce their position.

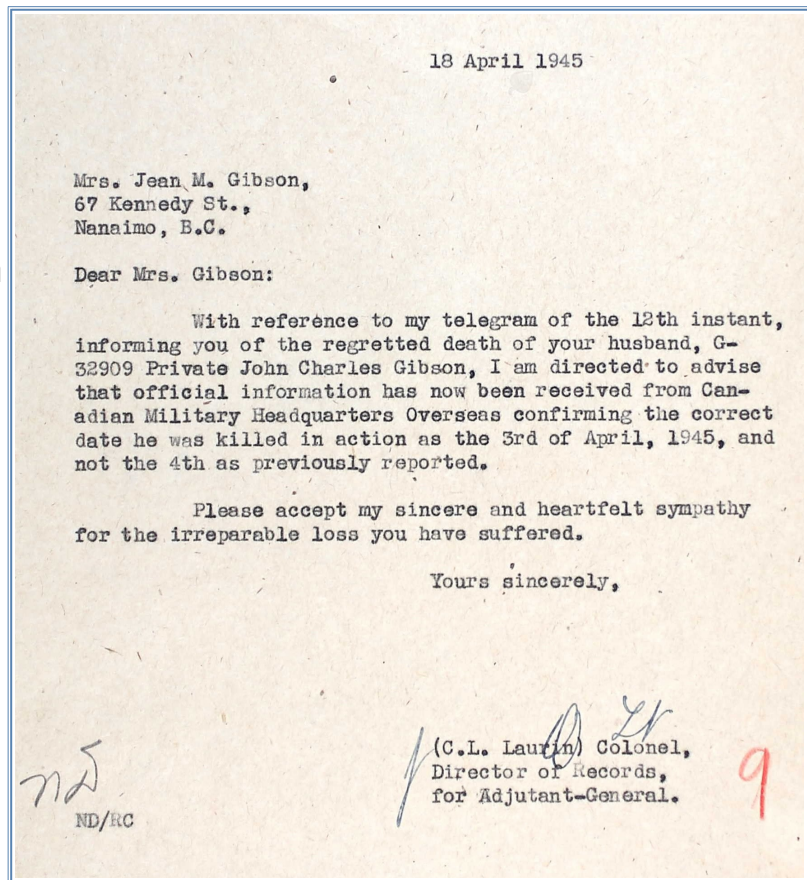
To the east, C Company, under Lt. John Dunlop, was not having such an easy time. Once over the canal, Dunlop's men had dug in around some farm houses, and were meeting a heavy German counter-attack from the north. By late evening the company was in a desperate situation, surrounded on all sides by Germans. Most of the company had taken refuge in a small farm house and a larger barn-like structure. Their only choice was to call in artillery on their own position. The strategy worked. The Germans, being outside the structures, absorbed the brunt of the artillery.

HOLTEN CANADIAN WAR CEMETERY PROJECT



HOLTEN CANADIAN WAR CEMETERY PROJECT

Private John C. Gibson, just 24 years old, was killed in action this day, 3 April 1945. According to a military document, his remains were buried in Hengelo on the Dyke, 300 yards west of the bridge on the south bank of the Twente Canal. On 18 April, a letter was typed up, informing Jean Gibson of the death of her husband (the original message on 12 April shared the incorrect date of death). It would be in late June when his remains were respectfully transferred to Holten Cemetery:
Grave 12, row G, plot 9.



John will always be remembered for his bravery and service.



He was awarded the War Medal, France Star, Germany Star, and 1939-45 Star, in addition to his CVS Medal with Clasp.

HOLTEN CANADIAN WAR CEMETERY PROJECT



Sources:

- <https://www.veterans.gc.ca/en/remembrance/memorials/canadian-virtual-war-memorial/661718>
- <https://www.sjhigh.ca/alumni/directory/class/?searchYear=1938>
- <https://www.tracesofwar.com/articles/7665/Battle-for-the-Twente-Canal.htm>
- https://publications.gc.ca/collections/collection_2009/forces/D2-503E.pdf
- <https://www.ndagrave.com/memorial/14040828/john-charles-gibson>
- <https://www.ancestry.ca/search/collections/9145/records/120011>

Cumberland
Italian
Band
1920



FROM OUR LIBRARY

MOUNTAIN VIEW CEMETERY

Submitted By Eunice Robinson
BCGS Member # 0112

Found this today in the Vancouver Sun, November 24, 2004 issue – page 56.
A Press Notice regarding the disposition of Unclaimed Cremated Remains from 3 different funeral homes. The notice mentioned that if still unclaimed by December 15, 2004, these cremains would be interred at Mountain View Cemetery. Thought you might be interested when working on Mountain View.

PRESS NOTICE

**Re: Disposition of Unclaimed Cremated Remains
Armstrong Brothers & Co., operators of Roselawn
Funeral Chapel, Bell Funeral Chapel and
Armstrong Funeral Chapel, all of Vancouver, B.C.**

Cremated remains of the deceased listed below will be interred
at Mount View Cemetery projected on December 15, 2004 at
9:00 a.m.

Any person with the right to control the disposition of the
cremated remains listed has the right to claim the cremated
remains before this disposition occurs.

Roselawn Funeral Chapel

Benson, Lyla May	Berg, Eileen Mary
Black, Elmer William	Bowling, David Douglas
Colwell, Walter William	Chisholm, Joseph Rowlings
Cawdell, Fredrick Charles	Clark, William Randolph
Crouch, John	Duncan, James
Duperre, Richard Joseph	Doyle, Gertrude
Ernewin, Phillip	Frain, James
Ford, Dennis Roy	Gray, David Ross
Hogue, Agatha	Higginson, Thomas E.
Holliday, Georgina	Hiebert, Delmar
Jones, Arthur Lloyd	Kent, Catherine Young
Larson, Knut	Lecours, Evariste
McIssac, Margaret Hannah	Mills, Hedvia Rosina
Munro, Lenna Elsie	Powshuk, Michael
Rau, William Fred	Rodger, Ethel
Rubie, Herbert	Ragon, Joseph Edward
Renning, Gladys	Sime, Eric Douglas
Smith, Nettie	Skulski, Elizabeth
Souter, Catherine Elizabeth	Tellefsen, Dorothy
Tupper, Harold Wilson	Toth, Gabor
Tillyer, Joseph Francis	Wardrobe, Jasper

A little bit of additional information regarding the unclaimed cremains. Of the names listed that you sent me, 20 were probably claimed but not interred in MVC, as they do not show in MVC. Also, an additional 24 names were interred on that day in plot JONES-*-0*-1373.

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Armstrong Funeral Chapel

Aoki, Tomi	Berg, Verner
Boynton, Agness	Bradley, Elizabeth
Brill, Charlotte	Chan, Dan Chew
Chan, Wing Chun	Chew, Wong Kam Chung
Chin, Tong Chee	DiGiorgio, Alberta Edith
Duke, Mary E.	Edwards, Eliza Mary
Frost, Alice Etta	Fugimagari, Ahiko
Gittens, Joseph	Graham, Samuel J.
Kokky, Yuiji	Lai, Lee
Makuoka, Tokiji	Moo, Sang
Moore, John Joseph	Nickarz, Steve
Paro, Herman Lenard	Scharff, Wallace Charles
To, Margery	Tucker, Mathew
Van Coppencolle, Aimee	Wah, Jack
Wong, Tsai Chu	Yamada, Shizuro

Bell Funeral Chapel

Barron, Steven Anthony	Bechard, Clifford
Bowman, Michelle Jean	Boulton, William
Britton, Grant Welch	Calverley, Walter Russell
Cannop, Francis	Cherry, Jenny Aida
Dametto, Angelo	Davidson, Samuel
Djukic, John	Foster, Charles James
Gallo, William Guido	Gillis, Dan James
Gillis, Daniel Robert	Gunia, Raymond Leslie
Gunia, John Jack	Hanson, Joan
Hegguist, Emil	Hollingshead, Joseph Daryl
Hourston, Olive Nettie	Hutchings, Marjorie Martha
Issacson, Sven	Jackson, John Albert
Joyce, Helen	Juvas, Olga
Kean, Robert Sidney	Kinghorn, David
Kowaluk, Fred	Lake, Samuel
Lim, Gee You	Lim, Irene Esther
Luhtala, Carl Matthew L.	Marshall, Thomas Robert
MacDonald, Eleanor Agnes	Magiocco, Ernest
Majeau, Rene Louis	Martin, Lily
Martinick, Kristina	McAlear, Bruce
McCulloch, Wilhelmina	Nagy, Mary
Nash, Dorothy Elsie	Paris, Kieth
Parker, Edna	Petrovich, Radotko
Pezel, Walter	Potgiesser, Gezienus
Poulin, Joseph	Pullen, Thomas James
Rafferty, Nellie	Ranta, Amanda Helena
Rees, Adelea Alma	Sawchuk, Nicholas
Sepos, David Michael	Siden, Norah
Siden, William Per	Solonyka, Teodozy
Stefani, Elsie Assunta	Steeves, Ethel
Travis, Elizabeth Nichol	Tyndall, Maurice Whitman
Watson, Donald	Young, Doris Vivian

BRITISH COLUMBIA GENEALOGIST

GUIDELINES FOR AUTHORS

The Genealogist is looking for submissions from authors in categories such as Feature Articles, "How-To" Articles, Historical Mysteries, and general genealogy-related submissions.

1. Author is currently a BCGS member.
2. Content is a unique tale, easily readable, with details of how you uncovered the answers to problems. Sources or endnotes may be included as needed.
3. Photographs, family diagrams or other illustrations will complement your story, These should be submitted separately as jpegs, tiffs or PDFs. Captions for pictures are helpful.
4. Entries will be between 500 and 2000 words (roughly two to six pages), and should be submitted in an electronic format (PDF, Word document) to the Editor at
Journal@bcgs.ca

Questions or Ideas ?
Please contact the Editor.

Deadlines for Submissions:

June 2026 - due by May 15
September 2026 - due by August 15
December 2026 - due by November 15
March 2027 - due by February 15

BC RESEARCH

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

For details & rates, contact Mary Turnbull, BCGS Research Co-ordinator at
queryrequest@bcgs.ca

or by mail: Box 88054, Lansdowne Mall, Richmond, BC V6X 3T6

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