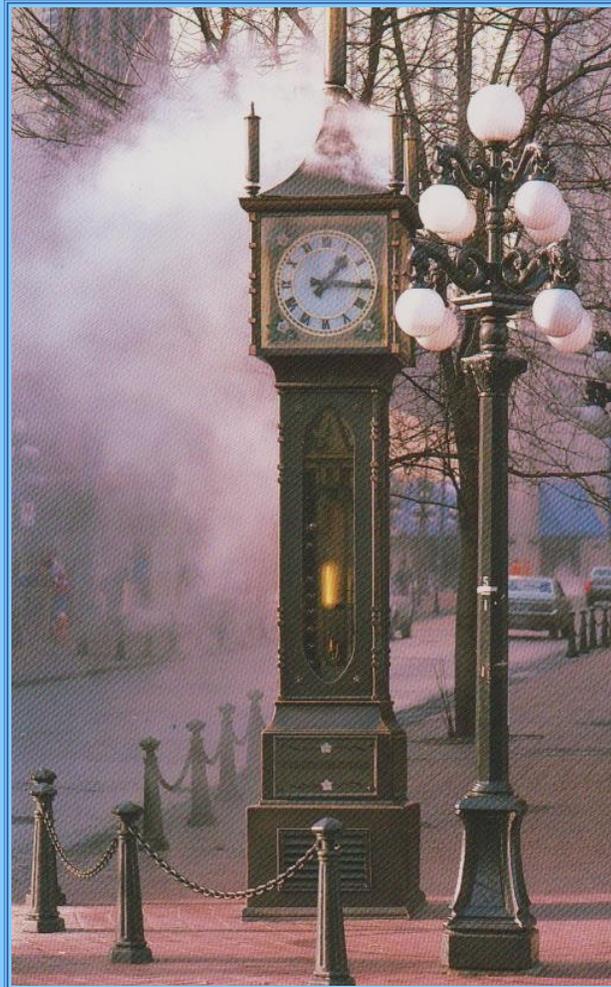




THE BRITISH COLUMBIA GENEALOGIST



ISSN 2561-9586

Volume 55 No. 1

March 2025

BRITISH COLUMBIA GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

Box 88054, Lansdowne Mall
Richmond, BC V6X 3T6

www.bcgs.ca

e-mail: info@bcgs.ca

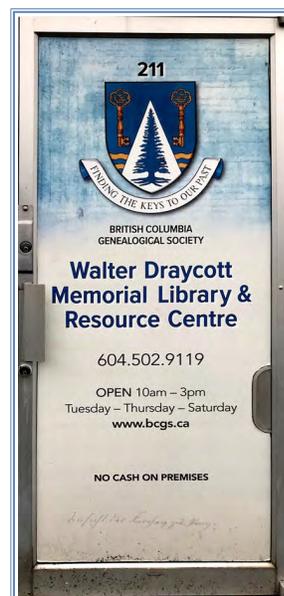
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The BCGS Library will be open on Tuesdays, Thursdays
and Saturdays from 10:00 am to 3:00 pm.



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.*

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

Meetings

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

On our **Zoom** site.

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

Meeting Location

Online for the present.

Membership Fees:

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

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A message from our President...

As our Society year ends and the
year-end reports are in, it has been
enjoyable to reflect on the many and
varied aspects of our BC Genealogical
Society and what has been
accomplished this year. Thank you to the
incredible volunteers at the BCGS who
give their time and skills to grow our
Society and the genealogical community
at large.

Our BCGS members have benefited from
the incredible resources our society has to
offer including:

- Educational speakers at each monthly
Members' meeting
- Research tools such as
NewspaperArchive and *MyHeritage*
- BC indexes and databases
- Topical Coffee Chats each week
- The BCGS Library and Research
Centre

To read more about the interesting
activities the BCGS has been busy with in
2024-25, go to page 31 for a summary.

As always, happy researching!

Yvette Howard

President
2024-25



From the Desk of the Editor . . .

The snow has melted and my daffodils are pushing their green tips through the leaves - spring is peeking in!



While we wait for the really nice weather, there's time to take a short tour of a section in our Library that houses our collection of Military books, located on the main floor. Several of these books can be seen on page 18. If you venture up the stairs, you'll be able to browse through our collection of Postcards, perhaps to find one that fits into your research. **Janice Kidwell** has shared an Index of those cards on page 29.

Our Holten Project reporters, **Marlene Dance** and **Janice Kidwell**, share four new reports this month: Major Jim Else and Pte. Harry Else, brothers from Vancouver Island, Pte. Sidney Backus and Pte. James Auchterlonie also both from Vancouver Island.

Our On The Road genealogist, **Meg McLaughlin** shares a prize book from a trip to Scotland, and also tips for your research this month.

Our president, **Yvette Howard** takes us on a tour through all the projects and successes of the many volunteers that keep the BCGS on the road, and growing steadily.

Hope that you find something new, and some project that you would like to be a part of !

Lynne Fletcher

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On Our Cover . . .

The *Vancouver Steam Clock* located in Gastown in downtown Vancouver is a popular tourist attraction. Read page 5 for **Janice Kidwell's** full report!

POSTCARDS

VANCOUVER STEAM CLOCK

Submitted by Janice Kidwell
BCGS Member 5033

Underneath Vancouver runs a series of steam pipes connected to a generating plant at Georgia and Beatty Streets. These steam pipes provide heat to most of the downtown core as well as the steam for the Gastown Steam Clock whistles. Following protests of Mayor Tom Campbell's plans to run a freeway through Gastown, Chinatown and Strathcona, the city instead decided to invest money into revitalizing Gastown and refurbishing the neighbourhood's historic buildings. The clock was intended to attract more people to Gastown. Local storeowners and private donors raised \$58,000 to pay for the clock, one of the only functioning steam-powered clocks in the world. The steam clock marked the completion of the city's revitalization project.

The Gastown steam clock, located on the corner of Water and Cambie Streets in Gastown, was built in 1977 by Canadian clockmaker and steam clock horologist (the science of studying the measurement of time and time keeping) Raymond Saunders.

At the time, it was considered either the first or second steam-powered clock ever built. The world's first steam clock is often credited to John Inshaw, who supposedly built and installed the clock to demonstrate the versatility of gas power and attract customers to his tavern in Birmingham, UK during the mid -19th century. It was much smaller than Saunders' clocks and even less reliable at telling the time. As a result Saunders had to reinvent the steam clock from the ground up when making Gastown's steam clock.

While the Gastown clock does partially rely on steam to wind its mechanisms, it also has an electric motor. It whistles and shoots steam at the top of every hour and announces quarter hours with the Westminster Quarters; a common clock chime melody that's also used by London's "Big Ben".

Despite seeming like a remnant of the Victorian era and being located in Vancouver's "Gastown" (the original townsite from which Vancouver grew in the 1870s), the Steam Clock was built in 1977 by horologist and steam clock horologist Raymond Saunders and metalwork specialist Doug Smith. Saunders was hired by Gastown's local merchants to build the clock as a monument. The clock is likely only the second steam clock ever constructed, the first having been built by Englishman John Inshaw in 1859, to draw customers to his tavern.

POSTCARDS

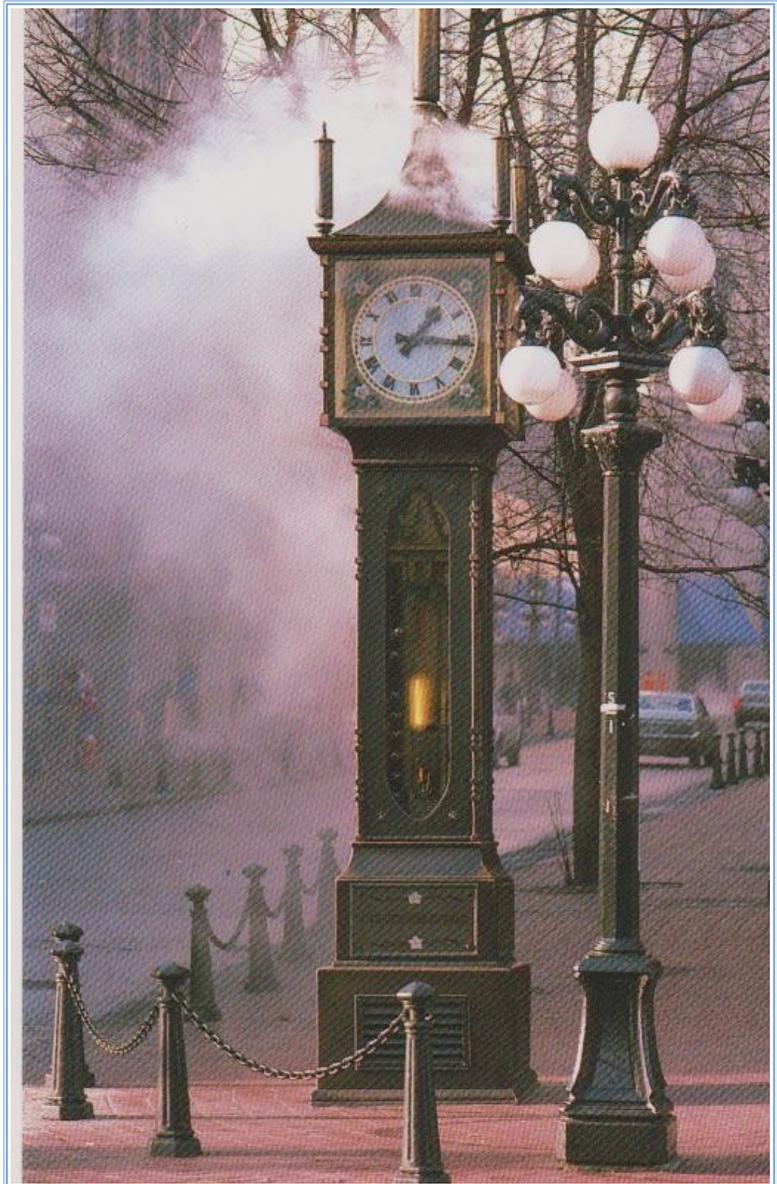
Because Inshaw's clock was small and very inaccurate as a timekeeper, Saunders had to reinvent the steam clock from scratch. The new clock was finicky and hard to keep running and required further funding of \$58,000.00 to make it working properly.

Although the clock has been said to be "steam-powered" the clockworks itself is powered by descending weights. The mini-steam engine at the base of the clock case takes up the role of the human "winder" by raising a series of ball weights and delivering the weights to the clock drive train. The steam engine is connected by a rubber belt to an electric motor hidden from view making it a lot more reliable than steam power. Every quarter-hour, the two-ton Steam Clock whistles and shoots steam from its five whistles in its version of the Westminster Chime. On the hour it marks each hour with a toot from each whistle.

There are six other working "Steam" Clocks in the world although only the whistles are steam as the clockworks are electric. The "Steam" clock is a popular tourist attraction in Vancouver as well as being near the start and a finish line of the Gastown Grand Prix.

Raymond Lee Saunders was born in Courtenay, B.C. on February 7, 1940 and moved to Vancouver in his teens. His keen interest began when his father gave him a box full of alarm clocks to rebuild.

Raymond worked in the clock department at Woodward's department store for 11 years before striking out on his own in 1974.



POSTCARDS

He was approached about building a steam clock to mask a steam vent at the northwest corner of Water and Cambie streets. This project took three years and cost \$58,000 to build leaving Mr. Saunders with a \$22,000 loss. Luckily a benefactor heard of his plight and wrote Mr. Saunders a cheque to cover his losses.

Saunders built and serviced outdoor clocks in B.C. and around the world for more than four decades.

Saunders told CBC News on the clock's 40th anniversary that it was the first steam clock he had ever worked on. He said the clock's design was meant to reflect the era of the buildings around it - not to deceive anyone. It was built to cover a steam vent the city found unsightly. The project was part of the city's effort to revive the historic downtown neighbourhood.

"It's presented in a way that makes countless tourists think that it's some kind of ancient device when it's actually from 1977" comedian Colin Sharp told CBC News in 2017.

He said the clock uses two electric motors — one to wind it up and another to ventilate it. He said it did once use a steam-powered motor, but it only lasted 10 years before breaking down. He added that steam does prompt the clock's signature whistle.

In addition to the Gastown clock, Saunders also serviced street clocks in Vancouver's Kerrisdale and Mount Pleasant neighbourhoods, and the clock tower in the Maillardville neighbourhood in Coquitlam, B.C. Steam clocks built by Saunders are located in Otaru, Japan; Indianapolis, United States; Vancouver, Whistler and Port Coquitlam.

Raymond Saunders' 1977 steam clock in Vancouver's Gastown neighbourhood, was built to cover a steam grate, which was part of Vancouver's distributed steam heating system. It also was a way to harness that steam. Although the clock is now owned by the City of Vancouver, funding for the project, estimated to be about \$58,000 CAD was provided by contributions from local merchants, property owners, and private donors. Incorporating a steam engine and electric motors, the clock displays the time on four faces and announces the quarter hours with a whistle chime that plays the *Westminster Quarters*. The clock produces a puff of steam from its top on the hour. The steam used is low pressure downtown-wide steam heating network from a plant adjacent to the Georgia Viaduct that powers a miniature steam engine in its base, in turn driving a chain lift.

POSTCARDS

The chain lift moves steel balls upward, where they are unloaded and roll to a descending chain. The weight of the balls on the descending chain drives a conventional pendulum clock escapement, geared to the hands on the four faces. The steam also powers the clock's sound production, with whistles being used instead of bells to produce the Westminster "chime" and to signal the time.

Although the steam engine that originally ran the clock - a Stuart #4 single expansion double acting 1" piston engine - is still visible through the glass sides of the clock - owing to the clock's high noise levels and inability to keep accurate time, since 1986 the clock has been powered by an electric motor that was originally intended solely as a back-up system.

The clock appears on the cover of the Nickelback album *Here and Now*, is featured in a scene from the 1991 Chuck Norris action film *The Hitman*, appears in the 2019 mobile game *Mario Kart Tour* and the Nintendo Switch game *Mario Kart 8 Deluxe* as part of the "Vancouver Velocity" race course.

The postcard has neither a message nor a stamp on the back of it.

It is entitled GASTOWN'S FAMOUS OLD STEAM CLOCK, VANCOUVER, BC Photographer R. LAIR/FPG.

Sources:

<https://vancouver.sun.com/news/obituary-ray-saunders-gastown-steam-clock>

<https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/british-columbia/gastown-steam-clock-creator-dies-1.7393215>

<https://www.atlasobscura.com/places/steam-clock-gastown-vancouver>

<https://citydays.com/places/gastown-steam-clock/>

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Steam_clock

A Research Tip . . .

Preparing a spreadsheet of family [trips](#) for the person that you are researching (with columns for who travelled, when, where, the source of trip information, and miscellaneous details) can be very useful.

As you read through the gossip columns of the weekly newspapers published where the family of this person lived you may stumble across references to trips they took to visit out-of-town relatives or times when out-of-town relatives came to visit.

These trips could have been when photographs were taken of the family and knowing who visited whom and the dates of their visit may help to identify faces in those family photographs that have survived.

HOLTEN

In memory of

Pte. Sidney Joseph Backus K57387

1st Battn. The Canadian Scottish Regiment

died April 27, 1945 age 36

son of Thomas Joseph Backus and

Ada (Earl) Backus (1878-1935)

Remembered with honour:

HOLTEN CANADIAN WAR CEMETERY



HOLTEN

Sidney Joseph Backus was born July 29, 1909. He was the son of Thomas J. Backus from Illinois, USA and Ada B. (Earl) Backus born in Staffordshire, England. Each had immigrated to Canada some years before. They married in New Westminster, BC. The family can be found in the Victoria area in the 1911, 1921 and 1931 Canadian Census.

The family moved to 1335 Vinning St., Victoria, BC in 1935. Sadly, just a few weeks later, mother Ada dies of cancer. Sidney and his father carry on together, the father working as a carpenter and the son Sidney working as a roof shingler. There is a lot of work for them as it is booming in Victoria.

War had been declared in September of 1939. Sidney enlisted at age 31 on June 23, 1940, with the Canadian Scottish Regiment. His paperwork gives us some information on his early years. He spent 8 years in public schools, leaving at the age of 15. He learned the shingling trade and had been steadily employed for the past 16 years.

His soldier's book, tells us he was born in Sidney, BC. And it tells us his parents married in 1907, rather than the 1920 date from the BC Vital Stats archives. Following initial training, Sidney is sent to Debert, Nova Scotia where he departs for the UK. He arrives September 2, 1941 and is sent to Aldershot for further military exercises. His records indicate a few days leave here and there, courses attended, a few infractions and a Good Conduct Badge.

In July of 1944, he is sent to France with the Canadian Scottish Regiment in the second wave of Allied landings. On April 27, 1945 in the Western European Theatre of War, he died of wounds received in action the same day.

On June 15, 1946 Sidney's remains were exhumed from the original place of interment and reverently reburied in Holten Canadian Military Cemetery in Holland and will receive care and maintenance in perpetuity. The grave was marked with a temporary cross to be replaced by a permanent headstone.

A list of his effects included his wallet, a crucifix, 17 small silver spoons, three photos, a Canadian Legion Membership card and a silver box. No will was located and eventually the estate passed to the father, Thomas Joseph Backus in January of 1946.



We will remember them.

HOLTEN

For his service to Canada he is awarded the following medals:



Military Medal



1939-45 Star



France & Germ.
Star



Canadian Volunteer
Service Medal + Clasp



1939-45
War Medal

M.F.M. 203
DOM-9-44 (2033)
H.Q. 1772-30-1090

**CANADIAN PACIFIC
TELEGRAPHS**

IAP FILE H.Q. 405-B-38,883

CASUALTY (REPORT DELIVERY) OTTAWA 5TH MAY 1945

TO: MR THOMAS J BACKUS
2259 WILLOWS ROAD
VICTORIA B C

80462

REGRET DEEPLY K57387 PRIVATE SIDNEY JOSEPH BACKUS
HAS BEEN OFFICIALLY REPORTED TO HAVE DIED TWENTYSEVENTH APRIL
1945 AS RESULT OF WOUNDS RECEIVED IN ACTION SAME DATE STOP YOU
SHOULD RECEIVE FURTHER DETAILS BY MAIL DIRECT FROM THE UNIT IN THE
THEATRE OF WAR

PREPAID *ME*

DIRECTOR OF RECORDS *5*

Submitted by Marlene Dance
Member #3416

HOLTEN CANADIAN WAR CEMETERY PROJECT

PRIVATE JAMES LAURENCE AUCHTERLONIE DECEMBER 7, 1924 – APRIL 13, 1945

Submitted by Janice Kidwell,
BCGS Member #5033

James Laurence Auchterlonie was born December 7, 1924 in Victoria, British Columbia, to parents Rutherford Hope ("Laddie") Auchterlonie and Florence (Bryant) Auchterlonie. His father was born in New Westminster, his mother in Lancashire, England. James had three sisters.

James attended Lampson Street School and Esquimalt High School in Victoria and had been an Army Cadet in Victoria from 1940 to 1941.

James' first Enlistment took place on April 27, 1943 in Victoria where he took his Oath and served with the Royal Canadian Army as a Gunner. His Regimental Number was K416759. Pte. Auchterlonie's second enlistment took place on September 1, 1943 at #XI District Depot – Canadian Army in Vancouver. He served with The Canadian Scottish Regiment, Royal Canadian Infantry Corps. His Regimental Number was K54783.

James had the traditional medical examinations, tests and vaccines. His trade was listed as an apprentice shipbuilder at Armstrong Brothers Shipyard in Victoria, B.C. He was employed there for 1½ years. Other work experience was at a service station, as a Telegraph Messenger and as a clerk. His religion was listed as The Church of England.



Training took place in Brandon, Manitoba where he was also allocated to Royal Canadian Artillery, Anti-Tank and was appointed to rank of Acting Bombardier, Lance Bombardier in Brandon and as a Gunner. The April 1, 1944 Victoria Times Colonist newspaper announced that James was also an instructor there.

Pte. Auchterlonie embarked in Canada November 20, 1944 leaving November 21, 1944. He arrived in the UK November 28, 1944 and later embarked in the U.K. Feb. 16, 1945, disembarking in Europe Feb. 17, 1945.

Training that took place while there was rifle, light machine gun, 2-in mortar, gas, range practices and various other weapon training.

HOLTEN CANADIAN WAR CEMETERY PROJECT

On April 13, 1945, and at the age of 20,
Pte. Auchterlonie was Killed in Action in Holland.

Pte. Auchterlonie's temporary burial took place on April 17th, 1945 at the Civ Cemetery in N. Deventer, Holland. It was noted in Pte. Auchterlonie's military file that he belonged to the Church of England thus the service was conducted with this in mind.

A letter dated June 15, 1946 was received by James' mother stating that her son's remains had been respectively and carefully reburied at Holten Canadian War Cemetery on April 9, 1946. His gravesite is X1 G.2. Grave 2, Row G, Plot 11. A map was enclosed with the letter as well as a message that her son's burial spot would receive perpetual care.



Pte. Auchterlonie received the following medals:

1939-1945 Star France and Germany Star Defence Medal
Canadian Volunteer Service Medal 1939 War Medal

Pte. Auchterlonie's mother received the Memorial Cross.



1939-45 Star France & Germ. Star Defence Medal Canadian Volunteer Service Medal + Clasp 1939-45 War Medal

Pte. Auchterlonie's total qualifying service for both the Western Hemisphere and Overseas was 591 days.

HOLTEN CANADIAN WAR CEMETERY PROJECT



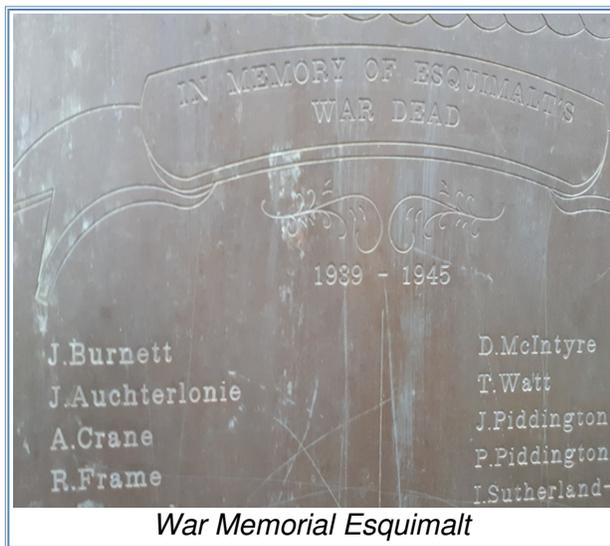
K54783 PRIVATE
J.L. AUCHTERLONIE
CANADIAN SCOTTISH REGIMENT

11TH APRIL 1945 AGE 20

HE LIVES IN OUR HEARTS BELOVED
AND UNFORGOTTEN

Private Auchterlonie is commemorated on page 492 of the Second World War Book of Remembrance and is displayed in the Memorial Chamber on October 20th.

Pte. Auchterlonie is remembered at the Canada, Virtual War Memorial Index, 1900-2014 as well as at the Scotland National War Memorial Index, 1914-1945.



War Memorial Esquimalt

The Esquimalt War Memorial, located in Memorial Park, was designed by architect Hubert Savage, A.R.I.B.A. and unveiled on September 8, 1927 to honour those who fell in the First World War. A brass tablet was added in 1947 to honour the fallen of the Second World War. On June 6, 1993, a brass plaque honouring the Esquimalt War Dead was placed on the Cenotaph, containing a list of names of those fallen in the First and Second World Wars.

HOLTEN CANADIAN WAR CEMETERY PROJECT

In addition, plaques honouring the Korean War Dead and Merchant Marines have since been placed on the Cenotaph. Private Auchterlonie's name appears on the left column on the WW11 Plaque –

In Memory of Esquimalt's War Dead, 1939-1945 .



Esquimalt War Memorial in Memorial Park

War Memorial Olst

This War Memorial commemorates the residents from Olst who died in World War II and subsequent wars.

As well, at the memorial, are the nameplates of military and civilian casualties that have been killed in or originated from Olst. On May 4, 2019, the name of the Canadian Pte. James Auchterlonie was added to the war memorial in Olst, as he fell on liberation on April 13, 1945. (*Note: the photos are copyright but are available to see by going on to the website listed on the last page.*)

Private Auchterlonie's grandfather – James William Auchterlonie - has a Geographical Feature named in his honour – *Auchterlonie Point*. A Point is described as a land area jutting into a water feature and also used for a convex change in direction of a shoreline. The relative location of Auchterlonie Point is the East side of North Pender Island, Cowichan Land District. This Geographic Feature was adopted August 22, 1969 on C.3452, as submitted by the Gulf Islands Branch of the BC Historical Association (file T.T45).

HOLTEN CANADIAN WAR CEMETERY PROJECT

Auchterlonie Point on North Pender Island is named after James William Auchterlonie (Born January 11, 1867 in St. Andrews, Fife, Scotland and died on Pender Island on February 07, 1912). He came to the island in 1884. Auchterlonie was the first postmaster at Hope Bay (in turn named for his uncle, David Hope), also Justice of the Peace, and one of the first trustees of the Pender Island Cemetery. He is buried at Pender Island.



Victoria Daily Colonist / April 29, 1945

Private James Laurence Auchterlonie, 20, reported killed in action April 13 while serving with 1st Battalion, Canadian Scottish Regiment, in Holland.

Son of Mrs. Florence Bryant Newnham, Victoria, born here, lived on Pender Island 12 years, finished his schooling at Lampson Street & Esquimalt High Schools, enlisting in 1944. He went into action in Belgium with Canadian 1st Army this spring.

Honour Roll plaque
Esquimalt High School

Killed in Action

Pte. James Auchterlonie, 20, was killed in action April 13 while serving with the 1st. Bn., C.S.R., in Holland, according to word received by his^N mother, Mrs. T. Newnham, 305 Huntington Place. He was educated at Lampson Street and Esquimalt High schools, and was employed at the Armstrong shipyard before enlisting in September, 1943. He went overseas in 1944 where he transferred from the R.C.A. to the Scottish. In February of this year he went into action in Belgium with the 1st Canadian Army

**Obituary notice in
Times Colonist
April 27, 1945, page 13.**



HOLTEN CANADIAN WAR CEMETERY PROJECT

Victoria Colonist Newspaper – possible edition date:

August 26, 2014 by female journalist.

Title: James Never Forgotten.

Includes large picture of James and newspaper article author. Article is unfortunately blurry and for the most part unable to be read. Time was spent by one of my cousins and myself and one other person to try and decipher the wording:

Determined to go to war, it took James Auchterlonie four times before the military would take him. He died on the battlefield in April, 1945. James Auchterlonie was crazy about planes. He filled a scrapbook full of them ... anything ...it was a hobby of his while growing up in Esquimalt.

I would like to thank two of my cousins, one who lives up country and the other in Victoria for assisting with this research. My cousin in Victoria took the photos of the War Memorial in Esquimalt. Also a Thank You to *Esquimalt High School* for taking a photo of the Honour Roll plaque which shows Pte. Auchterlonie's name.

Sources

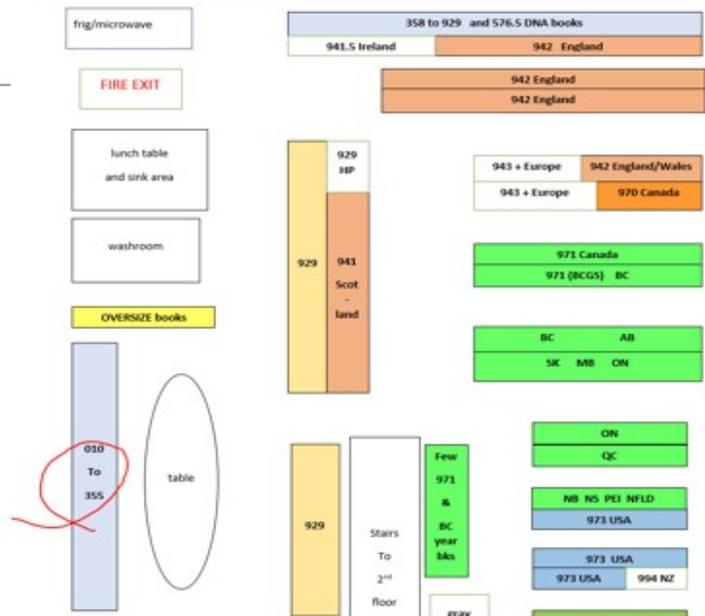
- www.ancestry.ca
- B.C. Archives <https://www.royalbcmuseum.bc.ca/bcarchives/search-our-collections>
- B.C. Geographical Names <https://apps.gov.bc.ca/pub/bcgnws/web/>
- Canadian Fallen <https://canadianfallen.ca/>
- Canadian Virtual War Memorial <https://www.veterans.gc.ca/en/remembrance/memorials/canadian-virtual-war-memorial>
- Esquimalt War Memorial, Memorial Park <https://heritagebc.ca/war-monuments-memorials/esquimalt-memorial-park-cenotaph/>
- Find A Grave www.findagrave.com
- Newspapers.com www.newspapers.com
- Victoria Times Colonist newspaper – notice of death - <http://workpoint.opcmh.ca/images/Jan-1945-to-Dec-1945.pdf>
- Wiki Tree <https://www.wikitree.com/>
- War Memorial Olst, Netherlands <https://www.tracesofwar.com/sights/23714/War-Memorial-Olst.htm>

A Research Tip . . .

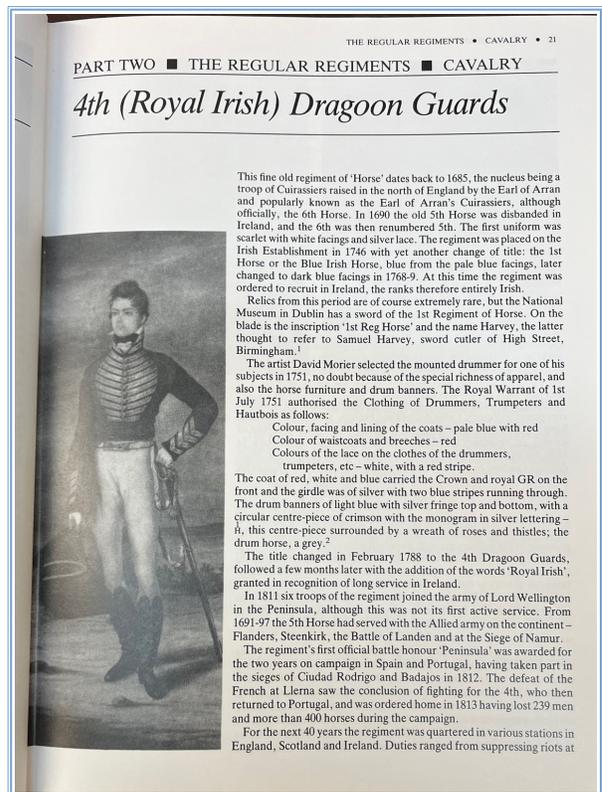
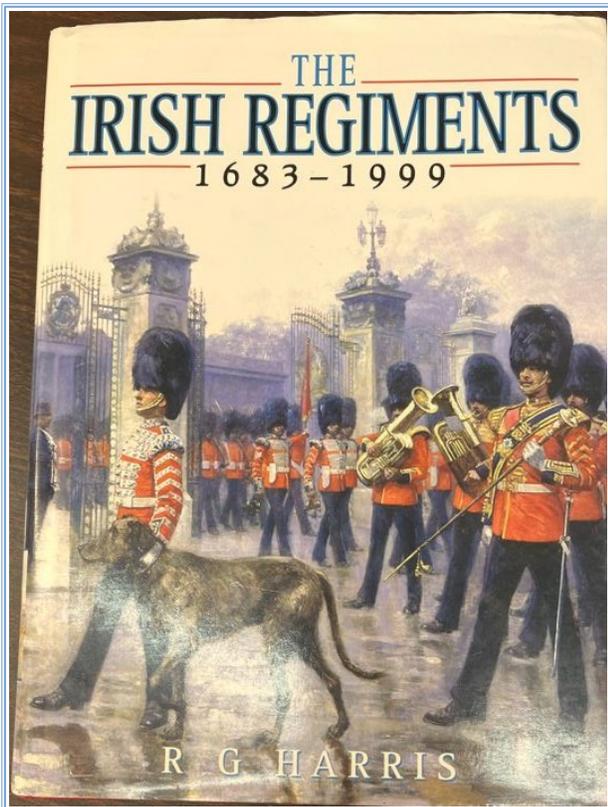
If your research crosses a border into a province or state where you've not done research before, it might be time to stop your work and learn about research and records in that area. Finding out about the materials that may be available to you may help you more than just digging away using approaches that worked in other provinces or states.

PARTIAL LIBRARY FLOOR PLAN

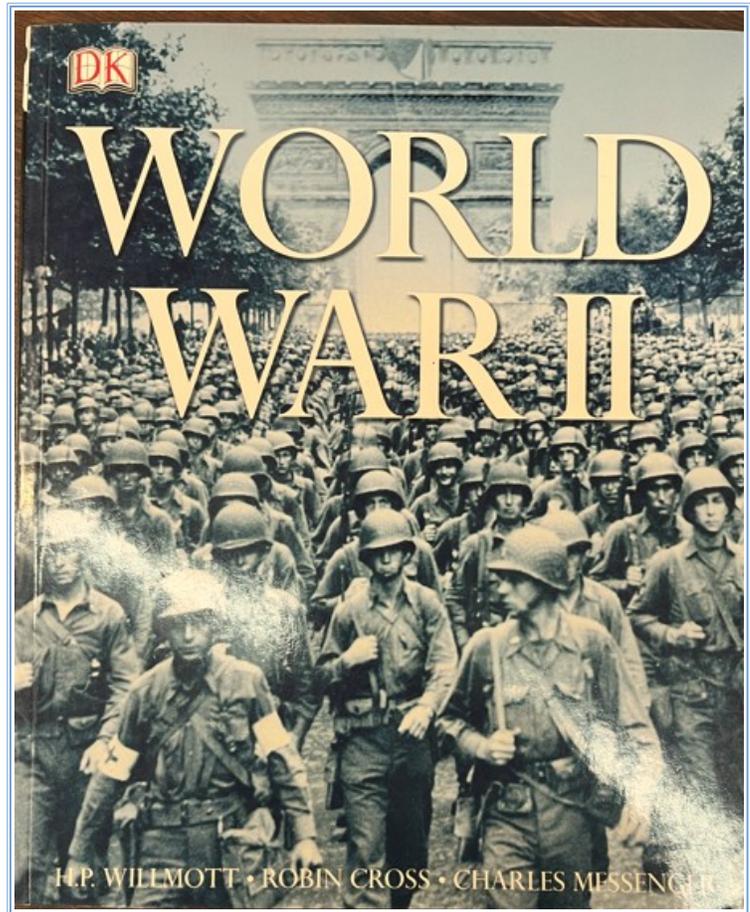
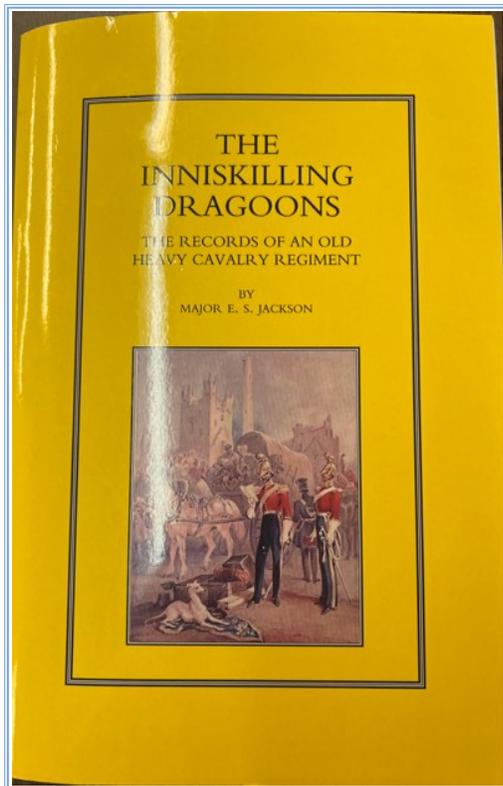
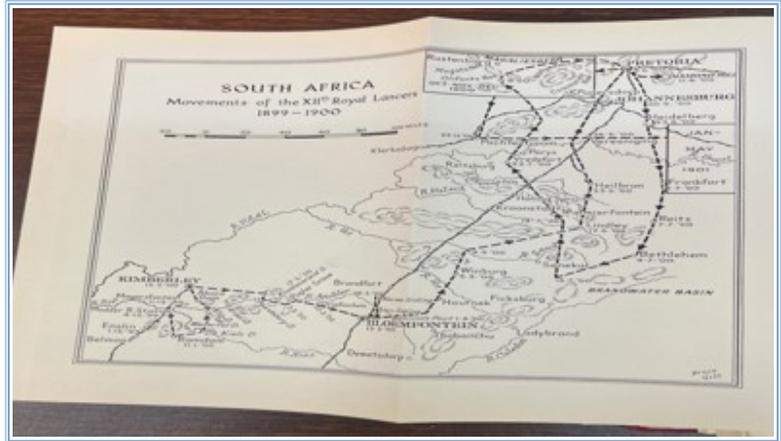
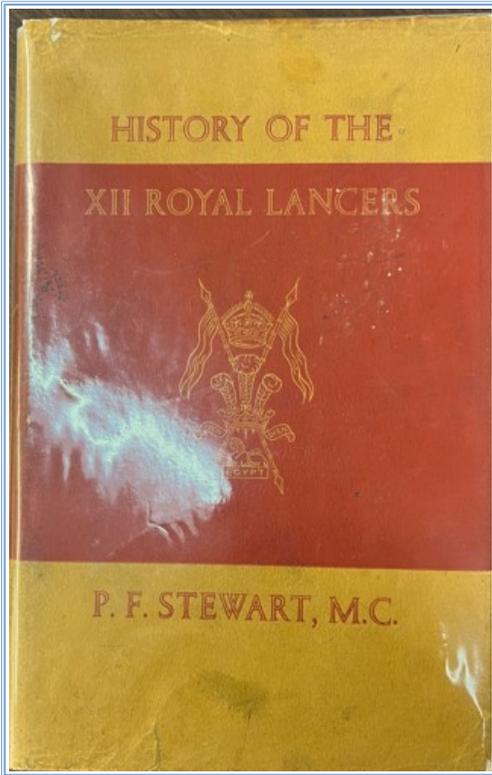
Most military books are found in the 355 section



Submitted by Eunice Robinson, Membership #0112



MILITARY BOOKS IN THE BCGS LIBRARY



MILITARY BOOKS IN THE BCGS LIBRARY



THE INITIATIVE CHANGES HANDS 1942-43

IN NOVEMBER 1942, AS THE GERMAN SIXTH ARMY FOUGHT FOR THE CITY OF STALINGRAD AND HITLER ORDERED THE OCCUPATION OF VICHY FRANCE, THE BOUNDARIES OF THE THIRD REICH REACHED THEIR GREATEST EXTENT. HOWEVER, THE HIGH TIDE OF NAZI EXPANSIONISM BEGAN TO REcede AS THE INITIATIVE PASSED OVER TO THE ALLIES ON THREE FRONTS: IN THE SOVIET UNION, NORTH AFRICA, AND THE ATLANTIC. IN THE PACIFIC THE JAPANESE WERE ALSO CHECKED, AND THEN DECISIVELY DEFEATED, AT GUADALCANAL IN THE SOLOMON ISLANDS.

Americans welcomed in Tunisia
In November 1942 Vichy French troops at first opposed the US landings in Algeria and Morocco. By May 1943, with the Germans and Italians defeated in Tunisia, the French in North Africa were firmly on the Allied side.



Genealogy on the Road

Genealogy on the Road to Scotland

Submitted by Meg McLaughlin
Member #3847

Many tourists bring back souvenirs to remind them of the places they have visited. I usually bring back books which can add weight to my luggage, especially if they are hardcovers. After pulling a hefty tome off my shelves recently, I was reminded of that fact. In the case of this book, I inquired if Blackwell's could send it to my home address because it really was weighty. They named a price to send it from the Edinburgh store where I was. That's when I remembered hearing that the online site didn't charge for delivery which seemed too good to be true. But when I enquired, I was right so the person behind the counter ordered the book from their online store which cost me less than if they had packaged up the book in my hand. It didn't make perfect sense but it worked in my favour so I didn't ask many questions. Not that the person behind the counter would have known more. He was just as surprised as I was.

Now that I've pulled the book off my shelf to have a closer look, I'm reminded of that transaction and of all the wonderful books in that Edinburgh book store. On that same visit, a few paperbacks might have made it into my suitcase. They weigh next to nothing. They also don't remind me of my last trip to Scotland like the hefty volume shipped to me in the mail. That book is *Land of the Ilich: Journey's into Islay's Past*. I enjoy reading about the history of the places where my ancestors lived although I don't think I'll be able to get my family links back as far in time as the start of this particular history. It was written by an archeologist and includes findings back to Stone Age hunter gatherers. The narrative promises to bring the story of Islay closer in time to when more current history started. That's more in line with when I have been able to find family records and in that part of the history, the streets and buildings might be familiar from the time I have spent there.

Unfortunately, the last time I was in Scotland, I didn't get to Islay and while the journey included genealogical research, I didn't spend most of my time in Scotlands People as in trips past. Things had just started opening up again because it was 2022 and visits to that repository were very restricted as were ones to the National Archives. Museums were open to visitors though, so we took full advantage.

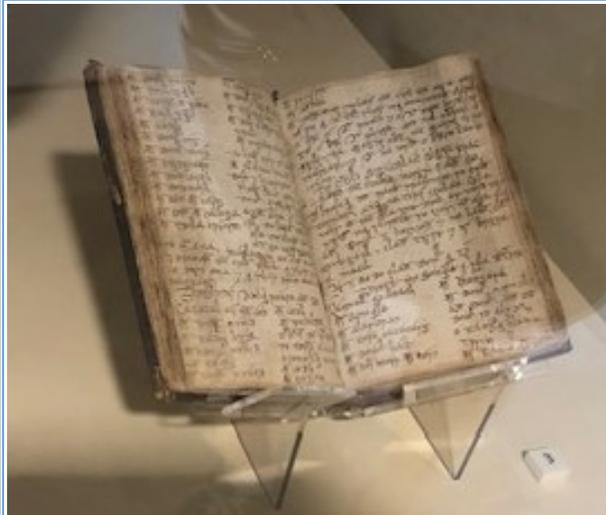


A house on Islay, Argyll, 1769. The roof thatch is held down by ropes weighted with stones. From *A Tour of Scotland and a Voyage to the Hebrides* by Thomas Pennant, 1769

House on Islay 1769

Genealogy on the Road

The National Museum of Scotland even had some displays about the history of Islay. It reminded me that not all information of historic interest is found in archives or historic databases.



The Black Book of Clanranald 17th C

Perhaps that's why I reached for the book about Islay. I know I'm supposed to be preparing for a research trip. That's going very slowly as I'm interrupted by one distraction after another. But most of those deviations from plotting out my research plan are ones I bring upon myself. I just don't have the stamina to sit at a computer or film reader and search for those elusive records like I used to. Even putting together a research plan seems onerous and those eureka moments of discovery have become harder to find. Really when I think of the

trips I have taken to find out more about my family's history the more memorable discoveries involved actual physical evidence. The past makes more sense when I'm in the spaces my ancestors have been. After many years of warming seats in research centres, I also find that that the more memorable discoveries aren't found when sitting there searching but in the side trips that take in the history of the surrounding area. Maybe the best thing to take with me will be a mind open to discoveries of all kinds.



Islay horn if it is a horn)

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

HOLTEN CANADIAN WAR CEMETERY PROJECT

In Memory of

Pte. Harry Else K9054

Returned to Canada, discharged March 29, 1944 "too ill to continue to serve"
 Died in Shaughnessy Military Hospital, Vancouver, BC of Hodgkin's Disease
 December 10, 1944 age 23 (four days before his birthday).

Son of Frank & Adrienne Else, brother of
 Major Jim Else and stepbrother to David Else.
 Remembered with honour:

Commonwealth War Graves
 Commission and Commemorated
 in the Government of Canada's
 Second World War Book of
 Remembrance



QUAMICHAN (ST. PETER'S) CEMETERY

Index No. CAN. 1611

The cemetery, formerly known as "Quamichan (St. Peter's) Protestant Cemetery", contains the 1939-1945 War graves of 2 soldiers of the Canadian Army. In addition it has a grave of the 1914-1918 War.

ELSE, Pte. HARRY, K/9054. R.C.O.C. 10th December, 1944. Age 24. Son of Frank and Adrienne Else, of Ridgeway, Sheffield, England, Row D. Grave 35.



PO Elliott, Ralph Leslie RCAF	PO Ellis, Clarence Irving RCAF
Pte Elliott, Robert SDA G Hughes	Ter Elliott, Charles Samuel RPLDG
Pte Elliott, Robert Ernest Fort Garry's	Pte Elliot, Carl Jacob Cdg Highways
Pte Elliott, Tarlton Albert RCAF	Pte Elmish, John Joseph RCAF
PO Elliott, Thomas Harold RCAF	Pte Elward, Frederica Enelle West NSR
L/Cpl Elliott, Gordon James RCAF	PO Elwyn, Robert Norman RCAF
WO Ellis, Albert RCAF	Col Elzy, Emory Ernest S Alzar R
Pte Ellis, Albert David RCAF	WO Embree, Glenn Wendell Cdn Para Bn
Cpl Ellis, Charles West NSR	Ter Embury, Archer Frederick LD SHIRO
Pte Ellis, Donald Woodrow SSask's	Pte Emmanau, Aubrey Hallie
Cpl Ellis, Douglas Robert RCAF	L/Cpl Emmerick, Robert Edgar CB Highways
L/Sgt Ellis, Edward Harold RCAF	Sgt Emerson, Armand John RCAF
Cpl Ellis, Ernest Edwin RCE	PO Emerson, Harry Reaser Cdg H
Maj Ellis, Ernest Lawrence Holden RCAF	PO Emerson, Ralph Fay RCAF
Pte Ellis, Gordon Hubert N Sask's	PO Emerson, Robert Francis RCAF
PO Ellis, Harold RCAF	WO Emory, John Francis RCAF
Pte Ellis, Harry Sinclair RCAF	PO Emory, John Lionel RCAF
Cpl Ellis, Herbert Clarence Duff RCAF	Pte Emory, Robert Marshall C Scot's
Sgt Ellis, John Williams RCAF	PO Emory, Sydney James RCAF
Rfn Ellis, Lorne Kelston QORAC	Sgt Emory, Vern Barry RCAF
WO Ellis, Lyle Leonard RCAF	WO Emory, James Thomas C Dv's
AE Ellis, Melvin Newton RCAF	Pte Emory, Rommie Joseph RCAF
Pte Ellis, Norman George Essex Scot's	PO Emory, Carl Dunbar RCAF
Ser Ellis, Robert John RCAF	Pte Emphyge, Norman Malcolm RCAF
PO Ellis, Ronald Gordon RCAF	PO Emig, Marvin RCAF
PO Ellis, Ronald Oberlin RCAF	Col Emkert, Edward Cameron RCAF
PO Ellis, Stanley Frederick RCAF	PO Emkane, George Albert RCAF
Sgt Ellis, William Charles RCAF	PO Emkand, William Henry RCAF
Pte Ellison, John James RCAF	Sgt Emsheld, John S RCAF
Lt Ellis, Friedrich Alfred E Land R	Pte Emshart, Hector Rk, Miss
PO Ellmore, Ross Orval RCAF	Pte Emshart, James Benjamin RCAF
Pte Ellwood, James Barrington Perth R	Capt Emshart, Walter Lawrence RCAF
PO Ellwood, William Ralph RCAF	Lt Col English, Darnett Thomas RCAF
Pte Elm, Leslie C Scot's	Pte English, Edward Julian RCAF
PO Elmer, Grant RCAF	Pte English, Vernon Watson PL High
Ter Elmes, Douglas Fort Garry's	L/Sgt English, Wilbert RCAF
Pte Elmes, Howard Norman C Dv's	Pte Enria, Gordon Howard Westm R
PO Elms, Francis John RCAF	Pte Enns, Jacob Cdg Highways
PO Elmholt, Douglas RCAF	Pte Enns, Iola RCAF
Ter Elmy, Carl Sher Plg B	Sgt Enns, Donald Fraser RCAF
Pte Elze, Harry RCAF	Ter Enns, John Thomas RCAF
S/L Elzy, Howard RCAF	Pte Enright, Michael Lorne Sdg Highways



HOLTEN CANADIAN WAR CEMETERY PROJECT



Harry Else was born December 14, 1920 in Sheffield, Yorkshire, England. His parents were Frank and Adrienne (Shaw) Else. Father Frank immigrated to Canada January 13, 1927 aboard the "MONTROYAL", landing in Saint John, New Brunswick. Travelling across Canada, Frank ended up on Vancouver Island at Maple Bay, BC.

The rest of the family soon followed, taking a much different route. Adrienne, with her two sons age 9 and 8 sailed aboard the "Pacific Enterprise" arriving in Victoria, BC harbour, May of 1928. In July of 1929, mother Adrienne sailed home to England on board the "Lochmonar" for an extended visit and died in 1933. Harry and his brother Jim went to England to visit with family in 1934.

Both brothers attended St. George's Boarding School on West 29th Avenue in Vancouver, BC. Military records indicate Harry took part in all sports and finished Grade 10. Prior to enlistment, for two years, he had been working under an apprenticeship scheme at the Fairbridge Farm School near Duncan, BC.

On January 28, 1939, their widowed father, Frank, married Doreen B. Day of Duncan, BC. A half-brother David was born shortly thereafter.

Harry enlisted on September 12, 1939 age 19, in Duncan, BC. On his Attestation form, he indicated he had served in the Active Militia in the 62nd Field Battery R.C.A. since August 11, 1937. Having passed the usual health and fitness tests, he is accepted. Harry is listed as 5'11", fair complexion, hazel eyes, and fair hair. A handsome lad.

The military records give an almost daily, account of his whereabouts. He is hospitalized in November for a severe contusion on left cheek (negative for fracture) and then for appendicitis in May of 1940 following his transfer to Kingston, Ontario in March. He is sent to Halifax in July and disembarked at Gourock, Scotland, August 1, 1940.

Harry is transferred about from one unit to another while receiving training. He had earned the rank of Gunner prior to leaving Canada and is promoted to Private in July of 1941. He seems to have got himself in trouble on occasion, as the records indicate a number of reprimands, detentions and the forfeiting of a few days' pay.

On June 29, 1943, Harry arrives in Sicily with the 1st Canadian Division, Workshop R.C.O.C. and then on to Italy. By March 18, 1944, he is evacuated back to the UK on a Medical ship. He is diagnosed with Hodgkins Disease.

HOLTEN CANADIAN WAR CEMETERY PROJECT

Harry's father, Lieut. Frank Else, late of C.M.H.Q. London, wrote asking that his "son not be sent home as the time lost for treatment in transporting him to Canada, then across the country to Vancouver, could be fatal". It proved so. Pte. Harry Else was discharged from the Canadian Army on October 16, 1944 while in hospital. He died in Shaughnessy Military Hospital on Sunday, December 10th, 1944.

His obituary named his father Frank as being in England, step-mother Doreen and half-brother David being in Duncan, and his brother Maj. Jim Else serving overseas. In his will, Harry named J. Harker, Principal of St. George's School, Vancouver, BC as his Trustee and Executor. He indicated all proceeds from investments from his estate go to support his step-mother until such time as his half-brother David, attained the age of 21. Then the funds were to be given to David.

Pte. Harry Else served in the military for 5 years and one month, of which 4 years were in the United Kingdom and Sicily. For his service to his country, he was awarded the following medals:



Harry's brother Jim, also served in the Canadian Military and achieved the rank of Major. He was killed in the Western European Theatre in 1945 and is buried in Holten War Cemetery in Holland. A separate biography has been prepared for him.

Submitted by Marlene Dance
Member #3416

HOLTEN

In Memory of
Major Jim Else K9030
Royal Canadian Artillery, 6th Field Regiment,

died May 1, 1945, age 27.

Son of Frank & Adrienne Else;

husband of Gladys May Else

(nee Compton-Lundie)

father of Anthony Jim Else (1941-1990)

Remembered with honour:

HOLTEN CANADIAN WAR CEMETERY



Commemorated in perpetuity by the
Commonwealth War Graves Commission



HOLTEN

Jim Else was born October 20, 1918 in Sheffield, Yorkshire, England to Frank and Adrienne (Shaw) Else. Brother Harry was born in December of 1920 also in England. Father Frank immigrated to Canada January 13, 1927 aboard the MONTROYAL, landing in Saint John, New Brunswick. Travelling across Canada, Frank ended up on Vancouver Island at Maple Bay, BC.



The rest of the family soon followed, taking a much different route. Wife Adrienne and their two sons aged 9 and 8, sailed aboard the "Pacific Enterprise" arriving in the harbour of Victoria, BC in May 1928.

In July of 1929, mother Adrienne sailed home to England on board the "Lochmonar" for an extended visit and died in 1933.

In 1934 Jim and his brother Harry, went to England to visit with family. Both brothers attended St. George's Boarding School on West 29th Avenue, in Vancouver, BC. Military records indicate Jim was active in cross country running, swimming and sailing and finished grade 12.

On January 28, 1939, their widowed father Frank, married Doreen B. Day of Duncan BC. A half-brother David was born shortly thereafter.

Jim Else enlisted on September 1, 1939. Passing the usual health and fitness tests, Jim is described as 6', fair complexion, hazel eyes, and fair hair. A handsome lad like his brother. He had served with the active militia in the 62nd Field Battery (How) R.C.A prior to his enlistment in the Army. He is enrolled as a L/Sgt and promoted to 2/Lieut. by months' end.

We can follow his military career through the records left for us. Leave is granted to marry Gladys May Compton-Lundie in Duncan, in June 1940. He is transferred to Winnipeg, Manitoba in November and his wife follows. Son, Anthony, is born the following year. Jim is sent to Halifax and then immediately on to Gourock, Scotland, arriving November 13, 1941. He is made a Captain on March 8, 1942. In June of 1942, a second son, Ian Henry, is born.

In training he is moved about from regiment to regiment. On June 6, 1944, he is part of the D Day landing with the 13th Field Regiment and is wounded that same day. He returned to his regiment in August. He is promoted to A/Major on March 31, 1945 and is killed in action at Oldenburg, Germany on May 1, 1945.

HOLTEN

Initially Major Jim Else was buried at the side of the road entrance to Oldenburg, Germany as was the custom. In June of 1946, his remains were exhumed and moved to Holten War Cemetery in Holland.

He had served his country for 5 years/4 months.

He was awarded the following medals:

1939-45 Star

France & Germany Star

Defence Medal

War Medal Canadian Volunteer

Service Medal & Clasp



1939-45 Star



France & Germ.
Star



Defence Medal



Canadian Volunteer
Service Medal + Clasp



1939-45
War Medal



Included in the military file was this blurry black and white picture of a grave marker for Major Else.

We think this may have been early markers for Holten War Cemetery before the permanent stones were carved and placed.

Prepared by Marlene Dance.
Member #3416

INDEX FOR BCGS POSTCARDS

AFRICA

- Belgian Congo
- Ghana
- Morocco
- Tunisia (Kairouan)
- Zimbabwe (South Africa)

ASIA

- Cyprus: *although geographically located in West Asia, its cultural identity and geopolitical make-up are overwhelmingly South-east European. Cyprus is considered in Europe as part of the EU.*

EAST ASIA

- Japan
- Korea

SOUTH EAST ASIA

- Borneo
- China
- Hong Kong
- Malaysia (Singapore is part of Malaysia)
- Myanmar
- Philippines
- Taiwan
- Thailand
- Vietnam

SOUTHERN ASIA

- India

CARIBBEAN

- Bahamas
- Cuba

EUROPE

- Austria
- Balkins
- Belgium
- Croatia
- Cyprus (part is considered in Asia)
- Czech Republic
- Denmark
- Estonia
- Finland
- France
- Germany
- Gibraltar
- Greece
- Hungary
- Italy
- Liechtenstein
- Luxembourg
- Malta
- Monaco
- Netherlands
- Norway
- Poland (Republic of)
- Portugal
- Spain
- Sweden
- Switzerland
- Turkey (borders on S.E. Europe and Western Asia)

UNITED KINGDOM

- England* (see below – England Districts)
- Ireland
- Isle of Wight
- Scotland
- Wales
- Jersey, Guernsey and Isle of Man are not part of the UK but rather self governing dependencies of the Crown

CANADA (*alpha order*)

- Alberta
- British Columbia
- Manitoba
- Maritimes (New Brunswick, Newfoundland and Labrador, Nova Scotia, PEI)
- Northwest Territories
- Ontario
- Quebec
- Saskatchewan
- Territories: Northwest, Nunavut and Yukon

MEXICO

MIDDLE EAST

- Israel

OCEANIA

- Australia
- New Zealand
- Fiji

INDEX FOR BCGS POSTCARDS

SOUTH AMERICA

- Colombia

U.S.A.

- Arizona
- California
- Colorado
- Connecticut
- Florida
- Georgia
- Hawaii
- Idaho
- Illinois
- Louisiana
- Massachusetts
- Michigan
- Missouri
- Mojave Desert (runs through California, Nevada, Utah and Arizona)
- Montana
- Nebraska
- Nevada
- New Jersey
- New Mexico
- New York
- Oregon
- Pennsylvania
- Rhode Island
- South Carolina
- Utah
- Vermont
- Washington State
- Wisconsin
- Wyoming

ENGLAND DISTRICTS

- Bedfordshire
- Berkshire
- Buckinghamshire
- Cambridgeshire,
- Cheshire
- Cornwall
- Cotswolds
- Cumbria
- Derbyshire
- Devon
- Dorset
- Essex
- Gloucestershire
- Hampshire,
- Herefordshire
- Hertfordshire
- Huntingdonshire
- Kent
- Lancashire
- Lincolnshire
- Leicestershire
- London
- Middlesex
- Norfolk
- Northamptonshire,
- Nottinghamshire
- Oxfordshire
- Shropshire
- Somerset
- Suffolk
- Sussex
- Westmoreland
- Wiltshire
- Worcestershire
- York
- Yorkshire

MISCELLANEOUS BOX

- Oversize
- Animals/Fish
- Art
- Children
- Churches
- First Nations
- Flowers/Trees/Fruit
- Humour
- Military
- Royalty
- Seasons of the Year
- Transportation
- Unknown/Misc.

A Research Tip . . .

Some items of historical relevance to your family are too large to pack up in a box! Things such as family businesses, farms, cars and equipment, or the family home.

However, you can save the memories that go with these items with:

- photographs
- maps of the neighborhood, the farm, the inside of house
- family members' memories written down or recorded
- newspaper accounts
- memorabilia related to the business.

This might be an enjoyable project for a family reunion!

2025 Year-end Reports

British Columbia Genealogical Society (BCGS) Summary of 2024 – 2025 Year-end Reports

The following is a consolidated version of the year-end reports submitted by the various departments of the BCGS.

Yvette Howard
Membership# 5770
BCGS President 2024-25

Affiliate Societies

We had 17 BCGS Affiliate societies in 2024. Together they helped create the “network” of genealogical and historical groups in BC. Thank you to Cathy Smart, our affiliate concierge, for her leadership this year.

The Affiliate Society membership category was reviewed this year and some minor adjustments made: Affiliate Society members can promote their events and projects on the BCGS website, digital publications, and social media platforms; members of Affiliate Societies will now be required to pay a registration fee for any seminar or event hosted by the BCGS.

BC Research

There were inquiries from 22 different countries and 13 BCGS members had research requests. \$515.00 in research fees was collected from non-members, and a total of \$1,095.00 was received in donations. Thank you to Mary Turnbull for contributing her research skills and to those who assisted her with the research requests. Thank you also to the BCGS members who have contributed to the great many databases concerning BC research.

Bottle Drive Fundraiser

A total of \$1,880.00 was raised by the Bottle Drive fundraiser this year. Thank you to all the BCGS members who donated their returnable items. The money raised is allocated to library projects outside of the BCGS Board of Directors budget. The total received in 2023 and 2024 amounted to \$3,680 which was used for new shelving for the BCGS library. Thank you to Bill Clayton for leading this fundraiser.

Education

The BCGS continues to provide a great many educational opportunities. Thank you Eunice Robinson for being our Education Co-Ordinator.

2025 Year-end Reports

- Our Coffee Chat groups covered more than 20 topics. Our Coffee Chat facilitators this year were: Janet White, Judith Ueland, Sheila Albrecht, Celia Lewis, Sandy Cunliffe, Kathie Ross, Maurice Guibord, Brenda Jones, Christene Hoffert, Kathleen and Jim Graham, Terry Hartley, Sharon Syrette, Debra Cole, Linda Yip and Eunice Robinson.
- Margaret Sharon and Meg Ritter ran the monthly Kindertech and Sue Sullivan led the Writer's Group.
- Celia Lewis and Eunice Robinson ran Beginning Genealogy (6 weeks) and The Next Step (5 weeks) courses this year.
- The BCGS co-hosted three seminars with the Cloverdale Library this year.

Thank you to all those who facilitate our Coffee Chats, Kindertech, Writer's Group and Genealogy courses. A special thank you to Lisa Blackburn who schedules the Coffee Chats and sends out Zoom invitations for these groups each week.

Facebook & Bluesky (Social Media)

Our social media presence continues to be an enjoyable extension of our Society. Thank you to Kim Kujawski who oversees our Facebook account, which has over 1050 members.

In November, the BCGS joined Bluesky, with Sean Vanderfluit as our account manager. The account has quickly grown to over 150 followers. Thank you, Sean, for taking this on and promoting the BCGS in the Bluesky genealogy community.

Facilities

Thank you to Claire Belzer for heading up our Facilities team. This year saw many tasks being completed and maintenance performed on our utilities. There are several projects being considered for 2025, including addressing the uncomfortable temperatures in the summer and winter months. Thank you to the Facilities team who keep our Library facility operating efficiently.

FamilySearch Library in Salt Lake City Trip

A group of BCGS members is planning to go to the FamilySearch Library. Originally the trip had a lot of interest, however due to concerns arising out of the change of government in the US, many felt this was not the time to make the trip. At this point only a few are still planning to go.

Find a Grave

There are 25 cemeteries left to complete from the original 220 cemetery booklets. Fourteen volunteers have been involved over the last year, working at their own pace from their homes entering the inscriptions of the gravestones listed in the booklets. Thank you, Yvette Howard, for managing this project.

Holten Canadian War Cemetery Project

BCGS volunteers continue to research and report on each of the soldiers who are buried at Holten Canadian War Cemetery who listed British Columbia as their home province. To date, 36 Reports that have been completed and featured in the BCGS Journal, with 15 of those completed in 2024. Thank you to Janice Kidwell for leading this project and continuing to promote it.

Journal Exchange

We currently exchange journals with approximately 80 societies. They are available in the Members' resources section of the website, as well as some earlier editions are also available on the library computers and shelves. Thank you, Dorothy Jones, Terri Mackenzie and Jan Graf, for making the journals available to our members.

Library

A huge number of donations were received this past year. Thank you to BCGS member, Barry Kirke, for a large donation which included maps. Thank you as well to the Vancouver Stake FamilySearch Centre and the Bulkley Valley Genealogy Society who, between the two groups, donated over 80 boxes of books and a huge stack of maps. Bulkley Valley also donated a microfilm and microfiche reader. Other donations this year were personal research files and genealogies, which once organized and digitized will be available to researchers on the library computers.

Other library project highlights:

- The map collection continues to grow and is currently being indexed.
- The microfilms have been indexed and will be on the library computers.
- Indexing of the microfiche collection has started.
- CD's have been indexed and added to the library catalogue.
- Yearbooks and annuals are now housed on new shelving that was purchased with money raised through the Bottle Drive fundraiser.
- The Catalogue Team added almost 900 items to the library catalogue.
- The Book Indexing project is on-going, focusing on indexing any book about British Columbia which does not have an index.

2025 Year-end Reports

- Hardware allowing for the digitization of VHS tapes was added this year.
- The Newspaper Indexing Team completed the Vancouver Sun indexes for 2002 to 2005, which are now available on library computers.
- The subscription to the library version of MyHeritage added in 2023 was renewed for 2024-25 and a new subscription to [NewspaperArchives.com](https://www.newspaperarchives.com) was added. Access is available to the public at the library and to BCGS members via the Members' Resources section of our BCGS website.
- The BCGS will partner with the FamilySearch Library (FSL) in Salt Lake City in 2025 to digitize approximately 3000 books from our collection. FSL has sent digitizing equipment and will provide volunteers for the 2-year project.
- The almost 200 volumes of Hendersons' directories sent for digitizing to FSL have been completed and we now have a hard drive of them in pdf format. They are currently being bookmarked for easier access and, when done, can be found on the library computers.
- A training session was held in April for library volunteers. In December, a luncheon was held to thank the library team for their service.
- In 2024, the digitization of the BCGS archives was completed. All future minutes, and additions to the archives will be in digital rather than paper copies.

The Library continues to be open Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays from 10:00 to 3:00. A monthly Open Research Day was added last fall, so the library is now also open one Sunday a month, with a break over summer. The Library was closed for the month of August due to the heat and lack of air conditioning. It was also closed for two-weeks over the Christmas holiday.

Thank you to the BCGS Librarian, Eunice Robinson, and the team of library volunteers who continue to increase the capacity of our valuable resource, the BCGS Library.

Member/Digital Communications

The BCGS uses the digital platform, Intuit Mailchimp® to manage mailouts. A heartfelt thank you to Judy Galpin, Sheila Albrecht, Jan Graf, Lynne Fletcher, Sue Sullivan and Yvette Howard who work behind the scenes to compile, format, and distribute meeting invitations, BCGS digital publications and member announcements. A special thank you to Sue Sullivan for designing new headers for the mailouts this year.

Membership

We had a year-end total of 345 BCGS members in 2024. This year the option to pay membership dues via e-transfer was added.

2025 Year-end Reports

In 2025 we will discontinue the practice of mailing hard copies of our quarterly journal to the 11 Institutions who paid a subscription price. We will now send these institutions our digital journals at no cost and will attempt to add additional libraries throughout British Columbia. Thank you to Terri Mackenzie for her hard work as our Membership Co-Ordinator.

Newspaper Indexing

It was a busy year for newspaper indexing with the completion of the Vancouver Sun years 2002-2005 and that index being added to the new database available at the BCGS library. Lorne Palmer joined Linda Fleury as team co-lead, and together they held five training sessions for new volunteers in 2024. Just under 1,300 hours of volunteer time was logged for this project. Thank you, Linda and Lorne, and the newspaper indexers for your investment in this project.

Pioneer Registry – Pre 1925

Forty-two Pioneer names have been submitted to the registry, submitted by 23 BCGS members. The index and reports have all been downloaded to the BCGS Library computer as of November 2024. Thank you to Sheryl Wilson for her leadership in this project and to all who have contributed reports.

Postcards

Postcards from the BCGS collection are featured in the BCGS Newsletter and in The British Columbia Genealogist, four times a year in each respectively. Postcards can be viewed and purchased at the BCGS library purchased. Postcard donations are welcome. Thanks to Janice Kidwell for her work on this project.

President's Report

Thank you to our Board of Directors for the leadership they have provided this year.

- Alice Louise Marwood (ALM) Fund/Bottle Drive Fundraiser. It was determined that the ALM fund and Bottle Drive fundraiser were achieving the same outcome, and so a motion was made to close the ALM fund, as all the funds had been spent.
- Family History Federation Participation. The BCGS is a member of the Family History Federation (FHF). Members of our board of directors participated in the monthly discussion groups held by the FHF for leadership of genealogical societies.
- Family Tree Maker Seminar. A free Family Tree Maker (FTM) hybrid seminar was hosted by the BCGS in April.

2025 Year-end Reports

Over thirty attended in-person, with 100 attending via Zoom.

- Heredis Family Tree Software Discount. This year we became a partner with Heredis, a family tree software company, and our BCGS members can receive a 20% discount on their first purchase of the software.
- Land Acknowledgement. May saw the inclusion of a Land Acknowledgement at the beginning of our Members' and Board meetings. A committee was also formed to draft an official BCGS Land Acknowledgement to be used on the front page of our BCGS website, and as an option to be used at the beginning of Members' and Board meetings.
- Members' Meetings. The average attendance at Members' Meetings in 2024-2025 was 74. Our meetings continued to have our regular Members' Moment feature, and a new feature, Volunteer Shout Out. We also added a team of Zoom meeting hosts year, who are on a rotation schedule. Thank you, Kim Watt, Susan Sullivan, Sheila Albrecht, Jan Graf and Meg Ritter, for assisting in this way.
- Policies and Procedures Handbook. Updating the BCGS Policies and Procedures handbook has been an ongoing project for the last number of years. The board is hopeful that someone with a keen interest in this type of project will come forward to take the lead and continue this work.
- Special Events. *50-Year Members Celebration*: In June, we celebrated four BCGS members who have been members for 50 years or more. A small gathering was held at the BCGS Library with cake and coffee served. *Summer Picnic*: In August, a BCGS summer picnic was held at Queen's Park in New Westminster. Nineteen BCGS members attended participating in games and sharing dessert. Thanks to Lynne Fletcher for spearheading this event.
- Victoria Genealogical Society Partnership. This year we formed a partnership with the Victoria Genealogical Society and as part of that, we will enjoy a speaker exchange between our two societies.

Technology

A video capture device, used to convert VCR tapes to digital and two new computers and monitors were purchased this year. Software applications were updated, with NewspaperArchive being added. Continued work was done on making databases available on the library computers. Work is being done on a donated Microfilm reader. Data backups are conducted daily and/or weekly.

2025 Year-end Reports

The budget for 2025 includes a new computer to host the ResourceMate library catalogue, a new NAS (Network Attached Storage) device and digitization devices (slide/negative conversion to digital; movie digitization of 8mm or super 8; book scanner).

Thank you to George Caldwell for the management of the computers and tech equipment at the BCGS library. Thank you also to those involved in the tech department in a variety of ways: Susan Kent, Doug Mitchell, Claire Belzer, Elizabeth Christie.

Volunteer Hours

Seventy-four volunteers contributed a total of 10,133.75 hours to the BCGS in 2024, with seven of our members contributing over 500 volunteer hours each. Thank you to Diane Johnson for tallying these impressive hours (and sending friendly reminders to submit them!)

Website

In 2024, the BCGS website had about 32,000 visits. Around 2,200 BCGS members accessed the Members' Resources pages, and 1,100 visitors accessed the wealth of free information on the Researching in BC pages.

The website team works to maintain and update the website regularly so that BCGS members can rely on it for information about society activities. Several improvements were made:

- For ease of navigation, it was ensured that our society name and logo were present on every page of our website.
- The membership purchase and renewal pages were improved to streamline the process of buying or renewing a membership, including expanding the payment options to include the use of e-transfer.
- A new subscription service, [NewspaperArchive.com](https://www.newspaperarchive.com) is now available to our members through our website. Together with MyHeritage, these subscriptions are another way in which the website delivers valuable services to our members.
- Terri Mackenzie joined the Website Team in the middle of 2024. Terri has taken on responsibility for maintaining the Journal Exchange pages.

Thank you to Jan Graf, Sheila Albrecht and Terri Mackenzie for their work on this incredible resource.

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 2025 - due by May 15
September 2025 - due by August 15
December 2025 - due by November 15
March 2026 - 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

BCGS LIBRARY & RESOURCE CENTRE

#211 - 12837 76th Avenue, Surrey, BC
(near 76th Ave. & 128th St.)

Phone 604-502-9119

library@bcgs.ca

Library Administrator: Eunice Robinson

Hours of Operation: Tuesday, Thursday
and Saturday

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

Members who live outside the Lower Mainland who wish to visit, should call ahead of time so we can try to arrange for a volunteer to open the Library.

Visitors may request a tour of the Library holdings. Non-members may do research - there is a \$5.00 daily fee. At the end of that day, if you chose to take a membership, this fee will be credited toward the membership cost.

Parking: There are 3 stalls in front of the unit, and one stall (#211) near the 76th Avenue entrance. Check with the Librarian on duty for more information about other available spots.

HONOUR A RELATIVE OR FRIEND

You can make a donation to the British Columbia Genealogical Society to honour a birthday, anniversary or the death of a loved one.



All donations of \$35 or more will receive a tax receipt.