



THE BRITISH COLUMBIA GENEALOGIST



Photo by Lucas McKinnon

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BRITISH COLUMBIA GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

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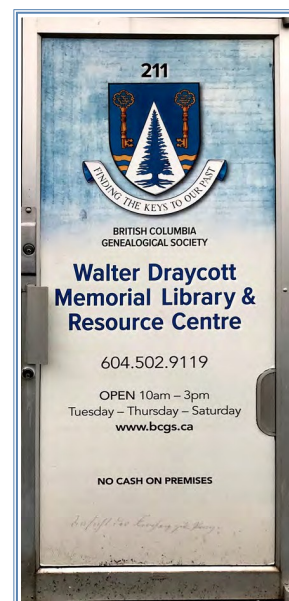
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and Saturdays from 10:00 am to 3:00 pm.



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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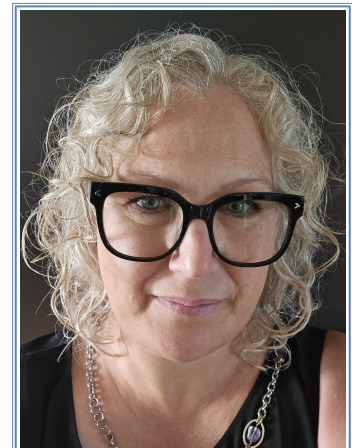
A message from our President...

As we settle into the 'cozy' months of the
year, I expect many of you have a
renewed vigor in your Family History
research. I have established a weekly
routine to ensure I spend time on my
genealogy research: Monday night is
studying for the course I am taking;
Wednesday night is spent on BCGS
meetings and project work; Thursday
night is Coffee Chats; Fridays I try to set
aside the whole day for a dive deep into
my personal research. How about you?
Do you have regular time set aside for
your genealogical research?

Our fall Members' meetings have had a
variety of very interesting presentations.
A special thank you to BCGS members
Susan Sullivan, Judy Zipursky and Janice
Kidwell for their features connected to
Remembrance Day. Janice's presentation
on the Holten Canadian War Cemetery
highlighted a wonderful BCGS project
which aims to research and report on the
approximately 78 British Columbians
buried in Holten, Netherlands. These
reports are published in this Journal.
Contact [Janice](#) to get involved in this
meaningful project which will also help
build your
research and
writing skills.

As always, happy
researching!

Yvette Howard
#5770
President, BCGS



From the Desk of the Editor . . .

As we come to the end of this busy year, I want to send a special thanks all the BCGS members who took time to submit an article or item for our quarterly Journal:

*Yvette Howard
Janice Kidwell
Moyna Laing
Marlene Dance
Meg McLaughlin
Gordon Udell
Sue Sullivan*

The stories that they shared with our members have added a new layer to our understanding of this world, and how it has come together.

After a busy autumn getting my garden ready for the wintery months, I am looking forward to more time to spend on my family research, and on exploring all the tools that our website has to offer. The newest one, the newspaper.com may help me track down some of my Scandinavian ancestors and their life in this new country. Hope you have a quiet moment in the coming wintery months to explore all the tools and sources available on our BCGS web-site. Our web-site team have created a very accessible site to aide your curiosity and research.

And to get you started, our December edition had a full set of Holten reports thanks to Janice Kidwell, a story from the American Revolutionary War by Gordon Udell as well as our regular reports from Meg McLaughlin and Janice Kidwell.

Happy Reading !
Your Island Editor
Lynne Fletcher

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Indigenous Acknowledgement

Submitted by Anne Smith
BCGS Membership #5910

When I signed on as Secretary following our first meeting I asked Yvette why we don't do an Indigenous Acknowledgment at the start of our meetings. She wasn't sure, but was also curious. For the April 2024 meeting I requested it be added to the agenda where I made a little presentation about why I believed it was important to start our meetings with an acknowledgment. There was a robust conversation and a motion made to include an indigenous acknowledgment at the start of our meetings and to strike a committee to work towards creating one for our website and other media. In the Summer Yvette, Judy and I met having found examples of various other acknowledgments. We worked to create an acknowledgment that recognized that many of our members are from all over BC, and in fact globally.

Some of our members might be wondering why we need to do an indigenous acknowledgment. Where do we draw the line for atrocities committed throughout history and around the world, to ancestors that we may very well be researching. My answer is that we are researching on the land on which recent atrocities have been committed.

The eloquent Senator, Murray Sinclair, who recently passed in the beginning of November over saw the incredible process of the National Truth and Reconciliation Commission was asked many, many times why can't indigenous peoples just "get over" the residential school experience? He responded "Why can you ALWAYS remember this? Because this is about memorializing those people who have been victims of a great wrong. Why don't you tell the United States to get over 9/11? Why don't you tell this country to get over all the veterans who died in the World Wars instead of honouring them once a year?"

An acknowledgment is a tradition that dates back centuries for indigenous people, but for many people, officially recognizing the territory or lands we stand on is a fairly new concept. However it is one that many indigenous people say marks a small but essential step towards reconciliation.

Its purpose is to recognize that, as settlers and as people who are not part of First Nations or Indigenous groups, we are here where they have lived for time immemorial. In many parts of Canada, even as close as Comox, there is significant and hard evidence that the indigenous peoples were here prior to the pyramids being built.

Land acknowledgments have become increasingly common in non-indigenous spaces in the last few years, especially since the Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC) on residential schools released its 94 calls to action in 2015.

Indigenous Acknowledgement

"Many organizations, libraries, governments and schools boards are all thinking about what we need to do to respond to the TRC. It's about thinking about what happened in the past and what changes can be made going forward in order to further the reconciliation process" and to that end the BCGS has incorporated a traditional acknowledgment in their meetings and their website which aims to acknowledge the cultural diversity of the indigenous peoples in BC, and Canada.

Our acknowledgment reads:

The BCGS would like to acknowledge the ceded and unceded Indigenous ancestral territories of BC and Canada. We are grateful for the opportunity to learn the history, culture and traditions of the First Nations Peoples, alongside our personal investigations of familial settler history, and encourage everyone to reflect on the Indigenous history of the lands where they reside.

ON OUR COVER . . .

*Vice Regal Piper Kenneth Wilson (centre) speaks to WW2 Spitfire Pilot George Brewster at the event "**Honouring Commonwealth Airmen**"*

On October 28, 2023, V.R. Piper Kenneth Wilson along with members of the 676 Air Cadet Squadron, and active Air Force personnel lead a procession to the war graves plot at Royal Oak Burial Park in Victoria, BC to honour Commonwealth Aircrew from the Second World War. George Brewster, a WW2 Spitfire Pilot recited poetry, and the Act of Remembrance.

This event had been organized by Music for Veterans Project, and the Royal Commonwealth Society Vancouver Island. As part of the service, music composed by 11 young people to honour and remember 11 Commonwealth Airmen who lost their lives in training, or when serving in non-combat roles during WW2. A recording of their pieces was played, and copies of the unique music placed on the graves of those airmen. The young composers were students of music teacher Emily Armour, who set up the Music for Veterans program.

The 11 airmen remembered include:

FL Walter George Deveson RCAF, Sgt Robert Ernest Luckock RAF, FO Thomas Henry Caulkin RCAF, WO II William Benjamin Bailey RCAF, Cpl Lorne Emerson Dixon RCAF, Sgt George Stanley Burt Newman RCAF, Sgt William Baird RCAF, PO Anthony Lawrence RAF, Sgt Richard Roland Thomas Christy RCAF, PO Lynn Pearson Fraser RCAF, PO Charles George Fox RAF.

More info at: www.musicforveteransproject.com/ottawa2033-1

HOLTEN CANADIAN WAR CEMETERY PROJECT

PTE. GEOFFREY CLARENCE OHR

JULY 20, 1925 – APRIL 28, 1945

Submitted by Janice Kidwell,
BCGS Member #5033

Pte. Geoffrey Clarence Ohr was the son of Henry and Edith Lily (Blades) Ohr of Vancouver, B.C. Geoffrey had two brothers and four sisters. The 1931 Vancouver census lists the family as living on Gladstone Street in Vancouver. Geoffrey is 5 years old. His father's profession is as a butcher.

Geoffrey attended Tecumseh Elementary School and John Oliver High School in Vancouver and was a member of the United Church.

Geoffrey enlisted and his Attestation Papers were signed October 21, 1943 at the Central Station X1 Recruiting District Depot in Vancouver. He was 18 years old. Geoffrey would serve with the Canadian Scottish Regiment, R.C.I.C. (Royal Canadian Infantry Corps); his Regimental number was K/606.

Geoffrey worked as a Construction helper for Dominion Bridge Co. in Vancouver and at the time of enlistment he had worked there for 1½ years.

Pte. Ohr had the traditional examinations, tests and vaccines and was deemed fit for service.

On November 4, 1943 Pte. Ohr was Taken Off Service from No. 11 District Depot and transferred to a major military training camp in Red Deer, Alberta referred to as the A-20 Army Camp. Further training was held Feb. 26, 1944 and April 11, 1944, both at the same training camp.



On April 11, 1944 Pte. Ohr qualified as a Class 111 Driver for specialized vehicles. On April 19, 1944 Pte. Ohr was granted Class 111 Vocational Training School for training as a cook.

On May 19, 1944 Pte. Ohr went to Vernon and on June 20, 1944 went to Gordon Head. which is located on Vancouver Island.

On November 30, 1944 Pte. Ohr embarked in Quebec; arriving in the UK in early December. On February 12, 1945 Pte. Ohr emplaned in the UK and deplaned in North West Europe the same day.

HOLTEN CANADIAN WAR CEMETERY PROJECT

Private Geoffrey Clarence Ohr was Killed in Action in Germany on April 28, 1945. He was 19 years old. A temporary burial took place at Wettringen St. Josephs House V 7302 cemetery in Germany.

On May 29, 1945 a Canadian message was dispensed to the family and on June 8, 1945 a Royal Message was dispensed to the family.


On June 25, 1946 Private Ohr's father received a letter stating that his son's remains had been carefully and respectfully reburied at Holten Canadian War Cemetery. The gravesite was IX.H.9. A temporary cross had been installed and once a permanent headstone had taken place the family would be notified.

Pte. Ohr received the following medals:
1939-45 STAR,
France and Germany STAR,
War Medal
Canadian Volunteer Service Medal with clasp.

Private Ohr's father received his son's medals including the Defence Medal; his mother received the Memorial Cross.

Vancouver Man Killed In Action

Pte. Clarence Geoffrey Ohr, 19, son of Mr. and Mrs. Henry Ohr, 3331 Windsor, was killed on April 28, in action with the 1st Canadian Scottish.



He enlisted in November, 1943, went overseas last December and had been at the front since February. Born in Vancouver, he attended Tecumseh and John Oliver High schools and was employed by David Spencer Ltd. He leaves two brothers and four sisters, all of Vancouver.

PTE. C. G. OHR.



Pte. Ohr had purchased a \$100.00 Seventh Victory Loan which was given to his mother.

HOLTEN CANADIAN WAR CEMETERY PROJECT

War Service:

Canada: October 21, 1943 – November 30, 1944

U.K. December 1, 1944 – February 12, 1945

N.W. Europe: February 13, 1945 – April 28, 1945

Total qualifying service was 556 days; overseas service was 134 days plus a War Service Gratuity.



GRAVE INSCRIPTION

K606 PRIVATE
G.C. OHR
CANADIAN SCOTTISH REGIMENT
28TH APRIL 1945 AGE 19

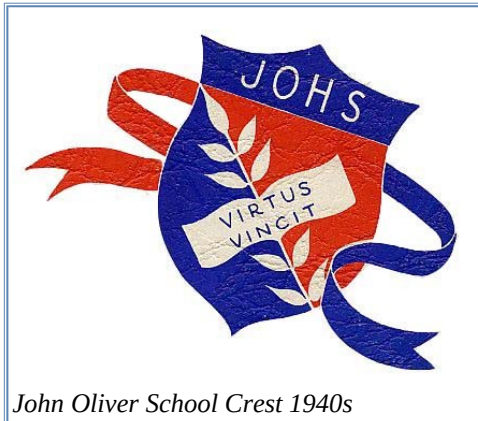
LOVED AND LONGED FOR ALWAYS
BY DAD AND MOM
TWO BROTHERS
AND FOUR SISTERS

Private Ohr is Commemorated on page 551 of the Second World War Book of Remembrance. This page is displayed in the Memorial Chamber of the Peace Tower in Ottawa on November 19.

Pte. Ohr has been remembered in the Scotland National War Memorial Index 1939-1945

HOLTEN CANADIAN WAR CEMETERY PROJECT

Pte. Ohr has also been remembered on the John Oliver Roll of Honour which is located in the foyer of the school.



John Oliver School Crest 1940s



Newspaper Notices

- May 14, 1945, page 7 Vancouver Sun and page 9 in the Province, GC Ohr severely wounded.
- May 15, 1945 – obituary notice
- May 18, 1945, page 8. Vancouver Sun – G.C. Ohr died of wounds
- May 19, 1945, page 7, Province. C Ohr died of wounds

Geographical Feature

Private Geoffrey Ohr has been honoured with a British Columbia Geographical Feature - Ohr Creek. Ohr Creek flows west into the Chilako River, which is located in the Cariboo Land District. It is named to remember Geoffrey C. Ohr, K/606 of the Canadian Scottish R.C.I.C. Ohr enlisted in Vancouver, B.C. and was the son of Henry and E. Lily Ohr, of Vancouver. Ohr died in active service on 28 April 1945 at age 19. It was adopted 6 February 1987 as was required by Water Management Branch, Prince George.

Sources

- www.ancestry.com
- B.C. Archives <https://search-collections.royalbcmuseum.bc.ca/Genealogy>
- <https://albertaonrecord.ca/20-army-camp>
- <https://canadianfallen.ca/>
- BC Geographical Names – Province of British Columbia <https://apps.gov.bc.ca/pub/bcgnws/web/>

HOLTEN CANADIAN WAR CEMETERY PROJECT

LIEUTENANT FRANK RICHARD PERRETT

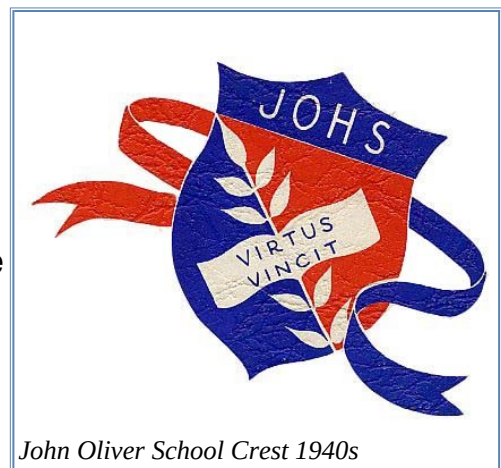
August 31, 1921 – April 25, 1945

Submitted by Janice Kidwell
BCGS Member #5033

Lieutenant Frank Richard Perrett was born August 31, 1921 in Vernon, B.C. to parents: Roy and Bessie Ada (Hutchings) Perrett of Vancouver, B.C. In the 1931 census the family was living on East 32nd Avenue in Vancouver.

Frank was a member of the Church of England and attended Windsor United Church located in Vancouver.

Frank's schooling took place at Sir Richard McBride Elementary School and John Oliver High School where Frank finished Grade 12 at the age of 16. He had also taken Accountancy courses at LaSalle College in Vancouver. His hobbies were reading – mainly short stories - and music - as he played both the trumpet and piano. While at John Oliver he wrote the cheer "Come on Jayo, we're rooting for you; we're for the good old red and the blue..." Frank also played an integral part of the school's drama production which in 1938 went to the Victoria Drama Festival for the first time.



Frank enlisted September 15, 1939 in Vancouver with his Attestation Papers being signed the same day. He was 18 years old. Noted in his application was that he drove both a car and a motorcycle – Class 111 license - and had some experience in leadership in school organizations. He had also worked as a paint clerk at David Spencer Ltd. in Vancouver. His Trade was listed as a Professional Musician. Frank had the traditional medical examinations, tests and vaccines.

Lt. Perrett served with The Seaforth Highlanders of Canada; his Regimental number was K52331. The Seaforth Highlanders went overseas in December 1939 but because of his age Lt. Perrett was held back and spent the winter of 1939-40 at Currie Barracks in Calgary (Canadian Infantry Training Centre) as he was not permitted to go overseas. In June 1941 Lt. Perrett was deemed as a qualified and classified motorcycle orderly, Class 111. He also spent time in Kingston, Ontario.

Lt. Perrett completed officers' training at Gordon Head in Victoria in 1942 and served as intelligence officer of the Seaforths as well as commanding officer of the scout and sniper platoon. During this time Frank was remembered "as a tall, good-looking, likeable and happy-go-lucky guy".

HOLTEN CANADIAN WAR CEMETERY PROJECT

Summary of Lt. Perrett's abilities: superior learning ability, Grade 12 education, clerking experience, instructional work in signals and basic training. He had excellent stability and was pleasant, alert and ambitious. It was suggested that Lt. Perrett would be excellent officer material and would make a good Regimental Signal Officer.

Lt. Perrett embarked from Canada during the second week of December 1942, disembarking at U.K. December 18, 1942 where he went for further military overseas training.

Lt. Perrett left the U.K. June 28, 1943 and disembarked at Italy on July 13, 1943. He was wounded in December 1943 at the time of the Morro River Battle of Ortona. Lt. Perrett was awarded the 1939-45 STAR. Lt. Perrett also fought in the Sicily and Italy Campaigns.

Lt. Perrett was wounded April 24, 1945 and listed as Killed In Action in Holland on April 25, 1945 – not that long before the Seaforths triumphantly entered Amsterdam on May 8 to liberate that city to crowds of cheering Dutch. Lt. Perrett was 23 years old.

LIEUTENANT
F.R. PERRETT
THE SEAFORTH HIGHLANDERS
OF CANADA
25th APRIL 1945 AGE 23

+

TO LIVE IN THE HEARTS
OF THOSE WE LOVE
IS NOT TO DIE



Lt. Perrett was buried at Holten Canadian War Cemetery, The Netherlands. His Grave Reference is I.D.6.

HOLTEN CANADIAN WAR CEMETERY PROJECT

Lt. Perrett received the following medals:

1939-45 STAR, France-Germany STAR, Defence Medal,
 CVS Medal and Clasp (awarded January 10, 1944), War Medal,
 Italy STAR.

The Memorial Bar was given to Lt. Perrett's father; the Memorial Cross was given to Lt. Perrett's mother.



Lt. Perrett is remembered on the "Roll of Honour: WW II 1939-1945" for John Oliver High School Students "Who Died in Service for Their Country." This plaque is mounted on the wall in



John Oliver Remembrance Day Display

the foyer of the school. There is also a Remembrance Window on the first floor and entrance at John Oliver which among other items displays the school crest, newspaper clippings and photos.



HOLTEN CANADIAN WAR CEMETERY PROJECT

Lt. Perrett is commemorated on page 554 of the Second World War Book of Remembrance.

Newspaper Clippings

- Vancouver Sun, May 14, 1945, page 7 and Vancouver Province, May 14, 1945, page 9 - Lt. Frank Perrett dies of wounds
- Vancouver Sun, May 23, 1945, page 6, Lt. Frank Perrett dies of wounds. Article contains a photo.
- The Vancouver Province, May 30, 1945, page 6, R.F. Perrett killed in Holland. Article includes a photo.
- The Province, June 6, 1945, page 13, R. Perrett family gives thanks for remembering them at this time.

Lt. F. R. Perrett Dies of Wounds

Lt. Frank R. Perrett, 23, son of Mr. and Mrs. Ray Perrett, 850 East Thirty-second, died April 25 of wounds suffered that



day during action in Holland. Lt. Perrett, formerly a cornet player with the High Hatters, enlisted at the outbreak of war with the Seaforth Highlanders. He fought through the campaigns of Sicily and Italy and was wounded in December, 1943, at the Morro River Battle. He was transferred to Holland just a month before he was killed.

Vancouver Officer Killed In Holland

Lieut. Frank Richards Perrett, son of Mr. and Mrs. Roy Perrett, 850 East Thirty-second, and vet-



eran of the entire Central Mediterranean campaign, was killed in action with the Seaforths in Holland on April 25.

Lieut. Perrett was with the paint department of David Spencers' Ltd. before enlist-

ing in 1939 and won his commission in 1942. He went overseas shortly afterward to join the Seaforths. He served in both Sicily and Italy with the Vancouver Highland unit, and was wounded in Italy in December, 1943, at the time of the Battle of Ortona.

He was educated at John Oliver High School.

Sources

- www.ancestry.com
- www.royalbcmuseum.bc.ca > bcarchives
- <https://www.veterans.gc.ca/en/remembrance/memorials/canadian-virtual-war-memorial/detail/2227830>
- <https://canadianfallen.ca/>
- Roll of Honour Plaque and Memorial Window - John Oliver High School, Vancouver, B.C.
- Book: The Story of South Vancouver and John Oliver High School by Ken MacLeod ISBN-978-1-77084-243-4

HOLTEN CANADIAN WAR PROJECT

PRIVATE EDWIN LEVI EMERY

May 18, 1922 – April 21, 1945

Submitted by Janice Kidwell
BCGS Membership #5033

Private Edwin Levi Emery was born May 18, 1922 in Lake Demay, Camrose County, Alberta to parents Ernest Wilbur and Rosa Alvina (nee Nelson) Emery of Blackpool, B.C. Edwin's parents were both born in Minnesota, USA. This was a large family with Edwin having nine siblings. The family belonged to the Church of England.

Prior to enlisting Edwin lived in Alberta from May 18, 1922 to November 1922. From 1922-1943 Edwin lived in B.C., working in both logging and farming.

The 1931 Census shows the family living in Blackpool, Cariboo South Unorganized Territory, B.C. The census shows Edwin's mother and six children. Edwin's father had died in 1929.

Erwin reported for NRMA Service on October 14, 1943 in Vancouver, B.C. This was located at the Office Of the Commanding Central Station, No.X1 Recruiting Detachment. His Service Number was K/4670. Edwin had the traditional medical tests, x-rays and vaccines.

Declaration made on Attestation on August 14, 1944 at Recruiting Sub-Station in Victoria, B.C. Edwin was living in Blackpool, B.C. at this time. Edwin's occupation when enlisted was as a farmer and that he was employed by his mother.

Places where Pte. Emery served were: Canadian Army – XI District Depot, Canadian Army – A-27, Central Reconnaissance Training Centre. and Royal Canadian Army: 42 Anti-Aircraft Battery (27 AA Regiment).

In mid August, 1944 Pte. Emery was attached to General Service. On August 16, 1944 Private Emery was appointed Lance-Bombardier which was relinquished September 24, 1944. Training took place in Dundurn (south of Saskatoon), Saskatchewan, Esquimalt, B.C. and Debert, Nova Scotia.



HOLTEN CANADIAN WAR PROJECT



Canadian Scottish Badge

On November 21, 1944 Pte. Emery left Canada for the U.K. On January 28, 1945 Pte. French embarked in the U.K. and disembarked January 31, 1945 in North West Europe.

In May 1945 Pte Emery's mother received a letter dated May 7, 1945 informing her of her son's death which took place in Holland.

Service:

Total: 249 days; qualifying eligible = 143 days.

War Service Gratuity

- 249 days
- 1st enlistment: Aug. 16, 1944; SOS April 21, 1945 = 249 days.
- Western Hemisphere: 97; o/s 152 = 249 days
- NRMA Service: (K607663) Oct. 14, 1943 – August 15, 1944 97; o/s 152 = 249 days TOS Nov. 21, 1944 SOS April 21, 1945

K-4670
E.L. EMERY
CANADIAN SCOTTISH REGIMENT
21ST APRIL 1945 AGE 22
HOPE FOR A RESURRECTION



HOLTEN CANADIAN WAR PROJECT

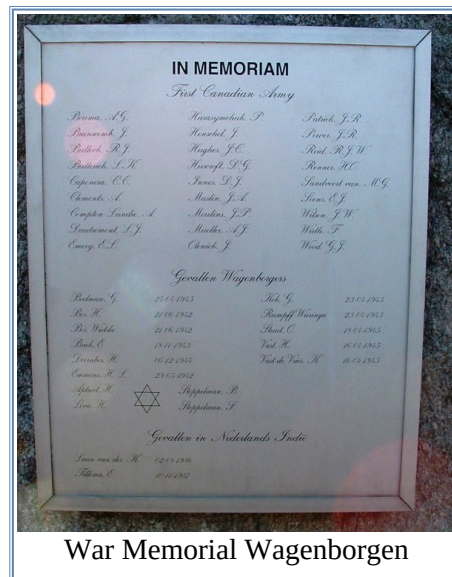
Private Emery's name is listed on the cenotaph in Kamloops, B.C. His name also appears on the War Memorial Wagenborgen in Wagenborgen, Netherlands as well as being remembered in the Scotland, National Memorial Index 1914-1945.



Photo courtesy of Marika Pirie



Photo courtesy of Marika Pirie



War Memorial Wagenborgen

Geographical Features

Private Edwin Levi Emery has two British Columbia Geographical Features named in his honour- Edwin Creek and Emery Lake. Both Geographical Names were adopted on 21 December 1977 and both are in the same relative location. Edwin Creek flows west into Akehurst Lake, west side of North Thompson River between Bonaparte Lake and Little Fort, Kamloops Division Yale Land District. Emery Lake drains west into the head of Akehurst Lake, west side of North Thompson River between Bonaparte Lake and Little Fort, Kamloops, Division Yale Land District.

Newspaper Notices:

The Vancouver Province, Monday May 14, 1945, page 9, KIA.

HOLTEN CANADIAN WAR PROJECT

Sources:

- Ancestry.com
- B.C. Archives
- BC Geographical Names: www2.gov.bc.ca › content › celebrating-british-columbia › historic-places
- Canadian Virtual War Memorial
- Find A Grave
- National War Memorial Index 1914-1945
- Newspapers.com
- Traces of War
- War Memorial Wagenborgen

[Do Something . . .](#)

Some days, when you sit down to work on your genealogical research, you find yourself just wasting time by mindlessly looking at online sites for one thing or another.

To get started, and avoid these time wasting activities try one of these ideas:

- ▶ make a list of research tasks you wish to accomplish;
- ▶ turn your internet connection off;
- ▶ make a list of documents to transcribe;
- ▶ make a list of “done” ancestors that should be reviewed;
- ▶ set a schedule of when to go back and check a site for an update to a database (daily is probably excessive);
- ▶ lists in general are good.
- ▶ Chasing some research that leads down one of those “rabbit holes” can be a good thing—sometimes. But it’s easy to waste an inordinate amount of time looking at half-baked, uncooked leads on your computer, when you’ve got three perfectly good cookies sitting on the counter.

The only problem is that you have to get off your chair to get them.

HOLTEN CANADIAN WAR CEMETERY PROJECT

CORPORAL WILLIAM MATHER

September 11, 1920 – April 22, 1945

Submitted by Janice Kidwell
BCGS Membership #5033

Corporal William Mather was born September 11, 1920 in Golden, British Columbia to parents William and Mabel (Smith) Mather. William's parents had lived in Birmingham, England and before immigrating to Canada had owned a dry good store and operated a milk delivery service.

The 1931 Census lists the family as living in Field, Kootenay East Unorganized Territory. William's father's occupation was listed as a Postmaster; William was listed as a student and was one of six children in this family.

William enlisted July 3, 1940 in Golden, B.C. and was living in Donald, B.C. at that time. As is custom, William had the traditional medical exams, x-rays and vaccines. His religion was listed as Church of England; his Trade was listed as a warehouse shipper/labourer. William had attended school up to Grade 9.

William served with The British Columbia Regiment, Duke of Connaught's Own Rifles, Royal Canadian 28th Armoured Corps Canadian Active Service Force. His Regimental Number was K38057.

William received training at CATS (Canadian Army Training School) in Hamilton, Ontario in April 1942.

July 8, 1940 – TOS The B.C. Regiment; Duke of Connaught's Own Rifles – 28th Armoured Regiment, Canadian Active Service Force.

In May 1941, Corporal Mather spent time in Nanaimo and in July spent time on command to Anti-Aircraft School in Pt. Petre, Ontario. William carried on with various stays and on December 1, 1941 proceeded on command to #7 Brigade Carrier School in Debert, Nova Scotia to attend Carrier courses.

On March 12, 1942 William was attached to CATC (Canadian Armoured Training Centre) in Hamilton, Ontario and on May 30, 1942 William qualified as a Qualified Driver Class 111. On August 5, 1942 Corporal Mather was granted a Good Conduct Badge. On August 21, 1942 William sailed from Debert, Nova Scotia and disembarked in the United Kingdom.



HOLTEN CANADIAN WAR CEMETERY PROJECT

Further courses and training took place with Corporal Mather being successful, example being qualified as a Mechanic 'C'. From March 1943 to October 1, 1945 Corporal Mather received pay raises and was appointed Trooper "C", Lance Corporal and Corporal. On January 15, 1944 William was awarded CVSM and Clasp. Later William was appointed Acting Corporal and later Corporal.

July 22, 1944 – embarked in U.K. Corporal Mather was Killed in Action on April 22, 1945 in the Field in Germany. William was temporarily buried in Friesoythe, Oldenburg Cemetery. William's mother received a telegram dated May 3, 1945 advising her of her son's death. William's mother received a letter dated June 25, 1946 stating that her son's remains had been carefully and respectfully reburied at Holten Canadian War Cemetery. He had a temporary marker but a permanent marker would follow and that she would receive a follow-up letter at a later date. His grave reference at Holten is Gr 11 Row A Plot 11.

Corporal Mather received the following medals:

1939-45 Star, France & Germany Star, Defence Medal,
War Medal 1939-45, CVSM and Clasp.

William's mother received her son's medals as well as a Memorial Cross.

Corporal Mather's service was:

Canada: July 3, 1940 to August 21, 1942,

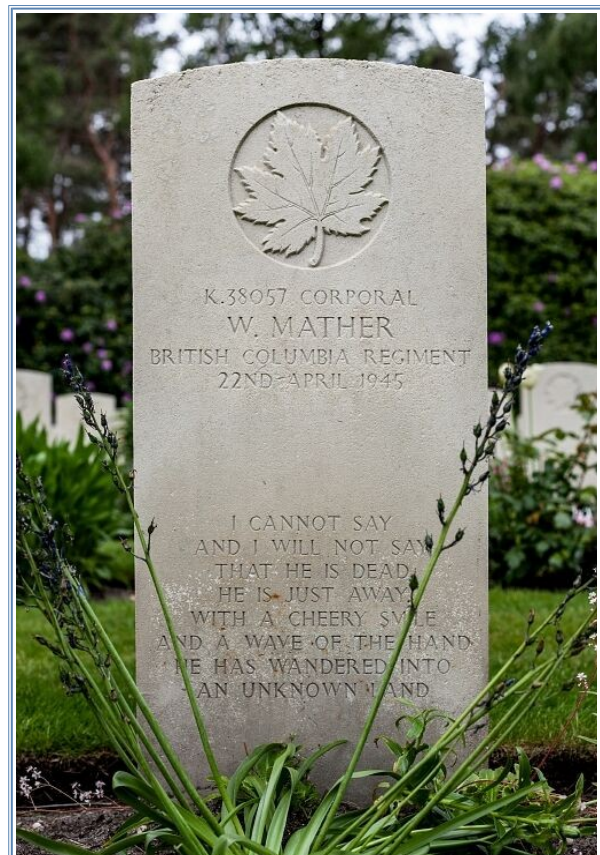
U.K.: August 22, 1942 to July 22, 1944,

Northwest Europe: July 23, 1944 to
April 22, 1945.

His total qualifying service was 1755 days.

K38057
W. MATHER
BRITISH COLUMBIA REGIMENT
22ND APRIL 1945

I CAN NOT SAY
AND I WILL NOT SAY,
THAT HE IS DEAD
HE IS JUST AWAY
WITH A CHEERY SMILE
AND A WAVE OF THE HAND
HE HAS WANDERED INTO
AN UNKNOWN LAND



HOLTEN CANADIAN WAR CEMETERY PROJECT



Golden War Memorial Cairn

The Golden War Memorial Cairn, located in Golden Park is dedicated to those who died in WW1, WW11 and the Korean War and lists the names of citizens who were lost during World War 11. A photo of this cairn shows William's name listed as well as another soldier who is buried at Holten Canadian War Cemetery – Trooper William Walso Lotosky.

B.C. Geographical Feature

Corporal Mather has a Geographical Feature named after him – Mount Mather. Mount Mather is located north of the junction of Blaeberry River and Split Creek, north of Golden, in the Kootenay Land District. The actual wording on the B.C. Geographical Feature website is:

Named to remember Army Corporal William Mather, K38057, from Donald. Killed in action April 22, 1945. The naming was adopted 5 July 1961.

There was an article on page 12 in the May 15, 1945 edition of the Vancouver Province which included a list of men who had been Killed in Action. Amongst the names was Corporal William Mather.

Sources

- Ancestry.com
- B.C. Archives
- B.C. Geographical Names Office – Province of B.C.
- Canadian Fallen
- Canadian Virtual War Memorial
- Cairn located in Golden, B.C
- Find A Grave
- Traces of War
- Newspapers.com...

HOLTEN CANADIAN WAR CEMETERY PROJECT

CORPORAL ALFRED FRENCH

July 21, 1918 – APRIL 24, 1945

Submitted by Janice Kidwell
BCGS Member #5033

Alfred French was born July 21, 1918 in Vancouver, British Columbia to parents William James and Henrietta Westwater (Morgan) French. Pte. French had six siblings – 5 sisters and one brother. The 1931 Census shows family living at 838 Homer Street, Vancouver. Census lists William and Henrietta and seven children.

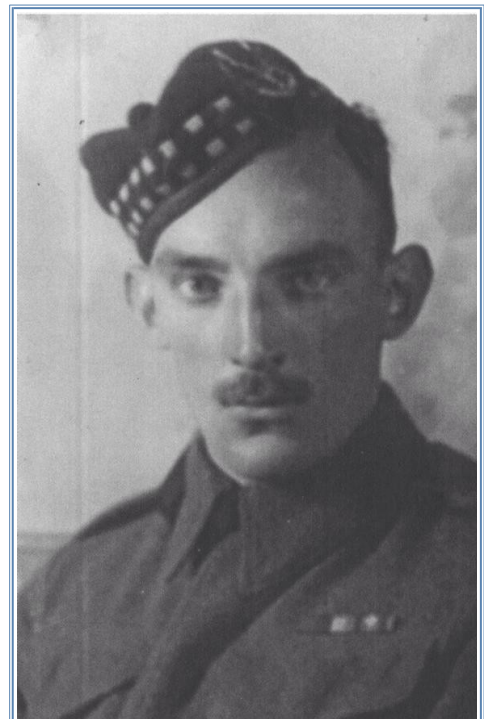
Alfred enlisted February 26, 1940 at the Seaforth Armouries in Vancouver, B.C. Alfred would serve with the Seaforth Highlanders of Canada; his Regimental Number was K53191. Private French had the traditional examinations, tests and vaccinations. Corporal French was single; his religion was listed as Presbyterian. His Trade was listed as a Sheet Metal Worker. Corporal French had attended Kitsilano High School in Vancouver for 1.5 years.

On March 5, 1940 Corporal French was attached to the Infantry Training Centre in Toronto and from March 6, to July 14, 1940, was based at Canadian Forces Base in Borden, Ontario.

On July 16, 1940 Corporal French embarked at Halifax, Nova Scotia and left the next day for overseas.

On October 22, 1940 Corporal French was on transfer to the Seaforth Highlanders. From January 1, 1942 to February 1, 1942 Corporal French was on Special Duty. On February 26, 1942 Corporal French was awarded one Good Conduct Badge.

From August 23, 1942 – August 30, 1942 Corporal French was attached to F.A.P. (For All Purposes) 2CIB (Carrier School) In December 1942 he was qualified as a Driver. May 29, 1943 – qualified as Driver Mechanic (T) Group 'C'. That same day Corporal French was granted Trade's pay as Driver Mechanic (T), Group C. June 16, 1943 he was granted Tradesmen's Rate of Pay.



HOLTEN CANADIAN WAR CEMETERY PROJECT

January 21, 1944 – awarded CVSM with clasp, on June 21, 1944 – awarded 1939-45 STAR

On September 16, 1944 Corporal French was wounded but remained on duty.

March 10, 1945 – embarked at Italy, disembarked in France March 12, 1945.
Corporal French was Killed In Action on April 24, 1945 at the age of 26 years old.

On May 2, 1945 – Alfred's father was notified of his son's death. A temporary burial took place in East Holland at the 2CIB Cem1/25,000 sh 3703 936024 Cemetery.

On May 4, 1945 a letter was sent to Pte. French's father from A.E. Walford, Major – General, Adjutant-General, giving regrets of their son's loss.

Corporal French received the following medals:

(1939-1945 STAR, French and Germany STAR, Defence Medal,
War Medal, CVSM and Clasp. and Memorial Cross to Alfred's mother.
Italy STAR



Service:

Western Hemisphere: 142 Days;
Overseas: 1743 days for a total of 1885 days.

Canada:	February 26, 1940 – July 16, 1940
U.K.	July 17, 1940 – June 11, 1943
Italy:	June 12, 1943 – March 10, 1945
N.W. Europe	March 11, 1945 – April 24, 1945



Italy STAR

HOLTEN CANADIAN WAR CEMETERY PROJECT

In Corporal French's military file was a letter - in English and dated April 10, 1948 written by a man who had adopted Alfred's grave. This man had asked that his letter be forwarded to Pte. Alfred's father which was done.

Cpl. French received the following Decorations:

- DECORATIONS – C.A.S.F (Canadian Active Service Force)., K-53191,
- Pte - Seaforth Highlanders of Canada C.I.C. (Canadian Infantry Corps)

Cpl. French received the following award: The KING has been graciously pleased to approve the award of Mentions in Dispatches, in recognition of gallant and distinguished services.

Cpl. French is commemorated on page 516 of the Second World War Book of Remembrance which is displayed on November 1st of each year.

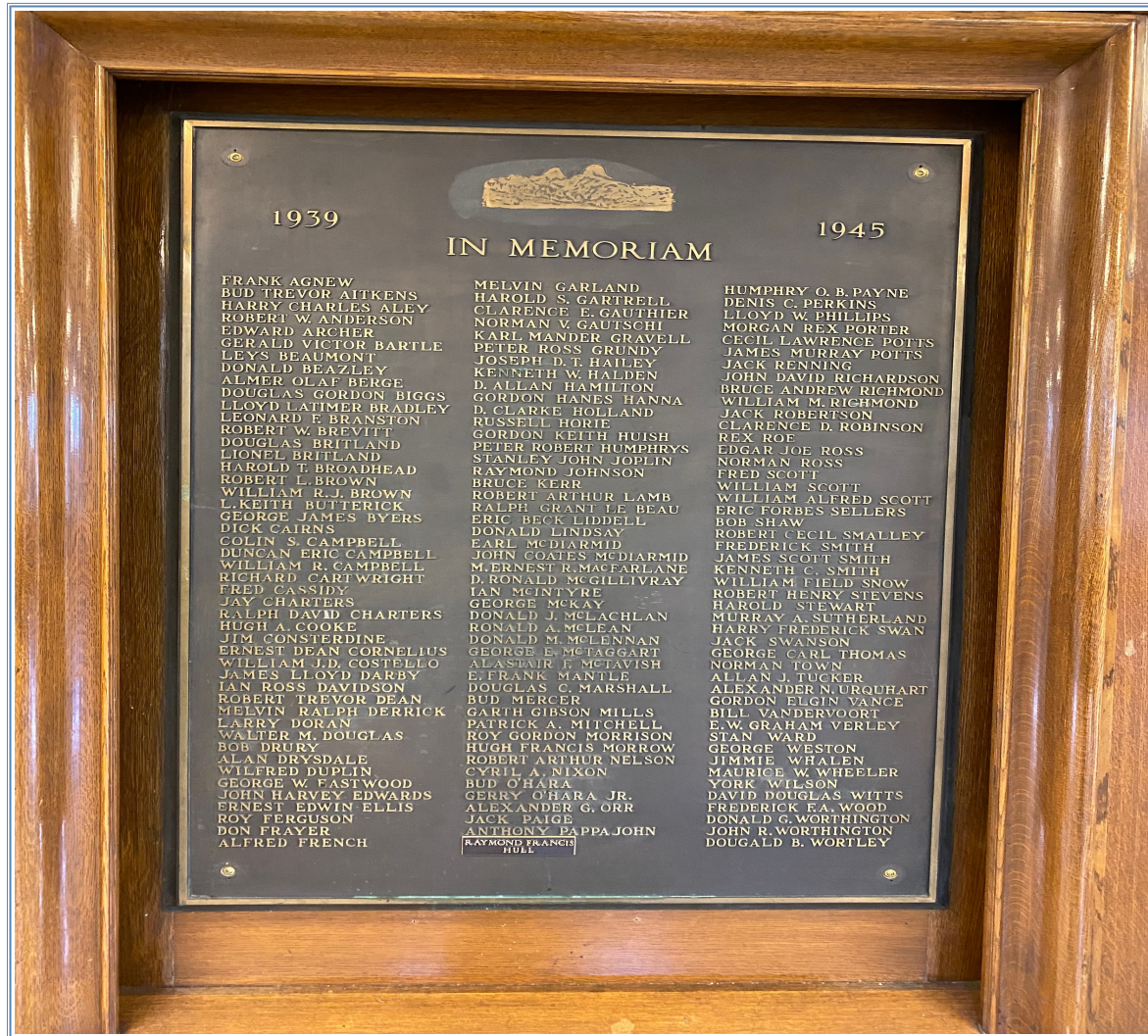


Defence Medal.NE Europe



K 53191 CORPORAL
A. FRENCH
THE SEAFORTH HIGHLANDERS
OF CANADA
24TH APRIL 1945

HOLTEN CANADIAN WAR CEMETERY PROJECT



Kitsilano School. Brass Plaque

Sources:

- www.ancestry.com
- [BC Archives http://search-collections.royalbcmuseum.bc.ca/Genealogy](http://search-collections.royalbcmuseum.bc.ca/Genealogy)
- <http://canadianfallen.ca>
- Canadian Virtual War

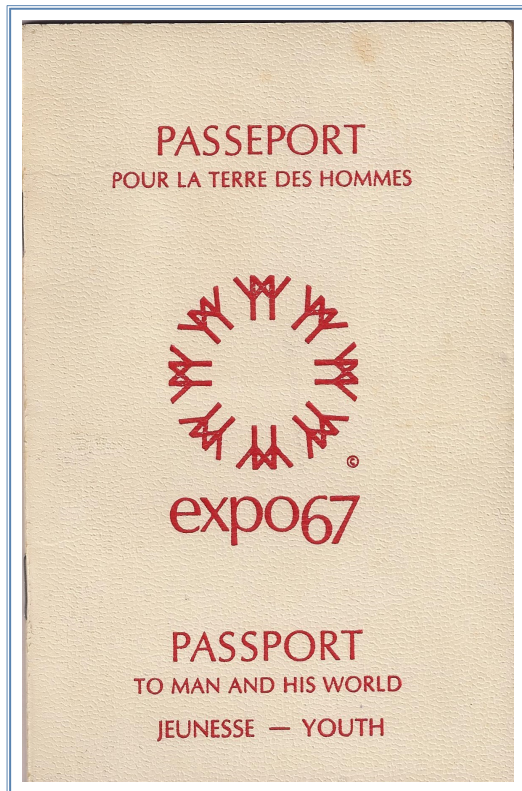
Memorials:

- Find A Grave
- Google
- Newspapers.com

GENEALOGY ON THE ROAD

Submitted by Meg McLaughlin
Member #3847

In the past few months, my time on the road hasn't involved genealogical research. Now that I think of it though, the places I visited brought me closer to my own history as well as that of a branch of my family. In September I visited Seattle. I know that doesn't really count as an exciting trip for people from the West Coast, but the city wasn't a common place destination for me. I didn't grow up in BC and I found it interesting to tour places like Pike's Place Market and take tours of the historic parts of the city including one of underground Seattle. I love a good underground tour.



It was the Space Needle though, that really reminded me of my own history. Looking at all those posters from the '60s while waiting to board one of the elevators to go to the top reminded me of Expo '67. I visited that Worlds Fair multiple times as at that time I lived in Pointe Claire, a Montreal suburb. But there was

an even greater reminder of my own history to come. It was a surprise to find a Canadian airplane in front of the entrance Museum of Flight in Tukwila. The aircraft was familiar too, a Trans-Canada Air Lines Super Constellation. I'd spent lots of hours on Super Constellations and had probably been kicked off of them too as we most often flew standby when my Dad worked for TCA which later became Air Canada.

GENEALOGY ON THE ROAD

At the end of September, I went on another trip, this time with my book club. This trip was to the Sunshine Coast, another first for me. I obviously haven't spent much time exploring the West Coast. Most of it was new to me, although I did recognize Molly's Reach when we stopped briefly in Gibsons. Sadly it was closed and currently it appears there are no plans to reopen the restaurant.



I really should have been to the area before. My family had distant relatives on my mother's side who lived somewhere on the Sunshine Coast and I believe that one of my brothers actually visited them. You'd think I'd be eager to find out more about these family connections but I was more interested in learning about my English connections. Besides, I had already pumped them for information one time when they were making a family visit in North Vancouver. Too bad I didn't make notes then but that was at the beginning of my journey into family history.

Even as I got further into genealogical research, I haven't looked into these relatives. I also haven't added them to my family tree and I'm supposed to be concentrating on adding collateral lines to my tree to aid in making DNA connections. Well, there's a neglected family line I can look into when I head back to Salt Lake City.

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.



The Cotehele Garland
in Cornwall

UDELL FAMILY

Our Family in The American Revolutionary War

Submitted by Gordon Udell
BCGS Member #5905

The American Revolutionary War started because of concerns over taxation in British North America (BNA). What you don't hear often is that taxation rates in Britain were higher than in BNA, partly to support the development of BNA. My ancestors were directly involved in the disruptive events of the revolutionary war. It is said that approximately a third of the population were in support of a revolution, a third against and a third could have gone either way. In ways my ancestors reflect that dichotomy with some serving on the British side and some on the American side. The marriage of Eunice Spencer and John Udell in Pickering, Ontario in 1840 united these two sides.

My great-grandfathers who served included James Brown (British), Solomon Wixson (USA); Abraham Bennet (USA), Gerardus Townsend (USA), Gerrit Ostrander (USA) and Volkert Van Den Bergh (USA). My wife's great grandfather, John Foy (UEL), also served. My great x4 grandfather, Mathew Udell, and his son John Udell "the hunter" were assigned to protect Canada at the end of the Revolutionary War. This article will briefly recount some of their stories.

So, my great-grandparents, John Eli Udell and Margaret Degeer, had moved from the Pickering and Markham area to Orillia, Ontario and raised their family in that community. Margaret's ancestors had moved to Ontario from the Albany, New York area. Margaret's parents had separated and she was named after her mother's family. Margaret had several great-grandfathers who served during the Revolutionary War. The first of those was Gerrit Ostrander who served¹ with the 4th Regiment of New York during the Revolutionary War. The other was Volkert Vanden Bergh who served² under the command of Stephen Schuyler's Regiment of Albany County and under Killian Van Rensselaer in his regiment.

Eunice Spencer was born in 1819 in Pickering, Ontario (Claremont, lot 18 concession 9), the daughter of George D. Spencer and Mary Ann Wixson. Just down the road lived my great-great grandfather John Udell, born 17 January 1816, the son of John Udell, "the hunter" and Margaret Brown. They were married on 23 December 1840 in Pickering by Reverend William Jenkins.

John Udell's grandfather, James Brown, had served³ with the British Navy and the British Army for at least 9 months. James is on a muster roll⁴ for the 2nd Battalion, King's Royal Regiment of New York, under the command of Major John Ross, and received on 25 April 1783 at Quebec City. I do not know if he served the rest of the

UDELL FAMILY

year. It was later that year in November that General George Washington and Governor Clinton ended the British control of New York. Soon after the regiment was disbanded.

James married Mary Marr and settled in Upper Mount Bethel, Northampton County, Pennsylvania. Margaret Brown was born⁵ on 24 November 1781. However after the end of the war “loyalists” were being treated pretty roughly in Pennsylvania, including some being hung.

James Brown was Blacklisted⁶ in Pennsylvania and therefore relocated to the Niagara region in Lower Canada in 1799. It was there that Margaret Brown met and married John Udell in about 1800. Their first two children, James and Catherine Udell, were baptized⁷ on the 21 May 1804 at Saint Mark’s Anglican Church in Niagara–on-the-Lake, Upper Canada.

James Brown petitioned for land in Upper Canada as one who had served the Crown during the America War, he received lot 34, concession 8 in Markham on the 24th of December 1801. In James’ petition he stated that he had come into the province eighteen months before the date of the petition with his wife and children ranging from 21 years and down. He brought various animals and goods with him along with a desire to settle in Markham. James Brown was born⁸ on the 25 of April 1752 in Taunton Somerset in England.

Having received land in Markham in 1801, James Brown returned to the Niagara region for some time before permanently moving to Markham in 1804. Just three years later his son in-law John Udell purchased 100 acres of lot 33 in the 3rd concession in Markham from Peter Miller. I am not sure what year that John and his family moved to York County, however he did sell lot 33 in the 2nd concession in Beverley Township, Wentworth County to William Read in 1808 and didn’t purchase the south one-half of lots 32 and 33 in the 9th concession in Pickering from Phillip Cramer until 22nd of May 1815. These lots are right at the boundary of Pickering, Markham and Uxbridge and his family congregated on properties in each of the townships around these lots. In one of these property purchases he is referred to as John Udell “the hunter”.

Eunice Spencer’s mother, Mary Ann Wixson, was born on 9 November 1802 at Scarborough, Ontario, Canada, the daughter of Joseph Wixson and Deborah Townsend, my great-great-great-great grandparents. They had relocated from New York to Ontario in 1798, why they did so I do not know.

Joseph’s father, Solomon Wixson, was born⁹ on the 10th of August 1751 in Yarmouth, Barnstable, Massachusetts. While Solomon was born in Yarmouth in 1752 his family moved to Dutchess County, New York. Solomon served with the Minute Men of New York under Captain Israel Veal’s Company and Colonel Jacobus Swartwout, in the

UDELL FAMILY

7th Regiment of the Dutchess County Militia during the Revolutionary War. He was 5 foot 7 ½" tall.

The first record of Gerardus Townsend, my 5x great grandfather, is in Orange County, New York on 13 May 1756, when Joseph Harcutt left his lands to Gerardus Townsend, if he would look after his widow Jean. Gerardus would have been around 21 years old at the time. Gerardus married Elizabeth Bennet, daughter of Abraham Bennet and Silence Hickox, around 1761, since his first child Mary was born in 1762.

Gerardus served in the early stages of the Revolution (1776-77) with Col. Albert Pawling's Regiment of New York militia. After mustering out, he moved to Pennsylvania's Wyoming Valley. This is just south of Elmira, New York.

In 1779 Colonel John Butler, along with British forces and Seneca and Cayuga allies, attacked Wyoming Valley, killing 300 of the inhabitants, leading to what was called the "Wyoming Valley Massacre". Most of the surviving inhabitants were forced out of the valley.

The following letter, signed by "Garardis Townsend", among others, begged the governor of Pennsylvania to send more troops to the valley:

"Memorial of the Inhabitants of the West Branch, Muncy, June 10th 1778. To the Hon'ble Supream Executive Council of the State of Pennsylvania: The Remonstrance of Sundry the Distress'd Inhabitants of the County of Northumberland Inhabiting the West Branch of the River Susquehanna above Muncy Hill, Humbly Sheweth: That the Repeated depradations and Horrid Murders lately committed upon the Innocent and Peaceable Inhabitants amongst us within a few weeks past is truly alarming. The Melencoly event of the 31st of May upon Loyalsock Creek oblig'd us to leave our homes and Livings and to Assemble together in large Bodys in order to Protect our wives and Infant children from becoming Victims of Savage fury, in full faith and Confidence that we should shortly meet with such suckor as would enable us to make a Vigorous Stand, that we have since frequently apply'd to the Lieutenant of the County for aid, who after using his best Endeavours has not been able to furnish us with more than seventy-three Troops of the Militia of this County to cover a Frontier of at least Forty miles in length. This supply we apprehend to be of very little use, especially as their times will be out in the midst of Harvest, and should anything more happen in the meanwhile, we are Convinced that it will be impossible to Call out the Militia of this County at any rate; that those considerations together with the very alarming event of the Murder and Captivity of thirteen of our near Neighbors and most Intimate Acquaintance this day has nearly Drove the Majority of us to Desperation, and to pray that

UDELL FAMILY

you in your Wisdom will not only order to our Immediate relief such Standing forces as will be equal to our necissitys, but that you will order such Magizeans and Stores of Provisions to be Provided as will convince the good People of this Place that such Troops are to be stationed amongst them During the War. Nothing short of your Immediate assurance of this, we are Convinc'd, will induce the People to run the farther risk of being oblig'd to move away at a more Unfavorable Season. Therefore in consideration of the premises, we beg leave to submit ourselves and Familys to your Care and Protection, not Doubting you will order us such relief as to you in your Wisdom may seem meet."

After leaving the valley, Gerardus rejoined Pawling's Regiment (serving as a private in Faulkner and Westfall's companies), which had been "levied" to serve as part of the regular Continental army, and served on the western frontier for the rest of the war.

Gerardus's regiment was involved in Sullivan's Campaign, which finally moved the British and a lot of their Iroquois allies out of the region. This occurred after the Battle of Minisink on 27 July 1779, where his in-laws, the Bennett's, fought and his brother-in-law Benjamin Bennett was killed. The battle occurred when around 120 Orange County militia, led by Captain John Hawthorne, were attacked by Joseph Brant, a captain in the British army and an Iroquois war chief.

Elizabeth Bennet's father, Captain Abraham Bennet was originally from Ridgefield, Fairfield County, Connecticut but had moved to the Warwick, New York area. He married Silence Hickox in 1737 in Connecticut. Abraham served in John Hawthorne's regiment¹⁰ during the Revolutionary War, along with six of his sons.

Solomon Wixson subsequently moved his family to the finger lakes area (Waneta Lake, Steuben County (at the time) in 1790 just after the Revolutionary War. There was still plenty of risks and hostility between the Iroquois and the settlers at that time. Joseph married Deborah Townsend on 20 May 1798 in New York state, and immediately left for Upper Canada. Abraham Bennet died in Minisink in 1790. So, in essence Solomon Wixson, Gerardus Townsend and Abraham Bennet were all living in the same general area following the Revolutionary War.

After the Revolution, Gerardus moved back to Lycoming County, where he (listed as "Gradius"), along with his son Gamaliel, and father-in-law or brother-in-law, Abraham Bennett, on the first list of taxables in Washington Township.

"Gerdeus Townsend" is shown in the 1790 census of Montgomery County, NY, which then included Chemung. Two males over 16 (Gerardus and probably son Abraham), and one male under 16 (likely Claudius) are shown, along with 4 females. Gamaliel

UDELL FAMILY

"Townsend" was next door, with one son and 4 females. In addition his wife's uncle, or younger brother, Gershom Bennet was next door to Gerardus Townsend. So father, son and uncle or brother-in-law were all neighbours.

Finally my wife's great-great-great grandfather, John Foy, son of John Foy and Mary Van Pelt was born on 1 April 1762 at Staten Island, Richmond, New York. He is listed on a muster roll¹¹ serving with the 2nd Regiment of New York in November 1882. He is shown as age 14, if this is 1782, I suspect he was actually 20 years old. In any event he is shown in those same records as arriving in Prince Edward Island in 1783. He was granted United Empire Loyalist status.

Meanwhile, my great 4x grandfather, Mathew Udell, was serving with the 19th or Green Howard's, Regiment of Foot. They had served until May 1771 in Gibraltar. He is included on a Tynemouth muster roll, dated the 22nd of February 1783 covering the period from the 25th of June to the 24th of December 1782, in Captain George Duke's company under the command of Major General Sir William Erskine Kt. The Lieutenants were Joseph Moland and Duncan Campbell.

The regiment relocated to Musselburgh in March 1783 and subsequently embarked for Canada from Monkstown, Cork in May of 1787, some four years after the American Revolutionary War. Along with Mathew was his wife, a daughter and his son John Udell. John enlisted¹² with the regiment in 1787. The regiment arrived in Quebec in July and August of the same year and established themselves at Beauport, Charlesbourg and other villages on the north shore of the St. Lawrence River. In August of the following year the Cameronian Regiment were relocated to frontier posts in Quebec. Headquarters were established at Fort St. Johns with four companies at Isle aux Noix and one at Chambley. In July of 1789 the regiment relocated to Montreal.

In August of 1790 the regiment moved into what was to become Upper Canada (Ontario). They were located in the Niagara frontier between Lake Erie and Lake Ontario with eight and a half companies at Fort Niagara, one company at Fort Erie and one at Fort Schlessler. The British officer in command at Fort Niagara during Mathew and John's stay in the area was Lieutenant Colonel Andrew Gordon of their own regiment.

In June 1792 the regiment returned to Fort St. John and Isle aux Noix in the Montreal frontier district of Lower Canada. John Udell, the son, having served 5 years with the regiment, along with his father, decided to remain in the Niagara region rather than return to Lower Canada. Simcoe was no doubt seeking to encourage such people to settle in the area.

The Cameronian Regiment subsequently relocated to Montreal in August of 1794 and to Quebec City in July of 1795. Mathew is included in a muster roll, classified as

UDELL FAMILY

a private for the full muster at Quebec on the 13th of August 1795 under the command of Major General Charles Stuart. James Green is included in this muster roll as one of the commissioned warrant officers and a military secretary with the regiment. This reinforces that this is the individual who provided a reference attached to Mathew's petition for land in Quebec in 1802.

The regiment was stationed at Chateau Richer, 15 miles down the St. Lawrence River from Quebec City. In October of 1797 three companies were located in Three Rivers. In May of 1799 the regiment returned to headquarters in Montreal with companies at Fort St. Johns and the remainder at Chambly and Montreal.

Finally, in November of 1799 the regiment boarded the transport "Asia" to Quebec City, Charlesbourg and Beauport. On the 16th of May 1800 the Cameronian Regiment left Quebec City, again on board the "Asia" bound for Halifax. From there the regiment departed for the United Kingdom on 26 September 1800. Mathew Udell was not on the ship as he was discharged¹³ from service in Halifax on the 12th of December 1800 as being "unfit for service due to age (57 years old) and infirmity.

The last known historical reference to Mathew Udell is a note to J.K. Welles at Fort William Henry. This fort is located at the mouth of the Richelieu River in Quebec. The note states:

"I am directed to inform you that His Excellency, the Commander of the Forces, has pleased to direct you that the Bearer hereof Mathew Uddle, formerly of the 26th Regmt. Be admitted on the Invalid Establishment at Wm. Henry, and that one Ration of Provisions be issued him from the Date of his Arrival at Wm. Henry and presenting this letter of which you will advise me."

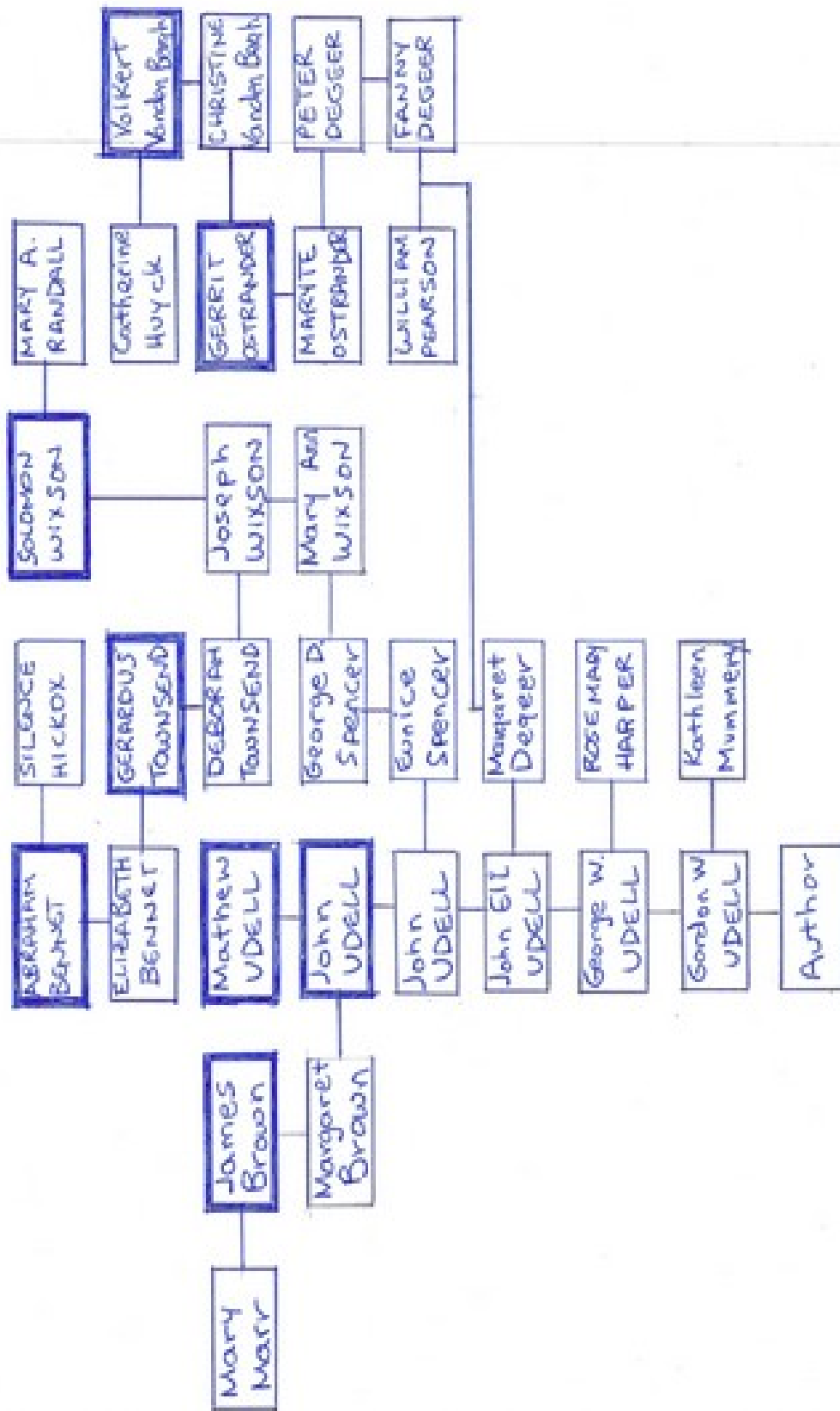
Signed by: Noah Freer, 13th February 1813.

The Invalid Establishment was a sort of retirement home for old soldiers. As far as I know there is no record of Mathew actually living in the Invalid Establishment at Fort Wm. Henry, he likely died sometime in 1813. It would be nice to be able to know the names of his wife and daughter, hopefully that is for another day!

Thankfully those hostilities are behind us and both Canada and the USA can recall their common heritage.

UDELL FAMILY

AMERICAN REVOLUTIONARY WAR
FIGURE 1



UDELL FAMILY

1. Revolutionary War Records #477 Book Mark R&P 454,712
2. Revolutionary War Records #316 Book Mark R&P 454,712; Receipt of Payment 1784 from New York State Treasurer; Payroll of a Detachment of Col. Stephen Schuyler's Regiment of Albany County.
3. Rev. Victor Gordon Brown and Letitia Mae Brown; The English Browns of Markham and Uxbridge Townships; 1985, Revised 1990; page 2
4. Mary Peacock Fryer and Lt. Col. William A. Smy; Rolls of the Provincial (Loyalist Corps, Canadian Command, American Revolutionary Period; Dundurn Press Ltd.
5. Rev. Victor Gordon Brown and Letitia Mae Brown, The English Browns of Markham and Uxbridge Townships, 1985, Revised 1990; page 42.
6. A list of those Tories who took part in the Revolutionary War and were attainted of High Treason; printed Philadelphia, 1802.
7. Rev. Victor Gordon Brown and Letitia Mae Brown; The English Brown of Markham and Uxbridge Townships; published in 1990; page 2.
8. Rev. Victor Gordon Brown and Letitia Mase Brown; The English Browns of Markham and Uxbridge Townships; 1990, page 21.
9. J.H. Wixom; Ruth S. Widdison & Albert B. Hanner: Wixon to Wixson – A Family History; page 34.
10. USA Revolutionary War records.
11. War Office Records: List of Soldiers of the 2nd Battalion of the Royal Regiment of New York; National Archives of Canada: Microfilm Reel No. B-2867 (MG 11, W.O. 28/10, page 278.
12. John Udell's petition to John Graves Simcoe for land dated 1795.
13. Mathew Udell's petition for land, dated 10 January 1802 at Montreal.

HOLTEN CANADIAN WAR CEMETERY PROJECT

SGT. JAMES WILSON MCWILLIAMS

August 09, 1917 – April 13, 1945

Submitted by Janice Kidwell
BCGS Member# 5033

Sgt. James Wilson McWilliams was born to parents William Park Dunlop and Mary Ann McWilliams on August 9, 1917 in Hastings, Hastings Borough, East Sussex, England. James had two siblings – Kathleen and Frank.

In both the 1921 and 1931 census the family lived in the village of Drake, Humboldt, Saskatchewan

James' Attestation papers were signed September 15, 1939 (official date). The Certificate of Magistrate was signed September 16, 1939. In James' Attestation papers his religion was listed as Presbyterian, his schooling was elementary and one year of high school. James had at one time worked as a store clerk. James went through the traditional medical examinations and giving of vaccines.



James became a member of the Royal Canadian Regiment, Westminster Regiment. (M.G.) C.A.S.F. (Machine Gun, Canadian Active Service Force).

James' Regimental number was K47216.



James and Ellen Stella McRae were married on April 11, 1940 at All Saints Church, Burnaby, B.C. by Rev. Cyril G.F. Stone, M.B.E. CD. DD. Rev. Stone was the principal Chaplain in the Department of National Defense of Canada

Sgt. McWilliams embarked at Halifax, Nova Scotia on November 10, 1941 and disembarked at Liverpool, U.K. on November 11, 1941. From September 15, 1939 to April 1945 Sgt. McWilliams was confirmed in the rank of Corporal, L/Corporal, A/Sergeant and Sergeant.

HOLTEN CANADIAN WAR CEMETERY PROJECT

On November 12, 1941 and December 12, 1942 Sgt. McWilliams received Good Conduct Badges. In August 1943 Sgt. McWilliams was awarded the CVSM and Clasp.

Through 1944 and 1945 Sgt. McWilliams had a number of different postings. Sgt. McWilliams disembarked at HeNW Europe (France) on March 9, 1945 and one month later, on April 13, 1945, Sgt. McWilliams was Killed in Action in Holland.

On April 24, 1945 Sgt. McWilliams was given a temporary burial with religious rites at Apeldoorn RCR Cemetery which was located behind St. Joseph's Hospital in Deventer, Netherlands.

On June 25, 1946 a letter was sent to Sgt. McWilliams' wife stating that her husband's remains had been carefully and respectfully moved from his temporary burial location to Holten Canadian War Cemetery. There was a temporary marker at his gravesite with a permanent marker to come. The Grave reference was Grave 16, Row D, Plot 2

Sgt. McWilliams total service was 2038 days:

Western Hemisphere: 788,
Overseas: 1250 = 2038 days



Sgt. McWilliams received the following medals:

1939-45 STAR	France and Germany STAR	Defence Medal
CVSM & Clasp	War Medal, 1939-45	Italy STAR

Sgt. McWilliams' wife received her husband's medals; both Sgt. McWilliams mother and wife received a Memorial Cross.

HOLTEN CANADIAN WAR CEMETERY PROJECT

Sgt. McWilliams is Commemorated on Page 544 of the Second World War Book of Remembrance. This page is displayed in the Memorial Chamber of the Peace Tower in Ottawa on November 15.

Sgt. James Wilson McWilliams is remembered at the New Westminster Cenotaph located on Royal Avenue in New Westminster, B.C.

James' brother Pilot Officer Frank Cooper McWilliams, R.C.A.F. 403 Squadron - born April 23, 1922 in Nokomis, Saskatchewan and who died June 20, 1943, is buried in Etaples Military Cemetery, Etaples, Department du Pas de-Calais, Nord-Pas de Calais, France.

Pilot Officer McWilliams is also remembered at the New Westminster Cenotaph.



War Memorial, New Westminster, BC, 1988

Harry Palmer © 1997



K47216 SERGEANT
J.W. MCWILLIAMS
THE ROYAL CANADIAN REGIMENT
13TH APRIL 1945 – AGE 27



EVER LOVED AND REMEMBERED

HOLTEN CANADIAN WAR CEMETERY PROJECT

Newspaper articles:

- Engagement and two marriage articles – approximately April 11, 1940; one has a picture of grandmother and cake; 2nd has a picture of couple. Mentions sister – Kathleen.
- Marriage – around April 11, 1940 (photo), published April 23, 1940 – photo & write-up
- Obituary notice – April 20, 1945 (Vancouver – The Province). Second newspaper notice – U.S. – obituary date – April 23, 1945 (Vancouver – The Province)
- The Province newspaper – obit date: April 20, 1945
- U.S. newspaper – obituary date unknown
- April 23, 1945 – Vancouver Courier



KILLED: Sgt. James McWilliams, son of Mr. and Mrs. William McWilliams, 3231 Royal Oak avenue, New Westminster, B.C., was killed in action April 13 in Italy. He was born in England 27 years ago and came to Canada where he received his education at Drake, Sask., later in 1936, moving with his family to the coast. He enlisted in 1939 and went overseas in December, 1941. He leaves besides his parents, his wife in New Westminster, B.C. and a sister, Mrs. W. E. Warwick, at Wynyard.

A brother, Frank, a pilot officer in the air force, was killed in June, 1943.

A Tip For Finding Those Emails . . .

If you have ever been searching through your saved emails, looking for some correspondence from a few months ago, you might discover a piece sent several years ago from a relative regarding your common ancestors. There may be nothing new in that correspondence, but you might realize that you've lost touch with that person. Their message could remind you of all the things that you never asked them, or facts and documents that you meant to share with that person.

Perhaps it's a sign that means that it might be time to keep a spreadsheet of your correspondence. Copies of your emails may be safely tucked into the cloud, but still buried in an unsorted collection.

It's time to search through those old emails for ancestral names and the like, and to track those searches in a spreadsheet. There's probably some leads, correspondence, and documents that need filing and follow-up. The clues are buried in your old emails.

POSTCARDS

The Sylvia Court – Vancouver, British Columbia

Submitted by Janice Kidwell
BCGS Membership #5033

The Sylvia Court, designed as an apartment building by Mr. W.P. White a Seattle architect, was built for a Mr. Goldstein in 1912 by Booker, Campbell and Whipple Construction Company. It was named after Mr. Goldstein's daughter Sylvia.

When it opened on May 3, 1913 as a 70 unit apartment block, Sylvia Court was the tallest building in Vancouver and attracted well to do tenants. The Apartments were smartly equipped including a dumb waiter service installed in every suite. Until 1956 the Sylvia Hotel was the tallest building in Vancouver's West End.

The famous Sylvia Hotel cat, Mr. Got To Go, inspired three popular children's books about the stray cat that arrived at The Sylvia Hotel one day and decided to stay.

In 1932 the Dine in the Sky Restaurant opened at the Sylvia and prior to 1962 hosted many of Vancouver's elites.

During the Depression the Sylvia Court Apartments fell on hard times and in 1936 the building was converted into an apartment hotel. With the advent of World War II, many of the suites were converted to rooms in order to provide accommodation for the merchant-marine crews. After the war the number of permanent residents in the hotel gradually decreased and by the sixties the Sylvia had become a completely short stay full-service hotel.

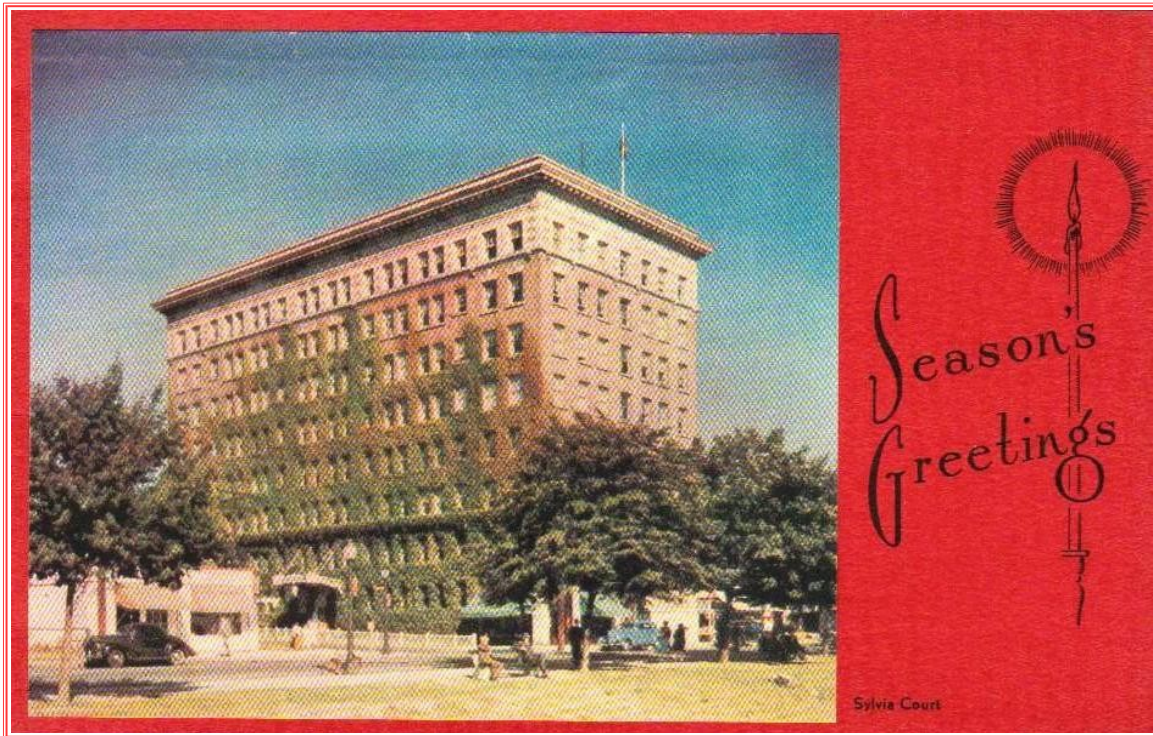
On July 2nd 1954 the medieval themed **Tilting Room** - Vancouver's first cocktail lounge - opened at the Sylvia Hotel. It was very popular and played host to amongst others Malcolm Lowry and Errol Flynn.

Designated a heritage building in 1975, the Sylvia Hotel is registered in the 'A' category on the Vancouver Heritage Register. A well-known landmark, its brick and terra-cotta extension is softened by the Virginia creeper that now completely covers the Gilford Street side of the hotel.

Historical Designation

In 1975 the City of Vancouver designated the Sylvia a heritage building, thereby ensuring its survival for many years to come. Today it remains one of the few publicly accessible heritage buildings in Vancouver. The Sylvia Hotel was a stop on Vancouver Heritage Foundation's 2018 West End Heritage Tour.

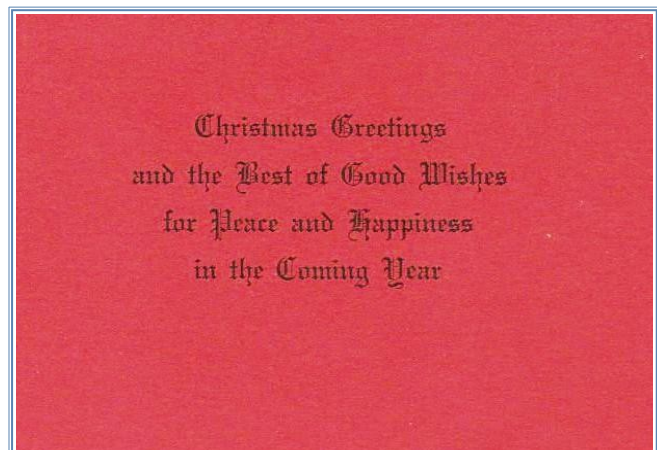
POSTCARDS



You will notice that this photo is not part of a postcard but rather a homemade Christmas card. The paper is very good and has nice level ridges on it. There is no wording on the back to indicate who made these lovely cards.

The Christmas card shows both the Greeting on the front, as well as the following inside Greeting.

Christmas Greetings
And the Best of Good Wishes
For Peace and Happiness
In the Coming Year



Although I have listed a few websites below if you are interested there are many more available online and they are all great. Take a look.

Sources

<https://www.heritagesitefinder.ca/location/1154-gilford-st-vancouver-bc>

<https://sylviahotel.com/history/>

<https://www.vancouverisawesome.com/events-and-entertainment/5-things-you-didnt-know-about-the-sylvia-hotel-1934207>

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:

March 2025 - due by February 15
June 2025 - due by May 15
September 2025 - due by August 15
December 2025 - due by November 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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