

## Saturday, June 12, 2021

### Great Moments in Genealogy

10:00 am to 11:30 am.

#### Over the Sea to ... "Shetland" (Jill Thompson)

Jill Thompson and her husband Alastair Speirs needed to solve two puzzles. Each had discovered one relative born in the Shetland Isles in the 1800s. When and why had they moved away to Scotland (Alastair) and even more puzzling, southern England (Jill)? Inspired by the Ann Cleeves *Shetland* crime series, they visited the largest of the islands to see what they could find. Jill and Alastair will relate how generous help from the local tourist office and the Family History Center solved mysteries and introduced them to welcoming and friendly local folk.

#### About the speaker

**Jill Thompson** was delivered into this world in the basement of University College Hospital, London, during WW2. Her mother was born in the same location, during WW I—both surrounded by sandbags! Jill's Gran Sellwood was the first to spark her interest in family history; talking about the railway (a major family employer), the suffragettes, and working at Cross and Blackwells' pickle factory, in central London. Serious research for Jill commenced after visiting Salt Lake City en route from Vancouver to Ottawa with her ex-husband. After moving to Ottawa, she began the search in the LDS Family History Center on Prince of Wales Drive. Generous help was provided by the regular volunteers. The dawn of computers and the gradual availability of archival records made research easier, but Jill learned a lot along the way. Jill met Alastair in 2004 and both their researches are ongoing.

#### The River Ran Red: The Homestead Steel Strike and Sylvester's Part in It (Lynne Baxter)

On 6 July 1892, in Philadelphia, a violent altercation broke out between locked-out steelworkers and 300 heavily armed Pinkerton strikebreakers. In the scrimmage, a Pinkerton man was killed, along with several strikers. Andrew Carnegie had the union leadership all arrested and charged with murder. Lynne Baxter's great-grandfather, Sylvester Ash Critchlow, was the first one to go on trial. It would be one of the great moments on the maternal side of her family tree.

#### About the speaker

Long, long ago in a town far away, a child was born. **Lynne Baxter** was born in Coshocton, Ohio but was transplanted to Pointe Claire at the age of 12 when her father started a new job there. Her parents moved back to the U.S. but Lynne stayed on and eventually became a Canadian citizen. Lynne graduated from Carleton University in 1995 with a degree in psychology. Lynne's interest in genealogy began when she inherited a document written by Nathaniel Mulholland, her paternal great-grandfather.

#### A Gem from the Inveraray Archives (Dena Palamedes)

This Great Moment will explore the serendipity in **Dena Palamedes'** search for the ancestors of Angus McInnis, her fourth great-grandfather. It began with the following email, forwarded through the BIFHSGO queries email: *"I am trying to contact Dena Palamedes who I met some years back ... I unfortunately lost my email archive and hence her address. My reason for trying to contact her is that when she was here she was trying to find an ancestor called Angus MacInnes who was a piper. While working through some archives today I have actually found a rental in which he appears."* The result was a journey that led to the Inveraray Castle, some wonderful discoveries and new friendships.

#### About the speaker

**Dena Palamedes** has been exploring the joys of genealogy, a passion that draws on her skills acquired as an auditor, for almost a decade. She loves to leverage the power of technology at work, in family history and through her photography. She is currently the BIFHSGO photographer. Recently retired from the federal government has offered more opportunities for genealogy travel adventures and new friends.