



Heritage Seekers

VOLUME 39, ISSUE 2

JUNE 2017

Real Lives: Fascinating Stories

by Mary Nutting



*Diana Rinne (left)
Presented with a binder of compiled family
research, with Mary Nutting (Researcher)
and Ed Hall (President)*

Our nominee for “Real Lives : Fascinating Stories” for Family History Day 2017 was Diana (Mungall) Rinne, editor at the Daily Herald-Tribune, and we couldn’t have been more pleased with the outcome.

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We started with four members on the committee and each one of us researched one of her four ancestry lines: Mungall, Christian, Demers and McGinnis. That was pretty straight forward. But then we lost one member of our committee, and who knows how to research genealogy in Denmark (Christian family), so like most family history projects, it wasn’t quite as perfect as we hoped.

Right at the beginning, we asked Diana to do a DNA test, which added extra depth to the research. The DNA test was analyzed by Leslie Anderson, from Ancestry.ca, so we were sure of professional analysis and hope that this presentation encouraged others to try this route as well.

As we pulled our research together, we realized that Diana’s ancestry was the archetypal story of a real Canadian, with her genes coming from around the world!

The Mungall family originated in Scotland with one ancestor fighting with Robert the Bruce in the Scottish Wars of Independence and dying at the Battle of Falkirk in 1298. The ancestral home, purchased in 1610, remained in the family name until 1939, but was for sale again in 2012, so we were able to show a detailed description and photographs of the house as it is today.