

July 30, 2013

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing to request access to the following files for research purposes:

In accordance with The Municipal Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act, I offer the following information.

1. *A general description of the research proposal and design (date range, types of records):* This project explores interracial relationships between men of Chinese heritage and non-Asian women between 1910 and 1960. It began with oral history interviews with Torontonians of Asian heritage, and a search of materials related to the topic of interracial relationships in Toronto's mainstream and tabloid newspapers. It was in the Toronto Star that my research assistant uncovered the 1927 murder case involving **Margaret Lepage and George Kwong**.
2. *The objectives of the research project:* This project seeks to document the history of interracial relationships in Toronto from the 1910s to the 1960s. It will result in the publication of a scholarly article and possibly a book.
3. *The proposed method of analysis:* as a social historian, I read a wide range of documents that provide information about the subject of my research. I pull this information together into a narrative to paint a picture of the past.
4. *Types of records to which access is sought (i.e. correspondence, report, electronic copy, hardcopy)* I seek copies of any files related to the murder case involving Margaret LePage and George Kwong. I will be happy to accept either hard or electronic copies.
5. *Dates:* The murder occurred on [date]. Records related to this case might go some years beyond that date.
6. *An explanation of why the research cannot be accomplished without individually identifiable information:* Only by reading these records am I able to discover if something about the nature of the relationship between the accused, a white women, and the victim, her husband who was of Chinese heritage, can be learned from the files. By reading these records I might also learn about social attitudes toward such couples.
7. *Stating the time at which personal identifiers will be removed:* if I am not able to use the names of the people involved, identifiers will be removed immediately. Real names will be replaced by pseudonyms. Notes will be taken and the original copies destroyed. Much of my doctoral research materials were restricted and I gained access to them with a Freedom of Information Agreement. I have two decades of experience working with restricted and sensitive materials. Please clarify if the names of the persons involved are protected under privacy laws.

8. *Outlining the benefits to be derived from the research project as proposed:* this research sheds light on the undocumented history of interracial relationships in Toronto. Social historians have long used murder and other criminal cases to deepen our understanding of the past. Conflicts between people who shared intimate relations can shed light on larger cultural and political issues of the day.

9. *The names and positions of all those who will have access and use of the personal information (i.e. research assistant). Such access must be limited and specific:* My research assistant, Anne Cummings, earned her Master of Arts in the Department of History at Simon Fraser University. Her role is to make copies of any documents pertaining to this case and to forward them to me. She does not and will not retain copies for herself, and is trained to delete any digital information from her computer should she produce or be provided with digital copies.

I have attached a copy of my curriculum vitae, as well a copy of the curriculum vitae of my research assistant.

[Anne, as you can see you must offer info about:

- education
- research experience
- knowledge of subject and proposed analytical methodology
- three references] I will be a reference.

As trained professional historians, Ms. Cummings and I are well acquainted with issues surrounding privacy concerns, and working with restricted materials.

Please contact me if you have any questions or if I can provide more information.

Kind regards,

Elise Chenier
Associate Professor
Department of History
Simon Fraser University