

ANNOUNCING!

AFHS FamilyRoots 2017

Our Canada! Our Stories!

Saturday, September 23rd

Southern Alberta Institute of Technology (SAIT)

1301 16th Ave NW

Calgary, AB

FEATURING:

- **David Obee**
- **John Althouse**
- **Lesley Anderson**

Early-bird pricing:

\$60 members

\$65 non-members

After August 31st:

\$70 members

\$75 non-members

Session topics:



Using Ancestry



Introducing genealogy to children & grandchildren



12 Reasons to get moving on DNA



Researching your female line



Canadian census records



Beginner – Advanced sessions & more!!!

Registration starts June 1st!

AFHS 2017 Session Schedule

8:00 - 8:45 Registration & Exhibits are open

8:45 - 9:00 Welcome / Opening Remarks

9:00 - 10:00 Opening Keynote:
Dave Obee - *Decoding the Dash*

FAMILY HISTORY INQUIRERS

FAMILY HISTORY DETECTIVES

FAMILY HISTORY ANALYSTS

10:15 -
11:15

Row 1

1A

Using Ancestry Online

Lesley Anderson

1B

***Introducing Genealogy
to Children & Grandchildren***

John Althouse

1C

***Family History in
Western Canada***

Dave Obee

11:15 - 11:30 — Break & Exhibitor Browsing

11:30 -
12:30

Row 2

2A

A Place for Everything

Lorna Laughton

2B

Canadian Census Records

Tara Shymanski

2C

***Adoption Related
Research***

Shannon S. Cherkowski

12:30 - 1:45 — Lunch & Exhibitor Browsing

1:45 -
2:45

Row 3

3A

***What they don't tell
you on WDYTYA***

John Althouse

3B

***Researching your
Female Lines***

Lesley Anderson

3C

***12 Reasons to get
moving on DNA***

Dave Obee

2:45 - 3:00 — Break & Exhibitor Browsing

3:00 -
4:00

Row 4

4A

***Our Stories on Our
Computers***

Marion Peterson & Bev Smith

4B

***Crowdsourcing Your
Family Research***

Dave Obee

4C

***Using DNA to Solve
Genealogy Problems***

Earl Schultz

4:15 - 5:00 Closing Keynote:
John Althouse - *Think Locally*

5:00 - 5:15 Door prizes & closing remarks
(Please drop off your name tag for door prizes!)

Program Sessions

Opening Keynote: Decoding the Dash: Build the Stories of their Lives - Dave Obee

Grave markers often show the birth and death dates, with a dash in between the two dates. Lives are not measured by start and end dates; if so, they would have no meaning. It is what is in between that counts. This session uses examples to show what might happen when we start digging on the Internet, on the standard family history sites and beyond, and then dive into records in archives and libraries. It is easier than ever to tell the stories of your ancestors' lives.

1A - Using Ancestry Online - Lesley Anderson

Ancestry is the world's largest family history resource and this presentation will give a good overview on how to get the most out of using the website. Navigation, Search and Search Strategies: Global, Category, Individual Db's, Tips & Tricks, Online Trees and AncestryDNA.

1B - Introducing Genealogy to Children & Grandchildren - John Althouse

This presentation will examine how you can introduce genealogy to your family at home, during travel, and at family events. It will look at what works and what will not, along with a list of ideas and activities for you to try with younger family members.

1C - Family History in Western Canada - Dave Obee

Western Canada is the youngest part of the country; serious settlement did not begin until 1858. They were followed by millions of people from just about everywhere. Today, it is possible to find plenty of information about the people of Alberta, British Columbia, Saskatchewan and Manitoba. Some national and regional sources will help, but it pays to know the differences among the four provinces. The first thing to do is to sort out the geography, because two of the provinces are barely a century old.

2A - A Place for Everything: Family history examples in an organizational system - Lorna Laughton

Genealogy information takes over your life, computer and home very quickly! Many family historians feel overwhelmed by their research. This session will use Canadian examples to illustrate my way to **STORE** family history information, so it can be **FOUND** again. This is not a presentation on how to conduct Canadian family history research. Examples of topics that will be covered include: genealogy software programs; binders, papers, file folders, computer files; backing up computer files and making copies of paper records; Online research of company and researcher websites, wikis, webinars, podcasts, and newsletters, and much more!

2B - Canadian Census Records - Tara Shymanski

Census records can locate a family at a certain time in a specific place and are often a building block for finding more information. Most people know the 1851 to 1921 census records, but did you know there was a census taken as early as 1666 in Quebec and 1671 in Newfoundland? Early census records in Nova Scotia even counted the number of cows owned by the head of household. This lecture will cover the basics of where to find census records and indexes in Canada as well as how to analyze the information.

2C - Adoption Related Research....It's All Genealogy! - Shannon S. Cherkowski

Often a birth parent or a person that was relinquished for adoption may wish to find the other individual. There are no user manuals given to adoptees or birthparents in these situations. Gain useful information at this presentation as the process is discussed and guidance is offered on this sensitive topic. Learn what programs are in place to gain information. A case study will be presented showing the research path used to find the birth parents for one adoptee. Target Audience: Beginners searching for birth family

3A - *What they don't tell you on Who Do You Think You Are?* - John Althouse

We are bombarded by advertising extolling the virtues of the major online genealogical websites. This advertising includes an hour-long program in which celebrities make amazing discoveries about their roots with the aid of paid genealogists. I began my genealogy with the intent of being solely an online genealogist. While I found the site useful, I quickly realized that it did not fully meet my needs. There are things that the show does not tell the perspective genealogist (or perhaps misrepresents) which one needs to recognize. We will examine some of these and look at ways of providing for these inadequacies.

3B - *Researching your Female Lines* - Lesley Anderson

This session will provide strategies for searching for women in the Ancestry databases, including methods to uncover females using name variations and other search techniques. Famous or interesting women will be highlighted wherever possible using the new Ancestry databases from around the world, as well as the core record groups. The presentation will appeal to new and experienced researchers alike.

3C- *12 Reasons to get moving on DNA (and a few reasons why you shouldn't bother)* - Dave Obee

This session will look at some genetic genealogy success stories, all backed up by documentary research. They provide sound examples of ways that DNA testing can make a difference in your family history research. Please note: This session will not get into the science behind DNA testing; there will be no mention of STRs, SNPs, or centimorgans. It is all about finding distant cousins, confirming ancestral links, and making the most of the vital new tool at our disposal.

4A - *Our Stories on Our Computers* - Marion Peterson & Bev Smith

It is possible to record family history using paper, but as your tree grows, you will find yourself considering genealogical software. There are many options out there – desktop, website and even “in the cloud.” AFHS has user groups for two very popular desktop programs – Legacy and Family Tree Maker. Join two representatives from these user groups as they describe why they believe your main database should be on your desktop, what to look for in a software program, and some of the key features of Family Tree Maker and Legacy. There is still the choice to upload to a website or to the cloud, but your research is on your own hard drive under your control. Target Audience: Beginner

4B - *Crowdsourcing Your Family Research* - Dave Obee

Are you stuck? Get help from others—sometimes, in surprising ways. The word “crowdsourcing” might be new, but the concept has been around for decades. It's all about drawing from the work of other people, including those who were gathering information or jotting down observations a century or more ago. The Internet makes this easier than ever before, but you will need to look beyond basic genealogical sources.

4C - *Using DNA to Solve Genealogy Problems* - Earl Shultz

You've done your DNA test and now you are waiting for something to happen. You still have those brick walls you can't get over or that adopted ancestor that is blocking a branch of your family tree. What do you do next? This intermediate level workshop is designed to give you some ideas on how to go about solving your genealogical problems by using real-life examples of things you can do. Earl will share some success stories from his own DNA research and from helping others to give you an idea of the power of DNA genealogy to discover your roots.

Closing Keynote: *Think Locally* - John Althouse

This final session will look at how the resources which we need to complete our family record and to provide the details of family life are often not be found in large repositories, but rather in local repositories. It will encourage you to think locally, to travel, and to research at those places that your family once called “home”.

AFHS FamilyRoots 2017 Speakers



EARL SHULTZ



MARION PETERSON



LORNA LAUGHTON



JOHN ALTHOUSE



LESLEY ANDERSON



DAVE OBEE



SHANNON CHERKOWSKI



TARA SHYMANSKI



BEV SMITH

Speaker Bios

John Althouse

John was born in Canora, Saskatchewan. He has conducted genealogical presentations, workshops, and has been a featured speaker at AGS Conferences, for various events around Alberta, and outside the province. His expertise has been sought by CBC Radio listeners on open-line shows where he helps to answer their genealogical queries.

He created New Leaves, the Alberta Genealogical Society history book for the years 1998 – 2013, and is developing a resource for introducing school aged children to the wonders, joys, and skills of genealogy. He has written Our Young Henry: Story of a Soldier Remembered in a War Oft Forgotten, the life history of his uncle who was killed in the Korean War for his family members. He still has much family history to puzzle through and write up. He declares -- A historian / genealogist's work is never complete!

Dave Obee

Dave Obee is a journalist and genealogical researcher who has written a dozen books and given 600 presentations at conferences and seminars in Canada, the United States and Australia since 1997. He is Editor-in-Chief of the Times Colonist in Victoria, British Columbia, and worked as a journalist in British Columbia and Alberta since 1972.

He is a member of the board of Canada's History Society, which publishes Canada's History, the magazine formerly known as The Beaver, and Kayak, which is a history magazine for children, as well as related websites.

Dave is a columnist for Internet Genealogy magazine and Your Genealogy Today magazine, formerly Family Chronicle. Dave has also written about family history for Canada's History as well as Your Family Tree in the United Kingdom.

In 2012 he was awarded an honorary doctorate of laws by the University of Victoria for his work as a historian, genealogist and journalist. In 2014 he was presented with the Governor General's Caring Canadian award for his work as a community volunteer.

Lesley Anderson

Lesley has been involved in the personal research of her family tree for over 45 years and her passion for genealogy has branched out to teaching classes, speaking at seminars and conferences, consulting and doing research for others. She is well known for her computers and genealogy classes offered through the Catholic Board Continuing Ed and her "field trips" to various archives and libraries. She was the Director of Education for BIFHSGO and volunteers at the LDS Family History Library where she gets great enjoyment out of helping new and experienced genealogists with their research. Lesley has worked for Ancestry.ca for over 10 years now and has done numerous presentations at Genealogy Society's and conferences across Canada as well as radio and TV appearances.

Shannon Switzer Cherkowski

Shannon is an experienced Genealogist and Adoption Reunification Specialist. She assists people worldwide by obtaining genealogical information held in local archives and libraries and has solved over 400 adoption searches.

She coordinates the Family Tree Tracker Genealogy group at the Strathcona County Library in Sherwood Park and volunteers with the Alberta Genealogy Society. Shannon is passionate about helping people find their roots and believes Genealogy is about sharing and connecting.

Lorna Laughton

Lorna is a “lifer” in the genealogy world – having been interested in family history since childhood. She is still enthusiastic after all these years because of the wonderful helpful people involved, the old and new records available, the technology changes that help (and hinder), and the new possibilities of genetic genealogy.

Living in Calgary, Lorna has belonged to the Alberta Family Histories Society for 37 years, where she has been active in countless volunteer positions.

She has researched ancestors who lived in Canada (particularly Ontario), England, Scotland, United States (Colonial Period), and Ireland. In her home, there are genealogy files, piles, photos, books, binders, file cabinets, antiques, and family keepsakes, along with a computer crammed with family history information. Keeping all this organized is an ongoing process. Lorna recognizes the need to keep organized while enjoying the thrill of the ancestor chase!

Marion Peterson

Marion has been researching her roots since her family got its first home computer in 1991. Initially she used Family Tree Maker as her software program but switched to Legacy in 2008. Marion also has her own website using TNG software (The Next Generation). As an active member of AFHS, she has done many presentations for SIGs and meetings. Marion currently co-ordinates the AFHS Legacy Users Group.

Earl Shultz

Earl has been an avid genealogist for over 50 years. A first-generation Canadian, his research has been focussed primarily on the records, customs and people living in the communities around Rypin, Poland, about 75 km NW of Warsaw. He has spent many years extracting the Polish records of the Evangelical Parishes in his ancestral area and is currently transferring those records (about 50,000 individuals) to the Legacy genealogy program and linking thousands of families together.

Earl’s DNA expertise has allowed him to help a number of people who have hit brick walls or who have obtained unexpected DNA results. Some examples show the power of using DNA in our genealogical research.

Earl encourages everyone to take a DNA test to not only find their own cousins but to know if the paper records they are following are accurate. Some of his own family records were not.

Tara Shymanski

Tara is a professional genealogist who has been enthusiastically researching her family since she was 17 years old. Her interest in history especially the history of her family, spurred her to obtain a Bachelor of Arts in History. In 2009, she received a Certificate in Canadian Records from the National Institute of Genealogical Studies. Tara is a specialist in Ontario, Quebec and Canadian research and has extensive experience researching American and English records.

Bev Smith

Bev has been doing genealogy since the days of self-addressed stamped envelopes and moved onto a computer about 1984 with her first PC. She does regular presentations for the AFHS Family Tree Maker Users Group and other special interest groups.

FamilyRoots Friday Night Banquet

Come out and enjoy an evening of discovery and fun at Fort Calgary!

Cost: \$60 per person (only 65 tickets available)

Event starts: 5:30

- Socialize with fellow genealogists
- Walk through Fort Calgary's exhibits

Dinner Buffet: 6:30

Presentation: 7:30

Using AncestryDNA in your family history research with Lesley Anderson

We all have DNA. It's the genetic code that tells your body how to build you. You inherit half of your DNA from each parent: 50% from Mom and 50% from Dad, though exactly which DNA gets passed down is random. Because they inherited their DNA in the same way from their parents, your DNA is made up of pieces of DNA passed down from your ancestors going back generations. We will learn how DNA can show you your Ethnicity estimates and Genetic Communities plus help you find living cousins and help you build your family tree.