

# CHINOOK ARCH

September 2019 Volume 1 Issue 2



ALBERTA FAMILY  
HISTORIES SOCIETY

## Upcoming Meetings and Events

### Our Next Monthly Meeting: Monday, September 9

LOCATION: "The Village", 4039 Brentwood Rd NW TIME: 7 to 9 pm

**Topic: The United Empire Loyalists Association of Canada**

**Speaker:** Suzanne Davidson

#### Upcoming meetings and events:

**Saturday, September 14: Digital Genealogy SIG:** 10 am to noon at the library

**Saturday, September 28: Celtic SIG:** 10 am to noon at the library

**Sunday, September 29: Legacy Users Group SIG:** 1:30 to 3 pm at the library

**Monday, September 30: Ontario SIG:** 10 am to noon at the library\*\*

**Tuesday, October 1: DNA SIG:** 7 to 9 pm at the library

**Saturday, October 5: Family Tree Maker SIG:** 10 am to noon at the library

**English/Welsh SIG** will not be meeting in September; next meeting will be **October 19**

**\*\* Ontario SIG date change for this month only**

### Upcoming Monthly Meetings

**Monday, October 7** - AFHS members share their finds from their trip to the Provincial Archives in June (*Note: 1st Monday due to Thanksgiving*).

**Monday, November 11** - Jason Nisenson, Archivist, at the University of Calgary's Military Museum will tell us how the Museum can help us with our research.

LOCATION: 4039 Brentwood Rd NW

TIME: 7 to 9 pm



**Join us and begin your journey to discovering your family history!**

#### Member Benefits:

- Society events and activities
- Our member-exclusive email news bulletin *The Windsock* & newsletter *Chinook Arch*
- Full access to our Society's resources and library with lending privileges
- Opportunities to participate in our Special Interest Groups
- Gain new friends with similar research interests and have fun!

**<http://afhs.ab.ca/membership/>**

## Harvest Memories

### Pitchforks and Scoop Shovels: Memories of Harvest at Ghost Pine Creek, Alberta

Iola Whiteside

(photographs by Amber Godfrey)



**Harvest was a time of intense stress and hard work.** Weather was a big factor in the success or failure of a farm. If the crops of wheat, barley and oats managed to escape the dangers of hail or drought, they needed to be harvested quickly before an early snow storm.

The binders, pulled by Clydesdale horses, cut the grain into bundles. The bundles were gathered and stooked. It was hard, hot work. Next the stooks were pitched onto hayracks and pulled by the horses to the threshing machine, called a separator. The grain went into a grain wagon and the straw was blown into a stack to be used for the livestock. Work ended at supper time when there was a race back to the barnyard - the horses to the water trough and the men to the pump.

**Finding help at harvest time wasn't easy.** One time my grandfather went into Three Hills and found some men to come and help. They worked all morning but after dinner at noon announced that they would not return to the field. They would walk the ten miles back to town instead.

With family members serving in the Army, Airforce and Navy during World War II, we had help from college students from Quebec. They were unsuited for the work and I recall my mother bandaging their hands. They loved music and gathered around the piano in the evening to sing before wearily climbing to the attic to sleep.

**Women worked equally hard.** They had to prepare three big meals (breakfast, dinner and supper) and a lunch daily. Our home was large and beautiful but lacked running water and electricity. Meal preparation meant having a fire in the kitchen stove even during the hottest weather. The food was all made at home, including things like butter and jam.

The men came back to the house at noon for dinner, as they and the horses needed to rest. I had to help serve at meal time and that meant remembering which man would almost empty the potato bowl if he got it first! One devastating memory I have is of a kitten catching its tail in the kitchen's swinging door and, in the confusion, I dropped a piece of chocolate pie and whipped cream. There was only one piece for each man but my aunt quickly cut another in half and two uncles had very small portions.

Lunch was always coffee and large, freshly-made biscuits slathered with butter and strawberry jam. It was taken to the field in a vehicle called the "Whiskey Six" in the afternoon. I also rode around the fields on my horse with a leather bag full of water for the men to drink.

**How times have changed.** King's Seed Farm, as it is known today, comprises five sections of land. The original single section that I have written about took a dozen men and about two weeks to harvest. This year, two modern combines will harvest that section in two days.

Albertans owe a great debt to our pioneer farmers and ranchers.



## Special Interest Groups

**SPECIAL INTEREST GROUPS (SIGs) are the ideal place to share your family history. The small-group setting allows for the exchange of information and suggestions on further avenues to pursue.**

**All SIGs are held at the AFHS Library located at 712 16 Ave NW** and do not meet during the summer months. Check our website calendar for the most up-to-date information.

**Please note:** There are 6 parking spots behind the library building (2 rows of 3). Otherwise please park on neighbouring streets.

### CELTIC SIG (Irish/Scots)

*Usually meets 4th Saturday of the month from 10 am - Noon*

### DNA SIG

*Usually meets 1st Tuesday of the month from 7 - 9 pm*

### ENGLISH/WELSH SIG

*Usually meets 3rd Saturday of the month from 10 am - Noon*

### FAMILY TREE MAKER SIG

*Usually meets 1st Saturday of the month from 10 am - Noon*

### LEGACY SIG

*Meets 5 times a year on Sundays, usually from 1:30 - 3 pm*

### ONTARIO SIG

*Usually meets 4th Monday of the month from 10 am - Noon*

### DIGITAL GENEALOGY SIG

*Usually meets 2nd Saturday of the month from 10 am - Noon*

## English/Welsh SIG - Back to Basics

Ann Williams

Back to Basics was the theme for our April and May meetings. In April, we covered the basics of marriage records and in May, we looked at the basics of death records.

### Marriage Records

**Legal Age for Marriage.** Since the Middle Ages the legal age for marriage was 14 for boys and 12 for girls, a situation that did not change until 1763 when the legal age became 16 for both sexes (although 14 for boys and 12 for girls was permissible with the consent of parents). In 1929 the legal age was raised to 21 (16 with consent of parents).

**Marriage by License.** Where parties married by license, this fact is recorded on the Marriage Certificate. Obtaining a license created Allegations for Marriage and Marriage Bonds. The survival rate of these documents is high as they are held by Church Authorities.

**Illegitimacy before 1834.** Parishes went to great pains to identify and make putative (alleged) fathers financially responsible for their children. Documents created in this process were Bastardy Examinations (where a mother was asked who the father was), and Bastardy Bonds (where the father agrees to pay certain sums for the birth and upbringing of the child). Alternatively, couples were encouraged to marry with the cost of a Marriage License and Wedding Ring paid from parish funds. These documents will be in the Poor Law records of the mother's parish, if they have survived.

**Illegitimacy after 1834.** In 1834 Union Workhouses were built and here unmarried mothers could receive free medical attention. At this stage it seems no particular effort was put into identifying the father.

### Death Records

**Unexpected Deaths.** In the case of sudden deaths a postmortem and/or an inquest is held and a notation to that effect made on the Death Certificate. If there was an inquest, a report might be published in a local newspaper or the records of the inquest may be available.

**Wills.** The likelihood of someone leaving a Will rose over time, and the introduction of Government Retirement Pensions to the over 70s on January 1, 1909 increased the number of people who had money to leave. The Pension age was reduced to 65 in 1925. Wills, like Birth, Marriage and Death Certificates, can now be purchased on-line.

**Churchyards and Cemeteries.** Some churchyard and cemetery records are now on-line. In England and Wales, it was common for three family members to be buried in the same plot. Paupers' graves would hold more people and they would be unrelated.

32 Fingerville Road	Drumming in R. Thames whilst of unsound mind.	Diffraction from	Certificate received from W. H. Whitehouse	Twenty
48 years Chaff Cutter.			Borrower for Bridge	November
			Inquest held	29 November 1920

## DNA Discoveries

### DNA WORD SEARCH

**AUTOSOMAL** – DNA inherited in any of the numbered chromosomes (as opposed to the sex chromosomes); this type of test identifies matches with genetic cousins

**BROWSER** – a tool which visually shows matching segments of shared of DNA between individuals

**CENTIMORGAN** – a unit for the length of a DNA segment

**CLUSTERING** – grouping your matches to potentially show those that share common ancestors

**ENDOGENY** – the practice of marrying within the same ethnic, social, religious or tribal group; this can complicate genetic DNA analysis

**ETHNICITY** – an estimate provided by the testing company of where your ancestors may have lived in the very distant past

**GEDMATCH** – a third party tool where test results can be uploaded to compare and collaborate with others who have tested at other companies

**HAPLOGROUP** – a genetic population group who share a common ancestor on either a matrilineal or patrilineal line reflecting your ancient ancestry

**IBD** - Identical by Descent

**MATCH** – 2 people who share a fairly long piece of DNA

**MITOCHONDRIAL** – DNA found in the mitochondria passed down through the mother to her children, both male and female

**MRCA** – Most Recent Common Ancestor

**NPE** – Non-paternity event (or Not Expected Parent)

**PHASING** – a process of assigning alleles to paternal or maternal chromosomes

**RECOMBINATION** – a process which occurs when DNA is transferred from the parents to the child

**SNP** – single nucleotide polymorphisms; genetic variations (substitutions, deletions or insertions)

**TRIANGULATION** – the process by which 3 or more people sharing an overlapping DNA segment compare their family trees to try to discover a common ancestor

M	Y	P	D	E	L	T	B	A	E	T	L	E	T	T
C	I	B	U	U	N	R	V	V	J	A	A	R	J	U
Q	I	T	S	O	O	D	Y	H	M	V	I	M	R	U
G	N	W	O	W	R	M	O	O	X	A	S	E	E	G
E	P	U	S	C	P	G	S	G	N	C	C	G	C	N
Q	U	E	P	T	H	O	O	G	A	R	E	G	O	I
G	R	C	T	B	T	O	U	L	L	M	J	Q	M	R
E	O	U	F	U	W	L	N	V	P	C	Y	E	B	E
D	N	J	A	F	A	U	Y	D	R	A	Z	U	I	T
M	S	G	E	T	O	J	T	D	R	J	H	C	N	S
A	N	N	I	E	T	H	N	I	C	I	T	Y	A	U
T	I	O	P	Y	H	D	C	B	G	E	A	N	T	L
C	N	A	G	R	O	M	I	T	N	E	C	L	I	C
H	N	P	E	X	R	D	E	X	A	F	E	J	O	H
G	N	I	S	A	H	P	F	W	F	M	H	A	N	F

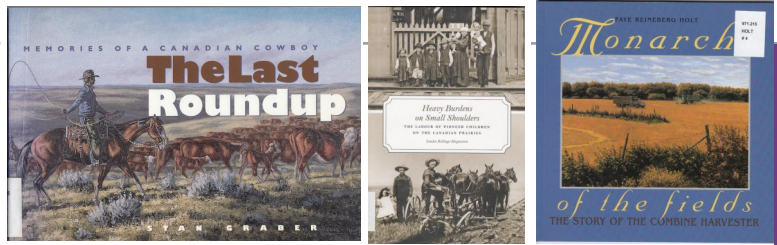
For an extensive glossary, see the website of the International Society of Genetic Genealogy's Wiki at [https://isogg.org/wiki/Genetics\\_Glossary](https://isogg.org/wiki/Genetics_Glossary)



## Library Highlights

### Harvest and Round-Up Books

Marion Peterson, AFHS Library Committee



Looking for some social history to add to your family story? Here are a few of the books about harvest and round-up time in Western Canada available at our Alberta Family History Society Library.

***The Last Roundup: Memories of a Canadian cowboy*** by Stan Graber [971.215 GRAB 1995] is a fascinating first-hand account of what it was like to be a cowboy. He signed up with the huge Matador Ranch in west central Saskatchewan when he was eighteen. In his eighties, he began publishing his memories in a western Canadian farm paper, *Grainews*, and this book is a collection of those articles. With vivid detail he describes the hard work of herding, branding and driving cattle. On one drive, recounted in this book, 3,500 head of cattle were driven south to Montana. Interspersed with photographs and line drawings, the book ends with a "Cow Country Dictionary" of cowboy lingo.

***Threshing: The early years of harvesting*** [971.215 HOLT #1] and ***Monarch of the Fields: The story of the combine harvester*** [971.215 HOLT #4] by Faye Reineberg Holt are both excellent books about harvesting. The first outlines how threshing changed in western Canada when the combine harvester arrived in the 1930s. The history of harvesting, from the early years of sickles and scythes to early reapers to threshing crews, is covered. The second describes how mechanization changed farming forever. Both books have archival photographs interspersed with the detailed descriptions of the techniques. They are part of the Prairie Heritage Series published here in Calgary.

***Heavy Burdens on Small Shoulders: The labour of pioneer children on the Canadian prairies*** [971.215 ROLL 2009] by Sandra Rollings-Magnusson is based on a study done by the author into the various ways farm children contributed to their farm's operation. She used diaries, memoirs, letters and poems written by pioneer children together with official records, including census reports, to analyze their contributions to the success of the family farms. In Chapter 3, Productive Labour, she describes how children participated in the harvest.

***Building Beyond the Homestead*** edited by David C. Jones and Ian MacPherson [971.215 JONES 1985]. Was your ancestor a custom thresherman? Check out Chapter 7, written by Ernest B. Ingles, which describes the role custom threshermen played in Western Canada from 1890 to 1925. He describes a threshing outfit as a "team of dedicated men and women carrying out a routine with the precision of a modern-day professional sports team." Between 15 and 20 hands were needed on a crew, including the engineer (who often owned the rig), separator tender, fireman, tankman, bundlemen and sometimes a cook. The duties of the various positions and the challenges encountered by the threshing crews are described in detail.

There are more books with wonderful accounts about harvest and round-up available. Look for local histories throughout the library and books in the Western Canada section (971.215). Come check them out!

## Society Updates

### Family History Coaching Program

#### AFHS Volunteers & CPL Staff

This drop-in program offers help with genealogy research in partnership with Calgary Public Library. Registration not required.

**DATE:** The last Saturday of each month

**PLACE:** Central Library (800 3 Street SE)  
Level 4, 4-20C

### CANCELLED

#### Life & Family History Writing Workshops

Due to unexpected circumstances, Michele Buhler has had to cancel the following workshops:

- Life & Family Writing
- Bookmaking
- Design and Layout

Michele hopes to offer these workshops again in Fall 2020.

#### Upcoming Chinook Arch Themes:

**October** - Thanksgiving Memories

**November** - War and Peace

**December** - Holiday Gatherings



**Director of Facilities:** The AFHS Library is the central hub of our Society: where we gather to discuss and brag about our latest research finds, where we find that book or website that breaks a brick wall, and where many of our volunteers share their precious time and talents. This Board-level position runs until our next AGM in April 2020. If you are interested in overseeing the operation of the building and serving as liaison with building owners, contact Jim Benedict at [president@afhs.ab.ca](mailto:president@afhs.ab.ca)

**Meeting Summaries:** Our meetings have interesting speakers and topics and we want to share that, particularly with our members who can't attend. Write some notes about the presentation, speaker, questions, handouts or other resource links. This information would be published on the AFHS website. Please contact [volunteer@afhs.ab.ca](mailto:volunteer@afhs.ab.ca)

**Like To Read?** AFHS has a library full of great materials - help us tell our members and the world! Write a short review of one or two of our helpful resources for the library page of our new monthly publication *Chinook Arch*. Please contact Marion at [communications@afhs.ab.ca](mailto:communications@afhs.ab.ca)

**Around Town:** What are other local historical and genealogy organizations doing? Find out for us so we can publish some information on a Local Resources page on the AFHS website. Please contact Marion at [communications@afhs.ab.ca](mailto:communications@afhs.ab.ca)

## Library Hours & Opportunities to Connect

### Library Open Hours

(starting September 3, 2019)

**Thursdays - 10 am to 2 pm**

**Fridays - 10 am to 2 pm**

**Saturdays - Noon to 4 pm**



ALBERTA FAMILY  
HISTORIES SOCIETY

### Board Meetings

**Next AFHS Board Meeting** will be held at the AFHS Library on Monday, September 16 from 7 - 9 pm.

#### *The Windsock*

Watch for our monthly email update *The Windsock* which is distributed on the last day of each month.

#### *Chinook Arch*

Watch for our newsletter *Chinook Arch* which is distributed by email monthly, on the Saturday before AFHS meetings, from September - June. Paper copies are available at the monthly meetings.

### Get in Touch with us!

**Email:** [info@afhs.ab.ca](mailto:info@afhs.ab.ca)

**Facebook:** Search for **Alberta Family Histories Society**

**Website:** [www.afhs.ab.ca](http://www.afhs.ab.ca)

**Phone:** 403-214-1447

**Windsock:** [windsock@afhs.ab.ca](mailto:windsock@afhs.ab.ca)

**Chinook Arch:**  
[chinookarch@afhs.ab.ca](mailto:chinookarch@afhs.ab.ca)

### AFHS Library & Office location:

**712 - 16 Avenue NW Calgary**