

CHINOOK ARCH

November 2019 Volume 1 Issue 4



ALBERTA FAMILY
HISTORIES SOCIETY

Upcoming Meetings and Events

Our Next Monthly Meeting: Monday, November 18

LOCATION: "The Village" at 4039 Brentwood Rd NW

TIME: 7 to 9 pm



Topic: Researching at the Calgary Military Museum

Speaker: Jason Nisenson, Archivist, University of Calgary Military Museum

Upcoming meetings and events at the AFHS Library:

Sat., November 23 Celtic SIG - 10 am to noon

Sun., November 24 Legacy Users Group - 1:30 to 3:00 pm

Mon., November 25 Ontario SIG - 10 am to noon

Sat., November 30 Weekend Workshop: Family Genes - 9 am to noon

Sat., December 7 Family Tree Makers SIG - 10 am to noon

Upcoming Monthly Meetings

Monday, December 9 - Christmas Party

Christine Hayes will talk about Christmas in early Calgary followed by the AFHS Christmas Party. Bring treats to share! Donations to Calgary Veterans Association Food Bank will be collected.

Monday, January 13 - Genealogy Travel

Come hear about Warren and Marion Peterson's trip to Sweden and Denmark to explore the places of his ancestry and to meet new cousins. Please share your travel experiences, too!

Monday, February 10 - Using Family Search

Carol Hutchison of the Calgary Family History Centre will be our speaker.

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>

War and Peace Memories

How Canadian Army Records Helped Me Discover More About My Grandfather

Tara Shymanski

I didn't know my grandfather Cliff Miller very well, even though we lived in the same small town. When my aunt ordered his army service record, the sixteen pages of completed forms contained a wealth of information about him and the time he spent in the army.

Cliff enlisted with the Canadian Forestry Corps in Fort Frances, Ontario, on August 20, 1940. After his basic training in Valcartier, Quebec, he shipped out to Scotland where the Canadian soldiers were lumbermen. The Canadian Forestry Corps provided lumber for the Allied war effort by cutting and preparing timber in the United Kingdom and in Europe in both world wars. Forestry units also cleared terrain for the construction of airfields and runways, made railway ties and prepared lumber for the creation of barracks, road surfaces, ammunition crates and trench construction.

In 1943, Cliff was transferred to the 30th Company and sent to France. He worked mainly as a driver and mechanic throughout his service. His daughter says one of his most hated jobs was hauling the bodies of dead soldiers.

Cliff was part of the liberation forces and served in the UK, France, Belgium, Holland, and Germany. His time overseas totaled just over four and a half years (52 and 1/3 months).

His war record was exciting and informative. I found the personal information that the army recorded just as interesting. Prior to the war, he worked at logging in the winter with a two-horse team and was a truck driver around Northwestern Ontario and Manitoba. He made \$25 per week driving trucks.



Grandma Miller, Grandpa Miller & friend

My grandfather was good with his hands and liked mechanics, something he passed on to one of his sons. What really interested me was the sports he liked. Number one on the list was swimming. I love swimming! So maybe I inherited that from him. He also played rugby, but I didn't even know rugby existed in Canada back then.



Private Cliff Miller & son

On one of the army forms, he is described as "an alert, cheerful young man" and at the Canadian Repatriation Depot, on August 16, 1945, Lieutenant E.R. Bruce says that "Miller appears to be a good, steady sort of man." The Company Commander was "quite satisfied" with him. Like many returning soldiers though, he returned to civilian life with problems. After the war he drank too much and it affected his ability to provide for his family.

Although he and my grandmother had five more children together, eventually they ended up divorcing. My grandfather died on May 28, 1982 and as a former soldier was given a full military funeral by the Royal Canadian Legion.

Second World War service records, for soldiers who survived the war, have restricted access as some members are still alive. It can take over a year to receive the records, but the wait is worth it. I'm anticipating receiving another grandfather's record soon.

Canadian Forestry Corps website
www.canadiansoldiers.com/corpsbranches/forestrycorps.htm

Second World War Service Files at Library and Archives Canada
<http://www.bac-lac.gc.ca/eng/discover/military-heritage/second-world-war/>

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 July and August. 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)

Meets every month on the 4th Saturday from 10 am - Noon

DNA SIG

Meets every month on the 1st Tuesday from 7 - 9 pm

ENGLISH/WELSH SIG

Meets every month on the 3rd Saturday from 10 am - Noon

FAMILY TREE MAKER SIG

Meets every month on the 1st Saturday from 10 am - Noon

LEGACY SIG

Meets alternate months on the last Sunday from 1:30 - 3 pm

ONTARIO SIG

Meets alternate months on the 4th Monday from 10 am - Noon

DIGITAL GENEALOGY SIG

Meets every month on the 2nd Saturday from 10 am - Noon

Digital Genealogy SIG

The **Digital Genealogy SIG** has evolved from the former Genealogy Computer Group which partnered with AFHS for many years. Computer technology and the needs of computer users have evolved greatly. We no longer install programs using floppy disks, CDs or even DVD disks and most new computers don't have a disk drive. Our software programs are downloaded and updated over the Internet and we store our data in the cloud. Genealogical research is mainly done using resources available via the web now.

It can be difficult to keep up with all the changes in technology and to use our computer programs as effectively as we would like. Most technology provides online help but sometimes even that can be overwhelming. As a group we can often help each other by sharing new techniques and tips. This is the goal of the Digital Genealogy SIG.

The Digital Genealogy SIG will meet the second Saturday of the month in alternate months, between September and June. The next meeting is planned for Saturday, **January 11, 2020** at the AFHS Library.

Jim Benedict will continue to provide support for **Family Genes**, the AFHS project which allows members to post family history research using web-based software (TNG).

<http://www.familygenes.ca/>

Google Photos

In November, Don Duncan used a video from the **Legacy Family Tree Webinars** site, *Google Photos: One Photo App to Rule Them All* by Devin Ashby, to give an overview of the tools available in Google Photos. A free Google account provides you access to the program without incurring additional costs. www.familytreewebinars.com

Google Photos provides cloud backup as well as tools for facial recognition and the creation of albums, collages, animations, movies and stories. The program provides some basic editing tools to crop and enhance photos as well. It allows sharing of photos without requiring you to attach pictures to emails. An album that is assembled can be shared multiple times just by adding a new person to the sharing list which is great for sharing among a large group of relatives. The sharing can also be set so that others can contribute to the album.

Google PhotoScan, a companion program, rounds out this package providing the ability to take multiple photos of a single item and to overlay the scans so that a large composite image is produced. Google PhotoScan has an app that, on a mobile phone or tablet, can be used to successfully take photos of large documents and images that are under glass. The app will remove glare and imperfections in the original photo too.

Both Google Photos and Google Photoscan provide very useful tools for the genealogist.

Getting started with Genetic Genealogy

Linda Murray & Marion Peterson

If you are new to the world of DNA testing, here's some resources to help you get started.

We suggest you start by viewing some short but informative videos at the website **Learn.Genetics** which explain the basics of DNA testing.

<https://learn.genetics.utah.edu/content/basics/molgen/>

Once you understand the basics behind the various tests, check out the many resources on this list at a website called **Family Locket** put together by a mother and daughter team of professional genealogists.

<https://familylocket.com/resources-for-learning-about-genetic-genealogy/>

One of the best websites is maintained by **The International Society of Genetic Genealogy** (ISOGG). They have a comprehensive beginner's guide on their site.

https://isogg.org/wiki/Beginners%27_guides_to_genetic_genealogy

A popular blog about genetic genealogy is **DNAexplained - Genetic Genealogy** by Roberta Estes. Started in July 2012, she reached her 1,000th article in June 2018 and is still going strong. Her blog is searchable for any DNA topic.

<https://dna-explained.com/>

If you prefer to learn by viewing webinars, there are many about genetic genealogy. **Legacy Family Tree Webinars** has over one hundred DNA presentations in their library, including a five-part DNA Course by Blaine Bettinger. An annual

subscription is required; however, all webinars are free to view in the week following the live presentation.

www.familytreewebinars.com

RootsTech has a video archive that offers great presentations for free. Sessions from 2015 to 2019 cover a range of topics including DNA talks for every level from beginner to intermediate to expert.

<https://www.rootstech.org/video-archive>



The **Alberta Family History Society Library** has a collection of DNA materials that includes all five of the books mentioned on the Family Locket website as well as several others. We also have available the quick guides on DNA research by Diahan Southard.

The **AFHS DNA Special Interest Group** meets monthly at the AFHS Library at 712 16 Avenue NW. Take advantage of these meetings to ask questions and learn from others. Check the [AFHS calendar](#) for dates and times. We welcome all levels of researchers from beginner to expert. We also distribute a newsletter about eight times per year called **The Thermometer**. Email us at dnasig@afhs.ab.ca to be added to our mailing list or if you have any questions.

The five main companies involved in DNA testing at this point are **Ancestry, 23 & Me, MyHeritage, Family Tree DNA** and **Living DNA**. If you are interested in buying a DNA kit, watch for both Black Friday and Christmas sales that will be coming up in the next few weeks.

Library Highlights

Military Resources at the AFHS Library

The AFHS library has a large collection of books covering many conflicts such as the American Revolutionary War, The War of 1812, the Civil War, World War I, World War II and the Gulf War. The following list is just a selection and more titles can be found in our library and even checked out to peruse at home.

American Revolutionary War

Black Courage 1775 - 1783 : Documentation of Black Participation In the American Revolution by Robert Ewell Greene
369.135 GREE 1984

Women and the American Revolution by Mollie Somerville
369.135 SOME 1974

Liberty's Exiles: American Loyalists in the Revolutionary World by Maya Jasanoff
971.02 JASA 2011

How To Trace Your Loyalist Ancestors by Patricia L. Kennedy
971.02 KENN 73-15

War of 1812

For Honour's Sake: The War of 1812 and the Brokering of an Uneasy Peace by Mark Zuehlke
971.05 ZUEH 2006

Soldiers of the King: The Upper Canadian Militia 1812-1815 by William Gray
971.05 GRAY 1995

York's Sacrifice: Militia casualties of the War of 1812 by Janice Nickerson
971.05 NICK 2012

War of 1812 Genealogy by George Schweitzer
971.05 SCHW 1995

Civil War

Canadians in the Civil War by Claire Hoy
971.05 HOY 2004

Dixie & The Dominion Canada, the Confederacy and the War for the Union by Adam Mayers
971.05 MAYE 2003

Life During The Civil War by David A. Norris
973 NORR 2009

Tracing Your Civil War Ancestor by Bertram Hawthorne Groene
973.717 GROE 1973

World War I

Army Service Records of the First World War by Simon Fowler, William Spencer & Stuart Tamblin

940 FOWL WWI

World War I Army Ancestry (4th Edition) by Norman Holding & Iain Swinnerton
940 HOLD #1

A Legacy of Courage: "Calgary's Own" 137th Overseas Battalion, C.E.F. by F. Bagley & H. D. Duncan

971.05 BAGL 1993

South Albertas: A Canadian Regiment at War by Donald E. Graves
971.05 GRAV 1998

Passchendaele: Canada's Triumph and Tragedy on the Fields of Flanders by Norman Leach
971.05 LEAC 2008

Canadians at War 1914-1919: A research guide to war service records by Glenn Wright
971.05 WRIG 2010

World War II

Tracing Your Second World War Ancestors by Simon Fowler
940 FOWL WWII

Singapore Diary: The hidden journal of Captain R. M. Horner
940 HORN 2007

World War II: The Definitive Visual History from Blitzkrieg to the Atom Bomb
971.02 WWII 2009

Historical Maps of World War II Europe by Michael Swift & Michael Sharpe
971.02 SWIF 2000

Champagne: Navy Canada's Small Boat Raider of the Second World War by Brian Nolan & Brian Jeffrey Street
971.05 NOLA 1991

We'll Meet Again: Photographs of Daily Life in Britain during World War Two by Joanna Smith
941 SMIT 1984

Gulf War

Desert Cats: The Canadian Fighter Squadron in the Gulf War by David Deer
971.05 DEER 1991

Military History of Canada from Champlain to the Gulf War by Desmond Morton
971.05 MORT 1992

Society Updates

Family History Coaching Program

AFHS Volunteers & CPL Staff

This drop-in program offers help with your genealogy research in partnership with the Calgary Public Library. It is held the last Saturday of the month except for December, July and August. Registration is not required.

DATE: Saturday, November 30

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

TIME: 10 am to 12 pm



Family Roots 2020

October 3 & 4, 2020

Calgary Holiday Inn South
8630 Blackfoot Trail SE

Follow Your Ancestors' Footsteps!

Learn how to search for the records of the past. Discover how modern-day DNA can reveal family connections. Presentations will be available for beginners to advanced family historians.

Cyndi Ingle - Dave Obee - Christine Woodcock

<http://afhs.ab.ca/calendar-events/conferences/>

Upcoming Chinook Arch Theme:

DECEMBER - Holiday Memories

Submission deadline is November 29



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

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

Weekend Workshops

Just beginning or struggling to figure out how to use Family Genes? Family Genes is a Society project for the preservation of members' family tree studies. Using a web-based application, known as TNG, our members can upload, display and archive their family information. Contact events@afhs.ab.ca to register.

DATE: Saturday, November 30, 2019

TIME: 9 am to Noon

COST: \$15 (coffee and tea provided)

Spaces still available for this workshop!

Library Hours & Opportunities to Connect

Library Open Hours

Thursdays - 10 am to 2 pm

Fridays - 10 am to 2 pm

Saturdays - Noon to 4 pm

Get in Touch with us!

Email: info@afhs.ab.ca

Facebook: Alberta Family Histories Society

Website: www.afhs.ab.ca

Board Meetings

Next AFHS Board Meeting will be held at the AFHS Library on **Tuesday, Nov. 19** at **7:00 pm**.

The Windsock

Watch for our monthly email update, for members only, distributed on the first day of each month.

Editor: Jim Benedict

Email: windsock@afhs.ab.ca



ALBERTA FAMILY
HISTORIES SOCIETY

AFHS Library & Office location:

712 - 16 Avenue NW Calgary

Chinook Arch

Watch for our newsletter distributed by email monthly, on the Saturday before AFHS meetings, from September to June. Paper copies are available at meetings and at the AFHS Library.

Submissions are welcome for the Member Memories, DNA Discoveries and Calgary Connections pages. For a copy of the *Chinook Arch* Submission Guidelines, contact Amber at the email below.

Editor: Amber Godfrey

Email: chinookarch@afhs.ab.ca