

CHINOOK ARCH

December 2019 Volume 1 Issue 5



ALBERTA FAMILY
HISTORIES SOCIETY

Upcoming Meetings and Events

Our Next Monthly Meeting: Monday, December 9

LOCATION: "The Village" at 4039 Brentwood Rd NW

TIME: 7 to 9 pm



Topic: Christmas in Early Calgary & Christmas Party

Speaker: Christine Hayes

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

Upcoming meetings and events at the AFHS Library:

Saturday, December 14: Digital Genealogy SIG (Family Genes): 9 am to noon

Saturday, January 4: Family Tree Maker SIG: 10 am to noon

Saturday, January 11: Digital Genealogy SIG: 10 am to noon

Sunday, January 12: DNA SIG: 1:30 to 3:30 pm

Library is closed from Thursday, December 19 and will re-open on Thursday, January 2

Upcoming Monthly Meetings

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.

Monday, March 9 - I Found Them on the Census - Now What?

Tara Shymanski will be our speaker. This is a beginner level presentation.

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>

Holiday Memories

Granny's Lutefisk

Marion Peterson

When I was 17, I met my future husband's Swedish family for the first time at their Christmas gathering near Clover Lawn, Alberta. Warren had warned me about a strange dish which his Granny, Alice (Peterson) Thorne, always made called "lutefisk." This was an important Swedish delicacy always served at Christmas.

The word lutefisk comes from lut=lye and fisk=fish. Granny's recipe went like this:

Soak 10 lbs. of dried cod (which looks like long sticks of wood) in water for 7 to 10 days or until it has softened up, changing the water on it every day. Then, skin the fish.

Dissolve 8 Tbsp. of Arm & Hammer Washing Soda and 1 Tbsp. of Gillett's Lye in boiling water and let cool. Place in four-gallon crock or clean boiler. Add fish and enough cold water to cover the fish. Let stand 1 ½ days, then drain. Cover with clear water, changing water every day for 3 days. This must be kept in a very cool place. After three changes of water, the fish is ready to prepare. It can be put in packages and frozen for up to one year.

To serve, place lutefisk in cheesecloth and place in boiling water until the fish flakes. Remove from cheesecloth and serve with a white sauce or hot melted butter.

Lutefisk was served along with the rest of a meal that was similar to my heritage – turkey, ham, mashed potatoes and all the trimmings. Since this was the first time I had met Warren's extended family, I decided I better be a good sport and take a small portion.

As I lifted my spoon to take a bite, all eyes turned to watch me taste lutefisk for the first time. It was mushy fish covered with a bland, milky sauce. Its flavour was best described as fishy; there were no onions or vegetables to give it any other taste. I finished my bowl but politely declined more.



Warren, Granny & Marion

Granny has now passed away and the family has spread far and wide, but whenever we do get together, you can be sure the Christmas tradition of lutefisk is mentioned with fondness.



Thorne family at Christmas

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 4th Saturday from 10 am - Noon

DIGITAL GENEALOGY SIG

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

DNA SIG

Meets every month on 1st Tuesday from 7 - 9 pm (Oct.-Dec & Apr.-Jun.)

Meets every month on 2nd Sunday from 1:30 - 3:30 pm (Jan.- Mar.)

ENGLISH/WELSH SIG

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

FAMILY TREE MAKER SIG

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

LEGACY SIG

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

ONTARIO SIG

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

ONTARIO SIG

Books To Help Us Understand Our Ancestors

Our assignment for the last Ontario SIG meeting was to bring a book that helped us understand our ancestors' lives. A wide variety of reading material was highlighted.

Some were compilations of historical material or diaries such as *Land Newly Found* (J.L. Granatstein & Norman Hillmer), *Much to Be Done: Private life in Ontario from Victorian diaries* (Frances Hoffman & Ryan Taylor), *Across the Waters: Ontario immigrants' experiences, 1820-1850* (Hoffman & Taylor), and *The Ernestown Diarist (1831-1864)* (Linda Corupe). These have short passages that can be read whenever time permits.

Two old books that give readers a sense of the time when they were written were *The Pioneers of Old Ontario* (W.L. Smith) and *Talbot Regime* (C.O. Ermatinger).

The Trail of the Black Walnut (G. Elmore Reaman) was recommended for anyone with Pennsylvania Dutch roots. For those with Irish heritage, Lucille H. Campey's *Ontario & Quebec Irish Pioneers* is a worthwhile read.

There were a few memoirs, such as *Tom's Gray Creek* (Tom Lymbery), *My Secret Sister* (Helen Edwards) and *They Left Us Everything* (Plum Johnson). Others mentioned classics such as *Clearing in the West* (Nellie McClung), *The Backwoods of Canada* (Catharine Parr Traill) and *Roughing It in the Bush* (Susanna Moodie).

It is also possible to learn about historical times through current historical fiction and genealogy mysteries. A few that were mentioned are *Alias Grace* (Margaret Atwood), *Brock's Traitor* (Tom Taylor), *The Clockmaker's Daughter* (Kate Morton), *The Marriage Certificate* (Stephen Molyneaux), as well as series such as those written by Louise Penny, Steve Robison, M.J. Lee and Nathan Dylan Goodwin.

Genealogy in Ontario: Searching the records by Brenda Dougall Merriman is a highly recommended resource for anyone doing Ontario research. Several local history books for Ontario locations were also presented. For a complete list, contact ontariosig@afhs.ab.ca

Family Roots Feature

Genealogy Conferences Rock!

Tara Shymanski

I have attended a lot of genealogy conferences over the years, both as a participant and as a lecturer, and have discovered a huge number of benefits. I'm thrilled that we have our own conference happening next year so I've highlighted a few of my favourite things about conferences to get you excited about going.

Be Inspired

Genealogy conferences inspire and energize researchers. Something new can be learned from every speaker. Live conference presentations offer opportunities to interact with the speakers in a different way than webinars or virtual conferences. There is a chance to ask more detailed questions and seeing a speaker live gives greater impact to what they say. Also, it gives you a chance to actually meet and talk to some of your family history research gurus!

Meet Other Researchers

The opportunity to socialize with other ancestor seekers is a marvelous reason to attend a genealogy conference. What better place to interact with people who are excited to hear about your search and are eager to share details of their own?

Make Family Connections

I followed the example of a fellow AFHS member and talked to everyone. By doing this, I met two people who shared common ancestors with me. Even if there aren't any direct connections, you may be able to connect with people or resources that can help in your search.

Connect With Vendors

Visiting the exhibit hall at a conference is always a fun experience. It allows you to talk directly to the vendors about their products and there are often special deals or freebies being offered. You can even find products you didn't even know existed!

Discover New Resources

Information booths are often included at conferences. These can include local history societies, libraries, museums, archives and special-interest groups for specific countries or ethnic groups. One or more of these could help you with your research problems.

"I firmly believe that experiencing the speakers "in the flesh" and having the opportunity to meet other attendees is very valuable. Also, nothing can replace the sensory experience of "feeling the buzz" at a live conference." ~ Claire Smith-Burns, Kelowna and District Genealogy Society.

With Family Roots 2020 coming up in less than a year, I really hope you join us and experience the buzz for yourself. Enjoy listening to the speakers, learn all about the latest gadgets, and meet other awesome family history researchers.

Tara Shymanski is a professional genealogy researcher and lecturer. She is Co-Chair of the Family Roots Conference Committee.



Family Roots 2020

Calgary Holiday Inn South
8630 Blackfoot Trail SE

October 3 & 4, 2020

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**

We are still looking for additional speakers - check out our [Call For Speakers](#) page for more details.

Conference website:

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

A Hunting Trip or Putting Bread On The Table

Don Alexander

No, this is not a story about Grampa Joe poaching deer during World War I to keep the family fed. This is a tale about how goose hunting in Govan, Saskatchewan, put bread on our table in Calgary!

The migratory birds were everywhere at the time, but they were especially abundant in Saskatchewan. There were so many, we were told, that the flights were blocking out the sky! This was a special trip – to Jim McKay's birthplace, Govan. We drove all night from Calgary, well most of it anyway, arriving in Govan at midnight.



Next morning, at 4:00 a.m., we were up spotting and spotting and looking and looking, because the birds were so plentiful. We had too many choices of where to set up the blind for the four of us. Sure enough, we limited out the very first day, so we had bragging rights in the local bar. It was the same deal the next two days.

MOST SUCCESSFUL

On our return trip, the Buick wagon had to make a stop in Rosetown, Saskatchewan, for a brief visit with Mary, the sister of my wife Terry. And it was a place to drop off all the extra food we hadn't devoured. The most notable of this stock of food was a

huge pumpernickel loaf. It was about the size of a curling rock, and close to the same weight! Mary thanked us for everything profusely and treated us like royalty. The pot of tea sported two brand new tea bags.

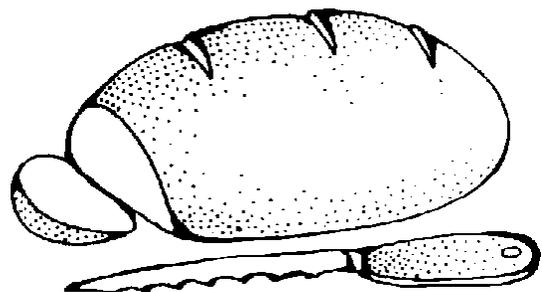


I saw a tea bag in a saucer on the windowsill and commented jokingly, "You probably get an all day supply from one tea bag!" There was a short silence from Mary. Then she said, "No way, I get close to one week with one tea bag!"

WASTE NOT, WANT NOT

Months later, at New Year's, Mary's daughter Patricia came to our house bearing tasty Christmas treats and gifts and wine and, lo and behold, a huge pumpernickel loaf!

Yes, it was the same Saskatchewan one, safely returned to Varston Place. Mary had visited her daughter in Calgary for Christmas and brought it along. Patricia did not know the history, but trust Mary – waste not, want not!



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, January 25

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

TIME: 10 am to noon

Weekend Workshop Following The Trail

The research cycle includes finding a record with your ancestor on it, fully analyzing that record, and deciding where to search next. In this hands-on workshop, you will learn techniques to gather all the information from a document and tips on where to look for the next record.

This is a hands-on workshop so bring your computer and research!

DATE: Saturday, February 29

TIME: 10 am to noon

COST: \$15 (coffee and tea provided)

Space is limited so sign-up soon. To register, contact events@afhs.ab.ca



Director - Facilities

This Board-level position runs until our next AGM in April 2020. If you are interested in overseeing the operation of our library / office facility and serving as liaison with our building owners, contact Jim Benedict president@afhs.ab.ca

Nominations and Volunteer Recruitment Committee (Chair and Committee Members)

We thank Lorna Laughton, who has held this position, for her devotion to our Society. She has stepped down for personal reasons. Our nominations process begins in January. If you would be interested in helping recruit volunteers, please contact Jim Benedict as soon as possible at president@afhs.ab.ca

Society Photographer

Do you like to take photos? A volunteer to take photos for our website and for our Society archives would be greatly appreciated. Contact Marion Peterson at archives@afhs.ab.ca

Call for *Chinook Arch* articles

We are looking for short articles with, or without, copyright-free pictures to publish in the *Chinook Arch*. Favourite relatives, fond family memories, great research tips and tricks, new genealogy technology you love or any related topics are accepted.

Contact Amber Godfrey at chinookarch@afhs.ab.ca

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

Closed Dec. 19 - Jan. 1

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 **Monday, December 16.**

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