

CHINOOK ARCH

January 2020 Volume 2 Issue 1



ALBERTA FAMILY
HISTORIES SOCIETY

Upcoming Meetings and Events

Our Next Monthly Meeting: Monday, January 13

LOCATION: The Village at 4039 Brentwood Rd NW

TIME: 7 to 9 pm



Topic: Genealogy Travel

Speaker: Warren and Marion Peterson

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!

Upcoming meetings and events at the AFHS Library:

Saturday, January 18: English/Welsh SIG: 10 am to noon

Monday, January 20: Ontario SIG: 10 am to noon

Saturday, January 25: Celtic SIG: 10 am to noon

Sunday, January 26: Legacy Users SIG: 10 am to noon

Saturday, February 1: Family Tree Maker SIG: 10 am to noon

Saturday, February 8: Digital Genealogy SIG: 10 am to noon

Sunday, February 9: DNA SIG: 1:30 am to 3:30 pm

CANCELLED DUE TO COLD WEATHER

Upcoming Monthly Meetings

Monday, February 10 - Using Family Search

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

Monday, March 9 - Genealogy Travel

Warren and Marion Peterson will talk about their trip to Sweden and Denmark to explore the places of his ancestry.

Monday, April 6 - Germans From Russia & AFHS Annual General Meeting

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>

Ancestor Anecdotes

The Optician's Tale

Amber Godfrey

My father's paternal side of the family has always been something of a mystery. His father emigrated from England to Manitoba just before World War I and, while two of his brothers also moved to Manitoba after the war, the family lost touch when my father and his parents moved to British Columbia in the 1920s.

Fast forward a few decades and I decided to find out more about my father's ancestors. Using information from some rediscovered cousins in Manitoba, and thanks to more British records appearing online, I managed to follow the paper trail back to Birmingham, England in the early 1800s. That is when I first discovered John Godfrey, an optician, who was my 3rd great-grandfather.

John was born around 1781, possibly in London, and married Mary Martin on August 24, 1801 in Birmingham, Warwickshire. They had at least six children, two boys and four girls. One son died young and their only surviving son, John Thomas, was my great-great-grandfather.

Luckily for me, John was a fairly wealthy businessman in Birmingham so there are numerous records available for him. I have found baptism, marriage, census, death and burial records for the family and information on his optician business in city directories using FindMyPast and Ancestry.

Using Google and Google Books, I was able to find several advertisements that he put in local publications. The earliest one I've located so far was in an 1837 Pigot & Company Directory.

JOHN GODFREY,
(From London)
WORKING OPTICIAN,
GOLD, SILVER AND
GENERAL SPECTACLE MANUFACTURER,
No. 93,
COLESHILL-STREET,
Birmingham.

A slightly later ad, in an Osborne railway guide from 1838, mentions he's been making glasses for over forty years and is now opening a retail shop to serve customers directly at his address of 93 Colehill Street.

I recently found two different probate records for John Godfrey at FindMyPast that included a copy of his will. Unusually for that time, his son did not inherit the business and instead it was willed to his wife and unmarried daughter. Another surprising thing was that probate was done in a Lichfield, Staffordshire court. John owned properties and his optician business in Birmingham, but the only connection I've been able to find to Lichfield was a married daughter living and working in Rugeley (which is nearby) on the 1841 Census. While John and Mary Godfrey and their granddaughter Jannet showed up on the same census staying nearby with another family, it looked more like they were visiting than living there. A mystery to be solved!

The will was an interesting read, once I got past the legal jargon. He left all his properties and worldly goods to the two male executors with provisions that his wife had use of the personal goods and rent from the properties for "the term of her natural life". There was a special provision that the "stock, fixtures, tools and goodwill of my trade" were given to both his wife and his daughter Mary-Ann. When Mary died, his executors were instructed to sell all his properties, and his children, including his son (or their heirs), received equal shares of his estate. The property that housed the shop was to be rented to his daughter, even after it was sold.

He also set up a special kind of trust for his daughter Elizabeth to provide her with an income for her "sole and separate use and benefit independent of her present or any future husband." I'm guessing he was suspicious of this son-in-law as he didn't do this for his other two married daughters. He really did get the last word!

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

CELTIC SIG

Finding Your Irish Family Using Maps

At the October meeting of the Celtic SIG we took a virtual journey to the homeland of an Irish ancestor.

As many know, finding records for family from Ireland can be quite difficult, but it's important to start the search close to home. Clues can sometimes be found by searching records for direct and collateral lines. It can be a difficult challenge but once that clue is discovered it can lead to an emotional journey.

Not everyone can make the trip back to Ireland. Now, thanks to advances in technology and an increase in the number of available records, it is possible to virtually walk the land from which your ancestors emigrated. The focus of the meeting was using maps to find that land.

Finding the townland with Griffith's Valuation

We began at the website johngrenham.com which is a gateway into Irish records and provides wonderful access to other research tools. Starting with the name of the ancestor and the name of the civil parish, found by previous research, we were able to access Griffith's Valuation.

This led us to the location of the civil parish in Ireland and then the townland within that parish. The original page of Griffith's Valuation showed tenant and owner information as well as the field boundary numbers and dwelling numbers that were used in the 19th century to map the land. That information gave us access to maps that could be shown in a historical view or a modern satellite view using a slider tool.

Using Google Maps to walk in their footsteps

Once the townland was pinpointed on the historical map and the dwellings and other landmarks were found, we were able to switch to Google Maps and the modern-day path to the property. Although the original buildings were in ruins and the land was overgrown, the find still provided an emotional response. We were able to virtually walk in the footsteps of our ancestors.

Websites

<https://johngrenham.com>

www.google.com/maps

Finding My Rennie/Rainey Relatives

Katie Crossman

About 10 years ago, I tested with 23andme on a whim. That's what led to my (now obsessive) interest in DNA and genealogy.

Rennie Relations

My interest was piqued by a Scottish DNA relative because my great-grandmother, Mary Wilson, was from Scotland and her middle name (Rennie) was one of his family names. After a bit of digging, we figured out we were fourth cousins. His branch had been in Clydebank, Scotland working at the Singer Sewing Machine Factory, while my branch was in Glasgow, working on the docks.



**Robert Wilson & mother
Mary Rennie Robert**

Raining "Raineys"

Since then, I found another DNA connection living in Belfast with the Rainey (Irish version of Rennie) surname. He also had a William Rainey in Tyrone, Ireland. After a bit of comparing, we realized that his 2x great-grandfather was the brother of my 4x great-grandfather.

I had never been able to find siblings for that ancestor, as birth records weren't available for those years in Ireland. This is a perfect example of how DNA can help: once we found the connection, we were able to confirm it through other records,

but we wouldn't have found those records without the DNA hint. His William Rainey Jr. had gone to Sailortown in Belfast around the time my Robert Rainey went to Scotland.

I then found another distant Rainey who is a shared match. He has traced his Rainey ancestors to Robert Rainey (b. 1768), who went to Lower Canada (Quebec) between 1810-1825. These Raineys had been some of the first European settlers in the Beauce area. Sadly, besides headstones and an abandoned church, there is now almost no trace of them in this French Catholic area. Robert Rainey (b. 1768) is likely an ancestor to us all, and as an older man he emigrated to Canada with his daughter and possibly other children, while some of his other children remained in Ireland.

Using GEDmatch, I compared all of the Rainey crew, and we all match each other and share DNA segments. Strangely enough, my great-grandmother (Robert's great-granddaughter) immigrated as a home child to the same province 100 years later, probably completely unaware of the connection - but 100 years after that, DNA told me!

I've enjoyed using DNA to help with genealogy and got my start with paper genealogy after DNA, which is a bit unusual. Because of this first DNA match that reached out to me, I started researching all my branches and managed to convince my mom and paternal uncle to test their DNA. My mom then convinced her parents. Having my grandparents' DNA is priceless, and now that my grandfather has passed away, I'm even more thankful to have it.

The learning curve has been steep, but it's been interesting and quite rewarding. I am looking forward to more and more people joining the databases so that I can learn even more about my family tree. Making connections with people all over the world has been fascinating.

Library Highlights

Digital Journals at the AFHS Library

Did you know that one of the benefits of being a member is access to journals and newsletters at our library?

AFHS "exchanges" our *Chinook Arch* for journals and newsletters of other genealogy organizations from around the world. Many of these are now received in PDF format.

We don't have room here to list them all, but this is a selection of the ones we receive. Also, the number of issues varies.

The following list includes only the publications we have received within the past six months:

CANADA

Alberta

Relatively Speaking - Alberta Genealogy Society

Saamis Seeker - Medicine Hat Branch, Alberta Genealogy Society

Chinook Country Historical Society eNewsletter

British Columbia

Family Footsteps - Kamloops Family History Society

Okanagan Researcher - Kelowna and District Genealogical Society

Grapevines - South Okanagan Genealogical Society

Splitting Heirs - Vernon and District Family History Society

Manitoba

Generations - Manitoba Genealogical Society

Nova Scotia

The Living Connection - Genealogical Association of Nova Scotia

Ontario

Bruce & Grey Branch Ontario Genealogical Society Newsletter

Bruce Bulletin - Bruce County Genealogical Society

Kindred Spirits - Durham Region Branch, Ontario Genealogical Society

Rooting Around Huron - Huron County Branch, Ontario Genealogical Society

Kingston Relations - Kingston Branch, Ontario Genealogical Society

Lambton Lifeline - Lambton County Branch, Ontario Genealogical Society

London Leaf - London Middlesex Branch Ontario Genealogical Society

Tracer - Oxford County Branch, Ontario Genealogical Society

Perth County Profiles - Perth County Branch, Ontario Genealogical Society

Quinte Searchlight - Quinte Branch, Ontario Genealogical Society

Saskatchewan

Saskatchewan Genealogical Society Bulletin

AUSTRALIA

Ancestor - The Genealogical Society of Victoria

ENGLAND

Bedfordshire Family History Society Journal

Dorset Family History Society Journal

Roots & Branches - Felixstowe Family History Society

Hillingdon Family History Society Journal

Roots in the Forest - Waltham Forest Family History Society

Nottinghamshire Journal - Nottinghamshire Family History Society

SCOTLAND

Central Scotland Family History Society Journal

Glamorgan Family History Society Journal

Scottish Association of Family History Societies Bulletin

To access these digital journals and newsletters, look for a desktop link on all the AFHS library computers labelled "Journals."

This folder also contains PDF copies of our own *Chinook*, *Chinook Arch* and *Thermometer* (the newsletter of the AFHS DNA SIG).

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

(Re-opened on Jan. 2, 2020)

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 **Monday, January 20, 2020.**

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