

CHINOOK ARCH

February 2020 Volume 2 Issue 2



ALBERTA FAMILY
HISTORIES SOCIETY

Upcoming Meetings and Events

Our Next Monthly Meeting: Monday, February 10

LOCATION: "The Village" at 4039 Brentwood Rd NW

TIME: 7 to 9 pm



Topic: Using the Family Search website

Speaker: Carol Hutchison of the Calgary Family History Centre

An overview of the familysearch.org website, including the following topics: Family Tree, the "help" button, Solutions Gallery (genealogy apps), Research Wiki, Books, the FHL Catalog, and Records.

For upcoming Special Interest Group meetings, please check the AFHS calendar:

<https://afhs.ab.ca/calendar/>

Notice of Annual General Meeting: Monday, April 6

LOCATION: "The Village" at 4039 Brentwood Rd NW

TIME: 7 to 9 pm

Notice is hereby given, in accordance with AFHS Bylaws Articles 7.1 & 7.4, of the Annual General Meeting of Alberta Family Histories Society which shall be held on Monday, April 6, 2020 at The Village, 4039 Brentwood Road NW, starting at 7:00 pm, during which financial and other reports will be presented, business conducted and elections held.

Upcoming Monthly Meetings

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 - Annual General Meeting & Germans From Russia

Anne Stang and Mabel Kiessling from the Calgary Chapter of the American Historical Society of Germans from Russia (AHSGR) will do a presentation on Germans from Russia.

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>

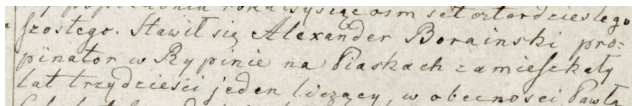
Ancestor Anecdotes

Alexander Borainski, Rypin's Propinator Earl Schultz

Much of my genealogy time is spent extracting German-Polish records from my ancestral area, both to help others and to help me find a connection to them. A side benefit is that I get to learn about other families and how they lived and loved in the 1800s.

The story of Alexander Borainski and his unusual occupation is a perfect example of the kind of fascinating information I have discovered while researching other families in this area.

When Elwira Kleopatra Octawia Borainska was baptised in the Michalki Evangelical Augsburg Church in Poland on January 25, 1846, Pastor Kattein wrote that the occupation of the father, Alexander Borainski, was a propinator.



I had not seen this occupation before and was curious because it didn't look like a Polish word. Propinator was also not in any of my Polish dictionaries. According to the Oxford English Dictionary (known as Lexico.com online), it originates from the Latin word *propinatio*, meaning "drinking to someone's health." Propination was a privilege granted to Polish *szlachta*, a privileged class of landowner whose land was called a *folwark*.

Alexander Borainski was a propinator in Rypin, Poland. He owned a distillery and was either a large landowner or leased the right to distribute alcohol from a nobleman. Under Poland's propination law of that time, the peasants had to buy their alcohol from him or, if they brewed their own, they had to pay Mr. Borainski a fee based on the quantity they produced.

The peasants also had to buy a certain quota of vodka or *okovita* (an old form of vodka that was not clear but was very strong, 70-80% alcohol, and very inexpensive). If a peasant did not buy his quota, the remaining amount of

alcohol was dumped in front of his house and he had to pay the cost anyway.

The laws originated in the 16th century, became widespread in the 17th century and they weren't repealed in the Russian Partition, where Rypin was located, until 1898. Hence, the law would remain in effect in Rypin for another half century after Alexander Borainski's daughter was baptised. These laws made the landowners very wealthy and the profits from alcohol sales even surpassed agricultural production.

Massive alcoholism in Poland and Russia is attributed to the propination laws. In addition, rural taverns were primarily leased to Jews because they were banned from most other occupations. The Jews enforced the privileges of the propination laws, which led to anti-Semitism among Polish peasants.

Increasingly, Jews played a major role in alcohol distribution in Russia and Poland. By the 20th century, they were very active during prohibition in the United States too. This is why so many names associated with prohibition were Jewish or Polish.

In Canada, the Bronfman family was a primary supplier of alcohol to the United States during prohibition. Their company name was later changed to Seagram's, which is now one of the world's largest liquor companies.

It always amazes me what one can find in the parish records of our ancestors when one is willing to extract more than just the names and dates.

Note:

Rypin is about 150 km northwest of Warsaw and about 67 km northeast of Torun.

Sources:

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Propination_laws

<https://www.lexico.com/en/definition/propination>

<https://sztetl.org.pl/en/towns/r/298-rypin/96-local-history/67695-local-history>

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

LEGACY USER SIG

Entering Names in Genealogy Software Programs

It doesn't matter whether you are using Legacy, Family Tree Maker, Roots Magic, TNG or any other genealogy software program, consistency in entering your information is very important. If you are not consistent, your reports will lack uniformity and the search features of your program become less effective. At our meeting, we focused on the best practices for entering names.

Best Practices For Entering Names

- Always enter maiden names for females. A woman may marry several times, taking her spouse's name each time, but her maiden name will always stay the same. Legacy will link her to her husband, creating married names that can be found in the Index View.
- If you do not know a name, leave the field blank. If you use an alternate method, such as /UNKNOWN/ or [—?—] or _____, Legacy will identify these as potential errors, which you would then need to override.
- In the days of typewriters, genealogists used upper case letters for surnames. With Legacy, the best practice is to enter a name in mixed case. If you desire surnames in upper case letters, within slashes or in upper case with slashes, choose these options in your report settings.
- The AKA field should be used to record all alternate spellings, aliases, nicknames and familiar names. If you enter all the variations, they can be included in reports and help you conduct searches for every possible name. In the deluxe edition of Legacy, alternate names will appear in the Index View and the Name Index, so you do not need to remember all the variations. If you find out which name is "correct," you can easily swap an alternate name for the main name.
- Familiar names can be placed in quotes, for example William "Bill" John. An option can then be chosen so that familiar names are used in narrative reports.
- Traditionally, genealogists were told to use a person's baptismal name as the "correct" name. If an alternate name was commonly used and is more likely to be found in records you may decide to use it and enter the baptismal name as an alternate. The most important thing is to be consistent.

For more information about entering names, see this blog post by Michele Simmons Lewis:

https://news.legacyfamilytree.com/legacy_news/2018/08/using-name-standardization-in-genealogy-research.html

Introducing Christine Woodcock

The Family Roots 2020 genealogy conference committee is getting excited! Are you? Mark your calendars because you won't want to miss *Follow in Your Ancestors' Footsteps* October 3 & 4, right here in Calgary!

Did your ancestors' footsteps lead from Scotland? Was there a Hudson's Bay Company employee in your ancestry perhaps? If so, you won't want to miss the sessions being offered by Christine Woodcock.



Christine Woodcock

Christine is passionate about her area of expertise – and it shows. She is known not only for her knowledge but also for her enjoyable presentation style, mixing humour and anecdotes. You will be sure to learn a lot from her lectures.

She began researching her family history following the death of her mother and grandmother who were the story-tellers of the family. Christine's mother was one of 21 children and, although Christine and her parents emigrated to Canada when Christine was quite young, she grew up immersed in the Scottish culture.

When speaking to groups and societies about Scottish research, Christine recognized that a large percentage of the Scots Diaspora had never been to Scotland. To allow researchers the opportunity to research the records in their ancestral homeland, Christine began her business, Genealogy Tours of Scotland.

Christine started the Scottish ViC in 2018, the only virtual conference dedicated to Scottish research, enlisting the assistance of her colleagues in Scotland.

<https://www.genealogyvic.com/>

When not organizing genealogy research tours to Scotland, Christine lectures on Scottish genealogy, hosts webinars, and authors blogs and articles. She is the webinar coordinator for the ISBGFH and has begun organizing their Virtual Institute.

<https://isbgfh.org/>

We will announce more speakers in the coming weeks. Registration begins on April 15, 2020.

Follow Your Ancestors' Footsteps

Calgary Holiday Inn South

8630 Blackfoot Trail SE

October 3 & 4, 2020

Featured Speakers

- **Cyndi Ingle**
- **Dave Obee**
- **Christine Woodcock**



Would you like to sponsor this event? Contact familyroots@afhs.ab.ca for more information.

Conference website:

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

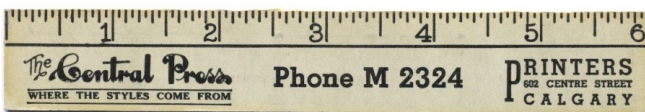
Memories Of A Calgary Print Shop

Jim Benedict

My dad, Al Benedict, was a printer in a classic, old-fashioned print shop—cans of ink, galleys of type, rows of printing presses, and stacks of papers. Born in Calgary in 1910, he started working doing deliveries on his bicycle in town, then he apprenticed in a print shop. He worked his way up in a hands-on, blue-collar industry. He had worked for a couple of large printing companies, but his heart was set on running his own shop.

The first one, that I recall, was down on the corner of Centre Street and Sixth Avenue, across from the Bow Tower. Back then, in the fifties, it was known as the Albion Block, and, before that, it was the Hull Opera House.

The printing paper stock was stored in the basement, accessed by a secret trap door in the floor. The door was used at one time for opera actors to appear and disappear during performances.

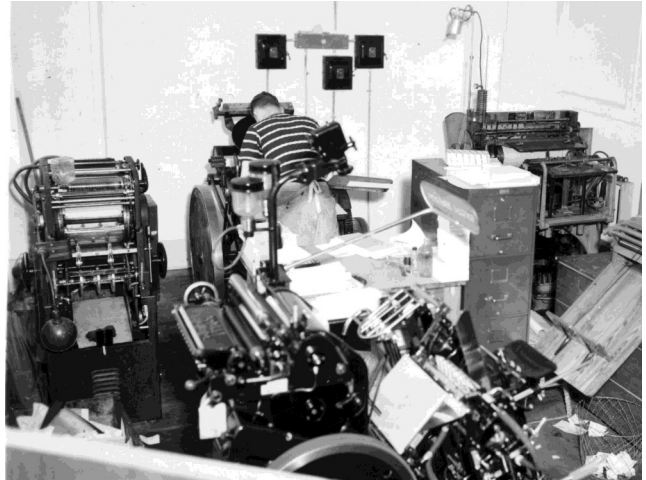


Mind your p's and q's!

I also remember the large wooden trays Dad used for holding his type. The trays would be subdivided into many little compartments, each to hold a letter, a number, a text symbol or a spacer. Each was cast in a small steel plate, all uniform in size, with a raised symbol on one end. He would gather together a sequence of letters, numbers and spacers, stacking them together like a stack of cards. Then he would lay them in a metal tray, the letters going in left to right but in reverse order and upside down and this formed a line of type. Many such lines would be blocked together to make a full page.

Dad could read print in this mirror reverse form as easily as we can read normally. Mind you, he had to watch that he didn't accidentally put a p instead of a q or a d instead of a b, as

these letters looked like each other when reversed. This is possibly the origin of the saying "mind your p's and q's."



When laying out a line of type, he would rapidly pick from the large wooden cases of type. The capital letters would be in the case set at eye level, inclined in front of him. The non-capital letters would be in the lower tray, resting on the workbench. Uppercase letters would come from the upper case, and lowercase letters from the lower case on the bench. So that is how those terms originated.

All kinds of inks and colours were stored in round tin cans with lids. It took a lot of different colours to meet the expectations of the customers. A typical type of customer would be a businessman or traveling salesman, needing business cards, letterhead and envelopes.

My dad was also colour-blind which was not a good trait to have for that business. One time, a businessman came in requiring letterhead for his company. He needed different colours, a logo, lines and decoration. "Fine, I'll have it ready for you on Friday," said my dad. Come Friday, the customer walked in to pick up his stationary. "You got the name right, but the colour is wrong!"

After some head-scratching and an apology, my dad offered to redo the whole job over, at no charge. "No, no," said the customer, "I'll take the whole order. I like this colour much better!"

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, February 29

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

TIME: 10 am to noon

Weekend Workshop: Following The Genealogy Document 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

Volunteer Opportunities

AFHS Board Positions

In a little over two months, we once again face the critical role of electing our Board of Directors, while also celebrating our 40th Anniversary.

We can't afford to assume that someone else will always "step up to the plate." Some members have been giving of their time and efforts for years, and now it is our turn. We all have some form of talent we can provide—we just need to do it. Please, help us ensure that we can celebrate Alberta Family History Society's 40th anniversary and enjoy many more to come.

To obtain information about the Board positions and the nominations process, or to offer your name as a candidate, please contact Peter McKenzie nominations@afhs.ab.ca. Let's keep our Society viable into our fourth decade!

Casino Volunteers

Volunteers are needed for our casino which will be held May 12 & 13, 2020 at Cash Casino. If you can help, please contact Dennis casino@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

Get in Touch with us!

Email: info@afhs.ab.ca

Facebook: Alberta Family Histories Society

Website: www.afhs.ab.ca

Phone: 403-214-1447

Board Meetings

Next AFHS Board Meeting will be held at the AFHS Library on **Monday, February 17, 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 Ancestor Anecdotes, 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