

CHINOOK ARCH

April 2020 Volume 2 Issue 4



ALBERTA FAMILY
HISTORIES SOCIETY

Society Meetings

Our Next Monthly Meeting: Monday, May 11

LOCATION: Online, using Zoom

TIME: 7 to 9 pm

Topic: TBD

Please note: April meeting is cancelled

Upcoming Meetings

Virtually using Zoom until further notice - contact the SIG leaders to receive an invitation link to the meeting

DATE	GROUP	TIME	CONTACT
April 6	AFHS Board Meeting	7 to 9 pm	president@afhs.ab.ca
April 11	Digital Genealogy SIG	10 am to noon	technology@afhs.ab.ca
No meeting	DNA SIG	1:30 to 3:30 pm	dnasig@afhs.ab.ca
April 18	English/Welsh SIG	10 am to noon	englishwelshsig@afhs.ab.ca
No meeting	Celtic SIG	10 am to noon	celticsig@afhs.ab.ca
April 26	Legacy Users SIG	1:30 to 3:30 pm	legacysig@afhs.ab.ca
April 27	Ontario SIG	10 am to noon	ontariosig@afhs.ab.ca
May 2	Family Tree Maker SIG	10 am to noon	ftmsig@afhs.ab.ca

Next Monthly Meeting

Monday, June 8

Topic: TBD

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>

President's Message

The Board and I are hoping that you are all safe and taking care of yourself and staying home. Hopefully, those that you love are also staying healthy. These days, using our phones, email and even video chat means that we may be physically by ourselves but we are not alone.

Although the Alberta Family History Society (AFHS) has been challenged by this new threat, it is still functioning reasonably well in the circumstances. Positives include:

- We are financially solvent and we have cash and investments in reserve in the bank. We should be able to carry on reduced services for several months, well into the rest of the year. Our prime asset, the AFHS library, is locked and secure.
- We have heard from AGLC, and our casino will be rescheduled. We will not lose our place in the queue for this important source of funds.
- The Board and the SIGs are still alive and well. They are starting to hold meetings using virtual gatherings through video conferencing. AFHS has subscribed to the Zoom application, a full featured video meeting room where we can have meetings, workshops and SIG gatherings. We can share slideshows, webpages and documents on screen. Check page one of this newsletter and our online calendar for information about virtual SIG meetings. It is easy and fun. In fact, the first SIG meeting had a 25% increase in attendance, as our out-of-town members could join in.
- While we have had to cancel our April monthly meeting, we are working on having our regular monthly meetings using Zoom, probably starting in May. These will include guest speakers. Information will be sent to our members when the details have been worked out.

Unfortunately, we have had to postpone our Annual General Meeting that was scheduled for this month, as our bylaws require voting in-person. It will be held when circumstances allow in-person gatherings.

Also, we made the difficult decision to cancel the *Follow Your Ancestors' Footsteps* conference that was slated for October due to the current situation and the uncertainty about when it will end.

As for the rest of you, I trust you have been carrying on with your own genealogy projects finding those elusive great-grandparents. Some of the commercial genealogy websites are offering free access at times, so keep your eyes open for opportunities. And get ready to bring your brags to the virtual meetings!

Remember, "Things turn out best for the people who make the best of the way things turn out." – John Wooden.

Take care, stay healthy and keep calm. We shall get through this.

Jim Benedict
AFHS President

Ancestor Anecdotes

An Unusual Source: Churching Record

Marion Peterson

Genealogists are extremely fortunate that the LDS Church has been microfilming and indexing records for years. I've made four trips to their huge library in Salt Lake City and had great success finding records about my ancestors in their collection.

On one of my visits, I was researching my Capstick and Thornbeck lines. They lived in Kirkby Lonsdale Parish in Westmoreland, England. Using an index, I found an interesting record on the microfilm of the parish register on a page titled "Marriages and Churchings for 1790." It reads: "*Oct 24 Jonathⁿ Thornbeck Wife Church^d Casterton 0 6.*"

I had never heard of churching before, so I did some research. Churching is a ceremony where a blessing is given to a mother after recovery from childbirth. Historically, a European woman went through a period called "lying-in" when she was confined to her bed or home after giving birth. A female relative (often her mother or mother-in-law) cared for her during this time.

Many cultures have similar rites where a woman spends time apart after childbirth, then rejoins religious and social life following a special ceremony. In Jewish communities, this rite served to restore purity; it was believed a woman became unclean during childbirth.

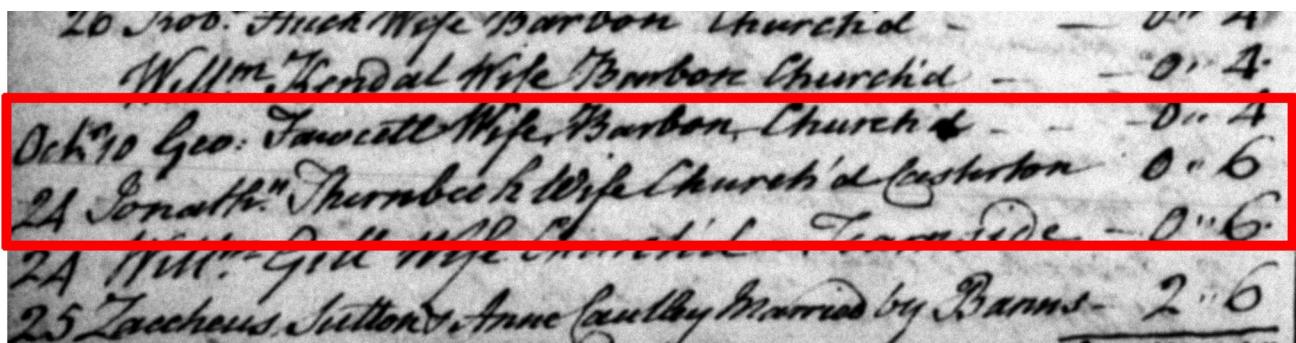
There are many variations of this rite, but it often was held 40 days after the birth. Some churches provided a special veil for the mother to wear. Often, the mother carried a lit taper as she entered the church. The priest would meet her at the door, lead her to the altar, then sprinkle her with holy water during the blessing. The child, if it had survived, was then baptized by the priest in the presence of sponsors.

The baptism register for Kirkby Lonsdale Parish has an entry for their daughter, Agnes, on this same date.

Casterton is the name of a place in the parish, so this record also provided their residence which was previously unknown to me.

I think the two numbers at the end indicate Jonathan Thornbeck gave the church 6 pence when his wife was churched, but I have not been able to confirm this.

In my many years of doing genealogy research, I think this is the most unusual source I have discovered. It certainly provides some interesting material to include in my family's story.



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 - Many Hands Make Light Work

Susan Butler

Most of us have heard of the saying “many hands make light work.” This can also be applied to genealogy research.

The Celtic SIG meetings are often formal presentations with time included for questions after the presentation. However, sometimes people just need to gather and ask for help finding resources or new ideas to help them break down those brick walls. With a mix of amateur genealogists, from beginners to members with skills that have been honed over years of researching, new and seasoned members of the SIG often leave a meeting with new ideas to send them off in a fresh direction for research.

At a recent meeting of the Celtic SIG, researchers gave a brief summary of their research history and progress. Many members of the SIG have yet to find their connection to a specific place in Scotland or Ireland from whence an ancestor emigrated. As always, starting your research from the known to the unknown should be stressed.

Many useful suggestions were passed along to the group. These included:

- Searching for obituaries in newspapers as well as checking pages beyond the obituary columns for a story about your ancestor's life
- Searching religious newspapers if you know your ancestor's religion, such as Ontario's *Christian Guardian*, that may also hold small clues to narrow down your search
- City directories, if available, can be valuable resources about your ancestors including listing other family members, occupation, place of employment, home and work address and more
- Joining a local society in the county or area from where your ancestor emigrated if it is known
- Using web sites like *Lost Cousins* for clues
- Including search engines other than *Google* in your research that may provide a new path to follow and changing the wording for a search may also lead to a new discovery

Most genealogists are eager to tell their story and, in so-doing, share knowledge with all who are looking for that next clue. Many minds, sharing tips, have the potential to find those elusive ancestors.

Virtual Workshops

All of these online workshops are free, but most require you to register ahead of time. Please check the websites for more details.

Connecting Family Histories

RBCM@Home

Tuesday, April 9, 2020 12 - 12:30 pm MDT

<https://royalbcmuseum.bc.ca/visit/events/calendar/event/109919/rbcmhome>

What's New At AmericanAncestors.org

AmericanAncestors.org

Thursday, April 9, 2020 1 - 2 pm MDT

<https://www.americanancestors.org/education/online-classes#webinars>

You Use WHAT for Genealogy? Wonderful Uses for Unusual Tools

Georgia Genealogical Society

Thursday, April 9, 2020 6 - 7:15 pm MDT

<http://www.gagensociety.org/events/you-use-what-for-genealogy-wonderful-uses-for-unusual-tools/>

Dissecting a Civil War Pension - Union & Confederate

Southern California Genealogical Society

Wednesday, April 15, 2020 7 - 8:30 pm MDT

<http://scgsgenealogy.com/webinar/jes-index.html>

Get The Most From AmericanAncestors... from home!

AmericanAncestors.org

Thursday, April 16, 2020 1 - 2 pm MDT

<https://www.americanancestors.org/education/online-classes#webinars>

Give Me--Your Huddled Masses Yearning to Breathe Free: Immigration and Naturalization

Florida State Genealogical Society Inc.

Thursday, April 16, 2020 6 - 7 pm MDT

<https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/7436902441085942540>

Museums Have Records Too: Your Ancestors Behind Closed Doors

Utah Genealogical Association

Thursday, April 16, 2020 7 - 8 pm MDT

<https://ugagenealogy.org/cpage.php?pt=11>

Digging Into Finding Aids: The Road Map to Any Manuscript Collection

Wisconsin State Genealogical Society

Tuesday, April 21, 2020 6 - 7 pm MDT

<https://wsgs.org/>

Introduction to Vivid-Pix RESTORE

Legacy Family Tree Webinars

Wednesday, April 22, 2020 12 - 1 pm MDT

<http://familytreewebinars.com/upcoming-webinars-multireg.php>

Treasures of New England Historic Genealogical Society

AmericanAncestors.org

Thursday, April 30, 2020 1 - 2 pm MDT

<https://www.americanancestors.org/education/online-classes#webinars>

The Future is Still in the Past: An Introduction to Online Parish Clerks in the United Kingdom

Legacy Family Tree Webinars

Friday, May 1 2020 12 - 1:30 pm MDT

<http://familytreewebinars.com/upcoming-webinars-multireg.php>

Smarter Search Strategies for Genealogy

Legacy Family Tree Webinars

Tuesday, May 5, 2020 8 - 9:30 pm MDT

<http://familytreewebinars.com/upcoming-webinars-multireg.php>

Using Ontario's Township Papers

Ontario Genealogical Society

Thursday, May 7, 2020 3 - 4:30 pm MDT

<https://ogs.on.ca/zoom-meetings/webinar-2020-may/>

This is a selection of the webinars available. Many webinars are recorded and available to view later, for free, for a limited time. Some companies are extending the time limit for free viewing during the COVID-19 crisis so check their websites for updated information.

Websites like AmericanAncestors.org have certain webinars always available free while you can subscribe to sites like Legacy Family Tree Webinars for monthly or yearly fees to watch all the webinars in their library.

Early Alberta Newspapers Online

Candice McDonald, *Finding Your Canadian Story*

One of the downsides of Canadian research is the lack of a central repository for newspapers. If you have ancestors in Alberta in the early 1900s, you'll want to look at the University of Calgary's collection of early Alberta newspapers. The website has a total collection of over 600 microfilms of various newspapers around the province including the *Calgary Herald* and the *Calgary Daily Herald*.

The years run the gamut from about 1908 to the early 1920s. However, I also found a couple of sets that had dates from the 1990s. Each microfilm holds multiple issues. The *Early Alberta Newspapers Collection* of the University of Calgary can be accessed at <http://contentdm.ucalgary.ca/digital/collection/p22007coll19>

Sorting

There is an option to sort the issues by:

- Title Ascending
- Title Descending
- Date Ascending
- Date Descending
- Description Ascending
- Description Descending

Sorting does not work perfectly, but more or less sorts the way you want it. On the left side bar, you can also filter by newspaper and/or date. To access a particular microfilm, just click on the one you want.

Zoom In Or Out

To be able to zoom in and out, just click on the little red box with the arrows in the right corner of the image. You'll then be able to zoom in and out. As well, you can make it a full screen image, rotate left, or rotate right.

Search

Use the search bar to the right of the image to search for surnames or key words. Take some time to browse the issues as well, because you never know what you might find. The search engine may not always pick up your search words.

Next Image

To go to the next image on the microfilm, you can click on the image in the right sidebar. You can alternately use the red bars on the right and left to go back and forth through the images. If you are in the zoom screen, there are right and left arrows at the top of the screen to go back and forth. They are a little hard to see, but just take your cursor and hover on the top right corner, and they will become highlighted.

Save & Cite

Unfortunately, I could see no way to download images. You could however take a screen shot and save it as a JPEG or PNG image to your computer. There are several screen shot programs out there if you don't have one.

For your source citation, scroll to the bottom of the page to Object Description to get the information you need.

So what kind of information can you find? Most beginners in newspaper research only look at the Births, Marriages and Deaths section. But you can find a lot more if you look at the other pages as well. For some interesting examples from Alberta newspapers, including court cases about underage military service and farmers caught making moonshine, and a full list of the newspaper titles available, check out my full blog post at findingyourcanadian-story.blogspot.com/2020/03/alberta-ancestors-early-alberta.html

Upcoming Events

Family History Coaching Program *AFHS Volunteers & CPL Staff*

**CANCELLED UNTIL
FURTHER NOTICE**

IrfanView Webinar

Would you like to learn about a free photo-editing software that can do typical genealogy tasks? Warren Peterson will describe how to install and use IrfanView to crop, extract headshots, adjust colour, sharpen details and improve the legibility of the scanned text in digital images.

DATE: Saturday, May 30

TIME: 10 am via Zoom

COST: Free (AFHS Members Only)

Space is limited to 100 attendees. To register, send an email no later than May 28 to vp@afhs.ab.ca

Watch for virtual content!

As the genealogy world adjusts to the restrictions in place during the COVID-19 pandemic, many groups are switching to virtual meetings, workshops and conferences. These are being updated daily so watch blogs, Facebook groups, newsletters and websites to see what is being offered online.

Family Search - free webinars throughout April 2020!

Check out the list of upcoming webinars on the Family Search website.

<https://media.familysearch.org/free-family-history--webinars-for-april-2020/>

Legacy Family Tree - free webinars throughout April 2020!

Check out the list of upcoming webinars on the Legacy Family Tree website.

https://news.legacyfamilytree.com/legacy_news/2020/04/free-webinars-each-day-the-entire-month-of-april.html

Vision 2020: Finding The Past, Moving Into The Future

The Ontario Genealogical Society

June 5 - 7, 2020

CANCELLED

Harvest Your Family Tree 2020 *Kelowna & District Genealogical Society Conference*

September 25 - 26, 2020

<https://kdgs.wixsite.com/kdgs>

Follow Your Ancestors' Footsteps *Alberta Family History Society*

October 3 - 4, 2020

CANCELLED

2020 Vision: Seeking Ancestors Using DNA and Digital Tools

The Saskatchewan Genealogical Society

April 17 - 19, 2020

**Postponed until
Fall 2020 or Spring 2021**

Check back for updates at
princealbertgenealogy.wordpress.com/

Volunteer Opportunities



40th Anniversary Celebration: 2020 is the 40th anniversary of the founding of the Alberta Family History Society and we need people to help with the celebration in June. Please contact Marion at communications@afhs.ab.ca

Presentation Speakers: We are always looking for people to speak at our monthly meetings. Do you have something genealogy-related that you are passionate about that you would share with us? Now would be a good time to work on a presentation for future meetings. Please contact Christine at programs@afhs.ab.ca

Book Reviewers: If you read any good books related to genealogy research or history in the next few weeks, we would love to have a short review for the *Chinook Arch*. Please contact Amber at chinookarch@afhs.ab.ca

Proof-reader: Are you detail-oriented with excellent grammar skills? The *Chinook Arch* could use another person to proof read articles before the newsletter is published. Please contact Amber at chinookarch@afhs.ab.ca

Looking For A Project?

Indexers are needed for Family Search records. There are hundreds of available projects and they provide you with basic training on what you need to know. To find out more, check out <https://www.familysearch.org/indexing>

CanadaGenWeb's Cemetery Project needs volunteers to index headstones from pictures other volunteers have provided. Experience with Google Drive and spreadsheets is helpful. To find out more information, visit <http://cemetery.canadagenweb.org/volunteer>

Library Hours & Opportunities to Connect

Library Open Hours

Closed until
further notice

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



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.

We are looking for short articles and copyright-free pictures. Favourite relatives, fond family memories, great research tips and tricks, new genealogy technology you love or any related topics are accepted.

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