

CHINOOK ARCH

June 2020 Volume 2 Issue 6



ALBERTA FAMILY
HISTORIES SOCIETY

Society Meetings

Our Next Monthly Meeting: Monday, June 8

LOCATION: Online, using Zoom

TIME: 7 to 9 pm

Speaker: Larry Gilchrist, former AFHS president

Topic: Larry will give us tips on deciphering Old English handwriting and learning how to appreciate its beauty. He says, "When you first see Old English handwriting, it looks difficult to read. But it really is beautiful and fascinating. Once you learn to read it, you will perhaps gain some respect for the scribes who painstakingly produced parish registers, probate records, manor records, and all the other manuscript sources we encounter in our research."

Upcoming Meetings

Virtually using Zoom until further notice. Contact the SIG leaders to receive an invitation link to the meeting.

DATE	GROUP	TIME	CONTACT
Saturday, June 13	Digital Genealogy SIG	10 am to noon	technology@afhs.ab.ca
Saturday, June 22	Ontario SIG	10 am to noon	ontariosig@afhs.ab.ca
TBD (August)	AFHS Board Meeting	7 to 9 pm	president@afhs.ab.ca

Next Monthly Meetings

Monday, September 14

Topic: Annual General Meeting & Germans from Russia presentation

Monday, October 5

Topic: 40th Anniversary Celebration, Volunteer Appreciation

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>

AFHS Board Update

Annual General Meeting

The Annual General Meeting will be held on Monday, September 14 at 7 pm in-person at The Village (4039 Brentwood Rd NW). If restrictions continue into September, and an in-person meeting is not possible, the Board will consider other options to hold this important meeting.

The financial audit has been completed and, as soon as a final document is received, the Annual Report will be distributed via email.

Call for Nominations

Nominations are still open for Director positions. We do not have a full slate at this time, and we are seeking nominees for the position of Vice President and a Director with an interest in Facilities. Please contact Peter at memberrelations@afhs.ab.ca for more information or to submit your name as a candidate.

40th Anniversary Celebration

The Board decided to move our 40th Anniversary Celebration and Volunteer Recognition Event to Monday, October 5. This is only if restrictions for large gatherings are lifted. Please note that the meeting is on the first Monday of the month, due to Thanksgiving falling on the second Monday.

Library Update

At time of writing, the library remains closed and a date is not known for reopening. This will depend on not only the lifting of restrictions, but the willingness of volunteers and the ability to ensure proper cleaning protocols. Open times, if available, will be noted on the website calendar.

Annual Summer Picnic

Also pending confirmation is our Annual Summer Picnic. We have chosen the weekend of August 22 - 23 as the possible time frame, but a final decision has not been made.

****Watch for a mid-summer edition of the Windsock for updates on these events and other Society news****

Can You Recommend?

The Library Committee is looking for a local carpenter to build a shelf-end display rack. We have an idea of what we would like, but commercial ones are very expensive. Does anyone have a carpenter they would recommend? Contact Linda at library@afhs.ab.ca

AFHS Now on Instagram!

To follow us, look for **abfamilyhistoriessociety**

DNA Discoveries

Big Y-700: The Next BIG Thing in DNA

Earl Schultz

Only males can do a Y-DNA test, and only FamilyTreeDNA tests the Y chromosome and provides you with your matches. Not a lot of genealogists do Y-DNA testing because of the expense, but if you have a patrilineal-line brick wall then Y-DNA testing could be a good choice. Most experts recommend that you start with Y-37, the 37 marker test, to see if you have any close matches. Until recently, most experts would say that doing the Big Y test only helps scientists and that it was not useful for genealogy. Now it appears that is starting to change.

Big Y-700 primarily tests SNPs (single nucleotide polymorphisms), pronounced "snips". What you receive back is the last SNP mutation that has been recorded by scientists and the number of private variants that no one else who has tested has. My last SNP is BY152520, BY being the FTDNA lab that discovered it, and 152520 being the numerically assigned number. I have 19 private variants. BY152520 is approximately 2400+ years old and no one has done a Big Y DNA test with any of my 19 private variants.

That is about to change. My first cousin has agreed to do the Big Y-700 test. He will most likely have all or most of my private variants. When scientists have two people with the same private variants, they give the variants a numerical name and add them to the Haplotype. They will be named BY, followed by a set of numbers, and they will apply, for now, only to my Schultz family.

Why is this so important? I have distant Y-DNA matches. If they also do a Big Y test and if they share some of the Schultz SNP variants, we will be able to calculate with increasing accuracy the time to our common ancestor. If we get Big Y tests for our most important surnames, that could be a huge boost to our genealogy.

Already surname clans are asking everyone in their clan to do Big Y so they can map the family mutations and verify their family trees by counting back to where the last common SNP mutation is for each person. I will provide a picture of my Big Y results and explain how it can be used to calculate the time to your common ancestor in a future article.

Success with DNA Results

Bev Smith

My husband Wayne and I took DNA tests with two different companies: Ancestry and FamilyTreeDNA. We also transferred the DNA data to MyHeritage. Neither of us have had many close matches but enough distant matches to make it interesting.

Once Ancestry developed their "Thrulines" tool, comparing data became much easier. So far, I have really only looked at Wayne's matches as that is the family I am concentrating on this winter.

What have I found? Matches who have submitted trees are far easier to compare, which we already knew. Trees with locations included are also easier to match up. But I have had success matching his small DNA samples with the research we have done over the last 40 years.

As we know, privacy forbids living people being named. But if you know that the match is the child of a daughter or son of your deceased common relative (their direct ancestor and your second cousin), the match can confirm the link in your tree.

One example was a message that asked about Fred Smith, son of Edward, cousin of Wayne's grandfather. All I had in our research was birth dates and early census records in Ontario. But, in a newspaper article I had found, Fred had a serious accident in his father's mill and lost one of his arms. I mentioned this in reply to the query only to hear, "We have a photo of a one-armed man with our father, Fred's son. Maybe that is our grandfather, Fred?" Fred had gone to Ohio. Wayne did a further search of "Thrulines" and matched Fred's daughter's granddaughter. We are on the right track!

This is one success story and I hope that we have many more. Wish me luck!

DNA websites:

www.familytreedna.com

www.familytreedna.com/public/y-dna-haplotype

www.ancestry.ca/dna

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 2nd Sunday from 1:30 - 3:30 pm (Jan.- Mar.)

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

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

FAMILY TREE MAKER SIG

Family Tree Maker 2019 has arrived and contains some new and improved features. They include:

Rich Color Coding: This feature was also in the 2017 release but has been enhanced to allow eight colours per person. You now have the ability to mark all of a person's descendants with separate colours.

Photo cropping: The software allows you to crop a person's face from a photo and add it to your tree without harming the original photo. You are even able to crop several people from one photo.

Photo Darkroom: Using this feature, an old faded photo can be restored by adjusting the contrast and brightness to make it look as good as the original.

At our March 2020 SIG meeting, Greg Cave gave an excellent presentation on using timelines within Family Tree Maker and also as a general research tool.

Timelines are useful in many ways. They can help keep you organized, are a visual aid for missing information, can be useful with same name resolutions, can help fill gaps in your tree and are easily shared with others.

Greg talked about how we can create timelines in many different ways. These include using software like Family Tree Maker, using a spreadsheet program like Excel or even by hand.

Family Tree Maker has three timeline options:

- Personal Events
- Family Events
- Historical Events

You can choose to show just the events for a specific individual. You can choose to also show events for their family (like the birth of children) and even major historical events. The software comes with default historical events that can be edited or deleted. You can also add events that are relevant to your own family history.

A *Timeline Report*, found under Person Reports, lists an individual's life events with the date and location of the event and the person's age at that time. There are options to add the family and historical events here too.

Virtual Workshops

All of these online webinars are free, but most require you to register ahead of time. This is only a selection of the ones available. Many webinars are recorded and available to view later, for free, for a limited time. Please check the links given for more details.

England Records Beyond the Grave

Family Search

Wednesday, June 10, 2020 1 - 2 pm MDT

https://www.familysearch.org/wiki/en/Family_History_Library_Classes_and_Webinars

Using DNA to Answer Real Research Questions: Three Case Studies

Legacy Family Tree Webinars

Wednesday, June 10, 2020 6 - 7 pm MDT

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

First Steps in Family History (Beginner)

American Ancestors

Thursday, June 11, 2020 1 - 2 pm MDT

<https://register.gotowebinar.com/register/7681719702662488845?source=website>

Using Timelines and Tables to Analyze Your Research

Georgia Genealogical Society

Thursday, June 11, 2020 6 - 7:15 pm MDT

<https://www.gagensociety.org/events/using-timelines-and-tables-to-analyze-your-research>

Naturalization Records

Pinellas Genealogy Society

Tuesday, June 16, 2020 8 - 9:30 am MDT

<http://pinellasgenealogysociety.com/calendar>

Smarter Search Strategies for Genealogy

Wisconsin State Genealogical Society

Tuesday, June 16, 2020 6 - 7 pm MDT

<https://wsos.org/eventListings.php?nm=316>

Genealogical Treasures in Irish Archives

Legacy Family Tree Webinars

Tuesday, June 16, 2020 6 - 7 pm MDT

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

Bridging the Gap: Finding Ancestors in the United States between 1780 and 1840

Legacy Family Tree Webinars

Wednesday, June 17, 2020 12 - 1 pm MDT

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

The Other Census - US State Censuses

Southern California Genealogical Society

Wednesday, June 17, 2020 7 - 8 pm MDT

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

Seven Proven Strategies for Identifying Slave Ownership and Reconstructing Families: New Paths and Trails

Florida State Genealogical Society

Thursday, June 18, 2020 6 - 7 pm MDT

<https://flsgs.org/cpage.php?pt=253>

First Steps in Family History (Beginner)

American Ancestors

Thursday, June 11, 2020 1 - 2 pm MDT

<https://register.gotowebinar.com/register/7681719702662488845?source=website>

Utilizing the HathiTrust Digital Library for Family History Research

Legacy Family Tree Webinars

Wednesday, June 24, 2020 12 - 1 pm MDT

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

The 1939 Register for Family Historians

Legacy Family Tree Webinars

Tuesday, June 30, 2020 8 - 9 pm MDT

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

Tracing Ancestral Lines in the 1700s Using DNA

Ontario Ancestors

Thursday, July 2, 2020 5 - 6 pm MDT

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

Turning Dry Facts Into Exciting Narrative

Legacy Family Tree Webinars

Wednesday, July 8, 2020 6 - 7 pm MDT

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

My Ancestor is From ... but I Don't Speak or Read the Language. Help!

Georgia Genealogical Society

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

<https://www.gagensociety.org/events/my-ancestor-is-from-but-i-dont-speak-or-read-the-language-help>

Check for more webinars at Conference Keeper Virtual Events:

<http://conferencekeeper.org/virtual/>

Pandemic Pandemonium

Leslie Dennis

Thank you to the Calgary Herald, Harry Sanders, and the CBC for the background they provided for this article.

The 1918 pandemic hit Calgary at an already challenging time – headlines of the day covered labour unrest, Prohibition and World War I, which had gone on for four long years by that time. Influenza arrived in Calgary on October 2, 1918 on a train with soldiers returning from the war. Medical staff were forewarned and met the train. Baggage and the train were fumigated, and soldiers were isolated, with symptoms such as sore throats, sores on their lips and pneumonia.

It seems that reasonable steps were taken to contain the virus, so what went wrong? For one thing, soldiers were sent home to isolate, but those caring for them did not necessarily know what steps to take to protect themselves. Train travel and soldiers returning from the war mixing with healthy soldiers leaving for the war allowed the illness to spread rapidly. Calgary was also urbanizing quickly, and many of its citizens were living in crowded, slum-like conditions, which also promoted the spread of the disease. While most people in the city complied with public health orders, there were those who did not, and it only took a few of the non-compliant to spread the virus. Businesses operated on reduced hours so that people could volunteer, but they did not close. Social distancing was not practised. Many doctors and nurses were overseas to assist with the war, so much care had to be provided by inexperienced volunteers.

By mid-October, several gatherings had taken place – a labour rally, a concert, and many family and friends gathering for Thanksgiving. Calgary's Medical Health Officer, Dr. Mahood, realized the epidemic was now in full swing. By the end of October, the province ruled that everyone must wear face masks outside their homes, loitering was banned, and police were

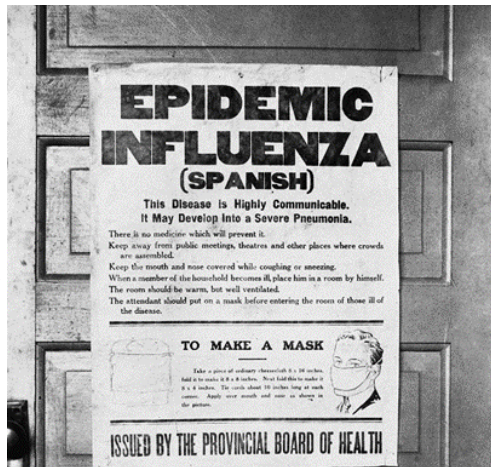
given the authority to quarantine people. Calgarians found masks inconvenient and ugly. Also, if not changed and cleaned regularly, the masks actually incubated germs. Schools, theatres and other social gathering spots closed.

To support people quarantined at home, women volunteers set up makeshift soup kitchens. School nurses became public nurses, to increase the number of health-care providers, and teachers were also enlisted after very little training. Some paid for their generosity with their lives. Most caregivers wore only a cheesecloth mask and a standard nursing smock. Makeshift hospitals had to be added at Colonel Walker and Victoria Schools, while soldiers were treated at the military hospital near present-day Westhills Mall. The City had to reassign Waterworks employees to the Cemeteries Department to dig graves. Children whose parents were too sick to care for them were housed at Stanley Jones School. Orphans went to a Children's Shelter in Ogden, where the matron cared for them until she herself died.

When flu cases declined in November, Dr. Mahood hesitantly accepted provincial pressure to lift restrictions, but he warned of a second wave of influenza. The celebration at the end of the war, on November 11, included

many people interacting at close quarters without masks, but authorities let it go. Theatres re-opened on November 20, and children went back to school on December 2.

Not surprisingly, a second influenza wave hit, as did subsequent waves during the 1920s. While the second wave affected fewer people in Calgary, it had a higher mortality rate. It is estimated that 384 Calgarians in total died of this influenza, but Calgary's population at the time was only 60,000 people. A similar rate in our current population would result in just over 8000 deaths. Overall, the 1918 epidemic killed more Canadians than did World War I and may have claimed up to 100 million lives worldwide. Even now, there are many lessons to be learned from the tragedy that struck Calgary a century ago.



1918 influenza epidemic poster issued by the Board of Health in Alberta, Canada
(commons.wikimedia.org)

Upcoming Events

Family History Coaching Program
AFHS Volunteers & CPL Staff

**CANCELLED UNTIL
FURTHER NOTICE**

**UGA Summit of Excellence:
Virtual Conference 2020**

Family History Fanatics

September 11 - 12, 2020

<https://ugagenealogy.org/>

**Ontario Ancestors Conference
& Family History ShowVision 2020**
Ontario Genealogical Society

June 5 - 7, 2020

NOW VIRTUAL

<https://conference2020.ogs.on.ca/>

Genealogy Illumination Weekend
AHSGR Edmonton and Area Chapter

September 11 - 13, 2020

<http://www.german-russians.info>

**America: Our Records & Our History
Virtual Conference**

Pima County Genealogical Society

June 6, 2020

<https://azpimagensoc.org/>

BCGS 50th Anniversary Alaska Cruise
British Columbia Genealogical Society

September 12 - 19, 2020

<https://www.bcgsc.ca/events/>

Special deal extended to June 30, 2020.

All pre-paid booking fees are fully refundable.

A Summer of DNA Virtual Conference
Family History Fanatics

August 8, 2020

[https://www.familyhistoryfanatics.com/
econference](https://www.familyhistoryfanatics.com/econference)

**AAHGS 2020 Virtual Annual
Conference & Exhibition**

*Afro-American Historical
and Genealogical Society*

October 15 - 17, 2020

[https://web.cvent.com/event/375a05f9-62b5-
4829-80c7-5560766e1286/summary](https://web.cvent.com/event/375a05f9-62b5-4829-80c7-5560766e1286/summary)

**New York State
Family History Conference 2020**
*New York Genealogical &
Biographical Society*

September 10 - 12, 2020

NYSFHC@Home: Virtual option available

<https://nysfhc.newyorkfamilyhistory.org/>

VGA Annual Virtual Conference
Virtual Genealogical Association

November 13 - 15, 2020

[https://virtualgenealogy.org/annual-
conference/](https://virtualgenealogy.org/annual-conference/)

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 October. Contact Marion at communications@afhs.ab.ca

Finance and Budget Committee Volunteers: Are you good with detail, organization or like to think big picture? Are you familiar with using excel? We are seeking a few more people to help guide AFHS through the upcoming challenges, find creative ways to keep our society in good financial shape and be another set of eyes when looking over spreadsheets. This is a committee position which does not require a long-term commitment but is a great way to contribute. AFHS is a volunteer run organization, so your support is needed. Contact Iris at finance@afhs.ca

Website Helpers: Our website is being updated and upgraded, and we need some helping hands! We are looking for volunteers to:

- Help create a gallery of library items (like new materials and resources by type). This will require using the upright scanner at the library and working with members of the Library Committee.
- Assist with keyword indexing of past issues of our journals.
- Maintain a blog feature and solicit contributions for it.
- Collect content for a webpage about local resources in Calgary and area.

For more information, contact Marion at communications@afhs.ab.ca

Library Hours & Opportunities to Connect

Library Open Hours

Closed until
further notice



Get in Touch with us!

Email: info@afhs.ab.ca

Website: www.afhs.ab.ca

Phone: 403-214-1447

Facebook: Alberta Family Histories Society

Instagram:
[abfamilyhistoriessociety](https://www.instagram.com/abfamilyhistoriessociety)

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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