

# CHINOOK ARCH

September 2020 Volume 2 Issue 7



ALBERTA FAMILY  
HISTORIES SOCIETY

1980-2020

## Society Meetings

### Our Next Society Meeting: Monday, September 14

**LOCATION:** In-person at "The Village" at 4039 Brentwood Rd NW  
and on Zoom



**TIME:** 7 to 9 pm

**Topic:** Annual General Meeting and a presentation by Mabel Kiessling and Anne Stang from the Calgary Chapter of the American Historical Society of Germans from Russia.

### Upcoming Meetings

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

DATE	GROUP	TIME	CONTACT
Sat., Sept. 19	English/Welsh SIG	10 am to noon	<a href="mailto:englishwelshsig@afhs.ab.ca">englishwelshsig@afhs.ab.ca</a>
Sun., Sept. 20	DNA SIG	1:30 to 3:30 pm	<a href="mailto:dnasig@afhs.ab.ca">dnasig@afhs.ab.ca</a>
Mon., Sept. 21	<b>AFHS Board Meeting</b>	7:00 to 9:00 pm	<a href="mailto:president@afhs.ab.ca">president@afhs.ab.ca</a>
Sat., Sept. 26	Celtic SIG	10 am to noon	<a href="mailto:celticsig@afhs.ab.ca">celticsig@afhs.ab.ca</a>
Sun., Sept. 27	Legacy Users SIG	1:30 to 3:30 pm	<a href="mailto:legacysig@afhs.ab.ca">legacysig@afhs.ab.ca</a>
Mon., Sept. 28	Ontario SIG	10 am to noon	<a href="mailto:ontariosig@afhs.ab.ca">ontariosig@afhs.ab.ca</a>
Sat., Oct. 3	Family Tree Maker SIG	10 am to noon	<a href="mailto:ftmsig@afhs.ab.ca">ftmsig@afhs.ab.ca</a>

### Next Society Meeting

**Monday, October 5**

**Topic: Launch of New Website**

Join us via Zoom as Marion, Michele and Jim demonstrate all the exciting new features of our new and improved website!

### 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 (postponed from April) will now be held on Monday, September 14 at 7 pm at The Village (4039 Brentwood Road NW). Members were sent detailed information about this important meeting via a Windsock email message on September 9. We need 30 people in attendance to meet quorum. Conversely, we are only allowed 50 people in the room due to health regulations. If you plan to attend, please send a message to [president@afhs.ab.ca](mailto:president@afhs.ab.ca) to assist us in our planning. We plan to broadcast the meeting concurrently via Zoom, but unfortunately only those attending in person count in our quorum or will be able to vote (as per our bylaws).

### Call for Nominations

We are still seeking a candidate for the position of Vice President. Please contact Peter at [memberrelations@afhs.ab.ca](mailto:memberrelations@afhs.ab.ca) to find out more or to submit your name as a candidate.

### 40th Anniversary Celebration and Volunteer Appreciation

Due to COVID-19, we have decided to postpone this event until spring 2021 when we hope to be able to celebrate in person.

### Library Update

The AFHS library is now open on Thursdays from 10 am to 2 pm and Saturdays from noon to 4 pm. Please note we **do not have Ancestry.com available** at this time, but you are welcome to come in and research using our books, maps and journals. Visitors must bring and **wear a mask**. Visitors must also use the provided hand sanitizer upon entering and observe social distancing. All our volunteers will be wearing masks and following extra cleaning protocols to ensure high touch areas and workspaces are properly disinfected. All books and other materials handled will be placed in a quarantine box for three days before being placed back on the shelf. If you have any questions, please contact Linda Murray at [library@afhs.ab.ca](mailto:library@afhs.ab.ca)

## AFHS Workshops on ZOOM this fall!

*with Michele Buhler*

### 1. Life & Family History Writing:

Monday, September 28 - December 7 (no class Oct. 12)  
10:00 - 12:15 p.m.  
{ 10 sessions }

*\$170 member - \$200 non-member*

### 2. Design & Layout Workshop:

Tuesday, October 6  
10:00 - 12:15 p.m.

*\$20 member - \$30 non-member*

### 3. Bookmaking Workshops:

Tuesday, October 20 & 27  
10:00 - 12:15 p.m.

*\$35 member - \$45 non-member*

Maximum: 8 participants per workshop. Email: [membymichele@gmail.com](mailto:membymichele@gmail.com)

### My "Home Child" Great-Grandfather

Marlene Knott

My great-grandfather, Henry Jones, was born March 30, 1862 to Watkin George Jones (1824 -1868) and his wife Hannah Reid Jones (1827 - unknown) in St. Pancras, London. Henry was the fifth of seven children in this family where jobs and addresses changed frequently. Six weeks after the last child was born in 1868, Henry's father died of phthisis (tuberculosis) at the age 44.

By April 2, 1871, Hannah was shown on the census working as an upholsteress and had four of her children still living with her; Elizabeth (10), Henry (9), Lydia (6) and James (3). One of her older daughters, Rebecca (16), was working in a nearby home as a general servant. Her eldest daughter, Eleanor (21), was married with a one-year-old baby boy and her eldest son, Watkin George Jr. (20), married in June of that year.

### British Home Children Program

However, on June 15, 1871, Henry and Lydia left Liverpool on the *SS Prussian* with about 200 other children as part of the British Home Children Program. They arrived in Quebec City June 26, with the destination listed as Belleville, Ontario.

The British Home Children Program had begun in 1869. Orphanages in the United Kingdom sent thousands of children to receiving homes in Canada where farmers could pick them up to be labourers on the farm or in the home. Often the children were not orphans but had been placed in an orphanage by parents who could no longer care for them.

Somewhere, somehow, Henry and Lydia were taken in by John and Sarah Pratt of

Buckingham, Quebec. and for the rest of his life Henry lived in the Buckingham area and was known as Henry Jones Pratt. Both Henry and Lydia were listed in the 1881 census with John and Sarah, all with the surname of Pratt.

John Pratt had been a carriage maker before becoming a farmer and both he and Sarah had emigrated from Yorkshire sometime before 1861. They had no children of their own, and young Henry was soon farming with John.

I have yet to find a death date for Hannah Jones, but I am fairly sure she had no choice but to place her three youngest children in an orphanage. James would have been too young to travel with Henry and Lydia and remained in England. Henry Jones Pratt seems to be one of the lucky few who survived this traumatic experience and did well in his new county.

### Marriage and Family

In June of 1884, Henry married Rosanna Hughes. On Henry's birthday the following year, their daughter Rose Hannah Jones Pratt was born (my grandmother). Their joy was short lived however, as Rosanna died a month later from complications of giving birth. Henry married Elizabeth Gill in 1887, and two more children shortly followed: John Albert in 1888 and Sarah Ann in 1890. However, when Elizabeth was giving birth to another daughter in 1892, both she and the daughter died.

Widowed again with three small children, Henry soon married a young widow with two children of her own. She was Mary Ann Hughes Bengry and was Rosanna's younger sister, so Rose Pratt's new stepmother was also her aunt! They had six more children over the next 14 years.

## Ancestor Anecdotes

John Pratt died in 1901, and Henry's eldest daughter Rose married and moved west to Saskatchewan. Henry sold the farm in 1904 so he could move his family into the town of Buckingham, where he became a master carter.

Tragedy struck Henry twice more. Later that year his eldest son died while driving one of the wagons, and Sarah Pratt, who had been living with them, died a few weeks later.

During the following years, Henry Jones Pratt also sold farm implements, served the town as an alderman for successive terms, was a staunch supporter of the Anglican Church and became Grand Master of the local Masons.

When he died on May 31, 1942, the local newspaper had the longest obituary I have ever seen, praising "a well-known and highly respected resident." His third wife, Mary Ann, was still alive and perhaps she had some influence on Henry's obituary. She was the only wife mentioned and no reference was made of his British family, instead stating "he was the son of the late Mr. and Mrs. John Pratt of Buckingham Township."

### Henry's Birth Family

What did Henry know of his birth family? In 1906 Henry applied for an IOOF insurance policy and was asked to state the health of his parents and siblings. He was off by several years for the age of his father when he died, but very close for the ages of his two brothers and four sisters and stated they were all in good health.

His sister Lydia, who had travelled to Canada with him, left Buckingham shortly after the 1881 census and was married in

Toronto in 1883 as Lydia Jones (not Lydia Pratt).

Henry's older sisters, Rebecca and Elizabeth, were also sent to Canada only a few months after their younger siblings in October 1871. They were working in Ottawa when they married, Rebecca in 1873 and Elizabeth in 1878. Rebecca and her husband were witnesses at Lydia's marriage and Elizabeth was a witness at Rebecca's marriage, so they somehow kept in touch with each other.

Did the three siblings left in England know of the fate of their siblings in Canada? There will always be questions and "what-ifs" when children are arbitrarily moved from one country to another.



Henry Jones Pratt, Buckingham, Quebec

## 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 or using Zoom** and do not meet during July and August. Check our website calendar for the most up-to-date information or email the SIG leader.

**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*

## ONTARIO SIG

The Ontario Special Interest Group will meet on the 4th Monday of September, March and May from 10:00 am until noon. We meet at the AFHS Library when possible but have the added advantage of having the meeting via Zoom when weather or social distancing require staying at home. Please confirm with the SIG group leader whether a meeting will be in-person or on Zoom (email address on first page of *Chinook Arch*).

Our members all have some connection with Ontario, some with families who pass through on their way to other places and others whose families arrived and stayed for extended periods of time.

Because what we now know as Ontario had many changes in development, social history, countries of origin and record keeping, finding your family can be a challenge. This is especially true in the earliest times of settlement when the province was known as Upper Canada.

At our May meeting, we discussed how essential it is to use maps to find what jurisdiction might have collected the records you now want to discover. A helpful website showing the changing boundaries, names and the regional governments can be found online at:

<http://www.archives.gov.on.ca/en/maps/index.aspx>

An example of one of the maps we talked about using can be found here, the 1855 Colton Map of Upper Canada:

[https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:1855\\_Colton\\_Map\\_of\\_Upper\\_Canada\\_or\\_Ontario\\_-\\_Geographicus\\_-\\_Ontario-colton-1855.jpg](https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:1855_Colton_Map_of_Upper_Canada_or_Ontario_-_Geographicus_-_Ontario-colton-1855.jpg)

Brenda Merriman's book *Genealogy in Ontario: Searching the Records* (971.3 \*G MERR at the AFHS Library) is also an invaluable guide.

Over the years, our SIG has collected maps and other helpful resources about this topic. They can be found in a binder in the Ontario section at the library.

In order to help each other and to broaden our knowledge, we work as a whole group with the sharing of information, family histories and support. We are an open and member-directed SIG and encourage those who have Ontario interests to come to our meetings.

## Library Highlights

### Olive Carlin Legacy

Olive Carlin was a dedicated library volunteer for both the Alberta Family Histories Society and the Family History Centre in Calgary.

Olive's passion was Scottish research. She was born in Edinburgh, Scotland, and enjoyed researching her paternal Ramage and her maternal Cruickshank family lines.

A legacy left to AFHS from the Carlin estate allowed us to purchase several Scottish resources in her memory. We hope you will find them helpful for your own Scottish research. We have also commissioned a display unit to be built for the library in her name.



Olive Kathleen Carlin 1930 - 2011

*A Swarm of Bees - Lanark Society Settlers 1800-1900: A Journey from Scotland to Upper Canada and Utah* by Ron W. Shaw [2018]

*Finding Your Scottish Ancestors, Techniques for Solving Genealogy Problems* by Kirsty F. Wilkinson [2020]

*Gazetteer of Scotland 1882* by Rev. John Wilson [1882/1999]

*Ordnance Gazetteer of Scotland: A Survey of Scottish Topography, Statistical Biographical & Historical 1873* by Frances H. Groome [1893/2014]

*The Scots: A Genetic Journey* by Alistair Moffat [2017]

*The Scottish Clearances: A History of the Dispossessed, 1600-1900* by Tom Devine [2018]

*Tracing Your Scottish Ancestors: The Official Guide* (Sixth Edition) by National Archives of Scotland [2012]

*Tracing Your Scottish Ancestors: A Guide for Family Historians* by Ian Maxwell [2014]

*Tracing your Scottish Ancestry through Church and State Records* by Chris Paton [2019]

*Tracing your Scottish Family History on the Internet: A Guide for Family Historians* by Chris Paton [2020]

## Upcoming Events

### **Family History Coaching Program** **AFHS Volunteers & CPL Staff**

**CANCELLED UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE**

### **AFHS Writing Workshops on Zoom** **Michele Buhler**

Life & Family History Writing (10 sessions)  
September 28 - December 7, 2020

Design & Layout Workshop  
October 6, 2020

Bookmaking Workshops  
October 20 & 27

<https://afhs.ab.ca/stories/workshop>

### **Genealogy Basics (6 week course)** **Gale Courses - Calgary Public Library**

**Free online with your library card!**

September 16 - October 21, 2020

<https://calgarylibrary.ca/read-learn-and-explore/digital-library/gale-courses>

### **Making Your Own Family History Book** **Victoria Genealogical Association**

September 19, 2020

<http://www.victoriags.org/events.php>

### **Pre-1869 Birth, Marriage and Death Records (online webinar)** **Ontario Genealogical Society**

October 1, 2020

<https://ogs.on.ca/zoom-meetings/webinar-2020-october-2>

### **Take Your Family History in a Different Direction Virtual Workshop**

#### ***Genealogy with a Canadian Twist***

October 17, 2020

<https://www.looking4ancestors.com/p/conference.html>

### **Fall Virtual Seminar**

#### ***Campbell River Genealogical Association***

November 7 & 14, 2020

<https://www.crgenealogysociety.ca/fall-virtual-seminar>

### **VGA Annual Virtual Conference** ***Virtual Genealogical Association***

November 13 - 15, 2020

<https://virtualgenealogy.org/annual-conference/>

### **RootsTech Connect** ***Family Search***

February 25 - 27, 2021

<https://www.rootstech.org>

**Online Only ~ Free for Everyone!**

### **Looking for learning opportunities?** ***Conference Keepers***

This website keeps you up-to-date on all the upcoming trainings from around the world, both virtual and live. You can also sign up for their newsletter to get weekly updates of the newest offerings!

<https://conferencekeeper.org>

## Volunteer Opportunities

Volunteer  
Opportunities



**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](mailto:finance@afhs.ca)



Follow us on Instagram!

@abfamilyhistoriessociety

## Library Hours & Opportunities to Connect

### Library Open Hours

Thursdays, 10 am to 2 pm

Saturdays, noon to 4 pm

Library users and staff must wear a mask and also maintain social distancing.



ALBERTA FAMILY  
HISTORIES SOCIETY

### Get in Touch with us!

Email: [info@afhs.ab.ca](mailto:info@afhs.ab.ca)

Website: [www.afhs.ab.ca](http://www.afhs.ab.ca)

Phone: 403-214-1447

Facebook: Alberta Family Histories Society

Instagram:  
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.

Editor: Amber Godfrey

Email: [chinookarch@afhs.ab.ca](mailto:chinookarch@afhs.ab.ca)