

# CHINOOK ARCH

November 2020 Volume 2 Issue 9



ALBERTA FAMILY  
HISTORIES SOCIETY

1980-2020

## Society Meetings

### Our Next Society Meeting: Monday, November 9

**LOCATION:** Via Zoom

**TIME:** 7 to 9 pm

**Topic:** Canadiana Online

Join us for a presentation by Dave Obee on using the resources in Canadiana Online. The presentation is free but registration is required.

### Upcoming Meetings

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

DATE	GROUP	TIME	TOPIC
Sat., Nov. 14	Digital Genealogy SIG	10 am to noon	Your Family Genes project and cemeteries
Sun., Nov. 15	DNA SIG	1:30 to 3:30 pm	
Mon., Nov. 16	Board Meeting	7 to 9 pm	
Sat., Nov. 21	English/Welsh SIG	10 am to noon	My Isle of Wight Family History Research Journey
Sun., Nov. 22	Legacy Users SIG	1:30 to 3:30 pm	Media
Mon., Nov. 23	Ontario SIG	1:30 to 3:30 pm	PowerPoint - how to create and share via Zoom
Sat., Nov. 28	Celtic SIG	10 am to noon	Orangemen Order
Sat., Dec. 5	Family Tree Maker SIG	10 am to noon	

### Next Society Meeting

**Monday, December 14**

**Topic:** Christmas Traditions

**Speaker:** Members sharing their Christmas traditions via Zoom with a 5-10 minute presentation. Contact [programs@afhs.ab.ca](mailto:programs@afhs.ab.ca) to let Christine know that you will be participating.

### 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

### All About Perspective - The Story of Per (Peter) Peterson

Warren Peterson

The character traits of my ancestor, Per Persson, while not recorded in words, are evident from the historical markers of his life as a Swedish immigrant. The Swedish name "Per" is derived from the Greek word *petros*, meaning "stone" or "rock," which says much about a man who always looked to a better future, even during the hardest of times. On our recent trip to Sweden, we also learned it accurately describes the rocky, inhospitable region where his life began.

Per, the sixth of seven children, was born in 1864 to Anna Måttsdotter and Per Svensson in Blekinge County, Sweden. A mere three years later, Per's father passed away, and his mother remarried.

At 18, Per joined the Navy. He became a cook on merchant sailing ships, sailed around the globe several times and survived more than one shipwreck. He must have felt at home while working from the ports of Maine because he filed a declaration to become an American citizen in 1903. Two years later, he briefly returned to Sweden where he married Hilda Lovisa Bengtsson. Hilda, about half the age of her husband, would have had no inkling of what her life would be like overseas. Once settled in Maine, he began to use the name Peter Peterson instead of Per Persson.

Peter initially worked as a cook at a hotel in Winnegance, Maine, but by the time his children's births were registered, he had become a farmer. Envisioning greater opportunity in Canada, Peter and his family boarded a train for Alberta in May of 1912.



A string of tragedies began almost immediately, starting with the loss of one of their children who was born during the journey.

Upon reaching Alberta, Peter applied for a homestead in the Yeoford District. His family endured harsh conditions, living in a tarpaper shack that leaked when it rained. Their daughter remembered rabbit being the only meat available, sometimes for weeks. With no money for machinery and six children to feed, they eventually abandoned the homestead.

In 1915 the family moved to Wetaskiwin where Peter developed new skills as a carpenter. He helped build the old Northern Alberta Dairy Pool creamery and several private homes. Two more of his children perished at that point, possibly from the Spanish Flu. Assessment records show he could not pay his taxes, and the city eventually wrote off his debts.

In what may have been the boldest step of their lives, Peter and his family strapped their rickety house to a makeshift skid, hitched it to eight horses, and then dragged it from Westaskiwin to NE 5-48-23 W4 in the Offerdale District. Even with their children working jobs off the farm and contributing their earnings, Peter was only able to farm at a subsistence level.

In 1924, tragedy visited again with particular cruelty when two of their children died the very same day in unrelated events. By 1947, one of his surviving sons had taken over the farm operations.

Peter survived it all, until his ultimate passing in 1956 at the age of 91. This Swedish "stone" didn't let a hard life wear him away, and without his strength and perseverance I wouldn't be here.

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

### **CELTIC SIG (Irish/Scots)**

*Meets every month on the fourth Saturday 10 am - Noon*  
[celticsig@afhs.ab.ca](mailto:celticsig@afhs.ab.ca)

### **DIGITAL GENEALOGY SIG**

*Meets every month on the second Saturday 10 am - Noon*  
*\*currently seeking a new leader*

### **DNA SIG**

*Meets every month on the third Sunday 1:30 - 3:30 pm.*  
[dnasig@afhs.ab.ca](mailto:dnasig@afhs.ab.ca)

### **ENGLISH/WELSH SIG**

*Meets every month on the third Saturday 10 am - Noon*  
[englishwelshsig@afhs.ab.ca](mailto:englishwelshsig@afhs.ab.ca)

### **FAMILY TREE MAKER SIG**

*Meets every month on the first Saturday 10 am - Noon*  
[ftmsig@afhs.ab.ca](mailto:ftmsig@afhs.ab.ca)

### **LEGACY SIG**

*Meets alternate months on the last Sunday 1:30 - 3 pm*  
[legacysig@afhs.ab.ca](mailto:legacysig@afhs.ab.ca)

### **ONTARIO SIG**

*Meets alternate months on the fourth Monday 1:30 to 3:30 pm*  
[ontariosig@afhs.ab.ca](mailto:ontariosig@afhs.ab.ca)

## English/Welsh SIG

Iris Morgan loves maps. When we arrived at the AFHS Library early in 2020 for a class with her, there were maps hanging from the shelves, maps draped over the tables and maps on the screen as she shared her passion with us. This September, since COVID protocols prevented a similar display, she instead did a Zoom presentation for the English SIG on using maps in our genealogy research.

This presentation included many websites specializing in maps of England, both historical and modern, including the "Big 10" of UK map collections. We were happy to find out that a Zoom meeting is particularly effective for website sharing. Everyone agreed that Iris's presentation fired us up to use maps more in our family history research.

Iris shared some of her own favourite English map collections with us which included:

Old Maps Online

<https://www.oldmapsonline.org>

Vision of Britain

<http://www.visionofbritain.org.uk>

National Library of Scotland - Series Maps - Ordnance Survey of Great Britain

<https://maps.nls.uk/series>

Her complete website list is available to AFHS members on our website under Resources > Our Meeting Archives. You must log in to see these.

Also, the AFHS Library has paper copies of the British Ordnance Maps shelved in the Great Britain section (941).



### Testing Your Patrilineal Line

Earl Schultz

Y-DNA testing can be expensive but it offers the opportunity to learn a lot about your patrilineal line (your father's direct male ancestors going back thousands of years) provided you have matches. Every match you have will be on this single ancestral line. The problem is usually how far back the common ancestor is found. Many times, the common ancestor will be before surnames were used or before genealogical records existed and that makes them very difficult to connect to your tree.

My brother-in-law took an autosomal DNA test at FamilyTreeDNA to leave this gift for his children and grandchildren. He also had his family tree done by a relative, back to an ancestor who was born in 1610 in France. His patrilineal line was Brunet and the earliest known ancestor was Vincent Brunet.

I was very pleased to see the results. My brother-in-law was an autosomal DNA match to other Brunet males in Canada and the USA who also had trees back to Vincent Brunet. So I was able to tell my brother-in-law that his line was good; he was a descendant of Vincent Brunet.

A couple of years after that DNA test, Mark, the administrator of the Brunet Surname Project at FamilyTreeDNA, contacted me. He said my brother-in-law was the most distant relative they had proven and was the only one who had Vincent Brunet as the most recent common ancestor (MRCA) so it would be great if he also did a Y-DNA (Y-111) test. That would let us see what the genetic

distance (GD) was after 12 generations. He even offered to pay for the test.

My brother-in-law and I agreed. But, since Mark himself had already done Big Y, I suggested that Big Y was a better, more accurate approach and that I would pay the difference between the test prices. Since we already knew the patrilineal line was accurate, I argued that we may as well go for the most meaningful DNA test. Mark agreed to this, and we ordered the Big Y test which cost \$400 USD.

The Y-111 results were the first results to come in, just a few weeks ago. My brother-in-law was not a match to the other Brunet project participants. We were surprised, actually shocked might be a better word for it. Mark was not happy at the expenditure of money. My brother-in-law did not have Vincent Brunet on his patrilineal line. Try explaining that to a non-genealogist!

"Hold on," I said to Mark. "He is a Brunet. We have the autosomal results to prove that." As we discussed the results, Mark realized he had a new mystery to sort out. Somewhere on the line from Vincent Brunet to my brother-in-law or from Vincent Brunet to Mark was a NPE (non-paternal event). Likely it was my brother-in-law's line and not Mark's line because the project administrator was haplogroup R, a common European haplogroup, and my brother-in-law was a G, a haplogroup typically associated with the Middle East or Asia.

We know that if a Brunet male had a male child, the male child would carry the Brunet Y-DNA. So we needed to look for a Brunet female who had a male

## DNA Discoveries

child that was raised by a Brunet family. It has to be a Brunet female because my brother-in-law is still an autosomal DNA match to that family back twelve generations.

To try to find out what happened, we need to learn about each family in each generation and see if all the birthdays are properly spaced and all the ages of the mothers are reasonable for when their children were born. Somewhere, in twelve generations, is a male child that does not fit properly.

The G haplogroup that my brother-in-law has ... well, we will find out more when we get the Big Y results in a few weeks. Unfortunately, few people of that haplogroup have tested. It is possible that that line goes back to Spain, which had a higher proportion of Middle Eastern inhabitants in the hundred years before Vincent. Many of those inhabitants chose to remain in Spain, and maybe France, converted to Christianity and perhaps took new surnames. If this is the case, the NPE could very well be on Mark's line.

My brother-in-law has only 3 Y-DNA STR matches at all levels. Only one has done some advanced testing and is G-M406, so this Brunet line is likely to be a branch below G-M406. G-M406 is a SNP mutation that is 14,000 years old. There is a good chance that our test will form a new branch in the G haplotree but not a good chance that it will resolve this problem until someone close tests. The advantage of Big-Y is that we stand a good chance of solving the problem when the right person is found and does a Big-Y test.

My brother-in-law's autosomal matches

show that his mother's side for the current generation is accurate so his parents are accurate. His paternal side has three generations of the same given names, and I am assuming that would not be the case if the male child was someone else's child. This means the NPE most likely occurred pre-1806. Fortunately the early French records are extremely good and there are a lot of trees available on Ancestry. Progress will just take time.

Kit Number	Name	Paternal Ancestor Name	Haplogroup
Brunet Surname			
MIN			
MAX			
MODE			
621943	Brunet	Pierre Brunet b1635 Dieppe	R-A117
569968	Brunet	Pierre Brunet b.1635, Dieppe	R-A117
198135	Brunet	Pierre Brunet b Dieppe, 1635	R-A117
569969	Brunet	Pierre Brunet b.1635, Dieppe	R-A117
IN14783	Brunet	Vincent Brunet, b. 1610 and d. 1670	G-M201

This has taught me to never assume anything when it comes to DNA, and that one should not assume their tree is finished until they have done at least some DNA testing. To avoid the same mistake again, I can't forget that the NPE could still be on Mark's line.

### Useful Websites:

Family Tree DNA

[www.familytreedna.com](http://www.familytreedna.com)

Y-DNA testing

<https://www.familytreedna.com/products/y-dna>

Facebook Groups:

FTDNA—BiGY

Genetic Genealogy Tips & Techniques



## Library Highlights

### Community History Books

Community history books can be a great source of genealogical information. In addition to documenting family histories they can provide historical information about villages, towns, rural areas, churches, businesses and schools. Some contain biographical sketches of local residents too.

The AFHS library has a large collection of Alberta and Saskatchewan community history books and a few from Manitoba. Many of these were received from the Historical Society of Alberta when they donated their entire book collection to AFHS in June 2019. We also purchased a number of community history books from the Books Between Friends bookstore and owner Louise Nesterenko also donated over 30 books.

The following six books are the newest additions to the AFHS library. These books are designated as reference, for use in-library only, but you can always contact us to look up a particular surname. We've included a selection of the surnames found in each book.

*A Harvest of Memories: A History of Rural Wilke - A History of the Districts of: Belleview Plains, Carluke, Coldspring, Cottesloe, Fairyland, Glen Logan, Inverallen, Lachner, McConnell, Maxwell, Moose Park, Narrow Lake, Pan Muir, Spy Ridge, Starview, Thackeray, Hamlet of Cloan and Ovestown School, Hamlet of Reford, Hamlet of Thackeray and St. Alphege.*, compiled by The Eighty Year History Society, 1984.

Surnames: Allen, Baxter, Cowan, Dobson, Eppen, Fenrich, Gerber, Herzog, Irwin, Johnston, Kirkland, Lloyd, Metlewsky, Naylor, O'Brien, Phelps, Risling, Salzsauler, Tuck, Unrah, Veit, Wallace, York, Ziegler.

*Dundurn Memories*, published by the Dundurn and District History Committee, Dundurn, Saskatchewan, 1982.

Surnames: Anweiler, Burkitt, Craven, Dittmer, Evans, Fairbairn, Gerbrandt, Hartz, Irvin, Jacoby, Krale, Lindberg, Mawson, Neufeld, Olson, Prime, Qualman, Rystrom, Schwanbeck, Tamke, Ulrich, Varty, Wiens, Yochish, Zacharias.

*The Landis Record: Volume II*, published by the Landis History Book Committee, Landis, Saskatchewan, 1993.

Surnames: Affleck, Bingham, Clay, Dick, Eden, Fluney, Garrett, Hingston, Johnson, Kobelsky, Langdon, Munton, Ochs, Poirier, Quinn, Rutherford, Sittler, Tyrrell, Veale, Wheaton, Young, Zimmer.

*Lone Butte North: A History of Bull Pound, Earltown, Eden, Fraserton, Golden Hill, Lake Rose, Lone Butte, Normandale, Olive, Red Rose*, 1974.

Surnames: Adams, Bowerman, Crawford, Dieter, Engel, Faechner, Graumann, Heaton, Job, Kastin, Leech, Mohl, Nelson, Olson, Portfors, Quaschnick, Rowden, Stubbs, Tiffin, Vokes, Walton.

*Saga of Battle River: A History of Deadwood, North Star, Manning, Notikewin, Hotchkiss and Hawk Hills Districts*, compiled by the Battle River Historical Society, Manning, Alberta, 1986.

Surnames: Asmussen, Boos, Coppick, Doll, Exner, Finnebraaten, Gillett, Hartman, Iftody, Jason, Keleman, Lein, Minich, Nichiporik, Papp, Reinders, Schoenberger, Thibault, Ungarian, Vandemark, Walisser, Yleen, Zwolak.

*Sunnyside Area: A History of the Royal View, Hyssop/Eight Mile Lake and Crystal Lake School Districts*, 1988.

Surnames: Allert, Bitango, Chapman, Daniel, Ewing, Ferguson, Gschaid, Handsaeme, Ingram, Jorgensen, Kaminski, Lastuka, MacLaine, Nagy, Ober, Palfrey, Quigley, Robertson, Sayers, Thiessen, Urano, Vasele, Wauters, Yackulic, Zonta.

## Upcoming Events

### Fall Virtual Seminar

**Campbell River Genealogical Association**

November 7 & 14, 2020

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

### Researching French-Canadians in North America

**Virtual Genealogical Association**

November 22, 2020 11 am

<https://virtualgenealogy.org/programs>

### Genealogy Basics (6 week course)

**Gale Courses - Calgary Public Library**

Free online with your library card!

November 11 - December 16, 2020

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

### Highland Research Day

**Scottish ViC (virtual conference)**

November 28, 2020 6:30 am - 4:00 pm

<https://www.genealogyvic.com/ST-ANDREWS-DAY-ViC>

### VGA Annual Virtual Conference

**Virtual Genealogical Association**

November 13 - 15, 2020

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

### Art and Science of Quebec Genealogy

**Quebec Genealogical Society**

January 15 - 17, 2021

<https://genquebec.com>

### "Going Down of the Sun"

**British Isles FHS of Greater Ottawa**

November 14, 2020 8 - 9:30 am

<https://bifhsgo.ca/eventListings.php?nm=127#er538>

### RootsTech Connect 2021

**FamilySearch**

Free virtual conference!

February 25 - 27, 2021

<https://www.rootstech.org>

### FHF Really Useful Family History Show

**Family History Federation**

November 14, 2020

<https://www.fhf-reallyuseful.com>

Check for more conferences and virtual webinars at:

Conference Keeper:

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

Family Search:

<https://www.familysearch.org/>

## Research Assistance Team

The AFHS Research Assistance Team has four volunteers that handle all of the research requests submitted to AFHS. When a request is sent, it goes through the [info@afhs.ab.ca](mailto:info@afhs.ab.ca) email address. These first go to **Mabel Kiessling**. Each message is given a number and the researcher's name, location, and what information has been requested is recorded on research sheet.

The research questions vary widely, but they often are searching for:

- a newspaper obituary
- a marriage or birth announcement or documentation
- family history from a small town
- how to find information for a building or business important to their ancestors
- where specific cemeteries are located and where their records are found

Sometimes researchers, or another society, are trying to connect with an AFHS member that has written an article in the *Chinook* or *Chinook Arch*. Periodically, a query is directed to another society or repository. This may happen if a researcher lives in another country and is not familiar with our regions.

Research assistant, **Carol Lylyk**, our longest volunteering member, looks after finding cemetery and burial data. For newspaper information, **Wendy Schultz** is the go-to research assistant. The newest volunteer is **Susan Snowdon**, who searches known databases and offers suggestions to help the researcher along with their research.

Once a month, the collected research information is forwarded to the AFHS Board. This includes the number of queries, the payment received, the locations where the queries are coming from and the types of queries. When a researcher is pleased with the research help they are given and acknowledge it, this is shared with the volunteers. This helps make their efforts feel worthwhile.

Are you feeling lost in your research? Why not contact our Research Assistance Team for some help!

## 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](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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