

# CHINOOK ARCH

January 2021 Volume 3 Issue 1



ALBERTA FAMILY  
HISTORIES SOCIETY

1980-2020

## Society Meetings

### Our Next Society Meeting: Monday, January 11

**LOCATION:** Via Zoom

**TIME:** 7 to 9 pm

**Topic: British Home Children**

Nola's grandmother was sent to Canada in 1897 as a twelve-year-old to work as a domestic servant as one of the British Home Children so this is a topic very dear to her.

### Upcoming Meetings

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

DATE	GROUP	TIME	TOPIC
Sat., Jan. 16	English/Welsh SIG	10 am to noon	Identifying time periods in photos
Sun., Jan. 17	DNA SIG	1:30 to 3:30 pm	Using GEDmatch
Mon., Jan. 18	Board Meeting	7 to 9 pm	
Sat., Jan. 23	Celtic SIG	10 am to noon	Member help with your brick walls
Sun., Jan. 24	Legacy SIG	1:30 to 3:30 pm	Using Picture Centre to manage media
Mon., Jan. 25	Ontario SIG	1:30 to 3:30 pm	Using FamilySearch
Sat., Feb. 6	FTM SIG	10 am to noon	
Sat., Feb. 13	Digital Genealogy SIG	10 am to noon	Alberta Ancestors website & Family Genes customizing your homepage

### Next Society Meetings

**Monday, February 8, 2021**

**Topic: Finding Passenger Lists**

**Speaker:** Tara Shymanski

**Monday, March 8, 2021**

**Topic: Métis Research**

**Speaker:** Christine Woodcock

### 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!

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

## Ancestor Anecdotes

### If Only I Could Talk: The Naval General Service Medal with Copenhagen 1801 Bar Garry Milne

I was awarded to Commander William Milne of the Royal Navy in 1848. This is my history.

#### Commander William Milne

My owner was born in 1782 in Carron, a village just west of Edinburgh, famous for production of the Carronade cannon, fitted into just about every British man-of-war in the fleet. William learned about cannons from his grandfather who would take him to the smelting yards. He worked for The Carron Company as a lawyer from its inception in 1760.

His father, also a William, was a first lieutenant and a captain in the Royal Navy for 33 years. He was on the ship when Britain captured and transported Napoleon Bonaparte to prison on St. Helena's Island. He would have been awarded one of my medals with bars for battles in Abukir Bay, Egypt and Montevideo, Uruguay, but he died in 1826 in Upper Canada. He would have had to be alive in 1847 to be awarded the NGS medal.

I was minted in London in 1847, from silver and iron, with the shiny figure-head of my young Queen Victoria on my face and on my reverse a sculpture of Britannia with her trident, seated on a sea horse. The image is intended to display British speed and length of travel over the oceans of the world, guarded by the goddess of courage and safety.

You know that "Britannia ruled the waves," and I liked being owned by brave naval crews! Almost 21,000 of us

were awarded, with some 230 different clasps made for attachments so I could hang proudly from a ribbon of navy blue and white on the chests of brave and salty mariners. My owner, William Milne, had his name inscribed on my edge.

Commander William Milne earned me and the clasp for Copenhagen in 1801 but would have to wait 47 years to receive me. He served on board HMS Elephant at the Battle of Copenhagen. He

was just a young "limey" — a new recruit with a midshipman's posting. The battle was pretty scary; the Danish fleet and their shore batteries had the ability to blow a hole right through our ship's walls and take a head clean off in the process. Captain Nelson was on board, and this had a big influence on the crew; he was beaming with confidence and, at one point, held his telescope up to his blind eye when the signals from the fleet's flag ship instructed us to retreat. We were sweating from fear of close action as we sailed into the harbour and blasted the tar out of the enemy. We won the battle that day.



Commander William Milne

My owner spent 43 years in the Royal Naval service in Britain, the Canadas, on the Seven Seas and in the West Indies, was an Upper Canada provincial naval captain on the Great Lakes and later a commander, retiring to his ranch outside of Melbourne, Australia in 1847. With prize money and land grants, and on half-pay of the Royal Navy, he could live comfortably, and the Naval lists raised him to master and commander rank. A home in a warm climate was what he needed.

## Ancestor Anecdotes

I was put on a British warship sailing to Melbourne and there I sat safely in a treasure chest at the ranch. After my owner died in 1851, I was willed to his half-brother, Captain Alexander S. Milne, in Canada. I was once again put on a British warship and sent halfway around the world and up the St. Lawrence to Hamilton/Ancaster, in Canada. Alexander Milne was a barrister who kept me in a drawer at home and, upon his death in 1864, willed me to his son, James G. Milne, also a solicitor, who rode horseback out west in search of gold and adventure. James served in the Fenian Raids of 1866 in Ireland and the Riel Rebellion of 1885 in Canada. His medals were added to my collection.

### Naval General Service Medal and bar

When James settled and speculated on lands in Qu'Appelle, Northwest Territories in 1883, I was transported on the new CPR railway. I resided on the Milne farm for 45 years until 1925. My owner died in 1929, and I was willed to his son, Alexander G. Milne, who ran the farm. When the farm was sold, I was packed in the family trunk and carried on a 1917 Maxwell truck across a dusty prairie to Wabamun Lake, west of Edmonton. There I sat for four years, until my owner drove me in a 1932 Buick to Calgary in 1933. I resided in Alexander's downtown apartment for 11 years, until he died in 1943, and his wife gave me to their eldest son, Sergeant Harvey W. Milne, who had been serving in the Canadian Army in England, not far from where I was minted. I was stored in his home in the trunk for 40 years.

In 1983, Harvey gave me to his eldest nephew, Garry Milne. Harvey died in Calgary in 2007. Garry had taken me to St. Albert, and I remained in his home for 25 years, while he researched my origins. He found detailed naval service records of my original owner and his naval father at

The National Archives at Kew in London. Now I sit proudly displayed for all to see. My ribbon was almost gone, so a shiny new one was attached, but you can still see my original one. I am happy to be on display.

So here I am, mounted in a display case along with some 36 other family war medals — the older ones are as issued, with some of the WW2 medals purchased and made into sets, as the originals had been passed on to their children. What will they do? Each war medal has a family story, and war service was a big part of their lives. While veterans don't want to talk, the inheritors of these medals want to know their stories. It remains with the present generation to do the research and keep the records for the future.

If I could talk, you would be impressed. It is 166 years later, and my seafaring captain's request has been faithfully followed. I am still in the family! How is this possible? Families normally don't keep war medals; they sell them for financial gain, at least most do. Others just don't care. This story is unusual and unique. Future generations will know the stories of the original owner. Commander William Milne has quite an interesting story, told here all too briefly. It would appear his last wishes have been respected, as his medal is proudly displayed by family here in Calgary.



Naval General Service Medal and bar

## 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*  
[familygenes@afhs.ab.ca](mailto:familygenes@afhs.ab.ca)

### **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 every month on the fourth Monday 1:30 - 3:30 pm*  
[ontariosig@afhs.ab.ca](mailto:ontariosig@afhs.ab.ca)

## Special Interest Group News

### Digital Genealogy SIG

The Digital Genealogy SIG has merged with the Family Genes group. Jim Benedict has agreed to take on the leadership role but is hoping all members will participate in running the meetings and deciding on topics.

The Digital Genealogy SIG will now have two areas of focus.

- 1) All things digital that can be used for genealogy research. This includes genealogy websites, software tools, digitizing paper records, computer equipment, peripheral devices, online family tree sites and family tree applications (though not in competition with the other SIGs).
- 2) The Family Genes service offered by our Society. If you do not know, AFHS has a service for displaying and preserving members' genealogy studies with online family trees. A small licence fee is paid and then a member can upload their study and have it available to others. This includes both the public and extended families on our Family Genes website. To upload the information, a web-friendly family tree application called TNG is used. We have about 40 family studies already uploaded. The second hour of the meeting will be reserved for discussions about Family Genes.

The Digital Genealogy SIG meets on the second Saturday of each month, except for July and August, from 10 am to noon. The next meeting, on February 13, will include information on the Alberta Ancestors website and instructions on how to customize your homepage in TNG.

### Ontario SIG

Helen Backhouse has stepped down from leading the Ontario SIG. Thank you to Helen for all her valuable work over the years.

Tara Shymanski and Bev Swan have taken over leadership. The group is now meeting monthly, on the fourth Monday of the month from 1:30 to 3:30 pm. They will not meet in July, August or December.

The January 25 meeting will cover using Family Search to find Ontario records presented by Tara Shymanski.

## DNA Discoveries

### A Matching Surname – At Last! Marion (Rath) Peterson

As paper records are sparse in Ireland, I decided to use DNA as a possible tool to learn more about our Rath family origins. My dad, Gordon Russell Rath, took the FamilyTreeDNA 37 marker Y-DNA test in 2011. The earliest known ancestor in his paternal line is James Rath, born about 1808 in County Wexford, Ireland. Perhaps we would be able to connect our branch with other southern-Ontario Raths that also emigrated from County Wexford or the Rath families that still live in that county today.

Our great anticipation was short-lived when we reviewed the results. Dad initially had only one 37-marker match – and the surname was not Rath. Instead, it was Keating.

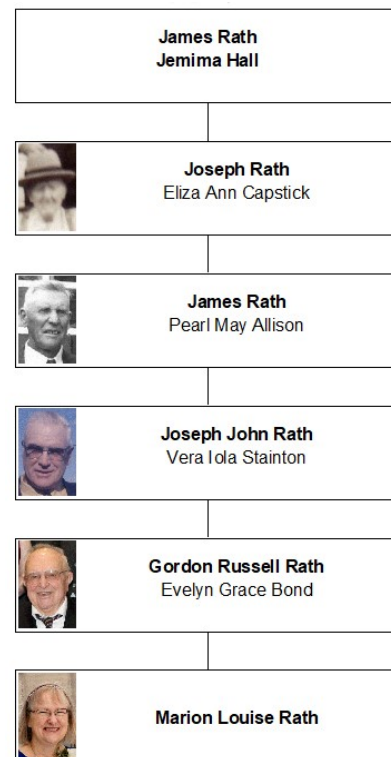
I knew from attending the DNA Special Interest Group that discovering a different surname in Y-DNA results can and does happen. Linda Murray often shares how after spending years researching the Hamilton family, Y-DNA results indicate her ancestor must have been a fellow with the surname Green who lived nearby.

Over time, about a dozen more matches were added to my dad's results – Keyton, Byrne, Humphrey and five more Keatings, but no Raths. I resolved myself to the idea that there must have been a non-paternity event (also known as an NPE) some time in the past – an adoption, an unmarried mother, a “woodshed” event or some reason why Keating was showing up as the most common surname in Dad's match list.

Just three weeks ago, a new match appeared with the surname Rath! I was ec-

static! I contacted him immediately to ask what he knew of the origins of his Rath line. He replied to say he was born in Ireland and had done research years ago by visiting local archives. His Rath line is also from County Wexford, but none of the names or locations in his research match my branch. We must connect back beyond the paper trail. He sent me scans of his handwritten notes and speculated that the Raths were German Palatines. My grandmother said Rath was a German name, so ordinarily this would be an exciting new lead to follow. But my dad is his only Rath match and his list is also mainly Keatings, so I question whether our Raths could have been German Palatines.

It is good news that the Rath line does go back several generations, at least to a common ancestor with our new contact, but more and more it is looking like in the distant past there was “cheating with a Keating.”



## Library Highlights

### Home Sweet Catalogue Home Dennis and Lorna Laughton

Were your ancestors in the market for a home in Canada between 1914 and 1930? The AFHS Library has a book about a unique aspect of home ownership called the catalogue house. Les Henry's book, *Catalogue Houses: Eatons' and others*, provides us with a fascinating glimpse into the circumstances, market conditions, vendors and products that would have faced our ancestors in the housing market.

Our ancestors' home choices were limited. Depending on where they lived, or were moving to, existing houses were few. Think about the sparsely populated prairies and the new communities that were established for mining in northern Ontario and British Columbia. All the people who were emigrating to Canada from Europe, the British Isles, and the United States needed a place to live as well as the Canadians moving to these areas for work.

Along came a clever product to address the housing shortage – the catalogue house. The T. Eaton Company was the largest Canadian player in this market. They could sell our ancestors a house ordered right from their catalogue, where there were drawings of the house exterior, floor plans, dimensions, and costs. After choosing the model and completing the purchase, the house “kit” would be shipped in a boxcar, with house lumber cut to size and instructions for construction, to the nearest railway station. The purchaser would arrange for delivery to their homestead and start building. Often they hired a local carpenter to put together the pieces and add finishing touches.

How could our ancestors afford a catalogue home? As World War I raged, there was a dramatic demand for grain and other commodities and a consequent rise in the price paid. This meant that 1914 began a time of prosperity for Canadian farmers, particularly in the western provinces. The T. Eaton Company's catalogue houses dominated the Canadian market, but there were other companies too, including the United Grain Growers. Not only were house “kits” available, but they also sold plans for barns.

Many catalogue homes and barns still exist today. The book's author, Les Henry, was born in a T. Eaton home in Milden, Saskatchewan. In the book, he has detailed many of the catalogue houses that are still standing complete with plans, exterior pictures of those houses, and interviews with current owners.

You can borrow this book from the AFHS library when it reopens! [library@afhs.ab.ca](mailto:library@afhs.ab.ca)

**T. EATON CO.**

**MODERN HOME NO. 661**

If you wish for a small home and still desire to have a general air of prosperity, you will do well to give this design second thought. Note that it gives the impression of an eight or nine room house while only being a six room house. This is brought about by the architect employing a semi-detached design outside across the entire front of the house and behind by the wide eaves. There are three rooms, hall and pantry on the first floor with a large cottage or entry entrance in the center, while the second floor has three rooms and bath as well as a closet for each sleeping room.

Read about the construction of our houses on Page 83

**WRITE FOR LATEST QUOTATIONS ON LUMBER FOR THIS HOUSE**

**Price of Material**

Lumber, Lath, Shingles, Mouldings, Doors and Windows (approx) Freight Paid (See Single Sheet).....	1096.55
Paint, Primer, Stain and Putty, exterior only, F.O.B. Winnipeg.....	45.00
Roofing.....	27.00
Plumbing.....	44.00
Building Paper.....	44.00
<b>Total.....</b>	<b>1260.55</b>

**Price of Hot Air Heating Plant**

For the sum of \$150.00 we will supply a complete Hot Air Heating Plant, consisting of Radiators, registers and all necessary pipe and fittings, as shown on our heating plan for this house.

Write us for Prices on Steam and Hot Water Heating.

**Price of Plumbing Material**

For the sum of \$200.00 we will supply a complete Plumbing outfit, consisting of bath tub, lavatory, hot water closet in bath room, sink and 12 gallon boiler in kitchen, and all necessary pipe and fittings for the installation of same, as shown on our plumbing plan for this house.

See our **FREE PLAN OFFER** on Page One.

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Prices Subject to Change.

Modern Home No. 661 from the Eatons' Fall and Winter 1917-18 Plan Book.

The Graydon and Grace Cummins home near Strathclair, Manitoba

Photo by author/April 1999

## Upcoming Events

### CALGARY PUBLIC LIBRARY

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

Free online with your library card!

January 13 - February 10, 2021

[www.calgarylibrary.ca/read-learn-and-explore/digital-library/gale-courses](http://www.calgarylibrary.ca/read-learn-and-explore/digital-library/gale-courses)

**From Grandmother to  
First European Landowner of Canada  
by Lianne Kruger**

**Legacy Family Tree Webinars**

January 15, 2021

<https://familytreewebinars.com/upcoming-webinars.php>

**Family History Coaching Program**

Free online help

**Calgary Public Library/AFHS**

January 30, 2021 1 - 3 pm

<https://calgarylibrary.ca/events-and-programs/programs/virtual-family-history-coaching>

**Collaborative Genealogy with  
Evernote by Lisa Louise Cooke**

**Connecticut Society of Genealogists**

February 1, 2021 5 pm

[https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZAqceivqjMjGNY\\_nUX-o5GECLJa\\_Me5zcs\\_ql](https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZAqceivqjMjGNY_nUX-o5GECLJa_Me5zcs_ql)

**Métis Research with  
Christine Woodcock**

Virtual program

**Calgary Public Library/AFHS**

March 8, 2021 7 - 9 pm

Registration details to follow

**RootsTech Connect 2021**

**FamilySearch**

Free virtual conference

February 25 - 27, 2021

[www.rootstech.org](http://www.rootstech.org)

### VIRTUAL EVENTS

**Art and Science of Quebec Genealogy  
Virtual Genealogy Conference**

**Quebec Genealogical Society**

January 15 - 17, 2021

<https://genquebec.com/en/our-program-0>

**Check for more conferences and  
virtual webinars at:**

Conference Keeper:

[www.conferencekeeper.org/virtual](http://www.conferencekeeper.org/virtual)

Family Search:

[www.familysearch.org/wiki/en/Family\\_History\\_Library\\_Classes\\_and\\_Webinars](http://www.familysearch.org/wiki/en/Family_History_Library_Classes_and_Webinars)

## Volunteer Opportunities

### Volunteer Recruitment and Nominations Committee Chair and Members

It won't be long until our next Annual General Meeting and Election of Directors in April.

The position of Chair of our Volunteer Recruitment and Nominations Committee is currently vacant. Now is the time for you to consider stepping forward for this position or as a committee member. These volunteer positions require a limited time commitment but are so critical to the future of AFHS.

For more information or an informal chat, please get in touch with Peter at [member-relations@afhs.ab.ca](mailto:member-relations@afhs.ab.ca)

### Social Media Helpers

The Communications Team is looking for volunteers to help create content for Facebook, Instagram and our website News page. We're hoping to add "Wayback Wednesday" (Alberta or Calgary history) and "Family Friday" posts (featuring the family of a member). For each of these, we are looking for an image with a short description (about 5 sentences). If you have an image but need help with the writing, we have a volunteer who would provide assistance. If you would like to be a regular or occasional contributor, please contact Marion [communications@afhs.ab.ca](mailto:communications@afhs.ab.ca)

### Digital Journal Project

We would like to create a new members-only page on our website to post digital journals and newsletters from other societies. Please contact Marion [communications@afhs.ab.ca](mailto:communications@afhs.ab.ca) if you could help contact organizations and help set this up.

## Library Hours & Opportunities to Connect

### AFHS Library & Office location:

712 - 16 Avenue NW Calgary

### Library Open Hours

Closed until further notice



### 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)



### 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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