

# CHINOOK ARCH

March 2021 Volume 3 Issue 3



ALBERTA FAMILY  
HISTORIES SOCIETY

## Society Meetings

### Our Next Society Meeting: Monday, March 8

**LOCATION:** Sign up on the CPL website or contact [communications@afhs.ab.ca](mailto:communications@afhs.ab.ca) for the Zoom link

**TIME:** 7 to 9 pm

### Topic: Researching Hudson's Bay Company and Western Metis Ancestors

Christine Woodcock explores resources for researching your HBC and Western Metis ancestors. Her interest in Scottish genealogy led her to research Scots who came to Canada to work for the HBC and stayed to start families, helping to create the Metis nation.

### Upcoming Meetings

All held virtually using Zoom until further notice. Contact [communications@afhs.ab.ca](mailto:communications@afhs.ab.ca) to receive an invitation.

DATE	GROUP	TIME	TOPIC
Sat., Mar. 13	Digital Genealogy SIG	10 am to noon	Image scanning & storage/Adding media and images to Family Genes
Sat., Mar. 20	English/Welsh SIG	10 am to noon	Stories Photos Tell by Kelly Southworth
Sun, Mar. 21	DNA SIG	1:30 to 3:30 pm	
Mon., Mar. 22	Board Meeting	7 to 9 pm	
Sat., Mar. 27	Celtic SIG	10 am to noon	Scottish Indexes website
Sat., Mar. 28	Legacy SIG	1:30 to 3:30 pm	
Sat., Mar. 29	Ontario SIG	1:30 to 3:30 pm	Learning more about Ancestry
Sat., Apr. 3	Family Tree Maker SIG	10 am to noon	

### Next Society Meetings

**Monday, April 12, 2021**

**Topic:** Irish Research

**Speaker:** Ron Gilmore

**Monday, May 10, 2021**

**Topic:** Using Internet Archive

**Speaker:** Christine Hayes

### 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)

## AFHS Member Updates

### AFHS Board Update

Marion Peterson - Director (Communications)

#### Vice President Appointment

We are pleased to announce the appointment of Natalie Heaton to the Vice President position on the Board of Directors. This position had been vacant for a few months. Thank you, Natalie, and welcome to the Board!

#### Annual General Meeting

COVID-19 restrictions currently do not allow in-person gatherings, so your Board of Directors are considering the options for the Annual General Meeting. At the time of writing, we are hoping to go ahead with a virtual AGM via Zoom on Monday, April 12 at 7 pm. An official announcement will be sent to all members via a *Windsock* email message when the meeting plans are finalized. The AGM agenda will include voting on several amendments to our bylaws and the election of members to our Board of Directors.

#### Call for Nominations

We are pleased to report that several candidates have already come forward for nomination to the positions on our Board of Directors, and we are anticipating a full slate of nominees.

Our Board consists of up to 10 volunteer Directors:

- President
- Vice President
- Secretary
- Treasurer
- Up to six additional Directors

They serve one-year terms (from Annual General Meeting until the next Annual General Meeting).

We continue to take nominations until the AGM. If you would like more information or would like to nominate yourself or another member, contact Peter McKenzie by email [nominations@afhs.ab.ca](mailto:nominations@afhs.ab.ca)

We have also revised our Nominations and Elections Policy document, and it was approved at the Board meeting in February. This can be found on the AFHS Documents page of our website.

#### Library News

Although the restrictions for libraries have changed, the library committee has decided to continue with **curbside pick up and drop off only** for the month of March. The library will remain closed to visitors.

## Ancestor Anecdotes

### My Wagon Ride Down the Tipple

Don Alexander

Taber, Alberta. Home to a key railway station joining the rail line between Lethbridge and Medicine Hat, the two largest cities in southern Alberta. The fuel for the train engines in 1940 was coal. It was dropped into the locomotive engines by a two-story-high coal chute, that was accessed by trucks loaded with coal, backing up a long, long ramp. This was called the "coal tipple."

At five years of age, I had a wagon, but Taber was a flat land - no hills, no speed bumps, just boring, flat land. Walking around pulling a wagon was too mild for an adventurous five-year-old.



Image from [www.freesvg.org](http://www.freesvg.org)

My solution? A ride down the ramp of the coal tipple. Lie down in the wagon on the steep incline, face forward, and LET HER RIP. The four-inch thick planks had big spaces, making a very rough but super fast ride. All the better!

The bottom transitioned from planks to pea-size loose coal slack that looked like pepper. A five-year-old's thought was, "Great, the wagon will slow down, and I won't shoot out into the road." While the theory was correct, when the wagon left the planks and hit the coal slack, it

stopped abruptly . . . but I did not. I shot off the wagon, face first on my belly into the coal slack. My face took on a huge mask of black coal, imbedded in my skin. I looked like a little black boy—highly unusual in 1940 cow-town Taber!

Mom was not happy. She laboured many hours, many days, with tweezers, removing coal slack from my face. She was not impressed with my inventive approach to speed. I can't remember now which was the most painful—the coal removal, or the long scolding on how could a five year old be so stupid.

That wagon, however was a front runner, along with locomotives, to the movement of people then. Today, train travel is the exception rather than the rule. That locomotive had a special intrigue that no automobile or diesel engine can match today. Smoke bellowing, steam belching out the sides and bottom, and the engineer pulling the steam whistle at every crossing . . . superb.

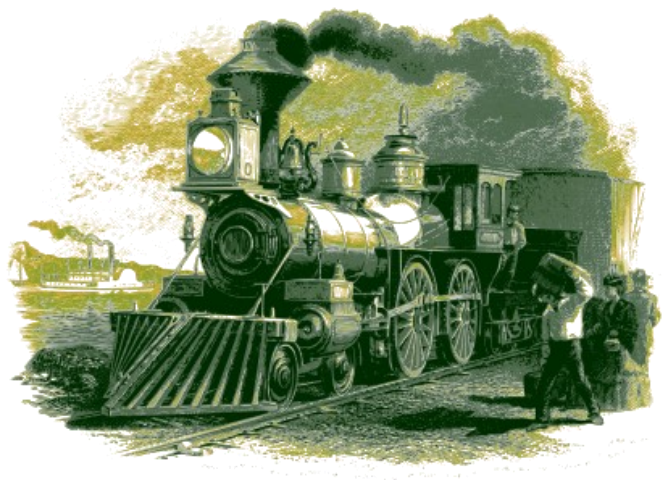


Image from [www.freesvg.org](http://www.freesvg.org)

## 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)

### **English/Welsh SIG**

Iris Morgan

At the February meeting of the English/Welsh SIG, Iris Morgan shared some free digital resources that are available from the Calgary Public Library for those researching ancestors in Britain.

#### Magazines and Books

With the Calgary Public Library having limited in-person access due to COVID, we can still enjoy some of our favourite family history magazines and books safely at home. You can check out digital copies of magazines like *Family Tree (UK)*, *Who Do You Think You Are?* and *British Heritage Travel* for 21 days.

- Go to the CPL website at [www.calgarylibrary.ca](http://www.calgarylibrary.ca) and then search for Digital Library.
- Click on Libby, sign in with your library card and choose Magazines to browse.
- You can search by title (*Family Tree UK*) or you can use a subject search (History, then limit to Magazines).
- To borrow the current issue, click on BORROW or you can check out back issues by clicking on SELECT ANOTHER ISSUE.
- Many Sword & Pen genealogy books are also available via Libby using the search term "Sword and Pen." Or you can do a general search for "Genealogy" which has over 130 eBooks available.

#### British Library Newspapers

You are also able to search British newspapers for free through the Alberta Research Portal at Calgary Public Library. British Library Newspapers is a fully-searchable archive of newspapers from across the United Kingdom during the 18th, 19th and early 20th century.

On the Digital Library page, choose Alberta Research Portal, then click on Collections. Choose Gale Primary Sources and you can then do an Advanced Search (choosing British Library Newspapers database) or Publication Search.

## DNA Discoveries

### Low cM DNA Match Discovery Greg Cave

On Jan 20, 2021, I did a filtered search for my Cave surname in my AncestryDNA list for matches with locations on the Isle of Wight where my father's ancestors lived. I located a gentleman named Gary N. with whom I share 13 cM over 1 segment.

My previous research had been to focus on high cM matches, as various videos I had watched suggested that one should not waste a lot of time on matches with less than 40 cM. Another video suggested that 20 cM should be the minimum. Ancestry showed that Gary and I shared very similar ethnicities and, in fact, he currently resides on the Isle of Wight.

Using the Shared Matches function on Ancestry, I also found two other matches - one with 58 cM across 4 segments and another with 46 cM across 2 segments. One had a public tree which clearly linked to my family; the other I still have not resolved and am waiting for a response to an Ancestry message.

I contacted Gary via the Ancestry Messages function to determine if he had a Cave ancestor on his private tree. I provided my email address, hoping that we could exchange information or charts. He responded almost immediately and said that he did have a Mary Cave on his tree who was married to a Lockhart. I recognized the surname and was able to immediately locate that marriage on my desktop software. I sent him a descendency tree with that marriage and going down three more generations, with which he was able to connect.

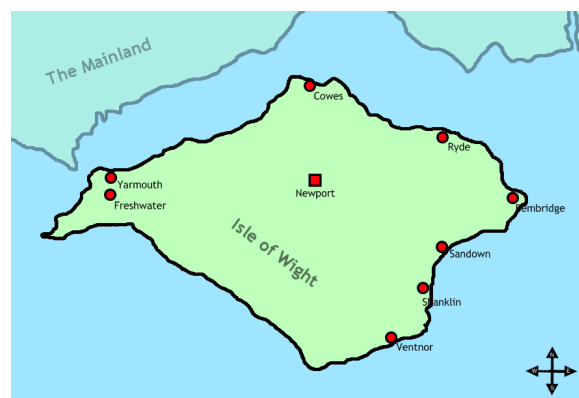
Gary and I concluded that we were fifth

cousins. Ancestry had suggested we were fifth to eighth cousins, so we are both happy that we have succeeded in making a hard connection.

We exchanged a couple of further emails and then Gary asked if I used Zoom. I said that I did, and we arranged a face-to-face meeting. During our half-hour Zoom visit, we managed to cram in a lot of discussion.

Gary related that he was formerly a submariner in the Royal Navy and retired to his place of birth on the Isle of Wight. He is a volunteer with the Commonwealth Graves Commission and was aware of many Canadians who were shot down over the Isle of Wight and buried there. Gary said that if I needed him to visit any cemeteries to let him know and he would photograph the headstones. And he lives close to the Isle of Wight County Record office and that if I needed any research done there, to let him know. How amazing is that?

I am planning another Zoom meeting with Gary, my sister, my niece and a cousin in Vancouver. So my message to you is not to ignore lower cM values, as there may be a "pot of gold" at the end of the rainbow for you too!



Map from [Bohemian Arcade](#) at [English Wikipedia](#)



## Library Highlights

### Review of *A Swarm of Bees* Glynn Davis

Recently, in response to COVID-19 restrictions, our own AFHS Library has started offering curbside pickup. If members are seeking a good read, I can recommend a book with the engaging title, *A Swarm of Bees*. Written by Ron Shaw, this story can make your curbside pickup worthwhile. For those of us researching southeastern Ontario, Shaw may be a familiar writer as he has written several works on the area radiating outward from Perth.

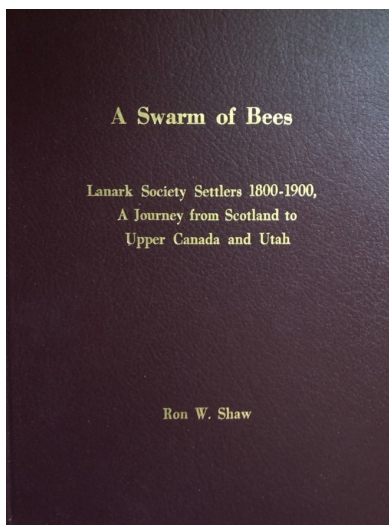
*A Swarm of Bees* recounts a journey that was begun in 1820, which Shaw then follows over the next 50 years. Eighteen "Lanark Society Settler" families from the slums of Glasgow travelled to the Great Salt Lake Valley in Utah. These pioneer families, who first settled in what is now Lanark County, Ontario, were among the earliest converts to the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. Shaw himself is not an LDS member nor, by his own admission, was he aware of LDS history. He mentions that he learned a lot from researching this work, and that other interested genealogists can do likewise.

When Shaw refers to "Lanark Society Settlers," he is speaking of a group of Scottish and Irish immigrants who sailed to Upper Canada in 1820 and 1821 as

members of an Emigrant Society. Should the reader have descendants who are linked to this group of settlers, you will truly have found a gold mine in this book.

Starting with the early days of the Mormon Church, Shaw traces the settlers' journey: through the Ohio and Missouri settlements, to Nauvoo, Illinois, then to the refugee camps of Council Bluffs, Iowa, and finally along the Mormon Trail to Utah. Shaw's background as a journalist shows well in the book, which is laced with the voices of the settlers and their contemporaries, and provides an engaging narrative of triumph over adversity.

The portion of the book dedicated to Ontario is relatively small but I found the collection of first-person accounts of the times invaluable. I was drawn to read the entire book even though it wasn't the experience of my own ancestors. For those of us who are drawn to hear the voices from the past, anchored in time, that tell of the events, experiences, emotions of an era, it is a captivating read.



The full title of this work, published in 2018, is *A Swarm of Bees: Lanark Society Settlers 1800-1900, A Journey from Scotland to Upper Canada and Utah*. To order it from the AFHS Library, email your request to [library@afhs.ab.ca](mailto:library@afhs.ab.ca) and include your name and your telephone number. Pickup day is Thursday between 10 am and 1 pm, and the library staff will let you know which date you can pick up your items.

## Upcoming Events

### CALGARY PUBLIC LIBRARY

#### **Researching Hudson's Bay Company and Western Metis Ancestors with Christine Woodcock**

**Free virtual program**

**Calgary Public Library/AFHS**

March 8, 2021 7 - 8 pm

<https://calgarylibrary.ca/events-and-programs/researching-hudsons-bay-company-hbc-and-western-metis-ancestors>

#### **Family History Coaching Program**

**Free online help**

**Calgary Public Library/AFHS**

March 27, 2021 1 - 3 pm

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

#### **Calgary Herald Online Archive**

**Free online with your library card!**

**Calgary Public Library**

Birth notices, obituaries, ads, and more in the Calgary Herald between 1883 and 2010.

<https://calgarylibrary.ca/read-learn-and-explore/digital-library/calgary-herald-archive-online>

**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)

### CONFERENCES/WEBINARS

#### **RootsTech 2021**

**FamilySearch**

Available free online until 2022

[www.familysearch.org/rootstech/rtc2021](http://www.familysearch.org/rootstech/rtc2021)

#### **Gene-O-Rama Annual Conference**

**Ontario Ancestors**

March 27-28, 2021

<https://ottawa.ogs.on.ca/geneorama>

#### **Really Useful Family History Show**

**Family History Federation**

April 10, 2021

[www.fhf-reallyuseful.com](http://www.fhf-reallyuseful.com)

#### **GenFair 2021**

**Wetaskiwin Branch AGS**

April 24, 2021

<https://www.abgenealogy.ca/wetaskiwin-branch>

#### **My Roots, Your Roots, Ontario's Roots: Virtual Conference & Family History Show**

**Ontario Ancestors**

June 4 - 6, 2021

<https://ogs.on.ca>

## Volunteer Opportunities

### Review of Archived Website Content

The website team is looking for a volunteer who would evaluate content that has been archived from our previous website. There might be some worthwhile gems to add to our updated website, but we need someone to consider the items, check to see if the links still work, and make a list of what is worth reposting. If this sounds like a task you would like to do, please contact Marion [communications@afhs.ab.ca](mailto:communications@afhs.ab.ca)

### Fundraising Committee

Volunteers are needed to form a Planning Committee to consider the Society's objectives and draw up a strategic plan. With the plan in mind, the committee would consider funding sources, partnerships and fundraising opportunities to ensure the long-term financial health of AFHS. Ideally, participants would be willing to make a three-year commitment. If you would like to volunteer or need more information, please contact Iris Morgan at [finance@afhs.ab.ca](mailto:finance@afhs.ab.ca)

### Indexing Past Issues of our Journal

Looking for something to do on these snowy days? We are in the process of indexing the past issues of *Chinook*. If you would like to help, contact Marion [communications@afhs.ab.ca](mailto:communications@afhs.ab.ca)

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## Library Hours & Opportunities to Connect

### Library Open Hours

Closed until further notice

Curbside pickup and drop off now available! See the AFHS website for details.



### 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.

Editor: Amber Godfrey

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