

CHINOOK ARCH

May 2021 Volume 3 Issue 5



ALBERTA FAMILY
HISTORIES SOCIETY

Society Meetings

Our Next Society Meeting: Monday, May 10

LOCATION: Zoom meeting

TIME: 7 to 9 pm

Topic: Using Internet Archive

Christine Hayes will show us how to use Internet Archive for genealogical research. With over 100,000 genealogy-related titles, Internet Archive is a treasure trove for family historians. We will also learn how to use Wayback Machine which isn't a time-travelling device but a wonderful archive of dead internet sites.

Upcoming Meetings

All held virtually using Zoom until further notice. Contact communications@afhs.ab.ca to receive an invitation.

DATE	GROUP	TIME	TOPIC
Sat., May 8	Digital Genealogy SIG Family Genes Group	10 to 11 am 11 to noon	Best practices for recording sources Places, Dates and Events in TNG
Sat., May 15	English/Welsh SIG	10 am to noon	Dating 20th Century Photographs
Sun., May 16	DNA SIG	1:30 to 3:30 pm	
Mon., May 17	Board Meeting	7 to 9 pm	
Sat., May 22	Celtic SIG	10 am to noon	Sharing session on Irish & Scottish research
Mon., May 24	Ontario SIG	1:30 to 3:30 pm	United Empire Loyalists
Sun., May 30	Legacy SIG	1:30 to 3:30 pm	Legacy tips and tricks
Sat., June 5	Family Tree Maker SIG	10 am to noon	Family Tree Maker tips and tricks

Next Society Meetings

Monday, June 14, 2021

Topic: Writing Family Histories

Speaker: Michele Buhler and panel of writing workshop attendees

No Society Meetings in July or August

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

AFHS Member Updates

AFHS Board Update

Jim Benedict, AFHS President

We thank everyone who attended the Annual General Meeting on April 12. The following people were acclaimed as our Board of Directors for the coming year:

President	Jim Benedict
Vice President	Natalie Heaton
Secretary	Jennifer Blain
Treasurer	Wendy Robertson
Communications	Marion Peterson
Education	Zolton Walford
Facilities	Richard Young
Finance	Iris Morgan
Library & Research	Linda Murray
Membership	John Smiley

We would like to extend our appreciation to Jasmin Naglis, Bev Archer and Peter McKenzie for their contributions and commitment to AFHS during their terms on the Board.

A Few More Changes

We are sorry to report Heather Grant is leaving the role of Membership Coordinator. Thank you Heather, for all your hard work with new and returning members.

After many years of being our representative to the Family History Federation, Ann Williams has decided to step down. Thanks, Ann, for being our connection to this organization! Iris Morgan has been appointed to this position.

Alberta AGLC Policy Changes and Casino Funding

Our Society has depended in continuing funding from casino operations over many years. In fact, this year casino income is three times greater than all other incomes combined. We are grateful to all our volunteers that help out and hope this

source of monied continues for many years to come. But, pending policy reviews may change that, and we may need your help.

The Alberta Gaming, Liquor & Cannabis (or AGLC) is an Alberta government Crown agency that oversees casino operations and other things. We work by their rules and benefit, but they also have a lot of other needy organizations out there. The AGLC has been carrying out a review of their Gaming Model, with priorities placed on access and revenue equality, use of proceeds and eligibility. The consultation team had 94 organizations contribute to this overhaul, so you can imagine there were many opinions and many hands out. Little consensus was achieved. Divisions showed up between urban and rural interests. Heavily debated was the ineligibility of certain groups (e.g. cultural). The review board was looking at more organizations applying every year than the system can accommodate.

All this input will be reviewed by the AGLC board. The recommendations then go to the Minister of Finance by end of September and then likely get implemented by the start of next year. And it is rumored to be a political decision in the end. So that is where you and your local MLA come in.

If this goes through as policy, then we can expect longer wait times and less funds. Worst case, several organizations may lose their eligibility. What can we do? For one thing, can you let us know if you would get in touch with your local MLA to inform that person of the value of AFHS to the community. If this is possible, please get in touch with Dennis Laughton casino@afhs.ab.ca or with Jim Benedict president@afhs.ab.ca and we can share more background information.

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

DIGITAL GENEALOGY SIG

Meets every month on the second Saturday 10 am - Noon
familygenes@afhs.ab.ca

DNA SIG

Meets every month on the third Sunday 1:30 - 3:30 pm
dnasig@afhs.ab.ca

ENGLISH/WELSH SIG

Meets every month on the third Saturday 10 am - Noon
englishwelshsig@afhs.ab.ca

FAMILY TREE MAKER SIG

Meets every month on the first Saturday 10 am - Noon
ftmsig@afhs.ab.ca

LEGACY SIG

Meets alternate months on the last Sunday 1:30 - 3 pm
legacysig@afhs.ab.ca

ONTARIO SIG

Meets every month on the fourth Monday 1:30 - 3:30 pm
ontariosig@afhs.ab.ca

Family Tree Maker SIG Amber Godfrey

During the May meeting of the Family Tree Maker SIG, we talked about entering locations in your family tree software with as much information as possible and in a standard format. Bev had watched a helpful video from Ancestry's Barefoot Genealogist, Crista Cowan, on cleaning up your tree. She shared some tips that Crista mentioned including the best ways to enter locations. You can find videos by Crista Cowan on YouTube and Ancestry's Facebook page.

When entering locations, you should go from the smallest place (usually the city, town, village, etc.) to the larger places (county/district, province, country). I knew that Nova Scotia and Ontario both had counties so included them in locations (e.g.. Windsor, Hants, Nova Scotia, Canada or Windsor, Essex, Ontario, Canada) but I was surprised to find that the Prairie provinces also have similar designations. My home province of BC does not have counties, although it does have regional districts but I haven't been including them in locations.

At the meeting, I was told that Alberta has Municipal Districts (MD) while Manitoba and Saskatchewan have Rural Municipalities (RM). When I looked up lists of municipal divisions, I found out there were even more designations. And these have often changed over time too, so you need to do some research to see what district or municipality your ancestor may have lived in during specific years. I found some well-documented information on Wikipedia for each province that includes the history of the areas and their divisions.

Wikipedia - List of Municipal Districts in Alberta
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_municipal_districts_in_Alberta

Wikipedia - List of Municipalities in Saskatchewan
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_municipalities_in_Saskatchewan

Wikipedia - List of Municipalities in Manitoba
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_municipalities_in_Manitoba

Every time I attend a SIG meeting, I learn so much from the presenters and the other members. Researching your family history requires you to become knowledgeable in a wide variety of topics and being able to ask questions of other researchers is invaluable. If you haven't attended a SIG meeting yet, you should consider doing so. The current format of Zoom meetings makes it even easier to attend - you can be at home with a mug of tea, wearing your comfy clothes!

DNA Discoveries

Mr. Livingston, I Presume? Or Was It Mr. Green?

Linda Murray

I ordered my first DNA test kits back in 2010 thinking, "What an exciting new tool to help me work on my family tree!" Initially, I ordered autosomal kits for my mother and father and a Y-DNA kit for my father. Then I gradually began to test other family members.

In 2014, I realized that I should be testing my oldest living relative and my maternal grandmother's last remaining sibling, 93-year-old great-aunt Eva. She had always patiently answered, to the best of her ability, my many questions about her parents, Timothy Livingston and Minerva Jane Sager. Being the youngest of 13 siblings, she always said her older brothers and sisters probably would have known more about the family, and she wished she could help more in my family history quest. When I explained to her how the DNA test would work by helping to find living cousins, she was happy to do the cheek swab.



Linda and her great-aunt Eva

When her results came back, Great Aunt Eva matched my mother and my maternal uncle with a typical amount of centimorgans to be their aunt and everything seemed fine. By this time, I had spent almost 30 years trying to trace the Livingston family from Ontario back to New York and this family had proved to be fairly elusive, leaving a minimum of records behind. I often joked that the family must have been in some sort of witness protection program!

The next year, I began to notice many DNA matches with my great-aunt Eva, my mother and my maternal uncle connected to families with the surname of Green in Ontario. I puzzled over these matches as they didn't fit within my carefully constructed family tree. I began to trace the matches back in time and noticed the majority went back to one couple, William Green and Christina Markle. Many online trees indicated this couple had a family of 18 children between 1800 and 1831 in Wentworth, Upper Canada. As I noticed all of these Green DNA matches, I also discovered there was a distinct lack of matches to anyone connected with the Livingston family in Ontario. Could it be possible that Timothy Livingston Jr. was not the son of Timothy Livingston Sr.?

Timothy Livingston Sr. was born to Peter Livingston and Christina Porter in about 1825. Around 1852, he married his first cousin, Mary Ann Parcels, the daughter of Richard Parcels and Sarah Porter. Christina and Sarah Porter were the daughters of Timothy Porter and Nancy Anna Simmons. The Porter and Simmons families were both Loyalists and, when the colony of Quebec was divided to create Upper and Lower Canada in 1791, Loyalists and their families could apply for free land. Timothy Porter and his wife Anna Simmons both petitioned for two hundred acres of land in February 1794 in Upper Canada.

DNA Discoveries

In the 1861 census of Canada West, which was the name Upper Canada adopted after 1841, Timothy and Mary Ann were living with their five children in Hastings County. By the 1871 census, Mary Ann is listed as a widow living in Faraday Township, Hastings North with a total of eight children. My great-grandfather Timothy Jr. is the youngest of her children at age 4. I have never been able to find a death record for Timothy Livingston Sr. but I believed he died between 1866 and 1871. I assumed he would have been alive at the time of Timothy's conception, sometime in the summer of 1866, and he didn't appear on the 1871 census. Meanwhile, the matches to children of William Green and Christina Markle continued to accumulate and I began to formulate a hypothesis that maybe Timothy Livingston born in 1867 was actually the son of a man named Simcoe Green.

The strongest DNA matches with the largest amount of centimorgans all pointed to Simcoe Green (or possibly one of his sons) being Timothy's father. Simcoe Green lived about 15 miles from the Livingston family in Hastings County in the 1871 census. At this point in time, he was 63 years old and living with his wife of 33 years and five of their children. At the time of Timothy's birth in May 1867, his mother Mary Ann Livingston was about 37 years old and Simcoe Green around 57 years old. By using the fact that Simcoe's wife was Jane McGregor, I have ruled out the possibility of one of Simcoe's sons being the biological father because our family does not have any DNA matches to the McGregor family.

I then turned to Y-DNA for evidence. I asked my mother's maternal cousin, Larry Livingston, to take a Y-DNA test in 2016 to see if his paternal line was indeed Livingston or possibly Green. The majority of his matches connect to the surnames of Green and Johnson. And the Green men he closely matches

trace their Green family back to the same area of New Jersey where William Green had been born in 1772. The circumstances surrounding my great-grandfather's conception will always be a mystery, but there is no doubt that biologically he was a Green and not a Livingston. We had always presumed his father was Timothy Livingston Sr. but, 150 years after his birth, DNA was able to show the true identity of his father as Simcoe Green.

Interestingly, all the online trees and research did not list Simcoe Green, born in 1810, as one of the eighteen children born to William Green and Christina Markle. Although most of the children were born a year or two apart, there is a significant gap between 1808 and 1812 when my research points to Simcoe being born into this family. Not only did I have to prove that Simcoe Green was the father of my Timothy Livingston, but I also had to prove that Simcoe Green belonged to the family of William and Christina Green. Today, I have a spreadsheet of over one hundred matches to descendants of William and Christina, which is compelling proof that they are indeed my 3X great-grandparents.

Although I am a bit sad to have spent 30 years researching a Livingston family that was not my direct line, I now have many, many Green family members to add to my tree. In the end, DNA testing did help to prove some of my family lines, but it also showed my Livingston line was incorrect. And now I have a new branch of the family tree to investigate and document. My great-aunt Eva always told me when I was asking questions to be careful in case I might find a skeleton in the closet. I wonder what she would think of this discovery about her father's true parentage!

Library Highlights

Tribute to AFHS Library volunteer Helen Backhouse Linda Murray

National Volunteer Week in Canada this year was April 18 - 24, and the theme for 2021 was *The Value of One, The Power of Many*. At Alberta Family History Society, we value each of our volunteers, and this month we pay tribute to one of our most dedicated volunteers, **Helen Backhouse**.

Helen has been one of our members since 1982. She joined the AFHS Library Committee back when the entire library collection was housed in two apple boxes. The library has grown significantly since then and the location has changed several times.

In preparation for the 40th Anniversary of AFHS in 2020, Helen was interviewed by Tara Shymanski. She talked about her involvement with AFHS and specifically her time at the Library. Some of her memories are recounted here.

Helen said that she got involved initially by volunteering to carry an apple box full of books to and from each meeting held at a school. AFHS meetings then moved from the school to a Masonic Hall where storage cupboards meant the books could be locked up on-site. Around this point, Helen took over the collection and then the library moved to Knox Presbyterian church downtown, where the library had a designated room. Helen recalls, "It was a very little room with very low ceilings but it did have shelves on 3 walls. Some of the taller members were in danger of bumping their heads on the duct work above!"

Eventually the library outgrew that space and moved to the Southminster United Church. The library remained at Southminster for quite a number of years. It had the advantage of the meeting place and library being in the same space so people were

encouraged to pick up books and bring them back on the monthly meeting days. Southminster was sold so the library had to move again! And after a big search for a suitable place, the library moved to the basement of 712-16 Avenue NW. When the upstairs became available as well, it was decided the AFHS library and office would expand to use both spaces. The library has remained in this location on 16 Avenue for about the past twelve years. Our collection continued to grow as we purchased books and received a lot of donations.

Helen remembers, "There were really good materials that we needed for the collection. We also started selling some duplicates at a reduced price that enabled us to buy new books. The people who came and worked at the library were all great and everybody brought something special."

When asked about the benefit of being a member of AFHS, Helen replied, "These are people who will listen to your story instead of going glassy-eyed. And if you have a story, it's nice to be able to share with people who may not be vastly interested in your story but they may understand your excitement or your problem. So it's very encouraging.

There is a lot of power in knowing and sharing the stories."

In addition to working on the library committee for over 35 years and entering thousands of library materials into the database, Helen served as the president of AFHS in 2007-2008 and ran the Ontario Special Interest Group for the past few years.

Helen has been an amazing volunteer for AFHS and she will be greatly missed. Besides using her considerable leadership skills, Helen has been a mentor to many, a helper to hundreds, and an inspiration to everyone. We wish her and her husband John all the best in their new home in Sherwood Park.



Upcoming Events

CALGARY PUBLIC LIBRARY

Family History Coaching Program

Free online help

Calgary Public Library/AFHS

May 22, 2021 1 - 3 pm

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

THE Genealogy Show 2021

Virtual conference

THE Genealogy Show

June 25 - 26, 2021

<https://thegenealogyshow.uk>

CONFERENCES/WEBINARS

RootsTech 2021

FamilySearch

Available free online until 2022

www.familysearch.org/rootstech/rtc2021

Canadian Genealogical Virtual Research Intensive

Virtual conference

CGVRI

July 18 - 23, 2021

www.cgvri.com

Scottish Indexes Conference

Virtual conference

Scottish Indexes

May 22, 2021

www.scottishindexes.com

Irish Lines and Female Finds: Exploring Irish records, female ancestors and genetic genealogy

Virtual conference

**British Isles Family History Society
of Greater Ottawa**

September 19 - 26, 2021

<https://bifhsgo2021.ca>

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

Ontario Ancestors

June 4 - 6, 2021

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

50th Anniversary Seminar Series **British Columbia Genealogy Society**

June 5, 2021

www.bcgs.ca/bcgs-special-events

Check for more conferences
and webinars at:

Conference Keeper:

www.conferencekeeper.org/virtual

Family Search:

www.familysearch.org/wiki/en/Family_History_Library_Classes_and_Webinars

GENEVA (UK events):

<http://geneva.weald.org.uk/doku.php>

Volunteer Opportunities

We Need Your Stories!

Alberta Family Histories Society wants to help our members share family stories as well as their family history research expertise. We have a few ways to do so: our monthly newsletter *Chinook Arch*, the very popular #FamilyFriday posts on our Facebook page, "brags" and "Genealogy Minutes" at the monthly AFHS meetings and the opportunity to do a presentation for our society or other family history groups. We are looking for both longer and shorter submissions and provide assistance to edit your submission to make it shine (while keeping your personal style intact). There are a huge number of ways to "give back" to AFHS so please consider contributing something to one of these worthy causes. To get more information on how to submit something to *Chinook Arch*, contact Amber at chinookarch@afhs.ab.ca and for the other opportunities, contact Marion at communications@afhs.ab.ca

DNA SIG Needs New Blood!

Linda Murray and Lorna Laughton have been running the DNA Special Interest Group since November 2014 and would like to step down as co-coordinators. It is time for a new perspective and some new energy for the group. We currently have 125 members in our email list. Meetings in person and on zoom average 20-25 participants per meeting and we usually meet 9 times per year. Anyone, who would be willing to help out or take over please contact dnasig@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

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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