

# CHINOOK ARCH

June 2021 Volume 3 Issue 6



ALBERTA FAMILY  
HISTORIES SOCIETY

## Society Meetings

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

**LOCATION:** Zoom meeting

**TIME:** 7 to 9 pm

**Topic:** Writing Family Histories and Member Appreciation Night

Michele Buhler and a panel of writing workshop attendees share their experiences producing family history books using their research.

### 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., June 12	Digital Genealogy SIG	10 to 11 am	Ancestor Author program review, update on Alberta Ancestors website
	Family Genes Group	11 to noon	Overview and discussion of any issues
Sun., June 20	DNA SIG	1:30 to 3:30 pm	
Mon., June 21	Board Meeting	7 to 9 pm	
Mon., June 28	Ontario SIG	1:30 to 3:30 pm	Share a story of an antique you own

### Next Society Meetings

No Society Meetings in July or August

September 13

Topic: TBD

Speaker: TBD

### 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)

### Naming Conventions from the Other Side of the World

Judith Meyers

My granddaughter's family tree, until recently, was only from my side of her background. I felt that she needed to know and be proud of *all* of her history. My son married a Filipina woman, and she recently gave me information on her family. However, that created a new problem.

Up to now, my family research has only involved Western surnames. My granddaughter's maternal side is not that simple. Her grandmother is mostly straightforward but does have some challenges due to the Philippines being under Spanish rule in the past. Also, her grandmother's husband is Chinese. So now we have Philippine, Spanish, and Chinese conventions to understand. How do I enter these names?

#### Philippine Naming Conventions

Philippine law controls naming conventions, and they are similar to Portuguese and Spanish customs. First is the given name, then the surname of the mother, then the surname of the father. So, for example, a woman named Maria Romero Conde marries a man with the surname Garcia. She may choose to use her husband's surname, which changes her name to Maria Romero Garcia, or she can hyphenate the surnames, becoming Maria Romero-Garcia.

The country began adopting surnames in the 16th century under Spanish rule. In 1849 they issued the Claveria Decree to try to enforce naming conventions. As a result, local magistrates assigned surnames from an alphabetical index, resulting in many families in a barangay (basic unit of local administration from 1565 to 1898) having family names starting with the same letter. Currently Philippine Civil Code, article 370, controls nam-

ing conventions.

An article in the May 5, 2021 issue of *Family Tree Magazine* titled "The Correct Order for Spanish Surnames" mentions that it is traditional for people to be known by both their paternal and maternal surnames, in that order. However, Spanish women did not take their husband's family name until about 200 years ago. It also mentions that when you enter the name into genealogy software, it should be filed under the compound family name, e.g. Romero Conde, with the father's surname shown first.

In the Philippines, citizenship and business relationships become much simpler with a name reflecting the country's Spanish heritage so people can purchase names too. This would be the equivalent of a Canadian paying our government a fee to register a name change.

First names can be abbreviated or combined. For example, Emmanuel is shortened to Eman or Manny, Maria Cristina is changed to Ma. Cristina or Maricris and Cosolación becomes Connie, Sol or Chona. The names may be invented or a corruption of something foreign. Spelling reforms may have changed the spelling of some names. Rank and job description also might appear as names.

#### Chinese Naming Conventions

For us to work with and use Chinese names, we need to translate them into the English equivalent. Pinyin is the standard system for Romanizing or converting the pronunciation of Chinese characters into English.

Personal names are made up of surname (family or clan name) and two given names. An example is Li Lian Jie, now known as Jet Li, the actor. There are no middle names. The surname is first, to show respect for elders. Next, there are preassigned names for each generation that are determined by an ancestor who expressed wishes for the family's future

## Ancestor Anecdote

in a verse. That means the first of the given names contains a generational name incorporated into it. In modern times, this rule is not always followed. Taoist fortune-tellers may help with naming, and recently this approach has been computerized. A child's name may reflect historical events, concerns that the child might be deficient in the elements of metal, wood, water, fire or earth, characters from classic or popular culture or gender values.

Types of names may include family or clan name, given name, courtesy name, pseudonym or Buddhist name. Chinese normally don't "recycle" names like my family did. Many of my relatives of European descent resorted to using their middle names or nicknames so 23 different girls would not have to respond when someone called for "Agnes." This was common in the 1800s.

Be prepared to find names distorted, simplified, or mistyped when they are recorded. Some individuals will choose an English name to fit into a culture. It may sound similar to their Chinese name, or be copied from a movie star, a character in a book or an author they like.

Customs vary from country to country. Names may change within a lifetime. They may reflect the birth order or generation, show paternal or maternal relationship, matrimonial state, astronomical signs, or place of birth.

### Entering The Names Into My Tree

So, after all that, how do I enter these family members in my tree? Sorting is based on the name in the last position. Put in the family name twice, which is awkward. Ignore their customs? That one seems rather rude. Our family rule has become put the family name last and do not worry about custom because it sorts better. I also do not repeat the family

name to keep the correct order. Use of "also known as" will take care of the alternatives. For other families, I suggest that you ask how they would like to have their names handled.

The websites I used are listed below, and I also had help from my daughter-in-law.

FBIIC – Naming Practice Guide 2006  
[https://www.fbiic.gov/public/2008/nov/Naming\\_practice\\_guide\\_UK\\_2006.pdf](https://www.fbiic.gov/public/2008/nov/Naming_practice_guide_UK_2006.pdf)

Naming Conventions (Chinese)  
[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Chinese\\_name](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Chinese_name)

Filipino Name  
[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Filipino\\_name](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Filipino_name)

The Correct Order for Spanish Surnames  
<https://www.familytreemagazine.com/heritage/central-south-american/how-to-list-spanish-surnames>

Consul General of the Philippines – Regulations on Change of Name for Married Filipino Women  
<http://www.chicagopcg.com/regulation%20-%20married%20name.pdf>

Philippines Personal Names [https://www.familysearch.org/wiki/en/Philippines\\_Personal\\_Names](https://www.familysearch.org/wiki/en/Philippines_Personal_Names)

HELLO  
My Name Is

???

## 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)

## Kelly Southworth's Series of Photo Workshops Bev Smith

Kelly Southworth, the President of the Southeast and Winnipeg Branch of the Manitoba Genealogical Society, did three Zoom presentations about photographs for the English/Welsh SIG. *Pull out that box of old photos you inherited and have been meaning to look through, and see if Kelly's tips might give you some clues about who they are!*



She broke the topic of photographs into three parts:

1. **Dating 19th Century Photos:** The history of photography and the various ways of developing photographs were included in this session, along with the clues within a photo to determine approximate dates. Hair styles, clothing styles and posing backgrounds can be used as clues for dating photographs. When you figure out a possible date, it makes it easier to look at your research to figure out who the subjects of the photos may be.

2. **The Stories Photos Tell:** Kelly answered the question, "Why did people go to a professional photographer?" in this session. Major life events, like weddings, going off to war, births, etc. could be the reason. Clues can be found in things like whether the picture was taken in a studio or outside and whether people are posed or informal. Looking for the stories behind the photo can be fun. It may even reveal a child who died young and missed any census.

3. **Dating 20th Century Photos:** The growth of modern photography has an interesting history. We went down "memory lane," looking at styles of cameras, film, developing techniques and the clues on the back of the photo. Again, she talked about other clues for determining when a picture was taken—hair styles, fashions, background objects like buildings and cars. Kelly made us wonder if the current fad of digital "snap, snap, snap" will have the impact that those old "Carte de Visite" photographs have even today?

Kelly Southworth has been doing genealogy for a long time and shops in antique stores to find many of the photographs she used in her presentations. Using the photographs like this gives them a new life. We were so fortunate to have her for our guest speaker, and I speak for all participants when I say that her presentations were really enjoyed. Plus we learned so much!

## DNA Discoveries

### How DNA Helped Identify One Jane Doe

Ron Gilmore

Jane Doe's body was found on August 30, 1987, near Anaheim, California. The remains were scattered over a grassy area just off the highway. Searchers found no clothes, pocketbook, car keys or any other clues as to her identity. She did have a chipped front tooth and she was missing six teeth.

Who was this young woman? What happened? Where was her family? Clearly, foul play was involved. But first, the police needed to identify her. Dental impressions and searches of local dental records proved nothing. A review of Missing Persons files also yielded no clues. The police were able to secure a DNA sample but decades later, Jane Doe had still not been identified.



Then, in late 2018, the DNA Doe Project (DDP), working through the Orange County Sheriff's Department of Anaheim, California, identified the Anaheim Jane Doe as Tracey Coreen Hobson. On January 17, 2019, the Sheriff's Department announced the positive confirmation of the identification. Tracy, who was 20 years old at the time she disappeared in the summer of 1987, was a former Anaheim La Mirada High School student and Anaheim resident.

Tracy's identification was made possible by the work of DDP volunteers using genetic genealogy. The DNA Doe Project uses the same methods that are used in adoption and unknown parent cases. The process of extracting and sequencing the DNA is different than using a company like 23andMe or Ancestry. Once they have a viable DNA file, it is uploaded to GEDmatch and then the work begins. The teams work on the highest DNA matches and build out family trees. Once a common ancestor with the Doe has been identified, the teams then turn to descendant research. Then it is just a matter of looking for the right person who is in the right place at the right time. Once a candidate is identified, the teams begin a "proof of life search." This is to check if the person is still alive and able to be found.

Because genetic genealogy is not yet accepted as a legal form of identification, it can only be considered a "lead" in an investigation. Tracy's identity was legally confirmed by the Coroner's Office using forensic dentistry. The Sheriff's Department is now focusing on the investigation of Tracy's homicide and bringing her killer to justice.

The DDP has solved over 80 identification cases for local police agencies across America since its inception. Today, they are currently investigating another 60 cases. It is also possible that DNA identification may soon be accepted as a legal form of identification by the courts.

If you are interested, you too can volunteer to join this most worthy venture. For more information, check out the DDP website <https://dnadoeproject.org>



## Calgary Connections

### From Russia With Love Marian Jones

My Germans from Russia family immigrated from the Crimean Peninsula to Alberta in 1909. The family was originally from Jakobstal, Bessarbia, but moved to the Krim (Crimea) sometime after 1893. Their youngest child was born in 1897 in the Krim.

Johann Betsch and Katherina Wallewein were married in 1872 in Lepzig, Bessarbia, and were the parents of eleven children, two of which died in infancy. By all accounts, they had a good life in Russia. Johann owned a gristmill, worked as a blacksmith and was also Bürgermeister (mayor) of their small village of Dzonkoi, Crimea, Russia. However, my great-great-grandfather Johann was worried about the future of his family in the Russian Empire. His second oldest son had already been conscripted into the Russian Army, and rumours of war with other Russian states, who didn't want the Germans there, were being circulated. He had heard about free land and the other freedoms available in Canada, but finding the funds to bring his family there was difficult.

Finally, in September of 1909, Johann, Katherina, and six of their children (son Jakob, his wife and three small children, widowed daughter Katherine Harter and her five children, and his four youngest children Roselia, Magdalena, Johann and Emma) left Crimea by train to travel to Liverpool England. There they boarded the ship *Canada*, of the White Star Line, on October 14, 1909, arriving in Montreal on October 22, 1909. From Montreal, they travelled across Canada by train, on the CPR, to Calgary, Alberta.

The 1911 Census of Canada finds Katherine Betsch and the three youngest girls living in Calgary and working in a laundry, while Johann Betsch is living on their homestead, north east of Vegreville.

Their youngest son, also named Johann, is working as a farm labourer for another German from Russia farmer. He later married that farmer's daughter. Jakob and his family are living in the Lethbridge area, and he is working in the coal mines.

By the time that the 1921 Census of Canada was taken, Johann and Katherine Betsch are living on their quarter section of land in the unorganized area of Sundre, Alberta. Johann Betsch Sr. died in 1924, after being kicked by a horse, and is buried in the Bergen Cemetery in Bergen, Alberta. My great-grandfather Jakob, along with his wife and two sons, came to Sundre and took over the family farm.

Jakob's daughter, my grandmother Mary Betsch, married August Chemelli, in Lethbridge, Alberta, in 1918. They lived at Diamond City, near Lethbridge, where her husband worked in the coal mines for several years. Then they came to Sundre in 1925 and bought an adjacent quarter to the original Betsch farm. In 1945, the Jakob Betsch family sold their farm and moved to Vancouver, BC. My grandmother and her family remained at Sundre.



Johann and Katherina Betsch

## Upcoming Events

### RootsTech 2021 *FamilySearch*

Available free online until 2022

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

### Getting Started Series:

*Getting Started with Scottish Research*  
*Navigating the ScotlandsPeople Website*  
*Brick Wall Busters for Scottish Research*  
*Online Sources for Scottish Research*

Free webinars

### *Scottish SIG - Ontario Ancestors*

June 9, 16, 23 & 30, 2021 8:00 am

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

### THE Genealogy Show 2021

Virtual conference

### *THE Genealogy Show*

June 25 - 26, 2021

<https://thegenealogyshow.uk>

### Scottish Indexes Conference XI

Virtual conference

### *Scottish Indexes*

July 10, 2021

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

### Canadian Genealogical Virtual Research Intensive

Virtual conference

### *CGVRI*

July 18 - 23, 2021

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

### Early Ontario Research

Free webinar

### *Legacy Family Tree Webinars*

August 20, 2021 12:00 pm

[https://familytreewebinars.com/webinar\\_details.php?webinar\\_id=1668](https://familytreewebinars.com/webinar_details.php?webinar_id=1668)

### 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>

### Tracing Your 20th Century English Ancestors

Free webinar

### *Legacy Family Tree Webinars*

September 8, 2021 6:00 pm

[https://familytreewebinars.com/webinar\\_details.php?webinar\\_id=1642](https://familytreewebinars.com/webinar_details.php?webinar_id=1642)

Check for more conferences  
and 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)

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](mailto:chinookarch@afhs.ab.ca) and for the other opportunities, contact Marion at [communications@afhs.ab.ca](mailto: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 transfusion of fresh perspective and 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. If no one comes forward, this SIG will go into hiatus after November 2021. Anyone who would be willing to help out or take over please contact [dnasig@afhs.ab.ca](mailto:dnasig@afhs.ab.ca)

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## Library Hours & Opportunities to Connect

### Library Open Hours

Curbside pickup will continue during June.

The AFHS Library will reopen to visitors in July with their normal summer schedule.

Please see the AFHS website calendar 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.

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