

CHINOOK ARCH

September 2021 Volume 3 Issue 7



ALBERTA FAMILY
HISTORIES SOCIETY

Society Meetings

Our Next Society Meeting: Monday, September 13

LOCATION: Zoom meeting

TIME: 7 to 9 pm

Topic: Using Library and Archives Canada

Christine Hayes and Tara Shymanski will teach us about using the resources at Library and Archives Canada

Upcoming Special Interest Group and Board Meetings: Held in various ways - in person, via Zoom, or in person with Zoom. Please check the [website calendar](#) for the most up-to-date location information.

| DATE | GROUP | TIME | TOPIC |
|----------------|---|---------------------------|--|
| Sat., Sept. 11 | Digital Genealogy SIG Family Genes Group | 10 to 11 am 11 to noon | Genealogy software (likes/dislikes) |
| Sat., Sept. 18 | English/Welsh SIG | 10 am to noon | |
| Sun., Sept. 19 | DNA SIG | 1:30 to 3:30 pm | |
| Mon., Sept. 20 | Board Meeting | 7 to 9 pm | |
| Sat., Sept. 25 | Celtic SIG | 10 am to noon | |
| Sun., Sept. 26 | Legacy SIG | 1:30 to 3:30 pm | Back to basics and database maintenance |
| Mon., Sept. 27 | Ontario SIG | 1:30 to 3:30 pm | What did you learn about your ancestors this summer? |
| Sat., Oct. 2 | Family Tree Maker SIG | 10 am to noon | Family Tree Maker tips and tricks |

Next Society Meetings

Monday, October 4, 2021

Topic: TBD

Monday, November 8, 2021

Topic: TBD

AFHS 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

Summer is almost over, and I hope you had a chance to get outdoors and enjoy some gardening or golfing, or whatever activity moves you. Perhaps, you cautiously visited with friends and family, doing some family history harvesting along the way. For me, I am still contacting my distant cousins by Zoom to stay in touch and sharing stories of our parents, now passed away.

Now that September has arrived, activities will be picking up for the Society. Our first fall meeting is slated for Monday, September 13, and due to concerns about the 4th wave of COVID, the decision was made to meet only via Zoom for this meeting and for the following meeting on October 6.

Our library on 16th Avenue N.W. has been open with reduced hours for the summer, and unless restrictions change, it will be open in the fall with the usual winter open hours.

Your Board has also been active throughout the summer months, and I want to thank a few directors that have been working on AFHS Board business on our behalf. Our Society insurance coverage is very important, and it was a surprise when the current insurer decided to no longer cover any non-profit societies. Richard Young, our Director of Facilities, put in many hours and phone calls to find competitive quotes and coverage for property (library) and liability (meetings) so that we can carry on business. Our Treasurer, Wendy Robertson, and Iris Morgan, our Finance Director, made sure that our annual financial filings with Canada Revenue Agency, the province and the Casino authority (AGLC) were signed off and filed. The Projects Committee, under the guidance of Heather Williams and Wendy Schultz, has carried on with documenting the cemeteries in Calgary and surrounding area. They have 14 new volunteers who have stepped up to join in on field trips to local cemeteries. We appreciate the volunteer assistance and hope they are having lots of fun. The cemetery research will be showing up in the Alberta Ancestors website project, which is coming along nicely. Over 65,000 burials along with marker photos have been uploaded in preparation for the website launch. This newsletter is only possible thanks to our *Chinook Arch* editor, Amber Godfrey, and is one of the best ways for staying in regular touch with our members. My personal appreciation goes out to Marion Peterson, our Communications Director, who has worked so hard, behind the scenes, staying in contact with all, and ensuring that we communicate!

So let's look forward to an engaging fall season with the AFHS. The SIG meetings are returning with fresh programs. The Society meetings will have more speakers and topics of interest. The AFHS has come through these most difficult months, and we are hopeful that next year will be a healthier one.

Ancestor Anecdotes

A Mother-in-law to Love

June Read

My attachment to my mother-in-law began on May 8, 1971, when John and I married in the Lewisham registry office in London, England. Holding my hand, Lily Read whispered, "June, whenever you two have a fight, I know it will always be his fault." How could you not love a mother-in-law who said that? Both my in-laws were welcoming and supportive, but Lily and I truly bonded. Even after John and I returned to Canada we had a special relationship.

Born in 1917, Lily was raised in the East End of London with her brothers Sid and Jack. My father-in-law John Read was Canadian, born in Toronto. He left Canada to join the British Royal Air Force (RAF) when he was just 17. John and Lily both served in the RAF during World War II. John was a gunner on a Lancaster bomber and Lily, according to the 1939 Register, was a gas-mask assembler. They met, fell in love and were married. After the war, John and Lily moved to Canada with their son, John Jr. But Lily was not blessed with a mother-in-law like mine and struggled miserably to get along with John's mother while they were living in Toronto. Lily presented her ultimatum. John could return to London with her and John Jr., or she was going to return to London alone. John chose to go with them. He joined the City of London Police and she was reunited with her family and friends.

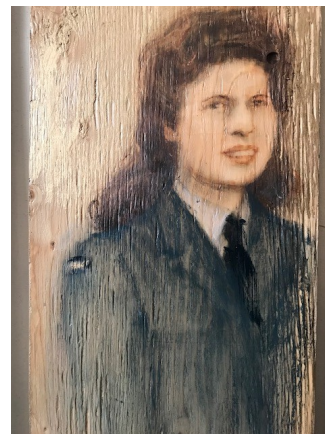
Calgary artist Bev Tosh, whose mother was a war bride from New Zealand, created an art exhibit called *War Brides: One-Way Passage*. Based upon the lives of women who married servicemen from around the world and created new lives with them far from their homes, she created unique panel paintings, drawing from photos and stories about each of them.

I originally saw Bev's paintings at the Glenbow Museum in 2009. In 2017, I met Bev

Tosh in her studio at the Burns Visual Arts building at an art open house. I told Bev about my in-laws and how they met in the RAF and married during World War II. We chatted for quite some time, and I mentioned that in 2018 my husband and I would be in London preparing his parents' house to be sold. Bev said that she had been invited to England by the RAF, to commemorate their 100th anniversary, and would be displaying a selection of her War Brides paintings focusing on women who served in the RAF. Bev asked me to send photos of Lily, in uniform, along with some stories about her romance with my father-in-law.

When I got to London, I rummaged through the photo albums and was able to pass along a collection of photos and notes to Bev. Additionally, my son had completed a research paper for university, based upon his interviews with his grandparents about how World War II affected their lives.

When Bev said she would like to paint Lily for the exhibit at the London RAF Museum it was an emotional moment. It was very exciting to see Lily's portrait at the museum. She gave me a much different experience as a daughter-in-law than she had endured. Lily was my much-loved mother-in-law.



Lily's RAF portrait

If you would like to see some of the other portraits, you can view them at Bev's website at www.warbrides.com.

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 on the fourth Saturday
10 am - Noon
celticsig@afhs.ab.ca

DIGITAL GENEALOGY SIG

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

DNA SIG

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

ENGLISH/WELSH SIG

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

FAMILY TREE MAKER SIG

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

LEGACY SIG

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

ONTARIO SIG

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

Digital Genealogy SIG - Getting Your Family History on Paper

Jim Benedict

We all want to take our genealogy research out of our computer or paper files and compose the ultimate tome of our ancestors' history. Well, there may be a way to pull it off faster and easier than you thought possible.

Using a software program called **Ancestral Author**, you can import your family line using a GEDCOM file, then just toss in a few family photos, and, in under an hour, you can have a PDF book. The program is marketed by **Ancestral Softworks**, and you can find it at www.ancestralsoftworks.com. It is a one-time purchase and there are two options: Classic at \$24.95 USD and Plus at \$34.95 USD.

I elected to test the Plus version of **Ancestral Author** to create a book on my McPhail family. Once you install the software, it is fairly simple to use. The homepage has a set of eleven tiles: Title Page, Table of Contents, Heading, Blank Page, Import Files, Image Gallery, Sources and Endnotes, Index, Descendant Report, Ancestor Report and Every Person Report. You drag a tile from the right side onto the left side, under Document Layout, to create sections in the PDF document in the order you want them to appear. Sections can easily be reordered if you change your mind on the layout and you can insert images and captions. You can also add stories and import them into a section, including photos.

When you have it formatted the way you want, click on the Create PDF button to save a PDF copy of your finished book. This format does not allow you to make any changes unless you own a PDF editing program. If you prefer to be able to further edit the file, click on the Create ODT button instead which saves the file as an Open Office Format document. Then you can use free editing tools like LibreOffice or OpenOffice to make changes to the text.

In my McPhail Family test document, I included a Descendant Report, an Ancestor Report and also the Every Person Report, just for comparison. The Image Gallery pages were easy to compose by adding my own pictures. Another nice touch is the Index of Names page, which shows where each person appears in any of the reports and is created by the **Ancestral Author** software automatically.

If you want to get your extended family excited about your genealogy hobby, consider sending them some polished reading material on the family. People respond best to pictures and stories, rather than just names and dates.

DNA Discoveries

Who's Your Daddy?

Terri Scruggs

Two years ago, I wrote to one of my DNA matches as she and some other DNA kits that she manages were showing up as matches to me and some of the kits I manage. Patty and I exchanged trees and information on various branches of our trees but could find no connection or overlaps.

After reviewing Patty's work, she had obviously done a lot of research on her ancestors with documentation of her sources. She laid out multiple lines for me to find a connection with, but nothing she presented seemed remotely familiar.

This is what she knew: her great-grandfather was Thomas K. and he married Pearl D. Together they had a son, Fred, who was Patty's grandfather. Thomas's life was full of disappointments and tragedy. Sent to Canada as a Home Child when he was only ten years old, he ran away from his placements several times. In his 20s, he traveled with a circus in the southern States. He married Pearl but that marriage only lasted two years and then he left. Thomas served with the US Army in WWI and returned to the US in 1919. A second marriage also did not last. He married a third time, but that ended in tragedy when he died in mysterious circumstances only three days after his wedding.

Efforts to find the ancestors of Thomas and Pearl contained more than a few questions. None of the research brought up anyone who could be a common ancestor for me and my relatives.

The question remained – where did the DNA matches come from? One match of 464 cMs to her mother had Patty baffled. She then applied the Leeds Method to matches between 90 cMs and 400 cMs for her mom. There were 35+ matches which all seemed to

descend from the Bakers. Perhaps Thomas K. was not the father of Pearl's son? But which Baker was the father then?

www.danaleeds.com

After using the WATO (What are The Odds) tool and DNA Painter, searching and digging revealed more and more information about the whereabouts, occupations and timelines of all the individuals involved.

<https://dnainter.com/tools/probability>

Pearl was about 16 years old when she was working as a maid in a hotel. She apparently met a man named G.C. Baker, who was more than twice her age. Baker, a married man whose wife had just given birth to their fifth child, was living in the area at the time that Fred was conceived. Patty suspects that this G.C. Baker may be Fred's biological father. In an interesting twist, records show that G.C. paid security for Thomas K. to marry Pearl. Fred's birth certificate shows he was born just eight months after the wedding.

Pearl would never know that this encounter caused so much work for a genealogy expert many years later, and Fred never knew his true parentage. Thomas may never even have known that Fred was not his biological son.

After much research, building trees and comparing shared matches, Patty now believes that the father of her grandfather was not Thomas K. but was actually G.C. Baker. A Y-DNA test will help confirm or deny this conclusion. Thomas K.'s tragic life fades into the background; Patty's family tree loses some branches and gains some new ones.

My great-grandmother, Susan Baker Scruggs, had six brothers, and G.C. Baker was the son of one of these men. So, if Y-DNA shows that G.C. Baker was Fred's biological father, that will make Patty and me third cousins, once removed.

Library Highlights

What's New at the AFHS Library Linda Murray

***Practical Genealogy: 50 Simple Steps to Research Your Diverse Family History* [2020]**

This beginner genealogy book by Brian Sheffey has fifty different research topics that include documentation, organization, using online databases, census and vital records, maps, and local history. He also shares some case studies and discusses some of the most common brick walls encountered during genealogical research.

***Ethical Dilemmas in Genealogy* [2019] & *The Psychology of Searching* [2020]**

These two volumes by Dr. Penny Walters take look at why we research our family trees and what ethical questions we may need to consider when publishing or sharing our family stories. You can watch Dr. Penny Walters as a guest on an episode of Genealogy Adventures Live with Brian Sheffey and Donya Williams where she discusses a variety of ethical dilemmas, including discovering secrets, lies and unexpected DNA relatives. Watch the episode for free on YouTube: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pTg7OU-qSYc>

***Sacred Ground, Loyalist Cemeteries of Eastern Ontario, Volume One* [2021]**

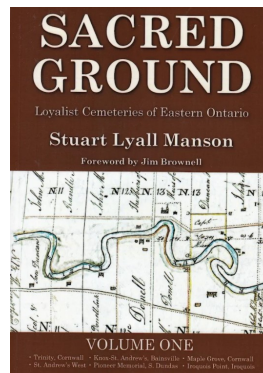
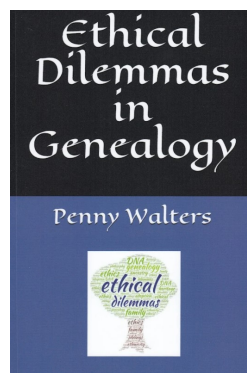
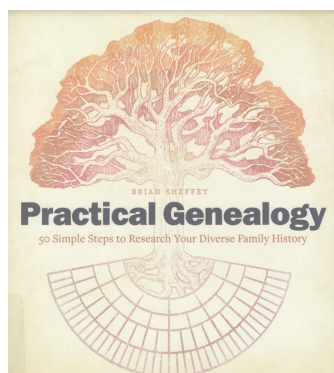
This book by Stuart Lyall Manson focuses on five Loyalist cemeteries in the Ontario counties of Stormont, Dundas and Glengarry. They are: Trinity Anglican (Cornwall); St. Andrew's Roman Catholic (St. Andrew's West); Iroquois Point (Iroquois); Knox-St. Andrew's United (Bainville); Maple Grove (Cornwall) and the Pioneer Memorial (South Dundas). Manson gives an historical overview of the burial grounds, along with biographical information on specific Loyalists. This is the first volume in a continuing series.

***Province of Ontario Immigration Records, An Overview - Updated Edition* [2019]**

This guidebook by Fawne Stratford-Devai is an updated version of the original 2003 book. The website addresses provided in the "Internet Resources" section have been updated, and a new "Ontario Department of Emigration Records: Code Conversion List" section has been added, contributed by Jane E. MacNamara. The Archives of Ontario changed the RG 11 series codes from letters to numbers, and researchers need both codes to use the records so this chapter is very helpful. Overall, this is a valuable resource for searching Ontario Immigration Records.

***Who Do You Think You Are* - Magazine**

We are now subscribing to WDYTYA magazine, so come on in and check out the new issues!



Upcoming Events

CALGARY PUBLIC LIBRARY

Family History Coaching Program

Free online help

Calgary Public Library/AFHS

September 25, 2021 1 - 3 pm

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

2021 Virtual SGGEE Convention

Virtual conference

The Society for German Genealogy in Eastern Europe

September 18 - 19, 2021

www.sggee.org/convention/convention_news.html

CONFERENCES/WEBINARS

Webtember:

All Genealogy All September

30 FREE Virtual Webinars

Legacy Family Tree Webinars

September 3, 10, 17, 24, 2021

https://familytreewebinars.com/intermediate_page.php?

Scottish Indexes Virtual Conference

Scottish Indexes

September 4, 2021 12 am - 4 pm

<https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/7816273948630/>

Ontario Land Records - Where are they online?

Virtual webinar

**Niagara Peninsula Branch,
Ontario Ancestors**

September 17, 2021 7 - 8 pm

<https://niagara.ogs.on.ca/events/niagara-peninsula-branch-ontario-land-records-where-are-they-online>

AFHS Workshops with Michele Buhler

On Zoom:

Life & Family History Writing (10 sessions)

September 28 - November 30, 2021

10:00 am - 12:15 pm

\$170 (members) \$200 (non-members)

Design & Layout Workshop (2 sessions)

October 18 & 20, 2021 10:00 am - 12:00 pm

\$35 (members) \$40 (non-members)

At the AFHS Library:

Bookmaking Workshop (2 sessions)

October 27 & November 3, 2021

1:00 pm - 3:15 pm

\$35 (members) \$40 (non-members)

To register or for more information, contact Michele Buhler at membymichele@gmail.com

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

Do you have some time to spare? Alberta Family Histories Society is entirely run by volunteers, and we have tasks both big and small. Here are some of our current opportunities:

- Our lease for the library property on 16th Avenue NW expires in May. We are setting up a committee to explore our options and the costs involved if we move. If you would like to be involved, contact facilities@afhs.ab.ca
- We have lots of duplicates and extra materials to sell. If you would like to help organize a book sale, contact Linda library@afhs.ab.ca
- We have content that used to be on our website that has not been uploaded to the new website. If you would like to review it to help decide what is worth uploading, contact Marion communications@afhs.ab.ca
- Do you love to read? We need members to read and write short reviews for our AFHS library books that can be published in our newsletter and on Facebook. Contact Marion communications@afhs.ab.ca
- Linda Murray and Lorna Laughton are stepping down as DNA SIG leaders as of November. In order to continue with this group, we will need a leader to schedule and organize meetings. Contact Linda & Lorna dnasig@afhs.ab.ca

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Library Hours & Opportunities to Connect

Library Open Hours

Thursdays - 10 am to 2 pm

Saturdays - noon to 4 pm

Library users and staff must sanitize hands and maintain social distancing (masks optional).



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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