

CHINOOK ARCH

November 2021 Volume 3 Issue 9



ALBERTA FAMILY
HISTORIES SOCIETY

Society Meetings

Our Next Society Meeting: Monday, November 8

LOCATION: Zoom meeting

TIME: 7 to 9 pm

Topic: General Meeting to vote on bylaw changes and presentation by Shaun Hunter on her "Literary History of Calgary" project including a digital literary map marking more than 500 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., Nov. 13	Digital Genealogy SIG Family Genes Group	10 to 11 am 11 to noon	Online Military Resources Cemeteries (TNG)
Sat., Nov. 20	English/Welsh SIG	10 am to noon	Sharing session on mourning customs
Sat., Nov. 27	Celtic SIG	10 am to noon	
Mon., Nov. 15	Board Meeting	7 to 9 pm	
Mon., Nov. 22	Ontario SIG	1:30 to 3:30 pm	Medals in the Attic by Spencer Linington
Sun., Nov. 28	Legacy SIG	1:30 to 3:30 pm	Database management & Legacy tips
Sat., Dec. 4	Family Tree Maker SIG	10 am to noon	Source citations in FTM
Sun., Dec. 5	DNA SIG	1:30 to 3:30 pm	

Next Society Meetings

Monday, December 13, 2021

Topic: Sharpen your research skills and solve a genealogy riddle at the meeting

Monday, January 10, 2022

Topic: Tombstone Tourists by Jim Benedict

AFHS Member Benefits:

- Society events and activities
- Subscription to members-only email news bulletin *The Windsock* and our newsletter *Chinook Arch*
- Access to our members-only Facebook group
- Full access to our Society's print and online resources and to the AFHS 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

Board Message

Heather Williams – Projects Coordinator Retires!

For at least two decades, AFHS has had a great working relationship with our City of Calgary Cemetery department. This has allowed our Society to build a first-class collection of cemetery images and data records of our citizens six feet under. The AFHS Projects Team has gathered and recorded the cemetery information for some 220,000 people in the Calgary area, interred in around 80 cemetery sites in southern Alberta. Heather Williams, our key person on this team, has worked tirelessly on this project for the past 16 years and now has passed the role onto the next generation.



Heather Williams & Wendy Schultz

The Cemetery Department honoured our Heather with a heartfelt retirement celebration. Heather's successor, Wendy Schultz, was present and wrote this of the occasion:

"Heather has finished with the City of Calgary Cemetery Office work as of last week (September 30). The City staff knew it was her last day and they made a big fuss over her, thanking her for all her contributions in assisting them with getting and keeping their records straight. They talked about how much they've come to value her gently made suggestions and corrections, her sometimes caustic humour, the quality and quantity of her photos, the home-made baking she brought in, and her friendships with everyone there. They had nothing but praise for the Alberta Family Histories Society and its diligence in preserving the history contained within the various cemeteries. The staff from the new cemetery office at Prairie Sky in the south-east made a special trip to Queen's Park Administration Office to be there for the occasion. They presented her with a lovely bottle of wine and best wishes for enjoying her "retirement" – she was really touched as she hadn't been expecting such a nice send-off."

As an illustration of the impact of Heather and the Projects Team on the city, here is a story from one of Heather's visits to Queen's Park Cemetery.

Heather, Spencer Field and others were at Queen's Park, digging out a series of flat markers that had sunk below the ground over the years. These markers were 4 to 6 inches underground, and the soil on top was so compressed you could clearly see the reverse side of the marker engraving impressed into the packed-down dirt removed from above it. After a lot of effort in digging out some of these markers, Heather had had enough. She picked up one of these reverse imprint soil clumps, threw it into a plastic bag, marched straight into the cemetery manager's office, slapped this bag of dirt onto his desk and said, "The state of these markers is absolutely disgraceful!" The manager, who by then knew her well, calmly said, "What do you need me to do, Heather?" Needless to say, the city crews were soon out there unearthing and raising all of the affected markers!

Heather was preceded by Judie Riddell, another noted Society member. As Wendy said, "Judie Riddell was the person whose patience, persistence, obvious integrity and good will gained AFHS access to the city cemetery office records." Thanks to the hard work of Judie, Heather and other volunteers like them, AFHS has helped honour many of Calgary's past residents and made it easier for their descendants do the same.

Ancestor Anecdote

Roger Ogibowski: Father, Farmer, Hero Dawn McMillan

My father was an extremely quiet man, soft spoken with a shy smile that he rarely used, but when family was near, he would smile more. I loved him dearly and, oddly, I felt protective of him. He worked long solitary hours on the farm. Awake before anyone else, he was out early, tending to the all the farm work that needed to be done. He was always working, from before the sun was up to long after dinner. He felt it was his responsibility to provide for his family and to care for and protect them along with the land, his livestock, and the wildlife.

I knew that we were poor because there was rarely money for luxuries, but I never “felt” poor because we all knew that we were deeply loved. All the hard work and long hours my parents put into working the farm were so my brother, my sisters and I could have nice outfits for school, could join clubs, could play sports and could have all the things and experiences that my parents were denied.

Dad loved silly jokes, tickling us awake with a feather, hard candies and cherry pie. He loved hockey, dancing and music, especially Johnny Cash. He always had Chiclet gum in his plaid shirt breast pocket, and he would smack his lips when he was particularly happy with a meal. We often had neighbors over, men who helped each other work their farms and who loved Mom’s cooking. In the summer, we would walk Dad’s jar of water and packed lunch to him in the field and get to spend a few quiet moments with him.

In the heat of the afternoons, he often had a short nap on the couch. If my mother asked us to wake him, we learned to do it very carefully, as often he would wake up with a start, swinging punches. He usually was careful and soft-spoken, but randomly would break into a ferocious temper. We all ran,

because he seemed so violent, but thankfully, these episodes lasted only a moment.

Dad didn’t drink, as drink made him sleepy. But he did smoke heavily, Sweet Cap hand-rolled cigarettes. I still enjoy the fragrance of cigarette smoke because it reminds me of him. My dad had dyslexia, which runs in our family, so he didn’t get a good education, but he was extremely smart. He was a very good, very patient teacher, until he lost his temper. Dad was complicated.



I heard the whispers. I sneaked looks at his army uniform and the ribboned medals in the old cedar trunk and I learned that “the War” was not something we should ask Dad about. It caused him terrifying dreams and horrible memories. Every now and then he would share a sweet war story, usually to tease mother and get her to make him potato pancakes, like the nice French lady made for him. Almost all the whispered stories were horrifying images. His best friend being blown away in front of his eyes as Dad shouted at him to get down, get off the woodpile! Burning ships, burning oil surrounding him in the ocean. Discovering a basement full of dead people. Cold, wet trenches. Always being hungry, rarely getting the promised rations. And bully beef, endless bully beef.

Ancestor Anecdote

Dad did try to get help. He told army doctors about his symptoms, but they mocked and shamed him, accusing him of being a fraud. So, he learned to stay silent.

This was my father.

He was a good man, a quiet man, a dedicated father and a devoted husband with devastating mental demons and deep inner scars because of his service and sacrifice to our nation and world.

Roger Ogibowski passed in April of 1991. I remember the date because I introduced my first child to him on his death bed. I placed my first-born son beside my dad in his hospital bed and saw my dad's eyes light up and his face fill with pleasure. Weeks later, he was gone.

In 2010, I was traveling in Amsterdam and took a museum tour. A Jewish guide showed us the building where during WW2 Jewish families were brought, separated, and sent to the different concentration camps. He told us many stories of bravery and rescues, and he explained why Canadians are still honoured and celebrated as heroes with overwhelming appreciation. He spoke with emotion, often tearing up over the gut-wrenching reality of the horrors of the war that still scar their country and people. And then he spoke of the enormous gratitude they have for those Canadians who gave so much to liberate them. I was overwhelmed by his perspective, by the perspective of those my dad had helped free. It was a shocking epiphany which froze my heart and mind.

I had viewed my father as "broken," as someone to protect and I had often felt ashamed of his "brokenness," his PTSD. Hours later, as I rode the subway reflecting on and digesting all these new thoughts and perspectives, I realized, with a sense of shock, that my dad was what a true hero looked like. A hero wasn't a brightly colored action figure, or a general who looked good in his clean uni-

form and posed for publicity shots. The true heroes were the men and women who gave their lives, who sacrificed health and sanity to actually fight in the war. The men who stood up and protected women from being raped, who freed the prisoners and who had to pull the triggers, they were the real heroes.

My dad, my broken dad, that I always loved and respected ... he was a real hero.

Roger Ogibowski voluntarily enlisted January 12, 1943, at 20 years of age to serve in Canada's army in World War 2. He felt that it was his duty and an important sacrifice. He trained in Portage la Prairie and Shilo, Manitoba, and was then sent to the United Kingdom in August for further training.

Roger was assigned as "Gunner" to the 5th Canadian Field Regiment, Royal Canadian Artillery, 2nd Division. By July 1944, Roger was in active combat, serving in France. He was promoted to Lance Bombardier in 1945 and was assigned to the 6th Canadian Field Regiment in August. After France, he served in Holland and Belgium. Roger volunteered to help with repatriation in Germany. He returned to Canada and was discharged January 29, 1946.

These brief facts of three years of war service are a glimpse at reality. Roger was an exemplary soldier and his commander noted that he was "well suited to battle." Roger returned to Canada forever scarred and changed by the horrors and losses of war. He had PTSD for the remainder of his life and rarely spoke about the harsh realities of war, sharing few stories. He recounted rarely getting his proper rations, the horrible deaths of friend and stranger on the front lines and a few treasured moments of kindnesses and humanity.

Post war, the Veterans' Land Act helped him purchase a farm near Minnedosa, Manitoba.

www.thecanadianencyclopedia.ca/en/article/veterans-land-act

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

Legacy SIG

Diane Duncan

As genealogists, we have a variety of ways to organize and store our research. Three of the more popular ways now are to use a genealogy computer program, to have an online family tree, or to host a tree on a private genealogy website (like TNG). But which is the right solution for you?

Genealogy computer programs, like Legacy, are able to store and manipulate a lot of information easily. Using a program provides a private and, when backups are maintained, safe way to collect family history information. However, there can be a steep learning curve when starting to use the program, you will need to keep updating your version as the software changes over time and you are entirely responsible for backing up your information. The Legacy website offers training videos and online help, there is a Legacy Facebook group that answers questions, and you can join the AFHS Legacy SIG for even more help learning the program.

<https://legacyfamilytree.com>

A lot of genealogy beginners start off using an **online family tree** on a website like Ancestry or MyHeritage. Benefits of having your tree on these websites are that they offer access to records, have a user-friendly interface, and you can easily share information with others. These websites offer help and training too in both written and webinar format. But the functionality of your tree is often basic, the privacy of your data varies between websites, and you need to remember that you do not fully control what you place on the internet. Site managers can change policy from time to time and that affects what happens to your family tree. Websites are sold, evolve, and sometimes disappear. Anything posted on the internet is never truly private.

www.ancestry.ca

www.myheritage.com

A third option is to use software that allows you to build your own **private genealogy website**. TNG – the Next Generation of Genealogy Sitebuilding – is an inexpensive program that allows us to share our family tree online under our own terms. Although it does require you to have a website, many historical and genealogical organizations are offering this service within the scope of their organization. AFHS offers a TNG project called Family Genes, and there are sessions to help you learn how to use this program on the second Saturday of most months. TNG allows you complete control over your data and makes it easy to share your research with other family members.

www.familygenes.ca

So, what is right for you? Perhaps a blend of all three. Spreading your information widely increases the likelihood that your family tree research will survive in the future. One solution is not right for everyone, and many people opt for a combination of desktop and on-line options.

Library Highlights

The AFHS Library recently received a generous donation of over 50 cemetery transcriptions from Sandra Williams. Her collection included six cemeteries from Manitoba, but the bulk of the collection was from ten different counties in Ontario. This article will list the Manitoba cemeteries plus the ones from the Ontario counties of Brant, Bruce, Grey, Huron and Perth.

These donations, of course, are just a sampling of what we have in our collection. Check the library catalogue for your location of interest or come in soon to browse.

Manitoba Genealogical Society (MGS)

- Beaver Creek Cemetery, NW 13-12-10W, rural municipality of North Norfolk, Manitoba. (1999), 35 pages.
- Griswold Cemetery, NW 25-9-23W, rural municipality of Sifton, Manitoba (1991), 14 pages.
- Pipestone Cemetery, NE 9-7-26W, rural municipality of Pipestone, Manitoba (1990), 34 pages.
- St. James Anglican Cemetery, 525 Tylehurst Street, Winnipeg, Manitoba (1983), Book 1 - 110 pages, Book 2 - 194 pages and Book 3 [Index] 99 pages.
- Treherne Bethel Presbyterian Cemetery, SW 16-8-10W, rural municipality of South Norfolk, Manitoba. (1994), 38 pages.
- Treherne Woodlands Cemetery, NE 4-8-9W, rural municipality of South Norfolk, Manitoba (1992), 64 pages.

Ontario Genealogical Society (OGS)

Brant County Branch

- Burford Congregational Cemetery, 404 Maple Ave. S., Burford, Ontario (1983), 22 pages.
- Holy Trinity Anglican Church Cemetery, 104 King Street, Burford, Ontario (1984), 23 pages.
- Greenwood Cemetery, 235 Clarence Street, Brantford, Ontario. Surnames: B, D, H, R - (1985), 30 pages.
- Mount Hope Cemetery, 169 Charing Cross

Street, Brantford, Ontario. (1996) - Surnames: B, D, H, I, J, K, M, W., 338 pages.

- Mount Pleasant Pioneer Cemetery, 703 Mount Pleasant Road, Mount Pleasant, Ontario (1976), 22 pages.
- St. Joseph's Cemetery, 388 St Paul Ave, Brantford, Ontario (1996) - Surnames Q, R, & S, 70 pages.

Bruce & Grey Branch

- Eastnor Township Cemetery, 110 Cemetery Road, Eastnor, Bruce County, Ontario, 34 pages.
- Paisley Cemetery, 1300 Bruce County Rd 11, Paisley, Bruce County, Ontario (1994), 48 pages.
- Walkerton Cemetery, Walkerton, Bruce County, Ontario, 154 pages.
- Owen Sound Greenwood Cemetery - West Extension, Grey County, Ontario, 141 pages.
- Owen Sound Greenwood Cemetery - Mausoleum, Grey County, Ontario, 15 pages.
- Durham Cemetery, Bentinck Township, Grey County, Ontario, 67 pages.

Huron County Branch

- Exeter Cemetery, C.S., Lot 3, Hwy. #83, Hay Township., Huron County, Ontario, 195 pages.
- Gorrie Public Cemetery, Concession 8, Lot 5, 2052 Alma Street, Gorrie, Howick Township, Huron County, Ontario.
- Wroxeter Cemetery, Concession B, Lot 25, Howick Township, Huron County, Ontario.

Perth County Branch

- Fairview Cemetery, Listowel, Wallace Township, Perth County, Ontario, 280 pages.
- Woodlawn Cemetery, Concession 1, Lot 37, Hwy 86, Listowel, Wallace Township, Perth County, Ontario, 44 pages.
- St. Andrew's Presbyterian Cemetery, Line 37, Concession 2, Lot 21, North Easthope Township, Perth County, Ontario, 48 pages.

Upcoming Events

CALGARY PUBLIC LIBRARY

Family History Coaching Program

Free online help

Calgary Public Library/AFHS

November 20, 2021 1 - 3 pm

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

Scottish Marriage: Instantly Buckled for Life by Chris Paton

Virtual webinar

Ontario Ancestors - Scottish SIG

November 18, 2021 8:00 am

<https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/>

CONFERENCES/WEBINARS

The Really Useful Family History Show

Virtual conference

Family History Federation

November 12 - 13, 2021

www.fhf-reallyuseful.com

British Military Research

Virtual Institute

International Society for British Genealogy and Family History

November 23 & 24, 2021

www.isbgfh.com/event-4062425

2021 Conference

Virtual conference -
live and recorded sessions

Virtual Genealogical Association

November 13, 2021

<https://virtualgenealogy.org/annual-conference>

Quebec Notarial Records & Early New France Census Records

Virtual Webinars

British Columbia Genealogical Society

November 27, 2021 8:30 am - 1:30 pm

www.bcgs.ca/fall-anniversary-seminars

Families in Wartime

Virtual webinar

British Isles Family History Society of Greater Ottawa

November 13, 2021 7:00 am

www.bifhsgo.ca/events

MORE ONLINE EVENT LISTINGS:

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:

- 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
- 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
- The Programs Committee is seeking more volunteers. They have some great suggestions for speakers and topics at our Society Meetings but they need at least one more person to help coordinate. Contact Christine programs@afhs.ab.ca
- There is interest in selling AFHS vests (or t-shirts or golf shirts) with our new logo, but we need someone to head up this project. If you are interested, please contact Jim president@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 wear masks, sanitize hands and maintain social distancing.



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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