

# CHINOOK ARCH

December 2021 Volume 3 Issue 10



ALBERTA FAMILY  
HISTORIES SOCIETY

## Society Meetings

### Our Next Society Meeting: Monday, December 13, 2021

**LOCATION:** Zoom meeting

**TIME:** 7 to 9 pm

**Topic:** Genealogy Team Quest - Sharpen your research skills and work on a genealogical quest. We have chosen an interesting person from Alberta's past and will form every one into teams, in Zoom Breakout Rooms, for some team genealogy. This will give us a chance to flex our mind muscles and get to know more of our members. This will be fun for both beginners and seasoned researchers. Grab your favourite holiday beverage and snack and join us!

### 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., Dec. 11	Digital Genealogy SIG	10 to 11 am	Ancestry & FamilySearch
	Family Genes Group	11 to noon	Adding Users, Roles and Access to TNG
	English/Welsh SIG	<del>10 am to noon</del>	<b>No meeting in December</b>
	Celtic SIG	<del>10 am to noon</del>	<b>No meeting in December</b>
Mon., Dec. 20	Board Meeting	7 to 9 pm	
	Ontario SIG	<del>1:30 to 3:30 pm</del>	<b>No meeting in December</b>
	Legacy SIG	<del>1:30 to 3:30 pm</del>	<b>No meeting in December</b>
	Family Tree Maker SIG	<del>10 am to noon</del>	<b>No meeting in January</b>

### Next Society Meetings

**Monday, January 10, 2022**

**Topic:** Tombstone Tourists and an update on the AFHS cemetery project by Jim Benedict

**Monday, February 14, 2022**

**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](http://www.afhs.ab.ca/membership)

## Ancestor Anecdotes

### My Grandfather's Orange Order Sash Ron Gilmore

My grandfather, Thomas Gilmore, was born in what is now Northern Ireland in the small village of Jerretspass in County Down. His father was a Lambeth drum-toting member of the Orange Order, and Thomas also became a member.

The Order, a Protestant fraternal organization founded in 1795, is headquartered in Belfast, Ireland, with branches across the British Commonwealth and United States. The Order sees itself as defending Protestant civil and religious liberties and showing their loyalty to Britain while critics accuse the Order of being sectarian, triumphalist and supremacist.

Thomas was trained as a teacher in Dublin. He taught for a few years in Ireland before emigrating to Canada in 1911 with his wife and two children. The family settled in northern Saskatchewan near Prince Albert. Thomas was highly active in the Orange Order in the area in his younger years. The photo is of the Orange Order sash that he wore.

"An important symbol of Orangemen's Day is the color orange, which represents the monarchs in the House of Orange in general and William of Orange in particular... During the parades, men usually wear white shirts and gloves under dark suits and orange collarettes [sashes]. Collarettes are narrow bands of cloth draped around the neck and fastened in front to form a "V" shape on the wearer's chest. They are decorated with symbols that represent the lodge, to which the wearer belongs, and the positions he holds and the awards he has received."

<https://www.marmorahistory.ca/orange-lodge>



A black sash, (and not orange or purple) means my grandfather was part of the Royal Black Preceptory (RBP on the sash). This is a separate institution from the Orange Order, but members must already be members of the Orange Order to join it.

The symbols I've been able to identify are:

Red cross – represents St. George's cross, for St. George, the Patron Saint of England

Crown – represents the British monarchy in Ireland and a symbol of Protestants

Noah's Ark – represents the journey of life

White Dove with a leaf – possibly represents the dove seen by Noah after the Flood

The Free Mason's symbol – the big "G" with the protractor is the Free Mason's symbol (G refers to God)

Checkered floor – represents the concept that there is no light without shade (good versus evil); also that members are bonded together

Triangle skull & crossbones – the number of stars in the triangle is 12, the same as the number of Apostles in the Bible

RBP – Royal Black Preceptory

The sash was passed down to Thomas's youngest daughter, Yvonne Gilmore, who passed it on to her eldest daughter, my cousin Peggy Whitbread, who passed it on to me as the unofficial family historian.

Interestingly, Thomas, in his later years, severed his ties with the Orange Order stating that "All of that was better left in the Old Country."

## 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](mailto:celticsig@afhs.ab.ca)

### **DIGITAL GENEALOGY SIG**

*Meets on the second Saturday*

10 am - Noon

[familygenes@afhs.ab.ca](mailto:familygenes@afhs.ab.ca)

### **DNA SIG**

*In hiatus until a new leader is found*

[dnasig@afhs.ab.ca](mailto:dnasig@afhs.ab.ca)

### **ENGLISH/WELSH SIG**

*Meets on the third Saturday*

10 am - Noon

[englishwelshsig@afhs.ab.ca](mailto:englishwelshsig@afhs.ab.ca)

### **FAMILY TREE MAKER SIG**

*Meets on the first Saturday*

10 am - Noon

[ftmsig@afhs.ab.ca](mailto:ftmsig@afhs.ab.ca)

### **LEGACY SIG**

*Meets on the last Sunday*

1:30 - 3 pm

[legacysig@afhs.ab.ca](mailto:legacysig@afhs.ab.ca)

### **ONTARIO SIG**

*Meets on the fourth Monday*

1:30 - 3:30 pm

[ontariosig@afhs.ab.ca](mailto:ontariosig@afhs.ab.ca)

### **Ontario SIG**

Tara Shymanski

The Ontario SIG had lively discussions and interesting speakers in October and November.

### **Migration from Ontario to the Prairies**

In October, Marion Peterson, Tara Shymanski, and Nancy Levesque talked about how settlers came to the Prairies from Ontario because of the scarcity of farmland and unstable work environments. People were also attracted to the West by immigration schemes, such as one in which the Canadian government paid recruiters bonuses for the number of farmers they convinced to move to the Prairies.

[www.canadashistory.ca/explore/settlement-immigration/selling-the-prairie-good-life](http://www.canadashistory.ca/explore/settlement-immigration/selling-the-prairie-good-life)

<https://pier21.ca/research/immigration-history/settling-the-west-immigration-to-the-prairies-from-1867-to-1914>

The presentations were followed by family stories of settlement here. Elizabeth Rodier told the story of her family members who came by wagon train through the United States to settle the West. I learned that the original McLeod Trail, a wagon trail, was the only connection for goods and services from Fort Benton, Montana, to Fort McLeod, Alberta, until the trans-Canada railway was completed. We discovered there are AFHS members with a tremendous amount of knowledge on the history and resources available for Alberta.

### **Medals in the Attic**

Spencer A. Linington, of Maple Grove Genealogy, gave a superb presentation entitled "Medals in the Attic" in November. Spencer, an ex-army man himself, told his story of finding medals belonging to his family members in the attic and doing research to discover what the ribbons and medals meant. He told us there are three different types of military awards – orders, decorations and medals. He gave us six steps to help find the story behind them and talked about how to use WW1 Personnel Records from the Canadian Expeditionary Force to find what medals your relatives received. He also talked about obtaining WW2 service records for ancestors.

[www.bac-lac.gc.ca/eng/discover/military-heritage/Pages/military-heritage.aspx](http://www.bac-lac.gc.ca/eng/discover/military-heritage/Pages/military-heritage.aspx)

[www.veterans.gc.ca/eng/remembrance/medals-decorations](http://www.veterans.gc.ca/eng/remembrance/medals-decorations)

Ontario SIG members had many questions for Spencer that he was able to answer thanks to his military background. Spencer is a professional genealogist, and if anyone would like extensive help, such as transcriptions or translation of files, send him a request and he will send you a quote for his work. He also does complete story builds with the maps and all the information he can find, for a fee. He can be reached at [maplegrovegen@gmail.com](mailto:maplegrovegen@gmail.com)

### Software Updates - Necessity or Nuisance?

Warren Peterson

Whether you use a desktop computer, tablet or smartphone, you will be prompted to allow software updates. Some updates zip by in mere moments while others may take hours to complete during inconvenient times. It is natural to question the need for so many updates. Is software really that buggy or are there other reasons? Is it safe to ignore the prompts? The short answer is that you should **not** ignore update notifications. In fact, some updates practically force you to comply if you want to continue using your device. If a prompt is labelled "critical," do not delay (we'll talk about an exception later).

There are several reasons for software updates. Many are required simply to keep your device secure during the perpetual game of cat-and-mouse with scammers and hackers. Other updates seek to fix bugs, add new features or maintain compatibility with other software and hardware. Also, there are relatively new factors to be aware of, such as telemetry and targeted advertising.

Let's look at a few different kinds of updates.

#### **Low-Level Software Updates**

Every device has low-level software that runs before anything else, including the operating system (Windows, IOS, Android, etc.). For instance, a Dell brand computer may prompt you to update the BIOS, a brief process that runs *outside* of Windows. These types of updates are rare but very important for the correct and safe operation of your device.

#### **Driver Updates**

Next in line are the updates to drivers, special software that lets your device work with hardware like monitors, mice, styluses, printers, scanners, cameras and graphics boards. These updates are also important for keeping your device running properly.

#### **Security Software**

Every modern device contains software to prevent viruses, spy-ware or other malicious code from getting onto your device. It's an endless battle. For example, Windows Security (formerly Windows Defender) is the security software built into Microsoft Windows. They update their malware definitions daily or even more frequently. Your device will be silently checking for updates often and performing scans in the background.

#### **Operating System Updates**

Let's discuss the big one: operating system updates. These are infrequent but almost always necessary. You can easily control when updates occur or, if needed, delay it for days. If an update is labelled as a "feature update" or "optional pre-view," you can safely wait for a convenient period where you won't need your computer for an hour or two.

*Hint: in recent years, I've found that Windows cumulative updates are rolled out automatically during the evening of the second Tuesday of each month.*

If you have a Windows PC that is only a few years old, you may have already been notified that a free upgrade to Windows 11 is available. This major update replaces many of the internal components in Windows 10, adds useful features and makes minor changes to the interface. It's been thoroughly tested but, to be on the safe side, back up your important files beforehand and read the information provided on their update notice.

[www.microsoft.com/en-ca/windows/windows-11](http://www.microsoft.com/en-ca/windows/windows-11)



### Application Software (Apps)

The next level to discuss is application software or “apps.” Many commercial software applications include the ability to update themselves. This is optional, and you may be completely happy with the existing version. Read the release notes to be sure.

Let's talk about telemetry and usage data. Telemetry collects specific types of information from your device and sends it to the software provider. It is not uncommon for apps to add, via updates, telemetry “features” to existing products. Whether or not you feel your personal usage patterns are valuable, be assured that others do. Typically, the motive is to enable targeted advertising, and it works (sometimes). With most devices, you can control whether an app has permission to access your location, camera, email address list and so forth. Read the app's Terms and Conditions. Err on the side of privacy.

### Fake Update Notifications

Last, but not least, we need to mention those nasty fake update notifications. When you see a pop-up or link that promises to scan your device for malware or update your drivers for free, **don't touch it**. And if, while browsing the web, you get a serious looking “Danger!” message accompanied by a loud sound, just calmly close your browser. By inducing panic, someone is trying to push you into calling their phone number, which connects you to a scammer whose goal is to steal your money. It's that simple.

In summary, updates are necessary and useful, but make sure you are controlling which ones you install and when they are installed. Educating yourself about the process will make the whole subject simpler and a lot less intimidating.



## Research Round Up

### Divorce Records in Alberta

Marion Peterson

The Provincial Archives of Alberta (PAA) holds the divorce files of several judicial districts for the years between 1918 and 1975. There is no online index, so you will need to either visit in person or send a request. For a list of their holdings, go to:

<https://hermis.alberta.ca/paa/ViewFAQ.aspx>

I knew that my father-in-law, Walter Edward Petersen, divorced his first wife, Edna Adel (Elliott) Petersen before his second marriage in 1958. When I visited the PAA in June 2019, their divorce file was one of the items I hoped to find. I began by consulting the indices that are in the reading room. I found a listing for the divorce of another family member but not the one for my father-in-law's first marriage. If you go to the PAA and don't find a divorce listed in the indices, be sure to ask for assistance. A portion of Edmonton divorces were intermingled with other civil and criminal cases in a very large accession in the 1980s, so there is another finding aid on microfilm that only the staff can access. A staff member was able to find the divorce record for me even though it was not in the index.

The Petersen divorce file contained about 20 pages. It included their marriage certificate and a photograph of the Defendant (Edna). The matter of their divorce came before the court several times between June 20, 1957 and April 24, 1958, each time generating more documents in the file. Because they are court records, divorce files can contain information one would think of as private. The summary file stated "she deserted her husband in 1952 and since then has lived in a common-law relationship in Turner Valley and in Dawson Creek, B.C. Two children of which the Plaintiff is not the father have been born to her as a result of this common-law relationship. Custody of the issue of the marriage was given to the Plaintiff [Walter]."

This matches what we knew about the circumstances leading to the divorce and confirmed that my husband's half-brother was not raised by his mother. What was surprising was that the divorce decree was made just 50 days before Walter married my mother-in-law on June 18, 1958. They must have been so relieved that the paperwork was completed in time for their planned wedding!



Edna Adel (Elliott) and Walter Edward Petersen

If you wish to order a divorce file instead of visiting the PAA in person, use the "Ask an Archivist" button on the Archives website. Make sure you include the names of the parties, the judicial district where the divorce was granted (or as close as possible) and the approximate year. According to another AFHS member who used this service, "It did take a little time for them to find it, but I got copies of the entire file, from the filing of the claim to the Decree Absolute. 43 pages at .35 a copy. Smooth and simple process."

<https://provincialarchives.alberta.ca/who-we-are/contact-us/ask-an-archivist>

Divorce files usually contain between 20 to 40 pages of material. The charge for photocopies is \$.35/page plus \$3 shipping.

If you are looking for recent divorce records (after about 1975), you will need to contact the courthouse where the divorce occurred.

## Upcoming Events

### CALGARY PUBLIC LIBRARY

#### **Doing Legal History Research: Canada's Legal Past**

Free online class

**Calgary Public Library**

January 18, 2022 7 - 8:30 pm

<https://calgarylibrary.ca/events-and-programs/programs/doing-legal-history-canadas-legal-pasts>

#### **Kirk Session Records for Family Historians**

Virtual webinar

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

January 8, 2022 7:00 am

[www.bifhsgo.ca/events](http://www.bifhsgo.ca/events)

### CONFERENCES/WEBINARS

#### **Getting Ready for the 1950 U.S. Census by Thomas MacEntee**

Free webinar

**Southern California Genealogical Society**

December 15, 2021 7:00 pm

<https://www.scgsgenealogy.com/webinar/jes-index.html>

#### **My Ancestors in the Hudson's Bay Fur Trade**

Virtual webinar

**The Qualicum Beach Family History Society**

January 11, 2022 8:00 pm

[www.eventbrite.com/e/my-ancestors-in-the-hudsons-bay-fur-trade-tickets-218873234737](http://www.eventbrite.com/e/my-ancestors-in-the-hudsons-bay-fur-trade-tickets-218873234737)

#### **Genealogy for the Next Generation**

Free webinar

**Guild of One-Name Studies**

December 16, 2021 12:00 pm

<https://register.gotowebinar.com/register/9068719548786585357>

#### **RootsTech Connect 2022**

Free Virtual Conference

**FamilySearch**

March 3 - 5, 2022

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

#### **Organize Like an Archivist by Nancy E. Loe, MA, MLS**

Free webinar

**Florida State Genealogical Society**

December 16, 2021 6:00 pm

<http://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/1567554348204381966>

#### MORE ONLINE EVENT LISTINGS:

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

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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto:dnasig@afhs.ab.ca)
- The Programs Committee is seeking another volunteer. They have some great suggestions for speakers and topics at our Society Meetings but need at least one more person to help with the coordination. If you are interested in helping with coordination duties, please contact Christine [programs@afhs.ab.ca](mailto:programs@afhs.ab.ca)
- Thanks to the volunteers who helped clean our library in November! If you would like to sign up for an occasional cleaning bee at the library, please contact Richard [facilities@afhs.ab.ca](mailto:facilities@afhs.ab.ca)

### We're Planning a Family Roots Conference!

The date has been set and a location found. Get ready for an in-person genealogy conference in Calgary on October 1, 2022.

Mark your calendars!

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## Library Hours & Opportunities to Connect

### Library Open Hours

Thursdays - 10 am to 2 pm

Saturdays - Noon to 4 pm

**Closed between**

**Dec. 17, 2021 and Jan. 6, 2022**

Library users and staff must wear masks, sanitize hands and maintain social distancing.



### 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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