

CHINOOK ARCH

January 2022 Volume 4 Issue 1



ALBERTA FAMILY
HISTORIES SOCIETY

Society Meetings

Our Next Society Meeting: Monday, January 10, 2022

LOCATION: Zoom meeting

TIME: 7 to 9 pm

Topic: Tombstone Tourists, a presentation by Jim Benedict and Terry O'Reilly, on the growing interest in tourism to cemeteries with famous celebrities. Enjoy a virtual trip to Hollywood, Paris, Romania and Australia. This will be followed by a presentation on the new Alberta Ancestors website project.

Upcoming Meetings

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

DATE	GROUP	TIME	TOPIC
Sat., Jan. 8	Digital Genealogy SIG/ Family Genes Group	10 am to noon	Genealogy Resolutions for 2022; adding family biographies to Family Genes
Sat., Jan. 15	English/Welsh SIG	10 am to noon	Where They Came From by Kelly Southworth
Mon., Jan. 17	Board Meeting	7 to 9 pm	
Sat., Jan. 22	Celtic SIG	10 am to noon	
Mon., Jan. 24	Ontario SIG	1:30 to 3:30 pm	Ontario probate records
Sun., Jan. 30	Legacy SIG	1:30 to 3:30 pm	Legacy software tips and tricks
Sat., Feb. 5	Family Tree Maker SIG	10 am to noon	Family Tree Maker software tips and tricks

Next Society Meetings

Monday, February 14, 2022

Topic: The Why, What, Where and How to Blogging by Lianne Kruger

Monday, March 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

Board Updates

John Smiley, Director (Membership)

Thank you to all of the members that have renewed for another year with AFHS. We are so pleased that you have chosen to be an important part of this group for another year and you will continue to have access to all the AFHS resources.

There are 56 people who were members in 2021 that have not yet renewed their memberships. For these folks, we have extended your access to AFHS to the end of January to allow some additional time to renew.

If you intend to renew your AFHS membership for 2022, please do so by the end of the month. After January, you will not longer have access to the many resources that membership offers.

Linda Murray, Director (Library & Research)

Due to the COVID situation, the AFHS Library will only offer curbside service for the month of January. Depending on the availability of volunteers, we may not be open for all shifts. Cold weather may also impact our open hours. Always check the website calendar to make sure we are open (<https://afhs.ab.ca/calendar>).

- If you have books to drop off, place them on the table by the back door and ring the door bell.
- If you wish to order items for pick up, use our online catalogue on the library page of the website to find the titles and call numbers (<https://afhs.ab.ca/library>). Then email your list to library@afhs.ab.ca, preferably by the day before you wish to pick them up.

We look forward to the day when we'll be able to resume regular open hours!

Iris Morgan, Director (Finance)

The year end audit process will begin soon, which will hopefully go smoothly. Our Treasurer, Wendy Robinson and bookkeeping service have kept our financial records up to date and well organized.

Most AFHS expenses for 2021 were in line with what we budgeted, insurance costs being the exception. Casino funds covered our facility and library costs as well as our promotional and website expenses. Our bank balances are still healthy and will allow us to keep navigating COVID, support our the interests of our members and keep our community growing.

Richard Young, Director (Facilities)

The lease for the AFHS Library expires at the end of May. One option we explored was relocation, but we were unable to find anything more suitable which was at our price point and accessible. We are preparing to extend our current lease. The time frame of the lease extension has not yet been established.

With regards to the venue we were using for our Society meetings, the Village no longer has availability for any Monday evenings. We had prepaid for some meetings and were able to get a refund for our unused meetings going back to 2020. We are still exploring options as to where to hold future Society meetings.

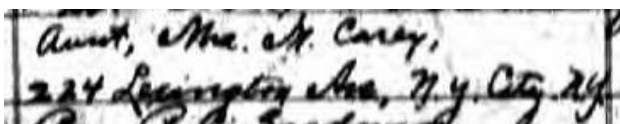
Ancestor Anecdotes

How An Unusual Artifact Helped Solve A Family Mystery Amber Godfrey

In family history research, the oddest things can help us answer questions sometimes. I've been researching my great-aunt Annie Beatrice (Lyon) Avery for several years. Born in Nova Scotia in 1886, she lived until three days before what would have been her 100th birthday. I was thinking of her when I heard about Betty White passing away recently, also close to her 100th birthday.

My aunt had a long and interesting life so I have many records for her. She grew up in Falmouth, Hants County, Nova Scotia, and worked as a post-mistress before meeting and marrying Tom Avery. Tom was originally from England but immigrated to Calgary, Alberta, where he worked as a landscape gardener. Annie moved to Calgary in 1913 and had "two of the happiest years of her life" living with her husband, his brother Wilfred and her brother Irving. Sadly, that ended in 1914 when World War I started and all three men enlisted. When they were shipped to England, Annie followed and lived with Tom's family in Cheshire during the war. Tom and Irving were both killed, so Annie returned to Canada in 1916. When the war ended in 1918, Annie made the decision to go to New York and train to be a nurse.

I found Annie on a passenger list in 1918 heading to New York from Yarmouth, Nova Scotia. Passenger lists can be useful documents as they often list relatives in both the place the person is leaving and arriving. Family stories mentioned that Annie had stayed with a relative when she first arrived in New York. On page two of the passenger list from 1918, it said that Annie was going to her aunt's, Mrs. M. Carey or Corey, at 224 Lexington Ave., New York. Married women were listed by their husband's first initial and last name so that didn't help a lot and my records didn't show any of Annie's maternal or paternal aunts marrying a Carey/Corey. I set it aside to work on later and hoped another clue would come my way.



Last month, I got a letter from one of my Mom's first cousins in Nova Scotia. She and her sister had looked after Annie Beatrice (known as Aunt Bea by her nieces and nephews) when Aunt Bea retired to Nova Scotia. My cousin has been sending me bits and pieces from Aunt Bea that she had saved and sharing stories. This time, she sent me a photocopy of a little booklet called *A Chat about Hair* by M. Corey. Previously, she sent a copy of the photo on the front of the booklet, which is of a woman facing away from the camera with extremely long, thick hair that is loose and reaches to the floor. My cousin said that Aunt Bea had identified her as "Aunt Lida." My mother remembers a copy of the photo being in her family home many years ago but not who it was.

Luckily, my cousin found a note from her mother about things she had inherited from her aunt, Lida Jenks Bailey Corey. Aha! Aunt Bea's grandmother was originally a Jenks so this must be a sister of hers, making her a great-aunt to my cousin's mother and Aunt Bea. And an address was written on the front of the booklet - 224 Lexington Ave, New York, which also matches.

I haven't done a lot of research on the Jenks family but my grandmother, the family historian, had names and birthdates collected for them, even though they were her husband's family. Still no Lida showing up but the youngest daughter of David & Elizabeth Jenks married a Frederick Bailey. Her name was listed as Mary Eliza Ellen Jenks, so maybe Lida was a nickname? I went to Ancestry to see if I could find out anything about the name and managed to find a marriage record for Alida E. Jenks to a Frederick Bailey in Boston, with the bride's parents listed as David and Elizabeth A. Jenks of Nova Scotia. That matches the Jenks family in my family records, and the approximate birthdate (based on her age at marriage) could make her the youngest daughter. I checked some other Ancestry trees for the same David Jenks family, and they also list her marrying a Frederick Bailey and some list her death in 1917 in New York.

So a small booklet with tips on hair care and a helpful cousin has given me more clues about my Aunt Bea's life story. Now I just need to find out more about this elusive Aunt Lida/Alida! Or is that Mary Eliza Ellen Jenks Bailey Corey?? The mystery continues!

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

In hiatus until a new leader is found
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

Celtic SIG Stephanie Thiele

CELTIC NEW YEAR TRADITIONS

Celtic New Year celebrations include traditions like cleaning your house as a way of ridding of the house of evil and bringing in the new year with a fresh start or setting the table with an extra place setting to remember family members that have passed away.

In Ireland, there is a tradition known as “bread banging.” The walls are banged with pieces of bread to ward off bad luck and to ensure that bread will be plentiful during the New Year.

Both Irish and Scottish celebrations include the tradition of “first footing” in which the first person to cross the threshold after midnight on New Year’s Eve was an omen of good or bad luck for the coming year. To ensure good luck, invite a tall, dark, handsome man to come calling, but if a young red-haired woman is the first over the threshold, it is bad luck. In Scotland, the first footer would bring gifts of things like coal, whisky, salt, bread or black buns.

Nollaig na mBan, or as it is more commonly known, Little Christmas or Women’s Day, is celebrated on January 6. It’s the day when the women leave the housework, cleaning and cooking to the men and go out to visit each other!

In Scotland, December 31 is known as Hogmanay. Like in Ireland, it is good luck to clean during this time, as long as you don’t do it on New Year’s Eve! And burning a rowan twig is purported to get rid of bad feelings between friends.

The Hogmanay celebrations often last for days. It is not uncommon to hear renditions of “Old Lang Syne” by celebrated Scottish poet Robert Burns or readings of Robert Louis Stevenson poems. Often the celebrations are unique to the area. For instance, in Stonehaven in Aberdeenshire they have a festival in which giant fireballs are swung through the streets to ward off evil. In Burghead in Moray, there is the “burning of the clavie” which involves a burning barrel of tar that is paraded around on January 11, the traditional Gaelic New Year.

In both Ireland and Scotland, it seems to be good luck to go for a New Year’s Day Swim. In Ireland, it’s most famously celebrated at the Forty Foot Rock south of Dublin where participants dive off the rock into the Irish Sea. In Scotland, it’s a dip in the Firth of Fourth in a “Loony Dook” celebration on New Year’s Day.

Sources

<https://www.irishcentral.com/roots/history/irish-new-years-traditions>

<https://ireland-calling.com/irish-new-year-traditions>

<https://www.nts.org.uk/stories/scottish-christmas-traditions>

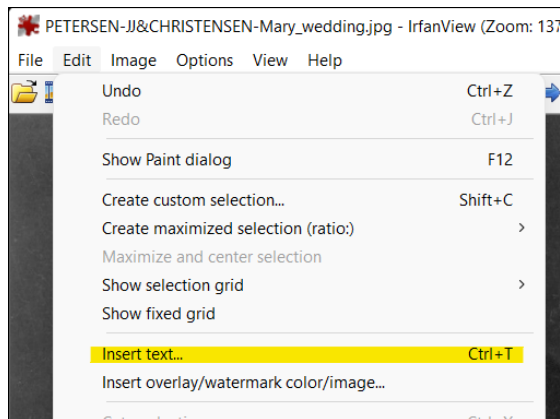
Tech Tips

Easily Add Captions to Your Image Files Warren Peterson

Our ancestors had limited options for adding names, dates or other information to photos. They may have written on the back (or front) in pencil or ink. Effective, but risky. Fortunately, we can now add indelible captions, annotations or watermarks without the risk of damaging our precious images. In this article we briefly demonstrate a feature of a software application called Irfanview (www.irfanview.com). Similar features are available in other photo-editing applications, but Irfanview is free and very easy to use.

Let's use a digital image of my grandparents as our example. This scan of their wedding portrait was sent to me by my first cousin. I'd like to preserve it along with information about its provenance. This amount of information cannot be included in the file name. I also want to avoid pasting the photo into a separate Word or PDF document. Ideally, I want to include a caption at the bottom that becomes a part of the image.

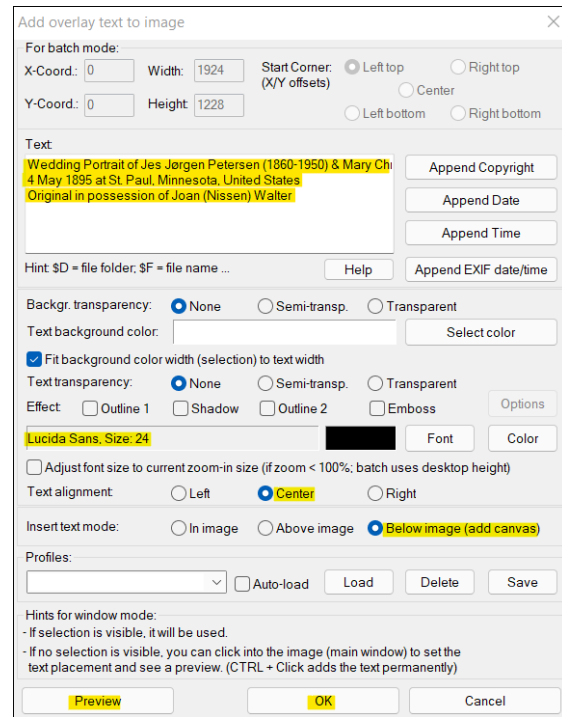
We start by opening the image file in the most current version (4.59) of Irfanview. Then select Edit from the top menu, we choose "Insert text..." to bring up a dialog box with all the options we might need. Alternatively, we can use the keyboard shortcut CTRL + T.



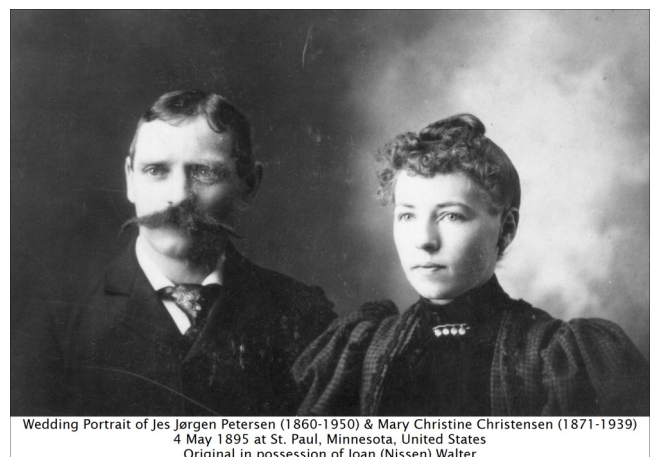
Our first task is to type (or paste) the text we want to add. Next, we choose whether the background of our caption should be transparent or a solid colour. Then we pick a text font, colour and size and whether our text is left, centered or right.

Our next decision is important; do we want the caption to draw on the image surface or do we

want to add a new strip (adding canvas) to the top or bottom of the image? There are several options; I've highlighted the ones I used.



At any time, we can test how things will look by pressing the Preview button. Handy! Once we are satisfied with the format, we can hit OK. Now, we save our revised image to a new file with a different name.



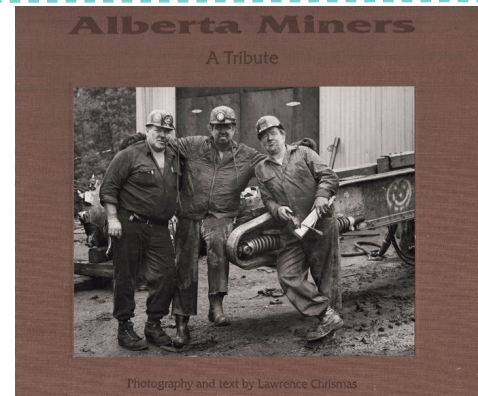
In the next Tech Tips, I will show you how to add this information to the metadata and how to watermark an image.

Library Highlights

Alberta Miners: A Tribute by Lawrence Christmas

Marion Peterson

Do you have ancestors who were miners in Alberta? If so, you will want to check out *Alberta Miners: A Tribute* from the AFHS Library (971.23 *G CHRI). Written by Lawrence Christmas, it is beautifully illustrated with the author's black-and-white photographs and was published to mark the 60th anniversary of the Alberta Chamber of Resources in 1993.



The book begins with a foreword outlining the history of mining in Alberta, from the first report of coal in 1792 to the early 1990s. It describes mining of all types – not only coal and oilsands, but also limestone quarrying and other mining ventures.

The remainder of the book is divided into geographic areas in the province. Each section begins with a map showing the location of mines, followed by information and high-quality portraits of miners who worked in those mines.

On some pages, interviews with retired miners are featured along with a photograph, often taken in front of the miner's home. On others, Christmas provides a brief history of a mine, followed by images of miners in their work gear in their work environments.

Alberta Miners includes a list of references which could be used to find out more, and the AFHS Library has some of these books as well.

The Seven Daughters of Eve by Bryan Sykes

Ron Gilmore

Over the extended quiet time of the current pandemic, I had a chance to read an excellent book entitled *The Seven Daughters of Eve* by Bryan Sykes, a professor of genetics at Oxford University in England. A National Bestseller in 2001, it is available to borrow from the AFHS Library (574.87 SYKE 2001). This is a great read for genealogists that includes:

- How they determined the DNA of the famous Iceman and found a living relative in their own laboratory
- Discussion of DNA (what the initials actually mean) and the special characteristics of Mitochondrial DNA
- DNA determination of the bones of the Russian Tsar and his family murdered in the 1917 Russian Revolution
- Ocean voyagers and how humanity spread across the Pacific
- The demise of the Neanderthals
- How humans shifted from a hunting culture to farming
- The seven daughters who, as clan mothers, bequeathed us the nations of Europe - with a short, fictional description of their lives and environments

This book was a fun romp through history and the evolution of genetic testing. Sykes makes all the technical information understandable and interesting to read.

Upcoming Events

CALGARY PUBLIC LIBRARY

How Canadian mystery novels connect us to our country's people, places and stories

Free online class

Calgary Public Library

January 26, 2022 7 - 8:00 pm

<https://calgarylibrary.ca/events-and-programs/programs>

**Why Did the Welsh Leave Wales?
by Dr. Penny Walters**

Virtual webinar

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

February 5, 2022 8:00 am

<https://bit.ly/LMOA-Feb2022>

CONFERENCES/WEBINARS

Getting the Most Out of a Census Record with Thomas Macentee

Free Facebook Live webinar

MyHeritage

January 24, 2022 7:00 am

www.facebook.com/myheritage

Genetic Genealogy – Break Down Your Brick Walls with DNA Cousin Matching

Virtual webinar

Victoria Genealogical Society

February 12, 2022 12:00 - 1:30 pm

www.eventbrite.ca/e/genetic-genealogy-break-down-your-brick-walls-with-dna-cousin-matching-tickets-219572686817?aff=ebdsoporgprofile

Using Mapping Tools to Research Your Ancestors with Lisa Alzo

Free Facebook Live webinar

MyHeritage

January 31, 2022 7:00 am

www.facebook.com/myheritage

RootsTech Connect 2022

Free Virtual Conference

FamilySearch

March 3 - 5, 2022

www.familysearch.org/rootstech/next

Early Military History in Canada and Huron Involvement

Free webinar

Ontario Ancestors - Huron Branch

February 3, 2022 5:30 pm

<https://huron.ogs.on.ca/events/huron-branch-early-military-history-in-canada-and-huron-involvement-glenn-wright>

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 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
- 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

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

Closed until further notice

Curbside pickup/drop off only!

See the AFHS website calendar for date and times.

<https://afhs.ab.ca/calendar>



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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