

# CHINOOK ARCH

February 2022 Volume 4 Issue 2



ALBERTA FAMILY  
HISTORIES SOCIETY

## Society Meetings

### Our Next Society Meeting: Monday, February 14, 2022

**LOCATION:** Zoom meeting

**TIME:** 7 to 9 pm

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

Lianne will discuss what to do before beginning to blog. She will then demonstrate how to blog using Google Blogger, which is free. This will include how to create a blog, write and format posts, upload pictures, how to find information on a blog by adding tags and a search bar, and how to share the blog.

### 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., Feb. 12	Digital Genealogy SIG/ Family Genes Group	10 am to noon	
Sat., Feb. 19	English/Welsh SIG	10 am to noon	Sharing session on regions in England and
Mon., Feb. 21	Board Meeting	7 to 9 pm	
Sat., Feb. 26	Celtic SIG	10 am to noon	Discussion of your "Celtic Research Goal"
Mon., Feb. 27	Legacy SIG	1:30 to 3:30 pm	Legacy software help and tips
Sun., Feb. 28	Ontario SIG	1:30 to 3:30 pm	Ontario Tax Assessment Records by Nancy Leveque
Sat., Mar. 5	Family Tree Maker SIG	10 am to noon	Using FTM to Organize a Family Reunion by Greg Cave

### Next Society Meetings

**Monday, March 14, 2022**

**Topic:** Using Hansard by Ron Gilmore

**Monday, April 11, 2022**

**Topic:** Slow Genealogy by Tara Shymanski

### 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)

## Board Updates

The AFHS Board had their first meeting of 2022, and we are looking forward to better times for our Society after surviving a tough 2021 for all.

### BUILDING NEWS

Our building lease for the AFHS Library is coming due in May. A small committee explored potential new quarters for the library and meetings. Despite the lease openings out there, any equivalent space in our price range tends to be in non-ideal areas with lack of public transportation or surface parking. Our current rent is competitive, and our landlord is agreeable to extending our stay. With the decision to stay, Richard has reviewed the condition of our library and insurance coverage. The furnace is old, but still serviceable. Our plan is to renew our lease at the 16th Avenue location.

The AFHS library is currently closed but will continue with curbside drop-off and pickup for now.

### MEETINGS

We have not used The Village for our Society meetings in many months, and the Monday evenings are no longer available to us. Richard was able to get a refund of rentals paid in advance. For the immediate future, we will hold Society meetings by Zoom.

### WEBSITE

The Celtic SIG group is prototyping a new map feature, MyMaps, for the AFHS website. If this works out, it may be of interest to other geographical SIGs.

The *Alberta Ancestors* website for Calgary area cemeteries is up and operational. Stay tuned for an article next month.

### MEMBERSHIP

Memberships can now be paid online with a PayPal account or by credit card. Cheques are still being accepted for payment and may be mailed in.

Our current membership count is 211, as of February 3. This is down significantly from the number of members in December 2011. The Board is reviewing the situation and looking for opportunities to restore our membership count. You are encouraged to send us your thoughts and ideas.

### DONATIONS

Donations for 2021 to AFHS totalled \$1,886, and we thank all donors.

### NOMINATIONS & ELECTIONS

Elections will be held at our Annual General Meeting in May, and we already know there will be some turnover. If you want to contribute to the future of this valuable family history society, contact Jim Benedict at [president@afhs.ab.ca](mailto:president@afhs.ab.ca).

## Ancestor Anecdotes

### My Gramma's Kitchen

Tara Shymanski

My Gramma Miller's eyes would sparkle when she told us she cooked lunch for the "old people" at the seniors' centre. We would laugh because, at 80, Bethel (Jerry) Miller was one of those old people. We knew she was old - but she really wasn't. Once a week she would walk down to the Sister Kennedy Centre to help with lunch for anyone who dropped by. She refused to serve the canned soup and sandwiches that were supposed to be on the menu. Instead, she would bring homemade chili, soup, or stew with fresh baked buns. People would call her at home to see what she was bringing for lunch that day.

Gramma wasn't always in the kitchen. She had a vegetable garden, loved her flower beds, was involved with her church, and enjoyed watching curling on television while visiting with children, grandchildren, and even great grandchildren. But what I remember most is sitting at the kitchen table listening to the grownups talk.

To get to the kitchen, you climbed a few broken, rotting stairs, walked through a dark, equally dilapidated shed, opened the back door and yelled "Hi." The first thing you saw was a small round table with a jar filled with spoons on it. The spoons were used to stir cream and sugar into your tea. Instead of sitting in the living room, visitors would sit at the table chatting with a cup of tea and sweets. I remember Gramma, my mom and my aunt telling lewd jokes and bursting into laughter. Boy, could they laugh!

The kitchen was a square-shaped room with the stove in the northwest corner. Right beside the stove was the doorway to the little-used dining room. Between the stove and the fridge was a counter with a bread box. Some of her many plants and knickknacks sat on the counter in front of the window that looked out onto the train tracks.

My favourite picture of Gramma Miller is one of her with a red-checked apron on, the one that tied behind her neck, standing in front of the stove with two big pots on it. That is the one that says "that's her" to me. The pots were always big because she had to feed eight kids and then all those grandchildren. Holidays like Easter, Thanksgiving, Christmas and New Year's were always at her house until we switched to having them at my parents' house.



Gramma Miller

The meals would always be turkey with all the trimmings. There wasn't enough table space, so most of us ate in the living room on couches or chairs. The lucky ones got a TV table. One New Year's Day, Gramma transitioned to homemade pizzas to the delight of the teenagers. She was tired of turkey and so were we. We kids would try to escape before it was time to do dishes, but our parents had a way of making us feel guilty if we didn't stay to help.

I was lucky to have a gramma whose love-filled kitchen made my childhood special. My husband also tells stories of his gramma's kitchen and the lunches she made for him. It's those simple meals that are now our comfort foods.

## 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 fourth 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)

## Digital Genealogy & Family Genes SIG

Jim Benedict

When new AFHS member Tony contacted the Digital Genealogy SIG saying he was looking for ways to digitize his family history information and asking if that was something the SIG could help with, he was invited to our January meeting where members shared a variety of ideas. Some of the areas covered in the lively discussion were:

- the benefits of using a desktop software package in addition to online trees
- different ways to preserve and archive photographs
- how to add text to photos using Irfanview
- information on how Family Genes works and some examples of member sites

Tony in turn shared a link to a project he worked on in his job with the City of Calgary that allows you to search city owned cemeteries to find exactly where a person was buried on the grounds. You can check it out at:

<https://maps.calgary.ca/cemeteries>

Members also shared their genealogy New Year's resolutions and goals for 2022. It was helpful to hear what other members were planning to focus on this year and gave us some ideas for our own future projects.

The group then dived into ways to crosslink between our own family trees and the new Alberta Ancestors cemetery records. Marion demonstrated how she includes active links in notes in TNG. This method is an easy way to link to any website including Alberta Ancestors:

[www.albertaancestors.ca](http://www.albertaancestors.ca)

### Care and Cleaning of Headstones

Ron Gilmore

If you spend any amount of time wandering through cemeteries, you will see headstones in various states of disrepair. You may decide that you would like to clean the stones. Make sure you identify the type of stone and use only approved methods for the procedure, otherwise you may do more harm than good! All of the following information is courtesy of good friend and fellow genealogist, Patrick Lengyel, Professional Geologist (so he knows a lot about rocks).

#### DETERMINE THE TYPE OF STONE

First, you need to find out what the headstone is made of – you might see some trends if you learn to recognize them.

*White sandstone* headstones tend to develop the least amount of lichen because they are mostly quartz and there is nothing for the lichen to eat. *Marble* gets a little more lichen, presumably because the calcium in the calcium carbonate is digestible. *Pink granites* tend to get the most lichen and sooner because they are full of potash feldspar. I assume the potassium breaks down and is even more digestible than the calcium in marble. *Black granites* get less lichen because they are mostly calcium, feldspar and amphibole. You might think the calcium feldspar would be attractive like calcium carbonate, but carbonate is much easier to break down with weak acids; feldspar less so.

#### DO NO HARM

Once you have determined what type of material the headstone is made of, next you need to decide whether the headstone is in a stable enough condition to be cleaned. The first rule of conserving and preserving monuments is Do No Harm. You should also take into account where the monument is located and find out if you need permission to do something like cleaning. Different sites have different rules, so it is always a good idea to check and find out what is allowed in that particular location.

#### CLEANING AGENT TO USE

The only accepted cleaning agent for headstones and monuments is a biological product named D/2. Never use any chemical on headstones. If it is quite bad, use water first to get the worst off, then apply D/2. Always use a medium to soft plastic brush, like a dish cleaning brush. The Gravestone Cleaner website has helpful videos on how to use the product properly.

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

## Research Round Up

### Calgary Public Library

Christine Hayes

Calgary Public Library has many resources that are useful to family historians. These include both digital and print materials and you can access them for free with your Calgary Public Library card. While some of the information is only available at the Central Library, many resources are now available online, so you can research easily from home!

The digital collections include newspapers (*Calgary Herald Online Archive*, *The Globe and Mail 1844-2009*), Canadiana (which includes magazines, newspapers and government documents), the Biography and Genealogy Master Index and Ancestry Library Edition. Ancestry LE is now only available in the library branches again, but you can access it with your own digital devices in library.

The library also has a fantastic collection of print resources relating to the history of Calgary and southern Alberta. Some of the highlights are:

- Local histories for Alberta
- Directories for Calgary and many of the major centers on the Prairies
- An extensive collection of cemetery transcriptions for Alberta
- Williams and Harris Shared History Centre's collection of digitized photographs and postcards that document Calgary and Southern Alberta's history
- Extensive resources for Metis genealogy resources, including many of Gail Morin's publications
- Calgary's Story Map Collection

There are new, state-of-the-art microfilm and microfiche readers at Central Library.

You can use them to access our microform collection that includes Calgary and early Alberta newspapers, the Canadian Census, passenger lists and the Peel Collection. Your Calgary Public Library card includes \$5 of free printing and photocopying every month too!

Also, you have access to Alberta-wide borrowing, which means you can borrow books not available from Calgary Public Library from a different library in Alberta using your Calgary Public Library membership. And if the item you need isn't available in Alberta, you can request that the library borrow it on your behalf from another library system. You can also borrow microfilm from archives across the country.

So, if you have never seen the 4th floor of the new Central Library, drop in for a visit. While you're there you can check out Calgary Public Library's largest (and, in my opinion, most beautiful) branch and its extensive collections.

History and Genealogy at Calgary Public Library

<https://calgarylibrary.ca/read-learn-and-explore/digital-library/?category=history-and-genealogy>

Alberta Library catalogue

<https://alberta.relaisd2d.com/custom/alberta/site/login.html>

William and Harris Shared History Centre

<https://calgarylibrary.ca/read-learn-and-explore/digital-library/williams-and-harris-shared-history-centre>

Calgary's Story Map Collection

<https://library.biblioboard.com/anthology/ccf669c9-44e5-4efc-9cb8-768499ef861c>

## Upcoming Events

### CALGARY PUBLIC LIBRARY

#### **Making Better Use of Your iPad - Beginner**

Free online class

**Calgary Public Library**

February 28, 2022 5 - 6:00 pm

<https://calgarylibrary.ca/events-and-programs/programs/digital-literacy-making-better-use-of-your-ipad-beginner>

#### **Travelling Back in Time Using Google Earth Pro with Marie Palmer**

Virtual seminar

**British Columbia Genealogical Society**

February 26, 2022 10:30 am - 1:30 pm

[www.bcgs.ca/spring-2022-seminars](http://www.bcgs.ca/spring-2022-seminars)

### CONFERENCES/WEBINARS

#### **Introduction to Genealogy and Family History Course**

Eight virtual sessions

**Edmonton Branch - AGS**

February 8 - May 31, 2022

[www.edmontongenealogy.ca/introduction-to-genealogy-and-family-history-course](http://www.edmontongenealogy.ca/introduction-to-genealogy-and-family-history-course)

#### **Finding Your People in the Census**

Virtual webinar

**Victoria Genealogical Society**

February 26, 2022 11:00 am - 12:30 pm

[www.victoriags.org/events.php](http://www.victoriags.org/events.php)

#### **Genetic Genealogy - Break Down Your Brick Walls with DNA Cousin Matching**

Virtual webinar

**Victoria Genealogical Society**

February 12, 2022 10 - 11:30 am

[www.victoriags.org/events.php](http://www.victoriags.org/events.php)

#### **RootsTech Connect 2022**

FREE Virtual Conference

**FamilySearch**

March 3 - 5, 2022

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

#### **Five Seminars in Three Days**

*Dave Obee, Christine Woodcock,  
M. Diane Rogers, Annette Burke Lyttle*

Virtual seminars

**Vernon & District Family History Society**

February 25 - 27, 2022

<https://vdfhs.com>

\*\*All times given are in Mountain Time

#### 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:

Our Vice President, Natalie Heaton, has stepped down. We are searching for a member to take on the role of **Vice President** until the elections in May. Getting involved on the Board is a great way to get to know other members and give back to your genealogy community. If you are interested, please contact Jim [president@afhs.ab.ca](mailto:president@afhs.ab.ca)

**Volunteers are urgently needed for the Nominations Committee!** Elections are held at our Annual General Meeting in May, and we already know some Directors are not going to run for re-election. If you would help find candidates for Directors on our Board, please contact our president, Jim Benedict [president@afhs.ab.ca](mailto:president@afhs.ab.ca)

**Indexing of back issues of our journal** is continuing. If you would like to help, contact Marion [communications@afhs.ab.ca](mailto:communications@afhs.ab.ca)

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

Get ready for an in-person genealogy conference in Calgary on Saturday, October 1, 2022, at Crossroads Community Centre with presentations by Dave Obee and Wayne Shephard.

Mark your calendars!

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## Library Hours & Opportunities to Connect

### Library Open Hours

Open for curbside pickup and drop off only in February.

Reopening two days per week in March.

See the AFHS website calendar for date and times.

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



### 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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