

CHINOOK ARCH

March 2022 Volume 4 Issue 3



ALBERTA FAMILY
HISTORIES SOCIETY

Society Meetings

Our Next Society Meeting: Monday, March 14, 2022

LOCATION: Zoom meeting

TIME: 7 to 9 pm

Topic: Using Hansard by Ron Gilmore

Ron shows us how to use the transcripts, called Hansard, kept by the federal and provincial governments to look for information on our famous, or infamous, ancestors, major Canadian events and scandals, interesting quotations and more.

Upcoming Meetings

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

DATE	GROUP	TIME	TOPIC
Sat., Mar. 12	Digital Genealogy SIG/ Family Genes Group	10 am to noon	Members continuing to assist others with their projects; AFHS Data Projects prototype
Sat., Mar. 19	English/Welsh SIG	10 am to noon	Members continuing to share information on their county of interest
Mon., Mar. 21	Board Meeting	7 to 9 pm	
Sat., Mar. 26	Celtic SIG	10 am to noon	Presbyterian Records by Susan Butler
Sun., Mar. 27	Legacy SIG	1:30 to 3:30 pm	Legacy software help and tips
Mon., Mar. 28	Ontario SIG	1:30 to 3:30 pm	Research tips for Prince Edward County by Lorna Laughton
Sat., Apr. 2	Family Tree Maker SIG	10 am to noon	Family Tree Maker help and tips

Next Society Meetings

Monday, April 11, 2022

Topic: The Art of Slow Genealogy by Tara Shymanski

A step-by-step method on how to slow down, cite your sources, and read and analyze records. This process results in a more accurate family history.

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

Alberta Ancestors Website - An Introduction

Jim Benedict

Our Cemetery Projects team has been scouring Calgary and area cemeteries, collecting photographs, inscriptions and vital information. This fine work deserves a display case and that will be on our new website, Alberta Ancestors. You can check out what is already available at: <https://albertaancestors.ca>

HOME PAGE

The home page is simple and has just four search boxes: Surname, Given Name, Birth Year and Death Year. As you type in a surname, you will get a list of suggested matches (be patient, it might take a second to appear). If there are no matches then that surname is not on the website (yet). If there are matches, click on the suggestion that matches the best. The same goes for the other three search boxes. To clear your search, use the green X button to the right of the search box. After you do a search and press Enter, note that the counts for Persons, Photos and Cemeteries in the box below the search boxes will be updated. This shows how many matches your search has found on the website. Next, click on the Persons button to be taken to the list of matches on the Persons page.

PERSONS PAGE

You will find that the Persons page still has the four search boxes at the top. You can click on the green question mark underneath the search boxes to find help on navigating the search results. Options include adjusting the number of results listed and sorting using the Surname, Given name, Born or Died columns. It also notes that the person's age is calculated from the span of years between Born and Died so may not be exact. The final column, labelled Location, shows a small gravestone icon with R.I.P. written on it. Clicking on the icon takes you to the marker information on that individual. So for my grandfather, Peter George Benedict, I see his marker photograph on the left and some information on the right: his birth and death years, burial name, burial month/year, cemetery and burial location. This may also contain some memorial information.

The main page of the website includes three other tabs: Insight, Cemeteries and Stories. Currently, Insight is a work-in-progress and will eventually be used for descriptive information. Cemeteries shows all the cemeteries we have added to the website on a map and a Cemetery Directory by name. Stories takes you to a newspaper-style page with articles on notable and notorious citizens of southern Alberta.

The Login button currently doesn't offer anything extra, but there are plans to add member benefits in the future.

The Alberta Ancestors website surpasses the contents of Find a Grave and BillionGraves because, thanks to our project crew, we have access to interments for mausoleums, scattering fields and unmarked graves. The website also includes a growing list of southern Alberta cemeteries. We currently have 40 and are continuing to add more.

We are continuously adding new content, so check back to see new postings.

Ancestor Anecdotes

From the Southern Alps to Alberta's Rocky Mountains

Marian Jones

My grandfather, Augusto Albramo Chemelli, was born in the shadow of the Southern Alps, in the village of Madruzzo, Austria, on Sept. 8, 1894. His birthplace is now known as Trento, Italy, because the area was given to Italy after World War I. Grandpa was the second son of Primo Giacinto Chemelli, a cobbler, and his wife, Maria Pedrini. He had an older brother, Antonio, and a younger sister, Adelaine.

When Grandpa's father died at age 38 in 1903, he left a widow and 3 children under the age of eleven. Maria was forced to work hard outside of the home for a few liras to support her family. Antonio went to work in the coal mines when he turned 12. Grandpa learned to be a cobbler as a young boy using his father's tools. Life was hard.

Several years later, Antonio took over the family business, which was his birth right as the eldest son. With no future in Madruzzo or Austria, Grandpa looked for other options. A cousin had come to Canada a few years earlier and reported that there was a future here in Southern Alberta. There were also rumors of a war coming and the threat of being conscripted into the German Army.

Grandpa immigrated along with his cousin Antonio "Tony" Pedrini on the *S.S. Carolina*, landing at Ellis Island, New York on July 25, 1913. He arrived with six dollars and forty cents in his pocket and traveled by train to Diamond City, Alberta, where Tony Pedrini's brother Lugi lived. Their plan was to find work in the coal mines.

Grandpa worked in several Alberta coal mines including Diamond City, Coaldale and others in the Lethbridge area. He was involved in several mine explosions, including one that landed him in hospital in Lethbridge with severe burns to his face and left arm. He took this opportunity to learn English

from his roommates. My Grandpa was a smart fellow and learned to speak and write English. He was already fluent in German and Italian.

Shortly after the accident, he met my grandmother, Ottilia Maria "Mary" Betsch, and they were married in Lethbridge in 1918. Mary came from Crimea but was ethnically a German from Russia. They had three children while living at Diamond City, Alberta. My mother was the eldest and she had two younger brothers.

They moved to a farm in Sundre, Alberta, in 1926, that Grandpa purchased only half a mile from Grandma's parents' farm. Here the little family worked hard clearing the land of trees and rocks.

Grandpa was not only a farmer. He had his own little blacksmith shop to make his ploughshares. And he obtained the necessary shoe lasts to keep his children's shoes in good repair, and those of his neighbors too. Grandpa worked hard to provide for his family and was known for helping his neighbors if they were in need.



From the hill above their little home, Grandpa could look west and see the Rocky Mountains. They reminded him of the Alps just north of his home village of Madruzzo.

Sadly, I never knew my Grandpa Chemelli as he died in 1945, several years before I was born. My mother and Grandmother shared their memories of him with me, and I was able to fill in some of the details using the passenger list and his naturalization papers.

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 fourth 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

English/Welsh SIG

Bev Smith

The English/Welsh SIG has had a busy year already with presentations by Kelly Southworth and by our own members.

In January, Kelly Southworth gave us a presentation on **Where They Came From and Why**. Her talk included a variety of resources that included maps, brochures, directories, and websites to help us find out where our ancestors came from and the full story of their travels. Kelly also gave us some tips on how to figure out if an unlikely match in a record could actually be our ancestor. She stressed that the stories of our ancestors are the most important part of our research. Thank you, Kelly!

February's meeting saw a **Virtual Tour of the United Kingdom** with members making short presentations on one of the regions that they are doing research in on their ancestors. We hopped around the country to about nine or ten different regions and began to get a better feel for the different areas. Members shared resources on their specific area other than the "Big Four" research websites. The group also discussed the possibility of joining in with the Members-Only Surname Mapping Project started by the Celtic SIG.

In March, our journey around the UK continues as more sharing happens. We know that there is a wealth of knowledge in our membership, and it is fun to share our successes in our quests. So if you missed the February English/Welsh SIG, join us at our next meeting, March 19, 2022. Everyone is welcome.



Inserting a Watermark on a Photograph

Warren Peterson

In the last Tech Tip column, I described how to extend the canvas of an image to add a caption. Another useful photo task is inserting a watermark, especially for images shared on-line. The last thing you need is for some stranger to be claiming ownership of your image!

There are a few ways to do this that are supported by Irfanview. If you are only doing this for a few photos and want to use text for the watermark, the simplest way is to insert a caption directly on the image.

Open your image with Irfanview. With your mouse, draw a box where you would like your watermark to be. Then go to the Edit menu and choose "Insert text". Place your watermark text in the box. Make the background transparent. Change the text transparency to suit your preferences. In this photo of my parents, Alice (Thorne) and Walter Peterson, I set the transparency to None to make it easier to see. Use the Preview button to view the result, and adjust the text style, size and colour to suit. When you like your choices, click "Okay" to save the image with another name.



If you want to use an image as your watermark, the process is similar, but it requires having an image or logo in PNG format with a transparent background. Open your image and use your cursor to select where you would like the watermark to go. In the Edit menu choose "Add overlay/watermark image." A dialog box appears for selecting your image to superimpose. Then Preview and adjust the overlay transparency. It is also possible using Irfanview to apply a watermark to an entire batch of photos. Refer to the Irfanview help files for instructions.

Library Highlights

Linda Murray

The AFHS Library is now open again. The hours are:

Thursday 10 am - 2 pm
Saturday Noon - 4 pm

Come in and check out some of the recent donations and new books in our collection.

In the November *Chinook Arch*, we listed some of the cemetery transcriptions donated to the library by Sandra Williams. Here are a few more of her donations.

Ontario Genealogical Society (OGS) Cemetery Transcriptions

London & Middlesex County Branch

- Robin's Hill Cemetery, Concession 2, Lot 7, West Nissouri Township, Middlesex County (1995). **971.3 MIDD W NIS 3**

Ottawa Branch

- All Saints Anglican Cemetery, Concession 5, Lot 6, 7103 Parkway Road (Greely), Osgoode Township, Carleton County (1985). **971.3 CARL OSGO 4**
- Munster Union Cemetery, Concession 6, Lot 11, 2859 Munster Road (Ashton), Goulbourn Township, Carleton County (1977), 42 pages. **971.3 CARL GOUL 3**

Wellington Branch

- Erin Union Cemetery, Concession 9, Lot 11, 5350 Ninth Line Road, Erin Township, Wellington County (1989). **971.3 WELL ERIN 1**

Waterloo Branch

- Linwood Union Cemetery, Concession X, Lot 10, 3673 Manser Road, Wellesley Township, Waterloo County and St. Peter's Lutheran Cemetery, Concession XI, Lot 11, 5025 Ament Line, Wellesley Township, Waterloo County (1986). **971.3 WATE WELL 2b**

In addition to the cemetery transcriptions, Sandra also donated books to our collection:

<i>A Short History of Manitoba</i>	Whitcomb, Ed	971.27 WHIT 1982
<i>Border Bairns: An Ainslie Family</i>	Morden, Robert Lyle Price	929.2 AINS MORD
<i>Branches: A Bowyer Family History</i>	Eadie, Norman	929.2 BOWY EADIE
<i>Down Memory Lane</i> [Oak Lake, MB]	Dickson, Emily	971.27 OAK 2 1990
<i>Ox Trails to Blacktop</i> [Oak Lake, MB]	Oak Lake History Commit.	971.27 OAK 1 1982
<i>Hemmingford Then and Now</i> [Quebec]	Somerville, Alister	971.4 HEMM SOME

The AFHS library has also purchased two new volumes for the library:

Research Like a Pro with DNA: A Genealogist's Guide to Finding and Confirming Ancestors with DNA Evidence by Diana Elder, Nicole Dyer, and Robin Wirthlin, 2021. **574.87 ELDE 2021**

Research Guide for Norwegian Genealogy: For Beginning and Experienced Genealogists by the Norwegian American Genealogical Center, 2020. **948.1 CULB 2020**

Upcoming Events

CALGARY PUBLIC LIBRARY

The True Story of the American Woman at the Heart of the German Resistance to Hitler

Free online presentation

Calgary Public Library

March 22, 2022 7 - 8:00 pm

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

Archiving & Digitizing Your Family Photos & Documents - Part 1 & 2

Virtual webinar

Victoria Genealogical Society

March 19, 2022 11:00 am - 12:30 pm

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

www.victoriags.org/events.php

CONFERENCES/WEBINARS

Italian Family Tree Virtual Workshops with Don Rampone

Kelowna Canadian Italian Club

March 17 - May 5, 2022

<http://www.kelownaitalianclub.com/family-tree-workshops.html>

Kilted Kulture Conference: Emigration/Immigration

Four virtual sessions

Kilted Kulture

March 19, 2022

www.genealogyvic.com/MARCH-KILTEDKULTURE-CONFERENCE

Software for Genealogist with Bob Dawes

Virtual webinar

Quinte Branch -Ontario Genealogical Society

March 19, 2022

<https://quinte.ogs.on.ca/2022/03/01/software-for-genealogists>

Genealogy by Google with Dave Obee

Virtual webinar

Oakville Public Library

March 21, 2022 5:00 - 6:00 pm

<https://attend.opl.on.ca/event/5984841>

Think Like an Archivist: Finding Genealogy Records in Libraries and Archives Worldwide

Virtual webinar

Ontario Genealogical Society

April 7, 2022 5:00 pm

<https://ogs.on.ca>

**All times given are in Mountain Time

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:

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

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

Indexing of back issues of our journal is continuing. If you would like to help, contact Marion 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.

Mark your calendars!

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Library Hours & Opportunities to Connect

Library Open Hours

Thursday, 10 am - 2 pm
Saturday, noon - 4pm

Check the AFHS website calendar for any updates

<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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