

CHINOOK ARCH

May 2022 Volume 4 Issue 5



ALBERTA FAMILY
HISTORIES SOCIETY

Society Meetings

Our Next Society Meeting: Monday, May 9, 2022

LOCATION: Zoom meeting

TIME: 7 to 9 pm

TOPIC: Annual General Meeting & Care of Personal Family Collections of Archival Material by Alison Freake

Alison is the Conservator of the Provincial Archives of Alberta and will share tips on how to take care of your family history collection.

Upcoming Meetings

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

DATE	GROUP	TIME	TOPIC
Sat., May 14	Digital Genealogy SIG/ Family Genes Group	10 am to noon	Digital tips and tricks; information on Family Genes
Sat., May 21	English/Welsh SIG	10 am to noon	Sharing session on wills, probate records, deciphering old handwriting and brick walls
Sun., May 22	Legacy SIG	1:30 to 3:30 pm	Review of topics covered this year and suggestions for the fall
Sat., May 28	Celtic SIG	10 am to noon	
Mon., May 30	Ontario SIG	1:30 to 3:30 pm	Ontario Resources at the AFHS Library
Mon., May 30	Board Meeting	7 to 9 pm	
Sat., Jun. 4	Family Tree Maker SIG	10 am to noon	Family Tree Maker help and tips

Next Society Meetings

Monday, June 13, 2022

Member Appreciation Night

Glennfield Picnic Shelter

Fish Creek Park, 7 pm

Monday, September 12, 2022

Topic: Less Used Websites

Speaker: Panel of speakers

Location TBA, 7 pm

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

Ancestor Anecdotes

Finding My Godfreys in the 1921 Census Amber Godfrey

When the 1921 Census of England & Wales was released on FindmyPast recently, I was only mildly curious. My paternal grandfather, Thomas Ernest Godfrey, was already back in Canada by 1921. He had immigrated to Canada in 1914, but when the war arrived he enlisted and went to fight in Europe. He returned to Canada with his British war bride, and they were living in Manitoba with their baby son on the 1921 Canada Census.

Then I received a genealogy newsletter that told me that FindmyPast was having a half-price weekend. From April 22 – 25, 2022, you could buy census records for 50% off the regular price! I couldn't resist such a good deal. Where were my Godfrey relatives that had remained in England, and what were they doing in 1921?

I decided to look for my grandfather's parents. In the 1911 Census, Oscar (65) and his wife Annie Maria Godfrey (48), had been living in Leeds with my grandfather, Thomas Ernest Godfrey (21), and his younger siblings, Ethel (9) and Norman (5). Oscar was working as a "hawker, wet fish," Annie Maria worked as a "machinist, blouses & underclothing," Thomas was working as a "house painter" and the two younger children were probably in school, although the 1911 census didn't ask that question.

In 1921, I found Oscar (73) living in a lodging house in Leeds and his occupation was listed as "glass stainer" but the enumerator made a notation that he was out of work. His occupation on the 1871, 1881 and 1891 census all said "glass stainer" or "glass painter" but in 1901 his occupation was listed as "house painter." When the enumerator asked in 1921, he may have given his preferred occupation rather than his last one. He also said that he was married. There were 69 other

men living at the same address, which means it was probably one of the cheap lodging establishments that rented out beds by the day. I read an article about these lodging places and they were pretty horrid.

<https://www.workhouses.org.uk/lodging>

Interestingly, when I found Annie Maria (59) working as a cook in a private house in the Roundhay area of Leeds, she listed herself as widowed! Their relationship had always been a rather tempestuous one. The two youngest children actually had a different father but were raised as Godfreys. There were four more siblings from that relationship, but they stayed with their father. Ethel and Norman knew nothing about any of it until they were adults.

I found Ethel (19) living in Leeds, listed as a Visitor in the household of her future husband. She was working as a "card board box maker" in the same company as her future sister-in-law, Elizabeth (14). In 1921, most students left school at 14 and went to work. Her mother was a widow and three of her older siblings were still at home and working too. Ethel's future husband, George (18), was working as a "horse cart driver," his older brother William (22) was an "electric crane driver" at an iron and steel works and their other sister Emily (16) was working as a "lady's skirt machinist" at a clothing manufacturer. Horses were still being used at that point, but the Industrial Revolution had made machines and factory work common too. The United Kingdom was still recovering from World War I and the Spanish Flu epidemic of 1918.

www.findmypast.co.uk/blog/history/life-in-1920s-britain

I wasn't able to find Norman, but he would have been 15 years old so may have been out of school and working. He wasn't in the lodging house with Oscar or with his mother, who was a live-in servant. He may have been with another relative, but none that I've found so far. I know he moved to Canada around 1927 so I think he was still in England in 1921. A mystery for another day!

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

Ontario SIG

Tara Shymanski

In March and April, we had presentations about two different areas in Ontario.

Lorna Loughton shared stories about her life and ancestors from Prince Edward County. One resource that caught my attention was *The Changing Shape on Ontario: Early Districts and Counties 1788 -1899*, a web page found at the Archives of Ontario. It shows the changes of names and boundaries for both districts and counties between 1788 and 1899. The first time I saw the district of Nassau named in records, I wasn't even sure I was in the right country! Later, I learned that part of what is now southern Ontario, where my ancestors settled, was called Nassau at one time. It's helpful having maps to show you what each area was called over the years. The maps can be found here.

www.archives.gov.on.ca/en/maps/ontario-districts.aspx

Another unusual resource Lorna told us about are the *Willis Metcalfe Scrapbooks 1904-1966* that can be found at FamilySearch. You can access the digitized scrapbooks online, just be sure to sign into your FamilySearch account to view them. These scrapbooks contain news stories and a compilation of notices for births, marriages, deaths and retirements taken from the *Picton Gazette* and the *Picton Times* that was published in Prince Edward County. They are not indexed but are still worth browsing through.

www.familysearch.org/search/catalog/563103

In April, Nancy Levesque arranged for Ruth Burkholder, a professional genealogist, to speak to us about the Regional Municipality of York. It includes the towns of Aurora, East Gwillimbury, Georgina, North Gwillimbury and Sutton, King, Markham, Newmarket, Richmond Hill, Vaughan, and Whitchurch-Stouffville. Ruth encouraged us to find and browse the Tweedsmuir Community History Books that can include histories of the local Women's Institute Branch, information on the earliest settlers in an area, agricultural practices and individual farms, industries that formed the basis of the local economy, social institutions like churches, schools and community centers, and local personalities. These books are a great source for social history.

<https://fwio.on.ca/tweedsmuir-history-books>

Another helpful resource she mentioned was the website for the York Branch of the Ontario Genealogical Society.

<https://york.ogs.on.ca>

Thanks to both Lorna and Ruth for taking time to share these wonderful resources with us.

How to Become a Successful Dictator

Warren Peterson

Once the realm of science fiction, computers have finally begun to decipher human speech. But is it practical to dictate spoken words to our personal computers? With a few caveats, yes. Perhaps more interesting, though, are the attractive reasons for trying this new technology.

1. Topping the list is **ergonomics**. Speech simply doesn't take the physical toll on us that countless hours of typing and mousing do.
2. The natural partner to physical ergonomics is **mental function**. For many of us, ideas flow more naturally and fluidly when we speak. Memory and comprehension may also get a boost due to the powerful methods used by our brains to process data from each of our senses.
3. Dictation can be **timesaving**, especially with practice. Modern computers can translate our words almost as quickly as they are spoken. Add to that, they have powerful tools for spell-correction, grammar-checking, document formatting and editing.

Dictation software is not perfect, of course. It achieves its best accuracy on simple strings of text. The software must solve many language puzzles from context, such as homonyms, synonyms, possessives and punctuation. Documents such as obituaries are challenging due to their mixture of names, numbers and place names.

There are several ways to improve dictation accuracy.

1. **Speak clearly and with your best enunciation.** If possible, use a headset rather than your webcam, to capture speech subtleties and to minimize the influence of background noise.
2. **Pronounce punctuation marks by name.** As unnatural as it may initially feel, the software recognizes key words such as "comma," "period," "new line," "hyphen," "begin single quote," or "start list." For simple tasks, you may be satisfied with results of auto-punctuation.
3. **Watch for prompts from the software.** When the dictation software isn't sure about a word, it will underline the word and prompt you to select the intended version from a list of options. If the word is in a language other than English, you can select from several different languages when dictating.
4. **Learn spoken commands for editing the text you've dictated.** For instance, you can say "undo," "backspace," "insert space," or "delete last sentence."
5. **Use the Help sidebar.** It gives you access to additional reminders and tips.

For this tech tip, we're referring to Microsoft Word, but most dictation software shares similar features. To start using the feature within Word, just click the **Dictate** button on the toolbar (that looks like a microphone). If you prefer keyboard commands, you can use Alt + '. Both options load the required features and present a small control panel. It includes a settings button (looks like a little gear), the microphone icon to record and a question mark you can click on for more help.

Library Highlights

Family History Society Digital Publications

Linda Murray

When I first became AFHS Library Chair in 2007, we exchanged print journals with almost 100 Family History Societies around the world. It was a wonderful way to offer Family History newsletters and genealogical journals to our members without paying the cost of subscriptions. Fast forward 15 years and many societies, including our own, no longer publish or print a journal. Many societies do a digital version, and we exchange our *Chinook Arch* newsletter with about 35 groups.

The following is a list of the digital journals currently available to read at the AFHS library.

BC	Kamloops Family History Society	<i>Family Footsteps</i>
BC	Kelowna and District Genealogical Society	<i>The Okanagan Researcher</i>
BC	South Okanagan Genealogical Society	<i>Grapevines</i>
BC	The Vernon and District Family History Society	<i>Splitting Heirs</i>
AB	Alberta Genealogical Society	<i>Relatively Speaking</i>
SK	Saskatchewan Genealogical Society Inc.	<i>Bulletin</i>
MB	Manitoba Genealogical Society	<i>Generations</i>
ON	OGS - Bruce and Grey Branch Newsletter	
ON	OGS - Durham Region Branch	<i>Kindred Spirits</i>
ON	OGS - Huron County Branch	<i>Rooting Around Huron</i>
ON	OGS - Kingston Branch	<i>Kingston Relations</i>
ON	OGS - Lambton County Branch	<i>Lambton Lifeline</i>
ON	OGS - Lanark County Branch	<i>The Lanark Log</i>
ON	OGS - London & Middlesex County Branch	<i>London Leaf</i>
ON	OGS - Oxford Branch	<i>The Tracer</i>
ON	OGS - Perth County Branch	<i>Perth County Profiles</i>
ON	OGS - Simcoe County Branch	<i>SCAN</i>
NL	The Family History Society of Newfoundland and Labrador	<i>The Ancestor</i>
NS	The Genealogical Association of Nova Scotia	<i>The Living Connection</i>
NS	The Genealogical Association of Nova Scotia	<i>The Nova Scotia Genealogist</i>

Library Highlights

Family History Society Digital Publications

Linda Murray

List of digital journals available at the AFHS Library (continued)

UK	Bedfordshire Family History Society Journal	
UK	Buckinghamshire Family History Society	<i>Origins</i>
UK	Dorset Family History Society Journal	
UK	Felixstowe Family History Society	<i>Roots and Branches</i>
UK	Lanarkshire Family History Society Journal	
UK	Lancashire Family History and Heraldry Society	
UK	Hillingdon Family History Society Journal	
UK	Waltham Forest Family History Society	<i>Roots in the Forest</i>
UK	Northamptonshire Family History Society	<i>Footprints</i>
UK	Nottinghamshire Family History Society Journal	
UK	ISBGFH	<i>British Connections</i>
UK	Central Scotland Family History Society Newsletter	
UK	Glasgow & West of Scotland Family History Society	<i>Gallus</i>
UK	Glamorgan Family History Society Journal (Wales)	
AU	Journal of the Genealogical Society of Victoria (Australia)	<i>Ancestor</i>

In the future, we would like to offer these digital journals (with the permission of the organizations) in a members-only section of the AFHS website. This would mean our members could access these for free from home.

We are looking for a volunteer to implement and maintain this project. We would also like to contact more Societies to exchange digital content. If you are interested in helping with this project, please contact Linda library@afhs.ab.ca

Upcoming Events

CALGARY PUBLIC LIBRARY

Meet the Historian

Free online presentation

Calgary Public Library

May 10, 2022 3 - 4:00 pm

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

Scottish Indexes Conference XVI

Virtual conference

Scottish Indexes

September 3, 2022

www.scottishindexes.com

CONFERENCES/WEBINARS

The Orphan Train Movement with Jill Morelli

Virtual webinar

Qualicum Beach Family History Society

May 10, 2022 8:00 pm

www.eventbrite.com/e/the-orphan-train-movement-jill-morelli-tickets-266449576857

BIFHSGO 2022 Virtual Conference

Virtual conference

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

September 28 - October 2, 2022

www.bifhsgo.ca/2022-BIFHSGO-Conference

BCGS Genealogy Cruise with Blaine Bettinger and Mary Kathryn Kozy

British Columbia Genealogical Society

September 17 - 24, 2022

www.bcfgs.ca/alaskacruise

Virtual Conference 2022 - The Past, the Present, and the Future

Virtual conference

Ontario Genealogical Society

June 24 - 25, 2022

<https://conference2022.ogs.on.ca>

Celtic Connections Virtual Conference

Virtual conference

The Irish Ancestral Research Association

July 9 - September 30, 2022

www.celtic-connections.org/index.html

**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:

Spring has arrived, and our projects team is once again planning field trips to document the cemeteries in Calgary and area. If you would like to help take photos or assist with the indexing, please contact Wendy projects@afhs.ab.ca

Our webmaster, Jim Benedict, is looking for volunteers to help with the indexing of the birth, marriage and death notices from the Calgary Herald. We need **someone to coordinate this project** as well as those willing to do the indexing. If you live in Calgary, this could be done in your own home using the Calgary Public Library's *Calgary Herald* digital archive. If you can help, please contact Jim webmaster@afhs.ab.ca

The Queries team could use another member to help answer questions that people submit through the website. If you are able to help, contact Mabel info@afhs.ab.ca

Do you know how to edit videos or are you interested in learning? We would like another volunteer to assist with the videos that are uploaded to our Meeting Archive on the website. For more information, 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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