



NEXT SOCIETY MEETING

Monday, November 14, 2022

Topic: *Alberta's Cornerstone: Archaeological Adventures in Glenbow Ranch Provincial Park*

Speaker: Shari Peyerl, author

Location: Bow Cliff Seniors Centre & Zoom

Time: 7 - 9 pm

FUTURE MEETINGS

Monday, December 12, 2022

Topic: Share a Story About Your Favourite Holiday Ornament

Speaker: AFHS members

Location: Bow Cliff Seniors Centre & Zoom

Time: 7 - 9 pm

Monday, January 9, 2023

Topic: Returning To or Getting Started With Genealogy

Speaker: M. Diane Rogers

Location: Zoom

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NEWSLETTER SUBMISSIONS

Watch for our newsletter, *Chinook Arch*, distributed monthly by email from September to June.

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.

Editor: Amber Godfrey

Email: chinookarch@afhs.ab.ca

President's Message

Marion Peterson

On Saturday October 29, the Board held a strategic planning meeting. Following the example of a planning meeting held in 2016, we conducted a SWOT exercise (Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, Threats). It was rewarding to see what we have accomplished since 2016, but we still face a sobering list of weaknesses and threats, along with many potential opportunities.

All kinds of possible ideas and strategies flowed, but we are left with the perpetual conundrum for AFHS. We have no paid staff, so everything is done by volunteers. Who will take ideas and turn them into actions?

Our current volunteers already are doing so much. We need new members so we have a bigger pool of people to find those who might volunteer. To do things to reach out to potential members, we need volunteers. It is a Catch-22.

Many hands make light work, and we appreciate every volunteer who is giving even an hour of their time. We know that every AFHS member brings skills and talent from their career and life experiences. If you are a member, please look at the list of opportunities published in the latest *Windsock* email message. Let us know if you can help in any way, big or small.

Perhaps I am guilty of making volunteer tasks look more challenging than they are. Please remember that my President hat is one of many I wear. I get great satisfaction from being involved. I can't imagine my life without the friends that I've met through this organization. But when the elections come in May, I'll be stepping aside for someone else to take a turn as President. We need a succession plan, so if you would like to learn more about Board level positions or any volunteer role, please contact me at president@afhs.ab.ca

One of the strategies we'll be using to (hopefully) gain new members is a change to memberships that are not based on the calendar year. Going forward, as of January 1, new members will be signing up for a membership that will expire one year later (an anniversary year, rather than calendar year).

And finally, a reminder to our members - it is membership renewal time! We hope you renew for another year of family history learning and camaraderie.



“Burnt Documents:” WWI Military Record Challenges in the United Kingdom

Amber Godfrey

Canadian military researchers are incredibly lucky that so many of our WWI soldier records survived intact and that they have been digitized and are available for free at Library and Archives Canada. In the United Kingdom, a tragic bombing during WWII damaged or destroyed “approximately two thirds of 6.5 million soldiers’ documents for the First World War.”

However, there is still some hope for genealogists researching soldiers in the United Kingdom. In 1996, with money from Lottery funding and volunteers from the Genealogical Society of Utah helping, the remaining WWI soldier records were microfilmed and have now been digitized. They are available to view for free in-person at The National Archives or online through Ancestry in the UK, *British Army World War I Service Records, 1914-1920* collection.

In the online database, I was able to find records for my great-uncle, Walter John Godfrey. He was a career soldier and spent over 15 years with the West Yorkshire Regiment between 1904 and 1920. His records show some damage, but there is a wealth of information contained in them.

Army Form D. 400a.
Leave Papers of a Soldier Discharged or Transferred to the Reserve on Demobilization.

Soldier's Name: Godfrey, Walter John

Unit from which discharged: 22 Coy. West Yorks Regt.

Regimental Number: 22604 Rank on discharge: Corporal Age on discharge: 33y 8m

Married, widower with children, or single: Married

Occupation before enlistment: Painter

Full postal address to which proceeding on discharge: 19 Banner Sq. Woodhouse Lane Leeds

Name of Approved Society (if any): Manchester Union of Oddfellows

Period of service, and in what Corps	Regiment	Years	Days	All service abroad, with Station	Years	Days
	<u>West Yorks</u>	<u>10</u>	<u>17</u>	<u>India</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>78</u>
				<u>South Africa</u>		
		<u>3</u>	<u>14</u>	<u>Malaya</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>149</u>
				<u>Penang</u>		<u>126</u>
PART Service towards pension		<u>13</u>	<u>4</u>			

The records include the front and back of his discharge papers from the British Army in 1920. They include the following information: full name, regimental number, age (years/months), rank, marital

status, former occupation before enlisting, address he is going to after discharge, places he served and for how long, medals he was awarded, his date and place of birth, first names of his father and mother and the date of his discharge. Other documents in his file include his date and place of marriage, his wife’s name, the names of his two oldest children, addresses they lived at and his reason for discharge. Genealogical gold!

Here’s a tip when searching the digitized records. Always check before and after the record you are directed to by the search. The microfilmmers inserted New Soldier cards between records, but sometimes there is more than one record per soldier. My great-uncle has two sets of records that are definitely both him, verified by dates and places in the records. This may be because he was a soldier before the war.

Walter John Godfrey, the eldest son of Oscar John and Annie Maria Godfrey, was born on 4 Jun 1886 in Birmingham, Warwickshire. In 1904, at the age of 18, he enlisted in the West Yorkshire Regiment. His attestation paper listed his height as 5 feet, 7 1/8 inches, weight as 118 pounds, and he had a “fresh” complexion, grey eyes and brown hair. His previous occupation was listed as “bricklayer.” Another paper shows he re-enlisted after 3 years for another 7 year stretch. According to his discharge papers, he spent 5 years posted in India, 4 years posted in Malta and 126 days posted in France (probably during WWI). He eventually attained the rank of CQMS, which stands for Company Quartermaster-Sergeant. His duties would involve ordering and managing food, supplies and ammunition for the company. In Guiding, we used to sing a song about “The Quartermaster’s Store,” although I assume my great-uncle ran his “store” better than the fictional Quartermaster in the song!

On July 22, 1914, Walter married Isabelle Southward at Buxton, Derbyshire, in the Devonshire Park Chapel. Their first son, Walter John Jr., was born in 1916 in Tynemouth, and their second son, Ernest, was born in 1918 in Leeds. In 1920, Walter was discharged from the army due to medical reasons. On his discharge papers, it showed that Walter Sr. suffered from rheumatism and frost bite that he had received in France. The family ended up immigrating to Canada in 1923.

Special Interest Groups

SPECIAL INTEREST GROUPS (SIGs) are the ideal place to share your family history. The small-group setting lets you exchange information and get suggestions on further avenues to pursue.

SIGs are now being held in multiple formats: in-person, Zoom only or a hybrid version (in-person & Zoom). Check the calendar on our website for up-to-date information or email the SIG leader.

If you are a new member and would like to attend a SIG meeting to try it out before joining, ask for an invitation from:
communications@afhs.ab.ca

CELTIC SIG (Irish/Scots)

Meets on the 4th Saturday
 10 am - Noon
celticsig@afhs.ab.ca

DIGITAL GENEALOGY SIG

Meets on the 2nd Saturday
 10 am - Noon
familygenes@afhs.ab.ca

ENGLISH/WELSH SIG

Meets on the 3rd Saturday
 10 am - Noon
englishwelshsig@afhs.ab.ca

FAMILY TREE MAKER SIG

Meets on the 1st Saturday
 10 am - Noon
ftmsig@afhs.ab.ca

LEGACY SIG

Meets on the 4th Sunday
 1:30 - 3:30 pm
legacysig@afhs.ab.ca

ONTARIO SIG

Meets on the 4th Monday
 1:30 - 3:30 pm
ontariosig@afhs.ab.ca

DNA SIG

Check the website calendar for next meeting date
dnasig@afhs.ab.ca

The SIG groups do not meet during the summer (July and August)

The AFHS Library is located at **712 - 16 Avenue NW, Calgary** and in-person SIG group meetings are held there.

The Library has over twelve thousand print items available and many are able to be borrowed for a one-month loan. Electronic resources include computers, a multi-function printer, scanners (flatbed and overhead), and a microfiche reader. Journals from around the world are available to view in-library in either print or digital formats. As a FamilySearch affiliate library, visitors can view additional Family Search digital records at the AFHS library that they can't see at home.

MONTHLY SCHEDULE

DATE	GROUP	TIME/FORMAT	TOPIC
12 Nov 2022 Saturday	Digital Genealogy SIG/ Family Genes Group	10 am to noon <i>Hybrid</i>	Digital tips and tricks and information on updates to Family Genes
13 Nov 2022 Sunday	DNA SIG	1:30 to 3:30 pm <i>Zoom only</i>	A meeting to gauge interest in reviving this special interest group with a Q&A session.
19 Nov 2022 Saturday	English/Welsh SIG	10 am to noon <i>Zoom only</i>	Occupations of All Kinds in Britain in All Time Periods.
26 Nov 2022 Saturday	Celtic SIG	10 am to noon <i>Hybrid or Zoom only (TBD)</i>	Scottish Clan Research
27 Nov 2022 Sunday	Legacy SIG	1:30 to 3:30 pm <i>Zoom only</i>	Research Logs
28 Nov 2022 Monday	Ontario SIG	1:30 to 3:30 pm <i>Zoom only</i>	Bruce & Grey Counties
3 Dec 2022 Saturday	Family Tree Maker SIG	10 am to noon <i>Zoom only</i>	Family Tree Maker software help and tips

Keyboard Shortcuts For Genealogy

Roy Aggarwal

There are tons of keyboard shortcuts that can make your life easier. These are some of the ones that I use all the time:

CTRL + F (Windows) CMD + F (MAC)	Find command. Opens a search box that lets you enter a keyword or phrase to search for on the page.
DOUBLE LEFT CLICK (Windows & MAC)	Highlights a single word
TRIPLE LEFT CLICK (Windows & MAC)	Selects an entire line of text or entire contents within a text field, without having to highlight it
CTRL + A (Windows) CMD + A (MAC)	Selects all the text
CTRL + X (Windows) CMD + X (MAC)	Cuts the highlighted text and copies it to your clipboard
CTRL + C (Windows) CMD + C (MAC)	Copies the highlighted text to your clipboard
CTRL + V (Windows) CMD + V (MAC)	Pastes the selected text
CTRL + Z (Windows) CMD + Z (MAC)	Undo the last action
WINDOWS KEY + E APPLE KEY + F	Opens file explorer
WINDOWS KEY + D CMD + F3 (MAC)	Shows the desktop
ALT + TAB CMD + TAB	Holding ALT or CMD while pressing TAB repeatedly cycles through all open windows. Release the keys and the window in focus becomes maximized.

For more useful keyboard shortcuts for Windows computers, check out:

<https://support.microsoft.com/en-us/windows/windows-keyboard-shortcuts-3d444b08-3a00-abd6-67da-ecfc07e86b98>

For more useful keyboard shortcuts for MAC computers, check out:

<https://support.apple.com/en-us/HT201236>

The Military Museums (TMM) Library and Archives

Marion Peterson

For our October meeting, several members of the Ontario Special Interest Group gathered at the Military Museums in Calgary. This facility, located at 4520 Crowchild Trail SW, showcases 200 years of Canadian military history with events and exhibits. In a separate part of the building is a resource that anyone researching Canadian military history should explore – the Library & Archives. The Library & Archives is managed through the University of Calgary in a partnership that was established in 2000. Our tour was led by Jason Nisenson, Head Librarian and Senior Archivist.

We began by going into a climate-controlled area which contains the Chicksands Collection and several other archival collections. RAF Chicksands, a Royal Air Force station in Bedfordshire, England, was a storage centre for books and documents from various foreign offices and British embassies around the world. When the base was closed in 1997, negotiations resulted in these being donated to the University of Calgary and stored at the TMM Library & Archives. This impressive and unique collection arrived in Calgary in early 2011. The estimated 50,000 books, manuscripts and manuals are still being catalogued.

We then went to the basement to another climate-controlled area where archival materials (unpublished personal memorabilia) such as diaries, maps, photographs and other items related to military history are processed and stored. They are catalogued by donor or collection and do not circulate. Appointments are required in advance to use archival materials.



Our tour ended in the library area on the main level. From the history of warfare to Canada's peacekeeping operations to training and weaponry, there is an impressive collection of books which would help add to any family history project. There is a reference section, but most of the library books can be borrowed. Computers are available for access to online databases and resources.

If you have military items that family members no longer want, consider donating them to TMM Library & Archives. To see what items they accept as donations, check out their Artifact Donation page at <https://themilitarymuseums.ca/about-us/artifact-donations>.

For more information on TMM Library & Archives, you can explore their website at <https://themilitarymuseums.ca/visit/library>.

CALGARY PUBLIC LIBRARY

Family History Coaching

Virtual and in-person

Calgary Public Library

December 3, 2022 1:00 – 3:00 pm

<https://calgarylibrary.ca/events-and-programs/programs/virtual-family-history-coaching>

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

CONFERENCES/WEBINARS

The BIG Four Genealogy Websites - an overview, comparison and suggested method of genealogy research

Virtual webinar

**Computers in Genealogy SIG,
Edmonton Branch,
Alberta Genealogical Society**

November 17, 2022 7:00 pm

<https://www.edmontongenealogy.ca/computers-in-genealogy-sig>

Understanding Scottish Handwriting

Virtual webinar

Scottish SIG, Ontario Genealogical Society

November 21, 2022 8:00 am

<https://scottishsig.ogs.on.ca/calendar/understanding-scottish-handwriting>

Tracing your Loyalist Ancestor

Virtual webinar

Quebec Genealogical eSociety

November 22, 2022 5:00 pm

<https://register.gotowebinar.com/register/5796196915799942416>

Genealogical Research in Ukraine

Virtual webinar

Toronto Branch, Ontario Genealogical Society

November 23, 2022 5:30 pm

November 30, 2022 5:30 pm

<http://torontofamilyhistory.org/event/ukrainian-lecture-series>

Linda Debe - When You Do not Sync - Tracking Your Documents Between Online Trees and Desktop Software

Virtual webinar

Ontario Ancestors - Ontario Genealogical Society

December 1, 2022 5:00 pm

<https://ogs.on.ca/zoom-meetings/linda-debe-when-you-dont-sync-tracking-your-documents-between-online-trees-and-desktop-software>

Introduction to East European Genealogy

Virtual webinar

Winnipeg Public Library

December 5, 2022 6:00 pm

<https://wpl.libcal.com/event/3687094>

Online Demonstration of the NosOrigines Database

Virtual webinar

Québec Genealogical Society

December 6, 2022 5:30 pm

<https://register.gotowebinar.com/register/4760531727589491723>

Kilted Kulture Conference: Uniquely Scottish

Virtual conference

December 10, 2022 7:00 am – 12:00 pm

<https://www.genealogyvic.com/event-5024890>

Alberta Family Histories Society Information

Alberta Family History Society is a registered non-profit organization that welcomes anyone interested in genealogy and family history! For over 40 years, we've helped people grow their family trees and discover the stories of their roots. We have substantial resources about Calgary and southern Alberta but can help you research your roots worldwide. Our website is <https://afhs.ab.ca>.

We learn from each other in a variety of settings – Society meetings, Special Interest Group meetings, workshops and biannual conferences. For up-to-date meeting information, see our website calendar at <https://afhs.ab.ca/calendar>.

Visit one of our best resources - our library! Our collection is broad with an emphasis on materials pertaining to Alberta and Canada. We are a FamilySearch Affiliate Library. Our volunteers look forward to showing you what we have to offer for your genealogy research. You can view a catalogue of our holdings at <https://afhs.ab.ca/library>.

Documenting local historical records is part of our mission. Alberta Ancestors is a special project to showcase cemetery records at <https://albertaancestors.ca>. With more than 70 cemeteries and over 130,000 photographs, it is a priceless resource.

Members have a wealth of opportunities to share strategies, struggles, successes and stories with others who appreciate the challenges of this hobby. One option is for members to share family tree projects and to post stories online as part of our Family Genes website at <https://www.familygenes.ca>.

We welcome visitors, so please drop in at a meeting and introduce yourself. Come see how our services and programs can fit your needs. We hope you will join us either in-person or virtually! To receive a guest Zoom invitation to one of our Society meetings, contact Marion at communications@afhs.ab.ca.

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AFHS LIBRARY & OFFICE

ADDRESS:

712 - 16 Avenue NW
Calgary, AB T2M 0J8

Library Open Hours

September to June

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

**Check the website calendar for time changes or closures.*



CONTACT US

Email: info@afhs.ab.ca

Website: www.afhs.ab.ca

Phone: 403-214-1447

Facebook: Alberta Family Histories Society

Instagram: abfamilyhistoriessociety



Land Acknowledgement

In the spirit of reconciliation, we would like to acknowledge that the land on which we gather and where we work to preserve the records and family history of those who came before us are on the traditional territories of the Blackfoot (Siksika, Kainai, and Piikani), the Tsúút'ínà, the Nakoda Nations, the Métis Nation (Region 3) and all people who make their homes in the Treaty 7 region of Southern Alberta.