

Chinook Arch

January 2023
Volume 5 Issue 1



ALBERTA FAMILY
HISTORIES SOCIETY
Supporting worldwide family history research

NEXT SOCIETY MEETING

Monday, January 9, 2023

Topic: Fresh Family History Start 2023
Speaker: M. Diane Rogers
Location: Zoom
Time: 7 - 9 pm

FUTURE MEETINGS

Monday, January 16, 2023

Topic: Chit Chat Room (casual family history conversation, new and potential members welcome)
Moderator: Jim Benedict
Location: Zoom
Time: 7 - 8:30 pm

Monday, February 13, 2023

Topic: How the Flood of '48 Affected the Railways
Speaker: Tom Price
Location: Zoom
Time: 7 - 9 pm

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NEWLETTER 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

As a member of the AFHS Library Committee, I've spent countless hours helping catalogue items and assisting visitors. Even after all the hours at our library, I still find nice surprises in the collection.

My husband and I are planning a trip to County Wexford, Ireland, where my Rath ancestors lived before emigrating to Canada in 1840. They originally settled in Leeds County, Canada West (now known as Ontario), so I had never thought to look in a book called *Leinster to Lanark*, written by Carol Bennett McCuaig. I recently pulled this book off the shelf, flipped to the index, and discovered quite a few references to Rath's. And imagine my even greater surprise when I discovered my own direct line described in this book! Carol worked on weekly newspapers, and she met and interviewed people whose roots were from County Wexford. Over the years, she collected information about these families who were often interconnected. The title of her book is a bit of a misnomer; the information in her book also extends to Carleton County and to Leeds County where the earliest wave of Leinster immigrants had settled. I have an explanation finally for why my James and Jemima (Hall) Rath went to Leeds County upon arrival. They most likely joined a cousin who had immigrated about eight years earlier. I'm starting to piece together a theory about how the various Rath families connect and which townlands they left in Ireland. I am so glad I pulled this book off the shelf!

My point is that there are real treasures in our library. We're holding an open house at the library on Saturday, February 18, 2023 from noon to 4:00 pm. Stop by for a tour and take the time to browse. If you live near Calgary, drop in during our open hours. If you are from out of town, we can arrange for a volunteer to open our doors for you. We hope to see you soon!

Monday Chit Chat Room

Just like an old-fashioned kitchen gathering, some of us would enjoy sitting down with our fellow family study members to just chat and share stories. The break time at our society meetings is enjoyed by all, but is all too brief. We are going to test out a separate evening Zoom meeting, hopefully monthly, for those interested in sharing an hour or two of casual conversation.

Jim Benedict and Linda Murray will be co-hosting, making sure everyone gets into the meeting and has a chance to share stories and advice with the group.

The format will be very casual, with no fixed agenda. Bring your family tree, bring your stories and brags, bring any tips and interesting news you have come across and have your favourite beverage nearby. Also, you are welcome to bring a guest, be it a cousin, a neighbour or a co-worker. These are potential new Society members!

Our first meeting will be Monday, January 16 with future meetings held once a month, on the Monday the week after the AFHS Society meeting. The only exceptions will be when the Monday is a holiday. We plan to start the Zoom meeting at 7 pm and run until around 8:30 pm.

The Zoom invitation is:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/9012951692?pwd=cE10dVF3cGN3RStnNURXT3cvRTN1UT09>

Meeting ID: 901 295 1692

Passcode: chitchat

My Great-Grandmother, Sarah Jane (Galliers) Walford, Who Lived for 103 Years

Zolton Walford

My great-grandmother, Sarah Jane (Galliers) Walford, was born on January 2, 1884 in West Bromwich, Staffordshire, England. Her mother was Martha Elizabeth Galliers, and no father was listed on her birth certificate. On October 3, 1886, when Sarah Jane was two years old, her mother married George Sheldon.

At the time of the 1891 Census, five years later, George and Martha Elizabeth Sheldon were living in West Bromwich with their infant son Bertram, and George was working as an "iron puddler." Sarah Jane was also living in West Bromwich but was staying with her maternal grandparents, Job and Jane Galliers. Job was a coal seller and he had two adult children still living at home, Sarah and James. She worked as a shopkeeper and he worked as a millman in an iron works. It is likely that my great-grandmother was named after her aunt and her grandmother.

Ten years later, on the 1901 Census, Sarah Jane was living in the household of her aunt and her aunt's husband, John and Sarah Bate. They had three small children under five, two girls and a boy. John worked as an iron puddler too, like Sarah Jane's stepfather George. Sarah Jane was now 17 years old and working as a dressmaker, still in West Bromwich. The family group also included her widowed grandmother Jane Galliers.

On November 16, 1902, Sarah Jane married George Richard Walford in West Bromwich. On the 1911 Census, her husband George was working as a bricklayer's labourer, and the family was living in Bordesley Green, Warwickshire. At that time, they had four children: George, Mary, John and Sarah. All the children, except their eldest daughter Mary, were listed as being born in West Bromwich. Since youngest daughter Sarah was only two years old, they must

have moved to Warwickshire recently. They had two more sons after 1911, William and Henry, but tragically William died at the age of two.

By 1914, George and Sarah made the decision to emigrate to Canada. Sarah's stepfather had already moved to Canada with his eldest son Bertram in 1905, and her mother and their other two children joined them in 1907. George and Sarah Walford arrived in Canada on the ship *The Virginian* on July 19, 1914 with their five remaining children. A few months after they arrived, war was declared in Europe. George was too old to enlist, but he lied about his age and joined the Canadian Expeditionary Force. He was sent to Europe and fought in France, where he was injured by poison gas. Due to his injuries, he was discharged and sent home to Canada. Their last child, Thomas Walford, was born in 1918 in Toronto.

George Walford died at the age of fifty-six on August 21, 1935 in Toronto due to complications from his war injuries. Sarah would live for another fifty years as a widow, at first with her children, and later in a nursing home in Toronto. I was able to meet her and her half-brother Bertram in the mid-1970s.

Sarah Jane (Galliers) Walford died on July 26, 1987 at the age of 103. Not only did she live for over 100 years, at the time of her death she had 22 grandchildren, 50 great-grandchildren and 18 great-great-grandchildren which adds up to 90 descendants!



Sara Jane (Galliers) Walford, 1959

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.

SIGs are an AFHS member benefit. If you would like to attend a SIG meeting to try one 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

Meets on the 2nd Sunday
12:30 – 2:30 pm
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 and many are available to be borrow 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 FamilySearch digital records at the AFHS library that they can't see at home.

MONTHLY SCHEDULE

DATE	GROUP	TIME/FORMAT	TOPIC
8 Jan 2023 Sunday	DNA SIG	12:30 to 2:30 pm <i>Zoom only</i>	
14 Jan 2023 Saturday	Digital Genealogy SIG/ Family Genes Group	10 am to noon <i>Zoom only</i>	
21 Jan 2023 Saturday	English/Welsh SIG	10 am to noon	Looking for Religious Records other than Church of England in the UK
22 Jan 2023 Sunday	Legacy SIG	1:30 to 3:30 pm	Legacy software help and tips
23 Jan 2023 Monday	Ontario SIG	1:30 to 3:30 pm	Conquer the Chaos...bring order to your family history research by Nancy Levesque
28 Jan 2023 Saturday	Celtic SIG	10 am to noon	Counties in Scotland and Ireland
4 Feb 2023 Saturday	Family Tree Maker SIG	10 am to noon <i>Zoom only</i>	Family Tree Maker software help and tips

How To Find Historic Newspapers Online

Amber Godfrey

Newspapers have always been a great research tool for family historians. While past generations didn't have social media like Facebook or Twitter, local newspapers provided a similar service. Both my grandmothers worked for their local newspapers as community contributors. They gave information on community events like births, marriages, anniversaries and deaths, visitors coming or going from the community, church or social group meetings and events (with officers and organizers often listed) and much more. This list on The Ancestor Hunt blog offers 33 different things to look for when searching old newspapers.

<https://theancestorhunt.com/blog/33-different-things-you-can-find-about-your-ancestors-by-searching-old-newspapers>

However, until recently, this meant visiting libraries or archives in person and flipping through paper copies or winding through endless microfilm reels as there were rarely indexes to the information they contained. But now, many newspaper collections are being digitized and put online for researchers to access. And even more exciting, these collections usually have built-in search features to help you access information quicker and easier.

Some of these collections are behind paywalls, but keep your eyes open for "free weekends" offered by the site or see if your local public library or a family history group you belong to has a subscription you can use for free at their location. Create a list of searches you want to make so you are ready to go for these opportunities!

The most popular sites include:

The British Newspaper Archive (UK focus, part of FindMyPast membership)

www.britishnewspaperarchive.co.uk

Chronicling America (US based, free access)

<https://chroniclingamerica.loc.gov>

Internet Archive (Worldwide, free access)

<https://archive.org/details/newspapers>

Irish Newspaper Archives (paid site)

<https://www.irishnewsarchive.com>

Newspapers.com (North American focus, part of All Access Ancestry membership)

www.newspapers.com

NewspaperArchive.com (US plus Canadian and UK)
<https://newspaperarchive.com>

MyHeritage (available free through Ontario Ancestors and Alberta Genealogical Society memberships)
<https://www.myheritage.com/research/category-8000/newspapers>

National Library of Wales
<https://newspapers.library.wales>

ProQuest Historical Newspapers (often available through public libraries, CPL has the Calgary Herald Archive 1883 - 2010)

<https://calgarylibrary.ca/read-learn-and-explore/digital-library/calgary-herald-archive-online>

Trove (Australia, free access)
<https://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper>

Several places have compiled lists of links to historical newspaper collections online including:

The Ancestor Hunt
<https://theancestorhunt.com/newspaper-research-links.html>

CanGenealogy (Dave Obee's site)
<https://www.cangenealogy.com/newspapers.html>

Cyndi's List
<https://www.cyndislist.com/newspapers>

Here are some extra search tips, reprinted from Margaret Sharon's excellent article, *Online Newspaper Archives: A Treasure Trove of Family History*, found in Kamloops Family History Society's journal *Family Footsteps* Spring 2022 edition:

- Google a place name with the phrase "newspaper archive", e.g., *Leeds "newspaper archive"*.
- Check the websites of the local museum, archives, library or family history society.
- The same newspaper may have been known by different names during its lifespan, perhaps as a result of a merger with another newspaper (e.g., *The Globe & Mail*).
- Note that there may not be a "complete run" of a newspaper you're interested in (i.e., there may be no existing copies of some issues).
- You may encounter the same digitized newspaper at more than one website, with differing years available at each site.

Margaret's full article is available for AFHS members to read on our website under Resources > Library > Exchange Journals. Make sure you are logged in to the website first as this is a members-only benefit!

Alberta Family Histories Society Websites

Jim Benedict

A website presence is vital these days for any successful genealogy society. A good website is informative for the society members and attracts the interest of potential new members to the society. A great society website has new articles and content for returning visitors and is relevant to all by having online reference materials for viewing. Alberta Family Histories Society now has three different websites, each distinctive in appearance and purpose, to deliver value to members and other family researchers.

Alberta Family Histories Society www.afhs.ab.ca

This site is where we promote our Society to members and potential members. It contains all the pertinent Society information: membership, activities, resources and references. The homepage is intended to be a clean and inviting space to welcome people. It is a portal into the web features, which we will be examining in a future article. The homepage has a slide-in panel that appears from the right side, listing our upcoming events for members. If you scroll down the page further, you can learn more about AFHS activities.

Alberta Ancestors www.albertaancestors.ca

The Alberta Ancestors website houses our extensive collection of cemetery records in southern Alberta. Currently it holds information on 82 cemeteries with 195,000 graves and 135,000 images. This has been a massive undertaking, and the website includes suggestive searches, cemetery location mapping, marker images and some statistics. More cemeteries are added each month, so it is worth revisiting for new person records.

Family Genes www.familygenes.ca

Our third website supports members who wish to feature their family tree research securely online, to have a website platform for their families to visit, and to have their research preserved and archived by our Society. Members can upload family trees from their home computer, add photos and documents, and, optionally, have other cousins and connections contribute online to the family study. The site also has some interesting views on surname connections.

We will look at each website in more detail in future issues of *Chinook Arch*.



DISCOVER



LEARN



CONNECT



ENGAGE

Upcoming Events

CALGARY PUBLIC LIBRARY

Family History Coaching

In-person at Central Library

Calgary Public Library

January 28, 2023 1:00 – 3:00 pm

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

CONFERENCES/WEBINARS

*all times listed are in MST

ScotlandsPlaces for Family Historians, and Untangling "Family Thickets": Cornwall to Canada

Virtual webinar

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

January 14, 2023 7:00 am

<https://www.bifhsgo.ca/events>

Scottish Indexes Conference

Virtual conference

Scottish Indexes

January 14, 2023 8 am – 4 pm

https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/4016695720274/WN_6zDT5OTARyyE7o8dAnq8Zw

Probate Records: Wills and a Whole Lot More by Annette Burke Lyttle

Virtual webinar

Qualicum Beach Family History Society

January 18, 2023 8:00 pm

www.qbfhs.ca/category/speakers

MyHeritage: Your Personal Genealogy Archive by Melissa Barker

Virtual webinar

Legacy Webinars

January 24, 2023 12:00 pm

<https://familytreewebinars.com/webinar/myheritage-your-personal-genealogy-archive>

Doing Family Tree Research in Your Pajamas – Ken McKinlay of "Family Tree Knots"

Virtual webinar

Durham Region Branch of Ontario Ancestors

February 7, 2023 5:30 pm

<https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZwkdOG0qjMvHtx9wLxnGFitfvECL6oZbjtE>

Census Records in the Virtual Treasury of Ireland / Lust, Lucre and Lybell: An 18th Century Soap Opera

Virtual webinars

February 11, 2023 7:00 am

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

<https://www.bifhsgo.ca/events>

RootsTech 2023

In-person or free virtual option

FamilySearch

March 2 – 4, 2023

www.familysearch.org/rootstech

Genealogy 101 – 2-Part Workshop **Alberta Family Histories Society**

March 19, 2023 1:00 – 2:30 pm Hybrid

April 2, 2023 1:00 – 2:30 pm Zoom

<https://afhs.ab.ca/event/genealogy-101-2-part-workshop>

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

Library Open Hours

January to June 2023

Thursday, 10 am - 2 pm

Saturday, Noon - 4 pm

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



ALBERTA FAMILY
HISTORIES SOCIETY

CONTACT 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)



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 Tsúut'ínà, the Nakoda Nations, the Métis Nation (Region 3) and all people who make their homes in the Treaty 7 region of Southern Alberta.