

Chinook Arch

February 2023
Volume 5 Issue 2



ALBERTA FAMILY
HISTORIES SOCIETY
Supporting worldwide family history research

NEXT SOCIETY MEETING

Monday, February 13, 2023

Topic: Researching Railway Records
Speaker: Tom Price
Location: Zoom
Time: 7 - 9 pm Register [here](#)

FUTURE MEETINGS

Monday, March 13, 2023 - Society Meeting

Topic: Restoring Grandma's Cabin
Speaker: Wendy Robertson
Location: Zoom
Time: 7 - 9 pm Register [here](#)

Monday, March 20, 2023

Topic: Chit Chat Room
Moderator: Jim Benedict
Location: Zoom
Time: 7 - 8:30 pm

Monday, April 13, 2023 - Society Meeting

Topic: Finding Female Ancestors
Speaker: Diane Duncan
Location: Zoom
Time: 7 - 8:30 pm Register [here](#)

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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

I'm planning a genealogy trip! This time, we will start our adventure by visiting Ireland, the homeland of my paternal ancestors, James and Jemima (Hall) Rath. I am excited!

I created a family book about my Rath family in July 2009. The family story only indicates that they came from Enniscorthy, County Wexford. At a Celtic Special Interest Group meeting I mentioned our plans and that I wanted to see if I could find anything new before our trip. Immediately, hints and suggestions came into my email inbox. One member in particular has been especially helpful.

The answer is that yes, there are many more digitized records available online. I've been able to identify townlands to the east of Enniscorthy where Rath families lived and discovered patterns in the names. For example, the Rath families that are farther south used names like Patrick, Simon and Nathaniel, while the ones at and around a townland called Oulartwick Beg used James, William, Thomas and Joseph which are names in my family line. I've even been able to identify Hall families that lived nearby (although they were Catholic and my Raths were Protestant).

An online index of death registrations lists a James Rath who died in 1867 at age 91 in the Enniscorthy registration district. If my family followed the naming pattern used by Irish families, he was the right age to have been the father of my James. I ordered a copy of the record, and it says he died at Oulartwick. I may have gone back one more generation in the family tree!

Another tool that wasn't available 14 years ago is DNA. By contacting some of my Dad's DNA matches, I've discovered that the townlands identified in their family research are close to Oulartwick Beg.

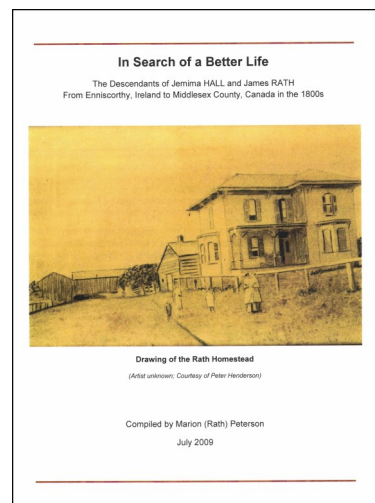
Although I haven't 100% confirmed it, the evidence is pointing to this area. My husband and I will take a drive out in the countryside around Oulartwick Beg, and I'm sure it will be a moving experience.

My message is that if you haven't yet done so, get involved. It is through being a volunteer with the Society that I've formed these wonderful friendships. I certainly appreciate all the hints and help! And when I "brag" at a future meeting, they won't roll their eyes!

If you are interested in seeing a copy of my book, it is called *Descendants of Jemima Hall and James Rath: From Enniscorthy, Ireland to Middlesex County, Canada in the 1800s* and is available at the AFHS Library at call number 929.2 RATH 2011.

Monday Chit Chat Room

The next Chit Chat Room will be on March 20 as February 20 is a holiday.



Adventures on a Northern Freighter

Diane Duncan

William Murray Gibson, known as Murray and my first cousin twice removed, was only a lad of eighteen when he worked on a freighter that travelled from Edmonton up to Hay River on Great Slave Lake and back. We are lucky enough to have a letter conveying the wonderful story of his adventures travelling north through rapids, portages, ravines and other dangers!

Murray was born on the Scotch Line, not far from my childhood home near Perth, Ontario, to William Murray and Janet (Miller) Gibson on October 5, 1880. He homesteaded near Lacombe and received his homestead grant in 1898, just before leaving on his voyage north. The trip, although high adventure for a young man, was most likely undertaken to help him earn the monies required to pay the settlement duties on his homestead. I wonder if the letter he wrote home that year was the last bit of encouragement his father needed to join him in Alberta. William and Janet moved their family from Bathurst Township, Lanark County, Ontario, to the Lacombe area in 1900, taking up land near Murray.

This is an excerpt from the letter that he wrote in the fall of 1898 and sent to his father. Some paragraph breaks have been added for readability. The complete letter can be viewed on my blog at <https://diane-duncan.com/2023/02/01/a-trip-in-the-far-north>

Dear Father:

I must tell you something of my trip north this summer in as short a space as possible. It would take a week to write it all down.

From Edmonton north to Athabasca Landing [on the Athabasca River] is over 100 miles of sand hills and sloughs - no good land. We went over this by freight-wagons. The landing is quite a busy place. The Hudson Bay Co. have quite large warehouses here, as have several Edmonton companies. All the goods and travel from the north start from here. We had five ten-ton scows. They were 35' long and 15' or so wide. We started on the second of June. There is nothing much of interest but a few gas wells till the head of the Grand Rapids is reached.

This is the head of 86 miles of solid rapids, the first 1 1/2 miles of which is the worst. All the goods have to be unloaded packed and taken overland one mile, then the boats run and loaded again. There were lots of Klondik-

ers here; they kept us in fun, though it was hardly right to laugh at the poor fellows. At one time, some of them were letting down a boat when their rope broke. There were two men in the boat; their eyes bulged out as the boat shot down the rapid. We were letting down a boat about 50 yards below and we shouted to them to steer their boat clear of us, but a man cannot be heard 20 feet away. They reached up and caught our line and the boat was jerked from under their feet in a second. Then they went hand over hand, sometimes under the boiling water and sometimes on top till they got to our boat. It gives one the idea of the grip a drowning man has.

When the foot of this rapid is reached, the boats are loaded in a big eddy, then there is a short but dangerous rapid below. Some Englishmen thought they could run this without a guide. They started off brave enough and got on all right till the rapids got bad; then they got into the wrong channel and one minute the boat was pointing to the clouds and the next into the ground. The men seemed paralyzed. They ran broadside on till it struck a rock and was lifted almost out of the water. They lost all of their outfit and almost their lives. We got down all right, so did most of the H.B. Co.'s boats but one of the pilots in turning the boat slipped on a wet plank and the boat ran against a rock, cutting a hole in her. They ran for the shore and tried to hold her with ropes but the current was too strong and swift and swept them down the rapids. Most of the cargo was lost and all Her Majesty's mail for the North. Accidents like these were happening almost every day.

At the beginning of 1917, during World War I, Murray joined the Canadian Expeditionary Force and was sent to France. When he died on November 11, 1917, he was an Acting Corporal for the 10th Battalion. Like so many young Canadian men, he was killed in the attack on Passchendaele Ridge. Army records show that his mother was sent the Memorial Cross, his father received the Memorial Plaque and Scroll and his sister Mary Ann received his medals and decorations.



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
11 Feb 2023 Saturday	Digital Genealogy SIG/ Family Genes Group	10 am to noon <i>Hybrid</i>	
12 Feb 2023 Sunday	DNA SIG	12:30 to 2:30 pm <i>Zoom only</i>	Pedigree collapse vs. Endogamy and Q&A
18 Feb 2023 Saturday	English/Welsh SIG	10 am to noon <i>Zoom only</i>	Accidents that you have found related to your research.
25 Feb 2023 Saturday	Celtic SIG	10 am to noon <i>Zoom only</i>	Member presentations about Ontario counties
26 Feb 2023 Sunday	Legacy SIG	1:30 to 3:30 pm <i>Zoom only</i>	Legacy software help and tips
27 Feb 2023 Monday	Ontario SIG	1:30 to 3:30 pm <i>Zoom only</i>	"Look What I Found!" presented by SIG members
4 Mar 2023 Saturday	Family Tree Maker SIG	10 am to noon <i>Zoom only</i>	No meeting in March 2023

Popular Genealogy Podcasts

Tara Shymanski

I knew nothing about podcasts but heard people talking about them so decided to find out more about them. I did some research and discovered they are entertaining and informative audio shows that you can listen to on your digital devices.

Podcasts are designed to allow you to listen while you do mundane tasks such as driving, walking the dog, or doing housework. They help pass the time and educate you at the same time. There are podcasts on just about every subject including our shared passion, genealogy.

Podcasts can be listened to using apps such as iTunes, Google and Spotify. Some are even available on YouTube and Facebook. I found a great article on the basics of podcasts by Mark O'Neill, titled [What is a Podcast and How Do I Start Listening?](#), including one of the main concerns of people new to podcasts.

"For podcasts and newbies, it's important to know that most podcasts out there are free. There are some behind a paywall, but usually, the content is free and can be interspersed with some ad-reads. The word "subscribe" often concerns people who think they have to pay for something. But no, subscribing to a podcast is like subscribing to a website's newsletter. It's free, and you get the content delivered to you each time there is a new show."

My research, and some recommendations by other podcast fans, helped me come up with a list of podcasts for you to try.

Our recent presenter, M. Diane Rogers, recommended the podcast [Genealogy Happy Hour](#). It is focused on helping new family historians learn how to do proper documentation, but in a fun and informal format. Amy Crabill Lay and Penny Burke Bonawitz, aka Two Blondes, are experienced researchers who share their knowledge along with their wine recommen-

dations! Diane specifically mentioned Episode 73 which is about Mind Mapping, one of her favourite tools.

Christine Hayes, our Program Chair and librarian for Calgary Public Library, recommends the podcast [The Irish in Canada](#). Host Jane McGaughey explores "the lives and legacies of Irish immigrants and their Canadian descendants."

AFHS member and *Chinook Arch* editor Amber Godfrey couldn't choose just one so recommended three of her favourite podcasts:

[Generations Café](#), hosted by Amy Johnson Crow, genealogist and author of *31 Days to Better Genealogy*.

[Research Like a Pro Genealogy Podcast](#) with mother/daughter duo, Diana Elder and Nicole Dyer, authors of *Research Like a Pro: A Genealogist's Guide*.

[Ancestral Findings](#) is a short format podcast that host Will MoneyMaker produces weekly with podcasts of five to ten minutes on a variety of genealogy and history subjects.

Other popular podcasts relevant to family historians:

[Ancestors Alive! Genealogy](#)

[Discover Library and Archives Canada](#)

[Essential Genealogist Podcasts](#)

[Extreme Genes](#)

[Family Histories Podcast](#)

[Family Tree Magazine Podcast](#)

[Family Tree Magazine Podcast - UK](#)

[Genealogy Gems](#)

[Genealogy Guys](#)

[Tracing Your Roots](#)

[Really Useful Podcast](#)

And if those aren't enough, check out this list of [40 Genealogy Podcasts to Follow](#).

Happy listening!

Library Highlights

Calgary Church Histories Available at the AFHS Library

Linda Murray

Did your ancestor attend a church in Calgary? If you are interested in early church history in Calgary, check out our collection at the AFHS library.

<i>Ukrainian Rite Catholic Church: An account of church activities in Calgary</i> by Stella Niedzwicki	971.23 CALG CHU 01	Donated by Ruth Sutherland
<i>Anglican Church in Calgary: Church activities 1878 - 1974</i> by various Calgary authors	971.23 CALG CHU 02	
<i>Oblate Fathers in Calgary Roman Catholic Church 1875 - 1889</i> by N.R. Anderson	971.23 CALG CHU 03	Donated by Ruth Sutherland
<i>Lutheran Legacy: Growth of Calgary's Lutheran Churches</i> by C.M. Cherland	971.23 CALG CHU 04	Donated by Ruth Sutherland
<i>First Spiritualist Church: A short account of spiritualism in Calgary</i> by H. L. Collett	971.23 CALG CHU 05	Donated by Ruth Sutherland
<i>United Church in Calgary: Activities & events, 1875 - 1970</i> by W. J. Collett	971.23 CALG CHU 06	Donated by Ruth Sutherland
<i>From the Buffalo to the Cross - A History of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Calgary</i> by M. B. Venini Byrne	971.23 CALG CHU 07	Donated by Linda Hole
<i>At the Seventy-Fifth Milestone: The story of the First Baptist Church, Calgary, Alberta, 1888 to 1963</i> by Lucy Lowe Bagnall	971.23 CALG CHU 08	Donated by John Truber
<i>Search for Souls: Histories of Calgary Churches</i> by Century Calgary Publications	971.23 CALG CHU 09	Donated by John Truber
<i>50 Years 1925 - 1975: At the Foot of the Hill</i> by Our Lady of Perpetual Help Parish	971.23 CALG CHU 10	Donated by John Truber
<i>Calgary Knox 1883 - 1983</i> by Charles W. Ross	971.23 CALG CHU 11	Donated by Bill Leflar
<i>They Gathered at the River, A Centennial History of The McDougall Mission (1873-1883), Calgary Methodist Church (1883-1905), Central Methodist Church (1905-1925), Central United Church (1925-1975)</i> by J. Fraser Petty, editor	971.23 CALG CHU 12	Donated by John Truber
<i>And Let There Be Light: A history of Parkdale United Church, Calgary, Alberta, 1912-1989</i> by Joanne Enns Rudrick	971.23 CALG CHU 13	Donated by John Truber
<i>Through The Rose Window: Trinity United Church 1906 - 1988</i> by Trinity United Church	971.23 CALG CHU 14	
<i>Century of Grace: 1905 - 2005 Grace Presbyterian Church</i> by Grace Presbyterian Church	971.23 CALG CHU 15	Donated by Orma Potter
<i>With Faith & Mortar [St Andrew's United Church, Calgary]</i> by Glenn Bilton	971.23 CALG CHU 16	
<i>Grace for 25 Years: 1950-1975 - Grace Lutheran Church, Calgary</i> by Grace Lutheran Church	971.23 CALG CHU 17	Donated by Doreen Unterschultz
<i>Life & Joy: An autobiography of Varsity Acres Presbyterian Church Calgary</i> by Gordon Hodgson	971.23 CALG CHU 18	Donated by John Truber

Upcoming Events

CALGARY PUBLIC LIBRARY

Family History Coaching

In-person at Central Library

Calgary Public Library

February 25, 2023 1:00 – 3:00 pm

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

CONFERENCES/WEBINARS

*all times listed are in MST

DNA Does Not Lie!

Virtual webinar

Essex County Branch, Ontario Ancestors

February 15, 2023 5:00 pm

<https://essex.ogs.on.ca/meetings/february-webinar>

From Virginia to Canada: The Journey of My Black Ancestors

Virtual conference

Orillia Museum of Art & History

February 15, 2023 5:00 pm

www.orilliamuseum.org/project/from-virginia-to-canada

Searching for the Missing Pieces with Janet Iles

Virtual webinar

Bruce & Grey Branch, Ontario Ancestors

February 15, 2023 5:00 pm

<https://brucegrey.ogs.on.ca/events/janet-iles-searching-for-the-missing-pieces>

Family History on the Canadian Prairies by Dave Obee

Virtual webinar

Legacy Webinars

February 17, 2023 12:00 pm

<https://familytreewebinars.com/webinar/family-history-on-the-canadian-prairies>

What Can We Find in the 1921 Census with Dr. Penny Walters

Virtual webinar

Niagara Peninsula Branch, Ontario Ancestors

February 17, 2023 4:30 pm

<https://niagara.ogs.on.ca/events/niagara-peninsula-branch-monthly-webinar-series-2023-02-17>

Google Earth Pro

Virtual webinar

Campbell River Genealogy Society & Qualicum Beach Family History Society

February 25, 2023 10:30 am – 1:00 pm

www.qbfhs.ca/category/speakers

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



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.