



NEXT SOCIETY MEETING

Monday, April 10, 2023

Topic: The Other 50% – The Women in Your Tree
Speaker: Diane Duncan
Location: Bow Cliff Seniors Centre (3375 Spruce Drive SW) & Zoom
Time: 7 - 9 pm Register [here](#)

FUTURE MEETINGS

Monday, April 17, 2023

Topic: Chit Chat Room
Moderators: Jim Benedict and Linda Murray
Location: Zoom
Time: 7 – 8:30 pm

Monday, May 8, 2023 – Society Meeting

Topic: Annual General Meeting; Members Sharing Memories of Mothers and Food
Location: Bow Cliff Seniors Centre (3375 Spruce Drive SW) & 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 cannot remember a time in my life when I didn't have access to library books. We rarely purchased books when I was growing up. If you wanted to know something, you borrowed a book from a library, did your research, and returned it for others to do the same.

One of the first AFHS resources I explored was the AFHS Library. My son took saxophone lessons nearby, so while he was learning from his teacher, I stopped in to see what the library offered. The collection was much smaller then, but just like now, it was well-organized and impressive. The volunteers enthusiastically told me about the holdings. It wasn't long before I also became one of these volunteers.

The library collection now is composed of over 12,000 books, journals and maps with an emphasis on Alberta, the United Kingdom, Ontario and the rest of Canada. With the exception of some non-circulating reference items, AFHS members can borrow items for a one-month period.

It is staffed by volunteers who often take advantage of the time on their shift to do their own research. If you are new, make sure to let them know. Just like the public library, their role is not to do the research for you. They point you to the resources you might need. There are, however, some of our library volunteers who love to sit down with researchers and help dig for records.

Our collection is heavily comprised of donated materials, so there are parts of the world where our collection is lacking. If you discover one of these gaps, please let us know. We have a budget and are always looking for resources to purchase.

When donations come to us, members of the library committee sort them and catalogue the items which fit our mandate and requirements. The remainder are placed in a "for sale" area in the basement to raise funds to purchase more items.

Because of COVID, it has been a long time since we held a sale. Thanks to the offer of help from Marie Maitland, Dawn Lavigne and Gail Ames, the library committee is getting organized for a sale. We have lots of older journals from around the world, older books and magazines, and duplicate copies of books that we already have on our shelves. There are quite a few Alberta community history books. Please come by and make a purchase. You never know what gems you may discover that help with a brick wall in your tree!



Notice is hereby given, in accordance with AFHS Bylaws Articles 7.1 & 7.4, of the Annual General Meeting of Alberta Family Histories Society which shall be held on Monday, May 8, 2023, at Bow Cliff Centre (3375 Spruce Dr SW, Calgary) and via Zoom (a hybrid meeting), starting at 7:00 pm, during which financial and other reports will be presented, business conducted and elections held.

Two Whims, A New Ancestor and More Mysteries!

Stephanie Morton

One day, on a whim, I downloaded some discounted records of the Parish Register of Shareshill in England. They were on sale at the Midland Ancestors Shop, and as I have several ancestors from this village in Staffordshire, I decided to buy them.

Shareshill is a small village in southern Staffordshire. In 1851, the population was about 600 people; it wasn't much larger in the 2011 census. It was, and continues to be, a mainly agricultural community. The records in the register span from 1564 to 1838, and include baptisms, marriages, and burials, all in varying degrees of organization. The parish church continues to be Saints Mary & Luke, an Anglican/Church of England parish.

My 3 times great-grandparents, Thomas and Catherine (Weetman) Darley, were married in Stone, Staffordshire, in 1805. According to a published family book, *The Family of John Weetman of Baddesley Clinton* by Sylvia Dibbs, the couple had 5 children born between 1806 and 1813.

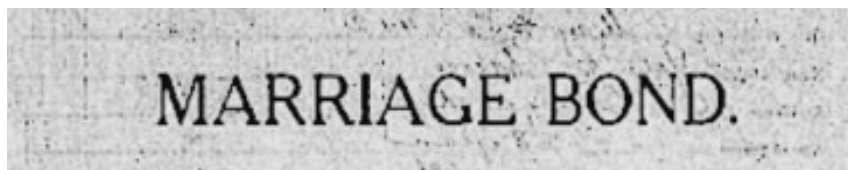
When looking in the index for the register that I purchased, I found a burial record for a young lad of 10 years of age, called Clement Weetman, who was buried on February 19, 1826. This immediately made me wonder who young Clement could be. After all, my Weetman family only had five children! However, I quickly looked at Findmypast (FMP) and found a baptismal record for this child, born in 1815. His parents were my Thomas and Catherine. Imagine my excitement at finding a new ancestor! Like his elder brothers and sisters, Clement was baptized in the Catholic faith two days after his birth.

My discovery of his burial led to another question. As the family were known Catholic recusants (those who remained loyal to the Roman Catholic Church and refused to attend Church of England services after the Reformation), why was this child buried in a Church of England parish? At the time, Roman Catholicism was technically illegal. From legislation enacted by Parliament in 1606, all baptisms and burials of Catholics were required to be done by an Anglican minister, in an Anglican church or churchyard. However, by the early 1800s, it's thought that the rules were bent on more than one occasion. Perhaps Clement was buried by a Catholic priest, but the official records were Anglican? At this time, I can only speculate.

My second whim was to look at a record set on FMP called *Staffordshire, Dioceses of Lichfield & Coventry Marriage Allegations and Bonds*. Unsure what this meant or what it would show, I did a search for Thomas Darley and 1805. The search returned a fascinating document that Thomas and his soon-to-be father-in-law, another Clement Weetman, signed five days before the actual marriage ceremony at a Church of England parish in Stone. It was a bond promising to pay £500 if the bride and groom did not go through with the marriage. Since the marriage did take place, the money didn't have to be paid out. Both parties were known Roman Catholic recusants, but so far no one has found a Roman Catholic marriage record for them. Perhaps I will find that on my next whim?

Midland Ancestors Shop
<https://midland-ancestors.shop/>

Findmypast
www.findmypast.com



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 or last 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 or
Tuesday evening 7:00 – 9:00 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 Apr 2023 Saturday	Digital Genealogy SIG/ Family Genes Group	10 am to noon	No meeting in April
11 Apr 2023 Tuesday	DNA SIG	7:00 to 9:00 pm <i>Zoom only</i>	Round table question and answer session
15 Apr 2023 Saturday	English/Welsh SIG	10 am to noon <i>Zoom only</i>	Sharing session on what members are working on
22 Apr 2023 Saturday	Celtic SIG	10 am to noon <i>Hybrid</i>	Griffiths Valuation Records presented by Ron Gilmore
24 Apr 2023 Monday	Ontario SIG	1:30 to 3:30 pm <i>Hybrid</i>	How did your ancestors arrive in Canada? Sharing resources you used to find them.
30 Apr 2023 Sunday	Legacy SIG	1:30 to 3:30 pm <i>Hybrid</i>	Legacy software help and tips
6 May 2023 Saturday	Family Tree Maker SIG	10 am to noon <i>Hybrid</i>	Family Tree Maker software help and tips

Money Through the Ages

Amber Godfrey

How often have you wondered how much the item your ancestor owned or purchased would cost in today's dollars? Or wondered what a "quid" or "shilling" was worth in historical England? Money really has changed a lot over the years, and learning about it can help you understand better what something was worth to your ancestors.

In one of the articles in this month's newsletter, a bridegroom and his future father-in-law had to sign a bond saying that if the marriage didn't take place, they would be liable to pay £500. This was back in 1805 in England. While we can guess that it was a substantial amount back then, what would be an equivalent amount today?

I recently found an online tool called www.in2013dollars.com that calculates what a historical amount of money would be worth in today's dollars. Don't let the name fool you – it is current up to 2023 and works for over 40 different countries or areas in a variety of currencies.

This site was created by an engineer and data expert who has worked for Google and NASA and has been a consultant for governments around the world on data analysis. It is laid out very simply but is much more than just a calculator. The site also includes formulas for how inflation is calculated and the source of the data used in the calculations. It even includes a graph showing how the buying power of the amount you enter has changed over the years with an adjustment for inflation.

So what would that £500 be equivalent to in 2023? According to the website, it would be a staggering £55,219! That is a price increase of 10,944%. Wow!

In another example, my paternal 3rd great-grandfather John Godfrey left an estate of £600 when he died in England in 1844. His two grand-daughters were to inherit just under £20 each when they turned 21. In 2023, his estate would be worth £97,533 and each

girl would receive just over £3,000. Not bad!

Not all countries use dollars, as Canada does now, and our history included a variety of currencies. The history of our monetary system is a colourful one and ranges from First Nations "wampum" money to beaver pelts to French and Spanish coins to playing cards to plastic money!

A great place to learn about Canada's money history is at the Bank of Canada website from their book *A History of the Canadian Dollar*. The book is available for free at this link: https://www.bankofcanada.ca/wp-content/uploads/2010/07/dollar_book.pdf



For other countries, you can use these resources:

United Kingdom

www.nottingham.ac.uk/manuscriptsandspecialcollections/researchguidance/weightsandmeasures/money.aspx

United States

https://www.cs.mcgill.ca/~rwest/wikispeedia/wpcd/wp/u/United_States_dollar.htm

Australia

www.ramint.gov.au/bite-sized/Australian-coin-history

FamilySearch Research Wiki

www.familysearch.org/en/wiki

Library Highlights

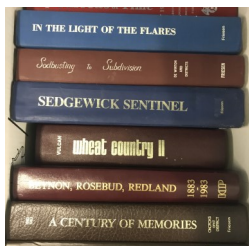
Linda Murray

Just like our president, Marion, I loved books when I was growing up. But unlike Marion, I didn't always have access to library books. I grew up on a farm outside a small town and we didn't have a library anywhere nearby. So my aunt, Marion Murray who was a librarian and a teacher in Winnipeg, would give us new books for Christmas and our birthdays. I'm not sure my siblings were as excited as I was, but I loved to get each new book and handled them with care. It was an exciting time in our small town when we started to get regular visits from the bookmobile. For those of you who don't know, the bookmobile or mobile library was a van that drove around and made stops so you could browse and borrow books for a month. We had a pretty small selection, but it was still better than no books at all.

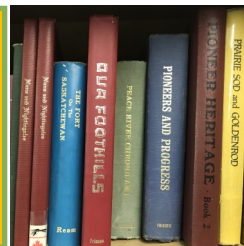
I vividly remember a trip to Winnipeg when my aunt took us to see a movie, to see the big Eaton's department store, to a museum and most exciting of all (for me) to the Winnipeg Public Library. I remember looking around at the hundreds of books. I couldn't believe my eyes when my aunt led us to the escalator, and we went up to another floor full of books and then yet another floor. This was more books than I had ever seen in my life! I decided on that trip to become a librarian. Of course plans change, and I ended up becoming a microbiologist instead. Then fast forward many years to 1993 when I moved to Calgary and joined AFHS and the Library Committee. About 15 years ago I became Library Chair, and so part of my childhood dream came true. I still love new books and now old books too. It has been so exciting to see our collection at the AFHS Library grow year after year. But, as Marion mentioned in her message, our shelves are overflowing! So we would like to find a home for some of these books and journals and magazines.

You never know what you're going to find in some of these old journals. I remember at a previous library sale a few years ago I picked up a Glasgow journal and flipped through it. Inside I found a reprint of a diary that someone had recorded when they came to Canada on the Royal mail steamer, the *Corinthian* in 1906. This was the same ship and the same year that my grandmother came to Canada as a child aged five years old with her parents and her three brothers. It was so exciting to read this account that described the ship and the conditions and the crossing from Glasgow to Montreal. It gave me a greater appreciation for what my great grandparents had gone through as they made their way across the ocean to start a new life in Canada. So I got a lot of enjoyment out of that journal that cost me 25 cents!

We hope you will come to the library and browse through the material we have for sale. There are journals from every province in Canada, as well as many from England, Ireland, Scotland, Wales, Australia and New Zealand. We have back issues of magazines like *Your Genealogy Today*, *Who Do You Think You Are?*, *Family Tree Magazine*, *History Magazine*, etc. We have many books about Calgary as well as community history books from all across the province. If you can't make it to the library on one of the sale days, you can still come into the library on any open library day and browse what is for sale downstairs. We hope to see you there. If you could bring along your own bags to transport all your purchases back home, that would be appreciated. Happy shopping!



Used Book and Journal Sale
Alberta Family History Society Library - 712 16 Avenue NW
Thursday, April 28 and Friday, April 29, 2023
10 am to 4 pm ~ Cash, Debit or Credit Card



CALGARY PUBLIC LIBRARY

Family History Coaching

In-person at Central Library

Calgary Public Library

April 22, 2023 1:00 – 3:00 pm

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

CONFERENCES/WEBINARS

*all times listed are in MST

Barn Raising, Threshing and Quilting Bees: The Stories Farm Diaries Tell

Virtual webinar

Oxford Branch, Ontario Ancestors

April 10, 2023 5:00 pm

<https://oxford.ogs.on.ca/events/branch-meeting-presentation-4>

Slow Down – Planning Your Research

Virtual webinar

Legacy Webinars

April 13, 2023 11:00 pm

<https://familytreewebinars.com/webinar/slow-down-planning-your-research>

Using Geographical Resources to Research your Family History

Virtual webinar

**Wellington Branch, Ontario Ancestors &
Guelph Public Library**

April 15, 2023 12:00 – 2:00 pm

<https://wellington.ogs.on.ca/events/wellington-branch-guelph-public-library-using-geographical-resources-to-research-your-family-history>

Through the Prairies to the Rocky Mountains: Records of Western Canada with Lianne Krüger

Virtual webinar

Qualicum Beach Family History Society

April 19, 2023 8:00 pm

www.qbfhs.ca/category/speakers

Red Deer Family History Fair

In-person event

LDS Red Deer Stake & AGS – Red Deer Branch

April 22, 2023 9:00 am – 3:30 pm

<https://rdfamilyhistoryfair.blogspot.com>

Records of the Poor: English Poor Law & Workhouses

Virtual webinar

Victoria Genealogical Society

April 29, 2023 11:00 am

www.victoriags.org/content.aspx?page_id=4002&club_id=554933&item_id=1774935

UELAC Hybrid National Conference

Where the Sea Meets the Sky

Hybrid conference

**United Empire Loyalists' Association of
Canada Pacific Region Branches**

June 1– 3, 2023

<https://uelac.ca/conference-2023>

Diversity in Genealogy Virtual Conference

Virtual conference

Ontario Ancestors

Sept 8 – 10, 2023

<https://conference2023.ogs.on.ca>

RootsTech 2023

Available until 2024

www.familysearch.org/rootstech

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.