

# Chinook Arch

May 2023  
Volume 5 Issue 5



ALBERTA FAMILY  
HISTORIES SOCIETY

Supporting worldwide family history research

## NEXT SOCIETY MEETING

**Monday, May 8, 2023**

- Topic:** Annual General Meeting; Members Sharing Memories of Mothers and Food
- Location:** Bow Cliff Seniors Centre (3375 Spruce Drive SW) & Zoom
- Time:** 7 - 9 pm Register [here](#)

## FUTURE MEETINGS

**Monday, May 15, 2023**

- Topic:** Chit Chat Room
- Moderators:** Jim Benedict and Linda Murray
- Location:** Zoom (link on website calendar)
- Time:** 7 - 9 pm

**Monday, June 12, 2023 - Society Meeting**

- Topic:** Year-End Wind-Up Meeting in Fish Creek Park
- Location:** In-person only
- Time:** 7 - 9:00 pm

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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.Alberta.ca](mailto:chinookarch@afhs.Alberta.ca)

## President's Message

As I approach the end of my term as your President, I'd like to reflect on our accomplishments during my time in office:

- We held a very successful one-day conference in October.
- We were able to gather for in-person meetings again after years of Zoom-only meetings. A new meeting place was found for our Society meetings and equipment was purchased to be able to offer hybrid meetings as an option.
- We promoted our Society at several events – the Volunteer Fair, the Kerby Expo, a meeting of Lambton Branch, OGS and at a meeting of the ladies of the Shriners Club. Our organization was also featured in an article for the *Kerby News*.
- Our brochure and business cards were completely redone. The design of our newsletter was updated. A PowerPoint was prepared to be able to do presentations for service clubs.
- Our websites – [afhs.ab.ca](http://afhs.ab.ca), [albertaancestors.ca](http://albertaancestors.ca) and [family genes.ca](http://familygenes.ca) all have expanded their content and continue to provide value to our members and the general public.
- We changed from a calendar-year membership to an anniversary-year term so members can join year-round and receive a full 365 days of benefits.
- We made changes to the Memorial Fund Policy and updated our Position Descriptions.
- We held a successful casino fundraiser and applied for a few grants.
- A team of AFHS members created and presented a very successful Genealogy 101 workshop.
- The *Chinook Arch*, *Windsock* and Facebook pages continue to provide worthwhile content and opportunities for our members to share.
- Our Special Interest Groups (SIGs) continue to thrive and are a valuable member benefit.

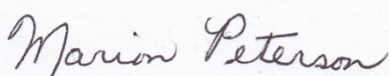
These accomplishments have put in place a sustainable framework for the future. We are financially in a good position.

AFHS does not have any staff, so just about everything is done by volunteers. The only services we pay for are an auditor, a bookkeeper, an occasional cleaner and snow removal at our library facility. All the programs, the library, the events, the SIGs, the equipment and computer maintenance, and publications that you enjoy are done by members as volunteers.

However, Alberta Family Histories Society has a serious threat common to many non-profit societies. It even has an acronym – STP or Same Ten People (although for our organization Same Twenty People is more accurate). Our STP are aging or moving or burning out or facing other challenges. We don't expect new members to immediately step up for leadership roles. On the other hand, we don't want to add even more to the plates of the STP. As I write this article, we still need candidates for Directors on the Board. The reality is that members are going to have to step up and join the leadership team for AFHS to continue and thrive.

If elected, I will continue to serve on the Board of Directors – just not as your President. As I mentioned in previous President messages, I have gained so much from being involved in this organization. It is rewarding, and many of the people I've met are now close friends.

With thanks to those who volunteered along with me in the past year,



### The Newspaper Clippings Trail to Granddad Jim Benedict

Family researchers have more resources at our fingertips than ever before, with time and money being our only limitations. Most of us use *Ancestry*, *MyHeritage*, *FamilySearch*, *Find a Grave* and other online repositories.

One resource that is sometimes overlooked, and can be invaluable, is online newspaper databases. More and more newspaper collections are being digitized and made available online. You can find a wealth of information in older newspapers, which were the Facebook and Twitter of their day!

My grandfather, Peter George Benedict, died when I was only four years old, so I have no personal memories of him. I thought that perhaps I could learn something of his life through the newspapers.

Sometimes Peter, other times George, he grew up in the southern-Ontario town of Wallaceburg, the son of a Great Lakes ship captain, John Smedley Benedict. Born in 1877, Peter took on the trade of barbering and owned his own shop by 1899. Then a newspaper clipping from the *Wallaceburg News* of August 1899, informs us that "Mr. Peter Benedict has disposed of his tonsorial business" and that he "shaved a few people around town, cut his acquaintances and left without saying goodbye to all his friends."

I then traced him to Lethbridge in 1901 using the Canadian census. He was living in a boarding house and now using the name "George." I suspect some bad gambling debts may have encouraged the name change. He worked for E. J. Brennan, barber, at a barbershop on Eighth Avenue East. Times are good for a young, dapper and clean-shaven lad from Ontario. At some point he took up dancing and, by August of 1903, he was a dance instructor with the dance studio of Professor Hepburn. The *Calgary Herald* of June 18, 1903, reported that "Professor Hepburn will be in the hospital for a few days" and his class will be directed by "Geo. Benedict."

Agnes Roe McPhail, only 17 years of age and born in a small community on Cape Breton Island, arrived in Calgary in 1903 and wanted dancing les-

sons. Her instructor, my granddad I assume, was nine years her senior. Agnes had recently been traumatized by the infamous Frank Slide. In April of 1903, she and her family were jolted out of bed in the middle of the night when Turtle Mountain let lose 110 million tonnes of limestone. The rock thundered down on the new town of Frank, destroying much of it. The McPhail family survived, but there was no work so they relocated to Calgary.

George and Agnes were married in December of 1904, and the announcement appeared in the December 21 edition of the *Weekly Albertan*. Have a look at their wedding photograph; what a handsome catch for a young girl from the Maritimes!



Newspapers can be a rewarding treasure hunt for background on your family. There are several subscription and free-access resources out there and, while smaller towns can be a challenge, more and more resources are coming online every day.

AFHS volunteers are working hard to build a new online database of birth, marriage, death and other relevant events that appear in historical Alberta newspapers. These are uploaded to the **Routes to Roots** section of the AFHS website for members and visitors to search. As a special members-only benefit, AFHS members can see and download the actual newspaper clipping.

Follow the newspaper trail to your own kin and let us know of your next brag!

## 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](mailto:communications@afhs.ab.ca)

### **CELTIC SIG (Irish/Scots)**

Meets on the 4th Saturday  
10 am – Noon  
[celticsig@afhs.ab.ca](mailto:celticsig@afhs.ab.ca)

### **DIGITAL GENEALOGY SIG**

Meets on the 2nd Saturday  
10 am – Noon  
[familygenes@afhs.ab.ca](mailto:familygenes@afhs.ab.ca)

### **ENGLISH/WELSH SIG**

Meets on the 3rd Saturday  
10 am – Noon  
[englishwelshsig@afhs.ab.ca](mailto:englishwelshsig@afhs.ab.ca)

### **FAMILY TREE MAKER SIG**

Meets on the 1st Saturday  
10 am – Noon  
[ftmsig@afhs.ab.ca](mailto:ftmsig@afhs.ab.ca)

### **LEGACY SIG**

Meets on the 4th or last Sunday  
1:30 – 3:30 pm  
[legacysig@afhs.ab.ca](mailto:legacysig@afhs.ab.ca)

### **ONTARIO SIG**

Meets on the 4th Monday  
1:30 – 3:30 pm  
[ontariosig@afhs.ab.ca](mailto: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](mailto: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
13 May 2023 Saturday	Digital Genealogy SIG/ Family Genes Group	10 am to noon <i>Hybrid</i>	Using the BMD Indexes/Continuing work on Family Genes and TNG.
16 May 2023 Tuesday	DNA SIG	7:00 to 9:00 pm <i>Zoom only</i>	A time to share tips, tools, challenges and successes of using DNA as a genealogy tool.
20 May 2023 Saturday	English/Welsh SIG	10 am to noon <i>Hybrid</i>	<i>The Research Black Hole 1780-1830</i> by Kelly Southworth and member sharing.
22 May 2023 Monday	Ontario SIG	1:30 to 3:30 pm <i>Hybrid</i>	<i>Preparing for the 1931 Canadian Census</i> by Nancy Leveque.
27 May 2023 Saturday	Celtic SIG	10 am to noon <i>Hybrid</i>	Presentations on counties by SIG members with a focus on Scotland.
TBD	Legacy SIG	<i>In-person</i>	Year End Social.
3 Jun 2023 Saturday	Family Tree Maker SIG	10 am to noon <i>Zoom only</i>	Family Tree Maker software help and tips.

## Interesting Albertans

### Dr. Diana May Loranger

Amber Godfrey

Diana May Loranger was born on November 19, 1920 in Edmonton, Alberta, to Charles "Bruno" Loranger and Daisy May (Wells) Loranger. Her father was French Canadian, and her mother was English. They married in England in 1916, and her mother came to Canada as a war bride in 1918. Bruno was a master carpenter and building contractor, and Daisy was a dancer and a competitive swimmer. Diana's life-long love of travel began when her mother took her to England as a baby to meet her family. They spent a year in England and returned to Canada in September 1923.

By the age of three, Diana was already collecting rocks and learning about the natural world. Her father nicknamed her "Madam Curious" and was very supportive of her many interests. Her family moved to Ontario when she was 7 years old. She grew up in Red Lake, Ontario, where she joined the Girl Guides and the Junior Birdmen of America and was the first person to graduate from high school in the town. Diana got her commercial pilot's license which came in handy years later for flying to remote geological job sites.

She studied geology at the University of Manitoba. The Dean of Science was horrified that a woman wanted to study geology and tried to convince her to switch to chemistry. She persevered and in 1943 was the first woman to graduate from the University of Manitoba with a Bachelor of Science in Geology. She went on to study at the University of London and earned her doctorate in micro-paleontology in 1961.



Courtesy of Glenbow Library and Archives Collection,  
University of Calgary

Diana had several job options after graduation, but she chose to work for Imperial Oil in Alberta where oil had just been discovered. A *Calgary Herald* newspaper article in 1954 had her relate a story about one of her first site visits, where the men took her on a 15-mile hike in strenuous territory to test her mettle. She managed to complete the entire hike and showed up at work the next morning, but several of her male colleagues did not. The reporter mentioned that "Dr. Loranger's eyes gleam when she tells that story."

By 1968, she decided to strike out on her own and said her original plan was to work six months, then "loaf for six months in the sun." But there was so much work that she never did get to loaf in the sun. Diana started her own company, Paleo Services, in 1969. At the time, it was the only private consulting firm in micro-paleontology in Canada.

Diana's hobbies, in addition to being a pilot, included building her own log cabin in a remote area, learning to fix her own car, hunting for fossils with friends, playing golf, riding, skiing, bowling, playing tennis, skating and swimming. She learned how to code on computers in 1971 and made a digital record of her work in paleoecology.

Travel was another passion, and she visited over 50 countries for work and pleasure. In 1957, she became vice-president of the Altrusa Club, a women's service organization. Even after she retired, she continued to volunteer with groups that supported disadvantaged women in her community, was active in the Big Sisters organization and led delegations to Calgary city hall on issues surrounding older people and disabled access in the community.

Dr. Diana Loranger passed away on October 9, 2004 at the age of 83 in Calgary, Alberta. She was buried in Queen's Park Cemetery, but there is no headstone to mark her grave. A tree was planted in her honour in Nose Creek Valley by the McInnis & Holloway Funeral Home.

# Research Round Up

## University of Calgary Digital Collections and the Glenbow Western Research Centre

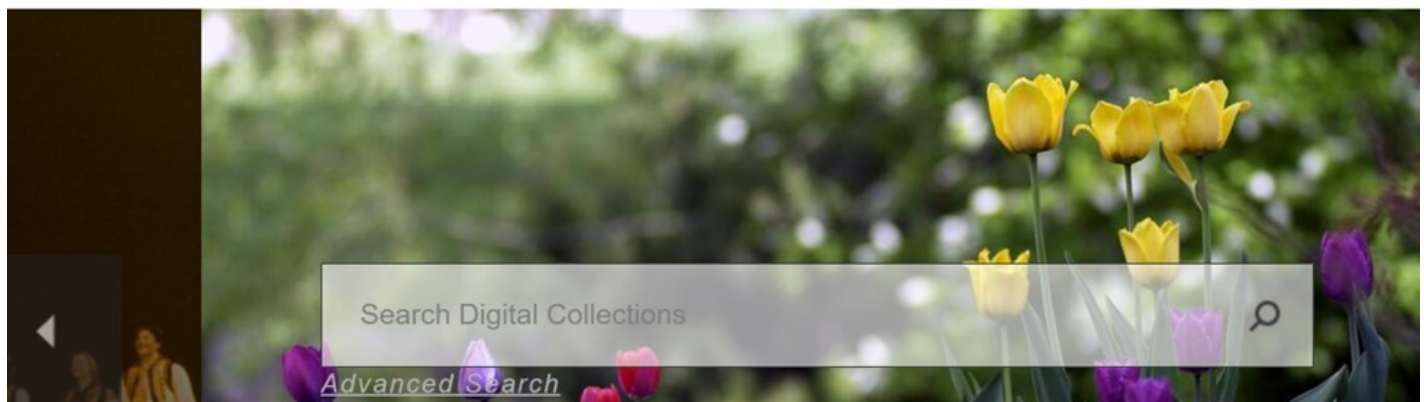
Amber Godfrey

The Glenbow Library and Archives digital resources are now part of the larger University of Calgary Digital Collections. You can access the website at <https://digitalcollections.ucalgary.ca>

Cart (0) | Login



Home | Collections | About | FAQs | Terms and Conditions



The main search box lets you search all the collections at once, with the option to filter your results once they appear. Advanced Search, which you can click on right below the search box, lets you restrict your search by a specific collection, time period, location, or other limiter.

Materials in the digital collections include both copyrighted materials and items that are in the public domain. It is up to you as a researcher to determine the copyright status of materials you find and want to use.

Collections on the website include the Glenbow Library and Archives, Early Alberta Newspapers, Historical Maps, Local Histories, Multicultural Alberta and more.

Much archival material still hasn't been digitized, and you can view the actual materials at the Glenbow Western Research Centre, which is open by appointment only. To book an appointment, visit <https://asc.ucalgary.ca/contact>

If you have questions or need research assistance, you can check the FAQ on the website or contact University of Calgary staff by phone (403-220-8895), by email ([digitize@ucalgary.ca](mailto:digitize@ucalgary.ca)), through Live Chat on the website, or by text (587-316-5628).

Professional advice on caring for heirlooms and personal artifact collections is available from the University of Calgary's Conservation Advisor, David Daley, at [ddaley@ucalgary.ca](mailto:ddaley@ucalgary.ca)

The website also includes how-to videos on topics like Visiting the Glenbow Western Research Centre, How to Order Items from the Digital Collections site, and How to Search and Browse.

Take a look at this valuable Alberta research resource and be amazed by what you find!

## CALGARY PUBLIC LIBRARY

### Family History Coaching

In-person at Central Library

**Calgary Public Library**

May 20, 2023 1:00 – 3:00 pm

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

## CONFERENCES/WEBINARS

\*all times listed are in MST

### A military heritage: Finding your British army lineage in pre-20th century records

Virtual webinar

**Legacy Webinars**

May 10, 2023 6:00 pm

<https://familytreewebinars.com/webinar/a-military-heritage-finding-your-british-army-lineage-in-pre-20th-century-records>

### Immigration to Early Ontario Series:

- They Came By Sail and Steam
- Finding Your German Ancestors in Ontario Records
- Peter Robinson Settlements 1823 & 1825, a British/Canadian Experiment

Virtual webinars

**Toronto Branch, Ontario Ancestors**

May 11, 18 & 25, 2023 5:30 pm

<http://torontofamilyhistory.org/event/immigration-to-ontario-online-series>

### RootsTech 2023

Available until 2024

[www.familysearch.org/rootstech](http://www.familysearch.org/rootstech)

### Zotero - Reasons Why You Need It / New Netherland Roots of Canadians

Virtual webinars

**BIFHSGO**

May 13, 2023 7 am & 8 am

[www.bifhsgo.ca/events](http://www.bifhsgo.ca/events)

### Scandal, Slavery and Survival: More Tales from New France

Hybrid webinar

**Toronto Branch, Ontario Ancestors**

May 29, 2023 5:30 pm

<http://torontofamilyhistory.org/event/scandal-slavery-survival-new-france>

### UELAC Hybrid National Conference

**Where the Sea Meets the Sky**

Hybrid conference

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

June 1– 4, 2023

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

### Diversity in Genealogy Virtual Conference

Virtual conference

**Ontario Ancestors**

Sept 8 – 10, 2023

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

### Celebrating 50 Years of Alberta Genealogy - 1973-2023

In-person conference

**Alberta Genealogical Society**

September 23, 2023 9 am – 8:30 pm

<https://www.abgenealogy.ca/>

# 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](mailto: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](mailto:info@afhs.ab.ca)

**Website:** [www.afhs.ab.ca](http://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.