

# Chinook Arch

June 2023  
Volume 5 Issue 6



ALBERTA FAMILY  
HISTORIES SOCIETY  
*Supporting worldwide family history research*

## NEXT SOCIETY MEETING

**Monday, June 12, 2023**

**Topic:** Year-End Wind-Up Meeting  
**Location:** Aspen Picnic Shelter, Glennfield area of Fish Creek Park  
**Time:** 7 - 9 pm

## FUTURE MEETINGS

**Sunday, August 27, 2023**

**Event:** **AFHS Potluck Picnic**  
**Location:** Jim Benedict's house (address will be sent to members)  
**Time:** TBA

**Monday, September 11, 2023 - Society Meeting**

**Topic:** Finding and Analyzing Documents  
**Location:** Hybrid at Bow Cliff Seniors Centre  
**Time:** 7 - 9:00 pm

**Monday, September 25, 2023**

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

Once again, our Annual General Meeting has produced an updated Board for the New Year. I am excited to be able to serve as your new President. Now I need to get down to meeting as many members of the Alberta Family Histories Society as possible and working my way through the myriad history of AFHS and its many achievements.

Great kudos and applause need to be given to Marion Peterson and her team for the solid efforts of the past year and the continuing support. Good Job!

Below is the Board of Directors for the coming year:

President:	Ron Gilmore
Vice President:	Jim Benedict
Secretary:	Marion Peterson
Treasurer:	Larry Stone
Director:	Stanley Clute
Director:	Suzanne Davidson
Director:	Linda Murray
Director:	Zolton Walford
Director:	Sharon White

Please give your support to these good folks who have stepped up to manage AFHS over the next year. We are still hoping that someone will come forward to fill the empty Director of Finance role.



During the past month I have been learning about the AFHS Cemeteries Project and was impressed with all the work that has been done. I hope to continue learning about this worthwhile project and also pitch in where I can. I had a tour of the AFHS Library and took advantage of the Book Sale to add to my collections. Very impressive!

Unfortunately, I will not be able to attend the Year-End Wind-Up Meeting at Fish Creek Park on June 12 as I will be away in Ontario attending a funeral service and visiting family (and visiting a couple of cemeteries and historical societies too).

I am looking forward to an exciting year with a wonderful organization.

Ron Gilmore

### Grandma's Pioneering Spirit

Warren Peterson

To my mind, my grandmother Alice Elvira (Peterson) Thorne embodied Alberta's pioneering spirit and was a person who laid a foundation for the generations to come.

Alice was born in Phippsburg, Maine, in 1910 to Swedish immigrants, Peter (formerly Per Perrson) and Hilda Lovisa (Bengtsdotter) Peterson. Per left home at a young age to work as a cook on sailing ships and sailed around the world several times. After he survived a bad shipwreck, he returned to Sweden at age 40 where he married 21-year-old Hilda.

Peter brought his young bride to Phippsburg, Maine. All records found show that he was working as a farmer, but family stories say he may have worked as a cook at a hotel. On the 1910 US Census, the family is living in Phippsburg, Peter is listed as a farmer and Alice appears as a 3-month-old. She was the fifth of sixteen children.

Like many other immigrants, Peter heard of cheap farmland being offered to settlers in Western Canada. So, in May 1912, he loaded his young family on a train and headed to the Yeoford District of Alberta. A baby was born enroute but, sadly, did not survive.

With no machinery, no money and six children to support by then, life was very tough for my grandmother's family. Alice, in her later years, admitted being so hungry that she sneaked into a bachelor neighbour's shack to steal food while he was out in the fields. The family eventually abandoned that homestead and resettled in Wetaskiwin, where Peter found work doing carpentry.

On young Alice's second day of school, one of the boys brought a bow and arrow and accidentally shot her in the left eye. This resulted in six weeks of treatment in an Edmonton hospital, but she did recover. Doctors said she could be fitted with a glass eye when she was grown, but she never got one and it didn't bother her after it healed. True to her character, she never covered it up or was self-conscious about it.

Alice left her parents' house to be a servant at a nearby farm, in exchange for a room and food, when

she was just 14. There were few options for a girl in her situation at that time. At 15, she became pregnant and the farmer's son, Godfrey Thorne (age 28), married her. They went on to have six more children.

Alice's days were consumed with housework and childcare, planting a huge garden, preserving food, sewing clothes and many other chores on the mixed farm. I recall Grandma candidly saying to me (with her slightly Swedish accent) that she should have been born a man. Helping clear land, building the pig barns, raising the pigs, and making decisions about the farm operation gave her well-deserved satisfaction. When her husband died of a sudden heart attack, she competently continued running the farm with a son's assistance.

She was also proud of the many pairs of mittens and patchwork quilts she made and gave to her family and to those less fortunate. I understand now how it reflected her life's mission of helping others. She may not have had a lot of material things, but her life was rich in many other ways. From her very tough beginnings and physical challenges, she showed the true spirit of so many pioneers who set the stage for those of us who followed.

Alice died in Wetaskiwin in December 2001 at age 91. When she died, she was survived by six of her children, 17 grandchildren, 38 great-grandchildren and four great-great-grandchildren! She is buried beside her husband Godfrey at Zion Lutheran Cemetery in Clover Lawn District, Leduc County, Alberta.



Alice Elvira (Peterson) Thorne

## 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.

## SIG NEWS

- Ontario SIG will be having a panel discussion on "Breaking Down Brick Walls: Do You Have the Tools?" at their June 26 meeting. This meeting will be Zoom-only. To receive an invitation to the meeting, you can contact [ontariosig@afhs.ab.ca](mailto:ontariosig@afhs.ab.ca)
- The Family Tree Maker SIG and Ontario SIG are the only groups holding meetings in June. All groups will resume meeting in the fall.
- Members can watch recorded sessions of past SIG meetings and peruse handouts at the AFHS website under Resources > Meeting Videos & Handouts.
- Family Tree Maker SIG will be holding an in-person one-on-one "Help Clinic" at the AFHS Library for their October 7 meeting. People wanting a demonstration or having questions about Family Tree Maker software are welcome to attend. There will be a Zoom link for this meeting for those unable to be there and you can receive an invitation by contacting Bev at [ftmsig@afhs.ab.ca](mailto:ftmsig@afhs.ab.ca)
- The November meeting for Family Tree Maker SIG will be a session on "Publishing Your Work" and there will be examples of published works created by SIG members available to view at the October 7 in-person meeting.

### What You Should Know About USB Flash Drives (aka Thumb Drives)

Roy Aggarwal

*A summary of an article on [www.howtogeek.com](http://www.howtogeek.com)*

A good USB drive can function for 10 years or longer. However, actual data lifespan varies depending on build quality, write cycles, temperature and storage conditions of a USB drive. As with most things, you get what you pay for. The money saved on a cheap USB drive is not worth the risk of data loss.

#### Factors That Affect USB Thumb Drive Data Retention

- Quality of the drive
- Write cycles (number of times you can save and delete data on a USB drive)
- Temperature (extreme high and low temperatures can damage a USB drive)
- Storage conditions (humidity, dust and other factors affect the lifespan of a USB drive)

#### Tips for Extending the Lifespan of USB Thumb Drives

- Invest in quality drives
- Avoid extreme temperatures
- Eject safely
- Backup regularly
- Check data integrity periodically

The full article is available here: <https://www.howtogeek.com/887618/how-long-do-usb-thumb-drives-hold-data/>

#### About How-To-Geek

*How-To Geek is an online technology publication with tens of millions of readers each month. Since it was created more than 15 years ago, in 2007, the site's 20,000+ in-depth articles have been read billions of times.*

You can read the full About section here: [www.howtogeek.com/about](http://www.howtogeek.com/about)



## Library Highlights

### Publications by Linda Corupe, UE

Linda Murray

If you are doing any family history research in early Upper Canada, you will most likely have heard of Linda Corupe and her amazing publications. Linda has been researching family history for over 40 years and is a member of the United Empire Loyalist Association of Canada, The Ontario Genealogical Society, and the Ontario Historical Society. She has painstakingly transcribed many census, court, land and BMD records. Her publications include books that are comprehensive works about early Upper Canada and others that focus on specific areas. The AFHS Library has 34 of her books available to borrow.

*Upper Canada Justice: Early Assize Court records 1792-1809* and *Upper Canada Justice, 1819 - 1824* are two that offer interesting information on court cases. These have details of trials for both capital offences and less serious crimes including the names of the jury members. For detailed land records, Corupe has covered five districts of Upper Canada in 12 volumes called *From Settler To Land Owner: First Heir & Devisee Commissions*. The AFHS library has two of the volumes: *Districts of London/Western (1798 -1803)* and *Districts of Home, Newcastle & Niagara (1798 -1804)*. As well, we have a copy of *And Your Petitioner Will Ever Pray*, the papers of the first land board of the Mecklenburg/Midland District (1789 - 1794). This 538 page book details the petitions presented by individuals seeking land grants and includes many Loyalist petitions. The book also lists the lot and concession number for each settler in the district in 1790.

Some of her books focus on specific counties and specific resources like marriages or BMD transcriptions from newspapers. Our library has *Frontenac Marriages 1869 to 1890*, *Hastings Marriages 1869 to 1890*, *Lennox and Addington Marriages 1869 to 1920* and *Prince Edward County Marriages 1869 to 1880*. And we have all four volumes of BMD transcriptions from the *Napanee Beaver Newspaper* covering 1870 to 1907. So, if you have any early ancestors in Upper Canada, you will want to check out these resources.

Another interesting publication by Linda Corupe is the *Ernestown Diarist - Index*, an enhanced index to the diary of John Collins Clark of Ernestown Township, Ontario, written from 1831 to 1864. He kept a diary for over 30 years and noted many births, marriages, deaths and other events happening in the township. Linda has pulled out each name mentioned with the details and the entry date. Here are just a few examples of the information found in this 279-page publication:

Wartman, Ann, Miss	Broke her arm in a fall from a cherry tree, July 26, 1842 Married Henry Knight, Jan. 12, 1843
McNulty, Peter	Of Sheffield, lost his barn, which was struck by lightning, with £60 worth of hay and grain, Aug. 13, 1857
Caton, John Sr.	Of Ernestown, aged about 77, married Miss Ruth Rose, aged 16, daughter of David: she was his third wife, a grand-niece of his first wife. Dec. 2, 1861

These diary entries could certainly add some interest to your family stories if you were lucky enough to have an ancestor mentioned! For a list of all Linda Corupe books in our library, go to the AFHS Library Catalogue and search for "Corupe." The author also has a website with a complete list of her published works at <https://lindacorupe.com>.

## CALGARY PUBLIC LIBRARY

### Family History Coaching

In-person at Central Library

**Calgary Public Library**

June 17, 2023 1:00 – 3:00 pm

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

## CONFERENCES/WEBINARS

\*all times listed are in MDT

### Discover Your Roots series with Elizabeth Briggs

Virtual webinars

**Winnipeg Public Library**

North America & Eastern Europe

June 12, 2023 4:30 – 6:30 pm

<https://wpl.libcal.com/event/3727901>

United Kingdom & Ireland

June 19, 2023 4:30 – 6:30 pm

<https://wpl.libcal.com/event/3727902>

### Finding Your Ancestor in Canadian Land Records with Tara Shymanski

Virtual webinar

**Legacy Webinars**

June 16, 2023 12:00 pm

<https://familytreewebinars.com/webinar/finding-your-ancestors-in-canadian-land-records>

### Canadian Prairies Coffee Chat via ZOOM

Virtual chat

**BC Genealogical Society**

June 15, 2023 8:00 – 10:00 pm

Email [coffeechat@bcgs.ca](mailto:coffeechat@bcgs.ca)

### How to Use the National Archives of Sweden Website, Riksarkivet

Virtual webinar

**FamilySearch**

June 21, 2023 10:00 am

[www.familysearch.org/en/wiki/FamilySearch\\_Library\\_Classes\\_and\\_Webinars](http://www.familysearch.org/en/wiki/FamilySearch_Library_Classes_and_Webinars)

### Wall-Breaker Conference 2023

Virtual conference

**AHSGR Edmonton & District Chapter**

September 8 – 9, 2023

[www.wall-breaker.com/wall-breaker-conference](http://www.wall-breaker.com/wall-breaker-conference)

### Diversity in Genealogy

Virtual conference

**Ontario Ancestors**

September 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 9:00 am – 8:30 pm

<https://www.abgenealogy.ca/ags-celebrates-it-s-50th-anniversary>

### Leaving Their Scottish Homes: What Were They Thinking?

Virtual conference

**BIFHSGO**

October 28 – 29, 2023

[www.bifhsgo.ca/2023-conference](http://www.bifhsgo.ca/2023-conference)

# 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

### June Hours

Thursday, 10 am - 2 pm

Saturday, Noon - 4 pm

### Summer Hours

Thursday, 10 am - 2 pm

Saturday, 10 am - 2 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](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 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.