

# Chinook Arch

September 2023  
Volume 5 Issue 7



ALBERTA FAMILY  
HISTORIES SOCIETY

Supporting worldwide family history research

## NEXT SOCIETY MEETING

**Monday, September 11, 2023**

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

## FUTURE MEETINGS

**Monday, September 25, 2023**

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

**Saturday, September 30, 2023**

**Topic:** Strategic Planning Meeting  
**Location:** AFHS Library  
**Time:** 9 am - noon

**Monday, October 16, 2023**

**Topic:** City of Calgary Archives  
**Location:** Hybrid at Bow Cliff Seniors Centre  
**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, research tips and tricks, new genealogy technology you love or any related topics are accepted.

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**Email:** [chinookarch@afhs.ab.ca](mailto:chinookarch@afhs.ab.ca)

# President's Message

Ron Gilmore

Summertime! A time for family, BBQs out on the patio, visiting friends, time at the beach and maybe even a holiday away. All good. And yet, the family history bug remains. So, what do we do? Well, we blend our genealogy passion with real life.

In my case, my son, my 13-year-old grandson and I took a short five-day road trip. We drove to north-central Saskatchewan, seeking to find the footprints of my grandfather. Thomas McCracken Gilmore was headhunted from Ireland to teach school in Canada in 1911. He taught in several locations north of Saskatoon, and we drove to those small towns, seeking out the local library, the museum, the local newspaper office, or anyone who knew the local history.

We found him everywhere we went, typically in one of the local history books either with a photo or in a list of teachers. We found the old schools or the sites where the schools once stood. Everywhere, we were greeted with open arms and loads of information. Folks could not have been more helpful.

Now, I am writing up our journey with photos and the information we gathered to share with all the cousins and the rest of our family. Thomas left big footprints.



Meanwhile, our Society's volunteers continue their valuable roles in supporting AFHS. Our cemetery team has reached another milestone – more than 100 cemeteries! We are pursuing a TV news piece and a newspaper article to provide some exposure to the solid work that has been done. The Finance team has submitted our annual Casino report to the government, capping off the Casino team effort from last winter and enabling us to survive well financially. Another major win! Volunteers continue to serve our members with open library times, maintenance and upgrades to equipment. Our Special Interest Group leaders are now making plans for the startup of meetings in September, and the editors of the *Windsock* and *Chinook Arch* are preparing content to keep us informed. Our website development continues at full speed. Thanks ever so much to the amazing volunteers that keep our society humming. You are truly appreciated.

As we enjoy our summer, we also look forward to the fall when we will schedule a Board planning session and a return to regular meetings. I cannot wait to meet more of our members and listen to what we can do as a Society to remain vibrant and meaningful. Ideas are welcome! Send them to me at [president@afhs.ab.ca](mailto:president@afhs.ab.ca).

## DNA Knocked Down a Brick Wall

Bev Smith

Anyone that has looked at the Canadian census knows that under “place of birth” you find just the country name. That’s what happened to Larry when he looked for his great-grandfather. All he got was “England.” FYI: The British censuses are far more specific with the community and county.

Like so many North Americans, Larry turned to DNA for clues. His results showed a large match to my husband Wayne at 136 cM/9 segments. This is where I came in. Larry’s last name matched the maiden name of Wayne’s great-grandmother Emma (West) Shove, who died in 1890 in North Dakota.



Wayne Smith with his great-grandmother’s headstone

Emma had four brothers. I only found records for one who came to Canada and settled in the same part of Ontario as Emma and her husband Fred. He hadn’t married, so he was likely not Larry’s ancestor. There was another brother, William, the youngest child. He has been a brick wall as there were too many William West’s living in London to identify our man.

I began a tree for Larry using what he had and found the family in 1901, in Chatham, Ontario. Head of the family was “William C.,” born October 18, in England, and his age suggests that he was born in 1845.

Our William was christened March 12, 1843 and although it was hard to read, the parish register suggested he was born in February. Parents were “John & Annie”, so not likely the guy born in October and there was no middle name either.

So I researched Larry’s ancestor’s marriage and wife’s family but could find no link to Wayne in that branch. On the Ontario marriage record his parents were John & Annie (how common is that?) and he had a middle initial.

Then the General Record Office in the UK offered digital copies of some birth certificates at a reduced price. Always game for a bargain, I sent for our William’s and got it immediately. He wasn’t born in February as I thought but the October before he was christened. On the 18 no less! Bingo! Our guys matched, except for the middle name. Did he want to impress his new in-laws, or was he honouring his brother Charles? We will never know that one.

Eighteenth of October 1842 at Stokenchurch Greenwich	William	Boyd	John West	Anna West formerly Plecher
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Without DNA we may never have figured that William C. West, who died in Chatham in 1919, was our guy.

Long story short, we met Larry and his wife for lunch as they live in Alberta, and we had an interesting time. Larry and Wayne are fourth cousins. He is the first previously unknown DNA match we’ve ever met and guess who forgot to take any pictures? Me!



## Special Interest Groups

**SPECIAL INTEREST GROUPS (SIGs)** are the ideal place to expand your knowledge and share your own family history challenges.

The small-group setting gives you an opportunity to ask questions and get help from more experienced researchers.

**SIGs are now being held in three formats: in-person only, Zoom only or a hybrid version of 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 borrowed 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 now view additional FamilySearch digital records at the AFHS library that they can't see at home.

## SIG NEWS

- 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.
- Members can watch recorded sessions of past SIG meetings and peruse handouts at the AFHS website under Resources > Meeting Videos & Handouts. Recent examples:
  - ♦ The Research Black Hole 1780-1830 by Kelly Southworth (includes handout)
  - ♦ Preparing for the Release of the 1931 Census by Nancy Leveque (includes handout)
  - ♦ Ireland's Griffith's Valuation Records by Ron Gilmore (includes handout)



### Scanning Documents With Your Smartphone

Amber Godfrey

Many people, me included, use their smartphones to take pictures of all kinds of things: family and friends, cute pets, parking spot numbers, your license plate, something you want your partner to pick up at the store...the list is endless. But did you know that your smartphone can be a portable scanner?


Much better than trying to take a clear picture of a document or a batch of documents, iPhones and Android phones both have options to clearly scan a document or photo and then save it as a PDF document or JPG file. And even better? The basic options are free!

#### iPhone


Apple has built a simple scanner into the Notes app already installed on your phone. To see the actual help page on the Apple website, go here: <https://support.apple.com/en-ca/HT210336>

First open the Notes app and select a note or create a new one.

Then tap the Camera button , then tap Scan Documents .

Place your document in view of the camera. To manually capture a scan, tap the Shutter button  or press one of the Volume buttons. If your device is in Auto mode, your document will automatically scan.

Drag the corners to adjust the scan to fit the page, then tap Keep Scan.

Tap Save. To add more pages to the scanned file, tap the  button.

#### Android

Android phones have a few different options but one of the simplest is Microsoft Office Lens. If you are already using Microsoft apps like Word, Excel, and OneDrive, the interface will be familiar.

You can download the free app from the Google Play store or Microsoft website. The icon looks like an orange camera lens with a white L on top.

When you open the app, you are taken directly to the Viewfinder screen. The first time you use it, you may have to tap the Start Scanning button (a white camera on an orange background).

There are several options for scanning different items (Whiteboard, Document, Business Card, Photo) at the bottom of the screen but you will probably use Document the most.

Place the document you want to scan on a flat, preferably blank surface, and hold the phone above it. An orange rectangle will appear when the app has a solid lock on the edges of the document. If you have multiple pages, just click on Add New at the bottom of the app on the left side and repeat as many times as necessary.

After you have the document(s) scanned, you can save it as a JPG file to your photo gallery or as a PDF file to your phone's storage. You also have the option to send the image to OneDrive, PowerPoint or OneNote. Plus, you can import the document to Microsoft Word and use OCR to convert the document to a text file.

For more information, and examples of two other free options to scan documents with your Android device, check out this article: [www.androidpolice.com/how-to-scan-documents-android](http://www.androidpolice.com/how-to-scan-documents-android)

### 100 Cemeteries Strong, and Counting...

Roy Aggarwal

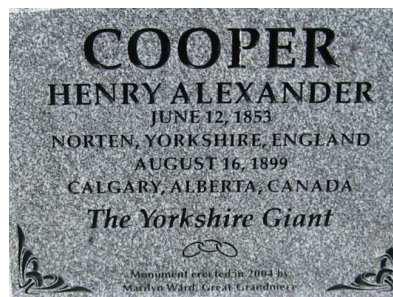
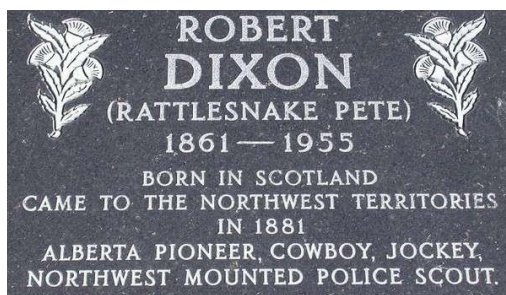


# ALBERTA ANCESTORS

July 11, 2023 marked a major milestone for the AFHS cemetery web project Alberta Ancestors. With the addition of Albion Ridge Cemetery in Barons and Chancellor Cemetery in Chancellor, the website cemetery count has now reached triple digits.

We are proud to announce that we have now documented 100 cemeteries in the Southern Alberta region. Available on the website are well over 200,000 searchable names and almost 150,000 searchable headstone images of persons interred in the Southern Alberta region.

Alberta Ancestors is an ambitious multi-year initiative and will continue to grow in the future. In addition to robust persons and image searchability, you can also find interesting statistics and stories from the region's pioneers like Robert Dixon, better known as "Rattlesnake Pete", and Henry Alexander Cooper "The Yorkshire Giant."



AFHS volunteers have a long history of documenting cemetery burial information, going back as far as the mid to late 1970s, even before the Society's creation in 1980. Over the years, many AFHS members have stepped up to lead teams of intrepid volunteers around Southern Alberta cemeteries to photograph grave markers, record inscriptions, and help fill in blanks for genealogists searching for information on persons of interest in and around Calgary. The latest team lead is AFHS member Wendy Schultz, who took the reins over from our amazing Heather Williams in early 2021. Since that time, Wendy and her team of volunteers have managed to update over 100 cemeteries and over 200,000 persons as of Summer 2023. Quite an accomplishment! You can search through the burial information, including the photographs, at our Alberta Ancestors website:

[www.albertaancestors.ca](http://www.albertaancestors.ca)

In August of 2023, while AFHS was at a cemetery field trip in Okotoks, several local media outlets including CBC News were on the scene to conduct interviews with some of the volunteers present. The volunteers included Ron Gilmore, Wendy Gilmore, Melanie Gilmore, Roy Aggarwal, John Casson, Ann Casson, Wendy Schultz, and Laura Schultz.

CBC put together a great 3 ½ minute video which you can view [here](#) or on the Alberta Ancestor website at <https://albertaancestors.ca/appreciation>. The video does a great job of showcasing the work being done and is a wonderful PR piece for the Society. And we are just getting started!

## CALGARY PUBLIC LIBRARY

### Family History Coaching

In-person at Central Library

**Calgary Public Library**

September 23, 2023 1:00 – 3:00 pm

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

## CONFERENCES/WEBINARS

\*all times listed are in MDT

### Scottish Indexes Conference XXI

Virtual conference

**Scottish Indexes**

September 9, 2023

[www.scottishindexes.com](http://www.scottishindexes.com)

### Getting Started with Research series:

Germany, Sweden, Ireland, Brazil, U.S., Mexico and New Zealand

Virtual webinars

**FamilySearch**

September 13, 2023 9:00 am – 4:00 pm

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

### So, You Think You Know All About City Directories?

Virtual webinar

September 15, 2023 9:30 am

<https://familytreewebinars.com/webinar/so-you-think-you-know-all-about-city-directories>

### 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>

### Surviving Your Visit to a Cemetery: Cemetery Etiquette

Virtual webinar

**BYU Family History Library**

September 24, 2023 3:30 pm

<https://fh.lib.byu.edu/classes-and-webinars/sunday-classes>

### Ethical Dilemmas in Genealogy – Dr Penny Walters

Virtual webinar

**Huron Branch, Ontario Ancestors**

October 4, 2023 4:30 pm

<https://huron.ogs.on.ca/events/huron-branch-ethical-dilemmas-in-genealogy-dr-penny-walters>

### FamilySearch's Ontario Land Records

Virtual webinar

**Ontario Ancestors**

October 5, 2023 6:00 pm

<https://ogs.on.ca/october-webinar-familysearchs-ontario-land-records-ken-mckinlay>

### 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)

## About Our Society

Alberta Family Histories 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 100 cemeteries and nearly 150,000 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

**Fall/Winter Hours**  
resume on  
September 7

Thursday, 10 am - 2 pm

Saturday, Noon - 4 pm

*Check our website calendar  
for any 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.