

# Chinook Arch

October 2023  
Volume 5 Issue 8



ALBERTA FAMILY  
HISTORIES SOCIETY  
*Supporting worldwide family history research*

## NEXT SOCIETY MEETING

**Monday, October 16, 2023**

**Topic:** The City of Calgary Archives was created to safeguard and make available city records to the public. Join us as a staff member explains what records are available, how to access them, and how to use their new portal.

**Speaker:** City of Calgary Archives staff

**Location:** Hybrid at Bow Cliff Seniors Centre

**Time:** 7 - 9 pm

## FUTURE MEETINGS

**Monday, October 23, 2023**

**Topic:** Chit Chat Room

**Moderators:** Jim Benedict and co-host

**Location:** Zoom (link on website calendar)

**Time:** 7 - 9 pm

**Monday, November 13, 2023**

**Topic:** Combining DNA with a Paper Trail

**Speaker:** Panel of DNA SIG members

**Location:** Hybrid at Bow Cliff Seniors Centre

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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.

**Editor:** Amber Godfrey

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

# President's Message

Ron Gilmore

We are quickly shifting into the many activities and events of a new genealogy year. Summer is over! Loads of sessions are being planned by our SIG teams. Marion Peterson keeps cranking out our *Windsock*, and Amber Godfrey publishes our informative *Chinook Arch*, both loaded with Society information. Be sure to share the *Chinook Arch* with friends and family.

A big "Thank You" to Jim and Joan Benedict for hosting the AFHS End-of-Summer Social and to everyone that shared amazing stories surrounding the family artifacts they brought. Who cannot be fascinated by the tales that abound within our family histories?



We have just finished our annual Strategic Planning exercise, and an updated document from this effort will soon be shared with AFHS Society members. Many thanks to the participants for their energy and ideas that they contributed. I believe we have made some good progress.

Now is the time to get ready for winter and spend some screen time on your favorite research. Wendy Schultz and her team will be attacking the mountain of data that has been accumulated over the summer and formulating this material to be added to the already bountiful **Alberta Ancestors** website. Our webmaster, Jim Benedict, and Roy Aggarwal now have an impressive suite of websites that they will be leveraging over the next while.

I will be travelling south for the winter and will join you remotely until my return. Many thanks to all those folks, especially Marion Peterson, who have helped me assume my new role with AFHS. I could not have survived without your help! Please know that you are appreciated.



### Accidental Genealogy

Pat Hodge

A few years ago, I was looking for the correct home for a photograph of the airfield in Botwood, Newfoundland. My father-in-law, Robert G. Hodge, was a Canadian Air Force pilot who flew over the North Atlantic looking for submarines during World War II, based out of Botwood. Tragically, he was killed on May 16, 1945, eight days after Germany surrendered. He was a passenger on a flight from Edmonton to Calgary which crashed in a farmer's field near Ponoka, Alberta. Robert left a wife and two children, age six and two.



Flight Lieutenant Robert G. Hodge and son

The photo of the airfield was sent to his wife, Evelyn. Our family has another copy, so I decided to pursue a place of honour for this one. In researching Botwood, I came across the Flying Boat Museum. I contacted the Museum and spoke to Lisa Hemeon, a volunteer with the Botwood Heritage Society that runs both the Flying Boat Museum and the Botwood Heritage Centre. Lisa told me a copy of this picture already existed in their Archives. She noticed that the photo had been presented to Robert's widow by Legion Branch 5 in Botwood so perhaps they would like it. This presentation had been arranged by Robert's daughter, Wendie Margaret, who visited Botwood on a trip to Newfoundland in the 1970s. At that time, Wendie met Ben Elliot, a local historian who was very familiar with the history of the airfield. Ben kind-

ly arranged to have two copies of the photo sent to the Hodge family in Calgary.

But my story doesn't end there. In my correspondence with Lisa Hemeon, I couldn't resist asking her if she was from Nova Scotia. My grandmother's family name is Hemeon, which is an unusual name. Well, this turned out to be like opening a Christmas present and having it spill over with special gifts!

Lisa replied:

"How interesting that your grandmother was a Hemeon from Bridgewater! Without a doubt we share the same bloodline. The Hemeon family of Nova Scotia arrived during the 1760's, Four Brothers, Loyalist soldiers who had been thrown out of New Jersey due to their allegiance to the King. They all originally landed in Yarmouth and over the years branched out throughout Nova Scotia. Some returned to the States and just one came to Newfoundland (1881) and that was my great-grandfather, William Hemeon from Yarmouth.

An interesting fact: The Hemeons are Dutch and came to North America in 1632. The name was Van Heningen before it was anglicized during the 1700's."

What a discovery of Dutch heritage that I had no idea about! Lisa sent me a GEDCOM of the Hemeon family, which is still in my files. I have yet to give it the treatment it deserves. Apparently, the Hemeon brothers lost everything they owned in the American Revolution. Their properties were farms in the area now known as Greenwich Village. So much to discover, and I look forward to pursuing all of it!

There is yet one more link through the photograph. Barry Arch, who was Vice President of the Legion when I sent the photograph to them, was a Hemeon through his mother's line. And he is a cousin to Lisa!

I am amazed at the connection originating from a simple request for a home for a historic photograph.

## 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

- The English/Welsh SIG will be sharing stories about their ancestor's military service during World War I and World War II at their October 21 meeting.
- The October 23 meeting of the Ontario SIG will see members sharing their finds in the 1931 Canada Census and listening to a report from Lorna Laughton, who attended the Ontario Ancestors conference virtually.
- The Celtic SIG will be discussing Scottish Tartans, Plaids and Highlander Dress at their October 28 meeting. This will include how to find out if your ancestor had a tartan, how old it is, and a bit of history of when these pieces of clothing were worn and by whom.
- The November 4 meeting of the 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.
- Members can watch recorded sessions of past SIG meetings and peruse handouts at the AFHS website under Resources > Meeting Videos & Handouts.

## Old Photographs and Digital Formats

Ron Gilmore

You have just inherited a large box of old photos when they cleaned out your grandmother's house after she parted this world. Now, you would like to digitize some of these photos for posterity. But what format should you use for the digital copies?

In my opinion, the answer is simple: JPEG.

There is one, and only one reason, to even consider alternatives. Repeated small changes to JPEG images will introduce gradual deterioration of the quality (e.g. the sharpness) of the image. These losses can be avoided by using proper procedure or workflow.

### SCANNING

- Scan the original image, most garden-variety office scanners will suffice.
- Use a 300 DPI resolution setting for images that will later be shown on a computer and 600 DPI for high quality material that you may want to print.
- Save your scanning output as JPEG, using the high-end 90 - 95% quality/compression setting. These numbers are described in the photo-editor software and their range varies from one software to another. I use 600 DPI for scanning my old photos.

### EDITING

Edit to improve the scanned image (in the order given below):

1. Crop and rotate (if necessary), remove blemishes on the original (scratches, fold lines, spots, spill marks, etc.) in one single edit session. Save the image over the original scanner output version. This is the file you will archive forever and might want to go back to if necessary ("gen-0" file). You will spend the most time on this step, as you don't want to have to do this again.
2. Using your "gen-0" file as the source, edit the image to improve the tonal range, contrast/brightness, and/or colour. Again, do this in a single edit session and save as a first-generation derivative ("gen-1" file). This step requires some skill and practice, until you reach a certain level of proficiency. You may sometimes repeat this step, but always start with the "gen-0" version.

3. Reduce the resolution to fit the display device. You can choose to add "ornamentation" for the specific device (e.g. frame, round corners, watermark, monochrome to sepia, colour to black-and-white, add copyright to metadata, remove metadata that should not be included in files leaving your control, etc.). Reduce the JPEG quality/compression setting to 75 - 85%. Use a lower setting for computer display, higher for printing. Save the file to wherever the image is made available to the consumer - a web server, print service upload site, e-mail attachment, etc. This is the third-generation derivative file ("gen-3"), but it is no longer part of your photo archives, and is not meant to be changed or edited ever again.

The image manipulation work required in step (1) is great and typically performed with software like GIMP or Adobe Photoshop. In step (2), the work factor is low to medium and in step (3) the work required is minuscule and often achieved by using an automatic tool such as ImageMagick.

### NOTES OF INTEREST

While I would have no problem sending a complete beginner to do a project with a shoebox of prints and nothing but the above instructions and the popular guide "*GIMP for Dummies*", this is not the case for the scanning of negatives or slides. While it would follow the same philosophy, it gets much more complicated very quickly in both equipment and software selection.

When editing in step (1), if it cannot be done in single sitting, intermediate saves can be done in the photo-editor's internal, no-loss format (using file extension .XCF in GIMP). Such files can be re-opened and saved with no loss of quality, but these files are large and should be disposed of when the step end is reached.

GIMP is a free open-source photo editor that has all the power and capability of Adobe Photoshop. It is very powerful and can be a bit intimidating with all its functionality but does have tutorials available to help beginning users.

[www.gimp.org](http://www.gimp.org)

In conclusion, I suggest you use JPEG to save your image files. My theory is that if JPEG is ever eclipsed or retired, the digital world will find a way to provide a forward path for me, along with the rest of the many users worldwide.

## Magazines, Journals and Newsletters in the AFHS Library

Amber Godfrey and Lorna Laughton

If you prefer flipping through a print magazine to read articles, look at photographs, and even check out advertisements for interesting new products, our AFHS Library subscribes to several popular magazines of interest to family historians. These are all available to be borrowed to read in the comfort of your own home, or they can be perused while you are at the AFHS Library taking a break from your research or before or after a meeting you attend.

Titles include:

Title	Call Number	Publication Dates
Family Tree Magazine (US)	929.1 TREE	2016 - 2023
Family Tree Magazine (UK)	941 FAMI	1988 - 2023
History Magazine	929.1 HIST	2013- 2023
Internet Genealogy	005 INTE	2006 - 2023
Irish Roots	941.5 IRRO	2011 - 2023
Who Do You Think You Are?	941 WHO	2013 - 2023

As well, the library receives many genealogy and family history newsletters and journals from other societies. Most are available in print format only and can be borrowed from the library, just like the magazines.

A small selection of the print journals and newsletters available include:

Title	Call Number	Publication Dates
Alberta History	971.23 HAS	1976 - 2022
American Ancestors (NEHGS)	974 NEHG	2011 - 2023
Anglo-Celtic Roots	941 BIFHS	2014 - 2023
East European Genealogist	947 EEGS	2011 - 2022
The Journal: GSG A German Genealogy Group for Poland and Volhynia	943 SGG	2013 - 2023
Newsletter: Mennonite Historical Society of Alberta	200 MHSA	2003 - 2023

Several journals and newsletters now available for AFHS members to read online at our website. Make sure you are signed in to the website, go to Resources > Library > Exchange Journals or go directly to <https://afhs.ab.ca/exchange-journals> (you will be prompted to sign in).

All of the current and back issues of our own publications, *Chinook Arch*, *Chinook*, and *Quarterlies*, are available on our website too. *Chinook Arch* is available to everyone, but the latter two are for members-only. You can go to Resources > Publications or you can use the direct link <https://afhs.ab.ca/publications> (you will be prompted to sign in).

## CALGARY PUBLIC LIBRARY

### Family History Coaching

In-person at Central Library

**Calgary Public Library**

October 28, 2023 1:00 – 3:00 pm

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

## CONFERENCES/WEBINARS

\*all times listed are in MDT

### Locating Ontario Land Records

Virtual

**Surrey Libraries**

October 13, 2023 8:00 am

[www.surreylibraries.ca/events/locating-ontario-land-records](http://www.surreylibraries.ca/events/locating-ontario-land-records)

### Genealogy Gems in Scottish Libraries and Archives by Christine Woodcock

Hybrid (virtual and in-person)

**Simcoe County Branch, Ontario Ancestors**

October 14, 2023 12:00 pm

<https://simcoe.ogs.on.ca/branch-meetings>

### Start Organized, Stay Organized: Laying the Groundwork for a Successful U.S. Research Project

Virtual

**FamilySearch**

October 19, 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)

### Deconstructing Family Stories: Are They Fact, Fiction, or a Little of Both

Hybrid (virtual and in-person)

**Legacy Family Tree Webinars**

October 20, 2023 9:30 am

<https://familytreewebinars.com/webinar/deconstructing-family-stories-are-they-fact-fiction-or-a-little-of-both>

### Are You Missing Important Family History Clues in Your Old Family Photographs?

Virtual

**Legacy Family Tree Webinars**

October 24, 2023 12:00 pm

<https://familytreewebinars.com/webinar/are-you-missing-important-family-history-clues-in-your-old-family-photographs>

### 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)

### Researching Canada's War Dead, 1914 – 1945

Virtual

**Québec Genealogical eSociety**

November 5, 2023 5:00 pm

<https://genquebec.com/en/webinars-0>

### Scottish Indexes Conference

Virtual

**Scottish Indexes**

November 25, 2023

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

## 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

Thursday, 10 am - 2 pm

Saturday, Noon - 4 pm

*Check our website calendar  
for any time changes or closures.*



## 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.