

Chinook Arch

January 2024
Volume 6 Issue 1



ALBERTA FAMILY
HISTORIES SOCIETY
Supporting worldwide family history research

NEXT SOCIETY MEETING

Monday, January 8, 2024

Topic: The Japanese Canadian Experience in World War II

Speaker: Pat Jette

Location: Zoom only (register on website)

Time: 7 - 9 pm

FUTURE MEETINGS

Monday, January 15, 2024

Topic: Chit Chat Room

Hosts: Jim Benedict and Linda Murray

Location: Zoom (link on website calendar)

Time: 7 - 9 pm

Monday, February 12, 2024

Topic: British Home Children

Speaker: Susan Brazeau

Location: Zoom only (register on website)

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, book reviews or any related topics are accepted.

Editor: Amber Godfrey

Email: chinookarch@afhs.ab.ca

President's Message

Ron Gilmore

Here we are, with another brand-new year starting. It is time to think about what we might accomplish in the months ahead. We all have many potential family history projects, I'm sure!

Here are my top ten goals for 2024:

1. Take another crack at one of my long time Brick Walls, my second great-grandmother Mary Anne McCracken. We know so little about her other than a partial pension record (and it is only the auditor's summary).
2. Finish recording videos of my 50 or more short articles on various genealogy topics. I will then forward them to Jim Benedict who will use his magic touch on them and then post them on the AFHS YouTube channel.
3. Try to find more information on the 1918 Spanish Flu epidemic that took the life of my paternal grandmother only weeks after my grandfather returned from WWI.
4. Update and document the string of property records for my wife's family in Peterborough, Ontario.
5. Update and document the four sets of homestead records for our family – one in Manitoba, one in Saskatchewan and two in Ontario.
6. Add photographs of family members to my Family Tree Maker tree.
7. Add headstone photos for family members to my Family Tree Maker tree.
8. Generate another updated set of fan charts for my kids for next Christmas. I can do this through my Family Tree Maker software, but Ancestry and FamilySearch both offer an option for fan chart views of your family tree now, too.
9. Incorporate the new information about my daughter-in-law's Chinese family into our family tree.
10. Keep writing short genealogy articles to showcase more pieces of my family's history and more pieces of my own history. Often writing up the information we have helps us see what we are missing. Don't forget, the AFHS *Chinook Arch* is always looking for short articles to publish. Write, write, write!

Whew! I hope I can make major dents in those target projects. How about you? Do you have a list? Do you have anyone you can collaborate with on your projects? Collaboration has proven to be so incredibly rewarding for me.

Of course, I will also continue to do my best to contribute to supporting the strategic objectives of AFHS and its members. All the best to everyone for your genealogy efforts for 2024!



The Man on the Motorcycle

Ron Gilmore

It all began with an old black and white photo that I inherited with my family history material. The picture showed a man, with a pipe in his mouth, sitting on a motorcycle in a small crowd of men. The number "5" was mounted on the front of the motorcycle. Nothing was written on the back of the photo.



One of the buildings in the background of the photo looks like a building owned by Samuel Gilmore, an older brother to my grandfather Thomas McCracken Gilmore. I surmised it might be Samuel, as he operated a cycle shop at this location near the foot of Bridge Street in Banbridge, County Down, Ireland.

When I shared this photo and my theory of who it was to a Facebook group of the Banbridge Historical Society, a chap named William Keough commented that I was wrong about who the man was and suggested that he and I were related. Sure enough, I found William in my family tree. William said that the motorcycle driver was indeed a Gilmore and that he had been shot dead trying to run a roadblock.

A year passed and I posted the same photo to the same Facebook group again. This time, someone suggested I post it to another Face-

book group called *Banbridge Back in the Day*. With nothing to lose, I did so and right away I received a response. Matt Bankhead posted two pages from a local Irish newspaper called the *Northern Whig* dated March 15, 1922, with the inquest into the death of Samuel Gilmore, aged 37, of Tullyrain.

Wow! According to the article, three B Special Patrolmen, paramilitaries guarding the roadblock, had yelled at Samuel to stop and he did not. One soldier fired a shot into the air, and he still did not stop. Another soldier fired at the motorcycle to disable it but struck and killed Samuel instead. At the inquest, several witnesses testified, and Samuel's fiancée, Miss Dumigan, submitted a deposition. The inquest recommended better methods of alerting people to stop at roadblocks, like using "a lamp with recognisable flash," but no charges were laid.

So who was Samuel Gilmore? My second great-grandfather, James Gilmore, lived in Tullyrain (just a short distance northeast of Banbridge) and married Mary Ann McCracken. They had seven sons and one daughter. Samuel, the third eldest, was born about 1838. A younger son, John (born 1842), was my great-grandfather and the father of my grandfather, Thomas McCracken Gilmore. Samuel's birthdate suggests that he may not be the motorcycle driver. He would be far too old. Perhaps it is a son or a nephew? More work to be done here.

Update December 26, 2023:

I did a search on the PRONI website, and it showed that the inquest records for this incident are open, which means they are available to view and copy. This morning I sent a request to a colleague who lives in the Banbridge area. He is a regular PRONI visitor, so I asked him to secure a copy of the inquest records for me. One more step in identifying the *Man on the Motorcycle*!

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

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 Tuesday
7:00 – 9:00 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
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 all in-person SIG group meetings are held there. Members are encouraged to stay after meetings, when possible, to browse the collection!

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 asking members the question "All I Want for 2024 is to Find a UK Record About..." at their January meeting.
- Marion Peterson is giving a demonstration of how to add census records to your tree at the Legacy SIG meeting in January.
- Members can watch recorded sessions of past SIG meetings and peruse handouts at the AFHS website. You must be signed in to the website to access them. Go to Resources, then click on Meeting Videos & Handouts.
- To search for specific topics or words on the Meeting Videos & Handouts page, hold down the CTRL and F keys at the same time to bring up a search box, then enter your search terms and press Enter.
- If your research journey takes you to Ontario, check out some of the resources posted in the Ontario SIG section. Titles include:
 - Newspapers (handout on historical Ontario newspaper sources)
 - Ontario Ancestors Resources (video presentation with handouts)
 - Bruce and Grey County Resources (handout)
 - Ontario Tax Assessment Records (video)

Internet Archive's Wayback Machine

Amber Godfrey

Have you ever found a great piece of information on a website about your family and bookmarked it, but later, when you went back to the website, the information (or the whole website) was unavailable? Or you went back to a website to get information to create a source citation, but the information changed? So frustrating! Internet Archive's *Wayback Machine* can help!

The *Wayback Machine* is a service provided by Internet Archive, a non-profit group, that lets people visit archived versions of public websites. The search box is found right at the top of the main Internet Archive webpage.

<https://archive.org>



You can enter the URL of the website you want to find, then choose a date and look at an exact copy of the website on that date. Internet Archive has over 800 billion pages saved with multiple dates captured for each website. Be aware that they can't save pages with logins or ones that the owners have requested not be saved to the *Wayback Machine*.

If you don't remember the exact URL of the site you visited, the *Wayback Machine* allows you to search using keywords. The list of websites that the search brings up includes the URL, the name of the website, how many web pages are included, how many distinct image files there are, how many "captures" (copies) have been made of the website and the years the captures cover. The search results are ranked by how many captures there are and the number of relevant links to the website's main page.

To learn more about how to use the *Wayback Machine*, you can watch this short video explaining the basics.

<https://help.archive.org/help/using-the-wayback-machine>

There are five different ways that you can help add web pages to the *Wayback Machine*.

The simplest is the **Save Page Now** feature. Paste the URL of a web page you want to save into the form under the Save Page Now title and press the Save Page button. This will work for most pages, although there are some exceptions.

Another easy option is to install the **Save Page** browser extension or add-on to your browser. These are available for Chrome, Firefox and Safari web browsers. Or you can download an app to either Android or iOS devices.

For more ways to save pages, you can read this article:

<https://help.archive.org/help/save-pages-in-the-wayback-machine>

FamilySearch Centres in Calgary

Amber Godfrey

FamilySearch Centres provide free research help to anyone that visits. Volunteers are available to answer questions and to help you use the free resources. You do not have to be a member of the LDS Church to visit. As they say on their website, "The Church provides FamilySearch resources free of charge to everyone, regardless of tradition, culture, or religious affiliation."

Resources vary from centre to centre, but they often include print resources, computers, subscription databases, family history software, microfilm and/or microfiche readers and printers. For example, at the Calgary South FamilySearch Centre in Calgary, you can access the following databases:

- Ancestry.com (Library Edition)
- Civil War, American (Alexander Street Press)
- Findmypast
- Fold3
- Genline FamilyFinder
- Godfrey Memorial Library
- Heritage Quest Online
- Historic Map Works Library Edition
- Paper Trail
- World Vital Records

They also have computers available with a flatbed scanner, printer, photocopier, microfilm and microfiche readers (some with printers).

All centres provide access to digital records from the Family History Library through the FamilySearch website. Some records are only available to be viewed at FamilySearch Centres, due to legal restrictions. These show up as icons with a little lock symbol beside them when you view them at home. Most of these locked files

can be viewed at FamilySearch Affiliate Libraries (like the AFHS Library), but a few may only be viewed at the Family Search Centres.

Volunteers at the centres are trained on using the resources and offer help with research worldwide. Some even offer help with other languages. If you are doing research in a language unfamiliar to you, it is worth checking if someone at the centre can help.

The FamilySearch Wiki has a wealth of information on what genealogy records are available for specific places and where you can find them.

www.familysearch.org/en/wiki

One of the help sections on the FamilySearch wiki includes an introduction to and help tips on using the FamilySearch catalogue.

www.familysearch.org/en/wiki/Introduction_to_the_FamilySearch_Catalog

There are currently four FamilySearch Centres open in Calgary and the centre in Cochrane is close to people in the NW of the city.

Calgary Alberta South (2021 17 Avenue SW)
www.familysearch.org/en/wiki/Calgary_Alberta_FamilySearch_Centre

Fish Creek (14540 Parkland Boulevard SE)
Phone: 403-225-9736

Bow River (833 44 Street SE)
AB_CalgaryBowRiver@familyhistorymail.org

Foothills (30 Everstone Boulevard SW)
Phone: 403-873-0146

Cochrane FamilySearch Centre
www.familysearch.org/en/wiki/Cochrane_Alberta_FamilySearch_Centre

Hours and resources vary between locations so it is best to check ahead of time to see when they are open and what resources they have available at a specific centre.

CALGARY PUBLIC LIBRARY

Family History Coaching

In-person at Central Library

Calgary Public Library

January 27, 2024 1:00 – 3:00 pm

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

AFHS WORKSHOPS 2024

Genealogy 101 Workshop

Hybrid

March 10 & 24, 2024 1:30 – 3:30 pm

In-Person Only

April 2, 2024 1:30 – 3:30 pm

Registration deadline is March 3, 2024.

Free for AFHS members, \$40 for non-members.

<https://afhs.ab.ca/event/genealogy-101-a-3-part-workshop>

FamilySearch Workshop

In-Person

March 30, 2024 10:00 am – 12:00 pm

Registration deadline is March 23, 2024.

Free for AFHS members, \$25 for non-members.

<https://afhs.ab.ca/event/familysearch-workshop>

SAVE THE DATE!

AFHS FAMILY ROOTS CONFERENCE

OCTOBER 5, 2024
9:00 am – 3:00 pm

CONFERENCES/WEBINARS

*all times listed are in MDT

Using the FamilySearch Wiki

Virtual

FamilySearch

January 23, 2024 10:00 am

www.familysearch.org/en/wiki/FamilySearch_Library_Classes_and_Webinars

Using *Canadiana* by Dave Obee

Virtual

Sudbury District Branch, Ontario Ancestors

February 26, 2024 5:00 – 7:00 pm

<https://sudbury.ogs.on.ca/events/using-canadiana>

RootsTech 2024

Hybrid

FamilySearch

February 29 – March 2, 2024

www.familysearch.org/rootstech

Nova Scotia Genealogy Virtual Conference: Explore Your Ancestral Ocean Playground

Virtual

Genealogical Association of Nova Scotia

May 4 – 5, 2024 6:00 am – 2:30 pm

www.nsgenconference.ca

Ontario Ancestors 2024 Conference: An Interactive Experience!

Virtual

Toronto Branch, Ontario Ancestors

June 14 – 16, 2024

<https://conference2024.ogs.on.ca>

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.

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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

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.