

Chinook Arch

February 2024
Volume 6 Issue 2



ALBERTA FAMILY
HISTORIES SOCIETY

Supporting worldwide family history research

NEXT SOCIETY MEETING

Monday, February 12, 2024

Topic: British Home Children
Speaker: Susan Brazeau
Location: Zoom only (register on website)
Time: 7 - 9 pm

FUTURE MEETINGS

Monday, February 19, 2024

Topic: Chit Chat Room
Hosts: Linda Murray and Kelly Southworth
Location: Zoom (link on website calendar)
Time: 7 - 9 pm

Monday, March 11, 2024

Topic: Our Genealogy Trip to England
Speaker: Iris Morgan
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

The New Year is now in full swing, and my list of projects has expanded with new ideas flowing in from all sides. How exciting it is to think about these new initiatives!

Some are research projects that I am dying to dive into. For example, I am pursuing the "Man on the Motorcycle" research (mentioned in my President's Message – January 2024) by hiring a genealogy consultant in Belfast to retrieve the PRONI inquest records of his death. Hopefully, these records will help me fill in the blanks of the dreadful incident and nail down the exact family relationship.

Another area I want to work on is sharing projects, where I share my journey of learning with others. I have catalogued all my various genealogy presentations and articles on my own website. Now, it is time spend a few moments to bring all this material up to date. I am also scheduled to share a couple of my presentations over the next few months.

Two other projects are connecting with younger genealogists in my family. I want to learn how my nephew successfully researched his mother's family back some 14 generations in France. And I am keen to collaborate with a young cousin on reaching out to the descendants of a group of Cree elders who were signatories to a constitution developed by my grandfather entitled *Brotherhood of the Plains*. This was a document that I inherited, along with dozens of letters he wrote from the trenches in northern France and Belgium in WWI.

Of course, AFHS remains a major focus of my energy as well. There are three main areas I am focusing on at present:

1. Finding more volunteers for some of our strategic activities. We had lots of great suggestions from our members on ways to increase use of the AFHS Library and increase our visibility in other ways, but we need more people to help implement them.
2. Helping create a "Speakers Gallery." We have several members who have delivered some amazing presentations. The idea here is to put this information on our website so sister organizations and others can more readily access our superb talent pool, and it is another source of visibility for AFHS. If you are interested in becoming a member of this gallery, please contact me at president@afhs.ab.ca.
3. Recruiting a set of quality candidates for our upcoming election of Directors at the Annual General Meeting. These folks will be the ones to lead the Society forward. Please consider how you may be able to help the Society remain strong and relevant to family historians in southern Alberta and beyond.



How DNA Helped Solve Another Family Mystery

Bev Smith

With unknown parents in your tree, also called non-paternity events, there are often DNA matches which seem to come out of nowhere. One of the things I've found that helps figure out these mysteries is a tip from Diahann Southard, a DNA expert that has a website and book called *Your DNA Guide*. I have also watched several of her videos and webinars on connecting DNA matches to each other. She suggests that you start with your BKM (Best Known Match).

In my example, Elizabeth is a known half-second cousin to my husband Wayne so she is the BKM. Looking at her **DNA Shared Matches** with Wayne and his sister Mo, some familiar names came up. Be aware that sometimes you have to look at the Shared Matches of the Shared Matches. Ancestry doesn't always show you low cM (centimorgan) matches. Elizabeth shares a great-grandmother, Harriet, with Wayne and Mo, but not a great-grandfather. So, I knew that I was looking exclusively at Harriet's DNA line. This is the first step.

To compound the problem, we know that Harriet's mother was Margaret, but we do not know who Harriet's father was. We now need to sort the DNA matches to either Margaret or Harriet's unknown father (let's call him 2xGU, short for great-great-grandfather unknown). Diahann suggests that at this point you need to "Do Genealogy" and develop your matches' trees. I have started a "quick and dirty" tree in my Family Tree Maker software (not on Ancestry as I do not want it to be searchable by AI yet). It's my project and I want to keep it private for now while I'm researching.

Four matches came up with a common name – good old 2xGU! He was a single man living and working in the same town by the sea as Margaret when Harriet was conceived. Coincidence? I think not. 2xGU went on to marry another girl from this town and our four matches come from that line.

Do Diahann Southard's suggestions work? Absolutely! If you want to learn more about DNA and how to find and confirm your ancestors, her work is a great place to start. Read her book, watch her webinars, and check out her DNA website and blog.

You Can DO the DNA (4 part series at RootsTech)

www.familysearch.org/en/rootstech/speakers/diahan-southard/en

What's Your DNA Problem? Too Few Matches? Too Many?

Legacy Family Tree Webinars, April 12, 2024

<https://familytreewebinars.com/webinar/whats-your-dna-problem-too-few-matches-too-many>

Your DNA Guide website

www.yourdnaguide.com

Your DNA Guide blog

www.yourdnaguide.com/ydgblog

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

- Kelly Southworth will be doing a presentation at the February English/Welsh SIG meeting on how to take a virtual tour of England.
- 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.
- Several of our members have given presentations at AFHS Society meetings. One of them is Tara Shymanski, a professional researcher and educator who specializes in Canadian genealogy research. View her recorded presentations:
 - Documents: Where to Find Them and How to Analyze Them
 - Less Used Genealogy Websites (with Carol Hutchinson, Christine Hayes and Marion Peterson)
 - Finding North American Passenger Lists
 - Using the Resources at the Library & Archives Canada Website (with Christine Hayes)

Keyboard Shortcuts for Genealogists

Amber Godfrey

I watched a great webinar on *Essential Keyboard Shortcuts and Tools for Genealogy* by Peggy Jude, hosted by Legacy Family Tree Webinars. If you have a membership, I highly recommend checking it out. I chose a few of the most relevant tips and tricks to share with you here.

Many of you have heard of the basic keyboard shortcuts for copy, cut and paste:

CTRL + C	copy text
CTRL + X	cut out the text
CTRL + V	paste text

Two other shortcuts that I use often are:

CTRL + Z	undo the last change you made
CTRL + Y	redo the change you just undid

If you have mastered those shortcuts, you may want to learn some of these shortcuts for working with File Explorer on a Windows computer (where you save your folders of documents). You will find the **Windows key** and **ALT key** on most Windows computer keyboards.

WINDOWS KEY + E	open File Explorer
CTRL + SHIFT + N	create a new folder
ALT + Up Arrow key	go up one level in File Explorer
F2	rename the selected folder or file
CTRL + F	open the search box in File Explorer

You can also use keyboard shortcuts on your favourite genealogy websites and in genealogy software programs. Here are links to a few popular ones that Judy mentioned:

FamilySearch

www.familysearch.org/en/help/helpcenter/article/shortcuts-for-entering-dates-into-family-tree

Family Tree Maker

<https://support.mackiev.com/612609-Keyboards-Shortcuts-in-Family-Tree-Maker>

Legacy Family Tree

https://news.legacyfamilytree.com/legacy_news/2018/02/tuesdays-tip-keyboard-shortcuts-beginner.html

RootsMagic

http://wiki.rootsmagic.com/wiki/RootsMagic_8:Keyboard_Shortcuts

Library Highlights

Linda Murray, Director - Library, Education, Research

Thanks to everyone who attended our book sale in April 2023. We brought in over \$800, which is now being used to purchase new materials for the AFHS library. Here are five new items with a focus on Canadian research.

Build Your Family Tree: A Guide For Canadians With Local And Global Roots by Lynne Butler, 2022.

Sacred Ground, Loyalist Cemeteries of Eastern Ontario - Volume Two by Stuart Lyall Manson, 2023.

Searching for Canadian Militia Records following the Fenian Threat and the Red River Expedition, 1866-1872 by Kenneth G. Cox, 2018.

Documenting Canadian Military Personnel Who Were Prisoners of War During World War One or World War Two by Kenneth G. Cox, 2022.

For Want of His Silver Plate, Sir John Johnson's Raid of May 1780 by Gavin K. Watt, 2018.

Come in and check out the new books! We will be listing more new materials in future issues of the *Chinook Arch*. Special thanks to the **CBE Retired Teachers Genealogy Group** for their donation, which we used to buy Lynne Butler's book that has been reviewed below.

BOOK REVIEW

Build Your Family Tree: A Guide For Canadians With Local And Global Roots by Lynne Butler.

The title of this book is a bit deceiving, as it is mainly a primer for learning how to research historic wills and documents through the probate process from a genealogist's perspective. Wills and notarial records can be a treasure trove of information for the family researcher as they often state relationships between persons as well as giving insight into family dynamics and sometimes the "location of that daughter that moved away and got married in a distant land."

The first 69 pages concisely explain the background of wills and probate in Canada. Lynne Butler, a lawyer by trade, provides an easy-to-read explanation of wills, their content, the court system and its records, along with many useful hints.

The balance of the book is a list of annotated resources for researching wills and probate in Canada. There are listings and discussions of the numerous sources of information for each province and territory too. There are comments on what to expect at each source, particularly with respect to probate records.

Lynn Butler's book is an excellent resource for family history researchers wanting to learn about wills in Canada.

Review by Chuck Buckley, AFHS Member

CALGARY PUBLIC LIBRARY

Family History Coaching

In-person at Central Library

Calgary Public Library

February 24, 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 7, 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: Finding Records

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

Introduction to County Research in England

Virtual

Legacy Family Tree Webinars

February 16, 2024 12:00 pm

<https://familytreewebinars.com/webinar/introduction-to-county-research-in-england>

FamilySearch Family Tree: Merging Duplicate Individuals

Virtual

FamilySearch

February 20, 2024 10:00 am

www.familysearch.org/en/wiki/FamilySearch_Library_Classes_and_Webinars

Building a Genealogy Research Toolbox by Thomas MacEntee

Virtual

Toronto Branch, Ontario Ancestors

February 26, 2024 5:30 – 7:00 pm

<https://torontofamilyhistory.org/event/genealogy-research-toolbox>

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

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

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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 Confederacy (comprising of the Siksika, Kainai, and Piikani First Nations), the Tsúú't'ínà, the Stoney Nakoda (including the Chiniki, Bearspaw and Goodstoney First Nations), the Métis Nation (Districts 5 & 6) and all people who make their homes in the Treaty 7 region of Southern Alberta.