

# Chinook Arch

March 2024  
Volume 6 Issue 3



ALBERTA FAMILY  
HISTORIES SOCIETY  
*Supporting worldwide family history research*

## NEXT SOCIETY MEETING

**Monday, March 11, 2024**

**Topic:** Our Genealogy Trip to England  
**Speaker:** Iris Morgan  
**Location:** Zoom only (register on website)  
**Time:** 7 - 9 pm

## FUTURE MEETINGS

**Monday, March 18, 2024**

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

**Monday, April 8, 2024**

**Topic:** The AFHS Websites  
**Speaker:** Jim Benedict and team  
**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](mailto:chinookarch@afhs.ab.ca)

## President's Message

Ron Gilmore

The new year is in full swing, and this is the time for spring conferences. One of the largest and most well-known is RootsTech. The good folks at FamilySearch put on one the most amazing conferences, with a host of special speakers and topics. Major vendors do their best to display their products and services in person in Salt Lake City. For those of us unable to attend in person, the span of online offerings is breathtaking. A couple of years ago, I attended an online session on Turkish records merely based on my interest in Byzantine history, and it was a real eye-opener. These people kept great records that I was tickled to learn about, even if I have no known ancestors in that part of the world. RootsTech makes a lot of the sessions available for viewing during the year ahead. So, even if you miss a live session, you can still view the video later. Check it out!

On a more somber topic, we really need some volunteers to step up for AFHS. Our Annual General Meeting is coming up in May, and we will be holding elections for new Board Members. Currently, we have no candidates for President and Secretary - important jobs for our Society. Both roles will receive lots of support, and we have folks who can coach you in the role. Some experience would be helpful but willingness to pitch in is the most important thing. Contact me at [president@afhs.ab.ca](mailto:president@afhs.ab.ca) if you are interested in at least checking out what might be involved. Our incumbents and past leaders can help.



Summer is just ahead, and now is the time to plan out your research trips to family homesteads, family reunions, cemeteries, archives and more. Your advance work will make these trips many times more valuable. At the March AFHS Society Meeting, Iris Morgan is talking about her genealogy trip to England. There are also recorded videos in the members-only *Meeting Videos & Handouts* section of the AFHS website. In the Celtic SIG section, Marion Peterson and Neil Rowe talk about travelling to Ireland, while Leslie Dennis and Katherine McFarquhar share their experiences on trips to Scotland. And there are lots of other recordings with information on different areas of research.

<https://afhs.ab.ca/meeting-videos-and-handouts>

### Family Lore: Fact or Fiction?

Amber Godfrey

One year, I got a *Family Tree Kit* for Christmas. I enjoyed the stories my parents shared about their childhoods and families so was interested to learn more. My maternal lines were already well researched by my maternal grandmother. It helped the family lived in the same place for 300 years or so! My dad's family did not talk about the past much.

I asked my Nana, my paternal grandmother **Catherine (Hall) Godfrey**, to help me and she filled out some family group sheets with the information she remembered about her parents and grandparents. Nana was only 5 years old when her father passed away from pneumonia in England. Shortly afterward, she and her mother went back to Canada (Nana had been born in Canada although her parents were English and Manx) and her mother remarried. Nana grew up with a stepfather and stepsiblings, whom she loved dearly. They were a happy family and, while she did remember her father a little, she didn't have a lot of information on him and his family. One of the things she mentioned intrigued me, as she thought either her father (**Charles Geoffrey Hall**) or her grandfather (**James Hall**) was born in Malta. I decided to see if it was true and how an Englishman had ended up in Malta, of all places. I found James Hall on several English Census returns, always shown as being born in England. His children were all listed as being born in England too. So maybe Nana was mistaken?

As I continued my research of Nana's family, I decided to look up James Hall's wife (**Catherine Heaton**, daughter of **Thomas Heaton**). James and Catherine married in Blackburn, Lancashire, England, in 1851. I found them on the 1851 census, living with her family. When I first looked at the census, the two of them were on a separate page from the rest of the household. Later, I realized the rest of her family were on the previous census page AND that the birthplaces of two of her younger siblings was listed as **Malta**! So, Nana had the story right but for the other side of her family.

I connected with a cousin in England who had researched the Heaton family. He had found Thomas in the 1851 census listed as a pensioner at the fairly young age of 42. His investigations revealed Thomas had been a career soldier in the Royal Artillery. He served for over 21 years and spent a year in Portugal and 9 years in Malta. Since at least two of his children were born there, the family obviously joined him for some of the time. I recently found baptism records for three of the Heaton siblings in Maltese records on FindMyPast, with their birthdates listed. The records lead me to believe they were born there. All the other children in the family have English birth or baptism records.

Nana never met either of her father's parents. James Hall died in 1882. Catherine (Heaton) Hall died in 1909. Nana was born in November 1908, but her parents were living in Victoria, British Columbia, at the time and only went back to England when her father heard his mother was ill. Unfortunately, she died before her son and his family made it back to England. They stayed in England for several years, so Nana must have met some of her Hall and Heaton relations and heard family stories about life in Malta.

It is good to remember there is often at least a kernel of truth in family stories! But always remember to verify the information with actual records when possible as things can get mixed up over the years and retellings.



Catherine (Hall) Godfrey

## 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 Tuesday  
7:00 – 9:00 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*  
[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 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

- At the March meeting of the English/Welsh SIG, Bev Smith will be doing a presentation on British railway occupations and asked members to share their ancestors interesting railway jobs.
- *Resources for Waterloo County and Region available at the Grace Schmidt Room of KPL* is the topic of Karen Ball Pyall's presentation to the Ontario SIG in March.
- Members of the Family Tree Maker SIG will be sharing what they learned from RootsTech at their April meeting.
- Wanting to learn more about using Y-DNA in your family history research? At the April DNA SIG meeting, Greg Cave will be presenting a Y-DNA case study.
- Our 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 you or someone you know would like to be a guest at a SIG meeting, send a message to [communications@afhs.ab.ca](mailto:communications@afhs.ab.ca)

### Research Guides: Your New Best Friend!

Amber Godfrey

During many of the virtual presentations I attended at RootsTech recently, the presenters mentioned Research Guides (also called Subject Guides) that are available for free on various websites. They are excellent ways to learn how to find or use particular resources and many websites have them. Here are just a few of the ones you should be using in your research.

#### Ancestry

<https://support.ancestry.com/s/article/Free-Research-Guides>

#### Family Search

[www.familysearch.org/en/wiki/A\\_Guide\\_to\\_Research](http://www.familysearch.org/en/wiki/A_Guide_to_Research)

#### MyHeritage

<https://education.myheritage.com/downloadable-resources>

#### FindMyPast

[www.findmypast.com/blog/help](http://www.findmypast.com/blog/help)

#### Library and Archives Canada

<https://library-archives.canada.ca/eng/collection/research-help/genealogy-family-history/Pages/genealogy-family-history.aspx>

#### National Archives (US)

[www.archives.gov/research/genealogy/topics](http://www.archives.gov/research/genealogy/topics)

#### National Archives (UK)

[www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/help-with-your-research/research-guides](http://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/help-with-your-research/research-guides)

#### National Records of Scotland

[www.nrscotland.gov.uk/research/guides/a-z](http://www.nrscotland.gov.uk/research/guides/a-z)

#### National Archives (Ireland)

[www.nationalarchives.ie/historical-records/research-guides-sources](http://www.nationalarchives.ie/historical-records/research-guides-sources)

#### National Library of Australia

[www.nla.gov.au/research-guides](http://www.nla.gov.au/research-guides)

#### Provincial Archives of Alberta

[www.provincialarchives.alberta.ca/how-to/explore-paa-research-resources/publications-and-subject-guides](http://www.provincialarchives.alberta.ca/how-to/explore-paa-research-resources/publications-and-subject-guides)

#### Archives of Ontario

[www.archives.gov.on.ca/en/access/research\\_guides.aspx](http://www.archives.gov.on.ca/en/access/research_guides.aspx)

#### AmericanAncestors

[www.americanancestors.org/tools/research-guides](http://www.americanancestors.org/tools/research-guides)

#### Scotland's People

[www.scotlandspeople.gov.uk/help-and-guidance/guides](http://www.scotlandspeople.gov.uk/help-and-guidance/guides)

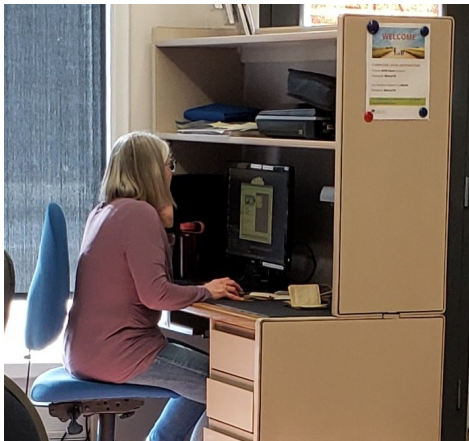


## Alberta Family Histories Society Resource Centre

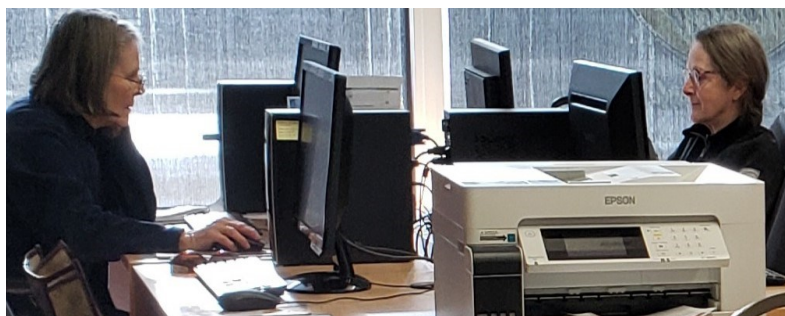
Our resource centre, located at **712 - 16 Avenue NW** in Calgary, has many tools and resources available for members and visitors. We are usually open two days a week: Thursday from 10 am to 2 pm and Saturday from noon to 4:00 pm. Please check the AFHS website calendar for our open times. There is free parking available behind the building.

### SCANNING STATION

Recent upgrades have included creation of a Scanning Station. This station has a dedicated computer with scanning devices including an overhead scanner for fragile documents, a flatbed scanner (that scans slides and negatives too), a new multi-function printer/scanner/copier that can scan documents up to 11"x17" (ledger sized) and a sheet feeder for scanning double-sided documents quickly and efficiently. Your scans can be saved for free to a USB key (thumb drive) or you can print paper copies for a small donation.



The AFHS library contains over 12,000 print resources with a focus on Alberta and Canada, but you will find many hidden treasures on a variety of topics. Volunteers are available to help and many items are able to be borrowed by members for a month. New and donated items are constantly being added. The collection includes many local history books, general reference books on genealogy, maps, atlases and gazetteers and journals and newsletters from around the world. Before you visit, you can view the collection at <https://afhs.ab.ca/library>.



### We are a FamilySearch Affiliate Library!

If you see an "Access restricted" icon when you find a record on FamilySearch (it looks like a key over a camera), you can visit the AFHS library and sign in to FamilySearch to view most of those records. Use our computers or your own laptop signed into the AFHS Wifi network.

## Upcoming Events

### CALGARY PUBLIC LIBRARY

#### Family History Coaching

In-person at Central Library

*Calgary Public Library*

March 30, 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

#### Oh, Canadiana! by Kathryn Lake Hogan

Virtual

*Ontario Ancestors*

March 7, 2024 5:00 pm

<https://ogs.on.ca/march-webinar-oh-canadiana-kathryn-lake-hogan>

#### Top Tips for Researching Your German Ancestors with James M. Beidler

Virtual

*BC Genealogical Society & Surrey Public Libraries*

March 7, 2024 12:00 pm

[www.surreylibraries.ca/events/top-tips-researching-your-german-ancestors](http://www.surreylibraries.ca/events/top-tips-researching-your-german-ancestors)

#### FamilySearch's Ontario Land Records with Ken McKinlay

Virtual

*Quinte Branch, Ontario Ancestors*

March 16, 2024 11:00 am

<https://quinte.ogs.on.ca/events/quinte-branch-familysearchs-ontario-land-records-with-ken-mckinlay>

#### 7 Tips for Using AI as Your Genealogy Assistant

Virtual

*Legacy Family Tree Webinars*

March 20, 2024 12:00 pm

<https://familytreewebinars.com/webinar/7-tips-for-using-ai-as-your-genealogy-assistant>

## 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

#### Winter/Spring Hours

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](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 Confederacy (comprising of the Siksika, Kainai, and Piikani First Nations), the Tsúū'tínà, 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.