

Chinook Arch

April 2024
Volume 6 Issue 4



ALBERTA FAMILY
HISTORIES SOCIETY

Supporting worldwide family history research

NEXT SOCIETY MEETING

Monday, April 8, 2024

Topic: The AFHS Websites
Speaker: Jim Benedict and Roy Aggarwal
Location: In-person and Zoom
(register on website)
Time: 7 - 9 pm

FUTURE MEETINGS

Monday, April 15, 2024

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

Monday, May 13, 2024

Topic: Annual General Meeting &
"Murder & Consequences"
Speaker: Ron Gilmore
Location: In-person and Zoom
(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

Hopefully winter will soon be behind us, and spring will embrace the Bow Valley. Our outdoor projects will once again become possible. But before that, we have a few indoor missions yet to accomplish.

You will have often heard me say that our volunteers are our most important asset, and that is indeed true. They receive no pay and only a few compliments for their efforts. Yet, as a Society, we cannot function without them. Currently, we are in dire need of nominations for two key volunteer positions - President and Secretary. Our Society requirements state that we need these two positions to complete our legitimacy as a registered non-profit society.

Director positions are for one-year terms.

The President's duties include:

- One of the four banking signing authorities.
- Liaison with other societies.
- Craft a monthly message like this.
- Chair the annual strategic planning process.
- Create agendas and chair Board meetings (approximately 7 times per year).
- Create agendas and chair monthly Society meetings (September to June).
- Sign all contracts as the Chief Officer of the Society.

The Secretary duties are as follows, and a familiarity with Word and One Drive is helpful:

- Record the minutes of the monthly Society meetings.
- Record and distribute the minutes of the Board meetings (about 7 per year).
- Record the minutes of the Annual General Meeting.
- Assemble the annual report.
- Record the outcomes of the strategic planning process.
- Ensure that a list of members is kept.
- Assist with the Society Archives.
- Assist with correspondence, such as sympathy and thank you notes.
- Retain a record of policies, procedures and bylaws.

There will be generous support for both roles. Existing and previous Board members have been wonderful to me in my term as President. How amazing they have been, stepping up to clue me in and guide me forward. I could not have managed without them. These folks will be ready to support you as well.

If you have questions or need further information, please contact any of the Nominating Committee members:

Ron Gilmore president@afhs.ab.ca
Marion Peterson communications@afhs.ab.ca
Zolton Wolford facilities@afhs.ab.ca

Take a step forward and help us sustain our amazing organization. You will have all manner of assistance along the way. If I can do it, so can you. Please consider pitching in.

A Gaelic Love Story

Amber Godfrey

As my heart-broken great-grandmother, Emma (Costain) Hall, looked back at 1913, she must have hoped that 1914 would be a better year. In the fall of 1913, both her daughter and her husband came down with pneumonia. Emma did her best to nurse them back to health, but sadly her beloved husband, Charles Geoffrey Hall, died in Bolton, Lancashire, on Christmas Day. Her daughter, my grandmother Catherine Lucy Hall, survived and was sent to her mother's family on the Isle of Man to finish her recovery. While Catherine convalesced, Emma made plans to return to Canada.

Emma grew up on the Isle of Man, and when she moved to England as a young adult, she was frustrated by the class system there. She decided Canada would be a better place to live. She found a job and convinced her fiancé to travel there with her. They were married in Victoria, British Columbia, in January 1908, and daughter Catherine was born on November 15, 1908. Not long after their daughter was born, Charles's mother became ill, and the family returned to England. Charles had had trouble finding work in Victoria and wanted to be near his family so, even though his mother had already passed away, they chose to stay in England. After Charles died, Emma hoped a life in Canada would be a fresh start for her and her daughter.

On September 4, 1914, Emma and Catherine boarded the ship *Tunisian* and set sail for Canada. They arrived in Montreal on September 14 and took a train across the country. Their final destination was to be Victoria, where Emma had secured another job. Along the way they stopped in Woodnorth, Manitoba to see a friend of Emma's. There Emma met William Campbell, an Irish immigrant who was farming in the area. They shared a language, as both had grown up speaking a form of Gaelic. As Emma got to know the quiet Irishman, they fell in love. He proposed and they married on December 30, 1914.

It was quite a change for Emma, who had only lived in towns and cities, to become a farmer's wife. There is one family story about her struggle to learn to bake bread. One day, when William had gone to town, Emma attempted a batch of bread dough. When it refused to rise, she buried it in the manure pile to hide her failure. However,

the manure pile was warm and just what the dough needed, so when William came home, a plume of white dough was sprouting out of the manure!

Emma persevered and over time, the family grew. Edna, William John (Jack), Flora and Mona were born in Woodnorth, with the youngest Mona born when Emma was 47 years old. William was a loving step-father to Catherine, now called Katie. Katie married at age 17 in 1927. When she moved away to British Columbia with her husband and their family a couple of years later, her family missed her terribly. The Great Depression started in 1929, and crop prices fell up to 60%, making it hard for farmers to make a living. By 1931, the Campbell family had joined their daughter in British Columbia. My father remembered stooking grain for his Grandpa Campbell and being paid a shinplaster (worth about 50 cents and a lot of money at the time).

Emma and William were married for 38 years. They raised five children, survived the Great Depression and two World Wars, and weathered a major health crisis when William contracted cancer. He had radiation treatment on his face but lived for many more years. When they didn't want their children to know what they were talking about, they reverted to speaking Gaelic. Truly, a Gaelic love story.



Campbell family ca. 1931: Flora, Mona, Emma, William, Jack

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

- During the April meeting, the Family Tree Maker SIG plans to share what useful things they learned by attending sessions at RootsTech.
- Ron Gilmore will be presenting *Truncated: An Abbreviated Family Tree* at the English/Welsh SIG during their April meeting. This is the story of his maternal grandmother's tragic life as a British Home Child in Canada.
- Want to learn more about using Y-DNA in your family history research? At the May DNA SIG meeting, Greg Cave will be sharing a Y-DNA case study. **Note that this meeting will be held on Tuesday, May 14 at 7 pm as Mother's Day falls on the usual Sunday meeting date.
- 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

Full Text Searching at FamilySearch

Amber Godfrey

At RootsTech, FamilySearch announced a groundbreaking feature that they are currently running as a beta project. Full Text searching will allow researchers to search documents in the FamilySearch collection that have not been indexed. This means that you can search for any of the names in a land record or will, not just the main ones that are usually indexed. This is especially helpful for finding women in your family and is also helpful for people researching enslaved persons. These people were often mentioned in wills and land records but up until now were often not indexed so were not searchable. For now, you can search two collections: **US Land and Probate Records** (1630-1975) and **Mexico Notary Records** (1800s with a few up to 1947). There are hundreds of millions of records in the US Land and Probate Records alone, so it is a great one to start with.

To search the records, first go to the Family Search Labs website and sign in using your regular FamilySearch login. Then go to the box saying "Expand your search with Full Text" and choose **Turn On** to enable the feature. Then click on the **Go To Experiment** link.

<https://www.familysearch.org/labs>

There is a disclaimer right at the top of the page saying this is an experimental feature and may not always be available. Also, there may be some errors and limited data. They are continuing to work to improve the search feature, so it could be offline sometimes. Another thing to be aware of is that many of the records have restrictions on them, so searching at a FamilySearch Affiliate Library (like the AFHS Library) will bring many more results than searching at home.



The search box on the main page offers a simple keyword search, or you can click on More Options and add an Ancestor Name. Putting the name in quotation marks will search for the name as a phrase. FamilySearch has included a video of search tips on the main page, under the search box. Once you click on the Search button, a box with Search Tips appears to help you customize your search. And, once you have a page of search results, there are filters at the top to help you narrow down your search. These include **Collection, Year, Place** and **Record Type**.

Connie Knox at Genealogy TV has a free video showing examples of searches in the US Land and Probate Records collection. When you view a search result, it shows you the original record alongside a transcription. The transcription is not perfect but is very readable, better than some I've read at other sites that used Optical Character Recognition (OCR). Connie also shows you how to save your result and even how to add the web link to a profile on an Ancestry tree.

Family Search Hidden Records: Full Text Search: 2024 (Genealogy TV)

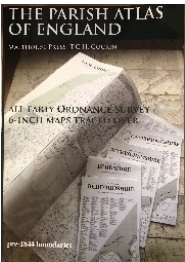
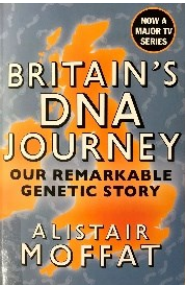
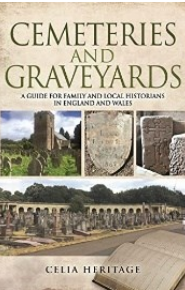
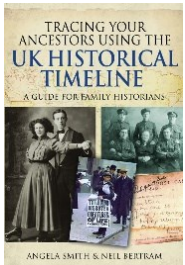
<https://youtu.be/-D6c1fVU3LQ?si=7Am0qyvXPu1m3JGt>

Check out this new tool and be amazed at what you can find! Stop by the AFHS Library and see how many more results you can access for free.

Library Highlights

Linda Murray

In the February issue of *Chinook Arch*, we shared some new books for Canadian research that were recently added to the AFHS library. Now we want to focus on some exciting new resources for researching your family from the United Kingdom.

TITLE	AUTHOR/EDITOR	
<i>The Parish Atlas of England: Atlas of English Parish Boundaries Paperback</i>	Tim C.H. Cockin	
<i>Britain's DNA Journey: Our Remarkable Genetic Story</i>	Alistair Moffat	
<i>Cemeteries and Graveyards: A Guide for Local and Family Historians in England and Wales</i>	Celia Heritage	
<i>Tracing Your Ancestors Using the UK Historical Timeline</i>	Angela Smith and Neil Bertram	

Come in to the AFHS Library and check out our new titles! Just remember, some books marked as reference (like the *Parish Atlas of England*) can't literally be checked out and must be viewed in the library. We look forward to seeing you soon!

CALGARY PUBLIC LIBRARY

Family History Coaching

In-person at Central Library

Calgary Public Library

April 27, 2024 1:00 – 3:00 pm

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

CONFERENCES/WEBINARS

*all times listed are in MDT

Genealogical Research through Religious Repositories by Dez Nacario

Virtual

Essex Branch, Ontario Ancestors

April 9, 2024 5:00 pm

<https://essex.ogs.on.ca/meetings/essex-and-kent-county-branches-genealogical-research-through-religious-repositories>

The 24-Hour Genealogy Webinar Marathon (including Tara Shymanski!)

Virtual

Legacy Webinars

April 11 – 12, 2024

<https://familytreewebinars.com/24-marathon>

People Lie! How to Unravel the Truth When You Are Tracing Your Family History by Emma Maxwell

Virtual

Scottish SIG, Ontario Ancestors

April 17, 2024 8:00 am

<https://scottishsig.ogs.on.ca/calendar/people-lie-how-to-unravel-the-truth-when-you-are-tracing-your-family-history>

DNA Day at FamilySearch 7 Different Free Webinars!

Virtual

FamilySearch

April 25, 2024 9 am – 3:30 pm

www.familysearch.org/en/wiki/FamilySearch_Library_Classes_and_Webinars

Family History Fair and GenFair 2024

In-person

Red Deer Branch, Alberta Genealogical Society & LDS Red Deer Stake

April 27, 2024 9 am – 4 pm

www.rdfamilyhistoryfair.blogspot.com

Researching Swedish Ancestry – Even If You Don't Speak the Language

Hybrid

Victoria Genealogical Society

April 27, 2024 11:00 am

www.victoriags.org/content.aspx?page_id=4008&club_id=554933&item_id=2154022

Finding the records for “impossible” genealogy: lessons learned from a Chinese genealogist by Linda Yip

Virtual

Legacy Webinars

May 8, 2024 6:00 pm

<https://familytreewebinars.com/webinar/finding-the-records-for-impossible-genealogy-lessons-learned-from-a-chinese-genealogist>

SAVE THE DATE!

AFHS FAMILY ROOTS CONFERENCE

OCTOBER 5, 2024

9:00 am – 3:00 pm

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

Winter/Spring 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 Confederacy (comprising of the Siksika, Kainai, and Piikani First Nations), the Tsúú'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.