

# Chinook Arch

January 2025  
Volume 7 Issue 1



ALBERTA FAMILY  
HISTORIES SOCIETY  
*Supporting worldwide family history research*

## NEXT SOCIETY MEETING

**Monday, January 13, 2025**

**Topic:** Starting From (Nearly) Nothing  
**Speaker:** Christina Hayes  
**Location:** Zoom (register on website calendar)  
**Time:** 7 – 9 pm

## FUTURE MEETINGS

**Monday, January 20, 2025**

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

**Monday, February 10, 2025**

**Topic:** Using University Records for Genealogy Research  
**Speaker:** Janice Nickerson  
**Location:** Zoom (register on website calendar)  
**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 with 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

Gordon Lane

I hope everyone had a great holiday and had your family treat you to some great genealogical gifts! I was able to give a genealogical gift to my cousin once removed who reached out to me on Ancestry after finding a DNA match. Her mother had lost touch with the Lane side of the family when her father died so she was thrilled that we were able to reconnect. We shared photos and some family information.

Looking back at 2024, AFHS had a great year. Some highlights are:

- The Family Roots Conference was sold out and the speakers and venue were excellent.
- Our casino fundraiser raised over \$84,000 for the Society.
- Over 300 cemeteries and nearly 250,000 memorials have been added to our Alberta Ancestors website.
- Two new SIGs started this fall, the Writing SIG and the Basics SIG.

Looking forward to 2025, we recently completed the budget for this year at the last Board Meeting. I would like to thank all the SIG leaders, the Committee members and the Directors for putting in so much effort to get this completed in a timely manner. I would also like to thank Anna, our Finance Director, for spearheading this and gathering all the various inputs into a cohesive budget.

We are still looking for volunteers for the Nominations Committee (we only have one so far). Even though May seems a long way off, our Annual General Meeting will be here in no time. I cannot believe how quickly the past year went by.

In other plans for this year, we are reviewing the by-laws. Suggested changes include adding a couple of new membership categories to try and attract younger members and changing some of the terms of service for the Directors. We are looking for a third person to join the Bylaw Review Committee.

Through Linda's great efforts and volunteers coming forward, the Resource Centre is now open three days a week. We are also going to start using the Resource Centre for some of the hybrid Zoom Society meetings. Please check the Calendar for locations for the upcoming meetings.

## **Resource Centre Hours:**

10 am to 2 pm Thursday

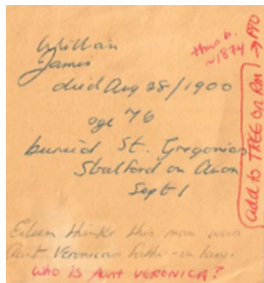
**10 am to 2 pm Friday \*\*new day\*\***

12 am to 4 pm Saturday

## Who is Aunt Veronica?

Stephanie Morton

My Mum had a habit of jotting notes on random pieces of paper and then putting them in a file folder for later. Recently, I found the following small piece of paper (3 x 3 inches) with a few words on them in her handwriting:



She wrote, "William James, died Aug. 28/1900 age 76, buried St. Gregories, Stratford on Avon Sept. 1. Eileen thinks this man was Aunt Veronica's father-in-law."

But who is Aunt Veronica?

We also have a photo dated 1955 of my grandmother Agnes (Darley) Roberts, Aunt Veronica and Cissie Carroll, Agnes' niece. Aunt Veronica is clearly the eldest of the three; she is using a cane and looks quite frail, but her eyes are smiling, and she looks happy to be sitting on a porch in Birmingham with her nieces. I knew that my mother and grandmother did not have an aunt or aunt-in-law of that name, so decided it was time to figure out who she was!



Early on, it became Agnes (Darley) Roberts, Cissie Carroll (back), Aunt Veronica (seated)

clear that all I knew about Aunt Veronica was that her father-in-law may have been William James. I didn't even know if James was his surname or a mid-

dle name. After considerable research, through a plethora of records, and a few detours down rabbit holes, I discovered that Veronica (Darley) James was a second cousin of my grandmother Agnes. Veronica and Agnes shared the same great-grandparents, Thomas and Catherine (Weetman) Darley.

Veronica Darley was born in 1881 in Birmingham and married William James (Jr.) in 1915. They had one daughter, Mary Ada. Veronica outlived her husband by ten years and died of heart problems in 1956.

One of the most interesting documents I found was Veronica's will. She named several beneficiaries including her daughter. Two of the beneficiaries were Roman Catholic priests, said to be nephews, and the other four were nieces. I've now been able to place all of them in the family tree, except for one of the priests; he is proving a mystery. She left shares in the Forestal Land Timber & Railway Company Ltd. to the men. This was a British forestry company that operated in Argentina. One wonders what sparked her interest in this! She requested to be buried at the Olton Monastery in Birmingham, with her husband, and also made the request that no one wear mourning or black.

Researching dear Aunt Veronica has been an adventure! I've heard her name mentioned since I was a child and, having a photo, really wanted to know some of the story behind the face. Also, I wanted to solve the mystery of my mother's note.

I've learned many things about Veronica and this set of distant ancestors, but one thing really stands out—the extended families of Thomas and Catherine Darley remained very close from the end of the eighteenth century into at least the mid-1950s. At the time of Veronica's death in 1956, she, Agnes and Cissie lived only one or two blocks from each other. During the same time period, the extended family also kept very strong bonds with their Roman Catholic roots, as evidenced by baptisms, marriages and burials at various Roman Catholic churches in and around Birmingham.

From the mystery my mother left written on a tiny piece of paper, I now feel that I am also a part of this family legacy. Getting to know Aunt Veronica was well worth the time and effort it took!

## 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. The SIG groups do not meet during July and August.

SIGs are a major 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)

SIG GROUP	NEXT MEETING	TIME	CONTACT
BASICS	Saturday, February 22	10 am – Noon	<a href="mailto:basics@afhs.ab.ca">basics@afhs.ab.ca</a>
CELTIC (Irish/Scots)	Saturday, January 25	10 am – Noon	<a href="mailto:celticsig@afhs.ab.ca">celticsig@afhs.ab.ca</a>
DIGITAL GENEALOGY	Saturday, February 8	10 am – Noon	<a href="mailto:familygenes@afhs.ab.ca">familygenes@afhs.ab.ca</a>
DNA	Sunday, February 9	12:30 – 2:30 pm	<a href="mailto:dnasig@afhs.ab.ca">dnasig@afhs.ab.ca</a>
ENGLISH/WELSH	Saturday, January 18	10 am – Noon	<a href="mailto:englishwelshsig@afhs.ab.ca">englishwelshsig@afhs.ab.ca</a>
FAMILY TREE MAKER	Saturday, February 1	10 am – Noon	<a href="mailto:ftmsig@afhs.ab.ca">ftmsig@afhs.ab.ca</a>
LEGACY	Tuesday, January 28	7:00 – 9:00 pm	<a href="mailto:legacysig@afhs.ab.ca">legacysig@afhs.ab.ca</a>
ONTARIO	Monday, January 27	1:30 – 3:30 pm	<a href="mailto:ontariosig@afhs.ab.ca">ontariosig@afhs.ab.ca</a>
WRITING	Friday, February 14	9:30 – 11:30 am	<a href="mailto:writing@afhs.ab.ca">writing@afhs.ab.ca</a>

The AFHS Resource Centre 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!

Our collection 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 either print or digital formats. As a **FamilySearch Affiliate Library**, visitors can now view additional FamilySearch digital records at the AFHS Resource Centre that they can't see at home. We also have a subscription to the Canadian newspapers on Newspaper Archive.

## SIG NEWS

If you or someone you know would like attend as a guest at a SIG meeting, request an invitation at [communications@afhs.ab.ca](mailto:communications@afhs.ab.ca).

Our members can watch recorded sessions of past Society and SIG meetings and view 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.

Check back for new content as it is constantly being added!

⇒ Handout from Bev Smith's "She's Not Just a Dash" presentation at the Basics SIG on finding your female ancestors.

⇒ Recording of the DNA SIG presentation in December titled "An Adoption Story" is available to view.

⇒ A recording of the presentation "What do I do with all this stuff?" by Cassandra Cummings of Heritage Park is available under the Ontario SIG section

### Full-Text Search at FamilySearch

Amber Godfrey

One of the most exciting new tools I used in 2024 was FamilySearch's Full-Text Search feature. FamilySearch uses AI to help their users access collections of records that have not been indexed. While it is far from perfect, and still being improved, I have been able to find many records for my ancestors like wills, probate records and land deeds.

The feature is still in the FamilySearch Labs section of the website, as they continue to make improvements and add more collections of records. The original records sets were for the United States, Australia and Mexico but in the last few months, records from around the world have been added. Anyone with a free FamilySearch account can access full-text searching and I highly recommend checking this out.

#### How To Find The FamilySearch Labs

<https://www.familysearch.org>

Sign in to your free FamilySearch account on the main page.

Scroll down the page until you see the FamilySearch Labs and click on the VIEW EXPERIMENTS button.

Scroll down to the box saying Expand your search with Full Text and choose to Turn On the experiment. This will take you directly to the FamilySearch Labs page.

You can bookmark the FamilySearch Labs the search page:

<https://www.familysearch.org/search/full-text>

#### Searching With Full-Text Search

It is easy to start searching. You can start by entering an ancestor's name by itself or add a place or keywords to help narrow down your search. It is recommended that you enclose

your ancestor's name inside quotation marks ("Henry Lyon"), which limits the search to records with that exact name. There are Advanced Search Tips listed right underneath the search box to help you expand or limit your search terms. Once you have the terms entered the way you want, just click Search!

When your Results page appears, there may be thousands of hits. To narrow this down, use the Filters that are at the top of the Results page. You can limit by Collection, Year, Place and Record Type. I recommend turning on the toggle switch for Fact View, which changes what is shown for each hit from brief transcriptions to a summary of Persons, Places and Years.

#### Viewing The Results

If you find a result that looks promising, click on the title and a new tab will open with a picture of the scanned item. If you need to increase the size to read it better, you can use the + and - buttons at the top right. There is also the Adjust Image button in the same area where you can rotate the image or change the brightness or contrast. On the right side, you can read a full transcript of the document and copy or download it. The transcription isn't perfect but you can copy and paste it into a Word document and correct the errors.

I also like clicking on Summarize the document, which provides a brief summary of what the document is about with relevant dates, names and relationships given.

#### Saving Your Results

Click on the down arrow underneath the Full Transcript section to download either a PDF, with the option to include the image, the transcription and/or the source citation, or just a JPG copy of the image.

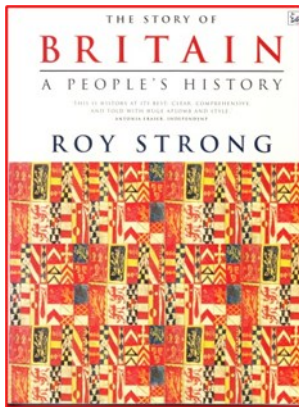
You also have an option to attach the record to the FamilySearch Tree.



# Library Highlights

## Book Review – *The Story of Britain, A People's History* by Roy Strong

Ann Williams



AFHS Call #: 942. \*G STRO

*The Story of Britain, a People's History* is very readable and well indexed. I think in this case you CAN judge a book by its cover. It is a pleasure to look at and a pleasure to read.

The book's author, Roy Strong, worked at London's National Portrait Gallery and at the Victoria & Albert Museum in London. With such a background, it is no wonder his book is brimming over with interesting illustrations.

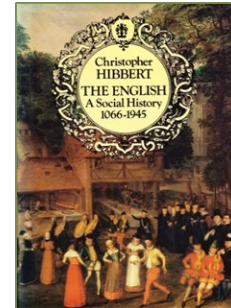
What the book covers is also remarkable. It begins in 320 B.C., when a Greek sea captain detailed the way of life of the people of the island the Romans would call Britannia (p.4), and continues right through to the 1997 death of Princess Diana and the 1998 Good Friday Agreement, which brought peace to Northern Ireland. It truly is a comprehensive look at the history of the British Isles.

What may be most interesting to AFHS members is the information on the emigration to Canada of not just English residents, but also Welsh, Scottish and Irish people.

*Fun Fact: The elaborate gowns Elizabethan women wore were pinned into place (p. 207). Pins came in many different sizes and were stored in pin cushions when not in use.*

If you are wanting to have your own copy of a reference book about English history, AFHS has these two books for sale:

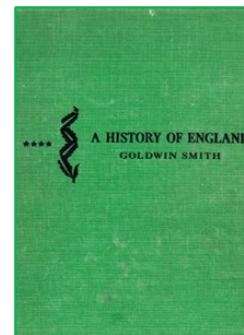
## *The English, A Social History 1066 –1945* by Christopher Hibbert



A very readable, well indexed, book with many illustrations. Many of them depict people at work: hay-makers, brick-makers, brush-makers, etc.

Being a social history, this wide-ranging book has insights on housing, education, medical treatment, crime and much more, making it an interesting book to delve into for information.

## *A History of England* by Professor Goldwin Smith



The book has more than 20 helpful maps and genealogical tables, making it an excellent one to have on hand when studying the history of England, Canada, the United States and other British colonies (up to 1948).

By the way, as a bonus, a reader of this book has made some interesting notes in the margins.

If you are interested in purchasing either of the books, email [library@afhs.ab.ca](mailto:library@afhs.ab.ca).

## CALGARY PUBLIC LIBRARY

### Family History Coaching

In-person at Central Library

**Calgary Public Library**

January 25, 2025 1:00 – 3:00 pm

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

## AFHS WORKSHOP

### Genealogy 101 Workshop

Hybrid

March 2 & 16, 2025 1:30 – 3:30 pm

In-Person Only

March 30, 2025 1:30 – 3:30 pm

Registration deadline is March 1, 2025

Free for AFHS members, \$50 for non-members

<https://afhs.ab.ca/event/genealogy-101-3-part-workshop/2025-03-02>

If you want to improve your research skills, consider attending the next **BASICS SIG** on February 22, 2025 where Marion Peterson will be doing a presentation on:

**Research Strategies and Research Plans!**

Contact [basics@afhs.ab.ca](mailto:basics@afhs.ab.ca) for an invitation.

### FREE WEBINARS

You can watch videos of presentations from **RootsTech 2024** online in the Video Library on the FamilySearch website for free.

[www.familysearch.org/en/rootstech/library](http://www.familysearch.org/en/rootstech/library)

## UPCOMING EVENTS

\*all times listed are in MDT

### FamilySearch Catalog for Irish Research, with Lianne Kruger

Virtual

#### *Irish SIG, Ontario Ancestors*

January 14, 2025 5:00 pm

<https://ireland.ogs.on.ca/events/january-2025-webinar-familysearch-catalog-for-irish-research>

### Collaborative Trees: Making Them Work for You by Drew Smith

Virtual

#### *Legacy Family Tree Webinars*

January 15, 2025 Noon

<https://familytreewebinars.com/webinar/collaborative-trees-making-them-work-for-you>

### RootsTech 2025

Virtual

#### *FamilySearch*

March 6 – 8, 2025

[www.familysearch.org/en/rootstech](http://www.familysearch.org/en/rootstech)

### 24-Hour Genealogy Webinar Marathon

Virtual

#### *Legacy Family Tree Webinars*

April 3 – 5, 2025

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

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## 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 most valuable resources - the **AFHS Resource Centre**! While our collection has an emphasis on materials pertaining to Alberta and Canada, we also have basic genealogy books and information from around the world. AFHS is a **FamilySearch Affiliate Library**, which gives you access to FamilySearch records you can't view at home. 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>. We have over 300 cemeteries now and nearly 250,000 memorials.

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 the **AFHS Society Meetings**, contact Marion at [communications@afhs.ab.ca](mailto:communications@afhs.ab.ca).

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## AFHS RESOURCE CENTRE

**712 - 16 Avenue NW  
Calgary, AB T2M 0J8**

### Winter Hours

Thursday, 10 am - 2 pm

Friday, 10 am - 2 pm

Saturday, Noon - 4 pm

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

<https://afhs.ab.ca/calendar>



## 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 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.