

# Chinook Arch

March 2025  
Volume 7 Issue 3



ALBERTA FAMILY  
HISTORIES SOCIETY  
*Supporting worldwide family history research*

## NEXT SOCIETY MEETING

**Monday, March 10, 2025**

**Topic:** Tell Your Family Stories: Why and How to Tell Them  
**Speaker:** Tara Shymanski  
**Location:** Zoom (register on website calendar)  
**Time:** 7 – 9 pm

## FUTURE MEETINGS

**Monday, March 17, 2025**

**Topic:** Chit Chat Session  
**Hosts:** Linda Murray and Kelly Southworth  
**Location:** Zoom (link on website calendar)  
**Time:** 7 – 8:30 pm

**Monday, April 14, 2025**

**Topic:** TBD  
**Speaker:** TBD  
**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

The AFHS Resource Centre is on the move! We were planning to stay in our current location, but after finding out that our current landlord wanted to increase our rent and have us pay for part of the new furnace the building needed, we reconsidered our options. We were offered a great opportunity at a new location, and the Board met to discuss it.

The leadership team discussed the pros and cons of both spaces. The new location has more useable space, a convenient location, more things included in the cost of the lease (rent, utilities, snow removal, cleaning and security are all included in one payment). Our insurance will also be cheaper. It is big enough to hold our regular in-person Society meetings there, as well as SIG meetings, workshops and social events. A comparison of costs showed we will save money with the move. We decided to go forward with a five-year lease on the new location, with the option to renew for a further five years.

A few of the features of our new location are:

- Large enough space to house our Resource Centre, including all our bookshelves and computer equipment, with plenty left over for meetings and other events
- A kitchenette that will allow us to easily provide hot drinks at our meetings and socials
- Accessible to people with mobility issues (elevator to the suite, handicapped parking stalls near the door, accessible stalls in the shared washroom on the same floor)
- Attached parkade with ample public parking spaces
- Close to Heritage C-Train station and the #81 bus stops right outside

The leadership team feels that by consolidating our Resource Centre and meeting space, we will be able to simplify day-to-day operations, increase use of our space, make things easier for our volunteers, and strengthen our sense of community. I'm sure Warren and Marion will be relieved that they no longer need to transport our presentation technology to various locations!

The move will be coordinated by a team of volunteers, with a moving company to do the heavy lifting. The plan is to move around the end of April and reopen in May. I am excited to find out what we can accomplish now, in this new space!

Here are two layout plans for the new space, one for larger meetings and one for smaller ones: <https://afhs.ab.ca/plans>

Our Annual General Meeting (AGM) is coming up on May 12, 2025. We will be electing our leadership team for the coming term. These will be the people who will lead us next year and into the future. Make sure you attend the meeting, either in person or virtually, to vote! If you are interested in putting your name forward for a position, contact Dorothy [secretary@afhs.ab.ca](mailto:secretary@afhs.ab.ca). We'll also be voting on some bylaw amendments.

### It Just Fell into My Hands!

Ann Williams



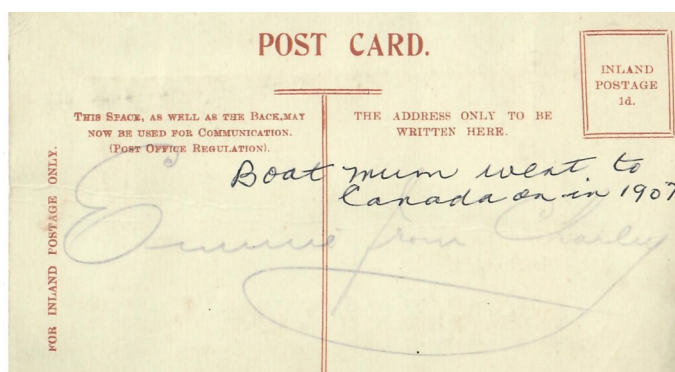
When I was a pre-teen, this framed studio portrait of my brothers was on display on top of our piano. At some point, it was replaced by other photographs. I thought nothing of it until six decades later when the photo literally fell into my hands.

I didn't recognise the boys at first, but there was something very familiar about the windmill held by one of them. Eventually, I recognized my brothers and remembered where I had last seen the photograph.

I rediscovered the photo when I was taking a picture of my grandfather and his horse and cart out of its silver frame for scanning. Grandfather's photograph was from the beginning of our family transport business. But there, behind my grandfather, was this second photograph. Saying I was delighted to see it again was an understatement!

### It Fell Out of a Book

Amber Godfrey



This beautiful silk postcard fell out of a book when my cousin was going through her late mother's possessions. Her mother was my aunt, and the writing on the back, in pen, was our grandmother's (known as Nana by us). Nana's mother, Emma Costain, and father, Charles G. Hall, travelled to Canada on the *Empress of Britain* in 1907. On the back of the postcard, in faint pencil, is the inscription, "Emmie, from Charley."

The family story is that the couple were engaged for ten years and Emma got tired of waiting. She hated English society rules (she was from the Isle of Man), so she arranged for a job in Victoria, British Columbia, and bought her ticket. Charles decided to go with her. They married in Victoria in January 1908, and my Nana was born that November. In early 1909, Charles's mother became ill and they went back to England. Sadly, Charles died in 1913 from pneumonia. Emma and Nana then returned to Canada.

## 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, April 5	10 am – Noon	<a href="mailto:basics@afhs.ab.ca">basics@afhs.ab.ca</a>
CELTIC (Irish/Scots)	Saturday, March 22	10 am – Noon	<a href="mailto:celticsig@afhs.ab.ca">celticsig@afhs.ab.ca</a>
DIGITAL GENEALOGY	Saturday, April 12	10 am – Noon	<a href="mailto:familygenes@afhs.ab.ca">familygenes@afhs.ab.ca</a>
DNA	Sunday, April 13	12:30 – 2:30 pm	<a href="mailto:dnasig@afhs.ab.ca">dnasig@afhs.ab.ca</a>
ENGLISH/WELSH	Saturday, March 15	10 am – Noon	<a href="mailto:englishwelshsig@afhs.ab.ca">englishwelshsig@afhs.ab.ca</a>
FAMILY TREE MAKER	Saturday, May 3	10 am – Noon	<a href="mailto:ftmsig@afhs.ab.ca">ftmsig@afhs.ab.ca</a>
LEGACY	Tuesday, March 25	7:00 – 9:00 pm	<a href="mailto:legacysig@afhs.ab.ca">legacysig@afhs.ab.ca</a>
ONTARIO	Monday, March 24	1:30 – 3:30 pm	<a href="mailto:ontariosig@afhs.ab.ca">ontariosig@afhs.ab.ca</a>
WRITING	Friday, March 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!

- The handout is available for Stephanie Morton's February 15 presentation to the English/Welsh SIG about Wedded Bliss for Family Historians: Marriage Law and Stories.
- On March 15, the English/Welsh SIG will have a guest speaker with a presentation called "Following the Footsteps of a War Bride."
- At the March 25 meeting of the Legacy SIG, the Stories feature of the software will be explored.

## Alberta Research Portal – Newspapers

Amber Godfrey

The Alberta Research Portal is a collection of historical documents that includes books, manuscripts, photographs, newspapers, maps, magazines and more. All the information it contains is available free to anyone in Alberta, thanks to donations by several universities, colleges and public libraries throughout the province.

<https://abresearchportal.ca/collections>

One of the collections is Newspapers, which includes archives of iconic British and American publications. These are searchable, and they cover a variety of time periods from the mid-1800s to present day. Some examples of the newspapers available include:

### British

- 17th and 18th Century Burney Newspapers Collection
- 19th Century UK Periodicals
- British Library Newspapers
- Daily Mail Historical Archive
- Picture Post Historical Archive, 1938-1957
- Punch Historical Archive, 1841-1992
- The Illustrated London News Historical Archive, 1842-2003
- The Telegraph Historical Archive
- The Sunday Times and The Times Historical Archive

### American

- 19th Century U.S. Newspapers
- Liberty Magazine Historical Archive, 1924-1950
- Smithsonian Collections Online

Each collection uses the Gale Search interface. There is a basic **Search Box** at the top of the page. Underneath is an **Advanced Search** option, where you can use operators and special characters (AND, OR, NOT, quotation marks, wildcards, etc.) to limit your search terms. You can also click on the **Publication Search** option and then click on “List All Publications” to see a list of all the newspapers included. Each publication has a clickable link that gives you information on the dates and areas covered in the collection and allows you to search within the publication. Finally, you can use the **Topic Finder** option which uses a search term entered by you to compile titles, subjects and the first 100 words from your top results to create a graphic with the terms found most often in the search results. You can then click on the words in the graphic to view relevant articles from the newspapers.

If you haven't seen this free resource, you should take a look. Even if it doesn't contain a specific article on your ancestors, it is a valuable source of information that can give you valuable background information on the time and place your ancestor lived.

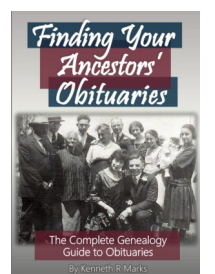
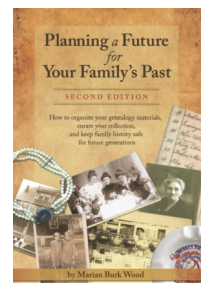
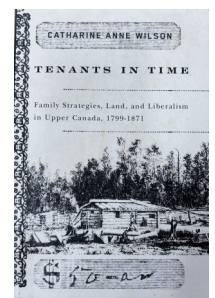
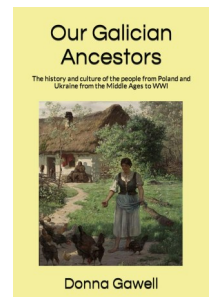
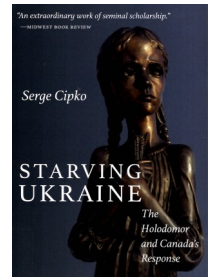


# Library Highlights

Linda Murray

We continue to add new books to our AFHS Resource Centre Library. Do you have family from the Ukraine or Upper Canada and want to learn more about the history of the area? Do you need to plan a future for your family history archive? Do you have an ancestor whose obituary you can't find? We have the book for you!

TITLE	AUTHOR/EDITOR	CALL NUMBER
<i>Starving Ukraine: The Holodomor and Canada's Response</i>	Serge Cipko	947. CIPK 2017
<i>Our Galician Ancestors: The history and culture of the people from Poland and Ukraine from the Middle Ages to WWI</i>	Donna Gawell	947. GAWE 2024
<i>Tenants in Time: Family Strategies, Land, and Liberalism in Upper Canada, 1799-1871</i>	Catharine Anne Wilson	971.3 *G WILS C
<i>Planning a Future for Your Family's Past, 2nd edition</i>	Marian Burk Wood	929.1 WOOD 2021
<i>Finding Your Ancestors' Obituaries: The Complete Genealogy Guide to Obituaries</i>	Kenneth R. Marks	929.1 MARK 2023



## CALGARY PUBLIC LIBRARY

### Family History Coaching

In-person at Central Library

**Calgary Public Library**

March 29, 2025 1:00 – 3:00 pm

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

## UPCOMING EVENTS

\*all times listed are in MDT

### Scottish Indexes Conference XXVIII

Virtual

**Scottish Indexes**

March 15, 2025

<https://www.scottishindexes.com/conference.aspx>

### International Society for British Genealogy Virtual Spring Conference

Virtual

**ISBGFH**

March 24, 2025

<https://isbgfh.com/si/>

### 24-Hour Genealogy Webinar Marathon

Virtual

**Legacy Family Tree Webinars**

April 3 – 5, 2025

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

### Virtual Celtic Connections Conference 2025

Virtual

**Celtic Connections**

April 5, 2025

<https://celtic-connections.org/regportal.html>

### Ye Olde Genealogy Faire

In-Person

**AGS Red Deer Branch/LDS Red Deer Stake**

April 26, 2025 9:00 am – 4:00 pm

<https://rdfamilyhistoryfair.blogspot.com>

### Nova Scotia Genealogy Virtual Conference

Virtual

**Genealogical Association of Nova Scotia**

May 3 – 4, 2025

<https://www.nsgenconference.ca>

### Your Genealogical Legacy: Plan, Prepare & Share Seminar

In-Person

**Ontario Ancestors**

May 31, 2025

<https://seminar2025.ogs.on.ca>

### Ken Your Kin Summer School

In-Person

**Strathclyde Institute for Genealogical Studies**

June 4 – 11, 2025

[www.strath.ac.uk/studywithus/centreforlifelonglearning/genealogy/kenyourkin](http://www.strath.ac.uk/studywithus/centreforlifelonglearning/genealogy/kenyourkin)

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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 over 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/Spring 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'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.