

# Chinook Arch

February 2026  
Volume 8 Issue 2



ALBERTA FAMILY  
HISTORIES SOCIETY

Supporting worldwide family history research

## NEXT SOCIETY MEETING

**Monday, February 9, 2026**

**Topic:** Researching in British Columbia

**Speaker:** Gord McBean

**Location:** In-person and Zoom (register on our website calendar)

**Time:** 7 – 9 pm

## FUTURE MEETINGS

**Monday, February 16, 2026**

**Topic:** Chit Chat Session

**Hosts:** Linda Murray and Kelly Southworth

**Location:** Zoom (register on website calendar)

**Time:** 7 – 8:30 pm

**Monday, March 9, 2026**

**Topic:** Indigenous Research at Library and Archives Canada

**Speaker:** Library and Archives Canada

**Location:** In-person and Zoom (register on our 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

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## President's Message

Gordon Lane

AFHS members were saddened to hear of the sudden death of our Treasurer, Larry Stone, on January 3, 2026. Larry joined the Society in 2016 and volunteered to take on the position of Treasurer in 2023. He was always a strong advocate for AFHS and a regular contributor at the Board Meetings. He will be sorely missed.

Larry's Celebration of Life was held on January 19, 2026 at the Knox United Church in Drumheller and AFHS was represented by Jim and Joan Benedict, Marion Peterson, and Dorothy Clements.

Anyone wishing to read Larry's obituary can do so online at:

<https://portal.prairierosefunerals.ca/obituaries/larryfrederickwilliamstone>



Jim Benedict shared a love of travel and railroading with Larry:

*I got to know Larry because he needed a second signature on AFHS cheques and my house was along the way to the old Society building. We discovered a common interest in railroading and international vacations. Larry sought out passenger trains wherever he traveled and enjoyed sharing stories with Joan and myself. In 2025, Larry enjoyed an extended train vacation in continental Europe, then returned again in the fall to rail travel in Scotland and England. Sadly, on his last trip he became ill with pneumonia and that led to his passing. His visits with us grew into a personal friendship that I will deeply miss. We will miss his soft humour and hearty laugh.*

Marion Peterson appreciated Larry's calm presence on the leadership team:

*I first got to know Larry when we put out a call for a volunteer to help with donations. When Wendy Robertson moved away a few years ago, he took on the Treasurer role. He never seemed to get rattled by all the paperwork and deadlines. He will be missed on the leadership team.*

Dorothy Clements enjoyed Larry's affable personality and willingness to help:

*Larry was easy to work with, always agreeable and willing to help out when needed. He always smiled or joked during meetings. I am thankful that I got to know him a little.*

Sharon White remembered great conversations and kind guidance:

*I didn't know Larry for long but I will remember his kindness and the great conversations on our travels. I will also miss his guidance on Society business.*

On behalf of the AFHS Board of Directors and Society members, I would like to extend a heartfelt thank you to Ezenwa Echefu who has agreed to take on the role of Treasurer for the Society. We appreciate Ezenwa stepping up and joining the Board in our time of need.

### Jane Southworth: Life in 17th Century Lancashire for My 8x Great-Grandmother Kelly Southworth

*... you shall take a quart of old ale, and after it hath risen upon the fire and hath been scummed, you shall put therein of aristolochia longa, of angelica, and of celadine of each half a handful, and boil them well therein; then strain the drink through a clean cloth, and dissolve therein a dram of the best mithridate, as much ivory finely powdered and searced, and six spoonful of dragon water, then put it up in a close glass; and every morning fasting take five spoonful thereof, and after bite and chew in your mouth the dried root of angelica, or smell, as on a nosegay, to the tasselled end of a ship rope ...*

If, like the ghosts in Macbeth, you have the urge to chant: "Double, double, toil and trouble; fire burn and cauldron bubble" you are forgiven. Dragon water, ground ivory, and the tasselled end of a ship's rope sound like ingredients for a witch's brew. But if you were my 8x great-grandmother Jane Southworth, living in Blackburn Parish in 1632 and 1633, you would likely be making this concoction for your family to drink every morning before breakfast.

It's possible that Jane knew the three women of her parish who had been tried but acquitted of witchcraft during her own childhood. She would definitely have been familiar with the story of many other men and women from nearby Pendle who had been tried, sentenced and executed for the same crime only a few weeks before the "Samlesbury witches" were acquitted in 1612. Jane would not have feared her own arrest, as she was using a recipe from Gervase Markham's *The English Housewife* (1615). Most of her neighbours would have prepared similar mixtures as "preservatives against the plague."



As an adult, Jane's memories of the typhus epidemic would have been strong. It had swept through the parish nine winters before, killing hundreds. She almost certainly had knowledge that plague was an even more prolific killer. Jane would have been horrified by the possibilities facing her family, and as the only doctor they had, probably experienced a heavy sense of responsibility when plague came to Blackburn parish in 1632.

Even today, with the last plague epidemic in England 360 years in the past, the word conjures up images of horrible deaths, with families sealed in quarantine, left to die alone, then mass burials in pits. Life was not easy for our ancestors, and Jane lived in dangerous times.

Jane was a remarkable and resilient woman. During her lifetime, she persevered through the terror of typhus and a two-year long plague outbreak plus nine years of civil war literally on her doorstep. She survived nine live births and outlived her husband. If my research is correct, she also endured the loss of at least three of her children, but not by plague.

While I'm not absolutely sure of Jane's maiden name, other researchers and I believe that the marriage of July 10, 1628 between John Southworth and Jane Ormerode in Blackburn is the correct one. This seems to show a seven-year gap between their marriage and the birth of their first child in Samlesbury, four miles away.

While it is possible there were no births in those years, it is more probable that there were stillbirths or infant deaths. Baptisms for some of their known children, named in John's will, cannot be located due to the poor retention and quality of the parish registers. The lack of records surviving the turbulent 17th century, known as The Blazing World, is understandable.

I have located baptisms (and burials) for two likely children born in Blackburn, where the couple married. The children, Dorety and Adam, may have been born in Jane's home parish. Like many young women of her time, Jane may have gone home to her mother for the birth of her children. Only the father's name was included in the records. No John is named as father in Blackburn during the relevant period, before or after those two children. I do have a record of another daughter who died in Samlesbury.

John was a carpenter and likely made all his children's coffins. It was a hard life.

## Special Interest Groups

**SPECIAL INTEREST GROUPS (SIGs) are a major benefit of being an AFHS member.** The small-group setting is the ideal place to expand your knowledge and share your own family history challenges. SIGs provide the opportunity to ask questions, obtain help from more experienced researchers and get to know other AFHS members.

If you are an AFHS member and would like to be added to a SIG distribution list or if you would like to attend a SIG meeting as a guest before joining AFHS, please contact [communications@afhs.ab.ca](mailto:communications@afhs.ab.ca)

**SIGs are now being held in three formats: in-person only, Zoom only or a hybrid version of both.** Check the calendar on our website for up-to-date information or email the SIG leader. The SIGs do not meet during July and August.

SIG GROUP	NEXT MEETING	TIME	CONTACT
CELTIC (Irish/Scots)	Saturday, February 28	10 am – Noon	<a href="mailto:celticsig@afhs.ab.ca">celticsig@afhs.ab.ca</a>
DIGITAL GENEALOGY	Saturday, February 14	10 am – Noon	<a href="mailto:familygenes@afhs.ab.ca">familygenes@afhs.ab.ca</a>
DNA	Sunday, February 8	12:30 – 2:30 pm	<a href="mailto:dnasig@afhs.ab.ca">dnasig@afhs.ab.ca</a>
ENGLISH/WELSH	Saturday, February 21	10 am – Noon	<a href="mailto:englishwelshsig@afhs.ab.ca">englishwelshsig@afhs.ab.ca</a>
FAMILY TREE MAKER	Saturday, February 7	10 am – Noon	<a href="mailto:ftmsig@afhs.ab.ca">ftmsig@afhs.ab.ca</a>
LEGACY	Tuesday, February 24	7:00 – 9:00 pm	<a href="mailto:legacysig@afhs.ab.ca">legacysig@afhs.ab.ca</a>
ONTARIO	Monday, February 23	1:30 – 3:30 pm	<a href="mailto:ontariosig@afhs.ab.ca">ontariosig@afhs.ab.ca</a>
WRITING	Friday, February 13	9:30 – 11:30 am	<a href="mailto:writing@afhs.ab.ca">writing@afhs.ab.ca</a>

The AFHS Resource Centre is located at **Suite 251S, 8500 Macleod Trail SE** and all in-person SIG 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

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.

- If you are thinking of possibly joining a SIG, you can attend a meeting to try it first. You just need to email Marion to receive a link [communications@afhs.ab.ca](mailto:communications@afhs.ab.ca)
- The Basics SIG is looking for a new leader or leaders. Contact [basics@afhs.ab.ca](mailto:basics@afhs.ab.ca)

- In February, Amber Godfrey will be doing a presentation on the Full-Text Search feature on FamilySearch for the English/Welsh SIG.
- The Ontario SIG meeting in February will be learning about Steve Henley's Thompson family who were Peter Robinson Settlers from Ireland.
- Presentations on *Early Ontario Newspapers* by Nancy Leveque and *Wills and Probate Records* by Marion Peterson are now available on the Meeting Videos & Handouts page to view.

# Resource Centre Highlights

## AFHS Donations

Linda Murray

Over the years, AFHS members have been very generous. Members have donated many hours of volunteer time, books and other items for the Resource Centre, and even monetary bequests in their wills. We appreciate all of you! The photo below is a recent picture of our donation piles waiting to be processed by our Library Committee volunteers.



A common question we receive at the Resource Centre is, "Can I donate these books or items to AFHS?" You may be doing some decluttering or may have inherited items from your relatives that you don't want to keep. Here is a quick summary of what kind of items the AFHS Resource Centre does accept.

Keep in mind that we are a genealogy library, not an archive. Our focus is on Western Canada but we do accept materials from around the world if they are appropriate for our collection.

Items we accept include:

- Published books about genealogy, local history and social history
- Published family histories
- Cemetery transcriptions
- Maps and atlases with historical significance
- Journals of genealogical societies, **newer than 10 years**
- Materials about the history of AFHS\*\*

We are not able to take photocopies of books or parts of books, research notes, personal correspondence, scrapbooks, photograph collections, printouts of things like census or vital records, topographic maps or course materials.

If donated items are duplicates of things already in our collection, we do offer them for sale and use the money to purchase new materials.

There is a green form that you need to fill out when you drop off your donation so that we have your contact information. You can get a form from one of the library volunteers at the AFHS Resource Centre.

\*\* We are searching for back issues of the AFHS *Newsletter* (#47, #49, #54, #65, #92 and #93) and various issues of *The Breeze*. These were publications that the Society put out when it first started. If you have any that you are willing to donate, please email us at [archives@afhs.ab.ca](mailto:archives@afhs.ab.ca)

### Ukrainian Genealogy Research in Western Canada

Amber Godfrey

When I recently received the Ukraine Genealogy Groups (UGG) February newsletter (thanks Marion Peterson!), I was amazed at how many resources there were for people researching their Ukrainian immigrant ancestors who came to Western Canada. While I don't have any Ukrainian ancestors, my boyfriend's mother had ancestors from Galicia that came to Canada and settled in Manitoba. I was looking forward to working with her to discover more about her family when we moved back to B.C., but sadly she passed away before that could happen. I still plan on doing the research and sharing it with her granddaughters someday.

UGG doesn't have a website yet, although they are planning to create one. They have a private Facebook group that you can find by searching *Ukraine Genealogy Group - Edmonton and Area Society* and asking to join. The President of the group, Elaine Kalynchuk, has a blog called *Trace Your Roots - Ukrainian Canadian Genealogy* showcasing her own family history in Western Canada and the former regions of Galicia and Bukovina now in Western Ukraine.

<https://ukrainiancanadiangenealogy.blogspot.com>

The group is free to join and is searching for more volunteers to help create a website, find guest speakers, provide content for the newsletter and Facebook page, create a YouTube channel, assist with Zoom sessions and create a Research Club that meets in person once a month. If you are interested in helping with any of this or want to be added to the monthly newsletter distribution list, contact Elaine at [kalyna@outlook.com](mailto:kalyna@outlook.com).

Here are a few of the Ukrainian relevant presentations she suggested in the newsletter:

*From Church Archives to KGB Archives*, Thursday, February 19, 6:30 – 7:30 pm ET, with Carolyn Schott, Allen County Public Library. Follow the tale of a German family that immigrated to Russia. After years of peaceful prosperity, the fate of two branches of the family diverge. One branch immigrates to the United States, while the other suffers under the Soviet regime, losing their homes and, for some, their lives. She blends historical events and records to document the story of this family.

<https://acpl.libnet.info/event/15525898>

*From Poltava by Open Wagon, to a New Life on Unfamiliar Land* by David Chernushenko, Tuesday, February 24, 7:30 pm Eastern, Ukrainian Genealogy Group – National Capital Region (Ottawa). David shares the story of his family's survival of the Holodomor, WWII, a wagon convoy escape across Ukraine, five years in a Displaced Persons camp and then having to start over in Alberta in harsh conditions. Not having grown up knowing the story, David was shocked and now better understands his roots and his need to support underdog groups and causes.

<https://uggncr.org/next-webinar>

*Genealogical research in Ukraine: what and where look for sources?* by Olena Vladyka, Thursday, March 5, 9:30 am (GMT-7), Roots Tech 2026. This is a live webinar. If one of your ancestors came from Ukraine and you want to uncover more about your family's past – this session is for you. I'll walk you through the key types of records that hold valuable family details and show you how to access them. Olena uses both online resources and strategies for working directly with Ukrainian archives. This session will help you fill in the missing pages of your family story.

<https://www.familysearch.org/en/rootstech/session/genealogical-research-in-ukraine-what-and-where-look-for-sources>

## CALGARY PUBLIC LIBRARY

### Family History Coaching

In-person at Central Library

Calgary Public Library

February 28, 2026 1:00 – 3:00 pm

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

## UPCOMING EVENTS

\*all times listed are in MDT \*events are free unless \$

### Essential Skills for New Genealogists: Hail the Hunter Gatherer – Finding What You Already Have (1 of 12)

Virtual

Legacy Family Tree Webinars

February 6, 2026 Noon

<https://familytreewebinars.com/webinar/essential-skills-for-new-genealogists-1-of-12-hail-the-hunter-gatherer-finding-what-you-already-have>

### How to Trace Ancestors Through Letters and Postcards

Virtual

Bruce County Genealogical Society

February 9, 2026 5:00 pm

[bit.ly/2026-02-09-KathrynLakeHogan](https://bit.ly/2026-02-09-KathrynLakeHogan)

### Black Lives in Alberta – Over a Century of Racial Injustice Continues

In-person

Calgary Public Library and NFB

February 19, 2026 7:00 pm

<https://www.calgarylibrary.ca/events-and-programs/programs/black-history-month-black-lives-in-alberta-over-a-century-of-racial-injustice-continues>

### 50 Most Popular Genealogy Websites for 2026

Virtual

Legacy Family Tree Webinars

February 25, 2026 Noon

<https://familytreewebinars.com/webinar/50-most-popular-genealogy-websites-for-2026>

### No. 2 Construction Battalion Resources at Library and Archives Canada

Virtual

Ottawa Branch, Ontario Ancestors

February 26, 2026 5:00 pm

<https://ottawa.ogs.on.ca/events/monthly-presentation-ottawa-4>

### RootsTech 2026

Hybrid

FamilySearch

March 5 – 7, 2026

<https://www.familysearch.org/en/rootstech>

## AFHS EVENTS

### Genealogy 101

In-person

(Members free; \$30 for non-members)

March 28, 2026 9:30 am – 4:00 pm

Register at [communications@afhs.ab.ca](mailto:communications@afhs.ab.ca)

### AFHS Conference

In-person \$

Alberta Family Histories Society

October 17, 2026 8:00 am – 3:00 pm

<https://afhs.ab.ca/event/conference>

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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 subscription databases, 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>. Our site features over 370 cemeteries and more than 260,000 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

**Suite 251S, 8500 Macleod Trail SE  
Calgary, AB T2M 0J8**

### Fall/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.