



## NEXT SOCIETY MEETING

**Monday, April 13, 2026**

**Topic:** Investigative Genetic Genealogy: What It Is and How You Can Help

**Speaker:** Marie Palmer

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

**Time:** 7 – 9 pm

## FUTURE MEETINGS

**Monday, April 20, 2026**

**Meeting:** Chit Chat Session

**Topic:** Weather

**Hosts:** Linda Murray and Kelly Southworth

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

**Time:** 7 – 8:30 pm

**Monday, May 11, 2026**

**Meeting:** AFHS Society Meeting

**Topic:** TBD

**Speaker:** TBD

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

**Time:** 7 – 9 pm

## INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

President's Message	2
Gravediggers in Broad Daylight	3
Special Interest Groups	4
New Books at the Resource Centre	5
Walk Your Way Into Calgary's Past and Present	6
Upcoming Events	7
About Our Society	8

## 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

## Dorothy Clements

It's been a busy month. Our casino happened on March 2 and 3. Big thanks to all the volunteers who came to help! I had fun as a first-time chip-runner, and I'll be back for the next one. Jane Hillside did an excellent job organizing us.

Most of our library volunteers showed up on March 22 for the Resource Centre orientation. Marion, Linda and Warren did their very best to inform and instruct us on how everything should be done at the Resource Centre.

March 28 was an especially busy day! We had Family History Coaching at the Central Branch of Calgary Public Library and our Genealogy 101 course at the AFHS Resource Centre along with our regular open hours at the Resource Centre. Thanks to our volunteers that worked at these events.

Our upcoming Family Roots Conference now has a theme – **The 3 R's of Genealogy: Relationships, Research and Resources**. Conference planning is in full swing. Look for this one to be bigger and better than our last one. We have our keynote speaker (who will be there in-person), one of our other speakers and our breakout session speakers booked. Watch for announcements of who will be there. The conference will also include information booths, a used-book sale, AFHS merchandise and door prizes. We are planning to have some time for the attendees to mingle. So mark it on your calendar for **October 17, 2026!**

The presentation from the last Society meeting on *Indigenous Research at Library & Archives Canada* by Minn Hannaford and Jeannie Buchanan Breit of LAC has been posted to the Resources > Meeting Videos & Handouts section of the AFHS website. Two handouts have also been posted. Warren Peterson's Genealogy Minute on *Rescuing Obsolete Files and Formats* is available as well.

This is a great volunteer organization, and I am excited for the future of our Society. I look forward to learning more about the role of President and meeting more of our members at events.

I look forward to seeing you at our next Society meeting on **April 13** when Marie Palmer talks about *Investigative Genetic Genealogy: What It Is and How You Can Help*.



### Gravediggers in Broad Daylight

Ron Gilmore

My wife Wendy's Aunt Hazel was a delightful and high-energy lady who took great pride in fussing over our kids. After her husband Alvin passed away, Hazel sadly developed Alzheimer's disease and had to be committed to a care facility. There, she withered and soon passed away.

Her service was held in a small rural cemetery called Fife's Cemetery not far from Peterborough, Ontario, where Wendy's family lived. Set amidst rolling agricultural hills, the well-maintained cemetery likely included only a few hundred residents. A local farmer provided the maintenance and dug up the openings for new graves as needed. Data for the cemetery was kept on recipe cards and managed by a local volunteer.

Wendy's sister, a United Church minister, officiated at the graveside. On that cloudy, gloomy day, we were anointed with small amounts of light mist and drizzle as Molly used her commanding church voice to boom out the ceremonial words. Most of the somewhat elderly in attendance had their umbrellas out in case of rain.

Midway through the service, Wendy's Uncle John, the family patriarch, nudged me and whispered, "They dug the hole in the wrong spot." Yikes! He was right! Oh goodness! However, rather than halt the proceedings and upset this already emotional event, we decided to let the process proceed and deal with the mistake later.

Wendy's mother had inherited six adjacent burial plots in the cemetery, and this was where the fresh hole had been dug for the cremated remains that were contained in a small urn. But Aunt Hazel had always indicated she wanted to be buried beside her husband. Alvin's cremated remains were buried near the northern boundary of the cemetery, some 50 yards from the new hole. What to do?

The next day, Wendy and I returned to the now deserted cemetery with a shovel. I carefully exhumed dear Aunt Hazel's urn and we walked the 50 yards to where her husband was buried. Then, digging another small hole, I deposited her urn right next to her lifetime partner, Alvin. Eternal peace had been restored. None of the mourners had been unnecessarily disturbed, and Aunt Hazel's headstone could be placed exactly where it belonged.

Who knows when a long handle shovel might come in handy? To this day, probably only a select few in the family know the truth of Aunt Hazel's burial.



## 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 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. SIGs do not meet during July and August.

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

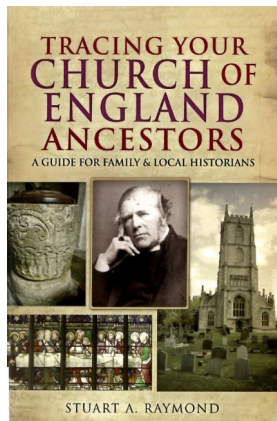
Our members can watch recorded sessions of past Society and SIG meetings and view handouts at the AFHS website. You must be **signed in to the website** to access them. Go to Resources, then click on Meeting Videos & Handouts.

- The Basics SIG is looking for a new leader or leaders. Contact [basics@afhs.ab.ca](mailto:basics@afhs.ab.ca)
- The April session of the Ontario SIG will have members talking about interesting discoveries they made using family and community history books.
- The English/Welsh SIG will continue discussing their ancestors' occupations at their April meeting.
- At the Digital Genealogy and Family Genes SIG April meeting, the group will be talking about *Storytelling and Preserving*. They will discuss how to capture your ancestors' stories in digital format.
- Barbara Watts will do a short presentation on *Step Migration From Ireland* at the April meeting of the Celtic SIG.

## Resource Centre Highlights

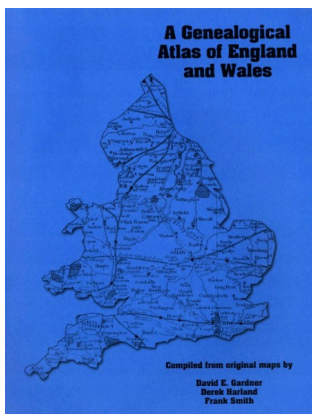
### New Books at the Resource Centre

Linda Murray



Another excellent book in the *Tracing Your Ancestors* series. Stuart A. Raymond's *Tracing Your Church of England Ancestors* covers the history of the Church of England from the mid-sixteenth century Reformation up to present day. He then identifies which sources are available, comments on the strengths and weaknesses of each, and finally tells you how to make the best use of what is available. The chapters are short and easy-to-read with a wealth of information and include practical tips on how to get the most from the records.

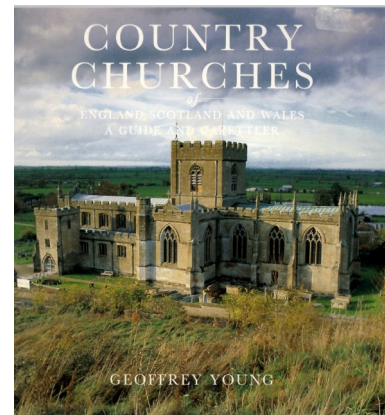
AFHS Call Number: 942. \*G RAY 24



*A Genealogical Atlas of England and Wales* is a compilation of maps from the mid 1800s created by David E. Gardner, Derek Harland and Frank Smith. The atlas covers all of England

and Wales in 88 different maps, clearly printed so you can see intricate details. It contains a treasure trove of information including old roads, mountains, hamlets, townships, parishes and the boundaries of counties and dioceses. There is an index to help you find the map you need, and it is spiral bound to allow the book to lie flat.

AFHS Call Number: 941. GARD 1974



This beautifully illustrated guide to the historic churches of England, Scotland and Wales covers 100 churches with information on their history and architecture. The book includes maps, county boundaries, a glossary of architectural terms and a comprehensive index. *Country Churches* by Geoffrey Young contains gorgeous photographs that will make you feel like you are there. Add to your ancestors' stories by seeing the kind of place where they married, baptized their babies and buried their dead.

AFHS Call Number: 941. YOUNG 1991

*All three books were purchased with money generously donated by the English/Welsh SIG*

### Suggestions

The Library Committee members welcome suggestions on books to add to the Resource Centre. If you know of a book that you think would be a good fit for the library, please pass on your suggestion to them at:

[library@afhs.ab.ca](mailto:library@afhs.ab.ca)

### **Walk Your Way Into Calgary's Past and Present**

Amber Godfrey

Even if the current weather doesn't inspire you to head outside, spring is on its way! If you are looking for ways to learn more about Calgary and get some exercise, try one of the many free walking tours of Calgary. These offer great places to take guests from out-of-town, too!

#### **Heritage Calgary**

<https://www.heritagecalgary.ca/walking-tours>

Heritage Calgary created fifteen self-guided walking tours of historical spots in Calgary. The tours all have a printable map with numbered stops and historical information on each place. They include places like the Beltline, Chinatown, Haunted Inglewood, the Warehouse District and Mount Royal.

#### **Calgary Cemeteries**

<https://www.calgary.ca/parks/cemeteries/tours.html>

Volunteer tour guides take guests on a walk through time to learn about the people, personalities and events that helped shape Calgary while walking through Calgary's historic Union Cemetery. The tours are free, but they do encourage people to register ahead of time as only a limited number of walk-up participants are allowed to join the tour. The tours are offered between May and November and are normally on Sundays. For anyone who can't participate in the actual tours, there are virtual tours available on the website for Union Cemetery, St. Mary's Pioneer Cemetery and Burnsland Cemetery.

#### **Knox United Church**

<https://www.kxcalgary.com/walkingtour>

The Knox United Church has been on the corner of 4th Street and 6th Avenue in Calgary for over 100 hundred years. Print out the self-guided walking tour and learn more about the history and architecture of this historic church.

#### **Calgary Parks**

<https://www.calgary.ca/parks/activities/walking-tours.html>

Calgary's environmental education staff have developed several self-guided walking tours that highlight the city's stunning landscapes, rich history, diverse ecosystems and interesting wildlife. Visit places like Canyon Meadows Bee Boulevard, Griffith Woods Park, Haskayne Legacy Park, Inglewood Bird Sanctuary, and Reader Rock Garden.

#### **Sunnyside Community Outdoor Art Gallery**

<https://gooutside.substack.com/p/take-a-walk-through-this-incredible>

The community of Sunnyside in Calgary's inner-city has embraced outdoor art, and you will find colourful murals on garage doors, fences and even houses. This blog includes a link to a Google map of all the murals. Various artists have been commissioned by homeowners to create the scenes and the subjects include pets, nature-inspired themes, the solar system and even a bathtub! Check out this eclectic and wonderfully colourful neighbourhood.

## Upcoming Events

### CALGARY PUBLIC LIBRARY

#### Family History Coaching

In-person at Central Library

*Calgary Public Library*

April 25, 2026 1:00 – 3:00 pm

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

### AFHS EVENTS

#### Family Roots Conference: The 3 R's of Genealogy: Relationships, Research and Resources

In-person \$

*Alberta Family Histories Society*

October 17, 2026 8:00 am – 3:00 pm

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

### UPCOMING EVENTS

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

#### Researching Your 20th Century Ancestors

Virtual

*The National Archives (UK)*

April 14, 2026 12:30 am

<https://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/whats-on/events/researching-your-20th-century-ancestors>

#### Researching Métis Ancestors: Origins, Scrip, and Red River Records

Virtual

*Legacy Family Tree Webinars*

April 17, 2026 Noon

<https://familytreewebinars.com/webinar/researching-metis-ancestors-origins-scrip-and-red-river-records>

#### Fields of Hope: African Americans, Immigrants, and Women in the Homesteading Era

Virtual

*Legacy Family Tree Webinars*

April 22, 2026 Noon

<https://familytreewebinars.com/webinar/fields-of-hope-african-americans-immigrants-and-women-in-the-homesteading-era>

#### 1926 Census of the Irish Free State

Virtual

*The National Archives*

April 28, 2026 12:30 pm

<https://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/whats-on/events/1926>

#### Nova Scotia Genealogy Virtual Conference 2026

Virtual \$

*Genealogy Association of Nova Scotia*

May 2 – 3, 2026 5:00 am – 2:30 pm

*Recordings available for 60 days*

<https://www.nsgenconference.ca>

#### Discovering Industrial Ancestors in Mills, Logging Camps, and Company Towns with Kathryn Lake Hogan

Virtual

*Ontario Ancestors*

May 7, 2026 5:00 pm

<https://ogs.on.ca/may-webinar-discovering-industrial-ancestors-in-mills-logging-camps-and-company-towns-kathryn-lake-hogan>

#### Red Deer Family History Fair

In-person

*LDS Church & AGS Red Deer*

May 16, 2026 9:00 am – 4:00 pm

<https://rdfamilyhistoryfair.blogspot.com>

AFHS does not exercise any control over the content of external website links in this Chinook Arch newsletter and is not responsible for the content or quality. AFHS does not endorse any companies or products mentioned in the newsletter. Copyright © 2025 Alberta Family Histories Society. All rights reserved.

## 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 270,000 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).

*All rights reserved. The articles, stories and other information in CHINOOK ARCH are the property of the Alberta Family Histories Society and the authors. Reproduction of any part of CHINOOK ARCH is not permitted without the permission of the editor. To reprint an article, please contact the editor at [chinookarch@afhs.ab.ca](mailto:chinookarch@afhs.ab.ca).*

## AFHS RESOURCE CENTRE

**Suite 251S, 8500 Macleod Trail SE  
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 Tsúüt'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.



ALBERTA FAMILY  
HISTORIES SOCIETY  
*Supporting worldwide family history research*