

CHINOOK ARCH

June 2019 Volume 1 Issue 1



ALBERTA FAMILY
HISTORIES SOCIETY

Upcoming Meetings and Events

Our Next Monthly Meeting: Monday, June 10

LOCATION: The Village 4039 Brentwood Rd NW TIME: 7 to 9 pm

Topic: "The Value of Oral Traditions" by Roy Bear Chief of the Siksika Nation. Roy will share how oral traditions help Indigenous families stay connected and how family stories can help us know who we are.

We are also holding our annual Volunteer Appreciation Night. Join us as we honour those who donate their time and talents to our Society!

Friday, August 2 ~ Historic Calgary Week: Time TBA. Jim Benedict will be doing a presentation as part of Historic Calgary Week on Succession-Proofing Your Family History.

Saturday, August 3 ~ Heritage Fair: Noon - 3 pm at the Central Branch of Calgary Public Library (volunteers needed – see page 6 for details on the event).

Sunday, August 25 ~ AFHS Annual Picnic: 2 pm start at the rural home of Kay and Glenn Clarke, east of Calgary. This historic home is worthy of a tour and is a reminder of Alberta's farming history. Tours of the house and outbuildings begin around 2 pm. Potluck dinner is at 4:30 pm. See the AFHS website for more details and a map.

English/Welsh SIG & Celtic SIG are not meeting in June

Upcoming Monthly Meetings

Monday, September 9 - TBA

Monday, October 7 - TBA

Monday, November 11 - TBA

LOCATION: The Village 4039 Brentwood Rd NW

TIME: 7 to 9 pm



Join us and begin your journey to discovering your family history!

Member Benefits:

- Society events and activities
- Our member-exclusive email news bulletin *The Windsock* & newsletter *Chinook Arch*
- Full access to our Society's resources and library with lending privileges
- Opportunities to participate in our Special Interest Groups
- Gain new friends with similar research interests and have fun!

<http://afhs.ab.ca/membership/>

Introducing *Chinook Arch*

Welcome to Alberta Family Histories Society's newest publication:

Chinook Arch

This newsletter (which replaces our former publication *The Breeze*) will be distributed by email to members 10 times a year (September to June) just prior to our Monthly Meetings. Printed copies will be distributed at the monthly meetings.

Typical content will include:

- A list of upcoming Society meetings, events and SIG activities
- A short article based on a theme
- Content contributed by a different Special Interest Group each issue
- A regular column featuring information about Calgary's history
- A DNA column with contributions from our DNA Special Interest Group
- Information from our Library Committee about the AFHS Library's resources
- A final page with library hours, volunteer opportunities, and information about various Society programs.

We are very excited Amber Godfrey has stepped forward to be the editor. Please support her as she gathers content and seeks assistance.

We welcome your feedback and hope you enjoy this new initiative.

Marion Peterson

AFHS Director of Communications (communications@afhs.ab.ca)

Hello AFHS Members!

I am excited to bring you **Chinook Arch** ten times a year, packed with interesting and useful information about the Alberta Family History Society meetings, programs, volunteer opportunities and much more!

Our first issue has articles on comparing DNA companies, using social media in your genealogy research and how digital historical newspapers can enrich your family tree. The newsletter is designed to keep you informed, to educate you on new ways to research and to give you an opportunity to share your family stories.

We need contributors! The upcoming themes are:

September - Harvest/Round-up Stories

October - Thanksgiving Memories

November - War and Peace

December - Holiday Gatherings



Originally from BC, I moved to Calgary in 2017. I've been researching my family since I was 12 years old but I still need to work on the organization part! I love listening to other people's family stories and sharing my own. Thank you to everyone who helped get this first issue out!

Amber Godfrey
chinookarch@afhs.ab.ca

Special Interest Groups

SPECIAL INTEREST GROUPS (SIGs) are the ideal place to share your family history. The small-group setting allows for the exchange of information and suggestions on further avenues to pursue.

All SIGs are held at the AFHS Library located at 712 16 Ave NW and do not meet during the summer months. Check our website calendar for the most up-to-date information.

Please note: There are 6 parking spots behind the library building (2 rows of 3). Otherwise please park on neighbouring

CELTIC SIG (Irish/Scots)

Usually meets 4th Saturday of the month from 10 pm - Noon

DNA SIG

Usually meets 2nd Tuesday of the month from 7 - 9 pm

ENGLISH/WELSH SIG

Usually meets 3rd Saturday of the month from 10 am - Noon

FAMILY TREE MAKER SIG

Usually meets 2nd Saturday of the month from 10 am - Noon

LEGACY SIG

Meets 5 times a year on Sundays, usually from 1:30 - 3 pm

ONTARIO SIG

Usually meets 4th Monday of the month from 10 am - Noon

DIGITAL GENEALOGY SIG

Usually meets 2nd Saturday of the month from 10 am - Noon

ONTARIO SIG - Using Social Media For Genealogy

Helen Backhouse and Marion Peterson

When we started our session on May 27 about **Social Media**, several attendees admitted they found the subject daunting and weren't even sure what this term included. By the time the meeting ended, we are confident they had some ideas to try!

Facebook was the most familiar social media tool.

Ontario Ancestors (formerly Ontario Genealogical Society) has a wonderful public Facebook page, with lots of helpful responses for those with questions. Many branches have their own private Facebook pages, and these are monitored by local members who really know the area's resources. Sometimes they even use this private page to share their presentations. Iola Whiteside enjoys the meetings of the Essex County branch this way, while Marion Peterson's membership with the London-Middlesex branch lets her view YouTube recordings of their meetings whenever she wishes.

Find Relevant Pages

Put the name of where your ancestors lived into the search box at the top of the Facebook page. Be as specific as possible with your search term, and you might discover a page for the local church, cemetery, historical society, newspaper, municipal office, service organization, bookstore, school, and so on.

Many of those in attendance have found other relatives by searching on Facebook, too. Some were members or administrators of private family groups - a great way to stay in touch with family.

Stay Up-to-date

Facebook is probably the best tool for being "in the know" about new developments, just-released resources, time-limited offers and upcoming events. It also can be quite overwhelming! You can control the notifications. Lorna Laughton suggests having a Facebook "date night" to limit the time spent on this activity.

Save Posts

When you find a wonderful post, did you know that you can save it? In the top right corner of every post are three dots. If you click on this, a drop-down menu opens with an option to save the post. You can even set up folders on your device to save your Facebook finds in different categories.

Other Social Media

Our meeting also included discussions about using blogs, wikis, LinkedIn, Pinterest, Instagram, Twitter and Flickr.

If you don't know where to start, or if you want to learn more about using social media for genealogy, the Social Media section of Cyndi's List is highly recommended.

<https://www.cyndislist.com/social-networking>

DNA Discoveries

While DNA research is new and exciting, it can also be intimidating. There are many companies and tests available, plus interpreting the results can often be daunting. Below is a brief summary of the five main companies and what they offer, created by Lorna Laughton, one of the coordinators of our DNA Special Interest Group.

Ancestry DNA (<https://www.ancestry.ca/dna>)

This reliable testing company based in the United States has the largest database of testers which leads to more matches. They offer autosomal testing only. Their algorithm creates "ThruLines" which propose relationships, but they currently have NO chromosome browser. Messages are sent through their message system to matches (no direct email). They DO NOT take results from other testers. Your results can be downloaded to upload to other testing companies and 3rd-party tools. In order to work with cousins and get other genealogy information, you need to buy some level of subscription so there are on-going costs, but the DNA test itself is cheap.

Family Tree DNA (<https://www.familytreedna.com>)

This testing company based in Houston, Texas is very reliable. It has a large database but not nearly the size of AncestryDNA. They offer autosomal, Y and mtDNA tests. Their tools include match lists, a chromosome browser, direct email to matches, and surname projects. You can download your results to other companies or 3rd-party tools and they allow uploads from other companies. There is no subscription necessary after paying for testing.

23andMe (<https://www.23andme.com/en-ca>)

Based in the United States, 23andMe has a fairly large database. They offer autosomal, Y and mtDNA tests, but their test has more medical components. Cousin matches are fewer and it is hard to contact matches with their internal email system. It is possible to transfer results to other companies and 3rd-party tools. No subscription is necessary to work with matches.

MyHeritage DNA (<https://www.myheritage.com/dna/>)

This testing company in Israel is fairly new in the DNA testing marketplace, but they have a good-size database because of aggressively marketing in Europe. They only offer autosomal testing. A chromosome browser, linking to cousins and an internal email system are its main features. Your results can be downloaded to upload to other testing companies and 3rd-party tools. Some level of membership needs to be purchased to work with matches, so like Ancestry, DNA test price is reasonable, but it has on-going costs in order to work with matches.

LivingDNA (<https://livingdna.com>)

Based in England, this is the newest company in the DNA-testing marketplace. Their ethnicity reports are much better than others particularly in Great Britain and Ireland because they give regional results. They haven't got the "matches" section working yet and their database is fairly small, but this company has great potential. They also do Y-DNA and mtDNA haplogroup identification. It is possible to download your results and upload to other testing companies and 3rd party tools. Although it is more expensive for the DNA test, it does all three types of tests in one shot and there are no subscription or on-going costs.

Historical Calgary Newspapers: A Treasure Trove

Amber Godfrey

After moving to Calgary a couple years ago, I had more time to work on my family research. Most of my research focuses on BC, Nova Scotia and England, but I did have a Calgary connection through a great-aunt who married and moved here in 1912. This seemed like a good time to find out more about her story.

Tom & Annie Beatrice (Lyon) Avery

My mother's aunt, Annie Beatrice Lyon, was a music teacher and postmistress in her hometown of Falmouth, Nova Scotia, when she met Tom Avery. He immigrated from England to Calgary and worked as a landscape gardener there. Tom dreamed of having his own homestead but felt he needed to learn more about farming first so he took a job on a Nova Scotia farm. Tom and Annie married on December 26, 1912, and she moved with him to Calgary. Tom's brother, Wilfred Avery, already lived in Calgary and Annie's brother, Irving Lyon, joined them there too. They built a house in the southwest part of Calgary and, in an interview many years later, Annie said her years in Calgary were the happiest of her life.

Thousands of people came to Alberta in response to the CPR's offer of "free" homesteads. For a small fee, any man over 18 could receive 160 acres of land and, if he lived on the land and made improvements, he could eventually own the property. Tom was working as a landscape gardener to save the money they needed to take advantage of this offer when World War I was declared, and their lives were changed forever.

World War I

Tom, Wilfred and Irving signed up with the 31st Battalion of the Canadian Expeditionary Force and were shipped overseas in 1915.

Only Wilfred survived the war. Both Tom and Irving were killed in France and have their names engraved on the Vimy Memorial.

Google News: Calgary Newspapers

On the AFHS website, I discovered the "Birth, Marriage, Death Notices" database that was compiled by volunteers from Calgary newspapers, and I found a reference to Tom Avery. With the help of another volunteer at the AFHS Library, I was able to look up the actual article using Google News. It has digital copies of many, but not all, of the *Calgary Daily Herald* and *Calgary Herald* newspapers.

The article included a picture of Tom and mentioned his Calgary address, that he was married, that his wife was "living in the old country" (she had gone to England to stay with his mother during the war), that he was a landscape gardener, how long he'd lived in Calgary, his age and where he was born in England. This information gives me a lot of clues to follow up on to learn more about him.

Since Wilfred survived the war, I checked the "Returned Soldiers Database" on the AFHS website. There was an entry for him and I found the original article in the *Calgary Daily Herald* using Google News. It mentioned that the 31st Battalion was nicknamed "Bell's Bulldogs", after their first commander, and that the men serving in it were some of the youngest soldiers in any Canadian Unit. Another article listed the men in the unit who had won medals and it showed Wilfred had been awarded a Military Medal, which was given for acts of bravery during World War I.

Digitized newspapers offer a glimpse into your ancestors lives and often contain information you couldn't find any other way. Indexing projects, like the ones done by AFHS volunteers, can help you locate specific articles on your ancestor.

Check out Google's collection of newspapers at <https://news.google.com/newspapers>

Society Updates

Family History Coaching Program

AFHS Volunteers & CPL Staff

This drop-in program offers help with genealogy research in partnership with Calgary Public Library. Registration not required.

LOCATION: Central Library (800 3 Street SE)

Level 4—4-20C

NEXT SESSION: June 29

TIME: 10 am to 12 pm

Three AFHS Workshops this fall!

with Michele Buhler

1. Life & Family History Writing:

October 1 - December 3
1:00 - 3:15 p.m.
{ 10 sessions }

\$180 member - \$210 non-member

2. Layout & Design Workshop:

October 21 & 28
1:00 - 3:15 p.m.

\$40 member - \$45 non-member

3. Bookmaking Workshop:

November 18 & 25
1:00 - 3:30 p.m.

\$40 member - \$45 non-member



To register, email membymichele@gmail.com

AFHS relies on volunteers. We currently are seeking people for the following positions:

Saturday, August 3 ~ Heritage Fair: AFHS will be participating in the Heritage Fair at Calgary Public Library's new Central Library building from noon to 3:00 pm. Volunteers are needed to help at this family-friendly event. We'll be helping young ones to start a family tree as a hands-on activity. If you can help, please contact Christine programs@afhs.ab.ca

Like To Read? AFHS has a library full of great material - help us tell our members and the world! Write a short review of one or two of our helpful resources for the library page of our new monthly publication *Chinook Arch*. Please contact Marion at communications@afhs.ab.ca

Around Town: What are other historical and genealogy organizations doing locally? Find out for us and publish some current information on the Local Resources page of the AFHS website. Please contact Marion at communications@afhs.ab.ca

Meeting Summaries: Our meetings have interesting speakers and topics and we want to share that, particularly with our members who can't attend. Write some notes about the presentation, speaker, questions, handouts or other resource links. This information would be published on the AFHS website. Please contact volunteer@afhs.ab.ca

Library Hours & Opportunities to Connect

Library Summer Hours

June

Thursdays - 10 am to 2 pm
*June 20 only 11 am to 2 pm

Fridays - 10 am to 2 pm

Saturdays - Noon to 4 pm
* June 1, 8, 15, 22 (closed 28)

July and August

Tuesdays - 10 am to 2 pm

Thursdays - 10 am to 2 pm

Saturdays - 10 am to 2 pm

* July 13 and 27

* August 10 and 24

Board Meetings

AFHS Board Meetings will be held at the AFHS Library. Dates TBA.

The Windsock

Watch for our monthly email update *The Windsock* which usually is distributed on the last day of each month.

Chinook Arch

Watch for our newsletter *Chinook Arch* which is distributed by email monthly, on the Saturday before AFHS meetings, from September - June. Paper copies are available at the monthly meetings.

AFHS Library & Office location:

712 - 16 Avenue NW Calgary

Get in Touch with us!

Email: info@afhs.ab.ca

Facebook: Search for **Alberta Family Histories Society**

Website: www.afhs.ab.ca



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HISTORIES SOCIETY