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Chinook

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Calgary's First Charging Office circa 1912 - See p. 5 for photo credit

Alberta Family Histories Society



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MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR

by Helen Backhouse

As I write this in February for you to read in April it is hard to imagine what will have taken place in our Society during those months.

Who would have imagined that our Casino payout would have given such a lift to our financial outlook?



Who would have imagined that Library and Archives Canada would retract the drastic changes that they proposed in personal access to the records of Canada?

Who would have imagined that the United Church Archives would be available to us quite so soon after their move?

One of the things that I did not imagine was that my one year as Chairperson for our Society, would have gone by so quickly. I did imagine that the AFHS Board would be wonderful people to work with, and they were and are. I thank them all for the support and dedicated hard work they have given to both me and to the Society.

Now it is time for you to realize that you too can play a vital part in ensuring our Society's growth, making our resources better known to the community and giving our members better access to the fast changing face of family history.

Change is a vital part of growing and seeing things in a different light. It is also often uncomfortable, at least until one gets used to the new. One of the changes the AFHS Board has had to face this year was not holding a FamilyRoots seminar in 2008. This was a decision was made with a lot of thought and regret, and we as a Board want to publicly thank all those people who worked so hard to attempt to carry FamilyRoots through to completion. You will see in this issue of *Chinook* that there are two one-day workshops coming up. Both of

these workshops have well qualified speakers whose topics will complement each other.

I would like you all to exercise your imagination, to think about the future of family history as it pertains to you personally and to all those unknown people who also are involved with their own family histories. What you do think we as a Society could do that would help you? What would help someone else? How do we let others know about us, our resources and the immense fund of knowledge that is in our collective heads? These are serious questions that must be answered sooner rather than later by all Family History Societies or we and they will have to close the doors. The Internet is, of course, a great tool to quickly find some of the things that we want to know, but there will never be a time when it can completely replace all the actual records we need. How are we going to go into the future? What are you going to do to make a future happen?

I thank you all for the support that you have given me in my year as your Chairperson. It has been challenging, rewarding, satisfying and enjoyable.

Birth is nothing without virtue and we have no claim to share in the glory of our ancestors unless we strive to resemble them. Moliere ###

2008 NOTICE OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

This is the second and final notice of the **Annual General Meeting** of the **Alberta Family Histories Society** that will be held on Monday, May 5, 2008 at 3818 - 14A Street SW (River Park Church, formerly First Christian Reformed 3Church) starting at 7:00 p.m. during which financial and other reports will be given, business conducted and elections held.

George Lake will be calling the nominations committee together. ###

EDITOR'S EYE by Xenia Stanford

An incredible number of people send in contributions to each issue of *Chinook*. I have the enviable task of reading each one and making the decision of which ones go in. Setting aside those that will not be included in the next issue is not so enviable for I have not received any that are not worthy. It is only a matter of ensuring there are no more than 32 pages each time. This means I am left with enough articles for many more issues. Don't let this stop you from sending in your contribution. Yours may fit a particular issue by timeliness, theme or space. I do not choose the items by order submitted.

Also do not give up on seeing your item in print even if you submitted it a long time ago. It is just waiting for the right fit. If you wonder what happened to it though and haven't heard back from me, email editor-chinook@afhs.ab.ca because it may have been lost in the shuffle. I did have a few computer burps, especially where my email was concerned!

This issue I focus on reunion stories and tips in three articles. Next issue I want to focus on finding elusive female ancestors (see page 9), but that does not mean there will not be other topics covered. Having only one topic each issue would not serve a wide range of readers.

In addition to these submitters, we have regular contributors to the success of this publication. See page 2 for the names, but a list alone really does not begin to tell the value of their input. First, there is Rosemary Kry. Before she came on board I was trying to handle an unwieldy boat. She not only lent an extra oar, she brought in an entire crew, which I picture to be like my daughter's prize winning dragon boat team. Everyone has a role, whether as oarsman (rower), coach, drummer or steersman.

The drummer is a light person sitting on a stool precariously perched on a raised section at the front facing the rowers and drumming to set the tempo and encourage them. The steersman is at the back of the boat controlling the direction.

The rowers are the power – the engine. The coach's role is to teach techniques prior to the race. Once the race is on, the coach can only stand at the dock and watch. Who's who on our team I leave to your imagination, but for sure the rowers are our regulars with the steady force. Other writers are the ringers brought in and changed each race.

Thus it gives me great sadness to note two of the regulars, Bev and Ken Rees, will not continue their roles past this issue. I consider myself lucky they have been there for the learning curve of the new team. Their seasoned help steadied the boat for this and the previous six issues. They will be missed, but they will continue as members of AFHS and have agreed to contribute articles from time to time. Our best wishes go with them.

We are looking for replacements and continue our search for another picky proofreader to help our one and only picky Marion Peterson (in this job picky is a compliment!). For July's issue to be completed May 1, we need an events columnist and another on methodology. This column could alternate issues with beginner techniques in one issue and more advanced in the next. If we are lucky enough to find two people, each could submit a column every other issue, if they wish to reduce the workload.

Switching to the theme of Rosemary Kry's article on "Wicked Calgary", here are our *Chinook* wanted posters:



(Clipart courtesy and permission of Microsoft Office)

Reward: Being a member of a winning team with great camaraderie and seeing your name in print! To turn yourself in, contact me at editor-chinook@afhs.ab.ca ###

CALGARY'S WICKED PAST 1874 – 1916

by Rosemary Kry

Cover photo – Calgary's First Charging Office circa 1912 (Photo courtesy and permission of YouthLink Calgary - The Calgary Police Interpretive Centre)

Human nature is one of the world's constants. In the past, Calgary had its full share of caring, law-abiding citizens. On the other hand, it was never heaven either.

When the North West Mounted Police arrived in southern Alberta in 1874, one of its missions was to control the whiskey traders from the United States. Their toxic and intoxicating firewater created bloodshed among the native tribes and put the lives of pioneers in the area in possible peril. In 1875, in what is now called Calgary but was then known as "The Elbow", a native death lodge was found on the banks of the Bow River. It contained the bodies of three natives who had been killed the previous summer by whiskey traders. It is unknown whether the perpetrators were ever caught.

In the early days between 1880 and 1885, miscreants appeared before Ex-Commissioner Macleod of the North West Mounted Police. Later Justices of the Peace included George Murdoch (former mayor of Calgary), T.J. Boswell and J. Creagh of the Calgary Tribune. Sentences under two years were served within the Calgary police barracks. Longer sentences were completed at Stony Mountain Penitentiary in Manitoba.

Calgary's first murder occurred on February 8, 1884, the same year Calgary was incorporated as a town. That Friday evening, James Adams, a part-time clerk at McKelvie's grocery store, had his throat slit with a straight razor. Then he was struck twice on the back of his head with an axe. The murderer was Jess Williams. Williams, who had been to the store earlier in the day to change a bill, believed that the till held over \$50.

Williams was arrested at his shack on the west edge of town, found guilty by Judge Macleod and, on March 29, hanged at the NWMP barracks. He was the first, but not the last, man

to be executed in Calgary.

In 1885, Calgary hired its first police chief, J.S. Ingraham. Before the new police quarters were built, prisoners were kept in a log shack with small iron-barred windows. It stood on Centre Street between Seventh and Eighth Avenues. It was built by two Calgary lawyers who celebrated the completion of its construction in such style that they were charged with drunkenness and became its first inmates.

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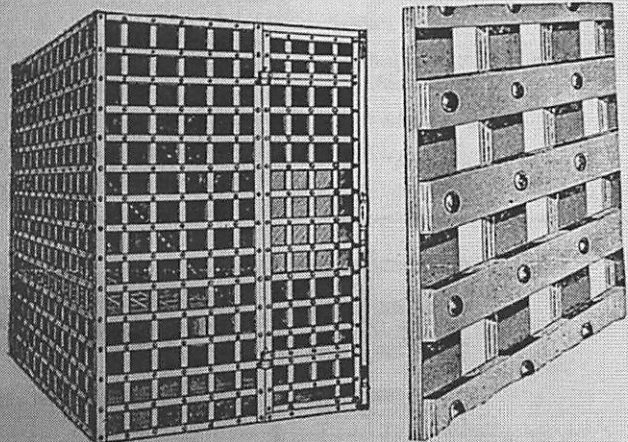


PLATE A-3

PLATE A-4

In February 1911, the Calgary Police Department ordered and received 8 standard lattice steel bar jail cells from the Canada Wire Goods Mfg. Co. of Hamilton, Ontario. (Photo courtesy and permission of YouthLink Calgary - The Calgary Police Interpretive Centre)

The first jailbreak occurred during Ingraham's five year term. Known as Calgary's strongest man, the inmate successfully smashed the

shack's slat roof and broke the boards in the gable. The police ran him to ground at the Elbow River where Mission Bridge now stands on Fourth St. W. The police trussed him up with a lariat, as at that time police did not carry weapons.

The construction of the Canadian Pacific Railway in the 1880s brought a working force of over 4000 men to the vicinity. They had a reputation of being rough and lawless. A prohibition law made it illegal to sell alcohol to the workers within a 20 mile radius of their camp. The law only challenged the ingenuity among those with liquor for sale. The police found blown eggshells and tin imitations of the Bible filled with liquor and whiskey. Barrels of kerosene contained sealed metal kegs of liquor within. Even peaches and mincemeat soaked in brandy were sold for their alcoholic content. The train also brought its hustlers, schemers, gamblers, thugs and prostitutes. Most were given 24 hours to leave town or were ushered onto a departing train with police assistance. However, gambling and prostitution were thriving businesses beside the railway tracks on what is now Ninth Avenue S (then Atlantic Ave.)

The Royal Hotel was one of many Calgary hotels with a saloon. Its bar was reputed to be the longest west of Winnipeg. Liquor was easy to obtain and was usually handled with discretion during the week. Saturday night however drew the "ranchers, cowboys, trappers, prospectors, lumberjacks and miners (who) came to town bent on having a good time" (*Calgary's Finest*, p. 20). On the evening of July 15, 1890, Dan Morrison attempted to shoot the manager of the Royal Hotel. After bursting through the swinging doors of the saloon, he began to shoot randomly, narrowly missing other patrons and the bartender. He was arrested by Constable Barker and charged with attempted murder.

Frank Anderson, a Calgary historian, stated that between 1870 and 1914 there were 200 killings in Western Canada. "He claims that it was only the incredible bad shooting habits of our forefathers which kept the number at that respectable level." (*Calgary's Finest*, p. 24)



Wanted Poster circa 1920's: \$100 Reward each for B.G. Ward, J.B. White, Joe Dunn and Joe James who escaped from jail in Washington, posted in Calgary (Photo courtesy and permission of YouthLink Calgary - The Calgary Police Interpretive Centre)

Some sentences seem harsh by modern standards. On July 24, 1890, Thomas Cavin was fined \$20 and costs before Justice Shelton for scalping a return excursion ticket on the CPR from Toronto to Calgary. The same year two young men: Campbell, age 16, and Macdonald, age 19, were sentenced to five years each for burglary and two years each for horse stealing. They were sent to Stony Mountain, MB.

Calgary's "Jack the Ripper" case happened on the afternoon of February 28, 1889. William

“Jumbo” Fisk, a Calgary blacksmith, very brutally killed a woman named Rosalie. In spite of very damning and detailed evidence, the jury returned a verdict of “not guilty” on April 9. Fisk was a popular figure around the saloons and gambling dens. Rosalie was a native prostitute. Mr. Justice Rouleau was so incensed with their finding and obvious prejudice that he ordered a new trial. On July 9, Fisk was found guilty of manslaughter and sentenced to 14 years at Stony Mountain.

Racial prejudice would raise its head more than once. On February 10, 1916, a mob of soldiers destroyed both the White Lunch restaurants alleging that the owner hired alien enemies in preference to those of British origin. On February 11, another mob claimed that the Riverside Hotel was a hang-out for Germans who lived in the area. The bar was looted and the furnishings destroyed.

Early Calgary also saw its money tricksters. On a Saturday in February 1903, the signature of W. H. Cushing was forged on cheques worth several hundreds of dollars. The culprit was never apprehended, as the cheques were cashed on the Saturday but not verified by the bank until the following Tuesday.

Although prostitution was frowned upon by the conservative citizens of Calgary, the location of brothels seems to have been common knowledge. A front-page article of the Calgary Herald in 1902 mentions that a “house of joy” on Nose Hill would have to close due to an outbreak of disease. In 1910, Police Chief Mackie raided the establishment of Johnny Reid, whose restaurant refreshment was “liquid and illegal” and “above this charming little refreshment parlor, his wife brought in the odd penny by conducting a brothel”. There he found Mayor Johnny Mitchell and two city commissioners who said they were inspecting the building. Not long afterwards, Chief Mackie resigned.

Early Calgary had its full share of civic election tampering (Magistrate Jeremiah Travis in 1885), drug dealers (mostly opium), gamblers, thieves, murderers, prostitutes, robbers, illegal

abortionists (Lovingheart, 1893) and even bad cops. Human nature doesn’t change. Those of us interested in family history may just as easily find an unsavoury character in our past as a duke or an earl!

Calgary’s Finest: A History of the City Police Force by Margaret Gilkes and Marilyn Symons, Century Calgary Publications, 1975.

Thank you to YouthLink Calgary - The Calgary Police Interpretive Centre for permission to use their materials and pictures. ###

CALGARY 100 YEARS AGO by Cheryl Sutherland

Have you ever wondered what was happening in Calgary 100 years ago? I have and I found “Our Future Our Past”, the Alberta Heritage Digitalization Project website, to be a source of fascinating information.

The first of April 101 years ago was an Easter Monday, therefore also a Bank Holiday. The *Herald* reported the weather in the western provinces had been fair and mild but a cold wave with high winds and bitter temperatures was heading eastward to Manitoba. That hadn’t seemed to daunt the crowds on Easter Sunday. The churches were filled to capacity in the morning and there was only standing room during the evening services. Many people were turned away at the uptown churches.

The Herald carried detailed accounts of the music performed by the choirs and the sermons preached by the ministers or priests for Knox Presbyterian Church, the Cathedral, Central Methodist, St. Mary’s Catholic Church and the First Baptist Church. It recorded that the 15th Light Infantry played at the C.P.R. Park to thousands who came to hear their music. A column described women’s Easter bonnets and dresses in various colours and shades, bright to pale. Young men went “courting pneumonia” to show off their vests which were all the fashion at the time. (For more, see website at www.ourfutureourpast.ca). ###

UPPER CANADA LAND PETITIONS: A POTENTIAL GOLDMINE

by Catherine Whiteley

Editor's note: Catherine Whiteley is the 2007 Brian W. Hutchison Genealogical Scholarship winner. (More information can be found at www.afhs.ab.ca/scholarship). Although the first part of the genealogy report "Descendants of James Davidson 1789–1907" was published in the January issue with a promise of part 2 and 3 to follow, we decided to print the entire genealogy report as a booklet to be deposited in the AFHS Library. The essay for the scholarship was published in the October 2007 issue and I was pleasantly surprised to have Catherine submit this informative article.

Some months after I had submitted my article about the "Descendants of James Davidson" (*Chinook*, January 2008) I had the opportunity to consult a CD entitled *Index to Upper Canada Land Books: February 1787 to February 1841* by Susan Smart, published by the Ontario Genealogical Society, 2007.

I had already acquired land records for James Davidson's properties in Halton and Oxford Counties from both the Land Record Offices and the Archives of Ontario. I doubted there was more to be gleaned from this record group. Nevertheless, I noted the reference to James Davidson on the CD and ordered the microfilm from Library and Archives Canada.

(N.B. One can order either the relevant microfilm or a printout from LAC. I tried one of each to see which was more efficient. The microfilm came first and was a better choice as I could manipulate difficult to read writing on the computer to make it more legible.)

It has been the single most valuable source I have ever located for this ancestor. His Petition for Free Land in 1827 included the following documents:

- Oath of Allegiance (stating his current Township of residence and the date October 2, 1827)

- Petition (providing his current place of residence, his origin of Ireland, age 36, his residence in this Province since the second of May, his family comprising wife and 5 children (one more than I was aware existed), the particular 200 acres for which he was petitioning, his undertaking to reside thereon and make improvements, and his personal signature)
- An affidavit declaring that the two Lots in question had been examined and found to have had no improvements made upon them "other than a few trees cut such as a man might perform in half a day" by previous occupiers
- A Letter of Reference from his commanding officer of the Light Company of the Castletwellan Yeoman Infantry, of which he had been "a proper member" for the past twelve years, signed April 3, 1827.



Home of Hon. John Andrew Davidson, founder of the town of Neepawa, MB and Treasurer of Province of Manitoba, 1900 – 1903, grandson of James Davidson

(Photo courtesy of Catherine Whiteley from family files)

At last I had found documentation to put James Davidson in a particular place at a particular time in Ireland. The PRONI site in Belfast told me

that Castlewellan was a town in County Down. Googling Castlewellan brought me to a wonderful County Down webpage: Ros Davies' County Down, Ireland Genealogy Research Site, which had pages of information for Castlewellan and its parish of Kilmegan. Included was the information that Births, Marriages and Deaths for this parish are available from 1823. This would include the births of at least two of the children accompanying James to Canada and might even include his second marriage.

Although none of the information gave me James Davidson's birthplace, I had his age in October 1827 which implies a birth year of 1791. I now know he lived in the Castlewellan vicinity (close enough to go to militia drills each week) from 1815 – 1827. I even know that he had a quick trip across "the pond" – his Letter of Reference was dated exactly a month and a day before his arrival in Canada. The search has definitely narrowed.



John Andrew Davidson (1852-1903)
(Photo courtesy of Catherine Whiteley from family files)

One never knows what a set of records will reveal, but I would heartily recommend paying attention to Land Petitions. James Davidson's twelve years of service in the Yeoman Infantry may have been included to prove his good character and his deserving of free land, but for me it was a direct link to his Irish home, the only one I have found to date. ###

FEMALE ANCESTORS LOST AND FOUND

by Xenia Stanford

Call for articles for July 2008 issue

One time a family member handed me a genealogy he considered complete back to the late 1700s. It had the full names of all the males but only the first names of their female mates and sometimes not even that. "Why didn't you pursue the female ancestors?" I asked, expecting to hear that it was too hard. Instead he told me these women were not our direct lineage. I wondered aloud how we survived since the dawn of humanity with only male ancestors.

A while ago I posted a message to an online forum for tips on finding information on female ancestors. The only reply I received was from a woman who said if we all searched for the female lines it would be too big a family tree!

I grew up with stories about the strong women in my family and continue to be intrigued with the women who helped found our nation. I have been encouraged to share my story of my pioneer grandmother. Two other women have agreed to tell "her-stories" with tips for uncovering our female roots. These will be published in the July issue. If you have an article and/or tips for finding your elusive female forebears, remember the deadline is May 1, 2008. Please email your contributions on or before that date to me at editor-chinook@afhs.ab.ca ###

Distaff: (dis, bunch of flax + stæf, staff) rod with a base holding long fibres to be spun and twisted by hand, then gathered on the spindle. Considered work of a virtuous woman: "layeth her hands to the spindle, and her hands hold the distaff" (*Book of Proverbs*). Like spinster for female spinner, this term indicated the work of young women. Thus distaff became a term to mean woman or women.



(Clipart © 2003 University of South Florida, permission for non-profit use. <http://etc.usf.edu/clipart>)

THE FIECHTNER/FICHTNER/ERFLE REUNION

by Warner M. Fichtner

Editor's note: Thank you to Heather Jaremko for submitting this reunion article and thank you to Warner M. Fichtner for allowing us to publish it.



A Fichtner et al Family Reunion

(Photo courtesy and permission of Warner M. Fichtner)

The events leading up to the Fiechtner, Fichtner, Fitchner, Erfle Reunion in July 2004 were very exciting for me. The whole process started when I hired a genealogical researcher in North Dakota over the Internet to see if she could help me find out some more information about my family tree. I only knew that my grandfather was born in 1899 in North Dakota and we were of German descent. It was definitely not very much information to go on.

In a few days I heard back from the researcher saying I should contact Ila Johnson of Ft. Worth, Texas as she may be related to me. I did just that and it turned out that she is my second cousin. Another surprise was that genealogy is her passion and she has spent many years tracing our family history. In about three days and for a total of \$40 US I had my family tree traced back more than 200 years thanks to Ila.

The Fiechtners were from Germany, but in 1763 Catherine the Great issued a proclamation inviting Germans to come to Russia, so with the promise of free land and many other benefits, Christoph Friedrich Fiechtner left Germany bound for Russia in 1817. The ancestors that Ila,

I and the rest of our reunion guests in North America have in common are Johann Jakob Fiechtner and Luisa Fink. They were my great great grandparents and Ila's great grandparents. Together they had 10 children between 1857 and 1878. Five of these children chose to leave Russia to seek a better life. It was between 1894 and about 1901 when Jacob, Heinrich, Louise, Karl and Konrad made their way to America. The men were all trained as blacksmiths and thus farmed and opened blacksmith shops around the Turtle Lake and Goodrich areas of North Dakota.

In the summer of 1909, my great grandfather Jacob moved his family to a homestead five miles out of Piapot, Saskatchewan. The sandy soil around Piapot was not suited for farming and the weather had been extremely hot and dry. It was these factors that led Jacob to open up the first blacksmith shop in Piapot. Each Monday morning he would walk pushing a wheelbarrow to town, stay at the shop until Saturday evening, then walk back home pushing the wheelbarrow full of supplies from town for the family. (He couldn't use the horses because they were needed to work the land.) Jacob's sons Emmanuel, August and Heinrich (my grandfather) were also trained to be blacksmiths. In 1918 there was a world wide flu epidemic. On February 13, 1919 Jacob died from the flu. Maria died in Foam Lake, SK in December 1927. Both are buried in Piapot.

Our reunion was held July 23-24, 2004 in Calgary, AB. Naturally most of the attendees were descendants of my great grandfather Jacob, as he was the only one out of the five that came to Canada. I am proud to say that we did in fact have at least one descendant from each of the five that came to North America. Relatives came from as far away as Arizona, Texas, California, North Dakota and Illinois.

The reunion was a two day event starting on Friday evening. Friday was a casual meet and greet. People could come and register, get their name tags, visit and peruse the displays. It was a

very busy evening getting everyone registered, but it was good to get that done before the main event on Saturday. The fact that we were fairly well prepared certainly made things easier. Every family had an envelope filled with reunion information, tourist brochures and computer printed name tags listing first and last name as well as their city. A color coded sticker identified which ancestor from whom they descended. Saturday was much the same as Friday, only not so rushed, as the majority of the guests were checked in.

In my opinion, it is very important to plan lots of activities. The last thing you want are people sitting in the corner at their table only visiting with immediate family. I would encourage organizers to plan plenty to keep the different age groups of children busy. The possibilities are endless depending upon where your reunion is held. There are many good ideas, such as outdoor activities, arts and crafts, and so on.

We held our reunion at Canada Olympic Park where children had their choice of mini-golf, climbing wall or luge track. Make sure to have many volunteers ready at a moment's notice to help with those activities, so parents are not dragged away from visiting with other guests.

Canada Olympic Park was a great venue for us. We had the whole lounge to ourselves, complete with outdoor deck. We also had bar service both nights and a terrific prime rib buffet on Saturday. This was a little more expensive for the guests but it was much easier than family members trying to cook at a community hall. There are many different options for venues and meal preparation, so do your research.

Another good idea is for a representative from each family to make a collage or display on poster board with photos of their family and a write up. This will get people interested, mingling with others and, of course, bringing back many memories. The more displays, the better. We had individual family displays, a military section and maps showing where the family lived in Germany, Russia, North Dakota and Saskatchewan. I had found my grandfather's

baptismal certificate, had it restored and framed it for display at the reunion. Anything that gets people together with similar interests is the goal. It could be a recipe book displayed to catch the eyes of some of the ladies or a book about antique farm equipment for the men. Again, be creative.

After dinner, we had a few organized speeches retracing the Fichtner history. To wrap up the evening, we drew the winning ticket for the heritage quilt that many of the ladies helped to make. We also had a silent auction to help offset the cost and have some fun. Guests donated items, such as homemade wine with specially designed family reunion labels in a display case, handcrafted rugs and metal work, as well as a weekend stay at my cousin's B&B on the west coast. The auction was a huge hit as people loved to compete with each other to bid on the fantastic items and it was a great source of funds.

My top 10 tips for a successful reunion:

1. Get the invitations out early. One year ahead is ideal. Ask for donations.
2. Find out as much info about your family as you can. Get every member of the family to fill out family information sheets. Enter the data into a genealogical software program. Enlist volunteers to help you.
3. Research the best venue you can from a family member's farm, to a community hall or to a facility with catering. Which is most suitable?
4. Prepare as many things as possible ahead of time, e.g., name tags, registration packages...
5. Realize that the reunion may turn out to be a family's summer holiday. Include lots of websites, pamphlets and maps in your registration packages showing the local tourist attractions in the area.
6. Set up tons of displays, not just a photo album sitting alone on a table. Use your imagination. Maps, individual family collages, artifacts, items that relate to your family's line of business and family Bibles are just some ideas.

7. Enlist some appropriate people to be designated minglers. They will help facilitate introductions to distant relatives if need be. These people also make great photographers as they will be meeting with every single person at the reunion.
8. Raise funds by raffling off a handmade quilt or other item, having a silent auction and asking for wine or dinner sponsors. There are many generous people out there who will be very happy to donate more than just the reunion fee. Recognize their sponsorship with place cards on the tables with their names and what they sponsored.
9. Enlist lots of volunteers for every job imaginable. Young adults are great at looking after young children and helping out so parents can focus on visiting.
10. Realize and accept that the day or weekend will go by incredibly fast and not everything will be perfect. People will have a great time as long as the reunion is held at a nice venue with appropriate facilities where they can have a good meal, learn something about their family history, visit and participate in some fun activities.

Suggested Reading: Jennifer Crichton's book titled *Family Reunions: Everything You Need to Know to Plan Unforgettable Get-Togethers*

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Send in stories of your family reunions or expeditions in search of ancestral footprints. Email to editor-chinook@afhs.ab.ca

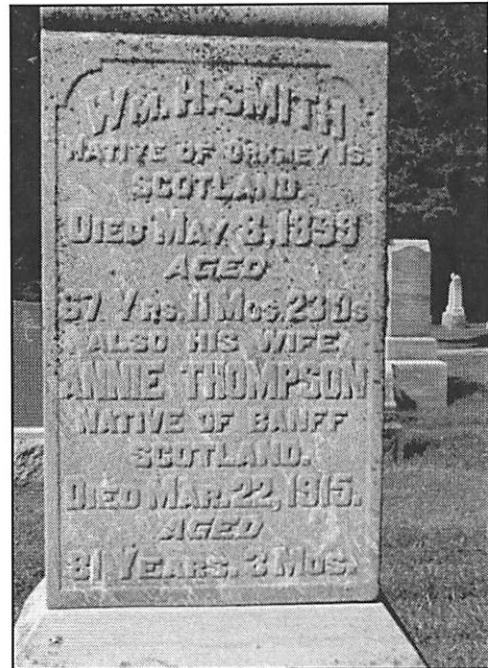
TOTAL TRIVIA, BUT TRUE!

Did you know some countries have national holidays to honour ancestors? In Japan, it is a day to visit ancestors' graves, clean their tombstones and perform dances for them. In Madagcar, it is time to take ancestors out of their graves, clean their skeletons, perform dances with them and then rebury them.

ORKNEY HOMECOMING 2007 by Jean Carter

Editor's note: Thanks to Jackie Duncan for assisting Jean with the write-up.

When I heard a group in Winnipeg was organizing Orkney Homecoming 2007, I was excited to have the opportunity to visit my ancestors' homeland to fill in the missing pieces of the jigsaw puzzle.



Tombstone of Jean's great great grandparents, Greenfield Cemetery

(Photo courtesy and permission of Jean Carter)

My great great grandparents were married in Hamilton, Ontario in 1855 and buried in the Greenfield Cemetery in Arthur, Wellington County, but my great great grandfather W.H. Smith was born in Dounby, Orkney. Finding information on him was the main reason for me to attend the homecoming.

Although I have not unearthed a Hudson's Bay Company (HBC) connection for my great great grandfather or his brother, who both came from Orkney, HBC hired so many men from Orkney that by 1779 three quarters of the HBC servants were from these islands in northern Scotland.

HBC ships picked up some supplies and water at Stromness before starting across the Atlantic. Hiring young men from here became customary, because they were hardy people living in subsistence conditions at a latitude further north than Churchill, Manitoba. They were good workers with basic literacy, simple record keeping skills, fishing knowledge and boat building abilities. Also they would work for low wages! Naturally not all returned to Scotland, so there are many descendants in Manitoba as well as in other parts of the world.

Linda Holdaway, another AFHS member, and I discovered we were researching the same surname (Bennet) in Keith, Banffshire. With her assistance, a website (www.moray.gov.uk) was found to have a wealth of information. A side trip to Moray before meeting the Orkney Homecoming group seemed feasible. Bus service in Scotland is very efficient and much cheaper than car rental, not to mention this avoids the stress of driving on the opposite side of the road.

The Local History Centre in Elgin, Moray was very helpful. From the website, Linda and I had prepared a list of articles to copy. We had the names of newspapers with date, page and column for some marriages, death notices and obits. Microfilm of newspapers was easily located, but the readers were antique.



Old Keith Cemetery

(Photo courtesy and permission of Jean Carter)

The following day included a bus trip to Keith. I hoped to find a plan of the cemetery at “The

Institute”. I had plot numbers but where were they? A clerk showed me a plan of owners of plots but no numbers. This would be challenging! There were too many Bennets. A young man arrived, asked me the names of my ancestors and immediately offered to show me where they were. As we were walking to his vehicle he disclosed he was the gravedigger and so we traveled in a Moray Council truck.

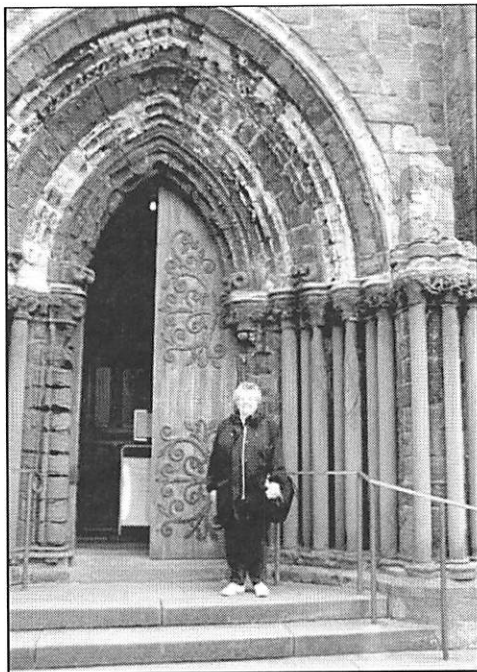
While kneeling to photograph headstones, I paid my respects to my fourth and fifth great grandparents. I said a few words at Linda’s headstones too. A water resistant article to kneel on is essential, as is a soft brush and water to clean the tombstones. Next time I will be better prepared for cemetery visits.

The Orkney Bus is direct express travel between Inverness and Kirkwall, but first I had to get to Inverness. A bus to John O’Groat’s and summer foot passenger ferry to Burwick took me to the bus to Kirkwall. I arrived at the B&B three hours before the main group, who had a very long stay in Glasgow. I missed a wonderful welcome at Stromness where Bunny Warner, another AFHS member, met a fourth cousin.

Tours had been arranged to various historic sites: a Viking, Norse and Stone Age village, a farm museum, the working blacksmith museum, John Rae’s home (the explorer who found remains of Franklin’s expedition) and the Sunday service in the magnificent 1486 St. Magnus Cathedral. The Orkney Islands Council hosted a marvellous dinner and ceilidh in Stromness. There would be little time between sightseeing, researching and visiting long lost relatives.

George Gray of the Orkney Family History Society (OFHS) did an amazing amount of research for homecomers, as well as attempting to find relatives for us. The OFHS had volunteers available every day and the archives just down the hall were fantastic. All the censuses (some 1821) are published by parish and are available on computer at the OFHA. Although not all cemeteries are recorded, George had death and marriage registrations for me. Scotland’s registrations have a wealth of

information, so I was able to add two more generations to my family tree.



Bunny Warner of Calgary on steps of
St. Magnus Cathedral
(Photo courtesy and permission of Jean Carter)

Dounby farm was left to the eldest son Magnus, brother of W.H. The last day I was in Kirkwall, the archives found the probate of Magnus' will in 1894. As I was attempting to absorb fourteen pages where the two brothers and families in Canada were named, I received a message from a gentleman I met the previous evening. He had found a very old partial record of the ancient Harray cemetery in the archives.

Meanwhile a cousin of the present owners of Dounby farm arrived out of the blue to take me to the farm to meet them and see the location where W.H. was born. She also took me to the old cemetery. It is on a hill and unkempt with stones blown over and knee-deep vegetation. It will require many hours of labour to restore this cemetery. With great difficulty we discovered the stone for Magnus. A buried flat stone remains to be unearthed as we uncovered a wrong one with the right name!

Obviously it was a very successful research trip for me. Anyone with Orkney ancestors would

have a fantastic experience. Scotland is planning a 2009 homecoming. Before you go, check the indices of the Old Parochial Registers (OPR) for Orkney on the www.cursiter.com website.

###

NIEDERMOSER FAMILY REUNION IN AUSTRIA by Xenia Stanford

My father and grandparents came over from Kitzbühel, Tirol (the locals spell Tirol with an "i", not a "y"), Austria and my grandmother maintained contact with her family. When she passed away, predeceased by my grandfather, the communication across the ocean dried up until 1989. That year the son of my father's youngest cousin decided to visit "America" with a friend. Sepp, the cousin, told his son there were relatives somewhere in Canada.

After much searching, Sepp found an old address and sent off a letter hoping it would find some relatives still there. Although the box number had changed, this was a small town in Alberta where the family had lived since 1922. The farm had passed down to the next generation but was still owned and occupied by family members.

The letter arrived in English and a reply was sent back in English. Sepp and his wife did not speak, read or write English, but the son who would be coming to "America" did. Letters back and forth confirmed the arrangements. So instead of landing in California as the travellers initially intended, they arrived in Vancouver and took a bus to Prince George where they met family members. The young men bought a wreck of a station wagon, but both were mechanics, so they felt this would survive their travels. From Prince George they travelled down west and central Alberta meeting many relatives along the way.

Their last stop was in Calgary where their main wish was to see the Olympic sites. Calgary was now famous in ski hill lined Tirol. Once I had shown them these venues, they were off crisscrossing the U.S. to see all the famous places. Leaving the trusty rust bucket at the

Miami airport with a sign saying, "Take this car, the keys are in the ignition", they flew home. Next my 80 year old aunt was invited over to visit the Austrian family and she asked me to go with her. We made our first and her only trip to Austria. We visited family throughout Tirol, Salzburg and southern Germany. Relatives from Switzerland travelled to meet us. This was the start of round-trips from both sides of the ocean!



Top of mountain seeing valleys below with villages one after the other
(Photo by Xenia Stanford)

Although no one in the family picked up German, other than me (ein bisschen), several Austrian family members learned English, especially Sepp who has made nearly biannual trips to Canada. We held two family reunions here, one of which Sepp attended. None of us could attend the 1997 family reunion, but seven Canadians joined in the 2007 Niedermoser (my grandmother's side) reunion held every ten years in and around St. Jakob-in-Haus. One of the organizers is the mayor of St. Jakob-in-Haus. This is probably why the chair lift up the mountain and the restaurant at the top were closed to the public, except for our large family!

100 responded and 150 were planned, but about 200 attended. A huge difference! This posed a challenge for the restaurant which ran out of everything for lunch but beer. Thank goodness because the Austrians love their beer! Everyone went home to eat dinner, but the dance later that evening was held in a 100 person

establishment. The congestion meant it was impossible to dance and nearly impossible to get a beer (although as my grandmother would often say, "Where there's a will, there's a way"). It was elbow room only, so the Canadians returned to our host's house at 11 p.m. We heard there finally was enough room at 1:30 a.m. to actually start to dance.

In any case, it was this trip that inspired me to ask for your reunion stories. Perhaps others have also experienced an over attended function or one where language posed a barrier. The organizers considered our reunion a huge success because it was the first time anyone but Europeans had attended. Every time the word "Canada" was spoken by the organizers, the other Canadians turned to me and asked, "What did they say?" Rather than try to translate what I could barely hear due to the huge crowd, I just said, "They are so happy to have family from Canada at the reunion." I was told later this was a very true translation.

The organizers and hosts were so happy to have us attend that the band, every member of which was a relative, composed a special musical piece for the Canadians and played it out in true oompah pah style. We left with the expectation from them every future Austrian Niedermoser reunion will see a representation from Canada.

Most excited on every visit is the great granddaughter of my grandmother. Her mother was my grandmother's only child before my grandmother married my grandfather. In spite of three marriages of this "half-aunt" of mine, she in turn had one child, a son. That son had one child, the great granddaughter. We, as the descendants of my grandmother, are her closest relatives. She and her husband saw us off at the Salzburg airport with hugs, gifts and promises to keep in better touch.

The one thing I learned long ago is not to criticize and complain about things that go wrong, but to remember the people and the things that went right. If you have to remember the problems, it should only serve as a good laugh shared among family.

###

BEGINNER'S COLUMN: RESEARCH PROCESS: LEARNING FROM PEOPLE by Kenneth W. Rees

Finally we get to discuss, as briefly as possible, learning from what David E. Rencher referred to as the genealogical resource that is disappearing faster than any other. I believe that more genealogical information is locked within the memories of people now living than in many of the largest repositories of genealogically relevant records. So how do we get this very important information from the minds of our family members and friends into a less perishable form? Books have been written about the interviewing topic, so we will just scratch the surface.

What sorts of information might be locked in the memories of our relatives and friends? First, we might find information about the names, dates and places of important events, such as births, marriages and deaths. (Of course any other event important to the individual might be remembered.) Second, there will be details about the people who were present or who participated in the event. These people might be the witnesses at a christening or those who were present at a birth. They might include the names of the minister or justice of the peace who officiated at a marriage. Third, details about the setting of the event might be remembered. These details (the place, the time, etc.) can add needed detail as we attempt to place our family in the proper context. Finally, personal attitudes might be remembered. While not strictly of a genealogical nature, these attitudes can give us some idea of the personal relationship between the individual giving the information and those who participated in the event being discussed. That sort of information can go a long way towards our burden of evidence evaluation.

Learning from people might be divided into three phases:

- First, we prepare for the interview.
- Second, we actually do the interview.
- Third, we learn from the interview.

Each of these phases might then be divided into several steps.

When we prepare for an interview, we must identify the individual who might have the information we seek and what information we want to obtain. Here we are at something of a quandary. Typically (and it is something I have mentioned before), we are interested in the answer to just one question. As an example, the question might be, "What are the details surrounding Grandfather and Grandmother Rees' wedding?" From this question, it might be supposed that we want the date and place of the event and any other details about the event that might be remembered. We might consider asking Grandmother's sister Mary. We think that Mary might have been at the wedding. However, Mary is maturing rapidly. There may be other topics we would like to discuss with her.

Some interviews will be highly informal. We might know great aunt Mary well enough to call her on the phone and just ask our questions. And some of the information we might want to get from her could be simple enough that we don't need to go to the formality of an "interview." But if our relationship is not on that kind of footing, if the information we want to obtain is extensive or, if we think we might be publishing some of what we are learning, we should conduct a more formal interview. (Don't discount the idea that you might publish some of what you learn in an interview in the future. After working for 40 years on the Rees family history, some of the family may request that you supply them with copies of your research. That is publication and so certain legalities should be observed, especially if some of the information was obtained from others.)

In today's litigious society, we will want to prepare a release form so that we have some legal right to use the information we acquire from Mary. The release needn't be overly complex, and it should be clear that we have the right to use everything gained from the interview in any form and in any manner we see fit. Releases may give the subject the right to review

the transcript or other artifacts that come out of the interview. They might also give the subject the right to retain a copy of some of that material for her own use. The release should be prepared in duplicate, and both the interviewer (that's us) and the subject (that's great aunt Mary) need to sign each copy. Great aunt Mary will keep one copy; we keep the other copy, which we file with the results of the interview. It may well be the case that before great aunt Mary agrees to be interviewed she will want to see a list of the questions we might be asking her. So we will need to prepare such a list and give it to her so that she can review it. There may be some back and forth (what the Japanese call "catch-ball") in this process. Eventually, we will have an agreed-upon list of questions and a signed release.

In order to be considerate of the time of others, it is important that we make (and keep!) an appointment for the interview. That is the beginning of phase two, in which we actually conduct the interview. It is very discouraging to get everything in order (so we suppose) for a family history interview, then find that our subject has forgotten the appointment. It would be good to confirm the appointment a couple of days beforehand.

It would be a disaster if we got to great aunt Mary's home, only to find that our equipment is not in good working order. In order to mitigate this risk, we should check over the equipment and supplies that we will be using. We want to make certain that the tape recorder, voice recorder, video camera, still camera - whatever hardware we are planning on using - is in working order. If software is involved (and it might be), we want to be certain to identify the idiosyncrasies so that we can work around them. If consumable supplies are being used (batteries, blank tapes, disks, paper, ink, whatever!) we will want to bring along spares and backups. It is so upsetting when the batteries run out just as great aunt Mary is getting into the information we particularly want to record. And that is just when the batteries will run out or the tape will break. (As Edward Murphy and John Stapp have pointed out, "If anything can go wrong, it will - and at the worst possible time.")

In order to maximize the return on the interview, we should have done our homework. We will review the information that was previously obtained. We will be familiar with the question that needs to be answered. For instance, it would be of little use to ask great aunt Mary the details of the wedding between William and Therese if we didn't already know that they were married.

We want to arrive at the interview place in plenty of time to set up our equipment and not keep our subject waiting. Unless we are familiar with the area, we should leave some time for getting lost (and asking directions) as well.

After the equipment is set up, we will take a few minutes to put great aunt Mary at ease with the equipment, ourselves and the general process of conducting an interview. It is probably a good idea to start the recorder or camera during this brief period of time so that the subject gets used to the noise and presence of the equipment. Once the subject is at ease, we get down to the serious business of asking questions.

Asking questions seems to be a simple thing, but there is an art to it. Generally, after each of our interviews we will realize we could have improved our questioning technique. This is normal and to be expected. Here are some ideas about asking questions:

- Some questions call for yes or no answers. These questions might be used to make certain that we know exactly when Grandmother and Grandfather married. We might phrase the question as "So William and Gertrude were married on September 13, 1913 in Paris, Idaho?" Great aunt Mary will either answer yes or no.
- A second type of question will usually elicit a short response. (These are called - not surprisingly - short answer questions.) When we ask for William's full name, we are asking a short answer question. These two types of questions (yes/no and short answer) are sometimes called "closed" questions.
- Other questions invite a more extended response. If we ask great aunt Mary to describe the courthouse where William and Therese got married, we might be in for a half

hour commentary. But this level of detail might be just the thing for which we are looking. Extended response questions are sometimes called "open ended" questions.

- When asking for opinions, we will find it best not to be judgmental on any of the many sides of the question. Asking about William's prior marriage might get us an earful about the 9woman who was fortunate (or unfortunate) enough to be his first wife. We probably have no way of knowing what our subject's attitude is likely to be.
- Don't be afraid to let a question hang in the air for a few moments. Let great aunt Mary have time to collect her thoughts. Let her have time to formulate an answer. We mustn't assume that because an answer doesn't come before we have finished asking the question that no answer will be forthcoming. And sometimes we might want to come back to questions that didn't get the answer we think they deserved. (This must be done with tact and diplomacy.)
- Leave some time for questions that seem to flow from the answers that are given. If great aunt Mary indicates that William was married twice before he married Therese, we will want to follow up with a few questions about the wife we didn't know existed!
- When it appears that the subject has come to the end of what they want to say on the topic introduced in the question, thank her for her answers. If it appears that great aunt Mary wants to say more about a topic, encourage her to continue.

At the end of the interview, we need to thank our subject. She has taken an hour or so out of her life to answer our questions. We should graciously thank her and we might possibly ask if there is anything we can do for her. We will then pack up our equipment, checking twice or thrice to be certain that we haven't left anything. Then we travel back to our home.

Next comes the learning phase. This is started by sending a thank-you note to our subject. (Yes, we did thank her. But there is something about a thank-you note or letter that means more than the

verbal expression of gratitude.) Then we transcribe our tapes, disks and/or notes into written form. This transcription should be as verbatim as we can manage. That may seem pointless. After all, what conceivable difference can "um", "eh" and other such noise make? Capturing the "voice" of our subject will help us when we actually use the information. We will file the verbatim transcription together with the source material, list of questions and the release.

After the verbatim transcription, we will make an edited copy. In this edited or rough draft copy, we will strike out some of the duplicate expressions, the extra words. We might rearrange the text for readability being careful not to change the meaning. This rough draft likewise will be filed with the verbatim transcription. (It is rarely useful to polish the rough draft unless you are interviewing for publication.) If great aunt Mary has asked for a copy of the results, it is a polished form of the rough draft that ought to be given to her. Even if the subject has not asked for a copy, it can be useful to have her review one just in case you have made a mistake or she has additional information to offer. (Such post interview activities should have been discussed when the release was being hammered out.)

Now we have a draft copy of the interview. Information (such as the details of the marriage in question between William and Therese) can now be entered into our computer genealogy software or onto family group sheets and pedigree charts. If at any time there are questions about the accuracy of our computer databases or printed forms, it is the actual interview and not the verbatim transcript or rough draft that will be the final authority.

So there is a quick tour of learning from an individual.

This is the last column I will be writing for *Chinook*. I've enjoyed writing, but it is time to move on to other things.

Thanks for reading!

###

SIG CORNER: THE COMPUTER SIG – WHAT'S IT ALL ABOUT?

by Suddie Bill Mumford

Today's Computer Special Interest Group was formed shortly after IBM foisted their Personal Computer and DOS on an unsuspecting public. An appropriately named AFHS member, Charlie Bones, and a few like-minded individuals formed a special interest group under the aegis of the CalPC Users Society to assist genealogists in coping with this new tool that offered so much promise.

By 1991 the group had grown to about 35 members and it had become obvious that the CalPC group was not the ideal organization under which to operate. After all, they reasoned, they were genealogists that just happened to use computers, not computer geeks interested in genealogy. Accordingly, they decided that rather than creating their own society, their interests would be best served by merging with the AFHS. Negotiations began and after several years of discussions the Genealogical Computer Group became a SIG of the AFHS under some rather unique conditions. These were necessary as not all computer group members favoured the merger and the AFHS Board was far from unanimous in accepting the group's proposal.

Today, the Genealogical Computer Group, while very active in the AFHS affairs, still functions as a semi-autonomous body under the original conditions. They have an executive and their meetings are open to all with no membership requirements, although attendees are encouraged to join the AFHS. A collection is taken every meeting to cover the group's expenses, as the AFHS assumes no financial responsibility. Initially the only expenses were room rental and coffee available during the meetings.

When the Alberta Vocational College raised the room rent in 1995, the executive of the Church of Latter Day Saints offered the computer group use of a room at the Stake House on 17th Ave. S.W. The only catch, no coffee pot permitted. The remodelling of the building over the past few months resulted in the group moving to the

LDS Heritage Chapel along with the FHC. This situation has been rectified and our meetings are once again at the 17th Ave location. Oh! The collection? It is used to buy materials for the FHC as they will not accept any rent payment.

Each meeting is composed of two segments. The first 45 minutes is devoted to a question & answer period. Three moderators will attempt to answer the questions, but those attending are encouraged to join in with their suggestions and solutions. Questions must relate to the use of a computer for genealogical purposes. The questions may range from the very basic to very advanced. Often a reply can lead to a discussion that expands far beyond the original query.

After a short break there is a very brief and informal business segment. This is followed by a talk on a subject that has been determined by those members present at the previous May meeting. This fall the September meeting was slated to be a report by the Chairman, Jim Benedict, on his attendance at the New England Historical and Genealogical Society Conference in Boston. Jim surprised us all by adding a very interesting talk on *Military Records*, which he would later present to the AFHS membership.

In October, Charlie Hansen covered in-depth the topic of *E-mail and Mailing List Etiquette*. Suddie Mumford presented a *DNA* talk in November that had been given a few months earlier to the Red Deer branch of the Alberta Genealogical Society. The topic centered on information one would find useful should they be considering purchasing a DNA test.

Other past programs were December, *Xmas Goodies*, by Donna Coulter; January, *Updating the Family Search Project* by Wendy Pitcher; February, *Web Tools* with Jim Benedict; and March, *Organize Digital Pictures* with Gary Gauthier.

The remaining programs this year are as follows:

- April, a real change of pace with Mary

Arthur making a *Mac Attack*.

- May, members offer suggestions for the next year's program, but a short presentation on a subject of current interest may be included.

Over the years, members of the Genealogical Computer Group have brought international recognition to the AFHS. Founding member Brian Hutchison, a professional genealogist, is internationally known for his work. In 1999, when the NEHGS decided to present an award for technical excellence in genealogy the first recipients were SIG members Janet Morgan and Judii Rempel for their *Canadian Genealogical Projects Registry*. This award was presented at the GENTECH conference in San Diego held January of 2000. The pair accepted the award on behalf of the AFHS. That same year the Dallas based GENTECH organization selected the Genealogical Computer Group to undertake the completion of their ongoing GEDCOM Testbook Project. After two years of extensive testing, the final report was presented as a lecture at the 2002 National Genealogical Society Conference in the States held in Milwaukee.

By 1996 the group's meetings were simply too large to accommodate all the questions posed by members. It was decided to form specialized support groups for the more widely used programs. Today there are four of these groups: the Reunion Users Group for Mac, the Master Genealogist group, the Legacy group and the Family Tree Maker group. Each of these has a core of expert users who can advise newcomers on the best techniques to get the most out of their chosen software.

The objectives of the Genealogical Computer Group remain the same as they were when it was founded. It is a self-help group dedicated to trying to help genealogists take full advantage of technical advances. Many of the members have detailed knowledge of advancements in computing, imagery, the Internet and other fields. The Group has also recognized the increasing interest in operating systems other than the ubiquitous Windows. In the coming year the group will be using an Apple laptop running

a virtual machine loaded with Windows for its presentations. This will allow demonstrations of Mac software as well as showing how Windows users can minimize security problems while retaining the ability to run their favourite Windows based software. A few other group members are running the most secure and stable of all operating systems, Linux. Overall today's members are better able to help with technical problems arising from genealogical research than ever before.

Our meetings are held in the morning of the second Saturday of each month from September through May. The open discussion starts at 9:30 a.m. with the main meeting commencing at 10:30 a.m. Please join us. It is a lot more fun than watching cartoons. ###

(Clipart with permission -
Microsoft Office Online)



DID YOU KNOW? by Lorna Laughton

DID YOU KNOW that many of our AFHS members – present and past – have been authors?

Here are just a few:

- Margaret Hulbert, *Descendants of Aeneas Clarke*, 1995.
- Bob Fyvie, *The Fyvie Family History*, 2003 on CD.
- Phillip Thorpe, *The Descendants of Richard Houghton*, 1997; he has written other books as well.
- June Higham, *A Brief History of the Buscheert/Boschert's and Related Families*, 1988.
- Meda Patterson, *The Sparks Family History*, 1967.
- Clare Westbury, *The Herbert and Watkins Families of London*, 1999.
- Louise Sauve, *From Beer Keg to Cream Can*, 1992.

A few other AFHS authors include Alan Cassley,

Doreen Lewis, Norma Lendrum, Marjorie Gibson, Florence Denning and Rene Dussome.

This is not a complete list of authors who belong to AFHS. Many authors have donated a copy of their family history to our AFHS Library, which is yet another good reason to visit the library at 712 – 16th Avenue NW, Calgary. Anyone who is planning to publish a family history would benefit from looking over a number of the books to get ideas about style, size and layout.

Why are published family histories valuable?

1. The writer/genealogist finally gets to present the family information, hopefully with all supporting sources noted, that he or she has collected, thus creating a tangible product from their work. This is a triumph for the individual!
2. The related family members, near and far, will finally know what the writer/genealogist has been doing all these years and why they were always asking questions and trying to find documents and photographs. Most family members will value the published information.
3. Some family members may even praise the writer/genealogist, but others will criticize the writer/genealogist for leaving out or including some information. At least the communication and sharing of information was activated in the family. Sometimes nobody will talk to the writer/genealogist after that!
4. The family may feel pride in their family's accomplishments. Even mere survival in some difficult time-periods and places is worthy of note.
5. The published family history provides a base for more research and additional family history publications, not necessarily by the same writer/genealogist.
6. The information that was produced has more "permanence", that is, it will likely pass on to later generations and other branches of the family. The number of copies that are produced and distributed affects this. If a publication is digitized or was a digitized presentation to begin with, then it is possible

to distribute msny copies by email. Also a copy might be placed on a website where all of the world can see it.

7. The history of any individual family, their members and their related families adds to the body of knowledge of the history of their communities and countries. People who study local history need this information about local families to describe their communities.

Besides the surnames featured in the list of our authors and titles, you may find yours among those in other family histories at the AFHS Library. These include BARKLEY, BOUDREAU, CADE, COPELAND, DALLENBACH, GINGRICH, GRAVES, HOOVER, KERR, MCNARRY, MILNE, O'BRIEN, POWELL, RINKEL, RUDD, SPRAGUE, STANDISH, VAN VALKENBURG and WILKINSON.

Congratulations and thank you to genealogists everywhere who have published family history material. ###

ASK THE EXPERT by Xenia Stanford

Editor's note: This column is for you to ask questions or answer them. The questions should be about tips, techniques and tools, not specific surname questions. Send your Q & A to editor-chinook@afhs.ab.ca

Q1: How do you find a Church of England wedding in Hamilton in the late 1830's?

A1a: I suggest trying "Marriage registers of Upper Canada/Canada West; vol. II part 2 Home District 1826-1843" and similar publications (if any). However, I'm not sure what the boundaries of Home District were. *Anonymous*

A1b: For some strange reason, the marriage registers do not contain Anglican unions. The answer is to send \$25 to the Hamilton Branch of the Ontario Genealogy Society. Very helpful people there will go to McMaster University and

pour over the collections of various parishes to try to answer your request. Not all records have survived, unfortunately. These records are not available on interlibrary loan and it certainly helps to know the parish. *Rosemary Kry*

Q2: Is there a printer locally who can print a full page 11"x14" census record so that it is legible and do wall charts of family trees?

A2: I don't know about census records, but I have had B&W wall charts printed at Kinkos. I would have preferred colour charts done, but the cost of colour wall charts was prohibitive. I created pdf files and took them to Kinkos on a CD. I was pleased with the results. I was able to pick them up the next day. *Marion Peterson*

Q3: The 1901 census says my ancestor arrived from Ireland in 1842. I have exhausted the indexed passenger lists for the year and the one before and one after. Where do I go from here?

A3: No one responded to this question. I think too many of us have the same problem! If it is to find out what town and county they were from, see Catherine Whiteley's article on land petitions, which is how she found the answer to that question. *Xenia Stanford*

Q4: What are border crossing records, how can we find them and what will they tell us?
Answer next issue.

Send us your questions!

###

AFHS LIBRARY ACQUISITIONS by Linda Murray

Following the Paper Trail: A Multilingual Translation Guide by Jonathan D. Shea and William F. Hoffman (Language & Lineage Press, 1994, Avotaynu, Incorporated) (ISBN 0-9626373-4-3)

This guide would be a wonderful resource for anyone whose research involves European languages. The guide provides help with the translation of vital statistic records in 13

languages: Czech, French, German, Hungarian, Italian, Latin, Lithuanian, Polish, Portuguese, Romanian, Russian, Spanish and Swedish. Each section shows the alphabet of the language, a sample vital statistic record with a translation and a list of common words.

Victoria (Australia) Pioneers Index 1837 – 1888, Births, Marriages & Deaths (Victoria, Australia Family History Society)

This index includes all births, deaths and marriage records between 1847 and 1888 held by the Registry of Births, Deaths and Marriages in Victoria, Australia. The database covers early church records for the years before 1853 (when the Government first took responsibility for recording these events) and the index to civil registrations to 1888. This index on fiche includes 1.74 million records in English.

The Canada Directory 1853/54 (Archive CD Books Canada) (ISBN: 1-897338-30-9)

This is Robert W. S. MacKay's second edition of Lovell's commercial guide and information handbook to the newly Confederated (1841) Provinces of Lower and Upper Canada. The provinces are referred to as Canada East (C.E.) and Canada West (C.W.) in this directory. The information it contains was current to November 1853 but the Directory was not published until 1854. The Directory only covers the areas which are approximated by today's Quebec and Ontario Provinces. The cities, towns and villages are listed alphabetically. The book has been formatted on CD.

Cyclopaedia of Methodism in Canada (1880)

by Rev. George H. Cornish (Global Heritage Press) (ISBN 1-894378-16-4)

This book is an important resource for anyone interested in theology, social history, history and genealogy in early Canada. Originally published in 1880, the Cyclopaedia of Methodism in Canada contains historical, educational and statistical information regarding the Methodist Church in Canada. Included are listings of circuits held by ministers of the Methodist Church in Canada from 1765 to 1880. Indexes included: Names of Ministers and Probationers, The Circuits and Missions and Illustrations.

Creating a Family Web Site Can Be Fun & Easy by Marian Press (Heritage Productions 2003) (ISBN 1-894018-39-7)

This book provides you with all the skills necessary to build genealogical web pages. It covers the basics of HTML, the language of the Web, as well as how to make your pages appealing and easy to navigate. It is a practical guide to getting your website online. ###

SERENDIPITY: COINCIDENCE IN FAMILY HISTORY RESEARCH

Editor's note: Thank you to Beverley A. Rees for collecting items for this column for the past six issues, plus this one. We even have enough for the next one. Don't let this stop you. Please keep your stories coming. Now email them to editor-chinook@afhs.ab.ca

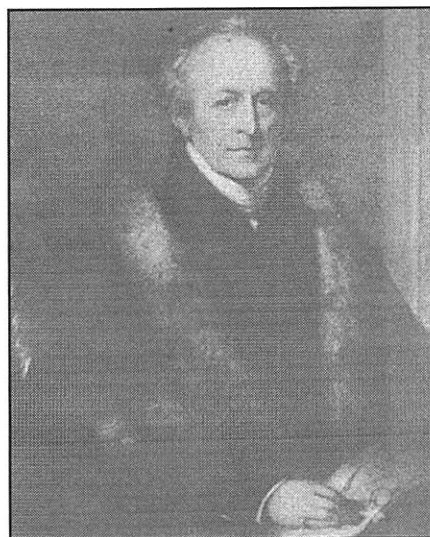
Portrait in Time Links Clarkes and Allnatts
by Kay and Glen Clarke

Serendipity is the effect by which one accidentally discovers something fortunate, especially while looking for something else entirely. This is the situation with the discovery of the Clarke family that I had been researching for some time. I had finally found my great great grandfather's name was William Shaw Clarke.

William was born about 1797 in or near Wallingford, Berkshire, England. The parish records yielded no information about his birth or his parents, although there was much other information including the names of the five witnesses for his marriage to Martha Allnatt.

I decided to post a question to a Rootsweb list for Berkshire asking for information about William Shaw Clarke. I put in the relevant information about him, including the fact that he was married to Martha Allnatt. After waiting for some time and almost forgetting about this, I received an e-mail from a Tony Allnutt. He said he did not know about the Clarke family, but he had quite a lot of information about the Allnatt family. Would I like this? I sure would! We exchanged addresses and waited. When the

package came from England all I could say was "Wow!" There was a picture of a painting that is still hanging in the town hall of Wallingford as Charles, who is Martha's father, was mayor of that town for several terms.



Charles Atherton Allnatt
(Photo courtesy and permission of Kay & Glen Clarke)

There were genealogy pages from a book someone had published some time ago on the Allnatt/Allnutt families. Charles, his wife and family, including Martha who was married to William Clarke, were listed in it. It also mentioned that Charles had left a long detailed will, which I later obtained. Reading it is a whole other story, but it did mention William S. Clarke, the son-in-law to Charles Atherton. This information helped a great deal in getting back further in the Allnatt family, but I am still looking for William's birth and parents.

###

AN AWARDING TOPIC

The three finalists for British Columbia's 2008 National Award for Canadian Non-Fiction (\$40K) included Donald Akenson, a Queen's University history professor who studied the role of genealogy in tracking social and economic history, for *Some Family: The Mormons and How Humanity Keeps Track of Itself*, and Jacques Poitras for *Beaverbrook: A Shattered Legacy*. The winner was Lorna Goodison for her family memoir, *From Harvey River: A Memory of My Mother and Her People*.

SURNAME CONNECTIONS

Submit to surnames-chinook@afhs.ab.ca

Editor's Note: "Queries" has been renamed "Surname Connections" to avoid confusion with the AFHS service of the same name. The email address for your surname questions now is surnames-chinook@afhs.ab.ca

Members are allowed two free surname questions per publication year (by volume #). Additional surname questions and non-members pay \$5.00 per surname. Still the cheapest ad around where ad = additional resource!

Here are our entries this time:

VANSICKLE (*) including variants in Peterborough County, ON

Researching Henry Vansickle(r) first found in Asphodel Twp 1829 and his descendants. In 1851 census stated his birthplace as "Brogville, C.W." which I believe to be Brockville, Ontario and age next BD as 47. I can't seem to find his birth record/parents. He married Phoebe Jane Comstock about 1830 - need this documentation. Daughters: Maria, Charlotte and Elizabeth; sons: David and John (my direct line). John founded the Vansickle settlement about 1860, near Havelock/Marmorata, where they farmed and he served on local council. Also need marriage documentation for John to Amanda Maria McLaughlin about 1860. All clues or completed family tree branches of this line gratefully accepted.

Contact: Karen Hall at khall@telus.net

Marie Frances NEAL - Treherne, MB

I am looking for the birth parents of Marie Frances NEAL, born Dec 4, 1917, possibly in Winnipeg, MB or north central USA. Her parents died when she was a child and she was placed in an orphanage - but the records were lost when the building burned down. She went to live with Clare & Annie (nee DUNFIELD) METCALFE in Treherne, MB when she was about seven years old. It would appear she

continued to use the surname Neal as a 1928 picture lists her surname as Neal and her headstone in Treherne lists her maiden surname as NEAL. Marie married Dr. Gordon T McNEILL and raised a family of 3 sons and 1 daughter before her death in 1969. Her children would be most grateful for any information on their mother's family history.

Contact: Linda Holdaway at lassiehold@yahoo.ca

###

PERIODICALS COMMITTEE

by Rosemary Kry

Over the past year we have been making changes to *Chinook* and *Breeze* to improve their value to our members in conjunction with other AFHS services. As you will notice, the latest is the change to "Surname Connections" to avoid confusion with the Projects Committee's paid search service called "Queries".

We hope you will continue to take advantage of your membership and submit your two free entries per year. This is a wonderful way to share your family information with over 375 people or even more if members of our exchange societies happen to read it. Hopefully, you will discover another researcher who shares a common ancestor. How exciting!

If you are looking for specific assistance from skilled members of our Society to search through family history resources, refer to our AFHS website. There is a charge for specific queries.

Have you had an interesting bit of luck finding an answer to a question you had while searching your family history? By sharing it in the "Serendipity" column, your procedure, research tool or source of information may assist others! Please consider contributing to this interesting and worthwhile column. Become an author!

Do you have a bit of free time on your hands or just want to return some of the help you have received from our Society? You might want to consider joining the Periodicals Committee. It is a great way to make friends and your efforts would assist in the publication of our great journal!

We are still looking for a VERY picky proofreader – someone who has a fierce dedication to finding errors in spelling, grammar and sentence mechanics. Interested? Please contact the *Chinook* editor at editor-chinook@ab.ca

We also are looking for columnists for some of our regular columns. Please see page 4.

For authors who are interested in contributing to the July issue of *Chinook*, please remember that the deadline is May 1.

Rosemary Kry, Chair, Periodicals Committee
###

HISTORIC CALGARY WEEK by Susan Williams

Historic Calgary Week 2007 and 2008
(10 days when Calgary comes alive)

The theme of last year's Historic Calgary Week (HCW) "From Tents to Towers: Our Booms on the Bow" featured tales of Calgary's economic booms over the last century and the people associated with them. For 10 days, Calgarians and visitors alike enjoyed a week filled with walking tours, displays at art galleries and museums, book launches and much more. The program included 40 events encompassing some of Calgary's oldest and most unique stories and treasures.

Our own Alberta Family Histories Society's Library hosted three open house sessions during the week. Visitors were able to explore the Library's collections and resources, as well as to learn how best to proceed with their family

research. Our volunteers assisted more visitors than in previous years and some of these visitors became members, always a bonus.

From its beginnings in 1990, Historic Calgary Week has grown to become an integral part of the Calgary summer. Many look forward to the new week each year.

HCW 2008 will run from July 25 - August 4. It promises to be as successful as previous years.

The announcement of this year's theme and further information about the event will soon be posted to www.chinookcountry.org - follow the links to Historic Calgary Week.

###



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Métis Research Classes - Edmonton and Calgary - various locations and dates.

Contact:

Xenia Stanford

Award winning writer, researcher, editor

Phone: 403-295-3490

Email: age@knowmap.com

AFHS SPECIAL PROGRAMS

by Marion Peterson

Alberta Family Histories Society

is honoured to host
a day of lectures
by noted British genealogist



Christopher Watts
of the
**U.K. NATIONAL SOCIETY OF
GENEALOGISTS**

Christopher Watts is a lecturer and writer of numerous articles and books. He has been on staff at the National Archives of the UK since 1997. He has been invited to speak at genealogy conferences in Canada, the United Kingdom, USA, Australia and New Zealand.

Saturday, May 3, 2008

10:30 am – 3:30 pm

River Park Church

(formerly First Christian Reformed Church

3818 14A St. SW Calgary

Admission to all lectures

\$25.00 for AFHS members

\$35.00 for non-members

Payable at the Door

TIME	TOPIC
10:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.	Sources for Family History at the National Archives of England, Wales and the United Kingdom. This general level talk will survey such records as divorce, armed forces, excise and those of law courts.
11:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.	Lunch break – No host lunch. Restaurants are nearby in Marda Loop or bring a bag lunch.
1:00 p.m. to 2:00 p.m.	Records of the British Army: Officers and Other Ranks (1760-1913)
2:00 p.m. to 2:30 p.m.	Refreshment Break – Tea, Coffee and Scones available for purchase. View displays from Special Interest Groups.
2:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m.	English Apprenticeship Records

###

Alberta Family Histories Society

Regrets the cancellation of

FamilyRoots 2008

Due to unfortunate circumstances, this weekend event will not be possible. Instead, we will be offering an exciting, informative all-day workshop by professional British genealogist Colin Chapman on Saturday, October 18.

This excellent workshop on English genealogy will be replacing the FamilyRoots 2008 weekend. Further information will be given in the July issue of *Chinook*. ###

EVENTS

by Beverley A. Rees

April 11-12, 2008

**Czechoslovak Genealogical Society
International 2008 Genealogical and Cultural
Symposium** for those with ancestry in the
Czechoslovak region, 1918 - Czech, Bohemian,
Moravian, Slovak, German, Hungarian, Jewish,
Rusyn, Silesian
Seattle, Washington, USA
www.cgsi.org

April 12, 2008

Alberta Genealogical Society GenFair
Featuring Paul Smart & Mary Tollestrup
Lethbridge, AB
www.abgensoc.ca/events.html
www.lethbridgeags.theboss.net

April 18-20, 2008

**Saskatchewan Genealogical Society Seminar -
Prince Albert**
Prince Albert branch is using several virtual
presentations - a new learning experience for
many of us.
www.saskgenealogy.com

May 8, 2008

BC Historical Federation
New Westminster, BC
www.bchistory.ca

May 10, 2008

Abbotsford Genealogical Society Seminar
Featuring Chris Watts
Abbotsford, BC
www.abbygs.ca

May 10, 2008

**British Columbia Genealogical Society
Seminar**
Featuring Chris Watts
Burnaby, BC www.bcfgs.ca

May 14-18, 2008

**NGS Conference in the States and Family
History Fair**
Kansas City, Missouri
www.ngsgenealogy.org

May 17, 2008

Nanaimo Family History Society Seminar
Featuring Chris Watts
www.members.shaw.ca/nfhs

May 24, 2008

Campbell River Genealogy Society Seminar
Featuring Chris Watts
Campbell River, British Columbia, Canada
www.rootsweb.com~bccrgc

May 24, 2008

Archives and You! Regina, SK
Presentations, individual consultations,
roundtable discussions will provide practical and
hands-on opportunity for researchers,
genealogists, teachers, students to confer with
professional archivists from across Canada.
www.archivesconference.ca or contact George
Rogerson tel. (819) 827-5168 (toll-free 866-775-
1816) or email conference@archivescanada.ca

May 30, 2008 to June 1, 2008

**Ontario Genealogical Society (OGS) Seminar
"Wired Genealogy"** Speakers include Dick
Eastman, Steve Morse, Colleen Fitzpatrick,
Geoff Rasmussen, Fawne Stratford-Devai,
Louise St. Denis, Valerie Adams, Paul McGrath,
Dick Doherty, Halvor Moorshead, Rick Roberts
and others. Fanshawe College, London, ON
www.ogs.on.ca/conference

June 23-28, 2008

**28th International Congress of Genealogical
and Heraldic Services**
Quebec City, Quebec
www.sgq.qc.ca/congres_2008

July 16, 2008

Legacy Genealogy Cruise (Save your spot
today!) Norwegian Cruise Line Ship "Norwegian
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Round trip from London, England to
Copenhagen, Denmark; Warnemuende, Berlin;
St. Petersburg, Russia; Helsinki, Finland;
Tallinn, Estonia; Stockholm, Sweden, back to
London, England www.legacyfamilytree.com

August 1-3, 2008
Annual Seminar of the Federation of East European Family History Societies (FEEFHS)
Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, USA
www.feefhs.org

August 7-9, 2008 (Thursday-Saturday)
"Sail Into Your Past Aboard the Queen Mary!" The British Isles Family History Society - USA (BIFHS-USA), an overseas member of the Federation of Family History Societies, announces their 20th Annual Seminar to be held, at the Queen Mary Hotel in Long Beach, California www.rootsweb.com/~bifhsusa

September 3-6, 2008
Federation of Genealogical Societies (FGS) Conference
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, USA
Pennsylvania Convention Center
www.fgs.org/2008conf/FGS-2008.htm

September 26-28, 2008
Kelowna and District Genealogical Society Conference
Kelowna, BC
www.rootsweb.com/~bckdgs
###

CALGARY PUBLIC LIBRARY
submitted by Christine Hayes

Genealogy & Local History Programs
May to August

Programs at Central Library
616 Macleod Trail SE
(unless otherwise noted)

Drop-in programs: For these programs, no advance registration is required.

Family History Coaching – Drop in to the 4th floor of the Central Library on the last Saturday of May and June for some one-on-one coaching with a genealogist from the Alberta Family Histories Society.
Saturday May 31 and Saturday June 28
10:00 a.m. to noon

Heritage Hunters: Do you have questions about Calgary's past or its people? Drop by the Local History collection for help in your quest.
Central Library, Local History Room
Thursdays in July and August, beginning July 10
10:30 to 11:30 a.m.

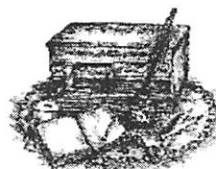
For the following programs you can register online at calgarypubliclibrary.com, by telephone at 260-2620 or in person at your local library branch.

Prairie Pretenders: Grey Own, Long Lance and Honore Jaxon: Professor Don Smith will talk about three prominent individuals with Calgary connections, including Louis Riel's secretary, who re-invented themselves by claiming Aboriginal ancestry.
Central Library, 4th Floor North Meeting Room
Saturday June 14, 1:00 – 2:30 p.m.

Introduction to the Genealogy Collection at Calgary Public Library: Join us for an introduction to the great genealogy and family history collection at the Library.
Southwood Library
Tuesday June 10, 2:00 – 3:30 p.m.

Researching Calgary's Military History: Join experts from University of Calgary/The Military Museums in exploring how to more effectively research and write military history.
Central Library, 4th Floor North Meeting Room
Friday June 20, 2:00 – 3:30 p.m.

Picturing Calgary's Past: Enjoy a PowerPoint presentation on Calgary's most fascinating historic buildings and the intriguing stories of the people behind them, featuring photographs and postcards from the Calgary Public Library's collections. This program is part of Historic Calgary Week.
Memorial Park Library
Tuesday July 29, 7:00 – 8:30 p.m.
###



(Clipart courtesy of
www.jsmagic.net/kith)

ALBERTA FAMILY HISTORIES SOCIETY
 based in Calgary Alberta, is a non-profit
 organization formed in 1980 to promote and
 encourage family history research.

MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION
 by Marion Firman

MEMBERSHIP FEES*	
Submit the following fees in Canadian funds for delivery to Canadian addresses; and in Canadian or U.S. funds for delivery to addresses outside Canada (Overseas applicants add \$8.00 for postage):	
\$40.00	Individual
\$55.00	Family
\$35.00	Senior 65+ individual
\$45.00	Senior 65+ family
\$50.00	Institutional

***Please make payment by cheque or money order.**

Become a Member:

- Receive Four Issues of *Chinook*
- Borrow Books from the AFHS Library
- Submit Two Free **Surname Connections**
- Receive **Membership Prices** when applicable

You may pay for your membership in person at a monthly meeting, which is held the first Monday (exceptions for holiday Mondays) of every month from September to June at First Christian Reformed Church, 3818-14th St. SW or by completing the Membership Application/Renewal form and mailing it to the address below.

The membership year for the Alberta Family Histories Society is from September 1st to August 31st. New memberships are accepted at any time during the year. New members who join between April 1 and August 31 do not need to pay an additional fee for the following year.

Want to make a donation to the AFHS memorial fund, but don't know what this is exactly? See Ronna Byam's article in the January 2008 issue. (A tax receipt is available for a \$10.00 minimum donation.)

Complete, cut out and mail the membership form with payment to the address below:

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION/RENEWAL	
Date:	<input type="checkbox"/> Mr <input type="checkbox"/> Mrs <input type="checkbox"/> Miss <input type="checkbox"/> Ms <input type="checkbox"/> Dr <input type="checkbox"/> Other
Surname:	Given Name(s):
Address:	City:
Prov/State:	Postal/Zip Code:
Telephone:	E-mail:
Webpage:	
New Member <input type="checkbox"/> or <input type="checkbox"/> Renewal/membership#	Type of membership:
Fee amount: \$	Donation to AFHS Memorial Fund: \$
Total enclosed as cheque or money order in Canadian funds: \$	

Attention: Membership
Alberta Family Histories Society
 712 - 16th Avenue N.W.
 Calgary, Alberta T2M 0J8

Alberta Family Histories Society

Membership

Membership in the Society is open to those interested in family history and genealogy, and may be obtained at the monthly meetings or by mailing the form on page 29 to Alberta Family Histories Society, 712-16th Ave NW, Calgary, Alberta, Canada, T2M 0J8, Attn: Membership Secretary.

Membership fees are due September 1 each year. If a new member joins on or after April 1 that membership is valid until September of the following year. See the form on page 29.

MEMBERSHIP FEES*	
Submit the following fees in Canadian funds for delivery to Canadian addresses, and in Canadian or U.S. funds for delivery to addresses outside Canada:	
\$40.00	Individual
\$55.00	Family
\$35.00	Senior 65+ individual
\$45.00	Senior 65+ family
\$50.00	Institutional
(Overseas applicants add \$8.00 for postage)	

*Please make payment by cheque or money order.

Objectives of the Society

The Society is a non-profit organization formed in 1980 to promote and encourage an interest in family history research worldwide. The activities of the Society are funded by membership dues, fundraising projects, donations, bequeaths and corporate sponsorship.

The objectives of the **Alberta Family Histories Society** are as follows:

- To promote the study of family history and genealogical research;
- To encourage and instruct members in accurate and thorough family history research;
- To assemble, preserve, print and publish information relevant to family history study;
- To raise funds for any of the foregoing objects, and to accept donations, gifts, legacies and bequests;
- To use any profits or other accretions to the Society in promoting its objects without material gain for its members.

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Master Genealogist	Alan Peers & Blair Barr

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Calgary, AB T2M 0J8
CANADA
Tel: (403) 214-1447




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