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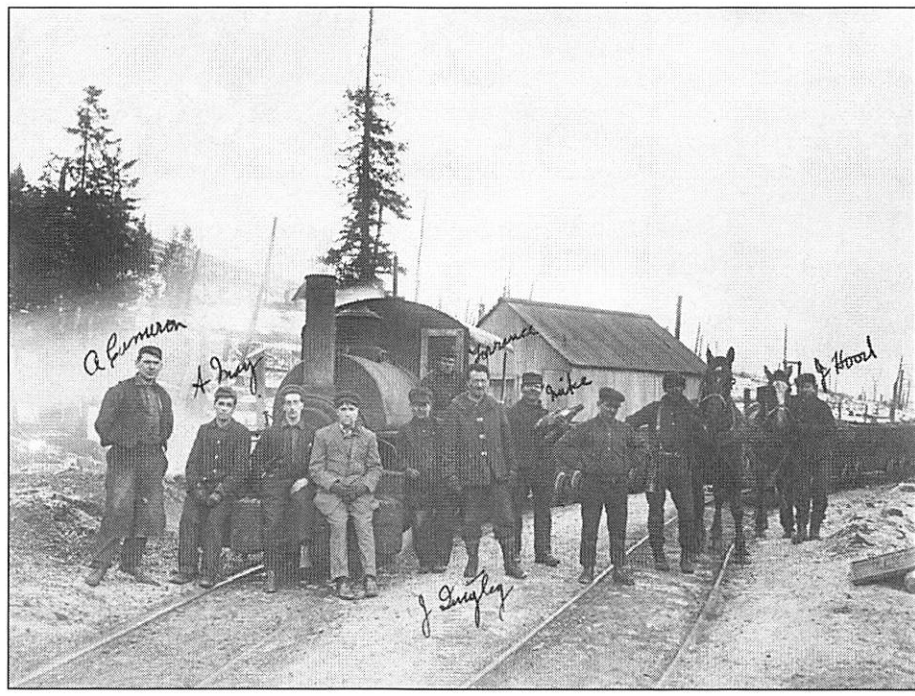
Chinook

Volume 29, Issue 1

Fall, October 2008



Alberta Family Histories Society



Miners at Hillcrest, Alberta, circa 1910 or 1911 (see page 5)

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CHINOOK SUBMISSION GUIDELINES

Chinook (ISSN 1192-8190) is a quarterly publication of the Alberta Family Histories Society (AFHS), 712-16th Avenue N.W., Calgary, AB T2M 0J8, CANADA; Tel: (403) 214-1447. Published in October, January, April and July, it is distributed to all members of AFHS and sent to about 100 different institutions around the world (including Canada, the United States, the British Isles and Australia). Articles from members, friends of the Society or anyone interested in genealogy, family history or regional history are welcome.

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| April 2009 | V.29, N.3 | February 1, 2009 |
| July 2009 | V.29, N.4 | May 1, 2009 |
| October 2009 | V.30, N.1 | August 1, 2009 |

AFHS Periodicals Committee

| Name | Position | Name | Position |
|------------------|---|---------------------------|---|
| Rosemary Kry | Chair, Periodicals Committee | Linda Murray | AFHS Library Acquisitions, Donations & "What's Out There" |
| Vacant | Assistant Chair | | "Did You Know" |
| Xenia Stanford | <i>Chinook</i> Editor | Lorna Laughton | "Calgary 100 Years Ago" |
| Susan Butler | <i>Breeze</i> Editor | Cheryl Sutherland | Proofreader |
| Laura Kirbyson | <i>Chinook</i> Assistant Editor | Marion Peterson | Proofreader |
| Elizabeth Ronald | <i>Chinook</i> Surname Connections, Ads, Extra Copies | Duane Kelly | Proofreaders |
| | Printer's Proof Reviewer | Bill Mills, Allan Jenkins | <i>Chinook</i> Distribution |
| Ann Williams | "AFHS Library Book Review" | Jackie Duncan | Members-at-large |
| | | Jean Carter, Brian Swan | |

AFHS PROGRAMS FALL 2008 (tentative)

Monthly meetings of the Alberta Family Histories Society are usually held the first Monday of each month at River Park Church, 3818-14A Street, SW, Calgary, from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m. For more information and updates, consult the latest issue of *The Breeze*, check the AFHS website or see the website calendar.

| DATE | PROGRAM TOPIC |
|-------------------------|--|
| October 6 | Reading Old Handwriting and Foreign Language Documents |
| November 3 | My Favourite Unusual Resource for Family Genealogy Research – AFHS Member Panel |
| December 1 | Genealogy Journals and Magazines |
| October 18, 2008 | FAMILY ROOTS PROGRAM - Full day Saturday – DR. COLIN CHAPMAN FREE TO MEMBERS, PUBLIC WELCOME – for more details see page 26 |

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

By Bev Swan

Dr. Colin Chapman from England will be presenting on October 18. **FREE TO MEMBERS** in appreciation for volunteer hours, which keep the Society going. Open to the Public. See further information about his visit on page 26.

I want to welcome John Banack, Ruth Sutherland and Jim Benedict to the AFHS Board. Please check the Board and committee member list in the *Chinook* for other contacts. The past year has been a busy one for committees of the Society. The Volunteers have been working outside with cemetery recordings. Check our websites for cemetery CDs for sale. Chris Watts from England presented at a Saturday event. We gained a few new members from his presentation.

Our Alberta Family Histories Society partnered with Historic Calgary week July 25 – August 3,



during which members hosted presentations at our Library (see address on page 31).

The Volunteer appreciation event was held June 2. The

committee Chairs were able to enlighten the membership in attendance about their projects. We enjoyed cupcakes and punch that evening. Congratulations to the winners of the book selection: Gary Manthorne and Helen Backhouse.

Summer, I am sure, was busy for most of you, with visits, travel, reunions, research and cemetery discoveries. There are many people who tell me they want to research their family lines. I offer them the opportunity to attend one of our monthly meetings to get started. I attended a science fair where two students did a study on fingerprints for family history. Most of the information they collected was on the Internet. Youth are getting into more DNA

research. Talk to your children, grandchildren, nieces, nephews and neighbours about children working on a family tree. They can make it a school project.

The World is at your fingertips. Enjoy it while you can.

Bev Swan, President

###

We still need volunteers to complete the 2008-2009 Board and Committees. See below and page 31 for vacancies. To volunteer, talk to Bev at a meeting or contact AFHS by phone, email or mail, see page 31.



(Clipart courtesy and permission of Microsoft Office)

PERIODICALS THE BREEZE & CHINOOK

Since information about how to submit to Surname Connections (formerly *Chinook* Queries), how to order extra copies or how to place an ad has been removed, we have had many questions. In case you don't know, over the past year Publications was split into "Periodicals" and "Publications & Items for Sale." "Publications & Items for Sale" covers publications, such as CDs, for sale by AFHS.

"Periodicals" covers *Chinook* and *The Breeze*, since these are part of your membership. To find us on the AFHS website (www.afhs.ab.ca), click on the word Periodicals from the menu at the side. You will see *Breeze* and *Chinook*. Click on the one you want to view.

For those who don't have access to a computer, here are brief instructions for *Chinook*:

1. Submitting an Article and Deadlines

To submit articles and find deadlines, see page 2 of each *Chinook*.

2. Placing a Surname Connection

To place "Surname Connection," see page 25 of this issue. ("Queries" now go to the team that answers specific research inquiries for a small fee.)

3. Advertising

To advertise, send an email to ads-chinook@afhs.ab.ca or mail: **ATTN: Periodicals Committee—Ads** to AFHS at the address found on page 31 of each issue of *Chinook*.

4. Ordering Copies

To order copies, if you are not a member, or if you want extra copies, email copies-chinook@afhs.ab.ca or mail: **ATTN: Periodicals Committee—Chinook Copies** to AFHS at the address found on page 31 of each issue.

5. Tables of Contents (TOC)

The only way to see TOC is from the website or keeping your copies!

###

EDITOR'S EYE
By Xenia Stanford

I marvel each time at the contributions we receive and from whom we receive them: as close as Calgary and as far away as Ukraine. I always wondered though how our articles impact the readers. Of course, I receive many comments, 99% positive, but does the content make any difference to the research effort of members and people whom our exchange journals reach? I now know the answer is YES! A GREAT BIG YES!

If I had any doubt before, just between July and August this year, several people found connections to their family tree! One of those stories is on page 24 under "Serendipity." By

publishing her genealogy report in *Chinook*, this 2006 Brian W. Hutchinson Genealogical Scholarship winner, Catherine Whiteley found a connection to her family tree and her report garnered additional interest not mentioned here. Now Marg Aldridge, the 2007 winner, shares her story and has already made a connection through the AFHS website! Since the scholarship winners' reports will now be on the AFHS website and in the AFHS Library with the list of surnames in *Chinook*, this is a great way to, not only show what scholarship goes into proper genealogical research studies and reports, but also to find additional family! (Deadline for submissions **December 31, 2008**, see www.afhs.ab.ca/scholarship for details.)

I received a couple of requests from societies with whom we exchange journals to take them off the list. I say let's continue to exchange because the Whiteley connection came from the small library of a small society. It connected Catherine Whiteley of British Columbia to Joan Hibbert of Ontario.

All this reminds me that we must "Publish or Perish!" How are we sharing our research? Will the future generation have to redo it all? What a waste that would be! For my family that would mean over 30 years worth of work down the tube! Is that what you want? Remember the frustration you had because your ancestors didn't share their history? Do you want future generations of your family to have your research or do you want to waste all you have done?

I know the answer for me. I am diligently churning out reports and sharing them with various family members. This has led to finding additional relatives who, after they are given a report of mine to read, contact me to add their branches to the tree. It has spun a wonderful network of people on both sides of the ocean.

Like our new President says, "The World is at our fingertips Enjoy it while you can!" To this I add, "Research, Document, Share!"

###

EMPLOYMENT RECORDS OF COAL MINERS IN ALBERTA AND SOUTHEASTERN BC

By Jim Bowman

Cover Photo: Hillcrest, Alberta, dated 1910 or 1911 (Photo courtesy and permission of Glenbow Archives, NA-3903-105).

For many years, a black substance that was found in the ground was a major driver of Alberta's economy. Coal was discovered in present-day Alberta by the explorer Peter Fidler in 1792, and its exploitation began soon after the CPR was completed in 1885. It is estimated that 70% of Canada's coal reserves are in Alberta, and at its peak in the 1940s, coal enabled the province's economy to prosper. In the early 1950s the industry declined rapidly due to the use of petroleum products for transportation and heating. Today, the annual tonnage of coal produced is higher than ever, but surface mining has now almost completely replaced traditional underground mining.

The working life of an underground coal miner was notoriously dangerous, dirty, noisy, claustrophobic, unhealthy and financially insecure. Miners were paid either by the hour or by the weight of the coal they mined, but they sometimes had to walk an hour from the mine entrance to the face before their paid work began. In the winter they never saw sunlight except on Sundays and holidays. Often they lived in bunkhouses in camps or in small cottages in isolated company towns, where minimal shelter and amenities were provided by their parsimonious employers.

No wonder coal miners in Canada were at the forefront of radical union activism. In the 1930s, for example, the mining town of Blairmore was governed by unionists who named its main street Tim Buck Boulevard, after the leader of the Communist Party. The miners' radicalism was matched in no small measure by the mine operators' determination to break the unions through means such as blacklisting, eviction from company housing and violence. A more positive side of the miner's life is

portrayed in the book *Coal Dust Grins: Portraits of Canadian Miners* (Calgary: Cambria, 1998). The author-photographer-publisher Lawrence Christmas interviewed hundreds of retired miners and reached the conclusion that they enjoyed the camaraderie and relatively good pay of the industry.

Many Canadian immigrants did at least short stints as coal miners. The mine operators preferred to hire workers from different countries to discourage them from interacting as fellow union members. Immigrants from English-speaking mining areas such as South Wales, northern England, or southern Scotland often got the preferred or skilled jobs in the mines. Others came from mining districts in Italy or Eastern Europe, and some were Canadian-born, often from the agricultural districts of the Prairie Provinces that had been settled by various ethnic communities.

It can be problematic for genealogists to identify their ancestors' activities as coal miners. Some miners, especially if they came from Eastern Europe, had their names changed because uncaring supervisors or immigration officials misspelled it. Some voluntarily changed or shortened their names to make them easier to spell or pronounce. Some used false names to escape blacklisting. Many didn't stay in the same job for very long, due to the fluctuations of the coal market or the inherent unpleasantness of the work. Most of the coal mining communities didn't have local censuses or city directories, and most miners were tenants who weren't identified in land records.

Since 1903, many (but not all) coal miners of the three westernmost provinces were members of the United Mine Workers of America, District 18. Representation by this union rapidly declined following the Winnipeg General Strike of 1919, when District 18 voted to join the

radical One Big Union against the wishes of the pragmatic and American-controlled International. The radical and conservative elements of the UMWA were reunited in the late 1930s. During the Second World War, the demand for coal was high and there was a shortage of male labour. It was during this period that coal miners enjoyed relative prosperity and job security. During the 1970s the UMWA in Canada rapidly declined in influence, and in 1996 District 18 was closed. There are still three mines represented by the UMWA in the three western provinces, but their representative is based in Nova Scotia.

The Glenbow Archives recently completed the arrangement and description of its United Mine Workers records. The inventory can be viewed online at www.glenbow.org/collections/search → Finding Aids/Scanned Documents → United Mine Workers of America, District 18.

For genealogists, the most interesting series of these fonds is Series 27, the Welfare and Retirement Fund case files. These files contain records of miners who worked in Union mines longer than 20 years and who retired after 1946 but died before 1987. Each file contains the miner's pension application, employment history, medical history, correspondence and proof-of-age document, such as a birth certificate, baptism certificate, marriage certificate, or immigration papers.

Since these files all pertain to people who died over 20 years ago, they can be made available without compromising the principles of the *Alberta Personal Information Protection Act*. Because the filing system used by the Welfare and Retirement Fund changed over the years, identification of a member's file can be tricky.

Series 13 consists of the UMWA's records of membership. The District 18 office began keeping membership records only in 1954. Access to some of these records may be restricted, if they include the miners' Social Insurance Numbers.

Prior to 1954, membership records were kept by Local Unions. The records of Local Unions are in Series 19, but not every Local transferred its records to the District office upon closing. Each Local's membership records were kept by its Financial Secretary. The records of Local Union 2633 (Coleman) are described as a separate fonds at Glenbow.

Series 26 consists of employment records of mine operators, collected by the Welfare and Retirement Fund in order to document miners' years of service. These records are in various formats, including employee lists, payroll ledgers, payroll cards, time books, employer's income tax returns and employee registers. Many of these records are in microfilm format only. They are listed in the inventory alphabetically by the names of the mines.

Employee registers, which in Alberta were required to be kept so that the miners' next-of-kin could be contacted in case of accident, contain more interesting genealogical information than the other types of records. However, they were not always kept up-to-date. The payroll records, though not as official, are a more accurate source of information regarding the miners' period of employment.

Resources

Other fonds at Glenbow containing coal mining employee records include:

- Alberta Railway and Irrigation Company
- Canmore Mines Ltd.
- Carbondale Coals Ltd.
- Crowsnest Resources
- Lethbridge Collieries Ltd.
- Rosedeer Coal Mining Co. Ltd.
- West Canadian Collieries Ltd.

Employee records of Alberta coal mines known to be held by other archival institutions include:

Provincial Archives of Alberta (Edmonton):

- Brazeau Collieries

- Hillcrest-Mohawk Collieries
- Tofield Coal Co.

Taber Interpretive Centre/Museum/Archives:

- Leland Coal Co. (formerly Canada West Coal Co., Majestic Collieries)

Whyte Museum of the Canadian Rockies (Banff):

- Wheatley family (contains records of Bankhead Mine)

###

HOW MY TREE CONTINUED TO GROW WITHOUT THE INTERNET

By Linda Holdaway

The Importance of Rereading Old Correspondence!

In May 2007, my husband Gary and I returned to our house-raising project in BC. I had promised myself that I would devote all my energies to this endeavour for the summer months, but as fall arrived my genealogical interests could be silenced no longer. Since we don't have Internet at the BC place (yet!), I had to resort to other means to "get my fix".

When I first started researching my family tree in 2001, I had entered all my information in a Word document. As my tree grew, I realized the benefits of having a genealogy software program. After transferring all the names I had collected from my Word document to my genealogy program, I realized that I could add pictures, BMD certificates, obituaries and other information to each person's file. Fortunately I had saved these, as well as all emails I had accumulated since beginning my research, in family folders. I then reread each and every one of these emails and was pleasantly surprised when I found new family members. I had received a Gedcom file for the family of my husband's great great grandmother's sister Flora Jane Currie McInnis, but I had neglected to enter all this information in my database, most

likely thinking these people were too far removed to include. I now realize how easy it is to show family relationships in my software program, so Flora's family are now included and their relationship is easy to see.



Allan and Mary McDougall and four of their children: Catherine, Barbara, Neil (on floor) and Donald (on Mary's lap). About 1884

Author's husband's great great grandparents, Allan & Mary (Currie) McDougall with family, from book *A History of MacGregor and the Rural Municipality of North Norfolk*, originally from the history book, *Through Fields and Dreams*, Vol. 1, page 352

(Photo courtesy and permission of North Norfolk - MacGregor Archives Inc. Not for use elsewhere without prior consent)

Flora Jane's sister Mary Currie married Allan McDougall in 1874 in Grey County, Ontario. They moved to MacGregor, Manitoba in 1881. Allan and Mary had eight children. The oldest, Barbara Ann was named for her maternal grandmother Barbara Ann McDiarmid Currie - my husband's great great great Grandmother.



Author's husband's great grandparents: Barbara Ann McDougall, oldest daughter of Allan & Mary, with her husband James Henry
(Photo courtesy and permission of Linda Holdaway from family files)

I also reread the Currie Family Tree that had been sent to me by snail mail. Again, I had neglected to enter these people in my family tree and again, I realize the error of my ways. To my surprise, I found Currie relatives that were buried in Calgary. From the AFHS Burial CDs, I found the information that hopefully will allow me to locate copies of these people's obituaries and thus add new members to the family.

Another email mentioned a descendant of Allan McDougall's uncle, John McDougall. This descendant turned out to be a younger brother of Allan's mother, Catherine McDougall (yes, both her maiden surname and her married surname was McDougall). I found Catherine's obituary on the *Toronto Star Pages of The Past* website. It proved to be most informative since it mentioned her membership in the Ontario Genealogical Society, as well as Clan McDougall and Clan McLeod.

I also reread papers in my McDougall binder. I discovered that Mary Elizabeth McDougall,

Barbara Ann's sister, married William Malcolm Machan. I assumed that William had died in Manitoba and that his death had occurred in a year not yet included in the Manitoba Vital Statistics database. When I reread the obituary for their father Allan McDougall, it mentioned that Mrs. Machan was living in Calgary. I checked the AFHS Burial CD and sure enough, a Wm. M. Machan died in 1933 and is buried in Burnsland Cemetery. Hopefully, his obituary will shed some light on his and Mary Elizabeth's two children.

I do admit that I am very much looking forward to getting back online, but I am so glad that I did employ this approach. Otherwise who knows how long it would have been before I realized the wealth of information that I already had - just waiting to be added to my family tree.

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LATEST GENEALOGY NEWS

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FamilySearch.org has a new face! In addition there is a new prototype showing the new search screen.

Whether this screen is replaced before you receive this issue of *Chinook* or not, there will definitely be a new look. The new search screen is intended to be more user-friendly and also to help narrow or broaden the search from the very beginning.

But to genealogists the most important question remains, "Is my family there yet?" Toward this goal, FamilySearch has updated or added three new free databases representing over nine million new names to bring the total to more than 477 million searchable names. These include additions to the 1870 U.S. Federal Census and to West Virginia births and deaths.

The pilot is at <http://pilot.familysearch.org/recordsearch> Soon to be at www.familysearch.org

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DESCENDANTS OF ZECHARIAH ACKRED/ACRED OF CAMBRIDGESHIRE, ENGLAND (CIRCA 1823-2003)

By Marg Aldridge

Editor's note: The Brian W. Hutchinson Genealogical Scholarship Committee has selected Marg Aldridge of Richmond Hill, Ontario as the 2007 winner. Her genealogical report is entitled "Descendants of Zechariah Ackred/Acred." This report documents the ancestors and descendants of her grandmother from 1823 to 1979. Ms. Aldridge's grandmother was a Barnardo child.



Esther Dawson, grandmother of the author, on the day she entered Barnardo's Home
(Photo courtesy and permission of Marg Aldridge, obtained from Barnardos.)

Ms Aldridge's essay is entitled "Barnardo's Home Documents" and describes her search over a thirty-year period for documentation of

her Barnardo ancestor. We are including the essay with additional information beyond what is currently on the AFHS website. Both the genealogical report and the original of the essay may be examined at the AFHS Library (see address on page 31) and on the Society's website at www.afhs.ab.ca/scholarship.

Below is the list of surnames in the genealogical report in case you see a connection and then want to see the full report. Before this issue even went to press, already one person discovered a link from the full report on the above website.

Surname List:

ACKRED Ely Sutton, Cambridgeshire
ANDREWS London, England
ATHERLEY Hackney, London, Middlesex, England
BATES Bethnal Green, Middlesex, England
BELBECK Bethnal Green, Middlesex, England
BONUS Manitoulin Is., Ontario, Canada
CLEMENT MacLeod, Canada
COLES Chestnut, Hertfordshire, England
COLLINS London, England
DAWSON Bethnal Green, Middlesex, England
DEEKS Bethnal Green, London, England
DRAKE Kent, England
EVANS Shoreditch, Middlesex, England
GADD Bethnal Green, London, Middlesex, England
GAYLARD Hendon, London, Middlesex, England
GILLIS Canada
GLOVER Bethnal Green, Middlesex, England
GODDARD Poplar, London, Middlesex, England
GODWIN Bethnal Green, Middlesex, England
GRAY Sunderland, England
HAMMOND Collingwood, Ontario, Canada
HARWOOD Clapton, Hackney, London, Middlesex, England
INKLEY England
JACKSON Kent, England
KING England
LANE Kensington Hackney, Middlesex, England
LAWLOR County of Essex, England
LEES London, Middlesex, England
MAGUIRE Stayner, Ontario, Canada

MARTIN Hackney, London, Middlesex, England
MAY Bethnal Green, Middlesex, England
MCDONALD Canada
MORGAN Hendon, London, Middlesex, England
NEWMAN Chingford, London
PRIDHAM Chingford, England
REILLY Waltham Forest, London, England
RICHARDS England
ROBINSON Barrie, Ontario, Canada
ROSE England
SCOTT London, England
SHEARD Collingwood, Ontario, Canada
SINGLETON Hackney, Middlesex, England
SMITH Collingwood, Ontario, Canada
SPARK Hackney, England
SPARLING Collingwood, Ontario, Canada
TROWER London, England
TURNER Scotland
WAITS Collingwood, Ontario, Canada
WELDON Collingwood, Simcoe County, Ontario,
 Canada
WESTON Shoreditch St. Stephens, Haggerston,
 London, England
WORTHY England
WREN Hackney London, England ###

BARNARDO'S HOME DOCUMENTS

By Marg Aldridge

In 1983, I had the privilege of publishing an article in the *Canadian Genealogist* magazine regarding my paternal grandmother, Esther Dawson, who came to Canada as an "orphaned" Barnardo's Home Child. I hesitate to use the word "orphan," as she and her sister, Elizabeth, were not orphans and had a father very much alive when they immigrated to Canada (see notes under **Additional Information**). At that time, I focussed on the two sisters and their descendants in Canada and their experiences when they were in Barnardo's Home.

Since then, I have frequently been asked about Barnardo's Home and what type of information is available that could be of use to genealogists. Such questions include: What kind of information did they keep on these children? Who can access it? Are there pictures? Was I

able to locate the family in England? Is there medical information, school information, pictures...? Could I trace the family further back? Because Barnardo's Home ran hundreds of children's homes across the UK from Dr. Thomas Barnardo's day in the early 1870s until the 1970s, their records have much potential for genealogists who are descendants of Home children.

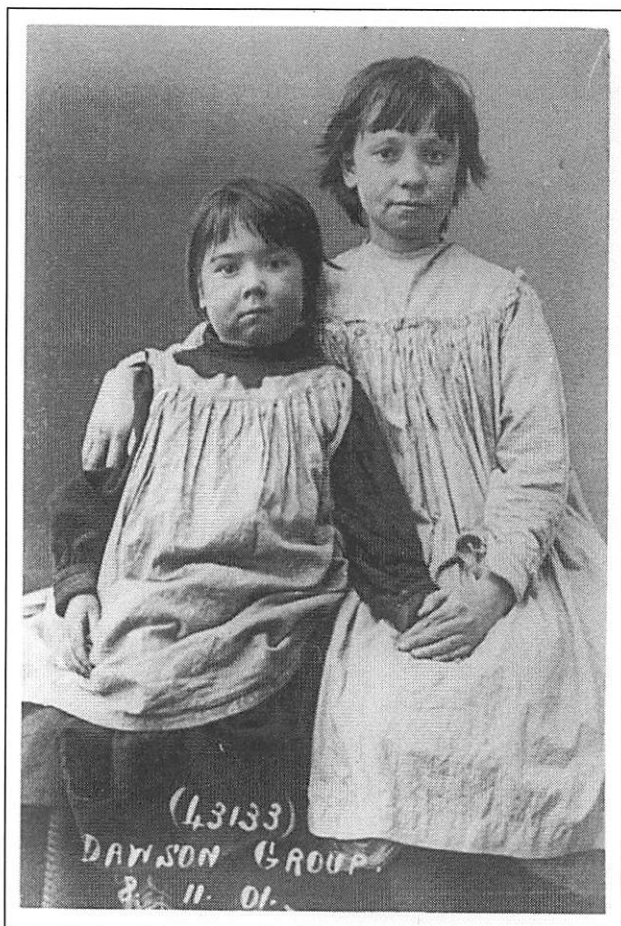
This then is an attempt from one family's point of view and investigation to answer some of these questions and climb a family tree.

I have contacted Barnardo's Home every ten years for a span of approximately thirty years. I did not intend to do this but rather the process evolved. I initially contacted the Home in the early 1970s regarding my grandmother with a general request for information. With the consideration of starting a family, I contacted the Home again in the early 1980s specifically requesting medical information and received different information than what I had received on my previous contact. This thought weighed on my mind until the early 1990s when my daughter attended primary school and I became curious about the education my grandmother may have acquired in the Home. Finally, with the new millennium, I learned that "the files" had been opened to children from the Homes with new legislation in 1996 and I again contacted Barnardo's Home.

Photograph

The initial contact returned basic information about my grandmother and her sister, Elizabeth, who had entered the Home on the same day. This included a basic sketch of family members (invaluable for my eventual identification of the family in England), ages (which turned out to be wrong) and pictures on the day they were admitted. Almost every child was photographed on the day they entered the Home and the Home had used before-and-after images to further its work, although this practice may have stopped prior to my grandmother's admission as no such

“after” picture appears to exist. I was ecstatic about receiving a photograph of my grandmother, aged about five years, as none existed of her as a child in Canada. Perhaps it was this ecstasy that lulled me into thinking I had received a copy of all pertinent information regarding the two sisters.



Esther and her sister Elizabeth; photo taken by Barnardo's Homes upon the intake of the girls
(Photo courtesy and permission of Marg Aldridge, obtained from Barnardos.)

Medical Information

As I contemplated my own future family in the early 1980s, I wrote again to the Home and inquired if medical information existed. A period of time elapsed before documents were received containing some general information of the girls' health when they entered the Home, at which time they reportedly had ringworm.

Otherwise, they had generally been fine and in good overall health. I was relieved and yet what I eventually discovered about the extended family's experience was that its members had suffered immense losses from T.B. (tuberculosis), a dreaded word in those days. The girls' mother had died from T.B., as well as many young children and adults throughout the family structure. (Death registration of Elizabeth Dawson, their mother, listed cause of death as tuberculosis, otherwise known as “consumption.”) In fact, it finally surfaced through extended family members that their father's purpose in admitting them to the home was to have them removed from this dreaded disease. By requesting to have them sent to Canada, he had hoped to save their lives.

Letters

By the 1990s, my daughter was attending public school and I realized I did not know if my grandmother had had an opportunity to attend school. Again letters crossed the Atlantic. I received a copy of a letter my grandmother had written to the Home following her marriage. She informed them that she was now married and the mother of a young daughter (so the letter was circa 1920). She felt blessed and appreciated all that they had done for her but missed old friends. A newsy little letter that they had kept on file because it contained her new address and the Home sent out a newsletter to former residents. To me, it was of enormous importance. Although written in clumsy handwriting, it was proof that my grandmother had received some rudimentary education and was literate enough to write a letter. This is the only item I have that is written in her hand. But why hadn't they sent me a copy of this letter twenty years ago when I first inquired?

Unexpected Twist!

Around the turn of the new century, I learned that new legislation had come into effect in England, enabling former Barnardo and other Home children to acquire copies of their files.

(See **Additional Information** on page 13.) The Home also suggested counselling and offered a paid return visit to England for those children sent abroad. However, there was a catch. Upon inquiring for the last time about information on my grandmother and her sister, I was informed that I would not be entitled to any information regarding my great-aunt. Only her descendants would be entitled to her information. On the previous inquiries, I had always asked about both sisters and received information pertinent to both. In fact, the list of eligible individuals who could obtain information consists of the Home child, his/her parents, siblings, spouse and children. With the passing of my father, there are now no longer any living survivors from this list.

Conclusion

The two sisters lived in close proximity to each other once they reconnected in Canada. The descendants of both sisters continue to live in and around the same area and keep in touch. I contacted the sole surviving daughter of Elizabeth and requested that she send for her mother's file. She agreed and I now have a copy of both girls' files.

But is this everything?

Since each contact appeared to reveal more information than the last one, how can I be assured that every shred of information has been revealed? Why was there extracting and abstracting of the information in the initial inquiries? Was this done to sanitize the information or was it a matter of technology (photocopying) not being available at that time? I would like to have received the letters written by my grandmother earlier than thirty years after my initial request for information. My father, her son, passed away in 1999 and never had the opportunity to see them.

It is unlikely that I would have been able to piece together the fragments of the two girls' lives without the assistance of the files from

Barnardo's Homes. The surname of Dawson is a common English surname and without the marriage revealing the girls' mother's maiden name of ACKRED, as well as maternal aunts with surnames MAY and GADD, this tree may never have been completed. Esther's birth date was not recorded in her file and her age was listed as much younger than she was; she was always a petite woman.



Esther with her husband, Alex Smith
(Photo courtesy and permission of Marg Aldridge, from family files.)

The difficulty with these records is that you never get to go back and inspect the originals. All those cautionary tales about going back and looking at the original documents or files is not possible in this case. The information is provided to you at the discretion of the organization, although now they appear to be releasing more photocopies rather than extracts of the files. They handled thousands of children and it must be a tremendous effort to file and maintain all of the information generated on these children. I can appreciate that files must

go missing or information may be lacking but for those of us who just wish to know our past, it is frustrating to wonder if more information may still be buried somewhere in their files.

So my advice is just to keep asking.

What I found

- 1974: Extraction from file, 3 photographs (one of each girl alone and one together)
- 1980: Extraction from file, information related to emigration parties and relatives in England, four photographs (extra picture of Girls' Village Home, Barkingside, circa 1900)
- 2003: Admittance record, photocopy of record card of Esther, photocopies of correspondence relating to Esther, leaflet focusing on Canadian emigration, reading list of recommended books, abbreviation list to help with interpreting records, request for acknowledgement of safe arrival of documents, unable to provide information on Elizabeth
- 2006: Photocopy of record card of Elizabeth obtained by her daughter

Additional information

Not all orphans - Some have questioned whether all children at Barnardo's were orphaned or not. The Dawson girls were not orphans since they had a father. The day their father dropped them off at Barnardo's was not the last contact they had with him. Both Elizabeth and Esther tried to earn money to bring their father to Canada but were discouraged by Barnardo's Homes and the Salvation Army, because he did not fit the profile of "newly wed couples" who were being encouraged to immigrate to Canada at the turn of the 20th century. The fact they tried is documented in their files.

Also there is first-hand eyewitness evidence. Elizabeth Dawson, known as "Aunt" to all in

the family lived to be 98 years old. My own grandmother, Esther Dawson, died before I was born and so Aunt became the substitute grandmother to my family. Aunt was also my babysitter when I was growing up as she lived within walking distance of my house, just two blocks down the street. I had many occasions to speak with her about her experiences as a child. She spoke to me of the day her father dropped them off at Barnardo's Homes. She remembered looking out of the gates and watching him walk down the railroad tracks close by until he was out of sight. She never saw him again.

There are many examples of children who were not orphans, at the following website:
http://findarticles.com/p/articles/mi_m0LVZ/is_12_17/ai_90108597

The legislation - Although I was unable to find the exact reference to the original document, there were a number of reforms to accessing the records of home children, as well as those of adopted children, in the 1990s in England. There are numerous articles on this subject, e.g. the statement at the above website says, "The National Archives of Canada has a special program to help former home children locate their roots and relatives in Britain and Canada."

Other organizations - Although we hear most often about Barnardo's, there are many other organizations that sent children to Canada. Among the most notable are: Middlemore, Macpherson, Maria Rye, Fegan Homes and the National Children's Home. Some homes appear to be known by the name of the main individual behind the institution, such as Annie Macpherson and "Dr." (according to the above website, "the degree was self-conferred") Barnardo. Others appear to be associated with a church or government organization, but all were sending children abroad and Canada was only one of several destinations.

Family members were usually separated and often never saw their siblings again. It's estimated that 100,000 children immigrated to

Canada between 1870 and 1930 (although there are exceptions both before and after this date range, this was by far the majority of the children). They were on average eleven years old at the time of immigration and, although infants were adopted into families and older teens were hired as "farm hands," they were most often young school age children hired into the family as "extra help."

There are several excellent books on the subject *The Little Immigrants, Orphan at my Door* and, perhaps the most famous fictional description, *Anne of Green Gables*. I have not had any opportunity to access records from the other organizations but understand that some have incorporated their records with Barnardo's Homes when their organizations ceased to exist.

New Exposure

Ancestors in the Attic will focus an episode entirely on Barnardo Homes in its new season, which starts in September 2008. They follow a young man in search of his grandmother's brothers. The episode was shown at the 2008 Ontario Genealogical Society conference and I was surprised to see that the young man was ushered into a small room and allowed to see his grandmother's file.

This was not the case when I visited England in 1994. I was essentially told that I would not be permitted to see the files. I was informed that as a granddaughter, I was not eligible to access the information. I don't know if this has changed with the new laws, but *Ancestors in the Attic* opened many doors and access to much information formerly kept "behind the scenes" for various reasons. At any rate, they dedicated the entire half hour to this story and I am grateful it is getting aired.

In 2005, "Home Children" was added to the Ontario school curriculum for grade 10-12 as follows: "Describe significant changes in Canadian immigration policy since Confederation (e.g., Immigration Acts, open

door policy, Chinese head tax, British Home Children, enemy aliens, point system)."

Suggested Readings

Bagnell, Kenneth. *The Little Immigrants: The Orphans Who Came to Canada*. Toronto, ON: Macmillan of Canada, 1980.

Corbett, Gail H. *Barnardo Children in Canada*. Peterborough, ON: Woodland Publishing, 1981.

Hamilton, Mary. *The Tin-Lined Trunk*. Toronto, ON: Kids Can Press, 1998.

Little, Jean. *Orphan at My Door: The Home Child Diary of Victoria Cope, Guelph, Ontario, 1897*. Markham, ON: Scholastic Canada, 2001.

An extensive bibliography can be found at the following site: <http://ist.waterloo.ca/~marj/genealogy/children/books.html>

Barnardo's Address

Barnardo's After Care Centre
Children's Services Department
Tanners Lane, Barkingside
Ilford, Essex, IG6 1QG
Telephone 0181-550 8822

Websites

Barnardo's email
AfterCare_Barnardos@compuserve.com

National Archives of Canada, ArchiviaNet,
Home Children
www.archives.ca/02/020110_e.html

Editor's note: The following are Home Children stories our Society has covered (Snow who spoke to us and Dance who wrote for Chinook):

Snow, Perry. *Neither Waif nor Stray: The Search for a Stolen Identity*. Boca Raton, FL: Universal Publishers, 2000.

Dance, Marlene L. "A Barnardo Boy in Alberta." *Chinook*, v. 27, n.3, July 2007. ###

BENEFITS OF ATTENDING THE NGS CONFERENCE: MAY 2008

By Lois Sparling

The National Genealogical Society Conference is one of the two really big national genealogical conventions in the United States. This year it was held in Kansas City and attracted over 1600 eager family history aficionados. Ancestry.com and FamilySearch.org both had enormous displays, complete with many online computers on which we could try out their websites. American book publishers and software vendors were out in force.

We received our registration materials in nifty tote bags from ancestry.com. Mine included a printed copy of the syllabus. The syllabus or seminar materials were made available in PDF format a week before the conference. Some people printed off portions to bring with them, while some chose to get this material on CD. After the print version ran out, only the CD version was available. The latest edition of *Everton's Genealogical Helper* also came with our registration material.

The Mid-Continent Public Library in nearby Independence, Missouri, has a very good and very large family history collection. They provided free shuttle buses between the convention hotel and their facility between 9:00 a.m. and 11:00 p.m. Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday. That is where I spent Monday, reviewing its substantial collection of Virginia compendiums and scanning a couple of relevant nineteenth century genealogies. Photocopies were 10 cents per page and, yes, they provided change. To review the online catalogues of the Mid-Continent Public Library Genealogy Collection and to take a peek at its guides to its collections, you can visit their website at: www.mcpl.lib.mo.us/genlh

On Tuesday, the local family history societies arranged a bus tour to three area museums. What is now Greater Kansas City was settled a long, long time ago by Canadian standards. We drove down streets lined with Victorian houses, particularly in Independence. I also caught

glimpses of the exotic Missouri forests of oak and walnut, said to be inhabited by wild turkeys and opossums. You may or may not know that the Missouri River flows west to east through the State of Missouri, joining the Mississippi River near St. Louis and that Kansas City was the place wagon trains formed up for the overland trip to Oregon Country. They have a National Historic Site and museum about that. Harry S. Truman (U.S. President, 1945 to 1953) was from Independence, Missouri, and there is a very interesting museum about that, too. The third museum on our tour was a steamboat museum which displayed the artifacts recovered from a steamboat which sank in the Missouri River in 1856.

I attended this conference to learn about American research. I saw no reason to go all that way to hear about research in Britain and Ireland. There was a section on German research. Apparently 25% of Americans have German ancestors, as does my husband. Therefore, I attended two of those seminars. There was a lot of choice. Nine seminars or workshops ran from 8:00 AM until 5:00 PM for four days. This included 20 hours of seminars by the BCG (Board for Certification of Genealogists), 12 hours of seminars by staff of the NARA (National Archives and Records Administration) plus further seminars about, rather than by, NARA. Also, there was a series on research in particular states, lots of GENTECH seminars on DNA (their Computer SIG as far as I can tell) and using the Internet. On Friday there was a section by ICAPGen (International Commission for the Accreditation of Professional Genealogists), seminars presented by Ancestry.com, RootsMagic, FamilyAtlas, FamilySearch, GenSmart, and others. At an extra cost, we could have three luncheons with speakers. Evening receptions were sponsored (as in paid for) by a couple of major repositories.

One reception was at the new National World

War One Museum in Kansas City. This museum is well done except that Billy Bishop is described as English, because, I suppose, he flew with the RAF. The first half was about the Great War before the United States got involved. We watched a very moving audio visual presentation on the slaughter in the trenches. Then we entered the second half of the museum about the decision to join the Allies, mobilization and the rush to get American troops to France before it was too late. The displays conveyed to me how closely and anxiously “the Yanks” were watching the bloody fiasco in Europe before finally taking sides. We forget, I think, that more Americans are of German descent than British and Irish descent.

My costs to attend the National Genealogical Society Conference were the same or less than the cost of attending the Ontario Genealogical Society conference in London, Ontario. With the loonie floating around par, flights, hotels and meals in the States are very competitive. However, quite frankly, there is no reason to attend this conference unless you have American ancestors. ###

DID YOU KNOW? By Lorna Laughton

DID YOU KNOW that AFHS has given out prizes?

Yes, AFHS has been awarding a prize to one or more AFHS volunteers each year at the Volunteer Appreciation time at the June meeting.

Before you start hoping for a new house or a sporty car from AFHS, you need to know that the prizes are called “book prizes.” The prize winners choose material (books, CDs, DVDs or microfiche) for the AFHS Library. They do not even get to keep the book or material!

It really is a win-win situation for everyone,

even though it might not seem like it initially. Firstly, AFHS is able to recognize a few of the many wonderful volunteers. These people give their valuable time and skills to help our society run and provide services to our members and the public. The Volunteer Coordinator consults with the AFHS Board in the spring time about the potential winner or winners.

Secondly, each prize winner is encouraged to choose material that reflects his or her genealogy interests. The AFHS Library Committee usually helps the prize winner with information about what the Library already has or might need in any particular area of interest. The monetary value of the award varies – generally being between \$50 and \$75. After the Library Committee has ordered the material and it arrives, the winner gets to check it out first!

The following are a few of the winners from past years and the material that they have selected.

MABEL KIESSLING. *German Genealogy*. Author: Edward R. Brant. 943. BRAN 2007.

MARLENE KNOTT. *The Heritage Atlas of Hastings County [Ontario]*. Author: Orland French. 971.3 HAST 2006.

SPENCER FIELD. *Early Victorian Squarson: The Diaries of William Cotton Risley 1815-1848 Part One. [Oxfordshire, England]*. 942. OXF BAN29.

HELEN BACKHOUSE. *“Fast sailing and copper-bottomed” Aberdeen Sailing Ships and the Emigrant Scots they carried to Canada 1774-1855*. Author: Lucille H. Campey. 941.1 CAMP 2002.

RONNA BYAM. *Cyclopaedia of Methodism in Canada (1880)*. Author: Rev. George H. Cornish. 971. CORN 2001.

HEATHER JAREMKO. *This Unfriendly Soil: The Loyalist Experience in Nova Scotia 1783-*

1791. Author: Neil MacKinnon. 971.02 MACK 1988.

What material would you choose for the AFHS Library? ###

**THE NATIONAL REGISTRATION
OF 1940**
By Catherine Whiteley

Where were great-grandparents Peter Thomson and his wife Isabella Aitken born? This problem has plagued me for more than ten years. The closest I had been able to come was “Ontario” for him and “USA” for her.

Recently a new source came to my attention – The National Registration of 1940. I had heard of it before. This was a compulsory registration in Canada during World War Two. Everyone over the age of 16 was required to fill in a detailed questionnaire that asked for his/her name, date and place of birth, names of parents, date of immigration, religion, occupation plus many other details. The form was sent to Ottawa and each individual was issued with an identification card which they were required to present whenever they were stopped by a member of the constabulary. Not all questions were always answered. But was this relevant to the birthplace of two individuals who died in the nineteenth century, and one of them not even in Canada? Possibly, because two of the questions asked were “Place of father’s birth” and “Place of mother’s birth”.

Peter and Isabella had four daughters, one of whom was my husband’s grandmother. She, however, had died in 1938. But the other three daughters – who had the same parents – lived until at least the late 1940s. Would the National Registration of one of them reveal the answer to my quest? I chose Great-Aunt Clara for two reasons. First of all, I knew her exact date of death and I had a newspaper copy of her obituary as proof of death. I also found a transcription of her burial online as a second

proof of her death. Secondly, of the three remaining sisters, she was the only one who had been a businesswoman all her adult life. Perhaps she would be the most likely to take a business-like approach to the questionnaire and answer it with some detail.



Clara, second from the left, with her sisters
(Photo courtesy and permission of Catherine Whiteley from family files)

According to the Statistics Canada website for the National Registration File of 1940 I simply needed to provide the name of the registrant I wished searched, her address in 1940, and proof of her death. The service is not free. A standard fee of \$47.25 must be submitted with the request. If no record is found \$5 will be retained and the remainder of the fee returned. If however, a record is found but simply doesn’t answer the question you particularly want answered, you have forfeited your money.

I was willing to take the risk. I had no other arrows left in my quiver. I submitted my request, including Clara’s name and address circa 1940, a photocopy of her obituary, a copy of the cemetery transcription I had found online, and my cheque for \$47.50. The request was sent to Census Operations, Statistics Canada, Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0T6. After several months, a slim courier envelope arrived from

Statistics Canada. I was almost afraid to open it. If it said "Ontario" and "USA" again, I was without another idea of how to proceed.

Slowly I opened the envelope and began reading the tightly written form, until I came to "Place of father's birth" and the answer was "Kingston, Ontario". "Place of mother's birth" yielded "Albany, New York". BINGO!

I finally had a starting place for Peter and Isabella. There is still work to be done, but the net has dramatically tightened. It had been worth the gamble.

Thank you, Aunt Clara! And thank you, Statistics Canada. ###

CANADA CENSUS NEWS

By Various Contributors

Editor's Note: Thank you to the many members who contributed census updates. We are hoping to give you updates on a regular basis.

1916 Census of Prairie Provinces

The 1916 Census of the Western Provinces (Manitoba, Saskatchewan and Alberta) is now available at Library and Archives Canada (LAC). The self-serve microfilm reels (reels T-21925 to T-21956) are in the Microfilm Consultation room and at the reference desk in the Canadian Genealogy Centre. Copies are also available for interlibrary loan.

Currently this census is only available on microfilm. It has not been digitized yet, so it is not available online. It is understood that digitization and indexing is being done in partnership with The Generations Network which will make the images available on Ancestry and at LAC. Access to the images at LAC will be free of charge, but the indexes are only available on the pay sites. The Calgary Public Library is the local library with the largest collection of Canadian census microfilm

holdings. A decision has not been made regarding the purchase of the microfilm for this census. In the meantime the reels may be requested through your local library (CPL for Calgary). Library and Archives Canada loans copies out through interlibrary loan. (Thanks to Robert Boynton and Christine Hayes)

1881 Canada Census

As many of you know, the index to the 1881 Canada Census is available for free through the Family History Library (FHL) at familysearch.org but you still had to go to the library to look up the microfilm to see the original. Now Library and Archives Canada offers the microfilm of the 1881 census collection for free at www.collectionscanada.gc.ca/databases/census-1881/index-e

You must know the reel you want and that information is available through FHL.

Ancestry.ca also offers the index and access to the microfilm. There the individual record can be seen for the individual page and need for knowledge of correct reel number is not necessary. So there are several options now for obtaining the primary record of the census. (Thanks to Judii Rempel and Judi Riddell)

1921 and Beyond

Submitted by Lois Sparling in her words (Thanks, Lois!): Remember the census release campaign? Remember those petitions we signed and then signed again? Remember Beatty et al vs Statistics Canada? Remember the surprise release of the 1906 census online by the National Archives? Senator Milne has written her account of that long campaign to rescue the 1906 and 1911 from the Chief Statistician, Dr. Fellegi. Read all about the back room politics in her lengthy and detailed story at her website: www.sen.parl.gc.ca/lmilne/Default.asp

Phew, what an effort! Her focus is on what went on in Parliament to turn our petitions, emails

and Federal Court challenges into legislation. She mercifully leaves out the fact that I lost the second Federal Court case. Of course, she does not know about our chats with Calgary Reform/Alliance/Conservative MPs, especially the alternative arrangements to get amendments in the House of Commons to the first, quite unacceptable, government bill for the release of the census returns to the public or the explanation we received from Jason Kenny about the Conservative MP who presented unfriendly amendments at one point to ruin the second, better, government bill.

There is still the problem of the "opt in" tick box on the 2006 and upcoming 2011 census returns, requiring everyone to give allegedly informed consent to the public release of their household's census return 92 years from hence. ###

IN MEMORIAM
MURIEL M. DAVIDSON

Speaking of the census, we are saddened to lose a strong worker on behalf of the release of Canadian Census records. In fact, she was a Co-chair with Gordon Watts on the Canada Census Committee and a lifetime member of AFHS.

**Davidson,
Muriel
Marguerite
(nee
Farquhar)
1924-2008**



It is with great sadness that the family announces the peaceful passing of Muriel, on Tuesday, June 10, 2008 at the Brampton Civic Hospital at the age of 83 years.

Born on October 22, 1924, daughter of the late Gordon and Helen (Adams) Farquhar, of Summerville Beach, Nova Scotia. Beloved wife of the late William "Bill" Davidson of 60 years. Muriel's memory will be cherished by her children Don, Lynden (Michael) Cowan and Randy (Charlene) Davidson. Step-mother of Laurie (Lorna), Geneva Dean, Marie (Jack) Malloy and Dennis Davidson. Grandmother to Diane Davidson, Amy (Thomas) Ransom, Michelle Cowan, Robert Cowan. She is survived by brothers Eugene (Geraldine) Farquhar, Ron (late Joan) Farquhar and numerous relatives in Nova Scotia and Ontario. Predeceased by brothers Clyde (surviving wife Ruth) Farquhar and Don (surviving wife Alma) Farquhar. Muriel was a member of Floral Rebekah Lodge #369 (I.O.O.F.) and also a member of Beaux-Art Brampton. Over the years, she was involved in Boy Scouts, was a contributor to numerous newspapers and was coordinator of the Obstetrical knitting program at Peel Memorial.

Muriel was very involved in genealogy research, first for family and then worldwide assistance, including publications. She was instrumental as the head of the Canadian Census Committee in getting the Canadian Government to release the 1911 Census (allowing the release of family information for future generations). This earned her an awarding of an Order of Canada Year of Volunteers award presented by Senator Lorna Milne.

In lieu of flowers, Muriel's charity of choice is Multiple Sclerosis and also Beaux-Art Brampton (Brampton Art Council).

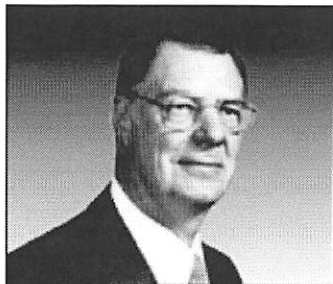
Gordon Watts adds a few words in his column for *Global Gazette* at <http://globalgenealogy.com/globalgazette/gazgw/gazgw-0110.htm>

The genealogy for the Davidson line into which she married is at www.cordes.ca/genealogy

###

IN MEMORIAM GORDON JEPSON

Gordon Jepson, 1928-2008, a long time member of AFHS has passed away.



Jepson, Gordon Palmer

It is with great sadness that we announce the loss of a wonderful father, husband, grandfather, teacher and friend, Gordon

Palmer Jepson age 79 years. A gentle, thoughtful and clever leader, he maintained his good sense of humour despite battling multiple medical problems over his last few years. He is lovingly remembered by his immediate family: wife Jean (Houston) of fifty-five years, daughters Maureen (Peter Ribi, granddaughters Erin and Kim (fiancé Brian Hume)), and Janice (Peter Sampson, grandson Sean of Vancouver), brother Derek of Cranbrook, BC (and family), and sister-in-law Chris Turner of Victoria, BC (and family), as well as his extended family and many close friends. Born November 6, 1928 in Vancouver, BC, he moved first to Nelson, BC and then to Calgary in 1941. He was predeceased by his mother Kathleen and his father Stanley. Gordon taught and was vice principal/principal at many schools throughout Calgary and the surrounding area most recently as principal at Van Horne Secondary and Colonel Irvine Junior High. His passion for lifelong learning fostered many connections with people he loved through his various hobbies including CBE-REA, Hiking, Genealogy and Bridge Clubs, ATA, Calgary Amateur Radio Association (VE6CCM) and Bow River Lodge. One of his greatest pleasures was time spent with family and friends at his cabin near Sundre which he built in 1966. Gordon was a great man who was deeply loved and will always be alive in the many happy memories of family and friends. Many thanks

for the superb care provided by the Dr. Vernon Fanning Centre (3W) and the Foothills Medical Centre (Unit 37).

(As Published in the *Calgary Herald* from 6/27/2008 - 6/29/2008)

Tributes

I remember Gordon's great sense of humour – he always had a joke to tell. Among other activities, he contributed to Computer SIG, the Legacy SIG and attended AFHS meetings.

-Lorna Laughton

He also volunteered at the Family History Centre. One of his responsibilities was to do maintenance work on the film and fiche readers. If memory serves me correctly, Gordon's forebears lived in Sheffield, Yorkshire and he donated some useful research materials to the FHC (Family History Centre).

-Rene Dussome

For other tributes to Gordon or to add your own, go to www.legacy.com/can-calgary/Obituaries.asp?Page=Lifestory&PersonId=112334422 ###

COMPUTER TRICKS FOR THE GENEALOGIST

By Jim Benedict

Editor's Note: Jim Benedict, Director-at-large, acting as liaison to the Computer SIG, has agreed to become our inside scoop on the Computer SIG. This is a welcome addition, especially for the "novice computer genealogist."

Genealogy Computing Group Meetings

The Computer SIG meets monthly except for the summer months.

Shut it down

Much has been said, and rightly so, about rebooting a system to solve many system ills. This has probably saved users from making

semi-distraught calls to computer service centres. Rebooting is usually a simple step of going through a Shutdown sequence, followed by a restart using your computer's Start button. If that fails to clear the problem, try going one step further before picking up that phone. Go through a full shutdown, followed by turning OFF the computer's power switch (or just disconnect the power cord, but make sure the computer has come to a full stop first). Wait several seconds, then reconnect power, turn the power switch on and then reboot. This can sometimes help because not all system interfaces are released when Windows is shut down. While this additional step does not work all the time, it's an easy (and free) check.

Genealogy Website of the Month

Canadian Military History Gateway:
www.cmhg.gc.ca

Select English Flash Site for best effect. Offers an interactive timeline for all military conflicts for Canada since the year 1000. Good research site for background material. Start with the Vikings and finish up in 1998. It links you to online articles and news items on other sites, but includes a short description.

Q&A

Question: Which is the better Internet service for speed: Shaw or Telus?

Discussion: If you are more than four miles away from a telephone substation, then Telus could be a problem with speed. If you have a wireless Internet connection in your house, it will always be slower than a cable connection.

Question: I use AVG for anti-virus protection. What should I do with the files it puts in the "AVG vault?"

Discussion: AVG puts those files in there because it has detected a virus in them. Go ahead and delete the vaulted files.

(Click on Quarantine.)

Question: How do I compose an email message so that a photo or an image shows up in the body of a message instead of as an attachment?

Discussion: When an image appears within the body of an email message, it is called an embedded image. For this to work, you need to alter the settings of the email to be in HTML (or Hypertext Markup Language) format instead of plain text. The setting is selected either through a pull-down selection on your Outlook [Express] toolbar or through the Tools menu. To embed the image file in your mail, make sure your cursor is in the position where you want the picture to appear, then click the Insert menu and select Picture. Navigate to the image file's location and double-click it. Click OK to embed the image into the email. You might have to first change the image dimensions (the height and width in pixels) to make it fit properly. Too big an image also makes for a large message file size, which is hard to view and takes longer to download at the other end.

###

WHAT'S OUT THERE

By Linda Murray

"The Czech Network and its Less Well-Known Holdings for Genealogical Research"

This extensive article by Dr. Lenka Matušíková outlines the history of the Czech Archival system and includes examples of the types of records that can be found in the various archives. Dr. Matušíková of the Czech National Archives presented this talk at the 2007 Czechoslovak Genealogical Society International (CGSI) conference in Madison, WI and you can read it in *Naše rodina* ((Our Family), quarterly of the CGSI, February 2008, Special Edition.

"DNA and Family History"

Alan Stewart gives an overview of the use of DNA testing in researching family history. If

you are interested in learning more about how DNA can help build your family tree see this article on pages 30 - 36 of *Family Tree Magazine*, Summer 2008, Volume 24, No. 9. Also check pages 6 - 8 of the same volume for some interesting UK websites. If your British ancestors were Nonconformists you may want to take a look at the site profiled on page 8: www.thegenealogist.co.uk

“Fur Trade Records: An Untapped Resource”

Do you have any ancestors with ties to the Fur Trade? The Fur Trade was a commercial operation and generated numerous records, many of which still exist. Janice Nickerson gives a brief history of the Fur Trade and then focuses on where to find the records that may give you insight into your fur trading ancestors. See pages 38 – 42 of *Family Chronicle*, May/June 2008, Volume 12, No. 5.

“Glimpse inside new Scotland’s People Centre”

Are you considering a trip to Edinburgh to research your Scottish roots? See this interesting article on pages 24 – 26 of *Practical Family History*, No. 125, May 2008 by Chris Paton. This author is a professional genealogist and former BBC television producer who now runs Scotland’s Greatest Story research service (www.scotlandsgreateststory.co.uk).

“Online Catalogues and Databases of English County Record Offices”

Alan Stewart reviews what is available online from many of the County Record Offices. You can read the review on pages 9 – 12 of *Internet Genealogy*, Vol. 3, No. 2, June/July 2008. I discovered that the Cumbria Archive Service had a new online catalogue and was able to search for my family names in documents held there. Perhaps there is something new for your County of interest.

“Publish Your Family History Newsletter”

Marilyn M. Astle gives many examples of materials to include when writing a family

history newsletter. Read her informative article on pages 61 - 64 of *Relatively Speaking, The Quarterly Journal of the Alberta Genealogical Society*, Vol. 36, No. 2, May 2008. Also check page 81 of the same volume for some interesting websites listed by Pat Pettitt. I especially liked the site with free clip art related to genealogy and family history at <http://vintagekin.com/index.htm>.

“United Empire Loyalists”

Do you have an ancestor who was a Loyalist? For a couple of interesting articles see the *The New Searchlight, Quinte Branch OGS*, Volume 3, Issue 1, March 2008. “So You Think You Might Be a United Empire Loyalist Descendant!” by Eleanor Carleton Moul, U.E. on page 8 and “The Loyalists In Our Area” by Peter W. Johnson, U.E. on pages 9 & 10.

###

LETTER BY PERIODICALS CHAIR By Rosemary Kry

Summer is over, and people are back to their routines and activities. We hope you and your family had an enjoyable summer and that you are ready to get back into genealogy.

Genealogists are akin to private detectives. We search for new registrations, new databases, and new sources of information. September’s program addressed the Alberta Provincial Archives. I hope you attended. I was at the Archives in July and found the Alberta Teachers’ Registration records. Thus I was able to confirm where my parents taught in the early 1930s. November’s program looks at five sources you may not know existed. If you are interested in marriage allegations, births at sea or the 1940 Canadian National Registration, to mention only three, you will want to attend!

Some people in genealogy today hold the impression that all research may be satisfied using only the computer. I beg to differ. The connections with people I have met and

meetings I have attended through the AFHS have offered me new interests and even live distant relatives I didn't know I had and who live in Calgary! Be sure to support the AFHS by renewing your membership for the 2008-2009 year. Your application form may be found on the AFHS website (just google AFHS) or in any copy of *Chinook*. If you are new to genealogy, welcome! You will find AFHS members are delighted to assist you. Ask questions, and start finding answers. Better yet, volunteer! There are many positions that require a small time commitment, but what a great way to make new friends and feel like you belong. The Program Committee requires a Chair and the Periodicals Committee is looking for an Assistant Chair.

Sincerely,
Rosemary Kry,
Chair of Periodicals Committee

###

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. For specific surname questions, see p.25. Send your Q & A to editor-chinook@afhs.ab.ca

Q1. In the War Diaries casualties among the ranks are noted. Is there any information elsewhere that deals with casualties among enlisted men?

A1. Ancestry.com has a database called **British Army Service Records**: "A WWII bombing raid on the War Office in London destroyed over half of its 6.5 million records. Surviving fire and water damage, these records came to be known as the 'Burnt Documents,' preserving 2.5 million of the approximately 5 million names of the men that served in the British Army during WWI. If you have British ancestors that served in WWI, this collection is worth a look." It covers both non-commissioned officers and regular ranks. (Ann Williams)

Q2. I have a question about Saskatchewan Land Grants. My grandfather, William James Butler, in 1909 received a Land Grant in Township 25, Range 20, West of the Second Meridian in the Province of Saskatchewan in our Dominion of Canada, Farmer. The South-East Quarter of Section 32 of the said Township. They landed in Montreal and lived in Winnipeg. They came from London via Liverpool in 1906.

- Would he have been penalized by staying in Winnipeg and not being a farmer?
- Would he have had his way paid? They had five children and my father was the first born in Canada.
- Would he have had to pay the travel fees back?
- Do you have some idea where this land would be located?
- Ideas for me to explore further?

A2. "My grandmother told me her family emigrated from Scotland to Canada in 1925 in response to the Canadian Government's advertisements to come and farm the prairies. When they arrived and went to the farm upon which they were to live and work, the place was a hovel and my g-grandfather took the family to Winnipeg. He DID have to repay their passage which had been paid for by the Canadian government as part of the settlement program for farmers. It has been my experience from the land grant records in general, though not SK in particular, that any land grant required improvements to be made upon it within 3 years of its receipt, otherwise the land reverted back to the Crown. I've seen this in a variety of land grant programs, so I think it's likely to apply in your case, too.

"Have a look at an old CNR map www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~canmaps/cnr/SaskatchewanCNR.html" (Laura Kirbyson)

"I interpret the map to say that the land was a few miles east of Duval." (Duane Kelly)

(See new question on page 27)

SERENDIPTY: BRIAN W. HUTCHINSON SCHOLARSHIP & CHINOOK RESULT IN SENEY/DAVIDSON CONNECTIONS

Editor's Note: Serendipity is the effect by which one accidentally discovers something fortunate, especially while looking for something else entirely (Wikipedia); good luck in making unexpected and fortunate discoveries (wordnet.princeton.edu). Whichever is the case for you, send your examples to editor-chinook@afhs.ab.ca

This is serendipity of the best kind! Because of our coverage of Catherine Whiteley's winning entry in the Brian W. Hutchinson Genealogical Scholarship competition and because she has become a regular contributor with her most recent article on the Seney and Davidson families just published in the July 2008, we received two people interested in her family history. It also shows the value of exchanging our journal with those of other family history and genealogy societies because this example comes from outside our province. It starts:

"When I was volunteering in our little History library recently, I read the July issue of *Chinook*. Imagine my surprise and delight when I found the article by Catherine Whiteley "Women in a Man's World." Ann Rusk Seney was my grandfather's grandmother, Mary Eleanor Davidson, his sister! She (Catherine) certainly did her research! There are some gaps which she may be able to fill.

"I enjoyed the July issue of *Chinook*. Our library is in an old log cabin at the Huron County Museum in Goderich, Ontario. We have some 2000 books and family trees for those interested in Huron County (and beyond) to use for research. A woman from Alberta was in that day and told me the Editor knew who Catherine was." Joan M. (Allen) Hibbert, Goderich, ON

Editor's Note: Turns out that was our very own Marion Peterson in the library that day, small world! When Marion returned from her research trip to Ontario, she contacted me, but

Joan was so eager, she had already contacted me at the editor of Chinook email address and I delivered it to Catherine Whiteley, who replied as follows:

"You can't know how delightful it was (or maybe you can) to receive your email, forwarded by Xenia Stanford of the *Chinook*. I am enrolled in the National Genealogical Institute's program and one of the instructors urged us students to publish our stories because we would have a great opportunity to reach connections that way. You have proven it!

"Mind you, your and my 'connection' is very tenuous, except for the fact that we are both interested in the same family. The connection goes like this: my husband's great-grandfather, John Andrew Davidson, was the brother of James Henry Davidson, the husband of Dr. Mary Eleanor (Allen) Davidson, your grandfather's sister. Dr. Mary has always intrigued me, both for her own accomplishments and for the sadness of her early death and the fates of her children.

"Joan, I would be so delighted to share whatever I have found, and there is considerably more than I was able to include in that article, and would be so grateful to receive what you have. In particular, I would be interested in Ann Rusk Seney's marriage, when her husband died, where she came from in Ireland, etc. Also, Margaret (Seney) Allen's marriage, when her husband died and where, and also about your grandfather and his family. When Dr. Mary left Canada to stay with her sister in the last months of her final illness, she gave your grandfather's name as her next-of-kin. You can find that document in Ancestry, or I can send it to you.

"Also, I am very curious about exactly what Dr. Mary was doing between her graduation in Toronto in 1895 (I even found a very grainy photograph of her graduating class in *The Globe*

and Mail) and her marriage in Winnipeg in 1899. Do you know?



James Davidson, the common link
(Photo courtesy and permission of Catherine Whiteley from family files)

“So, how can I help you? I have a small amount of info about Ann Rusk Seney, only census information plus her burial stone about Margaret, some more details about Dr. Mary, and some follow-up about her children. They were "farmed out" to Davidson relatives when Mary died. Marguerite was never able to develop the potential she showed as a teenager, but she married and had 4 great sons. She once took my husband into her home when his was crumbling. Allan became a banker, never married, was very shy and died alone. Mary blossomed, studied at Oxford, married an English journalist and they started a Canadian literary journal. She eventually taught at a London polytechnic, had an artistically talented son and also died young. I have had several letters from her widower, who is now very old, if he is still alive. She also published some lovely poetry. I was going to try to include one in my article, but there wasn't room. All of the

above is, of course, far too vague for a genealogist. I just mentioned all that so that you could tell me where your interest lies.”
Catherine Whiteley, Qualicum Beach, BC

Editor's Note: So we helped connect two people all the way across five provinces. So with no "Surname Connections" this month, I encourage you to send them in. Also send in your family stories. Apply for the Brian W. Hutchison Genealogical Scholarship (for more about it, see www.afhs.ab.ca/scholarship. You never know who you might find across this country or even perhaps across the border or over the seas! I feel like a matchmaker!

###

SURNAME CONNECTIONS
Submit to
surnames-chinook@afhs.ab.ca

Editor's Note: "Surname Connections" is a column where you can present your search for a particular person, couple or family. Please also give their earliest known information, such as place and date range. 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 is our entry this time:

DUNCAN - Edmonton

I am interested in finding out how one accesses databases for cemeteries in Alberta. I am researching my husband's great Uncle and Aunt; William and Ella (Scott) DUNCAN and their sons, Charles Douglas and Frederick Allen. Ella was known to be in Edmonton in 1943. So I would like to start there, in Edmonton.

Contact: Yvonne Pollock
yvonnepollock@shaw.ca

###

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NOTABLE ACCOMPLISHMENT:

Dr. Chapman created the Chapman Code – Identifying Administrative Divisions in England, Ireland, Scotland and surrounding islands, Isle of Man, Isle of Wight; covering Historical Divisions, forming the basics for the British Standard, and now an International Standard (ISO 3166)

RENOWNED AUTHOR:

Fourteen (14) Books on Genealogy

SEMINAR TOPICS:

Genealogy in Early British Census – 1086 to 1841 *We thought that census records started in 1841, but what about the dozens of earlier censuses that will help us find our families?*

Migration: Internal, Immigration and Emigration – Tracing that Elusive Ancestor

*Why, how, when did your family move?
Where did your family really come from?
Where did they go?*

Your Ancestors, Population and Birth Control - Contraception Delicately Delineated

Was family or community size planned by past generations to influence life, work and love?

###

EVENTS

By Laura Kirbyson

October 11, 2008

Eighth Annual West Coast Summit on African-American Genealogy, Bellevue, WA
“Family History – Putting the Pieces together”
Featuring Quintard Taylor www.blackpast.org

October 25, 2008

Victoria Genealogical Society seminar
Victoria, British Columbia
Featuring Dr. Penelope Christensen and Brian Hutchison; Dr. Christensen: Analyzing Sources, Information and Evidence, Lost in the City.
Brian Hutchison: Genealogical Problem-Solving: Professional Techniques for Everyday Success, The Elusive Ancestor: Using Underused Sources to Locate your Relative.
www.victoriags.org

October 26 - November 2, 2008

4th Annual Genealogy Conference (Cruise)
Hosted by Wholly Genes, Inc.
Voyage to the Eastern Caribbean, while learning about research methods, tools and technologies. Speakers include E.S. Mills and Cyndi Howell of Cyndi’s List.
www.whollygenes.com/Merchant2/merchant.mvc?screen=CRUISE

October 27-November 1, 2008

Family History Library Research Retreat
Explore the world’s largest genealogical library in Salt Lake City, Utah in the company of other researchers and professionals. Five floors of microfilm, microfiche, biographies, periodicals and digital files = not overwhelming after the grand tour, specialized classes and guidance in where to go and what to do with your research by folks who know and love the FHL.
www.myancestorsfound.com/events/upcoming.php?event_id=41

TBD - 2009

Australasian Congress on Genealogy & Heraldry
Kings College, Auckland, New Zealand

Held once every three years, this conference attracts over 1000 delegates from around the world for four days packed full of genealogical conference sessions, lectures and exhibits.
www.affhocongress2009.org

January 10-18, 2009

Irish Genealogy Conference
Eastern Caribbean Cruise
Irish research: Speakers include: Valerie Adams, Public Record Office of Northern Ireland; Mary Ellen Grogan, TIARA, Boston; George B. Handran, Boston (Griffith's Valuation specialist); Michael J. Leclerc, New England Historic Genealogical Society; and Gregory O'Connor, National Archives of Ireland. <http://www.tiara.ie>

April 18-19, 2009

Alberta Genealogical Society conference
Edmonton, Alberta
www.abgensoc.ca/events.html

April 24-26, 2009

Saskatchewan Genealogical Society conference
Regina, Saskatchewan
www.saskgenealogy.com/events/sgs_events.htm

May 29-31, 2009

Ontario Genealogical Society Annual Conference, Oakville, Ontario
“From the Printed Page to the Digital Age”
www.ogs.on.ca/conference/index.html ###

ASK THE EXPERT

By Xenia Stanford

Q3. You mentioned the United States has a ¼ degree or more of native ancestry to be considered Métis while Canada accepts any degree. What source can you cite for this rule?

A3. I was mistaken. The ¼ rule is to be considered an American Indian.

Full answer next time!

###

CALGARY PUBLIC LIBRARY

By Christine Hayes

**October– December 2008
Programs at Central Library
616 Macleod Trail SE
(unless otherwise noted)**

Family History Coaching

Drop in on the last Saturday of each month for help with family research, co-sponsored by the Alberta Family Histories Society.

Saturdays, October 25 and November 29

10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

4th floor North - Genealogy Area

No registration required

Genealogy 101

Are you interested in learning more about your family's history? An Alberta Family Histories representative will help you get started.

Crowfoot Library

Thursday, October 2

1:30 – 3:00 p.m.

Central Library

Saturday, November 15

10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

4th floor North - Meeting Room

Open House at Central Library

Join us for exciting events and activities in October to celebrate Canadian Library. Every department is scheduling interesting activities of interest to historians, genealogists and others. Check our website for details.

Fourth Floor – Treasures from the Local History and Genealogy Collection

Thursday, October 9

2:00 - 3:00 p.m.

Mischief, Mayhem and Murders of Calgary

Join us for some spine-tingling history with Johanna Lane of Calgary Ghost Tours.

Wednesday, October 29

6:00 - 7:30 p.m. 4th floor North

Community Heritage in Calgary

Learn about Calgary's recent heritage initiatives with representatives from three inner city associations and the City of Calgary's Cultural Heritage Advisor.

Saturday, November 15

1:00 - 3:00 p.m.

4th floor North - Meeting Room

Long After Fathers by Roberta Rees

Roberta will read from her collection of linked short stories, which was shortlisted for the W.O. Mitchell Book Prize. These historical stories are set in Calgary and the Crowsnest Pass.

Thursday, October 2

6:00 - 7:30 p.m.

4th floor North - Meeting Room

Medicine and Duty: Captain Harold W. McGill by Marjorie Norris

Marjorie brings to life a rare first-hand account of an Alberta medical officer's experiences in the First World War.

Saturday, October 18, 2:00 - 3:30 p.m.

4th floor North - Meeting Room

In Search of an Albertan Ancestor: Mountie, Surveyor, Soldier

Discover how librarian and historian Barb Brydges used historical and genealogical resources to publish an article on her fascinating ancestor, Thomas Chalmers.

Saturday, November 29

1:00 - 2:30 p.m.

4th floor North - Meeting Room

You can call us for more information about any of these programs at 260-2785. Check out our website calgarypubliclibrary.com or our program guide for other interesting programs. You can register online, in person or by telephone at 403-260-2620. Programs are free of charge, but you must have a Calgary Public Library membership card.

###

MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION

By Marion Firman

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

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 (except for holiday Mondays, in which case it is the second Monday) of every month from September to June at River Park Church, 3818-14A St. SW, or complete the Membership Application/Renewal form below and mail it to the address at the bottom of the page.

| 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.**

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.)

The membership year for the Alberta Family Histories Society is from September 1 to August 31. 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.

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

| MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION/RENEWAL | |
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| Surname: | Given Name(s): |
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| 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 Secretary
Alberta Family Histories Society
712 - 16th Avenue N.W.
Calgary, Alberta T2M 0J8

AFHS PUBLICATIONS FOR SALE

Please refer to www.afhs.ab.ca/publications for sale, additional descriptions and content on the CDs

| | |
|---|---------|
| AFHS Digital Library Vol. I: 70 Southern Alberta Cemetery, Crematorium and Jewish Society Records | \$30.00 |
| AFHS Digital Library Vol. II: Two Cemeteries on Garden Road that straddle the eastern boundary of the Calgary's City Limits: MD of Rockyview Garden of Peace and Mountain View Cemetery | \$20.00 |
| AFHS Digital Library Vol. III: Cochrane Cemeteries and more | \$20.00 |
| AFHS Digital Library Vol. IV: Calgary Queen's Park Section A-F | \$25.00 |
| AFHS Digital Library Vol. V: Calgary Queen's Park Section P and other Military records | \$25.00 |
| AFHS Digital Library Vol. VI: Calgary Queen's Park Section G to J | \$25.00 |
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| AFHS Digital Library Vol. IX: Calgary Queen's Park Sections R, RC, V, W, and Mausoleum | \$25.00 |
| AFHS Digital Library Vol. X: Calgary Queen's Park Sections S, T and X | \$25.00 |

Many of the cemeteries on these CDs can be purchased individually – details and prices can be found at www.afhs.ab.ca/publications/index.html

| | |
|---|---------|
| Births, Deaths, Marriages, from Calgary newspapers 1883-89 | \$12.00 |
| Births, Deaths, Marriages, from Calgary newspapers 1890-99 | \$25.00 |
| Obituary Index: Turner Valley residents, past and present | \$11.50 |
| Alberta Local Histories Listing | \$10.00 |
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| Nominal Rolls 3rd, 12th, & 13th Regiments, Canadian Mounted Rifles CEF, 1915-16 (In Vol. V) | \$20.00 |
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See also AFHS website: www.afhs.ab.ca for additional publications for sale.

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**Attention: Publications for Sale
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www.afhs.ab.ca

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 the address above and directed to **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 further details on page 29.

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. To make a donation, plan to bequeath or become a sponsor, contact the Society at the above address, phone number or email.

List of Objectives:

- 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.

AFHS Library

The AFHS Library is located at the above address. For hours, please see the Calendar at the above website or phone (403) 214-1447.

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