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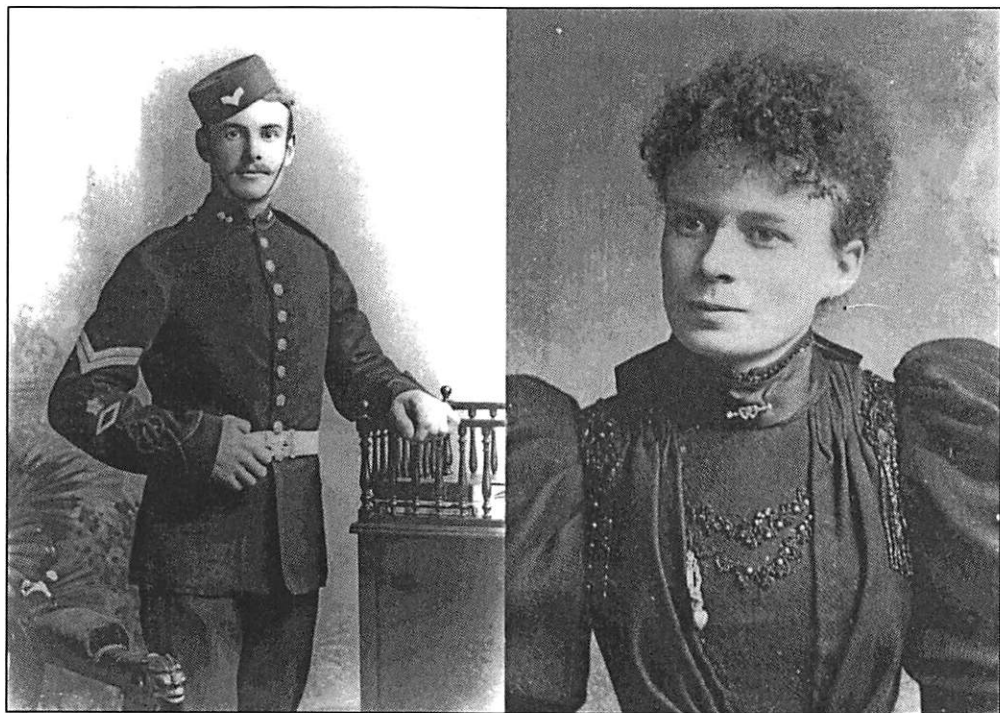
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Chinook

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Alberta Family Histories Society



Immigrants to Canada, James French and Emily Huggett, ca 1895 (See p.14.)

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Issue Date	Volume, Number	Submission Deadline	Theme
July 2012	V.32, N.4	May 1, 2012	Heroes
October 2012	V.33, N.1	August 1, 2012	DNA in Genealogy Research
January 2013	V.33, N.2	November 1, 2012	To be announced
April 2013	V.33, N.3	February 1, 2013	To be announced

AFHS Periodicals Committee

Name	Position	Name	Position
<i>Vacant</i>	Chair, Periodicals Committee	Regular Columns:	
Wayne Shepherd	<i>Chinook</i> Editor	Jim Benedict	"Computer Tricks"
<i>Vacant</i>	<i>Chinook</i> Assistant Editor	Kay Clarke	"Genealogy Basics"
Ann Williams	<i>The Breeze</i> Editor	Christine Hayes	"Calgary Public Library" and Monthly AFHS Program
Elizabeth Ronald	Secretary, Periodicals Committee		"Events"
	<i>Chinook</i> Advertisements, Extra Copy Distribution	Laura Kirbyson	"From the Geneasphere"
Jackie Duncan	<i>Chinook</i> Distribution	Joan Miller	"AFHS Library Acquisitions"
Duane Kelly	Proofreader	Linda Murray	"What's Out There"
Bill Mills	Proofreader	Elizabeth Ronald	"Surname Connections"
Marion Peterson	Proofreader	Everyone Welcome	"Library Book Reviews"

AFHS PROGRAMS (tentative and subject to change)

Meetings of the Alberta Family Histories Society are usually held the first Monday of each month at River Park Church, 3818 14A St SW, Calgary AB, from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m. See latest issue of *The Breeze*, AFHS website or website calendar.

DATE	PROGRAM TOPICS
April 2, 2012	The Program Committee is working on lining up a number of very interesting programs for the spring. Check out the AFHS website for the latest information.
May 7, 2012	
June 4, 2012	

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

By Lorna Laughton



Many people volunteer their time and talents on behalf of genealogy and family history societies all over the world. In this issue of *Chinook*, you will read about some of the wonderful people who keep AFHS going. How do they fit this work into their lives? Why do they do it?

These questions can really only be answered by the individuals. Their answers could be generalized to include some happy phrases, such as feeling satisfaction, being “needed,” or making friends. But, for me, I think that, in the big picture, being a volunteer is my best opportunity for a truly personal “job.”

One of the terms used in the very helpful world of non-profit management is “volunteer engagement.” I really like this term. It is positive and personal. It belies the idea volunteers are just warm bodies who perform some specified tasks. It encourages the idea that each person’s unique skills and unique story are valuable to a group. Isn’t that a powerful concept! Imagine being appreciated for who you are!

Yes, most AFHS volunteer positions are similar to a position in business in that there are some specified times, places, dates, responsibilities, authority people, skills required and rules documented in a job description. That is to be expected. However, unlike jobs for pay, volunteer positions have much more flexibility. Sometimes the dates, hours, timing and places of work are more flexible. Often the job description can be adapted to a person’s interests, ideas and skills. Where else could your past experiences actually be appreciated, and the job be designed around you?

I have seen this situation frequently with the AFHS volunteers who run our “Library Open” program. We value Donna’s skill in using the *ScotlandsPeople* website, Susan’s knowledge of

Quebec research, Bill’s background in history and Linda’s “luck” in searching the *Ancestry* website. Of course, there are so many other examples I could mention, but you will see the point is that individual skills are valued.

AFHS wants to continue to have volunteers like Donna, Susan, Bill and Linda. First, we need to know more about our members – their interests and their skills. We also need to clarify the job descriptions of some of our positions. Then, hopefully, we can mesh these two areas, so members are working in volunteer positions that showcase their unique attributes. The Board of Directors discussed this concept at its Strategy Meeting on January 7th this year. Some plans are in the works to make this process happen, so stay tuned.

Calgary has great volunteering spirit! Even in a city where many people work hard for long hours, they realize and demonstrate the value of sharing. Although this value is often more obvious in rural areas, where we see neighbours helping neighbours, I think that it is universally true.

I could thank hundreds of volunteers worldwide who have made my family history research more successful. A few examples are: the Bedfordshire Family History Society volunteers who transcribed cemetery records; my cousins, Phil Ainsworth and Peter Johnson, who collect our family information; Linda Corupe, who expertly transcribes very useful Ontario records; and Andy Potts, in England, who maintains the Scottish Sorbie family tree and website.

Can you see the difference that volunteering makes? You are unique and we need you!

###

In all of us there is a hunger, marrow deep, to know our heritage – to know who we are and where we came from. Without this enriching knowledge, there is a hollow yearning. No matter what our attainments in life, there is still a vacuum, an emptiness, and the most disquieting loneliness.

~ Alex Haley, Author

THE EDITOR'S OBSERVATIONS By Wayne Shephard

In non-profit organizations – and the AFHS is no exception – the role of volunteers is of paramount importance for success. With our relatively small membership and large number of activities, we are particularly dependent on the participation of members. The names of members who are currently active on the many committees are shown on pages 5 and 23 of this issue. These people are primarily responsible for the realization of the Society's goals and objectives.

It is not an easy thing to enlist volunteers. Most of us joined, firstly, to find help for our own family research. Many people participate on committees or work-groups to "give back" to those other members who helped them. Some also do the work because they just really enjoy it and they derive a lot of fun from the associations and friendships they make! In her message in this issue, President Lorna Laughton comments further on some of the reasons members have volunteered with AFHS.

It should be noted that on the list there are currently 86 members active through committee work, in 197 positions, from executive (Board) positions to just occasional helpers. Many others were active in past years and, for many different reasons, are taking a respite from AFHS labours. Of those named on the current list, 35 occupy more than one role, with a few taking on up to seven important tasks.

The AFHS presently has 290 members, down from 313 last year and 327 the year before, a decrease of 11% over two years. Yet our projects continue on and, in some instances, have even expanded. If this trend continues, the Society may ultimately face a time when it cannot maintain its activity level or deliver fully on its goals and objectives.

Without volunteers to make things happen, activity will wane. Without new members, we won't find the additional volunteers we require. And without promoting ourselves in a more

visible and viable manner, there may be fewer new members. It may be time to look at new ways of growing both our membership base and our way of conducting our business. Do you have any ideas?
###

CALL FOR ARTICLES: HEROES

Our lineup for the next three issues:

- **July 2012** (deadline May 1, 2012)
Heroes: Do you have one in your family – a soldier, a teacher, an individual who was greatly influential in the lives of other family members? Tell us about someone you think went above and beyond!
- **October 2012** (deadline August 1, 2012)
The role of DNA in Genealogical Research: We will re-visit this fast-moving field which was featured in the January 2009 issue. Since that time, the subject has attracted even greater interest among family historians as they try to trace individuals and family groups using the latest in genetic testing and matching.
- **January 2013** (deadline November 1, 2012)
Find YOUR Tree in the Forest: We hope to feature a number of articles emanating from the AGS-AFHS conference to be held April 13 and 14, 2012 in Red Deer, Alberta. Speakers and attendees are invited to submit articles or stories about their "Trees."

###

**Don't forget the
AGS/AFHS Joint Conference
Find YOUR Tree in the Forest
April 13-14, 2012
Red Deer, Alberta**

*Join us to learn methods and techniques
that will assist you in discovering
your particular family tree in that vast
woodland of genealogical information.*

For information go to:

www.rdgensoc.ab.ca/conferenceindex.html

ALBERTA FAMILY HISTORIES SOCIETY – VOLUNTEERS 2012

➤ Executive (Board of Directors)

- Lorna Laughton
President
- Dawn Kirkpatrick
Vice President
- Rosemary Kry
Recording Secretary
- Ruth Sutherland
Treasurer
- Gary Manthorne
Director (Facilities)
- Gerald Isaac
Director (Finance)
- Jim Benedict
Director-at-Large (Computer)
- Claudia Rettman
Director-at-Large (PR)
- Nancy Carson
Director-at-Large
- Heather Williams
Director-at-Large
- Kay Clarke
Past President

➤ Standing Committees

- **Administration**
- **Archives**
 - Marion Peterson (Chair)
 - Ann Williams
- **Casino**
 - Gerry Theroux (Manager)
 - Volunteer Workers (see page 23)
- **Education**
 - Kay Clarke (Chair)
 - Mertie Beattie
 - Diane Granger
 - Sheila Johnston
 - Donna Kirkwood
 - Norma Lendrum
- **Events (Conference 2012)**
 - Kay Clarke (Chair)
 - Helen Backhouse
 - Jim Benedict
 - Marion Peterson
 - Bev Swan
- **Finance**
 - Gerald Isaac (Chair)
 - Marion Firman
 - Lorna Laughton
 - Ruth Sutherland
- **Federation of Family History Societies**
 - Ann Williams (Chair)

- **Library**
 - Linda Murray (Chair)
 - Helen Backhouse
 - Marion Firman
 - Donna Kirkwood
 - Lorna Laughton
 - Marion Peterson
 - Claudia Rettman
 - Shift Workers (see page 23)
- **Membership**
 - Irene Oickle (Chair)
 - Jackie Duncan
 - Linda Hole
- **Nominations**
 - Kay Clarke (Chair)
 - Irene Oickle
- **Privacy Officer**
 - Kay Clarke (Chair)
- **Program**
 - Christine Hayes (Chair)
 - Barb Lafrentz
 - Gary Manthorne
 - Lois Sparling
 - Bev Swan
- **Projects**
 - Heather Williams (Chair)
 - Lynda Alderman (Cemetery)
 - Spencer Field (Cemetery)
 - Linda Holdaway (Cemetery)
 - Bert Irving (Cemetery)
 - Mabel Kiessling (BMD Data)
 - Marlene Knott (Cemetery)
 - Al Lawrence (Cemetery)
 - Bill Logan (Cemetery)
 - Carol Lylyk (Cemetery, Queries)
 - Bev May (BMD data)
 - Carole May (Cemetery)
 - Vickie Newington (Queries)
 - Louise Pannenbecker (Cemetery)
 - Gerald Riddell (Cemetery)
 - Judie Riddell (Cemetery)
 - Marlene Roy (Cemetery)
- **Public Relations**
 - Bill Campbell
 - Joan Clarke
 - Dawn Kirkpatrick
 - Gordon Hulbert
 - Joan Miller
 - Claudia Rettman
 - Tara Shymanski
 - Freda Stewart
- **Social Media**
 - Joan Miller
 - Dawn Kirkpatrick

- **Volunteer Coordination**
 - Spencer Field

- **Webmaster**
 - Dawn Kirkpatrick

➤ Periodicals

- **Chinook**
 - Wayne Shephard (Editor)
 - Jim Benedict (Columnist)
 - Kay Clarke (Columnist)
 - Jackie Duncan (Distribution)
 - Christine Hayes (CPL)
 - Duane Kelly (Proofreader)
 - Laura Kirbyson (Columnist)
 - Joan Miller (Columnist)
 - Bill Mills (Proofreader)
 - Linda Murray (Columnist)
 - Marion Peterson (Proofreader)
 - Elizabeth Ronald (Advertising)
- **The Breeze**
 - Ann Williams (Editor)

➤ Special Interest Groups

- **Beginners**
 - Irene Oickle (Coordinator)
- **Celtic**
 - Lois Sparling (Coordinator)
- **Computer**
 - Jim Benedict (Coordinator)
 - Gordon Hulbert
- **DNA**
 - Joan Miller (Coordinator)
- **English-Welsh**
 - Ann Williams (Coordinator)
- **Legacy**
 - Charlie Aubin (Coordinator)
- **Métis**
 - Xenia Stanford (Coordinator)
- **Ontario**
 - Marion Peterson (Coordinator)
- **Ukrainian**
 - Xenia Stanford (Coordinator)
- **Master Genealogist**
 - Alan Peers (Coordinator)
 - Blair Barr

➤ Other Functions

- **Coaching at CPL**
 - Linda Murray (Coordinator)
- **Booking Coordinator**
 - Rosemary Kry
- **Telephone Coordinator**
 - Heather Williams

(Continued on Page 23)

LOOKING FOR THE STREETS OF LONDON: USING A SETTLEMENT EXAMINATION By Diane Granger

My mother's great-grandmother, Susan Jane Street, married Francis Pearce at St. Anne Soho, Westminster (London) on March 5, 1837. Since civil registration in England started on July 1, 1837, there is no marriage certificate – only an entry in the parish register. It shows the parties were a bachelor and a spinster of the parish but makes no mention of other personal information. It does name the witnesses, but they are unrelated and provide no clues. My cousin obtained a copy of the marriage record in 1982 and we continued to look for Jane's parents for another 25 years.

Census records from 1851 to 1901 almost always gave Jane's birthplace as Plymouth, Devon, and implied a birth year of 1818 or 1819. I couldn't find her baptism anywhere in Devon by using the International Genealogy Index (IGI), consulting microfilm at Salt Lake City or checking the baptism index available from the Devon Family History Society. I did note a marriage of John Street and Sarah Taylor in Plymouth in 1817 on a microfilm of Devon marriage licences but couldn't discover any children for the couple.

We were always told Jane and Francis Pearce had four sons who were opticians in London. You can imagine my surprise when I found Jane on the 1851 Census with a daughter named Clara Sarah Pearce. The combination of Christian names seemed unusual and didn't appear anywhere on the known Pearce side of the family. I decided to see if there was a Clara Sarah Street on the IGI, and there she was, the daughter of John and Sarah Street, baptized at St. Martin in the Fields, in 1832.

The IGI had baptisms for other children of John and Sarah Street, whom I also tried to trace in parish and census records. When their daughter, Elizabeth, was baptized at the Endell Street Lying-in Hospital, the record showed Sarah's parish of settlement as Exeter, Devon, and her husband as John, a coach-herald painter. Subsequently, I found a Sarah Street in the 1851

Census with a son, Edward, also a coach painter. She was born in Devonshire and he was born in Hampshire.

I also found a reference in the online *London Times*, of January 22, 1859, to the fact that the wife of Francis Pearce (Jane) had given money to the master of St. Pancras Workhouse for the maintenance of her mother, Sarah Street. The master was on trial for misappropriating funds and Jane was a witness. The article proved that Jane's mother was named Sarah but didn't help to identify her father.

Working on the hypothesis that Jane, Clara Sarah, Elizabeth and Edward were all children of John and Sarah Street, I checked to see which Hampshire parishes were not on the IGI. No Southampton parishes had been entered, but fortunately they were filmed and indexed. On a trip to Salt Lake City, I looked at the index films and was thrilled to find the baptisms at St. Michael in the Town in 1821 of both Jane and Edward, the children of John and Sarah Street, the father's profession being herald painter.

All the bits in my collection now came together, but I was still not quite satisfied. Applying the principle, "the simplest explanation is the best," I thought I had now found Jane's parents and had correctly identified her siblings but still worried that ancestors don't always adhere to logic. I looked for workhouse records for Sarah Street in the London Metropolitan Archives (LMA) and in Salt Lake City and found various interesting facts but was not able to prove Sarah was John's wife. At last, in Salt Lake City, I discovered a reference to a settlement examination, but it wasn't on film there. I had to write to the LMA and send them £30, their minimum charge, to get a copy of the examination.

When the envelope arrived, it was so thin! I was prepared for disappointment. In fact, the enclosed document was only a page long but had everything necessary to prove the connections.

Date.	Name of Applicant. If a Married Woman, insert her Maiden Name also.	Age.	Residence.—If in the Workhouse, insert W., and previous residence.	Trade or Calling.	
Dec 18	Street Sarah	64	W Queen St Soho		
Single, Married, or Widowed.	Name of Husband, or Christian and Maiden Name of Wife.	Age.	When and where Married.	If Certificate produced.	If dead, date thereof.
Widow	John Street	38	Old Church Plymouth		10 years
Names and Ages of Children.		Dependent	Not Dependent.		
Particulars of former Marriage, if any—of Names of Children by former Marriage—Names of Parents, &c.—previous Application for Relief, here or elsewhere—Removal to or from any other Parish, &c.					
Ground of Irremovability.	Place of Abode in the last Five Years—if irremovable on that ground.		Years.	Months.	
	Queen St			3	
Place of Settlement.	Reference to previous examination, if any.				
Southampton					
SETTLEMENT.					
<p>Very deaf — Her dau^r Mrs Grey 21 Queen St Soho: (Daur to be seen) Jane Pearce of 30 Little Windmill St Haymarket is dau^r to the above — That Informants Father name was John Street — who has been dead about 10 years ago — He was a Coach Herald Painter — Her mother was slight when admitted — thinks she is much better now & w^od take her out again — Has heard her father rented a House at Southampton — don't recollect it herself — is the eldest child — is now 38 or 39 years of age — About 4 or 5 years ago she was removed under an Order of Removal from Southampton Square to Southampton — She returned in about a month — Her son fetched her back</p> <p>14 Aug/57 now states that she was fetched from Marylebone to St Mary Southampton order made 18 Aug 1857 Executed 17 Sept 1857</p>					

Transcription of settlement examination of Sarah Street (Source: *Strand Board of Guardians, City of London, London Metropolitan Archives*):

Date. Dec 18 [1856]

Name of Applicant. If a Married Woman, insert her Maiden Name also. *Street Sarah Age 64*

Residence. — If in the Workhouse, insert W., and previous residence.

W Queen St. Soho [address of daughter, Mrs. Grey]

Trade or Calling. *blank*

Single, Married, or Widowed. *Widow*

Name of Husband, or Christian and Maiden Name of Wife. *John Street*

Age. *blank*

When and where Married. *38 years } Old Church Plymouth*

If [Settlement] Certificate produced. *blank*

If dead, date thereof. *10 years*

Place of Abode in the last Five Years — if irremovable on that ground. *Queen St —*

Years. *blank* Months. *3*

Place of Settlement. *Southampton*

Reference to previous examination, if any. *blank*

SETTLEMENT.

Very deaf — Her dau^r Mrs Grey 21 Queen St. Soho:

(Daur to be seen) Jane Pearce of 30 Little Windmill St.

Haymarket saith she is dau^r to the above — That

Informants Fathers name was John Street — who has

been dead about 10 years ago He was a Coach Herald

Painter — Her mother was slight when admitted —

thinks she is much better now & w^od take her out again —

Has heard her father rented a House at Southampton — don't

recollect it herself — is the eldest child — is now 38 or 39

years of age — About 4 or 5 years ago she was removed

under an Order of Removal from St. George Hanr

[Hanover] Square to Southampton — she returned in*

*about a month — Her son fetched her back *14 Aug/57*

now states that she was trafered [transferred] from St.

Marylebone to St. Mary Southampton

order made 18 Aug 1857

Executed 17 Sept 1857

Sarah Street entered the Strand Union Workhouse, on Cleveland Street, on December 9, 1856. A settlement examination took place nine days later. The purpose of the enquiry was to find out if she had the right to be supported by the parish where she lived, or if another parish was her true place of settlement. The latter was often the parish of birth, but in the case of a female would usually be the parish where her father or husband had a settlement. Naturally, the enquirers hoped she belonged somewhere else and wouldn't be a charge to the Strand Union.

The examination document confirmed my hypothesis about Susan Jane Street's parents and

siblings. It gave the names and addresses of Sarah's daughters, Clara Sarah, who was married to John Gray, and Jane, who was married to Francis Pearce. According to her evidence, Sarah married John Street 38 years earlier, in Plymouth, thus about 1817, a date which corresponds to the marriage of John Street and Sarah Taylor, on October 17, 1817, at St. Andrew, Plymouth. Sarah's information that John died about 1846 led me to the discovery of St. Pancras Workhouse records for the admission of "Street John" on November 18, 1845, and his death on November 24, 1845. It's too bad the person asking the questions didn't note Sarah's maiden name, as required.

There are other personal details in the examination that would be hard or impossible to find anywhere else. Poor Sarah, at about 60 years of age, was very deaf and “slight” (likely meaning “frail”). A few years earlier she had been admitted to the St. Marylebone Workhouse, but the authorities in charge had decided her parish of settlement was Southampton and sent her there. It’s nice to think her son cared enough to bring her back home to London, where she had lived for about 30 years.

Because of the information about her residency status given in the settlement examination, the workhouse authorities issued a removal order to send Sarah to Southampton again on September 17, 1857. Other poor law documents show she returned to London once more, because on December 21, 1857, she was admitted to the St. Pancras Workhouse. She managed to stay there for almost four years, probably because her daughter was paying for her maintenance, but another removal order was issued on August 7, 1861. Jane’s husband was likely ill by then and she could no longer contribute to her mother’s maintenance. The medical officer ruled Sarah was able to travel, but her family must have taken her in and then returned her to the same workhouse because a third removal order was issued on November 6, 1861. This time, the surgeon said she was unfit to be removed and the order was suspended until she could travel.

Sarah never did become fit to travel and stayed in the St. Pancras Workhouse until her death in 1864. When the authorities realized on March 1, 1865, that she was no longer with them, they sent the bill for her keep since November 6, 1861 – £20 7s 6d – to the overseers of St. Mary’s, Southampton.

According to my subsequent research, Sarah Taylor was the daughter of Edward Taylor, both born in Thorverton, Devon. She probably gave her place of settlement as Exeter, when her daughter was born at the Lying-in Hospital, because her father was a builder of the City of Exeter when she married in 1817. Though she married John in Plymouth, they didn’t live there

long enough for her to have a right of settlement. She would have gained a settlement in Southampton because John worked there from about 1820 to 1825. She was living in St. Marylebone in 1841 and in St. Pancras in 1851, and she had been living with her daughter in Soho for only three months at the time of the settlement examination. It may be hard to understand why she couldn’t stay in a London workhouse after living there most of her life, but one had to live in the same parish for five years in order to be protected against removal. After 1865, it was sufficient to live in the same union for one year – too late for Sarah.

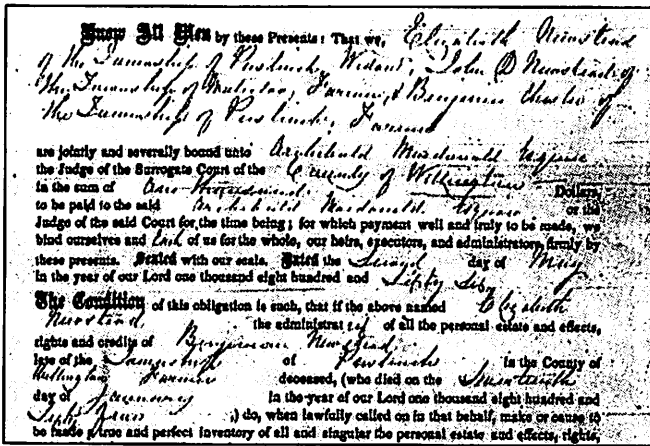
At least Sarah’s family didn’t abandon her and her daughter, Jane, contributed to her support – even if the funds went astray. I like to think the doctor acted out of kindness when he prevented Sarah’s removal to Southampton, and hope she was comfortable in her last years after a life of hardship. Maybe she even enjoyed the excursions to Southampton! ###

USING LETTERS OF ADMINISTRATION IN GENEALOGY By Rosemary Kry

I’m sure I am not alone in having ancestors leaving England before the 1841 Census and dying in Canada before the 1870s. If you find sufficient family information from post-1841 censuses, you may find the family through parish records in Britain. It can be more difficult to find dates of death here, but I discovered that letters of administration can be a source.

Benjamin Newstead was the younger son of John Newstead and Mary Bradford. He was baptized in Banningham, Norfolk, England in 1827, appeared in the 1851 and 1861 Canadian Censuses, then disappeared. In the 1851 Census, he was single. On the 1861 Census, he was 37 and married, but his wife was not listed by her first name. She was 28 and born in England. They had a son, age 3, also named Benjamin. Benjamin Sr.’s death is not recorded in any vital statistics data, and his gravestone is not listed

**PERIODICALS PLACE:
THE BREEZE and CHINOOK**



Portion of Letters of Administration, dated May 2, 1866, listing Elizabeth Newstead, John D. Newstead and Benjamin Chester, as administrators for the estate of Benjamin Newstead

Source: Copied by the author from microfilm at Wellington County Museum and Archives, Fergus, Ontario

for Guelph, near where he resided in 1861. By 1861, there were many Benjamin Newsteads living in Ontario. While in Fergus, Ontario, I visited the Wellington County Archives. It had an index of wills and applications for administration. Benjamin Newstead died intestate; that is, he died without a will. To settle his estate legally, letters of administration had to be granted by the Surrogate Court. His wife, his nephew, John D. Newstead, and Benjamin Chester applied. Their application included his date of death, the name of his wife and the names of their three children. Benjamin Newstead passed away on January 17, 1865. His wife's name was Elizabeth, and their three infant children were Benjamin, Maria and Annie.

Benjamin's estate had to be appraised as well, and the detailed appraisal sent to the court. It lists exactly how many cattle, calves, hogs and sheep he owned as well as how many meat tubs, sugar kettles, ploughs (both Scotch and Number 4), double drags, saws, mauls, chains, grinding stones and horse blankets. The lumber waggon [sic] is separate from the lumber sleigh, the carriage and the cutter. The total appraisal came to \$539.50, and each item was appraised separately.

As shown by this one, Letters of Administration can hold a wealth of information. ###

**PERIODICALS PLACE:
THE BREEZE and CHINOOK**

The Periodicals Committee looks after *Chinook* and *The Breeze*, which are part of the benefits of your membership. To find us on the AFHS website (www.afhs.ab.ca), click on Genealogical Resources found at the top of the page. Then find Periodicals: [Chinook](#) | [The Breeze](#)

For those who don't have access to a computer or prefer to read this right here, right now, these are the brief instructions:

CHINOOK

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YOUNG GENEALOGY DETECTIVES – SEEKING A BETTER LIFE: THE STORY OF AN ENGLISH IMMIGRANT FAMILY By Luke Abell-Smith

(Editor's Note: The following article was written as an assignment for the author's high school History 30 class in Saskatoon, in 2011. We hope it will encourage other young people to get involved in genealogical studies and contribute their stories to Chinook or other publications.)

On March 4, 1901, Gladys French was born in Polegate, Sussex, England, to James and Emily French. She would eventually become my great-grandma. Gladys was the second of three children. The French family lived in a thatched cottage on a farm where her father was the manager for a local squire. James French was a carpenter by trade, but he did typical farming jobs for the squire. In 1900, fewer than 14% of farmers owned the land they farmed (Sturmey, 1955, p. 245). James French was lucky to have a manager's position, but it offered no long-term security. Tenant farmers rented from year to year without a lease (Brodrick, 1881, p. 200). In those days, a squire had considerable control over his tenants. He would have been one of the most influential landowners in the parish and the local representative of the law. Those positions gave him the power to provide or withhold work and lodging as he alone saw fit (Brodrick, 1881, p. 267-268). The cottage the French family rented from the squire was old, but, because James and Emily loved nature, they had a beautiful garden.

During Gladys' childhood, the Frenches moved into a larger house in Polegate, but they were still renting. Her father built a rustic tea house where her mother could serve tea and scones to travellers on their way to London. While life was mostly comfortable for the Frenches, the uncertainty of renting and the rigid class system of Edwardian times did not allow for much upward mobility. Sixty-nine percent of England's wealth was owned by the top one percent of the population (Thompson, 1992, p. 2). Poverty was to be feared because of terrible health consequences resulting from insufficient food, food of poor quality and squalid living conditions (Smith, 2011).

At the same time, the Government of Canada was encouraging farmers to immigrate to the prairies (Knowles, 2007, p. 84). Pamphlets advertising what Canada had to offer, as well as Canadian exhibits at fairs, ensured that people in England saw the opportunities available to them (Knowles, 2007, p. 88). These opportunities included land that was so cheap that the first year's crops often covered the small cost of purchase (Brodrick, 1881, p. 280).



James and Emily French family, 1903, taken at Eastbourne, East Sussex, before the family emigrated; children, left to right, are Mabel, Gladys and James
Credit: *Abell-Smith family files*

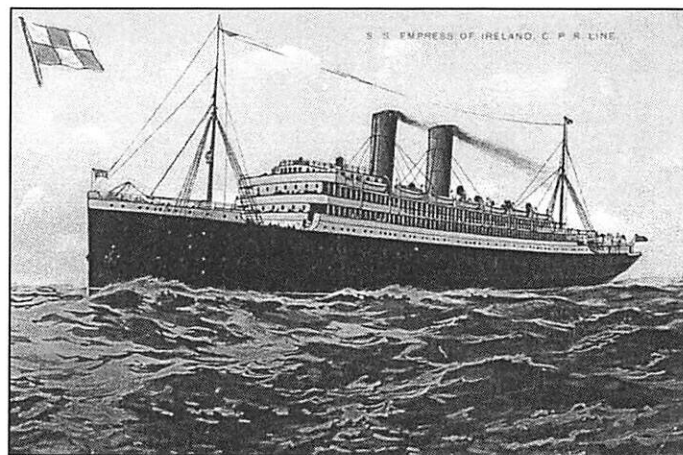
The Frenches were ideal candidates as far as the Canadian government was concerned. Farmers of any nationality had priority over any other

immigrants, because developing the farmland would lead to Canadian prosperity, whereas filling the cities would just drain resources (Knowles, 2007, pp. 84, 85). British farmers, however, were even better, because the English Canadians wanted to keep Canada as British as possible (Knowles, 2007, p. 94). Such advertising would certainly appeal to a young, industrious family seeking a better future. In 1910, the Frenches decided to immigrate to Canada. They were typical immigrants of the time, as most of those arriving in Canada at the beginning of the 20th century came from either the United States or the United Kingdom (The Immigrant Experience, p. 5).

At the beginning of the 20th Century, the specific requirements for entering Canada had more to do with who the Canadian government was trying to exclude than who they were trying to attract. Because Canada was still a colony of Britain until 1931, immigrants from England faced very few restrictions. The French family would not have filled out any applications to immigrate. Passenger lists were often the only official record of immigration. A priority for immigration authorities was to avoid any immigrants who might be dangerous to the citizens of Canada, either because of contagious disease or criminal behaviour, so medical examinations would have been conducted on Gladys and her family to ensure they were healthy. Immigrant families were also required to have 25 dollars, in addition to their transportation costs. British immigrants were so favored by the Canadian Government that a bonus was paid to steamship-booking agents for every ticket they sold to an eligible British immigrant. On the passenger manifest, "British Bonus Allowed" is stamped beside each of the names of the French family.

The French family had to travel by horse-drawn carriage to London, then by train to Liverpool, in order to board the ship to Halifax. They came to Canada on the *Empress of Ireland*, which sank four years later in the St. Lawrence River, claiming 1,012 lives. The *Empress of Ireland* had four decks and could carry 1,550 passengers.

Unlike the *Titanic*, it didn't carry millionaires or aristocrats, but the first class passengers still had elegant accommodations (Grace, 2009). According to the passenger manifest, however, the French family travelled in steerage class, and aside from their belongings, they had only \$35 in cash, just ten dollars more than was required to immigrate.



Postcard picture of The Empress of Ireland
Credit: Copied, with permission, from
Ahoy – Mac's Web Log <http://ahoy.tk-jk.net/index.html>

This situation didn't seem to bother young Gladys. In the book, *The Empress of Ireland: The Story of an Edwardian Liner* (Grout, 2001, p. 186), Gladys is quoted, describing their accommodations as a "big cabin. The way I remember it, it was all bunk beds. And so we all had a bed to ourselves." The voyage took six days and they had unusually good weather for March. The children enjoyed the voyage, and their mother, Emily, was fine, but "Dad was sick from the first day the boat sailed until we got to Canada" (Granger, 1987, p. 2).

The ship arrived at Halifax, Nova Scotia, but the Frenches stayed overnight and got off in Saint John, New Brunswick, where they boarded a tourist train to the head of Lake Okanagan, British Columbia. They were on the train for six days, and they had to sleep on the seats and make simple meals on a stove at the end of the train car. Their luggage was shipped in a separate train car, so it was not accessible to them. When they got to Lake Okanagan, they took a boat down the lake to Kelowna.

Friends of the French family from England had already settled in Kelowna. Their name was Goldsmith, and they were happy that the French family had moved too. Mr. Goldsmith and James French had both been Congregationalist lay preachers in England. The Frenches stayed with them for a few days while James set up two tents with wooden floors on the family's new, small acreage. The French family lived in the tents the first summer, and James built a one-room shack by the first winter. The children had fun in their new surroundings, but Gladys' mother, Emily, had trouble adjusting. Gladys would later say, "Mother looked as if she had been crying, and we'd wonder why. When you get older and look back on it, you think of the sort of home she left, and then, to come out and live in a tent . . . it was quite an experience" (Granger, 1987, p. 4).

James French did carpentry, fruit-box making, brick-laying and pruning. Great-Grandma Gladys and her older sister, Mabel, aged about 10 and 12, respectively, worked in a canning factory the second summer; since they were only children, their parents got the money. Three years later, their dad had finished building a new house, planted fruit trees and bought a horse and a cow.

We can only assume that what James really wanted to do was own a farm because, after five years in Kelowna, he traded his acreage for a home on a quarter section of land in Alberta, based on a verbal description by the owner. After a long trip by train and then by foot over bad roads, it turned out that the description was misleading, to say the least. Rather than a beautiful home, they found a dilapidated mess! Grandpa told me, "There were cows in the house . . . it had been completely abandoned and neglected" (C. Smith, personal communication, April 26, 2011). After a great deal of work, they got the place clean and mostly repaired, only to discover there was a mortgage on the property, which was more than the farm was worth. The French family had no choice. They walked off the farm and left the whole thing. James bought another farm with a small down payment,

and it was put in Emily's name so the mortgage company could not claim it.

Gladys and her younger brother, Jimmy, attended a one-room school at Ennerdale, Alberta. There were only nine students. The settlers in the Ennerdale area were mostly English and Irish, so Gladys and Jimmy would have shared the culture and customs of many of their classmates (Bishop, 1968, p. 245). When she quit school, Gladys went to work as a hired girl at another farm. Two years later, she went to Olds to work at the post office. During this time, she met Gerald Geoffrey (Geoff) Smith who had just come back from overseas, after the end of World War I. They "just started to go together" and got married about three years later, at the end of 1922 (Granger, 1987, p. 9).

Gladys and Geoff then moved to Drumheller because that is where Geoff was working as a miner. My grandfather, Clifford Smith, was born in Drumheller near the end of 1923. The family moved to Czar two years later, when Geoff got a job as a grain-elevator agent. When the "dirty thirties" came, there was a terrible drought all over Western Canada. Because grain production went down, it was not a good time to be a grain-elevator employee. Ultimately, Gladys and Geoff ended up taking over her father's farm when he retired. Cliff attended the same one-room school in Ennerdale as his mother had before him.

In 1940, Cliff finished grade 12. His parents wanted him to attend normal school to become a teacher, but he wasn't interested. They discussed the possibility of university and decided that, even though it would be financially difficult, he could go. He registered in engineering at the University of Alberta (U of A), in Edmonton. This was during World War II, and in 1941, Canadian Officers' Training Corps became compulsory in university. In 1942, Cliff chose to join the pre-training offered in university and, in 1943, he wanted to enlist in active service. Initially they wouldn't accept him in the Royal Canadian Air Force because he had two years of engineering, which was considered valuable during wartime. He had to get a letter of

permission from the Dean of Engineering to enlist. The Dean didn't want to give it to him at first, but he told the Dean he'd quit and go back to farming anyway if he didn't get the letter.

In 1944, Grandpa Smith earned his air gunner's wings. One day, in 1944, when he was finished gunnery exercises (using bullets with paint on them to shoot a towed, canvas windsock) he had an opportunity to go as an observer on a camera exercise (shooting an evading plane with a camera). Cliff observed, "I thought, 'Gee, that sounds like real fun! We'd be the attacking plane instead of the defending plane.' So I asked if it would be possible if I could go up in that plane just for the experience. It wasn't required for my course." Grandpa got permission to go up, but he had already returned his parachute, so he had to go back and line up to sign out another one. By the time he had his parachute and went to get on the plane, the plane had left. So he took his parachute back, signed it back in and went to the mess hall to eat. Two hours after he missed the plane, he got back to his barracks. The Military Police had cleaned out his locker. It turned out the plane had entered a dive it could not get out of and crashed into the ground.

In 1945, Grandpa was sent overseas, but the war ended before he was finished training. He went back to university in 1946 to finish his degree. While at the U of A, he met my grandmother, Winifred, at a student dance. He graduated in 1948, and they were married shortly afterward. He spent a year teaching hydraulics at the U of A. Because there were a large number of veterans returning from the war who were offered free university for their service, the university needed more teachers so he was able to obtain the job.

Grandma and Grandpa moved to Regina, where Grandpa worked for Prairie Farm Rehabilitation Association (PFRA) for 10 years. The PFRA had been established to deal with the problem of water resources after the "dirty thirties." Cliff did design and model testing for the Gardiner Dam project in Saskatchewan, and some of the model testing was done at the University of

Saskatchewan. Because the professors there got to know him and there was a growing enrollment in higher education, he was offered a position on the Engineering Faculty in 1958. He became the head of Civil Engineering and served a term as the President of the Canadian Society of Civil Engineering before retiring from the university in 1991.

Cliff and Winifred had three daughters and seven grandchildren, and now have three great-grandchildren. Their descendants include teachers, an actress, a doctor, a medical lab worker, an IT expert and even . . . a farm wife! The family story is like many others – influenced by economic forces, the immigrants came for land but eventually left the farm to pursue work and education in the city.

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Cover Photo: James French and Emily Huggett, both taken about 1895, in Sussex, England before their marriage. James is wearing the uniform of the Royal Artillery in which he was a Bombardier.
Credit: *Abell-Smith family files*

SURNAME CONNECTIONS

Editor's Note: Stuck in your search for a person, couple or family? Share your dead end and maybe find a connection to those who can help. Submit the surnames in your dead end and give additional information, such as place and date range. Email to surnames-chinook@afhs.ab.ca

Margaret (Maggie) MARR

I am looking for information about Margaret (Maggie) MARR born in September 1885. In her early life she lived at Midtown Farm, Mawbray, Maryport, Cumberland (UK). She is shown in the 1881 England Census with her father, Thomas Marrs [*sic*] and in 1891, with her stepfather, John Tiffin. By July 11, 1908, Margaret had arrived in Canada, possibly on the *Laurentic*, and had an address of "c/o Sheriff (John W.) Humble, 4 Main Street North, Kenora, Ontario." By November 1911, Margaret had gone back to her family in Midtown Farm.

She is further registered as a 3rd class passenger, domestic, aged 27, born 1885, on the Aberdeen line *Themistocles* leaving London, England, on

April 17, 1912, en route to Sydney, Australia. She married Thomas Henry Turner (born January 26, 1882, in Ireby, Cumberland) in Woollahra, New South Wales (NSW), Australia on June 7, 1912.

An old paper clipping was found among postcards in the possession of the family in NSW: "McCallum-Tiffin - At Box 336, Brampton, Ontario, 5th of May, Wesley, second son of Mr. and Mrs. W.J. McCallum, Brampton, Ontario, Canada, to Mary Ann, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. J. Tiffin, Mawbray, Maryport, Cumberland." Presumably, Mary Ann was a sister of Margaret. The postcards also indicate that a Mary Ann was at Sheriff Humble's home from about September 1910.

The years Margaret spent in Canada are a blank except for the tidbit concerning John W. Humble. I would like to correspond with anyone who may have connections to the W.J. McCallum and Mary Ann Tiffin family. What was the story of Margaret Marr's life while she lived in Canada from 1908 to about 1911?

Please contact Ulrich Haasdyk at haasdijku@hotmail.com or by telephone at (403) 240-0067

Wilfred and Jane BRUNSKILL

Wilfred Brunskill was born in 1885, in England. He arrived in Canada in 1911, heading for Edgerton, Alberta, to work on the railway. Wilfred married Jane Graham in the early 1920s. His nephew, George Dryden Wilkinson, from England, a ventriloquist, joined them in 1925. George later drowned on a lake when a pleasure boat capsized. I cannot find Wilfred or Jane on the 1916 Census, so maybe they had moved on by then. Wilfred arrived in Vancouver in 1943 and died there 1960. Can anyone help? Where was he from 1911 onwards?

Please contact Joe Fletcher at j.fletcholey@btopenworld.com Kettering, England

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THE REMOVAL OF BENJAMIN DAFFIN FROM ALCESTER, WARWICK: A CASE STUDY By Wayne Shephard

An interesting set of Poor Law documents was found on the *Ancestry* website, under *Warwickshire, England, Miscellaneous Parish Records* in the section, *Schools, Directories and Church Histories*. The documents included a Notice of Chargeability and Order for Removal (NoC), dated February 9, 1846. Benjamin Daffin and his family were ordered removed from Alcester, a parish in Warwickshire, to Beoley, a parish in Worcestershire. Certain other documents, including related, personal statements and examinations and a notice of paid relief, were also found with the NoC.

The Daffin family had become chargeable to Alcester, but the parish contended “their place of last legal settlement” was, in fact, Beoley. Removal of the family was sought and obtained by the Churchwardens and Overseers of the Poor for Alcester. The NoC, executed by two Justices of the Peace, together with copies of relevant examinations and other documents, was being sent to the Overseers of the Poor for Beoley, informing them the Daffin family would be removed to Beoley and that parish would then become responsible for their support. Together, the various documents offer comprehensive information about the Daffin family.

The NoC outlined the reasons for the family’s removal. They had “come to inhabit” Alcester Parish and had “become and now are actually chargeable thereto, although they have not legal settlement therein.” In other words, the family could not, at that time, support themselves and had sought relief, by way of money and goods, from Alcester. Parish officials conducted examinations of Benjamin and others and satisfied themselves the family was properly the responsibility of Beoley.

Settlement Certificates and Removal Orders had become part of English Poor Law with the passing of the *Act of Settlement of 1662*. Settlement Certificates defined which parish was responsible for the welfare of a poor person. Under provisions of this act, which continued

well into the 19th century, parishes could request the courts have individuals and families without certificates and dependent on parish relief transferred back to the parish where they had originated or where it could be confirmed they had legal settlement.

A settlement could be gained under several criteria. Being born in a parish was the main one; however, this could be superseded. If a person’s father already had a settlement elsewhere, the individual then might be given the same area of settlement. If an individual completed a full year as a hired servant, or served a full term as an apprentice, he would be allowed settlement. If an individual paid rates on property assessed at £10 per annum or more, he would be granted settlement.

Wives and female children took their legal settlement from their husbands or fathers, respectively. From 1743, illegitimate children would take their settlement from their mother.

A number of facts about the Daffin family are recorded in the NoC, including the names of all family members and the ages of Benjamin’s six children. Apart from this basic information, not much else can be learned from this one record. A review of the supporting documents, however, reveals a substantial amount of background for Benjamin and his family. The NoC and other documents show information about the family with respect to three different parishes and two counties, suggesting reasons to investigate records in all those areas, to add to the Daffin family history.

As shown in the documents, the situation in 1846 was not the first time a complaint had been lodged about the Daffin family. A previous order for their removal from Alcester had been issued in July 1840, after they had sought relief there. Only four children were listed at that time. The family had even, apparently, been physically removed in August of that year. It seems evident Alcester had a problem with full employment of

its parish residents during the 1840s, maybe particularly for unskilled labourers, as Benjamin had requested assistance more than a few times, according to the documents. It is also apparent he was determined to live in the parish as he must have thought it offered better opportunities for his family's future than any other area.

Prior to 1840, Alcester had been an important market town and the locale of several industries, in particular the manufacture of needles (Styles, 1945). Population had steadily increased through the late-18th and early-19th centuries as demand for workers strengthened, but by the end of the 1830s industrial activity had declined. This may

have been in response to growth of large urban centres such as Birmingham and the attraction of manufacturing and labour to those areas and away from towns such as Alcester, or because the establishment of the railway system made it easier for goods and people to move about the country and for other centres of commerce to develop in competition. Whatever the cause, there must have been an erosion of the tax base and the area became less able to support welfare programs. Much more attention would then have been focused by the parish on helping "its own" and divesting itself of those who did not have legal settlement there.

Two separate examinations of Benjamin Daffin, dated July 27, 1840 and February 9, 1846, each sworn in front of two Justices of the Peace, contain substantial information about the family. Both are quite revealing as to Benjamin's birth place, birth date, two marriages, children and employment. He told officials he was born in Aston Cantlow Parish, Warwickshire, about 1783. He indicated he married his first wife, Charlotte, about 1811, and his second, Maria, in 1824. The second marriage occurred in Aston Cantlow shortly after the death of Charlotte. The six children shown on the NoC were all from his second marriage and are listed as:

Harriett, born 1833; George, born 1835; Uriah, born 1837; Benjamin, born 1838; Charlotte, born 1841; and Henry, born 1843. Their places of birth are not given. There is no information presented indicating Benjamin had any children

POOR LAW—(No. 27)—SETTLEMENT.
(4 & 5 W. IV. c. 76, § 79).
Notice of Chargeability.

(103)

GIVEN
under our Hands and Seals, in the Parish of Beoley in the County of Warwick this ninth day of February one thousand eight hundred and forty six.

To the Churchwardens and Overseers of the Poor of the Parish of Beoley in the County of Warwick that Benjamin Daffin Maria his wife and their six children inhabiting in our Parish of Alcester — hereunder named, have become actually chargeable thereto, and that an Order of Justices hath been obtained for their removal therefrom to your Parish of Beoley above named, as being their place of last legal settlement, a copy of which Order, and also a copy of the Examination on which the said Order of Removal was made, are herewith sent.

GIVEN under our Hands, this ninth day of February one thousand eight hundred and forty six.

Jos. Coobherley
James Thompson
Thomas Styles
Churchwardens and Overseers of the Poor of the Parish of Alcester in the County of Warwick

(No. 25)

Order of Removal.
Form 24, p. 112.

To the Churchwardens and Overseers of the Poor of the Parish of Alcester in the County of Warwick And to the Churchwardens and Overseers of the Poor of the Parish of Beoley in the County of Warwick that Benjamin Daffin Maria his wife and their six children namely Harriett about twelve years old George about ten years old Maria about eight years old Benjamin about six years old Charlotte about four years old and Henry about two years and a half old have come to inhabit in the same Parish and have become and now are actually chargeable thereto, although they have not a legal settlement therein: **WE**, upon due proof of the premises, do adjudge the same to be true: **AND**, upon due examination of Witnesses upon oath and otherwise, we do adjudge that the place of the last legal settlement of the said Benjamin Daffin his wife and six children is the above named Parish of Beoley.

WE do therefore hereby order, that you the Churchwardens and Overseers of the Poor of the above named Parish of Alcester first duly sending unto the Churchwardens and Overseers of the Poor of the above named Parish of Beoley a Notice of the Chargeability of the said Paupers, and a copy of this Order, and a copy of the Examination whereon the same is made, shall, at the time and in the manner prescribed by law, remove and convey by yourselves, or by some proper person to be employed by you, the said Benjamin Daffin his wife and six children from your said Parish of Alcester to the said Parish of Beoley and them there shall deliver, together with the Order, or a counterpart or true copy hereof (at the same time showing of such copy the original), unto the Churchwardens and Overseers of the Poor there, or some or one of them.

AND we do require you, the Churchwardens and Overseers of the Parish last named, to receive and provide for the said Paupers according to law.

GIVEN under the Hands and Seals of us Justices of the Peace, two of Her Majesty's Justices of the Peace of and acting in and for the County of Warwick named in the margin, on the ninth day of February one thousand eight hundred and forty six.

Edw. Webb
J. Brown

County of Warwick
The Examination of Benjamin Daffin and his wife and six children now inhabiting in the Parish of Alcester in the County of Warwick taken on oath before us, two of Her Majesty's Justices of the Peace for the same County and acting therein on this ninth day of February one thousand eight hundred and forty six touching the place of the last legal settlement of

Examination.
Form 4, p. 58.

I Shew the Names of the Paupers, and other Particulars connected.

Where the Pauper has a family to be removed, say — the legal settlement of the said Benjamin Daffin and his wife and six children, namely, Harriett, George, Maria, Benjamin, Charlotte, and Henry, viz., Harriett, George, Maria, Benjamin, Charlotte, and Henry, viz., Harriett, George, Maria, Benjamin, Charlotte, and Henry.

Notice of Chargeability and Order for Removal of the family of Benjamin Daffin, issued by the Parish of Alcester, Warwick, dated February 9, 1846
Credit: Warwickshire County Record Office
collections: DR 360/82/46

by his first wife or others with his second, prior to Harriett. From the dates on the documents and their ages, the children listed could have been born in Aston Cantlow, Alcester or Beoley.

*In about nine months afterwards I married my late wife Charlotte but I have no child by her living under the age of sixteen years
In the month of October 1826 I married my present wife Maria at the parish Church of Aston Cantlow a parish by whom I have five children (namely) Harriett about twelve years old - George about ten years old - Maria about eight years old - Benjamin about seven years old - Charlotte about four years old and Henry about two years and a half the wife with me now living with me at the parish of Alcester aforesaid and am sworn chargeable thereto*

Portion of the affidavit sworn to by Benjamin Daffin, dated February 9, 1846, attached to the Notice of Chargeability; Benjamin lists details about his family
Credit: Warwickshire County Record Office
collections: DR 360/82/46

Benjamin had been employed by a Mr. Samuel Wollaston, of Beoley, at whose residence he also lived for over two years, beginning about 1810. According to Benjamin's statements, the job was apparently secured by him at a "Mop" or "Statute," which was a hiring fair, in this case in Studley Parish, Warwickshire. (For reference, Studley is about four miles south of Beoley, four and a half miles north of Alcester and seven miles west of Aston Cantlow, all within relatively easy walking distance of each other.) This note in the documents was particularly important as it established the fact he had been employed by a legally settled inhabitant of Beoley for at least one year, an important condition for obtaining a legal settlement. In the 1840 examination he also noted that, although he had "been living in the Parish of Alcester, he had many times been relieved by the Parish Officers of Beoley." No doubt both of these facts were primary reasons why he was ordered to be removed to Beoley. There is no indication in the documents of Benjamin's employment in any

other place or at any other time, presumably because the statements concerning his job in Beoley were all that was needed for the justices to determine his legal settlement.

The documents, taken all together, present an interesting study, not only of this specific family, but also of what events and procedures went into decisions concerning the establishment of legal settlements, examinations of individuals, the removal of families and how many people were involved in the process. In all, seven people, in a variety of capacities, put their names to the 1846 documents and five others were associated with the 1840 removal. This collection and other similar documents from the same areas, would certainly add to the family histories of each of those individuals.

*Warwickshire The Examination of Benjamin Daffin now residing in the Parish of Alcester in the County of Warwick taken on oath this 27th day of July 1840 before us two of Her Majesty's Justices of the Peace for the said County
Who on his oath says that he was born as he believes in the Parish of Aston Cantlow in the County of Warwick and is now about fifty seven years of age says that at Studley Mop or Statute for hiring of Servants held some days before old Michaelmas last past about thirty years he was hired by Samuel Wollaston of the Parish of Beoley in the County of Worcester for a year viz from old Michaelmas to old Michaelmas at the wages of as he believes eight Guineas that he entered into such service a day or two after old Michaelmas and received his full wages says he worked the whole year and received the same the following year*

Portion of an examination of Benjamin Daffin, dated July 27, 1840, attached to the Notice of Chargeability; Benjamin describes his employment history with Samuel Wollaston, of Beoley, Worcestershire
Credit: Warwickshire County Record Office
collections: DR 360/82/46

The documents were all prepared during the time period when other information, such as census data, was recorded, so an examination of those records could reveal where the family came from and where they ended up. The names and ages of the children, information about Benjamin's birth and the facts of his two marriages are also presented, so searches of pertinent parish registers for the time periods would undoubtedly shed more light on the origins of the family.

Information about family members from these documents was, in fact, utilized in carrying out limited searches for other information. A review

of some parish register data, available online at *Ancestry* for Aston Cantlow and Alcester, resulted in the discovery of a number of entries including details about his second marriage, baptisms of children from both unions, marriages of some of his children and the deaths of Benjamin, Maria and others. A search of census data was also completed which, curiously, showed the family living in Alcester in 1841, 1851 and 1861. They certainly returned after having been removed in 1840 and must have returned again after their removal in 1846. Since Benjamin was also still there in subsequent decades, perhaps he ultimately benefited from a change in the settlement restrictions, passed in the *Poor Removal (Amendment) Act* later in 1846. Among other things, this legislation gave an individual legal settlement in a parish after five years of residency (McCord et al, 2007, p 332; Aschrott, 1888, p. 52). Thus, the family may have been able to remain permanently in Alcester. No further documentation was found in this limited analysis to support such a change to the Daffin family status, though.

In the end, it appears Benjamin was successful in realizing his aspirations to stay in the community, notwithstanding that he was actually physically removed from the parish at least once.

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McCord, Norman, Bill Purdue, A. William Purdue. (2007). *British history 1815-1914*. Oxford, UK: Oxford University Press.

Images used were retrieved November 7, 2011 from http://search.ancestry.com/Browse/view.aspx?dbid=2420&iid=4414863_00020 and are part of Warwickshire County Record Office collections: reference number DR 360/82/46

Styles, Philip, Ed. (1945). *'Parishes: Alcester', A history of the County of Warwick: Volume 3: Barlichway hundred*, pp. 8-22. Victoria County History: British History Online. Retrieved November 16, 2011 from <http://www.britishhistory.ac.uk/report.aspx?compid=56974>

Wikipedia – statute or mop referenced at http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hiring_fair

###

USING DEPARTMENT OF INDIAN AFFAIRS RECORDS By Laura Kirbyson

There was a lot going on in the mid-1800s in Western Canada and, because these events had an impact on Indian Affairs, they are described in its records. Anyone who is interested in history about a local area will find a wealth of information about the region and, perhaps, about their ancestors by searching these documents.

Think of the fur trade, the establishment of farms and ranches, the whiskey trade, the march west of the North West Mounted Police (NWMP), the arrival of the telegraph, railroads or the survey of the International Boundary. People with farming experience might be hired as Farm Instructors on the Indian Reserves, for example. Surveyors might locate a railway line near a reserve; surveyors kept very detailed notes. Businesses may have sold seeds and implements to or purchased produce from the Indian farms, reserves and bands.

Employees' work diaries have also been retained in a number of cases and these are gold mines of references to people in the neighbourhood. If you had ancestors out west in the 1800s, there is a good chance of finding references to them in the

Department of Indian Affairs (DIAND) records.

The DIAND started in Canada in 1860 and was originally under the auspices of the Crown Lands Department. Prior to that, the responsibility fell to the British Crown. After 1860, the Department shifted hands (so to speak) and, very recently, the name was changed to Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Canada (AANDC).

DIAND's archival records are retained at Library and Archives Canada (LAC). It's a huge collection, covering the entire country, and it can be overwhelming to decide where to start looking.

As in so much genealogical research, location, in both time and geography, are key factors. If you are familiar with LAC's former system of Record Groups, RG10 was Indian Affairs. The current Mikan reference is 46. The older RG10 records were also subdivided into two series, Red and Black. For the most part, this is a geographic reference. The Black Series contains records for Western Canada and the Red for the Eastern region. The Red Series does contain materials for the Western region, as well, but they seem to be more policy-related.

Searching for Records

There are two places you can search the Indian Affairs official records: the AANDC website, which provides general information and links to websites, and the LAC website. As this article focuses on historic information, it concentrates on the LAC records.

To sift through the records generally, you can drill down through LAC's Home Page, and select "Aboriginal Peoples." Alternatively, you can go straight to keyword searching at "Search the General Collection." Type the number "10" in the Record Group Number field to limit your results to items from Indian Affairs. You can type in a surname of interest in the keyword section and view the results. In some cases there are images, but in most cases you will need to order the microfilm reel.

Another searchable area, available through the LAC site, is the DIAND Annual Reports. These were digitized many years ago and are searchable online. This resource is organized extremely well with indexes. The reports reflect geographic regions for the entire country, so you can work your way through it intuitively. In addition to the reports of the Indian Affairs employees, there are letters and reports from surveyors and NWMP members. The reports contain great lists of the people or companies with whom the Department did business, too. If your ancestor was a farmer, it's possible that he supplied rations to the Department or became a farming instructor, as noted earlier. In either case he would be listed in the report.

Although the records are held at LAC and significant portions are imaged and online, there are also a number of locations in the City of Calgary that have copies of some of the materials. For example, the University of Calgary and the Glenbow Library house many of the Annual Reports in book form, and both have microfilm reels of a variety of resources, including Paylists from Treaty Payments. If the records are not available online or locally, reels are available for interlibrary loan.

Resources:

Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Canada (AANDC) – homepage:
<http://www.aadnc-aandc.gc.ca/eng/1100100010002>

For a description of the department, see also
http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Aboriginal_Affairs_and_Northern_Development_Canada

Library and Archives Canada – homepage:
<http://collectionscanada.gc.ca/index-e.html>
for online searching, see
www.collectionscanada.gc.ca/archivianet/020105_e.html

###

A family is a unit composed not only of children but of men, women, an occasional animal, and the common cold.

~Ogden Nash

THE AFHS LIBRARY: AN UNDERUTILIZED RESOURCE

By Linda Murray

The Alberta Family Histories Society (AFHS) Library is a valuable but sometimes overlooked genealogy resource in Calgary. The library is open to AFHS members and to the general public free of charge. Members are allowed to borrow non-reference items for a period of one month.

There are over 12,000 items in the library, including family histories, local histories, maps, CDs, DVDs, microfiche, journals and books. The collection emphasizes Alberta, Canada and the United Kingdom. We receive about 100 journals and newsletters a year from other genealogical societies around the world. The AFHS Library also holds the collections of the Heritage Branch (Calgary) of the Daughters of the American Revolution and the Chinook Country Branch of the Historical Society of Alberta.

The Library has a subscription to *Ancestry Library Edition* and Internet access on five computers. Our CD collection includes all of the cemetery transcriptions done by the AFHS projects committee as well as a large number of CDs relating to UK research.

The library is open on Thursdays and Saturdays during the summer and Thursdays, Fridays and Saturdays during the remainder of the year. Each summer, the library is featured as part of Historic Calgary Week with presentations and an open house.

The building at 712 – 16th Avenue NW, in Calgary, is not only used as a library but as a meeting place for AFHS Committees and Special Interest Groups such as the Beginners, Celtic, DNA, English/Welsh and Ontario groups. The library and office space is on the main floor. The basement area is used primarily for meetings and storage. Microfiche and microfilm readers are stored here along with a collection of Henderson Directories, back issues of journals and extra materials. As well, there is an area for library sale items and a small kitchen.

In a typical year, more than 1,500 people use the facility. However, there are still many members of AFHS who have never been to the library. We would encourage all members to plan a visit to see what a wonderful resource it can be for their family history research.

The library is run completely by volunteers! See the list of all those who help out on pages 5 and 23 of this issue of *Chinook*. AFHS is very grateful to all of our library volunteers for their dedication and assistance to everyone who uses our library.

Parking is free in the city lot to the west of our building, on 17th Avenue to the north and on 6th Street to the east. The library open times can be found on the AFHS website. Click on “Calendar” on the Home page. You can also arrange an appointment by contacting the library directly by email at library@afhs.ab.ca or by telephone at 403-214-1447. ###

WHAT'S OUT THERE

By Linda Murray

Burials 1879-1885 – Anglican Cathedral of St John the Baptist: St John's, NL

If you have ancestors in St John's, NL during this time frame, you may want to check this eight-page transcription submitted by Jill Marshall. The information includes name, abode, burial date and age of the deceased person.

The Newfoundland Ancestor: Quarterly Journal of the Family History Society of Newfoundland and Labrador, Inc. (2011, Winter), 27(4), 154-161.

Discovering Voters Lists

When Kelly Southworth found a 1962 Voters List for the Municipality of Lorne in Manitoba, she was surprised at the amount of genealogical information it contained. She outlines what might be found in such publications and how to locate them.

Generations: The Journal of the Manitoba Genealogical Society (2011, December), 36(4), 17-20.

Go West Young Man: Understanding Saskatchewan Homestead Records

In this article, Bonnie Dahl, Reference Archivist of the Saskatchewan Archives Board, tells us everything we need to know about Saskatchewan homestead file records. She covers historical background, homesteading requirements, pre-emptions and purchased homesteads, documents in homestead files and accessing records by searching the online index. The Saskatchewan Homestead Index is at www.saskhomesteads.com

Bulletin: The Journal of the Saskatchewan Genealogical Society (2011, December), 42(4), 80-88.

How to Use Parish Records Online for Free

Parish registers in England first began in 1538 and can be a valuable resource to find your ancestors prior to civil registration. Jeremy Palmer shares how you can access free parish records online. He gives details on parish records found at FreeREG, FamilySearch, County record offices, Online Parish Clerks and other websites. *Family Tree*, (2011, Christmas), 28(2), 20-23.

Members' Profiles

Do you have ancestors from Bedfordshire? Here are a few of the surnames being researched by members of this society: Addington, Boness, Claridge, Debues, Edmunds, Farr, Gazeley, Hardwick, Hiscoe, Manton, Otter, Piddington, Rippengale, Spring and Winn. See the article for additional surnames and contact information for the researchers.

Bedfordshire Family History Society Journal (2011, December), 18(4), 32-33.

The War of 1812: An Introduction

David A. Norris gives us an overview of the genealogical records of the War of 1812. Topics include military service records, ordering files from the National Archives, pension files, bounty land warrants, regular troops and naval and privateer records.

Family Chronicle, (2012, January/February), 16(3), 13-16.

Self Improvement

Lisa A. Alzo lists 101 ways to become a better genealogical researcher. Try some of her tips to improve your family history skills. The entire issue of this magazine is geared to make over your research methods, your "stuff" and your data. So if you want to get organized, this is the volume to read.

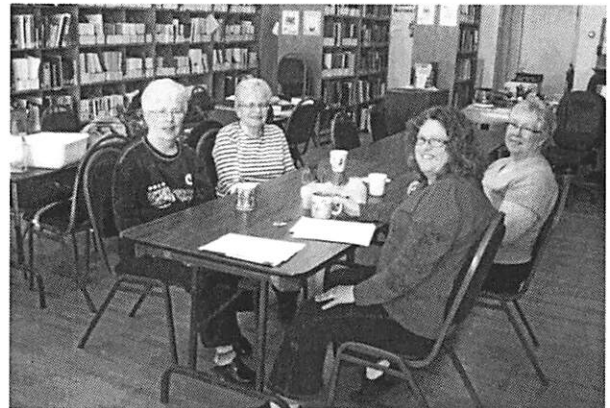
Family Tree Magazine, (2012, February), 12(5), 12-19.

Some Yorkshire Suffragettes

Allan Dawkins takes a look at women suffragettes from the Yorkshire area who actively fought for the equality of women in England. He profiles two women, Leonora Cohen and Isabella Ford and in recounting their contributions he gives us a good history of the suffragette movement in England before and after World War I.

The Yorkshire Family Historian, (2011, September), 37(3), 96-101.

###



Some AFHS Library Committee members working in the library – Top, left to right: Donna Kirkwood, Marion Firman, Linda Murray, Lorna Laughton
Credit: Wayne Shephard, photographer

CALGARY PUBLIC LIBRARY

By Christine Hayes

These programs are free of charge. All you need is a Calgary Public Library card. Registration is required unless otherwise noted. You can register in person at your local branch, online through our website or by telephone at 403-260-2620.

Family History Coaching is the last Saturday of each month (April 28, May 26, and June 30) on the Fourth Floor of the Central Library (616 Macleod Trail SE) from 10:00 am to noon. This program has been running for many years now and is very well attended. Two volunteers from AFHS and the genealogy resource person from the Calgary Public Library spend time with individual researchers and help them with questions ranging from the very basic to the very complex. We meet in the genealogy area on the 4th Floor of the Central Library and have access to *AncestryLE* and the library's vast collection of genealogy and local history resources. It is always a lot of fun, and we all learn something new each and every time we hold the program.

100th Anniversary Celebrations: The Calgary Public Library turned 100 this year. We have a number of programs, many with a historical slant, coming up this year. Keep informed by reading our CPL100 blog at <http://calgarypubliclibrary.com/cpl100>

Historic Calgary Week 2012 is Friday, July 27 to Monday, August 6. The Community Heritage and Family History Department of the Calgary Public Library will be participating and hosting events again this year. Watch for our program guide in your branches and on our website. We will be giving an updated "Ancestors and their Attics" program on August 2. In this presentation we follow one family and the house they lived in using a variety of records available at the Calgary Public Library and in the City Archives.

###

The past is not dead. It isn't even past.
~ William Faulkner

THE NEWBERRY LIBRARY: A LITTLE KNOWN RESOURCE

By Xenia Stanford

Newberry Library (www.newberry.org) is a privately-endowed, independent library in Chicago focusing on the humanities. They have a great collection of genealogical books and family histories in addition to maps and many other resources. It is a non-circulating library, but you can order photocopies (pages rather than an entire book), interlibrary loan or visit in person.

To ask a question or arrange an interlibrary loan, check www.newberry.org/staffdepartment-directory where you will find a Reference and Genealogy Services Section as well as contact lists for other departments you may find useful.

If you will be visiting in person, you will need a Reader's Card to access the collection. This is free to anyone 16 years of age or older with a piece of standard photo identification, such as your driver's license. It is also a good idea to search the online catalogue before you go to save time and proceed directly to the collection or items you want.

The index of holdings is online. Go first to www.newberry.org/catalogs-and-guides, then look for "online catalogue." If you are looking for a surname and you find too many entries, restrict your search by subject.

For example, my search for Stanford retrieved 1769 hits. Since I knew many of them would be about or by Stanford University, I then restricted the search to subject. A list by the surname is shown. Let's say you want to find articles about "Stanford, Charles Villiers, Sir, 1852-1924." There are two entries totaling six documents. This is much better than weeding through almost 2,000 hits to find the ones you want.

There is a feature to repeat your search in the I-share Library, which includes resources of 76 Illinois libraries belonging to the Consortium of Academic and Research Libraries in Illinois (CARLI) network. There I found 20,319 entries. Restricting these to subject still retrieved 518

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING FINAL NOTICE

hits. This was still too many. Going back and not restricting by subject, I saw a list on the right hand side of the screen where there was a listing for Stanford, Charles Villiers with 162 documents, with him as author, not subject.

Also valuable are the Newberry Research Guides. The first entry, Adoption Research, took me to two pages of resources in the library and links to other Internet resources. Other useful searches are by location. Searching "Sherborne" on the Newberry website, I found many entries for Sherborne, UK, but one caught my eye. It was a book of vital records of Sherborn, MA, to the year 1850, collected from church registers, cemetery inscriptions and more. There were also alphabetical indexes to the manuscript records of the town.

Give the Newberry Library a try through the online catalogue. Who knows, you may find enough to warrant a trip there. ###

This is the final notice of the Annual General Meeting in accordance with *AFHS Bylaws*, Article VII, Section 1.5, which states:

"Written notice of the date, time and place of the Annual General Meeting shall be made available to all members in good standing at least twenty-one (21) days prior to the meeting."

Notice is hereby given that the Annual General Meeting of the *Alberta Family Histories Society* shall be held on Monday, May 7, 2012, at River Park Church, 3818 - 14A Street SW, starting at 7:00 p.m., during which financial and other reports will be given, business conducted and elections held.

Kay Clarke will call the nominations committee together. ###

ALBERTA FAMILY HISTORIES SOCIETY – VOLUNTEERS 2012 (Continued from page 5)

- **Library Shift Workers**
 - Helen Backhouse
 - Ken Bell
 - Susan Butler
 - Jean Carter
 - Beverley Chambers
 - Kay Clarke
 - Ishbel Cormack
 - Marion Firman
 - Kay Jamieson
 - Sheila Johnston
 - Donna Kirkwood
 - Marlene Knott
 - Rosemary Kry
 - Lorna Laughton
 - Linda Murray
 - Irene Oickle
 - Louise Pannenbecker
 - Marion Peterson
 - Claudia Rettman
 - Judie Riddell
- Marlene Roy
- Pat Senger
- Cheryl Sutherland
- Millie Tsuji
- Ann Williams
- **Casino Workers**
 - Helen Backhouse
 - Jackie Duncan
 - Spencer Field
 - Loyd Firman
 - Marion Firman
 - Anne Jowett
 - Duane Kelly
 - Laura Kirbyson
 - Dawn Kirkpatrick
 - Lorna Laughton
 - Dennis Laughton
 - Murven Maki
 - Gary Manthorne
 - Betsy May
- Bev May
- Peter McKenzie
- Susan Molineaux
- Betty Ann Murray
- Donna Ontonio
- Louise Pannenbecker
- Alan Peers
- Marion Peterson
- Judie Riddell
- Bob Riddell
- Margret Scott
- Wayne Shephard
- Donelda Snyder
- Paul Swift
- Ruth Sutherland
- Bev Swan
- Holly Swift
- Lorna Theroux
- Gerry Theroux
- Ann Williams
- Dennis Williams
- Heather Williams

*The Alberta Family Histories Society would like to express its thanks and appreciation to all the many volunteers who contribute their time, talents and expertise to make our activities so successful.
(We also apologize to any person we have inadvertently missed in this summary.)*

DOING GENEALOGY AT CALGARY PUBLIC LIBRARY

By Christine Hayes

The Calgary Public Library (CPL) has an interesting and eclectic collection of material for genealogists. Our focus is on Canadian research but our collection includes information for researchers looking for ancestors in many different places. These are just a few highlights of our collection:

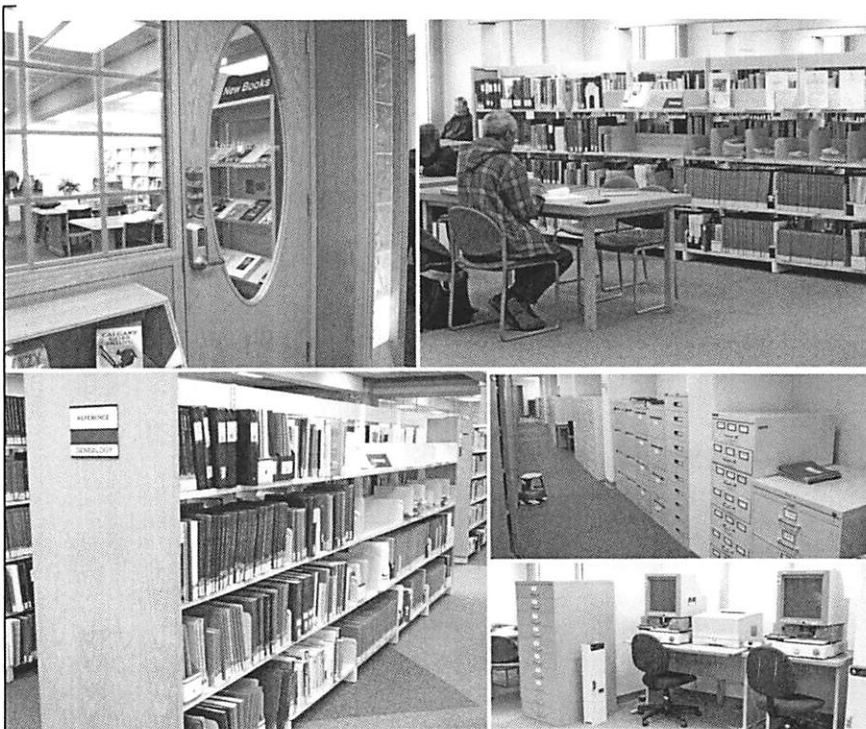
- Complete Canadian census records on microfilm including the two censuses of the Prairie Provinces from 1906 and 1916
- Canadian ships lists on microfilm 1865-1919
- Handbooks and guidebooks for a wide variety of places and records types
- Land records indexes and microfilm
- Newspaper and magazine indexes and compilations
- Cemetery transcriptions for Southern Alberta
- Directories for Calgary and Southern Alberta
- Voters lists for Calgary
- Historical Alberta newspapers on microfilm
- Local histories for Southern Alberta
- Online resources such as *AncestryLE*, *Toronto Star Pages from the Past*, *Dictionary of Canadian Biography*, *Biography and Genealogy Index* and *Heritage Quest*
- Lots and lots of other interesting things

There is a Community Heritage and Family History Blog, accessible from the Calgary Public Library website, www.calgarypubliclibrary.com It deals with matters both historical and genealogical. We like to highlight some of our lesser known resources for people interested in heritage.

We have experienced staff available to help researchers find what they are looking for and, if we don't have what you need, we likely know who does and how to get it. We are members of the "Heritage Triangle" which includes the City Archives and the Glenbow Museum.

The CPL also offers programs such as Family History Coaching where volunteers from Alberta Family Histories Society and Calgary Public Library staff assist customers one-on-one with genealogy questions. We also offer programs through the branches, such as "Cool Internet Tools for Genealogists" and "Using *AncestryLE*." You can find out about these and other programs through our website or in our program brochure.

###



Local History Room at the Central Calgary Public Library – Clockwise, from top left: entrance to Local History Room, public reading area, card files, microfiche files and readers, shelves of reference material
Credit: *Christine Hayes files, CPL*

COMPUTER TRICKS

By Jim Benedict

Dictionary on Command

When you are preparing your article for *Chinook* (yes, we love your submissions), do you stumble over spelling? Do you fire up your browser for an online dictionary? If you use Microsoft Word version 2003/2007/2010, hunt no more! To find the definition of a word when typing in Word, just right-click on the word and select **Look Up** from the pop-up box. A Research pane will appear containing the word's dictionary entry. From here, you can also select the word's thesaurus entry from the drop-down menu provided. Another way to summon the Research pane is to hold down ALT while clicking a word.

More Spelling Assistance

Sometimes, we make mistakes while typing away at word documents. In Microsoft Word, there are some handy icons and information along the bottom border of the Word window.

With my version, I can see my page count, word count and a zoom slider tool. You can right-click on this border to customize the items. Notice the tiny "book" icon? If you have a spelling or grammar error in your document that Word has spotted, the book icon will display a red "X". Click it (double-click in Word 2003) to move to the offending text. You can right-click the book icon in Word 2003 to configure your spelling and grammar options.

Photos in Windows

If you insert photos or other graphics in your Microsoft Word documents, you may occasionally need to reduce the size of some images. One convenient way to do that is to first create a text box by clicking **Insert** and **Text Box** (choose **Simple Text Box**) in Word 2007), then copy and paste your picture into it. The image will automatically resize to fit within the confines of the text box.

###



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EVENTS

By Laura Kirbyson

Conferences and Seminars

April 13-14, 2012

Alberta Genealogical Society and Alberta Family Histories Society (hosted by AGS' Red Deer Branch)

Red Deer, Alberta

Find Your Tree in the Forest Guest Speakers include Dick Eastman, Thomas MacEntee, Nancy Millar and Gena Philibert Ortega. Local speakers we're familiar with include Jim Benedict, Lois Sparling and Wayne Shephard.
<http://rdgensoc.ab.ca/conferenceindex.html>

May 9-12, 2012

National Genealogical Society

Cincinnati, Ohio

The Ohio River: Gateway to the Western Frontier

www.ngsgenealogy.org/cs/media

June 1-3, 2012

OGS (Ontario) Conference

Kingston, Ontario

Borders to Bridges: 1812 to 2012 Topics include land settlement, pension records, immigration/migration and focus on the War of 1812: its participants, and resources Ontario.
<http://ogs.on.ca/seminar/conference2012.php>

August 29 – September 1, 2012

Federation of Genealogical Societies Conferences

Birmingham, Alabama

Indians, Squatters, Settlers and Soldiers in the Old Southwest The focus is on Societies and there will be nationally recognized speakers.
www.fgs.org/2012conference/

September 28-30, 2012

Kelowna and District Genealogical Society
Kelowna, BC

Seminar with Dave Obee and others. No detailed information yet, but keep your eyes on the KDGS website.
www.kdgs.ca/

Webinar Events

A number of organizations offer online seminars (webinars) about a variety of topics. As the focus of this issue is **Overlooked Resources**, webinars specific to this topic are identified below.

Historical Books on the Web: Millions of Tomes at Your Fingertips OnDemand [sic]

This webinar will show you how to access family histories, genealogies and place-based books to track down ancestors and learn about the times they lived in. Can be purchased at www.shopfamilytree.com/product/historical-books-on-the-web-millions-of-tomes-at-your-fingertips-ondemand-webinar?utm_source=linkconnector&utm_medium=affiliate&cid=52685

Three other webinars are listed at www.legacyfamilytree.com/Webinars.asp

Ten Brick Wall Tips for Beginners.

10 brick wall tips that will help every genealogist look at their research challenges in a fresh way.

Wikis for Genealogists.

Wikis can be used by genealogists to document their genealogy and collaborate with other researchers or family members.

Privacy and Our Ancestors.

Most of us have more privacy than our ancestors. Learn what type of information about your ancestors was public and how to find it!

###

AFHS PROJECTS REPORT

By Heather Williams

Queries are booming! With a steady rate of questions and answers, Vickie Newington is attracting income for our Society. The amount raised is over \$1,100. This activity is both interesting and rewarding – and certainly AFHS is well recognized for assisting others with their genealogical research.

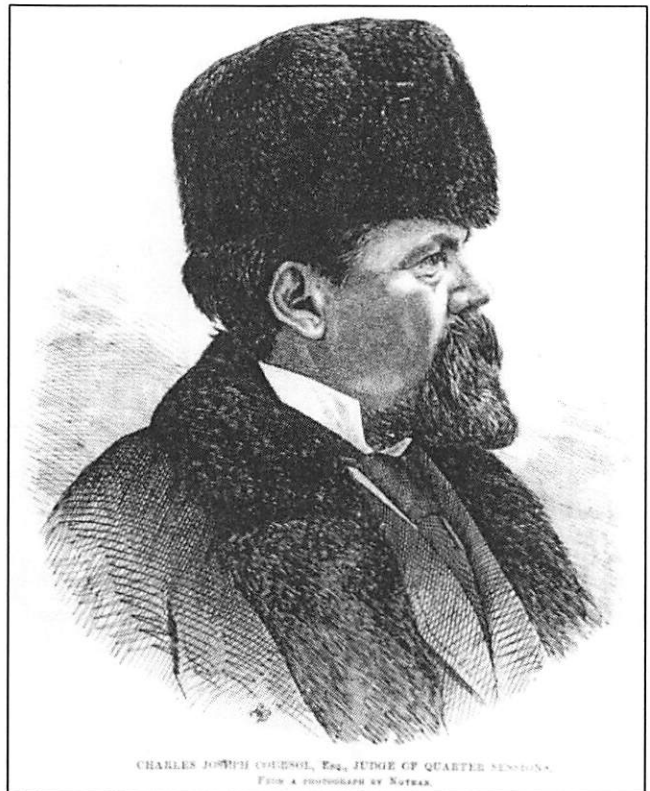
The number of volunteers working on Union Cemetery has dropped as we are at the final stage of proofreading and DVD production for this historical burial location in Calgary.

Extractions from our local newspapers database are ongoing, but we really need **HELP**. Although we have some of the earlier years completed (1889-1903), so much more needs to be done. This is a mammoth project and certainly AFHS has been slower than many organizations at getting this much needed resource online. Let this be a GOAL for 2012 – to accomplish many more years and have this on our website for all to use. *The Births, Marriages & Deaths/Obituaries* are truly gold nuggets to genealogists and family researchers.

Our next endeavor will be the creation of a *Guide to Resources for Calgary* and surrounding areas. We expect to help you find kinfolk in the ranching endeavors in earlier years; students attending a specific school districts; businesses and the history of those businesses. Where would you look for this information? Hopefully our guide will direct you to excellent information and repositories. ###

QUARTER SESSIONS RECORDS By Xenia Stanford

Did you know you can find old civil and criminal cases in Quarter Sessions records for England and most of their former colonies, including the United States and Canada? Ontario and Quebec had Quarter Sessions established soon after the Treaty of 1763. Alberta and neighbouring areas were still territories in the 19th and early 20th centuries when they had Quarter Session courts. Look for these records in Canadian rather than in provincial archives. Even if you had no one who lived in these jurisdictions at those times, it is still an interesting read. I learned that rustling could receive the punishment of death while murder earned the guilty a stint in jail.



Charles Joseph Coursol, Esq., 1871
Judge of Quarter Sessions, Montreal
Source: *Library and Archives Canada*

Back as far as at least the reign of Charlemagne, rulers realized they could not dispense justice or hear all cases in their kingdom in the Kings Court. Charlemagne created dukes with duchies and counts with counties who were given these lands to ensure the keeping of the peace.

In England, the Keepers of the Peace were formalized into Justices of the Peace in 1361. They had the ability to bring forward cases and make decisions. In 1363, they met quarterly and in 1388, a law was passed requiring all such courts to meet at Easter (Spring), Trinity (Midsummer), Michaelmas (September) and Epiphany (January), thus the name Quarter Sessions. There were also Special Sessions and non-quarterly sessions. Between sessions, the justices could still hear cases and make decisions. All these are valuable resources when looking for civil and criminal cases.

From 1491 on, cases heard at “Sheriffs’ Tourns” were turned over to the Quarter Sessions Courts. This meant the Quarter Sessions justices heard

cases from civil cases to murders. Treason and forgery were excluded from the Quarter Sessions' decision-making. In 1531, Poor Laws were added to their jurisdiction. The year 1631 saw an increase in power in this regard as the Quarter Session justices were to appoint the Overseers of the Poor in their jurisdictions.

The oldest surviving lists date from 1532 in the courts of Norfolk. The *Municipal Corporation Act* in 1835 diminished their power to rural jurisdictions with town councils taking over the administration of courts within their borders. Next was the *Local Government Act* in 1888, which gave powers to county courts. In January 1972, Quarter Sessions were replaced with Crown Courts.

These dates are for the United Kingdom but, in former colonies, such as Canada, Quarter Sessions can be found operating until at least 1905 in the prairies. Sometimes looking for records of the Police or Peace Officers produces these records.

In Canada, the decisions also included land allocations and even the granting of medical licenses in the session courts' jurisdictions. The Quarter Session records for towns in many US states proved very useful in finding citizenship applications in which the applicant gave his birth date, birth place, place of origin before entering the US, entry date and point, occupation at the time of application and address at the time of application. Sometimes there would also be references to names of parents or other family members. Parents' names were not always given, but sometimes several family members would apply at the same time. When the father gained citizenship, his wife and minor children automatically became citizens. These were useful because I could then match up the person by his birth date and birth place to his ancestors and/or how he fit into the family.

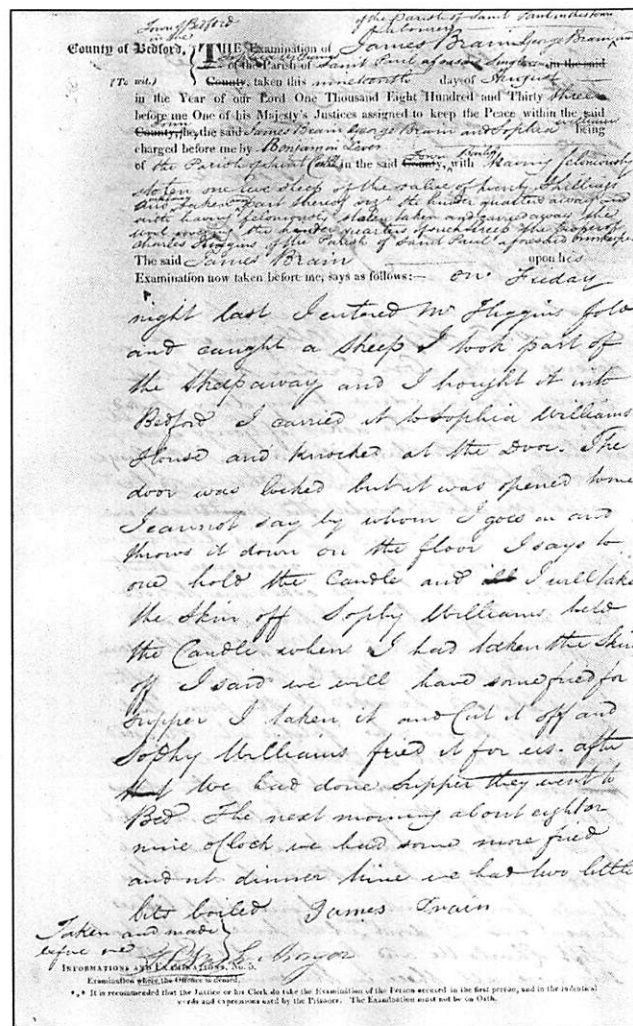
Quarter Sessions records were also useful in finding a fellow I was searching for who seemed to disappear and reappear in different states or jurisdictions. They showed he was wanted for

gambling debts but skipped town before the court could collect on behalf of the plaintiff.

When looking for your ancestors' records in certain jurisdictions, don't overlook the records of the Quarter Sessions. ###

Editor's Reference:

Gibson, J. S. W., E. Churchill, T. Foster, R. E. B. Ratcliffe. (2008). *Quarter sessions records for family historians: A select list* (5th ed.). The Family History Partnership: Bury, UK.



Example of the Quarter Session Rolls for the Borough of Bedford, 1816-1836: Examination of James Brain, after he, George Brain and Sophia Williams, all were accused, in 1833, of stealing "one live sheep of the value of twenty shillings"
Source: downloaded by the Editor, February 3, 2012 from Victorian Crime & Punishment website - <http://vcp.e2bn.org/>

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By Irene Oickle

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The Alberta Family Histories 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, bequests and corporate sponsorship. To make a donation, arrange a bequest or become a sponsor, contact the Society at the above address, phone number or email a Board member. See www.afhs.ab.ca/aboutus/contacts.shtml

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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

- 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 objectives 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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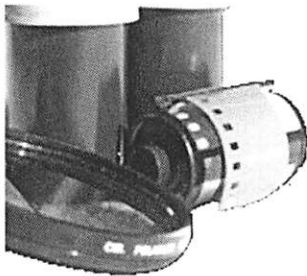


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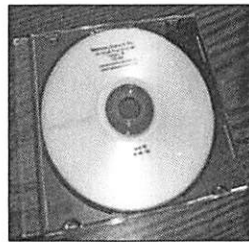
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