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# Chinook

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Alberta Family Histories Society



Cover photo from *How to Archive Family Keepsakes* (See page 5.)

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## ALBERTA FAMILY HISTORIES SOCIETY

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### CONTACT INFORMATION

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## EDITOR'S OBSERVATIONS by Wayne Shephard



An important part of good genealogical work is getting your research and information organized. In this issue several authors talk about how to do it right, and wrong.

If you have items of sentimental or historical value, you will be interested in what Denise May Levenick has to say about family keepsakes. If you cannot demonstrate where your information came from, you need to heed Elizabeth Lapointe's advice about sources and citations. And if you have strayed down that path of not properly recording your information sources, you might be considering starting over. Michele Simmons Lewis addresses that subject.

Donald Hawkins has edited a new book on *Personal Digital Archiving*. He summarizes here some ideas on what needs to be considered not only to preserve memories and stories but also to address all of those increasingly voluminous electronic records that are becoming a normal part of life.

Jim Benedict talks about defining the goals of your research and, perhaps, insuring that future generations get to see your results.

Lois Sparling and Marion Peterson offer comments on both paper and computer filing systems. Kim Mills works a lot with digital files, as do many genealogists these days. She describes some techniques she uses to keep her computer files in order.

If you need help with any part of your research or organization, do as Kay Clarke says and contact the AFHS Education Committee.

The upshot is that it does not matter what kind of system you use to store your information but it is vitally important that you have one, and that you also back up your information!

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## AFHS EDUCATION COMMITTEE by Kay Clarke

Genealogy and family history research have been evolving over the years I have been researching. It has changed from paper-based to electronic systems. Articles in this issue will give you lots of information on how to organize your information so that you are able to find material without saying to yourself, "Where the heck did I put that?"

The Education Committee of the AFHS can also help with organization. The committee was formed to deliver specific courses to the membership and the general public that would further knowledge of methods and resources for research. Our courses and presentations have been designed to help anyone interested in family history research get started.

The committee has had a decrease in members available to give courses in the past year. Mertie Beattie, Sheila Johnston, Rosemary Kry and Bev Smith are currently active participants. Other members of the Society have contributed as guest speakers in their areas of expertise.

Two Education Committee members, Diane Granger and Kay Clarke, wrote a basic workbook called *Beginning Your Family History* to assist people just getting started in family history research. The entire workbook can be accessed online at the AFHS website (<http://afhs.ab.ca/aids/starting>). This is a very basic plan and has charts you can download free. It is also useful for more experienced genealogists who want a refresher course in doing research and keeping records.

The committee recently gave a very successful members-only class to 19 participants, six of whom were brand new to our society. There are plans to offer more members-only courses in the coming year.

The AFHS partnered with the High River Public Library to offer an introductory genealogy class that was very successful. Because of the flood,

however, a planned follow-up class has been postponed until the spring of 2014.

The committee is also considering courses for a Fifty Plus genealogy class at the University of Calgary in the spring of 2014, and more classes for groups outside the AFHS.

The Education Committee also partners with the AFHS Public Relations Committee. They contact groups wanting to find out a little bit about the AFHS and we endeavour to present material that fulfills this need. A recent program of this nature was given at Garrison Green and was warmly received. Emphasis in this presentation was on writing personal histories.

The committee welcomes invitations from groups wanting to learn basic genealogy skills.



*Kay Clarke and her husband, Glen, live near Calgary in a heritage home built by her grandfather in 1912. She has been interested in family history from the time, as a child, she heard her grandmother tell family stories. After retiring as a teacher in 1996,*

*she decided that the Education Committee was a place where she could help AFHS. Kay is a member of the Board of Directors of the AFHS and served as its President from 2009 to 2011. She is now the chair of the Education Committee. ###*

### ELECTRONIC DELIVERY OF CHINOOK

AFHS offers the option of electronic delivery of *Chinook* to those members who wish to receive the journal in that manner. You may elect to receive *Chinook* by email instead of, or in addition to, a paper copy.

To choose electronic delivery please email the *Chinook* Editor at [editor-chinook@afhs.ab.ca](mailto:editor-chinook@afhs.ab.ca) and let us know your preference.

## PERIODICALS PLACE: *CHINOOK AND THE BREEZE*

Access to *Chinook* and *The Breeze* is included in AFHS membership. To find information about the two publications, consult the Society's website ([www.afhs.ab.ca](http://www.afhs.ab.ca)). Click on Genealogical Resources found at the top of the page. Then find Periodicals: *Chinook* and *The Breeze*.

*Chinook* is the quarterly journal of the AFHS which features articles, ideas and news pertaining to family history research. It is delivered to members in October, January, April and July. The publication is also exchanged for journals of other genealogical societies around the world all of which may be consulted in the AFHS Library (see page 25). To find more information, submit an article for publication, place a surname connection or order a copy of a back issue, consult the AFHS website.

(<http://afhs.ab.ca/publications/index.shtml>)

*The Breeze* is a newsletter distributed at the monthly meetings. It is also available at the AFHS Library and online. There are ten issues per year that contain announcements of AFHS activities, reports from committees and Special Interest Groups, a meetings calendar and other news items from around Calgary. To submit a notice to the newsletter, consult the AFHS website.

(<http://afhs.ab.ca/publications/breeze.shtml>) ###

## AFHS GENERAL MEETINGS

**Location: River Park Church**  
3818 – 14A Street SW, Calgary

General meetings are held the first Monday of every month from September to June, unless they fall on a statutory holiday, in which case the meeting would be moved to the following week.

The Program Committee would like to receive suggestions from members about topics, speakers, format and other matters. Contact the committee with any ideas you may have.

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

## CALL FOR ARTICLES: A Genealogy Potpourri

Our lineup for the next three issues:

- **April 2014** (deadline February 1, 2014)  
*A Genealogy Potpourri*: Articles will be presented on a variety of subjects. We invite you to submit papers about any subject of genealogical interest. You may choose to tell us about specific ancestors, methods and techniques used in your research or valuable genealogical resources you have found. Start planning now to put together that unique story or lesson learned that you have been meaning to write about. The scope is unlimited!
- **July 2014** (deadline May 1, 2014)  
*The Battlefields*: This month and year mark the 100th anniversary of the start of the Great War – July 29, 1914. It was a period when Canada, for the first time, fought as a distinct force, under Canadian commanders, alongside other world powers. Do you have ancestors who were part of this conflict? Or who participated in other battles in previous or later wars? We will use this issue to highlight the records and accomplishments of soldiers past and present, no matter where they came from.
- **October 2014** (deadline August 1, 2014)  
*They Came to Alberta*: Our ancestors arrived in Alberta from places scattered around the globe. They came seeking new opportunities and a chance for a prosperous future often denied them in their country of origin. Some came for land, offered to new settlers by a government intent on developing Western Canada. Others brought their skills and services as tradesmen or professionals, much in demand by a growing population. Still others were escaping personal conflict or war in their native lands. Immigration to Alberta was late relative to most parts of North America, although part of a major series of events in the history of our country. How did your ancestors come to live in Alberta? And why did they pick this part of the world to find a new life for themselves and their families?

###



## CARING FOR FAMILY KEEPSAKES: TEN TIPS TO HELP YOU PRESERVE THE PAST by Denise May Levenick

Are you the designated keeper of your family's treasures? Did you inherit photographs, old letters and assorted artifacts? Are you setting aside your own treasures as heirlooms for future generations?

For many of us, family history is more than copies made from microfilm or records downloaded from the internet. The stories and memories that make up our personal family history often begin with the photos, documents and memorabilia passed on from generation to generation. Caring for family treasures can be a blessing or a burden, but it doesn't have to be a full-time job.

When I inherited my Grandmother Arline's old trunk filled with her family history, I had no idea it would be the first of many collections to come into my care. My first instinct was to sort and then store everything, but I learned that was not always the best way to work with a family archive. Organizing too soon can be as disastrous as poor storage.

I was fortunate that the undisturbed contents of Arline's trunk had survived four decades of poor storage and temperature fluctuations from near freezing to triple digit highs. The trunk must have been closed on a warm dry day because the contents showed no signs of mold or mildew. Thankfully, the sturdy container also deterred bugs and other pests.

I researched best practices for preserving and digitizing family collections, turning to the experts at museums and archives for advice, and applied professional practices to my home situation. I learned what worked and what didn't work and the information I collected grew into postings on my website, *the Family Curator* ([www.theFamilyCurator.com](http://www.theFamilyCurator.com)), and material for my book, *How to Archive Family Keepsakes* (Levenick, 2012).

You may have boxes filled with treasures, or you

may be helping a parent or relative to downsize their possessions. You may even want help make your own family archive more accessible for your children and grandchildren. However large or small your family history inheritance, I hope the tips and techniques listed here and in *How to Archive Family Keepsakes* will help you to start organizing and preserving your family archive for future generations.

### 1. Use Archival Boxes

If you are the fortunate recipient of a family legacy, it may not be possible to organize and store an entire family collection immediately. Before pushing assorted boxes and bags to the rear of your closet or garage, move everything into large archival boxes and store it until you are ready to work with the collection.

Purchase large, archival quality, bankers boxes as temporary storage for your keepsakes. Place any obviously important genealogical records, photos, letters, and documents inside, removing visible items that might cause further damage such as food or metal. If you run out of boxes or time, and need to empty drawers and boxes from a home quickly, place items in empty suitcases until you can sort them and move them into archival storage boxes.

Reputable archival suppliers such as the following offer assorted containers used by museums and libraries worldwide. Look for acid-free, lignin-free products.

- Brodart ([www.brodart.ca](http://www.brodart.ca)),
- Gaylord ([www.gaylord.com](http://www.gaylord.com)), and
- Hollinger Metal Edge ([www.hollingermetaledge.com](http://www.hollingermetaledge.com))

### 2. Select the Best Storage Location

Look for a storage place that has stable temperature and humidity and is free of pests, smoke and pollution. A location inside your home is usually the best option. Closets located on interior walls or cupboards and cabinets with tight-fitting doors are good locations.

Avoid unheated basements, attics, garages and sheds or any location with extreme temperature and humidity fluctuations. Keep your treasures off the floor and away from plumbing or heat sources.

### **3. Be Informed**

When you're ready to work with your inheritance, invest time in learning how to organize documents, photographs and memorabilia and purchase archival quality storage supplies for your collection. *How to Archive Family Keepsakes* offers step-by-step advice on how to organize, preserve, and share family heirlooms.

Websites of the United States National Archives and local museums and historical societies often offer helpful advice for family historians.

### **4. Do No Harm**

Think twice, if not three times, before attempting any conservation acts involving irreplaceable family artifacts. Do *not* use tape, regular glue or staples on family history materials. Seek professional guidance for restoration or repair.

### **5. Maintain Original Order**

Those piles of papers and photos may seem completely disorganized, but, in reality, there is no such thing as random order. People categorize their things in many ways; your archive may be more organized than you realize. Any groupings at all can provide clues to unmarked or seemingly unimportant items.

### **6. Keep, Skim or Throw Away**

Follow a 1-2-3 process as you remove things from the box:

1. Keep
2. Give to a relative, donate or sell
3. Toss

Watch for anything that documents vital record information, such as birth, marriage or death records, hints at unknown family members or

fills in the blanks for mystery years or family secrets.

### **7. Preserve Heirloom Originals**

You may be wondering how your heirloom documents fit within a genealogy file system, and the answer is, "They don't." Please don't keep your precious family papers mixed in with computer printouts and research logs. Instead, place a photocopy of the original document in your files and store the heirloom original in appropriate archival containers.

### **8. Inventory Your Archive**

Maintain a catalog of your archive in a spreadsheet or simple table to help you access individual items for future research. Download a free copy of the Family Archive Catalog form from *How to Archive Family Keepsakes*. See special offer for *Chinook* readers.

([www.theFamilyCurator.com/Chinook](http://www.theFamilyCurator.com/Chinook))

### **9. Digitize for Preservation**

Using your scanner or digital camera, create a digital master copy as a safeguard against damage or loss. Museums and archives recommend using TIFF format when archiving historic documents because it is a *loss-less* format that does not compress files. If you can't use TIFF, store one untouched JPEG file as your archive document, and use a copy for editing, saving, and resizing. Never touch your archived JPEG.

### **10. Backup Backup Backup**

Now that you have backed up your original keepsakes with digital copies, take time to make a backup of those digital files. Remember Lots Of Copies Keeps Stuff Safe (LOCKSS). Backup to a second medium – DVD, external hard drive, flash drive, online service – and keep your digital files healthy by migrating to new media when old formats become obsolete.

Family archives like Grandmother Arline's are resting in garages, sheds, trunks, suitcases and cardboard boxes, in houses in your town and



your neighborhood. Someone in your family might even own a trunk like hers.

Inheriting a family archive can be a big responsibility. Along with the heirloom jewelry, china, old letters and documents, our ancestors' faces look back at us from faded photographs, sometimes seeming to say, "Don't forget me!" How you choose to care for your family archive will depend on your personal situation, your lifestyle, and your own plans for the future. We're fortunate to live in a time when technology offers alternatives to losing an old letter or fading photograph. With care and foresight we can be good stewards of our family legacy and make new memories for our own descendants.

If your family treasures become a burden, give yourself permission to ask for help from other family members and consider donating items to a local historical society or other repository. Remember that you too, may be an ancestor one day; take time to document your own life and make memories for the next generation.

#### Reference:

Levenick, D. M. (2012). *How to Archive Family Keepsakes: Learn How to Preserve Family Photos, Memorabilia & Genealogy Records*. Cincinnati, OH: Family Tree Books.

Available from – [www.shopFamilyTree.com](http://www.shopFamilyTree.com) and [www.Amazon.com](http://www.Amazon.com)



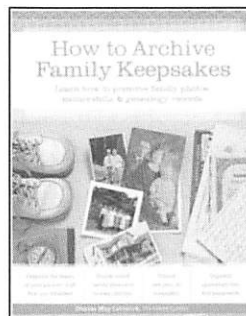
*In every family, someone ends up with "the stuff!" Denise May Levenick is a writer, researcher, and speaker with a passion for preserving and sharing family treasures of all kinds. She is the creator of the award-winning family history blog, The Family Curator ([www.TheFamilyCurator.com](http://www.TheFamilyCurator.com)). Denise lives in Pasadena, California. ###*

**Keep some souvenirs of your past, or how will you ever prove it wasn't all a dream?**

~ Ashley Brilliant, author & cartoonist

## BOOK REVIEW: HOW TO ARCHIVE FAMILY KEEPSAKES by Ann Williams

Levenick, D. M. (2012). *How to Archive Family Keepsakes: Learn How to Preserve Family Photos, Memorabilia & Genealogy Records*. Cincinnati, OH: Family Tree Books.



A book – well, a bible, really – on the preservation and organization of family papers and memorabilia!

The author inherited her grandmother's trunk containing "an entire life." Wisely, before disturbing the material, she learned as much as she could about all aspects of professional archiving. This book was written to pass on what she learned from her research and from the subsequent process of organizing her grandmother's material.

Some of the book's chapter headings are: Organize Your Objectives, Organize Your Plan, Organize Archival Photos, Organize Artifacts, Organize and Digitize Your Paper Documents and Organize and Discover Research Connections Online.

The suggestions and checklists, interspersed with anecdotes from the author's experiences, make the book very helpful and readable.

Watch for this book to appear on the shelves of the AFHS library.



*Ann Williams is a long-time member of the AFHS, currently editor of the society's newsletter, The Breeze, and co-ordinator of the English/Welsh SIG. Ann is a member of the Guild of One-Name Studies, the Sussex Family History Group and the Chwyd Family History Society. ###*

# SOURCES AND CITATIONS IN GENEALOGY: WHAT ARE THEY?

## by Elizabeth Lapointe

Every day, it seems, someone, somewhere, is given a genealogy that has been found among the papers of their grandfather's estate, for example. Although the information may be correct and complete in every way, if there are no citations to check the sources, of what value is the genealogy? The person who was handed the genealogy will eventually be able to check the family history, but it will take time and probably cause a lot of frustration. And in fact it may never be checked and corrected, because, who among us wants to spend the time and effort checking each entry to see if it is true?

For instance, in 1993 three one-page genealogies concerning my ancestor, Andrew Barclay (1732-1823), done by unknown people on unknown dates, were given to me by the local archives in response to my query for anything about him. This was an important genealogy for me, for he was a United Empire Loyalist, a member of the Port Roseway Associated Loyalists. He had left New York City in the spring of 1783 and, along with 15 other men, plus their families and "servants", had built the town of Shelburne, Nova Scotia, from nothing to a town of 10,000.

The first thing I noticed about the genealogies was the precise dates used, especially for deaths, but not one of the dates was cited with the appropriate source. My first task was to find the sources for the genealogies. Why would these people put down the exact dates, but then not say where they came from? How would I be expected to know?

I started to look in books and archives, and on the Internet, because I was convinced that these dates were somewhere. I eventually found most of them in newspapers. There is one date, however, that I have never found anywhere – that of the death of the grandson of Andrew, who died in the Dominican Republic in 1865. It was clearly based on the other information in the genealogy that indicated there had been a newspaper entry, but I have never been able to

discover where it was. One day, after working on the genealogy for ten years, I came across a diary kept by Andrew Barclay's daughter, Annie Louise Barclay Haley, in which she said that he died on September 4, 1865, from yellow fever, on a ship in San Domingo, West Indies (Creswell, 2006). This was a far different story than one I had heard that said he was murdered by shipmates during a mutiny!

It is exactly this scenario which leads to the classic question, "Where are the citations which would allow me to find this information?"

### Family History Standards

Over the years, there has been a steadily increasing sense that genealogy has moved beyond a series of dates and places, to a more complete story of what happened to a family over the generations. It has developed like a younger sibling of the practice of law, inasmuch as it has drawn extensively on the judicial system, not unlike a trial in which the two sides present their evidence for a judge or jury to decide the reliability of their evidence to the best of their ability.

In genealogy, we gather our evidence (information) from various sources, but we must avoid falsehoods. Genealogy, in its truest form, accepts no errors. Just think of it in this way: a single error in kinship (such as a son assigned to a set of incorrect parents), can sidetrack a genealogy for generations.

If we come across a situation in which we believe there is not sufficient evidence to prove a hypothesis as true or false – this being the basis of all research – then we should delay our decision. And if we come to an incorrect conclusion, in the future we will have to retrace our steps, see where we have gone wrong and rewrite the genealogy.

Genealogy is turning towards demanding precise



standards and hard facts, more like that required for the study of natural sciences – biology, chemistry – rather than opinions and theories used in so-called “soft” sciences – sociology or social history. This is because genealogy focuses on individuals, not society as a whole. The correct identity of an individual is basic to all genealogy. As genealogists, we must strive for genealogical proof of each statement we make in our family history. For example, how often have we run across fathers, sons and grandsons all having the same given names, or found contradictory or erroneous dates of birth as expressed in land records, tax records or census records?

George C. Morgan and Drew Smith, in their latest book, *Advanced Genealogy Research Techniques* (Morgan Smith, 2013), express the opinions that we, as genealogists, must see the details “as extremely important and that ignoring the details can result in serious problems later.” They give many examples, such as census returns, where you might have noted the year when the census was taken and assigned someone's year of birth accordingly. In Canadian terms, have you taken into account that the 1851 census was actually taken in 1852 in Ontario? If you are researching a person's age by using the census record, you have to ask yourself if the age of their next birthday is based on the year 1852 or 1853 for that particular census record. It is assumed that the enumerator put down the age as it would have appeared if the census had been taken in 1852, as it was supposed to have been. But I would put this notice in my genealogy notes, in case it turns out later not to be accurate.

One must always strive to adhere to a standard of proof in genealogy. In the late 1990s, the Board of Certification in Utah developed a standard of proof that included the use of reasonably exhaustive research methods. You must have complete and accurate evidence for your assertions, analyse the research correctly, resolve any conflicts that you discover, and write a statement, list or narrative to support the results of your research. In other words, you must find the answer to a specific research question, for

example, “Who were the parents of James Barclay (b. 1783 – d. 1871) of Shelburne, Nova Scotia?” instead of trying to answer a question like Who were the eight children of AB and MBB? In the latter instance, you have to hope that James was one of the children. If you turn the question around, and ask it from the point of view of the child, the research will be easier.

### **What is a Source?**

There is a saying in genealogy research, “Cite your sources!”

As we gather information for our genealogy proof, we need to make an assessment of the knowledge that is already out there in the archives, on databases, in local libraries, etc. Is it reliable? How do we judge its reliability?

There are two questions we need to ask ourselves about the information:

1. Exactly where does this piece of information come from?
2. What are the strengths and weaknesses of this information?

Genealogists are researchers of history, but not in terms that are easily understood by the general public. Whereas the history we studied in school was a public record, the history that we study when doing our families' genealogy is a mixture of private personal history (usually of interest only to the family being studied) and public history, which can be known by everyone. As researchers of people or historical events, we do not speculate, we do not assume, we do not make statements without having them proven to be factual and we use sources and their citations to provide the basis of genealogical proof.

A source is defined as a book, document or record – census, birth, marriage and death – from which information is gleaned. It can be either original or a derivative, depending on their physical characteristics. Sources may show equally plausible information, but can also all be wrong.

Original sources are in the *first* form, as either a written or an oral record; so a written or oral statement about an event personally witnessed by an informant would be an original source. The date of marriage stated by the bride or groom, or the birth date stated by the mother of a child, would be examples of an original record. These informants would have had first-hand knowledge about the events.

A derivative source would be a *copy* of an original record. An example of this would be an abstract of an original record, a database such as those found online at Ancestry, even though it may be based on an original source, or a family history. The locator information on the Ancestry website has been put there by an indexer. For example, even though the birth year is not mentioned in the 1852 Census in Canada West (Ontario), the indexer has put Estimated Birth Year such as, “about 1808” based upon the respondent’s age.

Original sources carry more weight than derivative sources, although derivative sources may be considered original sources if they are copied, like a clerk’s copy, which were official records before the advent of photocopies and computers, although they might also be shown to contain errors.

The idea of sources was best explained by J. Fonkert, CG (Fonkert, 2013) in a webinar called *Official, but Wrong: Testing the Validity of Genealogical Information in Official Records*. He said that we should think of sources as being a “transport vehicle” in which are contained several types of information, or records.

### What are Citations?

When you write a citation, you are identifying or describing your source, or sources. Citations are used to support genealogical proof statements, that is, to construct a genealogy that has been proven. They tell your readers exactly what your sources are, and they are an excellent indicator of the reliability of the information that they reference.

In his recent book, *Mastering Genealogical Proof*, Dr. Thomas Jones discusses the most basic principles of genealogical proof and shows that a large part of it is correctly citing the various sources in a textbook layout (Jones, 2013). He says that there are five questions that a citation should answer:

1. **Who?** The first part of a citation must identify the author, creator or informant of the information or record found within the source.
2. **What?** The second part of a citation is the title of a source. The titles of books, journals and websites are italicized
3. **When?** The date of publication must be included in the citation. A journal or magazine requires the exact date of issue, and a website requires the exact date that we accessed the material. If the date is not given on the document, the likely date of publication can be estimated or the abbreviation “n.d.”, which means *no date*, can be used.
4. **Where in the source?** For published works the number of the volume and page should be provided. For unpublished works the subject of interest should be identified. If a folio or untitled material is used, the word “unpaginated” can be put in the source description.
5. **Where is the source?** Some unpublished sources, such as family sheets within a library, will not have a location like published works. A statement may have to be added describing the repository where the information can be found.

### Further Reading

There are a number of excellent books and handouts which have come on the market since the year 2000.

For Canadians, an extremely good book is Brenda Dougall Merriman’s *Genealogical Standards of Evidence: A Guide for Family Historians*. Ms. Merriman is a Canadian genealogist who has been practising genealogy for many years. Each of the four chapters in the



book starts with a question and then supplies the answer. In the middle of the book is a Checklist of Genealogical Sources, a great resource in its own right. This book is available through the e-Store of the Ontario Genealogical Society.

[http://ogs.on.ca/ogscart/index.php?main\\_page=product\\_info&products\\_id=3](http://ogs.on.ca/ogscart/index.php?main_page=product_info&products_id=3)

To go along with Ms. Merriman's book, one should also get a copy of Alison Hare's *Citations for Canadians*, a great four-page handout which exemplifies the correct way to write citations. You can download it from the Internet. <http://www.ocapg.org/CitationsforCanadians.pdf>

For the more practised genealogist, you will find Elizabeth Shown Mills' book, *Evidence Explained: Citing History Sources from Artifacts to Cyberspace*, to be most helpful. The publication is a classic textbook on how to write correct citations for every conceivable situation. To find out more, go to her website. She has a forum there, and is quite active on it. She will often answers questions directly.

<https://www.evidenceexplained.com>

These days, family history is more than a few notes jotted down on a piece of paper. It has grown into a research project subject to a set of rules that will lead to the best possible results.

The next time someone says to you, "Did you cite your sources?" hopefully you can answer "Yes, I did!" You can be sure that your genealogy is based on information that has been correctly gathered and cited, and that it will withstand scrutiny and the test of time.

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Morgan, G. C. D. Smith. (2013). *Advanced Genealogy Research Techniques*. New York, NY: McGraw-Hill Education.



**Elizabeth Lapointe** is a Canadian professional genealogist and a member of the Association of Professional Genealogists. She is also the editor of *Families*, the journal of the Ontario Genealogical Society. You may visit her blog, *GenealogyCanada*, for the latest in Canadian genealogy news.

<http://www.GenealogyCanada.blogspot.com> ###

### SURNAME CONNECTIONS

Stuck in your search for a person, couple or family? Share your dead end in *Chinook* and maybe find a connection to those who can help.

Members are allowed two free surname questions per publication year (by volume number). Additional surname questions and non-member requests are \$5.00. Submit the surnames in your dead end and give additional information, such as place and date range.

Format/content at:

<http://afhs.ab.ca/publications/docs/HowtoWriteEffectiveSurnameConnection.pdf>

Email surnames to: [chinook@afhs.ab.ca](mailto:chinook@afhs.ab.ca) ###

## STARTING OVER

by Michele Simmons Lewis

When you look back on the research that you did when you first started out, what do you see? If you are like most genealogists, you see research that is just not that good. Your sources are iffy and your logic is flawed. Maybe it is time to revisit that prior research. There is a huge advantage to going back over it again. You have more knowledge and experience; so you will be able to look at your evidence more critically and do a better analysis. Not only will you find the mistakes that you made, but you may also see things you didn't see before, and there is a good chance that some of your brick walls will come crashing down. Going back and correcting earlier research is a daunting task, but if you break it down into steps it will be easier and quicker than you expect.

1. Using your genealogical database program, export your direct line and the siblings of your direct line to a new file. Exporting only your direct line ancestors will limit the number of people you will be working with so that you do not get overwhelmed. Once you have your direct line under control you can then start adding in the collateral lines. If you don't use a genealogy database program, this might be a good time to start.
2. Do not export your sources. This will force you to reevaluate every source that you used. You will also be able to format your source citations correctly this time around. So how will you know what sources you used? You still have your old file as a reference. Consult your program's help file to see how you can display two files at the same time to make it easier. More information about sources appears further down on this list.
3. If your program has tagging capabilities, tag each person after you finish revising. This will help you keep tabs on your progress. Give yourself a treat whenever you finish a certain number of people. Chocolate always works for me!
4. Start with yourself, your spouse and your children; then work your way backwards in time. Isn't this the way you are supposed to do research anyway? Pull out all of the documents you have on the person you are working with. Maybe you missed some important information the first time you analyzed them. This might be a good time to reevaluate the filing system you use for your paper documents and the scanned documents on your hard drive. There are many systems out there. Google is your friend! Use whichever one makes sense to you. Read the document and extract the information. If it is a handwritten document, you might want to go ahead and transcribe it while you have it out.
5. Speaking of documents, this is the digital age. You need to get all of your paper files scanned into the computer so that it will be easier for you to share data with other researchers. The only paper copies of documents I keep are true originals or copies that I received from courthouses or repositories that I cannot get online. If the document is available online then I just save it to my computer. This approach cuts down on paper clutter tremendously.
6. As you evaluate each fact about an event, date or place, add a source to go with it. You can now format the source correctly using a style guide such as *Evidence Explained* by Elizabeth Shown Mills (Mills, 2009) or the templates in your database program which are most likely based on *Evidence Explained*. If you do not have a source recorded in your old file then stop right there and do the research you need to find it. Do not go on to the next fact until you have that taken care of that one.

If you have a not-so-good source recorded, for example, a birth date you copied out of someone else's online tree, you need to remove the date and put in an estimate based on the evidence you do have. You can put



that exact date in your Notes section, something like this, “*I found John Doe’s birthdate of 01 Jan 1860 in an unknown online tree several years ago but there was no source attached.*” Why would I do that? The person who posted the date may have gotten it from a legitimate source but failed to record the source. I want to use the date as a possible clue. I do not want to record it in the birth field but I do want to put it in my notes.

Sometimes you will need to estimate dates because you have no direct evidence. For example, let’s say you have John and Mary Doe in the 1880 census. Their oldest known child is listed as being five years old. You can put in a marriage date of “about 1874” even though you do not have a marriage record – yet! You need to add this as a task on your to-do list or research calendar. You can make some educated guesses on where they might have married and then search in those places. Hopefully, you will be able to come back and record that John Doe and Mary Jones married on November 30, 1873, in Columbia County, Georgia, because you now have a copy of their marriage certificate from *Marriage Book EE*, page 215. If you cannot find a marriage record for them, at least you will have a written record of all of the places you checked and, in that case, your estimate may be your best information.

7. Not only do you need to reevaluate the documents that you have already collected, you also need to determine if there are any other record sets that you have missed. Have you followed your ancestor through all of the possible census records that were created during his lifetime? What about any birth, marriage and death records? How about things like military, deed/land, probate and burial records? Newspapers? Church records? The more information you can collect from different types of records, the more complete the picture you will have of your ancestor.

8. If your sources include indexes, now is the time to order copies of the original records. Your genealogy database program should have some sort of built-in to-do list or research log that will help you keep track of all of this. Indexes are not a source but rather an aid to finding an original record.

As you are working on your direct line, you will not be able to help adding a few collateral people along the way, and that is perfectly okay. You will be adding them correctly; so tag them and eat another piece of chocolate. You will get a lot of this information if you are working with things like obituaries. I tend to go off on tangents anyway. As long as you are adding the new people the right way, there is no problem.

When you have your direct line ancestors and their siblings under control, you can add the spouses of the siblings and their children, and eventually all of the collateral lines you have collected. Once you get to this point you will have an impressive family tree. It will take some time to do all of this work but it is well worth the effort. You can do more effective research when your data is organized and correct. Your work will be more professional and you will be proud to share it with others.

#### Reference:

Mills, E. S. (2nd Ed.). (2009). *Evidence Explained: Citing History Sources from Artifacts to Cyberspace*. Baltimore, MD: Genealogical Pub Co. Inc.



*With over 20 years of experience, the passion of Michele Simmons Lewis is helping new genealogists get started on the right foot through her writings and classes. She is the former staff genealogist and weekly columnist for the McDuffie Mirror and now authors two blogs, Ancestoring’s Ask a Genealogist <http://ancestoring.blogspot.ca/> and Ancestoring’s Orphan Photos. <http://forensicphotos.blogspot.ca/> Michele also does private client research specializing in formulating research plans for genealogical “brick walls” in the southern United States. ###*

# PERSONAL DIGITAL ARCHIVING FOR INDIVIDUALS, FAMILIES AND INFORMATION PROFESSIONALS: ISSUES TO CONSIDER

by Donald T. Hawkins

Interest in Personal Digital Archiving (PDA) – preserving the digital heritage of organizations or individuals – has grown rapidly in recent years. In this article, I focus on some of the issues that individuals should consider when embarking upon a PDA project. Because of space limitations, I can only touch on this subject briefly here; for more extensive discussions, consult my recently published book, *Personal Archiving: Preserving Our Digital Heritage* (Hawkins, 2013), which describes applications related to individuals as well as those relevant to commercial and academic organizations.

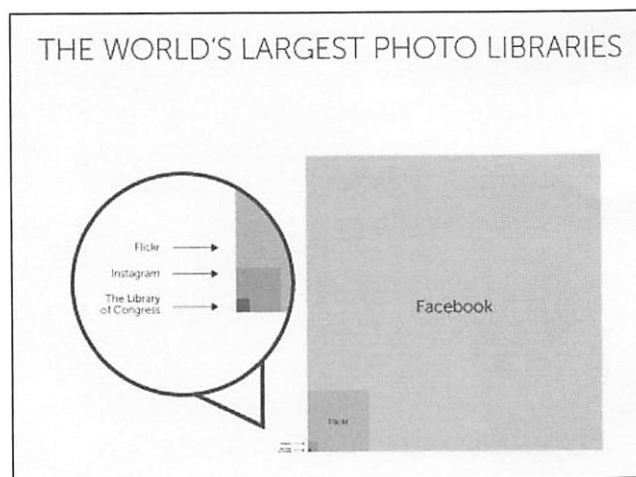
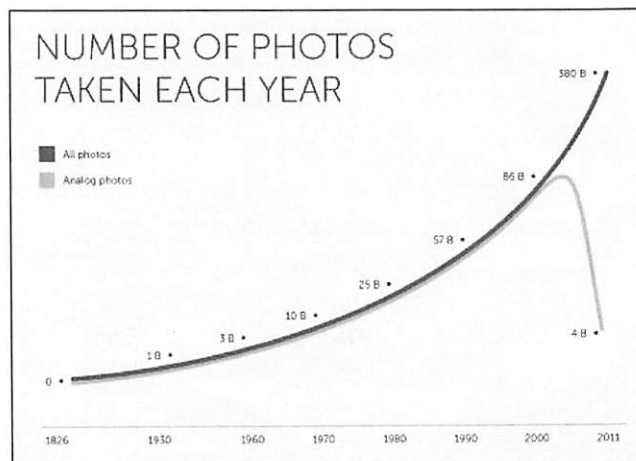
## PDA and Genealogy

Readers of *Chinook* may be thinking, "But isn't PDA just genealogy clothed in another name?" Although PDA is related to genealogy, it has a much wider scope. PDA includes archiving records of our interactions with others through email or social media systems; the myriad of photos we take on our digital cameras, especially those in cell phones; records of purchases, health and financial data; and more; so the answer to the question above is a resounding "No!" It is important to note in this context that these issues are the result of a massive shift from physical to digital objects and the resulting impact that technology has had on society.

## Growth of PDA

Perhaps the single biggest driver of the rapid growth of interest in PDA is the proliferation of mobile phones and their integrated cameras. The growth in consumer photography is remarkable. According to a blog by Jonathan Good, one of the founders of the *1000memories* service (now owned by Ancestry) more than 3.5 trillion photos have been taken in the last 200 years. Moreover, there are now four times as many photos taken each year than was the case just 10 years ago. Every two minutes, people take as many photos as the *entire world* took in the 1800s. The largest collection of photos is on Facebook, which hosts

140 billion of them. The figures below, taken from the *1000memories* blog, portray these data graphically.



Source of diagrams: *1000memories* blog, downloaded November 5, 2013, from <http://blog.1000memories.com/94-number-of-photos-ever-taken-digital-and-analog-in-shoebox>

Other reasons for the growth of interest in PDA include the democratizing of access to data, the desire to leave a legacy and simply because the technology has made personal archiving easy.

## Digital Media Challenges

People need help in digitizing, organizing and storing their data. One might think that the local library might be a place to turn for help, but many librarians are not yet skilled in PDA

techniques. The United States Library of Congress (LC) has stepped up and has begun to develop programs to help educate the public about digital preservation. In 2000, the LC founded the National Digital Infrastructure and Preservation Program. It holds Personal Archiving Days and Digital Preservation Weeks, which are aimed at raising awareness of methods for digital preservation and also of the fact that storing digital media is not like storing physical media such as books. Digital media have a limited and finite lifetime and are subject to degradation over time. LC's websites contain a wealth of useful advice and information on the treatment of such media.

(<http://www.digitalpreservation.gov>)

### **Legal Issues**

Legal issues of PDA must be considered, particularly in the area of inheritance. Laws and procedures for the treatment of physical materials are well known and have existed for many years. But little consideration has been given to digital materials. The treatment of one's email messages and social media postings differs widely from system to system. Emails and social media materials are stored on systems not owned by their creators, and many people have multiple accounts, some of which they may have forgotten about over time.

Although the host systems provide good archiving capabilities, they differ significantly in the way they treat user accounts when the owners are no longer living. Even if an heir knows the location of the accounts, as may be doubtful, access is not assured. Google provides access to an account on receipt of a formal request; Microsoft will provide access to family members for a limited time; Facebook will convert an account to a memorial to the creator but will not provide access to heirs; and Yahoo! will not allow any access at all, even in the event of the owner's death. It is therefore important that owners of such accounts compile a list of their accounts along with the user IDs and passwords and leave it so that their heirs or executors can gain access to those accounts.

Governments are beginning to be aware of this problem, but only a few of them have enacted laws to help. Moreover, many lawyers, although familiar with inheritance laws and practices governing executors of physical estates, know little or nothing about handling digital materials. Evan Carroll, co-author of the book *Your Digital Afterlife* (Carroll Romano, 2010) and blogger on *The Digital Beyond* (both of which are excellent resources in this area) has suggested that personal archivists appoint a digital executor who is knowledgeable about digital materials, and include language in their wills defining the duties of such a person.

### **Software for PDA**

Specialized software systems for PDA are beginning to emerge. Not surprisingly, most of them focus on photo archiving. Organization of photos and access to them after digitization are significant capabilities of these services, but many non-archival systems provide the same features. To be considered photo archiving software, a system must provide long-term storage and retrieval capability. Among the leaders in this area are Lifemap, Timebox and Recollect. Note-taking systems, the market leader of which is Evernote, also promise to archive users' data indefinitely. It is not possible to review these systems in detail in this brief article, but a Google search on personal archiving software will provide links to many of these systems. I also review a number of them in Chapter 4 of *Personal Archiving*.

### **Email Archiving**

The widespread use of email and the voluminous collections of email messages on users' computers have made email a special type of material worth archiving. Some of the reasons are:

- to preserve a record
- to recapture a memory
- to provide proof that something occurred
- to be able to subsequently analyze the messages for patterns
- to leave a legacy



Emails not only provide insight into the author's everyday life, but they can also give an insight into one's emotions, thoughts and reactions to life's events. Email collections of famous people can be valuable. For example, the British Library recently paid 32,000 (about \$54,000) for the emails of a prominent poet.

One may think that email providers archive users' messages and, indeed, some do. But disasters happen! For example, Google lost about 40,000 accounts in February 2011 because of a software bug. Fortunately, they were eventually restored. A search on personal email loss will retrieve other horror stories. Thus, email archiving systems are appearing on the market. One of the more interesting research projects on analyzing and archiving email is being conducted at Stanford University. Its MUSE (Memories USING Email) system provides advanced capabilities such as sentiment analysis of email messages, image collections, and subject groupings. MUSE is freely available, and its developers encourage anyone interested to download and use the prototype, which is available on their website. (<http://mobisocial.stanford.edu/muse>)

### PDA Case Studies

Danielle Conklin, an independent information professional, describes some interesting case studies in Chapter 2 of *Personal Archiving*. The one I know most about is my own, and I will briefly describe it here. My father began taking 35mm slides in the mid-1950s. Shortly thereafter, I became the family photographer and continued taking slides until digital photography came along. The entire collection now numbers about 30,000 slides. A few years ago I began digitizing and archiving them as a preservation measure. The resulting JPEG images are stored on my external hard drive, on a USB stick and an SD card. I keep the external hard drive separate from the main computer and the SD cards in my safe deposit box at a bank. This illustrates three significant principles of PDA: work from the originals, keep multiple copies in several locations, and use different types of media.

### PDA's Future

Documents, photos and other types of media are being generated at a growing rate and their preservation has become increasingly important. More information is appearing in digital form, such as health records, financial data, purchasing information and government data. All of these are candidates for archiving. PDA will become even more complex and more important than it is today. Its future is predictably bright.

### References:

- Carroll, E. J. Romano. (2010). *Your Digital Afterlife: When Facebook, Flickr and Twitter Are Your Estate, What's Your Legacy?* Berkley, CA: New Riders Publishing.
- Hawkins, D. T. (Ed.). (2013). *Personal Archiving: Preserving Our Digital Heritage*. Medford, NJ: Information Today, Inc.

### Websites Noted:

- The Digital Beyond - <http://www.thedigitalbeyond.com>  
Evernote - <http://evernote.com>  
Lifemap - <http://milifemap.com>  
Recollect - <http://recollect.com>  
Timebox - <http://timeboxapp.com>  
Your Digital Afterlife - <http://www.yourdigitalafterlife.com>



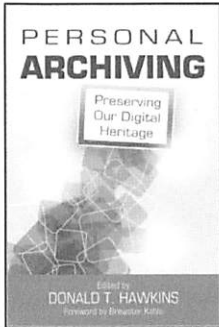
**Donald T. Hawkins** is a freelance writer and editor based in Pennsylvania. He has been involved with electronic information for over 40 years.

After a 24-year career at AT&T Bell Laboratories, he joined Information Today, Inc.

(ITI) and became Editor-in-Chief of *Information Science & Technology Abstracts* (now owned by EBSCO Publishing) and Fulltext Sources Online. He blogs conferences for ITI and The Charleston Group, LLC. Donald has keynoted several conferences and contributed over 300 articles to the information science literature. *Personal Archiving* is his first book. ###

## BOOK REVIEW: PERSONAL ARCHIVING by Jim Benedict

Hawkins, D. T. (Ed.). (2013). *Personal Archiving: Preserving our Digital Heritage*. Medford, NJ: Information Today, Inc.



Dr. Donald Hawkins has compiled a riveting collection of studies on how our family memories are being preserved. It is happening now, around each of us, seeing our photos, videos, documents and informal chats – email, Skype, Twitter – becoming locked into

a digital world. Family historians need an awareness of things captured digitally and the tools needed to preserve memories.

Each of the 13 chapters explores a different facet of digital archiving, written by a noted expert in the area. I particularly enjoyed the topics relating to personal family history and genealogy.

Chapter 2 introduces the concept of handling personal archiving for individuals and families, moving from the primarily paper and printed photographs into digital archiving. It includes four case studies of people coping with the tasks of reducing paper piles down to essentials, of scanning photos and slides, of organizing the digital results and, equally important, of starting with a plan and goals.

Chapter 5 describes the limitations of today's estate laws in protecting your digital legacy, particularly in the areas of email accounts, Facebook, Ancestry and so on. Wills may have to be amended and a "digital executor" is suggested.

The book is a comprehensive study of this new field and has both easy reads and academic chapters. There is enough relevant material for the amateur family historian to enjoy reading and it makes one aware of the broader scope of this emerging technology. This will be how genealogy is done by the next generation.

What were my takeaways? We need to become aware of the digital world, what we should preserve and how best to do it. For our heirs, we have to review our wills to ensure digital assets will be passed along as we wish. Finally, there is far more information available to us now, on the Internet, in emails and on social media like Facebook, than was ever available to our ancestors. Personal digital archiving may become much more a part of genealogy and we should prepare for it. ###

### AFHS DISCUSSION AND OTHER SOCIAL MEDIA SITES

**Discussion List** – an open discussion list on RootsWeb where members and others may exchange information and ideas about subjects related to family history. To participate, go to the **AFHS-DISCUSSION-L** section of the RootsWeb website and follow the instructions on how to join the list.

[http://lists.rootsweb.ancestry.com/index/other/Genealogical\\_Societies/AFHS-DISCUSSION.html](http://lists.rootsweb.ancestry.com/index/other/Genealogical_Societies/AFHS-DISCUSSION.html)

If you have any difficulty signing up, please contact the **AFHS Webmaster**.  
([webmaster@afhs.ab.ca](mailto:webmaster@afhs.ab.ca))

**AFHS Blog** – where visitors can comment on Society activities or other subjects and others can comment back. <http://afhs.ab.ca/blog>

**Facebook Page** – used to update followers on Society activities. The site is linked to other Facebook pages where comments may be shared. <https://www.facebook.com/AlbertaFHS>

**Google+ Page** – where news and announcements about AFHS activities and general comments on genealogy may be posted. <https://plus.google.com/107346277155546489036/posts?hl=en>

**Linked In Page** – not a lot there yet but it is worth pointing out for the purposes of this discussion. [www.linkedin.com/company/alberta-family-histories-society](http://www.linkedin.com/company/alberta-family-histories-society)

# SUCCESSION-PROOFING YOUR FAMILY HISTORY

by Jim Benedict

Your friends and family are always amused with your passion for searching for dead relatives. You talk to them about old grandfather Elmo and his farmstead in southern Saskatchewan. Their eyes start to glaze over as you recount the latest graveyard crawl in Estevan. Your wife is just not as enthusiastic about another genealogy conference trip, yet again to Salt Lake City.

Maybe it's time to go back to the "man cave" in the basement, where all the dusty old books, newspaper clippings, family photo albums and computer disks are hiding. In your sanctuary, at least your email buddies understand this craving for more hits on Ancestry.

It is great that you have amassed a remarkable collection of memorabilia, remnants of the family's past. When you do ultimately go, will you pass it forward? Can you ensure that your history hoarding will also become your legacy?

I believe that there are *Seven Stages of Succession-Proofing* for genealogical work. Which one are you stuck in today?

***1. This is a personal hobby of mine, and except for my family obligations of responding to questions on the name, I have no plans to archive it or pass it along to anyone. It's going to be buried with me.***

This attitude is quite acceptable, if it is what you really want. It is your collection, after all. No one else has assembled it.

As your final request, it could probably even be incinerated and mixed in with cremation ashes. Yes, you can take it with you!

***2. This is a personal hobby of mine, but someday I might drop all the files off at my local library or my nephew's house. They can sort it out.***

A lot of us are stuck at this stage and are quite happy with it. We are the *People of the Paper Pyramids* – the genealogy hoarders. Tripping

over newspaper piles, navigating around stacks of books on the floor, we toil on, pencil and eraser in hand, late into the night, carefully transcribing from computer screen back to paper form.

***3. I don't need a computer to store the information. The cardboard boxes work just fine.***

It is now all organized, cross indexed and tagged with recipe-sized, library index cards. The family charts are filled out; the family description pages are complete. Everything is sorted, colour coded and filed in three-ring binders.

Congratulations! You are ahead of the pack. At least half of us other amateur sleuths cannot claim to be that far along. If this is all you have done or can do, it is a major accomplishment. But you are not finished yet.

Do you have a plan in the event of a flood, a house fire or a water pipe break? Your collection could be attacked by rodents, paper-loving insects, mould, sunlight, excess heat or excess or lack of moisture. Or it could just deteriorate through the normal ravages of time. Paper does not last forever!

Who will inherit all the research? Have you checked over your latest will to make sure someone – a family member or the local society – is named as a beneficiary? Once you go, only your last testament will control what happens to all of your work.

***4. It's all on floppy discs (external hard drives, zip drives, punched cards, etc.). The local society will figure it out.***

The speed of technological advances is astounding! Today you can have all the family research in the palm of your hand. Yes, a smart phone can house the entire digital vault of all your family research. Some of us still have a shelf with antique 5-1/4 inch floppies or burnable CD and DVD blanks, all gathering dust. These

days the more popular choice of backup media is external USB hard drives and pocket-sized USB memory sticks. They are handy, fully compatible across many machines and reusable.

What's not to love with the new stuff? Except, as obsolescence occurs about every two years, we have to choose whether to move all the information across to the newest tool. Software needs to be updated on a regular basis; so your ten-year old data files become unreadable with the latest version of the operating system.

Do you have a regular schedule of refreshing your backups? Are you prepared to replace equipment as – and not if – it becomes obsolete? Don't expect your heirs or the local history society to be able to sort out genealogy files that are totally unreadable or inaccessible.

***5. I've got it carefully stored on my home computer, all neatly indexed and entered into my favourite family tree application. Hopefully now my relatives can remember my login password to get into the files.***

Okay, now you're well into the digital age! You have the family line at your fingertips. The paper pile can become kindling for a bonfire. But pause for a moment; you have the key to the information vault – but does your family?

You should be aware that if you pass away without leaving password access, the first thing that might go into the rubbish bin will be that clunky old computer no one wants or can't get into because of login password blockage.

What can you do? Perhaps you could talk to an estate planner or wills lawyer – add a memorandum or codicil to your will regarding “digital assets.” This will cover who gets the computer and backup devices, describe the login information and the locations of the most precious files and confirm your dispersal wishes for each line item.

Do it soon!

***6. I have it all online. No problem! There are chunks of it on Ancestry, My Heritage, FindMyPast and FamilySearch. Gosh! I'm also on Facebook, Flickr, Instagram and Twitter. You can find bits of my family all over the Internet.***

You have it covered. Everywhere! This is, of course, the way your children will track family connections, birthdays, marriages, careers and, yes, death. Although we might hate it, it may very well be the future of genealogy. Technology is just starting to probe into how all of this can be connected together, retrieved and archived.

Relax! There is not much you can do with it now. Except, try not to have too much duplication in multiple areas, such as dates and events. Somehow, you should have one master repository that is the correct one – your reference, the one you point to for family matters. Let the executor of your estate find it in the will.

***7. It's up in the Internet cloud somewhere. I must remember to tell my cousin in Torrington how to access my Dropbox account.***

This is the final frontier – at least right now! Your family research has gone *virtual*. There are no more piles of paper – perhaps not even a computer in sight. You can do all your research online, store it online, see it anywhere in the world online. Not bad! But all of the above cautionary notes still apply.

Have fun with the hobby, but please keep in mind that it may be important to do unto the next generation what you wish those darned ancestors of yours had done for you.



***Jim Benedict's weekend project to update the family tree chart evolved into over a decade of detailed family history research. Jim is a member of the Guild of One Name Studies and is a Director of AFHS. He chairs the AFHS Computing Group. ###***



## ORGANIZING FAMILY HISTORY RESEARCH by Lois Sparling

The best tools for keeping your family history research organized are file folders and a genealogy computer program. You can use a genealogy program in “the cloud”, for example, at Ancestry, FamilySearch or one of the other commercial family history web sites. I use The Master Genealogist program on my own computer and back up my data to both WorldConnect and Ancestry. My file folders are colour-coded by the eight family lines I am researching – a different colour for the ancestors of each of my four grandparents and each of my husband’s grandparents.

It is nice to have a filing cabinet for your file folders; however bankers boxes and plastic cartons are more than adequate substitutes and can be moved around easily. Labels for your file folders are handy. They are especially useful as your research progresses, because you can put a new label on top of the old label if you decide to re-define or re-purpose the folder. For example, you may find that Great-grandfather Adam Smith had three wives with whom he reproduced. The documentation to straighten that out could be voluminous.

File folders are best organized by couple. Adam and each of his wives are distinct couples. Therefore, I would have three separate file folders. Information on the offspring of each union would be kept in their parents’ file folder. If I do enough research on an ancestor’s brother or sister to need more room, then that individual might get his or her own folder. More likely, it will be another couple folder for the sibling and his or her spouse plus their children.

I also keep file folders on places where my ancestors lived with maps, tourist brochures and information about family history research in that jurisdiction. The materials supplement what I may have in books on my shelf or bookmarked on the internet.

The concept of a filing system should be applied to your emails and bookmarks for web sites. You can have places and family lines. You can have file folders within file folders so that you find your bookmarks or emails about Perth County inside a tour file folder about Ontario. You can collect your emails from cousin Bertha in a subfolder within your folder about your common ancestors. You can have a copy of Bertha’s emails in a subfolder for her and also in a subfolder about the specific ancestors, places or collateral families discussed in specific emails.

I recommend that you create a separate research notebook for each major ancestral line. My research notebooks are in cardboard folders which hold three-hole punched paper, with my research aids in the front and lots of loose leaf paper in the back for ongoing note taking. I include the addresses of repositories and interested relatives, maps, a pedigree chart, family group sheets, my surname list of in-laws, neighbours and associates, and individual detail sheets. My timelines include local as well as regional, provincial and national events which could have had impact on the lives and movements of my ancestors and their communities. It is really important to include shifts in jurisdictional boundaries and changes in place names as well. ###

## BOOK REVIEW: THE ORGANIZED FAMILY HISTORIAN by Lois Sparling

**Fleming, A. C. (2005). *The Organized Family Historian: How to File, Manage, and Protect Your Genealogical Research and Heirlooms*. Nashville, TN: Thomas Nelson Publishers.**



This is a useful book, but not as comprehensive as the title suggests. It includes a CD of forms and worksheets designed for research of Americans. If you are not doing American research, the forms are still useful as

examples of what you could create for yourself for jurisdictions in which you are working.

Part 1 is about organizing your material and includes chapters on a filing system for your research and using computer programs as well as on preserving photographs and heirlooms. Part 2 starts with a chapter on the best use of to-do lists, timelines and other tools of the trade. Then there are several chapters on the primary American research sources. Part 3 discusses the specifics of preparing to publish your family history.

Included in this book is very valuable guidance in the following areas:

- conducting a search of existing publications on your lineage
- researching your ancestors' siblings and their families
- abstracting deeds
- collecting a home library
- interviewing techniques

The author recommends creating a research notebook containing your data, your surname lists, checklists and timelines.

*The Organized Family Historian* includes nifty tips I had not encountered elsewhere, such as using business cards with your name, address and email – perfect for leaving with a local library or handing to the possible cousin at his door. It is so much more likely that your business card will be kept or passed on to an interested relative.

The importance of timelines is stressed, not just for people and places, but also for records and changes in the laws of inheritance, married women's property rights, homesteading, minimum age to marry and changes in the structure of court systems, religious denominations and individual churches. The author even has a worksheet for using the PERSI (Periodical Search Index) to research school records.



*Lois Sparling is a lawyer and long-time member of the AFHS. She has served on the Board of Directors, on the Program Committee and as leader of the Celtic Special Interest Group. Her interest in family history research was piqued about 25 years ago when her grandmother purchased a history of her grandfather's family. ###*

*Happiness is having a large, loving, caring, close-knit family in another city.*

*~ George Burns*

## AFHS PUBLICATIONS

The AFHS has produced a number of publications dealing with family history. Most are available digitally.

### Southern Alberta Cemetery Records

There are fifteen volumes of records from Southern Alberta cemeteries. Each volume is individually priced and is available for purchase in digital format. The volumes contain monument transcriptions, burial records and photographs of many memorials.

### Other Publications

These publications provide information on personal data and local historical events. Many of the publications are searchable on the AFHS website and are available on paper. Prices represent reproduction costs only. All are printed in black and white on 8 ½" x 11" pages and Cerlox bound. Consult the AFHS website for descriptions of these publications.

Detailed information on the content and the procedure for ordering copies can be found on the Society's website.

<http://afhs.ab.ca/publications/cemetery.shtml#publications>

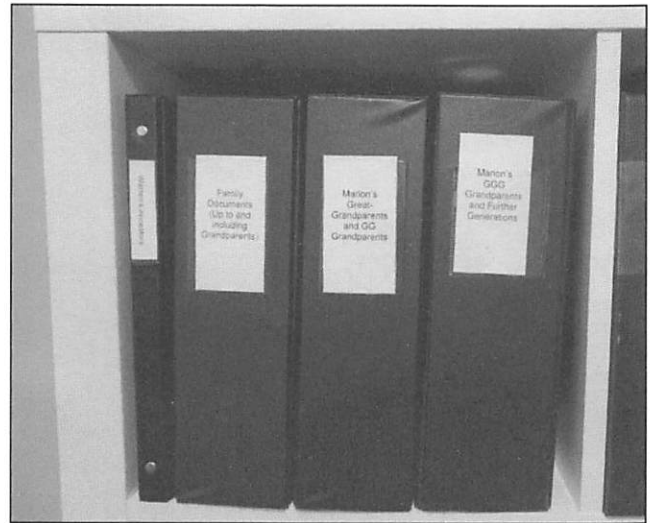
## ORGANIZING MY GENEALOGY FILES by Marion Peterson

When I started doing genealogy, I gathered some file folders and labelled them with surnames. As I found information that applied to more than one family or was more general, such as cemetery transcriptions, location information, census information, maps and so on, I added folders. I kept all the folders in a filing cabinet – the top drawer for the surname folders and the bottom drawer for the others. Everything went into the folders, even original photographs, letters and other special documents.

The folders for two of my family lines eventually became so big that I decided to move many of the items in the filing cabinet into binders on a shelf. For one family, I arranged the individuals alphabetically – a huge mistake as it turned out! When new information comes along or when I want to look something up, I can never remember which of the ten William Staintons that I want. Without dividers, the information for all the William Staintons is a huge puzzle. I didn't make the same mistake for the other family line, and someday I intend to undo my Stainton organization! Because it was expensive to purchase dividers for each individual or subject, and I wanted something that was really flexible, I chose coloured post-it tabs, using a different colour for each generation. For items that cover more than one generation or that are more general, such as copies of family trees done by others, information about the origin of the surname, reunion memorabilia or mailing lists, I use a separate binder.

One day I realized that, because I had collected so much about far-flung cousins, if anything happened to me my family would have difficulty finding the information about our immediate family and our direct ancestors. I separated out everything I felt was most important into new binders. One holds the records about my immediate family, parents and grandparents. The second binder has my great-grandparents and 2nd great-grandparents. The third binder has direct ancestors going back more generations.

Another smaller binder has the information about my husband's direct ancestors. I've placed yellow labels on these binders, put them on the top shelf and told my husband and children that these are the items to protect and preserve.



Within the binders, I have a divider for each direct ancestor. For each pair of grandparents, I start with the husband. I begin with a family group sheet, followed by a copy of my research notes for him. Then I place copies of documents in chronological order – birth registration, birth announcements, baptism information, census records, photographs, land records, etc., ending with death information and a photograph of the headstone. Since marriage information applies to both grandparents, for consistency I place marriage registrations, photographs and announcements in the grandfather's section in the appropriate chronological place. The section for the grandmother follows, starting with my research notes about her, her birth information, and so on.

As I learned more about preservation, I realized original letters, photos and other documents needed special storage. I scanned these, made copies with notations about where the originals were stored and placed the originals in archival-safe scrapbooks.



The best tool I have for keeping organized, however, is my Legacy software program. It takes time to completely enter new information as I find it, but the sourcing feature is a powerful tool. If someone asks me what I know about a distant family member, I don't head to my binders and file folders; I check my Legacy sources. With just a few clicks, I can find out what information I have about him or her, where I found it and what the sources say. For information added in the last few years, my documentation includes digital images of those sources.

I managed to stay fairly organized with paper documentation, but I wish I had started out with a better system for my digital files. Since I have linked many of them to the source notes in Legacy, making changes often leads to broken links. I needed a better system for filing my digital documentation.

I read somewhere that a genealogist should answer the question "How do I think of my family?" in order to help determine what system will be successful. Like most people, I think of my family by surname. Some genealogists think of their family by location, separating their Calgary family from their Red Deer family, for example. There may be times you think of your family by event or you may use a combination. Once I realized I thought of my family first by surname, then by branch of that family, often from my most distant ancestor, it became easier to file my digital items. My Baptisms folder, for example, now has subfolders for each of my main surnames. For my larger families, the surname folders are subdivided into folders for each branch. Similarly, my Pictures folder has a sub-folder called "Marion's Family" and others for each of my parents and siblings, one called "Rath Side" and one called "Bond Side." All of these folders are further subdivided, with "Rath Side" having subfolders pertaining to the Allisons and the Staintons, and the "Bond Side" divided into subfolders for the Walls and the Kempthornes. My Pictures folder is like a giant family tree made of subfolders.

In recent months, I've been selective about what paper documents I keep. If an item isn't about a direct ancestor, I try to avoid printing a paper copy entirely. I use a second monitor to view a document while I enter information into Legacy. As time permits, I'm hoping to go back through my binders and folders, scan their contents and only keep paper copies pertaining to my direct ancestors or those which would be difficult to replace. My goal is eventually to eliminate the majority of the paper records. My digital files and my Legacy database are backed up frequently onto two external discs, one kept in our home and one off-site.

Ask yourself how you think about your family and then use your answer to apply consistently a system that works for you.



*Marion Peterson was born and raised in Ontario and came to Calgary about 21 years ago. Her husband bought her Family Tree Maker as a Mother's Day gift in 1990. Entering data into this program led to a consuming passion for family history. Most of her family lines came from England to Ontario before 1850. Recently, she has branched out into her husband's Swedish and Danish roots. Marion sits on the AFHS Board as Director at Large and coordinates the Ontario SIG. ###*

## **BEST GENEALOGY SOFTWARE**

Whether you're a weekend genealogist or a professional researcher, selecting the right genealogy software program can make all the difference in how much satisfaction and information you will derive from your research. Accessing, recording and reviewing data should be easy, as well as fun. To see a summary of the best genealogy software, go to the TopTenREVIEWS website. <http://genealogy-software-review.toptenreviews.com>



## ORGANIZING DIGITAL FILES

by Kim Mills

When I first started working on my family history, I found myself looking for a way to keep track of all the paper sources, notes and photos I was discovering. At that time I chose a binder method separated by surname. After a time, I moved into a file folder system as I found it more flexible for my needs.

As time moved on, and I began using computers for more of my genealogy work, I wanted an easy way to keep track of all my files. While I do still enjoy looking through paper files, there are many benefits to keeping digital records. Digital files are quick and easy to back up, transfer to other researchers and search.

I decided the easiest way to move from paper to digital files was to keep my methods as similar as possible to what I was used to using. I created a folder on my computer called Genealogy. I think of this folder as my genealogy filing cabinet. It is the *box* that holds all of my family history-related information. Inside the genealogy folder I created sub-folders for different topics. I think of these as the filing cabinet drawers. Some of my folders are named GEDCOMS, Surnames and Photos.

Under the Surnames folder I created another sub-folder for each family surname for which I have records. Then under each family folder I created another sub-sub-folder for every family group. This would look like Genealogy → Surnames → Smith → John Smith & Jane Hall.

In each family folder I created folders for documents on births, marriages, deaths and other subjects such as immigration, military, etc. In the folders I place all the documents and images of records for the particular family group. I find this is a very quick and easy method to find the records for each family.

To name my files I use a standard pattern so that records can quickly be identified by their filename. A census record is named for the year, census, country, province, county, town,

individual's name, as in:

1921\_Census\_Canada\_Ontario\_Grey\_Co\_Charles\_Mills.jpg.

I follow the same method for other records, such as a birth record; however I include the full date of the original record. An example would look like:

15MAR1915\_Birth\_Canada\_New\_Brunswick\_Northumberland\_Chatham\_Hilda\_Anderson.jpg.

When naming the files you can use short forms such as NB instead of New Brunswick, although it is a good idea to pick one standard format and then consistently use it. Using a standard naming format makes the file easy to find and, for others, easy to identify as well.

I have often had concerns about what would happen to my genealogy files if something happened to me. Would others be able to understand what information was in the file or folder? One of my safeguards against files just being deleted is that anyone can easily see what they are by looking at the file name. If I named the files with only the Marriage Record Identification Number, for example, the majority of people would not know what they are without opening each file.



**Kim Mills** is a homeschooling mom of five children (soon to be six).

She loves the homesteading lifestyle and makes video tutorials and vlogs at Homestead Acres on YouTube. Kim has been

researching her family history for over 20 years and blogs about her work at Homestead Acres and Footsteps of the Past.

<http://www.youtube.com/homesteadacres>

<http://homestead-acres.com/>

[http://footstepspast.blogspot.ca/###](http://footstepspast.blogspot.ca/)

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***If you don't believe in ghosts, you've never been to a family reunion.***

***~Ashleigh Brilliant, author, artist***

## WHAT'S OUT THERE

by Linda Murray

In place of my usual column, I have compiled a list of all the newsletters, journals and magazines that we receive at the AFHS Library. Many of the journals are exchange journals from societies that receive a copy of *Chinook* in exchange for their publication. About 70% of our exchanges are paper copies while the remaining 30% are

electronic exchanges. As well, we purchase about 20 additional journals and magazines for the library. I hope you will see a publication that interests you and be encouraged to make the trip to the library to do some research. Please go to our website ([www.afhs.ab.ca](http://www.afhs.ab.ca)) and check the calendar for the library open times.

### Group or Association

(\* denotes an organization that receives Chinook)

#### Canada:

Alberta Family Histories Society (AFHS)  
 Alberta Genealogical Society (AGS) \*  
 AGS – Brooks Branch \*  
 AGS – Grande Prairie Branch \*  
 AGS – Lethbridge Branch \*  
 AGS – Medicine Hat Branch \*  
 AGS – Red Deer Branch \*  
 British Columbia Genealogical Society (BCGS) \*  
 BCGS - Quesnel Branch \*  
 British Isles Family History Society of Greater Ottawa, ON \*  
 Bruce County Genealogical Society, ON \*  
 East European Genealogical Society (EEGS), MB  
 Family History Society of Newfoundland & Labrador (FHSNL) \*  
 Genealogical Association of Nova Scotia (GANS) \*  
 Historical Society of Alberta (HSA) \*  
 Kamloops Family History Society, BC \*  
 Kelowna & District Genealogical Society, BC  
 Lanark County Genealogical Society, ON \*  
 Manitoba Genealogical Society (MGS) \*  
 Mennonite Historical Society of Alberta (MHSA) \*  
 Moorshead Magazines Ltd., ON  
 Moorshead Magazines Ltd., ON  
 Moorshead Magazines Ltd., ON  
 New Brunswick Genealogical Society (NBGS) \*  
 Ontario Genealogical Society (OGS) \*  
 OGS – Brant County Branch \*  
 OGS – Bruce & Grey Branch \*  
 OGS – Durham Region Branch \*  
 OGS – Elgin County Branch \*  
 OGS – Essex County Branch \*  
 OGS – Halton-Peel Region Branch \*  
 OGS – Hamilton Region Branch \*  
 OGS – Huron County Branch \*  
 OGS – Kawartha Branch \*  
 OGS – Kent County Branch \*

### Publication

*Chinook*  
*Relatively Speaking*  
*B & D Heir Lines*  
*Heritage Seekers*  
*Yesterday's Footprints*  
*Saamis Seeker*  
*The Tree Climber*  
*The British Columbia Genealogist*  
*Cariboo Notes*  
*Anglo-Celtic Roots*  
*Bruce Bulletin*  
*The East European Genealogist*  
*The Newfoundland Ancestor*  
*The Nova Scotia Genealogist*  
*Alberta History*  
*Family Footsteps*  
*The Okanagan Researcher*  
*Lanark Log*  
*Generations*  
*MHSA Newsletter*  
*Family Chronicle*  
*History Magazine*  
*Internet Genealogy*  
*Generations*  
*Families*  
*BRANTches*  
*BGOGS Newsletter*  
*Kindred Spirits*  
*Talbot Times*  
*Trails*  
*Halton-Peel KINnections*  
*HBOGS Newsletter*  
*Rooting Around Huron*  
*The Bulletin*  
*Roots, Branches and Twigs*

OGS – Kingston Branch	<i>Kingston Relations</i>
OGS – Lambton County Branch	<i>Lambton Lifeline</i>
OGS – Leeds Grenville Branch	<i>News &amp; Views</i>
OGS – London Middlesex Branch	<i>London Leaf</i>
OGS – Niagara Region Branch	<i>Notes from Niagara</i>
OGS – Nipissing District Branch	<i>Nipissing Voyageur</i>
OGS – Norfolk County Branch	<i>Norfolks</i>
OGS – Ottawa Branch	<i>The Ottawa Genealogist</i>
OGS – Oxford County Branch	<i>The Tracer</i>
OGS – Perth County Branch	<i>Perth County Profiles</i>
OGS – uinte Branch	<i>Quinte Searchlight</i>
OGS – Sault Ste. Marie Branch	<i>Sault Channels</i>
OGS – Simcoe County Branch	<i>SCAN (Simcoe Co. Ancestor News)</i>
OGS – Sudbury Branch	<i>Ancestor Hunting</i>
OGS – Thunder Bay Region Branch	<i>Past Tents</i>
OGS – Toronto Branch	<i>Toronto Tree</i>
OGS – Waterloo Region Branch	<i>Our Waterloo Kin</i>
OGS – Wellington Region Branch	<i>Traces &amp; Tracks</i>
OGS – York Region Branch	<i>York Region Ancestors</i>
uebec Family History Society ( FHS), C	<i>Connections</i>
Saskatchewan Genealogical Society (SGS), SK	<i>Bulletin</i>
Société de Généalogie et d'Archives de Rimouski, QC *	<i>L'Estuaire Généalogique</i>
Society for German Genealogy in Eastern Europe (SGGEE), AB	<i>The Journal</i>
South Okanagan Genealogical Society (SOGS), BC	<i>Grapevines</i>
United Empire Loyalists' Association of Canada	<i>The Loyalist Gazette</i>
Vernon District Family History Society, BC	<i>Splitting Heirs</i>
Victoria Genealogical Society, BC	<i>VGS Journal</i>
<b>United States:</b>	
American-Canadian Genealogical Society, RI	<i>American-Canadian Genealogist</i>
American-French Genealogical Society, RI	<i>Je Me Souviens</i>
Czechoslovak Genealogical Society International, MN	<i>Nas Rodina (Our Family)</i>
Federation of Genealogical Societies	<i>Forum magazine</i>
F W Media, Cincinnati, OH	<i>Family Tree Magazine</i>
Great Falls Genealogy Society, MT	<i>Treasure State Lines</i>
Irish Genealogical Society International, MN	<i>The Septs</i>
National Genealogical Society (NGS), VA	<i>NGS Magazine &amp; NGS Quarterly</i>
New England Historic Genealogical Society (NEHGS), MA	<i>American Ancestors, Register</i>
Utah Genealogical Association	<i>Crossroads</i>
<b>England:</b>	
ABM Publishing Ltd., UK	<i>Family Tree</i>
Bedfordshire Family History Society	<i>Bedfordshire FHS Journal</i>
Berkshire Family History Society	<i>Berkshire Family Historian</i>
Birmingham Midland Society of Genealogy Heraldry	<i>Midland Ancestor</i>
Bristol Avon Family History Society	<i>Bristol &amp; Avon FHS Journal</i>
Buckinghamshire Family History Society	<i>Origins</i>
Cleveland Family History Society	<i>Cleveland FHS Journal</i>
Cumbria Family History Society	<i>Cumbria FHS Newsletter</i>
Dorset Family History Society	<i>Dorset FHS Journal</i>

East Surrey Family History Society  
 East Yorkshire Family History Society  
 Eastbourne District Family History Society  
 Family History Society of Cheshire  
 Felixstowe Family History Society  
 Herefordshire Family History Society  
 Hillingdon Family History Society  
 Kent Family History Society  
 Lancashire Family History Heraldry Society  
 Leicestershire Rutland Family History Society  
 Northamptonshire Family History Society  
 Northumberland and Durham Family History Society  
 Nottinghamshire Family History Society  
 Ormskirk District Family History Society  
 Shropshire Family History Society  
 Somerset Dorset Family History Society  
 Suffolk Family History Society  
 Woolwich District Family History Society  
 Yorkshire Archaeological Society

*ESFHS Journal*  
*The Banyan Tree*  
*Family Roots FHS*  
*Cheshire Ancestor*  
*Roots & Branches*  
*Herefordiensis*  
*Hillingdon FHS Journal*  
*Kent FHS Journal*  
*Lancashire Journal*  
*LRFHS Journal*  
*Footprints*  
*NDFHS Journal*  
*Nottinghamshire FHS Journal*  
*Family Historian*  
*Shropshire FHS Journal*  
*The Greenwood Tree*  
*Suffolk Roots*  
*Woolwich & District FHS Journal*  
*Yorkshire Family Historian*

**Scotland:**

Aberdeen Northeast Scotland Family History Society  
 Caithness Family History Society  
 Central Scotland Family History Society  
 Glasgow West Scotland Family History Society  
 Lanarkshire Family History Society  
 Scottish Genealogy Society  
 Troon Ayrshire Family History Society

*ANESFHS Journal*  
*Caithness FHS Journal*  
*Central Scotland FHS Journal*  
*GWSFHS Newsletter*  
*Lanarkshire FHS Journal*  
*The Scottish Genealogist*  
*Troon & Ayrshire FHS Journal*

**Wales:**

Glamorgan Family History Society  
 Gwent Family History Society

*Glamorgan FHS Journal*  
*Gwent FHS Journal*

**World:**

Genealogical Society of Victoria, Australia  
 Irish Roots Media Ltd.  
 New Zealand Society of Genealogists, New Zealand

*Ancestor*  
*Irish Roots Magazine*  
*The New Zealand Genealogist*



*Linda Murray is an active volunteer with the AFHS and is the Chair of the Library Committee. She loves working in the library and helping others to discover their ancestry. ###*

**COMMUNITY SPIRIT GRANT**

The Alberta Family Histories Society sincerely appreciates the grant of \$1,410.00 from the Government of Alberta Community Spirit Program. This grant is based upon cash donations over a twelve-month period from individual Albertans to eligible non-profit and Canada Revenue Agency registered charities incorporated and/or registered in Alberta. Thank you to all who have donated in the past and for your continued support.



# EVENTS, BLOGS, PODCASTS, WEBINARS and VIDEOS

by Laura Kirbyson and Wayne Shephard

## Conferences and Seminars

We include a list of upcoming genealogy events organized by some of the larger organizations. If conferences are of interest to you but it is a challenge to attend in person, you might want to check the websites to see if webinars of the conferences are available after they are completed. Many of them are recorded at the conference and posted online later. Visit such websites as <http://calendar.eogn.com/> or <http://www.conferencekeeper.net/index.html> for more information about other upcoming meetings.

**January 13-17, 2014**

### **Salt Lake Institute of Genealogy**

Salt Lake City, UT

*Credentialing: Accreditation, Certification, or Both?*  
<http://bcgcertification.org/blog/2013/05/credentialing-accreditation-certification-or-both>

**February 6-8, 2014**

### **RootsTech 2014**

Salt Lake City, UT

*Where Families Connect.*

<http://rootstech.org/registration>

To see the video archives of the 2012 and 2013 Conferences, go to <https://rootstech.org/videos>

**April 5, 2014**

### **Alberta Family Histories Society**

Calgary, AB

*Spend the day with Dave Obee!*

Dave will present four talks at this one-day seminar on *Genealogy in Canada*.

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

**May 7-10, 2014**

### **National Genealogical Society**

Richmond, VA

*NGS 2014 Family History Conference.*

Focus is on the history of Virginia.

<http://conference.ngsgenealogy.org>

**August 27-30, 2014**

### **Federation of Genealogical Societies**

San Antonio, TX, USA

The choice is yours to focus on your specific interests: basic and introductory instruction, methodology and problem-solving techniques, ethnic research, migration and immigration, technology, and southern and western regional topics.

<https://www.fgsconference.org>

## Member Blogs

A number of AFHS members blog about a variety of topics. Take some time to check them out!

AFHS Blog - Christine Hayes and John Smiley  
<http://afhs.ab.ca/blog>

Dawn-Ann's Explorations - Dawn Turner  
<http://www.dawnann.com/blog>

Digging Up Our Family Tree - Tara Shymanski  
<http://diggingupourfamilytree.blogspot.ca>

Discover Genealogy - Wayne Shephard  
<http://discovergenealogy.blogspot.ca>

GenealogyWise - Jim Benedict  
<http://www.genealogywise.com/profile/JimBenedict>

Moments in Time Life Stories - Spring Cochrane  
<http://www.momentsintimelifestories.ca/blog.html>

Pearls of Genealogy - Laura Kirbyson  
<http://www.lakgenealogy.com/pearls-of-genealogy-blog.html>

## Podcasts, Webinars and Videos

### ***Cyndi's List***

A full list of related videos can be accessed through Cyndi's List.

<http://www.cyndislist.com/organizing/general>

### ***FamilySearch***

Check out this five-minute video on organizing your records.

<https://familysearch.org/learningcenter/lesson/5-minute-genealogy-episode-13-organize-your-records/339>

### ***Family Tree Magazine***

How to organize genealogy was featured in an October podcast.

<http://www.familytreemagazine.com/info/podcasts>

### ***GenDetective***

Via Dick Eastman's site, there is an interview with Sandra Rumble about a software product "that helps you organize your genealogy data."

[http://blog.eogn.com/eastmans\\_online\\_genealogy/2011/06/podcast-an-interview-with-sandra-rumble-of-gendetective.html](http://blog.eogn.com/eastmans_online_genealogy/2011/06/podcast-an-interview-with-sandra-rumble-of-gendetective.html)

## CALGARY PUBLIC LIBRARY by Christine Hayes

### **Genealogy Gems**

Lisa Louise Cooke shared episode 144 – Digitize, Organize, and Archive.

<http://genealogygemspodcast.com/episode-144-digitize-organize-and-archive>

Check out Lisa's contributions on YouTube as well.

<http://www.youtube.com/genealogygems>

### **Legacy Family Tree Webinars**

Organizing for Success

[http://familytreewebinars.com/watch-video-free.php?webinar\\_id=131](http://familytreewebinars.com/watch-video-free.php?webinar_id=131)

### **YouTube**

There are some interesting YouTube videos, such as the Basics of Organizing Your Genealogy.

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JhSvrw5TUp0>

See also Manage Your Genealogy Papers.

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pSRL--on6gs>

### **GeneaWebinars**

There are a whole list of Webinars on their calendar with links to them.

<http://blog.geneawebinars.com/p/calendar.html>

### **Pinterest**

Pinterest has boards specifically relating to organizing genealogy. See the boards: Genealogy Organization; How to Organize Your Genealogy; Sorting Saturday; and Organize Your Genealogy. You can access the site at [www.pinterest.com](http://www.pinterest.com). From there you set up a free account and however many boards you want. Think of a board as a corkboard on which you might pin magazine photos, articles and the like. This is pretty much the same thing but digital.

### **Facebook**

If you are using Facebook, then you have access to myriad sites relating to genealogy. Katherine R. Willson has prepared a 79-page list of genealogy-related Facebook pages. If you don't want to download the list, following are a few examples of Facebook pages relating to organizing genealogy records.

<http://waynegenweb.blogspot.ca/2013/07/facebook-genealogy-sites-list-by.html>

- The Organized Genealogist
- Genealogy & Historical Databases
- Genealogical numbering systems
- Family History
- Genealogy Calendar of Events

###

Unless otherwise noted, you can register for the following programs in person at a library branch, by telephone at 403-260-2620 or online.

<http://calgarypubliclibrary.com/services/programs-events/register-for-programs>

### **Family History Coaching**

Family History Coaching, with coaches from the AFHS and Calgary Public Library, continues on the last Saturday of each month (except July, August and December). Coaching takes place in the genealogy area on the 4th floor of the Central Library, 616 Macleod Trail SE, from 10:00 am to noon. This is a drop-in program, so no registration is required.

### **Getting the Most Out of AncestryLE**

AncestryLE has millions of records available to researchers. The problem is, how do you find the ones relating to your family? On Saturday, January 25, 2014, at 2:00 pm, we will be demonstrating how to use this wonderful resource, which is available to all Calgary Public Library members at all the library branches. Register early; this program fills up fast.

### **Writers Weekend**

On Saturday, February 1, 2014, we will be presenting a number of programs for the writers among us. The programs include information on blogging, screenwriting and writing about true crime, for those of us with a black sheep in our family. Check our program guide online on the Calgary Public Library webpage or the print version, available at your library branch, for more information. Registration is required for these programs.

### **Genealogy for Beginners**

Are you just getting started with your family history? Would you like some pointers? We will be presenting a program for beginners or for those who'd like a refresher at the Fish Creek Library on Tuesday, April 22, 2014, at 7:00 pm. This program requires registration.

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# Spend the day with Dave Obee! A Seminar on Genealogy in Canada

April 5, 2014 – Sheraton Cavalier Hotel, Calgary, Alberta

## Program

**Destination Canada** -- More than seven million people arrived in Canada from Europe, the United States and Asia between 1815 and 1930. This session explores the wide variety of sources that deal with immigration to Canada, including ship passenger lists (available from 1865 through 1935), border crossing records, and naturalization and citizenship documents. Many of these sources have been indexed and placed online, making it possible to access them quickly and easily. It pays to know the scope and limitations of those Internet resources, and how to obtain information from other sources.

**Canadian Genealogy on the Internet** -- Canada has hundreds of websites of prime value to genealogists, but it is important to know which ones will give the most return for the time you invest. Which sites to use? That will depend on which of the 10 provinces and three territories your family called home. Several sources should be checked by everyone, but some of the best finds will be in the regional or local websites. This session will quickly guide you to the top sites, where it will be possible for you to make good progress on your Canadian lines.

**Mining the Canadian Census** -- Canadian census records are a tremendous source of genealogical information. Although the first nominal enumerations were done in the French colonies in 1666 and 1667, the most useful census returns date from 1851 through 1921. They provide snapshots of the population every five or ten years and make it easier to sort out family units and relationships. To be most effective, a genealogist will need to understand the scope and limitations of the census, and to know which supporting documents will enhance the information found in the returns. Some of the limitations of the census are sure to surprise most researchers.

**Canadians in the First World War** -- The First World War touched virtually every Canadian. Between 1914 and 1918, 240,000 men were killed or wounded, from a country with a population of just eight million. Today, researchers can learn about Canada's soldiers, including facts about their family and where they served. It makes sense to also look also for context - what happened to those who survived the war and to the family members who waited at home for news. Much of the information is available on the Internet, assuming you know where to look.

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### Registration

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Street Address \_\_\_\_\_  
City \_\_\_\_\_ Province \_\_\_\_\_ Postal Code \_\_\_\_\_  
Email \_\_\_\_\_ Phone (\_\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

**Registration Fee: \$35.00 per person**

**After March 1, 2014: \$45.00 per person**

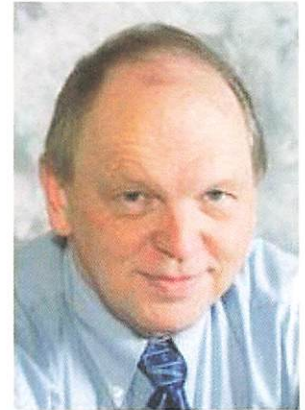
**Please make cheques or money orders payable  
to: Alberta Family Histories Society**

**Mail completed form and payment to:  
Dave Obee Seminar  
Alberta Family Histories Society  
712 - 16 Avenue NW  
Calgary, Alberta T2M 0J8**

**No refunds after March 15, 2014.**



Spend the day with Dave Obee!



## A Seminar on Genealogy in Canada

By Dave Obee – internationally-known and award-winning journalist, author, speaker, teacher and genealogical researcher.

Presented by the  
*Alberta Family Histories Society*

A full-day seminar with presentations on:

Destination Canada  
Canadian Genealogy on the Internet  
Mining the Canadian Census  
Canadians in the First World War

For information about the program, registration and hotel accommodation, go to:

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

*April 5, 2014*  
*Sheraton Cavalier Hotel*  
*2620 - 32nd Avenue NE, Calgary, Alberta*





RETURN UNDELIVERABLE  
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## THE SOCIETY

The Alberta Family Histories Society (AFHS) is a non-profit organization formed in 1980 to promote and encourage an interest in family history research worldwide.

To find out more about the Society – its objectives, benefits of membership, meetings, resources available, publications and other matters – consult the website. (<http://afhs.ab.ca>)

## MEMBERSHIP

Membership in the Society is open to anyone interested in family history and genealogy.

The AFHS membership period runs from September 1st to August 31st. Applications received after April 1st will be applied to the following year. Renewal fees not paid by November 1st, annually, may result in removal of all privileges afforded to members.

### Annual Membership Fees:

Individual, Family, Senior	\$35.00
Institution	\$50.00

**To join:** Complete the Membership Application/Renewal form available from the AFHS office or on the Society's website. Deliver it, along with the appropriate fees, to the AFHS office or bring it to a monthly meeting.

([http://afhs.ab.ca/aboutus/docs/membership\\_application-2012.pdf](http://afhs.ab.ca/aboutus/docs/membership_application-2012.pdf))

## GENERAL MEETINGS

General meetings of the Society are held the first Monday (second Monday if the first Monday is a holiday) of every month from September to June at River Park Church, 3818 - 14A Street SW, Calgary. Details of upcoming programs are published on the AFHS website.

## SOCIETY PUBLICATIONS

A list of AFHS publications and information on how to purchase copies may be found on the Society's website. (<http://afhs.ab.ca/publications/cemetery.shtml>)

## AFHS LIBRARY

The Society's library, containing thousands of items of interest to family historians, is located in the AFHS offices and is open to members and the general public free of charge. For hours of operation, please consult the Calendar on the AFHS website or phone 403-214-1447.

## CHINOOK

**Publication:** *Chinook* is published quarterly by the Alberta Family Histories Society (AFHS) on October 1st, January 1st, April 1st and July 1st. *Chinook* is distributed to all AFHS members, and other family history societies and institutions around the world.

**Submissions:** Anyone interested in genealogy, family history or regional history is welcome to submit articles. Material may be submitted to the *Chinook* Editor by email ([editor-chinook@afhs.ab.ca](mailto:editor-chinook@afhs.ab.ca)) or by post to the AFHS offices. For information about format, authors should consult the *Chinook* Submission Guidelines on the AFHS website. (<http://afhs.ab.ca/publications/docs/chinook-submission-guidelines.pdf>) The final decision with respect to acceptance of any material for publication rests with the *Chinook* Editor. Neither the AFHS nor *Chinook* assumes responsibility for errors, omissions or authors' opinions.

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