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Chinook

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Alberta Family Histories Society

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Name <u>Josephine Hill</u>				
Alias <u>Blodwin Davis Hill, Helma Josephine Hill, Class.</u>				
No. <u>405</u> Color <u>White</u> Sex <u>Female</u> Ref. <u></u>				
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Not all ancestors were saints! (See article on Blodwin 'Winnifred' Davis, pages 9 to 15.)

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ALBERTA FAMILY HISTORIES SOCIETY

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<http://afhs.ab.ca/aboutus/contacts.shtml>

EDITOR'S OBSERVATIONS by Wayne Shephard



In this issue we present articles dealing with a variety of topics, in keeping with the theme of **A Genealogy Potpourri**.

Helen Osborn, a professional genealogist and teacher, comments on ways genealogists can enhance their skills and improve their research results. **Brian Hutchison** relates the fascinating story of a lady who spent most of her life on the wrong side of the law. **Amy Tanner Thiriot** offers some basic instruction on how family historians can share the histories of their families when the cost and complexity of publishing a book is not an option. **Richard Ratcliffe** details the entries in an 1886 school log book from Wolford National School in Warwickshire, England. I have some additional observations about my recent experiences with putting my family tree online at MyHeritage.com.

Duane Kelly poses some pertinent questions and comments concerning what AFHS members should expect or receive as part of belonging to the AFHS. Are you satisfied with what you get?

With this issue I say goodbye to *Chinook* and the AFHS. You will read on page 31 about a major decision by the AFHS Board of Directors to produce the journal only in digital form, beginning later in 2014, apparently necessitated by budget considerations. Neither the Editor nor anyone associated with production of *Chinook* was consulted about the timing or manner of this change or any other proposal related to format, content or delivery. Certainly the Society is facing challenges, some concerned with revenue and expense. Membership has declined over 20% in the last three years and with it, the number of potential volunteers. Members should be concerned about what direction the Society is headed. A good opportunity to ask the Board about the current state of affairs and the future plans or ideas being contemplated might be at the Annual General Meeting to be held in June.

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE by Dawn Turner



Greetings, everyone!

There is a lot going on at the AFHS these days, much of which you will read about in other articles. Of particular note, though, is that we have formed an "AFHS Revamp" committee to begin addressing 21st-century issues such as declining membership and electronic delivery of goods and services. Even *Chinook* will be delivered only digitally one day soon because of rising costs of printing and shipping. The committee will examine research being done into successful genealogical societies and look to the better ones as examples to emulate. More details will be forthcoming as we progress. If you have any ideas or comments, please let us know at president@afhs.ab.ca.

The most important contributions to an organization's success come from its volunteers, and here's where you have a role to play. We have a few key positions that urgently need to be filled. If you or anyone you know could help, please feel free to contact me at president@afhs.ab.ca.

Vice President

We have no Vice President, a position essential to our existence. The Vice President's duties primarily include attending meetings, assuming the role of chair if the President is absent, and eventually taking the President's seat when his/her term has been completed.

Perhaps the biggest role of the Vice President is to prepare to become President, as the Society cannot function without one.

Chinook Editor

The Editor of *Chinook* is moving on and we will need someone to take his place. Do you have a flair for layout? Are you proficient with formatting documents in Microsoft Word? Got a

good eye for spelling and punctuation? Become part of building our award-winning journal.

Produced quarterly, *Chinook* is distributed to all AFHS members. You will have assistance from proofreaders, and some training may be provided.

Fundraiser and Grant-Writer

The revamp committee has big plans a-brewing and we need a boost to the budget to get things rolling. We are looking for someone who has a little (or a lot of) experience in fundraising and writing grant applications. Please let us know if you or someone you know may be interested.

Other positions

Two other positions, Director-at-Large and Volunteer Coordinator, are open. Our PR Committee would likely appreciate a little help, too.

Our amazing team of volunteers is the backbone of our society. Plus, we have a lot of fun. It's a great group of people who work well together and enjoy each other's company. We need more, bright, talented individuals to help us move AFHS into a new era and we invite you to join us! ###

APRIL 5, 2014 – SEMINAR: SPEND THE DAY WITH DAVE OBEЕ!

It's not too late to register for the day-long AFHS seminar scheduled for April 5, 2014.

Dave Obee, internationally-known journalist, author, speaker and genealogical researcher will present four talks on doing *Genealogy in Canada*, including:

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

For more information about the program and registration, visit the AFHS website.

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

**PERIODICALS PLACE:
CHINOOK AND THE BREEZE**

Chinook and *The Breeze* are the two regular publications of the AFHS. To find information about them, consult the Society's website (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 obtain more details, 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 is moved to the following week.

The Program Committee likes 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

**CALL FOR ARTICLES:
The Battlefields and
They Came to Alberta**

Our lineup for the next two issues:

- **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 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 it was of great significance 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? ###

AFHS DISCUSSION LIST

The Society maintains 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 website homepage and follow the instructions.

If you have any difficulty signing up, please email webmaster@afhs.ab.ca

BECOME A BETTER GENEALOGIST

by Helen Osborn

[This is a revised version of an article that originally appeared in *The National Archives* magazine, *Ancestors*, in 2008.]

When we start working on family history, I don't suppose many of us ask the question as to what skills we are going to need in order to be truly successful. Beginners get useful advice about record sources – what is available and where to find it – and a great deal of encouragement from everyone to “Have a go!” By the time most people have the census and civil registration under their belts, and been bitten by the genealogy bug, it can seem a little late to start questioning how you go about things or what new skills might be needed. Internet research has made any natural tendency to dive in without proper preparation even more prevalent than it was when we looked through reels of microfilm. Only when our research hits the proverbial brick wall do we stop and pause for breath.

What sort of genealogist have you been, up to now? Elizabeth Shown Mills, the well-known US genealogist, posed this provocative question in an article in the *National Genealogical Society Quarterly* (Centennial Issue, volume 91, December 2003, pp. 260-277). She put researchers into three categories:

1. **Family Tree Climbers** are enthusiastic, but in their eagerness to rush backwards they forget to cite their sources, accept information from anywhere without question and accept all printed information as true.
2. **Traditional Genealogists** have a good knowledge of sources and can carefully document evidence and plan research, but have a genealogy that ignores the reality of people's lives.
3. **Generational Historians** supplement the work of the Traditionalists by seeking out additional information that explains the lives of their ancestors and allows a more rounded and accurate historical picture.

If you are stuck in your research, (and who isn't, on at least one line?) now might be a good time to ask yourself this question and to think about equipping yourself with a few more skills, particularly if you recognise yourself as a bit of a Family Tree Climber.

I work as a professional genealogist and teacher. Having dealt with many people and their research, I have found some common failings in those who get stuck. Their question is always “Where else can I look?” Hardly ever does someone ask “What could I be doing better?” Sometimes answers to “Where else can I look?” are actually “at your methods” and “in places you have already looked.” Of course, this message is not the one we want to hear! In my experience, most people who are stuck have committed at least one of my top ten genealogy “Sins of Omission.” Often several of these have combined to mire their research completely.

Helen's “Sins of Omission”

- not starting from what is absolutely certain
- failing to look at the original record, or to read it properly
- not recording accurately where information has come from
- relying too heavily on evidence from indexes, and not checking if indexes have gaps
- not searching widely enough – across time, geographic space and record series
- not thinking outside the box – particularly where family stories are concerned
- failing to expand a search sideways into collateral lines
- failing to check other people's uncited research
- not understanding the historical context
- failing to understand the legal system that created the records

Don't think that, because you have been researching for years, you are immune to these mistakes. We can probably all confess to having

made some of these errors at one time or another. I know I can. On your route to becoming a better genealogist you need have, and to be able to apply, the following:

- records knowledge
- methodical planning and record keeping
- evidence analysis
- imagination and creative thinking.

Records Knowledge

Records knowledge breaks down into several separate but related areas.

• Knowledge of sources

The records are your friends; learn about them and what is relevant for your family. Find out what is available and where you can access it. Learn about who made the records, why they were made, who their original, intended audience was and who subsequently kept them. Ask yourself if you are looking at the original or a duplicate; or is it an index or transcript. Are there likely to be gaps? Could there be errors? Are there old-fashioned terms and phrases that need greater investigation as to their true meaning? You will find plenty of information on records that may prove useful to your research online and in books and magazines about family history.

• Examination of original documents

There is considerable confusion as to what this might mean, exacerbated by the proliferation of thousands of indexes on many different websites. There is never any substitute for the original page, although it is perfectly all right to use digitized or filmed images, as long as you can be sure that the original has not been altered in any way. The England and Wales census images available at Ancestry would be an example where the record series has been filmed in its entirety and you can see the images of the original pages online. As a general rule, any online database or index that does not allow you to see a digitized image of the original should be followed up by a review of the original records. Many of the other records at Ancestry

would fall into this category, as would many of the records found at FamilySearch. Once you have the original document in front of you, make sure you have read it through properly, noting any words that are unfamiliar to you. Don't guess at names and places if they are hard to read. Improve your paleographic skills with constant practice or a short course.

• Background reading

Expand your knowledge of national and local history in order to put your family into historical context. It is essential to have a good knowledge of the general and local history and of the legal system in the times when your ancestors lived. When you are researching ancestry from a distance, it is even more important to build up your background information about places and to be able to locate them on a map. Learn as much as possible about how people lived their lives and travelled around and how the law affected them, as well as if there were any specific local customs, such as those affecting inheritance.

Methodical Planning and Record Keeping

Being naturally of a methodical turn of mind is a great help, not only with neat note-taking, source citation and organization of records, but also with something you read less about – planning.

• Draw up a research plan

Do you really plan your research, or is it all a bit haphazard? It is rare to find anybody who was not already a professional who planned effectively. This means:

- writing down what is known
- thinking about the aims of the research – for example, an aim might be to find the baptisms of all the children of an ancestor
- writing down what records and sources are to be used, where they are held, which date ranges to search and, finally,
- recording your results, so you can see the criteria and the results of the search

Some genealogy software programs have research logs that can help you with this process. However you do it, make sure the plan is recorded on paper – not just in your head. You won't believe how much this process will help your thinking and show you where there may be gaps in your research until you start doing it!

- **Cite your sources**

Where are you getting your information from? What is the reference for that parish register, census page or military document? Have you ever taken a photocopy of a document and then, much later, wondered where it came from? If you needed to describe to someone else how you found the information, how would you do it so that they could quickly follow in your footsteps? The answer is always to write down a description of your sources.

- **Methodical record keeping**

It is so easy to let your research records get into a mess. For my own family research, I use genealogy software in order to keep all the main information shipshape, including source citations and notes. I also keep old-fashioned paper files for copies of documents – certificates, census returns, parish register entries, wills – with one file for each of the main surname lines I am following. Once the file gets too fat it has to be split into two or more sub-files. Use whatever subcategory is appropriate. There are a number of ways you can get yourself organized. You need to find the method that will work best for you. And, remember to back up your computer files!

Evidence Analysis

Proper analysis of your evidence will allow you to wring the last drop of information out of each document, particularly when you combine documents or evidence to build up a complete picture.

- **Keep an open mind**

Good analysis always starts with a mind open to all possibilities. You must not selectively use the evidence to fit your theory; your theories should emerge from the evidence.

- **Ask questions of your documents**

Use the information found to provoke questions that lead to new information. What does the information tell you? Are you confident that it is factual? Is it relevant to your ancestor? What conclusions can be drawn?

- **Use a timeline**

This is a really useful tool to sort out what happened, where it happened and when. Use of a timeline, particularly when you have a large amount of information, will enable you to question any theories that are doubtful. Writing out each known event for a family in strict chronological order, together with the source for the information, will enable you to see where things simply do not fit the evidence. It will also give you useful clues to follow up. You can simply write out a list. If you want to be able to sort the events by person, place or other heading of your choice, then I would recommend using a spreadsheet such as Microsoft Excel.

- **Combine Records**

Wherever possible, work with more than one set of records to get a more complete picture. Use the census, civil registration, directories, poor law records or whatever is relevant for your family. When you have two pieces of evidence that contradict one another, don't see that as a problem, but as an opportunity to find out more. The abilities to look at information from several different sources, weigh them up and draw appropriate conclusions are vital skills.

Imagination & Creative Thinking

Not all of us are blessed with the ability to think truly imaginatively about our research but, luckily enough, good genealogists have gone before to leave some excellent tips for making a start.

- **Look for a bigger picture**

The ability to see the whole picture, to think of one's ancestor as part of a whole family and social system, will enable you to ask relevant questions and to think outside the norm.

- **Reconstruct the whole family**

If your ancestor is hard to find, can you use a sibling in order to get at the same information? For example, finding records for a brother who was in the army or had another well-documented occupation might enable you to break down the brick wall of a birthplace. Try and reconstruct the family sideways and forwards to bring up extra clues. Look for the wills of siblings, aunts and uncles. Particularly useful are unmarried females who often are found on the census living with relatives and who mention family in their wills.

- **Flexibility of approach**

Try not to let any family stories or pet theories cloud your judgement. Likewise, don't be afraid to try new ways of researching, networking with others and sharing findings. I often find stubbornness cited as an asset in genealogists. In my experience it can be a hindrance!

- **Give your brain a rest**

When you really have a problem, let the research drop for a period of time. Often when you pick it up again, something will occur to you or something that you have missed will present itself to you.

Genealogy is a discipline that requires its practitioners to bring together many different skills, some of which do not complement each other. The creative and imaginative mind is not always the best at neat and methodical note-taking. I, for one, struggle with the neatness part. I leave you with a final thought – have the imagination to believe nothing and the tools to check everything!



Helen Osborn has been undertaking professional genealogy and historical research since 1998 and has probably encountered just about every type of research problem and project.

Her own family history project now reaches back 20 generations and covers almost every county in England – and further afield. Helen is a qualified archivist and has degrees in history and in archives and records management. She teaches family history and is co-owner and founder of Pharos Teaching & Tutoring Ltd., the first provider of online genealogy education in the UK. (<http://www.pharostutors.com/>) She is a member of the Association of Genealogists and Researchers in Archives (AGRA) and has lectured at a number of family history society conferences on a large variety of historical and family history topics.

Helen is the author or co-contributor of several books including Genealogy: Essential Research Methods. Her personal website can be accessed at <http://www.osbornresearch.co.uk> ###

FORENSIC GENEALOGY

The term, *Forensic Genealogy*, has been defined as, “*the use of science or technology [in addition to traditional genealogical records] by investigation through due diligence to establish facts or evidence in a court of law that pertains to a direct descendant; creating a record, pedigree, or lineage of a person, family, or group from an ancestor.*” Forensic genealogists look “beyond the records” to gather all available clues. Often, but not always, such cases are initially court-driven.

**Brian W. Hutchison, Founding Partner
GEN-FIND Research Associates, Inc.**

HIDDEN PAST UNEARTHED: A CASE STUDY – THE LONG DECEPTION OF BLODWIN ‘WINNIFRED’ DAVIS by Brian W. Hutchison

Unearthing ancestral skeletons may not always be a good thing! Genealogical researchers, particularly hired professionals, must take great care with releasing certain facts. Clients, too, need to be prepared for the outcome of any research. Our newly-found historical knowledge, along with the way that we report it, can be as cruel and painful now as it was when it was contemporary!

The case of Blodwin ‘Winnifred’ Davis is the story of a creative woman who fabricated the story of her life from an early age so well that, to this day, it has been extremely difficult to determine who she actually was and what became of her. She deceived those around her and, some might even suggest, succeeded so very well that in the end she had deceived herself to the point she believed her own stories.

The deception would unravel slowly later in her life, though it would not become fully exposed and apparent to others until long after her death. The family would come to learn the shocking truth about *Grandma Winnie*, as she was kindly referred to by her family, and her long-developed deception would haunt them, leaving them to ask, “What is the truth about our ancestral past?”

Client Objectives

Our firm is involved primarily with forensic genealogical cases. In May 2007, however, a young man came to us and encouraged us to take on his family history case. He was having great difficulty uncovering his mother’s maternal ancestry and needed assistance.

After hearing his story, we were intrigued by the apparent history of his purported maternal grandmother, who was the intended focus of the investigation. Little did we know at the time that it would lead us to a complex story of deception, the events of which would impact so many lives in so many negative ways.

The defined objectives were twofold:

1. With a myriad of conflicting information already compiled by the client, we were asked to attempt to determine what became of the client’s maternal grandmother, known to them as, Blodwin ‘Winnifred’ (Winnie) Bailey (born circa 1892, possibly in Virginia, USA, and reportedly of Irish extraction), last known of Saskatchewan and Manitoba; and
2. We were also asked to develop a biographical accounting of Winnie’s life, parents, and siblings.

Client’s Known Facts

The birth certificate for our client’s mother, Greta Elizabeth Higgins (born February 26, 1924, at Healthwin Hospital in Winnipeg, MB), indicates that her mother, Blodwin Bailey, was of Irish origin and that her father was Thomas Francis Higgins, also Irish, of Regina, SK. In the document Blodwin stated that she was born in Richmond, VA, 41 years earlier, and that she had “six children” however “three were now deceased” though “none stillborn.”

On Blodwin’s 1920 marriage record to Thomas Francis Higgins, she indicated her name was Winnie Rankin and her age was 31. She listed her religion as Christian Science, although the couple were married by a Methodist clergyman. She stated that she was born in Richmond, VA, and that her father was Joseph Bailey (occupation – a physician) and her mother was Emily Williams, both born in Ireland.

Case Background

Never in our wildest dreams did we expect to eventually find such a wealth of information on Blodwin (aka Winnie) Bailey when we agreed to take on this case. Sadly, however, the search has still not come to a full conclusion and we will likely continue to incur considerable amounts of time and expense.

Early research on Winnie documents that she was a “very sweet and helpful individual,” and this sentiment was expressed on several occasions by people that met her. Nevertheless, she clearly had major personality flaws which became more and more apparent as time progressed: with her increasingly sociopathic ways, she became an ever more hardened career criminal; she was a convicted bigamist; she increasingly confused the reporting of her past; and there was some suggestion in the source records found to date that she was using heavy doses of unstated medications (possibly for her ever-present “nervous condition” and “frequent female pain”), though the documents are not clear as to any possible addiction, something she succinctly denied on multiple occasions.

Understanding her past a little better does suggest some reasons as to why her life went in the direction that it did. From what has been determined, Blodwin ‘Winnifred’ (Winnie) Bailey (later more correctly acknowledged as Winnie Beeley) was born and baptized Blodwin Josephine Davis (born December 26, 1892, in Fairmont, Marion County, WV) to parents John E. (aka John Thomas) Davis (born circa 1856 in Wales; died May 1, 1901, in Ingleside, Adams County, NE) and Emily Williams (born August 19, 1868, in Wales; died November 12, 1918, in Saint Charles, Saginaw County, MI). Emily Williams was the daughter of William D. Williams and Rosina Jones.

Winnie’s parents, John and Emily Davis, married on May 19, 1892, in Ohio County, WV. Winnie was the eldest of three children of this Welsh, coal-mining family, the other two being Thomas (Tom) John Davis (born September 8, 1894, likely in Barton, Belmont County, OH, though other information suggests that the event occurred in Saint Charles, MI; died January 29, 1973, in Wheeler, Wheeler County, TX) and Rosina Davis-Wright (born February 22, 1897, in Sherville, Harrison County, OH; died April 12, 1987, in Toledo, Lucas County, OH).

There is some evidence that Winnie’s father, John E. Davis, was a coal mining inspector who

died from diabetes mellitus, in the State Lunatic Asylum (now Hastings State Hospital) at Hastings, NE, after an earlier involuntary separation from his wife and family in about 1898. He had been institutionalized for “manic depressive insanity” for two years.



Blodwin Winnifred (Winnie) Davis
(photo taken ca 1931)

Emily Williams-Davis remarried, to widower Joseph Beeley (born December 1865 in Kirkstall, York County, England; died 1928 in Jackson, Jackson County, MI), son of James Beeley and Maria Hardy, on November 12, 1902, in Carroll County, OH. She had no children with Mr. Beeley. Contrary to Winnie’s previous statements to her family, Joseph Beeley was not a physician, but was rather also a coal miner and later a labourer. The states of West Virginia, Michigan and Ohio had large coal-mining communities that often inter-migrated among the three localities, and these family members were clear examples of that migration pattern.

Details on Winnie's siblings, Thomas (Tom) John Davis and Rosina Davis (Mrs. Clarence Wright), have been fully traced. Winnie may have had later contact with her siblings and their children, though it is believed highly unlikely. Due to time constraints, however, research has not yet been conducted to locate their descendants and speak with them. Given information from the documents found, it is our belief that Winnie never made attempts to visit or contact either siblings, or their children, later in her life, nor did they contact her. The examined Minnesota court documents suggest that Winnie was an enigma to her family and that they had great disdain for her criminal and reckless lifestyle.

It was apparent early in the research that Blodwin Josephine Davis (aka Winnie Davis or Winnie Beeley) had a difficult life. At a very young age, her natural father suffered from mental illness which obviously affected life in his adult home; her mother remarried a man who was abusive himself; and she lived in a highly migratory, booze-filled and dysfunctional coal-mining family that existed from paycheque to paycheque.

These factors and her own negative disposition toward authority resulted in her being out on her own, by choice, working by the age of 13 or 14, travelling alone across America and into Canada and being employed in whatever vocations allowed her to survive. With little money to subsist, no other economic and social support and her tendency to involve herself with men who soon took advantage of her sweet, accommodating nature, she quickly succumbed to an ever-increasing criminal influence. In order just to exist, she committed petty crimes and, eventually, more serious offences such as bigamy, fraud, forgery, impersonation and larceny. By mid-life she was a well-known and wanted career criminal in both Canada and the United States – at the state/provincial and national levels – for a multitude of criminal activities.

JOHN EDGAR HOOVER
Federal Bureau of Investigation
 United States Department of Justice
 Washington, D. C.

April 27, 1943

The following is the record of FBI number 651421 *J. E. Hoover*
 Director

CONTRIBUTOR OF FINGERPRINTS	NAME AND NUMBER	ADMITTED OR RECEIVED	CHARGE	DISPOSITION
St. Paul, Minn.	Blodwin Davis Hill 18-34 Hill and No 6643/1503	12-11-31	Check Fraud	1-11-32, 20 3 1/2 yrs., 1-12-34, con- tinued's Refr. Acc. to 18"
St. Paul, Minn. St. Anthony, Minn. 7643/1503	Blodwin Davis Hill 18-34 Hill and No 6643/1503	12-26-31	vis. Irregular	
St. Paul, Minn. Lunenburg, Minn.	Josephine Higgins 1425 Ref. for Lyon, Minn.; Minn.	1-20-32	U.I. 2nd. deg.	3-5 yrs.
St. Paul, Minn. St. Paul, Minn.	Blodwin Hill 1425 Ref. for Lyon, Minn.	1-24-32	U.I. 2nd. deg.	6-5 yrs. 6-7-33, 6-10-33
St. Paul, Minn.	Helen M. Garnett 17224	1-3-43	vis. of Dec. 25 Title 18 U.S.C.	
St. Paul, Minn.	Helen Margaret Garnett, 11232	1-3-43	U.I. 2nd. deg.	
St. Paul, Minn.	Helen M. Garnett 17224	3-10-43	Impersonation - FBI Officer	2 yrs.

FBI abstract of offenses for Helen Garnett
 (aka Blodwin Winnifred Higgins-Hill)
 as at April 1943

Her criminal involvement likely began during her teens in the US, though it certainly grew in frequency while in Canada. Her illegal activities increased further after her return to America in the early-1930s. Most of our findings centre around court and prison files from Saskatchewan and Minnesota; however, there are likely similar files worth investigating in other locations such as Manitoba, Kansas, Texas and Virginia, along with the federal collections of the RCMP and the FBI.

Information is not clear about Winnie's life during her first marriage to Ellis Rankin, though it suggests that both parties had been participating in minor crimes in the US. While in Canada, however, Winnie's illegal activities began to escalate. Winnie's second husband, Frank Higgins, saved her from the long arm of the law many times by paying her debts during the period of their relationship – though later even he refused to provide further help for her. She had a history of failing to overcome the problems of marriage and at the first sign of difficulty would flee, change her name, settle in with yet another man and then continue to play the same program over and over.

Although she had some legal difficulties in Canada, Winnie was only seriously charged, found guilty and convicted in the US after

leaving Canada. Her crimes were primarily bigamy, false pretences and writing of bad cheques. It is known that the RCMP was also interested in her for other fraud and forgery offenses. Later in life she served prison time in the states of Minnesota in the 1930s and West Virginia in the 1940s, and may have well served additional prison time in other localities which we have not yet accounted.

We have not determined much about Winnie's life prior to her arrival in Canada. We believe that her life was on the fringe of legal society from an early age. It would seem that many of her actions were driven by her own family upbringing and her attempts just to survive life in a society that was male-dominated.

Lies and Deceptions

This search has been lengthy and what has complicated it, besides Winnie Davis' many liaisons and her flight to places all over Canada and the US, is that Winnie changed her name so many times – by marriage and by choice – to try to stay ahead of the law. We still do not know all of the aliases that she used. We may never know all of them; however, the following table reports a number of them found to date.

The table is a timeline and summary of Winnie's major life events, along with the many names and aliases she was using over a fifty-year period:

DATE	NAMES/ALIASES USED	LOCATIONS	COMMENTS
December 16, 1892	Blodwin 'Winnifred' Davis	Fairmont, WV	Born to Welsh coal-miners, John E. Thomas and Emily Williams
1897-1901	Blodwin Davis	Carlton, OH	Family migrates and resettles in Ohio coal-mining community
1903	Winnie Davis	St. Charles, MI	Family relocates to Michigan coal-mining community
1903-1906	Winnie Davis	Wadsworth, OH	Family further drifts to another Ohio coal-mining town and Winnie leaves home in 1906
1906-1907	Faye Wright, Josephine Wright	Unknown	Unknown activity
ca. 1908-1912	Winnie Davis	Spokane, MI	Meets Dr. and Mrs. Wright and leaves with them for Seattle then Spokane
March 20, 1911	Winnifred Davis, Mrs. Roy Lang Rankin	Spokane, MI	Meets and marries 1st husband, Canadian Ellis Gray Rankin (alias Roy Lang Rankin, son of Archibald Rankin and Beatrice Ellis. Ellis employed as a railroad traffic inspector and also later works for US Postal Service
1912-1913	Winnifred Davis or Mrs. Roy Lang	Middleville, ON	Ellis and Winnie resettle with his parents and help on fathers' farm
Late 1913 - August 1914	Winnie Davis, Winnifred Rankin	Chicago, IL	Takes nursing courses by correspondence while husband works for an uncle
ca. Late 1914 - June 1915	Winnifred Rankin, or Mrs. Roy Lang	Regina, SK	Winnie immigrates with Ellis to Canada - entry point and date not yet known
June 1915 - Summer 1918	Winnie Rankin	Regina, SK, and Europe	Serves as a nurse for the St. John's Ambulance Corps overseas and is wounded. It is not fully clear as to the name(s) used during this period as war service record has not yet been found.
Summer 1918-1920	Winnifred Rankin	Regina, SK	Settles with Ellis in Regina, where he is employed as a clerk and accountant for Northern Electric and then as a railroad traffic manager. Nurses Ellis with tuberculosis to his death in February 1920 (couple bear no surviving children), though apparently are separated
1918-1920	Winnifred Rankin	Regina, SK	Involved with salesman Thomas 'Francis' (Frank) Higgins, son of Thomas Higgins and Margaret Taylor, after nursing Frank's late wife

1918	Winnifred Higgins	Regina, SK	Adopts Thomas (Tom) Francis Higgins Jr., an illegitimate child of a woman she nursed
July 26, 1920	Winnifred Rankin	Winnipeg, MB, though living in Regina, SK	Marries 2nd husband, Thomas Francis Higgins Sr.
1920-1923	Winnifred Higgins	Winnipeg, MB	Separates from 2nd husband and nurses in Winnipeg
ca. 1923-1924	Winnifred Higgins	Regina, SK	Returns to 2nd husband
1924	Winnifred Higgins	Winnipeg, MB	Adopts Greta (Geekie) Elizabeth Higgins with her 2nd husband, likely also an illegitimate child of a woman she nursed
1924-1928	Winnifred Higgins, Winnie Rankin, and Josephine Higgins	Regina, SK	Remains with 2nd husband until July 1928 and then flees to Winnipeg to nurse
1928-1929	Unknown	Near Regina, SK	Believed to be nursing
1929-1930	Winnifred Higgins	Winnipeg, MB	Nursing
August 7, 1930	Josephine Thelma Fuchs "from Toronto"	Portage La Prairie, MB	Meets druggist 3rd husband, Andrew D. Hill and marries him while nursing here
March 20-21, 1931	Winnie Higgins and Josephine Thelma Fuchs-Hill, Mrs. A. Hill	St. Paul, MN	Flees Canada upon learning Hill and Higgins arrange to have her charged in Canada for bigamy and fraud
June 1931	Josephine Higgins, Josephine Hill	St. Paul, MN	Defrauds the Emporium Mercantile Co. and is, arrested in Hot Springs, AR. Winnie had wrote fraudulent cheques in Minneapolis, Zoarville, Hot Springs and Regina for more than \$3000
December 26, 1931	Blodwin Davis Hill	Possibly in San Antonio, TX	Commits US Immigration law violations
January 11, 1932	Josephine Higgins	Hot Springs, AR	Makes court appearance for fraud and grand larceny in the 2nd degree
September 7, 1932	Winnie Higgins, Josephine Thelma Fuchs-Hill, Thelma Josephine Fuchs, Josephine Hill	Hot Springs, AR	SK divorce proceedings conducted by Thomas Francis Higgins Sr. under multiple known aliases
January 20, 1932 To August 1933	Winnifred Higgins	Shakopee, MN	Is charged, pleads guilty, and imprisoned in Shakopee State Reformatory for Women (original five-year sentence for grand larceny in the 2nd degree)
August 1933-September 1933	Josephine Higgins	Toledo and Zoarville, OH	Allowed to care for ailing sister and her children, as a deal for early release, though started more fraud and theft. Reported by sister to the authorities as one of the crime victims
September 1933 January 1934	Unknown	Hot Springs, AR	Unknown activity
1934-March 1943	Unknown	Unknown	Unknown activity
March 10, 1943	Helen Margaret Garnett	Alderson, WV	Charged, pleads guilty and imprisoned in Alderson Federal Reformatory for Women (two-year mandatory sentence for impersonation of an FBI officer and US Immigration violations arising out of Kansas City, Missouri). These prison records have not yet been examined
1945 and later	Unknown	Unknown	

[Cover Illustration – Finger printing of Josephine Higgins-Hill, aka Blodwin Davis Hill, Thelma Josephine Hill, Faye Wright, Mrs. A. D. Hill, Mrs. Ellis Rankin, Mrs Roy Lang (Shakopee Reformatory, Minnesota)
Credit, all illustrations: *GEN-FIND Research Associates, Inc*]

A couple of good photographs of Winnie Davis are enclosed in the prison and court documents. They also include some wonderful descriptions of her and her family, as well as her signature and multiple letters. All the documents provide good biographical details which may help trace her post-1943 whereabouts.

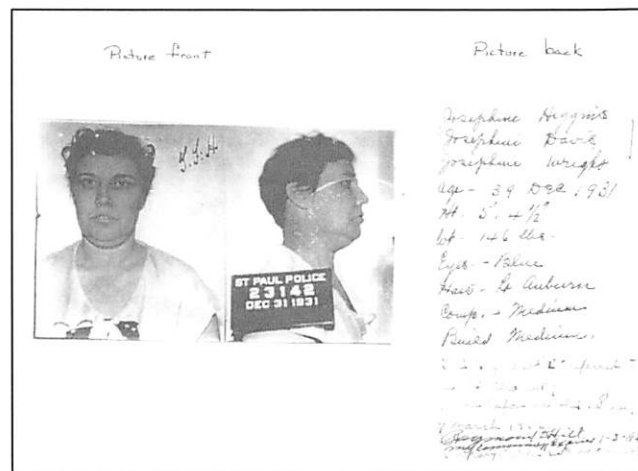
We are uncertain about how many children Winnie had. She mentioned only two adopted children, although she suggested in one document that she was pregnant six times with three children surviving. Two have been accounted for. Was there one child that preceded her involvement with Ellis Rankin? Regardless, Winnie appears to have had no natural biological children, despite the client's evidence which suggests otherwise. Based upon Winnie's court testimony, she had three tubal pregnancies prior to 1933 and suffered from chronic uterine adhesions during her life, which certainly may have complicated any further births after 1924.

Winnie herself, in the various documents, specifically accounts for two children (those noted in this article) which she clearly indicated were "adopted" and "illegitimate" children "of two women that she nursed." Actual birth names and natural parentage for they are yet unknown, though it is highly likely that both children were not named at birth and given directly to Winnie for her adoption and registration.

Though children's welfare and adoption programs began in New Brunswick as early as about 1873, in Manitoba in 1898, and in Saskatchewan in 1908, adoption in Canada was not really regulated by the provincial governments until about 1921/1922. Prior to that period adoptions were arranged privately, in most cases, and many children were placed with relatives or with individuals by churches. Therefore, the likelihood of surviving case files for Winnie's two adopted children are very remote.

Despite the official-looking birth certificates for both of Winnie's children, we believe that they were altered (and recreated) later for adoption

purposes, as is normally the case. When you examine such documents today you will find nothing to suggest other than normal natural births and parentage. Certainly one would need to try to confirm these statements through other sources before making any definitive claims in this regard. Given the good character of at least Thomas Francis Higgins Sr., we personally feel that if the children were adopted it was done so legally and thus there should be an official government record of both events, as limited as they may be. Accessing them would be difficult, if not impossible, at present. Up to now the Saskatchewan government has not commented on an adoption to our client regarding Thomas Francis Higgins Jr. The Manitoba government now flatly asserts that Greta Elizabeth Higgins was not adopted, although a much earlier communication by a government agency with the client suggests the contrary.



Shakopee, MN Reformatory photo (taken in 1832)

Thomas Francis Higgins Sr. and Jr. always refused to say anything about their wife/adopted mother after her departure, and Greta was always told that her "mother had died when she was young." Thomas F. Higgins Jr. knew the truth though never spoke of it, nor of his mother, after learning the facts from his adopted father in the 1930s. Winnie's departure from their lives was a very wounding and painful moment for both of them and, after 1932, they knew nothing more of her whereabouts nor her ongoing nefarious activities.

The Research Process

It is important that all avenues are examined when conducting extensive research on pedigrees such as this one. Often many of them are not considered by the less-experienced genealogical researcher. It is imperative that researchers also consider the more obscure source record collections to shed light on families and their individual interactions. Here, in particular, it was important to examine very unusual records and resources.

Many of the following collections could help put further “meat on the bones” of search subjects and provide more pieces to the puzzle:

- mental hospital records
- police/criminal case files (local, state or provincial and national)
- court adoption and divorce records
- jail and prison records when suspicious of bigamy, fraud, and deception or other crimes;
- immigration/migration record collections
- newspaper accounts
- multiple census records in multiple localities
- all usual and lesser-used record collections in the case of suspected multiple aliases

Full reconstruction of several family groupings in an area, in an attempt to isolate the correct family using all available source record collections, may even be required to attain your search objectives.

The single most important breakthrough on this case, at least in determining Winnie’s origins, was the fact that she noted clearly and truthfully, in several documents, the names of her mother and father of which confirming information was found much later during the investigation. Without those clear statements, it may have been very difficult to fully determine Winnie’s ancestral origins with any degree of certainty.

Summary

We still do not know what finally became of

Winnie Davis and so the search continues! She was, and is, an enigma, though one thing is certain: she did not change her spots. Very likely, she continued to weave stories about herself and her past to all she met. Most of the stories were false, deceptive and knowingly inaccurate. She lost the trust of her family, husbands and children alike. Hers was a life filled with years of deception! The family never did hear what became of Winnie and she never again contacted her children. The unknowing and the deception created a deep void, sense of loss and great sadness for all of the family. Though decades have passed, the surviving descendants continue to feel this way and wonder what became of Blodwin Winnifred Davis.

In my forty-plus years of professional research, I have found this case to be truly one of those unique examples of how unearthing the genealogical past can sometimes be more painful than leaving the past buried. More often than not, such difficult family stories are still worth being told, however, researchers must be always cognizant of the impact of telling them. Nevertheless, the players are our family and we need to accept the times and the circumstances, being mindful that we are not here to judge, only to tell the story!

[For a fuller presentation of this case study, please consult the following web page:

<http://www.gen-find.com/index.php?page=35>]



Brian W. Hutchison is a full-time professional forensic genealogist with over forty years of related experience. He is now Chairman and President of GEN-FIND Research Associates, Inc. of Canada, a highly-respected professional genealogical research firm since 1985. Brian is a very active teacher, lecturer and author of numerous published scholarly papers and manuscripts on Canadian and British genealogical research issues. His interests are primarily in these areas with particular emphasis on research methodologies for successful 19th/20th/21st-century investigations on complex family history pedigrees, and forensic investigations.###

WHAT'S OUT THERE

by Linda Murray

Causes of Courthouse Destruction

Author Paul K. Graham discusses the various causes of courthouse disasters. He uses the state of Georgia as an example of categorizing disasters resulting from both humans and nature. He recounts some of the most destructive accidents resulting in significant losses of historical records.

Crossroads, Journal of the Utah Genealogical Association, (2013, Fall), 8(4), 22-25.

Finding Irish Estate Papers

Most people in Ireland leased or rented their property prior to the 20th century. Many records were created as a result and include rent rolls, leases, estate maps, emigration lists, wills and mortgages. These private papers of the Irish landlords are known as estate papers and can be a valuable research resource.

The Septs Quarterly Journal, The Journal of the Irish Genealogical Society International, Inc., (2014, January), 35 (1), 10-14.

Finding Russian Roots

Lisa Alzo presents seven strategies to use when researching your Russian families. Her article also includes websites, books and organizations that could be helpful in your search. Although many Russian records have been destroyed, genealogical research has become less difficult in the last decade.

Family Tree Magazine, (2014, January/February), 15(1), 50-56.

Reclaiming My Finnish Heritage

Read about Penny Stratton's journey to her ancestral village in Finland. She has included information on Finnish parish records, Finnish surnames and helpful online resources for research in Finland.

American Ancestors, (2013, Winter), 14(1), 41-45.

Researching The Rev. George Oliver Frost of Wyvenhoe

Judy Bradley discovered a silver desk set in a Kamloops shop with an interesting engraving dated 1862. She bought the set and started her

search for the descendants of Reverend George Oliver Frost of Essex, England.

Heritage Seekers, newsletter of the Grande Prairie & District Branch of the Alberta Genealogical Society (2013, December), 35(4), 7-9.

Samuel Keirstead's Store Ledger 1851 - 1859

Did you have family living in Springfield Parish, Kings County, NB, in the mid 1800s? If so, you may want to read this article about Samuel Keirstead's store ledger, which includes a list of 205 customers. The original ledger has over 400 pages of Samuel's customers and their purchases from 1851 to 1859 at his store in Collina in the parish of Springfield.

Generations: The Journal of the New Brunswick Genealogical Society (2013, Winter), 35(4), 33-37.

Searching Your Orkney Roots

Many Orkneymen signed on with the Hudson's Bay Company in the late 18th and early 19th centuries to work in the fur trade in Western Canada. Most returned to Scotland, but some stayed in Canada to work and raise families. Some Orkneymen married aboriginal women and their Métis descendants are found throughout Canada.

The Okanagan Researcher: Newsletter of the Kelowna & District Genealogical Society (2013, December), 30(2), 14-15.

Wooden Shoe Genealogy: Finding Your Dutch and Frisian Ancestors, Part 1

A former president of the Minnesota Genealogical Society, J.H. Fonkert, has been researching his Scandinavian and Dutch roots for 20 years. Here he outlines a three-step strategy to help find families in the Netherlands.

Family Chronicle, (2013, September/October), 18(1), 13-17.



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. ###

SHARING FAMILY STORIES ONLINE

by Amy Tanner Thiriot

My grandmother and I shared a love for family history and, when I was a teenager, we worked together to collect family stories. My father, James Tanner, is a noted genealogy writer and lecturer, and has also been a source for family information. By the time I was an adult, I had several boxes full of family documents and biographies.

I planned to compile stories of our family into a series of books, but the cost and complexity of publishing delayed the project again and again.

Finally technology caught up and I realized the potential of blogging. Seven years ago I set up *theancestorfiles.blogspot.com* and started sharing my stories online. Over time I've learned how to use the blogging format to advantage. Here are some tips I've picked up along the way.



Ways to share family history online

The main options for sharing family history online are Blogger, Wordpress, online genealogy sites, websites and social networking.

Blogger is hosted by Google, and it's a fairly simple way to blog.

To start, go to *www.blogger.com* and enter your Google email address and password if you have one, or create a new account if you don't have one. You will need to choose a blog title and domain name. (A domain name is the website address including the .com or .org.) Try and make the name easy to remember and descriptive of your blog content. After you get your blog set up, work your way through the options, customizing it as you would like.

There should be no costs involved in setting up a Blogger blog besides your internet connection and computer equipment.

Blogger and other sites allow you to host advertisements, and will pay you to host ads, but unless you have a blog of interest to the general public and get thousands of readers a month, it is generally not worth the bother. In most cases, genealogy is a labour of love, not something to be done for financial gain.

WordPress is another blogging platform and will also walk you through the set-up process. It is a more customizable platform than Blogger, but it can take additional expertise to run. WordPress has a free limited option, WordPress.com, and also has more comprehensive options available for a cost, including upgraded WordPress.com sites or WordPress.org, which requires a web hosting service. (A web hosting service is an internet company that provides online space for customers.)

If you set up a Wordpress blog involving fees, you will need to keep paying the fees if you want to keep the blog online, so you'll want to consider your funding sources before starting.

From time to time, you may get "spam" or computer-generated advertising on a blog. Just delete it. If it becomes a regular problem, you can set up a spam filter for comments.

Online genealogy sites are another way to share

sourced list of the members of a family can be a valuable contribution to your family history. But remember to think twice before posting information about living or recently-deceased people. If you do include information about living people, try to get their consent. Always respect the privacy of living family members and do not provide vital information such as birth dates or marriage information on a public blog or website.

Collections of documents

There's no historical document too trivial to feature. For example, you can include a picture of a census form, discuss the information and provide some background information.

Diaries and family histories

I recently began transcribing the diary of my 4th great-grandmother, Ann Prior Jarvis. When I sit down to blog, I type a paragraph or two into a new blog post, add a family picture and a picture of Ann's diary entry, look up and note the identity of any new person she mentions and list the new sources I used. At this rate it will take three or four years to process the diary, but at the end of that time, the project will be finished without having displaced any of my other projects.



Generally limit posts to 600-800 words. Most readers won't be willing to absorb more than that in one sitting. If you have a longer story to tell, break it up into a series. Remember the principles of good writing. When in doubt, get a copy of a classic such as Strunk and White's *The Elements of Style*. Also remember that people enjoy the feeling of being part of a discovery, so try to include a sense of that when possible.

“A picture is worth a thousand words”

When I was involved in early desktop computer typesetting, I learned that a newsletter should never have a block of text larger than a dollar bill. Blogging is a similar medium. Save long, uninterrupted blocks of text for published books, and use photos, documents, links, movies, and other media to break up your online text.

Options for illustrating your posts include family pictures, documents and memorabilia. If you have physical copies of family photos or documents, scan them at 300 dpi and save them in the format the blog accepts. Then use them as you blog. The format called “jpg” is a common standard for online sites.

When family members discover that you are sharing the family history, they may be willing to participate with their own collections. A distant cousin sent me photographs of some political memorabilia she had inherited from our common ancestor, an early woman politician named Elizabeth Pugsley Hayward. Figuring out the meaning of the memorabilia became a fascinating exploration into progressive-era politics. For example, a small black and red button that said “10%” turned out to refer to 1919 legislation regulating child labour in the United States.

If you are blogging on a topic and do not have family pictures or documents to illustrate it, there are other ways to find pictures, but you may want to read a reliable guide to copyright before using these types of images.

Some places to find images are:

Google Books and Archive.org

Many online book collections have illustrated out-of-copyright books. Find a book on your topic, copy the pictures and use them.

Wikipedia

The pictures used in Wikipedia are copyright free or have a Creative Commons license. Creative Commons is a way for computer users to allow others to use their creative content. Make sure you understand the different types of licenses.

Flickr

This site allows you to choose “Advanced Search” and sort the selections by Creative Commons license. Many photographers have created generous licenses for their pictures. Unless the item is out of copyright and in the public domain, the license usually requires you to attribute the photograph. In practical terms, that means that you must list the source of a photograph each time you use it.

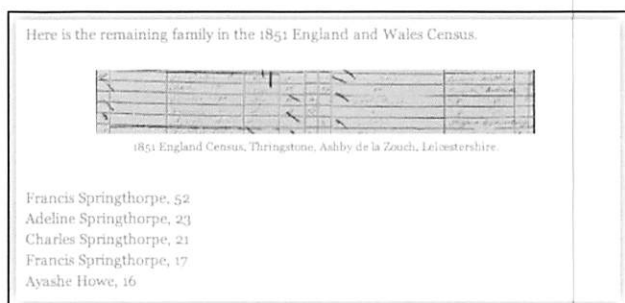
Maps

There are many great sources for out-of-copyright maps such as the David Rumsey Map Collection (www.davidrumsey.com).

Online Archives

Check sites including the National Archives of Canada, the Library of Congress and the New York Public Library.

Two rules of thumb are: if someone else took the picture, it’s not a family picture that you own, it doesn’t have a Creative Commons license or it’s recent enough to be in copyright, ask for permission before using it; if a non-governmental archive provides you with an image, it is professional courtesy to request permission to use it.



Be accurate and dependable

Listing the sources for your information will solidify your reputation as a reputable writer and researcher. If you are gathering and processing information to publish an academic paper or book you would want to note that in the information about your blog, and then carefully preserve the sources in your notes and include them in your paper or book.

Keep backups

Keep copies of your information separate from your blog. Most modern computers have some provision for setting up an automatic backup system. If you don’t have one set up, remember to back up your work regularly, and back up your blog or website as well.

Take advantage of internet networking

When you set up a blog or website, make it visible to search engines so people can find it. Add your contact information so people can ask you questions or send you information.

If there are blogs on topics connected to your research, read them regularly and join in the conversations. Over time, this can build helpful relationships. Seven years into my blogging experience, I have contacts from Scotland to Australia, and some of these fellow researchers have become good friends. I keep a list of research topics and when I see something of interest to someone, I’ll send it along. In return, people in my network have sent discoveries, both small and great.

You can do anything in fifteen minutes a day

Some days you may spend more time, some days you may spend less, but if you commit to spending fifteen minutes a day on your project, you will be surprised at how much you will get done. And you’ll have a great adventure while you’re doing it!



Amy Tanner Thriot is a community and family historian.

Her main blogsite is at www.theancestorfiles.blogspot.ca.

She also guest blogs at The Keepapitchinin, The Mormon History Blog

<http://www.keepapitchinin.org>. In her ongoing series, The Eminent Women of the St. George Temple, she tells the stories of 61 frontier women.

Other projects involve slavery in the Western United States and World War I German history. She lives with her family in Pennsylvania. ###

AFHS PUBLIC RELATIONS COMMITTEE by Tara Shymanski

Have you ever told a friend or family member about the genealogy research you are doing and mentioned the Alberta Family Histories Society? Then you are already doing what the Public Relations (PR) Committee does – telling people about the AFHS. The one difference is that we mostly inform people about the Society whom we don't already know. The mandate of the PR Committee is to promote AFHS activities, genealogical research and the benefits of membership in the Society. We do this by working with the media and other genealogical or historical organizations in and around Calgary. You are helping the PR Committee every time you tell someone about the Society.

Last year the PR Committee joined forces with the AFHS Education Committee (see the January 2014 issue of *Chinook*). The two committees work together to reach out and educate people about family history research and the AFHS.

The PR Committee approaches different organizations looking for a speaker, whether they are seniors groups, lunch-and-learn work groups or business associations. PR Committee members make contact with such groups, determine their interest and find out what aspect of genealogy they would like to learn about. Then the Education Committee gives a presentation on their particular area of interest. This is a great way to tell people about the Society and, at the same time, to generate interest in doing genealogy. Topics presented so far include: Telling Your Story, How the AFHS helps With Your Family History and Genealogy Basics.

Part of public relations is getting the word out about speakers or conferences that we organize. We develop advertising materials and send them out to associations and groups with whom we have created relationships over the years.

This year we've been working hard to let everyone know about our one-day **Spend the**

Day with Dave Obee! seminar on Genealogy in Canada, coming up on Saturday, April 5, 2014, at the Sheraton Cavalier Hotel in Calgary.

If anyone knows of a group that would like to have a genealogy speaker, they should contact the PR Committee Chairman, Tara Shymanski, or any other member of the committee, which includes: Kay Clark (the liaison with the AFHS Board), Freda Stewart, Gord Hulburt and Shirley Simmering.

Working on the Public Relations Committee is energizing and also satisfies a creative urge. We are always looking for new volunteers to help out. Email us if you are interested in participating. pr@afhs.ab.ca



Tara Shymanski became interested in her family history as a teenager.

Her interests led her to obtain a Bachelor of Arts in History. To improve her research skills, she completed 40 courses to obtain a

Certificate in Canadian Studies from the National Institute of Genealogical Studies.

She now works professionally as a genealogist.

Tara is researching in England, the United States and Ireland and has presented lectures on Canadian Newspapers, Researching in Ontario and Where to Find Records in Canada.###

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING NOTICE

Notice of the Annual General Meeting is hereby given, in accordance with *AFHS Bylaws*, Article VII, Section 1.5, which states: "Written notice of the date, time and place of the Annual General Meeting shall be made available to all members in good standing at least twenty-one (21) days prior to the meeting."

The Annual General Meeting of the Alberta Family Histories Society shall be held on Monday, June 2, 2014 at River Park Church, 3818 - 14A Street SW, starting at 7:00 p.m., during which financial and other reports will be presented, business conducted and elections held.

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MY EXPERIENCE WITH MYHERITAGE by Wayne Shephard

I have long considered whether or not to put my family tree online, mainly for other family members to access. One of the side benefits would be for backup storage. Websites such as Ancestry, MyHeritage, FamilySearch Family Tree, Genes Reunited or any of the other major genealogical repositories offer both access and reasonable security of family tree information. If the owner desires, data can be protected from public view or access can be granted only to selected individuals.

I admit that I have consciously chosen in the past not to put my family database on a public website. I am one of those people that like to keep their information close rather than have it where it can be copied indiscriminately and the results used by others for their own, possibly, nefarious uses. I have no proof that would happen, but I, along with other family members, have spent a lot of time compiling the data and we have not believed it was necessary to just let everyone have it.

Part of my concern is with the investment I have made to acquire data and assemble the information on my family tree. I have spent thousands of dollars over many years in subscriptions, document purchases and copying, among other things, and just making all that available for free to others just has not sat well! That is a common excuse given by many people who are not online. Others are:

- they do not trust this "newfangled computer genealogy" fad
- they are fearful that their family tree information will be "stolen"
- they are fearful that their information will be shown to be erroneous
- they've published their book and the research is done and cannot be improved
- their information might get lost if the company goes out of business.

For some websites the reason may be that users could lose control over their data or will not be able to transfer their tree to someone else when

they die. There can be a problem with what happens to the information on the death of the subscriber, but that can usually be handled by designating a co-administrator who will have full control of the website, including adding, deleting or changing data and paying the fees for ongoing storage and maintenance.

It did happen that my family tree ended up online by accident, though. After suffering a loss of files, including my latest family tree data, in a hard drive crash back in 2010, I decided I would look at online storage solutions to protect against loss of valuable genealogical information. I heard about a system called BackUpMyTree which, when installed on my computer, automatically created a backup of all of my data on a secure site and kept it backed up regularly even when I was adding to or changing it.

With this system my family history would be preserved if my own computer crashed again. There would be an automatic backup of every tree I had stored on my computer done regularly, without my doing anything. Previous versions would be saved in case my current tree became corrupted or if I accidentally deleted any data. I could access the tree from anywhere just by signing into the site. The program would recognize any genealogy software I happened to be using. And, most importantly, it was safe and secure!



MyHeritage acquired BackUpMyTree in late 2011 and my family tree suddenly appeared on the MyHeritage website. All my data was there to view, as profiles of each family member or in a nice, pretty tree with lots of neat symbols. Not just anyone could view the information, of course. I still had to grant access to people before they could see the actual family tree.

A big part of MyHeritage is that the system automatically searches all family trees stored on the site and compares information on individuals in the various families. Such matches of other data are also done regularly and reported back to the tree owners. MyHeritage now has billions of records, from sources around the world, in hundreds of different types of databases that can be searched for matches – all automatically! They are reported to the tree owners in two ways:

- as **Smart Matches** – These match individuals in a family tree with hundreds of millions of profiles of individuals in other trees.
- as **Record Matches** – These find individuals in dozens of other websites or archives, such as newspapers or censuses.

The MyHeritage search engines are pretty powerful tools to look for information about family members! One can store a family tree on the website for free and still get the advantage of these searches. When matches are made, a tree-owner then can decide whether to pay to see a particular item.

I recently took advantage of a promotion that MyHeritage offered to get a one-year subscription for half price (Cdn\$137.08). I updated my family tree by importing a new GEDCOM file and deleting the old family tree so that I would not get confused with which one I was using.

I can add photos and other documents to my tree and invite family members to view it. I can print the information or export it to other genealogical programs. I can now take my tree with me on my smart phone as well since I downloaded the free MyHeritage app. I can also directly add information to the tree using my phone if I wish. And I can download copies all of the records from any of the matches to people in my family tree.

Within a few days I had 2,666 Record Matches for 1,774 people in 57 collections, with several hundred in each of such databases as Geni World Family Tree, Find a Grave and the England and Scotland births and christenings from the 16th to 20th centuries. There are some very obscure

collections – to me anyway – where matches occurred as well, such as one I had never heard of called the Brazil, Rio de Janeiro, Immigration Cards, 1900-1965. This one was for a 1st cousin, twice removed, who had travelled to South America in 1957. He was living in Prineville, Oregon, at the time of his trip. There is even a photo of him on the card, along with his birth date, birthplace, occupation and parents' names. OK, it wasn't earth-shattering but it was kind of neat!

I believe my data has been well-sourced and properly documented. I currently have 8,490 individuals in 2,614 families in my tree. But it is daunting to think about having to go through the fact-checking exercise again when confronted with, potentially, an enormous number of new records to review. It may be worth it but I don't expect to be able to do it in just a few days!

I have entered the new age of genealogical research. My data is easily accessible and I can share it with others if I wish. I won't give up my Legacy genealogy program or the use of my PC, but this gives me one more place to look for information and even possible living relatives.

Many other websites also offer opportunities to store and share information. More especially, they are all places where one might connect with other researchers. Equally important to the search for new information about ancestors is the possibility that one might find other family historians, perhaps remote family members, who are looking at some of the same people. The new age of genealogy is also about collaboration – sharing resources, methods and data and building family trees together.

My mother's sister did a lot of research in the 1950s to 1970s, and her work inspired me to get involved in genealogy. Of course research then was done by mail back and forth to libraries, court houses and record offices and by personal visits to those repositories. My aunt travelled widely across the US to obtain information about our ancestors, also visiting cousins who were involved in similar investigations.

CALGARY PUBLIC LIBRARY by Christine Hayes

She produced several copies of her family history, dozens of pages long and all typed – using carbon paper so she could do three or four at a time. I have a couple of versions sent to my mother, produced at different stages of her work. These are like family heirlooms in themselves.

My aunt was always delighted to hear that others were interested in the family history and shared all of her work generously. On one copy to a cousin she wrote a preface that said:

These copies are presented under the following philosophy: Data in this book came from public records and from the descendants of Asa Harvey McDaniel. It is not copyrighted nor will it be. Any who wish to copy any or all of the contents are free to do so. Our wish is that the results of our work will give pleasure to those interested in our family history.

Doris, March 1971.

I really think I should adhere to her words and share what I have done as well. Putting it online is one of the best ways to do that now – starting with MyHeritage, and maybe uploading to some of the other sites as well down the road. If I have some things wrong, people will tell me. If I am right, then others will benefit through my research. That's pretty much as simple as it gets.

I recommend you go to MyHeritage, or one of the other sites, and see what online storing and sharing is all about. You might even find some new cousins to help you with your family tree.
<http://www.myheritage.com/>



Wayne Shepherd presently serves as the Editor of Chinook. He is also a volunteer with the Online Parish Clerk program, handling four parishes in Devon, England. Wayne has published a number of

genealogical articles in various journals. He also provides genealogical consulting services through his business, Family History Facilitated.
<http://familyhistoryfacilitated.ca/> ###

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

<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? We will be demonstrating how to use this wonderful resource which is available to all Calgary Public Library members at all the library branches. We are in the process of firming up dates and times; so check the program guide, available online on the Calgary Public Library webpage (www.calgarypubliclibrary.com) or in the print version, available at your library branch.

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, at 7:00 pm. This program requires registration. Check the program guide, as other dates and times are planned for the upcoming season.

Historic Calgary Week

This annual celebration of Calgary's heritage starts on July 25. Calgary Public Library staff will be presenting "A Calgary Soldier's Story." The presentation will examine the fascinating story of a WWI soldier's life told through

historical documents and resources. Planning is still underway, so dates and times have not been decided. Check the program guide for more information.



Christine Hayes is an Information Assistant in the Humanities Department of the Central Library. Her areas of concentration are genealogy, history, local history and literature. She is also the chair of the AFHS Program Committee.

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BELONGING TO THE AFHS by Duane Kelly

In October, I was asked what I get out of being a member of the AFHS. I confess that I had no immediate answer! Have you thought about what the Alberta Family Histories Society does for you? Do you feel that you have reason to remain a member? Do you have an elevator speech that would cause others to join?

The only concrete thing I could point to was four issues per year of *Chinook*. As a *Chinook* proofreader I am a bit biased, but I found it difficult to come up with anything else of value that was specifically attributable to being an AFHS member. There are theoretical ways to get help with surname connections and the like, but I doubt whether more than a handful of members have ever successfully taken advantage of these opportunities.

I was quite bothered by the apparent waste of my membership fee, but I have come around to believing that this is another way of giving back the family history community. The AFHS has many very hard-working people who are assisting the community at large to explore and understand their family histories, but little that is specific to being a member. Anyone from the general public can attend general meetings, pay to attend seminars, buy cemetery records, drop in at our library, read *The Breeze* and join Special Interest Group sessions.

The Society has the opportunity to do much more! One approach to distinguishing members from non-members is to make our resources available only to members. Starting points could include our library, our meetings, our cemetery records, our BMD records and any other materials or tools developed by SIGs or AFHS committees. This might trigger a few more folks to become members, but it might even cost us members who thought that their activities were in the public interest. Worse, it offers no direct value to existing members, and it goes against the idea of encouraging more community involvement in researching, collecting and documenting family histories.

Can we find ways to increase the benefits of membership? Can we add value to our website – for example, through members-only access to cemetery and BMD data, fuller indexing of library content or more pointers to sources of information? Can we make the library more valuable – with longer hours, a different location, more acquisitions? Would formal affiliation with other societies provide value to members? Should members get discounts at seminars? Should we subsidize social functions for greater networking? Are there ways to provide greater support to SIGs? Are there other special interests that deserve support of their own SIG?

If the Society does not increase the value of membership, I fear that we will become irrelevant and continue to lose members and, especially, volunteers. If you feel that the Society is doing everything it needs to do in order to retain your membership – wonderful. If not, what do you think needs to change? Are you engaging with our Board of Directors? Do they know what you want? To contact Board members, go to <http://afhs.ab.ca/aboutus/contacts.shtml>.



Duane Kelly has been proof-reading Chinook for about five years. He became interested in family history when he hosted Kelly cousins, aunts and uncles at their first family reunion and discovered that no one knew much about the Kelly family history.###

LIFE AT GREAT WOLFORD NATIONAL SCHOOL, AS RECORDED IN THE SCHOOL LOG BOOK FOR 1886 by Richard Ratcliffe

In 1858 the government of the day set up the Newcastle Commission to report on the provision of elementary education then being provided in England and Wales by the two church organisations – the National Society (Anglican) and the British and Foreign Schools Society (Nonconformist). The report, published in 1861, showed that less than half of the 3.5 million children aged between 5 and 10 years attended school regularly, and of these only about 10%, when tested, achieved a satisfactory standard in the 3Rs – reading, writing and arithmetic.

To raise standards, the Newcastle Report proposed that a system of payment by results should be introduced in elementary schools under which the Government Grant would depend on the number of pupils passing the annual examination in the 3Rs. The examinations would be conducted by a much enlarged Inspectorate.

Another proposal was that all schools should start keeping a Log Book to coincide with the introduction of the new regulations in 1862. The 500-page Log Books contained a page of Instructions for headteachers to follow. The main ones stated that:

The Principal Teacher must daily make in the Log Book the briefest entry . . . concerning the School or its Teachers, such as dates of withdrawals, commencement of duties, cautions, illness, etc. or otherwise deserve to be recorded.

No reflections or opinions of a general character were to be recorded and no entry once made was to be removed or altered.

The Inspector would inspect the Log Book at his annual visit and a summary of his report must be copied into the Log Book by the Secretary to the Managers.

Fortunately for family and local historians, many headteachers included much more information

than the regulations demanded; so log books are a rich source of information about the school, teachers, visitors, pupils, parents, local customs, reasons for absence such as bad weather, harvesting or epidemics, as well as concerns about the children's abilities to cope with the annual examination. One such log book that I have enjoyed reading recently in the Warwickshire County Record Office is that of Great Wolford National School 1874-1899. Great Wolford is a small village in South Warwickshire about three miles from Shipston on Stour and four miles from Moreton in Marsh in neighbouring Gloucestershire.

Log Book Entries

The Headteacher's entries for 1886 are particularly interesting, as he makes many personal comments about pupils and parents. These must have made the visit to Great Wolford by the Inspector a memorable experience.

1886 January 11 – The weather has been very severe. Snow remains and frozen hard after a partial thaw rendering the roads in a bad condition for traffic, etc.

1886 January 15 – Bella Hyatt still at home unwell. Albert Randall of the Woodhills is reported to be unwell, he has been absent for the last fortnight.

1886 January 22 – Ann Rouse's mother reports that the girl is ill and therefore not able to attend school. We have taken much pains and trouble to advance this girl which will apparently be fruitless as she is so irregular in her attendance through delicate health.

1886 January 29 – The two boys R and B Rainbow are desired by their father to be withdrawn from the Scripture lesson and Examination. In a note he tells me he "wants his boys in some other way." They are leaving the neighbourhood of Barton on the Heath in March, the father having taken another farm. The two Randles who were once withdrawn from Scripture lessons are through some good influence allowed to attend them.

Infant Bella Hyatt's grandmother, who has charge of her, tells me she is suffering from "a scaling rash" and therefore unable to come to school. Albt Randall is yet unable to attend, he has a very bad cold. Also Ann Rouse, I learn, is now suffering from a boil on her face.

1886 February 5 – Albert Randall has got better of his cough and has attended. He is a remarkably dull and stolid child, and living under bad conditions, some 2 miles off is much against him in his school work. Special care and pains are bestowed upon him.

1886 February 26 – All the children have attended capitally this week. Albert Hyatt is a very peculiar boy. At times he does not seem quite right in the head.

1886 March 5 – The two Rainbows required to help their father who is moving to Fosket shortly.

1886 March 12 – Only 2 absences all this week and they were made by the Infant Bella Hyatt, her grandmother was afraid Bella was going to have a relapse.

1886 March 19 – Percy Hiatt, 4 years old, is suffering much from the cold and also from bad feet. Albt Randall has improved in his writing and arithmetic yet he is fearfully backward. When he came to school the boy could not make a letter, literally he knew nothing, and he appeared so dull and stupid that he could do nothing at all. We have taken unspeakable pains with him and after all I do not entertain the least idea of his passing St. 1.

1886 April 2 – The 2 Rainbows have left the school, the family having removed to Fosket.

1886 April 9 – Three of the Hiatt family are at home with Nettlerash and Ringworm. Admitted an Infant, Ellen Phipps; she knows nothing.

1886 April 16 – Readmitted Edith Woodward who has migrated from Burmington. She is living again with her grandmother in Wolford. Also admitted 2 Infants, David Lyddiatt and Richard Eden, both next babies. The children are doing well at Needlework and also with their Knitting.

1886 April 30 – Mrs Wheeler called this week. The Rev Canon Wheeler has been unable to leave his home through illness. The Hyatts came to school again on Monday. The Attendance of the children is remarkably good. They are all excitement about their May Day Festival. They assemble tomorrow morning at 8 or thereabouts for which we have prepared In order to let the children go and gather flowers for their May Garlands I have had school till half past one today commencing at nine with an interval of a quarter hour.

I have taken a great deal of trouble with the boy Albert Randle but can make nothing of him at present. In a Spelling lesson we had the word pass – he could not tell whether it began with a p or w and after writing it 16

times I asked him to spell the word. After some 4 or 5 minutes hesitation he replied with tears p.a.s.t.t.e.d.

1886 May 3 – Saturday – The children enjoyed themselves as usual on May Day carrying around their May garlands and money boxes. They collected £1/0/5 and after defraying the expenses of their tea, cake etc, which they ate heartily and thoroughly enjoyed, the balance was divided among the children. Many of them got 8d and all got some [not less than 2d]. It was divided according to their Standard in the School.

After their usual games in Mr Bull's "Homestead" the children reassembled again, partook of cake and bread and butter, etc., and finished up with pockets full of nuts and biscuits etc., given by the Misses Bull and Mr Bull, then songs and dismissed.

1886 May 7 – School progress – many have made very good progress. The writing has been well spaced. Spelling better and Arithmetic well done considering the calibre of the children who are left in the School. The sharp ones go as soon as they pass St. IV. This is a great drawback in small schools like this – ten, I believe, have so left this year and some very young. The father of the girl Rose Hyatt made this remark to me upon my remonstrating with him about the girl's absence. "I'll have her out to work as soon as ever she's passed her fourth St." Many of the children who so leave do not wish to do so but are thus compelled. Admitted for a time Charles Lyddiatt – he is on a visit to his grandfather here. Beatrice Shepard notwithstanding extra attention is slow at Needlework.

1886 May 28 – Admitted 2 Infants, Sydney Hyatt and Ada Shepard. We closed the School a little earlier today Friday, my daughter Miss Fanny Davies is giving a Pianoforte Recital at Oxford Town Hall this evening and we wish to be there being so near us.

1886 June 18 – The school was examined, etc., on the 18th [Friday]. Mr Southwick, HM Inspection Assistant, commenced at 9.30am. The children maintained perfect order all through and to all appearance were not so nervous as they have been sometimes. Rev Canon Wheeler, Mrs Wheeler and Miss Emily Wheeler were present more or less all the time. At the close of the Exam the children were dismissed for the remaining part of the day.

The songs for the Upper and Lower Divisions of the School were:

The Hero [Mason]

Come May [Mozart]

Come to the House of Youth [Belini]

The Early Primrose [A Arnold Davies]

1886 June 28 Monday

Policeman Randle objects to pay the higher fee of two pence a week. Also Geo Hyatt [Carrier], also Mabel Hiatt will only pay a penny for her daughter Fanny. There is also a great deal of trouble in regard to John Dyer's boys [Carpenter Dyer]. These people will get into arrears. I get unpleasant messages and only part of the fees sent....

1886 June 29 - Albt Randall and Will Hiatt have pulled through in Arithmetic; this is a little satisfaction for all the pains I have taken with them. It is evident that Arithmetic is yet the weak point to be attended to. It will indeed be pleasant to get a little Arithmetic into the brain of many of these children. Arthur Dyer of Barton has passed throughout in Standard III. Ann Rouse has as usual passed in nothing, as has been before stated she is 13 years old and has left school. Beatrice Shepard of 11 has passed in two subjects in St. V. She did the same last year in St. IV. The Dullards, Frank Dyer, Albt Randall and Wm Hiatt will require always special attention, i.e. according to our present payment by results.

1886 June 29 – I consulted my Managers today about the payment of the school fees and the trouble I have with most of the parents every Monday morning. The conclusion – Send them home for their money as they are not properly sent to school minus their fees and if they stay away or are kept then write to the Attendance Officer, compel them to attend and if employed in contravention of the Act they must be proceeded against and be made to know better.

The boy Albert Hyatt aged 8 was yesterday employed on the land. He came this morning without his fee [his parents live just round the corner by the school]. I sent him for his money [now he not only did not return to school but was sent up to a field to work by his father] [Geo Hyatt the Carrier]. The father in this way defies all Authority and School Law and openly declares in a boasting, bumptious way, "I'll have any of my young 'uns whenever I like, I don't care about Law. I'll have 'em and there's another thing I won't pay any more than I like. They're my children and I'll do as I like about them."

1886 July 16 – HM I Report. "The School is doing fairly. Handwriting is good and the Reading and Arithmetic should improve. Needlework is fair and Singing is good. The Infants have been fully taught in Reading and Writing."

1886 August 6 – I have had a great deal of hard work to keep the children regularly at their school lately and have written to the Att. Officer on two or three

occasions. The result has been some unpleasant notes from some of the parents. George Hyatt has absolutely refused and defied the Managers and also the Att. Committee. He will neither pay nor send his children regularly to school unless he likes. In order to evade, he has sent Rose the elder girl to Evesham to live with an Aunt there; and he objects to pay only what he deems proper, i.e. 1d a child and 1½d in case of the oldest. They have left the school. Both myself and wife have been invariably kind to them as well as to the parents. Sometime ago I drew up a paper of Appeal to the public to enable him to buy a new horse to carry on his business of a Carrier. This he is enabled to do, but declares he is not in trade at all in order to make out that he is but a labourer in order to pay the school fees of a labourer. He may be poor, but he is in trade and need not be insolent, as we have given him no cause, more than demanding regularity.

The log book continues in a similar manner until Mr. and Mrs. Davies move on to another appointment in 1887 and are succeeded by Mr. and Mrs. John Jordan.

Summary

Warwickshire County Record Office holds a fair number of School Log Books either dating from 1862 or from 1870 onwards in the case of Board Schools in towns. There are still many early Log Books held in school safes which ought to be deposited in record offices for safekeeping and conservation. They are unique sources of family history that often give a very different slant on that period that many people refer to as "the happiest days of my life."



Richard Ratcliffe is a well-known family history speaker and author, and a former Chairman and Archives Liaison Officer of the Federation of Family History Societies. He is a Past President of both the Birmingham & Midland Society for Genealogy and Heraldry and the Lincolnshire Family History Society. He has written three basic facts booklets on Methodist Records, the Wesleyan Methodist Historic Roll and Quarter Sessions Records. He is also a Fellow of the Society of Genealogists and a Friend of Warwickshire County Record Office. ###

EVENTS, PODCASTS, WEBINARS, VIDEOS AND COURSES

by Laura Kirbyson

Conferences and Seminars

We include a list of upcoming genealogy events by some of the larger organizations. If conferences are of interest to you but it's challenging to attend in person, you might check the websites to see if webinars of the conferences have been posted after they are completed. Many of them are recorded at the conference and posted online later.

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>

June 5, 2014

Southern California Genealogical Society & International Society for Genetic Genealogy

Burbank, CA

Family History and DNA: Genetic Genealogy in 2014. A one-day precursor to the Southern California Genealogy Jamboree. The full-day conference explores the use of DNA as a tool in tracing our families.

<http://www.scsgenealogy.com/Jamboree/index.htm>

June 6-8, 2014

Southern California Genealogical Society

Burbank, CA

Golden Memories: Discovering Your Family History. Heritage focus is on European ancestors including those from the UK, Eastern Europe, Russia and more.

<http://www.scsgenealogy.com/Jamboree/index.htm>

August 21-24, 2014

The Society for German Genealogy in Eastern Europe

Calgary, AB

There will be presentations on the genealogy, culture and history of Germans who migrated through Poland, Volhynia and surrounding areas.

www.sggee.org

August 27-30, 2014

Federation of Genealogical Societies

San Antonio, TX

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

<https://www.fgsconference.org>

October 26-November 9, 2014

Legacy Genealogy Cruise 2014

Asia (Japan, China and Taiwan)

This genealogy cruise combines a fun vacation with lectures on genealogical research methods, tools, and technologies.

http://news.legacyfamilytree.com/legacy_news/2014/02/legacy-genealogy-cruise-2014-to-asia-announced.html

For more conferences, you can also take a look at About.com at

<http://genealogy.about.com/od/conferences/tp/conference-calendar.01.htm>; or

Conference Keeper at

<http://www.conferencekeeper.net/index.html>.

Podcasts, Webinars and Videos

How to create a Blurb photo book: Preparation by Lynda.com.

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tLtuURXIGn8>.

Youtube Your Family History by FamilySearch.

http://broadcast.lds.org/elearning/FHD/Community/en/FamilySearch/RootsTech/Devin%20Ashby/YouTube_Your_Family%20History/Player.html.

Facebook

Very recently on Facebook, I've seen a lot of friends posting their Facebook movies. For this edition, I took a look at <https://facebook.com/lookback> to see what it is all about. Facebook mines your postings and photos and compiles a vignette of your most liked postings and photos you shared. I was surprised at how moved I was and that it turned out to be something I would share with my family.

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PUBLICATIONS
of the
Alberta Family Histories Society

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

SOUTHERN ALBERTA CEMETERY RECORDS

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

AFHS Digital Library Volume I (CD) Price \$30.00

This volume contains over 68,000 records from 69 cemeteries in Southern Alberta (consult the AFHS website for the complete list), including about 11,000 records from the Calgary Crematorium and 2,000 records from the Chevra Kadusha (Jewish) Society. Volume I was completed in 2001.

AFHS Digital Library Volume II (CD) Price \$20.00

Volume II contains 24,500 records from two cemeteries on Garden Road that straddle the eastern boundary of the Calgary city limits: MD of Rockyview Garden of Peace and Mountain View Cemetery. This volume was completed in 2003.

AFHS Digital Library Volume III (CD) Price \$20.00

This volume contains monument transcriptions, burial records and many memorial photographs from three cemeteries in Cochrane – St Andrew's, St. Mary's and Municipal – plus Westerdale Cemetery in Olds, St. Barnabas Anglican Churchyard in Calgary and two cemeteries in Hill Spring Cemeteries in Pincher Creek. Volume III was completed in 2004.

AFHS Digital Library Volumes IV-X (CD) Price (each) \$25.00

Each of these seven CDs includes monument transcriptions, burial records and many memorial photographs from a particular area or section within Queen's Park Cemetery, Calgary. Volumes can be purchased individually or as a complete library in Volume XI. (Consult the AFHS website for a description of each volume.)

AFHS Digital Library Volume XI (DVD) Price \$50.00

This DVD includes the transcriptions, photos and burial records for all 66,655 burials in Queen's Park Cemetery individually contained in Volumes I to X. Volume XI was completed in 2009.

AFHS Digital Library Volume XII (DVD) Price \$50.00

This DVD contains monument transcriptions, burial records and many memorial photographs for 16,634 entries in Sections A-F, H-N and P of Burnsland Cemetery, Calgary. Volume XII was completed in 2010.

AFHS Digital Library Volume XIII (DVD) Price \$50.00

This DVD contains monument transcriptions, burial records and many memorial photographs for military markers in Burnsland, Queen's Park, St Mary's and Union cemeteries, Calgary. Many additional photos from the Military Museum, Peacekeeping Parks, Currie Barracks, Armoury, Memorial Drive and other areas are also included. Volume XIII was completed in 2010.

AFHS Digital Library Volume XIV (DVD) Price \$50.00

This DVD contains 13,557 entries from 20 sections of St. Mary's Cemetery and 2,391 entries from St. Mary's Pioneer Cemetery with monument transcriptions, burial records and many memorial photographs. Volume XIV was completed in 2012.

AFHS Digital Library Volume XV (DVD) Price \$50.00

This DVD contains 22,779 entries from the 20 sections within Union Cemetery, Calgary, Alberta. The data includes monument transcriptions, burial records and many memorial photographs. Union Cemetery is Calgary's oldest cemetery. Volume XV was completed in 2013.

OTHER AFHS PUBLICATIONS

These publications provide information on personal data and local historical events. Many of the lists are fully searchable on the AFHS website and are available as paper prints. Prices represent reproduction costs only. All are printed in black and white on 8 1/2" x 11" pages and cerlox bound. Consult the AFHS website for descriptions of these publications.

Alberta Local Histories Listing (68 pages)	\$15.00
Births, Deaths, Marriages from Calgary Newspapers 1883-89 (40 pages)	\$20.00
Births, Deaths, Marriages from Calgary Newspapers 1890-99 (205 pages)	\$30.00
Nominal Rolls of 50th Battalion, CEF, 1914-15 (45 pages; also included in Digital Library Volume V)	\$20.00
Nominal Rolls of 3rd, 12th and 13th Regiments, Canadian Mounted Rifles, CEF, 1915-16 (70 pages)	\$25.00
Obituary Index of Turner Valley Oilfields Residents, Past and Present (35 pages)	\$15.00
South Calgary High School 1915-21, 1928-29 & Calgary Normal School 1929-30 Class Lists (44 pages)	\$15.00
The Barr Colonists 1903 (38 pages)	\$15.00
The MacDonald Family of Cochrane and Mount Royal Ranch (24 pages)	\$15.00

For additional information about how to order copies of publications, consult the AFHS website: <http://afhs.ab.ca/publications/cemetery.shtml#publications> or send an email to projects@afhs.ab.ca.

CHINOOK IS GOING DIGITAL

Because of the rising costs of printing and mailing *Chinook*, the Board of Directors of the Alberta Family Histories Society has decided to produce our award-winning publication in digital format only, beginning with the Fall 2014 issue.

We see that more and more organizations are doing the same thing and it seems like the next logical step to us.

The advantages of digital publications are:

- It will be much less expensive to produce and mail, meaning more money AFHS can use for other services.
- Pages may be enlarged, if required, for easier reading.
- Photos can be in full colour rather than black and white.
- Hyperlinks make it possible for you to access websites from *Chinook*.
- Your digital *Chinook* will be fully searchable.
- It will usually arrive in your inbox sooner than "snail mail" would.
- Digital documents are more environmentally friendly.
- Archived copies will be made available on the website for download.
- *Chinook* will be easier to share with others. While it is primarily for members, sharing the occasional copy with friends and family may entice them to join the AFHS themselves.
- Going digital will eliminate unused inventory.
- Digital technology allows for flexible document sizing; more pages of content does not mean more expense.

To continue receiving *Chinook*, please ensure we have your current email address. For many, that will be the same one that *Windsock* goes to. If you wish to check or change the email address we have, please contact Dawn at webmaster@afhs.ab.ca.

We may, for a small fee, print a limited number of copies on the library printer if you require a hard copy; price and availability to be determined.

If you have any questions or comments, please contact Dawn at webmaster@afhs.ab.ca.



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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)

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

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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) 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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