

# Chinook Arch

December 2024  
Volume 6 Issue 10



ALBERTA FAMILY  
HISTORIES SOCIETY

Supporting worldwide family history research

## NEXT SOCIETY MEETING

**Monday, December 9, 2024**

**Topic:** The 12 Genealogy Records of the Holiday Season  
**Speaker:** AFHS Members  
**Location:** Zoom (register on website calendar)  
**Time:** 7 – 9 pm

## FUTURE MEETINGS

**Monday, December 16, 2024**

**Topic:** Chit Chat Session  
**Hosts:** Linda Murray and Kelly Southworth  
**Location:** Zoom (link on website calendar)  
**Time:** 7 – 9 pm

**Monday, January 13, 2024**

**Topic:** Starting From (Nearly) Nothing  
**Speaker:** Christina Hayes  
**Location:** Zoom (register on website calendar)  
**Time:** 7 – 9 pm

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## NEWSLETTER SUBMISSIONS

Watch for our newsletter, *Chinook Arch*, distributed monthly by email from September to June.

We are looking for short articles with copyright-free pictures. Favourite relatives, fond family memories, research tips and tricks, new genealogy technology you love, book reviews or any related topics are accepted.

**Editor:** Amber Godfrey

**Email:** [chinookarch@afhs.ab.ca](mailto:chinookarch@afhs.ab.ca)

# President's Message

Gordon Lane

## Resource Centre Lease

We are in the process of renewing the lease at the Resource Centre. The terms offered to us are very generous, and we would have to pay almost double what we are paying now if we moved.

## Meeting Space Changes

There will be some changes to the location of the Society meetings next year. We just need to firm up some details and will provide plenty of advance notice.

## Casino Volunteers

There were 28 members who worked as volunteers at our casino event in July. The casino event had 36 shifts to be filled, and eight of our members worked two shifts. I would like to thank them for their support of the Society. The contributions of these volunteers are what keeps the Society alive! Without the money we receive from casino events, we would not have the Resource Centre or be able to run many of our programs. Our members volunteer for many worthwhile programs that benefit the Society, but the casino fundraiser is crucial to its continued existence.

Members who worked two shifts:

Charles Buckley	Jane Hillsden
Tracy Burr	Dennis Laughton
Mark Burr	Iris Morgan
Lorna Hawley	Larry Stone

Members who worked a casino shift:

Roy Aggarwal	Murray Hillsden
Gail Ames	Pat Jette
Bev Archer	Paul Jette
Leslie Dennis	Shelley Lunney
Diane Duncan	Linda Murray
Don Duncan	Marj Norris
Ron Gilmore	John Palmer
Amber Godfrey	Karen Palmer
David Henning	Marion Peterson
Kathleen Henning	Warren Peterson

## Other Volunteer Positions

We are always looking for volunteers for various tasks and projects.

Current volunteer positions that need filling are:

- members to form the Nominations Committee for our Annual General Meeting in May
- volunteers to review the by-laws

If you can help, please contact me at [president@afhs.ab.ca](mailto:president@afhs.ab.ca)

**~ Happy Holidays and Best Wishes for 2025 ~**

### The Fighting Garçon: Georges Verlyck

Gordon Lane

My father grew up visiting his uncle and aunt, Georges and May Verlyck. Georges was a passionate Frenchman and a successful architect who built many important buildings in his adopted home. His wife, May (White) Verlyck, lived with Georges at their home, *The Pines*, in Ilford, a town near London that became part of Greater London.

Georges Louis Marie Edouard Verlyck was born on March 8, 1863, at 8 Rue de Rodier, 19th Arrondissement, Paris, France, to Joseph Marie Louis Verlyck and Jeanne Marie Mejan.

He was accepted into the prestigious École des Beaux-Arts in 1879 to study architecture. Apparently, he also spent some time in the French Army between 1884 and 1889 but deserted to avoid military discipline after striking an officer. His obituary mentioned he had suffered a large financial loss around that time, and his application to the Royal Institute of British Architects said he spent several years in Italy before coming to England in 1893.

Coincidentally, the iconic Eiffel Tower was being built while Georges was still in France. Engineer Gustave Eiffel's company designed and built the tower between 1887 and 1889.



Georges applied for Naturalization in England in 1899, and the application stated he was “a Frenchman who has been residing continuously in England for upwards of 5 years and is in business as an Architect.” They rejected his first application due to the army desertion. He reapplied in May 1900 and sent along many testimonials from members of the Ilford Urban Council and a Justice of the Peace. He was granted his Naturalization later that year and could then become a Fellow of the Royal Institute of British Architects (RIBA).



Biographical Entry for Georges Louis Marie Verlyck.

Personal name: Verlyck, Georges Louis Marie, b. 1863

In 1900, Georges married his first wife, Fanny Milton, in Dover. On the 1901 English Census, they were living together in Ilford. By 1911, the two were living separately but still in Ilford. Fanny died in 1919. I was not able to find any marriage records for Georges and his second wife, May Mary Eliza (White) Verlyck.

Georges' will and probate record helped me solve the mystery. He left “all my real and personal estate of every description unto my dear friend May Chatley, having been born White.” The probate record lists her as May Chatley, wife of Percy Chatley.

Using this information, I found a marriage certificate for Percy Chatley and May White for 1896 and then found them living together on the 1901 England Census. Percy's occupation was “Travelling Salesman,” and I couldn't find any conclusive records about what happened to him.

I did find evidence that Georges and May were living together at *The Pines* by 1918, while both were still married to other people. Georges' first wife died in 1919, but perhaps May's husband did disappear, so they weren't able to marry officially.

They lived together for many years at *The Pines*, and were together until his death on January 9, 1936. May's death record and probate record both recorded her as May Verlyck.



**Georges' house, *The Pines***

Georges' obituary also gave me more details into his personality and his life. It called him one of the "architectural pioneers of Ilford" and described his life as "a romantic story of endeavour and success."

The obituary mentioned that his father was a prominent architect in Paris and that Georges was wealthy as a young man but he lost his money due to a "financial collapse." There was no mention of his time in the army, but there was a story that after he decided to leave France he "put the names of all the countries of the world and drew one out; it happened to be England. Thence he came, 36 years old, almost penniless, and unable to speak English."

He arrived in Ilford when it was a small village and opened an architecture and surveying business. He partnered with Edwin Dunn and worked with him until 1901, when they dissolved the partnership. The obituary spoke of many buildings and housing developments that Georges had designed in and around Il-

ford. His nephew, Mr. E. G. Lane, architect and surveyor, was a partner in the business at the time of Georges death and was his chosen successor.

He was described as having "an outstanding and impressive personality, and the type who would not give way an inch when he thought his view was right." His fighting spirit was shown by the number of lawsuits and conflicts he had with the town board and was how he gained the nickname "the fighting garçon."

Georges was also an excellent amateur gardener and participated in many competitions by the Ilford Horticultural Society for various types of flowering plants. He created and maintained a rockery, a garden made with plants interspersed between rocks, stones and gravel, at the back of *The Pines*.

Georges' funeral was January 13, 1936 and he was then buried at Chadwell Heath Cemetery, Romford (now part of Greater London).

While Georges faced much adversity and was forced to start over in a new country, he was also willing to fight for what he believed in. He became a respected and successful businessman in England and was a beloved husband and uncle.





### A Prairie Farm Girl Remembers

Colleen (Coreman) Linttell

*Have you ever seen your father cry? It was painful wasn't it? It hurt in my heart and way down to my stomach. I didn't know what to make of it. I didn't know what to say. I didn't know what to do, how to comfort him, how to make things better so I just held his hand tighter and cried too.*

It had been such a good farm year starting with spring moisture just when we needed it, then the warmth and summer rains that nourished beautiful heavy stands of grain. Everything was unfolding for a bountiful crop year.

I was only ten, but I had been well-schooled in what made for a bountiful year. From early on, I had walked the fields with my father. We examined the newly cultivated soil—sweet, earthy and warm. “This is an earthworm, good for the soil, but this is a cutworm and it will destroy the wheat roots. As soon as these weeds wilt and die, we can start seeding the grain.”

I got to ride the tractor, sitting on his knee or perched on the fender watching for the field bird nests and, at his direction, moving them out of the way of the seeding equipment so as not to damage them. Next round, the mother bird would be back in her nest.

The wheat sprouted into small green lines and then stooled further until it carpeted the ground. Soon, it was tall enough to wave in the wind. And near sunset, when the sun was low in the sky and the light was just right, we would drive to “look at the crops” because they showed even better in that light.

He loved farming and so enjoyed watching things grow. He was one happy farmer. Daddy could have been happier still with sons to farm with him, but was blessed instead with three daughters. Fortunately for me, he decided a tomboy was next best.

A farmer is ever aware and dependent on the weather. Eyes to the skies, he was always watching the clouds. “Those mare’s tails are dry cirrus clouds, and those thunderheads that move in from the west always bring rain. You can smell the rain before it gets here. We won’t get any rain from that hot dry wind. Those dark grey clouds, there to the north with streaks, are nearly always hail storms.” I, too, learned to read the weather.

When the fields were golden, I could be part of the harvest. The swaths were artistic geometry across the fields and then the combine gobbled

them up, producing hard red wheat with billows of chaff and nutty sweet dust.

So it was, on that beautiful hot July day, that the tall grain was waving and ripening in the sun. A perfect day—until it wasn’t. “Those clouds building there in the north look like hail. Help me get the vehicles inside. Tell your Mom and sisters to help get the animals under cover.” We rushed in preparation. It was getting so close you could smell the ozone and hear the thunder rumble as lightning struck nearby. The sky darkened. The hail pounded relentlessly.

Within minutes, it had passed and was moving further south. We knew there was damage. The sun came out, like an insult to what had just happened, making it even harder to accept the devastation.

“Come. Let’s take a look.” We walked into the field; now a muddy mess with rivers of slushy ice. Hailstones imbedded deep in the soil. Grain pummeled into the mud. As far as I could see the field was black, except for the remains of the crop, now crumpled stubble.

Daddy looked to the sky. I don’t know if it was in prayer or if he cussed his maker, but when he looked down to me he was shaking and crying. He had taught me so much, but I hadn’t learned to deal with such sadness and loss. Not just the loss of the crop, a year’s income and plans for that income, but the hopeless, helplessness of destruction. The sadness of seeing your father cry.

Have you ever seen your father cry? It was painful wasn't it? It hurt in my heart and way down to my stomach. I didn't know what to make of it. I didn't know what to say. I didn't know what to do, how to comfort him, how to make things better, so I just held his hand tighter and cried too.



**Fredrick Joseph “Fred” Coreman**  
1909-1983  
Farmed east of Stavelly, Alberta

## Special Interest Groups

**SPECIAL INTEREST GROUPS (SIGs) are the ideal place to expand your knowledge and share your own family history challenges.** The small-group setting gives you an opportunity to ask questions and get help from more experienced researchers.

**SIGs are now being held in three formats: in-person only, Zoom only or a hybrid version of in-person & Zoom.** Check the calendar on our website for up-to-date information or email the SIG leader. The SIG groups do not meet during July and August.

SIGs are an AFHS member benefit. If you would like to attend a SIG meeting to try one out before joining, ask for an invitation from [communications@afhs.ab.ca](mailto:communications@afhs.ab.ca)

SIG GROUP	NEXT MEETING	TIME	CONTACT
BASICS	Saturday, December 7	10 am – Noon	<a href="mailto:basics@afhs.ab.ca">basics@afhs.ab.ca</a>
CELTIC (Irish/Scots)	Saturday, January 25	10 am – Noon	<a href="mailto:celticsig@afhs.ab.ca">celticsig@afhs.ab.ca</a>
DIGITAL GENEALOGY	Saturday, December 14	10 am – Noon	<a href="mailto:familygenes@afhs.ab.ca">familygenes@afhs.ab.ca</a>
DNA	Sunday, December 8	12:30 – 2:30 pm	<a href="mailto:dnasig@afhs.ab.ca">dnasig@afhs.ab.ca</a>
ENGLISH/WELSH	Saturday, January 18	10 am – Noon	<a href="mailto:englishwelshsig@afhs.ab.ca">englishwelshsig@afhs.ab.ca</a>
FAMILY TREE MAKER	Saturday, January 4	10 am – Noon	<a href="mailto:ftmsig@afhs.ab.ca">ftmsig@afhs.ab.ca</a>
LEGACY	Tuesday, January 28	7:00 – 9:00 pm	<a href="mailto:legacysig@afhs.ab.ca">legacysig@afhs.ab.ca</a>
ONTARIO	Monday, January 27	1:30 – 3:30 pm	<a href="mailto:ontariosig@afhs.ab.ca">ontariosig@afhs.ab.ca</a>
WRITING	Friday, December 13	9:30 – 11:30 am	<a href="mailto:writing@afhs.ab.ca">writing@afhs.ab.ca</a>

The AFHS Resource Centre is located at **712-16 Avenue NW, Calgary** and all in-person SIG group meetings are held there. Members are encouraged to stay after meetings, when possible, to browse the collection!

Our collection has over twelve thousand print items and many are available to be borrowed for a one-month loan. Electronic resources include computers, a multi-function printer, scanners (flatbed and overhead) and a microfiche reader. Journals from around the world are available to view in either print or digital formats. As a **FamilySearch Affiliate Library**, visitors can now view additional FamilySearch digital records at the AFHS Resource Centre that they can't see at home. We have a subscription to the Canadian newspapers on Newspaper Archive.

## SIG NEWS

If you or someone you know would like attend as a guest at a SIG meeting, request an invitation at [communications@afhs.ab.ca](mailto:communications@afhs.ab.ca).

Our members can watch recorded sessions of past Society and SIG meetings and view handouts at the AFHS website.

You must be **signed in** to the website to access them. Go to Resources, then click on Meeting Videos & Handouts.

Here are a few new items added to the Meeting Videos & Handouts:

- ⇒ A Visit to Blackfoot Crossing Historical Park by Jim Benedict (video)
- ⇒ Rural Diaries by Tara Shymanski (video)
- ⇒ How to Use the FamilySearch Full-Text Search Feature by Amber Godfrey (video & handout)
- ⇒ Finding Female Ancestors (handout)

### Take a Local Virtual Walking Tour

Amber Godfrey

As the snow and cold temperatures descend upon us, think about going online to learn more about the history of areas in Southern Alberta with a virtual walking tour. Chinook Country Historical Society has a page dedicated to self-guided and virtual walking tours of the area. You could also make a list of self-guided tours to try in more pleasant weather! Some of the links are outdated but many still work.

<https://chinookhistory.ca/virtual-experiences>

Here are a few to get you started:

Calgary's Burnsland Cemetery, St. Mary's Pioneer Cemetery and Union Cemetery

[www.calgary.ca/parks/cemeteries/tours.html](http://www.calgary.ca/parks/cemeteries/tours.html)

Glenbow Museum's Exhibitions and Collections

<https://www.youtube.com/hashtag/glenbowfromhome>

StudioBell's 360-degree Virtual Tour

[www.studiobell.ca/virtual-tour](http://www.studiobell.ca/virtual-tour)

Lougheed House's Literary Walking Tours

[www.youtube.com/@lougheedhouseyc](http://www.youtube.com/@lougheedhouseyc)

On This Spot's Life in Early Calgary Photo Tour

<https://onthisspot.ca/cities/calgary/earlylife>

University of Calgary's De-Stress Virtual Music Exhibition

[www.thinglink.com/scene/1388350473240576003](http://www.thinglink.com/scene/1388350473240576003)

Secret Calgary's Chinatown (scroll down the page to find the YouTube video)

[www.sienlok.ca](http://www.sienlok.ca)

Champion Park's CPR Railway History and Displays

<https://okotoks.maps.arcgis.com/apps/MapTour/index.html>

Glenbow Ranch's Walk the Tiger Lily Loop

<https://grpf.ca/glenbow-ranch-indigenous-tour-tiger-lily-loop>

Banff's Virtual Tour of the Whyte Home

[www.virtually-anywhere.net/tours/whytemuseum/cabin/vtour/index.html](http://www.virtually-anywhere.net/tours/whytemuseum/cabin/vtour/index.html)

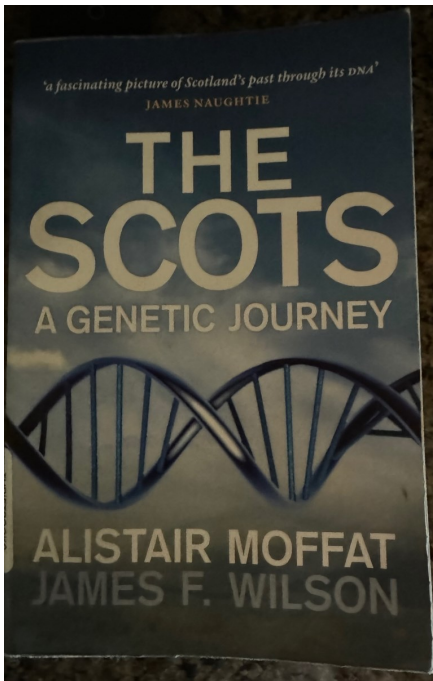
Cochrane's Historical Museum

<https://chapscochrane.com/virtual-tour-of-cochrane-historical-museum>

Enjoy your virtual "stroll!"

### Book Review: *The Scots: A Genetic Journey* by Alistair Moffat & James F. Wilson

Ron Gilmore



AFHS Call #: 941.1 MOFF 2017

Bring along a big map of Scotland and settle in for your own journey of genetic discovery as you read this book. The authors will take you on a trip through the ages, seeking to lay out the genetic makeup of our friends, colleagues and neighbours, the Scots.

DNA plays a large part in the saga as we track the various dominant haplogroups, when they arrive and their statistical distribution today. Follow along as we track the Y-DNA of the male lineage, along with mtDNA of the female mapping. We will see the first arrivals, springing from ice age refuges, following animal herds north. Then a second coming, as the next round of glaciers melted. Who knows how the invaluable turf was formed? And what about the impacts of social selection?

The authors dive into the archaeology of Scotland and many of the astounding finds that have been unearthed. They track the impact

of the Roman occupation that lasted four centuries and undoubtedly added some further Mediterranean markers to the genetic mix of today.

Language, and its spread from Europe, plays a large part in tracking the heritage of the Scots. Did you know some Scottish words come from the Sanskrit language? Surely you jest!

The authors dip into the cultures that have extended into the present day. They describe ancient rituals and customs that have transcended down through the ages and still appear, perhaps slightly modified, in our present celebrations. I never thought our present-day Halloween pumpkins originated as carved out Irish turnips!

Then we have the Picts. The aggressive, tattooed warrior nation that harassed and attacked the Romans until the Legions of this far-flung empire ultimately retreated south and built Hadrian's Wall for protection. Then, mysteriously, the Picts simply disappeared! Yet, their DNA remains—they still walk among us. They even have their own distinct genetic marker.

Invasions, first from the Irish, followed by the rampaging Vikings, and then the English, mixed with the Indigenous DNA. More recently, immigrations from Jewish Russia, Lithuania, Poland, Italy, and now Pakistan make up the DNA mix that is Scotland today.

This is a fun read, buttressed with solid science. Do not forget that big map of Scotland, unless you are intimately familiar with the geography and place names. Enjoy!

If you don't own a big map of Scotland, view these ones available online:

National Library of Scotland  
<https://maps.nls.uk>

FamilySearch Wiki: Scotland Maps  
[www.familysearch.org/en/wiki/Scotland\\_Maps](http://www.familysearch.org/en/wiki/Scotland_Maps)



## Upcoming Events

### CALGARY PUBLIC LIBRARY

#### Family History Coaching

**\*\*Cancelled until further notice\*\***

*Calgary Public Library*

### AFHS WORKSHOP

#### Genealogy 101 Workshop

Hybrid

March 2 & 16, 2025 1:30 – 3:30 pm

In-Person Only

March 30, 2025 1:30 – 3:30 pm

Registration deadline is March 1, 2025

Free for AFHS members, \$50 for non-members

<https://afhs.ab.ca/event/genealogy-101-3-part-workshop/2025-03-02>

### UPCOMING EVENTS

\*all times listed are in MDT

#### Scots in the Maritimes by Peggy Chapman

Virtual

#### Scottish SIG, Ontario Ancestors

December 5, 2024 11:00 am

<https://scottishsig.ogs.on.ca/events/scottish-sig-scots-in-the-maritimes-peggy-chapman>

Missed the 2024 24-Hour Genealogy webinar Marathon at Legacy Family Tree Webinars? You can still view 24 of the classes!

<https://familytreewebinars.com/24-marathon>

#### Cluster Research is Not Just for Brick Walls

Virtual

#### FamilySearch

December 5, 2024 5:00 pm

<https://familyhistory.lib.byu.edu/learning/webinars>

#### English Context: Geography, History and Repositories by Paul Milner

Virtual

#### ISBGFH

December 7, 2024 9:00 am

<https://isbgfh.com/winter-webinars>

#### Geoff's Got ANOTHER Brick Wall! What Can DNA Do for It?

Virtual

#### Legacy Family Tree Webinars

December 18, 2024 Noon

<https://familytreewebinars.com/webinar/geoffs-got-another-brick-wall-what-can-dna-do-for-it>

#### RootsTech 2025

Virtual

#### FamilySearch

March 6 – 8, 2025

[www.familysearch.org/en/rootstech](http://www.familysearch.org/en/rootstech)

#### Explore Your Ancestral Ocean Playground: 2025 Virtual Conference

Virtual

#### Genealogical Association of Nova Scotia

May 3 – 4, 2025

<https://www.nsgenconference.ca>

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# About Our Society

**Alberta Family Histories Society** is a registered non-profit organization that welcomes anyone interested in genealogy and family history! For over 40 years, we've helped people grow their family trees and discover the stories of their roots. We have substantial resources about Calgary and southern Alberta but can help you research your roots worldwide. Our website is <https://afhs.ab.ca>.

We learn from each other in a variety of settings – Society meetings, **Special Interest Group** meetings, workshops and biannual conferences. For up-to-date meeting information, see our website calendar at <https://afhs.ab.ca/calendar>.

Visit one of our most valuable resources - the **AFHS Resource Centre**! While our collection has an emphasis on materials pertaining to Alberta and Canada, we also have basic genealogy books and information from around the world. AFHS is a **FamilySearch Affiliate Library**, which gives you access to FamilySearch records you can't view at home. Our volunteers look forward to showing you what we have to offer for your genealogy research! You can view a catalogue of our holdings at <https://afhs.ab.ca/library>.

Documenting local historical records is part of our mission. **Alberta Ancestors** is a special project to showcase cemetery records at <https://albertaancestors.ca>. With 280 cemeteries and over 230,000 memorials, it is a priceless resource.

Members have a wealth of opportunities to share strategies, struggles, successes and stories with others who appreciate the challenges of this hobby. One option is for members to share family tree projects and to post stories online as part of our **Family Genes** website at <https://www.familygenes.ca>.

We welcome visitors, so please drop in at a meeting and introduce yourself. Come see how our services and programs can fit your needs. We hope you will join us either in-person or virtually! To receive a guest Zoom invitation to one of the **AFHS Society Meetings**, contact Marion at [communications@afhs.ab.ca](mailto:communications@afhs.ab.ca).

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## AFHS RESOURCE CENTRE

**712 - 16 Avenue NW  
Calgary, AB T2M 0J8**

### Fall/Winter Hours

Thursday, 10 am - 2 pm

Saturday, Noon - 4 pm

*Check our website calendar for any time changes or closures.*

<https://afhs.ab.ca/calendar>



## CONTACT US

**Email:** [info@afhs.ab.ca](mailto:info@afhs.ab.ca)

**Website:** [www.afhs.ab.ca](http://www.afhs.ab.ca)

**Phone:** 403-214-1447

**Facebook:** Alberta Family Histories Society

**Instagram:** abfamilyhistoriessociety



### Land Acknowledgement

In the spirit of reconciliation, we would like to acknowledge that the land on which we gather and where we work to preserve the records and family history of those who came before us are on the traditional territories of the Blackfoot Confederacy (comprising of the Siksika, Kainai, and Piikani First Nations), the Tsúut'ínà, the Stoney Nakoda (including the Chiniki, Bearspaw and Goodstoney First Nations), the Métis Nation (Districts 5 & 6) and all people who make their homes in the Treaty 7 region of Southern Alberta.