

Suite 325,
The Lancaster Building,
304 8th Avenue SW,
Calgary, AB. T2P 1C2
Telephone: 403-261-3662
Fax: 403-269-6029

History NOW

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A Commemorative Journey

by **Sheila Johnston**

Members of the Historical Society have a special opportunity to glimpse something of the history of the last one hundred years in Northern Alberta at Grouard and High Prairie, this coming June.

As you will see by the enclosed flyers, the HSA, through the organizing efforts of the Edmonton chapter, is privileged to be able to hold our regular Annual Meeting Conference and AGM along side and sometimes in conjunction with the Treaty Eight commemorative events being sponsored by the Treaty 8 First Nations of Alberta and organized for them by the Lesser Slave Lake Indian Regional Council.

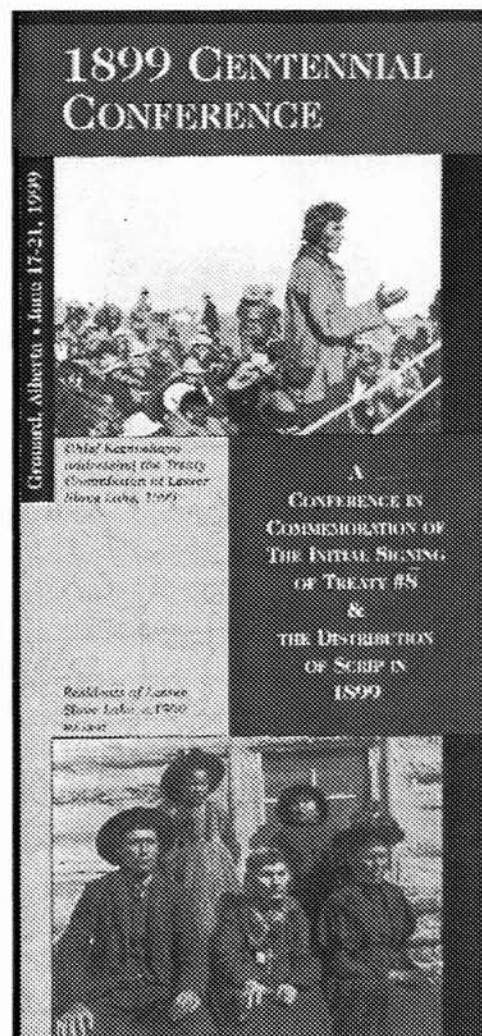
This will give us a unique opportunity to see a major historical event, the signing of Treaty 8, from both sides of the treaty, and from the perspective of the one hundred years which have passed since the signing. The EDHS/HSA Conference will feature papers and events to assist the widening of our historical view on the treaty signing. Workshops, sponsored by the Lesser Slave Lake Indian Regional Council, will be held in coordination with our Conference.

As we learn more about the Treaty 8 events themselves, and their ramifications, I am sure that we will all become much more aware of why this event is a commemoration, rather than a celebration.

The EDHS Conference

The enclosed brochure will give you a feel for the conference, which begins Thursday evening, June 17th. On

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The Historical Society of Alberta is a registered charitable organization.

Donations are gratefully received to help further the work of the Society which includes the publication of *Alberta History* and this newsletter, *History Now*. Donations are tax deductible and will be acknowledged in *History Now*, unless otherwise requested.

History Now is published quarterly. We welcome information about your upcoming or past events, activities, publications, etc. They should be in the hands of the editor prior to deadline.

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Sep 1 for Oct-Dec issue
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Send copy to:

Sherring Amsden,
Editor, *History Now*,
Historical Society of Alberta
#325, 304 8th Avenue SW
Calgary, AB T2P 1C2
Phone: 403-261-3662
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For information contact:

Office Coordinator
The Historical Society of Alberta
#325, The Lancaster Building
304 8th Avenue SW
Calgary, AB. T2P 1C2
Phone: 403-261-3662
Fax: 403-269-6029
email: hsa@cadvision.com

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Thank you for your donation of books to our Library:

- Estate of Thomas Kempling: Collection of Local History Books
- Glenbow Museum Shop: Glenbow Publications (22 in total)
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Membership Application

Name: _____
Address: _____
City: _____
Prov: _____
Postal Code: _____ Telephone: _____
Individual: \$25; Families: \$30
Is this a renewal? Yes ☐ No ☐
My particular interest in Alberta's heritage is _____
My occupations is/was _____
I would like to assist The Historical Society of Alberta ☐

President's Report

by Sheila Johnston

Once again it's time to bring you my greetings and hopes that it has been an interesting and productive time in your chapters. I just wish I could have heard all of your interesting programs. I did take in some of the Calgary programs, and felt fortunate to be able, for other reasons, to be in Edmonton the night of the Treaty 8 preview program. It was a fine presentation and whetted my appetite for the HSA Conference and AGM along side of the Treaty 8 Commemorative events in June in Grouard and High Prairie. If you had not planned to go (no, it isn't too far for those of us who happen to live in more southerly parts of the province, though it may seem so,) please reconsider. It is a wonderful opportunity for our members in other parts of the province to see and experience this part of Alberta, as well as viewing the commemoration of a major historical event in the life of our province. I hope to meet many of you there.

In my January letter I told you about the formation of the Alberta Heritage Alliance (AHA), a network of provincial heritage organizations. The purpose of the Alliance is to be a "collaborative association of groups dedicated to working together to preserve, interpret, and promote Alberta's heritage resources." Two major areas are the focus of Alliance activities at present. The first is the organizing of a conference to involve representatives of many heritage groups, including those with regional and specific areas of interest. This conference is set for May 12-13, 1999, in Edmonton. HSA will name eight representatives to the meeting. Attendees, appointed by the HSA Council, will include someone from each chapter. The other current issue for members of the AHA is the encouragement of all heritage related groups to respond to, "Alberta: Celebration of the Century," a report of the Alberta government's 100th Anniversary Strategy Committee co-chaired by Colleen Klein and Jack Donahue. The time line for responses i.e. proposals for centennial projects, is very short. Our Council, as well as our Centennial committee, chaired by vice-president Marianne Fedori will be working hard in the

next few weeks to prepare HSA proposals.

At the invitation of the Lethbridge Chapter, HSA recently contributed to a distribution of books (from both HSA and Lethbridge) to all the school libraries in their area. We have been receiving some very thoughtful thank-you letters which indicate that it has been a most worthwhile project.

Finally, I would like to acknowledge my deep appreciation for the work of our office co-ordinator, Margaret Waite. Margaret keeps us all 'on track', and I personally could not imagine having to do this job without her great skills and support. Supporting Margaret, and all of HSA, are the rest of the office "staff", the volunteers, who perform a variety of duties that assist in our operation. Thanks from HSA to: Diana Sim, Ken Penley, Clancy Patton, Lois McClusky, Betty Dahlie, Geoff Wilson and Michelle.

I hope to see many of you in Grouard, in June. Regards, Sheila

Notice Annual General Meeting Historical Society of Alberta

The 91st AGM of the Historical Society of Alberta will be held at 4:30 pm on June 19, 1999, at the Alberta Vocational College in Grouard, Alberta.

Two by-law amendments are being recommended to the membership by the Council at the AGM.

- **The first will deal with the separation of membership and subscription fees.**
- **The second will add "up to three directors at large" to the Council membership.**

Final wording of these amendments will be reviewed and recommended by the April 24, 1999, meeting of the HSA Council.

Copies of these amendments can be viewed, or obtained by contacting the HSA office, after April 27, 1999.

Anne Waters, Secretary



A Commemorative Journey continued from p. 1

Friday June 18th there will be a variety of historical presentations. Saturday sessions will go until 3:45 pm, and the Annual General Meeting of the HSA will be held on Saturday at 4:30 pm, followed by a joint HSA/EDHS banquet and HSA Awards presentation. The Conference sessions as well as the AGM and the banquet will be held in the Alberta Vocational College at Grouard. Bus tours, as noted in the enclosed information, will be available to surrounding communities on Friday, Saturday and Sunday.

The major focus of the Treaty 8 Centennial events is Monday, June 21, the actual anniversary of the signing. Members of HSA are welcome to stay for these events. We are looking into the possibility of organizing a bus from Calgary, but we need to know how many people would be interested in bus travel. The bus would leave Calgary on Thursday morning, arriving Grouard/High Prairie that evening, and depart for the south on Sunday morning. Passengers could be picked up in Red Deer and Edmonton, but we would need to know that well ahead of time. Please let Margaret Waite in the office know if this might be of interest to you. **We will need final numbers by May 10**, so please let us know as soon as you can.

See you at Grouard and High Prairie in June!

In Memory of James Gray

Jimmy Gray, devoted husband, father, grandfather and great-grandfather and one of Canada's literary treasures, who invested most of his long life chronicling Western Canadian heritage as both an author and social historian, died in Calgary, November 12, 1998. He was 92.

He left a legacy of twelve books which began with the *Winter Years* in 1956 and ended with *R.B. Bennett—The Calgary Years* in 1991.

Jimmy completed Grade Nine in Winnipeg before leaving school, of necessity, to help support the family during depression times. His "post-graduate" education was in the "school of hard knocks" as a delivery boy, engraver's helper, office boy, margin clerk, quotation board marker and finally as a reporter for the *Winnipeg Free Press* where he became an editorial writer and an eventual Ottawa correspondent in 1947.

In 1948, he resigned his position with the *Free Press* and moved his family to Calgary where he spent nine years honing his literary skills further as editor of the *Farm & Ranch Review* and subsequently the *Western Oil Examiner* before joining Home Oil Company for a six year stint as their manager of public relations. In his own words, 1964 saw him "retire to devote my life to writing social histories of the prairie provinces."

Until his sight deteriorated, Jimmy was an avid reader, loved gin-rummy and rose like a trout to a fly for each new challenge offered by difficult crossword puzzles. He was a long member of the Calgary Petroleum Club, Knights of the Round Table and generously contributed to many causes, particularly to western Canadian universities.

Many deserved honours came Jimmy's way during his long and fruitful lifetime amongst which were three honorary doctorates, the Order of Canada, the Alberta Order of Excellence, a Rotary Paul Harris Fellow, a Bob Edwards award and the Pierre Berton Award by the Canadian National History Society. Jimmy will be greatly missed but he lives on in his books and through all those fortunate enough to have had him touch their lives in one way or another . . . "I am a little bit of everyone I have ever met." When such people pass away, so does a library of unpublished information, ideas and memories. It definitely will not be the same without him.

—from obituary notice *The Calgary Herald*

Jimmy Gray became a lifetime member of HSA in 1968 and received the HSA Annual Award in 1975.

Ford Motor Company of Canada

Research material wanted. I am looking for documentation on Ford Canada (Walkerville/Ford City, ON.) and dealers or individuals in Alberta before 1923. This is required for a biography of **Gordon M. McGregor**, founder of Ford Canada.

Send to:

David Roberts, 23 Queensbury Avenue, Scarborough, ON M1N 2X8,
Telephone: 416-978-6744.

HSA Awards



It's that time again. The HSA is seeking nominations for awards to be handed out at the Annual General Meeting being held in Grouard, for the following:

Annual award

Presented to an individual who must qualify in one or more of the following categories:

- A. Meritorious service to HSA over several years;
- B. Meritorious service to the preservation, promotion, or development of Alberta's history over several years;
- C. Performance of a single action, deed, or service which is of such significance, uniqueness, or magnitude that it ranks far above routine or regular actions, deeds, or services.

Award of merit

Presented to eligible business, corporation, society, government, church, or other corporate body. The recipient must qualify in one or both of the following categories:

- A. Meritorious service to the preservation, promotion, or development of Alberta's history over several years;
- B. Performance of a single action, deed, or service to the benefit of Alberta history which goes beyond the routine services expected of the recipient.

Please forward your nominations in writing, setting out the nominee's accomplishments with short biography and the name of at least one other member supporting the nomination to:

Kathryn Ivany
Chair, Awards Committee
c/o The Historical Society of Alberta
325, 304 8th Avenue SW,
CALGARY, AB T2P 1C2.

The Fur Trade at Lesser Slave Lake, 1815–1831

by William Peter Baergen

Lesser Slave Lake is situated approximately 130 miles northwest of Edmonton, extending some seventy-five miles from its western end near High Prairie to its eastern end near the town of Slave Lake. Overlooking Buffalo Bay, a roughly circular body of water some three miles in diameter and connected to the west end of Lesser Slave Lake by a narrow two-mile channel lies Grouard—a peaceful community rich in history.

Like many other towns in Alberta Grouard boomed in the first decade of the present century when the “Last Great West” was filling up with thousands of settlers from the United States, Europe and Eastern Canada. Situated on the main route to the Klondyke from Edmonton, Grouard got a head start over most Alberta towns, for large numbers of gold-seekers, growing faint-hearted on their way, stopped and settled at Willow Point just outside the limits of the future town of Grouard. Many more stopped on their way back. After the turn of the century Grouard became the funnel to the world famous Peace River country, serving as a stopping place for both passengers and freight bound for the fertile lands of the north.

Unlike other towns, though, Grouard had developed *before* the coming of the railway. It owned its twentieth century boom to a much older means of transport. A settler travelling to Grouard from Edmonton, say in 1912, just before the first automobile made the trip, would take ten to fourteen days to complete the four-stage journey. The ninety-six miles overland from Edmonton to Athabasca were covered by horse-drawn wagon. If the settler did not own one of these, or if he were a visitor on an exploratory trip, he could ride the stage-coach for eight dollars. At Athabasca Landing, passengers and freight were transferred to either the Hudson’s Bay Company SS “Athabasca”,

which was built on the spot in 1887-1888, (Captain A.L. Brick, “Reverend J. Gough Brick and His Shaftesbury Mission Farm,” *Alberta Historical Review*, III (Spring, 1955), p. 7.) or the Northern Transportation Company’s SS “Northland Sun” and taken up the Athabasca River seventy-five miles to Mirror Landing. That stage cost six dollars. Another eight dollars would take the passenger from here to Soto Landing (sometimes called Norris’s) at the confluence of Saulteaux and Lesser Slave Rivers, a distance of sixteen miles covered by freight and passenger wagons. The rapids in the Lesser Slave River made river traffic impractical here, although until 1900, approximately, York Boats were tracked and poled upstream; and when they were not available a settler was more than once forced to build a barge or scow out of any available logs and old lumber which he then proceeded to pole and tug upstream. The forty-five miles from the head of the rapids to Sawridge (renamed Slave Lake in 1922) and the seventy miles from there across the lake to Shaw’s Point were quickly disposed of by the excellent steamer service offered by both companies. The lake crossing itself was completed in five hours by steamer. This last stage cost the traveller sixteen dollars and included a seven-mile stint by wagon from Shaw’s Point to Grouard when the steamers were forced by low water, as they often were, to dock at the early fur traders’ fishing house at the former.

Despite the high cost of transport (thirty-eight dollars per passenger and \$5.70 per hundredweight of freight) and because there was no other way, the steamers in summer and freight wagons the year around, continued to pour their cargo into Grouard. The Hudson’s Bay SS “Slave River” was 128 feet in length and could carry 100 passengers, forty-five of whom were able to enjoy sleeping accommodation, and had an

available carrying capacity of 120 tons. (*Grouard News*, Oct. 12, 1921.) It arrived at the west end of the lake every Monday and Friday. The Northern Transportation Company’s “SS Northland Light”, although a little smaller, also made a contribution twice a week, arriving there every Tuesday and Saturday. Thus four days out of every week between May 15 and October 15, Grouard received settlers and curiosity-seekers. By 1914 the service was daily. In late fall when navigation on “the only navigable lake in Alberta” (*Ibid*, A claim made by the newspaper as part of its advertising campaign, and one which seems never to have been disputed. Lake Athabasca is navigable but is, of course, not wholly in Alberta) closed, freight would begin to pile up between Athabasca Landing and Mirror Landing. Grouard would then have to wait some time for team freighting to commence, and while she waited her shelves and warehouses were stripped of merchandise. When the freighting did begin, that is when the ice was strong enough to hold a team and loaded wagon, it started in earnest. The editor of the Grouard newspaper reported in early December, 1912, that “80 teams are leaving per week for Athabasca Landing for freight, as high as 32 on Wednesday.” (*Grouard News*, Dec. 14, 1912.) He went on to predict that by the time the ice was thick enough, 600 teams would be so engaged. A little rapid calculation led the editor to conclude that since each team hauled at least two tons, and took two weeks to make the round trip, Grouard’s warehouses would receive some 8400 tons of goods. The total would probably be closer to 10,000 tons, for the majority of teams hauled “a good deal more than 4,000 pounds.” (*Grouard News*). By February 1913 the editor’s estimates were proven highly conservative. By that time nearly 1,000 teams were on the trail, and the warehouses were filling up at nearly double the anticipated rate. (*Grouard News* Feb. 1, 1913.) The unexpected increase was caused by the fact that many freighters had

abandoned the more treacherous Edson Trail in favour of the Grouard route, finding the latter easier to traverse with bigger and heavier loads.

Grouard thus became the distributing point for the Peace River country in the pre-railroad days, with overland trails from the mouth of the Heart River (on Buffalo Bay opposite Grouard), leading to Peace River Landing, Grande Prairie, Dunvegan, Spirit River, Winagami Lake and Fort Vermillion. Grouard residents provided teams and drivers for hire as a year round service. (Interview with Billy Hamelin,

the Peace River Trail, as they had on the Edmonton-Athabasca Trail and many others. With all this activity the Lesser Slave Lake settlement had grown from a community of 300 in 1899 to nearly 1500 in 1914.

(*Grouard News*, Mar. 28, 1914). A newspaper account of the settlement in its earliest days is worth inserting here.

There has been a wonderful growth of this important village since breeds, and a conglomerate mixture of faint-hearted (or tenderfeet) Klondikers, who would go no further on account of the trails not being macadamized . . . The principal stores are the Hudson's Bay,

In 1909 the Government of Alberta granted the settlement (Grouard) village status in answer to a petition organized by William Gairdner, the Hudson's Bay trader. The name was then officially changed to "Grouard". In a letter dated 27 September 1908, Lieutenant-Governor G.H. Bulyea and Premier A.C. Rutherford told Gairdner they were satisfied that the settlement contained not less than twenty-five occupied dwellings and approved its incorporation as a village. (Bulyea to Gairdner, Sept. 27, 1909, Municipal Inspection Branch File #10898, Dept. of Municipal Affairs, Edmonton.) The settlement actually contained sixty-five

occupied dwellings. (*Ibid*, Affidavit signed by Gairdner, June 11, 1909.) Less than

four years later, on June 27, 1913,

Grouard was incorporated as a

town, again in answer to a

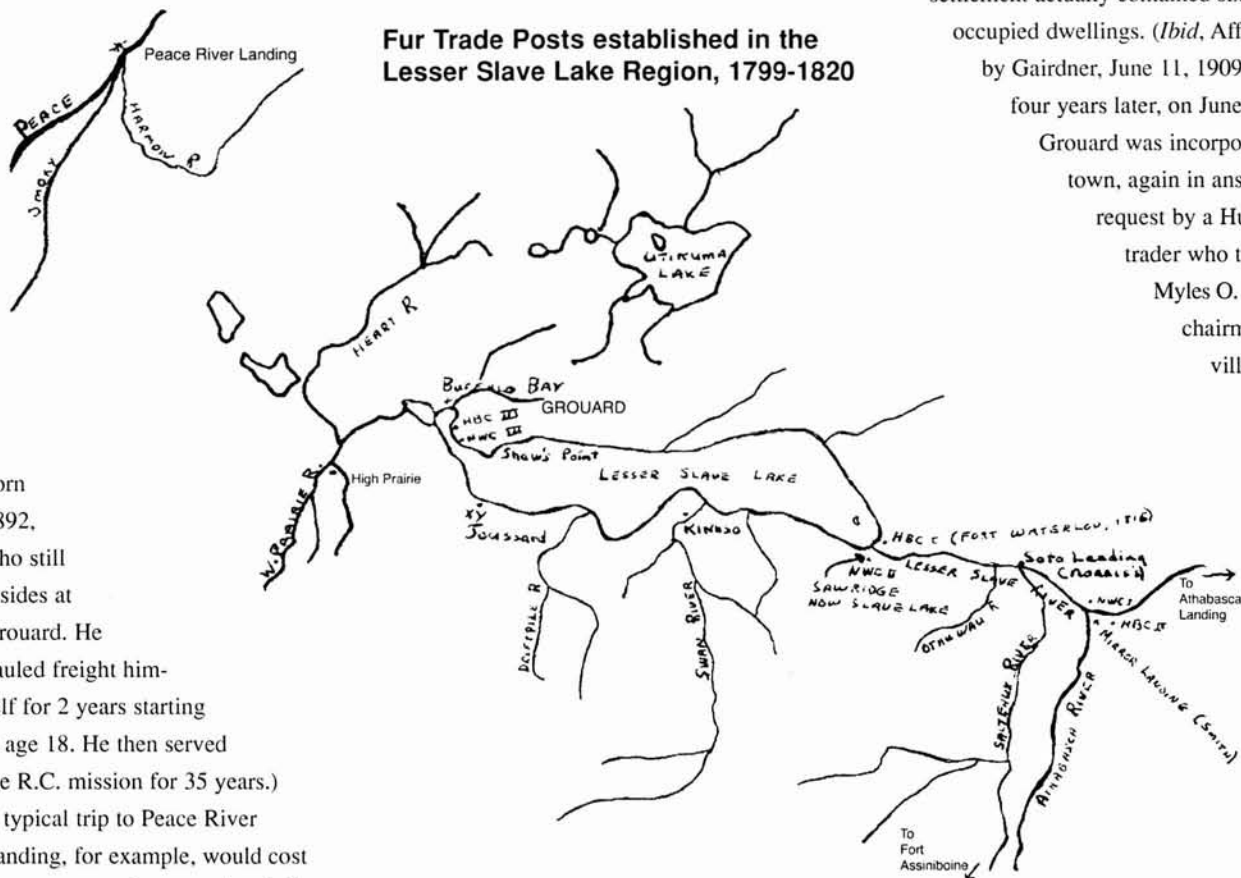
request by a Hudson's Bay trader who this time was

Myles O. McDermott,

chairman of the

village council.

Fur Trade Posts established in the Lesser Slave Lake Region, 1799-1820



born 1892, who still resides at Grouard. He hauled freight himself for 2 years starting at age 18. He then served the R.C. mission for 35 years.) A typical trip to Peace River Landing, for example, would cost between ten and twenty-five dollars, depending on the number of passengers; freight was hauled over the same seventy-five mile trail for two dollars per hundred-weight. (James G. MacGregor, *The Land of Twelve-Foot Davis*, (Edmonton: Institute of Applied Art, 1952), p. 284.) Since the trip took three days, stopping places at intermediate points, complete with stabling and hay as well as bunkhouses, soon cropped up on

The Larue and Picard. There are a number of smaller stores and trading posts, which have followed up the boom, and are now like Micawber, in David Copperfield, waiting for something to turn up. The population is about three hundred, one-third being disgruntled Klondikers and free traders, and the rest are half-breeds. (*Edmonton Bulletin*, Aug. 7, 1899.)

The census McDermott had included as substantiation for his claim that Grouard had enough residents to qualify for town status listed 741 names. (*Ibid*, List of Permanent Inhabitants of the Village of Grouard, Aug. 22, 1912.) Within one year of achieving town status, Grouard's population doubled. A census taken in March, 1914, showed the

population to be 1418. (*Grouard News*, Mar. 28, 1914.) If the rate of growth was maintained, it is not unreasonable to speculate that the population reached 2,000 before the year was out. No formal census seems, however, to have been taken after March, 1914.

The list of business and professional establishments that served Grouard at its peak is truly an impressive one, and one which the local newspaper printed in large black type on its back page in hopes of convincing the world of its phenomenal success and bright future. Twenty general stores competed for the local market, along with two department stores, a hardware store, two bakeries, two butcher shops, a tin shop, two jewelers, three implement agencies, a flour and feed store and two saw mills. Most unusual perhaps this far from civilization was the bottling works. Business and other services were handled by two banks, a printing office, three hotels, five barber shops, two laundries, six livery barns, a harness shop, three blacksmith shops, two motor garages and no less than five real estate offices. For entertainment, the town provided five pool rooms, a motion picture theatre, a skating rink and tennis, baseball and hockey clubs. A bowling alley and a 24-piece brass band drew the particular attention of Emily Murphy, better known as Janey Canuck, author of *Open Trails*, when she visited there in 1912 (*Grouard News*, Sep. 21, 1912). The professions were represented by two law offices, two drug stores, four doctors, a dentist, an eye-specialist and a veterinary surgeon. Government and public utilities offered here made one more aware still of the importance of the town as a headquarters of the district. Besides the usual Post Office and Government Telegraphy service, the town boasted a Dominion Lands Office, the Head Office of the Indian Agent, Royal Northwest Mounted Police Headquarters, a Public Health Officer and an Immigration Hall. The Mission School, the public school, the town and rural telephone system, town police,

hospital, newspaper and fire engine brigade completed the list of services offered in this metropolis of the north. (*Grouard News* Mar 28, 1914). An active Board of Trade saw to it that the town received due publicity by frequent publication of impressive list of statistics. *The Grouard News* was joined by the *Edmonton Daily Capital* and the *Edmonton Bulletin* in advertising this city of the future. (see eight-page supplement on Grouard, *Edmonton Daily Capital*, Aug. 2, 1913; also six-page supplement on Grouard in *Edmonton Bulletin*, July 28, 1914.)

By March 1915 it was becoming obvious to even the most hopeful boosters of Grouard that it was finished as a commercial center. It was clear that the Edmonton, Dunvegan and British Columbia Railroad was not intending to build so much as a branch line to Grouard; instead, it passed within twelve miles of the town on its way to High Prairie. Had Grouard been located on the west side of Buffalo Bay the railway would most likely have passed through it, but, despite offers of free right-of-way from the town of Grouard itself, the company refused to build a road bed through the low marshlands west of Buffalo Bay. The collapse of Grouard was dramatic in its suddenness. Within a year merchants were moving to High Prairie or Peace River Landing, dismantling residences or simply abandoning them. Lands sales stopped. Grouard soon had to remind itself that at one time people from distant parts of the world had owned land here. A Los Angeles buyer, for example, had paid \$30,000 for a river lot; one owner lived in India. (Gordon C. Merrill, "Human Geography of Lesser Slave Lake Area of Alberta," *Geographical Bulletin*, 119 No. 3, (March, 1953), pp 47-48.) By 1940 the town, whose population had long since fallen below that required to remain a town, reverted to village status. It had since the 1920's been administered by a government official, A Soutter. On January 15, 1944, the village of Grouard was dissolved, and its assets were turned over to

Improvement District No. 764. (*Alberta Gazette*, Jan. 31, 1944.) Very little besides the Roman Catholic Mission and a handful of residents remained.

Commercially, Grouard today shows no signs of its colorful past. The general store, the gas-station-confectionery and a charter aircraft service, operating out of Bayview Airport at Slave Lake, are all in the hands of two Grouard businessmen. It is, however, an important educational centre. Some 200 students take advantage of the boarding facilities provided by Moosehorn Lodge, part of which was the original mission building. Since the Northland School Division assumed responsibilities here in 1960, the student population has grown to 400 students taking academic and vocational curricula. It might be added that approximately thirty of these students come from the Salt Prairie settlement, some ten miles northeast of Grouard. The census taken in 1965 showed approximately 450 persons resident in Grouard, a figure which excluded the 200 students in residence, but which did include the twenty-eight teachers employed by the school division. (Letter from W.C. Thomas, Principal, Grouard Vocational School, Grouard, Alberta, Oct. 11, 1966.)

Grouard, then, was like many other towns in Alberta early in the twentieth century, in that it experienced a boom. It was different, though, in that this boom was caused not by the railway coming through, as was the case with many other towns, but by its strategic position at the head of navigation. It was different, too, for yet another and more important reason—and from this difference springs the following study. It had had a history of some hundred years before the railway came, an event which for many other boom towns marked their first year. A sixteen-year period of that history has been selected in order to study the fur trade in its earliest days at Lesser Slave Lake. The period 1815-1831 was chosen because it is

continued on Page 8

Membership & Subscription Changes

You will recall that we have been preparing you for changes that will separate membership fees from subscription fees in order for us to continue to receive a mailing subsidy from Canadian Heritage (a department of the federal government). This change is to ensure that subscriptions are accessible to anyone who is interested, not just to members.

At its February 20 meeting, the Council agreed to propose the following fee structure to the AGM in June:

Individual Membership: \$10 per year. Annual Subscription: \$25 per year. Total \$35, but if you purchase both Membership and Subscription at the same time, the total cost will be \$30 per individual.

Family Membership: \$15 per year; Annual Subscription: \$25 per year. Total \$40, but if you purchase both Membership and Subscription at the same time, the total cost will be \$35 per family.

Affiliate Membership: fees will remain at current rate.

We recognize that the above proposal is an increase of \$5 over the current membership/subscription rates, and hope that our members will understand that, since it is some years since fees were raised, and many of our costs have increased (for example paper and printing), it seemed appropriate to make both changes at once.

If this proposal is passed at the Annual General Meeting, the new fees will come into effect July 1, 1999. Also, HSA will continue to make a grant to each chapter from the proceeds of memberships based on their membership numbers. We hope that you, our current members will respond to the new system by purchasing both a membership and a subscription, and also that you will bear with us as we make the transition from the old system to the new. Thanks for your patience.

Help HSA save for a rainy day



**Invest in HSA's future
Give now and double
your investment**

HSA is asking Foundations, corporations and our members to make donations to the HSA Endowment Fund.

Send your cheque to: **The Calgary Foundation 1920, 540 5th Avenue SW, Calgary, AB T2P 0M2.**

The "HSA Open Endowment Fund" has been set up with The Calgary Foundation to ensure that the HSA has an assured cash flow in the future for its publishing and programs. HSA, on its part, will each year invest funds surplus to its needs in the HSA Endowment Fund until our goal of \$1,000,000 is reached. In this manner, with the compounding that occurs with the Fund, our goal will be reached sooner.

Please get behind this project and donate today.

All donations will receive a tax receipt from The Calgary Foundation and an acknowledgement from the Historical Society of Alberta. Thank you for your generosity.

In Memory of Edweena Mair

Born in January of 1906, in Rouleauville, Alberta, which is now known as the Mission District in Calgary, Edweena grew up in Calgary and graduated from the University of Alberta and the University of Ottawa.

She spent most of her professional life working as a dietitian in Ottawa and Kentucky. Always busy with both professional and community organizations, she belonged to the Professional Institute of the Canadian Public Service, the Canadian Dietetic Association, as well as the Alumni Associations for the Universities of Alberta and Ottawa.

Edweena returned to Calgary for her retirement where she devoted her time to her grandchildren, the Southern Alberta Pioneers Association, learning computers, genealogy and horse racing. She was instrumental in publishing two best selling cookbooks, *Pioneer Kitchens* and *Our Heritage From Many Lands*, for the Southern Alberta Pioneer's Association.

—from obituary *The Calgary Herald*, March 16, 1999.,

A longtime member of HSA, Edweena died peacefully in Calgary on March 9, 1999.

The Fur Trade at Lesser Slave Lake continued from Page 7

the only period for which daily journals are available; without them detailed study is impossible. The period covers the establishment of the Hudson's Bay Company in the area, the struggle with the North West Company, and the first ten years of trading by the newly amalgamated company after the competition was over.

—excerpt from "The Fur Trade at Lesser Slave Lake, 1815-1831" by William Peter Baergen, a thesis submitted to the Faculty of Graduate Studies, Department of History, The University of Alberta, Edmonton, Alberta, May 3, 1967.

In Memory of Isabel M. Campbell

Isabel M. Campbell, the ardent chronicler of Grande Prairie history and volunteer extraordinaire, died in June at 91.

Known as a "one-woman historical whirlwind," Campbell leaves an immense legacy that includes some 34,000 catalogue cards, a replica of her family's three-room log cabin at the city's heritage village, two books, *Grande Prairie: Capital of the Peace River* and *Challenge of the Homestead*, and decades of historical research and local history columns.

Campbell was born in Wyoming in 1907 and arrived with her parents in the Elmsworth area south of Beaverlodge in 1919. She returned to Washington state in 1928 for two decades, returning to Alberta in 1951.

"It was a decision that turned her life around," notes Grande Prairie's *Daily Herald Tribune* in an obituary. She began writing a regular local history column for the paper, but soon became a full-time reporter. Her flashback column, *This was Yesterday*, appeared weekly until 1997.

In 1968, Campbell decided to devote herself exclusively to her passion, history. "I don't relate to the contemporary scene at all, somehow," she told the *Herald Tribune* in 1980. "That goes back as far as I can remember."

Her many honours include awards from the Government of Alberta for her contribution to Alberta's heritage and preservation of Peace Country history, the History Society Association of Alberta, (HSA) the Alberta Museum Association and the City of Grande Prairie.

- from *Alberta Connections*
Vol. 4 #2 Winter 1998

Isabel M. Campbell was a dedicated HSA member and received our 1991 Annual Award.

Tribute to Dr. Bruce Peel

Bruce Peel, University of Alberta librarian between 1955–1982, died November 30, 1998, after a long struggle with Parkinson's disease. He was 82.

Under Peel's direction, the university library became the second largest academic library collection in Canada. During his tenure the library added more than two million volumes, about 450,000 government documents and 1.2 million microtexts to its holdings. As well, Peel oversaw the planning and construction of several library buildings, including the Cameron and Rutherford North Libraries and collections at the University of Calgary.

As a scholar and historian, Peel's interest was in the Prairies. His *Bibliography of the Prairie Provinces to 1953* is a

classic in the field, while his *Steamboats on the Saskatchewan* and other historical works have brought the history of the Prairies alive for all who have read them. Peel was active in many library and historical associations, serving as president of several, including the Canadian Library Association, the Library Association of Alberta, the Bibliographic Society of Canada and the Canadian Association of Research Libraries.

Peel's work has been recognized with many awards, including the Scroll for Outstanding Contribution to Canadian Bibliography and the Queen Elizabeth Silver Jubilee Medal. In 1991, the university awarded him with an honorary Doctor of Laws. In recent years he had nearly completed work on a third edition of his *Bibliography of the Prairie Provinces*. He is survived by his wife, Margaret, and their two children.

— from *Folio*, Vol. 36 #8, Dec. 11, 1998, p. 10.

Bruce Peel served on the Council and was president of the Historical Society of Alberta 1956–1957, and received the HSA Annual Award in 1969.



HEAD HISTORICAL SOCIETY—The Historical Society of Alberta installed officers at its annual meeting Thursday. Seated are Dr. W. E. Edmonds, left, editor of the *Alberta Historical Review*, and G. E. Kelly, newly-elected secretary. Standing are J. G. MacGregor, left, immediate past president, and Bruce Peel, new president. Other executive officers are Hugh Dempsey, vice-president, and E. S. George treasurer.

Edmonton & District Historical Society

by Kathryn Ivany

Write to
PO Box 1013
Edmonton, AB.
T5J 2M1

The EDHS has been busy since the last newsletter and very pleased by the increased level of interest our programs are generating. Both the film night in January and the "Spirit of the Edmonton Home" panel with the Edmonton Real Estate Board were well attended and introduced some new people to the Historical Society.

In March, we held a dinner at the U. of A. Faculty Club to offer a preview of the events coming up this summer around the Treaty 8 Centennial. We had displays from University students who have been working on a database made up of those who took Metis Scrip as part of the second federal commission which travelled the area, a representative of the Treaty 8 Centennial Committee, and a lawyer-cum-historian, Brian Calliou, to explain all the complex issues that the Treaty was supposed to deal with and which it created. We were pleased to see our provincial president, Sheila Johnston, who joined us for this event.

Now the EDHS is kicking plans for the Treaty 8 Centennial Conference June 17–21, 1999, and for Historic Edmonton Week July 24–Aug 1, 1999, into high gear. Our Next event, however, is our Annual General Meeting, April 8 at the Governor's Room at the Prince of Wales Armouries. Our speaker will be the City's Heritage Planner, Murray Miller

Central Alberta Historical Society

by Janet Walter

Write to
c/o Box 800,
Red Deer, AB
T4N 5H2

The topic of the first 1999 presentation by CAHS was, "The Keystone Legacy", the story of the fifty black families who settled near Breton at the beginning of this century. Gwen Hooks, the author of the book with the same title, told the history of her people's migrations within the United States and immigration to Canada. The American migrations began with the black slave emancipation following the Civil War. The Jim Crow traditions of white southerners pushed blacks into Oklahoma Territory and eventually they were displaced by new settlers when Oklahoma became a state.

The Clifford Sifton invitation for Americans to come north to Canadian land, opened for homesteads, enticed half a million immigrants and among them 1,524 black settlers. Those who stopped at Edmonton were given a racist reception by some prominent individuals and groups. They faced discrimination in housing and

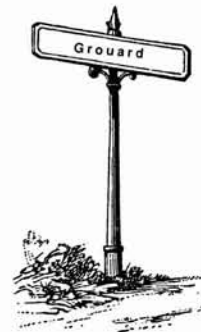
employment. In the hope of establishing a community free from prejudice and racial tension they were drawn to land north of Breton, where they settled.

The first community building, were a church, Good Hope Baptist Church, September 1911, and a year later the Fennel School.

The pioneer experiences of the Keystone settlers in many ways paralleled other homesteaders—off farm work for needed income and self-reliance in the event of illness. Some found the winters too harsh and returned to the States. Others turned the discrimination against their skin colour into determination to get an education and claim their equality.

The third generation descendants of the Keystone Settlers have dispersed among the general population adding diversity to our pluralistic heritage.

News & Views from HSA Chapters



On February 4, 1999, Robert Guest presented both his exhibition of paintings and his research of the Hinton Trail at the Kerry Wood Nature Centre in Red Deer. The Hinton trail stretches 200 miles from the Yellowhead Pass to the Peace River Plains. The story of mapping this old travel route and paintings made from the 266 pieces of artwork that he made along the trail are combined in the book, *Trail North*.

Other projects of CAHS that are in the initial stages are, the restoration of an early fountain in Red Deer, and an interpretive marker for the Tail Creek settlement.

Chinook Country Historical Society

The Annual General meeting of CCHS took place on February 23, 1999, at Fort Calgary. We were pleased to have our HSA president, Sheila Johnston bring greetings to our chapter. The CCHS president's report included acknowledgement of our contribution to the publication of David Bright's book, *The Limits of Labour: Class Formation and the Labour Movement in Calgary, 1883-1929*, our May conference on Health Care, our "Year of the Cowboy" daily feature in the Calgary Herald and the 1998 Elise Corbet Scholarship which was awarded to Andrea Lee Slipp, a fourth-year history major student at the University of Calgary.

Other highlights of the past year mentioned by the president include: the members only heritage building tour in February, the participation of Mary Lynas at our Historic Calgary Week art show opening, our tours of the EP and Bar U ranches, the enthusiasm of our new cemetery tour guides, singing around the campfire in Priddis, our participation in the Christmas parade, the dinner with the

by **Kate Reeves & Diana Sim**

president evening, and our association with Margaret Waite and the volunteers at the Historical Society of Alberta office.

The President's Award for outstanding service was given to Diana Sim who is leaving the Chinook Board after seven years. Diana's many talents were acknowledged with two books and a gift certificate. Everyone was relieved to know that we can still call on her expertise!

Our sincere thanks to our other board members who have finished their term of service: Diana Mansell, Carol Fullerton, Diane Osberg, Bob Stamp and Gloria Dingwall. New board members elected at the annual meeting are: Karen Clark, Jennifer Hyde, Gord Kelly, and Susie Sparks.

—Kate Reeves

The programme following the AGM was very well attended because of the popular speakers, David Bright and Harry Sanders. Despite technical difficulties, the pair didn't miss a beat.

Write to
PO Box 974
Lethbridge, AB. T1J 4A2

by **Carly Stewart**

Single copies list for \$8.25 + P&H or 5 for \$26 + P&H.

Any member of the Historical Society of Alberta receives a discount down to \$6.25, per single copy price. Members wishing to purchase this new book with 80 pages and 30 plus illustrations, may send a cheque for \$9.25, for a single copy (mailed anywhere in Canada) or \$33, for 5 copies (mailed to any one address in Canada). Send cheque to: Lethbridge Historical Society, PO Box 974, Lethbridge, Alberta, T1J 4A2.

Our March program was given by Farley Wuth from the Museum at Pincher Creek.

The April meeting will feature guest speaker Malcolm Greensheilds of the University of Lethbridge.

A tour of the historic sites near and around Magrath, Alberta, is still being

With slides and a fascinating talk, Harry and David took turns telling of a murder from Calgary's past. In one of the slides, Harry pointed out that the scene of the crime is now the Magic Room on 17th Avenue S.W. I asked if they'd had a manicure while researching the talk. Harry said "he'd had his Bar Mitzvah photograph taken in the room where the murder happened, when the building was Gold's Photography Studio!" No doubt this increased Harry's lifelong interest in history.

Do remember to come to our next meeting on April 27, when George Melnyk will discuss "Women Writers in Early Alberta". This will also be a good time to welcome your new Board of Directors. They will be happy to have your support and suggestions for future programmes.

CCHS members should watch their local newsletter for information about other events under discussion.

Would you like to attend the HSA Annual General Meeting at Grouard if transportation could be arranged? It would help the Board to determine the economics of this, if you could call Diana Sim at 403-266-4898.

—Diana Sim

Lethbridge Historical Society

The Lethbridge Historical Society held their Annual Banquet on February 22, 1999, at the Royal Canadian Legion in Lethbridge. It was successful with sixty-six people attending. We had a fine meal with wine and an excellent program put on by Donny White of the Medicine Hat Museum.

In March 1999 the LHS, in conjunction with the Historical Society of Alberta, donated copies of six different publications to every school library in the Lethbridge Area.

At the March meeting of the LHS, we launched our 33rd publication, *Tales of a Mounted Police Officer*, Superintendent R. Burton Deane of the Lethbridge N.W.M.P. Division 1888-1902, written by William (Bill) Baker, of the University of Lethbridge. Dr. Baker was on hand to autograph book purchases that evening.

planned for our May/June outing.

Our next unofficial marker project under consideration is to place a bronze plaque at Pearce, Alberta (west of Lethbridge). This was the site of a British Commonwealth Air Training School for airmen during World War II. When we decide to go ahead we will ask permission of our general membership to support this project.

We look forward to meeting some of our fellow Alberta Historians at the HSA Annual Meeting begin held in Grouard in June.

Finally for up coming events, please check dates and time with your local chapter.

HSA Calendar of Events – 1999

- Apr 21** CCHS “Women Writers in Early Alberta”, by George Melnyk. 7:30 pm, Ft. Calgary Interpretive Centre
- Jun 17-21** HSA 1999 Conference & AGM and events marking the centennial of the signing of Treaty #8 in Grouard
- Jul 24-Aug 1** EDHS Historic Edmonton Week
- Jul 30-Aug 7** CCHS Historic Calgary Week
- Sep 12** **Lougheed House Conservation Society** Edwardian Garden Party, Sunday afternoon, September 12, to celebrate the opening of the estate’s Beaulieu Gardens, an “oasis of green in the heart of Calgary.” Open to the public. Admission free. Donor’s reception 1:15 pm; Entertainment 1:30 pm; Edwardian Garden Party 2 pm; Ceremony 2.15 pm. Dress: Styles appropriate to the Edwardian era. Contact the society at 403-244-6333 or Fax: 403-244-6354



Museum of the Regiments

4520 Crowchild Trail S.W.

Calgary, AB, Canada T2T 5J4

Tel: (403) 974-2850 Fax: (403) 974-2858

www.nucleus.com/~regiments/

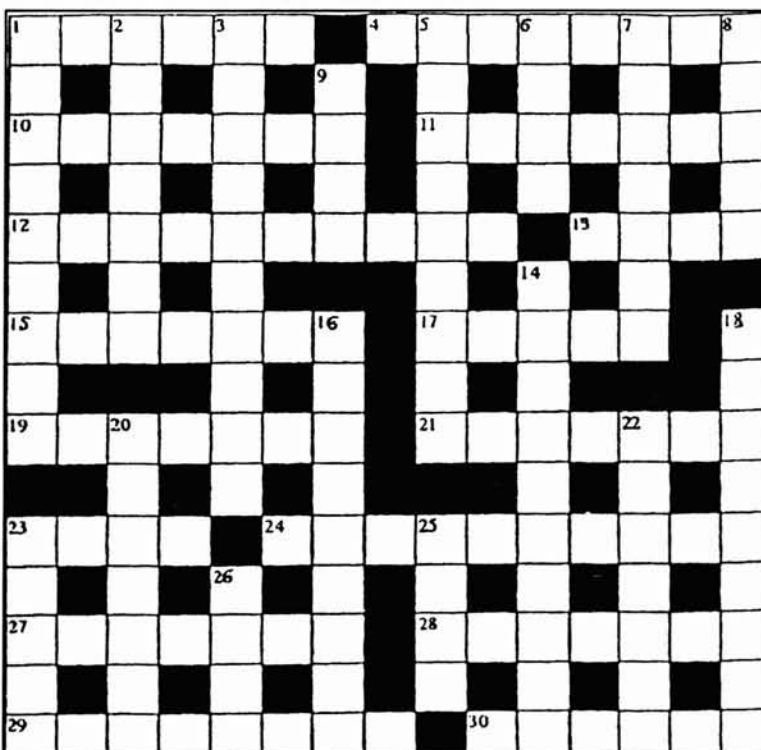
Visit the Museum of the Regiments, the largest military museum in Western Canada. Life-like exhibits, gift shop and deli restaurant. See the military history of Lord Strathcona’s Horse (Royal Canadians), Princess Patricia’s Canadian Light Infantry, the Calgary Highlanders and the King’s Own Calgary Regiment.

Answer to last newsletter crossword:

Across: 1. Fortis et liber, 8. aspen, 9. Agony, 11. Macs, 13. tuna, 14. Bennett, 16. nieces, 17. Senora, 18. Athabasca, 21. tarmac, 23. Regina, 24. soldier, 25. ahoy, 27. Grey, 28. north, 29. betas, 30. Crows Nest Pass.

Down: 2. Ross, 3. Irenes, 4. lights, 5. bunt, 6. Edmonton Trail, 7. Crag and Canyon, 8. acres, 10. Yukon, 12. snowbird, 14. Berthas, 15. teacher, 19. Orion, 20. tiers, 22. Coutts, 23. Regent, 26. Yoho, 27. gala.

HSA Crossword



Across

1. First white person to see the “shining mountains”, from (now) Alberta
4. These winds ravaged Vulcan, Grassy Lake, Regina & Edmonton
10. Some flights
11. Site of windmill collection and museum display
12. These brought freight and passengers up the North & South Saskatchewan
13. So may it be
15. Government forces won a battle at this site to end the North-West Rebellion
17. An assumed name
19. A snappy band
21. Leave to ones own . . .
23. Many politicians promise these
24. First Premier of Alberta
27. Premier . . . Greenfield
28. Paid instruction
29. Oblate Mission founded 1861 by Father Lacombe
30. What some power plants and systems are called

Down

1. Form of address to certain members
2. New Canadian territory, 1st April, 1999
3. Former Alberta community or the coal found there
5. Strathmore’s county
6. Amount of space a thing takes up
7. What natives of 2 Down were formerly called
8. Explorer Fraser
9. . . . no good
14. Once a boom mining town beside Castle Mountain
16. A hostile meeting such as at 15 Across
18. Those living in a place
20. District of NWT then province, named after 4th daughter of Queen Victoria
22. Superintendent of NWMP at Battle of Duck Lake
23. McDougall, Ware and Diefenbaker
25. Medicine and top
26. Medicinal or seasoning plant

You have plenty of time to complete this crossword puzzle which was devised by a member of HSA. The answer will be published in the next issue of *History Now*.