The membership newsletter of the

Historical Society of Alberta

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History NOW

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In this issue

HSA Pin

The Historical Society of Alberta pin is available. You can pick it up from the office or mail your cheque or money order in the amount of $5 plus $.50 postage and handling to:

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Little Chicago Remembered

by **Audrey Rice**

It finally happened, the dream came true. A new cairn is now at the site of the town called Little Chicago or Royalties, once one of Alberta's famous oil towns, located about two kilometers north of Longview, on Highway 22.

Just over a year ago a committee was formed and on July 24, members of the Little Chicago Revisited Committee, supported by 200 former neighbours and friends, unveiled the new cairn commemorating the location of our home-town, which is now near the location of Talisman Energy's "Little Chicago Gas Plant". It was a very emotional time, a homecoming and a reunion of old friends.

A few guest speakers, including Art Smith, a former MLA and rig hand in the area said, "This is where oil was discovered and those companies who run the business now owe these people a debt of gratitude because they spawned the oil industry." He ended by saying, "Most important about this day is to commemorate the spirit that made it happen ... from remembering your past, you learn what your future is."

With the support of many people and businesses the project was an overwhelming success.

Little Chicago was once a thriving town that at least 2000 people called home. It started in 1936 when crude oil was discovered, and people without jobs due to the depression started flocking to the area. It grew to a town that included all the stores, schools and services that any town needed. As a child it was a great place to grow up. After the discovery of oil at Leduc in 1947, the jobs moved north and the town disappeared, but the memories remained.

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.

Submission deadlines:

Mar 1 for Apr-Jun issue
Jun 1 for Jul-Sep issue
Sep 1 for Oct-Dec issue
Dec 1 for Jan-Mar issue

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Welcome to new members

Cyril Carter, Prince Rupert BC
Belinda Crowson, Lethbridge
Don Dalke, Lethbridge
Lana Lonseth, Lethbridge
Doris MacKinnon, Red Deer
Henry & Justine Wostenberg, Red Deer
Dorothy Riva, Calgary
Manuel Hulliger, Calgary
Dave Helps, Calgary
Laurel Halladay, Calgary
Bellrose Comp. High School, St. Albert
West Dalhousie Elementary School, Calgary
Jane Morrow, Camp Creek
Myrtle Nicholson, Edmonton
Cory Gross, Calgary
Ian Kirkland, Calgary
Frances Jost, Calgary
Bev & Ed Johnson, Calgary
Joe Kadezabek/Ana Buzic, Lethbridge
Mary Eggermont-Molenaar, Calgary
Pincher Creek Municipal Library, Pincher Creek
Sheila McManus, Lethbridge
Mary Muench, Calgary
June R. Wright, Red Deer
Maureen Dekelver, Calgary
Margaret Douglas, Taber
Theresa Dust, Saskatoon
Linda M. LeGeyt, Okotoks
Arts & Heritage Foundation of St. Albert, St. Albert
Garth Olson, Red Deer
Sonja Richter, Calgary
Joyce Johnson, Lethbridge
Duncan & Doreen Lloyd, Lethbridge
Kenneth & Bea Nielsen, Lethbridge
Rose Rossi, Lethbridge

Thank You for Your Donation to the HSA and/or Chapter

Catherine C. Cole
Marilyn/Les Ollenberg
Jean Johnstone
Betty Dahlie
Roman J. Kierzek
Edward Bredin
Diane McKenzie
Joyce A. Neary
Mary Lynas
Helen Green
Ken McDonald
Ronald/Bernadette Nowell
James Bowles
Robert Wray
Glynis Grigg
Robert Cuell
Sheila Petherbridge
Don Spicer
E. M. Moran
Ernest/Margaret McEachern
Gladys Bramley-Moore
Doug Francis
Frances Vesterdal
Eileen Ford & Family
Frances Jost
Bern Roe
Don Hepburn (2)
Edward/Diana Reuther
Marianne Fedori
Edward/Olive Hillman
Marjorie McIntyre
Gordon Evans
Joseph/Moyra Ferguson
Vincent/Mary Ellen Eriksson
Shirley Walker
Robert/Margaret Watson
Betty Runyon
Michael Tomyn & Family

President's Report

by **Don Hepburn**

As we move into a new program year, all of the chapters of the Historical Society of Alberta will be involved in activities to mark our province's centennial year. The Provincial Government has announced its plans, which include medallions for school children, public celebrations and a number of major capital projects. (Details are now readily available on the special website www.albertacentennial.ca). Many more events will be planned at the local level by town councils and historical societies.

Each of our HSA chapters will be planning special events. High on the list will be the "historic weeks", now an established project in Calgary, Edmonton, Red Deer and Lethbridge. HSA's "how-to" manual *Celebrate Our Heritage,* is now available on the Society's website for other communities in the province, or elsewhere, to make use of when planning their own historic weeks, and the Society is prepared to offer workshops to assist other towns and cities to get started. Other local events will be developed as well.

2005 is not only Alberta's centennial year, of course. Our neighbouring province of Saskatchewan will also celebrate its hundredth birthday. For this special year, our Society will be joining with the Saskatchewan History and Folklore Society to hold *The Lily and the Rose Centennial Conference* — a joint conference on the weekend of May 27 to 29 in the border city of Lloydminster. The conference committee, under the able chairmanship of First Vice President Jean Johnstone, is planning an exciting and interesting conference celebrating one hundred years of growth and transformation. It will feature major speakers, tours of historic sites, entertainment, good food and fellowship. HSA's annual general meeting will take place on the second morning of the conference, and our annual awards will be presented at the banquet.

Lloydminster is the ideal place to hold the conference. Many events of historical significance occurred in that area. It was from nearby Buckingham House that Peter Fidler left for a winter of travel, the first European to see the southern Alberta Rockies and report his observations about the way of life of the nomadic buffalo hunting peoples he encountered. The Northwest Rebellion sites of Frog Lake and Frenchman Butte are nearby. The Barr Colonists settled the land adjacent to the city, one of many block settlements so important to the development of our two provinces. Alberta's first school of agriculture was established in 1913 in nearby Vermilion. In more recent times, the district has become a centre of heavy oil production. And there is much more.

The conference will use the excellent facilities of the Lloydminster Campus of Lakeland College, the successor to the Vermilion School of Agriculture, including the modern townhouse student residences. Shirley and Allen Ronaghan, who are members of both HSA and SHFS and who live for part of each year at Islay, close to Lloydminster, are

planning a number of tours and visits. Possibilities include the OTS Heavy Oil Science Centre; the Barr Colony Heritage Cultural Centre with its public art gallery featuring the works of Count Berthold von Imhoff, the Richard Larsen Museum with its collection of artifacts of the Barr Colonists, and an extensive wildlife exhibit; and such historic sites as Frog Lake, Frenchman Butte, the Climb Through Time Museum in the one remaining grain elevator at Paradise Valley and others.

It promises to be an interesting and enjoyable conference, and we are hoping for a very good attendance. Discussions are under way about organizing bus transportation to the conference for those who do not wish to drive. We are counting on each chapter to make it a special event and encourage as wide participation as possible. So — please mark your calendars now and plan to attend. Further details and registration information will be available in the next issue of *History NOW.*

A Short History of Dr. Sandra Mary Thomson

Sandra was born on November 18, 1950 in Fort William, Ontario, now Thunder Bay, to Helen and John Thomson. She attended school there and Lakehead University where she earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in History, and a Bachelor of Education degree. She along with only four other high school students were chosen to attend university straight from grade twelve by skipping the Ontario compulsory thirteenth grade. Sandra also attended the University of Waterloo from which she received her Masters degree in History in 1974. Her next step was the University of British Columbia where she graduated in 1981, with a PhD in Russian Literature. During her PhD thesis work, Sandra took a year off and taught Ukrainian at the University of Alberta.

In 1981, Sandra accepted her first position with Alberta Culture as the Assistant Facility Director of the Ukrainian Cultural Heritage Village where, in a short time she became the Facility Director. A few years later she moved to the position of Deputy Director for Site Operations with Alberta's Historic Sites Service, where she contributed to the development of a series of museums and the restoration of a number of historic sites throughout the province.

After a decade in Historic Sites she was given a new challenge to direct the "Provincial Archives of Alberta". Through extreme dedication and persistence she eventually achieved her goal of finding a new building for the Provincial Archives of Alberta, thereby contributing to the continued protection of the documentary heritage of the Province of Alberta for future generations.

The Ukrainian community was very important to Sandra. In her early years in Thunder Bay she was active in the church. She danced with the Ukrainian "Vesnyanka Dancers," was the accompanist on the piano for rehearsals and was also an instructor when the group was without a teacher. While studying for her PhD in Vancouver she was active in the Orthodox Church and taught Ukrainian. Sandra was very active in the parish of St. Anthony, helping with Sviat Vechir, the church Archives, the newsletter, and was working on the "Icon Committee". She was also a member of the "Ukrainian Women's Association of Canada, St. Anna's Branch."

While working with the Alberta Government Sandra met Gunther Ruppel, and they married in September of 1992. Sandra "Fell Asleep in the Lord" [passed away] at about 1 am on Friday, July 16, 2004.

Sandra is survived by: her many dear friends; husband Gunther and stepsons Eric and Graeme; mother Helen; brother Edward, his wife Natalia and daughter Tamara; mother-in-law Gertrude and husband Arvid; sister-in-law Rita and husband John, and children Michael and Steven; maternal uncle Ted, his wife Dorothy; cousins David, Ken, and Deborah and her husband Luc and children Joel and Zachary; cousin Bohuslava and her husband Andrew and children Paulina, Alexander and Carolina.

Sandra was predeceased by: her grandparents Olexandra and Petro Taciun; father John Frame Thomson; maternal aunt Stella and husband Uncle Archie Curtola.

HSA Members News

Dr. Sandra Mary Thomson 1950-2004

It is with extreme regret that I convey to you the passing of Dr. Sandra Thomson. As most of you know, Sandra was recently in for hip replacement surgery. Tragically and total unexpected, fatal complications occurred last night, apparently with an embolism leading to a heart attack.

Sandra began with the Ministry in 1982, and was a dedicated professional with numerous notable accomplishments wherever she worked, climaxing in the new Provincial Archives. Beyond that she was also a good friend to those near her, and will be greatly missed. She is survived by her husband Gunther Ruppel, whom I know that you all will support.

Mark Rasmussen
Assistant Deputy Minister
Cultural Facilities and Historical Resources Division
Alberta Community Development
Phone: 780–431–2309
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Mark.Rasmussen@gov.ab.ca

Wanted

Crossword Editor for History NOW to make-up crosswords using a historical theme.

If you are interested please apply to the HSA office, phone: 403-261–3662

Alberta Centennial Ambassadors

We wish to congratulate Liliane Maisonneuve, a member of the HSA Provincial Council, on her appointment as one of the Alberta Centennial Ambassadors. The Department of Community Development has appointed 100 Ambassadors to motivate individuals, groups, organizations and communities to get involved; encouraging, spearheading or helping to organize an event(s) throughout the province to mark the Centennial.

Liliane Maisonneuve

Liliane has served on the Provincial Council since 2002. As well, she has been involved in the areas of agriculture, education and history with a varety of organizations such as the Alberta Canola Grower's Commission, the Societe Genealogique du Nord-Ouest and the Royal Canadian Legion. Through her former position as coordinator of Heritage and History for the Association Canadienne Francaise de l'Alberta, she promoted the contributions of Francophones and Metis to the development of Canada. Liliane, is also Board Member of the Edmonton & District Historical Society, holds a Bachelor of Education degree and has taught in French immersion and francophone schools. Liliane co-operated a grain and oilseed farm in the Peace River Country for 23 years with her late husband. Liliane is proud to be the descendant of the first non-Aboriginal family to settle in Alberta, the grandparents of Louis Riel. She has two married children and three grandchildren.

Alberta History article produces a "find"

The article on Jim Davidson in *Alberta History* has produced its first "find". A Rotarian colleague of mine called quite excitedly to say that he had a scrapbook of material on the Peary expedition to Greenland. On closer scrutiny of the twenty-five page scrapbook today, it appears to have been put together by Jim Davidson's mother in Austin, Minnesota. The scrapbook complements the one in the possession of the Abramson family. There is minimal overlap between the two. This scrapbook contains material from Austin newspaper articles about the 1893/94 Peary expedition.

There is also new material and photos from newspaper articles on the Formosa campaign of 1895/96. Most interestingly, there is a ticket to the Dempsey/Gibbon fight dated July 1923 in Shelby, Montana.

The whereabouts of this scrapbook from c1931 to 1957 is unknown. It was bought at an auction in Calgary in 1957. It has been held in the family's custody since that time, until its importance was recognized this week.

Robert Lampard, August 23, 2004

Alberta's Centennial

On September 1, 1905 Alberta became a province. To mark this memorable occasion, there was a parade, sporting events, a concert, a gala ball and plenty of speeches. Sir Wilfred Laurier, the Prime Minister of Canada and the Dominion of Canada's Governor General, Earl Grey, were both on hand to welcome Alberta into Confederation. By all accounts, it was a splendid day, and the beginning of something truly great.

Next year, it will be 100 years since Sir Wilfred Laurier put his signature on the papers establishing Alberta as a province. We've come a long way since then. The celebrations marking Alberta's 100th anniversary will certainly be different than those that marked its inception. The spirit, however, will be the same.

Those who came out for the ceremonies, sporting events and parties that took place in 1905 were proud of their past and excited about the bright future of their new province. They were joining together to share in a moment of historical significance. It was their time to enjoy.

The celebrations marking Alberta's 100th anniversary in 2005 will also be a time for all Albertans to enjoy. The Centennial is an opportunity for each of us to pay tribute to our roots and to salute our future.

This is an exciting time to be in Alberta. Get ready to join the celebrations. Visit www.albertacentennial.ca

Congratulations to: Bill Baergen

From **Leo Hamson** former director of the High Prairie Museum for many years. He read Bill Baergen's fur trade thesis for that area and was most pleased with it.

Barons Centennial

Barons Homesteading Centennial Celebration stimulates many family and class reunions!

Centennial celebrations will be happening all over the province as communities remember when homesteads were filed in their areas, when the rails were laid and the first trains facilitated travel and transportations of products, when their villages and towns were incorporated, when the first one-room schools were established, and when the federal government carved the Province of Alberta out of the western-most part of the Northwest Territories.

One place that celebrated their homesteading centennial this summer was Barons, Alberta. Over 450 people attended the Barons 2004 Centennial Celebration of Heritage and Homesteading, a conglomerate of events and activities which included family history displays, a quilt display, a room of early farm household artifacts, an art and writing show, horse and buggy rides, pioneer games, sod house construction, a choir, pancake breakfast, beef dinner, toasts, a dance, country tour, village tour, a church service and much visiting.

Family reunions and class reunions were held concurrently, or the day after, the main community event, which was held on Heritage weekend, July 30 to August 1. The event also attracted the interest of Estonians from across Alberta and beyond; an Estonian program of 1 1/2 hours was held on Saturday afternoon. It included a taste of Estonian food, folk dancing, speeches and presentations.

The rededication of the Barons Cemetery attracted over 70 people. Brian Rauhala, a local farmer made an arch over the entrance and a plaque was developed to unveil. Samantha Kotkas played "Amazing Grace" on her trumpet to gather people and a Barons Centennial choir sang a couple of hymns. Two ministers co-officiated, one, Rev. Don Koots, a descendant of a pioneer from central Alberta, the other, Rev. Deborah Walker, on her last day as local pastor.

Aimee DeValois and Marguerite Wobick, two local farm women, prepared an amazing booklet for farm and village tours, with brief descriptions of early homesteads and village buildings each with a picture of the place in earlier days. Maps were included in the booklet to encourage people to take the self-guided tours.

Family Story Boards and displays were set up in the Curling rink under the supervision of the Barons Historical Society, with Betty Ann Turner and Dee Ryrie as coordinators. The displays about the five early cemeteries in the district were prepared by Brian Rauhala. Art and writing of current artists and authors was displayed in the school gym and set up and cleaned up by the Victor Erdman family, coordinated by Glenda (Erdman) Barnhart (of Blaine, Washington) while that of pioneers and their children was set up in the church hall by members of the Silvertion/Munz/Gue families, coordinated by Lillian Munz (of Calgary).

Machinery used in earlier times was brought in from the district and displayed in the Skating Rink. This project was coordinated by Glen Turner and Wally Ryrie (of Barons).

The Barons homesteading centennial gathered the dispersed Barons community from near and far — Waterton, Edmonton, Stettler, Medicine Hat, Vancouver, Toronto, California, Hawaii, Yukon, Mexico, Australia, and even Estonia. The planning committee, which worked for a year and a half with monthly meetings and a jungle of emails and phone calls, consisted of people from the local community and from Calgary, Canmore and Medicine Hat; we had a total of eleven dedicated volunteers on the planning board. Volunteers for the displays and other program items were numerous and also both from the local community and now from elsewhere. For a short day we were again a thriving community, refreshed by being together celebrating our heritage.

The full program can be viewed at www.Barons2004.net

Soon pictures of the event will be added. Martha Munz Gue, PHEc CoChair Barons Area Centennial Celebration of Homesteading and Heritage.

Letter to HSA Members

Dear Sir/Madam,

For several years, I have been conducting research into the origins of placenames (suburbs, districts, neighbourhoods, communities) in English-speaking cities around the world. I am currently focusing on Edmonton and Calgary, and would like to correspond with any members of the Historical Society of Alberta who may have a similar interest in toponomy, and who may be interested in the extent to which local placenames can also be found in other cities.

I am currently working on Edmonton and its suburbs from a Scottish angle, to add to the rampantscotland website. Before submitting the article to this website, I would like to show it to someone in your society who could comment on the authenticity of my findings. I live in Melbourne, Australia and am a member of the Victorian Committee of the Australian National Placenames Survey — an ambitious project aimed at documenting the origins of every placename in Australia.

My own research is not focused specifically on Scottish connections. In time, I would like to broaden my analysis to study the impact of other ethnic groups on the names of local places. Cornwall is likely to be my next focus in this regard, particularly since the Cornish diaspora does not seem to have been documented nearly as extensively as the Scottish diaspora.

I hope to hear from someone at HSA, Ian Kendall Unit 3 / 77 Haig Street, Box Hill South, Vic. 3128, Australia

The Enemy Within

by **L. Hamson**

As many of our friends and family are aware, the National Film Board of Canada produced a documentary film in 2001-2 titled *The Enemy Within* in which I participated. It is the story of German prisoners-of-war held in camps in Canada during World War II. Former POWs, some now Canadian citizens, are interviewed, interspersed with archival film clips. After my return from overseas at war's end I was posted to the staff of one of these camps, and I am interviewed for the perspectives of a guard officer. The film won the top award at the international World Visions Film Festival last year in audience votes over 66 other films.

The television premiere was on the History Television Channel September 12. We are resigned to seeing how much is cut from the original to make room for those odious commercials!

Video cassettes are now available in public libraries under the National Film Board mandate.

The photos are of me and my good friend and ex-POW, wartime German Officer Siegfried Osterwoldt. One was aken on Dec 21, 2001 by the National Film Board as we met again at the former POW camp where we last saw each other 56 years before, and the others were taken in 1942 when we were both officers in enemy armies. Siegfried was already a POW after his capture at the Battle of El Alamein in Egypt when his photo was taken.

The Enemy Within
Directed by Eva Colmers
Produced by Jerry Krepakevich
Leo Hamson, former Canadian camp warden and Siegfried Osterwoldt, former German POW, siting down together for the first time at the POW camp in Wainwright, Alberta after 56 years.
Photo credit: Sima Khorrami

Leo Hamson

Siegfried Osterwoldt

The following is the official National Film Board press release. August 6, 2003

German POWs on Canadian soil. *The Enemy Within* premieres September 12 on History TV Edmonton — The broadcast premiere of the National Film Board production *The Enemy Within* will take place on September 12, 2004 at 6 pm ET on History TV.

The Enemy Within, by Edmonton-based filmmaker Eva Colmers, tells the story of German prisoner of war camps in Canada during the Second World War, when more than 34,000 German soldiers, captured by the British Allies, were held in 26 POW camps across the country. Today little is left of these war camps, but those who were there — inmates and guards alike — will never forget.

Among the captured German soldiers was Theo Melzer, filmmaker Eva Colmers' father, who spent three and a half years in a POW camp in Lethbridge, Alberta. Colmers, while growing up in Regensberg, Germany, had often been puzzled by her father's fond memories of his POW life. When she made Canada her new home, she set out to rediscover this little-known chapter in Canadian-German history.

Eloquently weaving poignant excerpts from her father's letters with wartime archival images and dramatic re-enactments, the film shares the powerful stories of these now elderly men — once the "enemy within" — and shows how their lives were changed forever because of the unexpected respect and dignity they received at the hands of their Canadian captors.

The Enemy Within was produced by Bonnie Thompson for the National Film Board of Canada.

Since its creation in 1939, the National Film Board of Canada has produced more than 10,000 films and won more than 4,500 awards, including 10 Oscars®. As Canada's public film producer, the NFB produces and distributes distinctive, culturally diverse, challenging and relevant audiovisual works that provide Canada and the world with a unique Canadian perspective. For more information on the NFB or to order films, visit our Web site at <www.nfb.ca> or call 1 800 267-7710.

High-resolution images of these films can be downloaded at our site at www.nfb.ca/photogallery.

For more information : Angela Heck NFB Public Relations 604- 666-1151 a.heck@nfb.ca

COMMUNIQUE ONF NFB

The Spirit of Sexsmith

by **Jean Rycroft**

Ernie Walter, Bob Sprycher and Charlie Scott in front of a typical 1920's farmstead barn which was moved to Sexsmith's Historic Village

Sexsmith is, and always has been, an unique little town. Like all towns everywhere we have had our share of ups and downs, but through it all we have been fortunate to have a dedicated group of people who have put their hearts and souls into keeping the spirit of Sexsmith alive and glowing. These far sighted individuals have existed here since Sexsmith was the hamlet of Bennville, as attested to by a former resident, who paid tribute to "the unique spirit which has always been present here," when he spoke at our recent 75th Birthday party celebrating our incorporation as a Town. In keeping with that spirit, the Sexsmith & District Historical Society was formed in 1977 to record the stories of early settlement and its characters. Hence, "Wagon Trails Grown Over", a history of Sexsmith To The Smoky [River].

That task completed, the enthusiastic crew shifted their focus to restoration of our historic village. One notable aspect of Sexsmith is that several "first generation" structures are still standing with their boomtown fronts and wooden frames. The Society, with strong support from the Town, and close supervision and assistance from Historic Sites, took on the challenge of restoration, preservation and interpretation of the history of the Sexsmith Blacksmith Shop and its renowned, colorful and creative smithy Nels Johnson. The shop was declared a Provincial Historic Resource in 1989, and the doors were open to the public in July of that year.

About this time our economy, like that of so many small towns in Alberta, was at a low ebb and there were many empty businesses. However, with the help of grants from Alberta Historic Resources Foundation, the Downtown Revitalization Committee, Northern Alberta Development Council, some funding from Alberta Tourism, and with plenty of close co-operation and good advice from our wonderful Historic Sites crew, we were able to continue forging ahead one step at a time.

Eventually, the Sexsmith NAR station stood proudly back beside the tracks, a focal point of the downtown core. With close co-operation from the mainstreet building owners, and grants from AHRF, our streetscape was transformed back to a 1920's — 1930's theme. With vintage street lighting provided by the Town, followed by a gazebo, a huge oldtime clock, an historic caboose on the railroad spur, and a livery barn back in place, the Society and the community were reaching towards their goal.

Then former MLA Walter Paszkowski, who has always been a strong supporter of our Society, presented us with the Paszkowski family farmhouse. Once again an army of volunteers performed hours of manual labour placing the house on a foundation and setting about restoring it.

One of our latest acquisitions is the original Lumber Yard building, which we have long hoped to purchase. This stands across from the Blacksmith Shop and is large enough to house many of our

David Leonard at the Dunvegan Historic Site. Background, the suspension bridge over the Peace and a box elder (Manitoba maple) brought there by Father Tissier, St. Charles Mission, 1868

continued on page 9

The Lives and Legacy of Peter and Catharine Whyte

by **Lisa Christensen**, Curator of Art

In celebration of the upcoming centenary of the Province of Alberta in 2005, and the 100th anniversary of the birth of Banff native Peter Whyte, the Whyte Museum of the Canadian Rockies is pleased to announce plans for the exhibition: **The Lives and Legacy of Peter and Catharine Whyte**.

Catharine Robb (1906-1979), an educated, connected Boston socialite, met fellow art student and Banff outfitter Peter Whyte (1905-1966) at the School of the Boston Museum of Fine Arts in 1925. There they fell in love, and married in June of 1930. Peter took Catharine home to Banff that year, and surrounded by majestic scenery and a close-knit community, Catharine readily embraced her new home, succumbing to the spell of the mountains.

From their studio home in Banff, built that first winter, she and Peter began a life filled with adventure. They painted the mountain scenery from Bow Lake to Assiniboine, entertained artists from all over the world, collected paintings, prints, and miniatures, and managed the first ski lodge in the Canadian Rockies.

Catharine founded the Whyte Museum of the Canadian Rockies in Peter's memory after his death in 1966, which now houses the largest collection of works by the Whytes in the world as well as their own personal collection, photographic collection and archival documents, including Catharine's vast collection of personal correspondence.

The Museum also owns and maintains Peter and Catharine Whyte's historic, artifact filled home. The Whyte's community involvement, philanthropy, artistic achievement, and their roles as founders is a unique chapter in Alberta history, a little known chapter in Canadian Art history, and a wonderful story of two amazing lives.

In March of Alberta's Centennial year, the Whyte Museum will open the largest and most comprehensive exhibit of the lives and the work of these painters ever mounted.

In a testament to the legacy, New Works by Karen Whyte will augment the show of our Founder's work and present another facet of the continuing legacy of art-making in the Whyte family. Karen Whyte lives in Saanichton, BC and teaches at the University of British Columbia. Karen states, "My family's heritage is intimately linked to the history of Banff. My father, Don Whyte, filled my childhood imagination with magical and incredible stories of wilderness adventures. My great aunt Catharine Whyte inspired awe and wonder. I too wanted to be an artist."

Karen's work in acrylic on canvas currently deals with the horse, exploring the role of the horse in human culture, evoking both the mythological and the immediate and very real presence of the horse in her own life. Her seemingly simple style of painting contrasts poetically with the strength and power of her subject.

The Spirit of Sexsmith continued from page 8

collections when complete. Meantime, we are also in the process of moving the original Catholic church back from Belloy to take its place in our historic village.

Thanks to our longtime president James Obniawka, who has been dealing with the elevator companies, we have acquired one elevator from United Grain Growers, and two from Agricore United, pending a deal being made with Northern RailNet and the Town. This is most fitting as Sexsmith was known as the Grain Capital of the British Empire between 1938 and 1948, due to the record breaking quantity of grain shipped from our tiny community.

In partnership with AHRF, who have been most helpful in encouraging our project from the beginning, we have erected markers on our historic buildings and are planning streetscape plaques of our early village. In addition, we have produced a walking tour pamphlet to assist visitors in their walks "down memory lane."

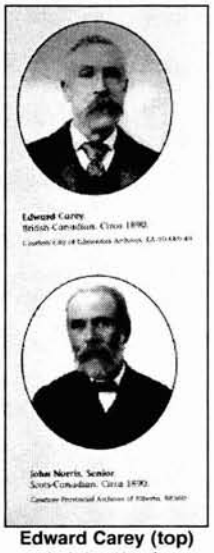
Slowly, with painstaking work, dedication and a great deal of fun, our small group of volunteers has managed to persevere, one project at a time. During the twenty-seven years since we began our project, our volunteers have been called upon to be carpenters, cooks, seamstresses, actors, wheeler-dealers, dance hall girls, waitresses, loggers, managers, musicians, casino and bingo workers, artists, tour guides and general jacks/janes-of-all-trades, and they have always come through for us.

Those loyal individuals, several of them seniors and retired persons (some of them just tired), followed their dream and were enthusiastic and very "hands-on" for as many years as they were able. Although many of our volunteer family have passed on, we know they are still with us in spirit. That spirit has always prompted a few new people to come forward with new ideas and energy to help us take the next step in our journey toward completion of the restoration of Sexsmith. Our hope is that this unique spirit will continue long after our present members are gone, and that the dream of our charter members will be fulfilled — at last!

The Jack Norris Story Part I

by **Ardon Shillinglaw**

Foreword



Edward Carey (top) & John Norris

A tour through the Syncrude Gallery of Aboriginal Culture, at the Provincial Museum of Alberta, takes visitors on an extraordinary journey through 11,000 years of history; and as the travellers pass through the ages, and wander past the exhibits of more recent years, they come across a display showing the pictures of John (Jack) Norris, and his partner Edward Carey. Norris and Carey were two successful Edmonton businessmen during the time when the West was on the verge of great developments; and when a person looks at the events surrounding the activities of the astute outdoorsman, Jack Norris, one gets an interesting glimpse of the early Canadian Northwest.

Jack Norris came to Rupert's Land from the north of Scotland, in 1846, as a part of the Hudson's Bay Company; and by 1882 became part owner in the firm of Norris and Cary. In the years that followed, Norris and Carey's fur trading practices took them well into the remote regions of the Alberta territories. And even though Jack Norris played an important role in the opening of the Canadian Northwest, he never learned to read or write. Yet, through it all, he amassed a fortune, while watching Fort Edmonton grow into the city known today as "The Gateway to the North."

The Jack Norris story, portrays a well-known Edmonton pioneer, and like so many other stories of its type, attempts to describe the fabric of our priceless heritage.

Written in four parts, it first appeared in the Granite Newsletter, www.granite.mb.ca/newsletter.html, from August to November, 2000; and I am deeply indebted to my sister-in-law, Shirley Shillinglaw [nee: Norris], of Sherwood Park, for providing the genealogical records and articles that helped so much in the preparation of this story about her great-great grandfather's life.

Part One: The Highlander Becomes a Hudson's Bay Man

In 1909, Katherine Hughes interviewed John (Jack) Norris, one of Edmonton's earliest pioneers, and the Alberta librarian then went on to record Jack's experiences before and after he became a prominent Edmonton merchant. Seven years later, Isaac Cowle also described the years when Jack was a part of "The Company of Young Adventurers," writing in the *Edmonton Morning Bulletin*, "He leaves a big gap in the society of real old timers.... The longest link with Edmonton's past has been broken by his death."

Those early writers painted a picture of a modest man, who became a prominent figure in the early history of Alberta. Jack Norris once had as many as one hundred Red River carts plying between Fort Garry (now Winnipeg) and the early settlement of Fort Edmonton; and Jack's ownership in the firm of Norris and Carey made him a partner in one of the largest stores in Edmonton, until it closed in 1899.

Jack Norris was a personal acquaintance of many of the most colourful pioneers of the early Northwest, and one of the first independent fur traders in Edmonton. His fascinating story takes us back to an era when adventurers wore moccasins, and lived off the land. It was also a time when strong arms propelled vessels on the water, and those unable to take part in such strenuous activities were not entitled to call themselves "a man", the highest title known in the Canadian wilderness.

Jack's Highland Roots

The story of Jack Norris really started in 1826, when he was born near the Caithness settlement of John O' Groat's House in the northern Scottish Highlands. His family's genealogical records indicate that during his early years, Jack roamed with his gypsy-like relatives through the north of Scotland acquiring the arts and crafts needed to live off the land, while his family made their way north to the Shetland Islands.

However, the story is incomplete, without first describing the unrest and reform in the Highlands during those early decades of the nineteenth century. Although the future may have looked promising for some at that time, the arrival of intruding sheep, the neglect by the chiefs of their ancestral duties, and the appearance of new landlords all played a huge part in the so-called "improvements," which led to the "Clearances" of the townships.

It was one thing to force a family to emigrate from grinding poverty, but even more unkind, to forcibly evict them from homes they wished to stay in.

In the years before the Clearances started, the Highland society centred itself on a social pyramid that existed below a feudal Chief; and at the apex of the pyramid, the "tacksman" leased land to subtenants who paid for it in kind and services.

There were no written leases. Instead, the inhabitants held their meagre patches of soil from year to year through the goodwill of the tacksman, and tilled the best arable land. At the same time, some occupants formed small communities or townships, where they ran herds of black cattle on their collective farms. Yet, the insecurity of their sub-tenure was small compared to the bottom stratum of land-less men, called the cotters, who were servants from birth. Their customary right may have given them a small patch of grass for grazing a cow on, and a tiny potato garden by a round-stone hut; while

in addition, the mutton from the starved flanks of white-faced sheep, small as dogs, became their only source of meat.

The Cheviot Sheep Come to the Highlands

By the end of the eighteenth century, Caithness no longer had a noble chief; but a number of prosperous landowners, of whom Sir John Sinclair was the most progressive. At the same time, during those years, and further to the south, in the rolling hills that strike a natural border between England and Scotland, a Cheviot farmer named Robson and his shepherds had developed sheep that yielded a third more wool and meat than the other less hardy sheep on the Cheviot Hills.

The new strain also showed remarkable stamina during the harsh winters that blow across the Cheviots. Their superior qualities interested Sinclair; and in 1792, he brought the Cheviot sheep north to his Highland estates for fulfillment of the land, and hopes of giving work to his people.

The kindly old man's intentions were or the benefit of his people, but he was unable to prevent what happened on other estates. Sinclair's Langwell experiment proved most successful; and in good time, other property owners followed his lead. A handful of shepherds, their dogs, and thousands of sheep now occupied land that had once supported numerous townships. The improvements also found landowners in the north clearing away untidy and uneconomical townships, and packing the confused and bewildered inhabitants off to the coast, or onto emigrant ships, while the property owners offered their acres of sparse grassland to any Lowland grazier ready to meet their increased rental demands.

Sinclair pleaded with the other property owners for slow and considerate change. However, the lowland graziers were hungry for the land and its profit; and at the same time, the Highland lairds had creditors at their doors.

The rewards from sheep farming were far more tempting, than sharing with their ignorant and inconvenient tenants. To make matters even worse, 1836 brought a terrible famine to the Highlands. There was hunger all over the British Isles, stretching from the Channel to the Orkneys; and in the mountains of Scotland, it was the worst they had ever known, and would know until ten years later when the airborne spores from the potato blight silently floated into Caithness. In less than a couple of weeks, the Highlander's stable food supply suddenly withered and blackened, and their much-needed crops of tubers rotted in the ground.

Those were difficult years for Jack's family.The bleak Shetlands Islands, about 100 miles northeast of Caithness, surely looked attractive to them; and at some point during those harsh years, Jack's family moved to the sea port village of Lerwick. It was from there, at the age-of-sixteen-years, that Jack went to sea on a trading schooner, and made several voyages to "Greenland's icy mountains," before enlisting in the Hudson's Bay Company.

The Hudson's Bay Men

The Hudson's Bay Company (HBC) had about 530 employees on its overseas payroll, by 1799, of which close to eighty percent came from the Orkney Islands; and over the following decades, many others would take the long voyage from their island homeland to seek opportunities offered by the Company in its distant empire of Rupert's Land. As well, by the turn of the eighteenth century, the HBC found that the hardy Orcadians in their employment, brought with them valuable skills such as boat building, fishing, sailing, rope making, and other basic skills, which subscribed to the company's business success.

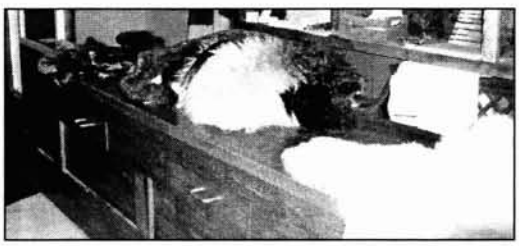
Besides, the young Orkney men were eager for adventure, away from the harsh climate of their islands; and at the same time, those early years found ship's

HBC Coat of Arms

captains carrying out the earliest Company recruitment. However, as the process and numbers of employment expanded, it became necessary to have a permanent agent in a port town.

The lower tip of the Orkney Islands is only about six miles across the Pentland Firth, from the most northerly point of Caithness; and the deep-water port of Stromness, located on the southwest tip of Mainland Island, then offered a good place for the HBC to establish itself.

Over the duration of ninety-six years, the Company had four incumbent hiring agents, with Edward Clouston becoming the last one from 1836 to 1867; and within the tenure of the agents, the little port



HBC Furs

town of Stromness continued to grow, while recognizing the arrival of the HBC ships, as an important event in its community.

Jack Leaves the Highlands

The ships usually arrived the first week in June; and with their appearance, the firing of a cannon announced their arrival. Prior to their coming, signs had been posted on the doors of buildings around Stromness; while in addition, the recruitment of young men from the islands came from the posting of

advertisements in the settlements throughout the Orkney and Shetland Islands.

This could easily have been the way Jack Norris learned about the opportunities that lie ahead for him in the Canadian Wilderness; and it may also have been Edward Clouston who described Canada as a magnificent country, while offering the young Scot a servant's wage of eighteen pounds a year, plus room and board.

The chance to hunt in the Canadian wilderness likely appealed to Jack's adventurous blood, as well. He had learned that living conditions on the high seas were far from agreeable; and Jack's memories of a poor diet and the prevalence of disease then urged him to leave that way of life.

With the decision made, Jack boarded the Hudson's Bay steamer "The Prince Rupert" in Stromness, in the summer of 1846; and one of the most important commodities for seagoing vessels was their supply of fresh water, which was normally the last thing placed on board to ensure maximum freshness.

Login's Well, at the south end of Stromness, had been used by the Hudson's Bay ships since 1670. And as the Prince Rupert took on its refreshing supply of underground water, filtered naturally through the soil and rocks from the steep slopes coming down from Brinkie's Brae, there was excitement among the young recruits heading out for adventure in Rupert's Land.

Jack also felt that excitement; and his passion continued to grow, as the Prince Rupert steamed out of one of the world's finest natural harbours, and made its way across the Pentland Firth. The sea-going vessel then nosed its prow into the standing waves generated by the strong currents from the Atlantic, meeting those of the North Sea; and Jack Norris, the young sailor, now part of a "Company of Young Explorers", prepared himself for a life of adventure in the Canadian wilderness.

The next natural landfall along their route would be Resolution Island, in Hudson Strait, the place where the Prince Rupert and its fellow sea-going ship hoped to rendezvous.

HMS Nonsuch at Museum of Man & Nature, Winnipeg

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To be continued

Who Was Your Most Memorable Teacher? Celebrate Teachers 1905-2005

Yes, 2005 is Alberta's centennial. The year also marks the 100th anniversary of the Faculty of Education at the University of Calgary, as we trace our roots back to the 1905/06 beginnings of the Calgary Normal School.

As part of our centennial celebrations, we invite all Albertans and former residents of the province to honour their most influential teacher by participating in My Most Memorable Alberta Teacher: The Centennial Story Project.

You're invited to tell us about your most memorable K-12 Alberta teacher. It could be a teacher who helped unlock the mysteries of math, made sense of grammar, or challenged you to change the course of your life. Whether tough, funny, witty, profound we'd like to hear about that unforgettable teacher who stands out in your mind

My Most Memorable Alberta Teacher: The Centennial Story Project will honour teachers who made a difference. A panel of judges will select 100 stories to appear in a Centennial Anthology to be published in Fall 2005. Additional stories will appear on The Centennial Story Project website www.celebrateteachers.com, and we'll invite writers and honoured teachers alike to an afternoon tea planned for November 19, 2005.

Who was your most memorable Alberta K-12 teacher? Send us your story: by e-mail centennial@celebrateteachers.com; by fax 403.282.5849; or by post: The Centennial Story Project, University of Calgary, 2500 University Drive NW, Calgary, AB T2N 1N4.

When submitting your story, please: focus on one teacher you had in kindergarten, primary or secondary school in Alberta; make it no more than 700 words, double-spaced; and include if possible, contact information and photos of the teacher you are honouring.

For details of our other centennial initiatives, please consult our centennial web site: www.celebrateteachers.com

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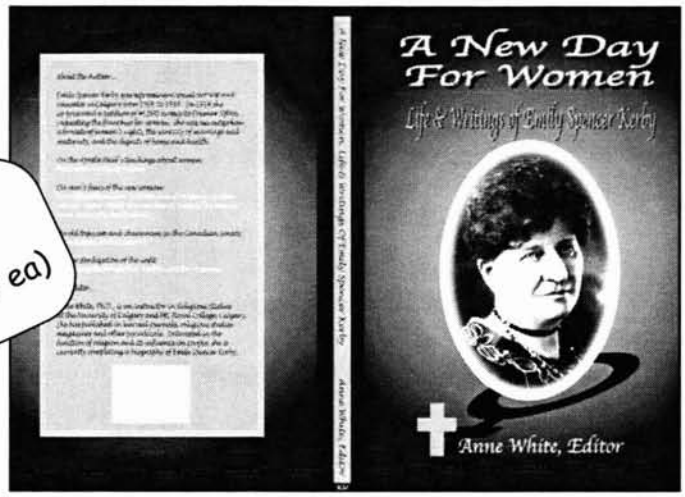

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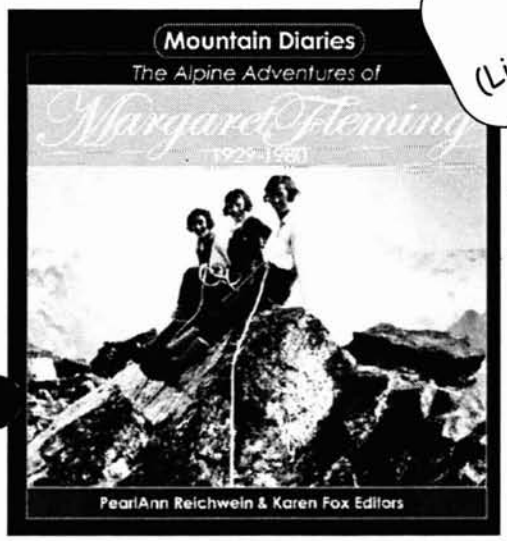

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Books & Websites

In Celebration of the 100th anniversary of the founding of Alberta as a province, the Canadian Plains Research Center at the University of Regina has published ***Alberta Premiers of the Twentieth Century*** edited by Bradford J. Rennie

From the optimism associated with provincial status in 1905, through the trials of Depression and war, the boom times of the post-war period, and the economic vagaries of the 1980s and the 1990s, the twentieth century was a time of growth and hardship, development, challenge and change, for Alberta and its people. And during the century, twelve men, from a variety of political parties and from very different backgrounds, led the government of Alberta.

The names of some — like William Aberhart, Ernest Manning and Peter Lougheed — are still household words, while others — like Arthur Sifton, Herbert Greenfield and Richard Reid — have been all but forgotten. Yet each in his unique way, for better or for worse, helped to mould and steer the destiny of the province he governed. These are their stories.

The contributors represent a wide range of political viewpoints and a variety of occupational backgrounds: academic and popular historians, political scientists, journalists, a sociologist and a former political insider. Experts in their fields, their work is scholarly-well researched, accurate and insightful-but also well written and accessible to a general readership. ***Alberta Premiers of the Twentieth Century*** is certain to appeal to anyone with an interest in Alberta's past, present or future. Available in September TBS 10/$24.95/2004/0-88977-151-0 For more information or to arrange an interview, please contact: Sheri Lee Moshansky at 780–436–7955

Neurosurgery in Calgary - The First Fifty Years

Compiled and Edited by: Doris H. Annear, Audrey M. Cerkvenac and Moira E. Hogg

This new book begins with a brief history of the medical care available in Calgary in the late 1880s describing the first doctors to arrive, the first hospitals to be established, and the neurosurgical care available prior to the arrival of the first pioneer neurosurgeon in 1953. Tracing the growth of the specialty for fifty years up to 2003, it describes how a cadre of dedicated people worked as a team to provide excellence in neurosurgical care. Each chapter chronicles a decade and contains an interesting mix of short biographies and memoirs of physicians and nurses, highlighting the challenges they faced in building a specialty service and the various advancements in surgical treatment and patient care.

This 260 page book costs $25.00 in Canadian funds by cheque or money order plus Shipping and Handling costs, for Canada $3. 50 and for the USA $5. 60. To obtain a copy of the book contact: Moira E. Hogg, 10227 Maplegrove Place S.E, Calgary, T2J 1S5, Alberta, Canada.

Edmonton In Our Own Words is the official book of The City of Edmonton Centennial, by Linda Goyette and Carolina Jakeway Roemmich.

Linda Goyette and Carolina Roemmich have tapped Edmonton's collective memories through the written record, the spoken stories, and the vast silences. All of the people who ever lived at this bend in the North Saskatchewan took part in creating the city we know as Edmonton. Citizens with diverse viewpoints speak for themselves, describing important events in Edmonton's social, political, and economic development. They have plenty to tell us.

Linda Goyette is an Edmonton writer and journalist with an interest in Canadian history. A frequent contributor to Canadian magazines, she wrote for the Edmonton Journal for 20 years as a reporter, editorial writer and editorial page columnist. She has won two National Newspaper Awards and a National Magazine Award for her writing. Her first book, ***Second Opinion***, was published in 1998. Carolina Jakeway Roemmich is a researcher based in Edmonton. She is a graduate of the University of Alberta. 496 pages $49.95 ISBN 0-88864-428-0

Cathie Crooks, Sales/Marketing Manager University of Alberta Press Ring House 2, University of Alberta Edmonton, Canada T6G 2E1 Fax: (780) 492-0719 Direct line: (780) 492-5820 E-mail: ccrooks@ualberta.ca View our website http://www.uap.ualberta.ca Our distributor is UNIpresses at GTW: orders@gtwcanada.com

To celebrate the capital city's centennial, Brindle & Glass is pleased and proud to present Linda Goyette's ***Kidmonton: True Stories of River City Kids***, a chapter book for 8-to-11-year-olds that relates episodes from Edmonton's history in the voices of real kids who have lived there. Kidmonton is part of the "Edmonton: A City Called Home" project. http://www.brindleandglass.com/kidmonton.htm

In November, watch for the release of ***The Madonna List***, the first novel by well-known historian Max Foran. *The Madonna List* traces the fortunes of two men as they struggle their ways through the politics and power of church and state in Europe and Lower Canada in the 19th century. Their trails end in a penal colony in Australia, where the secret of the Madonna List leaves one standing and one broken. http://www.brindleandglass.com/madonnalist.htm

The launch is on Thursday, December 2, 7:30 pm at the John Dutton Theatre, Castell Central Library, Calgary. Free.

Brindle & Glass is celebrating the 100th anniversary of Bob Edwards's arrival in Calgary with the release of two books. ***Irresponsible Freaks, Highball Guzzlers and Unabashed Grafters*** is the first new edition of Edwards's writing in nearly thirty years. Edited by James Martin, preface by Allan Fotheringham. Features never-before-republished correspondence, speeches, juvenilia, and a plethora of cartoons from the original *Calgary Eye Opener*. http://www.brindleandglass.com/irresponsible.htm

Volume Two in the Bobliography is a republication of ***Eye Opener Bob: The Story of Bob Edwards***. This new edition of Grant MacEwan's magnum opus features an introduction by Will Ferguson, notes by James Martin, and plenty of archival photos as well as cartoons from the Eye Opener. http://www.brindleandglass.com/eyeopenerbob.htm

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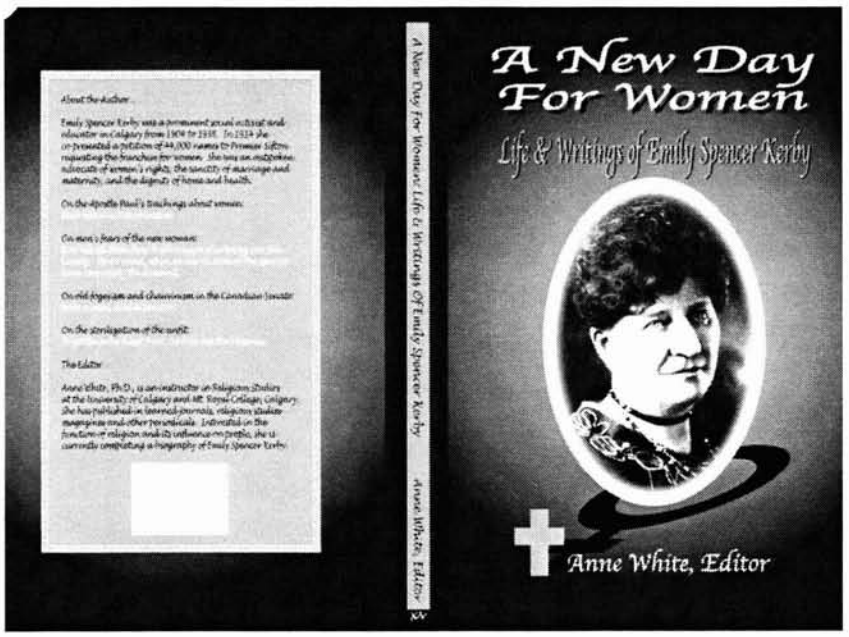

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Emily Spencer Kerby was a prominent social activist and educator in Calgary from 1904 to 1938. In 1914 she co-presented a petition of of 44,000 names to Premier Sifton requesting the franchise for women. She was an outspoken advocate of women's rights, the sanctity of marriage and maternity, and the dignity of home and health.

Her sayings:

On the Apostle Paul's teachings about women, "Paul was a victim of custom."

On Men's fears of the new woman, "How afraid these dear brothers are of us losing out femininity. Never mind, when we lose it, some of the men we know can supply the demand."

On old fogeyism and chauvinism in the Canadian Senate, "Born a man, died a senator."

On the sterilization of the unfit, "To produce the finest fruit, we thin out the blossoms."

The Editor:

***Anne White**, Ph.D. is an instructor in Religious Studies at the University of Calgary and Mt. Royal College, Calgary. She has published in learned journals, religious studies magazines and other periodicals. Interested in the function of religion and its influence on people, she is currently completing a biography of Emily Spencer Kerby.*

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by **Diana Ringstrom**

News & Views from HSA Chapters

The Chinook Country Historical Society held its fourteenth annual Historic Calgary Week from July 30 to August 8. The kick-off for HCW started in May with CCHS sponsoring a photo contest at the annual Heritage Fair held for junior high children in Calgary schools. David Peyto, a committee member of Historic Calgary Week had photos taken at different parts of the city. The object of the contest was to identify where the photo was taken.

The opening of HCW was held at the Calgary Outdoor Resource Centre. Alderman Madelaine King read the proclamation from the mayor designating Historic Calgary Week.

John Salo brought an antique fire truck from the Firefighters Museum along with firefighter hats and outerwear. People dressed up in fire fighter outfits, and had their pictures taken with John and his fire truck. The turn of the century fire truck was complemented by the old-fashioned décor of the Outdoor Resource Centre put together by Susannah Weldrum and Cathi Elsey.

The speakers for Historic Calgary Week are to be congratulated for the excellent job they did in making their presentations both informative and interesting,

The closing barbeque was held at the Southern Alberta Pioneers and their Descendants Memorial Building.

I would like to thank Susannah Weldrum for hosting the opening ceremonies, and allowing the HCW committee the use of the Outdoor Resource Centre for their meetings.

I would also like to thank Joan and Clarence Davis who made arrangements with the Southern Alberta Pioneers and their Descendants Memorial Building for the closing barbeque and also for the meetings held there.

It takes many people and many hours of planning to put this event together. I would like to thank all the volunteers for their dedication and hard work in making Historic Calgary Week a great success again this year.

The recipient of the Chinook Country Historical Society's annual Elise Corbet Scholarship has been awarded to Gareth Williams. Mr. Williams is entering his third year of the history program at the University of Calgary.

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Lethbridge Historical Society

by **Barry Snowden**

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ummer Vacation?

Most of us on the LHS executive and the Society's various committees take a bit of a break over the summer months. But not so our Membership Committee. Led by membership co-chairs Pat Brown and Marion Snowden, and for the second year running, the Lethbridge Historical Society was among those community service and non-profit organizations participating in ***Whoop-Up Days***, the Lethbridge and District Exhibition's Summer Fair. The committee organized an exhibit booth and recruited members to provide information about LHS and HSA to the public, to promote membership, and to answer questions. Ten members of the chapter volunteered to staff the exhibit. This year the booths were in a new location — almost part of the Rodeo — and exhibit hours were shorter than last. While not as many new ıembers were attracted as last year, some key volunteers were recruited — new members interested in specific and substantive roles (e.g book sales and distribution). All in all, it was a worthwhile endeavor.

Peter Fidler Monument Project

The Lethbridge Historical Society is working on a project for Alberta's Centennial that should bring Heritage Awareness to an area and an event significant to Alberta's history. A monument will be constructed to commemorate the visit of Hudson's Bay Company employee Peter Fidler to Southern Alberta in 1792–93, and to mark the site of the Old Man's Playing Ground, described in Fidler's journal notes regarding the Livingstone Gap area of the Rocky Mountains. Consisting of a large natural stone on a concrete base ·ith a bronze interpretive plaque, the monument will be located near the junction of Racehorse Creek with the Old Man River. Long-time member Carly Stewart is leading the initiative and a dedication ceremony is planned for the summer of 2005. More information will be forthcoming as the date approaches.

Legacy Ridge

On September 14, 2004, the City of Lethbridge and Melcor Developments broke ground for Lethbridge's newest neighborhood, Legacy Ridge. The development will be unique, not just for its location overlooking the Oldman River Valley, but even more for its roadways, park areas and other amenities, which will be named for the city's female pioneers. The development will recognise some 40 plus women who have made significant contribution to the growth and development of the City of Lethbridge over what will soon be 100 years of history as a city. (Lethbridge celebrates its centennial in 2006.)

Lethbridge Historical Society executive member Irma Dogterom has been instrumental in the project, serving as Chair of the city's Centennial Committee for the Recognition of Women. The Lethbridge Historical Society is involved in another way, cooperating with Melcor on the preparation and publication of a commemorative book describing each woman's contribution. Copies will be provided to local schools and libraries and to each buyer in the new subdivision. To the best of our knowledge, Legacy Ridge is the only neighborhood in Canada to feature the historic contributions of women in its naming.

Fall & Winter Programs

The LHS Program Committee has been busy over the summer, organizing what is shaping up to be a great fall and winter program series. This year, our speakers and programs will follow a theme — "Who we are; based on, Who we were". We will open the season on September 28 with a presentation on Acadian settlement by chapter member Bob Shore. On October 26, Farley Wuth will present "The Remittance Men." Our AGM will be held on Tuesday, November 23 and Duane and Carma Thompson will present "The Mormon Immigration." On January 25, John Boras will speak on "The Eastern European Settlement" and at the Annual Banquet (February 22) Peter McCormick will address "The Politics of Settlement in Southern Alberta." March and April are TBA.

2006 AGM & Conference

We're looking forward to the 2005 HSA Conference and Annual General Meeting in Lloydminister. It will be wonderful to celebrate Alberta's 100th Birthday with our slightly older sister province, Saskatchewan. As we do both (look forward, and celebrate) a LHS committee will be busy planning for the 2006 AGM and Conference which will be held in Lethbridge on May 26–28, 2006. The conference hotel will be the Lethbridge Lodge and we will be delighted to host some of the sessions in what will be by then the newly expanded Galt Museum. What a great way to celebrated Lethbridge's 100th Anniversary! More news will be forthcoming in due course.

Central Alberta Historical Society

by **Janet Walter**

Write to
c/o Red Deer and District Museum
45–47A Avenue, Red Deer, AB T4N 6Z6

Central Alberta Historical Societies and volunteers dedicated to preserve and publicize their local historic archives and artifacts were rewarded this summer with many local events in our region. Local press coverage was extensive. Perhaps the sense of living in a new century of uncertainty leads us to look back at citizens and their circumstances in the years that lead up to the 20th and the early years of that century. 2004 marks the 100th anniversary of a number of large and small communities in this area that includes Blackfalds, Penhold, Ponoka, Lacombe and Olds. These centres held homecoming and celebratory events. For the tenth consecutive year CAHS conducted a bus tour outside our region to learn historic lore distinctly different from ours.

Peace River Tour: June 10 began a four day weekend for a bus load of forty people who traveled from Red Deer to beyond Hudson's Hope, British Columbia to the site where the mighty Peace is dammed by the Bennett Dam. We crossed Alberta's three main watersheds: the Red Deer and Battle, tributaries of the (North) Saskatchewan, the Athabasca and finally the Peace River and a number of its tributaries. This northwest quarter of the province had early fur trade significance. In the spring of 1793 Alexander Mackenzie left the NWC Fort Fork on the Peace to begin his successful journey to the Pacific. First Nations people here were Beaver who had a culture based on fish and boreal forest animals. Unlike the large buffalo culture prairie tribes, Beaver lived in small family groups. The deaths from European diseases nearly extinguished the Beaver people. Many like the Lubicon of the present eluded Treaty Eight of 1899.

Farming in the area began a century later. Would-be settlers were faced with two hundred miles of forest, water and swamp between the fertile Grande Prairie and Peace valley and the rail line at either Edson or Athabasca. This made a very difficult summer barrier to land travel. Many homesteaders made the journey on frozen land and water surfaces. They came by oxen drawn tent-covered sleds over winter trails. Without roads, river or winter trails were the only options until the Northern Alberta Railway came through in 1915. The present highway traveler's view of lush field crops on the flat fertile farmland that surrounds the city of Grande Prairie is a memorable contrast to the boreal forest around it. Distance to markets, short growing season and meager ground water supplies are unique challenges to present farmers. Now, gas and oil and the recent large scale forestry for lumber and pulp production augment and exceed agricultural livelihoods.

In the morning of day one of the tour we were joined in Edmonton by David Leonard. He is a Sexsmith native son, a foremost Alberta historian who has spent his adult life researching, teaching, writing and public promotion of Alberta history, particularly the past of the Peace Country. His 1995 book, *Delayed Frontier — the Peace River Country to 1919*, produced by the Edmonton and District Historical Society, is a fine source for some understanding of the background events for Peace Country history. He prepared a 3/4 inch thick sheath of data to augment the bus narration he presented all along our route. We were a very fortunate and appreciative group. Don and Joan Hepburn were assisted by Bowden's Charlie Scott in the planning and tour arrangements. He contributed some interesting quizzes and facilitated bus arrivals and departures on the tour. He seemed to enjoy the role and his untimely fatal heart attack shortly after the trip made his tour effort the final one of his many contributions to Central Alberta museums and CAHS.

One of the most interesting features of Peace Country history is the people whose varied adventures led them finally to this last Alberta block of settlement. Twelve-foot Davis, named for his ingenious claim to twelve feet of rich gold bearing ground between earlier claims of two other men in the Barkerville, BC golf rush, is one of these. Dried out farmers from the Palliser block of south eastern Alberta pioneer farmed again, here.

Of the more than a dozen information tour stops, two mornings spent respectively at Dunvegan and Sexsmith, explored in some depth the details of the fur trade and church missions (Dunvegan) and agriculture, (Sexsmith) that shaped the white colonization of this portion of Alberta.

Over the last tens years, CAHS bus tours have lead out from Red Deer in all directions. Tour participants hope for a 2005 Alberta/Saskatchewan centennial special next spring. In the meantime we have nine monthly public programs scheduled. They begin in October with Edmonton journalist, Linda Goyette giving a presentation on little known significant women in Alberta's history. These include a sister of the well-known Father Lacombe. The September event begins with the CAHS AGM followed by a tour of Manadon — the Irene and Walter Parlby home near Alix and supper hosted by a group of Alix women.

Edmonton & District Historical Society

Write to
PO Box 1013
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T5J 2M1

What a wonderful summer of events for the EDHS! As mentioned in a previous newsletter, we hosted a most successful HSA Conference and AGM in May. Then in July we were thrilled to coordinate Doors Open/Historic Edmonton Week from July 24 to August 1. The festival marked the inaugural for Doors Open in Edmonton; as part of Doors Open Alberta, it engages communities in their architectural heritage. Buildings in and around Edmonton opened their doors to the general public with free tours of historically and architecturally interesting places.

The Launch was held in the Theatre of the Stanley A. Milner Public Library and was attended by over 100 guests who were treated to displays from participating partners, refreshments (cake and lemonade) and music by the Richard ·aton Swingers. After the official declaration of Historic Edmonton Week 2004 by Deputy Mayor Terry Cavanaugh, the combined festival launched into full swing, with more than 275 events and 70 partners offering tours, activities, displays and other festivities over the nine-day period.

The festival was a huge success and we are thankful for the support from our cooperating sponsors: Alberta Historical Resources Foundation, The City of Edmonton Planning and Development Department, CKUA Radio, Douglas Printing, the Edmonton Arts Council, the Edmonton Examiner, the Heritage Community Foundation, Alberta Travel, Old Strathcona Foundation, Alberta Lottery Fund, Real Estate Weekly, *Where Magazine, Legacy Magazine*, the Edmonton Public Library and Halkier & Dutton Industrial Design.

Participation in surrounding areas (Devon, Leduc, Stony Plain, St. Albert, Calmar, Strathcona County and Spruce Grove) reflected the increased numbers of partners and interested communities. In fact, HEW 2004 doubled all its numbers from the festival of 2003. We thank each and every one of the many wonderful volunteers who spent hours organizing and presenting their events and we applaud everyone who participated for their continued support. With all the 2005 celebrations next summer, we look forward to yet another record-breaking festival next year. Be sure to mark your calendars for the Doors Open/Historic Edmonton Week July 23-31, 2005.

The program for our upcoming events is available in the EDHS newsletter (or from the HSA office) and a quick glance shows a stellar line-up. Our speakers include: Bruce Ibsen (such a success at our May Conference) who will discuss sports in early Edmonton; Shirley Lowe who will present the "story" of Old Strathcona; Al Oeming who will take us back to his Game Farm; Debbie Culbertson who will present the story of Roberta MacAdams, and Adriana Davies who will enlighten us on the latest Heritage Community Foundation project, "Alberta Online Encyclopedia."

Our Christmas dinner will be held at the Mayfair Golf and Country Club in its beautiful river valley setting and will feature the C-Jammers Combo who will entertain us with both seasonal and dance music. The C-Jammers were the entertainment at the May 2004 Conference banquet and as we didn't have the chance to hear enough, we're inviting them back.

You won't want to miss John Rowand Night and the AGM this April as we will be in the site of the first Legislative Assembly of Alberta, McKay Avenue School. What a fitting place to hold our 2005 AGM. Our speaker will be Michael Kostek, archivist and historian for the Edmonton Public Schools and an authority on this magnificent historic site. Tours will be offered and we can pretend to be legislators of 1905.

The EDHS recently joined the Provincial Archives in hosting a ceremonial tree-planting to honour local researcher and historian, Alex Mair. The event was attended by about 50 friends and family with ceremonial piping by Malcolm MacCrimmon and special words of tribute by Bruce Ibsen. We thank all those volunteers who helped with this celebration.

The tree is located at the Provincial Archives of Alberta in their "Memorial Garden." The Garden was the brainchild of Sandra Thomson and we were all saddened by her recent, unexpected passing. We shall all miss Sandra and we offer our condolences to her family and friends.

Enjoy this year's programs — I look forward to seeing you there

HSA Calendar of Events – 2004-2005

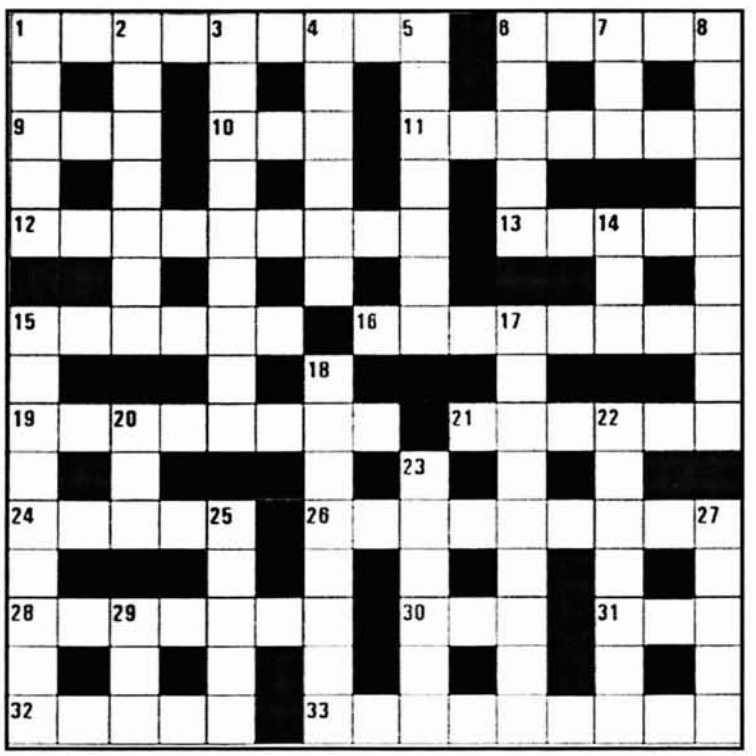
Oct 21	**CAHS: "Overlooked Women in Alberta's History"** - Linda Goyette, Red Deer Museum 7:30 p.m.
Oct 26	**LHS: "The Remittance Men presented"** by Farley Wuth.
Oct 26	**CCHS: "The Olympics - What's the Spin Off?"** - Ken Newans, Ft. Calgary, 750 9 Ave SE 7:30 pm.
Oct 26	**EDHS: "Speculations on the Future of Old Strathcona"** - Shirley Lowe, N. Glenora Community Hall 7:30 pm.
Nov. 18	**CAHS: "The Lancaster Bomber: A Flight Into History"** - John J. Chalmers, Red Deer Museum 7:30 p.m.
Nov 23	**LHS: Annual General Meeting**. Duane and Carma Thompson will present "The Mormon Immigration."
Nov 23	**CCHS: "CPR: The People Behind the History"** - Jonathan Hanna, Ft. Calgary, 750 9 Ave SE 7:30 pm.
Nov 24	**EDHS: Christmas Dinner** - Music by C-Jammers, Mayfair Golf & Country Club, 6 pm.
Dec. 6	**CAHS: "A Country Christmas"** - Golden Circle, 6:30 p.m. Gerald Miller and Orla Nielsen.
Dec 8	**CCHS: Annual Christmas Dinner** - Dining Room, Ft. Calgary, 750 9 Ave SE. Cocktails 6 pm, Dinner 7 pm. For reservations call Carrol 403–286–5955 or Diana 403-240–9828.
Jan. 20	**CAHS: Ya-Ha Tinda, from the Stoney place name to mean, "Little Prairie in the Mountains" -** Jim Taylor, Red Deer Museum, 7:30 p.m.
Jan 25	**LHS: "The Eastern European Settlement"** presented by John Boras.
Jan 25	**CCHS: "Conflict & Change: A Brief History of Alberta's Agricultural Industry"** - Carrol Jacques, Ft. Calgary, 750 9 Ave SE 7:30 pm.
Jan 25	**EDHS: "Animals to Antiques"** - Al Oeming, N. Glenora Community Hall 7:30 pm.

HSA Crossword

Answer to last newsletter crossword:

Across: 1. Rabbi, 8. Don Getty, 9. slyly, 10. Franklin, 11. Taber, 12. ulu, 16. acting, 17. flutie, 18. HSA, 23. anise, 24. Edmonton, 25. ebony, 26. L'il Abner, 27. gypsy.

Down: 2. Alliance, 3. Bulletin, 4. Corral, 5. agent, 6. Italy, 7. hyena, 12. ugh, 13. UFA, 14. Sunny Boy, 15. oilsands 19. Stoney, 20. Belly, 21. smile, 22. knobs.



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*.

Across

1. Year of the . . ..conference in Lethbridge, autumn 2004 (2 words)
6. Lake and community N.E. of Edmonton, Lac La . . .
9. Shade tree
10. League of the Eskimos and Stampeders
11. Poet who wrote Songs of a Sourdough
12. Christian sect which settled near Didsbury 1894 & Coaldale 1926
13. Straight razor sharpener
15. Mr. Aberhart's type of Credit
16. Once Calgary's only morning newspaper
19. Community on the Blood Indian Reserve
21. Request (2 words)
24. Highway to Alaska built 1942
26. Great or Lesser . . .
28. Grove of fruit trees
30. Apiary denizen
31. Suffix, related or belonging to
32. Christmas songs
33. Place of Jewish worship

Down

1. Best of the crop
2. Annual information calendar, popular with farmers
3. Stately Edmonton hotel
4. Mrs. McClung of the Famous Five, to her friends
5. Cowboy artist whose paintings are on display at the Glenbow Museum, Calgary
6. This world heavy weight boxing champion 1906, was a Calgary resident
7. The Sweetheart of Sigma . . .
8. Bob Edwards' newspaper of Wetaskiwin, High River and Calgary
14. Hazard in early Alberta roads
15. Americans call this the service berry
17. Vegreville's monolithic symbol, the largest in the world
18. Penalizing infractions on rinks or gridirons
20. Portion of a curve
22. Type of "C" worn by the Calgary hockey pros
23. Mining town west of Drumheller
25. Types of tides
27. Golden, Bald, or two under par
29. Billiard rod