

Box 4035
Station C
Calgary, AB. T2T 5M9
Telephone: 403-261-3662
Fax: 403-269-6029
e-mail: albertahistory@telus.net

No. 1
April 2006
ISSN 1205-0350
PMA #40010031

History NOW



In this issue

HSA Conference & AGM	1
Take the HSA Bus to the AGM	1
President's Report	3
Notice of HSA By Law change	4
Bottles, Buckets & Barrels	5-6
Dr. Trudy Cowan Retires	8
Alberta HeritageTree Project	9
Frank Hamilton Mewburn, MD	10-14
Book Reviews & Web Sites	15
Alberta's 1st Fossil Spider Named	16
Chapter Reports	17-19
<i>Alberta History Needs to Find You</i>	18
HSA Calendar of Events	20
Crossword	20

HSA 2006 Conference and Annual General Meeting

May 26, 27 and 28, 2006

At the
Galt Museum & Archives
and the
Lethbridge Lodge Hotel,
Lethbridge, Alberta

For further information about
the conference and AGM
please visit our web site:

www.albertahistory.org

OUR CENTENNIAL ROOTS LETHBRIDGE 1906 - 2006

Galt Gardens - circa 1911



City Hall - circa 1911



Galt Hospital - circa 1902

Take the HSA Bus to the AGM

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:

The Historical Society of Alberta
Box 4035, Station C
Calgary, AB. T2T 5M9

Phone: 403-261-3662

Fax: 403-269-6029

E-mail: albertahistory@telus.net



If you would like to attend the AGM in Lethbridge, May 26-28, 2006 and would like the convenience of having someone drive you to Lethbridge, please consider travelling on the HSA Bus.

The HSA is prepared to contract a commercial bus line to provide us with a 47 passenger bus to take registrants to the AGM. The bus would pick up those interested in Edmonton on Friday, May 26, 2006, then travel to Red Deer; on to Calgary and finally to Lethbridge. This bus will be provided for transportation purposes only. Arrangements will be made for a lunch break on Friday and a dinner break on Sunday, at your own cost.

To meet the costs of this bus it will be necessary to ask those taking the bus to submit payment as follows: Edmonton Return \$70/person; Red Deer Return \$60/person; Calgary Return \$50/person. We will need to receive 45 registrations on or before May 1, 2006 in order to proceed with hiring the bus.

If you are interested in taking this bus, please contact Debbie at the HSA office at either 403-261-3662 (for MasterCard and VISA payments) or send your cheque to The Historical Society of Alberta, PO Box 4035, Stn C, Calgary, AB T2T 5M9 on or before the May 1st deadline.

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

Send copy to:

Sherring Amsden,
Editor, *History NOW*,
Historical Society of Alberta
Box 4035, Station C
Calgary, AB T2T 5M9
email: albertahistory@telus.net
Phone: 403-261-3662
Fax: 403-269-6029

**Members of Council
2005-2006**

President	Ron Williams
1st Vice-President	Linda Collier
2nd Vice-President	Vivian Sampson
3rd Vice-President	Frank Norris
Secretary	David Smith
Treasurer	Beverley Leggett
Past President	Don Hepburn
Director at Large	Liliane Maisonneuve
Director at Large	David Leonard
Director at Large	L. Douglas Rae

Committees:

Alberta History Editor Hugh Dempsey
History NOW Editor Sherring Amsden

For information contact:

Office Coordinator
The Historical Society of Alberta
#320 Barron Building
610 8th Avenue SW
Calgary, AB. T2P 1G5

Phone: 403-261-3662
Fax: 403-269-6029

e-mail: albertahistory@telus.net
website: www.albertahistory.org

Welcome to new members

Larry/Karen Chapple, Calgary
Barbara Clarke & Family, Calgary
Grant MacEwan Community College,
Edmonton
Brenda Arsenaault/Peter Ciavarella,
Calgary
R. D. Parama, Houston, TX
Sebastien Cloutier, Palm Beach, FL
David S. Toop, Edmonton
Natalie Jerwak, Edmonton

Vic Walls, Red Deer
James Wingate, Guelph, ON
Aline Greaves, Calgary
Spruce Grove & District Agricultural
Society, Spruce Grove
Pumphouse Theatres Society, Calgary
Fane P. Dezan, Edmonton
Michaela Safruik, Edmonton

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

Shawn Blitz	George/Edith Hislop
Fred Holberton	Lonnie Tate
David/Phyllis Thomson (2)	Dennis E. Lewin
Ken/Prudence Penley (2)	Delcie I. Gray
Ms. Frances Losie	Val Jobson
James Bowles	Brian/Margaret Exton
Dale/Pat Brar	Colleen Graham
Harold S. Millican	Eric A. Nielsen, In Memory of Evelyn A. Nielsen
Mrs. M. Fahrner	Myrtle E. Sequin
Stanley Turner	Marie Lesoway
Malcolm MacCrimmon	Grace/Arnold Rumbold
Lionel Singleton	Gertrude Bloor McLaren
William Chebuk	Peter Goruk
Betty Daly	Douglas R. Law
Edward M. Bredin	Don Scafe
Daniel Gallagher	Robert High
Lorene/Louis Frere	

Celebrate our Heritage

Please watch for our 2006 AGM Brochure available for downloading on our website www.albertahistory.org

President's Report by Ron Williams

The Historical Society of Alberta continues to make progress in many different areas of activity.

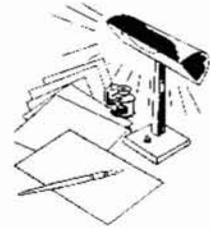
A very significant project is the digitization of our journals. The University of Alberta has undertaken this task and this project is near completion. This means that the entire collection of over fifty years of our publication will soon be available on line through the U of A Peel Collection for those wishing to conduct research. This is indeed a significant increase in available knowledge of the past of our province. The Society is proud of our journal as it is of very high quality and it is important, as part of our mandate to make history available to all, that it be generally available to anyone interested in aspects of the history of our province.

We are also taking steps to update our web site. There is a feeling that the site needs to be improved and therefore Council is taking steps to achieve this. Stay tuned for results, which I am sure you will find positive.

Feeling that it is important that we reach out to other groups involved in history and heritage, I accepted an invitation to address the annual meeting of the Sedgwick Museum. Hopefully contacts will continue.

I also attended the launch of our latest book. This is the revised and enlarged edition of *The Path of Duty*. This book is a continuation of our efforts to publish original material. Besides being significant for that reason, it is also a very good read. It is available from the HSA office or from Audrey's Books and Greenwoods' Volume II in Edmonton. I certainly recommend it.

The First Vice-President, Linda Collier, and myself will be attending the launch of the David Thompson Bicentennials Launch in Edmonton. There is no need to explain to Albertans the great contributions of David Thompson to the opening up of Western Canada and the North Western United States. The program of this event appears to be of great interest.



The next AGM will be held in May in the great city of Lethbridge. 2006 is the Centennial of that city. The Lethbridge Historical Society has put together a very interesting calendar of events. I hope to meet many of you there during the week-end of May 26 – 28, 2006.

Next year, 2007, is the Centennial Year of our Society. For a Society to continue making important contributions for an entire century is certainly worthy of note. Many activities are in the early planning stages. I am very pleased that Ms. Trudy Cowan has agreed to serve on the planning committee for the AGM for 2007.

Thank you all for your efforts on behalf of the Society and history. I hope to see you during the weekend of May 26th in Lethbridge.

Alberta History Needs to Find You

"The Historical Society of Alberta wishes to contact past and present contributors to *Alberta History* concerning the digitization of their articles, as they originally appeared in the magazine, for educational purposes."

If you, or someone you know, have authored an article that appeared in any past issue of *Alberta History*, please contact:

Debbie Goodine, The Historical Society of Alberta
PO Box 4035, Stn C, Calgary, AB T2T 5M9
email: albertahistory@telus.net
Phone: 403-261-3662. Fax: 403-269-6029

Correction to the January President's Report:

The penultimate paragraph in Mr. Williams' President's Report refers to "6000 residents of Canada joining the military forces". The correct number would be much closer to 600,000 than 6000.

Thank you — John Hutchings

Notice of HSA By Law Change

Council has passed a motion to present minor changes in the By-Laws to the AGM in May.

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that at the Annual General Meeting of The Historical Society of Alberta to be held at the Lethbridge Lodge Aspen Room, Lethbridge Lodge Hotel, 320 Scenic Drive, Lethbridge, on Saturday, May 27th, 2006 at 8:30 am, the following revisions to the HSA By-Laws will be presented for consideration by the meeting:

That is,

• **Article 4 a (vi)** - is struck and replaced with:

“Ex-officio members shall include the chapter presidents (or their designated alternates) and the immediate past president. The ex-officio members shall have the right to vote.”

• **Article 4 f** is struck and replaced with:

“Each person elected to an executive position can serve a maximum of two consecutive terms, to be followed by a two year absence before being eligible for re-election to that position. The exception is the office of the Treasurer.

HSA Members News

Book Donations

The HSA thanks our members David Thomson and Ken Penley for their generous donations of the following books to the Historical Society of Alberta's Reading Room.

David Thomson has donated:
*My Most Memorable Teacher,
100 Stories Celebrating 100
Years of Alberta Teaching
Excellence*

Ken Penley has donated
*Bowness, Our Village In The
Valley.*



Working with Albertans to preserve and interpret our heritage

March 6, 2006

W.P. Baergen
4025 57 Street
Stettler AB T0C 2L1

Dear Bill:

I just received your book on one-room country schools of Alberta, *Pioneering with a Piece of Chalk*. It is awesome! Your book will be an excellent complement to the work being undertaken by the Heritage Resource Management Branch, Alberta Community Development, which the Alberta Historical Resources Foundation is part of. They are in the process of obtaining the Standard School Plans, by the Alberta architect of the day, from Alberta Education and the Provincial Archives to assist them with preservation initiatives. Tom Ward, a Preservation Advisor with the Branch is leading this project. The book will become part of our library collection and will continue to be a valuable resource for staff.

Thank you very much for remembering my expressed interest. We are more than happy to pay for the book and a cheque will be forthcoming from the Government of Alberta in the very near future.

Best regards,

Monika McNabb
Program Coordinator

8820 112 Street, Edmonton, Alberta T6G 2P8 Tel: (780) 431-2500 Fax: (780) 427-5598

A beneficiary of lottery fund proceeds with technical and administrative assistance by Alberta
Lottery Commission



Bottles, Buckets and Barrels

by Ken Penley

A light look at the bottles we and others have used.

If there are two professionals whose daily tasks involve the use and handling of bottles, they must be the wine maker and the pharmacist. To an individual who has been both and who has poured from, syphoned to and from, decanted from, splashed into and generally used bottles almost daily, the unusual names of some of them has caused much wonder.

Is a demi-john the half of a bathroom and a half?

Is a magnum something Clint Eastwood drinks from?

Is a Winchester a shot glass?

Is a carboy a parking attendant?

Assuming that the reader shares this curiosity and has an interest in more bottles than the mickey and the crock, a few facts, myths and variable definitions are hereby presented.

Well, what about the mickey for a start? Surprisingly it does not appear defined as a bottle in any of several major dictionaries. A drink known as a mickey finn, intended to render the partaker somewhat less than alert, is well known and some recipes may have contained chloral hydrate. The transfer of this portion from provider to recipient has been referred to as having "slipped him/her a mickey" but this sounds like the contents of a bottle or glass rather than the container. Apparently it is a term that we Canadians have all to ourselves and refers to a half sized bottle of liquor or wine (6), usually 12 to 13 fl.oz. and comes with or without a brown paper bag enclosure and can sometimes be found in a hip pocket or purse at sporting events.

A crock, so far as drinking is concerned, may refer to the drinker rather than the vessel, eg "old crock," or was he ever "crooked." As a container,

the size is variable and the word has more to do with its material which is usually earthenware or metal.

However if we are going to get into some serious drinking, let's consider the magnum, or even better the jeroboam to say nothing of the salmanazar. We hear of those containers when we, or preferably someone else, orders champagne. A magnum is defined as a two quart contain (2) (3), or equal to two bottles, 50 oz. (7) or 2/5 us gallon (1) containing wine or spirits. Dedicated drinkers might be more attracted to the jeroboam which is described as about twice the size of a magnum, being an oversized champagne bottle or about four quarts US (2) or 4/5 gallon US (1) (5) or a wine bottle eight to twelve times ordinary size (3), or three litres if holding champagne. (4) One must take care though in Britain where a jeroboam can be a chamber pot (capacity not specified). (1) it is not clear if the name is derived from Jeroboam who was I Kings xi.28.xiv.16 described as "a mighty man of valour who did sin and who made Israel to sin."

Deciding to say something about a salmanazar after all, I see it it defined as an oversized wine bottle of about twelve quart capacity (1) or nine litres (4) capacity.

The wine gallon was a measure in England equivalent to 4/5 of an Imperial gallon. (1) (2) This measure became the US gallon, a situation which has caused some confusion to many Canadians.

A diner who orders a wine glassful of his favorite vintage in the United States may get a much better deal than his counterpart in the UK, the ratio being from a four to six oz glassful (1) to a mere four tablespoonfuls (1 to 2 fl.oz.) (3), but then the Brits get even when they

put away a gallon, a quart or a pint of any potable, having odds of 5 to 4.

The Yanks have the advantage once again though when they received their tot. Tommy Atkins and Jonny Canuck, whether in the trenches or aboard ship, received a tot specified as a dram (3) whereas the American doughboy may have received a small amount of liquor equal to a "shot" which would seem closer to an ounce or ounce and a quarter, (1) some eight to ten times the size of a dram. However a few literary references, some personal experiences and O.H.M.S leads this writer to state that the Canadian tot was a very generous "dram" of an overproof product.

Now to go from the sublime to the ridiculous, let us examine the really big stuff. We're talking here of barrels, hogsheads, kilderkins and the like to say nothing of firkins which may be just as well. Starting at the top, a hogshead, we learn, can be some unpleasant person felt to resemble the head of a hog (1) but in liquid capacity may be a large cask of about the size of two barrels and often contains 63 US or 54 Imperial gallons. (5) It was an old English measure of liquid capacity and in 1483 was fixed at 63 wine gallons or 52 1/2 Imp. Gall. (5) In actual use in the early 20th century it varied from 54 gallons for beer to 46 gallons for claret. (5)

The barrel may vary in size from 5 cubic feet (3) to 31.5 US gallons. (1) (2) Beer drinkers receive a bit of favoritism here once again, being able to fill their steins from a 36 gallon barrel whereas wine drinkers can roll only 31 1/2 gallons over and around their palates. (5) It is in the petroleum industry that one finds the largest barrel it being 42 US gallons (1) and at the current price that seems only just. By the way, can any

reader tell us why the abbreviation for barrel is bbl?

Since it was difficult to hoist a barrel of beer or wine over the shoulder of a thirsty consumer, the kilderkin found some favour, it being the size of one half a barrel (2) or about 16 to 18 gallons. (3) The Dutch may have inferred a smaller size by reference to a child as that is, in part, the derivation of the name, (kind=child). (3)

The firkin is about half the size of a kilderkin (3) and also an Old English ale measure of a 1/4 barrel or 7 1/2 to 8 gallons. (5) The Dutch gave us this word as well from their vierde (fourth) and the diminutive suffix kin. (5)

The pharmaceutical and chemical industries, as well as home winemakers and brewers, make good and frequent use of demi-johns, carboys and winchesters. These containers are of a size which may usually be lifted, or at least moved about, by a robust man.

The carboy is often confused with the demi-john and in fact the two may be synonymous. (1) The distinction is partly size and partly use. The carboy is a large container, usually made of glass, with capacity of from 5 to 15 gallons us. (1) Often globular in shape (3) it is frequently used to store corrosive liquids such as acids (2) or other industrial fluids. The word is derived from the Persian "qarabah."

Demi-johns are not half of anything nor an article of underwear. They are bulging, narrow necked bottles of about 3 to 10 gallon capacity (2) (3) or one to ten gallon. (1) Their common use is to store non-corrosive liquids (1) although drinkers of some home brew may dispute this fact. Pharmacists have often hoisted demi-johns of distilled water to some high shelf for convenience of syphoning. The name is a corruption of the French "dame jeanne" or "Dame Jane". (3) It is found in many languages but earliest is

French, probably as a playful personification. Both demi-johns and carboys were often encased in a wickerwork covering both to protect the glass and to assist in lifting.

The winchester has been one of the most commonly used bottles in pharmacies and chemical laboratories. Also once called a winchester quart, its capacity was 80 fl.oz. (5) The winchester continues to hold 80 fl.oz. and is a tall, narrow bottle which offers convenient storage for half gallon quantities. Such containers have a narrow neck which were once secured with ground glass stoppers, then cork, and now mostly with threaded screw on caps. The winchester is an old English measure once used for both fluid and dry (eg Winchester bushel) (1). The term came from Winchester in Hants, England, where standard measures were originally deposited before the Normans moved them to Westminster. (3) Tradition prevailed or we might have been pouring from Westminsters. The officials at Winchester controlled more than measures. The bishop at Winchester had jurisdiction over the brothel of Southwark and an occupant became known as a Winchester goose. A venereal disease causing a swelling in the groin also bore this title; thus a Winchester goose became a term for a prostitute. (1)

The foregoing covers a few of the bottles which vintners, brewers and pharmacists may have used and the reader may wish now to further enrich his/her vocabulary and astound friends by casually dropping into their conversation such *bon mots* as butts, gills, puncheons and pipes. If challenged, one should be able to define them as:

Gill = 1/4 pint; 4 oz.US; 5 oz. UK

Tierce = 42 gallons

Puncheon = 1 1/2 hogshead

Pipe = 1 1/2 puncheon

Tun = 2 pipe

Such variance in the size of containers, some of the same name, supports the use of a stable, uniform and international system of measures and is no doubt one reason why metric measures are gaining more popular support in North America as the public becomes familiar with the terms and their application. However the romance of the apothecary shop is partly tied to the winchester, the demi-john, the dram etc. and the terms linger to warm our hearts. Really now, could you spurn a cuddly kilderkin and embrace a chilly kilolitre?

References:

- (1) Webster Third New International Dictionary
- (2) Reader's Digest Great Encyclopedic Dictionary
- (3) Oxford Concise Dictionary
- (4) Doubleday
- (5) Harmsworth Universal Encyclopaedia
- (6) Gage Canadian Dictionary.

An abbreviated version of this article originally appeared in the July 1990 (Volume 2 No 4) issue of the British Columbia Pharmacist.



**From the University of Calgary Press
& the Canadian Polo Association**

POLO

THE GALLOPING GAME

AN ILLUSTRATED HISTORY OF POLO
IN THE CANADIAN WEST



Polo: The Galloping Game by Tony Rees, foreword by Prince Charles
100+ colour & b/w photographs | 280pp | hardcover | \$39.95

Orders to:

ucpmail@ucalgary.ca | fax: 403-282-0085 | tel: 403-220-3514

or, for more information, please contact:

www.polocanada.ca | tel: 403-231-7602 | fax: 403-231-7637



Dr. Trudy Cowan Retires from Loughheed House

by Ron Williams

Most of you will know by now that Dr. Trudy Cowan has retired from Loughheed House in December of 2005.

From the formation of the Loughheed House Committee in 1990; to the designation of Loughheed House as a Provincial Historic Resource in 1977; to the designation as a National Historic Site in 1992; to the Gala Housewarming Ball in April 2005; and finally the Official Opening Ceremony on August 28, 2005, Trudy has been at the helm of this magnificent project.

At the Official Opening Ceremony, the Hon. Gary Mar, Minister of Community Development stated "... we owe a debt of gratitude to the Loughheed House Conservation Society for its leadership and to the Historical Society of Alberta for first insisting this building be restored. It is one of those ironies of history that this legacy house would be rescued by another of the Senator's (Senator James Loughheed) legacies, the Historical Society that he helped found in 1907."

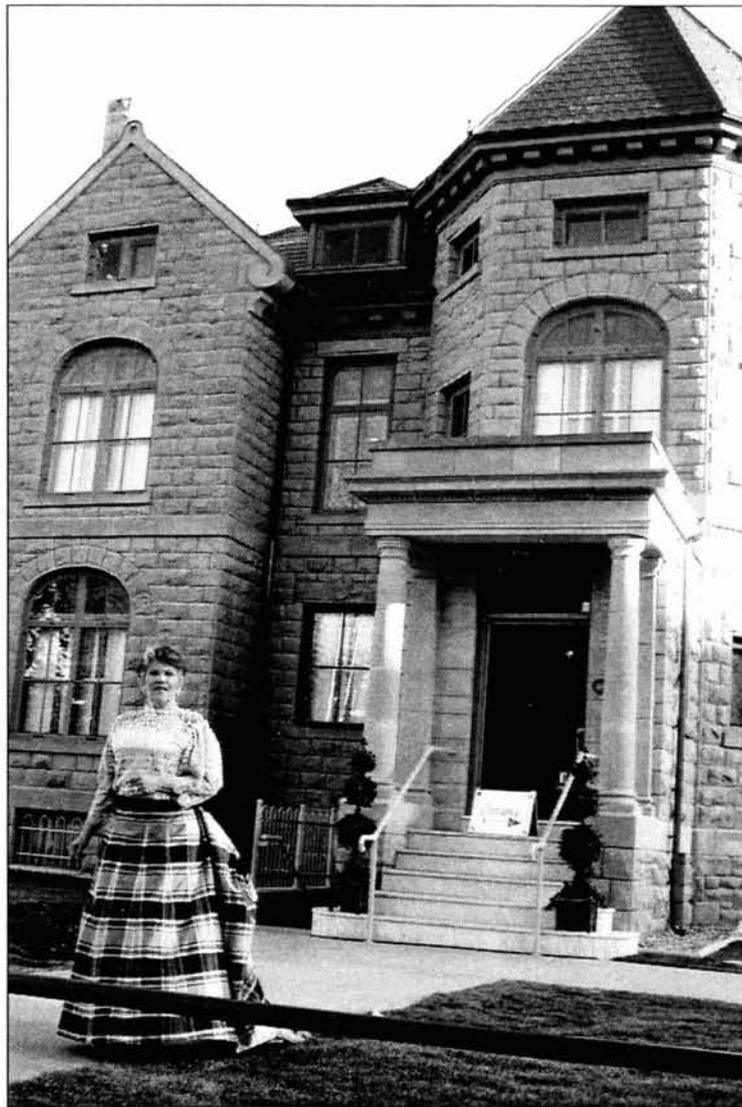
It is with great pride that The Historical Society of Alberta acknowledges Dr. Cowan's commitment to this project. It was Dr. Cowan who knew that this elegant sandstone mansion, built in 1891, that had been neglected to almost the point of certain destruction, deserved a place in not only Alberta's but Canada's history. It was through Dr. Cowan's 16 year devotion to this project that we all have the privilege of enjoying and appreciating this beautifully restored historic site.

The Historical Society of Alberta is now starting to organize our own Centennial Celebrations for 2007. Yes, the H.S.A. is turning 100!! Of course, we couldn't possibly celebrate our

Centennial without including the Loughheed House in some way. How fortunate we are to have volunteers like Dr. Cowan who have continued to be strong supporters of the H.S.A. We are pleased to advise that Dr. Cowan has agreed to volunteer on the H.S.A. 2007 Centennial Conference Committee. We are confident that Senator Loughheed and Lady Isabelle would be proud of our achieve-

ments to date and we look forward to another 100 years.

On behalf of The Historical Society of Alberta, thank you Dr. Cowan for this wonderful legacy you have helped provide for us. Without volunteers like yourself, the heritage community would not realize the many accomplishments that are achieved for all Albertans.



Soiree gown in front of the Loughheed House : April 10, 2005

image: *Loughheed House Collection*

The Alberta Heritage Tree Project

The purpose of the Alberta Heritage Tree Project is to promote stewardship and protection of Heritage Trees by bringing awareness to the roles trees play in healthy ecosystems. Our project recognizes specific trees that have botanical, ecological, historical or cultural significance.

What makes our project special and enduring though, is documenting the stories behind the trees nominated. Trees provide a living link to our past. They hold stories and carry meaning for people.

The Foundation requires volunteers to gather information about these stories and we felt the Historic Society of Alberta is an appropriate venue through which to seek these individuals.

A province wide Media Campaign, requesting nominations, is scheduled to launch May 2006, to ensure people in Alberta have an equal opportunity to participate.

Many Municipalities have already agreed to participate in this project by; placing a request for nominations in their local newspaper or newsletter and to pay for Heritage Tree plaques.

The Alberta Heritage Tree Project engages a large number of volunteers. Upon receiving nominations, Regional Selection Committees consisting of local individuals from a wide variety of disciplines will select trees of importance to their community. The Foundation facilitates the process.

Upon selection each tree will receive a plaque and, with the landowner's permission, be placed on the trunk or directly in front of the tree. This common identifying feature will make it easier for community members to locate a Heritage Tree.

Our book; *Heritage Trees of Alberta* (Publication date June 2007) features botanical, ecological, historical and cultural information on specific trees. It will also provide the location of Heritage Trees on maps covering the Province as a whole. A web based Tree Registry (June 2007) will

contain detailed information and stories, on each tree selected.

We are asking for your support in two ways;

To place a related article in your organization's newsletter or publication requesting nominations. (May/June 2006) The Foundation will provide you with a general article outlining the scope of the Project and be available for further questions or interviews. – see below for a sample of what could appear in your newsletter.

To forward a request from the Foundation to your members asking for participation on the Regional Selection Committees. (This is contained within the attached sample article) and specifically request individuals interested in gathering information on the stories behind the trees.

On behalf of the Foundation, I am more than happy to address any questions or suggestions you may have.

Thank you for your consideration.
Sincerely, Libby Fairweather, Executive Director

Alberta's Great Tree Hunt!

The Alberta Heritage Tree Project wants to celebrate your favourite trees.

In a program designed to raise awareness about the impact trees have on our ecosystems and culture, the Heritage Tree Foundation extends a request for nominations of trees you consider special. The criteria extend beyond those that are old, large or rare to include trees with historical or cultural significance.

Nominations may refer to an individual tree, grove, avenue, garden, arboretum or shelterbelt.

Perhaps there is a tree that has acquired status as a community landmark or grows in an unusual location or has an unusual shape. Trees within Environmentally Significant Areas, or provide nesting homes for rare or endangered birds can be considered in nominations. Additional

criteria and information can be found by visiting our website; www.heritage-treefoundation.com. There is no limit on the numbers of trees you can nominate!

What makes our project special and enduring though, is documenting the stories behind the trees you nominate. Trees provide a living link to our past. They hold stories and carry meaning for people.

Upon receiving nominations, Regional Selection Committees, consisting of local individuals from a wide variety of disciplines, will select trees of importance to their community. The Foundation facilitates the process of establishing these trees with Heritage recognition. Perhaps you would enjoy participating in this process. Or if you are interested in Historical Research we need individuals to gather the stories behind the trees. Call or email us at the contact information below.

Upon selection each tree will receive a plaque and, with the landowner's permission, be placed on the trunk or directly in front of the tree. This common identifying feature will make it easier for community members to locate a Heritage Tree.

These locations will appear in our book; *Heritage Trees Of Alberta* (June 2007) and feature botanical, historical and cultural information on specific trees.

Perhaps your tree will be featured!

From the community or from your travels within the Province; please share your tree story with us. Help us to preserve a vital component of Alberta's natural history.

Nominations Begin May 1, 2006
The Alberta Heritage Tree Project
www.heritagetreefoundation.com
Box 334
Turner Valley, AB
TOL 2A0
403-933-3099

Frank Hamilton Mewburn, M.D., FACS, OBE 1858-1929

by Dr. Robert Lampard

He was short in stature, but cast a long shadow over the practice of Medicine and Surgery in the NWT and Alberta.

Introduction: Frank Hamilton Mewburn arrived in Winnipeg in March 1882, just in time to play a significant part in the most eventful era in Surgery. No one who came and stayed, did more to lead the advance in Western Canada than this diminutive, McGill trained, self-taught surgeon.

The CPR railway reached Winnipeg (1881), Regina (1882) and Calgary (1883); the Manitoba Medical College would be chartered and accept its first class (1883); the new Winnipeg General Hospital (WGH) would be finished (1884); the Northwest Rebellion would come and go (1885); and the CPR would be completed (1885).

With the promise of peace following the Northwest Rebellion, came the first wave of immigration to the “free lands”. Following in lock-step were the pioneering practitioners, druggists and drug stores, hospitals with OR’s, improved sanitation measures and expectations that eastern metropolitan standards of health care would be imported into the west.

The 1880’s also saw the dawn of intra-abdominal surgery not only in the West but in the world.

Dr. Mewburn was there from the beginning of abdominal surgery to its maturity. He was a pioneer in the Mackid tradition.

Driven by impetuosity, surgical audacity and a streak of rugged independence, Mewburn headed west from Winnipeg in 1886 to the end of the “Turkey Trail” spur line, at Lethbridge or as it was then known Coal Banks, Alberta. There he met his intellectual and medical soulmate, Dr. G.A. Kennedy, who in 1887 had

entered full-time private practice in Fort Macleod after eight years with the NWMP. The drive of these two medical pioneers for knowledge and experience, coupled with their operative skills and astute diagnostic decision making, led to a remarkable string of surgical and medical accomplishments. In retrospect the citizenry of Lethbridge and Fort MacLeod must have marvelled at their good fortune to have them come and stay.

In true pioneering tradition, both Mewburn and Kennedy answered many calls from their fledgling communities to contribute beyond their daily medical practices and on-call schedules. Mewburn responded thrice as mayor and never declined the requests of the Boards of the Public School or the hospital and the business institutions of Lethbridge for more of his time and attention.

As Mewburn’s surgical reputation grew, his referral radius widened. Financially secure and with a 1913 FACS, he decided to move to Calgary and polarize his practice to surgery on a full time basis. Dr. Mewburn accepted the position as the Head of Surgery at the CGH on the eve of WWI.

In 1914 the call of patriotism and the challenges of wartime surgery beckoned again. Mewburn had already had a taste of it during the Northwest Rebellion. He had not participated in the Boer War probably because the Medical Corps was run primarily by the British Army and the expected one year tenure of the Lord Strathcona Horse was too short to entice a physician to join the medical militia. And besides he was the Mayor of Lethbridge.

Deemed over age by the Minister of the Militia Sir Sam Hughes, Mewburn was refused enlistment. Not dissuaded he

went to England at his own expense and joined the CAMC. He was rapidly promoted to the Head of Surgery at the General Hospital #5 at Taplow.

Two years after his 1919 demobilization the new UofA Dean of Medicine A.C. Rankin selected him over the Allins and McEacherns as the first full-time Head of Surgery at the UofA. With that appointment came the challenge of extending the medical curriculum by two years and the creation of a full six year Medical School program with degree granting status. One of the conditions of the Rockefeller Grant was to create a clinical training program in medicine and surgery. That was successfully accomplished by 1923, in time for the Faculty of Medicine to receive the \$500,000 Grant.

While his string of prairie surgical firsts is unrivaled, it was his love of teaching and the respect he received from his students that left the longest imprint on Alberta medicine. Sadly his career was shortened while he was still in harness in 1929. It halted Mewburn’s desire to write of the highlights, impressive experiences, events, friends and colleagues, that he regretted had not been undertaken sooner in Alberta.

As a Youth from 1858-1875: Frank Hamilton Mewburn was born on March 5, 1858, the youngest of seven children, in Drummondville, Ontario, now a part of Niagara Falls. He grew up to be a skinny, pigeon breasted, five foot six inch, 140 pound, cherubic, physically frail student. To increase his presence Mewburn grew a “walrus” type moustache. With a full head of hair, it complemented his great personal charm.

When Mewburn decided to enter medical school circa 1875, he became the fourth of an eventual six generation physician

dynasty, that exceeded two hundred consecutive years of medical service. The first, his great grandfather Francis, commenced his medical studies by apprenticing under Thomas Hornby in 1765. His grandfather John obtained his MRCS and was honourably mentioned by Sir Anthony Cooper, but chose to come to Canada in 1832. His father Francis Clarke apprenticed with his grandfather in Weston near Toronto before moving to Niagara. Francis Mewburn was awarded an honorary Doctorate in Medicine by the University of Buffalo.

Medical School c1875-1881: No sooner had Mewburn commenced his medical studies at McGill than another wonderful event happened. In 1875 four trained nurses from St. Thomas Hospital, London, England, arrived at the Montreal General Hospital. Until then nursing was done by handy women. The importance of nurses to medicine, and the importance of nurses in the eyes of Dr. Mewburn would resurface in 1923. That year Dr. Mewburn and two other physicians restarted the three year RN and five year nursing degree programs at UofA.

While still a student at McGill he saw his first ovariectomy. It must have excited him and provided an early stimulus for his career in surgery. Mewburn became an early disciple of the Lister technique, no doubt introduced to it by Dr. Thomas Roddick, who had visited Lister in 1875.(9) The value of Lister antisepsis was likely reaffirmed by his experiences treating the injured that came to the WGH during the CPR railway construction period(10) and later by Dr. Roddick who was the Deputy Surgeon General and senior Field Surgeon during the 1885 NW Rebellion.

WGH and the NW Rebellion 1881-1885: After graduating in 1881, Dr. Mewburn interned for a year at the Montreal General Hospital, with John A.

Macdonald, James Bell and Andrew Henderson. He moved to the booming town of Winnipeg the next year. In March 1882 he was appointed the WGH's House Surgeon, a role clarified in 1884 as the Chief Resident Officer with general charge of the fourteen (1882) staff and seventy-two beds. He could not practice, only consult. He could admit emergencies and attend the patients of the staff physicians. Although the Manitoba Medical School was started in Winnipeg in November 1883, Dr. Mewburn was not a charter member, founder or instructor.

In 1885 Dr. Mewburn's responsibilities were extended to provide care for the patients sent to the new WGH military wing, during and after the four month NW Rebellion. Dr. Roddick closed the Saskatoon base hospital in July 1885 and organized the transfer of the last seventeen NWT Rebellion casualties, one thousand miles by barge from Saskatoon to the WGH under the overall care of Dr. James Kerr, the Manitoba Medical College (MMC) Dean and the direct care of Dr. Mewburn.

MMC Dean Kerr was also a surgeon. Kerr performed three operations on the 81 soldiers hospitalized at the WGH in 1885: 1) an excision of a large hydrocele of the neck that anatomically was in contact with the carotid sheath 2) an incision and drainage of an empyema; and 3) an incision of a knee joint to extract a bullet. Presumably Dr. Mewburn as the House Surgeon assisted him. When Dr. Roddick returned to Winnipeg from the East in August 1885, ten patients remained in the WGH.

The Lethbridge Years 1886-1913: Despite these opportunities Mewburn was increasingly frustrated by the limited amount of surgery he was getting at the WGH. Although the hospital had seventy-two beds, Mewburn noted that up to 1886

when he left, there had been only two or three abdominal operations that he could have seen. On the invitation of Eliot T. Galt, the Lethbridge mine owner, he left Winnipeg at minus 40°C and arrived on December 2, 1885 during a Chinook, to assess the surgical-administrative opportunity in the burgeoning CPR coal town of Coal Banks, now Lethbridge. On his arrival there was no snow and everyone in shirtsleeves. Enthused, Mewburn returned permanently when his WGH contract expired in early 1886.

Dr. Mewburn was appointed the medical manager of the newly constructed three bed Police and Mine Hospital and an NWMP Acting Assistant Surgeon, joining NWMP Hospital Sergeant E.A. Braithwaite. Mewburn became the first (NWT) registered doctor in Lethbridge. On August 15, 1886 he received a visit from his former teacher, Dr. (later Sir) William Osler and his brother, CPR shareholder Edmund B. Osler. The next year (1887) Mewburn accepted the hand of PEI born Louise Augusta Nelson as his wife. She had come to Lethbridge as a governess for the children of the Assistant mine Manager.

With the financial help of mine owners, father and son Sir Alexander and Elliot Galt, the hospital was increased from three to twelve beds in 1891. It was renamed the Galt Hospital and included an OR in the attic. The OR was likely the fourth one in Alberta. The next year after operating on a tubal pregnancy Mewburn, wrote his first surgical article for the medical literature. It was published in February 1893. The patient had initially refused the operation and thus delayed it for another eleven days. After receiving approval, surgery was performed immediately. Massive amounts of blood were found in the lower abdomen. The patient rallied briefly then passed away later that day.

As the only physician in Lethbridge, Mewburn was offered and accepted several early medical contracts. The first was the NWMP medical contract. It was extended in 1911, along with that of Dr. Braithwaite as one of only two honorary NWMP surgeon appointments in Alberta. Mewburn's honorary NWMP appointment continued until 1929 making him the second longest contracted RCMP surgeon in the Force at forty-three consecutive years. It was five years shorter than Dr. Braithwaite's. Dr. Mewburn also held the railway medical contract from Medicine Hat to Great Falls and the CPR medical construction contract during the building of the Crowsnest Pass rail line in 1899.

Surgical experience in Lethbridge:

Dr. Mewburn had no contract to provide medical care to the Blood Indian Reserve. That didn't stop one arriving at his doorstep as early as 1887. He diagnosed the patient as having an enlarged goiter. An interesting ceremony followed. Mewburn solemnly harangued the patient and the Indians accompanying him. "I shall have to make a big cut. If you all do as I tell you after the big cut is made this man may get well, but I cannot tell for sure until after I have made the big cut; and then if he does not get well, and if he should die, you must not blame me. What do you say – shall I make the big cut?" "Ugh Ugh Ugh" came the reply from the sick man and his friends. The operation was a success. His reputation amongst the natives was established. Dr. Mewburn became known by the Indians of the NWT as the "The Great Big Medicine Man." it no doubt reflected more on his competence, than as a metaphor on his size.

Francis Coulson described Mewburn's first recorded intra-abdominal operation in Lethbridge as one to drain an abdominal abscess using a pool table as an OR table in a saloon in 1887. A local barber gave the

Chloroform anesthesia, a reversal of the historical origins of surgery. The most likely source of the abscess would have been a perforated appendix. The patient recovered. Authors Coulson, Arnold, and Campbell reported this operation as the first appendectomy west of Winnipeg. Chatenay and Stanley agreed but recorded the operation as being performed in 1889. Dr. W.S. Galbraith disagreed with all of them and described Mewburn's first planned appendectomy as being performed in 1893. Higinbotham, Rawlinson and Johnson agree with Galbraith. In all probability Galbraith is correct as the following quote indicates.

In 1893 Dr. W.S. Galbraith was then an assistant to pharmacist J.D. Higinbotham of Lethbridge. Interested in taking medicine, Galbraith was Mewburn's surgical assistant during what he (Galbraith) called the "first" appendectomy. Writing an appreciation to Dr. Mewburn after his death, Dr. Galbraith said it was his privilege, "then only looking on, to watch his development from surgery of amputations and abscesses to his first appendectomy in 1893. That patient had traveled two hundred miles to have it done and it had evidently ruptured sometime before, and everything was in a terrible mess as they nearly all were in those days before early interference was permitted. It is doubtful if the appendix was removed, but the patient got well, and with increasing ease cases were offered for his skill; hernias in plenty, an ectopic gestation which he reported (in the Montreal Medical Journal of February 1893), until December 10, 1903 came the climax as he (Mewburn) then thought, in a Caesarian section. His progress from that point was continuous."

Mewburn appears to confirm the 1893 date as his first appendectomy when he told students "I had seen several patients die with "perityphlitis" (the name at the

time for appendicitis) and I had noticed articles appearing in the journals suggesting that the condition was essentially a purulent inflammation of the appendix and early resort to surgery was advocated. I determined that the next case (which likely is the one Dr. Galbraith described) that came along I would operate on without delay."

Usually abdominal surgery was done on a last ditch attempt basis, which made it even more difficult. The same was true in Saskatchewan where the first laparotomy was performed by Dr. M.M. Seymour in Fort Qu'Appelle. Hospital development came later in Saskatchewan. The first public hospital in Saskatchewan that could have had an OR was built after 1899.

Alberta's first orthopedic surgeon Dr. Reginald Deane FRCS, met Mewburn as a youth when he was growing up in Lethbridge, in 1888. He was told that Mewburn was "a wizard with the knife". The first operation Deane was allowed to watch was on a ninety year old gentleman with senile gangrene of the right hand. Mewburn amputated the arm through the middle of the humerus. Deane's duty was to hold up the arm. The patient survived even though it was performed in the unfinished attic of the old Galt hospital. Deane records Mewburn operating on another case of intestinal obstruction in a room over a livery stable, with the livery man pouring the anesthetic and a roustabout as helper. Deane's third recollection was in 1898 after he had entered practice in Lethbridge. Dr. Mewburn asked him to see a patient with a kidney stone. Deane recommended chemical dissolution of the stone using a new German drug "Urotropine." Mewburn said quizzically "you think so"? In a couple of days the cutting took place and a stone the size of a pigeon's egg was removed from the kidney.

continued from page 12

Mewburn's most audacious surgery occurred on November 15, 1890 in Fort Macleod. The patient had an osteomyelitis and an ununited leg fracture. Drs. Mewburn and G.A. Kennedy did the surgery and were assisted by Staff Sergeant Braithwaite. Bone chips from a dog's leg were inserted into the NWMP carpenter's ununited fracture site, using "Olliers Procedure" as it had recently been described in the French and American medical literature. Post-operatively the graft did not take, so Mewburn and Kennedy removed the chips in early 1891 in Lethbridge. The patient lived for over forty years, albeit with a leg two inches shorter than his good leg.

Another early operation Mewburn performed was on a strangulated hernia. Mewburn said to the elderly gentleman "I think you are going to die, but operating is the only thing I can do." The operating table was a meat block under a tree. The local butcher and a well-known Lethbridge citizen, Mr. C.B. Bowman, were pressed into action as the assistants and anesthetists. One would assist until gastric heaving gained the upper hand whereupon the other pallid assistant would relieve him. The patient survived.

Peter Campbell noted that Mewburn was a slow surgeon and he had to give an anesthetic for five and a half hours, while Mewburn excised the patient's bilateral varicose veins. That patient survived, too. Another protracted example was a thyroidectomy, which took over two hours.

To keep medically current Dr. Mewburn made yearly pilgrimages to visit the great surgeons of his day, especially to Baltimore while his lifelong friend Dr. William Osler was still there. Every night Mewburn would read surgery for two hours. As patient confidence in his judgment increased, his reputation spread and his surgical practice enlarged. Several

years later he bought the Galt Hospital their first x-ray machine at his own expense to keep it diagnostically current.

Lethbridge and Medical/Community affairs 1889-1913: Dr. Mewburn was active in the affairs of the profession. In 1889 he attended the CMA annual meeting in Banff at which the NWT Medical Association was formed. Seventeen years later in 1906 he was appointed to the Board of the College of Physicians and Surgeons and remained on it from 1906-1913, becoming the College President in 1912-1913. He was also appointed to the first provincial Board of Health in 1907 and made significant contributions to it and the CMA.

Mewburn was well known about Lethbridge. He made daily rounds on horseback until 1910, even though he owned a car and had a chauffeur to drive it. His energy level was inexhaustible. But he always found time for his community. He sat on the Lethbridge School Board, the Board of Trade, the Town Council and was Mayor in 1899, 1900, and 1905. In real estate he admitted he was lucky when he bought nine lots adjacent to his home including three, ostensibly to avoid a Chinese Laundry being built next door. He paid less than \$1,000 for them. Thirteen years later he sold the lots for \$90,000 cash. Before leaving Lethbridge in 1913, he wrote off \$50,000 in unpaid services, because the patient "didn't have a bean and so he charged it to the Lord". That same year Dr. Mewburn received his FACS and moved to Calgary (population 43,700). There he limited his practice to surgery at the Calgary General Hospital, where he was appointed the Chief Surgeon. The move united Dr. Mewburn with his older brother Lloyd T. Mewburn who had moved to Calgary in 1903.

Mewburn and WWI 1914-1921: In 1914 the Minister of the Militia, Sam Hughes, refused his application to join

the Canadian Army Medical Corps because he was too old at 55. Mewburn wired back "Reference your wire – go to hell! I'm going anyway." He cabled Sir William Osler, telephoned his cousin Brigadier General S.G. Mewburn, and "pulled wires" through Prime Minister Robert Borden and Colonel Sam Steele, to be taken on as a Major.

Dr. Mewburn paid his own way to England. His wife accompanied him. He was "taken on strength. Posted to Depot Co. CAMC" in Shorncliffe, England on July 1, 1915, three weeks before leaving Canada on July 21, 1915. Dr. Mewburn was transferred to the #15 Canadian General (Duchess of Connaught Red Cross) Hospital at Taplow on the Astor Estate, Clivedon, on September 9, 1915. He remained there, except for two temporary transfers back to the CAMC Medical Depot from February 22-May 10, 1915 and March 15-April 17, 1917. Dr. Mewburn was promoted to a Lieutenant Colonel on August 14, 1916 and made second in command of the Taplow Hospital on April 17, 1917. He was made an Officer of the Order of the British on June 7, 1918. The Chief Medical Consultant was Sir William Osler. They spent many happy weekends together. Osler procured a book for him mentioning the Mewburn Family and autographed it "to the brilliant son of a more brilliant father." It became one of his treasures. In May 1919 Lieutenant Colonel Mewburn was demobilized and returned to Calgary, where he continued to limit his practice to surgery.

UofA's first Professor of Surgery 1920-1929: Two years later in 1921 Dr. Mewburn accepted an offer from the newly appointed UofA Dean of Medicine Dr. A.C. Rankin, to be the first full time Professor of Surgery. In Dr. R.B. Deane's testimonial to him at his 1921 Calgary farewell banquet, he highlighted Mewburn's "insatiable appetite for work, attention to detail whether large or

continued on page 14

small, and treatment of the rich and poor equally”.

The funding for Dr. Mewburn's UofA Faculty of Medicine position came from interest on the \$500,000 1920 Rockefeller Foundation conditional grant to the UofA. Two of the conditions to receive the grant, were to appoint the first clinical teachers in surgery and medicine and to complete a full six year medical degree granting program. Thus Mewburn and Dr. Egerton Pope were appointed to full-time faculty positions in surgery and medicine, at the funding level of \$5,000/year. After moving to Edmonton, Mewburn resumed his surgical practice from an office in the McLeod building.

With the assistance of Dr. H.C. Jamieson Dr. Mewburn started the popular medical/surgical bedside rounds in the Osler tradition. In December 1922 Mewburn was elected the first Chairman of the UAH Medical Advisory Board, shortly after the University reassumed responsibility for the hospital from the Soldiers Civil Rehabilitation Commission.

In 1923, the three year RN and five year nursing degree programs were restarted at the UAH. Dr. Mewburn along with UofA President H.M. Tory and Dean A.C. Rankin, were identified as the three persons most instrumental in the development of those two programs. The nursing students adored him. He would come for morning rounds with a retinue of students singing in a high falsetto “...every little movement has a meaning all its own.” “He wore a rose in his buttonhole...and always a fresh lab coat, shiny white and crisp...He had a chauffeur Lawrence who always dressed in a grey uniform...He'd been the Colonel's batman overseas.” There were many colorful stories told by “The Colonel's” friends and students about Mewburn's care for his patients. It was

considered beyond reproach. He would move his patient to a private room if they were disturbing others and would pay for it and any special nurses himself.

In 1925 the “J.J. Ower Reporting Club”, which was the first medical literature review “club” started for the senior medical students, was renamed the Mewburn Club. Dr. Ower continued as its secretary from 1920-1959. Two years later in 1927, Dr. Mewburn was elected the second Vice-President of the American College of Surgeons.

Unfortunately, Dr. Mewburn's known bibliography of four articles remains short. After he gave a UofA presentation on Lord Lister and his antiseptic technique, he was asked to give the speech on CFRN radio. When he discovered that Dr. Braithwaite had been a student of Lord Lister, responsibility for the presentation was quickly transferred to him.

In harness to the last, Dr. Mewburn operated all day with his son Hank, only to miss his chauffeur and walk home in a winter storm. He developed pneumonia and succumbed four days later on January 29, 1929, leaving behind two sons, one of whom, (Dr. F.H.H. Mewburn), was the first orthopedic surgeon on the UAH staff. Another son, Arthur, entered the oil business. The Mewburn's also had a daughter Helene. A grandson, Dr. Robert Mewburn, became a Psychiatrist and practiced in Vancouver. He passed away in 1977, ending the Mewburn medical dynasty at 212 continuous years, including 145 years in Canada.

In the End: Testimonials from his colleague, Dean Rankin described Dr. Mewburn as an energetic, self-sacrificing, unselfish, man of integrity; a wise and respected counselor and a sympathetic associate and friend. Dr. W.S. Galbraith, his Lethbridge partner for six years, didn't credit Mewburn with scholastic brilliance, but did reflect on his keenness to follow

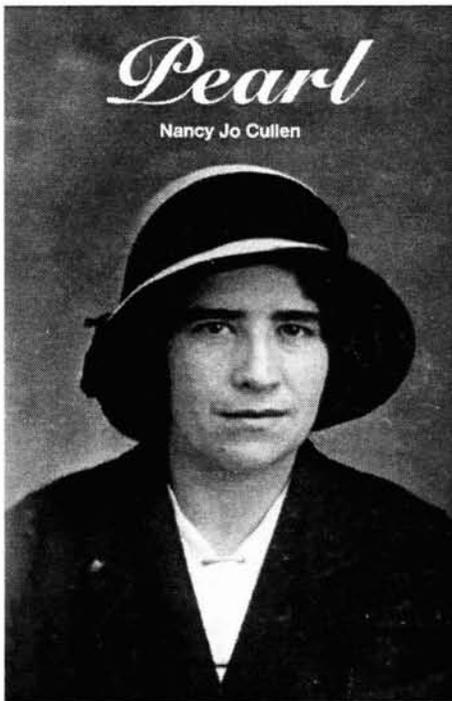
known techniques, his surgical daring, and ever present persistence to learn, whether it was from colleagues, books, journals or yearly pilgrimages to the clinics of great surgeons. Mewburn's epitaph he said was to give your best; to succeed with what you have. “He was straight forward to friend and foe alike and his friendship highly prized”.

At Dr. Mewburn's request, his coffin was wrapped in a Union Jack, carried on a gun carriage flanked by a Mounted Police Guard of Honor followed by a saddled horse with boots reversed and a military band. In his will Mewburn gifted his medical Library including his many journals to the UofA. Along with the Edmonton Academy of Medicine's Library it formed the core of the UofA Medical library.

The UofA awarded him an Honorary Doctorate in 1922, one year after his Alma Mater, McGill. A plaque commemorating Dr. Mewburn as the first full-time Professor of Surgery was placed by the UofA Board of Governors in the entrance hall to the old Medical Building. It acknowledged his “more than forty years with the practice and teaching of medicine in western Canada. A life securely built into the Foundation of this Province”.

A cairn in front of the Galt Hospital in Lethbridge was unveiled in his memory in 1937. It was christened with wild flowers by Chief Shot Both Sides. The Mewburn Pavilion was built at the end of WWII for returning Veterans and named after him in 1945. The Mewburn Gold Medal in Surgery continues to commemorate his pioneering contributions to Surgery in Alberta.

“His was a personality that a student encounters rarely...None...could fail to be influenced by the joyous way that he went into battle for his patient...he was... completely patient — centered. ...He was first, last, and always the doctor.”



Pearl by Nancy Jo Cullen

This book is about Pearl Miller, Calgary's famous Madame. Not much is known about her, therefore Pearl is a work of imagination based on the few details that exist and informed by what is known about the Calgary of her day and Canadian and world history.

Part of Quartet 2006 — The Passionate Edge. Frontenac House.

Launch Thursday April 20, 7 pm at Memorial Park Library, 1221-2nd Street, SW, Calgary, with Pages Books on Kensington as our bookseller.

Monday, April 24, 7 pm at the Edward Day Gallery, 952 Queen St. W., Toronto, with University of Toronto Bookstore as our bookseller

For more information, interviews, bios, photos, review or giveaway copies, please contact Rose Scollard at 403-245-2491 or by email: editor@frontenachouse.com.

For further details be sure to visit our web site:

www.frontenachouse.com

People of the Blood by George Webber

George Webber is a graphic and lyrical poet with his camera. The images in this book from The Blood Native Reserve of southern Alberta, Canada bring us to a place of austere beauty and peace.

—Mary Ellen Mark, photographer

The Blood Reserve (Canada's largest Native reserve) is a land of wind, prairie, mountains, and rivers — a land of dramatic physical beauty. From the spring of 1992 until the late summer of 2005, documentary photographer George Webber journeyed to the reserve from his home in Calgary, Alberta. In the wind-blown setting of communities such as Standoff and Levern, and on the wide-open prairie lands of the reserve, Webber documented his experiences with his camera and his notebook. *People of the Blood* is a photographic journey spanning over a decade, one that put Webber in contact with the strong people of the Blood, their spiritual practices, their hopes, their challenges, wins and losses.

Published by Fifth House - \$34.95. ISBN 1-894856-98-8. Illustrations 90 b&w photographs, 120 pages.

Architecture Town Planning and Community, Selected Writings and Public Talks by Cecil Burgess, 1909-1946, edited by Don G. Wetherell



Books & Websites



This collection of Burgess's public talks and writings offers a unique insight into the social and intellectual dimensions of architecture and town planning during the first half of the twentieth century. Architectural history, the impact of the Arts and Crafts and Modernist movements, the meaning of domestic architecture, and the connection of architecture and town planning to everyday life figure prominently in this collection. A contemporary of Cecil Burgess said that no one in Canada was superior in architectural scholarship. Cecil Burgess was professor of architecture and resident architect at the University of Alberta between 1913 and 1940.

UofA Press Web site
<http://www.uap.ualberta.ca/UAP.asp?LI D=41&bookID=571>

Unsettled Pasts: Reconceiving the West Through Women's History edited by Sarah Carter, Leslie Erickson, Patricia Roome, and Char Smith.

This collection re-examines the West through women's eyes. ISBN 1-55238-177-3. \$44.95 UofC Press web site: www.uofcpress.com

Country Fairs in Canada by Guy Scott.

The exciting history of Canadian country fairs brought to life through hundreds of photographs and illustrations. ISBN 1-55041-121-7. \$34.95. Fitzhenry & Whiteside, email: slesak@fitzhenry.ca

Scientist Names Alberta's First Fossil Spider

Information Bulletin March 13, 2006

A 75 million year old specimen found in Royal Tyrrell Museum collection.

Drumheller. A new species of spider that lived in Alberta 75-million years ago has been discovered and named by visiting scientist Dr. David Penney of the University of Manchester, England. The fossil spider is called *Orchestina albertensis* and was found in the collection of the Royal Tyrrell Museum.

This is the first fossil spider species to be identified based on a specimen from Alberta. The specimen was collected in the late 1970s and stored in the collections of the Royal Tyrrell Museum, where Dr. Penney first examined it during a visit in 2003.

The fossil is approximately 1 mm in length. The specimen is preserved in three dimensions in a piece of amber from Grassy Lake near Lethbridge. In order to study the fossil, a piece of amber was embedded in clear plastic and then cut and polished so it could be examined through a microscope.

The new fossil species belongs to the Oonopidae family, which contains about 450 living species of small-bodied, fast-moving and nocturnal hunters. This is the first record of the family Oonopidae in Canada. Fossils of this family have also been found in New York, the Dominican Republic, Africa, Asia and Europe. No living species of this family are found in Canada, with the closest occurrences in the southern and eastern USA.

The Order Araneae, or spiders, contains approximately 40,000 living species. Spiders have a lengthy fossil record dating back 390 million years to the Middle Devonian, before the appearance of the first amphibians.

Operated by Alberta Community Development, the Royal Tyrrell Museum near Drumheller is the only Canadian institution devoted to the study of ancient life.

Penney's description of *Orchestina albertensis* was published in the January 2006 issue of the scientific journal *Palaeontology*.

Enquires may be directed to:

Wendy Taylor, Information Officer,
Royal Tyrrell Museum, 403-823-7707

email: wendy.taylor@gov.ab.ca

To view this document online and/or additional information/background, go to:

<http://www.gov.ab.ca/acn/200603/19575F4D75B73-EC AF-87F6-F5724A6F6EA09D92.html>

An Ideal Book for History and Military Buffs!



\$69.95
ea.

CENTURY OF SERVICE

The Perfect Gift for Dads,
Grandpas and Uncles.



The story of Alberta's senior militia regiment, which was created in Calgary and is garrisoned in Edmonton and Medicine Hat. Over 100 years of history, which parallels the incredible history of the Province of Alberta. Published to mark the centennial of the South Alberta Light Horse and of Alberta in 2005. Written by Donald E. Graves, one of Canada's most distinguished historians. Hardcover, 480 pages with over 400 illustrations and maps.

Available at Bookstores Everywhere!

OR Order directly from

The South Alberta Light Horse Regiment Foundation

Toll Free 1-866-432-7254 or www.salh.net or by Fax (780) 425-4486

Published by Robin Brass Studio Inc. ISBN 1-896941-43-5

**2006 H.S.A. Conference and
Annual General Meeting
– May 26-28, 2006**

Marion Snowden and her Conference Organizing Committee are working hard to put on an interesting and exciting conference in Lethbridge. It is Lethbridge's 100th year as a "city" and consequently the theme "Our Centennial Roots" was the obvious choice. You won't want to miss the *Vittles and Cheers* on Friday night at the newly renovated Galt Museum. LHS will be launching its latest book tentatively entitled *Five Celebrated Early Surgeons of Southern Alberta 1874-1913* by Dr. Robert Lampard of the Central Alberta Historical Society. This is a joint effort of Dr. Lampard and the LHS. The five early surgeons described in this book are Dr. R.B. Nevitt, Dr. G. A. Kennedy, Dr. L.G. deVeber, Dr. F.H. Mewburn, Dr. G.H. Malcolmson.

There are two bus tours to choose from so please come and join us for the weekend.

Publications

As noted above, we are launching Dr. Bob Lampard's book this May but we will also be launching, upon approval of the LHS membership, another publication by Garry Allison. This latest book is entitled *The Prairie Boys*. In this book he interviews Lethbridge and area servicemen and women who served our country in the military during past wars.

New Office Space

The Galt Museum is preparing to reopen its doors on May 6, 2006. The H.S.A. Conference is the first booking

scheduled for the newly opened facility. LHS is currently organizing a move into our new office and storage space at the Galt. We are currently negotiating a Memorandum of Agreement with the Galt for that space and for reciprocal services. It is an exciting time for both the Galt and our chapter.

Programming

At our January General Meeting we were privileged to hear Dr. Barbara Lacey, City Alderman and former Medical Officer of Health, speak about epidemics and how they affected history.

In February, one blustery evening, we held our Annual Banquet and Awards Night. Our speaker was Ruth (Many Grey Horses) Provost who is a researcher at the University of Lethbridge,

Department of Native American Studies. She talked about the culture of the Blackfoot Nation and touched at little on the research she is doing with native peoples.

Our Alex Johnston Award of Merit was presented to **Bill Lingard**, a Councillor and Past President for LHS, as well as an author and researcher. He and Irma Dogterom collaborated on our latest publication *The Butcher, The Baker, The Candy Maker, A Guide to the First Fifty Years of Commerce in Lethbridge*. Well done Bill.

Please Join Us To Celebrate

**OUR CENTENNIAL ROOTS
LETHBRIDGE 1906 – 2006**

The 2006 Conference and
Annual General Meeting of the
Historical Society of Alberta
At The Galt Museum
and

The Lethbridge Lodge Hotel
May 26th, 27th & 28th

**Hosted by
The Lethbridge Historical Society**

For information contact
Marion Snowden
403-327-2662

by **Don Hepburn**

Write to

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

The Central Chapter is enjoying another busy season, with a full series of monthly speaker programs, an active publishing program and several other major projects. Our board of directors includes members from Rocky Mountain House, Rimbey, Lacombe, Sylvan Lake and Stettler as well as Red Deer, so we feel that we are very much a "Central Alberta" chapter.

The monthly program under the imaginative direction of Shirley Dye continues to attract about 50 to 60 people to each meeting. The December meeting was a dinner meeting, as has become our custom, but this year with a difference. It was a "homestead Christmas dinner". One couple at each table of eight served as hosts, making sure that their "guests" were well supplied with platters of meat and bowls of steaming vegetables, all food that would have been available in our area a hundred years ago. A kerosene lamp provided warm and cozy light for each table.. Entertainment was appropriate to the period as well, and included several selections played on an ancient Edison cylinder phonograph. We took the occasion to award our annual volunteer service medallion to Faye Hughes.

The Publications Committee has two works in progress and several others under consideration. *What Lies Behind the Picture* by Vern Wishart of Edmonton is about ready to go to the printers. Several years ago Vern and his sister Shirley discovered quite by accident that there is Indian blood in their family background, until then a closely guarded secret. A decade of extensive research has revealed a family history rich with connections to the fur trade back as far as

Isaac Batt in the mid-1700s, and also rich in detail about the Cree members of the family.

The Red Deer connection is that Vern's grandparents, James and Eliza Wishart, moved from Manitoba to Red Deer Crossing in the depths of a very cold winter, January of 1885, planning to settle here. But that was the year of the Rebellion, and unsettled times for people of mixed blood. When the troubles had subsided the Wisharts moved on to the Rosebud area, where they became that district's first homesteaders. Wishart Street in Red Deer and the Wishart Trail in Gaetz Lake Sanctuary are reminders of their brief presence here.

More than just a family history, the book will be of interest to many people as they become increasingly aware of their own, formerly hidden aboriginal roots. As Edmonton author Linda Goyette says in her foreword to the book, these are people who "are searching for personal identity and meaning, for new understanding in divided communities, and for the satisfying story behind a blurry and confusing picture. Vern Wishart captures the essence of that quest in his writing." We are looking forward to a spring launch.

Planning for Historic Red Deer Week/Doors Open 2006 is well under way. Sheryl Krill, who did such a wonderful job of coordinating last year's HRD Week, has been engaged as coordinator once again, and is busy registering events, organizing a schedule, and developing a sponsorship base in the community. You can check out the details on the website at www.historicreddeerweek.com. The Week will run from May 6 to 13. Once again it will

begin with the Regional Historical Heritage School Fair and continue for seven event-packed days. This year we are reaching out to include people and events in the surrounding area. A number of the events also qualify as Doors Open events, and this will give us access to advertising that goes beyond the immediate Red Deer area.

Finally, we are making plans for yet another June historical bus tour. This year it will be The Metis Discovery Tour, designed to give participants an expanded view of the many ways in which Metis people have been involved in the development of our province. It will run from 6 to 9, and will tour the area north and east of Edmonton. We will visit fur trade sites such as Fort George/Buckingham House and Fort Assiniboine, and early Metis farming settlements such as Victoria Mission, Laboucaine, and Lac la Biche. We will visit one of the several Metis settlements established in Alberta to provide a land base for the Metis. We will spend time around Lesser Slave Lake, St. Alberta and Edmonton, visit a wheelwright who makes Red River Carts, and visit the headquarters of the Metis Nation of Alberta to get a better understanding of modern developments there. And we hope to include a visit to the Dreamspeaker Festival going on in Edmonton at that time. Participation is open to anyone, not just residents of Red Deer.

Please contact donalddh@shaw.ca for more information.

Edmonton & District Historical Society

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

Bradley McDonald, President, EDHS

Winter has arrived a bit late here in Edmonton! Even though the weather may be encouraging us to go out and practice for the next Olympics in Vancouver, we are starting to think about our spring and summer events.

In July 2006, we celebrate our 10th Historic Week Festival. An expanded slate of events is anticipated in this milestone anniversary year. We also look forward to the HSA conference in Lethbridge and contemplating possible routes for a 2006 bus tour.

Our 2005/ 2006 Speaker's Series has been quite successful. In January, Dr.

Frances Swyripa presented a history of the development and cultural relevance of Edmonton's traditional main street, Jasper Avenue. February's speaker was Junetta Jamerson of the Black Pioneer Descendants Society. She spoke about the migration and settlement of black pioneers in Alberta and the challenges of preserving their stories and culture.

If you're in the area, please join us in March as Keith Davidson discusses leisure and recreation in that almost forgotten era before broadcast entertainment such as Radio, TV, and the Internet. And, as we (hopefully!) get into spring, join us at John Rowand

Night for Kathryn Merrett's timely presentation on early gardening in Edmonton.

In addition to arranging our Speaker's Series, members of our Board have been busy collecting diaries for publication, traveling the province to help other communities initiate historic celebrations, and working to preserve what may be Alberta's oldest farmhouse at the site of the John Norris ranch. 2006 promises to be a busy year!

Chinook Country Historical Society

Write to
311, 223 12 Avenue SW
Calgary, AB. T2R 0G9

by Diana Ringstrom, Past President

The Chinook Country Historical Society is winding down another year of programs.

The two remaining programs will be Tuesday, April 25, "Unmentionable History of the West" with Nancy Millar, and Tuesday, May 3, "Preserving the Pioneer Homestead" presented by Suzanne De Poli.

Nancy Millar will be speaking on the important role underwear played in the building of the 'west'.

Suzanne De Poli will be talking on the preservation and carrying on the traditions of the Buffalo Head Ranch built by George Pocaterra in 1905.

Historic Calgary Week will take place from July 28 to August 6 this year. Our theme for this year is "City of Treasures: Calgary's Historic Gems." The HCW committee has been working full tilt again

this year to bring together a number of venues that will be of interest to Calgarians.

To finish off our fiscal year, the CCHS Annual General Meeting will be held on March 21 at the Calgary Zoo.

Alex Graham, President and CEO of the Calgary Zoo will be giving us a history of the Zoo. It will bring back memories for me and for many people in the audience who can remember as a child when it was an all day outing. My mother would pack a lunch for the family,

and we would travel by streetcar for a day at the zoo. After a long day, our last act, and one of the highlights of our trip, was to climb "Dinny the Dinosaur" before heading home. A much simpler time and a treat denied the children of today.

Historic Calgary Week 2006
Friday, July 28
to Sunday, August 6
City of Treasures: Calgary's Historic Gems

Come and enjoy the treasure filled days discovering some of Calgary's greatest gems. We will feature walks, talks and gawks of many different communities, buildings, attractions and people from Calgary's history, so stay tuned for more information.

HSA Calendar of Events – 2006

- Apr 20** CAHS "Canadienne-francaise de l'Alberta", 7:30 pm. Red Deer and District Museum
- Apr 25** CCHS "Unmentionable History of the West" 7:30 pm at Fort Calgary, 750 9 Ave. SE
- Apr 25** EDHS John Rowand Night and AGM, "Historical Gardens", 6 pm. Faculty Club, UofA
- May 6-13** CAHS Historic Week
- May 18** CAHS "Ten Grandmothers", 7:30 pm. Red Deer and District Museum
- May 23** CCHS "Preserving the Pioneer Homestead" 7:30 pm at Ft Calgary, 750 9 Ave. SE
- May 26-28** LHS Our Centennial Roots, Lethbridge 1906-2006 Conference and HSA AGM.
- Jul 28-Aug 6** CCHS Historic Week "City of Treasures: Calgary's Historic Gems"



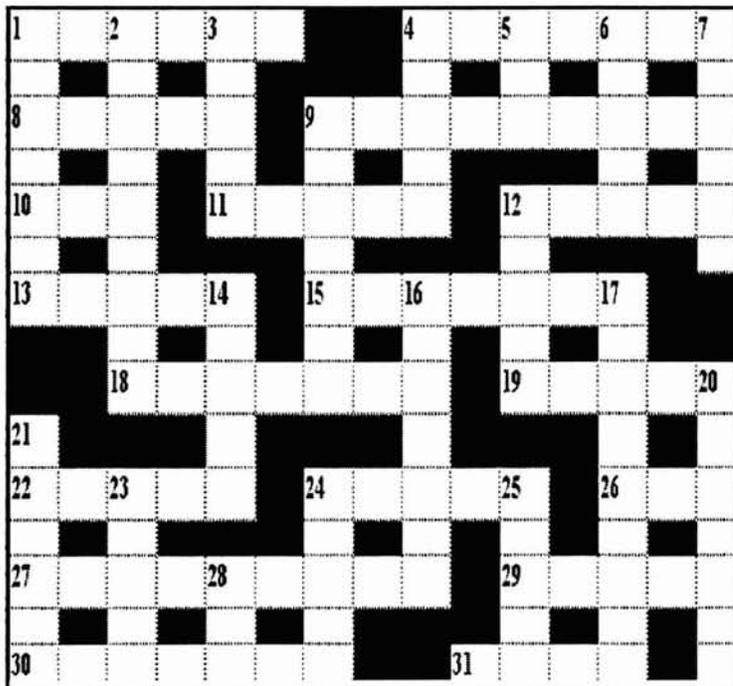
HSA Crossword

This crossword puzzle devised by Jennifer Prest

Answers to last newsletter crossword:

Across: 1. Murphy, 4. Haultain, 9. Noble, 10. Lancaster, 11. Inn, 12. Sauce, 13. Ennui, 14. Glenn, 16. Imposed, 19. Tapered, 20. Nisku, 23. Opens, 25. Ellis, 27. Oui, 28. Signified, 30. Enero, 31. Rough, 32. Leeson.

Down: 1. Manning, 2. R.B. Bennett, 3. Heels, 5. Arnie, 6. Lea, 7. Acton, 8. Normie, 10. Laurier, 13. Edson, 15. Napes, 17. Peddled, 18. Discovers, 21. Unicom, 22. Fossil, 24. Eiger, 25. Edith, 26. Sieze, 29. IOU.



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. A hamlet approx. 30 km ESE of Medicine Hat, named for NWMP Commissioner, 1880-86
4. Jim —, buffalo hunter and Edmonton pioneer
8. These were traded by the Indians for goods at 26 across
9. — rebellion of 1885
10. — cubes, used from the making of beef stews and gravy
11. To join, bring together
12. It burned brightly during the Calgary Olympic Games in 1988
13. — J. Chamberlain, VP and general manager of the Grand Trunk Pacific Rwy
15. A village northeast of Medicine Hat, named to honour Queen Victoria's Indian title
18. A hamlet on Hwy 11 155 km NW of Red Deer, once a mining community
19. Bill and Dora —, who are reputed to have named Drayton Valley
22. The Bar U —, National Park
24. Jim —, asst. driller, Dingman #1 well; or Don —, Edmonton Journal columnist
26. A venerable company, an important factor in the history of W Canada?
27. Eruptive mountains
29. A large Asian state
30. A well-known Calgary historian, Harry —
31. TV sports network

Down

1. To bring down, destroy, as in the case of the Calgary General Hospital
2. Secretary to the H.S.A. in 2002 (2 wds.)
3. Hamlet on Hwy 2, 8 km. N of Leduc, named by Stanislaus Samecki, a Pole
4. Ft. —, a historical site in Manitoba; also an early Calgary theatre
5. "— Humbug!" said Mr. Scrooge
6. A drama set to music?
7. Coach of the Calgary Flames
9. A state of innocence
12. A meadow, used for sports?
14. The — West Assembly was responsible for the administration of Alberta before 1905
16. These birds are frequently found in cities; some call them rock doves
17. Head — Buffalo Jump, west of Lethbridge
20. To inspire awe, mystify
21. Jeremiah —, a federal judge who kicked out the Whisky Ring in Calgary
23. Paddy —, a flamboyant Calgary lawyer; a contemporary of 21 across
24. Warnings or channel markers
25. Talons, or tacks
28. To mature: or a period as in "the — of Aquarius"