

Time Lines

The Manitoba Historical Society Newsletter

Vol. 43 No. 4
May / June 2011



MHS Annual General Meeting

Saturday, 4 June, 10:30 AM

Dalnavert Museum Visitors' Centre (61 Carlton Street, Winnipeg)

The MHS Annual General Meeting begins at 10:30 AM. At the conclusion of the business portion of the meeting, there will be a light lunch served buffet style in the Visitors' Centre, with salads, wraps and sandwiches, dessert and coffee.

After the meal, recipients of the 2010 McWilliams Awards and MHS Centennial Organization Awards will be presented. Then, MHS webmaster Gordon Goldsborough will give a presentation on our "Historic Sites of Manitoba" project.

Many of Manitoba's historic sites—monuments, buildings, cemeteries, museums, trails, and others—languish in obscurity because their locations in out-of-the-way places are known only to a few people. In 2010, the MHS started a multi-year project to map, using Global Positioning System (GPS) technology, as many as possible of these sites.

So far, over 2,000 sites have been captured on an interactive map on our web site (www.mhs.mb.ca/

docs/sites). The presentation will show how information is collected for the map, illustrated with some noteworthy sites mapped during the past year.

All MHS members are encouraged to attend our AGM as we review the past year. This is your opportunity to discuss the present and future state of the Society. We need your participation!

Please confirm attendance by 1 June through the MHS office at 204-947-0559. Meal cost is \$20 per person. Payment must be made in advance by cheque, Visa or Mastercard.



MHS webmaster
Gordon Goldsborough
will speak at the AGM



The pins on this map of southern Manitoba denote sites located during the first phase of the MHS mapping project started in 2010, that will be discussed by Gordon Goldsborough during his presentation at the AGM on 4 June.



MHS President
Dr. Harry Duckworth

President's Message

This is my last column for *Time Lines* as President of the Society. I came on to the Executive, as Second Vice-President, in 2004, became First Vice-President in 2006, and assumed the Presidency in 2008. So it has been seven years. I will not try to summarize everything that has happened over all

this time, but there has been a lot. When I started, the Society offices were still in rented space on McDermot Avenue, and the Society and the Dalnavert Museum were operating as almost separate entities, with little communication between the offices. Now Jackie Friesen, our Chief Administrative Officer, has an office next door to Jennifer Bisch, our Chief Program Officer and Curator, Dalnavert Museum, and the two of them are sharing facilities and ideas and helping one another on a routine basis. Many new things may now be attempted, and during this past year, we have already seen the first fruits of the new arrangements. Facilitating this highly desirable situation, and redefining the management structure of the Society business and Dalnavert to maximize the use of our resources, are achievements from which I take much satisfaction.

We now have the results of the Society's newest initiative, the establishment of the Lieutenant Governor's Awards for Historical Preservation and Promotion. At the closing date, 31 March, we had twenty nominations, most of them excellent, and from these five individuals were selected. I am grateful to Bill Fraser, Gordon Goldsborough, James Kostuchuk, Jock Lehr and Annabelle Mays for serving on the selection committee. All the awardees may be described as "amateurs" in the best sense of the word – persons who, over many years, have been leaders in identifying, explaining and preserving the stuff of history in their own communities. The names of these winners appear in a list elsewhere in this issue of *Time Lines*. This first set of awards will be presented in a ceremony at Government House on Tuesday, 17 May.

One activity where I will continue to take the lead is in preparing the Society's contributions to the Bicentenary of the arrival of the first party of Selkirk Settlers, in 2012. The Executive appointed me as Chair of the committee for this purpose, and Maureen Dolyniuk (Keeper, Hudson's Bay Company Archives), Tom Ford (member, MHS Council) and Gerry Friesen (Professor of History, University of Manitoba) are the other members. Our plans are now firming up very quickly, and exact dates for events should be available within a couple of months. We are planning two kinds of events – an exhibition, and a pair of conferences or symposia. The exhibition, to be mounted at the Manitoba Museum and to run from approximately the beginning of May to the end of October 2012, will be devoted to the early history of the Red River Settlement and the people who lived around the Forks of the Red and the Assiniboine. Featured prominently in this exhibit will be certain key documents in the care of the Hudson's Bay Company Archives, in particular the original Selkirk Deed, by which Lord Selkirk acquired title to Assiniboia. This document bears the signatures of several First Nations leaders, notably the famous Chief Peguis.

The first of the two conferences will be a one-day academic-style conference, free to the public, with a working title "The Selkirk Settlement Revisited." Professor Friesen has agreed to organize the program for this event, which will take place in spring 2012, in collaboration with the biannual Colloquium of the Centre for Rupert's Land Studies. The second conference, also free, with a working title "The Immigrant Experience in Manitoba", is still only a gleam in the eye, but it is intended to involve representatives of the so-called "ethnic" groups in Manitoba, both long-established and newly arrived. The purpose of this second conference is to make clear that the Selkirk Settlers were only the first arrivals here, after the First Nations peoples themselves, and to explore the idea that all immigrants to Manitoba have had something of a common experience.

Another initiative that I plan to continue with is a new era of cooperation with our sister organization in Winnipeg, Heritage Winnipeg. While the two organizations concentrate on different kinds of things, we have much in common, and there are issues and causes where we two, working together, will probably have more of an impact than either organization working alone. Currently on the docket is the need to get the Winnipeg Airport Terminal, a

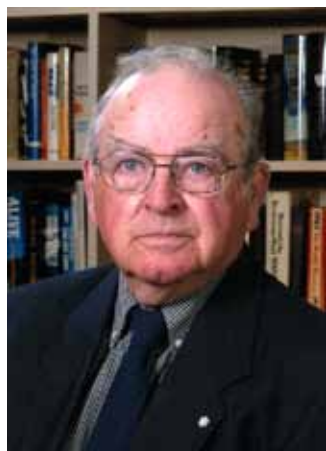
great example of Modernist architecture, recognized as a heritage building. The Terminal, opened in 1963, was built to a high standard, at a time when a new sense of pride was emerging in Canada – our own Canadian flag had just been adopted, and we were already looking forward to the thrilling year of 1967, with all that was achieved then. In spite of updates in the 1980s, the building remains much as it was, it is clearly still useful and it is a valued souvenir of a critical decade in Canadian history.

The Manitoba Historical Society and Heritage Winnipeg also plan to collaborate in influencing the writing of the new Historic Buildings By-law for the City of Winnipeg, which, with the receipt of the Luxton consultant's report that I have mentioned previously, will soon come under active consideration.

The Manitoba Historical Society still has many questions to answer, about all its activities, how they are to be sustained and where we should place our priorities for the future. As immediate Past-President, I will do my best to help, but one individual has only so many new ideas, and only so much energy to drive improvements and other changes. It is time for me to hand the major responsibility over to others. My experience has been a most gratifying one, and everything I have learned about the Society, its activities, its volunteers and its members has increased my respect for them. We occupy a position of central importance in the province. Interest in history is deep within all people, even if they are unaware of it. It will always be the job of the Manitoba Historical Society to help people to find this interest in themselves, and to nurture it.

Harry Duckworth

Obituary



Well-known prairie journalist and popular historian **Fred McGuinness** died in Brandon on 22 March. He was born in Brandon in 1921. He joined the Royal Canadian Navy in the Second World War. A serious injury ended his wartime service and he studied in Winnipeg at St. Paul's College, United College

and the University of Manitoba. He began his newspaper career as editor and publisher of the *Medicine Hat News*. In 1966, he transferred to the *Brandon Sun* where he spent the next 30 years as writer, editor and vice president. In addition to writing and administration at the Sun, he was writer-commentator on the weekly CBC "Neighbourly News from the Prairies" for 20 years. McGuinness was also a regular correspondent for the radio program "Morningside" He was the editor or co-editor of a dozen books on social history and he wrote feature articles for the *Readers Digest*. For three years, he was executive director of the Saskatchewan Golden Jubilee and in 1967 was a director of the Canadian Centennial Commission. MHS was honoured to have him give the address at the MHS annual dinner in 1980.



Lieutenant Governor's Awards for Historical Preservation & Promotion

Here are the names of the first group of winners of the Lieutenant Governor's Awards for Historical Preservation and Promotion. These new awards were devised by the Manitoba Historical Society, and the Honourable Philip Lee, our patron, has graciously agreed that the awards shall bear his name. He will present the awards, which consist of a medal and a certificate, at a ceremony at Government House on 17 May. (Attendance at the ceremony is by invitation only.)

1. Margaret Ashcroft, Birtle
2. Rudy Friesen, St François Xavier
3. Les Green, Portage la Prairie
4. Mary McCallum, Boissevain
5. Len Van Roon, Charleswood

These awards will continue to be offered each year. The next call for nominations will be made during the winter of 2011–2012, with a closing date to be announced later.

MHS German Event

The MHS German event was held at the German Society of Winnipeg building at 285 Flora Avenue on Tuesday, 19 April. There were words of welcome from Heinz Petsch, president of the German Society of Winnipeg and Dr. Harry Duckworth, MHS president and master of ceremonies. The German Society Brass Band, the Truer Husar Dance Group and the Bavarian Yodel Quartet provided entertainment. After a delicious authentic German dinner, we heard Dr. Hans Werner's address on "Everyday Germans: the Multiplicity of Manitoba's German Community." The speaker was introduced by MHS First Vice President Dr. Annabelle Mays and thanked by MHS program chair Carl James. A large crowd attended.



Bavarian Yodel Quartet.

P. Forsythe



Heinz Petsch, president of the German Society of Winnipeg speaks in front of the German Society Brass Band.

W. Fraser

Sessional Journal of the 1870 Legislative Council of Assiniboia Now Online

In March 1870, a group of Francophone and Anglophone residents of the Red River Settlement met, with Louis Riel as President, to discuss the needs of the community. Called the Legislative Council of Assiniboia, the group appointed William Coldwell to keep a journal of its proceedings, which ran from 9 March to 24 June. With the arrival of the Wolseley Expedition in mid-1870, Riel and his provisional government dispersed, and another government was eventually established under Lieutenant Governor A. G. Archibald.

In 1939, the Sessional Journal of the short-lived Legislative Council was purchased by the Legislative Library of Manitoba, along with copies of *The New Nation* newspaper, from one of Coldwell's relatives. The Archives of Manitoba has transcribed its contents and is now making them available on their web site. A feature on the journal is also contained in the Winter 2011 issue of *Manitoba History*.

Dalnavert Museum

Children's Program Continues: The Treasure Hunt that Dalnavert offered over Spring Break was a fun program, so we are planning to continue the fun! Every Saturday in May and June, Dalnavert Museum will be offering the Treasure Hunt program for families, suitable for ages 4 and up. Visitors will go on a treasure hunt throughout the house, looking for artefacts from long ago. After hunting through the museum, visitors will have the chance to make their own Victorian toys to take home! This program is offered on a drop-in basis, so no pre-registration is required. Program included with regular admission. Adult supervision is required. For more information, contact the Manitoba Historical Society Dalnavert Museum at 204-943-2835 or bookings@mhs.mb.ca

Watercolour Workshop: On Saturday, 28 May, 1:00-4:30 pm Dalnavert will host "Fun with Garden Flowers," a watercolour workshop with Sylvia Russell. Learn to paint flowers using this beautifully free style, focusing on colour and simplicity. \$45 (includes all supplies). (Beginner Level).

In recognition of Manitoba Day on 12 May, Dalnavert will be offering 2-for-1 admission!

Guided tours are offered daily. Adults \$5, seniors \$4, youths (5-17) \$3, family \$12, children <5 free. Wed-Fri 11 am-4 pm, Sat 11 am-6 pm, Sun 12 pm-4 pm

Participants Needed for History Project on Manitoba's Chinese Community

The Winnipeg Chinese Cultural and Community Centre has joined a \$1.2 million Chinese Canadian Historical Recognition project led by the University of British Columbia. Dr. Alison Marshall (Brandon University) and Dr. Tina Chen (University of Manitoba) will be the project managers for the Centre and the Chinese Canadian Manitoba research program to document Winnipeg's Chinese history and make it accessible in a Canada-wide collection. Chen and Marshall hope to document Head Tax and other immigration experiences and the important history of the Winnipeg Chinese Community.

Male and female English-, Cantonese-, Toisanese- and Mandarin-speaking research participants who came to Canada before 1965 are required. The researchers aim to gather life stories, photographs and documents about Head Tax and other immigration experiences of Chinese Canadians who made Manitoba home. Descendants of Chinese immigrants who had direct experience of the Head Tax who have relevant materials are also welcome to contact the researchers. Material collected will be placed on a national bilingual web site (<http://chinesecanadian.ubc.ca>). Research participants will be paid \$25 once all consent and copyright forms have been signed and the material has been uploaded to the UBC site. For more information, please contact: manitobachinesestories@gmail.com

Heritage News

A Victoria Park 1919 Cabaret will take place at Ukrainian Labour Temple, Pritchard at McGregor on: Thursday, 19 May 2011, 7:00 pm. Step back into early Winnipeg and join us for 1900s style variety show and buffet dinner, sponsored by Friends of Victoria Park (www.victoriapark1919.ca). This event kicks off the countdown to the 100th anniversary of the Winnipeg General Strike in 2019. Funds raised go toward creating a heritage site to commemorate Victoria Park, the Winnipeg General Strike, early immigrant labourers and hard-won workers rights. Performers will include musicians Dan Frechette, Emma Cloney, What's Left, and Three Blind Mice; comedian Paul Rabliauskas, and magician Joe Kaufert. Tickets are \$28, available from Glenn Michalchuk (204-479-7026), Sandra Gessler (204-770-9298), Workers Organizing Resource Centre (204-

947-2220), Winnipeg Labour Council (204-942-0522) and Mondragon (91 Albert Street).

Heritage Winnipeg will hold **Doors Open 2011** on 28th and 29th May. Visit some of the historic buildings that Winnipeg has to offer and learn of their histories and many stories each building holds. Contact Heritage Winnipeg in May for more information.

Pembina Valley Online reports that **Winkler** city council has given first and second reading to a by-law to designate the old post office building at the corner of Mountain Avenue and 6th Street as a municipal heritage site. After the bylaw is passed locally, the Province will give final approval making the designation official. After the designation, the building cannot be destroyed or substantially modified without approval of the designating authority.

The *Winnipeg Free Press* reports that Manitoba government archaeologists believe they have discovered **David Thompson's missing trading post** in northern Manitoba. Thompson at 22 years of age built his first HBC fur trade post in 1792 at Sipiwesk Lake on the Nelson River north of Cross Lake. Last summer a Manitoba Hydro crew discovered two piles of rocks that were exposed by a small forest fire. Manitoba government archaeologists believe the rock piles were the remains of chimneys from two log cabins that were at Thompson's trading post. A crew of Cross Lake First Nation students, led by provincial archaeologist Perry Blomquist, within a day and a half easily found 1,400 artefacts. These included brass wire, clay pipe fragments, a knife blade, an axehead, beads, broken glass from kerosene-lamp flutes and a tinderbox. A careful digging for more artefacts will begin in June 2011.

On 23 June, **St. Francois Xavier Historical Society** will hold a field trip to southeastern Manitoba. The trip will include visits to the Ukrainian settlements of Rosa, Tolstoi, Garden, Vita, Sirko and Sundown. The tour guide will be Professor John Lehr of the University of Winnipeg. There will be morning refreshments and an ethnic lunch and supper in Steinbach. The cost is \$90 per person. The bus leaves Winnipeg at 7:15 am and St. Francois Xavier at 7:45 am. To reserve your seat contact Ed Owchar at 204-864-2304.

A group has been formed to gather information on the history of **Wolflea School** north of Souris, in the Rural Municipality of Glenwood. The school

operated from 1890 to 1944. A historical marker on the site of the school was unveiled in 1996. The group is looking for memorabilia, more information, and pictures to include in a history of the school. Please send information to Wolflea History, Box 251, Souris R0K 2C0

The completion of the **Quarry Heritage Arts Centre in Stonewall** will be delayed about four weeks because of water damage in the lower and upper levels when a pipe burst during a test of the sprinkler system. Drywall, flooring ceiling and some electrical equipment will be replaced and some repainting will be required. The interpretive centre is now expected to open on 1 July.

Virden's Auditorium Theatre will be one hundred years old on 29 February 2012. The auditorium opened in 1912 as a 500-seat opera house. Several commemorative events are being considered for the centennial year. One planned event is a fashion show with costumes from the Costume Closet. The *Virden Empire Advance* reports that Aud Theatre board would like public input as they plan for the centennial celebrations.

The Winkler Heritage Society passed a motion to create the new **Winkler Heritage Museum** at its meeting in March. It will open in its temporary location of 752 square feet in the Southland Mall in August 2011. The *Winkler Times* states that the need for a Winkler museum has been felt for a long time. A core of exhibits will be on permanent display. Other exhibits will change in different seasons of the year. People are encouraged to donate or loan relevant artefacts, newspaper clippings, photos and documents to the museum. Financial contributions to the Winkler Heritage Society for the museum project are welcome and tax-deductable receipts will be issued.

In 2010, the Russell and Area Heritage and Arts History Book Committee published its first volume of the *Russell and Area History Book*. This volume focused on the lives of families. A second volume is in preparation. It will concentrate on the history of businesses, churches and organizations. A New Horizons grant of over \$16,000 will help pay production costs with a publication deadline of 1 September. To meet this deadline the book needs to be finished and sent to print by mid June. The deadline for submitting material is 1 May. Submission for the second volume may be sent to committee's website, russellhistory@gmail.com

The **Prairie Mountain Regional Museum**, adjacent to Highway 16 between Shoal Lake and Strathclair, highlights rural life and the importance of horse drawn vehicles along the Fort Ellice Trail and throughout the Prairie Mountain Region of southwestern Manitoba from 1870 to 1940. Last year, volunteers installed siding, soffit and fascia on the main wood framed museum building, known as the Clegg Building. *Crossroads*, the local weekly journal, reports that plumbing, heating and electrical work must be done at a cost of about \$114,423 but only \$77,200 has been set aside. Fundraising for the project is ongoing. An additional \$121,215 will be required to complete with volunteer labour the fourth stage of the project. The museum will house the Clegg Carriage collection, which was initiated by Rollie and Gladys Clegg of Arrow River in 1975. The collection of antique horse drawn vehicles is recognized in Manitoba and throughout Canada. This is a collection of over 90 fully restored horse drawn vehicles including a First World War ambulance, summer and winter hearse, stagecoach, surrey with a fringe, sleighs and cutters, and many more. Expansion of the existing heritage village is planned. One of the most popular buildings is the Olha School. This year the Menzie Orthodox Church will be moved to the PMRM. The PMRM Board hopes that the regional museum will become "a hub of tourism and cultural activities" in the region. For more information visit www.shoallake.ca/prairiemountain To view photos of the Clegg collection visit www.virtualmuseum.ca and search "A Prairie Mountain Promenade."



W. Fraser

Tache Hall at the University of Manitoba will soon be undergoing major renovations, eventually becoming home to the Faculty of Music and School of Art.

The history of the town of **Shoal Lake** comes alive on a website created by Shoal Lake resident and writer Reid Dickie. The site has 77 stories and feature articles and over 100 photographs. The *Crossroads* weekly newspaper reports that Dickie welcomes others to add new and fresh material. Described as “a virtual Shoal Lake Historical Society”, Dickie hopes that people from Oakburn and Kellogg will also submit material on their communities for the site.

The **Brandon Research Centre** will celebrate its 125th anniversary on 11 August. There will be an open house from 1:00 to 5:00 PM. The centre was one of the original five experimental farms set up by the federal government in 1886. Today it has 17 research scientists and a total staff of 77.

RM of Cartier is planning a history book for the municipality’s centennial celebrations in 2014. A previous 858 page history, *Treasures of Time; The Rural Municipality of Cartier 1914–1984* was originally published in 1989. Volume 2 will be basically a continuation through the next 25 years, possibly with the inclusion of any notable omissions from Volume 1. People interested in helping with the production of this book are asked to contact the municipal office.

At the Royal Manitoba Winter Fair in **Brandon** Premier Greg Selinger announced a \$450,000 grant for the refurbishment and renovation of the Dominion Exhibition Display Building II, an historic dome building. Selinger said, “This building is a cultural treasure that holds historical significance to Manitoba’s agricultural heritage” Provincial Exhibition President Neil Thomson said that the grant will enable completion of phase 1 of the renovation project and to work on the exterior and interior projects planned for phase 2.

The huge Taché Hall residence building at the **University of Manitoba** Fort Garry Campus has closed after one hundred years of operation. An open house was scheduled for 6 and 7 May to provide the last chance to see the old residence. The building will be renovated and will be transformed over the next few years into the new and magnificent home for the Marcel A. Desautels Faculty of Music and the School of Art. Students will move into the brand new Pembina Hall Residence in the fall of 2011.

On Saturday, 11 June 2011 at Grant’s Old Mill, 1 pm, 2777 Portage Ave. there will be a special unveiling ceremony of the new Cuthbert Grant historical painting commissioned by famous visual artist Jill



Grant’s Old Mill at 2777 Portage Avenue.

W. Fraser

Sellers. This will be the second only known painting of Cuthbert Grant Jr., the first leader of the Manitoba Métis people. Coffee and bannock will be served. The media, special guests and many of Cuthbert Grant’s descendants will attend. Everyone is welcome. If you have any questions please contact Sandra Horyski, Cuthbert Grant descendant and board member of the St. James Assiniboia Pioneer Association at shoryski@shaw.ca www.cuthbertgrant.ca

Congratulations to Monique Olivier who received the Aspiring Youth Award from Manitoba Travel. The award is presented annually to someone under 30 years of age for contributing to the Manitoba tourist industry. Olivier, currently site director of Riel House, has held positions in historical interpretation for more than a decade. She has brought history to life at Festival de Voyageur, Riding Mountain National Park, the Manitoba Museum, Lower Fort Garry, and the Forks. In an article in the *Lance canstar* community news writer Ariel Godbout notes that Olivier’s goal is to make history more interesting and more dynamic. In her position at Riel House she implements some of her ideas in programs for young people. Currently she is working on a program where students will examine political cartoons of the Riel era to develop a greater depth of understanding when they become aware of Riel and other figures as they were seen by others.

Canada Day at Ross House

Ross House Museum opens for the summer on 1 June. The annual Canada Day celebrations take place on 1 July.

Volunteers Wanted

The Society is seeking a number of volunteers to provide support and assistance for museum and general operations with a variety of tasks including providing guided tours, assisting with programming, special events, venue rentals, gift shop operations, and reception and clerical assistance. Please call 204-943-2835 or 204-947-0559 or email info@mhs.mb.ca or dalnavert@mhs.mb.ca

Save Our Jail

In an article in the *Winnipeg Free Press*, writer Catherine Mitchell has expressed concern that the Vaughan Street Jail building (444 York Avenue) constructed in 1881 is now in "rotting disrepair." It is probably Winnipeg's oldest public building. The Manitoba government has announced no plans to save it. It has housed notorious criminals, demonstrators in the 1919 General Strike and children as young as five years of age. It was the site of the last public hanging in Winnipeg. It was a popular attraction for Heritage Winnipeg's Doors Open tours until it was closed to the public for safety reasons four years ago.

"With cables bracing some walls, holes poking an upper floor where pipes once ran and second storey windows boarded up," Mitchell states. "It's a symbol of how an undisputed historical gem can fall into disrepair and ultimately disappear. While espousing its place in the history of the province, the government has not designated it a heritage building under its own Heritage Resources Act, which prohibits demolition, neither has the city."

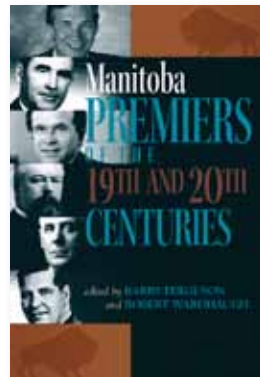


W. Fraser

The Vaughan Street Jail on York Avenue in Winnipeg, one of the city's oldest buildings, needs attention.

2010 McWilliams Awards

On Manitoba Day (12 May), recipients of the 2010 Margaret McWilliams Awards were announced by the Manitoba Historical Society, for excellence in writing about Manitoba history. We congratulate the authors and publishers of all books short-listed in this year's program.

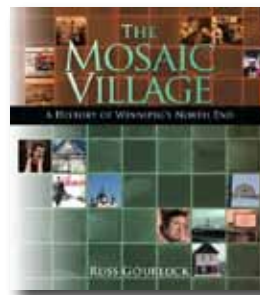


Scholarly History:

Manitoba Premiers of the 19th and 20th Centuries

edited by Barry Ferguson and Robert Wardhaugh

Canadian Plains Research Centre

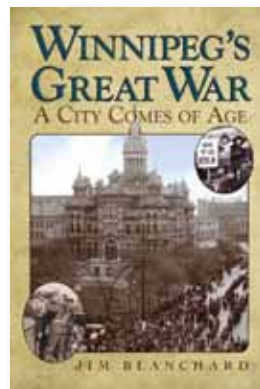


Local History:

The Mosaic Village: An Illustrated History of Winnipeg's North End

by Russ Gurluck

Great Plains Publications



Popular History:

Winnipeg's Great War: A City Comes of Age

by Jim Blanchard

University of Manitoba Press

The Selfish Genealogist by Gordon Goldsborough

As Webmaster of the Manitoba Historical Society, I get lots of email. Some of it poses questions about some obscure aspect of Manitoba history. Others take issue with spelling or other errors on pages on our site. And still others offer additional details to

round out our explanation of some area of history. Virtually all of the latter entail details about the noteworthy people of the past featured in our Memorable Manitobans collection (www.mhs.mb.ca/docs/people).

Yet, surprisingly, most of these additional details are in one specific area. Do they offer additional highlights in the career of a hard-working individual? No. Do they fill in missing gaps in our understanding of their education or social interests? No. In virtually all cases, they take issue with missing details in our listing of the family connections: parents, siblings, spouses, and children. This tells me these inquiries arise, for the most part, from genealogists.

Don't get me wrong: I find the practice of genealogy fascinating, akin to detective work, and many (most?) genealogists are sincerely interested in helping others reconnect with people in their past. But I have also found that, for a fairly large number of genealogists, it is merely a numbers game. They want to find the most number of ancestors, pushing back their family tree the most number of generations. And they really are not very interested in finding out more about the *history* of those ancestors: the historical places, events and people that shaped the circumstances of their lives.

Genealogy need not be merely a numbers game of interest only to those with a genetic connection to the results. It is possible to make genealogy compelling, by integrating history at an intrinsic level. An example of how this can be done well is the television series "Who Do You Think You Are?" that has British, Canadian, and American versions. Here we have a series that highlights genealogy of B-list celebrities. I recently began watching the latest season of the American offering to see what would make someone watch a show about someone else's family roots. I found that what made it compelling was a focus on the significance of those ancestors. In the case of singer Lionel Ritchie, the producers

did not merely flesh out holes in his family tree, focussing on the long-lost former husband of a divorced grandmother, but showed how he had been active in the nascent human rights movement in the US. It made captivating television that was interesting to anyone, not just Mr. Ritchie.

What makes me think of this topic is that the MHS is currently working on a collaborative project with the Manitoba Libraries Association, the Manitoba Legislative Library, and the University of Manitoba Archives & Special Collections to digitize local history books, and make them freely available on the Internet. These books preserve essential details about daily life in rural Manitoba yet, in virtually all cases, it is nearly impossible to find information if you do not approach the books as a descendant of one of the families featured in a book, because the books are usually arranged alphabetically based on surname. If you are looking for something other than family history—for example, to know more about a one-room school to which many of the families sent children—this is often mentioned in the course of family discourses. But it is scattered throughout the books and, because most of the books do not have an index, it is a huge undertaking to find via manual page flip. Therefore, our digitization project serves two important functions. First, it will make these books far more readily available, to family historians all over the world with roots in Manitoba. But perhaps just as importantly, it will make these books more useful as a resource for historical research because these digital books now make it possible to focus on the history, and not just the mundane details of birth, marriages, and deaths that have been the *modus operandi* for most of these books.

In short, genealogy need not be a selfish undertaking that focuses on the details pertinent to those sharing a family link to the past. Local history books take on far more resonance when they become infused with an appreciation of the past fostered by the events, places, and people that make it rich and fascinating.

Important Reminders

- Renewal invoices are sent to members, and are payable on receipt. Members are encouraged to help us reduce costs by checking their labels and sending in renewals when due. Renewal can be done by mail or phone. Payments can also be made in person at the reception counter at the Dalnavert Visitors' Centre during regular operating hours, Wednesday to Sunday. Cash, cheque, Visa or Mastercard are accepted.
- Your donations are needed to support ongoing work of the Manitoba Historical Society. Tax receipts are issued for donations over \$10.

Red River Heritage Fair

Dalnavert curator Jenny Bisch, Ross House manager Victor Sawelo, and MHS members Bev Smith and Gordon Goldsborough served as judges at the 2011 Red River Heritage Fair, held at the University of Winnipeg on 5 May. The Heritage Fair, attended by students in grades 4 to 11, focussed on all aspects of Canadian history.

For the past several years, the MHS has selected the best presentations relating to Manitoba history and, this year, winning entries were as follows:

- Ruthanna Lewis (Grade 4, Sargent Park School) for her display on Nellie McClung
- Cameron Marcelino and Jerico Nieves (Grade 6, Holy Ghost School) for their display on the Winnipeg General Strike.



G. Goldsborough

Ruthanna Lewis of Sargent Park School won two awards at the Red River Heritage Fair for her display on Nellie McClung.

Jefferson Highway Association Founded

With the completion of the Provincial Trunk Highway No. 75 in Manitoba, a continuous roadway was created between Winnipeg and New Orleans, Louisiana, known as the Pine to Palm Highway, or the Jefferson Highway in the United States. Since that time, two motorcades from Winnipeg have travelled the entire route, stopping in all major cities and towns along the way to publicize the existence of the highway. The first cavalcade, led by Lt. Col.



G. Goldsborough

Dalnavert curator Jenny Bisch chatted with a young participant about her project in the Red River Heritage Fair.

Ralph Webb and officials of the *Winnipeg Tribune*, left Winnipeg on 23 January 1926. The second cavalcade of volunteer Winnipeg citizens, led by Mayor Stephen Juba, departed from near this spot on 3 April 1957. During this second trip, municipal officials along the route were inducted into the Manitoba Order of the Buffalo Hunt. A monument along Pembina Highway in Winnipeg commemorates the starting point of those motorcades on the Pine to Palm Highway.

A new association has been established to promote greater awareness of the Jefferson Highway / Pine to Palm Highway. In the first year of operation, anyone becoming a member in the association, for a fee of US\$20, can lay claim to being a "founding member".

For more information or to join the association:

Jefferson Highway Association
c/o Scott V. Berka, Treasurer
P.O. Box 294
Colo, Iowa 50056
www.jeffersonhighway.org

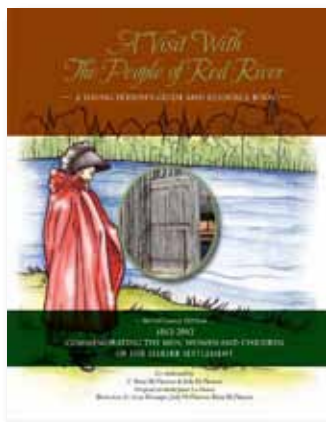
New Book for Teachers and Students on Life in the Red River Settlement

A richly-illustrated new book, aimed at students in grades 4, 5 and 6, and their teachers, describes life in the Red River Settlement during the 19th century. Entitled *A Visit With The People of Red River - A Young Person's Guide and Resource Book*, this 175-page book examines all aspects of pioneer life, including farming, natural disasters, fishing, home activities, occupations, the people of the settlement, weapons,

maps, travel, games, and more. It also includes a comprehensive glossary of terms, a list of additional reading, and suggested web sites.

The book was researched and written by Judy and Barry McPherson, active members of the Manitoba Living History Society, who also wrote *The People of Red River - A Costume Guide* on historically authentic clothing from this period. Copies are available for \$20 each (plus GST) from:

Judy and Barry McPherson
Telephone: 204-256-6869
Email: baggage@mts.net



New Book on History of Winnipeg Beach

During the first half of the twentieth century, Winnipeg Beach proudly marketed itself as the Coney Island of the West. Located just north of Manitoba's bustling capital, it drew 40,000 visitors a day and served as an important intersection point between classes, ethnic communities, and perhaps most importantly, between genders. In Winnipeg Beach, Dale Barbour takes us into the heart of this turn of the century resort area and introduces us to some of the people who worked, played and lived in the resort. Through photographs, interviews, and newspaper clippings he presents a lively history of this resort area and its surprising role in the evolution of local courtship and dating practices, from the commoditization of the courting experience by the CP Railway through their "Moonlight Specials," through the development of an elaborate amusement area that encouraged public dating, and to its eventual demise amid the moral panic over sexual behavior during the 1950s and '60s.



Newsletter Mailings

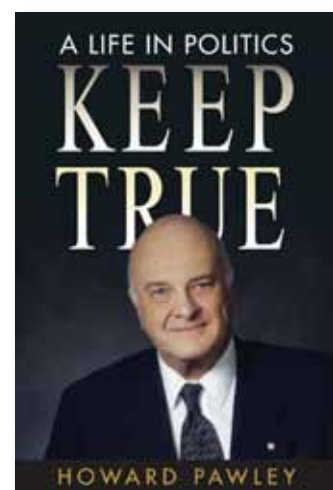
Members are reminded that *Time Lines* is available on our website www.mhs.mb.ca/info/pubs/timelines. Members have the option of opting out of receiving the mailed copy of our newsletter or reading it online.

If members wish to place their name on our "Do Not Mail Newsletter" list, please contact us by calling 204-947-0559 or emailing us at info@mhs.mb.ca

Our journal *Manitoba History* is also available online to MHS members in good standing, by going to www.mhs.mb.ca/members.

Former Manitoba Premier Publishes Memoirs

Howard Pawley, Premier of Manitoba from 1981 to 1988, has published a volume of his memoirs entitled *Keep True: A Life in Politics*, with the University of Manitoba Press (ISBN 9780887557248). Among the topics Pawley discusses are his government's involvement in the debate over French language rights in Manitoba, negotiations over the maintenance contract for the CF-18 fighter jet, implementation of the Canada-US free trade agreement, and the Meech Lake constitutional crisis, along with a look at the inner workings of government.



MHS Annual General Meeting

Remember that the AGM will be on Saturday, 4 June, at the Dalnavert Visitors' Centre, 61 Carlton Street, Winnipeg. After a business meeting starting at 10:30 AM, there will be a light lunch followed at 1:00 PM by award presentations and a talk on the mapping of historic sites in Manitoba.

The Manitoba Historical Society est 1879

I want to renew or join* the MHS as a:

- ☐ Regular Member (\$40) ☐ Youth/Student Member (\$20)
☐ Family Member (\$45) ☐ Nonprofit Institutional Member (\$50)

I want to support the MHS with the following donation:

- ☐ \$50 ☐ \$75 ☐ \$100 ☐ \$200 ☐ \$ _____

Tax receipts will be issued for all donations over \$10.

Please use my contribution:

- ☐ Where the need is greatest ☐ Museums
☐ Awards ☐ Programming
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Make cheques payable to "Manitoba Historical Society" or pay by:

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Calendar of Events

For updates and more information, see www.mhs.mb.ca/news

- 9 May MHS Book Club pot luck dinner to choose books for next year, at Dalnavert Visitors Centre
 12 May Manitoba Day, Deadline for entries to Young Historians Competition
 28 May 1 – 4:30 p.m. Watercolour workshop at Dalnavert Visitors' Centre
 28 & 29 May Doors Open Winnipeg

- 1 June Ross House Museum opens for the summer.
 4 June 10:30 am. MHS Annual General Meeting at Dalnavert Visitors' Centre followed by lunch and speaker, Dr. Gordon Goldsborough
 1 July Canada Day festivities at Ross House Museum

Time Lines, Vol. 43, No. 4, 2011

ISSN 1715-8567

Time Lines is the newsletter of the Manitoba Historical Society, © 2011. Its contents may be copied so long as the source is acknowledged. *Time Lines* is published bi-monthly and submissions are welcome. Copy deadlines are: 1 February, 1 April, 1 June, 1 August, 1 October, and 1 December.

Membership fees for the Manitoba Historical Society are: Individual \$40, Family \$45, Youth/Student \$20, Non-profit Institution \$50, and Corporations \$275. Rates to USA and other countries are slightly higher. See the MHS web site for details.

Manitoba Historical Society, est 1879

www.mhs.mb.ca

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