



CHINOOK COUNTRY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

NEWSLETTER

Summer 2007

Postcards from Small Places

The Calgary and District Chapter
of the Historical Society
of Alberta

Office:
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Calgary, Alberta
T2R 0G9

Website:
www.albertahistory.org/Chinook

The Vision of the Society:
"to promote a greater
understanding of Canadian and
Alberta history in Chinook
Country for people of all ages."

Chinook boundaries
are from Olds to Nanton,
from the B.C. to the
Saskatchewan borders.

In the mid-1970s I was working in Ottawa, at an office that kept track of the geographic names used on official maps. We often dealt with enquiries from the public, and looked for answers to these questions in our database of half a million names, plus our files which went back to 1897. The most intriguing enquiries had to do with little-known places or those that didn't exist anymore, like Solon, Alberta. This name appeared as a postmark on an old postcard. Through my contact at Canada Post I learned that Solon post office opened November 1, 1911 and closed April 18, 1914. I also found an early map which showed its location. Since then I have often used postal information to help track down early settlements in western Canada. The old Canada Post record cards have now been transcribed and digitized by the National Archives, and are accessible on the website www.archives.ca through its "Archivianet" search tool.

Here are some "postcards" from places in Chinook Country:

Millward – *post office established May 1, 1885; closed October 31, 1906.* It was located at Morleyville Settlement, and the first postmaster was Miss Ruth McDougall (both men and women were postmasters to the old Post Office Department). David McDougall was the last postmaster; the post office was probably located in his store. Its name may well have been inspired by the middle name of the McDougall family patriarch, Rev. George Millward McDougall. Records of the Department of the Interior include



correspondence with Tom Wilson, concerning his nearby homestead. His mailing address was Millward, NWT.

Mosquito Creek – *post office established July 1, 1887; closed February 28, 1892.* The first postmaster was Joseph Trolinger, who operated a stopping house near present-day Nanton. He was succeeded by D.V. Mott. The closing date coincides with the completion of the south branch of the Calgary and Edmonton Railway, which made the old Calgary-Macleod Trail obsolete. The CPR operated this railway line and established a station further south, where a townsite was laid out. Nanton post office opened July 1, 1893. The old stopping place and its tiny post office had become redundant. There is correspondence in Department of the Interior files dating from the 1880s, from George and Harry Alexander, concerning their ranch, known today as the Two Dot, west of Nanton. Their postal address at that time was Mosquito Creek, NWT.

–Continued on page 3

Brian W. Hutchison Genealogical Scholarship

The Alberta Family Histories Society is pleased to announce the availability of the Brian W. Hutchison Genealogical Scholarship of up to \$500 to be awarded annually to a Canadian resident, towards the cost of tuition and books, for the recipient to study the field of genealogy and family history in a recognized educational or accreditation program.



The Scholarship will be awarded in the Spring 2008. The deadline for applications is December 31, 2007.

Further information can be found at: www.afhs.ab.ca/scholarship, or by writing to:

Alberta Family Histories Society
712 – 16 Avenue NW
Calgary, AB T2M 0J8
Attention: Scholarship Committee

The Brian W. Hutchison Scholarship is funded by an endowment to the Alberta Family Histories Society from Brian W. Hutchison, CG, FSA (Scot), principal of GEN-FIND Research Associates, Inc. It is Mr. Hutchison's wish to encourage Canadians to pursue formal study of genealogical analysis, research, evaluation, and documentation methodologies and standards. The head office of GEN-FIND Research Associates is located in Nanaimo, British Columbia. -CCHS

From the President

Chinook Country Historical Society held its Annual General Meeting at the Calgary Zoo on March 27, 2007 with entertainment provided by Doris Daley, a Cowboy Poet. Everyone had a wonderful evening with good food, good company and great entertainment. Thanks to Frank and Audrey Miklos and Betty Proudfoot for all their work and to Laurel Halladay who helped keep things running smoothly. And thanks to Doris Daley for her wonderful presentation.

I would like to thank the Chinook Country Historical Society Board Members who stepped down this year. Peter Bate has served on the board on more than one occasion and his dedication is greatly appreciated. Brenda Everitt served as our membership chair since she joined the board and we thank her for all her work. Thanks also to Frank Miklos who joined the board as secretary and then organized our very successful Annual General Meeting this year.

Serving on the board this year will be

Carrol Jaques as president, Diana Ringstrom as past president, Tom Hamp as first vice president, Henry Murzyn as second vice president, Irene DeBoni as secretary and Janet McMaster as treasurer. Other members of the board are George Milne, Haifa Selo, Sheila Grogan, Laurel Halladay, Susan Turner, Kristi Johnson, and Gary Ellis.

After the AGM, there were two more programs at Fort Calgary: John Gilpin outlined the History of the Glenmore Dam at the April program and Lorraine Andrews made a presentation on the History of the Cowboy Trail at the May program.

Historic Calgary Week will be held from Friday, July 27 to Sunday, August 5. Our theme will be "Tents to Towers: Our Booms on the Bow." The Chair of Historic Calgary Week 2007 is Gary Ellis. The coordinator is Stephannie McSween and the Program Chair is Len Babin.

I look forward to seeing you during Historic Calgary Week. -CCHS

—Carrol Jaques

Visit Us Canada Day at Prince's Island



The Chinook Country Historical Society will have a tent set up this year again for the Canada Day celebrations on Prince's Island Park. Come by for a visit, some interactive history games, and information about Historic Calgary Week.

If you would like to volunteer to help out that day, please contact Laurel Halladay at lmhallad@hotmail.com or any CCHS board member. See you there!! -CCHS

Solutions to Crossword (Crossword on page 4)

Across: 1. Reeves; 4. Stanley; 8. Cabot; 9. Creek; 10. UFA; 11. Maw; 12. Nolan; 13. Bison; 14. 'neath; 16. A.E. Cross; 19. Kerby; 20. Nigel; 23. Penny; 25. Locke; 27. Row; 28. Union; 30. RR; 31. Two; 32. Eye; 33. Roe; 34. Writ.

Down: 1. Ryckman; 2. Elbow Park; 3. Eaton; 4. Sheen; 5. Ark; 6. Louis; 7. Years; 9. Calgary; 13. Brown; 15. Harry; 17. Clancy; 18. Sugarfoot; 21. Lowrey; 22. Spruce; 24. Noise; 25. Lorne; 26. Enter; 29. Nor. -CCHS

Postcards from Small Places (cont'd)

Continued from page 1



Pekisko – post office established August 1, 1886; closed September 18, 1967. Until 1927 this post office was located at the Bar U Ranch, west of High River. It shared space with the ranch's business office. Although the first postmaster was Mary Stimson, wife of the resident manager, the mail was actually handled by the bookkeeper. The 1891 census tells us that the Bar U headquarters was the largest settlement in the district at that time. The post office also served families in the surrounding countryside. After 41 years it was relocated to Baynes' store on Stimson Creek, and took the name Pekisko with it. By the 1960s improved rural mail service had made this small postal facility obsolete.

National Park – post office established August 1, 1887; name changed June 8, 1888. This post office was located at the townsite laid out in 1886 by George A. Stewart, first superintendent of Rocky Mountains Park (changed to Banff National Park in 1930). This place is known to us today as Banff. Prior to 1888 the name Banff applied to the CPR railway station situated almost three miles away at the foot of Cascade Mountain. It was also the name of a post office located there, established June 1, 1886. To make connections with its new Banff Springs Hotel more convenient, the CPR closed its old Banff station in 1888 and opened a new Banff station closer to the townsite. Banff post office was also closed, but its name was then applied to the former National Park post office. Harry Sanders will tell you that name-shuffling stories like this one are not uncommon in Alberta history.

Calgary – post office established September 1, 1883. I know, Calgary is not a small place, but it was in 1883. In the

process of becoming the huge place it is today Calgary swallowed several smaller localities, settlements and incorporated towns, some of which had their own post offices. They include Midnapore (February 1, 1884), Critchley (July 9, 1934, name changed to Bowness January 2, 1942), Montgomery (May 1, 1947), Forest Lawn (April 1, 1913), Brickburn (August 15, 1910), Simons Valley (April 1, 1907) and Lincoln Park (April 23, 1945). After annexation some of these post offices remained open, but without their former names. They became Calgary sub-post offices, with numbers. -CCHS

—Submitted by Bill Yeo

VOICES FROM OUR PAST

"It is now customary, because certain towns in the Northwest have collapsed owing to high pressure, for wiseacres to become alarmed at reasonable progress; but these persons should remember that Calgary is the centre of a country which is not a weary waste or a treeless pasture, but a district teeming with the richest treasures, which need only development to enrich its inhabitants."

—Burns and Elliott, Calgary, Alberta, Canada: *Her Industries and Resources*, 1885.

Submitted by Laurel Halladay

THE UNIVERSITY OF CALGARY PRESS and the GLENBOW MUSEUM

Invite you to the launch of

MEDICINE AND DUTY:
The World War I Memoir of
Captain Harold W. McGill,
Medical Officer, 31st
Battalion C.E.F.

Edited by Marjorie Barron Norris

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 17, 2007
2-4 P.M.

At the Glenbow Library and Archive
Hugh A. Dempsey Reading Room
130 9th Avenue SE, Calgary

For more information contact
University of Calgary Press
Marketing and Publicity
trahbek@ucalgary.ca or 220-4343

Congratulations:

Hillhurst United Church

Hillhurst United Church, at 1227 Kensington Close NW, is celebrating its 100th anniversary this year, with events throughout the year and a special commemorative weekend that was held on May 18-20, 2007.

In the spring of 1907 St. Paul's Methodist Church held its first services in Riley Hall, a loft above a store on the corner of 11th Street and 5th Avenue N.W., Calgary (near Riley Park). The Hillhurst Presbyterian Church held its first service in October of that year, also in Riley Hall. Within a year both congregations had begun construction on their own church buildings, and in 1912 the corner stone was laid for a new Presbyterian church on Kensington Close. When the two congregations voted for union as a congregation of the new United Church of Canada, their first combined service was held on June 14, 1925 at the former (1912) Presbyterian church.

If you'd like to know more about Hillhurst United Church contact the church office at 403-283-1539, or log onto www.hillhurstunited.com. -CCHS



Glenbow Hosts David Thompson Symposium

The Glenbow Museum will be hosting a symposium on explorer and geographer David Thompson entitled, *David Thompson: New Perspectives, New Knowledge*. The symposium will be held October 26 - 27, 2007 at the museum.

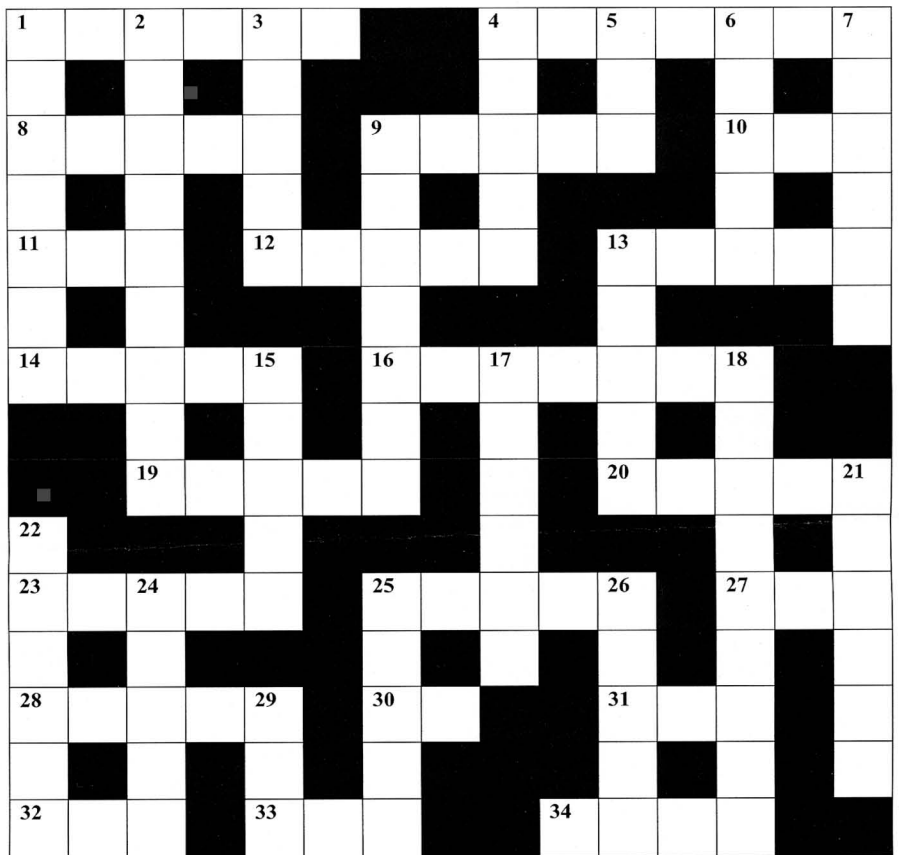
For more information log onto www.glenbow.org. -CCHS

Local History Crossword

(Solution on page 2)

Across

1. Past President of the CCHS, Kate -----
4. George -----, past Lt. Gov. of New Brunswick and designer of the Canadian flag
8. Discoverer of the Grand Banks, John -----
9. A provincial park in the south of Calgary, Fish -----
10. Henry Wise Wood's organization (abbr.)
11. Gullet or mouth
12. Calgary's 'best' criminal lawyer, Paddy -----
13. This animal once roamed the prairies
14. Under, (Poetic)
16. One of the 'Big Four' (3 wds.)
19. Methodist minister, George -----
20. A boy's name
23. Soon to be demolished, ----- Lane
25. English philosopher, John -----
27. A tier or line
28. ----- Cemetery
30. Railroad (abbr.)
31. "It takes --- to tango"
32. Bob Edwards' "Calgary --- Opener"
33. A famous legal case in the U.S., --- vs. Wade
34. A written order issued by a court



Down

1. Member of the CCHS Executive, Roberta -----
2. A district in the SW of Calgary (2 wds.)
3. Downtown ----- Centre
4. A shine or glow
5. 'Raiders of the Lost ---'
6. Ralph Klein's past hang-out, the St. ----- Hotel
7. Longs for
9. The greatest show on earth, the ----- Stampede
13. Alberta's newly appointed senator, Bert -----
15. Local historian, ----- Sanders
17. Local historian and horticulturist, ----- Patton
18. One of the first African-American players for the Stampeders, ----- Anderson
21. The ----- Gardens, Edworthy Park
22. Equestrian centre, ----- Meadows
24. A sound or fuss
25. The Marquis of ----- Trail
26. To come in
29. It goes with 'neither'

—Jennifer Prest



Membership

Please check the address label on your envelope and note when your subscription expires. Membership cheques are payable to:
The Historical Society of Alberta, PO Box 4035,
Station "C", Calgary, AB T2T 5M9

Individual membership	\$15.00	Family membership	\$25.00	Affiliate membership	\$55.00
Annual subscription	\$25.00	Annual subscription	\$25.00	(school, museum, library, historical society)	
Total	<u>\$40.00</u>	Total	<u>\$50.00</u>	Associate membership	\$120.00
Purchased together	\$35.00	Purchased together	\$45.00		

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Newsletter Submissions: The deadline for the Summer issue is **August 15, 2007.**

Please send your article to Ruth Kerr at rakerr2@telus.net.