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A Message to our Readers

Before I tell you all the news from the Centre, some important business. At its July meeting, our Advisory Council agreed that it was necessary to raise the annual membership fee for the CRLS. For 2006, memberships are \$25.00 per calendar year, in Canadian dollars if you are resident in Canada; in US dollars if remitting from outside Canada. Make cheques payable to the *University of Winnipeg*; please see the membership form in this mailing. Your 2006 membership is now due.

If you have already paid for 2006, you are in at the lower rate, but the increase is in effect from now on. We regret the change, but we have not raised fees in ten years. Meanwhile, postage, paper, printing, and all other costs have risen. Please note the year on your mailing label to see when your membership expires. (Memberships [over]due for 2005 may still be paid at the old rate of \$20.00.)

In early May, too late for mention in the Spring Newsletter, we were saddened to hear of the passing of Elizabeth Losey. She died in April 2005 in Florida where she had been wintering. We treasure the memory of her lively presence at the Kenora Colloquium in May 2004. You may remember the Sunday rain that changed our field trip plans that last day of the meetings. Elizabeth drove all the way home through the rain that day to Germfask, her home on the Michigan Upper Peninsula, in the white Cadillac she allowed herself as a luxury. She and we were all blessed that she lived into her nineties with such wonderful grace and energy.

In late June, Elizabeth's fur trade library of about 1000 books, which she had deeded to us in the late 1990s, plus the remaining stock of her well-received book, *Let Them be Remembered: The Story of the Fur Trade Forts*, arrived in a great stack of boxes. As well, the Centre receives a residual legacy from her estate, which will cover the expense of cataloguing the books and other related costs. It was fortuitous that at that moment, we were moving into our new university home; we now have a quiet office area and research room where the work of the Centre for Rupert's Land Studies and my Canada Research Chair can be combined. We are now located on the fifth-floor mezzanine level of the University of Winnipeg Library, above the west stacks. The research room also houses a fine new scanner, through the generosity of David Malaher. Come and visit us; once you get to the Library's fifth floor, follow the arrows on the hanging signs that say Centre for Rupert's Land Studies, 5CM12. We suggest you e-mail or phone first; at present, Tuesdays and Thursdays are the best days to find our assistant Anne Lindsay and me in residence.

The new space came about after considerable searching, as university space is always tight. It also required substantial building and renovation. A combination of federal CFI funds made available with the Canada Research Chair, and an input, approved by our Advisory Council, of about \$32,000

Message

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from our funds carefully husbanded over the years, allowed us to create, furnish, and equip a fine area where the Losey Collection and the Centre's publications can be securely housed, where Anne Lindsay and I have offices along with my CRC Research Associate, Dr. Susan Gray, and where we also have meeting space for the Council, for visitors, and for people coming to discuss the various projects in which we are involved. This is an enormous step forward. However, we are now working with the University of Winnipeg Foundation and others to discover how we may replenish the funds expended, and resolve the ongoing issue of finding proper funding for a part-time director.

A fine program of paper sessions and field trips is developing for the May 2006 Rupert's Land Colloquium, to be combined with the North American Fur Trade Conference in St. Louis. Please see this mailing for further details and contact information. As this Newsletter is appearing a bit later than we had hoped, the deadline for submitting paper proposals has been extended to November 10, so that we have a chance to jog your memory if you were intending to participate. Do plan to come!

You will also see in this Newsletter, an announcement of the venue for the Rupert's Land Colloquium 2008; we have received a warm invitation to Rocky Mountain House, Alberta, where the Friends of RMH and others are prepared to take on local planning and to receive us with enthusiasm.

In August 2005, the new book by Louis Bird, *Telling our Stories: Omushkego Legends and Histories from Hudson Bay*, appeared with Broadview Press; see enclosed flier for our members. A very successful launch at McNally Robinson Booksellers in Winnipeg drew over 100 people, and the book is also proving valuable in university courses. A second book of his stories is in the works and we hope soon to have more to say about that.

We are very pleased to welcome our newest Harington Fellow, Mike Sanders, to the Centre; see the column describing him and his research on caribou. We seek and welcome Harington applicants each year. We also can offer affiliations and modest support, mainly moral, to postdoctoral and faculty scholars seeking a Winnipeg base for fur trade and Aboriginal historical research, now that our facilities are improved.

I want to express, as ever, warmest thanks for the interest and support of both our continuing and new members—and our ranks have been growing. Memberships, sales of publications, and donations, with periodic returns from Colloquiums, are basically what keep us going. We have invested in a new space that was desperately needed—as all who saw us in the little old room will admit (even if it had a nice view). Now we need to replenish the funds we drew upon to create that space, and to build for a future in which a part-time CRLS director will be partially supported in a faculty position, and will develop the full potentialities of CRLS as the home of Rupert's Land studies with all the contributions it can make and all the special resources, human and historical, upon which it can draw.

With all best wishes,
Jennifer S.H. Brown, Director

The Centre for Rupert's Land Studies

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Symposium on Gabriel Dumont

Denis Combet of Brandon University, Manitoba, has sent an announcement of a symposium on Gabriel Dumont which will take place in September 2006 in Saint-Boniface (CUSB and Fort Gibraltar). For further information, see:

<http://colloquegabriel Dumont.cusb.ca/>
<http://colloquegabriel Dumont.cusb.ca/en/appel.htm>

News from THE HUDSON'S BAY COMPANY ARCHIVES

Staff: Pam Cormack, a member of our clerical support staff who has been working in HBCA for the past 11 years and with the Manitoba Government for the past 22 years, is retiring in November. Pam has provided invaluable assistance with our public service programs, specifically in the area of responding to reference inquiries and processing document copy orders.

Acquisitions: Recent acquisitions from private sources included:

- **William Ralph Parsons** (1881-1956) (active 1900-1956): HBC and private textual records, photographs and artifacts mainly from Parsons' career with HBC as district manager of Labrador and Newfoundland and as Fur Trade Commissioner. (2005/2)
- **William Crawford Rackham** (b. 1869) (active 1902-1921): diary: that describes Rackham's work as an inspecting clerk and inspecting officer with HBC (1910-17) in the districts of Athabasca and Keewatin. (2005/3)

Hamilton B. Chipman: H.B.

Chipman was the son of Clarence Campbell Chipman (1856-1924) (Commissioner from 1891-1910, Land Commissioner 1910-1911): photographs, drawings, pamphlets relating to the Chipman family. (2005/5)

- **Elizabeth Losey** (d. 2005): author of *Let Them be Remembered* (2000), a history of North American fur trade forts and posts: ca. 1500 photographs of fur trade posts and sites of former posts, ca. 1970's-1990's. (2005/6)

Exhibit Loans: An HBCA post journal (B.39/a/2) containing an

1802 map by a Blackfoot chief, Acko mok ki, redrawn by Peter Fidler (1769-1822), a surveyor and cartographer employed by the HBC, was included in the final venue of *Rivers, Edens, Empires: Lewis and Clark and the Revealing of America*, a Library of Congress Traveling Exhibition, at the Museum of History and Industry, in Seattle, Washington, from 2 April through 12 June 2005. Information on the map was later incorporated into published maps of North America which Lewis and Clark used to guide their explorations.



An illustrated letter by Charles Russell (HBCA Documentary Art, P-168) was part of the Glenbow Museum's traveling exhibit: *Capturing Western Legends, Russell and Remington's Canadian Frontier*, on at the Speed Art Museum in Louisville, Kentucky, 8 February – 11 May 2005. Charles Russell (1864-1926) an artist of the American west, was a painter, sculptor and illustrator who often included watercolour drawings with his correspondence. The letter

in the HBC Archives was written to the HBC store manager in Calgary in 1920 thanking him for a printed history of the Company. The drawing depicts Blackfoot Indians on a hill looking down on an HBC fort.

Fur Trade Scholars Records: The Hudson's Bay Company Archives continues to invite scholars of the fur trade to consider donating their records to HBCA. Acquiring records of fur trade scholars who have used the records of HBCA and published or presented their research at conferences, symposiums or through other venues, will unite in one location the papers of researchers, original sources, and publications relevant to the intellectual history of the fur trade. For further information, please contact Debra Moore, Head, Acquisition and Special Media, Hudson's Bay Company Archives at 204 945-2529 or dsmoore@gov.mb.ca.

Hours: Research Room hours are **Monday to Friday, 9:00-16:00** throughout the year. Researchers are encouraged to check with the Archives before planning a visit.

Contact Information:

Maureen Dolyniuk, Chief, Hudson's Bay Company Archives

200 Vaughan St., Winnipeg MB R3C 1T5

HBCA Tel: (204) 945-4949;

Personal Tel: 945-2620,

Fax: 948-3236

E-mail: hbca@gov.mb.ca;

E-mail: mdolyniuk@gov.mb.ca

David Thompson Bi-Centennial Committee Update – Fall 2005

The organizing committee of the David Thompson Bi-Centennial has been engaged on many fronts in preparation for the official commemorative period from 2007 to 2011. Their web site gives information on official membership. www.davidthompson200.org

A second site has up to date information and a general audience. There is a neat global map that shows how far afield the enquiries are coming from. www.davidthompsonthings.com

A Canadian and an American Committee are working jointly to coordinate publicity materials, dates of events, and historical information. As representative for the CRLS I have attended one Canadian meeting in 2003 at Radium Hot Springs BC, one American meeting in 2004 in Sandpoint ID, and the meeting in Castlegar BC in mid-September, 2005. These meetings attract 30 to 40 people from all manner of interest groups such as tourism, parks, education, museums and historians. The meetings are lively mini-conferences with Power Point presentations, demonstrations, lunches & dinners, and field trips. It is really fun to meet the folks.

October 8, 2005, was the grand opening of the Spokane Museum Exhibit on David Thompson. Spokane was, more or less, started by David Thompson and so he gets a big billing in town. Jack Nisbet who wrote *Sources of the River*, and presented a paper to the Colloquium in Vancouver WA, is the principal Thompson consultant for the exhibit. The exhibit will be open for almost a year.

So far, as you can see from the meeting places, the mountain States and Provinces are leading the way with this commemoration. A stronger eastern Canada participation is coming up soon.

Of special interest to the CRLS is the welcome invitation to hold the 2008 Colloquium in Rocky Mountain House with field trips and other activities aided by David Thompson volunteers. Mark your calendar.

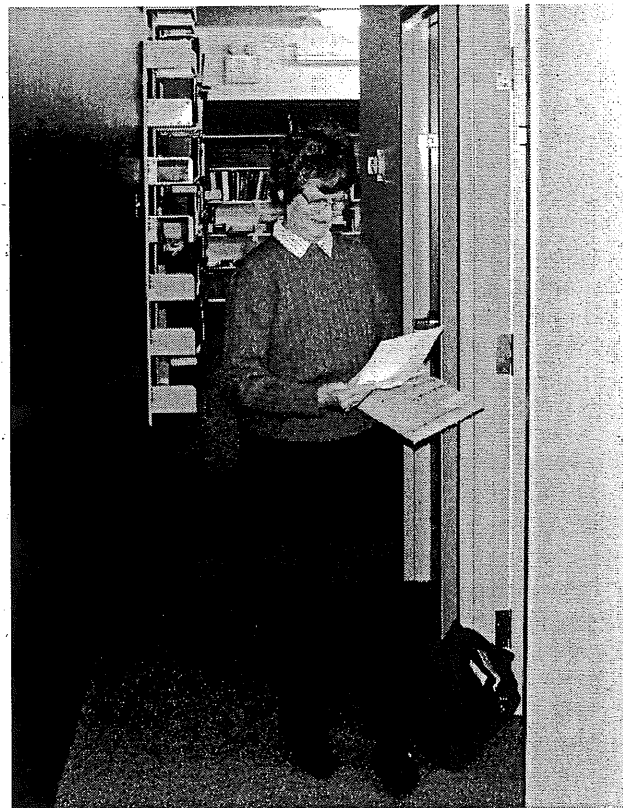
David Malaher

Looking Ahead to the Rupert's Land Colloquium 2008!

Please see the invitation and notice from Carolyn Kent, below:

As a spokesperson for The Friends of the Rocky Mountain House National Historic Site, I would like to express our commitment to hosting the 2008 Rupert's Land Colloquium in Rocky Mountain House, Alberta. We are extremely excited about the initiative and have discussed the possibility of coordinating a Fur Trade Festival to coincide with the colloquium. The integration of several significant events and field trip opportunities for participants is clearly an objective we wish to achieve.

Supporting partners include the North American David Thompson Bicentennials Partnership, Town of Rocky Mountain House, Rocky Mountain House National Historic Site, Jasper National Park, Banff National Park, and several Aboriginal organizations, including academics from the First Nations University of Canada who specialize in fur trade related topics. Additional partnership opportunities continue to be explored.



CRLS Director, Jennifer Brown, in the new Rupert's Land space.

Canada's North: Whose North? Interdisciplinary Perspectives. A Graduate Student Colloquium.

Saturday, 11 March 2006, St John's College,
The University of Manitoba

CALL FOR PAPERS

St John's College and the Canadian Studies Program, Faculty of Arts, with support from the Winnipeg Foundation will present a one-day multi-disciplinary Graduate Student Colloquium in March 2006 on the Arctic and Sub-Arctic. Themes to be explored will include: accessibility, communication, development, education, environment, family, government policies, gender, health, images, justice, literature, multiple histories, peoples of the north, religion, remoteness, representation, social issues, spirituality, and voices.

GRADUATE STUDENTS are invited to submit proposals from any discipline, such as Anthropology, Community Health, Economics, Education, Environmental Studies, Fine Art, Geography, History, Law, Linguistics, Literature, Native Studies, Nursing, Political Studies, Sociology and Social Work. Multi-disciplinary papers will also be welcome. Proposals may also be sent for entire sessions that will normally consist of three papers and a chair. Papers should be twenty minutes in length.

Unfortunately travel assistance will not be available so students from outside Manitoba are encouraged to seek travel support from their home universities. An effort will be made to provide billet accommodation.

Proposals should include:

- **Cover Sheet** with session title (or paper title), participant(s) name(s), institution, e.mail addresses, telephone number (s), and audio-visual needs
- **Short Abstract** of paper(s) – 200 words.
- **Short CVs** – with full mailing and email addresses for each participant. No longer than one page.

Please submit your proposals by e.mail **and** by regular mail, postmarked no later than

Friday, 20 January 2006 to:

Dr Kathryn A. Young,
Co-ordinator, Canadian Studies Program
youngka@cc.umanitoba.ca
Room 315, St John's College
92 Dysart Road
Winnipeg MB R3T 2M5
Tel: 204-474-8864
Fax: 204-474-7610

Canada's North: Whose North? Steering committee:
Dr Jennifer Brown (University of Winnipeg), Dr Denise Fuchs (University of Manitoba), Ramona Neckoway (Native Studies, University of Manitoba), Krista Pilz (History, University of Manitoba), Scott Stephen (History, University of Winnipeg), Dr Christopher Trott (Native Studies, University of Manitoba)

Material Histories: Social Relationships between Scots and Aboriginal Peoples in the Canadian Fur Trade. A new research project at the University of Aberdeen, Scotland

What can museum collections tell us about social relationships in the fur trade? How do fur trade artefacts figure in the experiences and life-histories of the descendants of fur trade families? What can family stories add to knowledge of the Scots diaspora and the role that Aboriginal people have played in it? These are some of the questions that a new research project funded by the Arts and Humanities Research Council will be exploring over the next five years. The research team, based in the Anthropology Department at the University of Aberdeen, will use artefacts that arrived in Scotland through links with the fur trade, and are now in Scottish museums or family collections, as a focus for this project. They hope to link these artefacts with archival sources and with descendent families and communities both in Scotland and in Canada and to use these artefacts to inform oral history interviews. Many of these collections are barely known outside of the United Kingdom, and so the project is an opportunity to bring together artefacts and documents with contemporary voices to explore the continued impact of fur trade histories. A crucial element of the project is to make the information and knowledge generated accessible to participating museums and descendent families and communities, and it is very much hoped that this will lead to new trans-Atlantic relationships.

Project researcher, Alison Brown, would like to hear from anyone who may have stories to share about their family's links with Scotland, particularly in relation to family treasures that belonged to an ancestor who worked in the fur trade. Alison will be based in Winnipeg for six months in 2006 where she will be doing archival research at the HBCA and hopes to meet with people who would like to contribute to the project. Please drop her a line if you would like to get involved.

Dr. Alison Brown, Department of Anthropology
Edward Wright Building
University of Aberdeen
Aberdeen, AB24 3QY UK
alison.brown@abdn.ac.uk
www.abdn.ac.uk/anthropology/

Driving the Oregon Trail from Portland to St. Louis

This is a reminder for anyone thinking of driving from the west to St. Louis to attend the 2006 Colloquium. David Malaher will be driving a planned route to cover the Oregon Trail, in reverse, plus special fur trade sites in Idaho, Wyoming and Nebraska. The Fur Trade Museum in Chadron, Nebraska, is on the route. A small cavalcade will depart the week prior to the Colloquium. You can join anywhere along the way. There is no charge for joining the tour and everyone pays their own expenses. A map and briefing notes will be provided to the participants. Anyone interested in joining can contact David through the CRLS office, email Rupert.land@uwinnipeg.ca or phone 204 786-9003 where Anne Lindsay will be happy to help you.

David Malaher

*A New Exhibit:
"Lewis and Clark and the
Indian Country"*

On October 1, 2005 the Newberry Library celebrated the opening of the Newberry's fall exhibition, "Lewis and Clark and the Indian Country," which is running until January 14, 2006. Curated by Frederick E. Hoxie, Swanlund Professor of History, University of

Illinois, Urbana-Champaign, this exhibition presents the epic journey of the Corps of Discovery from the vantage point of the Native peoples they encountered along the route.

The exhibit and all exhibit-related public programs are free and open to the public. No reservations are required. Visit the Newberry Library's Web site, <<http://www.newberry.org/>>www.newberry.org, for a complete list of exhibit programs, including the rich array of free public programs that run to January 14, 2006.

Help Wanted: Modern Mapping of Fur Trade Posts in North America

Over the years many maps have been produced showing locations of fur trade posts. These maps are an essential tool in researching the network of posts that made up the business and social life of the fur trade. We know that in some places these maps have errors in cartography and the historical evidence may be questionable but we still appreciate all maps for the stories they tell about their authors as well as the subject matter.

The CRLS is especially pleased to have received into its collection in June this year, and now for sale to members, copies of Elizabeth Losey's book *Let Them Be Remembered, The Story of the Fur Trade Forts*, published in 1999, with 139 sites marked on three maps and well described by the author from her personal visits to each fort, depot or portage. Most researchers are familiar with two Canadian authors who stand out for their large collections of trading post sites: E. Voorhis in 1930, 610 sites, and T. B. Smythe in 1968, 285 sites.

By coincidence, in June this year Andreas Korsos of Edmonton introduced a thoroughly contemporary map of Canada and the northern United States showing 1,200 North American fur trade post sites. The map is large, 36" x 48", of very high quality colour printing with accurate geographical features. Fittingly, Korsos unveiled his map and described his ten years of research at a meeting of the David Thompson Bicentennial Committee in Jasper, Alberta. This modern map provides researchers with a fresh look at nodes of commerce, travel and life and a wonderful potential for many new avenues of research.

Enthusiasm for this new map is well founded because it is supported by a modern Geographical Information System (GIS) and computer aided cartography. By-products of the GIS will be the map itself, a web site for detailed information on each post, flexibility to produce regional maps with finer detail, and an atlas of the North American fur trade.

Andy Korsos resides in Edmonton, Alberta, where he has been a cartographer for 18 years working for provincial and municipal governments as well as private industry. Korsos has been working on the database for the new map since the early 1990s. His principal sources of information are Ernest Voorhis, Terrence B. Smythe, Historical Societies via the Internet, and selected fur trade journals and post histories. With over 1,300 records on file he is now at the stage of reviewing the information in preparation for formal release of

the map. Four items make up the basic data:

- Name of the post or fort.
- Owner (HBC, NWC, XYC, AFC etc.)
- Dates of construction and period of use.
- Location by latitude and longitude.

When all four items are believed to be established, the ultimate test of validity is archeological evidence. There are places where evidence is indisputable, such as Fort Prince of Wales, Lower Fort Garry, Fort Union, and Fort Vancouver to name just a few. Other sites have been verified by archeological work such as Kootenay House on the Columbia River in the summer of 2005. A great many other posts are known only by journal descriptions and the accuracy of their sites is based on archival records, surface examination, and local history.

A map or database limited to archeologically proven sites is too restrictive and would not contribute a great deal to the overall picture of the geographic, timeline, and business history of the fur trade. Some doubts will remain forever. However, this new map with its ability to update or add to its information in a manner never dreamt of by Voorhis and Smythe, or Elizabeth Losey, gives an exciting tool to all those who are seriously interested in advancing our knowledge of the fur trade. Not only can the data be updated quickly, special reports can be made on-request for researchers who are studying a complex pattern of information. By classifying the data into "definite" or "indefinite" it will be possible to analyse the information with confidence. Archival and archeological resources can be applied to posts and sites identified as deserving more attention.

Korsos is anxious to have a full review of the data before the map is officially released. The plan is to check every site. He is intending to have a preliminary review done by May of 2006 at which time he will present the map to the North American Fur trade Conference and Rupert's Land Colloquium in St. Louis, MO. (May 24 to 28).

Korsos is seeking help from people with intimate knowledge of fur trade posts. He would like to organize a users group who will help with gathering and evaluating data, and to give guidance for future developments of the map, database, website and atlas. If you would like more information on this exciting project and the users group, get in touch with Andy Korsos by e-mail at foxhnd@shaw.ca.

David Malaher

The Rupert's Land Harington Fellow, 2005-2006

Mike Sanders began his undergraduate career at the University of Winnipeg in 2001 and is currently completing a BA Honours in Anthropology and a 3-year History degree. Mike has focused on the social and political history of Indigenous people in North America, with an emphasis on issues of land tenure and development. Mike has also cultivated an interest in traditional human-animal relations in the boreal, parklands and plains regions of North America. His past research includes studies of 'bear ceremonialism' among northern cultures worldwide including the historic Algonquian-speaking people of present-day Canada.

Mike is presently studying the cultural and ecological relationships between First Nations people and woodland caribou in the boreal regions of Manitoba and Ontario. The boreal woodland caribou is a distinct sub-species which appears in limited numbers across this forest region. Mike generated an interest in this topic by working both in the forestry sector and with local conservation groups who are concerned with woodland caribou preservation. So far he has learned that woodland caribou have proven to be particularly sensitive to habitat changes and disturbances affecting their ranges. Decline in woodland caribou populations in Canada have been most marked in the last hundred years. Possible causes include increased hunting pressure, increase in predator populations, persistent human presence and loss of forest habitat due to fire, forestry

activities and land conversion. Woodland caribou populations may experience more punctuated changes than other members of the deer family due to their exclusive reliance on old-growth, climax forests within the boreal environment.

Mike speculates that woodland caribou populations have possibly undergone several ebbs and flows since early pre-contact times as forest-cycles and patterns of human activity changed the landscape. His hope is to gain insight into the nature of this elusive animal by incorporating the knowledge, traditional and contemporary understandings and history of First Nations people who live and have lived in caribou country. Mike also endeavours to weigh the significance that this animal may have held for pre-contact and historic First Nations in terms of subsistence, technology, tradition and working knowledge of the landscape. He believes that local knowledge and history can add insight to the question of what human actions may affect woodland caribou populations both negatively and positively. Mike is also interested in the traditional stories and legends of Algonquian-speaking people and hopes he may find some notable reflections on the caribou in terms of its origin, persona and character.

We welcome Mike to the Centre. Readers interested in his research may contact him at: m.sanders@uwinnipeg.ca or sanders_mrobert@hotmail.com

Yukon Heritage Resources

Members of the Centre for Rupert's Land Studies may be interested in an exceptional offer from Yukon Heritage Resources. They are offering a free fur trade publication:

Journal of occurrences at the forks of the Lewes & Pelly rivers May 1848 to September 1852, ed. by Dominique Legros, and Llewellyn R. Johnson, Whitehorse: Heritage Branch, Government of the Yukon, 2000. Occasional Papers in Yukon History, No. 2. ISBN 1-55018-976-X. xiv + 153 p., maps, b&w illus., notes, index. Softbound.

Copies may be obtained by contacting:
Kerri Scholz, Administrative Assistant,
Heritage Resources
Phone: (867) 667-5386
Fax: (867) 667-8023. Email: Kerri.Scholz@gov.yk.ca

David Thompson's Route from Roy's Post to the Mississippi River, March 1798

There is a little known water route from Fond du Lac (Duluth, MN) via the St. Louis River and Mississippi River, past Bemidji MN to Grand Forks ND and from there an easy downstream run into the Red River colony at the forks with the Assiniboine River. The La Vérendryes knew of the route as did Alexander Henry the Younger. David Thompson actually traveled it in 1798. Today it is a Minnesota tourism feature.

Jean Baptiste Perrault 1740, Thomas Condor 1750, Jonathan Carver 1769, Peter Pond 1785 all showed the route on their maps. Why then didn't this route get more attention? Ruth Swan in her Ph.D. thesis *The Crucible: Pembina and the Origins of the Red River Valley Metis*, University of Manitoba, 2003, describes the reason very well: "...because of the protracted and dangerous warfare between the Dakota Sioux Indians then inhabiting most of Minnesota and the Ojibwe and their Cree and Assiniboine allies who were pushing west with the fur trade."

My curiosity was piqued by the obscure western portion from Red Lake to the Red River. For the best help available I turned to Ruth Swan and Ed Jerome. By car, on a pleasant summer day, July 4, 2005, Ruth, Ed, Rosemary Malaher and I explored the route in the direction David Thompson followed in March 1798 from Roy's Post to Bemidji MN. Thompson had guides when he traveled over the melting spring snow. From my experience in 2005 guides are still very essential. Jerome researched the route for Swan's paper to the Colloquium in Kenora, 2004, "Sur le Rapport des Sauvages": Indigenous Knowledge and Indian Geography: The Exploration and Mapping of Northern Minnesota from Lake Superior to the Red River Valley based on Aboriginal, French and British Sources. It was their expertise that showed me the hidden route below the prairie level in small streams and occasionally deep valleys.

One can easily get confused over the similarity of names in this area. Red or Turtle seem to be favorites for rivers and lakes, as shown on the accompanying map. The attractive town of Red Lake Falls MN got our vote as the place we would most enjoy re-visiting. Here the Clearwater River joins the Red Lake River in a deep gorge much as one would see

on the Missouri River. The junction is in a lovely park setting where Cadotte had a post in 1798 and hosted David Thompson for a few days. There is some debate over whether the post was on the left or right bank of the Clearwater but in my opinion it had to be on the right because that side has far more room for Indian camping than on the opposite side. From this fork the choice is to stay with the longer Red Lake River, through Thief River Falls, or to use the smaller but more direct Clearwater River and make a portage back onto the Red Lake River for a savings of 30 miles. On our excursion we chose the Clearwater route.

Red Lake is a large body of water and presents dangers in summer or winter. Thompson walked over it for 17 miles through spongy March snow to reach a portage from the Rupert's Land drainage basin into the Mississippi basin. There are two possible creeks for the portage and it is not clear which one was the generally accepted route. Ed's choice was Mud River flowing directly out of Puposky Lake. According to the Beltrami County Historical Society, Puposky is Sioux for Mud so the lake and river make a natural pair. The highest lake in this chain is Lake Julia named by Italian Count Beltrami for his sweetheart while accompanying Captain Long of the US Army in 1823 on a boundary surveillance expedition, more evidence of a known travel route. Crossing the mild height of land, the portage connects to Little Turtle Lake, then Turtle Lake and in due course through the labyrinth of small creeks and marshes into the Mississippi River itself 20 miles east of the resort town of Bemidji.

It was a highly satisfying day to have seen the actual water route so well used by some parties and yet avoided by the big companies. Absence of mention in the traditional fur trade journals does not mean the absence of activity. My curiosity was satisfied as to how David Thompson could have unerringly passed from the Red River to the Mississippi and "found" Turtle Lake which he named as the source of the Mississippi River. This example of navigating "Sur le Rapport des Sauvages" was very successful.

David Malaher

Book Review

The Opening of the Maritime Fur Trade at Bering Strait; Americans and Russians Meet the *Kanigmuit* in Kotzebue Sound

By John R. Bockstoce

Transactions of the American Philosophical Society, Philadelphia, 2005 78 pages, \$24.00

The riches that could come from sea otter fur and by discovering a North West Passage were as alluring to the Russians as they were to American and British adventurers two hundred years ago. Accordingly, Count Rumianstev of St. Petersburg financed an expedition of four ships to follow up earlier explorations he had sponsored in 1815 when Otto von Kotzebue sailed around the world looking for commercial opportunities. John Bockstoce in this brief publication for the American Philosophical Society describes the dramatic coincidence when, for one day, two Russian ships and an American meet in Kotzebue Sound, on the Alaska side just north of the Bering Strait at the end of July, 1820. Americans and Russians were trading with the *Kanigmuit* but the reception was tense and sometimes aggressive. Supplies of fur were poor, probably due to the *Kanigmuit* already trading with Siberian Eskimos.

Pulling together Russian, American and British archival material Bockstoce informs us how the seemingly chance meeting was almost inevitable. American traders in 1819 and again 1820 had come to the aid of the managers of the Russian American Company on the Kamchatka Peninsula and the Aleutian Islands by supplying much needed food for the Russian colonists. The Rumiantsev fleet, more recently in touch with policies at St. Petersburg, knew the Tsar was on the verge of closing the north Pacific to foreign vessels. Nevertheless, Bockstoce finds the Russians admiring American entrepreneurship and acknowledging that, after all, the American merchants had paid for their voyages themselves.

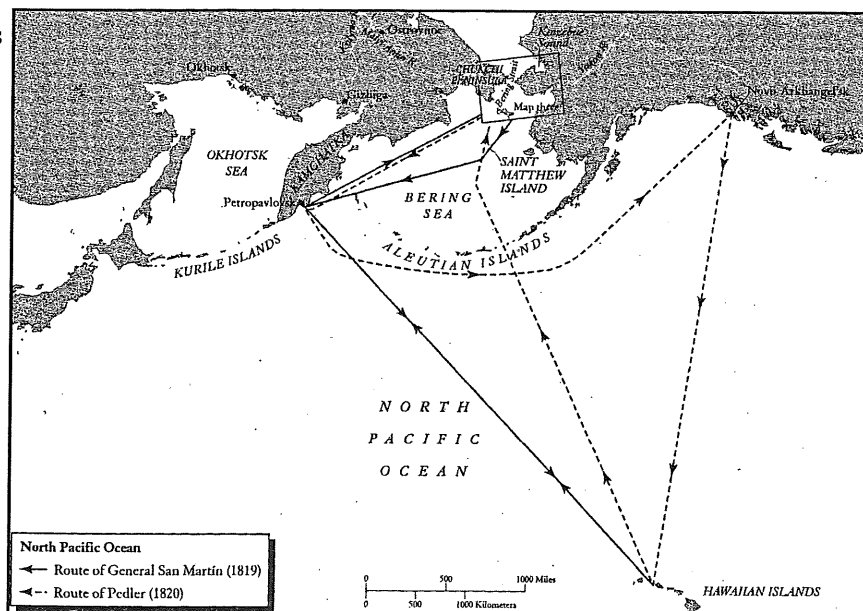
Bockstoce is aided by a newly

revealed journal left by John Walters, boatswain on the American brig *Pedler*. Dr. Mary Malloy brought Walter's journal to Bockstoce's attention, filling in social details of Hawaiians, Eskimos, Russians and his own ship mates. Walters went ashore to assist in trading with the Eskimos allowing him to note their living conditions. His descriptions of the people, "some of them very handsom featurd" and of the hospitality of the Russian wife of the Kamchatka Governor give an informal authentication of events.

Despite the promising mutual aid and friendship between the Americans and the Russians when beyond the courts of Europe, Tsar Alexander I stalled further exploration by issuing an Imperial Ukase on September 4, 1821, claiming sovereignty over the north Pacific from 45°- 40' north latitude in the Kurile Islands, north past the Bering Strait to 51° on the west coast of North America. Bockstoce attributes this unilateral action to pressure from the Russian American Company for an international monopoly on the north Pacific fur trade, a move to block the Hudson's Bay Company from coming any closer than they already were, and to set up a claim on the valley of the Amur River in China.

Being only 78 pages the book is just a teaser for the whole intriguing story of the Russian American Company from 1799 to 1867 when Alaska was purchased by the United States. Read it and you will become hooked on the numerous parallels with the fur trade in Canada at the same time as the Russians, Americans and *Kanigmuit* were meeting for the first time in Kotzebue Sound. We hope that Bockstoce will add more to the story using his many years of personal knowledge of the Arctic in general and the Bering Strait region in particular.

David Malaher



North Pacific Ocean. Routes of General San Martin (1819) and *Pedler* (1820). (page 11)

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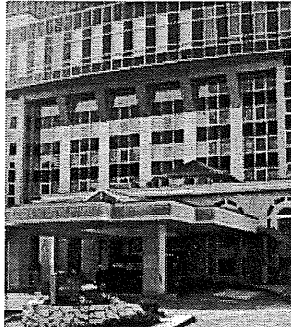
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