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A Message to our Readers

It was a great pleasure to see so many friends and colleagues at the combined North American Fur Trade Conference and Rupert's Land Colloquium in St Louis in May. This was the first time that the two gatherings had combined, and registrants enjoyed a very rich, full program and a fine series of special events and field trips. Warm thanks to Fred Fausz, Gina Ganahl and all the University of Missouri-St. Louis staff and students who worked so hard to organize this complex and large-scale event. Thanks also to our own people who helped organize and manage the Rupert's Land side of the meetings, most especially Cory Willmott, Anne Lindsay, our Harington Fellow Mike Sanders, David Malaher, and everyone else who contributed and participated.

Plans for the next North American Fur Trade Conference have not been set, but our colleague Bill Swagerty, of the University of the Pacific, is in conversation with the Western History Association about a WHA role in its planning and about possibilities for the next conference. (The Fur Trade Conferences have typically been held every four or five years.) Plans for our next Rupert's Land Colloquium plans are well advanced, however. The dates are set: from Wednesday evening, May 14th through to Friday evening, May 16th, with a pre-colloquium workshop planned for May 14th and a range of optional field trips offered May 17th-18th at Rocky Mountain House in Alberta; see the notice appearing in this Newsletter and watch our website for further updates. The call for papers will appear early in 2007.

Last winter, the cataloguing of the Elizabeth B. Losey Fur Trade Library was completed. This wonderful gift comprises approximately 900 volumes, many rare and hard to find. They are now available in our reading room in 5CM12, our mezzanine home above the fifth floor of the University of Winnipeg Library. Please contact us ahead of time if you wish to visit and use them, as we are only open part-time.

Elizabeth Losey also left us a generous legacy, which has covered the cost of the book cataloguing and defrayed a substantial portion of the investment that CRLS made in creating our new space in collaboration with my Canada Research Chair funding. Her kindness and her planning ahead for this gift have made a huge difference.

As mentioned in our last Newsletter, we are approaching a critical time in the future of the Centre for Rupert's Land Studies as we look to the issue of building support for the directorship as a part-time faculty position. One means of addressing this need is to follow Elizabeth's inspiration and to pledge support by means of a legacy, as she did. The University of Winnipeg Foundation has provided information on legacy giving to include in this issue of the Newsletter. As well, you will find a letter by John Bulman of the Foundation (whom many of you met at the Kenora Colloquium in 2004) inviting your support by this means; see page 8.

News from *The Hudson's Bay Company Archives*

Staff

Anne Morton will be retiring from the archives in December after more than 25 years of service. Many researchers over time have expressed their gratitude for the extraordinary service she has provided in answering their inquiries and she has been a huge resource to all HBCA staff due to her knowledge and experience with the records.

Anne began working in the Archives of Manitoba in the spring of 1981, first in Private Records, then in the Hudson's Bay Company Archives starting in January of 1982. For a number of years she worked on the arrangement and description of 20th Century Records. In 1991 she moved to the role of Head, Research and Reference coordinating and providing responses to remote inquiries. She continued in that position until the fall of 2003 at which time she became the head of Public Programming. Giving tours and presentations to students and other visitors has been a big part of her work in the HBCA.

During the course of her work in HBCA, Anne has co-authored two publications with Elizabeth Briggs on Biographical Resources at the Hudson's Bay Company Archives (Volumes One and Two). The volumes have become a well-used resource by staff and genealogical researchers.

Anne has given presentations to numerous national and international

conferences which has done a great deal to promote the knowledge and use of HBCA resources. She has traveled to Boulder (1988), Columbus (1992), Cambridge (1994), Anchorage (1996), Reykjavik (1998),

Copenhagen (2002) and Ottawa (2004) for the Polar Libraries Colloquies and Amsterdam (2005) for the International Conference on the History of Records. She helped to host the Polar Libraries Colloquy in Winnipeg in 2000.

Anne has contributed to several Rupert's Land Colloquiums. They include: Winnipeg (1984), "Charles Elton and the Hudson's Bay Company"; Edmonton (1994), " 'Boys of the Right Type': George

continued on page 3



Keynote Speakers Carolyn and Rhoda Gilman at the St. Louis Fur Trade Conference and Colloquium

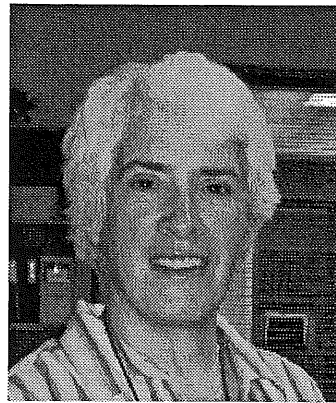
Director's Message

continued from page 1

Membership renewals for 2007 are now due. The annual rate remains at \$25.00 (US\$25.00 if remitting from outside Canada). The year through which you have paid appears on your mailing label; please check the date, and e-mail Anne Lindsay at rupert.land@uwinnipeg.ca if you have any questions.

Thank you for your continuing interest and support! And do get in touch if you have any suggestions, comments, or news that you would like to share.

Jennifer S.H. Brown, Director



The Centre for Rupert's Land Studies

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News from The Hudson's Bay Company Archives (cont'd)

Binney and the Recruiting of British Fur Trade Apprentices, 1927-1930"; Norway House (1998), "Joseph McGillivray's 1822-23 Journal"; Oxford (2002), "'The Great Living Empire': The HBC's Luncheons for Canadian and Newfoundland Rhodes Scholars, 1932-1971"; Kenora (2004), "'In Whose Service We Are Engaged', Use of the Anglican Liturgy at HBC Posts" and most recently St. Louis (2006), "Witness to Corporate Violence: Peter Fidler's Ile à la Crosse Journal, 1810-1811".

Anne has been a tremendous colleague and friend and has demonstrated extraordinary commitment to her profession and to the Archives. She will be missed by all of us.

Recent Acquisitions

Here are some recent acquisitions from the private sector. Please note that new acquisitions are available for consultation when they are fully processed. Depending on the records and donor agreements in place, access restrictions may apply.

Jennifer S. H. Brown fonds: a portion of Jennifer Brown's papers in the area of Canadian fur trade history including correspondence, manuscripts, conference papers, editorial files relating to the Centre for Rupert's Land Studies publications and to the donor's publications, 1972-2004. These records are an initial donation with future accruals planned; restrictions apply. This is also the first acquisition of "Fur Trade Scholars' papers." Scholars interested in donating their records should contact Marcia Stentz, Archivist, Acquisition & Access, Textual Records and MIS: mstentz@gov.mb.ca

McKenzie Family fonds: Nathaniel Murdock William John (N.M.W.J.) McKenzie (1856-1943), a Chief Factor and District Manager, was employed by the Hudson's Bay Company from 1876 to 1916: Photographs and textual records, c. 1890-1955 including McKenzie family photos, HBC post at Churchill, presentations on northern and HBC history, programs and publications. This is an accrual to an acquisition received in 2004.

Clare (Chuck) Kinton fonds: Training materials used by Kinton while he was an apprentice clerk in Winnipeg, preparing for work at HBC northern trading posts. Papers include information on fur grading, merchandizing, first aid, radio use and advertising, c. 1938.

Archives of Manitoba Research Room

There have been a number of improvements to the Research Room over the last number of months. New signage was installed in the Archives Research Room to help direct researchers to specific resources such as the microfilm, photographic holdings, research tools, the records return area and the duty desk. A second phase of the signage project is planned within the next year. In the reference area of the Research Room, the old black HBCA catalogues have been replaced with new binders. The new binders have colour coded numbered spines making it easier to identify specific finding aids and replace them on the shelves in the appropriate order. Additionally, there are now new chairs at all of the research room tables. The chairs in the microfilm

reading room and carrels were replaced last year.

Denise Jones, Head of Client Service for HBCA is the supervisor for the Research Room operations for the Archives of Manitoba. If there are any questions or concerns regarding access to records on site and for HBCA remote inquiries, please do not hesitate to contact her at 945-7586 or dejones@gov.mb.ca.

Archives Exhibit

The Bay downtown store will be 80 years old this November. In honour of this important anniversary, the Hudson's Bay Company Archives and the Archives of Manitoba are planning an exhibit entitled "A New Store for an Old Company." The exhibit can be viewed on the main floor of the Manitoba Archives Building, 200 Vaughan Street.

It will run from mid November 2006 to October 2007, and feature the store's design, construction, staff and customers.

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, Manager,
Hudson's Bay Company Archives
130-200 Vaughan St.
Winnipeg MB R3C 1T5

HBCA general - telephone: (204) 945-4949, fax: 948-3236,
e-mail: hbca@gov.mb.ca

Maureen's direct telephone and
e-mail: (204) 945-2620;
mdolyniuk@gov.mb.ca

Collections of the United Church Archives at The University of Winnipeg

*Diane Haglund
Archivist
United Church Archives*

Rev. James A. Donaghy fonds

Rev. James Donaghy was born in Goderich, Ontario in 1871. He worked as a farmer and in business before entering the ministry. He graduated from Manitoba College in 1908 and was ordained by the Presbyterian Church of Canada the next year. Following Church Union in 1925 he served The United Church of Canada.

Material held by the Archives includes two remarkable documents. A typescript history Okanase Indian Mission covers the period 1897-1925 and is based on Donaghy's own seven years serving the Mission as well as on accounts by Rev. A.B. Baird, information from the relatives of George Flett and members of the community. The Mission remained with the Presbyterian Church at Union. Thirteen black and

white photographs are included in the account. A sampling is shown here.

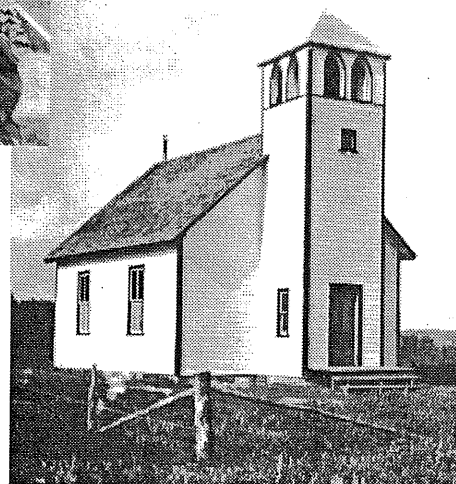
Donaghy also wrote a history of the Swan Lake Indian Reserve (Indian Springs) which includes 23 b/w photographs. A scrapbook he kept pertaining to the Long Plain Reserve includes historical sketches, correspondence, clippings and 31 b/w photographs. The collection also includes correspondence related to service and work at the Swan Lake Mission dating from 1920 - 1929 and other material. The Finding Aid for the Donaghy fonds is an item level description.

The United Church of Canada Archives is located in the Library of The University of Winnipeg Campus. To access the Donaghy fonds or other holdings contact the Archivist, Diane Haglund at d.haglund@uwinnipeg.ca.



The first Ladies Aid of the Okanase Mission Church. Caption on original: "They raised \$300. a little over a year".

The Church at Okanase was built by members of the community. Caption on original: "The new building finished and ready for use and with no debt to worry them." Saskatchewan.



News from the Manitoba Museum

*Dr. Katherine Pettipas, Curator of Native Ethnology and the HBC Museum Collection
The Manitoba Museum*

In partnership with the Manitoba Museum, Canada's National History Society, on the society's newly launched educational website entitled "Fur Trade Stories" features forty artifacts from the Hudson's Bay Company artifacts collection, along with their cultural and historical contexts.

Visit <www.furtradestories.ca> to view these pieces.

This summer, Keith Duffield, the "Ship's Boy", who sailed on the Nonsuch replica in 1970 visited the museum and provided us with photographs of the trip, along with interesting anecdotes. The captain and crew are planning a reunion in Winnipeg next year.

"Portraits of the North" is a spectacular new exhibit featuring the stunning work of artist Gerald Kuehl, who has spent years capturing the stories and faces of Manitoba's



Inuit, Metis and First Nations Elders. It is designed as a traveling exhibit that is available to remote communities throughout the province. An official opening for the exhibit will be held October 14 at 2:00 pm. It is on display from September 16 through to January 7, 2007 in Alloway Hall.

*Photo: Betsy Anderson
by Gerald Kuehl, CARCC*

Check out the museum's website at <www.manitobamuseum.mb.ca/> for programs associated with the exhibit. The museum's presentation includes selections of archaeological and ethnographic artifacts from the permanent collections, some of which are associated with Elders in the "Portraits of the North" exhibit.

Call for Papers

Current Perspectives: The 5th Canadian River Heritage Conference Winnipeg, Manitoba

June 10-14, 2007, Linking Tourism, Recreation, Heritage, Conservation, Communities and Rivers. Discover a Current Perspective on rivers, tourism and river management at the 2007 Canadian River Heritage Conference in Winnipeg, Manitoba.

This five day event brings you face-to-face with experts from around the globe and the latest information on how communities are implementing environmentally sustainable management practices. You'll hear success stories and practical strategies for maximizing tourism opportunities along the river and enjoy a hands-on approach to learning through field trips, workshops and exhibits. Plus you'll be inspired by exciting keynote speakers and a unique opportunity to celebrate river heritage. If you're a land manager with responsibilities for rivers, an academic seeking insight into issues, or a grass roots, conservation or tourism leader looking for new solutions, Current Perspective is for you.

Join national and international delegates at the beautiful and historic junction of the Red and Assiniboine Rivers in Winnipeg.

Deadline for paper proposals/abstracts is 29 January 2007. For further details, see:

<www.riverswest.ca> and <www.routesonthered.ca>

The 5th Canadian River Heritage Conference
c/o Rivers West

202 – One Forks Market Road

Winnipeg, Manitoba

R3C 4L9

Phone: 1-204-945-7733

Fax: 1-204-943-7915

Email: lhendrickson@gov.mb.ca

The Société historique de Saint-Boniface Archives

*Gilles Lesage
Director*

New collections at the Heritage Centre!

An exciting new collection of records has arrived at the Heritage Centre. The Saint-Boniface Historical Society is proud to have been entrusted with the archives of the Archdiocese of Keewatin – The Pas as well as the records of the Oblates of Mary Immaculate of the vice province of Keewatin. These documents contain important information for anyone who has interest in the history of northern Manitoba and Saskatchewan. Researchers

will also find many documents that are essential to the study of Métis and First Nations communities in Western and Northern Canada. Those who will avail themselves of the privilege of consulting these records will therefore have access to codex historicus or historical journals, correspondence and administrative records of the Oblates and of the Archdiocese as well as to the liber animarum or book of souls of various parishes and missions of the Keewatin. Researchers will also have access to

several thousands of photographs and images of the missionaries and of the communities where they worked. A whole new page of our history is ours to rediscover thanks to these records. These archives complement the transfer of the archives of the Oblates of Mary Immaculate, Province of Manitoba, which were housed in Deschâtelets, Ottawa. Those records document the activities of the Oblates in Southern Saskatchewan and Manitoba and North Western Ontario.

*The Heritage Centre is located at 340, boulevard Provencher Blvd., Winnipeg, Manitoba, R2H 0G7.
The Society's website can be seen at www.shsb.mb.ca*

Introducing our Harington Fellow for 2006 – 2007: Sanday Scott

Aaniin! Gizhewaadizi inawemaaganag miziwe. (Translated from Ojibwe) "Hello. My kindhearted relatives everywhere." My name is Sanday Scott, here at the University of Winnipeg, going into my third year of study in Honours History. This summer I worked as a research assistant at the Rupert's Land Centre and that was a great experience for me.

My interest in history is longstanding. I have a keen interest in the mission work among tribal groups in western Canada especially after the mid 1800s. Specifically I want to know more about how aboriginal people accommodated and assimilated European religious packages into their own ancient worldview over time.

I have close family connections with the Ojibwe community at Berens River. I have fond memories of Ojibwe elders from that community with whom I spent a great deal of time. Moreover, my past is rooted in the fur trade because my great-grandfather, John Firth, was a servant of the HBC for fifty years at Fort McPherson, NWT.

John Firth signed on with the HBC at a young age, and began his service in 1871 feeding the sled dogs. In time, he met and married Maggie Stewart, a Gwichin woman of mixed descent, and together they raised seven children. To honour that fur trade family connection I have created a website which can be found at the following URL: <http://chenrezigmanitoba0.tripod.com/servantofthehudsonbaycompanyjohnfirth/>.

In the coming year I will be doing further research at the HBC Archives. This time my focus will be on the aspects of the fur trade at Berens River and area. Specifically I wish to examine HBC records to identify ancestral family names and patterns of kinship amongst Ojibwe trappers and traders. Ancestral family names, from the period of the mid 1800s, demonstrate the deep spiritual thought of the Ojibwe and originate in Midewiwin religious practice and Wabeno ceremony.

I am always interested to know more about the history of the fur trade and spiritual practice of aboriginal people and I can be reached any time at the following email: scott52@shaw.ca.

2008 Rocky Mountain House Colloquium Events *By Carolyn Kent, Rocky Mountain House, Alberta*

The Colloquium will feature, besides our usual rich program of papers and panels, a series of very special events as follows:

Pre-colloquium workshop, Wednesday, May 14, 2008

Protocols of Respect. This pre-colloquium workshop will provide participants with an opportunity to discuss and explore the importance and complexities of cultural protocols and ethics surrounding indigenous research and knowledge. A field trip to a historic reburial site will be included.

Wednesday Evening, May 14, 2008

A Welcome Reception (wine and cheese). An informal evening of music, tall tales, and a chance to chat.

Thursday afternoon, May 15, 2008

A 2-hour field trip to the Rocky Mountain National Historic Site.

Thursday Evening, May 15, 2008

An ethnomusicology project will be launched to celebrate the cultural diversity of the music of the fur trade.

Friday Evening, May 16, 2008.

The Friends of the Rocky Mountain House National Historic Site will host a Beaver Club hour and Fur Trade Banquet. Guests are encouraged to come in period costume to partake in traditional food, toasts and a performance.

Field Trips:

Saturday-Sunday (3 days) May 17-19, 2008

Participants will take in the Aboriginal history of the Kootenay Plains, visit the Howse Pass viewpoint, and explore the trading posts of the Jasper Valley. This trip will end in Edmonton.

Saturday May 17, 2008

Discovery tour of the Kootenay plains and North Saskatchewan River.

Participants will start the day with a choice of hikes and presentation on the history of the plains. Following a traditional lunch, they will then paddle safely in voyageur canoes through rapids, past the old fort sites back to the town of Rocky Mountain House.

A block of hotel rooms has been reserved at the Walking Eagle Lodge and Motor Inn. Further information to come; watch the CRLS website at www.uwinnipeg.ca/academic/ic/rupert/.

A "Post-Colloquium Supper" St. Louis Mo. 2006. From left to right, Anne Lindsay, Heidi Bohaker, Heather Devine, Alison Brown, Jennifer Brown, Wilson Brown, Carolyn Podruchny, Janna Promislow, Marty Foster and Virginia Barter.





Fall 2006

Dear Friend of *The Centre for Rupert's Land Studies*,

I am writing on behalf of The University of Winnipeg Foundation Board. The Foundation was established April 1st, 2003 and is dedicated to fundraising and asset stewardship in support of the mission and vision of The University of Winnipeg and its Collegiate.

The Foundation's newest initiative, *The Legacy Circle*, was approved by the Foundation Board on April 5, 2005. It is comprised of individuals who may be interested in making or have already made arrangements to leave a bequest to the University in their will. Because you value *The Centre for Rupert's Land Studies* and want it to continue to stand for excellence in the future, I would like to encourage you to consider this means of maintaining an outstanding center and its directorship for years to come.

We ask you to take a moment to consider a legacy gift to The University of Winnipeg in support of the Centre. Were you also aware of the change in legislation in May 2006 effectively eliminating the capital gains tax on gifts of publicly listed securities to registered charities? This new incentive provides another option to consider in making your philanthropic decisions.

Your continued support is especially meaningful; not only does it provide the University with the means to continue our tradition of excellence and access, but it shows our students and faculty how much their efforts are valued. Together, we can make the future even brighter.

Thank you for your continued interest in *The Centre for Rupert's Land Studies* and support of The University of Winnipeg.

Sincerely,

Dr. John Bulman
Chancellor Emeritus, The University of Winnipeg
Chair, Gift Planning Committee

The University of Winnipeg Foundation
705 – 491 Portage Avenue, Winnipeg, Manitoba Canada R3B 2E4

Portage La Biche

by Tom Macaggno

The intense rivalry between the fur giants, the Hudson's Bay Company and the North West Company, leapfrogging across Canada in search of an elusive, navigable North West Passage eventually led the fur traders up the Beaver River, which is the longest tributary of the Churchill River, into what is presently known as Alberta. In 1798, at a point a short distance south of Lac La Biche (then known as Red Deers or Red Deer Lake), renowned explorer, and geographer David Thompson of the NWC discovered Portage La Biche. (PLB)

This portage is a short carry over the continental divide, which runs in a northeasterly direction from the east slope of the Rocky Mountains to the Arctic, separat-

ing the Churchill basin, which eventually drains into Hudson Bay, and the Athabasca-Mackenzie basin, which ultimately empties into the Arctic Ocean. The Beaver River is in the Churchill basin and Lac La Biche is located in the Athabasca-Mackenzie basin.

In 1798, at a point located a short distance south of Lac La Biche, fur-trader, and explorer David Thompson reached PLB with the aid of his guide, J.B. Laderoute. This critical link between the Churchill and Athabasca-Mackenzie basins, referred to by Elliott Coues as "a remarkable connection," became the gateway to the fur rich southern Athabasca country, a region beyond the HBC's territory known as Rupert's Land.

PLB is made up of the short portage between the Little Beaver River over the height of land, locally known as the Little Divide, to the south end of Field Lake (once known as the Petit Lac de Biche or Long Lake) then the length of Field Lake itself, and then the long or swampy portage from the north end of Field Lake to Lac La Biche where Thompson established Red Deers Lake House.

Peter Fidler of the HBC followed Thompson's route in 1799. Fidler erected Greenwich House on the shores of Lac La Biche, the first HBC Post beyond the boundaries of Rupert's Land. PLB became not only the gateway to the southern Athabasca region, but also a passage to the Pacific with Thompson's discovery of the Athabasca Pass in 1811.

Access to the Pass was achieved by crossing Lac La Biche, descending the La Biche River, and then proceeding upstream on the Athabasca River to a point near present day Jasper. The trek over the Great Divide via the Athabasca Pass led to the headwaters of the Columbia River.

Among other things, the Athabasca and Beaver Rivers provided safer passage to the fur brigades because they were situated in the domain of the Wood Cree outside of the territory of the much feared Peigan Indians, who attacked the brigades in the upper reaches of the North Saskatchewan River in the vicinity of Rocky Mountain House, and prevented them from using the Howse Pass. On his return from his second journey to the Pacific, Governor George Simpson directed the use of the Athabasca Pass instead of the Howse Pass.

Simpson described the route served by PLB as the "best route to the Athabasca region," and "the

continued on page 14

Join The University of Winnipeg Legacy Circle...

REMEMBER THE UNIVERSITY IN YOUR ESTATE PLANNING

Your legacy gift will help the University move confidently forward, supporting excellence and accessibility in education for generations to come.

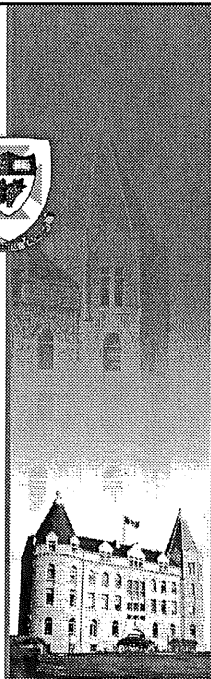
The Legacy Circle helps University friends and alumni stay well informed about new developments and programs on campus. Share in the excitement and help support our University and future students. Let us help plan a gift that is meaningful for you.

CALL THE UNIVERSITY OF WINNIPEG FOUNDATION TODAY.



Contact

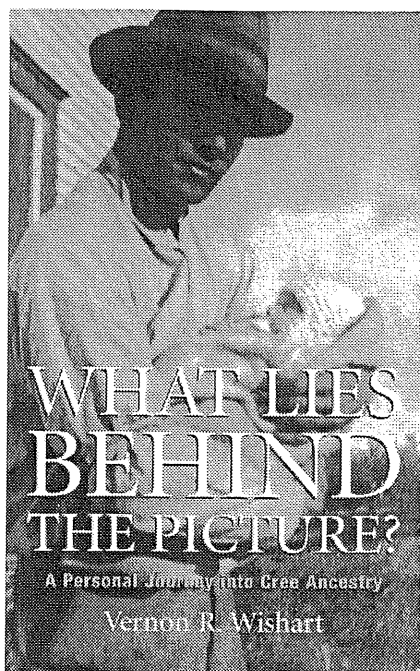
Sue Kennedy
Tel. 204.786.9123
s.kennedy@uwinnipeg.ca
www.uwinnipegfoundation.ca



UNIVERSITY OF WINNIPEG
FOUNDATION

The University of Winnipeg Foundation is dedicated to fundraising and asset stewardship in support of the mission and vision of The University of Winnipeg.

Book Announcements



***What Lies Behind the
Picture?: A Personal Journey
into Cree Ancestry***

Vernon R. Wishart

Vernon Wishart combines historical detective work and storytelling in this book about his personal search for family history. Situated in the larger history of western Canada, Wishart examines “the complicated truth about his family...” who, he discovers, kept secret their connections to the Cree people. Available through

The Central Alberta Historical
Society – Publications

4525 -47A Avenue, Red Deer
Alberta T4N6Z6

Phone 403 309-8442

Email: carmn@museum.red-deer.ab.ca

\$24.95 plus \$4.00 per book shipping
and handling.

Algonquian Conference Volumes

The Papers of the 36th Algonquian Conference is a peer-reviewed volume of the 2004 conference held at the University of Wisconsin, Madison. Edited by H.C. Wolfart and published at the University of Manitoba, this volume includes eight pages of colour illustrations.

Actes du 37e Congrès des Algonquinistes presents papers from the 2005 conference, with a special section of papers in tribute to Regina Flannery (1904-2004).

For ordering information go to: www.umanitoba.ca/algonquian

The Long Journey of a Forgotten People: Métis Identities and Family Histories

Virginia Barter’s chapter, “Searching for the Silver Fox: A Fur-Trade Family History,” will soon be out in the book, *The Long Journey of a Forgotten People: Métis Identities and Family Histories*. The book is to be published in February 2007 by Wilfrid Laurier University Press.

Barter joins many familiar names such as Olive Patricia Dickason, Heather Devine, and Nicole St. Onge in this new volume.

Publishing details are available at:

www.wlupress.wlu.ca/~wwwpress/Catalog/lischke-metis.shtml And
contents at:

<http://info.wlu.ca/~wwwpress/Catalog/Tocs/lischke-metis.html>

York Boats of the Hudson’s Bay Company: Canada’s Inland Armada Dennis Johnson

York Boats of the Hudson’s Bay Company tells the stories of the Métis, First Nations, French Canadians, and Orkneymen who traveled up and down Canada’s rivers, to help lay the foundations of Canada’s western provinces and northern territories. Johnson’s accomplishment serves to fill in a missing page in Canadian history – no other book tells in such detail and with such drama the history of this particularly Canadian mode of transportation and exploration.

Johnson, Dennis F. 2006. *York Boats of the Hudson’s Bay Company: Canada’s Inland Armada*. Calgary: Fifth House.

\$21.95, 224 pages, 59 photographs and illustrations, 11 maps, index and notes, is available through Fifth House Publishers, 403-571-5233, or promotions@fifthhousepublishers.ca.

Grand Portage Studies Available Online

*contributed by David J. Cooper
Chief of Resource Management
Grand Portage National Monument*

Grand Portage National Monument in Minnesota is pleased to announce that a number of archaeological, historical, and ethnohistorical studies pertaining to Grand Portage are now available on the Web in PDF format. A number of these studies have previously only been available in limited manuscript editions.

Titles and URL addresses are available from the Rupert's Land website: www.uwinnipeg.ca/academic/ic/rupert/

Titles include:

Cockrell, Ron. *Grand Portage National Monument Administrative History* (1982, revised 1983)

Thompson, Erwin. *Grand Portage: A History of the Sites, People, and Fur Trade*. (1969)

White, Bruce. *Grand Portage National Monument Historic Document Study* (2004); *Grand Portage as a Trading Post: Patterns of Trade at "the Great Carrying Place"* (2005)

Woolworth, Alan. *Archeological Excavations at the Northwest Company's Fur Trade Post, Grand Portage, Minnesota, in 1936-1937* (1963); *Archeological Excavations at Grand Portage National Monument: 1962 Field Season* (1968); *Archeological Excavations at Grand Portage National Monument: 1963-1964 Field Season* (1969); *Archeological Excavations at the North West Company's Depot, Grand Portage, Minnesota in 1970-1971* (1975).

David J. Cooper can be reached by email at david_j_cooper@nps.gov, phone (218) 387-2788

Some Place Name Changes to Honour David Thompson

Last summer, Andy Korsos, Edmonton cartographer whose work on mapping fur trade posts was featured at the Rupert's Land Colloquium in St. Louis last May, submitted an application to the Geographic Names Board of Canada to have the name of Mount David and its associated features, David Lake and David Creek, renamed to include the surname Thompson. As he stated in his submission: "The use of a first name [Mount David] is not a strong enough link from the geographical feature to the historical figure. This is especially true given the time that has passed and the lack of a monument or a form of literature that would be readily available to inform the traveler of the significance of the name associated with the name Mount David."

He concluded: "unlike early in the 20th Century, the utilization of both a first name and surname to identify a geographical feature is not unheard of. Mount Edith Cavell and Mount Terry Fox are just two examples of features carrying both the first name and the surname of a historical individual. This is an opportunity to help in the commemoration of a unique Canadian. A major

recognition of David Thompson is long overdue given his accomplishments. If anything, the clarifying of the name of Mount David will ensure that there is an unbreakable link from the geographical features to that of the historical figure David Thompson. The name "Mount David Thompson" will summon our curiosity to look beyond the name and promote a rediscovery of its historical significance and inherently a rediscovery of our own history."

The three names associated with David Thompson in Banff National Park have finally been approved by both Parks Canada and the Province of Alberta, and have now been adopted as official names by the Geographical Names Board of Canada. The new names are: Mount David Thompson. Location: Banff National Park of Canada, northeast of Coronation Mountain, 51.50.16 North, -116.49.36 West, David Thompson Lake: Location: Banff National Park of Canada, north of Mount David Thompson, 51.50.54 North, -116.49.49 West, and David Thompson Creek. Location: Banff National Park of Canada, flows through unnamed lake, then south into Howse River, 51.50.46 North, -116.47.39 West.

SISTER ARCHANGE (JEAN) BRADY, *Les Soeurs de la Charité de Montreal*

(The One Who Loves Children)

By and large, the role of women in the development of the Northwest has been a neglected chapter in Canadian history. Sister Archange (Jean) Brady is a remarkable Canadian woman who must be recovered from near oblivion.

Sister Brady had an affinity for young people and less fortunate folk. She deserves to be remembered beyond the environs of Fort Chipewyan, Alberta (Fort Chip.) and her religious community, the Sisters of Charity of Montreal (the Grey Nuns). Sister Brady was a role model. She epitomized the adage of Mother Teresa of Calcutta that "The Work is his Work and to remain so, all of us are but his instruments, who do our little bit and pass by." (1) Sister Brady was born at St. Paul, Alberta in 1911, a child of James Brady Sr. and his Metis spouse, Archange Garneau, a nurse. She took to heart one of her Irish father's favorite expressions: "Ability plus opportunity equals responsibility." (2)

When she was a youngster, Sister Brady lost her mother, who was a victim of the Spanish Flu epidemic of 1918. Her father placed her in a Grey Nun convent in St. Albert, Alberta along with five of her siblings. She became a Grey Nun in 1928. Later she received a B. Ed. degree from the University of Alberta. Sister Brady spoke English, Cree and French. She taught school at St. Albert and various communities in northern Saskatchewan. She was sent to Fort Chip. in 1950 and remained there for the rest of her days. Sister Brady was a schoolteacher and principal at Fort Chip. for 25 years. She kept in touch with her students by keeping a list and sending them each a yearly Christmas newsletter. Following her retirement in

1976, Sister Brady was made an Honorary Chief by the Elders of the Cree and Dene (Chipewyan) First Nations at Fort Chip. she was given the Cree name, "Anah Ka Sakihat Awassissa," which means, "The One Who Loves Children." Sister Brady was a member of a group of Canadian Native people who were present in Rome in 1981 to witness the beatification of Kateri Tekakwitha, the Lily of the Mohawks, and had an audience with Pope John Paul II.

In 1982 she was named an Elder to the Advisory Board of the Alberta Native Women's Society. According to the President of the Fort Chipewyan Historical Society who knew her well(3), "She accepted people as they were, respected one and all, and always had time to help where help was needed...she devoted her whole life to teaching children." Sister Brady once said that her personal philosophy could be summed up by one big word which would fit on a postage stamp, namely, LOVE. She was very close to her brother, James (Jim) Brady Jr. Sister Brady recognized and empathized with her brother's angst, idealism and leadership abilities, which later manifested themselves in his lifelong efforts to improve the lot of his people, the Metis of Northern Alberta and Saskatchewan. Jim Brady was an avid reader. It is said that the walls of his little shack were held up by his books. He was very articulate. Jim Brady was one of the founders in 1935 of l'Association des Metis d'Alberta et des Territoires du Nord Ouest, now the Metis Nation of Alberta.

Sister Brady and her brother were proud of their Metis heritage. In a pow-

erful and poignant letter (4) she wrote to her brother, "Jimmy," Sister Brady expressed her desire "to teach our Northern children," and "to help my people." In this letter she posed a rhetorical question, "Am I too human, Jimmy?" She then urged and encouraged him to strive to fulfill their shared dream, which, she said, could become a reality. Sister Brady was devastated when her brother and his friend, both experienced trappers, mysteriously disappeared in 1967 on an exploration trip in northern Saskatchewan.(5) Jim Brady would go to the Boreal forest, the healing woods, from time to time to renew himself. Rumors about his disappearance persist to this day among those who knew him. Nevertheless she carried on. Her dream remained undiminished.

Sister Brady died as a result of a sudden heart attack on April 3, 1984. The Fort Chip. community pleaded with her superiors to lay her at rest in their cemetery so that she could stay with them. But they would not relent. She was interred in the Grey Nuns' burial plot in St. Albert. However, after the funeral at the Grey Nuns' Regional Centre in Edmonton her remains were flown to Fort Chip for a memorial service where her beloved students and people could pay their last respects to The One Who Loved Children.

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Book Review

by David Malaher

Across The Great Divide: Robert Stuart and the Discovery of the Oregon Trail. Simon & Schuster Inc. Laton McCartney. 2003. 307 pages, footnotes, illustrations and maps

Robert Stuart crossed North America roughly along the 45th parallel in 1812/13. He was one of the handful of pioneering European explorers to make an original transcontinental journey. He was preceded by Samuel Hearne, Alexander Mackenzie, Lewis and Clark, Simon Fraser, David Thompson and Wilson Price Hunt. Only Jedediah Smith followed Stuart in finding a truly new path across the continent. All of these leaders and their entourages of men made monumental contributions to the understanding of North American geography and they collectively proved false the notion that there was a water route between the Atlantic and Pacific coasts.

Stuart nevertheless suffers from obscurity because he made his crossing from west to east instead of from the usual eastern seaboard starting place. Journalist Laton McCartney is a direct descendant of David Stuart with "unique access to Stuart's letters and diaries from the expedition," according to the jacket cover notes. McCartney's book is a comprehensive biography and a detailed account of Stuart's unusual and dangerous thirteen-month trip.

Stuart departed from Fort Astoria at the mouth of the Columbia River June 30, 1812, and arrived in John Jacob Astor's office in New York City on July 23, 1813, passing through St. Louis in May. Stuart had sailed from New York in October 1810, arriving in Astoria aboard Astor's ship the *Tonquin* in March of 1811. By the time Stuart was heading east he had heard the *Tonquin* had been blown up and all men were lost after a skirmish with the Natives at Clayoquot Sound. His job was to carry a letter to Astor from Wilson



South Pass, Wyoming, looking east

(Photo by David Malaher, May 2006)

Price Hunt and the Pacific Fur Company partners explaining the bad news, but also describing excellent business prospects with abundant furs for trade up and down the west coast and in the interior country. At first, Stuart intended to retrace Wilson Price Hunt's westbound path along the Snake River, over the Union Pass to the Wind River and then follow the Yellowstone and Missouri route to St. Louis. The significance of Stuart's journey began with his decision to take the advice of one of his Indian attackers, of whom there were several, and cross the Great Divide of the Rocky Mountains well south of Price's Union Pass. By chance he picked up independent trappers John Hoback, Jacob Reznor and Edward Robinson as guides in the upper Snake River district, but even they were unaware of the unexpectedly easy, flat terrain of the continental divide at the place later to be called South Pass.

South Pass is at only 7,550 feet elevation on a level, nearly twenty-mile wide, treeless plain, quite a contrast to the 10,000 feet altitude and difficult mountain trails on the Union Pass 100 miles farther north. As McCartney points out, the seven explorers who had previously passed over the Rockies "had a terrible time making their way over the mountain

passes, none of which proved remotely suitable for transcontinental wagon travel." Stuart and his party of six men were on foot, burdened with backpacks plus one horse carrying a load. They crossed the Great Divide on a cold day in October 1812, enjoying a drink of excellent clear water from the Sand River which, Stuart noted, was flowing eastward. This was a place where wheeled wagons could pass over with heavy loads of fur trade goods or household effects for immigrant settlers. Stuart's party at the time, however, was much more concerned about basics of food, water, and survival over the coming winter. In the spring of 1813 they found the large North Platte River flowing east and recognized the river and the pass as a natural pair for future travelers.

John Jacob Astor was impressed with Stuart's leadership and business acumen and retained him in various roles with the American Fur Company at Albany, Mackinac and Detroit. While living in Detroit, Stuart served as state treasurer of Michigan and then federal superintendent of Indian Affairs for the region. Born in Scotland in 1785, he moved to Montreal in 1807. He died in 1848 in Chicago.

McCartney's research reveals that Stuart's journal was viewed by Astor "as proprietary since it contained extensive intelligence of the fur trade." Astor did not release it until the 1830s when he handed it over to Washington Irving as background material for writing *Astoria; or Anecdotes of an Enterprise beyond the Rocky Mountains* published in 1836. South Pass had to be re-discovered by Jedediah Smith, the essential Mountain Man, in 1824 while

continued on page 14

Across the Great Divide (cont'd from p.13)

working for William H. Ashley. In conventional history accounts, credit goes to Smith for the success of the South Pass route to California that also served Mountain Man fur traders from 1825 to 1840 and the subsequent wagon trains of half a million settlers to Oregon, California and Utah, up to the building of railroads. For example, when writing in 1902 without access to the Stuart/Astor papers, historian Hiram Chittenden, criticized Stuart's "path of absurdity" in approaching South Pass.

Across the Great Divide tells more than the story of the South Pass. McCartney gives interesting views of the North West Company relations with John Jacob Astor and Stuart's meeting David Thompson at Astoria in 1811. Stuart's training as a clerk with the NWC beginning in 1807 is well described as are many personal features such as the generation of Stuarts before him and his own family following marriage in 1813. McCartney's writing makes engaging reading and he nicely connects a number of familiar related stories through the experiences of Robert Stuart. He rounds out the text with ample footnotes, illustrations and maps. I found this book at the Rupert's Land Colloquium in St. Louis and I am pleased to recommend it as a solid reference in cross-border fur trade history.

Portage La Biche (cont'd from p.9)

best and safest road to Jasper House." Unfortunately, PLB is not always referred to by name in the literature, although it was much traveled by both the NWC and the HBC between 1811 and 1825. During that period the fur trade traffic bypassed Edmonton.

In 1825 Simpson issued an edict that this route should be abandoned because of low water. Nevertheless, it apparently continued to be utilized by the fast despatch mail canoe of the HBC, the Columbia-York Express. Regrettably, PLB has been relegated to near oblivion. It is referred to by some as "The Forgotten Portage."

Eric W. Morse was in error when he set forth his largely unsupported opinion and harsh criticism of the Beaver River-PLB-Athabasca Route. It is high time that PLB is given its rightful place in the most exciting era of Canada's history.

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The 38th Algonquian Conference

The 38th Algonquian Conference will be held at the University of British Columbia, Vancouver, B.C. from the 27th to 29th of October, 2006. The special theme of this event is "The Western Door." Further information on the Conference is available at their website:
www.umanitoba.ca/algonquian.


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