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A Message to our Readers

The elm trees in Winnipeg are bursting into leaf, and the ice is gone from our rivers, so again it is time for our Spring Newsletter. We are slightly over a year away from our next Rupert's Land Colloquium in May 2008, at Rocky Mountain House, Alberta. See inside to review the latest details, and do take note of the call for paper proposals, which is also posted on our web site. This June, Carolyn Kent, David Malaher, Anne Lindsay, and Roland Bohr will be meeting in Rocky Mountain House to draw up the detailed plans and logistics for the Colloquium. A very rich program is shaping up. We all owe a major debt of gratitude to Carolyn for her local organizing work and her energy and enthusiasm; as with all our Colloquiums, it is the people on the ground who make the connections for us and who have the local knowledge to make these events so successful.

To be sure of continuing to receive these Newsletters with latest information on this event and many other things, be sure that your membership is current through 2007, as we must regretfully drop those from whom we don't hear. Check your mailing address on this envelope for your membership status, or enquire of Anne Lindsay at Rupert.land@uwinnipeg.ca and she will be glad to provide an update. Please also, if your e-mail address has changed in the last year, send a message to Anne with your new one, as we try to keep our list up to date and sometimes wish to send you communications and announcements. We of course do not allow commercial or other distribution of our list. We trust, however, that your providing us with your e-mail address signifies that we may provide it to other members or colleagues who wish to contact you. If this is not the case and you wish your address restricted, please notify us.

In this Newsletter, our Advisory Council Nominating Committee places before you a nomination for a Council replacement in the Membership category. Their nominee, who has graciously accepted to stand, is Dr. Patricia McCormack of the Faculty of Native Studies at the University of Alberta; she and her work are known to many of you. Please see inside for a profile of her interests and career. You may vote electronically on the nomination, or detach the paper ballot from the bottom of page 3, and mail it in as per instructions on the ballot. Voting will close on 25 May 2007. Thank for your prompt attention to this matter.

We have had a busy and productive winter. We have just renewed our co-publishing contract with McGill-Queen's University Press for the

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Director's Message

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continuation of the Rupert's Land Record Society series of documentary volumes. I will continue as general editor, and we are always on the lookout for new proposals to publish documentary materials relating broadly to the Aboriginal and fur trade history of Rupert's Land. Over the last 17 years, since the appearance of Harry W. Duckworth's volume, *The English River Book: A North West Company Journal and Account Book of 1786* (1990), we have co-published nine books in the series.

The newest RLRs volume was launched on April 19 at McNally Robinson Booksellers, Grant Park, in Winnipeg. Over 130 people attended the occasion to honour Louis Bird's *The Spirit Lives in the Mind: Omushkego Stories, Lives, and Dreams*, compiled and edited by Susan Elaine Gray, Research Associate with my Canada Research Chair. Susan also launched a second book that evening: "*I will Fear No Evil*": *Ojibwa-Missionary Encounters along the Berens River, 1875-1940*. Double congratulations to her on these outstanding achievements! Please see inside for publishing information on these fine works, and on a prize she just won.

In other Rupert's Land Record Society news, Bob Coutts has just informed us that McGill-Queen's University Press is doing a third

printing of Flora Beardy and Robert Coutts, eds., *Voices from Hudson Bay: Cree Stories from York Factory*, first published in 1996. It has been a very durable and highly valued contribution to the literature. So too has Regina Flannery's *Ellen Smallboy: Glimpses of a Cree Woman's Life* (1995). Dr. Flannery died in 2004 at the age of almost 100. Two notes of interest about this outstanding scholar: first, she has deeded her royalties on Ellen Smallboy to the Centre for Rupert's Land Studies, a thoughtful gesture for which we are most grateful. Second, she was honoured by some of our members and others in a special session at the October 2005 Algonquian Conference in Hull, Quebec. For the published papers from that session, see *Actes du 37e Congres des Algonquistes*, ed. H.C. Wolfart (2006); for order information, see www.umanitoba.ca/algonquian

A number of David Thompson bicentennials are being marked by events across the country in 2007-2011. In this period, too, the Champlain Society and McGill-Queen's University Press, with our collaboration, will be publishing a new three-volume edition of David Thompson's writings, edited by William Moreau; the first volume will appear in 2008. In this Newsletter is a short article reprinted from the Champlain Society newsletter, *Pen and Paddle*, which describes this

exciting project in more detail.

We have received numerous generous donations to the Centre in the last year, and are most grateful for every one. Every gift helps to maintain our work and build for the future, which we are working to secure. Contributors have the option of designating their gifts for our endowment, or for current operating costs, or in support of the Harington Fellowship program, now in its 20th year. Donations may also be in the form of legacies, or gifts of securities (stock), which offer certain advantages to their donors. For further information, please contact:

Sue Kennedy, Development Officer, Major/Planned Gifts, University of Winnipeg Foundation, 204-786-9123; e-mail: s.kennedy@uwinnipeg.ca

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The Centre for Rupert's Land Studies

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Director's Message

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Finally, on a personal note, I will be on sabbatical from July 1 to December 31, 2007. During that term, my history colleague, Dr. Roland Bohr, r.bohr@uwinnipeg.ca, will serve as interim CRLS director, the first time that some university provision has been made to assist with the directorship during one of my sabbaticals. I will still be in Winnipeg helping out, but look forward to getting on with numerous projects that have been calling me for some time. With all best wishes for the spring and summer,

Jennifer S.H. Brown, Director



The women gather great quantities of Hazle Nuts, but the mice render it almost impossible to preserve them.

Alexander Henry 1805

News from

The Hudson's Bay Company Archives

*Maureen Dolyniuk
Manager, Hudson's Bay Company
Archives*

Staff

There have been some staff changes since the last newsletter. Leah Sander, Archivist, left on January 19 to take a position with the Library and Archives of Canada. During the four years that Leah has been with us she has made substantial contributions to both re-description of records for the online Keystone descriptive database (<http://www.gov.mb.ca/chc/archives/keystone/index.html>) and to onsite access in the Archives Research Room. We have recently welcomed two new staff. Heather Beattie joined us in December to fill Leah's position. Heather has completed the Archival Studies program through the University of Manitoba and worked at the

Archives of Manitoba on an internship for several months over the past year. Nicole Thorkelson, Archives Assistant, began a half-time term position in February 2007. She assists with access to still images as well as Keystone listings entry.

Acquisitions

Recent acquisitions from the private sector include: Lloyd Keith fonds: "Fur Trade Scholars' papers": textual records relating to his book, North of Athabasca, 1996-2001; and James Mackie fonds: Photographs: 35 mm colour slides of HBC establishments and activities in the Western Arctic: Coppermine, Holman Island, and Cambridge Bay, 1959 and 1964. James Mackie was employed by the HBC ca. 1959-1970's.

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Ballot to fill position of Membership Representative on the Advisory Council of the Centre for Rupert's Land Studies

The Nominating Committee of the Advisory Council has put forward as its nomination, the name of Dr. Patricia McCormack for this position, and she has agreed to stand. See the information on her and her work published in this Newsletter. We invite your vote on this choice, either by cutting out and mailing this ballot to the Centre for Rupert's Land Studies, University of Winnipeg, 515 Portage Ave., Winnipeg, MB Canada R3B 2E9

For more information about Pat, please see page 14

Or you may convey your choice in an e-mail to: Rupert.land@uwinnipeg.ca

Voting will close on 25 May 2007.

Thank you for your participation!

I vote in favour of Patricia McCormack as a membership representative on the Advisory Council of the Centre for Rupert's Land Studies.

Yes

No

News from The Hudson's Bay Company Archives

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Please note: New acquisitions are available for consultation when they are fully processed. Depending on the records and donor agreements in place, access restrictions may apply. Also, Fur Trade Scholars interested in donating records to the HBCA should contact Marcia Stentz, Archivist (marcia.stentz@gov.mb.ca) or Debra Moore, Head, Acquisition and Special Media (debra.moore@gov.mb.ca).

Website Resources

With the launch of the online Keystone database and the redesigned website in 2005, the Archives has seen the benefits of giving access to more information about our holdings through the website. The response of our users has been very positive and has confirmed our commitment to developing more web content.

The population of the Keystone database and re-description of HBCA's holdings continues to focus on both corporate and non-corporate records.

The next phase of development is to build an image database, linked to the Keystone descriptive database, with the capability to display digitized images of records along with the description of the record.

Biographical sheets, which provide a thumbnail sketch of the work history of HBC employees continue to be converted to PDF format and made accessible on the website. Biographies from A to M are now available online: <http://www.gov.mb.ca/chc/archives/hbca/biographical/index.html>.

Rearview Manitoba

The Archives of Manitoba launched its first web exhibit in December, entitled *Rearview Manitoba: our heritage is closer than it appears*. *Rearview Manitoba* highlights contributions of selected Manitobans who are represented in the records held at the Archives of Manitoba, including the HBCA. Three individuals were highlighted in the first phase, with a plan for more to be added to the exhibit on an annual basis. The HBCA component of the first phase focuses on Thanadelthur, an 18-century Aboriginal woman who brokered a peace treaty between the Cree and Chipewyan peoples, thus enabling trade between the HBC and the Chipewyans in what is now northern Manitoba. Pages of the York Factory post journals which record the story of Thanadelthur have been digitized and are part of the exhibit.

Digitization Pilot Project

As part of a digitization pilot project, over 1,600 images have been digitized to date from the following collections: James McDougall fonds (1987/13): 216 albumen and collodion prints; Lorene Squire photographs (1981/28 and 1987/258): 366 silver gelatin prints; Henry Jones photographs (1987/250): 297 glass negatives and contact prints; John George McTavish Christie fonds (album 1987/21): 255 photos and 77 album pages, McTavish and Campbell family fonds (1986/39); 260 carte de visite; and Servants

contracts' photographs (A.32): 128 silver gelatin photographs. These images will eventually be accessible on the HBCA website through a searchable image database and will be linked to full descriptions of the collections in the Keystone descriptive database.

Archives of Manitoba Foyer Exhibit

The Bay downtown store celebrated the 80th anniversary of its opening in November 2006. In honour of this important milestone, the Hudson's Bay Company Archives and the Archives of Manitoba, have created an exhibit entitled "A New Store for an Old Company." The exhibit features information about the store's design, construction and use over the course of its history. It can be viewed until the end of October 2007 on the main floor of the Manitoba Archives Building, 200 Vaughan Street during regular Archives hours.

Hours

Monday to Friday, 9:00-16:00.
We are closed for inventory the first full week in September after Labour Day. Researchers traveling from out of town are encouraged to check with the Archives before planning a visit.

Contact Information

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Winnipeg MB R3C 1T5
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fax: 948-3236, e-mail: hbca@gov.mb.ca
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e-mail: (204) 945-2620
mdolyniuk@gov.mb.ca

News from the Manitoba Museum

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

Your displays are excellent! Everybody really enjoyed the Nonsuch ship and the Native displays! Thanks for making our trip a success. Grade Four Boissevain School, Manitoba

I was enchanted by everything; the variety, presentation and friendly staff. You have something in a class up there with museums I have seen in great cities in the world . . . the Nonsuch was marvelous . . . Gary, the volunteer was a delight . . . the Hudson Bay room was also fascinating. Margaret Turner, Mountain View, California

This is certainly one of the best museums I've ever seen. It brings everything to life. Producer/Writer Douglas Eadie, Pelicula Films Ltd., Glasgow, Scotland

The highlight of the year 2006-2007 was the donation of 11 artifacts from the Hudson's Bay Company to The Manitoba Museum. The successful application for the certification of the artifacts under the provisions of the Canadian Cultural Properties Export Review Board successfully culminated in the determination of the collection as a "national treasure." This generous donation to the people of Canada was celebrated with a media event attended by representation from the Hudson's Bay Company. Mr. Michael Rousseau, President of the Hudson's Bay Company, released the following statement: "We're pleased to make this donation to the Manitoba Museum, thereby ensuring future generations of Canadians will be able to see these national treasures for themselves."

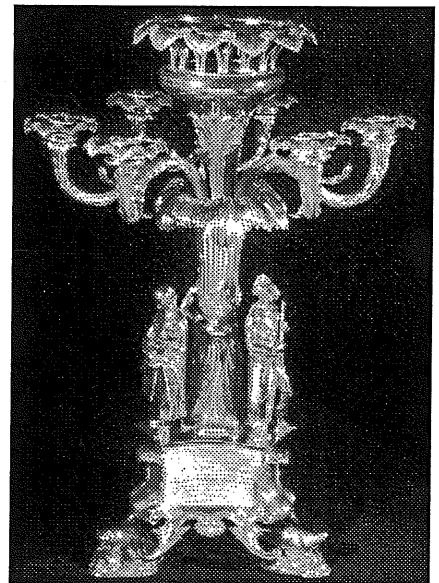
Two of the artifacts, namely a 19th C. full-size elaborately decorated ram's head snuff mull and silver épergne/candelabra, were once owned by Sir George Simpson. A number of later period silver commemorative items such as a desk set and beautifully engraved cup are associated with former governors and directors of the Hudson's Bay Company. There is also a seal that we believe was struck when a new charter was granted by Queen Elizabeth II in 1970. In that year the Company celebrated its 300th anniversary and relocated its Head Office from London, England to Winnipeg. Several of the artifacts are now on display in the HBC Gallery.

Curatorial work was dedicated to the completion of a basic electronic cataloguing of the 20,118 artifacts housed in the HBC Museum Collection. Staff also created digital images of a large number of artifacts. As of the end of March, there is a backlog of fewer than 600 artifacts remaining to be fully catalogued. The catalogued information will be downloaded into a national database over the coming year. This project was made possible through funding received from the Museums Assistance Program, Canadian Heritage and the Hudson's Bay Company History Foundation.

Over the past year, the collections and associated information were used by scholarly researchers, film companies, authors and private collectors. In addition, public access to the collection was

provided through a number of Behind-the-Scenes tours and workshops, the later involving instructional sessions for schoolteachers delivered by curatorial and school programs staff. Our most popular public program proved to be tours of the Nonsuch hold, and over 4,000 visitors took advantage of this unique opportunity. Approximately 1,096 classes consisting of a total of over 30,000 students participated in the Museum's various fur trade related programming.

The Museum was also pleased to partner with Canada's National History Society in the production of the website entitled "Fur Trade Stories." Museum staff assisted with providing images and historical information pertaining to 40 objects that were incorporated into the site.



An épergne/candelabra once owned by Sir George Simpson was donated to The Manitoba Museum this year. The base is engraved with the names of Chief Factors and Chief Traders who presented Simpson with this gift on the occasion of his 20 years of service with the HBC in 1841.

Conference Announcements and Calls for Papers

39th Algonquian Conference

Special Theme: Meeting Grounds
and Gathering Places

18-22 October 2007

York University, Toronto, Ontario

The 39th Algonquian Conference will be held at York University (Toronto, Ontario) the 18-22 of October 2007. This conference is an international meeting for researchers working in the area of Algonquian studies. This year the conference will have the theme of "Meeting Grounds and Gathering Places" relating to Algonquian

communities both contemporary and historic.

We invite papers on all topics that concern Algonquian studies, including anthropology, archaeology, art, biography, cultural education, ethnography, botanical ethnography, historical ethnography, musical ethnography, folklore, geography, history, linguistics, literature, music, language education, politics, cultural psychology, religion and sociology. Papers may be given in either French or English.

This year presenters will have a choice of two formats: panels or poster sessions. Orally delivered papers must not be longer than 20 minutes, with 10 minutes allowed for discussion.

Due Date for Submissions:
September 1, 2007

For further information, please go to:

<http://www.umanitoba.ca/algonquian>

Or contact Dr. Carolyn Podruchny,
York University:

carolynp@yorku.ca

13th Biennial Rupert's Land Colloquium

Proposal Forms and Guidelines for the 2008 Rupert's Land Colloquium at Rocky Mountain House Alberta are now available at the Centre for Rupert's Land Studies homepage:

<http://www.uwinnipeg.ca/academic/ic/rupert/collo2008.html>

Or contact the Centre and a Proposal Form will be mailed out to you.

Rivers West Conference

Current Perspectives: The 5th Canadian River Heritage Conference Winnipeg, Manitoba
June 10-14, 2007.

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

For further details, see: < www.riverswest.ca >and
< www.routesonthered.ca

American Society for Ethnohistory

Call for Papers, 2007 Annual Meeting

Deadline: 15 June 2007

Theme: Tribes and Nations: Persistence and Adaptation of Indigenous Identities

November 7-10, 2007, Downtown Doubletree Hotel,
Tulsa, Oklahoma

The Department of Anthropology at the University of Tulsa in partnership with the Cherokee Nation of Oklahoma is pleased to host the 2007 Meeting of the American Society for Ethnohistory. The date November 16, 1907, marks the centennial of the admission of the state of Oklahoma to the Union. The thirty-eight federally recognized American Indian tribes in Oklahoma today are sovereign, self-governing nations whose presence in the state is evidence of the ability of tribal/cultural identity to transcend removal from homelands and the vagaries of federal assimilation policy.

To submit paper and session proposals, please go to:
<http://ethnohistory.org>.

Or contact Dr. Clara Sue Kidwell, Chair, Program Committee at: cskidwell@ou.edu.

2008 Rocky Mountain House Colloquium Events

By Carolyn Kent, Rocky Mountain House, Alberta

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 (3:15-5:00)

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

Thursday Evening, May 15, 2008

A music ethnology 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

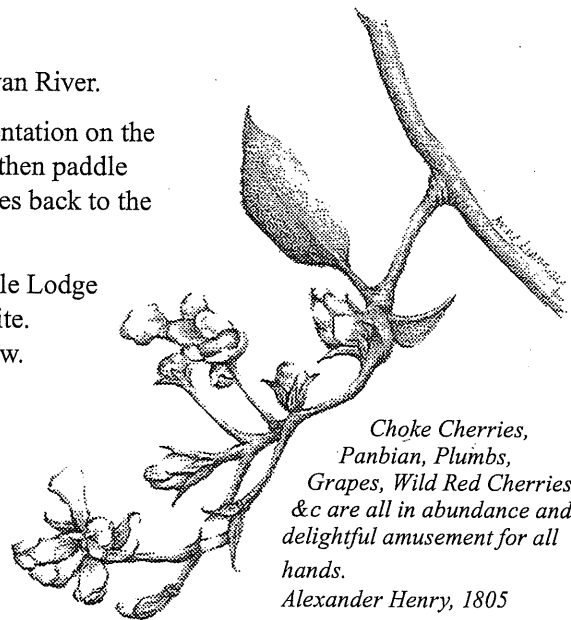
Participants will take in the Aboriginal history of the Kootenay Plains, visit the Howse Pass view point, and explore the trading posts of the Jasper Valley. This trip will end in Edmonton.

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. Call for Papers is now available on our website. Further information to come; watch the CRLS website at www.uwinnipeg.ca/academic/ic/rupert/.



*Choke Cherries,
Panbian, Plumbs,
Grapes, Wild Red Cherries
&c are all in abundance and
delightful amusement for all
hands.
Alexander Henry, 1805*

Book Launch

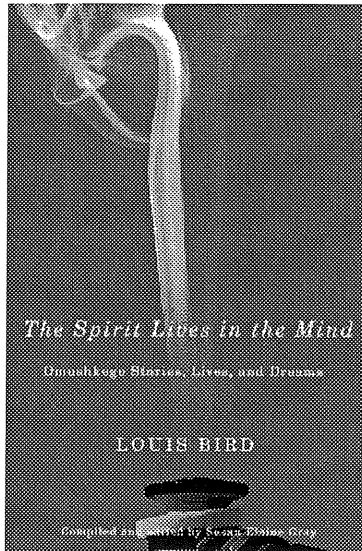
Susan Elaine Gray Launches two New Books

On 19 April McNally Robinson Book Sellers in Winnipeg hosted a well-attended book launch for two books recently published by Susan Elaine Gray, Research Associate to Jennifer Brown's Canada Research Chair in Aboriginal Peoples in an Urban and Regional Context at the University of Winnipeg.

The Spirit Lives in the Mind: Omushkego Stories, Lives, and Dreams, by Cree story teller and scholar Louis Bird, compiled and edited by Gray and published by McGill-Queen's University Press, is the latest volume in the Rupert's Land Record Society Series. Here Bird shares the stories and teachings of the Swampy Cree people that have passed through generations as part of a rich oral tradition.

Cree spiritual beliefs revolve around the rich landscapes and sacred places of the Hudson Bay lowlands. The beautiful narratives in this book illuminate the meaning and value of spiritual maturity and power, the parallels between Omushkego morality and Roman Catholic teachings, and the importance in maintaining the traditional stories. Bird also offers explanations of shamanism and shows how Catholicism affected Cree tradition.

Bird and Gray collaborated in compiling the narratives and personal testaments that comprise *The Spirit Lives in the Mind*. The book is an evocation of aboriginal peoples, their landscapes, and their places in the sky.



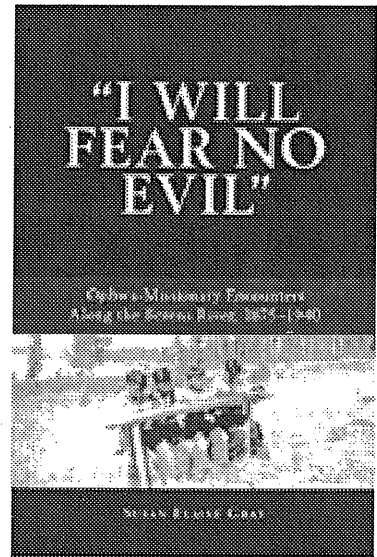
The Spirit Lives in the Mind: Omushkego Stories, Lives, and Dreams, by Cree story teller and scholar Louis Bird, compiled and edited by Susan Elaine Gray and published by McGill-Queen's University Press, *For order information, see the enclosed RLRs Flyer, offering a discount to our members!*

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In *"I Will Fear No Evil": Ojibwa-Missionary Encounters Along the Berens River, 1875-1940* Gray offers a new perspective on missionary-aboriginal encounters between the Berens River Ojibwa and Christian missionaries. *"I Will Fear No Evil"* moves beyond a simple chronicle of the introduction and adoption of Christian elements by the Ojibwa to recognize and highlights the complicated ebb and flow of ideas and beliefs between these two groups.

Conversions and the adoption of Christianity had multi-dimensional meanings and were interpreted in many different ways by the Berens River Ojibwa. Christian rituals and practices were integrated into their worldview in ways that were meaningful to the participants, and today, a blend of both Christian and Ojibwa ideas are interwoven into the lives of Berens River residents.

With both traditions holding such meaning and sincerity, this dynamic, complex, and uniquely adaptive religion sheds new light on our understanding of cultural contact and change.



"I Will Fear No Evil": Ojibwa-Missionary Encounters Along the Berens River, 1875-1940 is copublished by University of Calgary Press and Michigan State University Press

For order information, see: <http://www.uofcpress.com/>; for U.S. orders, see: <http://msupress.msu.edu/>

• • • • •

On Saturday, 28 April 2007, the Manitoba Historical Society bestowed the Margaret McWilliams Award for best scholarly book of the year relating to Manitoba history on Susan Elaine Gray's book, *"I Will Fear No Evil."* Warmest congratulations!

David Thompson Fans Unite!

The Champlain Society renews its bond with “the greatest of all geographers”

By Germaine Warkentin

Reprinted by permission from *Pen and Paddle, the Newsletter of the Champlain Society, winter 2007.*

In the next year, Champlain Society and CRLS members will have the opportunity to acquire a new edition of a very special book. *David Thompson's The Travels* is of singular importance to Canadians as it represents not only a spectacular geographical journey, but a spirited intellectual one as well. Thompson's scientific thinking and his insight into Native ways were unparalleled for the time in both range and thoroughness. When the Society's first edition of Thompson appeared in 1916 its editor, J.B. Tyrrell, called Thompson one of the greatest of all land geographers for his exploration and mapping of over 50,000 miles of the Canadian West, travels in which his wife Charlotte Small and their children often accompanied him between 1784 and 1812.

Spearheading the project almost a hundred years later is a member of The Champlain Society's council, William E. Moreau. Recognizing that *Thompson's Travels* remained a “work in progress” throughout the explorer's last years, Moreau's edition will present the work as it evolved, supplemented by maps, critical annotations, sections that Thompson wrote but never inserted, and by his journalism and letters.

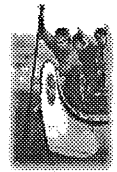
This edition will change the way we see Thompson. From his intellectually and physically adventurous years with the Hudson's Bay Company and the North West Company to his declining years in Montreal, struggling in poverty and with blindness approaching, Thompson persisted indomitably with his writing. This new edition will bring Thompson's narrative faithfully to the general reader, and will ensure accurate citation by the scholars who so frequently refer to it. Volume I (2008) presents the 1850 version of the *Travels*, volumes II and III (to come later) will contain the 1848 version, with associated texts, and selections from Thompson's other writings.

The “new Thompson” is a joint initiative. The University of Washington Press and McGill-Queen's University Press first approached the Society with the idea of working collaboratively on Thompson. The Champlain Society agreed to take responsibility for preparing the edition and asked Moreau, whose doctoral work had been on the history of Thompson's writings, to edit the work. Also involved in publication is the University of Winnipeg's Centre for Rupert's Land Studies, which brought welcome special expertise to the project. Publication of this new edition will also help to mark the David Thompson Bicentennial celebrations (2007-11) currently

being organized. (See <http://www.davidthompson200.org/cms/>)

While *The Writings of David Thompson* is not part of the Society's regular series, its volumes will offered to members of the Champlain Society and the Centre for Rupert's Land Studies in advance of trade publication, at a reduced rate, and in the Society's emblematic red and gold binding.

MANITOBA HISTORIC FUR TRADE TOURS



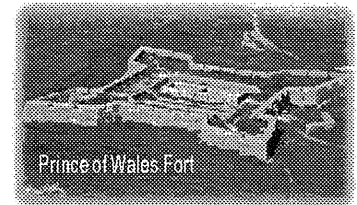
— August 18 & 19, 2007 —

Walk in the footsteps of the early
explorers and Hudson Bay
Company Fur Traders!

Includes:

- Norway House tour • York Factory tour
- Churchill's Sloop Cove & Prince of Wales Fort tour (see *Beluga Whales on the boat trip to the Fort*) • All private charter flights (origin from Wpg) • Expert tour guides throughout the entire tour • Overnight in Churchill hotel
- All meals and transfers

Exclusive tour limited to 12 persons
\$1,899 (Cdn) + GST per person dbl occ

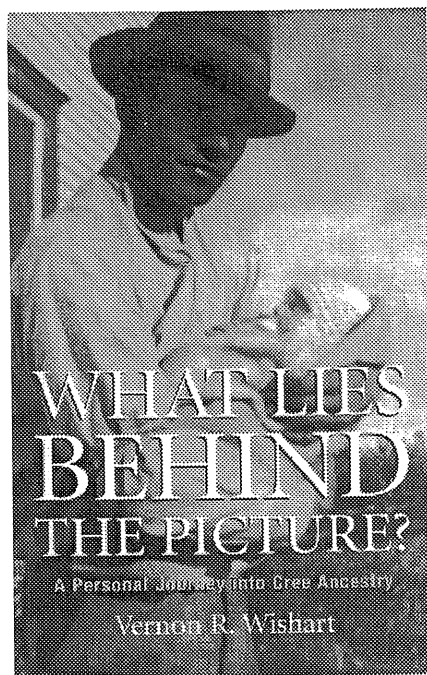


Prince of Wales Fort

Heartland International Travel & Tours
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info@heartlandtravel.ca
www.heartlandtravel.ca

Book Review

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



Vernon R. Wishart. *What Lies Behind the Picture? A Personal Journey into Cree Ancestry*. Full Court Press, 2006: 230pp.

Reviewed by Sarah Carter,
University of Alberta

This is a compelling and highly readable book in which author Vernon R. Wishart, a retired minister of the United Church of Canada, traces the discovery of his Aboriginal ancestry with the assistance of his sister Shirley Wishart. This ancestry was through their father, who died in 1959 without ever mentioning this heritage to any of the family. Wishart does not know why his father kept silent but assumes that he grew up in an environment of discrimination and racism, and did not want his children to have this experience. The title of the book refers to a very poignant 1927 photograph of Wishart at two weeks cradled in the arms of his father.

The first evidence of Aboriginal ancestry was discovered six years after the death of their father when they learned from a history of Rosebud, Alberta that their great grandmother, Eliza Wishart, had knowledge of Aboriginal medicine. From this clue they have traced a fascinating cast of ancestors, of men who came from Scotland and England to work with the Hudson's Bay Company, the women of Rupert's Land who married them, and the many descendants of these marriages. The story begins with Isaac Batt, an Englishman who signed on with the HBC in 1754. He had a Cree wife named Nestichio and they had a daughter. A most impressive amount of detail has been located on the diverse family members through HBC and other genealogical records. There are also plenty of adventure stories and all of this adds up to a riveting read. Isaac Batt for example, was shot by Gros Ventres in 1791. Great-great-grandfather Thomas Wishart, who came from the Orkneys in 1819, almost didn't make it as his boat (with John Franklin aboard) narrowly escaped shipwreck. He wasn't the first Wishart to leave Orkney for Rupert's Land- tailor Nicholas Wishart was "lost in the Barren grounds and devoured by wolves" in 1784.

The portraits of Wishart's women ancestors are also fascinating, and I was astonished at the detail available for some of these. Wishart's great-great grandmother "Saskatchewan," who was from the Fort Carlton district, married William Flett, a founder of Fort Edmonton. As a

widow at the age of 66 in 1841, she was among the colonists from Red River who were sent overland to Oregon. George Simpson recorded her reaction when the colonists neared Carlton and she saw once again the river after which she was named: "She had been absent from this land of her birth for 18 years; and on catching the first glimpse of the river, from the hill near Carlton, she burst, under the influence of old recollections, into a violent flood of tears. During the two days that the party spent at the fort she scarcely ever left the bank of the stream, appearing to regard to with as much veneration as the Hindoo [sic] regards the Ganges." (p. 82)

The book is solidly grounded in studies of fur trade history and owes much to the work of scholars such as Sylvia Van Kirk and Jennifer Brown and the archivists who are assisting so many in Western Canada to locate their Aboriginal ancestors. We are perhaps observing the emergence of a new genre of prairie writing and film as stories emerge of the discovery of Aboriginal ancestry and the secrets families kept hidden, sometimes for generations, beginning with Christine Welsh's film "Out of the Shadows" and with books such as Warren Cariou's *Lake of the Prairies: A Story of Belonging*. Together these shed light on the politics of race and legacy of discrimination in Western Canada.



New Book

A Hard Road To Travel; Land, Forests and People in the Upper Athabasca Region

by Peter J. Murphy with Bob Udell, Bob Stevenson and Tom Peterson

People have co-existed with the land in the upper Athabasca for the last 10,000 years. The authors trace the changing relationships between people and forests as humans first travelled through the area, then stayed to struggle, survive and eventually flourish – first despite the forest, then in harmony with it.

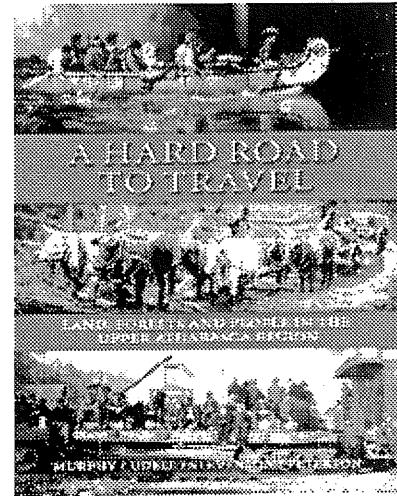
“Treating the Athabasca corridor for its entire non-Native history, *A Hard Road to Travel* takes its readers through two parallel histories brought together as one. It tells the stories of not just the fur traders on the transcontinental route between Hudson Bay and the Pacific Ocean, nor just the tourists, alpinists, skiers, and campers making annual pilgrimages to the mountains, but also the miners and foresters, the freighters and surveyors, the railway builders and homesteaders, the guides and

wardens (horses in tow), forest industrialists and their provincial and federal government counterparts, and the forests and wildlife of the Athabasca. ... Whether waterway, trail, railway, highway, or logging road, the road was hard won. This book does ample justice to the story of those who knew and know as much.”

From the Foreword by I.S. MacLaren, author of Mapper of Mountains, professor of History and English, University of Alberta.

Available from:

Foothills Model Forest
<http://www.fmf.ca>, and
The Forest History Society, <http://www.foresthistory.org> 306 pp., 154 photographs, 28 maps, timeline, index, 8" x 10"; \$34.95 softcover, \$49.95 hardcover. (SCDN). 2007.



Contents:

The Land and the Forest
Early Explorers and Athabasca Pass
The Yellowhead Pass
Trails North to Jasper
Railways, Roads and Development
Forest Protection and Management
North Western Pulp & Power
Reprise and Epilogue

Guidelines for Submissions to the Rupert's Land Newsletter

The Centre for Rupert's Land Studies welcomes submissions for its biannual (Spring and Fall) Newsletter on all topics related to Aboriginal and Fur Trade history and the region previously known as Rupert's Land. Although we cannot guarantee your submission will be accepted, if it is, we will make every effort to include material in as timely a manner as possible. The following are some guidelines for submissions:

1. Please contact editors Jennifer Brown and Anne Lindsay with your ideas for a submission, before you send it. Maximum length: 500-700 words; material

- will be copy-edited and may be shortened to fit in available space.
2. Please submit text in Word, (.doc) or Rich Text Format (.rtf) that can be read by Word 2003. Do not submit text in the body of an email. Please left justify all your text. Check with us about the current deadline. Contributions for the Fall Newsletter are normally due by early October; and for Spring, by late March.
3. Please submit illustrations or artwork in black and white, and in a style that will reproduce well against an off-white background, and as a relatively small image. This generally means as simple

and fairly high contrast as possible. Please submit artwork separately, do not embed it in a textual document. Please also supply captions, and provide sources for any images you submit. Authors are responsible for securing permission to reproduce copyright material.

4. Please double-check the weblinks or email addresses you submit to be sure they are current and working.

If you have any questions, please contact the Centre at:

*rupert.land@uwinnipeg.ca
(attention: Anne Lindsay)*

Report on Ethnographic Interviews Conducted in May 2006 with Metis People in Happy Valley-Goose Bay and North West River, Central Labrador

Yves Labrèche, Associate Researcher with the Canada Research Chair on Métis Identity at the Collège universitaire de Saint-Boniface, provides the following Preliminary Report on recent Labrador Metis research

This field research in Labrador was undertaken through the Canada Research Chair on Metis Identity (CRCMI) at the College universitaire de Saint-Boniface. The Chair program addresses problems and issues in connection with Metis identity during the contemporary period (1930 to the present).

The recent history of many Metis communities on the peripheries of the Plains Metis homelands remains poorly understood. Although Manitoba and the northern Plains remain the principal research area for the CRCMI program, we believe that our understanding of Canadian Metis identity will benefit from a re-examination of the situation of communities located in northern areas or on the periphery of what is generally acknowledged as the core area of traditional Metis culture. Prior to this 2006 field research, I had conducted extensive fieldwork in Labrador and therefore had access to relevant ethnohistorical, ethnographic and archaeological data necessary to understand the Labrador cultural setting. This investigation provided an opportunity to gather information on cultural history and identity in central Labrador, where the historical, social and cultural backgrounds of people of mixed ancestry differ substantially from those of the "core area".

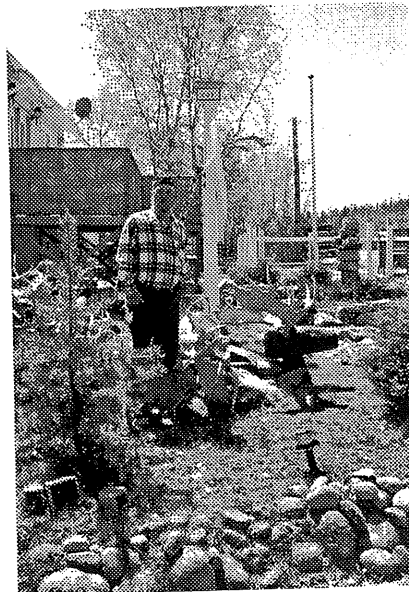
Methods and procedures

Under an agreement made with The Labrador Metis Nation in February 2006, fieldwork for this interview program was conducted in the latter part of May 2006. The research team included myself and Clarice Blake Rudkowski, who provided much support in the organization of the work, including but not limited to contacting potential informants, scheduling the interviews, transportation, and even providing a cosy place for the interview in her own home when this was more convenient for the informants.

We used an ethnographic approach suggested by Professor Denis Gagnon (2004). Ethnography offers relevant methods precisely designed over a century of investigations. It aims to let the humble people speak, those who normally do not have an opportunity: isolated communities, people living under colonial rule, dominated or marginalized groups (Beaud and Weber 2003: 8-9). This approach values speech and oral tradition that are too often ignored while written sources are well received in legal battles in Canadian courts regarding Aboriginal land claims (Von Gernet 1996). It is important to emphasize oral tradition and people's voice without neglecting written sources.

We followed a standard interview procedure along with a questionnaire. Although we normally kept to this sequence of questions, we paid attention to any additional information that the informants were willing to communicate: their insights, attitudes and gestures; and always

aimed to express empathy and thoughtfulness. Following standard procedures, we completed a consent form at the beginning of each interview to address any concerns regarding privacy and confidentiality.



Metis informant Richard (Dick) Michelin in his front yard, Northwest River, Labrador. Photo by Y. Labrèche, May 2006.

Results of fieldwork, analysis, and summary to date

Seventeen interviews were completed for the purpose of this report and provide a base for further analysis. We used a digital voice recorder and the sound files were later downloaded on a computer. The literal transcription of the interviews is still underway. Therefore, the present report is based on written information currently available from the field research, including field notes, interview forms and the transcripts of the interviews completed to date. The number of persons interviewed included eight women and 10 men

continued on page 13

Report on Ethnographic Interviews

continued from page 12

between the age of 29 and 85; one participant withdrew. There are currently four text files containing interview transcripts from three women and one man.

Interview data were classified according to ten principal themes following a sequence consistent with the 14 questions of the interview questionnaire. 1- Discovering and transmitting identity (Q1-2); 2- Exhibiting identity (Q3); 3- Discrimination and exclusion (Q4) 4- Metis identity and other identities (Q5-6) 5- Inter-ethnic relations (Q7-8) 6- Advantages and disadvantages of being Metis (Q9-10); 7- Metis groups and organizations (Q11); 8- Authenticity and Metis culture and traditions (Q12); 9- Metis denominations and ethnic categorisation (Q13); 10- Reference to Metis historical events and characters (Q1-14). Note that the numbers between brackets refer to the original questions that were in some instances merged into one theme during the analysis.

We anticipate that this study will provide a better understanding of contemporary Metis identity and aspirations through a detailed analysis of land and resource use in this northern setting where agriculture plays a minor role, and where subsistence activities such as hunting and fishing still play a major role in defining Metis communities. However, it must be noted that these communities do not live in closed systems although some may still lack access to some basic services. Their lifestyle is constantly affected by

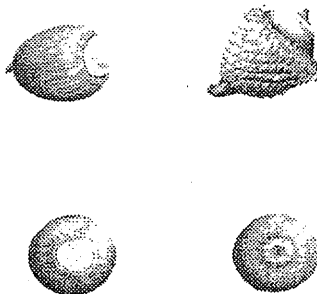
industrialization (e.g., creation of hydroelectric facilities, road construction, mining, and forestry operations). These activities create wage employment opportunities that may require seasonal mobility, but which may also have negative impacts on their environment and on the natural resources on which they rely for their subsistence.

References

Beaud, Stéphane and Florence Weber. 2003. *Guide de l'enquête de terrain: produire et analyser des données ethnographiques*. Paris, Éditions La Découverte.

Gagnon, Denis. 2004. *L'entrevue semi dirigée. Guide de l'intervieweur*. CRCIM, Winnipeg, Collège Universitaire de St. Boniface.

Von Gernet, Alexander. 1996. *Oral Narratives and Aboriginal Pasts: An Interdisciplinary Review of the Literature on Oral Traditions and Oral Histories*. Research and Analysis Directorate, Indian and Northern Affairs Canada.



The tops of the oak trees have been also very roughly handled broken and torn down to get the acorns.

Alexander Henry 1800

Catharine McClellan's new publications

Rupert's Land members will be especially interested in the following papers offered through the Yukon Archives:

Occasional Papers in Yukon History No. 5(1)

"My Old People's Stories: A Legacy for Yukon First Nations. By Catharine McClellan. Part I: Southern Tutchone Narrators." 196 pp. 2007

Occasional Papers in Yukon History No. 5(2),

"My Old People's Stories: A Legacy for Yukon First Nations. By Catharine McClellan. Part II: Tagish Narrators." 283 pp. 2007

Occasional Papers in Yukon History No. 5(3),

"My Old People's Stories: A Legacy for Yukon First Nations. By Catharine McClellan. Part III: Inland Tlingit Narrators." 328 pp. 2007

The Yukon Archives will be posting PDF versions of these publications on their website, which may be downloaded. Alternatively, people can contact Ruth Gotthardt by email, and she will mail the books. Contact information and web address:

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Government of Yukon
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Whitehorse, Yukon Y1A 2C6

Phone: (867) 667-5983 Fax: (867) 667-5377

Email: Ruth.Gotthardt@gov.yk.ca

Web: www.yukonheritage.com

**Patricia McCormack, Nominee for the
Rupert's Land Council** (see ballot, page 3)

A Brief Biographical Sketch



I have had the good fortune to be a faculty member with the Faculty of Native Studies at the University of Alberta since 1994. Previously, I served as the Curator of Ethnology at the Provincial Museum of Alberta (now the Royal Museum of Alberta), where I developed several fur trade-related exhibits. My research has been broadly ethnohistorical, focusing on Aboriginal peoples in northern Canada, southern Alberta, and Scotland in the contexts of the fur trade and the expansion of the state. In addition to the fur trade, I am interested in cultural transformation

and renewal, oral traditions and indigenous knowledge, material culture, missionaries and Native Christianity, and patterns of colonialism. Currently, I am completing a book about Fort Chipewyan, a northern Canadian plural society, and working on a second book about Thanadelthur, an historic Dene woman. I have branched out in recent years to assist lawyers in numerous cases and have served as an expert witness, most recently in the Benoit Treaty No. 8 taxation case.

***We need to hear
from you!***

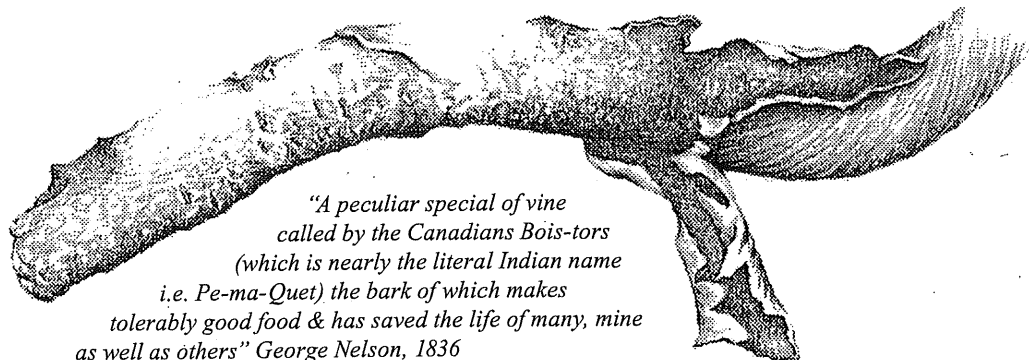
We are updating our email list so we can keep members informed of events between newsletters. Please email us: rupert.land@uwinnipeg.ca so we can be sure to keep you informed.

***New Book: We Are
at Home: Pictures of
the Ojibwe People by
Bruce White***

In this book, which also has a foreword by Gerald Vizenor, White examines a collection of stunning and storied images—ranging from daguerreotypes to studio portraits to postcards and snapshots—and acts as a photographic detective, uncovering the real stories behind the pictures and showing how traditional photographs, often perceived as fact, can blur the line between history and fiction. Ultimately, his work tells as much about the people in the pictures—what they were doing on a particular day, how they came to be photographed, how they made use of costumes and props—as about the photographers who took them. The result is a vivid history of a people at home in Minnesota's landscape.

For more information on the book and related events, see the Minnesota History Society website:

www.mnhs.org/index.htm



*"A peculiar special of vine
called by the Canadians Bois-tors
(which is nearly the literal Indian name
i.e. Pe-ma-Quet) the bark of which makes
tolerably good food & has saved the life of many, mine
as well as others" George Nelson, 1836*

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The annual fee for CRLS is \$25.00; if outside Canada, please remit payment of US\$25.00.

Your membership will bring you current CRLS Newsletters, which include notices of conferences and current research projects, items of interest by and for our members, and special offers on publications. Members are also invited to participate in the Rupert's Land Colloquiums. We are able to refer members to qualified local research assistants, and can help to put you in touch with others doing research in similar fields.

Please make your cheque out to the The University of Winnipeg, with the notation that it is for membership in the Centre for Rupert's Land Studies. All membership funds and donations go to support the Centre and its activities and publications.

Contributions of ten dollars or more in excess of the membership fee will be eligible for a charitable tax receipt from The University of Winnipeg Foundation, and are gratefully received in support of our work, Colloquiums, and publications; they may also be earmarked for the Harington Fellowship Fund.

The Centre for Rupert's Land Studies at The University of Winnipeg facilitates scholarly research and publishing concerning the history of the Hudson's Bay Company territory, known from 1670 to 1870 as Rupert's Land. The Centre hosts biennial colloquiums, promotes awareness of the Hudson's Bay Company Archives in Winnipeg, acts in a networking capacity for researchers, and co-publishes, with McGill-Queen's University Press, a series of documentary volumes on aspects of the history of Rupert's Land. We welcome your participation and support.

Please send membership applications and further queries to:

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Rupert's Land Online

The Centre for Rupert's Land Studies website has current information about the Centre, books and papers for sale, the 2008 Colloquium and other items of interest, including order forms and membership information. We are also constantly adding links to other sites that may

be useful to researchers with an interest in the fur trade and Aboriginal history.

The Centre's website can be accessed at:
www.uwinnipeg.ca/academic/ic/rupert/.