

**Manitoba Living History Society**  
La société pour l'histoire vivante du Manitoba



Delivery of the  
**NEWSLETTER**  
in the Red River Settlement  
*December 2015*



**Winter Pastime 1855** by Fanny Palmer

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## Word from the Editor

This edition has a few guest editors. Students from my school were required to complete an assignment for the English course. Gen graciously turned over the task for my students to work on.

A few of the students who were a part of the assignment participated in the VPRR last year and the school heritage Day and were excited to see what other things we do. We will work to get a newsletter out in a shorter period of time for the next issues.

*Gen, Marie and students of Room 138 & 141*



## Chair Chat with Marie

A few months have passed since the last newsletter and we have been busy! July 1st saw a number of folks at various sites. The MLHS group site was Ross House and we were warmly welcomed by the site. Victor Sawelo and his hard working group made us feel welcome in the neighbourhood. Ross House is a historic gem in the center of the north end; actually Point Douglas. Once the warmer weather is around, we are looking at a day to help polish the brass plaques and have a museum tour. We have already been invited for Canada Day 2016.

July continued to be busy as we have two award winners in our midst. Both Judy and Barry were awarded the City of Winnipeg Community

Service Award. We had a paint the shed day and a baggage sewing day. Then a trip to two Austin's for a busy time. Folklorama took care of a few days for sharing what we do. Also taking place in August, MLHS created a fabulous timeline History Vignette for the Friends of Lower Fort Garry 30th Anniversary Tea. It was a history fashion parade with stories of Manitoba people of the area. Then we did something completely for us, the Fall Gathering was held at Barb Rieder's farm in Komarno.

In September we held an enormous undertaking presenting a Heritage Education Day at St John's High School which we saw over 1000 students participate. We were quite excited about this venture as it really fits with education component of what we do.

In October, several of us were at the Manitoba Museum as wayfarer's for a conference for a lot of people. Erle was also in Brandon with another school program for students and November had a good Baggage sewing day with another scheduled for Dec 5. Yes- it has been a busy few months.

For 2016 we have received an invite to attend the New Year's Levee by the new Lieutenant Governor Janice Filmon and we have some unique things on the horizon for the 2016 anniversary of the Vote for Women in January as well. We are just starting discussions and will let you know as soon as we know. The AGM will be scheduled for mid to end of January, details will be sent as things are arranged.

I would like to say thank you for a terrific couple of months and the energy of doing what we do.

I wish all of you a Happy Christmas and a Merry New Year. Stay well.

Warmest Wishes

*Marie*

## Canada Day July 1, 2015



### Ross House Background

Ross House, served as the first Post Office in Western Canada, and is one of the last remaining examples of Red River frame architecture in Winnipeg. In 1949, the house was saved from demolition by the Manitoba Historical Society and, after several relocations, the MHS operated it as a museum for 30 years. In 1984, the Museum was moved to its present location in Joe Zuken Heritage Park, ownership was then transferred to the City of Winnipeg.

The building itself is as much a part of the museum as the artefacts it contains. It is made almost entirely of oak timber. All the logs used for construction were hand carved. The museum hosts an interpretive exhibit as well as rooms set to reflect the life of the Ross family when their home served as the Post Office. Ross House Museum provides a glimpse into the operation of the early postal service in Western Canada, as well as 1850s homestead life, and the lives of the Ross family.

What a beautiful day for Canada Day, warmish but not too warm, the weather cooperated with a slight breeze that kept the mosquitos away! Ten MLHS folk arrived and set up displays and Erle set up the tipi for the day at Ross House Museum. We were well received by a steady visit from people from all areas of the city, local politicians and tourists from away also stopped by. Many were curious about what we were doing. The local community enjoyed Canada Day and dropped by for a chat. Hot dogs, fresh fruit, lots of water and Canada Day cake were the speciality items for the day. Other MLHS members attended Canada Day at St. Anne's, MB and other various locations, while others played in their own back yard. We have been invited back next year. Happy 148th Canada!

## MLHS at Ross House Museum

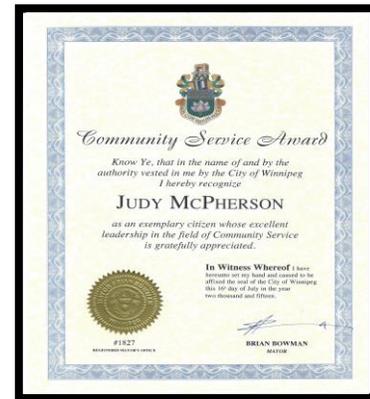


## Two History Awards July 16



In a speech made by Mayor Bowman July 16 at a presentation at City Hall, Mayor Bowman stated that Barry and Judy McPherson are important historical ambassadors and exemplary citizens in the City of Winnipeg as they received the City of Winnipeg Community Service Award. They each received the award for over 30 years of history and historic involvement and achievement in the City of Winnipeg. Mayor Bowman further stated that they are ambassadors for the historic community with the knowledge of the city's past that they bring and share with others. The award was established in 1950's – Barry is #1826 and Judy is #1827 persons to receive this award.

Several MLHS folks in historic clothing and well-wishers were on hand to see Judy and Barry each receive this award from Mayor Bowman. Hurray for History!



## Winnipeg Old City Hall



## Paint the Shed July 19 AM

Douglas's farm was the scene of a lot of activity. Erle, Judy, Barb and kids, Bill were out in force to do and updo the shed and assist with the barn rebuilding.. Hammers and paintbrushes were busy with some of the youngins' painting the first metre up. Another good day or two of work should see the job done.

## Baggage July 19 PM

Thank you to Gen for hosting the afternoon Baggage at her home. Several joined for an afternoon of fabric and pattern talk.



## What will Canada 150 look like...



### SUGGESTIONS FOR NOVELTIES IN SLEEVES. (By Our Own Fashion-plate.)

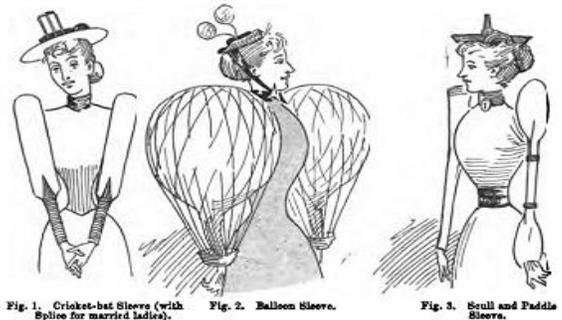


Fig. 1. Cricket-bat Sleeve (with Splice for married ladies). Fig. 2. Balloon Sleeve. Fig. 3. Skull and Paddle Sleeve.

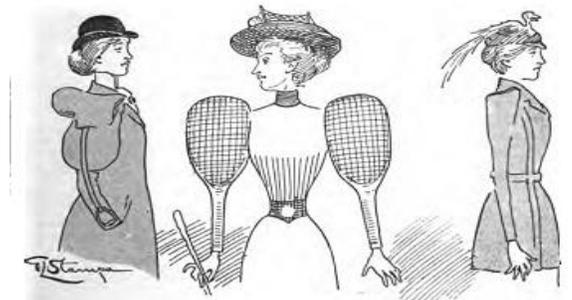


Fig. 4. Saddle Sleeve. Fig. 5. Racket Sleeve. Fig. 6. Gun Sleeve.

Godey's magazine late 1860's

## Thresherman's Reunion

Austin Manitoba

July 22-25

*Once again, we appreciated the efforts by your group as an enhancement to our 61st Threshermen's Reunion and Stampede. We received many great comments about your demonstrations and overall impact to our visitors.*

*Thank you,  
Georgette Hutlet, Executive Director  
Manitoba Agricultural Museum*

For me - today felt like the old days. Load the car and go on an adventure. A good sized group of us came out with everyone doing their own thing and engaging the public very well and visiting. There was lots of good conversation with the public and with each other.

The business minded children made rope and then sold pieces, profits for their endeavours were about \$9.50. Many interested people stopped, chatted and asked good questions.

We now have a new quern master, as Grace "discovered" the quern and was the chief demonstrator there.

It was just very comfortable and pleasant, good weather, good company and good times.

Judy



## July 25 to Aug 15

For me - today felt like the old days. Load the car and go on an adventure...which we did. While MLHS headed west, we headed south to see our young son Derek and his new bride, Brianna in Austin, Texas. Our first night in Breckenridge Minn. left a lot to be desired if you take into account the formaldehyde smell and the duct taped upholstery – possibly shades of CSI???. Made some noise and we were given another room which was a bit more pleasantly scented. The next day brought us up to Kansas City, Missouri and we “et” at a “Triple D” location – KC ribs on the menu – yummy. As we are of the history minded type, we stopped along the way at a few different museums. It is interesting in many states the idea of having people learn their history; locally, statewide or nationally is a very important aspect of local culture.

We went to the National World War 1 Museum in Kansas City. Extremely well laid out, and we spent several hours there. The museum was divided into two parts 1914-1917 and then 1917-1918 when the US entered the theatre of war. Of most interest to me were the displays of clothing of the time period. Travelling along found us Fort Scott, KS. The fort was housed by the U.S. Army from 1842–1853, for the protection of the Permanent Indian Frontier. Abandoned in 1853, the buildings were purchased at government auction in 1855. Fort Scott became a town in 1857. Just prior to the American Civil War, on the Kansas and Missouri borders, violence was described as "Bleeding Kansas", over the extension of slavery into the new territories. On January 29, 1861, Kansas entered the union as a free state. Several hours were spent going through the buildings and clothing artefacts.

Travelling further south found us in Oklahoma City – we were starting to feel the southern vibe. Another food festival and then onward. Along the way we stopped at Dealey Plaza in Dallas, where time stood still when President Kennedy was assassinated November 22, 1963.

We parked and met a “guide” who walked us through the area and showed us where the grassy knoll was, where the motorcade travelled a window from where the shot was taken. Definitely a time and place where history was changed.



We arrived in Austin to spend time with Derek and Brianna and were feted with some of the best of the best BBQ and eatin’s Texas has to offer. Visited the Texas State Capital Museum and other smaller museums in Austin, then onward to San Antonio.

The Alamo, (one of my history check list places), was across from our hotel, The Menger, the oldest hotel (1859) in San Antonio (with ghosts). We definitely found the weather hot – 114 degrees in the shade....



Moving along... east, we stopped at Santa Anna, the historic site where the Texas Revolution started.

We arrive in New Orleans and spend several days walking and walking and walking – historic buildings and museums everywhere. We never left the French Quarter (another of my history check off places – the start of the War of 1812), we were in and out of museums and eating all day - and it was hotter than San Antonio! The ravages of Katrina were still evident but the city has rallied and is rebuilding.

Travelling again found us in Vicksburg, Miss, site of one of the longest battles of the Civil War, where both General Lee and General Grant were camped. We spent the afternoon travelling through the Vicksburg national historic site and visited the USS Cairo Gunboat and museum.



Our travels next took us to Memphis, Tenn. The home of Elvis and Graceland – little known to us it was Elvis Week and the anniversary of his death... thousands, literally

thousands of people...we walked to the gates of Graceland and looked in; waiting four hours for a tour was not a plan, so we chose to go to National Civil Rights Museum at The Lorraine Motel, the site where Martin Luther King was assassinated.



By far this was one of the impressive and comprehensive museums we have ever been to. The hotel has been preserved as a civil rights museum beginning with slavery and the history of the civil

rights movement. The museum brought information forward with such dignity and truthfulness and honoured the people who stood up for their rights; Martin Luther King Jr, Rosa Parks to name a few. Next a trip to Beale Street and Sun Records and some Memphis BBQ.

We continued northward and stopped at a Civil War historic site – Athens (pronounced eh-thans), Missouri. This was an adventure to get to – even with the GPS... turn down here – go 10 miles, turn here to 2 lane, turn here, gravel road, turn here – mud road.... Was worth the trip. The site people were repairing some of the buildings in preparation for the re-enactment for 2016. There is nothing really left of the town. This site was where the most northern civil war battle was fought west of the Mississippi. Several hours of touring the site was well worth the trip.

Our next stop was St Louis Missouri via Illinois. The Missouri Civil War Museum was a feast for anyone interested in history. The museum is situated on an active military base – so guess what the GPS did not work to get there – but we persevered. We found out the military blocks signals around the base. The museum was started as a labour of love by Mark Trout about 12 years ago. He and a group of civil war enthusiasts were give a falling down building on the base site if they could fix it – they could have it...and so they did. One of the finest museums we have been to

(especially since they had women's clothing, not just military things). Again several hours were spent in the museum. We were told of a local favourite place for St L food – where the locals go...so we went – finest since Texas....



As we made our way northward we talked about history and how much we have done in the living history "movement" over the years. Much of what we saw on our travels this year had living history re-enactments; museums about fur trade, civil war, Victorian, Edwardian, Rock-a-Billy, State capital days where people dress in period clothing, hmmm

sounds familiar?, but some of the newer museums were as important in telling 21<sup>st</sup> century history.

I guess this was more of editorial or an essay about what I did on my summer holiday, but for me history is important, everyday. **Marie**

*History has to be rewritten in every generation, because although the past does not change, the present does; each generation asks new questions of the past, and finds new areas of sympathy as it re-lives different aspects of the experiences of its predecessors.*  
Christopher Hill

## Pavilion of Scotland Folkorama August 9

Our theme for the Pavilion of Scotland this year was "Scots at Work and Play". Displays included

BASKETRY - a basket-weaver (mannequin) surrounded with baskets of a variety of sizes and materials;

LIGHTING THE HOME - from flint and steel to rush lighting to a cruise lamp to copper lanterns - this table display was of interest to visitors

THE QUERN - never ending interest, especially to the children who "lived" at the pavilion for the week and were happy grinding wheat forever.

BOARD DISPLAYS of dancing and table games with a couple of small games for people to try

This year's volunteers were Barry and Judy (every night, getting pretty tired by week's end), Ed and Carol Douglas, Kira-Lyn Lawrie, Sharon Menheer, Patricia Stagg, Bill Fernie and Erle Einarsson. Hope I remembered everyone.

Visitors were also interested in the display (at the other end of the room) of the Scottish Diaspora Tapestries. The book, containing images of 250 tapestries, of which seven were from Winnipeg and one of those done by Judy, was finally published for viewing.



**Friends of Lower Fort Garry**  
**30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Tea**  
**Saturday August 22**

The Saturday was very drizzling after monsoon weather on Friday and it was a dreary wet, humid start to the day. By noon it had let up a bit and I was dressed in my rubber boots, yellow slicker and historic clothing. I hopped – well jumped into Judy and Barry’s truck and off we went. By gosh we had a show to put on and what a show it was!

A great big thank you for all the wonderful people who came and did their part at the Friends of Lower Fort Garry 30<sup>th</sup> Volunteer Anniversary Tea Fashion Show.

We do have to come up with a more appropriate name than fashion show – it is so much more than just walk the runway with a clothing commentary. What we actually are doing is a living diorama vignette of history. I will work on that before the next one...

We rocked it real good! First of all, they did not know what to expect and secondly, we gave them much more than they even thought. When we first arrived, we were give a small board room in which we had 10-ish folks already there with their “stuff”, we realized with all of accoutrements we wear, carry or drag with us, we would require more space with the extra 20+ more MLHS folks yet to arrive. We were then moved to the auditorium theatre where we easily spread out and had ample room to get ready.

We welcomed a new member who was thrust into the role of spotter and did so willingly and even dressed for the part – Susan Hepburn....glad that you enjoyed the bedlam and activity of one of the highlights of what we do. Two members attended that we have not seen for a bit – Jackie Lagasse and John Oshanski. Hope to see more of you in the future and of course the real live baby in the tikinagan is always a show stopper. Baby Nya cooed and smiled and was just a charmer, Judy had to stop reading the story line as everyone Ooo’d and Awww’d once they realized that there was a real live baby.

Thanks to Judy and Barry for their work in preparing the script and history vignettes for this show. Many, many hours of prep, fitting people and their clothing to the historic storyline and actions are always done with appropriate and correct history events in mind. Great job as always!

A special thank you to Judy who read the script for this great undertaking. The storylines created with the animation of the personas blended the history timeline and unified the history of Lower Fort Garry and Manitoba. For us, it was the chance to showcase what we have accomplished in learning about clothing and culture of the various time periods, it all worked.

Thanks to each and every one of you: to Erle as Chief Peguis and his four wives; Barb Reider, Dawn Cross, Jackie Lagasse, Dawn Carey, and to the Peguis’ children; Cheyenne, Marina, Grace, Benjamin, Donovin, Anthony, and baby Nya who stole the show in the tikinagan.

Thanks to Dave Carey as Bercier; Barry as Gov. Miles Macdonell. Our young man (the woof) from Florida -Easton - was an able Owen Keveny.

David Woods was a surgeon who left a distraught Lara Arnason with child. After each history story, there was a terrific round of applause. However a rather sombre quiet came over the room as Judy read the last line as Lara left. The story was that the settlement surgeon fled Red River, leaving her alone and pregnant. Then, at one month of age, the baby died. This was a real occurrence amid the humorous and happy stories that were portrayed. This helped us realize that the audience was respectful of the many kinds of stories and were really engaged in the storylines.

The next history tidbit was Bill as a Red River Settlement carpenter with me by his side in my down and rough 1812 clothing, walking stick, lantern and basket. Genevieve Woods, Dawn and Gwynne Carey with Rebecca Rieder, Darrion, Xavier and Oceane Woods were terrific Selkirk settlers. Angela Temple was a gracious Lady Jean Selkirk. John Oshanski as a deMeuron soldier



in his redcoat best; Patricia Stagg was graceful in her 1830 gigot sleeve gown with the fabulous hair done to match. Dave Carey had great fun as Louis St. Dennis with Easton as a flogger. Fran Howard was the very respectable school teacher, Miss Mathilda Davis.

We had David Woods return as John Rowand. Roger Stagg portrayed a 1860 gentleman followed by Reg Curle as 41st Brockville Rifles. Which brought me, Marie back in a 1875 bustle dress (with all bits and bows and bustle), thanks to those who helped me undress and re-dress.

Dave Carey returned as the crazy man at the 1885 insane asylum located at Lower Fort Garry. Sharon Menheer was society matron from the turn of the century, Lady Macdonald, with Oriole Veldhuis as her gracious maid in waiting. Olivia Arnason appeared in her Titanic travelling dress which brought me breathless to the entry door do the last vignette as a 1915 Suffragist – Votes for Women and Temperance, (with thanks again to those who helped me undress and re-dress again in record time). We sure did cover a huge time range – from the 1800's to 1916!

When we re-entered after the show, we filled the end of the room – one never realizes how many we are as

we are spread out during showtime, but when we are all together in one space – Wow – we cover history and fill the room!

The closing finale was the Nisimis Fiddlers; Barb's kids and Easton on the banjo. Lots of applause!

Fabulous job to all of the partakers! If you missed being a part of this one, make sure you keep your eyes open for the possibility of another within the year (it is tentative right now). This is really a lot of work, however with so many wanting to be a part of a really cool way to celebrate what we do, this is a good time.

Some of the comments we received:

*Thank you for the wonderful show you put on! We thoroughly enjoyed it, and we had great feedback from the guests at the tea. It was very entertaining, more than a typical fashion show, which we all really liked.*

*You brought history to life in a real way; the fashion show was secondary to the historic stories that were told.*

*The children were wonderful- to see such enthusiasm and the violin playing was such a treat.*

*I was amazed at the wide variety of how much clothing changed over the years – quite a difference from t-shirts and jeans of today – this was a most enjoyable afternoon. Thank you for keeping history alive.*



## Victorian Children in Victorian Times

*A Look into how Victorian Children Lived, Played,  
Worked and Survived*



### **Wealthy Victorian Children**

Life for Victorian Children in Victorian times (1830 to 1900) was nothing like childhood in today's world. For the wealthy there was an overwhelming sense of boredom and the constant prodding to be proper and polite with very little parent to child communication. For the poor Victorian Children life was much different. The poor children had to work public jobs for their families to survive. Toys were nothing more than homemade dolls or wooden or wooden blocks. On the other hand their family life was tighter knit and more loving. While the wealthy children may have been spoiled and had a much better life than the poor children, they also had what would seem to be a sad, redundant and affection-less existence. Children were mostly raised by a nanny who would teach the child what was proper and what was not. Day to day living was nothing more than a lonely monotonous routine and very formal. Wealthy Victorian Children rarely communicated with their parents except for a specified time each day.

*~Winston Churchill once said that he could "count the times he had been hugged by his mother" as a child*

Parents would hire a nanny or nurse to do the brunt of the child rearing. They would instruct the nanny what they wanted to have instilled into their children such as manners, education, propriety, how to dress and so on. The nanny was in effect a substitute parent.

When we think of nannies in Victorian times it is only natural to think of a cheerful loving young lady who went to the local community college and got a degree in child development. For the most part this was not the reality for wealthy Victorian Children.



Nannies were usually older women that had never been married. You can imagine that there might have been a chip on their shoulder towards children since in those days not being married meant no children. Many times nannies were intolerant and very strict and sometimes plain mean.

Although, there were some nannies who were kind and caring and supplied the only love a child would experience. They would do the extra things to brighten a child's life such as playing games with them or fixing special meals on their birthday...etc.

### ***Poor Victorian Children***

The poor Victorian Children lived a very different life than the children of wealthier families. They didn't have the nice houses to live in or the extravagant toys, clothes or fine foods that the rich kids had. They lived in much smaller houses or even single rooms.



Living in these tight quarters caused the family to be much closer. Without the presence of a nanny the parents raised the children and were the guiding force in their lives. This did not always translate to a more loving atmosphere though. Since a large part of the poor children had to work public jobs to help support their families many parents thought of children as income, and having more children who worked raised the income of the home. Many parents had 10 or 12 or even more children for this reason alone.



### ***How old did children have to be to work in Victorian Times?***

Victorian children would be made to go to work at a very young age. As unbelievable as it sounds, sometimes even 4 or 5 years old. Actually this was not unique only to the Victorian age, children had been expected to work for centuries before this.



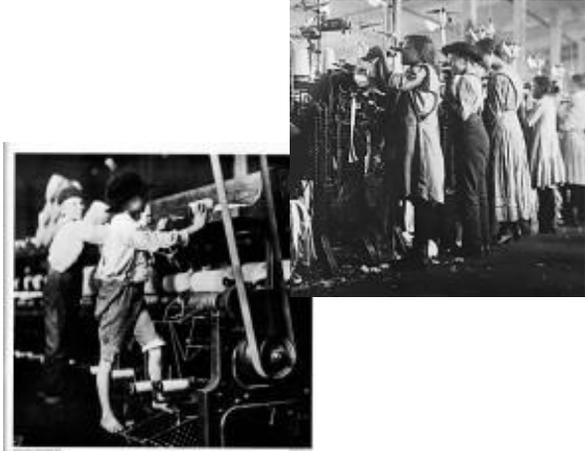
They worked very hard and for long hours every day. On the job safety was not a major concern and they were expected to work in filthy conditions many times. They really had no choice in the matter. Their parents made them work to help pay the bills at home.



### ***What types of jobs did they do?***

Because they were considered cheap labour Victorian children were in high demand for many types of jobs including mining, factory work, street sweepers, clothing and hat makers, chimney sweeps, farming, textile mills, servants, and sadly, prostitution. There was little regard for children.

*What conditions did they have to work in?*



Working conditions for children of the Victorian age were dreadful. Safety and Health or anything faintly resembling an organization for safe working conditions did not exist. The Factory Act was established in 1833 in Great Britain which disallowed children under the age of nine to work in factories. Children 5 to 9 years old working as Chimney sweeps would come out of a chimney covered from head to toe with soot. Their arms, legs, elbows and knees would be bleeding, only to be washed off with salt water and sent up another chimney.



Children working in factories worked in dangerous situations for long hours, 14 to 18 hours a day. Occupational death was not uncommon for working Victorian children. Their small size made them ideal for crawling into the tight spaces in, around or under machines, sometimes while the machines were still running since it would hinder production if a machine were turned off.

*Victorian Street Children*

Street children in Victorian times were found in abundance living in alleys or side streets. Many were orphans but a large part of the street children were from neglectful, alcoholic families where abuse was the norm. Faced with the choice of living in these conditions or living on the street some children chose the street. Many of these children fell prey to prostitution and thieving to support themselves. Others became street sellers or actually worked public jobs like other children.



Published By Paxton Price on: Dec 11, 2012  
Sources: The BBC, The Museum Of London  
Mandy Barro

*Victorian Advertising*

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## Fall Gathering Sept 19 – 20



Our Fall Gathering had a hard time getting rolling this year - one or two postponements occurred - maybe that made everyone very keen to attend when, eventually, the available dates did arrive. Once again, our private Fall Gathering was held at Barb Rieder's farm near Komarno and this year, the weather was perfect - sunny warm autumn days. 27 of our members attended. Barb was hosting a Woofer family from Quebec and so Barb created costumes for them all - no problem - some time overnight the day before the F.G. Some of our group camped overnight, but most came for the day on Saturday.

Like last year, the children enjoyed playing out on the prairie, in the tipi, and having a ride on Gypsy. This year, Barb tried smoking a hide, but ... well ... maybe the smoke was more flame than smoke. Barb took some of us on a tour of her farm lands from field to forest, riding in her covered wagon and towed by Konichiwa Kubota. The cook fires were kept going all day, and all contributed to a fine potluck dinner. Good company on a lovely day out in the Manitoba countryside.



## How to Sew Cartridge Pleats

How to make a lot of fabric fit a smaller space



How to Sew Cartridge Pleats

Cartridge pleats are prominent little pleats arranged in a row, stitched together and look like they are standing at attention. These small sized pleats get a huge amount of skirt fabric into a small waistband. This is very important for those wonderful dresses and skirts of the 1860's and 1870's worn over hoops and many petticoats.

This is a common method of pleating from the mid-19<sup>th</sup> Century. Cartridge pleats are found on sleeve caps in the 1830s, but we are gathering skirts and dress bottoms.



Cartridge pleats in sheer fabric

Cartridge pleats (also known as gauging) are used when a large amount of fabric needs to be fitted into a small space. Cartridge pleats different to the other types of pleats, cartridge pleats are seen throughout historical fashion but practically disappear in the late 19<sup>th</sup> Century. As they are completed by hand, they did not work in the new, mass-produced, machine made assembly line garments and were lost to the fashion industry.

Cartridge pleats are characteristic of historical sewing, they are found on straight panel skirts of the late 1830s through 1860s and on sleeve caps from the 1830s to 1860s, these pleats are easy to create and can be adapted to all sorts of fabrics.

### Supplies:

- ✓ The skirt to apply cartridge pleats and finished waistband
- ✓ Buttonhole or strong glazed thread that matches fabric
- ✓ Long needles such as embroidery
- ✓ Marking pencil/pen or Tiger Tape
- ✓ Safety pins or long ball head pins

### Overview:

Cartridge pleats are made from 2 or more rows of unbroken hand basting stitches run along the top edge of the skirt. The rows have to be exactly matched for perfect pleats. The stitch threads are pulled up to form the pleats that are then whipstitched to the waistband.

Cartridge pleating stitches are placed in evenly-spaced rows. The stitch marks vary and will change with different fabrics and for assorted projects. It would be a good idea to make a sample using different markings on your specific fabric to find the best placement and to see how the fabric responds to the pleating.

The spaces between the stitches can also vary for how full you want the pleats and the bulkiness of your fabric. Wool will have wider spaced stitches than cottons, linens and silks.



Top of skirt pinked and turned to inside

### **Step 1: Determine Area for Cartridge Pleating and Prep**

Piece your skirt panels, finish the hem, then mark the allowed skirt length from the hem up to the top at center front, center back and sides. Allow an additional 5 inches for the pleated top. Be sure to measure precisely for this step as the final hem length will be determined by this step.

Finish the raw top edge of your skirt before folding to the inside for pleating (see below). You can trim with pinking shears, run a small machine stitch, sew a narrow hem, zigzag, or serge the edge. This is a modern step to assist with the pleating and makes it so much easier than having fabric unravel and fray as you are working with it.



**Topstitching the skirt to prep for pleating**

Fold the skirt top to the inside a few inches allowing for the skirt length needed as mentioned above. Fold at least 1 inch to the inside and even more for additional support. Keep this turn under within 5 inches or so. This amount will taper around the top of your skirt in accordance to your marked lengths.

A machine edgestitch on the fold of the fabric is a modern tip that provides support and makes the whole pleating process easier.



**Dots marked for pleats**

### **Step 2: Mark**

The first row of stitching works best at 1/8" to 1/4" down from the top fold. Additional rows should be between 1/4" and 3/4" down from the previous row, depending on fabric weight. The stitches themselves vary from 3/8" to 3/4" apart. Use these 5 tips, including how to mark your pleats, to keep them from looking like gathers.

Using a ruler, mark the entire length of fabric to be pleated with dots spaced according to your project. Be sure to mark all rows of stitching. *Note: This will take some time – be patient!*

A neat sewing tool is Tiger Tape sold with quilting notions. The narrow tape is marked in 1/8" lines. Place the tape along the skirt edge to make your dot marks. Remember to keep all dots in line with each other – along the horizontal rows as well as vertically (most important or you will have zig-zaggy pleats that do not line up)



**Cartridge pleat threads sewn at dot marks – view of correct side of fabric**

### **Step 3: Sew Pleating Threads**

Cut a very long piece of thread. This should be nearly the length of the flat skirt width but could be shorter if you remember to pull up the pleats as you sew.

Use strong thread such as button thread or millinery thread. These pleating threads will remain in the fabric, holding the pleats in place. If the thread breaks – the pleats come out. **\*\*Pleats can be restitched but it is a very long and difficult process to do.**

Thread a long needle, such as an embroidery or millinery needle, and make a firm knot, leaving several inches of a tail.

Begin on the **correct side** of the skirt at the opening and make your stitches at each dot. Weave in and out of the fabric. Do not tie off the thread when you reach the end of your markings. Repeat for additional rows. You can sew up to 5 rows depending on the fabric, but most 19<sup>th</sup> Century skirts have two to three rows. Some sewers find running all the rows at the same time faster than sewing each row separately. It is easier to do the rows concurrently as the tension will be far more even than going back and doing the second or third row later.



Pulled up pleats to match waistband section

#### **Step 4: Finish Waistband and Pull Up Threads to Fit**

Finish your waistband separately before attaching the pleats. The recommended width of your finished waistband should be 1" to 2". You can also use a length of twill tape for the waistband. Quarter mark your waistband and skirt. This will help space the pleats evenly



Cartridge pleats drawn up and pinned to twill waistband

When all the rows are sewn, grab all the thread ends and pull up together. Align right sides together of the skirt to the waistband. You do not need to pin every pleat, only every few to keep the pleats in

place. Spend some time working out the pleat spacing. Works best to pin every one to two inches.



Sewing pleats to waistband

#### **Step 5: Sew To Waistband**

Start attaching pleats to the waistband or tape using an overhand whipstitch. Sew two stitches into every pleat for a secure hold.



Sewing the pleats

Finish by re-threading a needle onto the long tails left at the starting point and push them through to the wrong side. Tie the threads together.



Threads pulled through to the inside and tied together

After sewing, fold the waistband up, kicking the bottom fold of each pleat out. The top of the pleats will sit flat against the body.



**Finished pleats – outside and inside views**

If your pleats are very wide on the inside, you can fold them to one side (check from the garment's right side to see which way you want them to lie) and tack down on top of each other on the inside. This will make them look more like flat knife pleats

This process may take a bit of time, but the end result is well worth it, your garment will have the correct amount of fullness without the bulkiness of having to get all of the fabric into the waistband.



**Metropolitan Museum of Art**

**1860 - 1865 Augusta Auctions**

FROM: *Historical Sewing.com* JENNIFER ROSBRUGH

Article adapted by Marie Zorniak

**Heritage Education Day**  
**September 25**  
**St John's High School**

To all who participated in the September 25 Heritage Education Day at St John's High School...VERY WELL DONE!!!! WOW you are AWESome!!!! We blew the socks off of many, many kids and teachers!!! They did not know what to expect, and I guess nor did we as this was a first time doing something like this at a school. No... I think WE did know what to expect - we knew how smoothly we could set up, deliver our own station, engage the students, and finally take down and quietly slip away..

My principal, Doug Taylor and the two vice principals; Joan Fransen and Cree Crowchild were close to speechless when they saw kids interacting in activities they would not normally have the opportunity to participate in.

There was a buzz around the school after the first group went through... the Principal and the VP's went around and asked "what did you like?" and kids had responses that were really not what they anticipated. They thought that the musket would be the biggie, but it was everything from the canoe, to chickens and ducks, to candle dipping and the history behind that. The tipi and the tikanagan, seeing and handling furs (for many for the first time) - had kids looking at their own culture and reflecting. Laundry day was fun as the kids really did not know how to react to the items to be washed - the lovely drawers, and the concept of washing on a scrub board and ewww getting your hands wet.... Rope making was an interest in that it was quite astonishing to see how it was done. The canoe was a curiosity in that while it was not a physical canoe, it did portray a canoe and kids could relate to it. The bracelets and the objects of the blending of culture were fascinating. Cooking over an open fire was super interesting along with "is that a real fire?". The Doctor made an impression, offering to cut off damaged limbs, the carpenter has kids interested in the sharp and shiny things, wool spinning and the colours of wool had questions happening. All were kept busy with questions. Grinding wheat with the quern was captivating. British soldiers and musket firing demonstrations had kids gathered around for much of the day. The musket and rifle display

always has a large group around Barry -the lure of something so unique. Our guests from Quebec were a part of the day in their interactions. Kids liked the quill writing, the hat display was a draw but unfortunately it was down for the afternoon due to stronger breezes.

With appreciative thanks to our entire team - Gen, Darien, Xavier, Oceane, Kira-Lyn, Carol, Gillian, Ed, Judy, Barry, Patricia, Frederick, Keegan, Barb, Cheyenne, Marina, Rebecca, Ben, Donovan, Dawn, Grace, Nya, Bill, Dave, Gary, Erle, Sharon, the Woofer family from Montreal - Melanie, Odelie, Hugue, Mailou and Yuri and me, Marie. This amazing day of History Education would not have happened without the commitment of ALL of you.

We must also put in a huge amount of thanks to all the students at St. John's who volunteered as helpers; Star, Chevy, Christina, Alanah, Marcus, Vicky, Brianna, Tempest, Dylan, Calvin, Liam, Shay-anna, Loraine, Baillie, Ray-shanna Precious, Romela, Frances and Andrew worked all day. *From what I understand the yearbook photographers had 5 cameras and took several hundred pictures - so we will have a lot to choose from.....* ). They all helped however and wherever asked, and their participation and enthusiasm were infectious.

As a matter of fact, the staff and administration at St. John's High School were so impressed they asked if we would return in the spring and do it again.

I am sooo pleased and proud with how things turned out and it was all because of you!!!

...Marie

---

~~Victorian Advertising~~

**DR. SCOTT'S  
ELECTRIC  
GIRDLE FOR MEN.**

Professional men affirm that there is hardly a disease which Electricity and Magnetism will not benefit or cure.

Dr. W. A. HAMMOND, of N. Y., late Surgeon-Gen. of the U. S., an eminent authority, publishes almost miraculous cures made by him with these agencies.

Most of the above Remarks apply equally to

The Electric Girdle for Gentlemen. It is a long felt want, possessing wonderful curative powers and life-giving properties. The debilitated particularly should wear them at once, and those now enjoying robust health should also wear them as a preventative of disease. They bring up and invigorate the whole system, and their vitalizing influence is quickly felt.



## Just for the Guys.....

It is always intriguing to find out exactly what men wore during our time periods.

We rely on paintings and sketches for much of what we interpret, but as the 1850's came up, photographs of the time period became available and so we can have a better image of what men wore.



1857 - "THE HONOURABLE JAMES McKAY"  
(1848-1879), Manitoba, Historic Resources Branch

...he continued to dress "Red River Style" – in a blue capot, red and black flannel shirt(?), brown striped woolen pants and buff moccasins...

### James McKay Trader, politician.

Born at Edmonton House in 1828, the eldest son of James McKay of the Hudson's Bay Company, brother of Angus McKay, he was a mixed-blood whose "father was Scotch, his mother French Half-Breed and though himself a Catholic he has two brothers Presbyterian." He was educated at Red River, and became employed by the Hudson's Bay Company.

McKay was described by George Simpson as "Immensely broadchested and muscular ... he weighed eighteen stone; yet in spite of his stoutness he was exceedingly hardy and active, and a wonderful horseman. His face -- somewhat Assyrian in type -- is very handsome: short, delicate, aquiline nose; piercing dark gray eyes; long dark-brown hair, beard, and moustaches; white, small, regular teeth; skin tanned to red bronze from exposure to weather." He favoured Red River dress -- a capot (hooded frock-coat), flannel shirt, moccasins,

trousers of homemade woollen material, and a sash. A "quasi-king among halfbreeds," he had great authority with Aboriginal peoples, having mastered several Aboriginal languages. He served as a guide on several scientific, missionary and pleasure expeditions and assisted the Canadian government in the negotiating of Treaty Numbers 1, 2, 3, 5 and 6.

McKay was appointed to the Council of Assiniboia in 1868 and was a member of the Famine Relief Committee of 1868-1869. His mixed-racial status made him an ideal member of the Manitoba Legislative Council, serving until its abolition 1876, and its Speaker from 1871 to 1874. He was returned by acclamation for Lake Manitoba constituency in the by-election of January 1877. He served as Minister of Agriculture from 1874 to 1878 before retiring due to ill health. He was one of the founders of the Winnipeg Board of Trade, in 1873.

In 1859 he married Margaret Rowand (1825-1879), third daughter of HBC Chief Factor John Rowand Sr. (1787-1854).

He died at his home Deer Lodge on 2 December 1879

*Courtesy: Manitoba Historical Society*



Elk Cart- Wainwright, Alberta 1911

**Manitoba Museum**  
**October 19**  
**Wayfarers for The Wildlife Society**

The evening started rather quickly--buses were pulling up to the museum by 5:15 even though the event was not planned to start until 6:00 PM according to the security guard who was on duty. I arrived at 5:40 thinking I was late, and I was the first one there in a throng of Wildlife people. Gen arrived, then Patricia and Oriole, Erle was next then Barry and Judy – all well before 6:00 p.m. – sheesh sounds like the start of the Hobbit.

Once we got ourselves oriented and placed, we started talking and talking and talking to folks from all over the world – 1200 environmentalists, mostly from the USA – all states and territories, 400+ from Canada and lots from Europe, and further away--Japan, Australia and New Zealand and Malaysia. It was wall to wall people!

Oriole found her niche by the Selkirk Settler's house. This was Oriole's first time as a 'wayfinder', and it seemed she was in her element enjoying meeting people. Erle was stationed by the Tipi. At one point All MLHS'ers were placed on the lookout for Barry; usually stationed in the Hudson's Bay Gallery, but who seemed to have disappeared from the scene altogether. Finally, a guest identified him happily ensconced in the captain's cabin. Barry was conscripted into the Captain's cabin on the Nonsuch; I bet he had his picture on a hundred or more Facebook pages by the end of the night. Gen, Patricia, Judy and myself did the walking pathways between areas reminding folks of not going into areas with food and drink. We were invited to sample the food at the many food stations-- tiny Saskatoon tarts were one lovely treat. By 9 PM we quietly made our way out.



Manitoba Living History Newsletter December 2015

**Oriole's Reflection: MANITOBA MUSEUM -**  
**Wayfinders for the annual conference of THE**  
**WILDLIFE SOCIETY**

As a new member of the Manitoba Living History Society I couldn't know the full meaning of the above facts. I agreed to attend since the Museum shop carries my book, (bottom shelf corner) and I wanted to support both the museum and the Society. My research to write For Elise, taught me a great deal about servanthood. I felt secure in that area, so I agreed to attend in my black outfit, maid's cap, and apron.

What a surprise to find the usually sedate Museum was wall to wall people, thousands of people. There were food stations setup throughout the galleries and I was posted at the log house close by the liquor (wine) station. You can imagine the servant lady had opportunities to engage in conversation. My problem; how was I to share information about my lovely log home?

The first and top question of the night was: what kind of trees did they use to build the house? I looked at the logs without bark, or leaves, and didn't have an answer. I should have said, "Large trees for the Prairies. They must have cut them along the river." I am sure they would have been satisfied, because they were not authorities on trees.

They were instead, experts, as I learned, in: leopards, elephants, bears, tigers, rats, birds, insects and endless other creatures. I met statisticians from New Zealand and South Africa. Another group of post grad students were studying Colorado's bear population, hoping to protect them. I talked to a presenter trying to create a support group to save the rhino. I gained a great deal of knowledge.

Will any of them remember my lovely log home? I posed for several pictures, asking to send me a copy. Not a single one, have I received from the young ladies or gentlemen with me. Had they remembered their promise, the next morning and sent one off to me, I would have received a picture of the that momentous evening to share with you. Thank you, Manitoba Living History Society, for giving me this exceptional glimpse into the life of some of the men

and women immersed in learning and caring for the world's wildlife and environmental habitat while sharing my knowledge of Manitoba history.

### October 27 – Brandon: On the Road with Erle

On October 26 and 27, I went to Brandon School Division - Meadows School, to do a presentation on life as a hunter/gatherer in 1800-1850 Manitoba. The school consists of 300+ students, from Kindergarten to grade 8. On the 26th, I set up my tepee in their front yard and the children came to me. We started with K and went through to grade 2. The school program lasts from 9am to 3:30pm. I had a number of hunting and trapping items and muskets, furs and other items as used by both men and women. I still have a hard time speaking to the smaller kids, as I don't know what to tell them. I attempt to find out what interests they have then speak to that. I was very busy and met with about 160 children that day. A photographer and reporter came this day as well, took a number of pics. and did an interview that appeared in the October 27 Brandon Sun paper. It had a picture and teaser on the front page and an article inside.

On 27th, it was raining, so I set up in a classroom inside the school. The children, from grades 3 to 8 came to see me over the next 5 ½ hours. There were about 150+ students again on this day. I find it easier to speak to the ones from about grade 4 to 8. Some are military families, some are aboriginal and some come from hunting and trapping families. They have been pre-taught about the subject and the older students have some specific questions they are asking. Although, I find it a very long program to do alone, I also, find it quite interesting. There is a lot of excitement and interest in the Brandon Schools I have been in.



## November 7 Baggage St John's HS

In attendance - 12 with a visit from Barb's niece and her baby – Marie, Judy, Patricia, Barb, Sharon, Kira-Lyn, Bill, Kristine, Wayne, Elizabeth, Jonathan, Katherine



## Murdoch Mysteries Excellent Clothing Resource re 1900 time period



## Manitoba Living History Society ETIQUETTE

### Simple things to follow for a great MLHS experience

- BE AWARE OF PUBLIC HOURS AND PRIVATE HOURS
- KEEP THE AREA CLEAN WITH NO VISIBLE MODERNISMS (hide the “plasticisms”)
- RESPECT YOUR COLLEAGUES AND THEIR POSSESSIONS
- MIND YOUNGSTERS AND PETS
- HOW TO SURVIVE AN INTERPRETIVE EVENT

### BE AWARE OF PUBLIC HOURS AND PRIVATE HOURS

During public hours there is an expectation that costumed interpreters will be demonstrating an educational function, and therefore, standards of interpretation are expected.

In most cases the general public are our clients, and there is an accepted belief that the public will be treated as students would be treated in a school. You may like to try to stay in “first person” for your interpretation, it may be difficult, if you can – try.

As educators dressed in historic clothing, we focus activities on our guests. Interpreters worldwide have a natural and difficult tendency to “circle the wagons”. We may not have seen each other for a while and have a lot to talk about. This is understandable, but may cause the public to not want to interrupt, so be aware of people who are interested and want to talk to us.

### KEEP THE AREA CLEAR WITH NO VISIBLE MODERNISMS

Flowing from item one – there is an expectation that the area–will be kept clean and free of 21<sup>st</sup> Century anachronisms (demon plastic and modern items). The most obvious problems revolve around soft drink containers, coffee cups and ice coolers. One suggestion would be that you use a historic mug; cover your cooler with a blanket. The other option for the cooler of course, is to sew up a canvas cover that securely ties down and hides the cooler.

### RESPECT YOUR COLLEAGUES and THEIR POSSESSIONS

It is unavoidable that there may/will be a shortage of some of the basics – i.e. chairs, cook pots, tables for demonstration. If you need to “borrow” someone else’s something – ask – as a courtesy. Cook fires are dug for a purpose and that is so that the appointed cooks and their helpers are able to

produce group meals. Should you need fire space, just dig the fire pit a bit longer, but be sure to ask.

Another thought – since most of our activities are group activities, just glance around and see if there is cleanup work to be done. Don’t wait to be asked – just pitch in. If you sat on it, sat under it, sat beside it or sat around it – help with the set up and take down.

### MIND YOUNGSTERS and PETS

We love the attention the children get from the general public. We really want them there to add to the overall civilian interpretation. *What we would appreciate is the electronic games to be stashed for the time they are around and a note for adults too – put those cell phones away, put it on vibrate or turn it off.*

At a number of historic sites, as a result of liability issues and historic concerns, they insist pets be left at home. *At this time I do believe there are no issues with pets. Animals brought for demonstration purposes do not fall under this.*

### HOW TO SURVIVE AN INTERPRETIVE EVENT

**WHAT TO WEAR?** Find out the time period of the event you are attending. We usually like to have a variety of time periods so we can explain the differences in clothing and evolution from time period to time period. Sometimes we do a specific time period and we stay within that time frame. You can build on your historic clothing and find out what you would like. Please see the How to define a persona guide in the Spring/Summer newsletter, which may help you decide what time period you *would like or would like to do next.*

**WHAT TO DO?** Learn to demonstrate a heritage skill, play historic games – both with kids and the public; or set up a learning environment where someone could teach you a new heritage skill or you could teach someone.

**DINNER WARE** Bring your own dishes. Choices for an 1812 general interpretation would be wooden bowls, tin plates/bowls or crockery dishes in plain white. If we are interpreting a settlement; life was a little more “civilized” than would be the case if we were doing a military “on the move” or a migrant interpretation. - *Remember – dirty dishes should be cleaned or packed away. Pack a basin or have cloth bags lined with a plastic bag to put dishes away to clean when you get home.*

## OTHER BITS OF INFORMATION:

**DRINKING CONTAINERS** Tin and wooden canteens may be historically correct, but you may become ill from drinking water from a rusty or polluted canteen. A small glass or plastic water container is easier to store than a large jug. Tubes of wool/linen or canvas are easier to make than a large cylinder for a large cooler type water jug, and is easier keep covered.

**CHAIRS** What to sit on? Wooden folding chairs or canvas director chairs are a good choice. Old fashioned simple stools are okay too. Most events indoors have chairs available, it is the outdoor events that usually do not. *Of note: The curved slat two-piece saber chair – known as the buckskinner special – is documented by L. L. Bean in the late 1940s. The designed trebuchet chair which has one piece of 2x6 run through another piece of 2x6 looks like an enormous V, if you sit in the wrong place you may be catapulted across the camp Not a good look..*

**BLANKETS** If you choose to sit on the ground, do not get an expensive blanket. A suggestion is a woolen off-white, grey, red, or any subdued shade. They do not have to be point blankets. *You may use a piece of tarp under the blanket to keep out moisture. If there is a binding – please remove.*

**FLYS** Having shade on a sunny day is more than just desired. For many, it is an imperative. Think about a white canvas lean-to with two poles, a couple of guy ropes, and four pegs at the back. *\*\*\*MLHS has communal fly at events*

**MEALS** It is unrealistic to cook all meals over an open fire, especially if you have a family. Foods like bread, cheese, fruit, raw veggies will do. Keep it simple. The more modern food/containers that you have, the more will be visible. If you have food out on a table, please cover with a food cloth, historic events tend to attract flies within hours. At some events we have a cooking team prepare the meals or a potluck.

**INSECTS** We are often outside. Flies, mosquitoes and other crawly things share the outdoors with us. Keep your dishes clean. Put away the junk food, food and candy wrappers that may be around. Bring bug spray if you need to. Wrap food up – have a plastic lined cloth bag to store food – have a plastic lined cloth bag to store food/dirty dishes to keep bugs away.

**KNIVES AND GUNS** At many events, there may be pointy things and shiny things for all to admire. Children are attracted to these and the best plan in dealing with their enthusiasm is to take them over and let the kids see the items. Emphasize the reality that in the Selkirk Settlement, by and large, they were tools, and only occasionally weapons. *We will provide wooden muskets for the kids play with.*

**FIRST AID** Bring a small first aid kit to deal with the usual bumps and scrapes. Most sites have a first aid kit, but Band-Aids and Tylenol are always good to have handy. Bring sunscreen as we are almost always outside in the sun during the summer. Make sure to drink lots of water on hot event days.

**THE SITE** Wherever we go, we are ambassadors for Manitoba Living History Society and have been asked/invited to attend their event. We must abide by the rules of the event area and what we have been asked to do.

**SMOKING** – sites do not allow smoking. If you must smoke, please leave the event area and go to a designated area. Use a clay pipe or historic tobacco/cigar to fit with the time period.

*We hope that these guidelines will help you enjoy events that we participate in over the course of the year.*



## December 5 Baggage

After an emergency change in venue due to the school undergoing electrical reconstruction, Judy and Barry graciously agreed to host Baggage.

Fourteen of us met in the Southmoor sunroom and had a grand time looking at what 1916 clothing was like. Four newcomers were treated to whirlwind of clothing and fabric talk.

We were given homework pictures to look at before Baggage. We were to look at the rapid change in clothing styles from the late 1890's to just before the First World War. Lots of chatter and looking at patterns and what to make for the upcoming to events January 28 to honour the 100 years of Women getting the Vote in Manitoba and to honour Nellie McClung and her role.

We also spent some time discussing the 1867 clothing styles in anticipation of getting ready for Canada 150.

Snacks and pizza lunch were provided for the day. We were so engaged in what we were doing, we neglected to get pictures of the day. Participating were Marie, Judy, Kristine, Elizabeth, Barb, Cheyenne, Latifa, Miracle, Gen, Patricia, Sharon, Sabrina, Susan and Barry

### Baggage Sewing Day aka The Raiding of Judy's Basement – First Impressions

By Susan

After a quick change of location, this month's Baggage Sewing Day went off without a hitch at Judy & Barry's house. There were about 11 ladies (give or take a few, I didn't actually count), and one cornered hubby gathered for some clothing chatting and planning.

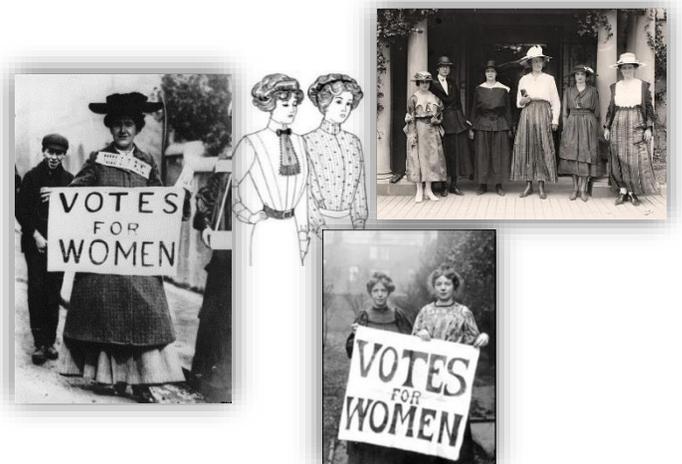
The first and foremost project on everyone's mind is the upcoming 100 year anniversary of the women of Manitoba getting the vote. By some bout of extreme ambitiousness (or insanity, call it what you will), Marie and Judy have agreed to do two events for this momentous occasion in one day. Go big or go home right?

The result of this? Naturally, everyone needs a new outfit (or several, no judgement here)! So, after the planning of a few "Votes for Women" banners made of felt, and trays for donations for the cause (and to carry our brochures) it was down to business. Sewing business. Our wise Judy gave us rough outlines as to what the styles of the time were, and some great resources to find patterns/ideas. So, after some general chatting (all about historical costume of course), our pizza lunch had arrived.

After lunch (not terribly exciting), we descended into the McPherson's Basement of Wonder. It could aptly be described as a sewing/history buff's paradise. I, for one, didn't really want to leave. Not to mention our wonderful hostess is trying to clean out some of her impressive stock. This, naturally, led to a feeding frenzy of fabric, and dreams of the things that can be made with it.

There were things going on upstairs too... I think... As far as I know there were ladies genuinely working on their outfits. I really can't say for sure though. I was most definitely one of the crazy's downstairs drooling over fabric and planning future costumes.

All in all, we not only managed to help Judy clean out her basement a little bit, but also managed (in between doing some Saturday morning shopping) to plan out our outfits for the big month of January (and the rest of the year, we want to wear these awesome outfits more than once). New members got to chat with some seasoned members, and everyone swapped stories and costume ideas. I think we can safely say that another successful Baggage Sewing Day has been had by all.



## How did it happen that Manitoba women were the first women in Canada to win the right to vote?

It did not just happen. There was a tide in the affairs of women. The editor of a weekly newspaper in Manitoba sensed that tide and started a women's page that was called "Home Loving Hearts." Country women were invited to write to the page and tell their dreams, their hopes, and their problems.

Hundreds of women were writing letters. Many facts emerged, also many beautiful, inspiring dreams that go into the building of a great nation. But many sordid conditions were bared, too, and one was that no mother in Canada, at that time, had any legal claim to her children. Also, married women had no legal claim to their home or anything in it, not even the clothes on their back.

A letter to "Home Loving Hearts" from a woman in Alberta was the final straw which made women in Manitoba rise up and organize the Political Equality League, with determination to change such conditions. This woman wrote most understandingly and affectionately of her husband. She said he had become an alcoholic so they came to the West to take 'up a homestead and pre-emption far from a town and the temptation of liquor. They prospered. They owned their land. They had a nice house, good farm buildings, and good farm stock and machinery. They had a lovely family growing up.

Then came a railroad and a station quite near. A little town grew up, overnight it seemed; their land became valuable and there was liquor was at hand. One day two men drove up to that farm home when the husband was away on a spree. They told the wife they had bought the farm and everything on it, except the family, and the family would have to get out immediately.

The wife protested. She saw a lawyer but he agreed with the men that she had no claim to anything. The woman ended her letter to "Home Loving Hearts" with these words "You can't help me, but you can help others who are in a similar position."

Some Winnipeg women read that letter. A small group met in the home of Mrs. Hample, a great philanthropist, who helped to found the Knowles

Home for Boys, and was the first woman elected to the Winnipeg School Board. These women organized the Political Equality League, not to fight the men and women who were opposed to "Votes for Women," but to explain to them what it meant to women and children who were in the power of weak, coarse, unfair, sick or brutal men.

There was to be an election in Manitoba. The party out of power promised to give the women the vote if they would bring in a petition signed by enough people to prove Manitobans really wanted "Votes for Women." Approximately 40,000 signatures were asked for.

Country women and city women went to work. The women as a whole believed Western men were broad-minded enough, that all they had to do was to show them the injustice and indignity of such a position and they would change it. The women were right. Meetings were held where people who could speak and knew the laws gave their time freely. Of course they were laughed at, pointed out as freaks, but they remembered the woman in Alberta.

Women went from farm to farm in country districts getting signatures to the petition. Some walked, some rode on horseback, some drove in a buggy or a buckboard or in a lumber wagon.

In the city, women went around with petitions too. The Women's Press Club put on a Women's Parliament. Mrs. C. P. Walker gave the Walker Theatre, now the Burton Cummings Theatre, for two nights. Mrs. Nellie L. McClung, a brilliant speaker and writer, was the Premier.

In the mock Parliament when a deputation of businessmen came to ask for the franchise, Nellie began to answer them, in almost the exact words the Premier had used in answering a deputation of women and the roar of laughter almost brought down the packed house. She began, "My dear gentlemen, you are beautiful cultured men, who, I am sure make good homes, and you should stay there. It would be a shame for me to let you soil your hands in the dirty mess of politics ..."

*Manitoba Historical Society Page revised: 2 September 2015*



**Nice Women Wanted the Vote  
and  
what they wore....**



*For everyone working on 1915-16-ish, this photograph is brilliant.*

Just look at this photograph of a young suffragist being forcibly removed from a gathering by two husky men. The amount of information here is amazing.

**THE MEN -**

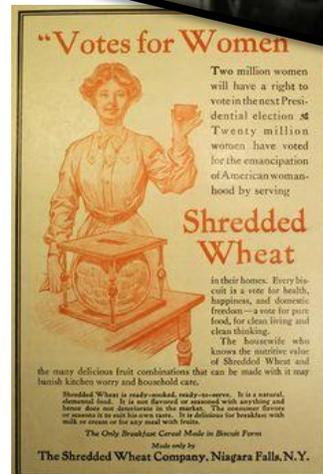
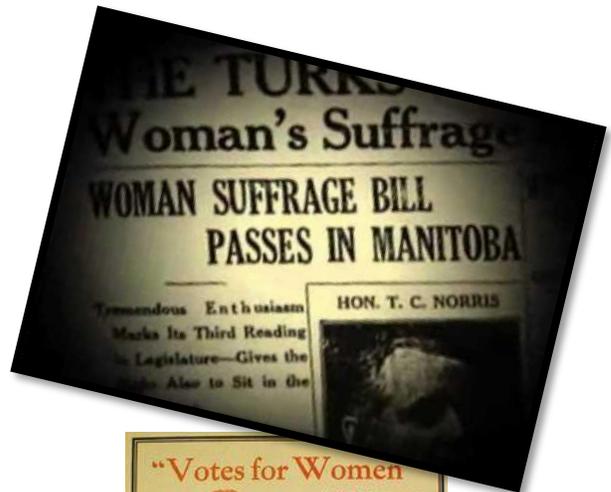
- both are wearing straw boater hats
- both have short hair and handlebar moustaches
- rosette (identification of event?) in pocket of man on the right;
- folded hanky in pocket of man on left
- both wear pinstriped suits and white shirts with round edged collars

**THE SUFFRAGIST**

- Straw hat - gone askew - may have small flowers underneath or?
- white shirt
- two piece pin striped suit, possibly a corded cotton fabric
- jacket has velvet(?) collar and is possibly cut at an angle below the waist, otherwise quite plain
- skirt is straight cut, ten buttons -plus one (?) under the belt - possibly two of the buttons are replacements
- dark stockings and dark shoes with medium heel (or could be ankle boots)
- dark glove on her right hand

This young woman is not going easily and is barely cooperating. Her station in life appears to be middling. The clothes look to be in very good condition almost new, maybe her Sunday best.

*Thanks to Barry for putting this together*



## Our Nellie



Helen Mooney was born in 1873 near Owen Sound, Ontario. In 1880, she moved with her family to Millford southeast of Brandon. At the age of sixteen, with only five years of formal education, she moved to Winnipeg where she attended Normal School and qualified as a teacher. In 1890, she

went to teach at Manitou, where she boarded with the family of the Rev. James and Annie McClung. She was profoundly influenced by Annie McClung, who was an ardent champion of women's rights, suffrage, and president of the Manitou chapter of the Women's Christian Temperance Union.

In the years before the First World War, McClung established herself as a popular author. Her books celebrated the rural and western ideal and the superiority of country over city. The bright and heroic tone of these books captured the optimism and the idealism of the Canadian Prairies. She had a large readership.

Her books also capture the kernel of McClung's feminism. As a "pioneer" writer, McClung was aware of the extent of women's labour and sensitive to the fact that it was not always recognized or rewarded. She had a sharp eye for the realities of the prairie experience, and her sympathetic renderings of the struggles of farm families struck a chord with many westerners.

While a celebrated novelist, it is as an essayist and political activist that McClung is most often remembered. She and her husband, Wes McClung, son of the family she had boarded with in Manitou, moved to Winnipeg in 1911, where she became involved with the Canadian Women's Press Club and where her fervent Methodism and belief in the Social Gospel found release in the suffrage movement.

McClung, together with other middle class reformers like Lillian Beynon Thomas, E. Cora Hind, Winona Flett (Mrs. F.J. Dixon), Dr. Amelia Yeomans and Francis Marion Beynon, was a founding member of the Political Equality League and a tireless speaker for its speakers bureau. She crossed the province many times, using her wit and humour to drive home at every theatre and community hall her message of justice for women.

McClung enjoyed a long and often bitter rivalry with Manitoba's premier, Sir Rodmond Roblin, having encountered him early in her political career when she and an accomplice tricked him into a tour of some of Winnipeg's dirtiest sweat shops, forcing him to come face to face with the reality of women's labour. McClung loved to imitate the premier's self-important manner, and fittingly had the privilege of playing Roblin in the Women's Parliament in 1914.

In 1915, McClung penned *In Times Like These*, a collection of anecdotes and speeches based on the speaking tours she had done for the Political Equality League. This book remains today one of the most articulate expressions of the ideology and arguments of maternal feminism. In it, the reader can see evidence of McClung's fervent Methodism, her adherence to the Social Gospel, and also the elitism and persistent nativism that would later mar her relationship with some of her more progressive allies like Francis Beynon.

McClung did not stay in Manitoba long enough to see women win the vote, but rather followed her husband's pharmacy business to Alberta. There she remained very much in public life. She was to serve as a Liberal Member of the Legislative Assembly in Alberta in the early 1920s, and was to reach thousands with her syndicated newspaper column "Nellie McClung Says."

McClung remained allied with the cause of women's rights all her life, and in 1929, she was one of the "famous five" who battled in the courts and at parliament to have women declared "persons" under the law.

*Manitoba Historical Society Timelinks Jan 15, 2015*



Also visit the Nellie McClung Foundation for upcoming events  
<https://www.ournellie.com/>

**Christmas Greetings to All  
From MLHS**



Christmas cards originated in Victorian Times, with the first commercial cards being produced in 1843. Sales in the first year reached the dizzying heights of 2050 cards!

Many people made their own cards and sending them was made easier with the popular penny post which had begun in 1840.

Later in the 19th Century, established writers and artists became involved in an attempt to create cards that had beautiful pictures and appealing prose and the card became seen as a vehicle of artistic excellence.

**Happy Christmas**  
and a  
**Merry New Year**  
from  
**All of Us to All of You**

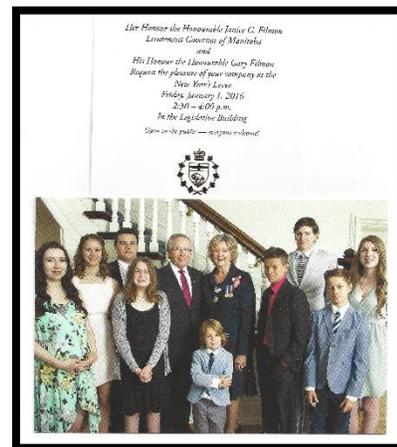


**Events on the Horizon**

- January 1 Lieutenant Governor's New Year's Levee
- January TBD AGM
- January 28 Baggage St John's High School
- 28 Nellie McClung Gala
- February 6 Girl Guides - Mb Legislature
- St Norbert Winter Days
- John A MacDonald Dinner
- March TBD Baggage St John's High School
- May TBD VPRR St Boniface Museum
- June Manitoba Highland Games - Selkirk
- July 1 Canada Day – Ross House invite



**New Year's Levee Invitation**

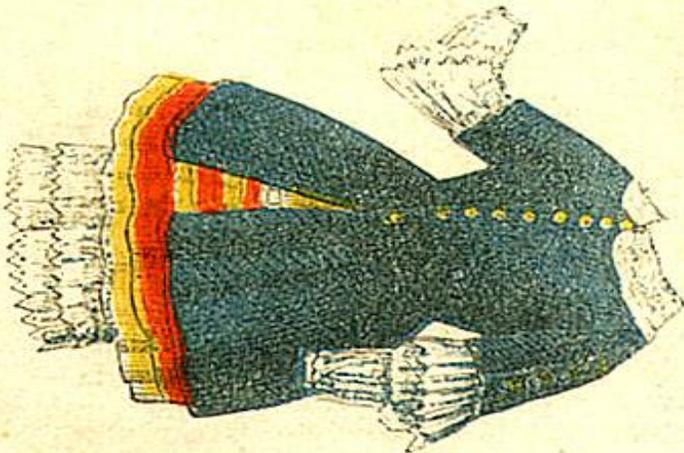
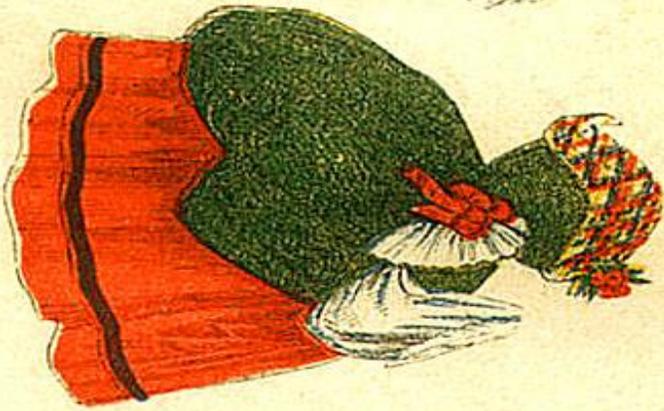
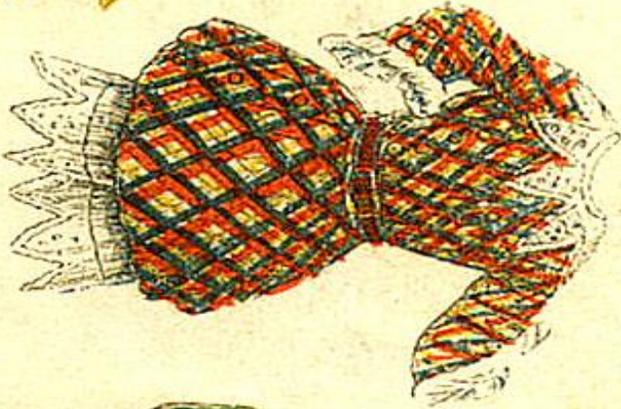
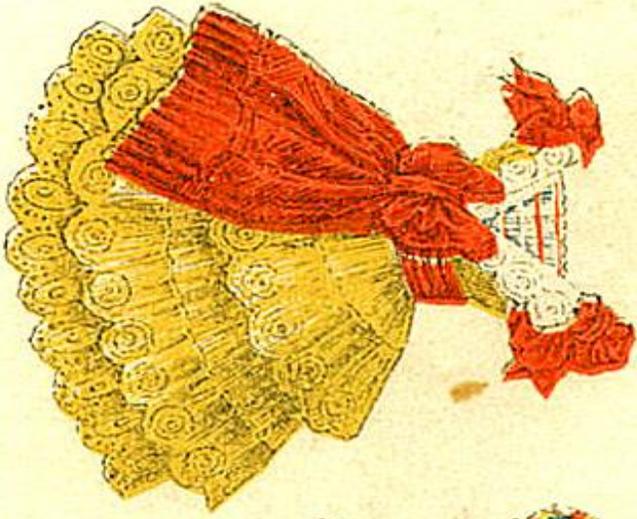




### Kids Korner

*Victorian paper doll cut outs*





**MLHS welcomes new members:**

Susan Hepburn  
Kristine, Wayne Elizabeth, Jonathan,  
Katherine

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**Who Were We Then????**

**Name that member...**

No, not Judy, she's the one holding the member.

Here is a hint, this is at Lower fort Garry in 2005 in August.



**Until next time,**



**keep warm....**

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**MLHS AGM**

Scheduled for January  
with a  
Sewing Baggage to follow.  
Watch for details

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**Stuff for Sale**

- Will send out items of interest in a **For Sale** flyer
- **Rag and Bone Sale** will be held at AGM – bring your goods