

Manitoba Living History Society

La société pour l'histoire vivante du Manitoba

Delivery of the

NEWSLETTER

in the Red River Settlement

February, March, April 2018



Cornelius Krieghoff 1867

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Chair Chat/Editor Message

The days are getting longer, the sun is shining and we can feel the strong rays of warmth as we turn towards spring, even though April was very cold. Hope you are thinking of getting your *Winter Gathering* seeds ready for spring planting.

We participated in the annual St Norbert Heritage Day which was filled with pancakes and lots of MLHS activities and a return invitation for 2019. The AGM was held Saturday, February 24, with a Rag and Bone Sale and Baggage sewing time. Great attendance and lots of good dialogue and discussion. We spent time on events planned for the year.

I was glad to see so many folks attend with continued interest in MLHS and our newest members joining in as well. We would like to welcome back Kira-Lyn from her time in England.

Thank you to those who respond to the RSVP's for various things; the yes, no or maybe's. It is appreciated and helps us with planning and makes me happy when people respond. Now to just get everybody to do that....

Hurray for History!

Please remember what an amazing group of living history folks we all are! Thank you for your enthusiasm, hard work and dedication to supporting living history in all things that we do.

... Until I see you next time,
Your humble and sometimes obedient servant



Marie
MLHS Chair
MLHS Newsletter Editor

Tweets from Fran



This fun watercolour scene depicting 'The Curlers' at Eglinton Castle, Ayrshire, February 1860, includes fashionable ladies wearing skirts shortened and raised polonaise-style for sport, with wide paletot jackets and neat 'pork pie' hats #Victorian #Scotland Jayne Shrimpton @JayneShrimpton

A Page from the Past



Regimental Dinner Bailey's 2002

With Tom Lawrence, Marie & Don Zorniak, Cathy & Frederick Carsted, Judy & Barry McPherson and Dallas Ewen



The Country Wives – Pattern Makers

St Norbert Heritage Day
February 3
Olivia

What a full and rewarding day for all of us who participated in the St. Norbert Heritage Day! The day offered a continued variety of demonstrations, delicious food, music, audience participation and an enthusiastic public!

Members of our group offered a wide selection of demonstrations, from wool and spinning, to historic toys, quill pens, furs, trade beads and moccasin making, an assortment of sewing and a box loom. An added feature this year were the two muskets fired outdoors by the fire. The "U" configuration of our presentation tables worked efficiently for us, and for the public.

The St. Norbert organizers of this event packed a tremendous amount into this day for the community, and we were fortunate to be able to enjoy so much of it both as demonstrators and as participants. Metis jigging is hard but several members were up and dancing.

This was another wonderful day stepping back in time for 21 MLHS members celebrating our community and our history!

Olivia





MLHS AGM
February 24
Judy McPherson



The AGM was Saturday, February 24, with a Rag and Bone Sale and Baggage sewing time scheduled.

The AGM was an AGM – the board delivered the required information quickly and efficiently – (17 voting members in attendance, five non-voting members; 22 people in attendance), we closed the meeting and then immediately open a general discussion on a variety of topics including anything from the AGM that anyone wanted to discuss.

This included information on

- *getting MLHS design T-shirts, with a vote that all were in favor;*
- *developing a New Member Criteria document to help interested potential members understand who and what we are and what we do;*
- *reminder that anyone with special requirement/needs should inform the board or whoever is lead person for any event, in order to be prepared;*
- *commitment to send out a membership list with names and email contact only to all members; if you do not wish your name on the list – please contact MLHS Board to opt out;*
- *reminder of the availability of the MLHS Financial Incentive Travel Grant;*
- *discussion of a new event being offered in Portage la Prairie – decision made not to commit for this year as it is also Folk Fest weekend, and many families will be busy with home activities and will be unavailable and Provencher 200 is the following weekend;*
- *Judy's announcement that after 35 years, she and Barry are retiring from their annual displays at the Pavilion of Scotland and anyone who wishes to take this over should discuss with the new Coordinator, Dave Carey. A group of MLHS members could strike up a committee;*

- *a potential walk-about and luncheon in dress historic clothing proposed by May Sutherland, possibly in the spring;*
- *a Cream Tea and Regency Clothing Workshop that Marie and Judy will book a table for MLHS publicity, and an opportunity to talk about our costume backgrounds; (Note: we backed out of this event due to minimal interest shown in attendance numbers for the event);*
- *the future 2020 sesquicentennial of the 1870 year Manitoba became a province, Manitoba 150 (some of us were at Manitoba 125);*
- *Seven Oaks House Museum – Eric Napier Strong advised of the various events scheduled for SOHM this season at which he hopes MLHS will participate. On a personal note, Eric is looking for older types of beadwork to use as restoration projects for moccasins.*

We spent time discussing events planned for the year. I was please to see so many folks attend with continued interest in MLHS and the newest members joining in discussions as well.

It is with wonderful anticipation that we shall continue this movement and partake in not necessarily more events, but different venues to showcase what we do. It is my hope that we will continue to choose events that are a good match for our style of history, demonstrations, storytelling and sharing.

NEXT UP - Rag and Bone – Shuffle the chairs, get up and grab more coffee and a donut and check out the tables and the floor laden with exciting items, virtually a historic flea market! Many articles changed hands and will get another lease on life. It's all good.

TIME FOR LUNCH and Baggage - Good pizza – way too much!! Some had to leave – the rest worked on projects or discussed what they were planning for that lovely piece of fabric they just acquired. Great conversations at several table, just the way it should be.

Judy

March Baggage March 19

Baggage day was a grand mix of things. Several new members joined in and a number of items were started from shirts to day caps to petticoats.

James shared another linen find (with all of the beadwork removed), May started threading and setting up her box loom and by Sunday had finished two 40" tapes.

Cynthia began her petticoat skirt, Gen worked on a shirt, David S had measurements taken by Dawn Cross and a shirt fitted. Kira- Lyn brought her friend Joanne and they worked on different things. *Joanne is really, really good at cartridge pleats.* Alex cut out a shirt and Samantha started a day cap. Dave Carey flew in for a few minutes and picked up the assorted first aid kits that are being refurbished for MLHS. Erle came and we actually put a first aid kit to use. Judy and Marie helped those that required assistance and Marie was able to do a few garment stitches.

Every table had things happening and of course the lunch throw down potluck was really good! Attending were James, May, David S, Cynthia, Gen, Dave C, Kira-Lyn, Joanne, Erle, Alex and Samantha, Judy and Marie.

Marie

April Baggage April 14

Another Saturday Baggage. Same location but with fewer participants this time around. But no matter we did a lot and had some very, very exciting things to see and explore and learn.

As you know Oriole has been continuing to research about her family; and her published book *For Elise* shows the conditions that her grandmother lived during the latter part of the 19th century. To date she has continues to seek information about her family; which brings us to the exciting things she brought to show and share at Baggage. A suitcase full of clothing which was found in one of the small community museums, with provenance to her Grandmother and Great

Aunt. We were able to view, touch and examine the way the clothing was put together and handle the finest quality of silks, organza's, cottons and laces. Judy and I did not stop oohhhing and ahhhhhing. With Oriole's permission, we will photograph and inventory the clothing and then return to Oriole.

Our three new members, sewed and chatted and got a glimpse of fabric excitement. Kira-Lyn brought her spinning wheel to get advice on small adjustments - which worked - then it worked. Joanne took a turn at spinning as well. May shared her handiwork on the box loom and James gave us a lesson in Chinese characters. See we're continually learning history!! As always...so many grand things for the lunch table.

This will be the last Baggage at the school for the school year and we will have to decide whether or not to continue in the fall. We want to give brief informational lessons with each Baggage, but without knowing who or how many will attend, it is difficult to know what to prepare. Judy and I do not mind doing them, however when people do not respond to the information to confirm when the dates have been set, maybe there is a better use of our time?

Marie



Tweets from Fran

These aren't artistic gravy boats, but mid-18C "bourdaloues" ~ small, portable chamber pots for high-class ladies to discreetly use when they were out in public, then pass to a servant for emptying. These examples are from Chantilly, \Meissen and Sèvres

Journal of Art in Society @artinsociety Feb 25

Fran



There's a comment in the comments about "loo" being derived from "lieu" (in place of) whereas I had always understood "loo" - as in "gardy-loo" comes from "l'eau" - as in "garde de l'eau" - watch out for the water as it's dumped from the second floor into the street - except it's not water.

Judy

More information on The Bourdalou

Jane Austen's World Regency Hygiene:

July 16, 2012 b y Vic

This image of a bourdalou might be somewhat confusing to the uninitiated. Could this small and elegant vessel be a gravy boat? Or a blood-letting container?



Sèvres bourdalou, 1831.

This image by Francois Boucher says it all. A fully dressed lady is relieving herself into an object called the bourdalou or bourdalou, careful not to soil her skirts. Her maid, no doubt, stands nearby, waiting to receive the small chamber pot in order to empty it. The lady (or woman of ill repute) is in a public place – a theatre or tavern, perhaps – but certainly not a church. Wherever she is, the place has no public toilet. And so she must relieve herself standing up, taking care not to soil her clothing.

According to legend, the name of this porta potty comes from Louis Bourdaloue (1632-1704 one of Louis XIV's Jesuit priests. His oratorical skills were reputedly so accomplished that people felt they could not miss a single word of his sermons.



Louis Bourdaloue.

It is said that women sat through his masses with a bourdalou placed under their dresses, whose skirts were held out by panniers. Since the priest's sermons were somewhat longwinded, the chances that ladies would need to relieve themselves were almost certain. As a rule, churches and theatres had no toilets, and there were no breaks given during sermons. Ergo these portable urinals, which were ergonomically designed to accommodate the female body. The vessel was oblong, rectangular, or oval in shape.



bourdalou, with medallion depicting a scene from Watteau, blue lapis and framed in gold leaf. 1892.

A slightly raised lip at one end and a handle at the other allowed the woman to relieve herself from a squatting or standing position. The edges curved inward to avoid hurting her tenderest parts.

is a little hard to distinguish truth from fiction, so with skepticism about this apocryphal tale. Were the priest's sermons in the early 18th century so truly awe-inspiring that a lady would squat in her pew, however discreetly, to relieve herself in front of her family and other parishioners so as not to miss a word? In truth it was her maid who brought the vessel in, for bourdaloues were compact and came with a cover. When a lady had to relieve herself she would, I imagine, retreat discreetly to a private corner of a tall pew or to a back or side room in the church. Her maid would then hand the vessel over to her mistress, who took care not to spill any liquid on her skirts. When the lady was finished, she would hand the bourdaloue to her maid to empty its contents. When attending a play or opera at the theatre, I imagine she would again retreat to a darker more private corner of the box to urinate.



A PAIR OF SEVRES BOURDALOUES (POTS DE CHAMBREOVALE) CIRCA 1776

Designed only for women, these bourdalous are quite beautiful. Made of faience or porcelain, they are decorated with flowers or painted scenes. Many are gilded. The portable pots, or coach pots as they were known in England, could be decorated inside as well. They were quite small and compact, designed for travel, which made it easy to carry them and pack them for coach trips. They were also taken to long banquets, where ladies would scurry behind curtains when they needed to go.

Bourdaloues were used throughout the 18th and for most of the 19th century. As water closets began to be built inside homes and buildings, the use of these chamber pots began to be reduced dramatically.

Plain bourdaloue made of creamware. The shape is quite elegant.



Gentlemen had it a little easier, although this satiric French cartoon, which has shown before, depicts the disgust that Frenchmen felt towards Englishmen who freely pissed in a pot in the dining room. In this instance, the man misses the chamber pot and hits the floor. There seems to be a lack of modesty among these men, which largely holds true today.



c1816, from Fitzwilliam Museum.

Modesty is also lacking in this cartoon of ladies relieving themselves inside a public restroom at Vauxhall Gardens. Four are arrayed on a long latrine against the wall. One lady is refreshing her make up and another is tightening her garter. If such scenes were common for upper class women in public spaces, perhaps many felt no modesty relieving themselves in church as well.



The Inside of the Lady's Garden at Vauxhall, 1788 by SW Fores. Image @British Library.

The interior of a ladies' cloak-room. Against the wall on two sides of the room is a bench forming a latrine on which four fashionably dressed ladies are seated. On the right a woman in profile to the right, resembling Lady Archer, applies paint to her cheeks before a mirror lit by two candles. A young woman seated beside her on the extreme right ties up her garter.

Adapted by Marie

Other Things MLHS folks have been doing...

Day 1 of being a movie extra went well. We were up just after 6 AM to do chores and get ready to go to Wpg. The movie is called "Smoky Mountain Christmas" (not a remake of the old one with Dolly Parton) and we were supposed to start work at 10:45 am.

Before arriving, we had to stop at Safeway for food and Value Village for some clothes - They wanted 3 outfits each that would be suitable for attending a Christmas Concert. Even with the laundry done we struggled to find even one outfit each on such short notice. We had 45 minutes at VV and I felt like one of those crazy super shoppers on one of those crazy shopping shows. Cheyenne wasn't impressed with the area of town the shoot was in - she felt it was a very dangerous neighbourhood- but we were downstairs in the basement of the Ukrainian Something or Other Hall so it wasn't so bad. [Ukrainian Labour Temple]

About 150 of us hung out while the crew did their thing upstairs and after about 3 hours, they started calling the kids and things were happening. The boys were part of a choir in a Christmas pageant. Ben was dressed up as a goose (6 geese a-laying), Donavin- Santa and Anthony was one of 3 French Hens. Ben looked like a mobster with his hood up and his orange beak shading his face, Donavin's Santa pants were made of felt and were 3 sizes too small so the fabric kept ripping and pretty soon his dark blue underwear was visible to everyone (this wasn't part of the movie script) and Anthony looked absolutely adorable in his black sweat pants, black and white striped shirt with boat neck, feather boa, black beret and bird mask - like some sort of mini French painter, mime or something. The only way he could sing was by pulling his mask away from his face and then he'd let it snap back. ...".5 gol-den wings. 4 Calling birds, 3 friendships, 2 turtle ducks and a

par-ty in a pear tree". Everyone else is singing the real words - one day when he can read, he'll be surprised. Donavin was pretty close to tears because of his costume tatters so I left the kids in the care of the choir director and zipped off to Value Village to find a pair of red pants to substitute - luckily I found a pair of large ladies leggings that were perfect (I temporarily stole the first pair of ruined pants to use for color-matching)... The girls began their shift at 1 PM and were finally asked to do stuff at around 6 PM. Marina and Cheyenne were snowmen and Rebecca an elf. They sat as part of the audience and then danced to no music - they said it was really strange but I guess they put the music in after. Same with the piano for the kids singing 12 days of Christmas.

Our adventure was finally finished at 10 PM and we were safely home just before midnight. Cheyenne made sure we used the services of the security guard to get back to the van.

We went back for a second day on Sunday and I was super prepared with all sorts of fabric, patterns and my scissors. Had to make use of those big tables. It was strange to know that other people were taking care of my children and then paying the children for the privilege.

Back to the bees

Barb

Fort Whyte Earth Day April 22

Unfortunately, MLHS had to decline an invitation to participate in Earth Day this year. We hope to be back for 2019 at this and other event activities at Fort Whyte.

Approach to Research

Barry McPherson

“Reading” the image of an Ojibway woman, to learn more about the impression you wish to interpret.

Questions to ask yourself – who – what – when – where.

WHO: This woman is identified as a “Female Chippeway of Distinction”. From this you can make a tentative assumption that she is better dressed than other women. You can see the glass beads trimming her strap dress and row upon row around her neck, and the silver bracelets.



Figure 10. “Female Chippeway of Distinction,” early 19th century, adorned with glass beads and what may be silver bracelets (McKenney 1827: Pl. opp. p. 315; National Library of Canada, Ottawa; L-5102)

“Female Chippeway of Distinction”, 1827.

WHEN: identified as early 19th century, the sketch was done in 1827. What this tells you is that the artist may have seen this woman and based his drawing on what he saw – as compared to recently done art work that represents a time long past. No matter how hard one tries, the biases of today inform the work of another era.

WHERE: Ojibway people inhabited a very large area – from Ontario west to Manitoba, through Michigan and North Dakota in the U.S.

In 1804, Peter Grant in *Les Bourgeois de la Compagnie du Nord-Ouest*, Vol II, p. 318-9, described Chippewa Woman as follows:

The woman wear petticoats [skirts] of blue cloth [cloth = wool], which come down to the ankle, and cover their bodies upwards to the pit of the shoulder with the same stuff. Their sleeves, made of red or blue molton [dense wool, melton] come down near the wrist and open along the inside of the arm; they tie them by the uppermost corner behind the shoulders, so that the lower corners, which fall down behind, cover a considerable part of the back. A narrow slip of cloth is fixed across the breast, from the end of which two other slips are suspended, carefully ornamented with white beads and various trinket.

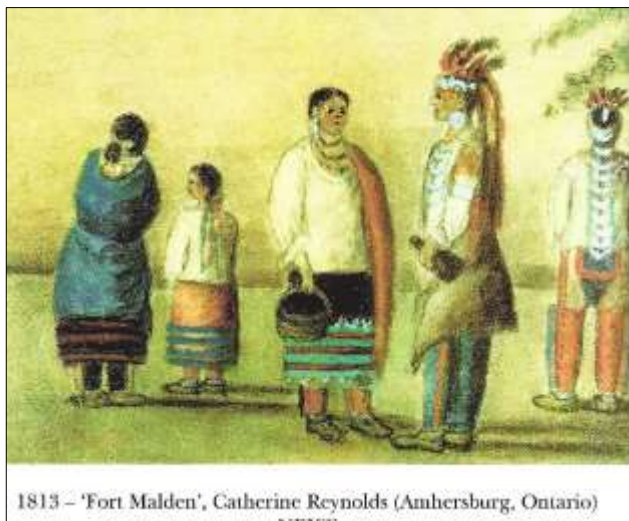
They wear silver bracelets on their wrists, rings on their fingers, beads about the neck, and a profusion of silver crosses and other ornaments dangling down upon the breast. Their ear and nose ornaments are the same as the men’s, though not in the same profusion; their ears are not distorted to such an unnatural size, nor encumbered with silver wheels and brass wire. Their blankets are a size smaller than the men’s but worn in the same manner and tightened with garters below the knee.

In painting, they use no other ingredients but vermilion and charcoal, the red is confined to a small spot on each cheek, the roots of the hair, and sometimes, around the eyes. They are very careful of their hair, anointing it with bear’s oil, which gives it a smooth and glossy appearance, and makes it grow very fast. They divide it with a comb from the forehead to the crown in a straight line, and gather it behind the head into a cylindrical club, about six inches long, wrapped up with a dirty rag, over which it is tied very tight with a piece of tape, quite close to the head, which arrangement gives it a very stiff and awkward appearance.”

WHAT: What can we learn in order to develop an accurate appearance for an Aboriginal woman at Red River?

- Although the artist did his work 23 years before Peter Grant, his description is very close to the image in the sketch.
- Ojibway peoples were in this part of the world.
- This woman displays great wealth. By not including much of the beading and silver, her appearance would be suitable for every day wear and every day women.

For another look – see the 1813 painting “Fort Malden”, and the description from “Silver in the Fur Trade 1680 – 1820.” Of note are the variations, plus the skirt, leggings and moccasin details can be seen.



1813 – ‘Fort Malden’, Catherine Reynolds (Amherstburg, Ontario)

Above, a woman wearing a hairplate and carrying baby in backsac, silver on her moccasins. Girl wearing silver hair band, ring brooches on her hair ribbons and moccasins. Central woman long earrings, ring brooches at shirt neck, skirt bottom and moccasins. This is an early depiction of silver on a skirt. Taller man [reputed to represent Tecumseh] wearing silver on a chief’s hat, nose ring, large earwheel, set of four gorgets in front, pair arm and wrist bands. At right a man wears a set of 9 gorgets as hair ornament at the back of his head, plus a hair tube. His left shoulder is smeared with red vermillion and is covered with ring brooches, his leggings and moccasins are edged with ring brooches.

This and That...

Book Commemorates Selkirk Settlers

A book on the early Red River Settlement has been published by Winnipeg publisher Great Plains Publication. Entitled *Red River Remembered: A Bicentennial Collection of Stories and Recipes*, its author is Noni Campbell-Horner, a direct descendant of the Red River Settlers.

Red River Remembered: A Bicentennial Collection of Stories and Recipes by Noni Campbell-Horner
ISBN 978-1-926531-28-1 255 pages



Lithograph, “[Governor of Red River, driving his family on the River in a horse cariole](#),” c.1823/1824.

Credit: Library and Archives Canada, Acc. No. R9266-1052.3.
Copyright: expired

Footsteps in the Snow: The Red River Diary of Isobel Scott

by Carol Matas, from Scholastic Canada’s *Dear Canada* Series, provides an opportunity for children to connect personally to the story of the Selkirk Settlers.



From the book jacket we read: ‘*Isobel thinks that she and her family will find their fortune in Canada. But Isobel’s mother dies before they even cross the ocean, and other misfortunes seem to follow their every step. Isobel’s family and the other Selkirk Settlers find themselves caught in the fur-trading rivalry between the Hudson’s Bay Company and the North West Company. ... The novel explores many of the important themes in the Settler’s story including the impact of the harsh winter weather, and the flood of 1826, the Fur Trade Wars and the incident at Seven Oaks. It also explores the evolution of Isabel’s thoughts about the aboriginal people she meets and becomes friends with.*

**How Others see MLHS
St Norbert February 3**



*Pictures by Shelly Henry
-Volunteer St. Norbert Heritage Day 2018*

Second Last Page



Kind Words

December January Newsletter

Another absolutely outstanding newsletter!

Margaret Carter
Past President
United Empire Loyalists

Thanks for sharing. I'm always interested in what MLHS is/has been up to.

I particularly enjoyed the information about the Wartime Quilts made by men from military uniforms. A revelation for me!

Monique Brandt
Director
Association of Manitoba Museums

Marie,
Thank you so much for sending us a copy.
It is magnificent!

Martin Lake
Mississinawa Battlefield Society



Please support our members – Barb and Easton

Still Seeking Help with Beads...

I wish to buy single examples of Fur Trade Era glass beads. As part of my family's Indigenous/Metis interpretation for MLHS, I am currently working on a sample display showing the beads commonly used during the Fur Trade Era.

What I need is a single bead of each type. I have acquired 30+ of probably the most common ones, but I wish to expand this collection.

If you have any such beads, and would be interested in selling a single bead, I would love the opportunity to buy one from you.



Please email me at - olivia.arnason@gmail.com

Thank you!
Olivia

Looking

As you know this is your newsletter and sometimes the editor and others just do not get the opportunity to take pictures at events.

If you have pictures from the things we do, please share. If you attend note-worthy places or activities, do a little write up and send it along – it is always interesting to see what we do at other times.

The Last Page



North American Voyageur Council (NAVC)

We have received the NAVC Spring 2018
Newsletter
THE VOYAGEUR

Newsletter Link:

<http://www.navoyageur.org/newsletter/NAVC%20spr18.pdf>

<http://www.navoyageur.org>

Upcoming Events

2018

April 22 Earth Day Fort Whyte-cancelled
May 3 Red River Heritage Fair and Symposium
May 5 Shed Sort & Baggage- Ed and Carol's
May 12 Manitoba Day - Manitoba Museum
May 16-19 Rupert's Land Colloquium Grande Prairie, Alberta
May 24 Manitoba Museum
May 26 Government House Doors Open
May 27 Dalnvert Doors Open
June 1 Visit with the People of Red River
June 2/3 Spring Gathering
June 23-24 Manitoba Highland Gathering
July 1 Canada Day Ross House TBD
July 15 Provencher 200

And more yet to announce....

Travel Manitoba Inspiration Guide 2018



Opening of Nellie McClung Museum - Judy and Her Honour Lieutenant Governor Janice Filmon



*History Happens when we
play in the past...*

Until next time

Marie



Manitoba Living History Society



*Your Première Living History Group
for more than
35 Years in Manitoba*

www.manitobalivinghistory.com

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