

Manitoba Living History Society

La société pour l'histoire vivante du Manitoba

Delivery of the

NEWSLETTER

in the Red River Settlement

December 2016 - January/February 2017



*Upper Fort Garry
by HA Strong
Winter 1870*

Inside this Issue:

<i>Chair Chat /Editor Message</i>	pg 2	<i>Life in the Colonies</i>	pg 20
<i>Tanning your brains out!</i>	pg 3	<i>A Red River Settlement Custom</i>	pg 21
<i>And we were all in stitches...</i>	pg 4	<i>How Edwardian Are You? Answers</i>	pg 22
<i>January 1 Levee</i>	pg 6	<i>My First Tanning attempt</i>	pg 24
<i>Winnipeg Free Press January 2, 2017</i>	pg 8	<i>Becoming an Historical Wood Worker</i>	pg 24
<i>Hogmanay Traditions</i>	pg 9	<i>Preservation Awards</i>	pg 25
<i>Independent Republic of Manitobah</i>	pg 10	<i>Corset Workshop</i>	pg 26
<i>More on the Flax Front</i>	pg 10	<i>Victorian Puppet</i>	pg 27
<i>Winter Gathering</i>	pg 12	<i>Muffatees</i>	pg 28
<i>Late 1860s Elliptical Hoop Tutorial</i>	pg 15	<i>The Second Last Page</i>	pg 29
<i>AGM/ Baggage</i>	pg 18	<i>The Last Page / Upcoming</i>	pg 30
<i>St Norbert Heritage Day</i>	pg 19		
<i>An Approach to Research</i>	pg 20		

Chair Chat/Editor Message

Another New Year! 2017 has arrived! I hope that all of your Christmas Wishes and Blessings came true.

Don and I were away for a spell in Cuba – very lovely and warm, we missed the Boxing day snowstorm and had a few adventures. We did not travel as we had hoped due to unforeseen circumstances – but were very happy to be back in time for the Levee and another snowstorm, was a different kind of history.

It was so nice to see so many of you at the Levee New Year's Day, at our count there were thirty seven of us; young and old (our newest youngest member was born December 18 and made his debut at the Levee and was presented to Her Honour). Great turn out everyone and we sure looked mighty swell! The Free Press did a lengthy article and we received many wonderful comments on our bringing in the start of the Canada 150 activities for 2017.

The Winter Gathering was a resounding success – we had wonderful attendance and much great delight. Lots of dancing and eating and laughter. Well done everyone! Old and new members, fifty-four of us has a delightful time.

I have spent time reflecting over the past year and am pleased with how the year unfolded. We worked to create good relationships within the historic community and form new partnerships. We collaborated as a group to meet our goals of working together, learning new things and sharing our love of history. We continued with one of our main 2016 goals; that decisions were always made with the membership in mind. To stay on this trend, the surveys are a great way to get your feedback, so we thank everyone who returned them in a timely manner.

We are making a concerted effort to delve back into learning the history of the Red River Settlement and the history of the Confederation of Canada. Next steps are to work on the replies to

the many requests we have received so we can plan even better things to do.

The AGM was Saturday, January 28, with a Baggage sewing time scheduled to keep us continuing with the 1867 era. We spent time discussing Canada 150 events planned for the year. I was glad to see so many folks attend with continued interest in MLHS and the newest members joining in as well.

It is with wonderful anticipation that we may 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 be able to pick and choose events that are a good match for our style of history, demonstrations, storytelling and sharing. As it happens, we have already received invitations for events in the new year and next year. As we receive information about the things planned or proposed, we will advise the membership as soon as possible.

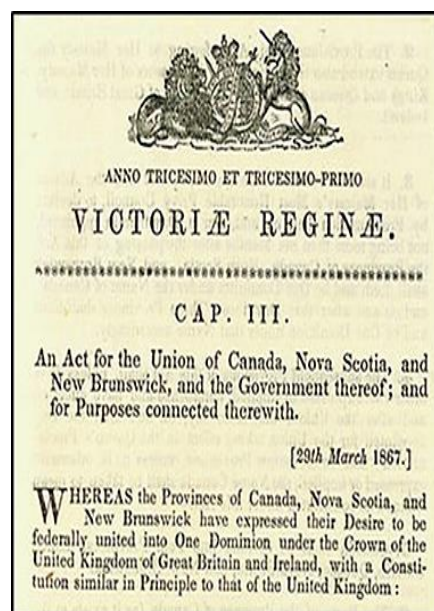
2017 looks like a very great rousing year for us!

Hurray for History!

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

Marie

MLHS Chair
MLHS Newsletter Editor



Tanning your brains out

December 17

Dawn and Barb

Both Dawn and I have freezers full of dead things. There are deer heads and skins, beaver pelts and teeth, bears, and bison. One time, I even had my 15 year old dead Cocker Spaniel in the freezer for a week or two. The kids were little and there was no time to go dig a proper grave for poor black, blind, deaf, neurotic Duke who stood on the road at night until the neighbor finally mowed him down one summer evening on her way home from work. I digress... Duke is fully decomposed underground and Dawn and I only have wild animals in our freezers right now.

When an opportunity came along to take a brain tanning class with Manitoba Buckskin's owner Carl Froese, Dawn and I both signed up. And, because this sort of thing appeals to a certain sort of person, I invited my friend Michele Amy to join us. There were about 15 of us at the workshop - everyone with a story. One lady brought the skin of her neighbor's pet bunny. Some people were keen to slop around the brain solution and rub it into a hide, others preferred to watch.

I don't know how the neighbours feel about having Carl's shop in their neighbourhood, but there's a distinct country smell that surrounds the building. I bet Carl smells like that even after he showers. There are probably close to 100 hides in various stages of being tanned in the warehouse-like building. There are barrels with hides soaking in hydrated lime before the hair is removed, there are frames as big as 12 feet by 12 feet with huge bison stretching on them, there are smaller hides stretched and nailed to the walls. There is even a big closet that is used for smoking the hides. Soft spoken Carl explained and then demonstrated cutting a deer head with a hack saw across the eyebrows between the eyes and the antlers all the way

down to the jaw bone and then cracking the head open like a Pez dispenser so we could reach in and scoop out the brains. The saying goes..."Every animal has enough brains to tan their own hide." There is nothing toxic in the process of brain tanning so all the goobies can be washed down the drain without damage to the environment.

Up front, in the "office" area, there are locally made moccasins for sale. Carl also makes drums and sells drum kits - both hand drums and the big pow wow drums. Mr. Froese is an expert although he would likely never admit it. He learned his craft from elderly ladies (and a few gentlemen) up north. He wants to pass on this knowledge to all those who are interested and he does a great job.

Having thawed a number of dead things in my freezer so that I could ask for help/advice at the workshop, I was compelled to begin work on a deer, bear and beaver. After all the sewing for the Levee and Winter Gathering are finished, it will be time to focus on creating beautiful and useful items.

Brain tanning honours the life of an animal in a respectful way. I'm good with that.

Barb



And we were all in stitches...

Compilation by Barb

Trials and Tribulations of a getting ready for the Levee...

Somehow, even though we had 150 years' notice, 1867 just seemed to sneak up on those of us who had sewing to do for the Levee on January 1, 2017. Please share your highs, your lows, your frustrations and triumphs with me so we can entertain and inspire all those who don't sew.

For example - On Friday December 30, after sewing 3 wool jackets, my machine was all fuzzy with woolly bits. I was in a hurry to start my next project but thought I would take a minute to vacuum out the machine and accidentally sucked up the little screw that holds down the face plate. An hour and much mess later, I located the tiny silver screw at the bottom of the over-full vacuum cleaner bag.

Please share your own short stories with me and I will put them together for a newsletter piece for some fun reading. I suspect we will all be able to relate to each other's memorable moments.

Barb

Did Genevieve really stay up all night???

Dec 30, 2016 9:08 PM – Wow - planning to be up all night.... I had found a pair of pants for Darrion at the thrift store that has the right shape. All I needed to do was remove the belt loops and put a cincher. If I have time I might make Xavier new pants. And new shirts for David and Darrion. Oh and a frock coat...

Dec 31, 2016 10:48 AM - Almost done Xavier's jacket. Decided to do a lining after all. My machine needle broke last night as I was putting the other sleeve in. Needed to go searching for more...so I called it quits at 1pm.

-Gen



This is definitely not how the lining of a 1867 boys jacket should go...

Gen

NO no Carla! Do not go towards the light!!!

December 31, 2016 5:30 PM

Hahahahaha! that would be hysterical laughter! I have been sewing for the last 4 days, and it was going so well, that I decided to sew the last sleeve of my jacket on inside out just for fun! double seam and zigzagged just for good measure. So, there was an hour of my life wasted, ripping out seams and resewing.

I have a skirt and shirt finished, I just need to finish the Zouave jacket. I have to put the lining and shell together and do any adjustments.

Back to the little light bulb in the corner for me. See you tomorrow.

-Carla

Twenty-five years to finish an outfit!

Sometime I think I am a slow sewer, but this outfit took an exceptionally long time. We (MLHS) had just finished with Canada 125 and had made hoop dresses in a flurry – much like we are doing for 1867 Canada 150.

I had the skirt completed, just needed to work on the cartridge pleat tacking and the front top finishing...but that was not to be – we had moved rather quickly into the bustle dress era and the outfit was folded away to be worked on at a later date in my tub of unfinished projects.

Moving along to 2016 – twenty-five years in the future in fact...in December, I was marveling at things that I had finally gotten around to, and I found the garment and decided that this would be the year to finish it and wear it to the January 1 Levee and I did! One less thing in the unfinished tub!

-Marie

Sabrina is definitely hooked on sewing...

I managed to sew the final 2 hooks and eyes on the waistband of my dress to finish it off the day before. And the morning of the Levee I reshaped my 1890s straw hat to make it more 1860s. I was good to go. But when I went to get dressed the next day, one of the hooks wouldn't do up! I managed to get it hooked after finding everyone at the Levee (having slipped and slid my way through the marble halls of the Legislative building and almost falling flat multiple times). But that wasn't the end of my difficulties. While undoing those troublesome hooks and eyes, I managed to rip the handsewn stitches holding the skirt to the waistband. So I now have a space of about 1.5 inches that needs re-sewing. Unfortunate, but that's the way it goes!

-Sabrina

Cinderella went to the ball, and so will you!

In anticipation for our newest family member to arrive I swore that I would have all my sewing done before the new baby arrived. I did find myself sewing an entire new outfit for myself two days before the Levee because I hated the dress I made. My day was spent cutting out a bed gown that was too small and throwing it across the room. I told my daughter at least five times that I wasn't going in costume. When I finally finished she said "aren't you glad you didn't give up?"

-Dawn Cross

Measure twice, cut once

I ordered some new patterns for boys 1867 clothes. I knew there was just enough blue fabric with squiggles on it in my collection to make Ben a new shirt. He has grown and none of his 1812 shirts fit him anymore. The kids had been feral for several days already as I had a sewing list a mile long that needed to be complete before January 1. I was beginning to tire. I laid out the new pattern pieces, checked with the old shirt to be sure the new one would be bigger and then started cutting. When I held up my work, I realized that I had folded the fabric double while cutting around the neck line and had created the most charming blue squiggly snow man. Ben now has a perfectly round blue squiggly patch in the centre of the back of his 1867 blue squiggly shirt.

-Barb

Good things come in small packages, but even better things come in big packages...

and me? Usually I just grab the outfit and put it on. This works well for Regency dresses that are free floating from under the bust. However, that tactic doesn't work for mid-Victorian up-tight women wearing up-tight bodices, on a person (me) who is 20 lbs more than when last I wore the black silk mourning dress. And with so many pieces required to complete the outfit, I spent the entire day before the Levee trying to find undersleeves, corset, jewelry, snood, hairpiece, and so on - and then I tried on the under skirt and skirt. Whooooo. I quickly added extra hooks at the very very edge of the waistsband but that only gave me half an inch. I was really packaged tight.

-Judy

Wearing mom's clothes...

Barb: Kristine, were you sewing like mad for the past few days, like the rest of us?

Kristine: Yes, but I didn't get my own dress done, I had to wear my mother's!

-Kristine

With only a tiny little bit of sewing time left...

Dave Carey: Do you have a pattern for a men's coat? I need to make a coat for the Levee.

Barb: Ummmmmm. You might want to check with Judy to see if she has a spare.

-Dave C



Might come in Handy one day...

Thursday December 6, 1792

MAKING FIRE WITH BUFFALO DUNG

Burnt Cow dung as usual. The fire is first made of small dry wood then afterwards the dry Dung. A small stick or 2 is kept constantly in the middle of the fire, perpendicular & bits of Inside fatt are placed upon it that it melts & falls down gradu-ally into the fire & makes the Buffalo dung burn much better than without this. This kind of fuel makes a great quantity of ashes. When the Dung is dry it does tolerably well; at present it is rather wet, on account of the fresh snow thawing & wetting it, it takes a long time for the air to dry it well again, particularly at this season of the year.

Light breezes at West, pretty clear & very warm summer like weather.

Peter Fidler - JOURNAL OF A JOURNEY OVER LAND FROM BUCKINGHAM HOUSE TO THE ROCKY MOUNTAINS IN 1792 & 3, Bruce Haig, ed., Historical Research Centre, 1991, pages 26, 27

January 1 Levee

Judy



The beginning – getting everyone in place for the Grand staircase photo

This year's Lieutenant Governor's Levee was very much anticipated by so many of us- especially those who had been busy busy busy making new outfits (mostly dresses) for the 1860s. The Levee was the first event of the year to celebrate Canada's 2017 Sesquicentennial and we wanted to be ready!

The young ladies in our group swirled and floated in their wonderful hooped dresses. The young boys with their new jackets were very proud of themselves and their mother. Our adult women made, borrowed and altered dresses to wear. Those of us who have been to this era before got out our finest, hoping they would still fit. The menfolk wore their best to meet the Queen's Representative.

We posed this year on the grand staircase for our annual group picture. The public taking pictures was worthy of a red carpet event.

After being greeted warmly by Her Honour, Janice Filmon, all thirty seven of us chatted with the public in the rotunda. This year, it seemed everyone wanted a picture of, or with us. From Barry with his beaver top hat sitting to one side, to the wide skirts of the women, to Dawn's two-week old newbairn, the visiting public was entranced with our presentation of 1867 and asked many questions about Winnipeg in that year.

Those of you for whom this was your first Levee - I hope you enjoyed it as much as I did. I never tire of having the privilege of attending the Levee - of meeting Their Honours - and of just being in the imposing structure that is our Legislative Building.



January 1 Levee



*MLHS participants greeting Lieutenant Governor Filmon
Photo Credit Lee Anderson*

Winnipeg Free Press January 2, 2017

Ben Waldman

After a handful of Girl Guides and Boy Scouts had shaken Lt.-Gov. Janice Filmon's hand at the annual New Year Levee at the Legislature, in waltzed Marie Zorniak to say hello.

Zorniak, the chair of the Manitoba Living History Society, was wearing a large floral hat, 19th century-style spectacles and a floor-length skirt pushed out to the side by a series of metal hoops.

People watch the ceremonies at the annual New Year Levee at the Manitoba Legislature Sunday. Lt.-Gov. Janice Filmon also greeted members of the public.

She and her colleagues were dressed appropriately for the levee, which officially kicked off the celebration for Canada's 150th year since confederation.

"Chief Peguis had another event, but he'll be here later today," said Zorniak, referring to a recreationist** dressed as the historic chief.

Over 1,300 people attended the free public event, which included performances by several choral groups on the grand staircase, anchored on both sides by massive statues of bison.

On the second floor, a receiving line waited to be greeted by Filmon and her husband, former premier Gary Filmon, along with the Health Minister Kelvin Goertzen and his wife, Kim.

The line nearly wrapped around the entire rotunda, and the guests were funneled in and out of the Blue Room, the receiving venue for guests to the lieutenant-governor's office.

"Smiles are allowed," joked one official to the visitors as they entered.

The levee is a tradition in Manitoba, dating back to the province's first lieutenant-governor in 1871. The first recorded levee in what is now Canada was held on New Year's Day in 1646 in Quebec City.

"Opening (the government's home) to the people of Manitoba and sharing what we have here and allowing people to visit and bring greetings or say hello is an amazing historical concept which has continued," Zorniak said after her turn on the handshake conveyor belt.

Zorniak pointed out that among the historical recreationists present at the levee, multiple groups were

represented in the wardrobe and characterizations, all based on research into the style of the 1860s and beyond.

"There are ladies in hoops, children dressed in upper class, lower class, middling class (wear)," Zorniak said. "The range is quite significant."

Sitting in a chair across the rotunda, Barry McPherson looked like a fine piece of history himself, wearing a beaver hat, striped formal trousers and a grey woolen shirt among other confederation-era garments. "Put it this way: I have more historic clothes than I have modern clothes," McPherson laughed.

McPherson has participated in historical recreations for over 30 years, and thinks it's an essential way for Canadians to remember their roots and the history of modern Canada.

"It's a matter of heritage and tradition," he said proudly.

"In a former life," McPherson was a history teacher, and hopes younger people understand the importance of learning about Canada's past.

"My best friend in Indiana sent me a very touching Christmas card, and in essence he said 'After 30 years, I think people of our generation have to make the big decision and step back to leave (historical recreation) to younger people,'" McPherson said.

"It's a good point." From a glance around the legislature, it appeared that McPherson didn't have much to worry about. A large contingent of the recreationists were under the age of 20, and they looked to be just as in character as he or Marie Zorniak were.

Gwynn Carey, 14, has been participating with the Living History Society for three years. She sees events like the levee as an excellent opportunity to learn about the government and Canadian history.

"I think it is a very important piece of culture today to look at culture from the past," she said.

Of course, in the receiving line, dozens of children in modern clothing waited to meet the lieutenant-governor, too.

Last year, eight-year-old Sasha Coutu felt nervous about meeting Filmon. But when she saw her picture in the *Free Press* the next day, she knew she had to come back again.

"This year I'm kind of excited," she said. "I wanted to try to get in the paper again."

ben.waldman@freepress.mb.ca

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**Ben was not aware of the term Living historian or re-enactor and used the term recreationist

Hogmanay Traditions

Although some of these traditions are ancient, Hogmanay celebrations were elevated in importance after the banning of Christmas in the 16th and 17th centuries.

Under Oliver Cromwell, Parliament banned Christmas celebrations in 1647. The ban was lifted after Cromwell's downfall in 1660. But in Scotland, the stricter Scottish Presbyterian Church had been discouraging Christmas celebrations - as having no basis in the Bible, from as early as 1583.

After the Cromwellian ban was lifted elsewhere, Christmas festivities continued to be discouraged in Scotland. In fact, Christmas remained a normal working day in Scotland until 1958 and [Boxing Day](#) did not become a [National Holiday](#) until much later.

Besides concerts, street parties, fireworks and more earthbound fire spectaculars, as well as consumption of one of Scotland's most famous products, [Scotch whisky](#), a number of very ancient traditions associated with Hogmanay in Scotland can still be found in smaller communities and private celebrations:

Redding the House Like the annual spring cleaning in some communities, or the [ritual cleaning](#) of the kitchen for [Passover](#), families traditionally did a major cleanup to ready the house for the New Year. Sweeping out the fireplace was very important and there was a skill in reading the ashes, the way some people read tea leaves.

First Footing After the stroke of midnight, neighbors visit each other, bearing traditional symbolic gifts such as shortbread or black bun, a kind of fruit cake. The visitor, in turn, is offered a small whisky. A friend of mine who remembers first footing, also remembers that if you had a lot of friends, you'd be offered a great deal of whisky.

The first person to enter a house in the New Year, the *first foot*, could bring luck for the New Year. The luckiest was a tall, dark and handsome man. The unluckiest a red head and the unluckiest of all a red-headed woman.

Bonfires and Fire Festivals Scotland's [fire festivals](#) at Hogmanay and later in January may have pagan or Viking origins. The use of fire to purify and drive away evil spirits is an ancient idea. Fire is at the center of Hogmanay celebrations in Stonehaven, Comrie and Biggar and has recently become an element in Edinburgh's Hogmanay celebration.

The Singing of Auld Lang Syne All over the world, people sing [Robert Burns'](#) version of this traditional Scottish air. How it became *the* New Year's song is something of a mystery. At [Edinburgh's Hogmanay](#), people join hands for what is reputed to be the world's biggest [Auld Lang Syne](#).

The Saining of the House This is a very old rural tradition that involved blessing the house and livestock with holy water from a local stream. Although it had nearly died out, in recent years it has experienced a revival. After the blessing with water, the woman of the house was supposed to go from room to room with a smouldering juniper branch, filling the house with purifying smoke. Of course, this being a Scottish celebration, traditional mayhem was sure to follow. Once everyone in the household was coughing and choking from the smoke, the windows would be thrown open and reviving drams or two of whisky would be passed around.

Hogmanay Toasts

As people wish each other a Happy New Year there are some hogmanay toasts that can be said. A traditional Scottish New Year toast is: *Lang may yer lum reek!* Which means long may your chimney smoke and originated when people had coal fires and if the chimney was smoking it meant that you could afford coal and keep warm.

Another New Year toast said by Scottish people is: *A guid New Year to ane an' a' and mony may ye see*" Which translates to English from Scots as A good New Year to one and all, and many may you see.

Celebrations, Fire Festivals and Hospitality Welcome
the New Year
By Ferne Arfin
About.com United Kingdom Travel Expert

Independent Republic of Manitobah

The federal Dominion of Canada was founded July 1, 1867, but present-day Manitoba wasn't yet part of it. It was known as Rupert's Land, and owned by North America's oldest commercial corporation, the Hudson's Bay Company, a fur-trading outfit that is currently a bit like Target but less glamorous.

Scottish-born Thomas Spence's settlement in Portage la Prairie, Manitoba (100 miles from the present North Dakota border) fell outside all recognized jurisdictions, rendering it in effect lawless. Politically astute Spence convinced settlers that security would lie in the formation of a recognized council, and who better to lead it than him? The Independent Republic of Manitobah was born, with Spence as its president.

The Scotsman set about trying to collect taxes from residents—and confused fur traders who happened by—to fund the construction of a council house and jail. One shoemaker refused to pay, calling Spence and his council a bunch of drunks who used tax money for bar tabs. Incensed by that kind of sauce from one of his subjects, Spence sent two of his "deputies" to arrest the shoemaker for treason, and eventually tried him in one of his constables' homes. The shoemaker's friends intervened and the "trial" deteriorated into a brawl, with the Republic's president cowering under a table once the revolvers came out.

The Republic fell finally and forever when Spence received a letter from the Colonial Minister in London informing him that neither he nor his republic had any status whatsoever and to knock the whole, bloody thing off.

[weird history - The Shark Guys](http://www.thesharkguys.com/tag/weird)
www.thesharkguys.com/tag/weird
Oct 30, 2014

More on the Flax Front

Shared by Fran Howard

Nova Scotia farmer sews what she sows processing flax into clothes

Patricia Bishop of Port Williams, N.S., partnered with a Nova Scotia company to build flax processing machines



Patricia Bishop wants to show other farmers how they can also grow their own fabric. (Colleen Jones/CBC)

Growing flax and transforming it into linen is one of the oldest ways people made fabric to sew into clothes.

Patricia Bishop, a farmer from the Annapolis Valley, is pioneering the rebirth of the old craft by creating new machines, built in the province. She has partnered with a Nova Scotia company, Timbertech, to build small-scale flax processing machines and wants to make production a viable economic industry for rural communities across North America.



Patricia Bishop recently won the 2016 Agriculture Innovation Accelerator Award from the Annapolis Valley Chamber of Commerce for her work. (Colleen Jones/CBC)

"The possibility that we could grow our clothes, we can create opportunities for employment and for meaningful craft and makery? It's wonderful," she said at her operation, Taproot Fibre Lab, in Port Williams.

Bishop has been travelling and speaking at rural economic development conferences in the United States and Canada about the beauty and benefits of the natural fibre.

"We have talent in Nova Scotia. We have students training at Nova Scotia College of Art and Design who are weavers, spinners, designers and textile makers."



Patricia Bishop (right) modeling some of the clothes made from the flax on her farm to CBC reporter Colleen Jones. (CBC)

Bishop sees going from seed to a finished product as a natural evolution of sustainable living.

During her interview with CBC News Tuesday, Bishop wore a knitted linen scarf and a hand-woven linen vest made from the flax she planted at her farm and processed at the fibre lab.



What's grown from the ground is spun into yarn and then woven into fabric. (CBC)

"My dream is, I'd like to get up every morning and put on clothes that we grew on the farm. In agriculture we can grow more than food, we can grow clothes and all kinds of other products that we use in our daily lives."

In this age of instant and mass produced, watching the organic process of going from seed to yarn looks arduous.

But for Bishop, it's worth the work of trying to bring back the industry.

"There's so much passion and love in it, it's really powerful. It would be really great for Nova Scotia to be known as the best linen in North America. There'll be Belgian linen and there'll be Nova Scotia linen."



Patricia Bishop's dried flax protruding slightly outside of a box. (Nic Meloney/CBC)

Bishop recently won the 2016 Agriculture Innovation Accelerator Award from the Annapolis Valley Chamber of Commerce for her work.

She's hoping next year to have some shirts from the linen fabric ready for market. For now, she's selling 100 per cent linen yarn.

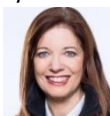


Rhea Hamlin working one of the many machines as the flax transforms to yarn. (Colleen Jones/CBC)

The processing machines she's helped design are still being perfected and tweaked, but the fact that she's wearing clothes sewn from the seeds she planted and picked shows what's possible, she said.

Bishop also hopes it becomes economically viable for rural communities, not just in Nova Scotia but throughout North America.

By Colleen Jones, [CBC News](#) Posted: Dec 07, 2016 7:00 AM AT
Last Updated: Dec 07, 2016 10:21 AM AT



Colleen Jones Reporter World champion curler Colleen Jones has been reporting with CBC News for nearly three decades. Follow her on Twitter @cbccolleenjones.

Winter Gathering

January 15

Little Britain Church



After the date was set and everyone was notified of the Winter Gathering location – it happened! Barb and Dawn were the coordinators for this event. Many thanks to them for taking this on.

We started to arrive at Little Britain Church before noon with our many totes and laundry baskets of food and activities.

As other people arrived, we greeted each other as if we have seen one another for a very long time. Items were brought out to share and exchange.

With help, we quickly set up tables, draped them with white linen tablecloths and placed candles on the tables around the room. We had fifty-four places set for dinner and all were filled. We welcomed three new families to MLHS.

A craft table for children was set up, wooden snowmen and a movable puppet were available to make – *a copy of the puppet is included in the newsletter*. Other tables were set aside for take home gifts for members of MLHS upon leaving.

All the while, a multitude of food was being brought into the kitchen area. It started to smell mouth watering good! Turkey, ham, meatballs, perogies, roasted potatoes, stuffing, soups and sweet potatoes and so much more – the tables were groaning with delights, and that was before we set up the dessert tables.

Before our meal we had a dance practise with dance mistress Olivia - with new “old” steps being learned and we heard the strains of violins, a banjo and guitars playing in the background by the Reider children and the fiddle by Cameron.

Children frolicked, adults chatted and wee babes were passed around to hug and hold.

The younger children had access to the playroom which kept them occupied while the older children ran and played outside in the wonderfully warm sunny and mild day.

We were then called to dinner, but before we partook, there was an address to the Haggis (and a wee vegetarian Haggis) spoke in old Scots - lots of r-r-rolling the “rrrr’s”, thanks to Wayne for taking on this task. Marie said Grace before the meal and we started working down the line of scrumptious food.

We cleared tables and set up a dance area and with the newly taught dance steps learned and practised before dinner, we shuffled our afresh steps.

Then the dessert table was set up and it glistened with the many treats that were displayed. To even have just one of everything to sample was an amazing feat. But I am sure many managed.

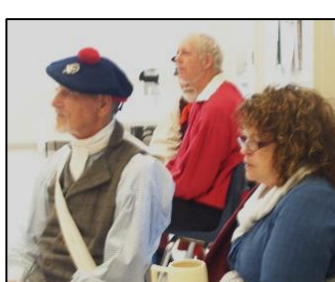
We sat with our sweets and watched the many talents of our members; highland dancing, singing, recitations and a scene from the *Crucible*, topped off by a Justine Bieber song danced by Marina, Grace, Rebecca and Cheyenne (in period clothing) – this was a mix in the mind I’ll tell you. Nya was the show stopper with her dancing and keeping up with the older girls.

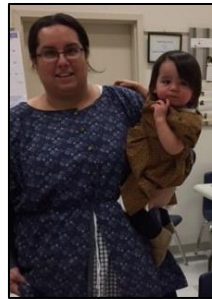
Then all too soon it was time to clean up, wash what seemed like hundreds of dishes, and return the space to the way it was when we entered. But there was one more surprise in store for everyone.

A fireworks display was provided by Judy and Barry who shared the fireworks that they received on their 50th anniversary. Fireworks masters were Ben and Dave C. After we oooh’d and aww’ d, we made ready to go home with lovely thoughts of a special day.

Marie

Winter Gathering 2017





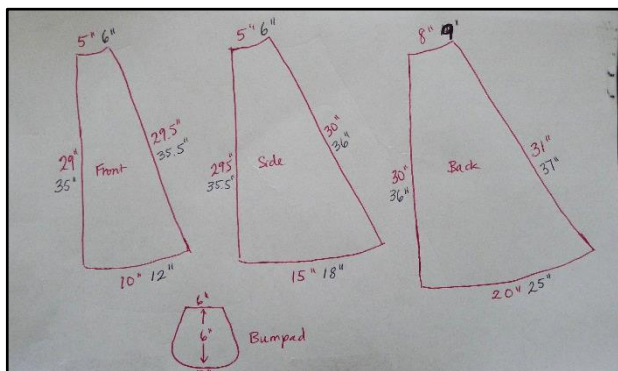
Little Britain Church January 15, 2017

Late 1860s Elliptical Hoop Tutorial

Sabrina Mark

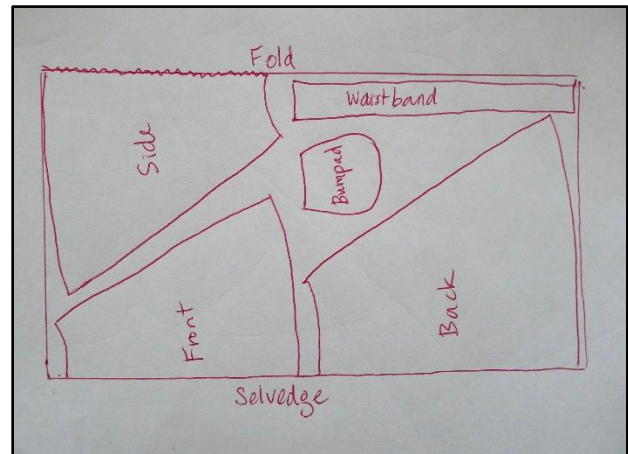
As promised, here is my how-to on making a late-1860s covered cage.

I started out by drafting up a pattern model with all the measurements. The measurements I used are in red, but if you are a more normal sized person, I have some suggested measurements in black. In general, the front length measure is about 7"-10" less than the waist-to-floor measure, the waist is about 10"-15" larger than the corsetted waist measure, and the hem circumference is what you feel will suit you in terms of functionality and body proportions. I figured out mine by looking at [koshka the cat's elliptical crinoline on her website](#), which [she said was 95"](#). Katherine and I are about the same size and I knew I wanted a smaller cage, so my hem circumference here is 90", but the 6" worth of seam allowance (1/2" seam allowance) brought it down to 84". The alternative measurements I give here would be suitable if your waist-to-floor is about 42"-45" and your corsetted waist measure is around 30" and you want a hem of about 105". I also give the measurements for a bumpad, which I have inside the hoop. Also, have your waistband the length of your corsetted waist plus 3" and 3" wide.



You should only need about max. 2 yards/metres of 45" fabric if it has no direction on it. Mine happened to be 90" wide, so I used a slightly different cutting layout than the one shown below with all the pieces beside each other. The key thing is to put the centre front on the selvedge. The squiggly line is to show that you don't keep the fold on the side piece, but actually cut them apart.

I sort of just did all the measures directly on the fabric, rounding off the tops and hems.



Next, sew the fronts to the sides, the sides to the back, and the backs together at centre back. But leave the CF seam open. Fell all of these seams so that the boning doesn't catch on them later and for added durability. Mark where the casings will be, measuring from the bottom up. I did mine 5" apart, with 4 rows all together. If you're like the alternate measures, I recommend 5 rows, but you don't want too many because these steels get heavy and the skirt actually does most of the work if shaping and supporting. Make sure you leave enough space at the top so that you'll be able to fit the hoop over your hips when you put it on later, like the same length at least that you'd use for a petticoat placket. My hoops stop 14" from the top. Add 1" twill tape (or casing of choice) for the steels, but not the bottom-most casing. Stop the casings 1.5" from the CF opening by having the edges turned under.



Now you can sew the CF seam, leaving the top open for several inches (about 12") for a front opening. I sewed around this opening to reinforce it. Iron the hem up 1/2" and sew the tape over the hem. This keeps the hem nice and clean and the bottom casing will go all the way around the circumference of the hem, but leave an opening at the top of this casing for inserting the steel later. All this weirdness is so that you have to do minimal sewing of the hoop in the machine after the steels are in. Sewing in the machine with the steels in the hoop is really un-wieldy. The space at the front also means that, with the exception of the bottom steel, all the hoops are easily removeable and the crinoline can be more easily packed up for travel, and it's easier to salvage the steel if you want to recycle it. Below you can see what I'm talking about in the finished crinoline.



Don't add the steels yet! Make the bumpad and stuff it. Also, iron your waistband in half lengthwise with the seam allowances also folded in and ironed. Gather **the top of the back pieces only** of the crinoline. Sew the ends of the waistband closed. Pin in the waistband and the bumpad (bumpad at CB), leaving an extra inch of waistband on the left side for a closure overlap. Sew the waistband to the crinoline. I did it by machine on one side then sewed the other side by hand, but you could do it all by machine. Then I added the hook and eyelet closure. Another option is to do a drawstring waist by sewing the CF seam completely closed and adding a casing

around the top, but make sure that the waist is big enough to fit over your hips.

There's a cool purple hoop at the Manchester Galleries that uses a drawstring:



Other closure options include a front closure with a drawstring in the back for adjustment or a button placket on the front-side seam, like this MFA one:



Here's my hook and eyelet (I meant to have 2, but accidentally made the waistband too narrow):



And bumpad in the back, for keeping back thrust:



I put the crinoline on a dressform at this point. The twill tape actually sort of holds out the skirt to some degree:



I added the steels and cut them to length using tin snips. My bottom hoop is about 85" and the top about 60". Overall, I probably used about 8-9 yards/metres of hoopsteel and twill tape. I left about 3"-4" of overlap for each hoop. And I used masking tape to tape the hoops together at each cut end. For the bottom casing, I manoeuvred it under the machine and sewed up the part I left open. Here's a pic of the inside after the steels were added. (The hem is sort of inside out because the bottom steel didn't want to turn over.



And the finished product!



This really was easy to make and I probably could have done it all in one day if I tried. I hope this is helpful for anyone who wants to make this kind of hoop! And please let me know if anything is unclear or you have any questions. :)

Tags: [cage crinoline/hoop](#)

Sabrina Mark

AGM and a semi-Baggage

January 28

The AGM started a bit behind schedule as we do what we do best – gather and chat and chat and chat.

By 9:45 we were under way with a great deal of review, discussion and planning for the new season. We accepted a letter of resignation from Kira-Lyn who will be in England until Christmas 2017. Judy, Erle and Marie allowed their names to stand for another three-year term. David Carey was appointed to the Board. The above resignation and appointments were ratified by the members at the AGM.

We conferred over planned events, upcoming events that are to be considered and things we would like to do. This year there will be a re-focus on the history aspect of the Red River Settlement and everyone at the AGM received a reading article and questions to answer. This was also sent to the membership. The 1867 period will also have information in due course. If you refer to the past newsletters, material about Canadian Confederation have been featured.

We flew through all of the items on the agenda with brief discussions. A special presentation was made to Ed Douglas on behalf of MLHS for all of the work he has done for the carpentry workshops. Then we proceeded to the Rag and Bone sale extravaganza for amazing finds. Everyone who attended went home pretty happy with rather unique treasures, but not as pleased as those who were able to share what they had brought and did not have to take them home. A light lunch was enjoyed and instead of getting down to sewing we discussed corsets, fabrics, patterns, events to attend and kept on going until it was time to leave.

After we put the library back to the way it was, Judy and Marie went to Little Britain Church to retrieve forgotten items left from the Winter Gathering; paring knives, a big bowl and one single lone boot.

Thanks to all who attended the AGM - 15 voting members and 4 non-voting members under 18, plus

three voting by proxy. The coming year looks to be a really exhilarating one.

Membership is stronger when we hear from all of you. Remember to respond with a yes, no or maybe... it will make me so very happy...

Marie



Your MLHS Board 2017



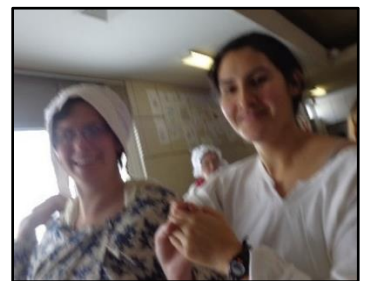
St Norbert Heritage Day

February 4th

It wasn't as cold as I feared today. Oh right... we were all inside! The St. Norbert Heritage Day seems to get more popular each year. Free pancake breakfast is quite a draw! Twenty of us aligned ourselves behind six tables with our various displays; including me with my spinning wheel - Marie and her box loom - Barry with his pistol, blunderbuss and one hobnailed boot - Nicole trying crocheting while her two little granddaughters were learning the steps of the Red River Jig - Erle with his display of sharp pointy things and furry things - Ed sharpening his tools - Carol and Sarah-Jane stitching up clothing - then Barb and Kaiti and all the rest of the Reider tribe looking after their "newbairn" in a moss bag from a tikenagan, and Gen and Dave C. checking everything and everyone out. Hey the whole new Board of Directors was present in the same place at the same time!

As in every year, the good people who organize the Heritage Day were most welcoming. The guests were interested in our displays, and the entertainment was outstanding - from the CSNC Jazz Choir, to the fiddle music to the Métis Club Traditional Dancers - and US!! And we have been requested for next year - they like us - they really like us!

Judy



Approach to Research

Barry McPherson

Will return next issue...

Please see Special Supplement
attached to MLHS Newsletter
in preparation of 200th Anniversary of
Selkirk Peguis Treaty Signing

Life in the Colonies

Segment from Canada A People's History

By 1860, about four million people lived in British North America. They were scattered across the northern half of the continent although most Europeans lived along the East Coast or in Upper and Lower Canada (now Ontario and Quebec.)

On the prairies, Indian nations lived alongside fur traders and Métis - the offspring of traders and their Indian wives. The first nations also lived, hunted and fished on their traditional land on the east coast; the Inuit lived in the far north.



Amelia Harris' diary provided a record of social and political events in Upper Canada in the mid-1800s.
(As portrayed by Patricia Hamilton in *Canada: A People's History*)

The keepers of statistics in the colonies were not much interested in the native population but they kept careful notes about the lives of white colonists. About half were Catholic and half Protestant. French-speakers made up almost a third of the population and the rest were mostly English speaking.

Most people in the colonies married in their twenties. Women had no more legal rights than their children. The average couple had six to eight children and most families lost one or more children

to disease. Amelia Harris lived a comfortable existence in London, Canada West, before Confederation. In 1857, she began a diary that offers a glimpse into daily life at the time.

When her daughter gave birth to a stillborn child, Harris wrote, *"Mr. Griffin brought the baby to me on a pillow, it looked so pretty and so sweet and its little cold face but there was nothing there to make a mother's heart glad. It had come and gone."*



Harris wrote about how the son of a local member of parliament was shot in the head in a brothel, *"Poor miserable boy - how wretched his father must feel."*

She also recorded the hardships surrounding her, *"Distress in the country is very great," Harris wrote during an economic slump in 1859. "The first soup kitchen that has been in London (Ontario) has been established here within the past week and it gives relief to 70 poor families."*

While Harris offered a glimpse of daily life in the colonies, she also offered her views on the politicians of the day. In 1860, prominent politician John A. Macdonald and other members of the Canadian legislature visited London and a public dinner was held in their honour. *"The dinner is called a success, a other politicians) stayed until very late and were very tipsy ... They knocked each other's hats off, tore each other's coats and did several equally clever things. They were not by great many people were there," wrote Harris. "(Macdonald and the themselves, there were a number of their entertainers joined in their drunken sport."*

In the next few years, Harris would observe Macdonald in a much larger political show. The man with a taste for alcohol and a brilliant political mind would help shape the British colonies of North America into one nation



A Red River Settlement Custom

by William Douglas

shared by Judy McPherson

The lapse of time and the hand of modern life is gradually dulling our appreciation of some of the social life and customs of our pioneers. To the younger generation it is necessary to re-tell stories that were common in their everyday life. By doing so we keep alive the memory of habits and customs of our Selkirk Settlers. Our present subject may not have much appeal, nevertheless, it was important in the community when there was a death in the family though its detail is doubtless long forgotten.

Following the old Highland custom, when the day of burial arrived, a boy visited every house in the Settlement and gave the following message to each housekeeper; "You are warned to attend the funeral of at two o'clock tomorrow and God be with you."

The men donned their best clothing. All work ceased at mid-day, and the people gathered at the house of mourning. Ever since the moment of death, the body was being "watched" by relays of friends. Two to four individuals became "watchers" in turn, and generally sat in silence. Usually an elder of the church or some leading man visited the house daily and held family worship.

In those days there were no hearses, so the coffin was carried shoulder high on a bier to the grave. The custom in the Highlands was to invite all the people into the barn and give them "a dram" with biscuits and cheese. The bier was kept at the church, and it was brought to the house along with the coffin. Usually a retired sergeant or other retired military man was appointed master of ceremonies. The refreshments over, he ordered the men to "Fall in". Then the coffin was brought out and placed on the bier which the men carried "hands down". The sergeants shouted "open ranks", a lane was formed, and the men carrying the coffin passed along it. On reaching the end of

the lane the sergeant shouted "shoulder high , march." Then the ranks closed and on went the cavalcade, the sergeant leading. After marching a few hundred yards, he turned around and shouted "relief". Then the cavalcade came to a stop and four fresh men relieved the bearers. As this was accomplished, he shouted "to the rear, march". Thus the funeral marched whatever distance it had to travel to the burial place.

The ceremony was picturesque and awe-inspiring, and once seen was never likely to be forgotten.

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Manitoba Pageant, September 1956

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Victoriana THE COUNTRY SEAT

(by Christopher Curtis)

They were built like emporia
in the reign of Victoria
in the castle, or manor, or grange;
With their seats made of wood,
which have gamely withstood
pressures greater than mere winds of change.



Boys with bats, balls or oars,
sportsmen sporting 12-bores
gaze in rows from the walls on the sitter.
Draughts and damp old stone tiles
mean today's stately piles
suffer badly from cold that is bitter.



But forget all the strain,
pull the gleaming brass chain
(with a porcelain handle, no less),
And, released by a piston,
from within a vast cistern
comes a roar - and you're flushed with success.

How Edwardian Are You? Answers

Questions asked - November 2016 MLHS newsletter

1. Flummery is:

- a. a polite way of telling you that what you have just said is unbelievable rubbish
- b. a soft wool fabric used for underclothing to keep you warm in draughty country houses
- c. a starch-based sweet soft pudding

1. C. *a starch-based sweet soft pudding often fashioned in creative and fanciful shapes*



Playing cards made of flummery

2. The scullery is:

- a. a room below stairs where servants gather every morning for prayers and to await daily orders from the butler
- b. a room below stairs exclusively for washing dishes and scouring pans a part of the kitchen
- c. boathouse where oars are stored

2. A. *a room below stairs where the scullery maids do the washing up. Scullery maids were easily recognized by their chapped, red hands from washing dishes with lye soap and scouring pans with fine sand*



3. A follower is:

- a. the young man your maid keeps sneaking out to meet
- b. a hall-boy in training to become a footman
- c. the gamekeeper's assistant who retrieves dead pheasants after a shoot

3. A. *the boyfriend. Followers are strictly forbidden – time to advertise for a new maid*



4. Burglary was not uncommon in English country houses. On arrival at the Manor where would your maid take your jewels for safekeeping?

- a. to the Study safe, to which only the master of the house has the combination
- b. to the silver safe in the butler's pantry
- c. every guest room has a strong box built under the mattress for guests' valuables

4. A. *The silver safe in the butlers pantry. Part of the footman's numerous duties was as an informal security guard, their rooms were below stairs.*



Silver to be polished in the butler's pantry

5. A Folly is:

- a. a drawing room game played after dinner with matches and string
- b. a decorative building built for no purpose other than to ornament the view
- c. something giddy and irresponsible you regret doing at your coming-out ball

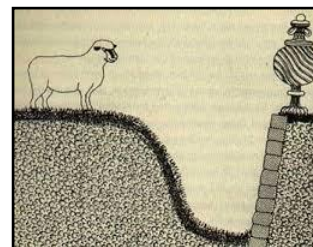
5. A. *a decorative building built for no purpose other than to ornament the view; often designed as temples, or 'ruined' Gothic towers*



6. A ha-ha is:

- a. a feature used in landscape design
- b. heavy iron weight used to keep the front door propped open
- c. what the footman mutters under his breath after a practical joke has just been played on you by your younger fellow guests

6. A. *a feature used in landscape design to keep grazing livestock out of a garden while providing an uninterrupted view across the park*



7. On arrival your maid reports to the housekeeper in her office, which is often referred to as:

- a. Pug's parlor
- b. the lair
- c. the dragon's parlor

7. A. all upper servants were invited to tea in Pug's parlor



8. Anmer is the name of:

- a. a famous trout river in Scotland where you have been invited to fish
- b. the name of the King's horse that Emily Wilding Davison ran in front of at the Epsom Derby on June 4, 1913
- c. the new motor car made by Royce which you have just become the proud owner of

8.C. the King's horse that Emily Wilding Davison ran in front of at the Epsom Derby on June 4, 1913; she died from her injuries four days later. Her gravestone bears the WSPU slogan, "Deeds not words." ****



9. Cinq à sept refers to:

- a. the fifth course to the seventh course at dinner - served only with red wines
- b. a reference to the fifth and seventh hoops in croquet
- c. the discrete hours from five until seven in the afternoon when your lover visits you for 'tea'

9. C. the discrete hours from five until seven in the afternoon when your lover visits you for 'tea' and when you were hopefully attired in a tea gown which required no corsetry. Along with hunting, shooting, fishing, and charitable works, adultery was one of the ways in which those who did not have to work for a living could fill their afternoons."



10. Ascot, Cowes and Lords are:

- a. the highlights of the London social season
- b. the most celebrated country houses in England where the aristocracy prefer to stay
- c. livestock shows at county fairs

10. A. the highlights of the London social season: Royal Ascot races, Cowes week for sailing and Lord's cricket ground for the test match



**** Emily Wilding Davison**

(11 October 1872 – 8 June 1913) was a militant suffragette who fought for women's suffrage in Britain in the early 20th century. She was known for extreme tactics that resulted in her arrest on nine occasions. She protested by means of hunger strikes, and was force-fed 49 times while incarcerated. The hunger strike was a common tactic among suffragettes as was force-feeding by British penal authorities in response. In her most famous



moment of protest, Davison stepped in front of King George V's horse Anmer at the Epsom Derby on 4 June 1913 and suffered injuries that proved fatal four days later. Her funeral on 14 June 1913 was organized by the Women's Social and Political Union (WSPU). Thousands of suffragettes accompanied the coffin and tens of thousands of people lined the streets of London. After a service in Bloomsbury, her coffin was taken by train to the family grave in Morpeth, Northumberland.

Historians agree that Davison was trying to disturb the Derby to draw attention to her cause, rather than to commit suicide. Analysis of newsreel footage in 2013 supported the contention that Davison was reaching up to attach a sash emblazoned with the colours of the British women's suffrage movement to the bridle of the King's horse. Newsreel analysis also indicated that her position before she stepped out onto the track would have given her a clear view of the oncoming race, supporting the idea that she intentionally targeted the King's horse.



My First Tanning attempt

Elizabeth Phillips

As we were driving home one night, we saw what looked like a dead fox on the side of the road. A short while before I had been thinking about learning how to tan hides and we decided this could be a good way to start. When we pulled over, we saw that it was a baby coyote. There was some discussion over whether I should still do it, but we knew it could be a while before there was another opportunity. So, I decided to go for it.

Once we were home I did some research on how to prepare animal hides. Determined to do this, I got my knife and went outside. I first made a shallow cut from the base of the neck to the end of the tail. From there, on each leg I cut from below the feet to the original cut. I cut around all the feet and the head. I carefully removed the hide using my knife when needed.

When the pelt was fully removed, I scraped off anything stuck on the skin and applied a couple layers of olive oil to it. Then I put it in a warm dry place so that it could dry. It's a bit stiff, but not bad for a first attempt.

Elizabeth



Becoming a Historical Wood Worker

Upcoming Workshop - April 9

Portraying a wood worker and exhibiting historically accurate wood working as practiced in the 19th century is very possible. Like most trades at the time, apprentices learned the basic skills and then demonstrated this knowledge. One of the first items to build was some sort of chest or container for the tools that were needed. These tools, although not numerous, were essential and therefore had to be maintained in the best possible condition.

In order to assist on this journey, I will be helping you to build a small and portable tool box. In this toolbox you will have such essentials as saws, hammers, chisels, sharpening stones, draw knives perhaps a plane and whatever else you need to help you. Many of these tools can be found at flea markets, garage sales, second hand stores and even here as I have some duplicates.

The dimensions and choice of wood are flexible remembering that when filled it can't be too heavy and simple wood like pine was most common.

April 9th at the Douglas workshop in Dugald is the kick off date for the start of this project. If, before that, you would like to see some possible plans, buy wood or "shop" at flea markets I would be happy to help and/or join you. If you are just starting and want to call please do.

This project is open to all members age 10 and up remembering that tools are sharp and safety is always first.

I hope that you will find this idea worthwhile, fun and interesting.

Ed Douglas

Please email celidh32@hotmail.com or call if you are able to attend 204-853-7353



Sample of historic toolbox

**Other dates scheduled for
workshops**

May 7 July 23 Sept 17

Mark your calendars!!!

Heritage Winnipeg Preservation Awards

Millennium Centre - February 20



Since 1985, Heritage Winnipeg has sponsored an awards program to recognize those dedicated to the protection, restoration and conservation of Winnipeg's built heritage. Awards are also given to owners of heritage structures who restore their buildings so that they become a productive element of the economic, cultural and social fabric of the community.

*A bit of background about the awards. There are three categories: **Distinguished Service Award** - contributions of individuals/ organizations that have demonstrated leadership in protecting, conserving, promoting or communicating the historic and/or architectural values of Winnipeg's built heritage.*

***Heritage Conservation Award** – for efforts and excellence to protect, conserve and reuse structures of historic or architectural value. Awards may be given for commercial, institutional or residential projects that involve the re-use of these structures. Award may be given to owners of commercial, institutional or residential structures with historical and/or architectural value, who provide long-term protection and conservation of architectural elements. For a residential project, a special award will be given in honour of C.W. Chivers, a Winnipeg architect who designed All Saint's Church, Balmoral Hall and Assiniboine Park Pavilion.*

***Youth Category** - recognizes the special contribution of non-professionals under the age of 30.*



Millennium Centre

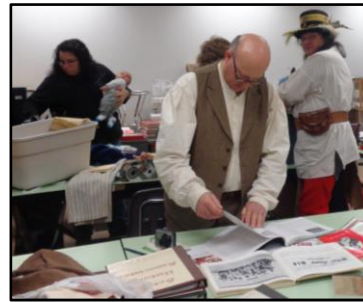
MLHS once again provided background ambiance recognizing 1867. We welcomed new member Marc to his first attendance at an event. The Millennium Centre is a beautiful representation of the architectural wonders that we have in the city. The two award winners showed passion and reverence for the undertaking of the buildings that they restructured and repurposed – making something old – new again. After our time, we trekked off to the Forks. Thanks to Judy, Erle, David W, Dave, Dawn and Gwynne, Susan, Oriole, Marc and Marie.



Corset Workshop...of corset is

February 25

MLHS piled into the sewing room Saturday morning with the bits and pieces ready to go for personal corsets. We were all geared up for working. Sabrina began a discussion about corsets and we looked at books and samples of corsets and stays. Sabrina spoke about materials that are best to use, general information and resources before we got started. As a result, five members began making corsets. Others sewed, shared, visited, looked over research materials, and of course we all do what we like to do - talk about things historic. Over the course of the day twenty-six people came and went. The sewing room was very busy and every table was full with some kind of activity. During the lunch break Marie and Judy talked about the calendar of events and some of the things that are planned for the coming event season. We welcomed new members for their first Baggage day. Judy brought treasures and once again many people went home very happy.



Victorian Puppet

MR JACKSON'S THEATRICAL JUMPING-JACKS
Nº 4 MR BLANCHARD as PANTALOON



Muffatees

Old Mrs. Rabbit was a widow; she earned her living by knitting rabbit-wool mittens and muffatees."

[Beatrix Potter ~ *The Tale of Benjamin Bunny*]



Four out of five ladies chose Muffatees over gloves

What the heck ARE *muffatees*???? In the days before central heating, keeping warm in winter was a major challenge. We think we know about dressing in layers, but most of us don't have to resort to wearing coats and hats and gloves indoors. To keep warm, heavy layering was necessary. Working with your hands in mittens is clumsy at best. The answer? Wear muffatees.

Muffatees are tube-like, fingerless mitts that cover wrist and hand up to the middle of the fingers, usually with an opening along the side for the thumb. The simplest, and possibly earliest form was made out of the cuff or leg of a worn-out stocking, minus the foot. But in the 18th and 19th centuries, many pairs were sewn from warm cloth, or simply knitted of wool in plain or fancy patterns.

References to muffatees can be found in many sources from this time period. Ensign Rous, of the Duke of Wellington's Foot Guard, wrote home in September, 1813, requesting that the ladies of the family knit some muffatees for his fellow officers. The *Manual of British Rural Sports* (1856) recommends that hunters wear muffatees along with warm gloves when out in the field. And in London's court at the Old Bailey (1757), one Catherine Nowland was accused of attempting highway robbery while wearing her muffatees (she was acquitted.)

Muffatee patterns date from the 1800s to the 1870s.

RIBBED KNIT MUFFETEE.

RIBBED KNIT MUFFETEE, WITH SORT OF PLATTED FRILL.*

This very pretty Muffatee, with platted Frill appearing below the sleeve of the gown, is worked in shades of pink,—(Albert blue, or carmine looks well.) The ribbed part is about three inches deep, all of the darkest shade; the frill part in the other shades, as following receipt. I prefer them worked with English embroidery wool, as it washes so much better than the Berlin wool. One hank of the darkest, and half a hank of each of the seven shades, and five wires of No. 19, are required.

Cast on 80 stitches with the *darkest shade*, and work

1st Row, P2, B2, repeat all round.


Continue as this row until you have got three and a half inches worked; then tie on the *second darkest shade*, and work as follows:

1st Row, P2, B2, repeat as this row 2 more times.

4th Row, P, O, P, B2, repeat all round.

* They would be very pretty, worked in fine cotton, for Cuffs.

11



RIBBED KNIT MUFFETEE.

5th Row, P3, B2, repeat all round.

6th Row, P3, B2, repeat all round.

Tie on third shade.

7th Round, P3, B, O, B, repeat.

8th Round, P3, B3, repeat.

9th Round, P3, B3, repeat.

Tie on fourth shade.

10th Round, P, O, P, O, P, B3.

11th Round, P5, B3, repeat.

12th Round, P5, B3, repeat.

13th Round, P5, B3, repeat.

Tie on fifth shade.

14th Round, P5, B, O, B, O, B, O, B.

15th Round, P5, B5, repeat.

12

16th Round, P5, B5, repeat.

Tie on sixth shade.

17th Round, P, O, P, O, P, O, P, O, P, B5

18th Round, P9, B5, repeat.

19th Round, P9, B5, repeat.

Tie on seventh shade.

20th Round, P9, B, O, B, O, B, O, B, O, B, O, B.

21st Round, P9, B9, repeat.

22nd Round, P9, B9, repeat.

Cast it off. Wash and pin them out till dry.

Some of the patterns instruct the knitter to knit in the round using four needles but the originals of this style were knit using two needles. Other muffatee patterns used a double knit stitch, which is simple, but can be confusing or intimidating for the beginner knitter. Since only two needles are used, for this pattern, and only the knit and pearl stitch is used, it is perfect for the beginner. To make the tube, the long edges are stitched up, and a space is left open for the thumb.

Modern interpretation of the muffatee pattern

Needles - modern size 5

Yarn - 2 ounces of a light weight

Cast on 60 stitches. [This may differ according to how long you want the muffatee. If you have a longer hand and arm, cast on additional stitches.]

Row 1. Slip the first stitch. Knit 9 stitches, place a marker. [This marker may be either a loop of yarn or some other type of marker.] Knit to end of the row.

Row 2. Slip the first stitch. Pearl to marker, knit 10 stitches.

Continue these two rows until you have reached a width that will go around the wrist. I made mine 8 1/2" inches long. Cast off.

Turn inside out. Seam the sides of the garter stitch section and tie off the yarn. Leave space for the thumb and continue to seam the side to the end.



Marie Zorniak Adapted from articles:

May 16, 2011 [katknit](#)

Virginia Mescher, copyright 2006

"Muffatees for Miss Pole" by Mary Lyan in the preview [January/February issue of Piecework](#)

"Cranford" and "Return to Cranford" BBC Series

Second Last Page

Marie Zorniak - Manitoba Living History Society

Marie

Congratulations to the MLHS for what clearly was a stellar day at the Manitoba Legislative Building this past Sunday – New Years Day!

The *Winnipeg Free Press* article by Ben Waldman “History Comes to Life at New Year’s Levee” captured completely the revelry and very public celebration hosted by her Honour.

Everywhere I walked, MLHS Members were either being photographed as a group or they were standing beside delighted visitors as many took the opportunity to pose for contextual costume photos with MLHS members. I even had an opportunity to catch Barry McPherson in a relative quiet moment to suggest how resplendent he looked in very appropriate gentleman’s attire.

Her Honour had so many guests waiting to see her that I only had the chance to wave politely as she greeted so many many patient Manitobans on a wonderful day.

On behalf of the MHS, all the best in 2017 Marie – your associates have started this celebratory year in fine ‘fashion’ indeed – no pun intended!

Gary

Gary R. McEwen, M.A., M.Ed.
President
Manitoba Historical Society

Newsletter kudos:

This is a truly wonderful and informative newsletter. Thanks for sharing it.

Phyllis Fraser
– Former LG Executive Assistant (Retired)

Wow, thx for the great newsletter!!! Very well done!

Tamara Hurst
Silver Rodeo (Arborg) Chair



Winnipeg Free Press November 26, 2016
Reception at the Gwen Fox Gallery - Selkirk part of the Homes for the Holidays
Red River North event.



With sympathy to MLHS member Nicole Magnan Bedient whose husband Robert James Prior passed away December 30

With sympathy to MLHS member Susan Hepburn whose grandfather passed away January 18

After the Winter Gathering...

On the way home...

"Hey kids, what was your favourite part of the day?"

Marina - The whole day was awesome!!! But I liked telling ghost stories with Ben and Jonathon outside
Donavin - Running around outside - oh oh oh, and getting my new flute

Ben - My favourite part was helping Dave with the fireworks

Anthony -Um um outside aaannd fireworks aaaannd aaaannnnnd that's all

Cheyenne - It was OK

Rebecca - I liked the dancing and the talent show...

Mira - ZZzzzzzzzzzzzzzzzzzz

Mini videos of Nya "bopping it up"

[received 10154650686555971.mp4 \(5 MB\);](#)

[received 10154650681335971.mp4 \(4 MB\);](#)

[received 10154650680360971.mp4 \(4 MB\)](#)

..... if they do not work - contact Dawn Cross – they are priceless

The Last Page



Engagement Wishes - Congratulations to Katie Rieder and Easton Sellers who will be married June 17

Thanks to us

Thank you so very much for being a part of it (the Levee). Your group definitely adds a lot to the day. I will send you the photos I took later in the week.

All the best to you and yours in the coming year.

Kate Gameiro

Assistant to Lieutenant Governor Janice Filmon

Linkages from Sabrina

Here are a couple of links to the things I was talking about with people.

Wearing History Patterns (some patterns for different garments c.1910-1918):

<http://wearinghistory.clothing/product-category/wearing-history-patterns/shop-by-time-period/victorian-1910s/>

Festive Attire free 1915 corset pattern and instructions:

<http://www.festiveattire.com/p/reconstructing-1910s-era-corset.html>

Hello Marie,

On behalf of everyone at Heritage Winnipeg, thanks again to the Manitoba Living History Society for participating in our Annual Awards Ceremony on Monday, and helping us to celebrate Canada's 150th. Just a reminder that you were going to email me some of the pictures we took on your cameras. I would love to put them on our website as we will be doing a post event story.

Cindy Tugwell

*Executive Director
Heritage Winnipeg Corp*

Upcoming Events

March 26	Baggage McPherson Manor
April 9	Ed's Woodworking Workshop
April	TBD Baggage
May 7	Ed's Woodworking Workshop
May 19	VPRR- Seven Oaks House
May 20,21	Spring Gathering/Wk'end Camp
May 27,28	Doors Open-Heritage Winnipeg
June 24,25	Manitoba Highland Gathering
July 1	Canada Day
July 18	Selkirk Peguis Treaty
July 23	Ed's Woodworking Workshop
Sept 17	Ed's Woodworking Workshop



After giving the address to the Haggis

January 22 at the Burns dinner

Winnipeg Branch Royal Scottish Country Dance Society
Frederick does not look a day over 277

We made the Police website and Twitter... MLHS Most Wanted...



February 4 St. Norbert

Manitoba Living History Society

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for more than
30 Years in Manitoba*

www.manitobalivinghistory.com

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