



KEEPING HISTORY CURRENT



A new feature in this newsletter is "Monuments & Memorials". This grotto is located in the rural community of Webster, about 10 km. north of Sexsmith. (see p. 14)

Upcoming Events:

Annual General Meeting

Don't miss the AGM on Saturday, April 18th at 2:00 p.m.

June Field Trip

Our Annual Field Trip and Family Picnic will be held Saturday, June 16th at Kleskun Hills Park.

More details to follow.

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President's Message

Dear Members and Supporters;

March has come roaring in like a lion, so we are assured it will go out like a lamb. It is a good harbinger of Spring!

In this Spring Issue, you will notice a fair amount of change with the newsletter, not just the format of the Front Page. Our goal is to present newly-researched articles by members and guest writers. Since this is one of my favourite activities, I bagged the first slot on p. 3 with a story about Granny Whitford. Other member contributions include Elizabeth Sande's nomination for an interesting website on p. 7, and Pat Wearmouth's article on Place Names along the Railway in the South Peace on p. 9. There is also a blog called "Finding Memory" reprinted by permission from South Peace Regional Archives on p. 5.

As a retired archivist, I hope to use my accumulated files on communities, cemeteries and schools to add content that might interest you.

We invite all our members to submit photos for the front page (should have some historical significance) or for the Monuments and Memorials section (p 14); articles about their own family or community history, or short memory pieces that can be used for fillers.

"Many Hands Make Light Work".

Best Regards,
Mary Nutting, President, PCHS

Peace Country Historical Society

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**Facebook.com/
peacecountryhistoricalsociety/
www.pc-hs.ca**

Vision: To encourage the appreciation of the history of the Peace Country.

Mandate: The mandated area of the Peace Country Historical Society is the Alberta portion of the Peace River Country.

Board of Directors:

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Contact Us

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Contributions to Newsletter

Contributions to this newsletter are gratefully accepted. If you have a family story you want to tell, a memory you think would inspire others, or a snippet from the history of the Peace Country you want to share, please contact Mary at the email above. We do reserve the right to accept and edit (with your approval) all contributions.

Granny Mary Whitford

Before there were many doctors and surgeons in this region, the people in the Peace Country took care of each other, some with more success than others. In the community history books, we see many references to Indigenous women who helped the settlers with their land and interpretive skills, as well as their medical knowledge and experience.

In the south Peace, there is reference to Julianne Campbell, daughter of Metis healer Joseph Gauthier. Just north of the Peace River was Mary Whitford. She is referred to in the history books in the Fairview and Worsley areas, simply as “Granny Whitford” and the book *Bridging the Years: Worsley* begins with the following story:

H.A. Lathrop started a little trading post at Clear Prairie during the summer of 1917, with Mrs. Mary Whitford as interpreter.... During her many years of residence in the area, “Grandma” Whitford became known to all for her kindness and hospitality. During her early years among the Indians she had learned much about nursing, and before the arrival of a medical doctor in this area she spent much of her time serving as doctor, nurse, or mid-wife. She often made hazardous trips travelling on horseback for many miles to assist someone in need of medical care.... Many of her former patients are still warm in their praises of her.

This last statement is corroborated by many individual stories in the community histories. A few examples follow:

*There weren’t any doctors up here so old Grandma Whitford was kept busy. So many babies were born Bluesky and Friedenstal. She looked after all cases, don’t think she lost a mother or a baby. (Grace Davidson in *Waterhole and the Land North of the Peace*, p. 115)*

*She was well versed in curing the sick with her herb remedies as well as a maternity mid-wife. Her concern and love of humanity was unbounded and her valuable services sought by all. (Mary Whitford--“Granny”, in *Waterhole and the Land**



Mary Whitford. Photo taken from “*Bridging the Years: Worsley*” p. 1.

North of the Peace, p. 165)

*There was no nurse, only one good Indian lady, Granny Whitford. She helped me with most of my babies. I remember her trying to save my seven month old baby. We kept it alive for one week, and then my little boy passed away. (Elizabeth Schwerdt in *The Clear Vision*, p. 140)*

Occasionally there is a longer story, such as the following in Jessie Freed’s story in *Waterhole and the Land North of the Peace*:

There were few doctors available and my mother and Mrs. Whitford, an Indian lady, better known as Granny Whitford and loved by all, were often called to be on hand for child births.

When mother was called to Edmonton, a sister Edna was very low; while away youngest sister [Edythe] was delirious with fever so we called Granny Whitford to come and see her. She said

we had to break the fever and told us to put on a hot fire and several stones in the oven. A wash-tub of hot water was brought in and Edythe sat on a plank over the tub. A blanket was thrown over her and the tub to keep it steaming. As the water cooled another hot stone was added to keep it steaming. Mrs. Whitford kept steaming her in this manner until she was terribly weak from sweating then put her to bed with lots of blankets that were gradually removed as the fever went down. One sister was saved.... This was the year of the Spanish Flu epidemic. (p. 227)

Bridging the Years: Worsley adds another story about the Flu Epidemic:

During the flu epidemic of 1918, Mrs. Whitford sent five camps of Indians back to Sweeney Creek to prevent them from contracting the flu. Supplies were brought from the post to the encampment. Mr. Lathrop posted a notice telling no one to come into this camp from the outside. The notice, however was destroyed and the flu was carried into the encampment, claiming nineteen victims. The Indian's Cemetery is located on SW 11 Twp 87 Range 8 west of the 6th meridian. ("In the Beginning")

Yet a further extension is found in *Waterhole and the Land North of the Peace*, in a short article about "Theodore Knott-1918":

"Chick" as we all know him, was found as a baby in an Indian tent at the time of the 'flu epidemic' and was adopted by Granny Whitford. Chick was noted for his ability in handling cattle. A very likable young fellow, he now lives on the reserve at Brownvale with his wife and family. (p. 165)

Dawson Creek historian Dorothy Calverley later wrote:

Our first first-hand knowledge of Mrs. Whitford came in a conversation with Mr. D. Bright now of Dawson Creek. For many years Mr. Bright had had on his ankle a large ulcer which had been treated without success by many doctors in many new ways. One day Granny Whitford saw it. Producing a jar of ointment, she said, 'Put this on for two nights. Be sure to wrap your foot and

leg well because it won't come off the bed clothes.'

It was black; it was sticky; it smelled! Mr. Bright put it on. Years later now, he reports: 'I don't know what was in it, but that sore began to heal. It healed completely. It never returned.'

<https://calverley.ca/article/04-034-granny-mary-whitford/>

Who was this woman so wise in the knowledge of nursing and the treatment of diseases and skin conditions? Was her life so happy and easy that she could give her time freely to anyone who needed her services?

Mary Hebert was born at Red Willow Creek, in the Stettler area, on January 4, 1873. She was the daughter of an unidentified fur-trader from Quebec, and the granddaughter of Ermineskin, headman of what is now the Ermineskin Reserve south of Edmonton. She spent her childhood in the Stettler and Pincher Creek areas, and was educated in St. Albert and the Catholic Mission at Lacombe.

When she was just 15, on July 15, 1888, Mary married James Whitford at Pincher Creek. He was the great grandson of a Hudson's Bay employee who had indentured himself from London, England in 1766. Over the next six years, James and Mary had four children—Gilbert, Dan, Agnes, and William (Billie), although Agnes did not survive childhood.

In 1911, the family moved to the Peace Country, settling first at Waterhole, south of the present town of Fairview. The trip was made with two teams of oxen and required slightly more than six weeks. They remained there for six years, but in 1916, their son Gilbert was shot during a quarrel over a girl. After this event, James returned to the Pincher Creek area, but Mary moved to the Clear Prairie district with her remaining sons, Dan and Billie, to be the housekeeper at the Lathrop Ranch. Billie enlisted in World War I. After he returned, in 1919 they moved on to the Worsley area to set up their own ranch.

After Danny died, Mary raised his daughter, also

called Mary. Her three eldest grandsons—Worsley, Leo, and Keith—served in World War II, and Worsley was killed overseas.

When she died in 1966, the Fairview Correspondent in the Daily Herald-Tribune reported:

Mrs. Whitford was affectionately known to everyone through the Peace Country as “Grandma”. Her kind hospitality and readiness to help those in need won her the friendship and admiration of all those who came to know her. (May 27, 1966 DHT)

Her gravemarker in the Worsley cemetery says it all: “In Loving Memory of Mary ‘Granny’ Whitford 1873-1966. A faithful friend to all”.

Dorothy Calverley’s article concludes:

Her life was summed up by an old-timer of the district: ‘One long, long trail of service and hardship, with many moves, and many long trails of rough traveling and living conditions. Her services to a community were priceless.

‘God Bless Her!’

Such a pity that nobody wrote down her Indian medicine lore!

The Worsley Post Office was established in 1931 and named after Erick Worsley, a British Cavalry officer and fur trader who arrived in the Peace Country in 1930. Bill Whitford, Mary’s youngest son, served under Officer Worsley in World War I, and as a mark of his respect named his eldest child “Worsley” after him. Worsley Whitford died overseas in World War II, and when the community of Worsley was established around 1947, it is said that Bill Whitford asked it be named Worsley. There is some disagreement whether this was for Officer Erick Worsley or Private Worsley Whitford, but it could be both.

Finding Memory:

Highlights from the Indigenous Reference files at South Peace Regional Archives (posted 4 December, 2019 by SPRA)

Little-known WW1 Cree sniper earns Nov. 11 tribute

NOV. 13 1989
HOB BEMA (CP) – He didn't have to enlist, but he ended up becoming a hero. He died for his country, but his family never received a penny. As a sniper his record is unmatched, yet today he is nearly forgotten. Henry Louis Norwest, decorated for service in Canada's 50th Battalion in the First World War, is known mostly to military historians.

SPRA 510.12.18.041 Part of the Indigenous Reference Files collection

This featured item is from the Indigenous News reference file. It is an article about Henry Louis Norwest, an Indigenous WWI veteran who had more confirmed sniper hits than any other soldier from countries in the British Empire. Norwest was born in Fort Saskatchewan in 1884 and enlisted in January of 1915. He had 115 confirmed sniper hits, which means they were observed by another soldier. He earned four medals for this achievement. Another soldier described Henry Louis Norwest as being charismatic and quick witted. Norwest died August 18, 1918 as he was about to pull the trigger on an enemy sniper when a bullet hit him just below his steel helmet. He is buried near Amiens, France, which is north of Paris.

The reference files give us a glimpse into our local history, and especially now that they are digitized, are an incredibly valuable resource! If you want to see more from the Indigenous reference files, keep your eye on the blog for posts like this.

News, and Photographs and summaries of past events



Thanks to a collaboration between the Peace Country Historical Society, the Grande Prairie Public Library, and South Peace Regional Archives, on February 15th 2020, about 70 people gathered in the Willie Janssen Discovery Centre at the Grande Prairie Public Library to view a film created more than 60 years ago by the National Film Board of Canada.

Grande Prairie Museum curator, Charles Taws, gave the following introduction: *"This historic film was called "People of the Peace". It was released in 1958. That was the same year Grande Prairie achieved City status and it was a very prosperous time for this area.*

Also in 1958, Dawson Creek too achieved City status and the town of Chetwyn was born. The Pacific Eastern Railway reached both Dawson Creek and Fort St. John thus connecting them with the busy port of Vancouver. It wasn't long before Fort St. John eclipsed Sexsmith and Grimshaw as the busiest inland terminal for grain exports.

1958 was the year the natural gas industry at Taylor or Taylor Flats commenced and the route of the Slave Lake Railway was announced to pass through Grimshaw on its way to Pine Point in the North West territories. But this only happened after a Grande Prairie delegation visited the BC Government in Victoria to inquire if the Alberta side of the Peace Country might be better served by becoming part of British Columbia!

This film will show that farms, forestry, oil and minerals were booming at this time and much of our current prosperity is the results of these development. "

After the film screening, Archivist Josephine Sallis from the South Peace Regional Archives made a presentation featuring examples of local people and industries. What an educational and enjoyable event!



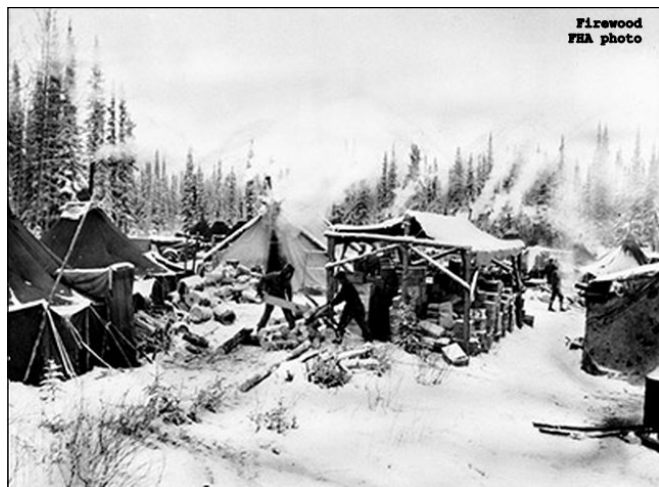
Scenes from "People of the Peace" screened at the Grande Prairie Public Library on February 16, 2020.

Interesting Websites

Elizabeth Sande writes that a very interesting website is "Cold Soldiers in 1942, found at <https://www.chrisdennis111.com/cold-soldiers-in-1942/>, on the larger site, "Stories of Northern Canada and Alaska". This website was created by Christine and Dennis McClure about the building of the Alaska Highway by the American Army during World War II.

The article tells us, *Soldiers in the field wore down-filled parkas 24-7. Climbing into his 'double mummy' sleeping bag—down filled sleeping bag plus two blankets and a comforter—at night, a soldier wore arctic underwear, gloves, a sweater and socks. Once he brought his body, the only source of heat, to his nest, it took a half an hour or more for it to warm. He slept with his boots to keep them warm and pliable in the morning. And, in the end, none of this really protected him from the bone cracking cold.*

Hope you enjoy this crackin' website. You can subscribe to their blog, be notified about new stories, even order their book, [We Fought the Road](#).

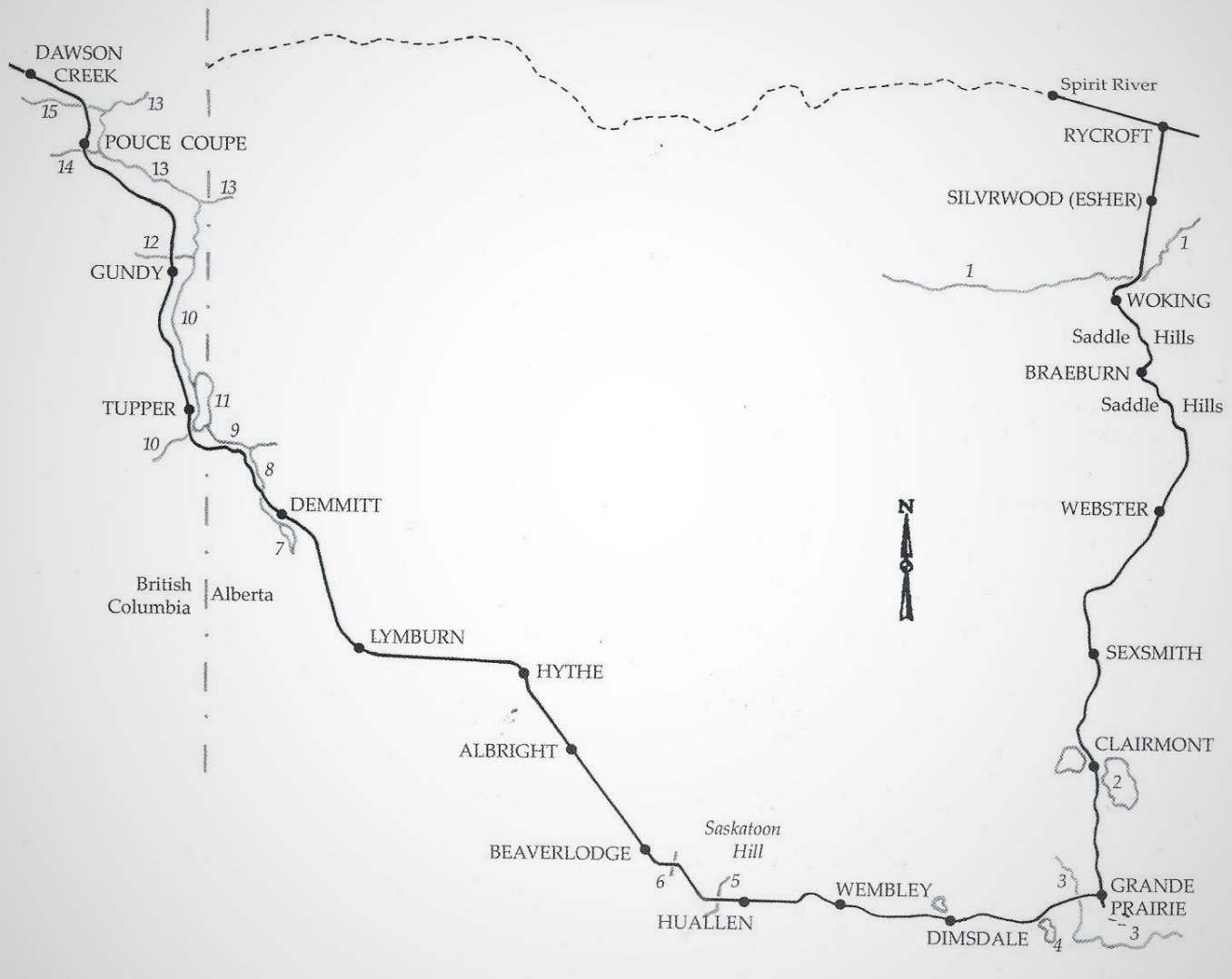


Cutting Firewood in a Winter Camp.

GRANDE PRAIRIE SUBDIVISION

THE LONG WAY TO DAWSON CREEK

5



KEY

- | | | | |
|-----------------------|--------------------|------------------|---------------------|
| 1. Saddle River | 2. Clairmont Lake | 3. Bear River | 4. Flying Shot Lake |
| 5. Spruce Creek | 6. Harold Creek | 7. Ray Lake | 8. Updike Creek |
| 9. Albright Creek | 10. Tupper Creek | 11. Swan Lake | 12. Toms Creek |
| 13. Pouce Coupe River | 14. Bissette Creek | 15. Dawson Creek | |

Source: North from Edmonton: The Northern Alberta Railways by Keith Hanson, M.A.

Place Names in the South Peace

Have you ever wondered how familiar places came to have the names they do? There is actually a branch of geography that studies place names. The name for this is “toponymy”, an odd looking words no doubt. It comes from the Greek and means the study of place names.

In this article we'll focus on place names along the railway as it loops through the South Peace area from Rycroft to Dawson Creek. The railway began in Edmonton and arrived at Spirit River in 1915 as the Edmonton, Dunvegan, and British Columbia Railway. By the time it reached Dawson Creek 16 years later in 1931, the name had been changed to the Northern Alberta Railway. What remains of the line today, is operated by Canadian National.

Originally, the route was to run west from Spirit River to Dawson Creek. Pressure from settlers on the Grande Prairie convinced the railway to turn at Rycroft and proceed south. In hindsight this was good decision. Railways exist to move goods and people. The Grande Prairie and surrounds produced many more payloads of incoming materials and settlers; and outgoing payloads of grain, cattle, lumber, and people than the direct route to Dawson Creek would have provided at the time.

As construction proceeded, the railway gave names to all the sidings and stations along its route. Many names were taken from communities already in existence. Others were named by railway officials, using geographical features, names from elsewhere, or the names of prominent settlers or public figures. Indigenous names for places were also used, although they were translated. Spirit River and Pouce Coupe are examples of this.

Ben Prest, a railway office engineer was in charge of the naming. In consideration of his work, the siding of Prestville, just east of Rycroft was named after him.

The names below are followed by the mile post at which the name was centered, usually the

station. The mileposts for the Grande Prairie Subdivision, as it was known, begin at Rycroft as Mile 0.0. This happened because by time the decision was made to head south, all the mileposts from Edmonton onward were in place and the mileage number was cumulative. Spirit River was posted as Mile 357.3 (from Edmonton).

Place Names

Spirit River at Mile 357.3 is a translation of the Cree “Chepi Sipi” which means Ghost River. The original settlement was located on that river, about two miles east and two miles south of the present townsite. The original location included a small trading post and an enterprise called the Hudson Bay Cattle Company, used to supply the HBC post at Dunvegan. The railway station was called Spirit River after 1915.

Rycroft at Mile 0.0 was named after an early settler, supposedly by pulling his name out of a hat which had four names in it. The name pulled was Robert Henry Rycroft, and the settlement was named as such. Except that it was misspelled as Roycroft but eventually corrected. The same Robert Rycroft moved to the Teepee Creek area in 1928, and was the ancestor of the Rycroft families that now live throughout the South Peace.

Silverwood at Mile 5.5 was originally named Esher, a town in England near London, and the birthplace of Prest. A station agent later renamed it Silverwood, referring to the silver or perhaps white birch trees that grew in the area. The current grain elevators south of Rycroft are close to the original site.

Woking at Mile 12.9 was named for an English town situated southwest of London, England where Prest had spent time working on the railway. The town was at the junction of railways that ran between London and the south and southwest coasts.

Braeburn at Mile 19.0 was a siding between

Woking and Webster. It was originally named Surbiton, another railway town near London in England. In 1948 the name changed to Braeburn. The name is from the Scottish “brae” (a steep hillside) and “burn” (a small stream). Braeburn Creek is nearby and likely the inspiration for the change.

Webster at Mile 27.4 was named after George Webster, who owned a construction company building this part of the line. He went on to become the mayor of Calgary and later an MLA in the Alberta Legislature.

Sexsmith at Mile 36.1 was originally named Benville, after an early settler, Ben Foster. His land was just south of the current townsite. The railway station was named after another early settler, David Sexsmith. He came into the country in 1898 as part of a party heading for the Klondike. Sexsmith changed his mind and stayed in the area to become a trapper for few years. He then moved to Edmonton, but returned in 1912 as a settler.

Clairmont at Mile 43.1 was named after the lake just to the east of the railway line. The name comes from a survey crew member named Eugene Clairmont. Clairmont worked for J.B. Saint-Cyr, a Dominion Land Surveyor who was surveying the area in 1907.

Grande Prairie at Mile 49.7 was named after its geographical namesake, the Grande Prairie. Prior to its amalgamation with the Hudson Bay Company in 1821, the Northwest Company, the original fur traders at Dunvegan, knew it as the Buffalo Plains. By 1854 the HBC referred to it as the Grande Prairie. This was reinforced by Bishop Grouard in 1912 when he exclaimed “la grande prairie” when he saw it for the first time.

The railway arrived at Grande Prairie in March of 1916. Construction stopped at that point and the settlement became the end of steel until 1923. The delay was due to continuing financing issues that the railway suffered. Construction began again in September of that year, and by December of 1924, reached Wembley.

Dimsdale at Mile 58.5 was named after H.G.

Dimsdale. He was a railway locating engineer that surveyed the route west from Grande Prairie to Wembley.

Wembley at Mile 64.8 was named after its namesake in England. That town was hosting the British Empire Exposition in 1924, and was much in the news. Ironically, the community of Saskatoon Lake’s Board of Trade named Wembley. Lake Saskatoon then moved itself to the Wembley site.

Wembley became the end of steel until westward construction began again in 1928. Financial constraints were again the issue.

Huallen at Mile 71.0 was named after a local settler and politician, Hugh Allen. Allen served as an MLA in the United Farmers of Alberta government from 1926 to 1935. He held the position of Minister for the Department of Lands and Mines in 1933-34.

Beaverlodge at Mile 78.5 was named after the nearby Beaverlodge River. The river had been named after the lodges (temporary dwellings) that the Dunne Za (Beaver) people used. The community began in 1908 with the arrival of settlers. It was built on a hill southeast of the present site. The post office at the time was called Redlow. When the railway arrived, the old town was moved down to the railway line, and the station and the post office were named Beaverlodge.

Albright at Mile 83.4 was named after W.D. Albright, who was the Superintendent of the Beaverlodge Dominion Experimental Farm. Albright was known for his tremendous support of farming in the Peace Country, and his work to improve life on the farm for families. The original post office at Albright was, at first, called Hommy after a local family of settlers.

Hythe at Mile 88.1 was named after the English hometown of the first postmaster (H. Harley) in 1914. The settlement was located along the Beaverlodge River to the southwest of the current site. When the railway arrived in 1928, the town moved to the railway. Hythe then became the end of steel until 1930. During that period,

the Edmonton, Dunvegan, and British Columbia Railway became the Northern Alberta Railway. When work started again in 1929, the newly named railway made its final push to reach its terminus at Dawson Creek, B.C.

Lymburn at Mile 97.2 was named after J.F. Lymburn who was an Edmonton MLA in the United Farmers of Alberta government from 1926 to 1935. Lymburn, a lawyer, served as the Attorney General of Alberta.

Demmitt at Mile 106.2 was named Chelsea Demmitt, an early settler in the area.

To finish up the journey, we now cross the Alberta/British Columbia border and enter the South Peace region of B.C.

Tupper at Mile 115.1 was located on the west side of Swan Lake. The station was named after nearby Tupper Creek which flows into the lake from the south west. Tupper Creek is named after Frank Tupper, who was a B.C. Land Surveyor working in the area. The station and the post office at Tupper did not include the word Creek. In this time before postal codes, the post office was very concerned about mixing up names. Teepee Creek was one that that sounded too similar to officials of the day.

Gundy station at Mile 122.4 was named after the Gundy community which was found east of the railway line along the Alberta/British Columbia border. In 1915 H.W. Gundy, a Toronto real estate agent purchased 35,000 acres of land in the area. He planned to sell it to incoming settlers but found no buyers because essentially free homestead land was available. The land was then turned into the Gundy Ranch which subsequently went bankrupt. Eventually the land became home to the Sudeten settlers who were fleeing Nazi Germany.

Pouce Coupe at Mile 132.0 was named in a roundabout way after an Indigenous Chief named Pouskapie who gave his name to the prairie in the area. Hector Tremblay, an early French Canadian settler, translated the name into French, calling it Pouce Coupe which means cut thumb. Whether or not a thumb was cut is

not known for certain, but the story lives on.

Dawson Creek at Mile 138.0 was named after the creek that runs through the community. The creek is named after George Dawson who passed through the area in 1879. Dawson was employed by the Geological Survey of Canada. He was part of a survey crew that assessed the South Peace region as a possible route for Canada's first transcontinental railway.

The railway ended at Dawson Creek, and this article ends as well. Many of the places named along the railway became established communities and continue to thrive to this day. Their original function as shipping and receiving points for the transport of goods gave them a solid base to build upon. When community services such as education and health began to centralize to the larger centers, other place names continued to be used to describe locales.

In a future article, we'll examine place names in the South Peace area that are found off the railway route.

Northmark Public Cemetery

One of the most poignant and thoughtful places to find Peace Country History is in our community cemeteries.

Although they contain interesting and inspiring stories, we need to tell the history of cemeteries with care, as they also contain stories of tragedy and sorrow which still affect the families today.

The Northmark Public cemetery is located in Saddle River County, tucked into the evergreens on the north bank of the Burnt River.

This cemetery was opened in 1929 when one of the settlers drowned while trying to cross the Burnt River. The cemetery was made on the bank of the river just above where the body was recovered, the land being donated by a fellow settler. A small log church, Zion Lutheran, was built on site, and here funeral services were held till the church was removed in 1946.

One of the most unusual monuments in this cemetery is the bronze-topped grave of a small boy, engraved with a letter from his parents.

This is still an active cemetery, with records showing 53 graves to 1984 and many subsequent.

If you want to visit this cemetery, take Secondary Highway 677 west from Highway 2 through the hamlet of Woking. Turn north on SH 731, then west on the Northmark Road (TR 764), and south on RR 71 to the end of the road.



Monuments and Memorials

The Webster area was settled mostly in the land rush of the late 1920s, by a group of Polish homesteaders, many of them originally from Torun, Poland. They had escaped the political unrest, unemployment and brutality of life under Russian oppression after World War I. Some had farmed in the Vermilion area before moving on to Webster. Most of them arrived in Webster at the height of the land rush in 1929. Being of the Roman Catholic faith, the immigrants' first public land was dedicated for a



church, a priest's residence and cemetery. A large church was built in the early 1930s.

The original building still stands on site. It was a small, one-story cabin with a large overhang for protection from sun and rain. It was built for the first resident priest, Father Joachim Michalowski, in 1938.

In 1954-1955, a grotto was built to the north of the church. This was a shrine where Polish-speaking Catholics came to worship. The church itself was destroyed by fire, but services continue as a yearly pilgrimage.

Peace Country Historical Society Heritage Plaques Project

The Peace Country Historical Society would like to honour historical places, people and events throughout the Alberta Peace River Country with pictorial plaques on existing buildings, similar to the “Memory Lane” project done for Grande Prairie’s 100th anniversary.

You can nominate a historic site in your community, but keep in mind that if the

building has already been recognized as a federal, provincial or municipal heritage site, it does not qualify for this project. There must also be a relevant photograph available from someone in the community or in a museum or archives.

Each year, 3 to 5 stories (subject to available funds) will be chosen by committee from the nominations. Applicants will be asked to assist in getting permission from a nearby building owner on which the plaque can be installed.

The plaque will contain an 11 x 14 in. photograph and a description of about 50 words. It should be put up in an area where it will be seen by nearby residents. E.g.: A photo of the DeBolt and Bickell Sawmill on the front of the Legion Hall which is now on that site in DeBolt; a photo of the Kleskun Hill Geological Picnic on one of the Kleskun Hill Museum buildings.

Please provide the following information for your nomination:

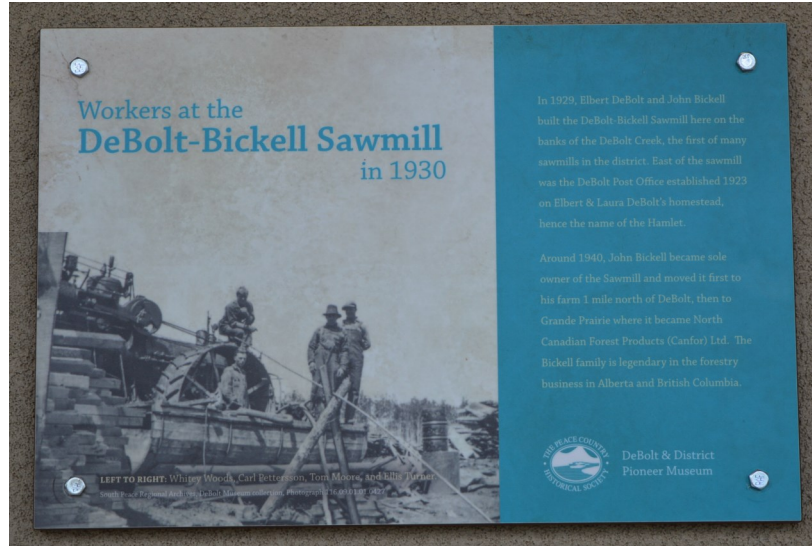
What building/happening in your area should be commemorated?

When (what date) did the event occur, or when was the building built?

Who was involved?

Why is the building/event significant?

Where is the building for the proposed plaque located?



The Origin of the Historical Society of Alberta And the Peace Country Historical Society

The Historical Society of Alberta (HSA) was founded by the Alberta Legislature on March 15, 1907, just two years after the formation of the province of Alberta. Premier Alexander C. Rutherford took on the role of President, a post he held for 32 years.

The Mandate he set for the Society was “...to encourage the study of the history of Alberta and Canada, to rescue from oblivion the memories of the original inhabitants, the early missionaries, fur traders, explorers and settlers of the north and west of Canada...” as well as to obtain the documents and artifacts which illustrated the history of the country.

In 1953, the HSA launched a quarterly publication titled *The Alberta Historical Review*. This is still being published as *Alberta History*, and is one of the benefits of Membership in the HSA.

There are five Chapters of the Historical Society of Alberta. Most of them have preceding organizations which evolved into chapters of the HSA.

- ◆ **Lethbridge Historical Society** became a Chapter in 1986 and serves the area from Nanton south to the United States border.
- ◆ **Edmonton and District Historical Society** was incorporated in 1991 and serves the City and surrounding area.
- ◆ **Chinook Country Historical Society**, incorporated in 1993, serves the area surrounding the City of Calgary from the BC border to Saskatchewan.
- ◆ **Central Alberta Historical Society**, formed in 1995, serves the area between Ponoka to Olds from the east to the west borders of the province.
- ◆ **Peace Country Historical Society**, formed in 2009, serves the north-western part of the province.

The Peace Country Historical Society was launched at a symposium held at the Grande Prairie Regional College attended by representatives of heritage groups, museums, and archives as well as other interested people from across the Peace River Country. Incorporation as a Chapter of the HSA followed in 2009.

The objectives of the PCHS are:

To encourage the study and appreciation of the history of the Peace Country.

To operate as a chapter of the Historical Society of Alberta and support its aims and objectives.

To support local Museums and Archives and Heritage groups of the Peace Country region. To promote and publish historical works, develop educational and programming activities related to Peace Country history and to advocate for the preservation of the historical heritage in this region.



*Premier AC Rutherford in front of
Rutherford House, Edmonton*

Membership Form: Historical Society of Alberta*

*includes chapter membership



Name _____

Address _____

City _____ Postal Code _____

Phone _____ Fax _____ Email _____

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