

BOTH NOW AND IN THE FUTURE, THESE RECORDS REFLECT THE PERSONAL, CULTURAL, SOCIAL, ECONOMIC, AND POLITICAL LIFE OF THE SOUTH PEACE RIVER COUNTRY OF ALBERTA AND ARE IN ALL FORMATS AND MEDIA, INCLUDING TEXTUAL RECORDS, MAPS, PLANS, DRAWINGS, PHOTOGRAPHIC IMAGES, FILM, VIDEO, SOUND RECORDINGS

THE MANDATE OF SPRA IS TO GATHER, PRESERVE, AND SHARE THE HISTORICAL RECORDS OF MUNICIPALITIES, ORGANIZATIONS, BUSINESSES, FAMILIES, AND INDIVIDUALS WITHIN THE REGION.

# TELLING

OUR

# STORIES

LOCAL HISTORY

ARCHIVE NEWS



VOLUME 7 DECEMBER 1, 2015 ISSUE 1



PRODUCED BY

SOUTH PEACE REGIONAL ARCHIVES

ESTABLISHED IN 2000, THE FIRST

REGIONAL ARCHIVES IN ALBERTA

## Inside This Issue:

Take Note	p. 3
Letter from the Editor	p. 4
Contact Information	p. 4
Wanted: Beaverlodge Advertisers	p. 5
Featured Fonds: C. S. Hook & Sons fonds	p. 6-7
Featured Photos: Alberta for Sale Exhibit	p.8-11
Memories of a Pioneer Doctor: Part 4 <i>By Dr. Andrew Murray Carlisle</i>	p. 12-13
R. Kives & Her Magic White Gloves <i>By Gordon Mackey</i>	p. 14-16
Featured Paper Artifact: "Transportation of Corpse"	p. 17
A Lumber Mill on the Cutbank River <i>Hodgson Family fonds</i>	p. 18-19
What Archives Do & Why We Do It <i>By Leslie Gordon</i>	p. 20-21
Jack Penson: Boy Soldier, or NOT! <i>By Charlie Penson</i>	p. 22-23
SPRA Society & Member News	p. 24
From the Blog: One Stop Shopping <i>By Kathryn Auger</i>	p. 25
New at the Archives	p. 26
New Faces at the Archives	p. 26
Membership Application Form	p. 27

*On our cover: Christmas at the Carlisle home, 1941 (SPRA 399.01.32)*

# Take Note

## **Family History Day**

**Saturday, February 20, 2016  
at the  
Grande Prairie Public Library  
10:00 - 4:00**

### **Webinars:**

Autosomal DNA Testing  
Crafting Ancestor Profiles  
Facebook for Genealogists  
New Must-Have Google Tips for Genealogy

### **Workshops:**

Level One Genealogy  
Level Two Genealogy  
Family Search  
Ancestry.ca  
Searching for Genealogical Records  
in Archives

***Genealogy and Archives research assistance  
will be available.***

**Sponsored by  
South Peace Regional Archives,  
the Grande Prairie & District  
Branch of the Alberta Genealogical  
Society,  
& the Grande Prairie Public Library**



# Featured Fonds: C.S. Hook & Sons fonds

*C.S. Hook Family fonds. – 1932-[ca. 2000]. – 62.5 cm of textual records. – 12 photographs. – 10 postcards.*

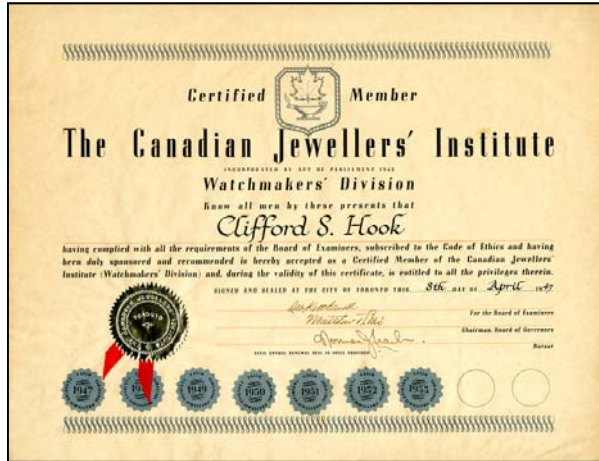
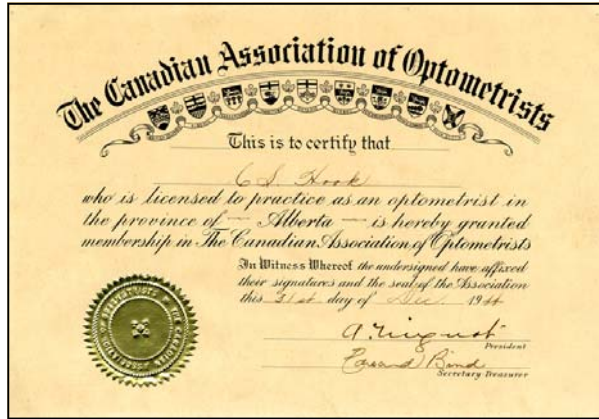
Clifford Stanley Hook was born in Somerset, England and immigrated to Canada with his wife Jessica and daughter Evelyn in 1913. They settled in Edmonton where Clifford, a jeweller and watchmaker, was employed by G. F. Watcher. Herbert (Ted) Hook was born in 1914, and in 1918 the family moved on to Grande Prairie after Clifford purchased the R. H. Watcher business. Here a second son, Robert Clifford Hook, was born in 1918.

In 1920, realizing that the Peace country was in need of professional eye care, Clifford attended the College of Optometry in Ontario and returned to become the region's first Optometrist. He added an Optometry section to the jewellery business, and, carrying portable equipment, traveled to many Peace River country communities including Waterhole, Spirit River, Brainard, Pouce Coupe, and even individual farms. He used a Model T in summer and a team and cutter in winter.

A third son, Jack Edgar Hook, was born in 1926, and in the early 30s, Jessica moved on to Vancouver, taking the boys with her. By this time Evelyn was already married to Harry Newton so she remained in Grande Prairie.

Robert "Bob" Hook was educated in Grande Prairie and Vancouver. He returned to Grande Prairie in 1940 to apprentice as a watchmaker under his father. The business was renamed C.S. Hook & Son, and in 1945 Bob left for the University of Toronto's College of Optometry, graduating in 1949. He then joined his father's practice, traveling even further afield to Manning, Slave Lake, Fort St. John, Watson Lake, Cassiar, Hines Creek, Fort Nelson, and Dawson Creek.

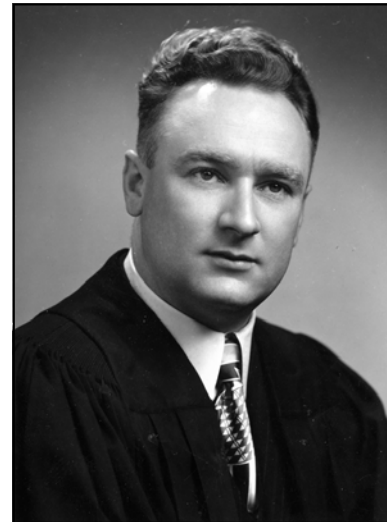
Jack Hook studied gemology and became a graduate Jeweller and Watchmaker. He joined the family



Above, C.S. Hook's Canadian Association of Optometrists Membership Certificate, 1944, and his Canadian Jewellers' Institute (Watchmakers' Division) membership certificate, 1944-1953 (SPRA 378.02.01.02, 03).

business in 1945 and once again it was renamed, now becoming C. S. Hook & Sons. Soon afterward they purchased Topps Jewelry in Dawson Creek and Lucien De Lasalle's Jewelry, both in Dawson Creek.

In the meantime, Evelyn and Harry had established the Alberta 5¢ to \$1.00 Store on Richmond Avenue. In 1946, Harry died and the "Five and Dime" store became another business for C. S. Hook & Sons. Evelyn went on to marry William McBryan, and to



On left: Portrait of Robert Hook taken in Toronto and used as his graduation photograph, ca. 1947 (SPRA 2007.016.04). Right: Corner of 100<sup>th</sup> Avenue and 100<sup>th</sup> Street in Grande Prairie where the "Hook Jeweler" sign is visible left of centre, ca. 1940 (SPRA 2007.016.17).



became a successful artist, often working with Euphemia McNaught of Beaverlodge.

In the 1940s, both boys married: Bob to Myrtle Radley of Rolla, and Jack to Pearl Nicholson, a nurse at the Grande Prairie Hospital. In 1949, Pearl and Myrtle opened the P & M Gift Box, a ladies' wear shop. In 1953, a partnership agreement was signed between C. S. Hook, R. C. Hook, J. E. Hook, Pearl A. Hook, and Myrtle V. Hook to operate as "C. S. Hook and Sons" with a head office in Grande Prairie and a branch office in Dawson Creek. In June 1959, the business expanded again with the opening of a new store in Fort St. John.

During the 1960s, C. S. Hook & Sons went through a number of changes. By 1963 C. S. Hook & Sons had locations in Grande Prairie, Dawson Creek, Fort St. John, and Peace River, and the P & M Gift Box had been renamed The Shelly Shoppes.

In 1966, C. S. Hook passed away and about the same time C.S. Hook & Sons divided their companies and assets among the partners. Jack and Pearl moved to Edmonton with their family, where daughter Shelley became a third generation optometrist. Bob continued to operate in Grande Prairie until 1994, a total of 49 years.

## Custodial History

The records were donated to the South Peace Regional Archives by the family of Dr. Robert C. Hook. The records had been assembled and kept by Dr. Robert Hook and his father Dr. C. S. Hook. An accrual was donated by Dr. Robert Hook's daughter Valerie in 2010.

## Scope and Content

The fonds consists of records relating to the business interests of C. S. Hook & Sons, including businesses run by the company, and personal records of various members of the Hook family. The records date predominantly from the 1940s to the 1970s. Geographically, the records relate to the Peace Country of Alberta and British Columbia, particularly Grande Prairie, where the head office was located and members of the family lived, and Dawson Creek, Fort St. John, and Peace River, where the business operated branch stores.

The fonds is arranged in two series: Business and Personal, each with several subseries. An order has been established by the processing archivist based primarily on the content and chronology of the records as the original order had been disrupted.

# Featured Photos: Alberta for Sale Exhibit



Left: Spicer's Bakery building on 99<sup>th</sup> Avenue in Grande Prairie. Wood for its ovens is stacked outside, ca. 1930. The Spicer & Son Bakery opened in 1920. (SPRA 1997.13.05)

Advertisement: Grande Prairie Herald, July 27, 1928

Chamber of Commerce) was established in 1915, not long after the village itself was incorporated. The early businessmen of Grande Prairie and outlying areas were often pillars in their communities; well-known names we may recognize to this day.

As larger communities like Grande Prairie continue to develop, farmers move to the cities, roads improve, and distances have less meaning than they used to, many of our smaller communities and the businesses they supported and were serviced by fade away.

Commerce and community are inextricably linked. We invite you to remember the businesses of yesterday and reflect on the important role they played in creating the communities we enjoy today.

Editor's Note: The entire exhibit is on display in the community room of the Grande Prairie Museum, or you may view it online in slideshow form at the link below:

<http://southpeacearchives.org/publications/photo-essays/community-commerce/>

Businesses of various kinds are essential to the formation of a community. Many small settlements in the South Peace started as nothing more than a small store and post office. With difficulties in travelling long distances, many small communities were needed, each providing necessary services to the residents of the area, from groceries to hardware to blacksmithing.

In the larger hubs, like Grande Prairie, businesses were also important. In fact, the Grande Prairie Board of Trade (now the



The Morrison & Sargent trucking business started in 1940 with a mail contract. It eventually expanded to run the first bus in the Peace River Country in 1943.

Left: The Morrison & Sargent truck freighting into the Hudson's Bay Company store at Sturgeon Lake, ca. 1940 (SPRA 2013.086.26)

The Goodwin General Store appears to have been built in 1935 and operated for a time by Roddy McArthur and by Otto Krause. The Goodwin Co-op moved into the store building in 1945. In the early 1940s, teacher Martha Gudlaugson roomed at the store while employed at the East Smoky School.

Right: Interior of the store, with Otto, Flora, Marion, Selena, Elaine, and Norman Krause, ca. 1940 (SPRA 2008.046.33)

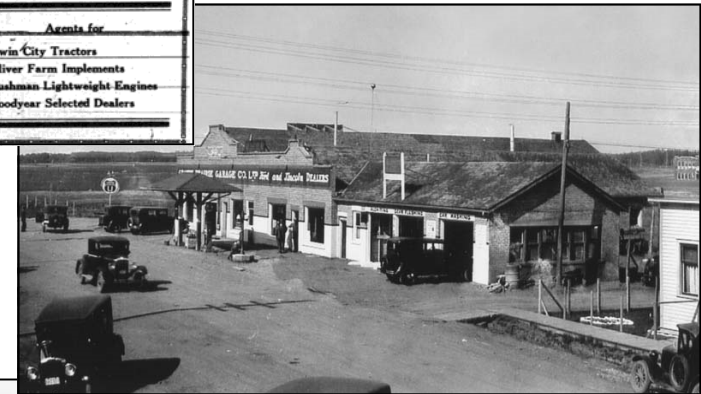
Below: Martha Gudlaugson and an unidentified man outside the Goodwin Store, ca. 1940 (SPRA 2008.046.34)



The Grande Prairie Garage Co. was incorporated in 1925 by Jack Watson and Fred Roberts and a new brick building was built the following year at the north end of 100<sup>th</sup> Street, on the east side of the street. The Garage included a show room, storage, and mechanic shop.

Advertisement: Grande Prairie Herald, April 13, 1928

Below: Grande Prairie Garage - Ford and Lincoln Dealers, ca. 1930



In February 1919, Morris Shapiro, a young Jewish man, purchased the C. Abdo & Co. store at Hythe. He opened a gas station for travellers later that year. In May 1920 a restaurant and rooming house, the Halfway House, was constructed.

Left: The Halfway House with Morris Shapiro in the doorway, ca. 1920. The general store was located further to the left. (SPRA 024.01.09.42)

Advertisement: Grande Prairie Herald, July 10, 1921



Above: The main street of Smoky River, (later the hamlet of Watino) ca. 1916. (SPRA 2001.01.147)

Above right: Hall & Leonard's first store at Bezanson, 1914. H. F. Hall and William A. Leonard constructed their store on the Bezanson townsite above the Smoky and Simonette Rivers in 1914. (SPRA 1990.30.66A)

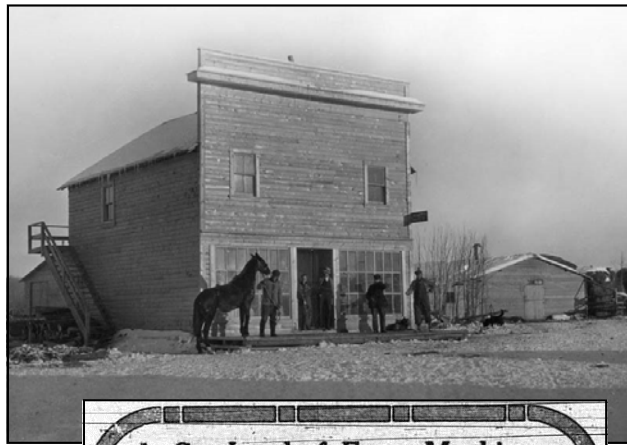
Advertisement: Grande Prairie Herald, March 23, 1915



Above: Corner Coffee Shop decorated with Union Jack flags and war posters with Joe Mark and a woman standing by entrance, ca. 1945. The restaurant was purchased by Joe Mark in 1948 and known thereafter as Joe's Corner Coffee Shop. The restaurant was a Grande Prairie landmark for many years, operating until just after Joe's death in 1966. (SPRA 2003.24.12a)

Right: Porteous Hardware Store, ca. 1920. Porteous Bros. of Edmonton built a Grande Prairie location on the north side of 100<sup>th</sup> Avenue in July 1915. The hardware and harness store was managed by L. C. Porteous. (SPRA 430.01.43)

Advertisement: Grande Prairie Herald, February 22, 1916



**A Car Load of Farm Machinery**  
has arrived, among which will be found  
**Discs, Mowers, Rakes, Binders, Plows of all kinds, Drills, Seeders and Harrows**  
At EDMONTON CATALOGUE PRICES with freight added.

<b>Hardware</b>	<b>HARDWARE</b>	<b>Hardware</b>
In our last car of general merchandise was a large supply of HARDWARE of every description. Prices count.		
<b>NAILS, all sizes, \$9.80 per keg - COAL OIL, \$7.50 per case</b>		
All other lines at similar low prices		

**ALL GROCERIES AT CUT PRICES**  
**SUGAR at \$2.40 per 20 lb. Sack**  
WINTER GOODS at less than Cost.

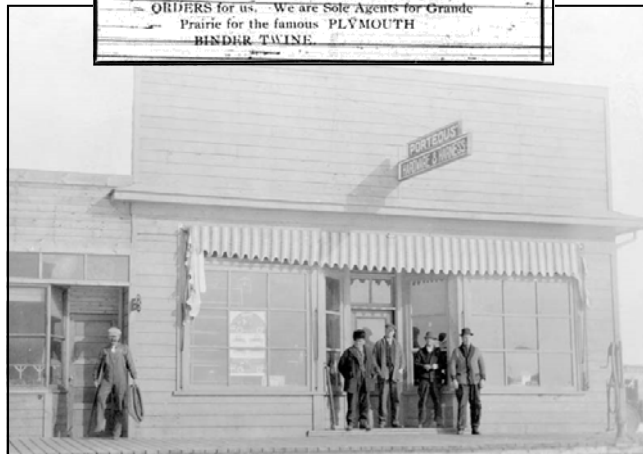
GET OUR PRICES  
**HALL & LEONARD**  
BEZANSON, ALBERTA

**L. C. PORTEOUS**

Will arrive in Town shortly with a full supply of:  
**HARWARE, HARNESS, SASH & DOORS**

Also Carload of BARB WIRE and  
**HOG FENCING**

Will be here for Spring, so save your FORMALIN ORDERS for us. We are Sole Agents for Grande Prairie for the famous PLYMOUTH BINDER TWINE.



Above: The Lake Saskatoon Mercantile Co. opened in 1917 in a former pool room building. The manager was Robert Kranz.

Above: Lake Saskatoon Mercantile Co. building, ca. 1917 (SPRA 344.02.24)

Advertisement: Lake Saskatoon Journal, June 23, 1917

The Hudson's Bay Company first established a "flying post" at Sturgeon Lake in 1877, with buildings added in subsequent years. In 1931, the store building burned down and was not rebuilt until 1934. Below: Sturgeon Lake Hudson's Bay Store, 1954 (SPRA 175.021.05)



## Test Your Knowledge

Did you enjoy these photographs and advertisements from businesses of the past? Test your observation skills by taking our quiz! All the answers can be found in the previous three pages.

Name the three products advertised on the exterior of the Goodwin store.

Name one of the operators of the Goodwin store.

What is the object sitting on the steps outside of the Lake Saskatoon Mercantile Co.?

How much was a men's flannel shirt from the Lake Saskatoon Mercantile Co. in 1917?

Which makes of cars did the Grande Prairie Garage Co. carry?

Who is standing in the doorway of the Halfway House at Hythe?

Where is the Hudson's Bay Company store in the photo with the truck located?

What did the Morrison & Sargent trucking company originally transport?

In what town was Spicer's Bakery located?

When did the Spicer & Son Bakery open?

What is the exterior Joe's Corner Coffee Shop decorated with?

What is the man on the far left carrying in the Porteous Hardware photo?

What was does Porteous claim to be the sole agent for?

# Memories of a Pioneer Doctor: Part 4

By Dr. Andrew Murray Carlisle

*This is the last installment in a series featuring the memories of Dr. Andrew Murray Carlisle. Dr. Carlisle moved to the Grande Prairie area in 1921 and had many fascinating and humorous stories to tell about his early years as a country doctor in this region. If you wish to read the complete transcript, you can find it at <http://southpeacearchives.org/oral-histories/>*

For several years after I had returned from Toronto I was the only doctor there who could blood-group people and give transfusions. I used the continuous syringe method of whole blood. For the first several years we had to make our own serum by blood-grouping. Dr. L. J. O'Brien, a man in his late 50's, a skilled surgeon, and a great friend of mine, was in Group 2 and I was in Group 3 by the Jansky system. So when a transfusion was needed I would draw a syringe full of blood from him and he would draw a syringe full from me, and when the blood settled I had enough #2 and #3 serum to group the patient and a hundred or more people until we found a suitable donor. We never had any serious reactions although we gave many transfusions. One afternoon a big income tax inspector from Edmonton, a Mr. Thompson, was waiting in my office to see me. I was blood-grouping people to find the right donor for a patient and driving four or five people to the hospital every half hour. He got restless waiting, so on one trip I asked him to come along too. He came, he had the right blood group and I had him donate a good quart of blood. For years he used to tell his friends in Edmonton, "Aw, it's an awful country up there. I was up there once as an income tax inspector and they bled me."

In 1927 we had a large epidemic of a very virulent smallpox. There were 35

deaths from it in the area from Grande Prairie to the border. The young wife of our provincial police sergeant, Sgt. Purdy, was one of the first. My wife and I went to all the schools from Wembley to the border and vaccinated all the children. The government paid nothing for this, just supplied the vaccine. My \$100 dollars a month had stopped when we went east. The teachers had asked the children to bring 50 cents apiece for their vaccination. Some did, some didn't, and some just brought the rest of their family with them. All were vaccinated. The Indians had the least resistance to smallpox. Almost none at all. There were a lot of Indians on the reservation at Rio Grande thirty or more miles west of Wembley that I looked after. A big Indian Agent, Leo Ferguson, half French and half Indian, a good friend of mine, always came with me. To protect the Indians, we went first thing out to the reservations. Leo would send nine or ten horseback riders out in all directions and gather the tribe together and all the Indians were vaccinated except two families and two teenage boys. They had hid under a little bridge or culvert and were not vaccinated. They all got black smallpox and they all died, all 16 of them. I have often thought that the whole reservation might have been wiped out if we had not gone out there early. Black smallpox is hemorrhagic smallpox showing no resistance. The pox fill with blood and the patient bleeds from all orifices of their body and it was always fatal in those days.



Mary Jean, David, and Jim Carlisle in front of the fireplace at Christmas, 1939. (SPRA 0399.01.17)

Saskatoon berries were plentiful in the fall. As you know they are like big blueberries with large seeds and they were eaten freely and preserved by... but they were a health hazard, especially to the young bachelors on the homestead. The Indians picked them on horseback, dried them out in the sun on hides, and eat them all winter. The large seeds

tend to gather in the appendices causing abdominal pains and cramps. So often they would then take a good dose of castor oil or other strong laxative causing the appendix to rupture. Then they would call to see a doctor and too often it was too late. We had no sulfates such as penicillin or antibiotics at that time. We would operate with a minimum surgery and drain, but the death rate was high so we really had to preach the gospel not to take a strong laxative when they got a pain in their stomach. People still have a terror of appendicitis in that district.

House calls after midnight were never very popular in the cold weather. I would try to get all the facts to be sure that a cold trip was necessary, but they generally managed to get you out one way or another. One cold night in the 50s, a man phoned about 2:00 a.m. and said: "Come out to the house, doc, I think my wife has appendicitis." I said to myself, "Appendicitis, appendicitis. Why, Jack, I remember taking your wife's appendix out about 15 or 16 years ago. I never heard of anyone having two appendices." "Well," he said, "did you ever hear of a guy having a second wife?" "Oh," I said, "I will be right down." They would get you out one way or another.

The settlers there as a rule were young hard working people and most friendly. No settler was young enough to have been born up there. They had all come from other places, everywhere. There were some older men who had come down from the Yukon and Alaska. They had been prospectors who had gone north in the gold rush of 1898 and had great tales to tell. I had treated one of them that had said he had been so long in the north he had Arctic Circles under both eyes. Of course his trouble was he had burned out his kidneys on cheap liquor and moonshine. A good writer could have written wonderful books about the characters there.

When the Duke of Devonshire was the Governor General of Canada, he came up there on a shooting trip. His itinerary took him to Henry Robertson's place for lunch one day. Henry was a good farmer on the shores of the big lake, Bear Lake, where the ducks and geese are plentiful. As the ladies were taking away the dishes from the meat course, Henry said

loudly, "Oh, keep your fork, Duke, there's pie coming." It became quite a saying in that country.

An elderly Irishman, Frank White, a homesteader in Halcourt, forty miles west of Grande Prairie, was a real character, of whom there was many stories. He made good bread for all the bachelors around and served good Sunday meals on a long clean table in his log shack. A visiting preacher came one Sunday and sat down at the head of Frank's table with six or seven young bachelors sitting at it. Frank was at the stove when the preacher turned and said, "Mr. White, do you mind if I say grace?" Frank said, "Oh, say any darn thing you like, there is not a woman within 40 miles." There was always lots of humour in it.

I was a coroner there for 36 years but a younger man did that job for the last while. But I had many interesting cases and could tell you some grim and true murder stories. I even led a posse in 1923 of thirty five men through the dark woods on a May dawn in search for a murderer, a moonshiner, who had just shot and killed his partner. The police asked me to take over while they went to look for him at his house. We didn't run into him. I'm glad he escaped our amateur net but it was a spooky experience in the dark. He had been in there a few hours earlier as a tree fell over quite near when I was examining the body.

But I think you've heard enough for one night. In trying to describe the beauty of this new country I found some lines from a known poet and changed it a bit to fit the north.

## Fall

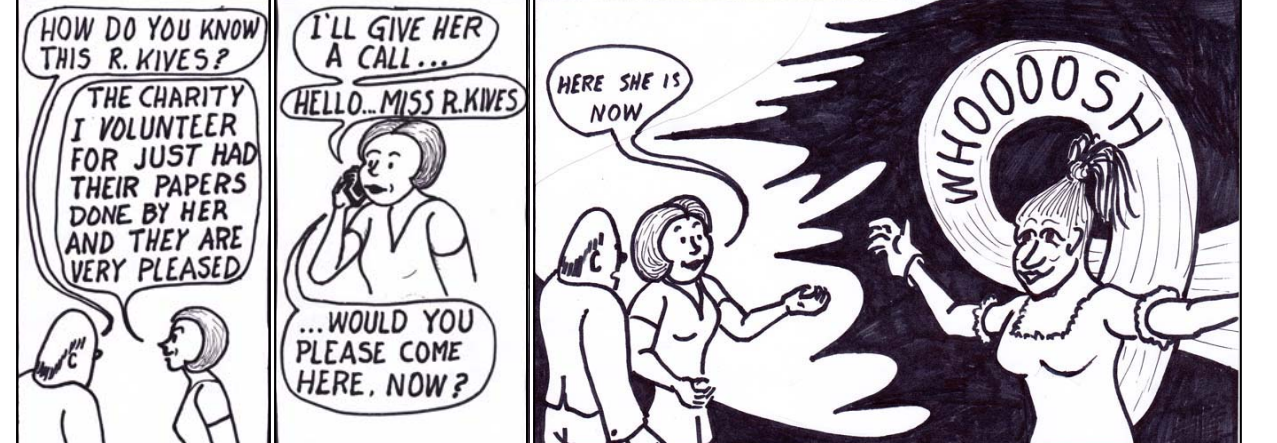
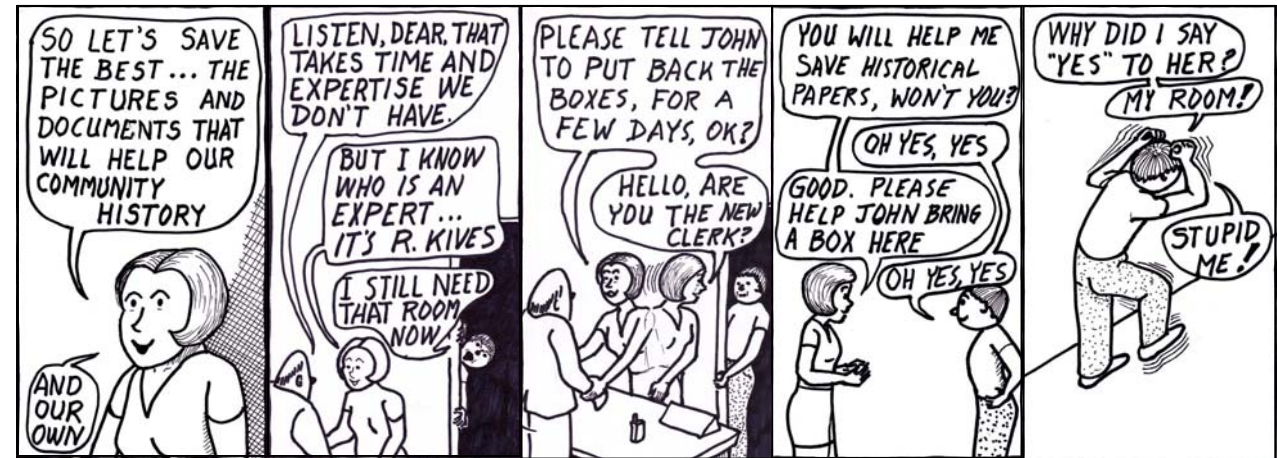
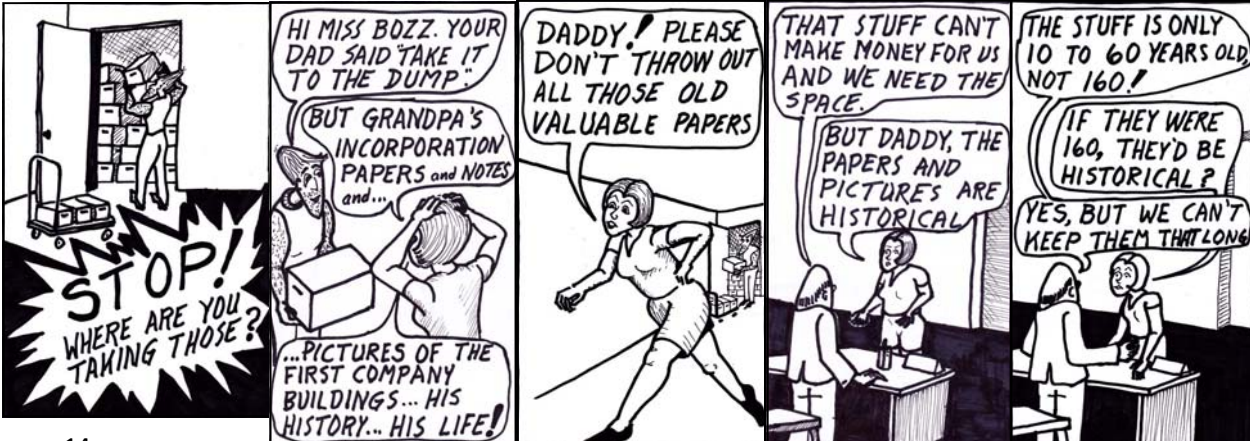
Rockies on the far horizon,  
infinite tender sky,  
the ripe rich tint of the wheat fields,  
and the wild ducks sailing high,  
and over the lakes and the uplands  
a honking wild goose squad.  
Some folks called it Autumn  
and others called it God.

Well, take a rest. It was along winded speech but they seemed to enjoy it and I thought you would like to hear it.

This graphic "novelette" was drawn by board member and artist Gordon Mackey as he was mulling over how to get the concept of "What Archives Do" across to the custodians of archival records. It applies especially to business, and so we have included it in this issue. It is available in booklet format from the Archives for anyone wanting a copy/copies.

# R. KIVES AND HER MAGIC WHITE GLOVES

© SOUTH PEACE REGIONAL ARCHIVES  
DRAWN BY GORDON MACKAY





# Featured Paper Artifact: Transportation of Corpse of Corpse



John Fulton Hodgson was a farmer and lumber mill owner living near Hythe, Alberta. In 1934 he had an accident at his mill cutting shingles, with the loss of his foot as the result. He did not fully recover from this injury and in 1937 in ill health he traveled to the Grande Prairie Hospital. It was decided that they needed to operate; sadly, after removal of his kidney John passed away. In order to transport his remains back to Hythe the family had to apply for a permit called the "Transportation of a Corpse." This document gives very detailed death information, the date, time, cause, and place. The local board of health as well as the undertaker all had to give approval on this document. Upon arrival in Hythe a funeral was held for John, who was then buried in the Hythe Cemetery.

This document is located in the Hodgson collection which is being processed right now and will be finished and accessible soon.

ORIGINAL

EDMONTON, DUNVEGAN AND BRITISH COLUMBIA RAILWAY COMPANY  
ALBERTA AND GREAT WATERWAYS RAILWAY COMPANY  
CENTRAL CANADA RAILWAY COMPANY

Form B 5611 A

**TRANSPORTATION OF CORPSE**  
Transit Permit No. \_\_\_\_\_ (Give Station Number)

**PHYSICIAN'S OR CORONER'S CERTIFICATE**

Name of Decedent John F. Hodgson Date of Death February 21st 1937  
 Hour of Death 11:25 P.M. Age 64 Years -- Months -- Days --  
 Place of Death Grande Prairie, Alta Cause of Death Shock - Reflexology  
 which is a non-communicable disease.

I hereby certify that the above is true to the best of my knowledge and belief.  
 \_\_\_\_\_ M.D. or Coroner.

Residence Grande Prairie County of -- Prov. or County of Alta

---

**PERMIT OF LOCAL BOARD OF HEALTH**

This permit must be properly signed, and with Physician's Certificate presented to the Railway Agent before a body can be shipped.

In the Grande Prairie Town of Grande Prairie County of --  
 Prov. or State of Alberta on the 23rd day of February 1937

Permission is hereby given James B. Oliver  
 to remove for burial at Hythe in the County of Alberta  
 Prov. or State of Alberta the body of John F. Hodgson  
 who died at Grande Prairie County of -- Prov. or State of Alberta  
 on the 21st day of February 1937 Aged 64 Years -- Months -- Days

and E. H. Oliver is hereby authorized to accompany said remains.  
 Signed E. H. Oliver Health Officer.

For the transportation of bodies dead of smallpox, Asiatic cholera, yellow fever, typhus fever or bubonic plague, an absolutely valid preceding Certificate must be attached and delivered to the Person in Charge of Corpses.

---

EDMONTON, DUNVEGAN AND BRITISH COLUMBIA RAILWAY COMPANY  
ALBERTA AND GREAT WATERWAYS RAILWAY COMPANY  
CENTRAL CANADA RAILWAY COMPANY

Certificate and Shipping Paster below must be detached at perforation and securely tacked or pasted on the Coffin Box.

**PASTER** Transit Permit No. \_\_\_\_\_ (Give Station Number)

**CERTIFICATE OF UNDERTAKER**

I hereby certify that the accompanying dead body of John F. Hodgson  
 (If a minor, give parent's name also) Hythe in the County of -- Prov. or State of Alta  
 and who died of reflexology has been prepared by me, strictly in accordance with  
 Rules of the Provincial or State Board of Health, for transportation of corpses, and in conformity with said  
 Rules as printed on the back of this permit.

Residence Grande Prairie Shipping Undertaker E. H. Oliver  
 Given and subscribed to before me this 23rd day of February A.D. 1937

Witnesses must enter herein a description of the tickets held by agents for himself and corpse and the route and the place of destination.  
SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS—A burial case containing a corpse must not be received for transportation unless the person in charge of the remains presents a certificate of the attending physician or coroner, a permit from the Board of Health and an Undertaker's Certificate that the body has been prepared for burial according to law. Neither will it be received if any fluids or offensive odors are escaping from the case.

Date \_\_\_\_\_ 19\_\_\_\_

From \_\_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_\_ Prov. or State of \_\_\_\_\_

No. of Ticket of Escort \_\_\_\_\_ Form No. of Ticket of Escort \_\_\_\_\_  
 No. of Corpse Ticket \_\_\_\_\_ Form No. of Corpse Ticket \_\_\_\_\_

Via \_\_\_\_\_ R. R. To \_\_\_\_\_  
 Via \_\_\_\_\_ R. R. To \_\_\_\_\_  
 Via \_\_\_\_\_ R. R. To \_\_\_\_\_  
 Via \_\_\_\_\_ R. R. To \_\_\_\_\_  
 Via \_\_\_\_\_ R. R. To \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Passenger in charge \_\_\_\_\_ Place of Residence \_\_\_\_\_  
 Signed \_\_\_\_\_ Station B.M. \_\_\_\_\_

SEE RULES AND INSTRUCTIONS ON THE OTHER SIDE

# A Lumber Mill on the Cutbank River

*From the Hodgson Family fonds*



*The Hodgson home, built using lumber from the lumber mill, ca. 1958 (SPRA 630.08.242)*

*The following story was found in the Hodgson family collection, which Patricia is currently processing. We do not know the author, but it is well written and compelling. Lea Hodgson arrived in the Peace Country in the 1920s and spent much effort on the lumber industry around Hythe.*

## Lumber Mill on the Cutbank River

It was before 1933 that Lea and his father, John Hodgson, left their farm at Hythe to blaze a trail to the Cutbank River to survey the timber stands in that area. The yield looked pretty promising. They set about to make arrangements at the Forestry Office in Grande Prairie to lease a timber berth and started



*A row of sheds at Hodgson's Sawmill site, ca. 1930 (SPRA 630.05.06)*

looking for a second-hand sawmill. This they were able to procure from Lester Hommy. The next step was to talk to neighbors to see if they were interested in falling and skidding trees to the mill site. Axes, crosscut saws, horses for skidding and power to operate the mill were all essentials. Men were available... neighbours were anxious to exchange labor for lumber since they needed materials to erect buildings on their farm sites.

The first lumber went into the construction of a shelter over the mill, bunk houses, tool sheds, etc. Soon the operation was in full swing. Loggers included Jim Holly, Aubrey Hawkesworth, Mike Weller, and Carl Moller.

These, together with Lea and his father John, made up the first crew.

A Lymburn homesteader, Max Sudnik, agreed to haul out the lumber. This in itself was no easy task! Max found he had to use his horses, first of all, to break a fresh trail after each heavy snowfall. Then there was the obstacle of the sleigh runners catching in stumps and often upsetting the load. A man with the determination of Max Sudnik was, however, able to overcome these and many other difficulties.

At the mill site and in the bush the operators considered themselves pretty lucky. The only serious accident was a broken arm—the result of a planer catastrophe. The victim was Carl Moller. Soon ten men

made up that hard working crew. No job description in those days... you did whatever you had to do to turn out lumber for which there was no guarantee of sale.

The barter system of “you bring in the logs to the mill in exchange for the amount of lumber mutually agreed upon” was commonly referred to as “wooden nickel transactions.” Lea remembers in particular one agreement for lumber he made with the Committee who built the first curling rink at Hythe. The price agreed upon was \$10.00 per thousand board feet, F.O.B. the mill *[to be picked up at the mill]*. Due to unforeseen complications, it ended up that Lea delivered this lumber to the site and in turn then considered himself lucky to get the “agreed price.” Fortunately for the group of hard working recreation volunteers, Lea was a lover of sports and wanted to see the facility built as much as they did. He, therefore, decided to go the extra mile, which turned out to be not one mile, but a fifty mile round trip with each load of lumber delivered.

Lea married Sophie Gass in 1938. He continued to deliver lumber to his yard in Hythe. Other lumber turned out at the mill was going into the construction of the Hodgson home, a large barn-like building a quarter mile east of Hythe. Steve Olichny was the construction foreman.

The war years intervened, and the demand for lumber grew. In fact, Lea remembers cleaning out his yard to make a delivery to the Americans who were based at Dawson Creek. They were so hungry for lumber they took anything and everything... dimensions... planking... timbers... all paid for in American currency. No more wooden nickels!

In 1944, the Hodgson Mill was sold to Jim Elliott and James Gault. Kingsbury retired from the Frontier Lumber Yard. Lea was hired as manager and

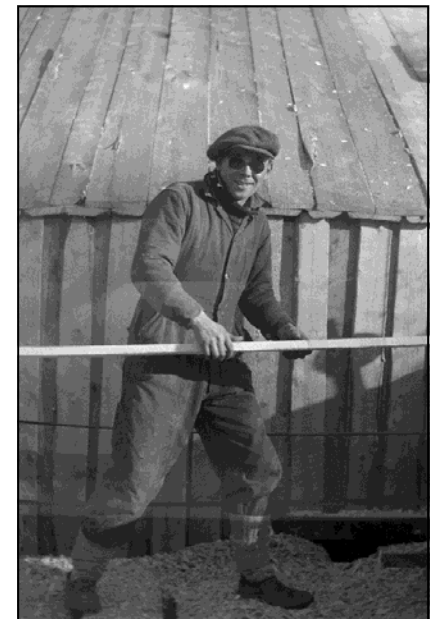


*A big pile of logs that have been delimbed and are ready for the sawmill, ca. 1930 (SPRA 630.05.07)*

continued on in that capacity for the next twenty-seven years. During the intervening years, “Frontier” was swallowed up by “Beaver Lumber.”

When Lea retired, new managers were brought in to run the Hythe

outlet. Beaver Lumber was by now owned by Molson Brewery. Lea’s only regret as he looks back to all the effort he put into building up the “Beaver Lumber” business was the unhappy ending of that particular outlet. In spite of it having the best record of collections, and the fourth highest record of sales for all the “Beaver” outlets in the Peace Country, it was subsequently closed out by this powerful corporation. They had little consideration for the need of a lumberyard in the Hythe area. In fact, they refused to sell the property without adding a clause stipulating that the (Purchasers) would never use this property as a lumber outlet at any future date. This guaranteed them no competition as far as their other outlets were concerned. A group of financiers sitting around a board table need not consider people!



*Lea Hodgson wearing goggles and pushing lumber into the mill, ca. 1930 (SPRA 630.05.12)*

# What Archives Do & Why We Do It

by Leslie Gordon

1942 Butter and Cheese Report, from Fonds 161, Ridge Valley Co-operative Association

Author's Note: No doubt you've noticed by now a common theme running through this issue of the newsletter. Most of the articles and features focus on some aspect of commerce in the South Peace Region. You could say we're taking care of business, in a different way!

As consumers, we interact with businesses every day, whether we are buying goods or using services. Business records capture an important part of life in a community, documenting the development and operation of the business itself, as well as its place in the larger community and in the lives of individual citizens.

Business records document the business's decisions, activities, interactions, rights, obligations, public relations, advertising campaigns, and celebrations. They may be used by the business's own employees, board, and stockholders, as well as outside researchers. The overall records of a business include administrative records like personnel management, finances, facilities, equipment, and supplies, which document day-to-day activities. Many of these records do not need to be kept for the long-term. The other records of the business are operational records documenting core functions, activities, decisions, legal obligations, and responsibilities. Many of these records have long term value and need to be kept.

Some businesses maintain their own archives, with their own professional staff. These businesses recognize that archives have commercial value and

can be used to enhance the company's branding and provide ideas for future products, as well as tell the story of the company, document decisions and legal rights, and function as the continuing corporate memory even as individual employees

come and go. However, this is not a model that works well for every business, particularly if the business is quite small.

In other cases, businesses may choose to donate their records to an outside archives, such as South Peace Regional Archives. Businesses may be motivated to donate their records because they are aware of the historical role they have played in the community and wish to have that story preserved for future generations. Others may be running into space shortages in their offices and wish to divest themselves of records they are no longer using on a regular basis. Other businesses may no longer be in business, but are unwilling to just let their records go to the dump.

The business records at SPRA have arrived in different ways. Some are part of family and personal fonds because they are businesses that the family dealt with. For instance, numerous fonds include receipts and correspondence from various businesses that the creators interacted with. In other cases, the records were donated by the business themselves or the family or person that ran the business, as in the case of the C. S. Hook & Sons fonds featured earlier in this issue, or the Panda Camera fonds donated by owner Paul Pivert.

The kinds of records businesses create and keep are in many ways similar to those of municipalities and other organizations. Records of permanent value can include the documents of registration or incorporation, minutes of boards, committees,

working groups, task forces or shareholders' meetings, annual and special reports, general ledgers, year-end financial statements and auditors' reports, licences, legal papers like contracts, agreements, and leases, product and equipment design specifications and inventories, some personnel records, job descriptions, and staff policies and procedures, maps, blueprints and building plans, photographs, film, and videos of staff, buildings, and events, promotional and advertising literature, newsletters, and histories. Records of less permanent value, but which may also be retained, include business plans, goals and objectives, letterhead, business cards, banking records, stock books, fee schedules, customer lists and records, supplier lists, insurance papers, correspondence with suppliers and customers, awards and certificates, membership documents, and occasionally reference material related to the line of business. As in the case of photographic studios or newspapers, the records of a business can also include examples of their products and services.

The records kept by SPRA for each business fonds vary, usually depending on the amount and types of records available. For example, if there are complete financial statements and a general ledger, we wouldn't keep individual receipts, invoices, and cheques. However, if the higher-level records are missing and all that still exists are the more transitory records, they would be kept to provide some documentation about the existence and operation of the business.

Related to the records of individual businesses are the records of associations of businesses, such as Boards of Trade and Chambers of Commerce. SPRA is a home for these records, as well. The Boards of Trade often began relatively early in their community's development and were key instruments in improving conditions and services for residents, as well as

promoting the community and its needs to the outside world, lobbying for better transportation networks and other improvements.

One of our most interesting films was made by the Eaglesham Board of Trade. Originally one of several reels of film, the film documents the community around the year 1960. It is now available in digitized form on our YouTube channel and gives unique (and occasionally amusing) insight into the life of a small South Peace community. The records of the Wanham Board of Trade and Sexsmith Board of Trade at SPRA include minutes, financial records, and correspondence, giving a more complete picture of the operation of these groups, particularly in their early days. Although some of these Boards of Trade are now defunct, we, and the generations to come after us, are aware of their activities and the unique contributions they made to the growth of our communities because their records are preserved and available at SPRA.

One Board of Trade still in operation is the Grande Prairie Chamber of Commerce, which recently celebrated its 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary. Because the Chamber had made donations of their records and photographs in the past, the anniversary committee was able to visit the Archives and access their material fairly easily, seeing what had been done for previous anniversaries and selecting photos to help celebrate this special milestone.

Business records add another layer to the picture of life in the communities of the South Peace. SPRA is always seeking records from businesses, as this is one

area of our collection that needs enhancing. So if business is or was your business, give us a call or a visit. We'd love to hear from you and talk about how we can help preserve your records.

A. & J.O. Patterson share certificate, from Fonds 359, Grande Prairie Electric Company.



# Jack Penson: Boy Soldier, or NOT!

By Charlie Penson

*This article by Charlie Penson, President of our Friends of the Archives Society, illustrates his interest in family stories, and the importance of preserving how our families and communities fit into world events.*

One hundred years ago the “War To End All Wars” was raging in Europe. Hardly a family in Canada escaped its wrath, with so many loved ones engaged in this great struggle. Patriotic fever was high, as many families had just immigrated to Canada from Europe. There was a very real expectation that every healthy young man should “do their part”.

Young men, in fact many only boys who lied about their age, eagerly joined up to give the enemy a “good lickin” thinking they would be back home within a few months.

Canada was at war with Germany. However, by 1915, the early enthusiasm that the war would be over quickly had faded. The call for more resources was increasing steadily. More men and equipment were urgently needed to defeat the “Dreaded Hun”. Fighting was fierce, down to trench warfare, with little advancement for either side.

Canadians anxiously followed news from the front through extensive newspaper coverage.

Sadly, some families were to hear directly from the War Department. News of a son, brother, father either killed or wounded was being delivered with increasing regularity. Grieving family members turned to each other for comfort as the loss of their loved one was suddenly realized.

This was the atmosphere my family found itself in when, in 1917, the telegram that every family feared was delivered. The Penson Family was living in Wynndel, B.C when the news was received of the death of Private Edgar Penson, 2nd Battalion, Canadian Mounted Rifles at the Battle of

Passchendaele November 1, 1917. This was not the first time tragedy had struck my grandfather but another loss that he must bear. They said my grandfather cried for three days, Edgar being the fourth of his children from his first family to die.

My dad, being of an impressionable age and having recently lost his stepbrother Edgar at Passchendaele, and his classmate Edward Dewar, whose brother was a pilot in that war, were eager to take up the fight. Perhaps that’s what motivated the two boys to run away from home and enlist.

Although it was related to me over 60 years ago, the recent Remembrance Day Ceremonies and the Hundred Year Anniversary coverage of the First World War stirred me to write what I remember of his fascinating story. He told the story several times but looking back now I wish I would have asked for more details.

Sometime in the summer of 1918 Dad (Jack Penson), and school friend Edward Dewar, decided that they would join the Canadian Army. They were both underage; Dad was only fourteen. Although it was not uncommon for recruits to lie about their age to get into the Army, it was probably the reason they were unsuccessful when they tried to join at the neighboring town of Creston, only ten miles away, where people knew who they were.

Having failed in this attempt, they then decided to cross the border to Sandpoint, Idaho, U.S.A. and try there. They lied about their age and Edward Dewar, being larger than dad, qualified on his first attempt. Dad was not quite heavy enough so the boys decided he should drink a lot of water to add weight. Although he was very uncomfortable, he made it on the second try.

Soon after they were enlisted they found themselves on a train to Texas for basic training. They had not

informed their parents and were not about to, as this would wreck plans for their great adventure.

From here the story is a bit vague. I remember Dad telling about the train being diverted to a siding while rail crews worked on the broken track. The weather was very hot. The soldiers were sleeping, lying on the seats with their feet out the windows. Dad told about being awakened by a tap on his new army boots. A rail worker asked “how much for the boots soldier”? I can’t recall whether any transaction took place but the prospect of getting another pair from the army probably wasn’t worth the risk.

He told about going to a baseball game in New York as part of thousands of soldiers given free passes to the game. He was amazed by all the people. They were pretty high up in the stands and the players looked small on the field.

How long they were in New York is unknown, but he told that at some point they were ordered for departure to Germany. They were put aboard a huge troop ship for departure the next day for Europe. With his deployment imminent, he decided it was safe to write his mother and tell her what he had done. It was with great excitement that he announced he was leaving the next morning and informed his parents the next the time they would hear from him he would be fighting Germans.

But fate was to intervene. The breaking news the next morning, November 11, 1918, was that an Armistice had been reached. All plans for troop deployment were put on hold until it could be determined how many occupational forces were needed. Weeks passed and they sat waiting, not knowing what would happen next.



*Above, the Penson family in Saskatchewan about four years after Jack’s escapade in World War I. From left to right: Jack’s brother Charles, father Fred, sisters Mae and Dorothy, Jack Penson, sister Mabel and mother Mabel.*

Meanwhile, his letter had reached home and his mother was not sitting still. She contacted their Member of Parliament, informed him that her son, an under-aged Canadian citizen had run away from home, joined the United States Army and was due to be sent off to Germany. While bureaucracy and diplomacy can sometimes move slowly, it began to work.

One morning my father, the fourteen-year-old far from his home in Southeastern British Columbia, got a surprise visit from two burly military police asking him if he was Pte. Penson. Not aware of what was happening, he replied “Yes” eagerly to their question. “Private Penson come with us”.

He was taken to an officer who told him the game was up; he was being sent home as soon as arrangements with the Canadian Government could be completed. In the meantime he was to occupy a spot in the Military Brig where he cooled his heels until his trip home. Of course he would still have to deal with a furious mother when he returned home. But then he was a year older and a lot wiser, having turned fifteen on January 2, 1919!

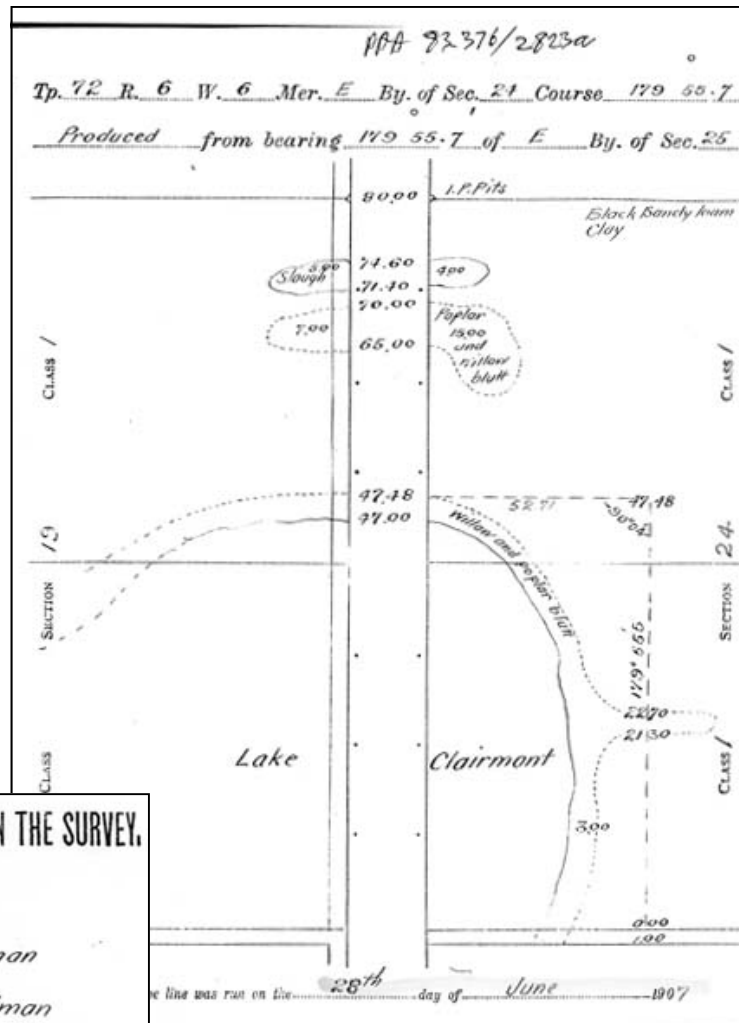
# SPRA Society & Member News

After the September issue of "Telling Our Stories," we received the following letter from one of our readers:

*In the last issue of "Telling Our Stories," it was stated that Clairmont was named by Walter McFarlane after his hometown of Claremont, and he surveyed the quarter section during 1909-1910.*

*Actually, the first use of the name was in 1907, by the earlier surveyor of the township boundary, J.B. St. Cyr. See the attached pages from St. Cyr's Field Book. It shows his sketch and also that one Eugene Clairmont was a cook in his survey crew.*

We'd like to thank our reader for bringing this to our attention!



NAMES AND DUTIES OF PERSONS EMPLOYED ON THE SURVEY.	
Rodolph Gouin	1st Chairman
Ernest Saint Cyr	2nd Chairman
Eugene Clairmont	Cook
Dolphis Letendre	Moulder
Ernest Constantin	Labourer
Eudore Germain	"
Joseph Fergusson	"
Jos Goulet	Flagman
Thomas Deschatelet	Labourer

## Volunteer Opportunity

**Can you read Ukrainian?**

We are looking for a volunteer who can read Ukrainian to help us index the All Saints Ukrainian Catholic Cemetery. Please contact if this is a project you would be able to help us with!

# From the Blog: One Stop Shopping

By Kathryn Auger



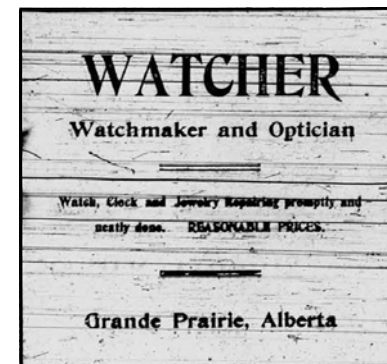
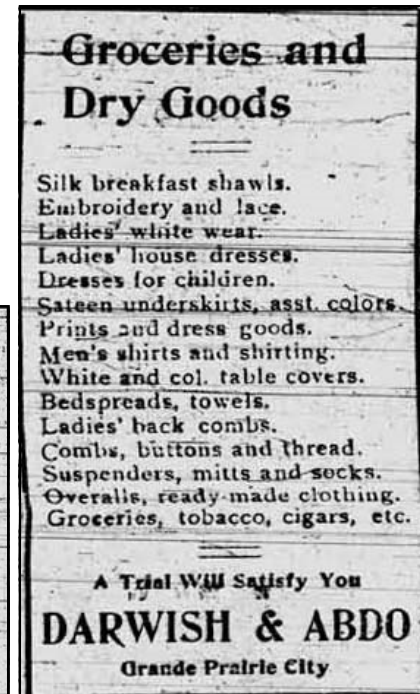
Pure Drugs (left) and Millinery and Dry Goods Store (below) advertisements taken from the Frontier Signal, November 19, 1914.

Remaining three advertisements are from the Frontier Signal, November 11, 1915.

You may have noticed that the familiar Kathryn's Picks column is absent from this issue. In the future we'll be featuring a post from the blog instead. You'll still get the news clipping, but it will be complemented by Kathryn's text and occasionally a photo as well. We hope you'll enjoy this new addition to our newsletter!

Retail trends are always changing, and it seems like we have come back to the idea of being able to buy everything in one store, from groceries to hardware to clothing. This was the kind of store that first opened in Grande Prairie in the very early days. Ads from the newspapers show what a mix of merchandise and services were available in the local stores in 1913-1915. Remember that this was before the railway reached Grande Prairie, and everything had to be brought in by stage over the Edson Trail.

Sometimes unusual combinations of services were available in the same store. While the watchmaker also being an optician doesn't seem like too much of a stretch, buying a hat and a marriage license in the same store or borrowing a book from the circulating library at the drug store does show the ingenuity of the merchants in providing as many services as they could in such a small town.



## New at the Archives

### Thank You Donors!

The collections at SPRA have all been donated by individuals, organizations, and municipal governments. You are our only resource for the preservation of the history of the South Peace. Here are a few of our recent donations.

Photographs of Grande Prairie, [1941-1945]  
*By Stan Thew*

Forestry Records and Isolated Graves, [1955-1980]  
*By Dave & Bunny Schenk*

GP High School Commencement Program, 1959  
*By Joan Patterson*

Peace River Livestock Assn records, [1950-2000]  
Valhalla Co-op records, 1988-1996  
*By Dorothea Omlid*

*Glen Leslie Church Centennial, 1915-2015*  
*By Wanda Zenner*

Collection of Community History Books  
*By the Estate of Roy & Noreen Bickell*

Daily Registers for Sexsmith, Beaverlodge, and Spirit River, [1950-1990]  
*By Catholic School District #28*

*Hythe's Hockey History* Publication, 1915  
*By Clayton Greber*

### South Peace Regional Archives

is funded by  
City of Grande Prairie, County of Grande Prairie, MD of Greenview, MD of Spirit River, grants from the Archives Society and the Province of Alberta, and donations from people like you!

## New Faces at the Archives



Patricia Greber will replace Leslie Gordon as Archivist while Leslie is on maternity leave. If her face looks familiar, it is because she was formerly an archives technician at SPRA. We're delighted to have her back!

### Nathaniel David Gordon

**Wednesday,  
November 4, 2015**

**7lb 14 oz**

One of the Archives' newest acquisitions is Nathaniel David Gordon, born on November 4, 2015. He's not very old yet, but we think he qualifies for at least part of our mandate, originating in the South Peace. Parents Leslie and Ryan Gordon are retaining the original, but have submitted this copy for the Archives' holdings.



## South Peace Regional Archives Society Membership Application/Renewal Form

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Postal Code: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Interested in being involved as a: \_\_\_\_\_ volunteer \_\_\_\_\_ board member

There are two types of membership:

Full membership--get involved in the society, attend meetings, vote on issues and run for office.

Associate membership--receive communications (like this newsletter) to stay informed about issues and happenings at the Archives.

This membership is \_\_\_\_\_ new \_\_\_\_\_ renewal

Full Membership  
\$20.00/person or \$30.00/couple \_\_\_\_\_

Associate Member  
\$15.00/person \_\_\_\_\_

I wish to donate to the  
South Peace Regional Archives \_\_\_\_\_

Total Membership and Donation \_\_\_\_\_

Please pay by cash or cheque to  
South Peace Regional Archives Society  
Box 687, Grande Prairie, AB. T8V 3A8  
Phone: 780-830-5105  
Fax: 780-831-7371  
E-mail: [spra@telus.net](mailto:spra@telus.net)

THANK YOU FOR  
SUPPORTING



SOUTH PEACE REGIONAL ARCHIVES

PLEASE VISIT US AT

---

WWW.SOUTHPEACEARCHIVES.ORG

---

