

TELLING OUR STORIES

Volume 10

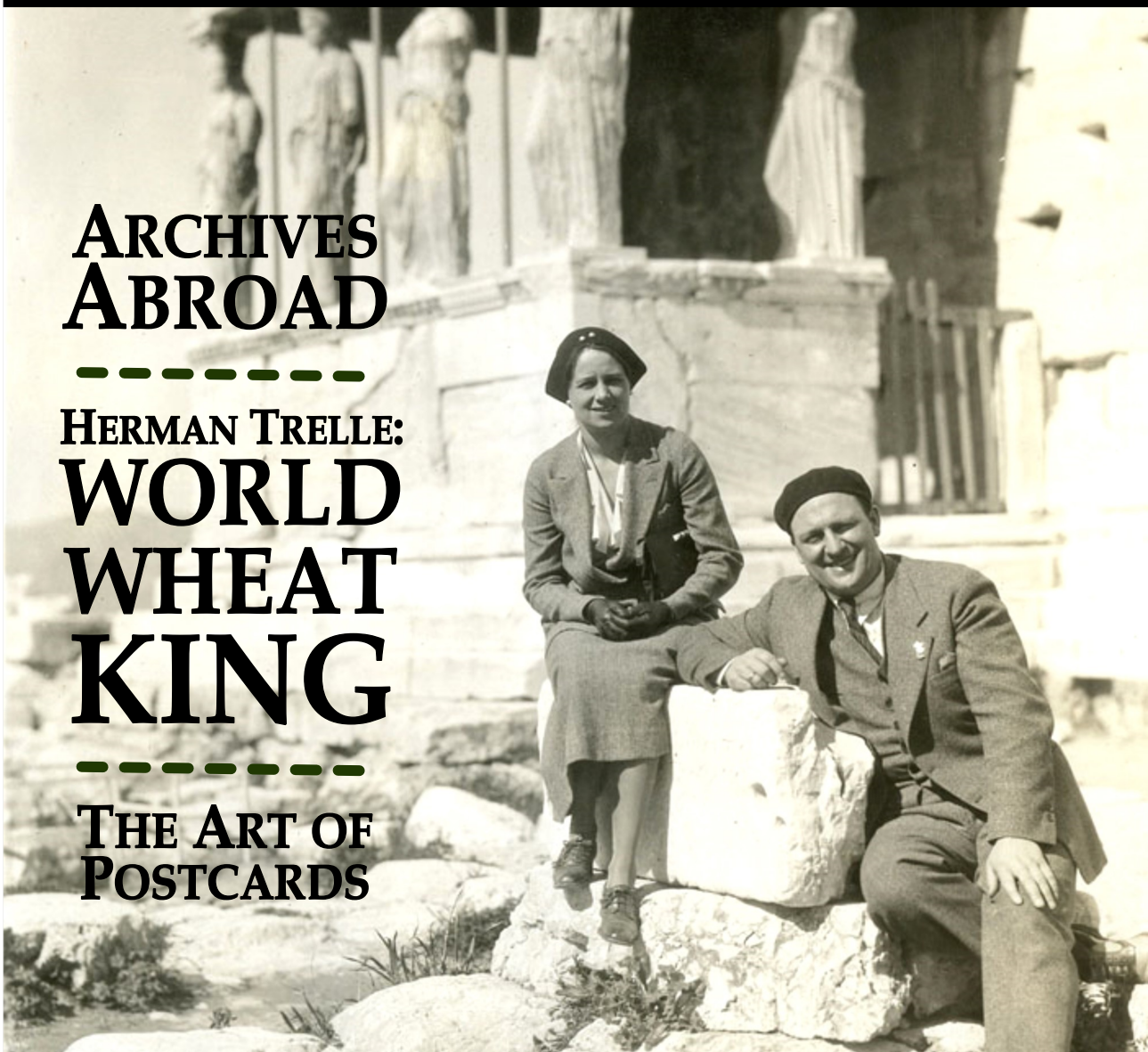
DECEMBER 2018

Issue 1

ARCHIVES
ABROAD

HERMAN TRELLE:
WORLD
WHEAT
KING

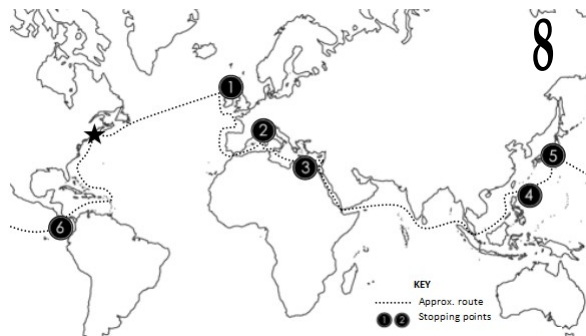
THE ART OF
POSTCARDS



A PUBLICATION OF THE SOUTH PEACE REGIONAL ARCHIVES

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Cover: Herman and Beatrice Trelle pose beside the ruins of a temple in Greece as part of their 1931-1932 World Tour (SPRA 193.02.05.43-5d)

Note on Photographs: Photographs featured in *Telling Our Stories* are unedited, apart from minimal cropping. In cases where substantial cropping may impact the context of the photograph, this will be noted in the caption.

A Publication of the South Peace Regional Archives

Our Vision: Preserving and Sharing the Past.
Our Mission: The purpose of South Peace Regional Archives is to gather, preserve, and share the historical records of municipalities, organizations, businesses, families, and individuals within the region, both now and in the future.

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Letter from the Editor

This issue of *Telling Our Stories* explores the international travels of people from the South Peace. It considers the motivations that encouraged people to travel, the records they produced during their travel or brought home with them, and the uses of these records upon their return. Collectively, the articles in this issue demonstrate that records do not always have to be produced in the South Peace in order to tell its history.

Our feature story highlights the most well-known international traveller in the Archives collection: Herman Trelle. Trelle's tours as the World Wheat King brought international attention to the South Peace (p. 6,8). Others had different motivations for travel: reuniting with family (p. 12), seeking adventure (p. 13), sharing a story (p. 20) or serving their country (p. 22). All these travellers share a common trait.

Regardless of their motives, these travellers created a bounty of archival records that documented their experiences. These records, in turn, provide information to researchers around the globe (p. 5). From postcards (p. 10) to family photographs (p. 16, 18), the records held in the Archives' collection have often travelled great distances before their arrival here and will travel great distances more after.

This issue of *Telling Our Stories* represents a collective effort from many supporters. We are grateful for all those who contributed to this issue of the magazine.



Alyssa Currie
SPRA Executive Director

Take Note: Upcoming Programs

The Archives is partnering with the Grande Prairie Museum bring back our popular adult evening programs. **"Documenting Your Life Story"** will be held on **11 March 2018, 6:00-7:30pm**. This session will provide you with ideas that will help you communicate your life experience to your descendants. The workshop is free but space is limited. **Call the museum at 780-830-7090** for more information and to register.

The Archives is delighted to announce the adoption of our very own **Elf on the Shelf**. Fred Fonds will be visiting us during the month of December and reporting back to Santa at the North Pole. **Follow us on Facebook** to see what naughty and nice adventures Fred gets into at the Archives!



Territory Acknowledgement

We acknowledge with respect that the South Peace Regional Archives is located on the ancestral and traditional lands of many Indigenous peoples. This territory is covered by Treaty 8, signed in 1899. The continuing relationship between Indigenous peoples and this land contributes to the rich knowledge and culture of the South Peace region.

We are grateful to serve the people on this land and honor the Calls for Action of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission.

Archives Abroad

The Archives recently received a query from a researcher in Germany. Jürgen kindly gave us permission to share some of his family's story.

"My paternal family lived for several generations until the Second World War in a small village west of the town of Lutsk in Volhynia, now Ukraine. They were descendants of German colonists who had left their homeland in the 18th century to seek a better life in the East. Almost all of them were farmers.

At that time, life there was really not easy and people had to work very hard to make ends meet. In the late 1920s, the population in the villages had grown so much that there was not enough land left to feed all of them. Therefore, many families decided to leave Volhynia. They emigrated to distant countries like Brazil, Argentina, the US and Canada.

A few of my relatives sought their fortune overseas. One of my father's oldest cousins, Alvina Reichert (Mundt), emigrated together with her husband Arnold and their children to Canada in 1929. In the first years, they maintained contact with their relatives left behind in Volhynia, but after the end of the Second World War they certainly lost touch.

I have already been researching my family history for several years and one day, I wondered how the life of Alvina and Arnold had gone further after they had arrived in Canada. Unfortunately, I did not know exactly where they had settled

in Canada. So I started looking for any clues of them on the internet. Finally, I discovered this wonderful website of the South Peace Regional Archives. There I found the names of my relatives listed in the database "Compiled Community Book Names Index". Then I contacted the archive by email and I asked for assistance. I was surprised to receive an answer to my request the same day. The staff were extremely friendly and they helped me a lot in my search for information about my relatives. Really amazing!

I am very happy to have found this website and I recommend it to anyone who wants to do research in this region.

Many thanks and kind regards from Germany!

Jürgen M."

Photograph from Where the Red Willow Grew, page 235



L. to R.: Ella, Hedwig, Eugenia, Theo. Front row: Eric, Leo, Holdina Reichert.

Herman Trelle: World Wheat King

Herman Trelle was an internationally recognized grain farmer who won many international grain championships and awards in the 1920s and early 1930s. The Herman Trelle family fonds (fonds 193) documents his life in the South Peace and journey to international renown.

Trelle took over his family's farm with his wife Beatrice in 1920, when his parents retired. By this time, Herman had already spent many summers proving up his homestead and working on the family farm. He also completed an undergraduate degree from the University of Alberta, and enlisted in the 1st Depot Battalion, Alberta Regiment during World War I. After the war he married Beatrice Irene Burdick whom he had met while working in his father's mill.

Herman and Beatrice Trelle farmed very successfully near Saskatoon Lake, and soon gained international recognition for growing prize winning grain in the Peace Country. Their first award was at the Edmonton show in 1922 for Ruby wheat and Banner oats. Only one year later, they won third prize in spring wheat at the Chicago Fair. This was the beginning of multiple awards.

In 1928 the Trelle farm won a double championship in wheat and oats at the Chicago Fair: the first time in history that the two championships had been won by a single competitor. According to an article by Ina Bruns, "from 1926 to 1934 he won 135 international



Above: Herman Trelle in his wheat field, Alberta. (SPRA 032.08.07.034)

awards. Between 1926-1928 he and his wife entered 56 exhibits in thirteen major shows and won 43 championships, 14 were international. In 1931, Herman Trelle won not only the wheat crown, but world titles for oats, rye, flax and timothy."

To achieve these distinctions during the Great Depression brought hope for a hungry world. Trelle was a motivated self-promoter, and made use of his title as World Wheat King to bring international attention to the South Peace area. In 1931, after winning numerous international titles, Herman and Beatrice embarked on a promotional tour around the globe. Fonds 193 contains numerous documents related to Trelle's World Tour, including: travel artifacts, letters, and more than 300 photographs and postcards. According to Trelle, the trip had been financed by Cana-

dian Pacific, although this claim was later disputed when the family's mounting debt forced them to relocate to Grande Prairie. The travel documents within the collection chronicle numerous speaking engagements and social events but provide little information on the source of financing. However, many of the postcards are from hotels owned by Canadian Pacific Railways.

On February 3, 1931, Herman and Beatrice left New York on the *Empress of France* on a round-the-world tour on the Canadian Pacific Steamships lines. A typical world tour lasted 128 days and included the Mediterranean, North Africa and the Holy Land, through the Suez Canal and into the Red Sea, then to India, Ceylon, Southeast Asia and the Dutch East Indies, on to China, Hong Kong and Japan, then across the Pacific to Hawaii and California before traversing the Panama Canal back to New York. The Trelle's tour includes many of these locations but appears to have been much longer. They were still touring in January 1932 and planning to sail on the *Empress Russia* from Kobe, Japan in February.



Above: Program for a welcome dinner hosted by the Rotary Club of Kyoto, January 29th 1932 at Kyoto Hotel (SPRA fonds 193)

Right: Gibraltar, 1931 (SPRA 193.02.06.10)

Trelle's work, along with that of other grain award winners, proved the potential of the rich farmland of the Peace River Country. His world tour turned the agricultural limelight on the north and encouraged many to settle in the South Peace. His records document the global attention and hope directed at this area during the Great Depression.

The following pages feature an approximate map of the Trelle's World Tour and photographs from their journey. Can you correctly identify the image locations? Those interested in seeing more photographs are encouraged to visit *Alberta on Record* for a selection of digitized images or the Archives reading room for an in-person consultation.

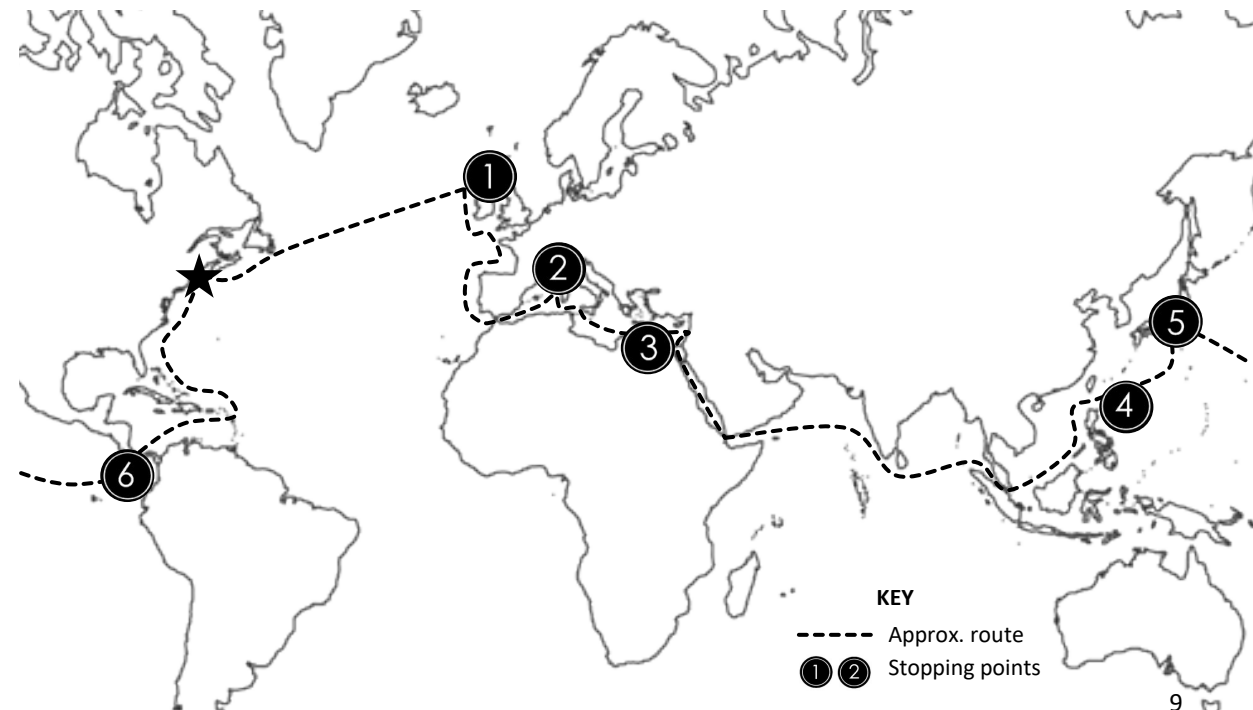
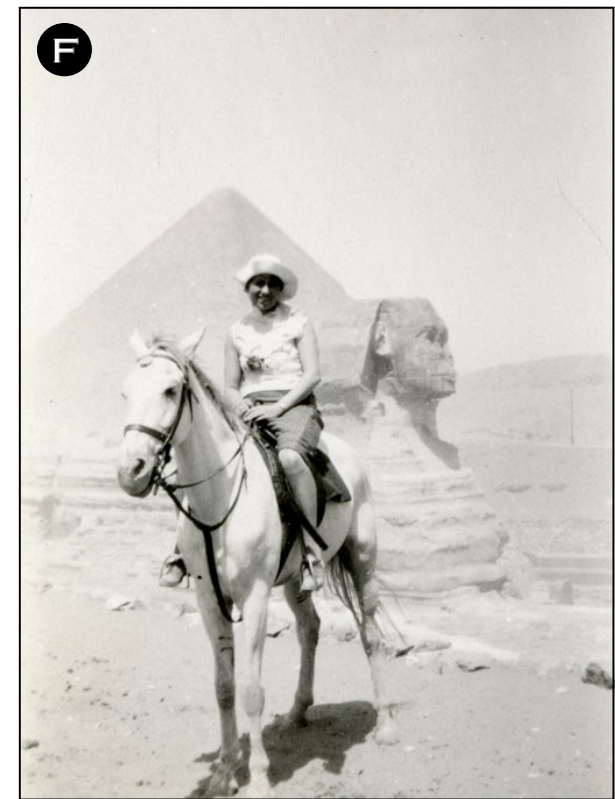
Where in the World Is the Wheat King?

World Wheat King Herman Trelle and his wife Beatrice went on a world tour in 1931 and 1932, taking plenty of snapshots along the way to share with friends and family when they returned. Can you follow their journey and match the photographs to the correct locations on the map?

Solution to the puzzle can be found on page 26

A B C D E F

1 2 3 4 5 6



The Art of Postcards:

History in the Mail

The history of postcards dates back one hundred and fifty years. Immensely popular, these affordable, attractive, and sometimes kitschy items likely owe their existence to stamps.

Before the 1840's, mail rates varied depending on the number of sheets in a letter and on the distance the letter travelled. Postage was payable upon receipt of the letter. If the addressee refused the letter, the post office was out of luck. The Postmaster General of England, Sir Rowland Hill, proposed two of the changes we take for granted today: postage should be at a set rate to anywhere in England, and the sender should pay it. Proof of prepayment would be required. That proof of course, was the stamp, and in 1839, Sir Hill's proposals were passed in the Penny Postage Act. The first penny postage (called the Penny Black because of its black background) first sold on 1 May 1840 and the first Canadian stamp (the Three Penny Beaver) was issued 23 April 1851.

The penny postage made mail affordable and more reliable. Paper cost was still an issue. Luckily, postal cards soon followed the new postage system. Like many popular, mass produced items, there is some question as to where and who developed the first private postcard. We can only be certain that, by the 1870s, governments began to issue "postals" - plain cards with a stamp image on the back.

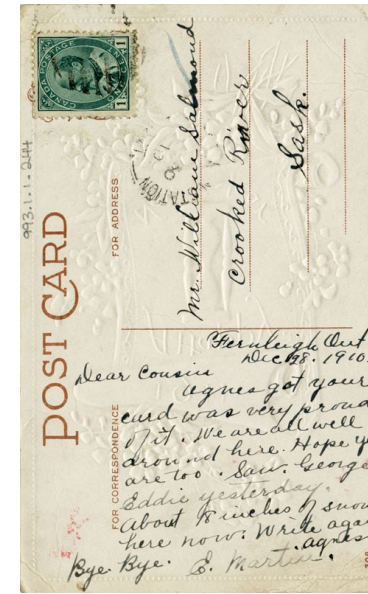
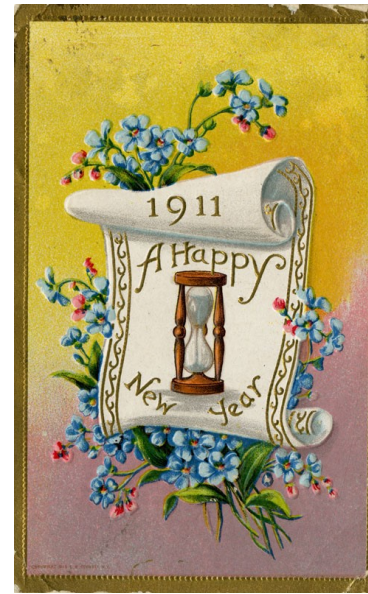
Now people had their stationary and postage all together for one affordable price. But plain cards were not enough. Printed envelopes had become quite popular in the 1850s; the same was soon true for postal cards. This likely contributed to one of the



Above: Front and back of postcard sent by Madeline Hanni-Lozeron to her brother Pierre in Canada, 1902. This was before the era of the divided backs and you can see space was left at the front for a written message. (Pierre Lozeron family fonds, SPRA 006.04.01.01.)

major lasting changes in the production of postcards – the divided back.

Because original postcards were plain, the recto (front) side was used for message writing while the verso (back) side was strictly for providing a delivery address. England was the first country to approve the



Right: Front and back of greeting postcard from 1911 addressed to Billy Salmond in Lake Saskatoon. You can just make out the embossing, which was a common embellishment in greeting cards. You can also see the divided back, which left the recto or front, free of writing. (Billy Salmon fonds, SPRA 043-1993.1.1.244)

Below: Postcard with formal portrait of Louis Strawhat & his wife Josephine Strawhat of the Hobbema First Nation near Ponoka, Alberta. Louis Strawhat's Cree name was "Ka wa Kohtew" and Josephine's Cree name was "Sa Kawskeew". The message on the back is from Clarence Field to his wife Edith. (Field's Studio fonds SPRA 052, 2002.54.17)

divided back on postcards in 1902. This provided space for writing and an address on the back of the card, leaving the front unblemished.

Postcards form a small but important part of our holdings and they convey valuable evidence about people and the places they lived and visited. Most of the postcards spread throughout our holdings are view cards (images of cities or places), greeting cards, and photographic cards (people). We are also lucky to have several "silks" (embroidered cards which were immensely popular as gifts during the Great War) and a number of humorous "topicals" from each of the wars. A timely gift to friends and family in the past, postcards can provide a wealth of information about social past-times, personal relationships, and changes in the urban and natural landscape.

You can create your own history. Next time you take a trip, send yourself postcards featuring sites of interest. Jot down a quick reminder of your special moments and when you arrive home, you will have a pictorial and a textual reminder of your holiday. You could even do this for staycations. Slip them into sleeves or a travel box and you have an instant travel archives to share with family now and in the future.



Time Travels: Returning to Poland in 1986

Antoni (Tony) Wozniak and Maria Parachin were married in 1922 and had four children: Boleslaw (Bill), Mathew, Marian (Merlin), and Cecilia. With poor opportunities for the family in Poland and rumors of hostilities amongst nations, the family immigrated to Canada. They arrived on a farm in the Wanham area, June 24, 1930. War and financial hardship divided their family for decades. In 1986, they traveled back to Poland.



Above: Antoni & Maria Wozniak with their two oldest children, Boleslaw (Bill) and Mathew, at the time of their immigration to Canada in 1930. Twins Marian and Cecilia were infants at the time and are not in the photograph. (SPRA 0279.02.001a)

Now we can see Polish land and crop in narrow strips, many colours yellow, green and white, poppies are blooming and in a little while we see Warsaw... I am the last one to enter the waiting room. Here a lady is reading out names from a book and informs us in front of a solidier. They verified our passports and Polish visas. It is terribly hot and the doors are closed. We walk to a glass window and a hand gives us our orbis {hotel accommodation}...

At 11 we left Orbis and went for a tour of Warsaw. The streets are narrow and laid with rock and the car is jumping. We circled the Culture center, two buildings that Stalin built. Many new buildings were erected after the war, after which very few buildings remained. We arrived at Shopens place and a lady called Dworakowska is playing the piano while people

are sitting on benches and on the ground. There are large trees here and in the middle is a fountain with white and red roses around it... Took some pictures and returned where lady is waiting with dinner, veal meat, young potatoes, and sweet cabbage. For desert, we had cold borsch like in Litowsko.

At 4'oclock we leave to visit Marian [Kurka]'s mother in Bolczewa. It is 35kl. We went through Zojierz, Leczyca, Krosniewice I Torun. At 8 we finally arrived at Bolczewa. To meet us here the first was sister-in-law Wozniak who hadn't seen us for 40 years and who is in good health for the 82 years old she is. The conversation lasted until late and it is a long night in Bolczewa. I can't fall asleep. Finally, it's daylight. I rise. For breakfast, we have boiled eggs and

instant coffee from Canada and rye bread. After breakfast, Marian and Tony went to Innowrocow. Sister-in-law and I went to see the garden and crops. Returned to the home. Should write letters to Canada...

Maria's diaries are preserved as part of the Wozniak family fonds (Fonds 279). Minor spelling and grammatical corrections have been made for this article. This diary was transcribed by her son, Mathew Wozniak. Mathew is a long-time Archives volunteer, specializing in translation and transcription.

Two in a Dream Cruising the Mediterranean in 1970

In the summer of 1970, Clem and Muriel Collins set out on a Mediterranean cruise. Muriel's mother stayed behind, but Muriel's frequent letters, rich with details about their journey, allowed her mother to share their experiences without crossing the Atlantic.

Hello my dear!

Do hope that by now you have my letter written our last evening in London. We had a really good flite to Rome. Beautiful sunshine & a delightful view of the Alps as we passed over Switzerland. On our arrival in Rome we were transferred to our buses and travelled to Naples.

The drive itself was a real experience – people in the field (women particularly) little donkeys pulling such large loads, ruins of homes (war), old monasteries sitting on the hilltops etc. We arrived in Naples about 7 p.m. & it took 1 ½ hrs. to drive to the docks – honestly, never in my life have I ever seen traffic like that. They even drive the small cars on the sidewalks. No traffic lights & 1½ million people. We laughed until our sides ached.

On our arrival on ship we had our pictures taken & our luggage was in our stateroom by the time we got to it. We have a lovely little stateroom. A bunk each side – large mirror & drawers in centre. Large wardrobe each & our own bathroom – also wash basin in bedroom. We have our porthole open at nite particularly & it is lovely going to sleep listening to the miles of water slip by.

It is a different world Mom. Luxury dining etc... First nite of course things were rather informal (no luggage unpacked etc.) but last evening was formal. Clem looked so nice in his white jacket etc. I wore my new

mauve embroidered white silk & hope I looked elegant...

We are coming into port again & this aft. go ashore on our first land tour – Heraklion, Crete.

Yest. early we passed Sicily & from our porthole you could see all the gorgeous hotels & villas.

When we left Naples the other evening it looked so lovely. The castle overlooking the harbour was floodlighted & slightly further out was Gracie Fields beloved Capri all lit up. During the early morning hours we passed Stromboli (the volcano) & Clem & I were fortunate enough to wake & see it.

Well my dear – really must away – Will write again later.

Much love,
C & M
2 in a dream

This letter is presented in an abridged form. A collection of letters from this trip and others (Fonds 476.02.01) is available for consultation in the Archives reading room. The letters have been transcribed by volunteer and board member Grace Wideman.



Left: Clem and Muriel Collins on a Mediterranean cruise on board the RMS Carmania, 1970 (SPRA 476.03.01.27)

Olwen's Own Words: Sailing the Atlantic



Queuing up for Landing Tickets
five days before landing
(or seven days)

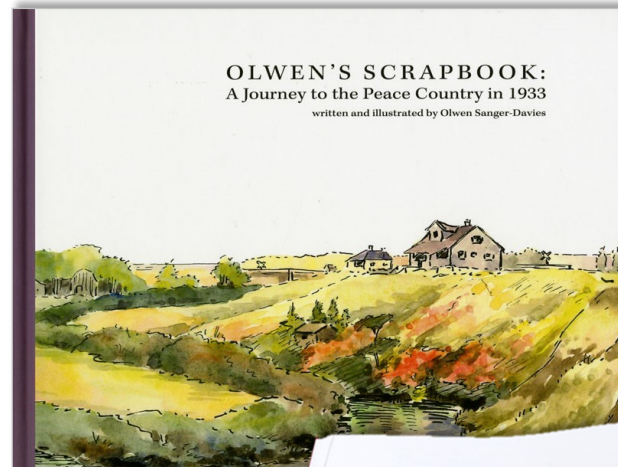
In 1933, Olwen Sanger-Davies travelled from England to the Peace Country to visit her younger brother, Morgan, who lived just outside the town of Grande Prairie. Olwen documented her journey and time in the Peace Country in two scrapbooks, containing approximately 500 drawings and paintings. "Olwen's Own Words" features excerpts and illustrations from these scrapbooks.

Saturday, June 10

A dull cold morning and at 7:00 the Manhattan on her way to New York was passing us.

It cleared up a little and I tried to sketch the sky and sea! But a slight fog came down which meant foghorns on and off. Some saw a porpoise, which Mrs. Day drew for me.

We had to queue up for landing tickets, which cheered up those who were still seedy.



Purchase your
copy of *Olwen's
Scrapbook* today

ONLY \$40.00 +GST
while quantities last

Don't miss out!
Cash and cheques
are accepted.



Have Records, Will Travel

Archiveology

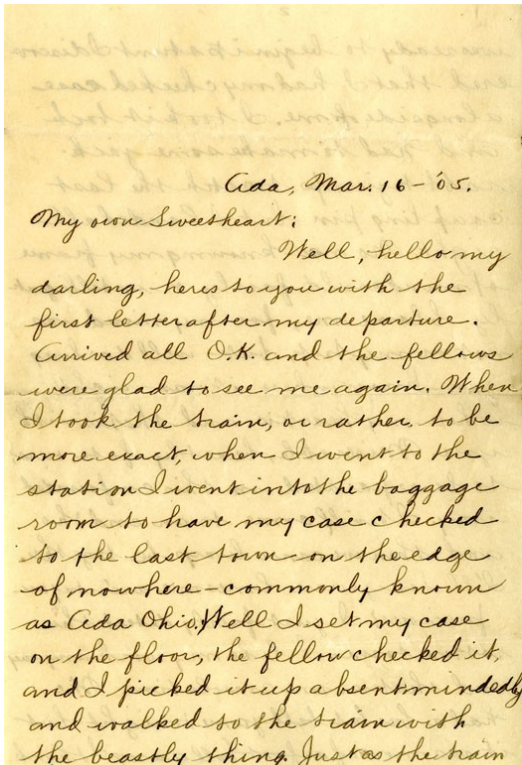
Donors often assume that there will be portions of their records we do will not collect because they are not “from here”. This is not the case. Perhaps the items in question are photographs of ancestors in Quebec, birth certificates from Germany, or a will from England. When people move here, they bring their records and stories with them. Without those stories and records, we do not have a complete story of the people who now call this place home. Without those

stories and records, we create a disconnect with peoples’ pasts; even more problematic, we create a disconnect with our regional community and the wider national and international communities to which we belong. The ties may stretch but it is important not to break them. Maintaining these links with each other is one of the enduring values of history and of archives.

Luckily, we have a rich resource of records that travelled from away to here and now make their home at the South Peace Regional Archives. Within settler records, we have the Campbell Family fonds (SPRA 032) which features four diaries written by Clyde Campbell’s father during the late 1800s in Ohio, and letters between Clyde and his wife and daughter in the early 1900s. In Bert and Miriam Tieman fonds (SPRA 039), Bert’s birth certificate and baptismal certificate from Holland provide a brief glimpse into his life there.

Besides bringing his personal papers (and his mother!) to the South Peace, Bert also brought Dutch artwork dating back to the eighteenth century, which is now part of the permanent collection at the Art Gallery of Grande Prairie. The Lunseth family fonds (SPRA 297) charts the life of this family as they travelled over the years from Molde, Norway to Minnesota, Oregon, Saskatchewan, and finally up the Edson Trail to Valhalla in the Peace Country. Their records include photographs and documents from all their old and new homes. It is wonderful to have the people and their stories: having their records enriches our understanding of both. We can in effect, touch their past and make it part of our present.

Left: 16 March 1905 letter from Clyde to Myrtle when he was in Ada, OK before their marriage and future move to the South Peace. (Campbell Family fonds SPRA 032)



Right: Mali Hjelseth’s parents and siblings in Molde, Norway ca. 1890-1910. (Lunseth Family fonds, SPRA 297)

Linking the people to their documents does not just help us understand the history of individuals, it also helps us to better understand the documents and what they represent. Often, the document is about more than an individual or a family. A good example of this is the collection of documents in the Davis, Hodgson, Coulter fonds (SPRA 484). The documents in this collection were found in an old house belonging to the Coulter family but none of the documents bore that name. Not only that, but the oldest of the documents belonged to John Davis, a Hudson’s Bay Company factor who died in 1823. Davis worked in what is now northern Ontario and Manitoba and his Métis wife and children settled in St. Andrews, MB after his death. What were these wills doing here? Tracing the family history, we discovered the link to the Coulter family through the great-granddaughter of John Davis. If we did not have these documents, the family ties to each other, to St. Andrews, MB, to the fur trade, and to their Métis past may well have been lost. Learning the family history helped us put these wills in context to better understand their evidential value regarding the sometimes troubled relationships between Metis families and their British relatives.

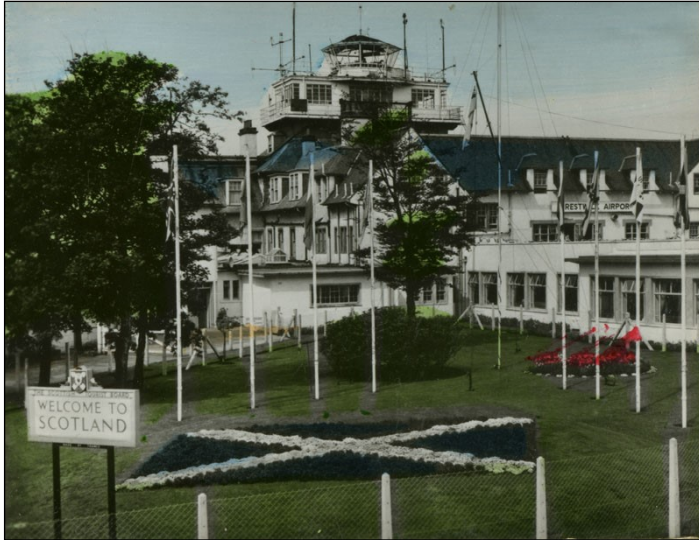
We are so very lucky that so many families that traveled to the South Peace brought their stories and their records along for the journey. We are grateful they survived the tribulations of travel and of time to remind us of our deep connections to each other and the world outside our region.

Right: 1850 Will of John Davis. (Davis, Hodgson, Coulter fonds, SPRA 484)



The South Peace Travels

This issue's gallery draws from both our photograph collection and paper artifacts, showcasing travel experiences of from as early as 1910 to the late 1970s. Whether they were soaking up the sun on a beach or setting off on a world tour, South Peace residents were always ready for an adventure.



Top left: A postcard showing the control tower, hotel, and gardens at Prestwick Airport, Scotland, n.d. (Fonds 136, SPRA 992.48.21d)



Top right: Cover of booklet distributed on Herman & Beatrice Trelle's cruise, 1931. See pages 6 & 7 for further information (Fonds 193.02.06)

Right: Maud Shattock and two friends enjoy the summer weather at a beach, ca. 1910 (Fonds 056, SPRA 1969.29.33.094)



Above: "Taken at the falls on the USA side. L to right Harvey Smith, John Grant. Taken in 1912. I'm afraid I'll fall over." (Fonds 136, SPRA 1992.48.020a)



Top left: The Berlin Wall, 1977. "Diese Schande muss weg" translates loosely into "This disgrace must go." (SPRA 192.01.04.09)



Middle: Demobilization staff at the entrance to Allerton Place, England, which became the headquarters for demobilization, 1945 (SPRA 265.09)



Bottom left: The Archers and the Carlises see Hugh and Margaret Ellis off on the plane in Grande Prairie headed for England, 1939 (SPRA 399.12.14)

The Canadian Compatriot

A story by Pierre Lozeron presented at Villiers College

Pierre Lozeron was born in 1887, in Auvernier, Canton of Neuchatel, Switzerland. When the family of six children lost both parents, Pierre and his younger brother Jean decided to seek their fortunes in America. In July 1912, Pierre walked over the Edson Trail with his friend Charlie Heller. He chose the NW 10-73-7-W6, north west of Bear Lake for a homestead. In 1926 Pierre married Dora Koberg, with whom he had three children.

In 1959, Pierre travelled back to Switzerland to visit his family. During this visit, Pierre shared his tales of pioneering in Canada with relatives, friends, and even strangers. On September 4th, 1959, he presented a short history of his life in Canada to eager listeners at Villiers College. This speech, transcribed and translated from French, describes Lozeron's difficult journey and settlement in the South Peace region.

It has been 49 years since I left this country. In 1910, I immigrated, with my cousin to the United States, to join my brother, who had left a few months earlier...

We heard that land was being opened to settlement, in northwestern Canada, in the Grande Prairie [region]. We travelled to the North...

We tossed head or tails. I was the one chosen to go survey the land while my brother, because of his work, provided the funds necessary for this voyage.

In the summer of 1912, I arrived by train in Edmonton, the capital of Alberta. I met a certain Heller, who, like me, was going to choose some land. We took the train up to Edson and we spent the night at the Immigration Hall....

In 15 days, we had travelled 350 km. and arrived in Grande Prairie which had about hundred habitants. (Today 7,000).

At the bureau of settlement, we took 3 plots of land...

Those who were close to Grande Prairie weren't as good. Those from the Beaverlodge area were too far from Grande Prairie. I chose 2 homesteads 4 km. north of Bear Lake. One was without trees, the other had a little forest and source that formed a pond...

We each had a homestead 800 sq meters by 800 sq. meters, for the price of 45 francs each with the obligation to labour, that first year, 10 arpents [also known as a French acre] of land and living there for 6 months; in the second year the same, as well as the third year. And to build a house to live in....

Right: Postcard from the village of Auvernier in the canton of Neuchâtel in Switzerland (SPRA 006.04.01.P02A)

Left: Postcard from the village of Auvernier (SPRA 006.04.01.P08A)

We built a house to live in, with tree trunks, debarked, and chinked with moss in the interior. The shingled roof was covered with earth.

During our absence in the first year, we entrusted our 2 horses to a neighbour. The second year, we bought 2 new horses. After awhile we ended up with 8 and with a double plow...

During the long and cold winters, the farmers host dances in their houses and in their barns. We get their by sled from 30 to 40 kms. during -20 – 25 degrees cold.

All night long, married women and many men danced to the sound of the violin. Each said his own. My brother, who had the most beautiful voice in Grande Prairie, sang Sole Mio with the gestures of a grand tenor. In the morning, we ate breakfast on site. At noon, we were back home....

In winter, we drove our grain, with 4 horses, on the sled, to a station on the railway a distance of 15 km. These voyages took one day, with temperatures that could vary from -20 degrees from leaving to arrival, because of a chinook, a warm westerly wind...

Our routes were straight. They go from east to west, and from north to south.

In Western Canada, we speak English. In the east, we speak French.

The crops are bought by the Canadian government who pay 3 installments per years.

We pay taxes.

At the age of 70 years, all Canadiens [men] and Canadiennes [women] have the right to an old age pension of 235 francs per month. The parents receive



Fr 25. – to Fr 35. – per month, per child, up to the age of 16 years old.

The population of Canada, which was 7 million in 1910, is today 17 million. There is still place for 25 million habitants.

I'm not saying this to get you to immigrate. I would counsel you to never do what I did...

Your Canton of Neuchatel must stay Swiss, thus your Switzerland. Stay faithful to your laws, to your government, to your army which is the best in the world.

I did my recruit training and military service before leaving the country. I received a first prize in shooting at Locle, with a laurel crown.

I was your compatriot. I still am. I will be all of my life.

The translation of Pierre Lozeron's speech is presented here in an abridged form. The original speech (SPRA 006.01.01) and unabridged translation are available for consultation in the Archives reading room.

This speech was transcribed and translated from French by Archives volunteer Lucille Munro. Lucille is a volunteer researcher for the Indigenous History Committee.



The 'Hidden' Stories of Indigenous Travel

While the Archives has a relative wealth of information about white and settler experiences with travel, both within Canada and abroad, we have very little about Indigenous peoples' travel experiences. This article highlights four books that explore the travels of Canadian Indigenous peoples in the 19th and early 20th century: *Mohawks on the Nile*; *Our Women in Uniform*; *Diary of Abraham Ulrikab: Text and Context*; and *Travellers Through Empire: Indigenous Voyages from Early Canada*. Each book tackles the problematic nature of Indigenous travel outside of Canada and all have a bearing on Indigenous travel stories in the South Peace.

Mohawks on the Nile tells the story of sixty Indigenous men who joined the Canadian Voyageur Contingent on a military expedition on the Nile River in 1884-1885. The book includes the memoirs of two of the Mohawk veterans, Louis Jackson and James Deer, who recorded their stories upon their return to Canada. Travel for Canadian military needs is a common thread in the Indigenous travel stories we encounter at the Archives. Throughout the records, we see evidence of men and women leaving their homes to travel across Canada or overseas. Photographs of members of the Ferguson, Calliou, and Davis families remind us that Indigenous people often leave their homes on journeys not entirely of their making. A recent donation to Archives library collection expands on this premise.

In *Our Women in Uniform*, by Ginny Belcourt Todd, several Indigenous women from Alberta who served with the military during World War II relate their per-



Above: Jim Ferguson after he enlisted for service in WWII. 1940. (Mary Belcourt Davis fonds, SPRA 179.04.03.)

sonal experiences. Betsy Houle, one of two sisters who joined the military during the Second World War, was the furthest to travel. Betsy moved to Australia after the war with her new Australian husband. Though she eventually married and divorced twice, Betsy stayed in Australia with her two daughters. She returned to Canada on two occasions and felt deep ties here, but ultimately felt that her home was in Australia with her two daughters.

Betsy's sister, Bertha, joined the RCAF and eventually served as a Physical Training Instructor. Though she never travelled overseas, Bertha visited various parts of Canada during her service, including tours to



Left: Photograph from a trip to Nose Mountain. Ann Roberts writes on the back: "Two Cree families accompanied us on our trip. They killed our meat--moose, deer, bear, porcupine and skunk--and picked cranberries and blueberries for us. They pitched our tents and packed our horses. Last, but not least they were our guides." 1935. (Anne Macklin fonds, SPRA 177.070.)

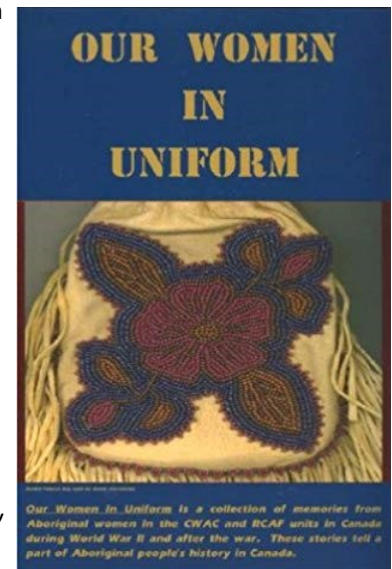
Saskatchewan and Ontario. After she retired, Bertha took out a homestead through the Soldier's Settlement at Hawks Hill north of Manning, AB.

Stories like these are uncommon in the Archives. More often, we find that settler travel narratives feature Indigenous people only as occupants of the background of settler experience. The Indigenous presence is highlighted only as a novelty. This was the case when Abraham Ulrikab and his people were hired as exotic components of a traveling human zoo in the fall of 1880. The *Diary of Abraham Ulrikab* tells their story and unhappy ending.

The experiences of this Inuit group is a stark example of how Indigenous people are often portrayed as "Other". Although local examples are less extreme, this "Othering" is a common occurrence within the SPRA records. Indigenous people are rarely named in their own right. Instead, they are identified as "Cree guides" in Anne Macklin family fonds, "Indian Pack train" in the Ray Menard fonds, and the "Beavers" O. H. Johnson spends a night camping with. In this narratives, they are often portrayed as facilitators, rather than active travellers.

Travellers Through Empire reminds us that despite the special ties Indigenous people have with the land and the land of their forebearers, they were not a settled people. Travel across country for trade, for hunting, and for adventure, was an important part of their lives. It is a part of their lives frequently missing from the archival record. As we search for more stories and evidence of the travel experiences of Indigenous people from this region, we hope that more people will come forward with their stories to help us fill in this gap in the archival record.

Right: *Our Women in Uniform* by Ginny Belcourt Todd. Albertan First Nations and Métis women discuss their WWII military experiences.



FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF
THE **ELF** ON THE **SHELF**
THE



Greetings! My name is Fred Fonds and I am the new Elf on the Shelf at the Archives. I help Santa manage his naughty and nice list by observing the Archives and reporting back to the North Pole each night. The Archives shared their holiday wish list with me and I want to share it with you! Can you help me make the Archives' wishes come true?



Local History Books

Do you have gently used copies of these local history books (or others) sitting on your bookshelf? We would love to add them to our reference library!

Along the Wapiti by the Wapiti River Historical Society

Dunvegan post journals for 1806 and 1808 by Alexander Roderick McLeod

Dunvegan post journals for 1822 to 1830 by William MacKintosh, Hugh Faries, and Colin Campbell

Prophecy of the Swan: The Upper Peace River Fur Trade of 1794-1823 by J. Scott Hamilton and R. Knut

Strangers in Blood: Fur Trade Company Families in Indian Country by Jennifer S. H. Brown

Where the Red Willow Grew: Valleyview, Alberta and Surrounding Districts by the Valleyview & District Old Timers Association

Telling Our Stories

Do you have old copies of *Telling Our Stories* collecting dust in your house? Bring them down to the Archives and our "Awareness elves" will redistribute them to local long-term care facilities.

Volunteer Blog Writer

Do you enjoy learning about local history? We are looking for a volunteer to contribute regularly to our blog. Blog posts are typically 500 words in length and can be on any topic that makes use of our collections and increases awareness of local history. See southpeacearchives.org/blog/ for recent examples.

Tell Us Your Story

Share your stories (max 350 words), artefacts, and photographs related to natural hazards and disasters in the South Peace area. You could be included in the next issue of *Telling Our Stories*...

Disaster Strikes!

Contact: director@southpeacearchives.org
Deadline for consideration: 1 February 2018.

Deck the Halls

Spread some holiday cheer! Visit the Archives to purchase a package of holiday cards. Each package contains six festive cards, each blank inside.

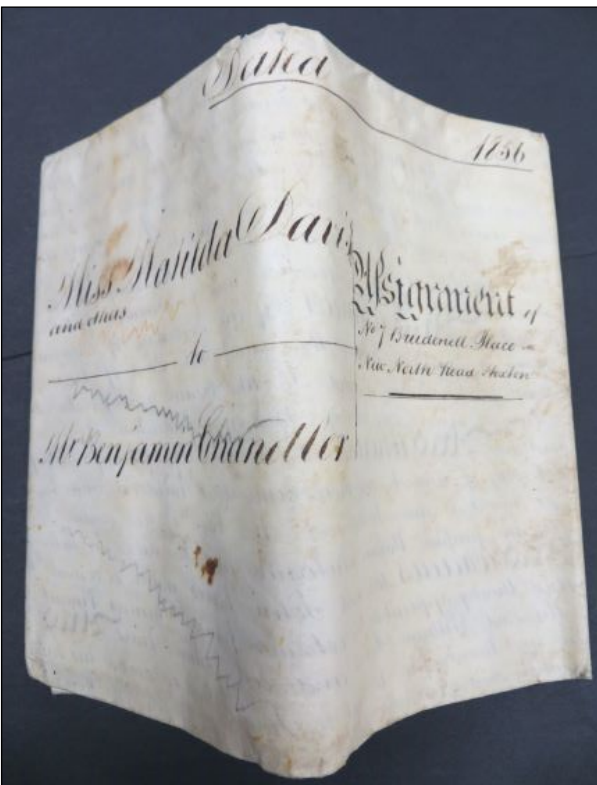
\$10 per package of 6, while quantities last.
Cash and cheque accepted.



What's New at the Archives

Fall has seen a large increase in our library holdings. New books include: *A Fond Look at a Frontier Preacher*; *The Forgotten North*; *Down on the Farm*; *Where the River Ran*; *Pioneers, Places, and Predicaments*; and *My Story: Life Experiences in Pictures and Words*. These additions help us to build a comprehensive collection of secondary source material that explores the many facets of our region's history.

An especially welcome donation to our archival holdings is an 1856 land property transfer for Matilda



Davis. We are very excited because it reveals more of the story behind an earlier donation from 2011: the Davis, Hodgson, Coulter fonds. This fonds provides an intriguing glimpse into the activities of the Métis family of Hudson's Bay Company factor, John Davis, who died in 1823. Within the original donation were two copies of his will, that had to be probated twice: once in 1850 and once in 1856. Davis' will was featured in the December 2017 issue of *Telling Our Stories*.

This new donation suggests that Davis' will may have been finally settled to the benefit of his family. While we have not had a chance to fully explore the text (the parchment is heavily folded), it seems Davis' children sold property in Great Britain. Several of their names and possibly spouses are listed along the bottom.

Like many of the records within our holdings, these pieces of parchment travelled a long way, in time and in distance, before finding a home here at the South Peace Regional Archives. They provide a lasting link to the past and to the place where the family had their beginnings.

Solutions to "Where in the World Is the Wheat King?" puzzle on pages 8-9

A: [The Great Buddha of Kamakura, Japan, ca. 1931] (SPRA 193.02.06.33) **Location: 5**

B: The Philippines, ca. 1931 (SPRA 193.02.06.61) **Location: 4**

C: Ruins of Pompeii, Italy with Vesuvius in the background, 1931 (SPRA 193.02.06.08) **Location: 2**

D: On "Duchess of Richmond" - just before sailing from Liverpool, April 10, 1931 (SPRA 193.02.06.77) **Location: 1**

E: [The Panama Canal, ca. 1931] (SPRA 193.02.06.62) **Location: 6**

F: [Beatrice Trelle on a camel in front of the Sphinx and a pyramid in Egypt, 1931] (SPRA 193.02.06.24) **Location: 3**

South Peace Regional Archives Society Membership Application/Renewal Form

Date: _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

Postal Code: _____ Phone: _____

E-mail: _____

I am interested in being involved as a: volunteer board member

Select your membership:

Yearly membership: receive communications to stay informed about issues and happenings at the Archives, get involved in the society, attend meetings, vote on issues, and run for office.

Lifetime membership: receive all of the benefits of a regular membership, without the hassle of yearly renewal, and know that your membership could have a greater immediate impact.

This membership is _____ new _____ renewal

Yearly Membership
\$20.00/person or \$30.00/couple _____

Lifetime Membership
\$500.00/person _____

I wish to donate to the
South Peace Regional Archives _____

Total Membership and Donation _____

Eco-option: I would like to receive a digital subscription to *Telling Our Stories*; I will receive an email link to a full-color copy of each issue. By selecting a digital subscription, I understand that I am opting out of receiving paper issues of *Telling Our Stories*.

Thank you for supporting



www.southpeacearchives.org

