

NEWSLETTER

LOCATED IN BRESAYLOR · SASK · CANADA ·
MAILING Box 33, PAYNTON, SK S0M-2J0

2003

MUSEUM HOURS · 1-5 P M SUNDAY & WED to FRI &
BY REQUEST WHEN POSSIBLE MAY TO OCT (306)895-4813

DEAR SUPPORTERS OF BRESAYLOR HERITAGE.....

To put it mildly, it's been quite a year!

In the Newsletter of a year ago I was lamenting the cold and the dry. Now, here it is, three weeks earlier in the season and we're basking in above average temperatures and the grass is greening fast. But then, tune in tomorrow and things will likely have changed.... (Perhaps the first item of discussion need not always be the weather, but, then, this is Saskatchewan, and what would we do without the weather?) Now though we're into next year... and, sitting on a little moisture has made monarchs of us all (it doesn't take much). (And I'm avoiding thoughts of WARS and SARS.) We are slinking toward another season with... guarded optimism.

And a busy year it promises to be hereabouts. It's the Centennial anniversary of the arrival of the Barr Colonists in Canada so Lloydminster is planning all kinds of activities (see web page address) And, closer by, the Paynton Homecoming is shaping up nicely. It too celebrates 100 years since the first Post Office named "Paynton" appeared. The Bresaylor Museum will provide display material for the Homecoming; also we plan a small Barr Colonist exhibit at the Museum in Bresaylor. We'll be juggling our time between the two venues. We look forward to seeing many of you at the Paynton Homecoming.

So, once again, **thank you for your many kind letters and your ongoing support. Your encouragement does so much to keep us going!**

And do have a wonderful summer!

Sincerely _____ *Velma Foster*

for the Museum Board of Directors: June Taylor, Marg and Ross Currie, Helena Caplette, Don Ferguson, Marion McDougall.

DONATIONS TO THE BRESAYLOR HERITAGE MUSEUM ARE TAX DEDUCTIBLE.
A DONATION OF \$5. OR MORE ENTITLES YOU TO BECOME A CARD-CARRYING SUPPORTER OF BRESAYLOR HERITAGE AND TO RECEIVE THE NEWSLETTER.



LAST SUMMER'S WINNERS :

THE EARLY BIRD 1/2-THE-POT DRAW made on July 8 at the Museum and totalling **\$70.** went to **Grace Woodcock** of Sidney, B.C.



THE MUSEUM ANNUAL POTLUCK SUPPER

took place July 28. It was the 10th anniversary since launching the Bresaylor history book, and Helena Caplette served a tasty ice-cream cake to mark the occasion. Lamb dishes were supplied by Don and Carol Selte, Fred and Bev Davis, and the curator. Marg Currie supplied samples of her homemade wine. As usual the food was varied and delicious, and the weather was pleasant. A nice shower two days previous had lifted spirits somewhat. The summer raffle draw took place after the supper.

SUMMER RAFFLE WINNERS - 2002 : The lucky winner of the **QUILT**, made and donated by June Taylor, was Ron Gust of Wetaskewin, AB. Cash prizes of \$25. went to Carrie Taylor of Malta, Montana and Fred Davis of Lashburn, SK. Gift certificates went to Ron Hansen, Bert Smith and Marion Kerr. A \$20. Gift Certificate to someone at the supper went to Noella Sayers. Complimentary tickets for the 2003 draw went to Yvonne Carpentier, William Cameron, Travis MacNaughton, Elaine Brooks, Sandra Veil, Rob McMullen, Charles Taylor, Bonnie Dreete, Clara Sulz, and Mrs. Wynne Richards.

Once again, **THANKYOU** to everyone who participated in the raffles, which netted over **\$750.**

For the **2003 Summer Raffle** we will once again offer cash prizes. Also, an **EARLYBIRD 1/2-THE-POT** draw with deadline of July 1, 2003. One ticket is enclosed. (Let us know if you would like to enter more.)

YOUR LETTERS, YOUR VISITS, YOUR SUPPORT - There were some memorable visits to the Museum this past year. Several people, coming or going to the Bremner Reunion at St. Louis, SK, dropped in for a visit - the Crossguns (Ron and Leah and granddaughter) of Browning, Montana, who had a wonderful time at the reunion; Joyce Rozell, whose car trunk was full of geneological information (note her addresses later), one very enthusiastic lady; and later on Allen Bremner stopped by with a handmade model of a Red River Cart he had made for the Reunion, and which he decided to donate to the Bresaylor Museum. Thank you, Allen. Later on we had a visit from the late Norah (English) Gray's son, Bill Gray, his wife Isabelle and granddaughter-in-law Joan Champ. The English family were Barr Colonists. Joan is involved with the Western Development Museum in Saskatoon. The McDonald family (Gordon & Lorraine McDonald, Mary Siferd, Lorraine Fischer, Jack & June Johnstone) stopped by. They were checking out work done to the Philip McDonald family headstone at the cemetery - family names added and levelling. Ernie Sayers, son of "Little Walter", and his wife Cynthia, spent a long time looking through the history book, not having seen it before. Carrie Taylor of Malta, Montana, won \$25. in our summer raffle. It happened that her son, Mel Sundin, was visiting her when her prize arrived, and he dropped a note to say how pleased his mother ("85 years young") was to win. Mel had moved again and we had lost contact, so it was good to hear from him. He is still interested in Taylor, McDonald, Inkster, Ferguson, Tait history. (Note website).

In the last newsletter I made a comment about our many supporters in Vernon, BC. Well, it looks as though there is also a collection of ex-Bresaylorites in Abbotsford. Ray Sayers wrote about a call he had from May (Kamp) Wakelin last fall. She and husband Howard and brother Neil Kamp and his wife Betty were visiting in Abbotsford - with their younger brother Leonard Kamp and family. It turned out that Leonard had moved to Abbotsford the year before and lived not far from Ray. May, recalling (from a previous Newsletter) that Ray lived in Abbotsford, looked him up in the telephone book. Needless to say they all got together for a visit, reminiscing about childhood days when Ray and Neil had been best friends. It was 55 years since they had seen each other. And, that's not all. Joyce Bugg, who went to Federal school with Leonard Kamp, also lives in Abbotsford - also not far from Ray. He had found out about Joyce from her sister Janet Oisen who with her husband had until a few years ago operated Oisen's Coffee Shop, frequented by the Sayers.

Meanwhile, back in Vernon, and our faithful supporters there. Tom Smith for instance, who, seeing mention of Petty's Store by his cousin Barbara Housin in the last newsletter recalled how impressed he was with his uncle Hugh Petty's ability to tabulate "sales bills in his head". Also, in Vernon, June Cote had a close call from a heart attack last summer.

Fortunately, her family had supplied her with a warning device, worn around the neck at all times. She was in bed when she felt ill, and because of the device she was able to call 911. In no time the ambulance was there, she was flown to Calgary, and now has a pacemaker. Good for you, June, and good for your family for seeing to your well being.

And, you might recall that a couple of years ago Irene Huffman was pleased to have Key (Leslie) Mitchell close by in Vernon. Unfortunately, Key's stay there didn't last long. Due to ill health she moved to Sherwood Park to be closer to her daughter, Kandy Dilley, and then passed away there in August of last year. Key always enjoyed getting the Newsletter and we always enjoyed hearing from her.

Our item on the "Big Rock" stirred up more recollections. Bud Regnier wrote a nice letter of reminiscences of childhood in Bresaylor "...picking strawberries along the railroad track...hunting gophers with John Leslie and Sidney Sayers". He recalls that his father "showed him the Rock when he was about five or six years old", and told him to keep away from it. Likely because of the water around it. Eileen (Bowes) Neid writes that "in the spring 'the rock' was surrounded with water and our mothers forbade us to go wading in this cold water. Of course this warning went unheeded and invariably off came the socks and shoes and into the water. In the presence of our elders our secret code was WWW* ("we went wading"). Doubtless arriving home with wet hemlines, cuffs, etc. our mothers easily guessed what WWW meant!" To Eileen and friends the Big Rock was very important. "I recall Beryl Taylor and I and quite likely others often planned programs to be performed on the 'Big Rock' - we sang songs, acted out skits of our own production & invited other classmates to our performances. I cannot be sure but I feel we attempted to charge for this - perhaps a penny or two or a candy for admittance." (*Now we know that the "www" originated some 80 years ago in Bresaylor!!!*) Grace (Dobie) Woodcock also remembers the Rock: "...no one mentioned the bridge we had to build of branches and trees to get on the rock as it sat in water a lot of the time." Grace also remembers Bud and the Regnier family and their uncle Ivan. "We had some school picnics at Rush Lake and this big man would walk out in the lake and lie down and float. It always amazed us kids."

Here is an excerpt from Naden Hewko's letter written October 7, 2002, from Cactus Lake, SK. "Fortunately we did get most of our crop off as we had seeded only 1/3 of our arable land - the summerfallowed fields only, as it was so dry. My husband did seed one stubble field and it barely came up. When it rained later on more seeds came up but then these late plants never made it. Then Sept. 22nd it froze hard so all the late crops froze and will make feed if it ever dries off so they can cut and bale. At least in our area they can get their own feed as we had rain early August. We watered our garden by hauling water in a tank from our son's well as our dugout is dry. So we had enough vegetables and dug our potatoes and put them in storage for the winter. This Fri. to Sat. it snowed at least ten inches of heavy, wet snow so hopefully it melts and dries. There are fields of crop to try combining or else to bale the swaths for feed for cattle. The moisture is welcome even if untimely. The snow went north only a little way along the Alberta border. We are just a few miles east of the Alberta border and straight west of Saskatoon. We had grasshoppers but they came late and the garden was quite advanced already. They ate all the leaves off the potatoes and marigolds but we were ready to dig the potatoes by then. It has been quite the year weatherwise as an area north of us

1903
2003
100 YEAR CELEBRATIONS
• THE ARRIVAL OF THE BARR COLONISTS •
PAYNTON — LLOYDMINSTER

2003 - 100 years since the arrival of the Barr Colonists in western Canada - will be cause for celebrations in several communities, especially Lloydminster (see website listing) where the majority of the Colonists settled. It is also 100 years since a mailbox along the Fort Pitt Trail was labelled "Paynton".

THE PAYNTON HOMECOMING 2003. In the last Newsletter we reported on plans underway for a **Paynton Homecoming** on the July 19 weekend of this summer, 2003. Happily, those plans have continued to evolve. There are some 400 registered for the event, and there is still time to register, June 1 being the final deadline. And, by the way, a **COMMEMORATIVE QUILT** is in the works, under the supervision of June Taylor who is being helped by Marie Ferguson, Margaret Currie, Jean Wilson (do those names sound familiar?)

A PAYNTON HISTORY BOOK. During the past few months some of us decided to go ahead with plans for a Paynton area history book, to include the Grand Cheviot and Berling School Districts as well as Paynton Consolidated S.D. Support for a book is growing and the Homecoming an opportune time to collect information. Your Bresaylor Museum curator just couldn't leave the project alone and has, albeit hesitantly, decided to get involved, and will accordingly endeavor to upgrade her computer equipment and skills. But the important resource people for this project are the likes of Wallace Gregson, a walking encyclopedia of village and rural recollections; Louise (Dobie) Shermerhorn, who lives in Winnipeg but has maintained an ongoing dedication to Paynton history (she and Wallace e-mail information back and forth; both belong to local geneological groups); Sid Jones, who has written several articles from his own life and has many good stories to tell; and Tom McLelland who has already done extensive research on the Grand Cheviot S.D. We have set no deadline for completion for such an ambitious project. However, Saskatchewan will be celebrating its 100th anniversary in 2005...

100 YEARS SINCE PAYNTON NAMED

I have before me a copy of a letter dated July 12, 1903 and posted from "Bresaylor, Near Battleford, NWT Canada", to Miss C. Morley of Nottingham, England. The letter is from Arthur Morley Black. Miss Morley is his Aunt, and the letter is to be shared with other relatives back home in "the old country". It is a long letter, having been penned as time allowed, during the previous three months, a kind of diary of the Black family's journey - ahead of the main body of Barr Colonists on their way to "the Promised Land". The Blacks (Mr. and Mrs. and two boys and a girl) had crossed the ocean on the Magentic, then crossed Canada to Saskatoon on the CPR, "trekked" by horse and wagon (and pony) to Battleford and on to their homestead. Along the way they had acquired a milk cow and

some pigs. At the time the letter was written, they were settled onto their homestead close to the Fort Pitt Trail, about 35 miles up from the nearest town, Battleford. A 17' x 20' log sod-roofed house had been built and a sty and stable were under construction. Potatoes and vegetables were planted, but it had been too late in the season to plant any grain. Perhaps they could have had a grain crop planted had they not gone all the way to the Barr Colony (at what would eventually become Lloydminster) only to be frustrated by Rev. Barr's refusal to allow them to settle on land of their choice, insisting rather that they accept poorer land of his choosing. At which point, Mr. Black writes, "I went for him & told him he was only a damned fraud & the worst disgrace was that he had the title of Rev'd. to his name" The Blacks then headed back down the trail, and, finally, on June 1, claimed their homestead at SE6-47-21 W3.

In his letter of July 29, Mr. Black writes: "The mail service here has been very bad & I question whether I have had all letters sent to me. But think there will be an improvement as the mail now will run weekly & the residents round this ten miles are petitioning for a post office here & for me to be made Post Master (only a small salary of about perhaps 20 dols. a year) & we also shall probably have the mail driver stopping here for the night on his journey to & from the Barr Colony. At present our nearest Post Office is Bresaylor 12 miles away. Birtie can go on the horse & ride & fetch the letters by himself & quite enjoys it." (*In 1903 the Post Office was located at Alex Taylor's farm - in the Bresaylor Settlement, as there was not yet a hamlet of Bresaylor.*)

Mr. Black did become the Post Master. And the settlers around him decided to call the location Paynton, after Peter Paynter, who farmed four miles to the south, and who had been most helpful to many travelling by his place, supplying them with stock and grain and timely advice. The "ton" at the end on Paynton may have come from the name Thornton, another Barr Colonist who settled in the area, or from the name Grafton, which was actually the settlers' first choice of a name for the post office as so many of them (who arrived in 1902) were from Grafton, North Dakota. But, there was already a Grafton post office elsewhere in the NWT.

And so it was that Paynton began, first as a mail box, eventually, in 1905 when the railway arrived, as a village, and the municipality also took the name, Paynton R.M. (470). A copy of the complete letter of A. M. Black will be a part of a display of Barr Colonist memorabilia at the Bresaylor this coming summer.

Paynton Homecoming

Plans for the July 19-20 Paynton Homecoming are well underway.

There is a growing interest in the event and registrations are coming in from all over the country. The earlybird deadline for registering was March 31, after which the fee increases. Local residents are urged to be sure their family and friends all know about the Homecoming.

Planned activities for the weekend will be kept to a minimum to leave lots of time for visiting with old friends. Refreshments will be available during registration Friday evening and Saturday morning, as well as during the afternoon. There will be displays of photos and historic artifacts throughout much of the school, and participants are welcome to add

their own family histories and photos.

Also, in the afternoon there will be a bus tour, games for the children and perhaps some adult pick-up ball.

Later in the afternoon the Paynton School Board will unveil a special commemorative plaque placed on the remaining school building.

The main planned portion of the weekend is the Saturday evening supper, dance and beer garden. The Yellowhead Ramblers will share the gym with the Karla (Ferguson) McManus group. A DJ will supply music for the beer garden. Rumour has it there will be a commemorative quilt for raffle.

The weekend in Paynton will wind up with Sunday morning breakfast. Organizers expect a grand time will be enjoyed by all.



Bill Gray, son of the late Norah (English) Gray and grandson of Canon W. H. English, with wife Isabelle and daughter-in-law, Joan Champ (l.), at the Bresaylor Campground last summer. William Henry and Mrs. (Helen) English and family arrived with the Barr Colonists on the "Lake Manitoba" in April, 1903. Mr. English became "lay reader in September 1903 in the Bresaylor Settlement under the direction of the Reverend J. F. D. Parker, incumbent of St. George's Church in Battleford, and was fully ordained in the old Bresaylor log school in 1905 by Bishop Newnam. He then became the driving clergyman over a vast parish, which extended from Cut Knife and Wardenville in the south, Mervin in the north, Delmas in the east and Maidstone in the west." - *From Family story by Norah Gray, p. 141 Bresaylor history book.*

BREMNER REUNION DRAWS OVER 400 PEOPLE

by *Therese (Bremner) Weber**

The population of St. Louis, SK, increased by 465 people on the weekend of August 2-3-4, 2002.

The reunion of direct descendants of Alexander Bremner was held in the St. Louis Hall and the skating rink.

The family's history in Canada began in 1812 when Alexander came over from Caithness, Scotland, and entered the Company's service as a labourer. He continued in the service after the merger of the Hudson's Bay Company and North West Company in 1821.

Reunions are a time of getting acquainted, a time to remember and a time to ponder and reflect.

The days were filled with visiting, music, skits, dancing, ball games and of course lots of good food.

The family tree was displayed and many memory tables set up, covered with pictures and articles.

Relatives came from most of the provinces, California, North Carolina and throughout the states.

On Saturday was a beautiful catered supper, followed by sing-songs, followed by a dance and socializing.

Sunday began with breakfast followed by a touching service in the St. Louis Parish celebrated by Father Matthew.

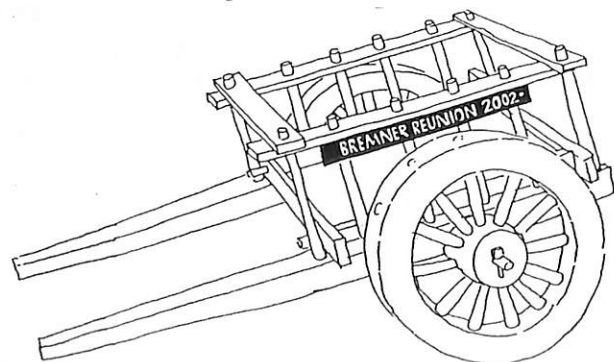
Committee members were Norine Schwalm and her parents Audrey and Herman Bremner. Their whole family contributed many countless hours into planning a wonderful weekend.

Everyone agreed an entertaining and enjoyable weekend was had, while making new memories.

Allan Bremner, son of Eugene Bremner, third great grandson of Alexander Bremner, donated a handmade model of a Red River cart** built by himself.

*You can order Therese's "Scrapbook of Memories" by phoning her at (306) 682-4601 or write: Therese Weber, Box 2454, Humboldt, SK, S0K-2A0.

** Allan Bremner later donated this very fine model to the Bresaylor Heritage Museum, and we are pleased to have it on display.



had early frost (early August) that blackened gardens. Hopefully, next year is better." Naden's letter mentions pretty well every kind of problem served up by last summer's weather. Well, not quite. She missed "hail", but Azelia Tesolin of Cut Knife included that in her letter, she reported someone "south of Baldwinton got hailed out a week ago." (Dated June 21) Oh, yes, and fires - Paynton municipality had two disastrous fires, driven by gale-force winds, wiping out miles of pastureland.

Azelia also mentioned that the CutKnife Museum is already planning a special Sask. 100th celebration for the weekend of Aug 12-13-14, 2005.

And speaking of Cut Knife, Elizabeth McLain, curator of Cut Knife's Clayton McLain Memorial Museum, passed away in November at 88 years of age. She has been a driving force behind the museum named for her husband, and she was most helpful to us when we were setting up the Bresaylor Museum. And I have just received word of the passing of Paul Metherell on April 21. Paul was instrumental in the restoration of the upper floor of the Lashburn Museum, for which a special award was given to that Museum from the Architectural Heritage Branch. Son of Barr Colonist parents, Paul looked forward to this year's 100th anniversary of their arrival in Canada. And, sad to report the loss of another Museum worker, Jim Richards, who suffered a stroke while working at what he loved to do, restore old tractors at the WDM, North Battleford. His wife dropped a note to let us know, adding that Jim's father was also a Barr Colonist, so their farm at Lashburn is 100 this year. And Royce Lott, who helped set up the Maidstone Museum, passed away suddenly on March 4. It's been a hard year on Museum volunteers hereabouts.

Another nice letter came from Omar Wolmsley. His trip to Bresaylor-Paynton-Maidstone evoked a generous dose of nostalgia as he took in the changes that have occurred since the '50s when he ministered in the area. I offer a quote from his letter which might clarify any misinterpretation suggested in my commentary. He says, "In case anyone should think converting to Baha'i means leaving Christ behind it isn't like that. My spiritual journey finally clarified for me that God's search for humanity is never-ending, that all religions radiate from one mystery, that all revelation is progressive, leading ultimately to one Kingdom of God on earth."

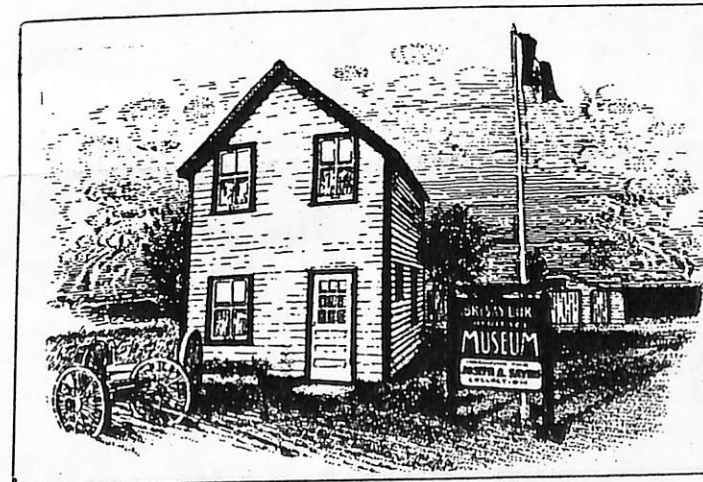
Finally, I wish to pay tribute to the people of Langmeade, our neighbor across the river to the north - to the people who maintain the little All Saints Anglican Church and Cemetery. I attended the funeral of Mrs. Beth Head on a dry hot day in late June, and came away feeling so - elated? It was such a good send-off to a lady who had lived a long life. The lovely little country church, the pump organ played by nephew Cyril (who usually brought Beth to our Pot-Luck suppers), and the short entourage to the grave accompanied by the church bell. The yard was brilliant with peonies, made brighter by the contrasting dryness of the countryside around. It was a highlight of my summer. Good for Langmeade.



Ray Sayers against the backdrop of his prize-winning back yard garden.

ADDRESSES, E-MAILS, WEBSITES

- Joyce Rozell - joycerozell@shaw.ca (fur trade descendant information)
- Mel Sundin - sundim@aol.com (searching information on Taylor, McDonald, Inkster, Ferguson fur trade descendants)
- Wayne Jones - www.interlinx.qc.ca/wjones/books.html (Sayers and related families)
- Paynton Library - paynton.lib@sk.sympatico.ca (collecting Paynton history information)
- Paynton Homecoming - www.payntonhomecoming.com
- Frog Lake Uprising Descendant Association - henbob@telusplanet.net
- Lloydminster Centennial - www.lloydminster.net
- *(remember www means "we went wading")



"All over Athens rooster voices wake the past converses with itself and time is like a plow that turns up yesterday"
Al Purdy

BOOKS in the Museum GIFT SHOP

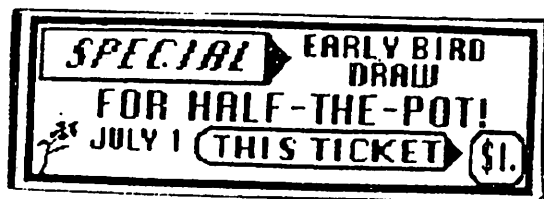
(Prices do not include mailing)

- Three books by Don Dobie: "The River", "My Winter as a Trapper & Other Stories" and "A Potpourri of Stories, Verses and Cartoons" - \$5. each or 3 for \$10.
- "Haywire" by Jim Caplette - \$14.95.
- "The Other Side of Rebellion" by Margaret Stobie - \$14.95.
- "Exploring the Fur Trade Routes of North America" - a travel guide by Barbara Huok. \$20.
- "In Search of Ancient Alberta" - a guide to the province's geology, paleontology & archaeology by Barbara Huok. \$20.
- "Peter Fidler, Canada's Forgotten Explorer" by J. G. McGregor. \$12.95.
- "Gully Farm" by Mary Hiemstra (Barr Colonist settler's story). \$12.95
- "Wheat Province Diamonds" - a story of Saskatchewan baseball by Paul Hack & David Shury. \$25.

BOOKS TO ORDER FROM THE AUTHORS:

- "Footprints in The Dust" a detailed account of the Riel Rebellion by Doug Light, \$29.50. From the author at 2804 - 13 Ave. NW, Calgary, AB, T2N-1L9.
- "The Sands of Time" a reprint of publication, "The Cree Rebellion, 1864" ed. Ross Innes, 86 Sharpe Crescent SE, Medicine Hat, AB, T1B-3Y6.
- "The Adventures of Yukon Joe" by Edward H. Murray, #3, 2107 - 43 Ave. Vernon, BC, V1T-3K6 /Ph. (250) 542-6051. \$16. and "Wanderer Of The Wilderness, Yukon Joe" by E. H. Murray. \$18.
- "Steele's Scouts, Samuel Benfield Steele & The N.W. Rebellion" by Wayne F. Brown, Box 232, Paradise Hill, SK, S0M-2G0/Fax (306) 344 2257, wfbrown@sk.sympatico.ca

During this past year, the following BOOKS from our GIFT SHOP were donated to the PAYNTON LIBRARY in memory of Mary Draganiuk and Georgina Desmarais: Donald Dobie's hand-bound trilogy, "Peter Fidler, Canada's Forgotten Explorer" and "Exploring The Fur Trade Routes of North America".



IN MEMORIAM

JIM RICHARDS

d. September 13, 2001

JOSEPH NEID

d. March 26, 2002

JOHN WALTER CLINK

d. April 5, 2002 at 69 years

ELIZABETH AGNES (McDougall) HEAD

October 18, 1909 - June 30, 2002

VERNON SHRANK

d. July 4, 2002

ISABEL MACK BEACH

February 13, 1913 - July 28, 2002

HAZEL JEAN (Anderson) MCGILL

May 24, 1922 - August 8, 2002

CATHERINE ALICE (Leslie) MITCHELL

d. August 26, 2002

HAROLD ANDERSON

September, 2002

MARY DRAGANIUK

November 15, 1911 - September 25, 2002

GEORGINA DESMARAIS

d. September 29, 2002

DENNIS PRINCE

d. October 2002

JILL (Mrs. Ern) TAYLOR

August 21, 1956 - January 6, 2003

EVA FOULDS

d. January 7, 2003

HAROLDS SAYERS

d. February 28, 2003

