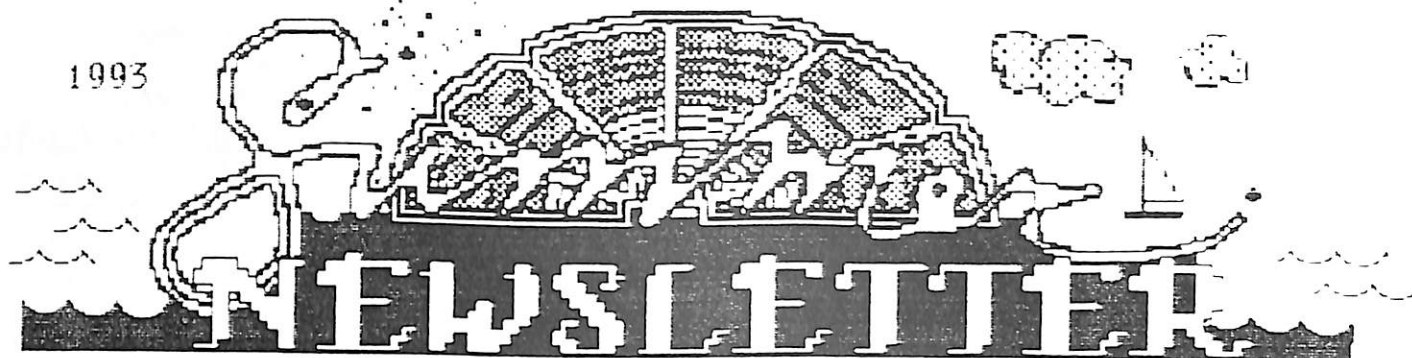


1993



BRESAYLOR HERITAGE MUSEUM ASSOCIATION

Greetings Friends and Supporters of Bresaylor Heritage,

At last we are getting this Newsletter together. Its slowness in taking form is in keeping with the pace of everything else around here this past year - kind of low-g geared - getting half as far in twice the time. Speaking strictly for myself, of course.

The history book project has continued to dominate our activities: promoting it, filling orders for it, making payments on it, and, best of all, receiving letters of appreciation about it.

And now we have made the final payment on the printing bill! That calls for a celebration. And we are going to do that - on Aug 1. With only a few dozen copies to go, there won't be many books left by the end of the summer. So be sure you have your copy.

Another oat crop has been planted. All going well, there will be a threshing bee on Thanksgiving Sunday.

Now that the history book project is winding down, it behoves the board of directors of the Museum to make decisions about future directions for Bresaylor heritage. There are opportunities for us to fit into tourist niches in the area. But just how much further we should go as a sightseeing attraction is dependant on energy, funds and ingenuity. During the next year or so we will need to assess our options and make decisions about such matters. Your thoughts and suggestions would be valued.

Meanwhile, we wish everyone a pleasant summer. And, don't forget to visit the museum if you're in the area.

Velma Foster, (sort-of editor)

P.S. Apologies to "Bud" Regnier. In corresponding with him about his family story, I pulled his address card from the mailing list file, and somehow neglected to put it back, so he never received the newsletter telling of the Reunion. Chances are he might have flown over from England for the occasion - but for my clumsiness. My apologies to anyone else who received less than adequate treatment in regard to the Reunion or the content of the book.

Financing the History Book

A special thanks to the following people who were kind enough to guarantee a \$20,000. line of credit, if necessary, to help cover the cost of printing the history book: June Taylor, Ross Currie, Don Ferguson, Carlyle Bowes, John Guinan, David Dutton, Lizzie Jones, Yvonne Carpentier, Tom Gregg, Helena Caplette, John and Ted Bugg, Emma Gregg, Irene Ferguson, Marjorie Dutton and Lorne Ferguson. As it turned out, only \$1,400. was needed for one of the special payments, and that was paid almost immediately; the

remainder was paid off as the books sold. Final payment was made on June 23.

Distribution of the history books: Most of the books have been sold to individuals. A few copies have joined others of their kind in the waiting rooms of businesses, mostly in the Battlefords. And several copies have gone to such institutions as the National Library in Ottawa; U.of S. Archives (Saskatoon); Saskatoon, Regina and Lakeland Regional Libraries; Glenbow (Calgary); Gabriel Dumont Inst. (Regina and Saskatoon); Pine Island

Lodge (book donated by Paynton Credit Union); Paynton Library (book donated by Barry Austin); Paynton School Library (book donated by the teachers).

Donor required. The Sask. Archive in Regina does not purchase history books, but it accepts donated ones. We are looking for someone who would like to be such a donor. Accordingly, we will hand-letter an acknowledgement of the donor in the book flyleaf. Do we have such a donor for a book for the archives? . . . or for any other institution?

Editor's note

Bresaylor Heritage Update Fund-raising:

The history book may be paid off, but, there are still ongoing expenses involved in keeping the Museum project going. So, the task of fund-raising continues.

• June and Peter Taylor once again hosted whist parties, which raised over \$200.

• We helped run bingos at Paynton once again this past winter; our share of the take was \$658.

• This past month, we operated concessions at two local events: the Paynton Rodeo and the Paynton Sports Day. Net combined earnings: \$1,500.

• **Summer Raffle:** As is our habit, we include a book of raffle tickets with the Newsletter. Cash is always a popular commodity, so we are offering prizes of \$50. and \$25. cash in addition to a hand-crocheted doilie donated by June Taylor and a pair of hand-knit mittens donated by Mrs. Liona Bone. Return as many tickets as you like. More are available on request.

Curatorial: Photographs removed from the museum for use in the history book have not yet been replaced. The plan is to frame them properly with museum quality matting before they go back onto the walls. Some will be copied for exhibition purposes and the originals placed in storage.

A good deal of other upgrading of museum exhibits and storage is needed. The buildings too need constant painting and maintenance, especially now after receiving little attention during the past two years.

This will be a summer of catching up on some of these tasks!

The **Commemorative Quilt** is still in progress. Squares are still being accepted, but, hurry please. June Taylor has started assembling the squares, but reports that there are a lot of families not yet represented.

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Come and CELEBRATE with

us THE FINAL PAYMENT

on the printing cost of the HISTORY BOOK

• "BRESAYLOR BETWEEN the Battle and the North Saskatchewan Rivers"

• August 1 afternoon

at Bresaylor

• pot-luck-supper.

Everyone is welcome

!

SPECIAL REPORT

Intrepid Reporter Hawkeye to The River Rat Review from the scene of the BRESAYLOR REUNION

(Well Boss, here I am, but didn't tell me that it is a ghost town. It's a good thing I have my tent, for I'll have to sleep in the park. And these folks stay up half the night around the campfire. That could be bad for my health so will expect danger pay for the week end.)

As I travelled around the old town of Bresaylor, I heard about three guys who were planning a very strange project, cutting odd shaped windows in small buildings, but why I didn't know. Being a top flight reporter, I immediately sensed an outstanding story.

I finally located the three. It turned out that their names were Don Shadrach, Howie Meshach and Stu Abednego, at least that is what they told me.

(Boss, the names Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego sound so familiar, wasn't that the name of a group of rock stars?)

Wanting to uncover every face of this terrific story, I dug up some background info. It seems that when old Shadrach arrived he contacted Velma. She is the chief honcho here, and during the chat, he noticed how busy she was. So he offered to help in any way he could.

She realized that he was in need of something to bolster his ego, so mentioned a project which, said she, suited his talents to a "T". It seemed that they had ordered two new comfort stations for the park, and the architect had neglected to include windows in the structures.

Not wishing to keep the public in the dark, she felt that a window of some sort should be cut into the now completed and installed units.

Assuring her that the job was as good as done, he went back to the park, arriving just in time for "happy hour", so had an enthusiastic audience. Excitedly he told his great news, and they would be thrilled with the shape of the

(Mean: Boss, isn't this exciting, me being here in the middle of the action. Oh yes, about that danger pay, these evenings around the campfire are not doing my health any good, nor to some of the visitors either. Two were seen crawling home very late last night after the campfire was finished.)

(But as they explained, they had dropped some valuables in the bushes and were merely looking for them. The bushes must have been crawling with them.)

(I am always learning something new!)

the shape of the

thought it should be large and square like any other, but it was pointed out that due to the special circumstances, a more discreet shape and size would be better.

One of the Zodiac signs was suggested, but it was thought that some folk might not feel comfortable relaxing under a Zodiac sign not their own. Someone said why cut out a window at all, just paint one on with black paint, maybe no one would know the difference. While the idea did have merit as a labour saver, it might be considered unethical, and no one wanted to be that unethical.

Then someone came up with the idea of a crescent moon shape, which apparently at one time was the one in vogue across the land. Shadrach then had to admit that as he spent most of his time boating on the river, he really never learned to draw a crescent moon, so called for volunteers.

Finally Howie Meshach spoke up, saying that as he had some experience in such things, he could handle the tricky art work. And Stu Abednego mentioned that he could operate cordless power tools, so the alliance of Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego was formed.

Shadrach and Meshach soon found some tools, and upon returning Shadrach proudly showed Abednego the cordless drill. But Abednego said that it looked very much like an ordinary brace and bit to him, although he admitted it was indeed cordless. "After all, that's what counts" said Shadrach. And the saw looked just like an old keyhole saw but nobody wanted to mention it.

(Mean: Boss, isn't this exciting, me being here in the middle of the action. Oh yes, about that danger pay, these evenings around the campfire are not doing my health any good, nor to some of the visitors either. Two were seen crawling home very late last night after the campfire was finished.)

(But as they explained, they had dropped some valuables in the bushes and were merely looking for them. The bushes must have been crawling with them.)

The next morning we left for the work site, carrying the cordless tools. Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego were so excited, it was not often that they had the opportunity to bring light into the lives of so many people. Now the moment of decision, where to locate the window. Shadrach noted that if the door was open the window would not let in any light. Obviously requiring a high level decision, its placement was soon settled by the other two. High and to one side.

Then a snag occurred. It seems that the position of a crescent moon means something. If it lies on its back, it is considered to be a wet moon, if tipped the other way, it will be a dry one. They finally placed the crescent on its end. This pleased neither the wets nor the dries, but at least got things going again.

Meshach began the delicate task of drawing a crescent on the wall of the biffy, using tools he brought from the camp. They looked just like ordinary pot lids to me, but he explained that they were indeed the precision instruments traditionally used in forming the outline of a crescent moon.

It was a delight to see such a skilled artist at work, every line was drawn with such authority, with the emphasis in just the right places. One could see that such artistic talent and the project were made for each other.

Next came the highly technical task of cutting the opening, requiring all the skill they could muster. Abednego said that the cordless drill took a lot more effort than he was used to. It was apparent that old Shadrach was indeed a skilled supervisor, as he managed to do very little work. When sawing, he would have to stop and scratch a mosquito bite, or he would stop and tell one of his river stories.

Finally the biffy had a crescent window, the perfection of which almost defied description. Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego stood back and admired their work

for the longest time. Abednego then took a photo of the other two sitting in front of the biffy. But old Shadrach had taken his name tag off, so only Meshach can be positively identified in the photo. It was really nice of Shadrach to give all the credit to Meshach.

Future generations will likely stand and marvel at the simplicity and beauty of the window design. It became apparent that it was a real attraction, for soon there were folks lined up in front. I could tell by their expressions that they just couldn't wait to get closer.

So that's about it from your on-the-spot intrepid reporter, who has endured camping and late nights around the bonfire to bring you these incredible stories and interviews. (Boss, don't forget my danger pay.) □



Howie MESHACH and Don SHADRACH in front of handwork with "special" Cordless tools

Sadly, we report the loss of several more friends and former residents of the area. Most recent was Mrs. Emma Gregg who passed away on April 26.

Others who have passed away include
Mrs. Norah (English) Gray,
Kelly McClure,
Marcel Durupt,
Alfred Sayers,
Cecil Sayers,
Olga Bidyk,
and Ivan Roque

In November of 1992, Milton and Evelyn Harmon's daughter, Myrna Harmon, was killed in a car accident

A Barr Colony Trek is travelling from Saskatoon to Lloydminster this summer, commemorating the 90th Anniversary of the original journey. There will be approximately 45 people taking part, travelling by horse and wagon. On the evening of July 8, they will make camp somewhere near the Ferguson Stock Farm. We are planning to organize supper for the trekkers that evening. Anyone interested in participating contact June Taylor (895-2098) or Velma Foster (895-4813) for more details.

Supporters: For the past few years we have been soliciting donations for the museum and especially for the history book. A donation of \$5. or more entitles one to be a Supporter of Bresaylor Heritage in good standing and the holder of a "prestigious" Supporter card.

It has been suggested that we should up the rate (to \$10.) and perhaps we will do that in the future. But, for now, it will stay at \$5.

It was also suggested that we have some kind of life supporter category. The Museum board thought this would be a good idea; accordingly a donation of \$500. entitles one to **Life Supporter** status. We will find a permanent way (a plaque and a special certificate) to acknowledge such a contribution.

Paulette

(Bremner/Pichette/Boudreault) **Gilbert**, has been assembling genealogical information on the original Bresaylor Settlement (Bremners, Sayers, Taylors) families for the past 12 years.

She is offering personalized copies of her information at \$25. Notice of this came to us last September, but, presumably, it still applies. If interested, she can be contacted at Box 295, Stony Plain, Alberta, TOE-2G0.

The Old Recipes Cook Book project mentioned in previous newsletters has not been forgotten . . . just put on hold for the time being.

The Cemetery Fund now stands at \$721.59. Other than maintenance, no work has been done at the cemetery since this fund was established, but it will be a priority in the not-too-distant future. Donations for this fund are appreciated. Ross Currie and ¹⁹⁹⁴ Bugg are the new signing officers.

Hallett 200th year Reunion

Mrs. Heather Hallett of Castlegar, B.C., has been working on a book of the descendants of Henry (1773-1844/HBC employee) and Catherine Hallett. It is due to be complete for the Reunion of descendants to be held in Winnipeg from July 1-4 this summer. There are connections with several early Bresaylor families (Fiddlers, Bremners, Prudens, Spences). Some people might be interest in the book. Perhaps we will have more information on that in the future.

Current **Board of Directors**
of the **Bresaylor Heritage Museum**
Chairperson - Margaret Currie
Vice Chairperson - Maggie Webb
Past Chairperson - Don Ferguson
Secretary - Helena Caplette
Curator/Treasurer - Velma Foster
June Taylor Yvonne Carpentier
Ross Currie John Guinan.

Photo of Charles Bremner

Joan Champ, editor of Saskatchewan History (a Saskatchewan Archives Board publication) phoned a couple of months ago to ask permission to use the photograph of Charles Bremner (p. 78 of the Bresaylor history book) with an article on the Bremner Fur case which will appear in the spring issue of the magazine. She had seen the photo in the late Norah (English) Gray's copy of the book. As it turns out, Joan Champ, is married to Mrs. Gray's grandson. We look forward to seeing the article and the photograph.

*Thank you to Fred & Bev Davis
for the ongoing use of their
computer!*

A donation of \$5. or more entitles you to be a card-carrying

SUPPORTER.

OF BRESAYLOR HERITAGE

DONATIONS TO BRESAYLOR
HERITAGE are TAX DEDUCTIBLE!

**THE BRESAYLOR HERITAGE
MUSEUM**

ASSOCIATION

LOCATED IN BRESAYLOR
SASKATCHEWAN

Mailing address:
Paynton, Saskatchewan