



SAAMIS SEEKER

JUNE 1999

ISSN 0229 7205

VOL. 20 NO. 2

1999 EXECUTIVE & COMMITTEE HEADS

President: Deb Phillips 526-0802
 Past Pres.: Edie Pinder... 548-3770 epinder@memlane.com
 Vice Pres.: Merv Hamblin 528-3571 mhamblin@telusplanet.com
 Secretary: Brian Klein 527-2874 bklein@memlane.com
 Treasurer: Fern Muirhead 527-5093 fmuirhea@memlane.com
 Publicity: Ferdinand Schwab . 5275774
 Library: Betty Padfield 526-8677 bpadfield@memlane.com
 Membership: Kathy Gleisner ... 548-7505 ... khinds@memlane.com
 Queries: Margaret Myles ... 526-3466 ... myles@telusplanet.net
 Research: Faye Hood 527-8314 hoodnhat@telusplanet.net
 Editor: Joanie Gilchrist 526-9005 rgilchri@memlane.com



Address all correspondence to:
 Medicine Hat & District Branch AGS
 P.O. Box 971
 Medicine Hat, Alberta T1A 7G8

Publication dates are the first day of
 March, June, September &
 December. Submission deadlines
 are
 the 15th of February, May, August
 and November.

The purpose of the Saamis Seeker is to inform members of A.G.S. and Medicine Hat & District Branch affairs, to print material to further member's research, and to publish local resource and research materials.

Final authority regarding the acceptance of material rests with the editor. Neither the editor nor the Branch accept any responsibility for the opinions or errors on the part of the contributors.

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Fashion and Our Ancestors

Compiled and submitted by Teresa Parasynchuk and Lorna Veenstra

Clothes have been an integral part of our ancestor's lives. Their clothes can pinpoint the era they were living in by the style of dress worn. Dress also marked their station in life.



These pictures show some of the fashions worn around the 1880's to the 1930's. The early styles were dresses that the wealthy wore. The reason I bring up wealthy is that there were many strange attachments to the word "wealth".

Women of wealth wanted to prove that fact. Or maybe it was the men that wanted to keep their wives in that "picture perfect image". The style of dress during certain periods made it impossible for the woman to do much of anything but be an ornament. It was called **beauty by impairment**. To achieve the look, hidden under the top layer, metal stays were stitched into the garment to show off the tiny waist. The puffy sleeves again accentuated the tiny waist with the skirt billowing out to

finish the look. These puffy sleeves often had another impairment. The seams were sometimes sewn behind the shoulder line making it difficult to raise the arms. This meant the woman could not even brush her hair. The S Look was also in style during this time.

This look was achieved by wearing a corset that pushed up the bosom and made the bottom stick out. A bustle worn with this look gave the ultimate S shape.



In the 1900's to 1910's, the Edwardian style chose another inhibitor. It was called the hobble skirt. The dress had a very narrow width at the hem. Try running in this setup. This meant you **had** to have a servant running around doing everything for you. Of course, if your ancestors were like mine and were not in the position to hire everything done, their clothes were sewn to enable them to work. The working class made good use of all clothes worn, even their wedding gown. In certain eras, a dark gown was worn as it was easier to keep and, of course, it could be worn afterwards for special occasions.



Towards the 1920's, the dresses again started to change. Women's attitudes changed. They wished to be more in control. The 1920's brought about a style that was shorter and had more freedom. They still bound the body, in this case, to give a slim, flat, boyish look. The waistline of the dress was either changed or it was totally ignored. A woman had more freedom and mobility because of this change. The hemline being uneven gave was to a daring look of being shorter and showing the angle, yet not going too far.

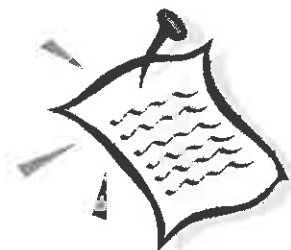
Other factors, like wars, dictated fashion. In the 1940's, for example, the dresses became very plain without the use of much fabric. Fabric could not be used to excesses in clothing – it had to be used for uniforms.

When going over the photographs of your ancestors and even the ones taken of yourself when you were younger, not the style of dress that sets out the year when the picture was taken. Also remember some of the interesting quirks that were behind that particular fashion.

WEB SITES

Here are some interesting worldwide genealogy web sites. Not all sites have been checked. I have omitted the India site as it had an error. If I find the correct site for India, I will include it in a future issue. Good luck!

AFRICA: www.rootsweb.com/~africagw/
ARGENTINA: www.rootsweb.com/~argwgw/
AUSTRALIA: www.rootsweb.com/~auswgw/
AUSTRIA: <http://w3g.med.uni-giessen.de/gene/req/AUT/austria-en.html>
BELGIUM: <http://win-www.uja.ac.be/u/pavp/index.html>
BRAZIL: www.rootsweb.com/brawgw/
CANADA: www.afhs.ab.ca/canada.html
CHILE: www.rootsweb.com/~chlwgw/index_en.html
CZECH/SLOVAK/CARPATHO-RUSYN: www.iarelated.com/qa/index.html
EAST EUROPE (GALACIAN): www.feefhs.org/
ENGLAND: www.afhs.ab.ca/uk.html
FINLAND: www.open.org/~rumcd/genweb/finn.html
FRANCE: www.world-address.com/francetres/
GERMANY: <http://www.afhs.ab.ca/germany.html>
GREECE: www.geocities.com/SouthBeach/Cove/4537/
HOLLAND: http://members.tripod.com/~Don_Arnolus/index.html
ICELAND: www.rootsweb.com/~iswgw/
ITALY: www.italgen.com/
IRELAND: www.nationalarchives.ie/genealogy5.html
JEWISH: www.jewishgen.org
MEXICO: www.rootsweb.com/~mexwgw/
NEW ZEALAND: <http://geocities.com/Athen/Forum/3709/nzgenweb.html>
NORWAY: <http://members.xoom.com/follesdal/>
POLAND: www.rootsweb.com/~ruswgw/
RUSSIA: <http://www.rootsweb.com/~ruswgw/>
SCOTLAND: www.scotweb.co.uk/ScotRoots/
SPAIN: <http://members.aol.com/balboanet/spain/index.html>
SWEDEN: www.acc.umu.se/~petersj/swegen.html/
SWITZERLAND: www.rootsweb.com/~chewgw/
UKRAINE: www.rootsweb.com/~ukrwgw/index.html
UNITED STATES: www.afhs.ab.ca/usa.html



REMINDER: Always remember to keep your antivirus program up to date and USE IT! Ruby Engler received an email from her sister with an attachment. The attachment contained the worm virus *happy99.exe*. Luckily, Ruby knew enough to delete it without opening it and saved her hard drive and its contents. Her sister, who sent her the email, wasn't so lucky and lost all of her files.

The following item was taken from a Jubilee Commemoration booklet entitled *"Fifty Years of St. Barnabas Church (Diocese of Qu'Appelle) in Medicine Hat, Alberta, 1884-1934."* This booklet was found at the church by church member Barbara Hamblin. It is believed to be the only copy. This item is reprinted (edited) here with her permission.

THE GREAT WAR

The City of Medicine Hat played her part gallantly in the Great War 1914 - 1918. The Parish responded readily in this participation with both men and women, and established for herself a record of sacrifice and service of which she may well be proud.

At the outbreak of hostilities, August 4th, 1914, it was Capt. Frank Pott (a member of St. Barnabas) who volunteered and recruited the first detachment of 26 men from Medicine Hat, several of whom were adherents of this Church. These "First 26" were accorded a rousing civic send-off by the citizens and each presented with a \$10.00 bill by the City. They left on or about August 20th, 1914, for Valcartier Camp under the command of Capt. Frank Pott, where they joined the famous 10th Battalion (later known as the Fighting Tenth).

About a week afterwards, Medicine Hat citizens headed by the late Dr. Oliver Boyd, acting mayor, again turned out en masse to accord their second detachment of 100 men a grand and fitting send off and \$10.00 each. These "One Hundred" left Medicine Hat on August 27th, 1914, for Valcartier Camp to join the first twenty-six and the 10th Battalion. Many of these also belonged to St. Barnabas Church.

After a few weeks vigorous training at Valcartier, these gallant men from Medicine Hat set sail on October 3rd, 1914, from Gaspé Bay as part of Canada's Armada, the famous "First 30,000." Thus the flower of Canada's manhood and the first contingent from the Dominion to the cause of the Empire and Motherland in the hour of need landed in England and proceeded to Salisbury Plains for additional training. On February 11th, 1915, the first Canadian Division landed in France at St. Nazaire and were very soon afterwards in the front line trenches.

During the last week of April, 1915, Canadian casualties commenced coming to the doors of our homes and one of the first officers to be killed was the popular Captain Frank Pott who fell at St. Julian during the second battle of Ypres, April 22nd, 1915, while leading his men from Medicine Hat. Others of the first 126 reported killed in action about this time and whose names appear on the Memorial Tablet of St. Barnabas Church were Corp. T. F. (Penny) Lee, Lieut. H. A. Whiffin, Corp. F. Abbott, R. (Dick) Cox, and Lieut. L. Rimmer.

On December 29th, 1914, Medicine Hat commenced recruiting for the 3rd Canadian Mounted Rifles and the greater portion of that unit was supplied by this City and District, many belonging to this Church. Included amongst its officers were the late Captain C. S. Pingle and the late Captain H. K. Oakes, both of St. Barnabas. The 3rd Canadian Mounted Rifles after training at the fairgrounds, left Medicine Hat for overseas under Lieut. Colonel L. J. Whittaker as C. O. with Colonel F. G. Sissons as Brigade Commander on June 1st, 1915. They later proceeded to France as a Unit, which distinguished itself gallantly, suffering heavy casualties in killed and wounded both as the 3rd Canadian Mounted Rifles and later as the 1st and 2nd Canadian Mounted Rifles.

"B" Company of the 63rd Infantry Battalion under the command of Capt. R. B. Davidson called for recruits in Medicine Hat on July 2nd, 1915 and shortly afterwards entrained for Sarcee Camp, Calgary, where it joined the remainder of the 63rd for a few months' intensive training before proceeding overseas that fall. Again St. Barnabas contributed its quota.

The 13th Canadian Mounted Rifles were brought to Medicine Hat for training at the fair grounds early in 1916 and spent several months here before proceeding overseas. One of the 13th Canadian Mounted Rifles, Pte. James

Peter Robertson, son of Mrs. Janet Robertson, now deceased, of this City, was awarded the Victoria Cross for conspicuous bravery and resource at the battle of Paschendaele Ridge on November 6th, 1917, but unfortunately he was killed in action the same day. Private Robertson's Victoria Cross was the only award of this coveted and rarest of all military honors for courage in battle to come to Medicine Hat. The posthumous award was presented to his mother by Lieut.-Governor R. H. Brett of Alberta and Mrs. Robertson was later presented to H. R. H. the Prince of Wales.

The 175th Canadian Infantry Battalion, better known as "The Dollar Six Bits" came into being on January 23rd, 1916, when recruiting was commenced under Captain William Parker (of St. Barnabas). The command of the Battalion was vested in Lt. C. Nelson Spencer D.S.O., former Mayor of Medicine Hat, who quickly organized a unit of 1,079 other ranks and 32 officers, from this city and district. The first man to enlist in the 175th Battalion was Sidney J. Warner (son of E. C. Warner) of St. Barnabas, who later won his commission as Lieut. and died from war service shortly after his return home. A large percentage of the officers of the Unit were members of St. Barnabas as were also a great number of the men. The first military funeral in Medicine Hat was held from St. Barnabas Church in February, 1916, for the late Pte. O. Hawkshaw of the 175th Battalion. The service was conducted by the Rev. E. A. Davis and was attended by the whole Battalion.

After carrying out preliminary training for several months while billeted in the present potteries and other factory buildings in Medicine Hat, the 175th left for Sarcee Camp, Calgary, on June 6th, 1916, and in September, 1916, they left for overseas service. On the evening of September 26th, the Battalion stopped off in this city for a few hours (en route east) for the purpose of bidding farewell to loved ones and of receiving their Regimental Colors which had been so kindly donated by Mr. J. H. Collier (of St. Barnabas) and Mr. John Shields. The Battalion sailed from Halifax on October 3rd, 1916, on the S.S. Saxonica, and upon arrival in England proceeded to Witley Camp and later to Seaford, Sussex.

The Colors of the Unit were deposited on Wolfe's Monument in Westminster Abbey while the members were at the front. The 175th Battalion reinforced the 31st and 50th Battalions in France and suffered losses of approximately 400 killed and 500 wounded. The Colors of the 175th were deposited in St. Barnabas Church on August 7th, 1919. They were later removed to other churches in the city and finally deposited in St. Barnabas to remain there permanently. The King's Colors of the 3rd Canadian Mounted Rifles also repose in this Church.

The Roll of Honour in St. Barnabas shows 200 members of the Church including 6 nursing sisters enlisted for service in the Great War, and forty paid the supreme sacrifice in the field while many more have died since from the direct effects of their service.

In conclusion, it can be seen from the foregoing synopsis what a conspicuous and noble part this city and the Parish of St. Barnabas in particular played in the Great War. May the Regimental Colors carry to us the memory of those of our Parishioners who bled and died not only for Canada but for their convictions that peace on earth would be established and maintained. May we ever strive to see to it that their splendid sacrifices were not in vain by doing our part to outlaw further wars, with their attendant horrors, destruction, bloodshed, and awfulness. If we fail in this our duty, "we shall break faith with those who died, and they will not sleep, though poppies grow in Flanders Fields".

The above sketch of the part which Medicine Hat and the Parish of St. Barnabas took in the Great War, was contributed by Major H. E. Whiffin.

EASTER IN BESSARABIA

Submitted by Ferdinand Schwab

Easter was a very important holiday in Bessarabia. The children looked forward to it with great anticipation. Some of them would plant oats or barley in a pot or pan. This was planted about two weeks before Easter. By Easter day, the grain would be about six inches high. This also was used as a germination test by the father. The Easter eggs were boiled and colored on the Saturday before Easter. Eggs were colored from bright yellow to dark brown using onion skins.. For other colors, crepe paper was used. The children also liked to help with this. They never imagined these to be the same eggs that the Easter bunny placed in their green nests!

I remember getting Easter eggs for my school lunch in Canada. At lunch time, we had great fun at picking other students eggs. The sharp end was used to pick at them. It was always a pleasure to have the strongest egg. If I was successful, I would not eat that egg. I would bring it back to school again the next day.

The youth of Bessarabia always had a special celebration on Easter Monday. There were several youth groups in competition. A few days before Easter they went around from house to house begging for eggs. They needed about four hundred eggs. In some cases, the women wondered why their hens were not laying so good around Easter! Next they had to organize a music group. They had somebody with an accordion, two drummers and one or two triangles. They also needed a colorful flag. Both sides of the flag were decorated with paper roses and other designs. On the top of the flag were a tin horse and chicken as symbol of the village youth. They needed a flag bearer, several bartenders and, for each row of eggs, they needed a good runner, a guard and two girls. They also needed a meeting place for after the games.

A place for the games had already been picked on the prairie outside of the (dorf) village. In the middle of this place, a 50 to an 80-centimeter hole was dug. A pole about 10 to 12 meters long was made ready for a flag pole. A flag representing the youth was fastened to the top. Around this flag pole, an area of about 16 to a 20-meter diameter was kept free for dancing. From the edge of this dance place, in opposite directions, two rows of eggs were placed. Eleven pieces of sod were placed, upside down, three meters apart. These were called "steps". On each step one colored egg was placed. Between the steps which were about 30 centimeters apart, nine raw white eggs were placed. Beside the furthest step from the dance place, a small flag was stuck in the ground.

Next benches were set up for the musicians and some of the older people. The flag pole was laid beside the hole. Then everyone went home for dinner. One person was left behind to guard the place.

After dinner, everyone gathered at the youth club. From there, they marched out to the game place. They were led by the band playing loud music and loud cheering. In front marched the flag bearer, followed by the colorful contestants and the girls with white-covered baskets. The villagers who wanted to watch followed behind.

Arriving at the game place, the flag was attached to the pole and set in the provided hole. There was a cross board fastened below the flag. On each end of the board was fastened a bottle of wine. This was a sign that there would be plenty to drink for all who attended. During the game the servers offered wine, free of charge. The children got lemonade.

For each row of eggs, there was a referee to make sure that nobody cheated. Then there was the runner who had to gather the eggs in their proper order. One girl had to catch the egg thrown by the runner. He threw it from a distance of about two meters. She caught this in her white apron. Another girl took the egg out of the apron and placed it in a basket. There was also a chief referee who made sure everything was done right. Now the games were ready to start.

A loud whistle from the chief referee called the participants to get ready. The girls stood ready at the beginning of

the rows with their aprons to catch the eggs. The runner ran as fast as he could to the other end of the row, grabbed the colored egg of the first "step" and rushed and threw the colored egg high over the flagpole. Then there was a pause of about ten minutes, while the runners danced with their girls. Another whistle and the runners started to gather the white eggs. These had to be picked up one at a time. The handier the runner was in tossing the egg in the girls apron, the quicker he could go back for the next one. After the nine eggs were gathered, the next colored egg was thrown over the flag pole. Again there was a pause for dancing. So followed the gathering of one ten after another. After the last ten, there followed a longer pause. Now came the high point of the game.

Again colored eggs were placed on the outer steps. Beside each step was placed a paper flag. Meanwhile, the players danced wildly. In the middle of the dance, somebody blew a loud whistle. Now the runners once more ran with all speed for the last time along their row. They grabbed the flag with their left hand and the colored egg with the right hand. They stormed back to the center. Whoever got there first and threw the egg over the flag pole was the winner. After that there was a final dance. The flag pole was taken down and everything was gathered. Then they all gathered at their headquarters for a celebration. Now the girls were put to work again. A large part of the eggs were scrambled. Others were fried, sunny-side up! These eggs along with other food, such as bread, sausage and sour pickles, made a fitting end to a joyful holiday.

1999 - Centennial Year of the Medicine Hat Police Service

submitted by Staff Sergeant Jack Lemire

In 1882, Medicine Hat, District of Assiniboia, Northwest Territories, began to be settled by the workers who had begun construction on the wooden trestle bridge that would eventually cross the South Saskatchewan River to be used by the Canadian Pacific Railway. At this time, the settlement was only a few businesses and inhabitants. Medicine Hat continued to be a small prairie settlement whose primary business was agriculture and the services that would be associated with the supporting of the CPR. In June of that year, the river boat "Baroness" was utilized to transport coal from the Coalbanks (Lethbridge) to Medicine Hat. The formalized settlement took shape the following year in 1883. In 1884 with the discovery of natural gas, Medicine Hat became an unincorporated town. With the dramatic growth of the town, primarily due to the railway, the cattle industry and natural gas, as well as the numerous problems that were occurring in the surrounding district, the five North West Mounted Police officers were unable to police this growing and industrious town. To address this shortcoming, Mayor W. B. Marshall and the counsellors of the Town of Medicine Hat decided to hire their own police officer. This police officer would be responsible for the affairs of the town and address the needs solely of this community. As such, the Medicine Hat Police Service was created by the passing of By-Law 8 on January 13, 1899. The first officer hired was John Clark who was officially hired to the position of Inspector, Health Officer and Policeman on January 24, 1899. He had a variety of duties, one of which was to ensure that the town premises were inspected ensuring that chimney, fireplaces, and hearths were in proper order and to ensure that the council chambers were in a clean and orderly condition prior to the meeting of Council. Constable Clark resigned his position within the year and George H. Markwick was named as his successor. George Markwick began his employment on November 4, 1899.

In 1904, the town hired the first night policeman to ensure law and order was maintained during the evening hours. This member, Vincent Mennizeski also held the distinction of being the father of the first set of twins born in Medicine Hat in 1897. On May 9, 1906, Medicine Hat gained the status of a city in the newly created Province of Alberta. The city continued to be an industrial centre for the prairies which was supported by its easy access to the rail transportation and the abundance of natural gas. At about this time period, the population of Medicine Hat was 11,000 people and the police force had grown to a strength of 14 members. As was the case in most Canadian cities, growth was stagnant over the years of the First World War. The city growth renewed after the war years, as did the growth of its police force. Under the direction of Chief James Bruce, the force continued to monitor activities

and enforce the laws of the day for both the City, Province and Dominion.

Medicine Hat has had a proud history as a progressive community and along with this, its police service has also grown into one of the most progressive and respected organizations within the Province of Alberta and in western Canada. Since its inception, there have been 288 members of the organization under the direction of 19 chiefs of police:

Constable John Clark	1899	A/Chief Harold Watts	1945-1946
Chief George Markwick	1899-1906	Chief Arthur Bull	1946-1967
Chief John Meiklejohn	1906-1912	Chief Sam Drader	1967-1974
Chief James Bruce	1912-1916	Chief John Judge	1974-1975
	and 1918-1919	Chief Eric Lloyd	1975-1984
Chief Archie Johnson	1916-1917	Chief Norm McLeod	1984-1986
A/Chief Walter Gover	1917-1918	Chief Ray Palardy	1986-1992
A/Chief Johas Laight	1919	Chief Bill Spring	1992-1996
Chief James Taylor	1919-1940	Chief Don Kylo	1996-present
A/Chief Joseph McQueen	1940-1945		
A/Chief George McIntosh	1945		

It would be of interest to note that over the 100 years of service to this community, there have been five buildings utilized as a police station. The first was the territorial court house situated where the current Royal Canadian Legion is located. The next move was to the basement of the city hall building at the corner of 2nd Street and 6th Avenue S.E. In the 1940's, the move was to the old armoury building that was situated in the 700 block of 1st. S.E., the site of the old health unit building adjacent to the Maple Avenue bridge. In the 1960's, a new building was built at 169 Ash Avenue S.E. and in 1989 an expansion to the Ash Avenue building was completed. The addition was built around the existing building and added on an additional storey.

As we enter 1999, the Medicine Hat Police Service is celebrating 100 years of service to this community. Numerous projects have been organized to celebrate this anniversary occasion such as:

- newly created Police Service badge and banner through the Canadian Heraldic Authority
- creation of brick mural by local artist James Marshall, proudly displayed in the lobby of the Service building
- time capsule to contain articles relative to policing today and dedicated to future members and will be opened in 100 years on January 13, 2099
- acquisition of Alberta and Canadian flags that were displayed in the respective legislatures on the anniversary date of January 13, 1999
- newly created shoulder flashes and vehicle markings in honour of the occasion

Members of the Service are proud to wear the uniform and serve the citizens of this community. There has been a century of service to this community and, in partnership with the citizens, we look forward to the next century of service.

NOTE: Watch the next issue for a roster of police officers (plus some pictures, if available) for the early years of the Medicine Hat Police Service. Editor