



Heritage News

Discover Crowsnest Heritage

ISSUE #29

Feb 2013

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A Crowsnest Heritage Initiative Project.

If interested in submitting an article, news piece, or update, please send it to cnheritage@shaw.ca.

Black History Month

Each year Canada pays tribute to the important people and events of the African Diaspora, especially those with a connection to Canada. Following in the footsteps of the United States, Canada's House of Commons officially recognized February as "Black History Month" in 1995, and the Canadian Senate followed suit in 2008.

This year's Black History Month theme is Black Canadians in law enforcement. Being recognized are individuals such as Nova Scotia's Rose Fortune, whose unofficial title is "Canada's first policewoman." In the mid-1800s she set up a community based protection plan for local property left along Nova Scotia's wharfs. Also, Devon Clunis, who is making history in Winnipeg by being Canada's first Black Chief of Police.

People of African descent first settled in Alberta in the 1870s, but the majority of them were to come later, in the first decades of the 20th century. Some early settlements established by Afro-american immigrants include Amber Valley, Keystone (now Breton), Junkins (now Wildwood) and Campsie. Many also set up home in and around Edmonton.

Southern Alberta has its own famous Black settlers, John Ware being one of the earliest arrivals and certainly the most celebrated individual. But there were others, including the "coloured" trader William Bond living about 80 km from Fort Macleod in 1874.

Our feature article in this issue is the story of some of the earliest Crowsnest Pass Black residents. Enjoy!

WHAT'S ON

THE CROWSNEST HISTORICAL SOCIETY

7701 18th Ave. Coleman. 403-563-5434



Crowsnest Historical Society, Annual General Meeting. Sunday, March 10th, 2:00 pm.

The meeting will be held at the **Coleman Seniors Drop In Centre** at 7805-18th Avenue, Coleman, next to the Crowsnest Museum. This year's AGM is celebrating the 40th Anniversary of the founding meeting of the Crowsnest Pass Citizens Historical Committee, forerunner of the Crowsnest Historical Society. The Crowsnest Historical Society operates the Crowsnest Museum.

Highlights at the meeting will include an update on the past year's operations, current financial position, plans to implement a sustaining donors' program, and future plans to engage membership in the operations and programs of the Crowsnest Museum.

Elections will also be held for new directors to serve on the Society's executive. Anyone interested in running for a director position is asked to contact Belle Kovach at 403-564-4709 for further information. Nominations from the floor will be permitted. Birthday cake and other refreshments will be served at the meeting.

[CLICK HERE TO GO DIRECTLY TO THE INVITATION AND MEMBERSHIP FORM.](#)

CROWSNEST MUSEUM

Open : Tuesday to Saturday. 9 am—5 pm.

As well as exhibits on coal mining in the Crowsnest Pass, there are galleries on Pass life in the early 1900s, natural history, the military, and on Emperor Pic and rum-running. There is a gift shop near the entrance. For tours and educational programs: Contact: cnmuseum@shaw.ca.

Adults \$10, Seniors (65+) \$8, Youth (6-16) \$6, Under 6 free, Families \$24.

KOOTENAI BROWN MUSEUM

1037 Bev McLachlin Dr., Pincher Creek. 403-627-3684



Village Pond: 9 am—4 pm.

The Museum hosts an outdoor pond for skating. It is open weekdays. The price is \$2/per person/per hour. Group bookings are available. Weather may affect times. Please phone 403-627-3684 for information or bookings.

Established in 1966, the Museum consists of 19 buildings housing over 18,000 artifacts from southern Alberta. The legendary George "Kootenai" Brown lived in southern Alberta and his cabin and some of his possessions form part of the Museum's exhibits.

Kootenai Brown is open to the public daily from 9 am to 4 pm Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday through the winter season, Adults \$10, Seniors (65+) \$7, Youth (7-17) \$7, Under 7 free, Families \$25

FERNIE MUSEUM

491 Victoria Ave. (2nd Ave.), Fernie, BC 250-423-7016



The Bugaboos: A Celebration in history and image. Feb. 8th—Mar. 3rd.

Alpinists flock from all over the globe to hike, climb and ski amongst the Bugaboos, the granite nunataks that sprout from one of the largest glacier systems in the Purcell range.

The Bugaboos-A Celebration in Story & Image commemorates BC Parks's centennial and the natural and human history of Bugaboo Provincial Park. Curated by Pat Morrow and produced by the Art Gallery of Golden.

The Fernie Museum & Visitor Information Centre is located in one of Fernie's distinctive heritage buildings at 491 2nd Ave. The building itself, an important example of Fernie's rich history, boasts a main floor exhibit hall with the visitor info centre, as well as a lovely Museum Gallery on the 2nd floor. Public washrooms are available on each floor.



GALT MUSEUM AND ARCHIVES

502 1st St. S., Lethbridge 1-866-320-3898



Canadian Science and Engineering Hall of Fame. Feb. 2nd—May 19th.

This exhibit honours individuals whose outstanding scientific or technological achievements have made a great contribution to society.

Compelling stories of curiosity, challenge, problem-solving and discovery by Canadian scientists, inventors, engineers and medical researchers provide inspiration and insight.

Well-known scientists like Alexander Graham Bell and Sandford Fleming stand beside lesser known but no less significant people like Reginald Fessenden and Maude Abbott. In all, 45 men and 9 women are featured, of which 8 are Nobel Laureates*.



The Museum is open all year round. Monday to Saturday 10:00 am to 4:30 pm, Sundays and Holidays 1:00 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. Adults \$5, Seniors (65+) \$4, Youth (7-17) \$3, Under 7 free, Families \$12.

REMINGTON CARRIAGE MUSEUM

623 Main St. Cardston. 403-653-5139



Easter Egg Hunt. Mar. 23rd. 11 am sharp.

For ages 10 and under. Cost is free, just bring your own Easter basket. Bring a camera because Easter Bunny will be there.

The Museum has the largest collection of horse-drawn vehicles in North America with over 240 carriages, wagons and sleighs. The 63,000 square foot facility features video displays, a fire hall, a carriage factory, a restoration shop, a working stable, carriage rides, carriage rentals, a restaurant and a gift shop. There are free guided tours. Group tours and educational tours are offered. Open daily 9:00 am to 5:00 pm. Contact: info@remingtoncarriagemuseum.com. Admission: Adults \$10, Seniors (65+) \$8, Youth (7-17) \$5, Under 7 free, Families \$22.

BELLEVUE UNDERGROUND

21814 28th Avenue Bellevue, AB T0K 0C0 (403) 564-4700



The Bellevue mine is closed for the season.

If you are an educational or other special interest group who would like to arrange a tour outside the normal season, please contact the Bellevue Underground Mine at the above telephone number.

Our John Ware Connection

By

Ian McKenzie

GENERAL EXODUS OF NEGROES INTO CANADA

Movement Follows Colonizing Campaign by Canadian Representatives During Winter Months.

OKLAHOMA CITY, March 26.—The final action of the Canadian government in admitting to that country negro families from Oklahoma is having the effect of further colonization movement among the negroes, especially in Okfuskee, Muskogee and Creek counties, where there is a heavy negro population and several exclusive negro towns.

The first emigration to Canada during the past week was of ninety families, perhaps 500 negroes in all, from Okfuskee county. They sold all their property in this state, intending to homestead quarter section claims in Canada. Many other negroes are making preparations to start and indications are there will be a general exodus. It develops that the Canadian colonization work among the negroes has been in progress for several months, the intention being to move 1,000 families, or about 7,000 negroes, this spring, of which the Clearview emigrants formed the advance guard. It is understood a treaty provision admits them to Canada if they have \$5 each in cash.

The emigrants as a rule are educated negroes, many of whom were taught in the government schools for Indians in old Indian Territory. They are leaving Oklahoma because of adverse legislation, "Jim Crow" coach and depot laws, the "grandfather clause" act that prohibits them from voting, separate school laws and others.

The Gazetteer and Guide, March 26, 1903

Canada accepted 15,000 escaped or newly-emancipated slaves from the United States during and immediately following the American Civil War (1861-1865), but not very many afterwards. For example, there were fewer than 900 Black immigrants to Canada in the twelve years between 1896 and 1907. Despite advertising the need to populate its underutilized farmlands, Alberta was not very enthused with the idea of Black sodbusters. The first group of Black farmers in Alberta were the 'Exodusters' who came from Oklahoma in and after 1910; prior to that there were only a smattering of individual immigrants. Famous cowboy John Ware was amongst the first, in 1882; the first Black family in Alberta is believed to be the Lewises, who came from Ontario in 1889. Both had Crowsnest connections.



The Lewis family ca. 1900. Back row L-R: Ellie, Jessie, Frances, Mary Octavia, Daniel Junior. Front row L-R: Daniel, Charlotte, Spencer. Glenbow Archives NA-262-1. Catalogue listing says photograph taken in Vulcan, AB. Author suggests this is incorrect and the photograph was probably taken in Calgary.

Daniel Lewis was born in the USA while his wife and children were born in Ontario; all were well-educated. Daniel came west to build a house in Shepard, near Calgary, and the following year was joined by his wife Charlotte and their children. Daniel was a cabinetmaker by

The Lewises moved to Blairmore in 1902, and the Darbys were likely not far behind. The Lewises lived in a house that once stood behind the present Cosmopolitan hotel; the Darbys lived in the house that is presently the Sutton Realty office (Wendy Valley and Ann Kibala). Interestingly, neither house title includes the husband - just Charlotte Lewis and her son Spencer on one, and Mary Darby on the other. It is not known what the Lewises did for employment while in Blairmore, but William Darby was a cook at the Imperial Hotel in Frank.



The Darby Family ca. 1912, in Vulcan, with Imperial Hotel (moved from Frank) in the background. Back row L-R: Dick, William Herbert, Mary (Lewis), Alberta Lewis (Mary's sister). Front row L-R: Lou, Eva. Glenbow Archives NA-748-83.



The Darby's house, presently the Sutton Realty Office (Wendy Valley and Ann Kibala. 13302 21st Ave., Blairmore. Photograph by Claire Allum 2013.

John and Mildred Ware lived on their prairie ranch north of Brooks, but during the winter their children stayed with their grandparents in Blairmore and attended school with the Lewis children. Mildred Ware bore her last child, Daniel, in Blairmore in November 1902. After their parents died in 1905, the Ware children were raised by the Lewis family. The Lewises moved from Blairmore to Calgary with the Ware children in 1908. When the Imperial Hotel was dismantled in 1912 and reassembled in Vulcan, Alberta, the Darbys went with it and William continued to cook there.

The Lewises, Darbys, and Ware children are the only early Black residents in the Pass for whom we have any real information, but there were others even before them. The 1901 census shows four unrelated Black people in Blairmore - one cook and three laundry helpers - and *Crowsnest And Its People* mentions a Black cook named Peter Smith on page 406. History has recorded nothing else about these people.

Ian McKenzie is a writer and historian living in the Crowsnest Pass.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

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THE FRANK SLIDE CENTRE

Hwy 3 Crowsnest Pass 403-562-7388



110 Anniversary of the Frank Slide. April 27th—28th.

There will be special activities throughout the weekend, which will include guided hikes along the Frank Slide Trail. Check the website for more activities as the date draws closer. <http://www.history.alberta.ca/frankslide/>

Memorial Grave Side Service. Apr. 29th. 11 am.

There will be a Memorial Service at the Frank Slide (along the road through the slide). Afterwards there will be a reception at the Frank Slide Centre. More details will be available in the April Crowsnest Heritage Newsletter.

Hillcrest Mine Disaster 99th Anniversary. Jun. 16th.

On June 19, 1914, 189 men and boys were killed in Canada's worst disaster. The Frank Slide will offer audiovisual and interpretive presentations of this tragic day—the mine explosion and its aftermath.

The Frank Slide Interpretive Centre highlights the rich heritage of the Crowsnest Pass amid the breathtaking beauty of the Canadian Rockies. The Centre is open all year and visitors will be greeted by friendly, knowledgeable staff who will share the fascinating stories of the Frank Slide through dynamic interpretive programs and presentations. State-of-the-art interactive displays and exhibits throughout the Centre focus on the infamous Frank Slide of 1903 - Canada's deadliest rockslide. The Frank Slide Interpretive Centre is open year round 10 am to 5 pm . Adults \$10, Seniors (65+) \$8, Youth (7-17) \$5, Under 7 free, Families \$22. The Centre will be closed on Dec. 24th, 25th, and Jan. 1st.



Hike to the Drive Lanes. Every 1st Saturday of each month from May—Oct. 11 am—3 pm.

The hikes are led by a Blackfoot elder and stories and histories are told along the way. Bring a lunch. May 4th, June 1st, July 6th, August 3rd, September 7th and October 5th.

National Aboriginal Day. Jun. 21st.

There will be drumming, dancing, guided facility tours and stories told by Blackfoot elders.

Along with its displays, the interpretive centre has audio-visual presentations, a cafeteria featuring bison burgers, a gift shop filled with First Nations handicrafts, and hosts tour groups and runs educational programs. Open daily 10 am to 5 pm. Contact: info@head-smashed-in.com. Admission: Adults \$10, Seniors (65+) \$8, Youth (7-17) \$5, Under 7 free, Families \$22.

BOMBER COMMAND

1729 21st Ave. (Hwy 2 S) Nanton 403-646-2270



The Museum is open: April 16 to October 15 (every day 9 am—5 pm) October 16 to April 15 (weekends only 10 am—4 pm.)
Phone to arrange visits at other times

Lancaster Merlin Engine Run-ups

- Apr. 20th, Sat. 11 am—2 pm
- May 11th, Sat. 11 am—2 pm
- Jun. 1st, Sat. 11 am—2 pm
- Jul. 6th, Sat. 11 am—2 pm
- Aug. 5th, Sat. 2 pm
- Aug. 24th, Sat. 11 am—2 pm

REMINGTON CARRIAGE MUSEUM

623 Main St. Cardston. 403-653-5139



World Mini Chuckwagon Championships. Aug. 16th—17th.

More information upcoming.

The Museum has the largest collection of horse-drawn vehicles in North America with over 240 carriages, wagons and sleighs. The 63,000 square foot facility features video displays, a fire hall, a carriage factory, a restoration shop, a working stable, carriage rides, carriage rentals, a restaurant and a gift shop. There are free guided tours. Group tours and educational tours are offered. Open daily 9 am—4 pm. Contact: info@remingtoncarriagemuseum.com. Admission: Adults \$10, Seniors (65+) \$8, Youth (7-17) \$5, Under 7 free, Families \$22.

GALT MUSEUM AND ARCHIVES

502 1st St. S., Lethbridge 1-866-320-3898



Southern Alberta Regional Heritage Fair. May 4th.

The Galt will host one of Canada's Regional Heritage Fairs on May 4th. Students in grades 4 to 9 research any topic they find interesting in Canadian history and then present their project at school and then at the regional fairs. Information on the Heritage Fair Program and all requirements can be downloaded from galtmuseum.com/programs.htm.

Wind Work, Wind Play: Weathervanes & Whirligigs. Jun 1st—Sep. 2nd. Information upcoming.

The Museum is open all year round. Monday to Saturday 10:00 am to 4:30 pm, Sundays and Holidays 1:00 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. Adults \$5, Seniors (65+) \$4, Youth (7-17) \$3, Under 7 free, Families \$12.

CROWSNEST PASS DOORS OPEN AND HERITAGE FESTIVAL



August 1st—5th.

The Crowsnest Pass will hold its 8th annual Doors Open and Heritage Festival. Join other groups, local residents and businesses as they offer free Doors Open activities throughout the Pass. Guided hikes, garden tours, cemetery tours and heritage building tours will all be a part of the celebration. The Heritage Festival also includes special presentations at the Frank Slide Interpretive Centre, the Bellevue Underground Mine and the Crowsnest Museum.

ALBERTA CULTURE DAYS

September 27th—29th.

Venues throughout the Crowsnest Pass will be holding cultural events, displays and presentations in celebration of Alberta Culture Days. Keep these days free in order to participate.

FERNIE MUSEUM

491 Victoria Ave. (2nd Ave.), Fernie, BC 250-423-7016



Government of Canada Funding Announcement.

In January 2013 the Fernie Museum learned it was to receive \$30,300 in federal funding to help in the restoration of its building's exterior. Kootenay-Columbia MP David Wilks, on behalf of the Honourable Lynne Yelich, Minister of State for Western Economic Diversification, announced that Fernie and District Historical Society will be receiving the award under the Harper Government's Community Infrastructure Improvement Fund (CIIF). Wilks stated that his government is committed to projects such as these, which help boost economic activity.

FORT WHOOP-UP NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE

Lethbridge, off Whoop-Up Drive. 403-329-0444



Damaged by floods in July 2016, Fort Whoop-up hopes to finish its repairs and renovations in time for a Victoria Day (May 25th) re-opening. Its store and saloon are already open.

The site was severely damaged and an estimated \$150,000 damage was incurred—mostly covered by insurance. Parks Canada has donated replacement artifacts for those destroyed or badly damaged.

100 YEARS AGO

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- **28 Feb.** Proof of the existence of the pygmy hippopotamus (*Choeropsis liberiensis*) was demonstrated by German animal merchant Carl Hagenbeck in Liberia. After "having made sure that the species was much less rare than he had thought", Hagenbeck shot and killed one. The next day, he would capture a live pygmy hippo .
- **28 Feb.** Man Dies Suddenly in Lumber Camp. On Sunday morning last the men at No. 2 Camp of the McLaren Lumber Company discovered the dead body of one of their comrades named Patrick Kelly in his camp, where it is presumed he entered and succumbed suddenly the night previous to heart failure. Blairmore Enterprise.
- **7 Mar.** Pauline Johnson (Tekahionwake in the Mohawk language) died. She was a Canadian writer and performer who celebrated her First Nations heritage through her work. Her father was a Mohawk chief of mixed ancestry and her mother an English immigrant. Recently, there has been renewed interest in her life and works.
- **7 Mar.** The manager of the Leitch Collieries takes strong and apparently justifiable exception to the statement made at the miners' convention in the effect that the average wage paid a miner at his mine is \$1.50 to \$2.00. The accountant has looked up the figures for contract work which shows an average net daily earning of \$4.04. while the day men are paid the schedule as fixed in the agreement with the union. Blairmore Enterprise.
- **14 Mar.** To Rent. A Six-Room House, splendidly situated, has furnace and water and is in perfect condition for \$20 per month. Apply to J.H. Farmer. Blairmore Enterprise.
- **17 Apr.** Arthur Sifton's Liberals win a 3rd consecutive majority in Alberta's general election.



Tekahionwake ca. 1895. Wikimedia Commons.

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CROWSNEST MUSEUM & ARCHIVES

"Take a walk through the past and connect with the future"

P.O. Box 306, 7701 18 Ave. Coleman, Alberta T0K
0M0



**Crowsnest Historical Society
Notice of Annual General Meeting
Sunday, March 10, 2013 – 2:00 PM
Coleman Seniors Drop In Centre
7805-18th Avenue, Coleman**

CELEBRATING THE 40TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE FOUNDING MEETING

On behalf of the Crowsnest Historical Society, I would like to invite you to attend our upcoming **Annual General Meeting** to be held on **Sunday, March 10, 2013** starting at **2 PM** at the **Coleman Seniors Drop In Centre** at **7805-18th Avenue**, Coleman, next to the Crowsnest Museum.

At this year's AGM we will be celebrating the **40th Anniversary of the Founding Meeting of the Crowsnest Pass Citizens Historical Committee**, the forerunner of the Crowsnest Historical Society which operates the Crowsnest Museum.

The last year has been a critical one for the society which faced the closure of the museum. With the support of the community and the membership we have been able to ensure the continued operations of the museum throughout this past year.

At the Annual General Meeting we will update you on the past year's operations, our current financial position, our plans to implement a sustaining donor's program, and our future plans to engage the membership in the operations and programs of the Crowsnest Museum

We also will be holding **elections for new directors** to serve on the Society's executive. Anyone interested in running for director is asked to contact Belle Kovach at 403-564-4709 for further information about being a director. Also nominations from the floor will be permitted.

Come out and buy or renew your membership, bring a friend, enjoy refreshments and a piece of birthday cake, to help us **celebrate the 40th anniversary of the founding meeting of our society**, and to hear about our plans for the future sustainable operations of the Crowsnest Museum.

Yours sincerely

Fred Bradley, President



CROWSNEST MUSEUM & ARCHIVES

"Take a walk through the past and connect with the future"

P.O. Box 306, 7701 18 Ave. Coleman, Alberta T0K 0M0



Crowsnest Historical Society, 2013 Membership Form

The Crowsnest Museum has experienced many accomplishments which could not have been realized without the continued dedication of our membership. Your membership supports the preservation and conservation of the history of the Crowsnest Pass and its people.

New Renewal Date: _____

Membership Rates

Adults ----- \$20.00 x _____ = \$ _____

Seniors 65 & Over ----- \$15.00 x _____ = \$ _____

Youth Under 16 ----- \$15.00 x _____ = \$ _____

Total Enclosed ----- \$ _____

All memberships are valid until December 31st of the year that they are purchased. (Any new memberships purchased after November 1st are considered valid for the following year)

Mailing Address & Contact Information

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ Province: _____

Postal Code: _____ Telephone: _____

Email Address: _____

Cheques should be made payable to Crowsnest Historical Society. Please complete this form and either mail it to PO Box 306, Coleman AB T0K 0M0, fax it to 403-563-5434, or email the Museum at crowsnestmuseum@shaw.ca.

If you are able to volunteer, please indicate areas of interest

- Membership Phoning Archives Accessions Exhibits Gift Shop & Admissions
- Marketing Education Programmes Tours
- Building Maintenance Museum Yard (Flower Beds) Maintenance

Donation Form

If you wish to make another type of financial contribution other than a membership to the Crowsnest Historical Society, please feel free with the form below. Any contribution is welcome and much appreciated.

Amount:

\$50 \$100 \$150 Other \$ _____

Payment Method:

Cash Cheque Credit Card Visa or Mastercard

Credit Card #: _____ Expiry Date: _____

Signature: _____

(Cheques should be made payable to Crowsnest Historical Society.)

Contact Information (if different from above)

Name: _____