



Heritage News

Discover Crowsnest Heritage

ISSUE #27

Sept/Oct 2012

WELCOME

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Continuing the Gebol/ Gibeau Story

By

Roland Gibeau

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Update on the Crowsnest Heritage Newsletter:

After this issue, the Heritage Newsletter will be over two years old. The Crowsnest Heritage Initiative thanks you for continuing support heritage in the Crowsnest Pass.

A decision has been made to reduce the number of issues of the newsletter going forward. In future it will come out every two months. Exceptions to this may be made during the summer months when the number of heritage activities increases.

Harvest of Memories:

The Harvest of Memories Gala, in support of the Crowsnest Museum, will take place on Saturday, September 29th. Please consider supporting this event. The Crowsnest Museum needs to raise about \$40,000 a year in order to keep its doors open. A ticket order form is attached to this newsletter.

Get published:

The Newsletter is constantly looking for new articles to publish on the history of the Crowsnest Pass. Old family stories are particularly welcomed as they help fill out the more public stories we already know about. Please consider contacting the editor if you have some family stories you would be willing to share with the Crowsnest community.

Editor: Claire Allum
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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.

WHAT'S ON

THE CROWSNEST MUSEUM & ARCHIVES

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



Harvest of Memories: Saturday, September 29th.

The Crowsnest Historical Society will be holding its annual "Harvest of Memories Banquet and Dance" fundraising event to support the continued operation of the Crowsnest Museum and Archives on Saturday, September 29th, 2012 at the Blairmore Elk's Hall from 6 PM to 1:00 AM, as part of Crowsnest Pass Culture Days.

This year's event will be a memorable evening that includes a fabulous dinner catered by Country Encounters, live and silent auctions, entertainment by local musicians "Gone Loco" (Nancy Kinnear, Gus Kollee, and Curt Bellerose), dancing, raffles, and much, much more. Tickets for the event are now available at the Crowsnest Museum at \$40 per person, \$75 for a couple, and \$280 for a table of 8.

The past year has been a critical one for the Crowsnest Museum – as temporary closure of the museum was under consideration. This year the Crowsnest Historical Society needs to raise **\$40,000** through auctions, raffles and donations to keep the Crowsnest Museum open and support its mission to preserve and interpret the unique and exciting history of the Crowsnest Pass and its people. The society would like to acknowledge the support of TECK as a major sponsor of this year's event.

As a non-profit organization, the Crowsnest Historical Society relies on the generosity and support of its membership, local businesses, community members and former residents to help it meet this fundraising target. Through such support the Crowsnest Museum is able to continue to present new exhibits to celebrate Crowsnest Pass history; maintain and preserve the community's collection of artifacts and photographs; offer educational programs; undertake repairs and maintenance to the historic Crowsnest Museum building located in downtown Coleman National Historic Site of Canada, and provide interpretive and information services to visitors and school groups.

The Crowsnest Historical Society is a registered charitable organization which issues charitable tax receipts for monetary donations over \$10.00 as well as for material donations at fair market value.

For further information about the event and for tickets contact the Crowsnest Museum at 403- 563-5434.

Crowsnest and its Quilts Exhibition

The exhibition continues at the Crowsnest Museum until the 30th of September.

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, and a gift shop.

Crowsnest Pass Alberta Culture Days 2012: September 28—30.

Friday, September 28

Frank Slide Interpretive Centre - Free Admission

7:00 – 9:00 pm Opening of Exhibit by ASA – "Alberta Landscapes"

Alberta landscape artists have a tremendous amount of inspiration all around them. Exhibit will be on display throughout the weekend

Saturday, September 29, 2012

Crowsnest Pass Public Art Gallery - Free Admission

1:00 pm - Free Admission

- Reception for the show "As I See It". Exhibit is on display throughout the weekend

- Launch of "Mirrored in the Cave," - A novel by Barbara Janusz

Harvest of Memories - Fall Fundraiser for Crowsnest Museum - Banquet and Dance

Blairmore Elk's Hall 6:00 PM - 1:00 AM

Sunday, September 30, 2012

Fantin's Funeral Chapel

2:30 pm Crowsnest Pass Music Festival Association "An Afternoon of Music" Free Admission

Throughout the weekend

Crowsnest Pass Museum and Historical Society

9:00 am – 5:00 pm "Quilts of the Valley" See the history and culture of the Crowsnest Pass expressed through beautiful quilt work

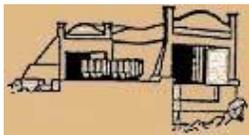
Frank Slide Interpretive Centre

10:00 am – 5:00 pm - Free Admission throughout the weekend

Musical, Dramatic and Interpretive presentations.

BELLEVUE UNDERGROUND MINE

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.

THE FRANK SLIDE CENTRE

Hwy 3 Crowsnest Pass 403-562-7388



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 10:00 am to 5:00 pm. Adults \$10, Seniors (65+) \$8, Youth (7-17) \$5, Under 7 free, Families \$22.

HEAD-SMASHED-IN (UNESCO WORLD HERITAGE SITE)

Hwy 785 403-553-2731



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 10:00 am to 5:00 pm. Contact: info@head-smashed-in.com. Admission: Adults \$10, Seniors (65+) \$8, Youth (7-17) \$5, Under 7 free, Families \$22.



Wild Night At the Waldorf: 1920's Prohibition Gala

Come on out to Kootenai Brown Pioneer Village September 29th for our Prohibition Gala: Wild Night at the Waldorf! This event is set in the 1920's prohibition era here in Pincher Creek. Come dressed up in your best 1920's costume and see what is going on that night. Tickets can be purchased at the Kootenai Brown Pioneer Village. All tickets get you a dinner, time with select members of Windy Hollow Players, live music by Jaquie Therriault and Kevin Fitzpatrick, and other little goodies that will help you get through the evening.

Tickets are \$50 per couple. Cocktails are at 5:30, dinner at 6:00. Call 403-627-3684 for tickets or more information. This event is in support of the new Co-op Display at the museum.

Prizes for the best period costume!



Kootenai Brown is open to the public daily from 8:30 am to 4:30 pm Tuesday, Thursday and Friday through the winter season, Adults \$10, Seniors (65+) \$7, Youth (7-17) \$7, Under 7 free, Families \$25

GALT MUSEUM AND ARCHIVES

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



Archaeology in southern Alberta Exhibition: Come marvel at the secrets hidden in your backyard! The land of Southern Alberta is full of stories about our past - fortunately, there are people who know how to interpret what they find.

Archaeology is a fascinating way to discover the human stories hidden under the soils and across the landscape of Southern Alberta. Archaeologists uncover bison bones that are 11,000 years old by digging several metres under the prairie grasses. They excavate depressions that turn out to be garbage dumps and privies to learn about the people who lived in a coal mining town in the Crowsnest Pass.

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.



FEATURE ARTICLE

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Continuing the Gebo/Gibeau Story:

Addendum to Ms. Karen Davidson Seward's article dealing with the Gebo/Gibeau connection to the Crows Nest Pass and the Frank Slide History

By

Roland Gibeau

Introduction by the editor

In July of this year, I was contacted by a Roland Gibeau of Ontario. He had discovered the September 2010 copy of the Crowsnest Heritage Newsletter, at the Crowsnest Heritage website (www.crowsnestheritage.ca). It contained an article by Karen Davidson Seward of Lake Placid New York entitled "Gebo/Gibeau: Cousins reunited in the Crowsnest Pass". He wrote that it, "...served to fill in some serious gaps in my family history. Specifically, what happened to Henry Gibeau (my GGGrandfather) and Frank Gebo (a great uncle)."

I was delighted to be able to introduce Roland to his distant Gebo/Gibeau cousin, Karen, by email. Roland also kindly agreed to write an article for the Heritage Newsletter on his side of the Gebo/Gibeau family.

To place Roland's family information in context, I include a summary of Karen's article:

Karen is the great granddaughter of Samuel W. Gebo, the founder of Frank. Her September 2010 article outlined her search and what she had been able to find out about her great grandfather. She began knowing his life story involved a mining accident claiming many lives, but she had no details and didn't know where it took place. In June 2010 her research brought her to the Crowsnest Pass. Here, with help from local historian Ian McKenzie, she uncovered the historic importance of her great grandfather to our community and the geological reasons for the 1903 tragedy of the Frank Slide.

Genealogical sketch of individuals contained in Karen's article:

Gibeaus moved to NY State

Frank Gebo (1827-1911)

m

Julie Prue (1830-1897)

Son: Sam Gebo (1862-1940)

Founder of Town of Frank

m

Bertha Hall (Perham, MN)

Karen's grandfather

Karen's mother

Brothers

Sisters

First cousins

Second cousins

Third cousins

Gibeaus stayed in Canada

Jean-Marie Gibeau (1823-1904)

m

Lucie Proulx (1832-1906)

Son: Henry Gibeau (1865-1951)

Buried in Blairmore

m

Anne Bonner (Pincher Creek)

Dau: Frances Gibeau (1903-1990) Married Ernie Russel. Buried in Blairmore

Son: Samuel (1905-1920)

Buried in Blairmore

Dau: Catherine Jeanette Gibeau (1907-1990)

Dau: Clarice Patricia Faber

Lives in Edmonton

Feature Article

Ms. Davidson Seward's interesting and very informative article that was published in the September 15, 2010 edition of the Crows Nest Heritage News set out the results of her research into the Gebo/Gibeau connection to the history and development of the Pass and the Turtle Mountain and Frank Slide disaster. The tragic results of this disaster have been dealt with at length in your own and other pertinent historical documents. The purpose of my input is to shed some additional light on the Canadian side of the Gibeau clan.

Firstly, the disparity in spelling of the surname should be dealt with. The University of Montreal's genealogical section has researched, prepared, and published a list of approximately thirty-six variations on Gibeau surname spellings and the relative frequency of usage within their sampling. This provided an in-depth look at the complexities involved and as a result I'll attempt to deal only with the University's conclusion.

It was concluded in their survey that the most commonly accepted and most widely utilized spelling was GIBEAU by a wide margin followed by GIBEAULT, GIBAULT, GIBAUT followed again by the other remaining variations. The GEBO (as in Samuel) version, so far as I understand, is indeed an Anglicized take on the spelling adopted when Canadian members of the family emigrated to the USA where the French spelling was not readily accepted. Now, thanks to standardization, searching most of the genealogy based websites will usually generate a response that will include and encompass the other versions as well.

A further complication is the "dit Poitvin" appendage that will sometimes be seen as a part of the surname. This is an additional identifier that was often added to European surnames and that can be, for the purpose of this article, be considered a "nickname" usually associated with a place of origin or having a military connotation.

Due, in part, to the fact that, in the seventeenth century, land transportation was limited primarily to foot traffic and horse-drawn vehicles, families tended to live in close proximity to friends and relatives and, as a result, most of the marriages that took place involved children from neighbouring families.

This would at least partially explain the fact that the first cousins Samuel Gebo and Henry (Honore) Gibeau, that Ms. Davidson-Seward dealt with, had fathers who were brothers and mothers who were sisters, all of whom were born and lived in close proximity in the Hull/Alymer area of the Province of Quebec, across the Ottawa River from the City of Ottawa, Ontario.

Although the Gibeau clan is quite small when compared to some other French Canadian family groups the family of Jean-Marie Gibeau and Lucie Proulx Gibeau by my count was made up of 17 children. Jean Marie was married twice, firstly to Anne McKenzie and secondly to Lucie Proulx. All but two of the children resulted from the latter union.

The patriarch of the clan, as far as the Canadian contingent is concerned, was Gabriel "dit Poitevin" Gibaut who emigrated from France to Canada which was known at that time as New France, in or around 1664. He was reportedly a Miller (a processor of grain products) by profession but he presumably joined the Carignan-Salieres Regiment that had been dispatched to New France to deal

with the Iroquois Indians. Their attacks, however justified, were strangling the new colony's fur-trade based economy and threatening to destroy its tiny settlements. His military connection is covered in Jack Verney's book **"The Good Regiment"** which dealt with the subject. It is interesting to note that at the time there were only about 3,000 people of European descent in the entire country.



Carignan-Salières Regiment

Gabriel subsequently married Suzanne Durand in 1667. She had also emigrated from the old country at the tender age of 14 years with the Filles du Roi or Daughters of the King who had been recruited by order of the King to provide marriageable women for the military (and other) male contingent in the colonies. Her migration is covered in the book **"Kings Daughters and Founding Mothers: The Filles du Roi, 1663-1673."**



Filles du roi arriving in New France.

Gabriel and Suzanne lived in the Seigneurie of Lavaltrie near Quebec City where they raised eight children, two of which died early deaths which was a common occurrence at the time. Gabriel died on October 13, 1700 at the Hotel Dieu Hospital in Montreal and Suzanne is reported to have passed at Lavaltrie about ten years later at the age of 57.

From this point on the Gibeau family in Canada moved westward along the Saint Lawrence River to Montreal and up the Ottawa River to the Hull, Quebec, region just across the Provincial border from Ottawa, Ontario. The journey required seven generations and culminated with the marriage of Jean Marie Gibaut (the third in a series) to Lucie Proulx.

Jean Marie had a previous marriage to Anne McKenzie and they are reported to have had two children before her death. Jean Marie's children would eventually total seventeen by my interpretation of the records. They were to include Honore Gibeau (the Henry dealt with in Ms. Davidson's article). Samuel Gebo who married Julia (Proulx) Prue Gebo (Lucie's sister) partnered with Henry in their adventures in western Canada and the USA.

The family now consists of eleven generations scattered across Canada and the United States with concentrations in the Province of Quebec and Ontario and which include direct descendants of the Gibeau and Proulx (Prue) families as well as many others. These folks were prime witnesses in the total development of the Country as we know it now over almost four hundred years later and which included the inception of the automobile and all of the tremendous inherent changes brought about by that development.

There are many, many tales and stories to be told which space and time do not permit at this point in time.

Roland Gibeau is researching his family's history and lives in Ontario

HERITAGE UPDATE

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"It's an ill wind that blows nobody good!" is an old saying and fits in very well at present in connection with the Cosmopolitan hotel, for the town of Blairmore now feels proud of the fact that as a result of a big fire in March last she is now the possessor of one of the finest brick and concrete blocks in Southern Alberta.

As these two clippings from the Blairmore Enterprise (Sept. 12, 1912) attest, the reopening of the rebuilt Cosmopolitan Hotel in September 1912, was an important event. The wooden structure destroyed by fire in March of the same year was rebuilt in brick and equipped with the most modern conveniences, including hot and cold running water.

Why not drop into the Cosmopolitan for lunch or a pint of beer in the evening and try and imagine what it would have been like in 1912. The Cosmopolitan today is one of the iconic buildings of Blairmore's Main Street. Its owners are preserving its historic feel.



The original wood hotel that burned in March 1912.. The Cosmopolitan Hotel website.

A good many months since work was commenced on the excavation for the new Cosmopolitan hotel, to replace the thirty-roomed house destroyed by fire on March 25th last, and ever since the work has been pushing ahead until today we are witnessing the finishing touches to a fifty-roomed hotel which surpasses anything in the hotel line in Southern Alberta. The new Cosmopolitan is a magnificent structure exteriorly, being three storeys of solid brick upon a full concrete basement. The ceiling of the basement is nine feet high, that of the main floor fourteen feet, while both the upper flats have twelve foot ceilings.

In the basement is located a large Garney furnace, which will supply the entire building with hot air, as well as the rooms and baths with hot water. Every part of the building will be equipped with hot and cold water, the fittings all being of the very latest type.

- Hillcrest, AB: Hillcrest Collieries completes new steel tippie.
- The first Calgary Stampede was held, lasting for six days and attracting 80,000 people.
- Bellevue, AB: Maple Leaf Coal Company expand powerhouse and build wash-house for the workers in the **Mohawk Bituminous** mine.
- Harry Houdini gave the first public performance of his latest death-defying act, the escape from the Chinese Water Torture Cell. The trick, never done before by anyone, required Houdini to get out of a locked steel and glass tank of water while hanging upside-down. Houdini accomplished the stunt before an audience at the Circus Busch in Berlin.
- Lille, AB: West Canadian Collieries abandons its mine.
- The first University of Calgary began classes, with a faculty of three professors. The Alberta provincial legislature would not give the University power to confer degrees, and the University of Alberta did not welcome the competition, and U.C. would close its doors in October 1915.
- Canadian Consolidated Coal Company, owner of the mine at Frank, AB., liquidated itself.
- The largest grain elevator in the world opened at the Port of Montreal, more than doubling the capacity of the port. Over the next five years, the amount of grain shipped through Montreal increased more than 25 times.
- Blairmore, AB: F.M. Thompson & Co. relocated from Lille, AB.

Harvest of Memories Fall Festival

Ticket Order Form

You're invited to the annual Harvest of Memories Fall Festival on Saturday, September 29th 2012 at the Blairmore Elks Hall. This event is the largest annual fundraiser for the Crowsnest Museum. Celebrate Crowsnest history and help us preserve our unique past by attending this amazing night.

Contact Information

Name: _____
Address: _____
City: _____ Province: _____
Postal Code: _____ Telephone: _____
Email Address: _____

Order Form

Number of Tickets:

Single Tickets: ____ x \$40 Couple Tickets: ____ x \$75 Table (8 People): ____ x \$280

Total Payment Enclosed: \$_____

Names of Guests:

Payment Type:

Cash Cheque Credit Card (Visa or Mastercard)

Credit Card #: _____ Expiry Date: _____
(Cheques should be made payable to Crowsnest Historical Society.)

Contact Information

Please complete this form and either mail it to PO Box 306, Coleman AB T0K 0M0, fax it to 403-563-5434, email the Museum at crowsnestmuseum@shaw.ca. purchase tickets online at www.crowsnestmuseum.ca/harvestofmemories/