



## ASA PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Debby Shoctor, President

Hello, and welcome to my first column as ASA President. I am sure it is as much of a shock to you as it was to me to see my face here on this page, but that's the way it goes. Unfortunately, Susan Stanton could not complete her term as President of the ASA, but we wish her congratulations on her new position as Team Lead, Government Records, with the Provincial Archives of Alberta. You did a great job, Susan, and we wish you continued success with whatever you do in the future. While you won't be a regular fixture at ASA Board Meetings, we will continue to see you at conferences and workshops in the days to come.



Speaking of conferences, Susan was with us at the Association of Canadian Archivists Conference held in Calgary this May, as were many fellow members of the Archives Society of Alberta, and it was wonderful to see everyone there. Lisa Atkinson of the University of Calgary did a wonderful job as Host Committee Chair, and we are very indebted to her and her team of crack volunteers who hosted a marvelous conference at the Palliser Hotel. The Palliser was a wonderful, five-star historic location in which to hold the conference. The opening reception in the CN Railway Pavilion was very exciting – we got to meet our peers and tour the luxury historic railway cars which you can take for a tour of the Canadian Rockies in high style for a mere \$8000 a week! These are cars used at times by HRH Queen Elizabeth, as well as by her parents, King George VI

and Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother as well as many other dignitaries over the years. Also, as part of the conference, we were treated to a tour of the Palliser Hotel itself by local historian Harry Sanders, which was most informative – we even learned of a ghost who haunts one of the elevator shafts. On a different day, Harry took us on a tour of historic Stephen Avenue where we were regaled with tales of Calgary the frontier town, home to Cowboys and Oilmen, before stopping in at the wonderfully atmospheric James Joyce Pub for a pint of Guinness.

ASA was, of course, a major sponsor of the conference, hosting the sessions and meals for most of the day on Sunday. As a result, I was able to get up before the Plenary Session and tell everyone a bit about the ASA

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# archives

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The Archives Society of Alberta is supported in part by a grant from the Alberta Historical Resources Foundation.

and the work we do, as well as to thank the volunteer committee. We had a brief Institutional Forum as well on that day, before our AGM. Many members were given the chance to tell the others the exciting things that their Archives are doing, and indeed, this was very informative and encouraging for everyone. At the AGM, we were pleased to award the Alan D. Ridge Award to Karen Buckley for her publication in *Archivaria*, entitled "The Truth is in the Red Files: An Overview of Archives in Popular Culture", and to my own archives, JAHSENA, for our new website and our film, "Bittersweet Memories: The War Years."

The theme of the conference this year was Human Rights, and this was reflected in many of the sessions which I personally attended, including ones on Residential Schools, and Truth and Reconciliation Commissions. In these sessions, I learned about many sad chapters in the history of many countries, and the state of archival records dealing with these situations. I learned of the internment of Japanese Canadians during the Second World War here in Canada, of the lack of a permanent archives for the dispossessed Tibetan people, of the plight of the Australian Aborigines, who were taken from their homes and put in Residential Schools just as our own Native People were, but whose lack of records of their origins is even more disastrous. I learned of the terrible state of Archives in countries like Sierra Leone and East Timor and of the attempts by Iraq to get back the records of the Kurdish genocide which were taken to the United States for safe keeping in the early days of the war.

I was surprised to meet archivists at the conference who were from all over the world, not just Alberta, and not just Canada. In fact, there were Archivists from the United States, Scotland, England, Australia, South Africa, Western Samoa, and even Iceland. It was thrilling to meet these people, as well as to see so many Alberta Archivists. In total, I believe there were over 280 delegates. It was especially thrilling to see everyone at the East –West baseball game, at which the West finally won! (Although there was a lengthy post-mortem about the game on the listserv after the conference.) And the final dinner and dance was a hit with all who attended – it was very amusing to see the stereotype of stuffy, basement-dwelling archivists smashed to smithereens on the dance floor!

I look forward to seeing you all in Halifax next year, and of course at ASA programs, meetings and workshops in between!

# 2009 ASA ARCHIVES INSTITUTE

From May 4-9, 2009, 17 participants with backgrounds including religious, community, aboriginal and university archives gathered at the University of Calgary to take part in the Archives Society of Alberta's tenth Archives Institute. The participants, all from Alberta except for one from Winnipeg, spent the week exploring archival theory and practice from acquisition to access. The six-day course was followed by a take-home exercise working with a sample fonds, with participants submitting answers to a series of questions that applied the knowledge they had acquired during the Institute.

The ASA would like to thank guest instructors Terry Reilly, Susan Kooyman, Alison Freake, Apollonia Steele and Jonathan Davidson for their presentations as well as the University of Calgary for the use of their facilities.



From left to right: Dr. Gayle Thrift, James Bannard, Gloria Romaniuk, Alessia Di Giacomo, Tanya Field, Sheila Johnston, Joan Chrusch, Adria Lund, Shelley Anderson, Veronica Lewis, Shannon Vecchio, Denise Stelter, Donna Macneil, May-Lin Polk, Michael Gourlie, Colleen Sitting Eagle, Bill Nyman, Don Sucha.

# Found! – A New Alberta Cookbook, circa 1905

Gary Draper

Gary is a retired English Professor and an active cookbook collector who lives in Kitchener, Ontario. He is a member of CHO's Advisory Committee.

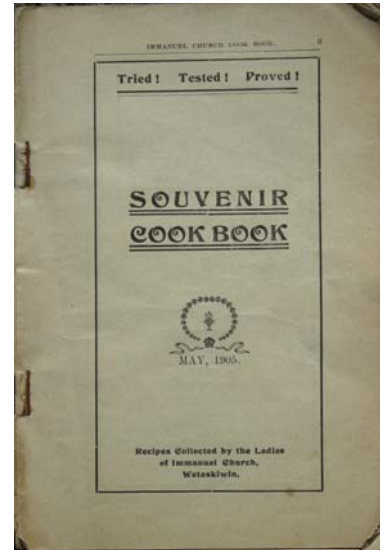
This article originally appeared in *Culinary Chronicles: The Newsletter of the Culinary Historians of Ontario* 61 (Summer 2009): 3, 12.

The *Souvenir Cook Book* is a modest-looking assemblage, measuring 20.5 x 14.0 cm. Its 80 pages, plus seven unnumbered leaves at the end, are turning brown. My copy lacks a cover, and the two staples that hold it together are dark with rust. But this unpretentious little book now appears to hold a mightily important historical distinction.

According to Elizabeth Driver's *Culinary Landmarks: A Bibliography of Canadian Cookbooks, 1825–1949* (University of Toronto Press, 2008), only one Alberta cookbook predates this one: *Pingle's 1904 Calendar Cookbook*, published by Medicine Hat druggist and stationer Charles S. Pingle. The first community cookbook listed in Driver, *A Book of Cookery*, was published by the Presbyterian and Methodist congregations of the town of Lamont, between 1906 and 1910. But according to its title page, the *Souvenir Cook Book*, "Collected by the Ladies of Immanuel Church, Wetaskiwin," was published at least a year earlier in May of 1905, fully four months before Alberta entered Confederation, making it the province's earliest known community cookbook.

The book appears to be a typical example of early community cookbooks in Canada. It is clearly organized by types of dishes and sprinkled throughout with advertisements for local businesses. Its debt to the influential *Home Cook Book* (Toronto, 1877) is apparent in the legend above the title: "Tried! Tested! Proved!" The title page itself is clear and graced with a decorative emblem of laurel leaves and ribbon. With some of its most polished cousins, the book shares the device of preceding each section with an apt quotation. For Soup: "The first dish pleaseth all"; Fish: "Fish for fasting days and flesh for holidays"; Meats and Entrees: "And who abstaineth from meat that is not gaunt."

Though I am far from expert, the recipes also appear to me to be reasonably typical of their time. I was not surprised, for example, by the preponderance of desserts. The sections run as follows, the number in brackets indicating the total number of pages, excluding advertisements: Soup: pp 7–10 (4), Fish: 11–14 (4), Meats and Entrees: 15–22 (7), Vegetables: 23–25 (3), Salads: 27–31 (5), Pickles and Sauces: 33–38 (5), Puddings: 40–49 (7), Bread: 50–51 (2), Pies: 53–57 (3), and Cakes: 59–79 (18). That makes



a total of 28 out of 58 recipe pages devoted to dessert. The final section is a bit of a miscellany, including among the cakes, recipes for cookies, one for date and nut sandwiches, one for tomato jelly, and another for lemon marmalade.

Among the recipes that caught my eye was one for "Fat Rascals," cookies in which butter makes up more or less one-quarter of the total ingredients. Another, for "Oyster Cromeskiies" – suggesting perhaps a Polish influence, though its creator is "Mrs. Macleod" – turns out to be what appears in many other early cookbooks as "Pigs in Blankets" (oysters wrapped in bacon).

The advertisements within these pages suggest a lively community with many services available. In addition to those for various general stores, there are

advertisements for – among others – a book-store, a jeweller, men's and ladies' clothiers, real estate agents, farm implement dealers, a coal dealer, a bank, a drugstore, a meat market, and a bakery.

The book appeared at a time of great change. Four months after its publication, in September 1905, Alberta entered Confederation. The following year, Wetaskiwin became a city. The name is originally Cree – “Wetaskiwin Spatinow” – meaning the place where peace was made, which refers to a peace accord between Blackfoot and Cree peoples in the mid-1800s.

Although the cookbook does not make note of the fact, in 1905 Immanuel Church was celebrating the tenth anniversary of its construction. It had been built in 1895 at a cost of \$663, most of which was contributed by its first rector, C. H. Andras. By the time of the book's publication, the rector was Reverend C. G. Austin, whose wife is, not surprisingly, among the contributors. Her recipes include “Excellent Stuffing for Baked Fish,” “Chinese Fruit Cake,” and others.

After I spoke with Angela Smith, Acting Archivist of the City of Wetaskiwin, she was able to identify a copy of the book in the archives, one that had remained unidentified until now because its first seven pages (including its title page, of course) are missing. She is one of those who have shared with me the excitement of identifying this lost gem. Others are Lindsay Moir, Senior Librarian at the Glenbow Museum; Reverend Ted Eden, currently the Rector at Immanuel Church; and – of course – Liz Driver, who first drew to my attention to just how special this book is.

As Liz said in *Culinary Landmarks*, “no doubt further material remains to be discovered in out-of-the-way and unexpected places” (p xx). The copy I have described was acquired in a lot of half a dozen old cookbooks from an online book dealer, who could only say that he had acquired it at an auction, so its provenance is unfortunately unknown. And it is, as I said, an unprepossessing little thing. But it would be hard to overstate its importance. Unless and until an earlier example is discovered, this is the first community cookbook published in the territory that would become the province of Alberta. Stand up and take a bow, Wetaskiwin.

*Information about Wetaskiwin, Alberta, and about Immanuel Church was provided by Reverend Ted Eden, Rector, Immanuel Church, Wetaskiwin; Angela Smith, Acting City Archivist, City of Wetaskiwin Archives; and the archives website (<http://www2.wetaskiwin.ca/Archives/>).*

For its fall workshop, the Archives Society of Alberta is offering “**Introduction to Managing a Digitization Program,**” taking place October 15-16 in Calgary. Presented by Kelly Stewart and Rosaleen Hill of the Archives Association of BC, the workshop introduces participants to the key components of a sustainable digitization program involving records in a variety of media. The workshop is aimed primarily at those with little or no knowledge of digitization or digital preservation.

For further workshop details and a registration form, please visit the Archives Society of Alberta's workshop webpage at [www.archivesalberta.org](http://www.archivesalberta.org)

Please email [mgourlie@shaw.ca](mailto:mgourlie@shaw.ca) if you have any questions.

# CALL FOR PAPERS

## Archives Society of Alberta Biennial Conference

The Banff Centre  
May 13-16, 2010

The War of Independence Reconsidered:  
Librarians and Archivists -- Past, Present and Future  
Keynote speaker: Terry Cook

The deadline for submitting conference proposals is FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 30. Please send submissions electronically (the preferred format) to [mgourlie@shaw.ca](mailto:mgourlie@shaw.ca) or by mail to PO Box 4067, South Edmonton PO, Edmonton, AB T6E 4S8.

Consideration of the archivist-librarian relationship is long overdue. As many Canadians do regarding Americans when trying to define their own identity, no few archivists have explained themselves as not-librarians. One prominent theorist even declared that archivists gained their identity through a "war of independence" from librarians. While the relationship of archivists with records managers and historians has received considerable attention in our profession over the decades, the library-archives relationship has been skirted. This ASA conference will challenge that trend.

It is not just the merger of the National Archives of Canada and the National Library of Canada into Library and Archives Canada in 2004 – already imitated provincially in Quebec – that makes reconsideration of this relationship timely and germane. In most countries that do not follow the "total archives" tradition, private-sector archives are acquired, described, and made available by national, state, and local libraries. University archives in Canada likewise exist within large libraries. Alberta has a shining example in the Whyte Museum of the Canadian Rockies, which started out as an archives, and now includes archival, library, museum, gallery, and historic site "materials." Most archives have a significant library holdings. Beyond these factors, the digital revolution makes much less relevant the traditional distinctions enshrined in legislation in Canada between libraries (published material: books, newspapers, reports) and archives (unpublished originals: letters, diaries, photographs). Even though many archives have long collected some published media – atlases, printed maps, engravings, the digital world blurs these distinctions: is a web site or blog or Facebook entry published or unpublished? A newspaper or book that is printed, but has related blogs, additional text and images, maybe even footnotes or bibliography, only available online a record or a publication? Grey literature by its very name straddled that line for decades, and now digitally even moreso. Moreover, the Canadian archival descriptive system (RAD) is based fundamentally on library cataloguing via AACR2, and library-world initiatives in digital preservation and trusted repositories have much in common with archival initiatives.

This conference will consider the relationship of archives and archivists with libraries and librarians, historically, now, and in future. What valid distinctions should be maintained between these professions and institutions? What false barriers based on tradition, insecurity, or circumstances should now be changed? What archives-library partnerships are desirable? Already working? How might such cooperation affect each archival function? What is the desired relationship: informal cooperation, formal partnership, institutional merger, complete integration? How will donors and researchers be affected? What can we learn from archives' mergers with museums in British Columbia and Newfoundland and Labrador?

We welcome proposals addressing any of these issues, and more, on a theoretical or practical level, as institutional or media case studies, as papers, debates, or panels.

# PEOPLE AND PLACES

The Board of the Red Deer Museum + Art Gallery is pleased to announce the appointment of Michael Dawe to the position of Curator of History as of May 19, 2009. Dawe's chief responsibilities will be to prepare a major exhibition for Red Deer's centennial celebration in 2013, as well as to research and present smaller exhibitions about the history of Central Alberta. He will continue to write articles about Red Deer history for local media.

Most if not all in the Alberta archival community will be familiar with the long standing contributions that Michael Dawe has given not only to the City of Red Deer as Archivist but to the broader archival community in Alberta through his work with the Archives Society of Alberta. Michael began his career in the archives field on October 15, 1970 in a part-time capacity the first junior associate member of the Red Deer Archives Committee. On September 4, 1979, he became a full-time archivist. Michael's role as archivist for the City of Red Deer spanned a 30 year period and, for much of that time, he was the sole archivist. Over those many years the people of Red Deer came to depend on Michael's vast historical knowledge of the area.

In light of this change, the Red Deer and District Archives is moving forward with new staff and a renewal process for the archives. City heritage work and general supervision of the archives will continue to be handled by Janet Pennington, the City's Heritage and Archives Coordinator. On December 1, 2008, John D. Lund replaced Shelley Respondek as archivist. Prior to his position with the City of Red Deer, John was archivist in a variety of capacities with the Provincial Archives of Alberta. Joining the team as of June 1<sup>st</sup> was Stephanie Reid as Associate Archivist. Stephanie hails from Ontario where she last worked at Kingston General hospital. Arriving on July 13 from the Sisters of Providence Archives in Edmonton was Lindsay Bergen, who fills the second archivist spot. Last but not least, Keely Burkholder becomes the "old kid on the block," having worked in Red Deer for over five years as an associate archivist.

Change is also afoot at the Provincial Archives of Alberta. Tom Anderson is the new Team Lead for Private Records. A graduate of the University of Saskatchewan and the University of BC, Tom worked with private records prior to joining the PAA and, prior to the Team Lead position, worked with government and cartographic records and on the

publication, *An Administrative History of the Government of Alberta, 1905-2005*. A graduate from the UBC SLAIS program, Erin Isaacs is an Acting Government Records Archivist, having previous been with Service Alberta and the College of Registered Nurses of BC. Working on the private records backlog is Sara King, the new Special Projects Archivist funded through the Friends of the Provincial Archives of Alberta Society. The Friends also provide funding for a part-time Conservation Technician position, held by Shannon Coles. Braden Cannon, a recently graduate of the Dalhousie School of Information Management, is the new archivist funded through the University of Calgary with additional responsibilities for audio visual materials, a complement to his undergraduate degree in film studies from Carleton University. Robin Wallace, a graduate of the University of Alberta's SLIS program who previously worked at Library and Archives Canada and the Carleton University Archives, is the new Reference Archivist / Librarian. Cristian Udma has been hired as the new Francophone Archivist under the continuing agreement with Alberta's Francophone Secretariat.



I, Rene Georgopolis, decided to acquire a Master's degree in archives and records management since I am interested in a career in cultural stewardship. My passion for history and learning has motivated me to obtain a BA in Women's Studies and a MA in Classics, and now, a career in archives. To pursue education pertaining to archives at the master's level, I chose to attend the University of Toronto's (UofT) Faculty of Information since an equivalent degree is not specifically offered in my hometown, Edmonton. The program takes an interdisciplinary approach offering a variety of courses in library studies, museum studies and information studies in addition to archives. Having completed the first year of the two-year program, I found that the Faculty of Information provides both theoretical and practical foundations which I will need to succeed in a career in archives. At the UofT, I am privileged to learn from professors such as Heather MacNeil and Wendy Duff who have contributed greatly to the field of archives. I feel lucky to have received the award from the ASA as the award has been helpful for my first year of studies. For my second year, I have been selected to be the chair of the UofT ACA student chapter and I will be given the opportunity to partake in a practicum at one of Toronto's archives. My experience at the Faculty of Information has been positive thus far and will provide me with the tools I need for my future career.

# archives

SOCIETY OF ALBERTA

## SUBMISSIONS, QUESTIONS AND SUGGESTIONS

The **Archives Society of Alberta News** is published quarterly by the Archives Society of Alberta. Submissions, questions and suggestions should be directed to the Newsletter Editor c/o:

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Individuals and institutions are encouraged to submit articles, reviews, reports, photographs or letters to the editor to the **Archives Society of Alberta News**, Issues #1, 2, and 3. Submissions are preferred in electronic format as Word files for textual submissions, or as JPG files for graphic submissions.

**Please note:**

**Issue #4 is reserved for Annual Reports of the Society and its committees.**

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## ARCHIVES SOCIETY OF ALBERTA MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION 2009 – 2010

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Voting Delegate (Associate / Institutional)

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**Please Check**

- Archives Employee . . . . . \$50.00
- Students, Volunteers, Seniors. . . . . \$25.00
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- Yes, I would like to volunteer for an ASA Committee

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