

McDougall Stoney Mission Society Newsletter



April 2011

Interesting Finds in Morleyville

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Special points of interest:

- Have you purchased your 2011 membership? Memberships are \$25 for a family and \$20 for an individual. Please contact Laura Jauch 403-802-3898 to get yours today.

The .44-calibre Henry repeating rifle holds a special place in the history of the American West and the Civil War.

The lever-action, breech-loading design of the Henry gave the rifle, and therefore the person using it, a distinct advantage over the single-fire musket or rifles of the era.

As a result, owning a Henry rifle was a point of pride.

Earlier this summer, two copper-alloy shell casings from this famous rifle were found at an archaeological dig at the old Morleyville Settlement on the north side of Highway 1A not far from McDougall Memorial United Church.

Tommy Ng, a senior project archaeologist with Calgary-based Bison Historical Services, said finding the shell casings at the Morleyville excavation tells archaeologists the Henry repeating rifle had made its way to the Bow Valley region.

According to Ng, the Henry rifle, first developed in the 1850s, ceased production in 1866 and the rifle connected to those two shells could have been brought to this region by American settlers, through trade networks or, taking a more romantic bent, brought to the region by an individual with the Stoney Nakoda First Nation who participated in battles south of the Medicine Line – the U.S./Canada border.

The same could be said for another interesting and perhaps more remarkable find; a U.S. military button marked with the Civil War eagle, with its right-turned head and raised shield. These buttons were used on coats worn by enlisted men between 1875 and 1902.

But Ng added that trying to establish how the button or the .44 shell casings reached this region is guesswork.

“I don’t want to speculate on that, how it got here, it could be a personal effect and it could be trade,” he said.

“A lot of the artifacts are quite interesting and have caused me to scratch my head. I don’t know of any excavations in Alberta that have found anything similar, but to me this is pretty unique. I didn’t expect to see anything of the U.S. military up here,” Ng said about the button.

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The site where the button and Henry shell casings were found is part of a series of archaeological sites stretched out between Ghost Lake and Highway 1X being excavated as part of a project to widen that dangerous, narrow, twisting stretch of highway.

Previous archaeological work uncovered prehistoric campsites just north of Hector Lake near Nakoda Lodge attributed to the Besant, a culture whose artifacts have been found at sites throughout the Rocky Mountains.

One of these sites along Highway 1A also turned up the bones of an ancient bison, *Bison antiquus*, which ruled the plains of North America as the most numerous Ice Age herbivore.

Bison antiquus, which went extinct about 10,000 years ago, was one-third larger than its descendant, the plains bison.

Sean Goldsmith, Bison Historical Services president, said the bones are non-cultural, meaning archaeologists found no artifacts such as spearheads with the bones.

As a result, Goldsmith said, the ancient bison likely died of natural causes and the bones were found coincidentally during the excavations. The bones have not yet undergone C-14 radiocarbon dating, so the age is not known.

Ng said the Morleyville site also provided a broad gamut of historical artifacts including stone tools and arrowheads from seven different cultures dating back 7,800-5,400 years. Also found were nails, fur-trade beads, China-pearlware fragments, a clay pipe, a gunflint, a tin can lid wound around a key, a piece of bridle with buckle and part of a leather strap, a man's copper alloy ring and buttons.

"It appears a lot of these artifacts coincide with the historic settlement of Euro-Canadians in the area and Stoney First Nations," Ng said.

The site, which sits at the base of the hills facing the highway, is a compressed site, meaning all of the materials tend to be mixed up with little or no differentiation between the layers, Ng said.

"Typically, a classic archaeological site has one layer that tells you one type of culture complex and there is another layer below that that tells you it is an older culture. It is well marked so you know which is the oldest to the youngest," he said.

"But in this case, everything is compressed into one layer; that tells you there is not a lot of soil development to differentiate between the two layers, so everything just got mixed up."

Ng said he isn't surprised to find the site has such a long record of occupation and use as he said it's an attractive site with access to fresh water, shelter from the wind, accessible viewpoints and game as the region is a junction for wildlife movement between mountains and prairies.

"It tells us how attractive this region is, and it is attractive to this day. We've still got people living here. It is a beautiful region. That tells you universally how people are similar in terms of picking out nice spots to live," he said.

Article was taken with permission from: Rocky Mountain Outlook, November 4, 2010 edition. Written by: Rob Alexander



The arrow points to the .44 calibre shell casing found at the Morleyville dig site. Also notice the button from civil war era uniforms.

June 12th Service

Tommy Ng has agreed to speak at our upcoming Service on June 12th. It should be a fantastic talk about the history of the site and of the artifacts he has found.

Keeping in Touch

In order to keep up with the times, the McDougall Stoney Mission Society has decided to update our website. We have had numerous comments that our site was hard to find and once there it was hard to navigate.

Good fortune shone upon us, and Colin Wallace of Integrity Images (<http://www.integrityimages.ca>) donated his skill and time to create a new graphically pleasing and easily navigable site. The best part is he also registered us under a new domain name to make the site easier to find.

In working with Colin we hope to add some new and exciting changes to the site such as: online membership purchase, online donation page, volunteer requests, volunteer calendar and a archive of meeting notes. We should be live by the end of April so please check us out and let us know what you think.

Excellent work Colin and thank you for donating your time.

Our New Address

<http://mcdougallstoneymission.com/>

Calgary McDougall United Church 50th Anniversary

McDougall United Church at 8516 Athabasca Street S.E. has invited everyone who follows McDougall Stoney Mission to their 50th anniversary celebration June 3-5, 2011.

Friday June 3	Saturday June 4	Sunday June 5
<p>7:30 PM—Entertainment in the Sanctuary (all are welcome). The evening will include Mano Bell Choir, Junior Choir, a historical video, recognition ceremony and more ... TICKETS NOT REQUIRED TO ATTEND</p>	<p>8:00 PM—Entertainment in the Sanctuary (all are welcome). The Celebration Singers will present “50 Years of Music at McDougall”. <i>Reserved seating will be available for banquet attendees.</i> TICKETS NOT REQUIRED TO ATTEND</p>	<p>9:50 AM—Special Worship Service followed by a no-charge luncheon served by the Friendship Club.</p>

Community Spirit Grant

McDougall Stoney Mission Society, was thankfully a recipient of the Alberta Culture and Community Spirit Donation Grant of \$7252.96 for donations received during 2010. The grant will be used to cover cost of insurance, the cost of promoting our programs and the cost of routine maintenance and repairs to buildings and fences. The Community Spirit program is to help increase individual charitable giving to support Alberta non-profit and charitable organizations. The program recognizes and encourages Albertans to make cash donations. The fund will provide organizations with a proportional grant based on the amount of eligible cash donations received. McDougall Stoney Mission Society will issue tax receipts for donations over \$25.00. McDougall Stoney Mission Society wishes to thank all that have donated in the past and look forward to your generosity in

Exciting News!!!!

After a long and gruelling process the McDougall Stoney Mission Society was finally able to have the McDougall Memorial United Church Site designated as a recognized museum. This means that we will be able to apply for special grants to have all of the historical material archived in addition to adding to the upkeep and growth of the site. A big **THANK YOU** goes to Laura Jauch for all her hard work on this project.



In Memory

McKENDRICK, Gwendolyn Ann (nee McDougall) Gwen McKendrick, of Cochrane, passed away on Monday, March 28, 2011 peacefully at home with family at her side. Born in Banff to pioneer ranchers David Hardisty McDougall and Annie McKenzie McDougall, she was a great-granddaughter of Rev. George McDougall, early Methodist missionary, who arrived in the west in 1860. Gwen was a dedicated rancher in the Cochrane, Morley, and Water Valley areas. Gwen was predeceased by her husband William in 1995. She is survived by her children: Ann McDougall McKendrick McNabb (Grant), William Alan (Wanda), Patricia Jean Wiechnik (Russell); grandchildren: William and Kari-Ann McNabb, Martin (Jolene), Alicia, and Carla McKendrick, and David Wiechnik; sister Elizabeth Costello; and many nieces and nephews.



MOORE, Marion Christine (nee McDougall) September 21, 1915 - December 10, 2010 Marion Christine Moore, granddaughter of Reverend George and Elizabeth McDougall, passed on December 10, 2010 at the age of 95. Born on September 21, 1915 in Calgary into the pioneering McDougall family recognized for their missionary work and development of early civil life in Alberta, Marion was an active member of the Southern Alberta Pioneer Association. Marion met her husband Ronald Thomas Moore in Medicine Hat and raised three children, Ron, Lorna and Larry.

How Can You Help?

We are constantly in need of volunteers for various duties at the Church. Listed below are the volunteer opportunities available at the church and the contact information for the person responsible. Please give some thought as to how you could help maintain this piece of history. We know that people are busy, but any time you can give would be greatly appreciated.

- Church Maintenance: (Weed control, painting, repairs, upkeep etc) Len McDougall: 403-226-1353
- Docents (opening church during summer and providing historical context) Laura Jauch: 403-802-3898
- Newsletters (article ideas or to write an article): Jason Villeneuve: 403-862-4682
- Weddings: Ann McDougall 403-282-3044 or Audrey Epp 403-443-7749

We are looking for a **Event Planner**: If you like to plan special events then we need you. We are looking for someone to plan and organize our Bi-annual services and some new special events we have in mind. If this is you contact Jason Villeneuve at 403-862-4682 or Laura Jauch at 403-802-3898

MSMS At Calgary Historical Week

We will participate in Chinook Country Historical Society's Calgary Historical Week by hosting an event on Sunday, July 31st. Details as follow:

Come and visit the first church built in what is now southern Alberta and was the centre of Morleyville. Take the interpretive trail that leads to the remains of the Mission house. A presentation will be at 1:30, telling how the McDougall Stoney Mission came to be.

Meet: McDougall Memorial Church, 26 km west of Cochrane on the 1A Highway.

More information on the whole week can be found on Chinook Country Historical Society website; <http://www.chinookcountry.org/>