

# MUSEUM MUSINGS

## SUMMER 2014

Where did summer go? It seems like only yesterday that we were planning our summer program. Since then we have come up with a new mission statement and vision. They are as follows

### **Mission Statement**

The mission of the Court House Museum is to collect, preserve, research, exhibit and interpret objects and archival materials that serve to illustrate the historical founding, settlement and development of Cardston and the surrounding area from 1887 to the present. The Museum will endeavor to grow with, and for the community, providing a source of knowledge and related programs on the heritage of Cardston and area for present and future generations.

The Court House Museum brings history and people together for enjoyment, discovery, and learning. We strive to create a place where people of every background can be touched by history. We are committed to exhibitions and programs that will strengthen and sustain our community. (Updated Mission Statement adopted April 15 2014)

### **Vision**

Preserving the Past.

Enriching the Present.

Inspiring hope for the Future

### **Happenings in the Historical Society**

#### **April**

- April 19 the museum sponsored an Easter egg hunt at the Card home with the help of sponsors from the community. Ninety two children attended the event and searched for Easter treats on the property...
- Lucie Heins contacted the historical to see if we would assist her in documenting heritage quilts made by people from this area. Under the direction of Diane Barnes and Urzula Tagg the society decided to get involved with the project.

## May

- In May our society welcomed Melanie Barfuss welcomed as a member of the historical society board.

## June

- In June members of the society met with Lucie Heins from the Royal Albert Museum in Edmonton who is doing a research project to identify quilts that have been made by Albertans. Quilts were brought to the Civic Center where they were measured, photographed and documentation recorded as to the maker and any history that was known about the quilt.

## July

- Two interpreters were hired to work at the museum and Card home. Rita Burt will work at the Card home and Kiersten Molcak will work at the museum
- The website created by students at the University of Lethbridge was up and running but required a few upgrades.
- Work on the exterior repairs to the building were started as part of a multiyear project and will be done as funds are available. This year's repairs included the cleaning of lichen and moss off the exterior of the building, repointing some of the joints and the rebuilding of some of the damaged areas at the base of the front and side entrances.
- Donald Godfrey met with the historical society in regards to gathering information about Cardston and its people. He would like to write a book about Cardston. He asked for ideas as to which interest group the book would appeal to. He is interested in gathering information about the people in this area. He would also like any interesting stories from this area.

## September

- When Maxine Rodgers answered the phone some time ago, a lady from Florida asked for her help to find out more about her ancestor. When Mrs. Mooty advised that she and her cousin Bill were coming to visit our little town, the old records in the Court House Museum were searched and the location of the Laurie homestead was locate. It was probably about where the entrance to the High School parking lot is on 3<sup>rd</sup> Avenue. Maxine also found a picture of the gentleman with others of the local Town administration.

The search led to the Volume 1 of the Cardston and District Chief Mountain Country series where was found the history of William and Illa Laurie and their two sons who lived in Cardston in the early 1900's till 1926. He served as the Town Solicitor and tutored Mr. Z. W. Jacobs in his profession as a lawyer. Mr. Jacobs served the town for 22 years in various capacities.

The party of three arrived at the hotel Friday Oct. 3, evening and arrangements were made to tour Cardston Saturday morning. Maxine drove them first to the where the grandfather's

residence might have been, past the temple, an old original sandstone house on 3<sup>rd</sup> Avenue, to the cemetery, past the golf course, up to the Lee Crest building, then out on the hill by the highway where they stopped to take pictures of the mountains. The rest of the morning was spent taking in every detail of the Courthouse Museum where no doubt their ancestor had spent a great deal of his time. They were very impressed and thoroughly enjoyed it.

- In the afternoon they visited the Card Home then off they went to the Remington Carriage Center. They had enjoyed breakfast at “Our Home Café” and dinner Saturday evening at the Cobblestone Restaurant. They loved our little town and talked about coming next year.

## **October**

- Tuesday Oct. 7 a young man from a North Carolina university came to the Court House Museum to do some research on the relationship of the natives with the Mormon community. He began a careful examination of the collection of articles that are in our archives. Maxine searched for other helps for him and had them photocopied for him. He too, was very impressed with the information available and intimated that he would return next year. He has been interviewing many people in our area as well as several native groups in Montana.
- Rita Burt has continued to offer guided tours to the Card home even though the site was closed for the winter. Those who visited were impressed with her presentation and history of the family.