



THE 3rd
ANNUAL GENERAL
MEETING

of Biographies Regina Inc.
will be held

TUESDAY

March 31, 2009 7pm

Royal United
Services Institute of
Regina

1660 Elphinstone St.

The low white building, facing west, in
the northeast corner
of the Exhibition Grounds.
Ample free parking

Guest Speaker will be

Dr. JAMES PITSULA

He will give an overview of Regina
during the 1914/1918 period.
and answer any questions about this
period in Regina's history.
He will talk about his book

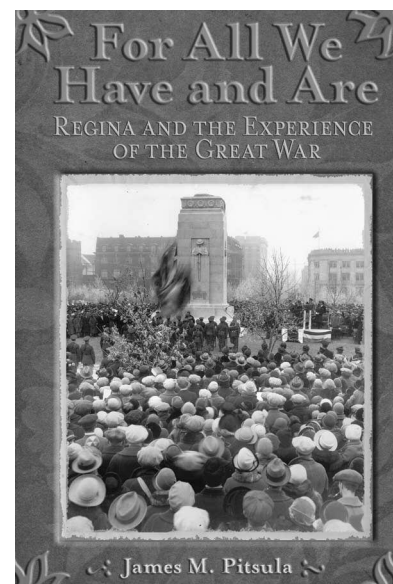
WEB SITE: Work in progress

Development of a web site for this organization is underway. After suggestions of connections with possible developers at previous meetings, proposals from three developers were submitted and reviewed in December.

At its January meeting, the board of directors supported "working with Paul Hodson toward development of a Biographies Regina web site." The domain name for the site has been purchased by the developer, and he is now working on content on the basis of information provided by the board secretary.

We look forward to, hopefully, providing more information on this in the next short while.

Dick Wood
Secretary



For All We Have and Are
REGINA AND THE
EXPERIENCE OF THE GREAT WAR

Spotlight on a new member of Biographies Regina

Each week **Vincent Murphy** presents stories, and sometimes people, of a wide variety on his radio show "The World-Famous Story Emporium".

Tune into CJTR 91.3 FM on Saturday at 9:00 a.m. for Regina and area. The program is rebroadcast at 10:00 a.m. the following Thursday.

The rest of the world can get it on www.cjtr.ca
For more information contact:
Vincent Murphy 306-569-6056
Regina, SK.
www.imaginevincentmurphy.com

- Pilgrim - Imaginist
- ImagineTHAT!
Creative Communications
- Personal Discovery Through
Creative Thinking
- Inspirational Humourist
Speaker, & Storyteller
- Certified Life Living
Workshop Presenter



Doug Mullen reported good sales at the book display and sale at the Golden Mile Mall on November 6th to 8th which was held in connection with Veterans Week.

Doug also reported that our book display and sale at the Victoria Square Mall on Saturday, January 31, 2009 didn't reap the benefits we'd hoped.

Thanks to all who helped at either one or both of the events.

Last newsletter was by Jan Morier in the Autumn of 2008 - a new stylized format with pictures! Very nice and much appreciated.

Evelyn says, "There is a saying 'Be the job large or small, if you do it well you'll be stuck with it all'. You did such a good job, Jan, we're getting you to do it again.

A "JUST BECAUSE SOCIAL" was held for members and guests on Saturday, February 7 at the Royal United Services Institute of Regina from 3:00 to 5:00 p.m. just because we thought it was a good idea. Twenty-four people attended. An impromptu sing song took place with Beth Teskey at the keyboard of a piano we later found had quite a history.

Vincent Murphy showed up unexpectedly and delighted us with a few of his wonderful stories. Gord Goddard enlightened us on some interesting facts in the history of the Royal United Services Institute. As ice-breakers Evelyn Rogers compiled a "History Quiz on Biographies Regina" and a "Getting to Know You Questionnaire".

Refreshments were enjoyed.

For the past few months President Keith Knox has been house-bound with a bad case of shingles.

We extend our best wishes to him for a complete recovery and soon.

The following is a report from Rosemary Torjusen on an event she attended:

On Saturday, February 21, 2009 a **Heritage Forum** was held at the Hotel Saskatchewan. I attended not really representing any particular group.

Special speaker was Ian Wilson, Archivist and Librarian of Canada and former Saskatchewan Provincial Archivist. He was most interesting and gave us lots of information.

As the day progressed and we spent times in smaller groups I could see that small heritage groups did not get funding quite as easily as the larger groups. Some of the problems is new technology. I, along with many others, do not have a computer so don't get e-mail. This leaves us out of the loop unless regular mail is also sent.

It became apparent that it had never crossed some minds that this was and will continue to be a problem.

Rural areas do not have all the technologies available as in the bigger centers. Even if information is initially sent by mail it may be lost unless mailing addresses are regularly updated.

There will be a Heritage Saskatchewan when a board of directors is appointed.

I believe every organization with any connection to heritage should be on this organization's mailings for their help in getting grants and as a clearing house for all sorts of information.

Excerpt: **Agnes (Martin) Balfour - Descendants uphold her heritage**

Story published in book #4 Women of the Years © 2003

In 1883, Agnes (Martin) Balfour took an unprecedented step and exercised her rights as a widow by applying for a homestead in the North West Territories. This untraditional decision has resulted in her descendants having a profound sense of pride in the fact that they are born of a woman with such an independent and pioneering spirit.

Together, Agnes and (husband) William had eight children: Margaret, John, James, Jean, William, David, Agnes and Alexander Sheriff. William worked as the town clerk until his untimely death in 1879, leaving Agnes a 37-year-old widow with eight children aged two years to 16 years of age.

Finances were very strained after William's death, as the family savings had been used to pay the medical bills. The role to support the family fell on Agnes and her three oldest children. It can be assumed that there would have been support of one kind or another from the extended family, but Agnes asserted her independence by training as a practical nurse.

Some of her brothers took over the family company when their father died in 1882. However, in

that same year, two of her brothers, Alexander and Robert, decided to travel out to the West to explore the potential for homesteading. They travelled as far as Broadview by rail, then traversed the rest of the way along the south side of the Qu'Appelle Valley by cart and oxen. They chose their sites, broke some of the land and built a sod hut. They returned to Ontario in the fall with plans to marry their sweethearts and to return the following year to assume their place on their land.

Obviously enthusiastic about her brothers' plans, and with the support of her two oldest sons, Agnes took advantage of her widow's rights and applied for a homestead. Women were only able to exercise their rights to a homestead if they could prove that they were financially responsible for themselves and their children. She was assigned a quarter section seven miles west of what later became Lumsden. The official date of entry for her homestead is April 27, 1883. John Balfour, son, was granted rights to the quarter section directly east of Agnes, giving the family a half section initially.

Agnes quickly developed a reputation as a practical nurse and midwife. There was no doctor in the area until 1898, so Agnes tended the sick and delivered the babies for miles around. She was called out at any time of the day or night and never turned down a request for her assistance.

The following item was submitted by Elaine Bertrand

On November 13, 2008 Biographies Regina set up a table at Regina Pioneer Village for their annual Craft and Bake sale.

Volunteers at the table were Elaine Bertrand, Lilja Stefansson, Keith Knox and Evelyn Rogers.

Only four books were sold, however, we sparked a lot of interest especially amongst the staff for using our books in some of their programs.

We also gained a new member so our time there was worthwhile.

Perhaps we should pursue more of these types of events to promote our organization.

At book displays we've started to have a free draw for one of our books.

Esther Jones name was drawn at this display. She was delighted to choose "Women of the Years".



“Crunch Time” IS NOW

This is the sequel to “Your Support is Needed” in the autumn '08 Newsletter. The message is even more urgent now – the previous plea garnered one donation.

A dedicated group continues to work on the Old Warehouse District book. Grant resources were 3% of requests during '08 and donations have been sparse also. More grant applications are now in the works. We thank those who have contributed recently and ask others to help too. When the book is completed, it will be a time for pride and rejoicing and a feeling of accomplishment for you the member and your committee. Areas where contributions will be applied include:

- 1) the organization’s share to pay a summer student;
- 2) insurance – liability and property coverage (our inventory of books);
- 3) affiliate memberships (e.g. Sask Culture and Saskatchewan Publishers Group); and
- 4) (down the road) printing of book #6 of the “Pioneers! O Pioneers!” series.

Your donation will be recognized in 1 of 4 categories:

Pioneer	\$10-49
Vanguard	\$59-99
Explorer	\$100-299
Visionary	\$300 or more

Your generosity is appreciated and will be acknowledged or, if you wish, you may remain anonymous. A donors listing will be published in the next issue of our newsletter. Donors’ names will also be recognized in the next book.

Thanks in advance.

Your Board of Directors & Book Committee
Keith, Doug, Dick, Bob,
Gord, Evelyn, Lois and Chuck



P.O. Box 37227, Regina SK S4S 7K4

DONATION FORM

Yes, I want to make a donation to assist the preservation of Regina and District’s social history.

Date: _____, 2009

Name: _____
(Individual or associate organization or company)

Address: _____

City/Prov: _____

Postal Code: _____

Phone: _____

E-mail: _____

You may list my name in the *Newsletter*

or I prefer to be acknowledged anonymously

I am donating the sum of \$ _____

Paid by cheque Money Order

An official receipt will be issued for all donations.
Registered Charity Number: 80650 9741 RR0001
Mail to address above.

Thank you for your support.

The Newsletter is published quarterly by Biographies Regina. Contributors to this issue: Elaine Bertrand, Evelyn Knox, Doug Mullen, Rosemary Torjusen, Richard Wood

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