

**MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF BIGHORN NO. 8**

**HERITAGE RESOURCES COMMITTEE VIRTUAL MEETING**

**AUGUST 9, 2021, HELD VIRTUALLY BY WAY OF TEAMS**

PRESENT:	DENNIS APEDAILE	MEMBER (Chair)
	ERIK BUTTERS	MEMBER (Council)
	PAUL CLARK	MEMBER (Council)
	PAT BEDRY	MEMBER (Public)
	DWIGHT TANNAS	MEMBER (Public)
STAFF:	JARED KASSEL	DIRECTOR OF PLANNING
	LESLIE REA	MEETING FACILITATOR
	LANA HILL	FACILITATOR
	LYNDA GALE	RECORDING SECRETARY
REGRETS:	None	
GUESTS:	DENE COOPER	REEVE

**A. CALL TO ORDER**

The Chair called the meeting to order at 9:02 a.m.

**B. APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

The Chair asked if there were any changes to the agenda. There were no proposed changes.

**MOTION 01.08.21 – MOVED BY BUTTERS THAT**

the Heritage Resources Committee **APPROVE** the August 9, 2021, regular HRC meeting agenda as presented.

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

**C. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

**MOTION 02.08.21 - MOVED BY CLARK THAT**

The Heritage Resources Committee **APPROVE** the Minutes of the June 12, 2021, Heritage Resources Committee meeting, as presented.

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

**D. BUSINESS ARISING FROM MINUTES**

**1. HISTORY OF DEAD MAN’S FLATS – D. Cooper (arr. 9:00 a.m. – dep. 9:47 a.m.)**

Reeve Cooper read from a prepared statement, which forms part of these minutes and is attached as Schedule ‘A’.

In his conclusion, Reeve Cooper told the HRC -

1. In many cases it takes several tries to capture a family history. Yvettes aunt tried and gave up earlier.
2. It always takes a family champion, usually a senior with enough interest, time and skills to make it happen.

3. Expect the unexpected. There will be highs and lows, villains and heroes and sad events and happy events.
4. Research usually raises as many questions as it does answers.
5. The digitized professional archives will be the families first stop.
6. Local historical committees need to know their role, they do not have to duplicate what others have already done.

## **2. HRC 2022 HERITAGE CALENDARS – Photograph selection**

**Photo #1 – Two-handed saw – Tannas to prepare caption**

**Photo #2 – Walker sawmill, best photo available**

**Photo #3 – Horses pulling logs on sled – Chair to prepare caption**

**Photo #4 – Kerr & Prince & Photo of mill – Bedry to prepare caption**

**Photo #5 – Dam Survey**

**Photo #6 – Ghost Suspension Bridge**

**Photo #7 – Cement Hydraulic Mining Operation – Butters will prepare caption**

**Photo #8 – North Sheep Road, if a caption can be prepared, use photo**

**Photo #9 – Walking Buffalo – Tannas to prepare caption**

**Photo #10 – Federal & Provincial Forestry Station – use best photo available, Butters to prepare caption**

**Photo #11 – Tunnels for Dam – Clark to prepare caption**

**Photo #12 – Cowboys at Roundup – Chair to prepare caption**

**Photo #13 – General lumber photos – Tannas will prepare caption**

- Chair will speak with D. Cooper for assistance with captions
- The HRC decided to prepare a 13-month calendar starting with December 2021
- The HRC decided to use the Forestry Lookout Station on Junction Mountain and Trail Riders' Base Camp, Canadian Rockies, Alberta, for another edition of the calendar
- The HRC will have captions prepared and emailed to Chair Apedaile and the Director of Planning Services by September 15
- The HRC will discuss the final design at the October 4, 2021, meeting

## **3. Site Visits for HRC Members**

The Director of Planning Services told the HRC that M.D. Council has not approved in-person meetings yet, so he cannot approve site visits. He will inform the HRC once M.D. Council updates their policy.

## **4. Research Project with Fireweed Consulting Group**

The Director of Planning Services told the SRC that the consultant from Fireweed will have a report will be ready to present at the October 4 meeting.

## **E. UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

### **1. Tracking Form**

Chair Apedaile requested that the Tracking Form be reviewed at the next meeting and that the HRC ensure it is updated prior to a new committee taking over after the municipal election.

## **F. NEW BUSINESS**

NONE

**G. CORRESPONDENCE**

NONE

**H. EDUCATIONAL/INFORMATIONAL ITEMS**

**1. Jerry Potts – email from HRC Chair.**

The HRC discussed that they may be talking about the wrong Jerry Potts. Discussion followed regarding “Chaps and Chinooks” and “Bighill Country” books. Butters and Clark will try to find copies through their contacts and through the Cochrane and Area Historic Society (CAHS).

**2. Discussion with Canmore Museum Director**

Chair Apedaile told the HRC he spoke with the Canmore Museum Director because a recent news report indicated they hoped to soon present plans for a new stand-alone museum space. The Canmore Museum Director is now aware that the M.D. does not have significant place to archive historical items. Chair Apedaile said if the Canmore Museum was to relocate, the Director would keep the MD’s needs in mind and there could possibly be space made available for M.D. of Bighorn historical items – perhaps even a separate room/gallery dedicated to the MD. Chair Apedaile believes it will be some time before plans are completed and even longer before budget could be approved for the Canmore project. However, the MD is now noted as a potential interested party.

**3. Video interviews with MD residents**

HRC members discussed the budget related to interviews with MD residents and the Director of Planning Services said the 2021 budget had been allocated to the History of Forestry and Logging and the Historical Calendar project but said there may be funds available in the 2022 budget. It will be important to not miss getting interviews of certain residents.

**I. IN CAMERA**

There were no items to discuss.

**J. NEXT MEETING DATE**

The meeting date is October 4, 2021, to be held virtually, unless otherwise noted.

**K. ADJOURNMENT**

**MOTION 03.06.21 – MOVED BY BEDRY THAT**

the Heritage Resources Committee adjourn the meeting at 11:19 a.m.

*M. D. Apedaile*

CHAIR

*And K...*

DESIGNATED OFFICER

SCHEDULES ATTACHED TO THESE MINUTES	
A	D. Cooper Presentation

10/22/17

The Marret Family

Dear Mr. Cooper,

My grandmother was a German cousin of Jean, Louis, and François Marret. It continued (to be) a great mystery regarding their outcomes following their departures to the USA and Canada. Having resumed the unfruitful genealogical research initiated by my aunt (their distant cousin), I managed with the benefit of more modern tools to find Louis in the USA and learn that he married and adopted a little boy (Louis Patrick). Then I found François and learned of his death (1909) at the Brandon Asylum.

Finally, this week, thanks to the name of Dead Man's Flats I learned the sad end of their history. I will relay the beginning of the story, so their stories are complete.

They were born to a family of four children, three boys: Jean born in 1868, Louis in 1874, François in 1877 and a sister Eugenie. Their father was a farmer, who raised cattle at Ladinhac, in Cantal, in the heart of the Auvergne Mountains. The three boys enlisted in the Army for a combined total of many years. They decided to decommission from the Army to participate in the Gold Rush. They left the heart of France on bikes to reach the Atlantic Ocean and their ports of embarkation.

Jean embarked in Havre aboard "La Normandie" with his brother Louis. They arrived at New York on the 24<sup>th</sup>, 10, 1898. Their first known address in Canada was on the 16<sup>th</sup>, 12, 1898, in Canmore, Alberta. When François was discharged on October 30, 1901, from the 13<sup>th</sup> Regiment of the Artillery, class of 1897, roll 16189, he travelled to Anvers and boarded "La Zealand" on December 4, 1901, arriving in New York and then joining his brother (possibly brothers) in Canmore.

Louis maintained a written relationship with Eugenie throughout his life. I think he told her the truth regarding the drama (murder) because they both gave up having children of their own. Louis adopted a little boy and Eugenie brought up two infant orphans who considered her as their mother. But the rest of the family knew nothing.

I am very grateful to the inhabitants of Dead Man's Flats for guarding this name as it allowed the family to find their two brothers, to preserve their memory, and to you for your conviction.

I would be pleased to know if there is a grave where Jean is buried and, if possible, to consult the archives in Calgary regarding the (murder) trial.

I commend (Exshaw:)Heart of the Valley. I am very seduced by your location as it seems to be a place of magical serenity.

Amicalement (With friendly regard),

Yvette Guilhem

10/22/17

### **The Three Brothers Marret, Dead Man's Flats: The Canadian Dream**

Dear Mr. Cooper,

**My grandmother was a German cousin of Jean, Louis, and François Marret. It continued to be a great mystery regarding their outcomes following their departures to the USA and Canada. Having resumed the unfruitful genealogical research initiated by my aunt (their distant cousin), I managed with the benefit of more modern tools to find Louis in the USA and learn that he married and adopted a little boy. Then I found François and learned of his death (1909) at the Brandon (Manitoba) Asylum.**

1. The Marret Family, Father Pierre (1835-1918) and Mother Anne (1844-1912) are cousins several times removed from Yvette Guilhem the family researcher.
2. Actually, it was a family of six – Jean (1868-1872), Jean (1872-1904), Louis (1874-1955), François (1877-1909), Eugenie (1884-1963) and Joseph (1887-1889). The first Jean died early in life, and the second child was named Jean also. The sixth child died in infancy. From 1918 onward only Louis and Eugenie survived. Louis living in the USA and Eugenie living in France maintained contact through letters until Louis' death (age 81) in 1955.
3. Jean joined the Infantry, as a Miner (Sapper?), in 1892 serving for six years. His Canmore Mine employer (1904), Henri Fourney, regarded him as "a good man, good worker and a gentleman" and another testified he was "polite and peaceful".
4. François joined the Artillery in 1897, serving for three years in the French Foreign Legion (Africa) until 1901. Locals in the Bow Valley observed him as "quiet, odd, gentle, and reclusive".
5. Louis worked as a miner and came to Halifax, Canada, on October 4, 1893. He returned to France and joined the Infantry as a Cannoneer in 1896 serving for two years and receiving a certificate for good conduct. He was restless, driven, and an adventurer with a bad case of gold fever. Following his return to Canada with Jean in 1898, Louis became a naturalized Canadian citizen in 1900. Jean had \$20 in his pocket when they arrived in Canada, Louis had "zero".
6. Louis married twice. In 1911 to Aina Siermala (1877-1944) at Juneau, Alaska, and they had a daughter Sonia born in Port Orchard (near Seattle), Washington State. Sonia died in infancy (1919-1920).
7. Louis married again in 1926 to Dorothy Thompson (1907-1998) and they adopted a little boy, Louis Patrick (1928-1998). Louis Patrick was a musician, taught music, and married three times.
8. Note that Louis Patrick and his mother, Dorothy, died in the same year (1998) as did his second wife (m. 1955) Elanor Donner (1934-1998) the mother of two stepchildren Renea and Cynthia, and his third wife (m. 1965) Lavada Richardson (1920-1998). Louis Patrick's first wife (m. 1951) was Margaret Klein.
9. François was convicted at trial by judge and jury (in Calgary, May 19, 1904) of Jean's murder (at Dead Man's Flats, May 11, 1904), with a jury verdict of "not guilty by reason of insanity." He died (possibly a suicide), at age 31, at the regional Asylum in Brandon, Manitoba, on October 7, 1909, and is buried there in an unmarked grave alongside 390 others.

**Finally, this week, thanks to the name of Dead Man's Flats, I learned the sad end of their history. I will relay the beginning of the story, so their stories are complete.**

1. Yvette was able to locate several newsprint segments, magazine articles and radio show clips, and tv segments in 2017. We began corresponding at that time and that conversation continues as does her research.
2. This year, she completed a very detailed family history and primary evidence folder. Some of that is before you today and with her permission copies will be sent to several Alberta museums.
3. The local history book, Exshaw: Heart of the Valley, Alexander and Cooper, 2005, contains a well researched story titled Dead Man's Flats, that covers the Marret murder, see Chapter 1, pages 108-109, mostly researched by Rob Alexander.

**They were born to a family of four children, three boys: Jean born in 1868, Louis in 1874, Francois in 1877 and a sister Eugenie (1884). Their father (Pierre 1835-1918 and mother Anne 1844-1912) was a farmer, who raised cattle at Ladinhac, in Cantal, in the heart of the Auvergne Mountains. The three boys enlisted in the French Army for a combined total of many (11: 6-2-3) years. They (Jean and Louis) decided to decommission from the Army to participate in the Gold Rush. Jean and Louis left (1898) the heart of France on bikes to reach the Atlantic Ocean and their ports of embarkation.**

1. Jean (first Jean) was born in 1868 and died as a toddler in 1872.
2. Eugenie was born in 1884 and died at age 79 in 1963 in France.
3. Joseph was born in 1887 and died accidentally as an infant in 1889.
4. In 1901, Jean was age 29, Louis 27, François 24 and Eugene 17.
5. Jean and Louis arrived in Canmore in December, 1898. Louis was in the Yukon by May, 1901. Jean worked at Canmore Mines as a night guard to the dynamite stores. He was described as "always with a smile".
6. François arrived in Canmore in December, 1902, with \$30 in his pocket.
7. About 5 a.m., on May 11, 1904, Francois killed his oldest brother, Jean (age 32), by bludgeoning him with the blunt end of an axe while Jean slept.
8. The Marret family farmed, but coal mining was also in the family repertoire of labour skills, as was brick making, and then military training. Jean worked in the coal mine in Canmore as a night guard of munitions, and he, Louis and later François ran a dairy from what is now Dead Man's Flats. François got a job in Cochrane at the brick plant (but never showed up).
9. They all came influenced by gold fever, most especially Louis. Only Louis would make it to the Yukon. He headed out from Canmore prior to the time of the fratricide (May, 1904). He needed a grub stake and permission to enter the Yukon (Jean was his guarantor as in next of kin).
10. As it turns out, Louis struck it rich at Baker Creek, on the Stewart River. A newsprint article of the time read, "It is estimated there will be 300 men working on Baker next winter." The Dawson Daily News, May 11, 1906, reported, "On discovery claim, owned by Louis Marret, fine pay has been obtained. The claim is not for sale, and rich pans have been taken out. Occasionally fine nuggets are found." Between January, 1905, and May, 1906, Louis earned \$420,000.
11. Louis left the Yukon (after 1911), to reside at Port Orchard, near Seattle, Washington, married twice, enlisted in the USA Army (Artillery) but the First World War ended before he could be deployed.

12. Louis became an American citizen (1941), worked as a farmer, a baker, and in brick manufacture. There isn't any evidence of residual Yukon wealth. There is some evidence of legal issues with his mineral claim (Bill of Sale: re L. Marret and Hugh McNeil to J. Mace for 1 above Baker) and, after Louis left Alaska, a serious mine flooding incident (April 21, 1917).
13. Louis lived to 1955 (81 years) and his adopted son Louis Patrick Every Marret (born Clarence Patrick Evey) to 1998 (61 years).
14. There isn't any indication Louis returned to Alberta or that he communicated with any family other than his sister Eugenie (who died in 1963).

**Jean embarked in Havre aboard "La Normandie" with his brother Louis. They arrived at New York on the 24<sup>th</sup>, 10, 1898. Their first known address in Canada was on the 16<sup>th</sup>, 12, 1898, in Canmore, Alberta. When François was discharged on October 30, 1901, from the 13<sup>th</sup> Regiment of the Artillery, class of 1897, roll 16189, he travelled to Anvers and boarded "La Zealand" on December 4, 1901, arriving in New York and then joining his brother (possibly brothers) in Canmore (1902).**

1. François was discharged out of the Army (1901). It appears his behaviours were noticed and deemed contrary to good order and reputation within the ranks. The charge was homosexuality.
2. Between December 1901 and December 1902, François "left few shadows".
3. It appears that Louis left with a grub stake and that François understood it as a theft.
4. Every thing was changing for François. He was in a new place. Work was in Cochrane away from his brother (or brothers). Louis was in the Yukon. Language was a problem. Locals noticed his idiosyncratic behaviours. One generous resident, Ella May Loder, later regretted loaning him an axe.
5. Jean was murdered while he slept, in the early morning hours (5 a.m.), on May 11, 1904, in his cabin, at his dairy farm, near the confluence of the Bow River and Pigeon Creek, in Dead Man's Flats, at age 32.
6. François was certain that his brother Jean was "evil" and that he himself was "good" going so far as to suggest he was acting upon his deceased parents' "orders".
7. A Coroner's inquest was held in Calgary on May 12 and took one day to complete. It concluded that François murdered Jean.
8. At his trial (1904), in Calgary, his insanity was attributed to the harshness, dangers and deprivations during his deployment within the French Foreign Legion. However, Yvette indicates that mental instability was not unknown in the family. François had many of the attributes we ascribe to schizophrenia today – auditory hallucinations, delusional jealousy, expressions of delusional persecution and grandiosity, paranoia, verbal salad in communication, distorted beliefs – and apparently experienced a psychotic break. His trial jury took only 15 minutes to reach their verdict (May 19, 1904).
9. The trial judge was Arthur Lewis Sifton, educated in Toronto, admitted to the Manitoba Bar, at Brandon, in 1883, moved to Calgary in 1889, appointed Chief Justice to the North West Territories in 1903 and Chief Justice of the Province of Alberta in 1907. He was known to be impassive in ordinary matters, often making immediate decisions without recessing. In more complicated matters he was known to make common sense decisions reflecting social values rather than by making references to applicable legal resources.

10. Life in mental institutions was primitive by today's standards. Brandon, Manitoba, was the facility for Rupert's Land/North-West Territories. François, then age 29, died six years into his incarceration (1904-1909) in the Brandon Asylum.
11. The Brandon Asylum was built in 1890, operational in 1891, housed more than 600 patients, and completely burnt down in November, 1910. The buildings were successfully evacuated (reported as 643 patients and 80 staff). Many institutional records were lost during that fire. A newly installed fire hydrant system was due to be commissioned that next week.

**Louis maintained a written relationship with Eugenie throughout his life. I think he told her the truth regarding the drama (murder) because they both gave up having children of their own. Louis adopted a little boy and Eugenie brought up two infant orphans who considered her as their mother. But the rest of the family knew nothing.**

1. Yvette Guilhem (the family researcher) is intelligent, educated, organized and persistent. She is courageous as she was willing to communicate patiently in both French and English.

**I am very grateful to the inhabitants of Dead Man's Flats for guarding this name as it allowed the family to find their two brothers, to preserve their memory, and to you for your conviction.**

**I would be pleased to know if there is a grave where Jean is buried and, if possible, to consult the archives in Calgary regarding the (murder) trial.**

1. We were able to get the hand written transcripts of both the inquest in Canmore and trial in Calgary. They are in the provided materials translated into French.
2. We assume that Jean is buried in the Old Canmore Cemetery but there are no records to identify plots and persons during those early days.

**I commend (Exshaw:) Heart of the Valley (2005). I am very seduced by your location as it seems to be a place of magical serenity.**

**Amicalement** (With friendly regard),

**Yvette Guilhem**