

Delta Marsh History Initiative, Steering Committee Meeting

9:00 am, 18 March 2009

Home of Shirley Christianson, Portage la Prairie

**Present:** Shirley Christianson, Heidi den Haan, Gordon Goldsborough (sec), Bob Jones, Cynthia Jordan, Glen Suggett

1. **Minutes** of the previous two meetings (22 October and 19 November 2008) were circulated and corrected. For 22 October: Doug Connery; Bob and Glen toured Naegele's Mallard Lodge with Dennis Nodrick (revised last sentence from "g"). 20 November: "Shiela" to "Sheila"

2. **Business**

- a) *Free Press Archive* – Suggett has subscribed for a year and did search on Kirchhoffer and found a few hundred hits
- b) *McVety's General Store* – It sat at the northeast corner of Hwys 240 and 227 by Doug Love's place. It closed in 1976 when the road bend was added the building was moved nearby to Craig Finney's yard as a workshop.
- c) *Miscellaneous Info* – Lloyd Andrechuk (spelling?) was a Polish immigrant who fled after World War One and lived in a fish shack on Delta Channel. He fished in winter and worked for farmers in summer. He later lived in a small trailer on the Jordan farm, later in a room at the Albion Hotel in Portage (before it burned) and the Portage Hotel. He is buried in Hillside Cemetery. He had poor English and was "married once" to "Pigeon George's" daughter for a week. He died in the 1980s.

Goldsborough found a newspaper clipping circa 1924 about two men who drowned at Clandeboye Bay while hunting. It was given to Suggett.

Suggett has corresponded with the Royal Archives in the UK. He received a three-page photocopy of King George V's diary of his 1901 visit to Delta, as well as Governor-General Minto's diary from the National Archives of Scotland which includes entries on the 1900 shoot at Delta with Kirchhofer. The lodge was there at least in 1900 and maybe earlier. It was not built especially for the King's visit has previously alleged. A copy of Harry Graham's book on the 1901 royal visit to Winnipeg (Goldsborough has an original copy). He is still trying to find diaries of other visitors in 1901. Kerry Guenter is tracking descendants of the visitors, finding ones for Major Maud (he found a scrapbook of the royal tour in hands of a woman in Colorado), Brian Godfrey Fawcett (was Aide-de-Camp with the royal visit and Suggett has ordered copies of pages in his diaries at the Cambridge Archives), and the Earl of Athlone aka. Alex of Tek (Royal Archives has his diary, Suggett has obtained a short entry on the 1901 hunt).

- d) *Status Report* – Suggett reported that the following text is mostly written: Flee Island, Kirchhoffer, 1901 Royal Shoot, Bigelow, 1919 Royal Shoot, James Ford Bell, Jimmy Robinson, Younghusband, Harry Atkinson, Murder Oak, Old Boxcar (Crawford Dangerfield's Place). Next to do is a history of the Delta Waterfowl Station and Naegele's Mallard Lodge. An overview of Tin Town has been written. He has compiled all his writing into a binder and will leave it with Christianson.

3. **Next meeting:** The next meeting will be held at the home of Shirley Christianson (118 Wilkinson Crescent, Portage la Prairie) at **7:00 pm on Tuesday, 12 May 2009.**

4. **Adjournment:** The meeting was adjourned at 11:00 AM.