

Moccasins



A pair of Moccasins from the Exham Collections.

In 2016 we received a donation from Mrs. Exham which included three pairs of moccasins, and a set of moccasin collars and vamps. This collection underwent conservation work done by the Territorial Conservator, Val Monahan. We recently got back this collection from Val. Many thanks to Val for all her hard work on this collection

Many moccasins are made from caribou hide. The skin preparation can be a lengthy process. The flesh and hair must first be scrapped from the hides before they are washed and soaked in a solution that softens the leather. Finally the hide is smoked to preserve it and this gives the leather the soft brown colour. The skin can also be aged or bleached as well before it is used to create clothing. Normally aged and bleached leather

is typically used for footwear or for mittens.

Once the skins are prepared and ready for use, a pattern must be created, cut out and the pieces stitched together. There are three main sections to a moccasin; the vamp, sole and side strip or leg strip. These sections are then sewn together by hand or occasionally by machine. Waterproof stitches are used to keep out moisture and cold.

Moccasins can vary from region to region. Some regions choose to use hard soles over a softer more flexible sole. The type of vamp used can vary from a U-shaped vamp to one that encircles the entire foot. The part of moccasin that can vary the most is the decoration and the beadwork on the footwear.

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Executive Director's Report

This past year has been a busy one for the Old Log Church Museum. I was over the moon to become the Executive Director of the museum last November. I have learnt so much in my short time here thus far, met amazing people and have the incredible opportunity to care for the OLCM's collection.

Over the winter we worked hard to update our collections database and storage room. We also won Yukon Heritage Award for Heritage Project of the Year! This was all thanks to the hard work the board put in for the roof and rectory project.

Over the summer we were busy as well. We had a wonderful group of summer students who were enthusiastic, and hardworking. They worked a wide variety of projects from creating educational programming, graphic design, collections

management and working on publications. Many thanks to our hardworking summer students!

This fall we have been joined by Sophie Cimon who will be conducting a full inventory of our collection and continuing on the project of updating our collections database from last winter. We are very pleased to have her with us!

Looking forward to see what is next for the Old Log Church Museum in the upcoming year!



Allison Belshaw, Executive Director, Old Log Church Museum

The Making of: Women of the Anglican Church in the Yukon

by Asia Hyde, Heritage Interpreter

The communities formed around the Anglican church parishes of the Yukon would not have been as prosperous had it not been for the strong women in the Yukon who made lives for themselves in the Yukon. The summer of 2018 the summer staff of the Old Log Church Museum decided to create a new book sharing the stories of these brave women. Summer Interpreter, Hannah Tolman spent the summer researching, gathering photos, and writing a new book celebrating the women of the Anglican church in the Yukon.

Flo Whyland's booklet, "Five Pioneer Women of the Anglican Church in the Yukon" written in 1964, was very thorough in documenting the wives of missionaries who settled in the Yukon, though there was very little mention of First Nations members of the Anglican Church. The new book was written with the intent to celebrate both settlers and First Nations members of the Anglican church. Accomplished wom-

en such as Dr. Reverend Ellen Bruce, and Sarah Simon were given chapters in the book and many other First Nations members of the Anglican Church are discussed throughout the chapters. Another noteworthy change that was made in the new book was the updated terminology. As times change, so does the context of our language, much of what is in this book is quotes from people of a different time. In order to preserve the firsthand accounts and stories of these women while providing the reader with up to date terminology, additions have been added in brackets, this way the account is not erased.

In terms of the cover, it was our intent to try and represent a wide range of women who dedicated their lives to the communities that sprung up around the Anglican Church. While the women on the cover do not correlate completely with the chapter titles, we came to the decision that the cover should depict

women from a wide range of backgrounds and a wide range of skillsets. The decision that the cover should depict women from a wide range of backgrounds and a wide range of skillsets.

The cover shows, Martha Kendi and her baby (Martha's family was a big part of the Anglican church in the Yukon), Sadie Stringer, Susan Bowen, Julia Kutug, and Dr. Rev. Ellen Bruce. The cover is a mix of collage and digital drawing, using photographs from the Old Log Church Museum collection. When we were discussing how the women should be arranged, we decided it would be best to show them sharing the same space, as it would reflect their shared faith, as well as the community established by the Anglican church in the Yukon.

The majority of the content was gathered and created last summer, Hannah dedicated hours and hours to the writing of the book and gathering relevant images from the Old Log Church Museum database, while I assembled the front cover illustration. The summer of 2019, the final portion of the works cited page was completed, photos were reselected and formatted, and the text and page formatting were completed.

Working on this project has been a journey, and

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Beadwork has served Vuntut Gwitchin women in multiple ways for over a century. It has been used as a focus of creativity, a symbol of ethnicity, a culturally sanctioned and celebrated vehicle for supporting human connections and an economic boon in the context of the realities of the pressures of acculturation. The Vuntut Gwitchin are renowned beaders and sewers.

Before European traders introduced glass beads clothing was decorated with dyed porcupine quills. Once beads became readily available as trade items in the 18th century the Vuntut Gwitchin women started to incorporate them into their traditional patterns and made beautiful new patterns. Typically the beads are often sewn to a fabric backing such felt before it is attached to the

working alongside people passionate about history and story telling has made it a very enjoyable one at that. I hope that the readers of this book enjoy hearing the stories of these strong women as much as I have.

Books are available for purchase at the OLCM.



Hyde, Asia. Women of the Anglican Church in the Yukon - Front Cover.

garment itself.

Vuntut Gwitchin beadwork traditionally can be very complex with many motifs that are elaborate. They tend to use floral beadwork patterns that are composed of several parts central to one core element with several overlapping elements. The majority of beaders use 6-10 bead colours. At the turn of the century pinks, aqua, golds, greens and crystals were popular.

Among the Vuntut Gwitchin a gift of beaded clothing such as moccasins is simply more than just a garment of clothing it is a visible symbol of generosity of spirit, of one's time and fondness for another.

Inventorizing the OLCM Collections

by Sophie Cimon, Inventory and Collections Management Assistant

As summer ended, so did the summer season for the Old Log Church Museum. But this does not mean the end of all activities for the museum. One of many projects for 2019 was to complete a full inventory of the collection. The OLCM's hired myself, Sophie Cimon, I am a museum technician with several years of working experience under my belt. I came a long way from home to join your midst, all the way from Quebec to enjoy the wonders of the Land of the Midnight sun! Along with the inventory, I have many tasks ahead in the upcoming months, such as locating every artifact, identify any conservation issues and improve the documentation on the collection. I will also be reviewing and updating our Collections Procedures. An inventory and updated procedures are crucial for any museum wishing to maintain a healthy collection for as many years as they can. And why would it be? Because an updated inventory helps the museum's director to know exactly what they have in storage, and in which condition each object are, which is all essential information. In times, this data is used by the museum staff to either build up new exhibitions, promote the collection all around the community and even for educational purposes. A project, such as the 2019's inventory, is important for us, as we, the Old Log Church Museum, are proud of our collection and proud to be an active presence in our community.



Educational Programming at the OLCM

by Allison Belshaw, Executive Director

We are currently in the midst of re-vamping our education programs at the Old Log Church Museum. Cathy & Ellen, have been working hard on creating unit and lesson plans. These offerings focus on various topics from Hershel Island and Whaling, Reverend Richard Martin and Moosehide, Musical Instruments During the Gold Rush to Oral History and Story Telling. Each of these lesson plans will be complimented by an activity kit filled with books, artefact replicas and children's activities. By next fall these unit plans, lesson plans and kits will be ready for use by teachers in schools, parents who home school and for educational visits to the Old Log Church Museum.

Excerpt from Hanna Maria Stringer's Pionner Cookbook

by Hannah Tolman, Heritage Interpreter

In the Summer of 2017, we began to create the Hanna Maria Stringer's Pionner Cookbook. This new publication from the OLCM was created by updating recipies from Hannah Stringer's cookbook, letters to and from friends and recipies from neighbours. Hanna Maria Stringer was the the younger sister of Isaac Stringer. The recipies in this cookbook provide insight to the domestic lifestyle of the pioneers in the late 19th centry. We hope you all enjoy this lovley cake recipe from the book!

Books are available for purchase at the OLCM.

Little Cake



Ingredients:

- * 3 1/2 cups flour
- * 1/4 cup butter
- * 2 1/2 cups sugar
- * 2 eggs
- * 1/4 tsp nutmeg
- * granulated sugar (to decorate)

Directions:

1. Rub butter into flour.
 2. In a separate bowl, mix sifted sugar and nutmeg into a paste with 4 eggs.
 3. Add wet ingredients to dry and let stand for an hour.
 4. Roll dough thin and cut with cakes grate or cake cutter.
 5. Sugar over and bake slowly in oven at 350°F for approximately 45-50 minutes, or until cakes are golden brown.
- TIP! Make a creamy glaze by mixing 8 oz powdered sugar, 1/4 sp of cinnamon, 1 tbsp butter, and 1/2 tsp vanilla

Culture Days at the Museum

In the final week of September we once again participated in Culture Days! We organized some fun activities. On Friday September 27th we partnered with YHMA to have John Firth the author of "The Caribou Hotel: Hauntings, Hospitality, a hunter and the parrot". The talk was followed by tea and sweets. On the Saturday we had programming around Hanna Maria Stringer's Pioneer Cookbook. We cook cupcakes from the book and marbled bookmarks with shaving cream and food dye. On the Sunday, Allison gave a behind the scenes tour of our Collection Storage space. It was busy but fun weekend!

Please Join us for our Old Fashioned Christmas Sale!



Old Fashioned Christmas Sale

November 23rd & 30th
10 AM - 2 PM

"Tis the season, so come visit the Old Log Church
Museum to find heritage and
vintage-inspired Christmas ornaments, and more!

For more information go to:
www.oldlogchurchmuseum.ca

Located in the heart of Whitehorse
Corner of Elliott Street and 3rd Avenue



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