

GCPS Progress Report

March, 2024

By Diane Sterne

- Roy Roberts noticed something very interesting when he was looking through the GCPS website. He examined the photo of the Granite Creek Hotel plate that we have posted and saw what looked like a belt on the emblem. He asked if I knew anything about it and, honestly, I hadn't even noticed it. "Google is your friend" as they say, so off I went. I came up with a possible explanation, however, I have no proof. This is purely speculation.

The plate was for the newly built Granite Creek Hotel. The original hotel burned down in the 1907 fire. The original owner of the hotel was Dan McKay. If you search online for the McKay Clan Crest, this is what you find:



There is definitely a similarity between the two belt buckles. I am guessing (and this is a guess) that perhaps when F.P. Cook commissioned the hotel plates, he might have taken into consideration that Dan McKay was the original owner of the first Granite Creek Hotel and his family crest had the belt buckle on it. Or perhaps the original hotel had custom plates and one survived the fire. New ones were made to copy it. Who knows? Belt buckles were common on many family crests in Heraldry. The buckle symbol is called a "garter" and is also used to represent members of the Order of the Garter. The fact that Dan McKay was the owner of the first Granite Creek Hotel and the McKay family crest just happens to have a buckle that looks an awful lot like the buckle on the plate is quite a coincidence. Is this true or a coincidence? We will likely never know, but it is something to chew on. 😊 Thank you, Roy Roberts, for bringing this to our attention.

- I have been going through the photos and documents Bob and I have on our computer, to send to the Museum for their new website. I had forgotten all the things I had squirreled away in various corners of our computers. I was thrilled to see the Museum has included the songs sung by Bill Frew and the violin music

by Joe Delprato, on their site. The music came from a cassette tape Bob and I found at Walt Smart's house. We asked him about it, and he said that someone from back east had come to the Coalmont Hotel to record old timers' music. The quality isn't very good, but it is interesting to listen to the sounds from Bill and Joe who were very important people back in the day. My favourite song by Bill Frew is "Tomatoes in a Tin". If you listen to the words, it is quite funny. I also sent the Museum the following:

- A scan of the one and only issue of The Spasm newspaper which was a Coalmont paper that came out after the Coalmont Courier closed shop.
- The Inquisition papers from Hattie McBride's murder (I had transcribed them years ago as the originals were handwritten and difficult to read) together with her Death Certificate.
- A collection of photos from Lorna Esouloff who was a member of the Cook family. She had allowed me to scan her originals years ago.
- Some biographical information and photos of people I was familiar with.
- A collection of photos of the inside of the Coalmont Hotel that I collected from various facebook pages.

If you haven't visited the Museum's new website, I highly recommend checking it out. You can find it here: <https://princetonbcmuseum.com/> The amount of information to be found there is unbelievable!!!

- While I was going through things for the Museum, I realized I had some photos of locals who are interred at the Granite Creek Cemetery. I added them in the appropriate spots on the findagrave website.
- By chance I came across a fantastic podcast about the Lost Cache of Granite Creek. You can find it here: <https://firesidecanada.ca/the-lost-cache-of-granite-creek/> I highly recommend listening to it. It is very well done and quite interesting. I have asked the creator if we could post it on our GCPS website. The site has many other podcasts that you may find worth listening to. They are all professionally done.
- I am continuing to send one article a month to the Spotlight newspaper. Each story is about the history of a person or place from the area. March's article is about Catherine Dunn-Parker-Austin who was a brief resident of Granite Creek during its heyday.
- Financial Report: 22 paid members; current bank balance \$3863.08; PayPal \$337.45; cash on hand \$160.00; accounts payable to Ernie Rice when he builds and installs the Delprato Cabin picnic table \$800. Balance is \$3560.53.