

GUEST EDITORIAL

INTRODUCTION

I love local history. So, whenever I travel around Manitoba with my family, I prepare for each trip by doing research on the historical highlights in the communities that we will be visiting. In 2007, we spent several enjoyable days in and around Deloraine. We visited the rebuilt Land Titles Office at Newcomb's Hollow and the old fieldstone bank vault at the site of Old Deloraine. But our visit would have been even more informative had we had a copy of the book now in your hands.

The Turtle Mountain area of southwestern Manitoba is steeped in history and this excellent book makes it come alive. It is a remarkable effort on the part of the Turtle Mountain-Souris Plains Heritage Association, and I especially commend the group's energetic young project coordinator, Teyana Neufeld, for the considerable effort that went into compiling it. There is something here for any fan of Manitoba history. Those interested in historical sites will find stories about frontier posts like Lena House and Fort Mr. Grant, one-room schoolhouses, a First Nation reserve (the smallest in Canada!) and ghost towns such as Sourisford and Turtle Mountain City. In the days before our provincial highways, trails meandered across the prairie and here we learn about the pathways of history passing through the region, such as the Boundary Commission Trail, the Boiler Trail, and the Dunseith Trail. The stories are enriched by the many colourful personalities who made the sites noteworthy: the rum runners, coal miners, naturalists, pioneering nuns, Métis fiddlers, and wily entrepreneurs.



The Turtle Mountain Depot was established to supply the Boundary Commissioners in 1873.

Source: Provincial Archives of Manitoba: Boundary Commission Photographs, 1872-4

So if, like me, you are a newcomer to the Turtle Mountain region and want to become better acquainted with its rich and fascinating history, think of this book as a fine starting point. It will no doubt whet your appetite to learn more about Manitoba's past, here and throughout our great province. And if it stimulates you to dig deeper and uncover new stories, all the better!

Gordon Goldsborough

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