
PRITCHARD NEWS

Spring 2005

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Free

2004 CEMETERY CLEANUP

The 2004 cemetery cleanup started out a bit slow, but in the end we got lots of work done and had quite a few folks come to help out. As usual there were lots of brush and weeds to clean up, and Bing Thompson even brought a lawn mower, which surprisingly worked quite well even in the rough terrain of the cemetery. In addition there was a rather large tree down, but thanks to the next door neighbour, who lent us an axe we managed to get that taken care of.

Participants in the cleanup included Derlin, Sondra, Kristie and Craig Dillabaugh, Janet Spurr, Jim Pritchard, Bing Thompson, and Cheryl, Rebecca, Ethan, Keenan, and Ashton Layer - with the latter three individuals doing most of the work.



Pritchard homestead in Alcove, Quebec (source: <http://freepages.genealogy.rootsweb.com/~pritchards/history.htm>).

2005 REUNION RETURNING TO THE PLACE IT ALL BEGAN

The 2005 Pritchard reunion will be returning to the place it all began one-hundred and seventy some years ago this summer. It will be held on July, 10th, 2005 starting at noon at the Pritchard Homestead (shown above) in Alcove, Quebec on the banks of the beautiful Gatineau River. It has been a quite a few years since the reunion has been held at the homestead, so don't miss this chance to come to the reunion.

For those interested in family history the Thompson family has 'discovered' a number of very old family photo albums that will be on display - you won't likely recognize many of the faces but they are a fascinating part of our family's history. Furthermore, the Pritchard cemetery is just a short hike away from the homestead, so if you haven't seen it before, or in a while, this would be an excellent opportunity.

Of course if family history is not your thing, there will be games, wonderful food, and lots of Pritchard family members to visit with. We hope to see you there!

BUSINESS

While the government of Canada likes to brag about eliminating Canada's deficit, the Pritchard Family has had a surplus budget for as long as anyone can remember! Sorry I don't have exact numbers this year I was late in starting the newsletter, you will have to come to the reunion to find out the details! However, despite the excellent state of the family finances, don't expect to see treasurer Sondra Dillabaugh running for office in the next Federal election, looking after the Pritchard books is enough for her.

WEATHER

IT NEVER RAINS
AT A
PRITCHARD
FAMILY PICNIC



No need to report this really, the weather will be sunny and beautiful of course.

2005 CEMETERY CLEAN UP

The 2005 cemetery clean up will be held, as it is each and every year, on the Saturday following the Victoria Day long weekend in May. For those of you without a calendar handy, that is May, 28th, 2005. Please bring any gardening tools you have handy, and bring yourself of course. We usually start at around 9.30 am and are done by noon. Feel free to show up at any time and there will be something for you to do. This year in particular we are looking for some strong men and women to show up, as we are hoping to 're-rect' some of the fallen stones, so if "big and strong" describes you we could really use your help!

A reminder that there is still some uncertainty over the legal status of the access to the cemetery, so please be polite to the family who's lane way we need to use to access the cemetery. They were kind enough to loan us an axe during last year's cleanup and it proved to be incredibly useful. If you have never been to the cemetery before and would like directions please contact me, Craig Dillabaugh, at (819) 827-8215 or Sondra Dillabaugh at (613) 821-2721.

2004 REUNION

The 72nd annual Pritchard Reunion was held on July, 11th, 2004 at the home of Dave and Wendy Gurney in Richmond, Ontario. It was, as predicted right here in the 2004 newsletter a beautiful, sunny day. Attendance was not as high in some past years, but the youngest generation of Pritchards was very well represented, with Geran Dillabaugh being the youngest attendee followed closely by Ashton Layer and Jadin Pritchard. So the future looks bright for the Pritchard reunion. At the business meeting was conducted by Craig Dillabaugh and Wendy Gurney in the absence of our President Victor Dillabaugh. Nothing was changed with the current executive, and Wendy gave the treasury report.

Games were organized by Kirk and Sarah Dillabaugh. The children had lots of fun competing for exciting prizes, and the adults even got in on the action. Tyler Gurney and Craig Dillabaugh narrowly beat out Ruggles and Brayden Pritchard in the toughest egg competition (also know as the egg toss) continuing a long standing reunion tradition. Finally, to help combat the warm weather many reunion attendees got to enjoy a swim in Dave and Wendy's pool, showing off their diving abilities (or lack thereof) from the springboard.

DIRECTIONS TO 2005 REUNION

Take Highway 5 North from Gatineau to the end, turn left at intersection and travel north to Wakefield. Follow signs to Highway 105 North toward Maniwaki. Alcove is on highway 105 about 4 or 5 kilometers north of Wakefield, but watch carefully for the signs or you could miss it. Just after you see the Alcove sign watch for an exit on the right (just as the highway narrows from 3 to 2 lanes), this is River Road, exit here. The homestead is located about 250 meters up River Road. If you miss the turn off onto River Road you will round a corner and come to an intersection with a Petro Canada station on the left. If you make a right turn at this intersection and go to the end of the road you will come to River Road again. Make a right onto River Road and the homestead is the 4th building on your right hand side.

If you are really lost the phone number at the homestead is 459-2585.

MAILING LIST

I've have been trying hard to keep the mailing list up to date. Last year I misplaced the name of at least one person who wanted to be removed, if that is you please accept my apologies. If you wish to be removed from the newsletter mailing list please contact Craig (819) 827-8215, or Sondra Dillabaugh (613) 821-2721. Also, if you know of someone who would like to be added to the list we would be happy to do that too.

PRITCHARD FAMILY WEBSITE

The Pritchard website has moved to: <http://freepages.genealogy.rootsweb.com/~pritchards/>