

Cigar Box Bulletin

Impact of Beaver Trade on North American Exploration

Jacob Kuykendall, Retired Arthur D. Little Engineer
(1/4 American Indian)

Reporter: Bill Beebee



Sadly, American history is full of stories of abuse of American Indians at the hands of whites. However, Jake Kuykendall, born and raised on an Indian reservation, told us of the *happy times when whites and Indians went into business together*. Their initial business was trapping, trading and transporting beaver pelts from North America to Europe, and it began a century before the Pilgrims landed.

The beaver trade was mainly around the Hudson Bay but stretched across Canada, with some extensions south into the US, down the Mississippi. Unlike the government-sponsored colonization by the English, the fur trade was entrepreneurial. French, Dutch, and English individuals went into the wilderness, seeking help from the locals. Especially with the French, they intermarried with Indi-

ans, learned their languages, and established large families. Since there was no universally-accepted money, they set up barter systems at networks of trading posts. The Indians provided/transported beaver pelts and were paid in cloth, rum, metal tools (such as saws, axes and farm implements), etc.

In Europe, the popular pelts were processed to become a wide variety of weather-resistant hats. Their demand lasted for hundreds of years. The pelts from northern areas were more valued than those from warmer climates. Part of the process involved converting the pelts to felt. (In the Lewis Carroll's story *Alice in Wonderland*, there is a character known as The Mad Hatter. A frequent hazard in tanning pelts for hat-making was the use of mercury, be-

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August Meeting Minutes Ship's Bell Rang at 10:00 AM

Reporter: Bill Beebee

Chris Hammer called the meeting to order and asked that cell phones be silenced.

Chris led members in the Pledge of Allegiance followed by the singing of the Star Spangled Banner.

New Members:

Nick Veeder said that **Jurgan Hanson** and **Bill Buckley** are two new members.

Nick opened the floor to announcements of **Visitors:**

Bob Sellers, moving in from Maine and a guest of **Bob Cooke**
Trey Burns, a retired power electronics engineer, an 18-year Marlborough resident and a guest of **Terry Thoman**
Royce Kaler, a WW II vet and a guest of **Russ Fraleigh**

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UPCOMING MEETINGS

Friday, September 13

Friday, October 11

Friday, November 8

Speaker — Continued

fore the potent effect on the human body and mind was understood.)

The northern part of the network of trading posts, often on bodies of water to ease transportation, was organized in 1640 into the Hudson Bay Company in today's Canada. This was the largest corporation at the time. In 1789, the North West Fur Trading Company was founded to handle the far east and far west areas of Canada, not covered well by Hudson Bay. Later, John Jacob Astor founded the American Fur Company and became the richest man in America. (Even today, the trapping, transportation and marketing of beaver pelts continues, although to a much smaller extent than in previous centuries. Jake's family always trapped beaver and he showed a pelt to the RMA.)

To move pelts to Europe, the two main accesses to the Atlantic Ocean were the Hudson Bay in the north (when it was not frozen over) and the St. Lawrence River, along today's Canada/US border. Along the south and west boundaries of Hudson Bay, the Indians of the Cree, Ojibwa, Assiniboine, and Chipewyan Nations provided and helped-transport the pelts. Getting the pelts to the Bay and the St. Lawrence was not easy since hundreds of miles of small lakes and rivers needed to be traversed. Canoes were the preferred boats, some were very large, and the paddling location often dictated the pay received. Exploration to find new transportation routes resulted in learning the country as a whole. Much of this occurred, in US territory, before Lewis and Clark made their famous journey.

A more-southern route (much easier) was also used, involving the Hudson River. Beginning in 1524, the French established a fur trading post on it. The Dutch formed a competing one, some years later. The two entities eventually became Schenectady and Albany, NY.

By the late 1700s, the Indian-white joint land use, west of the Appalachians, began to change in the US. That territory was initially claimed by France. Before, nobody had been taking Indian lands in order to get beaver pelts. The trappers simply came in for the pelts and then left, and those trappers were often the Indian residents. Pressure from organized English colonization to the west of those mountains caused the Indians to revolt. They joined their French friends (& relatives) in what became known as the

French and Indian War of 1763. When the English Government won, they gained control all the way to the Mississippi River. Indian lands became threatened like never before.

Further changes occurred four decades later when Napoleon sold the Louisiana Purchase to Pres. Jefferson. The northern end included some beaver trapping areas, but an even larger change began in the 1860s. With the end of the American Civil War, the US emphasized the push westward, past the Mississippi. (Wars in Europe in 1848 and 1871 also brought new immigrants who needed homes and opportunities.)

The new northwest areas of land had lots of American Bison, popularly known as buffalo. The earlier beaver pelt market became dominated by a new market in buffalo hides. The hides were stacked in horse-drawn and oxen-drawn wagons that travelled in large wagon trains over established trails. (Some trains had 1000 wagons.) Three of the principal routes for those trails started from above the Minnesota/North Dakota/Canada intersection. They continued roughly south-east to reach the Mississippi River near the Minnesota/Wisconsin Line. These routes were used until the buffalo were largely hunted out (by the late 1880s).

Earlier, very sad events visited the Indians of the South Eastern US. Forced removal of Indians from some of those areas was promoted by Pres. Andrew Jackson, using the Indian Removal Act of 1830 and similar later legislation. The Indians were relocated to the West, especially to Oklahoma. Suffering by the Cherokee, in particular, happened during the infamous Trail of Tears migration, with many dying on the road.

There was also migration in Jake's ancestry in the 1830s, but, thankfully, it does not appear to have been so violent. In 1837, the Ojibwe Nation was granted parts of Northwest Wisconsin & Eastern Minnesota. Today, the Wisconsin part of that area is occupied by 11 tribes, including the one of his birth, the Lac Corte Orielles. (Author's comment, parts of that name sound a little French.) An interesting point from the Ojibwe history is their language was considered a "universal Indian language" for hundreds of years. Being able to "speak Ojibwe" was very important for

Minutes—Continued

(A son of **Nick Veeder** will attend a future meeting.)

Paul Murphy introduced the travelers for the month:

Bob Cooke travelled for pictures through NE Maine near Campobello Island (site of key events in the life of Pres. FDR.)

Merrill Mack took a two-week Tauck Tour of Ireland, featuring the cities of Dublin and Belfast as well as the scenic Atlantic Coast.

Jim Bright visited the Mediterranean, with stops in Italy, Sicily, and Malta. Among other sites, he was impressed by old tombs with ages going back thousands of years before Christ.

Howard Kendall went to Ft. Lauderdale for a Caribbean cruise, visiting ancient Mayan sites.

Chris thanked the following members who helped with the arrangements for the meeting:

Coffee - **Bob Hyotte**

Donuts from Stop n Shop - **Ted Grenham**

Badges - **Richard G Smith**

Facilities - **Mike Sheff, Jim Latimer, Fred Jungalwala**

Reporting on the Minutes - **Bill Beebee**

Reporting on the Speaker - **Bill Beebee**

Bulletin - **Bob Diefenbacher, Koby Kobayashi, Stan Wulf**

Sound Equipment - **Ron Riggert**

Microphone - **Paul Sturgis**

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The Cigar Box Bulletin

P. O. Box 261

Wayland, MA 01778

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*Yutaka Kobayashi,
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*Published monthly by the Retired
Men's Association of Weston,
Wayland, Sudbury and
surrounding communities.*

Some images from the presentation about beaver trade...



Speaker—Continued

whites to talk to Indians and for Indians to talk to each other.

After the run on buffalo hides, the white-Indian labor supply became applied to timber, often floated to sawmill markets on rivers. It, also, was harvested in the Northern US and Canada. However, the old-growth timber was depleted after WW II. After that, tree farms found popular sites in the Pacific North West (Oregon and Washington State) and the South East around the State of Georgia. However, this was owned and controlled land and not available to exploitation by outsiders as the previous beaver, buffalo, and old timber resources had been.

Just prior to modern times, Indians found work in helping to put railroads through in the general areas of their reservations. Jake showed a steam train to which his grandfather was a major contributor.

More details about the lives of Jake and Indians today-

Jake's (3/4) Dutch, English, and French ancestors came from Europe in the 1600s to join the fur trade. They integrated with the Indian community. Jake grew up in the Lac Corte Orielles reservation in NW Wisconsin. His home was a log cabin constructed in 1900 by his Dutch grandfa-

ther. They had no inside water and no electricity. However, nature was close at hand and Jake adopted a black bear cub. When the bear reached puberty, it left for the woods. But, Jake ran into the bear from time to time and the animal remembered him and was always friendly.

Jake did not stay on the reservation. After high school, he enlisted with the US Air Force. After he completed his obligation, the AF sent Jake to the University of Wisconsin for degrees in Engineering and Business Administration.

Jake joined Arthur D. Little, locally, and, among other challenging projects, he designed a communication system for a city in Saudi Arabia. He raised his family in Sudbury, MA, but goes back to Lac Corte Orielles, every few years, to see old relatives and friends.

Today, the largest Indian reservations are in Arizona and surrounding states. The largest is home to Navajos near the Four-Corners area of AZ/UT/CO/NM. Indian tribes have invited in casino gambling, and Jake's Lac Corte Orielles has one. However, the experience of his tribe is that the casino organizers and operators from the outside seem to collect the great majority of the income.

When NASA first began sending astronauts into space, they were confronted by a small problem. Their standard ballpoint pens would not work in space. They spent a decade and twelve million dollars designing a pen that would work below three hundred degrees, in space, and on glass. Russia used a pencil.

Sam and Fred were out golfing, and as they approached the tee for the fifth hole, Sam turned to Fred and said, "Those two ladies on the sixth tee are too slow. Why don't you run up there and ask if we can play through?" Fred jogged up to the sixth tee, and just before he got there, he turned and ran back to the fifth tee as fast as his legs could carry him! "I can't talk to those ladies! One of them is my wife and the other is my mistress! You go up and ask them!"

Sam jogged up to the sixth tee, and just before he got there, he turned and ran back as fast as his legs could carry him! As he approached Fred, he exclaimed, "By God, it's a small world, isn't it?"



Minutes—Continued

Slide Show - **Don Sherman**

Website - **Ken Mattes, John McKinney, Bill Thompson, Bob Diefenbacher, Al Persson, Richard B Smith**

Photographer - **Art Phipps**

Member Support Line - **Al Persson**

Announcements:

Chris Hammer -

The Pawsox Game trip on July 12 was a fine time, thanks to **Doc Harrell** for organizing it.

Congratulations to **Frank Lyons**, who was presented (by **Chris** and **Ray Atkins**) with the RMA Emeritus Award at his residence in the Bridges living facility. It is located at 528 Boston Post Rd. in Sudbury, with phone (978) 938-4481. **Jim** loves visitors but it is good to call before dropping by.

Chris reminded us that the next RMA Meeting will be on Friday, Sept. 13, resuming our normal Friday Meeting sequence until next summer.

Chris also noted that **Doc Harrell** is organizing a possible RMA trip to a new museum in Hudson, MA. Sponsored by the Collings Foundation, the Heritage Museum shows military technology (including several tanks) from the 1700s to the present day. Interested RMAers should contact **Doc**.

Bob Malnati -

Bob reminded us about the RMA Annual Dinner Dance. It will be held on Wed. Oct 16, starting at 5 PM, at the Marlborough Country Club.

Howard Kendall -

Along with **Al Persson**, **Howard** is a coordinator for the RMA lunch discussion group. They will meet at noon on 8/21 at Conrad's restaurant at 120 Boston Post Rd. (a mile east of the Lansdown intersection). The topic will be "Competing with China". All are invited.

Howard also noted that the following Saturday, 8/24 from 9 AM - noon, will see the Rotary Club's 2nd Annual Food Drive for the Sudbury Food Pantry. It will meet at Sudbury Farms, also located on the Boston Post Rd.

Vital Statistics by **Ray Atkins** -

This month's oldest birthday is jointly held by **Peter Beckwith**, **George Kiesewetter**, and **Bert Sellier**.

The longest married couple is jointly held by (the couples) **Gail** and **Derena A. Drake**; and **David** and **Audrey Levington**.

Members Health by **Bill Ely** -

Bill sadly noted that four RMAers passed away: **George Ives**, **Ivan Lubash**, **William Metz** (noted last month in the Announcements) and **William Murphy**.

Humor by **Harold Wilkinson** -

Harold focused on senior humor with two notable vignettes:

One involved a man who had trouble getting up and down stairs in assisted living. The attendants said that when he stopped putting both legs in the same leg-hole in his boxer shorts, he would find the stairs easier.

The second concerned a couple in the same kind of facility. The wife said to her husband "what do I do since I just released a silent fart?" The husband answered back "you put new batteries in your hearing aid."

Musical Vignette -

Bill Ladoulis treated us to two favorite songs from one of the most popular piano players of the 20th Century: Hoagy Carmichael. **Bill** started with the wistful "Skylark" and then gave us the romantic "The Nearness of You". Both evoked fond memories of earlier years.

ROMEO Lunch -

Bob Malnati announced it to be at the Oak Barrel Tavern, in the strip mall at 528 Boston Post Road, farther west in Sudbury.

Today's Speaker -

Jacob Kuykendall was introduced by **Bob Cooke**, a friend of his for three decades.

Anniversaries in July & August

Member	Spouse	Anniv.	Yrs.
Michael Bennett	Joanne	07/29/2000	19
Peter Dodds	Joan	07/05/1975	44
Francis DiPace	Alice	07/22/1972	47
Albert Cefalo	Joyce	07/11/1970	49
David R. Thielscher	Mary	07/27/1970	49
William Johnson	Sandy	07/14/1969	50
James Latimer	Michele	07/05/1969	50
William Beebee	Shirley	07/01/1967	52
Terrence Thoman	Mary Jo	07/01/1967	52
Harold Edelstein	Barbara	07/03/1966	53
Lloyd Hammer	Carol	07/17/1965	54
David Marshall	Marianne	07/01/1961	58
Adi Guzdar	Rutty	07/17/1960	59
Merrill Mack	Nancy	07/09/1960	59
George J. Wiedenbauer	Eleanor	07/09/1960	59
Dean Horman	Barbara	07/26/1958	61
Boris Levy	Ann	07/15/1956	63
Gerald Brody	Helen	07/11/1954	65
Robert Lenington	Carolyn	07/18/1953	66



Average Years Married—53

George Ives	Marney	08/12/1978	41
Jim Carlton	Joan	08/06/1972	47
Paul Kudirka	Marcy	08/22/1970	49
Niranjan Sheth	Helen	08/08/1970	49
Thomas Travers	Jo	08/17/1969	50
Daniel Miller		08/05/1967	52
William M. Carleton	Donna	08/21/1966	53
Robert Joseph	Susan	08/15/1965	54
Robert Malnati	Ruthanne	08/28/1965	54
Robert Allard	Luanne	08/17/1963	56
James Fraser	Diana	08/03/1963	56
Stanley R. Sakowitz	Rhoda	08/02/1961	58
Michael R. Daniel	Janet	08/20/1960	59
Alfred V. Persson	May	08/25/1957	62
Phil Lenentine	Mary	08/18/1956	63
Norman E. Sears	Dorothy	08/07/1955	64
Robert A. Vannerson	Alice	08/28/1954	65
Robert Mainer	Marjorie	08/11/1951	68
Gail V. Drake	Derena A.	08/06/1950	69
David Levington	Audrey	08/20/1950	69

Average Years Married—57



Birthdays in July & August

July

Member		Birthday	Age
Kenneth	Mattes, Ph.D	07/23/1947	72
Robert	Hyotte	07/14/1944	75
Ross	Trimby	07/11/1944	75
David	Manjarrez	07/28/1942	77
Lloyd	Hammer	07/25/1940	79
Theodore	Bially	07/07/1939	80
Eric S.	Lind	07/16/1938	81
Raymond	Atkins	07/12/1937	82
Robert	Malnati	07/07/1936	83
Alfred V.	Persson	07/09/1936	83
Dean	Horman	07/21/1933	86
John	Beard	07/09/1932	87
David	Calder	07/03/1931	88
Russell V.	Fraleigh	07/31/1930	89
David	Levington	07/24/1929	90
Karl	Geiger	07/06/1927	92
Robert	Mainer	07/31/1927	92



Average Age— 83

August

James	Bright	08/27/1949	70
Stanley	Wulf	08/14/1943	76
John	Iberg	08/09/1941	78
Terrence	Thoman	08/23/1939	80
Robert	Diefenbacher	08/23/1937	82
Firoze	Jungalwala	08/28/1936	83
Robert	McKown	08/25/1936	83
Sam	Merra	08/06/1935	84
Paul	Neeson	08/15/1935	84
Phil	Lenentine	08/09/1933	86
Arthur	Phipps	08/28/1931	88
Peter	Beckwith	08/05/1929	90
George H.	Kiesewetter	08/12/1929	90
Bert	Sellier	08/13/1929	90

Average Age— 83

Only 20 spaces left!

2019 ANNUAL DINNER INVITATION

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 16, 2019
5:PM COCKTAILS, 6:PM DINNER
MARLBOROUGH COUNTRY CLUB
200 CONCORD RD. MARLBOROUGH MASS.

TICKETS ARE \$50 per person, checks to RMA
Mail to RMA Box 261, Wayland MA ,01778
Or, give check to Bob Mainati, Merrill Mack or Larry Vifquain
Contact Bob at RandRmainati@gmail.com

RMA Bulletin Board



Trip to American Heritage Museum in Stow being planned for fall. **At the American Heritage Museum you explore America's conflicts,** beginning with the Revolutionary War to today. **You'll discover,** and interact with, our heritage through the History, the national effort developing new technologies of warfare, and the **Human Impact of America's fight to preserve the freedom we all hold dear.**

The American Heritage Museum is housed in a 65,000 + square **foot building located at the Collings Foundation's headquarters in** Stow, Massachusetts. The concept of the American Heritage Museum began when the Foundation was selected to receive the mas-

sive collection of tanks, armored vehicles and military artifacts from the family of Jacques M. Littlefield in 2013.

Watch for more details!

The best thing about good old days is that we were neither good nor old.

A Members Support Help Line. This is intended to help members or their spouses who are in need of assistance. This could include rides to meetings or helping members in other ways as needed. **Contact Al Persson at 781-235-6910.**

Don't Miss the Annual Dinner
 Limited Seating—
 Make up a Table if you want,
 just email Bob Malnati at RandRMalnati@gmail.com

The RMA Annual Dinner is Wednesday, October 16, 2019 at Marlborough Country Club. Liquid libations at 5:00 pm, followed by a delicious dinner at 6:00 pm. Musical entertainment, dancing, and a good time is promised by chair Bob Malnati

Send checks ASAP for \$50/person to RMA, Box 261, Wayland, MA 01778

The Cough

I woke up with a cough. It was one of those hacking coughs that we hear every winter.

It has been three days since I had a good night's sleep. Every morning my wife says to me in a loud voice, "you need to get something for your cough. You need to get something for your cough"

I went to the drug store. They had an entire row of cures. I decided on a daytime one and a nighttime one and a third one just to be sure.

The next day I was no better. Two people told me that when I cough I should cough into my elbow and not my hand. Ok, already.

I have now been plagued with this for 5 days. It is time to get a shot.

After work, I went to the emergency room. The receptionist asked me what my problem was.

"I need a shot for my cough."

"Urgent care is down that hallway. You need to check in with the receptionist there." She also instructed me to put on a surgical mask.

Down the hall was another waiting room filled with people who did not look very sick. I sat there for a while and noticed that I was the only one with a cough.

Then a very overweight woman came in with her husband. She looked around but none of the open chairs were big enough. Her husband went over to a gentleman with a cowboy hat and asked him if he would give his double-wide chair to his double wide wife.

The cowboy hat stood up showing that he had the boots, the buckle and looked like he had just come in from branding cattle except that everything was pressed and spotless. The cowboy sat in an unoccupied normal size chair and his wife took the chair beside him. The new arrival occupied the entire double-wide chair and it would not have been a bad idea if it had been a bit wider. Her husband dutifully sat quietly in a chair quietly.

It soon became apparent that new arrival was there for the same reason as I was there, a hacking cough. She announced she would be not able to breath if she wore a mask.

We all sat there quietly except the lady in the double wide. She provided us with a running commentary on everything but most of all she complained about the wait. Her time was valuable too. She had come here for a shot. Why could they not just give her a shot so she could go home? Her favorite TV show was going to start in 30 minutes.

It appeared she had only one setting for her voice, loud.

In a bit she said to her husband that she needed a cigarette. "Mable, there is no smoking in here," her husband reminded her in a quiet tone.

A lady with the two children was called in.

Then the young man who was covered with tattoos. I tried to guess what his ailment was but I could not. Nor could I guess why he had two young ladies with him.

The same nurse came out every 10 minutes or so.

Finally, she called my name.

I sat down in the examination room and she asked why I was there. "I have this hacking cough and need a shot," was my reply.

She took my blood pressure, tested the amount of oxygen and my temperature. All seemed normal. In a bit, a very attractive lady doctor came in and we went through the questions and answers again.

She listened to my chest and looked down my throat.

"You have a cold. We are seeing a lot of this. The flu season is in full swing and seems to be worse this year than last year," she summarized.

"It says that you have requested a shot. We no longer give a shot of an antibiotic or a prescription of an antibiotic for a cold. Colds are due to a virus and antibiotics are for bacteria. We have overused antibiotics and now have a big problem with super bacteria for which we do not have effective antibiotics." She explained.

"I can give you a prescription but it will be the same medicine that you can buy over the counter at any drug store. The big difference is that the over the counter drugs are cheaper." She said as disappointment set in.

As I was walking out I was happy with the doctor's honesty and I chuckled as I thought about the reaction of the lady in the double-wide when the doctor tells her there would be no shot.

By Al Persson



R.M.A.
Box 261
Wayland, MA 01778

First Class Mail

Next Meeting
Friday, September 13
Web site RMenA.org
E-mail info@RmenA.org



RMA Meeting: Friday, September 13, 10:00 am

6 Frigates: the Starting of the US Navy
Peter Sebelius



Peter is a 1976 Graduate of MIT with Bachelors and Masters Degrees in Naval Architecture and Marine Engineering. He served on active duty in the United States Navy as an Engineering Duty Officer for 6 years. His assignments included: Main Propulsion Assistant on the USS Barry (DD933), Docking Officer at the Naval Ship Repair Facility, Subic Bay, Philippines and exchange officer at the Canadian Naval Headquarters in Ottawa Canada. Peter is now retired from the military after serving 6 years active duty and 16 years in the Naval Reserve

Peter and his family have lived in Chelmsford since 1982. He worked at the Charles Stark Draper Laboratory in Cambridge, Mass for more than 30 years. At Draper, Peter worked on variety of projects including Autonomous Undersea Vehicles, the Superconducting Super Collider and the Navy's Trident Missile guidance system. After 32 years at Draper, Peter retired in 2015, but continues to work there as a part time consultant.

Bring a Guest to this Meeting!
Use the "Be My Guest Card"