

# 'Histibles'

## History of Collectibles

as told in story circle by Royalcliffe residents, guided by Sandy Ross of Word's Worth © July 2018



### Tet's collection

#### ❖ Delft Blue Animals

Growing up in the Netherlands, Tet seldom saw her extended family who lived far across its expanse. On a rare childhood visit, she admired Grandmother's Delft Blue ornaments – cows. The delicate, clinking herd – blue and milky white glazed – is an ideal collection, as hers was a dairy region. The promise was made that Tet would inherit the set. Meanwhile, Tet emigrated to London, Ontario, so it was years before the china cows' ocean voyage to her. Cousins carefully tucked them in on travels to Vancouver. British Columbia, though, seemed as far from Ontario as from the Netherlands! So another journey was needed. At last displayed in Tet's Canadian home, they're reminders of her homeland and loved ones.

### Shirley's mementos

#### ❖ Shell from Scotland

Her great-great-grandparents passed along to Shirley this seashell from Scotland. Its pale, pink spirals and outer curve have an intricately embossed inscription of the Lord's Prayer. Years ago, visiting in Montreal, Shirley was surprised to see a similar shell in her friend's cabinet – pleased that the same written, heavenly inspiration continues across the world.

#### ❖ Bitcoin

Keepsakes aren't just of long ago, as Shirley's grandson, Peter, proves. He gifted her one of the first-run Bitcoins. Our story circle had never seen one and mistakenly thought its high tech currency exists only online in electronic transactions – yet in fact, it's tangible money.

### Beth's chapter

#### ❖ Welcome to Walker Ville anthology

Beth and late husband, Al, taught on a First Nations reserve in White Rock, BC. When an area historian wrote an anthology, Al's diary was a chapter, *Teaching in the Backwoods*, recalling a two-room schoolhouse formerly a mission. CBC-TV profiled the book (whose *Walker Ville* title was in jest of mobility aids at the retirement home, source of the stories).

### Ann's in-laws

#### ❖ Families from Apricena

Italian heritage of Ann's husband, Alfred, is told in a book by their daughter, Anne Marie. Its cover shows ancestors – one, a teacher who, in hot-headed frustration, threw a student out a window (along with his career). Ann's own career was as an educator, coincidentally, launched at the age of just 17 during Manitoba's critical teacher shortage. It's such stories and of Ann's lineage – Poland-Russia – that her daughter/author is currently collecting. ❖