

# The Southern Yarn

December 2013

NEWSLETTER OF THE DOWN UNDER CLUB OF WINNIPEG INC.



## downundercalendar

### DECEMBER

#### *Christmas Party and Potluck Dinner*

**Sunday December 8th - 4:00 pm**

**Scandinavian Cultural Centre, 764 Erin**

Santa's elves are busy getting gifts ready for Christmas. He'll be showing up at our party, as usual, so be sure to send in the names and ages of kids who will be present by contacting Margaret Munn at [social@downunderclub.mb.ca](mailto:social@downunderclub.mb.ca) or 204-237-1805. This is a POTLUCK DINNER, and we will need mostly mains, salads and veggie dishes, as well as a few desserts.

### FEBRUARY

#### *National Days*

**Friday February 1st, 2014**

Save the date for our annual celebration of our National Days. Potluck and PAVLOVA bake-off. More details in January Yarn.

### RSVP

If you let us know you are coming, we can be ready for you! RSVP to 204-237-1805 or email [social@downunderclub.mb.ca](mailto:social@downunderclub.mb.ca).

### Are your Membership dues paid for 2014?

Individual \$20 ... Couple/family \$30 ... Mail your cheques to the Club at the address on the front of this issue, pay in person at the next event, or take advantage of our new PayPal link on the website for faster and more secure payment. Any questions or comments, please contact Peter Debenham at [peter@pdilactg.ca](mailto:peter@pdilactg.ca) or 204-955-0393.

**Advertise** in *The Southern Yarn*. Contact Jenny (228-9959, [info@downunderclub.mb.ca](mailto:info@downunderclub.mb.ca)) for all the rates. Send your submission by email to [info@downunderclub.mb.ca](mailto:info@downunderclub.mb.ca) or mail to PO Box 1655, Stn Main, Winnipeg MB R3C 2Z6.



Your new DUCW board to take you into 2014: (from left) Norm Griffiths, Margaret Munn; Charlie Powell, Catherine Bowering, Peter Munn (President), Terry Roberts.

## Annual (somewhat) general meeting

With a quorum, and some, duly gathered, the Annual General Meeting of the Downunder Club of Winnipeg was held at the Scandinavian Cultural Centre 7pm Friday 29th November 2013. The usual reports and business were dealt with and the election of officers for 2014 held. Your new Board is President – Peter Munn; Vice-President – Catherine Bowering; Past-President – Terry Roberts; Secretary – Margaret Munn; Treasurer – Peter Debenham; Membership – Norm Griffiths; Newsletter – Charlie Powell; Social – vacant. Many good ideas for ongoing sustainability of the club were raised during Other Business, which the Board will follow up on in the coming months. The full minutes are available from

the Secretary. After the meeting Brian Hyde-Smith gave an explanation and demonstration of the recently enhanced website capabilities. If you haven't already, members are strongly encouraged to visit <http://downunderclub.mb.ca> and create your

own login and explore all the info and resources there. The bar was open and snacks provided for an enjoyable social evening.

Gordon Keatch presided over the election



online



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## editorially yours

Charlie Powell



G'day. Australia wins the First Test in Brisbane in the Ashes Series after a very long and embarrassing drought; Fiorente wins the 2013 Melbourne Cup; the All Blacks win over Ireland (just!), making it a hat-trick for their European tour; and Adam Scott, after winning the US Masters this year (the first Australian to do so), is on track to add the triple crown of Australian majors to his extraordinary golfing achievements. Meanwhile, here in Winnipeg, we too are exhibiting that same athletic ability, single-minded determination and physical stamina. We've been in training all year, and now all the preparation pays off - as we clear sidewalks, driveways and pathways shoveling snow!

Well, OK, some of us are coughing and wheezing our way through the chore, pacing ourselves so we don't overdo it, and wishing we could just put our feet up and watch those real sporting heroes do their thing. Ah, winter in Winnipeg! Well here's another Yarn to relax with as you take a breather from all that exertion.

Gordon takes a breather from his member interviews this month, but fortunately we have some interesting family history from Laurie Morris with a connection to the film 12 Years a Slave (p.4). Terry Roberts has kindly obliged with one last message from the President. I'm sure all members join me in a hearty Thank You Mate! For Terry's long stint at the Club's helm. Thanks again also to Murray Burt for his Commonwealth news updates. And Judy and I wish you all a very happy Christmas.

Enjoy!

Charlie

Merry Christmas to everyone and may your New Year (2014) be all you wish it to be and more.

If you were at the AGM, which I hope you were, you'll know that I am no longer President but because of time restraints on the Yarn, Charlie asked if I would do one last comment for 2013.

I would like to thank everyone for their support over the years and let you know I will still be around putting in my two cents' worth at board meets and through the yarn as past president.

Now for something completely different, on November 11th I was at the West Kildonan Legion Branch 30 for the Remembrance Day Service. I go every year to remember my Grandfather who was in the Canadian Armed Forces in WW1 and fought



## president's ramblings

Terry Roberts

at the Battle of Vimy Ridge, where he was injured in the leg. He served in Winnipeg's Fort Garry Horse, though when they were deployed to France they were on foot without their horses. I can only imagine what it was like in the trenches, very uncomfortable to say the least. As it is, he died shortly

after the war from effects of the mustard gas used in the trenches in France. So many died of the after-effects who are not thought among those who died in action, but they should be. Anyway, my point really was if you go to a Remembrance Service, this was a very moving one.

Back to a lighter subject, remember the **Christmas Party December 8th**, come and join us to celebrate Christmas with Santa. Good food, good friends and Santa.

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## Nova Peris makes emotional maiden speech in Parliament

She is one of Australia's most decorated indigenous athletes, yet Nova Peris says she would give up the medals and accolades "in a heartbeat" to see Aboriginal Australians free, healthy and participating fully in all this country - their country - has to offer.

Peris also says her sporting achievements are "virtually meaningless" when compared with the triumph over adversity of both her mother Joan and grandmother Nora. Australia's first indigenous female to be elected to the Federal Parliament told their stories in an emotional maiden speech in the Senate on Wednesday, her face painted with ochre from an ancient site in the Northern Territory. Read more online.



David Richards and his family set up 502,165 Christmas lights around their home



## Australian family set Christmas lights record

An Australian family have put up 502,165 Christmas lights around their home, setting a new world record.

The Richards family, in Canberra, set the record for the most Christmas lights on a residential property, Guinness World Records confirmed.

The father, David Richards, told reporters he had started working on the display in October. The family first held the world record in 2011, before losing the title to a family in New York. Read more online.

## Twisty marathon for pythons

RARE footage has surfaced of two male carpet pythons while they were locked in a three-hour battle



that started on the roof of a Brisbane home. Not even falling off the roof into a shrub was enough to stop them - they just rolled on to the ground and kept fighting.

The stoush raged for nearly three hours before snake wrangler Bryan Robinson was called in to break it up. More online.

## Australia wins first Test - Ashes

So England are all out for 179 and Australia win by 381 runs. Mitchell Johnson the man for the home side, finishing with 5/42 to go with his 4/61 in the first innings. The turnaround was dramatic and I doubt anybody on the planet predicted this result at the end of day one. Surely one of the great Ashes comebacks for Australia. Read more online.



## Brisbane online butcher launches "high-nutrient" sausages for kids

A Brisbane-based online butcher has released a "high-nutrient" vegetable and meat sausage, which it says contains 13 vitamins and minerals.

Meatcart.com.au said the sausages are aimed at children who do not like to eat their vegetables.

"We created a high-nutrient sausage that kids would love to eat but also delivers a significant portion of their recommended daily intake of vitamins including B-group vitamins, Folate, Vitamin A, Vitamin C, Calcium, Phosphorus, Zinc, Iron and Magnesium," said Darren Walsh, Food Technologist and Managing Director of Meatcart.com.au.

More online.

## Gai Waterhouse's Fiorente wins the 2013 Melbourne Cup

Fiorente has won the 2013 Melbourne Cup in a thrilling finish from Red Cadeaux and Mount Athos.

The 2013 edition of the race became a battle of two horses who had been previous runners-up, and the Gai Waterhouse-trained Fiorente, second in last year's Melbourne Cup, showed greater stamina over the final 250 metres to hold out Red Cadeaux, the runner-up to



Dunaden in 2011.

It is a famous win for Sydney trainer Waterhouse, the most prominent figure in Australian racing, who had long coveted her first success in the nation's greatest race.

But it is also a personal triumph for jockey Damien Oliver, who was suspended over a betting charge last year, and controversially allowed back to riding in time for this year's spring carnival. Read more online.

# newszealand

source: NZ Herald, unless otherwise noted

## New Zealand iced tea brand launched in Australia

New Zealand-based family-owned beverage manufacturer Teza Drinks has launched its range of iced teas, Teza Teas, in Australia.



Teza Drinks said the range is "100 per cent natural and organic" and "feature the finest quality organic leaf teas that are brewed fresh by the batch and infused with natural fruit juices and botanicals". The Company said its teas "contain no artificial flavours, additives or preservatives".

Teza Drinks was launched in 2007, and is owned and run by husband and wife duo Joe Gehrke and Daphne Raj. [Sophie Langley] Read more online.

## Post Typhoon Message for Dairy Workers

[21 November 2013 NEW ZEALAND] - A message of support and sympathy has been broadcast by Dairy New Zealand to the typhoon struck Filipino community, in recognition of their plight and contribution to farming. Chair of the industry group, John Luxton, voiced farmer concerns for Filipino morale this week, stating that support will be necessary to help worker stress level following a 'hectic spring'. Filipino's are essential to the sector, making up eight per cent of the New Zealand workforce, explained Mr Luxton. "They are working on farms all around the country but many are based in Canterbury and Southland. This is a busy time on farms so we are conscious that this may be adding to their stress levels." He added: "I'd urge any workers who have been affected to talk to their employers as they will want to help them as much as they can. I know a lot of support has already been shown by farmers." Dairy New Zealand has

continued on page 4

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been in contact with the Filipino Dairy Workers in New Zealand group to assist in support. Farmers are welcome to seek advice on how to manage workers at this time, added Mr Luxton. Money can be donated to the



New Zealand Red Cross. - See more online.  
**Recreating the Maori garden**

A traditional Maori vegetable garden (maara kai) is being recreated at Victoria University for research purposes.

Space is being cleared and prepared for planting behind the University's Maori Studies (Te Kawa a Maui) building.

The project is based on recreating the type of garden Maori tended prior to European contact, with planting scheduled around the Maori calendar.

"To our knowledge this is the first time this has been done in a Maori context in Wellington," says Head of Te Kawa a Maui, Associate Professor Peter Adds.

Read more online

Thanks to DUCW member Laurie Morris for this ...

TORONTO - A Canadian connection to the harrowing film *12 Years a Slave* has the real-life descendants of one courageous character beaming with pride.

The unflinching big screen account of slavery in the Deep South - already considered a frontrunner for awards season glory - is based on the true story of Solomon Northup, a free black man lured from his home in Saratoga Springs, N.Y., in 1841 and sold into slavery.

Story continues below

Played in the film by Chiwetel Ejiofor, Northup ends up forced to toil on a series of punishing Louisiana plantations where he's stripped of his papers, freedom and even his name.

His torment ends only after a chance encounter with an enlightened Canadian carpenter Samuel Bass, played by Brad Pitt, who agrees to help him contact friends who can vouch for his identity.

Pitt's character is based on a real-life figure from Ontario's Augusta Township, and 160 years later, his descendants say they are amazed to learn of their forefather's brave response to a man in need.

"The movie is about Solomon Northup, right? But we would never have heard of him,

## Historical connections

I guess, if he hadn't met my great great great grandfather," says 50-year-old Kenora, Ont., resident Laurie Morris, whose mother is descended from Bass's second daughter Hannah.

"For the Canadian side of things, it shows we're good people. I just imagine being down there and being the only Canadian with an opinion like that."

Morris and other descendants say they are only now discovering details about Bass, who left Canada sometime around 1840 and took on a series of carpentry jobs throughout the United States.

It turns out that other aspects of his life were not so honourable - census records show he left behind a wife, Catherine Lydia Lane, and four daughters: Catherine, Hannah, Martha Maria and Zeruah Bass, says Bonnie Gaylord of the Grenville County Historical Society in Prescott, Ont.

Morris' 75-year-old mother says that could be why she had never heard of Samuel Bass until *12 Years a Slave*.

"He wasn't talked about in our family, I guess it was because he was never around," says Rae Moulton Todd of Prescott, located about 100 kilometres south of Ottawa, near the original Bass family farm.

"It is kind of exciting. And then I turn around and I think, 'He really was a big jerk.' He left his wife and four daughters here to be looked after by whoever."

This past summer, historian and author David Fiske traced the wandering Bass to southern Ontario. He says he became curious about the man's background after doing some broader research on the book *Twelve Years a Slave* for Fox Searchlight's marketing department in advance of the film's release.

He found the link in Sue Eakin's 2007 book *Solomon Northup's '12 Years a Slave' and Plantation Life in the Antebellum South*, which included material from the diary of a lawyer Bass hired to draw up a will.

"Bass had told him about some of his family in Canada and about different relatives that he had, some that were living in the United States, and that he still had a wife in Canada," says Fiske, author of *Solomon Northup: The Complete Story of the Author of Twelve Years a Slave*.

Read the balance of this story **online** in the PDF versions of this newsletter, available at [www.dowunderclub.mb.ca](http://www.dowunderclub.mb.ca) - and download the December 2013 issue of *The Southern Yarn*.



*Premier Greg Selinger cordially invites you  
and your family to the annual*

## **Legislative Building Open House**

**Saturday, December 7, 2013  
1:00 to 3:00 p.m.**

Join Members of the Legislative Assembly  
in a celebration of Manitoba's festive traditions.  
Please bring a non-perishable food item or  
an unwrapped toy for the Christmas Cheer Board.







## NZ PM says he'll use navy against protesters to secure US drilling project

With the huge Texas oil firm Anadarko set up and drilling off the west coast of New Zealand's north island, yacht-borne protesters are making their presence felt.

Before the drilling started, protesters were "crowding" the huge Noble Bob Douglas drilling rig. In one instance a protestor's boat was nearly crushed between a US tender and drill rig and the protesters cried foul because it seemed caused by deliberate direction of bow-thrusters against the boat.

What will be the nation's deepest exploratory oil well is going in 110 nautical miles west of Raglan over what is believed to be a very promising deep new field, which if expectations are met will make NZ self-sustaining in oil.

With talk about about protester interference, Prime Minister John Key said the NZ Navy could be brought in to deal with the situation if it got out of hand.

"The law-change that we made clarified some of the roles, and effectively put in place the exclusion zone," he said. "Essentially as I understand it, any operation – if one was required – would be run by the police, but I think it's run alongside Maritime New Zealand and they can deploy Navy assets. Delays forced by public interference could cost the oil company \$1-million a day.

Anadarko has made world headlines in its projects in the past. Most recently was when it was found by a US court to be jointly liable for the Gulf of Mexico spill in 2010, but it denied culpability.

## Disgraced South African youth leader sells out to pay tax

Julius Sello Malema, a youth firebrand in South Africa, has had to sell his luxury \$5-million home, a farm in Limpopo, to pay overdue taxes. The former controversial ANC youth leader wanted his house 'to be like one of those in Hollywood'.

Malema, 32, is a South African politician and made headlines as a fiery (and troublesome) president of the African National Congress Youth League. He was expelled as a member of the ANC 2012. He has since become the Commander-in-Chief of the Economic Freedom Fighters political movement, which he founded in July 2013.



The protester vessel, Vega, stays on course as the Noble Bob Douglas moves in.

Malema is a controversial figure in South Africa. Having risen to prominence backing the African National Congress with the support of President Jacob Zuma, who once called him the "future leader" of the nation. But he has since emerged as a "reckless populist" with the potential to destabilize South Africa and to spark racial conflict.

He was convicted of hate speech in 2010 and 2011 when he was found guilty of sowing divisions within the ANC and, in conjunction with his two-year suspended sentence in 2010, was suspended from the party for five years.

He was convicted of hate speech in 2010-11 after very publicly singing the song 'Dubula iBunu' (Shoot the Boer), and last year he was charged with fraud and money-laundering.

Indonesia angry about Australian spying on president

The government in Jakarta is fuming after learning Australian security was found to be tapping the phone calls of Indonesian president Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono, and monitoring those of members of the inner circle.

Indonesia is the largest recipient of Australian aid, and Australia is the fourth-largest donor of foreign aid to Indonesia – \$541.6 million in 2012-13, and is expected to grow to \$646.8 million the following year. Relations between the two countries are in limbo. Yudhoyono said that Indonesia was suspending all military and intelligence cooperation with Australia until he received a proper explanation.

Sources of the illicit monitoring was contained in data released by former US securities contractor Edward Snowden, whose leak of confidential documents to media outlets revealed the spying operations by the Five Eyes Group, the United States, New Zealand Canada and Britain.

## Fijian soldier gets to stay in UK

A former soldier from Fiji has won his battle to stay in the UK after issuing a personal appeal to Prime Minister David Cameron.

Filimone Lacanivalu, who served with

the army for nine years, was facing deportation after he failed to fill in the necessary reforms on his discharge from the service. But after his case was taken up in the press and by MPs, he has now been told that he can settle in Britain.

Lacanivalu, who served with the 2nd Battalion the Yorkshire regiment in Afghanistan, Bosnia and Northern Ireland, said he was a "happy man" now that his case had been resolved.

"I have been in the forces, I've put in effort, sacrificed my life for this country. I just think to stay here will be a benefit, there's more opportunities," he said in a BBC interview.

Home Secretary Theresa May and immigration minister Mark Harper were reported to have personally reviewed his case before deciding he could remain.

Lacanivalu, who spent five weeks in a detention centre awaiting deportation to Fiji, said it had never been explained to him that he would need to apply to remain in the UK when he left the army.

"I was not aware of that because I did not receive any instructions from the army itself or the Ministry of Defence before I left the forces," he said.

A Home Office spokesman said: "Foreign and commonwealth military personnel who have served for more than four years can apply to settle here up to two years after leaving the military....the home secretary and immigration minister personally reviewed his case and, in light of his service in the British army, have agreed he should be granted settlement in the UK."

Murray Burt is president of the Manitoba branch of the Royal Commonwealth Society; past president of the Commonwealth Journalists Association; a member of the Advisory Board of the Commonwealth Human Rights Initiative; Hon LCol of the 78th Fraser Highlanders; and a director of the Royal Military Institute (Manitoba) and The Intrepid Society. He is retired from more than 50 years of journalism.



## The season is upon us: Aussie Jingle Bells

Dashing through the bush,  
in a rusty Holden Ute,  
Kicking up the dust,  
esky in the boot,  
Kelpie by my side,  
singing Christmas songs,  
It's Summer time and I am in  
my singlet, shorts and thongs

Oh! Jingle bells, jingle bells, jingle all the way,  
Christmas in Australia on a scorching summers day, Hey!  
Jingle bells, jingle bells, Christmas time is beaut !,  
Oh what fun it is to ride in a rusty Holden Ute.

Engine's getting hot;  
we dodge the kangaroos,  
The swaggie climbs aboard,  
he is welcome too.  
All the family's there,  
sitting by the pool,  
Christmas Day the Aussie way,  
by the barbecue.

Oh! Jingle bells, jingle bells, jingle all the way,  
Christmas in Australia on a scorching summers day, Hey!  
Jingle bells, jingle bells, Christmas time is beaut!,  
Oh what fun it is to ride in a rusty Holden Ute.

Come the afternoon,  
Grandpa has a doze,  
The kids and Uncle Bruce,  
are swimming in their clothes.  
The time comes 'round to go,  
we take the family snap,  
Pack the car and all shoot through,  
before the washing up.

Oh! Jingle bells, jingle bells, jingle all the way,  
Christmas in Australia on a scorching summers day, Hey!  
Jingle bells, jingle bells, Christmas time is beaut!,  
Oh what fun it is to ride in a rusty Holden Ute

(Contributed by Shelley Botka - December 2005)

<http://lyricsplayground.com/alpha/songs/xmas/australianjinglebells.shtml>



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"He gave her name, and he gave names of two of his daughters and so forth, and from that information from the diary ... I realized that this matches up with the Samuel Bass that was born in August 1807 in Augusta (Township)."

He notes that John Pamplin Wadill's diary also offers clues to why Bass left his family.

"He had been separated from his wife for 12 or 15 years," Wadill states in an entry dated Aug. 30, 1953, which also lists Bass's wife's name as Lydia Catlin Lane.

"His only complaint against her was that she had such a temper as to preclude any man from living with her."

The diary also raises the possibility that Bass may have had a second family in Louisiana, says Fiske. The diary notes Bass died of pneumonia at the home of a free woman of colour in Marksville, La., named Justine Tounier. It says Bass passed away Aug. 30, 1853, just months after Northup regained his freedom.

"I suspect that there was a relationship (with Tounier) but the diary doesn't say," says Fiske, adding he also discovered the death record of a woman who appears to list Bass and Tounier as parents.

"There's some evidence that Samuel Bass may have descendants that were in Louisiana, and maybe still has descendants in Louisiana."

Many details about the Bass family in Canada are stored at the Grenville County Historical Society, says Gaylord, noting that includes census records, letters and other documents detailing the sprawling Bass family.

She notes that Samuel Bass's grandparents were from the United States, and that may have been why he headed south.

His grandparents Adonijah Bass and Lydia Draper were United Empire Loyalists who lived in Walloomsac, near Hoosick, N.Y., at the time of the American Revolution, she says. After Adonijah died in the late 1770s, his wife and children moved to Canada, where Bass's father John married Hannah Lakins and had 12 children.

Shortly before Bass was born in 1807, Upper Canada (now Ontario) abolished slavery in 1793, adds Gaylord, suggesting the fact Bass grew up amid that sea change may have influenced his ardent anti-slavery views.

Fiske says Bass was certainly passionate in his opposition to slavery, often speaking

out against the practice even though few seemed to share his views at the time.

"They kind of got a kick out of him because there weren't that many people that were berating slavery in Louisiana. They would say, 'Oh, there goes Samuel Bass again, going on about slavery,'" says Fiske, adding that it's not known if Bass helped any other slaves.

"It was dangerous for him to have written the letters (for Northup) in the first place because, obviously somebody that was opposed to slavery or helping slaves in Louisiana was not going to be looked at kindly by the other people. But he was willing to go even (further) because he was willing to travel all the way to New York State to actually bring direct word and find somebody in Saratoga that knew Northup and would be able to get him freed. As it turned out he didn't have to do that."

The fact much of Bass's past appears to have been purposefully obscured makes it difficult to accurately piece together his story, Fiske and Gaylord add.

Gaylord notes that Northup's memoir describes Bass as an "old bachelor," while Fiske refers to a New York Daily Times story at the time that is suspiciously short on details about the person who helped Northup write letters.

Fiske says it's possible Northup declined to share details in his interview about his Canadian friend, fearful it could cause trouble.

"He doesn't want people to go and blame Samuel Bass for this and get him in trouble because he realizes there could be repercussions for Bass," says Fiske, speaking from his home in Ballston Spa, N.Y., near Saratoga Springs.

"When he did his book he revealed a lot more, but that was some months later."

The film *12 Years a Slave* diverges from the book in one key aspect involving another Northup ally, says Fiske. In the film, a storekeeper from Saratoga Springs travels to Louisiana to rescue Northup. In fact, the storekeeper passed the letter on to other people and an attorney named Henry B. Northup actually went south, he says.

"There are descendants of Henry B. Northup that I think are going to be a little bit disappointed that his character was written out of the movie," says Fiske, guessing that filmmakers thought it would be too confusing to have another character named Northup.

He says Henry B. Northup was a descendant of the family that originally owned Solomon Northup's ancestors.

And as to whether Bass looked anything

like Pitt, who plays him in the movie, Gaylord says she has yet to come across any photos of the man.

But she does note that the A-lister's tenuous connection to a local family has made the community excited and interested in its own history.

"So many people have been asking me if Brad Pitt came to our archives," chuckles Gaylord, a distant Bass relative by marriage. "Unfortunately not."

Donna Geary of Peterborough, Ont., who says Bass is her great great great uncle, says she caught wind of a family connection in the summer when a cousin noticed the film was heading to the Toronto International Film Festival.

That eagle-eyed film fan actually recognized the name Samuel Bass in the film's synopsis and quickly spread the word.

"It started quite a buzz," says the 54-year-old Geary, a marketing consultant who also teaches at Toronto's Seneca College.

"It was a shock to everyone in our family."

She sent out a general tweet about her family ties, admitting: "I thought Brad Pitt might reply but I couldn't find him on Twitter."

Further east in Prescott, Todd says she, too, was especially tickled to learn Pitt would play her ancestor.

"I was pretty neared floored – Brad Pitt!" she exclaims. "I almost jumped over myself."

It didn't take long for her to spread the word to other relatives, who all seemed equally excited about the discovery.

"We sent it out to everybody, everybody we know. It's all gone on the Internet and all our relatives all over the place," says Todd, who dug into her own stash of family photos and was stunned to find images of her great great grandmother Hannah and Hannah's husband David Nelson Brown.

Since learning of the story, Todd says she and her husband went out to the old Bass property to check out the house Bass grew up in – now empty – and an old barn that still stands.

She admits to bringing a hammer to get a souvenir for "the Sam Bass museum in my basement."

"I got myself some commemorative things out of there," she says. "Just an old door hinge and a pull off a door.... Any little thing that happened to be laying on the floor, mostly."

"It is exciting and it's great. That (this) can happen in a little town like this.... We may start a Sam Bass day."

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