

Next Meeting

**Tuesday,
Sept 20,
1994**

Auditorium of the
Quinte Living Centre
370 Front St., Belleville

**7:30 Coffee
8:00 Meeting**

GUEST SPEAKER

Mr. Evan Morton
Curator of the Heritage
Centre, Tweed Ontario
and Retired Secondary
School Teacher

TOPIC:

"Tweed Steel - A Surprising Discovery"

*H.C.H.S members,
local societies and
public are cordially
invited.*

ISSUE 119 SEPT. 1994

Outlook

The Hastings County Historical Society

May Meeting

MAY 17, 1994

On Tuesday May 17, 1994 members of the Hastings County Historical Society and a large number of visitors met at the Quinte Living Centre. President Leona Hendry announced that the Ontario Historical Society had presented the Cruikshank Gold Medal to Gerry Boyce following nomination by our society.

Tuesday's meeting was held in conjunction with St. Thomas' Anglican Church on the occasion of their 175 anniversary. The first guest speaker, Dr. Shelley Saunders, was introduced by Carol Ladoucier. Dr. Saun-

ders is professor of anthropology at MacMaster University. When the addition was built on St. Thomas' it was evident it must be built on the old graveyard. It was decided that before the bodies were reburied the graveyard should be investigated through an archeological dig.

Shelley describes herself as a physical anthropologist whose job is skeletal analysis to reconstruct the past from skeletal remains. She began her presentation with the question "What can we learn of the styles of life styles in the mid 19th century from biological remains?" Using slides of graphs she explained what had been learned from the St. Thomas' sample - 286 children and 271 adults, a total of 557. Since there were burial records for 1318 people this was considered a good representation. Eighty individuals could be identified. She showed slides of a fractured skull thought to be suffered in an accident, a thigh bone with multiple fractures and several dental slides. Analysis revealed there was a high incidence of cavities in adults as well as periodontal disease. It is known that dentists trained in Europe were practising in

Belleville at the time.

In some cases copper coffin plates with inscriptions were found so skeletons could be identified. Stature could be measured with the average male measuring 5'8" and the female 5'3". Analysis is getting more sophisticated. It is now possible to extract DNA as has been from small samples of bone tissues from the St. Thomas sample.

Dr. Saunders' colleague, Larry Sawchuk has community structure as his interest. For the past two years he has been learning about Belleville and the Anglican community. His graphs illustrated medical anthropology in the year 1861, 1871 and 1881. The 1861 census indicated that the Belleville Anglican community was growing 2 percent every year. By 1881 the Anglican population was expanding with a rapid birth rate and a lot of immigration. Presbyterians and Anglicans were the wealthiest segment of the population. The big killer of adults was TB, while babies often died of pollution in their food when they stopped breast feeding. A lively question period followed the presentations.

Jean William

NOTICE TO MEMBERS

The date of the annual meeting of the Hastings County Historical Society has been changed to November, with the membership year corresponding with the calendar year-end. Therefore, our next annual meeting will not be in January 1995, but - **Please Note** - on November 15, 1994.

We renew our plea for new Board Members. Most of the present board members have served for seven years, some for more. We need a break!! The board offers new challenges and stimulating companions! (Try us, you'll like us!)

JUNE MEETING

A group of interested members of the Hastings County Historical Society gathered at the Quinte Living Centre on June 16, 1994 to receive a fascinating glimpse of Quinte life in the mid 1800's.

Ted Fraser, Director of the Confederation Centre of Arts in Charlottetown gave an illustrated presentation on the life and work of George Ackermann, especially as it related to the Quinte area. Ackermann, who lived from 1801 to 1891, worked mostly in water-colour. His painting of the old Court House on Pinnacle Street hangs in the Canadiana Room of the Corby Library.

George Ackermann grew up in London, England, the son of Rudolph Ackermann who published fine art prints. During his early years he met some of the best artists of the day.

He went to Guatemala in 1829 and there met his future wife while climbing a volcano. He later took over the family business in 1834 but was forced to liquidate in 1885.

Eventually George Ackermann came to Canada and lived in the Quinte area from 1863 to 1876, settling first in Madoc. He taught art in various settings including what was the Ontario School for the Deaf. In 1876 he moved to Prince Edward Island settling in Summerside.

Ted Fraser explained that he is now preparing an exhibition of Ackermann's work, most of which was discov-

ered in Western Canada three years ago. Many of the paintings were rolled up and the smaller paintings of wild flowers stuffed in shoeboxes. He hopes the exhibition will tour nationally and even internationally.

The earliest slides of Ackermann's works showed paintings of Guatemala, painted when he was 19. After coming to Canada he began to paint wildflowers to document the plants of the new world. Exquisite in design, they have stayed hidden for over 100 years.

Each time he moved Ackermann painted the centre of the community. Thus we see "Mill and Creek - Madoc" painted in 1864. In 1869 he painted "Main Street Picton" a version of which hangs in the Metropolitan Library in Toronto. A painting of Belleville reveals Pinnacle Street looking south with the courthouse on the hill. This was painted c1870 and is still owned by the family. After moving to Prince Edward Island he painted Government House in Charlottetown. Two of the most fascinating and detailed pictures were of the artist's parlour and sitting room, painted in 1880. When Ackermann was 86 years old he moved to Chicago where his son practiced as an architect.

Ted Fraser will be going to London England for a week to talk with John Ford, an expert on the Ackermanns.

Jean Williams

A TRIBUTE

The Society celebrates the lives and contributions of these supporters and extends sympathy to the next of kin:

- (1) **George Super**, the Quinte Secondary School teacher who was our first Education Officer and vice-president in the early 1980s
- (2) **Leona Riggs**, a faithful, long-time member and supporter, whose family was prominent in Belleville's business and musical circles
- (3) **Leona Muriel Austlin**, Wooler historian

OTHER UNHAPPY EVENTS THIS SUMMER INCLUDED

- (1) the demolition of Latta Mill, built some time before 1836 and deemed to be structurally unsafe
- (2) controversy surrounding plans for the Hastings County Museum of Agricultural Heritage at Stirling

Reflection From Hastings County



County News

By Gerry Boyce

For Sale ... The Glen Miller Rock (also known as the Bleasdeil Boulder, the Big Boulder, the Long Family Rock, or a geological erratic), a natural history landmark near Glen Miller in Sidney Township. This "colossal 1,000-tonne conglomerate of rock, crystal and dirt, shaped and rounded by glaciers" (to quote Derek Baldwin in *The Trentonian*) carried here from the Canadian Shield during the Ice Age. The boulder and surrounding acre are protected by provincial legislation. The site is an Area of Natural Scientific Interest (ANSI) and the rock can't legally be moved. The Long family has placed the rock and 71 acres of nature trails on the market. Interested in developing this potential tourist attraction? Contact Royal LePage of Trenton.

Also for sale, but cheaper and portable ... Titles Book Store in Belleville offers an unusual document: a typed, heavily-annotated report prepared for the CPR and CNR by Walter J. Francis in April, 1920, relating to that year's Belleville flood. The author concluded that the CPR bridge was "in no way responsible for the flood." The 54-page report has 25 photographs (identified and dated) of flood scenes as well as hand-coloured plans. It's a fascinating document that should be added to the Society's archives, if a donor (or donors) could be found.

"Museum Corner" is a regular feature in *The Bancroft Times*,

written by Rob Walker, Curator of the North Hastings Heritage Museum in Bancroft. The August 23 column dealt with the W.W.I. field surgical kit used by Dr. Alexander Thomas Embury, a doctor in North Hastings (1898-1935) who served in the war. Rob describes the tools (including two well-worn amputation saws and a cranial saw) as "varying in their gruesomeness." Nevertheless, they were state of the art 80 years ago and were similar to those found in Dr. Mungo Ponton's 19th century surgical kit, now in the Hastings County Museum in Belleville.

Query... Which county newspaper is 100 years old this year? (Answer at end of column)

Happy events this summer included:

- (1) official opening of the RCAF Memorial Museum at CFB Trenton in very attractive and accessible quarters with excellent outdoor displays
- (2) official opening of the 7th Town (Ameliasburgh) Historical Society's Marilyn Adams Genealogical Research Centre in Ameliasburgh
- (3) restoration of the cupola on the Madoc Town Hall, courtesy of the Madoc Historical Foundation and construction technology students of Centre Hastings Secondary School
- (4) Madoc Historical Foundation's Annual Victoria Day House Tour and successful summer Heritage Centre under Curator Ed McKenny
- (5) Family Day at O'Hara Mill,

complete with traditional Spelling Bee

- (6) Stirling Historical Society's successful Yard Sale at the Grand Trunk Station and Museum to mark Canada Day (the Boyces replenished their stock of glass tumblers at bargain prices), fundraising concert featuring Tanglefoot, and two general meetings
- (7) first reunion ever held for the Thomasburg School, (S.S. No. 1 Hungerford), marking 150 years
- (8) Bessie Denyes' 100th birthday (she and late husband Erle were strong supporters of the Society and its museum/archive plans in the 1960s)
- (9) volunteers securing the old Maynooth Station to keep it safe from further water damage and vandalism
- (10) Kente Portage Festival and its expanding Kente militia, with Lewis Zandbergen's related article (Did you find early references to Fort Kente, Lewis?)
- (11) publication of *A Decade of Sundays: Quinte Walking Tours Vol. 1*, published by the Quinte Region Branch of the Architectural Conservancy of Ontario, edited by Dan Atkinson with a foreword by Rodger Greig; and the Branch's Merrickville Tour
- (12) Keith Reid's book on Frankford history, going into a second printing almost immediately (information at 398-7991)
- (13) Evan Morton's "Heritage Herald" column in *The Tweed News*
- (14) Donna Gibbs Car-

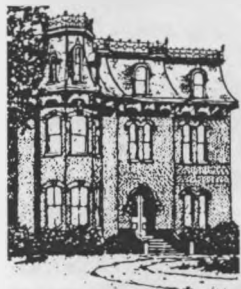
penter's *Daytripper 3:50 Trips in and around Eastern Ontario*, with emphasis on Hastings County Museum, Belleville City Hall, and Loonie Shakes (my favourite)

(15) "Mary's Grave and much more..." an article by Tamara Hossack and Alana Grant, relating to Marmora history and Margaret Hughes' grave; but note the reservations of Lewis Zandbergen in *The Community Press*

- (16) "Remember When" and "Time Capsule" in *The Intelligencer*, including views of the opening of our first museum in August, 1961 (pleasant memories)
- (17) Trent Port Historical Society receiving \$444 toward restoring the Old Town Hall, thanks to a successful Front Street Sidewalk Sale and Dance sponsored by the DBIA
- (18) Trenton's Old Town Hall as the subject of a large wall mural by illustrator-turned-temporary-mural-artist Steve Snider, with help from Sean Byrne, Sonia Waters, Trenval, and many litres of outdoor paint. It looks great!
- (19) Gerald Collette's research and restoration of the cannon on Trenton's Mount Pelion
- (20) appointment of Andre Philpot (Marmora Village reeve, historian and author) to the Ontario Heritage Foundation

ANSWER. *The Bancroft Times* and *North Hastings Advertiser* is 100 years old.

CONGRATULATIONS. Perhaps we could persuade Barney Moorhouse and/or Rob Walker to speak to our Society about the paper's beginnings.



Your County **Museum**

257 Bridge St. East, Belleville, Ont. K8N 1P4 (613) 962-2329



HARVEST FESTIVAL

Glanmore, Hastings County Museum kicks off its 1994-1995 education season with a Harvest Festival

October 11-21.

Harvest practises, preserving and canning, and simple machines will all be explored in this programme. Students will participate in such activities as creating corn husk dolls.

For more information contact:

Jane Lambe
Education Coordinator
Hastings County Museum
8:30 am - 1pm
962-2329

For Donation

Glanmore, Hastings County Museum wishes to donate several large black stands to any organization which has use for them. The stands, along with ropes, were used as barriers to prevent the public from entering exhibit areas. If you are interested in the stands please contact the Hastings County Museum.

George Benjamin

Returns To Belleville

After a length absence, Williams's Sawyer's portrait of George Benjamin MP, has returned to its home at the Hastings County Museum. The portrait was part of a Canadian Museum of Civilization travelling exhibit "A Coat of Many Colours" which highlighted the historical contribution of Jews to Canada's development. The exhibit toured Canada, the United States and Israel.

George Benjamin (1799 - 1864) was born in Brighton England and was of Jewish ancestry. He travelled extensively and finally settled in Belleville, Upper Canada in 1834 with his wife and infant son. In Belleville he founded the Belleville Intelligencer and Hastings General Advertiser and becomes involved in the community and local politics. He served as the first Jewish Member of Parliament from 1857 - 1863.

George Benjamin's portrait belongs to the County of Hastings and is on display in the Library.

Successful Summer Camp

The Hastings County Museum ran a week long summer camp, Victorian Style! This new programme focussed on fun and educational activities of the 19th century. The children made ice cream and their own Victorian headgear, they learned how the Victorians recycled and reused everything and the children made period crafts based on these principles. They also played Victorian games.

Fun was had by all!

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Glanmore, Hastings County Museum is currently seeking volunteers to work in public programming, school programming and collections management. If you are interested in working with people of all ages or doing historical research the Hastings County Museum has an exciting opportunity for you.

The school and public programmes which the museum offers every year could not be run without the help and dedication of our volunteers.

**Anyone interested
is invited to a
Coffee Party
on Sept. 12 at
9:30am**

Training will commence the following three Mondays, September 19, 26 and October 3. If you would like more information please contact:

**Jane Lambe
Education Coordinator
Hastings County
Museum
8:30 am - 1pm
962-2329**

Outlook

The Hastings County Historical Society Newsletter

Outlook is published monthly for the Friends and Members of the Hastings County Historical Society.

Address Label