

Next Meeting

**Tuesday,
Nov. 15,
1994**

Auditorium of the
Quinte Living Centre

7:30 Meeting
brief reports of 1994
activities

(Note change in
time from 8:00 pm)

GUEST SPEAKER

**Rev. Maurice
Mcleod**
Annual Meeting
activities Bridge
Street United Church

Members and visitors
are invited to bring a
family heirloom, a
collectible and/or a
treasure to be
identified or appraised.
Perhaps you may wish to
describe to the
audience the historical
significance of your
item(s).

A watch! A dish!
A diary! Etc.
Desserts of various
kinds along with coffee
and tea will be
served following
the programme.

**MEMBERS,
NEW MEMBERS
AND VISTORS
ARE CORDIALLY
INVITED.**

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Outlook

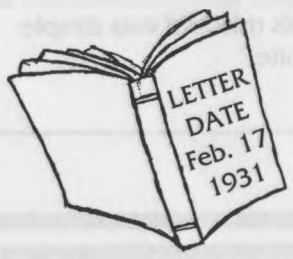
The Hastings County Historical Society

Did Text Books Contribute To The Rebellion Of 1837?

Members of the Hastings County Historical Society met at the Quinte Living Centre on October 18, 1994. Guest speaker was Dr. James H. Love, U.E., Associate Professor Faculty of Education, Brock University. Introduced by Bernard Wright, Dr. Love soon had his audience involved in a discussion of textbook policy in Upper Canada after 1837. Prior to that time textbooks were provided at the whim of parents, often the Bible or Pilgrim's Progress. There were no standard sets of textbooks and local trustees were in charge of the curriculum.

Following the Rebellion of 1837 there was a flurry of government studies on the problems leading to the Rebellion. There was a suspicion that schools had contributed to the Rebellion. There was a shortage of teachers (who were always male at that time) and many American teachers had been hired. In addition, many school's texts had Ameri-

can authors. So it was possible that children had grown up with an American bias. This was echoed in Government reports children had no sense of patriotism because of American influence. The Durham Report decreed that local councils should control education, with the superintendent having strong control.



Using an overhead projector Dr. Love showed examples from early texts and commented that children learned by rote. Webster's History's account of the War of 1812 was biased, referring to the "Massacre of Wyoming." Songs and poems were also biased, including a song "Independence Day." With new

texts, the slant was towards Britain, including poems like "Union Jack."

In 1845 Egerton Ryerson was determined to revise education in Ontario. With the Education Act of 1846 American texts were banned. One set only, "The Irish National TextBooks" were used in Ontario schools. Since they covered all subjects and age levels pupils could now be put into grades with simultaneous instruction.

Many parents resisted the new texts. Some preferred American texts as better quality and more interesting, e.g. the McGuffey readers. Ryerson was forced to backtrack a bit and sometimes make exceptions. The new texts were used in Normal Schools and gradually received the support of local people. Canadian texts did not make an appearance until the 1860s.

As the meeting ended members were invited to inspect the early textbooks which were on display.
Jean Williams

Some Gleanings From Minus 100

A Regular Feature Of Our Monthly Meetings

An enjoyable feature of our monthly meetings is the presentation by various members of items from the local newspapers of one hundred years previous to the meeting's date (or closest there-to). Mary McConnell is the coordinator of this feature and she has passed on some of the excerpts from the century old press, relevant, irrelevant or irrelevant.

May 18, 1893

The British Parliament was debating Irish Home Rule. (*LaPlus ça change etc.*)

September 19, 1889

Sir John A. Macdonald's free trade arrangements were being debated. 100 years later the same ball was back in the Conservative court under Prime Minister Mulroney.

October 17, 1889

A "filler" at the end of a column reads: "Glass eyes

for horses are now made to such perfection that even the animals themselves cannot see through the deception."

October 18, 1894

News item from The Daily Ontario "Arrivals at Hotel D'Appleby" (Mr. Louis A. Appleby was the gaoler). "George Tiner, of Faraday township was brought to jail yesterday, for killing and burning a cow belonging to a neighbour, Mrs. Fraeleck. The evidence went to show that he shot the cow, then piled brush on it and set it on fire. Mrs. Fraeleck came along and tried to pull the cow out of the fire by the tail, but the fire was so hot that the tail came without the cow. She then went and got some neighbours and when they arrived Tiner was busy putting on more fuel. The incentive to this mischief was simple spite."

A Two Day Trip From Bon Echo

The following article was contributed by member and former editor of the Tweed News, Clyde Bell. He was a long time friend of Merrill Denison.

In 1971, Merrill Denison researched the back issues of the Tweed News looking for references to Bon Echo, and what he called the North Country.

He told me about his work in developing the Hart House Theatre at the University of Toronto in the early 1920s; about an outdoor theatre he had constructed at Bon Echo; about plays he had written; about his early days in radio that had led ultimately to his becoming a specialist in radio drama with NBC and CBS; about a meeting he had with Reginald Aubrey Fessenden, a Canadian born physicist, who was the first person to broadcast music and the human voice in 1906; and he told me stories about his work with Austin Weir, the head of the C.N.R. Radio Department, and Tyrone Guthrie in producing the "Romance of Canada" which Merrill claimed to be the first ever radio serial in Canada. It went on the air in January of 1931.

One day Merrill asked me what had become of the auditorium of the Tweed Orange Hall. When I explained that an electronic company was using it for the manufacture of components for

television sets, he said "what a shame, that hall had the best stage north of Belleville. I should know," he continued "For we produced some of my plays there."

Merrill went on to tell about how the cast of the summer theatre at Bon Echo had for two or three years ended the season by coming to Tweed to present a number of one act plays, the proceeds going to help a local church choir. They charged \$.50 for adults, \$.25 for children, those under five were free, standing room only \$.10. "We filled the auditorium to the doors," he said. "It was the highlight of our season." The show in Tweed involved a two day trip. The cast piled into a McLaughlin Buick touring car, and bumped down to the Kaladar station, where they caught the train to Tweed. After checking into the hotel, they went to the auditorium to set up the stage and have a rehearsal. The ladies from the church provided supper for the cast. The next morning, they packed up and then caught the train to Kaladar. Then back to Bon Echo in the McLaughlin Buick. "We sang all the way," Merrill said, "it helped to take our minds off the bumps." Clyde Bell

ARCHITECTURAL CONSERVANCY OF ONTARIO (A.C.O.) QUINTE REGION BRANCH

November 20 Tour of Hiller

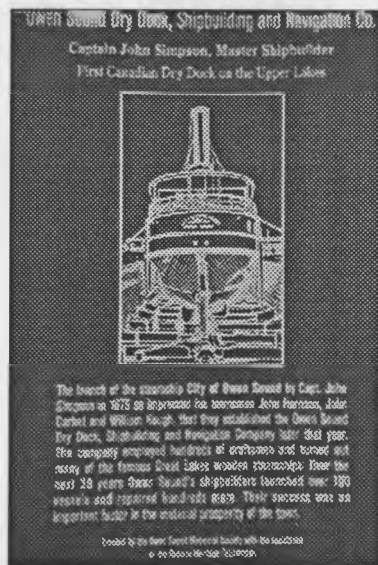
Meet at 2p.m. at the little stone church at the intersection of County roads #1 and #2, marked by a red flashing light. From highway 33 proceed east on County road #1 (Schoharie Rd.). From highway 62 west on County road #1 (Schoharie Rd.)

For further information phone
393-5398 or 968-7576.

Outlook: An Update

For those of you who keep their copies of *Outlook*, refer back to October 1991. It contained Lois Foster's article about Margaret Simpson who, with her husband James Simpson, came to Meyers Creek (Belleville) in 1797 and built a log house and tavern. Their son George was Lois's great, great grandfather. Then in the October 1993 issue of *Outlook*, the September meeting was reported. Featured speaker was Capt. Gerry Ouderkirk, then involved in research for a book about the ship-building Simpson brothers in the last century. They were grandsons of Margaret Simpson.

This past September, Lois reports, she attended as a special guest and Simpson descendant, a ceremony in Owen Sound. The Owen Sound Historical Society and descendants of the Simpson family gathered to raise a plaque which honours Capt. John Simpson, in recognition of his contribution to the city as a major ship-builder there.



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Toronto, Ont.

To the Municipal Council.

Gentlemen:-

Over a quarter of a century ago when this Company was organized, eggs were 26 cents a dozen; butter 15 cents a pound; milk 5 cents a quart; the butcher gave away liver; the hired girl worked for \$2.00 a week and did the washing. Women wore clothes; didn't powder and paint; smoke; play poker or Charleston. Men wore whiskers and boots; chewed tobacco and spat on the sidewalk. Beer was 5 cents and the lunch was free. Laborers worked ten hours a day without strike. Nobody tipped waiters, and the hat check grafter was unknown. A coal-oil lamp hanging in the parlour was a luxury. No one was ever operated on for appendicitis, or bought strange glands. Microbes were unheard of. Folks lived to a good old age, and every year walked miles to wish their friends good luck.

During the above period we constructed over 2000 Highway Bridges, which we consider a record and unsurpassed by any other Company.

To-day we are looking for further business at a time when everybody drives gas buggies; plays golf; shoots crap; borrows money; goes to movies every night; smokes cigarettes; drinks rokus juice; buys on margin; blames the Government; never goes to bed the same day they get up, and think they are having a wonderful time.

These are days of price cutting and Government control, and there never was a time when the Government gave greater financial assistance to Municipalities. Surely, this should be the time to buy and relieve the unemployment situation and destroy that word DEPRESSION.

Favor us with your enquiries.

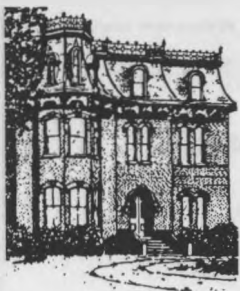
Yours truly,

ONTARIO BRIDGE COMPANY LIMITED.

JHB/VF.

Manager.

In place of "County News" this month - Gerry's busy campaigning - we include a fascinating ad from the Hastings County Council Archival Collection housed in the attic of the former Gaol Governor's Residence. We've covered the date. Do you think it would be 1931? 1945? 1965? or 1994? Look for the answer elsewhere in *Outlook*.



Your County MUSEUM



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

HARVEST FESTIVAL SUCCESSFUL #1

The Museum just concluded a very successful Harvest Festival education programme. School children learned how pioneers preserved and prepared their food for the long hard winter months and how to make corn husk dolls!! Many thanks to the staff, students and volunteers who made this programme such a success.

MUSEUM RECEIVES M.A.P. GRANT

Glanmore, the Hastings County Museum has been awarded a grant from the Museums Assistance Programme for a one year position in collections management. Allison Willis, our former Collections Management Intern, will continue working at the museum in order to properly care for and catalogue the collection. Many thanks to the Parrott Foundation who have generously provided a portion of the required matching funds. The museum is still seeking \$3,400 of its financial commitment. If you can help please contact the museum.

COUNTY OUTREACH A SUCCESS

As the Hastings County Museum concludes the first year of its new County Outreach Programme we are happy to report its success. Just a year ago we sent all the Hastings County heritage groups which have artifacts in their care, a survey to determine the needs of those groups and how the County Museum could fulfil or assist those needs. We had an unusually high response rate and were pleased with the range and diversity of groups which wanted to become involved. We began our outreach programme by offering county groups one of several display cases constructed by the Royal Ontario Museum. We then held an introductory meeting bringing museum and heritage enthusiasts together to present the results of the survey. At that meeting we presented the form our county outreach programme would take, which was based solely on the survey responses. In a largely advisory role we have consulted with many county and city heritage groups on a diverse range of museum issues over the past year. Based on their individual needs we have assisted them through providing resource materials, assessments and general professional advice. To date we have assisted the following groups: Hastings County Museum of Agricultural Heritage, Tweed & Area Historical Society and Heritage Centre, The Monarchist League,

Madoc Historical Foundation, North Hastings Heritage Museum, Belleville General Hospital Museum, O'Hara Mill, Belleville Scout/Guide Museum, Belleville Sports Hall of Fame, the Hastings County Historical Society and the proposed Museum of Automotive Evolution. We are fortunate to have such enthusiastic support for heritage in our county and look forward to continued relations with all these groups in order to assist them preserve and present their collections to the public.

CHRISTMAS AT GLANMORE

Glanmore is festively decorated for the yuletide season. The staff and volunteers of Glanmore invite you to take a relaxing break and experience the grand traditions of a Victorian Christmas. The museum is open to the public Tuesday to Sunday from 4:30 pm. The museum is offering several Christmas activities throughout the month of December, call now to reserve your spot 962 2329!
Sunday November 27 Victorian Christmas Craft Cornucopia - Sunday December 4 Annual Cedar Wreath Making Workshop - Sunday December 11 - Children's Programme - Wednesday December 14 Tree of Lights Ceremony & Carolling - Sunday December 18 Yuletide at Home Featuring the Quinte Brass



Outlook

The Hastings County Historical Society Newsletter

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