

OUTLOOK

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE HASTINGS COUNTY
HISTORICAL SOCIETY, PO BOX 1418, BELLEVILLE,
ONTARIO

May 1, 1982

1. YOU and your friends are cordially invited to attend the MAY 11th meeting of the Society. The guest speaker will be Professor MICHAEL PETERMAN of Trent University, who will speak on SUSANNA MOODIE: NEW VIEWS OF THE BELLEVILLE AREA, as revealed in a series of 20 letters Susanna wrote from Belleville in the 1850's and 1860's. These letters were uncovered only two weeks ago and shed light on many people and activities in the Belleville area. Mike will read extracts from these letters and he's looking for information on some of the names of local people who are referred to. (These letters were written to her English publisher, Richard Bentley.)

The May 11th meeting will be held in the Corby Library's Main Gallery:
. coffee and fellowship at 7:30 P.M.
. meeting and speaker at 8:00 P.M.

2. Several members of the Society were present Thursday evening when ^(APRIL 29) Prof. Peterman spoke in the main gallery as part of the Belleville Library Board's celebration of National Book Festival Week. In a talk that he titled "Will the real Roughing It In The Bush please stand up", Prof. Peterman explained how he first became interested in the writings of Susanna Moodie (he was looking for a topic for a sabbatical leave five years ago and a friend suggested that he compile a bibliography of her writings), how he discovered that her writings (such as Roughing It In The Bush) have gone through several stages, and how he began to collect the letters of Susanna and her sister. The research team now has more than 800 letters written by the Strickland sisters and is preparing to publish them in one or two volumes. The recent discovery of the Richard Bentley collection is another important milestone for Mike and his team.

Mike paints a very complete picture of Susanna in his talks, describing her as very independent, proudly middle class, capable of very deep religious feeling, high spirited as a young girl, attracted to men who could be seen as "father figures", much in love with Dunbar, highly ambitious in the literary world (even before coming to Canada she had published a book of poetry and several children's stories), and a proficient canoeist, to mention only a few of the qualities revealed by her life and letters.

When he speaks on the 11th, Mike will indicate that both Susanna and Dunbar had a strong interest in the supernatural. In fact, Dunbar developed an invention relating to the supernatural. But more of that on the 11th.

3. Our thanks to BRENDA HUDSON for her excellent talk in April. She painted a delightful picture of some of the Loyalist families who came to Prince Edward County and subsequently had members move to Hastings. Among the families noted were the Ashley, Parks, Blakely, Richmond, Bowerman, Bull, Diamond, Embury, Young, Dulmage, and Bowen families. We eagerly await Private Place, the book she plans to have ready for publication by Mika Publications this summer.
4. In addition to speaking on the Loyalists, Brenda outlined some of the recent activities of the Madoc Historical Foundation, including the indexing last summer of the Old White Lake Pioneer Cemetery (copies of this listing are available in the Belleville and Madoc libraries), the printing of place mats with drawings of historic Madoc buildings, the setting up of a genealogical committee, and the indexing of births, marriages, and deaths from the Madoc newspapers from 1863 to 1935. Brenda has agreed to furnish our readers with a more detailed list of resources for research in the Madoc area and we look forward to printing this list in the near future.
5. Hats off to André Mercier, for his contribution to the celebration of Canada's constitution at our April meeting.

11. We're pleased to report that the Genealogical Workshop (May 3) is SOLD OUT.
12. This is a shorter OUTLOOK than usual. Look for an added feature in the June issue.

5. Our CITIZEN OF THE MONTH AWARD goes to Professor Michael Peterman, for his work in researching Susanna Moodie. As a result of his research we are aware of many new letters relating to our local history and, more important, we know that Roughing It In The Bush was written while Susanna was living in Belleville, that the idea for the book came from Dunbar, and that the original version contained several chapters by Dunbar. Later versions dropped Dunbar's chapters.
6. The Bradshaw Family will be a 200 page, hard cover, illustrated, family history to be published early in 1983. The writers are looking for data and pictures on the family, as well as patrons to help finance the book. For information contact the secretary of the Loyalist Bradshaw Family Association, Len Bedford, R.R. 1, Belleville, K8N 4Z1. Thanks to Gordon Crouse, the association's genealogist, for calling this project to our attention.
7. SCHOOLDAYS is a display on early Hastings County schools. It's being shown in Centre Space, on the lower level of the Hastings County Board's Education Centre, corner of Dundas and Ann streets. The display was assembled by Vince Prewer and myself and contains information and pictures borrowed from the Hastings County Board of Education's Archives, the Moira River Conservation Authority, and the Hastings County Historical Society. The display is open to the public and will be at the Ed Centre for three more weeks. Drop in and see what early education was like.
8. Two members of the Historic Structures Committee of the Society were honoured by the Central Volunteer Bureau at its recognition day. They are Shirley Birchard and Mary Hall.
9. Shirley Birchard is researching the history of St. Paul's Church in Foster Ward. Elaine Preston would like to know if anyone is aware of the exact location of the first Marchmont Home that was south of the present building. (Elaine can be reached at 966-8491). And Mike Peterman would like to know where the little cottage was into which Susanna and Dunbar Moodie were obliged to move when financial problems forced them to give up Moodie Cottage

10. ADVANCE NOTICE OF THE JUNE 12th TOUR . . .

RESERVE SATURDAY, JUNE 12 for our tour. Here's the tentative agenda:

- 9:15 A.M. "Luxury coach" departs from Education Centre, 156 Ann Street
- 10:00 A.M. Tour of Lennox and Addington County Museum, Napanee, and chance to check out archives for genealogical sources
- 11:10 A.M. Tour of Macpherson House, Napanee, and a traditional lunch from the 19th century, featuring chicken pie and biscuits, calves foot jelly, rhubarb fool, apple betty, relishes, tea or coffee
- 1:20 P.M. Tour of Layercake Hall at Bath (newly restored)
- 2:30 P.M. Tour of Fairfield White House near Millhaven (being restored)
- 4:30 P.M. Arrive in parking lot of Education Centre, Belleville.

This promises to be an interesting and rewarding day. The cost of the tour (including bus, traditional lunch, and admission to all museums) will be \$12.00 for members of the Hastings County Historical Society and \$15.00 for non-members.

Seats are limited so you are advised to book early for the June 12th tour

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Mr. Gerald Boyce, Hastings County Historical Society, P.O. 1418, Belleville

I/We wish to go on the June 12th tour.

I/We have enclosed payment (\$12.00 for members; \$15.00 for non-members).

Name: _____ Telephone: _____

Address: _____

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More important messages and news of interest from the executive of the HASTINGS COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

P.O. Box 1418
Belleville, Ontario

who remind you that you'll learn what SUSANNA really thought about Belleville at our MEETING ON MAY 11th. See you there.

