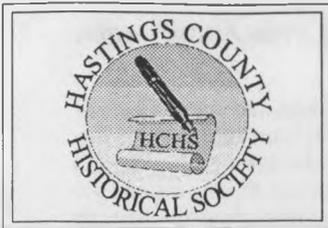


HCHS 3/1/136



# Outlook

Volume 1 Number 6

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## Next Meeting

Tuesday, September 17  
1996

Auditorium  
Quinte Living Centre,  
370 Front Street, Belleville

7:30 Coffee

8:00 Meeting

### Guest Speaker Peter Zandbergen

Peter Zandbergen is a 16-year-old Bayside Secondary School student with a love of family history. He has assisted his father in researching both the Zandbergen (paternal) and Faulkner (maternal) family trees and can point with pride to being a direct descendant of early Sidney Township settler Sylvester Faulkner, who was a "late Loyalist." Peter provides computer knowhow and is largely responsible for the in-depth data base he has compiled using the Reunion® genealogical software program. His talk will concentrate on the available sources for research and also the management of acquired data.

Members are asked to bring along younger family members who may have an interest in genealogy; it is hoped the combination of computer and family history interests may result in a whole new generation of historians.

## Highlighting the Stirling streets of years gone by through pictures

An unfortunate set of circumstances forced the replacement of the slated speaker for the June meeting of the Hastings County Historical Society. However, a member of the younger generation is understood to have done an admirable job of giving the slide show scheduled for that evening.

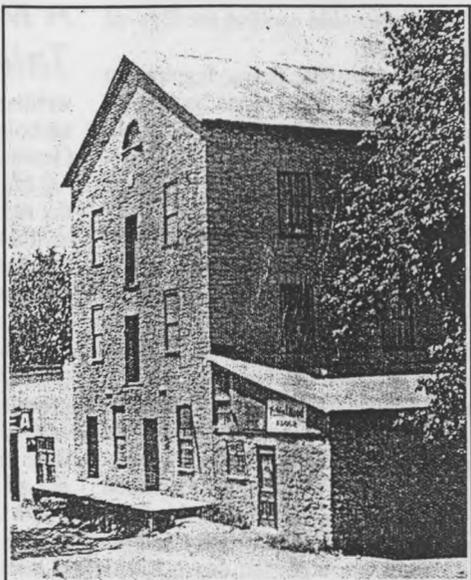
Peter Zandbergen presented a look at the Stirling of our grandparents and great-grandparents' times.

Filled with slide reproductions of many Stirling locations, the show pointed up the fact that much of our built heritage in Stirling is still in remarkably good condition. Many of the downtown storefronts have retained that look of the early 20th century although there has been a definite movement to covering with plastic and aluminum as opposed to restoration using traditional materials.

Perhaps the greatest changes evident in a comparison between the slides and present day streets is in the northern part of Front Street between James Street and the area historically referred to as "The

Point," the present site of Beckers. This stretch was

mill was demolished in 1971; an "attractive" parking lot now occupies the site.



This mill, part of which dated to 1807, stood on the north side of Front Street between James Street and what is now the covered bridge. It was demolished in 1971.

Similarly, the most western part of this area, The Point, was the site for many years of the McKee Block. Thomas McKee was a harnessmaker and his building was also the site of the barracks for the 49th Regiment. The McKee Block was the second known building to have occupied The Point. Its forerunner was a business block owned by Montreal interests called J. G. McKenzie and Company; that building was destroyed in the fire of 1883.

once home to Stirling's oldest commercial structure a three-storey mill, part of which dated to 1807. The

entation Peter answered questions from the audience which included several Stirling and area residents.

### Architectural Conservancy of Ontario

#### Quinte Region Branch Calendar

- Sunday, September 15, Paul/King Streets, Picton
- Sunday, October 20, Concession 3, Stirling to Moira
- Sunday, November 17, Brighton

# Hans Walthmeyer

by Lewis Zandbergen

written by Jane Bennett Goddard, U.E.

published by Jane Bennett Goddard, U.E.

545 pages, photographs, illustrations, maps, bibliography, indexed

Most people know him as John W. Meyers, founder of Belleville, Loyalist "secret agent," pioneer family man, settler and the builder of several mills in the southern Hastings County area. However, there was much, much more to the man I will refer to as John Walden Meyers (the spelling of his name has long been a bone of contention).

In the almost two decades since its publication, Jane Bennett Goddard's monumental work on the life of one of Belleville's prominent historical figures has remained the definitive volume on the life and times of the man. *Hans Walthmeyer*, has remained a touchstone for anyone wishing to acquire an intimate knowledge of the man and his times and how that man and those times helped shape this land.

I first read this book shortly after its publication. Ontario was gearing up for the 200th anniversary celebrations of the Loyalist landings and the history of the Loyalists and their settlement has always been a favourite subject of mine. Suffice it to say it is not a book to be taken lightly and I mean that in both the figurative and literal ways. It's an oversize book which makes an easy chair a requirement (it's hard to read in bed), yet its sheer magnitude and depth make it a must for anyone even remotely interested in the history of the Bay of Quinte and Hastings County region. Not only was Meyers the prime mover in Belleville and the lower townships, his influences also touched many settlements in the centre Hastings area, and to the west and east into bordering counties.

Goddard begins her book with the aboriginal peoples of the north and south shores of the Bay of Quinte in a short first prologue; her second prologue covers French influences. In her third prologue the author ties in the Bleecker family's beginnings in colonial New York and also pro-

vides an overview of life in the 18th-century, predominantly Dutch colony. Successive chapters deal with events leading up to the War of Independence and the nationhood of the 13 original colonies.

The narrative then switches smoothly to the Quinte area.

Throughout the story runs a rich vein of anecdotal history, and this is what gives the book much of its character; rather than being a "history lesson" in the strictest sense of the words, it is at the same time a passionately stirring account of early life in the tiny settlements dotting the countryside around the Bay of Quinte.

Goddard has drawn inspiration from her illustrious ancestors and gives them full credit in her dedications; she also acknowledges her own mother's (Grace Maidens Bennett) part in the work and assigns credit as well to another Meyers descendant, Frederick Bleecker Meyers.

Listed at the end of the work is John Walden Meyers' will; it's a fascinating part of the complete story and is made all the more poignant because of the simple things which were included; in the early 1800s, much like today, items like the family bible and other personal effects were passed down to the next generation. However, notable among the Meyers chattels are the inclusion of "One soup spoon" valued at £2 and "One bag of shot" valued at 12 shillings and 6 pence. As Goddard

mentions in the footnote, the list would be valuable to anyone interested in the Loyalist and Regency periods.

A "refresher reading" of the book recently has made me aware once more of how little the public knows about John Walden Meyers. His life story is usually told in a few paragraphs and the text from the plaque formerly in Victoria Park did little to increase a person's awareness of this pioneer settler whose descendants are numerous. *Hans Walthmeyer* should have be-

come a required reading assignment for local high school students who know little enough local history as it is; instead the book languishes on library shelves.. Illustrations, absolutely breathtaking maps, and comprehensive lists of notables who played a part in the story of John Walden Meyers make this volume a pleasure to read. It even makes up for the few typos and grammar glitches which pepper the work. *Hans Walthmeyer* is a volume on local history which is well worth another look.

## A Matter of Honour: And Other Tales of Early Perth

written by Susan Code

anthology, non-fiction, 155 pages, photographs, published by General Store Publishing House

*A Matter of Honour: And Other Tales of Early Perth* gives the reader an insight into the depths of human emotion as well as the hardships and deprivations endured by early settlers in the Perth area. A population in which one in five of the original settlers was a military man, provides rich fodder for Susan Code's word processor. Code recounts these stories with an historian's point of view while at the same time entertaining the layman; you need not be appreciative of this country's beginnings to enjoy the stories Code tells. Each tale is carefully crafted and the reader is easily swept up in the events. Although they may not have transpired exactly as portrayed, the stories are all based on actual persons and events and the author has undertaken great pains to provide accuracy in setting and language as well and it shows. The roots of each tale are securely planted in the history of the settlement. Local newspaper accounts, ledgers and the Archives of Ontario bear out the authenticity of the accounts. Many of Code's stories are based on the diaries of the self-important, pious and judgmental minister of the town of Perth, the Reverend William Bell.

Photographs and contemporary paintings enrich the text adding scope and a feeling of immediacy to the work.

### Birthday of the month:

Sir Georges-Etienne Cartier

Georges-Etienne Cartier was born at St. Antoine, Quebec, on September 6, 1814. He was called to the Quebec Bar in 1835 and became friendly with the patriot Jean Louis Papineau. He joined Papineau's abortive revolt and afterward fled into exile. By 1848 he was back in Quebec and sufficiently in favour with the public to be elected to the Canadian (Quebec and Ontario) Parliament. From 1858 to 1862 he was joint prime minister of Canada with Sir John A. Macdonald. They remained close associates for the remainder of Cartier's life. Cartier's achievements included codification of the civil law of Lower Canada (Quebec), helping end seigneurial tenure, and playing a prominent part in the building of the Canadian Pacific and Grand Trunk railways. One irony of Cartier's life was that he, a former exile, would be Canada's first federal militia minister in 1867. Cartier died on May 20, 1873, in London, England.



# County News

by Gerry Boyce

**Where do I start?** - There has been so much heritage news since the May 1 column that it's hard to know where to begin. Perhaps we should start with the good news:

1. The Ghost Walk sponsored by the Belleville Theatre Guild on May 16 as part of the Quinte Arts Council "Two Weeks in May" programme was a smashing success. It lived up to its billing as "the most fun you'll ever have in the dark." Some 300 walkers met some of Belleville's most colourful historical figures (including Captain John Meyers in his bateau at the mouth of the Moira), viewed an 1855 seance, witnessed the trial and hanging of the famous/infamous Aylwards, and heard about supernatural happenings on Charles Street, Pinnacle Street and elsewhere. A ghostly quartet and soloists enlivened the event. Thumbs up to the organizers who should be encouraged to offer similar programs in future. Thumbs down to the media for not accompanying the walkers, at least for a time, and reporting on the success of the venture.

2. The old stone industrial building on Station Street (at the site of Captain Meyers 1790 mill in Belleville) has taken on a new look. Hats off to the Quinte Construction Association (the occupant) and its members who donated time, materials and money to restore the building. Without their efforts, the structure probably would have been demolished. Our society played an important role in the preservation process some 15 years ago, when we located funding to help maintain the structural integrity. Watch for news about the plaque to Captain Meyers; it will be dedicated soon.

3. The Quinte Exhibition celebrated its 175th anniversary Labour Day weekend. The first Hastings County Fair was held on Monday, October 1, 1821. A souvenir newspaper and a

commemorative coin helped mark the anniversary.

4. Evan Morton's column in *The Tweed News* provides weekly accounts of new donations to the Tweed Heritage Centre. Evan prides himself on following up every lead and bringing back new additions for the collection. The centre had a display at the Hastings County Plowing Match.

5. The Annual ACW Marmora and Deloro Historical Tour was a success. It was introduced by an excellent series of illustrated articles (*The Marmora Herald*), describing the various buildings.

6. The Cemetery Tour of Marmora's Protestant Cemetery, sponsored by the Marmora Historical Foundation and directed by board member Kathy Jones and cemetery buff Gerald Belanger, was a first for the community. The foundation also organized a successful tour from Marmora to Cobourg, featuring the dedication of a plaque at Millside Park in Marmora to commemorate the birthplace of the mining industry in Ontario.

7. The Stirling Historical Society held an Arts and Crafts and Antiques Show and Sale to raise funds for the Stirling Grand Trunk/CN station heritage site. Saturday workshops helped clean and fix up the building in preparation for the event.

8. The Legend of Sam Baptiste was a fascinating two-part article by Lorraine Fell in *The Bancroft Times* in mid-August. Through words and pictures, Lorraine recalled the life of the Baptiste family, after whom the lake is named. She described northern life in earlier, quieter times, including the annual springtime ritual when Sam arrived at the Fell's cottage to exchange a fresh pickerel for a meat roast, and the berry pies cooked by Sam's sister, Mary LaVallee.

9. Rob Walker's regular columns in *The Bancroft Times* described artifacts at the North Hastings Heritage Museum in Bancroft, highlighting the Forest Beauty cook store patented by R. C. Percival Stove & Plow Company in Merrickville, Ontario (1877).

10. Molly Brant was remembered at Kingston on August 25. The Mohawk Nation of the Bay of Quinte participated in honouring this Mohawk matriarch, British patriot, respected Kingston pioneer, and a founder of St. George's Cathedral.

And let's remember other happy heritage happenings such as the Kente Portage Festival; the 75th anniversary celebration of the Bay of Quinte Country Club; planning for downtown murals in Belleville to show local history; Peter Hamilton's article in *The Napanee Beaver* of the history of Pointe Anne and its cement plant; Jennifer Bell's article in *The Intelligencer* on "Digging up Roots" (an introduction to genealogy) and Jennifer Read's historical sketch of the Mohawks of the Bay of Quinte in *What's Happening* (Spring); and heritage articles by Candace Inglis and others in *The Marmora Herald*.

The Bad News:

1. The demolition of Tabernacle United Church in Belleville has been a blow. After the amalgamation of Tabernacle and Holloway Street congregations to form St. Matthew's, there was no need for two buildings. The new congregation needed funds and felt

unable to maintain Tabernacle. No buyer interested in preserving it could be found. Accordingly, the property was sold to the Roman Catholic Separate School Board to house portables to ease overcrowding at Nicholson Catholic College.

St. Mathew's congregation will be erecting a memorial cairn on the site to commemorate the building. Nevertheless, the city's skyline has been forever altered. We have lost a heritage building. City residents who may have felt that such a demolition could never happen here now may appreciate better the feelings of the cousins in rural areas where the loss of churches and schools has been a regular feature of recent decades. Question: will changing economic and social conditions mean the loss of other landmarks?

2. CJBQ is celebrating 50 years of operation (first at 1230 and now at 800 on the AM dial), but so far I have not heard any historical items where early staff (for example Phil Flagler, Lee Jourard, Tom Hookings, Irene Haig, Frank Murray, Carl Cogan, and even this writer—who served as an announcer, writer and news editor in the mid-'50s—reflect on interesting and unusual events of those early days. There's still time for CJBQ to remedy the situation.

3. Tweed residents were upset with the Ontario Travel Counsellor's Directory 1996, published by the Ontario Ministry of Economic Development, Trade and Tourism. There was no entry under "Tweed," but the information submitted on the Tweed and Area Heritage Centre was found under "Gravenhurst." Ouch!

We remember with thankfulness the life of Mary (Moult) Greig, who died on June 10. Widow of the late Rodger Greig, Mary was active for many years with our society and the Hastings County Museum and had lovingly helped restore the Greigs' heritage home at Cherry Valley.  
Our sympathy to the family.



# Your County Museum

257 Bridge Street East, Belleville, Ontario, K8N 1P4 (613) 962-2329

## Update from Glanmore

The Hastings County Museum experienced a very busy and successful summer.

Krista LaCombe, a student of the Sir Sandford Fleming College Museum Management and Curatorship Programme and the Concurrent Education Programme at Trent University, completed a four-month internship in education at the museum. Krista was our first high school co-op student in 1990. In addition to her education assignments, she designed and installed a special exhibit (on display in Glanmore's breakfast room) entitled Cheesemaking in Hastings County, which is featured as part of the Cheese Capital of Canada's Cheese Route.

Sheri Plumbe, a graduate of the Library Technician Programme at Fanshaw

College (London, Ontario) completed a 15-week Futures placement during which she catalogued the museum's reference library.

Research and investigation concerning the restoration of Glanmore's west porch was initiated through salary support provided by a grant from the Ministry of Education and Training.

Sean Purdy, a PhD. candidate, Queen's University History Department, began a 14-week position in collections care and management on July 8. The position is funded through the new Federal Young Canada Works Programme.

Dinosaurs Downtown, our site restoration fund raiser, was very successful with over 11,000 visitors attending and \$12,000 raised. Two staff positions for this project were

funded through a Section 25 grant, and one through a Summer Career Placement grant (both federal). This fund raiser has started us toward the \$150,000 required for the museum's portion of this phase of the site restoration.

Get involved in and support Glanmore National Historic Site, Your community museum!

The museum's annual volunteer recruitment, orientation and train-

ing series begins on September 9 and continues throughout September. Our current volunteers desperately need reinforcements!

Volunteer Recruitment Day, September 9, 10:00 - 11:30. Anyone interested in volunteering please attend.

This is an opportunity for all current volunteers to meet old friends and welcome new volunteers.

Refreshments will be served.

### Coming events

New volunteer training September 16, 9:30 - 11:30.

All volunteer training September 23, 9:30 - 11:30.

Education programme training workshop September 26, 9:30 - 11:30.

Docents Brown Bag Lunch September 30 12:00 - 1:00.

Auxiliary book and bake sale at Bay View Mall October 9 - 11.

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

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