

OUTLOOK



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

March 1, 1982

1. TUESDAY, MARCH 16, is a date to mark on your calendar of events. It's the regular meeting of the Society and you and your friends are invited to attend. The topic will be UNCLE TOM'S DIARY or THE DIARY OF THOMAS NIGHTINGALE, and Malcolm ("Mac") Wallbridge will be arranging the program.

Thomas Nightingale was the son of James Nightingale, a Toronto hotel-owner who deserted that city in the 1850's so that Thomas and his other children could enjoy the advantages of living on Huffs Island in Prince Edward County. Besides farming, Thomas tried his hand at several other occupations, among them mining. The diary he kept from 1867 to 1871 will be the subject of the illustrated talk by MAC WALLBRIDGE. Assisted by several friends, Mac has retraced and photographed the route his ancestor followed through the North Hastings area. The Madawaska River, the York River, Bell's Rapids, and Bark Lake are a few of the locations that we will see a century after Thomas Nightingale visited and described them.

Plan to attend the meeting in the Main Gallery of the Corby Library, Belleville, on TUESDAY, MARCH 16
with coffee and fellowship at 7:30 P.M.
and the meeting and speaker at 8:00 P.M.

2. We have asked Mac Wallbridge to have copies of the booklets he has prepared on Thomas Nightingale's diaries available at the meeting, so that members may purchase them and have Mac autograph them.
3. Our HERITAGE DAY CELEBRATION on February 15 was a tremendous success. About 80 members and friends were on hand as Dr. LORIS RUSSELL, Curator Emeritus of the Royal Ontario Museum, spoke on FARM AND HOME IN UPPER CANADA. An excellent series of slides helped bring the topic to life.
4. Thanks to THE HERITAGE CANADA FOUNDATION for supplying Heritage Day buttons for those attending the February 15th meeting, as well as appropriate wall posters. The Society was pleased to be observing Heritage Day with many other groups from one end of Canada to the other.
5. MINUS ONE HUNDRED has become a regular feature of our monthly meetings. GEORGE SUPER brought us up-to-date on events of a century ago at our last meeting. Added features were reports by ANDRE MERCIER, our liaison person involved with the Heritage Canada Foundation, and LEONA RIGGS, who read an American newspaper account of Belleville at the time of her grandfather's arrival in town in 1881.
6. A welcome visitor at our February meeting was TOM WRIGHTMEYER, the first president of this Society, 1957-58. Tom was present to see his son-in-law STEPHEN GENEJA honored as our February Citizen of the Month. Tom recently returned to Belleville from Kingston and we expect him to attend our 25th Birthday Party on October 1st. Another former president who's indicated he'll be present is TOM RANSOM, our first treasurer. Tom Ransom will come from Toronto and bring with him his well-known MAGIC LANTERN SHOW, which used to be a feature of our Christmas celebrations at the old museum on Church Street.

- 7. Another of our early executive members we hope to see at the Birthday Party in October is HELEN FRALECK, who served as secretary in the Society's second year. Helen has preserved a set of the early minutes, which she has turned over to us, and we are grateful. The original minutes began:

"October 1, 1957.

A small group of people met in the City Hall Council Chamber on Tuesday evening, October 1, to discuss the possibilities of proceeding with the organization of a Historical Society for Hastings County.

The meeting was called to order by Mrs. J. Haig, who stated that she felt there was considerable interest throughout the county, if the organization could be once established. It was moved by Mr. J. Haig, and seconded by Mr. T.G. Wrightmeyer, that a slate of officers be appointed from the group present, to carry on for the time being. Carried.

The temporary slate of officers appointed were - President, Mr. T.G. Wrightmeyer; Vice-President, Mr. K.M. Bird; Secretary Mrs. M. Robson; Treasurer, Mr. T. Ransom; Publicity Director, Mr. G. Boyce.

It was agreed that we charge a membership fee of \$1.00 to help defray some small expenses in connection with advertising, and also it was felt it might have a psychological value.

Mrs. Haig said she felt sure Mr. Doran of the Recreation Committee would be willing to assist the group, handle a mailing list, etc. The names of several other people and organizations in the county were suggested as being likely interested in the formation of the Society.

It was reported that some old books and papers belonging to the late Mr. W.C. Mikel are at present stored in the basement at the Public Library. Miss [Beryle] Campbell and Mr. Boyce agreed to go and sort through them to see if they contained anything of value to the Historical Society.

It was decided to hold a meeting at Shire Hall on October 15, at which time plans were to be made for a public meeting in November. Two suggestions were made for a possible speaker in November - the Rev. Squire of Consecon, or Mr. Claude Young of Wellington.

After some further informal discussion the meeting was adjourned."

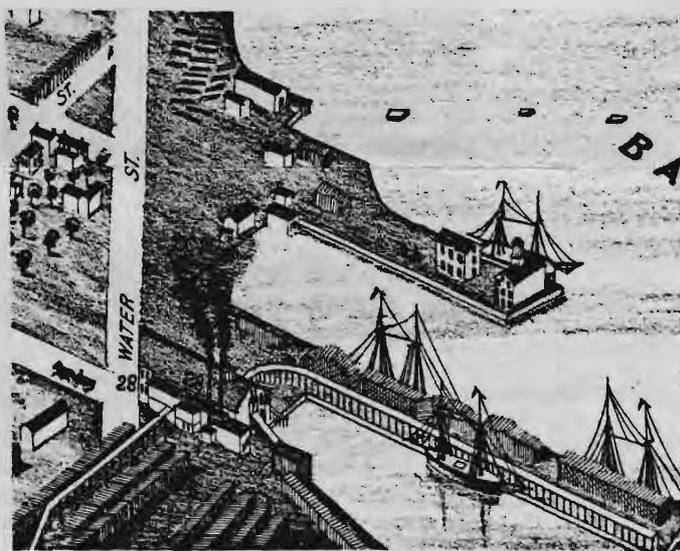
It hardly seems possible that it is almost 25 years since that meeting! We hope to have the entire original executive and Mrs. Haig, who arranged the meeting, back on October 1st.

If you know the names of any other original members who were at the first meeting and would be interested in coming on the 1st, let us know.

- 8. The Historic Structures Committee of the Society has asked that we extend a public word of thanks to HELEN FRALECK, who has been a tremendous help to members of the committee, supplying them with "tea, cookies, and memories".

- 9. An answer to the Quiz in the last OUTLOOK. The section of the 1874 Bird's-Eye View showed the Rathbun Steam Saw Mill and Lumber Yard, the site of the present Victoria Park. Other sites shown were (32) the planing mills and (33) the grain elevators. The tracks of the Grand Junction Raulway were visible on Pinnacle Street.

Now here's the next section of the 1874 view. Do you need any help in locating this scene along the local waterfront?



- 10. Your Homework Assignment from the last OUTLOOK asked you to examine a section of James Haslett's 1845 Plan of Belleville. LOIS FOSTER gave us some clues to buildings at the Annual Meeting. Lois will answer your questions at the March meeting. Also, other sections of the map can be examined.

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

P.O. Box 1418
Belleville, Ontario

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for the enlightenment, edication,
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17. Queen's University will be holding a Spring-Summer Course "An Introduction to Nineteenth and Twentieth Century Architecture" at Loyalist College on Tuesday and Thursday evenings, from 7 to 10 o'clock, from May 4 to July 22, 1982. The instructor will be MALCOLM THURLBY, a member of our Society and a recognized authority on the topic. For information contact Queen's at 547-3283. Incidentally, the course may be taken for credit or audited and readers who have taken Malcolm's earlier courses at Moira Night School should consider this as a logical extension of those courses.
18. MARGARET ARCHIBALD, a research historian with the National Historic Parks and Sites Branch of Parks Canada [Ottawa, K1A 1G2] is seeking information on the manufactured goods produced by planing mills and sash, door, and blind factories, such as the Rathbun enterprises of Deseronto. The Rathbuns operated one of the largest such factories in Canada and its products supplied both foreign and domestic markets. If you know of any records of the Rathbun's sash, door and blind departments, such as bills of sales, catalogues, or photographs, please contact Margaret.
19. The Bay of Quinte Branch of the United Empire Loyalists' Association of Canada is planning a workshop for prospective members on Saturday, April 3, 1982, from 12:30 P.M. to 4:30 P.M. in the Educentre in Bloomfield. Anyone wishing to research his or her Loyalist roots (or suspected Loyalist roots) is invited to attend. Experienced Loyalist researchers will be present. There is no charge.
20. We are pleased to read in the Madoc Historical Foundation's February Newsletter that the foundation's suggestions to the Ministry of Transportation concerning reconstruction of Highway 62 and its effects on local historic sites, were sufficient to cause the ministry to revise plans and change designs. The sites are to be preserved.
21. The Madoc Historical Foundation continues to spearhead plans to display in Madoc the 1878 'Model School' bell. It is gratifying to see the display of local, historical enthusiasm that this bell has created.
22. On March 4th, I will be speaking to the Marmora Historical Foundation. We wish this foundation well. Marmora is rich in historical tradition [the iron works is one indication of this heritage] and the executive and members of the foundation deserve encouragement.
23. A belated "thanks" to Chuck Mowat and the Marmora Senior School staff for the note of appreciation, following receipt of the Society's materials to encourage the study of the local heritage in schools.
24. Hope to see as many as possible at our March 16 meeting when MAC WALLBRIDGE will tell [and show] us something from THOMAS NIGHTINGALE's diary and trip through North Hastings, shortly after the gold rush began in Hastings.

Gerry Boyce

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