

OUTLOOK

The Newsletter of THE HASTINGS COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

P.O. BOX 1418 - BELLEVILLE, ONTARIO

March 1, 1984

1. ONTARIO'S BICENTENNIAL continues to focus the attention of many people on the proud history of our province. OUTLOOK brings you news of events - past and future - relating to BICENTENNIAL, especially the roots of our settlement in Loyalist times. Our friendly town crier announces a major event for March 20th.
2. YOU are cordially invited to attend a GENERAL MEETING of the Society to be held on

TUESDAY
March 20th
in the
Auditorium
of the
QUINTE LIVING CENTRE
370 Front Street
Belleville
to enjoy
RUSS WALLER's
Dramatic Reading
"A LOYALIST DIARY"



Russ Waller is a Kingston actor and a member of the United Empire Loyalist Association of Canada.

His acting career began in Repertory Theatre in Ottawa and he has worked in summer stock theatre, Stratford, and CBC Toronto productions. He spent thirteen years as Professor of Drama at Queen's University.

The Diary has been researched and fabricated from many first-hand accounts of the conditions faced by our Ontario ancestors in the aftermath of the American Revolution. It is presumed to be written by a 15-year old girl who escapes with her family from Albany, New York, journeys through the Hudson and Mohawk Valleys, and arrives at Cataraqui. The diary recounts the hardships and adventures encountered in settling on virgin land in Upper Canada.

There will be a coffee and social half-hour commencing at 7:30 P.M. and the meeting is scheduled for 8:00 P.M.

This promises to be an excellent evening. Bring your family and friends.

28. Briefly noted . . . but VERY IMPORTANT . . . the Headline News that the McINTOSH-RIDLEY HOUSE on Belleville's South Front Street is being saved, thanks to the group of businessmen who are concerned about our heritage and see a future for the building AND the tremendous efforts of the QUINTE CHAPTER of THE ARCHITECTURAL CONSERVANCY OF ONTARIO.

2. One reason for the 7:30 social half-hour before the meetings begin is to give members and guests a chance to see ^{some} of the items that are displayed. These items relate to genealogy, our extensive picture collection, the cemetery indexing project, sales materials published by the society (including the 1874 Bird's-Eye View of Belleville), and newsletters from neighbouring heritage groups. We are pleased to see the positive response to these displays.
3. **EXTRAVAGANZA IN ONTARIO'S HISTORY** would be one way of describing the highly successful HERITAGE DAY Meeting on February 20th. About ninety members and friends of the Society crowded the dining room of the Quinte Living Centre to hear our "mystery speaker" outline some of the unusual features in our local history. Modesty forbids that this writer should say more about the success of the evening.
4. Fifteen people submitted entries in the "Name the Mystery Speaker" contest on the 20th. The winner of the draw was CLAIRE LAMONT of Picton.
5. The winner of the "Can You Name These Pictures?" contest in the February OUTLOOK was JOAN de SALIS. She was one of several entrants who correctly identified the pictures as:
 - A. Front Street looking south, after 1873
 - B. Ontario's Bicentennial Logo
 - C. Albert College (the Belleville Seminary)
 - D. Gatling Gold Mine, late 19th century
6. Thanks to NICK MIKA of MIKA PUBLISHING there were several lucky winners of book prizes at the February meeting. One of the prizes was BELLEVILLE, PORTRAIT OF A CITY by Nick and Helma Mika. This new book chronicles the events of the last fifty years and concludes that "Belleville today offers its citizen the charm and atmosphere of a long established place together with amenities which are usually found only in larger centres." WANDA SINE was the most appreciative winner.
7. ELAINE PRESTON brought Society members up to date on the campaign to keep the Hastings County Land Registry copy books in Belleville and in the Land Registry Office, as noted in PENNY GORDON's article in the Intell. Since that time, word has been received that the books will be left here for a few further months, but that the Ministry still wants them removed from the Land Office. Elaine and her committee are continuing to press for their retention in the Land Registry Office. We will hear more at future meetings from Elaine.

Copy book update

Elaine Preston of the Hastings County Historical Society Monday reported the society has made its first direct appeal to the Ministry of Consumer and Commercial Relations regarding the old city and Hastings County land registry copy books at the land registry office in Belleville. The society, she said, has written to the minister, Robert Elgie. It is also circulating a petition to keep the books—dating back to 1800—in Belleville, rather than having them sent to Kingston. The original intent of the ministry, she said, was to microfilm old documents and then destroy the originals. However, the provincial archives stepped in and some records have been saved already—such as the local ones now at Queen's University. However, the remaining copy books at Belleville should stay in the area. And, Preston said, there is room for them at the registry office, although alternative sites are being investigated.

Feb-23/84

8. MINUS ONE HUNDRED continues to be a popular feature at Society meetings. At the last meeting BOB FREEMAN reported on several major stories of a century ago. These included preparations for the Loyalist Centennial Celebrations and a meeting on February 18, 1884, to organize an historical society in Belleville. Thanks to Bob for the copy of the writeup from the Daily Ontario of February 19, 1884 (available on microfilm in the newspaper collections of the Corby Public Library Reference Room).

9. Although the winners of our Good Citizen Awards normally are announced in advance in OUTLOOK, the last one was kept as a surprise. The Intell carried this article after the February meeting:

Good Citizen Award

The February Good Citizen Award from the Hastings County Historical Society was a secret until the society's meeting Monday. At that time, Alice Deline was named recipient for the monthly award for her work in genealogy—helping to arrange workshops and working with families on individual genealogies—and her work with the society's cemetery committee into cemeteries in Hastings County.

Our sincere appreciation goes to Alice for her many activities on behalf of the Society. We are proud to count her as an active director and supporter.

10. The March Good Citizen Award goes to a longtime member and supporter of the Society who is closely associated with the Hastings County Museum. BETH PURDY has been a "regular" at the Museum since it opened and is one of the most knowledgeable volunteer guides. Museum Curator Mary Simonds describes Beth Purdy as "a super supporter" and "one of our most enthusiastic people". Hats off to Beth Purdy for her countless hours of volunteer work and for helping to make the Museum a great place to visit.

HISTORICAL SOCIETY.

A Meeting Held Last Night to Organize such a Movement.

Chief Justice Sheldon, one of the most distinguished members of the celebrated Historical Society of Buffalo, met by invitation last evening at the hospitable residence of Mr. J. Lyons Biggar, Messrs. Thos. Willb, John J. B. Fint, C. Bogart, W. R. Smith, and W. N. Ponton to discuss the organization of an Historical Society in Belleville. Judge Sheldon explained in very eloquent and expressive language the many advantages resulting from such a society. Everything which bears upon the history of the country is gathered and preserved; a record and brief history of the old inhabitants, old plans and maps of city and country, showing old land marks, history of the principal buildings, collection of photographs and paintings of old citizens and residents of the country. A museum of all objects of interest connected with the growth and history of the country; record of marriages, births, and deaths. It was resolved that those present should meet the Marchison Society on Monday next and endeavor to arrange for the formation of the society. A great deal of enthusiasm was manifested which augers well for the success of the project.



YOUR SPACE

READERS HAVE THEIR SAY

11. JOHN E. WANNAMAKER, secretary of the SEVENTH TOWN HISTORICAL SOCIETY, Ameliasburgh, writes to thank us for sending OUTLOOK and notes that this energetic group is "still working on our old school in Ameliasburgh village and writing a book on the township. Mrs. Clifford (Marion) Calnan is chairman of the Book Committee."

We were delighted to see that John Wannamaker and HARRY BISDEE (longtime curator of the Ameliasburgh Museum) were able to attend the February 20th meeting. We hope to see them and other members from the Seventh Town Historical Society at future meetings.

12. ARCHIE LAMONT of Picton sends along a fascinating map of the Belleville area, produced on December 21, 1798, in connection with a petition signed by 61 local residents, supporting John W. Meyers' attempts to receive part of the Indian Reserve at the mouth of the Moira River.

Signers included:

John Bleecker,
Caleb Gilbert,
George W. Meyers,
David Sager,
and members of many prominent pioneer families. Archie included a copy of the petition and the map for the Society's archives in the Canadiana Room of the Corby Public Library. Incidentally, the map clearly shows the location of Meyers' mills and other buildings (including his



brick house) on the north half of lot 5 in the First Concession of Thurlow Township. The originals are in the Public Archives of Canada, Upper Canada Land Petitions "S" Bundle Miscellaneous 1783-1818 (R.G. 1, L3, Vol. 446 (a)). Our thanks to Archie Lamont for this addition to the archives.

13. A reminder from John Wannamaker that the Seventh Town Historical Society normally meets the fourth Tuesday of the month in the Ameliasburgh Township Hall. The program on March 27th will be a paper on Folklore and Traditions of Old England: customs, culture, and superstitions. It will be presented by Mrs. KEN (MAY) STEWART of Carrying Place, who was employed for a number of years at Black Creek Pioneer Village.

14. LLOYD LOBB, chairman of the Quinte Branch of the Ontario Genealogical Society, was a welcome guest at our February meeting. He writes saying that "it was nice to see so many in attendance" and asking that the two organizations exchange newsletters. We are pleased to accept this suggestion, since "Searchlight", the quarterly magazine produced by the Quinte O.G.S. Branch, is an excellent addition to our "Information Table" and a valuable source of information to our Genealogical Committee headed by ALICE DELINE.
15. MARY GOWER, secretary of the Trent Port Historical Society, sends our readers notice of an important meeting in Trenton at the Dufferin Centre on Wednesday evening, March 21, at 7:30 P.M. This Public Meeting sponsored by the Trent Port Historical Society is intended to determine the extent of community support the society can expect in its efforts to acquire the Police Station building as a Community Museum/Historic site. A "panel of experts" from Quinte area centres will deal with similar situations in other centres and possible sources of financial support. The panel will be chaired by BABE JAMES. This promises to be an interesting and informative meeting dealing with the history of one of this area's most significant buildings and the Trenton society extends a warm invitation to attend.

For those of our readers unfamiliar with the building to be discussed, these extracts from "Historic Hastings" will be of interest:



Trenton's Town Hall and Market Building, showing a busy market day, 1907.



Trenton's first municipal seal, used in the 1850's.

The first county directory (1860-61) described a present landmark: "There is a Town Hall built of stone, 60 x 40 feet, of some architectural pretensions, having a council chamber, ante-room, &c. in the second story. The lower story is occupied with butchers' stalls, clerk's office, and lock-up. Around it is an open space with hay scales, fire engine house, and ground for outside market."

16. March is a busy month for the Trent Port Historical Society. On Saturday, the 24th, the Society and the Ontario Historical Society are sponsoring a BICENTENNIAL WORKSHOP on ORAL HISTORY at the Dufferin Centre. Topics to be discussed will include: "What is Oral History?"; equipment Do's and Don't's; preparation for interviews; How to Interview - techniques and methods; application and identification; release forms and legal implications; classification; transcription. The cost is \$20 for members of the Ontario Historical Society, members of the Trent Port Historical Society, and Senior Citizens; \$25 for non-members; and \$3 for lunch. The registration deadline is Wednesday, March 14. If you're interested, send in your registration immediately. Incidentally, in addition to several speakers from the Toronto area, our own vice-president and education officer GEORGE SUPER will describe an oral history project in which our Society was involved a few years ago.

Trenton
March 24, 1984

Registration Form

ORAL HISTORY



NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

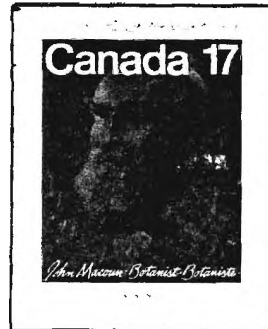
TELEPHONE _____ MEMBERSHIP # _____

PAYMENT ENCLOSED: Registration _____ Lunch \$3 _____ TOTAL _____

Return with payment to: The Ontario Historical Society,
78 Dunloe Road, Room 207,
Toronto, Ontario, M5P 2T6

17. Hats off to the LENNOX AND ADDINGTON COUNTY MUSEUM at Napanee for its excellent "Paper Elephant Day" Program on Heritage Day. Seven members of our Society journeyed to Napanee for the occasion, as well as ELIZABETH MITCHELL, reference librarian at the Corby Public Library. All brought back glowing reports on the day, including the computer system and the cataloguing of the extensive collection of early documents (many relating to Belleville and Hastings County).
18. Word from the Heritage Branch of the Ministry of Citizenship and Culture is that the inscription for the John W. Meyers plaque (once located in Belleville's Victoria Park) should be revised during the summer. Plans for the erection of a plaque at Belleville City Hall have been delayed, because of staff reductions and financial restraints; however, the event may take place in 1986, in conjunction with celebrations of Belleville's Sesquicentennial (150 years) as an incorporated municipality.. Belleville became a "Police Village" in 1836.

19. The February OUTLOOK highlighted a request from Belleville's Senior Planner W. STEWART MURRAY for suggestions for historical names associated with the City that would be suitable for use for street-naming purposes. Two suggestions have surfaced to date. BETH GREEN suggests that JOHN MACOUN should be high on the list of candidates. This prominent Canadian biologist had a strong association with Albert College, has been honoured by the Canadian Post Office [how many other local residents can you think of who have been honoured on stamps?], and has been praised by Pierre Berton for his influence on the development of Western Canada.



Thanks to Beth for this excellent suggestion. Another name suggested by a member is that of James McNabb. Actually, there were two prominent early citizens by that name. One was a local member of parliament (then known as the legislative assembly) and a prominent rival of John W. Meyers. This McNabb played a prominent role in having Meyers' name removed from the settlement at the mouth of the Moira River and his biography appears in the most recent volume of the Dictionary of Canadian Biography (volume V). The other James McNabb was the builder of "The Riverboat" on West Bridge Street and lost his life in the Rebellion of 1837, when he was accidentally killed by running onto the bayonet of one of his own men; he is buried in St. Thomas burying ground and the marker can be seen to the northwest of the church. Are there other names to be suggested to Mr. Murray??? If so, drop a note soon.

20. Speaking of Canada Post, OUTLOOK extends a belated THANK YOU to Canada Post for its stamps which feature various aspects of our tradition. Consider these Medium-value Definitives highlighting heritage artifacts.

These stand for various aspects of life in Canada during the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries. The 37¢ stamp features a plow and represents agriculture. The 48¢ stamp shows a cradle and the 64¢ stamp a stove. These two stamps represent domestic life and pay tribute to the Canadian women of this era, a group of people whose contributions to the European settlement of Canada are often overlooked.



Indian women, for example, made vital contributions to the fur trade, which opened many parts of Canada to commerce and eventually to settlement. The women dressed furs, made moccasins and snowshoes, helped make canoes, and acted as interpreters and language teachers. By catching fish, harvesting rice, and making pemmican and maple sugar they provisioned the fur trade and sometimes saved the traders from starvation.



European pioneer women adapted themselves to a heavy workload, to a strange environment, and to loneliness and isolation. Their hard work helped to build the Canada many Canadians enjoy today. To mitigate the hardships of pioneer life, Catharine Parr Trail, author of a mid-nineteenth century guide for female settlers, suggested that they maintain a positive attitude and not "neglect those little household adornments which will give a look of cheerfulness to the very humblest home." She listed the skills a woman would have to acquire, from cooking a squirrel to getting a child out of a burning building. She felt that the work and sacrifices were worthwhile, however, because Canada was "the land of hope."

21. "Ode to Ivanhoe" is the title of the newest book relating to the history of Hastings County. It was written by WENDY REEVES and JANICE FLEMING and made possible by the Government of Canada through the Summer Canada Work Program. The 52-page book provides much information on the history of the community and adjacent sections of Huntingdon Township. Although the community's name originally was "St. George", the name was changed to "Ivanhoe" in 1857, as the result of Thomas Emo's reading of Sir Walter Scott's novel of that name. Emo was an early schoolmaster at Ivanhoe and served as reeve of Huntingdon Township and warden of Hastings County. Congratulations to the township council and the many people who supplied information and pictures for the book.



Loyal Orange Lodge at Ivanhoe, circa 1900.

22. A suggestion to individuals and groups researching the histories of individual schools. In 1970-71, I spent much time in Ottawa, Toronto, Kingston, and Belleville looking for information on the early history of education in this county. I accumulated several hundred photostat copies of relevant information (dating back to the 1780's) and a few thousand index cards of summary information. There's a good chance that I can supply you with early information relating to your school. For example, I have loaned the school reunion committee at BAYVIEW ELEMENTARY SCHOOL in Belleville (formerly S.S. 20 Thurlow) copies of documents from the 1850's and 1860's describing in great detail the school facilities, the teacher, the students, etc. If you think of researching school history, please give me a call at 968-5023.
23. Remember: it was on May 22, 1784 that the MOHAWKS OF THE BAY OF QUINTE landed near the site of Deseronto. Our April 17th meeting will salute this proud people.

24. Great news for writers and researchers. The Directors have approved a program of awards for HERITAGE RESEARCH PROJECTS relating to the history of Hastings County. The program is open to all writers and researchers and two awards are being offered. First prize is \$50 and a book; second prize is \$25 and a book. All entrants receive certificates of participation. GEORGE SUPER is in charge of the program. The deadline for submissions is June 16, 1984, (the Bicentennial of the landing of the Loyalists at Adolphustown). Watch for information in the April OUTLOOK and listen for it at our March 20th meeting.
25. We're pleased to report another Corporate Sponsor - ALUMINUM STAR PRODUCTS LTD. This company makes letters for other sign makers, and manufactures memorials, dedication plaques, crests, and coats of arms. Incidentally, this was the Belleville Company singled out by Peter C. Newman in a recent Financial Post Magazine article spotlighting success stories.
26. Thanks to funds provided by our Corporate Sponsors, work is continuing on a LOYALIST YEARS Kit for use in local schools. Education Officer GEORGE SUPER has been working with Hastings County Board of Education Curriculum Coordinator LLOYD JONES, and other teachers are to be involved.

TEACHERS are advised that one item in the kit is already available. Our Society has purchased a copy of the TV program on the Mohawk Landing Re-enactment at Tyendinaga. This 27 minute film was prepared by FLOYD PATTERSON and a crew from CKWS-TV following last May 22nd's re-enactment. Narration is by Floyd and Mohawk historian R. MELVILLE HILL. The program will be appropriate for the Loyalist section of the Intermediate curriculum as well as secondary school history programs wishing to highlight the Bicentennial. The master copy of this tape is now available in the Instructional Media Centre and copies can be obtained by contacting HANS KOOMANS. A copy is also available from the Native Studies Program at Moira Secondary School.
27. Attention ADULT STUDENTS who may wish to take the LOCAL HISTORY COURSE I teach at B.C.I.V.S. Now is the time to register for this course for next year. Contact the guidance office at 962-9581 or call me at 968-5023. Also, both MOIRA and B.C.I.V.S. are hoping to offer a NATIVE STUDIES COURSE with emphasis on local Indian history. Contact either guidance office or me for information. Your Society provides materials for both courses.

Moira →
962-8668



P.S. Hope to see as many of you as possible at the meeting (March 20) *George Boyce*

A REMINDER CONCERNING MEMBERSHIP FEES FOR 1984 . . .

Membership Secretary ISABEL WRIGHT and Treasurer PAT BENNETT are pleased with the response to our appeal for membership renewals. A majority of the 1983 members have renewed for '84, However, there are a number who have not yet sent in their fees.

If you find a RED mark below, we would ask that you complete this form and return it with payment as soon as possible. If you have paid your fees within the past few days, please ignore this request; our letters probably have crossed in the mail. If you believe that you've already paid for '84 and we've checked the box in error, please let us know; we're only human and errors can (and do occasionally) happen.



A RED mark indicates that fees for '84 have not yet been received. This will be the last OUTLOOK we can send.

(A) YES, I (we) would like to support the Hastings County Historical Society through membership in 1984.

I (we) am (are) enclosing the membership fee of dollars for the following type of membership: [Please check one type]

TYPE	SINGLE PERSON	FAMILY
REGULAR	\$7.	\$10.
SENIOR CITIZEN	\$5.	\$7.
STUDENT	\$5.	XXXXXXXXXX

(B) I (we) would like to assist the work of the Society by donating dollars. Please send a receipt for Income Tax

NOTE: PLEASE RETURN THIS ENTIRE SHEET (including the mailing label) to the Hastings County Historical Society, P.O. 1418, Belleville, Ontario. If there is any error in the printed name or address on the label, please correct it. Many thanks.

YOUR monthly quota
of exciting news and
views, dots and dashes
from the folks at the

HASTINGS COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY
P.O. BOX 1418
Belleville, Ontario

who remind you that
RUSS WALLER's
"A LOYALIST DIARY"
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