

Next Meeting

**Tuesday,
May 17,
1994**

Auditorium of the
Quinte Living Centre

**7:30 Coffee
8:00 Meeting**

GUEST SPEAKER

in conjunction with St.
Thomas' Church 175th
Anniversary Committee

Ms. Shelley Saunders Ph. D.

Dept. of Anthropology
McMaster University

TOPIC:

Aspects of life and death in
19th century Belleville, from
archaeological studies of St.
Thomas' churchyard

**Members and Public are
cordially invited**

Genealogical information
available in the afternoon of
May 17 at St. Thomas
Church, Belleville

SPECIAL MEETING

Thursday June 16, 1994

Auditorium of the Quinte Living Centre
7:30pm Coffee 8:00pm Meeting

GUEST SPEAKER

Mr. Ted Fraser

Director Confederation Centre of the Arts
Charlottetown, P.E.I. also historian & researcher
Dept. of Canadian Heritage

TOPIC

The life and work of George Ackermann (1801-91) including:

- i) his travels to South America
- ii) his illustrated books

- iii) his homesteading and teaching in Madoc, Roslin, Picton
and Belleville

Members and public are cordially invited.

ISSUE 120

MAY 1994

Outlook

The Hastings County Historical Society

April Meeting

HCHS 3/1/120

Janet Holmes, Assistant Curator of the Canadiana Department of the Royal Ontario Museum, was the guest speaker at our April meeting. Janet opened her talk, on Canadian glass and glassmaking in the period 1880 to 1930, with historical background on early Canada. The main industries were farming and forestry, and the sawmills, gristmills, breweries and distilleries that produced the finished products from these resources. Glass products were first developed for windows in houses and bottles for the trans-

portation of beverages. A factory was established at Caledonia Springs, north of Montreal, in the 1840s to produce bottles for the wider marketing of the natural mineral water found there. The closest factory to the Quinte area was the Mallorytown glassworks, located west of Gananoque on the St. Lawrence River. This factory operated for less than a year, in 1839/1840 and closed due to the unreliable nature of the foreman. Little else is known about the factory, but it probably produced free blown aquamarine glass.

The coming of the railroad changed the industry, permitting larger factories located near railroad lines and long distance marketing of glass products. Bottles began to show the name of the beverage maker, rather than the glassmaker. The 1858 development of the mason jar with its vacuum seal made home canning possible. Another important glass product was medicine bottles.

Pressed glass and tableware manufacture really began about 1880, and there were few Canadian factories. The main original product was small lamps and the chimneys for them which, being

easily broken, created a large market as a replacement item. Tableware was typically a four piece tea set, including cream pitcher, covered sugar bowl, covered butter dish and spoon holder. Sets sold for between \$0.25 and \$1.75, depending upon style. Other standard tableware products were large pitchers, and 8" bowls and footed bowls. The glass was pressed in an iron or steel mould and a team of three men, the gatherer, presser and finisher, were expected to produce 350 footed bowls in four and a half hours. Pressed glass made it possible for most families to have glass tableware. Until the 1890s most products were of clear glass; the first colours used were white or blue opal or emerald green, all at added costs for the final product.

Cut glass, by contrast, was a luxury item, with bowls ranging in price from \$15.00 to \$30.00. Janet explained the process of glass cutting and illustrated her talk with wonderfully detailed slides of both cut and pressed glass pieces, including a slide of a demonstration cut glass bowl showing the stages of work involved in the cutting process.

Leona Hendry

BGH Museum

Have you seen the display in the hospital lobby at the MacDonald Avenue entrance? It will be there for another month, and it is well worth a visit.

It was two years ago that Dr. Bruce Morgan first chaired a small committee with the idea of instituting a medical museum for Belleville General. One member was Rona Rustige, Curator of the Hastings County Museum and member of the Kingston General Hospital museum committee, who gave the benefit of her experience on forming the guidelines for such a museum, its purpose and limitation. Frank Buck-

ley, author of a history of the hospital, became the archivist, since almost at once contributions began to come in from doctors and nurses. The hospital administration made space available, and cooperated in every way.

The first exhibit was of the earliest X-Ray machine used in Belleville, shown beside a large poster of the new CAT scanner. The present display, titled Then and Now, illustrates the old and the new in cardiology, psychiatry, surgery, anaesthesiology, and nursing.

The purpose of the museum is to preserve the his-

tory of Belleville General Hospital since its opening in 1886, and of the practice of medicine and of health care in the area served by the hospital. With the great changes that have occurred it is important to save the pertinent artifacts and archives. For those interested in medical history they are instructive, and for all the rest of us they are fascinating, sometimes puzzling, and very often amusing.

Betsy Boyce

SPECIAL NOTICE

The 1994 annual meeting of the Society will be held on November 15th, a change from past practice of holding the annual meeting in January following the end of the year.

ACO WALKING TOUR

The Architectural Conservancy of Ontario, Quinte Branch walk on May 15th will tour Bridge Street east in Belleville. Watch for further details.

Marble Church Marks 130 Anniversary

When I came to Tweed 30 years ago, one of my first assignments as editor and co-owner of the Tweed News was covering the unveiling of an Ontario Historical Sites Plaque by Alice Parks and David Lockwood, marking the 100th anniversary of the well-known white marble church in the neighbouring community of Actinolite.

Constructed of marble obtained from a local quarry, the church is believed to be the only one of its kind in Canada. The cornerstone was laid by Miss Eliza Holton of Belleville, assisted by Mr. Billa Flint Jr., on June 21, 1864. The building was completed two years later. The first resident minister was the Rev. Thomas Cullen. The dedica-

tion service was held on March 4, 1866. The building was known as the Wesleyan Methodist Church of Bridgewater, now Actinolite. It was designed by a Belleville architect, A.J. Stapley.

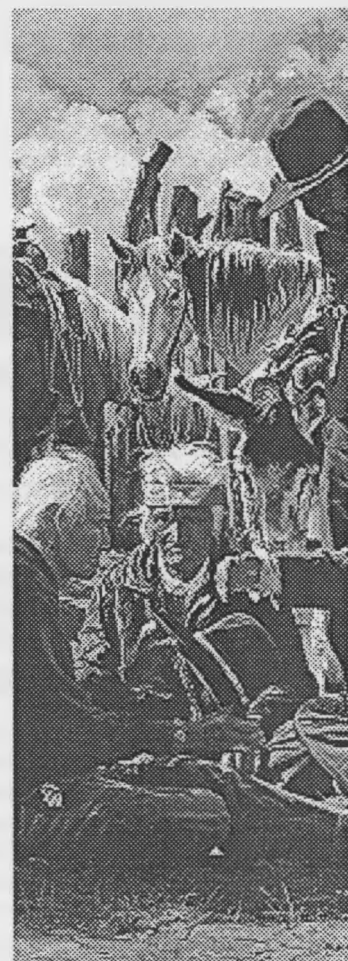
The original building was said to have had a seating capacity of 500 persons, and had a tower and spire rising to a height of 101 feet. Unfortunately, the church and most of the village was destroyed in a disastrous fire that occurred on May 24, 1889, while many of the residents of the community were at Madoc celebrating Queen Victoria's birthday. Only the walls of the church were left standing.

In the following years, the congregation restored their

place of worship. The steeple and gallery were not replaced. With the church Union in 1925, it became the Actinolite United Church. The building has undergone few changes in recent years. The "Rose Windows" were retained, and are an exceptional architectural feature of the building.

Billa Flint had a strong influence on the construction of the Marble Church. He was reeve of Elzevir Township for 21 years. He represented North Hastings in the Legislative Assembly of Canada West from 1847 to 1851, and South Hastings from 1854 to 1857. He was appointed to the Senate in 1867.

W. Clyde Bell



County News

By Gerry Boyce

THE INTELLIGENCER's Saturday column "Where are they Now?" often brings back many happy memories. Jack Evans' interesting feature on Irene Haig (April 16) reminded me of the mid-1950s when Irene and I worked at CJBQ, then at 11 Victoria Avenue. Irene was the women's editor, going by the pen name of Harriet Stevens, and I was the news editor. What Jack did not mention, probably because Irene was too modest to mention it, was her role in starting our society. In fact, she could be called "our founder". Both on the radio and in her *Intelligencer* column "This and That", Irene called on the community to create a Hastings County Historical Society. She persuaded the Belleville Recreation Commission to pay for ads for public meetings to encourage the movement and (on October 1, 1957) chaired the meeting in the City Hall Council Chamber that marked the official beginning of our society. She convinced antique dealer Tom Wrightmeyer to assume the presidency for the first year. Other executive members were school principal Ken Bird (vice-president), teacher Veva Robson (secretary), surveyor Tom Ransom (treasurer), and myself (publicity director). The budget for the first year was \$35 and the first major purchase was a \$25 metal storage cupboard (soon housed in the Corby Library) to hold our archival material. Thanks, Irene, for getting the society started and being a strong supporter for almost 40 years.

THANKS ALSO to *The Intelligencer* and its writers for these

Saturday articles that often focus on our members, including Jack Bradford, Ruth Gaw, and Betsy Boyce.

BETSY BOYCE probably would have been embarrassed. Our picture archivist and the author of *Rebels of Hastings* was singled out for special recognition at the Annual Meeting of the Prince Edward Historical Society on April 19. Guest Speaker, Dr. Jim Love, mentioned the book in glowing terms, as he discussed "The Politics of the School Textbook in the 19th Century." The state of education and the need for standardized texts were causes of the unrest that culminated in the Mackenzie Rebellion. Following the rebellion, Irish-born Canadian educators (including William Hutton of Hastings) were successful in having the Irish National Readers adopted for use in Canada West (Ontario). A native of Prince Edward County and the former head of the Department of History at Brock University's College of Education, Dr. Love is an excellent speaker — entertaining, enlightening, well-paced, and succinct. He used overhead transparencies effectively to show examples (often humorous) of the anti-British bias of American textbooks. Our program chairman, Bernard Wright, grew up near Jim in The County and hopes to have him address our Society.

THE 7TH TOWN (AMELIASBURGH) HISTORICAL SOCIETY celebrated its annual meeting in great style on April 26. It combined a gala celebration of the society's 25th anniversary with a sneak preview of

the new Cunningham House - Marilyn Adams Genealogical Research Centre in Ameliasburgh. More than 60 members and friends (including the entire township council) were on hand for the occasion. The minutes of the first meeting in 1969 were read and events of the past 25 years were relived through word and picture. Negotiations are continuing with the Quinte Branch of the Ontario Genealogical Society to move that branch's extensive archival collection from the Educentre at Bloomfield to the new facility. Congratulations to President John Wanamaker, the executive, and members of the 7th Town Historical Society, who extend a warm invitation to attend the official opening of Cunningham House on Saturday afternoon, June 18.

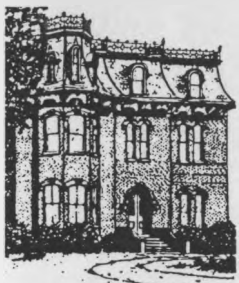
GREAT NEWS ... The Tweed and Area Historical Society has undertaken to secure the former Drs. Allen and Berry Clinic for a Heritage Centre to include Arts and Crafts, Archives, and Tourism Centre. Evan Morton writes: "Soon we shall be able to properly serve the elderly, handicapped, school children and tourists." The Tweed society is actively seeking generous financial support from present and former residents. Donations can be addressed to the Heritage Centre at Box 475 Tweed. All contributions will be recorded in the Memorial Book and will be acknowledged by Income Tax receipts.

MEMBERSHIP NEWS ... Neighbouring county historical societies report these current memberships: Lennox and Addington 124 (including 58 families) and Prince Edward 133. Our Society's membership in 1993 was 203. Gentle reader, are YOU a member of the Hastings County Historical Society? If not, why

not consider supporting our work by joining. Contact Membership Secretary Mary McConnell at 962-7022 or write the Society.

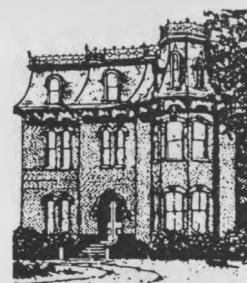
NEWS IN BRIEF ... (1) The Madoc Historical Foundation's Annual Victoria Day House Tour is scheduled for Sunday, May 22. The event is always a highlight of the year ... (2) The Madoc Historical Foundation is planning a heritage garden at the parkette on Russell Street; it should be in full bloom by 1995 ... (3) *The Bancroft Times* has been running a feature on "Pioneers", including an article by Joyce Keller on John Musclow and Family ... (4) Bancroft councillors are suggesting that the Bancroft Museum might consider changing its name to the North Hastings Pioneer Museum in order to attract wider support ... (5) Major Robert Bradford has stepped down as senior executive of the Hastings and Prince Edward Regiment Military Museum; his contribution to the heritage community is appreciated ... (6) The Trent Port Historical Society continues to press for the preservation of the old Town Hall ... (7) The Front of Leeds & Lansdowne Historical Society (near Gananoque) is seeking an exchange of newsletters with our Society ... (8) Diane Koechlin, the enthusiastic, knowledgeable regional consultant for the Ministry of Culture, Tourism and Recreation has moved her office to the Bay View Mall; she retires this fall and the Belleville office closes; the heritage community is indebted to Diane for her great assistance over the years.

1897 HUMOUR from Barney Moorhouse and *The Bancroft Times*: Customer - "I would like to have a nice gown to wear around the house." Salesman - "Size of the house please?"



Your County **Museum**

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



CONSERVATION WORKSHOP

Sunday May 15, 1994
10 am - 12:30 pm
(FILLED)

or

1:30 pm - 4 pm
(GST Included)

Maximum 15 people per session
Pre-registration required

Learn the same methods used by museum personnel in caring for archival materials. Proper methods for handling, caring for and storing your items will be covered including lessons on encapsulation, making book boxes and hinging prints for proper hanging. Bring a personal piece for a care assessment.



TWO WEEKS IN MAY ...AND THEN SOME

As part of the Quinte Arts Council festival "Two Weeks in May ... and Then Some," the Hastings County Museum is offering the following public programmes.

INTERNATIONAL MUSEUMS DAY MAY 18, 1994

In celebration of International Museums Day the Hastings County Museum has a new exhibit on display in the studio. "CABINET OF CURIOSITIES," is an eclectic sampling of artifacts from the permanent collection of the Hastings County Museum. Designed to depict early museum collections, "Cabinet of Curiosities" includes many strange and unusual pieces collected from around the world.

VOLUNTEERS

The Hastings County Museum is proud to announce that 7 of its volunteers will receive Volunteer Service Awards from the Ministry of Citizenship. In Kingston on May 10, Mrs. Joan deSalis and Mrs. Betty Priest are being presented with awards to honour ten years of service with the Hastings County Museum. While Mrs. Katherine Ksianzyna, Mrs. Agnes Johnson, Mrs. Marion Gordon, Mrs. Muriel Edwards and Mrs. Elsie Campbell are all receiving five year service awards. The staff of the Hastings County Museum would like to congratulate these volunteers and thank all the dedicated volunteers who enable the museum to offer high calibre public and school programming.

MEMORIES OF

Mother's **D A Y**

Sunday May 8, 1994

1-4:30 pm

Cost: \$4.00

(& GST) Adults

\$2.00 (GST) children

The Hastings County Museum would like to invite the public to celebrate Mother's Day afternoon at Glanmore.

Adult's can enjoy a relaxing tea and tour while children can make a special gift for Mother.

Reservations would be appreciated for large parties.



Outlook

The Hastings County Historical Society Newsletter

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

Address Label