

# BULLETIN

THE ONTARIO HISTORICAL SOCIETY

LOCAL SOCIETIES COMMITTEE

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## New and Good Ideas?

Now that the season for planning programs is near at hand, it deserves a moment's reflection. Do we really have any new and good ideas? We hope so. Quite likely we will not have enough, and perhaps none at all. But supposing the worst, there is hope. Shakespeare borrowed his plots. He was satisfied with adapting and executing others' ideas in his own style and time.

Pageants, observances, books, essays, meetings, films, site restorations, markers, - none of these are new. But all of them can be adapted and carried out in a style that is new, and by new people in a new time. Wherever that happens, the result can be not merely novelty, but excellence.

## An Explanation

We have been having all kinds of confusion among our members when they send in their fees. Our Fee is still \$5.00 per year when sent in directly to us by an individual or a society. The agency fee of \$7.00 is only applicable when it is sent to us by one of the subscription agencies, who charge a substantial amount for their services. The net result is that we have been returning many \$2.00 refund cheques for overpayment of fees.

Just how long we can hold the line at \$5.00 is anyone's guess, as prices of printing and publication are steadily rising. At any rate, members will be given plenty of warning if it is necessary to raise fees.

## Copyright

Page 7 of the Globe and Mail for Thursday, February 25th, 1971, features a long article entitled, "Saving the Printed Page from Pirates" by a former Queen's University Professor. This article is very timely, as there is a widespread ignorance of copyright law, and since copying machines have become so widely available and the copies they produce so inexpensive. Under the Canadian Copyright Act, copyright continues for the life of the author plus fifty years. In the case of periodicals, - i.e. Ontario History, - the copyright lasts for the life of the periodical. It is illegal to reproduce copyrighted material without the permission of the author and the payment of royalties. However, single copies for personal, private use are permitted.



All Ontario Historical Society publications are copyrighted. The Publications Committee has set up definite requirements for granting permission for the copying of its material, and gives each request individual consideration. It is very important that all historical societies know the broad provisions of Canadian Copyright law and govern themselves accordingly.

From the Renfrew and District Historical Society Newsletter

A man just back from a New England holiday remarked on the many historical sites and landmarks that dot the highways in those states. Along the Kennebec River in Maine, Benedict Arnold's 1775 Quebec expedition is well chronicled. Besides the markers showing where Arnold made a portage, there are excerpts from his diary which make the man and his time more relevant.

Driving in Canada later, our man said he noticed that historic markers were less common and he regretted it. His point is well taken. Ottawa has been energetic in marking points of interest but more has to be done in preservation. Nothing becomes so tiresome to a tourist driver as the white line in the middle of the highway. Give him markers showing the way to historic sites, even those far off the highway and his trip will be easier, happier and more interesting.

Historians this year welcomed the announcement that the Dominion and Ontario Governments had made a working agreement to accelerate the acquisition and preservation of historic structures in the Province. The sums involved are not large by present standards of governmental spending, but some historic buildings in danger of being replaced by a plaque or a cairn can now be saved.

Burlington Historical Society

In the President's address to the Annual Meeting of the Burlington Historical Society, he lists the aims and objectives of the society as set out by Constitution. He then looks back over the projects and works of the society during the sixties to see how well they fit in with the stated aims and objectives. He then goes on to "take a look at 'the shape of things to come'" - historically speaking - in Burlington. Three projects are listed for action during the coming year,

1. a search for the history of six abandoned burying grounds in the town;
2. to discover and set up a sort of pictorial history of Burlington for a permanent display;
3. to locate and record historic buildings in the town.



The last paragraph of this address should be considered seriously by every local society. "It is plain to be seen that all these plans call for Action. If you have a real interest in helping to uncover history - the history of your own community - in fact if you have any sort of inclination to play the part of Archaeologist, Cartographer, Artist, Surveyor, Detective, Diplomat, Student, Bibliographer, or just good plain Manual Labourer - since all these are encompassed in the name "Historian" - then get in touch with the Burlington Historical Society, and get into the Action".

Can you think of any better advice?

#### Waterloo Historical Society

One of the meetings of the Waterloo Historical Society explored the work done by school classes in local history. The first speaker was Neil Campbell, a Grade 13 student at Kitchener-Waterloo Collegiate in the History Class of Mr. Ian Rankine. He presented a summary of a 13-week Waterloo County Survey by a group of 13 members of the class. Each student covered a different phase of research. The group used various books, clippings, Waterloo Historical Society volumes and archives files. They studied maps, tombstones, charts, etc. to show the growth of the County from townships to villages, towns and cities. A field trip was made covering most of the County. All the information gathered was assembled into a major essay. This was printed and bound into a volume by the students concerned. Mr. Rankine commented on the value of the project to the students in learning about the area in which they lived, as well as the value of learning to work together. A copy of the book was presented to the Library for its reference collection.

We wonder if any other Societies have tried asking the local history students to take charge of a meeting. It might be one way of arousing interest among the younger people in the community.

#### Peterborough Historical Society

Peterborough Historical Society has an Old Buildings Committee under the Chairmanship of Mrs. Kenneth Kidd. This Committee is using the Ontario Historical Buildings Survey as a starting point for much more detailed reports for Society files. These reports include all the historical and architectural details which family histories, documents and old photographs can yield. Much additional research is needed to complete these records and the Committee is appealing to the people of the community to turn in any useful information they may have. It will take the co-operation of all the citizens of the County to complete this tremendous task.



The picture file, which is an important part of the work is growing. To date it contains over 1,400 black and white negatives and close to 1,500 slides. In addition there are many 8" x 10" reproductions of old photographs, many of which have been copied on to slides.

In addition to the amassing of reports, the information collected has been presented to the public as well as to Society members through slide-tape shows, a weekly newspaper column, T.V. interviews and a non-credit course at Trent University on the Architecture of Peterborough County.

#### Lundy's Lane Historical Society

Effective September 15, 1969, the Lundy's Lane Historical Society and the Lundy's Lane Museum Society joined forces and merged. This was done at a joint meeting of the two societies in St. John the Evangelist Church late in June. Along with the Museum Board, appointed by the City of Niagara Falls, negotiations commenced with the civic body for the removal of the Museum from leased premises to the vacated Stamford Township Hall. Early in April, the job of transferring the artifacts to the new location began. Although this work continued all season, the public was admitted to the museum in June.

President H. N. Misener attended the laying of the cornerstone of the new Niagara Falls City Hall, and presented a condensed history of the Society to be deposited therein.

Regular meetings were resumed in September. The October meeting was hosted by the Stamford Women's Institute and two of their members presented the program.

#### Oakville Historical Society

This Society is very fortunate in two respects, - the town has a block of historic houses built by the founders of the town, and the Society has a women's auxiliary which is enthusiastic and active. When these two were put together, the result was a day-long Autumn House Tour.

The Tour began at 10:00 a.m. when the doors of some ten local residences were opened to the public and selling commenced at Petticoat Lane in Lakeside Park. There was a great deal of activity here all through the day, proving this to be a very profitable venture. The close proximity of Petticoat Lane and the Museum Buildings to three houses on the Tour, as well as the Oakville Club where luncheon was held, provided an ideal set-up for the visitors.



The floral displays were arranged by the Horticultural Society and, as usual, proved to be a very popular aspect of the Tour. Many people look forward to these delightful displays from year to year.

A highlight in several of the homes was the arrangement of table settings, displaying interesting pieces of glass, beautiful china and lustrous silver. The settings included a Dinner setting in the Fearman House using Canton China, a Dessert setting in the Lindsay apartment, Thanksgiving at the Poole's and a Christmas setting at the Tunis House.

Visitors numbered over 1,300, and everyone agreed that the day had been a tremendous success.

#### Stormont, Dundas and Glengarry Historical Society

The Stormont, Dundas and Glengarry Historical Society held its Annual Meeting and 50th Anniversary Celebration on January 25th, 1971. The main speaker was Mrs. Angus, President of The Ontario Historical Society. In the Secretary's Report of the year's activities, one unusual item appears. On July 1st, 1970, members of the Executive were the guests of the Cornwall Tourist and Convention Bureau for the visit of the replica of the "Nonsuch" to Cornwall Harbour. The colourful ceremony, the opportunity to tour the vessel, and the ensuing Civic Luncheon were very much enjoyed.

#### Ontario Genealogical Society

The Annual Seminar and General Meeting of the Ontario Genealogical Society is scheduled for Friday, May 7th, and Saturday, May 8th, 1971, at McMaster University in Hamilton, Ontario. A lively program is being planned offering practical information about the sources of family history records in the Hamilton - Niagara region, especially those in the Hamilton Public Library and in the Baptist Church Archives at McMaster. A major address will give instruction on the use of Registry Office and Court Records. A brochure giving full information about the Seminar will be available on request in March.

#### The Nodwell Indian Village Park

In about 1,400 A.D. an Indian village of some 1,000 inhabitants existed on the Richard Nodwell farm in Port Elgin, Ontario. It covered some two to three acres, was strongly palisaded and the long-houses within were closely packed together. It is the only known Fortified Indian village in Bruce County, and in many respects is unique and of vast importance. It is to the great credit and foresight of the people of Port Elgin that this site has been taken over by the Town and will be developed as an Historical Site and Park.



Dr. J. V. Wright, Senior Archaeologist, at the National Museum of Man at Ottawa has long known the site and done preliminary work there. In 1969, he undertook further exploration. While only part of the Indian village has been excavated, enough was learned to indicate its interest and value. A committee was formed and has been active in securing the area and in drawing up plans for re-creating the village. A Restoration Fund has been set up and is soliciting donations from individuals and organizations. Bruce County has no historical or archaeological site as yet developed, and it seems fitting that an Indian village of this importance should be the first.

We are indebted to Mr. Fritz Knechtel of Hanover for this information, as well as for a most interesting account of some of the "finds" which have been made at the site.

#### Bruce County Historical Society

This very active society has been working for some time collecting money for an Archives Building. An Archives' Trust Fund has been set up and donations, small and large, to this cause are being solicited. Late last October, a number of members made a trip to visit the Simcoe County Archives building at Minesing, and came away inspired with the thought that some day in the not-too-distant future Bruce County would also have an Archives Building where the valuable papers of pioneer days could be stored. Mrs. Blair Robertson of Port Elgin was the society delegate to the Archives Workshop held by The Ontario Historical Society at Queen's University, Kingston, in November. She has begun cataloguing the great quantity of material on hand.

#### Annual Meeting

Plans for the Annual Meeting of The Ontario Historical Society are almost complete. This year's meeting will be held on the campus of Trent University, Peterborough, from June 17th - 19th inclusive. This campus boasts one of the most beautiful settings in Ontario and the Society hopes you will be one of the beautiful people who will attend. Full information will be sent to all members later.

#### A New Publication

"A Classification System for Glass Beads for the Use of Field Archaeologists" by Prof. Kenneth E. and Martha Ann Kidd, is a publication of the National Historic Sites Service, Ottawa. Archaeologists working on sites occupied after the arrival of Europeans frequently find glass trade beads. Describing these beads has proven to be a frustrating task because to date, there has been no completely satisfactory frame of reference. In this publication,



the authors propose a classification and nomenclature which they hope will permit exact descriptions. All beads seen by the authors are illustrated and described, and new bead types may be added to the system which is expansible to accommodate all possible variations.

This is a beautifully set-up publication and we congratulate the authors. Mrs. Kidd is Chairman of the Old Buildings Committee of the Peterborough Historical Society and is a member of the Executive of The Ontario Historical Society.

#### Summer Courses

1. At Cooperstown, seminars on a variety of historical topics are offered during the first two weeks of July. This all takes place on the lovely grounds of the New York State Historical Society and the Farmers' Museum which is just across the road. Cooperstown is in resort country, in the Finger Lakes district of New York State.
2. The Institute of Pennsylvania Rural Life and Culture will be centered at the Landis Valley Farm Museum near Lancaster, Pa., on June 22-25. There are eight seminars and four workshops to choose from - all having a Pennsylvania-German historical background.
3. The School of Adult Education at McMaster University is offering a choice of two chartered-flight study tours.
  - (a) to Dublin, Ireland, July 5 - August 19,  
and
  - (b) to Naples and Florence, July 12 - August 19.

Both of these are at University level and can be used for credits.

#### A Bargain

The Ontario Historical Society has a number of slightly damaged sets of the Simcoe Papers which it is willing to sell for half price. The damage is water stains on the covers, but the contents are good. This monumental work, edited by Brigadier-General Cruikshank, comes in 5 volumes and is a valuable reference source for students of early Canadian history. If you would like to have a set, just send your cheque for \$12.50 to this office. Of course there are perfect sets too, which will cost you \$25.50 for the 5 volumes.



Congratulations

Many members will remember Dr. John S. Moir who was President of The Ontario Historical Society in 1967-8, and who has been teaching Canadian History at Scarborough College. Dr. Moir is taking a sabbatical year from his university duties, and combining it with a Canada Council Grant, is leaving for Europe with his family late in May. After some travelling, the Moirs expect to settle down in the south of France for a year, during which Dr. Moir will complete the writing of his book on Strachan. We wish them good weather and happy travelling.

Gleanings

As the New Year dawned, The Ontario Historical Society membership just topped the 1,800 mark. Members of the Society are asked to put forth a special effort to boost the membership up to, or past, the 2,000 mark.

It should be noted in this connection that a member of a local society is NOT automatically a member of The Ontario Historical Society. Every person who desires to have a voice in the broader field of historical activities in this province should have his own personal membership.

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We do like the way the Grimsby Historical Society announces its events. A single sheet of 8½" x 11" brightly coloured paper with large poster-type lettering gives the main details in striking fashion. Across the bottom of the sheet is a tear-off membership application form.

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The Buffalo and Erie County Historical Society planned a Social Studies event for teachers of the area last September. This took the form of an evening at the Historical Society's headquarters, where the teachers were briefed on the resources of the Society, and learned what was available for the teaching of local history.

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We extend congratulations and best wishes to the newly-formed Streetsville Historical Society. This group proposes to meet on the third Thursday of every month in the library hall. Hopefully the next meeting will be general and open to the public. The President is Mr. William Tolton of Streetsville.

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The whole front page of Section 2 of the London Free Press for Saturday, January 30th, 1971, is devoted to pictures and story of a collection of time-pieces. The owner is Mr. Reg. L. Thorn of Strathroy, who has gathered together examples of almost every type of time-piece, ranging from a rare pocket watch made in 1625 to a modern clock built in 1900. He values his collection at more than \$200,000.00 and houses it in a specially built fire and burglar-proof room.

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We have just received a copy of a facsimile edition of the Belden Illustrated Dominion Atlas of Grey County for 1880. There are similar editions for Bruce County and Simcoe County. The atlases are done in an offset print and are priced very attractively, with substantial discounts for bulk orders. We congratulate Mark Cumming of Port Elgin on the production of these atlases. They fill a need which has long been recognized by historical researchers.

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It is surprising how many of our towns and cities are suffering "growing pains" and seem to find it necessary to infringe on their own history. Oxford Historical Society is protesting a rezoning proposal which would cause the destruction of a fine old house - the Patience Home. We sympathize with the efforts of the Society. Legislation to prevent this kind of destruction is long overdue.

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Once again, we offer our thanks to all those who sent in news for this issue of the Bulletin. We would be pleased, indeed, to hear from many more groups. Surely you all are planning some newsworthy project over the summer months. Do let us hear about it!