

BULLETIN

THE ONTARIO HISTORICAL SOCIETY

LOCAL SOCIETIES COMMITTEE

40 EGLINTON AVENUE EAST
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Comment

To anyone who is seriously engaged in a public enterprise, an association of people and societies who share interests and problems is a necessity. Such an association can offer a variety of services which improve and strengthen the knowledge and performance of its members. It works for higher standards in its field and provides a forum for the discussion and dissemination of forward-looking ideas. It works to produce a favourable climate of public opinion and invites the support of all those who are interested in the cause. In addition it attempts to do all the other things which can lead to a vigorous group of professionals and laymen working together in the public interest. Such an association is The Ontario Historical Society. It is a highly respected organization but it is supported by far too few of the societies and individuals who seek to use its services. We urge every local historical society, every public library, every school and college library, as well as every individual interested in his country to become members. Only thus can we show that solidarity of purpose which is necessary to accomplish the aims set out by our founders in 1888.

"History is capricious in its awards of fame. It fixes on dramatic incident and ignores the quiet service that may count for much more". G.M. Wrong.

Cemeteries

As a result of the paragraph on Old Cemetery Societies in the last Bulletin, we received the following letter from Mrs. W.G. Stinson of Kingston.

" Next year Kingston will be 300 years old and many individuals and groups have taken on Tercentenary projects. I am Chairman of a committee to restore the old cemetery of St. Paul's Anglican church. It dates from 1784, when Rev. John Stuart designated the land to St. George's burial ground. Molly Brant is buried there with several of her children and grandchildren. Unfortunately, of more than 600 burials, only a few marked graves remain, but we hope to be able to save what is left. The stones will be repaired and replaced (where possible), necessary masonry work done on walls, stones, etc. and lighting and landscaping done. Some of the work has been completed and we hope to finish it in the summer of 1973, with a re-dedication service in the fall of 1973. We hope also to print a small pamphlet listing the names of everyone buried in the cemetery".

Mrs. Stinson enclosed an attractive brochure in her letter and an invitation to all members who are attending the Annual Meeting of O.H.S. in Kingston next June to plan a visit to St. Paul's Churchyard.

Inisfil Historical & Archaeological Society

We welcome this new society to our membership. We hope that we can be of assistance to them and that they will enjoy their association with other local historical societies. At present, the members are deep in the intricacies of drawing up a constitution - an important facet of any organization. Last fall, a competition was launched in the district schools inviting students to design a crest for the society. A 12-year old student won the prize, which was presented at the January meeting. Though still small in numbers, this society is very active. They have had a number of very interesting and useful papers at the meetings. These have given historical facts about some of the villages in the Township and have traced the derivation of their place names.

Oliver Mowat's Ontario

Oliver Mowat's Ontario, edited and with an introduction by Prof. Donald Swainson of Queen's University, is published by Macmillan. It is a compilation of the essays delivered as papers at the Mowat Colloquium held at Queen's University in November, 1970. The Colloquium was held to mark the 150th anniversary of Mowat's birth. Sir Oliver Mowat is generally recognized as one of the outstanding provincial premiers of the 19th century and is often considered to have had a great influence on the affairs of 20th century Canada. In cloth, the price is \$7.95; in paper it is \$3.95.

Grimsby Historical Society

The following motion was passed at the meeting of the Directors of the Grimsby Historical Society in December, 1972 - "That this Society resolve to publish in book form an account of the history of Grimsby, commencing where the 'Annals of the Forty' finish, up to recent times, making use of material, pictures, clippings, etc., presently at hand, and accepting the services of any individual or organization willing to contribute with the hope that this project can be completed by 1975".

We wish the Grimsby Society every success in this project. We feel that the writing and publishing of local history should be the first aim of all historical societies.

Research Publications

This is a new series of scholarly works edited and published by our own Publications Committee. To date, two titles have been issued - Ethnic Groups in Upper Canada by Jean Burnet, and Prohibition in Ontario by Gerald Hallowell. The volumes are uniform in format, in attractive paper-back, and reasonably priced at \$2.25 each. Just send your cheque to our office, payable to The Ontario Historical Society and we will see that you get them.

Orillia Historical Society

We look forward to the arrival of the Orillia Historical Society "News" every month. In format it is only a single sheet of foolscap-sized coloured paper. On one side, is an announcement of the next meeting, usually held in the Orillia Library. Then comes information about the speaker for the evening and something about his topic. Half of the page is taken up with "Among Ourselves". Here, new members are welcomed, comments on members' activities are recorded, and, at the very bottom of the page is the final sentence, -- "Boost your local historical society". So far, all this is more or less routine for a newsletter. It is on the back of the page that the fun begins. The heading is "Anecdotes of Old Orillia". It contains paragraphs from old letters; records of business, - i.e., the records of what the Orillia Post Office did in 1894; and extracts from what went on at Town Council meetings about a hundred years ago as recorded by the Orillia Packet. The Orillia Expositor comments on Litterbugs on January 10th, 1868; on dog poisoners on March 20th, 1868; and on the observance of the Sabbath on May 28th, 1869.

It must take considerable time to search out the items in "Anecdotes" and to put them together, but it provides very entertaining reading. Whoever is responsible has a lively sense of humour and is to be congratulated.

Brock University Battlefield Study Group

This June the recently formed Brock University Battlefield Study Group is inaugurating the first of a series of annual battlefield tours along the Niagara frontier. Each tour will consist of a detailed examination of a number of famous battlefields, together with outdoor seminars on the military engagements fought there. This year, on Friday and Saturday, June 1 and 2, the tours will cover the battlefields of Chippawa, Lundy's Lane and Queenston Heights. Bibliographic and other source material will be provided in advance and accommodation in the Brock University residence will be available for those who desire it from the 31st of May to the 2nd of June inclusive. Transportation and meals will be provided. The Brock University Battlefield Study Group is a non-profit organization and tour fees will be limited to the cost of the operation. The number of vacancies on this year's tour is restricted to 35 and applications will be accepted in the order in which they are received. For further information, those interested should write to:

Prof. D.J. Goodspeed,
Secretary,
Brock University Battlefield Study Group,
Department of History,
Brock University,
St. Catharines, Ontario.

Seminars

The 26th Annual Seminar of the New York State Historical Society at Cooperstown has just been announced for the two weeks of July 1 - 14, 1973. The first week will consist of a study of daily life on the farms and villages of north-eastern United States of 1790 - 1820. The second week will offer courses in New York history as well as a great variety of "hands-on" craft workshops. If you are interested in pioneer crafts, be it Crewel embroidery or Blacksmithing, here is a great opportunity to learn how in a friendly, relaxed, holiday setting. For a descriptive brochure write to:

New York State Historical Association,
Cooperstown, 13326.

The 17th annual Institute of Pennsylvania Rural Life and Culture is also announced. It will be held at the Landis Valley Farm Museum, near Lancaster, Pa., from June 19 - 22. An interesting variety of topics will explore, in an informal way, the background of Pennsylvania's "Rural Life Heritage". Running concurrently are a number of workshops introducing techniques of early American craftsmanship. This is a very popular seminar and registrations must be made early. Write to:

Box 1026,
Harrisburg, Pa., 17108.

Stormont, Dundas & Glengarry Historical Society

Once again we would like to offer our congratulations to this Society on the excellence of its Annual Report. The Report for 1972 came in promptly and presents an attractive picture of an active, hard-working and happy Society, involved in an interesting program. Seven open meetings featuring varied topics were held and three bus tours were sponsored. An innovation was the production of television programs by the members. These were shown on Cable 11.

One of the most interesting developments in the Society's operation is the expansion of the Library and Archives. This was moved from the United Counties Museum to the Simon Fraser Centennial Library so that it would be more readily available on a year-round basis. It contains all sorts of archival items, - letters, documents, clippings, maps, pictures, etc., etc., - all of which have been catalogued and filed. An appreciable number of books on the history of the area has been acquired and a start has been made on collecting the family histories of the old settlers.

In addition to the Report proper, three supplements were issued. One is the address presented at the Annual Meeting of the Society in January, 1972. A second is a summary of the Family Histories held by the Society's library, and the third is a suggested reading list. The latter lists more than a hundred books either written by authors residing in the area, or by outside authors who have used the area as a setting for their works.

Historical Society of Mecklenburg, Upper Canada.

This recently formed society in the Toronto area aims to stimulate interest in Canadian History by focusing on the contributions made by immigrants of German origin.

Last November, the society sponsored a display of model tables, relief maps, paintings and replicas of pioneer living, in the Library at Toronto City Hall. This showed realistically the early development of the district around "Little York". The display pointed up an increasing concern about the possible disappearance of the original German Mills road. The projected stretch of new road, which will be a continuation of Leslie Street, is to serve as a collector between Steeles Avenue and John Street in Thornhill, and the society feels that the historical name for it should be preserved. Presently, the area is being used as a garbage dump, and the society is deeply concerned lest the lack of immediate action may result in the irreparable loss of another small piece of our Ontario heritage.

Scripture Cake

Judges V, 25	Genesis XXIV, 17
Jeremiah VI, 20	I Kings IV, 22
Isaiah X, 14	Leviticus II, 13
I Samuel XXX, 12	Amos IV, 5
Genesis LXIII, 11	Kings X, 10
Exodus XVI, 31	

Follow Solomon's advice for making good boys. (Proverbs XXIII, 14) and you will have a good cake.

This type of recipe was fashionable among the ladies at their "Bees" in the early eighteen hundreds. The hostess presented it as a guessing game to test the Biblical knowledge of her guests. It was also a good test of a housewife's cooking ability. Can you translate it?

Architectural Conservancy of Ontario

A new restoration advisory service was announced at the regular quarterly meeting of this Association, held on January 31, 1973. To be known as the Advisory Professional Board, the group is made up of architects and other experts, located strategically across the Province. It will make its services available to any organization interested in preserving Ontario's heritage buildings. Site visits will be made and reports issued on structures that the Board has been asked to appraise in order to save them from demolition. Requests for evaluation of the merits of entire urban landscapes - not just buildings, but streets and neighbourhoods - as well as historic roads, pioneer settlements and places of natural beauty will be entertained.

The Conservancy can be reached by addressing your letter to Box 75, Station K, Toronto.

Gleanings

"Ancaster's Heritage" is being reprinted by the Ancaster Historical Society. This is the history of one of Ontario's oldest towns and is delightful reading as well as being informative about people and places around Ancaster.

North York Historical Society announces a program of training for volunteers who will conduct tours of Gibson House, - an early 19th century period house operated by the society. Included in the program is instruction in various crafts of the period.

"The History of Kingston General Hospital" authored by the immediate past-president of The Ontario Historical Society, Mrs. Margaret Angus, is published by the McGill-Queen's Press. It is a fascinating story, well illustrated, handsomely designed and the product of three years of concentrated research. Those of you who were at the Publications Seminar in Kitchener will remember Mrs. Angus speaking about her work on the book.

British Information Services have sent us a copy of "Dateline: Britain", Jan./Feb. 1973. It includes a comprehensive account of the British National Trust as it operates in England. The article is entitled "The Trust that Guards a Nation's Heritage" and is especially timely as we understand the Canadian Government has something similar under consideration.

Peterborough Historical Society reports the formation of a Steering Committee for the Preservation of the character of Peterborough. Its immediate concern is to protest the plan of the Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce to demolish the Cuxton Building. The removal of this building would destroy the character of a part of downtown Peterborough.

The speaker at the winter meeting of the Oakville Historical Society was Mr. John I. Rempel of Toronto. His speciality is researching and analysing the structure of historical buildings. Mr. Rempel's subject was the story of his work on the McFall House in Bolton, Ontario. Some of the Oakville people heard this story at the Museum Section Workshop last October and were so impressed that they asked Mr. Rempel to repeat it.

A series of lectures on the "Early History of the Border Area" is being sponsored by the Continuing Education Division of the Windsor Board of Education. The lectures are being arranged and given by Mr. Alan Douglas at the Hiram Walker Historical Museum in down-town Windsor. They began early in February, on Thursday evenings. A minimal fee to cover expenses was charged.

Wellington County Historical Society sends word that a number of copies of the reprint of the 1906 Atlas of Wellington County is still available. This Atlas includes photographs of prominent citizens of the day; maps of townships, towns and villages; and short historical sketches of several families in the county. It can be ordered from the County Clerk, Court House, Guelph.

Congratulations to Mrs. Ada Bromley, who has written the history of the Grimsby Historical Society, as well as the leading historical features for a special anniversary issue of "The Grimsby Independent". Grimsby celebrated its 50th birthday in 1972.

"Georgina, History of a Township" is the title of an attractive kit compiled by a committee of the Lake Simcoe South Shore Historical Society. It is a collection of separate sheets carrying reproductions of pictures, maps, land grants, news clippings, etc. The committee plans to add further sheets as the information becomes available.

Buffalo and Erie County Historical Society's educational programs were presented to Erie County social studies teachers who were guests at the annual Teacher's Evening on March 21st. The evening's entertainment included moving pictures, slide shows, music, guided tours and refreshments provided by the turn of the century German-American Restaurant.

At the last meeting of the Grenville Historical Society for 1972, a group of students from the local High School gave a sound and light description of the "Battle of the Windmill". Their object was to acquaint the society with their project which was to be presented as an application for an "Opportunities for Youth" grant. The students felt that their project would not only be a tourist attraction but would focus on the history of the Windmill and the surrounding area.

"A New History of Grey County" is a volume of local history recently published by the Grey County Historical Society. It is a detailed story of the county from its beginnings to the date of publication in 1972. It has been written and edited by the retired editor of the Owen Sound "Sun-Times" who has used the old records of the paper as the basis for the book. It is well illustrated with pictures of places and photographs of the people who made the places possible. This volume has been a project of the society over the past few years and all those who have had a part in it, can be very proud of the final result.

Plan to be in Kingston, June 21 - 23, 1973 for the Annual Meeting of The Ontario Historical Society. An interesting and varied program is being planned under the sponsorship of the Kingston Historical Society. Accommodation and sessions will be on Queen's University campus. Notices will go out to all members early in May.

Regional meetings of The Ontario Historical Society are being set up for the spring of 1973 in 5 centers. Much to our regret, there are still some areas in which we have been unable to organize a regional meeting. There are just so few suitable week-ends. If your society would like to sponsor one of these meetings next Fall, we would be happy to try to arrange it. The only thing we need from you is an invitation and a place to meet. We do all the work.

Affiliated Societies are reminded that Annual Reports for 1972 are now due. Copies of all publications are also due under the terms of your affiliation. A revision of the listings on the back cover of Ontario History is under way, so send in your reports as soon as possible. If you have any question about the status of your society write to us. Your letter will be answered promptly.

Applications for the Award of Excellence offered by the Local Societies Committee of The Ontario Historical Society should be sent in immediately. The conditions for this Award were outlined in Bulletin #9, Fall, 1972. The number of members in your society is not essential - your contribution to the history of your locality is.



The Ontario Historical Society
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