

BULLETIN

THE ONTARIO HISTORICAL SOCIETY

LOCAL SOCIETIES COMMITTEE

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COMMENT

We have been seeing an increasing use of material copied from books and historical publications in the Newsletters which come into our office. We hope you are all aware that such copying, without stated permission, is a contravention of the Copyright Laws. It is a convenient and often useful means of getting information to copy out the work of someone else, but it is illegal, as well as discourteous, not to ask the permission of the original author or publisher before the material is used. For instance, all the publications of The Ontario Historical Society are copyrighted and written permission MUST be obtained before any part of the articles in Ontario History can be copied. Commercial publishers are well aware of copyright laws and are quite accustomed to asking for permission and to paying a copyright fee. All editors of Newsletters, please take note and consider yourselves warned. It would be far better to ask your members to write short notes or articles than to copy material and thus lay yourselves open to charges.

It seems to be a wide-spread idea that historical societies have been set up for the express purpose of handing out free information, not to mention pamphlets, pictures and maps, to anyone who asks for it. Pamphlets and pictures, as well as paper and postage all cost money. There is also the time and energy spent by the person who searches out the information and puts it together and it is not fair to rate this as having negligible value. In short, we are suggesting that those people who want information should be willing to hunt for it themselves, or to pay someone else to do the hunting. School children should be encouraged to use the library and not to expect the secretary of the local historical society to do their projects for them. One of the larger historical societies in southern Ontario has prepared an information sheet on the history of the locality which it sells to inquirers for a small nominal fee. This fee just about covers the cost of the printing and postage and no-one has complained about paying it.

When the corresponding secretary of an historical society reports to her Executive that she has answered 187 genealogical inquiries during the past year, we wonder what else she has done, and we wonder if we should warn her that she will likely get 287 inquiries next year. We also wonder who will be willing to take over her office when she wishes to retire. The cure is, of course, to make a charge for services rendered.

All this sounds rather jaundiced, but we find that most of the inquiries which come to our office come from people who are not members of any society, and who have no intention of ever becoming a member. We do our best to be obliging and helpful, but in about three-quarters of the cases, instead of a grateful new member, all we get is a demanding new "free-loader".

Did you get to The Ontario Historical Society's Museum Section Workshop in Cornwall last October? The Workshop is a wonderful source of practical and inexpensive suggestions not only for museums but for small historical societies as well. The extra fee of \$3.00 per year for the Museum's Section Newsletter is well worth while. Ably edited by Wm. Yeager of the Norfolk Historical Society, it contains a wealth of information about the activities in and around the many local museums in Ontario.

AWARDS

The Ontario Historical Society has several Awards which it is happy to present to appropriate winners. These were given at the Annual Banquet held at Brock University on June 19th. Our congratulations go to all the winners.

1. The Cruikshank Gold Medal was awarded to Dr. Morris Zaslow. It is awarded to an individual who has given long and outstanding service to the cause of History in Ontario. This is the highest Award given by O.H.S. and is given only occasionally.
2. The Cruikshank Prize for the best article by a professional historian published in Ontario History during 1975 was won by Allan R. Greer for his paper on "The Sunday Schools of Upper Canada". This appeared in Ontario History for September, 1975.
3. The Cruikshank Prize for the best article by a non-professional historian was won by Marion V. Royce for her article "Arguments over the Education of Girls, - their admission to Grammar Schools in this Province". This was published in Ontario History for March, 1975.
4. The Local Societies Committee of The Ontario Historical Society presented its Annual Award of Excellence for outstanding contribution in the field of local history to the Peterborough Historical Society. This was given for the society's work on the Peterborough Atlas and the Hutchison House.

RECEIVED, READ AND ENJOYED

1. Who Wouldn't Have A Photograph? Norfolk Historical Society
2. People, Ideas and Laws: Government of Ontario
3. Conservation Canada: Parks Canada
4. Wentworth Bygones: Head-of-the-Lake Historical Society
5. Year Book, 1976: Bruce County Historical Society
6. 15th Annual Volume and Yearbook: Glengarry Historical Society
7. Historic Prince Edward: Prince Edward Historical Society
8. Grandeur, Ghosts and Gargoyles: Government of Ontario
9. The York Pioneer, Part 1: York Pioneer & Historical Society

10. Families: Ontario Genealogical Society
11. Imperial Oil Review: Imperial Oil
12. Waterloo Historical Society Yearbook: Waterloo Historical Society

A PRELIMINARY ANNOUNCEMENT

We are happy to tell you that, at last, a definitive history of The Ontario Historical Society has been published: "Preserving Ontario's Heritage" by Dr. G. Killan, whom many of you know, is a fascinating story of the growth and development of a movement. Formed in 1888 as The Pioneer Association of Ontario, The Ontario Historical Society today occupies a position of considerable status in the historical and cultural life of Ontario. How this has come about makes for interesting reading. The new book has 292 pages, including pictures, appendices and a useful index. Modestly priced at \$6.50 per copy from our office, it is a book no history buff can afford to be without.

ORAL HISTORY

The Canadian Oral History Association has three main aims, -

- ... to encourage and support the creation and preservation of sound recordings which document the history and culture of Canada.
- ... to develop standards of excellence and to increase competence in the field of oral history through study, education and research.
- ... to work with and support any other association or institution whose objectives are consistent with those of the Association.

People who are interested in Oral History and who are working in this field should be members of this association. For further information, write to:

Canadian Oral History Association,
Mr. Leo La Clare, President,
395 Wellington Street,
Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0N3

CHRIST CHURCH, LAKEFIELD

It is now ten years since Christ Church was re-opened and thirteen years since research for the project began. The restoration is still incomplete, though each year sees progress, either with the building or in the improvement of historical displays. On the 15th of August, a well-attended service was held in the church. Music was provided by John Grylls, playing the original melodeon. The little church with its remarkable acoustics makes the singing of hymns a very special experience. This service, in memory of the settlers who built the first village church has become an annual event.

YORK PIONEER & HISTORICAL SOCIETY

The York Pioneer & Historical Society held its annual dinner at the Oak Room, Union Station in Toronto. The speaker was Dr. Anthony Adamson who spoke of the architecture of Sharon Temple which is now a museum operated by the society. The Temple building is unique in Ontario and its architecture alone attracts many visitors. Dr. Adamson's presentation was informative and interesting. Each year, the society holds its June meeting at Sharon, and it has come to be known as June Day. A great variety of crafts and seasonal displays were presented by the Sharon Committee of the society. This was the first year that such an extensive program had been attempted and the society hopes that June Day festivities of the future will be as successful as this one.

WISCONSIN STATE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Two patterns of dresses worn in 1835 and 1840 were added to the State Historical Society's 19th century "Patterns of History" series. Included in each pattern package are period notes, reproductions of contemporary magazine illustrations, an illustrated construction guide, and suggestions for fabrics, adaptations and accessories. Styles from 1857, 1865, 1876 and 1893 were introduced last year. All six patterns are available in modern sizes of 10, 12 and 14. A descriptive brochure illustrating the six dresses may be obtained from the State Historical Business Office, 816 State Street, Madison, Wisconsin, 53706.

BERTIE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

The Bertie Historical Society received a L.I.P. grant to restore an old farmhouse that stood on the battlefield during the Fenian Raid at Ridgeway on June 2, 1866. The house was occupied by members of John Teal's family on that historic day and the wounded were cared for by the family following the retirement of all the troops. It has now been moved a few hundred yards to the east and is located in the Ridgeway Battlefield Park, along Heritage Highway #3 at Ridge Road. Opening ceremonies took place in June with the Queen's Own Rifles of Toronto in attendance.

INNISFIL HISTORICAL & ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

This society has an interesting project under way. Open house was held in July and August and people in the area were invited to attend and bring photos and/or documents pertaining to the history of the district. The society was fortunate in having an expert photographer among its members. He set up his equipment during the open house sessions and made copies of all material brought in. Information about the items was recorded. Great interest in the project was shown throughout the area and the response was excellent. Now the society is looking for furniture to file and display the treasures. A working meeting is being held to catalogue the holdings.

We hope that the Innisfil society had representatives at the Museum Section Workshop in October, when the proper handling and care of photographs was one of the chief topics.

SIMCOE COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Simcoe County Historical Society starts the new season with a new format for its newsletter. Titled "News and Views" it has become one of the best of the monthly news bulletins which come into our office. It is filled with news of current doings in the County as well as brief historical notes on people and places. The October issue has an interesting article on the Simcoe County Archives, which, formed in 1966, was one of the first county archival depositories in the province. The October issue also contains a full page listing of good reading about Simcoe County. This is a follow-up from the September meeting, when Mrs. Grace Leigh spoke on some interesting old and new books about the history of Simcoe County and the people who have lived there. Members of the society now have a winter's reading all mapped out for them.

GLENGARRY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

This active society gave us a bonus with the last newsletter. One of the popular Gaelic paper napkins was enclosed. It is attractively divided into 64 small blocks, each with a picture and its Gaelic and English names. The society has gift packages of 20 napkins for sale for \$1.00. If you are interested, you can order them from 76 Main Street North, in Alexandria.

The October meeting of the society was held in Alexandria. It took the form of a tour, for members only, of the historic and exclusive Macdonald residence - "Garry Fen". The business meeting and refreshments were held later at the Church-on-the-Hill and guests were welcome at this part of the program. We like the idea of a "members only" meeting. Too often the faithful members of a society are overlooked in the attempt to attract new members.

OAKVILLE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

At its October meeting, the Oakville Historical Society took "A Look at Early Photography 1839-1888". The guest speaker was Mr. John E. Willard of Oakville. He was the photographer of the beautiful book, "The Gaiety of Gables" and so was a most welcomed speaker. In 1888 George Eastman introduced the snapshot camera - the Kodak - and from then on the story of photography is familiar history. The results of a little research into the beginnings of photography are quite surprising. In 1839 the first commercially feasible form of photography was developed by Louis Jacques Mande Daguerre. The Daguerreotypes produced between 1839 and into the 1850's remain the most perfect and permanent of all the forms of photography.

KINGSTON HISTORICAL SOCIETY

The Kingston Historical Society's Newsletter tells a funny story. "Not long ago, in Ottawa, there was a celebrity auction to raise money for a children's camp and Flora MacDonald ... was asked what she would give. 'I could conduct a seance at Sir John A. MacDonald's grave, in the spirit of Mackenzie King' she said" A lady bought that and so Flora took her to Kingston - to Bellevue House, to City Hall and to the graveside. There is no report of the seance.

GRIMSBY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

This enterprising society is contemplating working with the local library in purchasing quite a number of books which will aid interested home owners to restore their historic buildings. The funds will come from the proceeds of the Annual House Tour. The books purchased will probably circulate in the Library as other books do, and will deal with architecture and the technical side of restoring old buildings. School children as well as adults will find them useful in their studies in local history.

Just as a footnote to this project, we would like to suggest that any home owner who wishes to preserve or restore his home, should be aware of the APT (Association for Preservation Techniques). This is a group of both Canadian and U.S. members interested in the techniques of authentic preservation. There is a quarterly magazine with articles on the various facets of building techniques, and, best of all, there are book lists which give valuable clues to the literature available on the topic under discussion.

THE MERRITT STAMP

The Christian Science Monitor, of Boston, for June 29, 1976, ran a short article about the Merritt Stamp issued in November, 1974. The piece, titled "St. Lawrence Seaway Initiator on Stamp", described Merritt's contribution to the development of Canadian transportation and, in particular, his role in conceiving and developing the Welland Canal, the initial link in the present St. Lawrence Seaway.

PETERBOROUGH HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Jane W. Deyman was the recipient of the Peterborough Historical Society's special Award for 1976, in recognition of her outstanding contribution to local historical research and preservation. As chairman of the Peterborough Atlas Foundation, and one of the book's co-editors, Mrs. Deyman was a moving force behind this important publication, and her efforts in assembling and cataloguing archives at the Centennial Museum, Century village, and various township offices and collections throughout the County have been instrumental in assuring that many valuable documents and research material will be preserved. In making the presentation at the June picnic of the society, the chairman of the Awards committee cited Mrs. Deyman's work in gaining recognition for the importance of saving archival material, and expressed the admiration of all members of the society for her major service to historical interests in Peterborough County.

The society's Garage Sale last May was a tremendous success. The Hutchison Restoration Fund received the profits of over \$900. This is the kind of result a live and hard-working committee can achieve.

GLEANINGS

Streetsville Historical Society opened its season with a most interesting "Show and Tell" program. The South Peel Historical Society was an enthusiastic participant in the program.

Guelph Historical Society held a Garage Sale last May and raised over \$850. to help with the publication of the History of Guelph. Ten chapters of the History are now on hand and are being typed. More volunteer typists will be welcomed.

Scarborough Historical Society has sent out an impressive listing of activities for the balance of the year. Regular meetings and a local program of plaque erections are features. One interesting event was the organization of a Scarborough Fair held at Eaton's in Scarborough Town Centre early in October. A wide variety of pioneer crafts was demonstrated to an interested crowd of on-lookers.

Etobicoke Historical Society sends word that Christ Church, Mimico and St. Philip's Church are the Anglican Churches at each end of Royal York Road in Etobicoke. They are both working towards their 150th anniversaries and would appreciate hearing from anyone who has knowledge or artifacts relative to these two churches. They are the two oldest congregations in Etobicoke.

Two officers of the Kingston Historical Society volunteered to be a committee of Plaque-viewers in and about Kingston. They have finished their job and have sent a report to the appropriate Provincial Ministry regarding the need of repair and maintenance of Ontario historical plaques. We hope other societies will send in similar reports so that something can be done to combat the vandalism of historic markers.

Ruth Keene, historical kitchen interpreter of the Grange, in Toronto, provided the North York Historical Society with an evening of historical tasty treats and a talk on 19th century foods. Mrs. Keene, known for her sense of humour and her entertaining presentations provided the society with an evening of fun.

A one-day Seminar on the Agricultural History of Ontario was held at the University of Guelph on October 16th. It focussed on the farm family and its relationship to land in mid-19th century Ontario as well as changes in agriculture in the late 19th century. Specific seminar presentations dealt with the development of a great variety of agricultural topics.

Did you enjoy the article on iron grave markers published in Ontario History last March? The Waterloo Historical Society held its Spring meeting in Maryhill, whose cemeteries have many of the markers. The speaker, Mrs. Nancy Lou Patterson, has done a great deal of research into the history of the iron grave markers, and her illustrated address was fascinating.

Pelham Historical Society planned a garden party at the country home of one of its members to celebrate Canada's Birthday, - July 1st. A neat little sketch map was included in the invitations to direct visitors to the home.

Prince Edward Historical Society has a section of its newsletter titled "Did you Know?" Items are provided by the members of the society, and some unusual facts are turned up. For instance, - an item about earthquakes in Canada during 1663 during which trees were uprooted and swayed causing the Indians to say all the trees were drunk. Source: History of Canada, by S. Frith, 1881.

The International Plowing Match was held near Walkerton at the end of September. The President of the Bruce County Historical Society was active in plan planning for the Match and the society prepared a display of pioneer days in Bruce County. Over 100,000 people attended.

Buffalo's Penn Central Terminal, a landmark for thousands of train buffs and 1940 servicemen was the scene of the July 4th Bicentennial Dance. Volunteer groups and individuals helped the Buffalo and Erie County Historical Society in the clean-up of the Terminal Concourse. All proceeds went to the Bicentennial activities of the society. Everybody had a good time.

The Ontario Historical Society would like to remind you that a Membership makes a splendid Christmas gift for anyone, especially for the difficult person who has everything. Four copies of the quarterly Ontario History and two copies of the Bulletin are included.

Life Membership	-	\$ 100.00
Personal	-	\$ 8.00
Family	-	\$ 10.00
Student	-	\$ 5.00

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