

The Rideau Township Historical Society

Preserving and Promoting local history for the former Rideau Township

April 2016 Newsletter

Newsletter Editor: Ron Wilson (rideauarchives@ottawa.ca)

The April Meeting

Date: Wednesday, April 20, 2016
Time: 7:30p.m.

Place Orchardview on the Rideau
1145 Bridge Street
Manotick Ontario



Remaining Spring Programs 2016

May: Possibly Maureen McTeer, if available.
If not, Stuart Clarkson will present on
"Rideau Township as seen through The Ot-
tawa Journal".

June Field excursion, to be determined.

**Bring a Friend. To arrange a ride call
Brian Earl at (613) 692 2371.**

Dickinson House 2016

Preparations for opening day continue at Dickinson House. Artifacts and display tables are being set up in the Coral Lindsay Display Hall for the "Trades and Professions" Exhibit which is the theme for this season. The kitchen area has been painted and the various items of crockery are back in the cupboards. The large A Frame signs are being amended to reflect the actual build date of

The Speaker: Scott Cameron

Scott Cameron is a member of the RTHS and a history student with a particular interest in military history.

Subject: The Picts

Who were the Picts and what happened to them? We shall attempt to answer those two important questions. What befell the Pictish empire and its people to have them effectively removed from the historical narrative? We shall focus on establishing who the Picts were and look at former centres of Pictish populations in the northern and western isles of Scotland, first Orkney, next Shetland, then the Hebrides and lastly on the Scottish mainland.

The Picts were members of an ancient people inhabiting northern Scotland during roughly the 2nd century AD.. They were around during the Roman occupation of Britain. They are first mentioned by the Roman writer Eumenius in 297 AD. Eumenius discusses these Pictish tribes as being the reason behind the Romans having to construct Hadrian's Wall, due to the inability of the Romans to conquer and control them.

The Picts were a tribal warlike group similar to many Celtic groups that existed during this period, leading to a belief that they were of Celtic origin. They raided the Roman borderlands until the Romans' departure in the 5th century, when they seemed to melt back into the countryside. By the 8th century mysteriously they vanish entirely from the pages of history. There is no clear consensus on what actually happened to them. The most difficult factor about understanding the Picts is that though they did not have any formal writing systems, they did leave behind fascinating stone carvings in a language that is distinct from any other in the British Isles and has yet to be deciphered.

This Month

1. The April Meeting
2. The March Presentation
3. News from the Rideau Archives
4. Upcoming Programs
5. Minutes of the March meeting
6. Dickinson House

the house. A "cleaning bee" is planned for 14 May to tidy the house before being opened to the public on 21 May. Preparations for the Queen Victoria Tea are in hand. Her Majesty will be in attendance to welcome guests. Interviews for potential summer student employees will be held starting the week of 11 April.

There is still a need for adult volunteers. Interested? Call Brian Earl at 613-692-2371

The March Presentation “Duelling in Canada”

by Hugh Halliday

Article by Owen Cooke

Photos by Liam Norris and Owen Cooke

On Wednesday, 16 March, at Knox Presbyterian Church in Manotick, Hugh Halliday addressed about twenty-five Historical Society members on duelling in Canada.

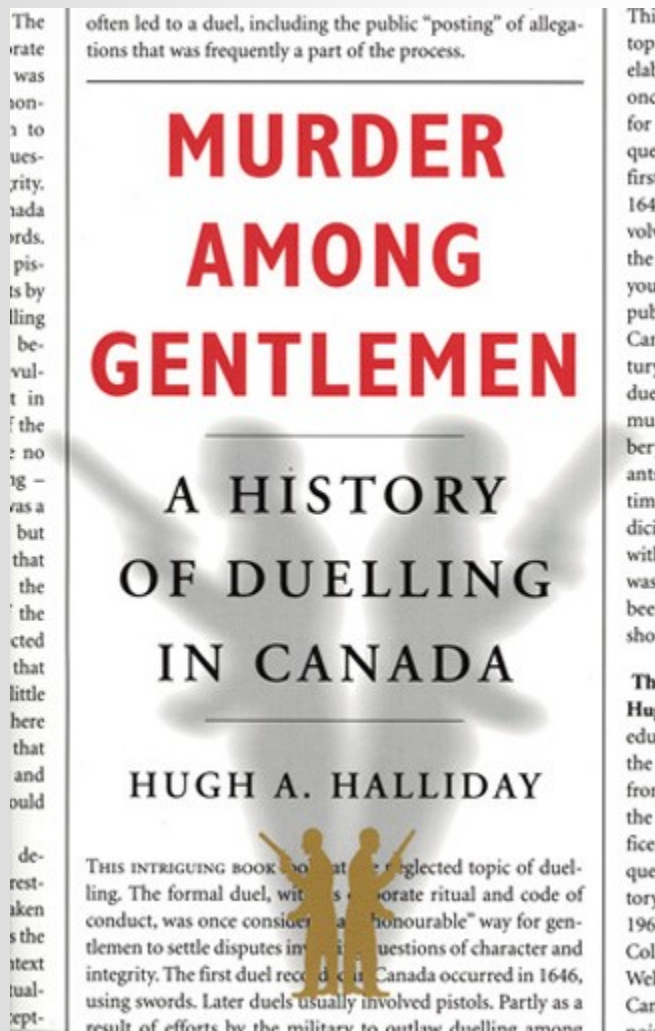
A native of Manitoba, Hugh has been a long-time resident of Ottawa. While best known as an aviation historian, he has been the Curator of War Art at the Canadian War Museum and is the author of twelve books on varied topics. This evening he spoke on one of his interests, and brought with him copies of *Murder among Gentlemen; a History of Duelling in Canada*, published in 1999, and made them available to the audience.



Photo by Liam Norris

Hugh gave a lively and fascinating presentation on duelling in Canada, which had been a mystery to most of us there.

Hugh likened the duel to a conspiracy to commit murder by the principals and their seconds and any witnesses; but with a choice of only two possible victims. He examined some of the 350 duels and incidents he had been able to identify over the course of Canadian history.



Hugh Halliday's book on duelling in Canada. Available at Chapters or Indigo.

He outlined the importance of the “seconds”, the duellists’ friends who agreed on the rules under which a duel would be fought and, perhaps more important, interceded to try to reach an agreement under which a duel could be avoided.

In New France, duelling was illegal. This was true throughout Canadian history, but under the ancien regime, the law was enforced. All documented duels in New France were with swords. In the earliest recorded fatal duel, in April 1669, François Blanche *dit* Langivan, a soldier in the Trois-Rivières garrison, killed Daniel Lamarre *dit* Desrochers, a fellow soldier. The survivor was tried, convicted and hanged the same day, and the bodies of both participants were exposed to the elements. This was justice for the common soldiers, but it is not clear that

duels between officers were more than sporadically prosecuted.

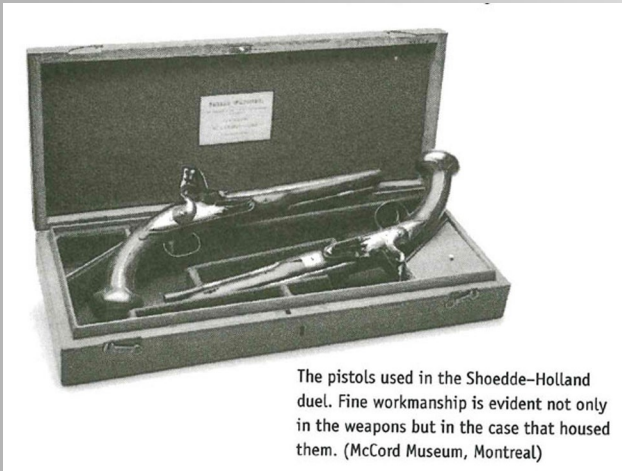
For the early English period, much documentation is lacking. However, the weapons of choice were by then pistols, perhaps because the wearing of swords had gone from everyday fashion. Duelling was as illegal under English law as it had been under French, but the whole legal system often conspired to prevent trials or acquit the participants. Few were prosecuted and fewer still convicted.

Hugh outlined some notable duels and incidents:

Charles-Clément Sabrevois de Bleury, lawyer, conservative member of the Lower Canada Legislative Assembly and experienced duellist challenged Charles-Ovide Perreault, radical member of the Legislative Assembly, 1836. On the field, the seconds convinced the two to simultaneously apologize, and to simultaneously accept the other's apology.

Colonel John Prince, magistrate and militia officer in the Windsor area, took American prisoners in the "Patriot" raids of 1838 and subsequently ordered five of them shot. He challenged those who questioned his conduct, horse-whipped Charles Baby, a prominent local citizen who refused his challenge, and wounded William Wood, the District Treasurer.

Lieutenant Samuel Holland, son of the Surveyor General of Lower Canada, was killed by Captain Lewis Shoedde in the first fatal duel of the British era in Lower Canada in 1795. Shoedde fled to the U.S. Both were officers in the Montreal garrison and the pistols used were a gift from James Wolfe to Holland's father.



The pistols used in the Shoedde-Holland duel. Fine workmanship is evident not only in the weapons but in the case that housed them. (McCord Museum, Montreal)

The duel of William Weekes and William Dickson, both prominent lawyers in Newark (now Niagara-on-the-Lake) in 1806 was prompted by remarks made in court. The duel was fought on American soil at Fort Niagara, beyond the reach of Canadian justice. Dickson killed Weekes.

The Ridout and Jarvis families were among the most prominent in York (Toronto), but in 1817 in a climax to a long-standing feud, Samuel Peters Jarvis shot and killed 18-year old John Ridout at the corner of Yonge and College streets, then well outside the small city. Jarvis was tried but acquitted.



Joseph Howe

The encounter of John Wilson and Robert Lyon in Perth in 1833 has often been claimed as the last fatal duel in Canada; but that was fought in Verdun, Lower Canada, in 1838, when Robert Sweeney, a successful Montreal lawyer and militia officer, killed Major Henry Warde, a popular officer of the British garrison. The affair was covered up with "appalling hypocrisy" when the coroner's jury pronounced the death by "some person unknown."

In Nova Scotia, the Reformer Joseph Howe was several times challenged over his political views, but refused to fight until challenged by John C. Halliburton, son of the Chief Justice, in 1840. Halliburton fired his pistol and missed. Howe fired his pistol into the air, saying "I will not deprive an aged father of his only son."

The last known challenge in Canada occurred right here in Ottawa in 1948. Julio Ricart, Consul General of the Dominican Republic, challenged Dr. Juan Carlos Rodriguez, the Argentine Ambassador over a supposed slight by the



Photo by Liam Norris

Brian Earl thanked Hugh Halliday for his presentation.

Ambassador's wife. The Ambassador refused the challenge and the affair ended in farce in both Ottawa newspapers.

Queen Victoria was personally responsible for the end of duelling. In 1844 she initiated a change to the Articles of War which required a court martial, with a penalty of dismissal, for any officer who duelled, challenged, acted as a second, or failed to prevent a duel. Civilian society soon followed the Army's lead.

In Canada men duelled over politics, over courtroom disputes, over gambling and over women. Why did they fight? They feared that if they did not, they would be dishonoured.

The evening concluded with a lively question and answer session, then Hugh autographed copies of *Murder among Gentlemen*.

News from the Rideau Branch, Ottawa Archives

Hours: *The Rideau Archives is open every Tuesday from 9:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., and at other times by appointment. (613-489-2926).*

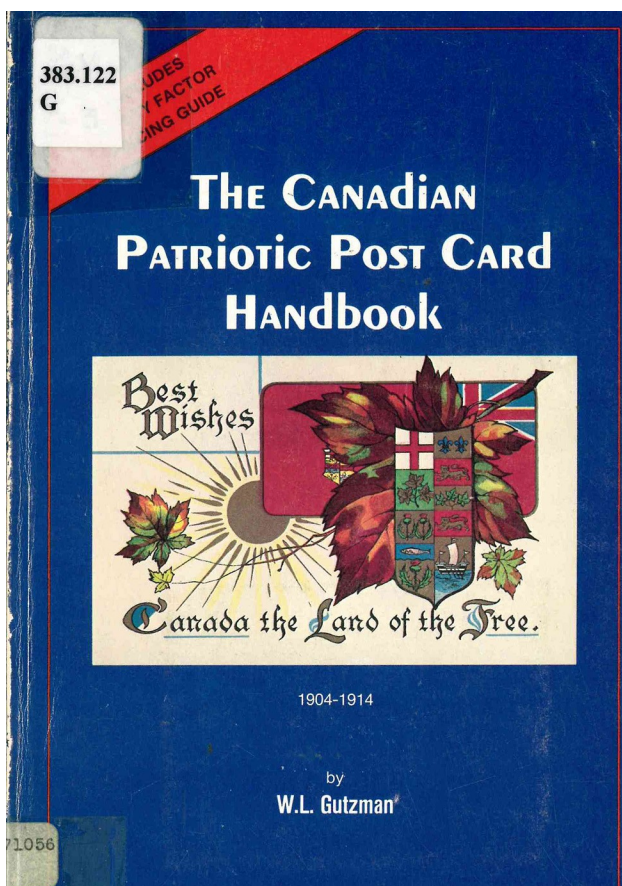
Resources and Services of the Rideau Township Branch of the City of Ottawa Archives: a monthly feature in this newsletter, celebrating the services and holdings preserved in your community's archives resource centre.

North Gower Branch, Ottawa Public Library

The home of the Rideau Branch Archives, the old North Gower Town Hall, once held the very first public library in North Gower: the Mechanic's Institute Library, established in 1891. The library collection was moved out of the Town Hall after it fell under the control of the North Gower Women's Institute. Later, a public library association managed the library, until North Gower Township established a public library board in 1966, itself replaced by the Rideau Township Public Library Board in 1974. Four years later, the retrofitted fire hall in North Gower, annexed to the old North Gower Town Hall, became home to the North Gower branch of the Rideau Public Library, now since merged with the Ottawa Public Library.

The Archives has benefited in many ways from its close associations with the library in the Rideau Township area. Indeed, before the Archives was established, the library was active in preserving local heritage. In 1981, the North Gower Women's Institute requested to have its first volume of its Tweedsmuir History (Rideau Branch, MGR049-01-001) put on display at the North Gower Library, with copies to be made and placed in the Branch's stacks for circulation. A decade later the Tweedsmuir Histories were transferred to the Archives.

The Library also has transferred to the Archives a number of books removed from circulation. Providing good reference for the Archives' museum objects, several volumes in Ingolfsrud's series came to the Archives from local public libraries. All About Ontario Beds, All About Ontario Chests, All About Ontario Chairs came from North Gower and All About Ontario Desks, All About Ontario Tables, and a duplicate copy of All About Ontario Beds came from the Manotick Public Library. North Gower donated a copy of W.L. Gutzman's *The Canadian Patriotic Post Card Handbook, 1904-1914* and also a copy of Broadfoot's *Years of Sorrow, Years of Shame*. And notable too was a history of the North Gower library itself, *The North Gower Library - A History - 1893-1977*, by librarian Mari-Lyn E. Apedaile.



Gutzman, W.L. The Canadian Patriotic Post Card Handbook (The Unitrade Press, 1984)

For 22 years, until this past January, Karen Craig worked at the North Gower Library, and the Archives would like to thank her for her many years of collaboration and to wish her a very happy retirement.

Stuart Clarkson

[The RTHS gratefully acknowledges the financial support received from the City of Ottawa.](#)

Rideau Township Historical Society Minutes
Wednesday, March 16, 2016
Knox Presbyterian Church
5533 Dickinson St., Manotick, Ontario

President Tom MacDonald opened the meeting by welcoming 23 guests and members to the March meeting.

Moved by Jane Anderson that we accept the minutes of the last meeting as published. Seconded by Ron Wilson. Carried

Tom then called upon members to submit committee reports.

Finance: In the treasurer's absence, Tom reported that the books have been audited with satisfactory results.

Program: Owen Cooke outlined the schedule for the next few months –

April – Scott Cameron will present on “The Picts” – Orchardview on the Rideau.

May – Possibly Joe and Maureen Clark, if they are available. If not, Stuart Clarkson will present on “Rideau Township as seen through The Ottawa Journal”.

June – field excursion, to be determined, either Parliament Buildings Tour or the Diefenbunker.

Publications: Jane Anderson reported that we had \$85.00 in publications sold. “Manotick Then and Now” remains the best seller. Three oral interviews have been completed, and plans are proceeding to publish Owen's book next year.

Communications: Maureen McPhee reported that the committee is working on a plan to be announced at a later date.

Dickinson House: Brian Earl reported that some painting has been done and Melanie Hayes is proceeding with the display on “Trades”. Although they have not yet received word on grants for summer students, they have received 5 résumé's for the position.

Grants: Nothing new at this time.

Youth: No report.

Tom MacDonald reported that funding for Canada 2017 will be available and one possibility under consideration is a Sound and Light Show to be displayed on the Mill walls.

Ruth Wright then read a poem entitled “The Birth of Saint Patrick” in homage to St. Patrick's Day.

Owen Cooke introduced our guest speaker, Hugh Halliday who gave a very interesting and informative talk on Duelling in Canada. Following questions, Brian Earl thanked Mr. Halliday and gave him a complimentary membership in RTHS. Mr. Halliday then offered copies of his book for sale.

The meeting was adjourned at about 8:30 followed by a social time with refreshments supplied by Melanie Hayes.