



The Rideau Township Historical Society

Preserving and Promoting local history for the former Rideau Township

December 2013 Newsletter

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

The RTHS Christmas Party

Date: Thursday, December 12, 2013
Time: 6.00 p.m.
Place: Cornerstone Wesleyan Church
6566 Prince of Wales Drive
North Gower, Ontario

As voted on at the October meeting, this year we will be having a Pot Luck Dinner. Please join us for this occasion and enjoy an excellent variety of great foods as well as carol-singing and entertainment by Ken Holman.

If you would like to come and haven't signed up it's not too late to join us. Contact Ruth Wright at 613-489-3886 or e-mail

ruthbrianwright@gmail.com

We will also need volunteers to assist with set up and cleanup afterwards. Hope to see you all there!

**Bring a Friend,
Light Refreshments**

Nominations for the RTHS Executive for 2014

Would you like to take on a more active role in your historical society? Do you have some good new ideas? Or could you simply do it better?

If you would like to take up a position on the executive for 2014, or wish to nominate someone else for a position (with their permission, of course), please contact a member of the Nominating Committee:

Publication Committee News

Just to let you know that RTHS publications, including the new edition of Cheese Factories of Rideau Township at \$20.00, will be available for sale at the Christmas party. Any of the books would make a good Christ-

mas present. If you are unable to attend the party, you can order any of the books through Jane Anderson, 613 692-4147 or email

edwardanderson@sympatico.ca

RTHS January Annual General Meeting

Wednesday January 15
7:30 p.m.
St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church
6810 Rideau Valley Drive South, Kars

As previously there will be an election and reinstatement of officers at this meeting and presentation of a proposed 2014 budget.

Topic: The History of Chocolate. ***Speaker:*** Coral Lindsay

Our own Coral Lindsay is a former teacher and librarian. She is a lifetime resident of Rideau Township and a dedicated volunteer at the Rideau Archives. Her life-long love of history and amazing research skills have made her a popular speaker at various functions. Coral has graciously agreed to make a presentation to the RTHS, following our Annual General Meeting, on the **HISTORY OF CHOCOLATE**.

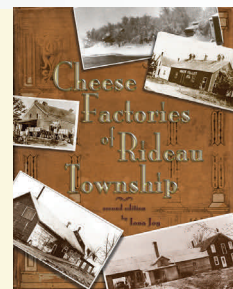
This Month

- | | |
|--------------------------------------|------------------------------|
| 1. The November Meeting and tribute. | 4. Some Watson's Mill Events |
| 2. News from the Rideau Archives | 5. The Christmas Party |
| 3. RTHS pubs for Xmas presents | 6. The AGM & Elections |
| | 7. The Dickinson House |

Nominating Committee:

- **Bill Tupper** (presently in Fort Myers)
- **Owen Cooke** - oacooke@gmail.com - 613-489-3962
- **Pat Earl** - brian.earl@sympatico.ca - 692-2379

Please note that there will also be an opportunity to make a nomination at the annual meeting on Wednesday, 15 January.



November Meeting: “Local Heroes – Rideau Township Archives Memorial Project”

Article by Lucy Martin

Photos by Lucy Martin and Susan McKellar

Remembrance Day. Bright red poppies on lapels, and sombre, familiar lines from classic poems, like Robert Laurence Binyon's "For the Fallen":

*They shall grow not old, as we that are left grow old:
Age shall not weary them, nor the years condemn.
At the going down of the sun and in the morning
We will remember them.*

Or "In Flanders Fields" by Lt. Col. John McCrae:

*We are the Dead. Short days ago
We lived, felt dawn, saw sunset glow,
Loved and were loved, and now we lie
In Flanders fields.*

Words evoking the pain and loss of lives cut short. Poetic promises to sanctify the sacrifice - in some small way - by remembering the dead.

How that resonates varies from individual to individual.

Some fear unthinking ritual only bolsters uncritical acceptance. Endlessly calling out the military, "for King and Country", to solve through war what could not be accomplished through more peaceful means.

Others worry too little respect is rendered to men and women who donned uniforms and selflessly did as they were asked, whatever the cost.

Reverent, critical, or simply indifferent, November 11th remains a specific time to pause and ponder what it all means.

In that spirit, 45 members and guests gathered in North Gower's lovely Holy Trinity Anglican Church to hear more about "Local Heroes – Rideau Township Archives Memorial Project". This is an on-going attempt to identify and commemorate the war dead from Rideau Township, beginning with the First World War. Ultimately, it is hoped this work will be available as a pamphlet, online and as part of the Department of Veteran's Affairs Canadian Virtual War Memorial.

Our speakers were Owen Cooke, Dave Bullock, Georgie Tupper, Susan McKellar and Ruth Wright. They are just five of the many volunteers who contributed to this project. and Each elaborated on different aspects of that research.

Although she was not present at the meeting, speakers noted that RTHS member and archives volunteer Audrey Renton has devoted years of effort compiling material about local people involved in military service during the First and Second World Wars. (To date Renton has compiled two binders covering 119 veterans for the First

World War and eight binders with approximately 500 veterans for the Second World War with local ties.) Renton is herself a veteran who served in Britain's Women's Auxiliary Air Force in the Second World War before coming to Canada as a war bride.

Before he retired, Owen Cooke worked as Chief Archivist at Directorate of History, Dept. of National Defence. So this is a team with a deep bench.

Cooke spoke about the project's beginnings and goals, including the reasons they are starting with the First World War. The Great War had a tremendous effect on Canada and Canadians. From a population of around 7 million, over 600,000 Canadians served in the First World War, nearly all in the Canadian Expeditionary Force. Some 69,000 were killed. Most communities were affected, as witnessed by the memorial material in the church where we sat, and by the cenotaphs that sprang up across the country after the Armistice.

The 100th anniversary of the war's start is just around the corner, in 2014. From a researcher's perspective, many helpful resources exist to enable this sort of work. Key records include something called the Attestation Form. Those were filled out by individuals as they joined the military and list many useful personal details. They can be accessed online at the Library and Archives Canada web site.

Another readily available source of information is something called a Casualty Form. Despite the name, that form is not about being wounded or killed, but rather is a record of movement within the Canadian Expeditionary Force.



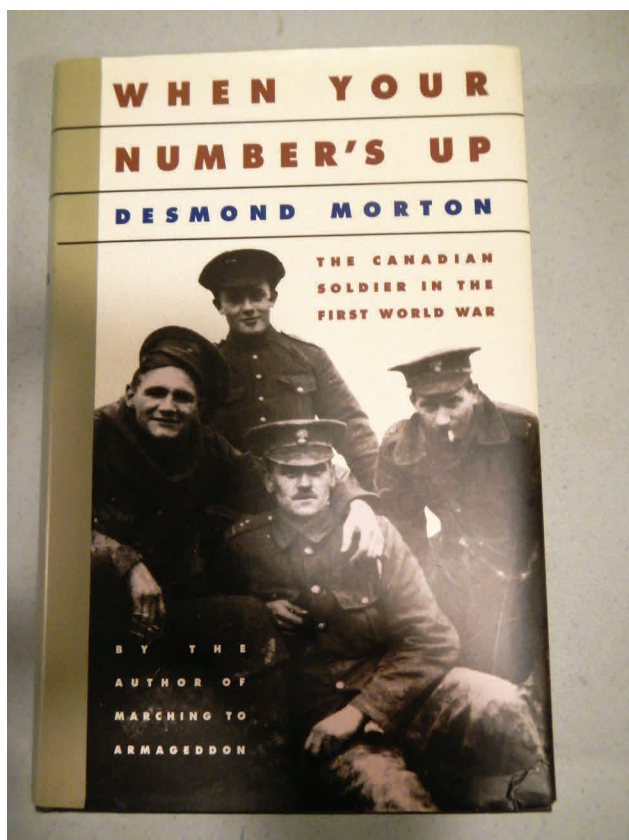
Robert Craig (left) and the speakers. Left to Right Ruth Wright, Susan McKellar, Owen Cooke, Dave Bullock and Georgie Tupper.

For those who were killed, another form to consult is the Circumstances of Death form. Due to what is sometimes

called “the fog of war” Cooke says those accounts are sometimes unhelpful, where little was known or recorded. But in some cases the accounts provide a wealth of information. (These forms are also online at Library and Archives Canada.)

Another source worth consulting is the Commonwealth War Graves Commission files, which list who is buried where. Those records are available online, which is especially helpful considering so many war dead were laid to rest in Europe.

Cooke also provided a map of the Western Front showing the areas where most Canadians were engaged in combat.



Owen Cooke recommends the book, “When Your Number’s Up” by Desmond Morton as one of the best histories of the First World War.

Retired City of Ottawa archivist - and amateur military historian - David Bullock expounded on how this project will identify those with ties to Rideau Township, which is more complex than one might expect. For example, someone from here may have moved and enlisted in another town or province. Or perhaps a local woman married an individual from someplace else who fought and died, creating a less-direct, but still important, connection. Some born and raised in Canada enlisted in other countries, becoming absorbed (so to speak) in records outside the Canadian archival base. This works both ways, as a number of “Home Children” (born in the UK but sent to Canada in their youth to work here) enlisted and died as Canadians. Those Home Children from Rideau Township are being counted as “our own”.

Another problematic detail is the fact that many gassed or wounded in combat between 1914-18 survived the war, only to die of lingering effects or complications later. Since lines must be drawn somewhere the War Graves Commission (for example) does not include war-related deaths that occurred after 1921.

Even though the net for this project is being cast wide, it's still challenging to know if every connection has been discovered. The working list at present stands at 32 dead from Rideau Township from the First World War, 26 of which are confidently connected to that municipality. Seven names on the working list are of uncertain status. They are: Archibald Brownlee, Harry Carson, Charles Anthony Craig, Harold Mervin Maxwell, James Campbell McGimpsey, Arthur Jones, and Austin Craig Pratt. If you recognize those names and can help, please contact the archive volunteers who would be most grateful for additional information.

As a founder of the Rideau Archives (and our historical society) Georgie Tupper said she'd always envisioned the creation of a military history that focused on local inhabitants. Things like the war plaques in North Gower and Marlborough, the Tweedsmuir histories and so forth were good places to start. Tupper and Audrey Renton had already created extensive records on this topic, which she hopes will be carried even further with the help of this current team. Tupper called efforts to date a good start on interesting work and encourages anyone with additional information to share that with project members.

Susan McKellar recalled an earlier RTHS meeting in May of 2011 devoted to local “Home Children”. Those were orphaned or indigent children shipped from Great Britain to different colonies in need of labour. Three such children placed and raised in Rideau Township fought and died in the First World War: George Gray, Lance Gillett and Cecil Meadows. All have no known graves. In brief but poignant remarks McKellar spoke of fostered youngsters who “...went as young men, overseas, served in the First World War and were killed. So they have no descendants, no family left here. And we're the ones – we're the ones – to remember them.” More information about Gray, Gillett and Meadows was part of additional display material at the meeting.



Ruth Wright quoting from some of the letters written by Clayton Bradley.

Ruth Wright read from letters sent by (Adam) Clayton Bradley as he recounted experiences from enlistment to the battle lines. Twenty-four of those letters were donated to the archives by his niece, Miriam Hunter. Bradley's letters were uniformly upbeat and positive, reflecting his own personality and (no doubt) a desire to protect his parents and siblings from worry. Wright's excerpts helped all envision Bradley as a real, living person dealing cheerfully with events small and large in that war. In a letter to his sister, Bradley explained how he'd thought hard about joining up but did so believing it was the right thing to do.

Cooke spoke again to mention two more First World War fatalities with ties to Rideau Township who enlisted in the British forces. Lt. William Davidson Thomson joined the 53rd Battalion, before being seconded to the Royal Flying Corps.. He went on to be killed while flying as an observer directing artillery fire.

Lt. Caldwell Groves Scobie was probably born in Carsonby and went on to join the Royal Airforce. His plane just disappeared on May 21 1918. No bodies from that plane were ever recovered.

During the question period Brian Sawyer wondered why Canadian war cenotaphs seem to list two or three times more casualties from the First World War than from the Second World War, considering Canada's vigorous participation in both events. Cooke agreed that the Second World War involved more personnel, but explained it was less deadly. The scope of that war included many more jobs outside of combat theatres compared to "the meat grinder" that was the First World War.

Marguerite Rogers made a gracious summary speech with thanks for the speakers' efforts. She noted how different local projects sometimes connect and supplement in interesting ways, as in the case of Home Children and the local heroes research.

During the post-talk reception I met Jennifer (McCuaig) Bradshaw of Kemptville, a great-great grand niece of Clayton Bradley. Her grandmother, Miriam Hunter, donated the letters Ruth Wright shared during the program. Even though the passage of time means fewer people alive today have direct ties to those killed in the First World War, many still care about those lost, or feel real



Jennifer Bradshaw and Ruth Wright . Jennifer is a descendant of Clayton Bradley.

empathy through a connection with veterans who survived those conflicts.

We thank the speakers for informing us about their work and ways we can help. Additional thanks are once again due to Robert Craig for warmly welcoming our gathering to Holy Trinity. The stately church includes two stained glass windows, a plaque and framed lists in fine calligraphy honoring those who did answer their country's call across two world wars.

News from the Rideau Branch, Ottawa Archives

Hours: The Rideau Archives is open every Tuesday from 9:30 am 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.

Bruce Barry Hopson

In May of this year, the papers of Bruce Barry Hopson arrived at the Rideau Township Archives. Hopson, who had passed away after a lengthy illness at the Kemptville District Hospital on 22 April at the age of 64, had sat on the Board of Directors of the Spencerville Mill Foundation and had served as its Secretary-Treasurer. Previously, however, he had operated his own Family and Personal

Counselling service while residing on River Road in Manotick. His parents, Thomas William Hopson (1920-1976), an industrial designer with the National Research Council in Ottawa, and Annie Winifred Ames (1921-1989), lived for a time at RR#1 Kars, his mother later moving to 1668 River Road, Osgoode. Hopson's papers consist primarily of family photographs and family histories. The Rideau Township Archives is open each Tuesday, where the histories of former residents of Rideau Township, including the Hopsons, may be viewed.

The Dickinson House

As has been reported in the past, the future of the Dickinson House is currently uncertain, as it is one of several buildings in Dickinson Square that are the subject of a Request for Offers to lease or purchase, which was issued by the City of Ottawa in July of this year. Councillor Scott Moffatt has scheduled a public meeting for December 17 at 7:00 p.m. in the Manotick Arena, at which time the results of the RFO process will be announced. It is not known, therefore, whether the upcoming December 7 - 8 weekend will be the last of a very successful 2013 season for the Dickinson House Museum, or whether it will in fact be the final two days of the museum's operation by RTHS. If you have not had an opportunity to visit this century home in the past, this weekend might be the time to do so.



Our Victorian Christmas Tree

As part of Manotick's Old-Fashioned Christmas celebrations, Dickinson House has been all dressed up in its Christmas finery. Come and join us this weekend to see our Victorian Christmas tree and perhaps make your own heritage-inspired ornament, such as the one pictured. Craft supplies and instructions will be provided. We also hear there will be some baked goodies available. The Watson's Mill Christmas Craft Sale will be open for business across the street and following the annual parade, there will be a display of Christmas trees set up in front of Dickinson House, all decorated by local businesses.

We cannot say enough to thank everyone who has given of their time and talents to make Dickinson House a great place to be in 2013, as well as in years past. The members of the Dickinson House community all share a belief in the old saying: "He who loves an old house never loves in vain."



A heritage-inspired ornament such as one can make this coming weekend at the Dickinson House

Some Watson's Mill Events

The Mill is located at 5525 Dickinson Street, Dickinson Square, Manotick. Free parking on-site.

Web Site: www.watsonsmill.com

The Carriage Shed Office at Watson's Mill is open: weekdays, 10:00 a.m.-4:00.p.m. The Mill is open November 1st to December 2nd: Saturdays & Sundays, 10am to 4pm. Please visit www.watsonsmill.com for a complete calendar of events.

- Christmas Market and Fine Art Sale Saturday, December 7 10:00am, Sunday December 8 10:am.
- Annual Carols at Sunset 4:30pm & 5:30pm Sun, December 8, Watson's Mill. Join us and the Manotick Brass Ensemble for a great season finale! This is a traditional sing-along of Christmas Carols, wonderful for all ages. Please dress warmly.
- Drop 'n' Shop at Watson's Mill Carriage Shed Sat, December 14, 10am – 4pm, .and December 21, 10am - 4pm. Drop your children off at Watson's Mill to play games and make crafts while you shop in Manotick for the Holiday Season. Story Time for Drop and Shop in conjunction with Dickinson House.

The RTHS gratefully acknowledges the financial support received from the City of Ottawa

Minutes of the Rideau Township Historical Society

November Meeting, November 20, 2013, Holy Trinity Church, North Gower

Opening: The Rideau Township Historical Society met at Holy Trinity Anglican Church, North Gower, Ontario, for the regular November meeting and a program on Local Heroes, with about 45 members and guests present. President Brian Sawyer called the meeting to order at about 7:35 p.m. Ruth Wright introduced Robert Craig, who graciously welcomed us to Holy Trinity.

Minutes: It was moved by Marguerite Rogers and seconded by Ruth Wright that the minutes of the September 18, 2013 meeting as published in the October Newsletter be approved. Carried. It was noted that there was no business meeting at the book launch in November, so were no minutes to be approved.

Finance: Treasurer Colin Wright announced that the current bank balance was \$18,035.31, with some outstanding cheques.

Membership: Pat Earl reported that there are currently 11 life members, 6 complimentary members, and 78 paid members.

Program: Ruth Wright, program co-ordinator, circulated a sign-up sheet for the December Christmas pot-luck dinner, to be held December 12 at Cornerstone Wesleyan Church in North Gower. She also announced that the January meeting would be held at St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church, Kars.

Publications: Jane Anderson reported that she has sold almost 50 copies of Cheese Factories of Rideau Township, Second Edition.

Dickinson House: Brian Sawyer reported that the committee expects a response from the City in January to offers.

Evening Program: The program on Local Heroes: Rideau Township Archives Memorial Project proceeded with several speakers, questions and discussion. Marguerite Rogers summed up the meeting and thanked the speakers.

Adjournment: Moved by Ruth Wright, seconded by Dave Bullock, that we adjourn; carried. A social time with refreshments followed, and people had another opportunity to view the displays on local First World War casualties.