

The Rideau Township Historical Society

Preserving and Promoting local history for the former Rideau Township

February 2019 Newsletter

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

The February Meeting

Date: Wednesday February 20
Time: 7:30 p.m.
Place: St. Andrews Presbyterian Church,
6810 Rideau Valley Drive South,
Kars, Ontario



The Winter/Spring Speakers and Subjects

February: Black History Month, Speaker Nyamme Samuels

March: A Naval Career, Speaker Peter Milsom

April: Algonquin Land Claims, Speaker Sean Darcy

May: Magic Lantern Presentation, Speaker Professor Lindsay Lambert

June: Excursion - details will be available at the April meeting

More information will be available in the monthly newsletters.

Archives Awareness Week April 1 - 7, 2019

“Preserving the Past to Enrich the Future”

The Rideau Branch of the City of Ottawa Archives is presenting 3 FREE programs designed to provide practical information and ideas for researching, organizing and preserving cherished family history and memories.

See page 5 for more information.

Speaker:

Nyamme (Nye) Samuels

Subject: Jamaica

Our speaker at the February meeting will be Nyamme (Nye) Samuels, speaking about the country of Jamaica.

Nye grew up and was married in that country. She came to Canada in 1960 to join her husband Eric, living first in Saskatoon, then Ottawa. She has lived near Osgoode since 1971 where she and Eric raised their family. She now lives in the same house with her son and his family.

As well as participating in community life in this area, she was also involved in the Jamaican community in Ottawa. We look forward to learning more about this Caribbean country.



Nyamme

The New RTHS Board for 2019

President – David (Sandy) McNiece

Past President – Tom MacDonald

Secretary – Ruth Wright (acting)

Treasurer – Sue Gibson

Vice President – Susan McKellar

Membership – Gary Bagley

Program – Dorothy Gray

Communications – Alan Haan

Publications – Susan McKellar (acting)

Dickinson House – Brian Earl

3 Directors at Large - Maureen McPhee, Guilio Maffini, Scott Cameron

[Click here](#) for responsibilities and contact information.

The RTHS January Bring and Brag

Article by Susan McKellar, photos by Owen Cooke

Memories were stirred and discussion generated at the January meeting when several people shared an amazing variety of artifacts, pictures and stories with the group. Thanks to everyone for a fascinating evening!

Mary Anne Laframboise kicked the program off, showing us an extensive scrapbook related to her father who had been a hockey player in the NHL. Born in 1908, he started playing around age 17 or 18 in Montreal, and later moved to the Ottawa Shamrocks, then to the NHL in Philadelphia. After his hockey career ended he came back to Ottawa to help his father in business. As a matter of interest, Mary Anne's mother's maiden name was Phelan, and she has been working on clarifying a connection to the local Phelan family.



Mary Anne Laframboise presenting.

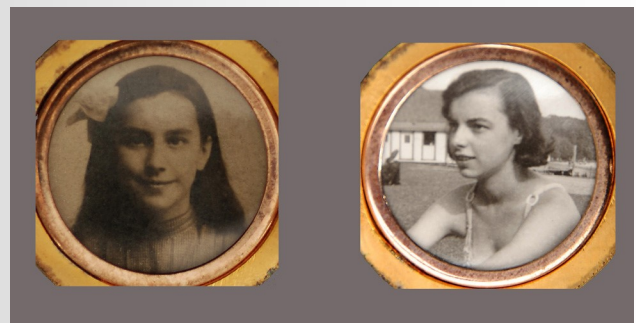
Susan McKellar brought her new choir music book, "Madrigals and Part Songs", and briefly described the history of madrigals, songs from the Renaissance. She then read the first verse of a song, "Of all the birds that I do know", about a sparrow named Philip.

Brian Sawyer displayed several antique objects and quizzed the audience on their names and uses, with some correct guesses. These objects included a bed warmer, a goffering iron, a German walking stick, an item used for squeezing yucca and getting juice from it, a gadget for picking up crumbs off the table, two commemorative spoons, a pipe, an eye glass and book for identifying silver pieces, a collar box, a beer stein and a small brass spittoon.

Dennis Osmond shared both an object, a golliwog his mother had made many years ago, and considerable research on the origin and evolution of these dolls in society over the years. It began as a story book character in children's books by Florence Kate Upton that was based on an old doll of her grandmother. Another author, Enid Blyton, picked up the golliwog theme, but hers were more villainous than Upton's. They later appeared in music, handicrafts, commercial items and novels. Starting in the 1960s they were controversial, as some felt they were racist. They fell out of favour, but have been making a revival. This presentation prompted lots of discussion on possible racist implications.



Maureen McPhee presented a beautiful gold locket that held two pictures, one of her grandmother Lulu Jamieson Mitchell and one of her mother Ruth Mitchell McPhee. She told us that her mother had kept this locket but Maureen hadn't seen the pictures inside until after her mother passed away. She used this picture to identify other unnamed pictures, some of which she showed us. Maureen went on to tell us that she never knew her grandmother, as she had died in childbirth at age 36, and her eight children were split up between relatives to raise, a sad story.



Maureen McPhee's gold locket

Chuck Gruchy displayed ancient land deeds, one from the 1600s and one from the 1700s, from ancestors in Jersey. These ancestors had to leave France because they were Protestant (Huguenots).

John Palmer showed us a picture album he had bought in a bookstore in Germany, entitled Deutschland Erwacht (Germany Wakes Up). It was an album that people would obtain pictures for and would paste them in. It is about the rise of the Nazi party in Germany, and includes pictures of Hitler.

Rosie McNiece has a transcription of a diary that her father kept during his three years in a prison camp in northern Africa during World War II. Melville (Mickey) Bollow served in the Honorable Artillery Company, and was sent to Palestine. He was captured in 1942 and remained in the camp until 1945. As it was an officer prisoner of war camp, they were not treated too badly and all prisoners came out alive. Rosie said there is a lot of emotion in the diary, and read us a few excerpts. It is particularly important to her, as her father didn't talk much about the war.

Owen Cooke brought two coins that were found by either his father or grandfather, on his father's farm in Muskoka Lakes Township. They were found by a cabin in a back field of the farm, near three old graves. His grandfather bought the farm in 1896; there had been two families living there before. Owen passed the coins around, and also showed us pictures of them to see more of the detail. One was an 1837 penny from Lower Canada, and the other an 1854 ha'penny (or half penny) from Upper Canada.

The evening ended with people admiring and examining in more detail all these treasured historical items.



John Palmer - With his book.



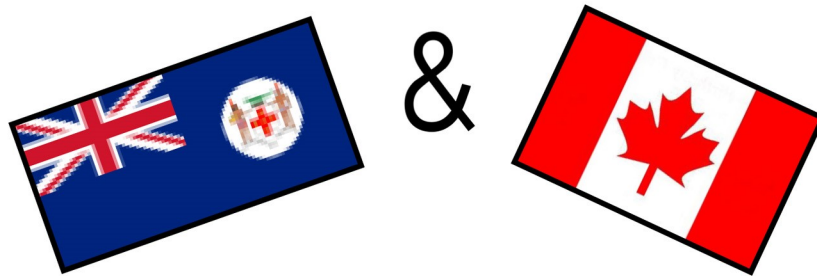
Susan McKellar presenting her madrigals, songs from the Renaissance.



Dorothy Gray, our program director, hosted the Bring and Brag, and thanked the presenters.

**Rideau Township Historical Society
Wednesday, February 20, 2019, 7:30 p.m.
Kars Presbyterian Church,
6810 Rideau Valley Drive, Kars, ON**

**Black History Month
Life in Jamaica and Canada**



NYAMME SAMUELS



*The Jamaican flag shown above was the Colonial Flag of Jamaica from 1906-1962,
Jamaican Independence Year.*

ARCHIVES AWARENESS WEEK

April 1 – 7, 2019

"Preserving the Past to Enrich the Future"

Rideau Branch Archives presents 3 FREE programs designed to provide practical information and ideas for researching, organizing and preserving cherished family history and memories.

No Pre-Registration Required

House and Property History

Rideau Branch Archives, 6581 Fourth Line, North Gower
Tuesday, April 2, 7-9 p.m.

Presentation and discussion on researching the history of your house or property using documents, photographs, maps and other local resources.

Archives in Your Attic

Harmony Hall, Manotick Legion, 550 Ann St., Manotick
Saturday, April 6, 10-12 a.m.

Bring your family photos, letters, diaries, books, family or business papers, maps, etc. Archivists will be on hand to answer your questions and offer information and advice.

Home Storage of Digital Photos and Video

Harmony Hall, Manotick Legion, 550 Ann St., Manotick
Saturday, April 6, 1-3 p.m.

The Digital Records Archivist at the City of Ottawa will present strategies for long-term home preservation of your valued digital images.

Will include a question & answer period

The volunteers and staff of the Rideau Branch Archives gratefully acknowledge Friends of the City of Ottawa Archives/Les Amis des Archives de la Ville d'Ottawa and the City of Ottawa Archives for their program and financial support.

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.

Voters' Lists, and German Experience in post-war North Gower

A hundred years ago, North Gower Township counted among its residents many settlers from Ireland but few of German heritage, so it is unusual to find, in the 1921 census, two German-born residents there: Sophia Sommer and her daughter Christine.

They were on a farm on lot 4 in the Fourth Concession, just south of Richmond, farmed by Christine's husband David Knox since October 1920, when he had taken over the family farm after the death of their mother Mary (Hill) Knox that summer. David had left Carleton County in his twenties, ending up in Buffalo, New York, where he married Christine and worked as a switchman on the railroad for nearly twenty years until returning to North Gower in 1920.

But Christine was unhappy here. Perhaps there were personal differences, perhaps she was unaccustomed to rural life, or perhaps she could not abide the prejudice against Germans lingering in Canada after the First World War, which had only just ended. Whatever her reason, in 1925 she returned as a "widow" with her mother and daughters to Buffalo, where Christine died in 1936. David moved into Richmond, but he too eventually returned to Buffalo -- to visit his daughter Esther's family and, after his death in Richmond in 1956, to be buried there.

While Rideau Branch has few records of the Knoxes, its collection of voters' lists proved invaluable in locating David Knox at the family farm after his return to Canada. Because the right to vote in Canada was so closely tied to land assessment, the lists are an excellent resource for finding out where a person of voting age lived. Available for public consultation in the Reading Room at Rideau Branch is a collection of lists for both Marlborough and North Gower, going back to the 1870s. Note, however, that the lists are not so useful for locating women in the years before the suffrage movement or at any time for tracking resident aliens, like Sophia Sommer.

For tips on other resources useful in researching the history of properties and houses, please consider attending a free presentation on this subject at Rideau Branch on Tuesday 2 April, from 7.00 to 9.00 pm, part of our Archives Awareness Week celebrations.

Stuart Clarkson, Community Archivist

VOTER'S LIST, 1921						
FOR THE MUNICIPALITY OF						
THE TOWNSHIP OF NORTH GOWER						
Schedule of Post Offices						
1 North Gower		15 Kars, No. 2.				
2 Kars		16 North Gower, No. 3.				
3 Manotick		17 Richmond, No. 3.				
4 Carsonby		18 North Gower, No. 1.				
5 Richmond		19 Kars No. 1.				
6 Kemptville		20 Osgoode, No. 3.				
7 Ottawa		21 Osgoode, No. 2.				
8 Osgoode		22 Ottawa, No. 1.				
9 Malakoff		23 Hamilton				
14 North Gower No. 2.						
Polling Sub-Division No. 1. —Comprising the whole of the 4th Concession from the Town Line between North Gower and Nepean to the Side Line between Lots Nos. 32 and 33; and the West half of the 3rd Concession from the said Nepean Line to the Side Road between Lots Nos. 15 and 16; and the whole of the 3rd Concession to the Side Road between Lots Nos. 25 and 26; and the West Half of the said 3rd Concession to the Side Line between Lots Nos. 32 and 33.						
Part I. —Persons entitled to Vote at both Municipal Elections and Elections to the Legislative Assembly.						
No. Juror	Name	Occupation	Lot	Con	Qualif'n	P. O. Ad.
2	Armstrong, V. J.	farmer	e ½ 29	4	ofao	2
1	Armstrong, Jno	farmer	w pt 28 & 29	4	ofa	2
6 j	Arbuckle, Matt	farmer	s ½ 12	3	ofao	3
8 j	Arbuckle, Wilson	farmer	n ½ 12	4	ofao	3
18 j	Ball, Jas	farmer	s ½ 28	3	ofao	14
44	Bell, Robert	farmer	pts 31 32	4	ofao	14
62	Blair, Dr H. G.	M D.	59 Well N. G.	4	ofao	1
75 j	Brown, Ruel	farmer	s w pt 22	3	ofao	1
38 j	Ba'er, Austin	farmer	s ½ 5	4	ofao	17
100 j	Baldry, John	carpenter	pt 20	3	ofao	1
46	Bell, Herb W.	f son	pts 31 32	4	ofa	14
28	Barrows, Mrs. Ida		pt 7 Main N G	4	ofao	1