

The Rideau Township Historical Society

Preserving and Promoting local history for the former Rideau Township

January 2017 Newsletter

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

The January Meeting & AGM

Date: Wednesday, January 18, 2017
Time: 7.30 p.m.

Place St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church
6810 Rideau Valley Drive South,
Kars, Ontario



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



Last year Brian Sawyer showed us a seal-skin ookpik mascot from the 1960s.

Stole the show.

***For more pictures, information, and news join us on
facebook or twitter***

[facebook.com/rideautownshiphistory](https://www.facebook.com/rideautownshiphistory)

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The RTHS Annual General Meeting

The AGM will precede the Bring & Brag presentations. It is traditionally short but it is important because we elect our executive for the coming year.

The nominating committee will present a report listing a slate of candidates for the various positions as recruited by the present executive. At this point there will be a request for additional nominations from the floor for any position

Speakers:

Speakers at the January meeting will be RTHS members themselves. Yes it is time once again for our annual bring and brag night with RTHS members **and/or their guests** presenting their historical treasures.

Bring along an item, or a photo, or a book, and tell us about it. Give us a short presentation, five minutes or so, on why you think this is interesting or important.

If you wish to show photos or do a small PowerPoint presentation, the screen and projector will be set up and you need only bring a memory stick with your material. Let's see as diverse and fascinating things as we had last year!

Canada 150, Help us Out

As part of the celebration of Canada's 150th birthday, an exhibit will be installed in Dickinson House entitled "A Walk Through the Decades". If anyone has any artifacts or memorabilia that would reflect decades from the 1860s to the 1970s and would like to have such items considered for the exhibit, please contact Melanie Hayes at 613-692-3759. Thank you from the Dickinson House Committee.

This Month

1. The RTHS Annual General Meeting.
2. The Annual Bring and Brag
3. Dickinson House
4. News from the Rideau Archives
5. Upcoming Program
6. Canada 150

Dickens on Dickinson

Visitors to the Dickens on Dickinson events at Dickinson House held on Dec. 11 and 18 enjoyed a reading of Charles Dickens' classic *A Christmas Carol*, performed by Brian Earl.

During intermission, guests enjoyed hot chocolate served from Victorian chocolate pots as well a selection of Christmas goodies served on fine china loaned by Melanie Hayes. A good time was had by all.



Left to right, Melanie Hayes and Pat Earl are ready for the hungry attendees.

Thanks Dickinson House Committee

The Dickinson Committee and Brian Earl are to be congratulated on the wealth of new ideas on events for the House this year. The Dickens on Dickinson was only one such event.

This year they are already pursuing events for Canada 150. Note the request for ideas for Melanie's "A Walk Through the Decades" exhibit on page 1.

More Spring Program

In February Meredith Quaille will speak on The Role of Women in Agriculture. **Please note that the February meeting will be one week early due to availability of the speaker. The date will be February 8.**



Brian Earl reading from Dickens' "A Christmas Carol" provided a very interesting and fun event at the Dickinson House this past December. Brian has an excellent voice and did a first class job.



This Victorian chocolate pot was not the only example of Melanie's fine china at the reading. It was used to serve hot chocolate to go with the Christmas goodies.

March will be a presentation of research by summer student Hannah Blaine on Joseph Currier.

In April mother & daughter team Ruth Stewart Verger and Donna Verger will converse on The Famous Five Women.

The May meeting is yet to be finalized and June will feature an excursion to the Polish Museum in Wilno

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

The RTHS Christmas Party 2016

It was a cold and icy night (not a fit night for man nor beast) when on December 14, 2016, 30 brave souls of the historical society faced the elements and went to the RTHS Annual Christmas Party at the Knox Presbyterian Church in Manotick. This hearty group was rewarded with some very fine dining provided by the caterer, "A Fine Line" of North Gower and a wide selection of Christmas

music including a "sing along" provided by Rowena Pearl of Kars. The hall was decorated in a very festive fashion and set the scene for a very pleasurable night enjoyed by all. If you were not able to join us, too bad – but there is always next year – Happy New Year to All and to All a Good Night.

Article by Sandy McNiece

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.

Drill Orders and Promiscuous Accounts: a Miscellany of Victorian Life in Kars and Vicinity

In 1848, James Lindsay began to use a blank ledger, comprised of paper manufactured in the south of England by R. Turner & Son in 1846 and bound in Montreal by E.C. Tuttle, to record the accounts of his wharf at Wellington Village in North Gower Township over the next two years. Personal accounts were recorded for ships plying the canal either from Kingston or from Ottawa, including the Porcupine, the steamer Beaver, the steamer Perth, the barge Albert, and the Caledonia, and the newly built Phoenix.

Other accounts illustrate other figures in Lindsay's trading network of distant and local merchants: Macpherson Crane & Co. of Montreal, owners of the Phoenix; Ottawa's Workman & Griffin; Campbell & McArthur; James Brough & Co.; Samuel Crane & Co. of Prescott; G. Majore of Petite Nation; R.S. Blaisdale; Alexander Scott; Lyman Perkins; William Ross; Alexander McCallum; Daniel Williams; Pat. Nash; and W.A. Garlick. Real accounts included Cash, Wood, and Supplies. And finally there were also the usual nominal accounts: Bills Receivable, Bills Payable, Interest, Charges, Suspense, and Profit & Loss.

The intriguingly named Promiscuous Accounts are far less nefarious than might be expected -- imprest or promiscuous accounts are now more commonly known as petty cash. Lindsay abandoned the ledger in 1850, beginning another book for his promiscuous and other accounts, while leaving plenty of blank pages. But in the pages in this ledger is to be found a far deeper representation of life in Kars and Manotick than just Lindsay's accounting data.

The ledger then came into the hands of Peter Martin of Manotick, brother of Lindsay's son-in-law Stephen Martin. Peter Martin used many of the blank pages to practice

writing. On facing pages, it seems that Caroline and Peter copied dozens of names, some from newspapers or books, such as John Durie, bookseller. Peter Martin also practiced his very distinctive capital letters. At the back, beneath the names of both himself and his wife, were listed various goods, including several school books: Sangster's Elementary Arithmetic, a new edition of which was published in 1862; Lovell's Geography, printed in 1862; and Sullivan's "Superceeded Spelling," by which he was referring to Spelling-Book Superseded, an 1848 work that went into hundreds of printings over the next half-century.

Martin's issues with spelling help confirm that it was he who wrote a note on the front flyleaf: "then pas down the ranks and inspect clothing and bayonets ..." These words were part of drill orders, which Martin in all likelihood recorded while serving as Lieutenant in the 43rd "Carleton" Battalion 7 Company Manotick militia unit in the 1860s.

The Martins left for the United States in 1870, but the book remained behind, idle for a dozen more years. It then was used by William Mossop of Kars in 1883 to record his name and address several times along with a few of his own financial transactions. How Mossop, who came to Kars from Osgoode, obtained use of the ledger is not clear. Perhaps during that time, a number of pages near the end of the volume were occupied with literature, not original but copied from other texts. These include the poems "Twenty Years Ago," "Bingen on the Rhine," and Lacoste's "Somebody's Darling," as well as a selection of prose from Lanman's "The Lonely Cross."

These four selections were all printed together in Third Book of Reading Lessons, issued by Canada Publishing Co. Ltd. in 1884, which may have been the source text. Other selections include Chief Justice Gibson's "The Memories of Home," published in Christian Home, and the lyrics of the hymn "Come all ye saints to Pisgah's Mountain." A pencilled addition recounts verses of unknown

authorship and date on the loss of the steam ship London in the Bay of Biscay.

Finally, there was a last entry entitled "The Land of the Maple Green," a song clearly in the vein of jingoistic verse, also of unknown origin and date. As the writing of these copied verses differs from William's, perhaps this was his wife Mary Jane's contribution to the ledger. The Mossops remained at Kars until the 1890s.

The book then lay dormant once again, this time for nearly a century, until the last record was entered, over one hundred years after its initial use for the wharf account: a drawing of modern automobiles, probably dating to the 1960s or 1970s. Quite a bit of paper was removed from

the volume over time: at least 480 of the original 640 pages are completely unaccounted for, and many of the pages remaining sewn together have been partially or even mostly excised and removed. So we are left with only a quarter, perhaps, of the original extent of the book.

Still, quite a book of scraps which cast light on the patriotism, soldiering, religiosity, self-education, sentimentality, entrepreneurship, and commercial networking during the course of over a century lived by residents along the Rideau Canal in the north-east of North Gower Township.

Stuart Clarkson

Date	Description	Amount	Other
Nov 22	To Cash	201	1 5 10
	To do		2 ..
Dec 4	To Ammiris	210	5 1 9
8	To R. Smith	213	15 8
	To Ammiris, alt hand	215	17 6 23
19	To T. Hatford	220	1 10 ..
49 Jan 8	To Ammiris	224	9 1 1
14	To Ammiris	228	12 11 3
22	To W. Wilson	236	8 5 ..
	To James Shorn	238	6 3 9
29	To Leming, Ammiris	240	.. 7 2
	To Wm. Campbell	240	16 4 ..
	To R. Smith Jr	244	20 3 9
31	To McRider	245	1 8 6
Feb 5	To M. Coz	248	.. 3 3
6	To John Forgie	251	1 15 ..
9	To J. Quinn	253	34 18 2
10	To Ammiris	254	15 2 1 2
12	To Baloufeld	547	10 7
		1360	11 7

Lindsay's Wharf accounts ledger, MGR043-01-005 (RV 196.1)