

The Rideau Township Historical Society

Preserving and Promoting local history for the former Rideau Township

June 2013 Newsletter

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

The June Excursion

Date: Saturday June 22, 2013
Time: Bus leaves Client Service Centre 2155 Roger Stevens Drive, North Gower at 9:00 a.m.



Photo by Doug Culham

Dickinson House volunteers in the Dickinson Day parade.

June Excursion to Cumberland Heritage Village |Museum

Guided Tour of: Cumberland Village Heritage Museum
Then off to Navan to the Domaine Perrault Winery
Picnic Lunch (provided) on covered patio
Tour of Premises , Wine-Tasting

If you wish to attend and haven't already signed up, please contact Ruth Wright at 613-489-3886 or e-mail: ruthbri-anwright@gmail.com by Saturday, June 22

Cost: \$20.00 (all inclusive)

Bring a Friend, Light Refreshments

This Month

1. The June Excursion
2. The May Bring & Brag
3. News from the Rideau Archives
4. Dickinson Day at the Dickinson House
5. The Trousseau Tea

Note

Val Lister received an award for exceptional service and dedication to the Historic Lighting Society of Canada. This award is not often given. Congratulations Val.

The Trousseau Tea

On July 8 and 9, Barb Barkley welcomed visitors to the Dickinson House Museum to take part in her Trousseau Tea. Barb is the "bride" in the museum's Victorian Wedding Re-enactment, scheduled to be presented by the Rideau Township Historical Society on June 15 at 2:00 p.m. Guests at the trousseau tea had the opportunity to



Photo by Maureen McPhee

Barb Barkley preparing for her trousseau tea.

view historical artifacts representing the contents of the "bride's" hope chest and took tea on the veranda and lawns of Dickinson House.



Photo by Maureen McPhee

Val Lister provided these turn of the century "wedding lamps" for the tea. They would be gifts of better quality than the average lamp. Although they could be mistaken for crystal they are probably pressed glass.

The Rideau Township Historical Society

requests the pleasure of your company

at a

Victorian Wedding Re-enactment

on the lawn of Dickinson House

in historic Dickinson Square, Manotick

June 15 at 2:00 p.m.

Wedding cake and lemonade will be served

Admission is free; donations are welcome

We hope that you can join us for this trip down memory lane

Dress: Victorian or Modern, as you wish

Everyone is welcome

The Rideau Township Historical Society gratefully acknowledges the financial support of the City of Ottawa and the Government of Canada

For further information, email dickinsonhousemuseum@gmail.com

Rain location – Watson's Mill

The Annual Bring & Brag **Article and Pictures by Lucy Martin**

29 members and guests turned out for the annual “bring and brag” meeting held at Manotick’s Knox Presbyterian Church. Fourteen presenters explained treasures they had brought – or asked for audience help guessing the purpose of mysterious items.

A summary follows, with apologies if any details were lost in transcription.

Pat Earl brought an old cookbook: *Columbia Cookbook* by Adelaide Hollingworth (Toronto 1892).

(Google lists the book’s sub-title as “Toilet, Household, Medical, and Cooking Recipes, Flowers and Their Culture, Health Suggestions, Carving, Table Etiquette, Dinner Giving menus, Care of Sick, Facts Worth Knowing, Etc., Etc. : Embracing All the Points Necessary for Successful Housekeeping: A Complete Home Instructor”

Earl also brought along some pamphlets of a similar age, including one on “Good things and how to cook them”. It included testimonials for an herbal remedy, “Zam-buk”. The text cautioned shoppers to avoid inferior substitutes “...if Zam-buk were not the best, it would not be imitated. People only imitate the real diamond!” (Owen Cooke noted that product is still sold today.)

Georgie Tupper brought a family treasure, a glass “thumbprint with heart” compotier and six berry dishes, presented as a wedding gift in 1903 to her grandparents, Harriett (Crowe) Park and Elias Park. The pattern was made between 1898 and 1906 by the Tarnetum Glass Co, in Tarentum, Pennsylvania, est. 1866. The factory burned down in 1918.

Bill Tupper shared tools collected by local Veterinarian Ken Hartin, most of which were donated to Upper Canada Village. Tupper had a few items gleaned from that collection by his grandson, Gregory. One was a piece of iron that was used to stamp harvested lumber to identify logs back in the five generations of Hartins once associated with harvesting lumber. The “W8” stood for the Williamson Lumber Company camp # 8. This tool goes by various names, including “scaler hammer”.



Bill Tupper brought this log stamper from the Williamson Lumber Company

Tupper also brought one of about 35 hand-made wooden handles his grandson inherited. Tupper gave many in the audience a fright by accidentally knocking the handle against his wife’s heirloom berry bowl as he concluded his demonstration. (Fortunately for the bowl - and the marriage - no harm was done!)

Owen Cooke showed us a fan imprinted with a cartoon face of a “kappa” a well-known creature in Japanese culture – something like a troll of mixed disposition. Cooke included a slide show depicting kappas in legend, culture and marketing, particularly in the Sago area.

In case you have yet to see one, kappas can be green or blue. They live in rivers, smell like fish and have a depression in their head that needs to stay filled with water to retain their power. Evil and mischievous, they will drown and eat children. (Hence images of kappa are sometimes used to warn children away from bodies of water.)

These rascals like to look up womens’ kimonos and fart aloud. They may challenge you to Japanese chess or wrestling – and they invariably win. So, if you meet a kappa, bow. They will be forced to bow back, which will tip the water out of their head-depression, and they will lose their power. They like cucumber, which is how kappa sushi (cucumber roll) gets its name.



A Kappa Fan

Susan McKellar brought a black mourning veil which belonged to her mother-in-law’s grandmother, Isabella McLachan who lived from 1844 -1927. Modeling it, she remarked that it had gone missing for 5 years before she managed to find it (in a labeled box!) in a closet, just in time to share it for that night’s bring & brag.

Jane Anderson brought in small items that had belonged to her mother’s cousin, Bertha Fox. This included a box of Nyal yellow pills (for the liver and kidney) made in Windsor, ON, and a box of Fibre needles for a Victrola (record player). Fiber needles were easier on records than metal needles, but fibre needles need to be cut to the correct

length. We also learned it is important to keep Victrolas perfectly level.

Ruth Wright shared a birthday photo and stories about her Dad, who just turned 100 on May 9th. Born in Vars, Harold Gray still lives in his own home and has written up parts of his life. Wright shared a story from her father of setting off with a loaded, steel-wheeled wagon on a fall trip to North Bay at age 17 – a reminder of the feats our predecessors undertook, sometimes at fairly tender ages. As Wright concluded her talk, Bill Tupper stood to describe Harold Gray as a “gentleman – a title you earn over a lifetime.” He was also a champion plowman who Tupper credits with being a gracious mentor to many aspiring plowmen and women.

Scott Cameron shared a gold pocket watch that had belonged to his great-great grandfather, Robert Uziah Scharf, born 1864. Robert married Emily Kettle in 1891 and they had nine children. He was a farmer whose activities also included carpentry, logging and delivering milk from different farms to the cheese factory. At one point he also went threshing in Saskatchewan, back when that activity demanded masses of human labour. The gold pocket watch still works!



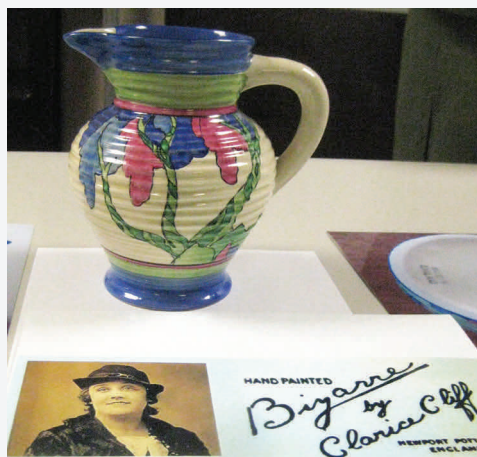
Stu Rogers spoke about rocks – near and far. The far rocks were some heavy ones he encountered in South Dakota, near an old post-glacial lake, in which he observed triangular holes, deeper than a finger, that seem to have been man-made. Could they possibly have been some sort of anchor rocks for early man, as far back as 16,000 BCE?

He also brought two rocks that have no official explanation. One was found near his daughter's house in Regina. Could it be a club or a pestle (mortar and pestle). Or something else, like the head of a club? The audience was polled for ideas. I thought the first rock looked quite a lot like poi pounders (used to mash taro root into paste that ferments into the staple food called poi in Hawaii). But did native peoples do that with this rock? What food might they have been mashing? We don't know.

The other rock was found on the prairie and reminds him of a small anvil. If it reflects natural erosion, it seems remarkably even in its symmetry.

Dennis Osmond showed an art-deco vase, a gift to his mother-in-law at her wedding in 1927. Research into the item revealed it to be a “Bizarre” vase, which is the actual name for a line of pottery made by the influential English ceramic artist Clarice Cliff (1899-1972).

Born to modest circumstances in an area where pottery was already long established, Cliff began working in a ceramics factory at age 13. She demonstrated unusual drive and was allowed to develop her obvious talent in a



series of apprenticeships. She went on to run her own production studio where she crafted novel shapes and designs. Cliff's work was popular from the outset and remains collectable today. Osmond recounts that one

18” Bizarre vase sold for £48,000.

Coral Lindsay reminded us that when the cool May weather finally warms up, it will be time to plant. She demonstrated two antique planting devices. One was a canvas sack for broadcasting seed, perhaps to seed a lawn. The other a corn planter that pokes a hole in the ground and drops a seed in from a standing position. (Far faster than working by hand, but still laborious work!)

Val Lister brought more from her amazing lamp collection. Some came from Konia, in modern-day Turkey. One was found on the route of Alexander the Great and dates from the same period. Lister said in terms of history (and the history of lighting) they are “...super important – dollars and cents wise, they are not.” What impresses her was the evolution of the design. Starting at 3500 B.C, she traced how the bowl shape changed to better hold the wick, add multiple wicks, and try to keep bugs out (with an added lip). With the addition of a pedestal the shape eventually morphs into the great lamp.

Brian Sawyer brought a tray of miniature Toby jugs (jugs in the shape of a head). Sawyer thinks he got them at various auctions in England circa 1978-88. The audience was invited to try identify the characters depicted, which (we think) included Shakespeare, John Bull, Henry VIII, Robin Hood and Long John Silver of Treasure Island



Brian Sawyer's Toby jugs

fame. (Dating tip: Sawyer says adding “made in England” stamp on the bottom of ceramics was imposed around 1894. Hence, English-made stuff that does not identify the country of origin should be over 100 years old.)

Ben Sorensen brought a small framed picture of a sailing ship. He made the oak frame when he lived in Kingston as a young man. It is crafted out of wood Sorensen's brother recovered from the sunken wreck of the HMS St. Laurence.

This ship was built circa 1814, but did not see action in the War of 1812 even though it was an impressive three-decker made for a crew of some 700 seaman and officers. At war's end, surplus ships were mothballed in ready-reserve. Sorensen said ships built in haste (as in war time) were often made of poorly-seasoned wood and many did not last all that long as a result, falling prey to rot.

Here is Wikipedia's account of the ship's peace-time fate:
After the war in 1815, the ship was decommissioned. In January 1832, the hull was sold to Robert Drummond for £25. Between May and August, the hull was towed out of Navy Bay. It later formed the end of a pier attached to Morton's Brewery in Kingston and was used as a storage facility by the brewery, for cordwood among other materi-

als. Later, it was sunk in 30 feet (9.1m) of water close to shore...[gives coordinates]...and is now a popular diving attraction.

We thank those who presented and remind readers it's never too early to think about what you might share at next year's “bring and brag”.



Jane Anderson's NYAL pills

Dickinson Days at the Dickinson House

The Dickinson Days weekend was a very busy one at Dickinson House. Staff and volunteers took part in the Dickinson Days parade and a very good time was had by all. We wish to thank Lloyd Cowan, the owner and driver

of the beautiful 1931 Model A Ford, which carried us along and caught everyone's eye along the route. On June 1 and 2, Dickinson House was also part of Doors Open Ottawa and welcomed over 1,000 visitors to the



Photo by Doug Culham

Lloyd Cowan giving some RTHS members a ride for the parade in his Model A Ford.



Photo by Maureen McPhee

Lloyd Cowan has been a long time resident and businessman around Manotick. He has restored a number of Ford cars over the years and the results have been excellent.

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.

Loyal Orange Lodge – Rideau Township

The Rideau Archives has custody of an extensive collection of records created by the numerous lodges of the Loyal Orange Order in the townships of Marlborough and North Gower dating from as early as 1850 to 1990. These include the minutes, reports, photographs, regalia and other assorted records from the dozen or so lodges established in the communities of Burritt's Rapids, Carsonby, Kars, Malakoff, Pierce's Corners and Reeve Craig to name a few. Some communities such as Manotick and North Gower had more than one lodge in their heyday. An exhibit celebrating the heritage of these organizations and others such as the Independent Order of Foresters and the Free Masons can currently be viewed at the Rideau Archives.



The Orange Hall at Kars was moved to Upper Canada Village and refurbished as a Masonic Hall.

Watson's Mill Events

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

Web Site: www.watsonsmill.com

Watson's Mill hours of operation: Office hours: weekdays, 10:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m. The Mill is open to visitors daily from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Please visit www.watsonsmill.com for a complete calendar of events.

- **Manotick Farmers Market: Saturdays**, 9:00am to 2:00pm,: at the Carriage Shed parking lot, in Dickinson Square.
Watson's Mill is proud to team up once again with local growers and producers to host a Farmers Market in Historic Dickinson Square. The Manotick Farmers Market is scheduled to run on Saturdays, from 9am to 2pm, through Thanksgiving Weekend at the Carriage Shed, across the street from Watson's Mill.
- **Milling Demonstrations:**
On Sundays from 1pm-3pm visitors will watch real millers operate the original machinery, while they make flour using historic methods. Seeing the Mill come to life is a great experience for the whole family! It is so memorable to hear the roar of the equipment as it gets started, feel the floor boards shake, and smell the unique scent of grain being milled into flour. See the web site in case special events preclude milling.
- **Strawberry Social:** Sunday, June 23rd, 1:00-3:00pm: Tickets on sale now: \$10/adult, \$5/child (under 12 years).
Summer is here once more and it's time to celebrate the new season with fresh, local strawberries, cool lemonade, and the jazzy tunes of live music! Come join us here at Watson's Mill on June 23 for our Annual Strawberry Social and you'll be sure to have a grand time eating our delicious strawberry shortcake and listening to the live music of the Swamp Water Jazz Band. Tickets are available both at the door and in advance at the Mill.
- **Summer Concert Series Event:** featuring Amanda Bon: Sunday, June 23rd: Doors open at 6:30pm; Concert starts at 7:00pm. Tickets: \$25 per person or \$60 for a family pack and are available at Manotick Office Pro and Watson's Mill. Light refreshments and sweets. Event proceeds to Watson's Mill Building Maintenance Fund. Please note: this is alcohol free, family friendly event.
- **Used Book Sale:** Daily: from 10:00 am until 4:00 pm. At the Carriage Shed. All are welcome! With thousands of titles to sort through, it is easy to understand why they keep coming back for more!

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

Summer Events that May be of Interest

- Bicentennial Military Re-enactment Weekend - July 13 and 14 at Crysler's Farm

To commemorate the Bicentennial of the historic "Battle that Saved Canada" , over 500 living history re-enactors representing naval, artillery, band and infantry units from across Canada and the US will converge on the Crysler's Farm Battlefield Memorial grounds to take part in 3 battle re-enactments, a regency ball, and historically accurate portrayals of crafts, sports, military, merchants and civilian life of the War of 1812-1815 period.

www.celebrate1812.ca

- Maid for a Musket Comedy Theatre Presentation- Prescott

The time: 1813. The place: Prescott. A group of soldiers stationed in Prescott without much to do use their time wisely. They pledge to go without women or whisky for a whole year in order to better themselves with the study of poetry, philosophy and the art of war. This is all very well until some attractive women arrive in Prescott....

Wednesday July 17 Probus is planning a trip to see a 2:00 p.m. matinee of this play. If interested contact Brian Sawyer at (613) 692-6300.

The play will also be presented at various other times in July and August.

Information available at:

www.stlawrenceshakespeare.ca or Box Office: 613-925-5788

Minutes of the Rideau Township Historical Society Meeting

May 15, 2013 Knox Presbyterian Church Manotick

Opening: The Rideau Township Historical Society met at Knox Presbyterian Church, Manotick, Ontario, for the regular May meeting and Bring and Brag program, with 29 members present. President Brian Sawyer called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m.

Minutes: Brian noted that there was no business meeting in April as we went on an excursion, and hence no minutes to be approved. Susan pointed out that the March minutes hadn't been approved yet. It was moved by Marguerite Rogers and seconded by Maureen McPhee that the minutes of the March 20, 2013 meeting as published in the April Newsletter be approved. Carried.

Finance: Treasurer Colin Wright announced that the bank balance as of April 30 was \$1,998.61.

Membership: Pat Earl reported that there are currently 11 life members, 5 complimentary members, and 72 paid members. The president encouraged members to bring a friend to meetings.

Program: Ruth Wright, program co-ordinator, talked about historical entertainment possibilities during the summer, including a play at Prescott entitled "Maid for a Musket", and a military re-enactment at Chrysler's farm on July 13-14. She noted that the June excursion (on June 22) will be to the Cumberland Village Museum, possibly with a stop at the Domaine Perrault Winery as well, and she circulated a sign-up sheet for the excursion.

Newsletter/web site: Ron Wilson had put together another great newsletter, in spite of a few days stay in hospital. Scott Cameron commented on what a wonderful job Ron does with the newsletter and web site, and all agreed!

Publications: Jane Anderson reported that the second edition of the Cheese Factories of Rideau Township book is still in progress, with a fall publication date planned. She has purchased a recording device for the oral history project, and invited others to join her in this endeavor.

Dickinson House: Maureen McPhee reported on the successful opening of Dickinson House. She has received funding for one student (Brandon Cassis who has started work) and is awaiting more. Rack cards have been printed and distributed. She invited others to contribute to a new feature this year, the Artifact of the Week. The Wedding Gown display on the third floor is quite popular. Coming events include a Trousseau Tea on June 8 & 9, and a Victorian Wedding Re-enactment on June 15.

Youth: Susan McKellar reported that once again this year scholarships have been offered to South Carleton and St. Mark high schools for students pursuing post-secondary studies in history. President Brian Sawyer will present the awards.

Communications: Brian Sawyer reported that the committee members are working on various tasks, and will meet again on June 11. Dickinson House now has a presence on Facebook.

Future of Dickinson House: Brian Sawyer reported that he has met with Karlis Adamsons, the president of Watson's Mill, and they are continuing discussions regarding the future of the House. The annual agreements have been signed which describe the role of the RTHS in providing artifacts and guides for Dickinson House. It seems probable that WMMI (Watson's Mill Manotick Inc.) will be submitting a bid for Dickinson House and the Carriage Shed. WMMI has approached the RTHS to share the cost (approx. \$2,500) for having an assessment done of these buildings, including future needs. The DH committee recommended the RTHS contribute \$500. Moved by Bill Tupper, seconded by Jane Anderson, that we endorse payment of a \$500 supplement for the assessment of Dickinson House and the Carriage Shed; carried.

Evening Program: Ruth Wright then introduced the Bring and Brag program, in which 14 members described a fascinating variety of objects/topics, illustrating once again the depth of knowledge and expertise within the Society.

Adjournment: President Brian Sawyer reminded members of upcoming events, including the June 4 meeting of the Dickinson House Committee, the June 10 Executive meeting, and the June 22 excursion to the Cumberland Village Museum, then closed the meeting at 9:07 p.m. Members then had a second look at the featured objects and enjoyed the delicious refreshments provided once again by Melanie Hayes.