

The Rideau Township Historical Society

Preserving and Promoting local history for the former Rideau Township

March 2016 Newsletter

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

The March Meeting

Date: Wednesday, March 16, 2016
Time: 7:30p.m.

Place Knox Presbyterian Church
5533 Dickinson Street
Manotick, ON



The Spring Programs Spring 2016

April: Scott Cameron on the Picts, Orchardview, Manotick.

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.

Dickinson House

The activities for this season at the Dickinson House have been determined. This year the program has been developed jointly with Watson's Mill and a single rack card has been produced to cover the activities in the square.

See page 5 for the list of activities.

The Speaker: Hugh Halliday

Hugh A. Halliday is an Ottawa, Canada-based military historian. He served in the offices of the RCAF's Air Historian (1960–1965), Canadian Forces Directorate of History (1965–1968), taught at Niagara College (1968–1974) and was further employed at the Canadian War Museum (1974–1995) in various capacities including Curator of War Art, Curator of Posters and Photographs, and historian. (Courtesy of Wikipedia)

Subject: "Murder among Gentlemen"
Hugh Halliday presents
a History of Duelling in Canada

TO THE PUBLIC.

HAVING been grossly and wantonly insulted yesterday, in the Streets of Bytown, by Edward V. Cortlandt, and having promptly demanded from that individual (through a friend) the usual satisfaction, which that cowardly miscreant, without assigning any reason, refused to grant.

I have no other course left to me, but to proclaim to the world, and I now do so, that Edward Van Cortlandt, Surgeon, of this place, is a mean and contemptible liar, slanderer, and ruffian; a miserable, drivelling, cowardly scoundrel, a pitiful poltroon, and utterly unworthy of the notice of any one having pretensions to the character of a gentleman.

R. HERVEY, Jr.

Bytown, Saturday Morning, }
19th August, 1848.

This Month

1. The February Presentation
2. News from the Rideau Archives
3. Upcoming Programs
4. Minutes of the February meeting
5. Some Activities of the Grenville Historical Society
6. Dickinson House

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

The February Presentation Continuing Research on the Dickinsons and Sir John A. Macdonald

Article by Jane Anderson

Photos by Liam Norris and Owen Cooke

Owen Cooke introduced our speaker for the evening. Christian Joyce is a resident of Manotick, having graduated from St. Mark High School. He then went on to attend Ottawa U, and has degrees in Music, Law & Philosophy. In 2014, he was hired as a researcher to look into Sir John A. Macdonald's relationship with Carleton County and the Dickinsons. Bill & Georgie Tupper needed more information about the subject to flesh out "The Dickinson Men of Manotick", published in the autumn of 2015.

On February 17, we were privileged to have Christian share his research findings with us. They were mainly gleaned from the National Archives in Ottawa.



Photo by Liam Norris

Christian Joyce presenting

June 24, 1866, Sir John A Macdonald laid the cornerstone of a new Methodist Church in Nepean in the neighbourhood of Fallowfield . After the ceremony, he was driven around the neighbourhood, and was pleased at the development he saw. He was convinced that the development and prosperity was the fruition of his National Policy.

Sir John A. Macdonald's personal involvement in the riding of Carleton began in 1882, when he ran and won the seat. Despite his onerous responsibilities as Prime Minister during the Riel Rebellion, and shaky health no doubt aggravated by constant arduous travel, he still took an interest in and looked after the needs of the Riding.

In October of 1884 he gave his first recorded speech in Carleton County. He addressed an agricultural meeting in Bells Corners. After apologizing for the lack of time to visit the riding, he extolled the merits of the National Policy for agriculture. The policy meant that the farmers had a monopoly on the cattle trade with Britain. He also stressed the favourable advantages to be incurred by the CPR and the canal system for the distribution of goods.

1887 saw the end of Sir John A. Macdonald's involvement as a representative of Carleton. Throughout his political life he was devoted to his constituents and the Tory Party.

When Sir John A. vacated his seat in Carleton in 1887, George Dickinson ran and won the by-election for the riding. In 1891, he ran again. A loyal Tory, on February 16, 1891 he wrote to Sir John A to request a campaign letter of support. February 26, he received a reply from the PM, encouraging him to rally his friends and assuring him he was a valuable party member. Although George campaigned well against a Mr. William T. Hodgins, also a Conservative, on election night , the vote was close, and upon a recount George lost by fifty votes. This marked the end of George's political activity federally.

In the 1882 federal election, Moss Kent Dickinson gave way to Sir John A. in Carleton, and ran successfully in the neighbouring riding of Russell. He did not run in 1887, but did run again in Russell in 1891. He was nominated with



Trowel used by Sir John in laying the cornerstone

ease to represent the Conservative Party, and ran a strong campaign. However, on election night, despite a good showing, he was defeated by WC Edwards, a Liberal.

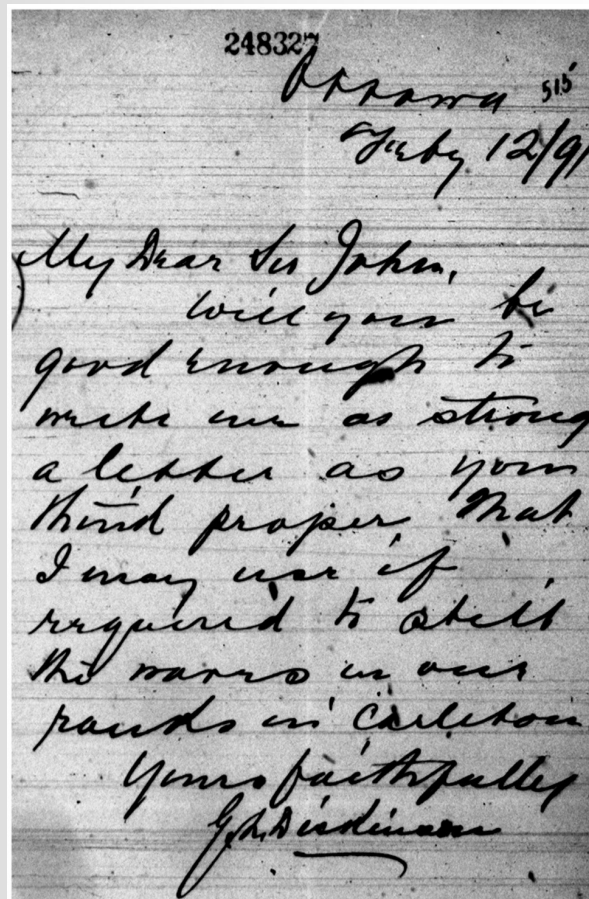
Christian entertained a number of questions from the floor after his presentation. He explained that the riding of Carleton included the townships of Torbolton, March, Nepean, Goulbourn, North Gower & Marlborough at the time.

He mentioned that Sir John A Macdonald had health issues during the years between 1882 and his death in 1891. These issues were never fully explained, although he probably was exhausted from the rigours of travel, coping with the Riel Rebellion and getting the CPR up and running.

The National Policy involved protectionism through trade tariffs, primarily with the USA.

When asked why so few letters remain of correspondence between the Dickinson's and Sir John A Macdonald, Christian explained that Sir John A wrote his own letters, by hand. Understandably, being a busy man, he got behind in his correspondence. A short letter of endorsement by Sir John A was considered a great honour. The letters to Macdonald have been saved in the Archives; the letters to the Dickinsons may have been lost.

Christian was thanked by Ruth Wright for giving us more insight into the relationship between Sir John A. and the Dickinsons of Manotick



Letter, George Dickinson to Sir John A. Macdonald, requesting a campaign letter of support for his elections bid in Carleton in 1887



A Minstrel Troupe

Oscar Edgar Hutchison's camp of labourers worked on the constructions of Highway 16.

Perhaps the most surprising aspect of the project, however, was in the field of entertainment.

Hutchison's camp had spent the winter of 1920-21 organizing a programme of singing, dancing, gymnastics, and comedy to be presented at North Gower, Kemptville, and Richmond in the spring of 1921, all presented to an appreciative audience.

See page 4 for more information.

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.

The Prescott Highway

The 1914 Ottawa Motor Show featured an informative evening that spotlighted a new proposal to build a highway between Ottawa and Prescott. Controller Ellis was quick to dismiss the initial plans, and Ottawa City Council soon was considering shifting to a Morrisburg route.

A year later, thanks in part to a deputation of lobbyists, including George A. Beaman and W.H. Pratt of Marlborough as well as John Kerr, J.A. Craig, D.B. Cutcliffe, and William Gault of North Gower, the Prescott route soon won out.

By June 1916, surveying was set to begin, but the Ontario government delayed matters in order to avoid expenditures during the First World War, to the chagrin of Good Roads enthusiasts promoting motor tours. By the summer of 1919, initial improvements were underway, though it was not until five years later that the stretch between Manotick and North Gower was to be paved, finally completing the Ottawa-Prescott Highway.



Roy Knox operating a Keoring Excavator in the Rintoul Quarry, ca. 1921 (MGR093-001)

Construction involved Ottawa companies, such as the upstart George Farmer & Sons, and also had an impact on the workforce in North Gower and Marlborough. David Rintoul's quarry near the Green Valley Cheese Factory, for instance, provided building materials, and a number of local men, including Percy Chambers, found work in Oscar Edgar Hutchison's camp of labourers.

Perhaps the most unexpected outcome of the project, however, was in the field of entertainment. Hutchison's camp had spent the winter of 1920-21 organizing a pro-

gramme of singing, dancing, gymnastics, and comedy to be presented at North Gower, Kemptville, and Richmond in the spring of 1921, all presented to an appreciative audience.

And the Rideau Branch Archives -- which stands on the



News article about a minstrel play by the workers on Highway 16.

Ottawa Journal, 9 April 1921, p. 19



Geo. Farmer & Sons, contractors, ca. 1921, ca. 1921 (MGR142-001)

former route of the Prescott Highway -- would appreciate a visit from you to view our holdings, including photographs and plans, which describe the construction of this important highway.

Stuart Clarkson

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

2016 SCHEDULE OF EVENTS



CALENDRIER D'ACTIVITÉS 2016

Watson's Mill & Dickinson House: Ongoing, May 21 – Oct. 10

Daily	Guided Tours 10 - 5; Used Book Sale 10 - 4
Saturdays	Manotick Farmers' Market, 9 – 2
Sundays	Milling demonstrations, 1 – 3

May – June

May 14	Spring Cleaning Bee
May 21	Season Opening – Milling demonstrations; Dickinson House "Trades and Professions" Exhibit; Queen Victoria Tea, 2:00; Farmers' Market; Used Book Sale
May 28	Annual Spring Plant Sale
June 4 & 5	Dickinson Days Festival, Doors Open Ottawa
June 18-19	Art Show & Sale
June 26	Strawberry Social

July – August

July 1	Dominion Day Celebrations
July 2	Isle in the River Theatre: 'Monday's Child' 1:00
July 11-15	Mini Wheats Summer Camp
July 15	Country Dance, 7:30
July 23	Wine Pairing, 7 - 10
July 25-29	Mini Wheats Summer Camp
Aug. 5	Movie Night
Aug. 6	Isle in the River Theatre: 'Monday's Child' 1:00
Aug. 8-12	Mini Wheats Summer Camp
Aug. 12	Craft Beer Tasting, 7 - 10
Aug. 14	Concert and Lawn Social: Manotick Brass
Aug. 22-26	Mini Wheats Summer Camp
Aug. 25	Live History Theatre in the Mill

September – October

Sept. 2	Barn Dance, 7:30
Sept. 3	Heritage Country Fair, 10 - 4
Sept. 11	Annual Bird Show
Sept. 16	Scotch Tasting, 7 - 9
Oct. 8-10	Harvest Festival (Saturday); Last Farmer's Market, Milling Demonstration, and Used Book Sale
Oct. 15	Paranormal Investigation
Oct. 20-22	Haunt Nights
Oct. 29	Children's Halloween Party

November – December

Nov. 5	Women's Day Victorian Tea, 1 - 3
Nov. 11	Ceremony at Cenotaph, Exhibit in Dickinson House
Nov. 19-Dec. 4	Christmas Market, Weekends 10 - 4
Dec. 3-4	Heritage Christmas Craft Making
Dec. 4	Christmas Carols at Sunset, 4:30
Dec. 11, 18	"Dickens on Dickinson", 2:00

May 21 - October 30 • Open Daily • 10 - 5

October 31 - December 4 • Open Weekends • 10 - 4

Dickinson House • Sept. - Dec. • Weekends & Holidays • 10 - 4

Watson's Mill • November - December • Weekends • 10 - 4

Moulin Watson et à la maison Dickinson: En continu, du 21 mai au 10 octobre

Tous les jours Visites guidées de 10 h à 17 h; vente de livres usagés, de 10 h à 16 h

Les samedis Le Manotick Farmers' Market, de 9 h à 14 h

Les dimanches Démonstrations de mouture, de 13 h à 15 h

Mai - Juin

14 mai	Corvée de nettoyage du printemps
21 mai	Inauguration de la saison - Démonstrations de mouture Maison Dickinson : exposition « Métiers et professions »; thé de la reine Victoria, 14 h; Farmers' Market; vente de livres usagés.
28 mai	Vente annuelle de plantes du printemps
4 et 5 juin	Festival des Journées Dickinson, Portes ouvertes Ottawa
18 et 19 juin	Exposition et vente d'œuvres d'art
26 juin	Fête des fraises

Juillet - Août

1er juillet	Célébrations de la fête du Canada
2 juillet	Théâtre avec la troupe « Isle in the River » (en anglais) 13 h
Du 11 au 15 juillet	Camp d'été Minis Wheats
15 juillet	Danse country, 19 h 30
23 juillet	Dégustation de vins, de 19 h à 22 h
Du 25 au 29 juillet	Camp d'été Minis Wheats
5 août	Soirée cinéma
6 août	Théâtre avec la troupe « Isle in the River » (en anglais) 13 h
Du 8 au 12 août	Camp d'été Minis Wheats
12 août	Dégustation de bières artisanales, de 19 h à 22 h
14 août	Concert et soirée champêtre : Manotick Brass
Du 22 au 26 août	Camp d'été Minis Wheats
25 août	Théâtre d'histoire vivante au moulin

Septembre - Octobre

2 septembre	Danse champêtre, 19 h 30
3 septembre	Foire champêtre du patrimoine, de 10 h à 16 h
11 septembre	Salon annuel des oiseaux
16 septembre	Dégustation de scotch, de 19 h à 21 h
Du 8 au 10 octobre	Fête des moissons (samedi); dernière journée du Farmers' Market; démonstration de mouture et vente de livres usagés.
15 octobre	Investigation paranormale
Du 20 au 22 octobre	Les soirées hantées
29 octobre	L'Halloween des enfants

Novembre - Décembre

5 novembre	Le thé victorien de la Journée internationale des femmes, de 13 h à 15 h
11 novembre	Cérémonie au cenotaph; exposition à la maison Dickinson
Du 19 nov. au 4 déc.	Marché de Noël, les fins de semaines, de 10 h à 16 h
4 décembre	Atelier d'artisanat « Noël traditionnel »
11 et 18 décembre	Chants de Noël au coucher du soleil, 16 h 30
	« Dickens on Dickinson » (en anglais), 14 h

Du 21 mai au 30 octobre • Ouvert tous les jours • De 10 h à 17 h

Du 31 octobre au 4 décembre • Ouvert les fins de semaine • De 10 h à 16 h

La maison Dickinson • Septembre - Décembre • fins de semaines et jours fériés • de 10 h à 16 h

Moulin Watson • Novembre - Décembre • fins de semaines • de 10 h à 16 h



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RENSEIGNEZ-VOUS SUR NOTRE FARINE MOULUE
SUR PIERRE!

NORTH GRENVILLE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Ireland's Decade of Revolution, 1912-1922



Both of the Irish Republic by Walter Pigeat, the General Post Office (Dublin) during the Easter Rising.

Dr. David Shanahan will give two presentations marking the centenary of the 1916 Rising—

March 9th: The Irish Question
April 13th: A Terrible Beauty, Easter 1916



7:30 pm, 15 Water Street
Kemptville Court House

**POBLACHT NA H EIREANN,
THE PROVISIONAL GOVERNMENT
OF THE
IRISH REPUBLIC
TO THE PEOPLE OF IRELAND.**

IRISHMEN AND IRISHWOMEN In the name of God and of the dead generations from which she receives her old tradition of nationhood, Ireland, through us, summons her children to her flag and strikes for her freedom.

Having organised and trained her manhood through her secret revolutionary organisation, the Irish Republican Brotherhood, and through her open military organisations, the Irish Volunteers and the Irish Citizen Army, having patiently perfected her discipline, having resolutely waited for the right moment to reveal itself, she now seizes that moment, and, supported by her exiled children in America and by gallant allies in Europe, but relying in the first on her own strength, she strikes in full confidence of victory.

We declare the right of the people of Ireland to the ownership of Ireland, and to the unfettered control of Irish destinies, to be sovereign and indefeasible. The long usurpation of that right by a foreign people and government has not extinguished the right, nor can it ever be extinguished except by the destruction of the Irish people. In every generation the Irish people have asserted their right to national freedom and sovereignty six times during the past three hundred years they have asserted it in arms. Standing on that fundamental right and again asserting it in arms in the face of the world, we hereby proclaim the Irish Republic as a Sovereign Independent State, and we pledge our lives and the lives of our comrades-in-arms to the cause of its freedom, of its welfare, and of its exaltation among the nations.

The Irish Republic is entitled to, and hereby claims, the allegiance of every Irishman and Irishwoman. The Republic is based on the consent of the Irish people, and its laws shall be made by the Irish people. The Republic is hereby proclaimed, and its laws shall be made by the Irish people. The Republic is hereby proclaimed, and its laws shall be made by the Irish people. The Republic is hereby proclaimed, and its laws shall be made by the Irish people.

Proclamation of the Irish Republic, 24 April 1916

2nd Bi-Annual Heritage Symposium



NORTH GRENVILLE HERITAGE SYMPOSIUM

Friday, April 15th, 2016
at the North Grenville Municipal Centre,
285 County Road 44

Coffee served at 9:00 a.m. Presentations begin at 10:00 a.m.

Building upon the success of the 2014 Heritage Symposium, this one-day, catered event is sure to, once again, inspire and offer tools to aid you and your organization in conserving heritage and learning about adaptive re-use. Speakers include Dr. Marcus Letourneau, Dr. John Carter and Brenda Ball. Exhibition space is available to you and your organization.



RSVP by March 25, 2016 to Phil Mosher:
pmosher@northgrenville.on.ca
(613) 258-9569 x 118.

Rideau Township Historical Society Minutes
Wednesday, February 17, 2016
City of Ottawa Client Service Centre
Roger Stevens Drive, North Gower, Ontario

President Tom MacDonald opened the meeting by welcoming 20 guests and members to the February meeting. He then called upon members to submit committee reports.

Finance: No report. Tom did report that the books have been audited and the results will be discussed at the next meeting in March.

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

- March – Hugh Halliday will make a presentation on “Duelling in Canada”, to take place at Knox Presbyterian Church in Manotick.
- 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.

Publications: Jane Anderson invited anyone who is interested to join the committee as they pursue the Oral History project and a book on the war dead in Rideau Township.

Communications: Maureen McPhee also invited anyone to join the committee if interested. She is also looking for volunteers to do the write-ups for the Newsletter. Just let her know if you are interested and willing and she will make up a roster of people to take turns.

Dickinson House: Brian Earl reported that they are setting up the displays in Dickinson House and preparing for the opening date scheduled for the end of May. They will be having a clean-up day soon, and can always use some extra help if you are able to spare some time.

Grants: Nothing new, except that they have one grant outstanding.

Youth: No report.

Following this, it was moved by Brian Earl that we accept the minutes of the last meeting as published. Seconded by Maureen McPhee. Carried.

Owen Cooke then introduced our guest speaker Christian Joyce who spoke on “Neighbouring Counties: The Activities of Sir John A. Macdonald, Moss Kent Dickinson, and George Lemuel Dickinson in Carleton and Russell Counties before the 1891 Federal Election.” Following his presentation, Christian answered questions from the membership. Ruth Wright thanked him for his presentation and gave him a year’s membership in the RTHS and an honorarium.

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