

The Rideau Township Historical Society

Preserving and Promoting local history for the former Rideau Township

March 2019 Newsletter

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

The March Meeting

Date: Wednesday March 20
Time: 7:30 p.m.
Place: Trinity Anglican Church,
2372 Church St
North Gower, ON



The Winter/Spring Speakers and Subjects

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 4 for more information.

Speaker:

Capt. Peter Milsom

Subject: My Naval Career

Captain Peter Milsom was born in Toronto, Ontario. He was the son of Lieutenant-Commander Patrick Sproull Milsom. He was appointed as an Ordinary Seaman RCN, with seniority dated September 4, 1959.

Peter had a long career in the navy and many experiences in different capacities. After his military service Peter joined DND as Director Procurement and Supply Services.

He served in the National Defense College of Canada for Staff Course 46. He served as Director General Corporate Management Services. His career took him from one coast to the other. For further information please go to www.nauticapedia.ca, where you will find a detailed description of his activities

Also see poster page 3

2019 Memberships Now Due

A reminder: very reasonable annual dues for 2019 are now being collected. (\$10 individual; \$15 family) See Membership Director Gary Bagley at any meeting, or mail your cheques and the form on page 6 of this newsletter to: RTHS P.O. Box 56 North Gower, ON K0A 2T0

Renewals and new members are always welcome. Join and enjoy the newsletters, meeting presentations and excursions.

Eric Field

The sympathy of the Rideau Township Historical Society goes out to the family of Eric Field. Eric was a charter member of the Society. He passed away March 8 at the age of 95 at the Bayfield Manor in Kemptonville.

His obituary can be found in the *Ottawa Citizen*.

Gene-O-Rama 2019

The RTHS will have a table of information and books for sale at this conference of the Ottawa Branch of the Ontario Genealogical Society. It takes place at the Confederation Education Centre, 1645 Woodroffe Ave., on Friday April 5 from 6:30-10:00 pm and Saturday April 6 from 8:00 am-4:30 pm.

RTHS February 2019 Presentation

Life in Jamaica and Canada

Presented by Nyamme (Nye) Samuels

Article by Marguerite Rogers, photos by Chanda Samuels



Flanked by tables displaying photos, scrapbooks and some beautiful prize-winning handwork, Nyamme Samuels, with her hand-quilted bag carrying a small back-supporting cushion, settled comfortably in a chair for what was very much like a fireside chat.

Born in Jamaica in 1926, Nye was the eldest of a family which would eventually number six; Nye, her brother, two sisters and two half-sisters. The older two sisters died when they were young. Her name, Nyamme, originates in Africa and means, one who knows and sees everything. She pronounces it 'NY-am-ee'. In Jamaica they pronounced it 'NE-am-ee' which is "not a good word". So from an early age she was known as Nye. Her great grandfather was descended from the Mandinka people and her great grandmother was from another group. The mixing of tribes was not looked upon with great favour at that time.

1926 was in an historic era. In Jamaica, 1926 to 1944 were years of a rising of national consciousness. A Revolution in 1938 brought the emergence of a distinct culture. Ties with Africa were strengthened, and modern economics used Europe as a model. (Africans were considered as savages.) Leaders of the Revolution were hanged and others were jailed. Fraternal Associations sprang up. Education was not viewed as being very necessary in the 1920s and 30s. Beyond elementary school was not widely available and it was not free.

Nye left school at the age of 16. She enrolled in College at St. George's School for Boys. It was a day school for boys and then used as a College in the evenings. Nye studied physics, chemistry and biology and qualified as a Pharmacist at the age of 22. It was at College that she met Eric who was to be her future husband. Nye worked in Jamaica as a pharmacist for 12 years, dealing mainly



Nye with Marg Rogers, long-time friends, catch up on their latest news.

with narcotics. Eric in the meantime earned a scholarship to McGill where he completed an MSc. From there he went to Saskatoon to complete a PhD in Bio Chemistry. In 1960 Nye joined him in Saskatchewan, about which she knew virtually nothing, except that it is the "breadbasket of Canada". On the way she visited a friend in New York who asked "Are you crazy?". With degrees in hand, the young couple moved to Ottawa in 1963 and to Osgoode in 1971.

In Ottawa Nye did contract work for the government and also for private companies. They both became involved in the Jamaican Community as volunteers. Eric was a cricket player and was dismayed that black players were not welcome at the cricket club headquartered at Rideau Hall. He appealed to the Governor General who declared that if everyone was not to be included, then no one could play at Rideau Hall. The Caribbean Community was included and the club grew. Recently, Nye accepted an award for Eric, posthumously, as a Cricket Builder in the National Capital.

When they moved out here, Nye became deeply involved in our community. The Women's Institute, 4H, Girl Guides and a church choir all benefitted from her leadership skills. With the WI she became a Department of Agriculture course leader. She prepared a brief about Women in Rural Areas, and led a delegation to present it to the Provincial government. She conducted a Citizenship course in Kars in 1984 and organized a court at the middle school for the participants. One of those receiving citizenship was Anne Hackston, whose husband Dave was present for Nye's talk. She was an advisor to the Ontario Department of Education on race relations and also to the Ottawa Carleton Board. We learned that Nye's half-sisters are both involved in Development Education and Action. One was recently awarded the Order of Distinction, for her work in Human Rights.

Nye told us that there were good times and difficult times with her life in Ottawa. One of the best, and the highlight of her volunteer work with Guides, was being selected as a delegate to the Ontario Provincial annual meeting for Guiders, in Hamilton, at McMaster University. During a break in the sessions, Nye stepped out into a courtyard where about 10 Guiders were sitting under a tree singing with a group from an Anglican Church conference which was meeting at the same time. She joined them. The tree reminded her of the sycamore tree in the bible where someone climbed to get a better view. The group sang the Song of Peace, which tells about hopes and dreams, and reminds us that sunlight beams on all lands. Nye sang this for us in her clear, strong, soprano voice. We were all deeply moved.

Nye concluded by saying that she has had so many years on earth and has so many stories to tell.

She is working on a book of these stories, which we eagerly look forward to.



Discussions continued well after the presentation

**Rideau Township Historical Society
Wednesday, March 20, 2019 at 7:30 p.m.
Holy Trinity Anglican Church
2372 Church Street, North Gower**

A Cold War Perspective of Life in Canada's Navy

GUEST SPEAKER

Peter Milsom

Retired Navy Captain

**Longtime Resident of North Gower
and now living in Kemptville**



ARCHIVES AWARENESS WEEK

"Preserving the Past to Enrich the Future"

April 1 – 7, 2019

CITY OF OTTAWA ARCHIVES

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

For more information email the Rideau Archives at rideauarchives@ottawa.ca

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, 5550 Ann St., Manotick
Saturday, April 6, 10-12 a.m.

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

Home Storage of Digital Photos

Harmony Hall, Manotick Legion, 5550 Ann St., Manotick
Saturday, April 6, 1-3 p.m.

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

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.

M.M. Teasaw, briefly

According to Lovell's Province of Ontario Directory for 1871, M.M. Teasaw had a shop in North Gower, which must have been fairly new, since it did not appear in a directory for 1869. This shopkeeper's name appeared again in the 1872 directory, which showed the store to have been situated in lot 21 in the Fourth Concession, at the heart of the village – and then the name vanished from the records. Its presence, brief as it was, marked a step in the movement of a family from their original home on Toussaint Island in the St. Lawrence, where members of the Toussaint family had been held captive by the Americans in an early engagement in the War of 1812. Their descendants settled in Mountain Township by the 1820s, their name often recorded as Tusaw or Tousaw.

Nicholas Tusaw and his wife Clarinda raised a family in nearby Oxford Township in the 1850s. Their son entered the dry goods and grocery business and by 1861 had set up shop in Kemptville under his own name, Myron Malcolm Teusaw. He also operated a telegraph business. Myron died of consumption in Kemptville in September 1870. His wife Mary Ann continued the business in Kemptville under his name, and it seems also did the same for the one in North Gower. As the daughter of former Kemptville merchant Phineas Hutchins, she may have been well prepared for the regular challenges of store ownership and management. But, as mentioned in *Kemptville Past and Present*, the Teasaw store there was destroyed in the Great Fire of 1872 – the same year that the other Teasaw store disappeared from North Gower and from the Carleton County directories.

The Rideau Branch Reading Room has a collection of directories, include several for Carleton County going back to the 1860s.

For tips on using directories and other resources to research the history of properties and houses, please consider attending a free presentation on this subject at

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KEMPTVILLE, C. W.

BELLEVILLE HOUSE,
PRESCOTT STREET, CORNER OF ASA,
KEMPTVILLE, C. W.
JOHN SAUNDERS, PROPRIETOR.

The above well and favourably known hotel will be found by the traveling public to be a first-class house in every respect. Good sample rooms for commercial travellers and free conveyance to and from the Railway Depot.

Rideau Branch on Tuesday 2 April, from 7.00 to 9.00 pm, part of our Archives Awareness Week celebrations.

Stuart Clarkson, Community Archivist

Sign me up as a member of RTHS



Rideau Township
Historical Society

Members of the Society enjoy:

- Monthly meetings featuring engaging presentations, followed by refreshments
- Group excursions to historical points of interest in Eastern Ont.
- Local books published by the Society and a monthly newsletter
- Opportunities to participate and contribute as volunteers

For more information visit www.rideautownshiphistory.org,
facebook.com/rideautownshiphistory, and twitter.com/RideauTpHS.
Please send this form with a cheque for membership dues payable to:
Rideau Township Historical Society, Box 56, North Gower, ON, K0A 2T0.
A tax receipt will be issued for all membership dues and donations.

Name: _____

Address: _____

City & Postal Code: _____

Telephone: _____

Email: _____

Individual Membership \$10 _____
Family Membership \$15 _____
(2 adults & school-aged children)

Life Membership \$100 _____
Donation \$50 _____
Other Donation \$ _____

Thank you for supporting RTHS!