

# The Rideau Township Historical Society

*Preserving and Promoting local history for the former Rideau Township*

## May 2008 Newsletter

Newsletter Editor: Coral Lindsay (rideauarchives@ottawa.ca)

### Next Meeting

**Wednesday, May 21,  
2008  
7:30 p.m.**

**At Knox Presbyterian Church,  
5533 Dickinson Street, Manotick.**

**Speaker: Greg Newton**

**Topic: Remember “Photo by Newton”?** The guest speaker for the May 21 meeting of RTHS will be the Ottawa photographer, Greg Newton, son of photographer and city councilor Bill Newton. Greg will present photos of their work with the Ottawa Citizen during the last 50 years.

**Bring a friend**

**Light refreshments**

**For a ride call Brian Earl  
613-692-2371**

**In sympathy: Since our April meeting our friend and past president Eleanor Field passed away and we extend heartfelt sympathy to her husband Eric and their family. Eleanor will be sorely missed.**

### Features This Month

1. Notable Items this Month
2. Last Meeting
3. Coming Events
4. News from the Archives
5. An Old Cookbook
6. Mining the Rideau Records

### Notable Items this Month



The **Watson's Mill giant key** was presented to Bonnie Gray in exchange for a King George VI dollar bill to the Rideau Valley Conservation Society (above).

**Mark Jodoin** was the guest speaker at the Merrickville Historical Society Spring Dinner in late April. Mark presented the fascinating story of Colonel Stephen Burritt, soldier, spy, and later the first settler at Burritt's Rapids. The photo, on the left, is of Mark with Nina Donald., President of the Merrickville Historical Society



# Last meeting - The Bring and Brag

By Lucy Martin

There was an enthusiastic crowd--along with an excellent variety of special things--at the April 15th gathering, which was held in Carsonby.

Nicknamed the "bring and brag" meeting, this cross between Antiques Road Show and grade-school "show and tell" proved once again that value often has little to do with money.

Sandy Wilson suspects there may be thousands of Last Supper glass trays that are identical to the one she found while sorting through her late mother-in-law's things. But hers is priceless.

Secrets were revealed: Ann Cronin admitted that relatives back in Eng-

land may not know she has their Grandfather's badge of office as Mayor of Dover during World War II.

Brian Earl brought in small war devices--e.g. ingenious designs to impede horses --that provoke admiration for their cunning and horror at their intent.

David Hayes radiated enthusiasm for the world of trains while explaining his own authentic rail lanterns.

Coral Lindsay brought a display of hat pins and explained how useful such sharp implements could be in thwarting high winds and over-eager suitors.

Everyone old enough to remember

that year murmured in appreciative recognition when Owen Cooke held his Expo '67 Passport aloft.

Classic lamps, paintings, photographs, buckles, a family box, a patent, a tapestry, a "masterpiece" stone carving, an old underwear box, an old wooden beam recovered from the Rideau, items people wanted more information on--even a walking cane made from a cabbage plant--those and more were shared, along with fascinating stories.

Think about what story-laden treasure may be in your possession and be sure to share it with others at this very special meeting next year!

\* \* \*

## Coming Events

### May

(note that May is Museum Month)

May 3 **Watson's Mill season opening**  
10:30 - 2:30

May 3 - June 8 **Watson's Mill Used Book Sale**  
10 a.m. - 5 p.m. daily in the Carriage House

May 17 On May 17 about 3:30 p.m. **the Thomson family** invites members of the R.T.H.S. to meet at the Thomson memorial at the corner of Lohead and the 3<sup>rd</sup> Line. The boulder and plaque was placed on the knoll there in memory of John and Janet Thomson and their descendants. Please join us if you can. This has been arranged by Don Routley. We expect the Manotick Messenger for a photo-story.

May 21 **"Ancestry" Workshop**  
Wednesday, May 21, at 1:30 p.m., Rideau Township Archives, North Gower

**A genealogy workshop** with instruc-

### May 21

tor Diana Hall will be held in conjunction with the Ottawa Public Library.

**RTHS meeting Wednesday, May 21**, at 7:30 p.m. Knox Church Manotick

The guest speaker for the May 21 meeting of RTHS will be the Ottawa photographer, Greg Newton, son of photographer and city councilor Bill Newton. Greg will present photos of their work with the Ottawa Citizen during the last 50 years.

### May 28

**Executive meeting:** at 7:30 at the home of Brian and Katherine Killens

### June 7 - 8

**Dickinson Days.** R.T.H.S. will have a table in front of Watson's Mill for Dickinson Day, June 7. Please help for an hour or two if you can. Call Brian Earl at 613-692-2371.

### June 7 - 8

**Doors Open** at the Archives and at the Dickinson House. More information coming soon.

Doors Open at the Dickinson House. We will have three rooms on the ground floor, i.e. a family room recog-

### June

nizing the Dickinsons, Spratts and Watsons with Mary Clapp Spratt and Helen Spratt Hawkins as well as members of the Watson family.

There will be a Dickinson Room to represent some of Dickinson's enterprises and a Manotick As it Was Room. Visitors may go through the empty second floor if they wish. Hurrah! The furniture has been returned from R.V.C.A. storage and three of the rooms are being repainted (paint courtesy of Manotick Home Hardware

To volunteer please call Brian Earl 613-692-2371. For a costume please call Coral 613-489-2029.

## June 21

June excursion to Upper Canada Village. Car pool or bus? Dining or picnic? Ten members of the Kars Women's Institute would like to join us for the outing.

## 2009:

The **Manotick 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary** committee, chaired by Peter Peers, Manotick Messenger, is proceeding with plans for 2009 celebrations. Brian Earl represents the RTHS on the Dickinson Square committees.

\* \* \*

***Esprit de corps:** Thanks again to President Mark Jodoin for the article about Captain Justus Sherwood, U.E.L., soldier, spy, and settler whose descendants remain in Ottawa and along the St. Lawrence Front.*

## **News from the Rideau Archives . . .**

### **Hours:**

The Archives is open every Tuesday from 9:30 am to 4:30 p.m., and at other times by appointment. (613-489-2926).

**Shirley Adams** is preparing an exhibit on the history of the Orange Lodge at Kars and Mary Davidson is gathering photos and histories of the places of worship including those whose parish boundaries go beyond the former township. Would you like to help?

**Acquisitions:** For a fund raiser for the Canadian Red Cross a signature redwork quilt was made c1895 with more than 235 names of Manotick-Kars and area names. The quilt, as well as some Clapp family vintage clothing and some family photos, are now at the Archives. The quilt will be displayed in the Manotick Room, Dickinson House, during Doors Open. Come and look for someone you knew.

\* \* \*

## **From Last Month—The Name Game**

**From the April newsletter:** Five places had 2 names. Kars properties were registered on Adam Johnston Eastman's plan as Wellington and remain thus. The post office, 1856, was always Kars. Malakoff was known as the Windfall because a tornado felled a number of old growth trees and the pioneers considered that a blessing.

**Reeve Craig was nicknamed Puddle Alley** because of poor drainage and the Periwinkle was the name given to an ice-cream parlour and store at Wattersons' Corners. North Gower Village began as North Gower Corners.

**Correction:** John Carson came from Ballymena, Ireland.

**Where is White Horse Dam?** It is located below the surface at the White Horse Rapids on the main channel of the Rideau at Manotick.

## An Old Cookbook

by Owen Cooke

During the winter, Mary Davidson, a long-time volunteer with the Archives, donated a number of heritage cookbooks for our collection. Included was a very interesting, early local cookbook, which over the years has lost its cover, title page and any evidence of its date or why it was published.

However, it is possible to say something about the book from internal evidence.

The text, only 72 pages, appears to be complete. The book may have been intended to be given out free as publicity, because advertising is very prominent throughout. At the head of every page is **"NOTICE: If your Grocer and Butcher use Toledo Computing Scales"** and at the foot of every page is **"USE BLUE RIBBON TEA"**.

There are a number of full-page advertisements from firms in Ottawa and Montreal, but the Ottawa pages are concentrated at the back of the book, suggesting that the book may be an Ottawa edition of what was originally a Montreal imprint.

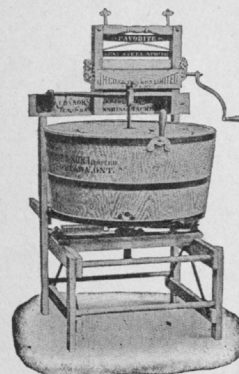
The women's styles in the advertisements suggest that the book must have been published no later than about 1900. The telephone numbers in the Ottawa advertisements are three digits only, and those from Montreal are either three or four digits. Here are two of the interesting advertisements from the cookbook.

Let us conclude with some sage advice the book gives us on **carving for dinner with guests**. Perhaps the language has changed a bit, but we can still learn from this:

*"Carving is one important acquisition in the routine of daily living, and all should try to attain a knowledge or ability to do it well, and withal gracefully. When carving use a chair slightly higher than the ordinary size, as it gives a better purchase on the meat, and appears more graceful than when standing, as is often quite necessary when carving a turkey, or a very large joint. More depends on skill than strength. The platter should be placed opposite, and sufficiently near to give perfect command of the article to be carved, the knife of medium size, sharp with a keen edge.*

### Wash with the Connor Ball-Bearing Washer

#### THE NEW WAY



The tub swings on steel ball bearings.

A little child can start it empty or full. By grasping the handle and swinging it to one side, the coil tempered steel springs stop it and start it back the other way with a quick reverse motion, as the tub travels the other way another spring swings it back again.

At each swing of the tub, the boiling water by centrifugal force and suction is forced through and through every thread and fibre of the clothes, cleaning them with three times the rapidity and more thoroughly than any other way and doing it with almost no labour.

Manufactured by

**J. H. CONNOR & SON, Limited**  
OTTAWA

FOR SALE BY ALL HARDWARE DEALERS.

## HARRISONS

PHONE 643



Costumier and Furrier  
&  
Habit Maker.

LIKE GOOD RECIPES  
MADE OF THE BEST

Harrison's Costumes  
Are likewise made

GIVE US A CALL AND  
BE CONVINCED.

FURS REMODELLED

ESTIMATES GIVEN

## HARRISONS

249 BANK STREET

OTTAWA

*Commence by cutting the slices thin, laying them carefully to one side of the platter, then afterwards placing the desired amount on each guest's plate, to be served in turn by the servant.*

*Gravies should be sent to the table very hot, and in helping one to gravy or melted butter, place it on a vacant side of the plate, not pour it over their meat, fish or fowl, that they may use only as much as they like.*

*When serving fowls, or meats, accompanied with stuffing, the guests should be asked if they would have a portion, as it is not every one to whom the flavour of stuffing is agreeable; in filling their plates, avoid heaping one thing upon another, as it makes a bad appearance.”*

Anyone who would like to perfect their carving technique may consult the this cookbook at Rideau Archives, in Box 261.29, on any Tuesday 9:30 to 4:30, when the Archives are open.

\* \* \*

## **Mining the Rideau Records**

### **Treasures, Curiosities and New Documents at Rideau Archives**

*Recently, the executive of Rideau Township Historical Society suggested that our current meeting announcements include more content and expand into true newsletters. Coral Lindsay’s presentation on Rideau place names with the April number was the first such move towards a “new look” for the newsletter. We plan to contribute a regular column on new or interesting material from the Archives. The earlier article on an old cookbook from the archives is an example.*

\* \* \*