

# The Rideau Township Historical Society

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

## October 2015 Newsletter

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

### ***The October Meeting***

**Date:** Wednesday, October 21, 2015  
**Time:** 7:30 p.m.

**Place** North Gower Client Services  
Centre  
2155 Roger Stevens Dr.  
North Gower, ON



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

### ***Dickinson House***

The summer may be over but the Dickinson House season is not. We still have three events to go.

- November 7-8, Woman's Day Victorian Tea, 1pm November 7, 2pm November 8,
- November 11, 14-15, Exhibit: Local Heroes in Times of War
- December 5-6, Heritage Christmas Crafts

Come and enjoy these last events for the 2015 season.

### ***Subject:***

Ottawa Residences of the Prime Ministers  
Prior to 1951

### ***The Speaker***

Hagit Hadaya

She will speak to us on "At Home with the Prime Minister: Ottawa Residences of the Prime Ministers Prior to 1951" when 24 Sussex Drive became the official residence.

Born in Jerusalem, Hagit has called Ottawa home since 1980. She holds a B.A. in Architecture/Art History and a Master's degree in Canadian Heritage Conservation, both from Carleton University. She is the author of "In Search of Sacred Space; Synagogue Architecture in Ottawa", as well as numerous articles and reports on heritage architecture.



Photo by Hagit Hadaya

Prime Minister Mackenzie King's Study, Laurier House National Historic Site, 335 Laurier Avenue East, Ottawa

### ***This Month***

1. The October Meeting
2. The September presentation.
3. News from the Rideau Archives
4. Dickinson House
5. Minutes of the September Meeting

## ***The September Presentation Clara's Rib***

***Article by Susan McKellar***

At the September meeting, 24 members of the Society and guests gathered at the Anglican Church Hall in Burritts Rapids for a reading of the book *Clara's Rib* co-authored by Clara Raina Flannigan and Anne Raina.

Anne Raina has given us her sister's story, but really, she said, it's the story of many people at a time when tuberculosis ravaged many, when it was just starting to be treated with penicillin.



*The audience at the Church Hall was treated to an excellent presentation about a time in our history that touched so many friends and families.*

Anne's older sister Clara spent time in the Ottawa Sanatorium as a young woman in the 1940s. Bed rest meant she had time on her hands, so she kept a diary as one way to fill the time. She did recover and lived a full life. When she died in 1998 she gave Anne her diaries, a draft manuscript and audio tapes. Anne knew it was a story that should be told, so she added chapters to complete the book, but didn't change Clara's words. She feels it's not sad, but a happy and triumphant story.

Seven of Anne's nine siblings contracted TB and spent periods of time in the Sanatorium, returning home for awhile then going back as their condition worsened. Bed rest and fresh air were prescribed, as well as collapsing of the lung so it could heal; further treatment involved the removal of ribs so the upper part of the lung could be permanently collapsed. Clara entered the San in 1939 at age 12; in 1943 at age 17 she had three ribs removed from her left side, and in 1944 another four. Later she fought to have surgery on her right side, as she was not ready to die, and two more ribs were removed in 1947.

In spite of not being able to attend high school, have a riding horse or becoming a member of the working force, she had a deep faith and the ability to enjoy life. She wrote letters, kept a diary, prayed for her friends when they were dying – but she also enjoyed playing pranks!

We heard a tape of Clara's reminiscences of a certain nurse ("Nurse Waxy") who treated Clara badly; we could hear in her voice that she found something funny in the whole situation.

Anne read an excerpt about Clara meeting and talking with a young man in the San, and not seeing him again for 2 ½ years – she said we'd have to read the book to find out the rest of that story!

Anne said she herself had a very happy childhood, with a strong, happy, loving mother, but she missed her family members who were away in the San, and does wish her family hadn't had TB.

This was an excellent talk which engaged people's attention, evidenced by the numerous questions about differences in recovery, treatments, education given to children, the present status of TB, screening of immigrants to Canada, etc. And we enjoyed hearing some of her 90-year-old brother Ralph's story as well.

All in all the Society was quite pleased with the attendance, with the facility, and with the opportunity to meet some new people.



Photo by Jan Willis

*Anne had copies of her book available for sale after the meeting and members and guests had the opportunity to have the books autographed by our speaker*



## **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.

In 1926, Brigadier A. Goodwin of the Salvation Army recollects her first commission in 1887 along side Captain Florence Viner at the Napanee Corps. Viner, who had come from England to Burlington, Ontario, began in the theatre but joined the Salvation Army in March 1886. Afterward she was stationed in Waterford, Richmond Hill, Odessa, Napanee, Morrisburg, Almonte, Chesterville, Cornwall, and St. Thomas, all before her early death in 1891. Viner had a force recognized not only by then-Captain Goodwin, but also, during her time along the borders of Carleton County, by citizens of North Gower.

In a log house on Lot 42, Concession 4, North Gower Township, some clippings were pasted to the wallpaper. One clipping consisted of a eulogistic poem in honour of Florence Mary Viner. Others were portraits of ladies wearing bonnets. A fifth clipping depicted a moustached man

in uniform named "Staff Captain Hodler." These were not members of their family but instead of the Salvation Army, and the tribute to Florence Viner had been clipped from that church's newspaper, the War Cry. The Douglasses, who lived in that log cabin near the Rideau River, were Anglican, so it is intriguing that they pasted Salvation Army materials to their wall. Perhaps Sara Douglas, who was raising a family of young boys with her husband John when Viner died, had met the young Captain, or perhaps she had a brief interest in the Army. Regardless, it is clear that Viner had made an impression in North Gower that has been preserved on the Douglas family's wallpaper, an unusual record held at the Rideau Branch, open each Tuesday.

Source, the Salvation Army publication War Cry

Stuart Clarkson

*The poster is for a presentation to be given in Kemptville tomorrow evening October 14.*

*This is short notice but we thought we could get it at least to the email members as it looks like an interesting presentation.*

NORTH GRENVILLE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

# MOUNTIE

**The Story of Major James Morrow Walsh, of the Northwest Mounted Police, Born in Prescott and Friend of Sitting Bull**

7:00 pm  
14 October 2015  
Court House  
15 Water St.  
Kemptville

NORTH GRENVILLE HISTORICAL SOCIETY  
The Past, Key to the Future

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

## Minutes of the Rideau Township Historical Society September Meeting

September 23, 2015, Anglican Church hall, Burritt's Rapids

**Opening:** President Brian Sawyer called the meeting to order at 7:40 p.m., and noted the long history of the Burritt's Rapids area. About 25 members and guests were present. Brian called on various directors for reports.

**Dickinson House:** Maureen McPhee, committee chair, referred members to her detailed report on the Country Fair in the September newsletter, noting it was a great success. The season is starting to wind down, but there are two special events coming up, the Harvest Festival on October 10 and the Victorian Tea on Nov. 7 which is sold out.

**Membership:** Patricia Pratt, membership director, reported she received two new memberships this summer.

**Communications:** Ron Wilson, communications director, after a break in the summer for other activities, has sent out the September newsletter and updated the website.

**Publications:** In the absence of Jane Anderson, publications director, Ron reported progress on the upcoming book, The Dickinson Men of Manotick, by Bill and Georgina Tupper, which is ready for proofreading.

**Program:** Owen Cooke, co-chair, reported that the October 21 meeting will be held at the Client Centre in North Gower with Hagit Hadaya speaking on "Official Residences". The November 18 meeting will be at Manotick United Church and will be a book launch of "The Dickinson Men of Manotick". Our annual Christmas party is scheduled for Dec. 16 at the Wesleyan Methodist Church in North Gower.

**Finance:** The treasurer, Sandy McNiece, reported that the Year-to-Date revenue, excluding Dickinson House, is about \$6,000; YTD expenditures, also excluding Dickinson House, are about \$3,000, and that these are both on budget. In response to a question, he stated that net receipts for Publications to Aug. 31/15 is \$1,400, which is made up of \$400 re publication sales and \$1,000 re donation (from Kiwanis Club for the Oral History Project); however we will soon have publication costs for the new book which will soon be printed.

**Grants:** No report.

**Youth:** In the absence of Brandon Kassis, youth director, President Brian Sawyer reminded members that we awarded two scholarships of \$250 each, as reported in the September newsletter, plus the same amount to each of the two local high schools to be used for history purposes.

**Evening Program:** Bill Tupper introduced our speaker, Anne Raina, award-winning author of "Clara's Rib", as well as her brother Ralph Raina, former mayor of Kemptville. Anne then gave us the story of her family's experience with tuberculosis and answered several questions from the audience. Owen Cooke thanked Anne for her very interesting talk, and presented her with an honorary RTHS membership.

**Adjournment:** The meeting adjourned about 9:00, followed by a social time with refreshments served by Georgie Tupper.