



The Rideau Township Historical Society

Preserving and Promoting local history for the former Rideau Township

September 2008 Newsletter

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

Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Society will be held September 17 at the Rideau Archives in North Gower, 7:30 pm.

The address of the Archives building is 6581 Fourth Line Road (Main Street) North Gower.

Not Just a Summer Vacation

President Mark Jodoin continues to research and write for Esprit de Corps magazine about Shadow Soldiers of the St. Lawrence and their impact on Canadian history. This summer's issues include,

Colonel Joel Stone, founder of Gananoque,

Lt. Henry Simmons from Prussia and eventually Ernesttown, west of Kingston,

*Simon Frazer of Stormont County for whom the British Columbia Frazer River and Simon Fraser University are named. Well done. **Thank you Mark***

Speakers: Pat Earl, Coral Lindsay, Lucy Martin, Mark Jodoin

Topic: What did we do last summer? Lots!

- The remarkable relocation of the Orange Lodge Hall, Kars, to Church Street, Upper Canada Village by **Lucy Martin**
- Fort Garry, Manitoba, and the interpretation experienced by **Brian and Pat Earl**.
- Forgotten heroes of eastern Ontario now recognized in Esprit de Corps through on-line, off-line and field trips presented by **Mark Jodoin**.
- The Dickinson House, an unexpected opportunity to return to the old family home of the Dickinsons, Spratts, and Watsons, presented by **Coral Lindsay**. New information & new-old stories appear every week.

Bring a friend

Light refreshments

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

Coral Lindsay deserves special thanks from the Society for the work she has done over the summer in organizing the effort in making the Dickinson House a special place to visit, fighting the inevitable battles to keep it so, and amassing furniture and display items for the house.

Chris Manoukian turned in a stellar effort at the Rideau Branch in his second year as our summer student. **Thank you Chris.**

Features This Month

- Field trip to Upper Canada Village, June 2008
- Coming Events
- News from the Archives
- The Dickinson House open to the public
- Publishing a Second Edition of Dora Stamps Book and Kars on the Rideau.

Notable Items this Summer

1. **The opening of the Dickinson House** to the public. See the Article on the Dickinson House
2. **Our summer student.** Chris Manoukian spent another summer at the Rideau Branch.
3. **Return of the Carleton County map** to the Archives.
4. **RTHS Booths** at Dickinson Day and Colonel By Day. Thanks to Brian and Pat Earl for organizing and arranging manning of the RTHS Booth at these two events.

The June Meeting - A Field Trip to Upper Canada Village!

By Lucy Martin

After nearly a week of rain, blue skies and mild conditions made the 21st of June a perfect summer solstice day. RTHS members and friends arrived in individual car pools for this long-awaited event: the dedication of the old Kars Loyal Orange Lodge as a "new" 1860's-era version of an Ancient Brethren Lodge.

Masons across Eastern Ontario raised much of the funding required to make that project a reality. Along with their families and the general public, they came from far and wide to see what's become a rare sight, the laying of a Lodge cornerstone.

The celebration began with the South Glengarry Pipe and Drum Band leading hundreds of Masons in formal suits with colourful aprons and regalia--as well as ma-

sons in kilts and personable bikers in Masonic-embroidered motorcycle leather. After a parade that circled the village, the masons formed an impressive twin line along scenic Church Street, fronting the restored lodge.

For the big day, the cornerstone hung by rope in mid-air under a cedar-decorated tripod. With solemn words and proper ceremony, it was lowered, fixed in mortar, measured and found true, and symbolically anointed with corn, wine and oil.

With rituals observed, the entry ribbon was cut allowing the public their chance to step inside. The bucolic afternoon continued with lemonade served under a large canvas tent in the adjacent pasture and a thanksgiving service at the church just two doors up the

street.

Although the old structure has the same footprint, it has been made over with so much fresh timber planking and interior restoration that it practically looks and feels new. This charming addition to Upper Canada Village will educate visitors about the role lodges and fraternal societies played in community life of the time. After the ceremonies, the cornerstone was permanently placed in the north-east corner of the building along with a copper time capsule made by the Village tinsmith.

Space does not permit individual recognition but kudos to all who made this long-term project such a success.

Pictures appear below.

* * *



Restored hall at Upper Canada Village

Mason explaining the items in the hall

Front of the Hall from the door



We Are Busy in the Publishing Area...

Dora Stamp's History of Manotick

The 150th anniversary of the founding of Manotick is coming up in 2009. As a contribution to this event, the RTHS decided to update and publish a second edition of Dora Stamp's book on the history of Manotick. It is presently out of print. The book is to be available for next Dickinson Day.

Dora's book is an excellent piece of work. It provides historical fact presented with the character and characters of the time. It would have been sad to let it disappear. The younger generations should be able to learn about the road that was travelled to get from forest to what Manotick is today.

To get the second edition ready a group of volunteers has been working diligently this summer. The group includes Jane Anderson, Betty Bartlett, Jeff Cronin, Coral Lindsay, and Ron and Sandy Wilson.

To date the text has been scanned with the scanning errors corrected, good quality copies of the original pictures have been located and scanned, a layout has been chosen, and discussions have begun with the printer. Work is also in progress to provide additional organizations of the material such as sections on the trades that were here in earlier times, and the history and "careers" of buildings that have served Manotick in different ways over the years.

Kars on the Rideau by Coral Lindsay

This book is also out of print. It is also one that should not be let go. It contains a wealth of information on the development of Kars and vicinity and on the families of the area.

At this point the Women's Institute has transferred the copyright on the book to the RTHS for a two year period. The book has been scanned to text and the scanning errors have been corrected.

Coming Events

Sept—Xmas

Visit the **Dickinson House** any Saturday, Sunday or holiday until October 26. With luck and good management we hope to be open for Manotick's "**Old Fashioned Christmas**", December 6-7, with carols, cider, gingersnaps and a Christmas tree! Watch for further announcements.

2009:

The **Manotick 150th 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.

* * *

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).

The Restored Wallings Map:

The **1863 Wallings Map of Carleton County** was donated to the Archives by Mrs. Bessie (Wallace) Sadler Gray. It has been restored by the Canadian Conservation Institute and is now back at the Archives. The map is of Carleton County and has the names of property owners on the lots in each township.

City of Ottawa Archives

The City of Ottawa Archives has appointed **Paul Henry** as acting Archivist. Paul spent a few years at Rideau Branch and is very familiar with our collections and management. Main branch staff meetings now include representatives from Rideau Branch. An excellent communications strategy for RTA.

Summer Student

Our summer employee Chris Manoukian has completed another very successful project preparing collections for eventual Internet access. We thank the RTHS for their interest and continued support of Rideau Branch, and especially their contribution to Chris.

George MacFarlane

A Long Island resident, George MacFarlane has been donating his collection of family and community records. This includes a number of text books. Owen Cooke took the duplicates to a used book store and exchanged them for local histories to add to our library. A list of new library acquisitions will appear in the next newsletter.

Thank you very much George.

* * *

The Dickinson House *By Coral Lindsay*

The Dickinson House, Mill Street, Manotick, has been open on weekends and holidays starting on June 6, 2008, and will continue open at least until October 26. The counter has clicked in more than 2400 visitors so far, many more people than we expected.



THANK YOU to the RTHS and RTA volunteers and 5 students including Ellen Adamsons, Jane Anderson, Betty Bartlett, Iris Brazier, Stephanie, Scott (RVMS student) and Margaret (MPS student) Cameron, Mary Davidson, Brian and Pat Earl, Melanie Hayes, Mark Jodoin, Richard and



Sylvia McDonald, Lucy Martin, Jessica (RVMS student) and Matthew (SCHS student) Reinboldt, Marguerite and Stu Rogers, James Scott (St. Mark's student), Georgina

Tupper and Ron and Sandy Wilson. Please let me know if I have missed someone.

There are now 7 rooms with furnishings and artifacts on display. The period costumes worn by the tour guides listed above have been a great success with the visitors. How many photos have been taken?

In addition to the furnishing and artifacts on the inside, on some days younger people, some also in period costume, have played period games on the lawn (e.g. ring toss) which greatly added to the atmosphere. (Sorry! Hula Hoops had not been invented then.)

The Kawartha Lakes Navigation Company Tour boat will return on September 13 and 23 and the Probus Club will visit on September 18.



Additional help with hosting would be greatly appreciated. As stated above there are now 7 rooms open for tours Saturdays, Sundays and holidays. If you have some time and enjoy meeting people from near and far this can be a really enjoyable way to spend some time. To volunteer telephone Coral at 613-489-2029)

* * *

The Dickinson House

We Were There Before!

From the late 1970s to the early 1980s the Rideau Township Historical Society had access to the ground floor and the lawns.

The members took turns serving “tea” on the front lawn on Sunday afternoons. This was a fundraiser for the RTHS and was the forerunner to the Miller’s Oven.

Pictured here is Georgie Tupper on the left in 1978 serving tea. On the right is Georgie after an afternoon showing guests through the house this summer, 30 years later.

Notice that Georgie is wearing the same period dress and with no alterations. Congratulations Georgie.



* * *

Mining the Rideau Records

The Reel to Reel Tape Project

During the late 1970s Georgie Tupper with help from Mark Rogers and Margaret Melhorn conducted interviews with some 60 of the longer lived citizens of Rideau. The purpose of the interviews was to collect stories and historical facts carried in their memories that might be lost otherwise.

The interviews were recorded on the old 7.5 inch reels of magnetic tape (remember those?). That tape is now 30 years old and is starting to lose some oxide and higher frequencies. To save this very valuable historical information, the Rideau Branch has digitized the tapes. The digital interviews are now stored on an external hard drive and will be written to CDs for longer term storage and for access by interested parties.

These interviews are absolutely fascinating. The experiences and attitudes of that generation come through clearly. Indeed most of the people appear to have been content and happy, and well satisfied with their lives. We could learn a lesson from them.

* * *

The RTHS Booth

The Society had a display booth at both **Dickinson and Colonel By Days** this summer. Brian and Pat Earle volunteered for both. We were lucky with the weather this year. It didn’t rain at either.

Both events were well attended. On display was one of Ellen Adamsons’ displays for the barns project. Brian and Pat also had our publications on display, but had to refer interested people to the Archives or RTHS as we weren’t allowed to sell.



* * *