

The Pioneer Times

(News vehicle of the Cloyne and District Historical Society)



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Cloyne & District Historical Society

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Bridge over the Skootamatta River
Photo: Historical Society Archives



Preserving the Past for the Future

Volume 9 #1 April 2011



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Chairman's AGM Report *by Carolyn McCulloch*

It is my pleasure to report as your President. At the Board's Strategic Planning meeting in January of 2010 we addressed your frustration in having Financial Reports from our Dec 31 year end, presented at the Annual Meeting in October of the following year. We made the decision to move the Annual General Meeting from the traditional October time to the following March. I wish to thank all the Directors who (with your permission) graciously and enthusiastically accepted serving another five months. It is therefore that I report to you for the period from October 19 2009 to March 21 2011. In this, for this one time, we have extended our time for an Annual Meeting.

We have had had an extraordinary time during this period, full of the spirit that it takes to carry out our mandate: *preserving the past for the future*.

What did we accomplish? Let me count: we developed professionally, with Marg Axford attending the AAO Archiving Conference, David Deacon learning the ropes as a preserver of old photographs, and six members attending a workshop on Museum House-keeping with the Lennox and Addington Archives.

We attracted robust speakers, who brought record crowds to certain of our meetings from not only our membership, but the rest of the community. In June, the founder of Sawyer-Stoll, Wallace Johnson's granddaughter brought us her creation "Massanoga". It was a spectacular hit, containing interviews from many who had worked there. We are still receiving calls from afar requesting DVD's. We were the official launch site of Orland French's remarkable book, "Lennox & Addington" Rob Leverty, the Executive Director of the Ontario Historical Society visited to see the restored Pioneer Cemetery (a community project with The Land O' Lakes Garden Club and the Township of North Frontenac) on Little Pond Road. As he later stated, he was "blown away". A group travelled to the Annual Dinner of the Hastings County Historical Society to hear Flora MacDonald and her analysis of Afghanistan.

As in the past, we had fun celebrating Christmas with an Old Fashioned Party for the Community. I send special kudos to Ernest Lapchinski, Dave Deacon, and Steve Lancaster for their generous talents in directing the show. Also in the Christmas Season, we celebrated our very own turkey time, beautifully organized by Eleanor Nowell. (go to page 11 for more)

Board Briefs

1. As a result of the March Annual General Meeting, there has been a change in Board personnel. Dot Pethick and Margaret Axford chose not to stay on the Board, after many years of service. Our thanks to them for their many contributions to the Cloyne and District Historical Society. The Board welcomes Elinor Duncan and Dave Deacon as new members.

2. There are plans to erect a plaque honouring Rhena Pollard Cole at the Harlowe United Church cemetery. Carolyn has been in touch with North Frontenac Council member Wayne Good about a large piece of granite to which a plaque might be affixed, similar to the one in Pioneer Cemetery in Cloyne. We will let you know, probably with a photo, when this project is completed.

3. There are plans on another front as well. If you have been into the museum in the last year or two, you will have realized that space is at a premium. The Board is looking at another addition, with a couple of priorities: lots of wall space for paintings and photographs, particularly in light of our acquisition of the Mary Lloyd Johnson photo collection, and more storage space. There is also an attempt, starting this spring, to make better use of the space available now through the disposal of at least one old cabinet and the purchase of one or two new, more efficient ones. More about both of these exciting developments later!

4. Our website, long languishing due to benign neglect, is now being refurbished! The Board has committed funds to this project, with the aim of making the website both more attractive and more informative. All newsletters will be available and photos will be enhanced. More about the new website as time goes on!

5. The Pioneer Pacers live again! We have submitted another team to the Relay for Life, being held again this year on June 10 in Flinton. After the tremendous success of last year's relay, both financially and in terms of community support, people are excited to take part once more in this life-affirming event. Cathy Hook has agreed again this year to keep us organized and informed about the planning process. If you would like to take part as a member of this tremendous team, just send a quick note to <pioneer@mazinaw.on.ca>; Cathy will then be in touch with you.

Progress Erases History A St. Lawrence Seaway Story

by Carol Morrow

The story of the St Lawrence Seaway is bitter-sweet, one of progress and commerce with an underlying theme of loss and compromise. Following the American Revolution and the War of 1812, the great river was an uneasy border between two hostile neighbours. Two canal systems ensued: the Rideau, an all-Canadian route to move troops and bypass the narrowest part of the River and the rapids at Long Sault; and the Erie across NY state to provide an all-American shipping route from the Great Lakes to the Atlantic. A system of locks was established in the St Lawrence after 1834 near Cornwall to bypass the Rapids so that small ocean-going vessels at least could travel to Lake Ontario. Over the last half of the 1800s, tensions between the two countries eased and the St Lawrence route took traffic away from the Erie Canal. Lake freighters and ocean vessels were becoming too big for the existing canals, and their cargo had to be off-loaded and shuttled between the Great Lakes and the Gulf of St Lawrence. Enthusiasm for the idea blew hot and cold in both countries depending on the politics of the administrations. Canada did most of the pushing for it after WWII, mostly at the urging of Ontario Hydro.

Once the US realized the whole thing might be built entirely on the Canadian side, the American government jumped into the project. They would operate 2 of the 7 new locks between Montreal and Iroquois, and dole out \$130M of the \$400M projected cost. There would also be a new dam to service power generating stations in both Cornwall and Massena, NY. Building the dam meant a large part of the river valley would be flooded, doubling the depth of the shallowest part. This wasn't a big problem on the sparsely populated American shore, but meant major upheaval on our side. Uncle Sam shook hands with the Mountie.

Thousands of properties were expropriated, nine 130-year old communities were wiped out, #2 Highway and the main CNR Toronto-Montreal rail line were rebuilt. The downtown core of Morrisburg was totally destroyed and Iroquois was completely uprooted and moved lock, stock and barrel a mile inland. The villages and communities of Aultsville, Farrans Point, Woodlands, Dickinson's Landing,

(go to page 8)

Memories of Fernleigh

by Eileen Flieler

Eileen Flieler and Muriel Vanness spent a most interesting afternoon recently with 96 year old Leanna (Kelford) White of Fernleigh, formerly of Plevna. Most of the following are recollections of Leanna's.

She and her husband built their home in Fernleigh in 1940, where Lee still lives. Lee drove the mail from Cloyne to Fernleigh until 1980. She was always very punctual, to the point where you could almost set your clock by her routine. Lee's job description included many things beyond just delivering mail. For example, Arnold Flieler's mother used to make homemade ice cream in a 5 gallon freezer. The owner of the boys' camp on Kashwakamak Lake on the south road at Fernleigh would order ice cream when one of the boys had a birthday. On her way back to Fernleigh from her mail route, Lee would stop at Flielers, pick up the ice cream, which Mrs. Flieler had packed in ice, and deliver it to the boys' camp. The next day on her way to Cloyne, she would return the empty container.

The original school in Fernleigh was made of log and was replaced about 1881 with a newer frame building which still stands in the village and is used as a community hall. This school closed in 1972. In its latest years, Sheila Levere, Irma (McDougall) White and Ilene Slater taught there.

The first Post Office was opened in Fernleigh about 1902. The first post mistress was Mrs. Davy, followed by Mr. Davy. The Davys ran the post office in the home of Allen and Harriet (Lyons) Flieler. Later Postmasters and Mistresses were Mr and Mrs

tine. They were followed by Keith and Marjorie Lyons and Arnold and Shirley Miller. The post office was moved to the Fernleigh store in the early 1920s. When the store was taken over by the Martin family, the post operators were Thompsons. The store closed in 1980.

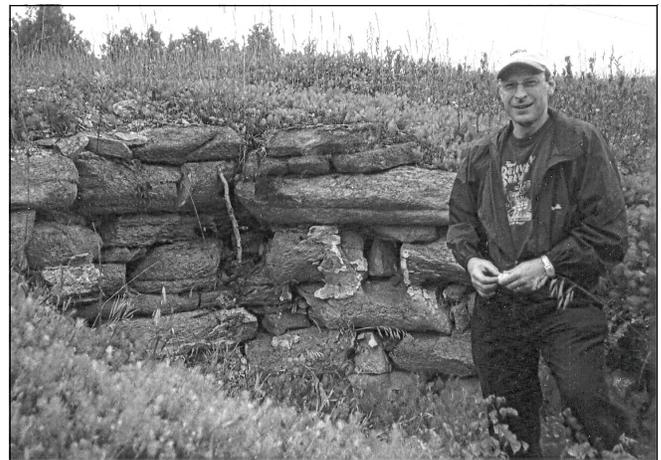
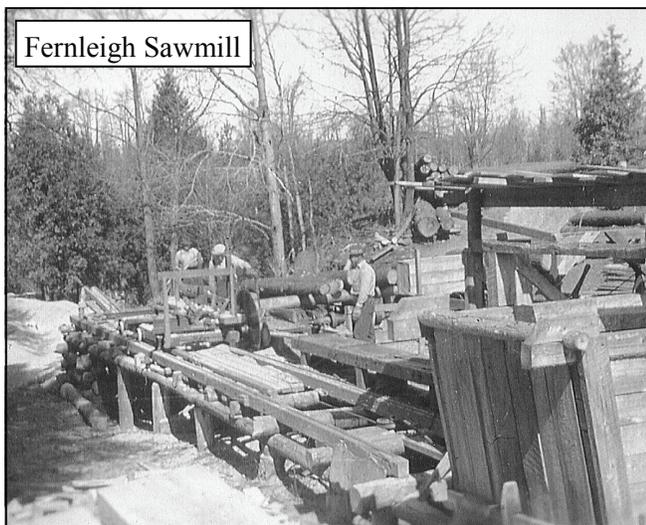
The first church services were held in the school. Although a church building was being constructed east of Fernleigh, lack of attendance at the church caused the building to be used as a cheese factory for a while until Mr. Dempster Lyons built a cheese factory on the edge of the little lake - Factory Lake - at the west end of the hamlet. The church which was built as a Free Methodist church was cut in two and moved into Fernleigh. It later became a United Church which still stands on that site, but is used presently as a home.

Mr. Oscar Perry, father of Iona Tibble and Hilda Salmond, learned cheesemaking at the Fernleigh factory, but later became cheesemaker at Ardoch.

Lime was in great demand in the early days and there were several kilns scattered throughout the area. They gradually ceased to operate. However the one operated by brothers Fred and Edward Flieler served the longest. The remnants of this kiln can still be seen on what was Edward's farm a short distance west of Fernleigh.

There was a saw mill just east of Fernleigh at the bottom of the hill on the north side of 506. This was owned by Mr. Jones who moved the mill to Ardoch.

The Historical Society is very appreciative of the fact that Lee talked to Eileen and Muriel about Fernleigh in its earlier days. Recollections like this are important in building up a history of any area. Thank you, Lee.



Ronald Flieler at his great grandfather's lime kiln

Pioneer Museum Patron Program

by Marcella Neely

Many Thanks to all of you who continue to support our museum.

We ended 2010 with a total of 85 Pioneer Museum patrons and \$4268.00 in fees and donations.

Along with stationery and postage expenses, we cover the museum insurance and incidentals. With museum expansion in our sights we hope to attract additional museum patrons and funds this year.

Because all donations over \$10 qualify for a charitable donation receipt for income tax purposes, we encourage everyone to consider our program keeping charitable dollars right here in our own area. It is rewarding to actually witness what our dollars are accomplishing. With no administration salaries to pay out, 98% of funds go directly back into the museum. Volunteers of the Cloyne and District Historical Society still manage and oversee the museum.

Let us know if a friend or neighbour might be willing to add their support to our program. We'll be happy to send out information to them.

Financial Report

Update to March 2011

Ian Brumell

2010 was a very good year financially for the Cloyne and District Historical Society. We have consistently been able to show a profit over the year and in so doing had a year end bank balance of \$1,889.73. A complete financial report is included with this newsletter.

Our use of government grants, of course, makes the operation of our organization viable. We were fortunate to have received granting of around \$8,500 from the Canadian Museums Association through the Young Canada works program of Heritage Canada. There were also grants from the Job Connect program of the Ontario Ministry of Training, Colleges and Universities, administered by Loyalist College. Our local municipal governments have once again been generous with financial support. We are most grateful to these organizations which do feel that "Preserving the Past for the Future" is important.

Further to our day-to-day income and expenses are the two other funds which we all should take note of. We have what we call our Endowment Fund which is a fund dedicated solely to the income it generates for the

Society. Its value at the end of 2010 was \$35,736.91 and generated \$1,140 for the Society in 2010. This fund is administered by the Napanee District Community Foundation.

The other fund we have is what we call our Reserve Fund and is administered by the financial folks at Raymond James Financial Services in Kingston. It's value at year end was \$25,930.65. This is the fund from which we draw money when and if we have a bit of a cash crunch due to delays in the receiving of any grant funding. It is this fund which finances major projects of our Society.

Our day-to-day funding comes from several other sources, such as the Patrons Program which funds the operation of the museum. Our book and calendar sales as well as family history services contribute greatly to our profit and net income for the year. Special thanks go out to those within the organization who assist in these areas.

As you can see from the above and the accompanying financial statements, the Cloyne and District Historical Society is doing well financially. We look forward to another summer with three students and the work they do to make our sales and services the best we can offer.

The Cloyne and District Historical Society keeps a very comprehensive set of financial records and books, audited regularly by Dorothy Pethick who has been in the financial bookkeeping business for many years. I would encourage anyone with questions about our finances to contact us at any time, via email to <pioneer@mazinaw.on.ca>.

Book Review

***Three Day Road*, by Joseph Boyden, published by Penguin Canada, 2005**

Joseph Boyden, a Canadian of Irish, Scots and Metis roots, has written a compelling story of two young Cree men who sign up to fight for Canada in World War I, leaving their home in Moose Factory and ending up in France. The details of the war they encountered it are chilling and graphic, but always ring true in the reader's mind.

This is not just a war story, but also a vivid account of how Aboriginal men were treated in this war. One superior officer rewards these men for their skills as snipers, but others mock and distrust them. Part of the story is told from the point of view of the Auntie of one of the soldiers. Her story alone is worth reading about, but her compassion for her nephew as he returns, his body racked with a morphine addiction, is both heart breaking and heart warming. This is an excellent novel, has won several awards already and will probably win more. It stands with the Timothy Findley novel *The Wars* as a Canadian classic.



Vacation Planning

by Marg Axford

Imagine that it is spring, 1953. You have decided to plan a vacation with the children - perhaps a little fishing, some beach time, some social time with others around you. What are your choices in this immediate area? Consider the following, organized by lake, but be advised that this is not a complete list! Photos were chosen based on availability only.

1. Skootamatta Lake, or perhaps you know it as Loon Lake - Skootamatta Lodge, Loon Lake Lodge, Hughes Landing Cabins, Trails End Lodge, Rutland Lodge.
2. Mazinaw Lake - Brown's, Popi Camp, Hermitage Lodge
3. Mississagagon - Salmond's Resort
4. Marble Lake - McGregor's Lodge, Myers Cave Lodge, Greenfield Lodge
5. Kashwakamak Lake - Fernleigh Lodge, Twin Oaks
6. Big Gull - Kirk's Cove

*Small-mouth Black Bass
Pickerel, Speckled Trout*

Generally accepted as a man's sport, FISHING has been developed at THE HERMITAGE in keeping as a popular recreation for the whole family. If desired, trips may be arranged to include time for bathing, hiking, and sight-seeing as well as the usual shore-dinner. The evenings are concluded with the guests enjoying the camp-fire on the shore.



GOOD FISHING

It is questionable, if anywhere in the Eastern Ontario district, the angler, the hunter, the nature-lover, or the vacationist, can find more satisfaction or greater reward, than on 11-Mile-long, Lake Mazinaw. Clear and deep, the water of the lake runs true to the tempo of the vastness everywhere prevalent.

Canoe Trips

Black bass, Lake trout, and salmon trout are all caught in Lake Mazinaw and good fishing is available in dozens of neighbouring lakes. A 50-mile canoe trip is available on adjoining lakes and streams and the longest portage is only 150 feet.

Bring along your old fishing clothes and our guides will show you where the big ones are.

THE
HERMITAGE
CLOYNE - ONTARIO



- *Fishing*
- *Hunting*
- *Swimming*
- *Boating*
- *Hiking*
- *Winter Sports*

THE HERMITAGE IS NOT A FISHING CAMP BUT A RESORT WHERE YOU CAN HAVE YOUR FISHING AND RECREATION AMID MOUNTAINOUS AND BEAUTIFUL SURROUNDINGS.

ALL THE FINE FOODS AND THE COMFORTS OF THE BEST HOTELS ARE INCORPORATED AT THE HERMITAGE WHICH IS A HIGH-CLASS HOLIDAY CENTRE, OPEN ALL THE YEAR ROUND.

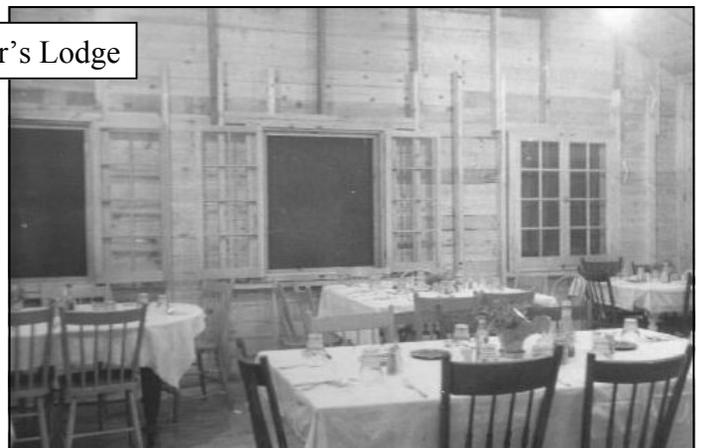
William Maloney
THE HERMITAGE
Cloyne, Ontario, Canada



THE LADIES' TOO!



McGregor's Lodge



In 1953, and for the decades before and after, the holiday of choice was to come to a spot known for good fishing. You could camp, but you could also rent a cabin for a week or two, a place that would give you a home base, where the children could swim and play at the water's edge until they had

completely tired themselves out. Now Mom (usually) still had to cook, but she could rely on fresh fish to perk up the menus. It would be interesting to know how many people came to this area for a summer vacation, staying at one of the camps listed here, or somewhere else! I remember fondly



Photos on this page from Dave Deacon

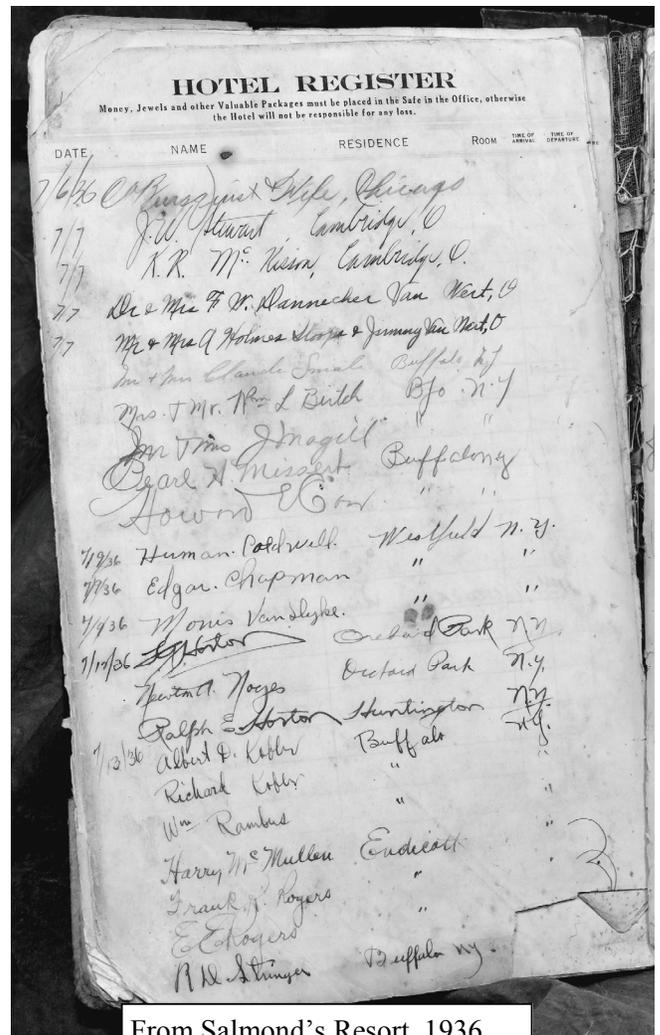
going with my parents to Grand Bend on Lake Huron for a week's holiday. The excitement of sleeping in a strange place, usually with paper thin walls, perfecting my "skills" at the local outdoor roller skating arena, playing for hours on the beach - these are the sorts of memories that come with the kind of holiday we are planning here.

Time passes and the shape of holidays changes. The fishing isn't as good as it used to be. SeaDoos and kayaks have replaced rowboats. Some children are more interested in their electronic gadgets than they are in fishing or swimming. However, the concept is the same - get away from the house for a period of time, rest, rejuvenate and hopefully enjoy the out-of-doors.

Many of the establishments mentioned above are gone now, but some are still around and need to be celebrated for their longevity! Kirk's Kove, Fernleigh Lodge, Twin Oaks, Brown's Tent and Trailer Park, Myer's Cave Lodge all still exist under their original names. Others, like McGregors and Salmonds have become Marble Lake Lodge and Lancasters, still with lots of history.

Have we lost anything significant with the demise of some of these places? Are we winning or losing, in terms of tourists coming to our area? We'd love to hear from you. Be the first to write a "letter to the editor" of the Pioneer Times and you might win a prize! Entries can be either by email to <pioneer@mazinaw.on.ca> or snail mail to Box

228 Cloyne, K0H 1K0. Good luck with planning your holiday in 1953!



From Salmond's Resort, 1936

Seaway continued ...

Moulinette, Maple Grove, Wales and Mille Roches became blips in the memories of former citizens, names no longer found on maps. These are the “Lost Villages of the St Lawrence”. Two new communities, Ingleside and Long Sault, were created for the displaced villagers. Existing islands in the river shrunk in size and lots of new little islands, that had been high points on the landscape, sprouted up. Ontario Hydro had the job of clearing out the villagers.

The families had 3 choices: take a market value buy-out; swap for a new home in a new town-site, or move their house to a new site with upgrades. About 530 homes were moved, 350 new houses were built, and over 2000 residences were destroyed. The inside scoop is that not all residents were treated equally. What of the renters, the widows, the elderly, and the 8000 natives? They were confronted first – and usually capitulated quickly. This gave the negotiators an edge with the rest of the neighbourhood. Stubborn families who held out longest got better deals just to get them to move. Other tactics were employed to gut the heart of the residents and make them comply: shade trees along the roadway were cut down or sidewalks and streets were torn up prematurely. But the government and its agent, Ontario Hydro, had a policy across the board – with lots of exceptions.



House Mover, from Lost Villages Website

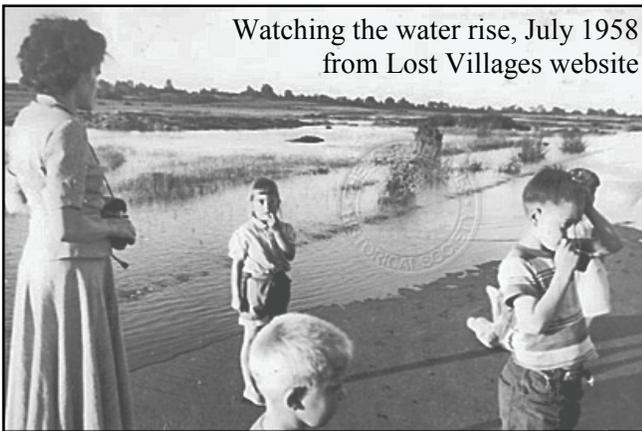
What do we see today as we pass through the landscape, drive along the roadways? Vast basins of water, big as small lakes, serene in the sunlight, populated with waterfowl. Swaths of public green space along the new Hwy 2, Upper Canada Village, an artificial pioneer village, and Long Sault Parkway with its picnic grounds and campsites. Pleasure boats darting from island to island, a glistening wake in their rear. Blue water, azure skies, rippling currents – a breathtaking panorama dotted with private docks, native Ontario shrubs and wild flowers, and - a dazzling strip of white concrete signifying the Moses-Saunders Dam just before you come into Cornwall. Along the SL Parkway, between Long Sault and Ingleside is St Lawrence Union cemetery, founded in 1957, home to countless weather-beaten and faded headstones. That gives you pause to wonder, doesn't it?

What don't you see? The derelict one-room schoolhouse where you sat at a wooden desk and dared to dip a blond pig-tail in an inkwell, where you shivered beside a pot-bellied wood stove on those cold blustery days, or where you starred as the handsome hero in the play at the Christmas concert. That 300-year old oak tree your old grandpa hung a tire from for your swing. The cracked sidewalk where you learned to play hopscotch or skip-a-rope. The disillusioned look on the faces of those forced to move from their ancestral homes. The places where they grew up and can never go back to. Historic hotels almost as old as Confederation. The white frame church built during the 1830s on ground donated by the original settler. The sprawling ancestral farmhouse with the wrap-around porch where you could sit and swat mosquitoes on a lazy spring evening.

Of the displaced villagers, scores of them could trace back to original Loyalist settlers who cleared the land back in the late 1700s. Some of the oldest homes in Ontario - homesteads that had been in families for generations - and hundreds of precious heritage buildings fell by the wayside. Many buildings were moved to new locations. But how does one decide which is saved and which is destroyed? Vast tracts of aboriginal treaty land lay awash. More important to me, one of the most significant battlegrounds on Canadian soil lies at the bottom of the flood plain. A stone cairn that is no longer even on the battlefield itself commemorates the Battle of Chrysler's Farm where 1200 British, Canadian and Mohawk forces defeated an American force of over 4000 in 1813. The battle was a turning point in the War and saved Canada from becoming another state.

Scattered among the lost communities were 18 pioneer cemeteries and burial sites. Some burials had originally been marked only with wooden crosses, long disappeared, so they never counted. Only one cemetery was entirely moved,

against disinterment, those sites were sealed with stone slabs before the flooding and lie under metres



Watching the water rise, July 1958
from Lost Villages website

of Seaway.

Yes, the Seaway construction was an engineering accomplishment, an amazing feat of incredible proportions for its day. New churches, schools and shopping centres were constructed, meaning more jobs for the area; it also meant some merchants had to change their business and farmers took unskilled jobs. The local area got improved roads, new streets, sidewalks, power and telephone lines, and there was in place a fully navigable marine route from the centre of Canada to the Atlantic. Those who moved received new homes, little matchbox houses instead of the rambling heritage home they grew up in. Residents who didn't have such amenities before, got sewage disposal, water on tap, indoor bathrooms, furnaces and full basements. They moved into treeless, muddy suburban neighbourhoods that replaced yards where giant oaks and maples had cast a historical shade.

The brief career of the bureaucrat who proposed the plan and the four years of industrious destruction pales in comparison to all the drowned history and traumatized lives. "It was the best of times; it was the worst of times". An interesting footnote to the story: as late as 2008 we were still paying in the millions compensation to the Mohawks to address unresolved land disputes arising from the Seaway construction.

During the summer the Lost Villages Historical Society conducts an interpretive 4-hour tour through the area of these flooded neighbourhoods. Thanks to the June 28, 2008 edition of the Ottawa Citizen for background for this article. If you want to know more about the Lost Villages, visit the website of the Lost Villages Historical Society at:

[<http://www.lostvillages.ca/en/index.html>].

Book Reviews

by Margaret Axford

***Charles Dickens and the House of Fallen Women,*
by Jenny Hartley, published by Methuen, 2009**

You may remember this title; it's the story of the home which Charles Dickens established for young women in trouble with the law in London in the 1850s. It's also the story of Rhena Pollard, one of the young women who ended up at Urania Cottage and who ultimately arrived in Canada and became the wife of Oris Cole. She and her husband are buried in Harlowe United Church Cemetery.

If you have read even one or two of Dickens' novels, you will know how concerned he was about the plight of the poor in the London of the mid-1850s. Women and children were particularly vulnerable in the system of the day. If you were poor, uneducated and unemployed, you had 2 ways of earning a living, either steal or become a prostitute, or both. As a result, the prisons were overflowing. Several wealthy men had established workhouses, but these too were fraught with problems for their inhabitants, in that no form of education was provided, and therefore no way of ever bettering oneself.

Dickens' idea was different, even radical in its day. His belief that young women could change their behaviours if taught how to do so was borne out in the lives of most, although not all, of the inhabitants of Urania Cottage, the name of the enterprise which he ran from the end of 1847 for approximately the next 10 years.

The writer of this book, Jenny Hartley, has done much research on the social scene at the time, as well as on the dozen or so women whom she has been able to trace. The book provides great detail about the setting up of the home, the woman who was Dickens' benefactor in the project, Angela Burdett Coutts, the physical details of the house, the traumas which the girls had been through before their arrival at Urania Cottage.

For Dickens, the end result of his education of the girls was that they should emigrate, an extremely popular idea throughout Britain at the time. Many of the home's inhabitants however were terrified by the concept of getting on a ship and arriving in a foreign

Genealogy Tips

by Carol Morrow

When I started researching my family history, I had one goal: to find out who my ancestor families were. I didn't know much about my background and I felt left out, especially if everyone around me knew exactly where their roots originated. As I learned the names and dates, I realized I needed to learn much more about their lives, what they did, where they lived and what became of them.

Five Steps to Discovering the Reasons behind your Ancestors' Actions

Step 1: Plot the basic facts. Create a simple timeline with basic information about an ancestor. Find birth years for parents and children in [census records](#). Add immigration years from [passenger lists](#) (not always easy to do). The [1901 Canadian census](#) gives immigration years; several US censuses also do the same. Be aware that these dates are only as good as the ancestor's recollection of the event. Search for more details in [family trees](#) and ask your family what they know. Save your discoveries in your computer using a genealogy software program. (I recommend Family Tree Maker but there are others to choose from.)

Step 2: Fill in the details. Search for marriage information using clues from censuses and other records. Search online through the [Ontario vital statistics](#) of birth, marriage and death records. No year listed? Try searching for a marriage one or two years before a couple's oldest child was born. Check [school records](#), including [yearbook collections](#), which may include a graduation year and photo. Add information from [obituaries](#) for all family members too, as a death in the family likely had a huge impact on survivors' lives. Newspaper archives are usually found on [microfilm in the town library](#) where the newspaper is published. You may have to use some creative name spelling to pick up on your ancestor in the records and censuses.

Step 3: Search locally. See if you can find [local histories](#) that provide insight into the people and the area. Contact a historical society near your ancestor's home to learn about events and trends that may have triggered a move or a change of jobs or schools. Review local [newspapers](#) and [court records](#), which may

have reported on events directly related to your family. You will also want to dig into the [land records](#), so a visit to a county land office would be on your itinerary.

Step 4: Get the big picture. Ancestors' actions or migrations were often triggered by some catastrophic event in the family, like an [epidemic](#) taking several or key lives. [Wars](#) could account for changes in the family. Become familiar with what was happening in the country at the same time your ancestors lived there. [Government policies](#) like a homestead act or free land grants were attractions for some settlers. Even [religious movements](#) and [social trends](#) came into play in some cases. If you can't find your relatives in Canada, be sure to check the US, especially in states that neighbor on Canada. (Michigan, New York, the Dakotas and Wisconsin were destinations of choice.)

Step 5: Use maps. Maps are a wonderful resource and they can be found everywhere on the Internet. [Use Google](#) to find locations and trace routes. I've mentioned before the McGill Digital County Maps of Ontario of the 1870s. They give the exact location and size of your ancestors' properties for that era. Here is the website again: [<http://digital.library.mcgill.ca/countyatlas/SearchMapframes.php>].

Since following these five tips, my ancestors have come to life. I never realized the emotional impact a search could have — or how each person in my family tree could become so real with a story to tell of a rich, full life lived.

Happy Anniversary !

Our colleagues in Plevna at the Clarendon-Miller Community Archives are celebrating the fifth anniversary of the Archives on May 4. A local history evening has been planned for the occasion, this time focussing on the role of women in rural Ontario. The well known writer Mary Cooke, from Renfrew County, is coming as guest speaker. Many displays will be set up in the Clar-Mill Hall, illustrating the various roles which women have played in the Plevna area and beyond. No doubt there will be a birthday cake!

Everyone is invited to attend this event which begins at 7 p.m. in the Clar-Mill Hall.

Cathy Hook stepped up to the plate and organized the Pioneer Pacers who kept in step with the best of them for the Canadian Cancer Society's Relay for Life.

Because we live in an area with such a captivating history, our love of bus trips never stops. We visited Chaffey's Locks in the spring, and the ghost towns of the Hastings Colonization Road in the fall where we made new friends in an old Ormsby Schoolhouse. They came back to visit us, and we became part of other Ormsby/Cloyne tourist trips with a visit from the folks from Eastminster United Church in Belleville.

Our sought after Calendar is the major fundraiser of the CDHS. Many thanks to Eileen Flieler, Yvonne Marshall, John Bolton, Muriel Van Ness, Cecily Matacheskie, the Board and members, who under Dave Deacon's leadership produce an extraordinary memento for our community. We were sold out by November, so we are planning a production increase for the coming year.

Thanks to the many who baked for our sale, and worked so hard at our yard sale. Without your efforts, we would not be the viable organization that we are.

We continue with the laying of our wreath at the Cenotaph on Remembrance Day, and the donation and presentation of the History Award at the North Addington Education Centre where we also operate a booth at NAEC's November craft show.

We learned. We realized that we could not move Bob and Laurie Cuddy's generous donation of Viking Lodge from Big Gull Lake to the Cloyne Park. I appreciate the many meetings that John Bolton, Eileen Flieler, Peter Turner, Gord McCulloch and Ken Lindey attended, as we tried to make it happen. There is a happy ending to the story: Bob and Laurie have decided to restore the foundation, so this beautiful historic cabin will remain intact on their property.

The Cloyne and District Historical Society has committed to preparing to plan for a future expansion to the Cloyne Pioneer Museum. We look forward to being able to report to you on this project in the future.

You will learn elsewhere at this meeting of the enormous work of our committees and I should like to thank the following people in advance: Marg Axford, the Cloyne Pioneer Museum's Curator and the chair of our By-Law Committee; Marcella Neely, the Chair of the Cloyne Pioneer Museum Patron Program, Eleanor Nowell, our Membership Convenor; Ian Brumell, our competent Treasurer who applies for and manages the grant money to hire our students, our gardener extraordinaire Nancy Myer-Davis, Dorothy Pethick, our auditor; our Secretary with the encyclopedic memory, Eileen Flieler;

and directors Carol Lessard, Muriel Van Ness, and Trudy Deacon, whom we count on for so many things. In closing, I thank you, the members of The Cloyne and District Historical Society for your warm enthusiasm and reliability. □

Charles Dickens, continued

land; never mind that these were "colonies" at the time, it was still a scary thought! Surprising numbers did manage to conquer their fears and start new lives, mostly in Australia.

The person we are most interested in, Rhena Polard, presumably emigrated by herself. There is no mention of any others coming with her. Fortunately for the researcher, and for us, there are letters between Dickens and Ms. Burdett Coutts, detailing the daily crises and turmoil of a home where several post-adolescent girls lived together. Through these letters, we see Rhena described as both "audacious" and "restless". Perhaps these are the two characteristics which allowed her, in 1855, to come to a new country by herself.

This is a fascinating story which will leave you with many questions, for which there seem to be no answers. However, the fact that we know as much as we do about Urania Cottage and Rhena is a bonus.

The Historical Society has a copy of this book, which may be loaned out to trustworthy individuals! Contact me at 336-2203 or <brumford@mazinaw.on.ca> if you would like to read it.

An interesting counterpoint is an excellent debut novel by Welsh writer Gaynor Arnold, called *Girl in a Blue Dress*, published in 2009 by McClelland and Stewart. The novel begins with the funeral at Westminster Abbey of Charles Dickens and is told through the voice of his wife, from whom he was separated for many years. The writer has changed the names of her characters, but Dickens and family are easily recognizable. Through the musings and memories of his wife, the reader gets quite a different view of the famous man. While I wondered by times about the historical accuracy of some of the details, I certainly enjoyed the read. □

Reference Books for Genealogy or Local History Studies

1. Frontenac County: County of 1,000 Lakes
 Away back in Clarendon-Miller
 Back of Sunset, a history of Central Frontenac
 Way Back in Frontenac (Northern Townships) - Census Information from 1860-1900
 Memories, by Eleanor Flieler
2. Lennox and Addington County: The Smiling Wilderness
 Historical Glimpses of Lennox and Addington
 Way Back in Addington (Northern Townships)-Census Information
 from 1860 to 1900
 The Story of Old Hay Bay Church
 Lennox and Addington Atlas
3. Cloyne/Bon Echo: Bon Echo - The Denison Years
 The Mazinaw Experience
 The Oxen and the Axe
 Unto These Hills
 The Art of Bon Echo
 Sunset of Bon Echo
4. Denbigh: This Was Yesterday
5. Flinton: Village on the Skoot
6. Northbrook: When I Was a Boy - The David Trumble Story
7. Ottawa Valley: Eganville, Jewel of the Bonnechere
 Lumber Kings and Shantymen - Logging and Lumbering in the Ottawa Valley
 Heart and Soul- Portraits of Canada's Ottawa Valley
8. Matawatchan: St. Andrews United Church, Matawatchan
 The Carswell Story - 350 Years of Pioneering History
 The Strong Family - 150 Years in Canada
 Matawatchan, A Glimpse into the Past
9. Eastern Ontario: Whiskey and Wickedness
 Historic Sites and Monuments of Kingston and District
 Land Roll Book - Land Agent Records 1865-1893 for South Canonto, Palmerston,
 Clarendon-Miller, Abinger, Denbigh, Hinchinbrooke and Olden Townships
 Where the Heck is Balaheck? - Unusual Place names in Eastern Ontario
 Chalk, Challenge and Change - Stories from Women Teachers in Ontario, 1920-1979

These books can be borrowed from the museum on a sign-out list. Contact Margaret Axford for this.