

Remember the Corman House

Stoney Creek Historical Society

P.O. Box 66637, Stoney Creek, On. L8G 5E6

NEWSLETTER

May 1997

Edition #11

Membership reaches 100 Feb.5th./97

IS STONEY CREEK DEAD?

From the Community News October 1926

Some people say it is, and some of those people live here. Let's just forget that saying and speak the other way. Lets boost Stoney Creek, if we think it is dead. Just look around and see the houses going up for the size of the village, it looks good to most of us. Then look at the new church hall just erected; see the very much alive bunch of boys who helped and shingled its roof in one day; see the busy women who cooked a fine supper for those boys, as well as a midday lunch. Then start at the east end and watch the business done by jack Lottridge with his coal business. His team and truck are out all and every day employing several men, and even his dog keeps barking the glad news of plenty of work. Then comes J.W.Beaumont, with as fine a horticultural business as you can locate twenty-five miles around; this also employs extra labour. The Basket Factory; under the management of Joe Piott; a bunch of men and women never out of work; trucks and teams hauling and delivering day in and day out. Cross over to Mac's tire shop, and you will find Mac has got lots of spare tires but no spare time; he seems to be busy all day long. J.E.Jones' printing business also. Milmine's lumber works is another go-ahead factory father and son with hired help always on the job. You got to go there to see them, which is sure proof of a busy business.

The garage, although a new management is going strong. Walt Beswick keeps driving away nails instead of flies in his blacksmith shop. One can see teams in there any time they pass, and lots of wagons outside that need attention when he has no horses to shoe. The Saltfleet Wire Works, with another factory just put up, keeps buzzing away making all kinds of basket hooks, also handles for hampers and many other wire products. Lawrence Bros. with a staff of helpers hauling out thousands of cement blocks and pipes, with a heavy truck delivering all over the township. A large family of Boden boys, who with their father have got established a very satisfactory and profitable furnace and galvanizing pipe business going strong all the time. Across the road is the village blacksmith named Glidden, hammering away all day. If Stoney Creek was dead, he will surely let you know it is very much alive by the sparks he keeps sending abroad.

Then comes Gee's furniture repairing and joinery works, also W.Fisher's building plant, Lobb's painting business, Lee's car painting business, Billy Scott with his shoe repairing outfit. Dick Bland's carpentering concern, and as regards, we can surely boast well of the grocery end of it. Miss Frances St. John who seems to have customers from Red Hill to Grimsby; Twaddle's, Millen's and the MacNeil bakery establishment, older established businesses doing a whale of a business. Then Morris and Stoddart's candy stores, Cline's flour and feed, Murray Deans and the McClung Bros. butcher business, also two great fruit receiving houses, John Clough & Son and the Growers, both of whom send carloads of fruit to all parts of the world. There is also a Royal Bank and the Hydro office, as well as Weppler's grocery store and Lee hardware. All these help to make a place of some importance, and all of them under the control of young people with ambitions for a greater business, which can only be accomplished by the residents buying as much as possible at home, and not forgetting at all times to Boost the Place they live.

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS:

We are happy to welcome to our membership Burge & Dorothy Green, Gil Hutton, Doug & Angela Mays, Wes & Susan Ramsay.

The Hamilton Spectator 101 YEARS AGO:

January 25, 1896: While Hugh Bogen, of Saltfleet, was loading ice on the lake shore below Stony Creek on Friday afternoon the horses ran away. Bogen was knocked down and the wheels went over him, but he escaped serious injury. The team was caught at Van Wagner's hill.

> This Newsletter is sponsored by

Member G.L. Heeringa Ltd. Architect & Engineer

ERLAND LEE (MUSEUM) HOME

Just a reminder to the membership that the Erland Lee (Museum) Home is featuring Patterns In Light, a travelling exhibition from the Royal Ontario Museum. This exhibition traces the history of glass tableware in Canada from 1870 to 1930. This exhibition is organized and circulated by the Royal Ontario Museum through its Outreach The Outreach Program is supported by the Ministry of Culture, Recreation and Tourism, Government of Ontario, and the Department of Canadian Heritage, Government of Canada. The Erland Lee (Museum) Home would like to acknowledge the financial support of the Rotary Club of Hamilton in obtaining this exhibition. Also, a wonderful exhibit of coal oil lamps is on view in our Drive House, courtesy of the Stoney Creek Historical Society membership.

Thanks to all who ventured out on Saturday, April 5 for our All You Can Eat Pancakes and maple syrup. We served several hundred people that day, and your support in attending this event was greatly appreciated. Our next event will be our GARDEN PARTIES, on Monday, June 16 and Tuesday, June 17. Choose either the morning or afternoon to attend. The cost is \$15.00 per person, and this includes period entertainment, refreshments and dessert. Special costumed guests will be strolling around the grounds, ready to greet Women's Institute members from around the world! Registration forms are available from the museum.

From July 15 to August 30, we will once again be featuring our LOCAL ARTIST SHOW & SALE. A wonderful variety of oil & watercolour paintings, photography, linoprints, sculpture, pen & ink etc., will be on display. All entries are for sale and very affordable! If you are interested in viewing one of a kind originals, then visit the Lee during our art show.

Our HARVEST LUNCHEONS will be held on Tuesday, September 23 and Wednesday, September 24 this year. You have a choice of either the 11:30 a.m. or 1:00 p.m. luncheon. This bountiful lunch is buffet style and we encourage all visitors to tour through our Victorian home while on site. Tickets are \$10.00 per person, and are available at the museum now. Remember, there is limited seating, so don't wait too long!

OOPS I GOOFED:

In the last newsletter, the article "The Mills of Stoney Creek" was reported to have been written by Doug Jones, it was in fact the work of member Donald Jones U.E. My apologies Donald.

THE PRESIDENT'S CORNER

What would we have if our Stoney Creek ancestors had not the fore-sight to preserve the past??

There would not be a Battlefield House Museum, the Monument or the park we enjoy, Smith's Knoll or the Erland Lee Museum Home. These memories of our past would not be available for citizens or visitors to enjoy. The Women's Institute, originating in Stoney Creek, would not be a world-wide organization with so many hundreds of members world-wide.

While travelling through the state of Georgia in the USA, we had the opportunity to visit Fort Frederica. This is a National Archeological site which had been the first British outpost in Georgia from 1721 to 1736, a site not restored but preserved, showing the foundations and portions of the original fort, even giving some information on the original residents of the Fort. All very well displayed and maintained. This, although maintained by the Federal Government of the U.S.A., was made possible with the assistance of many volunteers who realized the importance of the history of the site.

The following is a quotation by Mr. Nick Honerkamp, Historical Archeologist for the Fort that I would like to pass on to you -

We only have one past,
And if it's destroyed,
It's gone forever,
Preservation is the one thing we can do to
ensure that future generations will have
A past to appreciate.

Opportunities come to us and we must recognize them for what they are. An attempt must be made to preserve and restore these so that our children and grandchildren will have the opportunity to know the past.

MORE ABOUT TOLL ROADS:

A special meeting was held by the County Council on July 27, 1891 about the Saltfleet Road. Nesbitt, Bicknell & Gauld had written to the council concerned about the propriety of ordering the cessation of tolls on the road until the allowance for repairs had been expended.

Major Van Wagner asked for a grant of 25 cents a day for each horse from the county while serving at the annual drill of the field battery.

The Barton and Glanford road company had abandoned a portion of its road.

A letter was read from the attorney-general, stating that the government intended to advertise the Dundas and Waterloo road for lease or sale.

Continued on page 3

CHARLOTTE BRONTE:

This poem was found in diaries that were written by my husbands Gr. Gr. Uncle Graham Weir in 1880. It was the first of the year and it still holds true to-day.

There are three things to admire and three times three to always keep in mind

And the three things to admire are Intellectual power, Dignity and Gracefulness

Three things to love

Courage, Gentleness and affection

Three things to hate

Cruelty, Arrogance and Ingratitude

Three things to delight in

Frankness, Freedom and Beauty

Three things to wish for

Health, Friends and a Cheerful Spirit

Three things to avoid

Idleness, Loquacity and Flippant Jesting

Three things to fight for

Honour, Country and Home

Three things to govern

Temper, Tongue and Conduct

Three things to think about

Life, Death and Eternity.

submitted by Juanita Mitchell

TOLL ROADS Continued from page 2

The special committee appointed to examine the Saltfleet road reported that it was not advisable to spend the money granted by the county.

The report was adopted with very little discussion.

Councilor Wardell moved that the council discontinue taking toll on the Saltfleet road, and that the road be placed in the same position as the Governor's road.

The motion was carried.

(It is over one hundred years since this item appeared in the Hamilton Weekly Spectator on July 28, 1891, and we are hearing rumours that the provincial government is considering toll roads in the future.)

submitted by Dorothy Reid

VINEMOUNT

From the Community News August 1926

We had some freak weather this year, and also some freak storms. Last week lightning entered the house of Arthur Fortman and very kindly went out again without doing any damage, although it travelled through a bed which luckily was unoccupied. The hydro line was also stuck recently.



ARMORIAL BEARINGS:

Have you ever wondered about the Official Crest of Stoney Creek ???

This information was taken from the official program for the Inagural Meeting dated January 8th. 1974.

The Arms of Stoney Creek were granted by Letters of Patent from the Heraldic College, England, under the date of October 15, 1956.

The Arms refer to the history of the Town and are described as follows:

ARMS: "Azure, on a Mount a representation of a Canadian Farmhouse of the late eighteenth century proper; a Chief per pale Gules and Or, thereon to the dexter on a Mount, an ancient Cannon also proper, and to the Sinister, a Maple Leaf also Gules."

CREST: "On a wreath Or and Vert, a representation of the Monument at Stoney Creek, commemorating the Battle of that name fought there on 6th June, 1813."

SUPPORTERS: "On the dexter side a Woman proper Robed Azure, a Scarf draped about her waist and shoulder purpose, and on the sinister side, a Hind proper."

MOTTO: "ANTIQUUM ASSERO DECUS" which means, "I claim ancient honour."

The dexter Supporter represents MARY GAGE who tended the wounded of both sides during and after the Battle of Stoney Creek, and the Farmhouse, now a museum and known as "Battlefield House", was where she carried out her work of mercy.

1997 MEMBERSHIP ARE YOU PAID??

NOTICE:

NO MEETING AT CITY HALL JUNE 4TH 1997

The June meeting will be the potluck picnic at the Erland Lee (Museum) Home Tuesday June 24th. We look forward to seeing all members

1997 POTLUCK PICNIC TUESDAY JUNE 24th. SUPPER AT 6.30 PM.

All members are invited to attend our annual potluck picnic with the Friends of Battlefield House again being held at the Erland Lee Museum Home.

This will be the last function for this season. Our regular meetings will resume at the Stoney Creek City Hall Saltfleet Room Wednesday, September 3rd. at 7.30 pm. I hope everyone has a very pleasant summer.

DID YOU KNOW??

The City of Stoney Creek is on the Internet with its own website. Information about the Erland Lee (Museum) Home and the Stoney Creek Historical Society is available, as well as material on the properties LACAC has designated, this includes excellant photographs of the buildings.

If you have access to a computer and the internet check it out, I'm sure you will be impressed.

www.city.stoney-creek.on.ca

FUTURE SPEAKERS:

Sept. 3/97

not confirmed

Oct. 1/97 Dorothy Turcotte "William Lyon MacKenzie, Yonge St. to Navy Island circa 1837."

Nov. 5/97

not confirmed

MEMBERSHIP:

A membership milestone was reached Wednesday February 5th. The 100th member was realized when Doug & Angela Mays choose to join us at the close of the regular meeting.

EDITORS NOTE:

A change to the look of the newsletter! The photograph of the Corman House has been replaced with an artists drawing. Our Corresponding Secretary, Juanita Mitchell, an acomplished artist made this pen and ink replica for our planned letterheads and I felt it was worthy of adorning our newsletter. I hope you like it.

I need your assistance! The column "I Remember" is again without an entry for this newsletter. I'm sure some of you would like to try your hand at writing, and that you have some memories of years gone by. It doesn't need to be 50 years ago just something you want to share. If I can be of assistance in putting your memories to paper please don't hesitate to call.

Do you have a piece you would like entered in the next newsletter??

Be a newsletter sponsor for \$30.00, help the Society and get a charitable tax receipt. Phone to be put on the list

Battle Week-end June 6th to June 8th. Canada Flag Day Parade June 14th at 2.00 p.m.

EXPRESSIONS

by John Hencher

We use the expression "flash in the pan". It also comes from the old muzzel loader rifles. In order to make a gun discharge, some gunpowder was placed on a "pan" to catch the spark from the flint and steel cock. The powder in the pan caught fire which passed through a small hole in the side of the barrel and thus ignited the charge in the barrel. Sometimes the powder in the pan would flash without igniting the charge. We use to-day, the expression "A flash in the pan" to describe or characterize an unsuccessful effort to accomplish something.

Next newsletter will be issued Wednesday, Oct. 1 1997

Material deadline is Monday, Sept. 15 1997

Stories, News or Queries can be mailed to

Ron Place 56 Wyngate Ave. Stoney Creek, On. L8G 1T6

THE STORY OF THE UNITED EMPIRE LOYALISTS

submitted by Martha Hempfill U.E.

The story of the Loyalists began with the prolonged fighting known as the French and Indian War which was the American portion of the Seven Years War 1756-1763, in which the British and some colonial troops protected the thirteen American colonies, and finally with the fall of Quebec in 1759 took possession of French Canada. England was now heavily in debt and unwisely levied the Stamp Act to help meet the costs of the recent war. The Colonists now found themselves free of the French threat to the north, and with some anti-monarchist elements ready to make the most of grievances against what they felt were unfair taxes. At first only constitutional changes were sought by men of standing such as Franklin, Jefferson and Washington. However, open rebellion developed. The majority of the colonists did not want to break away from England but were urged on by hot headed insurgents. Those who remained actively loyal to Britain were subjected to indignities, imprisonment, confiscation of their property and even death. The rebellion lasted from 1775-1783.

In the end the rebels were victorious and the Loyalists were forced to get out of the country. Many returned to England, some went to the West Indies and about 40,000 found their way into Upper Canada. Some 30,000 Loyalists were transported by sea from Boston and New York to settle in the Maritimes. A wild and lonely chore faced them where the bush had to be cleared before they could even pitch their tents or build rough shacks.

Thousands of others from upper New York, Pennsylvania, New Jersey, Massachusetts, and Vermont had to find their way along dangerous forest trails or by water on Lake Champlain to Sorel on the St. Lawrence. Thence they made their way to the north shore of lake Ontario where they were given free land to settle in the region around the Bay of Quinte and Kingston, which was the official and center of the new surveys. Some 13 townships were divided into lots.

Many of the Loyalists were disbanded soldiers from the Loyalist regiments. From the Mohawk valley Sir John Johnson brought the King's Royal Regiment of New York. The best known Provincial Corps in the Niagara region was Butler's Rangers (1777-1784), commanded by Colonel John Butler. They were based at Fort Niagara and were an effective fighting force allied with their Indian brothers in a civil war against the rebels. When disbanded in the 1870's the Rangers and their families rapidly spread over this area.

These first white settlers moved westward along Lake Ontario to the head of the Lake, southward along the Niagara river and westward along Lake Erie to Long Point. In order to receive a grant of 200 acres of Crown Lands, the Loyalist had to clear three acres of virgin forest, build and maintain the road adjacent to his land and build a habitation 16 feet by 24 feet.

A large percentage of Loyalists were of non-British extraction, many were of German, Swiss, French, Dutch, American Indian

and African descent. They transcended all social classes from wealthy merchants to farmers and tradespeople. The sons of these settlers preserved Canada to the British crown in the War of 1812.

In short, the Loyalists were those Americans who:

- * resided in what is now the continental United States before the Revolutionary War of 1775-1783.
- * remained loyal to King George III during the Revolution.
- * took up arms as soldiers in one of the American loyalist provincial corps.
- * had property and/or possessions confiscated because of their loyalty to the crown.
- * settled in British North America after the Revolution.

HUNTING FOREBEARS

I received a letter recently from a genealogical friend who has an interest in "Harmony Hall" the home of Jonathan Davis, located on Concession 6, lots 31 and 32. Mr. & Mrs. W. T Barnes and their children, who lived in Buffalo, N. Y. visited the old homestead every summer. Mrs. Barnes was the second wife of W. T. and was Matilda Jane Davis, the daughter of Jonathan. Louisa Jane Barnes, their daughter, married Moss Ingersoll Olmsted in 1856. My correspondent has old letters written by Louisa Jane describing the house and its contents. The house was sold about 1882 to Thomas Preston. At about this time an auction was held. Olmsteds were living in Ancaster at the time, and Moss was persuaded to attend to buy the grandfather clock and the side-saddle which Hannah Philips had ridden on the trip to Canada in 1792. Louisa was bitterly disappointed when her husband returned and told her that the clock had not been included in the sale and as for the saddle, "it was an old moth-eaten thing which was not worth carting home", so he did not buy it.

My correspondent hopes to one day find the advertisement that may have appeared in some newspaper announcing the auction.

In the 1891 Farmer's Directory (Saltfleet), Thomas Preston is listed as a freeholder, Lot 31, Concesion 6 and his postal address was Mt. Albion.

The Williams family owned this property for four generations, and it was Ruby Williams who attempted to have the house preserved to no avail.

The picture in "Saltfleet, Then and Now" has erroneously named Victoria Inn as Harmony Hall. A picture of Harmony Hall can be found in Mabel Burkholder's column "Out of the Storied Past" in the Hamilton Spectator, June 30, 1951.

by Dorothy Reid

FROM THE PAST:

JANUARY 13TH 1908 EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

An Executive Committee meeting was called by the President to meet in the Parish Hall. 18 post cards were sent out. there were present Pres. W.E.Corman, Sec. W.G.Davis, Messrs. Erland Lee, R.E.Glover, (?) Evans, Donald McInnes, J.W.Green.

President John Gardner of Hamilton was a welcome visitor who came down to report the meeting recently held in Hamilton, Jan. 6th, by the three societies interested in placing monument on the Soldier's Plot, ie Went. Hist. Society, Women's Went. Hist. Society, Hamilton & Went. Veteran's Society. According to his report a very interesting meeting was held and the outcome of said meeting was the result of the following unanimous resolution which speaks for itself.

Moved by Mrs. Calder, seconded by Kirwin Martin, that the Women's Went. Hist. Society, the Went. Hist. Society and the County of Wentworth Veteran's association by their representatives at this meeting, agree to join in raising \$1500 to erect a monument on Smith's Knoll and \$10,000 to erect a monument upon the site of the Women's Went. Hist. Society. The monument upon Smith's Knoll to be first erected and that the Government grant of \$5000 be allocated to the site of the Women's Went. Hist. Society and that all three societies join in asking the Government to extend the grant. CARRIED.

(The above is a true copy of the Resolution kindly sent me by Mrs. Bertie E.D.Smith, Sec. Women's Went. Hist. Society. W.G.Davis, Sec. Stoney Creek Branch Went. Hist. Society.)

The report of Pres. Gardner, after much discussion was laid over until next meeting. Pres. Gardner was given a vote of thanks for being present.

<u>General Meeting</u> (Note - this meeting appears to have followed immediately after the Exec. Comm. Mtg.)

Moved by Donald McInnes, seconded by R.E. Glover, that this general meeting of the Society be held in the Parish Hall every third Monday in each month commencing with February, 7.30 p.m. CARRIED.

The rent of the Hall to be 50 cents per meeting.

The annual fee of 25 cents per member to be paid at this meeting.

The Secretary was asked to write to Sec. J.H.Land of the Went. Hist. Society asking him to assist in getting speakers for our monthly meetings so that we may have a regular program arranged.

REPORT FROM BATTLEFIELD HOUSE

by Roel Van der Meiden

Spring is finally here and the House is celebrating this event with a Daffodil Tea on Sunday, April 27. There will be two sittings: one at 1:00 p.m. and one at 3:00 p.m. "Lady Victoria" will spin a wonderful yarn about the tea-drinking customs from Jane Austen's to Queen Victoria's time. We are now anxiously awaiting the daffodils to burst forth with bloom....

We are also very busy planning the Re-enactment, to be held on Saturday and Sunday, June 7 & 8. We are expecting to have that wonderful actor again, who so stirringly plays the role of Indian War Hero Tecumseh. Also, a "travelling doctor" will be there, who, according to Susan, does an excellent job. She saw him in action at another re-enactment. The navy will be represented by boat builder Gill Bibby and a blacksmith will tell the visitor everything about his craft. The sutlers will be in their special square again, and with all the different costumes and uniforms, the tents and cooking fires, it promises to be another exciting weekend.

We are expecting about 500 students for a "History in Action Day" on Friday the 6th, who will learn first-hand what life - and war - in the early 1800's was all about.

The new gallery space in the museum is gradually being finished. We are the recipient of an ornate banner, which was commissioned by Sara Calder. Sara Calder was a granddaughter of James and Mary Gage. She was the first president of the Women's Wentworth Historical Society, which saved the House from demolition. The Head-of-the-Lake Historical Society, which has owned this banner for a long time, has donated it to our museum. They will make a special box for it and eventually, it will be available for public viewing.

Our "Pancakes in the Park" event, turned out to be a very cold affair. Quite a few people showed up for it, though, but we will hold it a little later next year.

Heritage Day, in February, brought out so many people, despite a bad day, weather-wise, that many guests had to stand. It is good to know that more and more people are becoming aware of our rich heritage.

And, tying right in with spring: our long-time Battlefield House employee, Mary Gallagher, was presented with a precious granddaughter, Kayla, last week. She is showing pictures already! Congratulations Mary!

PROPERTY PRESERVATION AWARD:

There is still time to make your nomination for the Stoney Creek Historical Society's Property Preservation Award. May 15th is the final date to send in your nomination form.

Forms are available at

Queenston Stationery 38 King St. E.

Comic1 Elm-King Plaza

Stoney Creek Chamber of Commerce 21 Mountain Ave. S.

Stoney Creek News 333 Arvin Ave.

Stoney Creek Historical Society

1997 Executive Past President: Mary Lewis 643-3665 President: Ron Place 662-8856 1st. Vice President: Bill O'Reilly 662-2248 2nd. Vice President: Bill Mitchell 664-4576 Treasurer: Milt Henderson 662-1035 Recording Secretary: Mary Kneebone 560-7419 Corresponding Secretary: Juanita Mitchell 664-4576 **Directors** Lloyd Corman 664-7161 Barbara Green 662-4582 George Lewis 643-3665 Committee Programmes: Barbara Green 662-4582 Genealogy: Dorothy Reid 664-6355 Archives: Dorothy Kinsman 662-2900 - Mary Kneebone - Barbara Green - Bill Mitchell - Juanita Mitchell - Nancy Kinsman Publication: Mary & George Lewis 643-3665 - Barbara Green 662-4582 - Bill O'Reilly662-2248 George Lewis 643-3665 - Bill Mitchell 664-4576- Gerry Heeringa 664-2067 Plaquing: Social Conveners: Stan & Sandy Graham, 664-1375 & Marjorie Fleischer 662-8859 George Lewis 643-3665 Evelyn Wills 664-6150 Publicity: Telephone: Barb Green 662-4582 Irene Pergentile 662-2595 Mary Place 662-8856 Evelyn Wills 664-6150 Canada Flag Day: Harry Brown 578-9555 Bill O'Reilly 662-2248 Newsletter: Ron Place 662-8856 ******************** **UISITORS AND NEW MEMBERS WELCOME** MEETINGS ARE HELD AT STONEY CREEK CITY HALL, SALTFLEET ROOM 1st. WEDNESDAY OF EACH MONTH BEGINNING AT 7.30 pm. SEPTEMBER TO JUNE COFFEE AND REFRESHMENTS FOLLOW MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION\RENEWAL (Please print) Date: Name: Address: Apt.: Postal Code: _____Phone: ____ City: Families: (List names of family members)_____ Membership Dues: Family Single: Student\senior Business/Institution:

> Renewal: New:

\$ 12.00

\$ 7.00

\$ 20.00

\$15.00

(Please check)

Membership Term January 1st. to December 31st. Please complete this application and make your cheque payable to

> The Stoney Creek Historical Society P.O. Box 66637 Stoney Creek On. L8G 5E6

Archives c/o Dorothy Kinsman