



# THE HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF THE GATINEAU LA SOCIÉTÉ HISTORIQUE DE LA GATINEAU

Box/C.P. 485, Chelsea (Qué) J0X 1N0

## *Newsletter / Bulletin*

November / novembre 1990

### **Our Next Meeting:**

Monday, Nov. 19, 8:00 p.m.

Chelsea United Church

PATRICIA KENNEDY  
National Archives of Canada

### **"Sources for Family & Local History"**

Patricia Kennedy is a senior archivist in the Manuscript Division of the National Archives of Canada. She is an expert on the use of original archival sources for genealogical research and the study of local history.

Refreshments from 7:30 to 8:00 p.m.

Bring a friend!

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### **Remembrance Day Ceremonies Nov. 11, Chelsea Pioneer Cemetery**

It has become a tradition for the Historical Society to sponsor a ceremony of remembrance at the Pioneer Cemetery on the morning of November 11. We are involved, of course, because the Society owns and cares for the cemetery, which holds the graves of Private Richard Thompson, recipient of the Queen's Scarf, and sixteen pioneers of the area. The November 11 ceremony is intended to honour the memory of Private Thompson and the sixteen pioneers.

Military honours will be undertaken by a contingent of the Royal Canadian regiment, Battle School at Petawawa, as well as representatives of the Medical Element at National Defence Headquarters. This will be a symbolic gesture (Private Thompson was a medical orderly).

A piper will be present to play the lament. Wreaths will be laid on behalf of the Mayor of Chelsea, Barrie Moore, M.P., and the Historical Society of the Gatineau.

All Historical Society members are invited to attend this traditional moving and rewarding ceremony, which will begin at 10:45 a.m. on Sunday, November 11. The entrance to the Pioneer Cemetery is on the west side of Highway 105 at the north end of the Village of Chelsea.

- Jay Atherton

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### **Coming Events**

#### *Oral History Interviews Seminar*

Saturday, November 24, 9:00 a.m.

La Pigeonnière, Old Chelsea

(See article below)

#### *Ottawa Historical Society*

Friday, November 30, 2:00 p.m.

Glebe-St. James United Church

"An Intimate profile of Old Ottawa East"



## **Christmas Dinner & Annual Meeting**

Monday, December 10

Kingsway Park Golf & Country Club

### **October Meeting: Origins of Gatineau Place Names Revealed**

On Monday, October 15, in the Chelsea United Church, fifty members of the Society spent the evening talking about the origins of the names of well known places in the Gatineau. The discussion was led off by Alan Rayburn, former Executive Secretary of the Canadian Permanent Committee on Geographical Names. Mr. Rayburn shared with us documentation from the files of the CPCGN, which he very kindly left with our Archivist, Pat Evans.

While members found the information on origins of place names interesting, special interest was shown in the revelation of the unsuccessful attempt of the Commission de géographie du Québec between 1962 and 1965 to change all English language names to French (e.g. "Farm Point" to "Archambault").

Two major sources of names were clear: direct from Great Britain at the time of the original land surveys in the 1790's (Wakefield, Hull, etc.), or from the northeastern United States in the early nineteenth century (e.g. Chelsea, Vermont).

It is to be noted that we have considerable local expertise in the origins of the names of geographical locations in our area. In particular, Stuart and Norma Geggie, and Pat Evans. There is valuable documentation on these matters in our Archives, for anyone interested in pursuing it.

- Jay Atherton

## **Book Review**

### ***The Life and Times of G. Cecil Morrison: The Happy Baker of Ottawa.***

This book of the reminiscences of the late Cecil Morrison was launched on September 22, on his 100th birthday, at a reception given by his daughters and their families at Bayne House, the family home since 1930. The book is billed as an autobiography and Grete Hale, his daughter, explained that it had originally been written as a memento for his grandchildren. To mark the centennial of Cecil's birth, Grete and her husband Reg decided to prepare the manuscript for publication as a tribute to a remarkable man.

In short, well-paced and flowing chapters (we learn that Grete studied journalism at Carleton and Reg was a magazine editor in England), Cecil Morrison chronicles his life and times. He describes the rise, fall, and rebirth of his bakery, his courtship of his wife Margaret Cotter, his passionate attachment to family, and life during the Depression.

The book includes many photographs and vignettes of famous people as well as of subjects ranging from geology to architectural history and antiques. Great fun, too, are his accounts of events such as receptions for royalty and his involvement in obtaining a new charter for the University of Ottawa. There is even a Gatineau connection, in anecdotes about Brooks Hill at Low, the house of Cecil's grandfather Marshall Brooks, where Cecil was born, and the family cottage at Thompson Lake near Gracefield, where his wife's Irish kinsmen had settled.

This is a heart-warming story of a remarkable man. My only regret is that I was not fortunate enough to meet him. With Christmas coming, this book is highly recommended as a stocking stuffer.

- Ann Chudleigh

## Wakefield History and Historical Tours

The latest product from the prolific Geggies is *Wakefield and Its People: Tours of the Village*, by Norma Geggie (Quyon, Que.: Chesley House Publications, 95 pages with illustrations). A direct quotation from the book's Preface will serve to indicate its content and flavour:

"To the first-time visitor, Wakefield is a jewel nestled on the banks of the Gatineau River and surrounded by undulating hills.

"To newly established residents it provides the tranquillity of country life, while offering proximity to the conveniences and necessities of the city.

"However, the many residents who were born here and have spent the past fifty to eighty years here have memories of a rich life, made so by the strong characters and talented individuals who made up the community.

"Four generations of these remarkable people have lived out their lives in this area and rather suddenly, one hundred and sixty years after settlement, many of the original family names have disappeared.

"This book serves to record and honour those families and gives a brief historical background to the settlement of Wakefield. It also provides a series of self-guided walks around the village, as well as driving, cycling or skiing tours of adjacent areas."

As the book's title indicates, it is divided into two sections: "Wakefield and Its People" and "Tours of the Village and Area". The first half provides an interesting and informative capsule history of the earliest settlers, the development of the village, the people who have lived there, and the roles of the churches, schools, communications, and other services. It is well illustrated with photographs, largely taken from our Society's own Archives. Part two provides historical tours (with maps) of the Maclaren complex, the "Upper Town", Rockhurst Road and Hill, Alcove, Lascelles, and Rupert.

A most readable and useful book. Member's price is \$8.00 (which is two dollars below regular price), and it may be obtained from our Society's office in the Chelsea Community Centre (call 827-4432). - Jay Atherton

## Christmas Gift Ideas

The Historical Society offers a number of interesting publications that would make ideal Christmas gifts for family and friends:

Courtney Bond's *Hurling Down the Pine*, the story of early logging days in the Gatineau (\$11.95).

*Historical Walks: the Gatineau Park Story*, by Katharine Fletcher - a history of pioneers, recreation, and industry, with walks (including maps) for every level of hiker (\$10.00).

NEW: *Wakefield and its People: Tours of the Village*, by Norma Geggie (see review above) - (\$8.00).

The journal of Wakefield's Dr. Harold Geggie, *The Extra Mile*, edited by his son, Dr. Stuart Geggie (\$10.00).

Norma and Stuart Geggie, *Unto the Hills*, a history of the United Church of Canada in Alcove, Wakefield, Cascades, and Rupert (\$5.50).

*Historical Map of West Hull*, black and white, with names of early landholders (\$10.00).

*Up the Gatineau!*, the Society's annual publication. Back issues are available. This year's issue features articles on Richard Rowland Thompson, Teresa Meness of the Maniwaki Algonquins, and excerpts from an 1888 notebook. (\$4.00)

Publications may be ordered by mail at the Society's address (given on page one) or by telephone (827-4432).

## Cumberland Township Historical Soc.

A friendly greeting has been received from the Secretary/Treasurer of the Cumberland Township Historical Society, Ann Gonneau, inviting us to exchange newsletters and informing us of their growing historical/archival collection. Their newsletters will be filed

in our Archives. Ann may be contacted at the address of the Historical Society, Box 196, Navan, Ontario K4B 1C4 (613/ 835-3344).

- Jay Atherton

## HSG Dinner & Annual Meeting, Dec. 10

This year's dinner and annual meeting will take place in a Christmas setting at the Kingsway Golf Club on the Mountain Road. Steve Stewart, the Club owner, promises a "somewhat lavish holiday buffet spread" which, given his feasts at the last two annual meetings, should be well worth the \$15 price (including tax and service). To make reservations, please leave your name, number of guests, and phone number on the Society's answering machine at 827-4432. Pay for your meal on arrival at the Club.

Dinner at 6:00 p.m. will be followed by the Annual Meeting at 8:00 p.m. The meeting will conclude with readings from new books by authors who are Society members. Sound like fun? Mark December 10 on your calendar now and make your reservations.

- Ann Chudleigh

### Books Wanted for Local Libraries

Members with old issues of *Up the Gatineau!* or any other Society publications, that they are willing to donate to local libraries, are asked to contact our Secretary, Muriel How (827-1274) - or get in touch with her by mail through the Society, Box 485, Chelsea, Québec J0X 1N0.

## History of the Aylmer Road & DesChênes

Diane Aldred is at it again! After months of research she is almost ready to start writing her next book which will be an illustrated history of the Aylmer Road and DesChênes. She presently has collected 50 photographs, but still needs more. If you have old photographs of the Aylmer Road and the mills and industries of the past in DesChênes, Diane would like to hear from you. You can reach her at 770-4204.

- Aylmer Heritage Association *Newsletter*

## Auction Financial Report

Our Treasurer, Yvonne Jurgens, has reported the following figures for the 1990 Auction Sale:

Income	\$7,031.06
Expenses	<u>1,085.25</u>
Final Revenue	5,945.81

## New Members

A warm welcome is extended to the following new members of our Society:

Monica Fraser  
Mr. and Mrs. Ernest Boyko  
Nancy and Brian Bailey  
Lorne Rowebottom and Kornelia Meszaros  
Marianne O'Gallagher

## *Things Archival*

### SUMMER AND EARLY FALL

On July 1 the Society's Archives was declared open for business, after three years of hard work, sorting, selecting, recording, and preparing appropriate finding aids. Although there was no rush of researchers following the opening declaration we were not surprised.

During the summer months most people prefer to be outside. However, that is not to say that nothing had been happening. There is always something to do for archivists. The only difference was that the pace was slowed so that time was taken to recharge the old batteries. Nevertheless, a system was worked out that at least one of the archivists was only a telephone call away.

### VISITORS

A number of visitors dropped in just to see what we were doing. Two visits were not expected, but were welcome for all that. The first was that of H  l  ne Cadieux, the Regional Archivist of the Archives nationales du Qu  bec. Mme Cadieux has recently been appointed, and replaces our old friend Pierre-Louis Lapointe who has moved to Quebec City. The lady was welcomed on the Society's behalf by Pat and Mike. Before she left we were on a first name basis, almost if not quite. Perhaps that is, upon departure, she seemed to have enjoyed her visit, leaving with a better understanding of what we are trying to achieve. Future relationships seem secure.

The other visit involved two people, Mary Howell, archivist for the Aylmer Heritage Association, and Jean Gilbert, also of the Association. Their main purpose was to compare notes, and do a little research on the side. It is a pleasant prospect that mutual exchanges of artifacts and records can be in the offing. Welcome, ladies!

### RECENT ACQUISITIONS

Nine scrapbooks, compiled by four ladies, one in Ottawa and three in the Wakefield area. They record a wealth of births, marriages, and deaths, which will be a gold mine for researching genealogists. There are records of happenings, such as fires, car accidents, shootings, and other "things" to delight the historian.

Another gift was five volumes detailing the day by day operation of the Wakefield Mill when it was under the direction of Alex Maclaren.

We received two maps of Chelsea, Vermont, which gave its name to Chelsea, Quebec. This package also contained an old map of our Chelsea.

Finally, a much valued photocopy of the complete book by the Rev. J. E. Gourlay, *History of the Ottawa Valley*, which contains much on the Gatineau Valley. It was written in 1896, and the cover has the following footnote: "A collection of facts, events and reminiscences for over half a century."

The person responsible for a portion of the above donations was Anita Rutledge of the Wakefield Library, to whom appreciation has been expressed.

Perhaps the best of all was almost a complete set - the first page was missing - of minutes recording the first seven years of this Society. This gracious gift was received from Betty Davison, the lady who supported the efforts of a past president who did so much for the Society, Arthur Davison, her husband. Thanks, Betty and Arthur, from all of us.

- P.M.O. Evans

### **Seminar on Conducting Oral History Interviews**

All you ever wanted to know about how to do oral history interviews but were too busy/shy/embarrassed to ask. Here's your chance to learn how. The HSG and the Aylmer Heritage Association are co-sponsoring a seminar on Saturday, November 24, 1990, from 9:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. at the Pigeonni  re in Old Chelsea.

The seminar will include a demonstration as well as a practice interview for all participants on the theme "Childhood Games". Each participant should bring a tape recorder, a good reusable tape, and a snack to supplement the coffee that will be provided.

There is room for 15 participants. First come, first served. Please call Ann Chudleigh, evenings, at 827-1560, to reserve a place.

Our hidden agenda is that participants may then feel ready and confident to conduct some interviews and turn

them into articles for *Up the Gatineau!*, in the 1991 edition. But that's not mandatory. Let's have fun learning how first.

- Ann Chudleigh

## Heritage Canada News

Several interesting items in the September issue of *Impact*, the newsletter of Heritage Canada:

- the Panet House in Sandy Hill, built in 1876-77 for Lt. Col. Charles Eugene Panet, Deputy Minister of Militia, has withstood several threats over the years and has now been restored to its original design. It recently won first prize in the City of Ottawa's heritage award contest for adaptive re-use.

- the Hon. Marcel Masse, Minister of Communications, recently announced that the federal government was launching a national heritage review. To quote *Impact*, "the nature of this important review and its terms of reference [were] expected to be announced in late August or early September. Whatever form the review takes, it will provide the heritage movement a vital opportunity to bring forward long-overdue measures and to introduce new ideas."

- on August 15 the Heritage Railway Stations Protection Act was proclaimed. The initiative of a private Member of Parliament, "the Act provides for the designation of railway stations as heritage railway stations and is intended to encourage the preservation of stations so designated for the benefit of future generations." Information on the administration of the Act may be obtained from the Historic Sites and Monuments Board of Canada, Ottawa K1A 0H3.

### Quote of the Month

"History is philosophy from examples."

- Dionysius of Halicarnassus

The Historical Society of the Gatineau *Newsletter* is published monthly. It belongs to the membership and should be seen and used as a vehicle of communications between and for the members of the Historical Society. Comments and/or contributions are welcomed and encouraged by the editor, Jay Atherton, either by telephone (827-1703) or by mail (R.R.3, Wakefield, QC J0X 3G0).

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