



THE HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF THE GATINEAU
LA SOCIÉTÉ HISTORIQUE DE LA GATINEAU
Box/C.P. 485, Chelsea (Qué) J0X 1N0

Newsletter / Bulletin

September/septembre 1990

OUR NEXT MEETING:

TUESDAY, SEPT. 18, 8:00 p.m.

BUCKINGHAM TOWN HALL

151 CHARLES STREET
BUCKINGHAM, QC

"A Short History of Buckingham"

Speaker: PATRICK RYAN

In recognition of the 100th anniversary of the Town, the Historical Society will be holding its inaugural meeting for the 1990/91 season in Buckingham.

Our speaker will be Patrick Ryan, who has researched and written extensively on the history of the area.

NOTE: Date is **Tuesday**, Sept. 18; time is **8:00** p.m.

How to get there:

Take autoroute 50 east to the end and exit to the T-junction (stop sign).

Turn right on highway 309 north, go about 1½ miles (4 km.) to the traffic light.

At the light, turn right onto Maclaren Street, then take first left turn onto Charles Street.

The Town Hall is at the corner of Charles and Maclaren.

Allow ample time to get there. Refreshments will be available before the meeting (between 7:30 and 8:00).

MEMBERS VISIT HISTORIC PRESCOTT

On Saturday, May 26, 35 members of the Historical Society participated in an historical tour of the Prescott area, which had been arranged with the Grenville County Historical Society.

The tour included visits to the Blue Church; Homewood, a historic house; the Forwarders' Museum; Fort Wellington; and various historic points in Prescott. A highlight of the tour was a reunion between **Pat Evans**, archivist and long-standing member of the Historical Society of the Gatineau, and **Gordon Swoger** of the Grenville County Historical Society. Gordon coordinated the tour on the "host" side; he and Patrick first met fifty years ago when Pat was a scoutmaster in Magog, Quebec, and Gordon was a scout in his troop.

The tour left Chelsea School grounds at 8:45 a.m. and returned by 4:30 p.m. The members' rate of \$20 per person (\$25 for non-members) included lunch at the Rainbow Restaurant in Prescott, and admission fees. Special thanks are due to **Marilyn Lister**, who received applications, **Ann Fleming**, who transported us with such expertise and good humour, and **Marjorie Evis** and **Rae Moore**, who handled the guest check-in on the day of the tour.

- Carol Martin

QUOTE OF THE MONTH

"History is more or less bunk."

- Henry Ford



HEAT STALLS BARN DANCE

Quite frankly, this year's Barn Dance on July 28 was not a success. It was the hottest day and night of the year, and many friends and members who had planned to come changed their minds.

Attendance was about 115, far short of the 200 we had catered for. We had hoped that, by moving the dinner up to 7:00 p.m. this year, more Society members would come though they might not stay to dance. Some did; thank you for your support.

Those who braved the heat enjoyed a delicious barbecued beef dinner, square dancing called by **Cliff Quince** and round dancing to the local Roadhouse Band. The cold drinks were very welcome.

If we hold the barn dance next year, we'll have to start earlier and work even harder on ticket sales. However, for this year a hearty thanks to the stalwarts who worked so hard for the event, particularly our hosts the **Ross Family**.

- Ann Chudleigh

AUCTION SALE WELL SUPPORTED

150 registered bidders participated in a highly successful annual HSG auction, held on Saturday, August 18 at the Chelsea Community Centre. The accompanying flea market was the largest ever. The weather man even cooperated: while the day was rather hot and sticky, the rain held off until after the sale was finished.

Gross proceeds from the auction and flea market totalled around \$7,000 (the figures are still being checked; the actual profit going to the Society will not be known until commissions and other expenses have been deducted).

Three factors in particular contributed to the success of this year's auction: inclusion of many fine pieces from the **Pamela McDougall** Estate, excellent publicity arranged

by **Al Richens**, and the work of the professional auctioneer, **Revel T. Stewart**.

Many volunteers helped with the event. Thanks are due to all of them, and especially to the two coordinators, **Colin Chisholm** and **David Kirchmayer**, who so successfully collected the items to be sold and made everything happen at the auction sale itself. In addition, a tip of the hat and a vote of appreciation to the Community Centre staff for their cooperation.

All auction/flea market volunteers are invited to a wine and cheese party on September 10, for a celebration and "post mortem". You will be contacted individually with details as to time and location.

- Jay Atherton

OUR SECRETARY RESIGNS

At the Executive meeting on July 16, President **Doug Rowland** announced the resignation of our super-efficient Secretary, **Marilyn Lister**, due to other commitments. Marilyn's duties as Secretary have been assumed by **Muriel How**, and Treasurer **Yvonne Jurgens** has assumed responsibility for Membership.

Three cheers, a tiger, and many thanks to Marilyn for her cheerful efficiency and reliability.

- Jay Atherton

OCTOBER MEETING TICKLER

Monday, October 15

ALAN RAYBURN

"Origin of Place Names
in the Gatineau"

In, Given August 28th 1845

This may certify that Edmund Chamberlin
of Hull, Sydenham District Farmer
and Amanda Church of the same place
were married by me, James Musgrove
a Minister of the W. M. Church in Canada
by license on the 28th of August 1845
in the presence of Nathaniel Chamberlin
Bartlett Hudson

Witness William Pollard
George W. Sheffield

A DOCUMENT FROM OUR ARCHIVES

Genealogical researchers should become aware of the holdings of the Society in its Archives. It possesses a number of documents similar to the above marriage certificate. Often several such documents can help solve a genealogical problem. The following is a case in point:

This marriage certificate was completed by the Rev. James Musgrove, a minister of the Wesleyan Methodist Church in Canada. He used a plain sheet of white paper as there were no printed forms available at the time. He joined the couple in holy matrimony on August 28, 1845 in Bytown.

Other documents helped to round out the picture, as follows:

Edmund Chamberlin, of Hull, Sydenham District, farmer, was born December 6, 1818, and died November 12, 1894. He was the son of Nathaniel and Lydia Chamberlin. The young woman he married, Amanda Church, was born July 11, 1828, and died December 29, 1902. Amanda was the daughter of Gardner Church and Martha Cone.

The two persons mentioned as being present were Nathaniel Chamberlin (born ca. 1788), probably the groom's father and Bartlett Hudson - likely Thomas Bartlett Hudson of Chelsea, born February 15, 1829, died 1904, the son of Josephus Hudson and Deidamia Church.

The first witness, William Pollard, is unknown. George W. Sheffield may be recognized as George Washington Sheffield, son of Elisha Sheffield and Mary (Polly) Wright. George married Lydia Hudson, sister of Thomas Bartlett Hudson.

Edmund Chamberlin and his wife Amanda are both buried at Cumberland, Ontario. Their grave was located in 1982.

The Sheffields lived near Old Chelsea in what is now the home of Edmund and Lyd Ryan. Ed Ryan was Secretary-Treasurer of West Hull Municipality for several years.

Gardner Church Sr. and his wife Martha Cone are both buried in the Society's Pioneer Cemetery in Chelsea.

- Patrick M.O. Evans

HSG CHRISTMAS PARTY PLANNED

This year the Historical Society will be holding its Annual Meeting in December, and combining it with a Christmas Dinner. The date: Monday, December 10. The place: Kingsway Park Golf and Country Club on Mountain Road.

Mark the date on your calendar now.

Playback:

(From *Up the Gatineau!*, 1975)

DUNN'S HOTEL

[by] Mrs. E. J. Ryan

Dunn's Hotel was the Josiah Chamberlain House before it was a hotel. Josiah's grandfather was one of 4 brothers brought up from Lowell, Massachusetts by Philemon Wright. They were millwrights.

Josiah married Ann Mulvihill. John Dunn, who was married to Ann Grimes, bought the house and ran it as a hotel. Dunn's hotel was destroyed by fire in 1900, but rebuilt in 1901 - almost a replica of the old.

My father-in-law, William Ryan, tells me this was a very busy place at the turn of the century. There was an awful pile of timber coming down at Mousseau Lake - it was something wild, he says.

The Historical Society of the Gatineau
Box 485
Chelsea, Québec
J0X 1N0

A Mr. Filion had a sawmill at Mousseau (Harrington Lake) and he cut the year round. In winter lumber was drawn by sleighs. In summer it was tied into big stocks and floated down the creek to the foot of Meech Lake, loaded on to wagons, which were backed into the water on the beach (now O'Brien's) and hauled to town and Chelsea station.

Dunn's Hotel was a stopping place for men and teams. At that time there were big stables at the west side of the building. The Hotel had a large dining room at the back and the bar ran the length of the east side of the Hotel. The partitions are now removed.

The bar was busy until 1907 when all licensed premises were closed in this Municipality.

(Editor's note: the building is now the **Dawn House** bed and breakfast establishment, restored by **Lise and Bill Jack.**)

The Historical Society of the Gatineau Newsletter is published monthly. Editor is Jay Atherton. Comments and/or contributions are welcomed and encouraged, either by telephone (827-1703) or by mail (R.R.3, Wakefield, QC J0X 3G0).

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P.M.O. EVANS
Membership Expires: 00/12/31
BOX 124 R.R. #1
CHELSEA PQ CAN
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