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Editor: Jim Warren

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APRIL PROGRAM

Our next meeting of the Kingston Historical Society should be especially entertaining. Dennis Curtis will be our speaker. The topic: 'Kingston Penitentiary: Well and Wisely Governed?' A former spokesman for Correctional Services Canada, Dennis may be better known to Kingstonians as an actor and comic, sometimes both at the same time. He has played Sir John A. Macdonald, a challenge for any Thespian. When? 7:30 pm on Wednesday 15 April. Where? In the Wilson Room, upstairs above the Kingston Public Library at 130 Johnson St.



FRONTENAC 319

On 18 March, Major Lou Grimshaw presented a most interesting account of Fort Frontenac's pivotal role during four distinct epochs in Canada's history. With his knowledge of military strategy, he noted the importance of the fort as the main French supply base this side of the St. Lawrence rapids; on it depended the security of forts farther inland. He went on to describe another role after the British

conquest of 1758, when the fort provided the functions of civic government until Catarauqui, now Kingston, came of age.

When the Imperial garrison left in 1870, the new Canada was without adequate defence and the fort, together with Quebec city provided military training for local militia. Since World War II Fort Frontenac has developed educational programs for senior officers and civilians dealing with the effects of international affairs on our national security. Three hundred and nineteen years old, and still going strong.

BAJUS BREWERY LIVES!

Good news on two fronts. The historical but long-empty Bajus Brewery at 308 Wellington Street will become the national headquarters of Elderhostel Canada on the first of June. The original four-storey structure with its double-barrelled ornament was built in 1857 to the design of architect William Coverdale. The building expanded to the south as the golden beverage gained in popularity. The business closed in 1931, during the Great Depression, and the buildings used for storage by Samuel Anglin. By the late 1970s its ruinous state prevented its protection as a National Historic Site by the federal government. Owners engaged architects Inglis and Downey to develop an historically-sensitive office building conversion in 1985, though this was not carried out. The present renovations are being undertaken by McKnight Construction.

Elderhostel is the international organization which arranges short summer courses for seniors in collaborating universities in North America and abroad. Most deal with subjects of local interest. This will be Queen's ninth year of participation under its Kingfest Program. Registrar Susan Collier would be happy to provide further information before the 29 May deadline. Call her at 545-2473.

QUEEN'S ARCHIVIST

We wish to congratulate Dr. Shirley Spragge, who has been appointed Queen's University Archivist after May first. A very helpful member of our Society, Shirley took her PhD in history at Queen's while

working in the Archives since 1979. Before times, she served as archivist at the Ontario Archives, the Archives of the General Synod of the Anglican Church and the Cornell University Archives. She is also diocesan archivist for the Diocese of Ontario of the Anglican Church and represents Queen's on several provincial and national bodies, including the Canadian Council of Archives. Her husband Godfrey Spragge, another of our members, is a Professor of Urban Planning at Queen's.

Meanwhile her gracious predecessor Anne MacDermaid relinquishes her leadership of the Queen's Archives to embark upon a new career serving God. Shortly she will enter the Ministry of the United Church, where her warm gentility will benefit an even larger flock.

HELP THE POOR ARCHIVIST

All of us who use Queen's Archives and other repositories around the province appreciate the value of their records of the past, the care that is taken to conserve these treasures for the future, and the friendly assistance of archivists themselves. Like our museums, archives are in trouble. They desperately need funds to add to professional staff, enlarge storage and improve conservation facilities.

While the Archives of Ontario, now at 77 Grenville St., Toronto M5S 1B3, were established in 1903, Ontario spends less on its archives per person than any other province or territory in Canada. This poverty hinders archivists from developing a provincial system of standards which would speed and enrich historical research and facilitate co-operative acquisition of archival material. In time, this could provide more convenient access to small town, institutional and corporate archives.

You can help! Consider calling our MPP, the Hon. Gary Wilson at 547-2385, or write his constituency office at 561 Princess St., Kingston K7L 1C8. State your support for the Financial Assistance Program for Archives. Or tap our Minister of Culture and Communications, the Hon. Karen Haslam. She is at 77 Bloor St. West, Toronto M7A 2R9.

PICTURES OF HISTORY

One of the happiest experiences of my childhood was to discover the drawings of C.W. Jefferys in my public school History of Canada, price 25 cents. Before the texts were first published in 1921, Charles Jefferys stated that he 'wanted to get away from the

drab busts of historical worthies and make them step down from their plinths and live.'

The artist was born in England in 1869 but was educated and worked in Canada until his death in 1951. Apprenticed as a lithographer, he went on to illustrate many histories of Canada, Britain and the United States from 1904 onwards. In 1912, he was asked to edit and illustrate Thomas Chandler Haliburton's amusing 1830s tales of Sam Slick, the roguish Yankee clockmaker as he wandered about rural Nova Scotia. The publishing house failed, but the Jefferys drawings survived in Sam Slick in Pictures, published by Ryerson in 1956.

Meanwhile, he painted historical canvases and murals, designed stamps, medals and memorial arches.

Perhaps his greatest work is the three-volume The Picture Gallery of Canadian History, 1942, 1945, 1950, a compilation of about two thousand of his pictures with notes which reveal his obsession with historical accuracy, his mastery of pen line and his irrepressible sense of humour. It is still in print.

Less known was his facility with words. He once wrote 'the history of a country is to be read not only in the printed records. While these are of the greatest importance, they do not tell us all we need to know. Often pictorial records are of equal importance, and sometimes of greater value, being more reliable. A tangible object cannot lie or equivocate so successfully as a word.'

We are deeply grateful that the National Archives of Canada, the Provincial Archives of Nova Scotia and McGraw-Hill Ryerson in Toronto, who hold copyright to Jefferys' drawings, have permitted us to use them in our newsletter.

HISTORIC KINGSTON

Back copies of Historic Kingston are requested by members wishing to complete their set or to carry out historical research. If you can spare any of the following, please call the editor Jim Warren at 544-7410 between 7 am and 8 pm. Volumes 1 (1953), 2, 4, 11, 12, 16, 27 and 28 (1980). Incomplete sets may also be found in the Kingston Room of the Kingston Public Library and in the dark attic of Queen's Archives; the latter may be purchased for \$5. each.



Organized by Linda Cornett, Dailey Travel, you can call them at 544-5755, Jack Pike at 546-9187 or Donald Schurman at 544-9686.

ADOLPHUSTOWN IN DANGER

The United Empire Loyalist Museum at Adolphustown, along the Loyalist Parkway toward Picton, is a delightful source of information about our loyal ancestors and their trials in the late 18th century. It has a most interesting trove of artifacts and mural maps of loyalists' migrations and settlement, painted by the late Owen Madden. Its friendly staff offer assistance in searching out your loyalist ancestors. Its home was built in 1876 by C.W. Allison, farmer, business man and Member of Parliament. Its artifacts were collected from the area where, on 16 June 1784, Major Van Alstine landed the first wave of Loyalist refugees from the American Revolution. In 1884, a cairn was erected to commemorate the event. Nearby is the first graveyard of those Loyalists.

The building and grounds are owned by the St. Lawrence Parks Commission. The museum is operated by the Bay of Quinte Branch of the United Empire Loyalists Association, and the Curator is Mary Mackey, of Bloomfield. Sadly, economic doom threatens the museum, which needs at least \$4000. to remain open one more year. If you can spare a few dollars, send your cheque, payable to 'Action Committee re U.E.L. Museum' to Treasurer Merle Burns, 243 Dundas St. W., Napanee, Ont. K7R 2A9. Your ancestors will thank and watch over you.

LEARNING, LAUGHING, LINKING

The Ontario Historical Society happily announces its Spring Workshop Schedule:
 Milestones in 19th Century Family Life
 Monday 13 April in Brockville
 The Heritage of Ontario Cemeteries
 Sunday 10 May in Fergus
 New Partners in Museum Interpretation: First Nations. Saturday 30 May in Campbellford
 Restoring Your Own Home.
 Saturday 30 May in St. Thomas
 Writing and Publishing Community Histories.
 Saturday 6 June in Bothwell
 Sessions run from 10 am to 4 pm and cost \$10 for members or \$20 for others. (The Kingston Historical Society is a member of the Ontario Historical Society). Advance registration is necessary two weeks before each workshop along with your cheque

BROCKVILLE ANTIQUES

The Brockville and District Historical Society announces its twenty-first annual show and sale of antiques. Held at the Brockville Country Club, Hwy. 2, 1 km west of Brockville, it happens in April Friday 24 to Sunday 26. Friday 6:30 to 10 pm with refreshments, \$3.50, Saturday 10 to 6, Sunday 11 to 4, only \$2.50.

CIVIL WAR TOURS

Those who were moved by the PBS documentary series on the Civil War, or the stark Matthew Brady photographs of the time, may wish to join Dr. Jack Pike and Dr. Donald Schurman for a 5 day coach tour and walk upon the battlefields of Harper's Ferry and Antietam. Enlivened by maps and records of the Blues and the Greys, and your hosts' knowledge of military strategy, the tour should provide a vivid impression of the views and emotions of the combatants in 1862. The \$450. cost includes breakfasts and double-occupancy accommodation at an AAA lodge in Leesburg, Virginia.

payable to the Ontario Historical Society at 5151 Yonge St., Willowdale, Ont. M2N 5P5. Their phone is (416) 226-9011, Fax (416) 226-2740 if you want more information. Enjoy!

The Ontario Historical Society holds its 104th Annual Conference this year at the University of Guelph on April 30, May 1 and 2. Included is a Heritage Marketplace in which bookdealers, reproduction costume designers, architectural restoration specialists, archival material suppliers, museums and historical societies blow their trumpets.

HAMPTON GRAY VC

During World War II, Kingston's airport served as #31 Service Flying Training School. Its students were pilots in the Royal Navy's Fleet Air Arm who honed their flying skills on Fairey Battle and Harvard aircraft.

One of these lads was Hampton Gray, a quiet, sturdy likeable kid, popular with his chums, who had enlisted in the navy in Calgary in 1940, aged 22. After wings parade in Kingston, he was posted overseas, and for five long years distinguished himself as a carrier-based fighter pilot. He was mentioned in dispatches for his attack on the German battleship Tirpitz in a Norwegian fjord. He went to the Pacific aboard the carrier HMS Formidable, where his considerable effectiveness against Japanese shipping earned him the Distinguished Service Cross.

His luck ran out on 9 August 1945, six days before the war ended. Hampton Gray's Corsair roared into Onagawa Bay and sank the Japanese escort vessel Amakusa. He was killed by enemy fire at 27. He was awarded the Victoria Cross posthumously, the only Canadian fighter pilot to be so honoured.

Since then, he has been commemorated at naval air stations in Scotland, England and Canada, and in civic buildings in Nelson, B.C. There is even a monument to him in Japan, overlooking Onagawa Bay.

On Sunday 3 May 1992, the Hampton Gray Chapter of the Canadian Naval Air Group will dedicate a memorial to Lieut. (A) Robert Hampton Gray VC DSC RCNVR and the other British Commonwealth Fleet Air Arm pilots trained in Kingston. This will take place beneath the pedestal-mounted Harvard aircraft at Norman Rogers airport in the afternoon.

You are invited to join a distinguished company of commonwealth and city officials, veterans' organizations and the media. The Corsair and Harvard aircraft will fly over. Please call Bill Calver at 541-0721 if you plan to attend.

DUES ARE DUE

Your membership in the Kingston Historical Society is something we all treasure, no one more than our Treasurer, who must pay the rising costs of hiring the hall in which we meet, this newsletter, the Murney Tower Museum, our annual publication Historic Kingston and many incidentals. Of course, most of you have dutifully paid, and we bless you. For those who may have forgotten, we beseech you!

NOTES

