

**FRONT OF LEEDS AND LANSDOWNE  
HISTORICAL SOCIETY**

# **NEWSLETTER**



*"MEET ME AT THE FAIR" - 1907*

**MAY 1994**

**NUMBER 2**

**\$2.50**

## MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

The Historical Society took another step forward on February 5th when the **Ontario Historical Society** granted us provincial incorporation. This is the establishment of an organization that is a separate legal entity recognized by the government.

This offers advantages to us:

- (1) the organization is assured a permanent existence and the community is assured of stability in the organization;
- (2) the corporation qualifies for provincial and federal grants;
- (3) the name of the organization is official recognized and protected;
- (4) as a non-profit corporation, we may apply for registration to issue tax deductible receipts for donations;
- (5) the individual members are not liable for debts or liabilities incurred by the corporation.

At the time of **Mr. Ed Warren's** death, some three years ago, family and friends donated a sum of money for a memorial to him. Its original intention was not realized. The family has generously given it to the Historical Society. We are investigating the purchase of a micro-film reader which will be placed in the Library so that people who wish to do historical research may have access to micro-film files through inter-library loan. We thank the **Warren Family** and their friends for their generosity.

**Hillary Anne Hamilton** has finished her term with us. We will miss her and the results of her interviews, photography and research. Both she and **Lisa Thompson** have done much to set us on our way with our archives.

We now have a collection of over 400 slides. I have made presentations this winter to Lansdowne District Public School and the Rockport Breakfast Club, and have an invitation for one more. We can now custom make a slide presentation for the interest and time limitation of any group. If your group would be interested, please contact us.

This is our second newsletter of the year; we hope to issue another in September. I hope you appreciate the dedicated effort of **Andrew Graham** in their presentation.

William E. Boulton,  
President

### THE FRONT COVER....

In a picture provided by member **Bruce Foley**, we see **Mr. W.H.O. Foley** and his wife, **Edith Truesdell** arriving at the fair in 1907. The fair building is just visible at the upper left. The horse's name is **Guy**.

### EDITOR'S NOTE....

The response to the Newsletter has been heartening. It appears that there is considerable interest in our history.

Our philosophy is to provide some insight into our past in the Township. With an end to stimulating interest more than being definitive, we plan a number of articles each number. We want to profile both people and places in the Township. To do that, we need help with pictures and stories.

The work of our two archivists has given us a good start. However, we need more. We are committed to improving the archives of the Township and preserving its history. We need your help.

I have a special request: **Ghosts**. Does anyone have stories of haunted places or other tales of the supernatural that are unique to this area? If so, please get in touch. In addition, **Villains**, does anyone have stories of uniquely bad people, at least those who made their mark? Given the River and the potential of rum-running, it would seem that we do have such a history.

- Andrew Graham

In 1875, By-law 318 of the Township of Front of Leeds and Lansdowne established a toll on the roads leading out of the village of Gananogue as follows:

1 horse and buggy	-	3 cents
each additional horse	-	2 cents
each head of cattle	-	1 cent
each scone of sheep	-	1 cent

## **MEMBERSHIP IN THE SOCIETY**

We have seen a healthy growth in our numbers since the last publication. Many members have completed their renewals as well. If you have not done so, please renew. If you have any questions about membership, contact **Connie Burns** at 659-2269 or any other member of the Executive.

**Professor D. G. Akenson, Bill Boulton, George and Connie Burns, Karl and Dorothea Burns, Keith and Joan Burns, Mr. & Mrs. Donald Chisamore, Paul Cote, Gloria Crawford, Cathy Davison, Geraldine Dickson, Douglas Donevan, Louise Donevan, Mr. & Mrs. Charles Donevan, Malcolm P. Donnelly, Bruce Foley, Jim & Dot Funnell, Janet Gaylord, Mr. & Mrs. Murray Geekie, Katherine & Andrew Graham, Betty Green, Mr. & Mrs. Douglas Grills, Helen Haig, Mrs. J. R. Hamilton, Ada Hare, N.M. Hart, Elizabeth Haskins, Jack Henderson, Arnold Herder, Kenneth P. Hogan, George Horton, Glen House Resort, Frank & Shirley Hurrell, Jim Jordon M.P., Marion Joyce, Adeline Kennedy, Harry Landon, Martha Landon, Yolande Lapointe, Alan Kindsay, Janet Lindsay, Doreen Lowans, Chery Lynch, Roger and Margery MacGregor, Marjorie Mallory, Linda Mallory-Gibson, Van & Evangeline McCready, Bertha Modler, Loverna Montgomery, Eleanor C. Moulton, Pat Mulholland, Peter Murray, Audrey Newell, Glenda & Bob Olivier, Jim Orth, Joanne Page, Ruth Ralph, John Raycroft, John Reid, Wilma Robertson, Irvin Running, Glen Shields, Jacqueline Shields, George Shire, Shirley Fernetich, Keith Sly, John & Louise Sorensen, Marion Steacy, Vicky Sturgeon, Audrey Tamblyen, Art & Maureen Thompson, Marie Thomson, Eileen Truesdell, Vaida Truesdell, Margel Warren, George Webster, Paul & Doreen Webster, Freda White, Kathy & Larry Wyborn**



## **PROGRAM NOTES....**

**Saturday, May 14, 1994 - 1:30 P.M.** : Assemble at the Community Building for a tour of St. Patrick's and St. Brendan's Churches. We will car pool from the Community Building and return.

**Thursday, May 19, 1994 - An Invitation from the Gananoque Historical Society:** The F.O.L.L. Historical Society is invited to join the **Gananoque Historical Society** for a boat cruise of approximately three hours courtesy of the **Gananoque Boat Line**. There will also be a presentation of slides and a talk by **Hal McCarney**. Hal will be talking about whales and the Galapagos Islands.

The boat leaves the Gananoque Boat Line dock at 6:30 P.M. Members may bring one guest only. Coffee and doughnuts will be available courtesy of the Gananoque Historical Society. The Boat Line snack bar will be open. Otherwise, bring your own food. There will be no charge, but a donation will be accepted.

### **Lost Names**

**Mount Webster** - Post Office 1858-1872, 12 km from Lansdowne, location unknown

**Kyes Corner** - now **Wilstead**

**Leeds** - now **Maple Grove**

**Oakville** - 7 km North East of Gananoque on the 1000 Island Parkway

**Stockwell West** - Post Office 1875-1876, exact location unknown

- from "Lost Names and Places of Eastern Ontario" - **Alan Rayburn**

## AT THE FAIR

*When it opens its doors this year, the Lansdowne Fair will have been held for 130 years. It has been an important feature of this community for all that time. Our President, **Bill Boulton**, has researched the minutes of the **Lansdowne Agricultural Society** and offers these observations.*

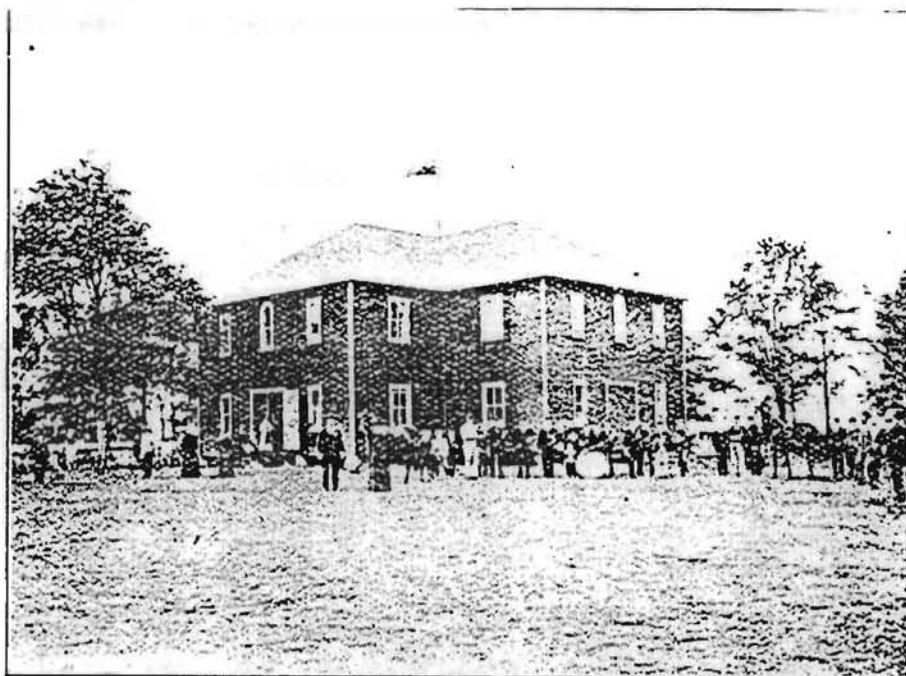
The official minutes of an organization do not always make interesting reading. the 1869-82 minutes of the **Lansdowne Agricultural Society**, however, show an interesting evolution in the affairs of the Society.

As the first fair was held in 1864, the Society is well under way when the June 1869 meeting was held at **Weston's Hotel** (now the **Trafford** home). The fair was still being held at the end of **Grand Trunk Avenue** on the property where **D. Hall** now lives and the **Weston** property, with the Drill Shed on **King Street** used for displays. Fair dates are a single day in early October.

The Society, from the beginning, was interested in the improvement of agriculture. In 1869, it organized a fall ploughing match and carried this on for at least ten years. They also kept rams and boars, and later beef breed bulls, for the use of members in improving their stock lines. Sunprize Oats were purchased for \$49.75 in 1870 and Red Clover for \$45.00 in 1873 to "be divided equally amongst all subscribers". With membership of 60 cents in 1872, you received a copy of "**Canada Farmer**" and the next year the "**Farmer's Advocate**".

In 1874, a committee was named to "provide a field or proper place to hold the cattle" for the fair. A piece of land was leased from **Alex Cornett** for fair grounds. **Samuel Moorehead** was contracted to build a six foot high board fence around the grounds. Rent for the land appears to have been \$50 per annum. The fence cost \$150. There was no money available for buildings so three directors offered a loan. Some type of building must have been built because, on October 4, 1874, **Mr. Sam Johnston** was to pick up all lumber and articles on the grounds and place them in the building, lock it and the gates.

In February, 1976, tenders were called "for erection of a building, 24' by 40'. 14' posts, timer 8 by 8 - 5 bents - sheeted up and down with good hemlock lumber and battened with battens 3" by 1" to be framed with two girts (*variation on girth, meaning distance around*) so as to have 4 nailings, 6 windows, 2 doors 6' by 9' ". The successful bidder was **Daniel Graham**. The only mention of cost is payment of \$100 on account and the remainder as soon as possible. This building, we believe, still stands and is now used for poultry and pets.



Lansdowne Agricultural Society Exhibition Hall.

Nor further mention is made of additional buildings but they must have been built. The minutes note in June 1879 "joist and floor main building and put such stairs as they think best" and in 1882 "build wings to the Agricultural Hall, improve cattle stalls and make first class horse track". The secretary's office was probably built in 1880 as the Board met there on the morning of the fair.

While the ladies may have attended the fair, that seems to have been their only activity. 1874 is the first mention of lady judges for domestic manufacture classes. In 1876, lace and wool work, pair hose, and scarf displays were entered in men's names, more likely the husband of the maker. In 1880, a committee of ladies was appoint to revise class K as the "board feels itself incompetent". To the end of these minutes, no female directors were elected and only some 100 years later was a woman elected president.

For the whole of this period, only two men served as President, **Wallace Beatty** until 1874, then **John Cook**. **George F. Deane** was Secretary-Treasurer at a salary of \$7.00 in 1869, raised to \$15.00 by 1882. Annual meetings were held in January at **Weston's Hotel** until 1877, then at the **Stewart House**, the site of the present Post Office, in 1878 and 1881. In 1879-80 and 82, it was held at **Dickey's Hall** (location unknown) where they paid **Mr. John Dickey** \$1.00 for its use.

Some things never change. As I write this just after an April snow storm of what many consider the never-ending winter of 1994, it is interesting to note that, on March 19, 1879, "a few members met at secretary's office, the day being very stormy, there was no quorum".

Researched and written by **Bill Boulton**

**LANSDOWNE AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY  
PAST PRESIDENTS**

1864	Wallace Beatty	1950	A. W. Burns
1875	John Cook	1951	Clarence McDonald
1890	J.R. Redmond	1952	Ed Warren
1893	C.F. Reath	1953	Willis Shields
1900	Adam Beatty	1954-55	Ernie Steacy
1905	O.W. Landon	1956-57	John Foley
1908-09	R.A. Foley	1958-59	Wilfred Fodey
1910	James H. Moxley	1960-61	Roy Foley
1911-12	Firman Cross	1962-64	Willis Shields
1913-14	B. Cook	1965	Alex Burtch
1915	George McKay	1966-67	Bernard Lappan
1916-18	R. Shields	1968-69	Lorne Steacy
1919	J.R. McDonald	1970-71	Martin VanDenKerkhof
1920-27	John Lappan	1972-73	Gordie Steacy
1928	Thomas Steacy	1974-75	Patrick Kennedy
1929	O.G. Corriety	1976-77	Brian Huskinson
1929-30	A.V. Turner	1978-79	Jim Foote
1931-32	Joseph Shields	1980-81	BrianSmith
1933-34	Ellis H. Foley	1982	Bob Carey
1935-36	David Graham	1983-84	Wayne Shields
1937-44	Roy Summers	1985-86	Walter Humphrey
1945	A.V. Turner	1987	Bob Filson
1946	Urban Warren	1988-89	Elaine Steacy
1947	Ivan Doak	1990-91	Harold Grier
1949	Glen Bean	1992-93	Bill Grier
		1994-	Brian Cornish



*"WISH YOU WERE HERE..."*

POSTCARDS FROM THE TOWNSHIP...



## THE OLDEST BARN IN ONTARIO

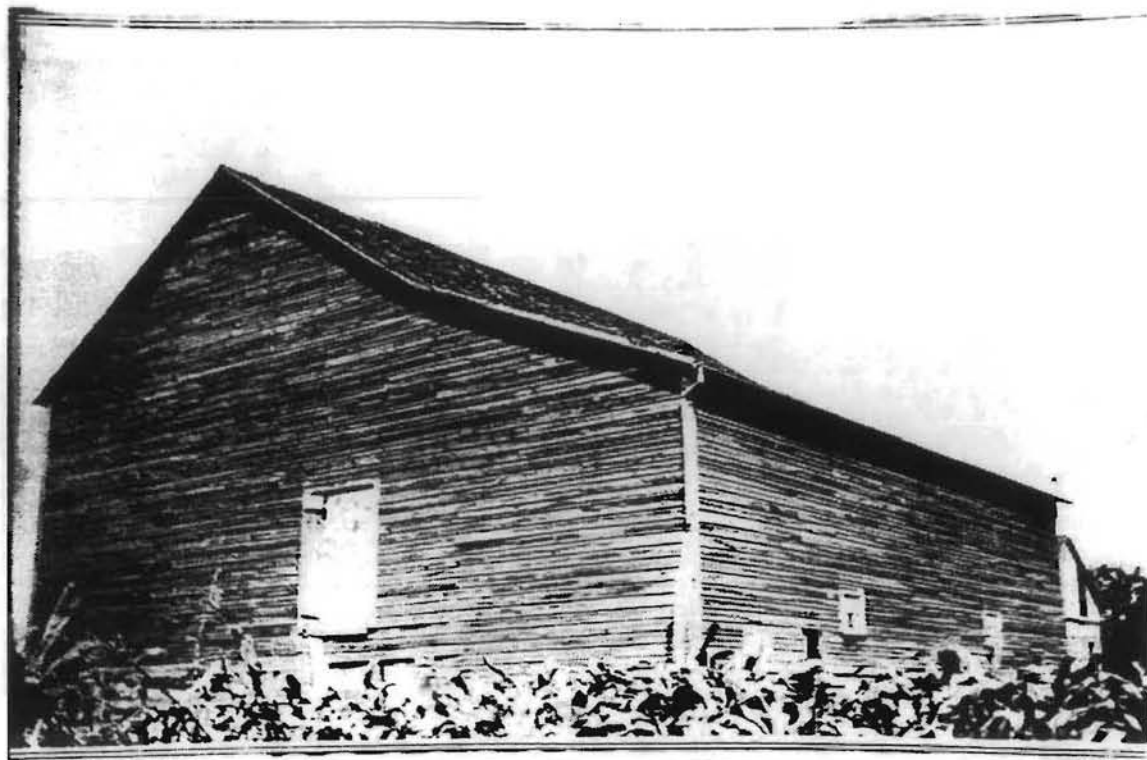
*Written in a style more reminiscent of earlier days, this article was taken from the Watertown Times, 1941. It was written by Ernest C. Cook*

The oldest barn in Eastern Ontario stands only a couple of miles west of Lansdowne Village on the King's Highway, known as No. 2 Highway. The building is on the right hand side as one travels west toward Kingston, and almost opposite the Lansdowne Cemetery.

There is an interesting story told of the raising of this barn and **E.E. Johnston**, merchant in this village and a historian in his own right, tells it: "It was in the year 1812, and the war of that period was just breaking," relates Mr. Johnston. "A settler by the name of **McNeil** had taken up land on that concession and had made sufficient clearings so that he needed a larger barn. During the winter of 1811-12, he got out the timber and had it all hewed by hand. It was mostly clear pine timbers and they had been perfectly 'framed' by the carpenter who had charge of erecting the building. Plans had been made for the 'raising' next day and the women folk had baked up a large supply of food to feed the hungry pioneer settlers when they had completed their task of hoisting the timbers into place. Everything was in readiness when the sun went down that June day. As Mr. McNeil looked down the road, he wondered what was making all the dust on the Highway. It was the coming of a Company of His Majesty's Troops. As they come in front of the home the commanding officer stopped his company and sought out Mr. McNeil with a request.

"I have the honour to represent the King and request that you permit my company to have shelter for the night," was the message he delivered to Mr. McNeil.

Mr. McNeil was on the spot. He did not want a company of soldiers snooping about the place with all the food baked up for the morrow, and he didn't want to offend the officer in command. He told the officer of his plans for a big raising the next day and did not see how he could have a detachment of troops about.



“Just leave it to me”, said the officer, “and your barn will be raised in no time on the morrow if we are permitted to be sheltered here for the night. The officer seemed to be rather insistent on the plan and Mr. McNeil gave in and the soldiers spent the night on the farm. The next morning they were lined up by the commanding officer and told of their duties which must be well and truly performed. With plenty of men the barn was raised in record-breaking time. The timbers fitted perfectly and wooden pins were used to hold them together. Mr. McNeil invited the men to be seated at the improvised tables and the mountains of food that the women had made ready for the raising bee was placed before the soldiers who greatly enjoyed the feast.

So well was the work done that the barn stands today square and upright. When the President of the United States passed by this ancient building when he went from Kingston to dedicate the opening of the International Bridge, his attention is said to have been called to this, the oldest barn in Eastern Ontario.

*Mr. Conley Jack purchased the property from the McNeil family estate and lived there until 1960. The property was then sold to Mr. Earl Grey. The barn was taken down in the 1980s.*

**BILLS OF FARE....**

**LANSDOWNE MERCHANTS OF THE  
PAST....**



**W.G. Johnston in the front door of his store, Prince Street, Lansdowne  
Village in the early 1900s.**

**Mr. Johnston was a dealer in Boots, Shoes, Groceries etc., Oysters in  
Season, General Fire Insurance**

**Mr. Johnston store also housed the telephone company. He was also  
ticket agent for the Canadian Pacific Railway.**



**BILLS OF FARE....**

— STATEMENT —

Lansdowne, Ont. *Mar 20<sup>th</sup>* 190*6*

*M. J. O. Lodge,*  
Lansdowne, Ont.

In Account with W. G. JOHNSTON,

— DEALER IN —

**BOOTS, SHOES, GROCERIES, ETC.**

*66* Oysters in Season. General Fire Insurance.

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<i>Mar 6 202 gals Oysters</i>		<i>4.00</i>
<i>" " 1 lb Raisins</i>		<i>.45</i>
<i>" " 3 " Butter</i>		<i>.75</i>
<i>" " 1 " Coffee</i>		<i>.40</i>
<i>" " 1 lb Sugar</i>		<i>.25</i>
		<i>\$ 5.85</i>

<i>Apr 6 W. O. Bell</i>		
<i>20 1 pan Bread</i>		<i>.25</i>
<i>Cleaning dishes</i>		<i>1.00</i>
		<i>\$ 1.25</i>

## DR. ELIZABETH RABB BEATTY



DR. ELIZABETH BEATTY  
India  
First medical missionary  
of the Presbyterian women  
1884

In the Village of Lansdowne stands a Heritage Plaque erected by the Ontario Heritage Foundation, Ministry of Culture and Recreation. It honors Dr. Elizabeth Rabb Beatty, 1856-1939, one of Canada's first women medical missionaries.

Dr. Beatty was born on January 5, 1856 at the **Beatty** home, **Ballycanoe, Front of Yonge Township**. She was the daughter of **William Beatty** and his wife **Ellen Armstrong**. **William Beatty**, a native of Glasgow, who came to Canada in 1821 at the age of 15. His parents settled in **Ramsay Township** near **Almonte**. He then moved to **Front of Yonge** and, in 1835, was married to **Ellen Armstrong** by the Reverend **Wm. Smart**. In 1862, **Elizabeth Beatty**, then six years old, moved to **Lansdowne** to live. It was here that she received her early education. After having attended the public school at Lansdowne, she proceeded to the **Gananoque High School**, subsequently taking the first Grade A first class teachers certificate granted in the County of Leeds. She taught for a time as principal of the old **West Ward School** at **Gananoque**, then at **Elgin** and **Farmersville** (now **Athens**).

Dr. Beatty aspired to a professional careers and was one of the first women to enter the medical school attached to **Queen's University, Kingston**. She

graduated in 1884, also passing her Ontario Medical College examinations. She immediately offered her services to the Women's Foreign Missionary Society of the Presbyterian Church in Canada. Under its sponsorship, she was sent for service in **Indore, India**. She was one of the first women to serve in such a capacity.

Dr. Beatty sailed for India in late 1884, taking passage on the steamer that was taking **Lord and Lady Dufferin**. Lord Dufferin had just completed his term as Governor-General of Canada and had just been appointed Viceroy of India. They supported Dr. Beatty in her work in India. Lady Dufferin founded a medical school for Indian women and paid for the training of those who would instruct the women in the school. This did much to further Dr. Beatty's work.

Dr. Beatty remained in India for some time past her normal tour of duty. However, as a result of health problems encountered during this tour, she returned to Canada in 1892. She retired to Lansdowne, living in the house that today is marked with the Heritage Plaque.

Dr. Beatty died in 1939. She is buried with her ancestors in the cemetery at Yonge Mills.

*This article was prepared by Andrew Graham using material from the Tweedsmuir History Book of the Lansdowne Women's Institute.*

**From the By-Laws of the Township of Front of Leeds and Lansdowne:**

In 1876, by-law No. 327 established a 25 cent fine for any riotous, disorderly or unseemly behavior at a Council meeting.

In 1885, by-law No. 421 provided for a \$1 to \$10 fine for any person who exposed his or her body by bathing or washing near any public highway between 7 a.m. and 8 p.m.

**FRONT OF LEEDS AND LANSDOWNE  
HISTORICAL SOCIETY**

**MEMBERSHIP FORM**

**NAME:** \_\_\_\_\_

**MAILING ADDRESS:** \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**TELEPHONE:** \_\_\_\_\_

**MEMBERSHIP FEES: INDIVIDUAL: \$5.00      FAMILY: \$10.00**  
**ASSOCIATION: \$10.00      CORPORATE: \$25.00**

**PLEASE RETURN TO: FRONT OF LEEDS AND LANSDOWNE  
HISTORICAL SOCIETY  
P.O. BOX 332,  
LANSDOWNE, ONTARIO  
K0E 1L0**