

**BRANT HISTORICAL SOCIETY
NEWSLETTER
1908-1994**

**Brant County Museum & Archives
57 Charlotte Street, Brantford, Ont. N3T 2W6
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WINTER 1994-95 Volume I No. 4 C.1994**

**BRANT HISTORICAL SOCIETY
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CURATOR:

Ms. Susan Twist, BRANT COUNTY MUSEUM & ARCHIVES

PRESIDENT'S REFLECTION

The Steering Committee has received the final report from Weston, Larkin Consultants, Concord, Ontario. Their recommendation for site location for the Brant County Museum is the Carnegie Library/Park Baptist Church at the corner of George and Darling

Streets facing Victoria Square in Brantford. The members of the Steering Committee unanimously accepted the consultants' decision. Discussions are now taking place with the County of Brant and City of Brantford officials.

Presently the Harrison M. Scheak pewter collection is on display at the Brant County Museum. Be sure to come in and view the variety of pewter that is on display. The museum staff has done an excellent job of
(continues over page)

setting up this exhibit. The Museum staff has also planned exciting, interesting children's programmes during the month of December.

T.V. has arrived for the Brant Historical Society! Mr. Ken Strachan has graciously volunteered to be our host for these programmes. Ken and myself will be appearing in December on Cable 20 introducing the Society to the general public. Our series will be called "Local Heroes". The second

taping will take place this month with Mr. Ken Strachan as host. Mr. Bob Deboer, vice president of the Brant Historical Society and Mr. John Prosser from the Brantford Pottery Guild will be interviewed about the history of local pottery. This is an ongoing project. Please read your local T.V. listings for dates and times for these programmes.

The regular monthly meetings for the Brant Historical Society are held at the Brant County

Museum at 57 Charlotte Street, Brantford on the third Wednesday of each month at 8:00 pm. The programme committee is doing an excellent job in finding interesting topics and speakers. Please plan to support and attend these interesting meetings. I know that you will not be disappointed.

On behalf of the members of the Brant Historical Society I wish you Seasons Greetings and the best for the New Year.

Ruth Lefler

ECHO PLACE (part 1) Ruth Lefler

Have you ever wondered how the area of Echo Place developed or received its name? This is another interesting story in Brant County's history. The Echo Place district is bounded on the north by Hackborn Road, on the south by the Canal, Mohawk Lake and the Grand River, on the east by Locks Road and on the west by Stanley Street.

The focus for the area was located on Hamilton Road (later renamed Colborne Street) between McConkey's Lane (later renamed James Avenue) and Locks Road. The local hotel and blacksmith's shop were almost across the road from each other. The Springbrook Hotel in Springbrook, opened in the early nineteenth century. Some of its proprietors were Mr. John Westbrook, Mr. Hobson and Mr. Orr. About 1880 the hotel was purchased by George Westbrook who converted it to a general store and post office. As Post Master Mr. Westbrook operated the first post office in this district. He also changed the name of this area from Springbrook to Echo Place because of the unusual echoes which were heard through the woods and swamp behind his store.

In 1868, Mr. Joseph Taylor, an expert blacksmith and farrier, established a

blacksmith's shop that was well patronized by the local people.

Another thriving business that operated in Echo Place was Workman's Brickyard. It was located on Hamilton Road on the right hand side just east of Stanley Street. The land on which the brickyard stood was part of the Glebe Lot and it was leased from the New England Company. At Stanley Street, Hamilton Road began to rise sharply and this hill was called "Workman's Hill". By the way, in 1810, Hamilton Road had been laid out to transport troops and army supplies. In 1812 the government upgraded the road by having logs laid crossways to allow troops easier access during the War of 1812.

The brickyard was first opened in 1833 by Calvin Houghton. Later Hugh Workman purchased the yard. Workman, who had previously worked for Houghton, operated the yard until he died in 1879. This was the largest brick yard in Brant County.

The clay was removed from a high bank at the eastern end of the yard. A large pond formed where the clay had been removed. In the early days, the clay was trod out by oxen and moulded by hand into bricks. Later, with modern machinery,

2,500,000 bricks per year were produced.

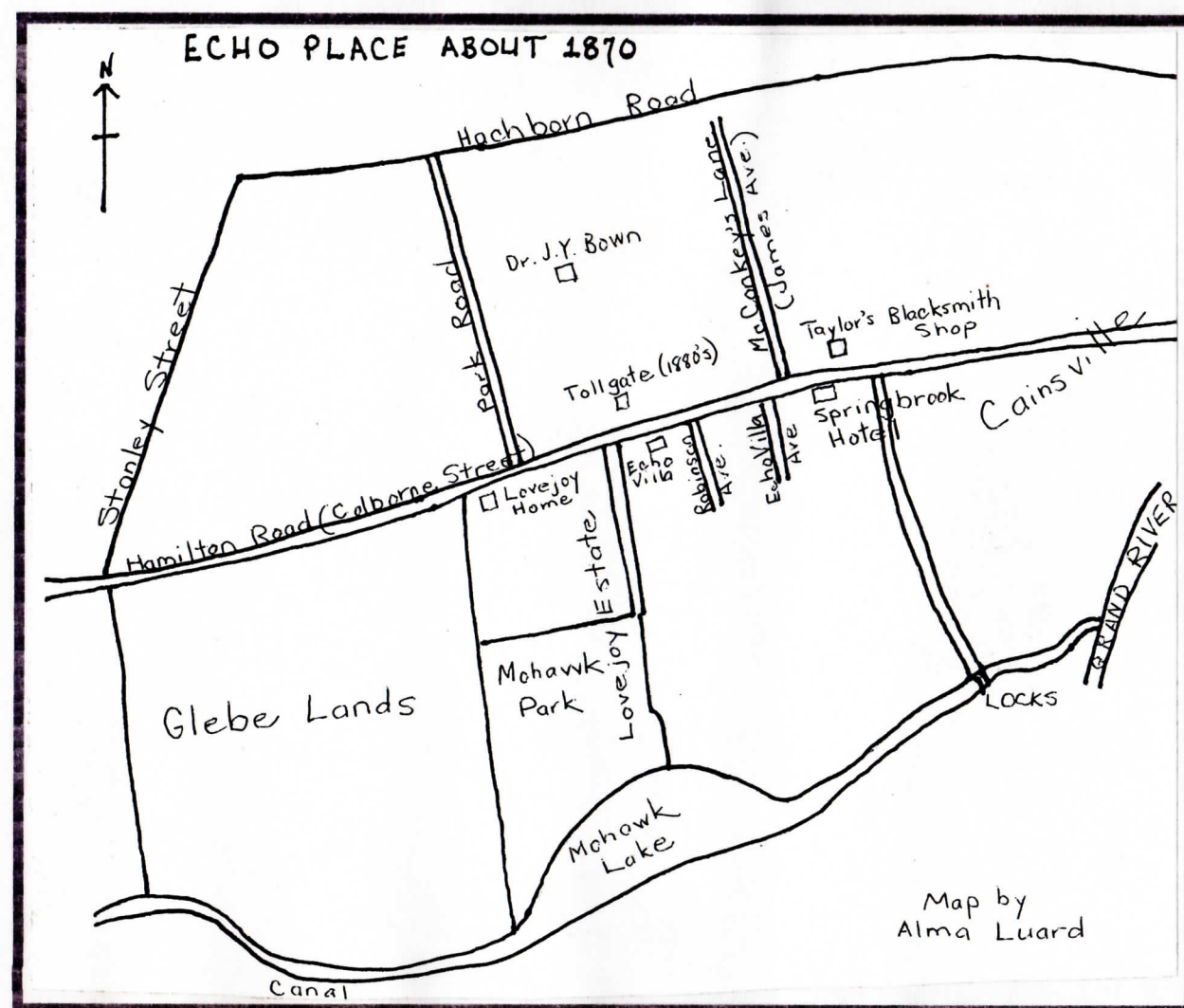
Echo Place also had a hydro electric plant which aided Brantford's industrial growth along the Grand River. When the Grand River Navigation Company failed, the City of Brantford acquired the property and subsequently in 1875, sold it to Alfred Watts for the sum of \$1.00.

Due to the drop of 33 feet in the level of the Grand River from Lorne Bridge to the locks near Locks Road and an almost unlimited flow of water, hydro electric power could be generated. The fall was dammed back and the head was turned into water wheels. In the late 1880's Mr. Watts established the Brantford Electric Light Company. The Company remained in existence supplying power to local residents until 1914 when the first residents were connected to the Ontario Hydro Electric System.

Today, remnants of the dam and power house remain as a visible reminder of an entrepreneurial past.

END NOTES:

1. Echo Place Women's Institute Tweedsmuir Village History Book 1913-1949; Volume 1.
2. Reville, Douglas F. History of the County of Brant; Hurley Printing Co., Brantford, 1920.



**THE BRITISH METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH
OF THE DRAKE BRITISH MEMORIAL
EPISCOPAL CHURCH, 1 165 Murray St.,
Brantford (1956) A CHURCH HOME
FOR BLACK REFUGEES (part III)
Angela Files**

The historical background of the British Methodist Episcopal Church commenced in the United States....

Seeking Churches Of Their Own

In the year 1816, Richard Allen and fifteen Negroes, who wished to have their own Church home, met in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, to form their bishopric within the American Methodist Episcopal Church. Richard Allen was elected bishop of the African Methodist Episcopal Church. Four years later, one of their missionaries started a congregation in St. Catherines and others followed in Hamilton, Malden, Toronto, etc.

In 1835, with only a handful of black refugees, a congregation of the (African) American Methodist Episcopal denomination was organized in Brantford and also a school was set up two years later because black children were excluded from attending Brantford's common school.

The Founding Of The British Methodist Episcopal Church In Ontario
Brantford was the heart of the American Methodist Episcopal

missionary circuit, which included the Queen's Bush and London, served by Rev. James Harper.² Without places of worship, church services were held in private homes.

In 1856 the Canadian churches withdrew and founded the British Methodist Episcopal Church; Rev. Willis Nazrey of the American church agreed to act as the first bishop. That same year, the first British Methodist Church, a frame building, was built on a lot donated by member O'Bariyan. It was situated on the north side of Dalhousie Street corner, east side of Murray Street, Brantford. Rev. Walker Hawkin, the first pastor, rose to become Superintendent of the Conference.

Church Of Scotland Became The British Methodist Episcopal Church In Brantford

During the pastorate of Rev. Thomas Jefferson in 1869, "the Kirk of Scotland" (on the present day site of Mt. Zion Christian Church, 260 Dalhousie Street, Brantford), was purchased. The edifice was a frame building and over the door the inscription in a semi-circle read as follows

"Kirk of Scotland". Later this church was moved to a location opposite the East Ward Public School on Murray Street. It was finally transported to the backyard of a Mr. John McCurtis living on Rawdon Street, facing north on Marlborough Street, and became a shed.

Oyster suppers, plantation dinners, and musical concerts were held to raise money for the church home. In 1872, the congregation was happy that "efforts put by faith, that Rev. Mr. Wood and the Congregational Church helped to pay off the debt of British Methodist Episcopal church (coloured) in East Ward; all but thirty dollars. Mr. Wood was glad for the donation."³

Present Day Drake Memorial Church

The existing brick building, Drake Memorial Church, was erected in 1896 and a comfortable brick parsonage was built on the north side of the church in 1912.

In the book entitled Slaves Without A Master, the author states that the black hierarchical three caste system in America included: the African slaves, the
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TITLE	UNIT PRICE	QUANTITY	TOTAL PRICE

* Add \$3.00 to cover the cost of postage, ALL orders are to be prepaid.

Mail To: NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

CITY/PROVINCE/POSTAL CODE: _____

Please make cheque payable to: Brant Historical Society.

Send to: Brant County Museum & Archives, 57 Charlotte St., BRANTFORD, Ont. N3T 2W6

**Brant Historical Society/
Brant County Museum & Archives**

MEMBERSHIP REGISTRATION FORM

Individual	(\$15.00)	\$
Family	(\$20.00)	\$
Patron	(\$25.00)	\$
Benefactor	(\$100.00)	\$
Corporation	(\$250.00)	\$
Additional Donation		\$
Amount Enclosed		\$

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Brant Historical Society CHRISTMAS OPEN HOUSE

Wed. December 21st, 8:00 pm

Experience the sights, sounds, smells, and
tastes of Christmas at the
Brant County Museum,
57 Charlotte St., Brantford.

KEN STRACHAN, Editor emeritus,
the Brantford Expositor, reminisces about
Christmas in Brantford 100 years ago;
yuletide songs by the BRANT CHORALEENS;
Christmas story by JOE CALLAGHAN of
the Brant Taletellers.

FREE FESTIVE FARE !

free emancipated blacks and the light skinned West Indies emigres. In the novel, written by Harriet Beecher Stowe entitled Uncle Tom's Cabin or Life Among the Lowly portraying the evils of slavery did much to crystallize the militant anti-slavery sentiments in the North and the American Civil War. Throughout the North American continent one of the most popular plays of the day was "Uncle Tom's Cabin" - even in the small city of Brantford.

The entertainment column of the January 12, 1883 Brantford Weekly Expositor read: "Uncle Tom's Cabin" Performance, next Monday in Brantford. There are two Topseys and two Marks. This is said to be the best show on the road".

According to an ad inserted in the March 5, 1880 edition of the Brantford Weekly Expositor: "The Rev. Josiah Henson, the veritable "Uncle Tom", will tell the story of his life, in Wellington Street Methodist Church on Friday evening, March 19, 1880. The editions of the newspapers which followed this oral presentation did not record Rev. Henson's speech but three years later, the May 11, 1883, or the Weekly Expositor does record his death as follows:

The Death of Uncle Tom
(1789-1883)
"Rev. Josiah Henson,

whose death was announced on Saturday was born in the State of Maryland in June 1789 and reached ninety-four years. Forty-two years of his life were spent in slavery and the fact that he was a man of far more ability coupled with the admission of Mrs. Harriet Beecher Stowe that he was the original of her creation of Uncle Tom, gave him for many years a prominent place in the public eye. His personal explanation of slave life was not as dark in character, as those of many of his associates, and so far as the grosser indignities, the barbarous cruelties; Mrs. Stowe's hero is made to endure, the character is not identical with that of the acknowledged Uncle Tom.

The story of his escape however is a thrilling one, rendered all the more so by the fact that by an extraordinary effort with vigilance, he brought his wife and family to Canada with him. It was on the morning of October 28, 1830 that Josiah Henson crossed the River from Buffalo and landed in Canada, where he threw himself on the ground, rolled in the sand, seized handfuls of it, kissed the ground, and danced about so wildly that the spectators thought he was mad. Uncle Tom finally settled in Bothwell (Kent

County); at intervals taking lecturing tours throughout the country (visited Brantford also) and on one occasion visited England where he was invited to Windsor Castle, and treated with marked respect by Queen Victoria. Two sons and a daughter survive him".



Josiah Henson

Uncle Tom

BORN IN SLAVERY
ESCAPED TO FREEDOM IN CANADA

The Fugitive Slave,
Andrew Lucas

One of the interesting parishioners belonging to the British Methodist Episcopal Church of Brantford was Andrew Lucas, born an American slave, on the estate of General Andrew Stonewall Jackson (1767-1845), in Tennessee, and was buried a Canadian freeman in the Greenwood Cemetery, Brantford, on October 1, 1886. The simple white slab of stone which marks grave 795

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west is inscribed Andrew Lucas, Age 120 years. Since no birth records survive his exact age was not known. A headline in the Weekly Expositor of October 1, 1866 states that his death marked "the termination of a life over 120 years".⁴

At about forty years of age, Andrew Lucas, as a fugitive slave, fled the United States, and crossed into Canada at Black Rock, north of Fort Erie, Ontario. He was protected by Mr. Andrew Kirby, a Custom's Officer.

During the war of 1812-1814, Andrew Lucas fought in the Battle of Queenston Heights (1813) and he lived in the Niagara area during the Mackenzie Rebellion of 1837. He arrived in Brantford about 1845 and worked with horses for Job Tripp at the Brantford Hotel and Jonathan Hale of the American Express. He also cared for the horses of Bailiff Joseph Johnson.

In Canada, Andrew Lucas married a mulatto woman. The couple had fourteen children: four sons and two daughters were surviving at the time of his death. His son Peter Lucas moved to the United States: John Lucas worked for W.E. Welding, Pottery Manufacturers; Joseph became a minister of the Christian Church. Mr. Andrew Lucas lived in a house, opposite the old Kerby Hotel,

on Colborne Street. Before his death, Andrew lived with his son, Solomon Lucas on Darling Street, Brantford. Some of the descendants, Johnson Family members, still live here today.

The Names Of Past Ministers Of The British Methodist Church Or Drake Memorial Church
According to the Expositor Souvenir, 1927, among the earliest ministers of the British Methodist Episcopal Church in Brantford were: Rev. Lindsay Armstrong, Rev. Benjamin Stuart, Rev. William Bowers, Rev. P. O'Banyon, Rev. L. Christine, Rev. B. Whipper, Rev. T. Jefferson, Rev. R. Miller, and Rev. George Blount.

Beginning with the 1875-1876 Directory of Brantford, services of the church were listed as follows: Sunday Services 11:00 AM; 7:00 PM; Sunday School 3:00 PM. Prayer Meeting Wednesday 8:00 PM.

Many of the clergymen were either from fugitive slave backgrounds or refugees from the West Indies. Some of their congregation were Baptists but adherents to the British Methodist Episcopal Church.

[SEE CHART OVER PAGE]

After the 1987 entry in the City Directory of Rev. Livingston Yardwood as

pastor of Drake Memorial Church, there are no more entries in the ensuing year of the directories.

In the year 1995, there are only twelve British Methodist Episcopal Church left in the Ontario Conference as follows: Niagara Falls, St. Catharines, London, Windsor, Owen Sound, Toronto Central, Toronto East York, Mississauga, Collingwood, Guelph, and Brantford. The churches in Chatham, Fort Erie and Woodstock have closed their doors - shattering the dreams of their congregational ancestors to have a place of worship in their own church homes.

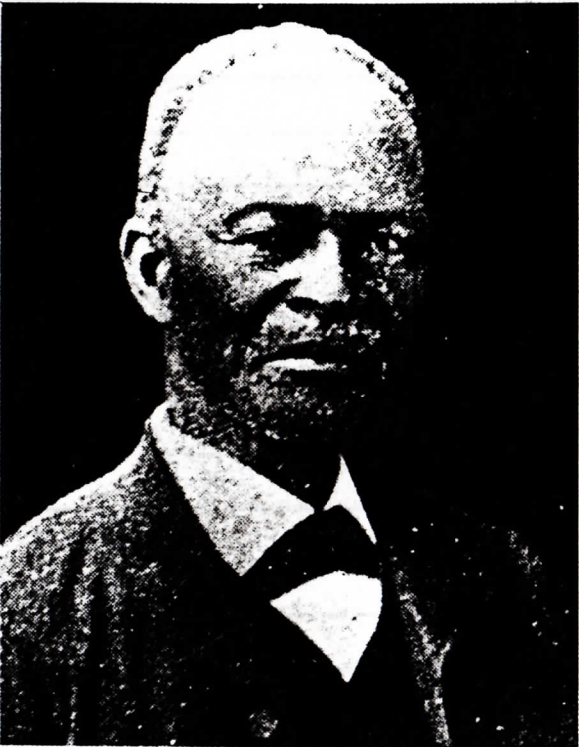
On October 16, 1994, Drake Memorial British Methodist Episcopal Church celebrated 138 years of witnessing for Jesus Christ in our community.

- END NOTES:
1. In 1956, the British Methodist Episcopal Church changed its name to Drake Memorial Church in honour of Rev. S.R. Drake, former pastor and general superintendent of the conference for 18 years.
 2. Hill, David G. "Freedom Seekers, Blacks In Early Canada, The Book Society of Canada Ltd., 1981, p. 136.
 3. Brantford Weekly Expositor, May 31, 1872.
 4. Ibid., October 1, 1886.

YEARS OF THE
BRANTFORD CITY
DIRECTORIES

NAMES OF CLERGYMEN OF
BRITISH METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH
BRANTFORD

1875 - 1876	Rev. T.L. Turpin
1883 - 1886	Rev. Wm. Bowers; Rev. Benjamin Stewart
1889	Rev. W.R. Drake
1893 - 1895	Rev. Blunt
1895 - 1896	Rev. W.H. Davis
1896 - 1897	Rev. C. Washington
1897 - 1900	Rev. W.H. Snowden
1900 - 1902	Rev. Henderson Davis
1902 - 1903	Rev. Bishop Washington
1903 - 1904	Rev. H.D. Wright
1904 - 1906	Rev. T.H. Slater
1907 - 1909	Rev. S.R. Drake
1910 - 1911	Rev. S.B. Jones
1913 - 1914	Rev. J.M. Lawson
1915 - 1919	Rev. T.H. Jackson
1920	Rev. Arthur R. Plummer
1924	Rev. Walter Adams
1925	
1926 - 1929	Rev. Herbert Wright
1930 - 1931	Rev. Alfred C. Johnson; Coloured Church on 234 Grey St. listed Rev. John M. Payne
1932 - 1933	Rev. Solomon Lucas
1934	Rev. Albert Plummer; Coloured Church on 234 Grey St. listed Rev. Van Sickle, Jas N.
1935 - 1942	Rev. Ernest Richardson
1943	Rev. Fred Stewart
1944 - 1946	James Gilmour
1947 - 1963	Rev. George E. Crawford
1964	Rev. Ronald Blackwood
1965	Rev. George E. Crawford (West Indies)
1966 - 1975	Rev. Ronald Blackwood (Jamaica)
1976 - 1980	Rev. H.L. Jackman (Trinidad)
1980 - 1984	Rev. J.L. Jackman
1985	Rev. W. Bill Solomon
Oct. 1986	Rev. Livingston Yardwood helped designate the Church
1987	Rev. Livingston Yardwood



The Very Reverend Walter Hawkins, Bishop of the British Methodist Episcopal Church, earlier served as pastor to its Brantford congregation.

PUBLICATIONS LIST & GIFT SHOP ITEMS of the Brant Historical Society

NEW HISTORICAL PUBLICATIONS OF 1994 - 1995

1. Burwell, Lewis, Deputy Surveyor, DIARY Of The Survey Of The Indian Surrender and Town Plot of Brantford on the Grand River in the Gore District Commencing 15th March and extending 24 June 1830. (30 pages).
Collator Angela Files, Computer Typist Mr. Edward Pancoe. \$ 8.00
2. Brantford, Burford, Oakland, Onondaga, South Dumfries Townships - Directory Of The Year 1880 (40 pages).
Collator Angela Files. \$10.00
3. Tuscarora: Geographical Place Names Of The Six Nations And The New Credit Reserve (20 pages). By Mr. George Beaver, Director of the Brant Historical Society. \$ 5.95

HISTORICAL SOCIETY PUBLICATIONS

Jean Waldie Vol. 1	\$14.95	Rules of Etiquette of 1800's	\$ 2.95
Jean Waldie Vol. 2	\$15.95	Health Hints 1887-1924	\$ 2.95
Both Volumes	\$22.50	Great Grandma's Health Suggestions from the late 1800's	\$ 2.95
The Grand River Navigation Company		Grand River Crossing	\$29.95
- Bruce Hill	\$21.95	Brant County Atlas	\$25.00
View of an Indian Reserve		<u>POSTERS</u>	
- George Beaver	SOLD OUT	Pelee Island Wine & Vineyards Inc. J.S. Hamilton	\$20.00
St. George Continuation School		<u>HASTI-NOTES</u> Stedman Postcards	
- B. Wesley Switzer	\$ 7.00	Market Square (5's)	\$ 2.95
Rural Schools of South Dumfries Township		Mohawk Chapel (5's)	\$ 1.95
- J.C. Webster	\$ 8.00	<u>FRANK ADAMS' PRINTS</u> (6's)	
Glimpse of the Past	SOLD OUT	Mohawk Chapel	
How Brantford Cooked	\$ 3.50	W. Ross Macdonald School	
Brantford Pottery		Brantford Market Square	
- Robert L. Deboer	\$ 9.95	Bell Homestead	
Arts and Entertainment		Brant County Court House	
- Robert L. Deboer	\$ 9.95	Grace Anglican Church	
From Automobiles to Washing Machines		<u>POSTCARDS</u> (various)	
- Robert L. Deboer	\$ 9.95		
<u>OTHER PUBLICATIONS</u>		<u>MAPS</u>	
Great Little Inns of Southern Ontario	\$ 9.95	County of Brant-Tremaine	\$ 2.50
Real Old Woodstove Cookbook	\$ 2.95	City of Brantford 1875	\$ 5.00
		Historical Map-Brant County	\$ 5.00
		Discovers of Canada Map	\$ 5.00