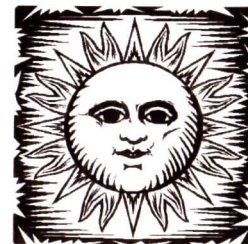




BHS Quarterly



Summer 1997 Brant Historical Society 1908-1997

Vol. IV No. 2

©Brant Historical Society 1997 ISSN 1201-4028



Massey-Harris Works South Market Street



Be sure to visit
“From Seed to Harvest: A Massey-Harris 150th
Anniversary Exhibition”
the new exhibition at The Museum in the Square
until August 30, 1997

Celebrating our
90th
year of
operation!

**INSIDE
THIS
ISSUE:**

Back To The Wigwam, Part II by Ethel T. Raymond

Georgina Walker: A Gifted Black Entertainer by Angela Files

The Extinct Tribe: The Tutelos

The 1927 Special Edition of The Brantford Expositor by Ken Strachan

p. 3

p. 5

p. 9

p. 13

President's Reflection

Our new Director-Curator, Elizabeth Hunter, assumed her position at the Brant County Museum & Archives on April 21. I am pleased that she has joined us and can report that she has met our expectations. For those of you who have not met her, please take a moment to come to the Museum and make her acquaintance.

Elizabeth joined us two days after our Collections Management Officer, Cliff Jones, who was Acting Curator, left to take a position as Collections Specialist at the former Agricultural Museum in Milton. Cliff will be retaining his Society membership and will be assisting with Bingo for a period of time until Elizabeth and Cliff's replacement, Shanna Balazs, are up to speed in its operation. We wish Cliff every success in his new position.

Shanna Balazs was initially an applicant for the position of Director/Curator and was interviewed for

the position. Upon receiving Cliff's resignation, the Selection Committee contacted Shanna to see if she would be interested in the Collections position. She accepted and began work on May 6. Shanna is a Brantford native and a graduate of Trent University in Peterborough.

On May 1, the relationship between the County of Brant and the Society, which has existed since the early 1960's, went through a modification. The County will continue its ownership and maintenance of the property at 57 Charlotte Street. The Board of Governors ceased to exist on May 1, and was replaced by a more efficient and direct relationship between the Society and the County Executive Committee. This relationship is that of Landlord and Tenant. The lease between the County and the Society has been extended to April 30, 2006. The County Clerk-Treasurer's Office will continue to carry out the ac-

counting, banking, payroll and associated activities. Both the County Warden and County Clerk-Treasurer Dan Ciona, who acted as Society Treasurer, no longer sit as members of the Society's Board of Directors, as of April 30. Board member Julie Gillis has been appointed as the Society's Treasurer.

The County will continue to provide an annual grant to the Society in addition its maintenance and clerical costs.

The Clerk-Treasurer will continue to be responsible for liaison between Harrison M. Scheak and the Society, in order to implement and enforce the agreement between the two parties.

The preparation of a Business Plan, with the assistance of facilitator John McGregor, is in its final stages and should be completed in the near future.

On June 7, the display "Massey,

(Continued on page 4)

Brant Historical Society Board of Directors

President: Robert Deboer

Past President: Ruth Lefler Vice-Presidents: Glenn Gillis, Ralph Cook

Secretary: Gloria Neamtu Treasurer: Julie Gillis

Directors:

George Beaver John Bonfield Angela Files

Robert Glass Hank Hedges John Johnson David Partridge

Ken Strachan Anne Westaway Brian Wood

Back to the Wigwam, Part 2

by Ethel T. Raymond (1914)

The following is part of a romanticized historical sketch of Brantford composed by Ethel T. Raymond and published in the "Official Brantford Old Home Week Souvenir Book" distributed August 9-14, 1914. It will be presented in 4 parts through 1997 as a Sesquicentennial contribution.

In 1830, the Indians gave "a lot a mile square for a village at Brantford, to be sold to white people of respectability." Lewis Burwell surveyed the land, which was auctioned off at £20 per lot. The first sale of 2100 square links on the north side of the Indian Trail (now Colborne Street) was made to William Muirhead, while 1900 square links were purchased by Jedediah Jackson. Streets straggled out and the place slowly began to take shape.

The only church was the "old Mohawk," built for the Indians in 1785, where the Anglicans worshipped. In 1830 Chief John Brant (who had succeeded his father) gave three acres towards the establishment of a church in the new village. Margaret Kerby and A. K. Smith gave several lots at the corner of Albion and Cedar Streets for a building and burial ground. Here the following year a frame building accommodating 400 people was erected. Brantford's first church called Grace.

The first school, a two-story frame building on Market Street, served as a general meeting house. Its bell summoned the voluntary fire brigade, or in more measured tones tolled the knell of the departed. "Old Williams," Brantford's first bellringer, performed his duties for \$80 per year.

Reading matter in those days was

rare. In 1832 a small printed sheet called "The Sentinel," edited by Mr. Keeler, was warmly welcomed. Two years later, it was converted into "The Courier" by Mr. Thomas Lemmon.

In 1840 the Grand River Navigation Co. established a canal, which added materially to the early prospects of the place, supplementing the old stagecoach which passed daily through the village with its passengers and mail. At one time, three boats, comfortably fitted up for passengers, plied between Buffalo and Brantford.

Several bridges had been built across the river. About 1841 the first toll bridge was erected, only to share the fate of its predecessors and be swept away by the rebellious waters of the Grand.

In 1846 the first large hotel (or tavern, as it was called in those days) was built on the corner of Peel and Colborne Streets (where Alexandra Church now stands). Mr. Ed J. Montgomery was the proprietor.

By 1847, Brantford's steady growth had reached 2,000 and it was incorporated a town. At Bradley's Inn, Sept. 9th, Councillors were duly elected for each of the seven wards, and a few

days later, Wm. Muirhead was elected Brantford's first Mayor.

A Town Hall replaced the little schoolhouse on the Market Square in 1850. It still remains, a relic of the past.

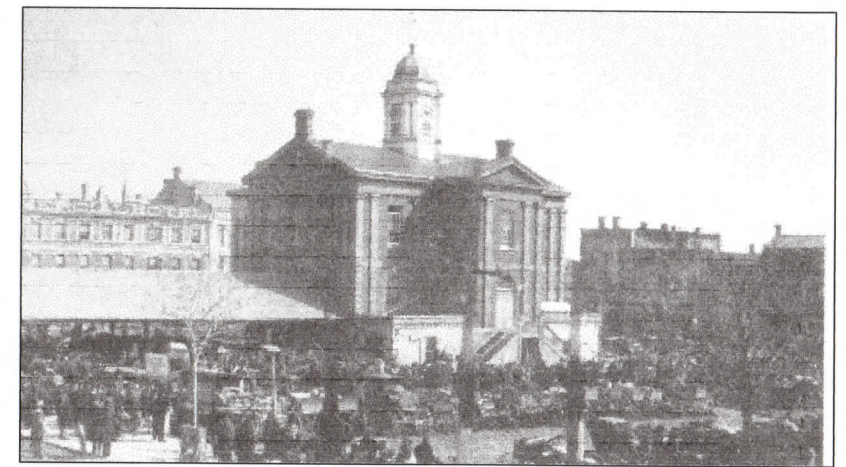
... three boats, comfortably fitted for passengers, plied between Buffalo and Brantford ...

A clock was installed, and the office of clock-winder was created, which L. Recht first filled for \$30 per annum. Fortunately, Brantford's progress was more regular than the new chronometer.

1851 was marked by the erection of fine County buildings. The following year, a rival Conservative newspaper called "The Expositor" was founded by Henry Racey. In 1852, Brantford became a port of entry, when Valentine Hall was appointed the first collector of customs.

In the early days, lawyers made the circuit of their courts, and preachers attended their stations on horseback. The farmer took corn and wheat to

(Continued on page 4)



Brantford Town Hall & Market Square

Back to the Wigwam

(Continued from page 3)

million horseback, while in like way his wife went to market or visited her friends. In 1854, the people joyfully celebrated the passing of the first train through Brantford on the Buffalo, Goderich and Huron Railway. This gave a fresh impetus to the place.

In September 1857, the Provincial Fair was held in Brantford, an honor in the early history of the town. The same year a wooden bridge was replaced by one of iron, significant itself of progress. This was carried away in the memorable flood, September 1878.

In 1860, His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales, later Edward the Seventh,

honored the town by a visit. The people welcomed their future King with boom of cannon, waving flags and triumphal arches and amid general rejoicings, in which the Indians joined. In 1869 the town again in gala attire welcomed another distinguished visitor, H.R.H. Duke of Connaught. On the occasion of his first visit the Six Nations conferred upon him a chiefship and the name of "Kar-a-Kon-dye" (Flying Sun). They also presented him with a fine likeness of the lamented Joseph Brant (Thayendanege) made from a portrait of him taken on the occasion of his visit to England in 1786. Accompanying this was a volume giving the life history and events in which Brant took a conspicuous part. They respectfully referred him to the part taken by the Indians in the memorable war

of 1812, and desired his patronage in erecting the monument which now stands in Victoria Park.

The Brantford Young Ladies' College, established in a connection with the Presbyterian Church, was largely due to the efforts of Wm. Cochrane, D.D., the universally beloved minister of Zion Church. Hon. E. B. Wood's residence on Brant Avenue was converted into a college, the inscription stone being layed by Her Excellency the Countess of Dufferin, August 24th, 1874.

To be continued in the next issue.

Thanks to Robert Deboer for submitting this article.

Meet The Museum Staff!

Elizabeth Hunter has been hard at work in her new position as Director/Curator. Administration, the hiring of summer staff, organizing the upcoming Massey-Harris exhibit, meetings and Bingos have been filling her days, evenings and weekends!

Shanna Balazs, from Brantford, has replaced Cliff Jones as the Collections Management Officer. Shanna has an Honours B.A. in Anthropology from Wilfrid Laurier University, and has recently completed her M.A. in Native Studies at Trent University.

The Museum has been fortunate to receive grants to hire two students for summer projects this year.

Sarah VanDyke is a familiar face

around the Museum, having been a volunteer, co-op student and a return summer student, in addition to being a "graduate" of our Museum Clubs. This year Sarah will be working as an Archival Photographic Assistant, attempting to re-organize the 5,000+ photos in the BCM&A collection and to make them more accessible to the public.

Kathryn Cottrill, another familiar face, also returns as a summer student. This year, Kathryn will our Summer Program Assistant. She has just finished her Masters of Education at Niagara University, and will be completing her teaching placement at two Brantford public schools this fall.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

The Brant Historical Society gratefully acknowledges support from:

The County of Brant

The City of Brantford and Brantford Regional Arts Council

The Ontario Ministry of Citizenship, Culture & Recreation

President's Reflection

(Continued from page 2)

Harris and Ferguson: 150 Years of Industry" will open at the Museum in the Square. A celebration of the 150th anniversary of the founding of the Massey Manufacturing Company, this exhibition explores Massey's place in the history of Brant County.

For those of you doing spring cleaning, our Annual Yard Sale, normally held in late spring, has been rescheduled for September 6. Please set aside any items which you think are suitable for the sale.

Don't forget our Second Annual Antique Show & Sale at the Sanderson Centre on November 14, 15 and 16, 1997. We will be needing volunteers - keep your calendar open.

Have a safe and happy summer.

Robert Deboer

Georgina Walker:
A Gifted Black Entertainer

by Angela Files

Part XIII in a continuing series on
Black History in Brant County

On a rocking chair in the sitting room of Brucefield Manor Retirement Home sat a slim, dignified lady of African descent, reciting in her stage manner the following words from Shakespeare's play "The Merchant of Venice":

*All that glitters is not gold
Often have you heard this told
Many a man his life has sold
But my outside to behold.*

As our church group listened to this former entertainer reciting from her repertoire of literary gems and songs, we were amazed at her fabulous bank of memories. Little did I realize that this scene would still be engraved in my remembrance thirty years later, and that the story of entertainer Georgina Walker would help me preserve an aspect of black history in the valley of the Grand River.

Georgina Walker was born in Brantford, the daughter of Charles Walker and Jennie Payne. Her mother was a former slave of West Virginia and lectured locally on the evils of slavery. Jennie Payne-Walker died on March 13, 1943.

Her father, Charles Walker, died in August of 1922. His obituary in the August 15, 1992 edition of the Brantford Expositor reads as follows:

"Charles Walker died Monday morning at the Brantford General Hospital, 81 years of age. He has been a resident of the city for 45 years and has resided at his present address, 9 Park Avenue, for 42 years. He was an employee of the Buck Stove Works for 27 years and a veteran of the civil war.

Much sympathy is felt for the family and this is the third death in the family in one year. He is survived by wife Jennie, four daughters, Mrs. J. P. Brown, Chicago, Georgina Walker of N.Y., Mrs. Geo. Wilson of Toronto, Gladys Walker at home. Funeral will take place Wednesday afternoon; burial at Mt. Hope Cemetery, Brantford, Ont."¹

The funeral is related in the August 17 issue:

"The funeral of the late Wm. Charles H. Walker took place yesterday at 2:30 from his residence Park Ave. and proceeded to Mount Hope Cemetery. Mr. Walker was 81 years of age. Rev. Thomas Woodcock officiated and assisted by Rev. S. R. Drake of London, Ontario, General Supt. of The British Methodist Episcopal Church. The floral offerings were numerous and beautiful. The pallbearers were Rev. P. A. Lucas, Isaac Johnson, George Johnson, John Lucas, James Murray."²

The children of Charles and Jennie Walker were:

1. George Walker (1883-1918), unmarried, died at 35 years of the terrible flu of 1918.

"Among the deaths overnight of the flu in the city were ... Charles Walker, Jr., 285 Sheridan St., Brantford"

"Funeral of Charles Walker from H. S. Pierce & Co. Chapel. Interment Mt. Hope Cemetery"³ An infant brother predeceased him.

2. Mabel Walker, m. George Wilson

3. ? Walker, m. J. P. Brown

4. Gladys Walker, m. Clarence Beckel in April 1928, lived on the corner of Mary and Drummond Sts., Brantford. The Beckels belonged to St. Jude's Anglican Church, Brantford.

Issue:

1. Jean Walker, m. Graham Lowe
2. Germaine Walker, m. Bill Isaacs
3. Idola Walker, m. Philip Semple
4. Audrey Walker, m. A. Hood

5. Georgina Walker, elocutionist, soloist, born and lived on Park Ave. until she launched her career in the United States. The family home burned down, destroying personal mementos. Today, there is only a vacant lot on Park Avenue where the original house stood.

Notice of her impending career began in January of 1903:

"Friends of Miss Georgina Walker (coloured) will be glad to know that in the near future she will make her debut as a reciter. Miss Walker spent four months tutoring under Prof. Van Kleick of Chicago. She also took up a course two years ago in Toronto. Miss Walker is one of Brantford's most popular coloured daughters and her friends wish her success."⁴

A month later, this notice appeared in the Expositor:

"The elocutionary recital to be given by Miss Georgina Walker, in Victoria Hall, last evening was indefinitely postponed due to poor attendance. Those who were there felt keenly disappointed when Mayor Halloran announced the decision not to go on with the program."⁵

After her successful career in the American entertainment market, both in elocution and music, Georgina Walker's final homecoming was to Brantford, according to her December 1977 obituary:

"At the Brantford General Hospital on Tuesday Dec. 6, 1977, Georgina Walker, formerly of Keswick, daughter of the late Charles and Jennie Walker, also predeceased by five sisters and two brothers, dear aunt of Mrs. Jean Lowe of Mississauga, Mrs. Jermaine Isaac, Toronto, Mrs. Philip (Idola) Semple of Burlington, Audrey Beckel of Lynden and Leonard Mallatt of Mississauga, and 11 great nieces and nephews. Friends will be received at the Thorpe Brothers Funeral Home, 96 West St. from 2

(Continued on page 6)

Recent Acquisitions

The following objects have recently been accepted into the collections of the Brant County Museum & Archives:

- Robbins & Myers Electric Fan: Ken Stone
- Bell Centennial First Day Cover and Letter from B.H.S.: Royal Sask. Museum
- Dress Shirt: Evelyn Elson
- 2 Bottles, from Lorne Park Dump: Brantford Parks & Recreation
- 7 Nurse's Uniforms, Nurse's Apron, Kewpie Doll, 2 Photos: Anonymous
- 14 Paint & Varnish Tins, 5 Stamps, 1 Stencil, 1 Trophy, 1 Tintometer, 1 Spade, 1 Sign, 1 Binder of Memorabilia, 1 Insurance Plan: BASF Canada Inc.
- Notebook, Military Medical Trunk, Medical Certificate, 2 Photos, 2 Military Law Manuals: Sylvia Shackleton
- Poster for "Unique Theatre": Ferrel
- Massey-Harris Pocket Compendium and Letter: Kitchener Public Library
- 40 Photographs: Workwood
- 7 Photos of the Clarence St. Train Wreck: Bob & Evelyn Guest
- Photo of the 1950-51 Mount Pleasant Hockey Club: Stephanie McCaughey
- One Mantle, circa 1920: Christine Johnson
- 23 Photos by George Waite (loaned for reproduction): Beatrice Bell

Georgina Walker

(Continued from page 5)

o'clock Thursday. Service in Chapel Friday afternoon at one o'clock with interment to follow in Mt. Hope cemetery. Rev. George Ernest Crawford of Drake Memorial Church will officiate."⁶

I wish to thank Mrs. Idola Semple for sharing the outline of the Walker family tree.

1. Brantford Expositor, Aug. 15, 1922
2. Brantford Daily Expositor, Aug. 17, 1922
3. Brantford Daily Expositor, Oct. 26, 1918
4. Brantford Expositor, Jan. 8, 1903
5. Brantford Expositor, Feb. 12, 1903
6. Brantford Expositor, Dec. 1977

\$\$\$ ENDOWMENT FUND \$\$\$

The Brant Historical Endowment Fund is one of the ways in which we can ensure a viable future for the Society and the Museum & Archives. At the end of 1996, the Fund held over \$61,000. Our recent Business Plan is relying on substantial growth in the Fund to replace decreasing public sector grants. We thank the following donors for their generous recent contributions to the Brant Historical Endowment Fund:

Brant Historical Society:

In memory of Joseph Bradbury

Ruth Lefler:

In memory of A. Clare Demaray

Glenn & Doreen Kilmer:

In memory of Charles Tolton

In memory of Merna Dodgson

SUMMER MUSEUM CLUBS

Cruising Down the River The History of the Grand July 7 - 11

Participants will learn about the heritage of the Grand River, with emphasis on the work of the Grand River Conservation Authority and the Grand River Navigation Company. Visits to dikes, dams and canals will include trips to the Shand Dam in Fergus and an inside tour of the Guelph Lake Dam. They will also visit the Natural Resources Centre at Guelph Lake. With crafts, films and food, it will be a fun and educational week.

Students will visit local farms and learn what life is like on a modern farm. They will make folk art cows and other art projects, and jams and jellies and other down-home recipes that they can share with their families. A visit to the Ontario Agricultural Museum in Milton will finish up a week full of new experiences for most city kids.

City Mouse meets Country Mouse The History of Agriculture in Brant August 11 - 15

Artifakes Copy Cats from the Collection July 21 - 25

The children will have a backroom tour of the Museum and look at what is in the storage areas. They will be making copies of some of the artifacts in the collection. As they work, they will learn the history behind the artifacts. Food made with recipes from cookbooks in the collection, and historic slide shows will help to make this an appropriate Sesquicentennial summer event.

What old-time game was the most fun? Stilts, a parlour game, or a stick and ball game called "baseball"? Make and play with toys and games from an earlier time. Children will view a magic lantern

slide show, design building blocks, produce plays, make costumes and act out their own stories. What a great way to end the summer!

Ring Around the Rosie Children's Entertainment Through The Last Century August 18 - 22

Museum Clubs are designed for kids 5 to 12

All camps run Monday - Friday, 9:00 - 4:00

Half Days cost **\$10.00** Full Days **\$20.00**

10% discounts for BHS members
(Memberships start at \$15.00)

10% discounts for multiple children from the same family

Pre-registration is required!

To register, please call or visit the Museum & Archives at 57 Charlotte St., Brantford (752-2483) or The Museum in the Square in the Eaton Market Square (752-8578) and ask for Anne or Katherine.

B.H.S. HISTORICAL PUBLICATIONS

A History of Brant County & Its People:			
Vol. 1	\$14.95	Oakland Township	\$8.00
Vol. 2	15.95	Lewis Burwell's Diary of the Indian Surrender	8.00
Set of Vol. 1 & 2	22.50	Grand River Tract Assessment Rolls	
The Grand River Navigation Co.	21.95	1816, 1818-1822	5.95
St. George Continuation School	7.00	Grand River Tract Census	
Rural Schools of South Dumfries Township	8.00	1824, 1827, 1829, 1832	5.95
How Brantford Cooked	4.50	Directory of the Townships of Brant, 1880	10.00
A History of the Brantford Pottery	9.95	City of Brantford Municipal Directory, 1880	10.00
Brantford Arts & Entertainment	9.95	Irwin's Directory, 1883	10.00
From Automobiles to Washing Machines	9.95	City of Brantford Municipal Directory, 1883-86	8.00
A History of Mohawk Park	1.00	City of Brantford Directory, 1899-1900	15.00
Tuscarora Township	5.95	Wild Mammals of Southwestern Ontario	8.95
Brant County Place Names & List of Professionals and Trades, 1855	5.95		

B.H.S. Publications Order Form

TITLE	UNIT PRICE	QUANTITY	TOTAL PRICE

* Please ADD \$3.00 to cover the cost of postage. **ALL ORDERS ARE TO BE PREPAID!**

Ship to: NAME: _____
 ADDRESS: _____
 POSTAL CODE: _____ Telephone/FAX: _____

Please make cheque or money order payable to: **BRANT HISTORICAL SOCIETY**

Mail or bring to: **Brant County Museum & Archives**
57 Charlotte St., BRANTFORD, Ont. N3T 2W6

The Extinct Tribe: The Tutelo's

submitted by J. Files

***"In memory of
Old John Tutela
Who died March 6, 1888
Aged 100 years"***

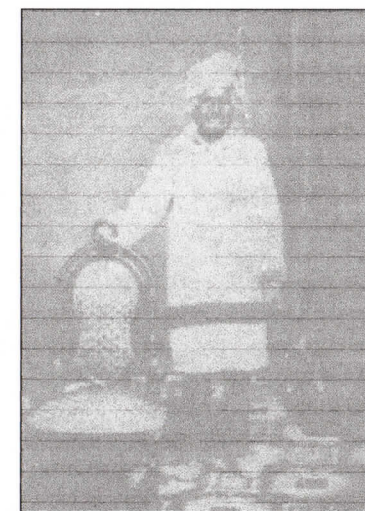
The above inscription is found upon the headstone of the last survivor of the Tutela race, in the little graveyard at the Cayuga Longhouse on the Six Nations Reserve. The deceased fought in the War of 1812 and was one of an Indian tribe that numbered at the time 500-600 souls. The tribe is now extinct, but it has a monument as endearing [sic] as the hills - Tutela Heights near the city of Brantford, the birthplace of the founder of the telephone, Alexander Graham Bell. [!]

The tribe was a branch of the Iroquois and settled about the beginning of the century on the heights now called "Tutela", where they peacefully resided before or after the war, though taking an active part in the struggle, fighting under General Isaac Brock.

Somewhere in the 1830's, cholera swept the quarter portion of the tribe, and afterwards visitation of smallpox left but two families. John Tutela was the last survivor of the unfortunate tribe bearing the name, though old John Key is a descendant and is still living on the Reserve.

Before the old man's death, he bequeathed a hickory stick, cut by himself at Queenston Heights in

1812, to Inspector Dingham, for whom he had profound respect. John Tutela died of old age on the 6th inst. Thursday, perished the last of the Tutelas.¹



Joseph Musketoe (Nikonha) ca. 1867

***"John Key
Nastabon (One Step)
Died March 23, 1898
78 years old"***

The Tutela's formerly lived in Virginia and North Carolina.

Lawson, a Scots and pioneer surveyor, published a book entitled "A new Voyage To Carolina", in which he described them as "tall, likely men, having great plenty of buffaloes, elks and bears, with every sort of deer amongst them, which strong food makes large robust bodies."

In 1712, Lawson was taken by the Indians and burned at the stake.

In their medicine lodges, the Tutelos are said to have had large quantities of pearls, which they had taken in war from among the southern tribes. They were constantly at war with the Powhatans. They had been nearly annihilated by the Iroquois when a peace was concluded, came under their protection. The remaining Chiefs were allowed to sit in the Great Council of Six Nations.

Upon settlement of the Tutelas upon the Grand River, the few remaining Tutelos came and located on "Tutela Heights", the "a" having been substituted for the final "o" by current local custom.

Of those who remained in the United States, the last survivor was "Nikonha", and he died in 1871.

"Nastabon" without kith or kin and with no other living person with whom he could converse in his own tongue, was record of himself and of his race is contained in this entry in the official book of the local department:

"Key, John. Age, 78 Died March 23, 1898"²

1. Brantford Weekly Expositor, March 28, 1888. p. 6

2. *History of the County of Brant*, F. Douglas Reville. p. 349-350

New Members

- ◆ Dr. William H. Minshall ◆ Don Boyle
- ◆ Larry Devine ◆ Mike Hand
- ◆ Robert Boerboom
- ◆ John D. Ayre

WELCOME!

HAVE YOU RENEWED?

Membership Benefits

A Brant Historical Society membership offers:

- ◆ free admission to the Brant County Museum & Archives, Bell Homestead and Myrtleville House Museum (excluding special events)
- ◆ exemption from regular research fees in our Archives
- ◆ bulletins about upcoming Museum activities
- ◆ subscription to the "B.H.S. Quarterly"
- ◆ discounts on Heritage Bus Tours, Children's Museum Club, and other programs
- ◆ 10% discount on Gift Shop purchases over \$10
- ◆ Memberships are Tax Deductible!

Renewing Members

- | | |
|----------------------------|----------------------------|
| ◆ Jim Bartlett | ◆ Cliff Jones & Debra Reid |
| ◆ Mrs. Mildred Biggar | ◆ Roby Keene |
| ◆ Bill Bowman | ◆ Margaret Lorenz |
| ◆ Cynthia Bunnell | ◆ Ann McRoden Mensch |
| ◆ Brian & Patricia Burgon | ◆ Mr. & Mrs. Ed Pancoe |
| ◆ Margaret Carrow | ◆ Bruce Pearce |
| ◆ Mr. & Mrs. Edwin Eason | ◆ Gilbert Pickering |
| ◆ Ken & Jean Elliott | ◆ Mr. & Mrs. A Robson |
| ◆ Jean Farquharson | ◆ Terry & Linda Smith |
| ◆ Robert Glass | ◆ Patricia Woodburn |
| ◆ Nora Hammill | ◆ Gladys Zimmerman |
| ◆ Bruce Hill | |
| ◆ Anne Howell | |
| ◆ Betty Ion | |
| ◆ Mary & Edward Jakub | |
| ◆ Dr. I. Jemnik | |
| ◆ John & Christine Johnson | |

*Thank you for your
continuing support!*

Corporate Members

The generous support from our Corporate Members allows us to continue developing quality exhibitions and community programs.

- ◆ Amoco Fabrics & Fibers Ltd.
- ◆ Boddy, Ryerson
- ◆ Cascades Dominion
- ◆ The Expositor
- ◆ S. C. Johnson & Son, Ltd.
- ◆ Raymond Industrial Equipment
- ◆ Sonoco Ltd.
- ◆ Wells, Young, Szak & Bobor

Thank You!

Brant Historical Society Membership Registration Form

Individual (\$15) Family (\$20) Patron (\$25) Benefactor (\$100) Corporate (\$250.00)

Additional Donation of \$ _____ Total Amount Enclosed \$ _____

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

CITY/PROVINCE/POSTAL CODE: _____

TELEPHONE: _____

Please make cheque payable to: **Brant Historical Society**

Mail or bring to: **Brant County Museum & Archives, 57 Charlotte St., Brantford, Ont. N3T 2W6**

BRANT COUNTY MUSEUM & ARCHIVES

57 Charlotte Street, Brantford, Ontario
(519) 752-2483

Admission:

Adults - \$2.00 Seniors/Students - \$1.50

Children - \$1.25 Under 6 - Free

BHS members - Free

Hours: Wednesday to Friday 10 to 4, Saturday 1 to 4 Open Holiday Mondays.

THE MUSEUM IN THE SQUARE

(A Satellite of the B.C.M.A.)

Second Level, Eaton Market Square, 1 Market
St. Brantford, Ontario (519) 752-8578

Admission by Voluntary Donation

Hours: Monday to Wednesday and Saturday 10 to 5:30, Thursday and Friday 10 to 9

"Mohawk Reporter: The Six Nations Columns of George Beaver" Review by Angela Files

Once again, the BHS Publications history of the Six Nations and Loft Musical Group are acknowledged in Committee is pleased to announce Mississaugas along the Grand River. separate columns. that the splendid collection of the George Beaver, a Mohawk columnist, Every year, my husband and I are columns of George Beaver is available to introduces us to the various aspects of invited to the Bread and Cheese Day on the public. native life, culture and heritage in his Reserve. This old tradition, introduced by

In 1993, the BHS published "A View From An Indian Reserve", a collection of in Long House Services," Chief Clinton Queen Victoria to show her gratitude to the columns that he had written for The Rickard Helped Open Border to Indians," native people, is explained clearly in one Brantford Expositor over the previous few Many Native Languages Face Extinction," column. The writing should make us years. It quickly sold out. and "Ancient Legend Explains Iroquois realize that thankfulness to our Creator should be just as important in our lives as

Four years later, Beaver's works, in an Burial Rites." showing our fellow humans that we expanded and updated edition, are In his writings, George Beaver takes appreciate their kindness and presented in "Mohawk Reporter: The Six pride in the achievements of his people. understanding toward us.

The records of athletes Stan Jonathan, Norman "Trump" General and Tom "Mohawk Reporter: The Six Nations

When the reader opens the pages of Longboat are honoured. Captain Joseph Columns of George Beaver". 200 pages, the book "Iroquois Reporter" he or she will Brant and his sister Molly Brant, poet 134 maps and illustrations. \$14.95 feel that they are taking a walk through the Pauline Johnson, Rev. Peter Jones and the Available at both of the BHS Gift Shops.

COPYRIGHT INFORMATION

The copyright on all articles and submissions contained in the "B.H.S. Quarterly" is vested with the authors. Permission to use any article or submission in whole or in part must be obtained from the authors. Authors can be contacted through:

The Brant Historical Society, 57 Charlotte St., Brantford, Ont. N3T 2W6

Phone: 519-752-2483 E-Mail: bcma@bfree.on.ca

Happenings

June

"From Seed to Harvest: A Massey-Harris 150th Anniversary Exhibition"

Exhibition

June 7 - August 30, 1997

at the Museum in the Square,
Eaton Market Square

A celebration of the 150th anniversary of the founding of the Massey Manufacturing Company, and of Massey's place in the history of Brant County.

Grand Opening on June 21.

<M-H>

"The Norwich & District Museum/ B.H.S. Volunteer Appreciation Night"

Wed. June 18, at the Norwich & District Museum,
Stover St. (Hwy. 59), Norwich

Our volunteers are invited to join us for beef-on-a-bun at 6:00 P.M. as we recognize them for their many hours of valuable assistance. All BHS members then welcome for a 7:00 P.M. guided tour of this outstanding local history museum with curator Ian Bell.

July

"Cruising Down the River"

Summer Museum Club

July 7 - 11, 1997

Children will learn about the history of the Grand River, one of Canada's Heritage Rivers, with trips to dams, dikes and canals. Pre-registration required. See page 7 for details.

"ARTIFAKES"

Summer Museum Club

July 21 - 25, 1997

In a behind-the-scenes tour of the Museum, children can see what's in the storage areas. They can make copies of some of the artifacts, learning the history behind them. Pre-registration required. See page 7 for details.

August

"City Mouse Meets Country Mouse"

Summer Museum Club

August 11 - 15, 1997

Visiting local farms, folk art crafts and a visit to the Ontario Agricultural Museum will make this a great week of new experiences. Pre-registration required. See page 7 for details.

"Ring Around The Rosie"

Summer Museum Club

August 18 - 22, 1997

Kids can decide for themselves which old-time game was the most fun. Was it stilts, baseball, or par-lour games? They can watch a magic lantern show, design build-

ing blocks, and act and produce their own plays. Pre-registration required. See page 7 for details.

September

"BHS Annual Yard Sale"

Fund-Raiser

September 6, 1997 at 8:00 A.M.

57 Charlotte Street, Brantford

Starting in mid-August, please drop your donations and gently-used treasures off at the Museum during business hours.

"Hotels & Taverns"

Exhibition

Sept. 13 - Nov. 29, 1997

The Museum in the Square

Recalling the numerous gathering places, famous and infamous, in the community's past.

"A Look at the Law"

BHS Lecture Series

Wed. Sept. 17, at the Brant County Museum and Archives, 57 Charlotte St., Brantford

Brantford lawyer Robert McIntosh QC will reflect on his experience in local legal practice over the past five decades.

"The 2nd Annual BHS Antique Show & Sale"

Fund-raising Event

Nov. 14 - 16, at the Sanderson Centre for the Performing Arts, Downtown Brantford

The 1927 Special Edition of the Brantford Expositor by Ken Strachan

For the local history enthusiast, one of the greatest treasures of Brantford and district information is the handsome Anniversary Number of the Brantford Expositor, produced in 1927.

Over the years, both The Expositor and its long-time rival, The Courier, produced a number of special editions. But there's nothing quite like the 146 page special, printed on fine glossy paper, that The Expositor had printed to mark

"... the Hundredth Anniversary of the selection of the name Brantford, in honor of Brant's ford, for the then village, the Fiftieth Anniversary of its incorporation as a city, and the Seventy-fifth of the founding of The Expositor. Contemporaneously with these local anniversaries occurs the Diamond Jubilee of Confederation."

One of the two principal writers was F. D. Reville, who in 1920 had produced his splendid two-volume "The History of Brant County". Reville had no qualms about recycling some of this material for The Expositor's special edition. For instance, in the book there is a lush description of the bounty of the Grand River, which once contained "... vast varieties of fish on which the cormorant and the gull feasted ..." Seven years later, we meet the same feasting cormorants and gulls.

Reville also quoted himself in a reference to Cully, arguably the most famous dog in local history. Another contributor to the 1927 story gave more detail:

"A story of the firemen of early times would not be complete without reference to a white bull dog named "Cully", owned by William E. Walsh, who in those days had a tobacco shop on Market Street, opposite the Market Square. At the first strike of the fire bell the dog would race madly to the fire hall and do his best to get a reel in motion by tugging on the rope. He was naturally a great favorite with citizens generally."

The same anonymous writer also

fondly recalled that:

"It was about this time that Brantford's first and most popular fire horse, "Charlie", was installed into the service, with the late Jimmie Hill as driver. The little bay, however, was also used on corporation work, and had to be hurried to the hall whenever an alarm was received." This is the sort of first-hand detail that makes local history come alive. Thanks to the 1927 edition, we can envisage Cully and Charlie, the white bull dog and the bay horse, teaming up to serve and protect the town of Brantford.

In the pages of the souvenir number, we meet George H. Wilkes "residing at 138 Chatham Street, and who in June of this year celebrates his 91st birthday." He had vivid memories of Brantford around the time it became a town, 80 years previously.

"I well remember," he remarked, "when the stage coaches used to pull up at a frame hotel situated on the corner of Colborne and Market streets. ... The coaches were drawn by four horses and they were magnificent animals, matched to the last hair of their tails. The coachmen were always imposing looking men, dressed to the last detail in the driving outfits of the day, and they were by far the most important individuals to come in and out of the community."

The special edition is profusely

Give him a shave, and you could stuff a pillow!

illustrated, and the photographs of the leading men of the day - in 1927 - and of earlier prominent citizens are an education. It's largely a matter of hair and shaving. In the 1920's, almost all the young go-getters are clean-shaven. Older members of the various civic boards have neat moustaches. But go back a generation or two, and the Victorian gentlemen have

They have beards, some of them altogether obscuring their cravats. They have great walrus moustaches. They have, a few of them, thick muttonchop whiskers. W. B. Wood, one of the outstanding political orators of his day, nicknamed "Big Thunder", had two great puffs of white hair cascading from below the ears to the upper chest. Give him a shave, and you could stuff a pillow! These long side whiskers worn without a beard were known as dundrearies, after Lord Dundreare, a lavishly bewhiskered comic character in a popular stage play of the late 1850's, "Our American Cousin."

There are hundreds of these evocative items in this utterly fascinating and truly special edition of The Expositor.

And then there are the advertisements, one of the most attractive showing a smart young woman of the 1920's with a Johnson's Wax Electric Floor Polisher..

There is a promotional piece for William A Ross, local representative of the manufacturers and distributors of Hudson-Essex automobiles.

"... Inside the cars, the instrument board is newly designed so as to group all instruments, including a gasoline gauge, in a neat panel, indirectly lighted. All metal trim is colour-finished to match the upholstery, which is of fine quality mohair and velour. Hardware is of new and pleasing design. All closed cars have dome lights, parking lights, curtains, pockets and other conveniences. Custom-built cars are richly appointed with smoking sets, assist cords, arm rest, and many other niceties and refinements."

Again and again, it is the vivid detail, the little human touches, that make this edition such a delight to browse through. And yes, the 1927 Souvenir Number is one of the accessible treasures of the Brant County Museum & Archives, as is the old bell that summoned Cully, Charlie and the other firefighters.