

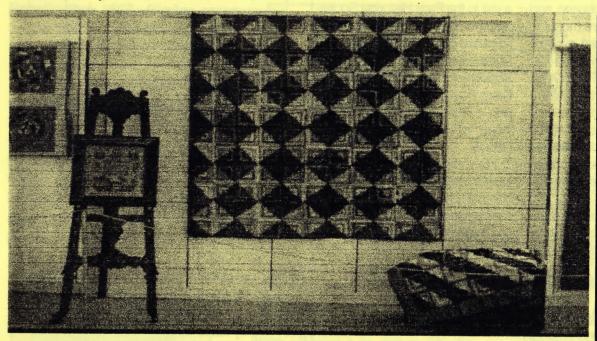
BHS Quarterly

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From Log Cabins to Yo-Yos; An airing of Quilts, Coverlets & Samplers from the Brant Historical Society & Harrison M. Scheak Collections

Submitted by Elizabeth Hunter



Quilts on exhibit at the Museum in the Square

The Brant County Museum will be exhibiting a selection of its most interesting quilts, coverlets and samplers at the Museum in the Square in Brantford's Market Square Mall until January 2, 1999.

continued on p.4

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Log Cabins to Yo-Yos by Elizabeth Hunter cover story

President's Reflection by Robert Deboer p. 2

The Formation of Coloured Companies during the 1837 Rebellion by Angela Files p.3

The Mush Hole by Angela Files p. 7

President's Reflections

t just seems like yesterday that we toured Chiefswood, the home of native poetess Pauline Johnson, during our June membership meeting and Volunteer Appreciation Dinner. The tumout for the dinner and the tour was excellent, no doubt in response to our dedicated telephone committee headed up by John Johnson and John Bonfield. We were most fortunate to be able to take our tour the day prior to Chiefswood official opening. The Curator, Paula Whitlow, and her staff are to be commended for their expertise in conducting the tour and we wish them every success now that the site has re-opened. The restoration work has been well done and not a moment too soon.

I would also like to take this opportunity to thank Elizabeth, Sonia and Debbie for making the evening the success that it was and to everyone who provided the variety of salads, desserts, that made the dinner enjoyable feast that it was. With the tour being done in small groups, which occupied my time, I appreciated the staff distributing the Volunteer Appreciation Certificates.

With summer over, our new season is well under way with the staff having much of their time occupied with outreach programs to schools and the community.

Our monthly membership meetings began in September with a visit to the Paris Historical Society and the Paris Fire Hall. Mr. Fred Bemrose gave us a wonderful tour of the displays that the Historical Society exhibits. Former Fire Chief Doug Foulds ended the evening with a fascinating talk on his 40 years of fire fighting in Brant County.

Currently at our Market Square location, the museum staff has set up an excellent Quilt Display. Be sure to see this exhibit which will be on display until January.

Robert Deborr

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

The Museum is once again looking for dedicated people to help with a variety of projects.

X-MAS PROGRAM ASSISTANT

Do you enjoy baking and children? The museum may have just the job for you. We are looking for volunteers to assist museum staff with baking gingerbread cookies during our Christmas programming and to assist some of our smaller visitors with making them.

GIFT SHOP ASSISTANT

With the Christmas season fast approaching, the museum staff is looking for people to help staff the gift shop at the Market Square Mall. If you can spare an afternoon or a morning or a whole day, please let Museum staff know.

If you can help with any of these projects please call the museum at 752-2483.

Training for these volunteer projects will be provided by staff. Become involved in your community Museum!

Brant Historical Society Board of Directors President: Robert Deboer

Past President: Ruth Lefler Vice-Presidents: Glenn Gillis, Robert Glass Secretary: Margaret Glass Treasurer: Julie Gillis

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George Beaver John Bonfield Angela Files Hank Hedges John Johnson Gloria Neamtu David Partridge Wayne Townson Anne Westaway

Page 2

The Formation of Coloured Companies During The Rebellion of 1837 in Upper Canada

Submitted by Angela Files

During the War of 1812, "Coloured Corps" 1, segregated militia units were formed under the command of white officers to defend the borders of Upper and Lower Canada. "Both freemen and slaves fought for the British and were rewarded land and freedom for their distinguished service" 2.

At the onslaught of The Rebellion of 1837, Blacks again volunteered to protect their liberty and new found rights in Upper Canada.

In November, 1837, Black companies were officially formed. More Blacks were encouraged to volunteer for military services! Blacks were among the most reliable troops for service on the frontier because they saw the Republican Americans as enemies who permitted slavery.

On December 11, 1837, Thomas Runchey of Niagara formed



William Lyon Mackenzie

a corps of Blacks. Four days later James Sears had fifty volunteer coloured men under his command. On the night of Dec. 29, 1837. these military units of Runchey's and Sear's while guarding the Niagara River, saw the supply ship "The Caroline" sail for Navy Island, the headquarters of escaped leader William Lyon Mackenzie. The body of Canadian Militia under Captain Drew succeeded in cutting out The Carolina and setting it on fire.



Rev. Josiah Henson

Rev. Josiah Henson, ex-slave, founder of the Dawn Settlement, Commanded a company of Black volunteers who were part of the Essex County Militia. This company returned fire on the rebel schooner Anne causing it to drift to Elliott's Point. "The Ship's crew were made prisoners and the vessel and contents became a prize of war." 3

Fort Malden, a Canadian defense garrison, south of Windsor was defended by the local militias and "repelled four attempts of "the Patriot" filibusters to invade Canada on the Detroit River frontier" Rev. Josiah Henson's unit assisted in defending Fort Malden from Dec. 1837 to May 1838. Captain Caldwell's Coloured Corps of 123

Blacks were stationed at Fort Malden for two months.

As early as Dec. 18, 1837, the Blacks of Hamilton formed a company under Captain William Allen, Lieutenant Leonard Mead and Sergeant John Tory. They helped Col. Sir Allan MacNab's militia disperse Dr. Charles Duncombe's followers.

The Independent Coloured Companies established by December, 1838, listed in Toronto Almanac and Royal Calendar of Upper Canada, 1839 are as follows:

Coloured Corps, Chatham 2 companies

- Capt. George Multlebury
 (or Muttlebury)
- 2. Capt. J. B. Ferrior (or Perrier)

First Coloured Corps. Niagara Frontier (2 companies) Commander Major Richard B. Webbe

- 1. Capt. Joseph B. Clench
- 2. Capt. A. C. Hamilton

By the spring of 1839, the threat of the rebellion had passed and slowly coloured units were disbanded. Some units were kept in service for road construction or as "a local police force during the construction of the Welland Canal."5 In 1842, Captain Cameron's Company was Chatham's main firing force which prevented a fire spreading throughout the community.

continued on p.11

From Log Cabins to Yo-Yos

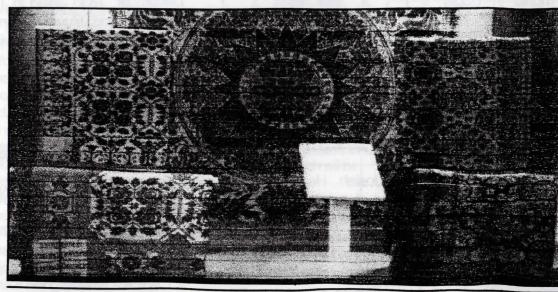
Submitted by Elizabeth Hunter

continued from cover

The earliest quilts in the exhibit were made in Brant County during the nineteenth Made from small century. pieces of left over or recycled fabric their primary purpose was to provide warm inexpensive Nevertheless the bedding. women who made them took care in the selection and arrangement of their scraps.

quilts made of silks and velvets became fashionable. Flower Garden and Crazy quilts were among the most popular patterns. All were assembled from many small pieces and frequently were embellished with embroidery. Often made out of scraps left from sewing projects or salvaged from worn out clothing, these works

section is a crazy incorporating printed ribbons commemorating events such as the Buck Stove Works and the Waterous Employees Annual Excursions and the Ancient Order of Foresters' High Court Demonstrations. Another quilt is of particular interest because it was made by Eliza Field Jones, the wife of the Ojibawa



Coverlets from the Scheak Collection on display at the Museum in the Square

Quilting provided an outlet for artistic expression and the finished quilts brought a welcome touch of colour and pattern to their homes. Familiar patterns such as Bow Tie, Log Cabin and Eight Pointed Star display a good selection of the printed cottons available before the introduction of aniline dves in the late nineteenth century.

Around 1880 elaborate

evoked memories of family. friends and the special occasions when the clothing was worn. They were intended more as a showcase of a woman's needlework skills than as utilitarian bedding. They were often used as table covers, throws on a sofa or as a bedspread which would be removed at night.

One of the treasures of this household arts.

missionary Reverend when Eliza was living among River mission, instructing girls in religion and European

Peter Jones. A silk mosaic quilt constructed using the pieced paper technique, reflects Eliza's upbringing in a wealthy English mercantile family. However the quilt was made in the 1840s, the Mississauga at the Credit

Woven coverlets were with another form of warm bed covering popular in nineteenth century Ontario. Seventeen coverlets from the Harrison M. Scheak collection are display. These include a grouping of overshot coverlets geometric designs woven on a multi-shaft loom. Some could have been woven in the home, while others were the work of professional weavers. Regardless, they were a prized possession and were often specifically noted in wills. Assembled together, they make an impresive display of colour

Fall 1998

and pattern.

A second grouping are the jacquard coverlets. In 1806 Joseph-Marie Jacquard, inventor from Lyons, perfected a mechanism which could be added to a standard loom to enable one person to weave "figured" material (any design which could not be produced on a geometric grid). Previously such materials had been woven on a draw loom. These were complex machines which required at least two people to operate, one to weave and one or more to pull up the warp threads to make the pattern. With Jacquard's invention a series of punched cards controlled the lifting of the warp threads.

This mechanism was introduced to Canada in 1834. From that date until the end of the First World War a small number of professional weavers supplied an extensive clientele

elaborate pictorial coverlets. These were referred to as "fancy" coverlets in the advertisments of the day. Jacquard coverlets were usually made to order with clients selecting colours and the combination of pattern elements and borders. The name of the client, weaver or pattern, and the date and place of manufacture, were often woven into a corner block. Many weavers employed a pictographic signature such as a star, or a garland of flowers. The Scheak collection contains examples of the work of many of the known Ontario jacquard coverlet weavers. connection between weavers who retired, selling their loom and stock of patterns to another can even be illustrated. The degree of personal information which is available about the owners and makers of these coverlets adds to their appeal.

The samplers included in the show provide a similar glimpse into the lives of individuals which might otherwise have passed largely undocumented. these are the earliest works in the exhibit, dating from 1745 to 1855. These were completed by young girls around the age of eight or ten, at the same time they were learning to read and write. A common element is the alphabet cross stitched in upper and lower case, as well as the child's name and the date. They also frequently contain verse which provided

moral instruction. The philosophy behind these works is exemplified by the passage which was set for Mary Ann Ardens to stitch:

Jesus permit thy gracious name to stand As the first efforts of an an infants hand... And while her fingers on the canvas move, Engage her tender thoughts to seek thy love With thy dear children let her have a part and write thy name thyself upon her heart

The very act of sewing a sampler instilled patience and taught perseverance. characteristics considered desirable in young women.

A signature quilt created by the Women's Auxiliary of the John H. Stratford Hospital continues the theme of names recorded for posterity by textiles. Over 1,500 individuals paid ten cents each in 1906 to have their names embroidered onto both sides of the quilt. The names are arranged in blocks, by company, providing a snapshot of Brantford's leading manufacturers of the day. This illustrates piece another traditional function of quilts, that of providing women's organizations with a means to raise funds for worthy causes. In this instance the goal was to build a nurses' residence for the hospital, a project which was completed in 1912.

The most recent group of quilts in the exhibit date from

continued on p.11

Page 5

CHRISTMAS PROGRAMS FOR THE WHOLE FAMILY AT THE BRANT COUNTY MUSEUM

Visions of Sugar-Plums
A Workshop in Victorian Christmas Decorations for Adults
Saturday November 28, 10 am - 4 p.m.
\$15 / person

Before the Christmas rush takes hold, spend a relaxing day with the staff of the Brant County Museum exploring the traditions of a Victorian Christmas. We will learn the art of quilling and make a delicate Christmas tree ornament, whip up a batch of Sugar-plums, that famous Victorian treat, and make a cornucopia to carry them home. Pick up tips on the construction of other simple traditional decorations such as swags, kissing boughs and apple trees. Your friends will think you have turned into Martha Stewart!



Bring your own lunch, spiced cider (and recipes) will be provided.

Staff have 20 years combined experience working in (and decorating) heritage homes.

Please register in advance by calling 752-2483.

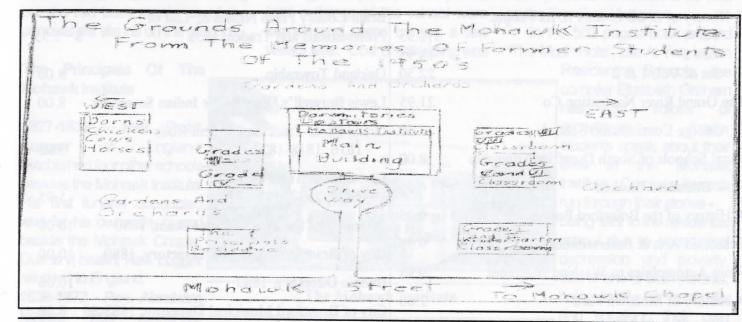
Santa's Workshop Friday December 4th, 9 a.m. - 4 p.m. Ages 6-12 \$20 / child

Only 17 shopping days to Christmas, but you can beat the rush by coming to Santa's Workshop to make a mystery gift suitable for parents or grandparents. We will also make a stencilled bag to take your present home and keep it a secret from nosy adults. If your parents just can't wait until Christmas, you can give them an evergreen swag which we will decorate, to hang on their door. Santa's helpers will enjoy baking and eating Christmas cookies after all their hard work.

Bring your own lunch.

Please register in advance by calling 752-2483

The Mush Hole or The Mohawk Indian Resedential School, Mohawk Street, Brantford Ontario
Submitted by Angela Files



Plan of the Mohawk Institute

The appellation "Mush Hole" was given to both the Mohawk Institute, Brantford and The Elgin Indian Residential School on the Muncey Reserve by the former residential pupils. Generations of children were fed an overcooked porridge of thick glue-like commeal or oatmeal once or several times a

Fall 1998

To the tune of the hymn 'There's A Green Hill Far Away', the children of the Mohawk Institute sang these words:

There is a boarding school far far away
Where we get mush 'n' milk three times a day
O how the huskies ran!
When they hear the dinner bell
O how the huskies run
Three times a day
In the past days students

Page 7

were strapped for singing the above song, speaking their own aboriginal languages, running away, fighting and playing together and even small misdemeanors which irritated some staff members.

Although the Mohawk Institute was closed on June 1970 due to high operating costs and dwindling enrolment, the history of the school still haunts the community nearly three decades later.

Mohawk Institute 1831

The inscription on the plaque in front of the main building reads as follows:

"The Mohawk Institute was the first residential school in Canada to complete one hundred years of service to the Indian people. It had its origin in a day school founded in 1826 by the New England Company, organized as early 1649

in England to provide religious instruction for the Indians of the American Colonies.

In 1827, the Company sent the Rev. Robert Lugger as its first resident missionary to Upper Canada. Under his direction the Institute was established and from its inception in 1831, offered academic and vocational training to children of the Six Nations Reserve. In 1858, a new building was constructed but this was destroyed by fire in 1903. In the following year the present building was erected."

The Dept. of Indian Affairs and Northern Development deeded the building to Six Nations band council in November 1971. Today, the Woodland Cultural Centre, extensive library and language centre have replaced the

continued on p.9

B.H.S. HISTORICAL PUBLICATIONS

A History of Brant County & Its People:		Brant County Place Names & List of		
Vol. 1	\$15.95		\$ 5	5.95
Vol. 2	14.95			
Set of Vol. 1 & 2	22.50	Oakland Township	8	3.00
The Grand River Navigation Co.	21.95	Lewis Burwell's Diary of the Indian Surrender	8	3.00
St. George Continuation School	7.00	Grand River Tract Assessment Rolls		
Rural Schools of South Dumfries Township	8.00	1816, 1818-1822	5	.95
How Brantford Cooked	4.50	Grand River Tract Census		
A IT-		1824, 1827, 1829, 1832	5	.95
A History of the Brantford Pottery	9.95	Directory of the Townships of Brant, 1880	10	.00
Brantford Arts & Entertainment	9.95	City of Brantford Municipal Directory, 1880	10	.00
From Automobiles to Washing Machines	9.95			
A History of Maharah Bada		Irwin's Directory, 1883	10.	.00
A History of Mohawk Park	2.00	City of Brantford Municipal Directory, 1883-86	8.	.00
Tuscarora Township	5.95	City of Brantford Directory, 1899-1900		.00
Brantford City Directory 1910	16.00	Wild Mammals of Southwestern Ontario	8.	.95

B.H.S. Publications Order Form

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57 Charlotte St., BRANTFORD, Ont. N3T 2W6

Brant Historical Society

Page 8

"Mush Hole" continued from p.7

Fall 1998

classrooms, bedrooms and barns. but the red brick residence of the principal still stands on the grounds.

The Principals Of The Mohawk Institute

1827-1836 - Rev. Robt of Lugger England. established four other schools besides the Mohawk Institute. His first funeral conducted was for his own wife, buried beside the Mohawk Chapel. Due to ill health, Rev. Lugger returned to England.

1836-1872 - Rev. Abraham Nelles, was appointed

Missionary for Indian work. He encouraged students to further their education by attending Grammar School and Colleges. In 1869. Jonah Carpenter, Helen Johnson, Henry Johnson, Jemina Maracle and Nelles Monture were sent to Hellmuth College, London. Rev. Isaac Barefoot became an ordained Anglican clergyman.

1872-199 - Rev. Robt. Ashton, an Englishman. During his time the school board was appointed (1878). pupils were accepted from other reserves (1855), scholarships of \$25.00 were awarded. Cadet Corp was organized(1869). On April 10, total buildings of the school were burned and barns burned a few weeks later. Cost of rebuilding was

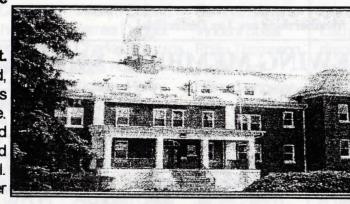
Farm products continued to be sold on the Brantford Market.

In the 502 paged book entitled "The Mush Hole". Life At Two Indian

Residential Schools, the compiler Elizabeth Graham has 33 voices experience. former students speak about their lives in the Mohawk Institute. Common threads run through their stories being sent to the residential school due to economical depression and poverty. loss of one or both parents: being lonely for family life and speaking their own

native languages; older boys being hungry in the struggling 20's and 30's and visiting city dumps for additional food; wanting someone to be able to talk with in their isolated state. Many enjoyed their Sunday walks to the Mohawk Chapel for divine service, special days and treats at Easter and Christmas, attending movies in Brantford, and singing in local Musical Festivals.

One former student stated 'The Mush Hole" never replaced the humble setting of my home nor the love of devoted parents."



The Mohawk Institute

1911-1914 - A. Nelles-Ashton, son

of Rev. Robt. Ashton. He joined up

1918-1922 - Ann Boyce - interim

1922-1929 - Mr. Sydney Rogers -

detailed reports about the social

1929-1945 - Rev. Horace Snell -

stressed discipline, health factors.

qualified teachers, extension of

classrooms, health centre: etc.

Canon

better

desired

\$33,000.

principal.

for The Great War.

aspects of the Institute.

further training of school.

1945-1970 -

Zimmerman.

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 am to 4 pm, Sunday 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 Friday 10 am to 6:00 pm. Saturday 10 am to 5:30 pm

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 ENDOWMENT FUND

Ken and Jean Elliot Dan and June Spence Mary Harding and Rose Bridges

NEW MEMBERS

Ruth O'Hara Robert Lynch

CORPORATE SPONSORS

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

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The Brant Historical Endowment Fund is one of the ways in which we can ensure a viable future for the Society and the Museum. The fund currently holds \$79,000, up from \$61,000 at the end of 1997. We thank the following donors for their generous recent contributions to the Endowment fund: In Memory of Diane MacMillan

Brant Historical Society

Susan Twist

In Memory of Harvey Cockshutt Baker

Mary Stedman

In-Memory of Madeline Valcoff Marilyn McDonald

In Memory of Mike Nagle

Linda, Terry, Shasta & Kyla Smith

In Memory of Agnes Campbell

Linda, Terry, Shasta & Kyla Smith

In Memory of Margaret Marr **Brant Historical Society**

Pat & Bob Hasler

Patricia Whetstone Ruth Stedman

Fall 1998

K. Georgie Baxter Ruth & Morley Lefler

Douglas & Marilyn Cross

Brant Historical Society Membership Registration Form

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Fall 1998

Coloured Companies continued from p.3

By studying numerous military reels Roger Sharpe a member of the Brant Historical Society has discovered the following list of The Brantford Light Infantry (Coloured Company). This is new historical information so we would appreciate any additional facts about this company of the Rebellion of 1837.

Brantford Light Infantry (Coloured Company)

Return And Acquittance Roll of Abraham Grenny Captain Company (November 1838)

Source: Reel B 2976 Page W.O.13, Volume 3675, National Archives of Canada, Ottawa

Roger Sharpe, Paris, Ontario.

Names of Brantford Light Infantry (Coloured Company) Members

Officers:

Captain: Abraham Grenny

Lieutenant: William K. Kirby

Sergeants:

Abraham Johnston

Lewis Logan

JamesThomas, Jnr.

Corporals:

John Francis

Samuel A. Jones

Stephen Parker

Samuel Stevens John Van Pater Jnr.

Paymaster: James Muirhead

Privates:

Isaac Bird Stephen Parker William Brown James Richmond James Carpenter James Robertson William Colbert Samuel Stevens James Daggot Vincent Sutter Charles Edwards Philip Thompson John Francis Jacob Top George Henry Henry Vanpater Prince Hill John Vanpater Alexander Hunter James Walker Abraham Johnson Gorden Waine Samuel A. Jones John William Robert Lancaster Charles Wilson Archibald Lewis James Wilson Jesse Miles Samuel Wright

Endnotes:

- 1. "Coloured Corp" the adjective "coloured" was used in early Canadian History to denote the Negro race and the noun "corps" referred to a military unit of ground combat forces consisting of two or more divisions and other troops. A Company is a subdivision of a regiment or battalion.
- 2. Ontario Black Historical Society, "A Proud Past, A Promising Future. Teacher's Guide, 1986, p. 14.
- 3. Hill G. Daniel, "The Freedom Seekers", Blacks in Early Canada, 1981, p. 118.
- "Canadianna", Vol 1, p. 153.
- Ontario Black History Society. A Proud Past, A Promising Future". Teacher's Guide, 1986, p.14

From Log Cabins to Yo-Yos continued form p.5

B.H.S. Quarterly

the 1930s and 1940s, and will have sentimental appeal for many visitors who grew up with the appliqué designs of Sunbonet Sue and Colonial Lady. A miniature guilt is displayed in a delightful spool doll's bed which belonged to Sarah Jeannette Duncan, who became well known as a iournalist and novelist. The final quilt in this section is composed of gathered circles of material stitched together. A fashion of the time this type of quilt took its name from another twentieth century fad, the yo-yo.

The exhibit "From Log to Yo-Yos' Cabins encompases two centuries of textile traditons. These works provide tangible evidence of past lives, a glimpse into the everyday world of ancestors. However, the show is first and foremost a celebration of the technical skill and the richness of colour and design of these utilitarian works.

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

Page 11

Brant Historical Society

HAPPENINGS

September

Exhibition

"From Log Cabins to Yo-Yos; An Airing of Quilts, Coverlets and Samplers from the Brant Historical Society and Harrison M. Scheak Collections" September 4 1998 - January 2, 1999

The Museum in the Square

Come to the Museum in the Square this fall and experience the world of quilts, coverlets and samplers.

November

BHS Lecture Series

"Reminisences of a World War II Bomber Pilot"

Wed. November 18, 1998 8pm at the Brant County Museum 57 Charlotte St., Brantford Owen Williams, an RCAF veteran who completed a tour of operational flights over enemy territory, will recount the experienc of flying high in the famous Sterling and Lancaster bombers during the last great war.

Adult Workshop Visions of Sugar-Plums Saturday November 28, 1998 10 am - 4 p.m. \$15 / person at the Brant County Museum 57 Charlotte St., Brantford

A Workshop in Victorian Christmas Decorations for Adults.

See newsletter for more details.

December

Winter Museum Club Santa's Workshop Friday December 4th, 1998 9 a.m. - 4 p.m. Ages 6-12 \$20 / child

See Newsletter for details

BHS Lecture Series

"BHS Christmas Open House"
Wed.December 16, 1998 8pm
at the Brant County Museum
57 Charlotte St., Brantford

Join us as we celebrate the holiday season with Ken Strachan, editor emeritus of the Brantford Expositor, who will provide a glimpse into local festive activites of a century ago.

NEW AT THE GIFT SHOP

BOOKS "Quilting: Celebrating an American Legacy" A must for all quilters!

"Historic Communities"
A series of children's books exploring 19th century life.
All books have great craft and activity ideas.

"Grand River Conservation Authority Books"

Always an excellent idea for a gift are any of the books from the Grand River Conservation Authority. Don't miss the new book "44 Country Trails"

Quilt pattern coasters, gift wrap and gift labels. An ideal gift for the quilter in your life or for yourself!

Antique Lace Christmas Ornaments

Hand crafted, these beautiful ornaments would be a wonderful addition to any Christmas tree.

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