



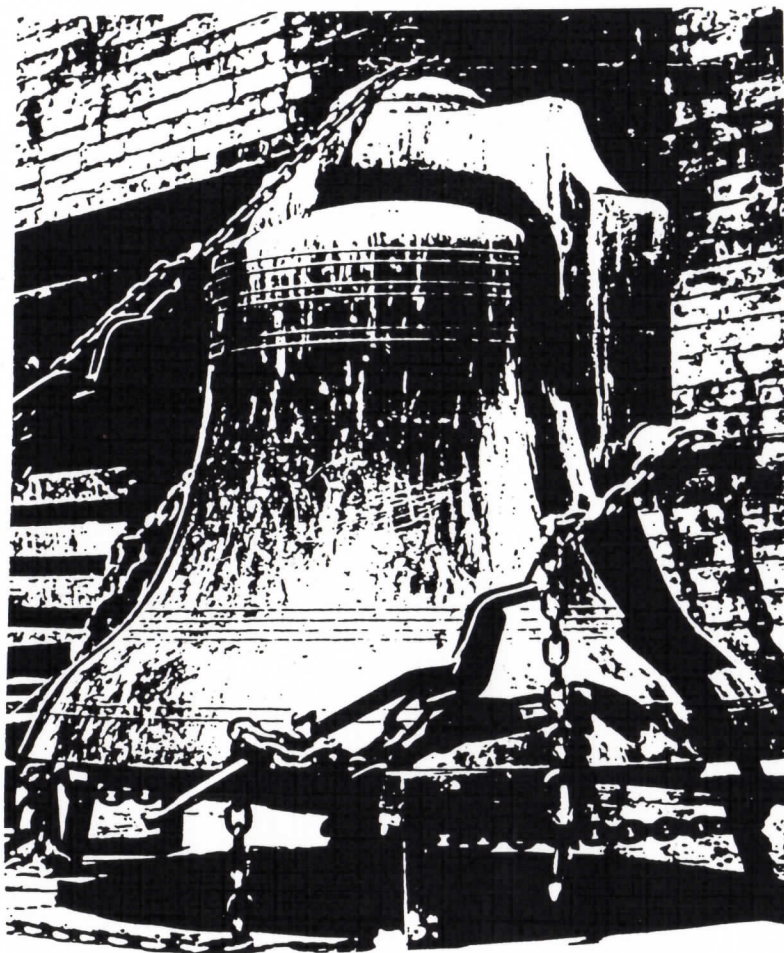
BHS Quarterly



Brant Historical Society 2000 ISSN 1201-4028
Celebrating Ninety - Two Years of Preserving Local History

A Celebration of Bells

By Ruth Lefler
(See page 3)



On p. 8, Robert Deboer's article:
*A Memorial to
E. Pauline Johnson*

Inside This Issue:

President's Reflections
Robert Glass

2

*Victoria Square:
An Attractive Landmark of Brantford*
Angela Files

5

* *BHS Historical
Publications*

7

* *Gift Shop*

10

* *Membership*

11

* *Happenings*

12

President's Reflections

Once upon a time, not so long ago, in a place not so far away, there lived a lovely lady. This lovely lady was a member of our Historical Society, and, being of a certain age, she was therefore concerned with the disposition of her worldly goods when it became her time to depart this earthly vale. This concern caused her to purchase an insurance policy.

"But halt," you cry, "there is nought so special in that! We all have insurance policies to ease the burden on our loved ones when we pass away!"

But lo! This was a special insurance policy. For behold, the Historical Society is to benefit in a goodly amount when, in the fullness of time, it shall come to pass that our lovely lady shall be with us no more. But in the meantime, she shall have the benefit of a charitable tax receipt for the amount of the premiums, for in her great generosity, she will cause these premiums to be paid.

To abandon our whimsy for a more practical approach, this is what can be termed a 'win-win' situation. The Endowment Fund of the Historical Society has been assigned an insurance policy, of the face value, to be paid to us. The donor will continue to pay the premiums and will be issued a charitable tax receipt for the amount of the premiums. Therefore, as a result of this, she gets the benefit of the tax credit, while also the satisfaction of making a bequest to an organization she obviously values, and without that bequest triggering probate.
Robert Glass

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A Celebration of Bells

By Ruth Lefler

What better way to celebrate the year of the millennium than by the pealing of bells.

Rev. William H. Brackney, one of the honorary pastors at First Baptist Church, Brantford, on the first Sunday of Advent, 1999, gave a most interesting sermon about bells. The following is an excerpt:

"Hear those bells? That would have been a regular and routine sound throughout our days and communities a thousand years ago. Before town clocks, grandfather clocks, and digital timepieces, there were the bells. One ordered one's day by the bells. . . Six to eight watches per day were set by the clergy, church wardens, and teams of bell-ringers, as time was reckoned by observing the position of the sun, the stars and the zodiac. Whether in the fields plowing or in a shop bent over a workbench, or at home over a kettle, you knew what the time was by the sound of church bells.

As the days of autumn grew shorter, in medieval Europe church bells tolled the watches from day break to the supper hour, times of gathering in herds and crops, as well as special rites of alarm and interest to the community . . . As the weeks, months and years went by, Christians were reminded of God's providence through the tolling of the bells and the changing of the seasons."

Thus throughout the first millennium the sounds of bells sent out many messages. These

sounds reached the daily lives of the people of Brantford and Brant County.

Many bells were manufactured in England and shipped to Canada however, in Ontario, The Scotland Foundry Works in Scotland, manufactured bells for schools, churches and factories. Egbert "Ed" G. Malcolm owned and operated this company.

What other local foundries manufactured bells?

Various means of transportation used bells to alert people of their approach, departure or danger. Two paddle wheel steamers, The Red Jacket and The Queen, plied the waters of the Grand River, the Grand River Navigation Company's canals and Lake Erie from Brantford to Buffalo. Twice a week they rang their bells at ports of call to pick up and drop off passengers. The Red Jacket was eventually retired and demolished, and its bell was placed in the belfry at Newport School. Lightning struck the belfry. In 1952 the Newport Women's Institute built a miniature belfry on the school grounds and placed the bell in it. (Waldie, Vol. 1).

On Friday January 13th, 1854, (yes Friday the 13th), the gala opening of the Buffalo and Brantford Railway took place at the West Street train station in Brantford. Twelve thousand people greeted the first train as the steam engine's bell clanged vigorously to announce its

(Continued on page 4)

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(Continued from page 3)
arrival.

In 1886, the main streets of Brantford received several miles of railway track for the six cars operated by The Brantford Street Railway; the horses, carriages and sleighs now had to share the road. Can you imagine the ringing and clanging of the cars' bells as passengers boarded and disembarked?

Working bells rang out their commands throughout the City and County to summon the factory workers to begin and to end their daily work.

The first Brantford Fire Company was organized in 1836 in a small shanty located on the southwest corner of the Market Square. On top of this building sat a small cracked bell which was rung to summon the volunteer firemen. This bell also tolled for funerals.

In 1850, a new Town Hall and a new larger bell were erected on the Market Square. The bell was engraved with the date 1837 and the name Edway, Mass. It proved not to be loud enough, so a set of dumbbells was placed on a beam near the large bell. The first man to reach the tower would grab the dumbbells and proceed to hammer the large bell so that the sound would echo over all of Brantford. This bell can now be seen in the outside case in front of the Brant County Museum and Archives.

Farm bells were strategically located near the houses to be rung to call the people working in the fields for meal time or for urgent messages. In the farm pastures, cow bells could be heard slowly clanging with the movement of the cows that had strayed from the herd.

Do you remember the brass school bells that teachers rang to dutifully call the children into school? How many of you asked the teacher if you could ring that bell? Many rural schools throughout Brant County contained large school bells in their front entrances. Think of the number of students who have obeyed these bells and who have pulled the long rope to set the bells in motion. Today many of these bells stand as sentinels to the days and memories of one-room rural schools.

Homes carry the tradition of bells. To enter, one rings a doorbell and, once in, the grandfather or mantel clocks may be heard faithfully striking the hours. The maid's bell and the ring made by modern appliances bring attention to the tasks at hand. At the Charles E. Lake Brass Foundry at 46 Bridge Street, Brantford, brass dinner bells were manufactured to call families to Sunday dinners.

Church bells hold a special place in the hearts of the members of any community. The bell at the Mohawk Chapel in Brantford is engraved with the date "1786" - Warner, Fleet Street, London". It called the parishioners to Sunday worship for many years. It was later loaned to another church. In 1875, an editorial writer from the local newspaper, The Brantford Expositor, found this bell in the Great Western Railway freight sheds ready to be shipped to New York as old bell metal. He wrote an editorial about his discovery and why it should be saved. The bell was rescued and returned to the Chapel. During the night, a few years ago, the bell once again left the Chapel. It was found not far away in a field along the Grand River. Once again it was rescued and now securely rests in its rightful position in front of the Mohawk Chapel.

The bells at Grace and St. Basil's Churches have freely given their rich sounds to the heart of Brantford. How many of you, as children, remember being allowed to stay up on New Year's Eve to hear the bells at Grace Church or a church in your community, ring in the New Year? Each weekday at 12 noon and 6 p.m. the bell at St. Basil's devotedly rings as a signal for Roman Catholics to say the Angelus prayer. This tradition takes place at all Roman Catholic churches around the world.

The bell tower and set of bells at Grace Church were the gift of Colonel Reuben Leonard in honour of his parents Mr. and Mrs. Henry Leonard of Brantford. Each of the ten bells, the largest of which weighs 3500 pounds, is suitably engraved. Brantford citizens first heard the bells on August 23rd, 1915. (Grace Anglican Church, Brantford, Ontario, Canada; 1830-1980).

The bell at St. Basil's Church was a gift from

(Continued on page 5)

(continued from page 4)

Timothy Cokeley of Burford. Cast at the McShane Foundry in Baltimore, Maryland, it was patterned after the "Liberty Bell" and made from Confederate cannons captured after the siege of Richmond, Virginia, during the Civil War. This lasting gift was first heard on June 21st, 1885. (St. Basil's Parish Celebrates 150 Years, 1842-1992).

Church bells have the honour of announcing daily and weekly services, momentous celebrations and the rites of passage - births, marriages, deaths.

Just as it has been for over 1000 years, the bells in our community are symbolic of the diversity of our culture.

Endnotes:

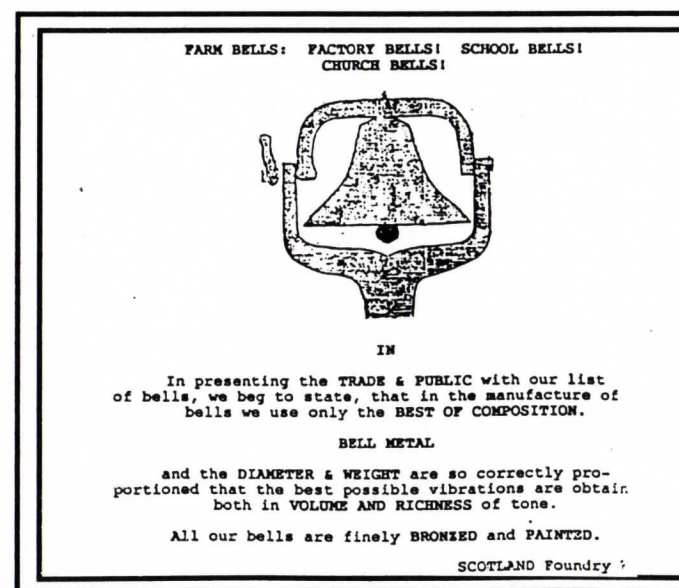
Reville, F. Douglas; History of The County of Brant; Hurley Printing, Brantford, ON; 1920.

Waldie, Jean; Brant County, The Story of Its People; Volume 1; Hurley Printing, Brantford, ON; 1984.

Grace Anglican Church, Brantford, Ontario, Canada, 1830-1980; Hurley Printing, Brantford, ON; 1980.

St. Basil's Parish, Brantford, Ontario, Canada Celebrates 150 Years 1842-1992;

A. J. Photographic Industries; Hamilton, ON; 1992.



Ad from the book, *Oakland Township, Two Hundred Years Ago, Volume 7 Written by Stuart A. Rammage*

Victoria Square: An Attractive Landmark of Brantford by Angela Files

1. The Location Of Victoria Square - Park

In the heart of the City of Brantford is one of the few remaining Ontario park-squares: Victoria Park. The square is bounded on the north by Wellington Street, south by Darling Street, east by George Street and west by Market Street.

2. The Origin Of Public Squares

In urban planning, the centre of a town or city, known as the public square, existed in ancient and Biblical times. Prophets and preachers expressed their opinions in these early open spaces which were known as "agoras," by the Greeks, "forums," by the Romans, "piazzas" by the Italians, "places," by the French, and "plazas" by the Spaniards. Not only were these squares places to meet, to listen and take part in debates, exchange gossip, opinions and news, but also served as markets and shopping centres.

In the agora of Athens, Apostle and Missionary Saint Paul, spoke daily with those who chanced to be there (Acts 17:17) about Jesus and His Resurrection. Paul was also familiar with the agora at Corinth and other Greek cities. On his final journey to Rome as a prisoner, Paul was greeted by Christian believers at the market square of Appius (Acts 28:15) which was located near Rome.

3. The Original Plan Of Victoria Square

In the original plan of the village of Brantford, 1830, surveyor Lewis Burwell there included three public squares: Market Square, where the present-day mall is to-day; the Public Square, where Victoria Square is to-day; and the square opposite of the Kirk of Scotland property located in what is now known as Alexandra Park.

4. Design Of Victoria Square - John Turner

Completed in 1861, Victoria Square, located on Market Street, was designed by

(continued on page 6)

noted British-born architect John Turner. The Brant County Museum is fortunate in having the Turner Papers. Three buildings designed by Turner are adjacent to the Square: former Zion Presbyterian Church now St. Andrew's United Church (1859) former Park Baptist Church now Community Church (1883) and the Brant County Court House (1852) situated on the north side of the Square. There are many other buildings in south western Ontario designed by this renowned architect.

5. The Union Jack Design

Victoria Square was laid out on the plan of the Union Jack flag with four paths intersecting at the centre of the park, where a flag staff was originally erected.

6. The Additional Architectural Highlights

The drinking fountain and the Joseph Brant Monument are two architectural highlights not included in the original plans of Victoria Square. The elaborate granite marble drinking fountain located on the Market Street side was donated by A. Harris and Son in 1892, and the Joseph Brant Monument, designed by British Sculptor Percy Wood was unveiled in 1886.

7. The Use Of Victoria Square Park

At the beginning of the 19th Century Victoria Square was used during evenings and Sundays. People strolled the area and sat on benches to discuss the events of the day. Church-sponsored activities were also held on the square.

In our own time we always knew that Christmas was near when the down town streets of Brantford were festooned with an array of coloured lights, green foliage, etc., and the life-sized figures of the Nativity Scene were erected in the hay-filled stable in Victoria Park Square.

8. The Unveiling Of The Restored Brant Monument And Fountain

On Saturday, September 16th, 2000 at 3:00 p.m., the restored bronze statue of Joseph Brant will be unveiled and the old marble fountain will flow again. Councillor Paul Urbanowicz and the Restoration Committee are hoping for community support for the improvement of this landmark attraction.

Volunteer Positions

Two volunteer positions are available at the Museum:

1. Help Catalogue the Scheak Library - A chance to check out the wonderful art books Mr. Sheak donated to us. More volunteers will help speed up the process of making this exceptional resource accessible to the public.

2. Assist with Museum Research Requests - Get to know the holdings of the archives and increase your knowledge of our local history.

A special thanks to all those who volunteered their time to help move the Land Registry Records. Your time was greatly appreciated!

A Memorial to E. Pauline Johnson By Robert Deboer

The Brant Historical Society celebrated its ninety second year on May 11, 2000. In its early days, its membership was small but those who chose to join the Society were an industrious group devoted to the preservation of history. They embarked upon numerous projects which would have placed a strain, not only on its members, but also on its limited resources. As reported in the last issue, the Society initiated an effort to mark Brant's Ford. Another project was a memorial to the poetess, Emily Pauline Johnson.

E. Pauline Johnson was the youngest child of a family of four born to G.H.M. Johnson, Head Chief of the Six Nations Indians and his wife Emily S. Howells, a lady of English parentage. It was on the Six Nations Reserve, at her father's estate, "Chiefswood," that Pauline Johnson was born on March 10, 1861.

At an extremely early age, she evinced an intense love of poetry. Even before Pauline Johnson could read, she composed many childlike jingles about her pet dogs and cats. At twelve years of age she was writing credible poems but she was apprehensive to offer them for publication. Her poems were eventually accepted by several periodicals. In Toronto, in

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1892, she was invited to contribute to an evening of Canadian literature, an opportunity of a lifetime. As a result, she undertook a series of recitals throughout Canada which enabled her to travel to England and the United States.

During those sixteen years, Pauline Johnson had many varied and interesting experiences. She was always an ardent canoeist and loved camping in unfrequented places.

After an illness of two years duration, Pauline Johnson died in Vancouver, British Columbia on March 7, 1913. Her ashes were placed in the ground near her beloved Siwash Rock, in Stanley Park.

The minutes of the Brant Historical Society Meeting on December 12, 1912, indicate that the President, Mr. S. F. Passmore advised the members that Miss Johnson was ill in hospital in Vancouver and suggested that the Society send a Christmas gift to her. It was subsequently resolved at the Meeting that the Society send Miss Johnson a simple testimonial of the Society's recognition and appreciation of the great merit of her works and a Christmas gift of twenty five dollars.

At the Society Annual Meeting on March 13, 1913, it is recorded that Mr. Passmore addressed the Meeting and solemnly spoke of the passing away of Miss. Pauline Johnson. He reported that letters of condolence had been sent to Miss Evelyn Johnson and Mr. Allan Johnson, Pauline Johnson's sister and brother.

Miss Evelyn Johnson addressed the Society Meeting on December 11, 1913 regarding a poem and a Memorial for her sister, Pauline. The poem, entitled, "And He Said Fight On," is presumed to be the last written by Pauline Johnson. Evelyn reported that she had found the poem by her sister's bed after her death. She advised that it had been published by the Mission Book Company of London, Ontario and that the proceeds of its sale would form the nucleus of a fund for the erection of a Memorial to her sister as well as the building of a Museum.

The Mission Book Company published Pauline Johnson's last poem in a pamphlet. It was reproduced in its original form with a signature,

her favourite portrait and a retrospective of her life which states in part:

Shortly after the doctors told her that her illness would be her final one, she wrote the poem published herewith, taking a line from Tennyson, 'And He Said Fight On' as her theme.

The retrospective went on to state that it seemed fitting that the poem should be reproduced as a last word to her myriad of friends, and a world that will more fully appreciate her wonderful gift as the years go by, for after all, there will never be another who can sing the songs she sang or so interpret the spirit of her beloved native land. A copy of this pamphlet is in the Collection of the Brant County Museum and Archives.

The poem is herein reproduced in its entirety:

"And He Said Fight On"
(Tennyson)

Time and its ally. Dark Disarmament
Have compassed me about,
Have massed their armies, and on battle bent
My forces put to rout;
But though I fight alone, and fall, and die,
"Talk terms of Peace? Not I."

They war upon my fortress, and their guns,
Are shattering its walls;
My army plays the cowards' part and runs.
Pierced by a thousand balls;
They call for my surrender, I reply,
"Give quarter now? Not I."

They've shot my flag to ribbons, but in rents
It floats above the height;
Their ensign shall not crown my battlements
While I can stand and fight.
I fling defiance at them as I cry,
"Capitulate? Not I."

There is nothing further recorded in Society

Minutes to indicate the success of the sale of the pamphlet.

The Society Minutes record that on March 13, 1914, some discussion took place regarding a Memorial to the late Pauline Johnson. As a result, it was resolved that a letter be sent to the Rev. Mr. Ashton, asking his permission that a Memorial Tablet be placed in the Mohawk Chapel in memory of Miss Pauline Johnson. The President, Mr. S.F. Passmore, reported that the Library Society contemplated a similar Memorial to Pauline Johnson with the same thought as the Historical Society. After some discussion, it was resolved by the Meeting that the Library Society be asked to co-operate with the Historical Society with a view to placing a suitable Memorial to Pauline Johnson in the Mohawk Church. A response was subsequently received from the Ladies of the Library Society declining the offer of co-operation with the Historical Society.

The April 25, 1914, Minutes indicated that a letter was received from The Rev. Mr. Ashton granting permission to the Historical Society to place a Memorial to Pauline Johnson in the Mohawk Church. The matter of the Memorial appears to have been left in abeyance by the Society after this Meeting until sometime in 1915. The Society Minutes state that a Special Meeting of the Society was held (no date recorded but sometime between April and October 1915), when it was resolved that Judge Hardy and Mr. Passmore look into the matter of a Memorial to Pauline Johnson.

They presented their report to the Society on January 16, 1917. It included a sketch of the Memorial and a recommendation that it be erected on March 7, 1917. The Committee was instructed by the Meeting to have the Memorial Tablet completed.

At the following Meeting, on February 3, 1917, a prolonged discussion took place regarding the most suitable place to erect the Pauline Johnson Memorial. Suggestions included the main corridor of the Public Library on George Street, the Mohawk Church for which permission had already been given and the Brantford Collegiate Institute. No decision was reached and the

matter was left to be decided at the next Meeting. Mr. S. F. Passmore and Rev. G. Woodside were appointed a Committee to draft a program for the Ceremony of the Unveiling of the Tablet. It was also decided to send invitations for the Unveiling of the Tablet to the Mayor of Brantford and Council, Board of Education, Separate School Board, Ministerial Association, Council of the Six Nations Indians in care of Mr. McGibbon, Acting Indian Agent, Collegiate Institute Staff, Public School Teachers, Board of Trade and the General Public.

On February 8, 1917, the outline of the Program for the Ceremony of the Unveiling of the Pauline Johnson Memorial was approved. Mr. Passmore reported that the Unveiling Ceremony would be held at the Conservatory of Music at Nelson and Queen Streets (current location of Hill and Robinson Funeral Home), on March 7th at 4:00 p.m. Payment of \$115.08 for the Pauline Johnson Memorial Tablet was approved by the Meeting. There is no indication of any discussion regarding the location of the Memorial.

The Thursday, March 8, 1917 edition of THE BRANTFORD EXPOSITOR included the following headline: "A Memorial To Pauline Johnson Was Unveiled - Tributes Paid To Her Delineation Of The Indian Character And Sentiments - Splendid Tablet - Dr. R. A. Falconer, President of Toronto University, Judge Hardy, S. F. Passmore and A. W. Burt were speakers."

This article will be continued in the next issue of the BHS Quarterly when the events of the unveiling of the Memorial and the controversy

Welcome Back Nicole Livet!

We would like to welcome back Nicole Livet to the Brant County Museum. Nicole has returned for another summer as our Archives Assistant.

The Museum Gift Shop

THE MILITIA STOOD ALONE
Malcolm's Mills, 6 November 1814
A bi-centennial preview
by Stuart A. Rammage
Published by Valley Publishing,
Summerland, B.C.
\$ 30.00

The writer and researcher, Stuart A. Rammage, grew up on a farm overlooking Oakland Pond where the original Malcolm homestead had been trampled by American troops as they plundered the region over a hundred years earlier. Now living in semi-retirement in Penticton, British Columbia, the author served thirty-five years with the Royal Canadian Mounted Police.

This is the last battle ever fought on Canadian soil by two sovereign nations. Roughly 700 mounted volunteers in the American force greatly outnumbered 400 to 450 Canadian defenders on a hillside in Brant County, near present-day Oakland, Ontario.

Watch for the review in the Expositor by Gary Muir.

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The Brant Historical Endowment Fund is one of the ways which we can ensure a viable future for the Society and the Museum. We thank the following donors for their generous recent contributions to the Endowment Fund:

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