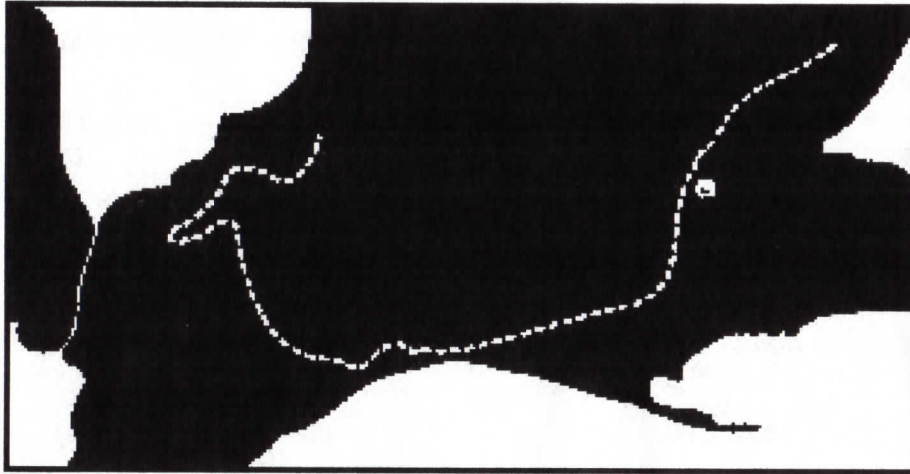




Exploring ancient Brant County



The dotted line indicates the northern shoreline of Lake Warren. The present City of Brantford was covered by this lake.

Map courtesy of Brantford Parks and Recreation

By Ruth Lefler

2001 — the real millennium! What better way to celebrate its arrival than by discovering what Brant County was like about 300 million years ago. The following article was published in the Brantford Expositor, Centennial Edition on June 30, 1967.

Ancient restless ocean covered Brant County

The dark-green waves of a salt-water ocean rolled over the land where Brantford is located. The time was about 300,000,000 years ago. This has been determined by geologists studying the bedrock underlying Southern Ontario. They found that fossils in the rocks were salt-water organisms.

Tracing the history of the area through clues left in the rocks and soil, geologists believe that

the land gradually began to rise and the ocean recede. Great beds of silt were raised above the water level and streams and rivers began to form on the surface.

For the next 250,000,000 years the flowing streams and rivers cut valleys as the inevitable

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President's Reflections

By the time you receive this issue of the Newsletter, you are probably in the midst of Christmas shopping, or if you are like me, you probably are regretting you hadn't started shopping a couple of weeks ago. Maybe I'll be more organized next year.

I would like to bring you up to date on a few personnel changes at the Museum. For those of you who are not aware, Elizabeth Hunter resigned as our Director/Curator in October. Stacey McKellar, our Assistant Curator has agreed to take over for the time being. Stacey has always brought a thoughtful, competent and conscientious approach to the Assistant Curator's job and is demonstrating those same qualities in the Director's position. Cindy McDonald joined the museum staff in October as well. Cindy will be responsible for helping with the administrative duties at Charlotte St. and with organizing the educational programs at Christmas. Cindy is a longtime resident of Brantford and we welcome her to the society and museum. Finally, I would like to thank Peter Oakes, our recent co-op student for his assistance in developing our new web site. Log on to us at <http://www.bfree.on.ca/comdir/musgal/bcma>.

This will be my last President's Reflections. John Wyatt will assume responsibilities as President in a few weeks. I would like to thank the board, and members of the society and the staff of the museum for their help and patience. Good luck John, you are working with a fine group of historians.

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Dr. Oronhyatekha

A man of Six Nations values, Victorian ideals

Part 1

By Robert L. Deboer.

While researching the history of the Brant Historical Society, I came across an interesting entry in the Society Minute Book. At the January 17, 1918 meeting of the Society, the President Rev. G. O. Woodside, reported that Princess Veraqua (Mrs. William Loft), sister of Dr. Oronhyatekha (Dr. Peter Martin) had agreed to sell certain utensils and weapons to the society for the sum of \$4. There is an entry in the Society Accession Register confirming the purchase but there is nothing to indicate what the items were. It is difficult at this point to determine if the items still remain in the museum collection, particularly when we are unsure of exactly what they are.

The most interesting part of the entry was the reference to Dr. Oronhyatekha. Not being very familiar with who Dr. Oronhyatekha was, research revealed to the writer that the publication *Famous Indians, Canadian Portraits* by Ethel Brant Monture contained significant historical and very interesting information regarding this native Canadian whose life was one of triumphant achievement.

The following information is included in Ethel Brant Monture's publication:

Every family has in its history one member who sets standards and blazes trails, even a family where great achievements are usual. Such a member was born in 1841 to the Martin Family of the Mohawk Tribe in the lands of the Six Nations. The records of his career are sparse, for Peter Martin was a man who claimed little for himself and made his mark in actions rather than in written documents. Though his life is not part of the official history of Canada, his influence was far reaching — into the lives of hundreds of thousands of Canadians of all races.

The child born to the Martin Family was given the name Peter, but his formal Indian name

was Oronhya-tekha, which when translated into English, means "Burning Cloud." There must have been a touch of prophecy in this chosen name, especially in the word "burning" for that describes the energy and zest of Peter Martin's whole life.

He first went to a small school near his home; with this he was soon finished, but good fortune opened the way for him to attend the Wesleyan Academy at Wilbraham in the State of Massachusetts. Only by great effort could Peter Martin afford to stay there. To earn his living, he turned his hand to chores that came his way.

Even at an early age, Peter Martin presented a good appearance. His older sisters made him fine looking suits of English cloth as well as the white shirts he liked and wore all his life. In his final years at the Wesleyan Academy he took the highest standing in his class.

After returning home from the Wesleyan Academy, a school which had just opened near the Martin settlement hired him for a year's teaching. This provided funds so that he could go to school at Kenyon College at Gambier, Ohio. He took the first two years in one and finished Kenyon in three years. By this time Peter Martin knew what he wanted to do with his life, for he had his heart set on being a doctor of medicine trained at a Canadian university; he returned to Canada and studied for one year at the University of Toronto.

The Prince of Wales, later King Edward VII, came to Canada in 1860 and the Six Nations Chiefs chose Peter Martin to present their welcome to His Royal Highness. The historic event again opened the door of opportunity to Peter Martin. For the occasion when he would address the future king of England, the council wished him to represent them wearing full Indian dress. The prince was impressed by

Continued on Page 4

Dr. Oronhyatekha

Continued from Page 3

his fine reading of the Six Nations' welcome. The prince inquired of the Council for the full story of Peter Martin's struggle for an education. The remarkable report of it led the prince to invite Peter Martin to go to England for further study and he put Peter under the tutelage of Dr. Henry Acland. Peter Martin spent three years at Oxford under Dr. Acland's guidance. However, he never lost sight of his goal, to be a physician in Canada and at the end of three years he returned to Canada.

Soon after his return from England, Peter Martin married Ellen Hill of the Mohawk community at Deseronto. She was a descendant of John Deseronto, who with his cousin, Joseph Brant, had held the Six Nations together through the bitter years of the American Revolution.

After his marriage in 1864, Peter Martin had still to finish his final college years at the University of Toronto and get his medical degree. It was inevitable that so vigorous a young man as Peter Martin should become a private in the University Corps of the Queen's Own Rifles; this interest in the militia held him for many years.

After his graduation, the new Doctor Peter Oronhyatekha Martin and his capable Ellen set up a home and practice at Frankford, a village near Belleville and Deseronto. He was soon elected the first secretary of the Hastings County Medical Association which he helped organize.

An opportunity for advancement came in an offer of a partnership with a Dr. Lucas of Stratford, which he accepted where they built a flourishing practice. He also took a brief fling in politics, taking charge of the Township of Wallace on behalf of the Conservatives. So well was the campaign managed that a feared defeat became a victory. Out of this grew a warm and lasting friendship with the Conservative leader, Sir John A. Macdonald. Later Sir John recommended Dr. Martin for an

appointment as Government Consulting Physician for the Mohawks at Deseronto, and the Martin family left Stratford for Napanee.

The yearly salary of \$500 as the government doctor was inadequate. There were two possible openings, one at Buffalo, N.Y., and one at London, Ont. He chose London and the family left Napanee in 1873.

For the next half-decade, the Doctor devoted all his energies to his profession. He was a good doctor, with his natural courtesy and happy, sympathetic heart coupled with his exceptional training, education and ambitious energy could only have a good result. He became known as a diagnostician.

Dr. Oronhyatekha often laughingly confessed that he was a "joiner." The urge to identify himself with the life around him was always very strong. While still in school he had joined the Good Templars and at times he had assisted in organizing more temperance groups. Later in his life at the world gathering of Templars in Edinburgh, he was elected Grand Templar, head of the Grand Templars of the World. He never lost his interest in military affairs and was always an ardent rifleman. He was on the first Canadian team to go to the "Wimbledon" shoots. (later the Bisley Competition) with Colonel Skinner in 1873. At this event the Doctor became internationally known as a rifleman.

At that time, when differences of religion were of exaggerated importance in Canada, the Protestant Order was strong in Ontario and Dr. Martin became an ardent Orangeman. When the Grand Orange Lodge convened in Belfast the Doctor was in the Canadian delegation to Ireland, yet he had many cherished and life-long friends in Catholic French Canada with whom he never lost touch. At the same time he was also a Scottish Rite Mason and for sometime was the editor of their publication, the Masenid Tablet. He liked and respected the kind of men he met in these societies and they in turn valued him for his ability and integrity.

In England's early days the forests and woodlands were the property of the reigning

Continued on Page 5

Dr. Oronhyatekha

Continued from Page 4

kings, who employed men in their protection and care. These men were called stewards, woodwards and foresters, according to the duties they performed. Their shelters in the forest were called lodges. In 1745, at Knoxborough, Yorkshire, these men formed themselves into a guild, taking the name the Royal Order of Foresters. They also developed a system of mutual assistance and a secret ritual. The groups about the land were called lodges or courts and their meeting places as lodge rooms. In time the name was changed to the Ancient Order of Foresters and members bound themselves into co-operatives for life insurance. This society had been introduced into North America at Brooklyn, N.Y., in 1864 and in the following 10 years it grew to include 64 lodges in several states and Canada.

As the membership grew in North America, the American lodges, embarrassed by the slowness of the heads of the Order in England on settlement of insurance claims, made the decision to break their ties with the English Order. After this, the American lodges called themselves the Independent Order of Foresters. They also had a plan for a mutual insurance and fraternal organization.

The first Canadian lodge was organized in Ontario at London. In the report of the most Worthy High Chief Ranger, Robert M. Cordes, of Cleveland, Ohio, the head of the American courts, there appeared this note: "During my visit to Canada in February last to the courts of London, Ontario, I, (upon solicitation of nearly every member of the Order) issued a special order to Court Dufferin, No. 7, London, to allow the said court to initiate one Doctor Oronhyatekha, a gentleman of Indian parentage, who was highly recommended by everyone who knew him."

At that time the Constitution of the Order read that membership was limited to "white males of twenty-one years or over." The special dispensation was passed granting Court Dufferin its request to admit to their

membership Dr. Peter Martin.

Later an echo of this discriminatory clause was heard in a court in Chatham, Ont. A lodge under the auspices of the Independent Order of Foresters had been organized at Chatham. After the installation, a large section of the numbers decided to hold to the English parent lodge, the Ancient Order of Foresters rather than to the newer American Independent Order. In leaving the secessionists removed with them all the property of the Independent Order so that they were forced to bring suit to recover their regalia and monies.

Because by this time he had been elected Chief Ranger of the Ontario courts it was Peter Martin's rather unpleasant duty to represent them at the trial at Chatham. The counsel for the secessionists read the clause in the Constitution which limited members of the order to "white males" and asked that the case be dismissed since the representative of the new Independent Order was an Indian he had no right to be in the court room to represent the independent order or any other order. Dr. Oronhyatekha had never felt his race to be of any hindrance and he was an authority on history. He was also, fortunately, a master of debate. He sent the whole court room into gales of laughter when with a disarming smile he said to the opposing counsel, "You see, you do not understand the Constitution of the Order."

"What you have quoted was only intended to exclude those who belonged to a race which was considered to be inferior to the white race. You will find the Most Worshipful High Court of the Independent Order of Foresters legalized my admission because they acknowledged the fact that I belonged to a race which was superior to the white race, and therefore, not under the ban of the Laws of the Order." The lawyer, red faced, apologized.

Eventually the discriminatory clause was dropped from the Constitution.

A display about Dr. Oronhyatekha or Dr. Peter Martin entitled "Mohawk Ideals, Victorian Values," is at the Woodland Cultural Centre, Mohawk Street, Brantford, until Dec. 17, 2000.

The Glebe land of Brantford Twp. (Echo Place)

Part 1

By Angela Files

Glebe or Glebe Lands refers to the land that was put aside for the use of the church. Another term used in Canadian history was clergy reserves, land set aside in Upper and Lower Canada under the Constitutional Act of 1791 "for the maintenance of Protestant clergy". Clergy reserves amounted to one-seventh of all land grants. By 1827, the sale of clergy reserves was permitted.

The Location of the Glebe Lots In Echo Place

All the land on the right side of the Hamilton Road from Stanley Street to the Lovejoy Estates of early times.

Early History of the Glebe Land

The Glebe Land Becomes Property Of The Society For The Propagation Of The Gospel In New England 1845.

On March 19, 1845, the Crown granted to James Gibson, Esq., Governor of The Society For The Propagation Of The Gospel land in New England And Parts Adjacent In America. Known as the New England Company, the Honorable And Right Rev. John Lord Bishop of Toronto; the Rev. Abraham Nelles and the Rev. Adam Elliot, missionaries of the United Church of England and Ireland; and Wm. Richardson, Esq., lay agent for said New England Company, their assigns forever, all that parcel or tract of land situated in the Township of Brantford, in the County of Wentworth in the District of Gore, in our said Province containing by a measurement of 220 acres, being part and parcel of the tract of land near the Grand River in the said Township of Brantford, etc., therefore reserved for the use and occupation of the Six Nations of Indians residing near the Grand River.

In trust for the residence of a missionary of the United Church of England and Ireland

forever.

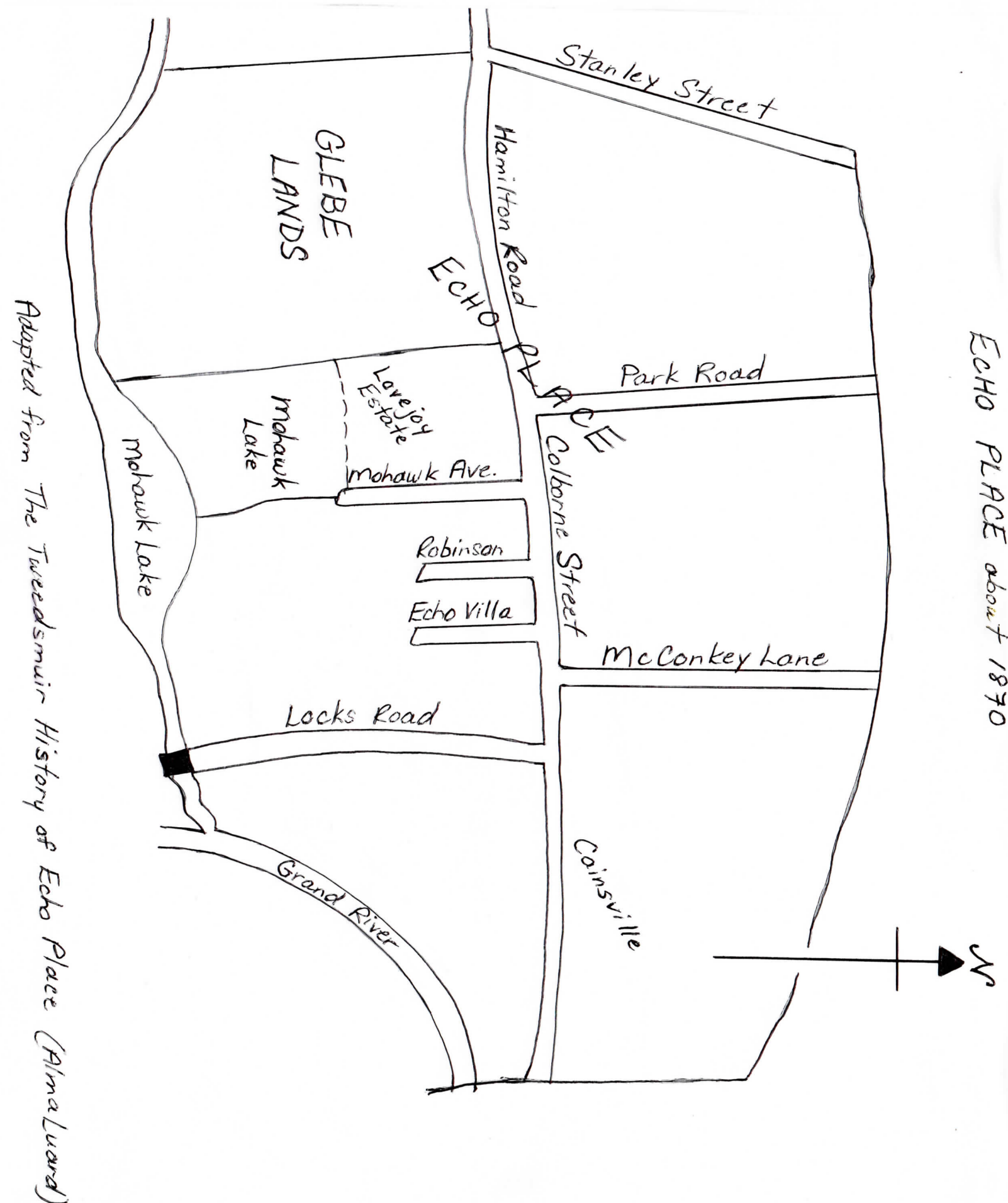
To have and hold the said tract of land hereby given and granted to them, their heirs and assigning forever, upon the trusts nevertheless, that is to say, hereafter to and for the use of the resident missionary of the United Church of England and Ireland, doing duty among the said Indians settled upon the said Grand River and to his successors in the said mission forever, as a site for his and their residence.

The rectory was built in 1829 and destroyed by fire in October, 1929.

The Surrender Of The Glebe Land

In 1919, an agreement was reached between the New England Company, their trustees, His Majesty King George V, as represented by the Superintendent of Indian Affairs, in trust for the Six Nations. That whereas the said Glebe Lot is no longer used as a residence for the missionary, there being no Indians now living near the said lot to be ministered unto from this centre.

The New England Company is to be allowed to retain the sum of \$23,628.77, which the company has received for the sale of portions of the said lands and to be paid from the funds of the said Indians, a further sum of \$26,371.23 making in all, the sum of \$50,000. in consideration for which the said company agreed to quit claim and surrender to His Majesty King George V as represented by the Supt. General of Indian Affairs, all the right, title and interest of the said Company in all that portion of the said lands which remains unsold, consisting of about 183.65 acres more or less, provided that Mr. Aston, during his lifetime, shall have the occupation of the parsonage house and such garden lots and lawns about the said house as have been used in connection therewith.



Exploring Ancient Brant County

Continued from front page

task of reducing the surface to sea level began again.

Erosion cut into the rocks and as a result the softer rock was washed away first. Typical of the harder rock areas that remain with us is the Niagara escarpment.

It was during this period that the great lakes were formed drained by the St. Lawrence River.

Gradually the weather cooled and great continental glaciers began to form and head south uprooting everything in their path. Glaciers covered most of Southern Ontario, blocking the St. Lawrence valley, and the levels of the great lakes started to rise. Eventually the lakes drained York State and also by a channel to the Mississippi River.

The weight of the glaciers also depressed the southern part of Ontario. This resulted in the formation of Lake Whittlesey. The shore line ran in a straight line from just south of Brantford to Simcoe. It was from this lake that the initial deposit of sand was deposited on Norfolk County. Eventually the lake receded to be replaced by another lake which geologists have named Lake Warren.

Traces of the shoreline of this lake have been pointed out by geologists. One of the beaches can be seen southeast of Blue Lake in South Dumfries Township. Other traces can be seen two miles east of Osborne's Corner on Highway 5, west of St. George. The northernmost part of the lake was located near the present site of Branchton, in North Dumfries Township.

The shoreline extended in a straight line from the present shore of Lake Erie, through St. Thomas, north of Brantford but south of Paris and terminating as a finger with the tip near Georgetown. The other shoreline was roughly parallel to the Niagara escarpment.

Besides blocking rivers and creating cold lakes, the advancing and retreating glaciers left behind numerous deposits which cover the countryside in the form of hills of various sizes

and shapes.

Paris Moraine

Most prominent in this area is the Paris Moraine. It is one of the best known ridges in Southern Ontario extending through Acton, Galt, and on through Delhi.

The moraines are glacial deposits. As the glaciers moved south, they picked up and carried masses of earth before them. Then they reached a terminal point, and started to melt earth was released and left to lie as large hills.

As a result Southern Ontario is a glacial plain underlaid by Palezoic limestones and shales. The glacial drift that covers most of Southern Ontario stands in some areas between 1,000 and 1,300 feet above sea level.

The southern part of Brant County is covered with the Wellington clay plain. The northwest section consists of Norfolk sand and the north is covered with moraines and gravel from glaciers.

Silt covering

A considerable portion of the area is covered with silt precipitated from Lake Warren. Deep silts occur around Brantford and east to Dundas. The clay is also modified by silt south of Brantford.

Main topographical feature of the area is the Grand River which drains an area of 2,600 square miles on the slope of the Niagara cuesta. It rises at Dundalk to about 1,725 feet above sea level and runs for 180 miles to Lake Erie at Port Maitland.

Between Paris and Brantford the Grand breaks through the Paris and Galt moraines. Below Brantford, only a narrow belt of clay plain drains into the Grand and it is confined on the south by the Onondaga escarpment which forces the river eastward to Dunnville where a sag permits southward passage to Lake Erie.

Above Brantford, the river runs in bedrock. Below, the river cut a channel in silt and clay of Lake Warren and through underlying boulder clay

Best wishes for health and happiness throughout the year 2001.

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A 14-month, 11"x17" calendar

The calendar consists of 40 local companies offering 98 coupons, with seven new coupons appearing on each month.

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- Collectible Pewter Replicas of Mohawk Chapel and Brantford's Original City Hall
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- Tickets for *The Brantford Film Group* films
Tickets \$7.00 each in advance: good for any show. *Sponsored by the Brant Historical Society.*

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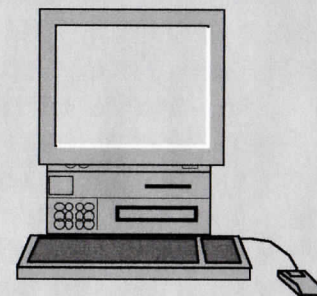
In Memory of Ceressa (Viola) Weir
Members of the Brant Historical Society

In Memory of Robert James "Bob" Adlam
William Fuller

The Brant County Museum & Archives announces the updated web site at:

<http://www.bfree.on.ca/comdir/musgal/bcma>

This site is available 24 hours a day, seven days a week. We are open to your feedback of the site. We will be updating the site at least once a month and adding to it over the next several months.



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Thanks for your continued support!

MEMBERSHIPS

HAPPENINGS

December 7th at 7:00 p.m.
The Brant Film Group Presentation "Stardom"

...

December 20th at 8:00 p.m.
Ken Strachan returns to provide us with a
news update from the
Christmas Season of 1900.

...

February 3, 2001
Brantford's Industry
Watch for this exciting new exhibit at the
Museum in the Square.

*A special note of thanks to all of
our wonderful volunteers who
help make everything happen.*

*All the staff at the museum want
to let you know we appreciate
your efforts!*

Exhibits

**To Have and to Hold: Boxes, Baskets
and Containers from the Brant
Historical Society Collection.**

Held over until January 14th.

The collection box from the Paris Plains Church, the silver chest J.H.M. Johnson presented to his bride, a document box lined with newspaper publicizing the opening of the Grand River Navigation Canal. These are just a few of the unique objects included in this eclectic display.

Book launching

For Christmas 2000: "Signposts: Origins of Street and Road Names of Brant County and Brantford" to be launched on Saturday, December 16, 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. at the Museum in the Square, Market Square, 1 Market St.

New Web Site!

Please log on to our brand new site, "Brant County Museum & Archives". It is up and running!
<http://www.bfree.on.ca/comdir/musgal/bcma>

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The Brant Historical Society gratefully acknowledges support from:

**The County of Brant
The City of Brantford and Brantford Regional Arts Council
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