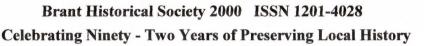


BHS Quarterly

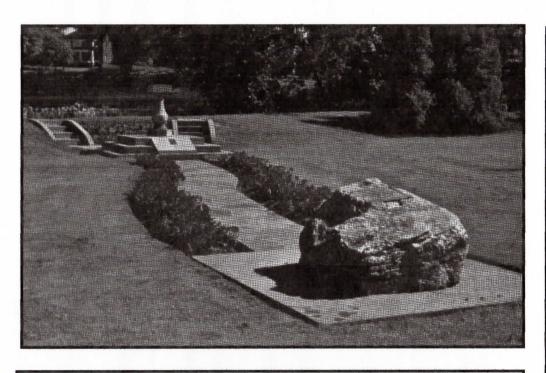




The Marking of Brant's Ford:

Recounting the historic struggle by the BHS to mark the site.

See inside for Robert Deboer's fascinating article.



The plaque and sundial, which originally marked the location of Brant's Ford, were moved to their present site in Lorne Park.

Photo by B.W. Switzer. Produced as postcard for Stedman's Bookstore Ltd., Brantford

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President's Reflections

Over the past few weeks, there have been a number of newspaper articles about government grants and public support of non-profit agencies. Of course the most widely read have been the exploits of our own Member of Parliament, Jane Stewart as she tries to defend the HRDC grants. Perhaps a number of you read the column by David Sharpe and his reference to "kindly farmer" Eddy's support for the County's museum. Less noticed have been some appearances by Dr. Grant Honeyman at municipal council in a relatively futile effort to convince city councilors for more funding for the Brant Regional Arts Council (he got \$5,000 more this year after the budget had been cut \$30,000 over the past 5 years).

The debates over public funding for charities and not-for-profit organizations have great importance for the Historical Society. Last year, the budget for the Society and Museum and Archives was \$123,000. Our major sources of revenue are as follows:

\$28,400 The County of Brant (kindly farmer Eddy) \$25,306 Brant Regional Arts Council (City of Brantford) Province of Ontario \$10.886

\$ 8,568 (\$5,934 from HRDC) Federal Government

Our only other major source of funding is Bingo, and last year, a competitor was set up to our Bingo operation in the form of a charity casino. Our revenues from Bingo in 1999 was \$27,517 down from \$33,233 the previous year.

A moment's reflection shows how dependent we are on public funding and government policy. One of my other roles has been Chairman of the BRAC Grants Committee and, based on that experience, I can assure you that most major groups share this dependency.

So what are the implications of the public debates for BHS? Simply this, if the public believes that governments are wasting taxpayers' money by giving grants to the likes of BHS, we won't survive. The Provincial government has taken that view and our grant has been reduced or frozen through the 1990s. It is important that we, as members speak proudly about our museum and its programs and how it preserves the history of our County for future generations.

Robert Glass

Brant Historical Society Board of Directors President: Robert Glass

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Brant Historical Society

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Marking Brant's Ford

Bv Robert L. Deboer

The Brant Historical Society was founded on May below the Lorne Bridge, nearer the Toronto. 11, 1908, and very early in its existence the Hamilton and Buffalo Railway Bridge, between location of Brant's Ford.

members gave serious consideration to properties at 88 Gilkison Sreet, owned by Jemma recognizing the importance and marking of the Jones, and 90 Gilkison Street, owned by William Daniels. The minutes of the Brantford Historical Society Society minutes indicate that a letter was received

Meetings indicate that discussions took place at a on February 6, 1913, from the Parks Board. Society Meeting on April 9, 1912, regarding a advising of their willingness to co-operate with the memorial to recognize and mark the actual site of Society in securing the land for a Brant's Ford Brant's Ford. A Committee composed of Major Memorial. Discussion followed and the matter Gordon J. Smith, Mrs. F. S. Standing, and Major was referred back to the Committee to proceed Harry Leonard was appointed to learn the definite with the work. The Secretary wrote to the Parks place where Brant forded the Grand River. They Board requesting a meeting with them. were to bring a recommendation as to the best and most suitable memorial to mark the place At the Annual Meeting of the Society held on May from which Brantford acquired its name.

Nothing further appears in Society minutes until Commissioners regarding the Brant's Ford November 12, 1912, when it was recorded that Memorial. The Secretary was instructed to send a Major Gordon Smith reported about Brant's Ford. letter to the Mayor and Council requesting that However it is not indicated what he reported but it they give to the Parks Board that portion of land can safely be assumed that the Committee had on the east side of Gilkison Street. This property determined the actual location of Brant's Ford. is an unnumbered lot which was the approach to They were directed to interview the Parks the Ford used by Joseph Brant and the Indians. Commission regarding the acquisition of a vacant The Parks Board Commissioners expressed a lot at the site of Brant's Ford and to report to the willingness to assume the management and care next meeting. Reville's History of the County of for this area. The Brant Historical Society stated Brant indicates the location of Brant's Ford to be

13, 1913, the minutes indicate that the President. Mr. F. S. Passmore, had met with the Parks

(Continued on page 4)

BRANT COUNTY MUSEUM & ARCHIVES 57 Charlotte Street, Brantford, Ontario (519) 752-2483

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Brant Historical Society

Marking of Brant's Ford

memorial to mark Brant's Ford.

minutes indicate that a letter was read from Maior follows:

"That the request of the Brant Historical Society present. that the unnumbered lot on Gilkison Street be handed over to the Parks Board for the purpose On December 10, 1930, the Society minutes of erecting a monument on the site of Brant's Ford indicate that considerable discussions took place is granted, on the understanding that it be regarding a conference held with a Committee of returned to the City if not used for that purpose Independent Order, Daughters of the Empire, and that the City have the right of way through the regarding the marking of Brant's Ford. The lot if required."

until the Society Meeting of May, 1913. There is Sundial at the River's Crossing. no further record in Society minutes about Brant's Ford until March 1928. Whether the Society Acting Secretary, Mr. R.W.E. McFadden also Ford in 1932. It was inscribed as follows:

"This Boulder Marks the Site of Brant's Ford Erected by The Brant Historical Society"

The next reference to the issue is in the minutes of sufficient merit for this recognition. of June 28, 1928, where it is recorded that Past President, Mr. R.W.E. McFadden gave a Minutes from the March 11, 1931, meeting summary of activities of the Brant Historical iindicate that they continued to be in Society in connection with the marking of Brant's Communication with the Monuments Board of Ford. He also read correspondence from the

Department of the Interior, Ottawa, regarding the erection of a cairn on the site of Brant's Ford. The Minutes do not go into detail about the contents of that it would co-operate by placing a suitable the correspondence but it appears that the Society may have attempted to obtain the participation of the Federal Government to At the May 3, 1913 meeting of the Society, the designate Brant's Ford as a National Historic Site.

Leonard, regarding the letter sent to the City, in Minutes from September 25, 1930, include a letter March 1913, concerning the unmarked lot on from the Site's Committee of the Department of Gilkison Street. The letter stated in part as the Interior regarding Brant's Ford. However there is nothing recorded in the minutes to indicate the content of this letter. After a general I beg to forward to you a copy of Clause I of discussion concerning the erection of the cairn, it the Report of the Board of Parks Commissioners was decided to leave the matter in abeyance until as adopted by City Council on March 31st, 1913: the next meeting as Mr. F.D. Reville, author of The History of the County of Brant, was not

I.O.D.E. was unable to state its position in the matter of marking Brant's Ford. Apparently the Everything seemed to be progressing favourably I.O.D.E. was also considering placing a marker on regarding the marking of the site of Brant's Ford the site and eventually did place a Memorial

lacked the financial resources to complete the gave a report of correspondence in regard to project, or the City of Brantford reneged on their Brant's Ford. The Society recommended that the part of the agreement, is unknown. Society Dominion Sites and Monuments Board, Ottawa, minutes indicate that a small bronze plaque was receive a reply to their letter of July 22, 1930. mounted on a large boulder at the site of Brant's President Kilmer stated that he considered that the site of Brant's Ford was certainly worthy of national recognition and that a cairn be placed at the site by the Dominion Sites and Monuments Board of Ottawa. Major Muir stated that Joseph Brant was a national character and this site was

(Continued on page 7)

BURIED TREASURE?

by Robert Good

Spring 2000

My grandmother Good (nee Ballachey), born 1852, told me the following story.

On her father's farm, just southwest of Brantford, there was a spot that would not grow anything, no matter the farm my grandmother's two brothers found that the spot had been dug up leaving a deep hole 4. 1843, was passed on which In March 1844, squatter James with the imprint of a chest at the bottom.

What can be made of this story? It was common in the past to bury money and valuables in time of war or great political unrest. political revolt of 1837 was much closer to the right time and Dr Duncombe of Burford Township had raised a force of 150 rebels. It is doubtful if they ever got close to Brantford and it is even more doubtful that they had anything of the need to hide anything!

accumulation of wealth in the 35,000 acres. Subsequent land Thorburn, Brantford area. If something of great value was buried, where did it come from and why was it buried in this location? This spot was only a mile from Daubigny Inn near the junction of Daubingy Creek and the Grand from a distance to be hidden, the Inn could have served as a command between post for the operation. But that does | Caledonia, not give us even a clue as to what Tuscarora was buried, why it was buried or southern part of Onondaga when it was buried.

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Tuscarora Township Squatters

Part Two (continued from the previous issue)

by Roger Sharpe

With respect to the Six Nations township and the western moving to the Reserve portion of Oneida township in negotiations moved slowly. The Haldimand County. difficulties centred mostly on the proclamation based on this how it was fertilized. About 12 to 15 size of the Reserve until Order in Council was issued on years after the Ballacheys arrived at October 1843 when an January 20, 1844, which agreement was reached. An prohibited trespass on land in Order in Council, dated October Tuscarora township.

proceedings Patton, of Lot 13 Con.5 subsequent against squatters were based. It Tuscarora Township wrote of described the boundaries of the his situation to H. Morin in the Six Nations Reserve as. "All the following words. "Sir finding that lands south of the Grand River, public notice has been given to However valuables were generally with the exception of a tier of all those who have squatted or recovered as soon as peace lots on the plank road from rather intruded themselves on returned. The War of 1812 was over | Hamilton to Port Dover, a Indian Lands on the Grand 40 years before this buried treasure, distance of more than twenty River to remove (leave) before or whatever was reclaimed. The miles along the river." Included the 1st day of April ensuing I am with this land was the area unfortunately around Cainsville, called the hundreds more one of these Johnson Settlement. Originally and have spent all the little I the Reserve contained 20,000 possess in putting up a house acres and any other land and clearing a little but in actually occupied by Six Nations compliance with our good value to hide. The forces of the people at that time. The chiefs Government have withdrawn Family Compact were so firmly in thought this would be too small myself from the said land control that they would not have felt for their needs however and although it has reduced me to convinced the Government that extreme poverty..." Before 1843 there was little they should keep an additional In September 1844

Brantford

township,

David surrenders, like the 6,000 acres Department, was appointed a given to the Mississauga Special Commissioner to help Indians at the southeast corner the Six Nations settle on the of the Tuscarora reserve, called new Reserve and deal with New Credit reserve, reduced it disputed land claims. River. if something was transported from 55,000 to 44,900 acres. received instructions from Lord The Reserve, which is located Metcalfe to give public notice to and all non aboriginal people to occupies all of retire from the Tuscarora the Township reserve prior to

(Continued on page 6)

(Continued from page 5)

Tuscarora Township

the squatters, headed by Mr. by January 28, 1847. Cheshire and Mr. Strong, sent a A number of the squatters, led by concession Excellency. The reply stated that to Tuscarora until after January convicted and... the said George the Order in Council could not be 22, 1844, or could not prove this. Anderson was removed under withdrawn but that the claims of refused to leave. Commissioners and by aid of a warrant duly petitioners would be thoroughly Thorburn, Clench and Bain issued upon such conviction... investigated. Thorburn was then decided to prosecute them as When he returned to the reserve directed to submit a separate trespassers. The trials took the Commissioners decided to. report on the case of each place on December 2, 1846. "convict the said George amount, if any, each settler were produced and examined by pounds to be paid to Her might be compensated for Chief Superintendent Jarvis. Majesty... and the said George improvements. In his April 1846 The court, upon hearing all the Anderson shall be convicted to report Thorburn stated that the evidence, decided against the custody in the Common Gaol of complainants had failed to show squatters in every case. They the Gore District for the space of that the Government had were all served with notices of thirty days." authorized the occupation of the judgment and given 30 days The Gore District Municipal these lands by the settlers. He to leave the Reserve. They filed Council stated that in Tuscarora in 1846, an appeal with the Court of Government in 1848 on behalf of 166 cases of squatters were Chancery (Supreme Court) many of the settlers. Sir Allan reported, of which only 31 had which was heard on May 3, MacNab also petitioned the arrived prior to 1841. The total 1847. After hearing all the Government on their behalf but amount of compensation evidence, and examining the to no effect. The Superintendent recommended for all the white relevant documents. improvements was pounds. After submitting this report, the complainants. Government replied although the squatters had no refusing to give up, petitioned on appeal to the remodeled legal claim to compensation, the the Legislative Assembly about Court of Chancery their Governor General was prepared their claims and grievances. A convictions were again affirmed to act upon the compensation committee was appointed to with costs. On this occasion the recommended for parties who investigate these cases and Chancellor and Vice-Chancellor had settled previous to January declared that, "The petitioners both 1844. The law also compelled were dispossessed by due judgments in this case. The their removal. A large number of course of law of the lands they efforts to get rid of the squatters the squatters accepted the occupied and that such lands are still proving unsuccessful, the 14 Government's terms. Thorburn in fact Indian reserves." They Vic. Ch.74, was enacted, giving sent a list of the squatters he also, like David Thorburn, the Commissioners summary recommended for compensation recommended that a fair and jurisdiction." eventually issued. Upon proving given to them.

8,602 convictions were upheld with response to MacNab. "under the costs charged to

to authorities and cheques were reasonable compensation be A few of the squatters were

that they had left the Reserve the An example of the legal action cheques were given to taken against the squatters at individuals. Thorburn reported this time was the case of George January 1, 1845. In reply to this that 127 had received payment Anderson whom, in 1837, was squatting on Lot 30 in the third petition of complaint to His Mr. Cheshire, who had not come Township. He had, "been duly

recommending an Documents that were necessary Anderson in the penalty of 20

petitioned the General R. Bruce wrote in

the provisions of the 2 Vic. Ch.15, the Commissioners proceeded that During 1847 the squatters, against the squatters, and that

delivered

(Continued on page 8)

(Continued from page 4)

Spring 2000

Marking of Brant's Ford

a letter was read from the Brantford Parks Board. D. Cockshutt reported at the March meeting of stating that the request for a twenty foot square of that year that the bridge and euchre party had park land on West Colborne Street had been been held in February and was a financial granted. In 1913, the Society minutes recorded success. She also remarked that the Boulder and that an unnumbered lot on Gilkison Street was Plaque were now in place. provided by the City of Brantford, in agreement with the Parks Board, for Brant Historical Society The minutes of the Society Meeting held on May to erect a marker on the site of Brant's Ford. Why 17, 1932 indicate that some repairs were needed it was necessary for a new request to be made for at the Boulder. The site of Brant's Ford. property by the Society in 1928, and why accessible from Gilkison Street, was not well reference is made to the property granted being cared for by the Society, the Parks Board or the on Colborne Street West, rather than Gilkison City of Brantford. In Jean Waldie's article in the Street, is not explained... However when the site Brantford Expositor, September 5, 1954, she of Brant's Ford was eventually marked in 1932, it indicated that the site of Brant's Ford had become was done on the property on Gilkison Street. The so overgrown with weeds and grass that it was Society Minutes from the meeting of April 14, difficult to approach. Few people knew where the 1931, indicate that it was resolved as follows:

grant of the Parks Board and that the necessary decided, in March 1950, that the Boulder, Plaque deed be secured in accord with the request of the and Sundial, be moved to Lorne Park which was Historical Sites and Monument Board."

There is no record that such a deed was ever received by the Historical Society.

1931, indicate that a letter was received from Mr. designated, the possibility exists that the B. Harkin, National Parks Board, dated May 8, memorials would have remained in this original 1931. The contents of Mr. Harkin's letters are not location the true site of Brant's Ford. recorded. It appears, at this point, that the possibility existed that Brant's Ford was to be marked as a National Historic Site by the National Parks Board. Considering that the site was marked by the Brant Historical Society, without participation of any other government body, it seems safe to assume that Mr. Harkin's letter may have been a final rejection of any proposal to have Brant's Ford recognized as a National Historic Site.

The Brant Historical Society was now likely on its own in placing a marker in recognition of Brant's

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Ford but money was scarce. This is shown in the Society minutes of February 11, 1932, when a suggestion was offered that a Bridge party be Ottawa. At a Society Meeting on April 14, 1931, considered to raise funds for this cause. Mrs. R.

site was and those who did seldom trampled through the undergrowth to see it. The Tourist "That the national Sites Board be notified of the Promotion Committee of the Board of Trade a more visible and accessible location. This work was completed before May 17, 1950.

This site should have been designated a National Historic Site considering the historical significance The Society minutes from its meeting of May 20, of Captain Joseph Brant. Had it been so

Land Registry Records

The Land registry records are scheduled to be transferred to the Museum in the Square on March 25. Many thanks to all who volunteered to help prepare for this move. Please contact the Museum if you can help on moving day. 752-2483.

(Continued from page 6)

Tuscarora Township

removed in April 1851. But the evicted by 1853. Sheriffs received assurances from mention was that the squatters that by 1856 all but 12-15 1847-1940, Woodland Cultural had given their word to be gone aboriginal families had made the and Educational Centre, 1984. months earlier. Even though move to the Reserve. many of those ejected were not The last of the hard-nosed self- Upper Canada and of Great from the time of Thorburn's was indeed Indian land. report to 1853, nine squatters had returned to the Reserve Bibliography: after having compensation for improvements and twenty-one "Report on the Affairs of the others had entered the Reserve Indians of Canada."

with the intention of squatting on -11 Vic. App.(T)-1847. "Report the land. It also said that most of on the Affairs of the Indians in the 157 squatters were finally Canada."

confident Between the spring of 1847 and "report of the Special those the end of 1848, Thorburn and Commissioners appointed on remaining that they would leave the chiefs had relocated most of the 8th September 1856, to after harvesting their growing the Six Nations families to 100 Investigate Indian Affairs in

crops. Based on the squatters' acre lots in Tuscarora Township. Canada." word no further action was By early 1848, 325 nuclear - National Archives of Canda, taken. After the crops were families (1,271 individuals) had RG10, Vol. 895, Pgs 1 to 399. taken in several months passed taken up residence on the "Records Concerning Eviction of with no action on the part of the Reserve. A few families from Squatters." squatters. The Sheriffs therefore down river did relocate as late as - Archives of Ontario, MS658, moved against the remaining 1851. With the move the Vol.490, Envelope 11, Box 495, squatters removing them in Mohawk village became virtually Pgs 15-16, Tuscarora Township February 1852. This would lead deserted. It had about 24 Papers, J. Patton to Hon. M. to an accusation by MacNab, in houses in 1844 but only four or Morin, March 2, 1844. a future Memorial, that the five families remained in 1856. - Weaver, Sally M., Handbook of Sheriffs were too harsh in The other former residents had the North American Indians, Vol. ejecting about 17 families in the all sold their improvements to 15. The Northeast, "Six Nations middle of winter. What he didn't white settlers. It was reported of the Grand River Reserve,

eligible to receive compensation styled squatters, after receiving Britain - Relating to Upper for their improvements, Thorburn all the Warrants, Writs, Canada 1791 - 1840. The was authorized to give it to them. Proclamations, Orders in Council Ontario Ministry of Citizenship Removing squatters from the and the decision of the Court of and Culture. Reserve proved costly and Chancery, still could not accept frustrating, mostly because of the simple message that was sufficient communicated to them over the administrative staff to supervise course of many years. Simply the job. Between 1846 and 1853 put, 'This is Indian land.' By it cost the Indian Department 1855 the Superintendent 885 pounds to pursue this task. General reported all the The Superintendent General of squatters gone. After about 14 the Indian Department, in his frustrating years it could truly be 1853 report, also stated that said that Tuscarora Township

> received -7 Vic. App (M.M.) - 1843. their -8 Vic. App. (E.E.E.) - 1844,

-16 Vic. App. (No.21)-1858,

- Publications of the Province of

March Break **Program**

Two Days, Two Themes March 16 - Exploring Wildlife in Your Backvard March 17- Celebrations and Festivals From Around the World Ages 6 - 12 years Register EARLY by calling the Museum. \$20 per day. Discount for members.

Spring 2000

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Tron rutomoones to washing machines	,,,,,	City of Brantford M	Junicipal Directory,	
A History of Mohawk Park	2.00	1883-86		8.00
Wild Mammals of Southwestern Ontario	8.95	City of Brantford Directory, 1899-1900 16.95		
Tuscarora Township	5.95	Brantford City Dire	ectory, 1910	16.00
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The Iroquois in The War of 1812 - Carl Benn \$21.95

The Mush Hole - Life at two Indian Residential Schools

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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:

In memory of John (Jack) R. Dymond Members of Brant Historical Society

In memory of Nancy Rosemary Hand Members of Brant Historical Society Arlene and Ray Bullas Rev. and Mrs. J. W. Files Jean and Henry Hedges

Elizabeth Hunter Ruth Lefler Gloria Neamtu

In memory of Robert Golden Members of Brant Historical Society

In memory of A. Leslie Doctor Bill Bowman Ruth Lefler

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Spring 2000

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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



HAPPENINGS

BHS LECTURE SERIES

Wednesday, March 15 at 8 p.m.

Gary Muir will speak on "Brantford; A City's Century". He will be highlighting the first decade of the of the 1900's.

Wednesday April 19 at 8 p.m.

President of the Brant Historical Society, Robert Glass, will speak about "The First Nations Collection at the Brant County Museum and Archives".

Wednesday May 17 at 8 p.m.

Mayor of the City of Brantford, Chris Friel, will bring an interesting presentation about "Thayendanegea - Captain Joseph Brant".

Wednesday, June 21

Volunteer Recognition Night at Burford Township Museum, Harley, Ontario.

Until March 11 "A Celebration of 90 Years of Scouting in Brant County"

Anyone who has ever been involved in the Scouting movement will want to see this show documenting the achievements, activities and personalities of this significant organization. We gratefully acknowledge the loan of material from Brant District Scouts Canada.

UPCOMING EXHIBITS

March 14 - April 14

10th AnniversaryExhibition
Art Guild

Opening March 17 at 1:30 pm With Chamber Music

"Something Old, Something New"

May 5 - July 15 Exhibit of wedding attire

Come and have your quilts identified and registered by the Brant Heritage Quilters
April 14 & 15 at the Brant County Museum.

SEEPAGE 8 FOR MARCH BREAK PROGRAMS

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