



BHS Quarterly

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Winter, 2002

Merry Christmas, 1912



The Dunce

This illustration appeared in the Christmas edition of *The Brantford Expositor*, 1912.

The missing photograph

By Robert L. Deboer

While researching the history of the Brant Historical Society, I found a reference in society minutes to the acquisition of a photograph of a painting of Joseph Brant. At a society meeting on Feb. 12, 1914, the secretary, who was also the society historian, Mrs. J.Y. Brown, brought in a report regarding such a photograph. She stated that thanks to the kindness of Earl Grey, late governor general of Canada, a copy of a portrait painted for the Duke of Northumberland had been secured. Although not recorded in society minutes, it is believed that Mrs. Brown made a request to Earl Grey for his assistance in obtaining a photograph of Brant. It is assumed that the former governor general may have suggested to Mrs. Brown that she write the Duke of Northumberland in her quest. On enquiry

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Celebrating 94 years of preserving local history

President's Reflections

It is hard to believe that Christmas will soon be upon us. I know this because staff is busy getting ready for the last of this year's school programs. You should be aware that under the leadership of Debbie Olsen, our Education Officer, the museum has had an excellent year in this area and we look forward to building on this success in the New Year. The success of these programs is reflected in attendance at the museum that is substantially higher this year compared to last year.

The growth of museum programs only underscores the need to find a new facility. Members of the board and Stacey McKellar have been reviewing our immediate and future requirements with Craig Newsome of MMMC Architects. The initial step has been to go over the Weston

Larkin Report done in the early 1990s. While some of this information is outdated, the report contains a tremendous amount of information and analysis that continues to be of value. However, this information needs to be updated in light of changed circumstances. As well, the information must be reduced to its critical components and put forth in a shorter, simpler and more attractive format in order to get our message out. While the expansion of the collection and programs puts a strain on our physical and financial assets, we should all take a certain amount of pride in the fact this growth is a sign of the excellent stewardship given by the society and its staff.

In closing, I wish all of you the very best over the upcoming holiday season.

John Wyatt

Brant Historical Society Board of Directors

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Vice-President Rev. Calvin Diegel

Secretary Margaret Glass

Treasurer Julie Gillis

Past President Robert Glass

Directors

John Bonfield, David Partridge, Robert Deboer,
Gloria Neamtu, Peter Oakes, Anne Westaway

Brant Museum & Archives

57 Charlotte St.,
Brantford, Ontario N3T 2W6
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 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Saturday 1 to 4 p.m.

For July and August: Sunday 1 to 4 p.m.

Web site:

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

The Museum in the Square (A Satellite of the Brant Museum & Archives)

Main Level, Market Square Mall
1 Market St., Brantford, Ontario
519-752-8578

Admission by Voluntary Donation

Hours: Monday to Friday 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

For July, August and December:

Saturday 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Curator's Corner

Well, it's December already and we're keeping very busy here at the museum. The museum is all decorated for the holidays and the staff are waiting for all of our visitors. We have started our very popular Seasonal Celebrations education program. It is a curriculum-based program designed for Grade 2 students. A very special thank-you to Elizabeth Diegel for bringing our Victorian Parlour to life again this year. I am very excited about the Open House on Dec. 8. Please come for a visit and bring a friend. There will be refreshments, a children's activity area and a chance to pick up some gifts for the hard-to-buy-for or local history buff. We have new stock available in the gift shop for Christmas, including the new Brant County history book. On behalf of Cindy, Shanna, Debbie, Susan and Colleen, I would like to wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Stacey McKellar

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The County of Brant
The City of Brantford
The Ontario Ministry of Citizenship,
Culture and Recreation

Brant County photo history 1852-2002: A Celebration



Middleport train station is among scores of photos featured in the new Brant County pictorial history book written by Ruth Lefler and Angela Files.

The book will be launched Sunday, Dec. 8 at 2:30 p.m. at the Mount Pleasant Community Centre.

The book, which is priced at \$20, is available at both Brant Museum locations, all Brant County Service Area offices and Fairview Photo Lab.

Photo courtesy of Ruth Lefler

Continued from Page 1

being made, the Duke of Northumberland responded that a portrait of Brant hung in Aldwych Castle and was a work sent by Brant's daughter Elizabeth in 1838. A request was made by Mrs. Brown for a copy of the portrait and data relating thereto. The following letter was received by Mrs. Brown with a copy of the portrait:

Aldwych Castle
16 June 1914

Dear Madam:

I am in receipt of your letter of the 3rd inst. The enclosed photograph was taken especially for you from the Duke of Northumberland's portrait of Brant by Stewart (sic).

When the portrait was taken down for the purpose of being photographed, a careful examination was made and on the back was found the following:

"Joseph Thayendanegea (commonly called Brant), Chief Warrior and Sachem of the Mohawk Nation who served with the Duke of Northumberland in America in 1776."

These are all the details I am able to give you.

You will be good enough to accept the photograph with the Duke of Northumberland's compliments.

Yours faithfully,
J.C. Hodgson

Upon checking, it was determined that this particular photograph of Brant's portrait received from the Duke of Northumberland is not currently in the collection of the Brant Museum and Archives, although it is recorded in the society's accession register as having been received. Quite by accident, while conducting research, I discovered on Page 3 of *The Brantford Expositor* — Anniversary Number, published on July 1, 1927, a photograph, with the following caption, "Photo of Thayendanegea (Joseph Brant) after whom this city and county are named." Interestingly enough, below the caption was the notation, "Photo loaned by Mrs. J.Y. Brown."

Mrs. Brown was an active member of the Brant Historical Society and, as already noted, held the office of secretary and historian. She was responsible for acquiring the photograph of Joseph Brant from the Duke of Northumberland. At the time that the acquisition of the photograph of Joseph Brant was recorded in the society's accession register in 1914, the society did not have a museum facility for storing and displaying items received. This would not occur until January 1915, when a room was acquired in the basement of the Carnegie Library building on George Street for use as a museum. Without a suitable storage area, Mrs. Brown likely retained possession of the photograph. The photograph of Brant is not currently in the collection of the Brant Museum and Archives. Since Mrs. Brown was responsible for its acquisition and was noted in the July 1, 1927, edition of *The Brantford Expositor* as the

contributor of the photograph of Brant published therein — although at that point it would appear to have been the property of the society — it appears that the photograph remained in Mrs. Brown's possession.

In January 1915, an incident occurred which would shed some light upon how the photograph of Joseph Brant came to remain in Mrs. Brown's possession in 1927.

At the society meeting on Jan. 14, 1915, subject to Notice of Motion having been given at the society meeting on Dec. 14, 1914, it was resolved that the society's constitution be amended as follows:

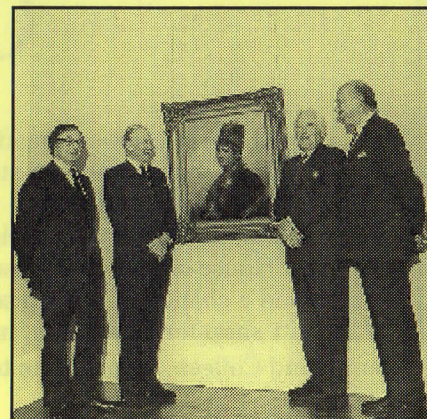
The following be added to Clause 12 of the Constitution:

If any officer refuses or neglects to perform the duties for which he was elected, the office may by a majority vote of those present be declared vacant."

Upon approval of the foregoing, it was subsequently resolved by the meeting as follows:

That the Secretary (Mrs. J.Y. Brown) has declined to perform the duties pertaining to the office, the said office of Secretary is declared vacant.

There is nothing recorded in society minutes to indicate what duties Mrs. Brown may have declined to perform or what caused her to fall into disfavour or if it may have been a personality conflict. However, it is clear that Mrs. Brown retained possession of the photograph of Joseph Brant after it was acquired from the Duke of Northumberland, likely due to the society's lack of a museum facility in which to store and display acquired items. It appears that Mrs. Brown left the society under somewhat less than favourable circumstances and was likely somewhat embittered for being turfed out of office and simply decided not to turn the photograph over to the society. The current whereabouts of the photograph are unknown.



Standing with the portrait of Joseph Brant by Gilbert Stuart is (left to right) Smithsonian Institute National Portrait Gallery director Marvin Sadik, the Duke of Northumberland, Chief Justice Warren E. Burger, and Secretary S. Dillon Ripley, in July 1976. Photo by Robert Maciolek

Potteries and potters of Brant County: Brantford

By Robert L. Deboer

Continued from the Autumn newsletter

J. A. Kennedy – The story of pottery making in Brantford would not be complete without mentioning its second pottery established in the 19th century, which operated from 1889 to 1897. Products of this pottery were marked “J. A. KENNEDY, BRANTFORD, ONT.”

Its owners had a close connection with the Brantford Stoneware Works. The founder of the business, John A. Kennedy, is first reported to have been working in Brantford in 1871, likely as an employee of Welding and Belding. By 1889, he was operating a pottery at 159 Darling Street, one street north and directly behind the Brantford Stoneware Works. Kennedy apparently owned the pottery until 1895. The next year, Wendlin Schuler, brother of Henry Schuler, leading figure in the Brantford Stoneware Manufacturing Co. Ltd., had taken over the small Darling Street pottery.

Known wares produced by the Kennedy pottery were redware, made from terra cotta-coloured clay, usually unglazed with floral designs painted thereon. Redware included miniature banks and jugs, signed and unsigned; miniature pieces with floral designs and bearing “Souvenir of Brantford” or other southwestern Ontario communities; larger pieces, hand painted with floral designs or scenes applied thereto and imprinted with Kennedy’s signature on the bottom; and brown Staffordshire dogs bearing

Kennedy’s signature.

An advertisement in 1895 in a directory read: “W.B. Schuler, manufacturer of flower pots, hanging baskets, seed pans, lily pots, lawn vases, glazed ware, etc.” From the Brantford assessment rolls and credit rating information it appears that Wendlin Schuler only worked until 1897 at the pottery. By 1903, he was the town’s first letter carrier.

The Kennedy pottery was not a threat to the Brantford Stoneware Works.

Strawberry Hill Pottery – A small pottery was reported in Brantford Township in the late 1850s. The name Strawberry Hill remains today and is now a residential area in West Brantford in the same general proximity of the pottery’s former location. Unfortunately, the name of the owners of the pottery and its precise location have not been determined. An advertisement in *The Globe* of April 24, 1858, reads:

STRAWBERRY HILL POTTERY

To Merchants, Tin and dark glazed ware being great conductors of heat, the subscriber has succeeded in getting a white glaze, producing a great deal more butter...

Two years later in the May 22 issue of *The Globe*, there appeared an advertisement of the sale of the property: “... that valuable property known as ‘Strawberry Hill’, in the Township of Brantford, containing about 60 acres of land.”

Presumably, this marked the end of the pottery business. No pieces of the firm’s wares are known to exist.

Summer students

As the summer research assistant for the Brant Museum and Archives, the duties that I carried out were numerous and varied. Primarily, I was responsible for the backlog of research requests that had accumulated throughout the year, and for any new requests that occurred during my tenure at the museum. In addition to my main role as researcher, I also helped with museum tours, gift shop sales, exhibit design and display, and the updating of the self-guided tour book. Overall, I must say that my time at the museum was very enjoyable and a great learning experience; for not only was I able to gain a greater understanding and appreciation for the history of Brantford and Brant County, but also was able to meet some interesting and knowledgeable people along the way.

Regards,

Mark Kronwald, University of Waterloo

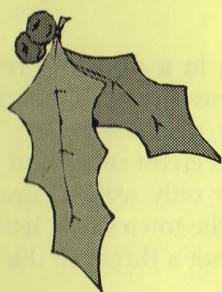
My name is Heather Macdonald and this summer I was the program assistant for the Brant Museum and Archives.

I thoroughly enjoyed my time this summer, although it was busy. All of the kids loved our camps this year: Time Machine, A Day in the Life, and Archeology Digs. It was wonderful to work with Debbie and all of the kids this summer and I will miss everyone now that I am away this fall.

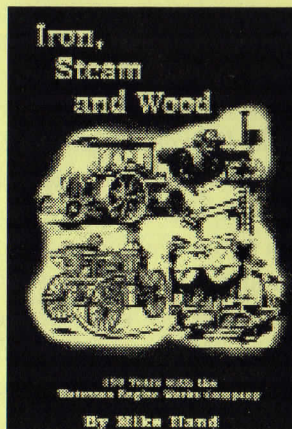
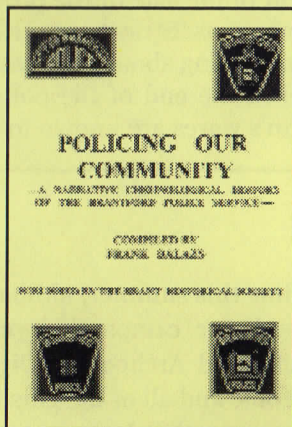
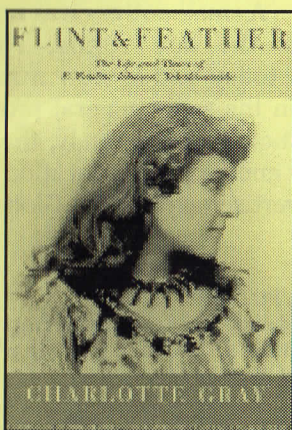
Heather Macdonald, Assumption College

Hi. My name is Elizabeth Dunlop. I am 20 years old and entering my second year at the University of Waterloo. I had the privilege of being one of four summer students to work at the museum this summer. It was an interesting experience and I got to work with some really great people. This summer Mercedes Boswell and I did inventories for both Metal Storage and Fine Art Storage. I also did a lot of artifact cataloguing, helped with the summer camps, and worked at the Museum in the Square on the weekends.

Elizabeth Dunlop, University of Waterloo



Christmas Savings Are Coming to Town



**Save now on selected books for Christmas
gift giving!**

**Choose from over 20
Brant Historical Society publications**

Buy 1 book, save 10%

Buy 2 books, save 20%

Buy 3 books, save 30%

On sale now until Dec. 24, 2002
Hours for the Museum in the Square
on Dec. 24 are 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.

* This offer is not to be combined
with other discounts.

The Museum in the Square
Market Square Mall

Brant Museum & Archives
57 Charlotte St.
752-2483

**Reserve your copy of
the County of Brant's 1852-2002: A
Celebration, available this month!**

MEMBERSHIPS

Welcome to our new members

James Calnan
Peter Farrugia
Brenda Murphy

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Paul Bergasse, Peter M. Brophy, Laurene Campbell, John
N. Davis, Bill Fuller, J.M. Gardiner, Nora B. Hammill, Mike
Hand, Margaret Lorenz, Helen Manfredi, James Miklos,
John Quinn, Irene L. Rae, Ruth Walker, Eileen Beth
Wallace, Marion Weir, Anne Westaway

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Clarence and Alice Pope	Robert W. Spearin
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Duncan Leslie	Dr. G. Honeyman
Clara E.V. Terryberry	Laurene Campbell
Christopher Osborne	John Wyatt

A Brant Historical Society membership offers ...

- free admission to the Brant Museum & Archives, Bell Homestead and Myrtleville House Museum (excluding special events)
- exemption from personal 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 \$20

DONATION OPPORTUNITIES

Endowment Fund: The interest from this fund goes to the operation of the museum.

Acquisition Fund: This fund is used to acquire and conserve artifacts.

Building Fund: This fund will be used for the museum — to renovate the existing building, to buy a new building and to renovate it, or to build a brand new museum.

Operations Fund: This fund is used for the daily operations of the museum, including staffing and programming.

Special Projects Fund: This fund will be used to complete special projects — some current projects include the Settlement Gallery, a new reception desk, a new sign for the front lawn and repairs to the glass enclosure.

DONATION ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Endowment Fund

In Memory of Mae Cottrell
Brant Historical Society

In Memory of Glenn Kilmer
B.M. Henry
Brant Historical Society

Categories and fees

Benefactor	\$500.00+
Patron	\$200.00+
Friend	\$100.00+
Supporter	\$50.00
Family (2)	\$30.00
Individual	\$20.00
Student	\$15.00



Happenings



Brant Museum & Archives

Exhibits

"Trés Scheak: Fine Art and Furniture from the Harrison M. Scheak Collection." Nov. 25 to March 28, 2003.

"Fanaritis Collection," a sampling of the Brantford couple's collection of textiles and jewelry dating from the 17th century, which is currently on display at the Royal Ontario Museum. April to June 2003.

"Brantford Pottery from the Brant Historical Society's Collection." July to September 2003.

Christmas open house

Sunday, Dec. 8, 1 to 4 p.m. Come and check out your Museum. We're all decorated for the holidays and would love a visit from you. Experience a taste of Victorian Christmas in our parlour, take a self-guided tour, browse through our gift shop and enjoy some holiday refreshments. All welcome. Free admission.

Kids Club

Seasonal Celebrations, Saturday, Dec. 14, 1 to 4 p.m. We'd love you to spend the afternoon with us — we'll be getting into the seasonal spirit of things by making presents, decorations and baking some tasty treats. Please call 752-2483 to pre-register. Ages 6-12. \$10.

Staff changes

Susan Gonzalez was hired in October as the registrar in charge of creating a digital database for the photograph collection. This position is a two-year contract funded by the Trillium Foundation. Caralyn Kelly Stradiotto, who was working in the gift shop, left in mid-November for an exciting new opportunity. She has promised to continue volunteering with us. We wish her lots of luck with her new job. Colleen Cross has been hired as our new gift shop attendant. In the next newsletter we will introduce all of the staff at the museum.

Zehrs tapes

Keep bringing in those Zehrs tapes. We have received our first cheque, and all of the funds go toward the museum's education programs.

Call for volunteers

We need volunteers to help with our education programs, working with the collection and participating in our fundraising bingos.



Brant Historical Society

General meeting speakers

Brant Museum & Archives, 7:30 p.m.

Dec. 18	David Judd Christmas 1902
Jan. 15	Speakers to be announced
March 19	
April 19	

Brantford Film Group

The Brantford Film Group is a fundraiser for the Brant Historical Society. Films are screened on the second and fourth Thursdays of each month at the Cineplex Odeon Brantford Mall Cinemas at 7 p.m. Advance tickets are \$7 and can be purchased at the museum. Box office tickets are \$8 and are purchased at the door.

Dec. 12 *The Emperor's New Clothes, Great Britain*, rated PG. What if Napoleon Bonaparte never went into exile on St. Helena? What if an imposter took his place? What if Napoleon went back to Paris and nobody believed his tale? What if he then fell in love with a beautiful widow and had to choose a new path in life? This is the basis for this light-hearted and fanciful tale of fate and friendship starring Ian Holm and Iben Hjejle.

Jan. 9 *Under the Sun, Sweden*, subtitled, rated AA. This gentle, lyrical film is set in the summer of 1956. Olaf is an illiterate farmer left alone by his mother's death. He feels that the time has come for some female companionship and, with the help of his close friend Eric, he places an ad for a "housekeeper." The ad is answered by Ellen, who over the course of the summer grows increasingly close to Olaf, displacing Eric in his affections.

Jan. 23 *Rabbit-proof Fence, Australia*.

Feb. 13 *The Last Kiss (L'Ultimo Bacio), Italy*, subtitled, rated R. This is a multi-generational serio-comedy about the fear of growing up and the urge to escape obligations. Set in a wealthy suburb, *The Last Kiss* follows a group of eight friends and family members who chase after passions, struggle with love problems and try to balance responsibility and duty with their needs and dreams. *Please note this film is rated Restricted for sexual content.*

Feb. 27 *Bowling for Columbine, United States*.

March 13 *Ararat, Canada*.

F=Family; PG=Parental Guidance; AA=Adult Accompaniment; R=Restricted