

November
2015

ISSUE
2



NOTE FROM THE BOARD

The past few months have been an exciting period for the Board as we are now beginning to see the results of plans that have been in the works for some time. During the past month, twelve new members have joined the Brant Historical Society. For the Board, this is exciting news. The more we grow, the more services we will be able to offer members and the community.

One of the key objectives that the Board had set for itself was to foster more opportunities to work with other organizations to maximize benefits to the community. The recent Lawren Harris Exhibition, which took months of planning, was also a collaborative effort with other organizations including the Art Gallery of Hamilton, Trinity College, University of Toronto, Tyndale College, The Expositor, Glenhyrst Gallery, Sanderson Centre, Braemar House School, and the Paint Club. The *Doing Our Bit* presentation, offered as a part of Remembrance Day events, is another example of the Brant Historical Society building working relationships with other community groups. The Archival Bus Tour that was offered on October 20th is yet another program that was delivered in partnership with the Brant County OGS Resource Centre and the Eva Brook Donly Museum and Archives in Simcoe.

Another key aspect of building partnerships has been focused on the business sector in an effort to not only make them aware of the important role that the Brant Museum and Archives can play in our community, but also to encourage

them to use us as a resource to preserve the business history of our community. Recently the Brant Mutual Insurance Company donated a significant collection of its business documents dating back to 1861. This includes Minute Books, Ledgers, Annual Reports, Photographs and Correspondence.

During the next several months we will be working with the Brantford-Brant Chamber of Commerce in preparation for its 150th Anniversary as the voice of business in Brant. For us this is an exciting opportunity for the Brant Historical Society to further interface with the business community. Recently, the Society has been successful in obtaining funding from the ArtsVest Program which focuses on building partnerships with business. Our recent efforts to involve business in our programming were reflected in the success that we had in attracting partners for our Culture Days program. As we move forward, we hope to see these efforts translate into financial support from the business sector.

We also recognize that there are collaborative opportunities to work with Laurier University and the City of Brantford. We have already initiated discussions in these areas and we hope that the impact of these discussions will be evident over the next months.

Michael St. Amant
President

Board Executive

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OPERATIONAL REPORT



Since our last newsletter, we have held a number of events that continue to give us momentum at the Brant Historical Society. Our participation in Culture Days, the Walking Tours, the September Members' Meeting, the Ontario Archives Bus Trip, Women in the War Exhibit, a Slipper Fundraiser and preparations for the Lawren Harris Exhibit have kept us quite busy.

During Culture Days, we offered a number of events that the community could enjoy. For children, we had our Educational Officer, Sarah Thomas assist us with Victorian Toys that children could play with on the lawn. Inside, we set up new Dental and Coffee Grinder exhibits sponsored by Clarence Street Dental and Personal Coffee Service. Brian Moore gave an outstanding walking tour on the Victoria Park Walking Tour. Finally, our own Carissa White ran a workshop called "Prioritizing Our Collection". This workshop gave participants our assessment categories so that they could learn what goes into accepting new items into museum collections. Over all, we experienced an increase in the participation rate over last year by nearly doubling to 60 attendees.

In addition to the Victoria Walk Tour, BHS Member and Volunteer Brian Moore offered an amazing Murder, Mystery, and Mayhem Walking Tour. The response was so overwhelming that we required an additional walk on October 30th offering evening walks at 7 PM and 9 PM. Finally, the Monuments and Memorials Walking Tour was offered on Saturday, November 7th. Throughout the year, the Walking Tour Series provides a great revenue generating tool and also increases our membership. All this is due to the great work of our Volunteer Brian Moore. Kudos!

At our September Members' Meeting we had more than 20 people attend. The Board updated the membership on museum operations and shared a little about the direction that the museum is heading in. Reverend Tinker from Farringdon Independent Church presented the history of the Independent Church and how Farringdon came about.

On October 22nd, we organized a trip to the Ontario Archives, which was a partnership between Brant County Ontario Genealogical Society and Eva Brook Donly

Museum. We had a very successful trip with people very enthusiastic about their experience. This was a break-even event for the museum.

As part of the "Doing our Bit" play by Vincent Ball of the Expositor, the museum has created a small exhibition about Women in the War highlighting women's contributions to the warfront. This will be on display during the week of the show.

We have received a large donation of yarn and our very own Brant Museum "Elves" have been busy knitting up at storm. Slippers will be for sale in the museum's Gift Shop starting December 1st for \$5 a pair, to support education programming at Myrtleville. One local business owner made an offer that if we had 20 pairs of slippers knitted by December 1st, his business would donate \$1500 to the museum! We have already fulfilled this commitment. A big "Thank You" goes to our Brant Museum "Elves" for their wonderful efforts.

Finally, our Lawren Harris exhibit, which premiered at the end of October, far exceeded our expectations. Behind the scenes, Board Members Christopher Greenlaw, Michael St. Amant, and volunteer Adam Harnes did the work of transforming the programming room into a professional exhibit gallery. Board Member Cody Groat did research within the collection to find what we could include to enhance the exhibit. Staff spent time pulling and placing the artifacts and preparing the exhibit panels. This exhibit would not have been such a great success without the contributions that everyone put into the exhibit.

The momentum continues as we have an array of upcoming events. We encourage you to spread the word about BHS happenings, and invite your family and friends to these events as a way of promoting the museum and increasing our membership.

*To learn more about programs and volunteering opportunities at Brant Historical Society, please contact **Nathan Etherington** at 519-752-2483 or nathan.etherington@brantmuseums.ca*



OUR HISTORY MATTERS

Judge Alexander David Hardy - First President of the Brant Historical Society



On September 27, 1951, the *Expositor* lamented the passing of Brantford's "Distinguished Son," Judge Alexander David Hardy. The Brant Historical Society remembers him as its' first President, elected on November 24, 1908. During his life, Hardy was a man committed to the betterment of Brantford both in terms of its economic and cultural vitality. He was a man who sought "material

progress without the sacrifice of the humane and the aesthetic." (*Expositor*, 1927)

Born July 13, 1859, in Brantford, Alexander was the youngest son of Russell and Julietta (Sturgis) Hardy who at one time resided in Mount Pleasant before moving to Brantford. He was also the brother of Arthur Sturgis Hardy who served as Premier of Ontario from 1896 to 1899.

The Hardy family could trace its roots back to pre-revolutionary America when Captain John Hardy emigrated from England to Philadelphia with his younger brother Alexander, the paternal grandfather of Judge Hardy. After the Revolutionary war, Captain John was among the ranks of United Empire Loyalists granted land along the Niagara River near Queenston Heights. Alexander who had accompanied his brother eventually moved to Canning, South Dumfries where he established a mill. Prior to his death in 1819, he bought a farm near Blue Lake.

Judge Hardy was educated in the public and grammar school system in Brantford. Following his graduation, he worked for four years in the offices of Waterous Engine Works before deciding to follow his brother in the legal profession. He moved to London where he studied law under J. C. Thompson and subsequently articulated with Harris, Magee and Company. In 1881, he was a member of the junior class of the Law Society of Upper Canada. He finished his articling with Moss, Hoyles and Aylesworth in Toronto. Called to the Bar in 1886, he returned to London and joined Jarvis and Hardy as a partner. A few years later, Alexander returned to Brantford and joined his uncle's firm, Hardy, Wilkes and Hardy.

Several years after his return to Brantford, he met and married Mary Elizabeth Curtis, daughter of David Curtis and Emily Fitch Curtis. The wedding took place at Grace Church on December 1, 1894. The couple would share a common interest in the community's social and cultural life. Emily would become involved in several women's charitable organizations. In 1911, she played a key role in founding the Brantford Chapter of the Imperial Order of the

Daughters of the Empire. In 1927, she served on the Board of the Women's Council. The couple raised two children, Doris and Arthur Curtis at home located at 56 Wellington Street.

On April 23, 1897, Alexander David Hardy assumed office as County Judge of Brant and local Judge High Court of Justice Ontario. While the fact that his brother, Arthur Sturgis, was Premier of the Province may have eased his appointment to the bench, his understanding of the law and his oratorical skills made him an ideal candidate to succeed the retiring Judge Jones. On October 4, 1899, he was also made Surrogate Judge of Brant and on November 21, 1902, Local Master Supreme Court of Judicature. He held these positions for 33 years until his retirement in 1935. That year he was appointed Judge of the Juvenile Court, a post that he held until 1944. Hardy was not one to shy away from controversy. In 1901, when D. B. Wood, a known Liberal, was elected Mayor of Brantford, a challenge was mounted by Conservative elements with the city concerning the election practices of the Wood campaign. Hardy ruled against Wood who was removed from office. In the election that followed, Wood was acclaimed as Mayor. A decade later, after a Hungarian had been stabbed by an Italian, the police sought an order to confiscate knives owned by Italians. In his ruling Hardy suggested that in the future, matters should be resolved in "the old British methods of using their fists."

Hardy's involvement in community affairs began soon after his return Brantford. Prior to his appointment to the Bench, he served on the Executive of the Brantford Liberal Association. He also played a key role in developing the Brantford Public Library, a commitment that lasted throughout his lifetime. He served as Chairman of Board of Directors and it was he who wrote to Andrew Carnegie on February 28, 1902, in a successful effort to raise \$30,000 to build the library. This was followed by a further request for \$5,000. He served on the Ontario Library Commission to report on the technical operations of American libraries. In 1909, he was elected as President of the Ontario Library Association. Hardy always argued that libraries served as a means to educate and open the imagination of people.

On November 24, 1908, Hardy was elected President of the Brant Historical Society and under his leadership the Society gained accreditation with the Ontario Historical Society. When he assumed responsibilities as President of the Ontario Library Association the following year, he did not stand for re-election. In 1910, however, he was elected honorary President by the Society. Hardy was an ardent supporter of local research, particularly as it related to Joseph Brant. As President, he read a paper he had had prepared entitled *Memoir of Major Arnold Burrows*.

Continued.....



Our History Matters - "Judge Alexander David Hardy – First President of the Brant Historical So" Continues.....

During the First World War, he served on several local committees and was an active fundraiser in support of local troops. He and his wife supported causes assisting families of soldiers serving abroad. This commitment was also carried over to the Second World War.

Hardy's interest in preserving local history was manifested in 1917 when he played an integral role in the Bell Memorial Association on behalf of the Brant Historical Society. After the First World War, he served as President of the Brant Memorial Association.

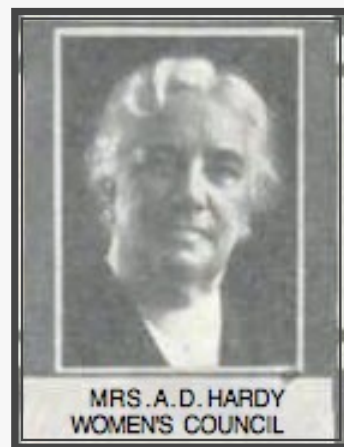
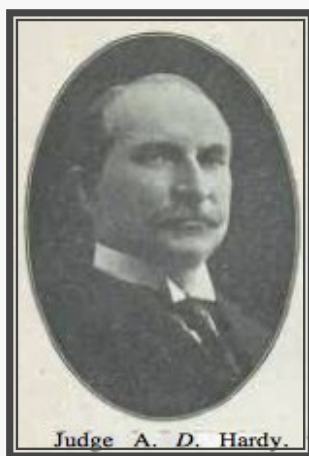
Always interested in the arts and culture, he established the Baconian Club while in London. In Brantford, he served a President of the Schubert Choir, the Brantford Male Chorus, and the Brantford Symphony Orchestra.

Several important social causes also benefitted from his involvement. In 1909 Hardy was instrumental in founding the Brant Anti-Tuberculosis Association that became instrumental in the establishment of the Brant Sanatorium. On June 14, 1920, he was appointed Chairman of the Mothers Allowance Board. He was also a member the Grace Church congregation and served on several committees of the Church of England Diocese. He supported the Brantford Chapter of the Upper Canada Bible Society and was at one time President.

In the Expositor's *Semi-Centennial Anniversary Edition of Brantford*, Judge Hardy outlined his vision for the future of the city. It was a vision built upon industrial and manufacturing strength. "We no longer

live in the restful Victorian Age," he wrote, "at which some will say Alas! but are in world currents and must move accordingly." At the same time, foresaw a need to replace the smokestacks with hydropower to ensure clean air so that people could enjoy the city's beautiful parks. He believed that the library system needed to be expanded to the rural areas, transportation systems improved and greater emphasis on providing sports facilities. He also saw greater use of air transport between Brantford and Toronto.

Hardy died on September 26, 1951 and is buried at Farringdon Cemetery. Like is life, his death was marked with his organizational presence. He himself had chosen the readings from Scriptures and hymns to be sung.



**Michael St. Amant,
President**

CULTURE DAY EVENT



The BHS Culture Day event took place on Saturday, 26 September 2015 and featured two sponsored exhibits, an artefact conservation workshop, a children's programme, and a walking tour of Victoria Square. The financial assistance provided by our event sponsors, Clarence Street Dental, Personal Service Coffee, The Co-operators, and potter Steve Smith, helped pay not only to have our special exhibits brought out of storage and put on display, but also to cover our operating expenses for the day with free admission for all. Additionally, the sponsorship agreement provided the opportunity for sponsors to have their exhibit displayed at their workplace in order to maximize museum exposure and offer a reciprocal benefit beyond the traditional monetary model. More than 50 people availed themselves of our exhibits, displays, workshops, and tours, which is a year-over-year improvement.

Photo: Mellissa MacDonald and Joshua Wall of Personal Service Coffee pretend to fill the Brant Historical Society's large coffee mill, on display at their Brantford location.

**Christopher Greenlaw,
Vice-President.**



MEMBERS' EVENT



On November 25, 2015 at 7:00 pm join us for our next Members' Event at the Brant Museum and Archives and hear about - **"Our Local Angels of Mercy: Insights into the lives and service of two local nursing sisters during the Great War"**

Meghan E. Cameron will be examining the key role of nursing sisters from the local area who were part of the Great War. Ms. Cameron will give a brief overview on the history of nursing sisters in Canada's military and explore the specific stories of Annie Hartley and Katherine Maud Macdonald, who were among the 32 nursing sisters from this area and were enlisted during the Great War.

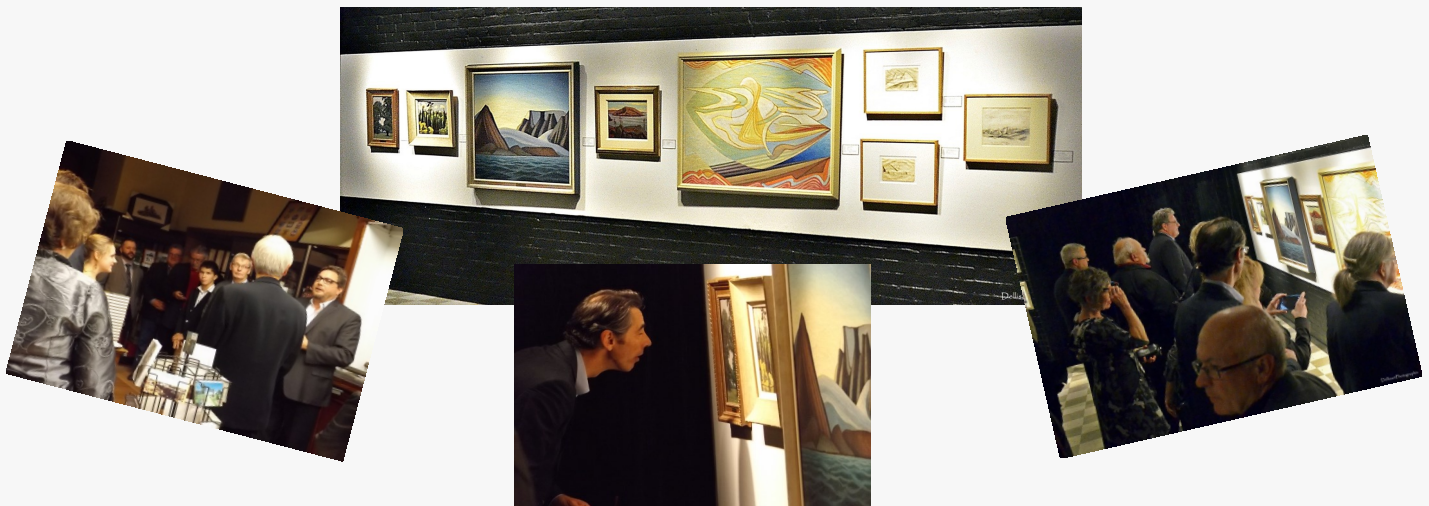
Ms. Cameron is a History and Civics teacher in the Department of History at Brantford Collegiate Institute and VS. She received her Honours History BA from Acadia and then completed her MA in History from the University of Guelph before entering teaching profession in 2002. Having taught secondary school history, civics and social

sciences since then, she has wanted to contribute to her community and share her love of history. As a member of the Great War Centenary Association of Brantford, Brant County and Six Nations (GWCA), she enjoys learning about local history while also helping her community to remember its exceptional history as it pertains to the Great War.

The evening will also include an operational update from the Brant Historical Society's President, Michael St. Amant, and a birthday cake in honour of the Anniversary of the Brant Historical Society. While the BHS held its inaugural meeting on May 8, 1908, the BHS by-laws identify that the organization has established the date of the death of Joseph Brant, November 24th, as its anniversary date.

For more information, please contact **Nathan Etherington** at 519-752-2483 or nathan.etherington@brantmuseums.ca

Lawren Harris Exhibition



I knew we did something right with the Lawren Harris exhibit when a woman came up to me in tears, thanking us for the work we did. She told me that she had been a lifelong fan of the artist who shared her hometown of Brantford, but never imagined she would be able to see his work back in her community. She shook my hand, thanked me again, and walked away - a dream had come true.

The staff and Board of Directors alike knew this exhibit would attract attention, but we could never have anticipated reactions like that woman's. It wasn't her alone that felt something powerful. Students from Christ the King public school, St. Peter's public school, and Braemar House School left their field trips to the exhibit feeling 'patriotic', 'proud' and excited to continue down their own artistic paths. Families had the chance to share stories of growing up around Dufferin Ave, near the home the famed Group of Seven artist was born in, and tell their grandchildren of life when the Massey-Harris company defined this town. This event brought people together, and allowed the Brant Museums and Archives to once again be a destination, instead of a pit stop. We were proud to host these incredible works, proud to bring Lawren home, and proud to think "what's next"

Cody Groat, Board Member

"Archives of Ontario" Trip Experience Oct. 20, 2015



My name is Elizabeth deRainville-Stone and I am a relatively new volunteer for Brant Archives and Historical Society. I was eager to go to the Archives of Ontario in Toronto for some family research material. Genealogical information for my father's French-Canadian family was lost in a fire and long before my birth both paternal grandparents were deceased. When Dad died, I was left with no one for family heritage information. Thus, I had many questions and no readily available resources. I just had a few postcards with signatures of the relatives whose information I was trying to locate.

In the early to mid-2000s I connected online with a very qualified Quebec lawyer/author who had spent many years researching the deRainville-Rainville diaspora from Touques, France to Beauport, QC in 1655 onward. We both stemmed from the different branches of the same family tree. Finally some information became linked for us both via the Ottawa Genealogical Society's resources. Her branch removed the 'de' from their surname while mine kept it. However, with the spelling of my surname, there was a much smaller group supposedly in Ontario so the search for them was to be much simpler. Towards the end of 2008 I was thrilled to see my family puzzle coming together. However, the one sticking point was finding my paternal grandparents marriage certificate. The Latter Day Saints had no record; my researcher couldn't find it; OGS had nothing; the church records had nothing; Ancestry.ca had nothing and every time I tried the result was *no match*. What could I lose by going to our provincial Archives? If the certificate wasn't there perhaps there was no record to find.

October 20, 2015 was another day to search these for my elusive grandparents Michel Melasippe deRainville and Annie Davis. With the help of an archivist, I looked into

<http://familysearch.org>. always using grandpa's French name as the spouse since his name was so distinctive. Absolutely no marriage certificate was found. We then searched Ancestry.ca. Nothing found. With a heavy heart I finally tried looking for their certificate using my grandmother's name. Several files with her name popped up and indeed there was a marriage certificate, but my grandpa's name was not there. Grandma supposedly married Mechel Menatia DeKenuville. I opened the file anyway and found a marriage license plus 3 other pages of information with a signature I recognized as my grandfather Michel's. The official who provided their license tried to squeeze Michel's entire name into a small space and it was illegible. Ancestry folk spelled it as best as they could and came up with the above distorted names. The second page of the documents had grandpa's signature.

Michel and Annie were married July 1, 190x in Grandma's home by her minister. What a joyful delight to see signatures for the grandparents I had searched for so long. The year they were married looked like 1909 but Ancestry.ca indicated 1907 while my father's birth certificate indicated 1908. I was so happy to see this document I emailed it home several times just to be sure I would have it. I really don't care the year of their marriage. I am just so absolutely thrilled to find their connection which has been so elusive. With this final piece of the puzzle I am overjoyed. I now have documented paternal generations back to Sept. 4, 1655 Canada plus two earlier generations in France. I am the 11th generation from the first Canadian deRainville family and am proud to say so! My fortuitous trip to Archives of Ontario finished the puzzle in finding my paternal grandparents' marriage information once and for all. YAY!

Elizabeth deRainville-Stone, Volunteer

DID YOU KNOW?

This Remembrance Day, November 11, 2015, always very special, will fall within the 100th year of the second year of WW1, 1915/2015.



In April 1915, the Canadians including First Nations and Metis soldiers, at the second battle of Ypres, were subjected to what is generally accepted as the first large-scale use of chlorine gas (green/yellow cloud) on the battlefield. Nearly 6000 canisters of gas were used by the Germans contributing to the allied losses of about 1/3 of their force; over 6000 killed, wounded or captured yet, they held their positions stopping the German advance.

Zig Misiak, Board Member



MYRTLEVILLE HOUSE NEWS



The Myrtle House Museum has had a productive fall. We are proud to announce the release of our new First Nations education program titled *“Interactions between First Nations and Europeans in Early Canada”*. This program targets grade 5 and 6 social studies curriculum strand A. The program explores the complex relationship between early Canadian explorers and First Nations. As an outreach program we will travel to the schools, bringing a variety of primary and secondary resources for students to analyze. The program concludes with students presenting their findings to the class in a drama activity. For more details about this program and updates on other school programming, please visit our website: www.brantmuseums.ca.

On Sunday, October 25, we at Myrtleville were excited to be the host of a Paint-Club event. Participants painted a “Lawren Harris” inspired work under the direction of the artistic Paint-Club team. We had 22 participants and the

event was a great success. Desire for a second program was expressed on social media following the event. And as a result, similar Paint-Club events are being planned for the New Year. Watch our Facebook page for updates.

Myrtleville is happy to be holding PD Day and March Break Camps again this year. We are looking forward to our first PD day on Friday, November 13th. The theme for the day will be *“once upon a time”*. Campers will enjoy making crafts and playing games themed upon their favourite stories. Registration is still open. Campers aged 4 (must be in kindergarten) - 11 are welcome to join in the fun!

The Myrtle House Museum is always in need of new volunteers for our PD day camps and education programming. If you, or someone you know would like to know more about camps, special events, education programming or volunteering at the Myrtle House Museum please contact Sarah Thomas at 519-717-3216 or sarah.thomas@brantmuseums.ca.

FROM OUR COLLECTION

While continuing our inventory adventures, we have discovered a couple of hidden gems in the collection relating to Brantford’s contributions to World War I (WWI). The most interesting piece that we are going to highlight is a German Airplane Maintenance Book. This book contains a wealth of information about German operations during WWI and during the start of the war by air.

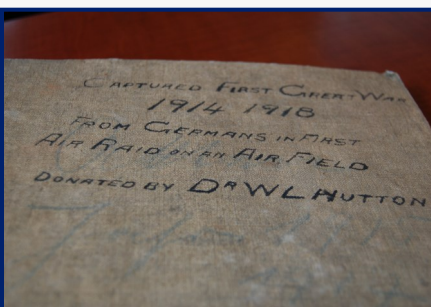
The German Book has printed in black ink *“Captured [during the] First Great War 1914 – 1918 From German in First Air Raid on an air field - Donated by Dr. W. L. Hutton”*. Now it is debatable whether or not this was actually the first air raid during the war. Dr. William Lorne Hutton was a Major in the Canadian Expeditionary Force in the Canadian Medical Army Corp who was born in Winnipeg before coming to Brantford where he lived at 221 Nelson Street and worked as a physician.

corner of Murray and Nelson Streets, it was not until today the name of Captain William Lorne Hutton of the R.C.R., appear in the casualty lists as having been wounded. Before war broke out Capt. Hutton was a medical officer in the Canadian Army. After he enlisted he spent a year in Bermuda with the Royal Canadian Regiment, and has been at the front for over a year. His wounds, which have not taken him away from duty, were received in the Somme sector, where he is now.

Letters recently received show that he has been working hard and continuously there, at 24 hours a stretch. Mr. H.V. Hutton of the Verity Plow Works is brother of Capt. W. L. Hutton and his brother, Lieut. (Dr.) R.L. Hutton, of the R.A.M.C., who spent part of a sick furlough in Brantford at the home of his father-in-law, Alfred Ball, 14 Sheridan Street, last winter. He had just then finished eight months’ service at the front.”

This wound appears not to have affected Captain Hutton significantly as he was able to continue his service until the bitter end. Hutton went on after this to capture this important piece of information that gave allies insights into the German Air Force. Both Captain Hutton and his brother, Dr. Robert Lyle Hutton, survived the war.

Nathan Etherington , Program Coordinator



On October 12th, 1916, the Brantford Expositor reported that Dr. Hutton was injured:

“Although word was received a couple days ago by his wife, who resides at the

Facts versus 'Facts': the Henderson Survey

Part I: 1800-1841



The most important consideration for professional historians is the use of sources, artifacts, photographs, or paintings. Each, in its own right has a certain relevancy and it is the professional historian's responsibility to cast a discerning eye upon each source in order to determine its significance and value. Secondary source material, in particular, poses a unique problem for historians in that many titles and manuscripts are produced by either amateur or enthusiast historians and likely have not been rigorously scrutinized or peer-reviewed. This is not to diminish the value of such works - amateur and enthusiast manuscripts often provide data that might not otherwise have been published at all. But they are more susceptible to a danger faced by all historical writers: the citation and replication of erroneous 'facts' on the basis that said 'fact' has appeared in numerous writings. Right or wrong, the mistake can eventually become a consensus opinion and even take on a life of its own. When evidence to the contrary is presented and well argued, stakeholders who have viewed the incorrect 'fact' as gospel truth because it can be found (repeated) within several historic texts, are loath to consider the possibility that an error might have been made and that the historical record needs to be corrected, even when primary source evidence provides proof.

There is a significant error on the well-known 1839 Burwell Survey that has been repeated by and published in numerous books. Specifically, Burwell claimed that two parcels of land within Concession III of Brant County belonged to a Mr. Lloyd Richardson and a Mr. T.C. (Thomas Charles) Patrick. Land registry records at no point ascribe ownership of these lands to either of these gentlemen and nor do they make any mention of the six-year land claims battle that ensued between no fewer than nine people, the government of Upper Canada, and then-Indian Agent John Colborne. Each claimed to have purchased their parcel of land from Chief Thomas Davis, a Six-Nations man who led a settlement near what is now the Lansdowne-Costain Public School. Other individuals not named on the survey also claimed ownership of property. At least five other people, the most vociferous of which was a Mr. Seth Crawford, took exception to the published Burwell survey and claimed that they had all 'purchased' tracts of land before the others had, or that they had a special connection to Chief Davis.

Land surveyor Lewis Burwell submitted a statement to the Upper Canada Land Petitions Committee on 25 April 1839 in an attempt to sort out the affair. Burwell wrote that he attended a meeting with Joseph Brant, Chief Davis, and the aforementioned Mr. Crawford, in which Davis was informed by Brant that, "the land he occupied should not be sold from him and that he should keep as his own lands enough for a good farm." Chief Davis, who was quite old by this time, asked for a contract to be drawn up by Burwell for the posthumous sale of Davis' lands to Crawford, but Crawford apparently never signed the deal. Chief Davis died at some point after the meeting, and claims of land "purchases" from the late Chief could not longer be cross-examined or verified. The affair descended quickly in to a rather sordid letter writing campaign wherein each party did their best to discredit the others through rumour and speculation. In early 1841, knowledge of a Letter Patent that was issued to a Lieutenant General John Murray further complicated the matter for it was dated 16 May 1837, two years *before* the Burwell survey was even published. The squabbling over who purchased what was all for naught anyway: by 1844 local officials and the Indian Agent for the region had long since tired of the affair and wanted the matter laid to rest. The consensus was that General Murray owned the tracts of land in question; Messieurs Crawford, Patrick, Richardson, and all the rest, were left with nothing.

Lieutenant General John Murray, the grandson of Quebec Governor James Murray, served with the British Army in Europe and Upper Canada. His military career began with an "appointment" (or more likely the purchase of rank) to Lieutenant in the 20th Regiment of Foot in 1799. He was promoted to Captain on 31 October 1806 and transferred to the 96th Regiment of Foot two years later where he attained the rank of Major. Sources are vague as to whether or not he was present with the 96th during the battles of Rolica and Vimiero on 17 and 21 August 1808 respectively, part of the Peninsular War against Napoleon, but Murray continued to rise through the ranks of the 96th. He traveled with the regiment to the Niagara Region of Upper Canada in 1810, served during the war of 1812, and became a Major General on 4 June 1813. It is likely that his service in the defense of British North America during the 1812 conflict was the aegis for several sizeable land grants to Murray throughout Upper Canada.

Continued.....



Facts versus 'facts': the Henderson Survey

Part I: 1800-1841

Continues.....

Murray eventually settled in the town of Drummondville, now part of Niagara Falls, after marrying Ellen Butler O'Connor on 3 August 1827 and had 13 children. Murray and his wife were very much involved in the "City of the Falls" project, a large real estate venture that "sought to establish a large residential city within view of the Falls." The project failed due to lack of interest and was a huge financial loss for its investors. At some point between 1836 and 1837, a despondent Murray left British North America for the last time, "in order to [better] educate his children." Murray died in Paris, France on 16 September 1841. Over the next twenty years, his vast land holdings in Upper Canada, Britain, and British Guyana were sold off by his executors/trustees, the most prominent of which was his wife Ellen.

A seemingly minuscule error on what is more or less four square inches of paper on a scaled land survey can have a

tremendous impact on our understanding of history.

This first installment on the provenance of what is now the Henderson Survey is the culmination of a research project that grew exponentially as a result of a discrepancy between the published record and primary source documents. It is crucial that amateur and professional historians alike take the time to question and verify 'facts' within secondary source material in order to provide a more accurate account of past events. From the available evidence, the 1839 Burwell survey does indeed contain an error, yet that is no reason to discount it completely. What is important is that inconsistencies in the record are followed up and that further analysis is well researched.

1. *Upper Canada Land Petitions (1763-1865) "D", Bundle 22 1839-1841. RG1, L3, Vol. 410(a)), Microform c-2733, 384.*

2. *Ibid, 387.*

3. *Ibid, 396.*

4. *Ibid.*

5. *Letter Patent, 16 May 1837. Brant County Land Registry Office, Folio 144 of Book 'B', Parts of Lots to 24, 25, 25, 27, 28, 29 & 30 in the 3rd Concession.*

6. *LAC, War Office 25, 96th Foot, 1800-1818, Registers, (MG13 WO25), vol. 538, microfilm B-5503.*

7. *LAC, RG8, British Military and Naval Records, Vol. 1009, 96th Regiment, 1810-1832.*

8. *"Will of John Murray, Lieutenant General in Her Majesty's Army of Clifton, Somerset." 17 November 1841. Public Record Office, British National Archives, PROB 11/1954/88.*

9. *Parakh, Deepa. The City of the Falls Project. Lundy's Lane Historical Museum, 1997. On <https://niagarafallsmuseums.ca/pdf/City-of-the-Falls-Project.pdf>. Accessed September 23, 2013.*

10. *"Niagara Falls: City of the Falls - a History." Niagara Falls: City of the Falls - a History. Accessed September 20, 2013.*

Op cit. "Will of John Murray."



Photo: Cropped view of 1839 Burwell Survey denoting land ownership within Concession III of Brant County as belonging to Lloyd Richardson and T.C. Patrick.

BHS CALENDAR OF EVENTS



DATE	EVENT	LOCATION	TIME
WALKING TOURS			
Sat., Nov. 7 th , 2015	Monuments & Memorials Walk Learn about commemorative memorials in Downtown Brantford	Begins at <i>Jubilee Terrace</i> next to the Armouries and Lorne Bridge	10:30 am
ADDITIONAL EVENTS			
Wed. Nov. 25 th , 2015	Members' Event Join us for an evening with Meghan Cameron and learn about the nursing sisters of Brantford.	Brant Museum and Archives, 57 Charlotte St.	7:00 pm- 9:00 pm
Wed. Dec. 16 th , 2015	Christmas at Myrtleville As a way to say thank you to all of our members and volunteers we invite you to join us at our annual open house to celebrate our successes from the past year.	Myrtleville House Museum 34 Myrtleville Drive	7:00 pm- 9:00 pm
Wed. Jan. 27 th , 2016	Members' Event Join us for an evening exploring our local history. Speaker TBD	Brant Museum and Archives 57 Charlotte St.	7:00 pm- 9:00 pm



As the year 2015 says good bye, we at BHS thank each one of you for your support and encouragement, and trust it will continue in our future ventures. Wow! It sure has been a busy and a rollercoaster year for us! We look forward to welcoming an exciting, busy New Year 2016, and trusting to seeing you in the New Year.



Wishing you and yours
MERRY CHRISTMAS/HAPPY HOLIDAYS
And
HAPPY NEW YEAR 2016



For more information on upcoming events, please contact
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