



The Historical Society of St. Catharines

NEWSLETTER

March 2004

P.O. Box 23104, 124 Welland Ave., St. Catharines, ON, L2R 7P6
Web Site - <http://www.niagara.com/~dmdorey/hssc/hssc.html>

Our Mission and Goal is to increase the knowledge and appreciation of the history of St. Catharines and vicinity. Founded in 1927. Our Society is affiliated with the Ontario Historical Society.

Society Meetings and Program

Regular meetings, unless otherwise noted, are held on the 4th Thursday of each month except in summer.

Meetings are held in the Burgoyne Room of the St. Catharines Museum.

The museum is located at the Welland Canals Centre (at Lock 3),
1932 Welland Canals Parkway (formerly Government Road), St. Catharines, Ontario.
(Programs are subject to change) (Refreshments are usually served after the program)

Thursday, February 26 - 7:30 p.m. - Guest Speaker - Corlene Taylor - topic: "Early settlers of St. Catharines and the Mayholme Foundation"

Thursday, March 25 - 7:30 p.m. - Guest Speaker - Joseph O'Brien - topic: "The History of the 'Western Hill' area of St. Catharines"

Thursday, April 22 - 7:30 p.m. - Annual Meeting and Election of Board of Directors.
Guest Speaker - Richard Taylor - topic: "In Search of Home Children"

Thursday, May 27 - 7:30 p.m. - Guest Speaker - Mark Losier - topic: "William Hamilton Merritt's Light Dragoons of the War of 1812". Mark is a long-time tour guide at Fort George who is organizing a re-enactment troop of the Light Dragoons

Saturday, June 12 - all day - The Society Bus Tour - theme: 'Historical Gems of Niagara'.
See details inside the newsletter

Saturday, July 3 - the Society has combined 3 events into one great outing! - 10:30 a.m. - Merritt Celebration (at Merritt monument on St. Paul Street West at the foot of Yates Street) - 10:45 a.m. - Walking tour of downtown (from monument to Oille Fountain) - Noon - Planting of Geranium in the Oille Fountain - followed by social

Thursday, September 23 - 7:30 p.m. - Guest Speaker - Robert Malcomson - topic: "The Battle of Queenston Heights - a very brilliant affair"

Thursday, October 28 - 7:30 p.m. - Guest Speaker - Phillip Gifford - topic: "Lost Ships of Niagara"

Thursday, November 25 - 7:30 p.m. - 5th Annual Show and Tell and Christmas Social

Just a reminder if you have not renewed your membership

Memberships: Individual \$10.00 or Family \$15.00

Make your cheque payable to: The Historical Society of St. Catharines and mail to the Society's address.

Notice of Annual Meeting – April 22, 2004 – 7:30 p.m.

To be held in the Burgoyne Room, St. Catharines Museum, 1932 Welland Canals Parkway, St. Catharines.

Agenda

Call to order, president's report, minutes of previous annual meeting (held April 24, 2003 and published in *June 2003 Newsletter*), financial report, auditor's report, nominations and elections, amendments to constitution, any other business properly brought before the membership, close of formal meeting, guest speaker, announcements, social.

Nominations and Elections

The following have been nominated:

to the vacancy of Vice President for a one year term – Paul Lewis

to the position of Director for a one-year term, maximum six to be elected – Joyce DeForest, Dee Dickman, Dennis Gannon, Maurice Gomme, Bill Harder, Paul Hutchinson, Joe Muscat

Society Items...

Heritage Grant

The Society is very pleased to receive a Provincial Heritage development grant of \$546.00 and we thank the Ontario Ministry of Culture for this assistance with our programs.

New Members

Robin McPherson, John C. Haynes, David Outram, Tim Lowrey, Rob Gerrie

Transportation Needed – some Society members are unable to attend meetings, as they are unable to drive. If you are willing to provide a lift to the meetings to someone in your area, please let any of the Board members know.

January 2005 Program

We are pleased to announce that our speaker for January 2005 will be member Sheila Wilson, speaking on the History of the St. Catharines Library.

Society Publication For Sale

"Taking the Waters: a History of the Spas of St. Catharines" may be purchased at Society meetings or from the gift shop at the St. Catharines Museum. Price: \$10.00. Please add \$2.00 if you wish to have a copy mailed out to you.

Board of Directors of The Historical Society of St. Catharines

Elected April 24, 2003 for Two Year Term

Past President - John Burtiniak - tel. 905-227-5120

President - Bill Stevens - e-mail bibmstev@computan.on.ca - tel. 905-934-8966

Vice President (interim) - Joyce DeForest - e-mail vdefores@mergetel.com - tel. 905-685-4728

Secretary- Brenda Zadoroznij - e-mail bzadoroz@Becon.org - tel. 905-935-3025

Treasurer - Del Hildebrand - e-mail dhildebr@Becon.org - tel. 905-935-3025

Elected April 24, 2003 for One Year Term

Director – Dee Dickman - e-mail ddickman@spartan.ac.brocku.ca - tel. 905-682-3094

Director - Dennis Gannon - e-mail gannon2002@yahoo.com

Director – Maurice Gomme - e-mail magomme@Becon.org - tel. 905-682-2329

Director- Membership – Bill Harder - e-mail whharder@warplink.com - tel. 905-684-2528

Director - Paul Hutchinson - e-mail slabtown@niagara.com - tel. 905-227-2699

Director - Joe Muskat - tel. 905-687-3359

Newsletter Notes

The Historical Society of St. Catharines Newsletter is published up to 4 times per year by the Society. The purpose of the newsletter is to inform the membership of issues pertaining to the Society and items of historical interest. Comments and queries should be directed to the Society postal address. Opinions and comments expressed in the newsletter are those of the writer and do not necessarily reflect those of the Society. Subscription by paid membership only. Bill Stevens produced this issue.

The Society gratefully acknowledges the support of the Ontario Ministry of Culture.

Next Issue June 2004

Annual Historical Society Bus Tour - Saturday, June 12

Historical Gems of Niagara is this year's theme. Ticket price will be \$30.00 for each member and \$5.00 additional for non-members. Lunch details will be provided when finalized, but are not included in the price. Reservations can be made with Joyce DeForest, however only payment will guarantee a seat on the bus! Non-refundable unless seat is resold. Departure will be 9:00 a.m. and return at 5:00 p.m.

Transportation by Farr Motor Coach. John Burtiak will be providing commentary along the route.

Walking to and around sites is planned, so shoes and appropriate dress is a must. Past tours have been very popular and we suspect that this one will be especially so. So, book early!

November 2003 Show and Tell Report

With about forty-seven people attending, it was our biggest turn out yet for our annual Show and Tell and Christmas Social. Over twenty articles were presented, all very enthusiastically received. Some of the items shown were: an oval wooden hat box, a bank book from the Imperial Bank (topic of our October meeting), four old Seltzer Bottles with a St. Catharines connection, collectable sticker albums, a 1932 Olympics Commemorative book (in German), old baby shoes and photo of grandfather who wore them along with his watch, copy of an old photo (middle 1800s) obtained via e-mail from a Sussex library of a great great uncle who lived in Laughton, Sussex, England showing the round-frock, beaver hat and gaiters that were the common dress of agricultural workers of the period, a book on agriculture signed by Near, MPP (about 1842), a travel guidebook with a 9-foot long map of the St. Lawrence River system all the way from Niagara Falls to the ocean, a very old document concerning the sale of a sailing vessel, a family spoon heirloom, a letter from a soldier written during his duty in WWI who died 7 days later, photos of an 1827 carved stone located in Beaverdams Park in Thorold and possibly the oldest remaining industrial heritage artifact in Niagara, the prospectus for a private school in England, photographs of the abutments for Burgoyne Bridge early in the construction process and an original copy of *What-Not* (an article from it titled "Martindale" has been reprinted below). The social was wonderful, with several goodies and punch enjoyed by all. We thank donors Bill Steinman for the books and Joyce DeForest for the baked goods for the raffle.

Martindale

The following is reprinted, as it appeared, in the December 1891 edition of *WHAT-NOT*, a magazine published by the Collegiate Institute Literary Society in St. Catharines. This was a SOUVENIR NUMBER.

'After about a half hour's row down the Old Canal, from lock two, a small island is seen on the west of the floating tow-path in a small lake of shallow water, an extension overflow of the level of the canal, crossing the floating tow-path, or "the floats" as it is commonly called, and entering this wide stretch of water one finds himself in a sort of lakelet, bounded by sloping banks and covered with young timber of different varieties, oak beech and pine trees forming the greater part. Ahead is seen the mouth of as beautiful a creek as can be found in the Province of Ontario.

After the roadway, which leads from the city to Port Dalhousie, is passed, the creek again spreads itself out into a small lake, but it soon contracts into its ordinary size. Its appearance is greatly changed; for, instead of being bounded by wooden banks, the creek runs through an ever-changing meadow of bulrushes, which in turn is surrounded by the gentle grassy slope, common to all country streams, here and there dotted with elms, relics of the old forest.

As one follows the creek towards its source there appear in it small beds of that beautiful flowering plant, the water lily. These bloom here in great luxuriance and attract many boatloads of admirers, who take them away in great quantities every week of the season in which they bloom.

This stream is the largest tributary of the Twelve-Mile Creek, which formed the bed of the first canal that was built. For about one-half mile from its mouth it can be traversed by rowboats, but it stretches itself out into a stream over two miles long. This is, of course, not always a waterway, for only in spring and fall does it swell to any notable size.'

Written by W. G. Chase

submitted by Anne Beresford

January 2004 Meeting Report

Thursday, January 22nd was a cold blustery night, but 44 brave souls ventured out to our January meeting. A number of announcements were brought to the membership's attention, including the following:

- Society past president (1978-80) Colin Penketh recently celebrated his 90th Birthday.
- Photos of any past Society event are being sought for a photographic record of our activities. Please consider donating any that you have. Please give them to Joe Muscat.
- Society events are now listed in the City's *Culture Newsletter* and the Parks and Recreation publication.
- The speaker honorarium has been increased from \$50.00 to \$60.00.
- The Society completes an annual return for both the Ontario Historical Society and the Ministry of Consumer and Corporate Affairs.
- The Board has appointed Tom Jenkyns and Janice McNab as auditors for the 2003 audit.
- Membership stands at 102 paid-up as of the meeting.
- Heritage Day in Canada is Monday, February 16 and the poster and booklet were displayed.
- Members were reminded that meetings will start on time (7:30 p.m.) and that the doors of the museum must be locked at 8:00 p.m. so that the custodian can take a break (as a further note, the Society has the room booked until 9:30 p.m. and therefore our social must wrap up at that time).
- A discussion on the future of Symphony or Theal House at Brock University with a subsequent motion, as well as a report on Historica are detailed further in separate articles in this newsletter.

Following the meeting, Brenda Zadoroznij introduced our speaker, member Alun Hughes. Alun utilized a series of overheads during his robust presentation on Daniel Hazen, the surveyor who undertook the original survey of Grantham Township in 1788. Alun explained why the streets of Grantham Township do not intersect at 90-degree angles, that each lot contained a fraction less than 100 acres, the equipment and method (front and rear system) used to do the survey (his original survey notes still exist). Alun also spoke of the conditions (forest, swamp, escarpment and in the winter) and the time that it took (96 calendar days). However, Daniel did not receive his payment of 87 pounds 16 shillings. Hazen had fought for the British in the American Revolution and received lands in about 1795 (received patent in 1797) in Crowland Township (460 acres in Lots 4 -7 Broken Front Concession) as a Loyalist. Having not received his payment for his survey work, Hazen had to sell these lands in 1797. He subsequently received lands in Walsingham Township and moved there in 1797. Alun spoke of his years in Walsingham where he died at 90 years of age. Alun concluded by noting that there is no street, building, park or anything else that he is aware of named in recognition of Daniel Hazen in St. Catharines and perhaps it is time to recognize this Loyalist pioneer surveyor who ran 134 miles of survey lines that set out St. Catharines as we know it today! John Burtniak thanked Alun.

The Society was pleased to have in attendance Gene Wilson, a descendant of Eugene Hazen, and Dr. Richard Merritt, who's wife is Dr. Nancy Smith Merritt, a descendant of Caleb Hazen, the brother of Daniel.

Following the presentation, the raffle was held with four books as prizes (thanks to John Burtniak for his donation) and a social followed (thanks to Mary Leighton for bringing the refreshments).

Society Concerned Over Fate of The Symphony / Theal House at Brock University

At the Society's January general meeting the membership was informed of the possible demolition of the Symphony / Theal House on the campus of Brock University. The current occupants, including the Brock Radio Station CFBU 103.7FM, have been asked to vacate the premises by the end of May. The Society newsletter of March 2003 (pages 6 and 7) contained an article on this house. It is certainly one of the oldest buildings in the southwest quadrant of St. Catharines. It has the original basement and walls and is the last remaining building on the campus that ties the University with the past history of its campus property. The discussion resulted in the membership overwhelmingly passing a motion that the Society let the University President know that the Society considers it a building of historical significance and that the house should be preserved. Watch the June newsletter for an update on the President's response.

The Friends of the Loyalist Collection at Brock University

The collection now has nine microfilm reels ... a small start, but at slightly over \$100 per reel, it represents the beginning of a great new research collection right here in St. Catharines. These reels, which have come from the United Kingdom Public Records Office in London, England, represent material that you would otherwise have needed to visit the Records Office in England to view. Donations are now being sought towards the estimated total cost of \$150,000 to acquire all the needed records. Contact Edward Scott, UE by e-mail: escott@becon.org for further information.

Community and Regional Heritage Fairs - May 2004

Heritage Fairs began in 1993 and are a grand celebration of Canada's heritage. In 2003, almost 200,000 students in grades 4 to 9 (Quebec -Sec. I to III) participated in regional fairs across the country. It is an educational initiative that provides an opportunity for students to explore any aspect of Canadian heritage by creating a dynamic history project for public presentation. Heritage Fairs begin as a hands-on classroom project. Students research an area of Canadian history, then taking on the role of historian, interpreter, storyteller and myth-maker, children learn and teach others about Canadian heroes and legends, often of local or family interest, a milestone or an achievement and present their discoveries using the medium of their choice. Students' original presentations range from tabletop dioramas to performance pieces to web-based projects. In May, participating schools take part in a regional Heritage Fair, which showcases student projects. It is a community event where local museums, historical associations, businesses and multicultural groups offer workshops, demonstrations, food and entertainment. Some students go on to participate in the National Heritage Fair, or add their projects to Historica's online Heritage Fair Showcase. The National Heritage Fair is hosted in mid-July by a different community each year and showcases outstanding Regional projects. Students take part in a weeklong history camp that features sightseeing, historic tours, multi-media presentations, dramatic workshops and more.

The idea is to create an innovative and captivating learning environment for students; thereby strengthening young people's knowledge of the diversity and uniqueness of Canadian heritage. As well, it provides young people with the opportunity to develop strong roots in their community and culture, and it will give them the confidence to fully share as active citizens in the shaping of Canada's future. The Fairs promote and publicize our heritage, and encourage people to celebrate their part in the history and heritage of this country. The public presentation of these projects gathers the combined resources of volunteer committees, educators, local businesses, museums, heritage groups, community associations, and a host of other stakeholders. The result is a community-based celebration of Canadian heritage with a lasting impact on the participants.

This year will be the first year that Heritage Fairs will take place in Niagara.

If you have any questions, or wish to become involved in the Niagara area Heritage Fair, contact Bill Stevens. More information can be found at <http://www.histori.ca/>.

The Best From Past Society Newsletters

Newer members would not have received older newsletters; so, I thought I would reprint items of interest from the Society's past newsletters. The following appeared in the spring 1991 issue.

List of Licences given in the Niagara District, by one Wm. D. Miller, Inspector of Licences for the year 1841. Still Licence – Jn. Mittleberger of St. Catharines; Ale and Beer Licence – John Patrick, Ellen Nugent, Chas. McCartin, Henry Brownlee, Wm. Murray all of St. Catharines and James Morgan and Michael O'Brady both of Grantham; Tavern Licenses – William H. Brown, Louisa Pawling, Thomas Henegan, Coplin Stinson, Samuel Stinson, Eleazer Stephenson all of St. Catharines and Robert Browne of Port Dalhousie in Grantham and Beth Keith of Grantham Township.

Al Holden had contributed this article.

The MARQUIS Family

John Anderson MARQUIS

John was born on March 4, 1832 in Fachabers, Scotland; his parents were Alexander and Jamesina (DEAN) MARQUIS. John was christened April 1, 1832 at Bellie, Moray, Scotland. He came to Canada about 1855. He worked at the Bank of Montreal in Montreal, starting as a junior clerk and rising to the position of accountant. The bank moved him to Prescott, Toronto, Bowmanville, Guelph and Dundas. In 1869 John left the bank and moved to Niagara where he took a position as accountant at the Riordon Paper Mills, a position he held for 35 years.

There is some mention of John marrying a Catharine Mathison, an event that perhaps occurred in 1861/62. However, an entry in the Wentworth County marriage register shows him marrying Ellen McAusland in 1867 and his residence as Dundas.

John appears in the 1871 Census for the Town of Thorold, with his wife Ellen, and children Alexander and Isabella. St. Catharines City directory entries for 1874 has John at 18 Geneva Street; for 1875/76 at 4 Albert Street; for 1898 the family is listed at 16 Albert Street; and the last listing for John in the 1904-06 directory shows him at 19 Catherine Street.

Ellen died on September 23, 1903. The funeral took place on Saturday afternoon from her late home at the corner of Catharine and Albert streets to Victoria Lawn Cemetery. Rev. J.H. Ratcliffe officiated.

Pallbearers were A. St. John, L.H. Collard, D.L. Cruickshank, J. Henderson, C.A. Case, and R.T. Hill.

John died a sudden death on Monday, February 13, 1905. He had been at his office at the Riordon mill almost until his passing. John was a prominent member of the First Presbyterian Church and a very active Mason. He held several positions, including that as Past Master of Maple Leaf Lodge, No. 103, A.F. & A.M. He had been a member of the Queen's Own Rifles while living in Toronto and was a Conservative in politics. John left a brother and a sister in Scotland.

Four children survived his passing: two daughters and two sons:

Isabella D. MARQUIS - was born January 17, 1869 in St. Catharines. She married Alex. E. Adam and they lived in Hamilton, Ontario in August of 1947 and then in Milltown, N.B.

Jean E. MARQUIS - was born September 6, 1875 in St. Catharines. Jean lived at the family residence (City Directory entries as follows: 1898 – 16 Albert Street; 1911, 1916 and 1926 – 92 Church Street).

William McAuslan MARQUIS - was born on September 1, 1873 in St. Catharines. William was a life-long resident of the City (City Directory entries as follows: 1898 – clerk – 16 Albert Street; 1904-06 – clerk – Marquis and Gilleland, boards at 19 Catherine Street; 1911 – Marquis and Lane – house at 92 Church Street; 1926 – accountant at Marquis and Pepler, house at 92 Church Street). He was a member of Knox Presbyterian Church and was choir librarian for many years. He was associated for over fifty years with the legal firm established by his brother Alexander. He retired in 1944. William died August 5, 1947. Funeral service was from Hulse and English Funeral Chapel with entombment in the Victoria Lawn Cemetery Mausoleum. Rev. Jason Graham of St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church, Thorold conducted the service. Casket bearers were Wm. Livingston, R.N. Johnston, Lewis B. Tripp, Stewart Watt, Alec McPhail and Currie Brown.

Alexander William MARQUIS, K.C. – Mayor City of St. Catharines, 1904

Alexander William Marquis was born October 27, 1862 in Bowmanville, Durham County, Ontario. He attended Grantham Academy (St. Catharines Collegiate Institute). He was a member of the original Athletics Lacrosse Club, an outstanding tennis player and later in life joined the St. Catharines Golf Club to pursue golfing. He made preparation for the Bar as a student in the office and under the direction of J.C. Rykert, K.C. and afterward became a member of the firm of Rykert, Ingersoll & Marquis, so continuing until 1896. He then practiced alone for a short time with offices at 13 Queen Street.

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Alexander married Miss Alice Maude Norris, a daughter of Captain James (a merchant and member of parliament for the County of Lincoln) and Elizabeth Norris, on June 4, 1896 at the family home on Ann Street.

[Alice Maud, was united in the holy bonds of wedlock to Mr. Alexander William Marquis, one of our most prominent young lawyers. The drawing room presented a very pretty sight, decorated with flowers and plants. At the hour of 5 o'clock the bride appeared leaning on the arm of her brother, Mr. Charles Norris. . . . The newly wedded couple left on the 7:34 p.m. train for New York and eastern cities, amid showers of rice, old shoes and good wishes. About fifty friends assembled at the station to bid them farewell for a short time. [Evening Journal - June 5, 1896]. A brilliant society wedding was consummated on Thursday afternoon at the Residence of Mrs. James Norris when her daughter, Alice Maud, was united to A.W. Marquis, barrister, of this city . . . and was witnessed by about 100 guests. The bride, who was most charmingly attired, was attended by her sister, Miss May, and her cousin, Miss Annie Norris, the latter from Montreal. [The Daily Standard - June 5, 1896]. They were followed to the depot by many of the guests, and given a real, hearty send-off, with the aid of a quantity of rice, which was fairly distributed over everybody. - Evening Star - June 5, 1896].

The couple took up residence at 9 Ann Street, now Norris Place. In the City Directory for 1904-06 Alexander is shown as a barrister at Marquis and Gilleland, located at 16 Queen Street. The City Directories of 1911 and 1916 show Alexander as a barrister at Marquis and Lane, 16 Queen Street. The Directory for 1926 shows Alexander, K.C. at Marquis and Pepler barristers at 16 Queen Street. Alexander was a Conservative Party supporter. Between 1900-1903 he was an alderman for the City of St. Catharines and was elected mayor on Monday, January 4, 1904 by a majority vote of the electorate, defeating Alderman Wilson by 219 votes. He served only a one-year term as mayor. In 1916 he became solicitor for Lincoln County and twice appeared before the Privy Council. In 1921 he was appointed a King's Counsel.

Alice Maude NORRIS MARQUIS passed away on Tuesday, March 8, 1921. Funeral services were held on Thursday, March 10 from her home at 9 Ann Street (now Norris Place) to the Victoria Lawn Cemetery Mausoleum. Maud was a member of the I.O.D.E., Knox Church.

In 1929 Alexander married a second time to Miss. **Ethel Florence LAMB** of Ottawa. She was a member of Knox Presbyterian Church. Ethel died on Thursday, December 6, 1951 at the St. Catharines General Hospital. Funeral was from Butler and Son Funeral Home, 33 Duke Street, with entombment in Victoria Lawn Cemetery Mausoleum. Rev. Granville Taylor-Munro officiated. A brother, William H. Lamb of Montreal, Quebec, survived her.

Alexander Marquis was a president of the Lincoln County Law Society, 1935-37 and in November of 1938, upon completing 51 years of practice was honoured by the Society with a banquet and presentation. At the time of his death he was the oldest practising lawyer in the city. He was a member of the board of management of the Niagara Peninsula Sanatorium, for many years a director of the Imperial Trust Company of Toronto, which became Premier Trust Company and he was instrumental in having them open an office in St. Catharines. He was a member of the Masonic and Odd Fellows lodges, the Sons of Scotland, the Royal Arcanum, the Canadian Order of Elks, the Independent Order of Foresters, the St. Catharines Club and Knox Presbyterian Church (serving 20 years on the board). He died on Sunday, June 30, 1940. Funeral service was held Wednesday afternoon at 2:30 p.m. from the family residence, 9 Ann Street (now Norris Place). Interment in Victoria Lawn Cemetery, Cullinen Mausoleum. Among the pallbearers were Judge Campbell and Dr. Sutherland. A street was named after him, Marquis Street, which runs between Carlton and Russell streets.

Children of Alexander and Alice Maude MARQUIS:

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Marjorie C. MARQUIS – was born about 1900 in St. Catharines and lived at 9 Ann Street (1926 Directory). Marjorie died September 6, 1985 at Chateau Gardens in the Town of Niagara-On-The-Lake and is entombed in the Cullinen Mausoleum in Victoria Lawn Cemetery.

James Norris (“Norrie”) MARQUIS – was born October 22, 1901 in St. Catharines. Norrie was a graduate of Ridley College and Osgoode Hall. He joined his father in the practice of law as Marquis and Marquis. In 1947 Norris was appointed local Registrar for the Supreme Court of Ontario and Clerk of the County Court and Surrogate Court Registrar for the County of Lincoln, a position he held until his retirement in 1966. He was president of the St. Catharines Baseball Club, Past Master of Perfection Lodge. Norrie died November 30, 1970 at Albright Manor in the Town of Lincoln. His wife Helen Louise Wilson, known as “Nellie” died on Tuesday, November 25, 2003 at Henley House, St. Catharines in her 95th year. They were members of St. Paul Street United Church. Both Norrie and his wife are buried in Fonthill.

Plaques around St Catharines... (note: the slashes represent the next line on the plaque)

Plaque in the lobby of Burgoyne Arena

THE / BILL BURGOYNE / MEMORIAL ARENA / 1974 / BUILT BY THE CITIZENS OF ST. CATHARINES / UNDER THE DIRECTION OF THE CITIZENS / FUND RAISING AND BUILDING COMMITTEE / ROBERT MAKINS / LLOYD HAMILTON / ALPHONSE GIGNAC / JOHN NEWMAN / MAX KAMINSKY / DOUGLAS CARR / DR. DONALD URSINO / ARTHUR BERRY / CHARLES TANNER / JAMES McNULTY / MacKENZIE CHOWN / RICHARD COLES / KERRY HOWE / JACK GATECLIFF / HARRY FERNAY / JOHN STEVENS / DOUGLAS FAVELL / JAMES SAXTON / WILLIAM BANNAN / EDWARD GROSSKURTH / FREDERICK JACKSON / GARY BABCOX / BRIAN ANDERSON / JAMES THOMPSON / ROBERT WILLIAMS / H.E. LANGFORD / R.A. SMITH / ROBERT BELL / DEDICATED SATURDAY, APRIL 6TH, 1974

Plaque in Mountain Locks Park facing Mountain Road near Bradley Street

THE MOUNTAIN LOCKS / This is the site of Locks 16-21 of the Second Welland / Canal. These interlocking cut stone locks were built / in the vicinity of wooden Locks 22-30 from the First / Welland Canal. This tightly grouped series of locks / overcame the 85-foot height of the escarpment. / The section of this canal between Thorold and Port / Dalhousie remained in operation after the opening of / the Third Canal in 1887 in order to service the local / mills who used its water as a source of power and as / a transportation facility. / Much of this park was under drained in 1961 leaving / only the stone locks as a reminder of a once great / navigation route. / Erected in co-operation with the United Auto Workers / Local 676 and the Ministry of Culture and Recreation 1978.

Plaque on the front of the Port Dalhousie Library Branch

PORT DALHOUSIE TOWN HALL / Originally erected by the Good Templars c.1863 / it later became the Town Hall. It was the social / cultural and political centre for the community / until amalgamation of the town by the City of St. / Catharines in 1961 / In 1984, the hall that then housed a branch / library was preserved by the people of Port / Dalhousie. It was renovated by the Port Dalhousie / Quorum, with assistance from the City of St./ Catharines, Government of Canada and the St. / Catharines Public Library Board.

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Port Dalhousie Now a Heritage District

Many individuals worked very hard over several years to bring about the Heritage designation of Old Port Dalhousie and the Historical Society congratulates them on this marvellous result. While there were many residents who did not support this designation, it is hoped that all will now work together and make Port Dalhousie an even better place to live and enjoy.

The Niagara Movement Revisited, 1905-2005 Symposium

<http://www.asalh.com/niagara-movement-symposium.pdf>

The Buffalo & Erie County Historical Society and Buffalo State College's Department of History & Social Studies Education are planning a Centennial Symposium to commemorate the Niagara Movement. The planning committee will receive papers from scholars and interested laypersons that will address the history, consequences and legacies of the first Civil Rights Organization of the Twentieth Century --- the 1905 Niagara Movement.

The year 2005 will mark one hundred years since the groundwork of the modern civil rights movement and the NAACP was laid at the historical, but relatively unknown event in Buffalo, the Niagara Movement. In 1905 W.E.B. Du Bois, John Hope, Monroe Trotter, and local Buffalo residents, Reverend J. Edward Nash and Mary B. Talbert, met secretly at her home to adopt resolutions, which led to the founding of the Niagara Movement later that year.

A Symposium will take place on **July 8, 9, & 10, 2005**.

For more information please contact: Dr. William Siener, Director, 2005 Niagara Movement Symposium Buffalo & Erie County Historical Society, 25 Nottingham Court, Buffalo, New York 14216-3199; (716) 873-9644 or email: whsiener@choiceonemail.com

The Fort Erie, Ontario Connection to The Niagara Movement

At the beginning of the 20th century, Black America faced a difficult dilemma. With the white abandonment of Reconstruction, African Americans were subjected to viciously inequitable social, political and economic conditions institutionalized by state and local governments in the South and blessed by the U.S. Supreme Court.

W.E.B. Du Bois issued a call for a meeting of those opposed to Washington's position. He organized a conference for mid-July 1905 in Buffalo. However, it was impossible to secure hotel reservations for blacks in Buffalo, so, he had to move the meeting across the Niagara River to the **Erie Beach Hotel in Fort Erie, Ontario, Canada**.

A total of twenty-nine men from 13 states and the District of Columbia attended. The meeting's most important result was issuing a Declaration of Principles calling for civil rights: "this class of American citizens should protest emphatically and continually against the curtailment of their political rights ... We believe also in protest against the curtailment of our civil rights ... We plead for health ... We demand upright judges, juries selected without discrimination on account of colour, the same measure of punishment for black and white offenders ... Common school education should be free to all Americans."

John W. Abbott and Company

The Society received a letter from D. Anderson of Barrie, Ontario of the Canadian Sewing Machine Collector's Society (web site <http://community.webshots.com/user/allynnca>). Their members collect sewing machines in order to preserve the history of the Canadian Sewing Machine Industry. Information is being sought on a St. Catharines sewing machine manufacturer, John W. Abbott and Company. John Abbott established a small sewing machine firm in 1865 or 1866. The Abbott Company manufactured a single-thread machine called Abbott's Noiseless Family Sewing Machine which could be worked by hand or treadle. John died in 1872 and production ceased. Additional information was sent and the St. Catharines Museum, which has an Abbott, has offered to respond, but if you have any information on this sewing machine and company, please e-mail Diane at <3-anders@csolve.net>. and let Bill Stevens know as well, so that an article might be done for a future newsletter.

"Looking Back" Column

The Society would like to point out that Alun Hughes is authoring a weekly column in the *Thorold News* titled "Looking Back." Several past columns can be read on-line at this web site www.thoroldnews.com Also, Alun had his house, "The Constable House," at 5 Wellington Street North, Thorold officially designated as an historic home on October 25, 2003. The home was built in 1907.

Upcoming Events Around Niagara

Ongoing to April 25 - Once Upon a Time: Knights, Castles and Common Folk – a hands-on, interactive Medieval Exhibit, which examines six elements of medieval life. At the St. Catharines Museum. For more information on the Museum visit their web site www.stcatharineslock3museum.ca

March TBA - Top Hat ceremony welcomes the opening of the Welland Ship Canal – 10 am at Lock 3.

March 29 - Gary Konkle: "The History and Rebirth of Morningstar Mill" at the Thorold & Beaverdams Historical Society meeting to be held at Chestnut Hall, alongside the Thorold Public Library on Ormond Street, Thorold, at 7:30 p.m.

April 21 - Bob Bratina, Morning Show host and voice of the Tiger Cats: "Years of Radio" at The Grimsby Historical Society meeting to be held at St. Andrew's Parish Hall, 154 Main Street West, Grimsby, at 8:00 p.m.

May - The Carousel Opens for the summer. The Friends of the Carousel will unveil a replacement Lion.

May 29 - Second Annual St. David's Heritage Day will take place starting at 10:00 a.m. at the St. David's Lion's Club Park. Historical displays, arts and crafts, singers, dancers, re-enactors and more. This free event wraps up at 4:00 p.m.

May 31 - Andrea Klose and David Hunt: "The Short Hills Provincial Park: a History" at the Thorold & Beaverdams Historical Society meeting to be held at Chestnut Hall, alongside the Thorold Public Library on Ormond Street, Thorold, at 7:30 p.m.

June 2-4 - 17th annual World Canals Conference – Brock University – the theme is: "Channels For Prosperity", pre-conference activities May 30 - June 1 and post conference activities June 6 – 13. Full details can be found on the conference web site www.worldcanals2004.com

June 4 - The St. Catharines Heritage Committee will be unveiling two historical plaques for the First Welland Canal.

June 4 - Janet Carnochan Day – admission by donation. Celebration in honour of the founder of the Niagara Historical Society at the Niagara Historical Society Museum.

Brock University Continuing Education Courses

To register call 905-688-5550, ext.4775 or visit the web site www.brocku.ca/conted for additional course offerings and full outlines of the following courses:

* *The Age of Sail on the Great Lakes*, at Brock University, Fred Addis, 3 Thursdays starting April 15, 7 – 9 p.m.

* *History on Your Doorstep*, Brock University and Field Trip, Alun Hughes, 4 Wednesdays starting March 24, 7 - 9 p.m. And 1 Saturday, April 17, 8 a.m. – 12 p.m.

* *Steeple Chase: The Churches of Downtown St. Catharines*, St. Thomas' Anglican Church, John Burtiak, 1 Thursday April 29, 9:30 a.m. – 4 p.m.

* *Welland Canals*, various locations, Roberta Styran, Keith Tinkler, Norman Macdonald, Patrick Little, Wesley Allan, Colin Duquemin 6 Wednesdays starting March 17, 4:30 - 6:30 p.m.

* *Where did all the Railroads Go?* - Paul Chapman, 2 Thursdays starting April 15, 6:30 – 9 p.m., and 1 Saturday April 24, 9 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.

* *Admired Architecture: Featuring masterpieces by Nicholson and Macbeth*, St. Catharines Golf and Country Club and walking tour, Norman Macdonald, 1 Thursday, April 22, 6 – 8 p.m. and 1 Saturday, April 24, 9 - 11:30 a.m.

A Date in History

On March 10, 1990 Harriet Tubman Day was proclaimed in the City of St. Catharines