

Historically Speaking

The Newsletter of the Cobourg and District
Historical Society

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Maple Syrup Production Then and Now

For decades Gareth Metcalfe has been passionate about the history and the making of making maple syrup. His 75 acres of maple bush is north of Trenton near Frankford. There are over 200 trees that he taps each year for the rich maple syrup that his family and friends eagerly await. Gareth will start his talk with an “Ode to Making Maple Syrup” followed by the history of making maple syrup with tips for making your own “liquid gold”.

Gareth is a member of the Ontario Maple Syrup Producers Association and is also active in the Hastings Stewardship Council.

If you have ever wondered about how maple syrup is produced this is the meeting to learn from. Join us for Gareth’s presentation on Tuesday, March 27, at Victoria Hall. Doors open at 7:00 pm for coffee and cookies, before the meeting begins at 7:30 pm. Admission, including refreshments, is free for members and \$5 for non-members. Annual membership is \$25 for individuals and \$30 for a family. All are welcome so bring a friend or two!

Our Previous Meeting

The Day the Prince of Wales Came to Cobourg



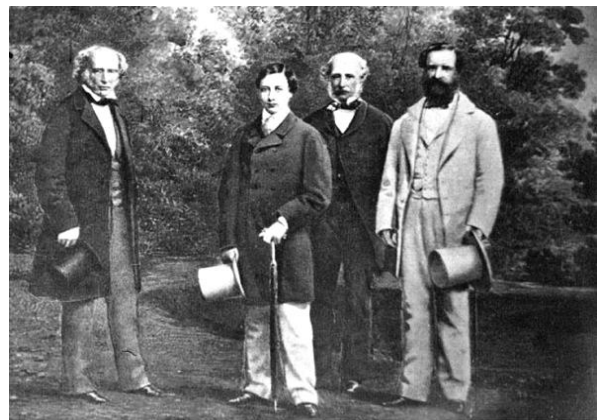
George Parker, a longtime member of the Cobourg and District Historical Society, told us the story of the Prince of Wales' brief visit to Cobourg on September 6, 1860. Presenting in period costume (except for his eyeglasses!) and using the conceit of Dance Floor Manager, George told the story of the ball which was held that night at Victoria Hall to celebrate the occasion. As Floor Manager, George described the types of dances, performed typical dance music and reminded us about Victorian

ballroom etiquette.

In addition to describing the ball we learned details of the Prince's travel to Cobourg including his love of horseback riding and the importance of the Orangemen of the time.



There is only one known photograph extant from the 1860 tour. Taken in Montreal it shows (left to right) Governor General Edmund Head; Col. Grey, Aide-de-Camp to the Governor General; Prince of Wales; General Bruce



(Brother of Lord Elgin, who was Governor General of Canada 1847-54 and Duke of Newcastle. The original image is shown above. The commonly shown, retouched version without Col. Grey, is on the right. Was he deleted because he was not considered important enough to be shown with the Prince or because he partially obscured the Prince or because he made the Prince appear short or...?)

Schedule for Remainder of 2018

Tuesday March 27 2018 Citizens' Forum, Victoria Hall, 7:30pm	Gareth Metcalfe <i>Small Scale Maple Syruping: Then and Now</i>
Tuesday April 24 2018 Citizens' Forum, Victoria Hall, 7:30pm	Annual General Meeting followed by Roseanne Quinn <i>The Importance of Knowing Your Community Heritage</i>
Tuesday May 29 2018 Details to be announced	End of the season social event

Did Reuben Jackson Sign This?

Judith Goulin



Can you read the signature on the 2x6 in the photo? This board, part of a doorframe, was discovered a few years ago during renovations in a Jackson House. During the early part of the 20th century Reuben Jackson built over 50 attractive red brick houses in Cobourg. He must have been proud of his well-built houses and perhaps for this reason he often signed his name in a house during construction.

Do you think this is Reuben Jackson's signature on the doorframe? If you live in a Jackson house, or know someone who does, Judith Goulin would like to see other examples of his signature for comparison. See the April edition of the CDHS newsletter for the answer to this question.

Women in History

Caroline Arsenault

From the distant past to recent history Canada has been enriched by the contributions made by women. Aboriginal and Inuit women epitomized the term “a women’s work is never done”. While Louis Hebert is given accolades as being the first European farmer, his wife Marie and his two daughters, Anne and Guillaumette, worked side by side with him. Catherine Parr Trail was arguably Canada’s first botanist. Adelaide Hoodless used personal tragedy to benefit future generations by starting the Women’s Institute. From Camp-X in Ontario came female war spies. Dolly Gooderham as editor of the *Farm Forum Guide* and *Farm Radio* “voice”, brought unity to a still emerging farming community. The companion national rural discussion groups were the forerunners of outreach education and were used as a model for distance education. UNESCO used the farm forum models in France, India and other countries and they proved a successful experiment in adult education. Dorothy Ann Schiller was a modern pioneer whose commitment to providing innovative health care is legendary. Dorothy, as Assistant Deputy Minister of Health and Social Services, lead the transfer of the Yukon health care to the First Nation’s people in 1993. This was in anticipation of the historic creation of Nunavut. While time may have faded the names of these women and the many others, the legacy that they left for Canada will be eternal.

Bibliography:

1. National Farm Forum Radio Program issued the *Farm Forum Guide* from 1941 to 1965.
2. The farm forum project was sponsored by the Canadian Federation of Agriculture and the CBC.
3. R.A. Sim, ed, *Canada’s Farm Radio Forum*.
4. J. Dumazedier, *Television and Rural Adult Education*.
5. R. Faris, *The Passionate Educators*
6. Various sources were used for the other notable women in history such as the Women’s Institute resource materials, the Internet and various historical booklets.

Drive Through History: The Champlain Rally

Judith Goulin

Tourism Northumberland has come up with a fun driving tour to highlight some of the areas that Samuel de Champlain traversed in the early 1600s as he took the Percy Portage through the Trent Hills to avoid rapids in the Trent River. The twisty, hilly roads and many views of the river provide a spectacular backdrop for this drive through history. A good navigator, a GPS and perhaps a map are essential.

To begin, visit the Northumberland Tourism website:

<http://www.northumberlandtourism.com>, where you will find driving instructions and a list of questions. The tour begins and ends in Hastings. It should take about two hours. The instructions and the driving directions are sometimes challenging, but getting lost adds to the fun. Enjoy!

Did you know that Champlain is believed to have lost his navigational instrument, an astrolabe, while he was portaging in the vicinity of the Ottawa River, close to Cobden Ontario? Edward George Lee, a 14 year old farm boy, found a cast brass astrolabe that was stamped “fabriqué en france 1603”, amid the exposed roots of a fallen tree. Was it really Champlain’s? Could it have belonged to a Jesuit missionary?

After you complete the Champlain Rally, you may want to take a trip to Ottawa. Have a look at the statue of Champlain holding his astrolabe at Nepean Point, behind the National Gallery. Then cross the river to Gatineau to see the astrolabe in the Canadian Museum of Civilization. It is touted as a national icon and a sacred part of our history even though some history experts doubt that it really belonged to Champlain. You decide.



Announcements

Lakeshore Genealogical Society

There are two upcoming Lakeshore Genealogical Society events:

- March 24, 10:00am - 1:00pm. Workshop on How to Trace your Family Tree at the Cobourg Public Library. The workshop is free but attendees must pre-register on the LGS Website at <http://www.lakeshoregenealogicalsociety.ca> .
- April 12, Lakeshore Genealogical Society regular monthly meeting features Brian Tackaberry speaking on “The Effect of World War 1 In Small Town Ontario”. The meeting will be held in the Rotary Room, Cobourg Public Library, 200 Ontario Street, Cobourg and starts at 6:30pm. Visitors are welcome.

Membership Matters

Executive Position

Unfortunately, personal obligations in other areas of their lives have led several members of the CDHS executive to make the difficult decision to resign from the board. If you have some free time and would like to assist our society please consider applying for the position of Membership Coordinator. Contact any member of the executive to discuss this opportunity.

Who Are These People?

Twenty years ago, July of 1998, the Cobourg and District Historical Society organized a cemetery visit with some members in costume reminescent of those interred. Can you identify the members in the photographs on the next page?



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