

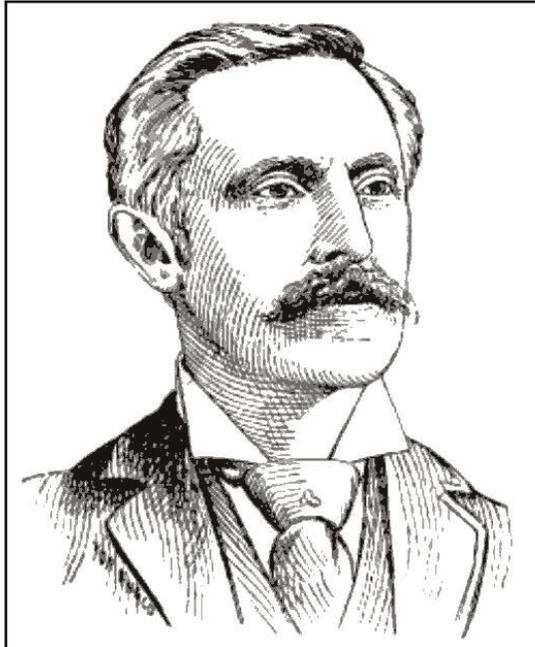
HISTORY MATTERS

Newsletter of the Brockville & District Historical Society
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George A. Dana (1840–1911)



Drawing courtesy of Doug Grant.

Mayor of Brockville, 1885-86

SOCIETY MATTERS

Treasurer's Report: The 2002 accounts have been audited by Bernie Currier and found to be in good order. Bernie has generously donated his auditing fee back to the society.

Our Money Market GIC came due on March 13 and the Executive voted to renew it. It will be redeemable without penalty after 90 days.

Newsletters Received: Kingston Historical Society, Historical Society of the Gatineau and the Ontario Heritage Society Bulletin. These newsletters, as well as past issues, can be viewed in our room on the mezzanine of the Brockville Museum.

Membership: 57 life members and 29 currently paid annual members. If you haven't done so yet, don't forget to renew your membership.

High School History Prizes: We received a thank you letter from Rachel Harrison, who won the History Prize at BCI's graduation ceremonies last fall.

Saving the Site of Ontario's First Parliament: In response to Eleanor Hammond's letters on our behalf in support of saving the heritage site, we received letters from MPP Bob Runciman and U.E. Buchner of Heritage Toronto thanking us for our concern and support.

Bimonthly Meeting

Wednesday, March 26, 7:30 pm
Brockville Museum Program Room

Jean Gilbert "The Excitement of Researching a Family: The Danas of Brockville"

The Danas were a prominent Brockville family, owners of a local tannery and important in city politics. Initially knowing nothing about them, Jean began researching the family for a Brockville Museum activity. She embarked on an exciting adventure of discovery as she followed one lead after another. Jean will give us a flavour of that adventure in this illustrated talk.

*Come join us. All are welcome.
Refreshments will be served.*

A LIVELY RUCTION (Part 2)

[This is the continuation of a story first published in The Evening Recorder on Thursday, Feb. 19, 1903. Three young men, Sherwood Steacy, William Kerr and William Turner, invaded the home of James Forde, terrorized him and his wife, then went back to town. — Ed.]

Forde followed the trio into town and swore out warrants for their arrest, which were placed in the hands of Chief Adams and Constable Davison. At about 3:30 the officers learned that their men were at the Ottawa House, and proceeded there armed with the warrants. Steacy and Turner were there, but Kerr was not to be seen. The officers had a hard tussle with the men, but they were finally landed in a sleigh and driven to the police station. Here another tussle took place before they were locked up. The officers then went to look for Kerr, and soon learned that he was at the Ottawa House and defying arrest. Chief Adams went in the back door, while Policeman Davison went in the front door, and located their man in the bar-room. When Chief Adams approached Kerr he asked if he would go to the police station quietly, and, not seeing Davison, he told the chief that he had waited for a long time to get a chance at him, and was now prepared for it. The chief soon had him on his back, however, and Constable Davison put on the "bracelets," and he was quickly on his way to the police station, on a sleigh, to keep his pals company. When Kerr arrived there he showed fight again, but was soon put behind the iron door. When he was locked up he shouted to Steacy and Turner to put the place on "the bum," and this they did in right royal style. They broke down the furnace pipes that pass through the top of the cell by throwing a pail up against them, and the fire in one of the furnaces of the opera house had to be pulled out. They also tore down the stovepipes, and for this they suffered themselves. They were nearly frozen this morning as it was too late in the evening to have them repaired.

[Next Month: A speedy trial]

HERITAGE HAPPENINGS

Brockville Museum (342-4397)

Hours — Open from 10 am to 5 pm Monday to Saturday; 1 to 5 pm on Sunday.

Tuesdays in April, 1 – 4 pm — Artistic Stitchers Needlework Class: Reticello (15th century lace-making). Mary Lou Wilson, instructor. Friends: \$50; general public: \$55.

Apr. 2 & 9, 9:30 am – 2 pm — Tea Cup Teddy Bear Workshop.

Fulford Place Museum (498-3003)

Hours — Saturday & Sunday, 11 am – 4 pm, with last tour starting at 3:10 pm.

Apr. 12 — Our Garden Heritage, a day of talks and slide presentations on the history of plants, gardening and landscaping. Tickets \$15.00, reserved in advance. Reservations can be made starting on March 31.

Friends of the Brockville Museum

Fund-raising with Flower Bulbs, 2003 Spring Campaign. Pick up your order form at the museum.

Christmas 2003 Magog Bus Trip, Oct. 30 – Nov. 1. Memphré Inn. Contact Bill Miller at 341-9241 for more information and to book your seat.

Brockville Infantry Company (1862)

The Company is actively seeking new recruits interested in re-enacting history and representing Brockville at heritage events. Contact Ted Abbott at 345-1277 or Denis Savage at 345-4042. The next major event is an encampment at Upper Canada Village in Morrisburg on Sunday, May 18.

History is the discovering of the constant and universal principles of human nature.

David Hume (1711 – 1776)



Canada's Museums on the Web

www.virtualmuseum.ca

Contributions, Please!

We welcome all contributions and comments. We especially would like any family snapshots, personal anecdotes, recollections or research that give us a flavour of what life was like in the past. This newsletter provides an ideal way of preserving these 'snippets' of life and making them available to everyone. We can't promise to publish them all because space and resources are limited. Send your notes, historical tidbits and pictures to the editor at the address shown in our masthead. If you are 'connected,' contact the editor at rstesky@pangaesci.com. We will return all materials in the same condition as received.

Thanks to Chris Stesky for the lesson in 100-year-old justice, to Liz Quinn for the Selkirk Settlers information and to the heritage groups for telling us about their activities.

Brian Porter (Sir John A.; Constable Porter, N.W.M.P.)

Brian writes: "Kingston Historical Society is working on an evening of music, which was written for John A. Macdonald in his life time. They are looking for musicians and singers now. 'John A. and Agnes' are going to be part of this event but there is no date yet. They are also considering a Victorian Ball with a dance instructor I know, who will lead people through the dances of the time.

"My own schedule of talks varies all over the place. In January I did John A. talks for two grade eights in Kanata and grade 4-5 at Commonwealth School. On Feb. 6 at Pineview School in Athens, there were two lively classes of grades 4 and 5, with lots of questions about John A. On Feb. 5 I spoke to the Newcomers' Club about Major Walsh N.W.M.P. On Mar. 24 I am speaking at a meeting of the Probus Club on Major Walsh. On Mar. 28, 'John A.' will be a guest of Dave Paul at a conference of the Ontario East Economic Development Commission here in Brockville. In April I expect to visit Grenville Christian College grade 8s and return to Commonwealth School for a grade 8 class. In May 'John A. and Agnes' hope to be in Kingston for a musical event being started there.

"My wife Renee is now making an 1880s dress and running into much frustration with the pattern. She ran into this with her 1860s dresses, too, but we have to move into the '80s. This re-enacting keeps going in new directions, which is exciting. I am really enjoying these opportunities to celebrate and promote Canadian history."

For former Maritimers or those planning to be in the Maritimes this summer. . .

2003 is the 200th Anniversary of the Arrival of the Selkirk Settlers to Belfast, Prince Edward Island

The "Selkirk Settlers" were a group of Scottish colonists brought to Prince Edward Island in 1803 by Thomas Douglas, the 5th Earl of Selkirk. These Highland men and women sailed on three ships: the Polly, the Dykes and the Oughton. The Polly arrived on Aug 7, the Dykes (on which Lord Selkirk traveled) disembarked on Aug. 9, and the Oughton arrived on Aug. 27. About 400 of the approximate 800 colonists brought by Lord Selkirk settled in the Belfast area. Most of these settlers had been passengers on the ship Polly.

From Aug 7 – 10, the Belfast Historical Society, in conjunction with the Caledonian Club, will host the 200th Anniversary and the Annual Highland Games at the Lord Selkirk Provincial Park in Eldon. Over this four-day extended weekend, planned activities include genealogy workshops and lectures, displays and exhibits, concerts, traditional highland athletic competitions, piping competitions, re-enactments of the Selkirk Settlers arrival, highland dance competitions, guest speakers and kilted classic golf tournaments.

Additional information may be found on the web at: <http://www.islandregister.com/skye/skye2003.html>.

Member Liz Quinn writes: "It's the last week for the 2003 Canada Winter Games, ending March 8, being hosted in my hometown of Bathurst, as well as in the neighbouring city of Campbellton, N.B. — Watch them on CBC."