

HISTORY MATTERS

Newsletter of the Brockville & District Historical Society
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Clipping from the Past 18 Feb. 1932, The Recorder & Times

Our Men of Affairs

R.H. Lindsay

By Fred H. Wooding

Shakespeare once said

“A merrier man,
Within the limit of becoming mirth
I never spent an hour’s talk withal.”

And that was precisely the way I felt upon leaving Mr. Robert H. Lindsay in his Bohemian-like studio after an hour’s interview a few days ago. Besides being an artist of considerable renown, Mr. Lindsay is a modest agreeable conversationalist and his faculty for entertaining his guests is well developed.

Mr. Lindsay was born in Prescott [Ed: on April 23, 1868], the son of Mr. and Mrs. George Lindsay. He received some of his education in that town; when he moved later to this community he continued his schooling in the local institutions. Early in life he developed a rare love for the aesthetic. Thus equipped with an artistic mind, he naturally felt an urging in his heart to create things with brush and paint. Receiving encouragement, Mr. Lindsay, as a young aspiring artist, joined the Ontario Art School, a branch of which was in Brockville at that time. He fell under the tutelage of Percy F. Woodcock, a man whose work is

found in all parts of the world to-day. Mr. Lindsay learned quickly and soon became so proficient that he succeeded Mr. Woodcock as instructor and for 12 years remained in that capacity.

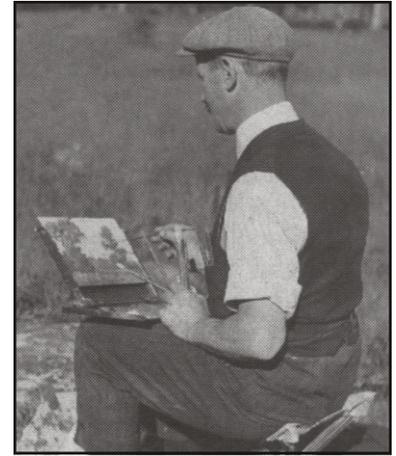
When the vocational schools were introduced to Brockville in 1911, Mr. Lindsay accepted a position as art instructor; he has held that office ever since. It may be interesting to know that many of Mr. Lindsay’s

pupils have made art their life interest and some have become quite successful in the different branches of that work.

Mr. Lindsay was married in Carleton Place to Miss Margaret E. Boucher, daughter of the late Mr. and Mrs. W. Boucher, formerly of Brockville.

Mr. Lindsay contributes annually to the Montreal Art Association; has had his work on exhibit at the Ontario Society of Art in Toronto; has won applause from the Royal Canadian Academy of Art in Montreal, Ottawa, Toronto, and Winnipeg; and his work has been featured at the Arts Club of Montreal, to which he is a regular contributor. Small wonder it is then that Mr. Lindsay’s achievements have made him very well known.

R.H. Lindsay (continued on page 2)



Robert H. Lindsay, 1868 – 1932

Brockville Museum Archives

SOCIETY MATTERS

Bimonthly Meeting

Wednesday, September 25, 7:30 pm
Brockville Museum Program Room

Sheilagh Robinson, CPPA “An Appraiser’s Personal Collection”

Sheilagh, a local professional appraiser, will show us samples from her collection of collectables, particularly china, and how she appraises them. If you have a particular treasure, bring it in and she will give you her opinion about it (one only, please).

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

Next Meeting: November 27, 7:30 pm. The speaker will be Kathleen Burtch, of St. Lawrence Islands National Park who will tell us about the natural and cultural history of Jones Creek.

Membership: 43 annual members and 57 life members.

Correspondence Received Since May:

Newsletters, Magazines & Bulletins: Ontario Heritage Society Bulletin; Kingston Historical Society; Historical Society of Ottawa; Lost Villages Historical Society; Historical Society of the Gatineau; Heritage Canada Foundation; Grenville Sentinel and Billings Estate Museum in Ottawa.

Letters: We received the notice of the annual general meeting of Heritage Canada, being held in Halifax, NS, on Sept. 28, 2002. Rachael Harrison, the winner of the Historical Society Award at St. Mary High School, wrote a nice letter of thanks.

Historical Society Award: This fall, the following awards will be presented:

Thousand Island Secondary School: Ashley Bell
Brockville Collegiate Institute: Dan Reid

Congratulations to the winners. The winner at Athens DHS has not yet been announced.

Men make history and not the other way around. In periods where there is no leadership, society stands still. Progress occurs when courageous, skillful leaders seize the opportunity to change things for the better.

Harry S. Truman

R.H. Lindsay (continued from page 1)

Although painting is part and parcel of his life, the artist loves healthy outdoor sports and is registered as the first honorary member of the famous Brockville Rowing Club. Intelligent reading also claims a considerable amount of Mr. Lindsay's time and the fact that he is well read is instrumental, no doubt, in him being a member of the Brockville Public Library Board.

Nearly every person has a hobby — something away from the usual line of occupation. But, strange to say, outside of wood carving, Mr. Lindsay's only hobby is travelling to different parts of the globe to view exhibitions of art in the many famous art galleries. He has travelled extensively.

And so Robert H. Lindsay, modest and unassuming, is gradually reaching that goal upon which he set his heart many years ago. He sees beauty in everything, and although he claims that he has painted no masterpieces, his works shall remain forever dear to the hearts of those who love and appreciate real art.

[Ed.: Robert Lindsay died 6 years after Wooding's column appeared in the R&T. Following are excerpts from Lindsay's obituary published in the R&T, Mar. 21, 1938.]

ROBERT LINDSAY PASSED SATURDAY, FUNERAL TUESDAY

Robert H. Lindsay, one of Brockville's popular and esteemed citizens passed away Saturday night at 11:35 o'clock in the General Hospital where on January 19 last he underwent an operation due to an embolism which previously had refused to yield to treatment.

"Bob" Lindsay was a true lover of nature and his creations in oils and water colors reflected the beauties of land, sea, sky and river to such an extent that his fame as an artist was not confined to this continent alone. He had travelled afar by train and steamship, to the American coastlines and to the Lakes of Killarney. He pictured many famous scenes but found greatest enjoyment perhaps on his bicycle which had carried him in early mornings to beautiful spots in and around Brockville which he faithfully transferred to canvas.

"Bob" Lindsay was always busy, but never too busy to lend a helping hand to an individual or to the community at large. . . .

"Bob" Lindsay could always and always did see the bright side of things. Rarely an amusing incident occurred but what he uncovered from his fertile memory its replica and he could tell a story with the best of raconteurs. He fairly bubbled over with wit and humor and never failed to communicate his jovial spirits to his listeners. One always felt better for a conversation with "Bob" Lindsay. The illness prior to the operation was borne by him in close secret and the citizens of the town were deeply shocked to learn of his misfortune and later stunned to hear of his death. . . .



HERITAGE HAPPENINGS

Brockville Museum (342-4397)

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

New Exhibits — *Our Community Life Lines – Celebrating the Contribution of Brockville Police and Firefighters.*

Every Monday, 10 am – 2 pm — Craft & Chat. \$2. Bring a sandwich and your stitching project.

Sept. 25, Noon–1 pm — Brown Bag Lunch. Guest speaker: Sue Ellen Dow, Akwesasne Cultural Center, will speak on *Basketry and the History of the ACC Museum.* Baskets will be available for sale. Bring a sandwich; refreshments provided.

Sept. 27, 8:30 am – 4:30 pm — "Bread and Butter", activities for children, 6–12 years of age. Friends, \$25; public, \$30.

Sept. 30, 2:30 pm — *History Alive* Weekend Getaway Contest deadline and draw. Carriage Hall. Buy your tickets now.

Oct. 13, 2:30 pm — Dinner/Theatre, *The Drawer Boy.* 1000 Islands Playhouse. Friends, \$50; public, \$55. Buy your tickets by Oct. 4.

Friends of the Brockville Museum — Fall fundraising event: Fall Vesey Bulbs Sale. Catalogue available at the museum.

R.C.M.P. Veterans Association

Sept. 28, 11 am — Major Walsh will be honoured with a commemorative plaque at his grave site at the Old Protestant Cemetery, Hwy. 2.

Scottish Country Dancing

Every Thursday, 7 pm (novices) and 7:30 (novice & experienced), Westminster School.

Last Friday of each month, 8 pm — Irish Ceilis, St. Lawrence College. Everyone welcome.

Upper Canada Village

Sept. 21–22, 9:30 am – 5 pm — Quilt Show, organized by the 1000 Islands Quilt Guild.

Opera at the Brockville Arts Centre

Sept. 26, 2 pm — *The Last Wife*, an original Canadian opera by local composers Howard Alexander and Deborah Dunleavy. Tickets \$23.

Park Inn Grocery Dept. Ad
Recorder & Times, Feb. 18, 1932

Cash Specials for Feb. 18 to 20

Fresh Bread (special) 6¢	Creamery Butter, lb. 21¢
Good Black Tea, lb. 39¢	Apples, per bushel. \$1.50
Presto Ground Coffee, lb. 35¢	Five Roses Flour, per cwt. . \$2.75
Sugar, special, per cwt. . . . \$5.00	Tires, tubes and car accessories.
Mackay's Doughnuts, doz. . . 25¢	4 pr. Pure Woollen Socks . \$1.00
Orange Marmalade, 40 oz. . . 29¢	Gloves and Mitts.
Baking Powder, lb. 27¢	Lunch and chicken dinner served
Shortening 2 lbs. 25¢	by reserved appointment.
Fresh Pork (quarter) lb. . . . 10¢	Hiking parties served.

[Ed.: To put this in perspective, \$1 in 1932 has the buying power of about \$18.50 today. For example, the bread would cost \$1.09]

Thanks to Bill Tooker for the Lindsay articles and the heritage groups for telling us about their activities. Because of his current involvement with the Brockville artist community, your editor is particularly pleased to learn about one of Brockville's artistic legends.