

HISTORY MATTERS

Newsletter of the Brockville & District Historical Society
c/o Brockville Museum, 5 Henry St., Brockville, Ontario K6V 6M4

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SOCIETY MATTERS

November Meeting is Cancelled

Our next meeting is the Annual Meeting and will be held on Sunday, January 21, 2007. The date is earlier than we usually hold our meeting, but the museum has already booked the program room for another event. Please note the new date on your calendar and circle it in red.

History Prize Winners — Sarah Germani (BCI), John McFall (TISS), Jennifer Matthews (St. Mary) and Erin Dijkema (Athens DHS). Congratulations to them all.

Personal Note — We are saddened to note that member Al Humphreys has developed ALS (Lou Gehrig's disease) and will not be able to continue his role as society president. Past-president Doug Avery has agreed to act in his place until the Annual Meeting in January. Al has been a cornerstone of our group for many years, leading our meetings, handling memberships, distributing the newsletters and being the public voice of the historical society. He will be sorely missed and we send him our heartfelt best wishes.

*Have a Safe and Happy Holiday Season
See you in January*

Clipping from the Past

Brockville Recorder, Mar. 9, 1909

TO CUT LUMBER DUTIES

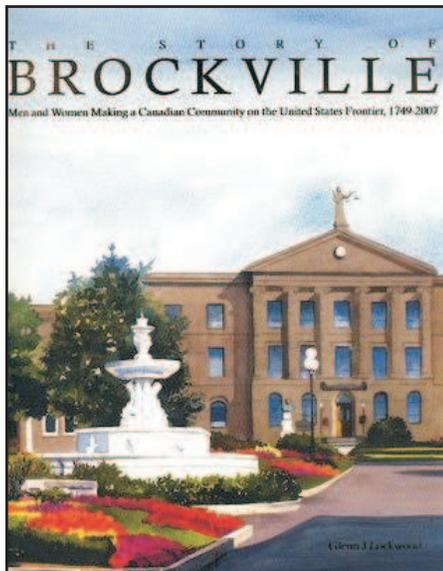
United States Tariff May Be Halved by Congress.

New Bill Now Before Ways and Means Committee of House of Representatives Is Said to Contain a Reduction of Customs on Milled Timber — Gifford Pinchot Is In Favor of the Reduction.

Washington, March 9.—A cut of one-half in the duties on lumber and manufactures of lumber is understood to be one of the changes provided by the new tariff bill, which is printed preparatory to its final revision by the Republican members of the House Ways and Means Committee. Another change that has been made, according to information from reliable sources, is that hides have been placed on the free list. There has been much contention over the duties on these two articles.

During the hearings on the lumber schedule it was claimed that the forests of the country could only be conserved by admitting foreign lumber free of duty. It is understood that Gifford Pinchot, chief forester, is preparing figures for this committee in a further effort to have lumber placed on the free list. Champ Clark, the House minority leader, claimed at the hearings that the profits of the lumber interests were unduly large. Representative Fordney of Michigan, a member of the committee, has championed the cause of the lumber men, and the latter have been working energetically to prevent the free entry of lumber. They contend that the rates of duty should be increased in order that the American industry may compete with the cheaper labor employed in Canada, and because of the better facilities for transportation afforded by the proximity of the Canadian lumber camps to waterways.

[Ed.: As the Bible says: "... there is no new thing under the sun."]



The dust jacket for *The Story of Brockville* features a fine watercolour painting of Courthouse Avenue by local artist Pam Warren McKimmon.

The Story of Brockville is published

Book launch on December 10

At long last, *The Story of Brockville: Men and Women Making a Canadian Community on the United States Frontier, 1749-2007*, by Dr. Glenn J Lockwood, will soon be available, just in time for Christmas giving. 5000 copies have been printed and will be available at the book launch at the newly renovated Thomas Fuller Building (the former Dominion Post Office) at 14 Court House Ave. on Dec. 10, and thereafter at Leeds County Books. You can secure your autographed copy now by purchasing a voucher from the book store. At least 200 have already been sold.

This writer has seen an advance copy and it certainly justifies the long wait. Glenn has produced a thorough, comprehensive, well-researched and well-documented study of the city's history. The book's size and depth of detail won't make it easy bedtime reading, but its many photographs and stories will invite both casual browsing and intensive study. Congratulations to Glenn for a fine work and the book committee for their considerable efforts to bring the project to completion.

HERITAGE HAPPENINGS

Brockville Museum (342-4397)

Hours — 10 am – 4:30 pm, Monday–Friday. Closed for Christmas Dec. 24–26 and Dec. 29 – Jan. 1

Mondays in November, 10 am – 2 pm — Craft & Chat.

Tuesdays, Nov. 21 & 28, 10 am – noon — Speaking of Women... Herstory. A series of talks by invited speakers on women in society. \$7 per session or \$35 for series.

Nov. 21—Constable Nicki Henry, *Women in the Police Force*

Nov. 28 — Shirley Avery, *Nursing Through the Eyes of a Retiree — a Look Back.*

Fri., Nov. 24, 8:30 am – 4 pm — PA Day Program: Who were the Group of Seven? Ages 4–10 years. Members, \$20; not-yet-members, \$25. Hot dog lunch provided. Wear play clothes. Call to register.

Thurs., Nov. 23, 8 am – 3 pm — Basket Guild, with volunteer instructor Gwyn Marriott.

Sat., Nov. 25, 2 – 5 pm — Christmas After-Parade Party. See the Christmas exhibit. Childrens crafts, cookies and hot chocolate. Free admission.

Fri., Dec. 1, 7 pm — Silent Film Night, with two features: *Peter Pan*, the 1924 fantasy film, produced under the supervision of author James M. Barrie himself, and *Now You Tell One*, a 1926 comedy starring the forgotten comedian and animator Charlie Bowers and a forerunner of later cartoons. Good will offering.

Mon., Dec. 4, 8:30 am – 4 pm — PA Day Program: Getting Ready for Christmas Ages 4–10 years. Members, \$20; not-yet-members, \$25. Hot dog lunch provided. Wear play clothes. Call to register.

Tues., Dec. 5, 10 am – 2 pm — Craft & Chat. \$2.

Mon., Dec. 18, 7 pm — The Thousand Islands Yarnspinnners

Wed. & Thurs., Jan. 3 & 4, 8:30 am – 4 pm — PA Day Program: Winter fun at the Museum Ages 4–10 years. Members, \$20; not-yet-members, \$25. Hot dog lunch provided. Wear play clothes. Call to register.

Tuesdays, Jan. 16, 23 & 30, 10 am – noon — 2007 Lecture Series, The St. Lawrence River, with a different topic each week. \$7 per session.

Sun., Jan. 28, 3 pm — City of Brockville's 175th Celebration of the signing of the 1832 proclamation incorporating Brockville as a Police Village. Brockville Arts Centre.

Fulford Place Museum (498-3003)

Hours — Tours: Tuesday & Thursday, 1:30 pm sharp; Saturday & Sunday, 11 am – 4 pm. Tearoom and Gift Shop open daily except Monday, Wednesday & Friday.

Exhibit — Conversations with Time: Fulford Chairs. Charcoal drawings by Laurie Sponagle. Until Dec. 15.

Sat., Nov. 25, 11 am – 3 pm — Edwardian Tea.

Sat., Dec. 9, 10 am – noon — Christmas Cracker Workshop. Children ages 6-12 will learn the history of the Christmas cracker and how to make them. \$15 per person.

Brockville Infantry Company (1862)

Denis Savage, Company Clerk, reports: “The Company participated in the Legion Goodwill parade in Kingston on May 20th, followed the next day by our customary visit to Upper Canada Village to celebrate both the official opening of the Village and Queen Victoria’s birthday. A feu-de-joie was in order, of course.

“The highlight of the season was the Company’s participation in the 140th anniversary re-enactment of the battle of Ridgeway which took place at old Fort Erie on June 3rd and 4th. Our guys were the group to march in formation in an orderly manner while some other groups of re-enactors acted as skirmishers.

“Other activities throughout the summer included participation in the Pipe Band’s Tattoo, Canada Day celebrations in Brockville, Canalfest in Merrickville, and the Pirates Days’ festival in Alexandria Bay, N.Y.

“Another interesting event in our season was to garrison Fort Henry for the day on September 16th. It is always impressive to march and execute maneuvers on the parade square of such a national historic site. This year, the parade square had a new found beauty: the stonework of the inside walls had been repointed and looked very nice. Gone were the safety concerns and scaffolds that made the place less attractive over the last couple of years.

“The Company is presently in the busy Santa Claus parades season. We participated in the Gananoque parade on November 19th. Parades in Brockville and Morrisburg will follow on November 25th and December 2nd.”



The entire Infantry Company on show at Upper Canada Village to celebrate Queen Victoria’s birthday.

Photo by Judy Racine



The Infantry Company marching in formation.

Photo by Rosemarie Fisher

We welcome all contributions and comments. Send your notes, historical tidbits and pictures to the editor. If you are ‘connected,’ contact the editor at rstesky@pangaeasci.com. We will return all materials in the same condition as received.

Thanks to the heritage groups for telling us about their activities.