

Editorial: Our annual meeting has taken place and the Society's new officers are:

President: Dorothy Hetherington  
1st Vice-President: Myra D'Aoust  
2nd Vice-President: Anne McLaughlin  
Secretary: Cheryl Dykeman  
Treasurer: Rev. B.J. Buckland

The various standing committees, the Newsletter, Publications, Program and Marketing Committees are relatively unchanged, and there is every likelihood that both a Bicentennial Committee and a Membership Committee will be formed. Our President would be delighted to have volunteers for these committees.

Financially we are in reasonably good shape although efforts will be made to send double notices when possible. Also, out-of-province members will receive meeting notices included with their Newsletters unless otherwise requested. Membership fees will remain at \$3.00 per person per year.

Speaking of fees, please examine the address panel of your Newsletter. An \* indicates that your name and address is from the 1981-82 membership list which has now been abandoned, and you will receive no further mailings. A ✓ indicates a paid-up member for 1983-84 and you have no worries. No mark at all indicates that you are on the 1982-83 membership list and that your fees are now due, but you will receive mailings up to and including the October Newsletter. Please note that the Treasurer is Canon B.J. Buckland, whose address is Gagetown, N.B. EOG 1V0.

Costuming: The program on costuming in April was very interesting, and all who attended picked up many ideas for our Bicentennial Outfits. Because authentic 18th century patterns are impossible to obtain, and because people are much bigger now, the necessity to adapt modern patterns exists. To assist us, the King's Landing Corporation has allowed us to reproduce sets of measurements which are useful in making these adaptations.

Men's Measurements:

Chest: \_\_\_\_\_  
Waist: \_\_\_\_\_  
Hip: \_\_\_\_\_  
Across Shoulders: \_\_\_\_\_  
Neck: \_\_\_\_\_  
Nape to Waist Back: \_\_\_\_\_  
Nape to Waist Front: \_\_\_\_\_  
Under Arm to Waist: \_\_\_\_\_  
Armseye: \_\_\_\_\_  
Length of Sleeve (Arm Bent): \_\_\_\_\_  
Inside Sleeve Length (Arm Straight): \_\_\_\_\_  
Wrist: \_\_\_\_\_  
Outside Leg: \_\_\_\_\_

Women's Measurements:

Bust: \_\_\_\_\_  
Under Bust: \_\_\_\_\_  
Width of Front: \_\_\_\_\_  
Width of Back: \_\_\_\_\_  
Length of Front: \_\_\_\_\_  
Length of Back: \_\_\_\_\_  
Shoulder to Waist: \_\_\_\_\_  
Width of Shoulder: \_\_\_\_\_  
Waist: \_\_\_\_\_  
Length of Skirt: \_\_\_\_\_  
Length of Arm: \_\_\_\_\_  
Length of Upper Arm: \_\_\_\_\_  
Wrist: \_\_\_\_\_  
Elbow: \_\_\_\_\_

Also, we were advised that McCall's pattern #8520 is excellent for bodice, waist line, and skirt details (although sleeves should come from another pattern, and also the neckline is not authentic).

Again, courtesy of King's Landing we are reproducing a list of suppliers recommended for materials for period costumes:

For silks, satins, trims:

KY/RO Sales Agency  
Box 41 Grand Desert  
Halifax Co., N.S.  
BOJ 1N0  
Attn. Bea Kelly, Gerry Romano  
Tel. (902) 827-4738

For moccasins, boots:

Palmer McClelland  
Industrial Park  
Fredericton, N.B.  
Attn. Stuart Duffy  
Tel. 455-7621

For homespuns:

St. Andrew Woolens  
Handweaving Ltd.  
22 Douglas St.  
St. Andrews, N.B.  
Attn. Blaine K. Holmes  
Tel. 529-3367; Home 529-3191

For notions, ribbons, etc.:

R. Duranleau Inc.  
104 Ouest, rue St. Paul  
Montreal, P.Q.  
H2Y 9Z9  
Tel. (514) 849-4522

For linen:

CX Tranchemontagne Inc.  
459 St. Sulpice  
Montreal, P.Q.  
Attn. Pierre Bernier  
Tel. (514) 244-1111

For men's tricorne, top hats, straw hats:

J.A. Desmarais  
74 Victoria St.  
Pointe-Claire, P.Q.  
H9S 4S6  
Tel. (514) 697-0120

For millinary supplies, feathers:

J-P Leone Ltd.  
5144 St. Hubert  
Montreal, P.Q.  
H2J 2Y3  
Tel. (514) 276-8082

For cottons, plain and printed:

George Courey Inc.  
405 St. Sulpice St.  
Montreal, P.Q.  
H2Y 2V6  
Attn. Mr. Belleville  
Tel. 1-800-361-6338 (toll free)

For special historical cottons,  
glazed cottons and chintz:

Greff Fabrics Inc.  
388 Yonge St.  
Toronto, Ont.  
M5B 1S8  
Tel. (416) 597-0144

For batiste, voile, lace:

E.C. Carter & Sons, Inc.  
388 Yonge St.  
Toronto, Ont.  
M5B 1S8

Queen's County Biography: Frank Hamm, Veteran, Diarist and Poet

This is a non-biography; we received the following poem written by a man called Frank Hamm who lived at Cambridge, and decided to preface it with a brief biographical note. However, factual material about Mr. Hamm was difficult to obtain.

We did establish that his parents were Mr. and Mrs. Solomon Hamm; that his mother's maiden name was White, and that his father was a policeman in Saint John for many years. As a young man Frank went to South Africa to fight in the Boer War, and in later years wrote an account of his adventures. We understand that a copy of this journal is extant, and we hope to have access to it, at some later date. Also we expect to find out more about this Queen's County poet for another issue.

Memories of the Past

The St. John River was a sight of beauty to be seen.  
When all the big white steamboats went up and down the stream.  
The wharves were thronged with people and the freight was piled up high.  
And what a sight it was to see those boats go gliding by.

The Champlain and the Clifton, Hampstead and Aberdeen.  
The Oconee, Majestic, David W. Weston and May Queen.  
Victoria was the largest and pride of all the fleet.  
The D. J. Purdy and Sincennes were slow but very neat.

When Captain Porter had the Star some fifty years or more.  
There never was a better boat went up and down the shore.  
The Crystal Stream was speedy and also pretty neat.  
And when it came to making time she was pretty hard to beat.

At certain times each morning you would hear the whistle blow  
The captain shouted, "All aboard, cast off the lines, let go".  
They made a trip to Fredericton or Grand Lake in fine style.  
Some went up the Washademoak and some went up Belleisle.

The steamboats on the river are now forgotten past.  
The one to close the service the Majestic was the last.  
You can see her at Nauwigewauk fast going to decay.  
But remember what she used to be when she was in her day.

There was the Pokanoket, the Hampton and Elaine.  
But the good days on the river will never come again.  
The Faun, Olevett, and Soulanges and Premier had their day.  
But the boats have gone forever, yet forever they will stay.

Beatrice Waring and Springfield always looked their best.  
They got their share of business along with all the rest.  
But now it is all over and the river boats are done.  
Yet I never will forget the boats or the St. John River run.

\*\*\*Frank Hamm

New Steamboat for the River

As a follow-up to Mr. Hamm's poem we are reprinting a short excerpt published in "The Loyalist", a newspaper from Fredericton dated May 8, 1845:

"On Saturday last the beautiful Steamboat Reindeer, built for Thomas Pickard, Esq., of this Town, was launched from the Building Yard on the opposite side of the river, and on Monday last was towed by the steamer Meteor to the wharf where she is to take in her engines. This novel specimen of steamboat architecture was built from a model furnished by our ingenious and talented townsman, Mr. Benjamin Tibbits, and for elegance and symmetry, far exceeds any steamer which we have seen in this province. Her length of keel is 130 feet; her length on deck over all, 135 feet, and her breadth of beam 16 feet, and as she now floats, draws only nine inches of water."

\*\*A.P.H.

Setting Up Housekeeping Seventy Years Ago

On July 16, 1913, John Kenneth Robinson of Cambridge, Queen's County, married Eva Pearl Smith at the home of the bride's parents in Marsh Hill, Maine. The "newly-weds" honeymoon consisted of a trip by train to St. John, N.B., and by steamer Majestic to Cambridge. The groom had purchased at auction on November 16, 1912, the property formerly belonging to Abraham W. Orchard at Cambridge for \$350.

The cost of setting up housekeeping was certainly not what it is today. This fact is attested to by the following bills found by their daughter, Dorothy Hetherington.

A bill from O.H. Warwick Co. Ltd. (78-82 King St., St. John, N.B.) dated July 18, 1913, itemized the following:

1 dinner set	14.75
1 doz. tumblers	.70
1 toilet set (10 pcs.)	4.50
	<u>19.95</u>
Freight	.25
	<u>20.20</u>
Ship str. Majestic on Saturday.	

A bill from Manchester, Robertson, Allison also dated July 18, 1913, is as follows:

17 Linoleum @ 55	9.35
4½ oil cloth @ 60	2.55
7½ oil cloth @ 30	2.25
1 Brussels square	19.00
	<u>33.15</u>

Still another bill from Manchester, Robertson, Allison, on the same date as above, listed:

1 bureau	
1 commode	
1 iron bed	19.75
1 bedroom table	
2 " chairs	
1 wire spring	3.40
1 flock mattress	6.00
4 kitchen chairs @ .65	2.60
	<u>31.75</u>

Note: the couple mentioned arrived at Cambridge on the same trip of the Majestic (Saturday, July 19, 1913) as the goods that had been purchased. Contrast this cost with that of furniture for a new household 70 years later in 1983!

\*\*Dorothy Hetherington

This article was possible because somewhere along the line someone "saved" their ordinary household papers. Collections of this sort of domestic material tell us things about lifestyles that cannot be found anywhere else. This has prompted us to reprint the following essay with thanks to Marianne Grey Otty and Grace Aiton:

"Rescue the Pages of the Past"

Springtime is just around the corner; and the eyes of housewives are taking on that look which means another raid on the attic, and another pile of old papers, books and letters consigned to the flames; costumes of a hundred years ago, utensils which showed how people lived and carried on their work in earlier days are bundled out to feed the bonfire; and more material of value to historian and archivist is lost forever. Old newspapers are of particular value, we might point out, because they publish more details about an event which has just happened, than will ever be likely to appear again.

Every year, the destruction of old homes by fire takes its toll; and no one will ever know how much was lost to provincial historians when the old homes in the Camp Gagetown area were evacuated in sad and desperate haste.

Fortunately, buildings, monuments, and markers of historical value, in the public view, are now protected from destruction by recent provincial legislation; but there is nothing to save the contents of attics, old trunks and desk drawers long closed, from the over-zealous housewife, but her sense of values. The Tweedsmuir competitions carried on by the Women's Institutes of Canada have been of immense value in awakening Canadians to the debt they owe the past.

In the Family Herald and Weekly Star, of February 9, there appeared an article by Grace Aiton, of Sussex, entitled "Rescue the Pages of the Past." This voices so timely a warning in the pre-spring cleaning season, and puts the reason so clearly, that we cannot forbear publishing it in full, as follows,-

'There is a movement afoot across Canada to preserve the things of the past, the old books, old newspapers and letters, as well as the tools made and used by the early settlers.....These relics have been neglected too long, but now a renewed emphasis is being placed on their value and preservation.

It is through books written by citizens of this country, stories of the struggles of the pioneers, letters written by early settlers, old newspapers and relics, that the past history of our country may be reconstructed for future generations.

Unfortunately, someone gets the urge to tidy up the attic, basement or storeroom and out goes a box of old books, a bundle of old newspapers or a collection of old letters written long years ago. And out goes the old spinning wheel, the butter tray and ladle, boot jack or any other old-fashioned article, long discarded and considered valueless.

With them goes a link with the past. It is not to be assumed that every old book, letter, or account that is more than a hundred years old is of value, but it is possible that, in every box of books or bundle of papers and letters, there will be some that will be of value to the provincial archives or some university library.

The old trunk that has been under the eaves in the attic for countless years may yield books which will find a ready place on the shelves of your public library, the local school library, or failing either, on the shelves of the archives or museum. Perhaps the trunk contains nothing but old school books and who would want them, you ask. There may be in it just one book of a certain series that is missing from a collection; or a book that has been long out of print, that would be acceptable to the museum. Universities sometimes collect old school books for the use of students doing research on educational subjects. Don't throw an old book away until you have tried to find some place or person who would give it a home. The best plan to follow, if you have many books, is to list them, together with the authors, date of publication and the name of the publishers. Then send the list to the librarian of some university, the archivist of your province, a museum or a public library and ask them to check any books that would be acceptable to these institutions. Keep sending out the list, or a new one, with the names of the remaining books to other libraries, etc. You may be surprised to find the shabby old history, the old Royal Reader, or that funny old geography, have been snatched up eagerly. You will be instructed how to send the books and there will be no expense to you.

Old newspapers are particularly valuable in reconstructing the economic, industrial and political life of a country, and sometimes one comes across these old papers in the most unexpected places; many an old newspaper comes to light when an old house is being remodelled. Our forefathers used them under the clapboards for insulation. Women used them to make a padding under the parlor carpet, to line a trunk, or to cover the walls of a clothes closet. In one home recently being redecorated, it was found that the kitchen walls had originally been papered with newspapers bearing the date of 100 years ago. As for old letters, they should find a place somewhere. Too many people destroy old letters because of their personal nature. There is no greater source of information on the early days of settlement in our country, than the letters written in those first years.

Many years ago Joseph Howe wrote, "A wise nation preserves its records." Our country's records will be found in old books, letters, newspapers and the relics of bygone days. Let us look well before we are guilty of throwing these things away.'