

Bruce County Historical Notes



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While not common, the rustic gravestone can be found in a number of Bruce County cemeteries. This stone, in Tara's Hillcrest Cemetery, was erected by Henry Richards in memory of his wife Ann Richards. She died in 1897. See Page 3.

MAY BUS TRIP WILL GO TO VISITOR CENTRE, TOBERMORY

The annual bus trip of Bruce County Historical Society is set for Tuesday, May 29. Highlight of the outing will be a tour of the new Parks Canada visitor centre at Tobermory.

Tentative plans call for a pickup of passengers at Teeswater Community Centre at 7:45 a.m., and at Maple Square Mall in Port Elgin at 8:30 a.m.

A fish dinner (with pie!) will be served at 12:30 noon at the Princess Hotel, which overlooks the harbour at Tobermory. Cost of the lunch, entry to the park centre and the bus trip will be \$45 a person. A meal planned for the trip home is not included in the price.

Other stops are being planned. Contact your area director, or call Kirsten Armstrong at Teeswater, 519-395-5021; Karen Ribey, 519-368-7405, or Gladys Teeple, Paisley, 519-353-5175.

ANNUAL MEETING, DINNER

Here is an item for your calendar: The annual general meeting and dinner of Bruce County Historical Society will be held Oct. 27 at the Teeswater Community Centre. Further details will be announced in the Society's September newsletter.

NAMES NAMES NAMES

The Historical Society is always on the lookout for names that have disappeared from Bruce County: Names of hamlets, crossroads, streams, hills, farms and fields, sideroads and schools. If you have anything to add to the Society's name bank drop a note to John Weichel at Box 550, Southampton, ON, N0H 2L0.



MARION MCGILLIVRAY WAS LOCAL HISTORIAN

Bruce County Historical Society lost a much valued member in the passing of Marion McGillivray in late 2006. Marion was editor of the yearbook for most of the 1980s and served as secretary of the society for many years.

Marion was also editor of a number of Bruce County township histories published in the 1980s.

She was author of two books still sold by the Bruce County Historical Society. "*From City Streets to Trackless Forest*" is an historical novel. In it Marion skilfully wove the known facts and family lore about her grandmother Jane Smith, later Mrs. Peter Bartleman, into a credible tribute to one of Bruce County's earliest pioneers. *Critical Years*, co-written with Chris Paterson and published by Bruce County Historical Society in 2002, is a history of the Bruce County Museum and Archives.

Marion was honoured by the Bruce County Historical Society in 2003 for her many years of service. The plaque at that time noted that she "faithfully dedicated herself for many years as teacher, editor, secretary and friend to the cause of education, historical research and the retention of the archives, in the county of Bruce."

Her many accomplishments as a secondary school teacher and local historian are a legacy which will benefit many for years to come.

DONELDA MacKINNON WAS MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY

The Society's membership secretary Donelda MacKinnon of Tiverton died March 15, 2007, at the South Bruce Grey Health Centre in Kincardine. She was 81.

Donelda served as membership secretary from 1997 to 2006. She was the area director of the Society for Bruce West from 1990 to 1996.

She was born in Bruce Township on March 14, 1926. She and her husband Bruce farmed in Kincardine Township until his death in 1981. She managed the farm until 1986 when she moved to Tiverton.

She was a member of Knox Presbyterian Church and the Eastern Star. Donelda was a tireless worker and was well-respected in the community.

RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP

It is time to look at your membership in the Bruce County Historical Society.

Here is how to tell if you are still a member: Look at the address label on your Newsletter. If it says (2006) you need to renew your membership. (If you receive a newsletter or two, it does not necessarily mean you have renewed. The newsletters continue for two issues to remind you of the Society's work, and that your support through membership is appreciated.)

If you have any doubts about your membership, you can call our membership secretary, Dorne Fitzsimmons, Tiverton, 519-368-7186.

ANNIVERSARIES

South Kinloss Presbyterian Church congregation marked its 150th anniversary June 11, 2006. An anniversary service was held in the morning, with a cemetery tour in the evening.

Holyrood Post Office marked its 150th anniversary on Oct. 11, 2006. The post office was opened in 1856.

The Ripley Knox Presbyterian Church congregation marked its 150th anniversary in May of 2006 with special celebrations. The first church was built in 1858.

Bethel United Church, just north of Pine River on Highway 21, celebrated its 150th anniversary last year, with special services on June 25. Bethel began in 1856 as a Methodist Church.

Dedication

A new addition to Pine River United Church was dedicated in August of 2006. The addition includes a new entranceway, Sunday School, sanctuary, offices and a quilting-meeting room.



OUR RUSTIC MONUMENTS

They are called 'tree stones' or 'rustic stones' or 'tree stumps' and they can be found in a number of our Bruce County cemeteries.

What is common to most is the broken branch, or branches. It is a symbol that represents the end of life.

The rustic style didn't start out in the graveyard. It was first popular in the household decorations of the Victorian Period. Mary Durant, in her *The American Heritage Guide to Antiques* (1970), wrote: "In Victorian America, the rustic theme – twigs, branches, bark, leaves and vines – was variously interpreted in silverware, ceramics, furniture (both in wood and cast iron), on picture and mirror frames, and architecturally in such structures as rusticated houses for the garden."

No surprise that gravestones would also come under this influence.

The stone to the memory of Ann Vivian Richards at Tara (Page one) is likely the tallest of these county monuments. On the top is a dove carved from stone.

Many rustic stones were carved from limestone in the 'limestone belt' of Indiana. One of the larger Indiana companies, Cross & Rowe, is known to have shipped to "all parts of the United States and Canada." Whether monument makers turned out stones in Ontario is not known.

A price list for the Cross & Rowe firm for 1922 shows that a plain rustic stone four feet high, weighing 800 pounds, cost \$50, plus 15 cents a letter. A seven-foot double trunk, weighing three tons, cost \$240.

SIX EXAMPLES

Six of the rustic stones that stand in Bruce County cemeteries. Top, from left, Burgoyne; Smith (or Pioneer) cemetery, lot 11, Con. 10 Culross Township; Oliphant; Port Elgin; Walkerton, and Wiarton. The Richardson stone on Page one stands in Hillcrest Cemetery at Tara. It is in memory of Ann Vivian Richards who died in 1897, aged 30 years. Her husband Henry Nickels Richards owned a saw and grist mill in Tara.



FAIREST OF THEM ALL

A new book, *The Fairest of Them All*, written for the Arran-Tara Agricultural Society by Bruce Miller relates the history of the Arran-Tara Fall Fair and has been published to commemorate the occasion of the 150th consecutive fair in 2007. It is a well-illustrated, soft-covered, coil-bound book of 95 pages.

The book sells for \$20 and is available from directors of the fair. For more information telephone 519-934-3499 or 519-934-2357.

THE SINKING OF THE JONES 100 YEARS AGO COMMEMORATED

Three events on Nov. 22, 2006, marked the 100th anniversary of the tragic loss of SS J. H. Jones in Georgian Bay. A church service was conducted at St. Paul's Presbyterian Church by Rev. Doug Lennox who was a relative of the first mate who lost his life when the ship went down. A story-board plaque was unveiled in Bluewater Park later in the afternoon and in the evening speeches and dinner at the Meeting Place in Wiarton ended the day.

More than 30 descendants and relatives of those who perished with the ship were present for the ceremonies.

The plaque entitled 'Tragedy Strikes the J. H. Jones' read as follows:

"This plaque is in commemoration of the 100th anniversary of the foundering of the 'Jones', captained by James V. Crawford of Wiarton.

Tragedy struck the Jones on Thursday, November 22nd, 1906. She departed from Owen Sound at 1 p.m. on the last trip of the season fully-laden with winter supplies of kerosene and staples. Her destination was Lion's Head, Tobermory, and North Shore to collect fish boxes from the various fishing stations.

The weather was stormy with heavy seas being stirred up on the open sections of Georgian Bay. The steamer was sighted by lightkeeper Richard Chapman as she passed Cape Croker Light. He noted that she was having trouble in the treacherous conditions caused by the severe weather. This was the last time the J. H. Jones was ever seen.

The diminishing hopes that any of the victims would ever be recovered was suddenly boosted in the first week of January of 1907 when a body still wearing a Jones life preserver was discovered in the Christian Islands.

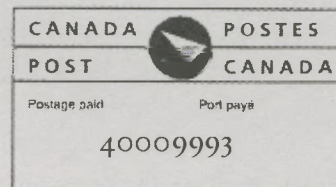
Plaque placed in memory of those on board November 22nd, 2006.

(With information from *The Saddest Calamity* by Patrick Folkes."

Bruce County Historical Society

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An annual membership in Bruce County Historical Society is \$15