

Bruce County Historical Notes



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ANNUAL MEETING TO HAVE NEW FORMAT

A new format is in place for the annual meeting and dinner of Bruce County Historical Society which will be held at the Teeswater-Culross Community Centre in Teeswater on Saturday, Oct. 27.

Those planning to attend are asked to gather at the Town Hall in Teeswater at 10 a.m. for the unveiling of a plaque to commemorate Mary Riter Hamilton (1867-1954), an honored artist of First World War battlefields who was born near Teeswater.

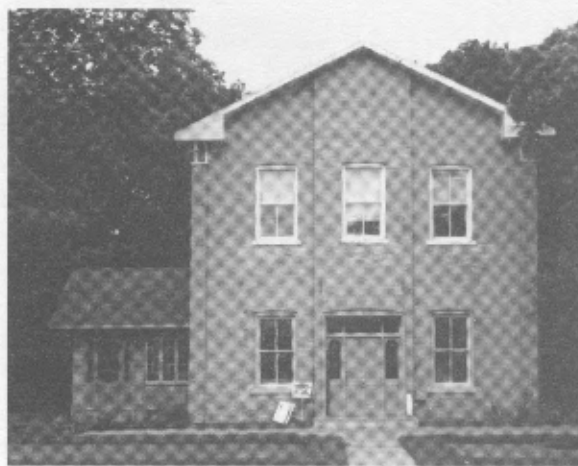
Her battlefield paintings were well-received in Canada, but her biggest successes came from Britain and France. At the Somme Memorial, she was awarded the Purple Ribbon of Les Palmes Academiques, the only Canadian to be recognized in this fashion. She donated some of her paintings to veterans in British Columbia, and eventually gave 227 war paintings to the Public Archives in Ottawa.

Following the unveiling, the Community Centre will be open – about 11 a.m. – for the displays. Among these will be one by organizers of the Plowing Match to be held near Teeswater next year. Members will also have an hour to visit and look through books the Society has for sale, to renew memberships and pick up the 2008 BHS Yearbook.

Guest speaker for the annual meeting will be Campbell Cork, a well-known radio personality who appears on CKNX Wingham daily at noon. Mr. Cork also writes for Better Farming magazine. He has many interesting stories to tell about local history.

Dinner will be served at 12 noon, and will

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OLD MASONIC LODGE HAS IMPRESSIVE HISTORY

It is not an imposing building, set back from the sidewalk along Highway 21 in Southampton, yet it has pleasing lines and fine details. It is 147 years old, give or take a year, but it doesn't show its true age. There are several reasons for this: The original frame building was bricked over more than 100 years ago, its windows are now a more modern two-pane sash where it may have had six-over-six glass in its early days, and it now has a metal roof and aluminum soffits.

Despite these changes, the building is one of Southampton's historic treasures. In this day, when irreplaceable local buildings in the county are disappearing without a murmur of public protest, the fact that this one is still standing is a bit of a miracle.

And what a history! Erected in 1860, it served as both a village hall and school – village hall until 1873 when the village business was transferred to a drill shed on the main corner, and village school until a new school was built

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ANNIVERSARIES AND (ALAS) A CLOSURE

(Editor's note: Thanks to Muriel Osborne of RR 5 Lucknow, the Society's director for the Southwestern area of the county, for the following three items.)

§ The Church of the Messiah in Kincardine celebrated its 150th anniversary this past July. The Church has the distinct honour of holding the Regimental Colours of the 32nd Bruce Battalion of Infantry. They were "laid up" in church at a ceremony Nov. 11, 1918. Elizabeth Sproat, wife of the regiment's commanding officer, and the women of the County, subscribed \$600 in 1872 to purchase the colours. A few years ago, the parishoners of the Church of the Messiah had the colours restored and they now hang in the church.

§ St. Luke's Anglican Church at Lurgan Beach – the little green church by the side of Pine River – marked its 150th anniversary in July of this year. Several times the building's future was in doubt as parishoners talked about building a new church. Each time the idea was dropped, and consequently, the delightful building survives.

§ Whitechurch United Church closed its doors this past July, having "run out of people." Most of the people from the church will likely attend Whitechurch Presbyterian Church, according to Cliff Laidlaw, clerk of session for the old Whitechurch United.

MASONIC HALL – CONTINUED

in 1879. (That building is now part of the Bruce County Museum on Victoria Street.)

In 1879, St. Lawrence Masonic Lodge bought the building for \$150. In what must be something of a record in this county the lodge used the building as its headquarters for the next 125 years. Sadly, in 2003, lodge members voted overwhelmingly to sell the building. Only three or four members protested. St. Lawrence lodge now meets in a quonset hut in Port Elgin.

Now, the Southampton landmark is being given a new lease on life by Curtis and Barbara Sprague. After several years of restoration and renovation it is now a residence and soon will be a gallery.

Barbara Sprague's mother had a place in Southampton, and her brother Ken McGregor and sister Peggy Holmes still live here, so the couple was familiar with the town and the hall. Her brother Ken told her when he heard that the building was being put up for sale. The Spragues bought the building in 2005 and have worked on it for several summers.

– They moved to Southampton from Kenora where they had won a heritage award for restoring a Victorian home there.



Michael Cleary of Arran Township has crafted a fine replacement main door for the old Lodge building.

The exterior carpentry work was done by Michael Cleary who has a woodworking workshop just off the B-Line in Arran Township. He is a consummate craftsman. His replacement windows introduce insulated glass to the building. His front doorway and side veranda are perfect compliments to the building. The veranda is a copy of one in Port Elgin.

During the renovations, the Spragues found sections of the original lap siding that covered the building when it was first built. It is preserved behind the brick walls, which were likely added about 1899 if the datestone in the front gable end is any indication.

To get ideas for landscaping, the Spragues toured a number of gardens in England.

Would they undertake another building? They think it may be their last one, but admit they "have said that before."

ANNUAL MEETING – CONTINUED

cost \$15, with tickets available from Karen Ribey, 519-368-7405, Mary Mackay, 519-353-5544, or Kirsten Armstrong, 519-392-6722.

AN 1887 VISIT TO FISHER'S WOOLLEN MILLS AT PAISLEY

One day last week we visited the new woollen mill of the Messrs. Fisher erected in the latter part of last year and fitted up this season. The building is a handsome one of white brick with mansard roof and four storey high, the lower one being of stone. It is situated on the Teeswater at the corner of Queen and Mill streets and in the very centre of the village, to the appearance of which is added greatly by its attractiveness and air of general solidity. From the north especially, where the stonework is seen to best advantage, and from Goldie street where the stone arches may be noticed spanning the waters of the mill race, the views are fine. Although the machinery was put in the early part of the season and a start was made at carding, spinning and weaving certain classes of goods, it is only recently that all the processes of manufacturing, dressing and finishing have been in full operation. To give our readers an idea of the process of manufacture we will take them first to the

BASEMENT FLAT

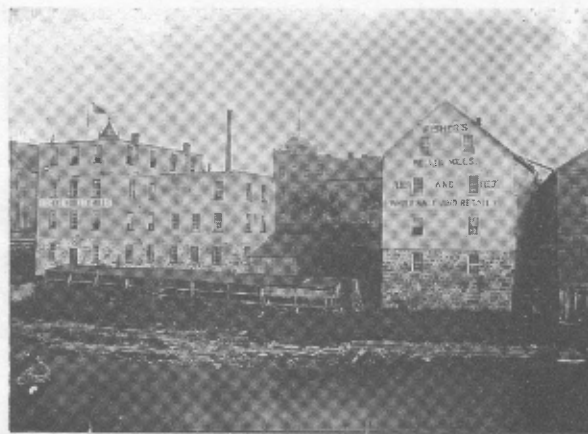
and into the dye house, which has been erected to the west of the building, and in which are situated two large dye pots, the largest of which has a capacity of 250 lbs. of wool, at a batch, the other being used exclusively for scarlets, and in this house also the soap is manufactured for scouring purposes. Further west still is the old carding mill which is used for storing purposes and in the meantime for drying wool until other arrangement can be made. The next process of manufacture is in the top story or

FOURTH FLAT

where the picker is situated and from this flat are leading two spouts for the wool to descend through from the picker, the one to the first breaker on the next flat and other to a roll carder

ON THE THIRD FLAT

We come first to the first and second breakers, and a condenser which prepares the wool after leaving the picker, until it is ready, spooled and all, for the jack spinner. The first breaker is supplied with a pair of scales upon which the wool for this machine is weighed before being spread upon the feed rack; and by this means the evenness of the yarn is regulated. The jack spinner is furnished



Mill complex at Paisley, date unknown. The woollen mill building is on the left. The building in the background between the two tall buildings is the hotel. Photo from the Bruce County Museum and Cultural Centre.

with 240 spindles and has a clock attachment to indicate the number of yards of yarn spun. On this flat also is situated a roll carder for custom work. Descending to the second storey or

GROUND FLAT

we find the looms situated, three in number, one of them a broad Compton box loom capable of weaving three colors, the other two being single Comptons for plainer work. Besides the looms there is on this flat and should have been mentioned before the looms – a spooler and a warper with beamer attachment to make everything ready for the looms. Having it now in cloth we descend again to the lowest flat, where are situated the fuller, a washing machine with force pump attached, a gig fitted with teasles to raise a nap on the cloth, a shearer for dressing it and a powerful Goldie & McCulloch patent lever press to press it. On the river bank are erected drying framers roofed over and capable of drying 200 yards of cloth at a time. The office is situated at the front on the ground flat, where a large stock of blankets, flannels, tweeds and yarns are kept in stock. At the time of our visit several large cases of blankets were ready for shipment.

It is the intention of the proprietors to put in more machinery, another loom we understand being now on the way and other additions and changes will be made as they are found necessary.

Paisley Advocate Nov. 3, 1887

EDITOR'S NOTE:

KINGARF AND MARTINDALE

Kingarf lies about four and one-half miles south of Glamis, on County Road 1. The western edge of the Greenock Swamp is almost on its doorstep. Many times I have been stymied trying to find the origin of the name of this community. (The Internet search engine Google, in its usual helpful manner, asks "Do you mean kangaroo?")

Several years ago a man named Walter Vanast sent me a note asking if I had ever heard of the community "Martindale" which he figured was just east of Kingarf post office.

I have misplaced Mr. Vanast's address, but retain his letter, which includes this note:

1888, 10, 22

To Miss Sarah A. Alexander, Kinloss, Ont.

I am anxious to hear how everything is going on in around Kingarf and Swampy Hollows—I beg your pardon—I mean Martindale. How is St. Matthews [the Anglican church in Kingarf] getting along? I suppose you still hold the fort at the organ there. Hope you will continue to do so.

Apparently he felt the Alexander farm was very near to Martindale. Now, if anyone knows how Kingarf

got its name, and the exact location of Martindale, I would appreciate being told. And perhaps someone can give me Mr. Vanast's address. (John Weichel, Box 550, Southampton, ON, NOH 2L0. <johnbw@golden.net>

AUDREY UNDERWOOD HONOURED FOR CONSERVATION

Audrey Underwood, Eastern Area director of Bruce County Historical Society, has been awarded the Heritage Conservation Award by the Saugeen Shores Municipal Heritage Committee.

The award is given in recognition of her contribution to the development and continued success of the Bruce County Genealogical Society.

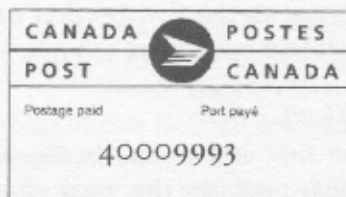
She has been involved with the Society since the first meeting, held at her home in March, 1970.

A recent newspaper article in the Shoreline Beacon noted: "Underwood's knowledge of township families and farms is unlimited. Her collection of local history, memorabilia, genealogical magazines and journals is willingly shared with all who are interested in history."

The award will be presented by Joyce Johnston, municipal heritage committee chairperson, at the Sept. 10 Saugeen Shores committee of-the-whole meeting.

Bruce County Historical Society

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