

HISTORY MATTERS

Newsletter of the Brockville & District Historical Society
P.O. Box 195, Brockville, Ontario K6V 5V2

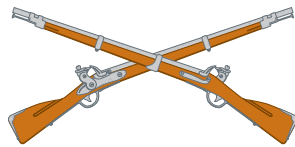
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March 1999

Monthly General Meeting

Thursday, March 25, 1999 7:30 p.m.
Brockville Museum

The Battle of Gettysburg — 135 Years Later
As Told by a Soldier in the Army of the
Confederacy



Our guest speaker will be **Michael Johnston** of the Brockville Infantry Company (1862). Last summer 10 members of the Company travelled to Gettysburg, Pennsylvania, to participate in the Fourth of July weekend re-enactment of one of the major battles of the American Civil War. In all, some 15,000 fellow re-enactors from around the world participated, the Brockville contingent forming part of the 21st Virginia Regiment. Michael's presentation will include a brief video showing the excitement and drama of the event.

A Clipping from the Past Brockville Times, Aug. 22, 1911

THE BROCK MEMORIAL

Daughters of the Empire Order a Handsome Bust of General Brock From Mr. Hamilton McCarthy, a Famous Sculptor

After seven years of unceasing efforts upon the part of all the members, General Brock Chapter, Daughters of the Empire, has at last found itself in the gratifying position of being able to give the order for the erection of a handsome memorial fountain in Brockville of Sir Isaac Brock, after whom the town is named. The order has been given to Mr. Hamilton McCarthy, R.C.A., of Ottawa, the eminent Canadian sculptor, and the memorial will consist of a fountain made of marble and granite surmounted by a bronze bust of General Brock. It is expected that the monument will be placed on Court House Square at the head of Court House avenue, and that the unveiling of the statue will take place next October upon the 100th anniversary of the heroic death of General Brock at Queenston Heights.

The members of General Brock Chapter desire to thank those who have so generously aided them by their contributions and by their kindly words of encouragement. The total cost of the monument has not yet been collected but the ladies of the Chapter felt that in order to have the memorial ready for unveiling on the centenary of General Brock's death, it was necessary to commission Mr. McCarthy to proceed with it at once, and to collect the balance of the cost in the interval. They feel that there will be no difficulty in this as the people of Brockville have shown so much approval of the patriotic movements. ...

Local History is Popular

Doug Grant tells us that his *History Album* feature in the Saturday issue of the *Brockville Recorder & Times* is gaining quite a following.

Each week he reproduces a photograph depicting Brockville in the past and describes the scene. Occasionally, where the event is unknown or uncertain, he asks the readers for their thoughts and ideas, as he did in the March 13 issue. The photograph shows two ships, a Coast Guard ship and a large schooner, at the Brockville waterfront more than fifty years ago. A large crowd waits on shore. The question is: what is the event?

When he started the feature column, Doug thought he would have to draw upon his own collection of photographs to keep up the series. However, he now finds that he receives so many contributions from community members that he doesn't have to go to his own files at all.

From the Societies

APOLROD: Saving the Past

When the Ontario Government decided to computerize its land registry records and destroy the original paper copies, the Association for the Preservation of Ontario Land Registry Office Documents (APOLROD) was formed to preserve this valuable part of our past.

More than 500 volunteers all across the province catalogued over 5000 documents so far from all the land registry offices. The items will be microfilmed and transferred to computer format to be made available at local land registry offices. The records cover the period from 1868 to 1955.

The documents themselves will be stored under archival conditions at the Archives of Ontario and in suitable local heritage repositories. APOLROD asks historical and heritage groups throughout the province for ideas on where to store the materials.

You can support this preservation work by becoming a member. Send your cheque for only \$5 to APOLROD, 251 Second Street, Stouffville, Ontario L4A 1B9 or phone (905) 640-9359 for more information.

Summarized from THEN, the newsletter of the Kingston Historical Society, Vol. 26, No. 3

Editor's Note: Welcome to the first issue of History Matters, the newsletter of the Brockville & District Historical Society. We hope you will find it interesting and informative. We welcome all contributions and comments. We don't promise to publish them all because space and resources are limited. Send your notes, historical tidbits and pictures to the editor at the address shown above. If you are 'connected,' contact the editor at rstesky@pangaeasci.com.