



*Glengarry
Scenes: See
Page 4*

Dedicated to Preserving the History of Glengarry

Guest Speaker: The upcoming presentation to the Historical Society will be an informal showing of a number of photographs taken in and around Alexandria from approximately 1900 onwards. Jim Graham will be hosting the presentation. The photographs are not a formal collection, but were taken by a variety of different people over the years. Jim Graham is a long time Alexandria resident, and is actually part of the town history, being involved in the construction of 'The Hub' in 1942. There are photographs of Main Street Alexandria, as well as side streets and some of the many industries that have come and gone. The original Grand Trunk Railway stopped at Alexandria, and in 1915, the station caught fire. An enterprising photographer of the time captured the event on film! This is just a sampling of the types of photos which will be on display.

As an historical archive, Jim would like to arrange the photographs chronologically and perhaps catalogue them for future reference.

So far, Jim's nephew Jim Baxter has lent his computer expertise, and scanned the pictures onto a DVD, thereby pre-

Next Meeting

- Date/Time:** Thursday, October 1
- Place:** The Church on the Hill,
Alexandria
- Subject:** Alexandria - A photographic history from 1900 onwards

servicing them from further deterioration as time goes on, as well as transferring them to a much more convenient format. The lifespan of DVD recordings is still unknown, but possibly centuries.

Although Jim is not the photographer of all the items, he could end playing an important part in preserving the town history with this collection.

Glengarry Historical Society
Box 416
Alexandria, Ontario, K0C 1A0
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Help Save a Tree

We encourage the use of electronic mail to help us control costs. Please submit your email address if you are comfortable with this format.



Your Newsletter

The Executive of the Glengarry Historical Society would like to receive any ideas for topics to be covered in future newsletters. We do have some ideas ourselves, including stories on each of the historical markers of Glengarry, famous personages, and the relationships that exist with other Historical Societies. Naturally we will also keep the membership apprised of upcoming meetings and events, including those at our wonderful museums. We hope to expand the book column to include reviews by society members, and to continue to search out and bring to you photographs from the past.

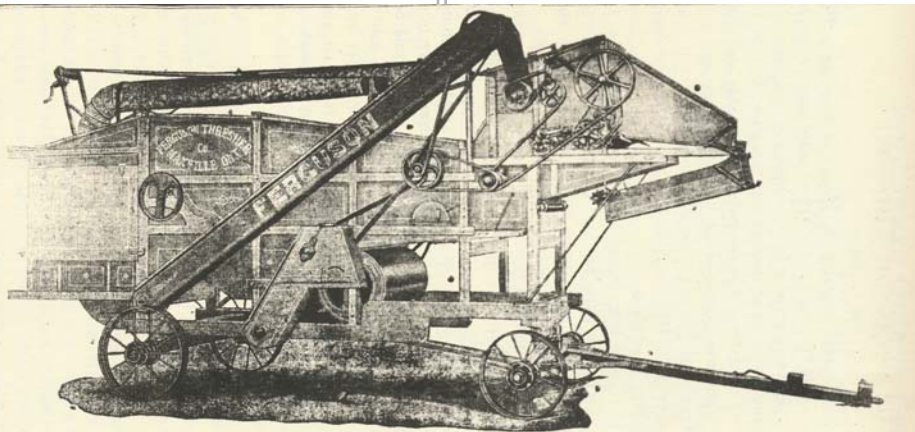
In the near future we hope to activate a Website which will collect together much historical information as well as all information relating to the Glengarry Historical Society itself. As with the newsletter, if you have any suggestions for content, just let us know.

Please forward your suggestions on Newsletter and Website content to:
Box 416, Alexandria, Ontario, K0C 1A0
or email to:
johnw@alcor.concordia.ca
or simply tell us at one of the regular meetings. Thanks, the *Newsletter Editors*

Bob Abrames



The GHS Guest Speaker for August was Bob Abrames. Bob literally set the crowd on fire with recollections of his 1000 mile canoe trip from Montreal to Winnipeg in 2005. The trip was accomplished under the same conditions as the original voyageurs - same birch bark canoe, same food, same dress, same (lack of) comforts. There were nine participants in the voyage, along with a film crew which had minimal contact and offered no assistance. Bob described the rigours of the trip, the learning experiences, and the interpersonal relationships which evolve when a group of people are put into such a setting. One interesting demonstration in-



MORE BUSHELS PER GALLON

Ferguson's 25 inch cylinder by 40 inch body thresher, requires less power to drive, has fewer working parts, less belts, larger separating decks, greater cleaning capacity, a windstacker that will not clog with damp straw, no crank shafts and rakers above the straw deck for straw and twine to wind and cause fire, a real up to the minutethreshing machine, equipped with Hart new model crank shaft self feeder two governors, also automatic registers if required. Look this machine over before purchasing.

FERGUSON THRESHER CO.,

MAXVILLE, ONTARIO.

involved the lighting a small fire (in the palm of his hand) using the same techniques and tools of these early explorers - fortunately he didn't require us to try the salt pork and dried peas stew which was the main staple food of the voyageurs.

Bob's presentation was appropriately hosted at the Nor'Westers and Loyalist museum, with Bob speaking directly in front of a typical voyageur canoe.

The evening ended with an excellent reception in the lower level of the museum, which gave the Historical Society members and guests a chance to admire the exhibits of the recent 'Landmarks of Glengarry' photography competition.

The GHS Mission Statement

- ☀ To stimulate interest in local history among residents of the county by holding meetings with lectures, displays, papers and discussions.
- ☀ To discover and collect materials which will help to preserve and illustrate the history of the county.
- ☀ To provide for the preservation and display of such materials and for its accessibility, as far as may be feasible, to all who may wish to examine or study it.
- ☀ To promote the preservation and restoration of historical areas, buildings, monuments and markers in Glengarry County.



Hal and Judith Dremin (Landell)

Become a Member

Membership in the Historical Society means you are an integral part in preserving local history. You are invited to each of the regular meetings, which usually feature an interesting guest speaker or presentation. You will receive the Newsletter (several per year), and advance notice of Historical Society events. Membership in the Glengarry Historical Society is \$15 (\$20, Family) annually. The Glengarry Historical Society is an affiliate of the Ontario Historical Society.

Glengarry Pioneer Museum Wood Fair

During the early 1960s there was an advertising jingle for a cleaning product for hardwood floors; the jingle had a slogan: "Water and Wood.....NOT GOOD!"

Well, there didn't seem to be a problem with mixing Water & Wood at the first ever Glengarry Pioneer Museum Wood Fair, which was held on August 29!

Despite the wet day, with intermittent showers, rain, heavy rain, more showers, and increasing rain with spotty intervals of cloudy skies, the 1000+ attendees were not in the least daunted by the inclement weather.

The setting could not have been more appropriate; with the traditional and historical buildings on site offering shelter from the storm, as well as wonderful exhibits of a historical nature! The vendors wares were equally at home under the more modern shelters known as "tents" which allowed for comfortable viewing of the many wood carvings on display.

Kudos to the organizers who set up an area on the porch of the old Star Inn for the children to design and decorate various odd blocks of wood. They seemed completely unaware of the rain and the cool breeze (an understatement)! as they lost themselves in their own artistic creations!

Without doubt the wood auction was "Number One on the Hit Parade"; and it seemed that it was much of a buyers market; many of the on lookers who came to see what this was all about, have vowed that next year they will most likely be much more prepared to participate in the buying and selling!

When I say "next year".....this event will surely become the Annual Glengarry Pioneer Museum Wood Fair! To those of you who missed it.....don't let this happen again!

Duncan Donovan (1857-1933) was a professional photographer based in eastern Ontario.

Donovan began his career as a travelling tintype photographer, and in 1896 entered into a partnership in a photographic studio with A.G.A. Robinson in Alexandria, Glengarry County. Robinson soon assumed full ownership, with P.A. Charlebois eventually purchasing the studio in 1924.

Following his purchase of the Donovan studio, P.A. Charlebois moved Donovan's plates, along with his own, into the loft of a shed in his backyard where they remained until transferred in 1970 to the Archives of Ontario. The Archives acquired the bulk of the photographs in 1970 from P.A. Charlebois, but transferred some 2,500 cabinet portraits shortly thereafter to the Glengarry Historical Society. A number of existing photographs were destroyed in a fire while in transit. The Archives acquired several additional photographs in 1972.

Dates in Glengarry History

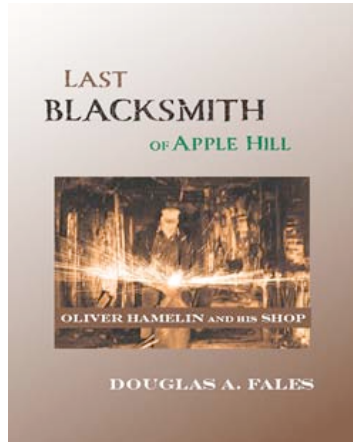
- 🕒 **1775 - Formation of North West Company, the first joint stock company of English origin**
- 🕒 **1830's - Construction begins on St. Raphaels**
- 🕒 **1818 - Township of Lochiel formally recognized**
- 🕒 **1792 - Sir John Johnson builds grist mill in Williamstown**

The Book Corner

Last Blacksmith of Apple Hill by Douglas A. Fales

Oliver Hamelin passed away in the last week of June 1984. It was inevitable. He was 82, but had been active in that same smithy shop for 53 years. No more his village cronies shall gather there "to have a gam at box stove or around anvil." Oliver Hamelin was indeed the "last blacksmith of Apple Hill" in terms of an in-shop rural smith. He is missed as man, personality and tradesman of his area. This is his story and the stories of the times.

Available: Shoreline Press, and at the Glengarry Pioneer Museum



A Selection of Upcoming Events:

BIFHSGO - British Isles Family Histroy Society of Greater Ottawa - Sept 18-20, Special focus on Scotland, at Library and Archives Canada, 395 Wellington St., Ottawa, 613-234-2520

Pioneer Museum - Sept 12-13 10-5pm "Doors Open" & precursor to the Fall Festival Agricultural Demonstrations, antique tractors, crafts & refreshments. Sept 20 11-4pm Harvest Fall Festival. 613-527-5230

The Nor'Westers and Loyalist Museum - "Doors Open" weekend. Sept 5-6. In addition to its permanent exhibits, the museum will feature its "Landmarks of Glengarry" photography exhibit, as well as quilts and Swedish weaving pieces. Apples an Art tour, 613-347-3547, Sept 26-27.

Glengarry Scenes (from Page 1)

1. Digital Image Number:

I0002443.jpg

Title: A wedding group, Glengarry

Date: [1900?]

Place: Glengarry (Ont. : County)

Creator: Duncan Donovan

Format: Glass plate negative

Reference Code: C 128-5

Item Reference Code:

C 128-5-1-55-1

2. Digital Image Number:

I0002419.jpg

Title: John Simpson and Son, Store, Alexandria

Date: [1910]

Place: Alexandria (Ont.)

Creator: Duncan Donovan

Format: Glass plate negative

Reference Code: C 128-1

Item Reference Code: C 128-1-6-0-8

3. Digital Image Number:

I0016113.JPG

Title: William Elsley in field with harvest

Date: [ca. 1910]

Place: ONTARIO

Creator: Ministry of Agriculture and Food. Rueben R. Sallows.

Format: Black and white print

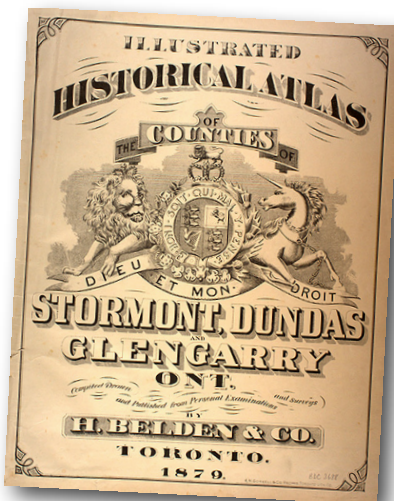
Reference Code: RG 16-276

Item Reference Code: RG 16-276-10, 2374

Some Recent Highlights:

Glengarry Wood Fair - The Pioneer Museum hosted the first ever Wood Fair. See main article on Page 3.

Photo Competition. The exhibit will run from August 19 - October 13 and will feature stunning photographs of Glengarry Landmarks by local photographers. All ages were encouraged to enter the competition. The excellent efforts are still on display at the Nor'Weters and Loyalist Museum, Williamstown



Early Historians...

"Very few things happen at the right time, and the rest do not happen at all. The conscientious historian will correct these defects."

Herodotus (Greek author, 484-430/420BC)

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