

# Glengarry Historical Society

JUNE 2009

SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

VOLUME 39, ISSUE 4



Sons of Scotland - September 1, 1903

L-R-Standing - John Neil McCrimmon, Malcolm MacLeod, Dan Campbell, Willie MacKinnon, D.P. MacKinnon, organizer, D.D. Campbell, Neil Fraser, John Archie McCrimmon.

L-R-Middle Row - Duncan Neil McLeod, Norman Harrison, Duncan Alex MacLeod, Peter MacSween, Allan McCrimmon.



*Glengarry  
Scenes: See  
Page 4*

## Dedicated to Preserving the History of Glengarry

### Annual GHS Picnic

Once again it's time for the annual picnic of the **Glengarry Historical Society**. On June 18, Donaldson McLeod will host the picnic at the old McCrimmon Hall, McCrimmon. As always, this is a "bring your own" food and chair affair. So pack up your dinner (leave your troubles behind), prepare a thermos of your favourite beverage, load up the lawn chairs and come celebrate the 2009 year. Picnic begins at 6PM.

The old McCrimmon Hall is also known as the Sons of Scotland Hall. It was finished in 1904 and opened with a public concert. It was often used for picnics and hosted local football games as a means of raising funds. In 1911 the Orange Lodge No. 77 was approached regarding rental of the hall, and they agreed, thereby securing the ongoing support for the hall. In 1911 a bell and bell tower was added - although the tower remains, the actual bell is now at the Dunvegan Pioneer Museum.

In the 1940s the community wished to host dances in the hall, however the original charter stipulated that dancing was not permitted. In the ingenious fashion of Glengarrians, the hall was moved across the lot line to a new loca-

tion, circumventing the charter, and dances became a regular occurrence. Ultimately, the McCrimmon Hall dances became famous, lasting from 1948 until the early 70's.

The hall has been used as a Sunday School, a meeting hall, a concert hall, and a polling station in elections; and as well for tea and garden parties.

Much more information is contained in the book: **FROM LOCHINVAR to SKYE**, by *Madeleine McCrimmon and Donaldson McLeod-1988*.

### Guest Speakers from Vankleek Hill

The attendees of the May 7 meeting were treated to an informative, interesting and sometimes downright amusing presentation by J. Denis Séguin and Michelle Landriault of the Vankleek Hill Historical Society. Denis Séguin is a professional architect and Senior VP of the firm Hellmuth, Obata & Kassabaum. He has been a member of the Vankleek Hill municipal council, and is currently President of the Vankleek Hill Historical Society. Michelle has a back-

**Continued on Page 3...**

Box 416  
Alexandria, Ontario, K0C 1A0  
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### Help Save a Tree

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





## SUMMER 2009

May 16 - 18 1 - 5 pm  
Opening Weekend

June 13 - 14 1 - 5 pm  
"Art Fayre" Show & Sale

June 27 10 am - 4 pm  
Driving Tour of Historical Glengarry  
Advance registration required.  
Call 613-527-5230

July 11 11 am - 6 pm  
FINAL Book Sale Blowout!  
(At old Township Hall in Greenfield)

August 29 10 am - 5 pm  
Glengarry Wood Fair  
Demonstrations, wood artisans,  
logging & tool displays.  
Wood Auction @ 1 pm

September 12 - 13 10 am - 5 pm  
"Doors Open" (FREE)  
Agricultural Demonstrations,  
Crafts & Refreshments

September 20 11 am - 4 pm  
Harvest Fall Festival



For more details, call 613-527-5230  
www.GlengarryPioneerMuseum.ca

## 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](mailto:johnw@alcor.concordia.ca)  
or simply tell us at one of the regular meetings. Thanks, the *Newsletter Editors*

## The Glengarry

The bonnet was made part of the uniform of the Glengarry Fencibles when they were formed in 1794 by Alasdair Ranaldson MacDonell of Glengarry, who has been described as having invented the cap, but it may have originated earlier when Balmoral bonnets were bent and creased.[1] In his *Dictionary of Military Uniform*, W.Y. Carman notes that that first recorded military use of the Glengarry may have been that of a piper of the 74th Foot. It is not clear whether earlier pictures of civilians or fencible infantry show a true Glengarry or simply a folded highland bonnet.

Capable of being folded flat the Glengarry became a characteristic part of the uniform of the Scottish regiments of the British Army. By 1860 the Glengarry, without a diced border and usually with a feather, was adopted by pipers in all regiments

except the 42nd (Black Watch), who retained the feather bonnet. By 1914 all Scottish regiments were wearing dark blue Glengarries in non-ceremonial orders of dress, except for the Cameronians (Scottish Rifles) who wore it in Rifle green, and the Scots Guards who wear peaked forage caps instead, albeit with a diced band. The diced bands were usually in red and white but the toories on top could be red, Royal blue or black according to regiment.



Portrait by Henry Raeburn of Alasdair Ranaldson MacDonell of Glengarry in 1812.

For a period from 1868 to 1902, the Glengarry was adopted as an undress cap for ordinary duty and walking out dress for most British soldiers. A cap described in a 1937 amendment to the *Dress Regulations for the Army* as "similar in shape to the Glengarry" became the Universal Pattern Field Service Cap of the British Army in World War II.

Source: Text and Image:  
Wikipedia®

## 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 makers in Glengarry County.

### Guest Speakers ..Cont. from page 1

ground in museums and collections policy and was the Curator of the Musée régionale d'Argenteuil. Their presentation covered the restoration of the Higginson Tower and the soon to open Museum in Vankleek Hill. They showed the steps involved, talked of the politics, architectural challenges and the enormous amount of effort each of these projects took. The Tower and the Museum are excellent examples of what a community can achieve in terms of maintaining its history. Michelle ended on the themes of stewardship, knowledge and understanding and their importance in heritage and history.

Thanks again to Denis and Michelle for a most informative evening.

#### **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.*

# War of 1812 War College

On February 21, 1813, Lieutenant General Sir George Prevost, the British Governor General of Canada, passed through Prescott on his way to review the situation in Upper Canada, accompanied by several detachments of reinforcements. He appointed Lieutenant Colonel "Red George" MacDonnell as commandant of British troops in Prescott and left him instructions that he was to attack Ogdensburg only if the Americans weakened their garrison.

MacDonnell had other ideas. With the extra troops temporarily available, he determined to seize the opportunity. He



Fort La Présentation  
as modeled by Jim Boyle

planned for a company of the Glengarry Light Infantry, 70 militia and some light guns mounted on sleighs to make a frontal attack on the fort which housed Forsyth's riflemen. The main column, consisting of 120 men of the 8th (King's), 30 of the Royal Newfoundland Fencibles and 230 of the local militia flank companies, would cross the river lower down and attack from the flank.

The Americans were used to seeing British troops drilling on the frozen Saint Lawrence and were taken by surprise when they suddenly charged. The riflemen in the fort held out against the frontal attack, mainly because the British guns became stuck in snow drifts, and American artillery, under Adjutant Daniel W. Church of Colonel Benedict's regiment and Lieutenant Baird of Forsyth's company, fired on the British with mixed results. As the British main body threatened to surround them, they retreated and abandoned the town. The militia retreated

back into the civilian population. The artillery under Church and Baird managed to put up a tough resistance until both Church and Baird were wounded. The British then took control of the town.

The British burned the boats and schooners frozen into the ice, and they carried off artillery and military stores. There was some looting of private property, but some of the plundered goods were later returned.

After the British withdrew, the Americans did not re-garrison Ogdensburg. The British were able to purchase supplies from Americans merchants there for the remainder of the war. The Ogdensburg area may have been populated by more Tories and Federalists than was previously thought.

The normally cautious Prevost amended MacDonnell's despatch to make it appear that the attack had been carried out on, rather than against, his orders.

Source: Wikipedia®

### Report from David Anderson

The War College 1812 seminar at Ogdensburg attracted 105 participants. Canadians outnumbered our American hosts for this well-organized event. Military historians Donald Graves and John Grodzinski (RMC) shared the stage in the historic Freight Shed Restaurant with Gary Gibson (Sackets Harbor) and Douglas Cubbison (US Army) in a compelling program on the war on Lake Ontario. The breakfast, lunch and dinner format allowed for a walking tour and visit to the Frederic Remington Museum. Our cavalcade from this end included Ranald McDonell & Elizabeth, Alex Robertson, Hugh P MacMillan, Sandy Campbell, David Anderson as well as our lecture guests Denis Séguin and Michelle Landriault of Vankleek Hill. Watch for next year's episode.

DGA

## The Book Corner

### AS OTHERS SEE US: SCOTS OF THE SEAWAY VALLEY

by: Robert J. Fraser

The story of a branch of the Clan Fraser which settled in Lower Canada, and specifically in Glengarry in the early 1800s. Contains much information on the early days of our area.

Reprint available at:  
<http://www.glengarrycounty.com/aosu>

### STORMONT, DUNDAS AND GLENGARRY, 1945-1978

by: Clive and Frances Marin

A thorough compendium of information on SDG. Info on the Sea-

way, government, agriculture, industry, education and culture. Many appendix lists.

Available at: Anderson Books

### ADVENTURES OF A PAPER SLEUTH

by: Hugh P. MacMillan

The 'roving archivist' secured an invaluable mass of documentation of our heritage, including retracing the voyageur canoe routes and an exploration of fur trade history. Ultimately, Hugh was involved in the founding of the Glengarry Historical Society.

Available from Penumbra Press

### A Selection of Summer Events:

**Cornwall Commemorative Cairn** - A monument celebrating the 225th anniversary of the founding of Cornwall will be unveiled in Lamoureux Park on June 6. For more information: 613-936-0842

**St Andrews Talk** - Vic Suthren, former head of the Canadian War Museum will talk on the War of 1812 at the hall in at Andrews, June 24. For more information: 613-932-5469

**Maxville Music Festival** - A concert at each of Maxville's historic churches, May 29,30,31 - for more information: 613-527-1438

## Glengarry Scenes

(from Page 1)

1. FROM LOCHINVAR to SKYE – Madeleine McCrimmon and Donaldson MacLeod-1988

2. Archives of Ontario

Digital Image Number: I0002446.jpg

Title: Waiting for the train at Alexandria station

Date: [1910?]

Place: Alexandria (Ont.)

Creator: Duncan Donovan

Reference Code: C 128-5

Item Reference Code: C 128-5-2-1-

14

3. Archives of Ontario

Digital Image Number: I0002421.jpg

Title: The McLeod Store, near Alexandria

Date: 1910

Place: Alexandria (Ont.)

Creator: Duncan Donovan

Reference Code: C 128-1

Item Reference Code: C 128-1-6-0-11

### NOW IN COLOUR !!!

One of the additional benefits of subscribing to the email version of this newsletter is **C O L O U R**. Although printing costs currently prohibit a colour print version, the email version is in full, living technicolor (well, not quite...).

Yet one more benefit to switching to email delivery...



Digital Image Number: I0013443.JPG

Title: Two women and a man standing at water's edge, Williamstown

Date: [between 1898 and 1910]

Creator: Marsden Kemp

Format: Black and white print

Reference Code: C 130-5

Item Reference Code: C 130-5-0-0-

95

Subject: Women, Men, Waterfronts

## Last Newsletter of the Season

Summertime,  
And the livin' is easy  
Fish are jumpin'  
And the cotton is high  
... *George Gershwin*

or as Walter used to say: *And that's the way it was....*

Have a great summer....

The Newsletter will begin the next season in August, 2009

## Next GHS meeting

September 3, 2009