



Cooks taking a break in a lumber camp kitchen [note the fiddler]



Mark Coakley with a good day's catch from the St. Lawrence



Bill Smith & Ham Ferry, celebrated Adirondack tall tale tellers

## Dedicated to Preserving the History of Glengarry

The guest speaker for the October general meeting will be **Dr. Varick Chittenden**, and his topic will be: "Folklore is in our Nature". From the beginning, people of New York's Adirondack North Country have lived close to the land. In the 14 counties north and west of Albany, the landscape of mountains, lakes and rivers has been home to groups from diverse ethnic, occupational, religious and social class backgrounds. Despite the differences, the region's identity may come from a com-

regional folk culture. This lecture will explore expressions of North Country identity featuring brief case studies of oral, musical, social and material traditions.

Varick Chittenden is Professor Emeritus of Humanities at SUNY Canton where he taught English, folklore and American rural studies. In 1986, he was the founding director of Traditional Arts in Upstate New York [TAUNY] and continues today as The TAUNY Center Project Director. His research interests include folk art, vernacular architec



### Next Meeting

- ✓ **Date: October 13, 8PM**
- ✓ **Speaker: Dr. Varick Chittenden**
- ✓ **Place: Nor'Westers and Loyalist Museum, Williamstown**

Glengarry Historical Society  
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Alexandria, Ontario, K0C 1A0  
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ture, foodways and regional oral traditions. He has curated numerous exhibits, published in scholarly journals and popular magazines and produced several series of documentary features on regional folk culture for North Country Public Radio. A native of St. Lawrence County, he holds a BA and an MEd from St. Lawrence University and an MA in American Folk Culture from the Cooperstown Graduate Program of SUNY Oneonta.



Traditional testing for boiling sap as syrup

Gary Dover illustrated his talk “Ancient tools (and their stories) from a lost pioneer era” with a selection of pioneer tools. As is to be expected, there was considerable interest in the talk, and the tool display. Thanks again to Gary !



#### **Volunteer Opportunitites**

If you are interested in volunteering with the Glengarry Historical Society or with one of its Museums, contact us for information on available opportunities. We are always looking for dedicated individuals who wish to join in local heritage work, events and programming.



This magnificent post-and-beam barn was built by a farmer named McMillan around 1900 on the Glen Roberston Road a few miles east of Alexandria. It is still there today, no longer in farm use but still looking very grand. It was one of several barns discussed by Dane Lanken and Blair Williams in their presentation "Classic Glengarry Barns" at the Nor'Westers and Loyalist Museum in Williamstown on Sept. 10.



### **What's Happening ??**

Stay up to date with coming events of the GHS, the Glengarry Pioneer Museum and the Nor'Westers and Loyalist Museum by regularly checking the GHS website Museums/Events section.

[www.glengarryhistoricalsociety.com](http://www.glengarryhistoricalsociety.com)

## Minutes of the General Meeting of September 01 2011, Held at the Church on the Hill Alexandria Ontario

Meeting called to order at 8:05 pm by Allan J MacDonell. Excerpt of the minutes of the general meeting of May 5, 2011 presented by Donald Wood. Acceptance of minutes moved by Donald Wood, seconded by Victor Stang.

Guests welcomed by David Anderson.

Treasurer's report presented by Donald Wood. Acceptance of report moved by Donald Wood, seconded by Garry Smith.

Glengarry Pioneer Museum report presented by Garry Smith. Highlights:

- ★ The Wood Fair was attended by some 1000 persons. There were many excellent demonstrations and a good selection of artisans and exhibitors.
- ★ The school house has been moved to the Museum and installed on its foundation.

Events to be noted:

- ★ Harvest Festival, 18 Sept, 11am- 4pm
- ★ International Plowing Match 20-24 Sept.
- ★ War of 1812 re-enactment 24-25 Sept.

Norwester's & Loyalist Museum report presented by Carol Edwards.

Carol reported on the recently held exhibit "Swords into Ploughshares". This was in conjunction with the bicentennial of the Williamstown fair.

An 1812 re-enactment was held on the fair grounds.

Past President Rosemary O'Flaherty introduced the guest speaker, Gary Dover, who is a cousin of hers.

Gary Dover delivered his talk on: "Ancient tools (and their stories) from a lost pioneer era". Gary spoke of the hardships faced by the early pioneers and how they adapted to their new environment with only a few tools and a small supply of provisions. He described how skills developed over the centuries by the ship builders of the Mediterranean, the Vikings and the aboriginal peoples of the Americas were used by craftsmen of later generations to great advantage. A replica of the tool kit of the "Mary Rose", an Elizabethan ship that foundered on its launch was shown. Gary described the use of these tools and the similarities between those used by the pioneers in the New World. Unfortunately many of the ancient skills associated with these tools have been lost.

The presentation was followed by a question period and the speaker was thanked by Les Wert.

Due to the absence of refreshment convener Suzanne Bujold, the usual table of goodies was not available. However, Carol MacMillan came to the rescue with a fruit platter. Thanks to an unknown donor a bowl of doughnuts appeared on the table.

Reporter/photographer Margaret Caldbick of the Glengarry News was present to cover the Event.

*Don Wood*

## Volunteer Opportunity

Yes, it's the chance of a lifetime to exercise your creative talents by volunteering to be the next editor of the GHS newsletter! The current editors will not be able to continue in this role as of next summer. All you need is a little familiarity with your choice of computer word processing program, some e-mail expertise, and an ability to shamelessly snaffle images from the internet, and you're a potential editor.

The current editors offer startup support for a newcomer. You are free to change the format, and all production costs are covered by the GHS.



Step right up !!

Contact the current newsletter editors at :  
[johnw@alcor.concordia.ca](mailto:johnw@alcor.concordia.ca) for more information.

## 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 \$20 (\$25, Family) annually, or \$200 Lifetime membership. The Glengarry Historical Society is an affiliate of the Ontario Historical Society.*

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