



Huron County Historical Society

PO Box 3, Goderich ON, N7A 3Y5
 519-440-6206 email: hchs1965@gmail.com

www.HuronCountyHistoricalSociety.ca

Newsletter July 2021

Executive for 2020-2021

Vacant	President	519-440-6206	Ralph Laviolette	Secretary-treasurer
Vicky Culbert	Past- president	226-421-2295	Mac Campbell	Director
Elaine Snell	Membership	519-523-9531	James White	Director
Mary Gregg	Director		Susan Gloucher	Director
Rhea Hamilton- Seeger	Director	519-612-1201	Larry Mohring	Director
			Liz Sangster	Director

You tell two friends and they tell two friends... and so on and so on

We have a note from Bonnie Sitter about the push to have a stamp honouring the remarkable Farmerettes. We are circulating this to members in case any others would like to add their support.

From Bonnie:

Letter/email campaign:

The idea is to get our group and those they know to send 10 email/letters each to influencers within their social sphere - could be people from their community, people in politics, involved in culture, farm organizations, Farmerette connections etc. The letter writing campaign is a soft job for recognition for the Farmerettes - the more people who are aware the greater our scope, the more people will talk about the Farmerettes and it will soften the ground for the Stamp initiative among other things that recognize these remarkable women.

Each email sent should contain two paragraphs explaining who we are and who the Farmerettes are - and let the folks know that we will be back in touch as the campaign to recognize the Farmerettes continues to gather momentum. It's important that the letter writers keep a list of the addresses (email and mailing) of those they sent notes to so we start to build a large grassroots network - people we can reach out to at different points in the campaign to assist us getting us to where we want to go.

Include FaceBook and Instagram connections.

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/4104344342983754>

<https://www.instagram.com/farmerettesforever/>

Please send the addresses and contacts to Shirleyan so she can keep track of the mailing list dandsenglish@bell.net

Who were the Farmerettes?

From 1941-1952 the Farmerettes were high school aged girls, who planted, hoed, thinned, sprayed, staked, detasseled and harvested the fruit and vegetables in Southern Ontario when the men had left farm labour jobs to enlist for service to fight for our freedom. On market garden farms and in orchards in Southern Ontario and the Niagara Peninsula the Farmerettes volunteered through a government program called the Ontario Farm Service Force. Until recently their service has been largely unknown. The

publication of the book titled, 'Onion Skins and Peach Fuzz Memories of Ontario Farmerettes' has brought to light the service these young women offered and the success of the program. The Farmerette motto was "We Lend A Hand" and they were good to their word. When greater food production was requested by our Allies in 1943 - the Farmerettes responded, and the fruit and vegetable crops were increased and harvested for the cause. A second motto was born, "Farmerettes: Food For Victory in 1943."

What is the Farmerette Committee?

We are a passionate and growing grassroots movement made up of people from all strata of society that desire recognition for these remarkable women. What they accomplished and how they contributed to the health and well being on the Canadian side of the ocean and for our allies in the war effort overseas.

This is a "feel good " story and something worth celebrating. The Farmerettes Committee is motivated because of two factors:

- 2021 marks 80 years since the Farmerette Program began and...

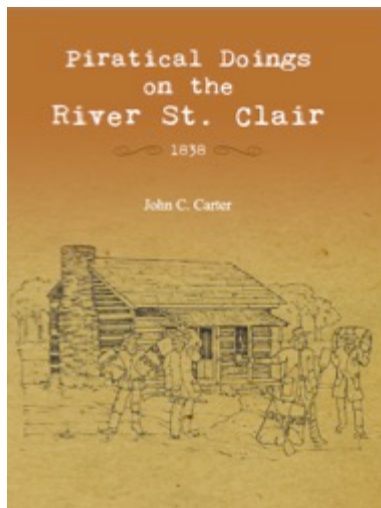
- we'd like to put a smile on the faces of the Farmerettes still among us, and do something significant in memory of those who have died.

Liz Gruening who writes The Vintage Inn, a blog that won 2021's **Top 20 Vintage Blog Awards** will be doing a posting on the Farmerettes. You can read her blogs at www.vintageinn.ca

New Book!

Piratical Doings on the River St. Clair

*Many of our members will have read some of the wonderful articles by Dr. John Carter in our HCHS Notes. The latest one is on **Some Rebellion Remembrances of Thomas Kydd**. John has just released a new book of which a section deals with the Huronites and their involvement in the raids across the River St Clair during the time of the Upper Canadian Rebellion also known as the*



Farmer's Rebellion and the American Patriot Wars.

John worked through the archives at Heritage St. Clair to tell the story of this poorly documented time in our history. He has graciously donated the proceeds from his book to Heritage St. Clair. Books may be ordered online by emailing: secretaryheritageclair@gmail.com

Review by David McLean

The Upper Canada Rebellion of 1837/38 has rightfully garnered much scholarly attention from historians. Lacking, though, has been sufficient attention to the repercussions of this failed uprising on the communities and people of what was then known as the Western District. In *Piratical Doings on the River St. Clair*, Ontario historian John C. Carter explores in fascinating detail the events of the so-called Patriot Raids into Upper Canada from across the St. Clair by disaffected inhabitants and their American supporters.

Focusing primarily on the part of the district that is now Lambton County, Carter draws extensively upon a diverse array of primary sources - including contemporary eyewitness accounts, newspaper reports, government communications, and participants' recollections - that do much to inform the reader about the events that transpired and, with a sense of immediacy, make apparent the considerable anxiety, confusion, fear and panic that gripped the population. From December of 1837 to the summer of 1838, rumours of impending invasion circulated widely and wildly on both sides of the border. When and where would the "pirates" strike? How many of them were there? Were American authorities secretly lending support and encouraging an invasion, or were they doing their best to root out and prevent such a happening? Would neighbours support the British regulars and militia units sent to defend the border, or would they choose to assist and even join the invaders?

The sense of impending danger and doom felt by the affected population is clearly evident in Carter's book. Beyond casting much needed light on the St. Clair Raids - which consisted of eight attempts by the "Patriot Army" to "liberate" the British colony - Carter's work also provides extensive and fully documented insight into numerous aspects of Upper Canadian society at the time. Whether it be the role and organization of militias, the challenges faced by the pioneer folk of what was then still a colonial hinterland, or the place in this society of its Indigenous peoples, there is much within its pages to enrich our understanding of Lambton County's history. Furthermore,

the book includes informative "thumbnail sketches" of the central figures on both sides of the border, numerous illustrations and maps, appendices consisting of many of the referenced primary sources and an impressive, unequalled bibliography of sources that relate to the raids.

Without question, *Piratical Doings* offers readers an unparalleled perspective on the fallout and impact of the Rebellion on the Western District. It also, though, lays an essential groundwork for the further exploration of its hitherto largely overlooked subject matter.

Membership renewal....

If you received this newsletter by mail, the date shown above your name on the address label is the year to which your membership is paid up, according to our records. Call Elaine Snell if you are not sure or need clarification. If you are in arrears, consider this a reminder that the membership fees are \$20. To reserve your member's hard copy of Historical Notes, keep your dues up to date. Copies of recent past Historical Notes are available from Elaine Snell at 519-523-9531 (past copies \$8.00 per copy).

To access the members-only section for the Historical Notes or to do a search for names or places in the Historical Notes, go to

www.HuronCountyHistoricalSociety.ca, open the dropdown menu for Publications, click HCHS Members Login. If you cannot get access using the password, then check if your web browser is up to date.

If the password is lost or not available readily, contact hchs1965@gmail.com or call 519-440-6206

Where to get your local History Books

And back copies of The Historical Notes – Finchers and The Book Peddler both of Goderich, North Huron Citizen in Blyth, The Book Barn off Hwy 86 between Wingham and Whitechurch, The Village Bookshop, Bayfield and Bayfield Archives.

Facebook – *Yes the Historical Society is making posts and generating some interesting comments. If you have comments or topics you would like to see covered, drop us a line or comment on Facebook. Love to hear from you.*