



Huron County Historical Society

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www.HuronCountyHistoricalSociety.ca


Newsletter July 2022

Executive for 2022-2023

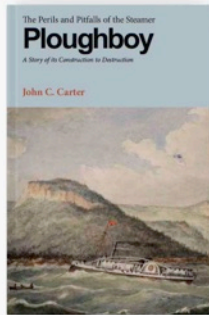
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Launch of the book
Ploughboy by John Carter



Friday July 29 2:00 - 4:00 p.m.



Dr. John C. Carter is a widely published Ontario historian who is currently the Peninsula Director for the Bruce County Historical Society. Dr. Carter's fascinating case study of the steamer *Ploughboy* is a colourful portrayal of maritime shipping and trade on the Great Lakes during the mid-19th century.

At the Bruce County Bookstore | 203 Cargill Road, Cargill, Ontario

St. Columban Church

Plaque Dedication August 7th at 2 p.m.

At St. Columban Church Site, Hwy 8

Refreshments at the Knights of Columbus Hall directly across the road from the site. **Please RSVP Nancy Kale of Bayfield at kevlamar@tcc.on.ca**



From the Editor

July has sneaked up on me. The calendar continues to fill up with new events. While your Historical Society is quiet during the summer months there is always something for members to enjoy in Huron.

*Our own John Carter has just published **Ploughboy**, which is being launched later this month (Details to the left). Readers may recall that John is a very dedicated contributor to the Huron Historical Notes and is the Peninsula Director for the Bruce County Historical Society. Busy guy!*

The Community of St. Columban and hamlet members from afar have been working hard to raise funds and craft the wording for a plaque of recognition of the first church and school built in McKillop Township. It was considered one of the building blocks in the opening of the Huron Tract.

The first missionary priest in the area, Rev. Thomas Gibney of Guelph visited periodically and preached in settler's homes before the first church was built. It was a log building located at Irishtown between Seaforth and Dublin on the north side of the Huron Road.

The second church, a wonderful white brick, was built in 1879 but was destroyed by fire in 1909. The next one was an imposing red brick built 1910-11 and designed by James S. Russell of Stratford. It was dedicated May 25, 1911. By this time the village was no longer called Irishtown but St. Columban. The parish struggled during the last years of the last century and it was slated for closure in June 2005. The community debated over demolition or designation. In the end the building was taken down.

Etching, below left, from the Huron County Belden Atlas.

On treasures found;- John Scott of Seaforth shared with us photos of unique wooden items that maybe members can confirm their purpose.

John is a descendent of James Scott and his wife Isabella Dickson who were among the earliest settlers in Roxboro, located at the junction of what is now Hydro Line Road and the Roxboro Line in McKillop Township northwest of the Seaforth. The Scotts saw a need for a gristmill and in the 1840s James Scott set about damming the Maitland River just upstream of the bridge to power his mill. The mill was later converted to steam before closing in 1880.

The items John has were stored in the family home for generations, now owned by James' great-grandson Ken Scott and known as Maitland Wells Farm on the west side of the Roxboro Line just south of the Roxboro Bridge. He feels they may have been used in stamping the mill's name on flour bags.



The top two items are approximately one foot long. The next carving is much smaller and the third object is about a foot long as well. The last item appears to be molded metal. All were stored together which may indicate they were used in conjunction with each other. Maybe? If you have any ideas on the use of the above items please drop an email to HCHS and we will pass them along to John

John has also been consumed with finding out who was on the boat that brought the original James Scott and Isabella Dickson family to Canada. For those family history hunters, we know this is just the tip of the iceberg for him.



Children of James Scott and Isabella Dickson

The Children of Maitland Wells (for ages ref. the Government of Canada Census for 1881) Actual date of photograph is estimated to be 1881 or 1882

Back row, standing, Margaret (Maggie) Scott #2, 31 years old, Mrs. Samuel Carnochan married in 1878; Archibald Dickson (Archie) Scott #7, 19 years old, will marry Anne Elizabeth Ross in 1891; and Ellen Dickson Scott #5, 24 years old and will marry John McLean Wilson in 1890

Seated: Janet (Jessie) Scott #4, 27 years old, Mrs James Grieve married in 1875; Elizabeth (Lizzie) Rutherford Scott #3, 28 years old, will remain single; Joseph John (Joe) Scott #9, 13 years old, will marry Isabella Carnochan in 1898; James Robert (JR) Scott #8, 14 years old, will marry Harriet Campbell in 1893 and Marion Muldrew in 1898; Isabella Turnbull (Bella) Scott #1, 34 years old will remain single; and Agnes Scott #6, 21 years old, will marry John Govenlock Wilson in 1883

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.

Email us about using e-transfer. Copies of recent past Historical Notes are available from Elaine Snell at 519-523-9531 (past copies are \$8 to \$10 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 – Fincher's 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.

Need a simple elegant gift?

For a special gift or simply a thoughtful card to send consider using cards featuring some of the iconic artwork of Jack McLaren. Call executive member Mary Gregg 519-524-9372 or check out Fincher's, and The Book Peddler in Goderich.