

THE HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF THE GATINEAU

NEXT MEETING

Our next meeting will be held in an old stone house which is now something of a landmark in Ironside but whose days may be numbered. Through the courtesy of Mr and Mrs James Hammond we will meet in their home on Wednesday 25 October 1972 at 8 pm. It is located on the west side of Highway 11 north of Bonhomme Materials and opposite Williams Motors. Three generations of Hammonds have lived in the house and our host will tell us something of its history.

We are to be favoured once again with a talk by Col D.E. Macintyre -- this time about his interesting grandfathers, one of whom was a Hudson's Bay Factor and the other a lake freighter Captain. All who heard him speak on his early days in railroading last year will want to hear him again and those who missed him last time would be well advised to attend this meeting. We have a treat in store.

LAST MEETING

Despite a rainy evening we had a very good turn-out on Thursday 7th Sept at the home of Lt-Col and Mrs Eric Acland in Aylmer. In the warm and charming atmosphere of this old house built in the 1830's we enjoyed the hospitality of the Aclands and, in addition, Colonel Acland gave us a talk which was informative, interesting and challenging. The occasion was reported fully and well by Dorothy Tewksbury in The Sunday Reporter of Aylmer in its edition of September 17th. A meeting to remember!

AUCTION SALE 1972

Although the weather forecast was none too promising, Saturday 26 August dawned bright and clear and fortunately stayed that way for the rest of the day.

After last year's excessively arduous and long sale we were pleased that, at our request, members and friends were more discriminating in their consignments this year resulting in a reduction from 580 sale items to 353. These were consigned or, in four cases, donated by 55 people to whom we are grateful. The quality of items was, in general, better than in previous years and this resulted in a gross 'take' of \$2978.75 including \$112.25 from the raffle. This is but \$89.11 less than last year's gross which is remarkably good considering that we had 227 fewer items and the hours of selling were more reasonable having been reduced from 15 to 11 -- still a long day.

Registered bidders numbered 393 -- an increase of over 100 from last year. Addresses of these registrants included Albufeira, Portugal; Williamsburg, Va; Tallahassee, Fla., and Michigan. Is our operation becoming international in scope?

We have dispersed to consignors \$1344.22 and with all expenses covered, which we pay out of our share, the Society has netted about \$1200. Again we are indebted to our faithful crew of workers who were comprised of both members and friends of the Society.

SAMUEL BENEDICT REMEMBERED

The rains came down, the winds blew and the temperature dropped. Just prior to 3 pm on Saturday 30 September the rain stopped but the wind and cold remained. Despite it all we had a gathering of between 60 and 70 including several Benedicts for the ceremony of unveiling and dedicating a plaque commemorating Samuel Benedict. This plaque is mounted on a huge boulder on land which remained in the Benedict family for over 150 years. The ceremony was well received and in the physical arrangements therefor the Society had full co-operation from the N.C.C.

This generation and others yet to come will be reminded not only of the pioneer Samuel Benedict but also of a latter day arrival - The Historical Society of the Gatineau. Our name appears at the bottom of the inscription in the imperishable bronze of the plaque - in both official languages.

POTPOURRI

The post office at Joynt near Lake Bernard mentioned in the last notice was opened in 1879 and closed in 1961. Among the post-masters were two Joynts and three Brooks.....Mrs Richard Farmer, now of Ancaster, has kindly supplied us with a list of those families who were brought out from England in 1834 by William Farmer to settle in the area around what is now Farmer's Rapids. Some of the names are still familiar in the Gatineau.....Through the courtesy of Mrs Walter Moffatt who supplied an old clipping we were able to send Don Beebe of Regina some further information on the early Beebes of Eardley Township. Mrs Eldon Shouldice also responded to our request for additional material.

NEW BOOKS OF LOCAL INTEREST

'Northern Blights' by Mary Geggie of Wakefield and Peter Whalley, described as "more than anyone needs to know about Canadian Poetry and Painting".

'How Skiing Came to the Gatineau', which includes a much abbreviated version of the history of the Ottawa Ski Club by Herbert Marshall.

Arthur Davison,
President.