

NEXT MEETING

Our Summer excursion this year will be a visit to another charming and historic house in the Gatineau region. By arrangement we are fortunate in having been invited to the old Pritchard house in Alcove, P.Q. which was built almost 140 years ago - the first Pritchards having come to Alcove in 1834 from Northern Ireland.

This architecturally interesting house was the product of the same builder responsible for the lovely old stone house on the Richmond Road in Ottawa, owned by the NCC and presently occupied by Mr and Mrs Lloyd Rochester. He also built the MacLaren House in Wakefield which is now the local hospital.

Mrs J I Thompson, a Pritchard descendant, has kindly consented to show us the house, the burying ground behind the house and the Alcove United Church, the land for which was donated in 1889 by Mary Pritchard. Mrs Thompson will also tell us about this remarkable family which has been so closely indentified with the area through the generations and which still has largely attended reunions each year.

The time is 2.30 pm on Sunday, 29 July 1973 and the site is reached by taking Highway 11 to Alcove. Then turn right at the BP Service Station, turn right again at the road adjacent to the river and the house is the third past the church.

Somewhat reminiscent of the traditional country "Box Social" each of you is asked to bring, say, a half dozen cookies of your choice for the community cookie jar which will be passed around. You should supplement this with any other sustenance of which you would like to partake at the tea hour. The "tea" on this occasion will be coffee which will be provided by the Society. If possible will you also bring a folding chair for your comfort. If the weather is suitable we will cluster outside but if not there will be room for us in the house.

Give this popular event priority in your week-end planning so that you won't live to regret missing it! These affairs are planned for your enjoyment so, for heaven's sake, (and your own) ENJOY!

LAST MEETING

A night to remember! The opportunity to hear the witty and knowledgeable Hon J W Pickersgill drew what may have been our largest ever turnout of members and guests. During the W L MacKenzie King days Mr Pickersgill worked closely with the then Prime Minister and some of their working sessions were in The Farm house. This plus the intrinsic interest in this present day Summer home of succeeding Speakers of the House of Commons packed the house.

Gerald Morisset, an associate of Mr Pickersgill for several years, ably introduced the speaker and Fiona Hyslop thanked him on behalf of the Society with a few well chosen and significant words. We, in turn, can thank Fiona and Lid Ryan for the excellent arrangements.

Among our guests were four of the five winners of our recent historical essay contest as well as some proud parents. They were a happy addition to our assemblage and it was obvious that Mr Pickersgill made a few pages of history come alive for them -- and for us.

AUCTION '73

A special announcement in this regard will be going out to members early in August but in the meantime you may start making mental and other notes on what among your treasures and surpluses you can spring loose for the sale. The place is the usual - the date is 25 August - the weather, a pleasant 75 degree sunny day (or so we hope).

1823 - 1973

That covers a period of 150 years and that is the life span to date of the oldest parish in the Ottawa-Hull area. St James Anglican Church in Hull is the mother church of a great many churches in Western Quebec and North-Eastern Ontario including Christ Church Cathedral in Ottawa. The first two church buildings were fire victims and the present edifice was built just after the great fire in Ottawa and Hull at the turn of the century.

When the first church was built on land donated by Philemon Wright the skilled craftsmen were paid from \$9 to \$11 per month, the labourers less, and there were deductions from these "munificent" wages if you turned up for work under the influence of demon alcohol.

Several events during this year will mark the 150th Anniversary of the Church and in one of these in late October the Society will take an active part. You will hear more of this in due time. In the meantime think of what it must be like to be 150!

SOUTHERN COMFORT

A letter was recently received from Stephen and Louise Dale, well-known in the Society and the community who have abandoned "Our Lady of the Snows" for something more salubrious in Montserrat. They sent best wishes and a copy of an old receipt rescued from Meach Lake. It was on the letterhead of J L Orme & Sons Piano Warerooms dated 27 July 1899 acknowledging an \$8 payment on a piano.

One wonders if this '99 Model has survived to and is surviving the Hard Rock age.

APPRECIATION

Thank you to all those members who returned the questionnaire form indicating a willingness to help out in certain fields of the Society's endeavours. A committee structure was set up at an Executive Meeting on 15 June and if you have not already been approached you will be soon. With your help we can do so much more so much better.

Arthur Davison,
President.