

Society Preserves Bruce History

Fear of losing the counties early pioneer history was felt as far back as 1901 when Mr. Norman Robertson, then Bruce County treasurer, called a meeting in Walkerton county council chamber in September 1901.

The purpose of the meeting was to form a group that would "Preserve the history of the early settlement of the county". It was named the Bruce County Historical Society.

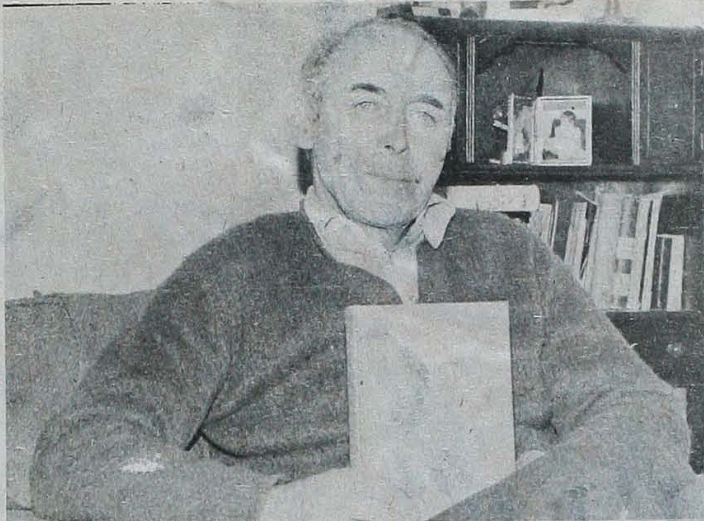
Lack of interest through the years made it a failing operation, but in Centennial year 1967, the society was revived and is now a thriving club in the area.

Since 1967, the club has published a yearly book informing members of what is happening within the club. It also prints pioneer stories written by one-time residents of the area.

Mr. Harold Sutherland, of Port Elgin, district director for the society said the present activities include collecting such archives as historical literature and old newspapers, municipal records and birth records. They are then bound in their original condition. The society has also been instrumental in erecting cairns and plaques for historical interest throughout the area.

At the present time, the archives are stored in a vault in Tara. When the Southampton museum is completed, they will be stored there permanently.

A reading room will be available at the museum for those who want to examine the records. It is hoped the museum



1975

will be in operation for the tourist season this summer.

A historical display by the society will be part of the activities at the International Ploughing Match in Walkerton this September.

Pioneer machinery will be an attraction as well as one of the biggest ploughing matches in Canada where perfection rather than speed is the aim.

Mr. Sutherland notes that the only means of finance the club has is in the sale of books and memberships.

A single membership fee is \$3.00 and a family membership

costs \$5.00. This entitles the member to receive the quarterly bulletins published by the Bruce County Historical Society, the year book and a bus trip. Last year the bus travelled to Black Creek Pioneer Village near Toronto and Doon Pioneer Village near Kitchener.

"The majority of the members are senior citizens--those who

know the pioneer history of the county and who want it recorded before the information is lost," said Mr. Sutherland.

Executive meetings are held monthly and three member meetings are held each year.

The first spring meeting will be held in May at an old church or hall with historical significance.



Ronald Schwass graduated from Osgoode Hall, York University on June 21st with a degree in law. Son of Rodger and Mary Schwass of Toronto and grandson of Stuart and Marion Byers, Tara and the late Daniel and Winnifred Schwass, Paisley. Ronald will be articling with the firm of Smith, Lyons, Torrance, Stevenson and Mayer in Toronto.



Ken Gowanlock of Burgoyne assists Mrs. Tom Bryce to unblane Church in his buggy. Many wagons and buggies were

on hand to make the scene appear as if it was out of the last century.

1975-