

Glimpses Of Hastings Past And Present Given To Bay Of Quinte Women's Institute

On Wednesday afternoon, Mrs. Frank Sandercock was hostess to the Bay of Quinte Institute. There was a fine attendance.

The roll-call was answered by each one telling of an old superstition, making a lot of fun in the telling of them.

At the business session it was found that the extension course to be put on in the Bayside School will start at 1 p.m. on August 30.

A committee of Mrs. J. Palmer and Mrs. Casey Ketcheson was appointed to put on an exhibit at Belleville Fair this fall.

A reading was given by Mrs. Ernest Curtis called "Don't go shopping with your wife," and an item by Mrs. John Reid about "the lazy farmer."

Mrs. A. Ketcheson then turned over the meeting to the convenor of Historical Research, Mrs. Frank Sandercock, who introduced Mrs. Bert Bush our guest speaker.

Mrs. Bush said it seemed like coming home whenever she came to this neighborhood as she had taught school at Harders for two years around 44 years ago. She passed a picture of her class at Harders at that time and she could tell nearly all of the children's names.

Mrs. Bush spoke on "Glimpses of Hastings, Past and Present." Going back into the past about 200 years ago this country was a vast forested area, inhabited by French traders and roving bands of Indians. In 1780 the U. E. Loyalists came to Canada from USA. These people who landed here called the north shore of the Bay of Quinte Hastings after a favorite British Officer. In 1792 Upper Canada was divided into counties and these divided into townships and all were named after distinguish-

By 1790 over 50 families had landed at Meyers Creek now called the Moira River. Capt. John Walton Meyers was one of the first to land on Quinte's shores and he played a very important part in the settlement of Belleville and the surrounding country. He built sawmills, grist mills and made brick, 5 miles east of Trenton, from which his first brick house was made. He owned boats and they plied back and forth the waterway from Quinte to Kingston.

Sidney Township in 1787 or earlier was surveyed into lots, concession roads and side roads five years before Hastings Co. came into being. In 1787 the

first UE Loyalists were granted their land in Sidney—Gilbert Bonisteel was granted the farm next to ours at that time, said Mrs. Bush, and since that time five generations of Bonisteels have lived on that farm.

In 1797-1850 was the time of settlement in Hastings County. After 1800 little manufacturing places opening up here and there through the county. These villages were trading centres and usually had a post office. Tanneries made leather, shoemakers—shoes and blacksmith shops made all kinds of things to work the land with as well as shoeing horses. Furniture, spinning wheels, reels were also made in the villages. Tailor shops employed several men. Stage coaches travelled from Belleville to Trenton, but if one wanted to go farther west it was necessary to go to Frankford and cross at the ford there.

The court house was built in 1838. Agriculture implements were crude but from 1787-1850

were the years that the agriculture industry was firmly established in Hastings County. From 1850-1900 were the years of development and many changes took place in ways of living, appearance of the country and in the lives of the people as a whole. All but the much needed blacksmith shop moved to cities or towns where they started in a much larger scale, employing many people.

In 1878 Belleville became a city. The railroads were now being built. Cheese factories started, with the first one being built at Bayside in 1865, two years before confederation. Between 1850-1900 lumbering came into its own and great drives of logs were floated down the Trent and Moira Rivers. Mining began about 1866. Gold was

found north of Marmor. Marble was mined near Bancroft and used in Toronto and Ottawa.

Many of the churches in Hastings County were built between 1850-1900. Grace Church, Trenton, was built in 1875. Johnstown 1876, Bridge St. Church, 1860, Holloway 1877.

In the schools there were seven women teachers in 1858 in Hastings County. Belleville Seminary was built in 1854 later called Albert College.

The people of those days were more united than now. There was much neighborliness. Everything called for a bee.

Fall fairs were held in various centres. The first fair held in Frankford in 1858.

In 1850-1900 dressmakers were much in demand, going to a home sometimes staying as long as a month. From 1850-1900 the log houses were mostly replaced by the many fine homes one sees today.

Except for the depression in 1930-33, from 1900-60 might be called an era of progress. The coming of the auto did more to change the pattern in the county than anything else for old Dobbin was pushed aside. Then came paved roads. Hastings County has become in the past 60 years a thriving manufacturing centre.

Education today is as good in Hastings County as found anywhere. Elderly people who have no home are cared for in a well appointed home west of Belleville. In north Hastings lumber and pulpwood are still being cut from the forests and there they will find treasures of minerals awaiting the coming of capitalists to develop them. The highlands of Hastings are now a well known tourist area, with its scenic beauty of lakes and forests.

Hastings County is a heritage that has been handed down to us from the past and during our lifetime it remains to us to carry on and enrich our county as our forefathers have done and so make this land a splendid place to live, Mrs. Bush concluded.

The Bay of Quinte Women's Institute held a Centennial Tea at Glen Miller on Wednesday afternoon. Mrs. Arnold Ketcheson is president of the organization and Mrs. Ross Stickle, secretary. About 75 ladies were present in the hall. Members wore quaint centennial costumes. The hall was tastefully decorated to fit the occasion. Funds were given to the Womens' Institute Branch.

Each table was devoted to a particular endeavor. The bake sale was in charge of Mrs. Clayton Curtis and Mrs. Tina Elzinga assisted. Mrs. Ernest Curtis conducted the white elephant table. The centennial cake of large proportions with Mrs. Gladys Scaletta attracted much attention. The tea table was managed with Mrs. Alec Tanner. Preserves was handled by Mrs. Frank Sandercock.

An unusual feature was Mrs. Cecil Jeffery rocking a 100 year old pine cradle, obviously hand made. There were the antiques with Mrs. Cecil Jeffery, Mrs. Peter Jordan and Mrs. Donald Sandercock, and the sewing table with Mrs. Fred St. Hillarie and Mrs. Albert Meyers.



WELCOMES GUESTS

Mrs. Arnold Ketcheson, President of the Bay of Quinte Women's Institute and Mrs. Ross Stickle, Secretary, at Centennial Tea on Wednesday.



PANTY HOSE EATEN
PORT ELIZABETH, South Africa — A farmer in Kinkelbos district didn't know what killed his ailing ox. He cut open the animal's stomach and found several pairs of panty hose in plastic wrappers.

Mrs. John Reid told Mrs. Bush she was born on the same farm that those bricks were made on and she thanked her for her splendid address. The meeting closed with the Mary Stuart Collect. A contest was enjoyed with Mrs. W. Jeffery winning the prize. A social half hour was then enjoyed.



CENTENNIAL TEA HELD

Many visitors attended the successful Centennial tea and bazaar held on Wednesday afternoon at the

Glen Miller hall. The tea was held by the members of the Quinte Women's Institute who were dressed

in Centennial costumes. Shown are several of the guests enjoying afternoon tea.



ANTIQUÉ CRADLE

Mrs. Cecil Jeffery rocks 100 year old cradle at Bay of Quinte Womens' Institute Centennial Tea held at Glen Miller on Wednesday afternoon.

*Compiled
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*By:-
Mrs. Lewis
Master
R.R. 5th
Trenton,
Ont.*