

1812 Structure To Hold Display Of Canadiana

Grafton, Aug. 28.—Northumberland County has one of the most ambitious historical societies in Ontario.

The 100 members recently decided to use well-known and much-publicized Barnum House to shelter and display a small collection of Canadiana. It is situated on No. 2 Highway on the western approach to this colonial community seven miles east of Cobourg.

The decision to take over Barnum House came after the Architectural Conservancy of Ontario turned back its deed to the Township of Haldimand.

Incorporated in 1933, the ACO took over Barnum House in 1941 with the hope of furnishing it as a showplace. It did not work out, and after use as an antique shop and private residence a fire damaged the back wing and left the old place tenantless again.

The Northumberland Historical Society leased the house and 25 acres of land from Haldimand Township for \$175 a year, which will look after taxes. In addition, the society must keep the building in good repair, adequately covered by insurance. For its money the society has "the best house of its type in Ontario."

Tradition has it that Barnum House was built in the years 1812-14. Col. Ellakim Barnum furnished his home with fine Regency and Georgian pieces and not the frontier types of spool beds and patchwork quilts.

The main part of the house is two-story with one-storey wings flush with the front facade. The roomy front hall and kitchen, all with ample windows, and the dining and drawing rooms contain beautifully proportioned mantel pieces. Recently, the Grafton Women's Institute held a cleaning bee and the old place shines from top to bottom.

The small nucleus of antiques the society has been storing in the Colborne Museum has been moved to Barnum House. Members have been promised a good supply from county attics once the house is ready for inspection.

It is the society's aim to have a custodian on hand for three hours each day, 120 days a year. This will probably start next year, since the current tourist season is nearly over and there has been difficulty in securing a provincial official formally to open the museum.

Officers of the Northumberland Historical Society are: Foster Russell, president; Mrs. William A. Godfellow, Codrington; Mrs. Garnet Allen, Warkworth; Mrs. Michael Gresham and Miss Enid Rogers, both of Colborne, and W. P. Hinman, Cobourg.

A Lot of History

BRIGHTON
AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY
1853 TO 1953

PRESENTED BY
ONT. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
IN RECOGNITION OF
ONE HUNDRED YEARS OF SERVICE
AUGUST 28, 1957

An enormous amount of history, much of it important to a wide region, is tied up with the fair to be held next Tuesday and Wednesday under the auspices of the Brighton Agricultural Society. That point is illustrated by the fact that one feature of the event will be the official opening of the Centennial Gates, bearing the plaques shown in the illustrations accompanying this comment.

It is an enviable achievement to have contributed to the well-being of an important district over a period of more than 100 years, as is the record of the Society.

The fair has many other claims upon the interest of a wide district, in addition to historical ones. Among other things, it serves as a reminder to the Tri-County region, as reached by The Trentonian, that it has three chief sources of economic strength — agriculture, industry and RCAF activity — with agriculture far from being the least of them.

It is the existence of three such strengths that makes the Tri-County region almost unique in Canada as a balanced market. With that point in mind, it is easy to see that the region not only has the best reasons in the world for wishing the Brighton Fair well, but for patronizing it and enjoying it.

TO HONOUR THE
PIONEERS OF THE COMMUNITY
AND ALL THOSE
WHO DURING THE PAST 100 YEARS
HAVE SERVED
THE CAUSE OF AGRICULTURE
IN BRIGHTON DISTRICT