

Chaffey's Lock

CHAFFEY'S LOCKS AND AREA HERITAGE SOCIETY

The first general meeting for 1981 of the Chaffey's Lock and Area Heritage Society was held on January 28 at 7:30 p.m. at the community hall in Chaffey's Lock. There was a fine turnout, with a number of new faces in the crowd. Though our meetings generally have good attendance, the prior knowledge that a number of our 'regular' faces would be absent due to illness, or conflicting engagements, did not lead us to anticipate so large a gathering.

The main reason for the good turnout was undoubtedly our guest speaker, Susan Warren, whose topic 'Chaffey's Lock 1820-1850' touched upon a subject of considerable interest to many people in our area. Ms. Warren began by saying that, though most of us would know some of the facts she was about to present, there would be some things presented which would be new to many of us, and many facts she could guarantee none of us had known previously. She then went on to prove this was no idle boast. Her research had been well carried out. Her presentation carried quotes from and references to material from Queen's Archives, Parks Canada collections, government archival documents as well as letters, newspapers and publications of the period. We were given a very complete picture of the physical appearance of the Chaffey's area and how it changed during the period as well as a glimpse of lifestyles, religious beliefs, diet, medicines, tools and standards of wealth and poverty of the period. Many a familiar family name cropped up throughout the presentation; names such as Leggett, Rowswell, Poole, Fleming and Simmons. There is not enough space in this column to detail the entirety of Ms. Warren's presentation but the society hopes to have typewritten copies available shortly. Anyone interested in acquiring a copy should phone Don Franklin or Al & Janice Cross, both listed under the Elgin directory.

A lively and lengthy discussion followed Ms. Warren's presentation. After the

discussion, the business section of the meeting began. The chairman informed members of a number of pertinent facts about the Ontario Historical Society. They have a new and highly qualified executive assistant, Sandra Morton. Literature from the O.H.S. was circulated among the general membership. Mr. Don Warren, chairman of the 'Plaque Committee' gave a report on our progress in having a plaque commemorating Samuel Chaffey installed at the lock site. The unveiling is scheduled for 1982 to correspond with the celebration of the Rideau Canal's 150th Anniversary.

The existing lockmaster's house committee was expanded to give it a wider range of talent to draw on and to ensure our meeting the spring deadlines for presenting detailed physical plans to Parks Canada. The Chaffey's Lock Artifact Conservation & Archival Resource Centre should open in the spring of 1982 again in time to correspond with the celebrations attending the 150th anniversary of the completion of the Rideau Canal. After a decade of hard determined work through the Women's Institute, Chaffey's Lock Improvement Committee and now through the Chaffey's Lock and Area Heritage Society, the living museum at the Chaffey's Lockmaster House is about to become a reality. Thanks to all who helped in our community, in Parks Canada and in neighbouring historical societies.

In accordance with our constitution, the nominating committee gave its report and the elections were held at the January meeting. The executive remains the same as that of 1980, and is as follows:
 President: Don Franklin
 Vice-President: Jack Fleming
 Executive Secretary: Janice Cross
 Treasurer: Al Cross
 Corresponding Secretary: Susan Warren

All members are here informed that the next general meeting of the C.L&A.H.S. will be on Wed., March 25, 1981 at 7:30 p.m. in the Chaffey's Lock Community Hall. Anyone who is interested may attend as this will be considered an 'open' meeting.

CHAFFEY'S LOCK WOMENS INSTITUTE

Feb. 12 found 18 ladies at the home of Kathryn Scott for our W.I. meeting. We began with dessert, delicious and attractive in a Valentine's Day theme.

The president opened the meeting with the Mary Stewart Collect, which all repeated and the singing of the Ode.

Our motto was "a good memory test - try to remember the things you were mentally disturbed about last week".

The roll call proved very interesting as each answered the question "If you had your choice to live in any country in the world outside of Canada, where would it be and why?"

The minutes and correspondence were read by Kathryn Scott. Laurel Fleming reported that the Village Book is now in the hands of the printer.

Beatrice Hughson read a poem entitled "The Folk at Chaffey's" by Ted Johnson. Glenna Langlois gave the treasurer's report and told us a donation had been received from the late Mrs. Peggy Brown. Tentative plans for a spring bus trip were announced.

Our Fish Fry is to be held Saturday, March 21, 5:30-7 p.m. in the Community Hall.

Mary Warren gave a very informative and interesting account of their recent trip to Grenada. It is the only communist Centre in the Grenadines. It is a small, lush, spice island with many plantations. These plantations are marked out by an immortal tree at each corner which is covered with white blossoms and grows continually. The native people speak pidgin English, and are fine folk. Bird watching, fishing and a historical tour were among their enjoyable events.

Mary was thanked by Kathryn who made a presentation on behalf of all for the many community accomplishments undertaken and carried through by Mary.

An offering was taken for Heart Fund donations. Suggestions and plans for 1981-82 programs were set in motion.

Thanks was given to our three hostesses for the day, Kathryn Scott, Marjorie Jackson and Zeta Tate.

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 A NIGHT OF FUN AND MUSIC
 FRIDAY MARCH 13, 1981 8 P.M.
 AT
 SEELEY'S BAY LEGION HALL
 FEATURING 
 The Moulton Families and other
 Local Talent
 SPECIAL ATTRACTION
 "Comedy of Errors" fashion show
 ADMISSION ADULTS \$2.00 CHILDREN \$1.00
 PROCEEDS TO OLIVET UNITED CHURCH