



**Bonwill  
Column**

What is an artifact? And do you cook with it, eat it, or put it to bed with a hot-water bottle at its feet?

You might do almost any of those things, really, for an artifact, defined, is "any object made by man, with a view to its subsequent use."

Right here, in the Rideau country there are many special artifacts that can, and should be collected now while they are still available. These are the man-made old tools and odds and ends lying about our homes and barns.

All too often, their historic value is not recognized, and we let something unique and of real interest be lost to us. Isn't there something right in your own household of which you have at one time said: "I wonder what that old thing is? No good to me - guess it's for the trash heap."

It may be a kitchen tool, or an unusual old griddle, or a broken bit of ornamental iron, or a hand-carved wooden ladle, once used for butter-making. Take another look at it, put it carefully into a box, and label it "CHECK FOR ANTIQUE VALUE". You would truly be surprised at the value of what you may have once considered "trash".

Collect a whole boxful of this sort of thing, then get it evaluated at an antique shop, or at an historical interpretive centre, if it might be some family item you think should go into a museum concerned with the local history of the Rideau Canal, and

vicinity. There is no better time to do this than spring cleaning time, when odd cupboards and corners get a more thorough turning out.

Don't expect to get rich at this endeavor - though you may be pleasantly surprised at the value of some odd items. They need not of necessity be very old; comic books, Horatio Alger stories, unusual kinds of barbed wire - all have their collectors, and may bring really surprising dollars.

If you find things unique to your family, or to your area, and you have clues as to their history, do preserve these. Who knows what sort of great grandchildren you may have? Or what historical or genealogical interests they may develop?

Lacking these interests in our own children, we had about given up the idea of sharing these particular hobbies with other members of our own families, when suddenly, a favourite nephew has become a genealogical researcher, and a very young grand-daughter has asked, over and over, "When will you tell me the story about the first Ellen, again?"

So SHE is the one who will inherit the old, old copy of "THE LADY OF THE LAKE", from which the first Ellen in the family was named, when Sir Walter was publishing that long poem, canto by canto, and a young schoolteacher with a poetic turn of mind was memorizing the whole thing, canto by canto, as it appeared in BLACKWOOD'S MAGAZINE, about 1820.

As to artifacts - preservation is the aim. Interpretation is the secondary aim. Find out what they are, and how they were used, their age, and whatever other information you can accumulate. Then WRITE IT DOWN. In this way, you may be helping future historians more than you know.



The Anglican Parish of Leeds-Rear Holy Week and Easter Services

Palm Sunday April 12 -  
11:00 a.m. St. Peter's, Seeley's Bay  
Blessing and distribution of Palms  
7:30 p.m. St. Luke's Lyndhurst  
Ecumenical Service  
Holy Monday April 13  
7:00 p.m. St. Luke's Tenebrae  
Holy Tuesday April 14  
7:00 p.m. St. John's, Leeds Tenebrae  
Holy Wednesday April 15  
7:00 p.m. St. Peter's Stations of the Cross  
Maundy Thursday April 16  
7:00 p.m. St. Luke's Commemoration of the Last Supper  
Good Friday April 17  
2:00 p.m. St. Peter's Veneration of the Cross  
Easter Eve April 18  
8:00 p.m. St. John's The Great Vigil of Easter  
Easter Day April 19  
8:30 a.m. St. Luke's  
10:00 a.m. St. John's  
11:30 a.m. St. Peter's

Don't forget the North Leeds Lantern Annual Meeting - April 21st. 8 p.m. R.D.H.S. Library.

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