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The Evolution of an Historic Room.

BY JANET CARNOCHAN.

Numerous requests having been made for some account of the evolution of what may, for lack of a better name, be called our Historical Room, an attempt is now made to satisfy these demands. In December 1895, in answer to a notice in our local paper, a few persons met in the Public Library room and an Historical Society was formed. In March 1896 the library having obtained a new and more accessible building, the town council kindly allowed us the use of this room, which had already some pretensions to being called historic, as it had been in past time the grand-jury room for the court house for the united counties of Lincoln, Welland and Haldimand and has no doubt witnessed many sad and stirring scenes since 1848.

Locus, then a long narrow room, 12x40, empty, except for a large box stove and chandeliers left as a legacy by the library. Much cold water had metaphorically been thrown upon the project of collecting articles relating to the history of the town and neighborhood. It was said nothing had been left, everything had been given away or destroyed, or did any such articles exist, no one would either give or lend anything for such purpose. All such prognostications have proved false. With very little outlay, for we began with an empty treasury, (cases have been given, picture frames, chairs, tables, etc.), a collection of about one thousand articles, some of them very valuable, has been brought together and entered on the books of our curator. Visitors have enrolled their names from different cities,—from Winnipeg to New York, from Ottawa to Wellington, New Zealand.

Many of the articles have a story attached and it is the object of this paper to give some slight account of the most remark-