

ANNUAL REPORT

The Women's

Canadian Historical Society

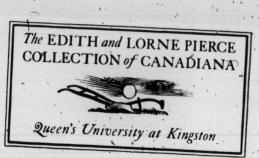
of Toronto

ORGANIZED NOVEMBER 19th. 1895.
INCORPORATED FEBRUARY 14th, 1896.

Motto:

"Deeds Speak."

LP F5000 W87, 1898/99



ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

Women's Canadian Historical Society

OF TORONTO,

1898-99

Organized November 19th, 1894

Incorporated February 14th, 1806

The annual report which, as your Secretary, I have again the honor to submit to you is not, I think, so long as that of 1897-98. This is not due to any diminution of interest taken in the Society, nor of the work done by its members, but rather to a concentration of it on a larger undertaking, and there being fewer extra meetings to report.

Eight regular meetings and seven meetings of the Executive Committee have been held. An attempt was made to hold evening meetings, to which only those members who were unable to attend in the afternoon were invited. Unfortunately, exceptionally bad weather prevented a satisfactory attendance and the evening meetings were

At the regular meetings the following papers were read:

First paper of a series on the Conquest of Canada: "King William's War, 1689-1697," by your Secretary. This was repeated by request at a meeting of the Wentworth Historical Society in Hamilton, and printed in their transactions.

Second. "War of the Spanish Succession; or, Queen Anne's War,

1702-1713." By Mrs. Forsyth Grant.

Third. "War of the Austrian Succession; or, King George's War." By Miss Mackellar.

Fourth. "The Conflict in the Ohio Valley." By Miss Grant Mac-

Fifth. "The Campaign on Lakes Champlain and George." By Miss Lefroy.

Sixth. "The Taking of Louisbourg." By Miss Mabel McLean Helliwell. This was published in the Saturday Globe of July 29th, with several illustrations.

Seventh. "The Capture of Quebec." By Miss Rowand.

In addition to the papers of this series, the following were contributed to the programme:

"Quebec in 1775." By Mrs. S. G. Wood. "Brebœuf's Wanderings." By Lady Edgar.

"Wayside Records, being Records Gleaned from the Tombstones

of the U. E. Loyalists." By Miss Sara Mickle.

"Some Archives." By Mrs. J. W. F. Harrison ("Seranus"). This paper was prepared for the meeting of the Ontario Historical Society at their winter session, where Mrs. Harrison kindly represented your Society, and was repeated by special request at the March meeting.

"Historical Ramble up Yonge Street." By Miss Bessie Mac-

nurchy.

"The Historic Interest of the Mackinac Trip." By Mrs. W. Cummings.

"Letter from the Maryland Archives." By Lady Edgar.

"Amherst Island and Its Neighborhood." By Mrs. Edward Leigh. Several of these papers have been very well reported in the public press, others have been typewritten and preserved in your Society's archives.

"Madeleine de Vérchéres," by Dr. Drummond, was also read by Mrs. James George, whose rendition of the historic tale as told by

our Canadian poet was much appreciated.

The publication of the programme of the meetings and titles of papers to be read had an excellent effect in rousing a greater interest

and increasing the attendance.

During the winter session held by the Ontario Historical Society, with which your Society is affiliated, it was noted that no steps had been taken to entertain the visiting delegates. An extra meeting of your Executive was called and arrangements made to entertain the lady visitors at lunch. A committee was also named to meet and cooperate with the Ontario Historical Society in carrying out a proposed Historical Exhibition in Toronto.

The part taken by your members in making this exhibition not only a success, but in enabling it to be held at all, has been so large a part of your work during the past year that a brief account of it, and how it was undertaken and realized, belongs to and should be

incorporated in your Secretary's report.

On September 5th, 1898, the Ontario Society, by resolution, appointed a committee of five to take into consideration the best plan to follow, by which historic relies and records known to be in existence might be preserved from loss. The circular issued by this Committee brought so favorable a response, that at the winter session of the Ontario Society in February, it was decided that an exhibition of

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historic relies, etc., should be held. Owing, however, to lack of funds and fear of incurring liability beyond the sum of \$50 voted for the printing of circulars, etc., no action was taken beyond a resolution that the Exhibition should be held under the auspices of the Ontario Historical Society. This naturally resulted in a deadlock. Reluctant to give up, the Committee, Lady Edgar (Mr. C. C. James having resigned the chair, but remaining a member), Miss Mickle, Mr. Brant-Sero and your Secretary met and decided to make an effort to procure funds sufficient to warrant the undertaking. A meeting was called on March 8th, 1899. It was attended by twenty-eight ladies and gentlemen, the former in the majority and all members of your Society.

The report of what had already been done was read and approved, and a resolution passed that "if the small balance in the hands of the Cabot Celebration Committee from the grant of \$1,000 made it by the Provincial Legislature, could be secured, a free building and a guarantee fund of \$1,000 against loss, obtained, the Exhibition should be held by the Women's Canadian Historical Society with the aid and co-operation of the present meeting. This action received the hearty endorsation of your Society at the regular meeting on April 6th.

Meanwhile, with the kindly exerted interest of the Hon. G. W. Allan, Mr. O. A. Howland, the Hon. G. W. Ross and the Rev. Provost Welch, the sum of \$265 balance from the grant above referred to was secured. With this, \$35 balance of the \$50 voted by the Ontario Historical Society, and the generous placing at our service of Victoria College, Queen's Park, by the Rev. Dr. Potts and his Board, your Society undertook to hold the Exhibition.*

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On April 6th Mr. J. H. Coyne, President of the Ontario Society, addressed your meeting, and claimed that although the means for carrying out the Exhibition could not be provided by his Society, for committees named at the meeting of March 8th were but an enlarged committee of the original one appointed by his Society, and that the Exhibition must still be held under the auspices of the Ontario Historical Society. Your Society being affiliated with the Ontario Historical Society, and both working for the same ends, regarded this as immaterial, and consented.

From that date until, on June 14th, the first Canadian Historical Exhibition held in Canada was opened, and until its close, on July 1st, a large part of the work was done by members of your Society.

As many kind words have been said of my personal influence and share in the undertaking by Mr. Coyne, Lady Edgar, a number of the visitors from different parts of the Dominion, and others, who judged by the reports in the public press and the catalogue of the magni-

^{*}A donation of \$5 from the Rev. Dr. Briggs, \$5 from Mrs. McLaren, Perth, and a grant of \$100 from the Ontario Government were received later, a few cays before the opening of the Exhibition.

tude of the undertaking and the amount of interesting material collected, I would like to take this opportunity of expressing my gratitude, of saying that while I feel it a recognition of much labor, of persistent determination to make the Exhibition a success against many difficulties and discouragements, which no doubt had an effect, the successful accomplishment is due more entirely to the loyal support of the members of your Society, many of whom, though fearing failure, would not desert their Secretary. I thank you most heartily for thus enabling me to realize a long-cherished ambition.

Other societies—the Women's Canadian Historical Society of Ottawa, and the Elgin Historical Society—in order to help, held local exhibitions on a smaller scale, and contributed a large amount of interesting material to the Exhibition at Victoria College.

Material aid in exhibits was also received from the Belleville, Niagara, Lundy's Lane, Simcoe, and Peterboro' Historical Societies; from Mrs. Holmstead, Dundas, and Miss Barr, of Windsor, where there are no historical societies organized; from St. Mary's College, Montreal; from the Public Library, the Universities, Upper Canada College and the Educational Department, Toronto; from Mr. James Bain, and the late Mr. Robert Jenkins; from the Canadian Military Institute, Toronto, and the Military Museum, Ottawa. Exhibits were also received from Winnipeg, Man., and from Newfoundland. We are also indebted to the public press throughout Ontario and Quebec, particularly to the dailies in Toronto, for their influence in rousing an interest in the work, and to the Canadian Club, Toronto, for help during the Exhibition.

The result may be briefly summed up as follows: Undertaken on a capital of \$300, a nominal guarantee fund of \$1,000, and a free building, an Exhibition for which the expenditure was \$2,374, a large proportion of which was for freight, express charges, glass cases, advertising, printing and insurance, was carried out with marked success. The receipts were \$2,724; leaving a balance of \$350.

The object of the Exhibition was primarily to arouse an interest in and to encourage an appreciation of historic material, and to show the need of a permanent Historical Museum for the Province; secondarily to take the first steps toward supplying such need by devoting the proceeds or balance over the expenses to that object. The first has been accomplished, and if the amount for the second is less than our hope, it is at least on the right side of the balance sheet, and may enable future efforts to be made more successfully. A full report of the expenditure, receipts, etc., will be issued shortly by the Executive Committee of the Exhibition.

At the beginning of the year satisfactory arrangements were made with the proprietor and editor of the *Canadian Home Journal* to recognize it as the official organ of your Society, a full page, and frequently a portion of a second, being devoted to the reports and interests of your Society. For these your Secretary is responsible.

There being no meetings to report during the summer months, the space has been filled by short accounts of a few of the historic relics and records loaned for the Exhibition. You are also indebted to Miss Windeat for the design which has formed the heading of your page. Five copies are taken by the Society, and individual members who wish to subscribe are allowed a reduced rate of 75 cents instead of \$1.00.

Your Society had again the honor of being invited to send a delegate to the meeting of the Royal Society of Canada, at Ottawa, in May. You were represented by Lady Edgar, who read a report which will be printed in the Royal Society's report for 1899-1900.

Miss Curzon, Mrs. Ed. Leigh, Mrs. W. Cummings and Mrs. Henry Thompson were elected delegates to the Ontario Historical Society; Mrs. Clifton Cameron, Miss Ellerby, Miss O'Brien and Miss Mabel McLean Helliwell, to the Toronto Local Council of Women.

Your sympathy and co-operation has been asked for by the Quebec Historical Society and the York Pioneers' Society in patriotic move-

ments undertaken by them.

Exchanges have been made with the Wisconsin, New York, Peterboro', Niagara, Wentworth, Oxford, Mississquoi, and Quebec his-

torical societies, and the following donations received:

"Thayendanega, an Historic Drama," by J. B. MacKenzie, from the author; "Catholic Church in the Niagara Peninsula," by the Very Reverend Dean Harris, from Miss FitzGibbon; "A Veteran of 1812," second edition, from the author; "Canadian Wild Flowers," by Mrs. C. P. Traill, illustrated by Mrs. Chamberlin, from Mrs. Chamberlin; "Legends of the St. Lawrence," by Sir J. M. Lemoine, F.R.S.C., from the author; "The Forest of Bourg Marie," by "Seranus" (Mrs. J. W F. Harrison), from the author; "In the Days of the Canada Company," by Robina and Kathleen Lizars, from the authors; a set of pamphlets, by Dr. John Campbell, from the author; "Lake Rosseau," a poem, by J. C. Hamilton, from the author; Water-color drawing of Fort Erie, by Miss Thurtell, from the artist; Photograph of Memorial Chapel to Rev. Father Brebœuf, Jesuit missionary at Penetanguishene, from Miss Ellerby; Fish Weir Stake, from The Narrows at Orillia (supposed to be from that spoken of by Champlain as the Indian mode of catching fish), from Mr. Wallace, Orillia; Photograph of the copy of the Portrait of Major-General Sir Isaac Brock, at Government House, by J. W. L. Forster, from Mrs. Forsyth Grant.

Several historic relics loaned for the Exhibition have also been

placed in your care until the hoped-for museum is established. A donation of \$10 was generously made by Mr. Wm. Farmer, who

thus expressed his kindly interest in your work.

The names of Dr. John Campbell, of Montreal, and Dr. Douglas Brymner, Dominion Archivist, have been added to your honorary members.

Thirty-six new members have been enrolled on the ordinary members' list, three have been transferred to the list of corresponding members, five names have been withdrawn through removal from the city, and we have had to mourn the loss of one by death.

Your Society has also lost one of its most valued honorary members in Mrs. C. P. Traill, who died at Westove, Lakefield, Ont., at the advanced age of ninety-seven years and seven months, on August 29th. The aged authoress retained her faculties unimpaired to the last. Her literary life is a unique record, in that it represented a literary activity of seventy-eight years, her first book being published in 1818, her last in 1896.

Before closing my report, it would be well perhaps to state briefly, for the information of those who have become members within the past two years, something of the intended aims and scope of the Society. The Women's Canadian Historical Society was formed* for the distinct purpose of encouraging a patriotic interest in Canadian History, and everything which makes for a true appreciation of it and of the resources and possibilities of our country; to awaken a desire for this knowledge not only among ourselves, but among those belonging to other nationalities who make their homes on Canadian soil and become citizens of the British Empire. It is not a charitable organization, as the term is understood; neither politics nor religious denominations are differentiated or recognized. We are all Canadians, members of the British Empire, loyalty, and patriotism being the requisites for entrance to the Society, The fee is so small (fifty cents annually, payable on or before November 16th), that it is not calculated to cover more than the current expenses of postage, printing, caretaker of room, etc. The officers are all honorary, and the honorary members elected are exempt from the payment of any fee, the Society thus reserving to itself the privilege of paying a compliment to those who have aided the objects of the Society by their work, either literary or otherwise.

All of which is respectfully submitted.

MARY AGNES FITZGIBBON, Hon. Secretary.

* See preamble of Constitution.

Treasurer's Report, 1898-99.

RECEIPTS.

Outsides from the 2005 (12 to 12			
Overdue fees for 1897 (three)	ed in last		
year's accounts (twenty-five), \$12.50.			
See Transaction No. 2 for 1897-98, page 7.			
Fees for 1898-99 (one hundred and twenty)	60 00		
Fees paid in advance for 1900 (ten)	5 00		
*Ten one dollar fees	10 00		
†One fee	1 20		
Total fees		\$77	70
Proceeds, Sale of Historic Banner—			
Mrs. G. Brown	***************************************		
Mrs. John Davidson	0 15		
Miss FitzGibbon	0 15		
Decorate Cala of Manager 12 Nr. O		0	45
Proceeds, Sale of Transaction No. 2—			
Miss FitzGibbon		0	65
Proceeds, Sale of Queenston Heights-			
Miss Curzon		2	00
Subscriptions received, Mrs. Curzon's portra	ait—		*
Mrs. Bain	***************************************		
Miss Lawson	0 25		
Mrs Small	0 25		-
Miss Lizars	0 25		
Mrs. Walton	0 50		
Miss Farmer	1 00		
040		2	50
Contribution from Mr. Wm. Farmer, Broc	kton House, An-		
caster		10	00
Balance from last year's accounts		23	85
Interest		0	66
m-4-1			
Total		\$117	81

^{*}One dollar fees received from Mrs. Osler, Craigleigh, Rosedale; Mrs. Randolph Macdonald, Rusholme Road; Miss Minnie Mackenzie, Bellevue, Kincardine; Mrs. Rigby, St. Hilda's College; Mrs. Parkin, Upper Canada College; Miss Wardrope, Queen's Park; Miss Carty, Queen's Hotel; Miss Martha Carty, Queen's Hotel; Mrs. A. W. Ross, Queen's Park; Mrs. Broughall, St. Stephen's Rectory.

EXPENDITURE.

To William Briggs, printing post cards for monthly meetings. Printing letterheads, envelopes, etc. Printing Transaction No. 2 Queenston Heights Canadian Home Journal (five copies monthly) Affiliation Fee Local Council. Balance of expense of lunch for the visiting delegates, Ontario Historical Society, in February. Secretary's account Caretaker at Normal School (one dollar per month).	\$16 65 5 85 12 00 14 00 5 00 2 00 1 80 5 83 8 00
Post cards for overdue fees To Mrs. Henry Thompson (Laura Secord Fund)	0 93 12 60
Total	\$84 66
Income	
Balance \$33 15	

Audited and found correct,

MRS. GRANT MACDONALD, CHARLOTTE MORRISON.

Programme for 1899-1900.

Course on Canadian History, September 13th, 1759, to 1800. Dec. 7th. First Paper. "The War of the Conquest subsequent to the Fall of Quebec." By Miss FitzGibbon. "Sir William Johnson at Niagara, 1759." By Miss Constance 1900 Jan. 4th. Second Paper. "The First Three Years of British Rule." By Mrs. Jeffers Graham. "Some Elections and the Battle of Hastings." By Mrs. Chamberlin. Feb. 1st. Third—Debate. " Treaty of Paris." Mrs. J. A. Paterson and Mi s Mickle versus Miss McLean Helliwell and -"Historic Sketch of Canadian Women in Art, Drama and Music." By Mrs. Dignam. March 1st. Fourth Paper. "Sir Guy Carleton and His Administration." By Miss Catharine "Condition of Lower Canada before 1837." By Mrs. J. W. F. Harrison ("Seranus"). "Coming of the U. E. Loyalists." By Miss Josephine McCallum. "Three Rivers." By Mrs. S. G. Wood. Sixth Paper. "The Erection of the Upper Province." By Mrs. (Kate Westlake) "Social Life in the Early Part of the Century." By Mrs. R. E. Land. June 7th. Seventh Paper. "Some Notes from the Haldimand Papers." By ----"History of the Vestry of St. James." By Mrs. Forsyth Grant. Oct. 4th. Eighth Paper. _" By -

Officers.

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REV. DR. WITHROW, F.R.S.C.
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REV. JOHN MACLEAN, PH.D.
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Port Hope, Ont.

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MRS. BRANT-SERO, Hamilton. MRS. CARTWRIGHT ALLEN, Milton.

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