



# Huron County Historical Society

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## Newsletter September 2021

### Executive for 2020-2021

Vacant	President	519-440-6206	Ralph Laviolette	Secretary-treasurer
Vicky Culbert	Past- president	226-421-2295	Mac Campbell	Director
Elaine Snell	Membership	519-523-9531	James White	Director
Mary Gregg	Director		Susan Glousher	Director
Rhea Hamilton- Seeger	Director	519-612-1201	Larry Mohring	Director
			Liz Sangster	Director

*We are zooming into fall*

### Huron County Stone Gardens

September 15, 2021 at 7 p.m.

Liz Sangster will present a summary of research done during the past year on cemeteries in Huron County. As a local historian, master gardener, student of art history and author, Liz has a unique ability to describe many facets of how the lives of Huron County residents have been commemorated. Liz is fluent in the language of flowers, symbolism, and the Victorian cult of the dead. By contrast, Liz's sister, Pam, is a geoscientist and dimension stone expert who addresses the physical aspect of the cemetery in the landscape.

Initially, the goal of the study was to provide a more robust understanding of these sites from a heritage perspective. Plans were to provide guidelines on a standard approach to documenting sites. As work progressed, some plans were

modified to accommodate COVID restrictions to data. References, resource materials and suggestions for future study will be provided. Liz and Pam continue to work on their project.

**For getting the zoom link for Sept 15, 7 pm, all interested should email [hchs1965@gmail.com](mailto:hchs1965@gmail.com) to be notified of the login details.**



### Fall Cookbooks and Insights into Huron County Gaol Inmates

While our vaccinations numbers climb we are hopeful that we can return to in person meetings later this fall. Stay tuned on that. In the meantime you can zoom into our September meeting and learn more about our local cemeteries. While hard to believe, the small pioneer cemeteries are disappearing. The stones are dissolving, breaking up and without indicators the land reverts to farmland. There are laws against how these sites are handled but there is no education around what to do or how to protect this history. Liz will be covering some of these concerns as well.

On a more comforting note. How is your waistline? There has been a lot of baking going on while we were confined to our homes. Now that produce is coming off the gardens we are busy canning and freezing or simply enjoy fresh, fresh bounty. A tasty project is being pulled together by the **Culinary Historians of Canada**, which announced a new project, sponsored by a grant from the New Horizons for Seniors Program. Sorry we are late getting this info out to our membership but there is still time to submit your stories.

**Just a Bite: Summer Food Memories from Ontario Seniors** will be a collection of food memories from summers long past, a project to preserve and share youthful memories of meals eaten, gardens harvested, festivals celebrated, country fairs attended between the summer and fall equinoxes. They hope to hear from as many individuals, cultural groups, and geographical areas as possible around Ontario. While its final forms are still undetermined (booklet? website? recipe box? recurring program?), the collection is to be a repository of historical food memories for future researchers.

They have written a set of questions to elicit these summer food memories from participants. We have included two PDF versions of the same booklet: 1) the "Just a Bite fillable" can be answered by clicking into each on screen text box, and 2) the "Just a Bite printable" can be printed for handwritten answers. Which one you use is your choice. Or they would be happy to mail one or multiple paper copies to you.

Over the summer of 2021, the Just a Bite booklets will be shared widely among seniors' groups, cultural groups, clubs, institutions, associations, and service organizations. Please feel free to forward and share the booklet with members, colleagues, friends, and family. All memories welcome!

The date to return filled booklets is 30 September 2021 to either [justabite@culinaryhistorians.ca](mailto:justabite@culinaryhistorians.ca) or Culinary Historians of Canada, Box 149, 260 Adelaide Street East, Toronto, ON M5A 1N1.

## Membership renewal....

If you received this newsletter by mail, the date shown above your name on the address label is the year to which your membership is paid up, according to our records. Call Elaine Snell if you are not sure or need clarification. If you are in arrears, consider this a reminder that the membership fees are \$20. To reserve your member's hard copy of Historical Notes, keep your dues up to date. Copies of recent past Historical Notes are available from Elaine Snell at 519-523-9531 (past copies \$8.00 per copy).

*To access the members-only section for the Historical Notes or to do a search for names or places in the Historical Notes, go to*

[www.HuronCountyHistoricalSociety.ca](http://www.HuronCountyHistoricalSociety.ca), open the dropdown menu for Publications, click HCHS Members Login. If you cannot get access using the password, then check if your web browser is up to date.

*If the password is lost or not available readily, contact [hchs1965@gmail.com](mailto:hchs1965@gmail.com) or call 519-440-6206*

## Where to get your local History Books

And back copies of The Historical Notes – Fincher's and The Book Peddler both of Goderich, North Huron Citizen in Blyth, The Book Barn off Hwy 86 between Wingham and Whitechurch, The Village Bookshop, Bayfield and Bayfield Archives.

For a special gift or simply a thoughtful card to send consider using a cards featuring some of the iconic artwork of Jack McLaren. They are available for sale at Fincher's, and The Book Peddler in Goderich.



## Prisoner Profiles

A new publication takes a deeper look into the stories that are not often told from the Huron Gaol, with a particular focus on the inmates from the mid-1800s to early 1900s.

The book shares a combination of in-depth stories and shorter profiles of inmates housed that Huron Gaol, Goderich, including:

Ephraim Taylor, a black farmer and pioneer of the Wilberforce Colony who spent one day in the Gaol for debt in 1851.

Moses Madwayosh, an Anishinaabe man who served as an interpreter at an inquest while awaiting his own trial.

William Lee, the 'Jolly Tar' from the HMS Cherub, who spent more time in the Huron Gaol than aboard the Cherub while it was docked in Goderich harbour.

Mary Brady, whose only crime was one of poverty.

Maud Hamilton, the 'Lioness' of Goderich, who became the target of local media for her 'den of evil'.

May Gibson, who had been committed six times to three different correctional institutions before the age of 18.

Our own Sinead Cox, Senior Curator of the Huron County Museum, was the author of the book and found writing the book surprising, joyful and sad, "It demonstrated the diversity and the humanity of the inmates' stories."

"The Gaol today is a physical artifact and archive that allows us to remember these prisoners and imagine their lives in a more tangible and visceral way."

Books are available at the Museum gift shop for curbside pickup. To order a copy, call the Museum at 519-524-2686.

