



Pen & PADDLE

NUMBER 3

MARCH 2007

DAVID THOMPSON FANS UNITE! THE CHAMPLAIN SOCIETY RENEWS ITS BOND WITH "THE GREATEST OF ALL"

In the next year, Champlain Society members will have the opportunity to acquire a new edition of a very special book. David Thompson's *The Travels* is of singular importance to Canadians as it represents not only a spectacular geographical journey, but a spirited intellectual one as well. Thompson's scientific thinking and his insight into Native ways were unparalleled for the time in both range and thoroughness. When the Society's first edition of Thompson appeared in 1916 its editor, J.B. Tyrrell, called Thompson one of the greatest of all land geographers for his exploration and mapping of over 50,000 miles of the Canadian West, travels in which his wife Charlotte Small and their children often accompanied him between 1784 and 1812. Spearheading the project almost a hundred years later is a member of The Champlain Society's council, William E. Moreau. Recognizing that Thompson's *Travels* remained a "work in progress" throughout the explorer's last years, Moreau's edition will pre-

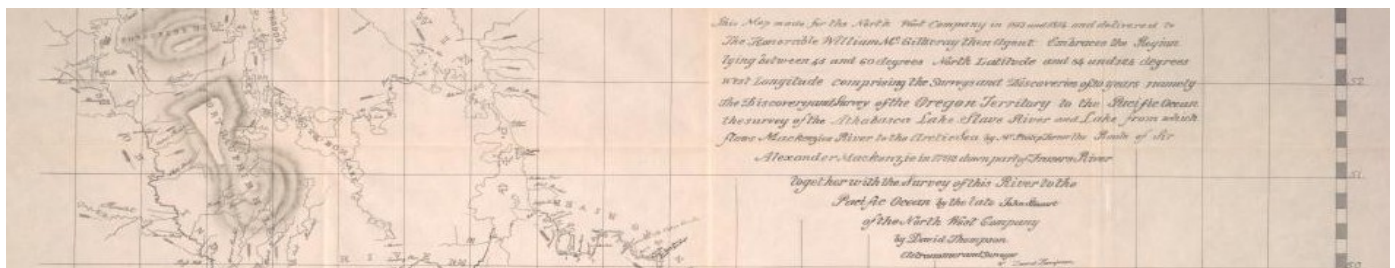
sent the work as it evolved, supplemented by maps, critical annotations, sections that Thompson wrote but never inserted, and by his journalism and letters. This edition will change the way we see Thompson.

From his intellectually and physically adventurous years with the Hudson's Bay Company and the North West Company to his declining years in Montreal, struggling in poverty and with blindness approaching, Thompson persisted indomitably with his writing. This new edition will bring Thompson's narrative faithfully to the general reader, and will ensure accurate citation by the scholars who so frequently refer to it. *Volume I* (2008) presents the 1850 version of the *Travels*, volumes *II* and *III* (to come later) will contain the 1848 version, with associated texts, and selections from Thompson's other writings.

The "new Thompson" is a joint initiative. The University of Washington Press and McGill-Queen's University Press first approached the Society with the idea of working collabora-

tively on Thompson. The Champlain Society agreed to take responsibility for preparing the edition and asked Moreau, whose doctoral work had been on the history of the Thompson's writings, to edit the work. Also involved in publication is the University of Winnipeg's Centre for Rupert's Land Studies, which brought welcome special expertise to the project. Publication of this new edition will also help to mark the David Thompson Bicentennial celebrations (2007-11) currently being organized. For further information on these celebrations, see www.davidthompson200.org/cms/. While *The Writings of David Thompson* is not part of the Society's regular series, its volumes will offered to members of the Champlain Society in advance of trade publication, at a reduced rate, and in the Society's emblematic red and gold binding. Watch your mail this fall for the descriptive flier!

Germaine Warkentin



UPPER CANADA'S HOPEFUL MERCHANT: AN INTERVIEW WITH ADAM CRERAR

The Champlain Society's 2006 publication is *The Letters of Adam Hope, 1834-1845*, a collection edited and introduced by Dr. Adam Crerar of Wilfrid Laurier University, and Mr. Thomas Crerar. Most of this large collection was written in Upper Canada by Adam Hope (1813-1882) and sent to his father, Robert, a tenant farmer in Scotland. Patrice Dutil, a Vice President of The Champlain Society, recently discussed the volume with Dr. Crerar in anticipation of its release in Spring 2007.

Patrice Dutil: *What attracted you to Adam Hope?*

Adam Crerar: Hope was my great-great-great-grandfather, and after my grandmother died in the mid 1980s the family collection of letters was passed down to my father. I was a history student at Huron College then, and one of my professors, Doug Leighton, kindly agreed to look at the letters when we were wondering about placing them in an archive. It was Doug — a longtime friend of the Society — who mentioned that they might be suitable for a Champlain volume. When I returned to the letters years later after completing my dissertation at University of Toronto I saw what he had meant. They were among the richest I'd seen for Upper Canada in the 1830s and 1840s — remarkably literate and engaging, and filled with information on the colony's society, economy, religion, communication, and politics.

Patrice: *Hope reveals himself in these pages as a young man full of liberal ideas. What did this mean in the mid 1830s?*

Adam: In Hope's time liberals tended to see government as a problem — as something that propped up the aristocracy and enforced the status of state religions at the expense of freedom of conscience. Adam Hope was a Unitarian and came from a tenant farming family, and was a big believer in the capacity of the individual to educate himself and make his own way in the world, so he was sympathetic to these efforts to reduce the state's support for established privilege. And these were heady times to be a British liberal — think of Catholic Emancipation, the broadening of suffrage in the Reform Act of 1832, and the end to slavery in the British Empire.

Patrice: *Hope had a bit of a relationship with William Lyon Mackenzie. How would you describe it?*

Adam: In his first years in Upper Canada, Hope saw his new home very much as Mackenzie saw it. Prior to leaving Scotland he had read Mackenzie's *Sketches of Canada and the United States*, and once in Upper Canada he cheered on Mackenzie's efforts in the Assembly to introduce voting by ballot, increase the number of elective offices, and limit the power of the Church of England. He subscribed to Mackenzie's radical *Constitution* right up to its last issue, which was printed just prior to the

Rebellion, and exchanged admiring letters with him.

Patrice: *So Hope supported Mackenzie's uprising?*

Adam: Well, no, actually — and this is the incredible thing: he even took up arms to help quell the part of the rebellion near Brantford that was associated with Charles Duncombe. It seems like a repudiation of everything he stood for him to have done so, but the letters trace the remarkable political journey that brought him to this position and allow us to make some sense of it. Even though he continued to read Mackenzie until the open fighting, he had soured on what he saw as his fellow Scot's ignorance of economic matters and sympathy for American forms of government. Hope had once been a fan of the United States — had once intended on settling there — but came to feel that the republic's support for slavery made a mockery of its apparent liberalism.

Patrice: *Did the fact that just prior to the Rebellion Hope had established himself as co-owner of a store in St. Thomas have anything to do with his moderating views?*

Adam Crerar: Oh, absolutely. For three years he had worked as a clerk in Hamilton to give himself the chance to have his own business, and there's no question that he saw the violence and political uncertainty brought on by the Rebellion as a threat to that success. So part of Hope's reaction was self-interest: the letters show

him scrambling to demonstrate his loyalty and to avoid the fate of those non-rebelling Mackenzie sympathizers who were rounded up by the authorities in the wake of the fighting. More than anything, though, Hope's letters show how an Upper Canadian reformer could support many of Mackenzie's goals, and admire his talents as a propagandist, without embracing his methods. Given that many Upper Canadians thought in this way, and that a pragmatic liberalism — or progressive conservatism? —

became central to Ontario's political culture, Hope's evolution was far from idiosyncratic.

Patrice: *What was it like to run a store in Upper Canada in these years?*

Adam: It was hard work! When he worked in Hamilton Hope regularly put in 12-hour days, but it's clear that little changed even after he opened his own store in St. Thomas—if anything, the work was physically harder: instead of just keeping the books and minding the counter he was hauling grain and pork. The modest prosperity of the business

allowed for some luxuries—a stay at the Astor House hotel in New York while on a buying trip, for example—but until he married in 1840 the firm was, as he put it, his “sitting room,” and the “office and Back shop” was his bedroom. And always there were risks that could end even a modest good fortune in a few minutes: only wind direction, wet blankets, and efforts that left his face scorched saved Hope's business from a fire that swept through St. Thomas in 1841.

Philip Girard wins the 2006 Floyd S. Chalmers Award in Ontario History at The Society's Annual Meeting

The 100th annual meeting of The Champlain Society was held at the City of Toronto Archives on Saturday, October 24, 2006. The agenda began with the usual array of business reports. While the Society's financial situation has improved and is on a secure footing for the present time, a steady decline in membership is a cause for future concern.

As the Society's President, Michael Moir, noted in his report to Members, the Internet has created an expectation of free access to digitized historical documents. These web sites usually lack the contextual analysis of scholarly editors, peer review, and other features that make the Society's volumes significant contributions to Canada's historical literature. The Society has a queue of publishing projects stretching well into the next decade, indicating that scholarly interest in documentary editing remains strong despite the allure of scanning,

OCR software, and free-text searching of primary sources. These important editing projects, however, cannot continue without the sustained support of a strong membership base.

The presentation of the prestigious Floyd S. Chalmers Award in Ontario History is always a highlight of the annual meeting. The Society has administered this competition for over 20 years. The jury panel for 2006 was chaired by Dr. Ruth Compton Brouwer, Professor of History at the University of Western Ontario, and included Dr. Carl Berger, Professor Emeritus at the University of Toronto, and Dr. Françoise Noël, Professor of History at Nipissing University. Dr. Jeanne Beck administers the Award.

The most recent winner of the Chalmers Award is Philip Girard of the Dalhousie Law School for his book *Bora Laskin: Bringing Law to Life*, published by the University of Toronto Press for the Osgoode Society for Ca-

nadian Legal History. The jury described this biography of Canada's former Chief Justice of the Supreme Court as “an artful and wonderful contribution to our understanding of Ontario's history.”

The Society also welcomed three Members who have joined the Champlain Council for a three-year term to end in 2009. They are: **Dr Sarah Carter**, Professor of History and a Henry Marshall Tory Chair at the University of Alberta; **Dr William Waiser**, Professor of History at the University of Saskatchewan and a former director of Canada's National History Society; and **Dr J. David Wood**, an historical geographer recently retired from York University.

The meeting concluded with a presentation by Dr. Adam Crerar on his work with the letters of Adam Hope, and a reception to celebrate the Chalmers Award.

WHAT'S NEW

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Are you moving?
Do you have a new email address?

Send us your new information so we can keep in touch with you. Mail it to the address at the right or email info@champlainsociety.ca.

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With Us!

Upcoming Events
& Publications

The Society is pleased to present the following schedule for its publications, which may be subject to change as projects unfold during the coming years:

- *The Letters of Adam Hope, 1834-1845*. Edited by Adam Crerar and Thomas Crerar. Spring 2007.
- *The Meaning of Life: The Scientific and Social Experiences of Everitt and Robert Murray, 1930-1964*. Edited by Donald H. Avery and Mark Eaton. Fall 2007.
- *The Writings of David Thompson*. Edited by William E. Moreau. 3 volumes, with volume 1 scheduled for 2008.
- *The Works of Samuel de Champlain, 2nd Edition*. Edited by Conrad Heidenreich and Janet Ritch. 6 volumes, with volume 1 scheduled for 2008.
- *The Letters and Diaries of Harry Cassidy and Beatrice Pearce: The Courtship Years*. Edited by Keith Walden. 2009.
- *The Voyages of Pierre-Esprit Radisson*. Edited by Germaine Warkentin. 2010.

For more than one hundred years, **The Champlain Society** has increased public awareness of and access to Canada's rich documentary heritage. Our goals are

- to publish Canadian documentary materials edited and produced to the highest standards both for members of the Society and for the public at large;
- to assist the Canadian public to a better understanding of the nation's past through occasional public lectures, seminars, colloquia, conferences and the publication of occasional papers;
- to serve as an advocate on the proper care of and accessibility to Canada's historical records; and
- to increase participation in the work of the Society by enlarging and broadening the membership.



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www.champlainsociety.ca

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