



"A HISTORY OF LACHUTE"

The Brownsburg-Lachute Rotary Club has taken upon itself the publication of this book, "A History of Lachute" written by one of its members Dr. G. R. Rigby, who has graciously turned his efforts over to the Club's welfare programme. The following biography gives a glimpse of the author's background and qualifications.

about the author.. .

Dr. G. R. Rigby is a native of Stoke-on-Trent Staffordshire England, and is a graduate of Imperial College, London where he was awarded the degrees of Doctor of Philosophy and Doctor of Science. On leaving the University, Dr. Rigby joined the staff of the British Refractories Research Association and later, when the Association expanded its field and became the British Ceramic Research Association, was appointed Assistant Director in charge of all research on refractory or high temperature materials. He came to Canada in 1957 to accept the position of Director of Research for Canadian Refractories Limited.

Dr. Rigby has achieved an international reputation in the field of refractories and has presented papers in most of the capital cities of Europe while attending the European Ceramic Congress. He presented his latest paper in Brussels in October, 1964. In all he is the author or joint author of more than 100 research papers, mainly dealing with the chemistry of oxides and silicates. Dr. Rigby has also specialized in the mineralogical aspect of ceramic materials and has written a book on this subject which has become a standard reference work in many laboratories.

Dr. Rigby is a member of several scientific societies. In 1948 he was presented with the Beilby Memorial Award of the Royal Institute of Chemistry for his research. He is a past member of the Councils of the Institute of Ceramics and the Mineralogical Society and has the proud distinction of serving on the executive committees of the British, Canadian and American Ceramic Societies all during the same year. Later this year, he will undertake a lecture tour through academic and research centres in Southern Ontario at the invitation of the Chemical Institute of Canada.

When in England, Dr. Rigby was also well-known as an archaeologist. The North Staffordshire Field Club awarded him the Lynam prize for a thesis on church architecture.

A HISTORY OF LACHUTE

"From its earliest times to January 1, 1964".

By: G. R. Rigby Ph.D., D.Sc.

Director of Research,

Canadian Refractories Ltd.,

Marelan, P.Q.

Argenteuil County.

This history is affectionately dedicated to my Godchild,

MELANIE JANE DAVIES,

as representing the younger generation of Lachute.

PREFACE

IT HAS BEEN facetiously said that the History of Canada can be told in one sentence, 'Canada was once a country occupied by the Indians; in the 17th Century, the French came and settled the Indians; in the 18th Century, the English came and settled the French; and in the 20th Century, the Americans came and settled for 10 per cent !'

Lachute does not follow this pattern, for the Americans settled first and the French settled last. But this non-conformity is not in itself sufficient to justify writing a History of Lachute.

It would be truer to say that this has been inspired mainly by the abiding affection which the older people have for their town and by the hope that it may encourage the growth of similar sentiments in the next generation.

It is impossible to acknowledge all the sources of help in writing this book. Much of the information in the first chapters is drawn from F. C. Ireland's "Sketches of Lachute" published by the Watchman in 1888, and from C. Thomas' "History of Argenteuil, 1896."

The data for the remaining chapters have been supplied mainly from the Watchman's files, and I should like to acknowledge my indebtedness to the Giles family for allowing me complete access to this invaluable source of information.

I would also like to thank all those older people of Lachute who have performed miracles of mental gymnastics in resuscitating the past and for allowing me to reproduce their illustrations. I would also like to pay tribute to Mrs. C. Duncan

and Miss H. Smith who have given me sustained encouragement that this book is a worthwhile venture; to my daughter, Diana (Mrs. J. Herzog) , for her many suggestions; to Mrs. A. Prentiss for typing the text and to Mr. H. Ladurantaye for assistance with the photography.

I am pleased and grateful that the Brownsburg-Lachute Rotary Club has consented to assume the task of publishing this history as one of their Community projects. Accordingly, all profits accruing from its sale will be utilized by the Club to further those Community efforts that it deems most worthy of support.

— G. R. Rigby