

# The Heritage Gazette of the Trent Valley

## Volume 10, number 1, May 2005

### Table of Contents

Trent Valley Archives .....	2	
Trent Valley Archives celebrates an Open House .....Jeff Leal, MPP and Susan Dorfman-Kyle	2	
The Life of William Roxburgh of Norwood, part I1 .....	3	Frank Roxburgh
A Rocky Path for Ontario's Land Records .....	7	Gina Martin
'We are what we keep': Canada's archives are in crisis .....	10	Guy Vanderhaeghe
Canadian Historical Association Report on the release of the historical censuses: Bill S-18		
	11	Terry Cook
Thrilling Story of Girl Rescued from Grave .....	13	Wide World Magazine
Workmen found skeleton in rear of post office .....	15	Peterborough Examiner, 1911
Anniversaries 2005		
Peterborough the Electric City: 100 years later .....	16	Elwood Jones
Building Peterborough's Edwardian House: American Style .....	17	
A Great Hockey Town Could be Great at Lacrosse .....	17	H. R. H. Kenner, 1904
Aldermen Settle Down to Business .....	18	Peterborough Review, 1904
Seeking a site for the Peterborough Armouries, 1904 .....	19	Peterborough Review
Gordon Roper .....	20	Michael Peterman
Queries .....	21	Diane Robnik
Bannon, Creswell - Watt, McFadyen, Miller & Firth Wind Mill Co., Peterson, Douro Dummer Cemeteries		
William Hepburn Scott, Mayor and MP .....	21	Elwood Jones
Former Mayor Dead: Mr William Toole .....	22	Peterborough Review 1904
Gene sleuths study skull believed to be that of pirate from 14 <sup>th</sup> century .....	23	
Upper Canada Documentary History Project: A J Christie's <i>Emigrant Assistant</i> (1821) .....	23	
Wall of Honour and Confederation Park .....	25	Elwood Jones
News, View and Reviews .....	26	
TVA Publications Program Off and Running .....	27	
Burials from St John's English Church, Peterborough, 1842-1844 .....	28	
Trent Valley Archives: upcoming events .....	30	
Edwardian Peterborough Conference, May 2005 .....	31	Elwood Jones
Trent Valley Archives .....	32	
Peterborough's Centennial .....	32	
Trent University Archives "documents the modern" .....	32	
Trent Valley Archives; Nexicom Communications .....		Inside covers

Cover photo: Peterborough celebrations bring big crowds to the Little Lake Marina [photo by Art Dainton, 2004]

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*Reading Room open  
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## President's Report

### Trent Valley Archives Celebrates an Open House

Peterborough – At an Open House on Wednesday, Ontario Trillium Foundation volunteer Glenn Hodge offered his congratulations to the staff and volunteers of the Trent Valley Archives after seeing the results of a \$24,200 grant the group received from the Ontario Trillium Foundation in March 2004.

"I'm very pleased to see that the Ontario Trillium Foundation awarded a grant to the Trent Valley Archives last year to make these improvements for the way in which people can now access our community's past," said MPP Jeff Leal, who was unable to attend the Open House as the Legislature was sitting. "Peterborough has a rich heritage and thanks to this grant, local residents and visitors will have improved access to that history."

The one-year grant was made to the Trent Valley Archives so that they could purchase additional microfilm, new shelving to store their records, reference books, a computer and a digital microfilm reader. This new material will be of tremendous use to those who are doing research, especially the digital microfilm reader, which will increase the speed of information retrieval and can be used in a well-lit room, unlike traditional microfilm readers.

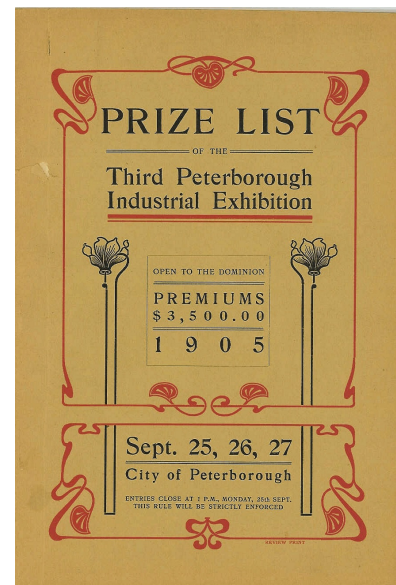
The Trent Valley Archives was created in the late 1980's and its mission is to store, protect, preserve and interpret local archival and heritage materials. The staff and volunteers have dedicated much time and effort to making the documented history of Peterborough available to the public and genealogists.

The Ontario Trillium Foundation, an agency of the Ministry of Culture, receives annually \$100 million of government funding generated through Ontario's charity casino initiative.

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*Susan Dorfman-Kyle*



*This is a special issue to mark some events leading up to the incorporation of Peterborough. This cover from the fair captures the spirit of the times very well. [TVA, Peterborough Exhibition fonds]*

## Researchers at work in the Trent



*Valley Archives Reading Room, May 2005.*

## THE LIFE OF WILLIAM ROXBURGH OF NORWOOD

*His son, Frank Roxburgh,  
1 December 1908*

*Editor's note: Thanks to Andre Dorfman for arranging this feature, and thanks to the descendants, Sally McComb and Shelagh Landsmann, who lent this excellent family biography. It is based on a superb diary which we hope to see someday. All genealogists and family historians could wish for such a fine telling of a family legend. The first instalment appeared in the Heritage Gazette of the Trent Valley for February 2005.*

### [Part Two]

Soon after Roxburgh converting the rough cast structure into a fine brick block for store and office purposes. P. W. Reynolds moved into the new store on the corner 23 April 1884. About the same time Roxburgh entered into a partnership with Thos. Rork to build an elevator and engage in the grain business. A 20 year lease of land was obtained from the C.P.R. and 2 July the excavation began. The elevator was finished in the course of a few months and on 30 October 1884 Roxburgh and Rork bought their first load of grain. The grain business assumed large proportions from the first.

He was appointed Commissioner of the High Court of Justice in and for the Province of Ontario and Dominion of Canada on 16 September 1885.

Roxburgh was constantly engaged in building operations. He added new stores to his corner block on the lots on Colborne Street which formerly made the garden. He was still secretary treasurer of the Agricultural Society and the Church. As well, he undertook the Bookkeeping and Banking business of Jno. Findlay and Son, a large manufacturing concern of Norwood. He spent a week at the General Assembly in June 1883 in London and June 1884 in Montreal. He also to take the Annual Outing with the family at Stoney Lake. In 1884 the long drive was made by way of Warsaw to Gilchrist Bay from which point camping supplies were conveyed by boat to Boshink where the camps were set up for the season; Miss Anderson of Whitby, James Meikle and John Clark being members of the party this year. In 1885 the camp was changed to Grape Island, afterwards known as Hilliard's Island, in the upper part of the lake. He tried to purchase an island, but was forestalled by Hilliard who was a better friend of the Conservative Government. In 1886 the outing was taken on a big island on the Northern shore near Eel's Creek, known as "Wildcat". This was partly purchased but having been overrun with fire, it was abandoned, and has since been developed into a granite quarry.

On 29 April 1887, while engaged in housecleaning Edith's rooms, Mrs. Roxburgh fell from a table to the floor, striking her head so heavily that the brain was

affected. She lay very ill for many weeks, but during the summer recovered sufficiently to make a four week visit to Cobourg and Uxbridge. Roxburgh was able to attend the General Assembly which met at Winnipeg; with a party of 75 Commissioners he went to Vancouver and the Coast before coming home by boat from Port Arthur. He thus describes the trip through the finest part of the mountains: "The run yesterday evening from Golden City to the summit of the Rockies was most exciting. With our engine in front and an enormously powerful mountain engine behind, we ascended the awful gorge to the summit at Mt. Hector, the grade being 41/2 feet to the hundred. The Mountain [Mt. Stephen] towering above us on the right and the deep canyon of the Kicking-Horse many hundred feet below, excited a feeling of awe and fear, as the snapping of a link, the inefficiency of a brake, the spreading of a rail or any of the countless little things that might happen, would have resulted in a catastrophe terrible to think of."

The family had the annual outing at Stoney Lake, accompanied by Miss Annie Sutherland, Mrs. Wm. Cameron and her son Gordon, locating at Otter Island, near which the American Canoe Association (A.C.A) was meeting for the season.

In October 1887 Mrs. Roxburgh was taken very ill again, but again recovered and able to look after four of the children who were taken down with the measles. It may have been that the friends in the church had a premonition of the sad event that was approaching for Xmas evening at the S. School entertainment, the congregation presented Mr. and Mrs. Roxburgh with a beautiful silver service in recognition of their long and faithful services in connection with the church. One week after this kindly recognition, while attending a party at her sisters, Mrs. Wm. Fowlds in Hastings, Mrs. Roxburgh was again suddenly taken ill, and it was five days before she could be brought to her home. Towards Spring her condition was so much improved that Mr. Roxburgh determined on a visit to Scotland, in the hope of a change bringing about a permanent recovery. On the 26<sup>th</sup> of June, in company with Mr. and Mrs. Wm. Fowlds the party sailed for the old land, leaving Montreal by the steamer "Sarnia", bound for Liverpool. The voyage over was very enjoyable, fair weather and congenial company combining to make the trip pass pleasantly. Some time was spent with the Roxburghs of Glasgow, and then while the two ladies visited with the Turners at Helensburgh, their husbands went on a jaunt, spending a week a London, and another at Paris, where the many places of world renowned interest were visited. After turning to Glasgow, Mr. Roxburgh having had some illness in the meantime, the whole party visited Edinburgh, and amid old scenes in the neighborhood of Galston and Glasgow, and again sailed on Sept. 1<sup>st</sup> for Canada. Rough weather and seasickness were experienced on the return journey, but on the 14<sup>th</sup>

of the month they were warmly welcomed by the family and friends, the village band joining in the celebration of the home coming.

While the parents were in Scotland, the responsibility of the home and business, was borne by Edith, the eldest child, then a young lady of 22 years. John Clark, an old reliable family friend took some of the children and their friends on the annual outing to Stoney Lake. The party camped for the first time on the island that has since become "Rockland", the permanent summer home. While at camp, Frank was taken down with a mild attack of typhoid fever; after being brought home to Norwood, he soon recovered.

The day after the travellers returned from Scotland, Mrs. Roxburgh was again laid low with her old trouble, and four days later, on 19 September, Edith contracted a sickness which turned out to be typhoid fever. The strain of the summer had been too great for her strength and she was unable to throw off the disease. She grew rapidly worse and when congestion of the brain set in on the night of 2 October her condition became alarming. In spite of the Doctors, she continued to sink and she died at noon the following day. Her father recorded: "What a crushing blow! In the full bloom of early womanhood, the pride of my life, gone!"

Mrs. Roxburgh continued to grow worse. On Sunday, 19 November Roxburgh could not leave her long enough to attend the regular church services. On Monday she was so drowsy that the Doctor told those in charge to keep her walking, but in spite of all, she fell into a heavy sleep. From this time, on, she was unconscious, only occasionally recognizing those around her, naming her husband for the last time on the 22<sup>nd</sup>. All muscular action having ceased, she continued breathing laboredly, and still struggling for life until the end drew near, and on 28 November at five o'clock in the morning, she breathed her last. These are the words of the bereaved husband: "Oh, how soon she was called to join darling Edith. They are happy, but sadness and gloom fills our once happy, happy home. O God, we pray for grace to sustain us in this time of our deep and terrible affliction. The Lord has but taken away. Blessed be His holy name."

These were the darkest days of his whole life. He went about his daily duties with a haggard look, and his nights were spent sighing. Bereft of his wife and daughter, he was left alone to care for the five remaining children; Frank, the eldest was a boy in the High School and Gerald, the youngest, had not yet started to school. Liza Kent, a young lady with a quiet and gentle manner, continued to act as housekeeper, until the following year, when she was discovered to be a pilferer, and the head of the home discharged her "for a breach of trust, of the grossest kind".

In March 1889, Mrs. Capt. Manson (Margaret Ewing of earlier days) came to assume some share of the

responsibility and help her cousin. Gerald started school at Easter. Roxburgh went to the Presbyterian Assembly at Toronto in June. He also added two new stores to the block on Colborne Street, and the family had its annual outing at Stoney Lake, on Rockland, Island No. 72. Roxburgh and John Clark soon purchased the island. During the Fall of 1889, Frank having matriculated, started off to the University of Toronto.

Early in the summer of 1890 Roxburgh began building the summer cottage on Rockland. During that camping season Mrs. Manson was thrown unexpectedly into the water in an accident at Robb's Landing. She never fully recovered from the shock. In September she was taken to Toronto, to the hospital, and two years later died in the Home for Incurables.

An old friend and servant of the family, Miss Lisa Rork, took Mrs. Manson's place in November 1890. Her kindly heart was much appreciated by the children, even though she lacked the aptitude for carrying on the social interests of the home.

About this time Roxburgh faced a serious business reverse. Wheat, bought at a high figure, had to be sold at a loss of about \$8000. The loss was not recovered the next season; anxiety and worry over finances became a part of his nature.

Three entries in his diary of 1891 link his thoughts to the old land. During the year his cousin Wm. Roxburgh died at "Glencairn", Scotland; his aunt Mrs. Jno. Scott died at the age of 80, and Miss Agnes and Miss Jessie Turner came from Helensburgh to make a year's visit with friends in Canada. During June of this year, he attended the General Assembly at Kingston accompanied by Beatrice, and was present at the funeral of Sir John A. MacDonald.

Early in 1892 Frank returned from Toronto University, recovering from a attack of quinsy, an inflammation of the throat; Gerald and Bruce soon had the same disease. The boys seemed on the way to recovery, when on 16 January Bruce's condition became alarming, and despite the efforts of both Doctors Pettigrew and Ford, he suddenly collapsed in his father's arms, and died. The lonely father in June 1892 brought his cousin, Isabella Ewing Cameron, from Scotland to be his wife. The new Mrs. Roxburgh had lost her first husband, Wm. Cameron, in 1882 and alone had been rearing her four boys. Douglas died in 1890; Gordon was married in 1892; and Wilson and Ross came with her to Norwood. The wedding ceremony was performed by the Rev. Dr. Wallace, assisted by the Rev. Dr. Neil, at the home of Mrs. Wm. Houston, 67 Madison Ave., Toronto; Frank and Beatrice were present. They took a trip to Albany and New York. Later that year, Beatrice was taken down with diphtheria, and Gerald dislocated his hip playing football. Still the family home became a place of fonder memories as the years rolled by.

During this year Mrs. Almira G. Foley died leaving Mr. Roxburgh in company with Mr. R.C. Steel and Mr.

Thos. Grover as the executors of her estate, and to this task much of his time and talent were given till towards the close of his life. He still lived his busy life, working early in the morning and late in the evening, transforming the grounds around "Cessnock" into a garden of beauty, and spending the business hours of the day in administering the affairs of the elevator, the hub and wheel factory, the Agricultural Society and the Church. He also did a considerable business in life and fire insurance, issuing marriage licenses, and conveyancing, many of the people of the surrounding community looking to him for sane advice on matters of private business.

In the family circle changes were taking place. In 1893 Beatrice went to Toronto to attend the Presbyterian Ladies College, and to further her musical studies. In 1894 Frank graduated with honors in science from Toronto University, while the other boys, Jack, Ross, Gerald and Wilson were proceeding with their studies in the High School at home. A little later Ross entered the Union Bank at Norwood as Junior, and Jack, having completed the High School Course, began to assist his father in his many interests. These were among the happiest years of the family life, especially during the summer when the different members gathered at "Rocklands" the Summer home for a month or six weeks' outing. Mr. Roxburgh while in his prime thoroughly enjoyed "the lake". He entered heartily into the merry making of the younger generation, whether it was for a day's picnic, a sailing race, or a campfire with its stories and songs. It was only later, when his powers began to weaken, that worry and anxiety grew upon him, until the risks and adventures, which at one time gave him pleasure, turned to give him pain.

In 1897 he received a blow from which he never recovered. About 4 o'clock in the morning of 20 April the family was roused by the cry of "Fire!" On reaching the scene it was discovered that the fire was in the rear of the brick block on Colborne Street, and threatening to take possession of the buildings at any moment. The fire fighting apparatus was very inadequate, and soon the splendid row of shops was at the mercy of the flames. The occupants of the various stores carried out their stuff, while the counters, fixtures and plate glass windows were removed, but by 9 o'clock there was little left, as far as Mr. Roxburgh was concerned, but a smoking mass of ruins. A block of buildings comprising 15 or 18 stores with offices and residences overhead, some of them newly built, was reduced to ashes. The block was valued at \$25 000; the insurance to cover the loss was only \$8 000. As his mental powers gave way a little later, people knew that this had more to do with it than anything else. However, with his usual pluck and enterprise, he soon began the work of rebuilding, and the splendid block that graces the corner of the street, at the present

day, dates from this time.

That same year Frank finished his divinity course at Knox College. Mr. and Mrs. Roxburgh and Mrs. Houston were present when he was ordained and inducted into his first charge, Bridgeburg and Fort Erie. At the same time Beatrice began teaching school at Keene, and Jack went to Havelock to look after the interests of the firm. Towards the close of the century, the family became more widely scattered. Frank, after two years in his charge, sailed for the Old Country with a view to study for a winter session in Edinburgh and spend the summer months in continental travel. Jack about the same time went West as far as Calgary to try his fortune in the new land. Beatrice, having completed three years of teaching at Keene, came home to prepare for her approaching marriage. Mr. Roxburgh was a delegate to the General Assembly which met in the City of Halifax in June 1900. For the first time in many years, the family was together for Christmas 1900. Frank came home from the Continent; Gordon and Molly visited from Peterboro; Jack came back from the West; Wilson came down from his work with the Imperial Life Insurance Company, Toronto; and, of course, Beatrice, Ross and Gerald were already in Norwood. The happy occasion was celebrated by gathering at the photographers for a family group.

When Mr. Rork was appointed Inland Revenue Officer by the Dominion Government about this time, the partnership in the grain business was dissolved. Jack soon entered into the business with his father; the new firm became Roxburgh and Son.

In 1901 Mrs. Roxburgh went to Scotland to renew old friendships and visit the scenes of childhood. During her absence, Mr. Roxburgh, with Frank, Gerald, and Wilson, visited the Pan American Exhibition at Buffalo, and later went to Smithville for Frank's induction into his second charge. Mrs. Roxburgh returned from Scotland in time for the September wedding of Beatrice, the only daughter. She wed Charles A. Stuart of Calgary at "Cessnock". The knot was tied by the Rev. James A. Sommerville of Norwood, assisted by the bride's brother. A. T. DeLury, B.A., of Toronto University and Miss Therese Fowlds B.A., of Hastings, were groomsman and bridesmaid.

Mr. Roxburgh retired from his church positions as Superintendent of the Sunday School, which he had been for a least 42 years, and as Secretary Treasurer of the Congregation, after 41 years of faithful service. The Sunday School, Board of Managers and Session fittingly marked the occasion by presenting him with a gold headed cane, and a pair of gold-rimmed spectacles, 21 April 1902. His diary of 28 August 1902 records the birth of his first grandchild, Allan Roxburgh Stuart, at Calgary. In June 1902, Jack married Miss Letitia Mahary of Peterboro. Except for Beatrice, all the family were present; Mr. Roxburgh, still vigorous, was an interested participant in the happy event.

During his twilight years, Mr Roxburgh enjoyed some recreations. As late as 1903 his diary tells of triumphs at the roaring game of curling, when he acted as vice skip on a conquering rink. Whist was his favorite game of cards, and quite frequently he dined or spent the evening with old time friends in the village. Until 1904 he spent annually some weeks of the summer at Stoney Lake.

The Roxburghs made the journey to Smithville for Frank's marriage on 3 June 1903 to Miss Elizabeth Brant of that place. Gerald was pursuing a course in electrical engineering at the School of Practical Science in Toronto; he graduated with a B.A. Sc. in the spring of 1905. His other children were comfortably settled in homes of their own.

By 1903 Mr. Roxburgh had occasional lapses of memory, and at times became confused about persons and places. He still continued to do business, however. He was in his office at the Bank Block every day, and in 1904 made the necessary arrangements for the sale and delivery of coal in the village. While the responsibility gradually came to be too much for him, he only relinquished little by little the burden and care of his many interests. He had been so self-reliant and resourceful, that it was hard for him to admit that his powers were declining.

In 1905 he gave up the leadership of the choir, a position he had held with great efficiency since 1863. Generations of singers had passed through his hands. In March 1905, the Masonic Lodge of Norwood, No. 223 unanimously made him an Honorary Member. In 1906, when he retired after 38 years as the Secretary Treasurer of the East Peterboro Agricultural Society, the Board of Directors presented him with a beautiful silver loving cup on behalf of the Association. His reply was remarkable under the circumstances and his old friends filed out of the house with their hearts deeply stirred.

In order to have expert opinion in reference to his condition, and everything possible done to prolong his life, he was taken to Toronto, and both Dr. John Ferguson and Dr. H. B. Anderson, took his case into their most serious consideration. He was suffering from Arterial Sclerosis, a disease of old age aggravated by the serious business reverses he had experienced and the many sorrows of his life. He slowly but steadily grew worse until he became unable to care for himself. By this time all the children had gone from the old home, to make homes for themselves in different parts of the land. Gerald was married to Miss Ida May MacDonald of Ottawa, on 2 April 1907. Mr. Roxburgh was unable to be present on this occasion. The last wedding he attended in connection with the family was in 1905, when he went to Barrie to be present at the marriage of Ross to Miss Janet Spry of that place.

For the last two or three years of his life Mrs. Roxburgh was his sole and constant companion.

Members of the family coming from time to time to vary the daily routine. Night and day she watched him, administered to his every need, gave him care which was perfect in its faithfulness. For the last year of his life, he had only occasional flashes of intelligence. During the last three months it might be said that he did not know even the one who scarcely was ever out of his sight. For the last week of his life he lay quietly breathing, only once or twice opening his eyes. When his pastor, the Rev. Geo. MacLennan, called one day and began to sing "Sun of My Soul", he opened his eyes, and joined with him in singing the words of that grand old hymn. The day before his death, his eyes again opened and as the same hymn was sung by those who were near, he endeavored to sing for the last time, but could do no more than keep time with his foot, and arch his brows with the rising music. He died 29 October at 9 o'clock, in his 74<sup>th</sup> year.

The funeral took place from "Cessnock" on Saturday afternoon, at 2 o'clock. Assisted by Rev. D.A. Thomson of Hastings, the Rev. Geo. A. MacLennan conducted the services, and spoke from Colossians 3:3. "Your life is hid with Christ in God". The Masonic service was conducted by W. Bro. Dr. Ford, and the singing was led by the choir over which Mr. Roxburgh had so long presided. There was a very large funeral cortege. Preceding the hearse were the High School Cadets in grey uniform, the member of the School Board, the directors of East Peterboro Agricultural Society, the Village Council and County Officials, the Oddfellows, and over one hundred Masons in regalia. The Honorary Pall-Bearers were Past Master of the Masonic Lodge, Bros. Sherry, R.A. Scott, Sharp, McNeil, J. C. Brown and W.H. Harper. The pall-bearers chosen by the family were J.B. Pearce, F. Birdsall, R.W. Waters, Thomas Rork, Robt, Burgess and Dr. Ford. After the mourners, were the host of friends who had come from all parts of the surrounding community to pay tribute. Beautiful floral tributes were presented by the Masons, Oddfellows, the Presbyterian Congregation and individual friends. The church bell tolled solemnly as the funeral cortege passed slowly through the streets of the village.

From the scores of letters received, the following extracts speak eloquently of the esteem in which he was held by friends and associates:

"A good and true man, one of nature's noble men, no need for titles or decoration, everyone recognized him as soon as he met him, as a Christian gentleman of a very high and rare type." Rev. R.D. Fraser, D.D.

"I have always warmly appreciated the personal friendship with which the late Mr. Roxburgh was kind enough to honor me, and will through life always keep in mind the regard with which he was good enough to favor me." Hon. J.R. Stratton, M.P.



**Descendants' Locations December 1991**

Marjorie & J. MacGregor and children	- Edmonton
Gwendolyn Tate and children	- Edmonton
Jean & Jim Gibb	- Sarnia
James Gibb	- Dallas, Tx.
Sandra	- Sarnia
Girl	- Lethbridge
Marjorie & C. Eric Stuart and children	- Calgary
Edward Roxburgh	- Vancouver
Jean Murdoch	- Toronto
Sally & Rod McComb	- Richmond Hill
Sue	
Robyn	
John	
Mary Sommerville	- Markham
Shelagh & Walter Landmann	- Stoney Lake
Tammy John Sommerville	- Caeserea
Tom & Janice Sommerville	- Port Perry
Jessica	
Gerald & Iola Roxburgh	- Winnipeg
Gerald	

"He was possessed of a bright mind and always of an earnest and Christian spirit. He leaves behind him a splendid heritage of integrity and of simple faith in God." Rev. W.G. Wallace, D.D.

"I have always had the highest respect for him." J.A. Sexsmith, M.P.

"Truly one of God's noblemen has entered into rest, after a long, useful and beneficial life." *The Presbyterian*.

"Mr. Roxburgh needs no storied urn or animated bust over his last resting place, to keep his memory green in the hearts of the thousands who held him in esteem in life and who mourn his loss in death." *Peterborough Examiner*.

[end part two]



This c. 1905 photo of the streetcar on George Street at Charlotte Street is most informative. Note the many people on the sidewalk, and the near invisibility of the snow-covered tracks. This photo is from the Gerry Stephenson fonds with the photographs of his grandparents, Mr and Mrs Joseph Sucee, Hunter Street East, Ashburnham.

## A Rocky Path for Ontario's Land Records.

Gina Martin

More than twenty years ago I took my first job as a title searcher and conveyancer with a Peterborough law firm and began to learn the ins and outs of the Ontario legal system regarding real estate. My world quickly became a sea of affidavits, undertakings, writs of execution and month end closing transactions. And deadlines! It seemed that every search I was given was marked "RUSH!". Lawyers concerned themselves with getting the deals closed and the Land Registrars with getting them recorded. Clients hurried to meet me at the Land Registry Office waiting for me to register the deeds and give them the keys to their new home. Banks wanted their mortgage payments and real estate agents wanted their commissions. The pace picked up even more once I left Peterborough and took a job with a large firm in Toronto where I moved from residential to primarily corporate real estate. The common thread everywhere was that everyone wanted work completed quickly so they could move onto the next project.

"How can you stand this?" everyone would ask me! The simple answer was that, to me, all of that was secondary. As I traveled between many of the Land Registry Offices in southern Ontario, searching titles and closing deals, I realized that, for me, the fascinating end of the job was working day in and day out with the land records. While the lawyers and bankers worried about the here and the now, my job was to uncover the past as it related to a particular piece of property. I found myself looking at original documents for family properties and reading the will of someone's great great grandfather. Often people would come into the Registry Office seeking help tracing their family properties and I was more than happy to oblige even though, as it occurred to me much later, I was "moonlighting" from my job. It was thrilling to watch their faces light up as they held in their hand a document signed by an ancestor. In short, I quickly discovered that the land records were an invaluable and fascinating historical source. The phrase "all this and a paycheck too" definitely applied to me!

As the years went by I learned more about the background of property registration in Ontario and realized that, as always, nothing happens in one single step. How we got to where we are now in terms of land registration in Ontario is quite fascinating. It is necessary to look at the early history of settlement and land tenure in central and eastern Canada.

Settlement began in the eastern region of Canada in the early part of the 17<sup>th</sup> century when French settlers first stepped onto the soil of "New France". French civil law immediately began to influence settlement as land was divided into long thin strips and the Seigniorial System went into effect. French settlers worked the land which ultimately belonged to the King of France. When Britain defeated the French in 1760 and the Treaty of Paris was drawn up in 1763, British territory included the Colony of Quebec and

encompassed what would become Upper Canada and, ultimately, the province of Ontario. The Colony was set up into four districts with further settlement plans drawn up for each one.

Even though the British Crown ruled, it was French civil law that still governed land ownership. Following the American Revolution of 1776 there was an influx of about ten thousand United Empire Loyalists into Ontario who quickly demanded a system of land tenure based on more British customs and laws. The initial plan was to set up townships six miles square but, with no standard for laying out lot sizes, some of the townships were still laid out with long narrow lots to accommodate French settlers. In 1789, Lord Dorchester established land boards in each of the districts to hopefully expedite settlement and satisfy the Loyalist demand for British influence. Finally, the Constitutional Act was passed in 1791 dividing the Colony of Quebec into Upper and Lower Canada, later known respectively as Ontario and Quebec. But by 1794 the land boards were abolished and surveys were made under the supervision of the Surveyor General. In August 1795, the Fourth Session of the First Parliament of Upper Canada finally passed the Registry Act of 1795 and the present day system of Ontario land registration was born. Under the Registry Act, a registry office was established for each area and a regulated system for registration was introduced. Although it has been modified several times, the Registry Act still governs much of Ontario today.

It is hard to believe that, during all of this activity, the area now known as Peterborough County lay untouched by white settlement. Indian encampments existed throughout the area and were connected by several rough portage trails, at least two of which survive today in the form of Chemong Road and the River Road. But other than Samuel de Champlain's stop in the area during the Iroquois wars and the passing through by a few fur traders there is little or no evidence of white visitors until the early part of the 19<sup>th</sup> century. Officially, the area fell within the Newcastle District, so named in 1802 when Durham and Northumberland were united by proclamation under Parliamentary law and any land registrations for the area took place in Cobourg. Unofficially, it was referred to as the "back lakes" while the nearby Loyalist populated Cobourg (or Amherst as it was first known) was known as "the Front". While the Crown Lands Department was issuing patents then for lands near Cobourg that had for years already been occupied by the United Empire Loyalists, the Government finally in 1818 awarded a contract to Legislative Council member, the Honourable Zaccheus Burnham, to survey the area north of Rice Lake. Such was the humble beginning of what we now know as Peterborough County.

Burnham employed deputy surveyors Richard E. Birdsall, John Huston and John Smith to complete the task of surveying all the Peterborough townships, a task taking more than seven years to complete. Birdsall surveyed Asphodel, Otonabee, Douro and, later, the town of Peterborough while John Huston surveyed Cavan, Emily, Monaghan, Ennismore, Harvey and Smith Townships to the west. Later, John Smith surveyed the back townships of Fenelon, Verulam, Burleigh, Methuen and an additional part of Harvey.

The surveyors were generally uniform in their work. Standard lots were 200 acres divided into 100 acre half lots for land tickets. The concessions were 100 chains apart (6600 feet or 1.25 miles) each with a road allowance of 60 feet. Every fifth lot had another concession road laid at right angles helping to provide the grid pattern of lots characterizing the townships.

The many lakes and rivers in the area meant that not all lots were uniform in size or dimension and some lot lines were set by the shorelines. These today are known as "broken lots" or "broken fronts".

The first surveys to be completed were for Smith and North Monaghan in 1818. Otonabee was completed in 1819, Asphodel in 1820, Harvey and Burleigh in 1822 and Douro, Dummer, Belmont and Methuen in 1823. Ennismore and Ops (now part of Victoria County) were completed in 1825. In surveying Monaghan, John Huston left a reserved area on the Otonabee River for the future survey of the town of Peterborough. This survey was completed in 1825 by Richard Birdsall and is still in use today. It is referred to at the Land Registry Office as "Town Plan 1".

With completion of the surveys in the Newcastle District came the huge task of dealing out the lots to prospective settlers. Before 1819 people wishing to settle had to go to the Surveyor-General at York and apply for a land ticket. But in 1819 the Land Boards were re-established for the various districts including one for Newcastle located at Cobourg. Anyone wishing to settle had to attend the Land Board, take an oath of allegiance and show intention to settle as well as prove why he was worthy of settlement. Once approved, he was then given a land ticket to be taken to a deputy-surveyor who took him to the land. He had two years to complete settlement duties which included clearing a certain amount of the land and building a home at least 18' by 20' in size. After this he could attend at York and apply for a patent to the land. Depending on what time of year settlement duties were completed, the two year rule was often waved as travel to York was difficult during the winter. It was not uncommon for a settler to receive a patent to his land as much as four years after receiving the original ticket.

There were a number of qualifications making an applicant eligible for a land ticket. Many were immigrants directed by land agents working for the government and came from economically depressed situations as with the Peter Robinson settlers. Others were United Empire Loyalists who automatically were given a ticket. There were also SOL and DOL tickets meaning "son of Loyalist" and "daughter of Loyalist". Military tickets were given to retirees of the British forces and also for those who could prove service to the Crown during the War of 1812. A quick perusal of the Land Board minutes at the Ontario Archives in Toronto shows that, over time, all of these different patents were handed out in the Peterborough area showing the diversity of its settlers.

On October 14, 1841, a proclamation established the Colborne District which separated Peterborough from "the Front" area of Cobourg and included what is now both Peterborough and Victoria Counties as well as part of present day Haliburton County. The townships included in the District were Belmont, Methuen, Burleigh, Dummer, Asphodel, Otonabee, Douro, North Monaghan, Smith, Ennismore and Harvey in Peterborough County and Verulam, Emily, Ops, Fenelon, Mariposa, Eldon, Bexley and Somerville in Victoria County. In February 1842 the first council for the new Colborne District was chosen and Captain Charles Rubidge (*See Appendix 1*) became the first Land Registrar with the first registrations taking place that same year at the newly built Land Registry Office next to the Court House. After this there were no more registrations at Cobourg for lands in Peterborough County.

In 1850 the Colborne District was divided into two political divisions known first as Peterborough County and later as The United Counties of Peterborough and Victoria



with the main seat being in Peterborough. Victoria County became a separate county in 1861 and in 1874 Haliburton County was established and further boundary changes took place to accommodate the new counties. The newly surveyed townships of Galway, Cavendish, Anstruther and Chandos also became part of Peterborough County.

From 1842 to the present, all land registrations for Peterborough County have been recorded at the Land Registry Office and all related documents have been filed. Every deed, mortgage, caution, and quitclaim has been put on public record. Every probated will has been registered in the General Register and filed accordingly. Records of partnership properties, Judge's Orders and bylaws were all put down for posterity. A perusal of the abstract books in which all transactions have been recorded shows ownership of property and allows the genealogist to track the movement of families. Deeds show not only who owned the land but other perhaps previously unknown data such as the name of a spouse or a place of residence. Wills often record the names of family members and give their locations and marital status. They name grandchildren and tell us what happened to a surviving spouse. Land documents also give us clues as to how a particular area became established and grew. Often a deed showing land being sold to a business such as a cheese factory or a threshing company would show up followed soon thereafter by a number of deeds registered for residential purposes. The presence of a business or factory often meant that people would move closer to their place of work and a small community would soon appear. Land Registry Offices then became their own archives of historical and genealogical data housing hundreds of thousands of documents registered across Ontario over the last two hundred years. Shockingly, all of this was eventually threatened by what we title searchers refer to as "the decision".

In the late 1980s, the Ontario government decided that the system of land registration in the province needed a serious overhaul. I should explain here that there are two systems of registration in Ontario but, until about 1980, only one was prevalent in Peterborough County. The previously mentioned Registry Act says that all prospective purchasers of land are responsible for securing and certifying their own titles. That means that a purchaser must have the property searched to make sure that all has been well over the last 40 years of ownership. All signatures were present, all legal affidavits and various taxes in place at the time of registration were signed and/or paid and the neighbour's property does not encroach over onto yours. Every time the property is sold or mortgaged a new search must be performed which looks at the title over the last 40 years. The other system is governed by the Land Titles Act, passed in 1885 but not introduced in Peterborough until about 1980. Instead of being responsible for certifying your own title as with the Registry Act, the Land Titles Act says that certification is the responsibility of the Registrar and that he need only certify once. Therefore, instead of searching back 40 years on a title you only have to search back to the time when the present owner purchased. If that was six months ago then you only look at the last six months of title. There is quite a difference then in both time and expense between the two systems, something the provincial government decided could no longer be ignored.

After approximately two hundred years of a well oiled system, the government decided that all titles in Ontario should be converted from the Registry system to Land Titles. This would eliminate the need for forty year searches and cut down on transaction time. Agencies popped up in the early 1990s with the sole purpose of searching all Registry

properties and converting them to Land Titles. This was done without the property owner's knowledge or consent. On its own the conversion to Land Titles would not have been a terrible decision. But the government also decided that if there is no longer the need to go back so far on a title then it is unnecessary to save all the old documents. They also decided to automate the land registration system and put everything online. Again this is not bad in principal. But if everything is inside a computer they reasoned that keeping the abstract books and ledgers was also a waste. Totally disregarding the historical worth of these documents and abstracts the government made the shocking decision to shred all documents and most abstracts prior to 1955 and to accept microfilm versions as the official document. Microfilm reels take up far less space than stacks and stacks of documents.

Once the shredding plan was announced it was not long before historians across Ontario became sharp thorns in the sides of the provincial government. In 1989, the heritage community organized a strong lobby group known as the Advisory Committee on Land Registry Office Records in Ontario and made its official report in 1990. This report secured a five year delay on the destruction of the records and made a number of recommendations. The Archives of Ontario had already suggested that they take all land documents registered prior to 1865.

Unfortunately the Advisory Committee's report came too late for some of the documents. In January 1990 the Land Registrars in Toronto decided that all documents prior to January 1950 would be shredded. Sitting at my desk in the County Registry Office at Toronto's Yonge and Dundas Streets during the first two weeks of February 1990, I could hardly get my work done with the sound of the shredders going in the back rooms. It took two industrial sized shredders thirteen full days to destroy 150 years of Toronto area land history. I remember thinking that an aggressive group of preservationists could not come fast enough if the other documents across the province were to be saved.

Land Registrars in Peterborough County since the establishment of the old Colborne District in 1842.

Captain Charles Rubidge - February 1842 - January 1873; Col. F. W. Haultain- March 1873 - 1883; Bernard Morrow - 19 January 1884 - 1922; William Frederick Morrow - July 4, 1922 - 1946; John Richard Corkery - 1946 - 1962; Helen O'Neill - 1963 - 1964; Madeline Flynn- 1964 - 1971; Reg Chandler - 1972 - 1981; Wayne Giles - 1981 - 1984; Bob Appleton - 1984 -2002; Anne Marie Bertrand - 2003 - present

*There have been at least two interim Land Registrars named to handle duties while waiting for a new Registrar to be named. Pauline Green was interim for several months after Wayne Giles left in 1984. Bahman Fazeli acted as interim for a time after Bob Appleton left.*

In 1996 the Association for the Preservation of Ontario's Land Registry Office Documents (APOLROD) was created by a group of people who not only wanted the documents saved but who also realized the shortcomings of the Advisory Committee's 1990 report. Neither the committee, the Archives of Ontario or the Ministry of Consumer and Commercial Relations that administered the Registry Offices had actually inventoried the holdings and, therefore, assumed that the only documents kept at the Registry Offices

pertained to land. They did not realize that, if they shredded everything as planned, they would not only destroy land records but also wills, partnership agreements, powers of attorney, company agreements and deposits. The latter are extremely valuable documents for the genealogist as they often explain title anomalies and contain such information as marriage data, business information and other information pertaining to families. Realizing that with all of the cuts proposed by the Ontario government in healthcare and education it was improbable that APOLROD could convince them to keep all the documents. So their mandate consisted of three points. First, they would secure a new stay of execution for all documents and abstracts. Secondly, they would organize local teams to prepare inventories of the holdings at all Ontario Land Registry Offices. Finally, they would help with the orderly dispersal of post 1865 documents to local heritage groups. The government finally agreed to these terms and volunteers from Peterborough County quickly went to work taking inventory of all the old documents and abstracts relevant to Peterborough County. Since 1985 the old abstract books had been stored in the basement of the Lindsay Court House where they had been painfully neglected and the documents were hastily removed from the Registry Office files and boxed up. Finally, in 2002, the Trent Valley Archives became the new custodian of all township and village abstracts for Peterborough County as well as all original documents registered between 1865 and 1955. The Archives of Ontario took all the pre-1865 documents and all post 1955 documents remain, for the time being, at the Land Registry Office in the Ministry of Natural Resources building at Charlotte and Water Streets where the public may go to view them free of charge.

When I think of the path that the land records have taken I am reminded of the phrase "one man's garbage is another man's gold". It astounds me to think that the Ontario government was so willing to discard such historical and genealogical treasures simply to save time and space. I try not to think of what may have been lost had it not been for the quick organization and dedication of so many of Ontario's heritage groups. These records represent our tie to the earliest days of Canadian history and have thankfully been preserved.

The land record holdings at the Trent Valley Archives have generated a lot of excitement as visitors seek to learn their family histories. Once again they thrill at seeing documents once held by their great great grandfathers. In early April we held a series of workshops as part of Archives Awareness Week aimed at teaching researchers how to glean all valuable information possible from the records. These

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## 'We are what we keep': Canada's archives are in crisis

Guy Vanderhaeghe

*Globe and Mail, 23 April 2005*

Lately Canadians appear to have caught the history bug. The airing of *Canada: a People's History* was treated as an occasion of national consequence, *The Museum Called Canada* is a bestseller, and the death of Pierre Berton was marked by expressions of gratitude for his popular Canadian histories.

Add to this the success of Canadian historical novels, of historically based television movies, and an outpouring of scholarly works by academic historians, and one would presume that the historical consciousness of Canada is hovering on a long-awaited maturity.

Yet the archives of this country, which are the underpinnings of this consciousness, are in a perilous position. Canadians have an acquaintance with libraries, museums, art galleries, concert halls, and theatres, either as willing visitors, or because we were once press-ganged into school tours of them as children. But archives remain largely invisible to the public, and the essential work they do passes largely unnoticed.

The Canadian Council of Archives represents about 800 members encompassing the largest provincial, territorial, university and municipal archives as well as the tiniest of volunteer community archives. They hold tens of thousands of collections and millions of photographs reflecting Canadian life, from passenger lists of immigrant ships, government minutes, diaries of settlers and early newspapers to the papers of Canadian writers, artists and musicians – merely to skim the surface.

Expensive environmental controls are necessary to preserve aging, brittle paper, and archival work is extremely labour-intensive: Archivists must pore over volumes of material, organize it and write users' manuals so researchers can locate information. The federal government provides assistance to the Canadian Council of Archives to fund projects, train staff and co-ordinate programs. In 1992-93, this budget was roughly \$2.8 million, but by 1998-99 it had fallen to \$1.8 million. (If no cuts had been instituted and funding had kept pace with inflation, the CCA grant would now be \$3.5 million.)

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t of 51 per cent of this country's archives is \$50,000 or less, and in a third of the archives 41 per cent of holdings remain unprocessed and therefore inaccessible.

More alarming, archives reports that annual rates of acquisition have increased 200 to 700 per cent since 1985. In little more than a year, all storage space will be exhausted.

Statistics are a bloodless affair, apt to bewilder rather than enlighten. What do these figures mean? Certainly they suggest that part of our heritage is in danger. Certainly they suggest that the federal government ought to play a larger role in helping archives, and in particular our smaller institutions, to collect, preserve and make usable the raw stuff from which the narratives of this nation can be constructed. Archivists have a saying: "We are what we keep." What we do not keep now is likely to be forever lost, inducing historical amnesia.

People researching their family's genealogy consult archives; land claim settlements between first nations and governments often hinge on archival records; veterans seeking benefits may need to appeal to documents contained in an archives. They provide innumerable "practical" services to our citizens.

But even if most Canadians never consult archives in this fashion, hundreds of thousands of us enjoy or reference materials that depend on archives. Iconic works such as Pierre Berton's *The National Dream* could not have been written without recourse to them. Margaret Atwood's novel *Alias Grace* credits the assistance of seven different archives in its acknowledgements page. Daily, Canadians consume the fruits of archives when they read novels and histories, watch television and theatre, or even view advertising.

Our sense of ourselves, our hopes for the future rely on an informed engagement with the past. The ultimate source of the stories we have told about ourselves, the fashion in which we revise and amend them in future, rests on accurate archival resources. But because Canada's archives are the least glamorous of cultural institutions, they have suffered neglect.

As the old saying goes, the squeaky wheel gets the grease. But the loudness of the squeak is not a measure of importance. Governments need to recognize that our identity as a people, any debate about that identity and any coherent discussion of the successes and failures of Canadian democracy are possible only if we have the means to explore issues intelligently. Those means reside in our archives, and they are under threat.

The concluding page of one of the great Canadian historical novels, Timothy Findley's *The Wars*, reveals its narrator in an archives, arranging letters, telegrams and photos as the archivist moves about the researchers at closing time, saying gently, "Late, it's late."

Nearly 30 years after that novel's publication, the archivist's words seem prophetic. It is late, time is running out. This deplorable situation needs to be corrected now.

Guy Vanderhaeghe is the author, most recently, of *The Last Crossing*. Thanks to John Court for drawing this excellent column to the attention of the editor.

Gina Martin with some workshop participants look at land records in the Trent Valley Archives, May 2005.

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## The Canadian Historical Association report on the release of the Historical Censuses: Bill S-18

*Terry Cook*

On 2 November 2004, the Government of Canada tabled Bill S-18 in the Senate to amend the Statistics Act, and thereby release the historical censuses of Canada to researchers. This is a significant victory for historians, archivists, genealogists, and very much welcomed by the CHA.

The CHA has lobbied hard for almost a decade for the release of post-1901 historical censuses of Canada. Those for 1871 to 1901 have been under the control of Library and Archives Canada (LAC) for many years and, via widely diffused microfilm copies, used by many thousands of researchers without a single Privacy Act complaint being filed. In its efforts to make the later censuses available to researchers, the CHA is not looking for any special privileges or concessions; it has long recognized and supported the need for a balance in public policy between the right to access government information and the right to the protection (for a period of time) of sensitive personal information found in such records.

The principal issues precluding the release of the post-1901 censuses on the same basis as their predecessors were twofold: 1) an alleged promise of 'confidentiality' made to Canadians by early census takers (never proven, nor supported by documentation); and 2) an alleged ambiguity in the wording of the 1918 Statistics Act regarding the release of all subsequent censuses. Statistics Canada (StatsCan) has taken the firm position that improper release of historical censuses, in light of these two alleged factors, would break faith with Canadians and consequently undermine completion and accuracy rates in current census-taking. The CHA has addressed these and other claims in its past lobbying.

The CHA has presented briefs to Parliament; historians have testified before Parliamentary committees; articles have been written for the media; senators, MP's, and senior bureaucrats have been personally lobbied; Expert Panels informed; Access to Information Act requests made to uncover past practices; and letters sent to cabinet ministers. Much of this work has been carried on in partnership with the Association of Canadian Archivists (ACA), and in liaison with Canadian genealogists. Almost all this work for the CHA has been done by Bill Waiser (Saskatchewan), Chad Gaffield (Ottawa), and Terry Cook (Manitoba). As a result, the 1906 western census was released to the care and control of LAC in the past two years and made available to all researchers in Ottawa and via its web site around the world.

Major efforts were made last year by the CHA to respond to Senate Bill S-13, which addressed release of historical census data (1911-2001) and consent for release of all future censuses from 2006 onwards. The great champion of this cause is Senator Lorna Milne, who has heartily welcomed the CHA's input, and the CHA pays tribute to her long fight on our behalf. That bill, however, contained very serious flaws. Although the 1911 census would have been released on the same basis as the 1871 to 1906 censuses (92 years after the census is taken, which is the formal regulation under the Privacy Act), the censuses from 1921 to 2001 (that is, those following the allegedly restrictive clauses in the Statistics Act of 1918) would have been subject to an additional 20-year period (92 + 20) of only

limited access and use, where one could consult, but could not publish, census return information, with a heavy archival bureaucratic control and overlay on researchers. (By way of comparison, it should be remembered that the United States has long made its census data available without restriction after 70 years.) Moreover, the threat was real that Canadians, following a single unhappy Australian precedent, could check a 'consent' box to have their census return destroyed or made permanently inaccessible. The CHA, with the ACA, strongly opposed these clauses in a joint brief and personal testimony before the Senate Committee. Bill S-13 died with the election call.

Now Bill S-18 has been introduced. Insider reports suggest that the Government very much wants this issue resolved, without ambiguity, for past and future censuses, as it is tired of endless petitions and thousands and thousands of letters and e-mails (thanks to the genealogists!), and tired too of the internal bureaucratic squabbling, pitting StatsCan and the Privacy Commissioner on one side against the Access Commissioner and Library and Archives Canada on the other.

The Bill represents a compromise and is, we believe, the best possible deal obtainable at this time for historical researchers. Compared to the previous 2003 bill, Bill S-18 represents three significant victories for historians and one important setback or compromise:

1. Release of all historical census data for 1911 immediately, on the same basis as the censuses of 1871 to 1906, through Library and Archives Canada (LAC) = a victory for CHA, although almost inevitable after the precedent of the release of the 1906 Western census.

2) Release of all historical censuses from 1921 to 2001 on the same basis as 1871 to 1911. The clauses in the old Bill S-13 about a 20-year additional limbo period are gone, which would have been a research barrier and a bureaucratic nightmare for researchers and archivists = a major victory for the CHA, and not at all inevitable given the disputed interpretations of 1918 Statistics Act.

3) Removing any mention or Implication of citizens controlling the destruction (unlike the often-cited Australian precedent in 2001) of sensitive personal information they submit to government. The CHA fought against this very hard last time; if extended (as naturally it would be over time) across all government databases (think taxation, immigration, pensions, aboriginal registration, RCMP, and thousands of case-file series far more sensitive than the census), such a clause would destroy the possibility of "bottom up" social history research, and pull the Canadians out of Canadian history = an important CHA victory.

4) The price or compromise for these victories is an opt-in clause for all censuses from 2006 onwards whereby Canadians indicate (as they do about being on the electoral list on their income tax form) whether they wish access to be allowed to their census form after 92 years: the form will be preserved (not destroyed -- see #3 above), but access denied. The default position (someone not checking the box) means no, and thus denial of access = a significant loss.

The CHA has argued in the past first for no consent clause at all, or, if forced to accept one, for an opt-out version (where the default no-answer position would mean access permitted). Modification has been explored in governmental and political circles, and there is no chance for change. Bill S-18 is the hard-fought compromise offer, as a package, all four points above, or none.

This pill is sweetened by two factors: 1) a promise in the bill sought by the CHA (see section 2) for a review of the operation of this clause by Parliament after two censuses have

been taken (2006, 2011) in light of the results of how many Canadians decline access to their census record; and 2) a commitment by StatsCan (see the 2 November 2004 press release from its parent, Industry Canada) that 'Statistics Canada, in conjunction with Library and Archives Canada, will, as part of the 2006 Census public communications campaign, encourage Canadians to allow future access to their census records to preserve Canada's history for future generations.' The CHA and its members should join in that campaign.

The CHA has also made representations that the opt-in clause must be consistent with the best privacy practice of "informed consent" (which Industry Minister David Emerson champions). This means that the consequences of refusing consent be made clear to the citizen filling in the form; they are not just presented with a box to tick or not tick with only a bare explanation, but a box accompanied by a clear explanation that checking the box allows one's descendants, and the descendants of all others enumerated on the form, the ability to do family and genealogical research, and to have their family's experience be part of the accessible historical and archival record of the nation a long 92 years later, and thus part of Canadian history.

The CHA's President Gerry Friesen and Vice-President Margaret Conrad have carefully considered this compromise position on behalf of Council and members, in light of the past decade of struggle to gain access to the historical censuses. Despite hesitations in principle over any access clause for any government form, they conclude that there are major gains in law to be made for historians in Bill S-18. They have decided that the CHA accepts the compromise as presented in the bill and will not lobby as an organization against it, save for clear wording of the 'informed consent' clause. The CHA will also monitor census returns for 2006 and 2011, in light of the consent results, and participate in the 2006 publicity campaign.

The CHA commends the bill to its members and hopes that they will support it as well.

*Ed note: Terry Cook, a former archivist with the National Archives of Canada is a widely-respected commentator on archival issues and an instructor with the Archival Studies, Department of History at the University of Manitoba, in Winnipeg.*

*Several organizations have been working so researchers can have access to the post 1901 censuses. The Public Archives of Canada and its successors always favoured open access to the census records, generally recognized as the most essential archival resource for the systematic study of Canada's social history, but also the most authoritative and complete source for genealogists and local historians, too.*

*The fight has underlined the difference between the principles of access and of privacy. The problem is that the privacy restrictions are deemed widely to protect politicians and bureaucrats from accountability. The privacy restrictions are now seen to have limits and we seem to be finding a way to define those limits at least in this case.*

## Thrilling Story of Girl Rescued from Grave — Strange Tale from Early Days in Peterboro

### One of the Principals who Assisted in Rescue was T.J Fisher, who Conducted Hotel Here- Beautiful Girl was Victim of Plotters who Wished to Secure her Money — Both met Death Through Runaway of Their Horse

*Peterborough Review 1912  
Wide World Magazine*

Some of our readers and there are many of those who have taken the *Daily Review* since its initial publication and others who have been readers of the *Weekly Review* for forty or fifty years, may remember the Fisher family.

In addition to the parents who live in Peterborough in the thriving days, there were seven sons: John, Amos, Thomas, George, William, Luke and Hugh Fisher. Of these, three or four are still living by last accounts. At one time, the family kept a hotel in the building so long known as the Commercial House at the corner of George and Brock streets, and before that in the big two-store rough-cast building with double verandah that stood on the ground now covered by buildings at the corner of George and Hunter streets, west-side. The hotel was the rendezvous for large members of river men who gathered in this district in early spring to run the timber down the river from the lakes above.

The circumstances I am about to relate took place some thirty-five years ago but every detail is as fresh in my memory as it had only happened yesterday; and I may tell you that when it happened the affair set the whole country-side in a blaze of excitement. At that time — 1877 to be exact — a certain T.J Fisher kept the largest hotel in Peterborough, Canada. He was a jolly good fellow and a general favourite with all who frequented his house.

It had been the custom for some years for himself and a number of friends to go on an autumn hunting trip, usually lasting two or three weeks, to what was known as the "North Woods" — vast region covered with virgin forest and teeming with game of all sorts, a veritable paradise for the ardent sportsman.

The men had built a comfortable lodge in the wilderness, where after strenuous days of hunting and fishing, they returned and spent the evenings in telling stories and the nights in rest.

Late one night, during the third week of their stay in the woods, the men were aroused by piercing screams, evidently

coming from a woman. It took but a few minutes for the hunters to get into their clothes and out of doors, just in time to hear a man's voice say, "I guess she is down deep enough now." Sounds of hurried footsteps departed in the vicinity, followed then there was silence.

As best they could, the puzzled hunters searched around in the intense darkness for the cause of the disturbance but they found nothing, and accordingly returned to the lodge to wait for daylight. When it was light enough — they got astir again looking for they knew not what. At a great distance from the hut in the direction from which the cries had come, they finally came upon a place where the ground had been recently disturbed, and round about this spot were many footprints and the traces of a severe struggle.

"Boys, this begins to look pretty perilous!" exclaimed Mr. Fisher as he examined the newly-turned ground. "Suppose we find out what's buried here?"

This was agreed to, and when tools had been fetched the men began removing the loose earth. Only a foot beneath the surface, to their intense astonishment, they found the body of a young and pretty girl about nineteen!

"That scream we heard meant murder!" exclaimed Mr. Fisher, staring down horror-struck at the body. "Come here doctor, and see if you can tell if she is really dead. I wish I could get my hands on the fellow we heard speaking."

Dr. Green came up and carefully examined the body. "Why boys," he cried excitedly. "I believe there is life in the girl yet! Let us get her to the lodge as soon as we can!"

With all speed the girl was carried into the building and laid upon the table, and the doctor began his battle for her life. He worked for some time with no apparent results; then he looked up and said: "Give me your brandy flask Fisher; and you Jack, get some hot water as soon as possible."

Every man of them was willing and ready to do anything to aid the doctor in his fight for the beautiful girl's life. For a long time the issue was touch and go but in the end the doctor won. At the end of an hour — the patient drew a faint signalling breath and the

anxious bystanders, almost as one, murmured in fervent tones: Thank God, she lives! Not yet however, was the battle over.

"Stand back, friends!" the doctor commanded. "The girl must have air and plenty of it, or this little spark of life will go out. Give me some more brandy. I must supply the fuel until the fire is fully lighted again. Poor girl; she has been hardly used! Just look at these marks on her head and shoulders. The blow on the head was a hard one! Had it been nearer to the temple, she would not have survived a moment. I wonder who she is?"

"I think I know doctor!" said Jack Porter, a rising young lawyer who was of the hunting party. "She is Miss Masters, old Grimshaw's niece, the little girl who has been living in his home since her mother died. There has been a good deal of mystery about the family. There is money I believe, but to whom it belongs, no one knows."

"Please stop talking Jack," said Dr. Green. "I want to listen. I wish I had my stethoscope with me. Yes, the heart is beating with slow, regular beats. Excuse me, for interrupting you Jack. Go on with your remarks!"

All right doctor!" replied Porter. "I was going to say that there have been strange stories told of old Grimshaw and his great hulking lout of a son. I don't believe there is a right-minded man in the town who would not enjoy pounding that fellow. Jove, the whole story comes back to me now! I heard a few months ago that this little girl had been engaged to Robert Ingram, my classmate and friend, who died out West a few months ago. He was, as you know, a splendid fellow, one that any girl might be proud to love. The two had known each other since they both were children and loved each other almost as long. After Peter Grimshaw's wife died, there was some mischief set afoot; and in some way — how I don't know — the engagement between Robert and Miss Masters was broken off and Robert left town. His business had been ruined by Peter and Robert Grimshaw, it was said. In

some way, old Grimshaw had his clutches on him, and it was all up with him in a business way. Poor chap; he lost his sweetheart as well.

Just as Jack finished speaking, the girl opened a pair of beautiful hazel eyes, stared dazedly at the doctor and in terrified tones, exclaimed: "Save me! Don't let them kill me! They can have the money if they will let me live!"

"No one shall harm you my dear girl!" replied Dr. Green soothingly. "We'll see to that! Here, take this medicine and go to sleep; you will feel better when you wake up!"

The doctor lifted the girl from the table and placed her on a cot-bed where she soon dropped into an uneasy slumber, muttering meanwhile unintelligible phrases expressive of terror. At the end of about three hours, the girl wakened to full consciousness, and looked around the lodge, with its rough furnishings in bewilderment. Finally, her gaze sought the faces of Mr. Fisher and Dr. Green.

"Where am I, and where is Uncle Peter and Mr. Babbington?" she demanded.

"We do not know where they are!" replied the doctor. "How do you feel now!"

"My head aches dreadfully," she started, and a look of horror flashed across her face. "Oh, now I remember! Don't let them get to me again!"

"You are safe here, no one shall hurt you" the doctor replied. "But explain whom it is you fear."

"My uncle – he is not really my uncle, but my aunt's husband – and that awful old man they call Miser Babbington."

"How came you in the woods, where we found you? You need not fear to tell us, for we are your friends."

The girl sat up with a pitiful little gesture. "I am afraid to say anything," she said, "yet I must confide in someone, for I am completely alone since Aunt died last spring, and now I need friends more than ever!"

"We will be your friends to a man," said the doctor earnestly. "We rescued you from a horrible death so that you need have no fear in confiding in us. First of all, though you must have something to eat" and he handed her a bowl of soup that had been prepared for her. After the girl had partaken of the food she seemed stronger and a faint tinge of color came into her pale cheeks.

"Now I will tell you about myself," she said. "My mother and father died within a short time of each other four years ago, leaving a large fortune, of which my uncle and aunt were to be the custodians; they were also able to act as my guardians until I should be twenty-one years of age when I should come into sole possession. A week ago, I learned that there was a clause in my father's will to the effect that, in the event of my death, my aunt and uncle would inherit the fortune. I had a pleasant time until the death of my aunt, who was my father's sister. Just before my aunt died, Mr. Babbington began to come more frequently to the house and became disgustingly attentive to me. He is a horrid old man, over sixty years old. After my aunt's death, the attentions of this man became still more marked, but I loathed him and showed it so plainly that he and my uncle both noticed it, and the latter took me to task for my rudeness to his friend, saying that I must marry the old man, or else he would send me away. Send me away then!" I exclaimed hotly when he made this threat. "I shall be glad to go! The sooner you put your threat into execution, the better I shall like it!"

"Very well, my lady" he replied. "I will send you away. You are ungrateful for all that has been done for you, so I'll put an end to it."

"For the next few days, Mr. Babbington and my uncle kept away from me, and were closeted together most of the time. Once, when I had been downstairs to get a book, I overheard them talking. One sentence puzzled me greatly. I heard the old man say, evidently in reply to something my uncle had said – "Never mind Grimshaw; I'd just as soon have the money as the girl – it would be less trouble."

"The day before yesterday, Uncle Peter said to me: "To-morrow night I am going to take you away to a school. I shall shut up the house, so you can stay at the school when vacation comes." No more was said until my uncle came to me about five o'clock yesterday afternoon, and told me to be ready in an hour, as we had a long journey before us.

"Why do you start so late?" I asked. "Would it not be better to wait until morning?"

"No," he replied snappishly; "I have no time to waste. I must get through with my business as soon as I can. I can't take your trunk in the buggy, but I'll send it in the wagon as soon as I get back. You can do without it for a day or two, I think."

To this I made no reply, for just then we were called to supper. For the first time in weeks I did not have to face John Babbington at the supper-table. It was a silent meal,

neither uncle nor myself being inclined to converse. At the end of the meal we left the house and entered the light buggy that stood at the gate. The horse attached to the vehicle was a strange one, and I remarked upon the circumstance to my companion who replied –

"Yes, it is a strange horse for mine was lame so I got this old nag from the livery stable. I guess he'll carry us where we want to go."

I do not remember much after that. I think something must have been put in my tea that sent me to sleep. The next thing I recollect is feeling earth strike my face as I lay in a hole, and I heard the voices of Uncle Peter and John Babbington. I screamed and struggled and one of them struck me a blow on the side of the head, which is all I can remember until I wakened in this room."

"The bruts!" exclaimed Dr. Green, carried away by his rage. "At all costs we must hunt them out and punish them as they deserve."

"You will not mind staying here today?" asked Mr. Fisher, a few minutes later, coming to the door of the room equipped for a journey. "Dr. Green and Mr. Howard will stay here with you while we go to the town and see if we can find the two wretches who so nearly took your life. They will feel so sure of having put you safely out of the way, that we may find them still in town."

Reaching Peterborough, Mr. Fisher and his friends went at once to the judge's office, where as briefly as possible, the case was stated, a warrant made out for the arrest of the two men, and the proper officer sent to serve it. No one had seen Babbington since some time the previous day. Mr. Grimshaw had entered his home about ten o'clock in the morning, his housekeeper stated, and had some papers from his desk.

He had then gone to his room and after placing a few articles of clothing in a valise; he came downstairs and left the house. Before he did so, he told the woman that she could shut up the house and go home for a week, as he was going on a business trip, and would not be back for a number of days. The rascals it appeared, had seven hours start of their pursuers. It was supposed that old Babbington waited somewhere while Peter Grimshaw went to the house for his papers, as his horse, a fast one, was gone from his stable. Once together, it was surmised that they made a bee-line for Uncle Sam's country.



Later that night, the pursuing party, returned to the camp and reported their unsuccessful attempt to find the would-be murderers. Next morning, Miss Masters was told that the men had decamped and was asked if she wished to go back to her old home.

"No: Oh no!" she exclaimed in terrified accents. I don't want to go back. I should be afraid that they might return and kill me. Don't take me there!"

"Then I shall take you to my home," said Tom Fisher. "Mrs. Fisher will look after you as if she were your own mother."

They broke camp that morning and returned to their homes. The poor girl, weakened and shaken from the rough usage she had received, was placed on a pile of skins and blankets and was safely delivered into the hands of Mrs. Fisher who gave her every care. Efforts were made as soon as possible, to find out how much if any, of the girl's fortune was left. It was discovered that Peter Grimshaw had for some time been converting property into money, until all that was left were the house in town, and a large farm. There was also a small sum of money in the bank in Florence's name, placed there by her mother years before.

About two weeks after we returned to town, a message came one day to Mr. Fisher saying that a man who had been badly hurt was dying in a village about 20 miles away and wished to see him. As quickly as horses could be harnessed, Tom Fisher who was always ready to help a fellow creature, was off. On his return the next day, he told a strange story.

When he reached the little farmhouse, a man met him at the door and asked him if he was Mr. Fisher. Answering the affirmative, he was immediately shown into a small bedroom, where lying on a bed, he beheld the emaciated form of Peter Grimshaw. When the old man saw his visitor he said in a feeble voice, "I knew you'd come Tom if I sent for you, and I couldn't die without telling someone."

"Telling what Peter? But how did you come here and in this shape?"

"It is just retribution for my sins Tom! But I must be quick and tell you while my strength holds out."

With that he told Tom the story of the night when he and his partner in crime had buried the poor girl alive in the woods. He also confessed to the compact between himself and John Babbington, which was to the effect that if the latter helped him to

get rid of Florence Masters, he should have an equal share of the property.

"Where is Babbington?" asked Tom Fisher, when the old man had finished his narrative.

"Dead! That brute of a horse of his took it into his head to run away going down that steep hill leading to the village; and collided with the rocks just at the bottom of the hill. We were both thrown out and Babbington was killed instantly, while I broke my back. I have only a little while to live now. Tom, I am haunted by the screams of Florence! Oh, if I could undo the past! I have got the money but what use is it to me now. I am afraid to die!"

As soon as he could command the attention of the dying man, for Grimshaw's mind was wandering, Fisher told him that Florence was not dead, but had been rescued and was now alive and well.

"Tom! Tom! You are not deceiving me?" he demanded piteously, as he grasped Fisher's hand convulsively.

"No Peter, I am not deceiving you, I am telling you the truth. Florence was saved from the awful death you planned for her, and is now at my home."

"Thank God for His mercy to a poor sinner!" said Grimshaw, and then with one long shuddering breath, the old man was dead.

What became of the girl? Well, she was my beloved wife for thirty years, and the mother of my children. I was one of the hunters at the lodge in the woods, and assisted to extricate her from her midnight grave.

*Wide World Magazine* was renowned for its thrilling adventure stories that could have been true, but evidently rarely were. This story is very good on some of the setting. The Commercial Hotel was at Brock and George, and an earlier hotel of the same name had been at George and Hunter. Beyond that, we could not confirm the specific details of the Fisher family or this story. However, it is too good a story not to consider. The editors of the *Review* have added an introductory paragraph that makes one wonder if the whole story is true. We decided to publish the story with this cautionary note. Perhaps you have stories that are even better. *Editor*

## WORKMEN FOUND SKELETON IN REAR OF POST OFFICE

*Peterborough Examiner, 1911*

## Skull Was in Good State of Preservation – Some Interesting Back History About the Locality

This morning, while excavating for the foundation for the post office extension, the men employed came on the remains of an adult buried beneath the surface about seven feet. Close under the edge, on a line from the inside of the pavement, downwards and extending underneath, with the bones of the legs and feet across the street. With the bones were found an iron buckle and a small dirk knife. Clothing and everything else had all disappeared. The skull was well preserved, with the teeth sound. Whose remains they are or how they were placed where found can only be a matter of conjecture. All were placed in a box and will be interred.

In the county history of the city, the corner now covered with the post office building was part of the hollow down into which the hill on which St. John's church stands projected. Water Street was cut through the foot of the hill, north and south and filled in on the West side. In the hollow stood for many years, a two-storey building used as a dwelling and afterwards as a hotel between the years 1842 and 1858. It was there, but unoccupied in 1861 and afterwards was burned down. The depth at which the skeleton was found would indicate that it was placed there when the street level was much lower than at present as the building stood fully seven feet below the Hunter Street level as it now grades.

The incident recalls something of the chequered history of the old building. As a drinking place, it was notorious, at a time when there was no excuse and no license. Whiskey sold at one shilling the gallon, three-pence the quart, and as Pat Hamon who made whiskey in the building now used by Mr. Fitzgerald as a coal and woods office said, "Not a headache in a quart."

In 1845, Sir John Franklin made his famous voyage of discovery into the Arctic, and never returned. He died there in 1847 as was learned by the memorandum found by McLintock. Several relief expeditions were fitted out to look for the survivors who had taken to the ice in an endeavour to reach the Great Fish River overland. One of these parties was in charge of a Captain Crozier, who had been identified in another part of the world with the work of Franklin.

Captain Crozier had a twin brother who lived in Peterborough. He was given to drink and led a very erratic life. Captain

Crozier perished in the Arctics, falling into a crevice in an ice flow and being crushed. It was afterwards found, on comparing data that on the day land hour in which Captain Crozier lost his life, his twin brother fell down stairs in a drunken spree in the little old hotel on Hunter Street, breaking his neck.

It was rather entertaining to hear some of the “Sherlock Homes” who gathered to explain the mystery. One ‘sleuth’ held that some terrible murder had taken place, while another was of the opinion that the skeleton was that of an Indian. Still another associated the find with the mysterious disappearance of a man by the name of Regan. Wes Edwards took possession of the dirk, which was broken without an “Hackenschmidt” hold being used.

#### Editor's note

The two foregoing stories represent the research that goes into our lauded walking tours. Stories that are on the edge can sometimes give us terrific insight into a bygone world. The second story is rich in local lore, and can be read against other sources with profit. We are always looking for such stories and welcome your suggestions. Contact Diane Robnik, (705) 745-4404

## Anniversaries 2005

### Peterborough the Electric City: 100 Years Later

Peterborough is celebrating the one hundredth anniversary of the incorporation of the city of Peterborough.

The Trent Valley Archives is



Prof. Dr. Elwood Jones, Trent-U. G. Young, Editor, Lakefield Heritage Research, and Co. Paul Reva, City of Peterborough. Photo courtesy of Lakefield Heritage Research

marking the occasion in a variety of ways. We will feature articles from the years 1904 and 1905 that capture the mood of the times in the issues published this year. Today we look at the spring of 1904 when the idea of incorporation was broached but rejected by the Town Council. They thought cities developed; it was not enough to announce a city. Some feared the status of city would encourage councillors to spend too much.

*Peterborough: the Electric City* (1987) did not mention incorporation. The message was that Peterborough was an electric place; there was lots happening and the city was in a growth mode greatly helped by the cheap electricity and the well-trained industrial work force. The advantage would disappear as cheap electricity became widely available in Ontario after Sir Adam Beck created what became Ontario Hydro, and the power of Niagara was harnessed. Still, Peterborough retained some of its charm as Quaker Oats and General Electric became the anchors of Peterborough's industrial scene.

Even though the councillors were not certain that Peterborough would gain advantages as a city, it is clear that Peterborough was defined by changes in these years. The Peterborough Utilities Commission was created in 1904, and the town addressed the issues of who owned the streets. Major fires in five successive years led to criticism from insurance companies and paved the way for a new fire hall and a professional fire department by 1908. The Federal Government selected Peterborough for a new Armouries in 1904; that too was operational by 1908. As well, plans were begun for a new collegiate building, as the old Union School facilities were increasingly inadequate. Peterborough was also at the start of a major construction boom.

In 1902, the field representative for the Department of Labour calculated the local labour force had about 3,125 workers of whom 800 worked at Canadian General Electric, and 800 were at Quaker. William Hamilton Manufacturing employed about 200; Canadian Cordage, 200, and Peter Hamilton Manufacturing, 150. There were an estimated 100 workers at the Peterborough Lock Works, at Auburn Woolen Mills, and at B. F. Ackerman's harness factory. There were three daily newspapers (the *Peterborough Examiner*, *Peterborough Review* and *Peterborough Times*) that together had 100 employees; the three local saw mills employed about 100 as well. The abattoirs of George Matthews (later to be part of Canada

Packers) employed 80 workers. About 60 people were employed at Peterborough's three canoe factories: Peterborough Canoe, Canadian Canoe and William English Canoes. Remarkably, there were 200 people employed in tailoring and manufacturing clothes. And about 50 people in the flour mills. J. J. Turner had 25 people working in his tent and canvas business. The Central Bridge Works, on George south of Sherbrooke, was an important local business in 1901; Adam Hall was manufacturing steel ranges as well as selling stoves, baths and general house furnishings. There were about 60 people employed in smaller factories, such as the Riverside Planing Company.

In more subtle ways, the future was arriving in 1905. The automobile would make enormous changes in the town. George Street was extended south to Lansdowne very soon. The Peterborough Lift Lock was opened in July 1904, and the completion of the Trent Canal Waterway seemed within reach.

History is not just about the way that local governments are defined.

The Peterborough Historical Society organized an Edwardian Peterborough Conference for 14 May 2005, and the Trent Valley Archives was there. We had one poster exhibit on housing in Edwardian Peterborough, showing how the American influence was more widespread than people might have realized. As well, we prepared a poster exhibit on fire insurance plans.

The two exhibits were quite pertinent as they spoke to two of the themes that defined Peterborough in those years. As well, it served to promote our new publications initiatives. We are working on an updated and expanded version of Martha Kidd's pioneering *Peterborough's Architectural Heritage*. People have known that we had strong resources to support genealogical and historical research. This project combines both, and shows we can also do research on buildings and property.

We co-sponsored two other exhibits in the Edwardian Conference. Don Willcock prepared an excellent poster session on street railways in Peterborough using resources of the Trent Valley Archives and the Peterborough Historical Society. As well, there was an exhibit to promote *Up the Burleigh Road*. The book will be published by the Trent Valley Archives

next spring, but people can take advantage of the pre-publication deal price of \$20.

## Building Peterborough's Edwardian House : American Style

Peterborough's ubiquitous 2½ storey houses are nearly all variations of the houses designed in the *Scientific American Architects and Builders Edition*. That a local builder could use designs from the 1880s nearly 20 or 30 years later shows the designs were classics. Albert Hope, a second generation builder, used copies of SAABE to design his homes.

SAABE provided several house designs in each monthly issue, always highlighting at least one house for the full treatment. Color centrefolds, floor plans often in color, as well as tissue templates of special features such as newell posts, window and door corners. As well the specifications included a summary of the information that needed to be shared with the carpenter, painter, mason, plasterer, plumber, as well as cost breakdowns and totals.

These designs ranged from worker's cottages, to bungalows, suburban homes, and palatial cottages. These American Victorian homes are often classified as stick houses or, if characterized by towers and extravagant features, the Queen Anne style. In Peterborough, such homes were built between 1885 and 1920, and might be better termed Edwardian.

This exhibit underscores a gap in the writing of Canadian history. No book on Canadian architecture or building suggests that the SAABE influenced Canadian building. In fact, Canadian books rarely suggest that there was American influence in our architecture.

Peterborough's version of the American Victorian had some vernacular features. Most

dramatically, our builders substituted brick for ship-lath while usually retaining the shingles on the third storey. These houses are widely distributed in Peterborough, and are particularly dominant in areas between Park and Monaghan, and in parts of Ashburnham.

The Albert Hope drawings are in the Trent Valley Archives. The Trent Valley Archives is revising and expanding Martha Ann Kidd's influential *Peterborough's Architectural Heritage* and hopes to publish it in the coming year. If you wish to reserve copies please contact us.

*Ed note: This was the text panel for one of the poster sessions at the Edwardian Peterborough Conference.*

### A Great Hockey Town Could be Great at Lacrosse

H.R.H. Kenner

*Peterborough Review, 17 March 1904*

This is assuredly a great hockey town. If a general expression of opinion were taken, it is altogether likely that the vast majority would say that Peterborough was noted for its manufactories, its electrical power, its pretty girls, and its hockey teams. The institution that hasn't been mixed up in some kind of hockey match this season has not located here yet. As soon as it does, the fever will undoubtedly come along and the hands will ere long spoil for a contest.... [Review, 19 March 1904]

Dear Sir, – Notwithstanding the fact our "Lady of the Snows" lovingly lingers in the lap of spring, it nonetheless behooves us, with Good Friday so near at hand, to make the best of our lenten fast and make preparations for Canada's national strenuous game, namely, lacrosse.

The question naturally arises what are the prospects of Peterborough so far as this game is concerned? Having withdrawn from all active participation in sports, I may be allowed to speak as an onlooker, and at the same time, as one who has more or less experience in the various lines of athletic sports.

Along with others, I have with regret watched an increasing spirit of hostility between the supporters of the T. A. S. [Total Abstinence Society] organizations, and those not identified with that institution.

This, I am sorry to say, is not as it should be. No club has brought brighter laurels to town than the Peterborough Football Club, and in doing so we have had no more valuable

members than Messrs. Crowley, Meagher, Hurtubise and Deanard, all members of the T. A. S. These gentlemen, I am confident, will testify to the fact that their dealings with the town team have been most harmonious, and justly so. In baseball, too, we find no unhealthy rivalry. In hockey, whilst there has been some ill feeling, yet it has been generally admitted, that the T. A. S., drawing from a more limited membership, have been at a disadvantage; but notwithstanding, have conferred honor upon themselves in particular, and the town in general.

In lacrosse there has been a different state of affairs. There has been a determination on both sides to win at all hazards, and the games have been played with discredit to the players, and not to the honor of the town.

The officers of the two clubs, and for that matter, the players, too, have been for the most part on good terms, and are actuated by the spirit of good, honest sport. There are, however, certain so-called supporters, for the most part unknown to the gate keepers, who have caused considerable ill-feeling, and have lowered the standard of this game in Peterborough.

We have won provincial junior and intermediate hockey championships, Provincial and Dominion Intermediate Rugby football championships, and district Association football and baseball championships, and why not a lacrosse championship? We have the material, but we have not been working in harmony. My suggestion is that the T. A. S. and the Athletic lacrosse teams amalgamate and forget the past.

If we do so I am sure we can both place a winning amateur team in the field, and at the same time promote that good feeling and harmony which should at all times characterize true sportsmen.

I would suggest that the secretaries of the two clubs agree to call a joint meeting and place a Peterborough lacrosse team in the C. L. A.

I speak only for myself, but I should like before retiring to remove, so far as I can, that much to be deplored unhealthy, unsportsmanlike local rivalry in sports....

## Aldermen Settle Down to Business

### Mayor Roger Makes an Address Outlining Duties of the Year

### Standing Committee Were Struck

### Town Engineer Hay Presents His Report

### Ald. McWilliams Advocates Admission of Reporters to Committee Meetings

### The Otonabee Power Co. Renew Their Offer for the Street Lighting

### Other Business

At last night's meeting of the Council Mayor Roger in a brief address appropriately pointed to duties which the Council must face during 1904. He expressed regret that he was not present at the inaugural meeting, but congratulated and welcomed the members, and hoped that the business of the year would progress smoothly. That which had passed had been a strenuous one, and there were remaining from it several matters to be settled. One of these was the adjustment of matters in connection with municipal union. The construction of a sewerage system in Ward Five demanded attention, as did also the street lighting and street railway questions. Of late years the town had adopted a progressive policy of street improvement and marked benefit was resulting from the frequent use of the steam roller. The purchase of the Hilliard property rendered plenty of good material available. The engineer reported that some three or four miles of wooden sidewalk required renewal, and he advised that contracts for this and similar work be let as early as possible in the spring. The matter of providing for contagious diseases in the town was one that should be dealt with, in view of the fact that the hospitals had indicated a desire to be relieved in this regard. The Hilliard property would afford a site for such a building. The question of fire protection was also an important one. The alarm system was obsolete and was not recognized by the fire underwriters. New hose was also required. The Bell Telephone Co's agreement had expired. They had heretofore paid the town \$400 and had use of the streets for poles and wires. As to renewal of the franchise the Council would have to consider what provision it would be advisable to make. All other pole rights had likewise expired, and the Mayor suggested that in dealing with renewals the Council

should take such precautions as will render it possible for the town to take over any of the poles at the expiration of future terms, if municipal ownership was deemed advisable. He welcomed the able representatives sent from Ashburnham, or Ward Five, and prophesied a harmonious and prosperous year in the interests of Greater Peterborough....

#### ENGINEER'S REPORT

The annual report of the Town Engineer was received. The total length of sewers laid in 1903 was 4,160 feet, or 79-100 of a mile, and the total length of sewers in use is 11.14 miles. The total length of concrete walk laid in 1903 was \$11,803.93. The amount charged to street cleaning for 1903 was \$715.78 and for the removal of snow and ice \$591. The total cost of general repairs to streets was \$2,841.22.

The total amount expended in road making was \$4,525.19 and the total length of road made was 5,210 lineal feet. The total amount chargeable to bridges is \$876.04. The cost for repairs to wooden sidewalks during 1903 amounted to \$1,336.95. The total amount chargeable to street watering for 1903 was \$1,248.59. The report was referred to the Board of Works....

#### OPEN COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Ald. McWilliams moved that the rules be amended to provide that representatives of the local press be admitted to committee meetings.

Ald. Best said the difficulty in former years was that matters were reported before they were completed. He was perfectly satisfied if discretion was exercised.

Ald. Rush and Ald. Morrison concurred in the argument that a line would have to be drawn somewhere. It would not be a wise policy to have the proceedings of committee meetings published, especially when questions were being considered the details of which it would not be well to circulate until finally settled.

Ald. Johnston seconded the motion and spoke in favour of the admission of reporters

to committees.

Ald. McWilliams pointed out that it certainly would be wise that a plain and full report on important questions should go to the public while they were still in committee. These were matters on which the public were sometimes indignant that they had not been informed before an ultimate settlement had been arrived.

Mayor Roger expressed the opinion that it would be most unwise to have reporters at the meetings of the Legal Committee.

Ald. Adams said the two motions should be voted down. His opinion was that the present method of doing business was first-class. If there was dissatisfaction in any matter, it could be discussed at the Council meeting.

Ald. McWilliams made an appendix to his motion providing that committees exclude reporters if considered advisable.

The amendment was withdrawn and Ald. McWilliams' motion was lost.

The Council adjourned to meet in Committee for the purpose of discussing the clauses in the town's proposed bill, in connection with which application has been made to the Legislature.

#### *Peterborough Review, 3 February 1904*

..... Ald Morrison moved seconded by Ald Rush, – That the Council memorialize the Legislature to grant Peterborough incorporation as a city.

Ald Hicks said he had been understood as being strongly opposed to the move. He did not see what need there was for any hurry, and thought should first be ascertained, especially at this time when the union of Ashburnham had just been effected. Instances existed that seemed to make it advisable to leave incorporation until the municipality had reached the standard in population and was in a position

to sustain its rank as a city. These, he held, would come to Peterborough in course of time. // Ald Best argued along the same lines. // The resolution was lost, Aids. Morrison, McWilliams and Rush voting for it.

The Mayor was authorized to sign and fix the corporate seal to the town's application for legislation, which was considered at last night's session, and the Council adjourned.

Editor's note: The request for legislation related to Peterborough included nine other items. Town Council wanted authority to change the election of aldermen to two years, half retiring each year. They wanted to pay for three members on the Committee of Revision. They wanted to give the Peterborough Town Trust authority to create sinking funds to purchase buildings in the Market block; purchase the assets of the village of Ashburnham; and to purchase real estate identified in Bylaw 1059; and they wanted authority to purchase that real property. They wanted authority to borrow \$10,000 annually to upgrade the water works system. They wanted an Isolation or Contagious Diseases hospital. They wanted to allow Little Lake Cemetery to acquire additional land. The Peterborough Lock Company wanted to expand, and wanted he city to fix its assessment at \$12,000 for ten years. They also wanted to provide a fixed assessment for an Academy of Music or Opera House.

Municipal elections were held the first Monday in January, and the new councils were almost immediately into business. The members of the Town Council for 1904, besides Mayor G. M. Roger, were R. F. McWilliams, Henry Best, Henry Rush, Frank Adams, Joseph Batten, William Scott, W. J. Johnston, Robert Clinkscales, J. Edgcumbe, Robert Hicks, E. F. Mason and Dr M. A. Morrison. The top twelve vote-getters were elected; that year 18 were running. People were pleased to see that Ashburnham was represented as both Frank Adams and William Scott lived in the village; W. J. Johnston was a former resident of Ashburnham. The voters also passed judgement on three proposed bylaws. They favoured proceeding with a contract for street railway service and for street lighting. As well, they favoured buying the Hilliard farm for \$10,000.

## Seeking a site for the Peterborough Armouries, 1904

*Peterborough Review, 17 and 19 March 1904*

### SITE FOR THE ARMOURIES COL. BUCHAN CONFERS WITH BODIES INTERESTED

Yesterday afternoon Colonel Buchan, Office Commanding Militia District No. 3, sat with Committees representative of Council, the Board of Education and the 57<sup>th</sup>, when consideration was given to the selection of a site suitable for the proposed new drill hall. There were present His Worship Mayor Roger, Aldermen Rush, McWilliams and Best, Messrs J. J. Hartley, W. H. Hill, H. P. Kennedy, W. G. Ferguson, and John Crane, Lieut Colonel Miller and Major Hayes.

Colonel Buchan addressed the meeting impressing the desirability of increasing the force of the Regiment, the Government being anxious to put the militia forces in first class condition and with the end in view of enlisting companies up to their full war strength, say one hundred and twenty men. The formation of an engineer corps was recommended, which would be made up largely of mechanics and of course separate from the regiment.

It was pointed out that Peterborough should not merely have sections of a field battery, but one of full complement and equipment, the D.O.C. being of opinion that the ground here was particularly well adapted to such a corps. No doubt, in the near future, the Government will build military stores here as the town was certainly one of the most important strategic positions in Ontario. It was located in from the frontier and had the best possible means of communication, the Trent Canal being an important consideration.

It was requested that the town should as early as possible make definite statement as to what could be done towards granting a site. The desire is to have the School Board work in with the Council in connection with the matter. Several sites were spoken of among them being the Separate School Grounds on Murray street.

A committee was appointed consisting of His Worship, the Mayor, Lieut. Colonel Miller, Major Hayes, Mr J. J. Hartley to confer with the proper parties in reference to the matter.

It goes without saying that the better the offer made by the town of a site for the armouries the finer will be the building

erected. It will be not only adequate for all purposes required of an armouries, but it will be so fitted up as to afford recreation for the men during the winter months. Those of the cities contain bowling allies, galleries for the practice of marksmanship, and other features, and the understanding is that those now about to be built are to be similar.

### CURRENT ITEMS OF PASSING INTEREST

#### The New Drill Shed

The erection of a new drill shed here suggests great things for the military future of Peterborough. It seems to be recognized among authorities on the matter that the town occupies an important strategic position, and as such should have located here armouries and facilities for storage of military supplies necessary in a place of mobilization. Col. Buchan's statement, which has the weight of a suggestion, refers to the establishment here of full artillery and cavalry corps in addition to the infantry, and of the formation of an engineer corps. This certainly looks like a small army, and seems to realize the importance of the locality and the enthusiasm which has ever marked military matters in this town. It is to be hoped that the town will render every possible assistance in the securing of the site for the new building, which there is every reason to believe will be a magnificent structure.

....

#### The Old Drill Shed

it will be of interest to know that the old drill shed which is so soon to give place to a building of much grander proportions was built in 1867, and that though many others of the same type were built throughout the country about that period, it is the only one now standing which is the genuine original, all of the others having been torn down, or rebuilt, probably as a result of fire, or for reasons that had better facilities in view. In the thirty seven years' life of the old shed it has seen some stirring times. It was in 1866 that members of the infantry companies located here and in the vicinity rushed to arms for the defence of the country against Fenian invasion. It can well be imagined that some considerable excitement reigned in Peterborough in those years, and that there were some lively doings in military circles.

Many a man has answered the summons and paraded with his comrades in the old drill hall in subsequent years, and the rafters have rung with words of command, or the strain of martial music, and the tramp, tramp, tramp has beat a spirited response. Many a lusty cheer has been given these, and many a happy meeting between comrades has had the old armouries for its scene. In 1885, men crowded thither eager to enlist. Again, a few years ago, the sons of Canada showed their willingness for service and not a few brave lads marched away to do themselves and their country proud. And now the old drill shed may be obliterated and sent down to oblivion, having filled its purpose well through the storm and stress of years, many an inspiring scene has been enacted here and no small army of soldiers old and soldiers young have in that time joined the bivouac of the dead.

## GORDON ROPER

Michael Peterman

I have known Gordon Roper for over thirty years which, when you think of it, was but one third of his life's long span. It took me a long time to find him; many found him before me and profited greatly from his kindness and good advice. In my case I had heard about him from one of my Princeton professors, who suggested that I could profitably study more American literature with a Professor Roper at the University of Toronto. I tracked him down at Trinity College in the summer of 1966 to ask if I might take his graduate course in Melville and Hawthorne. He was very nice, but he regretted that he had to turn me down as he was packing his books to leave for Peterborough and a new position. He was returning to his home place and to help develop fledgling Trent University. So I had to come here to Peterborough, six years later, to find him. Having found him, I can say, without the least reservation, that he has meant the world to me as a young academic and a person.

Gordon was like an education in himself. For several years we had offices at Lady Eaton College and there was seldom a day that we did not talk and that I did not learn something new and fascinating. He would plant an idea for me, suggest a project that needed doing, take me deeper into a novel that I thought I had read well, or

reveal some tantalizing aspects about a particular book I had yet to read. In his Trinity years he had been deep in the academic game and rigorously trained his graduate students in the discipline of the New Criticism. He had, then, a reputation for "Roperizing" them. But by the time he got to Trent he had crossed over that sluggish river and passed onto a higher plain. It involved doing what he most liked to do—talking about literature, inquiring into it, valuing it, contemplating its virtues, applying wise and generous views to a host of texts. The Gordon I met and knew at Trent was amazingly free of jargon and fixed ideas. Little wonder that writers like Margaret Laurence, George Johnston and his great friend Robertson Davies found in him so fine a friend and so sympathetic an ear. He was a kind of ideal reader. He loved and lived for books. When he lost his sight some years ago, that love of books found other outlets. Friends came to read to him, he discovered books on tape, and, like all good Canadians, he listened devotedly to the CBC.

What a treat it was to read to him. Several of us came to him weekly, one a day, and though we never met as a group, we were perhaps the most exclusive and the most unpretentious book group in Peterborough, if not Canada. I was always amused when people would say to me, "Aren't you so nice to go to read to him" or some such benign compliment. What we all knew as Gordon's readers is that we were the gainers in the exchange. We were learning more about reading—particularly about the joys of reading out loud (hearing the tones, recognizing the cadences, following the personal track of an author's voice through dialogue and narration). We had wonderful discussions with him that grew out of a passing comment here or a fortunate pause in the actual reading. He always had something to add or observe. Above all, we could enjoy his wonderful sensitivity; he contemplated serious and small matters alike, he connected things in ways we delighted in observing; and he punned whenever he could. The punning, in fact, was irrepressible, and it was often ingenious. Reading was the blood of life to him—it brought important matters together even as it allowed for moments of levity and silliness. Some times a writer's great self-seriousness brought on the humour, for surely perspective is required when ponderousness rears its formidable head.

I hope you see what I mean. We were the gainers. I am of course talking about Gordon as a literary man, not as a

family man, but it was mostly as a man who loved writing and who taught us to share and develop that love that we knew him. As Adrienne Clarkson has noted, "To me he gave a gift—the love of learning and the devotion to beauty." Her insight is bang-on. For my part I have had a number of good teachers over time, but no one who taught me what Gordon did out of his very being—to seek out good writing, to devote myself to finding out more of our shared if forgotten past, and to pass that sense of value on to the students I came to know.

Gordon Roper knew much pain and loss, but he carried on as buoyantly as he could, often to our collective amazement. It was his wisdom and his way. He knew all about human limitations and the body's frailties. The wisdom of Robertson Davies's Humphrey Cobbler was with him. Cobbler told Solly Bridgetower in *Leaven of Malice* that he needed to recognize his trap and then deal with it as best he could. So too Herman Melville's Ishamel philosophized in *Moby-Dick*, "Who ain't a slave, anyway?" By that Melville meant 'who doesn't get kicked around by fate in curious and sometimes awful ways?' A colostomy, angina, blindness, the death of his beloved Helen—these were all cruel kicks. But Gordon was amazingly resilient, amazingly cheerful through it all. Think of living with a colostomy for over thirty years! To me he sang in his chains like the sea and I have been immensely happy to be able to sing to him over recent years, to join him in his chorus.

We were so lucky to have had him close to us for so long. I shall close with two signatures that some of you may recall. The first is what he would always ask me whenever I called on the phone. Over recent years I have been drawn to the Maritimes and New Jersey, and have been on the go quite a lot. At home in his comfortable room at Applewood Manor, he was fascinated by my comings and goings. I talked to him on the day he died and he was typically in fine form. But he began as he so often did with me, asking with rising voice, "Oh, Michael—where are you now?" It was a simple question to be sure but I think he realized that it had greater weight for me as I thought about it. Where was I, he was asking, in my own sense of things NOW? 'Ask yourself that and keep asking it, because you need to have good answers in your own heart' It was a cheerful way of keeping me

up to an invisible mark we shared. The other signature is the way he would say goodbye. There would be a surprisingly sturdy handshake and a hearty "Cheerio," as if he wanted to send you off with a hefty chunk of his immense good will and love. What can I say in return to him at this sad time but that same wonderful word, "Cheerio, Gordon." We will miss you in so many ways.

## Gordon Roper (1913-2005)

Gordon Roper was a good friend to Peterborough. This was his home town, and in the end his career was defined by Peterborough. He was raised in this town, and the west end Roper Drive is named for his father. Robertson Davies considered him a breath of fresh air. His teaching career spanned Chicago, Toronto and Trent, and his research and writing was about Canadian and American writers. He wrote a fine family history about the Caddy families; his wife Helen was a descendant of an early surveyor based in Peterborough for awhile. Gordon Roper was honoured with the city's Peter Robinson Award in 2000. His life is intertwined with the history of Peterborough in countless ways. Thanks to Michael Peterman for a nice tribute.

## Queries

*Diane Robnik*

### Bannon

Robert Bannon (son of John Bannon of Ireland) was born in 1818 and married Dinah Ryan in 1840. They had 9 children, one of them Margaret Bannon born around 1856. We are looking for a spouse for her.

### Cresswell - Watt

We are looking for any information pertaining to William Cresswell who was the owner of the Victoria Inn on Hunter Street in 1850. We are trying to find out when he died, and if an obit exists. He apparently has some connection to Richard Watt who died in 1854. William Cresswell is the owner of Watt's plot in Little Lake and the family would like to know the connection between the two.

### McFadyen (McPhaiden)

Angus McFadyen (McPhaiden) was born 25 Jan 1825 in Kilchoman, Islay, Argyllshire, Scotland. Angus married Sarah Macmillan who was born in 1849 in Kildalton, Islay. They married February 24, 1864 in Eldon Township where they raised a large family of 13 children.

Angus died November 27, 1908 and Sarah died September 27, 1936. Both are buried at Glenarm Cemetery. Does anyone have any information on them or their children:

John McFadyen - born Jan 12 1817 died Oct 24 1872

Ronald McFadyen - born ca 1818 died May 31, 1901

Samuel McFadyen - born Feb 10, 1822 died Jun 30, 1880

Alexander McFadyen - born ca 1824 died Sep 5, 1872

Catherine McFadyen - born Apr 22, 1828 died June 24, 1903

### Miller & Firth Wind Mill Co.

We are looking for any information about this Peterborough company which existed in Peterborough in the 1870s.

### Peterson, A. M.

Nova Scotians Eugene and William Cleveland developed the "Cleveland" type steam locomotive used by Canada's Intercolonial Railway ca. 1898-1904. A researcher wishes information about their partner, A.M. Petersen of Colborne ON or the company called Cleveland Petersen Co, based in Toronto. Petersen may have been marketing agent for the locomotives, which were built by the Kingston Locomotive Works, and by Baldwin and Dickson in the US.

### Douro Dummer Cemeteries

The Douro-Dummer Historical Committee wishes to update its information on local abandoned cemeteries. It requests information about who is buried in the English Line Cemetery north of Warsaw or in the Centre Dummer Cemetery. As well any information about the Bible Christian Churches in Douro-Dummer or the Baptist Church at Centre Dummer would be welcome.

## William Hepburn Scott, Mayor and MPP

*Elwood Jones*

William Hepburn Scott (1837-1881) had been born in Brampton, and came to Peterborough to start a law practice in 1861. The Hon Sidney Smith, former Postmaster General in the Province of Canada, joined him in the office at the corner of Water and Hunter Streets. John Green, and E. B. Edwards later joined as junior partners in the firm. Scott was twice married, first to the daughter of George Wright, a former MPP in the Province of Canada for York West. His second wife was the daughter of Judge Boucher.

William H. Scott served six years as mayor, from 1866 to 1871, four times elected by acclamation. His main political rival, George A. Cox won the elections of 1872 and 1873 by acclamation, and defeated George Burnham in 1874.

The rivalry with George A. Cox also extended to railways. George A. Cox was the architect of the Midland Railway which had by 1881 become the keystone of a strategy for a national railway system built upon the Grand Trunk Railway system, and a viable alternative to the proposed Canadian Pacific Railway. Scott was a key player in getting the Toronto and Ottawa Railway to Peterborough; with the completion of this line, being surveyed in 1881, the new CPR station opened here in 1884.

Across the 1870s, Scott for the Conservatives and Cox for the Liberals were strong rivals for the provincial seat of Peterborough West. In the 30 July 1874 by-election, held following the death of Thomas M. Fairbairn, W. H. Scott defeated Mr Dumble by 6 votes (438-432). George A. Cox won the 18 January 1875 election by 45 votes (970-925) in a riding that had added Lakefield, Harvey and the northern townships. The election was protested, Cox was unseated, and in the resulting by-election in October 1875, Scott won by a single vote (995-994). That election was under protest until December 1876. In the 1879 election, Scott won handily, by a plurality of 252. On this occasion, he was opposed by Elliott for the Liberals and Hogan running as an Independent. When Scott died, the subsequent 19 January 1882 by-election was won by acclamation by Dr R. Kincaid. John

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Carnegie won the riding for the Conservatives in the 27 February 1883 election, by 86 votes over Mr Campbell (1262-1176). The intense rivalry between John Carnegie, sometime owner of the *Peterborough Review*, and James R. Stratton, owner of the *Peterborough Examiner*, set the tone for the next generation of Peterborough elections.

An earlier mayor of Peterborough, William A. Scott, apparently unrelated, served in 1864 to complete the term of Charles Perry, who became ineligible to continue as mayor when he declared bankruptcy. W. A. Scott was also elected mayor for 1865. He was the son of Mr and Mrs Walter Scott who had come to Asphodel from Scotland in 1820. He died in Asphodel in 1875, living with his brother, Walter (born 1828).

Surprisingly, Wilson Craw has erred in his terrific reference book, *Our*

Peterborough Relief Society that later became known as the Peterborough Protestant Home.

Scott had been ill for several months, and died in Orangeville on 11 or 12 July 1881. His body was brought to Peterborough by train. The funeral procession to Little Lake Cemetery was headed by the Fire Brigade and its band, followed by the Town Council, members of Parliament, the Peterborough Law Society, and "a large number of citizens of the Town and County."

When members of the Liberal Conservative Association met the following week, Dr J. O'Sullivan, seconded by Joseph Walton, moved the following motion of condolences.

"This meeting representing the Conservatives of the West Riding of Peterborough, desire to express the regret they feel at the lamented decease of William Hepburn Scott, Esq., the late representative in the Local Legislature, a position which he held since the year 1874, to the great advantage of the constituency and the whole province. During the whole of his public career he was an able and earnest exponent of Conservative principles and was untiring in his efforts to advance the efforts of his constituents and the Province at large; and they desire to express their sympathy with his family in the loss they have sustained, and that a copy of this resolution be forwarded to Mrs. Scott and his family. - Carried."

At the Reform meeting held the following night, George A. Cox, seconded by E. B. Edwards, moved a motion of sympathy. Cox's comments were most conciliatory. "Although differing from him in his political opinions and although on more than one occasion he had contested the riding with him, still when the heat of the contest was over, and unguarded words which were dropped by both during the contest were forgotten, he could look back and say with truth that he had always found him a fair and honorable opponent." Later in the meeting, Cox was nominated to contest the by-election, but was concerned about the time and effort that would be required while he was working very hard on several developments related to the Midland Railway. He suggested that a panel of Reformers should meet with a panel of Conservatives to find an acceptable candidate to complete the term by acclamation. If this proved not to be possible, he would run in the by-election. Surprisingly, the Conservatives agreed to nominate Dr R. Kincaid who

was left unfettered to run as an Independent. The committee of Reformers and Conservatives seemed to concur. On the day of the official nominations, held at the Court House, 25 August, Dr Kincaid was elected by acclamation, but only after William Mills had been nominated and withdrawn. This brief respite from competitive politics was a surprise to most local observers, and certainly without precedent in Peterborough. Still, some such as the *Peterborough Times*, complained that such momentous decisions should be made by the electorate, not some small body of men, however distinguished they might be.

Scott had been a remarkable figure throughout his twenty years in Peterborough, and the town showed respect for his life in the funeral procession and in the extraordinary process that saw him replaced by Dr Kincaid.

## Former Mayor Dead

### Mr William Toole Once Occupied Position of Chief Magistrate

*Peterborough Review*, 12 March 1904

TOOLE - At his home at Grassmere, on March 6<sup>th</sup>, Wm. Toole, in his 83<sup>rd</sup> year. Funeral at Grassmere at 2:30, March 9.

The above notice from a Winnipeg paper relates to the death of a gentleman who between 1875 and 1878 inclusive was Mayor of Peterborough. Mr James Stevenson, who was in frequent correspondence with him, and knew him ever since he came to Peterborough in the fifties, from Emily Township, whence the family had moved from Cramahe, in Northumberland, states that Mr Toole was a self-made man, careful and shrewd in business. He ran a planing mill on the property now occupied by Hicks & Co., and was a contractor, one of the several important buildings which he erected being the convent in Lindsay. Old residents state that he filled most acceptably the position of chief magistrate, and in substantiation of this is the fact that he occupied the presiding chair four successive years. Prior to this he had been a resident here over twenty years. Upon leaving Peterborough he went to the Northwest, and first took up a farm, but later had a position as



Mayors. He incorrectly identifies W. H. Scott as Walter H. Scott. That error has crept into other books on Peterborough, including my own *Peterborough: the Electric City*. He commonly shows up as Mr W. H. Scott, and so historians are spared deciding which he should be called. He ran a course on Canadian politics for the Mechanics Institute, the forerunner of the Public Library. His daughter and wife were early supporters of the

immigration agent in the States for the Dominion Government. Mr Stevenson states that Mr Toole was upright, honest and industrious, and made a good mayor. One son survives, resident in Winnipeg.

## Gene sleuths study skull believed to be that of pirate From 14th century

May 5, 2005

A 600-year-old skull believed to be the mutilated remains of a legendary pirate who plundered treasure in the Baltic and North Seas was whisked into Canada for DNA analysis this week.

Gene sleuths at McMaster University in Hamilton sawed a small chunk off the skull, said to belong to the 14th-century buccaneer Klaus Stortebeker, for analysis to try to confirm the pirate's identity and help track his living descendants.

"When we were cutting the skull, it smoked a bit, which is good," said Henrik Poinar, head of the McMaster team, who has analysed DNA in everything from Neanderthals' feces to extinct animals' bones. The smoke is indicative of the presence of DNA in the ancient bone.

The skull was hand delivered to Mr. Poinar's lab by Ralf Wiechmann, head of medieval history at the Museum of Hamburg History. After overseeing the sample extraction, Mr. Wiechmann packed the skull into its black carrying case and boarded a plane back to Germany yesterday.

"This skull has an extraordinary position in our country," Mr. Wiechmann said. "[Stortebeker] has the status of Robin Hood of the North Sea."

As legend has it, Stortebeker was initially dispatched by German leaders to capture Danish merchant ships and deliver food and ammunition to besieged German cities. But Stortebeker and his crew soon began plundering not just Danish ships, but those of England, Holland and the German states. The pirates -- and their vessel, the Sea Tiger -- were feared from London to the Russian city of Novgorod.

They were eventually caught and beheaded in Hamburg in 1400. After the public execution, the pirates' heads were spiked on to poles and lined up along the River Elbe as a deterrent to lawbreakers.

What historians believe is Stortebeker's skull, complete with huge iron spike that was driven through it, eventually toppled into Hamburg harbour where it lay

in the mud for more than 400 years. The skull was found during an excavation in 1878 and has been on display in the Museum of Hamburg History ever since.

Mr. Wiechmann, who has studied and written extensively about the skull, said it definitely belonged to a high-ranking pirate because a hole was carefully carved in the top of the head to ensure the skull remained in one piece. Spikes were driven right through the heads of lesser pirates, often splitting the skulls in the process.

German scholars believe the skull in question is Stortebeker's because it dates back to the time of his execution. They sought out Mr. Poinar, who runs one of the world's leading labs for analyzing ancient DNA, to see whether genes in the ancient skull could provide proof of its identity.

With luck, Mr. Poinar said his team will find DNA from both mitochondria (structures that provide energy to cells) and Y chromosomes preserved inside the skull bone. This should enable German scientists to compare the gene sequence with that of 200 men in Germany they suspect have genetic links to the pirate.

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## Upper Canada Documentary History Project

The Trent Valley Archives' impressive collection called the Upper Canada Documentary History Project contains thousands of documents on the history of Upper Canada, and some that follow important threads on politics and development to the early twentieth century. In each issue we plan to share documents that reflect the range of this collection. We have noted the microfilm holdings and digitized documents; here we present a document from the notecards series.

**Christie, A.J., *The Emigrant's Assistant*, (Montreal; 1821) pp. 117-26**

### THE METHOD OF CLEARING LANDS.

HAVING in the preceding pages, pointed out the regular method to be pursued by such as

are desirous of procuring lands, a few observations respecting the best plan of proceeding to render these lands productive, may not be superfluous in this place. It deserves however, to be remarked, that the operation of clearing lands, is liable to be affected by such an infinite variety of concurrent circumstances, [ranging] from the quality of the timber -- the local position of the land -- the present views or ulterior designs of the settler, &c. &c. That no explicit rule can be laid down applicable to all cases. -- All therefore that can be done, is to give a brief account of the methods most generally in use; leaving it to the judgment of the settler to select that one which may be best adapted to his own particular situation.

The plan most frequently pursued is, for the settler to go over his ground and cut up all the under-wood which is termed *Brush*, as close to the roots as possible; having done this, he next cuts down the larger trees at a convenient height from the ground, taking care to make them fall as much in one direction as he can. These last are then cut up in pieces of eight or ten feet long, so as to enable them to be drawn together in one place. In this state, mixed with the branches and brush wood, as they have fallen, they are set on fire, and as much consumed as possible. After the fire of the first burning is extinguished, the settler, by the help of his oxen, draws the larger logs, which, are left unconsumed, into heaps, when they are again set on fire which commonly consumes them entirely.

Provided the quality of the timber, and the circumstances of the farmer be such as to induce him to manufacture Potash, he goes on his lands after this second burning, and collects the ashes for that purpose, but if on the contrary, his object be to procure a crop his lands are in this state ready for sowing, and he may throw in the seed and cover it slightly with what is termed a brush harrow. No ploughing is required on land in this state, and it could hardly be effected if requisite, owing to the numerous impediments from the fibrous roots, and the stumps which are left standing. The alkaline property of the ashes combining with, and acting on the rich vegetable mould, always ensures a superabundant crop from the simple process above detailed.

The second method of clearing varies in some respects from the above plan. Here the settler cuts down the brush wood, and after collecting it along with the smaller timber burns it. The larger trees are left

standing and are what termed *girdled*; that is, an incision or notch is made round each, at the height of three or four feet from the ground, and so deep as to penetrate quite through the bark. By this means the circulation of the sap in the tree is impeded, and it dies in the course of a year or two, when it falls and is burned in the way above noticed. Much has been said as to the comparative advantages of these two methods of clearing; and like every thing of the kind, the preference given to either of them must be influenced by the state of existing circumstances. As to the matter of expense, the first method costs nearly double that of the last, the cutting up of the underbrush being but a trifling undertaking, and when the larger trees are dried and fall of themselves, they are burned at a far less expense than when in a green state.

The advocates for the first method, have advanced reasons in favour of it no less substantial than these. It is in the first place the most elegant method of clearing. In the case of girdling the shade of the large trees which are left standing, impedes the rays of the Sun and prevents the crop coming to such perfection, as it does if they were cut down: Hence if a settler only clears ten acres by the first plan, he will have as much crop from them, and will be more sure of reaping his reward, than he would from double the extent of ground, cleared in the manner last described. The experience of later years seems also to have sanctioned the first, in preference to the last plan, for few instances of girdling are now to be seen, unless in places where there are few large trees, or where the settler is not anxious for, or dependant on a large return the first year.

The expense of clearing lands by either of the above processes, differs in different parts of the country, and is generally estimated by the value for labour in other operations.

The Stumps, which are necessarily left in the ground after clearing in both the above methods, are allowed to remain there until they rot out in the course of time. The period necessary for this will vary according to the description of the land and the species of timber; in general the stumps of the softer kinds decay in three or four years, while others continue from ten to fifteen; but as they are gradually diminishing in number every succeeding year, the facility for using the plough becomes proportionally greater.

It will occur to any man conversant with the best and readiest methods of saving labour that a more expeditious plan than

either of these might be adopted; by cutting down all the trees and underwood together, and after they have been left a sufficient time to dry, by setting fire to them at once. By this method the labour and time required for collecting the brush wood into heaps might be saved, and as a great portion of the larger timber would be thus consumed, the labour of cutting up the logs, and collecting them into heaps (termed logging) would be very much abridged. There are however serious objections against this plan. Those experienced in the business have discovered that the excessive heat which is by this means applied to the whole surface destroys the vegetative power of the soil; and if cleared in this manner it will not bear a crop for many years after. This is no doubt a valid objection in many descriptions of soil. If it contains a large portion of iron, the calcination it would undergo in this process will no doubt injure its fertility. If the soil be of a lime stone or calcareous nature the complete destruction of the animal and vegetable matter, by this plan, will leave no substance for the lime, thus formed, to act upon. In Argillaceous or clay soils, the surface may become so indurated by the heat as to be unfit to produce a crop. Or lastly the reduction of all the vegetable substances in the soil into ashes along with that produced by the trees may render the soil too alkaline in its nature. In either of these cases the views of the farmer who expects a crop will be frustrated; and it is of but little consequence to enquire how his defeat occurs; since ample experience confirms the fact that lands cleared in this manner are unfit to bear a crop for years after.

A slight consideration of the above methods of clearing lands exonerates, the Canadian settler from a reproach to which he has been long undeservedly subjected, by strangers who have visited the country. I mean the want of taste, in not leaving groves and patches of wood in different places, to beautify his farm. It is obvious from what is above said, that were he inclined to make such reservations; it would be hardly possible to do so but at an enormous expense, as the ravages of the fire during the first burning could seldom be prevented from extending to such a favorite spot. Its limits can seldom be correctly circumscribed, far less is it possible to preserve unscathed, a favorite bush or tree, in the middle of the space which it has to pass. Another objection to the reservation of trees, for the sake of embellishment in Canada, is the circumstance of their not continuing. Trees which grow in large thick forests, seldom extend their roots and fibres so far in the

ground, as those which are planted detached or in small clustres. Hence when a farmer in Canada leaves a solitary tree, or even a clump of trees for an ornament to his farm, they are generally blown down by the first high wind, and are on this account not worth the trouble of preserving. It has been asserted that the farmer in this country, ought not to reserve clustres of trees in the midst of his cleared ground, even if such a thing were practicable; because such a reservation affords shelter to small birds and other vermin which eat up his crop. It must be confessed that this objection possesses considerable force in some cases, but it only bears in particular situations. If the farm be situated in the midst of a cleared country with no timber in its vicinity, the reserving of patches of timber would no doubt attract birds; but when it is surrounded by extensive woods, as is generally the case in Canada, such a reservation can hardly be supposed to increase their number. And it requires no apology for leaving undone that which it is impracticable to accomplish.

## Trent Valley ARCHIVES

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Midnight Ghost Walks, 9 & 9:30  
20 & 21 May; 24 & 25 June  
22 & 23 July; 19 & 20 August

Little Lake Cemetery history tours  
Every Wednesday at 6:30  
June, July and August

Land Records Workshop  
28 May 10 am and 1 pm

Giant Book Sale, 28 May  
at Class Connections, 9 to 12  
downtown Reid Street

Open Tues to Sat, 10 to 4

## Wall of Honour & Confederation Park

*Elwood Jones*

As we go to press, the big heritage story in the city of Peterborough is the fate of the Wall of Honour which for three years seemed slated to adorn Confederation Park. However, City Hall has chosen to be negative about this, and it will be very difficult to overcome that negativism. Still, the City Council seems agreed that the park is the only site that should be considered. The park is a recognized centre for gatherings of all sorts, and it is home to other commemorative markers.

The Wall of Honour was conceptualized for a specific location and it is a tribute to that location. It enhances the War Memorial without detracting from it, and it captures moments of civic pride at a location that resonates with civic significance. This is our only civic square. It may have emerged through the back door; it may have taken knocking down really good houses, but the area is established as a civic square area. A city that never had a planning tradition was made to appear as if it did.

Confederation Park was not always a park, but it has strong credentials as the first park for the Town of Peterborough when it was established as Central Park in 1884; Victoria Park, was set apart as parkland as the dying gesture of the old Colborne District, in 1838.

All parks are not equal. The Court House Park was home to the Peterborough Exhibition, the cricket grounds and other wild uses until the Peterborough Horticultural Society was formed in 1861 with the mission to make it a real landscaped park. The other uses had to scatter.

The Exhibition went to the old burial ground that had been resurrected into low level parkland by the building of the Drill Hall in 1868. It served as the town's cemetery from 1825 to 1851 when it was officially closed. The town posted signs to prohibit further burials; however, the sign was ambiguous as people would be fined \$25 if caught making burials there. The land apparently was allowed to go wild and scrub pine grew on the site. In 1884, the Exhibition was evicted once again as the Town decided it wanted a formal park. Over the years people debated what were proper uses for a formal park; some even advocated that people should keep off the grass, and certainly people were not encouraged to play games. The public

uses that grew on the site are revealing indicators of a mixed legacy: a Roman Catholic school, the drill hall succeeded by an Armoury, and a public high school were added on stretch furthest from George Street. Near George Street, the memorial to our participation in the North West Rebellion of 1885 and the War Memorial are suggestive of a place of public remembrance. The Wall of Honour is proposed for the no-man's land between these two areas and has seemed to me from first blush an appropriate use of the site.

When bones were found near the Armoury during foundation work in 1998, I was called in for comment and recommended that Professor Hermann Helmuth had the expertise to ensure proper standards of respect and research. The bones that were found on that occasion proved to be from the period of the burial ground, not Native, and in fact clearly of male and female Irish workers. It is known that a Native burial site was excavated in the 1960s on Brock Street. It seems reasonable to believe that was a singular example of a Woodland Native on a campsite along the portage route that ran from the foot of the long rapids on the Otonabee known as Nogojiwanong (now Peterborough, about Simcoe Street) to Mud Lake (now Chemong Lake at Bridgenorth). There is no evidence that the burial ground was ever a burial ground for Natives.

An alderman who was a leader for an archaeological dig at PCVS in the late 1960s reports that Native artifacts were found. It would be necessary to read such reports and see what explanations were given.

The Wall of Honour is an appropriate use for the site, and it would be nice if city officials would agree. If they were more intent on cutting red tape than in creating hurdles, we could have accomplished a great deal. Instead the people working to raise funds and fine tune details are given more questions.

City officials suggest that the old burial ground was never decommissioned. This is a surprise. The cemetery was closed in 1851 and

no further burials were permitted. Popular lore suggests some rogue burials occurred, but that is all. If we need to apply for a closure of the portion of the burial grounds that would be impacted that should be done. It should be an easy matter to confirm that the area along the fence line very likely had no burials. The Town was not large before 1851. In that year, officially 12 January 1851, the census takers counted just over 13000 in the county of which 2191 were in Peterborough. Peterborough county in 1851 had 135 deaths, or 10.38 per 1000. That prorates to 23 deaths in the town of Peterborough. Across the period since 1825 that would be about 400 deaths that might have occurred in the town. There were other places for burials to occur, such as with family burial sites. If we allow that a burial site occupied 12 square feet, the area of the block containing burials could not have exceeded 4800 square feet. Given the religious distribution of the population each of the sections of the burial grounds should have been about the same, and I would expect the burials to concentrate more on the Murray Street side of the block. It also seems to me that modern imaging techniques should be able to confirm where the burials were concentrated. And then it should be very easy to establish that a compatible use such as the Wall of Honour could be constructed in the area in which burials likely never occurred.

I believe that the cemetery was officially closed in 1851. The city bylaws are in the Peterborough City Archives and should be checked. I have never seen registers or site plans for the old burial ground. Presumably these might be in the records of the old Colborne District. Gordon Young reports that there was a plan showing grave sites when workers excavated the base for the War Memorial. He has also talked to an expert on old cemeteries who suggests that pioneer burial grounds worked around the perimeters. That would suggest that the suggested site for the Wall of Honour, along the fence by the parking lot for the Armouries, would be least likely to have been used for burials.

The footprint of the Wall of Honour

is not that large, and it is estimated that it would not require more than 18 inches of excavation to accommodate its weight.

While it is good that the Cemetery Act has more stringent standards, in an area with a long history of mixed public use it is possible to make the case that appropriate uses would be welcome. This is not a building even though officials at City Hall have wondered if it would be so by the definition of some mysterious judge. To most people, the wall is a cemetery marker dedicated to people who once lived in this area. How can that not be appropriate?

Modern imaging techniques should be able to identify the areas most likely used for burials and to build the Wall of Honour in an area where few burials appear to have been made. The margin of error of such technology could be easily accommodated.

With a spirit of good will, and without fixating on proving someone is right and others are wrong, we should strive to find out what is possible. The worst case scenario is not the smart road to follow.

We hope to bring the conclusion to this story in our next issue. If you would like to help with this project, donations made out to the "Wall of Honour" may be sent to the Trent Valley Archives.

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## News, View and Reviews

Those who have been following our coverage of anniversaries will notice that we are still a bit short. In this issue of the *Heritage Gazette* we have been looking at the spring of 1904, a full year before the city's incorporation. This allows us to savour some pertinent details. Ashburnham united with Peterborough at least 18 months before incorporation. Some people thought there was little to gain by rushing to city status. There were promises to keep to the village. Two issues were providing sewers to Ashburnham and guaranteeing it representation on City Council. There was a new high school to build. There was a new Armoury to negotiate.

In taking the slow route we were intrigued by some of the things that appeared in the papers of the day. Gough Brothers, the dominant men's wear retailer was leaving after 19 years in downtown: its Toronto operations were demanding too much of its energies. Fires

were punctuating Peterborough winters and after five big fires in five years the town had to consider changes to the Fire Department. By 1908 it had moved to its own building, on Aylmer Street, and had become a salaried operation.

On the political scene, the Liberals were defending themselves against charges of bribery and corruption.

Peterborough was a formidable sporting town with two powerful local sporting organizations: TAS and PAAS, and the main playing fields were in the former village of Ashburnham. H. R. H. Kenner, the long-time principal of PCI, proposed consolidating the two organizations to produce a national lacrosse championship. That did not happen, and TAS proposed a Trent Valley league for lacrosse. Both views suggest that Peterborough had depth in lacrosse. The town had won no laurels since dominating the Gildersleeve Cup in the early 1880s.

But above all, in sports, hockey was dominant. Interestingly, the most important title of the day was won by the Peterborough Football Club, which won the forerunner of the Grey Cup.

The town was really defined by its manufacturing fame. Canadian General Electric and Quaker Oats were already dominant employers. Indeed, the strength in sports may have been a result of the young working class population. In any case, Ontario's largest town had the most industrial workers per capita.

Vancouver became a city when it had under 300 people, and in Saskatchewan city status was reached at 5000. It remains a mystery why there was a strong undercurrent in 1904 and 1905, led by Mayor Best, against rushing to cityhood when the town had 15,000 residents. The newspapers give us hints, but wouldn't it be nice if we had the correspondence of such people. Too bad the city never had an archives until the 1970s.

However, how lucky that the town had three daily papers. It was possible to catch nuances that become lost in the era of one daily, which for Peterborough arrived 31 May 1920. The high cost of newsprint in the post-war economy was cited as the reason for the *Review* and the *Examiner* to merge newspapers. However, they did not merge their job printing activities, and the *Review* would publish occasional papers over

the years, before re-establishing as a weekly newspaper from the late 1930s to the 1970s. Trent Valley Archives has the longest run of the later weekly.

To many people, incorporation was not the biggest story in town. However, for us it provides a good opportunity for a party, and also to reflect on the importance of knowing our history.

Kathy Hooke wrote an interesting series of articles in the *Prime Time* for March, April and May. The town solicitor went to Toronto to meet the Private Bills Committee on 3 May 1905. Even at that meeting, Mayor Best was still opposed, this time because the proposal had not been submitted to local voters. Best, along with James Kendry and J. W. Miller, organized a petition to stop incorporation as nothing would be gained. However, Hall and R. M. Dennitoun lobbied for incorporation and T. E. Bradburn, MPP, Peterborough's richest landowner, steered the bill forward. The *Examiner*, 10 May 1905, was confident "We will make Peterborough the foremost of the minor cities as we now harmoniously unite." Kathy Hooke notes people were happy to take the street railway to its new terminus at the foot of Lock Street where the new Pleasure Park opened.

There was considerable interest in the events surrounding the sixtieth anniversary of V-E Day. The Toronto papers featured archival coverage of the days leading to V-E Day and the *Examiner* had a special four-page feature that had four very good pictures from 1945. The downtown streets were crowded with exciting people. Some have argued that the end of the war ushered a period of significant change that was not matched by any other year in the century. The automobile and the new bungalows were two symbols of the new world for Peterborough as well as elsewhere.





## TVA Publications Program Off and Running

The Trent Valley Archives has launched its publication program. Our titles are available exclusively from the Trent Valley Archives. Our plan is to keep expanding our titles to reflect the great wealth of our resources. As well, we are developing community-oriented initiatives that will be valued very widely. We are planning a fresh edition of Martha Kidd's Peterborough's Architectural Heritage. As well, we will publish, really for the first time, two major landmarks in the writing of Peterborough's history. F H Dobbin's index to the History of Peterborough was voluminous and is a major reference work, but it was never published, probably because World War I absorbed Dobbin's energies. We are also publishing Howard Pammett's study of the Irish who came to Peterborough in 1825. This was his MA thesis at Queen's University and we serialized much of the work in the Heritage Gazette. We are open to other suggestions from our members.

In Sagas and Sketches: the Saga Rose World Cruise 2002 (2004), Martha Kidd and Beverly Hunter apply their great skills of observation in writing and sketching to fascinating places around the world. Martha is never far from Peterborough no matter where she travels, and we featured excerpts from her commentaries in the Heritage Gazette in 2002. 95 pages, \$20.

The Heritage Gazette of the Trent Valley: Index to Contents, 1997-2004 from volume 1 to volume 9, 3 (2004). 44 pages, \$15.

The Mills of Peterborough County has been a labour of love for Diane Robnik. She has gathered references to mills throughout the area and tried to match them with pictures from varied local archives. \$20.

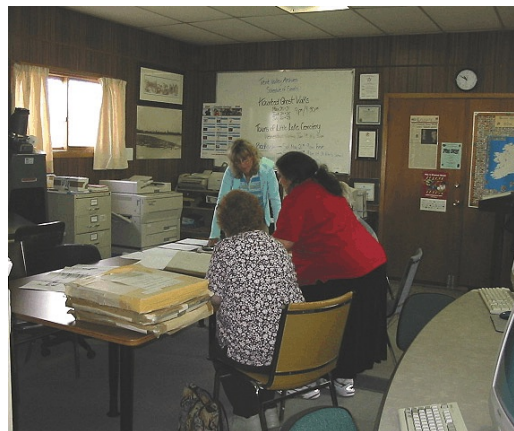
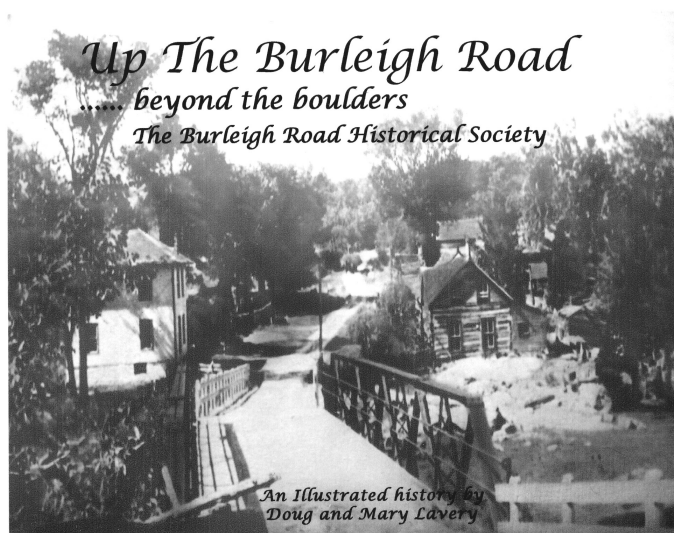
History of the County of Peterborough: Biographical Notices [by C Pelham Mulvany and associates] Susan Kyle has carefully captured the contents of the biographies published in the 1884 edition. This is a very rare book, and the biographies are very interesting precisely because they have been written by the contributors working with Mulvany's local agents. Elwood Jones has written an introduction, and the book is great looking. 300 pages. \$60.

History of the County of Peterborough: Peterborough and Haliburton histories [by C Pelham Mulvany and associates] This is the compilation of the local histories written for the county of Peterborough (by Mulvany), for the townships of Peterborough (by Charles M Ryan), and for the county of Haliburton (by Charles R Stewart). This too comes with a special introduction and commentary. 325 pages. \$60. There is a special discount price for ordering the previous two titles as a set. \$100.

Death Notices From the Peterborough Examiner. Each volume is 132 pages, \$6.50. Compiled by the late Marianne Mackenzie, assisted by Alice Mackenzie and Don Mackenzie. We plan to publish the annual volumes for as many years as possible. Currently available is Death Notices From the Peterborough Examiner 1990.

We are pleased to announce that Mary and Doug Lavery have assembled a terrific group to write Up the Burleigh Road. We are selling copies at a special pre-publication rate of \$20. Order yours today.

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Planning projects at the Trent Valley Archives.

## Burials from St John's English Church, Peterborough, 1842-1844

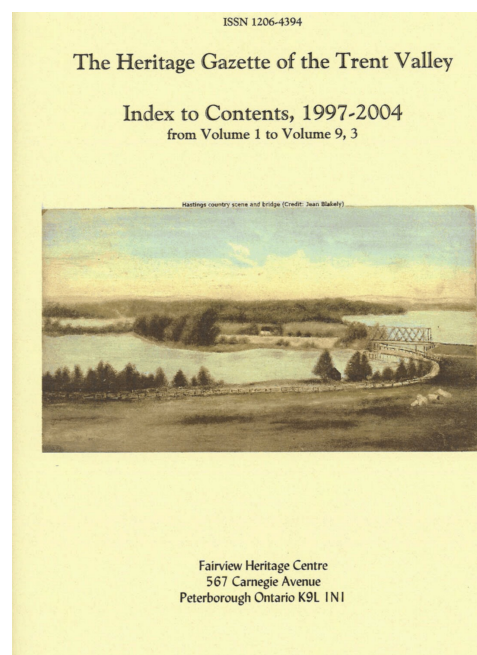
### St John's Parish Archives, 11-10

### The Rev Robert J C Taylor officiating

*Elwood Jones, Parish Archivist-Historian*

There has been some interest in how many people could have been buried in the Town of Peterborough burial grounds between 1825 and 1851 when it was officially closed. It is generally assumed that midnight burials occurred after the closing even in the face of threats of fines of \$25 if people were caught doing so. The park lay fallow for about fifteen years until part of it was used for the Drill Hall, built in 1867, and for the Murray Street Separate School not long after. The grounds became the home of the annual Peterborough fairs once the Drill Hall was available. That part of the Burial Ground closest to George Street became Central Park in 1884, and the fair had to move again, this time to what is known as Morrow Park. The burial register of the Rev Mr Taylor makes no mention of where the burials occurred. We can assume that those that related to Peterborough, about three-fifths of the names, were buried in the town's burial ground. This is about sixteen per year. In 1851, the census takers counted just over 13000 in the county of which 2191 were in Peterborough. Peterborough county in 1851 had 135 deaths, or 10.38 per 1000. That prorates to 23 deaths in the town of Peterborough. We do not know what proportion of burials were from St John's, nor how many bodies were buried in the burial grounds. The following list is notable for the young names. Nine were less than a year old, and another 28 died before the age of 20. Even in the cohort aged 21 to 40, there were 29 deaths. Aged 41 to 60, there were 17 deaths, and there were only six in the sixty-one and over group; for two we have no age given. In future issues we will continue our look at the experience of St John's in relation to the burial ground, and its successor, Little Lake Cemetery. We are at this time unable to confirm how many bodies were reinterred at the Little Lake Cemetery. Always of great interest is that St John's never had a cemetery connected with its church. For the first ten years or so the congregation met in the school house. This might be because the government granted land for the purpose.

Name	Age	Trade, etc	Residence	Date of Burial
Holhart, John	42	farmer	Smith	1842 01 02
Wright, John	23	clerk	Peterboro	1842 01 05
Haydn, Sam	40		Peterboro	1842 01 10
McDougall, George		gentleman	Douro	1842 01 25
Forbes, Robert Miller	66	C R N	Peterboro	1842 01 28
Boate, Martan	23		Emily	1842 02 11
Baltry, Wm	6		Peterboro	1842 02 17
Doherty, John	56	labourer	Peterboro	1842 03 04
Jones, James	7		Smith	1842 05 31
Nicholl, Hugh	40	farmer	Smith	1842 06 23
Armstrong, James	26	farmer	Otonabee	1842 08 08
Payne, John	16		Peterboro	1842 09 20
Haslewood, Marie J			Peterboro	1842 09 20
Toker, George S	25	gentleman	Peterboro	1842 09 21
Boyd, John	42	farmer	Douro	1842 10 01
Parson, Mary	40		Peterboro	1842 10 03
Traill, Eleanor S	1		Peterboro	1842 10 14
Fawcett, John	30	farmer	Otonabee	1842 10 16
Milburn, John	10		Peterboro	1842 11 20
D'Arcus, George A H	6		Peterboro	1842 11 25
Cobb, John	37	labourer	Peterboro	1842 11 27
Hesler, John	27	farmer	Smith	1842 12 06
Cunningham, Peter	36	farmer	Peterboro	1842 12 06
Copeland, John	18		Smith	1842 12 10
Crawford, Mary D	5		Cobourg	1843 01 09
Greig, Thomas	36	farmer	Douro	1843 02 01
Monaghan, John	55	labourer	Peterboro	1843 03 17
Spaulding, Jane	5		Peterboro	1843 03 17
McPhail, Barbara	23		Peterboro	1843 04 05
Amer, John	33	carpenter	Peterboro	1843 04 11
Gibbs, Joseph E	17		Douro	1843 04 22
Hague, James	30	gentleman	Douro	1843 05 28
Faguson, Sarah	50		Peterboro	1843 05 29
Nelson, Hugh	24	labourer	Douro	1843 05 31
McKibbin, Walter	50	farmer	Smith	1843 06 03
Reid, Robert W	0.16		Douro	1843 06 11
Gesner, Margaret	6		Emily	1843 06 15
McConkey, Thomas	40	labourer	Smith	1843 07 04





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Evans, William	27	labourer	Monaghan	1843 07 11
Fidler, Mary G	0.5		Fenelon	1843 07 15
Gray, Sgt Thomas	61	pensioner	Verulam	1843 07 25
McMahon, Thomas	41	labourer	Belmont	1843 08 01
Fowler, William	40	farmer	Monaghan	1843 08 06
Milburn, Sarah	6		Peterboro	1843 08 26
McPhail, Alexander	0.33		Peterboro	1843 08 27
Manning, Ed Charles	1		Peterboro	1843 09 17
Benson, William	26	labourer	Smith	1843 09 09
Boyd, John Jr	20	labourer	Douro	1843 10 01
Manning, Margaret	3		Peterboro	1843 10 01
Brownlee, James	0.04		Peterboro	1843 10 12
McDaniel, Mrs	64		Otonabee	1843 10 16
Brownlee, Catherine	0.06		Peterboro	1843 10 19
Plymouth, Ellen M	43		Peterboro	1843 11 09
Milburn, John	11		Smith	1843 11 20
Rubidge, Joseph W	2		Peterboro	1843 09 28
Roche, Andrew	6		Peterboro	1843 12 20
Grisdale, Wilfred	44	farmer	Douro	1844 01 09
Ware, Anne	55		Peterboro	1844 01 31
Caddy, Caroline	3		Douro	1844 01 29
Sheridan, John	4		Peterboro	1844 02 04
McCombs, George	4		Peterboro	1844 03 04
Elliott, George	27	farmer	Smith	1844 03 08
Fleeting, Anne	69		Otonabee	1844 03 27
Ryan, John F	50	shoemaker		1844 03 27
Armour, James	30	barrister		1844 04 01
Armour, Beverly R	0.83		Peterboro	1844 04 10
Browne, Robert	30	labourer	Peterboro	1844 04 13
Armstrong, Elizabeth F	10		Douro	1844 04 23
Mulcap, John	0.33		Peterboro	1844 04 16
Smith, William	50	farmer	Peterboro	1844 05 19
Edwards, John	31	labourer	Monaghan	1844 05 19
Sanford, Ephraim	62	postmaster	Peterboro	1844 05 19
Andress, Jane	18		Peterboro	1844 06 01
Reid, Richard H	0.16		Douro	1844 06 06
Jenkins, Elizabeth	3		Peterboro	1844 07 05
Jenkins, James	5		Peterboro	1844 07 05
Peterkin, Margaret	44		Peterboro	1844 07 26
Laughlin, Edward	45	farmer	Peterboro	1844 08 10
Boyd, John	62	farmer	Douro	1844 08 10
Benton, Anne	33		Smith	1844 08 16
Thornton, Adam	26	gentleman	Douro	1844 08 30
Flood, Henry	48	gentleman	Otonabee	1844 09 10
Deyell, Robert	49	farmer	Monaghan	1844 09 27
Wrighton, Henry W	3		Peterboro	1844 10 11
Hall, Leonard	23	labourer	Otonabee	1844 10 19
Dewart, William	30	farmer	Smith	1844 10 29
Wrighton, Sarah	1		Peterboro	1844 11 17
Montgomery, Margaret	0.08		Smith	1844 11 22
Appleyard, Ellen	40		Smith	1844 12 01
Browne, George	44	carpenter	Peterboro	1844 12 22
Benson, Helen	3		Peterboro	1844 12 29

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*Without Archives There is No History*

## Trent Valley Archives

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[www.trentvalleyarchives.com](http://www.trentvalleyarchives.com)  
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For those who missed last years **Ghost Walks**, we will be repeating these popular tours (some new ghosts added) on the following weekends:

May 20 & 21

June 24 & 25

July 22 & 23

August 19 & 20

September 16 & 17

These are sure to be a lot of fun and will sell out quickly, so please book as early as possible. Tickets are \$10 per person and must be purchased in advance. Tours are at 9 and 9:30 pm.

Our **Historical Tours of Little Lake Cemetery** are beginning Wednesday June 1.

There will be 3 tours this summer:

Edwardian Peterborough

Tragic Tales=20

Peterborough's Military Heritage

All tours begin at the Chapel at 6:30pm and will run every Wednesday until the end of August. Tickets are \$5 per person purchased at the event, or you can buy a Cemetery Tour Pass which will get you in all 3 tours for \$12.

**Land Record Workshops** - Gina Martin will be continuing her very successful land record workshops on May 28. There will be two sessions (10 am/1pm) Cost is \$15. Please call to register. 745-4404

Trent Valley Archives is having a **GIANT Book Sale** on May 21<sup>st</sup> and May 28<sup>th</sup>. On the first Saturday we are at the Trent Valley Archives on the lawn and inside. On the second Saturday we are downtown at the Class Connections (the former St Peter's school building). We are open from 9 to noon both days.

# Without Archives There is No History

## History Begins Here

Edwardian Peterborough Conference, May 2005

Elwood Jones

The Edwardian Peterborough Conference was an unqualified success. As Jean Murray Cole, the moving spirit of an event in planning for about a year, deserves the credit. The conference was her idea in concept and detail. She got the support of the Peterborough Historical Society as sponsors and they supplied the expertise and energy of Mary Lavery. She got the support of several key players at Trent University, and she got the support of most local heritage organizations and museums. The program was largely the responsibility of John Wadland and Al Brunger. Dale Standen, aided by John Good, handled the logistics and ensured there were places for all the exhibits. Wally Macht brought an excerpt from what promises to be an excellent historical film on Peterborough's history, *Imagine Peterborough: In Days Gone By*. The historical poster essays and displays filled three rooms and nearly all showed thoughtfulness and diversity of life in the area 100 years ago.

There were seven speakers at the conference, and perhaps twenty exhibits featuring different aspects of life in Peterborough from 1895 to 1915, dubbed the Edwardian era. Edward, Prince of Wales, visited Peterborough in 1860, some forty years before he succeeded his mother, Queen Victoria.

Jennifer Ray Horvath showed that the 58 and 59 female workers at Quaker Oats in 1903 and 1925 lived overwhelmingly with their families, and those who lived at home travelled on average slightly further than did those boarding. Those women with factory jobs had a longer journey to work than clerical staff. Those living in the working class housing south of Charlotte Street travelled the extra distance to Quaker Oats, a factory not built in the midst of a working class residential district. Even so, the distances women travelled, even if they also took the streetcar, were less than a mile.

John Oldham has been preparing a travelling exhibit that will begin at the home base, the Peterborough Centennial Museum and Archives, in August. The exhibit explores "Vaudeville through the lens of the Roy Studio." R. M. Roy seems to have been the official photographer for the Marks Brothers, Canada's premier vaudeville company: Tom, Joe, Ernie, Eric and R. W. As well, he did quite a bit of work for Dan Simons, the son of a Peterborough tailor, whose comedic song and dance routines took him to Sells Circus and eventually to Broadway; he died in New York in 1934. Peterborough was a stop on the vaudeville circuit, partly because of the great train service to the town, and partly because in succession E. C. Hill's Music Hall, the Bradburn Opera House, and the Grand Opera House could handle the variety of acts that characterized vaudeville to 1930.

Jo-Ellen Bryden paints colourful narrative folk art that is clever and attractive. Sometimes she captures stories in a single painting. However, with the 1934 story of John Smith's abortive effort to canoe across the Atlantic she treated each day as a story. Now she plans to do the same with the story of the Gypsies who came to Peterborough in June 1909. She has read the newspapers, Elwood Jones' occasional paper on the group, and taken a reading course of the Roma people. So far she has completed one painting for this series showing the group moving through the Fowler's Corners area.

Dr Brian Osborne, the dynamic Queen's geography professor, and president of the Ontario Historical Society, was the guest luncheon speaker. He made clever comparisons between Kingston and Peterborough, and ways to celebrate history. Both shared links to the Mississauga Indians, notably at Alderville, as well as docks, locks and canals. Robertson Davies wrote trenchant observations about both towns, but he also provided the catching metaphor that small towns are anchored in the "stream

of time." Osborne built on this idea to show that it was important to have a sense of place. With the "slow city movement" we can have distinctive separate lives, slow down the pace of life, look for "smart growth", protect what we have. He commended the new term for this, "glocalization." He proposed a toast to Peterborough. He was graciously introduced by Al Brunger and thanked by John Wadland. Marilyn Huels, president of the Peterborough Historical Society, was the chair of the luncheon. Mayor Sylvia Sutherland brought greetings from the city and welcomed this respite from local politics.

Dr Jamie Benidickson, of the University of Ottawa law school, has for some time been doing extensive historical and legal research on water. He now has turned to sewage and in wry ways cast light on the problem of water closets in cottage country. Sewage systems developed in the wake of medical science's views. Medical science was not always right, but there were also problems related to putting sewage and septic systems into the rocky lands favoured by cottagers: was it a crime to flush a toilet? Moreover, once begun it is prudent to consider consequences, maintenance, and the necessity of rebuilding the infrastructure. Along the way, we learned much about typhoid, doctors and the delightful designs applied to water closets and outhouses.

Don Willcock then talked about firefighting in Edwardian Peterborough. Don has been working on all aspects of firefighting in Peterborough, and we hope a book will be published before the centennial of the city fire department in 2008. Don's father had been a volunteer firefighter in Harwood, and so he has grown up with a fascination for the subject. He used pictures of

pumpers and hose carts to demonstrate the changing technology. He described some of the divisions which took place, and commented on the famed Fire Brigade Band, and looked at some fires. Edwardian Peterborough, it seems, would have more efficiency in both technology and organization.

Christopher Greene, a history professor emeritus at Trent University, took us on a visual tour of Peterborough's ubiquitous and underappreciated Edwardian architecture. He commented on the main surviving public buildings of the period: the Normal School, the YMCA, PCVS, the Armouries, Murray Street Baptist Church, the Carnegie Library, Trinity United, and Sacred Heart Roman Catholic Church. Residentially, he began with Sadleir House, the former home of James Kendry, James Stratton and Peter Robinson College: this house had no equal in Edwardian Peterborough, although some of the houses he looked at in the Hunter Belmont area were in the league. He focussed on homes in the Avenues, the King Edward school area and in the Hunter-Homewood-Walton area to illustrate the diversity and practicality of the homes built between 1895 and 1915.

The conference provided good opportunity for questions, discussions and interchange and all who attended seemed to learn much. It was an invigorating experience for all concerned.

## Trent Valley Archives

thanks our members for the generous response to our financial appeal. As you know, ours is a charitable non-profit organization and will issue charitable donation receipts for donations. We depend on donations from our members and friends. Your support helped us through an exciting year. Our research room with new library shelving and library tables is a pleasant place to do research. Our resources have grown, we have improved our humidity control. We now have a conservator on site. We have improved our machines for reading and printing microfilm and digital sources. We have added books, newspapers, microfilms and digital sources. None of this would be possible without support from various sources,

but mostly you.

We need to increase our membership, which has been growing very steadily over the last couple of years. Even so, our success depends upon members giving extra financial support as they are able. Imagine what would happen if people gave monthly donations that matched their former yearly ones. It is possible, with your help.

For details contact Diane at the Trent Valley Archives: 705-743-0231 or [admin@trentvalleyarchives.com](mailto:admin@trentvalleyarchives.com)

*Thanks*

May 20 & 21 marks the first moonlight weekend of our Eerie Ghost Walks of downtown Peterborough. Tickets are available and are only \$10. That weekend is also our GIANT Book Sale. We will be having two sales this year. Saturday May 21st (weather permitting) there will be a book sale here at Trent Valley Archives. The following Saturday, we will be holding another book sale at the old St. Peter's elementary school (now Class Connections). Details on this event to follow.

“Up The  
Burleigh  
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boulders”



— an illustrated history of Burleigh and Anstruther Townships by the Burleigh Road Historical Society is being written by Doug and Mary Lavery and produced by Trent

Valley Archives.

Pre-publication price is \$20.00 for this quality hard cover book which is full of vintage stories and photographs. After May 2006 the price will be \$30.00 for the book.

## Trent Valley

Archives, 705-745-4404, is

taking orders. Place yours today.

### Peterborough's Centennial

The *Peterborough Examiner*, on 29 June, will publish a special edition to mark the centennial. The Trent Valley Archives has assisted in several aspects of the production. It looks to be a most impressive publication and our members will want to have a copy.

On the same day, 29 June, CHEX-TV is running a two-hour special, Wally Macht's *Imagine Peterborough: In Days Gone By*. Wally has been working on this for a long time and we are really impressed with the excerpts we have seen.

Lots of events are planned for 1 July and 2: Canada Day Parade, street hockey, street party and more. For details check the web [www.imaginepeterborough.com](http://www.imaginepeterborough.com)

Trent Valley  
ARCHIVES

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## Trent University Archives "documents the modern"

[weborders.htm](http://www.trentu.ca/library/archives/zthome.htm).

Trent University was the site for Canada's first national conference on the conservation of twentieth century buildings and landscapes. Jodi Aoki and Dr. Bernadine Dodge of the Trent University Archives, authors of the newly published *Bauhaus in the New World: Ron Thom at Trent University*, have created a 32-page booklet highlighting Mr. Thom's architectural legacy on the Symons Campus. It includes photographs chosen from among the hundreds that makeup the approximately six-cubic-foot collection housed at Trent. Though Mr. Thom's personal archive is housed at the University of Calgary, the Trent University Archives is home to the papers that pertain to his work on the Symons Campus.

An exhibit posted in the Virtual Lives section of the Archives' Web site, discusses in detail Mr. Thom's role as Master Planning Architect, and the origins of Champlain College, the Chemistry Building, Thomas J. Bata Library and Lady Eaton College. The on-line exhibit, *Ron Thom at Trent University, Precambrian Sublime: Bauhaus in the New World*, is posted at <http://www.trentu.ca/library/archives/zthome.htm>.

Ms. Aoki and Ms. Dodge prepared an extensive display at "Conserving the Modern in Canada, Buildings, ensembles and sites: 1945-2005". The Archives' reading room featured a looping Power Point presentation, photographs, posters, architectural drawings and correspondence.

Ms. Dodge says, "This is a nice opportunity to showcase the Archives with something I'm really interested in. I think it's incredible that we get to work at such a beautiful place."

"Conserving the modern in Canada" focussed on buildings, structures, districts, and landscapes constructed after 1945. The conference has been organized by Docomomo Canada-Ontario and the Winnipeg Architecture Foundation along with other allied organizations.

For more information or to order *Bauhaus in the New World: Ron Thom at Trent University*, visit <http://www.trentu.ca/library/archives/>