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The Heritage Gazette of the Trent Valley

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Cover picture: The new Hazelbrae Barnardo Memorial, Queen Alexandra School (photo by Ron Briegel)



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PRESIDENT'S CORNER



The past few months have been busy at the archives. After finishing our summer tours season we headed straight into a jam-packed fall schedule. On 17 September we held our open house and volunteer / donor appreciation day. The approximately 50 people who attended this initially cloudy outdoor event were rewarded with slideshows, tours, workshops, food, live music, door prizes and the eventual emergence of the sun. It was such a hit we'll be sure to run it again next fall!

We have also just finished our series of autumn walking tours including our ghost walks, the ever-popular cemetery pageant, and our new downtown musical history tour – It's All About the Music. Meanwhile, the sisters at Mount St. Joseph were treated to a presentation by TVA volunteers on the 1950s, featuring old newspapers, directories, maps and books from the period.

November brings our Family Tree Maker Workshop on Nov. 8, 7 – 9pm at the library run by Rick Roberts of Global Genealogy. This software is compatible with Ancestry.com and the workshop will feature dozens of tips and tricks to get the most out of all of its features (come a half hour early to peruse Rick's genealogy marketplace). Our Chapters Fundraiser is Nov. 10, 7 – 9 at Chapters on Lansdowne. 10% of all sales will go to TVA that night. We will also be selling our own publications with some Christmas bargains to be found, and local authors on hand to personalize your purchases. Also on sale that night is our Christmas gift card and tickets to our Christmas raffle (see insert for more information).

We continue to raise funds for our expansion project which has become more pressing than ever with news of a substantial collection to come our way in the coming months (more on this in our upcoming newsletters). We are more than half way to our goal of \$30,000, but still have a long way to go. So far these generous donations have allowed us to finish one entrance to the new annex and to install the power lines, allowing us to use the space for workshops at our open house. Our next steps are to install heat and shelving.

For more information on this, and on all our news and events, you can stay in touch between issues of the Heritage Gazette by checking out our website at www.trentvalleyarchives.com. At the top of the website's homepage you will also find links where you can sign up for our *monthly e-newsletter*, our facebook page, twitter account and/ or youtube channel. And as ever, your calls and visits are always welcome!

Pauline Harder

THOMAS MENZIES AND PETERBOROUGH'S MOST SPECTACULAR BANKRUPTCY 1888-1889

Elwood H. Jones

I

The Menzies House, 610 George Street

Thomas Menzies (1832-1909) was a stellar businessman in Peterborough for most of the 1860s to the 1880s. He and his family lived in one of the finest homes in Peterborough, a beautiful stone Italianate house at 610 George Street. Then he went bankrupt, and within weeks the family moved to Oklahoma, coincident with the famous Oklahoma land rush in April 1889. It is a fascinating story that reveals the fragility of fortune in the late nineteenth century.

Menzies was born in Perthshire, Scotland, and, shortly after the death of his father, he emigrated to America in 1851 with his three sisters and his mother. After a year in New York City, the family came to Peterborough where Thomas Menzies became a clerk for R. D. Rogers, whose Ashburnham general store was at the east end of the Hunter Street bridge. After about five years, he began his own business on George Street, and remained in the same location for over thirty years. In 1888, he was described as a bookseller and stationer with a store at 406 George Street, just north of Hunter, now Nielsen's Jewellers. In 1869, his business was assessed at \$3,400, and his house, on the north east corner of Brock and Rubidge, was assessed at \$3,200. This is quite a high assessment and the 1875 Romaine map shows a very large building at this site, which before street numbers were introduced was described as north Brock west George 13, but would now be a duplex at 304-306 Brock Street.

Menzies appears in the newspapers frequently. Over the years, he was a banker, a dealer in real estate, a railway ticket agent and a vacation planner as well as a bookseller and stationer. He sat on Peterborough's town council in 1861 for the central ward, and from 1880 to 1887 as the alderman in Ward 4, the north end ward. Several people, in November 1876 and in August 1883, signed petitions encouraging him to run for mayor; he lost to William Toole in 1877, but did not run when George A. Cox defeated C. W. Sawers in 1883. He was a militia officer from when he helped raise the Peterborough Rifles in the late 1850s. He was a justice of the peace, and for a brief period in 1882 and 1883 was police magistrate. C. P. Mulvany, whose 1885 history of Peterborough still remains useful, described Menzie's career as "a record of the success which follows close application and integrity of action, coupled with ability to direct and control."

During the months in which Menzies was declaring bankruptcy, the Examiner continued to carry his long-running

ad offering excursion rates from Montreal, Quebec and New York City to points in Britain, Italy and Germany. The ads said he "Agent, G.T.R.", the Grand Trunk Railway. At the same time, advertisements for steamers listed Menzies as one of the places selling tickets. The Grand Trunk Railway was running "annual cheap excursion" in September 1888 to American cities in Michigan and Ohio, and also to Chicago and Milwaukee.

In the 1881 census, when Menzies was 49, his wife Christina Watson (1839-1921) was 40, and they had six children. The daughters, Bessie, Christina, Mina, and Irene were respectively 16, 14, 9 and 2. Their sons, Thomas and Stanley, were 7 and 4. Charlotte Blair, 41 and Bridget Milligan, aged 70, were also in the household. The couple was married in Peterborough, February 11, 1862.

The majestic Menzies home was a George Street landmark until

1965. It is the only known work designed by James Arthur Barchard. For a few years before the new PCVS was opened in 1907, the Menzies house served the overflow from Central School, which expanded into the earlier high school on Murray Street. This seems to be an early photograph. (Trent Valley Archives, Electric City Collection)



Menzies fine Italianate mansion was designed by James Arthur Barchard (1833-1877) who in 1876 advertisements was an architect, builder and patent agent who prepared "designs, drawings and

specifications for churches, school houses and private dwellings." In May 1876, the Examiner in its list of current building projects, observed, "Mr. Thomas Menzies is erecting a splendid mansion on George Street, the design is by Mr. Barchard, and will be very handsome." (Peterborough, 1975). In 1875, he was a carpenter living at the north-west corner of Sherbrooke and Bethune, a house that had been the first Peterborough Protestant Home, 1865-1870. The property shows on the 1875 Romaine map as belonging to Robert A. Morrow, and later became part of the railway yards tied to Midland Railway. Earlier, in the 1869 assessment, he was living at Sherbrooke and Reid, a site that by 1875 was

designated as a site for the No. 1 Ward School, now the site of Rubidge Hall. To date, no one has identified other projects related to Barchard. The contractor was James Clotworthy, who lived at 584 George Street.

When I first heard about the mansion about forty years ago, it was described as “Menzie’s Folly.” The general belief was that Menzie’s had overextended himself in order to build this home. [Do a visual description of the house from the outside based on photographs.]



This duplex on the corner of Brock and Rubidge, right across from St. Andrew’s Presbyterian Church, was home to the Menzie’s family before the Italianate house was built about 1875. (Elwood Jones)

Ada Stanton (d. 1998) described the house to Martha Ann Kidd, and her notes are at the Trent Valley Archives. Her father had owned the property before Menzie’s, and she had attended the building when it was a school, and later lived in the house during years when it changed from a private house to an apartment building. The building operated as a school from 1895 to 1905, so Stanton lived over 100 years. The house originally sat on an acre lot, which Menzie’s acquired in June 1875, and registered in January 1876. When the building was a school, the Baby Class was on the west side of building next to a large room called First Book. Junior Second and Senior Second were upstairs. On the east side of the main floor there was the Junior Third and the Senior Third, both in what was called the long room, which was 38 feet long. She remembered four teachers: Miss Dorothy Jane Hall (later a Mrs Smith); Miss Ames; Miss Lock; and Miss Throop. The school board leased the building from a Mrs Sheppard. The woodwork was mahogany, walnut and ash. The doorknobs were black with gold leaf. The basement floors were brick, and even the ceilings in the tower were as fancy as the main floor ceilings. She remembers the janitor was a Mr. Russell who lived in a main floor apartment with his family. Outside, there was a large mountain ash and quite a few russet apple trees. A picket fence surrounded the property and the driveway off George Street was marked by a huge wooden and iron gate. The Menzie’s school was effectively administered from Central School, and housed about 120

students in four classrooms. When the new building for Peterborough Collegiate Institute was built on McDonnell Street, the Menzie’s school was no longer needed, for Central School took over the former 1872 high school that was next door.

In 1888, the year Menzie’s went bankrupt, he sold the house and land to Robert S. Davidson and William Moore, who held the mortgage on the house, for \$10,000. Menzie’s had bought the property for \$2,700, and the mansion must have cost more than \$10,000 to design and build. After Mrs Sheppard, the house was owned from 1905 to 1909 by contractor William Langford, who built many of the large houses in the immediate area. When George E. Graham purchased the house and land from Vincent Eastwood in 1929, the house was divided into two. Her father lived in one half, and she and her husband, Charles E. Stanton, lived on the east side. The house was spacious and the craftsmanship of the carpentry and building was admirable. There were four marble fireplaces, three that were dark gray, and one that was lighter. The house was further divided when Ada Stanton’s brother, Charles E. Graham, moved into the house. The 16-room house with three bathrooms was converted to eight small apartments around 1948. In 1965, Ada Stanton and Mrs Charles E. Graham sold the house to a company that also purchased 620 George Street. Both 610 and 620 George Street were demolished in 1965 in preparation for an intended nursing home that was never built. In the 1970s, the site was filled with modern row housing with front yard parking, a project that has always been inappropriate for this area. Moreover, it was an unworthy successor to the Menzie’s mansion, and Ada Stanton always regretted that she lacked the financial resources to maintain the building.

II

Real Estate, Bookstore and Bankruptcy

The financial meltdown of Menzie’s extensive George Street stationer business shocked everybody. The story unfolded in the late weeks of 1888, and in late November, Menzie’s instructed W. H. Moore, his lawyer, to arrange a meeting of creditors to see what was possible, and if the situation could not be rescued, then to place the estate in the hands of an assignee. According to the *Peterborough Daily Review*, November 29, 1888, Menzie’s financial difficulties had been the subject of public comment for weeks. Because Menzie’s business had aspects of a bank, it was more public than other businesses might be.

At a well-attended meeting on November 28, Moore said that Menzie’s unsecured liabilities totaled about \$19,000 and the assets of the stock in the store was about \$14,000. Menzie’s real estate was valued at about \$18,200 and had mortgages of \$14,500. The purpose of the meeting was to seek a compromise, if the creditors did not insist on an assignment of the estate. He noted that many items in the store were very old and would bring little in a forced sale. He thought the value of the estate would be thirty cents on the dollar, and Menzie’s was prepared to give everything to his

creditors. "He had lost during the last few years over \$15,000 in various unremunerative speculations." He had lost between \$4,000 and \$5,000 at the time of the building of the Ontario and Quebec Railway. He had no idea of what he would do next. When asked how the losses occurred, Moore referred to a list of items on which losses had been sustained in the past 12 years. Moore suggested the most favourable outcome for creditors would be for Menzies to pay 25 cents on the dollar by 18 months from now. Lawyer George Edmison, speaking for his clients, felt the creditors deserved a more specific statement of moneys received and paid out. He said there had been payments by depositors of \$10,000 in the past five years, but it was not part of Moore's report. Moore replied that payments had been made in the normal course of the business. James Stevenson was confident that matters would turn out "much better than expected" and he had confidence that Menzies "wished to do everything in his power to repay creditors." Edmison felt that payments made by Menzies in the past month should be refunded. Others felt that Menzies had not channeled money elsewhere, but had simply got behind.

ery Sold only in cash. No 190 Wall street, N. Y. 1yd3lw

SALE
OF
REAL ESTATE
BY TENDER.
In the Matter of THOMAS MENZIES,
Insolvent.

TENDERS will be received by the undersigned, up to noon of FRIDAY, 22nd of MARCH, last, for the purchase of the Real Estate of the above Insolvent, as follows:

Parcel 1.—Lots Nos. 1 and 2, North of Dublin st., and East of George street, Peterborough.

Parcel 2.—The South 80 feet of Lot No. 1, South of Edinburgh street and East of George street, Peterborough.

Parcel 3.—The North part of Lot No. 7, North of Dublin street, and West of George street, Peterborough, No. 616 Ayler street.

Parcel 4.—Lots 100 and 101, South of James street, in the Village of Ashburnham.

Parcel 5.—Lot 18, in the 2nd concession of the Township of Douro.

Parcel 6.—Lot 18, in the 11th concession, and Lots 15, 19, 20 in the 19th concession Township of Chandon.

Parcel 7.—Lot 4 in the 16th concession, and Lot 191, in the 3rd concession, Township of Proton.

Tenders may be for the whole or any one or more parcels and shall state terms of payment.

J. A. B. HALL,
Assignee.

Peterborough, March 12, 1889. 3461

Sale of Real Estate by Tenders, local papers, 12 March 1889.

There was some discussion of Menzies' real estate portfolio which some felt was valued too high, by perhaps ten

per cent. A first mortgage, perhaps of \$6,500, taken out "ten or twelve years earlier" had been followed with other mortgages amounting to \$8,000. This suggests that the financial problems of Menzies might date from the first mortgage on the homestead, and particularly the accumulation of interest over time. It seemed that his stock was overvalued, as it did not include liabilities on the store stock estimated to be \$5,000 to \$6,000. A local stationer in the audience estimated a sale of the stock would only bring 25 to 30 cents on the dollar; a Toronto creditor said he would be willing to go a little higher. Stevenson, "after a review of the circumstances, favored turning the stock into money, and if possible placing it in Mr. Menzies' hands to sell. He could realize [profit] on it inside of six months or a year." The mortgagors holding the \$14,500 in mortgages said if the homestead were sold for \$10,000 they would be happy to accept that to pay off the mortgages. After some discussion of whether Menzies could pay creditors at least 25 cents on the dollar, compared to 22 ½ cents that he had suggested. As well, there was discussion of whether the estate should be handed over to an assigner to manage the dissolution of the estate. This meeting left both questions open.

After the meeting, Menzies assigned his estate to Sheriff J. Albro Hall, in trust for the creditors. Hall announced that people had to file their claim as creditor by January 3, and the proceeds of the estate would be distributed to those eligible beginning January 31. Menzies would then not be liable for any claims not known by this deadline. When the creditors met at the sheriff's office in the Court House on Thursday, January 3, 84 creditors had been self-identified. J. R. Stratton, MPP, chaired the meeting. Sheriff Hall, who had worked with W. H. Moore, said the claims against Menzies totaled \$23,000. Menzies otherwise had no book summarizing his liabilities.

The stock, or inventory, amounted to \$10,000, but had been valued at \$14,000 in November. Most of the real estate was already held by Davidson and Moore, the mortgage holders. There was a mortgage from John M. Smith of Montreal on the mansion that had been \$4,500 in 1876. Money owing to Menzies was about \$4,000, but "many of the accounts were bad." Menzies claimed that if some of his creditors had paid what they owed him, he would not be in the current difficulty; however, he was unable to satisfy the meeting on this point. The real estate portfolio included some properties outside the immediate area. This had been accepted by Menzies as security against money he had had given to the Ontario and Quebec Railway.

Menzies was in difficulty because he was paying so much interest on his mortgages. However, he was also receiving money from loans he made. Some said that Menzies lent money at rates as high as 25%, and regularly at 15%. He expected that his wife would carry on the business of the store effective February 1. Since November 1888, John P. Hurley, who was the bookkeeper for the Menzies store, was running the business for the creditors. Over the period of two months, income exceeded expenses by about \$200.

The meeting of January 3 made some decisions. The meeting chose the inspectors of the estate: W. D. Taylor, a large creditor from Toronto; Edgcombe Pearse, the county treasurer; and W. J. Hall, an insurance valuator living at 220 Brock Street. It was decided to offer the stock for sale. Mrs Menzies had the lease on the bookstore space effective February 1. On a motion by Taylor, seconded by W. J. Green, it was agreed that "the stock should be advertised for sale en bloc at a rate on the dollar, bids to be received up the 18th inst." The sale would take place at the court house on January 18, beginning at 2 p.m. In the meantime, the store would continue to do business. It was also agreed, on motion of Mr Webster, seconded by Deyell, that the inspectors would look at books for the past five years, and if necessary employ counsel from Toronto, and examine Menzies and others "on oath." There was some feeling that local lawyers were too friendly with Menzies.

11 bc
See
2d

MATCH SAFES and other Christmas Goods
at Greatly Reduced Prices.

AUCTION SALE
—OF—
Books AND Stationery STOCK.

I HAVE received instructions from the assignee to sell by public auction at the Court House, Peterborough, on

Friday, the 18th day of Jan'y
1889, next, at two o'clock in the afternoon, at a rate on the \$ as per inventory, the Stock in Trade, Book Debts and Shop Furniture, belonging to the

ESTATE OF THOMAS MENZIES
of Peterborough, as follows:

Stock of Books, Stationery and Fancy Goods and Shop Furniture per list.....	\$10,008 58
Book Debts per list.....	4,475 00

Terms for Stock and Shop Furniture—one-third cash, balance at 3 and 4 months with interest at six per cent, secured to the satisfaction of the inspectors. Terms for Book Debts—cash.

Stock and Inventory can be inspected on the premises, No. 406 George street, Peterborough, and stock sheets can be inspected at the office of C. M. TAYLOR & Co., Stationers, Toronto.

JAS. A. HALL, Assignee. CHAS. STAPLETON, Auctioneer.

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Examiner 4 Jan 1889

The advertisement for the auction sale appeared in the local newspapers the next day. Bidders were to offer a rate on the dollar value for the stock of books, stationery and fancy goods (valued at \$10,008), on the book debts (valued at \$4,475) and on the office furniture (not valued). For book debts, the successful bidder had to pay cash. For the rest, the

assignees was looking for one-third by bid value, the rest to be paid at 6% interest until mid-May. Potential buyers could view the items at the store, while those in Toronto could see "Stock Sheets" at C. M. Taylor & Co.

The auction and sale of the books and stationery took place at the store on January 18. Toronto buyers were able to see sheets of the items being auctioned by going to C. M. Taylor & Co., Stationers. For the stock, the assignee was looking for one third cash with the remainder payable in two or four months, with rates of 6% being charged on the outstanding balance. Charles Stapleton was the auctioneer charged with selling the inventory, stock, and store furniture. The sale included book debts (which earlier creditor meetings had considered uncollectible); full payment in cash was required to purchase these.

At a meeting held at the Court House, January 18, it was decided to auction off the real estate, valued at \$15,565, with mortgages totalling \$13,565. The inspectors were to determine an upset price for each property. W. J. Hall, said Menzies' books were in bad shape and members of the committee could not make "head nor tail" of them. Even with an accountant it would be tough to find where the shortages were, and where the money went. There was some discussion of who had the right to examine Menzies' before there was a judgment against him. The validity of Mrs Menzies claims still needed to be investigated. It was decided that the records of business transactions were not reliable and the earlier resolution to get inspectors to check them was rescinded.

A month later, R. E. Wood, the county crown attorney, said that a close examination of the records showed that Thomas Menzies was "overwhelmed with debt" in 1885, and there was no hope of finding additional assets that would remedy the situation. A committee, consisting of five lawyers, was to consider what claims Mrs Menzies had on the estate, and then make adjustments. John Burnham, W. A. Stratton, R. E. Wood, Louis M. Hayes and Charles J. Leonard represented a cross-section of the local legal community. The committee worked on the condition that there would be no costs to the estate, and that they had to report by the next meeting of the creditors, set for March 4. On a motion by J. R. Stratton, of the Examiner, seconded by Wood, it was agreed that the mortgagors could sell the Menzies' "homestead" and the sixty foot lot to the north for \$10,000. As well, the assignees declared a dividend of 18 cents on the dollar (including on Mrs Menzies' claim, depending on the committee's opinion).

The local newspapers were silent on the final outcomes. The real estate, already in the control of Davidson and Moore, was offered for sale in mid-March arranged in seven bundles.

III Oklahoma! OK

Thomas Menzies had been a high profile public figure, living in a mansion and running successful businesses. People in Peterborough had varying ideas about why Menzies had gone bankrupt in a matter of weeks. Some dated his problems

from the large mortgage on his mansion. Others thought he had mismanaged the banking side of his business. Menzies suggested he had been burned by decisions he made with respect to the coming of the Ontario and Quebec Railway. However, it might be that the bookselling business was a problem. The advertisements suggest that the business was competitive. Sailsbury and Brothers had a strong and steady business; in November they were selling "1,000 books regular price \$1.00, for 50 cents." A. L. Davis went out of bookselling into insurance in 1885, and J. R. Stratton, with the resources of the Examiner newspaper and job printing business, advertised frequently and with changing advertising. In May 1889, six "booksellers and fancy goods dealers" agreed to restrict evening selling hours during the summer, as they would close at 8 pm. The other dealers were Lee & Thompson; C. B. Routley; J. W. Butcher; and B. Shortly. Robert J. Lee had been working for A. L. Davis, but it is not clear who was his new partner. C. B. Routley ran a fancy goods store at 379 George Street. J. W. Butcher ran what was described as a "five and dime store" at 372 George; while B. Shortly was a saddler with a store at 373 George. If Lee and Thompson effectively replaced Menzies, there were three booksellers and three other stores selling books, and all of them were within a half block of George and Hunter, which was then the heart of downtown. At the end of December, the Daily Review carried a long story on a lady trying to peddle books in Chicago; it was a tough business.

The list of creditors is difficult to analyze. Clearly, some of the creditors are suppliers and there are several stationers, suppliers of paper, led by C. M. Taylor & Co (\$3,429.35). There were some publishers, such as Rose & Belford of Toronto (\$14.70). There were several newspapers, including the Examiner (\$258.30), the Review (\$70), and the Toronto Globe (\$68); most newspapers were owed less than twenty dollars. There were wallpaper suppliers on the list, such as the New York Wall Paper Company (\$45). Some of the accounts were tied to trades people, possibly doing work around the store or the mansion. One category that seemed large were three steam ship companies, who were owed \$735. Menzies owed the town of Peterborough \$228 for taxes, and the Peterboro Gas Company \$79.80 for gas. There are dozens of other local names that do not fit these categories, many claiming around \$500. The lists does not mention the reason for the debt, and one can only surmise.

T. Hurley, who was the appraiser for the Menzies estate, seemed to be Peterborough's major real estate agent. In a large ad in the Daily Review in August 1888, Hurley claimed to be selling and leasing "dwelling houses, great, medium and small from \$300 to \$12,000." As well, he had hotels and stores, farms and a variety of building lots, up to ten acres, in all parts of town, beginning at \$50.

The Menzies family moved to Kingfisher, Oklahoma. According to the 1890 census, Menzies had been in the United States since 1888. One wonders how much planning it takes to go through a heart-wrenching and complex bankruptcy proceeding while at the same time preparing for

the beginning of a new life. The Menzies must have known something about what to expect in Kingfisher, Oklahoma.

Kingfisher was only a dot on the map, and the local histories on the web and in books agree that it was founded on April 22, 1889, short weeks after Menzies had settled most of his Peterborough affairs.



The famous Oklahoma land run of April 22, 1889 was captured on camera. Some 50,000 people, with varied means of transportation, rushed to stake and file claims to land that day. There were many aspects to the story and it continues to inspire novels, cowboy movies (such as Cimarron) and stories.

If he had been to the United States a year earlier, he might have learned of the proposed release of thousands of acres of land that had belonged to American Indians in what was then known as the Indian Territory. In what has been dubbed "the Trail of Tears" thousands of Indians were forcibly forced in the 1840s to accept land in the Indian Territory (now known as Oklahoma) in exchange for lands in the American South. The southern lands were suitable for cotton, and cotton was becoming the dominant American export crop. Oklahoma was considered beyond the area where cotton could grow, as the climate was hot and dry. Fifty years later, and after cotton had been a key factor in a bloody American Civil War, two ideas had shifted significantly. It was now believed that American Indians should be treated as individuals, rather than as groups or tribes. American federal officials wanted to encourage American Indians to act as individuals rather than as groups, and had decided that the amount of land set aside for American Indians could be reduced by deciding how much land for an individual was appropriate. The excess land, by this calculation, was then set aside to be claimed by homesteaders.

It was also possible to grow wheat and raise cattle in the lands that were soon called Oklahoma Territory.

King Fisher had manned a station on the famed Chisholm Trail that during the 1870s was the route for driving cattle from Texas to the nearest rail head, initially at Abilene, Kansas. The cattle then would be shipped to the stock yards of

Kansas City or Chicago. Kingfisher's other claim to fame is that it was one of the townsites established by the great Oklahoma land rush of April 22, 1889, when some 50,000 people made a mad dash to stake and file claims on that day. Kingfisher is rightly considered a town that grew in a day.

The Menzies family was still in Kingfisher when Thomas Menzies died in 1909, some twenty years later. By 1920, his widow was living with Irene and her husband, E. Watsons, in Garfield, Oklahoma, just north of Kingfisher and along the Chisholm Trail. While it is not clear why the Menzies went to Kingfisher, the land rush seems a likely incentive. On the 1890 United States census, Thomas Menzies described himself as a lawyer. He had not been a lawyer in Peterborough, but he had been actively engaged in mortgages; this may have been the role he played in Kingfisher. In the census, he also said he had been in the United States for two years.

For starters, I have been reading the large history of Kingfisher that was produced in 1976 to mark the bicentennial of the Declaration of Independence. There are no references to the Menzies. However, strikingly, the history is organized around family histories, and very few of the families had memories that reached back further than the 1930s. There were discussions about 1889. Some people we are told filed their claims a bit early, and they were known as Sooners. Oklahoma is known as the Sooner State and the University of Oklahoma teams are called Sooners. And yet a search of the web and the books at hand have not yielded names of Sooners or of the 50,000 who were there for the land rush. In 1939, Oklahoma celebrated the 50th anniversary of the land rush and many names were gathered. However, the names were gathered by those whose descendants still lived in Oklahoma. However, there are archives in Oklahoma and it should be possible to find documents that Thomas Menzies, the lawyer, was signing.

Then we will know how well the Menzies family fared in Kingfisher, a place where everybody lived for

Special thanks to Diane Robnik, assistant archivist at Trent Valley Archives, who helped with all aspects of the Menzies project.

Lois (nee Enborg) Monkman's Memories of 610 George St., 1948 – 1951

The address 610 George St. is something of a misnomer since the house faced south. There was a carriageway/drive way off George St. leading to the main entrance which was under the tower facing south.

At some time the veranda had been removed and a porch and portico remained. The entrance at the top of the steps was through beautiful double doors typical of the era. Through the doors you entered a large hall, about 20 feet wide, with a high ceiling. Ahead of you, against the north wall

of the building, was a beautiful wide staircase leading to the second floor. On each side of the hall you entered an apartment running the full length of the building. Mrs. Stanton occupied the one on the eastern side and a Miss Matchett occupied the one on the west. For some time there was a Police Matron living there. Each of these apartments had a large white marble fireplace. The living room of each faced south. Removing the veranda would have made a great improvement in the amount of natural light allowed into the rooms. The north end of each apartment had been converted into a small kitchen, bathroom and bedroom.

The staircase led up to four bed sitting rooms and one bathroom. During my time there were six of us, and one bath room. One man (an engineer on "test" at the C.G.E.) and five women. One woman, Miss Ella Reid, was night supervisor at the new "Civic Hospital" Then there was one other nurse (who worked shifts), one teacher, myself and the engineer's wife who didn't work. With a little give and take we worked out the use of the bathroom.

I paid \$25 a month rent, a quarter of my salary at the time. Each room was quite large, had a non-working fireplace, and a very small closet that had been set up as a kitchen. It had a two burner hotplate and a shelf of pots and pans. You worked with your head in the kitchen and your back side in

the "bed sit". My room was in the south west corner on the left side in the picture.

When the Eastwood family lived there, their daughter Jean had my bedroom (or I had her's). Jean married Dr. Arthur Howson, a surgeon at the Peterborough Clinic, (where I was busy setting up a



medical laboratory). Jean once told me about crawling out a lower tower window on to the roof of the portico and escaping the house.

I have a lovely memory of Mrs. Stanton (who lived to be 100 years old) having all the tenants for tea, cake and home made chocolates one Christmas. With the antique furniture in dark colours and the white marble fireplace blazing, she had created a real "Dickensian" atmosphere.

It was a sad day when the wrecker's ball demolished the house and gross looking dwellings replaced it.

Moonraker Landing: Call for Volunteers and Papers



Brooke Broadbent's 2011 book on *Moonrakers at Peace and War* considered many ways in which genealogists and historians could crack some of the codes in family histories. How could we learn about lives lived in the past and about the ways newcomers, whether transient or settled, could interact with government officials and organizations concerned with their welfare, and sometimes with their cultural baggage. Brooke's ancestors were originally from Wiltshire, where some locals were commonly called "Moonrakers" in reference to their independence in moonshining and their resistance to authority figures.

Clearly, questions need to be posed if there is any hope of answering them. It occurred to us that it should be possible to mount an engaging conference that aimed to ask questions about English emigrants and their efforts to integrate into colonial society in Upper Canada and Ontario. As the initial organizing committee envisaged the conference, it would be more broadly about English settlers, but would seek speakers and panels that would explore questions that spoke to their interactions with government, organizations, churches and the workplace. As well, though we wanted to see ways in which group cultures were nourished.

We wondered whether the anecdotal approach, which was central to much of Brooke's book, would open doors to understanding, for example, whether musical traditions and world views could be ascertained. At the same time, we thought it would be important to have systematic historians, geographers, sociologists and students of emigration and immigration who could provide the context for how things changed over time.

The Wiltshire emigrants included groups that emigrated in the 1830s as well as individuals who pursued emigration as family strategies for survival. We know that emigration was affected by push factors in England as well as by pull factors in Canada. Emigrants dreamed of success, but failure could occur on either side of the Atlantic. Historians have also noticed a trend for emigrants to return to their home country, often hoping to former neighbours with new wealth and fancy homes.

We thought that the 2005 Islay Descendants Gathering which Gzowski College at Trent University might be a good model for a Landing. Family reunions and picnics seemed possible too. Much what kind of initial response we might get from prospective organizing the various events. We also need to learn what might be appealing to potential attendees. Our initial thinking is that the Landing should be in Peterborough County and we should aim for window in June or September. We want to cast a wide net.

We wish to invite various organizations to join the **Landing Committee**. We anticipate much work can be done by would expect the whole committee to meet every four to six weeks until the gathering takes place. We would like to know by November 1 who would be on the committee, and hope that is a reasonable time line for you.

We also wish to attract the attention of anyone who might wish to **give a paper, present a discussion, or propose cultural happenings**. We would like to set a deadline of December 15, 2011 for all proposals, and ask that people submit a two-page summary of what they expect and the names of those who would be involved in the activity.

The committee is open to all responses, suggestions, ideas and alternatives and look forward to your response. Contact Elwood Jones at ejones55@cogeco.ca.



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Photo, top left, one of Brooke's Moonraker ancestors; right, a shot at the Titles Bookstore for the launch of Moonrakers at Peace and War.

British Home Children Day, September 26

The Hazelbrae Barnardo Memorial Group has unveiled a spectacular monument to all the children that passed through the Peterborough home. More than 200 people were on hand for the afternoon gathering. They have listed every name – nearly 10,000 – on a large black granite monument on the lawn of the Queen Alexandra School. The site is the school that they attended after 1892, and the former Grace Sunday School, which also catered to Barnardo children, was located on the grounds when demolished in 1932. The Barnardo home, known as Hazelbrae, was several hundred feet to the south, located between what is now O'Carroll



Avenue and the railway. The front entrance to Hazelbrae was on George Street, marked by a small green plaque erected by Hazelbrae Barnardo, was a laneway just west of Sadleir House.

The monument features the names arranged by the year of arrival. For 1884 to 1887 there were boys and girls, and each was recorded separately, and then alphabetically. This is reminiscent of school year books but is an ideal way to display the names. It is possible to see which years had more emigrants, and to wonder at what would make the difference. You can also see which names came together, and see if siblings are there as well.

One always wishes for more information, but it is possible to use the names to search for more information at the Library Archives of Canada and elsewhere. Ivy Sucee, the chief of the Hazelbrae Barnardo Memorial Group can be very helpful.

It was not easy to compile the list of names. The research team, headed by James Sayers with the Ottawa based BIFHGO deserves much of the credit. They have been working since 1994 on researching the names of children who came through the Marchmont Homes, and were able to apply the methodology to find the names of the Barnardo child emigrants. They relied on six different sources, but not the records of the Barnardo Homes, which still operates. One of the most useful sources was the list of passengers on boats.

This list is probably as good as we are going to get, and it is a godsend for family researchers. There have been efforts to estimate the number of Canadians who are descended from child emigrants, and it is certain to be in the hundreds of thousands.

The flow of emigrant children was largely stemmed by 1930. The Canadian government, led by Prime Minister Mackenzie King, was more sensitive to two sets of arguments. Canadian labour unions claimed that child emigrants lowered the wage rates for workers more generally. As well, Canadian child welfare specialists, emerging with more confidence and numbers in the 1920s, felt that Canadians should give priority to providing homes and opportunities for Canadian orphans. Toronto and Peterborough had Children's Aid Societies that had emerged out of the movement for Societies for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children. On both sides of the Atlantic, there were many reasons children became orphans, but it was rarely their fault. Still, there was a stigma to being an orphan, largely because so many had been born out of wedlock, or in dire economic circumstances. Consequently, others felt superior around orphans, and orphans often avoided the stigma by not commenting on it. This was not a matter of shame, for one could be proud that you had been chosen to be part of a family. Rather it was a strategy of self-defence, and pride that whatever you achieved was because of your talent and

effort. One's life is more than the circumstances of birth.

Also as part of the British Home Children Day, the Fenner Foundation made presentations in the context of a memorial service at the Selwyn Centre on the Lakefield Highway, north of Trent University. There was a tribute to Samuel Strickland, an orphan who did well and who helped many young emigrants to learn survival hints. Strickland (1804-1867) was 14 when his father died, and 21 when he came to Canada. After some years working with the Canada Company and particularly helping build Goderich, Samuel Strickland returned to Lakefield. The Fenner Foundation believes that some 100,000 children, perhaps young adults in the mould of Strickland, came to Canada between 1825 and 1835, essentially unsponsored, and that many of these served in World War II. The Fenner Foundation, headed by Stan McLean of Lakefield, wants to build monuments to honour all the home children, whether they were unassisted or came with one of the dozens of organizations offering assistance. It will be a gargantuan task to document all these emigrants and to confirm what their later accomplishments might have been. It is true that Canada was the product of countless birth and emigration experiences.

Photo by Ron Briegel.

Reverend Captain James Rollins & The Conqueror Oak Collection Plates Of St Andrew's United Church, Peterborough

Don Willcock

In many Christian churches, collection plates are passed to the congregation at most services. These plates usually are made of wood or metal; some are plain, some are ornate or decorated. Most often the plates are circulated quickly, and their details are not noticed by the people placing their gifts in them.



Rev. Captain James Rollins

Along the back wall of the sanctuary or nave -in St Andrew's United (formerly Presbyterian) Church in Peterborough, there are display cases containing items pertaining to the church's history. Among these are six unique collection plates. Two things that make them special are the story of their creation, and the source of their wood. A thousand-year-old oak tree, supposedly a favourite of England's King William I ("the Conqueror"), was removed from the royal forest of Windsor Castle by Canadian military lumbermen during World War I. The plates were carved from that oak.

On the underside of each St Andrew's plate an engraved plate reads "Presented to St Andrews Church, Peterboro, by Rev. Jas. Rollins May 5th 1918", and an inscription in the wood that reads "William the Conqueror's Oak, A.D. 900-1918". Who was James Rollins, and how did he come to present a set of collection plates fashioned from an ancient English oak

tree to a Presbyterian church in a small Ontario city?

James Rollins was born on 28 October 1865 to an Irish Presbyterian farm family in Madoc Township, Hastings County. He was the youngest of eight children of William John and Nancy Agnes Rollins. Instead of following in the farming footsteps of his father and brothers, James became a Presbyterian minister.

On 23 September 1896, James married Susan Catherine Polson in her hometown of Kingston, Ontario. Their only daughter, Jessie Kathleen, was born on 30 July 1898, in Simcoe County.

In December 1910, the Rollins family arrived in Peterborough, and James took up the pastorate at St Andrew's. They lived in the Manse next to the Church, at 439 Rubidge Street, currently the location of Hospice Peterborough.

When the Great War broke out in August 1914, James Rollins was 48 years old – nearly 49 – and thus was over the age for general military enlistment; nevertheless, in 1915 he joined Peterborough's militia unit, the 57th Regiment, as a captain. On 14 January 1916, Captain Rollins enlisted in the Canadian Expeditionary Force as a Quartermaster – a non-combat position responsible for supplying the fighting units. The Session of St Andrew's granted Reverend Rollins a leave of absence for as long as his military service was required. On 15 July 1916, Captain Rollins and the other soldiers of the 93rd Overseas Battalion, Canadian Expeditionary Force, sailed for Britain and the Great War.

Shortly after their arrival in Britain, the 93rd Battalion's troops were dispersed to reinforce and replenish British regiments that had suffered battle losses. James Rollins, still attached to the 93rd Battalion, in September 1916 was seconded to the 39th Battalion. In January 1917, he was seconded from the 39th Battalion to the

6th Reserve Battalion, and then was transferred to the Administrative Staff of the Canadian Overseas Reserve Depot in April 1917.

On 10 August 1917, Captain James Rollins, Quartermaster, became Captain (Hon.) James Rollins, Chaplain, as a result of his transfer to the Canadian Chaplain Services (headquartered in London). The next day he was posted to the Canadian Forestry Corps (CFC) units working in the Windsor Great Park. One week later, Chaplain Rollins was attached to the Canadian Forestry Corps Base Depot at Smith's Lawn (near the Berkshire village of Sunningdale), in Windsor Great Park. According to the CFC *War Establishments* of December 1917, the Base Depot had only one Chaplain – although no name is listed, at that time it must have been James Rollins. He seems to have been the Depot's first Chaplain, as the February 1917 *War Establishments* lists none for the Depot.

Chaplain Rollins remained attached to the Base Depot until 25 July 1918, when he returned to the Chaplain Services in London. Two days later, on 27 July, he went from London to France, as a reinforcement for the 27th Canadian Infantry Battalion, 2nd Canadian Division. James Rollins was posted in Europe until 12 April 1919, when he returned to England for demobilization. Demobilization was delayed, however, because he was admitted to No. 12 Canadian General Hospital, Bramshott, with chronic lower abdominal pain; the diagnosis was an enlarged prostate. Upon discharge from hospital, he sailed for Canada on 13 May 1919, was demobilized in Ottawa on 25 May, and returned to Peterborough as a civilian on Thursday, 29 May. The Rollins family was met at the Bethune Street Grand Trunk station with a community welcome that the Peterborough *Daily Evening Review* (Friday, 30 May 1919) called "one of the heartiest ever extended to a returning soldier in

Peterborough". St Andrew's Church officials led the welcoming party, which also consisted of other local clerics, "an array" of autos, and "crowds" on foot. Reverend Rollins was given "three hearty cheers and a tiger" as soon as he stepped from the train (*Daily Evening Review*, 30 May 1919). The family was transported to the flag-festooned St Andrew's manse in G. Walter Green's car, followed by a parade of vehicles, where they were met by the church's Sunday School class and its Boy Scout troop (which Capt. Rollins inspected), and given a "sumptuous repast" provided by the Ladies Aid Society. Reverend Rollins immediately took up his ministerial duties, and the next Sunday led the morning and evening services.

James Rollins remained in Peterborough until the end of 1924, when he accepted a call to Renfrew, Ontario.



Chaplain Rollins commissioned the St Andrew's Plates while he was attached to the Canadian Forestry Corps at Smith's Lawn. Cliff McDonald, current Archivist for St Andrew's United Church, says that during World War I a tremendous storm blew down an ancient giant tree, the "William the Conqueror's Oak", that grew just outside the walls of Windsor Castle. Members of the Canadian Forestry Corps based in Windsor Great Park cut up and removed the oak. Chaplain James Rollins took a plank of the wood to London to be turned into collection plates. Rollins then had the King's

Carver at Windsor carve the decorations and lettering into the plates. The King's Chamberlain, Lord Stamfordham, admired the "priceless" plates for how they were created, and for the ancient wormholes. The plates were shipped to Peterborough and were first used for St Andrew's Anniversary Service on 5 May 1918.

There are some discrepancies in this credible story.

First, Stamfordham (Arthur John Bigge, 1st Baron Stamfordham) was George V's Private Secretary for the entirety of his reign. Sandhurst (William Mansfield, 1st Viscount Sandhurst) was King George's Lord Chamberlain of the Household from 1912 to 1921. Still, one or the other must have made the attributed observation.

Second, a storm in March 1916 brought down many trees in Windsor Home Park and Windsor Great Park,

but there is no record of ancient oaks coming down – and no confirmation of Canadian

Forestry Corps units being involved in the cleanup. In fact, the first CFC units were established in Britain by early April 1916, and Captain

Rollins was

still in Peterborough. Mrs Julie Crocker, Assistant Archivist of the Royal Archives at Windsor Castle, (in correspondence with the author, 5 April 2011) notes that the Castle's archival records show that CFC units were working in Windsor Great Park's Oak Forest from June 1917 to war's end, which indicates that the source of Chaplain Rollins' wood came down as the result of axes and saws not because of a storm.

Additionally, the Sault History Online (World War One/Canadian Forestry Corps) website says, "One tree cut down by the Canadians was the

William the Conqueror Oak that stood beneath the King's window. The tree had a circumference of over 38 feet and, since no saw was long enough to cut through the tree, the Canadians cut a hole into the hollow trunk which enabled a man to pull the saw from inside"

Third, the legend of the tree being "beneath the King's window" is in question. Archivist Crocker confirms that no trees on the immediate grounds of Windsor Castle were blown down by storms or cut down by Canadian military lumbermen during World War I – certainly not prominent ancient oaks. How, then, could "William the Conqueror's Oak" be seen from a window? One plausible answer is that the window was not in Windsor Castle. Windsor Great Park was a favourite hunting park for the Anglo-Saxon kings who preceded William. Apparently, there was a hunting lodge in the Park at least during the reign (1042-66) of Edward III; it is likely that "The Conqueror", an avid hunter, would have used such an existing royal residence (or built one of his own) in the forest at Windsor prior to the construction (circa 1080) of his own Castle there. Perhaps William's favourite tree was "under the window" of a forest hunting lodge, and not of Windsor Castle.

Despite such discrepancies, the story of the unusual St Andrew's Plates is essentially true. It was a great deal of fun pulling together various historical "threads" to tie them into this piece of Peterborough history. The process has introduced, however, other interesting and connected subjects that require following up – as is often the case.

The Plates themselves are testaments to the adage "You can't judge a book by its cover" – they appear to be plain, but really are unique and special because of their wood and their historical associations. The provenance of the plate is its most important attribute, as those of us who work with artefacts and archival material always keep in mind.

(Based on Don Willcock's illustrated presentation at St Andrew's Church, 29 May 2011)

My Eighty Years: The Prairies, 1909-1921

James McConnell

Editor's note: This is the third instalment of the autobiography of James McConnell whose life began in Norwood and continued to be drawn there. However, he went to the prairies to help with harvesting and stayed to become a homesteader in the Rosetown area. He had many fascinating experiences. In this episode, he decides that British Columbia is more promising than the Prairies. The story is experienced against the background of war in Europe. It is another example of how this country developed: people were prepared to move on short notice.

Christmas

And now I must relate what happened just at Xmas time. I had made a trip to the new town of Rosetown and picked up my groceries and some coal. It was rather late when I arrived home and had supper. Then I filled the stove with fresh coal, checked the damper in the pipe and opened the little check damper at the top above the coal fire so that it would burn slowly. After this I went to bed and to sleep. But alas – it was noon next day before I knew anything more, and then my arms and legs were rigid and stiff. I could not move. The fire had burned out, but the house had the sickening smell of coal gas. After a while, when I was able to get my feet out on the floor, I slowly got limbered up enough to dress and make my way to my nearest neighbor's.

I remember that they had Xmas dinner over and offered me some Xmas pudding. However, I could not eat and felt as if I never could eat again. I came to realize how dangerous coal gas in a small building could be. Only the air circulating through the walls in the morning had revived me.

After Xmas I sold the oxen and equipment and bought a ticket for Ontario and left to visit with friends I had not seen since 1906. The time passed quickly and when February arrived I began to buy horses and farm equipment and prepared to take a car of "Settler's Effects" when I went West again.

Another event happened while I was on this holiday, which, for lasting importance, overshadowed everything that so far had happened in all my thirty-three years of life. I had made the acquaintance of a young Ontario lady who was willing to become a partner with me and to share with me all the loneliness, solitude, and hardships of a pioneer's life.

On 8 March, the car was loaded and I left. Nine days later, in Rosetown, I began unloading the car and hauling everything to the homestead ten miles South.

Getting a wife – and Fred

1910 was an early Spring. The snow quickly disappeared and the ground dried up, but with the horses it did not take long to work down the land and get the seed sown. About this time my older brother, Fred, had made up his mind to take a hand in this Western adventure. One day, quite unexpected, he came along to help me. I was certainly very glad of this for about the middle of May I had to leave everything and hasten back East to complete that bargain with that little dark-eyed girl who was now preparing herself to leave all her friends and take her chance with the man of her choice, as a pioneer on the bleak open unconquered prairie.

After doing some visiting with the friends, we were married on 24 May 1910, and early next morning left on the C.P. train for Rosetown, Saskatchewan. No cars had yet appeared in Rosetown, so an open carriage, drawn by two horses, carried my wife and me, with all trunks and baggage, to our home. My wife made a remark that evening which I have remembered all these years. As we entered the house, she turned to me and said, "Oh, Jim, you have a floor in your house." This, of course, was the same as saying that the house was much better than she had expected.

And now began a new era in our lives as well as for the whole country around us. This could be known as our years of achievement. The machine age had arrived. Men looked about for some form of motive power to do the work instead of doing it by hand. On the farms, tractors began to take over the heavy work from the horses, and

also the small machinery drawn by horses.

It is true that the first tractors were very heavy and some of the frames were made of cast iron. The different parts were unequal to the strain put upon them and they easily cracked and broke. Expensive repairs often had to be made and the farmers struggled with these big monsters and got their work done. Whole sections were broken up and prepared for crops. Some farmers used steam driven tractors, but water being scarce for steam, the gas and oil tractor was preferred, both for plowing and tractor work and for thrashing.

Also in the summer of 1910, my brother Fred managed to get a quarter to homestead, and I also got a second quarter as a purchased homestead at \$3 an acre. Good quarters were scarce now and hard to get, as the land was all taken. Some men died and others abandoned their land. Such quarter sections were posted up a few days ahead before being thrown open for the first applicant. There was an open hall covered over at the front door at the Land Office. Numbers from 1 to 50 were placed along that hall. The applicants took their places under these numbers and waited for the day their land was to be open for filing.

Fred spent four days there waiting to get his homestead. He would lie on the floor at night, covered with his blankets and then roll them up and use them for a seat during the day. A few weeks later I spent four days and nights the same way, waiting for the quarter I wanted because it was near our homestead and also closer to Rosetown.

Family life begins

In August 1911 our first boy was born in our first little home, which was encased with sod walls for insulation from the heat in summer and the cold in the winter. Two summers and two winters were spent in that house.

In 1912 we moved three miles closer to town – to the purchased homestead, where we had built a sod stable for the horses and a small frame house to live in. It was in 1912 also that I began to farm with power equipment. I bought a gas engine and a breaking plow and disc harrows. Later on I purchased a large ten disc plow for use on the soft stubble land that was now too fine for the rod breaker to turn over.

At this time I made a serious mistake – taking in another man as a partner. He was a good worker, but proved to be dishonest and unreliable. After finding him out I had to take the whole outfit over myself the following year.

In August 1912, during the busy harvesting season, our first little girl was born. When harvesting was over I bought a thrashing machine and we were able to do all our own crops and to earn some money by thrashing the neighbors' crops.

We built a new house in 1913 on the purchased homestead. Fred obtained the title for his homestead and we traded his quarter for a good half section adjoining our own. This, with the other land we had bought, made us five good quarters all told. I also settled with my partner and took over all the liabilities. We had a fine crop coming and things looked prosperous until about August 3rd, 1913 – when, alas, a sudden hailstorm came and in less than an hour the crop was smashed to pieces. Hailstones the size of small hen's eggs, and driven by the wind, smashed the east and north windows of our new house and bounced in on the floor, hitting the ceiling and walls. The children were frightened and cried, so we opened the cellar door and went down there for protection. The storm quickly passed but left the awful wreck behind.

This was our first experience with a hail storm and was the only destructive storm I had seen in Saskatchewan. One piece of good fortune was that we were insured. That was the first year the Municipal Hail Insurance Company had operated in Saskatchewan. After Xmas that year

we received a cheque for over \$1,600 insurance and this helped a lot to work down the hailed-out land and prepare for the next crop. We obtained a few cows to eat the waste and then had our own milk and butter and always had some butter to sell.

The following year of 1914 was surely a year of great events. We summer-fallowed Fred's half section. The year was hot and dry with not enough rain and the crops were very light. In June, Fred was injured by a bull which cornered him in the stall and pushed him into the manger, thereby breaking his leg. When Fred called for help, the little girl ran down from the house and pulled the halter rope and tied it in such a way that it pulled the bull's head over to the other side of the stall and Fred was able to get free. He was laid up most of that summer.

War in Europe

Then all unexpectedly, about 3 August, we heard of the war in Europe. To me it was a surprise and a real awakener, for I had believed that the world was now about all converted and had become Christian except for a few places in Africa and Asia. To me, the thought of a great war in Europe was impossible. The next time we drove into Rosetown we saw boys in khaki marching up and down the streets. The papers gave accounts of German soldiers marching into Belgium, and we had to realize that we were at war with Germany. World War I had begun.

At this time, the prices for farm produce were very low. The 1914 crops were light and they brought little more than the cost of producing them. 1915 came in with very little ready cash and there was a great deal of unemployment. The crops were got in, the June rains came, and there was a good growth, so that all over the West an unusually heavy crop was harvested. The 1915 crop was often spoken about for its abundance. As we thrashed, we got a few loads of wheat hauled to town and sold to pay expenses, but the bulk of the whole crop was just stored in bins on the farm as we tried to get our own and the neighbor's thrashed before winter.

In Europe, the German Army had taken over most of Belgium, and began to invade France. As resistance increased from the Belgian, French and British Armies, they dug in the ground as a protection from rifle and shell fire, and then began French warfare which continued to the end of the war.

The great Russian Army began to invade Germany from the East, but for lack of guns and equipment, were soon forced back, and kept continually on the retreat with terrible losses to the Russian Army. This brought on discouragement which led up to the Russian Revolution in 1917. Lenin took over control of Russia and soon after made a peace settlement with Germany.

Most of that winter we were hauling our wheat from the 1915 crops and storing it in bins in town until we could get cars to ship it out. 1916 was a fairly wet season with some real cloudbursts in June in our part of the country. Our slough at the barn and the big slough on Fred's place filled up with water and continued full all 1917, and only dried up in 1918.

In the Fall of 1916, under the strain of war needs, the Government of Canada relaxed the Sabbath Day Act, and allowed work to be done on Sunday, such as thrashing, or any kind of work that was considered necessary to the war effort. It became hard to get help on the farm as all available young men were being trained for the Army.

In 1917 a connecting rod came loose on the tractor and broke the crank case. I traded it in and purchased a new tractor, still believing that the heavier, larger tractor would be best as it would run a larger separator. The new engine was well built but very heavy and never had the power it needed. There was continual worry to get the work done, and this, together with my health which was not good, was the chief factor that later on caused me to rent the land and move away to British Columbia.

The war continued in 1918 with all its uncertainty, threat and danger. The Germans had made peace with Russia on the East, and taking their Army from the East, were able to bring a great advance into France. Then they

had opened fire with their “Big Bertha,” a powerful long-range gun which was said to be capable of throwing an explosive shell for 75 miles. This brought a grave threat to the City of Paris. No one knew what might happen next, for Germany was still fighting outside her own borders and still holding invaded ground. It proved dangerous and very slow to try to push back an army protected by trenches and earth embankments, with barbed wire entanglements in front of them, and the struggle continued on into November.

On 11 November, I was grading a road past our place, using my big new tractor and the Municipal grader in order to raise the road above all high water levels. In the afternoon, some of the cars passing us stopped and told us the great news – that an Armistice had been signed with Germany and that the war was ended. The first great war that had affected the whole world for over four years had ended as suddenly as it began. This war had been fought by the Allies to end war, and as a means of settling disagreements in the world. The struggle was over. The great problem now was to establish a peace to satisfy all people the world over so that no nation ever again would have need to resort to war to achieve what its people needed.

A few months later, representatives of all the countries which had engaged in the war, met around a peace table in Paris. President Wilson of the United States came and presented his Fourteen Points, so famous at that time, to the end that there be no more war but that all disputes be settled by negotiation. The President was to meet a great disappointment. That Conference from the start was moved by fear, jealousy and greed, with the result that the spoils of the war were divided between the great powers, and Germany, now in a condition of terrible depression, was loaded with war reparations which in her condition and with all her colonies gone and her markets limited, would be impossible to repay.

So the world’s wisest men gathered to prepare a permanent peace

in the world, but instead, they set up conditions that engendered strife and war, which, 21 years later suddenly crashed the world again.

Influenza and a visit to Ontario

And now let us get back to 1918. In the same month that the war ended, the Influenza began and rapidly spread everywhere. So many people were taken sick that all hospital space was immediately taken. All schools were closed and many of the school buildings were used as hospitals. Many others took sick and died in their homes. A peculiar feature of the disease was how some trappers, far away on their traplines, and not in touch with any contagious germs, were also stricken with the ‘Flu. Some were found dead in their cabins. It was said that the ‘flu took as many or more lives as the four terrible years of war which had just passed.

Our family, which now included four children, went for a visit to Ontario before Xmas. Fred stayed and looked after the stock at home on the farm. In the eight years that we had been away from Ontario great changes had taken place. The machine age had arrived. Many had already bought cars, and the day of the horse and buggy was passing away. The Reeves and Counselors in every district were planning through highways to speed the traffic along the roads.

The ‘flu had carried away many of the friends we had known. The days passed quickly as we drove about with father’s horse and cutter visiting our friends. Early in February we had to leave for home. Father was 72 then. We called one morning before daylight and bid him goodbye at his little house in Norwood. We did not know it then, but that was our last parting. Father passed away on 19 October, 1922. We did not see old Ontario again until October 1950.

1919 was a year of drought and hot winds and almost a crop failure. I well remember having a quarter section of summer fallow all sown to wheat. On the last of July it stood almost two feet high – a nice even crop, but it needed rain. We went to the Saskatoon

Exhibition two days away. The hot winds blew a melting heat and when we returned, the wheat was bleached and turning white with the heat.

In August I had a sick spell with acid and upset stomach and fever. The doctor thought it was Typhus Fever and I was nearly three weeks in Hospital. It left me very weak, and with pains like arthritis in my arms and legs. However, the crop was light and we cut and thrashed it and did all the other jobs close to home.

The winter came early. Snow fell on 15 October and stayed right on until about 10 May 1920. That long cold winter was too much for Fred. He developed a deep heavy cough and became too weak to do any outside work. The spring was very late and cold and it was 10 May before the land was dry enough to work.

That was the only year I ever remember sowing wheat in June in Saskatchewan. Wheat sown up to as late as 3 June gave a fair stand, stood about two feet tall and ripened to a 20 bushel crop of good wheat.

Fred had been to see Dr. Perrin and was told that he had TB in both lungs, and well advanced. He decided to go East while he was strong enough and visit his friends. I later asked the doctor what chance Fred had and he told me quite frankly that there was no hope for him, and that two or three months was all he could live since he was now so very frail. However, the doctors and everyone else were surprised to learn just how much tenacity and determination can exist in a man of frail and delicate appearance. Fred went to a sanatorium in Ontario and within one year was completely cured. He left the sanatorium in 1921 and was married that same year. So, in spite of what we thought and what the doctors had said, Fred lived another thirty two years, for he was in his eightieth year before his passing.

Prairie adventure finished

Time was quickly carrying us along, and as I put in the 1921 crop, and even as we harvested it, we were not aware that for us the big prairie adventure was finished. Towards the

end of thrashing, rain came and delayed us for a week. When it cleared, some of the crew had left and so I went to Rosetown to get men. It so happened that I hired an elderly Bohemian man along with the others. His name was 'Louie'. At this time we did not have a cook, nor use our cook car, as the men were given their meals at the house. That old Louie proved to be well educated. He could speak four languages and at every mealtime he

kept telling us about British Columbia and how well a farmer could live on a small farm or a little poultry farm. He told of how mild the climate was – so much nicer than it was in Saskatchewan. His talk was so convincing that before we had finished threshing we had decided to rent the farm and try our hand in British Columbia.

When I went to school, the country west of the Rocky Mountains

was not developed so I had really learned nothing about British Columbia. From Government circulars we received it seemed there were plenty of opportunities to settle in the country west of Prince George to Smithers, or even on west to Terrace. About this time the Larson brothers, Carl and Louis, came and rented our land and we began packing and getting ready to move to British Columbia.

Queries

Diane Robnik

Stethem family

Hello- I am seeking any information regarding the history of my great grandfather, grandfather and other members of the Stethem family, who were citizens of Peterborough in the 1800s. I believe that they were Anglicans and so am contacting St Johns in the hope that you might have records. Eight members are buried in Little Lake cemetery but the grave markers have been buried underneath soil and grass (My daughter and I have visited the site. There is no headstone.)

My grandfather, George Archibald Stethem, was a hardware merchant as was his father. The family resided on George St. He died in 1963; his funeral was held in Peterborough. I have no one in my family at this point in time who can provide any information. I believe several marriages were held in St Johns as well. The surname "Ridley" has also some connection.

I would greatly appreciate any help. I hope this is not an inconvenience.

Marguerite Palmer

George Stethem is listed in the 1869 assessment for the town of Peterborough and in the 1888 directory, both on the webpage of TVA.

In 1869, Stethem & Co was listed as hardware merchant on Simcoe w^g n1, which is on or near the corner of George and Simcoe, now the site of the Turnbull Medical Centre. The

assessment of the property and the inventory totaled \$10,500.

In 1888 directory, George Stethem is shown as a hardware merchant at 318 George Street, and living at 227 Sherbrooke Street, which was on the south-east corner at Aylmer.

They did not show in the 1914 assessment or the 1925 directory.

You said you have already been to Little Lake Cemetery. The deaths recorded there are:

Catherine B. Stethem, 1890 Sept 27
George Archibald Stethem, 1963 Feb 5
Elizabeth H. Stethem, 1890 Dec 29
Winnifred Gertrude Stethem, 1896 June 21
George Stethem, 1916 July 8

Of those five names, only two are in the burial register at the St John's Parish Archives, Peterborough

Catherine B. Stethem, 16, single, Peterborough, heart disease, burial 30 Sept 1890, Revs J. C. Davidson and Charles B. Kenrick, presiding.

Elizabeth Stethem, 43, married woman, Peterborough, cancer, burial 31 December 1890

The following baptisms (Book 11-6) were recorded at St. John's. Notice that there is none for Catherine B. Stethem, even though she was born about 1874.

George Archibald, son of George and Elizabeth Stethem, gentleman (elsewhere, Merchant); born March 8, 1876; baptized April 2, 1876; Rev J. W. R. Beck

Winnifred Gertrude, ditto, born September 24, 1877; baptized October 21, 1877; witnesses George W. and Olive Raney; Rev. J. W. R. Beck

Frances Elizabeth Sibyl, ditto, born July 2, 1880; baptized December 9, 1883; witnesses G. Henson & Francis (Frances?) Proctoer; Rev J. W. R. Beck

Helen Beresford, ditto, born March 23, 1884; baptized September 27, 1885; Rev Thomas B. Angell

John Sherlock

John Sherlock, who died in 1885 while with the Voyageurs trying to rescue General Gordon from Khartoum. His death was the subject of a poem by the Bard of Smith Township, William Telford. It is also featured in the Brackenridge papers at TVA. He was buried near the Nile, but that same year, the Examiner reported, "Blue-veined marble was used in the monument for the former town councillor, Allin. A blue-veined marble cenotaph was erected in memory of the late John Sherlock, who died at Khartoum in the Sudan in March; it included a fragment of stone from his desert grave."

Pauline Harder took the Ghost Walk to the Running Room

Thanks to Rick Meridew for inviting Pauline to share highlights of the Fact or Fiction Ghost Walk with runners at the Running Room. Her picture from this occasion has been added to her President's column on page 3.

Alexander Joseph Grant – A Retrospective on a Peterborough Career

Dennis Carter-Edwards

This series featured extracts from the daily entries by Grant while Superintendent at the Trent Canal beginning in 1906 when he replaced Richard B. Rogers. The diaries contain sufficient references to his work, social and personal life of the Grant family during their years in Peterborough to make them a useful window on the community in this period as well as a record of canal construction.

Grant arrived at the Trent Canal in the wake of R.B. Rogers' sudden resignation due to the findings of the Holgate Commission about the design and construction of the Lift Lock. During Grant's tenure, the government announced its decision to proceed with construction of the Lake Ontario to Rice Lake Division and later the Severn Division completing the through navigation route from Lake Ontario to Georgian Bay. While the work was not completed until 1920, Grant supervised a major portion of this construction work, which proved particularly difficult during the years of World War I. Grant was also responsible for construction work on the ill fated Newmarket Canal which was decommissioned once the Conservatives took power in 1911. Despite the political nature of canal projects, there is nothing in the diaries to indicate Grant's involvement with any political activity. In fact, when the inquiry into alleged financial irregularities undertaken by Howard Ferguson in 1913 found widespread malfeasance at the Trent canal, Grant retained his position while other senior managers were fired or suspended.

The diaries were written primarily as a professional record to document progress on the various canal projects that Grant was responsible for and secondarily as a personal record of family milestones, social outings and important events in his life. As such they offer a unique insight into the character, accomplishments and personal relationships of this prominent engineer. Despite the private nature of the diaries, the reader can detect a certain reticence by the author in revealing the nature of his relationship with his spouse Maude. This may be a reflection of his own personality or a typical Victorian male response to intimate personal relations. However, the frequent references to Maude's "nervous" disorder and her various medical problems are obliquely suggestive of a certain tension in the relationship. Maude's difficulty in retaining servants to help with the household chores may be a further indication of the social dynamics within the family. The Grants' social life appears typical for a family with their professional income and standing within the community. Golf, curling and frequent card parties with their social peers were combined with extensive summer

holidays traveling to resorts for extended periods. The Grants took advantage of the latest innovations, frequenting moving picture shows, purchasing a car and "modernizing" their home on Gilmour Street with the latest improvement. Religion appears to play a significant role in the family's life with regular attendance at St. Peter's Roman Catholic Church and attendance at various Church functions.

One aspect of the diaries that was not covered in the extracts is his regular comment on the weather and Grant's detailed expense accounts that were noted at the back of each diary. Limitations of space prevented the inclusion of this material but the complete diaries offer a rich source of historical information on the lifestyle of a well-paid professional living in Peterborough during this period. A digital copy of the diaries will be deposited with the Trent Valley Archives.

Grant's subsequent career was noted in his obituary which appeared in the St. Catharines newspaper 2 July 1955 which is quoted below. Born in Dufftown, Scotland in 1863, the family emigrated to Canada in 1873. Grant is thus one of the distinguished Scot engineers who made a distinct contribution to his adopted country.

"Dr. Alexander J. Grant, a former resident of St. Catharines and one of Canada's most outstanding engineers, died in a Montreal hospital on Saturday. Born in Scotland 92 years ago, Dr. Grant came to St. Catharines in 1919 to assume the post of chief engineer of the Welland ship canal while the vast waterway was being constructed. He retired in 1934. During his stay in this city, Dr. Grant lived on Hillcrest Ave.

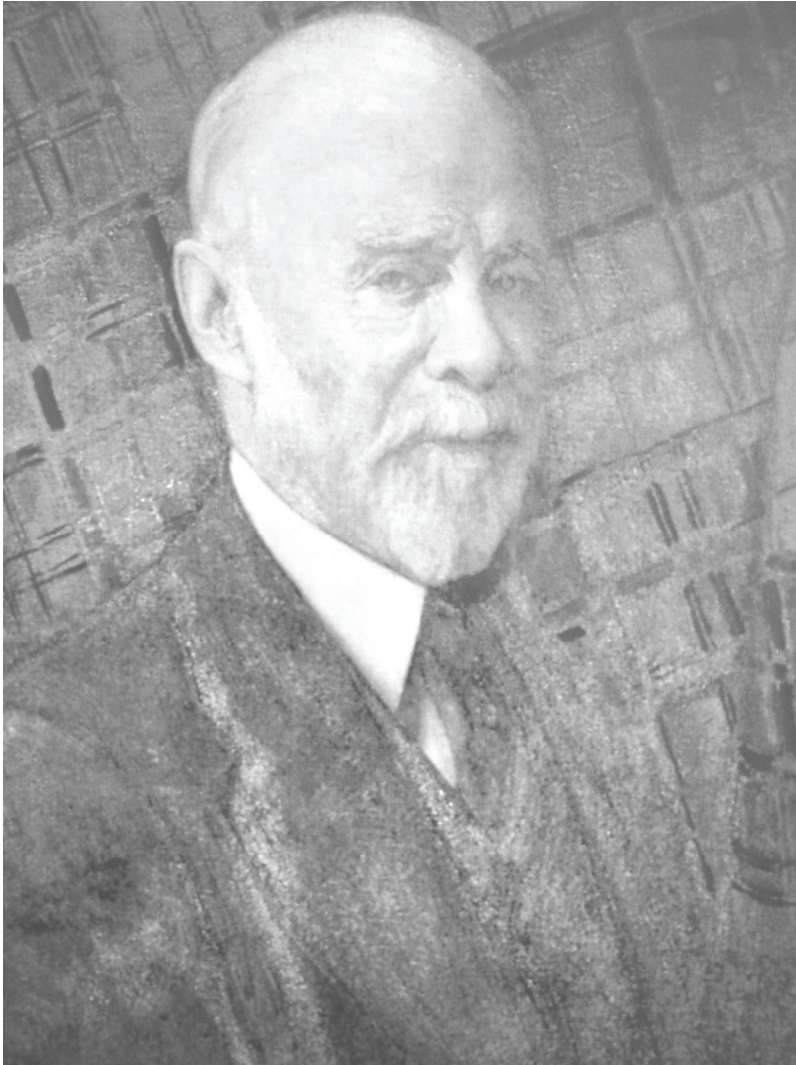
He began his professional career with a CPR survey party in Western Canada after receiving his early education at the University of Ottawa and at St. Mary's College, Montreal. He was on the engineering staff of the Baie de Chaleures Railway during its construction in 1883 and three years later joined the department of railways and canals, serving as assistance engineer on the construction of the Cape Breton Railway. In 1891 he started work on the construction of the Soulages canal and upon its completion in 1903 he was appointed engineer in charge of the Port Colborne improvements. Three years later he was appointed superintending engineer of the Trent canal system in which post he remained until coming to St. Catharines.

Dr. Grant served as president of the Engineering Institute of Canada in 1930 and two years ago was honoured with an honorary life membership in the institute. In 1946 he was the recipient of the Julian C. Smith Medal for "achievement in the development of Canada." Queen's University honored him with a Doctor of Laws degree in 1939 for outstanding achievements.

In 1941 he was made a Knight Commander of Ste. Gregory, a pontifical decoration. He leaves a son, Alexander J. Grant Jr. of Montreal."

The Diaries of Alexander Joseph Grant 1919

Dennis Carter-Edwards, ed.



Oil portrait of A. J. Grant (thanks to the Grant family)

- 1 Jan 19 Peterboro
Mass with the children at 9 o'clock Home all day
Maude in bed with a very bad cold
- 2 Jan 19 Peterboro office
- 3 Jan 19 Peterboro office
- 4 Jan 19 Peterboro
- office forenoon Lothian here from Alexandria re Sec 1, Severn
Kydd here from Campbellford. Told him he was to be Div. Engineer on the Severn Division & to arrange to go to Cayuga as his headquarters next week. Maude got up today for the first time since Friday the 27th Dec. She has had a touch of Influenza & still had a bad cold
- 5 Jan 19 Peterboro

Maude & I at 10.30 Mass Alex & Helen at Com. 8 o'clock Mass

6 Jan 19 Peterboro St. Catherines [sic]
Left at 7.35 am for Toronto which the train reached an hour later. Trains 33 & 23 missed us at Myrtle 2 ½ and half an hour late [sic]
After lunch at Eatons spent an hour with Mr. Macdonald talking over Trent matters
Left at 4.05 for St. Catherines After tea went to the pictures K___ Douglas who is at the Welland Hotel for a rest

7 Jan 19 St. Catherines Toronto
Spent the day with Mr. Sullivan in the Welland Canal Ship office discussing system of auditing accounts used by Dept auditor during last years of old contracts & what should be done in this respect on the new contracts
Also got Sullivan's views on staff appointments required
Left for Toronto and Ottawa at 4 pm
Met ___ on the train & got some rates of labour by him on the Hydro Canal at Niagara Falls. Met Prat in Queens hotel he wants to have stone along tow paths on Sec 5

8 Jan 19 Ottawa
At Mr. Bowden's office all day re staff appointments. A.W. Robertson with us at 4 o'clock re starting work. He goes to Thorold tonight to see what he can do re getting under way

9 Jan 19 Ottawa
At Mr. Bowden's office all day, re Welland Canal Staff & other matters
Lunch with the Davises at Mayer & Gamble's. Saw Gordon in his office at 4 o'clock. Left for Peterboro at 10.50 P.M.

10 Jan 19 Peterboro
Arrived back from Ottawa this morning. Office all day.
Correspondence, etc George Kydd here with the final estimates for Secs 2 & 6 Ontario Rice Lake Division. The

only final estimates not ready to be returned on this division are for Secs 3 & 4. There is yet 2 months dredging on 3, and a little clearing up in the Campbellford Reach on Sec 4

11 Jan 19 Peterboro
office all day. Sent off sections 2 & 6 Ontario Rice Lake Division final estimates. Afternoon wrote out specifications for various classes of the Engineer staff required for the Welland Canal & mailed Mr. Bowden Geo Kydd here until ____ in connection with the above final estimates and Severn Division matters. He is now Division Engineer on the Severn River & goes to Coldwater from Campbellford tomorrow

12 Jan 19 Peterboro
Kiddies & self at 10.30 mass Evg Maude & I went to Wm Sherwood's for tea, a sort of farewell party as they were the first people we knew in Peterboro. Mrs Brekenridge, Mrs. Sherwood's sister from Detroit was there

13 Jan 19 Peterboro
office all day. Correspondence. Destroying old papers of the Soulanges Canal etc and sorting over my books preparatory to packing them for St. Catherines
At the Theatre with Maude & Mrs. Dunsford, to see the "Wanderer" a representation of the "Prodigal Son" B.C. 1200 – an immoral play.
Eason back from Ottawa where he was for several days last week working with McLachlan on proposed water power & canal schemes of the St Lawrence river

14 Jan 19 Peterboro
office all day. Wrote out draft report on the proposed canal Severn to Muskoka Lake

20 Jan 19 St Catherines
Office forenoon. Really took up duties today as Engineer on the Welland Ship Canal & began to get acquainted with the men & my new surroundings.

3 Feb 19 Peterboro

Packed up all my books & papers in the Trent Canal office & gave D.E. Eason Assit engineer the keys of my desk & also combination of the safe. Radden & myself sorted out a set of the Trent Canal specifications which he is to have bound for me
Said good bye to A.Killaly canal superintendent who has been here since J.H. McClellan left this canal in Feb19 [sic]

4 Feb 19 Peterboro Toronto
office this forenoon for a few minutes,. Packed my clothes in a trunk for the first time in 13 years & ran away from [my loved anchors?] . Left on the 3.35 CPR train for Toronto

10 Feb 19 St. Catherines Peterboro
office forenoon After dinner left for Toronto & Peterboro at 4.30 Home at midnight

11 Feb Peterboro Ottawa
Forenoon home. Up town for an hour & called in at the Curling rink. A large open bonspiel began this morning with an attendance of 40 outside rinks. Best lot of prizes offered in several years. Lizzie Simpson (Best) came this morning to stay & keep house for Maude for two weeks to look after the children. Maude & I left for Ottawa on 12.28. Reached the Capitol at 7.15. Stayed at the Chateau & after supper I went up to the "Smoker" of the Engineering Institute of Canada who are holding their annual meeting here this year, today the 12, & 13th. Met a lot of engineers that I know. Coultee took Maude up to the ladies card party but she would not stay as she felt too tired.

14 Feb 19 Ottawa
Dept all day. Most with Edgett re plant for Welland Ship Canal. Lunch with McLachlan at the Laurentian club after which he & I went to the funeral of Mr. Bowden's little son who died yesterday at the Hospital aged about 7 years. R.I.P. He had been sickly all his life.
Mr & Mrs. Frank Davis had us for dinner tonight at the Chateau. Maude out all afternoon with Mrs. Davis

I was paid today for Jan 1919 as Engineer in charge Welland Ship Canal at \$625.00. thanks very largely to W.A. Bowden Chf Eng for the appointment

19 Feb 19 Peterboro Toronto
Reached Peterboro at 5 am & found Alex & Helen well & House kept neatly by Lizzie Simpson. Around town forenoon & paid a number of accounts
After lunch called on Eason re various matters & asked him to send me various reports on bascul,e bridges etc. Left for Toronto a 3.35 pm Said goodbye to kiddies at noon

23 Feb 19 St. Catherines
Mass at 11 o'clock. At 4 pm went to hear Father Fraser (Chinese Mission) in the King George Theatre on his life work in China. His lecture was very fair & his pictures excellent. Many views were shown of life in the towns, villages and Mission schools.

10 Mar 19 St. Catherines Toronto
office all day. Went to Toronto at 4.30 pm and met Maude & Helen at the King Edward. They came up from Peterboro today en route to St. Catherines for a couple of weeks

27 Mar 19 St. Catherines Peterboro
office forenoon. Maude left for Toronto at 8.30 am & Helen & I followed at 1.30 pm. We all left Toronto for Peterboro at 5.40. Home at 9 o'clock. Alex met us at the Station. Maude & Helen have been here since the 11th instant.

28 Mar 19 Peterboro
Home forenoon After dinner spent most the time with Eason in the Trent canal office discussing various matters. Maude & I had tea at H____ & went to the N____ afterwards

29 Mar 19 Peterboro
Home all forenoon. Went uptown with Maude

30 Mar 19 Peterboro
Whole family sat 10.30 Mass.

Went to bed after lunch with a bad cold which has settled in my back & chest. No snow on the ground & no ice, Dusty roads. Cold past few days has again frozen ground

31 Mar 19 Peterboro
In bed all day with cold

1 Apr 19 Peterboro
In bed all day with cold. As usual Sandy & his mother caught me on the birthday of the month

2 Apr 19 Peterboro
Spent forenoon with Eason at home going through Section 2 Severn division, Trent Canal estimates & progress settlement of the Inland Construction Co's contract which it is now proposed to accept the surrender of

18 Apr 19 Peterboro Good Friday
home all day. Afternoon McFarlane & myself began greasing car

19 Apr Peterboro
All day with McFarlane greasing car. We cleaned out the transmission, differential, Rear & fore wheel bearings

20 Apr Peterboro Easter
Maude, children & myself at 10.30 Mass. Eason in for supper & to talk Trent business which I was angry at. Took valises down to station after supper.

21 Apr 19 Peterboro St. Catherines
Left Peterboro at 5.12 am. St. Catherines 10.30

23 Apr 19 St. Catherines
Office forenoon. Acres of the Hydro Electric Power commission & Wills McLachlan of the Soldiers Technical Reconstruction sub committee of the Dominion Cabinet in re Labour troubles on the Niagara Development & the Welland Ship Canal. Talk, talk, nothing practicable in sight from this end in way of a conciliation board
... Eason & Lazier in office all day at Sect 2. Severn div. Trent Canal final est. Easton came in this am from Peterboro

4 May 19 St. Catherines

Mass 11 o'clock. Hotel all afternoon. Alex is 15 years old today. God Bless him and make him a good man.

10 May 19 Peterboro 56 yrs old today
Arrived from Ottawa at 5 am. Found Maude tired from over work. Alex & Helen well. Sandy got 63% at Easter exams at the Collegiate.
Around town forenoon & got examined medically for a \$2000.00 policy with Sun Life.
Webber Turner is improving the grounds of his house (late Mrs. Jas Stratton's place next door to us) and is moving our Green fence back to rear half of lot as he says he does not intend selling the west half of his property as we feared last year that he would

11 May 19 Peterboro
Helen, Alex & I at 10.30 Mass. Maude in bed all day. She is very tired.
Dressmaker in the house for a week.

12 May 19 Peterboro
Took my car to Evans at 8 am who spent the day on it. He ground the valves etc etc \$20
After supper Maude & I out for a spin. Car runs well & is now in good shape for the summer. Evans put a new gasoline tank on it.

13 May 19 Peterboro St. Catherines
Left Peterboro at 5 am reached St. Catherines at 10.30

23 May 19 St Catherines Peterboro
Office forenoon. At 2 pm left in auto for Peterboro. W.B. Russell came to Toronto with Treble & myself. We did not stop in the city but went on to Oshawa for supper. Reached Peterboro via Welcome & Millbrook at 11 pm. Roads good & dry.
Found Maude & the children O.K. Miss Ida [Ennee?] has been with Maude since the 19th instant.
My first acquaintance with the Hamilton – Toronto Highway which is now finished except several bowstring concrete bridges. It is a fine road, built about five years now.

24 May Peterboro Oshawa

Left with Maude & Ida [Ennee?] for Toronto with auto All well until 10 miles out of Oshawa then engine & generator troubles until end of day. Two miles west of Oshawa decided to go back there for the night. Got a mechanic after supper to work on car until 11 pm & put in running shape for our run tomorrow.

Every one disgusted for a while with our bad luck & the rain but after a while we decided that all is well that ends well & that man proposes but God disposes & went to bed happy.
Alex & Helen went over to stay with Mrs. Macfarlane until their mother got home. [sic]

26 June 19 Peterboro
About town all day & preparing to shut up house for July & August. Saw Grant Thorpe re changing on credit & blow up K & S tire. Gave Mrs. [Tuble?] sliver Gave Barrie Furs to keep.
Called on Eason & asked him to keep an eye on our home the key of which I left with him. Also saw Chief Thompson and told him it would be vacant for July & August.
Alex finished his exams for [assessing?] if he was eligible to pass from 2nd to 4th form along with several other boys. Helen also finished her exams for passing to Gr 3. Arranged with O'Keefe to cut lawn July & August. Called on the Pophams.

27 June 19 Peterboro Toronto
Took trunks to station & expressed them to Toronto. Maude Alex Helen & I left for Toronto in our own car at 11 am. Lunch at Oshawa & reached Toronto at 7.30 without mishap. Stopped at the Carls Rite. No street cars in the city. House in Peterboro closed up for July & August. Maude undertook to bring our one gold fish things to St. Catherines. We have had it 13 years, one of five brought ___ when he was about 2 ½ years old & sick. The others died or were washed out of the bowl.

18 Aug 19 St Catherines P.Weller
Maude Alex & Helen returned to Peterboro today per car to the city to pack up furniture in our house at 580 Gilmour St.

24 Aug 19 Toronto Peterboro
Mass at the Cathedral at 9.30. After which I left in car for Peterboro. Dinner at Oshawa. Peterboro at 5 pm. No trouble on road, but think engine of car needs tightening after its 160 mile run following over hauling it had in July by the [Huner?] shops.
Family glad to see me & I them. After tea drove down to look for a man named Luffman to help pack furniture etc. Found him & then called on the Pophams.

25 Aug 19 Packed up furniture 580 Gilmour St.
Maude, Helen & Alex have been here since the 18th getting things ready to pack up the furniture in the house 580 Gilmour St. that we have lived in since 1st May 1907 when we bought the property from R.E. Woods.
I began today with two men to pack up all the furniture, take up carpets preparatory to storing it in the house here until the place is sold, or we want the furniture in St. Catherines. Have decided to stay here all week & help Maude & Alex as the job looks more than they can handle in 2 weeks or more, so better wind it up in a hurry as a rush job & be done with it

26 Aug 19 Peterboro
Packing furniture all day Maude & Alex ditto

27 Aug 19 Peterboro
Packing furniture all day Maude & Alex ditto

28 Aug 19 Peterboro
Packing furniture all day Maude & Alex ditto

29 Aug 19 Peterboro
Packing furniture all day Maude & Alex ditto

30 Aug 19 Peterboro
Packing furniture all day except an hour in the forenoon when I went up town to the bank
Luffman worked all day at the house. He is a very good, quiet industrious

fellow. He has been helping us all this week.

31 Aug 19 Peterboro
Alex, Helen & myself at 9.25 Mass – probably last time Sandy will sit in pew No.6 for many moons as he leaves tomorrow for St. Catherines to go to the Collegiate Institute there on the 2 Sept. The whole family went to the Pophams for dinner at noon which we enjoyed together with the short visit afterwards. Maude & I left at 4 pm & __ we back to Gilmour St via Nassau,
Worked about the house until bed time.

1 Sep 19 Peterboro St. Catherines
Around House with Maude & Luffman rolled up __, carpets & one roll of mattresses.
At 11 o'clock we left for G.T.R. station to get trunks checked for St. Catherines. This is Alex's last day in the house that has been his home for over 12 years. He & I left at noon for Toronto via Port Hope. We reached Toronto to [sic] late for the 4 o'clock train for St. Catherines so went on the 6 pm train. Room 59 at "The Welland on arrival there at 8 pm. Maude & Helen remain in Peterboro this week to close up various house matters & say good bye to friends (a few)

13 Sep 19 St. Catherines Thorold
left at 4.30 for Peterboro

14 Sep 19 Peterboro
Arrived at Peterboro at 1.30 am.
Maude & Helen have been staying at the Empress Hotel during the past few days having moved down from our house 580 Gilmour St. We went to 10.30 Mass at the Cathedral & then said farewell to Father Phelan.
Went to 5 o'clock tea at the Aylmers with Mr. Campbell of the Union Bank. Campbell is brother of Father Campbells St. Raphael's Glengarry
After supper called on the Killaly's to say good bye. Peg spent the afternoon with Helen at the Hotel.

15 Sep 19 Ottawa
Arrived at 7.30 am from Peterboro.
Forenoon at the Dept with Mr. Bowden & Deputy Minister Bell. Latter says Sec

3 definitely closed down & may close Sec 2.

Bowden says no insurance or dredges buildings & machinery been be carried on W.S. Canal.
Left for Peterboro CPR 10.30

16 Sep 19 Peterboro
Spent the day at 580 Gilmour House. Drained furnace etc & had water turned off. Put on Double windows & winter porches.
Luffman with me after dinner. Maude about town all day. She had the electric light & Gas turned off last week & phone taken out – all preparatory to closing up the house.
Pophams after supper. Staying at the Empress.

17 Sep 19 Peterboro
Last Day in Peterboro

Out at House 580 Gilmour St. to strip furniture & boxes now wanted at St. Catherines. But Barbean never turned up with his team. Luffman with me helping to put finishing touches to closing house.
Closed House at 11 pm & gave key to Popham to ship furniture now wanted at St. Catherines Sunday next week. Balance of furniture will be left in house until wanted in St. C. or house is sold.

Left Peterborou with Maude & Helen in our car at 2 pm for Toronto. This is our last day in Peterboro. Deo Gratias.
Toronto at 7.35pm. After a long hunt got a room on __ St. near The Cecil Jarvis St. Hotels all full.

18 Sep 19 Toronto St. Catherines
Breakfast at "The Cecil"
Called at the Cottage Hospital for Maude to see Miss Coals, The Matron. Left Toronto at 10.30. Dinner at Hamilton. Ran into an old Ford truck, cost me \$2.00
St. Catherines at 5.30 where we took up our residence for the Fall & Winter at The Welland House in rooms 37 & 38. Found Alex well & happy, he has been alone since Saturday last when I went to Peterboro.

PETERBOROUGH'S PROGRESSIVE CLUB

Course and Club House Alike a Credit to the Royal and Ancient

*Canadian Golfer, III, 6 (October 1917) 302-305
[from the RCGA, Glen Abbey, 24 November 1994]*

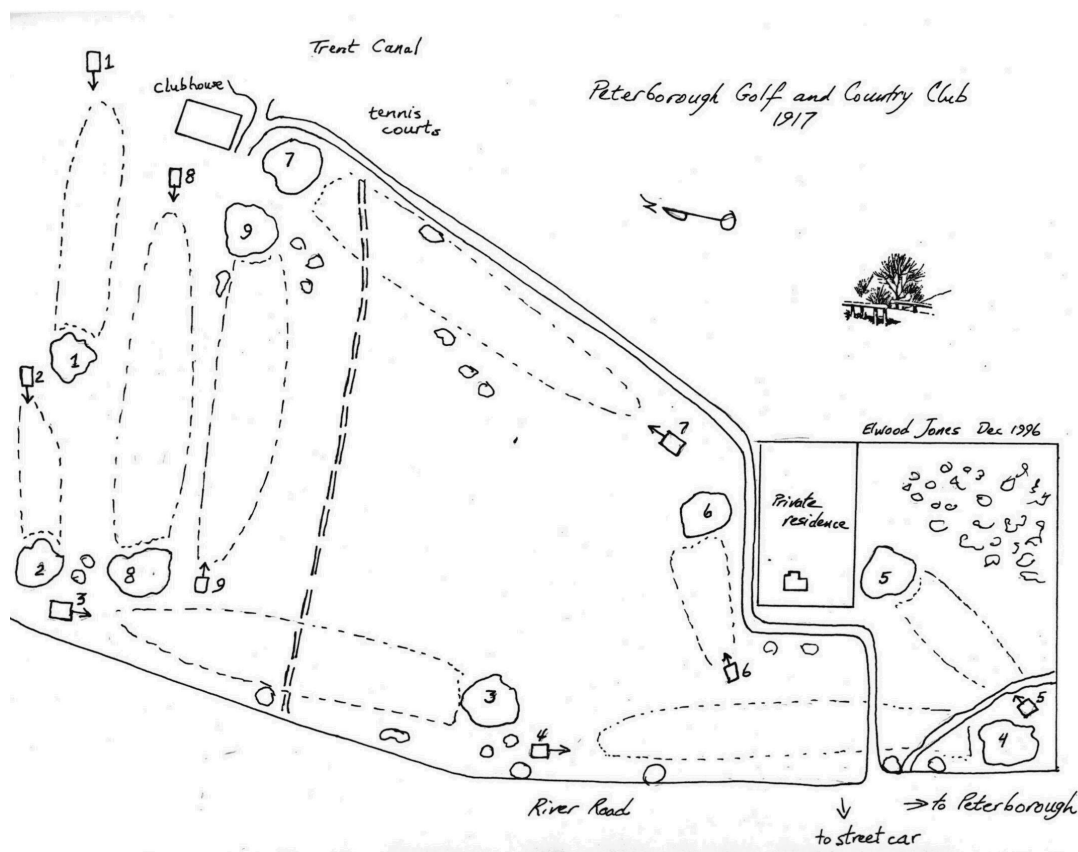
About twenty years ago, a few enthusiastic citizens of Peterborough clubbed together and acquired the greater part of the present course of the Peterborough Golf and Country Club. That these citizens were far seeing is shown conclusively by the facts that very few changes have been made in their original course and that there has never been any sign of agitation to draw away from the present site and locate elsewhere. The only changes that have been required were to increase the accommodation of the club house to take care of the ever increasing membership until this year it has become necessary to create a waiting list, owing to the membership list being complete so far as ladies are

concerned. The club now has a membership of 124 men and 150 ladies.

The reason is apparent. The club house crowns a hill and faces the expansive fairway of the first, third and seventh holes, looking to the crest over a beautifully arbored valley through which the winding Otonabee river flows, while at the back the Trent Canal forms the hazard for the slaves who slice on the new first hole.

There are very few prettier views anywhere than that up the canal from the new first teeing ground or from the spacious club house verandah in the setting sun, giving the player a striking first and lasting last impression of his afternoon on the links.

The present first hole is a straight drive and mashie with some long grass in the foreground, heavy ground as penalty for a pull and a tall broad [...] tree and a grass bunker to be negotiated by those who slice. The second [...] an iron with a boundary fence to the right and a large tree in the foreground, to left a grass bunker and sand ditch guarding the green, which is short, about twenty or thirty yards from the road. The third is a long straight four hun[303]dred and fifty yards with the road to the right all the way, but a beautiful level fairway for a straight ball. The fourth is a full iron shot over a lane between tall elm trees, with a garden to the left out of bounds and a bunker to the right. The fifth has about



fifty yards of rough with a drain forty yards from the tee, a tree on either side at the edge of the rough and the green on the side of the hill, a fair drive from the tee. The sixth is a spare mashie shot over a shallow valley with a ditch at the bottom and guarded on the right by a bunker, on the left by long grass and beyond by a road and more grass. This is a sporting little hole and requires a well pitched ball to keep out of trouble and as the tee is on the top of a hill, it is necessary to gauge the wind accurately to be sure of a three for the hole. The seventh calls into play the driver, the brassie and mashie and in case of a bad slice on the brassie shot, a great many violent expressions against the man who let the grass grow long on the bunker that rises on the other side of the long drain and ditch that crosses the fairway on this and the third hole and stops many a topped ball on the drive to the eighth which is also a long hole of nearly five hundred yards and requires a very long carry or else a detour to the left up the hill to escape some low wet ground drained by the above mentioned ditch. The hole is guarded by a grass bunker in front and the road behind, while to the right the ground falls away rather sharply. The Home hole is a straight drive to an opening in a line of stately elm trees and a short mashie to the green beside the club house. A road and long grass are the penalties for a slice here and a pull often means trouble with the elms and a bad lie on the side of a hill.

The club house has a wide verandah on three sides, a large main room, two ladies' and two men's dressing rooms, large serving pantry and steward's quarters. Meals are served during the summer months on the verandah and when the weather is too cold then in the main room. The dressing rooms are fitted with shower baths and hot and cold running water.

The canal, about fifty yards from the club house is excellent for swimming and boating. The club has leased a large section of the canal frontage for this purpose. Last year a new field containing about eight acres was purchased. This field extends along the bank of the canal which is bordered by a row of trees and [304] bushes and the line of the new first hole to be built in this field is along the top of a long hill which parallels the canal at about fifty yards from the edge. The second tee will also be located in this field, making the first and second holes of good medium length. The course will then contain three long, three medium and three short holes, and will be as good a nine hole course as can be found in Canada. The greens are kept in good condition and while fast are not tricky.

The President of the club is Mr. Basil D. Hall, of the well known firm of Hall and Hall, Barristers and Solicitors, who has held the office for the past two years. He has done much for golf in Peterborough. Mr. H. Dearle [305] is Secretary-Treasurer. Mr. T.F. Matthews is Captain and Mrs. J.A. Aylmer, Ladies' Captain. Mr. R. Miles Hamilton, last year's Captain, hold the office of Chairman of the Green Committee and has associated with him that veteran of many a hard fought cricket, curling and golf game, Mr. Sam Ray and Mr. J.P. Bond. Under this energetic and interested committee, the course is kept in capital condition. The House Committee composed of Mr. E.G. Patterson as Chairman, Mrs. B. Gardiner, Mrs. Gerald A. Wood and Miss A. Kingan have done very efficient service as visiting clubs and members will testify. The club house has been very much used for luncheons and afternoon teas. The Tennis Committee is composed of

the President as Chairman and Mrs. C.R. Widdifield and Mr. G.R. Langley.

Visitors are assured of true Peterborough hospitality and an interesting game, for despite the fact that over 34 of the playing members are overseas, there are many first rate players to be found in this club.

To sum up, the progressive city of Peterborough has no more progressive institution than its Golf and Country Club. Well officered, well equipped, both as regards course and club house, it is one of the best conducted clubs in Ontario - a credit both alike to Peterborough and the Royal and Ancient game and its honoured traditions.

The following illustrations appeared with the feature article Canadian Golfer, III, 6 (October 1917)

302M Caption reads
"PETERBOROUGH GOLF AND COUNTRY CLUB Driving from the seventh tee. The foursome is playing the seventh and a threesome is coming down the third. The seventh green is to the right of the house in the distance - about 500 yards."

303M Caption reads
"PETERBOROUGH GOLF AND COUNTRY CLUB The beautiful fairway of the first, eighth, seventh and third, with drain and bunker in middle distance. View from club house verandah looking west."

304M Caption reads
"PETERBOROUGH GOLF AND COUNTRY CLUB The sixth green from the sixth tee. Shows also the players on the third fairway in the distance and a threesome driving from the eighth."

304M Caption reads
"PETERBOROUGH GOLF AND COUNTRY CLUB Home green and club house. The trees at the back border the Trent Canal."

305M Caption reads "Mr. Basil D. Hall, the energetic President of the Peterborough Golf and Country Club."

John G. Weir, the Orange Lodge and the Peterborough Examiner, 1890

There is some interest in the career of John G. Weir. The Trent Valley Archives has his remarkable 45 year diary, a large part of which has been transcribed for use in the research room. As well, Pat Marchen spoke at our Annual General Meeting in April this year sharing some of her reflections about Weir and the diary. Her efforts had led to the rediscovery of the diary. Then Diane Robnik, while indexing aspects of the Peterborough Examiner, stumbled on the following exchange of insults.

There were intense political feelings in 1890. When Louis Riel executed Thomas Scott there was strong support for Scott in Ontario, and many of the leaders in Winnipeg came from Ontario, including from Peterborough. In provincial politics, there was a movement to strengthen the rights of Protestants. Roman Catholic support, which had been strong for Sir John A. Macdonald, withered when he allowed Louis Riel to be hung for the murder of Thomas Scott.

The rhetoric in the following exchange readily identifies Catholic with Liberal. Weir's diary for 1890 has several weeks without entries and it looks as if he was so busy writing his salvos for the press he let his diary go. It would be worth investigating at some time.

The story has extra interest because events alluded to in the exchange are linked to the Wellington Orange Lodge at Nassau Mills, now the oldest building on the campus of Trent University. We recently discussed the concerns about the future of the building.

Editor

"DISTRICT" ORANGE LODGE.

THE DAILY EXAMINER,
Peterborough

Wednesday, June 18th, 1890

The EXAMINER has been requested to publish the following resolution passed at Nassau at the meeting of the District Loyal Orange Lodge:-

That this District L.O.L. of West Peterborough approves of the resolutions passed by L.O. Lodges No.49, 80, 178 and 457, and the Royal Black Knights of Ireland, in respect of Equal Rights, and printed in pamphlet form and distributed during the late election contest in Peterborough, as being the principles which all true Protestants (and especially Orangemen) should hold.

That we regret the very uncertain position occupied by Bros. Alex. Hamilton, C.M.; R. Wareham, P.C.M., and F.J. Moore, D.C.M., in the late contest for the Legislative Assembly between Mr. J.R. Stratton, a candidate in the interests of the Mowat Government, and Mr. John Carnegie, a candidate in the interest of Protestantism, Equal Rights, and of the principles upheld by our Order.

And the members of this District Lodge, now in session, wish, at this their first opportunity, to thank Mr. John Carnegie and Mr. A.R. Kidd for the manly stand taken by them in the interest of Protestantism, and of the principles which should be dear to the hearts of all true Protestants, and express their belief in their ultimate success.

[In connection with the above "resolutions" it is perhaps only necessary to say that no such lodge is in existence, for the reason that the Lakefield district lodge is dormant, and in West Peterborough there is only the County Orange Lodge remaining. The public can therefore put a proper estimate upon the value of resolutions resulting from the machinations of a clique who met at Nassau for the purposes which the resolutions themselves sufficiently explain. A similar clique attended the recent county meeting in Lakefield on Tuesday, 10th June, when an attempt was made to pass a similar set of resolutions, but they signally failed in the object, as the County Lodge would not even listen to the reading of the resolutions. Now that the elections are over, and business is resuming its wonted course, the EXAMINER has no inclination to enter into a discussion of

the merits of the above resolutions, further than to say that if the names of those foremost in the concoction of them were given, the public would be able to judge how the welfare of Protestantism is likely to be advanced by such champions. The public would be able to see the class of men who are striving to convert the Orange Order into a mere political machine for purposes of their own, with a result, so far as they are concerned, of discrediting the Orange order and prostituting its principles to the work of injuring its interests. Protestantism must be sorely in need of defence when such champions force themselves to the front. It is absurd to assume that a clique like this should have the effrontery to censure the County Master, the Deputy-Master and the District Master, for exercising their rights to select Mr. Stratton as the candidate, their judgment suggested they should support. It is absurd, as the resolution asserts, to say that the county officials referred to, occupied any uncertain position. They only occupied a position similar to hundreds of other Orangemen in West Peterborough, who simply took advantage of the "civil liberty" their forefathers fought for to exercise their franchise according to the dictates of their consciences. Mr. Stratton cordially appreciates the support given him in the recent contest and none more than the manly support extended him by the Orangemen of West Peterborough, who having no personal ends to serve, and no clique to conspire with, acted the part of British Canadian freemen, and marked their ballots for the candidate whose return they thought would be for the best interests of the county and the Province, and who, doubtless, deplore the unworthy attempts to injure the Order to which they belong, by dragging it through the mire of an election contest, conducted, in some respects at least, by persons who cared little what interests were imperiled, so long as they gained the object they were aiming at. - ED, EXAMINER.]

"DISTRICT MASTER" WEIR UNBURDENS HIMSELF.

EXAMINER, Saturday, 21 June 1890

SIR,- Your remarks in yesterday's EXAMINER criticizing the resolutions passed by the Peterborough District Orange Lodge, have been brought to my notice by members of the Lodge and I, as District Master, have been requested to reply to them. Until a few years ago I was a constant reader of the EXAMINER, but its course in regard to the Riel execution and its subserviency to the Church of Rome, opened my eyes to its base and untruthful manner of dealing with public questions, and sir, I cannot say that I was greatly surprised that after reading your remarks on the Orange Order, to find an issue of falsehood from beginning to end. There is not one word of truth in your remarks, and I think in justice to the most glorious Order the country contains, you, as a public journalist, should have gone to the trouble to find out a correct version of the case before writing an article attacking a body of men, and Protestant men, at that. As District Master, I wish you and your readers to understand that there is such a body as Peterborough Loyal Orange District Lodge, and that it is more powerful now than ever before, and that it held a legal meeting last Tuesday evening at Nassau, attended by upwards of one hundred members. Not one word was said as to such lodge being de-funct, nor was anything said at the last County Orange meeting, held at Lakefield. Your untruthful statement that Peterborough District Orange Lodge is not now in existence is the first I have heard of it. Your account of what took place at the County meeting is just as devoid of truth as the other portions of your article. It makes my blood almost boil to see it stated in public print that hundreds of loyal Orangemen voted for the candidate of the Church of Rome, when I know for a positive fact that not more than a dozen Orangemen (not loyal Orangemen) voted for Mr. Stratton, and that dozen are either office holders, or office seekers, of the Mowat Government. You have cast a dire insult upon the Orangemen of Peterborough, and one which will not be forgotten by them.

In justice to the members of my lodge I ask you to publish this letter.

I remain, yours respectfully,

J. GRAHAM WEIR, Master
of Peterborough District L.O.Lodge,
Otonabee, June 19th, 1890.

Space is given the above letter, because the EXAMINER has no desire to muzzle Mr. Weir,- the more he is permitted to say, the more he "puts his foot into it." Mr. Weir says he ceased to be a reader of the EXAMINER on account of its course in regard to the Riel question. The EXAMINER strongly urged the execution of the sentence against Riel, and if Mr. Weir was opposed to our position on this question he is a singular specimen of loyalty to British Institutions, if he drops the EXAMINER because it advocated the punishment of a rebel against the crown. Of course the loss of Mr. Weir's subscription to the paper is a severe financial calamity, but it is far preferable to the calamity of publishing a paper that would meet his crooked, cranky views, and narrow-gauged opinions. In that case we should have only one subscriber, and that would be Mr. Weir himself, for no other sane man would pay for a sheet that was conducted to please him. The EXAMINER was literally correct in stating that there is no district Orange lodge for West Peterborough. When there are district Orange lodges the Scarlet Chapter must be opened by District dispensation. On Saturday, the 14th, previous to the alleged district meeting, the Scarlet Chapter was opened under County dispensation, which is incontestable proof that there was no properly and regularly constituted District referred to lodge, and he knows that the County Lodge absolutely refused to consider the resolutions. Mr. Weir deliberately falsifies when he says that he first learned from the EXAMINER that the District Lodge was dormant. He was told of it on Saturday and his attention called to the clause in the constitution affecting it, consequently Mr. Weir's statement that he first saw the facts in the EXAMINER is absolutely untrue. Mr. Weir accuses the EXAMINER of "subserviency to the Church of Rome." Now will he give one iota of proof of this fact? His assertion at least, without proof has little value. He will not furnish such proof for no such proof can, in absence of the fact itself, exist.

Mr. Weir's blood must be very easily brought to the boiling point when the statement of the fact that hundreds of loyal Orangemen voted for "the candidate of the Church of Rome," as he dubs Mr. Stratton, sets it stewing. A precious and pretty loyal Orangeman is Mr. Weir, who betrayed Mr. Kidd, and distinctly promised Mr. Blezzard his support, thus pledging himself to support, according to his reasoning, "the candidate of the Church of Rome." The EXAMINER is in a position to afford proof positive of this statement. Mr. Weir, of the boiling blood, must understand that the many, (fully nine-tenths) Orangemen who voted for Mr. Stratton, were among the very best, most honorable and most loyal men of the Order; and they will not suffer very much in their self esteem because they occupy the creditable position of being opposed to Mr. Weir's peculiar opinions. Nor does the EXAMINER care very much for Mr. Weir's good opinion. His rabid violence of denunciation, his distortion of facts shown in the above letter, place the value of his respect or good opinion very much below par. We have, in order to be fair to Mr. Weir, given much more prominence to him than his importance -except in his own estimation- deserves, and the Orangemen of Peterborough will be able to take Mr. Weir's measure and estimate the strength of his loyalty to the principles he is trafficking in for the advancement of his own ambitious petty, self-centred pride. It is a well known fact that Mr. Weir's peculiar tactics are due to his ambition to warm the chair of the Master of the County Orange Lodge. Not loyalty to the Order and its best interests, but loyalty to John Graham Weir, accounts for his sudden attack of spleen, and his injudicious rush to the rescue of men, who, far from thanking him for his impertinent interference, would show him the first mark of favour by passing him a vote of thanks if he would transfer his boiling blood and mischief-mongering to some other than the Orange Order.

The EXAMINER has the highest respect for the straightforward honest Orangemen but for canting hypocrites of the class of Mr. Weir who denounce all who do not follow their crooked path, we have only reproach.

PAY UP OR SUBSIDE.*EXAMINER, Friday, 4 July, 1890*

DEAR SIR,- I observed in the EXAMINER of last week a communication from Mr. John Graham Weir, who represents himself to be an Orangeman in East Peterborough, in which he uses very strong adjectives in reference to yourself. If he will come forward and pay the \$5 he promised to give to assist in paying the expenses of the Lakefield band, which visited Port Hope on the 12th of July, 1888, then I can believe that his word is worth something. Talk is cheap and, under Mr. Weir's use, nasty, but cash counts. Mr. Weir may be very loyal with his mouth and valiantly champion Protestantism (poor Protestantism!) when there is nothing particular to defend, but it strikes me that if the Riot Act should require to be read, and real danger arose, that Mr. Weir's farm would absorb his whole attention, and if the funds of the Orange Society should need replenishing, his pocket would be very conveniently found buttoned.

Yours, etc.,

AN ORANGEMAN WHO KNOWS.

MR. McWILLIAMS AND MR. WEIR.*EXAMINER, Saturday, 5 July 1890*

SIR,- In the *Review* and EXAMINER I have seen three letters from Mr. John Graham Weir respecting the late election in this county, and, as Mr. Weir has introduced my name in his last letter, I consider it my duty to reply. I never was more surprised than when I learned that Mr. Weir had written a letter denying that he had supported Mr. Blezzard, and would not believe the statement until I went to the EXAMINER office and saw the letter in Mr. Weir's handwriting. It is a mystery to me why he should make that statement, for during the campaign I saw him several times, both in my office and on the street, and in all our conversations he professed to be a warm supporter of Mr. Blezzard's and anxious for his re-election. In our first conversation he told me that he voted against Mr. Blezzard at the last election; that he would do all he could for him this time; but that he would do everything in his power against Mr. Stratton. I remember the day Mr.

Blezzard went to that section of Otonabee where Mr. Weir resides to canvass, and the next time I saw Mr. Blezzard he told me that he met Mr. Weir and he told him he was supporting him without even being asked. Mr. Moore also told me the conversation he had with Mr. Weir, in which he told him that he was supporting Mr. Blezzard and opposing Mr. Stratton, and asked if I knew what Mr. Weir had against Mr. Stratton. Mr. Weir was in my office some time after the election and expressed his regret that Mr. Blezzard had not a larger majority. If Mr. Weir's conversation with me that day was printed side by side with his last letter, it would show him to be one of the most inconsistent men on the face of the earth. Had Mr. Weir told me in confidence that he was supporting Mr. Blezzard and did not wish it known, I never would have mentioned it, but when he was so outspoken and had told so many that he was supporting Mr. Blezzard I did not consider it a secret. I cannot understand why a man in Mr. Weir's position would want to play a double game and notwithstanding that now in his excitement he denies he voted for Mr. Blezzard, yet I prefer to take his word when in his sober senses and believe that he voted for Mr. Blezzard rather than believe that he was a Judas. I feel half inclined in this letter to lay the lash on Mr. Weir a little lively for all the falsehoods he told in his letter as it might do him good in the future, but for two reasons I will refrain. One is, that after the severe thrashing he has received from the EXAMINER he must feel rather sore, and I might be indicted for cruelty if I was severe on him. Another is that I see his letter is dated from Stony Lake. If Mr. Weir was at home in Otonabee, where he could obtain cold spring water, he would not be likely to write such a letter; and I have often seen men who are strong supporters of one of the leading questions of the day, get a little off and not act like rational beings, when they had to drink Stony Lake water.

Hoping Mr. Weir will have courage enough in future elections to let it be known publicly on which side he is for every man admires a manly and honest opponent, while he has only contempt for the man who attempts to

play a double game, I remain,
Yours truly,
J.B. McWILLIAMS.

MR. MOORE'S REPLY TO MR. WEIR*EXAMINER, Saturday, 5 July 1890*
To the Editor of the Examiner:

DEAR SIR,- With reference to Mr. J. Graham Weir's letter published in the *Review* of July 4th, I wish to say a few words. First, I regret that my name has been brought before the public in connection with this matter, but since such is the case, I have simply to say, and most decidedly, that Mr. Weir did say to me that he would oppose Mr. Stratton's candidature but would support Mr. Blezzard. This took place at the post office on the day Hon. Mr. Hardy addressed a meeting of the electors in Peterborough. Mr. Weir voluntarily, and without any suggestion or solicitation on my part, assured me of his determination to support Mr. Blezzard in the East Riding. There can be, and is, no mistake about this. With reference to the portions of his letter relating to others, I have only to say that these parties are fully competent to protect their own interests in the matters in question, which Mr. Weir will doubtless find out to his cost.

Yours, etc.,

D. H. MOORE.

MR. J. GRAHAM WEIR*EXAMINER Monday, 7 July 1890*

The first word necessary is a word of apology to the public, for troubling them with a matter which, upon its merits, is not of general interest, but the EXAMINER, as a public journal, having been attacked by Mr. J. Graham Weir, it is in self defence, solely, that the matter is referred to. In a letter to the EXAMINER of the 19th of June, Mr. Weir incorporates this sentence:

"Until a few years ago I was a constant reader of the EXAMINER, but its course in regard to the Riel execution and its subserviency to the Church of Rome, opened my eyes to its base and untruthful manner of dealing with public questions."

Now here are two distinct statements. In regard to the first the EXAMINER'S own record on the subject of the Riel execution should be a sufficient answer to Mr. Weir's

insinuation that the course of this journal in that matter aroused his hostility. Here is the position the EXAMINER took upon the question of the execution of the sentence passed upon Riel, an extract from an article printed in the issue of August 4th, 1885:

*"Riel has had a fair trial and has been found guilty. Considering the directness of the complicity—nay more than that—his being the head and front of the rebellion, with a strong determination to overthrow the Queen's authority in the Northwest, hardly say other result could have been reached." * * * "Now Sir John has his case to deal with again, but under different circumstances. There can be no doubt of Riel's blood-guiltiness this time, nor any doubt that he appreciated the position he was assuming in the late rebellion, and it will be interesting to note what course will be taken. Simple justice demands the execution of the sentence of death against him. A wise public policy demands that an example be made to the end that the still rebellious Indians of the North-West may be shown that resistance to constituted authority cannot be made with impunity. Such a lesson is needed. Only yesterday news was received of the inauguration of a guerilla warfare in the Northwest, in which the lives of several whites were sacrificed. Now, if Riel and the promoters of the late rising are allowed to escape condign punishment; the savages will be encouraged in indulging their atrocious instincts and bloody massacres will be of frequent occurrence."*

Is this position taken by the EXAMINER what "disgusted" Mr. Weir? Is this a "base and untruthful" attitude to assume? Is there anything in it to open Mr. Weir's eyes? If not what was it? If Mr. Weir did not desire the execution of Riel, would he have preferred the EXAMINER to advocate his free pardon? If a demand for justice displeased Mr. Weir, what in the world did he want, anyway? This one ground of Mr. Weir's hostility to the EXAMINER is no less peculiar than his other. Now Mr. Weir what about the EXAMINER'S "subserviency to the Church of Rome?" You have been doing a good deal of street talk and corner caucus slandering on this subject. Now it is time that there should be a little proof of your

assertion and in default of proof a good deal of retraction. The EXAMINER, after all you have said, has a right to demand from you a single iota of proof of its "subserviency to the Church of Rome," or any other church. The public will be very reluctant to accept the assertion of Mr. Weir and others of his class, who make slanderous statements, which, in his case at least, as proven by the signed statements of three reliable persons, are utterly at variance with the truth. Mr. Weir's course is unworthy of as much attention as has been given it, but as he is the only person who has had the effrontery and callous impudence to make reckless misstatements over his own signature, it is but due to the interests of truth, not only to demand proof, but to furnish proof of the perfectly reckless, untruthful and baseless nature of his charges and insinuations. This has been done. It has been shown that he has been utterly regardless of the facts in regard to every position he has assumed against the EXAMINER, and if he has the least remnant of manhood, the least he can do is to make retraction as ample and broadcast as his statements have been.

A very few words will suffice for Mr. Weir in regard to his position in the recent East Riding election contest. Over his own signature he denied that he promised to support Mr. Blezzard. The EXAMINER asserted that he had done so, and Mr. Weir, in a letter dated June 23rd, says:-

"I refused to support Mr. Blezzard, and, although I did not promise Mr. Kidd, either my vote or influence, I voted for him and threw my influence in his favour. Now, sir, if you are the honest man you claim to be, and have the proofs, bring them forward. Otherwise apologize for your base motive. I don't take back any part of my former letter."

In response the EXAMINER furnished the names of three gentlemen to whom Mr. Weir gave his word that he would support Mr. Blezzard. The proof of his double dealing and untruthfulness, that Mr. Weir demanded, has been given by the EXAMINER, which published on Saturday letters over the names of Messrs. Moore and McWilliams (and one over that of Mr. Blezzard appears today), all asserting, unequivocally,

that Mr. Weir promised his support to Mr. Blezzard. Thus, we have the word of three witnesses to prove that Mr. Weir promised his support to Mr. Blezzard, a statement which he not only denied, but strengthened his denial by asserting that he voted for Mr. Kidd. He therefore appears in the character of an untruthful person, and a traitor to his trust, after promising one candidate, to not only vote for an opponent, but boast of his treachery. If Mr. Weir has had an itching for notoriety he has it with a vengeance. He now enjoys a reputation of a man who will stick at no statement, however far from the truth, to gain his point—as utterly unreliable in statement and destitute of principle. His base betrayal of Mr. Blezzard, and his quibbling and dishonest reasons for his hostility to the EXAMINER, is an index to the possession of motives and a certificate of character that will, in the estimate of his neighbours, disqualify him from even the responsible position of path-master or pound-keeper.

MR. BLEZZARD CORROBORATES THE "EXAMINER."

EXAMINER, Monday, 7 July 1890

DEAR SIR,- In a recent issue of the *Review* there appeared a letter over the signature of J.G. Weir, in which he says: "I cannot believe the statement of the EXAMINER (that Mr. Weir had promised Mr. Blezzard his [Mr. Weir's] support in the East Riding election) unless I see it over Mr. Blezzard's own signature." To satisfy the public in connection with the matter I will here supply the confirmation that Mr. Weir demands. I did say that Mr. Weir was supporting me, and my authority for saying so was the assurance of Mr. J. Graham Weir himself. About three weeks before the election I met Mr. Weir on the Keene road, and, without any solicitation on my part, he told me he would support me. From my acquaintance with Mr. Weir, I had no reason to doubt his word. I expected from what he then said, and from what I had heard from other quarters, that I should have Mr. Weir's support. If men making the profession of Mr. Weir are not to be believed, then I should like to know whose word can be depended upon.

Yours very truly,
THOS. BLEZZARD.

July 5th, 1890

Tracing family ancestry requires perserverance

Examiner journalist puts online digitized resources of Ancestry.ca to test and reveals some family history

Thanks to Elizabeth Bower, Peterborough Examiner



Warsaw Cemetery

I walked into an ancestry workshop earlier this week knowing little more about my Bower family history than my grandparents' names. I walked out knowing more about the Bower lineage — which stretches back to early Canadian pioneer days — than any other living person in my family.

I can now trace my roots back to two men: Thomas Bower, a stone mason born in England who came to Ontario in 1816 to start a new life, and Walter Waldie, a man born in Scotland in 1798 who also immigrated to Ontario in the early 1800s and started a large family.

I know their children's names. I know their wives' names. I know when they died, how they died and I know where they're buried.

Many of their gravesites are close to Peterborough in cemeteries in the Gananoque, Kingston, Cornwall and Brockville areas.

With a slight tremble in my hands and a frog in my throat, I perused the death certificates, the wedding records and the census forms as I put what felt like little jigsaw puzzle pieces together to form the big picture of how the Waldies and the Bowers lived, survived and populated Ontario before

eventually creating me: Elizabeth Bower, the one who can tell their story.

After attending the full-day workshop, run by Ancestry.ca in cooperation with the Trent Valley Archives, at Trent University with 15 other people, I called my dad and told him about his ancestors.

He had no idea we were early Ontario pioneers.

He was shocked that the Bowers have had their homestead in eastern Ontario since the early 1800s.

And how would he have known? In his younger days, my dad would've had to travel to archival buildings and devote hundreds of hours of going through paper records to get the same information that I can now access with the click of a button.

You have to pay a monthly fee to fully access the website but it certainly makes family research a lot easier since it has digitized billions of those old dusty paper documents from around the world and offers more than seven billion records.

Workshop leader Lesley Anderson, who works for Ancestry.ca, said digitizing is more important than ever since precious paper documents can be lost to natural disasters or rot away with mould if left in damp basements.

The website is also great for tips and hints.

Once I learned my great-grandfather's name was William Edward Cameron Bower, for example, the site would automatically comb its archives and pop up suggestions for other records that might mention him.

Up popped a 1911 Canada census, for example, listing him as the head of his household and listing all the other people living with him.

That was a great find because it told me all his children's names and their ages. Now that I had those names, I could research THEIR children and so on and so on.

It was such a privilege to tell my dad about his ancestors.

In a twist of fate (it's supposed to be parents telling their children about family history, isn't it?) I told him how his great-grandfather John Plant Bower had lost his first wife and re-married a much-younger woman with Irish roots — a woman in her 30s who was younger than John's own children who were in their 40s at the time.

He chuckled and said the Bower men have never had trouble with the ladies. I told him how his great-great grandmother Maria Bower had died from a "disease of the womb" and we discussed what that might have meant. Initially I assumed she died in childbirth before realizing she was 64 at the time.

Maybe some people research their family tree with hopes of ties to royalty, of discovering lost fortunes or of learning their ancestors were military heroes.

Me, I just feel more complete knowing where I come from. We were pioneers. Farmers. Anglicans. Simple folk, I'm sure.

We must've been tough and hardworking to make it in this country so early on. The thing is, though, this is just one branch of my family tree.

I have yet to learn about all the others, including my dad's mother's lineage, which is believed to be made up of Empire Loyalists.

Then there are my mom's ancestors, all from small rural towns in

Scotland where she was born. Maybe I can finally prove or disprove that family rumour that we're related to Sir Walter Scott — a famous Scottish novelist, playwright and poet. (Maybe that's where I get my amazing writing talent from! Joking! Joking!)

As Anderson said, once you start researching your family tree, you're never really done.

She said she has been researching hers for 35 years, still finding information about her ancestors, finding new documents or photos and linking up with distant relatives through the ancestry.ca website.

The website really is an amazing tool that, if you're so inclined, you could likely figure out yourself without attending a workshop.

After registering with a credit card, you get a username and password, which you use as long as you're a member.

There are a ton of options such as searching specifically for marriage certificates, passenger lists on ocean liners or military records. But if you're new to this, you'll probably want to do what I did: Go to the search function and type in the name of an ancestor, his or her estimated birth year, and see what pops up.

I typed in my paternal grandfather's name — Oliver Stafford Bower — and his estimated birth year (the site will help you estimate this if you guess he was, for example, roughly age 55 in 1960) and then up popped census records, death records, birth records, photos of tombstones, U.S. federal census records, border crossing documents, obituaries and cemetery

registries. There was even a photo from an American high school yearbook!

They're not all connected to my grandfather, of course. You have to go through each one and see what's what.

I knew the 1911 census mentioning his name was the right one because it lists his little sister as Wilma — my dad's aunt.

As you put on your detective's hat and learn more and more information, you can start literally building your family tree.

In a special section of the site, you can enter what information you know about your family, especially names and dates of birth, and it will create a pictorial family tree on the page.

You can share this family tree with other Ancestry.ca members and who knows, maybe a long-lost relative will contact you by email and fill in some missing information.

When I say you put on your detective's hat, I really mean it. Researching can be no easy feat. As Anderson explained in the workshop, you often have to search for misspelled names in order to find a right match. As she said, "The name is spelled only as good as the person who spelled it."

A census taker may not have cared that my great-great grandmother's name was actually Catharine Bower because she was listed as Kate. I would never be able to find her in some documents unless knowing Kate was her nickname. Another record might just list her as C. Bower. Yet another record, in her later years, might call her Widow Bower.

Or the person filling out her death record might have called her Katherine

Bauer because that's how he honestly believed it to be spelled.

Anderson gave some funny stories about how people's names are misspelled in historical documents.

She recalled one story about a Hugh Anderson being listed as an Andrew Anderson.

How does that happen? She mused that the only thing she could think of was that maybe the census taker had known him as "Andy" (a short-form for his last name) and assumed his full first name was Andrew.

Ages and birthdates may also be frequently wrong. People might've lied about their ages, Anderson said, or in days gone by simply may not have known the exact year they were born.

In the end, I came out of the workshop with my head reeling with information and my heart reeling with emotion from discovering some of my roots.

If you try to unearth your own roots, I wish you much luck and remind you that you'll need perseverance. It's worth it in the end.

You may not be related to kings and queens but you might just be surprised to learn the historic and genetic twists and turns of your family lineage. People crossed oceans. Fell in love. They survived hardships. They founded new settlements. They perhaps bucked social customs and married outside their class or their race.

They may not have made it into the history books, but everything your ancestors did led to little ol' you. Isn't it time you discovered your story?

The Trent Valley Archives and Genealogy

The Trent Valley Archives is proud of its credentials for genealogy. We have helped hundreds of people over the years in a variety of ways. Genealogy is more than knowing the births, marriages and deaths of our ancestors. It is also about knowing how they felt, how they did ordinary things in everyday life, how they rose to the occasion in time of war or opportunity in education, business, and career.

Ancestry.ca and other sites on the web have become very important in the modern pursuit of genealogy. And the Trent Valley Archives is there. Moreover, our own webpage is a destination site for people interested in local and family history in the five counties between Haliburton and Trenton, Bancroft and Port Hope. We are proud, for example, that our "historical resources" on the web include the assessment roll for Peterborough in 1869, the street directory for 1888, and the assessment roll for 1914. Our index of newspapers is growing mainly because of the work of Diane Robnik and volunteers such as Don Cournoyea. Our newspapers include microfilm newspapers from Kingston and Cobourg as well as for the three Peterborough dailies in the nineteenth-century. We have hard copy newspapers such as the several Lakefield papers since 1950; the Dummer News, complete run; the Havelock Standard, 1898-1976; the Peterborough Review, 1935-1976; Haliburton Echo; Millbrook Review and others. The Peterborough Chronology, which was developed for our website, has been copied on to other websites, which we take as an endorsement. However, in all of these things we have more in our research rooms than on the web.

We have made special efforts to keep pace with genealogical sources relating to the local areas. We have shelves of family histories, countless cemetery records including special extras for Little Lake Cemetery and St Peter's Cemetery.

We have several publications that have since the 1970s gathered information on births, marriages and deaths.

We have a solid research library that has been catalogued and will soon be added to our website. We also have

exceptionally large collection assembled by Olive Doran.

We post our finding aids as they



uncatalogued books, and books that are housed with our archival collections.

Because we are an archives as well as a library and genealogical research centre, we have some archival collections that are often unique, and help us place life stories in context. The Peterborough County Land Records is our largest collection, and thanks to the nominal index that has been completed for large parts of it we can tie your relatives to the land. For in the city, we have the splendid Martha Kidd fonds which has files and photographs on nearly every property in Peterborough.

Our photographic collections include the Osgoode Studio and the Montgomery Aerial Photos as well as significant collections such as the Electric City Collection, and the pictures tied to family collections.

We have several family collections, of which Stan McBride and the Weddell family might be representative. We have the collections of some formidable genealogists: Walter Dunford, Doug Miller, Rosemary McConkey, and the

are completed. That is often a long process. The Olive Doran fonds which is currently being processed has been organized carefully over the past four months, and we have assigned file numbers to the file and set up a computer program to receive the titles of the files with their inclusive dates. We will then add details about each of the files so that the information can be retrieved at the flick of a wrist. We have hundreds of photos in the collection, many of which have been identified. It will be several months before we complete the scope and contents report and put labeling on the boxes, and shelve the collection in its archival home.

We believe that we have the best combination of resources and volunteers to ensure that researching your family history will be enjoyable. Our intensive archival materials are as important as the on-line resources for years to come.

Ruth and Pauline in photo.

Trent Valley Archives Open House, September 2011

Elwood H. Jones, Archivist



Trent Valley Archives celebrated an open house on Saturday. Yesterday's Peterborough Examiner contained two very useful reports on the proceedings written by Dale Clifford and Mary McGillis. The musical entertainment was supplied by a talented group of musicians from Prince of Wales School. We had lots of food, chances to mingle, and browse. We have always depended on volunteers for every aspect of our operations, and our volunteers are terrific. Our buildings, totaling nearly 5,000 square feet, at the corner of Carnegie and Woodland Drive occupy a large lot bordered by nice woods. Archives are measured by volume, and our records run to nearly 300,000 square feet; each cubic foot holds about 1,500 pages, or 1,000 photograph sleeves. On top of this we have 20,000 books and all the basic genealogical resources needed to do research about families that came, stayed or left the five counties of east-central Ontario from Haliburton to the lakeshore.

We opened our new annex by hosting two workshops and some displays from our recent acquisitions. Gina Martin, our lead land records specialist, ran a workshop to show

participants how land records can be used to find out key information about ancestors. Trent Valley Archives has the land records for Peterborough County and these contain grants, deeds, wills, and memos. The papers are accessed through an abstract register which lists transactions for every property in the county, and supplies the reference number for the land instrument. We have the land instruments: possibly 500,000 of them. These can be used in conjunction with other resources at the Trent Valley Archives. We have family trees and family lists totaling over a million names, of which 300,000 are in the database maintained by Andre Dorfman. We have a large and growing collection of family histories. We have a nearly complete collection of street directories covering the twentieth century, and even have similar some records from the 1860s to 1900. Our webpage,

www.trentvalleyarchives.com, has the assessment rolls for 1869 and 1914, and the street directory for 1888, none of which is available anywhere else and is only available in this format because of the work of the work of Trent Valley Archives volunteers, and Diane Robnik, our full-time paid employee.

The second workshop was on the interpretation of early photographs. Fraser Dunford, lately the Director of the Ontario Genealogical Society, gave a history of photography, and showed that Peterborough's acquaintance with photography and its changing techniques was nearly immediate and strong. Our first professional daguerriest was here in the 1840s, and our leading photographers, predating Rob Roy and his son, Fred Roy, included R. Thompson & Son, Thomas Estabrook, Robert D. Ewing, George B. Sproule, James Little, William McFadden, Robert Smith and Peter H. Green. They all did excellent work and reflected the latest trends in the science and art of photography.

I had a eureka moment in interpreting photographs about five years ago. The Trent Valley Archives acquired a print that was produced from a glass plate negative. It was a picture of a Pullman car parked in a railway yard and nothing else was known. We began with the signs on the Pullman car and along the fencing. The car belonged to the McGibney family and we found references on the web to their career as a travelling variety show that toured the continent in the 1880s and 1890s, and came to Peterborough at least twice. We were able to find newspaper coverage of their visits and found that they had parked their Pullman car on Bethune street and stayed at the Oriental Hotel while performing at the Bradburn Opera. Bethune Street had been converted to a railway yard to support the Midland (later Grand Trunk and CNR) railway station. This led us to conclude that R. M. Roy was the likely photographer, and that he was shooting from the Midland Station (where he was employed before becoming a full-time photographer). We used the fire insurance plans at the Trent Valley Archives and the directories to confirm the layout of the railway tracks and to identify the businesses next to the tracks.

We have had considerable success in identifying photographs over the years. We have the photographic

notebooks of the Roy Studio on our computer, and we have received many collections which have photographs that we can compare with others. Once, a lady brought in a nice collection of family albums and commented that they were useless, because there were so few names. As I thumbed through one album I spotted the picture of Frances Stewart that was used in the frontispiece for *Our Forest Home*, published in 1890 and 1902. This collection allowed us to confirm that the photo in the book was taken by R. Thompson and Sun, possibly as a reprint in 1890, judging by the physical features of the book. For the workshop, I prepared a checklist on how to identify historical photographs; one is still limited by what we do not know, and many pictures will baffle our efforts.

Our open house highlighted a handful of our recent acquisitions. In the past few months we have added to our holdings related to local businesses with the acquisition of records related to Black's Department Store, Barrie's Furriers, J. J. Turner and sons, makers of tents, flags and canvas products, and to Canadian General Electric. These complement significant collections related to Raybestos Manhattan, and the official archives of DeLaval.

The McGibney Pullman Car parked on

Bethune Street, Peterborough began as an unidentified photo. (TVA, Electric City collection)

The resources of the Trent Valley Archives may be used by all members. For most, the annual membership is \$52.50 a year, and includes receiving by mail the Heritage Gazette of the Trent Valley, the pre-eminent magazine on local history stories and resources. As well, its members can do research at the Trent Valley Archives. There they will have access to the internet resources, including Ancestry.ca, Collections Canada, and other unique sources. We have a research library that includes quite a few books, many not catalogued yet, on Ireland and the Irish. We have many family histories which are currently being catalogued. Our computer catalogue for about 2,500 titles is fully accessible in the TVA reading room, but we are looking for ways to add this to our webpage, which already ranks as one of the most useful sites for the history of Peterborough.

The website includes issues of the Heritage Gazette, 2006-2010, the 1869 and 1914 assessment rolls and the 1888 street directory. We also have posted several of our finding aids on the webpage; many of our finding aids need further refining, and are only accessible on the TVA reading room computers. Other collections have only

been lightly described and are in need of better descriptions. We consider a collection (which we call fonds) to be complete when we have the scope and contents report and printed labels on the boxes.

Our photographic collections include the Osgoode Studio collection which houses 3,000 projects, 1971-1989, containing some 300,000 images. As well, we have the immense Montgomery Air Services photo collection (with thousands of negatives from the 1870s and 1880s), the Electric City Collection (about 1,500 high quality photos, most accessible in digital copies) and the Martha Kidd fonds which contains, among other things, photos of nearly every house in the historic parts of Peterborough, and several smaller collections of photos accumulated by families and amateur photographers. We have several significant genealogical collections, including those of Olive Doran, Rosemary McConkey, Doug Miller, John Young and Walter Dunsford. The Stan McBride fonds, and related fonds, contain a wealth of information. We are Family Tree Maker database which contains information on about 300,000 people in the area. We are the archivists for North Kawartha Township and DeLaval. Altogether we now have over 330 archival fonds.



On top of this we have the basic genealogical resources related to the five counties, such as birth, marriages, cemetery records, information from newspapers, indexes to land records, the index and the microfilm censuses of 1871 for the five counties. Our microfilm records include the other censuses for Peterborough county, records of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Peterborough, marriage records, the archives of St John's Anglican Church

to about 1914, several Ontario newspapers to 1840, Peterborough newspapers to about 1905, and British Colonial Office records. We have several collections of hard copy newspapers including Havelock Standard, 1899-1970, the Peterborough Review, c. 1935 to 1975, the Lakefield newspapers since 1950, and several individual issues or special issues of Peterborough newspapers from the 1850s to the present.

However, we have also several archival collections that are rich in family histories that were accumulated by family historians and genealogists.

Our collections are always growing, and we welcome volunteers to help us bring order to some of our collections, and help create computer finding aids. For further information on any of these matters, please contact the Trent Valley Archives, 705-745-4404 or at admin@trentvalleyarchives.com

The archival collections at the Trent Valley Archives grew significantly during the past year or so. We have received additions to the Peter Adams fonds, the DeLaval records, Anson House and other major fonds. As well, we have had some exciting new additions during 2010 and 2011, most still being processed (* acquired since September).

- John Turner
- Dorothy Holman
- Belmont Farmers Club
- Stan McBride fonds
- Berta McBride fonds
- Brackenridge family
- Wallbridge family papers
- Barrer family
- Stone family
- Elaine Goselin photo collection
- Margaret Bird letter
- W. S. Hake papers
- Black's Department Store
- Barrie's
- J. J. Turner and Sons
- Berta McBride
- Peterborough Bird's Eye View map, 1895
- CGE Brass Department
- Weddell family
- Elmir Brown family
- Rosemary McConkey fonds
- Olive Doran genealogical fonds
- David Milner family films, 1927-1932
- Ian F. McRae fonds (including two albums related to CGE, 1930s to 1950s)
- Irene Boucher land records related to the Smithtown house
- Hodgins family*
- Googh family
- Paul Rexe
- Peterborough Examiner*

Trent Valley Archives showing the new annex in relation to the main building, September 2011.

The Trent Valley Archives has developed a significant public persona over the past dozen years, mostly for things that I have not discussed: our publications program, our historical magazine and weekly newspaper column, the extensive outreach program to nursing homes, and the historical walks, bike trails and pageants. All of these activities are possible because we house the historical documents and research, and have access to writers and researchers who can make sense of the past.

We have some good events coming up. This weekend, we are working with Doors Open. On Sunday at 11 a.m., I will discuss Ashburnham when it was Peterborough's sports mecca. Later that day, our patented bike tour will take place. Next month we are doing our famous pub crawl, led by Wally Macht, and our multimedia walk about great moments of the local music scene, and its history. In late October, we will be doing our signature ghost walks in the downtown area and for three nights we will again welcome rising spirits at the Little Lake Cemetery who will tell of their life and death. You can get details on our upcoming events by logging on to our webpage, www.trentvalleyarchives.com Pauline Harder, our president, is doing an excellent job keeping the webpage looking sprightly and fun, and we also send her newsletter to hundreds of people each month. As well, the quarterly magazine, Heritage Gazette of the Trent Valley, reports on upcoming events in the regional heritage community.

One of my favourite historians while doing an intensive interpretation of a major diary (Margaret Ballard of Hallowell, Maine) observed that "without archives there is no history." History is about details, about solving mysteries about our past, establishing relationships. The past is a foreign land; people did things differently then. Going back 100 years is as challenging culturally as going to Europe or China. Sometimes, when studying immigrants for example, we cross two cultural frontiers. Archives, here and elsewhere, will let us do just that.



With The Canadians on the Western Front

Rick Meridew

One of the more fascinating archival items is a large scrapbook containing about 500 professional photographs shot by official war cameramen while following Canadian troops on the Western Front during 1917 and 1918. The scrapbook is TVA Fonds 142, and called "With the Canadians on the Western Front."

The creating of the finding aid has been accomplished by several volunteers over the years, but was brought to fruition by the efforts of Rick Meridew, the most recent volunteer.

The scrapbook was donated to the Trent Valley Archives by Professor Bruce Hodgins, and the provenance traces back to a Mr. Archibald, a YMCA officer in World War I. We think the photos were intended for publication, and that editors were given the information editors needed by typed captions printed on paper attached to the back of the photo. We have tried to protect that information and where those pictures were assigned an official number we have included it in the second column. The final column contains observations by the archivist or the volunteers. Some of the information in the captions is generic and so the volunteers tried to add specific detail where it was possible to do so. This may be an ongoing project as we compare the pictures with pictures in books, magazines and other archival collections. The photos are nearly entirely 8" x 10" black and white photos taken by professional photographers, evidently assigned the task of documenting the war in Europe. We know that other scrapbooks were created but we have only confirmed a few of these pictures to be in other archives. We noted that a few pictures in this collection have references to the YMCA work in the war, mainly providing canteens and probably exercise.

The collection is organized in the order that photos were mounted in the scrapbook. Some photos are loose, but are numbered according to the position they held in the scrapbook. We have not discovered why the photos are in this order. The scrapbook may have been created for browsing in a YMCA canteen along the front, and a couple of the pictures show such a canteen. The whole finding aid is available in the research room at the Trent Valley Archives. Here are the first 95 photos.

- 1 Canadians hold a Gymkhan. Much admirable horsemanship was displayed at the Gymkhana which took place on Saturday at the Calvary Depot. Photo: a snapshot during the horseback riding competition.
- 2 Bath treatment to prevent bath disease. A horse when going through for the first time is led; afterwards it does not mind the plunge. The Canadians take a great interest in their horses.
- 3 Princess Louise presents colours and shield to Canadian troops; here the colour party is bringing forth the colours.
- 4 German prisoners playing musical instruments on an English fruit farm for Hugh Andrews, MP.
- 5 British soldier at former German sentry box; sign says "fur last Kraftwagen verboten." A German iron cross is painted on the sentry box, marked with a "W" and "1914."
- 6 Canadian troops using waterhole for freshening up before making a night attack on German trenches. [Seven men are shown washing and shaving.]
- 7 Canadian machine gunners digging in after capturing part of Vimy Ridge.
- 8 Remarkable picture showing Canadians crossing no man's land, through the barbed wire and enemy fire, to capture Vimy Ridge.
- 9 Canadian stretcher party removing a dead soldier.
- 10 Canadian soldiers sorting through supplies left by light rail line.
- 11 Inspecting a German bi-plane brought down in Canadian lines.
- 12 Stretcher party putting dressings on wounded soldier.
- 13 Duke of Connaught, accompanied by Lt. Col. O'Donoghue, inspects troops. [Soldiers have no kit, are wearing steel helmets, likely near the front.]
- 14 Telling the tale. Gas sentries having a quiet chat outside an advanced dressing station. Note the gas gong supported between two poles. [Note the Red Cross flag and the Union Jack. Gong is a length of pipe on a rope.]
- 15 SIR ROBERT BORDEN'S BANK HOLIDAY. Canadian troops cheer Sir Robert Borden inspecting troops at a southern England base.
- 16 Final match of the Canadian soccer championships played at Seaford, between Canadian military teams from Shorncliffe and Bramshott. Sgt. W. McLaws, captain of the winning team [Bramshott] accepts the cup.
- 17 ANZAC DAY IN LONDON. The King and Queen were present at the service held at Westminster Abbey in celebrations of the anniversary of the first landing of Australian and New Zealand troops at the Gallipoli peninsula. Some two thousand soldiers who won their a... and imperishable fame marched through the streets of London. This photo: Lord Kitchener and Sir William Rol... at Westminster Hospital at Westminster Abbey.
- 18 Canadian pioneer peeks out window as snow covers shells.
- 19 German mine exploded and slowed British advance and destroyed a church.
- 20 Mine shatters trees and shrubs and impedes progress.
- 21 Mine shatters trees and shrubs and impedes progress. [Both pictures show desolate landscape]

- 22 Royal Australian heavy battery in action. [Two batteries, one in foreground, soldiers without shirts wearing Australian bush hats. Light railway running through photo. Shells.
- 23 Untitled. [Three senior officers seated, attended by aides, standing. Outdoors.]
- 24 Troops resting in desolate countryside.
- 25 British advance impeded.
- 26 A soldier informs villagers their village has been captured. [Villagers, mostly old women and children, surround a soldier reading an announcement.]
- 27 Germans ruined a roadway to slow down the British advance.
- 28 With the Canadians at the Western Front. [Four soldiers having a field meal from metal serving pot.]
- 29 German sniper outpost in this trees was used to watch Allied troops.
- 30 Canadian troops moving from front for some rest.
- 31 Large shell bursting near transport wagon.
- 32 Blowing up wire near the Canadian lines. [Explosion seen.]
- 33 WITH THE BRITISH NAVY IN THE EASTERN MEDITERRANEAN. Blowing up old lighters near Kephalo.
- 34 Untitled. [Happy group of soldiers on a wagon.]
- 35 Exchanged Canadian Prisoners of War Arrive in England. An enthusiastic reception was given at Wokingham to 33 exchanged PoWs who have returned from Switzerland. Photo: Leaving the camp on leave soon after arriving.
- 36 The roof of a small house behind Canadian lines was destroyed by enemy shell fire; the roof was repaired with tarps and corrugated iron and waterproof sheets are substituted. [Four soldiers in and around the house.]
- 37 Lock on the Ypres Canal. [Good view of a lock from water level.]
- 38 British advance in the west; German trenches demolished by artillery. [View shows trenches and barbed wire.]
- 39 With Canadians on the Western Front: Bringing out the wounded. [Eight soldiers standing behind a truck.]
- 40 A Canadian brigadier. [Six soldiers wearing helmets walk towards the camera.]
- 41 Football match, 8th Battalion, C & D Coy [soldiers mostly in uniform]
- 42 German prisoners at work on Great English Fruit Farm. [Photo shows nine prisoners playing tag.]
- 43 Despite motor traction and trench warfare the horse has been of priceless service to our armies in the field. He has shared to the full the suffering of war, but never yet has been so well cared for when wounded or sick. Our photos depict interesting phases of the treatment carried out in the British veterinary hospital in France. How horse with skin disease are treated with baths. [The horse is led through a long trench bath and sprayed and scrubbed.]
- 44 German officers' dug-outs behind their old lines destroyed by our artillery fire.
- 45 A scene in Maple Copse. [desolate trees]
- 46 Untitled. [Officer inspecting a front-line artillery ammunition dump located inside an old bunker.]
- 47 A sniper. [Photo may be staged. Sniper has no camouflage; sandbags wall with a soldier peeking from behind.]
- 48 Wounded Bosche being carried in by fellow prisoners during Canadian push near Lene, Hill 70.
- 49 A few of the empties fired on the Hun in the attack on Vimy Ridge. [A long line of shells about three feet high line the side of the road. Troops going down the road with horses and wagons.]
- 50 Loading up ammunition on a light railway. [Duplicate of 10.]
- 51 Visiting French officers inspecting a Canadian squad. [One Frenchman in civvies; Canadians standing by corrugated steel hut. Good view of Canadian uniforms.]
- 52 A Canadian helps to dig the Canadian official photographer's car out of a two-foot snow drift.
- 53 Five Canadian soldiers in their spare time amuse themselves by hunting for rats.
- 54 Canadian engineers working in a stone quarry, gathering road making material. [Note steam machinery, a building, a truck, men; pit appears to be fifty feet deep.]
- 55 Family of a fallen soldier mourn over their son's grave. [Two soldiers, one bare-chested, appear to have been digging the grave. Two men and two women.]
- 56 Wounded coming in at Vimy Ridge. [German prisoners carry a stretcher.]
- 57 The military cemetery showing the grave of Colonel Fuch's of the Russian Imperial General Staff, killed while attached to the British armies in France.
- 58 How rain affects the fighting. An ambulance [nearly turned on its side] stuck in the mud – digging it out. [Four soldiers digging; four watching.]
- 59 Untitled. [Signs for 'Coburg Subway' and 'Canada YMCA'. Many soldiers in helmets and shirtsleeves lined up to enter the canteen.
- 60 A crucifix in a cemetery which has been very recently shelled by the Bosche. Note two German graves. The soldier is interest in the grave of Bosche, who had won the Iron Cross.
- 61 Canadian sport behind the line. Wrestling on horseback. Competitor on ground has just been thrown from his horse, while opponent stuck on, and then jumping from his horse on to his opponent.

- 62 A party of Canadian Scottish cheering Their Majesties the King, Queen and Princess Mary as they drive through London today.
- 63 The King in a Canadian cemetery on Vimy Ridge.
- 64 Lt. Gen. Sir Julian Byng commanding the Canadians is interested in one of the guns captured at Vimy Ridge.
- 65 German officers' dug-out built of concrete several feet thick smashed by our artillery fire.
- 66 IRISH CANADIAN TROOPS VISIT TO IRELAND. Official welcome to the Canadian Rangers. The Secretary of the Armagh Council works reads the address of welcome.
- 67 Officers of the Canadian motor machine gun detachment interested in a German machine gun captured by them during the retreat from Somme.
- 68 Bath treatment to prevent skin disease. A horse has just jumped into the bath. Both men "ducking" to prevent being splashed. The Canadians take a great interest in their horses.
- 69 Field Marshal Sir Douglas Haig visits the Canadians. The Commander-in-chief reading a map with General Sir Arthur Currie, the Canadian Corps Commander.
- 70 Washing down decks (and as cheery as ever). [Four sailors swabbing the deck, one with a mop, shown below gun barrels.]
- 71 CANADIAN TROOPS ARRIVE. School children improvise a patriotic procession headed by the Union Jack.
- 72 Wounded German prisoner passing a destroyed Hun ammunition wagon.
- 73 Canadian gun ditched on way to firing line. There were others to take its place, as Fritz did not go short of souvenirs.
- 74 An interntional match – Canadian, Australian, New Zealand, South Africans and Imperials. [Appears to be sniper training; four soldiers in prone position firing; officers with telescopes checking accuracy; others waiting their turn.]
- 75 Canadians who have been helping to push the Huns, having their wounds attended at an advanced dressing post. The man on the left had a nasty wound but they all keep smiling. [Sign reads, "No. 9 Canada". About 12 soldiers receiving dressings mostly for minor wounds.]
- 76 Sir Robert Borden spent the Bank holiday with the Canadian troops training in a South country camp. Photo: Sir Robert inspecting a gun-emplacement.
- 77 Hundreds of school children of Folkestone, Hythe and Sandgate ascended Wednesday at the military burial ground at Shornecliffe camp, and placed flowers on the graves of about 100 Canadian soldiers.
- 78 Sport at the front: football team with their mascots. [Soccer team; dog as mascot.]
- 79 A snow storm in a French Village on the Canadian front. On the right Canadian troops are assembling a Pay Parade.
- 80 Telephone exchange (back view) manufactured by a member of the Canadian 12th Contingent's Signal Corps.
- 81 A Canadian team met a Public School Services team at Richmond on Saturday. [Rugby game; fairly well-matched uniforms compared to those on teams closer to the front.]
- 82 Dormy House.
- 83 General view of the battlefield looking towards Contalmaison.
- 84 Today (Friday) the Duke of Connaught visited a training camp for Canadian officers and also presented decorations. Photo: a roadside inspection. [Soldiers marching past a group of civilians and a photographer; cityscape includes tram tracks running down the street.]
- 85 Huns captured by the Canadians at Vimy Ridge ready to leave the first halting camp for the base. [Long line of German prisoners with only three Canadian soldiers in sight.]
- 86 Scouts and snipers. [14 soldiers, seven standing.]
- 87 A Canadian heavy arriving at a Canadian mobile Heavy Ordnance workshop. It has been brought from the lines on the Canadian light railroad.
- 88 Canadians dismantling an old bridge on the Lene front.
- 89 Canadians breaking the ice for a water trough. The ice was nearly a foot thick. The cold is severe on the Western front. [Two soldiers, one hold a thick piece of ice.]
- 90 Bombardment of the German line. [Fence? In foreground; clear land and smoke from an explosion in distance.]
- 91 Canadians holding service in commemoration of fiftieth anniversary of Dominion Day in France 1 July 1917.
- 92 Sir Robert Borden chats to a wounded man at a base hospital in France.
- 93 General Horne addressing Canadian troops. [A cleric and some members of a brass band can also be seen.]
- 94 A scene at a Canadian light railway junction. The Canadian light railways are beating Jack Frost – replacing the horse transport.
- 95 Canadian pioneers build ammunition dumps. [About a dozen soldiers working on a structure. One has a hand saw; one is pulling a wheelbarrow; one is standing guard.]

Photographic research and interpretation

Elwood Jones, Trent Valley Archives, September 17, 2011

Editor's note: During our Open House on September 17 we featured two workshops. Both were well-received by the attendees and entailed considerable life experience and specific research tied to our archival holdings. Gina Martin led the morning workshop on using land records for genealogical research. Fraser Dunford and Elwood Jones tag-teamed a presentation on using photographs. The interest was on how to get more out of your research. Fraser stressed the technical developments in the history of photography, and noted how quickly new ideas found their way to Peterborough. Elwood was more interested on how to read photographs and squeeze every ounce of interpretation from the photos. The following comments were in his hand-out.

It is tempting to treat photographs as "what you see is what you get." The problem is that photographs are more valuable if you seek to find the many levels of information that they contain.

Photographs are about the photographer as well as about the subject. We are not necessarily getting the subjects' self-image, but that of the photographer.

First step is to gather information: internal to the image; the physical nature of the photograph; and the context of the images. Really look at the photo. Look for similar photographs that might have more information. Check reference works or documents that might cast light on what you are seeing. Use sources that will help you date the images: e.g. directory of photographers, street directories, fire insurance plans, family genealogy, albums. Talk to other people, such as archivists, who might help with the context, or even have similar pictures or collective memory.

1. Study the photographs, negatives, housings carefully. Get all the details from the photo. Use high-power magnifying glass to read any printed information.
2. Describe everything that could be checked in reference sources. Be mindful of clues to time and place and event. Consider billboards, posters and marquees for example. Look at building styles, clothing, cars, and other clues to settings. If the shot is in a studio, then consider some of the features of the setting. Studios over a long period will change the settings. Consider whether something is missing from the picture that might have been expected.
3. Consider the events, activities or circumstances that might have led to the photo being taken. Consider whether the photographer is professional or amateur, and how that might affect the understanding of the event.
4. Consider the style or form or media of the image. This will help identify the earliest date for the image (but not necessarily the last date.) E.g. Osborne Studio prints

from 1970s often have a white background. Sometimes hair styles can be suggestive for dating. Consider how posed or natural; whether soft or hard focus, etc.

5. Consider the technical processes, such as those tied to colour, size, format of the negative or the image. E.g. cyanotypes (1890s to 1920s) or Polaroids or daguerrotypes (1840s-1850s). Are we looking at slides, postcards or stereographs? Consider, the first 35 mm color slide film was used in 1936.
6. Consider the image mounts. Fraser covered this very well for the period to 1900 or so, but image mounts remain useful for identifying photos into recent times; e.g. on slides, or on packaging of processed photos. The cdv was very popular in the 1860s to the 1890s, postcards in the 1900 to 1920 period, etc.
7. Is your image original or a copy?
8. Is there any written information on the image or on the back of the image or on the mounting in an album? For example, the photographer's credit lines can be very helpful.
9. Check documentation that accompanies the photographs. E.g. accession notes, the finding aid for the photographic collection. E.g. the Doran genealogical collection. E.g. the photographer's records (cf. Roy Studio TVA F , or the notes with the Osborne photos.) Have the images been used in any publications, or on the web?
10. Are there other collections at TVA or elsewhere that might have comparable images? Look for albums or sheets that might allow you to date the picture, or other collections might have comparable photos with dates. Fraser's presentation and his list of Peterborough photographers before 1900 (Heritage Gazette, August 2001) are pertinent. Search the web. Consider webpages that have lots of photos on display: e.g. Library of Congress; Library and Archives Canada; etc.
11. Consider books on photography and fashion. E.g. Joan Severa, *Dressed for the photographer: ordinary Americans and fashion, 1840-1900* (Kent Ohio, 1995), or books on particular photographers and their times. Books on photography can be very helpful. Caution: identifying when clothes could have been worn is not conclusive, as clothes can be worn long after their "best before" date. TVA library has some excellent reference books.
12. Ask for help from TVA and others. We can share problems with other readers in the Heritage Gazette, for example. Clearly researching photographs can be time-consuming, and the results inconclusive, but archives strive to open roads for the researcher, and sometimes we have researched photographs for TVA publications, or have helped researchers.

Lynch Building, Hunter Street West

Elwood Jones

Harry Theobald wrote a fascinating article, *Peterborough Examiner*, January 21, 1961, about the Lynch Block. This building was known to generations as the home of Lynch's Drug Store, with a landmark pedestal sign on the front sidewalk. The building, now painted yellow, is really two red brick buildings that confirmed that Hunter Street was the second most important commercial street in the town, and that the corner of Hunter and George was for at least a generation was the most significant intersection in town.

Theobald was looking at a construction agreement between Sheriff James Hall and William Dobbin, an Ashburnham contractor, signed and sealed on March 4, 1870. Such documents rarely surface in archives, but when they do provide great insight into how construction standards were designed. Hall supplied the brick for the building, for which William Dobbin, the contractor, paid him six dollars per thousand bricks. As well, Hall paid the contractor "75 cents on each and every dollar on the work actually done and performed, and the materials provided by the said William Dobbin, such payment is to be made monthly until the completion of the work." This cost-plus agreement meant that Dobbin would be able to pay his workers, and that he did not have to predict the cost of the building. Dobbin lived in Ashburnham east of the London Street dam, and his sons were Leonard Dobbin, carpenter and Francis H. Dobbin, the prominent Peterborough journalist and historian.

Lynch's Drug Store display (above) at the Manufacturers' Building at the Peterborough Exhibition, 1949, showed the diversity of what was available in a drug store. (Roy Studio photo, in private collection of Elwood Jones)

A version of this article appeared in the Peterborough Examiner.

The Lynch Building (next page) is really two buildings now surrounded by the Chambers Street parking lot. (Elwood Jones)



At one time, James Hall owned all the property between Hunter and Brock and from George to Stewart. The property where the eastern Lynch Block stands had been deeded to the Roman Catholic Church in 1836, and was sold in 1839 to Robert Chambers for whom the adjacent Chambers Street was named. Hall acquired the land in August 1844, after it had briefly been in the hands of George Barker Hall, M.P., later a judge. The Lynch Block stands on several lots, and there were transactions with the Hon. Andrew Jeffery, M.L.C. (1800-1863) who was a Cobourg founder and also head of the hardware company, A. Jeffery & Sons. Jeffery was related by marriage to William Dobbin and to Robert Kingan. Kingan came to Peterborough in 1863 to start what became Peterborough's longest-running hardware business on the eastern portion of this block, at Hunter and Chambers. Kingan's first store on a 25 foot lot was a frame building with clapboard siding. Seven years later, Hall had control of all the

lots and made the agreement to have Dobbin build an ambitious commercial building.

Hall's block, including Kingan's hardware store, was destroyed by fire in August 1884. An arsonist who had tried to burn Kingan's on the 21st returned on Friday the 25th at 3 a.m. The arsonist used coal oil and started the fire behind the clapboard on Kingan's warehouse, and addition at the back of the store, easily accessible to Chambers Street, along which the arsonist retreated. William Wrighton, who lived on Chambers Street, near his George Street grocery, heard the commotion and sounded the fire alarm. The fire destroyed Kingan's hardware store, Joseph Griffin's shoe store, and Charles "Uncle Tom" Harris' second-hand store. As well, the fire caused damage to stores owned by Adam Hall and J. D. Tully. Kingan lost several bicycles and his only tricycle, which were in the warehouse. The fire brigade pumped water from Jackson Creek and from a George Street hydrant. A brick wall prevented the fire from going further west. People were rightly concerned about the fire, but much had been rescued and the damage had been contained. Kingan and Griffin had fire insurance.

Kingan announced that he would rebuild, and the Hall estate sold the property to John Lynch for \$3,200. The impressive new solid Lynch Building rivaled the Cluxton Building across the street at George Street. The Oriental Hotel, just west of the Cluxton Building, added to the substantial character of the commercial buildings in this area. The *Examiner* said it "adds much to the appearance of the street," and once the post office was built at Hunter and Water, and the buildings east of Halpin's Hotel were demolished, Hunter Street would be "prettier than Walton Street, Port Hope." The *Review* thought it was attractive and pleasing. Robert Clinkscales was the general contractor for the new \$5,000, three-storey, red-brick building. The main floor windows were plate glass, and added to Peterborough's reputation as Canada's "plate glass city."

In late October 1885, John Nugent, a twenty-year veteran of drug stores in Fenelon Falls and Lindsay, opened his Peterborough branch drug store in the Lynch Building, two doors west of Kingan's. People commented on this attractive store with fine shelving, appropriate decoration and

electric lighting. According to the *Review*, November 3, 1885, "The store is neatly fitted, properly shelved, and the cherry faced drawers are exceedingly pretty. An attractive feature in the store is a new dispensing case imported from Toronto. The frame is of German silver, the innerstices being filled with a bevel-edged British plate glass. In the centre is a mirror, while at each side are perfume cases. The back of the case forms a neat and handy dispensing department." About two weeks later, Griffin reopened his shoe store in the Lynch block, and boasted that he had "better facilities for his increasing trade" of new and fashionable boots and shoes.

When John Nugent moved his drug store to George Street, John Lynch in 1893 persuaded his son, James, to run a drug store there. James Lynch (1871-1943), a graduate of the Ontario Pharmacy College, had moved to New York City. The block was deeded to James Lynch, and in 1910 he acquired the Kingan property when James J. Kingan moved

his hardware store to the south-west corner of George and Simcoe. Later the store moved next door to the Simcoe Street building that is now home to Home Hardware, a successor business. The Kingan premises in the Lynch Building were home to the Peterborough *Review* for most of the years to the 1920s. The drug store passed to John F. Lynch (1908-1997) who operated the business until the early 1990s.

The Lynch Building had many tenants over the years, many staying for several years. The Ancient Order of Hibernians and Catholic Order of Foresters occupied an upper floor. Anthony Murty manufactured cigars in the

building until he could no longer compete with machine-made cigars. James Lynch owned the Dr Norvall Medical Co. which was a long-time tenant. Wood's paint and wallpaper store, a law office and an insurance office were on the street level. The upper floors usually had four apartments; several more by the 1940s. As well, there were several offices.

The building has aged well, and the building is now anchored by the Toy Store and the great Parkhill on Hunter restaurant. Since 1964-65, it has been surrounded by an L-shaped parking lot created by demolishing houses and stables on Chambers Street and stores on Hunter Street, including one where Cherney's furniture business started. The solid and well-designed building was managed by one family, the Lynches, through three generations. Most important, it is a reminder that three-storey buildings stretched in all directions from the intersection of Hunter and Water, Peterborough's most important intersection, probably for more than half a century from the 1850s.



Here's to Grandparents?

By Anne Wilson

A Child Misses Much Who Lacks the Love of Wise and Gentle Older Folk – Besides the Practical Good There is the Imbued Sense of the Continuity of the Generations Which Will Give Wide Understanding Later in Life.

"My grandmother made the most delicious oatmeal cookies with date filling!" a friend said to me the other day.

"When I was a small child one of the big events in my week was to go to Grandma's for a visit on Saturday afternoon. She used to take me out to her cheery kitchen, lift me up on a high stool, and then she would give me a glass of milk and put a plate of oatmeal cookies in front of me – Oh!, but those cookies were good! I can shut my eyes and recall just how Grandma looked in her rocking chair beside me, smiling at me as I ate and chattered to her. I was fortunate to have such a grandmother, just how lucky I didn't realize at the time!"

How many adults have just such fond memories of a grandparent? Perhaps it was a grandfather who went for walks or read aloud, but whether it was grandma or grandpa, countless men and women, as they look back, realize their early years were much richer and happier because of the love and devotion of an older relative.

Little children find in their grandparent a wonderful companion. Here is an adult who really cares about them – someone to whom their small world matters. The grandparent quite possibly has more leisure and feels less of the pressure of having to get a lot done in a short time than the child's parents. Children dislike to be hurried, and the more leisurely tempo of granny's life appeals to them.

"How much my grandson, Bobby, means to me, no one will ever know," an older man said to me once. "Some of my happiest hours have been spent exploring the out-of-doors with Bobby."

Many grandparents find a big place in their hearts for a little grandchild. Everyone needs to feel essential, to experience the comfort of being loved. Answering a question, playing a game, reading a story to a grandchild, fills many a grandparent's hours with useful, satisfying activity – hours which otherwise would be lonely.

In these days of worry and hurry, there are a number of homes where grandfather or grandmother are the grownups in the family who seem to be most concerned about the religious training of the younger generation. Because they know its importance, they are willing to take time to teach a little child a prayer or a hymn or look at the pictures and read the stories in an illustrated Bible Book. In many a church pew Sunday morning a grandparent is seen sitting with a small boy or girl. Sunday School teachers find in countless grandmothers real partners in encouraging faithful attendance and in learning

Memory Verses – in fact in some Sunday Schools, grandmothers who are young in heart are among the most effective staff members. The religious training of children is primarily the responsibility of parents. But grandparents are often a wonderful help in influencing a child's thoughts about God, the Great Creator, and about the Christian Life.

The relationship between an older person and a grandchild depends very much on the child's parents. The attitude of the mother and father to the grandparent is so important, because without any word being spoken a small child very quickly senses the feeling of mutual trust, appreciation and affection or the opposite emotions.

Because there are not very many grownups in a small child's world, even a young child loves to talk about the people he knows, Granny is a very important person in the lives of our children. This can easily be judged from the place she holds in their conversation.

A visit from Granny in our home is eagerly anticipated for weeks by each of our three children, Nancy age two, Rosemary four, and David who is eight. The whole family is up and dressed bright and early the morning Granny's train is scheduled to arrive. With what impatience the children watch the big engine pulling into the station! Her visit from the first breakfast to the last meal is one of the happiest stretches in the whole year.

Granny is interested in each child's progress. David brings his school *Think and Do* book home for her to see and tells her his standing in his different subjects on his last Grade III report card. He is very proud of his ability to read and Granny listens to him read to his little sisters and commends him on the expression and accuracy. Rosemary has learned a little song, and Granny praises her singing too. Small Nancy brings a large sheet of paper, with many crayon marks on it and shyly presents this art creation to Granny. Together they name the different colours and Nancy is satisfied that even if she cannot read, and her singing is very limited, at any rate Granny likes her picture.

Granny has spent a good deal of time knitting garments for the children, and when they are dressing in the morning, I sometimes mention "Granny made that sweater," or "Granny knitted your socks." When a visit from Granny is expected, I make a special point of having the things she made washed and ready for wear. I want her to have the pleasure of seeing how attractive and how serviceable her woolies are. To our children after Mummy and Daddy, Granny is the most important adult in their lives.

I have heard other mothers complain that a grandparent's visit upsets the children's schedule and that sometimes a grandparent gives sweets between meals or presents the children with toys which are unsuitable. I think most modern grandparents are quite reasonable about observing a baby's or

small child's eating or sleeping hours if the day's routine is explained to them. Granny or grandpa will likely see the point of the doctor's rule for Junior, "No candy except after meals." A grandparent is usually glad to know of a kind of toy or a book which the parent knows would be a good choice for a gift.

Our Granny is just as interested as we are in the newer methods of child training. She made a trip and gave me one whole week of her time looking after my family so that I could take Dr. W.E. Blatz' course on Discipline.

We enjoy discussing articles in magazines or chapters in books on child training. This is one reason why we have had no quarrels over our methods in bringing up our youngsters. I discovered too, that some of the so-called old-fashioned ideas of child training have much to recommend them, particularly the emphasis on every member in the home doing his part to make a happy family. Tact, a little imagination, and time taken to explain a child's routine, with a little flexibility when necessary in the usual procedure, all combine to prevent problems from arising when a grandparent visits.

Not long ago a friend said to me, "When we were first married we had to manage on very little money. My husband and I were deeply grateful for the occasions when grandma played the part of babysitter. The only holidays my husband and I have had away together, have been made possible by Granny's generous offer to keep house for the children while we were gone. It is true that we have tried never to impose on her or to tax her strength too much in tending our babies. I am sure she realizes we do not take all her kindness for granted, but are deeply grateful for her help."

Our oldest child has very happy memories of a much loved Granddaddy who is no longer with us. Granddaddy liked to sing, and his older grandchildren have a number of songs they learned from him which are still called "Granddaddy's Songs." Now our children have only one living grandparent – Granny – and so she is very precious to all of us. Not long before Granddaddy left us, he said, "The children grow up so quickly! I love their little ways!"

The children felt his love for them whenever they were in his presence.

Henry Drummond's words often flashed across my mind as I watched David with his Grandfather, because David had so many things he wanted granddaddy to do with him.

*"You bad leetle boy, not moche you care,
How busy you're kep'in' your poor gran-pere
Tryin' to stop you ev'ry day
Chasin' de hen aroun' de hay –
W'y don't you geev' dem a chance to lay?
Leetle Bateese?"*

Granddaddy's attitude was like that of the habitant's feeling revealed in the concluding lines:

*"Do what ye lak wid your ol' gran'pere
For when you beeg feller he won't be dere,
Leetle Bateese!"*

"He won't be there" ... "She won't be there" ... Those of us who are parents, and have a father or a mother living, realize when we stop to think about it that when those youngsters of ours are grown, there is quite a chance that the loved face of a grandparent will be only a memory ...

If we are too busy to cherish this relationship of child and grandparent, we are in truth *too busy*. The family bond, including that between the older and the younger generation, is one of the things which really matters in a changing world of shifting values. Nothing can really take the place of a child's memories of happy hours spent with a grandparent. Let us do all we can to further this fine comradeship.

Ed. Note: This article captures a 1940s idea of the importance of grandparents. The assumption that grandparents can be part of the daily life of grandchildren seems more distant these days. And yet there is a charm in the way in which Anne Wilson has made the case. Of course, in family research we encounter grandparents who may very well match what is in this story.

The foregoing article appeared in *THE FARMER'S ADVOCATE* 11 March 1948. TVA recently received a donation of issues of the *Farmer's Advocate*.

Chapters Fundraiser, Christmas Book Sale & Raffle

Thursday, November 10, 7 - 9pm
Chapters, Lansdowne St., Peterborough

Time to start thinking about Christmas shopping, and there's no more perfect way to start the season off than with **our Christmas fundraiser at Chapters**, on Thursday, November 10th from 7 - 9pm, where 10% of all your purchases will be donated to the Trent Valley Archives when you present our flyer at the till. We will also be selling a variety of our own local historical publications perfect for Christmas giving, with some of our local authors on hand to sign them for that added personal touch. If books aren't what you're looking for, consider giving one of our Christmas gift cards. These cards entitle the bearer to 3 TVA tours or events in 2012 for just \$35! We will also be selling tickets to our Christmas Raffle - first prize is a portrait of your home or cottage by [local artist John Climenhage](#). Liam Fitzpatrick will be on hand to mark Remembrance Day and to add that historical touch with dramatic re-telling of the story of Lieutenant Ackerman, one of Peterborough's own, who fought and died in WWI. Can't wait to see you there!

The Raffle prizes are valued at \$3,000 and every prize is a winner. In no particular order, the prizes are:

1. Portrait of your home or cottage painted by local artist John Climenhage. \$400. Courtesy of the artist.
2. Neil Broadfoot, "As we remember autumn," framed print, #87/125, 20" x 25" showing a horse and buggy in front of Hutchison House and warm fall colours. \$400. Print donated by Ken Brown. Framing donated by Nancy's Art and Frame.
3. Six tickets plus food to a Pete's Box., Memorial Centre, for game January 26, 2012 against Kingston. Courtesy of

Darling Insurance.

4. A salon package from Lock's Salon. \$150. Courtesy of Lock's Salon.
5. John Collette, "Carolina Sunset," Etching hand-coloured by the artist, framed, 23 ½ x 18 ½. Boats moored at their docks as the sun sets displaying an orange skyline casting its colour on the water. \$600. Donated by Wally Macht.
6. Louis Taylor, "The Robert D. Rogers Store 1856", original pencil sketch, matted and framed, approx 19" x 22". The scene features a horse and delivery carriage in front of Wm. Collins's store. The famous building at Hunter and Driscoll Terrace was known to generations of people by its indented brick dating "1856." \$400. Donated by Ken Brown.
7. Jody Lathangue, "Untitled", framed art print of blue herons wading in pond. \$400. Donated by Elwood Jones.
8. Collection of six Roy Studio framed photographic sepia prints, 8" x 10". \$150. Donated by Ken Brown.
 1. William Hamilton Co. Ltd., office and factory, Reid Street looking north.
 2. Street car on George Street, looking north from south of Simcoe Street, 1908.
 3. View looking north from George Street Methodist Church, c. 1905, winter scene.
 4. Circus parade, George Street near Simcoe, View Register 339, for George Matthews. Parade is passing Matthews butcher shop and Review Printing shop, n.d.
 5. Street car on George Street, view looking south from north of Hunter Street, featuring views of Bank of Toronto, Cluxton Building, and market hall tower in distance, c. 1900.

6. Rally on George Street north of Hunter Street, excellent crowd picture, c. 1890s.

9. Christmas gift cards, Trent Valley Archives. 10 cards @ \$35 each.

Thanks to all the donors who have made this event possible.

Trent Valley Archives maintains a book sale kiosk that is filled with a variety of books related to the area. We invite you to browse our collection. Our most recent titles are described on our webpage, www.trentvalleyarchives.com.

As well, we have a continually changing array of classic titles. For the really special gift on your list, for example, why not purchase a specially bound copy of the 1867 classic history of Peterborough by Dr. Poole.

Two of our best sellers over the years have been Mary and Doug Lavery, *Up the Burleigh Road* and Elwood Jones, *An Historian's Notebook*.

Of course the book of the season is Ken Brown's sparkling history of the Canadian Canoe Company. This is a well-rounded and meticulously researched book presented in a lively and well-illustrated fashion. It was the subject of a full-page review article in the Peterborough Examiner in early November. Ken Brown, the author, cast a wide net. He has looked at the other canoe companies that contributed to this area's stellar significance in canoe manufacturing. He also looks at other industries and people that made this town hum. There are little surprises. For example, a picture that he found in the Peterborough Museum and Archives features the best local cricket match, but the Ontario Canoe Company factory in the background dates the photo to pre-1892. He looks at those who built the canoes as well as those who promoted and sold it. The photos are good quality throughout.



TRENT VALLEY ARCHIVES

City of Peterborough wins Prince of Wales Prize for Municipal Leadership

The Heritage Canada Foundation gave Peterborough the top award. The Prince of Wales prize recognizes that Peterborough is a leader in heritage conservation. This is a singular honour. The award was created in 1999. Past winners have included Markham, Perth, Aurora and Oakville.

The citation honours the local heritage movement that was galvanized in the 1970s following the terrible loss of the Cluxton Building, and the fight to retain the market hall in the plans for Peterborough Square. The city was honoured for its initiatives in promoting heritage conservation, notably the programs for designation and for tax relief. Recent efforts to protect the war memorial, the Wall of Honour, the Hunter Street Bridge and Market Hall were noted. The city also won the comparable provincial recognition in 2010 when it was awarded the Lieutenant Governor's Ontario Heritage Award for Community Leadership.

The award consists of a metal plaque, a scroll, a pennant for hanging at City Hall, and a requirement to note the award on the home page of the website.

Peterborough was nominated by Martha Ann Kidd and the Peterborough Historical Society.

Peterborough's nomination was supported by a bound dossier of pictures and comments on the active local heritage scene. The Trent Valley Archives was proud to support the initiative. We were pleased to see that Tom Symons and Martha Kidd were featured as "heritage superstars" and several authors were noted including Elwood Jones, Mary and Doug Lavery and Dennis Carter-Edwards.

Congratulations to the City of Peterborough for this well-deserved honour.

Doors Open September 2011

Saturday & Sunday

Trent Community Sport and Recreation Centre
Peterborough Disc Golf Club
Kawartha Gymnastics Club
Peterborough Lawn Bowling Club
Quaker Park Tennis Club
Jackson Park Walking Tour
Canadian Canoe Museum

Saturday Only

Peterborough Memorial Centre - tours
Sports Hall of Fame
Peterborough Petes Hockey Club
Peterborough Lakers Lacrosse Club
Peterborough Figure Skating Club
Peterboro Pagans Rugby, Nicholls Oval

Sunday Only

Walking Tour of Cricket Place and environs, East City - Ashburnham / East city: "Where Peterborough Played"
Little Lake Cemetery Tour - "Legendary Peterborough Athletes"
Heroes and Rails Bike tour

Doors Open has been an annual event for ten years now, and Peterborough was one of the first to open heritage buildings to the general public. Tom Symons says it is also one of the few that has run an event every year. Trent Valley Archives ran Sunday tours. Congratulations to the organizers.

Pathway of Fame

As we announced in August several new people were inducted to the Pathway of Fame. The key-note speaker at the ceremony, Mayor Daryl Bennett, announced that a surprise monument to Sean Eyre, its key inspirer, was to be unveiled at the near the new markers at the entrance to the Pathway of Fame in Del Cray Park. Some of the speeches at the ceremony were thoughtful, poignant and humble. Hal MacFarlane, 99, was witty and wise as he wrongly denied he was a public speaker. Michael Peterman remembered the influence of the late Gordon Roper. Ted Higgins was "floored" by his nomination. Rick Fines is something of a living legend in distant parts. Don Barrie, Randy Read and Beau Dixon were inspiring.

The archives of the Pathway of Fame are maintained at the Trent Valley Archives.

War of 1812

Elwood Jones

The War of 1812 occurred before European settlement reached the Trent Valley. However, there are local connections to the events of 1812 and we hope to acknowledge some of these in the coming three years. Members of the Hiawatha First Nation fought at Stony Creek. The Rogers family had a distinguished history before coming to this area. Of course, some of our early settlers, such as Capt. Rubidge, fought in the Napoleonic wars. And Don Willcock recently shared the story of a Robinson settler who fought in an 1813 naval clash tied to the War of 1812.

A few years ago I was present when an American historian answered the question of "Who Won the War of 1812?" Judging by war aims, the Americans lost as they did get what President Monroe said they wanted. The British were able to keep fighting Napoleon, and the Canadians never lost territory, so both achieved their war aims. The great losers were the Indians in both Canada and the United States.

Several American historians protested that the Americans won because they changed their war aims, and because they had been telling generations of school children that the Americans won. His response was that his version would play well in Canada, and I was quick to assure him that was the case. They were more amazed that the War of 1812 was a key part of my American history courses and topics related to the war were always popular. It had not occurred to me that my students were so blessed.

So let it be said that Canadians and the British achieved their aims in the War of 1812. That's a win.

Christmas Shopping

Don't forget to pick up raffle tickets for our great prizes. The tickets make great stocking stuffers or bookmarks for your gift books. Or pick it for yourself. The gifts are keepers, for sure.

As well, we are selling great books on the local scene. We recommend Ken Brown's *Canadian Canoe Company* or Elwood Jones' *An Historian's Notebook*. Take a look at Brooke Broadbent on Moonrakers or Terry Hawkins on milk bottles. See a useful list on our inside cover.



TRENT VALLEY ARCHIVES

567 CARNEGIE AVENUE
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705-745-4404

November 2011

Dear Friends

This year the Trent Valley Archives has been creating some of its own history and much of it is truly inspiring. It was a year packed with challenges and opportunities and we'd like to share some of the highlights with you.

Have you seen the renovations to the new annex? Work on the former portable school building, a gift from the local Catholic School Board, was kick started by a Community Futures grant of \$15,000. A foundation, able to support the weight of libraries and archives, was constructed, the building set in place then electricity and porches were added. To date \$40,000 has been invested and \$10,000 is needed to add a cooling/heating system. We celebrated an open house at the annex featuring in-house workshops on land records and photography.

Fortunately, because the annex was properly prepared, we can accept one of the most important donations ever received in over twenty years: very extensive archival materials tied to the Peterborough Examiner. This year we have also received significant collections related to genealogy (Olive Doran fonds), politics (Paul Rexe), business (DeLaval, CGE, Barrie's and J. J. Turner's), local history (Stan McBride, Weddell family), and the Trent waterway (David Milner films).

Naturally all this activity comes at a cost. In addition to the expenses with our two buildings, we need to raise money to purchase archival shelving for our new collections (\$6,000), archival boxes, photographic supplies, file folders and other supplies (\$5,000). We will not purchase these necessities until we have the funds in hand.

Over the past several years we have budgeted to receive about half of our income from donations and the twice-yearly appeal for funds has been crucial to our success. We have lost key friends and donors this year and we sincerely hope that you can help us.

Of course, we are applying for grants wherever we can, including to the Trillium Foundation for a large grant to make our facility compliant with new government standards for physical mobility. All granting agencies state that applications have outpaced the available funding.

We also operate many fundraising ventures and have just emerged from a successful October season of walks, talks and pageants. A raffle that features some outstanding prizes is slated for November and December, and we are most grateful to those who have made donations, and to those who buy or sell tickets.

As always, our welfare depends on your support through membership, volunteerism and donations. Your help has made Trent Valley Archives one of the most important heritage organizations in the area. We are proud of what we, together, have accomplished. There is still much to do, but we can only do it with your generosity.

Sincerely,

Elwood H. Jones

Elwood H. Jones, TVA Archivist