

Trent Valley Archives

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TVA ANNUAL MEETING

The annual meeting of the Trent Valley Archives was held in the new Highland Park Visitation Centre of the Little Lake Cemetery. We were in the main visitation room, which had built-in facilities for audio-visual presentations. Prior to the business portion of the AGM, Pat Marchen, ably assisted by Bruce Fitzpatrick, made a splendid presentation on the world of J. G. Weir, an Otonabee township farmer who kept a remarkable diary for his last 45 years, 1880 to 1925. Pat's visual selections, and excerpts from the diary. Bruce, in the persona of J. G. Weir, was dressed in clean farm clothes, an Orange sash, and seated in a comfortable parlour setting (furnished by an antiques dealer). The excerpts from the diary were readable on screen, and it was easier to appreciate what was read by Bruce, who has a clear voice and a thespian manner. Pat had several important points to make. The Weir diaries are remarkable for the length of time covered, but also for the pithy observations that he made. He was candid in his observations about his farm workers, the farm routines, and the public events he attended. He was interested in public meetings about history, and Pat observed he would have attended meetings such as her talk. Weir's life was parallel to developments in railways, and he had a personal interest, from his youthful curiosity with the Cobourg and Peterborough Railway, and with the events covered in the diaries as the Grand Junction Railway cut through his property, and the Midland Railway, notably when building the "missing link" which shortened the rail trip from Peterborough to Toronto by going via Omemee instead of Millbrook. She observed Weir's disappointment that he hired someone to lead a building crew to build a barn who had less ability to frame a barn than Weir had to build a ship. Because the barn-building concluded on July 12, Weir had to miss the Orange celebrations which were held that year in Lindsay.

Pat described the research into the Scolley murders that led her to the discovery of these diaries. It was evidence of what a thorough strategy can accomplish. She explored the relationships with Tom and Hetty Gray and other neighbors in this area of Otonabee township near where the old Keene road meets what is now Highway 7. It was a stellar performance and we will all look forward to her book on the events surrounding the death of Mr. Scolley.

Pat was introduced by Elwood Jones, and Steve Guthrie, on behalf of the appreciative audience, thanked Pat by presenting her with a copy of the recent Peterborough historical atlas, which Pete Wilson produced with some help from the Trent Valley Archives.

Following refreshments in the next room, the business portion of the meeting was held.

Mister Boston Bruin ^{the First} The Hastings Legend Part 5

Dave & Sharon Barry



This is the conclusion of a five part series on the family history and life of Dit Clapper, the legendary hockey player from Hastings Ontario who played for the famed Boston Bruins for twenty years. (1927-1947). In the previous installment we learned of Dit's family history and of the German-Irish Palatine origin of the Clapper Family of Hastings, and of his early childhood upbringing and his climb to the National Hockey League, where he played twenty consecutive years with the famed Boston Bruin.

Upon returning from Vancouver where Dit Clapper had just met the love of his life, the lovely Lorraine Pratt and with his father Bill Clapper and his three

younger sisters, Kathleen, Jean and Marion now relocated to Cobourg, Dit returned to Boston for the start of the 1930-1931 season. This was the [fourteenth season](#) of the [National Hockey League](#) and the sixth season for Dit's still young Boston Bruins franchise. However, Dit's point output dropped a little this season, (from the banner year he had the previous season) to twenty-two goals and eight assists in forty-four games. It appears Dit may have had other more important business on his mind that season, as he is said to have communicated daily with his sweetheart, Lorraine Pratt, who was still living in Vancouver with her parents.

Regardless of Dit's reduced output that season and with the great depression also taking its toll on the country, Dit's Bruins, captained by his old friend Marty Barry, fared better, ending the regular season atop their American Division. Unfortunately, after defeating the old [Montreal Maroons](#) in the Quarter Final, of the playoffs and having not lost two consecutive games all season, Dit's [Boston Bruins](#) were defeated by the [Montreal Canadians](#) in a five game Semi-Final Series. During the second game of that series, Coach Art Ross of the Bruins pulled his goalie in the dying seconds of the game, in favor of a sixth attacker in an attempt to tie the game, but to no avail - this marking the first time this ploy had ever been taken in the NHL.

Following this heartbreaking loss to the Montreal Canadians, Dit headed to Cobourg for a short visit with his father and three younger sisters and no doubt to discuss his future plans for he and Lorraine. Then after a brief visit to Hastings, where he stayed with his grandparents and visited his trusted friend Grover Kerr and his family, Dit, in his new little roadster, drove back to Vancouver, where he and Lorraine were married in April of 1931.

Hasting Star - May 1931

Mr. and Mrs. Aubrey Clapper arrived in town on Saturday from Vancouver, and are receiving the congratulations of Dit's many friends in town. The Star joins with a host of friends in wishing the young couple many years of happy married life.

During the early years of their marriage, Dit and Lorraine chose to live in Hastings, where they bought the nostalgic old Clapper house on Homewood Street, that Dit had been raised in, during his young hockey years - this house just across the street from the south shore of the Trent River. They apparently renovated this house and their first child, Donald was born there a few years later on June 5, 1933. Despite maintaining a home in Hastings, Lorraine and her new son Donald primarily spent the long winter months living in Vancouver, with her family. However, her life also involved a lot of commuting between Vancouver, Boston and their Hastings home, but, when their son Donald, started school in Hastings (1939) Lorraine commenced living there year round. At this point her younger sister Jane Pratt had married Joe Jones, a well know resident of the village, whom she had met while visiting Dit and Lorraine in Hastings, a few years earlier, with her parents. Much to her delight no doubt, Lorraine now enjoyed the benefit of other family in the area, during those long cold winter months, with Dit playing hockey in far off Boston. It has been said that Dit phoned his beloved Lorraine in Hastings, whom he had nicknamed "Honey," prior to every Boston game.

Dit continued to return home, to his old Hastings roots, now spending the summers with his wife Lorraine and his young family, where life during the off-season was business as usual. Like his father and grandfather before him, he loved to hunt and fish along the shores of the Trent River, taking every opportunity to do so, during those long summer days. In addition to his involvement in the local Hastings sports scene, he was also very keen on local affairs and activities, always getting involved and sharing

his time whenever he could. During the, Hastings centennial celebrations and "Old Boys and Girls," reunion of 1936, Dit worked diligently alongside the organizing committee, chairing and organizing all the sporting events, especially the lacrosse games, some of which he also refereed during that event.

In addition to his generous time that he contributed to community affairs, Dit also remained active in his other passion - farming. During the summers, he continued working with the local Hastings farmers, mostly just to stay in physical condition for the following hockey season. My father often told of how Dit loved getting out on the farm, working from dawn to dusk with these farmers, especially during the threshing season, where it was often said, he did the work of two or three seasoned farm hands. His tall lean muscular body, his subtle hands, and excellent hand-eye coordination made farm labor easy for him. Hastings old timers often claimed Dit could build a wagon load of grain by himself from the ground up, throwing two or three grain sheaves at a time up onto the wagon, perfectly placing each of them every time, forming a perfectly built wagon load of grain. His quiet, calm demeanor, allowed him to move even an otherwise nervous team of horses along from the ground and so this, combined with his perfectly built square loads eliminated any concern with loosing the load on the way to the barn.

A 1944 Toronto "Star Weekly" article, featuring Dit Clapper, reiterated this, noting that Dit, wearing his farmer overalls and straw hat, could handle a pitch fork with an air of elegance, tiring out the average farm hand, with his steady pace from dawn to dusk. Of course his first loyalty was to William John Barry (my grandfather) and John Gorman, those two old Hastings farmers on whose farms he had played so much shinny, and whose barn doors had taken such a beating those long ago days of his earlier youth.

Dit's son Don, who now resides in Prince George B.C., tells of Dit also maintaining a long standing friendship and loyalty to John Gorman, his wife Marie and their son Joe, who farmed in Percy Township, just south of the village of Hastings. Dit, whose old friendship and loyalty to the Germans had stemmed from his earlier days as a youth, playing shinny on Noonan's Lake opposite their farm, apparently traveled out to their farm daily, where he would toil from dawn to dusk, during the summer haying and threshing season. Although Dit never owned a farm property in Hastings, he is said to have kept livestock with local farmers.

Then, midway during his career, Dit and Loraine's second child, Marylyn was born on May 21, 1938. During the hockey season, Dit was obviously gone from early November, to late March or so, dependant on how far the Bruins went in the playoffs any given season. However, whenever the Bruins met the Maple Leafs in Toronto, he would travel up to Hastings by train, a few days earlier, to spend some quality time resting with his family, prior to the game - these match-ups of course, being much more frequent in those days. While home, during these short

visits, he always made a point to visit the local outdoor ice rink, providing encouragement to all the young and upcoming hockey players, the likes of; Jimmy Morrow, Murray (Moe) Fife,¹ Star Pettigrew, Jack Crowley, Boyce Orr, and Tim Coughlin. On occasion, Dit also, obtained tickets to the Toronto games against the Leafs, for many of his old Hastings friends. On one such occasion in early April of 1935, a number of Hastings residents including; Miss M. Bonds and her friend Alton Thompson, Howard Fairman, Wally Edwards, G. Richardson, Harry Fowls, Charlie Lynch and Fred Barry (my father) traveled to Toronto on the train, with Dit and his family, to take in the final game of the three game semifinal series against the Toronto Maple Leafs - both Boston and Toronto having ended the season atop their respective American and Canadian divisions, that year. Although, Dit had had an amazing season, that year, swinging between Right Wing and Defense and ending up atop the Boston scoring race and just one point behind their ace center Marty Barry, he very unfortunately, was a spectator at this game. To his dismay, Dit had injured his knee in the previous game against Toronto, in which he had scored the lone goal for Boston. However, it was probably a very quiet trip home for all that evening, as the Bruins, without their ace Dit Clapper were eliminated that night by the Leafs (Toronto-2; Boston-1). Dit's only consolation that season was that he was later named to the first "All Star" team. The old Montreal Maroon later went on to sweep the Maple Leafs in three games, winning the Stanley Cup that season.

Many legends and stories prevail to this day of Dit's many exploits and accomplishments during his playing days with the famed Boston Bruins. One such legend tells of Dit, regularly returning to Hastings early Sunday morning following those Saturday night games against the Leafs at the Gardens, for a few more days of rest. However, his primary interest was said to have been to boost his former Hastings entry in the old Trent Valley Hockey League, which had been badly faltering since his 1926 departure, to join the Bruins. As one may expect, he would pile up some goals for the Hastings team, increasing their standing in the league, thus allowing them to maintain their tenuous OHA status, which had been in jeopardy since his departure. Another favorite story tells of Dit, one fall day, shortly before returning to training camp, duck hunting from a canoe on the Trent River, with friends; Cecil Scriver (a cousin) Walter Whitred and Alton Thomson. Apparently their canoe capsized and with all perilously clinging to the overturned canoe, the athletic Dit, stripped to his shorts and swam to the opposite shore, to borrow a rowboat that he had spotted. The farmer, who owned the rowboat resisted Dit, probably taking Dit to be just another of those pesky

¹ Murray Fife later played Junior "A" hockey with the Barrie Flyers and senior hockey in Peterborough, before relocating to Europe, where he coached international hockey in Sweden and Denmark for years. He eventually returned to his family farm in Asphodel Township, near Hastings, where he raised standard bred horses and just recently passed away.

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tourists. Dit again, utilizing his athletic brawn, apparently had to wrest the boat away from the farmer, allowing him to return and save his desperate friends stranded in the middle of the river.

During those long summer months in Hastings, Dit regularly played softball and lacrosse with his old Hastings buddies. He was often accompanied by other Boston players such as Milt Schmitt, and [Bobby Bauer](#) and [Woody Dumar, of the famous Boston Bruins Kraut Line](#), for some Pickerel fishing along the Trent River. On many other occasions, the ever popular and respected Dit Clapper was known to host the entire Boston Bruins hockey team in Hastings, where they would all participate in various benefit type softball tournaments, followed by BBQs and partying at Dit's place, along the south shore of the Trent River. On one particular occasion, he was known to host a mix of players from various other NHL teams, at his Hastings home on Homewood Street, where they would all participate in various fund raising events.

Circa. 1943
Across the Street from Dit's Home
Hastings Ontario



Back Row, L-R: "Flash" Hollett, Porky Dumart, "Turk" Broda, Jack Portland, Johnny Crawford; Front row, L-R: "Dit" Clapper, "Red" Hammel, Milt Schmidt and Bobby Bauer.

Dit's father, Bill Clapper, never really settled down in life, again leaving Hastings soon after Dit entered the NHL, first moving to Cobourg, where the three girls attended high school and then on to Port Credit, Ontario, for a year or so, before returning again to Hastings by the early 1930s. Here he operated a grocery store on Bridge Street, on the north side of the river and lived in an apartment over top of the store – this building complex now owned by the Clapper family. His youngest daughter Marion was still living at home and attending Campbellford High School, traveling daily on the train, along with other neighbors such as Dorothy Kerr, Dorothy Campbell and some of the Jones girls, including the writers mother Hilda. Apparently Bill eventually lost this little business, the result of allowing too much credit and so appears to have then more or less spent

his aging years, simply lavishing in his son's NHL success. Although he was sometimes, affectionately referred to as "Willie" by his family, he also became known as "Bicycle Bill," among his Hastings friends, presumably after his adopted mode of transportation at that point in his life. Bill Clapper died in 1947, at the age of seventy and is buried alongside his wife Agnes Bell, at the Trent Valley, Cemetery, in Hastings.

The year, prior to his father's death in Hastings, Dit, anticipating the end of his NHL Career and his retirement as an active player with the Bruins, moved to Peterborough, where he and Lorraine purchased a home at 27 Charles Street (East City). Following his February 1947 retirement, as an active player, Dit Clapper opened a sporting goods store in Peterborough, with his business partner, Dave Wilson, a local man and a descendant of several prominent families of the area. Dit had known Dave Wilson, through Dave's Hastings wife, the former Dorothy Kerr, who had also been neighbor and friends of the Clappers and a good friend of his sisters.

The original sports store was located at 287 George Street, and was named "Clapper Sports Shop." In 1950 the store in addition to sporting goods, expanded into household appliances, radios and radio repairs and Public Address systems and the following year they expanded again into Martin Motor sales and service and CCM bicycle sales. By 1958, the Clapper Sports Store had moved to 265 George Street south, where they now included Johnson motor sales and service, and also became sales representatives for Canadian boats and canoes. In 1960, the business name was changed to "Liftlock Marine and Sports," and a Robert Walsh became the store manager, while the store remained in the Clapper building at 261-267 George Street south. Dit finally sold the business in mid 1960's to Coombes and Ferguson, well known Peterborough lacrosse players.

Upon moving to Peterborough, the following year in which he retired as an active player with the Boston Bruins, and upon commencing his Sports Goods business on George Street, Dit continued on as coach of the Boston Bruins. However, he disliked this position, as he felt it required that he sever his close relationship with the players and so only stayed at it for a couple years, experiencing only moderate success as a coach.

In Peterborough, Dit remained very interested and involved in the local minor sports scene, as well as local politics, where he made an unsuccessful run as a Member of Parliament with the Liberal Party, in 1960s. Interestingly, had he been successful with this bid, he probably would have been a back-bencher in the Trudeau Liberal government, with his cousin Ed Broadbent, the leader of the NDP as opposition in the Federal Parliament.

While residing in Peterborough and running his business, Dit remained interested and loyal to his old Hastings ties. He regularly attended local sporting or social events, or visited his old friends the Gorman family. Unfortunately, Dit was treated with disrespect at one point. In 1948, Dit supplied the OHA championship Hastings

midget hockey team with their pants, jerseys and socks; all in the famed Boston Bruins colors. Later that summer, to his dismay, he saw members of this team wearing the jerseys on the street. One young fellow, a village garbage collector, wore Dit's famous number "five," (which only the year earlier had been retired by the Boston Bruins) while collecting garbage. The citizens and sports community of Hastings were embarrassed and the jerseys were hastily returned to the arena for storage to be used only by future hockey teams. Some years later, as a midget hockey player, the writer wore one of those jerseys, which were then moth eaten. However, Bill Jones, Dit's nephew, got to claim the prestigious number "five."

Some years later Dit Clapper attended a Peterborough soft ball game in East City when the well known Jack Crowley was pitching. As a youth, he had been mentored by Dit. This team also starred Red Wasson of Lakefield, a founder of the Peterborough Sports Hall of Fame. Jack Crowley apparently made a bad pitch during a crucial part of the game, and Dit apparently came down from the stands and beckoned him over, advising him, "*I will personally kick your butt, if you throw that pitch again.*" Jack got the message and then pitched a much better game. Crowley said Dit would come to the old Hastings rink during their Saturday morning games, before heading into Toronto to play the Leafs. Jack claimed; "Dit was just one of the guys, you would never know he was a star - that was when the big guy was at his best." He "was just the best guy you would ever want to know, he was our hero, our star."

Rita Shaunessy, of Peterborough, met Dit Clapper through her brother, the famed George "Red" Sullivan who played for the New York Rangers of the NHL, during the late 1950s and early 1960s. She later worked in Dit's sports store, and thought "*Dit was the nicest person anyone would ever want to meet; a true gentleman.*"

In retirement, Dit remained an avid Bruins fan and when the superstar, Bobby Orr, surpassed Dit's record of 228 goals as a defenseman, Dit personally congratulated his young idol. In 1970, when the Bruins challenged for the Stanley Cup, Milt Schmidt invited Dit to the Gardens to witness the Bruins' first Stanley Cup in 29 years, since 1941 when Dit played on that team. Needless to say, Dit was thrilled to drink champagne again from the Stanley Cup, in Boston.

Dit suffered some medical problems after a stroke in 1969, but responded well to the good care of the doctors and nursing staff at St Joseph's Hospital. However, he became increasingly more frail and was hospitalized at Civic Hospital for an extended period. His old friend, Milt Schmidt, often visited to cheer him up as best possible. One of Dit's old Hastings friends, Father Tim Coughlin, who had played hockey and softball in Hastings with Dit, also visited Dit regularly in the hospital and at his home. As Dit grew more frail, they often reminisced about Hastings.

Sadly, Dit Clapper succumbed to his ailments on 20 January 1978, while still residing at his beautiful old cherished home at 19 Charles Street in East City. He is buried in the Clapper plot at the Trent Valley cemetery in Hastings, alongside many of his other family members and ancestors, where his simple memorial reads:

A chapter completed

A page turned

A life well lived

A rest well earned

Dit Clapper was predeceased by his younger sister Kathleen, who died in 1934 and is buried in Cobourg, Ontario, his youngest sister Marion Clapper-Ibey, who died in Hastings in 1950 and is buried at the Trent Valley cemetery in Hastings, his oldest brother Robert Bruce Clapper, who lived most of his life in Toronto and who also is buried at the in Trent Valley cemetery. Dit's older brother Donald Wallace Clapper resided most of his life in Windsor Ontario, where he had a very distinguished career with Revenue Canada. He died in 1990 and is also buried in the family plot at the Trent Valley cemetery, in Hastings. Dit's youngest sister, Ellen Jean Clapper-Barr, lives with her daughter in Winchester, Ontario, where she is aging and said to be quite frail, these days.

Dit's son Donald Clapper and his wife Donna, who was raised in Keene, are retired from the fast food business in Prince George, B. C. Dit's daughter Marylyn Clapper-Theberge lives in Kitchener.

Dit Clapper's hockey legacy lived on though his grandson and great-grandson. Greg Theberge, Dit's grandson (Marylyn's son), played Junior "A" hockey for the Peterborough Petes, 1976 to 1979. He was on the team when the Petes won their first and only "Memorial Cup" in 1979. After scoring 80 points that season Greg Theberge was on the OHA's first "All star Team. Sadly, Dit Clapper had passed away the previous year.

Greg, Theberge was later drafted by the Washington Capitals of the NHL, where he played five seasons as a defenseman with them between the years 1979 to 1984. On 21 November 1981, Greg set the NHL record for most points in one game by a rookie, but was eventually plagued by injuries. Greg consequently returned to semi-professional hockey, in an attempt to regain his old form, where he enjoyed considerable success, with the Hershey Bears of the American Hockey League, winning the Calder Cup in 1980-81. After a few years, he retired to the village of Sundridge, Ontario.

Greg's son Brett Theberge continued the family tradition where he also played for the Peterborough Petes of the Ontario Hockey League from 2008 to 2010. Not drafted into the NHL Brett has returned to school to complete his post secondary education. And so the hockey world waits for another Clapper to rise to hockey fame.

Diary of Alexander J. Grant, 1918

Dennis Carter-Edwards



A. J. Grant and his wife, Maude, on their wedding day. (PMA, Balsillie Collection of Roy Studio Images)

1 Jan 18 Peterboro

Children's party this evg for Alex & Helen. 21 children present & several adults

7 Jan 18 Peterboro

Office all day. Parliamentary Estimates. L.G. Ferguson Asst Eng here from Frankford re his being drafted into the Infantry. Recommended him going to Ottawa about the matter which he will do at noon tomorrow. Curled this evening.

12 Jan 18 Peterboro

Home all day. We all went [as in original] to the Empire theatre at 2.30 pm. Curled after tea. At midnight last night a terrific blizzard from the N.W. with snow began blowing. No trains on any lines arrived here since midnight last night

13 Jan 18 Peterboro

Alex at 10.30 Mass. Home all day in bed. Blizzard of yesterday still howling & cold.

14 Jan 18 Peterboro

Home forenoon office afternoon. We all went to the Royal after tea. Blizzard of Saturday still howling. No trains on any lines from Toronto since midnight Friday 11th.

18 Jan 18 Peterboro

Office all day. Went to Eng's club dinner & to Library afterwards to hear Mr. Thos Adams lecture on "Town Planing"[sic] He is advisor to the Com of Conservation

24 Jan 18 Peterboro

Office all day. Descriptions of Power Houses on Trent Severn. Maude & I went to see "Seven days leave."

26 Jan 18 Peterboro

Forenoon up town. All office hands at lower office packing up papers & books to move out in case of necessity. Rooms flooded after [dinner?] At 5.30 am the Neil Book Store was discovered to be on fire & by noon, it the Royal Theatre & the Dominion Bank Bldg were ruins. The fire wall of the building south of the Royal Theatre prevented the fire wiping out the whole Market Square Bldgs. Our lower office was in the Bldg south of the Royal.

1 Feb 18 Peterboro

Forenoon Home Afternoon office. Gordon's daughter Jeanne Margaret was born today in Ottawa. Gordon was appointed this week consulting engineer to the Dept of Rlys & Canals. He has been for several years back Chf [sic] Engineer of the National Transcontinental Rly

2 Feb 18 Peterboro

Office forenoon. Maude, Alex, Helen & I went to the theatre this pm to see "Robinson Crusoe" a comic opera, "very good."

7 Feb 18 Peterboro

Home forenoon and afternoon. Dr. Moir in to see Helen & Maude. He says Helen has a mild attack of St. Vitus Dance. She is out of school for one year at least.

[in margin Returned to school 19th Nov]

Put a new cold water tap in sink which was broken Tuesday morning when frozen

9 Feb 18 Peterboro Heatless Days

Home all day. Today, Sunday & Monday are heatless days by order of the Canadian Fuel Com. Coal Famine in Peterboro coal only delivered on order from "police station"

16 Feb 18 Peterboro

Office forenoon. Maude & Helen went to St. Joseph's hospital this evg for 2 or 3 weeks. Maude is on verge of a nervous break down & Helen requires a complete rest. Wrote John to Montreal. He is in ____ Carolina where he has been for a month, resting. He leaves there on Monday intending to come here for a few days. Told him Maude is in the hospital.

19 Feb 18 Peterboro

Office all day. Got Panama Canal slides out of bond. At Hospital. Maude is not very well. Helen is on the mend. Curling this evg.

21 Feb 18 Peterboro

Office. Evg at Empress hotel for Engineers Club dinner at which I read a paper on Panama Canal. About 40 present, among them Kynock & Watts of the C. Gen Electric

23 Feb 18 Peterboro

Office forenoon. Hospital after dinner. Alex & I stayed with Mother & Helen for tea. Mrs. Killaly, Goodwill, Hill & Miss Kingan were in this pm seeing the patients

2 Mar 18 Peterboro

Home all day. Chores. Maude & Helen came home from the hospital this afternoon after being there 2 weeks. Helen is improving but Maude needs 6 months or a year's change of scene & freedom from house worries.

4 Mar 18 Peterboro

Office. Told Grant & Thorpe to get battery for car ready.

10 Mar 18 Peterboro

Alex & I at 10.30 Mass. Home all day. Blizzard of snow & wind all last night. About 10 inches of snow fell since dark last evening.

12 Mar 18 Peterboro Toronto

Left for Toronto at 7.30 am. Around the city all afternoon shopping. Ordered a new toupee from Doren ____ . \$40.00 10" x 5 1/2". After supper Wm Macdonald & I went to see "Pim Pim" a Comeic [sic] opera. Stayed at the Queens. Ordered a Hoover sweeper sent to Peterboro on trial, which we latter decided to buy

20 Mar 18 Peterboro

Home all day. Painted wheels & mudguards of car

22 Mar 18 Peterboro

Office all day. Wrote Chief Engineer re proposed reductions of staff

23 Mar 18 Peterboro

Home all day. Took dent out of back of car body, caused by me backing into a Ford last summer. Germans today began a very strong offensive movement against the British line in Flanders & also shelled Paris with a gun from behind their lines, range 74 miles ?? What is to be the end of the war? Collingwood Schreiber died today aged 87. R.I.P. He was a good friend to me.

24 Mar 18 Peterboro

Mass at 8 o'clock with Alex & Helen who were both at Communion. God bless them. At 10.30 Mass with Maude. At the Davises for supper.

30 Mar 18 Peterboro

Working at car all day. John Byone Brophy C.E. late of Trenton Ont died today at Cornwall Ont. R.I.P. He was division Engineer on the Trent Canal for 7 or 8 years at Trenton Ont. Another old I.C. Railway employee of Father's day & generation gone to the Land of the Dead. [note Grant includes newspaper obit]

3 Apr 18 Peterboro

Office. Working at car part of the day, forenoon. Dunsford, Dr. Young & Davis in for cards. Ladies Bridge Club here this evening.

4 Apr 18 Peterboro

Working at car all day. Got it out for the season at 3.30 pm.

6 Apr 18 Peterboro

Home. Afternoon uptown with car getting door of it repaired. Maude & children went to see "Mrs. Wiggs of the Cabbage Patch" at the Grand Theatre

7 Apr 18 Peterboro

Alex at 10.30 Mass. Maude & I in bed all day. Don't feel well today

8 Apr 18 Peterboro

Office all day. Kydd & Lazier here re Monthly supplies

from local stores, re new regulations of War Purchasing Commission

11 Apr 18 Peterboro

Forenoon Home Afternoon office. At 5.30 pm went to the Empire theatre to see Water Power of Canada film prepared by the Dept of the Interior. The views were good. Dinner of the [sic] Engineers Club at the Empress Hotel after the pictures were run off at the Empire. Maude had a 4 table card party this evening.

12 Apr 18 Peterboro

Office. John McFarlane, 761 Lake St. began erecting for me of a picket fence [sic] along east side of house lot., 580 Gilmour St. The Strattons sold their property last month to Weber Turner, who takes possession this month.

13 Apr 18 Peterboro

Office forenoon. Afternoon drove Maude, Misses Archer & Dennison & Mrs. Angus to Lakefield & Chemong. Roads very good & dry. Only one bad wet spot & that was on top of the hill south of the Baptist Church on the Chemong road.

14 Apr 18 Peterboro

Alex at 8 o'clock mass. Maude & I at 10.30 Mass. Afternoon several in for 5 o'clock tea. At 2 AM Time throughout the Dominion was advanced 1 hour. First Dominion wide Day Light Saving experiment. The United States adopted it 2 weeks ago.

17 Apr 18 Peterboro

Office all day. Kydd here from Campbellford with Killaly & I discussing staff for operation of the Canal. Maude is 42 today. God bless her.

24 Apr 18 Peterboro

Office all day. Mcfarlane finished working about the place. He took old hedge across centre of lawn & finished painting Turner-Grant fence. The Strattons next door had an auction sale of their furniture.

27 Apr 18 Peterboro

Home all day. Mr. Rogers called at the house at noon re dry docking his dredge above lock 6 at Frankford. Out motoring after dinner around town & out to the golf links. Rds good.

28 Apr 18 Peterboro Youngs Pt

Mass with Helen & Alex. After dinner Maude, Alex Helen & I motored to Youngs Pt where we had supper on the lawn in front of the South Beach Hotel. The latter is not open yet. Roads dry & good.

29 Apr 18 Peterboro

Office all day. Old G.T. R. bridge at Campbellf0rd was abandoned today & the new bridge along side the old one was placed in commission.

3 May 18 Peterboro

Home all day. Moved all the paeonies [sic] that were on the lawn in front of old cedar hedge over along east fence of property. Planted sweat peas. Alex put shutters on house

4 May 18 Peterboro

Office forenoon Home afternoon, Alex is 14 today, God bless him.

6 May 18 Peterboro

Office all day. Duke & Duchess of Devonshire visited Peterboro today. At Dr. Young's for cards in the evening. At bank with Maude re war bonds

7 May 18 Peterboro

Mass at 8 o'clock. Mothers 15th anniversary. May her soul rest in peace.

24 May 18 Peterboro Victoria Day

Home forenoon gardening. Afternoon Maude & I went to the golf links where was had lunch. First time that I have been there for eleven years. I joined as a member again this spring. Maude has been continuously a member since 1906.

25 May 18 Peterboro Home all day in bed bilious.



3 June 18 Trenton Campbellford Heeley Falls
The Hon Dr. Reid Minister of Rlws & Canals W.A. Bowden Chief Engineer Rlys & Canals, & Col. [Munsenat?] Chief Eng Quebec bridge came from Ottawa this morning on the G.T.R. to formally open the Trent Canal from Trenton to Rice Lake, an event looked forward to & waited for by the people of the Trent Valley for 80 years.

The Minister & party left Trenton on the Canada Steamship Co's Steamer, Ramma at 10 o'clock. We stopped for dinner on the boat at Frankford and for supper at lock 14. At Campbellford the Minister said a few words to the people assembled. We reached Healey Falls (lock 17) at 10 pm where we tied up for the night. The Minister & others slept in the "Bessie Butler" which came down from Peterboro to meet the party. Several stayed on the Loretta which came up from Trenton with the Ramma. Fine & cool.

4 June 18 Heeley Falls Peterboro

The boats left Heeley Falls about 7 o'clock, but owing to the Ramma not being able to make steam due to poor quality of coal that she got at Trenton she did not reach Hastings until after nine o'clock. They then pulled out all her fires & rebuilt them. Result we did not leave Hastings until after one o'clock. The Loretta [traveled?] all the way up Rice Lake & the Otonabee river. The three boats reached Peterboro at 7 o'clock. Autos took the party from the Peterboro lock No.19 to Quaker Oats & thence to the Empress Hotel where a public dinner was given by the Minister. After the dinner the Minister & party left at 11 pm for Lakefield where they slept on the boats which in the meantime had gone up there. Fine & cool

5 June 18 Peterboro Kirkfield

Killaly & I went to Lakefield per 7 am train. The "Butler" & Loretta left Lakefield at 9 o'clock, when Stewart, Denham & Burnham arrived by auto with Geo Morrow.

At Bobcaygeon we stayed a few minutes while the Minister interviewed some of the people. At Fenelon telegraphed Lazier to be on the look out tomorrow for party & to be ready to go down the river. Stopped for the night below Kirkfield Hydraulic lock which we reached at 10 pm. The Loretta got under the G.T.R. bridge at Kirkfield & no more, only 2" to spare.

6 June 18 Kirkfield Jackson's Pt Washago Swift Rapids

Left Kirkfield about 6 o'clock & were in Lake Simcoe at 9 o'clock & cruised immediately to Jackson's Pt which we reached about 11 o'clock. The Minister Monserat, _____ went to Toronto from there by trolley car. The "Butler" & "Loretta" with Bowden, Phillips, Sherwood, Killaly & myself on board went to Washago which we reached at 3 pm. Lazier came on board at Atherly. The whole party walked along the Canal to Couchiching lock & then motored back to Washago where we had supper on the "Butler". Wm Macdonald & Arthur Stephens met us at Washago. After supper we motored to Severn Bridge where Stanton met us with a launch & took the party to Swift Rapids which we reached at 8 pm & put up for the night at Boyd's lockhouse. Fine, cool Thunder shower after dark.

7 June 18 Swift Rapids Fesserton Peterboro

Chief Engineer & party left for Big Chute at 8 o'clock where we met _____ Wood & his launch who took us to Port Severn. We called in at White's portage where Mr. Bowden examined site of proposed dam. After dinner at Hurl's we went across in Wood's launch to Fesserton where we took the CPR 2.40 pm train. Messers Bowden, _____ & [Plullys?] transferred to the Toronto train at Coldwater. Lazier & I went on to Orillia and Peterboro

12 June 18 Trenton Kingston

Left Trenton at 7 o'clock & reached Kingston at 2.35 where we remained all night. Sail down Bay of Quinte was fine. It was a wee bit rough crossing the Gap as we ran into Kingston. We took a motor for 2 hrs & went out to Portsmouth & Barriefield and around the Military College. Called at Queens Hospital on Mrs. Bell (Miss Denne) who was not well enough to come out. Her sister came down to the Loretta for tea.

13 June 18 Kingston Smith Falls [Hulton's?] lock 3 miles below Smith Falls.

Although I have lived in Ottawa or in its vicinity for 40 years, this is my first trip over the Rideau Canal. The scenery about Chaffeys, Newboro & the Rideau Lakes is very fine. The design of the canal, & the masonry of the old locks & dams are yet a great credit to Col By & the Royal Engineers who built the canal 90 years ago. It was opened in 1832. We stopped for dinner at Jones Falls where we got out & had a look at the masonry dam 70 feet high & still in a fine state of preservation.

Kingston to Ottawa about 130 miles with 47 locks; - 13 locks Kingston to Little Rideau Lake the summit, and 34 Rideau Lake to Ottawa. The Tay Canal to Perth has 2 locks. Rideau River navigation begins at "Ponnamolie" (first Rapids) a short distance above Smith Falls. Lake Ontario Kingston elev 242

Little Rideau Lake " 410 168 feet

Ottawa River, Ottawa " 129 281 "

Total lockage 449 "

14 June 18 Smith Falls, Ottawa

Left Hulton's lock at 6 o'clock & reached Ottawa about 4 o'clock. The trip down the river is monotonous & slow owing to the number of locks. The reaches are full of drowned lands, the trees are all fallen & the stumps are now coming out of the ground every spring, the ice lifts them out. Result of being drowned for 90 years. Captain ____ says many stumps now float up every spring. Stayed at the old Russell. After supper went to the picture show Cor Bank & Sparks St.

19 June 18 Peterboro

Office all day. Dr. Middleton filled a double tooth for me that he has been doctoring for 3 weeks. Alex started to work this morning at 7 o'clock at the Canadian General Electric Co's shop as a juvenile painter in the brass finishing dept. This is his first real effort to work in his life and of his choosing as he did not want to be idle at the holiday season & every other boy on the street working. Hope he will stick to it until the middle of August

25 June 18 Peterboro

Office. Evening at D. of the Empire garden party at Miss Lundy's.

5 July 18 Peterboro

Office all day. Got a new Toupee today from The Done____ Co. Toronto. The agt J.B. Knight was in town today. He became their Toronto store Manager after today.

12 July 18 Peterboro

Office all day. At Judge Huycke's garden party after tea. Ashburnham Red Cross

13 July 18 Peterboro

Office. Maude out for Italian Red Cross

14 July 18 Peterboro Warsaw

Mass at 8 o'clock. On golf links all day with Killaly & Goodwill. We had dinner out there.

24 July 18 Peterboro

Gilmour St oiled first time this year.

31 July 18 Peterboro Wasaga

Maude Helen & I left home at 8 o'clock for Wasaga Beach & got there at 6.30 in lots of time for tea.

We went via Lindsay, Manilla, Orillia, Midhurst & Elmdale - 118.5 miles. Fair road all the way. We all enjoyed the run. Stopped in Orillia for dinner

1 Aug Wasaga Beach Peterboro

I left the Beach at 10.30 & got home at 8 o'clock without accident. Left Maude & Helen comfortably installed at the Capstan Inn in the rooms agreed upon with McLean. Found Alex at home ok

22 Aug 18 Peterboro Wasaga Beach

Alex, Miss Denison & myself left by car at 8.20 o'clock. Lunch at Uptergrove & reached Wasaga Beach (Capstan Inn) at 6.00 Running time 8 hrs, 5 mins for 120 miles. We found Maude & Helen well & expecting us. Nothing to do at the Beach but eat, sleep & bathe.

2 Sept 18 Toronto Peterboro

Maude, Helen, Alex & myself went to Dr. Geffery Boyd 167 Bloor East where Maude arranged with the Dr to remove Adenoids from Helen's nose & her tonsils tomorrow morning at the Cottage Hospital Wellesley St. We then returned to the Carsile & gave up our room & after lunch we drove out to the Exhibition where we stayed until 5 pm. Attendance today 174,500 (a record attendance to date for one day). We then returned to the Carsile to get our baggage, & after leaving Maude & Helen's at the Hospital, Alex & I left for Peterboro at 6 o'clock. Passed Oshawa at 8 o'clock, ____ at 9.30 (60 miles) and reached Peterboro via Millbrook at 11.05 (90 1/2 miles). Roads pretty good all the way except west of Oshawa where they are very rough.

3 Sept 18 Peterboro

Office all day. Alex went back to school at the Collegiate - reentered the 2nd form which he has to take over again this year. The class this year is full to overflowing. Helen was operated on this forenoon at the Collage hospital Toronto for Adenoids by Dr. Geoffrey Boyd. She had her tonsils removed.

8 Sept 18 Port Severn Swift Rapids

Mass at Port Severn 11 o'clock. After dinner Lothian & I went up to Swift Rapids re a derrick boom for White's portage dam & reinforcing steel for Campbellford. Tea at Big Chute & White's portage for the night. Senator Billy Bennet went up the river today to Swift Rapids while there he thought a Marine Rly at Swift's would be a good scheme to have carried out.

23 Sept 18 Toronto Port Severn

Left Toronto at 8.15 for Waubashene but took no men back. Kay is to go to Toronto this evening to try & find some but don't expect we will at 40¢ per hour. Men on the work are getting restless & want to go home don't like mucking rock

28 Sept 18 Port Severn

Lothian came in this pm from Alexandria Ottawa & Toronto. No men with him. We decided to raise the day rate from 40¢ to 45¢ in order to get men & telegraphed Verity to try & get some at this rate. Several men left today. We stayed at Port Severn tonight.

5 Oct 18 Ottawa Peterboro

Left Ottawa at 8.30 am. Maude & children met me at the station. Bad accident today at Hydraulic Lock at Peterboro. East Chamber emptied while a [scow?] of wood & tug were in it. Chamber was down at the time. It immediately went up with the tug boat hanging 1/3 of its length out beyond end of chamber. Lock was not injured nor any one hurt.

12 Oct 18 Peterboro

W.H. Hamar, Chf Eng., Port of Auckland New Zealand, in

today. He is in Peterboro to see the Peterboro Hydraulic Lock

13 Oct 18 Peterboro Heeley Falls Campbellford Family at 10.30 Mass (low) on acct of influenza. Schools & Theatres closed since Friday & will be all this week. After dinner Killaly, ___, Alex & myself & Mr. Hamar of New Zealand left for Heeley Falls & Campbellford. Hamar is touring North America on behalf of the Auckland Harbour Board visiting docks and Canals etc

19 Oct 18 Peterboro
Office for an hour. R.B. Rogers in re Sec 2 O.R.L Div. Told him I had arranged with Dennon in August re raising banks along channel above Dam 10 etc. Afternoon Maude & I motored out to Golf Links & brought in our clubs

20 Oct 18 Peterboro
Home all day. No mass for the public in any Church in Peterboro today. Montreal last Sunday had a similar experience, first in its history of 300 years. Influenza very bad in Canada this month. All churches schools, Theatres & clubs have been closed in Peterboro for a week. The schools may remain closed for some time.

21 Oct 18 Peterboro Warsaw
Office until 3 pm when I took Maude & 3 ladies out to Warsaw in our car.

23 Oct 18 Peterboro
Home all day. Washed car & double windows & put the latter on downstairs

24 Oct 18 Peterboro
Office. At 3 o'clock went to City Council room with Board of Trade and Eng's club representatives re street Rly questions. Ireland said H. Comm & City [sic] had mutually agreed to go on with Monaghan Road extension in the spring & the purchase of 2 new one man cars at a cost of \$30,000.00 Extension 12,000 2 cars 18,000 While in the Council chamber saw plans of the new Hunter St. bridge which is to be a reinforced concrete structure. Clear span 235 feet, 35 feet rise above high water

26 Oct 18 Peterboro
Home all day Put up electric lights in barn which I should have done years ago

27 Oct 18 Peterboro
No mass in the churches or service in the Protestant churches today on account of the Influenza epidemic which is growing worse in Peterboro.

28 Oct 18 Peterboro
Office all day. Mr. & Mrs Frank Davis left at 3.30 pm for Hamilton where he has been transferred by the Imperial Minister (Inspection Dept) of Munitions as Chief Inspector of the Hamilton District. He has been here an year in charge of the Eastern Ontario District

6 Nov 18 Peterboro
Office. Kydd here with Oct Ests. He says Dennon & Rogers have at last finished Sec 2 O.R.O Div. – 10 yrs!!!

7 Nov 18 Peterboro
Evg up town in car with family & Mr. & Mrs Clarke to see the people out celebrating the Armistice supposed to have been concluded today with Germany. While in George St above Hunter, Wilson's Blewett Hall's Bridge Car 85493 ran in to us & crushed gas line tank.

10 Nov 18 Peterboro
Low Mass at 10.30. Alex, Helen & I at Church. This is the first Sunday since the 13th Oct that any public service has

been held in the churches of Peterboro owing to Influenza. Nothing like this has ever occurred before in the Catholic Churches of Canada.

11 Nov 18 Peterboro End of War
Public Holiday all over the World

Marshal Foch & German Envoys signed an Armistice this morning effective at 11 o'clock Paris time (6 o'clock Eastern Standard time American) ending the European War that has been raging for 4 years and 3 months and that has cost the lives & maiming of 26 million men, and the total loss of billions of dollars – "Deo Gratias"

What of the future?

Spent the afternoon & evening uptown viewing the small boy & his father blowing off 4 yrs of pent up anxiety and joy of victory at last

12 Nov 18 Peterboro
Peterboro schools reopened after being closed for a month owing to Influenza.

7 Dec 18 Ottawa
After dinner went through the new parliament bldg with the Ottawa Engineers. Side walls & roof finished some interim work on the top floors. It will take 2 years to complete the bldg. Several of the party then went down to the stone cutting shed in Sussex St. where we saw how the stone was cut.

14 Dec 18 Ottawa
Dept Forenoon spec for boiler & carriage for thawing out stop logs on dams Trent Canal Met. Mr. Pringle in Mr. Bowden's office for a few minutes. At Canadian Club lunch at Chateau to hear Peter Wright chairman British Seaman's Union on their attitude to Germany past present & future. He is a rough & uncouth speaker.

18 Dec 18 Ottawa
Met Pringle this morning who said Weller had gone home & that I would be Engineer in charge of the Welland Ship Canal. Met Evan Fraser MP for Lunch who also told me I would go to St. Catherines as Eng on the Welland Canal. Afternoon with Chef Engineer, Jost & Fairweather drafting form of contract for the Welland Ship Canal contracts on a cost plus % basis

24 Dec 18 Peterboro
Forenoon at office & paid a lot of accounts. Afternoon at home. McFarlane helped me to put on the 3 porches & upstairs double windows

25 Dec 18 Peterboro
Children 9 o'clock mass. Maude & I at 10.30 Mass. Dinner at home at 3 o'clock. Maude & I with others at Mrs Aylmer for an evening party. Last night 6 " of snow fell so there is no green Xmas.

26 Dec 18 Peterboro
Forenoon Home Office after dinner correspondence

27 Dec 18 Peterboro
Office Evg at Empress Hotel with Maude at "Health Ass card & dance party

28 Dec 18 Peterboro
Office forenoon. Alex out at his first dancing party, given at the house of his teacher

31 Dec 18 Peterboro
Maude has been in bed with a very bad cold since the 27th and is now in a very good humour. She is watching me write this true statement

MY EIGHTY YEARS, 1877 TO 1957

James McConnell (1877-1959)

This autobiography was written in 1958 and was given, Christmas 1959, as a gift to his cousins, Ina and Charlie Ackerman. The autobiography was donated to the Trent Valley Archives through Andre Dorfman about ten years ago. Dorothy Sharpe has typed the story, and has been edited in small ways, mainly to match the Heritage Gazette standards. We have also added a few headings. We are presenting it in three parts. This story of farming begins and ends in Norwood, Ontario. But McConnell did quite a bit of travelling. James McConnell went to Saskatchewan in 1906, and spent the next twenty years mainly in the Rosetown area. He then went to British Columbia, where he was in and around Terrace, Hammond and New Westminster BC. During World War II he was mainly working in a shipbuilding yard in North Vancouver. After the war, he was near Revelstoke, BC, and did some beekeeping. The difficulties of life during the depression and during wartime affected the economy, but religion was the major change in his own life. He kept abreast of Peterborough news by the faithful correspondence of Willie Parker and he made visits to Peterborough in 1918 and 1950. He reflects on how the world has changed particularly with respect to industry, religion and communism.

Part One

Four miles out from the quiet little town of Norwood, Ontario, early in the morning of 7 May 1877, little Jim McConnell first looked out into the big busy world.

No uniformed nurse or doctor was there to greet his coming. But as it was, in the days of Moses, the midwife acted as nurse and doctor. And Jim was first handled by his Irish Grandmother, who wrapped him in the clothes his mother had previously prepared for him and when he was nursed he was quietly tucked in bed beside his mother, and went to sleep.

His father, who maintained the family by tilling his rough, hilly and stoney farm, only had time to have a look at his little baby boy and then it was business as usual – to keep up with the work on the farm.

Already little Jim had an older brother and sister, and as time rolled on there were added to the family, two more brothers and two more sisters. Jim grew up with three brothers and three sisters. There were two younger brothers and a sister who each lived only a few months.

...

School Days

One morning in early May, about 1883, you might have seen three children walking down the road – a crooked cedar rail fence on each side of them. This was Jim's first day at school with his older brother and sister. They carried a school lunch in a small basket made by the

Indians who lived nearby. The lunch usually consisted of bread and butter sandwiches, and sometimes a piece of cake each, or an apple each, by way of dessert.

And now let us take a look at this little country school, set on a corner with a road going by it each way. The school was about thirty feet wide and forty feet long, built of wood, with six inch siding on the outside. Three windows on each side, and one door in the west end, facing the road. In those days, paint was not considered necessary on the outside. There were two rows of rough seats and desks along each side which would accommodate two girls or two boys each. There was a wide hall up the centre where the classes were called. Down near the door sat a large box stove with a large door in the end to take blocks of wood up to three feet long.

At the front there was a raised platform, about ten feet wide, on which the teacher's desk sat, and behind the teacher, on the end wall, was the blackboard. Over the entrance door was a porch, eight feet by eight feet, with a door in the side. A broom usually stood there in the corner, so the children, as they entered, could, in winter, sweep the snow from their boots. This same broom was used to sweep the floor. The older children took their turn at the sweeping. In cold weather the wood for the first fire, and some cedar, split fine or made into shavings, was left ready. The first one to arrive in the morning lit the fire to warm the school. One thing that impressed itself on my mind in those early school days was a bank of loose earth built up and extending out from the bank toward the road and levelled off like a railroad. Perhaps this was patterned by some of the older boys from the C.P.R., who built their railroad grade through the country about that time, and on West to Toronto.

There were no school buses in those days. The children in the country walked to school and home again in the evening. School hours for old and young were from nine in the morning to four in the afternoon.

If a heavy snow came, or extreme cold, some of the children might be lucky enough to have their father come with the team and sleigh, and he would usually take along all who went that way.

Most of the teachers were pleasant and encouraging to the younger children, but I can remember one teacher, a Mr. McPherson, who was very strict and cross and used the strap some too. When summer holidays came we were beginning to learn multiplication. Mr. McPherson told us to learn all the multiplication tables before coming back to school. When I went home I forgot all about the tables until the night before school was to open, and I can remember waking up at night and crying because I expected to be whipped for not knowing my tables. But, oh, how happy I was when school was called and another teacher, nice and kind and quiet, had taken over our school.

Making a living on the farm

In those days in the 1880's the revenue from our little farm, as well as all the others around us, was scarcely enough to buy food and clothes for the family. The chief cash income was the milk cheques which came from the cheese factories that operated at that time from May to October each year.

To add to the cash income, my father spent the winters cutting and hauling home maple logs which early in the Spring, usually in March, were cut with a power saw into stove length wood, and at that time stove wood was cut 22" long.

Later in the year when this wood was dry, maple wood delivered in town brought at \$3 a cord. Getting the maple logs in winter made plenty of work, so I often had to leave school for a time and go back to the bush to help fell the big maple trees and cut them into logs ready to be skidded together and hauled home on the bob sleighs.

Also in summer time we had to be up early in the morning, for the cows had to be driven in from the pasture and milked. Then the milk had to be cooled and strained into 30 gallon cans for the "Milk Brawler" came early to gather the milk and haul it to the factory to be made into cheese.

On our place there were two large barns, with feed above and stables below for horses and cattle. In the winter time we had to get all the horses and cattle fed before we had breakfast and after breakfast, the horse stables and cow stables had to be all cleaned and the manure wheeled out in the old wheelbarrow. This work had to be done before we went to school.

So, the boys and girls of those days realized very young their responsibilities to help father and mother with all the work that had to be done.

In our large front room was a cupboard for dishes. Above the cupboard was a glass case where mother kept all her china dishes, used only on special occasions. One morning in September, about 1885, my brother Fred and I came hurrying in after finishing all the morning chores, to get ready for school. Fred climbed up on the cupboard and caught the upper shelf of the glass case to get his pen or pencil. Alas, his weight tipped the case forward and all mother's china dishes came clattering to the floor, broken. Fred was so frightened he turned white as he said, "Oh, mother, I've broken all your china dishes."

Mother did not whip Fred, but she cried bitter tears at the loss of all her good dishes. It was many months before she was able to buy another good set of dishes.

Life in Norwood

At that time very low wages and long hours were the rule. One of the main industries in Norwood was Fenlay's Factory where they made wheels and different parts for buggies. The work hours were from 7 a.m. until 6 p.m. Ten hours a day for one dollar a day. People generally were satisfied, and seemed content to live and make the best of what they had.

In Norwood at that time there were five churches. The Methodist, Presbyterian, Baptist, Catholic and Anglican. We were all taught in the Methodist Faith. Every Sunday morning the team was hitched to the carriage, and father, mother, and the family went to church. They used to go early, for at that time the Methodists had their class

meetings when one of the Church Elders met with a part of the congregation for devotional service before church. Then followed the regular church service, after which we made the four miles home and dinner.

After dinner us older ones who were able to walk went to Sunday School – a walk of about 2½ miles each way. Father and mother were anxious for us to receive good religious instruction which they were unable to give us at home.

Then as if to make up for what was lacking, there were evangelists who generally came in the winter and stayed for two or three weeks in the Methodist Church, and then continued in the Presbyterian Church. They were always accompanied by good singers, and were able to work up quite a religious excitement, which resulted in numbers being added to the churches.

These meetings, with the exhortations of the evangelists, always made an impression on me and I was sometimes up with those who were kneeling at the altar. Once as I knelt there the preacher came along and asked me if I wanted to be saved and become a Christian. I said, "Yes, I did." "Well then" said the preacher, "it is a foregone conclusion that you will be saved."

This was encouraging, but not very satisfying. However, having before me the good example of father and mother, I joined the Methodist Church. Much of my spare time now was spent reading and studying the Bible, but there was no one I could confide in or talk over the questions of life that seemed to be so all important in the New Testament.

The preachers and teachers now seemed so very different from the New Testament – preachers who had written to their converts and expressed so much love and gratitude for the fellowship of the saints, and had always given encouraging counsel and instruction. But none of the Methodist preachers ever talked with me or with any of the other friends concerning the way Jesus taught or the danger of being deceived and overcome by the enemy as we travel in enemy country. This made me feel that I was a Christian in name only, for there was a feeling of being alone. No close companionship or fellowship or love to bind our lives together as expressed in all the New Testament's letters of Paul, Peter, James and John.

And so the more I read and studied the scriptures, the greater seemed to be the difference between the self-satisfied, well educated preachers of our day, and the different contented groups of people who followed them, to the homeless travelling ministry of the Disciples in Paul's day and their converts as described in Acts and the Epistles. These Disciples wrote to their converts afterwards.

After nearly 2,000 years, people live differently and express themselves differently in this modern world than they did in the time of Jesus. But there seemed nothing one could do but work hard all week and then drive in and listen to the morning sermon. However, this did not impress me, and I soon forgot all that was said.

In July 1888 when I was only eleven years old, was when the chill hand of death first touched our family. The baby boy, Walter, now seven months old, was noticed not feeling well. He had "Summer Complaint," an ailment that often made little children sick in those days. On Sunday, about 3 o'clock, mother picked the little lad up from his

cradle and found he was dead. Oh what grief and sorrow. Mother cried bitterly, as we all cried. To think our little brother was gone from us forever.

The funeral and laying the little coffin in the ground made a very deep impression on our lives, as we were all young. The first cloud had darkened the horizon of our lives as if to warn each of the brevity and uncertainty of life. But this was to happen again twice in the next three years. First little Annetta, and then baby Carol Roy, who lived with us for but a few months and then passed on.

At this time, factory made clothes had not come on the market, or only to a very limited extent. So mother and father bought cloth by the roll and mother cut out and made up all our clothes by hand. All the washing and ironing of the clothes also had to be done by hand. I can remember the old style iron with its solid iron handle which was kept hot over the stove. The handle had to be wrapped with cloth to keep it from burning your hand. This, with all the baking and cooking and mending for seven of a family kept my mother working all day, and even then she never could say the work was all done.

Mother had consumption (TB)

All this proved too much for mother's health and she began to have attacks of pleurisy. Her skin became yellow and she got very thin. Then one day in May 1892, I had been away working for Uncle Sam. When I arrived home in the evening, Fred and May met me and told me the sad news. Father and mother had been away to see a lung specialist in Peterboro. Mother had consumption. Oh what a sadness and disappointment this terrible news brought to our home, for at that time there was no cure, and no hope for any one who had consumption.

Mother just had to rest and May, not yet 17, had to take on all the responsibility of preparing food and clothing for the family, and look after mother as well.

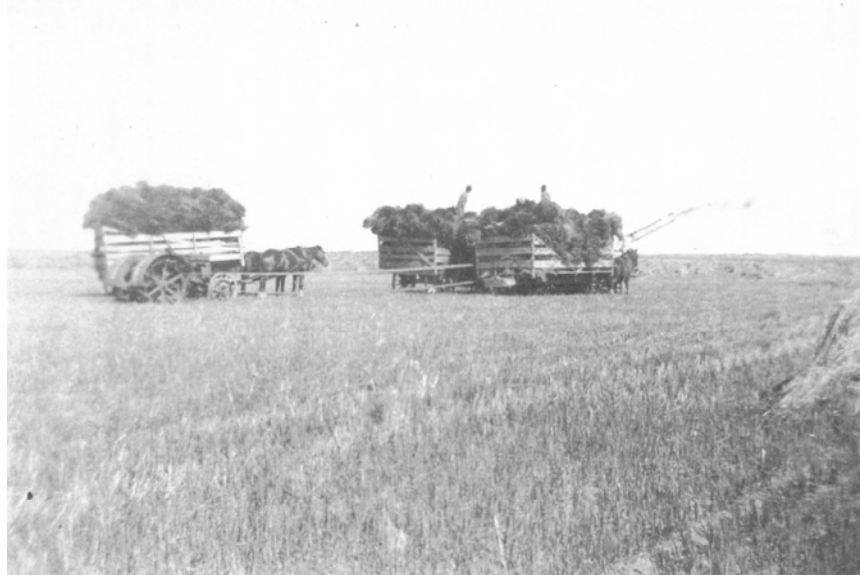
Time passed on. Mother took her daily walks on fine days. In July she could walk out as far as the turnip field and rest a while under the big elm tree, and watch us while we were hoeing and thinning the turnips. By August she could only walk out and sit in the sun by the pump stand. Soon we did not see mother outside the house.

September came. I can still remember my last talk with mother by her bedside, and as I left her room she said, "Now don't work too hard Jim." Mother's strength failed rapidly each day. On the night of 20 September we were called down from our beds to have our last look upon our mother alive. Her strength was gone. The stout heart that had stood so loyally by her family was making its last struggle. God was calling mother away. In the morning, life had gone. Those hands that had made and mended and washed our clothes – baked for us all those big loaves of bread, now lay still. They would never move again. All mother's labours were over.

Two days later we followed the black hearse, drawn by two black horses, to the grave side. After a short service we watched them lower mother's coffin into the ground, and the earth was filled in. How very sad our hearts were that September afternoon, and as we drove home in the carriage we all felt so sad and wondered how we could ever get along without mother.

Working on the farm

These solemn experiences affect the lives of young people, and with us it seemed to unite us closer in the family ties. We each felt our responsibility to do all we



could to help father. I was in my 15th year, and in May 1893, I went to work on the farm for Uncle Tom. He had a milk route that year and went away very early in the morning. While he was away, Aunt Jennie and I milked the cows and had the milk in the cans so that he could also pick up his own milk and take all to the factory. We had to be up at 4:30 in the morning, and generally kept going until 8 or 9 at night. It made very long hours.

The wages for this were very small, only \$5 per month, and experienced farm workers at that time only received \$12 to \$14 a month, and board. They usually worked from morning until night, or all the daylight hours at least.

The following two years I still worked out for different farmers, doing long hours of work for very small wages, as was the custom at that time. It was a matter of plodding mile after mile after the old walking plow or the harrow, and anyone who spoke of a cart to ride on was just considered lazy.

Early in 1896, father bought the farm adjoining ours and also rented another farm, so we had plenty of work at home after that.

Ten years more were to roll past before I at last decided to strike out and try a hand in Western Canada. During those ten years there was still very little evidence of the wonderful machine power that was coming to change the way of living for men and women the world over. Early and late we worked away on the old farm, only now, instead of the reaping hook and the scythe to cut and handle the crops, we had the mower and the self binder.

The land was still plowed with the old walking plow and levelled down with the harrow. To sow the seed we used the first style seed drills with rubber hose to carry the seed to the ground.

In looking back over those years, I cannot but remark how contented and satisfied we were, and all willing to work together and not to disagree. As Grey in his *Elegy* has said:

“Far from the madding crowds ignoble strife
Our sober wishes never learned to stray,
Along the cool sequestered vale of life,
We kept the noiseless tenor of our way.”

Harvest Excursion

The call to the West seemed to get more urgent. Men who had worked out West often came home and visited with us in the winter and told of the speedy way that work was done out on the level fertile land in the West, and about the good crops of wheat that brought cash to the farmer.

So in August of 1905, my younger brother, George, and I took the harvest excursion and landed in Southern Saskatchewan, where we had our first experience of harvesting and thrashing on the Prairie. It was the first time we had seen the straw blown through the blower and right up onto the strawstack. No forking to do.



Then a little later I got a job to go plowing. It was my first experience sitting on a riding plow, pulled by six horses – four behind and two ahead, rolling over acre after acre of good black level soil. When the threshing was completed, George went back home, but I went up to Dauphin, Manitoba, to a logging camp. It was a first experience in camp life for me.

The sleeping place was built of log walls, with boards on the roof. There was one door in the end. Inside, the side walls and the back end had double deck bunks built with poplar poles. A big box stove stood near the door for heating the place. Hay from the stables, just placed on the poplar poles, was used to sleep on. There were no mattresses in those days.

At that time I was 28 and the home ties were strong. I had only spent a couple of weeks in the camp when my two younger sisters wrote and asked me to try and get home for Xmas. I left camp long before daylight one morning, and rode into Dauphin with the logging team; got paid at the office, and bought a ticket home. I did get a return ticket, intending to return West in the Spring.

The winter of 1906 was spent at home, tending the stock, which all had to be stabled and fed and watered, and the stables kept clean. We also had to get out the usual pile of hardwood logs and draw them home to be cut into stovewood in the Spring. This wood was to be sold for ready cash when needed, and some for burning at home.

As spring drew near I remember being all alerted and preparing to return to the West, but was unaware of an accident that was to happen and disappoint all my plans for the Summer.

We prepared to cut the hardwood logs into wood. Uncle Tom had set up his sawing machine which was driven by a five team horse power. The neighbors gathered to help handle the logs and the wood. The morning was cold and frosty. Father stood on the horsepower to drive the five teams. He was wearing a snug fitting pair of wool lined mitts. Everything was going along merrily – the power was conveyed from the horse power to the saw by a revolving “Tumbling rod.” This heavy rod, perhaps 14” in diameter, ran across wood blocks to keep it up off the ground, with slots cut in the blocks for the rod to run in.

About 9 o’clock that morning the tumbling rod jumped out of its slot and was bouncing around on the frosty block. Father did not stop the horses, but stepped down between the teams and caught the frosty rod in his hand to pull it back into the slot. But alas – his warm mitt seized the frosty rod and jerked him down. To save himself from being twisted down, he jerked his hand free of the mitt, but his thumb divided at the joint and stayed in the mitt. The thumb cord snapped farther up his wrist and tore out of his arm. It was a very painful injury. The doctor came and sawed off the joint, then drew the skin over the end of the bone. Where the cord pulled out of the arm was the sorest and it ached and pained for weeks afterwards.

Father was 61 then, and with the shock and what he suffered, it made him look ten years older. With the crippled hand he was never again able to stand any hard work. So, when father was hurt, I sold my return ticket to the West and we went on and put the crop in, and I was there too, to take the crop off.

The pictures of another harvest excursion are from TVA Tinney/ Sharpe fonds.

Further installments of McConnell’s autobiography will appear in future issues of the Heritage Gazette.

HAULTAIN FAMILY

This family tree has been compiled in response to requests to clarify the relationships between different parts of this very distinguished family. Any comments or extra details are welcome. Please send to ejones55@cogeco.ca.

1 Major Gen. Francis Haultain¹

M, b. 18 February 1789, d. 26 October 1855

Major Gen. Francis **Haultain** was born on 18 February 1789 in The Commandery, Worcester. He married Eliza Ann **Dean** on 28 January 1815 in St. John's, Newfoundland.¹ Major Gen. Francis Haultain died on 26 October 1855 in Charlton, Kent, at the age of 66.

Children of Major Gen. Francis Haultain and Eliza Ann Dean

- o Major Gen. Francis Mitchell Haultain⁺ b. 10 Nov 1818, d. 3 Apr 1900
- o Lt. Col. Frederick William Haultain⁺ b. 7 Nov 1821, d. 9 Dec 1882

1 1 Major Gen. Francis Mitchell Haultain¹

M, b. 10 November 1818, d. 3 April 1900

Major Gen. Francis Mitchell **Haultain** was born on 10 November 1818 in Woolwich, Kent.¹ He was the son of Major Gen. Francis Haultain and Eliza Ann Dean. Major Gen. Francis Mitchell Haultain married Isabella **Thomas**, daughter of E. B. Thomas of the Indian Civil Service on 27 August 1856 in Ootacamund, India. Major Gen. Francis Mitchell Haultain retired to Peterborough in 1876 and died on 3 April 1900 in Peterborough, Ontario, at the age of 81. He was with the Third Palancotta Light Infantry, 1840-1870, in India and Burma, and Commander of the 19th Native Infantry, 1870-1874, which was mainly in Singapore.

Child of Major Gen. Francis Mitchell Haultain and Isabella Thomas

- o Theodore Arnold Haultain⁺ b. 3 Nov 1857, d. 11 Jun 1941
- o Charles Selby Haultain b. 1862, d. 1903
- o Emma, d. young
- o Herbert E. T. Haultain, b. 1869, d. 1961

1 1 1 Theodore Arnold Haultain¹

M, b. 3 November 1857, d. 11 June 1941

Theodore Arnold **Haultain** was born on 3 November 1857 in Cannanore, India. He was the son of Major Gen. Francis Mitchell **Haultain** and Isabella **Thomas**. Theodore Arnold Haultain married Amy Millicent **Fraser** (b 1863), daughter of Alexander Fraser and Mary Mead **Torrance**, on 23 June 1886 in Detroit, Michigan. Theodore Arnold Haultain, who fought in the South African War was a well-known essayist, notably for the Blackwood magazine, author of the first Canadian book on golf, as the biographer and literary executor of the famed Goldwin Smith. Theodore Arnold Haultain died on 11 June 1941 in Westmoreland at the age of 83.

Children of Theodore Arnold Haultain and Amy Millicent Fraser

- o Theodore Jones Arnold Haultain⁶ b. 5 Aug 1887, d. 28 Sep 1914
- o John Arnold Minet Haultain⁶ b. 10 Nov 1896, d. 22 Apr 1898
- o Emma Mellicent Audrey Haultain⁶ b. 8 Feb 1903, d. Nov 1993

1 1 2 Charles Selby Haultain

M, b. 1862, d. 1903

Charles Selby Haultain, 1862-1903, was born in Ontario, the son of Isabella and Francis Mitchell Haultain. He studied medicine in Toronto, but took a break during his third year to serve as a medical officer in the 1885 Riel Rebellion (North West Rebellion). He then completed his medical courses in Toronto, and subsequently obtained his LRCP in England. He set up practice as a physician in Winnipeg, Manitoba. He spent the summer of 1888 as a doctor at the North-West Mounted Police post at Wood Mountain, Saskatchewan, and when offered a commission in the NWMP as assistant surgeon in 1890, he accepted. In 1890 he married Henrietta Eleanor "Etta" Dennistoun, (1866-1945), the daughter of Katherine Kirkpatrick and James Dennistoun of Castleton, Peterborough, Ontario.

Charles died of influenza in Battleford in 1903, and was buried at Fort Macleod. In 1904 Etta and the children returned to Port Hope, Ontario, where Etta spent the rest of her life. The archival papers of C. S. Haultain are in the Glenbow Archives, Calgary Alberta.

Children of Charles Selby Haultain and Henrietta Dennistoun

- Robert Mitchell Haultain, b. 1891, d. ?
- Frederick Haultain, b. 1893, d. 1894
- Norman Haultain, b. 1895, d. ?
- Henrietta Haultain, b. 1897 or 1898, d. ?
- Charles Frederick Haultain, b. 1901 or 1902, d. ?

1 1 3 Emma
F, died young

1 1 4 Herbert E. T. Haultain
M., b. 9 August 1869; d. 19 Sept 1961.
Born in Brighton, England, 1869, and was a graduate, 1889, of the School of Practical Science, University of Toronto. After post-graduate work in England and at Freiburg University, he was a mining engineer in Ontario, Northwest Territories, South Africa, United States and British Columbia, serving his early career with the American company, Federal Mining and Smelting Company, and with the Canadian Corundum Company. He was Professor of Mining Engineering at the University of Toronto from 1908. He invited Rudyard Kipling in 1922 to compose the creed for graduating engineers. Was an inventor and also introduced many new practices into mining. Professor Haultain was in 1994 inducted into the Canadian Mining Hall of Fame.

1 2 Lt. Col. Frederick William Haultain
M, b. 7 November 1821, d. 9 December 1882

Lt. Col. Frederick William **Haultain** was born on 7 November 1821 in Brussels, Belgium. He was the son of Major Gen. Francis Haultain and Eliza Ann Dean. Lt. Col. Frederick William Haultain was commissioned as a second lieutenant in the Royal Artillery on 12 March 1839. He married Lucinde Helen Gordon, daughter of Maj. Gen. Alexander Gordon R.E. (1833-1885) and Zébéé Anne Rose Touzi, on 18 September 1850 in St. George's Church, Montreal.^{1,6} Lt. Col. Frederick William Haultain emigrated in 1860 to Peterborough, Ontario, Canada, with his family upon his retirement as a Lt. Colonel in the Royal Artillery. He was elected MPP for Peterborough in 1861 and 1864. From 1869 to 1873 he was in Montreal as secretary and agent for the French Canadian Missionary Society of the Presbyterian Church. Was county of Peterborough registrar, 1873-1882. Active with St Paul's Presbyterian Church, the William Hall Poor Trust and the Peterborough Protestant Home. The community was shocked when he died on 9 December 1882 in Peterborough, Ontario, at the age of 61.

Children of Lt. Col. Frederick William Haultain and Lucinde Helen Gordon

- Francis Gordon Haultain⁺¹ b. 23 May 1851, d. 4 Mar 1919
- George Walter Haultain⁴ b. 21 May 1854, d. 22 May 1854
- Emily Bell Haultain⁺¹ b. 1 May 1855, d. 4 Dec 1932
- Sir Frederick William Aplin Gordon Haultain KB., LL.D., BA, b. 25 Nov 1857, d. 30 Jan 1942
- Clara Eliza (J). Haultain¹ b. 21 May 1859, d. 10 Sep 1953
- Wilmot Gordon Haultain¹ b. 20 May 1861, d. 25 Mar 1951
- Florence Fraser Haultain¹ b. 8 Aug 1863, d. 13 May 1932
- Terrick Gordon Haultain⁺¹ b. 7 Aug 1868, d. Aug 1951
- Alexander Gordon Haultain⁴ b. 21 Oct 1872, d. 22 Apr 1873

1 2 1 Francis Gordon Haultain
M, b. 23 May 1851, d. 4 March 1919

Francis Gordon **Haultain** is also recorded as Frank Haultain.² He was born on 23 May 1851 in Kingston, Canada. He was the son of Lt. Col. Frederick William Haultain and Lucinde Helen Gordon. Francis Gordon Haultain married Mary Gilmour on 27 November 1883 in Peterborough, Canada. Francis Gordon Haultain died on 4 March 1919 in Regina, Saskatchewan, at the age of 67.

Children of Francis Gordon Haultain and Mary Gilmour

- Helen Lonsdale Haultain b. 18 Nov 1884, d. 21 Aug 1976
- Alexander Gordon Haultain BSc.⁺ b. 18 Sep 1887, d. 8 May 1939

1 2 2 George Walter Haultain
M, b. 21 May 1854, d. 22 May 1854

George Walter **Haultain** was born on 21 May 1854 on the *SS Charity*. He died on 22 May 1854 at sea in the Straits of Belle Isle, between Labrador and Newfoundland. He was the son of Lt. Col. Frederick William **Haultain** and Lucinde Helen **Gordon**.

1 2 3 Emily Bell Haultain
F, b. 1 May 1855, d. 4 December 1932

Emily Bell **Haultain** was born on 1 May 1855 in Quebec, Canada. She was the daughter of Lt. Col. Frederick William **Haultain** and Lucinde Helen **Gordon**. Emily Bell Haultain married firstly Robert

Hamilton **Dennistoun** on 3 September 1878 at Peterborough, Ontario. Emily Bell Haultain married secondly **John George Macklin** on 7 July 1886 at Peterborough, Canada. Emily Bell Haultain died on 4 December 1932 in Montreal, Canada, at the age of 77.

Children of Emily Bell Haultain and John George Macklin

- o **Eleanor Lily Macklin** b. 26 Nov 1887, d. Dec 1969
- o **Clara Lucinde Adah Macklin** b. 28 Aug 1889
- o **Frederick Charles Arthur Macklin** b. 28 Aug 1889, d. 1961

1 2 4 Sir Frederick William Aplin Gordon Haultain KB., LL.D., BA.

M, b. 25 November 1857, d. 30 January 1942

Sir Frederick William Aplin Gordon **Haultain** KB., LL.D., BA.. Premier of the Northwest Territories. He was born on 25 November 1857 in Charlton, London. He was the son of Lt. Col. Frederick William **Haultain** and Lucinde Helen **Gordon**. Sir Frederick William Aplin Gordon Haultain KB., LL.D., BA. married firstly **Marion St. Clair Castellain** née Mackintosh in March 1906. Sir Frederick William Aplin Gordon Haultain KB., LL.D., BA. married secondly **Louisa Decima Gilmore** née **Ward** on 8 September 1938 at Montreal. Haultain was educated in Montreal, Peterborough and at the University of Toronto, graduating with B. A. in 1879. Called to the bar in 1882, MLA NWT (and Saskatchewan) Assembly, 1887-1912; was NWT premier, and leader of Opposition in Saskatchewan. Later was Chief Justice in Saskatchewan, 1912-1938; and was chancellor of the University of Saskatchewan, 1917-1939. Sir Frederick William Aplin Gordon Haultain KB., LL.D., BA. died on 30 January 1942 in Montreal, Canada, at the age of 84. His ashes were interred by the Memorial Gates of the University of Saskatchewan.

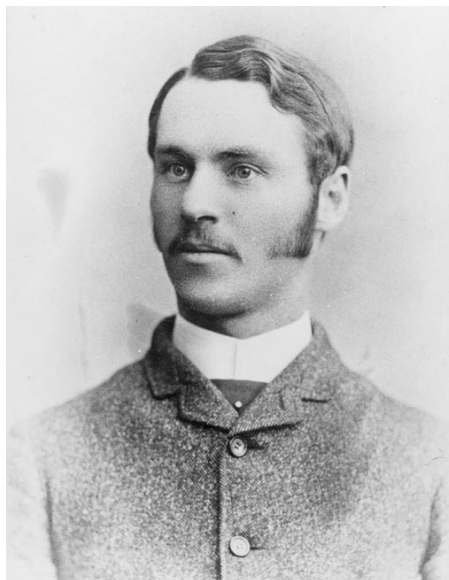


Photo of the young F. W. G. Haultain taken by George Sproule, Peterborough (thanks to Gina Martin)

1 2 5 Clara Eliza (J). Haultain

F, b. 21 May 1859, d. 10 September 1953

Clara Eliza (J). **Haultain** was born on 21 May 1859 in the Royal Arsenal, Woolwich. She was the daughter of Lt. Col. Frederick William **Haultain** and Lucinde Helen **Gordon**. Clara Eliza (J). Haultain died on 10 September 1953 in Montreal, Canada, at the age of 94.

1 2 6 Wilmot Gordon Haultain

M, b. 20 May 1861, d. 25 March 1951

Wilmot Gordon **Haultain**. Master of Titles, Land Registry Office of Regina, Saskatchewan. He was born on 20 May 1861 in Peterborough, Canada. He was the son of Lt. Col. Frederick William **Haultain** and Lucinde Helen **Gordon**. Wilmot Gordon Haultain married firstly Annie Camilla **Dennistoun**, daughter of James Fred **Dennistoun** and Catherine A. **Kirkpatrick**, on 29 June 1904 at Peterborough, Ontario. Wilmot Gordon Haultain married secondly Mary Isobel **Reynolds**. Wilmot Gordon Haultain died on 25 March 1951 at the age of 89.

1 2 7 Florence Fraser Haultain

F, b. 8 August 1863, d. 13 May 1932

Florence Fraser **Haultain** was better known as Effie Haultain. She was born on 8 August 1863 in Peterborough, Canada. She was the daughter of Lt. Col. Frederick William **Haultain** and Lucinde Helen **Gordon**.¹ Florence Fraser Haultain died on 13 May 1932 in Montreal, Canada, at the age of 68.

1 2 8 Terrick Gordon Haultain

M, b. 7 August 1868, d. August 1951

Terrick Gordon **Haultain** is more usually known as Teck Haultain. He was born on 7 August 1868 in Peterborough, Canada. He was the son of Lt. Col. Frederick William **Haultain** and Lucinde Helen **Gordon**. Terrick Gordon Haultain married Hattie Elizabeth **Leacy** on 16 February 1898 in Carlton, Ontario. Terrick Gordon Haultain died in August 1951.

Children of Terrick Gordon Haultain and Hattie Elizabeth Leacy

- o Eleanor Elizabeth Gordon **Haultain** b. 14 Jul 1900, d. 14 Sep 1900
- o Isobel Elizabeth Gordon **Haultain** b. 10 Jun 1905

1 2 9 Alexander Gordon Haultain

M, b. 21 October 1872, d. 22 April 1873

Alexander Gordon **Haultain** was born on 21 October 1872 in Montreal, Canada. He was the son of Lt. Col. Frederick William **Haultain** and Lucinde Helen **Gordon**.¹ Alexander Gordon Haultain died on 22 April 1873 in a train near Peterborough, Canada.

QUERIES

Diane Robnik



The Trent Valley Archives is based in a building that began as an 1899 one room brick school, just a mile from the Peterborough Zoo.

The Peterborough People's Chime

was dedicated on Coronation Day, 22 June 1911. Peterborough then and now had the largest set of bells between Ottawa and Toronto. The Chime was expanded to 15 bells in 1993, and on that occasion Gordon Slater, then the Dominion Carillonneur and responsible for the carillon in the Peace Tower on Parliament Hill, played a splendid concert on the bells. On the occasion of the centennial of the People's Chime, a gift of the people of Peterborough to the people of Peterborough, Gordon Slater will be our special guest as we celebrate these splendid bells. For details about the People's Chime: <http://www.stjohnspeterborough.ca/#/music/peoples-chimes>

The centennial celebration will be held June 22, 2011, from 2 pm to 4 pm at St John's Church. In addition to other special events we will be holding a fantastic strawberry fair. Gordon Slater's concert on the bells will be for about 45 minutes beginning at around 2:15 pm. But events of the day will run from about 1 until 6, if you count eating strawberries, cake and ice cream.

The bells are played by pressing down the wooden handles that are tied to long, heavy wires that are attached to the bell clappers. In the early years, the bells were rung by ropes, and the largest bell, known as "Peterboro Chime" moved fully. However, chiefly for concerns of safety the ropes were removed and the current system set in place. When the bells were refurbished in 1993, the clappers were replaced in order to ensure that the full sound of the bells was achieved, as the gongs always hit the same spot, no matter how big the bells. The range of the bells is now from middle C to high G. The bells weight nine tons, but we are assured that the tower's bell chamber could accommodate eight more bells that would complete the carillon.

Over the years, and quite apart from Sunday services and weddings, the bells have been rung on many auspicious occasions. During Canada's centennial year, 1967, the bells were rung daily thanks to the generous support of an ecumenical group of 32 bell ringers. In the early years, the People's Chime was played by the church sexton, but since the 1960s, St John's has had talented bell ringers.

Be sure to mark this memorable day into your calendar. We would be honoured if you could join us on this special day.

Genealogy and Cemeteries

In our February issue we commented that we were impressed by the system being used by a genealogist specializing in Mount Pleasant Cemetery in Toronto. In fact, the genealogist was connected with St James Cathedral and the Necropolis in Toronto. Thanks to Gordon Young, of Lakefield Heritage Research, who shared the information.

Lesley Anderson



Ancestry.ca

The Trent Valley Archives hosted a public event at the Peterborough Public Library. Lesley Anderson, from Ancestry.ca, spoke to the group of nearly 100 people, of ways to get more out of your experience working with their webpage. She had a host of tips, and even though the audience had people of different expertise, everybody learned something new.

Stephen

Guthrie, TVA president, welcomed the participants and introduced Diane Robnik, our assistant archivist. Diane spoke of TVA's avid support of Ancestry.ca; our members can use Ancestry.ca either by coming to our research room, or by asking a question that Diane answers. The Trent Valley Archives was founded over 20 years ago, and its mantra has always been that historical and archival research supplements genealogical and family research in countless ways.

Some of the new resources available through ancestry.ca help researchers build historical context around places, countries and events related to the families being researched. It is also easier to differentiate the variety of historical sources that are brought into play.

R. B. Rogers

Gordon Young wrote the editor with respect to the article in the February issue by Dennis Carter-Edwards on R. B. Rogers. that the lat Bev Rogers-Howard said that her uncle, R. B. Rogers, had turned down offers from Keefer to use the team of lawyers connected with the Canadian Certified Engineer Association in order to defend himself against the charges made by Holgate. Instead, Rogers hoped the government would do what was honourable. Young also says Peterborough lawyers also offered their services. In some respects, then, Young argues, Rogers' wounds were self-inflicted.

Isabella Valancy Crawford obituary

THE LATE MISS CRAWFORD

An Account of Her Sudden Death, Her Funeral Took Place today.

Examiner, Tuesday, February 15th, 1887



The death of Miss Isabella Valancey [Valancy] Crawford, which took place at 11:30 on Saturday night, at Toronto, says the *Globe*, was the result of heart disease and was quite unlooked for. Miss Crawford had been suffering from a cold for a fortnight past, but had not been confined

to bed. She was retiring for the night, her mother being in the room, when she suddenly fell to the floor lifeless. About ten years ago a medical man gave it as his opinion that the action of the deceased lady's heart was defective, and as the complaint was hereditary, her father and a sister having died from this cause, Miss Crawford was always careful to avoid over-exertion. When the fatal attack came on, a doctor was at once summoned, but on his arrival he pronounced life to be extinct. Miss Crawford was a daughter of the late Dr. Stephen Crawford, of Peterborough, and was born in Ireland, near Dublin. When about five years of age, she was brought to this country by her parents, and afterwards lived some time in France. She was an accomplished French scholar, and once wrote a story in that language. For the past ten or twelve years Miss Crawford has lived in Toronto with her mother, the last sixteen months of her life being spent at No. 57 John Street. The deceased's literary labors were extensive, and she contributed continually to Frank Leslie's magazine and other publications. A story of hers, "Married with an Opal," is now being published. Miss Crawford leaves one brother surviving her, who is at present in Algoma. The deceased lady's remains were temporarily placed in the vault at the Necropolis at two p.m. today, and will afterwards be removed for final interment in the family burial ground at Peterborough.

Photo from TVA, Howard Pammett fonds

Peterborough Voters 1887

WHAT'S IN A NAME?

Queer Facts Discovered in the Town Voters' List – Peterborough and Its Citizens in a New Light.

*THE DAILY EXAMINER - Peterborough
Thursday, February 24th, 1887*

The majority of citizens may think that they know all about Peterborough and its material composition, but if they will peruse the following facts, discovered during a casual glance over the voters' list of 1886, they may be led to change their minds.

Peterborough is governed by six Kings and one Queen, the posts of honor being occupied by an Earle, three Nobles and some Squires. One of the Kings has a rich cousin, a Dane, and a couple of Marshalls. In their service are five Porters, one Barber and one Butler. Their possessions are large, and consist of a Beach, a Heather, three Hills, two Heatherfields, six Lees and three Parks, in which there are two Poles, four Reads, three Rushes and one Roun-tree. There are besides these one Rowe of Curran bushes, four in number, two Roses, three Lilleys, two Brooks and four Burns. They also own four Woods, used as royal preserves, in which are kept six Crows, one Fox (which has two Dennes), five Birds, one Coon, eight Martins, two Peacocks, and three Winches. This preserve

is guarded by one Hunter, six Fowlers and one Shuter, who have only one Gunn between them. The King also employs one Gardener, who grows two Pecks of Bean-s and a Speer of Sage; a Brewer, who uses one Barlee head to make beer. His four Cooks furnish, each day, only one Course, consisting of two Bacons, three Fries (Frys), Veals, and eleven plates of Greens. The cuisine department is all in one Kitchen, employed in which are one Baker, five Butchers and one Creamer; the utensils and domestic articles include, among other things, one chunk of Allum and two Couches. Of domestic animals they have several Cocks, eight Drakes, two Goslins, two Kidds, three Pigeons and a Hurd of live Stock.

Peterborough's religious sentiment is represented by four Popes, who sing two Carrolls and ring seven Bells, six times Daly. They have only one Cross.

Two Fairs are held annually in a large Booth, at which were exhibited last time four loads of Hay, a single act of Armour, one Dredge, a Fawcett for a molasses barrel, a Galley, five Kanes, Shields, Stubbs, etc. The fair gives employment to eight Clarks, two Carters, and two Coopers. The main building has twenty-seven Halls which were put up by one Carpenter in a single Day. He made four short Jobs of it. He was assisted by four Goodfellows, two Manns and their Masters, nine Sawyers, twenty-four Smiths, and a Naylor. Last year there were four Balls held, at which a Darling wearing two Diamonds and two Glasses, gained three Marks for being Spry, and not two Smart. At the balls, four Harpers played three Fifes for a single Fee.

Through the King's East-lands runs one Rivere, with only one Branch. This is named in different places the Hudsons, the Jordan, and the Humber, upon which is the city of Derry. A single Craft sails upon the placid waters. The best of Fairweather usually prevails in this locality, two Breezes blowing gently during the Summer over the two Fords. On the banks of these streams live some Reeves (one Black and twelve Whites). They live in a New-hall near the Bridges, a few Myles North of a solitary Redman, who has one Whitehair in his head. They own some Innes in Holland, in which a Bout was once held between some men - five English and two Welsh. They were all Young, and each wore a Wescott. Besides this they have two Mills, in which work seven Millers. The Mills were erected by six Masons, one of which was Luney, and a Plummer. They went to Law twice and secured a Grant of fifteen Moore pieces of land upon which they built. Sometimes the rain falls in Torrance, and the single Trout in the river gets wet; so, to protect it, a Thorndyke has been erected. One day the Rod-man took some Bate (consisting of three Cobbs with an equal number of Webbs). These he Carveth into eight of the Best shapes, and getting two Grubbes, hied away to a Lone part of the three East-woods. Wood-head that he was, he gave himself three severe Strains, which, by the Way, caused him a couple of Paynes. He also accidentally gave himself two Pierces in the Hart

with a Blade having three Sharp points, which May break his Manly spirit.

Besides all this, there are in the King's employment twelve Browne men, one Darke and three Gray, comprising one Milner, five Taylors, one Tyler, three Wrights and two Walkers. In horses they have one Trotter, which Gambles about on three Crofts set aside for it, and which only needs one Beck from a couple of Lashers with a two Foot rule or a couple of Nethercutts from a whip to bring them to time. They were only Trollope-d twice in their lives. A very Sloman looks after a single Yule log and draws water from three Wells.

Four Little and Seven Long men, the other day played quoits. One made two Ringers, and he was the only Gladman there, for the others ran against a Pillar and saw two Stars, after which they took a Keele over.

Legally, Peterborough is not very well fixed, having but one Judge, who lives in a Garrett, takes Garlick every night, and gets up Early on the Morrow, takes a Walke down the Glen, has Pickles for breakfast, and is then ready to become the Toole of the two Powers he serves. This Judge is not very Hardy, though, but gets a Wheeler to carry him over the four Wardes in town, taking a wide Range. One day he sat down on a Thorne, where some Smart men put it, but he whipped out his two Bowie knives, of pure Steele, and raised a Storm about their heads. Finally he took a dip in Westlake to cool himself off, and sat down on a pile of Timbers to think. He thoughtlessly picked up two Stones, which he threw with all his Might. They struck a couple of Stablers who were coming down the Lane. Two Turners who were having a Knapp, woke up and with the assistance of Sandy chased the Judge over the Plane into Hull, in Kent, but he tided the Geale and got there safe. It was a judicial outrage. Who will pay the Piper?



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THE BROWN FAMILY IN THE 1910S

Elwood Jones, Peterborough Examiner, April 2011

The Rev. Elmir G. Brown was an Honorary Assistant at St John's Church in the 1970s, and he and his wife, Dolly, lived in an apartment on London Street. The Rev Mr Brown had appeared in my 1976 history of St. John's Anglican Church because he had gone into the ministry while associated with St. John's Church. As well, he appeared in a charming picture taken by Roy Pitchford on the occasion of Bishop Garnsworthy's mission services, which we called Encounter '73. Garnsworthy was quite tall, over six feet, but Elmir Brown was quite short. As one made a presentation to the other, everyone sensed a specialness, that the baton was passed from one generation to the next.

Only recently did I come to appreciate the complexity of Elmir Brown's careers. A gentleman brought in a box of letters that he had purchased at a lawn sale in the Gilmour area, and donated them to the Trent Valley Archives. I took one letter from the box, and saw the reference to Elmir Brown, spelled with an "i".

While processing these letters (now Fonds 317, 1910-1950, five inches), it was evident that Elmir Brown's mother, Mrs. A. Percy Brown, was the family archivist. It is possible that every family has an historian of the family, someone who treasures the baby books, the wedding pictures, the best Christmas letters, and the love letters of two generations. In this case she also kept the letters of the Great War that had been written by different members of the family to various other members of the family. The letters were treasured and passed around. But they had been stored for probably sixty years. Every community needs an archives that can give a proper home for such letters. They are archival simply because they survived nearly a century, and because at least one person believed they were important to save. The classic definition of archives is that which has survived flood, fire and disaster; the more modern is that which has survived house cleaning, recycling and moves to new homes. They also survived the philatelists, for the envelopes have come with the letters, but usually without stamps.

The letters are in remarkably good shape, a sign that they were kept in a dry setting, more likely in an attic than in a basement. As one reads through the letters, it is clear that the family photographs have not survived so well. Photographs were often tucked into the letters, but these can only be imagined.

As a first step, archivists will try to determine the family history with a view to expanding that history with the letters in the archives. The Brown family appear to have come to Peterborough around 1908, and immediately moved into a house at 517 Weller that remained tied to the family for at least thirty years. Albert Percy Brown (1857-1929) was married to Charlotte M. C. Thompson (1864-1953). From the letters, we learn that Brown had a hardware business in Morden, Manitoba. From the city directories, we learn that he came to Peterborough to be a partner with William Higgins, in Higgins Hardware, a Hunter Street business until the 1970s. He then started his

own hardware business, about 1914, on Simcoe Street, at the site that is currently the city bus terminal and parking garage. The Browns had four sons and two daughters, and Elmir (1893-1980) was 21 when he and his brother Reginald (known as "Regie") were partners in Brown's Hardware. Over the years, Kenneth and Cecil joined the family business. When the business ceased operations in 1933, the four brothers went in different directions. Elmir got a job with the post office which he held until the 1950s; he was ordained as an Anglican priest in 1957, and served in the Diocese of Ontario, before retiring to Peterborough. Kenneth, according to one letter from his mother, was working in a hardware store on Toronto's Danforth in 1946. Cecil was a travelling salesman for Western Clock, and Reginald seems to have worked for a jewellery store in Hamilton.

The first letter, from 1911, was written by Elmir, then 18, from Des Plaines, Illinois, where he was staying with two aunts while learning about the hardware business. The letter contains a surprising description of the impact of a powder mill explosion, March 9, 1911, in Pleasant Prairie, Wisconsin. The explosion, apparently felt in five states, was a mystery in Des Plaines, sixty miles from the explosion. It seemed to be an earthquake was a strong aftershock. Elmir said, "Uncle Willie was over at Warren Garlands at the time & he said that he thought that about twenty heavy pieces of furniture were being moved out of the house at the same time." Apparently only one person died in the blast, but the physical damage was widespread. In a letter to Cecil on the same day, there was no mention of the explosion, but more discussion of social life and the hardware business in Des Plaines.

There are several items tied to the YMCA. The brothers were active with the YMCA, participating in gymnastics, basketball, lacrosse and the social and religious programming. Some of the wartime letters were written on YMCA letterhead as the Y looked after canteens along the Western front.

Several of the war time letters contain thanks for letters, photos and gifts. In addition, however, there were some comments on career moves and special hopes. In 1915, a cousin, J. H. Thompson, who grew up in Trenton, reported receiving his commission, and was waiting to go to the No. 8 Artillery Training School, Lark Hill, Salisbury; he said he was fed up with his earlier job working in a hospital pay office, which had been followed with two weeks "loafing around" waiting for orders.

Aunt Minnie told Kenneth he might enjoy going overseas. At the "San" where she was, "We have some soldiers here as patients who have been in the trenches. One was in the trenches for seven months. Others are suffering from gas fumes. They tell some very interesting stories & are all anxious to get another whack at the Germans. They had some pretty hard times but all say it's great experience." His mother told him, "The house has been so dull & lonely since you and Elmir left." His father joked about his upcoming surgery on his nose. A. P.

Brown, with only Regie to help run the hardware store, was overwhelmed. Regie had been helping his friend Barney install eaves-troughs, but the rains of June 1916 made a three-day task stretch to six.



Bishop Garnsworthy, left, presents gift to the Rev Elmir Brown, St John's Anglican Church, Peterborough, 1973 (St John's Parish Archives, 21.7)

Some of the letters were fascinating travel narratives. Cecil wrote Elmir about his budding career in banking in Alberta; it was already evident he would not like running the Current Account Ledger. He gave a splendid review, however, of the Hotel Macdonald, a place where he could spend a lot of time without spending money. The Hotel Macdonald was, he told Elmir, one of the "swellest in the Dominion." After an extensive tour of the hotel, he concluded that the writing room on the second floor was the "nicest room in the hotel."

When Elmir was in London in 1916, he thought his detailed letters might double as diaries of his wartime experiences. His father had advised him to keep a diary, and as he told his sister Dora, mother would be sure to save his letters. All his letters have not survived, but the October 1916 letter to his sister is charming and delightful. He acted

as tour guide for Art Searight and Gord Puffer, also from the Peterborough area, and among the thousands of Canadian soldiers billeted in a college building by the Union Jack Club, which was near Waterloo Station. This is

at least his second day in London. He crossed the Thames and talked about Cleopatra's Needle, and then passed the War office, the Birdcage Walk and headed to Buckingham Palace and was in time for the "guard mounting," now called the changing of the guard. They rowed a skiff around the Serpentine, saw some of the sights of Hyde Park and Kensington before hiking to Mansion House where he dined on meat and macaroni pie, with currant pudding for dessert. Most of the afternoon was spent at the Tower of London. Since he had already sent home a splendid tourist guide of the Tower, he said he would not say much. He then gives a detailed account of what he saw. He saw the exact spot where Anne Boleyn had been beheaded. He laughed at the inscriptions carved by prisoners into walls which had posted signs: "These walls must not be defaced in any way." He saw the cell where Sir Walter Raleigh spent twelve years writing his never finished history of the world. In the evening, he went to a play, "Daddy Long Legs," which he described as like Anne of Avonlea. He was very impressed with the acting, especially for the children's parts. The next day he was planning to visit St Paul's Cathedral in the morning and the slums in the afternoon.

Elmir Brown was experiencing a world that he never expected to see. He was overwhelmed by the details, and realized much of it would slip from his memory if he did not write it down. Even an early insignificant detail now seemed important. A camel that had appeared on stage during "Chin Chin Chow" now made him realize how large the stage had to be in order for the camel to fit so comfortably.

There are well over 100 letters in this family collection. In reading just these few, one sees the world differently. The experience of soldiers, such as Elmir Brown, was defined as much by the memories of London as by the experiences in the trenches. London was a world city filled with amazing sights, and now a boy from Peterborough knew it was his city, too.

Even small archival collections can hold a wealth of information and open doors to events, people and places that one never imagined. Archives are both the collections of documents and the organizations that preserve them. In some respects, archives are also the unopened boxes in attics and lawn sales. Happily, the Brown family papers found a home at the Trent Valley Archives.

SAMPLE LETTERS FROM THE BROWN FAMILY CORRESPONDENCE.

File 5, Correspondence 1910-1911

[ALS, Elmir to Kenneth, from Des Plaines Illinois, March 14, 1911]

Dear Kenneth

Hope that you won your second game from the business boys & were also successful against Mr. Tait's Educational Branch. Thank you very much for sending me the programme of the Commencement Exercises at the Collegiate. I was very much interested. And glad to see my name even on the back page. Even that must have been a mistake I think also. Thank mother for the snap shots of Regie which I received O.K. Think them quite good. Tell Hugh he should have spanked harder.

The Petes did well to defeat the G. A. A. C. hockey team 11-6. Did they succeed in their task of digesting the All Stars or was the mouthful to[o] big a one for their capacity. Bet their will be a hot time when the new chimes are installed. Would like to be their then.

Last Tuesday evening we had quite a lively time rather too lively in fact. It was fine out & I had been out walking & had just come in & although it was rather early had begun to undress when my door slammed & my curtain blew in straight & I heard some more door slam & breaking glass across the street. I thought a sudden gust of wind has arisen but next I heard Aunts Agnes & Minnie running down the hall so I thought that something must be the matter & went to my door. Aunt Minnie had heard a lot of breaking glass also & had felt quite a shaking as if (so she said afterwards) the next building had toppled over on this one. She thought the boiler had exploded. I knew that could not have been the cause because I had just come up from the furnace room.

I ran right down stairs & saw nearly every one out on the street. Just then another shock came & I felt the earth swaying under me & we could see the window panes shift in the sash. An earthquake we thought. Then everything quieted down again.

Uncle Willie was over at Warren Garlands at the time & he said that he thought that about twenty heavy pieces of furniture were being moved out of the house at the same time. They all got out of the house in double quick time and he hurried home. At the station we learned that a powder mill in Wisconsin (about 60 miles away) had exploded. A plate glass window in one of the stores here was broken besides several small panes. One of our cellar windows was also broken. In Chicago they felt it just as bad & several plate glass windows in some of the big stores were smashed. It is said that the explosion was felt in five states. The immediate territory was of course devastated but only one person a night watchman was killed as far as I know.

The stick pin which I am enclosing is for Regie. Aunt Minnie picked it up & asked me if I should like it for him.

Hoping that you are all well & that I will hear from some of you before long I remain

Your affectionate brother

Elmir G. Brown

I wrote the last three lines with my eyes closed. Guess I had better get to bed.

[ALS, Elmir to Cecil, from Des Plaines Illinois, March 14, 1911]

Dear Cecil,

Just ten day to your big closing exhibition at the "Y"? Have you your clown suit made yet? I am sure you look pretty in it. If I was you I would not tumble very hard. Try to fall on the other boy as much as possible. You said that tight rope walking was going to be put on but forgot to add that the performer was going to fall off. Who is the artist by the way? Any one that I know.

Uncle Willie & Warren Garland were in town today taking lessons in automobiling. They have both bought a Ford and are planning great doings this summer. They are going to have the cars delivered the first week in April I think. Mr. Stott who bought one with them is getting his this week.

Everybody around here is roller-skating - children Dora's age to fellows in their twenties. We sell quite a lot of skates - principally ball bearing ones at 1.95. There is no rink here. The skating is done on the pavements. It has been fine weather for skating not too cold & just cool enough to keep one from getting too warm.

It has been rather dull in the store lately but we expect to have a sale soon which should make things hum. The last sale which was held before Xmas was not much of a success on acct of the bills being late.

Hope you got your book all right & that you like it & that mother got the letter which I wrote las night & that you are all well & that you will win that five dollars. With love to you all I remain

Your affectionate brother

Elmir G. Brown

To C. C. P. Brown

Junk Dealer

Peterboro Ont

If you come around visit week sometime I can give you an old pair of rubbers. Please keep your trap closed though. I am afraid of my fingers.

File 6 YMCA 1914-1915

1. Program, 26 Nov 1914
2. Program, nd
3. Junior Business Boys' Groups, including names of team members, and the schedule for the four teams: Pontiacs, Tecumsehs, Mic-Macs, and Chieftains.
4. Printed program, 8 and 9 April 1915
5. Printed brochure, "The Young Men's Christian Association Peterborough Ontario 1914-15" printed by the Times Print, a union shop.
6. Three news clippings, undated, "Big Lacrosse Practice at

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Riverside To-night"; "New Basketball League at the YMCA"; and "Religious side of YMCA work."

File 7 Correspondence 1915

[TLS, J. H. Thomson to Kenneth Brown, 31 December 1915]

Dear Kenneth:-

Many thanks for your acceptable parcel which came last night. The cigarettes are fine while the chocolate was a reminder of Canada too. I suppose Elmir and Cecil have joined up with the 93rd as well as yourself. There is one officer with whom I am acquainted who belongs to your regiment. Lieut. S. J. Raymond is his name and if you happen to be talking to him please say that your cousin 2nd Lieut. J. H. Thomson of the Royal Horse Artillery asked to be remembered to him. He isn't a bad sort although he never knew anything about military matters when he belonged to the Trenton High School Cadets as a drummer.

I got my Commission in the British Horse Artillery on December 11th, and have to report for duty on January 2nd. I will be stationed at No. 8 Artillery Training School, Lark Hill, Salisbury for about two months, and then will join my File 8, Correspondence 1916

1. AN, Notecard, Morden Man, 7 Jan 1915, Mrs Rumball to Kenneth [Brown]

Q Dear Kenneth,

It was kind indeed to remember me with your photo. I was delighted to receive it, and see that you have developed into such a fine looking soldier boy. Are you expecting to leave for the front?

Wilfrid has been in the trenches for several months, and so far has received no wounds.

We sincerely hope that the coming year, the world may be brought to a Peace, better than it ever knew before.

Thanking you very much and with all good wishes for 1916.

Believe me. Sincerely, Mrs Rumball.

2. TLS and envelope, Cecil Brown, Molson's Bank letterhead, to Sergeant E. G. Brown, 517 Water St., Peterboro Ont., Edmonton, 9 Jan 1916.

Dear Elmir:

Your recent letter of Christmas, dated from Norwood was very acceptable to yours truly. In fact it was most welcome. I must first congratulate you on being promote to the Sergeantship of your army. I suppose that you like it fine. There are hundreds of soldiers up here. You have noticed, I suppose, where this letter is dated from. I was moved up here last week, or rather I came up on New Years morning. I came up with Dick Spilsted, account of the Merchant's Bank. He and I chummed it together down in Camrose. We got here about eleven in the morning and walked up to the Molson's Bank where I deposited my suit-case and then we went to the Merchants where I met some of the Merchants boys. Dick then left me and went to where he was staying and I strolled over to the Chateau Macdonald, the biggest hotel in the city and one of the swellest in the Dominion. It is built like a huge castle, and has over four hundred bed rooms alone. You go in a huge door that is opened for you by a man in livery, and you find yourself in a huge hall. At one end there is the dining room, where dinner at night is served and where dinner-dances are held a couple of times

battalion, the 31st Berkshire R. H. A. to take part in manoeuvres etc. I think I will like the work very much, as it will be a welcome change after the routine of Pay Office work in a Hospital Unit. I had ten months of it here besides four in the Halifax Permanent Military Hospital, and I am certainly fed up. I have ben loafing around the Hospital for about two weeks waiting for orders, and when I received them the other day I was tickled to death.

I suppose there are very few now in civilian clothes in Canada. They are pretty well cleaned out here, although you can still see hundreds of them in London if you are looking for slackers. Some are now wearing the armlet which denotes attestation in some group. This was designed and the group system carried out by Lord Derby as perhaps you are aware.

Let me know when you arrive in England and I will try and get leave to come and see you all.

Give my love to all the family, and thanks again for the parcel which I certainly appreciated,

affectionately.

J. H. Thomson

a week. As you stroll back towards the entrance again you pass the grill room, where breakfast and lunch is served. Across the hall from it are paper and magazine stalls and offices of the different officers of the hotel. In the centre right opposite the entrance door, is a huge sitting room in which is a big fire place, above which is a large picture of the Fathers of Confederation. There are large balconies looking down on this room from the second story. Palms and different kinds of plant adorned the corners of the room. At the end of the sitting room is the ball room. It is a great big round room, and very high. For any very large dance, the living room and ball room are thrown open so as to make one large room. On the other side of the sitting room are the elevators and at the end of the building is the palm room, which is fitted with the finest plants and flowers that can be got. You then go up to the second floor, by the elevator. There are three rooms here worthy of notice. The Banquet hall is a magnificent piece of work. It can be divided into three different sizes. The writing room is also very pretty and is situated so as to look over the sitting room down stairs. It is fitted up with writing desks and is I think the nicest room in the hotel. There is also a drawing room which is fitted up most luxuriously. I was the guest of Bob Armstrong, a traveller, for two days, Saturday and Sunday. We ate New Years dinner in great style, with

the nuts of the city. It is very nice when you can have a man at your elbow all the time, to get you anything that your little heart desires. After dinner there was a dance, but we did not dance because we did not know any people, but I met a girl I knew down in Camrose, who is living in one of the swell apartment houses here. She wanted me to go down and dance, but I politely declined. I am going to a dance on Tuesday night, but I think that I will have to live pretty darn low here as it is so cursed expensive. You cannot eat very much under thirty a month, and we have to pay eight for our room, laundry two beans, and the Manager does off three dollars a month for the Patriotic business. So you see that you cannot live under forty dollars a month for your bare expenses, let alone buying your clothes and all the other expenses of life. I went to a couple of picture shows last week, but I have not done anything else. It has been so cold out here that you cannot venture out very much. We start work here at nine and do not get out for lunch. I was just saying we could not get out for lunch. We generally have a sandwich and a cup of coffee sent in to us, rather the messenger goes out and gets it, and even that costs us two bits. Two bits is twenty five, four bits is fifty, six bits seventy-five and so on. We get through as a rule about five in the afternoon. I am running the Current Account Ledger, which before the war was divided into two ledgers, the Cash Book, Remittances, and several other jobs. It is a hard job, and Lister, manager down at Camrose, who was Accountant here, told me that if I could make it go here, I could in any branch of the Molsons Bank. However here goes. I was saying that we have been having some cold weather out here. It has been below zero all the time and as far down as thirty five below. There have been a dozen or so fires here and we hear the brigade going by. You can hear them coming a block or two away. The whistle is a long weird screech.

Well E.G.B I guess that I had better close the epistle this time. It is six o'clock, and I have not had a bite to eat for twenty-four hours. Saving money Eh.

I will try and write and keep you posted on the news of the far west. It seems hard to realize that you are so far north. / How is everybody at home. I suppose that my letter to Mother and Father has already go to Peterboro. Well, Love to all.

Your affectionate brother, Cecil
ALS, Aunt Minnie, The "San" Ninette, 16 Jan 1916, to Kenneth

Q My dear Kenneth,

Many thanks old boy for this photo. You look quite swell in your uniform. The nurses think I have a pretty fine looking nephew. So do I!

And how do you like this training? I suppose it's like most other things & has its unpleasant side.

I think the description is good though. No doubt you find it somewhat rigid.

How did you enjoy your little visit in Toronto? Hope you found them all well.

Winnie is getting to be quite a young lady is she not?

Are you looking forward to going to the front?

We have some soldiers here as patients who have been in the trenches. One was in the trenches for seven months. Others are suffering from gas fumes. They tell some very interesting stories & are all anxious to get another whack at

the Germans. They had some pretty hard times but all say it's great experience.

One of the boys sings quite well & he has a very good parody on "My Little ? Home in the West." It's "My Little mud hole in the Trench." Will get him to copy it out for me & send the words to you. You may already know them. You are fond of singing are you not? We have quite a number here who either sing or play & we consequently enjoy many musical evenings.

We have a very good Victrola, a gift to the "San" by a patient's father. It cost, I am told, about \$350.00 or \$400.00 so it is good. We have some first class records & such a number of them too.

So you see we can have some fine entertainments even if we are snowed in. I must write your Mother & Dad tomorrow - it's too late to-night. Au revoir old boy. Write me if you can find time. With all good wishes for the new year I remain

Your fond aunt Minnie

ALS and envelope, E. G. [Elmir] Brown to Dora Brown, 20 Oct 1916, Union Jack Club, 91a Waterloo Road, London [England]

Q My dear Dora

I am writing this in the same place as I wrote to Mother yesterday; read Ma's letter first as this is going to be a further instalment of that famous popular ballad entitled "Seeing London on One L."

When we started out yesterday you know I was fulfilling the role of guide to Art Searight (late Sergeant #14 Platoon, D Co.) And Gord Puffer (late Cpl. Of the Norwood platoon) The Union Jack Club as the letter head tells you is on Waterloo Road, opposite the Waterloo Station & just south of the river. We proceeded north crossing The Thames by Waterloo Bridge; the tide was out and much of the river bed was exposed leaving lighters lying high & dry & well illustrating the title of the Muddy Thames. Just west of the bridge on the Victoria Embankment stands Cleopatra's Needle, which went down in the Bay of Biscay, with the obelisk ship "Cleopatra" on the first attempt made to bring it to this country from Alexandria. We proceeded along the Embankment past the War Offices, Whitehall & the Horse Guards to Birdcage Walk, and hence to Buckingham Palace: as the Royal Standard was flying I knew that the K & G were in London and that the guard mounting would take place at Buckingham and not at St. James, where we saw it on the occasion of my first visit to London when the K & G were out of the Capital; as it was nearly time for the performance we awaited on the steps of the Queen Victoria Memorial at the head of The Mall.

Thence we moved onward to Hyde Park Corner and into Hyde Park, we saw the aristocracy riding on Rotten Row & hired a skiff and rowed around the Serpentine of some 30 acres in extent. The Serpentine runs into Kensington Gardens; we left the Park by way of the Albert Memorial, crossed the road, passed the London College of Music & numerous other educational institutions, the Albert Hall, the Imperial Institute, Natural History Museum & Albert & Victoria South Kensington Museum, hiked to the Mansion House, and dined (meat & macaroni pie, breads, butter & tea & currant pudding).

From the Mansion House we walked along numerous quay streets west to Tower Hill and The Tower, stood for some time watching the soldiers drilling & bayonet fighting in the moat, which has been partially filled in & cemented, crossed & recrossed the Tower Bridge & then entered the Tower proper.

The regular route around or rather through the tower commences with the crown jewels & regalia in the Wakefield Tower, the Tower Guides which I mailed some time ago contain a detailed account of them so I shall not attempt to describe them here - From the Wakefield Tower you go to the Armouries, the White Tower, if remember rightly; entering, the first department to be seen is the Cannon Room, many of which were injured by the fire and many were captured in foreign wars; in the same department are various kinds of shot & shell, insedentary pots & stink pots of ye goode olden dayes; then there is the armour room containing samples of the suits of mail & armoured plate furnished by ye knights of long ago, a mounted figure carries the armour of King Henry VIII who must have been a very large man, the armour of the Black Prince and of several other royal persons is also shown, as well as shields & tilting spears & other equipment used in the lists on horse as well as on man - Every conceivable variety of sword, spear, dagger and axe is on exhibition, including representative swords of the allies, and Lord Kitchener's sword - I would hat to have to shoulder some of the blunderbusses we saw amongst the display of fire arms (small arm) included was Lord Roberts' revolver - We saw the gun carriage that bore King Edward's body and the cloak on which General Wolfe was laid after being wounded before Quebec and on which he died later.

In the same tower which at one time was used as a Royal residence is found St. George's Chapel; for some time in the early part of Queen Vic's reign being used as a store-room for old clothes & to Prince Albert is due I believe its restoration. Before entering the Chapel one is shown Sir Walter Raleigh's cell, a beheading block & axe, and various forms of implements of torture including a model of the rack, thumb screws, iron collars studded with spikes and a very ingenious device for holding one in a very awkward position secured around the neck, the wrists and the ankles.

The dungeons of the Tower I believe were not below the water level but an arrangement (Patent Pending) was used for forcing the water into them on any occasion on which it was required to give the occupants a 'soaking'; afterwards they were liable to be stretched on the rack and then asked a few questions.

To give you some idea of how carefully all details regarding defence must have been considered all the original staircases which were spiral were all built right handed so that white the defender, the occupant of the tower, fought right-handed his opponent was forced to use his sword with his left hand.

In the courtyard the exact spot on which the executions of yore took place is marked by a tablet; here Anne Boleyn (I don't know how to spell it) was beheaded.

But I'm going on to Beauchamp Tower, the prison of most of the notable personages who have been confined in the tower & preserved under glass tablets can be seen the carvings on the wall with which they were no doubt glad to

pass the time away regardless of the signs we saw on the walls "These walls must not be defaced in any way" By Order.

Next we proceeded to the Bloody Tower, at one time known as the Garden Tower re-christianed on a/c of the dastardly crimes supposed to have been committed there including the murder of the young princes in a room which we were shown; here Sir W. Raleigh spent twelve years of his life & wrote his History of the World never finished. Here is to be found the only ancient portcullis in working order in England, lowered in case of sudden attack by simply pulling out a pin & blocking the gateway.

From here you also see 'Traitors Gate' an entrance to the Tower from the river side; thro this gate prisoners of distinction or persons whose imprisonment it was desired to keep a secret were brought by barge by night.

I forgot to tell you that on our way to the tower we saw a church on one of the side streets leading down to the wharves & now in the shipping centre, wherein Sir Richard Whittington is interred. On the way back we lost Searight in one of the underground stations - it was six o'clock crowd time and there must have been at least a dozen different entrances & exits, quite a village of streets I assure you & a city crowd all underground.

Puffer and I had our supper and went to the Duke of York's Theatre and saw Daddy Long Legs from the gallery - 1s. seats and it was very good, the acting being extremely cleverly done, especially the children's parts I thought. I have never read the book but it reminded me very much of Anne of Avonlea.

Last night we slept on beds made up on the floor at Morely College not far from here and under the auspices of the Club - 4 d - Thousands of soldiers & sailors are put up this way in London every night.

We have just finished breakfast here after a good wash and have mapped out a programme for the day including St. Paul's Cathedral - Crypt & Whispering Gallery - for the morning; the slums for this afternoon and Romance at the Lyric Theatre for the evening. And now I must be getting on git up these Searight & Puffer and so long for the present Dora will write again tomorrow morning of the further adventures of your brother in Lunnon.

Father advised us before we left to keep a diary of our experiences for future reference but I am afraid I am not doing so; I guess my letters tho will answer as I could never get as much as I write into a diary and I know mother will keep them.

The trouble is that we see so much that a lot of it very shortly slips ones memory, now I do not remember whether or not I mentioned the fact that during the performance of Chin Chin Chow which I witnessed on Wednesday night a camel was paraded through the streets in the Market Scene, and just to give you some idea of the size of the stage & the setting let me tell you that the beast did not seem out of place in the least in fact if the truth must be told I really thought at the time of it as being quite insignificant. But enough of the present and with Love to you all till the next I remain

Your soldier brother Elmir

Mrs A. Percy Brown to Kenneth Brown, A Co, #3 Platoon, 93rd Bn

CEF, Yates Ward, General Hospital, Kingston, Ontario, from 517 Weller Street, 5 June 1916. Includes letters from younger sisters Dora and Helen BB

Q My dear Kenneth,

Your nice long letter was very welcome and I was so glad to hear you were having your nose attended to. I hope the operations will not be a painful one, and you will not have to be very long in hospital. We shall all be glad to see you agin. The house has been so dull & lonely since you and Elmir left. We certainly have had some wet weather. I believe it has rained every day or nearly every day since the 93rd went away. I went up to the Park this afternoon to a picnic given by the mothers' circles of the city schools. It was quite a success but somehow or other I did not enjoy it just as much as I thought I would. Last night Mrs McDermid, Mrs Phillips and myself went down to the Red Cross to work. Mrs Mack drove us there and back in the car – We have not got Elmir's pictures from Roy yet. They were to be done the beginning of this week. Has Basil decided to join the 93rd? Have you had a letter from Cecil since you went to Barriefield? He will have joined his Battalion by this time. I saw Miss Agnes Horsfield last night and she said that Arthur wanted Cecil's address – Arthur expects soon to go to France. Well Kenneth dear I must close if I am to be in time for the mail – With heaps of best love from us all, hoping you will soon be alright.

Yours lovingly Mother

Q Dear Elmir:

Mother, Dora and I went to a school picnic to-day there were races Mothers closing the envelope now I have rote to Ken so I can't to write to you now I will write to you tomorrow and a long one to I have to go to bed so I can't write now I will tomoro

Helen BB

Q Dear Kenneth:

I hope nose will soon be better. Mother, Dora and I went to a school picnic to-day. There were races for kids there was a fat womans race and a thin womans race. Then there was a tug of war for fat woman. I have saved \$2 for my dog. I am writing to Elmir so I had better close your affectionate sister.

Helen B

ALSs, Mother to Kenneth Brown, and Reg Brown to Kenneth Brown, both 15 June 1916. Envelope addressed in Reg Brown's hand to Pte K. J. Brown, #195021, Kingston General Hospital

Q Dear Kenneth.

I received your letter and the negatives to-day and was very glad to hear from you. I should have written to you before but I have been pretty busy lately. I suppose you are having a pretty easy time. This is the fourth pen I have tried on this letter and it is no good. Those pictures you took in Pet. came out all right – all except one or two. I printed them but gave some of them to Hope Dunsford. I will try and print some of those negatives you sent me by the time you come home. We have been pretty busy at the store lately in spite of the rainy weather. I have been helping Barney do some eaves troughing jobs. We troughed a house down on Wolfe St. and are now working on a house out

north of the golf links. We troughed two long verandahs and are repairing the trough on the roof. We have been working at it a week but have been stopped a lot on account of rain and of course we had to be at the store on Saturday. We were working for about an hour in the rain today. At least Barney was. I was sitting down in a window and handed him up an iron occasionally. We have to go out and clean some furnace pipes tomorrow morning, and tomorrow afternoon we have to go out and finish the job on the farm, if it isn't raining. Verney Lyle and Jack Smith have also joined the Queen's Ambulance Corps; also Fred McNeely. About twelve or fifteen have enlisted in the 74th Battery. I think about one hundred have enlisted here in the last couple of weeks.

I got a letter from Winnie today and she enquired about you and Elmir. I am going to write to her to-night and will give her your address. We have been having meetings of the A. B. C. Club every week. Last night there were twelve girls there and three boys. We played Musical Chairs, Fruit Basket and a card game called Donkey.

Have you been having much rain down in Kingston? It has rained here nearly every day. We had one day - yesterday - when it didn't rain, but it made up for it today. If you see Elmir please tell him I couldn't find that list of Eatons. Ask him if I will send the government list, or Wilson's? There is nothing much doing around the "Y" these days except tennis. I haven't played yet altho I intend to some of these days. Violet is studying for her Entrance Exams. They start next Wednesday, I think. Well it is getting late and I have used all my news up. I will write again sometime.

Hoping your operation come out all right I remain

Your affect. brother,

Reg. Brown

Q My dear Kenneth

Mrs McDermid told me this afternoon that she had written to you. I went in to look at her kitchen which Mills has been painting. I only intended staying a few moments bit we got talking and Mrs Mack made a fire in the grate (or rather she & Kate did) and so the time passed until the first thing I knew it was tea time. I shall have to finish this letter with a pencil as it is quite impossible to write with the pen I have here. I was thinking your operation would have been over by now, and was quite surprised to hear you were still waiting. We were looking at your negatives a little while ago. Regie will probably print soon. I noticed by the paper that ten of the Bugle Band were on leave. Miss Sweeny has made a cap for you, also one for Elmir; she was going to mail them to Barriefield but heard some of the Battalions were moving away so I suggested she had better wait & see what was to happen. Did you ever read Torchy? Mrs McDermid sent it to the Kingston Hospital library so you might ask for it! I believe it is quite an amusing story. Father does not feel very well so has gone to bed. I think I shall follow his example so good-night. With ever so much best love – hoping you will soon be alright again – I remain

Yours lovingly

Mother

Love to Elmir

ALS, A. Percy Brown to Kenneth Brown, 18 June 1916

Q Head Quarters - Home Guards - Barracks – 517
Weller Street, Petergrad I mean Peterborough,
18th day of rain 6th mo- 1916th
Private K. J. with your nose in a sling,
Dear Pte #19502123456789000...

You post card arrived safely with the picture of the hospitable, where you got better meals than usual, I kinder guess. I hope you found the nurses to your liking. Did they have to blow your nose for you. You must have had a dandy time, waiting around.

Do they have a table d'hôte or Buffet; a la carte, or a la barracks,

I don't know where this will find you, but I don't suppose you will be in the hospital, but the time this reaches you. –

I hope the operation on your nose will be of benefit to you. I feel sure that it will & I hope you will soon be quite recovered.

Did you have to have it plugged up, after the operation? I am very glad you had it done, for I am sure you will be safer – especially in case of any wounds that might affect your breathing. Anyway you will be better, even normally.

You must now practice breathing through your nose alone, keep your mouth shut. Did ever anyone tell you to keep your mouth shut, before? They say it is the proper thing to do, especially when breathing; Things (microbes or

gas or anything like that) – don't get into your lungs as readily when you breathe through your nose.

Things are quiet around the house diggings. At present, mother is having a rest, after clearing up the tea thing. – Regie is at church & the girls outside somewhere, I guess I'll go & call them in as it is nearly nine o'clock. –

We have had scarcely a day without rain; – though I think it is beginning to show signs of clearing up–

Reg has been out with Barney nearly every day for a week – doing some troughing that should have taken about three days.

We are fairly busy in the store, – & as I have been so much alone, you can imagine that I have not had an easy time, & to make matters worse I caught a cold, & on Friday afternoon I had to come home & get a hot bath & get to bed, leaving Regie to run the business. He gets along very well at the store. I seldom get down much before ten a.m. – but stay there then until closing time, – taking my lunch there. Mother send down a lounge & rocking chair, & table, which we have up in the top flat, so that I can take a rest, when I get tired, if I have a chance. Nothing special doing, so I'll close. Tell Elmir, if you see him, that we got his photos, a couple of days ago. Perhaps some of the others may enclose a line or two. –

Your affectionate father,

A. Percy Brown.

NEWS, VIEWS AND REVIEWS

Archival Expansion at the Trent Valley Archives: We need your help

The Trent Valley Archives is putting together a proposal for bringing our main building and the annex up to archival standards for accessibility and climate control. This is a list of the details that would be part of this proposal.

We have been getting quotes on each of the following:

- central air in main building and annex
 - gas and hydro to the annex
 - who needs to be contacted?
 - Who would do the jobs?
- upgrade insulation in annex (under floor, exterior wall, and two vestibules)
 - install ramps to major entrance at main facility and at annex
 - archival and library shelving
 - get quotes from Carr McLean and Brodard
- library research table
 - photocopy machines in both research areas
- upgrade computers
 - we need at least one new computer for the annex; we should get opinions on upgrading the computers on the pod; we need new computers to replace our two most ancient machines.
- develop new features for the webpage
 - Pauline Harder is spearheading this project

- highlight research facilities
- advertise our archival and library collections
- add signage to two sides of the annex and to the Woodland entrance to the main building
- any suggestions?
- pave parking lot and driveway and develop incidental landscaping
- any suggestions?

There are no guarantees when it comes to applying for grants. Even if we succeed in getting the grants, it is certain that we will need extra money across the board. From past experience we know that granting agencies expect the applicants to meet half the expenses of a project. Sometimes we miss because the grants often do not include HST, which is 13% miss. Sometimes we discover that something needs to be done, just because it suddenly makes sense. Sometimes, the difference will be a long-term consideration that comes into play, or some new product that is just on the market. However, we know this is an ambitious project for us, and we are appealing for whatever help you can give.

It is clear that everything listed above is essential. We are really lucky that during the past 13 years we have been able to develop an amazing facility; a terrific diversity of archival, historical and genealogical resources. As well, we have a co-operative management model that is unmatched

in the province, for unlike other archives we have no sponsoring agency or government assistance. We are a regional archives, with particular strengths relating to Peterborough, that is doing work that should be done by the several county or regional archives.

We note with interest comparable archives in Simcoe, Grey and Elgin that are all better placed than we are because they have committed county funding. We have noted several interesting wrinkles lately. Hastings County and Belleville are working together with the Hastings County Historical Society, in a model that we think is modeled upon the experience over 20 years of the Trent Valley Archives.

That said, we depend upon individuals who support our mandate, and who realize that we have been at the centre of an historical renaissance locally that has only been possible because of the firm base that we have built at the Fairview Heritage Centre.

We would be willing to discuss naming rights for aspects of our facilities. The former school room has been named for James Moloney, one of our founding angels, and the research room has been named for Marianne MacKenzie, one of the architects of our genealogical and archival strategies.

We need the support of each of our members. If you have suggestions on sources of financing that might be friendly to our projects and ambitions please let us know. If you can give support to this project, please help. We are assuming that we need to raise \$30,000 plus the grants, and so we are asking you to consider a donation of \$500 or \$1,000 if at all possible. We will even then need to get donations of more than \$5,000.

We are really pleased that we are finally well-positioned to achieve the dream of an impressive archival facility such as the Trent Valley region deserves.

A message from the Archivist of Ontario

The past year and a half has been an exciting time for the Archives of Ontario. Having settled into our new, purpose-built home on York University's Keele campus, we are fully realizing the potential of all the facility has to offer.

We have hosted a variety of great events, including the exhibit launches for Ontario On the Map and Architectural Dialogues... Moriyama & Teshima. We participated in



Doors Open Ontario for the first time, welcoming over 500 visitors to the new building. And our classroom space is allowing us to engage with the province's teachers and students through dynamic educational programming.

Digitization continues to be a strong focus for the organization. Soon we will be offering free, online access to the 260,000 records making up the 2009-2010 vital statistics release of Ontario birth, marriage and death registrations. We've also made strides on the social media front, using sites like YouTube and Twitter to reach new and diverse audiences.

Moving forward, we will continue to promote innovation in archival science, excellence in recordkeeping, and superior customer service. And, as the guardian of Ontario's documentary memory, we are committed to expanding our collections to include records that reflect the full diversity of Ontario.

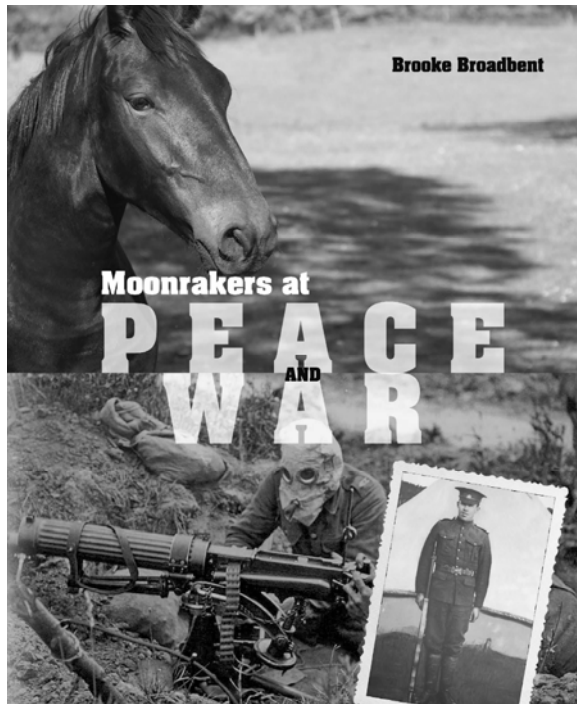
Angela Forest Archivist of Ontario (A) September 2010

Angela Forest was appointed acting Archivist of Ontario on 8 September 2010. She has over 22 years of leadership experience with the Ontario Public Service and has held a number of senior executive positions in various ministries. Ms. Forest's prior roles as a senior executive included initiatives related to organizational transformation, labour relations, corporate policy and administration. She was Assistant Deputy Minister of Archives Modernization, leading the organization's transition to a new, purpose-built facility on York University's Keele campus. Before joining the OPS, Ms. Forest held management positions in the private sector relating to information management and technology, and records management. Ms. Forest holds master's degrees in Anthropology and in Library Science from the University of Toronto.

Archivists of Ontario

- 1903-1935: Alexander Fraser (Provincial Archivist, title changed to Archivist of Ontario in 1923)
- 1935-1939: James J. Talman (Acting Archivist of Ontario, also Acting Legislative Librarian)
- 1939-1950: Helen A. McClung (Acting Archivist of Ontario to 1944)
- 1950-1963: George W. Spragge
- 1963-1978: Donald F. McQuat
- 1978-1986: William G. Ormsby
- 1986-1999: Ian E. Wilson
- 1999-2010: Miriam McTiernan
- 2010- Angela Forest (Acting Archivist of Ontario)

Note: John H. Bennett (was briefly Archivist of Ontario; appointed by Order-in-Council dated May 11, 1944; became military archivist by Order-in-Council dated June 8, 1944). As well, David Nicholl was briefly Acting Archivist of Ontario in August 2010.



Moonrakers

Broadbent, Brooke, *Moonrakers at Peace and War: An Imaginative Memoir* (Ottawa, Boreal Press, 2011) \$20

Review by Fraser Dunford

Every genealogist has at some time tried to imagine what a particular event was like. The urge is strongest when you are at the place where the event occurred. What was this church like during that wedding in 1792? How could anyone stand in this cemetery and bury their third child in two weeks? And the most common, what was that Atlantic crossing really like? Some genealogists even consider writing their family history in that imaginative way. That is what Mr Broadbent has done.

This book has an unusual structure: part simple family history, part imaginative family history, part the personal journey of a person searching his roots. That is not an easy structure to produce and this book occasionally has bumpy spots, but it works. Mr Broadbent makes it quite clear which part he is in, and he tells us when he bends known history for fictional dramatic effect. You could view the book as a historical novel with explanations. To me the writing style tends to be a bit Victorian - over descriptive, too many adjectives - but that may be a style you like.

The story concerns some of Broadbent's ancestors who ended up in the Peterborough area. The Hardings and Garretts were moonrakers (ie from Wiltshire, England), who farmed in Douro Township. That resonates with me as my Dunford and Payne ancestors also came from near Warminster in Wiltshire and farmed in Dummer Township. If you read the book you will realize that there

was a group of moonrakers who emigrated to Peterborough County. Perhaps we should have a Moonraker Reunion!

Anyone interested in Peterborough County history will find this book interesting. Anyone planning to write a family history should look at it. Take note of the superb use of little family trees to help the reader navigate. Anyone contemplating writing an imaginative family history must read this book but please, if you do write, use fewer adjectives!

Book party

Brooke Broadbent will be at Titles Bookstore on George Street, Peterborough, to sign books, **Wednesday, 18 May, 7 pm**. Elwood Jones will be signing copies of his recent books (*An Historian's Notebook* and *Little Lake Cemetery*). We are hoping to have other authors connected with Trent Valley Archives on that occasion. Mark your calendars and see you there.

Dit Clapper's NHL career



People who have been following Dave and Sharon Barry's ongoing account of the first Mister Boston Bruin, A. V. "Dit" Clapper, have requested a summary of his playing career. This is available on line, at hockeydb.com, nhl.com and on Wikipedia. But we are pleased to comply.

Dit Clapper (9 February 1907-21 January 1978)

Height: 6' 2" (1.88 m); weight 200 lbs (91 kilograms)

He played right wing to 1937-38 and then defence; he shot right.

He played for the Boston Tigers (CAHL), 1926-1927; and for the Boston Bruins (NHL), 1927-1947

He won the Stanley Cup 1929 (player-coach); 1940, 1941.

He was on the NHL First All-Star Team 1939, 1940, 1941.

He was on the NHL Second All Star Team in 1931 (right wing) and 1944 (defence).

	GP	G	A	Pts	PIM
1926-7	29	6	1	7	57
1927-8	31	4	1	5	20
1928-9	40	9	2	11	48
1929-30	44	41	20	61	48
1930-1	43	22	8	30	50
1931-2	48	17	22	39	21
1932-3	48	14	14	28	42
1933-4	48	10	12	22	6
1934-5	48	21	16	37	21
1935-6	44	12	13	25	14
1936-7	48	17	8	25	25
1937-8	46	6	9	15	24
1938-9	42	13	13	26	22
1939-40	44	10	18	28	25
1941-2	48	8	18	26	24
1942-3	32	3	12	15	31
1943-4	38	5	18	23	12
1944-5	50	6	25	31	13
1945-6	46	8	14	22	16
1946-7	30	2	3	5	0
Total	824	228	246	474	462
Playoffs	82	13	17	30	50

Following his retirement, Dit Clapper's #5 was quickly retired to the rafters of Boston Garden. Then Clapper was inducted into the Hockey Hall of Fame, the quickest move from active player to inductee.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT from Sir John A.

Examiner, Wednesday, 5 May 1886

The following autograph letter received by Mr. Finch Miller, leader of the Fire Brigade band, is self-explanatory:-
"EARNSCLIFFE," OTTAWA, 1st May, 1886.

DEAR SIR:- I have received by the hands of Mr. Hilliard, M.P., the handsome cane which he tells me you charged him to present to me, from the Fire Brigade band of your town.

I assure you that I receive with great pleasure this token of confidence and esteem of the good people of Peterborough.

I shall see it often, and always with the recollection of the pleasant way to which it came into my hands.

Please convey my thanks to the members of your Brigade band, and believe me,

Dear sir,

Yours Faithfully, John A. Macdonald.

F.W. Miller Esq., Bandmaster, Peterborough

Observations from the AGM

Steve Guthrie, the president talked about some of the accomplishments of the Trent Valley Archives in 2010. Perhaps most important, was the work with the Little Lake Cemetery's 160th anniversary. The cemetery pageant was a great success and led to some additional tours in October. The Peterborough Historical Society's F. H. Dobbin award for the best work on local history went to Elwood Jones for his history of Little Lake Cemetery. He also commented on the other tours and special events. For details see the back cover of the Heritage Gazette, or phone Diane at 705-745-4404.

Steve Guthrie also noted that we had acquired an extra building to meet our pressing need for more space. Now we must equip the building to meet our needs. We will be applying for a Trillium grant and seeking financial support from our friends and members. Steve has been our president for two years and was pleased with what we had collectively achieved. He gave thanks to Diane and Elwood for the work of the archives, to Pauline for giving zip to our newsletters and webpages, and to all those who shared their talents and enthusiasms.

See page two for a summary of Pat Marchen's very fine presentation. Her familiarity with the subject was very evident, and she chose the quotes and illustrations deftly. Bruce Fitzpatrick assisted her, and his diction and feeling added much to the various excerpts from Weir's diary. It was a memorable evening.

This was our first visit to the new Highland Park Visitation Centre of the Little Lake Cemetery. It is a splendid facility and worked very well both technically and aesthetically. We will certainly return to this site.

Ashburnham / East City: a sporting legacy

From early times to the present, Peterborough's sportsmen and fans found sanctuary at the east end of the Hunter Street bridge. There was the cricket ground and the riverside park. The Peterborough Amateur Athletic Association (PAAA) was there by 1883. The cricket field became a residential street in 1903, but the nearby lawn bowling green lasted to 1928. After the building of the concrete bridge, the former industrial park became recreational, and included more baseball and the tennis club, and later the city's only outdoor swimming pool. The area has changed dramatically, but sports is still spoken here. Tour will be led by historian Elwood Jones of the Trent Valley Archives.

BIRD'S EYE VIEW 1895

The Trent Valley Archives recently received the generous donation of an 1895 Bird's Eye View map of Peterborough. We published a very limited run of this map in 2007, and had a full-sized copy made for our research collection. The original map, handsomely framed, which we just received is in generally good condition for that age. There is some watermarking, and some small tears tied to creases. This copy, however, has an early advertisement for The "Canadian" Canoe Co, showing a bearded canoeist on a pleasant paddle. The copy is pasted over top of the display advertisement for the Peterborough Canoe Company. The original Canadian Canoe Company advertisement remains in place on the right hand side of the map. All the display ads on the 1895 map showed buildings; indeed that is one of the great research strengths of the map. We have left the altered map as is because there is historical research value in the change.

The provenance of the map is revealing. The map was formerly owned by Claude H. Rogers, vice-president of the Canadian Canoe Company, and remained with his house. It seems that the rivalry between the Canadian



Canoe Company and the Peterborough Canoe Company was quite serious.

The map is on display in the reading room at the Trent Valley Archives. The attached picture shows the bottom left-hand corner of the map.

Cavan Council Meeting 1886

Examiner, Wednesday, 5 May 1886

The following is the report of the Cavan Council meeting made by someone in Cavan. It captures the rhythm of political life in a rural township and we thought it would be of general interest to see the activities that preoccupied a council meeting 125 years ago. Editor

The Council of Cavan met on Monday at 10:30 a.m.

All members were present, the Reeve in the chair.

After routine, a number of communications were received and dealt with.

The Reeve reported having examined the treasurer's bonds and found them satisfactory.

The Reeve also reported that he, in company with Councillor McNeil, had waited upon Mr. Shaw in reference to his communication, and that Mr. Shaw informed them the C.P.R. Co. wanted the council to assume control of the road running from the 9th Concession line to Cavanville station. He wished a written answer to his communication.

Councillor McNeil reported that he, with assistance from Jas. Elliott, had repaired the culvert over the middle road in Cavanville; carried away by the spring freshet. – Approved.

Councillor Fallis reported repairing part of the 5th Concession line; washed away by floods. – Approved.

Deputy-Reeve Thorndyke reported the committee, composed of South Monaghan and Cavan council members, appointed to arrange for the building of wire snow fences between the villages of Baillieboro and Centreville, had arranged with Mr. Rogers to build a suitable fence on his premises by paying him 25¢, and 20¢ per rod. – Approved.

The question of reopening the west quarter line, 8th Concession, was left over until the next meeting.

Mr. Fallis was authorized to examine the 5th Concession Road, opposite Lot 1, which is now under water, and report back.

The council then adjourned for an hour.

On motion of Mr. Fallis, \$9 was granted Mrs. M. Pethick for board and attendance on James Braithwaite, indigent.

Mr. Thorndyke was authorized to repair the diverted road on Lot 9, Concession 3.

Mr. Fallis was appointed a commissioner to act in conjunction with a committee of the Millbrook council in repairing the town hall.

The clerk was instructed to write to Mr. Shaw, C.P.R. agent, Cavanville, informing him the council wouldn't assume possession of the road from the 9th Concession to Cavanville at present, but if the company would put the said road in good repair, and should the council continue the road through the 10th Concession line, they would assume control of the whole road.

On motion, the Reeve was allowed an abatement of expenses incurred in going to and from Port Hope, and for searching the registry office re treasurer's bonds.

Wednesday, 28th day of May, was appointed for the first sittings of the Court of Revision.

A number of orders were issued on the treasurer, and the council adjourned

"Everybody has an archive"

LUKE HENDRY

Belleville Intelligencer, 2 April 2011

CANNIFTON — In a box in his late brother's garage, Orland French found treasure. It wasn't coins, gold, or anything a pirate would have hidden, but for the historian, it was priceless.

French was cleaning out the garage after his brother, Gerald, had died. Inside there was a tightly-packed bundle of letters. They were letters written by his father's brother, Oscar French, throughout his service in the First World War. // Uncle Oscar enlisted in the army at age 17, leaving the family farm in Waverley, Ont. to train in Niagara and Toronto. "He would write these letters to his mother, usually on a weekly basis," his nephew said. The young soldier soon became a machine gunner with the 37th Battalion on the front lines in France. French said the letters are "all upbeat because he doesn't want to alarm his mother."

"What we have is a record of the family of sorts — and it's the only written record we have of 1916-1917 — written by a guy who's over in the trenches," French said. Oscar was killed at Vimy Ridge April 9, 1917, age 20.

Today his nephew is grateful the letters were preserved. Now president of the 130-member Hastings County Historical Society, the younger French is hoping more such treasure can be saved. He's among the society's leaders of its community archives project.

April is Archives Awareness Month and the society is seeking support. The community archives is a project of the society and the councils of Hastings County and the City of Belleville. // French is heading the project's fundraising committee, set to launch in May. But in the meantime, society members are asking people to consider donating not only money but archival material that needs a better home.

"Everybody has an archive at home," he said. "It's old photographs, letters."

"I think they would welcome putting them in a place where they would be better preserved ... instead of sitting in the back of a closet or a basement where it's damp." Someone's offer to donate items doesn't guarantee the society will be able to accept them. They must be of historical relevance and relatively unique. Examples include photos, maps, written documents and certain printed records.

"We don't take artifacts. Don't bring us any defused hand grenades," French said, only half-jokingly.

The society's current headquarters is the Hastings Heritage Centre — the former Thurlow Township hall on Cannifton Road just south of Farnham Road. The community archives will only improve the resource.

"We're way ahead of where we were five years ago. We've got a building. We've got the commitment of the city and county and we have an archivist (Sharon White)." Already the city and the county have together invested about \$300,000 in buying the former Irish Hall and \$50,000 in renovations. There has been little else done in the building since those initial changes, however, and French described it as "a big two-storey shoebox." He said it has space for a mezzanine and will need more work before it's ready to house archives. An architect will soon study the cost of renovations and repairs.

Though the city and county share the costs, the facility will be owned and operated by the city.

The historical society has about \$200,000 in the bank thanks to its annual banquets and various donations, including \$80,000 from the local Parrott Foundation. French said the archives could be open within a year. If the campaign goes well, construction could begin this summer and material could be moved in by year's end.

Watch The Intelligencer for updates on the project's May campaign launch.

For more on the archives and society, visit hastingshistory.ca or leave a message at 613-962-1110.

lhendry@intelligencer.ca

Trent Severn Waterway, Leaders Roundtable

Dennis Carter-Edwards

The Leaders Roundtable held at Trent University 20 January brought together area politicians, First Nations representatives and key stakeholder groups to discuss the future of the Trent-Severn Waterway/Watershed. The day long working session was part of the ongoing dialogue following the Panel Report on the Future of the Trent-Severn Waterway, *It's All about the Water* and the federal government's response to the Report's recommendation. One of the working sessions focused on the heritage and cultural of the Waterway/Watershed, specifically strategies for protecting and promoting the rich history of this unique cultural landscape that traverses Central Ontario. The group discussed a variety of initiatives to help achieve this objective. One of the key points for consideration was seeking a new designation of the Waterway/Watershed from the Historic Sites and Monuments Board as a cultural landscape that would more adequately capture the complexity of this marine communication corridor that has tangible evidence of some 9,000 years of human history. The group also discussed the potential of developing a distinctive TSW Heritage Trail that would link the numerous communities together with appropriate signage, promotional literature and a common standard of cultural and recreational experiences. The Bruce Trail and the Rideau Heritage Trail were mentioned as possible models. . As an initial starting point, it agreed that a detailed inventory of cultural resources, from Museums, to Historic Sites, Plaques, designated buildings and other tangible and intangible cultural assets for the Waterway/Watershed be compiled. The TSW is undertaking a natural and cultural resource mapping exercise that would help address this need. To help undertake these tasks and co-ordinate efforts, the delegates supported the creation of a Heritage Network to serve as a vehicle for sustaining momentum on these initiatives. The shape and structure such a Heritage Network might take is currently being examined by Trent University student, Dylan Ronald Burrows as a Trent Centre for Community Based Education research project. The Roundtable was regarded by participants as a very positive step to sustain the momentum building on making the Trent-Severn Waterway the destination of choice for Canadians and international visitors to the region.

Archives receive significant grant

ESCOTT The Leeds and Thousand Islands Archives have taken a step forward in becoming accessible to the public. The Archives received a grant from the Ontario Trillium Foundation of \$43,600, which will allow for the extension of Archivists Erika Heesens contract.

We will be open to the public for the first time this week, said Heesen.

The Archives, located at Springfield House, were presented with the grant on Saturday. Township of Leeds and Thousand Islands Mayor Bruce Bryan was on hand for the event. We have all this rich history and these archives are very good, he said. Leeds-Grenville MPP Steve Clark said that the opening of these archives has been a dream of the historical society. Its a great thing to have all of this historical memorabilia together in one place, MPP Clark said.

Heesen is very excited to see the Archives receive this funding. Its wonderful to be able to build on the work of the volunteers who first started collecting all of these items, she said.

Amanda Smith, Gananoque Reporter, 6 April 2011

The Archives will be open to the public on Thursdays from 1-8 p.m. or by appointment.

With this grant money we will be able to continue with the archive work as well as have a catalogue of the items here up online for the public to take a look at. Heesen says she would also like to start a lecture series for other heritage groups on how to manage archives. "I want to reach out to schools and show them that archives are a resource," Heesen said.

Ontario Trillium representative Mark Bain says the community is good at showing how important these archives really are.

It's the small communities that are always the most excited to receive this funding, Bain said. They place importance on the archives so they won't lose it. The public is encouraged to drop off materials they believe can be added to the archive collection. We will take the items and go through them to see if there is something there we can add to the collection, said Heesen....

For more information of the Leeds and Thousand Islands archives, visit their website at: www.ltiarchives.ca.

Campaign to save St. Martin's Parish Hall among Heritage Award winners

GALEN EAGLE/Examiner Staff Writer

A book about Little Lake Cemetery, a teacher's study guide supporting a theatre production about Sir Sandford Fleming and the saving of St. Martin's Parish Hall are among the achievements to be recognized during the 2011 Peterborough Historical Society Heritage Awards.

This year's awards will be presented Wednesday at the Empress Gardens at 131 Charlotte St. at 7:30 p.m. The event is free and open to the public.

"The awards are carefully awarded. They represent key people within the Peterborough history," said Mary Lavery, past president of the historical society. "It is important that we back efforts of the people in the area for their heritage and historical work."

"The awards are carefully awarded. They represent key people within the Peterborough history. It is important that we back efforts of the people in the area for their heritage and historical work." Mary Lavery

Elwood Jones is the winner of the F. H. Dobbin Award for his production of the book "Little Lake Cemetery." The F. H. Dobbin Award acknowledges exceptional coverage of historical events, articles, photos or videos. "It's a very good historic book. A good record for Peterborough," Lavery said.

Award winning writer and teacher Kerry-Lynn Parsons is the winner of the Samuel Armour Award for her teachers' study guide in support of the theatre production about Sir Sandford Fleming called *A Man of His Time*. The

Samuel Armour Award recognizes the involvement and exposure of students to local historical opportunities, programs and/or development of curriculum based on local history.

The Save the St. Martin's Parish Hall Committee is the winner of the J. Hampden Burnham Award for its successful effort and campaign to stop the possible demolition of the historic building. The award is given to individuals, groups or organizations that establish a venue for public awareness of historical events, places or people.

Two groups were selected this year to win the George Cox Award for historical restoration or preservation of Peterborough properties, artifacts, structures, gardens or parks. Terry and Katherine Helmer won for their restoration and re-use of the 1840s Westwood Mill on the Ouse River. "These people have just re-created the mill. It was not in good shape at all. They are going to re-use it now," Lavery said.

Seven Hills Developments won for the refurbishment of the facade of the Turnbull Building respecting the heritage aspects and original dignity of the downtown Peterborough landmark. "The Turnbull Building is historic for Peterborough. It's very important. To have a company restore the outside is really remarkable in this day and age. We are very pleased with that," Lavery said.

geagle@peterboroughexaminer.com

Keene Tweedsmuir Scrapbooks, Part II, first half**Volume II of the Keene Women's Institute scrapbooks, from the library in Keene Ontario.**

Transcribed by Pat Marchen, Keene, Ontario

All articles are from the *Peterborough Examiner* unless otherwise noted

Page numbers refer to pages in the Scrapbook

Max Weir's Rink at Keene Winner of Knox Trophy; *no date; page 1; Peterborough Examiner;* article and photos of Max WEIR, Mrs. Harold ROCHE, Mrs. Harold STILLMAN and her husband; Mrs. Jack GALL, Mrs. Arthur ELMHIRST and her husband; David KEMPT, Albert STILLMAN, Mrs M. Richardson; Mrs. James GODFREY, Fred AUSTIN, Mrs C. YEOMAN

Pumpkin Sellers; *no date; page 1;* picture of Girl Guides Sheryn NELSON and Anne Marie BOLIN with a pumpkin

Mrs. Stan McBRIDE- Behind Every Good Man is a Woman; **Aug 26 1975; page 2;** photo of Berta McBRIDE with her cat; article by Kathy ELMHURST, Examiner Women's editor.

Retiring Stan McBRIDE Toasted, Roasted by more than 300; post 1983; p3; article by Kathleen BAIN, Examiner staff writer; photo of Stan and Berta McBIDE with two donkeys presented to them at the retirement party (photo by Pat MARCHEN, Examiner)

Death of Mrs. Constance FORD; *no date; p3*

Sowing Bee; *no date; page 3;* Yunge-Bateman photo of five tractors lined up at Sowing Bee in Hiawatha. Fifteen neighbours rallied around on Saturday to help out a farmer who was ill. With 12 tractors the men seeded some 65 acres of oats. Names mentioned: Wally THOMPSON, Ross McCARRELL, Cliff COWARD, Arnold SEXSMITH, Don MCFARLANE, Joe DORIS, Ralph LOUCKS, Delbert COWARD. Everett McFARLANE, Bob GODFREY, Bob COWIE, Raymond SEXSMITH, Ross OKE, Harold MATHER, Al CLARKE.

Peewee All-stars; *Feb 8, 1962; page 4;* Yunge-Bateman photo. Cutline: This is the PMHY Peewee All Star team which will take part in the Winter Festival peewee tournament at Quebec City Feb. 27. Standing, left to right: are Harold WILSON, manager, Bill DOBBIN, Dick REDMOND, Ron CHITTICK, Keith BOUNDY, Larry NICHOLS. Larry GILLIS, John HARDY, Dave BIRCH, Ted HIGGINS, coach; front, Bryan HILL, Dennis PATTERSON, Kevin HIE, Glenn NICHOLLS, Fred HAWARA, Brian FREDERICK, Randy DECARLO and Ricky MacLEISH.

First Time Victors; *Oct. 12, 1962; page 4;* Yunge-Bateman photo. Cutline: Peterborough IUE bantams became the first city minor ball team to win an Ontario Amateur Softball Association championship when they beat Preston 11-8 in the final of a best-of-three series. The team is, back row, from left: Claude MILLARD (coach), Bill JOINER, Jim JOINER (coach), Doug CLARK, Gary WHITE, Percy ARCHER (trainer), Jack MACKNESS (manager); second row: Keith RAWLINSON, Gary HOLBROOK, Pete MACKNESS, Mick REDMOND, Jim BELL, Bob ADAMS; front, Bob NURSE, Gary HODSON, Robbie MACKNESS, Bob HOWLAND, Dave MILLS.

Ontario Champs; *Oct., 20, 1964; page5;* YUNGE-BATEMAN photo. Cutline: Peterborough's IUE team won

the All-Ontario midget softball championship with two straight wins of 1-0 and 2-1 over Cache Bay. Posing for a group photo are, back row, from left: Jim JOINER (coach), Grant ROBERTSON, Pete MACKNESS, Gary WHITE, Bill WATKINS, Jack MACKNESS (manager); centre: Keith RAWLINSON, Bill CROWLEY, Gary HODGSON, Mike REDMOND, Jim BELL, Bobby HOWLAND; front : Gary AULBROOK, Bob BELL, Dave MILLS

In Provincial Finals; *Sept. 14, 1966; page 5;* Bob SANTEN photo. Cutline: Peterborough Merchants beat Lambeth girls to open PWSU finals, second game being Saturday at Lambeth. Back row from left: Manager Wilf REYNOLDS, Sharon HILL, Helen MacALPINE, Don LANG (coach), Briant MacALPINE (coach); centre, Ann RICHARDSON, Sandra HALL, Bonnie BOYD, Lorraine HIE, Sylvia HALL, Linda FASKEN; front, Ann LANG, Sheryl BATLEY, Pat BRONSON, Sue REYNOLDS, Lynda HOGG; in front, bat boy Brian REYNOLDS.

Student was Teacher While Visiting Brazil; *Sept. 7, 1956; page 6;* Photo and article. Cutline: Ruth GALL of Keene holds a Brazil nut, a belt made from a fragrant brazilian weed and a wooden herb jar which are among the souvenirs she collected while on a six-month visit with relatives in Belem, Brazil (Examiner staff photo).

Gun Discharge: Youth, 15, dies of wound; *Dec. 30, 1965; page 6;* Gordon Wood of Keene.

Boy Faints Before Telling how Best Friend was Shot; *no date; page 6;* friend tells inquest about the accidental shooting of his friend in Keene

Plane Hits Tree, Pilot, Passenger Hurt; *1957; page 7; source: Toronto Star;* no article, one large picture of crash and head shots of pilot Allan MATHER and passenger Wayne COLLINS. Cutline: The Pilot and his Passenger were injured yesterday when the single-engined plane in which they were flying crashed into a tree in front of the pilot's home. Alan MATHER, 25, of Keene, the pilot, suffered a broken thigh and shoulder, and his passenger, Wayne COLLINS of Peterborough injured his ankle in the crash.

Wins Designer Award; *May 15, 1962; page 7;* head shot; Cutline: Wayne COLLINS, who graduated from Ontario College of Art, Toronto, last week, was awarded the scholarship of the Society of Interior Designers of Ontario. he is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Walter A. COLLINS of RR 8, Peterborough.

There's Skullduggery in Keene; *no date; page7;* Cutline: ...but it's all in the interests of archaeology. Serpent Mounds is the scene of this Hamlet-like atmosphere but that's not YORIK that's Dick JOHNSTON, head of digging at the Mound, is showing Elizabeth HARRIS. Archaeologists believe that the skull belonged to a people who lived in the area 1,000 years before the Vikings came to North America.

Vehicle Kills Baby at Keene; *Aug.2, 1960; page 7;* Paul Belfry, 21 months

Voyage Return Greeted by Reception; *June 25, 1962; page 8*; Rev. and Mrs. H.B. HERRINGTON; photo outline: Former district residents wed 50 years . The Rev. H.B. HERRINGTON and Mrs. Herrington.

Home-Built Cabin Cruiser "Loon" shows her Paces; *August 15, 1956; page 8*; Launching of boat by father and son boat builders, Mervin and Harold MATHER. Threes photos of the men in the cabin, and two of boat from shore.

Dairy Princess Mary Jo DORIS and Loyal Subject; *1959; page 9*; Examiner staff photo. Cutline: Miss DORIS represents County at CNE Dairy Queen Contest (She is posing with cow that looks like it's laughing)

Roses to Mayor-Elect's Wife As She Joins Staff Party Night After Election; *Dec. 61; page 9*; story and head shot of Mrs. Stanley McBride

Digging out the Digger; *Oct 11 1962; page 9*; Yunge-Bateman photo. Cutline: Workmen expected to be able to winch this 50-ton digger out of Indian River at Keene today. The \$70,000 machine slid into the water when the bank gave way under it while work was being done on the new road bridge over the river by the Kilmer Van Norstrand Company of Toronto. Three bulldozers and two wrecking crews assisted by dynamite blasts to remove the steep clay bank were used in the salvage job.

Dionnes apart; *May 29, 74; page 10*; Three surviving Dionnes celebrate their 40th birthdays apart.

Spring Idyll; *May 16, 1963; page 10*; Photo by Jack Ramsay. Cutline: Spring sunshine bathes this scene in which the farm home of Mr. and Mrs. Everett ELMHURST, RR #1, Birdsall, is reflected in Birdsall Creek. A lonely gander meditates on the far side of the creek --his mate is setting on eggs in a nest on another part of the creek.

Beth De La Plante (centre) Student Council President; *Feb. 27, 1965; page 10*; Yunge-Bateman photo. Cutline: with Kate ANGLESEY (left) and Diane COOK

Better Cattle Add to Canada's Wealth; *April 1, 1964; page 10*; *Story:* Dr. George FISHER of Peterborough, veterinarian at Quaker Oats Company, was guest speaker at the 25th annual Peterborough County Holstein Breeders at Keene United Church. Photo by Yunge-Bateman. Cutline: Mr. and Mrs. Gerald COUGHLIN Receive Plaque from Holstein Breeders President Gerald Coughlin (left) [sic]

Little red Schoolhouse More Than 110 Years Old; *Oct. 17, 1964; page 11*; By Marion PHILLIPS. *Story,* historic photo and recent photo of school in Mather's Corners. Cutline: Mathers School in the 1880's. Among those sitting on the fence is Sam COMRIE, a nonagenarian still living in the area and the late Stuart MCINTYRE, whose sons and grandsons still live in Otonabee Township.

52nd Battery Veterans Hold Reunion; *date; page 11*; Yunge-Bateman photo. Cutline: First World War Veterans Reunited at Keene Harry FLEMING, left, of Ottawa, with John LOUCKES

story: About 40 attended reunion on Rice Lake at farm of John LOUCKES.

Federation Election; *Dec. 12, 1967; page 12*; (no story) Photo outline: Peterborough County Federation of Agriculture elected Joseph SULLIVAN, Otonabee Township, its 1963 president, shown with retiring president

Clarence GLENN, centre, and second vice-president Francis WALSH. First vice -president Clarence JOHNSTON, RR #5 Peterborough , third vice president Robert DAWSON and fourth vice-president Roy MULLEN are not shown. Two directors were elected from each township.

Curling Oldsters; *Wed., Jan. 15, 1964; page 12*; Yunge-Bateman photo . Cutline: These four curlers seen at the Keene arena in bonspiels and regular games this season have a total of more than 300 years. From left are: Fred HALL, 71, Stanley TAYLOR, 72, Sam COMRIE, 81 and Harvey DRUMMOND, 80

Allen DAVIS Won Grand Championship for Holstein Cows; *Aug. 15, 1964; page 12*; Photo of DAVIS and cow. Cutline: He was also winner for having Best Uddered Female.

Percy ELMHIRST; *Feb 1972 ; page 12*; Examiner staff photo, two men. Cutline: Percy ELMHIRST, right, president of Keene Lions Club and Hank SCHUT, representing Peterborough Chapter of Dutch Canadian Credit Union, display a trophy to be presented to the winner of the hans Brinker skating race at the Sno-Capades Sunday at Lang Village.

Admiring the Canadian Heritage Quilt; *March 18, 1985; page 12*; cutline continued: created by embroiderers across Canada are Joy GODFREY, left, president of the Embroiderers Guild of Peterborough, and Barb LeSUEUR, right, past president of the Embroiderers Association of Canada. It took local embroiderers more than 100 hours of work to combine and finish the 42-block quilt which will be raffled to raise funds for the national group.

She Wouldn't Move Outside Her Door Without First Consulting Her Horoscope; *March 28, 1964; page 13*; By Marion PHILLIPS; 16+ inch story about Mrs. Harold WILSON. Yunge-Bateman photo. Cutline: Mrs. Harold WILSON checking her horoscope.

Keene Barbecue; *1973; page 13*; photo of Ruth BRYER with a big pot of something

He really got canned; *1984?; page 13*; Keene General Store owner Joe VANDERMEULEN made a citizen's arrest with a can of dog food after hearing someone break into the store at 2 a.m.. A 16 year old youth was charged with breaking and entering.

Crestwood Queen; *April 23, 1966; page 13*; Bob SANTEN photo. Cutline: Darlene WOOD, crowned queen of Crestwood High School's annual spring formal Friday night, and runners-up Rosemary ROBERTS and Sandra Crough are congratulated by Gordon SHEARER. "April Fantasy" was the formal's theme, and pastel decorations and a life-size stage mural gave a Paris-in-the-spring effect. The dance was sponsored by the students Administrative Council.

Lang Village curator loves living her job; *May 22, 1980; page 14*; By Kerry WHITE, Examiner Staff Writer. Photo of Margaret MACKELVIE with a goat

Keene Is His Home; *April 7, 1965; Page 14*; By Steve JONESCU, Examiner District Editor. *Story and photo of Rev. John FULLERTON, paused while chopping wood.*

Soroptimist Youth Citizenship Award; *March 6, 1970; page 14*; Photo of Robert John ADAMSON

receiving cheque for \$100. from Mrs. Robert WENSLEY, treasurer of the Soroptomist Club of Peterborough.

Area Girls Will Compete in Dairy Queen Contest at Peterborough Ex; *Aug. 4, 1965; page 15; Bob Santen photo.* Cutline: Linda CHARLETON, Karen STEWART; Joan BAPTIE, Lorna RENWICK, Edith LILLICO.

J.Frederick DORIS, *June 17, 1983; page 15. Headshot. Cutline continued:* son of Gerald and Bernadette DORIS, of RR8, Peterborough, graduated with honors degree, U. of T., and was awarded the Irving Heward Cameron Undergraduate Scholarship in surgery. Grandson of Mrs. Hannah FITZGERALD.

Dinner Party honors teachers retiring from Norwood school; *June 28, 1973; page 15; Headshots of Mrs. Jean GRAHAM and Sandy MCNAB.*

Bursting with blooms; *Dec. 20, 1975; page 15; Photo.* Mrs. Ross MCINTYRE, Donwood Ave, with 8-year-old Christmas cactus with 77 blossoms.

Officials Baffled. Liftlock Mishap Still Unsolved; *June 26, 1967; page 16;* One of two pontoons in Liftlock malfunctioned, causing a boat operated by to drop 15 feet along with tons of rushing water. First photo, by Gerald CONNER, cutline: EVERSON Attempted to "Ride" boat out of Liftlock Pontoon. (action shot of boat piloted thru white water by man with a sailor's cap, Liftlock in background. Second photo, Examiner staff photo, cutline: EVERSON retrieves Windbreaker from Upturned Boat. In the water is his nephew Roan ABRAHAM.

Keene Lions Seek Doctor to Staff Medical Centre; *no date; page 17;* \$40,000 building needs a doctor. Examiner staff photo, three men in front of the building, and sign. Cutline: The new Keene Medical Centre is in the final stages of construction and will be ready for occupancy in the near future. From the left, Allan DAVIS, Paul SCRIVER, contractor for the project, and Bob ATKINSON, chairman of the building committee, all on the executive of the Keene Lions Club, anxiously await the day when area residents will be able to pass through the door frame which they are holding.

First Patient; *Aug 8, 1972; page 17;* Examiner staff photo shows first patient Margaret CURETON with registered nurse, Miss Lydia ALLIN. Harry CURETON will be the first doctor.

Otonabee Township Reeve Stewart NELSON, is sworn in during the inaugural meeting of township council Monday; *no date; page 17; Examiner Staff photo. Cutline continued:* ... by clerk treasurer Dave CROSSLEY. Other members of council are, from left, councillors Charles JENKINS and Robert JACKSON; Deputy-Reeve Raymond DRISCOLL and Coun. Clifford IRWIN. Only new member is Coun. JENKINS. Former reeve Michael O'TOOLE retired from council last year.

5.8 inches of Snow Hits Area; *Feb. 15, 1971; page 18.* Second storm of the week, stranded motorists. Mr. and Mrs. Philip STRONG had 22 unexpected overnight guests.

New Otonabee Legion Officers; *1973?; page 18;* Wm.W. Reid photo. Photo of three men, left to right: Don WEIR, Larry CRAIGHEAD, Fred RENWICK.

Keene War Memorial Illuminated; *1971; page 18;* Wm. W. REID photo; Daytime shot of six people in front of Keene cenotaph: Dep. Reeve Stewart NELSON, Reeve Michael OTOOLE; Branch 607 second vice-pres Larry

CRAIGHEAD; Peterborough Branch 52 first vice-pres Hank PRYSKY; parade marshal Tony BASCIANO of Peterborough, and Branch 607 president Ruth DRUMMIE.

Record cold snap hurts crops across province; *Sept 23, 1974; page 19;* The mercury curtsied to winter last night, dipping to 24 degrees. The previous record low of 26 degrees was set Sept 1896.

OML had a frigid good day; *Jan 23, 1976; page 19;* Dave IRWIN at city weather office recorded 34.8; previous record from 1871 was 34.4; Ontario Motor League was kept busy; cold caused power outage. Photo by Ottmar BIERWAGEN, of cars and exhaust on city street.

Otonabee and Keene Churches Celebrate Parish Anniversary; *Aug 22, 1972; page 20;* Parish celebrates 25th anniversary. Two photos of interiors of Our Lady of Assumption and St. John's Church, Keene.

Shoes: Keeps busy repairing our broken soles; *April 1, 1986; page 21;* article and photo of Paul NELSON and Frances NELSON in their shoe repair shop

10 Rinks Play Keene Bonspiel; *Jan 14 & 15, 1957; page 22;* names mentioned: Mrs. James GODFREY, Mrs. Arthur ELMHIRST, Mrs. Allan EASON, Mrs. E.E.GIVEN, Mrs. Andrew SHEARER, Mrs. Fred AUSTIN, Mrs. Fred NELSON, Mrs. Harold WILSON, Mrs. H. MCFEE, Mrs. J. ACHESON, Miss Viola WILSON, Mrs. Melville RICHARDSON, Mrs. John BRECKENRIDGE, Mrs. Roy STEWART, Mrs. Harold STILLMAN, Mrs. Mervin MATHER, Mrs. David MCNEVAN, Mrs. John HOPE, Mrs. William HOPE, Mrs. Viola JACKSON, Mrs. Charles KINDRED, Mrs. Ernie WILSON, Mrs. William DRUMMOND, Mrs. H. ROACHE, G.S. TAYLOR

Awards Given Keene Curlers; *May 1967; page 22;* Life memberships give to two long time Keene curlers Sam COMRIE and G.S. TAYLOR. Other names mentioned: Bill LAPOINTE, Melville RICHARDSON, Max ROBERTSON, Jim CAMERON, Webb NELSON, Velma NELSON, Alberta STILLMAN, Mima WOOD, Mart MacELVIE, Fern RICHARDSON, Anna WALSH, Marilyn McIntYRE, Joyce MATHER, Lenore WILSON, Jack WEIR, Charles BROWN, Doug MANLEY, Marilyn KEMPT.

Calders' goal self-sufficiency...; *Jan 28, 1984; page 22 & 23;* photo of Jim and Brenda CALDERS. Article by Barbara TAYLOR. Brenda bakes in an old Findlay stove in their log home.

PETERBOROUGH HISTORICAL SOCIETY DAY TRIP

From Lock to Lumber, Timber to Tourism: Cruising the Kawarthas, PHS Wednesday June 15 - 8:30am to 3:30pm

We will travel to Bobcaygeon home of the first lock on the Trent Severn waterway and home of Mossom Boyd, Lumber King of the Kawarthas. Then we will enjoy a luxurious cruise and enjoy the scenic trip from Pigeon Lake to Buckhorn. Along the way you will be served a hot meal and entertained with readings from period accounts of the area. We then once again board our coach and travel back to Peterborough.

Purchase tickets from Hutchison House, 270 Brock St., 743-9710, \$80 per person \$25 Income Tax Receipt The Coach will leave from the Coach Canada Terminal

More Digitized Canadian Newspapers Online

By: Rick Roberts, *Biography & Archived Articles*, 26 Jan 2011



While searching for information regarding the Royal Artillery serving at Kingston, Upper Canada (Ontario) in 1829, I stumbled upon a website containing some interesting digitized newspapers. The object of my search, William Ramsbottom, was stationed at Kingston in the winter of 1828-1829 where he married Margaret Lockhart. The marriage was officiated by the regimental Chaplain and took place in Kingston on the 8th of February 1829. My great, great grandmother was born to the happy couple somewhat prematurely, on the 17th day of the preceding month. These details I discovered in the chaplain's register a few years ago.

Tracing the movements of specific military rank and file soldiers in the British army during the 19th century can be a challenge. Though I have tracked him back and forth across the Atlantic and throughout England, I had not documented the precise date that the family left Kingston for Quebec City while en route to England.

The website that I discovered has digitized *The Kingston Chronicle* newspaper for the years 1826-1832. I didn't expect that I would find a specific reference to Gunner Ramsbottom. However, I hoped that I would be able to find the date that his regiment was relieved. Through process of elimination I knew that he had transferred back to England in either 1829 or 1830.

Sure enough the first clue was an auction notice in the Kingston paper on May 23rd. The commander of the Royal Artillery, one Lt. Col. Wallace, was liquidating his household goods. In the same issue, Sergt. Pennock, Royal Artillery schoolmaster, advertised an immediate auction of their collection of 500 books.

The May 30th issue contained a news item detailing the May 30th, 1829 departure of the long-serving Royal Artillery Company to Quebec by batteaux after being relieved by another Company that had arrived earlier from Lower Canada.

Now I have a specific date of departure from Kingston. All I have to do is have similar luck at Quebec City.

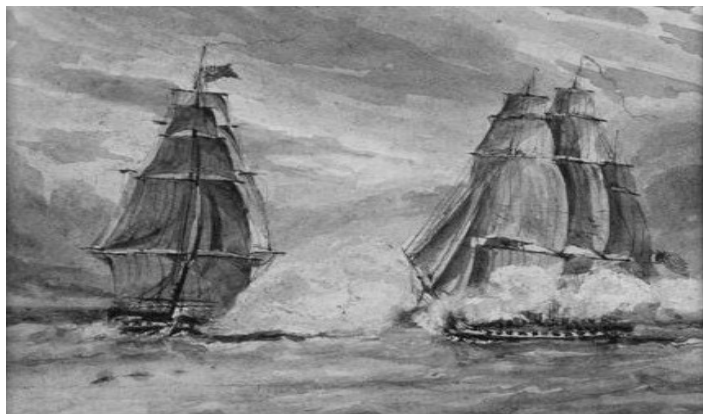
The digitized collection of newspapers that I used to solve my puzzle is at OurOntario.ca [Community Newspapers Collection](http://OurOntario.ca). Available digitized newspapers include

- The Acton Free Press (1875 - 1969)
- The British Whig (1834 - 1836, 1844 - 1850)
- The Canadian Illustrated News (1862 - 1863)
- The Essex Free Press (1895 - 1968)
- The Georgetown Herald (1867 - 1969)
- The Kingston Chronicle (1826 - 1832)
- The Kingston Chronicle and Gazette (1835 - 47)
- The Kingston Gazette (1810 - 1820)
- The Marine Record/Review (1883 - 1902)
- The Provincial Freeman (1853 - 1857)
- The Stouffville Tribune (1888 - 2007)
- The Voice of the Fugitive (1851 - 1852)

The site is very easy to use with one small exception that is easily remedied. When you search for a name or topic, the page snippet appears quickly, with a thumbnail link to click to see the entire page (you can also browse papers rather than search). When the fullpage comes on screen, you cannot enlarge it to readable size ("zoom not supported yet").

The easiest way that I found to overcome that problem is to click on the print icon. A drop-down menu appears that offers a choice of pdf or tif. Choose pdf for a better image. Once you click the pdf choice, the full page of the newspaper appears in your browser including working zoom features you are accustomed to. You can either read it on screen, save or print.

The resource is completely free of charge. OurOntario.ca [Community Newspapers Collection](http://OurOntario.ca)



JOHN KELLEHER: ADVENTURER

At the well-attended Peterborough Historical Society meeting in March Don Willcock shared his discoveries about **"Irishman, Sailor, Settler: The Adventurous Voyages of John Kelleher"**. Kelleher was one of the Peter Robinson settlers of 1825, but in earlier research on Dr. Burnie Don had encountered references that suggested Kelleher had earlier adventures tied with the Frigate "Shannon", a ship that was engaged successfully in naval battle with the American frigate, "Chesapeake", on the Atlantic coast between Boston and Halifax. This 1813 encounter was part of the War of 1812, and the bicentennial of

that war begins next year. Kelleher's part in the battle seems modest. However, it was enough for him to earn the honour of looking after the dogs on his ship sailing with the Robinson settlers. Don discovered that Kelleher was in County Kerry when Robinson was recruiting settlers and that raised questions about how he was contacted. Sadly, Kelleher drowned in Lake Chemong about a year after he arrived in Ennismore. The talk was a pleasant reminder that people's lives are often more complex than we suspect.

Hutchison House Museum, Peterborough

HERITAGE LUNCHEON – ADVANCE tickets

2 SITTINGS

There is nothing more comforting than a home cooked meal served by an open fire. A heritage theme is sure to be on the menu for each Luncheon. Seating is limited and reservations will be necessary. Information: www.hutchisonhouse.ca or phone 705-743-9710. \$12 per person.

Heritage Luncheons are held on the first Wednesday of months they are held: May 4, June 1, October 5, and November 2 and December 7.

May 21

SPRING PLANT SALE

9 AM-11 PM

The volunteers of Hutchison House host this annual Spring Plant Sale on the lawn of the museum rain or shine. There will be a fine selection of perennials, herbs, annuals and house plants all ready to add variety and colour to your home and garden. Come early for best selection! Information: www.nexicom.net/~history or phone 705-743-9710.

May 26

RHUBARB SPRING FLING- ADVANCE tickets

3 sittings

Bring back all the tastes of an old-fashioned crispy rhubarb dessert served with a dollop of whipped cream. Tea, iced tea, or lemonade will add a refreshing compliment to this delightful spring repast. Tickets for the Rhubarb Dessert may be purchased in advance at a reduced rate. Book tickets in advance at a cost of \$6 or at the door for \$8. Sittings are at 1pm, 2pm, or 3pm. For more information please call the museum office at (705) 743-9710 or visit the website at www.hutchisonhouse.ca

July & August

SCOTTISH TEAS (daily Tues – Sun)

1 – 4 PM

Scottish Tea, served on the terrace in the period garden, includes fresh baked scones, preserves, whipped cream, oatcakes, and tea, lemonade, or ice tea. Complimentary tours of the 1840s restored stone house are included with the teas. Adults \$7 Children under 10yrs. \$5, under 6yrs. free

Information: www.hutchisonhouse.ca or phone 705-743-9710

August 18

PEACH TEA – ADVANCE tickets

4 SITTINGS

Hutchison House will host the 19th annual Peach Tea on Thursday, August 19th from noon to 4pm. Enjoy the feeling of an old time summer social, as you indulge in an afternoon of home-baked scones served with fresh peaches and whipped cream or ice cream, topped with blueberries. Tea, iced tea, or lemonade will add a refreshing compliment to this delightful summer repast.

Tickets for the Peach Tea may be purchased in advance at a reduced rate. Book tickets in advance at a cost of \$6.00 for adults/ \$5.00 for children. Tickets will also be available at the door for the price of \$8.00 for adults/ \$6.00 for children. For information please call the museum office at (705) 743-9710 or visit the website at www.HutchisonHouse.ca

September 17

FALL PLANT SALE

9 – 11 AM

The Volunteers of Hutchison House Museum host this annual Fall Plant Sale on the lawn of the museum rain or shine. There will be a fine selection of perennials, herbs, annuals and house plants all ready to add variety and colour to your home and garden. Come early for best selection! Information: www.hutchisonhouse.ca or phone 705-743-9710

October 29

HAUNTED HALLOWEEN – FOR KIDS!

1 – 4 PM

The month of October would not be complete without the Halloween tradition. Look out for young ghostly ghouls and goblins on Saturday, October 29th from 1 - 3 p.m. when Hutchison House Museum will host an afternoon of children's activities at the museum. Tradition is the order of the day with bat crafts, apple games, fortune telling, tricks and treats. Admission for the Haunted Halloween spooktacular event is \$3 per person. Costumes are encouraged and an adult must accompany young children. While we do make the upper levels of the house a little spooky, it is not our intention to scare anyone to death.

November 26

VOLUNTEERS FESTIVE SALE

9-11am

The annual Hutchison House **Festive Sale** is fast approaching. The sale will take place on **Saturday, 26 November** from 9-11am. This fundraiser for the museum will feature baked goods, jams & jellies, pies, and attic treasures. Books are always popular Christmas gifts and the Hutchison House bookshop is well stocked with a fine selection of publications for all ages. Fresh Greenery Christmas Wreaths are available for pre-order at \$15 each. There is a choice of pine, cedar or mixed. They will be available for pick up at the sale. Empire Cheese Orders are available at the museum. Cheddars, specialty cheese, curds and more! Deadline for Cheese Orders are November 10th and will be available for pick up at the sale. For more information, please call the museum office at 743-9710.

HUTCHISON HOUSE MUSEUM

OWNED AND OPERATED BY THE PETERBOROUGH HISTORICAL SOCIETY

270 BROCK STREET

PETERBOROUGH ONTARIO

Dictionary of Old Peterborough Phrases

*Richard F. Choate, Peterborough Examiner
December 1950- February 1951*

[Robert Southey (1774-1843)] Southy in his poem which has been recited by countless Ontario children from their school readers gave us a glimpse of the field of Blenheim, with its heavy underlay of human skulls, years after the [1704] battle. [While the details of the battle would be unfamiliar, Marlborough's victory was rewarded and he built Blenheim Palace. Winston S. Churchill, his most famous descendant, was the wartime prime minister.]

"'Twas a famous victory!" Old Kaspar's words, alas, fell upon uncomprehending ears. His grandchildren, Wilhelmine and Peterkin, still did not know what the battle was all about. "What they fought each other for", they could not well make out. So far as they were concerned the worn-out words which had served Grandpa so long and so sufficiently to express what he saw within the horizon of his experience were as dead as the bones unearthed by the plowshare.

If Old Man Peterborough sitting in the sun at the close of his 100th year were to repeat the verbiage which filled the bright lexicon of his youth how would his grandchildren respond? Would he be more impressive than was Old Kaspar? Perhaps Little Peterkin Peterborough, playing on the banks of the Otonabee would listen to the strange museum words with wonder-waiting eyes, then ask disconcertingly; "But Grandpa, what are you talking about?"

Let us not speak too harshly about Grandpa and his linguistic goings-on. It is an open question whether or not young Peterkin Peterborough is using words with greater clarity than he did. Some among us may suspect that he falls far short.

Grandpa will remember the "famous victory" of the First Great War, which he was told was a "war to end war". He will recall, too, the Congress of Jabberwocky at Versailles, the long series of similar wordy gatherings since; the League of Nations which became what was called a League of Politicians and bogged down in a morass of talk; and the present day to day verbal pyrotechnics at Lake Success. Grandpa may suspect, and not without some reason, that what should have been fought in 1914-18 was not a war to end war but a war to end words.

So it is that the whole Peterborough family, entering the second century of its corporate existence may have no more important task before it than to overhaul and put in order its vast heritage of words. Those who listen to the Babel of confused tongues in International politics perhaps will be spurred to new and high endeavour in the direction of clarity and order in the world of words.

Subjoined are specimens culled from Grandpa's lexicon.

Choate wrote this preface and the first paragraph in each definition. The following commentary in italics and any second paragraphs were added by Elwood Jones. I have rearranged the words into three categories. The first category contains explicit Peterborough references. The second category relates to social conventions that were quite widely held. The third category includes references to religion and food. In this issue I only include the words from the first category.

Commentary on Dictionary of Old Peterborough Phrases

It is amazing how much the English language changes in the course of a generation or two. Richard F. Choate, an Examiner reporter, reflecting in 1950 and 1951 on the centennial of when Peterborough became incorporated, recalled several things that had been commonplace, and noted as well some formerly common expressions that were incomprehensible to the generation then living. Now, sixty years later, some of the examples that he used to explain the earlier phenomena are unclear to people to-day.

When Choate was writing in 1950, television had not yet reached Peterborough. The generations of audiotapes, eight-track, compact discs, DVDs, and MP3s were in the future. Likewise, the telephone has changed beyond recognition, and phone numbers of four digits have been replaced by ten-digit dialing. Some businesses that had been around for generations have disappeared from our streets, including Zeller's, Woolworth, Kresge, Richard Hall and Son, Grafton's and The Barclay. Some commonplace activities are now difficult to understand because no one thought it needed explaining. Some things that are fashionable go out of fashion.

It is already difficult to explain a world that predated the metric system. How well do we explain pounds and shillings when Canada went metric with its money in 1857? The temperature went metric in the 1970s, and suddenly "below zero" meant something completely different. When land measures were converted to metric measurements we lost the sense that there had been a logic behind the system. The easiest option is to understand each system within its own logic, but for some that is no option at all.

Choate began with a once-famous refrain from Robert Southey's poem on the Battle of Blenheim: "'Twas a famous victory!" In Southey's poem, a grandfather on a farm that had been part of the battlefield only knows that the battle once fought there "'Twas a famous victory!" The grandchildren wanted to know who fought and why, and whether the loss of life had been worthwhile. How many grandfathers could explain the Great War (World War I) to their grandchildren? As with Southey's grandfather, those events were current perhaps to his grandfather. How easily can we explain the assumptions of one generation to those living several generations later?

Choate chose some of his 62 examples with a sense of humour. That adds another level of complexity, as humour is most effective when the listener knows the context.

Peterborough's History Mirrored in Language

Some examples were peculiar to Peterborough.

BICYCLE MEETS – Periodic gatherings of renowned cycle-race who competed at the Fair Grounds track in the days when Peterborough was the "Plate Glass City".

This is a reference to the late 1890s when the bicycle boom hit Peterborough, and other Canadian places. Those who rode bicycles were called "wheelmen". Choate may be referring to the 1880s when the penny farthing bicycle races were held in what was called the "Driving Park," now part of Morrow Park or the exhibition grounds.

BLACK BRIDGE – Structure which spanned the Otonabee at Smith Street (Parkhill Road), bearing the warning to daredevils: "Drivers crossing this bridge at a faster pace than a walk will be prosecuted according to law".

This was a helpful reference. I was unsure whether the term applied to the predecessor of the Inverlea bridge or was a description for the railway bridge that used to go north of the Goose Pond. We have seen copies of the sign on a bridge we could not identify.

DIAMOND, THE – Intersection of tracks, below the CPR station, where at every arriving train passenger of bona fide Peterborough lineage arose from his or her seat and prepared grimly for the aisle scrimmage, remarking to every other bona fide Peterburian: "We're at the Diamond!"

Saskatoon had a "Diamond" as well, and as in Peterborough, it referred to an area in which railway tracks from two railway companies crossed. As well, the area featured spur lines and sidings to adjacent industries. In my youth, the Diamond had a terrific ice cream stand. Choate defined the Diamond in Peterborough as it looked to rail passengers and not as a destination for pedestrians and families on a Sunday drive.

GOLDEN EYE – Flagship of the Calcutt Line which plied on the "Down the River" excursion route to Yankee Bonnet, Jubilee Point, Idylwild and points south, carrying miscellaneous cargoes, including Sunday School picnics, shepherded by Uncle and Aunt Lugubriam, and the implacably jovial Curate, who was constantly extracting sunbeams from cucumbers by a pre-atomic fission process known only to himself.

Some definitions raise more questions. Calcutt's steamships were based in Ashburnham where he had his brewery. When the CPR bridge was built in 1883, and replaced in 1913, the town fathers unsuccessfully tried to get a swing bridge to accommodate the steamboats. So it remains a mystery to me, where the steamboats plied on the northern end of the route. Yankee Bonnet was marked by a tree that was a landmark for generations of people travelling on the Otonabee River, but of course the tree itself has disappeared. Jubilee Point and Idylwild were at the mouth of the Otonabee as it entered Rice Lake. It is true that the boats were famous for excursions, often by Sunday

School classes. However, Choate's references do not resonate with me for reasons unknown.

OYSTER SUPPERS – Winter repasts in church basements or public halls in the days when "luscious bivalves" arrived in large tubs, not in the half-pints of today. They were served with "oyster crackers" and for nibivalvists there were always salmon sandwiches.

Judging by the newspapers, oysters were common fare in taverns and saloons by the 1860s, possibly because the railways could bring them quite quickly. I had not seen references to church suppers that served oysters, but the firemen had oyster suppers to raise funds in the 1920s.

McCALLUM'S – Earlier, or earliest, Peterborough "nightspot." Situated at the Market Arcade, McCallum's was a simon-pure restaurant in the era when restaurant was a word of doubtful Frenchy connotation. "Eating out" (away from home) was then a seemly and decorous business between 7 a.m. and 7 p.m. Delightful repasts were obtainable at several spic and span lunchrooms, such as Long Brothers', Potvin's, John Craig's or Hooper's where the major volume of trade was in ice cream confectionery and pastries. But McCallum's was open all night when night life proper in Peterborough ceased with the return home of the last strayed reveler from choir practice at 11 p.m. At McCallum's there was always a rewarding "bill of fare" for nocturnal prowlers who had just "come in on the midnight." Fried chicken was constantly available at 25 cents.

This is a very evocative portrait. Bill McCallum, a step-brother to Charles R. Banks, ran a restaurant on George Street, in the arcade of the Market Hall, in the early twentieth century. Choate's description is the best that I have seen.

MECHANICS' INSTITUTE – Public Library on Water Street, between Hunter and Simcoe (west side). It flourished Circa 50 B.C. (Before Carnegie) when Nice Nellie was carefully insulated against the obscenities of Quo Vadis and Thomas Hardy.

Even in 1950, Choate was aware that people would forget that there had been a library in Peterborough for fifty years before the opening of the Carnegie Library in 1911. As the Peterborough Public Library celebrates the centennial of the Carnegie Building which is now part of City Hall, it plans to draw attention to the library's earlier roots. One of the stories in my An Historian's Notebook relates to the history of the Mechanics Institute.

OLYMPIC CLUB – Peterborough business and professional men who chartered a steamer for an annual stag excursion to Stony Lake on May 24. Scenic beauties were enjoyed pictorially at table on shipboard, according to Hoyle, with pauses at ports of call for the stretching of legs at conveniently placed rails. Always recrowned as Queen of the Cuisine was Mrs. John Holmes, dinner hostess at Burleigh Falls, whose famed lemon pie moved the tiredest business man to rhythmical outbursts which were unrecognized in the selection of "Lyric Poetry" for standard Canadian anthologies.

I have nothing to add.

OPERA HOUSE, BRADBURN'S – Upstairs theatre heated with large box stoves. World-renowned stars of stage and screen appeared on its stage. The democratic niceties were preserved by interspersed billings of Marks (not Marx) Brothers, who saw to it that the tastes of the Common Man were served and that he was not pushed around by the Highbrow Elite.

Choate seems to be mixing memories of Bradburn's Opera House and the Grand Opera House. Bradburn's was on the third floor of the building next to the Market Hall, and was demolished at the time Peterborough Square was built in 1974. The Grand Opera House, built in 1905 and demolished in 1941, was near George and King and is now the site of the Venue. The Marks Brothers played at the Grand, but probably not Bradburn's.

ORIENTAL BUS – Horse-drawn hotel conveyance that met all the trains, visitors being welcomed by the genial Paddy Carroll.

The Oriental Hotel was Peterborough's best hotel from the 1870s to 1910; Peter Lillico's law firm is in a fragment of that hotel on Hunter Street just west of George Street. In the years around 1910, a train carrying mail arrived every hour of the day. Peterborough had two train stations. The Canadian Pacific station is now home to the Chamber of Commerce; the rail yards of the Midland / Grand Trunk / Canadian National station at Charlotte and Bethune was replaced in the 1970s by three apartment buildings. Several hotels ran buses to the train stations.

PALACE SCOW – A large flat-bottomed watercraft towed by steamers on the Trent. On ordinary occasions it was merely a "scow", being used to carry cordwood or slabs. On excursion days when it was used for dancing, it rose to its full dignity of "palace scow."

POINT, COVER POINT – Defence section of a hockey team in the days when seven men played a full hour, "spares" being used only to replace men killed in action.

RED MILLS – Popular name for the mills at Nassau, an objective of intrepid, long-distance marathoners of the high-wheel bicycle era.

These were located on the site of Trent University until they were moved to what is now Crary Park in the late 1890s, where they stood until the 1970s, most recently as part the lumber operations of Scott Lumber and later of Beaver Lumber.

ROUND TRIP – Scenic tour (adult fare five cents) on open, cross-seated trolley-car, starting from any given point on George Street and returning after completing a circuit between Rye's boathouse and a point opposite the Auburn [power house]. While waiting at a switch on the single-track line for "the other car" to arrive and pass, passengers had time to catch their breaths. Oft of a summer night might be heard the cry "Bang goes another dime" as a gay young blade with Scottish abandon invited his beloved to enjoy a second or third round. If atop this spending bee,

other dimes were blown on ice-creams (six for a quarter) at Long's or Potvin's, feminine public opinion began to crystallize in a conviction that Darby and Joan were now "keeping steady company" and that something serious was afoot – though, for goodness' sake, it was beyond understanding what she could see in one of those clotted Darbies (or vice versa). What if the more cynical young males did mutter that the Toonerville trolley was a regular "man-trap"? In any case, it is to romantic midsummer night dreams on the round trip that many of the substantial Peterborough families of today may trace their genesis.

TALLYMAN, The – Operator of a popcorn, peanut and candy wagon at George and Hunter Streets before potato chips and French-fries were invented.

TEN CENT STORE – Jack Butcher's, the prototype of stores in the vast chains of today. At Butcher's was a stock embracing every conceivable kind of ancient and modern merchandise piled and suspended in bewildering complexity. Even if equipped with a super-divining rod, a buyer might – or might not – find any given article at any given time.

Anne Heideman wrote a delightful story on the experience of shopping at Johnny Butcher's store on Brock Street; his store is now a part of the Irwin Sargent and Lowes building.

TOLLGATE – Road barrier at which horse and buggy riders "stood and delivered" in the crude fashion which antedated the refinements of the Abbott budget.

This is probably an allusion the old Gravel Road, now Clonsilla street, but I am uncertain of where the tollgate stood.

WRIGHTON'S STORE – George Street merchandising centre, wherein leading intellectuals of earlier days were wont to gather about the stove to work out important protocols of Church and State.

This store was on the west side of George Street just south of Brock.

YORK, MUDDY (also known as Fort Rouille and Hogtown) – A geographical place supported for many years by Peterborough's exports of millionaires. It now nourishes itself by devouring its suburban young. It is situated on the Don, the world's thickest river, and has an island frontage consisting of a long strip of dry, hot sand with rich deposits of chlorine. Muddy York's Arts and Letters have now been put on a sound business basis and natives are convinced that they are living at the centre around which Mr. Einstein's new theory gravitates.

This is an allusion to Toronto, and to the careers of George A. Cox, Joesph W. Flavell and others who went from Peterborough and reshaped the business history of the city. It is a cute allusion to the theory of relativity, and implies that Peterborough men were very important.

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Light refreshments will be served



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CAPTAIN ROLLINS & HIS PLATES

An important part of many Christian religious services is the receiving of monetary offerings from attendees. In many churches, collection plates are passed throughout the congregation. These plates are often made of wood or metal; some are plain, some are elaborate or ornate. Usually they circulate quickly, often without really being noticed by the people placing their contributions in them.

St Andrew's United Church has a very special set of six collection plates. They are not gold or silver or jewel-encrusted, so what makes them extraordinary? The answer is that these plates were made from the 1,000-year-old wood of an oak tree planted during the reign of William the Conqueror after his conquest of England. Using words and images, local historian Don Willcock will tell the unusual story of how a Presbyterian church in Peterborough, Ontario, came to have such unique items. Learn about how the Reverend Captain James Rollins, minister at St Andrew's (1910-23) and a chaplain in the Canadian Expeditionary Force during World War I, commissioned the "William the Conqueror Oak Plates" and presented them to his church when he returned from overseas. As well as hearing their story, you will be able to examine Captain Rollins' plates for yourself – including their decorative carving, and the many tiny holes left in the original wood by worms.

There is no admission charge for this illustrated presentation, but donations will be accepted – in the Conqueror Oak Plates, of course. Proceeds from the evening will be put toward maintaining the historic archival and artifact collection of St Andrew's United Church. Light refreshments and social time will be in the Church Hall after the presentation.

**Sunday, 29 May 2011
7:00 – 9:00 p.m.**

St Andrew's United Church sanctuary

Doors Open 2011 takes a sporting look

From early times to the present, Peterborough's sportsmen and fans found sanctuary at the east end of the Hunter Street bridge. There was the cricket ground and the riverside park. The Peterborough Amateur Athletic Association (PAAA) was there by 1883. The cricket field became a residential street in 1903, but the nearby lawn bowling green lasted to 1928. After the building of the concrete bridge, the former industrial park became recreational, and included more baseball and the tennis club, and later the city's only outdoor swimming pool. The area has changed dramatically, but sports is still spoken here. Tour will be led by historian Elwood Jones of the Trent Valley Archives, September 24 and 25.

There are several sites and tours being arranged for the two days of Doors Open 2011. For details see http://www.doorsopenontario.on.ca/userfiles/HTML/nts_1_13049_1.html