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Cover photo: *Empress Hotel in the 1920s; a postcard from the Trent Valley Archives Electric City Collection (TVA 1767)*



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President's Corner



Some new items on display at TVA. Look for them at our open house, September 10, 1-4 pm.

It's a busy time at the TVA with our tour season in full swing. We launched a new tour this year "Murder on the Rue George". TVA Archivist and local historian Dr. Elwood Jones led the tours and provided all the despicable details along with insightful historical perspective on Peterborough's Victorian era murders.

Our Eerie Ashburnham Ghost Walks are back Friday evenings in August. On September 11 & 25 we feature the "Women's History Tour" in Little Lake Cemetery. October 21 is our famous "Little Lake Cemetery Twilight Pageant" while our "Downtown Ghost Walk" is held on October 20, 25, 26 & 27.

With so many great tours to choose from why not gather 15 people (business, teams, friends or family) and arrange a private tour?

TVA is a great source for local family and historical research, photos, maps and books. The latest book to be published by TVA will feature postcards and will be launched this fall.

With so much more going on than I can cover in this column I invite you to drop in, follow us on Twitter, like us on FaceBook, subscribe to our digital newsletter and visit our web site at www.trentvalleyarchives.com for all the latest news.

Rick Meridew

President of the Board of Directors

Italian Immigration to Peterborough: the overview

Elwood H. Jones



Elwood Jones at the Italian Heritage Night. (Ron Briegel)

There have been many exciting ideas about what inspired people to cross the Atlantic and settle in a New World, far from the world of comfort.

The question seemed especially pertinent when looking at 17th century immigrants to Virginia and Maryland, at a time of particularly low life expectancy in the Chesapeake area. The process was complex. Many people were forced to leave because their landlords changed direction, and decided that enclosing land for sheep was the wave of the future. As historians looked closely at what had happened, these emigrants had been migrants moving from one village or town to another in search of employment. When they reached Bristol, the crossing of the Atlantic was just another move. Interestingly, in America there were further trips of varying lengths.

When the workers in Alston, in Cumberland, decided to come to Canada, they too organized as a group, and sought ways to go to Canada. When they arrived in 1818, they were the first group of European immigrants to settle in what became Peterborough County. The movement was set in motion because of the end of a century of warfare with France, and a sudden decline in the demand for lead, the area's leading economic export.

When the Irish came to Peterborough in 1825 there were interesting variables, because uncharacteristically the emigration was heavily supported financially and administratively by the British government. That changed the economic threshold of who might dream of coming to America. But the basic facts remained. The emigrants consulted with their families.

In times of less government support, the emigration of the Irish was to England, Scotland or

America, often in a series of steps, and always as opportunities emerged.

The first emigrants from a community opened opportunities for those who remained. Some would gain because of increased employment opportunities when fewer people were looking for jobs. Some would follow the original emigrants to their final destination, where they would be assisted by friends and relatives. The assistance might come from a place to stay, briefly or for a longer period, and from help in getting employment or making connections with new friends. This chain migration came to define the most common experiences.

Surprisingly, this was as true with the Irish who came with Peter Robinson, or the English who came from Wiltshire in the 1830s. Sandford Fleming's first Canadian home was in Peterborough with his Scots cousin, Dr. Hutchison.

The last few weeks I have been considering the Italian immigrants who came here from the 1880s to the 1910s. Some of the similar themes emerged.

Emigration was primarily driven by economic opportunities, or people's perceptions of such. Sometimes, the push is from declining opportunities in the immediate area. Sometimes the pull is the belief in good opportunities elsewhere. Emigration tended to be a series of comparatively short moves before the move from the main port.

Emigration tended to be a strategy that was defined by families and friends. By the 19th century, whether we are talking about Ireland, Scandinavia, Germany or even Italy, overwhelmingly emigration is a family strategy.

Between 1860 and 1920, about 15% of the population in the United States (and in Ontario) tended to be foreign born. Immigrants tend to migrate as young adults, and predominantly young males. The young emigrant prepares the way for the subsequent migration of family members, even the parents, and friends.

Italian emigration tended to come later, not really beginning until the 1870s, and then largely because of the economic dislocations that had occurred following Italian unification in the 1860s. The wars had caused devastation to southern agricultural lands, and the resources of the Church and leading landowners was unable to create new job opportunities. This opened agricultural opportunities for northern farmers. Italian emigration tended to come from towns and rural areas south and east of Rome.

As John E. Zucchi, noted in his *Italians in Toronto*, "Hundreds of thousands of emigrants left

each region for a nearby city, another country, or another continent during the century following Italian unification.” (13) He said the motivations for migrations, called *miseria*, included “rising population levels, lack of industry, unproductive land, scarcity of resources, high taxes, acts of God.” Between 1896 and 1915, about 16 million Italians left for elsewhere.

Zucchi noted that in Toronto, three Little Italys emerged following. Each attracted immigrants from the same town. The first itinerant traders, such as fruit vendors, street musicians, and trades people introduced an Italian presence. The *padrone* system, the network of labour agents, brought workers from the many villages of Italy, sometimes as sojourners rather than settlers, who often worked on major construction projects and then returned to Italy. Historians have noted that most emigrants expected to stay in America for short periods, and then use their accumulated wealth from working for higher wages than they would have received in their homeland, to live more comfortably where they had been raised. Before 1915, it is difficult to estimate the number of sojourners, but in 1902, one estimate was that of the 4,000 Italians tied to Toronto, 3,000 were sojourners spending their winters in Italy. In 1913, there may have been 5,000 sojourners in an Italian population of 14,000.

The third major factor in creating the Little Italys was the chain migration. In the years before World War I, nearly every Italian home had a boarder; several had as many as twenty boarders.

It has been difficult to document the Italian presence in Peterborough but here too it was important to establish a presence. Some of the early workers came to work on major construction projects, such as the building of the Canadian Pacific Railway lines here, 1883-1885. More significant, the construction of the concrete locks and the Lift Lock attracted Italian workers who had worked under the *padrone* system in Illinois, where the building of the canal between Lake Michigan and the Mississippi was the first concrete canal; the Trent Canal in the Peterborough area was the second.

By 1921, there were 345 Italians in Peterborough. A preliminary and partial probe of the 1921 census suggests that there was a Little Italy already, centred mainly on Elm Street. I have in the past 15 years looked at the Italians in Peterborough, and I was skeptical about the suggestion that Peterborough had a Little Italy. However, in reading about the Italians in other cities, I notice that the definition of a Little Italy does not denote exclusivity, and that Italians might be spread over several blocks intermixed with other communities, possibly European. Peterborough's Elm Street had a strong

Irish and English character over parts of the street. But the Italian community had a central meeting spot, 519 Elm, that was linked to the Minnecola family over three generations. This was the place that provided the connections with potential and actual immigrants from the home town area in Italy. Sometimes people lived there or in the immediate area, and people received information about getting jobs, with the city or with major employers. This matches the expectations in other Little Italys. However, there is still more research to be done.



This attractive building at the corner of Park and Elm (now Hopkins) was built in the 1870s, and was linked with the Lynch family. It was a bookend to the Little Italy that stretched over parts of the next two blocks to the west. (Elwood Jones)

Appendix: Some notes on Italian immigration:

A. Immigration trends to North America

In the broad picture, the story of immigration is usually told in terms of the push and pull factors. With respect to Italy, the incentives to leave seem to date after 1860s and the unification of Italy, a series of events tied to Garibaldi.

It has been observed that the army (and perhaps the navy) were major organizations that required workers with a great variety of skills. These were the first large scale employers, and the logistics of administration, management, logistics, fighting and occupation required people with varied skills. The demobilization of the military and naval machines led to emigration from the British Isles for example after 1815, the end of what had been a veritable 100 years war between Britain and France, beginning really about 1689. There were a few periods for catching one's collective breath, and then the next phase of war began.

After 1815, the end of war led to many adjustments. With demobilization, more people had pensions, but there was also a reduction of industries that had been tied to war: iron, weapons, and clothing. Some of these industries could retool for a civilian market, but there was widespread displacement.

For a generation at least, say 1815 to 1860, a great deal of British emigration was assisted by landlords, by community organizations and by the British government. Even so, the bulk, perhaps 80%, of emigration was driven by individuals and families.

With respect to Peterborough as a pull factor, one has to see this within the broad picture.

For many people interested in construction work, there were major construction projects that would attract new immigrants. For example, between 1817 and 1826, the construction of the Erie Canal was a magnet for workers. The management of large construction projects was modeled, less some formalities, on the military organizations.



During the years before 1920, Italians did not dominate the emigration scene. Still Italians did reach Peterborough attracted by projects such as the building of the Canadian Pacific Railway, 1883-1885 in our area, and with the building of the Trent Canal, and especially the Lift Lock, in the Lakefield to Peterborough stretch, 1896-1905. Some of these were seasonal workers who returned home after the construction season ended, especially if recruited under the padrone system.

However, early Italian immigrants showed up as grocers, the fruit trade and market gardening. People were on the move in the nineteenth century far more than is usually realized. With the exception of the rich and the poor, people moved mainly looking for employment. If they did well, they might still move, often to their native lands where they could build a fine house. Historians claim, for example, that in 1908 more Italians left from the United States than entered it.

B. Immigration Statistics to USA

The total foreign-born went from about 3 million in 1870 to 7.5 million by 1910; then remained steady to 1940 and then declined to 4 million in 1970. The peak for ages 15-29 was 1910; for 30-39, 1920; for 40-49, 1930; for 50-59, 1940; for 60-69, 1950; for 70-79, 1960.

As the 19th century passed there was a major shift as emigrants were less likely to come from western and northern Europe and more likely to come from southern and eastern Europe. Since 1965, the main source of immigrants to the USA has been from Latin America and Asia. The American Census collected information on country of birth by 1829; and by country of last residence, after 1941.

The number of immigrants born in Italy declined drastically beginning in early 1970s; the number of people who were in Italy before emigrating rose in mid-to late 1980s. Many emigrants in more recent years spend time in several countries before reaching the USA and Canada.

However, even in earlier periods (before 1900), people moved from town to town before finally sailing from a major port to America.

Many factors contribute to the patterns and shifts in migration. Economic opportunities; quest for religious and individual freedom

- location of economic opportunities: always reason for coming to America but timing affected by perceptions of opportunities in Europe; e.g. Irish potato famine 1845-1849 sparked migration to Scotland, England and America; big attraction of building railways, canals and highways
- Sometimes the improvement in ocean transportation which led to great exports in wheat, for example, led farmers in wheat-producing areas of Europe to emigrate; e.g. Polish and Hungarian plains, and Romanian wheatlands shifted from exporting to importing between 1865 and 1875, one decade.
- "Mass emigration out of Italy took place in the aftermath of a war for national unification, which left farmlands in the south of the country in ruins and no alternative source of support either from the Church or from large landowners." (1-533)

Emigration from particular countries follow inverted U patterns, unless regulations either by the receiving countries or the countries of origin have distorted patterns.

- Economic or political dislocation in first phase
- Emigration speeds up in second phase as friends and family can benefit from those who left in first phase; e.g. first phase send money home; provide temporary living arrangement; information about jobs
- Emigration levels off when saturation point reached; fewer left to leave; fewer with ability or incentive to move; there are better opportunities at home because of the exodus of some

Emigration by annual averages [over five years] by country of departure, 1846-1925 [Ad 42 Italy] Note inverse U peaking at 1906-1910

| | |
|-----------|---------|
| 1881-1885 | 64,043 |
| 1886-1891 | 134,235 |
| 1891-1895 | 150,226 |
| 1896-1900 | 165,692 |
| 1901-1905 | 320,604 |
| 1906-1910 | 402,436 |
| 1911-1915 | 312,246 |
| 1916-1920 | 126,572 |
| 1921-1925 | 167,887 |

Immigrants by country of last residence [Italy Ad117]

Before 1870, only 10 years in previous 50 when more than 1,000 in a year
 Between 1870 and 1875, the numbers annually ranged from 3,000 to 8,000 per year
 Between 1880 and 1899, the figures ranged between 12,000 and 78,000 a year
 Between 1900 and 1914, the annual migrations varied from 100,000 to 285,000
 Except for 1921 [222,260] the annual number never

exceeded 100,000; however, fairly high numbers in early 1920s [average 60,000]; 1955-1975 [average 20-25,000; note 1955 and 1956 were 30,000 and 40,000 respectively]

Foreign born population by country of birth, 1850-1990 (in USA born in Italy) [Ad 354-443; Italy Ad401]

| | |
|------|-----------|
| 1850 | 3,679 |
| 1860 | 11,677 |
| 1870 | 17,157 |
| 1880 | 44,230 |
| 1890 | 182,580 |
| 1900 | 484,027 |
| 1910 | 1,343,125 |
| 1920 | 1,610,113 |
| 1930 | 1,790,429 |
| 1940 | ---- |
| 1950 | 1,427,952 |
| 1960 | 1,256,999 |
| 1970 | 1,008,533 |
| 1980 | 831,922 |
| 1990 | 580,592 |

C. Immigration statistics from 1921 printed census

The 1921 printed census provides a convenient opportunity to assess the Italian immigration (and that of other nationalities if we chose to do so.) The great value of the census is that it attempts to capture everybody, and while there might be some gaps, no other source is as valuable to understanding our history. The census was taken every ten years, and is generally useful from 1851 (really 1852).

In the 1921 census discussions on immigration, and related topics, were captured in Tables 22 to 30 in volume 1, which focused on Population issues.

Table 22 Origins in 1921, 1911 and 1901 showing the proportion of the population tied to the main origins. The population of Italians rose from 10,834 to 45,411 to 66,769, and in the respective censuses Italians counted for .20%, .63% and .76%. In terms of what the census described as "European races", these percentages were exceeded by French, Hebrew, and Scandinavian populations.

Table 23 Population in 1921, 1911 and 1901 classified according to principal origins.

D. Immigration information from the personal census 1921

Some Italians noted in the 1921 personal census.

| | | |
|-------------------|------|---------|
| Joseph Minnicola | , 33 | 537 Elm |
| Thomas Ammole | | 541 Elm |
| Antonio Stinson | 31 | 541 Elm |
| Louis Younos | | 549 Elm |
| Leonard Campanaro | | 553 Elm |
| Donato Cassians | | 497 Elm |

[described as brother of Nicolas Minnicola, and his son]

| | | |
|----------------------|-----------|---------------------|
| Nicolas Minnecola | 519 Elm | emig 1886; nat 1903 |
| Joseph Vitarelle | 501 Elm | emig 1913, nat 1920 |
| Dominic Delarochetta | 490 Elm | emig 1911 |
| Rocco Morraco | 516 Elm | emig 1904, nat 1921 |
| John Magnany | 390 Queen | emig 1920 |
| Gus Cavalier | 17 | 330 Water |
| | | emig 1905 |

Table 24 Population classified according to racial origin by provinces, 1921

This allows the comparison of the provinces, and what is evident is that nearly 50% of the Italians were in Ontario. The numbers rose from 5,233 to 21,265 to 33,355.

Table 25 Population, male and female, classified according to racial origins by provinces.

In Canada, Italian men outnumbered Italian women, 39,722 to 27,047; in Ontario, 19,841 to 13,514. In both cases, male accounted for 59.5% of the Italian population; female, 40.5%.

Table 26 Population, male and female, racial origin and constituency boundaries.

Peterborough had two constituencies, and Peterborough was in Peterborough West, and Lakefield was in Peterborough East. The Italian population was entirely urban. In Peterborough East, there were 26 males, and 7 females; in Peterborough West, there were 183 males and 170 females. The total Italian population in Peterborough East and West was 386.

Table 27 Populations classified according to principal origins by counties and their subdivisions. The 386 Italians were found only in Peterborough (345); Lakefield (29); Chandos (4); Monaghan North (6); and Smith (2).

In Peterborough, there were more English, Irish, Scotch, and Dutch; while there were 340 Native Indians; 236 German; and 145 Hebrew.

Table 28 Population of cities and towns over 2,500 classified according to racial origin, 1921

In the city of Peterborough the 345 were divided: 179 males and 166 females. It is noteworthy that the proportions are closer to equal than for Canada or Ontario.

Table 29 Racial origin of the Canadian born by provinces, 1921.

In Ontario, there were 14,129 Italians born in Canada; less than half the number born in Italy, perhaps 146 in Peterborough if we can extrapolate.

Table 30 Racial origin of those born in the United States and resident in Canada, 1921

There were 1,013 American born Italians, of which 500 were male, and 513 female.

moulder, Lock Works

labourer, City

labourer, city wife Uliana, 32 emig 1904

labourer, Water Works wife emig 1909

labourer, City wife also emig 1901

labourer, factory

Son

machinist, foundry

storekeeper wife emig 1904

labourer, Cereal Co wife emig 1911

labourer, Cereal Co wife emig 1911

labourer wife emig 1909

toolmaker wife from France

| | | | | |
|-------------------|-----------------|---------------------|------------------------|---------------------|
| Louis Anthony | 323 Water | emig 1882 | carter | others born Ontario |
| Joseph Longo | 87 Hunter | emig 1906 | fruit dealer wholesale | wife emig 1907 |
| Nicholas Renyatta | 217 Charlotte | emig 1901, nat 1904 | fruit store merchant | "Italian Catholic" |
| Antonio T. Strano | 206 ½ Charlotte | emig 1900, nat 1921 | shop | wife emig 1912 |
| Frank Marino, 66 | 283 ½ George | emig 1883 | merchant | wife, 45 |

Observations: it would be possible to find all 345 Italians in the city.

Emigration Pattern 1880s, 3; no 1890s; 1900 to 1913, 11; post 1918 1; of 17, only 7 naturalized

In only 3 cases, wife emigrated same time as husband.

Those on Elm Street generally labourers; those in downtown core tended to shops; note carter and toolmaker

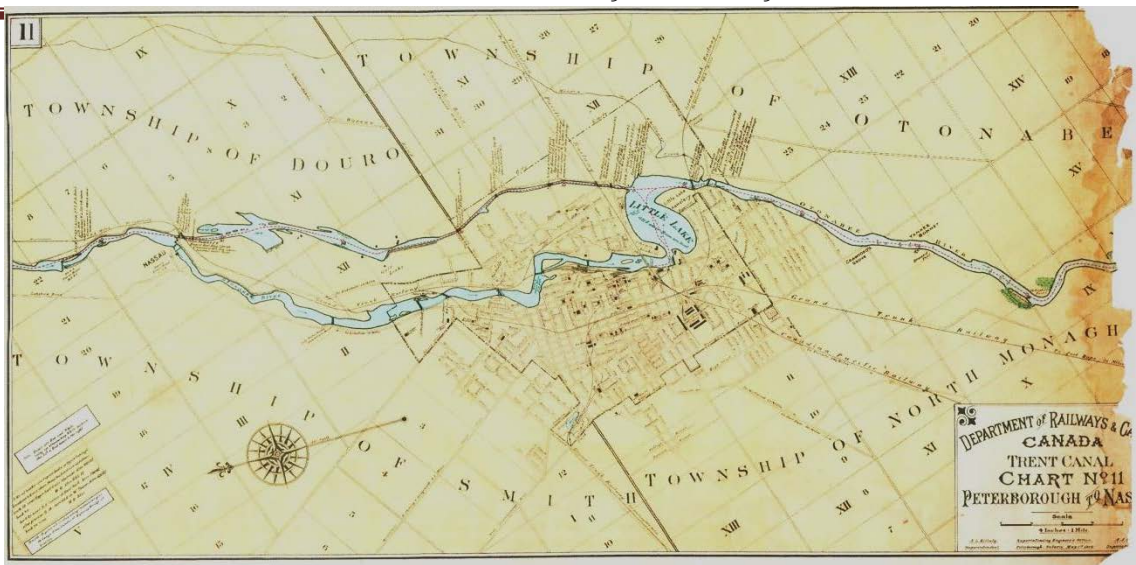
E. Information from the street directories

From the street directory, might identify others to search on the personal census.

E.g. 1925 directory

Alberico, Edward, labourer, h, 560 Donegal
 Amor, George E., carpenter, CGE, h 489 Elm
 Angelo, January, lab, h 378 McDonnell
 Anthony, Louis, carter, 322 Water; h 322 Water
 Anthony, Thomas, grocer, 91 Hunter East, h 472 Rogers
 [not 428 Mark yet, W. T. Wilson, traveler was]
 Arcus, Christine, wks Can Woollens, b 520 Cambridge
 Asta, Carmen, wks Gas Works, h 515 Parnell
 Asta, Frank (Asta Brothers), h 206 Charlotte Fruits,
 Vegetables, Fish, 206 Charlotte and 305 George
 Asta, Peter (Asta Brothers), 515 Parnell
 Bassiano, Eusebia, lab, h 317 Smith
 Caccavella, Bibrona (wid Jos), 506 Elm
 Caccavella, Michael, wks Quaker Oats, h 506 Elm
 Campanaro, Donata, clk D. M. Minicolo, 553 Elm
 Campanaro, Leonardo, wks Peterborough Lock Co, h 553 Elm
 Campanaro, Louis, h 553 Elm
 Caravaggie, Carmen M, lab, h 338 Smith
 Caravaggie, Dominic, lab, h 495 Albert
 Cavano, Wilfred, wks CGE, h 60 Orpington rd
 Chietti, E. wks Peterborough Lock Co, h 561 Chamberlain
 Christo, James, wks CPR, h e s Western av
 Clementi, Charles H. Journalist, h 456 Monaghan rd
 Clementi, Fred V. chief clerk CNR freight office, h 335 Stewart
 Clementi, Georgie, cashier, J M Greene Music, 335 Stewart
 Clementi, Mary E F, h 357 Stewart
 Costello, Daniel A., trav. 271 William
 Costello, Mrs Lydia, 271 William
 Costello, Michael, chef, b American Hotel
 Costello, Rev Paul (St. Peter's), h 411 Reid, phone 23
 Crago, Mrs Ethel, 694 Water
 Cupoli, Alice, opr, 529 Elm
 Cupoli, Geo, salesman, D M Minicolo, 529 Elm
 Cupoli, John, wks city, h 529 Elm
 Cupoli, Louis, moulder, Adam Hall co, h 503 Elm
 Cupoli, Lucy, wks Pet Lock Co, 529 Elm
 Cupoli, Mary, wks Pet Lock Co, 529 Elm
 Cupoli, Thomas, wks Western Clock, 529 Elm
 DeCarlo, Florinda, wks CGE, h 543 Parnell
 DeCarlo, Nichls, lab, h, 583 Downie
 DeCarlo, Rosie, wks Quaker Oats, 543 Parnell
 DeCarlonis, Peter, fruit dlr, h 206 Perry
 Delpellaro, Nicholas, lab, h, 78 Park s
 Demas, Benj, lab h 20 Park n
 Demas, Leona, clk, 20 Park n

Douros, Nich, prop Albion Sweet's, h 374 ½ George
 Dutelle, Harry, marble ctr, h 377 Mark
 Eano, Frank, (Lane & Eano, furniture and undertakers, 186 Hunter W), h. 189 Brock
 Ego, John P., carpenter, h 93 Gladstone av
 Ego, Lucy, 93 Gladstone av
 Febbo, Nicholas, fruits 434 George, h 493 Parnell
 Gabbutt, Albert E. carpenter, h, 573 Patterson
 Gabbutt, Harry, printer, Nashua Paper Works, h 311½ George
 Gettas, Peter, salesman, Albion Sweet's, 374½ George
 Giardini, Carman, wks, Quaker Oats, h 502 Parnell
 Giardini, Mauro, lab, h 508 Parnell
 Giardini, Nicholas, wks, Quaker Oats, h 557 Romaine
 Grovelle, Peter, carpenter, h 250 McGill
 Guidal, A. E. , mgr Sales Service Co., b 116 Dublin
 Gunsolus, Charles E., (Gunsolus & Co, hrns, 176 Hunter W), h 544 Water
 Gunsolus, Harry, (Gunsolus & Co), h 582 Water
 Lazure, Amelia (wid Arthur), h 554 Romaine
 Lazure, Antione, roofer, h 485 McDonnell
 Lazure, Joseph, carpenter, h 70 Aylmer s
 Lazure, Margaret, cashier, Capitol Theatre, 554 Romaine
 Lenourette, Fred, wks De Laval co, h 15 Brown
 Leobald, M. chef Empress Hotel, 251 George
 Leobald, Leonard, Alfd, b 306 Stewart
 Leobald, Daniel, ws, Ont Marble Works, h 111 Sophia
 Leobald, Emile, wks Ont Marble Works, h 303 Mark
 Longo, Joseph, gro & fruits, 87 Hunter w, h same
 Lucano, Frank, lath hd CGE, 513 Albert
 Lucano, Harry, elect eng CGE, h 513 Albert
 Lucano, Michael A., gro 618 Aylmer n, h 616 Aylmer n
 Malara, Dominic, clk, B R Strano, Gilchrist
 Marangoni, Albert, shoe repair, 121 Hunter St w, h 630 George
 Marino, Frank (estate), grocer & confectionary 25 George (at Lake)
 Marino, Angeline (wid Frank), h 25 George
 Marino, Elizabeth, clk, 25 George
 Marino, Frank, clk, 25 George
 Mattucci, Camilio, wks, Quaker Oats co, h 530 Chamberlain
 Mattucci, Guido, wks Quaker Oats, h 530 Chamberlain
 Meeko, Alex, mach, h 167 Brock
 Meeko, Andrew, carpenter, h 336 Euclid
 Meeko, Bruce, lab, h 32 Ware
 Meeko, Finlay, shpr, Western Clock, h 263 Armour rd
 Meeko, Fred, wks, J E A Fitzgerald, h 212 ½ Hunter w
 Meeko, John, h 332 Euclid ave
 Meeko, Nathan, h 211 Carlisle av
 Memmo, Dominic, lab, h 455 Elm
 Miccolo, Vito, lab, h 97 Park s



Minard, Jos, barber G Irwin, h 206 Westcott
 Minicolo, D. M., fruits and fish, 410 ½ George Street
 Minicolo, D. M. h, 175 Lock St
 Minicolo, Jos, lab h 189 Stewart
 Minicolo, Jos, moulder, Pet Lock Co, h 537 Elm
 Minicolo, Lenardo, lab, 189 Stewart
 Minicolo, Leonard, gro w s Erskine av, h same
 Minicolo, Michael, stable man, Empress Hotel, 189 Stewart
 Minicolo, Rose, lvs L. Minicolo
 Minicolo, T Fred, salesman, D M Minicolo, 175 Lock
 Minicolo, Victor, clerk, D M Minico, 175 Lock
 Morrocco, Rocco, wks Quaker Oats, h 516 Elm
 Murty, Anthony, cigar mfr, 172½ Hunter w, h 380 Brock
 Murty, James, stoves, 180 Hunter w, h 380 Brock
 Murty, Mary, 380 Brock
 Murty, Michael, 380 Brock
 Nassimoka, Jacob, fish dealer, 466 George, h same
 Nassimoka, Joseph, jr, 466 George
 Pepe, Alex, Electric Shoe Repair Shop, 311 George Street
 Pepe, Alfred S, grocer, 519 Elm, h same
 Pue, Luella, wks Quaker Oats, b 549 Bethune ?
 Raffi, Gasparo, lab, h 290 Smith
 Renzetti & Co, shoe repairs, 215 Charlotte
 Renzetti, Nicolo, fruit dealer, h 301 Louis
 Ronco, Frank, wks Quaker Oats, 544 Donegal
 Ronco, Joseph, wks Pet Cereal Co, h 544 Donegal
 Ronco, Mary, wks Can Woollens Ltd, 544 Donegal
 Ronco, Matouch, wks Pet Lock Co, 544 Donegal
 Ronco, Phillip, wks Pet Lock Co, 544 Donegal
 Rongo, Dominic, wks DeLaval Co, h 553 Bolivar
 Santomari, Nicholas, Quaker Oats, h 494 Sherbrooke
 Schiarezza, Joseph grocer, 656 Reid, h same
 Shambo, Dena, cook, Cressman's, 324 Charlotte
 Shiarizza, Frank, lab, h 582 Bethune
 Spargo, Harry J. , foreman, P R Ry, h 215 Stewart
 Strano, B. R., wholesale fruits and vegetables, 252-256
 Charlotte and 416 George
 Tetro, Julia (wid John), 531½ Park n
 Veneranda, M. shoe repair, h 166 Simcoe
 Vitarelli, Joseph, wks Quaker Oats, h 541 Elm
 Yacko, John grocer, h 262 Simcoe

Conclusions

In my study of Elm Street, from 2000 to 2002, and published in the *Heritage Gazette of the Trent Valley*, I compared the street directories for 1888, 1937 and 1954. My conclusion was that Elm Street seemed most dominated by Italians in 1937. Of course, it also would help to know where else the Italians centred, and the ways in which Italians in different parts of the city shared experiences.

The experience of Italians in Peterborough was not unlike that of those in Toronto. As John E. Zucchi observes: "Each Italian townsgroup in Toronto, therefore, developed its own particular map with specific focal points within the city. One townsgroup did not dominate any of the streets in the three Little Italies, and no townsgroup lived entirely on one street. The key residential areas or streets of the *paesani* - the boardinghouse for sojourners and bethrothed, the homes of the prominent men of the community - were all components of these mental maps, the products of the chain migration of the townspeople from their homes in Italy to Toronto...." (p. 59)

Peterborough's Little Italy, Elm Street, had the *paesani*. However Italians did not dominate all of Elm Street, and there were nodes of Italian settlement elsewhere in Peterborough. Having read Zucchi, I now think we had only one Little Italy in Peterborough. Gina Martin observed that most of the Italians on Elm Street came from the Abruzzi region. But it would be helpful to know more about the hometowns of the Italians who settled in Peterborough. What other towns might have sent people to Peterborough? Perhaps, we will have that tonight.

The Trent Canal plan for the Peterborough to Nassau section (above) shows quite a bit of detail about the city as well. It includes the street railway lines, the CNR and CPR lines; key landmarks. This is the earliest Trent Canal plan in Trent Valley Archives. Thanks to Dave Edgerton and our donor.

Italian-Canadians of Peterborough, Ontario First wave 1880 – 1925

Researched/Written by Berenice Pepe

Presented by Peter McConkey, Friday, June 10, 2016

There are two parts to my talk on the 1st wave on Italians in Peterborough: “Italian-Canadians of Peterborough, Ontario”. The first part comprised of a wall exhibit that included over 200 banners, maps, name plates, newspaper clippings images curated from my research and 2 made – to – measure patterns by an Italian tailor. The red white and green colours used throughout the display form the tri-colore; the three constituent colors of the Italian flag. There are many references throughout my presentation to this wall exhibit. The other part, the talk, immediately follows this foreword.



Karen Hicks introducing Berenice Pepe (Ron Briegel)

Good Evening Ladies and Gentlemen or, as we would say in la bella lingua italiana: Buona Sera, Signore e Signori. The subject of my talk this evening is Italian immigration to the Peterborough region and my goal is to introduce you to the first wave of Italian immigrants who chose to settle here in Peterborough between 1880 - 1925. It is both a pleasure and a privilege for me to do so as I am a descendant, on both my parents' side of Italian immigrants. My father was Antonio Mauro Amerigo Pepe, known by everyone in his adopted town of Peterborough as *Tony Pepe the Tailor*. Antonio emigrated from the town of Bellosguardo in the province of Salerno and arrived via Halifax in March 1926. My mother Mary Marino was born in Peterborough. Her father Francesco Paolo was born in Polla, while her mother Angelina Gallo, was born in Castelabate, both from the Province of Salerno. They met and married in Peterborough.

In the course of this talk, I will touch on the following aspects of this subject: where these immigrants came from, who they were, what kind of lives they led and, finally, what contributions they made to enrich our city. It would be useful, perhaps,

to provide you with some historical background on the country we now know as Italy and its people. The Italian ethnic group in Canada originated in a country that is both ancient and relatively new. For almost fifteen centuries prior to the political unification of Italy, which occurred between 1861 and 1871, the same decade as our own Confederation, the majority of Italians lived in regions ruled by monarchs, popes and dukes.

In the 1860's, there were 8 separate states ruling the peninsula. There was no Italy yet.

The Italians who emigrated in the 1880s did not yet have a national identity. They did not recognize themselves as Italians. The building of a nation happened later. Not long after that period, they began to leave their homeland in significant numbers.

During the period we now term '*the first wave of Italian emigration*' which took place between 1880 and 1925, 22 million Italians left their homeland and immigrated to such places as Argentina, Venezuela, the U.S.A., Australia, Brazil and to a lesser extent, Canada. Many Italians first discovered Canada as part of their work route in the United States, and followed work opportunities northward into Canada. In that period, about 80% of the Italians who settled in Canada passed through the port of New York.

How do these two countries compare in size? Canada is 30 times larger in area than Italy, which is about 1100 km in length, roughly the distance between Ottawa, Ont. and St. John, N.B. In the present day, Italy is divided into 20 regions. Most of the early Italian immigrants who came to the Peterborough area came from the following regions: Sicily, Sardinia, Salerno. Campania, Calabria, Friuli, Apulia, Basilicata and Marche.

The very first Italians arrived in Peterborough about the middle of the 19th Century. The earliest documentary evidence that I found of an Italian in Peterborough was a Frank Anthony who appears in an 1852 Peterborough Directory, living on George St. Could this be the same Frank Anthony mentioned in an 1885 issue of the *Peterborough Examiner*, as a translator for a group of Italian men working in Norwood. The same issue of the newspaper also speaks of another Italian newcomer: my maternal grandfather, Francesco Paolo Marino, called Frank Marino, who was boarding with a group of Italian men on McDonnell St.

These first Italian immigrants to Canada in the late 19th century found work in mining, railway construction and other hazardous industries. In Peterborough, a number of them worked at the CGE, the Quaker Oats Mill, the Trent Canal, the City Waterworks, the CPR, the Grand Trunk Railway, (and a little later at the Westclox Co.,) the Albion Knitting, Buehler Brothers, Purity Bakers, DeLaval, Duffus Motors, Dominion Woollens, American House, and the City of Peterborough. Among these Italian pioneers, are the following names: DeNoble, Mattucci, Marrocco, Schiarizza, Basciano, Caravaggio, Lucano, D'Angelantonio, DeCarlo, Giardino, Strano, Vitarelli, Campanaro, Thompson, Rochetta, Aspero, DelPellaro and Gentile.

In 1910-1911, the federal Minister of Immigration, Clifton Sifton, established an order of preference for foreign immigrants. This preferential order was headed by: the British Isles, and Northern Europeans including Northern Italians. Making up the bottom of the order were Greeks, Jews, Asians, Southern Italians and black persons. For the Canadian Government, immigrants from Southern Italy were clearly less desirable. And yet these were the very people who were coming to Canada and entering the labour market. Even though, officially, Southern Italians were not desired candidates for Canadian settlement, Canada was in need of manual and unskilled labour. The Italians filled this need and so they were not deterred from coming to Canada, where they raised their families, established family-run businesses & became City employees & factory workers.

On December 11, 1916, a major fire broke out in the Quaker Oats plant in Peterborough, burned for 4 days and killed 23 persons. Of the 23 who died in the explosion & fire, were 3 Italians: Filippo Capone, Domenico Martino, & Vincenzo Fornaro.

In 1926 there were about fifty Italian families in this city of twenty thousand. By then, some of these immigrants had already been here 20 to 30 years, and so were well acquainted with the language, although their accents identified them as 'foreigners.' Many of them had already established businesses becoming an integral part of the Peterborough community. Many of these first Italians were already trained in their homeland in business or apprenticeships. However, these specialties were often not required here in Peterborough and so many had to find other forms of employment. But, they adapted and they succeeded! In addition to their daily employment, almost all families kept a garden producing a variety of fruits and vegetables and some raised poultry, in particular, chickens and pheasants. Money was certainly not in abundance for these Italian families and so a garden assisted in providing

supplemental income.



Peter McConkey speaking at the Italian Heritage Night. (Ron Briegel)

Six Italian gardeners were Attilio 'Eddie' Cichetti, Leonardo Minicola (Erskine Ave), Eusebio Basciano (some say Bass ee anno), Vincenzo Crebar, Florindo DeCarlo and Joe Chimenti. Proprio qui! Joe Chimenti's garden was located right here where we are meeting tonight. Joe Chimenti's farm stretched from Monaghan Road through to Park St. from Howden to Cameron for a total of 18 acres. From my interview with Chiarina Zimmaro – Chimenti, Joe's wife there were 100 houses built on Joe's original property when it was sold to a developer. Chiarina recalls putting in back-breaking hours so as not to lose the produce to hot summer days or to the frost of a cold autumn day.

Leonardo Minicola peddled his produce throughout the City to individual customers. Vincenzo Crebar's Farm on Ashburham Drive specialized in raising chickens, that were later offered as a dining experience at *Crebar's Chicken Palace* on Lansdowne St. East, where the Trentwinds is now. Those who worked in factories at least could rely on a steady but very modest income. Not so for these market-gardeners. I spoke with Joe Basciano recently and he recalled the family owned 3 garden plots. The kids went from door to door, selling vegetables and flowers grown in the Basciano greenhouse. The Bascianos also sold at the Market Hall.

The sixth of these market-gardeners was the DeCarlo family with a farm on Parnell Street, where they owned about an acre of land extending from the west end of Parnell St. to Monaghan Road. The DeCarlo kids also helped with the chores of picking, packing and delivering fruits and vegetables from door to door in a small wagon.

Many social events were planned and enjoyed by these families: chief among these events were marriages where, I hope, they played the accordion

and danced the tarantella and polka. Picnics, too, were a common occurrence, as well as socializing at each other's homes where they played *bocce* and card games (*tre sette* was particularly popular). Attilio Cichetti's farm on Highway No. 7 was a popular spot for these frequent Italian picnics. Usually after Sunday Mass, families would gather up whatever they could prepare. Some brought roasted peppers, chicken cacciatore, home-made bread, cheese, and home-made sausages. Carefully tucked out of sight was the home-made wine, as alcoholic beverages were illegal in parks. This was the only non-work day many of the men had, and they looked forward to leaving their personal problems behind them in order to enjoy time with family and friends.

As time went on, weddings became more frequent among the Italian immigrants, as their children grew of age. On the wall, two wedding photos feature traditional Italian weddings in Peterborough. One shows a family from the south end (the Cupoli-Giardino wedding) & the second a north-end couple, the Ronca-Menecola wedding. The red wool hanging down from each photo represents their children and spouses. It is believed that Joe Menecola, the youngest child was the first child born to Italian parents in Peterborough.

These Italian immigrants were a proud people who wished very much to be accepted in the new country they called 'home' and where they were raising and educating their children. And what better way to fit in than to speak the language of their adopted country? They tried their best to pronounce the English words they heard, but with their strong Italian accent, they created a new hybrid language '*Italese*.' *Italese* showed up in their daily conversations with neighbours. Italian is a free-flowing language and English caused great difficulty for these immigrants. Today, many Italian words have been adopted into our own language: pizza, ciabatta, espresso, biscotti, casino, pianoforte, maestro, cello opera, frittata.

The 1933 *Vernon's Peterborough Directory* provides a useful reference to see the Italian immigrant settlement patterns in the city and to note where their children entered the labour market. Differences in language and social customs caused these Italians to settle in groups, as immigrants had traditionally done. The two major Italian settlement areas in Peterborough were Elm St. (now Hopkins Ave.) and Parnell St. and their neighbouring streets. The large 1922 Peterborough street map marked with red dots shows the areas of Italian settlement.

Elm Street attracted the Italians from Roseto Valfortore, in the province of Foggia, while the Italians along Parnell Street were mainly from Rocca San Giovanni in Abruzzo. Alongside the street map

on the wall are posted 2 lists: the first shows the addresses of the Italian families while the 2nd shows their occupations.

There never was a *Little Italy* developed in Peterborough where the Italians lived, worked, played and worshipped, as was often the case in other larger Canadian cities.

The following information is selected from my research and interviews.

First-generation immigrants in Canada, tend to have an astonishing duality. They possess a heightened awareness both of being Canadian by choice and Italian by birth. These immigrants have passed on their Italian culture to their adopted homeland. Home has always been the heart and soul of Italian family activity: work, play, friends, crafts and life lessons, food preservation to fill their cold storage, gardening and music. And, of course, in the fall after the full moon, the pressing of grapes is part of the ritual of wine-making. Italian immigrant children learned to speak the local dialect of their mother tongue, but this did not prevent them in the least from understanding and becoming friends with other Italians who spoke a different regional dialect. I remember my Dad, Antonio Pepe, who was from Salerno, being very proud of the fact that he could communicate with Italians from Sicily and Friuli. In order to pass on their cultural traditions and language to their children, the Italian immigrant parents were anxious to provide their children with lessons in their mother tongue. Catherine Longo proudly related to me that, along with many other Italian kids, she took Italian lessons from my Dad in the old stone school at the corner of Hunter and Rubidge Streets. For these Italian lessons to be so successful it should be noted that these supportive parents saw value in passing on their cultural and linguistic heritage to their children.

My mother Mary Marino grew up as the daughter of a widowed mother and store- owner and she recalls that they always seemed to be in the store. The 7 Marino children carefully polished and displayed the fruits and vegetables in the store window so that passersby would come in and buy from Marino's. Every day before school, they had to carry in the wood and a pail of coal for the stove. The ashes were always waiting for them when they arrived home from school. They chopped firewood & week-ends were spent on their knees scrubbing the wooden floors, removing all the splinters & then oiling the floor. After that, they readied the store for the Monday morning re-opening as stores in Peterborough were closed on Sunday.

In the 1930s, an Italian social club called the *Order Sons of Italy* was organized in Peterborough and the local chapter of the order was named *The Cristoforo Colombo Lodge*. The discussion leading

up to the establishment of the Order occurred at a picnic held on the property of Luigi Anthony at Rice Lake. In October, 1937, Frank Asta, along with the Pepe brothers (Fred and my father Tony) and Attilio Cichetti, organized the local chapter of the Order. Annual membership averaged 56 families. Records of the *Order Sons of Italy* of Peterborough are displayed on the wall. One page shows the registered entries of members and the distribution of funds to aid the sick and for funeral and general expenses. Another shows the application, dated November 14, 1937, for Luigi Anthony, aged 61 years, born February 16, 1876 in Villa Littorio, Salerno, son of Francesco Anthony. Luigi's occupation is listed as carter.

World War II: Italy Declares War on Canada

Today, June 10, is the 76th anniversary of the declaration of War on Canada by Italy. The war cut short the painstaking effort of Italian community building that had been in progress for over 50 years. Italian organizations were forced to suspend meetings, close down or sell off community halls and not congregate in groups of 5 or more. The local Cristoforo Colombo chapter of Order Sons of Italy disbanded during the war out of respect for their adopted country. The internment of Italian-Canadian immigrants as enemy aliens began when Italy declared war on Canada on June 10, 1940. *The Peterborough Examiner* reported that the status of enemy alien was immediately imposed on all non-resident Italians over 16, and also on Italian-Canadians who became British subjects after September 1929. 31,000 foreigners were designated enemy aliens of whom 17,000 were Italian-Canadians. They were arrested and placed in internment camps in Ontario, Alberta, New Brunswick and 23 other internment camps scattered throughout Canada. In Peterborough, Italians were required to register at the Police Station on a monthly basis, where they were fingerprinted and photographed. NO records of these measures exist at the Peterborough Police Station. For the families of all the interned enemy aliens, and the Italian-Canadian community, the 1940s were not kind. None of those arrested or interned were guilty of acts of sabotage. But the internment itself left psychological scars of shame on those arrested and their families.

During the war, James Hamilton, the mayor of Peterborough, along with the Chief of Police, vouched for the good standing of local Italian citizens. On June 11, 1940, one day after Italy declared war on Canada, *The Peterborough Examiner* published the mayor's statement confirming the upstanding "*good naturalized Italian Citizens*" living in Peterborough. Despite this reassurance from Mayor Hamilton, there were nasty incidents by local citizens expressing anti-Italian views. Among these

were two verified incidents: the first against my Dad's tailor shop whose windows were broken by stones and the second was the imprisonment of a Joe Minicola for 3 months. The account of Minicola's arrest is in the *Peterborough Examiner*, June 11, 1940. Despite the mayor's affirmation of the good character of local Italians, my Dad and other Italians had to register at the police station and be fingerprinted as decreed by the RCMP. The Italians of Peterborough had to report to the police once every month to be registered and fingerprinted. Every single month for the duration of the war!

For many years the life of the entire Italian community in Canada was changed by the Italian declaration of war and the political policies it triggered. Almost overnight, a hard-working largely invisible segment of the Canadian population suddenly found itself the target of racial prejudice from neighbours and of close surveillance by the government. In many cities, Italians were fired from government jobs. The Department of Transport fired all those classed as enemy aliens. No longer was Italian spoken outside the home. Once Italian-Canadians were forcibly arrested, they sought anonymity and wished to forget the war years where they were reduced to the status of enemy aliens. My Father never spoke of these years! I remember my Mother saying many times when Dad had to travel to Detroit or Toronto, on business, how worried she was that he would not be coming home ... and she on her own with four young children at the time.

There were also cases in which Italian fathers were interned as *enemy aliens* even as their Canadian-born sons headed overseas to fight with the Canadian armed forces.

Despite such hardships and anti-Italian prejudices during the war, many Italian young men of Peterborough enlisted in the armed services. On the wall is a Graves Registration Report Form for Nicola Vincenzo Bianco along with a short biography and an *Attestation Form* for his brother Anthony Dominic Bianco. Both these sons of Nicola and Olimpia Bianco were killed in action during the World War II. Able Seaman Anthony Dominic Bianco lost his life while serving aboard the destroyer *Athabaskan* when it was torpedoed and sank on April 29, 1944. His brother, Nicola Vincenzo Bianco (anglicized as James Vincent White) was killed on the first day of the First Canadian Infantry's massive assault on the Italian town of Rimini on September 12, 1944. And then there was Guy Chimenti who enlisted but received his discharge, January 5, 1942.

These names are too numerous to mention but many brave young Italian-Canadian men and women fought in the war some fighting against the country of birth or the country of their parents.

Here are three family anecdotes relating to the treatment of Italian-Canadians during the war years:

1) My Dad, a master Tailor, had been awarded the contract to make the uniforms for the Peterborough police force and yet he was not exempted from the obligatory monthly finger printing and registering at the Police station.

2) My widowed Granny Marino was already in her 60's and sole proprietor for the store when Italians were required to report to the Police Station monthly. My Father pleaded to the Chief of Police to consider exonerating this woman. Our family, to this day, is grateful for the kindness shown to my Grandmother by Chief Newall.

3) My parents moved into our home on Charlotte Street in May 1946 and my brother Tony was born in November of that year. As was the custom, two neighbourhood women visited the newborn infant. After some time, they confessed to my Mother that they were curious 'to see what an Italian baby looked like!'

It was not until 1947 that Canada signed a peace treaty with Italy and lifted the *enemy-alien* status of Italian-Canadians. This opened the door for the enormous Italian immigration to Canada. In 1948, Canada established an embassy in Rome and started accepting as immigrants the first sponsored family members. (Franc Sturino)

Many of the Italian immigrant parents in Peterborough saw their children married, and lived to enjoy their grandchildren and witness their successes. Such a reward for the immigrants to experience! ... a positive acceptance of their families in their adopted land and a self-reliance on the part of their children. And therefore, we mention with pride the names of three Peterborough Italian immigrant families who have streets called after them:

Plati Avenue, Bianco Crescent, Facendi Court and Facendi Drive. Vince Plati was a contractor, Mariano Facendi owned a farm along Parkhill Road West which was developed into subdivisions. The brothers Anthony Dominic Bianco and James Vincent White (Bianco) who were killed in action during the Second World War are honoured in the naming of Bianco Crescent in the west end. The next time you drive along Bianco Crescent, note the poppy on the street sign honouring our war dead. Bianco Lake in Northern Ontario is a tribute to Abel Seaman Anthony Dominic Bianco.

On June 26, 2013, a permanent exhibition

entitled *Italian Canadians as Enemy Aliens:*

Memories of World War II was opened at the Columbus Centre in Toronto. In conjunction with that exhibit a monument called *Riflessi: Italian Canadian Internment Memorial* was unveiled. It is intended to acknowledge the internment of Italian-Canadians during the war years and commissioned to commemorate the struggles and successes of the Italian Canadian emigrant story.

A second memorial relating to the history of Italian emigration to Canada was recently erected in Toronto honouring those Italian workers "who lost their lives in work related accidents or related industrial diseases". The memorial, entitled *Monumento Ai Caduti Italiani* (Memorial to the Fallen Italian) was unveiled on April 28, 2016 of, in Villa Colombo gardens at Lawrence Avenue and Dufferin in Toronto. The memorial is comprised of 11 columns inscribed with the names of the fallen workers. I am attempting to have the names of the Italians who died in the Quaker Oats Fire of 1916 inscribed on the columns of the memorial and as part of that initiative, I have brought some registration forms with me tonight. If you are interested in supporting this initiative and wish a copy of the authorization form, see me after the presentations this evening.



Sign from tourist home on Charlotte Street, 1930s (Berenice Pepe)

Tribute and gratitude must be given to this first generation who had the courage to sacrifice their own and their family's security and livelihood in Italy in order to begin a new life in an adopted country that they all grew to consider 'their home.' What did they succeed in passing on to their children? They instilled in their children pride in oneself, respect for others, a strong work ethic, and a deep sense of loyalty to 'la famiglia.'

Since I have returned to retire in my home

town of Peterborough, I have been both enlightened and gratified to witness so many of the later generations of this first wave of Italian Canadian who still call Peterborough and its environs their home and who show clearly their pride in the Italian heritage they have inherited. In 1982, a second Italian Club began and held its first meeting at Marty's Barber Shop in Ashburnham. So it is very heartening to see that Peterborough's Italian community continues to socialize and maintain its heritage. An active Italian Club operates here in Peterborough and it is open to all residents of the city. If you are interested in becoming a member of this Peterborough & District Italian Club, membership cards are available here this evening. May I also direct you to the display table where you will find many examples of personal mementoes linked to the local Italian experience and its history.

On June 2nd, 2016, the Italian Club raised the Italian flag at City Hall a few days ago to commemorate *La Festa della Repubblica*, Republic Day. This annual ceremony recognizes the fact that June has been proclaimed *Italian Heritage Month* by both the province of Ontario and the City of Peterborough.

In concluding, 'vorrei dire tanti grazie a tutti gli italiani' I would like to pay tribute to all those Italians who chose to leave parents, friends, homeland and their lives in Italy to come to Canada, and especially to Peterborough, in order to build a better life for themselves and their families. And for me! As a result of their efforts and long struggles, we find today a well-established Italian community whose history spans more than a century and a half of local history. The degree to which the efforts of these early Italian-Canadian immigrants have borne fruit may be seen in the richness, in the quality and in the variety of the contributions they have brought to Peterborough and the region.

Berenice Pepe was born and educated in Peterborough. Now retired, she was a long-time Music educator with Metropolitan Separate School Board, Toronto. Berenice is currently the President of the Peterborough and District Italian Club who co-sponsored the Italian Heritage Night, June 10, 2016.

What's in a Name: Stony or Stoney Lake?

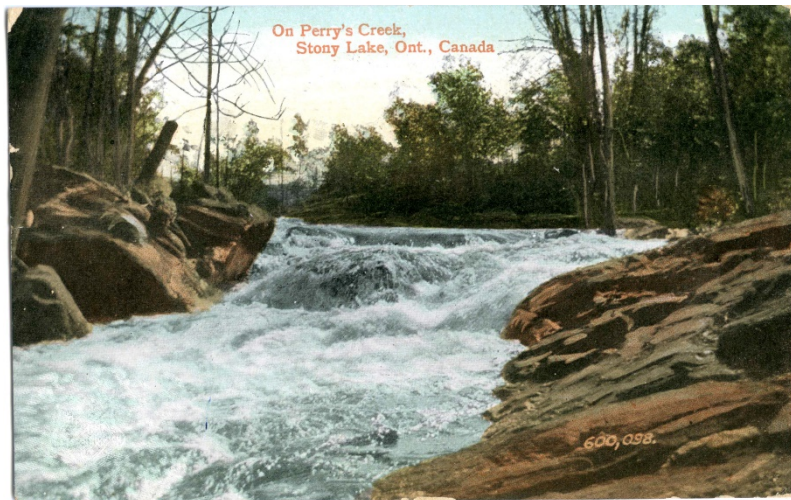
Elwood H. Jones, Peterborough Examiner

When flying to St. John's Newfoundland in 1971, the passenger in the next seat was excited to present a paper to the Learned Societies. He had done a study in the toponymy of place names with Persian roots in Europe. His hypothesis was that the armies of Cyrus the Great left place names in the wake of their movement from Persia to north-west Europe and the strongest concentration of Persian names was in Hungary, where the Magyar language, had Persian roots. Greek and Roman roots predominated across Europe and yet there was this streak of Persian names. I ran into him later and he had presented his paper to great ovation and his Toponymy Society had given him the award for best paper, which included a trip to Athens to present his paper to an international audience.

Toponymy is the study of place names. This was the first time that I had considered that there were such avid specialists in the field.

However, I had other opportunities to see the power of place names. In Wales, for example, the

language lays on the map. Places that begin with "Llan"



have an Anglican Church. "Aber" means the mouth of a river, and so Aberystwyth is at the mouth of the Ystwyth River, and Aberdeen (in Scotland) is at the mouth of the Dee River. Places beginning with "pont" invariably have a bridge crossing a river or stream.

Another great example of toponymy is a map at the Trent Valley Archives that records the names used

by First Nations to describe places in the northwestern part of Michigan. A similar project would be marvellous for our part of Ontario. When doing the research for our Champlain book last year we were quite excited to see that a start on such a project had been started at the University of Maine related to First Nations names in this region. Names such as Nogojiwanong, the Mississauga name for Peterborough means “at the foot of the long rapids” and is a delightful description of the Otonabee River south of the Hunter Street bridge.

There have been many names linked with the lakes near Peterborough in the years since the 1820s. Lake Chemong has been known as Mud Lake as well as the Mississauga name, xxx.

I was recently invited to participate in a debate on the proper spelling for Stoney or Stony Lake. The toponymy is not particularly complex as the name is an allusion to all the rocky islands that dot the lake. However, there has not been agreement on how to spell the lake.

This was also a Roy Studio postcard. (TVA 507, Trent Valley Archives, Martha Kidd fonds)

On Sandford Fleming’s great 1848 map of the Newcastle and Colborne Districts, the elongated lake appears as Salmon Trout Lake. On the maps of Dummer and Burleigh in the Illustrated Historical Atlas of Peterborough, the spelling is Stoney on the township maps for Dummer and Burleigh. On maps from the late nineteenth-century, the spelling is invariably Stony. At TVA, we are selling the 1882 map prepared by the Peterborough Review for ten dollars; the lake is Stony.

The many plans of the Trent Canal consistently spell Stony. I particularly like the Trent Canal Chart of Stony Lake for 1924, on a scale of 4 inches for 1 mile, which names most of the islands in the lake. It also notes some cottagers who were on the bigger islands, such as the Fairbairns on Juniper Island. It marks the tower on Davis’ Island, and mentions several cottagers on Eagle Mount Island: Jones, Inglestone, Sawers, Griffins and Cochrane’s. Peterborough was shown as 22 miles from McCrackens Landing.

Surprisingly, in 1927, A. L. Killaly wrote a letter to the Stony Lake Campers’ & Cottagers’ Association explaining the government policy with respect to “Stoney Lake Wharves”. They maintained wharves, built some government wharves. However, there was no interest in “Floating Wharves”, and had no interest in

knowing who owned them.

The deed to George Morrice Roger, 26 May 1883, for 96 acres on Island 18 (Juniper Island) describes the island as “in Stoney or Salmon Trout Lake.” [TVA, Fonds 107]

Jack Fairbairn wrote brief notes on the envelopes for his glass negatives which are now in the Trent Valley Archives and in 2014 were featured in the SPARK exhibit at the YMCA on George Street; he preferred Stoney Lake, but three of the notes spell sites in Upper Stoney Lake as Stony.

In 1939, John Barnes Pratt, an American cottager on Stoney Lake, near Clear Lake, felt the current name was “not at all in keeping with the beauty of that body of water.” He proposed a name change to Lake of the Isles. C. H. Fullerton responded from the Geographic Board of Ontario which was in the Surveys Branch of the Department of Land and Forests. He noted that Clarina used to be the Stony Lake post office, and he



noted that a 1917 Report of Geographic Decisions showed Stony Lake. He added, “it is rather late in the day to consider a change.” J. H. Corry, the secretary of the board, said “Stony Lake” was “a well-established one and one which we believe has been in existence since 1873.” [Trent Valley Archives, Fonds 107, 7]

This is the classic Roy Studio postcard of the Stoney Lake Regatta. (TVA 1237 with thanks to Ken Brown)

The Stony Lake Cottagers Association favours Stony, even though their constitution spells it Stoney. The *Heritage Gazette of the Trent Valley* in 2014 published letters from Jean Fairbairn, whose cottage was on Juniper Island, addressed her letters from Stoney Lake. Back in the mid-1970s when I was writing the history of St. John’s Anglican Church in Peterborough I was told quite flatly by a cottager that the correct spelling was Stony Lake.

The Upper Stoney Lake Cottagers Association has always favoured “Stoney Lake”. However, in their 1947 minute books, which are in the Trent Valley Archives, the secretary called it the Upper Stony Lake Cottagers and Campers Association. Andre Dorfman favours Stoney Lake, but knows Stony is the standard in the lower lake.

Edwin Guillet, the noted historian of *Valley of the Trent*, wrote a letter to the editor in early 1943 saying the authentic name is “Stoney”. That is how the name of the lake was spelled in the 1835 survey report and on the 1836 map of “Inland Water Communications”. It is spelled “Stoney”, he continued, in the *Gazetteer of Canada*, and by the Toronto Public Library and the University of Toronto. The main steamer of the Upper Stoney Navigation Company was the S. S. Stoney Lake. He dismissed the spelling used by Catharine Parr Traill and Susannah Moodie as informed only by sound.

When I googled my computer, Stoney Lake was overwhelmingly my spelling. Perhaps, this is because I spend more time reading newspapers, books and correspondence than poring over maps, charts and plans. The Peterborough Examiner was using Stoney by 1863; the Lakefield newspaper used Stoney in the 1880s; and the 1908 *Electric City*, a useful guide to current businesses, also used Stoney.

I have been working over the past year on a study of postcards related to Peterborough and the Kawarthas. There was no consistent pattern at the Roy Studio, which surprised me. Overall, the name that appeared on the postcard was Stoney three times out of five. The postcard book will be featured at the Trent Valley Archives Open House on September 10.

The recent debate on the spelling of the lake was held at Juniper Island, and was thoroughly enjoyed by the 80 people who were there. At the outset, the audience favoured Stony over Stoney, 40 to 33. At the end of the debate, the balance had shifted in favour of Stoney, 44 to 30. The arguments were cleverly presented by Max Binnie, defending Stony, and John McWilliams for Stony. Blair Mackenzie hosted the event with flair and good humour.

In my view, Stony was preferred in official sources, such as related to canals and post offices, while Stoney was more generally used by people not so close to the lake. Both spellings are correct, but one or the other is deemed more correct in specific circumstance.

Probably, people left the Juniper Island event feeling free to spell the name as they wished.

For our new postcard book, Matthew Griffis and I will use Stoney except when the name on the vintage postcard appears as Stony.

Elwood H. Jones, Archivist at Trent Valley Archives

Elwood@trentvalleyarchives.com.

During August, the Trent Valley Archives is running tours of Eerie Ashburnham; call the Trent Valley Archives at 705-745-4404 to make reservations. My latest book, Postcards from Peterborough and the Kawarthas, (written with Matthew Griffis) will be launched at the Open House at Trent Valley Archives, 567 Carnegie Avenue, on September 10 at 1 p.m. Everyone welcome.



John McWilliams and Max Binnie at the Juniper Island Pavillion before “to e or not to e” event. (Elwood Jones)

Blair Mackenzie <mackenzie.blair@gmail.com> wrote: Just want to make sure that both of you are aware of what to me is a relatively new, and decidedly wonderful, discovery: Early Canadiana Online, a treasure trove of scanned copies of early Canadiana, all of which are word searchable. I am continuing to do some digging into the Stony / Stoney issue and am finding it an invaluable resource. Enter Strickland into the search engine and up comes a long list of his works. Choose 27 Years in Canada West (1853) and you are shown links to a range of editions. I chose the first edition. Search for Stony Lake and instantly, you are shown each page in the book in which Stony Lake appears. To see what the Government of Canada practice was in the 1890s I picked out, more or less at random, the Sessional Papers for 1891 and again put in Stony Lake. I was taken directly to a list of relevant references. How cool is that? To complete the picture, I will go back to the same documents and test for Stony Lake, but you get the idea: this is one really powerful research tool. It does require a subscription but you can buy full access for a month for \$10. Elwood, would this be something the readers of the Heritage Gazette be interested in knowing about?

That is very interesting! I knew that the CIHM had produced microfiches some years ago, and we have some at TVA, and Trent University Library has all of them. But I have not looked at this Early Canadiana Online. Thanks for sharing this and I am certain some of our members will be delighted, as I am. Thanks and best wishes, Elwood

Queries

Cunningham, Amos Berrie

I read with interest your recent column about the architects and builders, late 1800s, in Peterborough. I would like to locate properties that my grandfather designed and/or built and would like to know where to start. Amos Berrie Cunningham (1862-1937) lived at 331 Reid Street - the yellow brick terrace still stands, though I don't know if he built that. My sister and I were raised at 331 Reid St. by my widowed grandmother and widowed mother, so I am very familiar with that terrace.

I have a copy of one property diagram/photo noted "designed and built by A.B. Cunningham". That property is 249 Reid St. on the "V" at Sherbrooke St. I do recall my Mother, Grace Lillian (Cunningham) Northey 1911-2003, remarking that Amos built some homes in the 700 area of North Water Street.

I would appreciate your guidance, so that I may catalogue other properties for my grandchildren.
Best regards, Linda (Northey) Ashby

Trent Valley Archives has many resources that help people learn about their houses. The best source is with the houses and the clues they leave. Old family photographs can help too. After that we find fire insurance plans to be very useful. However, there is no easy way to compile the records of construction. We have samples in which people have done this. In this case the property diagram in the family should be a useful tool as well. I would love to see that, and to walk you through our varied resources.

Haynes Photo Studio

This excellent photo of the Bank of Toronto on the corner of Charlotte and Hunter Streets is part of Martha Kidd's extensive collection of papers and photographs pertaining primarily to the architectural history of Peterborough (F90). The photo has been much admired since it arrived at TVA and, upon close examination it presented us with a mystery. On the Hunter Street side, a sign for "Haynes Photo Studio" is visible. As Peterborough photographers of the past have been subjects of much study in recent months at TVA as they pertain to our upcoming book about postcards, this sign peaked our interest. We were not familiar with a Haynes Studio in Peterborough until now.

Serendipitously, avid newspaper clipping collector Elwood Jones happened upon an article from the Toronto Star dated May 30, 2016, about the photographs of a little-known Toronto photographer, Edwin Haynes. Haynes' great-grandnephew, Bruce Hodgson, has recently published a few of his 200 or so glass slides, taken, he believes, between 1900 and 1918. From this article, we know that Haynes, who is described as a "merchant" on his 1906 marriage certificate, was a member of the Toronto Camera Club. He died of influenza at the young age of 41 in 1918. By that time, he was living near Paisley, Ontario, on the Bruce Peninsula, and had a photo studio in nearby Chesley.

Heather Aiton Landry and Elwood Jones

There is no mention in the article of his ever having a photo studio in Peterborough. Moreover, a thorough search of the Peterborough directories did not turn up evidence of Haynes Photo Studio at any location.



Closeup of section of photo below.



George and Hunter, southeast corner, 1916 (Martha Kidd fonds.) The signage for the Haynes photo studio is above the first floor entrance to H. LeBrun, and the special photographer's window used in developing photos is visible at the east end of the second floor of the corner building, long known as the Bank of Toronto building.

Fortunately, the photograph itself provides many clues that help us to date the period when Haynes Photo Studio occupied the building. A close look at the very visible ankles of the women standing by the telephone pole, as well as the model of car to the far left of the photo, indicate that it must have been taken sometime from late to post World War I-- but not too late, since Haynes died in 1918. Moreover, many of the surrounding businesses are evident from their signage, in particular The Peterborough

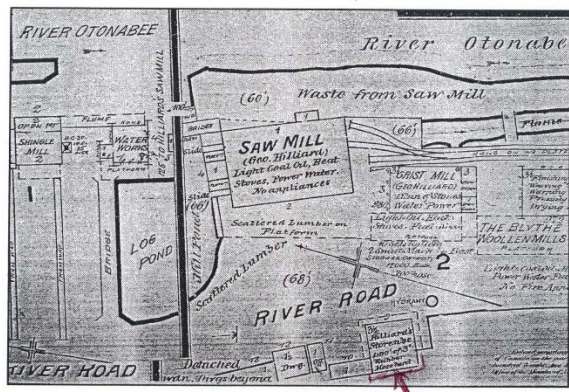
Times, John Kylie Shoes, and H. L. LeBrun Clothing. These businesses occupied this block for a long period, but a very strong magnifying glass also reveals a sign for Imperial Life Insurance, which did not become part of the block until 1916.

If, then, we can date the photograph to between 1916 and 1918, why does Haynes not appear in the directories for that time? It seems likely that his tenure in Peterborough was very short-lived, and his business must have occupied the spot very briefly between the time that information was gathered for one directory and the next.

We know from earlier directories that one photographer or another occupied Haynes' shop for a fairly long period: 1898-1905 John W. Greene; 1905-1909 John L. Richmond; 1910-1915 Reginald Farthing. After Farthing, no photographers are listed at this location.

The car, clothing, and the existence of Imperial Life Insurance at that location indicate that the gap in photographers between Richmond and Farthing is too early for this photo to have been taken. Therefore, a later date must be the most likely, and we looked to the surrounding businesses to give us more clues.

According to the 1916 directory, Higgins Hardware occupied 137 Hunter, John Kylie Shoes 139, The Times 141, LeBrun 143 to 145, and Imperial Life 147. By 1918, however, Kylie had moved to 141, and 139 was vacant. That appears to be the situation visible in the photograph, as Kylie is now next door to LeBrun. Also notable in the 1918 directory is that The Times had ceased publishing Peterborough's third newspaper. Therefore, this photo must have been taken sometime during 1917, as no photographer was in the block when the information was actually gathered for that directory in late 1916, and the moves of the Times and John Kylie had already occurred by the time the information was gathered for the 1918 directory in late 1917.



Stone Ruin on Water Street

Gordon Young drew attention to the ruins on the west side of Water Street near the billboards. This excerpt from a fire insurance plan at the Trent Valley Archives supports the view that these are remains of Hilliard's saw mill. The site was known as Blythe Mills, and was earlier the site of John Langton's mill. Other owners included William Snider. Thanks to those who assisted on this query.

Hunter Street, Bridgenorth

I have just purchased a home in Bridgenorth at 804 Hunter Street. I have attached a picture of the home. It is an old home but in very good condition. I am very curious about any of its historical information and the type of home it is, like who built it, if there are any like it built elsewhere, etc. I did see a picture of the home in Helen Rutherford Wilcox's book – Bridgenorth Centre of the Universe. I was just wondering if you could provide some assistance on how I could find more information on this historical home.

Trent Valley Archives has land records related to Bridgenorth (in fact, all of Peterborough County except most of the City) and these have been indexed, so this would be a good place to start.

324-326 Rubidge St. (Formerly the Peterborough Arms)

If you are looking for information regarding homes in Peterborough and the surrounding area, TVA has many excellent resources to help you in your search!

When asked about this property, we were able to find the following information in Fonds 90, the papers of Martha Kidd:

This brick clad two and a half storey double tenement was built about 1877 for O.C. Rowse, who had a dry goods store at 384 09 George Street. He lived in No. 324 and rented 326.

Tenants include Dan Burritt in 1890, and Mrs. Margaret Rowe, widow of Robert Rowe in 1888/89.

The city directory for 1912 lists A.G. Dickson at #324 and F. Doughty at #326. The directory for 1918 lists E.V. Frederick at #324 and Mrs. M. Clarke at #326.



TRENT VALLEY ARCHIVES

567 Carnegie Avenue, Peterborough ON K9L 1N1

George Stenton and the Fenian Raid

Stephen H. Smith

As a pre-adolescent boy, every spring, I used to make an annual pilgrimage to the attic in our Water Street house in Peterborough, Ontario. In a corner of the attic was a Rowntree's Black Magic "casket box" complete with red tassel. Inside were various family pictures and a small blue velvet box that contained a tarnished medal, the inscription indicating that it was from the Fenian Raid of 1866. Standing close by was an old gun, inscribed "1864 Enfield." I would spend hours pretending to fire that gun at enemy soldiers, hide behind boxes and steamer trunks containing other family "treasures". After my sojourns to the attic, I would often sit with my father in his big arm chair and ask him about my great grandfather, the Fenian Raids, and the relics. He told me the items belonged to his grandfather, George W. Stenton and, if I were to treasure them they would become mine.



George H. Stenton and James Kinmonth, 57th Battalion, Peterborough

In 2015, over fifty years later, sensing a feeling of my mortality, I decided it was time to build upon my father's work on our family tree and write our family history. Hence – this short article on George Stenton and the Fenian Raids of 1866. My goals of writing this article are not limited to chronicling the Stenton family history, but I would also like to provide examples of both how to tie one's family into local history and how one may "do" family history by simply starting with a name, a gun, and a medal and moving forward.

The Stenton Family Moves to Canada

My great grandfather was George William Stenton. His parents – Thomas (1818-1894) and Hannah née Laister (1819-1885) - immigrated to Canada from Yorkshire, England in 1845. (1) Thomas Stenton was a farmer who settled in the Keene (Otonabee Township), Ontario area. (2) George was born in Keene on September 17, 1847(3). He was the fourth of ten children and the first born in Upper Canada. (4) Although there are several direct descendants of the original Stenton family currently living in the Peterborough area none of them have the Stenton surname.

Fenianism & the Fenian Raid of 1866 - Battle of Ridgeway

The original Fenian movement had first been organized in Ireland around 1798 resulting in the Wexford Rebellion. After a series of battles the English troops defeated Irish rebels at the Battle of Vinegar Hill. (6) By the mid-1800s, due to massive Irish emigration to the United States, Fenianism had a strong presence in the American Irish community (7). Hereward Senior suggests, "Even though living outside Ireland, North American Fenians still had a sense of participating in Irish politics. Their attitudes, therefore, towards Canadian and American politics were determined by events in Ireland and, in the case of Canadian Fenian sympathizers, by events in the United States as well." (8)

On June 1, 1866, over a thousand Irish Fenians, led by General John O'Neill, a former Union Calvary officer, invaded Canada, in the Niagara region near Fort Erie, in an attempt to capture Canada and hold it as ransom to the British, in return for Ireland's independence.(9)

Payroll, 57th Battalion, June 28, 1872, including Cpl George Stenton and his comrades.

| No. | RANK. | NAMES. | PERIOD. | | No. of days. | Pay for Officers, N. C. Officers and Men. | | | Pay for Horses. | | | Total amount due to each person. | Signatures of the Officers, N. C. Officers and Men. | Witness to the Mark of those who cannot write. | REMARKS. |
|---|-------|-------------------|---------|------|--------------|---|--------|---------------|-----------------|----|------|----------------------------------|---|--|----------|
| | | | From | To | | Rate per Day. | Total. | Rate per Day. | Total. | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | | | | | \$ | cts. | | | | |
| 26 | | Mitchell, S. | 1872 | July | 16 | 50 | 8 00 | | | | | 25808 | F. Mitchell | | |
| 27 | | Morgan, S. | | | | 50 | 8 00 | | | | | 8 00 | E. Morgan | | |
| 28 | | Raid, E. | | | | 50 | 8 00 | | | | | 8 00 | C. Taylor | | |
| 29 | | Taylor, C. | | | | 50 | 8 00 | | | | | 8 00 | Harry Thomas | | |
| 30 | | Thomas, Harry | | | | 50 | 8 00 | | | | | 8 00 | James Walker | | |
| 31 | | Walker, James | | | | 50 | 8 00 | | | | | 8 00 | | | |
| 32 | | | | | | | | | | | | 00 | | | |
| 33 | | Capt. Willson, H. | | | | 70 | 11 00 | | | | | 11 00 | W. Willson | | |
| 34 | | Capt. Stenton, G. | | | | 60 | 9 00 | | | | | 9 00 | G. Stenton | | |
| 35 | | Ames | | | | 50 | 8 00 | | | | | 8 00 | H. W. Ames | | |
| 36 | | Barr, J. | | | | 50 | 8 00 | | | | | 8 00 | J. Barr | | |
| 37 | | Carlin, J. | | | | 50 | 8 00 | | | | | 8 00 | J. Carlin | | |
| 38 | | Cobb, S. | | | | 50 | 8 00 | | | | | 8 00 | S. Cobb | | |
| 39 | | Craver | | | | 50 | 8 00 | | | | | 8 00 | Craver | | |
| 40 | | Grant | | | | 50 | 8 00 | | | | | 8 00 | Grant | | |
| 41 | | Harvey, J. | | | | 50 | 8 00 | | | | | 8 00 | James Harvey | | |
| 42 | | Hing, P. | | | | 50 | 8 00 | | | | | 8 00 | P. Hing | | |
| 43 | | Mannell | | | | 50 | 8 00 | | | | | 8 00 | C. Mannell | | |
| 44 | | Tutherford, S. | | | | 50 | 8 00 | | | | | 8 00 | S. Tutherford | | |
| 45 | | Mullan | | | | 50 | 8 00 | | | | | 8 00 | James Mullan | | |
| 46 | | Marshall | | | | 50 | 8 00 | | | | | 8 00 | Walter Marshall | | |
| 47 | | Gandy, S. | | | | 50 | 8 00 | | | | | 8 00 | S. Gandy | | |
| 48 | | Hakon | | | | 50 | 8 00 | | | | | 8 00 | J. Hakon | | |
| 49 | | Hells, W. | | | | 50 | 8 00 | | | | | 8 00 | W. Hells | | |
| 50 | | W. W. W. | | | 13 | 50 | 6 50 | | | | | 6 50 | Hugh W. W. | | |
| 51 | | | | | | | | | | | | 00 | | | |
| 52 | | S. C. Pool | | | 16 | 48 | 72 92 | 100 | 16 00 | | | 25 92 | S. C. Pool | | |
| 53 | | J. Kennedy (Senr) | | | | 3 90 | 62 40 | 100 | 16 00 | | | 78 40 | J. Kennedy | | |
| 54 | | E. Leigh | | | | 3 90 | 62 40 | 100 | 16 00 | | | 78 40 | E. Leigh | | |
| 55 | | Thos. H. Chambers | | | | 3 05 | 48 80 | | | | | 48 80 | Thos. H. Chambers | | |
| 56 | | W. L. Rogers | | | | 2 44 | 39 04 | 100 | 16 00 | | | 55 04 | W. L. Rogers | | |
| 57 | | Wm. H. H. | | | | 3 65 | 58 40 | 100 | 16 00 | | | 74 40 | Wm. H. H. | | |
| 58 | | W. H. H. | | | | 2 45 | 38 88 | | | | | 38 88 | W. H. H. | | |
| 59 | | W. H. H. | | | | 1 94 | 31 04 | | | | | 31 04 | W. H. H. | | |
| 60 | | W. H. H. | | | | 1 00 | 16 00 | | | | | 16 00 | W. H. H. | | |
| 61 | | W. H. H. | | | | 90 | 14 40 | | | | | 14 40 | W. H. H. | | |
| 62 | | W. H. H. | | | | 90 | 14 40 | | | | | 14 40 | W. H. H. | | |
| 63 | | W. H. H. | | | | 90 | 14 40 | | | | | 14 40 | W. H. H. | | |
| 64 | | W. H. H. | | | | 90 | 14 40 | | | | | 14 40 | W. H. H. | | |
| 65 | | W. H. H. | | | | 90 | 14 40 | | | | | 14 40 | W. H. H. | | |
| 66 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 67 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 68 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 69 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 70 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 71 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 72 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| allowance in line of action for day Delta | | | | | | | | | | | | | 14 25 | | |
| Add allowance in line of action for day Delta | | | | | | | | | | | | | 6 00 | | |
| Add for Camp Kettles and Tin supplied | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Grand Total | | | | | | | | | | | | | \$1026 11 | Examined and certified, | |
| allowance in line of action for day Delta | | | | | | | | | | | | | \$1026 11 | W. H. Chambers | |
| District Paymaster. | | | | | | | | | | | | | | Regimental Paymaster. | |
| I certify that I have examined the Pay List and found it to be correct, and that the Mounted Officers, N. C. Officers and Men, were actually provided the necessary Camp Kettles and Tin for which the above is provided. | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Signature of the District Paymaster of the Battalion. | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Date at Hingham this 28 day of June 1872 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| I certify that all the Officers, Non-Commissioned Officers, Men and Horses of the 1st Regt. Pa. were actually provided the necessary Camp Kettles and Tin for which the above is provided. | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Signature of the Officer Commanding the Company. | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Date at Hingham this 28 day of June 1872 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |

In March of 1866, in response to the threat of Fenianism and possible invasion, Premier of Canada Minister, John A. MacDonald, authorized Colonel Patrick MacDougall, the Assistant Adjutant General

of the Militia, to call out 10,000 men to volunteer for the militia.

The Fenian threat was a consequence of the American Civil War (ACW). The war created two

huge armies unlike anything seen on the North American continent since the American Revolution. More than 3.2 million soldiers fought in the Civil War. This war produced several new military strategies and improved weapons of destruction. From the early days of the war both the British and Canadian governments were concerned about a possible invasion by the American government. It was well-known that Secretary of State William Seward had aspirations of expanding the United States into British North America (10).

This fear was heightened during the *Trent Affair* in November and December, 1861. The Trent Affair started on November 8, 1861 when Captain Charles Wilkes boarded the *HMS Trent*, a British steamer which was sailing through the Bahamas Channel, and seized two Confederate diplomatic envoys. The British were outraged by Wilkes' actions. Up until this time Britain had remained neutral. Britain responded with a demand for the release of the two Confederate envoys and an apology for the transgression on British naval rights. As well, Britain banned exports to the United States and sent British regular troops to Canada.(11)

During this time, Sir Alexander Tilloch Galt, the Canadian finance minister, met with Abraham Lincoln at the White House to discuss possible American responses to the Trent Affair. Galt's diary records that although Lincoln had assured him that the Americans had the best intentions in this matter, "the vast military preparations of the north must either be by corresponding organization in the British provinces, or conflict, if it come, can have but one result." (12)

From 1861 to the conclusion of the Civil War, both the British and Canadian governments continued to be concerned about possible American invasion. In an effort to minimize this threat, the British prime minister, Lord Palmerston, authorized increases of British regulars in the Maritime Provinces and Canada West. In addition, the minister of the Militia and Defence, John A. Macdonald (1860-1867) made numerous improvements to the Canadian standing militias both in numbers and training. (13)

Peterborough Rifle Militia Company

The Peterborough Rifles were first commissioned in 1857 on April 7, under the command of Captain W. A. Scott. By 1862 under the command of Captain Edwin Poole the company was almost at full strength. (9) Upon the imminent threat of a Fenian, invasion the Government of Canada, on June 2 issued General Orders No. 2 that called for the mustering and mobilization of several Ontario local militia companies.

On June 3, the local militia groups of the

Ashburnham Infantry – 32 men under the command of Captain H. C. Rogers, the Peterborough Infantry – 50 men under the command of Captain John Kennedy, and the Peterborough Rifles – 44 men under the command of Captain Edwin Poole, were dispatched to Cobourg for rail travel to Toronto. On June 5 they arrived in Toronto to "receive" the casualties of the Battle of Ridgeway. My great-grandfather, George Stenton was one of those men.

Although the Peterborough Rifles saw no direct action, this constituted the first real military endeavor outside of regular training. In addition, the Fenian threat and the militia's involvement in Canada's defense sparked increased interest in the importance of the militia, resulting in more companies being formed around the Peterborough area. These included five infantry units being formed at Millbrook, Norwood, Hastings, and Springville, as well as an Independent Company from Peterborough. (14) During the ACW a number of "drill yards" were established. Frank H. Dobbin in his History of the 57th Regiment stated that in July 1863 local militia companies were performing drills at the Ashburnham Cricket Grounds in Ashburnham and that on March 4, 1864 a government grant was made to construct a drill shed. However, after the Fenian Raids in June 1866 the City and County of Peterborough increased their commitment by each dedicating, along with the Canadian government, \$1000.00 for the erection a more permanent "drill shed". In May 1867 this militia drill facility opened on the site of current Peterborough Armouries. This 142 foot long by 72 feet wide structure lasted until it was destroyed by fire in 1909. (15)

George Stenton's Involvement in the Peterborough Rifles

The most interesting part of "doing" family history has been the "sleuthing." Although I had an antique rifle and a medal, I wanted to flesh out the details of this important part of the Stenton family's history in Canada.

In June 1866, my great-grandfather would have been three months shy of 19 years of age. It was not uncommon for young men that age to become involved in the military or to fight in wars. The experience of the American Civil War demonstrates that boys as young as 12 years old had engaged in combat.

The Stenton family were evangelical Methodists, a conservative splinter group from the Church of England. Both George's grandfather Robert, and father, Thomas, were farmers and local itinerant lay-preachers in the Methodist movement. This movement emphasized the need for individual salvation and to follow the Christian scriptures as the

guide for life. Some elements within the movement were pacifists but most believed in the occasional need for war to protect one's home and country. This reason and the fact that most immigrants from England saw Canada as a part of the British Empire might have been instrumental in George's decision to join the militia as a young man or it could have been the lure of "daring and great excitement" as respite from mundane farming life.

Recently, I found an undated picture of George and his future brother-in-law, James Kinmonth, posing in the 57th Battalion uniforms. (See Figure 1-1 - George Stenton and James Kinmonth.) It appears that was George was not only a member of the militia at the time of the Fenian Raids, but continued his membership in the Peterborough Rifles until at least 1872. In searching for records of his involvement in the militia, I discovered a payroll submission to the district paymaster by Colonel Edwin Poole for the period of June 19 to July 4 1872. Corporal George W. Stenton was paid 60 cents for active duty in June 1872. (See Figure 1-2 Payroll Submission, 57th Battalion, July 1872)



In 1899, the Canadian government recognized the participants of the Fenians by issuing a medal. It was awarded only if applied for, and the recipient must have been "on active service in the field, served as guard at any point where an attack from the enemy was expected or had been detailed for some specific service or duty" (Avery pg.14). Figure 1-3 is a picture of the medal awarded to George. The medal sits in its original case. On a bar above it reads "Fenian Raid 1866." The inscription on the side of the medal reads "Pte. G. Stenton Peterboro R. Co." Also in 1899 the Peterborough Examiner ran a picture of 1866 Peterborough Veterans of Fenian

Raids. The key for this picture lists George Stenton as #35 (fourth row from the right, – second from the bottom).

The artifact that most intrigued me as a child was my grandfather's rifle, which he carried in 1866 (Figure 1-4). This rifle has been identified as a British P-1864 Snider type Breech Loading Rifle with Bayonet. When the British Board of Ordnance appointed a Select Committee in 1864, the Snider P-1864 was adopted with the first breech loaders being issued in 1865 to British forces. (16)

The main features of this rifle were 39" barrel with the signature three steel bands, brass trigger guard, cleaning rod, functioning lock with nipple, adjustable ladder-back sight, and brass butt plate. As one can see from the Figure 1-4, the rifle that hangs in my library is lacking the bayonet.

George Stenton was a life-long resident of Peterborough area. In 1869 he is listed as one of the 1100 residents living in Ashburnham. His occupation is listed as a machinist. (17) In 1888 he is listed as living at 333 McDonnell Street and in 1890 living around the corner at 485 Donegal Street. (18) The 1901 Canadian Census lists George's residence at the Peterborough Post Office which was on the northwest corner of Water and Hunter intersection. He was the Post Office Janitor and he resided at the Post Office with his wife Olive until his death. (19)

On October 13, 1929, George Stenton died at the Post Office, of cancer of the jaw. In his obituary in the Peterborough Examiner on October 18, under the title FENIAN VETERAN TAKEN BY DEATH, it states that "His death revives memories of the Fenian raids and it is interesting to recall the fact that 63 years ago two hundred and twenty men left the Town of Peterborough to fight the Fenians who were raiding Canada. Mr. Stenton was one of those volunteers."

June 3, 2016 marked the 150th anniversary of the Battle of Ridgeway. Although the battle did not last long or have many casualties this event was a significant event in the building of the Canadian nation. Hundreds of men as volunteers from many communities gathered together to meet the challenge of a foreign invader. On July 3, 2016, Lang Pioneer Village had a Fenian Raid re-enactment to mark this important event. As I stood on the village green at Lang Pioneer Village with three of George Stenton's great-great-great grandsons, we were witnessing a glimpse of both family and national history.

Stephen H. Smith is currently a contract professor in the Business Administration Department at Trent University. He was born and raised in Peterborough and is working on a comprehensive family history of his four grandparents.

- (1) The inside flap of the front cover of Thomas Stenton's Bible provides this date for emigration to Canada. This Bible was given to Thomas in 1836 by the trustees of Travis Church in Wroot Lincolnshire near Doncaster.
- (2) Thomas Stenton's father, Robert Stenton (1798-1879) and mother Mary (née Moad) (1794-1862) and his brothers John (1827-1916), George (1830-1903) and William (1832-1912) settled in the Chatham, Kent area, while only Thomas settled in the Peterborough area.
- (3) http://interactive.ancestry.ca/7921/ONMS932_4-0410?pid=3370868&backurl=http://person.ancestry.ca/tree/50269323/person/28205101671/gallery&usePUB=true&phsrc=smR403&usePUBJs=true
- (4) Several of George's siblings remained in the Peterborough area. These include Albert (1842-1863), John (1845-1873), Robert (1851-1925), William (1856-1889) and Mary (1860-1940), while brothers Zachariah (1840-1912), Charles (1849-?) and Frederick (1858-1948) all settled in Bad Axe, Huron County, Michigan. It is interesting to note that Mary Stenton married Charles Curtis, one of three brothers who formed Curtis Brothers Brickmakers.
- (5) Interestingly, the Battle of Vinegar Hill was fought just outside the village of Enniscorthy, County Wexford, from where my maternal great-great-grandfather Bryce Leeson emigrated in the 1830's to the Seymour Township in what is now Northumberland County.
- (6) It is estimated that the Fenian membership in the 1860's in the United States and Canada was around 20,000. (Creighton Avery, *The History of the Peterborough and Area Militia and the Fenian Raids* pg. 9.)
- (7) Hereward Senior, *The Fenians and Canada*, Macmillan of Canada, 1978, pg. 1.
- (8) Peter Vronsky maintains that the Battle of Ridge on June 3, 1866 was the last battle in Ontario against a foreign invader and the first battle fought and led by Canadians. (Peter Vronsky, *Ridgeway: The American Fenian Invasion and the 1866 Battle that Made Canada*, Penguin Canada, 2011, pg. xxx.)
- (9) For a detailed history of the Peterborough Rifles and other area militia companies in the Fenian Raids see Creighton Avery, *The History of Peterborough Area Militia and Fenian Raids*, Trent University Community Based Research Project April 2013; and F. H. Dobbin, *History of the 57th Regiment*, 1911.
- (10) For the most recent treatise of Seward's views regarding Canada, see Peraino, Kevin. *Lincoln in the World: The Making of a Statesman and the Dawn of American Power*, Crown Publishers, 2013, pgs. 60-119
- (11) <http://www.history.com/topics/american-civil-war/trent-affair>
- (12) Galt memo December 5, 1861 quoted in Skelton, Oscar Douglas, *The Life and Times of Sir Alexander Tilloch Galt*, Toronto, Oxford University Press 1920, pgs.315-316
- (13) For an excellent summary of Macdonald's role a minister of Militia and Defense see John Boyko's *Blood and Daring: How Canada Fought The American Civil War and Forged a Nation*, Vintage Canada, 2013, pgs. 237-282
- (14) Avery, pg. 13.
- (15) For a detailed description see Frank H. Dobbin's "History of the 57th Regiment," 1914, pgs. 66-69; at Trent Valley Archives.
- (16) britishmilitariaforums.yuku.com/topic/10322/ima-british-p-1864-snider-type-breech-loading-infantry-rifle
- (17) Conner, J. C. *The County of Peterborough Directory 1870-71*, Toronto, 1869, pg. 16.
- (18) Martha Ann Kidd, *Peterborough's Architectural Heritage*, Peterborough Architectural Conservation Advisory Committee, 1978, pg. 47.
- (19) The position of Post Office Janitor in the Peterborough Post Office could have come about as a result of George's involvement in the Peterborough Rifles. Although he was not a member of the company led by H.C. Rogers, Peterborough Postmaster until 1909, he could have secured this employment through his involvement in the Peterborough militia.

1864 British Snider rifle



Ancestry Canada
 Avery, Creighton. "The History of Peterborough Area Militia and Fenian Raids," Trent University Community Based Research Project April 2013.
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Building Boom of 1883

Elwood H. Jones, *Peterborough Examiner*, 4 June 2016

Very rarely do Peterborough heritage historians have access to systematic records that allow one to recreate the building activity of the community. Historically, we know that the building trades account for perhaps 20% of the local economy. The activity is done by smaller groups of workers one or two projects at a time. With big public works projects, such as the building of railways, bridges and canals, the construction trades actually attracted migrants from elsewhere in Ontario, or even from England and Italy.



The Royal Oak Hotel was designed by John E. Belcher and built in 1883. There were several hotels along the south side of Hunter between George and Aylmer, and the classiness of the buildings has supported the emergence of the Café District. (Photo Elwood Jones)

In looking at the careful listing of building projects in Peterborough during the 1883 season, there are many indications of the importance of progress and improvement. George A. Cox, who owned about a tenth of the local real estate in 1883, spent \$2,000 getting James McLennan and his men refitting several shop fronts on George Street. McLennan, working for Cox, also added extensions to the shops of Adam Hall and J. D. Tully, on George just north of Hunter.

William Cluxton hired A. Rutherford to add a brick stable, 60 feet by 30 feet, to the Cavanagh Hotel at Water and Charlotte; it was to be “fitted with all improvements” and a fire-proof roof. W. Fitzgerald built a stable for J. B. McWilliams behind 196 Brock Street, and John Carlisle did the brickwork

for this charming building. This stable is still standing, although enlarged and improved about a decade ago, and is visible from the city parking lot on Brock Street.

George Taylor was making repairs and extensions to Aaron Comstock’s furniture business on George Street; apparently it was “elevated to two stories throughout and covered with mansard roof.” Over on Hunter Street, Comstock’s rival, Daniel Belleghem was nearly doubling the size of his furniture factory, to 24 feet by 101 feet.

Altogether there were 70 projects in Peterborough that season, and the total value for reporting purposes was just shy of \$120,000. The average project was valued at \$1,690, but the range was as high as \$8,000, and as low as \$200. In 1883, the total municipal assessment was about three million dollars. Many of the projects are still visible, if one knows how to look. Our system of street addresses was adopted four years later, as Peterborough’s gift to Queen Victoria for her golden jubilee.

At the low end, an office was added at Little Lake Cemetery for \$200. D. Desautel built a frame blacksmith shop on Charlotte Street for \$200. William English expanded his Charlotte Street canoe factory over Jackson Creek for \$250. H. Grundy built a frame tenement cottage, with six rooms, 18 feet by 22 feet, for \$300. S. A. Moore and Sons built a marble shop, 26 feet by 30 feet, at Charlotte and George, at a cost of \$200, that stood until about 1932; the corner lot proved ideal for displaying marble tombstones.

Two bakeries, both inside newly-built residences, were built. Samuel Anglesey’s red brick two storey shop at 480 Reid Street cost \$1,400, while a one-and-a-half storey brick shop for William Bacon at 485 Park Street cost \$1,000. The first was built by William Fitzgerald, while H. C. Stabler built the second and J. J. Hartley did the brick work.

William Metheral had a two-storey carriage shop, still standing, built at 464 Aylmer Street. It was 26 feet by 40 feet and cost \$1,400. J. J. Hartley was the contractor, and Enos Dunford was the carpenter.

Fires can be destructive and cause great damage, but the silver lining is the rebuilding creates opportunities for jobs, and also for improvement. George Dunford was rebuilding his block at the corner of Hunter and Water, and particularly the shops for W. Mitchell, a saddle maker; and for Miss Regan, a dressmaker. Thomas Bradburn was

rebuilding a double tenement on Chambers Street, each with eight rooms.

The most expensive project of 1883 has not survived. The Charlotte Street Methodist Church, a predecessor to Trinity United Church, stood at the corner of Charlotte and Reid. The Peterborough Clinic absorbed this property over the years. The 1883 renovations to the church were handled by architect-contractor, John Alford, assisted by another leading contractor, J. J. Hartley.

The next most expensive projects, costing \$6,000 each, were for two leading doctors, both requiring quite specific rooms and buildings. Dr. Richard King commissioned John H. Webber as architect and contractor for his project at 290 Charlotte Street, which was for many years the home of Cavanagh Appliances. This has been replaced by a new medical services building. Webber had designed the headquarters for Peterborough Water in 1882, and then spent most of his career as a water engineer for Peterborough Water Company at the waterworks, north of the Auburn dam. Dr. King (1848-1900) was the son of John King, who was the principal of the Union School. After graduating from McGill he practiced medicine at Bailliboro and returned to Peterborough in 1870.

The King project included the house, the office and stables, all of white brick construction, and in Italianate style. There were 18 rooms which included the surgery, the consulting room and the waiting room. The two-storey main building was 34 feet by 54 feet, with a wing, 24 feet square. There was a brick wood shed, 18 feet by 30 feet, and the stable, 18 feet by 40 feet, which was topped with two cupolas.

Two of Dr. King's sons, part of the local hockey dynasty of the 1890s, became doctors. Peterborough's main ice rink was on Charlotte Street, later the site of the curling rink, which was only two blocks away. Lionel practiced medicine and coached hockey in Prince Albert, Saskatchewan. John William deCoursey King returned to Peterborough in 1903, to practice here, succeeding his father at 290 Charlotte.

The second doctor's home, 547 Water, was built for Dr. Halliday and the Examiner rightly described it as "the Gothic prevailing, and in style it has no counterpart in Peterborough." The architectural plans were supplied by Gordon and Helliwell, Toronto, whose local work has mainly included work on Presbyterian churches. They did the massive redesign of St. Paul's in 1882 that converted that church to an auditorium style. Later, they built the new St. Andrew's and the Knox church, which also were characterized by the sloping floors

and wide views of the auditorium style.

Dr. Halliday's white, 14-room, brick house was well-built. Almost three storeys high, it faces Water Street, across from Victoria Park. Thomas Rutherford was the contractor and carpenter, while J. J. Hartley did the brickwork. George Brown did the plastering and J. Watson, the painting. George Bolton installed the hot water heating system and James Stevenson put in the gas lighting. The surgery, dispensary, and consulting parlor were south of the rear wing.



Dr. John Thomas I. Halliday's house across from Victoria Park was built using a design by Gordon and Helliwell Architects, Toronto. The house was one of a kind when built, and it remains an attractive and unusual building. (Photo Elwood Jones)

Dr. James Thomas I. Halliday (1844-1920), was from Grafton where his father, Dr. Thomas Halliday, was the only doctor in the area. Our Halliday graduated from McGill in 1865, and then studied for three years in New York. He practiced in the Grafton area until he moved to Peterborough in 1882, in succession to Dr. H. C. Burritt. According to Dr. John Martyn, Halliday was considered the city's "premier surgeon" and was a major force in getting local hospitals, beginning with Moira Hall in 1883.

Another expensive project that has survived to the present was the Royal Oak Hotel, at 197-201 Hunter Street, partly over the creek, and now next to the entrance to the Simcoe Street parking garage. This was an investment for Robert Z. Rogers, a farmer near Grafton in Haldimand Township. The architect was John E. Belcher, who made innovative use of rolled steel girders imported from Philadelphia in order to cross the creek. Parts of the building were

three storeys high, but the back part was two storeys. The building was 60'x30' less the 10 foot driveway which ate floor space on the main level. This building is best-known as the Bell Apartments, but in 1888, John Wilson was the hotelkeeper.

The finest residence built in 1883 was described as a gentleman's residence for Henry Carveth, who was a carpenter and contractor who built the house, now 291 Reid Street, for himself. It was a white brick house, 12 rooms, lots of closets, 12 foot high ceilings, and an observatory on the top. It was fitted for gas, town water, steam and hot water. It was 30 feet by 40 feet, two storeys, and valued at \$3,000.

George Dunford built a fine red brick cottage with ten rooms and high ceilings on Simcoe Street facing Queen Street. It had a 19 foot long addition that contained an office. It was built by D. Gamble for \$1,600.

There are many other projects worth discussing. The key point is that having a complete description of the building activity for one fairly typical year allows insight into the growth of the town, and also into the real estate investments and job opportunities for the building trades. This was a boom town, and activity was occurring at all economic levels, as much with trades people as with investors. Moreover, the diversity reflected the type of town that was emerging. Peterborough was, in 1883, a town of small businesses and a wide range of trades people.

Postcards from Peterborough and the Kawarthas

The Trent Valley Archives plans to launch its latest publication, *Postcards from Peterborough and the Kawarthas: Vintage Postcards from the Trent Valley Archives*, at our Open House on September 10, at 1 pm. Everybody is welcome.

Elwood Jones and Matthew Griffis have been working on this project for about a year; in some respects it is the cumulative result of their abiding interest in local history and in Matthew's case, a passion for postcards. The book has chapters on the history of postcards and of postcard collecting. There is a chapter on "Before the Postcard" which discusses stereopticons, cartes de visites, lithograph prints and other types of souvenirs. The book discusses local

photographers from the 1860s to the 1990s. As well, three chapters survey local vintage postcards broadly linked to George Street and the downtown; Hunter Street, with a famed bridge, the Quaker Oats plant and the world-famous Lift Lock, our most photographed site. The Kawarthas from Lakefield to Fenelon Falls, Bobcaygeon, Burleigh Falls and Lindsay were also captured in postcards.



Postcard of Little Lake, Peterborough, Ont. (TVA 1146)

The database at the Trent Valley Archives includes some 1,750 postcards. The appendix to the book lists all the postcards considered and gives the pertinent information found on the cards, and sometimes a bit more. This proved a useful way to control the discussion. The collections at the Trent Valley Archives were surprising, and as a result the book is a useful guide to what was produced and collected.

The book should appeal to anyone who ever loved a postcard. By giving the information about our cards it will prove a useful resource for archivists and postcard collectors.

The book is about 156 pages, illustrated with about 200 postcards, and expected to sell for only \$30.

Elwood Jones has been an archivist and historian since the 1960s, and is the author of some dozen books. He has been the Saturday columnist with the *Peterborough Examiner* since 2007.

Matthew R. Griffis worked at the Trent Valley Archives for a season and has been teaching in the library program at Southern Mississippi University. He has had a special interest in the history of Carnegie libraries.