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Heritage Gazette of the Trent Valley

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Cover photo: *The new main entrance at Trent Valley Archives leads into the reading room. (Elwood H. Jones)*



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President's Corner

"Those who cannot remember the past are condemned to repeat it."

With 2017 being Canada's 150th birthday people all over the country are celebrating and reflecting on Canada's future and it's past. Here at Trent Valley Archives we have embraced this historic year with enthusiasm.

Since 1989 Trent Valley Archives our passion has been safeguarding the past by the preservation, identification and care of archives in the Trent Valley region. With well over 500 collections or Fonds we have saved thousands of unique documents, photographs and records from the dumpster.

Trent Valley Archives also brings the past to life through various outreach programs ranging from talks, tours, open houses, publishing books and the "Heritage Gazette of the Trent Valley", social media including Facebook, Twitter and a semi-monthly electronic newsletter.

Always with an eye to provide historical context to modern day we have been busy researching, writing, planning our own special Canada 150 events.

In 2017 we are introducing a Speaker Series with five talks on various topics locally relevant to the Canada 150 celebration. Look for details on our web site.

As photographs take on a more prominent place in our activities we are also featuring four different exhibits throughout 2017. Located in our reading room the current display examines a Victorian theme and features photographs from our Fairbairn, Electric City and Fitzgerald collections. Why not drop by and see what photos have been selected to reflect Peterborough in Victorian times.

Other special events are developing as of this writing.

The quote that is the title of this piece is attributed to George Santayana (1863 – 1952) a prominent philosopher, essayist, poet and novelist. It has been repeated and revised so many times that it has, some may argue, become a cliché. Looking at current events I would argue that it is as true today as it has ever been.

If there is wisdom in the quote then consider that through their collections and outreach Trent Valley Archives offers an unprecedented opportunity for each of us to access, remember, enjoy and learn from our local history and perhaps even avoid the errors of our ancestors.

Rick Meridew

Wedding Bells at the Pearse House

Karen Hicks



Every picture tells a story, right? Well, this one tells several.

Who got married? Where is the verandah they are standing on? What year was it?

This charming photograph is part of the Martha Kidd collection at Trent Valley Archives.

It came to light when volunteers at TVA were looking for photos for an exhibition in conjunction with the first SPARK photo festival, held in 2014.

I was much taken with the photograph at the time. There was nothing to identify the people in the photos, although it may have been in the collection because Martha Kidd's primary photographic interest was the recording and preserving of older homes in Peterborough.

Knowing how much I loved the photo, someone at TVA gave me an extra print after the exhibition. No one who came in to see our photo exhibit was able to provide any information about it. But I kept it by my desk at home and last year Elwood ran it in the Heritage Gazette along with an appeal for information. It didn't yield anything, but in April when we held a "photos in your attic" event, TVA

member Gina Collins did recognize the house. She said it was Kerr House at Traill College, Trent University.

Heather Aiton-Landry, Elwood and I considered that information. I took the photo up to Kerr House, which I knew well, I thought, as I had lived in that neighbourhood for 20 years! Wrong.

The building is much altered today, and our discussion of whether it is the same house was spirited. In the end, Elwood was, as usual, right. It is Kerr House. But I get ahead of myself.

Lillian Pearse, youngest daughter of the late Mr. and Mrs. Edgumbe Pearse, married Francis Dean Kerr, son of the late Senator and Mrs. William Kerr (nee Myra J. Field, daughter of John Field MPP) of Cobourg on Tuesday, August 26, 1919 at St. John's Church, officiated by Rev. Canon Davidson.

This is their wedding photo, on the steps of Lillian Pearse's parents' home, which is still standing. Lillian Pearse was 41 when she married Francis Dean (known as F.D.) Kerr, who was 47.

Lillian was the daughter of Edgumbe Pearse and

Ann Sarah Shilton. The Pearse name is variously spelled in the census and other records, as is Edgcumbe. I'm standardizing the spelling from how it appears on the gravestone at Little Lake Cemetery.

Edgcumbe Pearse was born in Newport, Monmouthshire, Wales, on March 14, 1836.

His parents were Thomas Pearse and Charlotte Nicolls. He was baptized July 26, 1836 in Launceston, London, England in the Wesleyan denomination. (Source: National Archives, England.)

In the 1841 census the Pearse family living in St. Stephens Parish in Cornwall Edgcombe is aged five.

Name	Age
Charity Davey	70
Thomas Pearse	40
Charlotte Pearse	40
Grace Pearse	20
Letitia Masten	15
Grace Pearse	12
William Pearse	11
Thomas Pearse	9
Charlotte Pearse	7
Edgcombe Pearse	5
Alfred Pearse	3
Margaret Pearse	1 month
It is a large household.	

Francis H. Dobbin (1850-1932), Peterborough's premier historian of his generation, followed his career in journalism. He was with the Peterborough Review, of which he was some-time owner, and with the Peterborough Examiner.

This is what he wrote about Edgcumbe Pearse from the files at TVA. Edgcumbe Pearse, he said, was probably one of the best known, at the time of his death, among the citizens of Peterborough.

"Born in parish of Launceston, Devonshire, England, in 1836, at the age of 21 years he traveled to the West Indies in the interests of the shipping house of Paris & Co., of which firm his father was a partner. He was for a time in the Western States, where he invested in lands. He came to Peterborough at age of 26 and was employed with Messrs. T. and R. White to adjust the dissolution of partnership. This would have been in 1862.

"In 1863 he entered the County Clerk's Office, as assistant to the then Clerk and Treasurer, Mr. Walter Sheridan. On the death of the clerk in 1867, Mr. Pearse was at once appointed in succession."

I tracked Edgcumbe Pearse through the available City Directories from 1861. Here are some references:

1865-66 Fuller's Counties of Peterborough/Victoria -
The 1883-84 Business Directory notes:

Edgcumbe Pearse owned property s Dublin w
George 12+13, freeholder. (In Ward 3)

1888-1889 Town of Peterborough Directory:

Edgcumbe Pearse, county clerk and treasurer, office,
Court House, h. 586 Rubidge

The directories show him as county clerk until 1899, the year of his death and that his home was 586 Rubidge.

Edgcumbe Pearse married Ann Shelton.

On April 21, 1864 Edgcumbe Pearse married Ann L. Shelton, 21, in Peterborough. Her parents were J. (father) and M. (mother) Shelton.

I couldn't find M. or J. Shelton (identified from Ann's marriage registration) in the local city directories or in census records.

I did find an Ann Shelton in both the 1851 and 1861 census. According to the 1851 census Ann Shilton, Isabella Shilton, and Adaman, were living with the Marshel family.

Christopher Marshel, a baker, is aged 60 (German)
Elisabeth Marshel, 52 (Scotland)
Isabella Marshel, 26, (Canada)
George Marshel, Baker, 24
Peter Marshel, Baker, 22
Mary Marshel, 20,
Sarah Marshel, 15,

Ann S. Shilton, 11
Adaman Shilton, 8
Isabella Shilton, 6

PETERBOROUGH. 37

E. PEARSE
GENERAL LAND AGENT,
Patents of Lands and Inventions taken out.
SEVERAL THOUSAND ACRES OF LAND in this and the adjoining Counties for Sale.
Reference by permission to the Warden and Members of the County Council, County Officials, &c., and Messrs. Nicholls & Hall, and William Clouston, Esq.
Address,—Office of the County Treasurer, Court House, PETERBOROUGH.

D. PENTLAND,
DENTIST,
Office—George Street, Peterborough, C. W.
Agent for R. S. Williams' Victoria Organs and Melodeons, ranging in price from \$75 to \$300. Also, Agent for the Lancashire Fire and Life Insurance Company, and the Accidental Death Insurance Company of England.

R. PATTERSON & CO.,
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MANUFACTURERS
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WHOLESALE AND RETAIL DEALERS IN
BOOTS & SHOES
SPANISH SOLE & FRENCH CALF SKINS
ALWAYS ON HAND,
AT LOW PRICES.]
♣ Rubbers of all kinds. ♣

I think we can surmise that the three Shilton children were living with family members, perhaps an uncle and aunt, Christopher, the baker, and his wife, Elisabeth, and their family.

It is interesting that Ann Pearse later named her son granddaughter of the late Wm Marshall of Peterborough. Did the Marshel family become the Marshalls?

The Marshells had a daughter, Isabella, who was 26 in 1851. Robert Rowe's wife was named Isabella. If she was Isabella Marshel she would have been 36 in the 1861

granddaughter of the late Wm Marshall of Peterborough. Did the Marshel family become the Marshalls?

The Marshels had a daughter, Isabella, who was 26 in 1851. Robert Rowe's wife was named Isabella. If she was Isabella Marshel she would have been 36 in the 1861

was Isabella Marshel she would have been 36 in the 1861

census, but she was 32. Not an exact match, but close.

I did determine eventually that Isabella Marshel did indeed marry Robert Rowe. The fine gravestone in Little Lake Cemetery commemorates Robert Rowe, his wife, Isabella Marshall, and her father, Christopher Marshall, who died in 1857.

Without a record of their parents, Mrs. M. and Mr. J. Shelton, we don't know how many children there were in the family. Perhaps there is a Wm. Marshell (anglicized to Marshall) who had a son, Christopher, the baker, who had a family.

Perhaps Wm Marshel, or Marshall, also had a daughter (M), who married a Mr. J. Shelton, and they had three children that we know of. Ann, Isabella and Adaman.

That would make Mr. Marshall Ann's grandfather, as noted in the obituary.

It would be interesting to know why Ann and Isabella were living with relatives, and what became of Adaman, but that's just another loose end in the story.

Edgcumbe Pearse married Ann L. Shelton on April 21, 1864 in Peterborough.

Ontario, Canada, Marriages, 1801-1928, 1933-1934

Source: Archives of Ontario

Name: Ann L Shelton
Age: 21
Birth Year: 1843
Birth Place: Canada
Residence: Peterborough
Marriage Date: 21 Apr 1864
Marriage Place: Peterborough, Ontario, Canada
Father: J
Mother: M
Spouse: Edgecombe Pierce

I didn't find any report of the wedding in the Examiner in 1864.

Edgcumbe Pearse arrived in Peterborough in 1863 and worked at the County Clerk's Office. In 1861, Ann and her sister, Isabella, were living with the Rowes.

How did the couple meet? Perhaps at St. John's Church where they were married and where, at least after their marriage, they were members. Their daughter, Lillian was also married there.

Edgcumbe and Ann had five children, including the bride in our photo, Lillian.

Thomas Ernest was born in 1865. He is not listed as surviving or deceased in the obituaries of any of his sisters. In the 1893 city directory he was a civil engineer and living at 586 Rubidge St. In his father's obituary in 1899 he was described as "a successful civil and sanitary engineer at Newport News, Virginia."

Charlotte Ann was born in 1867 and died in 1953. She married Alfred Sherwood in 1890 in Peterborough. My research of Alfred Sherwood was fruitless, and I leave that as another loose end.

When Charlotte Anne died in 1952, it was noted in her obituary that she had two nephews, Edgcumbe Pearse and Herbert Pearse of Maryland, presumably the sons of her only living brother, Thomas.

Edith born in 1871, died December 30, 1904 and died of typhoid fever in Kansas City, Mi. She was unmarried.

Wm. Adaman Pearse, born September 7, 1872, died seven months later.

Lillian, our bride, was born November 20, 1878.

Considering the location of the wedding photograph, we know from Martha Kidd's files that Edgcumbe Pearse purchased a property on Nov. 11, 1870.

In the 1881 Census, Edgcumbe Pearse, born in 1837 in England, (now 44), lives with his wife Ann S. Pearse, 35, and their children Thomas E. Pearse, 16, Charlotte A. Pearse, 14, Edith Pearse, 10, and Lillian Pearse, 3. (In the 1871 census, he is Edgecombe Pearse. In 1881 it is Pierce!)

We know from the city directories that in 1883 he owned a property located south /Dublin and west/George (In Ward 3) and in the 1888-1889 directory his home is 586 Rubidge.

Martha Kidd's records note that Kerr House is situated close to the centre of Lot #13 south of Dublin Street and west of George Street with lawns and gardens occupying all of Lot #12 south of Dublin and west of George Street. That's the property described in the City Directory.

Edgcumbe Pearse

Edgcumbe Pearse died on August 18, 1899.

Obituary

The Late Edgcumbe Pearse

Morning Times of Monday, August 21, 1899

"Saturday's Times announced the death of Mr. E. Pearse, County Clerk and Treasurer, which occurred suddenly at Muskoka on Friday last.

"Last winter he suffered a severe attack of la grip, followed by a slight touch of paralysis. He did not appear to regain strength, and thought a sojourn in Muskoka would elicit a cure. With Mrs. Pearse he went to King's wharf about three weeks ago, and on Thursday evening, shortly after tea, he suffered another stroke which left him unconscious, in which condition he remained up to the time of his death.

"The late Mr. Pearse was a native of Devonshire where he was born seventy years ago. After visiting various parts of the world he came to Canada when he was 26 years old. He entered the office of the County Clerk and Treasurer, and was subsequently appointed County Clerk, and on the death of the Treasurer, Mr. Walter Sheridan, he got the Treasurership, a position which he filled with rare ability and great credit to himself and the county. He also filled the position of secretary of the Town Trust Commissioners, for about 15 years.

"Mr. Pearse was a member of St. John's Church, and always took great interest in church work.

"In 1864 Mr. Pearse married Miss Shelton, granddaughter of the late Wm Marshall, of Peterborough. Mrs. Pearse, who it may be mentioned, is herself not in robust health and greatly prostrated by her bereavement, survives him, and four children – Thomas Ernest, a successful civil and sanitary engineer in Newport News, United States, Mrs. Sherwood, Miss Pearse in Kansas city, Mo., and Miss Lily Pearse, the youngest.

"Mr. Pearse was quiet and retiring in his disposition, and very popular with whom he came in contact. The remains reached town on Friday night, and the funeral will leave the family residence this afternoon at three o'clock."

Here's how Francis H. Dobbin, his contemporary, described Edgecombe Pearse.

"Probably one of the best known, at the time of his death, among the citizens of Peterborough.

"In 1863 he entered the County Clerk's Office, as assistant to the then Clerk and Treasurer, Mr. Walter Sheridan. On the death of the clerk in 1867, Mr. Pearse was at once appointed in succession. From that time on he continued in office, a valued and respected servant of the County. He had great natural ability as an accountant and

his services were much in demand as auditor. Especially was he competent in dealing with the financial matters of the County in its relation to surrounding municipalities.

"As secretary of the Town Trust Commission, a position he held for 15 years, he gave valuable service. A member of the Church of England. Died in Muskoka, while on his vacation on Aug. 18, 1899.

"As a mark of appreciation and respect the funeral was attended by the Town Council, and also the County Council in a body. On meeting of the County Council to arrangement for the appointment of Clerk, reference was made to the late Mr. Pearce, and a resolution of condolence prepared and sent to relatives."

Edgcumbe Pearce

Ontario Deaths and Overseas Deaths, 1939-1947

Name	Edgcumbe Pearce
Event Type	Death
Event Date	18 Aug 1899
Event Place	Humphrey, Parry Sound, Ontario
Gender	Male
Age	64
Birthplace	La.Ton Devon, Eng.
Birth Year	1835 (Estimated)

"Ontario Deaths, 1869-1937 and Overseas Deaths, 1939-1947."

So, at the time of his death in 1899, his widow, Ann Shelton Pearce, and their daughter, Lillian, or Lily, were living in the family home at 586 Rubidge. Daughter Charlotte Ann had married in 1890 although she was to return to live in the family home some years later.

Introducing Francis Dean Kerr

Meanwhile, Francis Dean Kerr, who will marry Lillian Pearce in 1919, was a lawyer with Howell, Fleming, a law firm established in 1857. He was admitted to the bar in 1892, and was made a partner in 1895.

The Kerr Family fonds is located at Trent University Archives. Those records tell us that Francis Dean Kerr's father, William Kerr, was born at Ameliasburgh, Prince Edward County, Upper Canada, in 1836. He was a son of Francis William and Olive Shelley Kerr. He attended school at Newtonville and later Victoria College at Cobourg where he received his B.A. in 1855, his M.A. in 1858, and L.L.D. in 1887.

William Kerr, pronounced Carr, was called to the bar in 1859 and practiced law at Smith and Armour in Cobourg. He became a Q.C. in 1876. In 1896 he was elected a Bencher of the Law Society of Ontario.

Mr. Kerr served as a Cobourg town councilor and mayor and was elected a Liberal member of the House of Commons for Northumberland West in 1874. Defeated in the 1882 election, in 1889 he was called to the senate.

On November 12, 1858, he married Myra J. Field, who was born in England, and daughter of John Field, M.P.P. They had seven children, three daughters and four sons. The oldest son, William F. Kerr became a partner in his father's law practice to form the firm Kerr and Kerr of Cobourg. After the Senator's death on November 22, 1906

in Toronto, William F. carried on the firm with a series of partnerships. William F. Kerr was best man at his brother's wedding.

Francis Dean Kerr, known as F.D., was born November 30, 1872 in Cobourg.

In 1909, he would have been 37 years old and he had been a member of the bar since 1892. The city directories tell us he worked at Dennistoun, Peck and Kerr, barristers, solicitors and notaries, at 415-417 Water St. He lived at 507 Homewood Ave. with boarder Robert Hall, who was Collector of Customs.

At the time F.D. was Trustee of the Peterborough Law Association, and President of the Canadian Club.

The next year, 1910, we find widow Ann Pearce and her daughter, Lillian, living in the family home at 586 Rubidge Street. F.D. Kerr is rooming at 393 Water St.

393 Water Street is on the west side of the street, just before the corner of Hunter Street. It then housed Peterborough Business College, the Peterborough Saskatchewan Land Co. Ltd., landscapers, a physician, and F.D. Kerr. Today, there are stores on the ground floor with generous-sized apartments above.

In 1911, according to the Canada Census, Charlotte Ann, a widow, has joined her mother and sister living in the house on Rubidge Street. Then aged 45, she had married Alfred Sherwood on December 3, 1890 in Peterborough. Her obituary noted she had lived her life in the area, but I couldn't find what became of Alfred Sherwood.

Annie Sarah Pearce died in Peterborough at the age 76 on February 3, 1917. She was 76.

The Evening Examiner

Funeral of the late Mrs. Edgcumbe Pearce

"The funeral of the late Mrs. Edgcumbe Pearce took place this afternoon. A short family service was held at the home and the funeral service at St. John's Church.

"Mrs. Pearce was the widow of the late Edgcumbe Pearce, who for thirty-two years was the Treasurer and clerk of the County of Peterborough.

"The pallbearers were Mr. W.H. Moore, Mr. D.W. Dumble, Mr. W. H. Grubbe, Dr. Greer, Mr. F.D. Kerr and Mr. Fred Clementi.

"The late Mrs. Pearce is survived by three children, Mrs. A. E. Sherwood, Miss Lillian Pearce of this city and Mr. T.E. Pearce, City Engineer of Newport News, Virginia, U.S.A."

Another daughter, Edith, had predeceased her mother in 1904. (Interesting that there are no grandchildren mentioned. We know Thomas Pearce did have at least two children.)

So, at the time of the wedding, in 1919, the parents of both bride and groom were deceased.

F.D. Kerr and Lillian Pearce were married August 20, 1919. F.D. was a partner at what was then Peck, Kerr and McElderry, 415-417 Water St.

Street directories don't record many of the details of the lives of women and wives of that era. Some years the city directory listed Lillian as living with her mother on Rubidge Street, other years she was not mentioned at all. One could think of her travelling and visiting friends and family. We know both she and sister, Charlotte, were active at St. John's Church and with the IODE. Lillian was also a

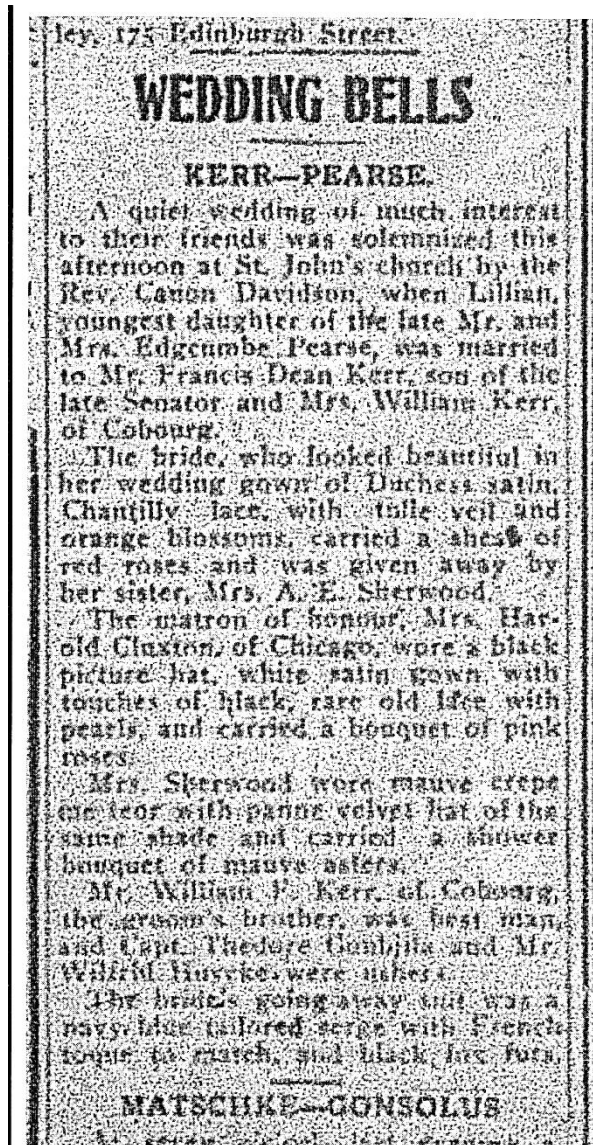
charter member of the Shakespeare Club, which was formed in 1912.

On the centenary of the Shakespeare Club in 2012, Examiner reporter Galen Eagle wrote of the club that:

"The women were predominantly members of Peterborough's high society – the daughters, sisters and wives of prominent architects, businessmen and politicians – who were seeking a venue to flex their intellect in a time when they were excluded from men-only social clubs."

How did Lillian and F.D. meet? Peterborough was a small town with a population of less than 15,000. They travelled in the same circles. F.D. Kerr and Edgumbe Pearse likely knew each other through business; at one time F.D. Kerr was the county solicitor. The bride and groom may also have met in church. They were married at St. John's Anglican Church, where Edgumbe Pearse had been an active member.

Francis D. Kerr Marries Lillian Pearse



Here's the newspaper account from the Peterborough Morning Times of August 26, 1919.

Unfortunately, the clipping doesn't reproduce well. We do see that the wedding was at St. John's Church with Rev. Canon Davidson officiating. I tried to find another copy of the newspaper, but neither the Peterborough Public Library nor the Museum and Archives carried this issue.

The bride was given away by her sister Charlotte Ann Sherwood. Matron of Honour was Mrs. Harold Claxton of Chicago.

William F. Kerr, the grooms' brother, was best man. Capt. Theodore (last name indecipherable) and Mr. Wilfrid Huycke, were ushers. We know that Wilfrid Huycke was a cousin of F.D. Kerr.

From the description in the clipping of the women's outfits, we can identify some of the people in the photo.

Matron of Honour Mrs. Harold Cluxton of Chicago, wore a black picture hat, white satin gown with touches of black, rare old lace with pearls, and carried a bouquet of pink roses. I think she is to the right of the groom in the photograph.

Mrs. Cluxton was the former Isabelle or Madge McGill. She married William Harold Cluxton, a manufacturer in Peterborough, who a few years prior to the wedding, was a naturalized U.S. citizen.

Madge McGill has her own family story to tell. It was retold as a cautionary tale in a February 19, 2008 Toronto Star column written by Personal Finance Editor Adam Mayers.

On Friday, Oct. 12, 1906, the Ontario Bank, headquartered in Bowmanville, with 30 branches in Ontario and Quebec and an imposing office in Toronto, collapsed. General manager Charles McGill, Madge McGill's father, and president George Cockburn, would face fraud charges, and the writer wondered how McGill had managed to lose \$1.25 million, the equivalent of \$181 million today. McGill had been a bank employee for 37 years and general manager for 11 years when he was caught.

The reporter surmises that McGill figured he was astute enough to profit from trading in speculative American stocks. He expected the market to fall; he was borrowing stock at current prices and selling it, intending to replace the shares with cheaper ones when prices fell. However, as share prices rose, he had to pay more and more to cover the shortfall. He managed to cover it up for a while, until a clerk blew the whistle.

Four months later, he was convicted of making false tax returns to the government and sentenced to five years in prison. Shortly thereafter McGill's wife, Minnie, daughter, Madge, and son, Vernon, left Peterborough.

Thanks to Catherine Dibben, whose knowledge of the Roy Studio portrait collection, led me to this story.

Sister Charlotte Ann (Mrs. A. E. Sherwood) wore mauve crepe meteor with a panne velvet hat of the same shade and carried a shower bouquet of mauve roses. I think she is standing to the left of the bride.

I think the two men to the right of Mrs. Cluxton share a family resemblance with the groom. They might be brother, William F. Kerr, and cousin, William Huycke. We know that William is 10 years older than the groom, so perhaps he is beside Mrs. Cluxton, with the younger cousin beside him.

We know the wedding party also includes the unidentified captain and I can't make out a man in uniform

in the picture. We weren't able to identify him at the Archives.

Lillian had a sister, Edith, seven years older, and brother, Thomas, 13 years older. He had two sons. Edith was unmarried. Are they in the picture? There is a woman in the row behind the bride and groom who, I think, much resembles the bride. Perhaps that is Edith.

To the bride's left could be Rev. Canon John Cheyne Davidson and his wife, Susanna Ferrar Cheyne Davidson. They would have been in their 60s at the time of the wedding.

Who are the two boys in kilts in front? When Edgcombe Pearse died in 1899 his four children were mentioned in the obituary but there was no mention of grandchildren. We know from Charlotte Ann's obituary that she had two nephews, Thomas's children, Edgcombe Pearse and Herbert Pearse of Maryland.

According to Virginia census of 1920, Thomas Pearse, born around 1867 in Canada, and Anna P. Pearse (aged 46 and born in Virginia), had two children, Thomas E. (Edgcombe?) is 13, Henry R. is 9, both born in Virginia. They seem to be too old to be the boys in the photo.

F.D. Kerr was the second youngest of seven children; some siblings were 10 years older. F.D. was 47 in 1919 when he married and this picture was taken. It seems most of his siblings did not marry.

Four of the seven children are buried in the family plot at Cobourg Union Cemetery. Only one included a wife.

As well as elder brother William F., sisters Mabel and Helena were alive in 1919. Another brother, Charles, and sister, Edith, are buried elsewhere.

Charles was a lawyer in Toronto. There is a John Kerr in the family who was a lawyer and mentioned in F.D.'s death announcement in the Examiner. Perhaps he is a son. There is another lawyer in the family, John Macdonald. Could that be the son of Edith? How old were they in 1919?

The boys in their kilts could be sons, or grandsons, of the siblings I could not trace. Or the sons of neighbours or friends on either side of the family.

It is possible that in addition to brother, William F., his best man, the groom's sisters, Mabel, Helena and Edith may have attended the wedding, along with brother, Charles, and they may be in the photograph. There is a group of women behind the groom, who could be his sisters.

The large number of men on the left could be brothers or fellow lawyers. Considering the pedigree of the bride and groom, one would expect there to be at least a few notable citizens among the guests at their wedding. Perhaps a sharp-eyed reader will identify some of them.

Lillian Pearse and F.D. were married for 45 years.

When F.D. died at age 92, the Peterborough Examiner of March 4, 1963 declared him "the dean of lawyers."

A Tribute to F.D.

"Mr. Kerr was connected with every worthwhile community project. He was an outstanding citizen. A leader in the chamber of commerce for many years, the first president of the Trent Waterways Association, a prominent layman of St. John's Anglican Church and for more than 80

years a member of the Masonic order."

He was president of the Ontario Bar Association for 20 years. He supported the Red Cross Society and the Patriotic Fund of the First World War and the Victory Loan Campaigns of the Second World War.

He was joint solicitor for both the Peterborough Board of Education and County Council.

An athletic man, he had played football in university, was a lawn bowling champion and a lacrosse player. The Peterborough Examiner illustrates that with the story that he skated from his home to work one day when rain froze in the streets. He was 75!

We are led to believe that this wedding followed a lengthy courtship of members of two well-known families. We get some sense of what they were like from the incident of the mohania plant, which occurred before their wedding, described by Catherine Dibben in this issue. After a long courtship, the future bride who was apparently reluctant, was won over by a wager!

The newspaper described it as "a quiet wedding of much interest to their friends."

In any event it is a happy picture. The couple are newly-married and surrounded by friends and family on the verandah at the east side of their home at 586 Rubidge St., now renumbered 299 Dublin Street.

They shared their home with Lillian's sister, Charlotte Ann, until 1944 when, according to the City Directory, she is living at 310 London Street which appears to have been converted from offices of a contractor and insurance adjuster into a few apartments. She was living on London Street when she died in 1953.

F.D. died at the age of 92 in 1963. Married in 1919 – the couple had a long life together at the house. Despite having not married until their 40s, they had 45 years of married life.

At his death, F.D. was survived by his wife and his cousin W.F. Huycke, QC, who was present at their wedding.

Lillian Pearse Kerr died at her residence, 299 Dublin Street, on January 8, 1971.

The Late Lillian Pearse Kerr

In her obituary in the Examiner, it is said that Mrs. Kerr, who also lived to age 92, "was active before the Second World War in Peterborough community work. She was associated with the Independent Order of the Daughters of the Empire and the city arts association. She was also a member of the chancel guild of St. John's Anglican Church."

It was pointed out at the time of her death, that the Pearse home had been occupied by the same family for 97 years.

Lillian Pearse Kerr sold the house to Trent University in 1967 and continued to live there until her death. The house is now part of Traill College.

Footnote: Trent University has a Francis Dean Kerr Scholarship (the donor was the late Mrs. Kerr) to be awarded to a student of a bachelor's degree in any subject.

After I completed writing this article I received an email from Elwood Jones who had just finished reading Ed Arnold's new book, *Young Enough to Die*, which had been released just days before. He told me that F.D. Kerr was a

hero in the book, which chronicled the short life of Robert Henderson, hanged in 1910 for the murder of an elderly Douro woman.

F.D. represented Henderson, who was 17 when he was hanged, pro bono. His efforts were certainly above and beyond what anyone would have expected, including a journey to Ottawa to plead for the boy's life from Prime Minister Wilfrid Laurier and other cabinet ministers just days prior to the hanging. Although unsuccessful, F.D. never gave up.

I was also struck reading Ed's book by the role Rev.

Canon John Cheyne Davidson of St. John's Anglican Church, which was across the street from the jail. Rev. Davidson was also a prison chaplain. Not only did he befriend the young prisoner, he was present at the hanging itself and later conducted the funeral service at Little Lake Cemetery. His significant role in this story is most movingly told in the book.

Ten years later Rev. Canon Davidson would officiate at the wedding of F.D. Kerr and Lillian Pearse.

The House in the Photo

Karen Hicks

The Pearse family, until the time of Lillian Pearse Kerr's death in 1967, had lived in the house at 587 Rubidge Street for 97 years.

Her father, Edgcombe Pearse, Peterborough County Clerk and Treasurer, purchased the property in 1870. Mrs. Kerr sold it to Trent University in 1967 for \$40,000. A widow, she continued to live in the house until her death on January 8, 1971, at age 92.

Edgcombe Pearse did not build the original house on the property which was much altered over the years. Martha Kidd, who researched and described all the older homes in Peterborough and whose fonds are at T.V.A., researched the house and outlined the first years of the property.

James Neville received the Crown Patent for all of Lot #1 on September 20, 1853.

Charles T. Ware bought the lot early in October, 1853, and immediately sold it to Thomas Hutchinson, a well-known mid-19th century tin merchant in Peterborough. It would appear Mr. Hutchinson built and occupied a dwelling on this property, which was purchased by James Gallon, Peterborough's Deputy Sheriff, in April, 1857 for 450 pounds.

The 1861 census lists James Gallon as having a one-storey frame house which was "being built." However, in October, 1861, Mr. Gallon sold the property to Alexander Stewart for \$1,000. Perhaps the house "being built" in 1861 is not this house, but a new one built elsewhere after the sale of the property to Mr. Stewart.

Martha Kidd notes: It seems more likely the erection of the original south part of the house was 1853, as the construction method was stacked plank, which was much used in the 1850s.

Edgcombe Pearse purchased the property on Nov. 11, 1870, and that was probably when the large north part of the dwelling was erected of buff-coloured brick and the original house was renovated and brick clad.

As a footnote, Robert Rowe, reappears in this story. In the 1861 Census, Ann Shelton, age 20, and Isabella Shelton, 15, are living with Robert Rowe, a carpenter, age 43, and his wife, Isabella, 32. Ann was to marry Edgcombe Pearse in 1864.

Ann and Isabella are listed as family members. They may have been nieces of Isabella Rowe, which makes Robert Rowe their uncle.

Robert Rowe appears on the tax deed in 1870 and on the deed registered Nov. 25, 1875 with Edgcombe Pearse. The same day, there is a record of a bargain and sale to Ann Sarah Pearse. Whatever the familial relationship, Robert Rowe remained a part of Ann Shelton Pearse's life. Perhaps he was looking out for her. He died in 1877 at age 73.

Elwood Jones has noted that Robert Rowe, a contractor, built the oldest building on George Street, just south of Brock Street.

On October 17, 1919, a couple of months after Lillian and Francis Kerr were married, the executors of Anne Pearse's estate turned the property over to Francis D. Kerr for \$1.00. It becomes joint property of Mr. and Mrs. Kerr in 1935 as it remains until it is sold to Trent University in 1967.

The Kerrs shared their home with Lillian's sister, Charlotte Sherwood, widow of Alfred Sherwood, for many years following their marriage. In fact, she had been living at the house with her mother, Anne, and sister Lillian prior to the wedding, according to the 1911 census.

Further entries in the City Directories tell us that Charlotte Sherwood moved to 310 London Street, where she was living at the time of her death in 1952.

Lillian Pearse Kerr died at her residence, now renumbered 299 Dublin Street, January 8, 1971 at age 92. It appears the renumbering occurred some time after 1900.

It is now called Kerr (pronounced Carr) House.

The official Trent University Open House at Kerr House is described in the Examiner, Nov. 22, 1971.

Renovations started in June although Trent University purchased the house from Mrs. Kerr in 1967. Originally a small house, three additions were added by Mr. Pearse. The sunken dining room is now a charming lounge-reading room and the Kerr library is a reference library with original wooden shelving from the home.

About 350 people filed through the home on Sunday, including members of the Kerr family.

Here's how Kerr House is described today on the Trent University website:

Kerr House is located at 299 Dublin Street and is thought to have been constructed as a cottage around 1853 by tinsmith Thomas Hutchinson. At that time the house was very small. In fact, what is today the Alan Wilson Reading room was, in 1853, the entire house.

The house was later purchased in 1870 by Edgcomb Pearse who added the brick work to the cottage creating the house which we see today. The house passed through a couple of generations of the Pearse family to

their descendents the Kerr Family, who lived in the house until the University acquired it in 1971.

Kerr House is now the home for the School for the Study of Canada.

The History of Kerr House

Martha Ann Kidd, Gina Basciano (1985)



Photo by Karen Hicks

Kerr House is situated close to the centre of Lot #13 south of Dublin Street and west of George Street with lawns and gardens occupying all of Lot #12 south of Dublin and west of George Street. In all, the property occupies a full acre of land. A hedge of shrubs and trees grows along the perimeter of the property obscuring a view of the dwelling from the surrounding streets, except where a land enters the property from Dublin Street.

Significance: The original 1853 south portion of the house was constructed of stacked planks, a technique of building used in Peterborough during the timber boom of the 1850s and 1860s. The 1870 north addition is very typical of that period when the Victorian Gothic style was popular. Much of the original trim of the period still remains. Its most noted occupant was Edgcombe Pearse,

for many years the Clerk and Treasurer of the County of Peterborough.

Exterior Description of Building for Designation By-law: The south, low one and a half storey section of this dwelling is the earlier 1853 section of this house. The north section, from the projecting gable roofed bay dates from the 1870 period. It was at this date that the older section, constructed of stacked planks, was clad with buff coloured brick to match the solid brick construction of the newer portion of the house.

The east façade of this structure contains four bays. A verandah extends from the projection with a gable and southward and around the corner of the house to where it meets a sun porch, which is neither original nor early.

The main entrance, which is at the north end of the

original façade, has a solid four panel door with a single pan transom above. On either side of the door are panels which extend to the top of the transom. Each of these side panels has a single recessed wood panel below surmounted by two lights.

The gable end projection, on the east side, contains a two storey, three-sided bay, each side containing a double hung sash window with segmental arch radiating voussoir head surrounds. The windows of the first storey are of greater height than those of the second storey. The gable end is decorated with wood bargeboard, a finial and return eaves.

To the north of the projecting gable is a French window with two leaves, each of which contains six lights above a single recessed wood panel.

To the south of the main entrance is another French window with two leaves, each containing two lights over a single recessed wood panel.

The upper storey of the south side takes the form of a low, boxed cornice pediment with the eaves trimmed with bargeboard and a dropped finial. Inside the pediment are two casement windows, each containing two three-pane sashes. At each end of the lower storey on the south side is a French window which matches the one on the front façade to the south of the entrance. The west window is hidden behind the “modern” sun room which is built into the verandah.

The west side of the structure is one storey in height except for a projection, corresponding in location to the one on the east side, but with a lower pitched gable and no projecting bay. The eaves are trimmed with bargeboard and a finial at the peak. A double hung 6/6 sash window

under the peak and a small modern window occupy the upper storey and a grouping of one 66 double hung window flanked on either side by narrower double hunt sash windows occupy the centre of the lower storey. To the north of the projection, in the older portion of the house are two casement windows, each with two leaves containing two panes. A modern “fire escape” door and stairway is at the north end of the projection.

The rear, or north end of the dwelling contained the service and garage portion of the structure. Here, the renovation necessary to recycle the structure for college purposes have been done with great care. Where possible, the original openings have been used. Where this has not been possible, the new openings blend with the old. One original feature of this north end is the heavy boxed cornice with the returned eaves.

A few remaining details must be mentioned. The front and rear slopes of the roof of the south, or original portion of the house are broken by small blind dormers. A small chimney extends above the front dormer. A tall chimney is located in the middle of the exterior wall of the older part of the house on the west side. Two smaller chimneys protrude through the west slope of the service wing.

Historical Research: Martha Ann Kidd, Gina Basciano

Architectural description; Timothy Jackson, Martha Ann Kidd

Brief completed on: February 9, 1985

The Story of the *Mohania* Plant

Catherine Dibben

F. D. Kerr, a noted barrister in Peterborough, proposed to Lillian Pearce, a daughter of the County Clerk Edgumbe Pearce, living at 586 Rubidge Street north of McDonnel Street. She refused his proposal numerous times. He travelled to a legal conference on the west coast of Canada and returned with a *mohania* or Oregon grape-holly bush.

He continued to pursue Lillian’s hand in marriage. Lillian became quite annoyed and said to Francis, “You silly fool, bringing that *mohania* back to Ontario. Sure, it will grow on the west coast but our colder climate will kill it this winter.”

He replied “No, it won’t!”

She replied “Yes it will!”

He retorted “No, it won’t!”

She answered back “Yes, it will!”

Finally, in total frustration, Lillian countered with this proposal “If this *mohania* survives this winter in Peterborough I will marry you, Francis!”

The rest is history. They married in 1919, Francis at the age of 47 and Lillian 41. They lived in Lillian’s childhood home on Rubidge Street. That house is now

called Kerr House and is one of the Trent University buildings on the downtown campus.

I have a piece of that very plant in my back yard, a gift from the late Fern Rahmel who recounted this wonderful story to me. I believe that Fern’s mother was phoned many years ago by Mrs. Fowler (mother of PCVS teacher Genevieve Fowler) and offered a piece of the plant. Lois Davidson also had a piece of the original plant in her front yard at 500 Homewood Avenue.

Trent-Severn Waterway National Historic Site of Canada

Operational canal: 386 km route, forty-four locks Trenton / Port Severn, Ontario

This is one of 38 National Historic Sites administered by Parks Canada for which there is free admission during 2017, as Canada celebrates Canada 150, 150 years since Confederation.

Five Major Winter Fires Downtown in Five Years

Elwood H. Jones, Peterborough Examiner, January 2017

In the winters from 1900 to 1904, Peterborough had five big downtown fires. Each became part of the local lore, and was captured in photos and postcards. Together, they pointed to the need for a new fire hall and reorganized Peterborough Fire Department. Two of the fires left huge gaps in the archival and historical records of the city and county.

Nearly all the glass negatives at the Roy Studio in January 1904 were lost, and these included decades of photographic work that R. M. Roy had done before establishing a studio in 1892, and moving to 140 ½ Hunter Street, where the firm lasted a century through three generations. The firm quickly started the next chapter in its outstanding history, beginning by producing and selling popular postcards.

The Peterborough Examiner, which remains the paper of record locally, lost several months of the newspaper archive, and consequently researchers cannot use papers for late 1900 and early 1901. Fortunately for researchers, Peterborough had three daily newspapers at the time, and most of the gap is covered with microfilms of the Peterborough Review and the Peterborough Times.

China Hall Fire 1900

The China Hall fire, February 27, 1900, destroyed a landmark building at George and Simcoe, now the main entrance to Peterborough Square. This was the third fire at this corner, and the Neill shoe store fire in January 1918 was the fourth. The Bradburn building was rebuilt for a fourth time and stood until it was demolished in preparation for the building of Peterborough Square, 1974-1975.

The China Hall fire was considered one of the most disastrous fires to hit the town. The building was a three storey white brick structure topped with a mansard roof, a style that was fashionable in the downtown after the building of the Cluxton Building at Hunter and George in 1881. On the main floor, the China Hall was at the corner, and Matthews store was next, one of the three Matthews retail stores, which sold fresh meat from the George Matthews Company (forerunner of Canada Packers and Maple Leaf Foods) as well as the finest canned goods from far afield; after the fire the store moved temporarily to 325 George Street, across from the market arcade.

Over top of the China Hall, the second floor was occupied by offices. R. E. Wood, a long-time crown attorney, had his law office on the second floor; he moved his office to the Bank of Commerce at Hunter and George. Other offices on the second floor included J. J. Lundy's business office and R. E. Morrow's dentist's office. The third floor had formerly been an Orange Hall. Above Matthews store, was the upstairs of the China Hall. On the third floor was the hall of the Ancient Order of Foresters. The Bradburn building was owned by Thomas Bradburn, then Peterborough's largest property owner.

The China Hall, owned by Macfarlane Wilson, was

Peterborough's leading store for crystal, china, dinnerware and ornaments. China Hall looked for temporary premises and especially commented it would be selling coal oil. Some people heard explosions during the China Hall fire, likely caused by the coal oil in the building. The China Hall stored several barrels of coal oil in the rear section of the basement.



China Hall Fire, 1900 (TVA Electric City Collection)

Smoke and water damage was done to adjacent businesses. In the morning, the R. Neill shoe store, a double store, had two feet of water in both cellars. Everything on the north walls of the building was damaged. The hose that was taken to the roof went up the stairway between the Times office and the Palace Restaurant; it burst. The clothing store of Henry LeBrun and Joseph Picard suffered heavy water damage, as did the apartments above.

The fire began around 1:10 a.m., when the temperature was -29 Fahrenheit or -34 Celsius, apparently in the cellar of the China Hall, and then shot up the elevator shaft to the top of the building. The fire brigade had two streams of water on the fire within two minutes of the alarm being sounded; the fire hall was then in the Municipal Building, which was just east of the Bradburn building. The fire was confined to the one building because of the "determined and laborious efforts of the firemen" for fifteen hours. The Review commented, "Quite a blaze was fanned into life, and about nine o'clock a stream was put on by the firemen to drown out the last signs of fire."

Because of the extreme cold, the water falling on the building turned to ice. There were six streams of water each with discharging 200 gallons per minute. The water system worked but telephone lines were damaged.

Peterborough Examiner fire 1901

The Peterborough Examiner building, shared with the Peterborough Bookstore, was heavily damaged on March 8, 1901. The Examiner building was on the west

side of George midway between Hunter and Brock; its back door led to Chambers Street. The Review was at the corner of Chambers and Hunter.

On March 9, the Examiner reported, "As the result of a most disastrous conflagration, which broke out at about four o'clock this morning, THE EXAMINER building was completely gutted by fire, the stock and plant being a total loss." Police Constable Adams and Nightwatchman Finney who were on Chambers Street noticed nothing unusual at 3:45 a.m. Fifteen minutes later, Joseph Begley, who lived on Chambers Street saw flames coming to the windows and told Finney. The fire brigade arrived quickly, but the fire was very advanced. Broken windows on the main floor suggested the fire might have been arson. The fire appeared to have started at the foot of the staircase on the ground floor and swept up the stairs to the third floor. While the rear parts collapsed, the front part of the building stood.

The Examiner noted, "In a very few minutes the floor in the third flat gave away, as well as the roof, and both came crashing down to the second story, where the heat became so intense as to melt the type in the cases and cause it to form into solid blocks." On the third floor, the tools and machinery in the bindery, and the expensive type-

J. R. Stratton, the prominent Liberal MPP and member of the Ontario cabinet.

The Peterborough Bookstore, owned by A. H. Stratton, the brother of the Examiner owner, was the major was Peterborough's leading bookstore. Stratton placed an ad in the Examiner. "Our store will necessarily have to be closed for a day or two longer before the insurance men will be able to adjust the losses and we are in a position to put the stock in shape for doing business."

Daily deliveries of the paper continued, and people were directed to the Examiner's temporary offices at 411 George Street, just south of the Lech's store. The phone number, 57, was installed a day or two later.

Two days after the fire, the safe was opened, and except for some water damage, the books were fine. As well, the mailing lists were saved.

The Toronto Savings and Loan Company, which owned the Examiner Building, promised to have the newspaper offices "refitted by the end of the month, if it is at all possible."

The Examiner had already ordered "type, type-setting machines and other printing plant" which was expected to arrive by the end of the week. It expected

shortly to fill all advertising contracts and to take new jobs. They would soon be "doing business at the old stand."

The Examiner was on the street the day after the fire, thanks to the assistance of its rival, the Review which shared its premises and printing plant.

J. R. Stratton sent a donation to the Fire Brigade Fund in appreciation for their efforts at the Examiner fire. His note contained the comment, "... and although your efforts were not successful, I wish to say that nothing was left undone by any member of the brigade to do all that was possible to prevent the



setting machines were destroyed beyond repair. Books which customers had left for binding were lost: "some of them were rare editions that cannot be replaced." The Examiner had five presses and a folder on the ground floor which were also destroyed.

The intense heat along the south wall was controlled with a deluge of water, which unfortunately destroyed the large stock in A. H. Stratton's Peterborough Bookstore. The second and third floors of the bookstore were used as a book warehouse. The water leaked to the basement and destroyed "about 40,000 rolls of wall paper." Firemen and merchants prevented the fire extending.

The office file of newspapers from July 1899 to March 8, 1901 were destroyed in the fire and so never microfilmed. The town had three daily newspapers at the time, and the files of the Daily Review are fairly strong through this period. The Review offices were at the corner of Hunter and Chambers Street, and after the fire the Examiner were guests at the Review offices. It was a few months later that the Examiner returned to its former editorial offices and to a modern new printing press. The Examiner was owned by

spread of the fire."

The Examiner newspapers for the nine months preceding the fire do not exist on microfilm. At the Trent Valley Archives, we have wondered if other issues between July 1, 1900 and March 8, 1901 have survived elsewhere. For microfilming purposes, it was always best to begin with the records kept by the publisher. The best account of the Examiner fire begins with the issue for March 9.

It still seems amazing that the premises were repaired so quickly.

The Crystal Hall Block fire 1902

Above, the Crystal Block is the third building from Hunter Street. (Trent Valley Archives, Martha Kidd fonds)

The Crystal Hall Block fire, 410-412 George Street, occurred on January 20, 1902. The building was owned by the Toronto Loan and Savings Company, and earlier by George A. Cox. The main occupants of this building were Miss Rudkins' drygoods store and W. G. Howden's butcher shop.



Around 1907, the Crystal Theatre was in the Crystal Block. (Peterborough Examiner)

Katherine (Kate) Rudkins (1863-1914) was the sister of William Rudkins, a collector of Internal Revenue; Kate was living with her brother's family at 185 King Street. The fire was particularly sad, as she was not able to re-establish herself as a dry goods merchant. Before her final bout with anemia, she was bookkeeper at Peterborough Furniture, 60 Hunter Street East, owned by W. T. Oke.

William George Howden (b. 1870) was still single at the time of the fire; he was married at St. John's Church in April 1904 to Margaret Elliott. He continued to operate a butcher shop for some years, and in 1902 was still at 410 George. Howden moved to the former Denoon stand near George and Brock. Over the years, his butcher shop was at different locations on George Street but he mainly established himself as a cattle dealer, and lived for many years at 27 Lansdowne, near the Haggart Street intersection.

The firefighters made good use of their new ladder; the Examiner observed that "Messrs McBurney and Hyde of the Canadian General Electric Co. did yeoman service on the ladders." The brigade prevented the fire from spreading to the neighbouring buildings. Long's Confectionary was at 414 George, and employees of the store lived in apartments on the second and third floors. The employees were awakened by the smoke and the sound of breaking glass.

The building to the south, 406 George, was occupied by Pete Simons and Co., a firm of merchant tailors. Interestingly, the area around the intersection of George and Hunter was the town's fashion district. Peterborough's six merchant tailors were based near the corner, as well as some seamstresses. In 1889, the father and two sons were all working as cutters for Thomas Dolan and Company. By 1893, Pete Simons (1840-1903) had established Pete Simons & Co. and his son, Peter (1870-1926) had joined him at 406 George. The 1901 census lists Peter Simons, Jr. as a tailor and a brother and his father as cloth cutters. The firm moved to 405 George Street, but after his father's death, Peter Jr. was a tailor working from 397½ George Street for several years. It is possible that the fire affected the health of the father, and it certainly affected the career of the son.

The bookstore owned by A. H. Stratton lost a plate

glass window because of the intense heat from the Crystal Building fire. According to the Examiner account, the fire lasted until 2 a.m. and "the handsome Crystal Block was a smoldering mass of ruins." James Long moved one door north and opened within a few days. The cause of the fire remained "a complete mystery."

Cressman fire 1903

Two department stores located on the west side of George near Hunter, at 385 and 387, were hit by fire at 1:15 p.m. on February 7, 1903. The Cressman store, at 385, was completely gutted, while Robert Fair's store was seriously damaged. Cressman's was in a building owned by the Toronto Loan and Savings Co., while the Robert Fair Department Store was in a building owned by the Bradburn Estate.



Cressman's was decorated in this scene. To the left is Robert Fair's Department Store; to the right, the Cluxton Building which was on the south-west corner of Hunter and George from 1880 to 1972, when demolished to make room for a CIBC branch. (TVA, Electric City Collection.5.21) Coincidentally, the Zack's fire of May 1951 occurred at this same site.

Alva W. Cressman came from Norwich, a small town in Oxford county, and set up a fashionable "up-to-date dry goods emporium" in September 1898. At Cressman's everything was classy and well-lit. W. W. Johnston supervised the dress goods section, an area in which Cressman was a specialist. In 1898, he was particularly fond of the London line of Priestly's black dress goods. D. F. Howard managed the staples department,

and here the linens came from Wm Ewart & Sons of Belfast. Miss Emmerson presided over the small wares department, which included gloves and hosiery, much from France. The second floor, with its millinery department, run by Miss Stevens, was reached by "easy stairs." This was a roomy, well-decorated room with lots of mirrors and lights. Many of the hats were from New York City, and some were not duplicated locally. The mantles department featured some 300 coats from German, New York and Canadian fashion designers. On the third floor, Cressman's sold surplus goods from all departments.

Robert Fair, originally from Millbrook, ran the general store in Centreville that was formerly owned by Hugh Waddell. With a partner, W. Van Every of Port Hope, he established his department store in Peterborough, at the sign of the Golden Lion, on October 9, 1883. Attracted by the developments in railways around Peterborough, they bought the business of Thomas Bradburn who was redefining his career. From the outset the firm specialized in high quality dry goods. Robert Fair became the sole proprietor in 1886. The Examiner, in October 1904, commented that Fair's store began with 12 to 14 employees, but by 1904 had more than fifty employees. Interestingly, Fair had placed the sign of the Golden Lion in every issue of the Examiner since coming to town.

By 1903, Cressman was remodeling his second floor departments and had just added the men's wear department.

The 1903 fire began in the basement of Cressman's, evidently caused by problems with the furnace or with the electricity. The fire brigade was greeted by dense smoke from the second storey windows of both Cressman's and Fair's, although the smoke from Cressman's was darker. Quite quickly the firemen were shooting three streams of water at the front and two streams at the rear of Cressman's. Within an hour the fire seemed under control and two streams of water ceased. However, the top flat was suddenly the site of dense fumes at 385, and in 387 the fire was creeping up the walls.

In the Cressman store, the fire damaged the contents in the basement and on the three floors above. The Examiner noted that the fire spread rapidly, and almost immediately after being noticed the fire reached the second floor, blocking the exit for the few workers on that floor.

The fire spread within minutes and yet the employees on the second floor escaped, just ahead of losing the means for escape. There were very few ladies on the second floor and one gentleman in the basement came up the elevator. Both stores were closed for the next while, but opened again at the same location and lasted for many years.

Roy Studio fire 1904

The Roy Studio fire took place on January 19, 1904. This was the fifth of the annual fires that devastated parts of the downtown in five years. The five fires were in an area that extended just over a block along George from Simcoe to Hunter.

In January 1904, a serious fire in the building which housed the studio and apartment rooms in which were stored a large collection of negatives and prints, caused

about \$7000 damage to what was considered one of the best equipped photographic establishments in the country. While three buildings, housing several businesses, were damaged by the fire, the heaviest loss was to the Roy Studio, which as above Holmes' Grocery, where the fire apparently started. The Peterborough Review, January 19, noted, the loss had "not deprived him of that energetic push and enterprise which has brought his business so quickly to the front rank."

The Peterborough Examiner headline for January 19 read: FIRE DESTROYS THE HENTHORNE BLOCK. The Henthorne properties, many dating from the 1850s, covered all of the lot north Hunter, east George 1, which stretched half-way to Brock Street and half-way to Water Street. In 1904, the building was owned by Aaron Cox; The Metropole, by N. T. Laplante.

In the particular building, the Roy Studio was "entirely consumed" and several stores and offices were "totally burned." The local weather observer described the night as the coldest in 35 years, with two exceptions, as the temperature was 30 degrees below zero Fahrenheit. The meteorological claimed that their thermometers agree with the Greenwich England standard within 2/5 of a degree for temperatures between 90 above and 90 below.



The Roy Studio Fire, 1904 (Elwood H. Jones, Fighting Fires in Peterborough, 2008)

The fire was reported at 4:35 by the caretaker, Mr. Warne, at the Peterborough Club, located in 1903 above the Bank of Commerce (now St. Veronus' restaurant). After hearing a cry of "Fire" he scraped heavy frost from the window and looked toward the post office. The fire brigade had arrived, had started several streams of water and had a ladder reaching up to Roy Studios on the second floor, above Holmes and Christy's grocery store; the fire began in the rear part of the grocery store. In the heavy smoke the area seemed like a maze, and the fire brigade members had

trouble navigating. The water from the hoses froze at the nozzle and dripped on the building as if hail. By 6:30 the fire had consumed the easily combustible materials on the ground floor and the firemen were beginning to quench the fire. The fire was contained to the one building, and the others affected were The Metropole (which was on two floors); Mrs. Darnley's millinery; J. T. O'Connell's real estate office; and, Dr. Wightman's dentist office. E. W. Angus, an architect, had just taken an office behind O'Connell's real estate office, and was a fire victim on his first day.

R. M. Roy told the Examiner that the damage was \$7,000 of which only \$1,500 was covered by insurance. "His entire studio is destroyed and together with it the expensive apparatus which goes along with a photographic gallery.... Cameras, negatives, lenses were all lost." Roy expected to start again in the same studio as soon as possible. A fire-proof door between the printing room and the framing room at Roy's prevented the fire from going further east; the door may have saved as much as was lost, for otherwise the fire would have hit the Sons of England Hall, the law office of D. Connell, the stock broker office of McMillan and Maguire, and the Best stove store. Happily no lives were lost in what the Examiner called "the truly disastrous catastrophe."



Postcards from Peterborough and the Kawarthas, page 61. Notice the drying window at Roy's on the right hand side of the street.

Roy advertised that he could not complete orders that were already in his hands, but would quickly be in temporary quarters, and handling orders. They requested those with outstanding accounts to settle soon.

One effect of the fires was a demand for a better fire alarm system. While the town was ahead of most places of comparable size, it was behind in its alarm system, already twelve years old. The current system operated through the Bell Telephone offices and there were seven alarm boxes, none of which were in the downtown area, and which had to be opened by key. The delay in getting the messages to the fire brigade could be costly.

Over the next four years, Peterborough went from a partly-paid volunteer fire brigade to a full-fledged

professional fire department. It also became a city in 1905.

While these were not the biggest fires in Peterborough's history, they were a subject of concern and discussion. These were not the only big fires of these five years. Still, in a period of five years the town had suffered five major downtown fires fought in the worst weather conditions.

The consequences of these winter fires still reverberate. The newspaper of record, the Peterborough Examiner, for 1900-1901 has a six-month gap in a run of 170 going back to the Peterborough Despatch in 1847.

We have some idea of the number of Roy Studio photos that were lost in 1904 because the studio books listing the photos ordered by customers exist for the years 1892 to 1904. At the Trent Valley Archives, we have used these to help people identify who might have been in family photos that have survived. However, the studio copy does not exist. The View Register listing photos used for postcards and for camera use outside the studio has survived for the years 1905 to 1969. However, I have often wondered if there was an earlier view register listing the outside shots from 1892 to 1904. Over the years Ken Brown and I have identified photographs by R. M. Roy that preceded 1892, possibly as early as 1887 when Robert Maitland (R.M.) Roy (1842-1912) seems to have begun taking photographs in Peterborough.

Roy was born in Bond Head, and raised in Belleville, where his father was the town clerk, and for many years Roy worked in Belleville, in the engineering and purchasing departments for the Midland Railway, which became part of the Grand Trunk Railway. When he moved to Peterborough he was in charge of stores for the Midland Division of the GTR. He claimed to have been engaged in all the major changes in photography, and it certainly seems likely that he had been working in photographs before 1860, when he turned 18.

When I inventoried the Roy Studio photographs, there were two oversized glass plates which had photo collages created by P.H. Green, 1895-6. The Roys followed Green into the studio at 140 ½ Hunter

Street, and when Green moved to Cobourg in 1899 he asked the Roys to look after his negatives and make prints for Green customers. The collages are rather different in format from the composites done by R.M. Roy and F.L. Roy. They are for St. Andrew's Sunday School and for George St and Grace Sunday School; both have composite groupings of individuals, each given a number to match key elsewhere that identifies the number. Aesthetically, they were quite pleasing. However, why did these plates survive when nothing else created by the Roys or P. H. Green before 1904 did?

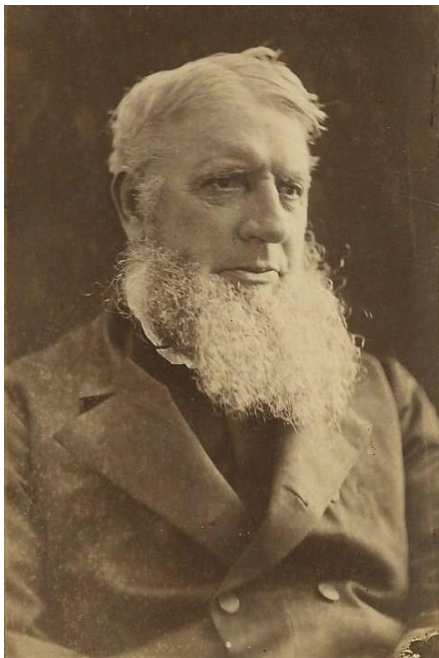
However, the concerns in the winter of 1904 expressed by the Peterborough Review were more present-minded. Why did the worst fires seem to occur in the cold of winter and in the heart of downtown? The heating systems and weather were factors, but the mystery persists.

Cordach Crescent

Blair Mackenzie

Cordach Crescent, a small residential street south-east of Parkhill and Monaghan Streets in Peterborough, commemorates “Cordach”, one of Peterborough’s earliest stone homes. “Cordach” was built for the Rev. John Morrice Roger, the area’s first Presbyterian minister and founder of St. Paul’s Presbyterian Church in Peterborough. “Cordach” was subsequently the home of his son, George Morrice Roger, who was Mayor of Peterborough in 1903-1905 and later a County Court judge. The home no longer exists, but the name lives on through Cordach Crescent. This article provides some information about the home, about why it was called “Cordach”, and about its early occupants.

John Roger was born in 1807 in Kincardine O’Neill, a small historic village outside Aberdeen in Scotland. He came from a long line of ministers of the Church of Scotland, all of whom ministered in Kincardine O’Neill. Upon completion of his studies he was chosen for missionary work in Canada. He arrived in Peterborough in 1833, aged 26. The website for St. Paul’s Presbyterian Church, which he founded, describes him thus: “Strong and vigorous of body, alert and resourceful mentally, possessed of a personality that stamped him a born leader of men, and inspired with the zeal of the true missionary, he was destined to make an impression on the young community that would not be easily obliterated.”



His home, “Cordach”, was extensively described in an article by Harry Theobald published in the Peterborough Examiner on November 30, 1946. The article was based on interviews with John Morrice Roger (“Jack”) Fairbairn, the

grandson of the Rev. John Morrice Roger. Jack Fairbairn knew “Cordach” intimately. It was built of limestone from a nearby quarry. A substantial home in every way, it had six fireplaces, each large enough for a four foot log. The home also had a centrally located log-burning furnace, consisting of an iron combustion chamber enclosed in brick and linked to pipes which distributed the heat within the home. [Perhaps Mr Roger had had enough of damp and draughty Scottish homes.] Originally lit by candles, it was said to have been the first home in Peterborough to be lit by kerosene lamps. In time, the front of the home (as shown in the photo below) overlooked a beautifully maintained formal garden.



This photo (taken around 1905, well after John Roger had died) suggests that the home was a one storey home, but this was not the case. The front door, just visible in the photo, actually opened onto the second floor of the house. The land sloped away from the house both to the east and to the west. A door at the rear of the house gave access to the lower level.

To understand why Mr. Roger called the home “Cordach”, it is helpful to begin by reading the following extract from the Examiner article:

“In his planning of Cordach, Mr Roger had purchased the entire block of woods long since clearly defined by Monaghan Road, McDonnell and Park Streets and Park Hill Road. The creek from Jackson’s Park flowed through it, and the land rose from the stream to the east in a long gentle slope, the top of which afforded an attractive site for the young minister’s house of his dreams.”

“Cordach” was undoubtedly modelled on a beautiful stone home and farm property of the same name in Kincardine O’Neill, the village in which Mr Roger was born and grew up. The original “Cordach” still exists, under that name, and can be viewed on Google Earth and on Google Street View. One sees a stone home with a low

profile, overlooking beautifully maintained gardens on land which slopes down from the front of the house. Beyond the gardens lies the River Dee, easily visible from the property. The parallels are hard to miss.

Before leaving Scotland for Peterborough, Mr Roger had become engaged to be married to his cousin, Elizabeth Morrice of Aberdeen. It appears that Mr Roger engaged builders shortly after arriving in Peterborough. When "Cordach" was complete, he wrote to Elizabeth to give her the news. They then met in New York, were married in New York 1835, and travelled to Peterborough to take up residence in the new home.

It would be interesting to know how a young Presbyterian minister, freshly arrived from Scotland and only recently having graduated as a theology student, managed to finance the construction of such a home. It is unlikely that his parents had left him much money. His father and four prior generations of Roger men had all been ministers of the Church of Scotland in Kincardine O'Neill, at the time a relatively impoverished area of rural Scotland. Possibly Elizabeth's family had the means to assist.

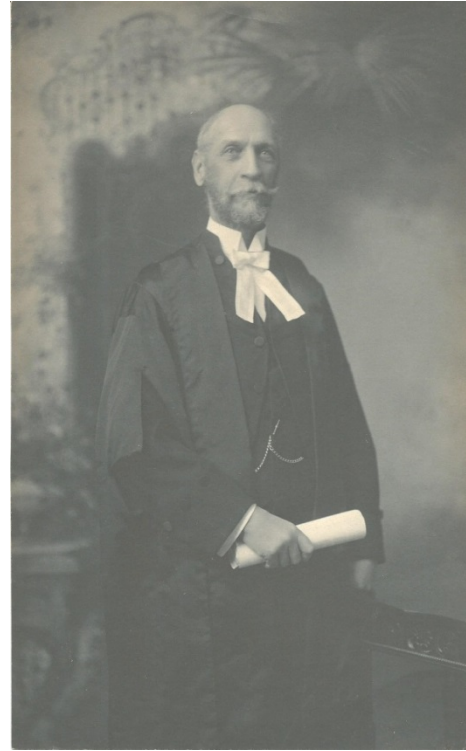
John and Elizabeth Roger had 14 children, several of whom died in infancy. Their fourth child, Jane, married Thomas McCullough Fairbairn of Peterborough. His father had emigrated from Scotland to Canada around 1823. Born in 1840 in Bowmanville, Thomas was educated in Bowmanville and at the University of Toronto. He studied law, moved to Peterborough and set up in practice. In 1866, Thomas and Jane were married at "Cordach" with John Roger officiating. Described as hard working and popular, Thomas was elected in 1871 to represent the Peterborough West riding in the Ontario legislature. He died in 1874 of health related problems at the tragically young age of 34. Fairbairn Street is named in his honour. He left his wife Jane and four very young children. Thomas Fairbairn's father-in-law, the Rev. John Roger, died the following year in 1875.

John and Elizabeth Roger's tenth child, George Morrice Roger, was educated in Peterborough and at the University of Toronto. He was called to the bar in 1875 and practiced in Peterborough. Eventually, George Roger inherited "Cordach" and lived there with his wife Margaret. They were later joined at "Cordach" by his sister Jane, by then a widow following the death of Thomas Fairbairn.

In *Our Old Home Town*, Peterborough newspaperman F. H. Dobbin described an incident which brought together the youthful George Roger and, at an early stage in his legal career, Thomas Fairbairn.

It appears that Peterborough had in those days an irascible and opinionated magistrate who, according to Dobbin, 'defied the statutes; ruthlessly waded through argument; took incredible short cuts to a conclusion, and Oliver Cromwell himself was not more arrogant on occasion.' One day, some schoolboys - one of whom was George Roger - were playing in the school yard when a dog showed up. One of the boys whacked the dog with a stick. The dog ran home howling and aroused its owner, John Britton. Mr Britton decided that George Roger was the culprit. Mr Britton laid a charge, and when it came before the magistrate, Thomas Fairbairn appeared for young George. Mr Britton and his dog were both in court. Mr Britton conceded that he had not seen which lad had

struck his dog but, he said, he was certain that George looked like a boy who would do so given the chance. Before Thomas could produce evidence from the other boys clearing George of the charge, the magistrate roared at Thomas that this was a court of 'equality', not of law, and a fine of ten shillings was instantly imposed.



Mr Dobbin did not give a date for this incident, but sometime around 1865 is plausible. George would have been 15 at that point, and Thomas would have been 25, in his second or third year practicing law. It is easy to imagine an experience like this influencing young George Roger to resolve in due course to make law his own career. It is interesting to speculate whether this event also helped to draw Thomas Fairbairn and George's older sister, Jane Roger, together. As noted above, they married in 1866.

George Roger was Mayor of Peterborough in 1903-1905. During his term of office as Mayor, the town of Peterborough (as it then was) amalgamated with Ashburnham and applied to the Province for recognition as a city. The application was granted some months after Mr Roger's term of office ended. He thus missed being the first mayor of the City of Peterborough. In 1909 he was appointed as a County Court judge, in which capacity he served until his death in 1920. It is possible that Cordach Crescent commemorates not only "Cordach" and its first owner, but is also a nod to the home's second owner, the Judge and former Mayor.

Eventually, after the death of George Roger in 1920, "Cordach" was sold. By the time of the Examiner article in 1948, the home was really showing its age. It had been converted into a rental property with four or five apartments, and all but one of the fireplaces had been boarded up. The home did not survive long after that. In

retirement after a long engineering career, Jack Fairbairn (grandson of John Morrice Roger) moved back to Peterborough with his wife Hannah in part with the intent of acquiring and restoring “Cordach”, but he was unable to purchase it and he abandoned the project.

The following photograph captures a family gathering on the verandah of “Cordach” in 1903. George Roger is seated at the rear, on the right side. To his left sits his older sister Jane, the widow of Thomas Fairbairn. Across from her, seated on the railing and dressed in white, is Jane’s daughter-in-law Hannah Fairbairn, wife of Jack Fairbairn. Seated to Hannah’s left and wearing a white blouse is Margaret Roger, George’s wife and Hannah’s aunt. The smart Edwardian clothes of the man standing behind Margaret – likely Jack Fairbairn’s brother, James Fairbairn – contrast with the dark, Victorian-era long dress of Jane Roger. The two young children in the photo are the first two of four children that Jack and Hannah Fairbairn would have. An electric light hangs from the ceiling. The building appears to have been kept in a high standard of maintenance. The entire scene reflects the considerable prosperity of that era in Peterborough’s history. The photographer was Jack Fairbairn, whose reminiscences in 1948 as reported in *The Examiner* would preserve the memory of “Cordach” for a later audience.



Blair Mackenzie is a great-great grandson of John Morrice Roger. The Fairbairn photo collection is one of the treasures at the Trent Valley Archives and the two photos of Cordach are from that collection.

Samuel J. Carver

Elwood H. Jones, Peterborough Examiner

During the 1970s when I was working on the history of St. John’s Anglican Church, one story proved particularly fascinating. We organized the church archives as a result of the project that led to the book, *St. John’s Peterborough: a sesquicentennial history* (Peterborough, Maxwell Review, 1976). What became apparent is that we had church records from 1876 to the present related to the congregation; we had the birth, marriage and burial registers of St. John’s Church beginning with 1833; we have never found the parish registers for the period from 1826 to 1833. We had financial records as early as 1878 when the new parish hall was built; the old parish hall was demolished to prepare the way for the addition of the chancel and sanctuary in 1882. The records of the building committee, 1835 to 1850s had survived, mainly because of the astuteness of Stafford Kirkpatrick who knew that some people would believe the building committee had more money than was reported.

However, there were several aspects of the church that predated the 1882 “restoration” that raised questions with the team that was helping me with the book. The font was known to predate the restoration, and was placed in the first pew row from the tower entrance. The windows in the tower entrance might also be those of 1835, judging by the 1852 paintings of the church exterior. As well, there is a hand-crafted door that has the hallmarks of the 1840s. There was a tower clock from 1839 to 1882, and after a transient history it has been at St. John’s since 1976. In filling these and other gaps in the church records, our team travelled to other archives, as far away as Dublin, Ireland; Alston, England; London, Quebec City and Toronto.

The font is still in the nave of the church, but since 1907 has been near the entrance from the vestry, which is on the east side. Traditionally, the entrance to the nave of Anglican churches is from the east, but St. John’s is on a north-south trajectory. There was, however, an oral history around the font.

According to legend, the font was given to the congregation as a thank-offering by a member of the parish, Samuel J. Carver (1802-1892). Carver was Peterborough’s postmaster, 1843-1861. He served for two years under his predecessor, Ephraim Sanford (d. 1843), who was also one of the original Justices of the Peace when the District of Colborne was set aside in 1840, and he was for a time the treasurer for the committee charged with constructing the court house and jail which had to be completed before the District of Colborne was officially in business.

Carver married Jane Montgomery of Cobourg (1820-1902), whose family came from County Armagh in Ireland. The Carvers had five sons and a daughter, who died at 16. In 1929, there were four sons still living. Edmund and Hubert were living in California, and the eldest, Henry, was living in Hamilton. The youngest, Samuel Delaval Carver (1858-1941), was still living on the Carver estate.

According to the story, which I first heard from Anne Heideman, the founding director of the Peterborough Centennial Museum, Carver’s brother-in-law, a hefty man,

was carrying the young Samuel D. Carver (1858-1941) in his arms when he tripped and rolled down the flight of stairs at the Carver home, Spruce Glen. Both landed without harm and the Carver family was so grateful they decided to donate the font to St. John's Church. At the time, Carver was 56 and his wife, 37.

I decided one way to confirm the plausibility of the story was to ask Professor Douglas Richardson, who taught church architecture at the University of Toronto. The stone font is quite simple in design, although now it has an elaborate font cover of carved oak, dating from when the font was moved near the vestry entrance. Professor Richardson described the font as High Victorian Gothic, dating from the 1850s. He had seen one of similar style in a Toronto church on Parliament Street.

Recently I discovered a terrific newspaper account of Samuel J. Carver while browsing yet again through the special edition of the *Peterborough Examiner*, July 3, 1929, to mark Old Boys' Week and the formal dedication of the Walter Allward war memorial in Confederation Square. The story was uncredited, but was probably written by F. H. Dobbin. The story contained the story of the font, but only noted that the gift was given because the youngest son's recovery "from the effects of a serious injury." Still, the oral legend had legs.

The story noted that when Samuel J. Carver ran the post office it was located in one room of Carver's house at the corner of Queen and Simcoe; in 1929, this was the site of Peterborough Cereal Company, and is now the site of the Princess Gardens. Queen Street had extended from Hunter to Charlotte. The post office moved to Water Street, in the building next to the Bank of Montreal, which was the home of the Mechanics Institute, forerunner of the Peterborough Public Library from the 1850s to 1910. He continued to live in his Queen Street house, and, because there was no safe in the post office, he carried the daily receipts and registered mail from the post office to his home. The house was admired by townspeople for its shrubs and flowers.

Samuel J. Carver had been born in Bath, England, the son of a "gentleman of the East India Company," and studied law in London before quitting and coming to Canada in 1826. He first bought land in Otonabee Township and later acquired property known as Spruce Glen, to which he retired in 1861. The door from the Queen Street post office was in 1929 being used as a gate at Spruce Glen.

Spruce Glen was fading from memory in 1929, but the Carver homestead had been something of a landmark. It was part of the 200 acres that had been owned by Burrage Y. McKyes, the first judge of Colborne District in 1841. McKyes died in 1847, and was succeeded by Judge George Barker Hall, who had the honour of being judge when the Colborne District became Peterborough County in 1849. McKyes property was bounded on the south by what became Sherbrooke Street, extending from Monaghan west to Clonsilla. During the settling of the McKyes estate, Carver bought 19 acres on May 31, 1851, that had been held briefly by Richard Winch. The executor of the McKyes estate was George S. Boulton, the father-in-law of the Rev. J.W. R. Beck, who served as the Rector of Peterborough from 1856 to 1889. Samuel J. Carver acquired an additional 26 acres between 1853 and 1857.



Sunset Pass. Note the Carver home on the right. (TVA, Griffis fonds, F400, TVA 174)

The 1929 writer commented that Spruce Glen was "situated less than half a mile from the city on the south side of the highway, and is further identified by its proximity to that shaded vale, one of the beauty spots on the highway with the fanciful and poetical name 'Sunset Pass.'" There is a postcard for Sunset Pass, and versions are noted in the inventory at the back of my newest book, *Postcards from Peterborough and the Kawarthas*, available at Trent Valley Archives and elsewhere. However, this is the only place where I have seen Sunset Pass identified as that stretch of Sherbrooke Street heading west from about High Street towards Clonsilla.

The Port Hope Gravel Road was a toll road built in the 1850s that extended south-west from Monaghan on to the water trough which was located part way up the hill, now on Lansdowne Street just east of where it joins Clonsilla. There were toll gates maintained by Jason Lundy at Bestard's Corner (where Sherbrooke met the road) and at the water trough, where travelers watered their horses.

As our writer observed, "Originally the way to Port Hope was largely a matter of choice through the woods. Paths were blazed and worn, and gradually roads cleared as the country slowly developed, but for quite a long time townspeople used to start off from the vicinity of the present Peterborough Clinic on Charlotte Street (at Reid), over the Sherbrooke Street hill, following the lower ground back of Carver's house, and off toward the southwest and Port Hope."

The writer noted that other trails had been beat through the "glen". One created by deer tracks ran southeast toward Crawford's Grove. The deer "descended 'Bartey Welsh's hill', that is the hill at Wallis's grove, from farther woods in Smith." Wallis's grove was part of the Merino property farmed by James Wallis that was southwest of where Monaghan meets Parkhill.

Samuel J. Carver appears to have been a remarkable man. In addition to being postmaster he farmed property near the town. Both his town house and country house were local landmarks, and his career illustrated how early settlers could balance diverse life styles. He also balanced the aesthetics of a garden with the ability to accumulate gold for buying land. The font at St. John's Church, too, is a reminder of the balanced life, the *via media*.

Settlers Located by Alexander McDonnell, 1831 - 1836

Fraser Dunford

In 1837, Alexander McDonnell, the land agent in Peterborough, reported to the colony government on settlers he had located. The report identified 938 families in eleven townships in what became Peterborough and Victoria counties over the period 1831 to 1836. The original report is on microfilm at the Archives of Ontario (1)

Location was the process of placing the settler on his land (or her, women are in this list). When granted or purchased land, the settler was issued with a Location Ticket which he/she took to the land agent who showed them where the land was. Well, usually showed them. There are cases where the land agent just give directions and a few cases where the directions were not followed correctly, causing difficulties later. (2)

I have indexed the report and placed that index in TONI (3). They have record type "imm"; the infofile will identify the source. In TONI there is the name, the year located, and the county and township.

The actual report contains more information: the exact date of location and the concession and lot. There is also an Occupation column which may show if it was a military grant (several different types) or SUE or DUE (son or daughter of a Loyalist). Military people received land grants; the record may show rank and regiment. The children of Loyalists received land grants and this is why there are so many women in this list. A few women received land grants as widows of military men.

Note that if the grant was for more than 100 acres the name probably appears more than once and probably not together. When checking the report, be sure to search the entire township.

There is a column Whence From which may show Ireland, England, or Scotland but it is not much used. There is a Remarks column which is very little used and seems to be mostly office notes.

Obviously these are not all the settlers in these townships. Several townships were settled earlier and there are other settlers in this timeframe who are not on this list – either they did not use the land agent or McDonnell was a poor bookkeeper.

Here are the townships and the number of families on the list:

Asphodel	7
Belmont	101
Dummer	286
Emily	88
Ennismore	9
Fenelon	61
Harvey	52
Ops	150
Otonabee	22
Smith	43

Verulam	116
The number of locations each year was:	
1829	11
1831	345
1832	272
1833	147
1834	52
1835	65
1836	53

The "Whence From" column was not often filled out (only 213 of the 935) and was overwhelmingly Irish. There were 339 military settlers, 164 UEL settlers, and seven Indian Department.

The most detail was for the settlers in Dummer Twp, a blessing for me since I am researching the early settlers in that township. Identified were Glasgow settlers, brought over by the Glasgow Emigration Society; Perth settlers, a group that had originally settled near Perth in Lanark Co; and Wiltshire settlers, part of the Corsley emigration.

Not all these people stayed, in fact many may have never occupied their land. For example the next Dummer list is an 1839 census, followed by censuses in 1840 and 1841 and finally the 1852 census. Only 63% of the Dummer settlers on McDonnell's list appear on any of these subsequent censuses.

This list is the earliest collected record we have of these settlers. I wonder if other land agents provided similar lists.

Footnotes

(1) Originally RG 1-A IV but restructured as RG 1-84-0-2. This is a set of 81 miscellaneous Schedules and Land Rolls of which McDonnell's report is no 55 (named vol 55). Oddly the report has no covering letter; it is just the tables. The microfilm is on MS400 at the very start of reel 13. At the AO Reading Room it is in cabinet 41.

(2) Those wishing an introduction to land records may see two online articles on the process of transferring the ownership of land from the crown to an individual:
<<http://www.mykawartha.com/opinion-story/6230765-the-amateur-genealogist-land-records-from-crown-to-owner-part-1/>>
<<http://www.mykawartha.com/community-static/6809931-the-amateur-genealogist-land-records-from-crown-to-owner-part-2/>>

(3) TONI – The Ontario Name Index – is a huge index to Ontario genealogical records maintained by the Ontario Genealogical Society. Access TONI at <<https://ogs.on.ca/toni.php>>.

Date	Name	Occupation	Where from	Location				Remarks
				Acres	Perches	sq. ft.	sq. rods	
1831 Apr. 24	Daniel Murphy	Common Labourer	Ireland	11	1	1	100	Deserted U.M.
	John Murphy			11	1	1	100	No warrant
June	Hugh Moore	Black Settler		11	3	1	100	See L. Mack's Deeds
	George Robinson	id.		11	3	1	100	from the 1st Regiment. Forfeited
July 3	Thomas Wright		England	11	5	1	100	desd to be forfeited
May 7	John Barker			11	5	1	100	from the 1st Regt. Desd to be lost
	William Miller	Black Settler			9	1	200	Desd to be lost
	John Miller	Black Settler		11	12	1	100	Desd to be lost
	Thomas Smith	id.		11	10	1	100	Desd to be lost
July	Sampson Turkey	id.		11	15	1	100	Clay

The page for the Township of Dummer; below, a letter from Wm. McCracken

123

To His Excellency Sir Charles Repulse
 Kt. &c. &c. Governor General of
 British North America &c. &c.
 in Council

May it please Your Excellency

The Petition of William McCracken
 late a Sergeant in the Third Battalion
 Royal Scots -

That your Petitioner was a pensioner
 from the said Third Battalion, and committed
 his Pension and came out to Canada
 under a promise of receiving 200 acres of
 land as a Sergeant - That he was located
 in the month of July 1837 by Alexander
 McLeod Esq. the then land agent for the
 District on the East half of Lot 1235 on
 the fourth Concession and South half of Lot
 1236 in the third Concession of the
 Township of Dummer - That he went
 immediately upon his land and has

1236

resided there ever since, and made
 improvements on both 200 Acres and
 now prays that your Excellency will
 be pleased to order his Patent to issue
 for the said 200 Acres, and as his
 duty bound will ever pray -

Wm. McCracken

I certify that Sergt. William McCracken
 within the North Hundred of Lot number twenty-nine
 in the third Concession of the Township of Dummer
 William Smith, has built a good house there, and
 has made a large clearing, and also that there are
 four or five acres improved, and an old clearing
 upon the E & S of the said land, which
 I have reason to suppose was made by the said McCracken

Petition (1st Sept. 1837) James Stewart Esq.

Paying tribute to J.J. Duffus: Businessman, politician and Peterborough leader

*Jessica Nyznik, The Peterborough Examiner
JNyznik@postmedia.com
Saturday, October 15, 2016*



A former city politician who owned Peterborough's first automobile dealership was honoured during an event at Princess Gardens Saturday.

The late Joseph James (J.J.) Duffus was a city mayor, MP and senator, and one of Canada's earliest major car dealers. He died in 1957, at the age of 80.

His contributions to the community haven't been forgotten and a plaque commemorating his efforts was unveiled Saturday morning.

Dignitaries, relatives and community members gathered in the atrium of the retirement home to pay tribute to the man who served the community for more than 50 years.

Mr. Duffus was an alderman for the city for six years, and served as mayor from 1916 to 1917.

After the Quaker Oats fire in 1916, Mr. Duffus played a key role in ensuring Quaker returned to the city.

With the 100th anniversary of the fire in December, Peter Duffus, Mr. Duffus's grandson, thought it was timely for his grandfather's plaque to be unveiled.

Duffus said his grandfather went to Chicago on his own dime to speak to the Stuart family, owners of Quaker Oats, about rebuilding here after the fire.

"So it's changed the lives of many, many thousands of people," said Duffus.

Mr. Duffus also developed a modern fire department to protect the community from similar disasters, and was instrumental in the creation of the Hunter Street Bridge.

The father of four was born in Otonabee Township. He helped farm a neighbour's land for a few years before getting into selling farm equipment.

Mr. Duffus later went into car sales and by 1917, he had the largest Ford dealership in Ontario, which sat where the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry is today. That's where the plaque will likely be erected.

In 1935, Mr. Duffus became a member of Parliament and was appointed to the Senate in 1940, where he remained a member until he died.

His grandson remembers days when he'd be driving with his grandfather and people would pull over to let his Cadillac through.

"They had total respect for him. I've never in my life ever met anyone that spoke ill of him, and as a car dealer and a politician that sort of says a lot," Duffus said with a laugh.

Laura Gainey, Mr. Duffus's granddaughter, was also at the event.

Though she never met her grandfather because he died before she was born, Gainey sees him as an icon.

"My mother and my family spoke about him in such great terms and would share stories about him," she said.

Growing up, Gainey's mom would always point out things while driving that Mr. Duffus had contributed to, such as the Hunter Street Bridge or the fountain in Little Lake.

Having her grandfather recognized is an honour, she said. "It means the world that he's being recognized in this way and that this will be a legacy of his contribution to Peterborough and the surrounding area," she said.

Trent Valley Archives (TVA) archivist and historian Elwood Jones had been researching Duffus's history in preparation for the plaque erection for the last decade.

At the event, TVA handed out a souvenir book about the life of Mr. Duffus.

TVA received a cheque for \$15,455, from RBC Insurance, the Stuart family and the Morton family, for its work towards getting the plaque erected.

Senator The Hon. Joseph James Duffus, Hon. Lt. Col. has been named to the Peterborough Business Hall of Fame. The announcement was made January 24, and the induction is scheduled for May. The Trent Valley Archives congratulates the family for this well-deserved high honour. Copies of the Souvenir for J. J. Duffus are available from the Trent Valley Archives.

Young Enough to Die

Elwood H. Jones

Ed Arnold has written a sympathetic, thoughtful and well-researched story about Robert Henderson, whose short life ended when he was hanged in Peterborough's county jail yard in June 1910.

Margaret McPherson, 74, a spinster who lived with her sister at Old Maid's Corner east of Norwood, died following an axe-blow to the head, in February 1910. The story hinges around the defence of Robert Henderson so skillfully developed by F. D. Kerr, his lawyer, who was working without fee in his first murder case and conscientiously pursued all avenues to defend his client from hanging, then the prescribed punishment for murder.

There were three lines of defence. First, was it possible that Margaret McPherson died of natural causes, even though struck forcefully with the blunt end of an axe? Second, if Henderson's blow was the key factor in McPherson's death, was this manslaughter or murder? Third, is it possible that Henderson should be seen as insane, by some definition of the word, such that he would be spend his natural life in a hospital rather than a jail?

Arnold also pursued the subsequent avenues of appeal that could be undertaken. Should considerations of age and upbringing be taken into account? Henderson was only 17, and an orphan whose father had died, and whose mother had limited ability to raise Robert and his siblings. Were there physical and genetic considerations that spoke to the mental capacity of Robert Henderson to understand right versus wrong? He was classed as a "moral imbecile" by the doctors familiar with working with insane people; but is that the same as insanity in terms of the Criminal Code as it stood in 1910?

Were there irregularities in the trial that would open the way for a reconsideration of the jury verdict? Kerr certainly thought so.

Should the final say rest with the federal government depending on the judge's version of events rather than with the jury?

Ed Arnold tells his journalistic tale in a largely chronological sequence. This is aided by the availability of three daily newspapers in Peterborough in 1910. Being able to compare three narratives makes it easier to determine what was really happening. The papers had some diversity because they published at different times of the day, and two of them had been tied to political parties since the 1850s before they became daily papers. He has done thorough research in the archives as well.

When looking for background material, Ed has mined the local books. He was particularly inventive in finding street directories and histories Robert Henderson's home town of Hartlepool, England which seems most distinguished for its powerful cricket teams. Street directories are very useful for pinpointing the world in which people lived, allowing us to see the journey to work and to shopping and church, and to assess qualities of the neighborhoods.

Robert Henderson (1893-1917) had a sad childhood in Hartlepool, on the northeastern coast of

England. His father had worked for the railway but was working as a carter when the family moved to Hartlepool, a town of 28,000 that had grown rapidly in the previous twenty years and was a major port town. Robert was a chain-smoking restless thief by 13, but also apprenticed as a steamfitter when he was 15. Most commonly he posed as a fundraiser for worthy charities and carried a forged letter from a clergyman. After a term in jail, he decided to emigrate evidently with money he had stashed from the poor boxes. He emigrated from Liverpool to Quebec City in May 1909 and then was in Toronto and in Peterborough by January 1910. He boarded in Sarah Edgar's home on Sherbrooke Place.

The *Examiner*, January 26, carried an alert from the Rev. Canon J. C. Davidson, of St. John's Anglican Church; he had not authorized anyone to raise funds for "two distressed women." What had worked in Hartlepool might work in Peterborough!

The next day Henderson, 5'10" and 140 pounds, was on the train to Norwood wearing an overcoat he had stolen from the Edgar boarding house. He stayed at the Norwood Hotel, signed in as Norman Henderson from Australia. He left without paying his hotel bill the following day and in due course ended up at Old Maid's Corner about two miles east of Norwood. This was a peculiar destination and Henderson likely heard while around the Norwood Hotel the old wives' tale that two spinsters hoarded money in their humble abode.

Henderson's ruse for visiting the house on January 28 was that he was looking for his brother from Glasgow. The spinsters directed them to another place that might know about migrant workers, but after 40 minutes Henderson returned and asked for something to eat. After eating, he offered to cut wood, but was told that was not needed. Within minutes he returned with the axe from the front yard. He pushed open the door and clubbed Margaret McPherson on the head with the blunt end of the axe. He hit Susann a glancing blow on the hand, and then left. Henderson was on the run and soon pursued through deep snow and along the road between Norwood and Havelock by several men and the local police chief.

Over the next day or so, Norwood was the scene for the post mortem and the inquest. Amazingly, two doctors from Toronto had arrived at the Peterborough jail to determine the sanity of Robert Henderson. The doctors were Dr. Bruce Smith, the penitentiary inspector, and Dr. C. K. Clarke, from the Toronto Insane Asylum.

In the denouement of this Shakespearean drama, Henderson emerged as an engaging individual, rather than the aloof young man seemingly uninterested in his surroundings. Two people were instrumental in drawing Henderson out. One was the Rev. Canon John C. Davidson (later Archdeacon of Peterborough), the rector at St. John's Anglican Church, and one of the jail chaplains. The other was Francis D. Kerr, the young lawyer in his first criminal case working for free in the defence of Henderson.



The presiding judge at the trial was the Hon. William Renwick Riddell (1852-1945), a native of Cobourg, one of the most prolific historians of his period, and Supreme Court judge from 1906. I have several of Riddell's books including his biography of John Graves Simcoe, the first lieutenant-governor of Upper Canada. Arnold does not paint an attractive picture of Riddell, who emerges as the foil to Kerr.

The jury of 12 was quickly selected and the twelve crown witnesses heard by 11:20 a.m. Kerr had four witnesses. The first two were the Rev. E. A. Langfeldt, the rector at St. Luke's and a jail chaplain, and the jailer, Henderson Nesbitt. As well, Kerr examined Dr. Smith and Dr. Clarke, who had both visited Henderson in the Peterborough Jail. Clarke's evidence showed that Henderson was a "high grade imbecile" whose intellectual qualities were stronger than his moral ones; he was amoral. Dr. Smith noted that "moral imbecility" was mostly hereditary. Henderson, in short, was not insane, but Kerr felt that he should be hospitalized rather than jailed, and that such a young man should not be hanged. The jury found Henderson guilty, but recommended mercy.

Kerr appealed the sentence of hanging to the Privy Council, but was handicapped by a few developments. Kerr persisted but in the end Henderson was hanged in the

Peterborough jail yard.

During the appeal process, Canon Davidson developed a relationship with Henderson, somewhat surprising as Henderson had been so quiet and sullen. Henderson was confirmed by Bishop Reeve after being prepared for confirmation by Davidson.

Ed Arnold has written an admirable book that allows the reader to see the world of 1910 mostly from journalists' perspective. The book is dedicated to Davidson and Kerr for both persisted well beyond the call of duty. There was room for more humanity in a murder trial than had been imagined by Judge Riddell.

This is a fine addition to the library of books on Peterborough county, too.

PETERBOROUGH. An inc town 75 mls n-e of Toronto, on the Otonabee river (which furnishes power), and on the Mid div GTR and O & Q line CPR, in North Monaghan tp, Peterborough Co, of which it is the co seat. It was inc in 1850 and has 4 flour, 4 woolen, 4 saw and 3 planing mills, 4 foundries, 3 furniture factories, 3 agricultural implement works, 1 lock manufacturing establishment, 1 stove works, iron bridge works, tanneries, canoe factories, potteries, brick yards, biscuit, boot and shoe factories, Canadian manufactory headquarters, the Edison General Electric Co and other industries, Anglican, Pres, Meth, Bap and Cath churches. It is a Cath Bishopric Diocese, has a collegiate institute, 5 public schools, 2 separate schools and a convent boarding and day school, a business college, a Mechanics' Institute, a hospital, a court house, an opera house, 5 banks and 5 newspaper, viz: *The Review* (daily and weekly), *The Examiner* (daily and weekly), *The Times* (daily and weekly), *The Canadian Lumberman* and *The Canadian Agriculturist* (monthly). Grain, live stock, flour, lumber, produce and the productions of the various manufactories are shipped. It is well lighted both with electric light and gas, has a good system of waterworks and a fire department. Ashburnham, situated on the e bank of the Otonabee river, is now part of Peterborough, a fine iron bridge and several railway bridges closely connect the two places. Assessed real and personal property \$4,135,955. Net bonded indebtedness \$125,000. Pop, 9,717. Tel, GNW and CPR. Telephone connection. Exp, Dom and Can, Mail daily. Henry C Rogers, pm.

Peterborough c. 1905 as it appeared in Ontario Directory.

Ed Arnold, *Young Enough to Die: a true Peterborough story* (Peterborough, Sketches to Remember, 2016) Pp. 134, no illustrations except on the cover. Available from Trent Valley Archives, 705-745-4404.



Champlain the bird watcher: Footnote to Champlain in the Kawarthas

Alan Brunger and Peter Adams

Carolina Parakeet, *Psittacus Carolinensis* (Audubon)

Last year, in 2015, Trent Valley Archives celebrated the 400th anniversary of Samuel de Champlain's visits to the Kawartha Lakes in order to raise awareness of First Nations and French culture in the region, as well as Champlain himself. The culmination of this project was the book *Finding Champlain's Dream: Champlain, First Nations and French Culture in Peterborough and the Kawarthas** which focuses on the month or so that Champlain spent in the Kawarthas, convalescing, hunting and on one occasion, getting lost on his own for three days.

However, the book overlooked some of Champlain's accomplishments including one of his leisure activities, notably his study of the fauna and flora of the Kawarthas. While a guest at the hunt camp of his Huron and Algonquin allies in the fall of 1615, in what would later be Peterborough County, Champlain wrote "*I observed a certain bird which seemed to me most peculiar*". Trent University archaeologists, M. K. Munson and S. M. Jamieson noted this activity in their book *Before Ontario: The Archaeology of a Province*. They state (p.119) that, "*On his travels in 1615... Champlain reported that he saw a bird that 'had a beak like that of a parrot, and was the size of a hen. It was entirely yellow, except the head which was red, and the wings which were blue, and it flew at intervals like a partridge'.*"

Munson and Jamieson suggest that this was a vagrant specimen of the Carolina Parakeet (*Psittacus Carolinensis*) which became extinct in 1918, the last individual dying in the Cincinnati Zoo. This parakeet was prolific throughout eastern North America as noted by J.J. Audubon in his voluminous *Birds of America*. Audubon's painting of the bird shows its red head, and yellow neck, although green predominates elsewhere in its plumage, as opposed to the blue colour noted by Champlain.

The parakeet feasted on orchards and farmer's field crops so that they were targeted as major pests and threats to agriculture. Audubon noted that "*the woods are the habitation best suited for them...*" and that "*on the ground these birds walk slowly and awkwardly.... they do not even attempt to run off when approached by the sportsman...*". In the late 1820s, at the time of his writing, Audubon observed, "*our parakeets are very rapidly diminishing in number; and in some districts, where twenty-five years ago they were plentiful, scarcely are now to be seen. At that period (around 1800) they could be procured ... as far north-east as Lake Ontario.*" Consequently, almost two centuries earlier, in the fall of 1615, an isolated specimen of Carolina Parakeet may well have strayed into the Kawarthas to confront the isolated, lost, Samuel de Champlain.

This description of his sighting of the unusual specimen of native bird is the sort of detail that makes Champlain's journals, the recorded observations of the first European in our region, so valuable and interesting.

REFERENCES

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- Before Ontario: The Archaeology of a Province*, M. K. Munson and S. M. (McGill Queen's Press, Native and Northern Series #72, 2013).
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TENSION BETWEEN FRENCH AND IRISH IN THE “HOLY LAND” (ENNISMORE TOWNSHIP) DURING THE LUMBERING ERA

By Alan Brunger and Peter Adams

One of the themes of Trent Valley Archives’ recent book, *Finding Champlain’s Dream: Champlain, First Nations and French Culture in Peterborough and the Kawarthas** is the struggle of French Canadians to achieve recognition in Ontario. A vignette from Clare Galvin’s book, *The Holy Land***, provides a glimpse of the tension between English and French-speaking people involved in the lumbering industry of the Kawarthas in the 19th century. TVA’s book provides an account of the French-speaking population of Peterborough of those days and mentions one of the early French-speaking lumber families, the Ayottes.

There was, in fact, a considerable Francophone population in the City and County of Peterborough in the 19th century, during and after the lumbering boom. The early French residents came up from Québec for the logging in winter and rode the log rafts downriver in the spring. Later they stayed year-round. Joseph Ayotte, for example, founder of the Ayotte family, bought land and settled near Clear Lake. At one time, downtown Peterborough was referred to as “Frenchtown” because of the large number of Québécois.

We get a glimpse of the loggers’ life and the role of Francophones, in those days, from the description in *The Holy Land*, of the shanty (lumber camp) in the Township of Ennismore in the 1850s.

Galvin says (p.140):

“The earliest shantying happened right here in Ennismore, on the property owned by Paul Shanahan, south-west of The Cross. In the 1851 census it was noted that eighty-six migrant shantymen, mostly French Canadians, were residing on the south-half of lot 4, concession 6 (Shanahan land). It is unlikely that many Ennismore men went “into the shanty” before that time as they would have been needed on the homestead. One can imagine the effect of these powerfully-built strangers, clad in their blue pants, red shirts, colourful kerchiefs and sashes would have had on the staid, homespun-clothed Ennismore lads of the day. The French Canadians stayed until most of the good lumber was cut, then moved on to better limits. Many of the trees were used for square timbers and masts. When Peter Robinson was made Surveyor-General of His Majesty’s Woods and Forests in Upper Canada in 1827, his instructions were, “to ascertain in what districts there may be considerable growth of masting and other timber, fit for the use of His Majesty’s Navy.” Ennismore was ideally situated for the shipping of logs, having natural access to the water-ways, directly to the timber drivesthere were between 100 and 150 sawmills operating in the Kawartha area....”

Later (p.141) Galvin continues with a statement by Timmie Sullivan:

“That winter I was working for White Pine Jackson, a damn fine man, if there ever was one. Well we had this bully in camp, a Frenchman from Quebec, and he beat up a few of the boys, and he was always pushin’ and shovin’, but

by the livin’ God, he stayed clear of me, but I had me eye on him. Well one night, I had me boots off and was sittin’ on the edge of me bunk. And by the liften Harry didn’t the damn Frenchman walk all over me bare feet. Well by jaysus we got into it, and the damn fight didn’t last two minutes. I just slapped a “Georgian Bay Severe” (a wrestling throw) on him, and it was all over – the bugger left camp the very next day.”

Today, in the Townships of the Kawarthas such as Ennismore (now part of Selwyn Township), the former large Francophone presence can be detected from family names in the telephone books – see, for example, *Harvey Township: An Illustrated History****

• *Finding Champlain’s Dream: Champlain, First Nations and French Culture in Peterborough and the Kawarthas / Découvrir le Rêve de Champlain: Champlain, les Premières Nations et la Culture Française à Peterborough et les Kawarthas* by Elwood H. Jones, Peter Adams and Alan Brunger, Trent Valley Archives, Peterborough, September 2015

** *The Holy Land: A History of the Township of Ennismore (1827 to 1975)*, by Clare Galvin, published by Ennismore Township, 1978

*** *Harvey Township: An Illustrated History*, Alan Brunger, ed., published by Greater Harvey Historical Society, 1992

News from TVA Research Centre

During the autumn a new 42” door was added and has really smartened up the appearance of the place. It is now far easier for people to enter, even if their arms are loaded with books and boxes loaded with archives. The door has a window which has provided a surprising amount of sunlight and an exceptional view from the research room. For this we are grateful especially to David and Enid Mitchell, and to Berenice Pepe.

We have a new book display unit inside the door that was made possible by a timely lead from Carol Sucee, our librarian. We are able to display our many books, and then each shelf lifts up to allow access to the extra copies of the titles on display.

We are pleased to announce that the papers of Betty Crow, the author of such books as the *Stones of Smith*, have arrived at the Trent Valley Archives and are now open to research. This will be valued by people doing historical research in Northumberland, Peterborough, Victoria and Haliburton. Totals over ten cubic feet, very accessible.

Return of Streetcars, Electric Lights and the Town Council, 1904



George Street, Peterborough, c. 1905 (TVA, Ken Brown postcard fonds, F544)

VOTE ON THE BY-LAWS

Review, 2 January 1904

Before we again reach our readers they will have had to give their opinion on the bylaws to provide for a street railway and street lighting, and we invite them to give serious consideration to this question, for the decision will have a great effect upon the welfare and progress of our town. To throw away the certainly to the immediately operation of our street railway, with the prospect of its early radial extension, would be an act of folly which could but lead to subsequent regret. Of course it be possible to pay too much for this benefit, but are we asked to do so? By the other bylaw provision is made for the lighting of our streets on the most approved system at a cost that will be lower than anywhere else in Canada, and with a plant that is excelled nowhere. As against this we are offered lamps that are nominally cheaper but less effective, and apparatus by now means so complete. In the opinion of experts it would really give us less value for our money.

It is only right also that the voters should consider by whom these services, the street railway and the street lighting, are to be operated. Mr. Stuart and his associates are well known by this time for the scrupulous performance of what they undertake, and for a "push" that makes them exceed expectations. They have had a large share in the recent rapid progress of our town, and our townsmen and

the surrounding farmers alike are well aware what large sums of money they have expended locally in their operations. The pretence of selfish obstructionists that Mr. Stuart is not interested in the street railway because the charter does not stand in his name, has been knocked on the head by his authoritative assurance that he has a contract for the purchase of the charter and property of the railway, and that he will run it if the bylaws are supported. We may safely leave these important public services in the hands of men such as we

have found them to be.

It should be remembered that all municipal electors have a right to vote on these bylaws.

THE ELECTORS CHOICE: Street Railway and Good Lighting or no Railway and Inferior Plant

Review, 2 January 1904

The municipal electors will on Monday have an opportunity of deciding on their policy in regard to two of the most important matters affecting the general convenience of the community, the lighting of our streets and the possession of a street railway system.

The two bylaws on which the opinion of the ratepayers is to be taken, must be considered together, must be accepted or rejected jointly. It would be useless to approve of one and oppose the other, for the gentlemen who are prepared to undertake these public services will only do so on the condition that they are combined. The choice is thus limited to two courses, one of which must be adopted.

On the one hand the town is offered the great convenience of an efficient and well conducted street railway, not only within the corporation limits, but to be extended as rapidly as possible to outlying localities, which will thus be rendered easy of access to the great advancement of the town. Coupled with this is a contract for the lighting of our streets on more economical terms than any other city or town in Canada enjoys. It is not to be a "cheap and nasty" system, for that is no true economy,

but the lamps that are approved by the most advanced municipalities, operated by apparatus so duplicated and reduplicated that there can be no failure of light even for an hour. The power house is so near that there is little risk of damage to the wires, which are already strung on poles already in position.

On the other hand it is asked that the town shall abandon the street railway, and shall be content to forgo a convenience so urgently required. This chance thrown away, our own experience and that of other localities, show that there would be little likelihood of having such another opportunity for years to come. As a consolation for this serious deprivation, the inducement is offered of a street lighting system professedly cheaper, but really more costly, for it does not possess the same value or advantages. The lamps, it is found where they are used, have to be placed closer together than those covered by the contract, so that the total expenditure for the whole system of lighting would be greater each year. Having only one generator, in stead of a number like the other company, any accident to it might plunge our streets into darkness for weeks. Poles and wires would have to be provided to the additional disfigurement and encumbrance of the streets. The distance of the power house from town makes the interference of storms with the electric current very possible.

There are thus two choices before the electors:-

- 1 A first class street railway and an effective system of street lighting with such a plant as to provide a regular unbroken service.
- 2 No street railway, and a system of street lighting, in which individual lamps are a little cheaper, but from the greater number required dearer as a whole, and with an incomplete plant inviting the risk of irregular service.

Can the ratepayers who wish for the progress of the town hesitate in their choice?

STAGNATION OR PROGRESS

The issue on Monday next. – Enterprise writes on Greater Peterboro and the Street Railway

Review, 2 January 1904
January 1st 1904

To the Editor of the Review.

Resolved that Peterborough shall be the most enterprising and progressive town in Ontario would be a good New year's resolution for every voter to put in effect next Monday.

The issue is stagnation or progress. Opportunity is knocking at our door and we must vote it in by electing a progressive council and substantially supporting the light and railway bylaws submitted for our approval.

The individual or community that allows opportunity to pass will wait long for its return. A growing city must have means for expansion and intercommunication or it will not be a desirable place for residence and growth of population and wealth come to a standstill.

It is a larger question than the cost of street lamps that is before us, and although I am a customer of the Otonabee Power Company, I have no sympathy with their dog-in-the-manger policy of blocking the larger interests of the town. If they dealt less in false insinuations we might take more

stock in their claim of being public benefactors and their one-string solo of \$1,400 a year. Their conduct stamps them as the very people who will be as eager to advance price as reduce it, when it suits their interest to do so.

In regard to the lighting bylaw, if no other consideration were attached it would be wise for the town to accept their offer and be tied up for ten years to a one machine concern when we have the chance of securing an unfailing supply from a fully-equipped company at the lowest rate of any town in Ontario and that without the duplication of unsightly poles. This pole question is one that the new council should endeavour to simplify by underground wiring on main streets and trunk lines and systematic branches elsewhere. The town might lines and have one set of poles used by different companies where wires are not numerous. Yesterday I counted ten poles at several street corners and there may be corners that have more. No unnecessary duplication of poles should be a firm demand of the people and it is our duty in the best interests of good service to heartily support the lighting bylaw authorizing a contract with the Peterborough Light & Power Company. Cheap concerns are seldom reliable and their goods are liable to be dearer in the end.

As to the street railway, we have the splendid opportunity of having it undertaken by a reliable company that has more than fulfilled its past promises to the town and we can rely on its assurance to give us a first-class service of which any city might be proud. It is our opportunity. Let us secure it and not be turned aside by eleventh hour bluffs from any other source.

Let us have a live, progressive council. We may congratulate ourselves on having Mayor Roger again returned to carry out the enterprises already inaugurated. We have had a good efficient enterprising Council. We should re-elect those in the field except the few members who have opposed progress at every turn and have allowed themselves to become the tools of the Otonabee Power Co.

Ald. Morrison especially deserves our gratitude for his pain-staking, efficient service, his progressive spirit and his ability to breast interested opposition to the town's welfare. And in the selection of new material let us avoid shallow men anxious for office and secure men of thought and broad outlook, who can see the needs of the future and prepare for them, thus making the "Electric City" thrill with stable progressive life and growing prosperity.

Yours truly, ENTERPRISE

DECEIVED BY OBSTRUCTIONISTS: Mr. Wm. Snowden's idea of the Lighting and Railway By-Laws

Review, 2 January 1904

To the Editor of The Review

Dear Sir, - I hope the ratepayers by this time have had their eyes opened to the fact that the franchise which the town proposes to present to Mr. Stuart is a most valuable one. His anxiety as shown by the efforts of his solicitor to secure it, is ample evidence of this fact. The giving of the street lighting contract to the Peterborough Light & Power Company for ten years will cost the rate payers twenty five thousand dollars over and above the Otonabee Company's price, taking into consideration the extra lights that will be required as the town grows.

We don't want the street railway at the price – the handing over of all the streets in town to Mr. Stewart

[Stuart] and his friends for thirty years, and keeping them clear of snow – which will cost many thousands of dollars. I am satisfied the franchise would bring ten or twenty thousand dollars in the near future. Indeed, I happen to know of capitalists who are anxious to get it, and who are willing to give the town a percentage of the profits, the same as Toronto. The ratepayers need not worry about this. I hope they will record their vote against the proposed deal which I regard as opposed to the best interests of the town.

WM. SNOWDEN

Note. – Mr. Snowden has been deceived by a set of selfish obstructionists. There is no such difference in the cost of lighting and considering their respective merits, the system accepted by the Council is the better value. – Editor Review

FAVORS THE CONTRACT

Property Owner Tells Why He Will Vote for Them

Review 2 January 1904

To the Editor of The Review

Sir, - As a ratepayer and property holder and one who pays over \$100 in taxes each year, I want to say that I am in favor of the action of the Council in 1903 in giving the contract to the companies controlled by Mr. Stuart. I am satisfied that the bargain is a good one, that the town's interests have been well guarded in every respect and that Mr. Stuart will redeem the ... deposit by carrying out the contract in every detail. I want to see Mr. Stuart so anchored in Peterborough that instead of spending one million as he has done, he will spend five or six millions in the next few years. The people of Peterborough can do this by showing their confidence in him, and getting him interested in our street lighting and street railway. We have a monied man at our command, will we use him or will we not? If we give a good big majority for those contracts on election day, it will show our appreciation of a man spending his money in our midst. But if we vote them down, we can only blame ourselves if Mr. Stuart and his company, seeing our inappreciation and smallness refuses to spend any more money in Peterborough. Shall Peterborough take a step backward or shall we be stamped as the most progressive town in all Ontario? It's for the citizens to say by their votes on Monday next.

Thanking you, Mr. Editor, yours for the street cars,

PROPERTY HOLDER

BUSINESS TALENT REQUIRED

This Year's Council Should be a Good One

Review, 2 January 1904

To the Editor of the Review

Sir: - In looking over the list of candidates for municipal honors in Wednesday's issue I notice quite a few good names. The interests of the working man will be ably looked after and very properly so. The lawyers are also in evidence. In this rapidly growing new city of Peterborough, schemes will necessarily be submitted to council for their consideration, involving large expenditures of moneys. On these occasions the presence of a few shrewd business men, those who have been eminently successful in the management of their own affairs, will be an acquisition to the board. These men will assist Council to finance these

matters through in the best interest of the town, and not take up too much valuable time talking to the galleries. We trust the electors will bear this fact in mind when marking their ballots on Monday.

Yours, etc. RATEPAYER

HILLIARD PROPERTY BY-LAW

Reasons Why they Should Vote For it on Monday.

Review, 2 January 1904

To the Editor of the Review.

Sir, -- I have no desire to trespass on your space unnecessarily at the eleventh hour, but I have though the electors would expect a few last words from me, before voting on the by-law for the purchase of the Hilliard property.

No one will accuse me of doing anything but fairly representing my views and opinions on this scheme.

I have expressed myself in as conscientious and straightforward a manner and in as few practical words as I could. I now reiterate my opinion that I consider the purchase of this 65 acres of the Hilliard estate, in the north end of the town as one of the best investments the town can make in its own interests, looking at it from every point of view, as one who has had some knowledge of the needs of the town for some years past.

This property is not being pushed on the town by any means, as since I received the option on it other parties, apparently anxious to secure it for some special purpose, have doubtless influenced Mr. Hilliard to say to me in a recent letter that he "hopes the town will buy it." Personally, I have no interest in the transaction, other than securing for the town a source of supply for stone, gravel, sand, etc., at a nominal price – as in future a large quantity will be required for sidewalks, roadbeds, etc.

It is now in the electors hands, and if they think well of the scheme by voting in favor of it, well and good, if not, turn it down. If the scheme goes through and is properly handled, it will, I am sure, become a very valuable asset of the town.

Yours truly, H. RUSH

TO THE MUNICIPAL ELECTORS OF PETERBORO AND ASHBURNHAM

Review, 2 January 1904

Ladies and gentlemen:

In deference to the numerous representations made to me since my nomination, I have decided to place myself at your disposal as a candidate for Alderman for 1904.

While I cannot lay claim to all the qualifications which an alderman should possess, such business capacity for the office as I do possess is cheerfully placed at your service. I therefore ask your support in the effort to assist in maintaining the position and standing, as well as to advance the welfare of our already progressive city.

As regards the street railway by-law, that, I understand, is definitely disposed of – the contract having been signed – and the people are only asked to express an opinion on the subject, and the result can only affect the action of the old Council.

In regard to the street lighting by-law, if the appeal against the judgement quashing it should not be

sustained and the question is reopened, I shall favor the making of a contract for street lighting which will be in the best interests of the town, both as regards quality of light and cost of service.

The union of the municipalities of Peterborough and Ashburnham adds to the responsibility of an alderman; and the new ward of the town – No. 5 – deserves at the initial stage of our municipal partnership, special attention to its interests, which, if elected, I am prepared to give, believing as I do that to make the union successful and in the interests of both parties, justice and fair play, irrespective of locality, should be the watchword of every alderman, irrespective of residence.

As I do not approve of canvassing for votes, I ask the electors to accord me their voluntary support at the polls.

Respectfully yours, R. HICKS.

Peterborough, Dec. 30, 1903

**TO THE ELECTORS OF THE TOWN OF
PETERBOROUGH, Including Ashburnham, now part
of Peterborough,**

Review, 2 January 1904

Ladies and gentlemen:

Having received nomination as alderman for our prosperous town, I respectfully solicit your votes and influence.

It will be impossible for me to make a personal canvas and therefore I wish to state that I am opposed to giving the contract for lighting to the Peterborough Light & Power Co at \$50 per lamps so long as the town can get as good lighting for \$35 per lamp from Otonabee Power Co. which has done so much to bring down the price of lighting and whose tender shows a saving of over \$14,000 in ten years. I am also opposed to the present street railway by-law, but will support and vote for a good up-to-date street railway, operated by good business men, but without a bonus, and I will do my best, if elected, to advance the general interest of our prosperous town.

Wishing you all a happy New Year, I am

Your obedient servant, JOHN SAWERS

29TH December 1903

TO THE ELECTORS

Review, 2 January 1904

Having received nomination as alderman for the town of Peterborough, I respectfully solicit your votes and influence, and if elected will use my best endeavors to advance the interests of the town. It will be impossible for me to make a personal canvas, but as I have had an experience of four years in the Ashburnham Council, I am willing that I should be judged thereby.

Yours faithfully, W. J. JOHNSTON, 571 Aylmer street.

M Advertisements for vote soliciting on behalf of other candidates were printed in the papers. It is interesting to see the salutations. R. C. Braund addressed "To the electors of United Peterborough"; Frank Adams, "To the electors of Greater Peterboro"; E. F. Mason, "To the ratepayers of Peterborough." John Kylie and Robert Hicks, "To the municipal electors of Peterboro and Ashburnham";

Wm. Scott, "To the electors of the Joint Municipality of Peterboro"; and of course John Sawers more complete salutation.

Review, 4 January 1904

The liverymen hustled for all they were worth to-day, getting the voters to the polls. Of course, the liverymen don't want the street railway.

**AGREEMENT CARRIED GOOD MAJORITIES
Ald. McWilliams and Ald. Best Head the Polls in
Municipal Elections**

JAS. STEVENSON, SCHOOL TRUSTEE

**The Railway and Lighting Agreement Approved of by
Large Majority, so was the Hilliard By-law - Two of the
Ashburnham Candidates Elected - New Blood in the
Council - Ald. Finnie Was Not Returned - How the
Voting Went**

Review, 5 January 1904

... VOTING ON AGREEMENT

Div 1	Halpins	128	133
Div 2	Sprys	140	102
Div 3	Council Chamber	134	75
Div 4	Greenes	107	59
Div 5	Metherels	165	80
Div 6	McCalls	125	63
Div 7	Lees	186	81
Div 8	Village C. Chamber	91	47
Div 9	Village Hall	127	40
Majority for 523		1203	680

Mayor Roger was asked last night what course was now open to the Council respecting the street lighting and street railway agreement. He stated that the latter was practically settled but in regard to the former it would be necessary either to re-enact the by-law or to proceed with the appeal. He did not consider any further opposition likely in the face of the opinion so emphatically expressed by the people...

Said Mayor Roger today: - "The pleasure of the whole thing would have been taken away had Ald. Morrison been left out. He did not and never has put forth any great effort to be elected, but as representative of the people he worked hard in their interests last year. It was he who bore the brunt of the battle in connection with the lighting. He is a good man, and I'm glad he has been returned. The opposition were dead against him."

... Mr. R. M. Dennistoun was seen to-day and he said he regarded the vote yesterday as something of a landslide. There are, in his opinion, three or four courses now open to the Council in connection with the lighting and street railway.

Captain Roy says he didn't lose a vote and everything went just as he wanted it. He predicted Monday morning that the agreement would be approved by over 300 and he won the cigars.

The action of the council in regard to street railway and street lighting will now be awaited with interest. The people have spoken and they generally mean what they say.

CHECKERED CAREER OF THE AGREEMENT RESPECTING THE STREET LIGHTING AND STREET RAILWAY

The Proposition was Made in March Last – By-laws were Passed in October – One Was Quashed in December – People Approve in January

Review, 7 January 1904

A long and checkered career has been that of the proposition made to the Council by Mr. R. M. Dennistoun on behalf of Mr. Robert Stuart, and his associates, respecting the street railway and street lighting, and though this subject has been discussed time and again in open Council, there are people whose attitude would indicate that it has only been before the public for no more than a month. The Review has been asked to give brief synopses of the various phases through which it passed:-

March 30, 1903 – Proposition formerly [formally] made at a special meeting of the Council by Mr. R. M. Dennistoun to do street lighting at \$60 a lamp, provided railway franchise was granted. Mr. Meldrum stated that the Otonabee Power Company was prepared to tender for lighting at less than \$30 a light, and power for the electric railway at \$10 per h.p.

April 2 – Council met in committee of the Whole, when Otonabee Power Company made an offer of \$35 per lamp, inclusive of pole rental or at \$30 per lamp if the town acquired the poles and granted the right to use them.

April 6 – R. M. Dennistoun at the regular meeting confirmed the offer of \$60 per lamp for street lighting. Citizens address Council favouring the proposition.

April 14 – Meeting of Board of Trade, at which the street railway project was generally approved. Outside workers of Federal Union 9240 write favourably.

May 4 – Committee on Electric Light and Franchise reports recommending payment to Peterborough Light & Power Co. of \$50 per lamp for street lighting and that the Council offers the Peterborough Radial Railway Company the franchise. The committee on the necessary legislation was: The Mayor, Ald. Morrison, O'Connell, McWilliams, the solicitor and clerk. Committee's offer subsequently accepted.

June 19 – Ald. Morrison, chairman of the Franchise Committee, reported verbally at a special meeting, that progress was being made in connection with the street railway and lighting matters.

July 6 – Council meet Committee of Whole and discussed proposed amendments in connection with the street railway franchise. Mr. Robert Stuart, Mr. L. Richards, of the Cereal Co., and Mr. R. M. Dennistoun were also present.

July 20 – Committee of the Whole practically adopted the terms of the agreement in connection with street railway.

July 20 – Conditions of agreement published in local papers.

Sept. 2 – Otonabee Power Company address letter to Mayor Roger stating that their offer to do the lighting of the town at \$35 a lamp still holds good.

Sept. 8 – Council holds regular meeting when above letter was read. Communications from ratepayers protesting

against granting of railway franchise. Street Railway By-law introduced for its first reading. Franchise ordered to be published in the three papers.

September 14 – Special meeting of Council at which the Franchise by-law was passed, signed and sealed. Letters from ratepayers asking their names withdrawn from petition protesting against the by-law. Ald. Morrison gives lengthy review of the case. Representatives of Otonabee Power Co. protest.

October 4 – Council passed lighting by-law, Otonabee Power company protesting and threatening to take action to quash.

Nov. 15 – Notice given by Otonabee Power Company that on November 25 at Osgoode Hall, motions would be made to have the street lighting and street railway by-laws quashed.

Nov. 24 – Announcement made that proceedings in motion to quash had been enlarged for a week.

December 6 – Council decided to leave matter of increasing number of electric lights over until the new year.

December 9 – Another week's enlargement on behalf of plaintiffs in Meldrum vs. Peterborough.

December 16 – Street lighting by-law was quashed at Osgoode Hall.

December 21 – Committee of whole recommend that an appeal be entered in connection with the lighting by-law.

December 23 – Council decides to take referendum of the people on the railway and lighting agreements.

January 4 – People express their approval of agreement by a majority of 523.

The next stage in connection with this very much delayed project will probably be reached next week when the new Council meets for the first time.

M First meeting of council passes motion to purchase Hilliard property for \$10,000; money paid and letter sent to Hilliard.

STREET RAILWAY MOVING ALL DETAILS HAVE BEEN SATISFACTORILY SETTLED: An Engineer Will be Given Immediate Instructions to Proceed

Review, 30 March 1904

It is a pleasure to announce to-day that all details in street railway negotiations as between the Peterborough Radial Railway Company and that represented by Mr. Robert Stuart of the American Cereal Company have now been satisfactorily settled and progress may thus be immediately looked for. It is stated on the best authority that an engineer will at once receive his instructions to take the necessary steps looking to active operations with the object of resurrection and ultimate operation of the street railway. This is the most favorable point that has yet been reached in negotiations long delayed, and the citizens of Peterborough have now every reason to look for a satisfactory realization of the railway and its extension are to be in operation by July 1st according to agreement.



George Street looking north from Simcoe Street, c. 1905 (TVA, Fonds 543, Dianne Tedford fonds)

The Street Railway in Peterborough: Timeline 1883 to 1903

Peterborough had a street railway from 1893 to 1897, and then from 1904 to 1928. As the city is thinking of removing the last traces of the street railway, the bumpy stretches along Charlotte Street, it seemed worth reviewing what was knowable about the local street railway. As well, my recent book, *Postcards from Peterborough and the Kawarthas*, (available from Trent Valley Archives and elsewhere) has some exciting views of the street car in Peterborough, and I have received several comments that people did not realize that Peterborough ever had street cars. Toronto still has street cars, but it is 88 years since the last street car operated in Peterborough.

Although there was a brief effort to get a street railway in 1883, stymied because financing was tied to the company, Peterborough Street Railway and Transfer Company, having control of the local streets. This was out of the question, but it is surprising that the issue of who should control streets persisted until the early twentieth century. In Peterborough's case this was most notable with utility poles for electricity and telephones.

Soon after Edison Electric (known as Canadian General Electric after 1892) came to Peterborough in 1890, it was manufacturing street railway equipment streetcars in

one of its first buildings on Park Street. In 1892, it seemed a good idea to test streetcars on local streets.

The Peterborough and Ashburnham Street Railway Company, founded July 3, 1891, hoped to operate a local streetcar system.

Many of these events were noted in *Peterborough Journal*, published by Trent Valley Archives, 2014.

1883 October 19: Ontario Gazette prints notice of application for charter of "Peterborough Street Railway and Transfer Company." Object: build, equip and run street railway, carriage of goods, etc. Stock: \$100. Shares: \$100 each. Applicants: W.B. Ferguson, H. Rush, R.P. Boucher, R.A. Morrow, and others.

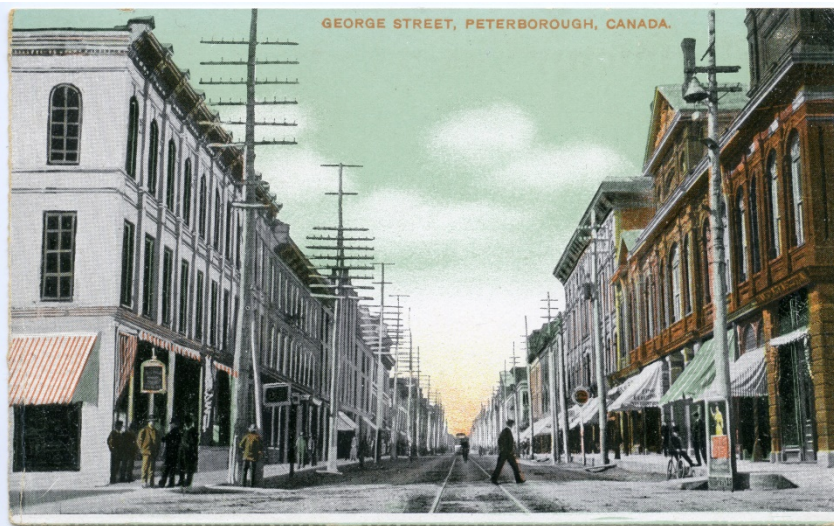
1884 May 9: Beginning of electric lighting in Peterborough Company, organized and charter secured. Directors: A.P. Poussette, T.G. Hazlitt, R. Hall, William Davidson, William Walsh, H.E. Irvine; latter of Royal Electric Manufacturing Company, Montreal. Contract made for generators, lines, wires, etc. Generators first placed in one of the mills on Dickson race while building was being erected: five miles of wire in circuit. Expect light developed by middle of May. Put up first poles on

George Street, May 13th, 1884. Light first turned on, May 23rd, 1884. Seventeen lights on George Street. During June, another generator installed.

1890 September 5: Application for charter made on behalf of "Peterborough City Railway Company Limited," with powers to construct street railway at Peterborough. Capital stock: \$200,000. Shares: \$100 each. Applicants: James Stevenson, T.G. Hazlitt, Arthur Stevenson, Richard Hall, T.E. Bradburn, William Walsh, Charles Clementi, A.P. Poussette.

1891 December 14: Voting on by-laws and on short railway franchise disposal.

1891 December 23: Plebescite on Franchise bill for giving it to Edison Syndicate: 881. To P.&A. Street Railway: 100. Majority for Edison Company: 781. School moneys by-law carried by majority of 185. Debentures by-law carried by majority of 248.



George Street, Peterborough, Ont., c 1905 (TVA, Hugh and Doreen Jones fonds, F546)

1892 June 2: Finding that incoming business is coming in so fast that the capacity of the works is overtaxed, General Electric Company (Edison Company) say they are unable to build and equip the proposed local street railway in time agreed to, and ask for modified conditions.

1893 March 6: Messrs Ahern and Soper, Ottawa, make personal application to Council for franchise under which to construct and operate street railway. If granted, would seek to organize local joint stock company and, at once, go into operation. Resolution carried to grant franchise for 20 years, on condition for additional 10 years. Agreement to be prepared. Bond to be made for \$1,000 which will be forfeited if substantial progress has not been made with work by August 1, next. Council agrees to confirm agreement as soon as bond is executed. Representatives of C.G.E. Company and P.&A. Company are heard, who asked for delay. Held over to be considered by committee.

1893 March 10: Franchise under which to construct and operate street railway given to Canadian General

Electric Company by near unanimous vote of Council. Terms and conditions as set out in copy of report.

1893 April 7: Street railway plans filed with Town Clerk. At least 3½ miles to be built.

1893 April 20: Street Railway Enterprise has taken on new feature. Canadian General Electric Company now combining with local organization using charter secured by P.&A. Street Railway. New company has been organized. At stockholder meeting, the following directors appointed: Messrs Frederick Nicholls, T.E. Bradburn, H.P. Dwight, T.G. Hazlitt, E.H.D. Hall, A. Stevenson and W. Walsh. Mr. Bradburn chosen President, Mr. Nicholls Vice-President, A.P. Poussette Secretary. The latter pro-tem.

1893 May 9: Some excitement shown in G.T.R. operations who have gang of men at work laying rails across Water Street to head off possible putting down of rail-line by Street Railway. Papers, May 10th, 1893.

1893 August 1: Trial run of first cars (including riders from the general public) on Peterborough and Ashburnham Street Railway. Line extends from Exhibition Grounds to Auburn Mills; from George Street along Charlotte Street, and Park Street to shops of C.G.E. Company. Everything working in fine order. Congratulations.

1893 September 8: Street Railway line extended to Exhibition Grounds; ready for Central Fair this month.

1894 March 20: Mr. T.E. Bradburn secures, for Street Railway, right to extend rail-line down Lock Street to the river, and on the street running east from Lock Street to the Locks. There were proposals to build

boat houses and recreation grounds at the river.

1895 May 29: Much work being done to make parks attractive. Park Trustees endeavour to arrange street railway service to Jackson Park which, it's hoped, may be secured under agreement the street railway is required to lay one mile of additional track, this year.

1896 October 5: Agony is over. After delays and inviting tenders from several to-be-started Companies, street-lighting contract, for next seven years, is given to Peterborough Light and Power Company. Company will supply 85 lamps, of 2,000 candle power, at \$65 per lamp per annum, and pay Town \$400 for street rental, per year, during contract. Additional lamps to cost \$60 per lamp per year. Price is about \$12 below what is paid in other towns and cities.

1897, September or October. Last street car ran for this franchise.

1898 March 10: Proposed new Street Railway scheme of Mr. David Starr (from Cornwall) regarding electric railways to Lakefield and Chemong came before Council in a report from committee to which the matter had been referred: "That the town will agree, provided the details can be satisfactorily arranged, to guarantee the bonds of the proposed Electric Railway Company to the amount of

\$50,000 at 4% per annum, the bonds to be for 20 years and provided the town is given, as security, a first mortgage on the property on the railway, including rails, wires, cars and other plant and rolling stock within the town of Peterborough, or other security equally as good." Report was adopted and Council met in committee, evening of March 19, 1898. Mr. Starr said he made offers to P.&A. Street Railway and directors: (1) \$45,000 cash for their road, total equipment, franchise, etc, (2) a valuator appraise system and that new company will give \$10,000 more than valuation of it, (3) that new company, the town, and Peterborough Ashburnham Company, each, appoint an arbitrator and both Companies abide by their decision as to amount to be paid for the road.

Doug Campbell says the arrangements collapsed because the Town wanted \$150,000 franchise fee; and the Peterborough and Ashburnham refused to sell its assets, which Starr hoped to use as assets against which to borrow.

1899 March 15: Bill is passed by Legislature relating to Town of Peterborough affairs. It provides for partial exemption of William Hamilton Company business, for term of years, and convey to Company, part of Downie Street. Also provided that the Town might acquire site and use it for purpose of power, light, and water development of Otonabee River at any point south of Nassau dam. Also provided, if Town wished to go into street-lighting business, it must purchase, by agreement or arbitration, street lighting plant of Company at that time supplying municipal light. This restricted Town in matter of supplying light for commercial and private lighting.

1899 May 1st: Proposition made to Council that Municipality take over Street Railway (which had ceased operations for some time), expend \$15,000 on line and equipment, run road for five years free of any obligation or payment to owners. Owners to have right to re-take possession at any time on repayment to Municipality of all moneys expended and interest on such; or advance to owners, sum named above on sufficient security being given. On termination of present franchise, new one to be arranged for.

1900: *Local Street Railway, having been out of business for over 15 months, Council passed resolution that the Town take possession of road bed, rails, etc., remove obstructions to street traffic, and the franchise be declared forfeited. Opposed by T.E.*

Bradburn, Company President. Finally decided, by Council, to confer with directors of road.

1901 November 5: New deal with American Capitalists to have Street Railway in operation during next spring. Council confirms old agreement and by-law with Canadian General Electric Company in this regard.

1902 April 22 street lighting and street railway issues before the public from this date. Sometime in 1902 Otonabee Power Company seems to have been formed.

1902 May 1: Peterborough Street Railway passed into hands of big American syndicate known as National Construction Company. Only condition attached to purchase is, obtaining from Town, 30 year franchise. On May 4, 1902, special Council meeting held; details were given as to fares, car service, etc. By-law ordered to be prepared, covering arrangement and conditions.

1902 August 20: At special Council meeting, a time extension given National Construction Company to arrange take-over and begin reconstruction work of Street Railway. Company to pay off present Railway proprietors and deposit, with Town, \$5,000 as guarantee of good faith, to be forfeited if conditions are not lived up to.

We concluded that postcards featuring street cars could not date earlier than October 1904; construction of the lines was covered in the local press, and occurred mainly between June and September 1904. Buses were introduced in 1928, but we have not confirmed the date that streetcars stopped operating on Peterborough streets. This postcard predates 1904; of course, the title is also wrong as this is George Street, just south of Hunter Street. (TVA, F544, Ken Brown Postcard fonds)



Main St., Peterboro, Ont.

Postcards paint a picture of Peterborough past

PETER ADAMS and ALAN BRUNGER/ Special to The Examiner

Friday, November 25, 2016

Peter Adams and Alan Brunger are retired professors of geography at Trent University.



Elwood Jones, the archivist of Trent Valley Archives, is well known locally both to readers of The Examiner and the general public. His regular columns in The Examiner and his steady stream of books and talks have brought local heritage to life for many of us. He writes for the general reader as well as for those committed to family and community heritage.

Elwood, with his co-author Mathew Griffis, has out-done himself with his new book *Postcards from Peterborough and the Kawarthas*. Here is a book which everyone, young and old, heritage buff or general reader, will find interesting. Post cards were the social media of their day. Appearing when the 1 cent stamp came in (1871) but particularly after 1900, people started mailing short messages to each other on cards. Soon, many of these had a

picture on one side and a message on the other. The pictures often captured local scenes, including community buildings, views, and events. Those who were away sent pictures of where they were and those at home sent views familiar to their absent correspondent. Trent Valley Archives has a huge collection of postcards, all well-catalogued and easy to search. This book is based on postcards from our community and so its images reflect our region and its people.

Over the years, postcards became a special record of their times. People started collecting them and many families treasure their postcard albums with their pictures and messages from the past.

Some 200 postcards, often coloured, from Trent Valley Archives' collection of over 1,800, illustrate the book. A quick scan reveals views of Bridgenorth, Lakefield, Buckhorn, Fenelon Falls, Bobcaygeon, Millbrook and Lindsay as well as Peterborough. The postcards commemorate birthdays, Christmas, special events and family jokes with photographs of local architecture, celebrations and people. The lakes of the Kawarthas are particularly well represented.

In Peterborough, the pictures are a visual history of downtown, the evolution of the main streets and buildings, fine shots of PCVS, the Armouries and local hotels, the tram and train systems and Jackson's Park.

Many of the postcards were designed and printed locally and the book provides thumbnail sketches of the firms concerned. Peterborough was a centre for this business. An interesting chapter describes photographers of our region - more than twenty, including the Roy family whose images are well known today.

There is a short chapter on forerunners of the postcard, sketches mailed around the world and salt prints. Stereo pairs of photographs were popular for a while. The book has interesting examples of these, for example, fine three dimensional views of downtown Peterborough and the courthouse.

Chapters 6 and 7 are devoted to George and Hunter Streets, which have been central to urban development in Peterborough over the years. Through more than sixty postcards we see the evolution of these major thoroughfares, from the unpaved days through the tramway era, to more recent times. There are general views of downtown and pictures of the major buildings, stores, hotels, PCVS, City Hall, the Town Clock, churches, etc. The Hunter Street chapter vividly illustrates the history of Quaker Oats, including the fire, and includes a fine early shot of the Hunter Street Bridge. In East City, we see early pictures of St. Joseph's Hospital, Westclox, King George School and the Lift Lock.

One chapter is devoted to the Kawartha Lakes, including the Town of Lindsay. Cottage life was a great generator of postcards as people sent images of their summer experience to those less fortunate than themselves. Views of Stoney Lake, its regattas, church, inns and steamboat service, are particularly fine, many of them beautifully coloured or tinted. Chemong Lake, including the Causeway, Bobcaygeon, Fenelon and Burleigh Falls, and the Trent Canal are featured as well. Several pages and many postcards are devoted to historic Lindsay.

As the authors point out, postcards are more than pictures. They reflect a community's sense of progress, its civic pride and activities and trends of the day. They are a window to the lives of our predecessors and their times.

Trent Valley Archives continues collecting postcards which are accessible both onsite and through its website. This book includes the catalogue of over 1,800 postcards with brief description for each. This allows the readers quickly to survey the collection and begin their own inquiry into local history.

Elwood Jones and Mathew Griffis deserve our thanks.

Queries and News

In the Works: A Book on Peterborough's Movie-Going History

For its tenth-anniversary celebration in 2014 the ReFrame festival mounted a special exhibit "Rewind: The Electric City Goes to the Movies." I was a member of the team that mounted the exhibit, and now I am following up by researching and writing a book that delves into the social history of Peterborough's movie-going experience, from the first film showing at the Bradburn Opera House in 1897 to the present time.

You might not remember how the Peterborough Radial Railway Company delivered passengers to Jackson Park for outdoor motion picture screenings in the summer seasons of 1905–08. But do you remember the Regent, Capitol, Centre, Odeon, and Paramount? The short-lived Peterborough Film Society of the 1960s? The Festival Screening Room and Kaos? Canadian Images?

And does anyone recall the woman with the oh-so-familiar face who for years sold tickets at the downtown theatres? I think her name might have been Marguerite Howe, who worked in the Paramount and Odeon box offices from 1949 to 1976. But I'm not sure . . .

You can help. I am looking for stories, artifacts, and photos related to Peterborough's movie-going history. If you have any, please contact me at emmylou@nexicom.net or phone 705-741-3467.

Thanks, Rob Clarke

TVA wins special grant

Ford Motors of Canada has awarded \$3,000 to the Trent Valley Archives. It was a welcome surprise. Over the past few years the Trent Valley Archives has been working on the career of Senator The Hon. J. J. Duffus, an effort that culminated in a heritage plaque honouring Duffus, and a publication, *Souvenir* publication which was launched on October 15, at Princess Gardens, in downtown Peterborough. Copies of the *Souvenir* may be obtained on request from the Trent Valley Archives.

Obituary



RIDDOLLS, Robert Fredric "Bob" Of Peterborough Peacefully on December 24, 2016 with his family by his side, at the Peterborough Regional Health centre, at the age of 78. Loving partner of Susan, loving son of the late Lorne and Dollie. Dear father Carolynn and David, grandfather to Lee and Haaly, great-grandfather to Bobby and Sawyer. Cherished brother of Weldon (Carole) Will be remembered by his nephews and niece and many friends. A celebration of life will take place on Sunday January 29th, at the Belvedere Cookhouse in Pefferlaw between 1 and 4 p.m. Donations would be appreciated to the following charities: Egypt Church of the Nazarene and the Salvation Army Georgina Community Church, Jackson's Point. A special and heartfelt thanks to the nurses at the Peterborough Regional Health Centre and the many others who cared for my father while he was there. It will not be forgotten. Dad, We know you have crossed

over, that you are no longer here. But in our hearts you are always near. So send us a sign you are doing fine, and we will meet again, our father, our friend. Love Carolynn

Our condolences to Susan Kyle and Bob's family. Around Trent Valley Archives, we remember Bob as a jolly friend who always had a happy story. He made a special souvenir [L-wood] which has been added to our new front door. We still walk on some of his carpets. RIP.

Cy Monkman (July 15, 1928 - January 4, 2017)

Peacefully, on Wednesday, January 4, 2017, at Peterborough Regional Health Centre in his 89th year. Beloved husband of the late Lois (née Enborg). Best friend of Josephine Mewett. Loving father of Drew Monkman (Michelle) and Eric Monkman (Elaine). Proud grandfather of Philippe (Christina), Julia (Alec), Sarah (Darin), Sophie, Laura (Nick) and Emily. Great-grandfather of Anouk, Juniper and Oscar. Sadly missed by Lyn Dallin and many other relatives and friends. Predeceased by his parents Gordon Monkman and Kate (née Robertshaw), his brother Gerald and Gerald's wife Megan (née Roberts). Born in Peterborough, Cy attended PCVS and was an avid skier, photographer and golfer. In 1948, he went to England where he learned the wool business. Upon his return, Cy worked at G. Whitaker & Co in Peterborough for nine years as a wool sorter and later as a sales representative. In 1958, he started his own insurance agency, which was to become Monkman, Gracie and Johnston Insurance Brokers, a legacy of which he was very proud. Cy was a member of Trinity United Church, the Kiwanis Club of Peterborough, the Peterborough Golf and Country Club, the former Bethany Ski Club, the Kawartha Nordic Ski Club, Trent Valley Archives and the Peterborough Historical Society. He was also on the Board of Directors of the Canadian Automobile Association. Cy and Lois enjoyed annual walking and genealogical research vacations to Yorkshire in England, ski holidays all over North America as well as golf holidays to Scotland and California. At home, Cy spent many hours compiling family history.

His research led to the discovery of previously unknown relatives in the U.S.A., England, Australia and New Zealand. Family history and traditions were very important to Cy. Accordingly, he was always proud to present the Peterborough Mayor's Chain of Office after each election. His father, Gordon, had first purchased and presented the chain to the then Mayor Max Swanson in 1951. Cy compiled his lengthy genealogical research and photos in binders for the entire family, under the title "Yorkshire to Peterborough: Monkman Family History". After Cy retired, he also spent several busy years researching and writing "A History of the Peterborough Ski Club", which he self-published in book form. Full of photos of skiing's bygone days in and around Peterborough, this was one of his proudest achievements. Cy was able to find wonderful companionship over the last three years of his life with Josephine Mewett, something for which he was extremely grateful. Thank you to all of the wonderful staff at Princess Gardens for treating Cy with kindness and dignity.

Remembering Cy Monkman

Cy Monkman was a long-time member of the Trent Valley Archives. I first met Cy and Lois at events around the Peterborough Historical Society, but first worked with them on the history of the Peterborough Golf and Country Club. Lois was the president when I worked with local golfers to write the book *Peterborough Golf and Country Club*, which was published by the club. Over the years, Cy worked on the history of skiing locally, and spent hours at TVA going systematically through the *Peterborough Review*, a weekly newspaper from the mid-1930s to the mid-1970s, of which the only copy of the originals is at TVA. Later he wrote on the Whitaker fires for the *Heritage Gazette* and assisted me in researching the history of Whitakers when I reviewed the company history. The Monkman family were from Yorkshire, as were the Dinsdales and my wife's family, and Yorkshire was often discussed at TVA. When I wrote about the "Menzie's Folly" on Edinburgh Street, Lois told me she had lived there when it was converted to an apartment building. There are so many ways, large and small, in which my interests and Cy's converged, and I will really miss him. As well, since moving to 567 Carnegie in 1997, Trent Valley Archives has gone to the Monkman family for insurance advice. Our condolences to Eric and Drew and all the family. RIP

Grace Barker (1925-2016)

Grace Barker (1925-2016), historian and community worker, is best-known for her writing. Her book, *The Bad Luck Bank Robbers*, tells the story of the 1961 robbery of the Havelock TD Bank. The book was a favourite through the area because it was well-researched, included information from the press and from the Ontario Provincial Police and from interviews with many local people. The book is fast-paced and cleverly explores how "the best-laid plans of mice and men gang aft agley." The book has been developed into a play for the Fourth Line Theatre; it was sold out in its debut season, 2015, and is scheduled for another run this summer.

However, her most significant historical writing was the book *Timber Empire: the entrepreneurial Boyd family*. The Boyd family was based in Bobcaygeon and Peterborough from the 1840s to the 1980s, but its success in timber and lumber enterprises were key economic drivers of the local economy. During the 1850s, the timber from the Haliburton highlands was taken on timber rafts, eventually down the Otonabee/Trent River and all the way to Quebec City. By the 1860s, most of the wood left the area as lumber, much of it processed locally. Lumbering towns often become ghost towns, but in our case the dominance of the Otonabee River both as a highway and as a source of electricity, coupled with the manufacturing and railway connections Peterborough thrived long past the earliest years. The Boyds expanded west to Saskatchewan, and as far as Vancouver Island, where the local emphasis on lumber and buffalo continued. *Timber Empire* proved popular, too, and was published in a second edition.

Over her long life-time, Grace Barker has been a key player in many community projects, most with wide implications. She worked with Ontario Trees to have 3,000 trees planted on the family farm. She contributed to a project to produce a huge book on the legacy of the Hereford cattle, and her chapter on the joys of Herefords was one of the best in the book; the book is in the library at Trent Valley Archives. She was also an active long-time member of the Women's Institute at Bury's Green. Her wide-ranging archival papers have been deposited in the Trent Valley Archives.

George Elliott

Do you or the readers of the *Heritage Gazette* know anything more than I do of a Major George Elliott(t). **George ELLIOTT**** (b. Ireland, d. 1844 in Monaghan Twp., CW)

Farmer, JP, politician; (Conservative) (Anglican) Granted 200 acres. Lived in Monaghan Twp. Capt., 2d Regt., Durham Militia, 9 Jan. 1828; Maj., Durham Volunteers, 8 Nov. 1838; Maj., 2d Regt., Durham Militia, 13 July 1839. MHA, Durham, 1836-41; He was a JP in the Newcastle Dist., 2 June 1837; Sources: Johnson and Armstrong; PAC, RG 9, Biblion 5, vol. 6; RG 68; W.D. Reid, *Death Notices of Ontario* (Lambertville, NJ 1980), 222; and his *Sons and Daughters...*, 99; Possible a George Elliot of Elizabethtown, the son of Jacob ELLIOT, O.C. 28 Oct 1835. There was a George F. Elliot who was a JP in the Bathurst and Johnstown Districts between 1822 and 1825.

'A. Scott Carter and Peterborough's Coat of Arms

Callie Stacey

The finding aid for the A. Scott Carter papers at the University of Toronto Rare Books Library shows that there are 15 files of correspondence, drawings, sketches, reference materials and photos regarding Carter's work on the seal and coat of arms for the city of Peterborough. [Carter designed several silver items that my father made: a pectoral cross for Bishop Luxton, and processional crosses for Trinity College Chapel and St. Cyprian's Anglican in Toronto.]

[Ed. Note: thanks to our TVA member for drawing this to our attention. Another reason to go to Toronto!]

Quaker Fire 100 Years Later

G. Young – Lakefield Heritage Research 12 January 2017

In early January, the first meeting of the Commemorative Committee was warmly hosted by Fr. Bill Moloney, then, the pastor of Immaculate Conception Church. Three church representatives were there and a goodly number of the descendants, as well as Terry LaBrash, then, Director of Manufacturing PepsiCo Foods Canada – Quaker.

Mr. LaBrash noted, that Quaker had its own plans to commemorate the event. So, three sub-committees were then established.

A church service committee, a small General Committee for the development of the commemorative book, and, other matters, and, the somewhat larger Descendants' Committee which would be co-chaired by Jane Gill, and Lorna Green as equal co-chairs. They would look after some events and would formulate their own memorial.

As the year went on, the small General Committee had a “story sign” created in honor of Doris Brick. Doris had chaired the 2006 Memorial and had left a donation towards the creation of a “story sign” entrusted to Lakefield Heritage. Sadly, Doris, did not live to see this “story sign”. The “story sign” was patterned after the Peterborough Historical Society's style and word numbers. Thanks to Brian Jobbitt, the General Manager of the City's Public Works, the city donated a post and the sign was erected on City property just at the edge of the entrance to the Quaker Parkette.

The book, “A Dark Day in Peterborough” was developed by a hundred researchers, librarians, and, all sorts of sources including at least a hundred descendants, both of those who died and those who had assisted, or, taken part in the disaster.

The book committee was thrilled to have the book edited Dr. Bernadine Dodge, the former Archivist at Trent University, and, Prof. Dr. Jim Driscoll, retired from Trent University. It was thrilling to see the book come into place. Equally wonderful was the help we received from Ryan Jacques who helped to search the City Directory for Quaker Staff. Ryan is a descendant of a St. Lukes minister.

President and CEO Stu Harrison welcomed all, and, Warden J. Murray Jones spoke of the need for the book. We were grateful to our two sponsors who covered the cost of the book. The Greater Peterborough Chamber of Commerce kindly donated their boardroom for the Nov. 18 book launch. Paul Rellinger, just retired from years of reporting with **Peterborough This Week**, offered to be our publicist. Fire Chief Chris Snetsinger and Deputy Chief, Chad Brown represented the fire department. Peter Duffus, the grandson of Mayor [1916-1917] was present as was David Morton. Amazingly, 210 copies, the entire print-run of the book, sold in eight days.

The Descendants' Committee soon after announced that they were planning a memorial to be placed in Millennium Park, near Simcoe Street. Essentially, the memorial will take the form of the outline of the Quaker

plant seen in a photo taken by Roy from the roof of the Wand Sash and Door Company at about 5pm. When erected, it will be possible for residents and visitors to look through one of the “window outline” and see the Quaker plant. Led by City Councillor Lesley Parnell, the memorial was approved unanimously by City Council, and, City Staff will be working with the Descendants' Committee on all the necessary details that will be needed to make it happen.

At the Saturday night service, Unifor [the union representing the Quaker staff] announced that their National Council will underwrite the entire cost. That was thrilling to hear !!! It is hoped to have the memorial ready by April.

On Saturday Dec. 10, about twenty descendants and residents, met for a candlelight vigil on a frigid night. Descendant Jim Parsons, and, member of the Descendants Committee read out the names of the twenty-four men.

Then, the vigil moved to the church hall of Mark Street United Church, where another fifty people were waiting. Maryam Monsef, MP, and, Warden J. Murray Jones along with Graham Hart and various union officials and other dignitaries were gathered to see the new video-documentary created by Paul Brown and narrated by Graham Hart. Gord Young, of Lakefield Heritage Research, was pleased to give the last Memorial Book to Peter Duffus, the grandson of Mayor [1916-1917] J.J. Duffus.

Fr. Peter Seabrooke from the Roman Catholic Diocese of Peterborough led the service at Immaculate Conception Church on Sunday Dec. 11, 100 years to the day since the fire. Just over a hundred family and residents joined in this Community Service of Remembrance. Fr. Seabrooke was joined by the Rev. Fred Woods [representing St. Lukes], and the Rev. Brad Self of St. John's. Rev. Patti Anderson of Mark Street United [formerly Mark Street Methodist Church] also participated. Rev. Gord Young, representing the City Mission Church led the candle lighting portion of the service. Both committees are very grateful to Fr. Peter for creating a wonderful Community Memorial Service. He was ably assisted by, D.Paul Ayotte and Colleen Allen a descendant of a Quaker fire fatality. Thanks went out to the ladies of Immaculate Conception Church who supplied the wonderful post-service refreshments.

Earlier on Sunday, Pepsico-Quaker Foods unveiled two sets of commemorative plaques. The first set of plaques was placed at the employee entrance. The monument is actually a pillar from the old building apparently used as part of the rubble to stabilize the river bank, north of the present building.

[Gordon Young's complete report including many photographs supplied by various people has been placed in the Trent Valley Archives.]

Looking Ahead
The SPARK Photo Festival Showcase Exhibit: April 2017

**The Loss of Innocence; The Birth of a Nation:
Remembering 1917 and the Great War**

Besides marking the 150th anniversary of Confederation, 2017 will also be a time to note the 100th anniversary of 1917's significant World War I battles, most notably those at Vimy Ridge (April 9-12) and Passchendaele. It was especially the Canadian successes at Vimy Ridge that marked a coming-of-age for this nation.

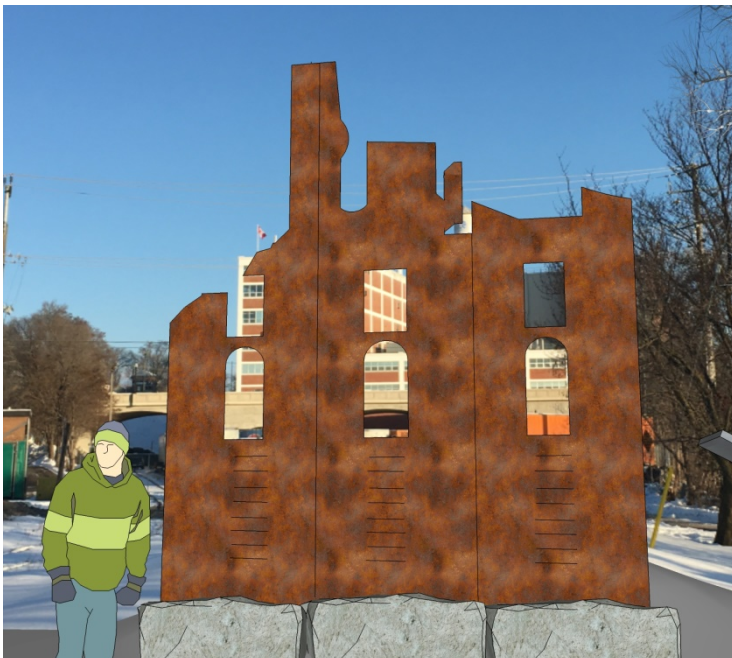
Canada was drawn into WWI simply because it was a British dominion when the "mother country" declared war in August 1914. However, when the war was over Canada sat at the treaty table with the big powers in 1919. Unfortunately, a high price had been paid for such recognition. By war's end, Canada's total casualties stood at 67,000 killed and 250,000 wounded, out of an expeditionary force of 620,000 people mobilized. To this, of course, we could add the 9,000 casualties of a December 1917 munitions explosion in Halifax and even the casualties of our local Quaker explosion of 1916, caused by the effort to squeeze out more war-time production.

The recognition Canada gained from WWI participation has been of lasting value. This SPARK Showcase Exhibit seeks to pay tribute to the many thousands of innocent Canadians—soldiers, nurses, and others on the home front as well as abroad—whose sacrifices made it possible, in particular the individuals of this community and region. Set within an overall context of the unfolding war, we therefore highlight individuals, especially "ordinary" ones. To do this we draw most heavily on portraits in the Balsillie Collection of Roy Studio Images held at the Peterborough Museum and Archives. Photographs from Library and Archives Canada, the Canadian War Museum, and so on, provide context. Because last year's exhibit drew exclusively on Trent Valley Archives' resources, the intent was to give the TVA a break this time. However, we haven't stayed away completely (how could we?) and have dipped into the TVA's Matthews Family Collection (F425), the Electric City Collection (F50), and the Canadians in World War I materials (F142).

The Showcase Committee would like to emphasize that this exhibit is not meant to be comprehensive and instead is meant as a lead-up to the many events and commemorations that we expect will occur in 2018. We hope that our viewing audience will draw on some of our materials and research hints and will themselves explore other aspects of the war. In this way, they too can acknowledge Canada's transition from innocence to nationhood.

As in past years, this Showcase and other SPARK exhibits will run for the full month of April. It will be open 1-5 pm daily, including weekends and Easter, at the Peterborough Public Library, currently on the lower floor of Peterborough Square.

Submitted by Jennie Versteeg
for the Spark Showcase Committee



Quaker Memorial

This is an artist rendition of how the proposed Quaker Memorial will look when installed on the Millennium Trail in Millennium Park. The plans have been prepared by Basterfield & Associates Landscape Architects, Peterborough. The monument will be twelve feet wide and twelve feet high. As proposed by Paul Brown, the view of the Quaker Oats works in the distance will place the view of the fire in context with the Quaker Oats that rebuilt and provided jobs for thousands of people for another century. Thanks to Jim Gill for sharing.

Cooking up Change in the TVA Kitchen



Recently, Trent Valley Archives received a generous donation from Berenice Pepe to improve our kitchen facilities, which were original to the former Township of Smith office.

Berenice's donation set the ball in motion, which led to a number of local trades and businesses all jumping on board to help make the renovation project come to fruition.

It all began with Ann Grills, kitchen designer for local business Cabinetree (who is currently enjoying her maternity leave), donating some oak cabinets from one of her personal renovation projects. Not only did Ann supply the cabinetry, but she attended on site, measured and designed layout that would work in our tiny space, allowing us to have a microwave and a fridge and provide the maximum amount of work space allowable.

Without hesitation, Terry Jenkins of Home Hardware on Chemong Road generously donated a high definition laminate counter top, which complimented the cabinets beautifully and incorporated today's popular look of granite.

Kevin Grills, finish carpenter and cabinet installer, along with his father, Glen Grills, took on the task of tearing out the 1960s cabinets and replacing them with the new ones, building a custom shelving cabinet, installing the counter top and replacing the baseboard.

Alyson Hamilton of MacInteriors donated her professional painting services and the paint needed to freshen up the walls.

Bob Neck supplied a covered trailer and took responsibility for the logistics of delivering the cabinetry and disposing of the old materials.

Drain Electric Ltd. wired in the newly required outlets and hooked up our new light fixture.

Finally, Berardi Bros. Plumbing generously donated their professional plumbing services to disconnect and reconnect the plumbing, install a new vent and brand new Delta faucet.

Without the generosity of these individuals and local businesses, this renovation project would not have been possible. On behalf of everyone at Trent Valley Archives, WE THANK YOU ALL!

Trent Valley Archives wishes to thank the generous individuals and local businesses who helped make the kitchen renovation project possible.



Berenice Pepe; Ann Grills; Glen Grills; Bob Neck; Drain Electric Ltd.

CANADA 150

A. TRENT VALLEY ARCHIVES LECTURE SERIES

This is the first ever lecture series offered by the Trent Valley Archives and we are really pleased at the fine speakers that we have lined up. All in some way evoke the spirit of Peterborough, the 1860s and the importance of celebration. Talks 1,2, 3 and 5 are at the Lions Centre, Burnham Street, Peterborough. Talk 4 will be at Catalina's, Water Street, in downtown Peterborough. Talk 6 will be given at Highland Park, Cemetery meeting room. All talks begin at 7 p.m.

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| 1 Postcards from Peterborough and the Kawarthas | Elwood Jones, TVA Archivist, February 22 |
| 2 F. W. Haultain and the Confederation Debates | Dennis Carter-Edwards, Parks Canada, March 8 |
| 3 John A. Macdonald's Peterborough Connections | Elwood Jones, TVA Archivist, March 22 |
| 4 Peterborough Goes to the Movies | D'Arcy More and Madison More, More in the Attic, April 5 |
| 5 Drinking in Cavan | Rob Winslow, 4 th Line Theatre, April 12 |
| 6 Canada and the American Civil War | John Boyko, Lakefield College School, April 20 |

Series ticket, \$50



Photo: Haultain home, Brock Street (TVA, Electric City Collection)

B. DOORS OPEN, PETERBOROUGH, MAY 6

Trent Valley Archives will be participating in two feature events.

Seats of the Mighty, Tour of the Little Lake Cemetery near the Chapel, 10 a.m. Led by Elwood Jones

Great Fire of Peterborough 1861, Tours

begin at the courtyard on Water Street, 1; 1:30; 2 p.m. Elwood Jones and Don Willcock assisted by volunteers from the Trent Valley Archives

C. TRENT VALLEY ARCHIVES, ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING [AGM], APRIL 20, 7 P.M.

Guest speaker, John Boyko, distinguished author, Lakefield College School. Followed by refreshments, and the AGM. Book tables for TVA and for John Boyko open at 6:30 p.m.

For details on these special events, visit www.trentvalleyarchives.com.

Events Committee
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**POSTCARDS from PETERBOROUGH
and the KAWARTHAS**

Vintage Postcards from the Trent Valley Archives

Elwood H. Jones and Matthew R. Griffis



A century ago, people sent postcards like we make phone calls today. In fact, if text messages are today's telegrams, then postcards are yesterday's Instagram posts. They predate television news and even modern magazines.

According to some media historians, picture postcards were one of the first examples of mass-produced images in modern culture. At a time when ordinary people did not own personal cameras, the purchase of a picture postcard was a relatively inexpensive way of preserving a memory of one's local surroundings. Postcards offered not just an inexpensive and efficient means of written communication, but also a glimpse of faraway, often extraordinary places.

Since the 1990s, books devoted to reproducing postcard views of a specific place or community have become increasingly popular. In some cases, postcards are the only surviving visual record of a specific place or event.

Consequently, postcards have become the subjects of archival digitization initiatives, digital humanities projects, and research studies by social, cultural, media, and popular art historians.

While other works about the history of Peterborough and the Kawarthas have included postcard images as illustrations, *Postcards from Peterborough and the Kawarthas* is the first to focus exclusively on the history of postcard manufacturing and collecting in the Kawarthas and one of the first to reproduce, in their original tones, many of these vintage views. These cards include views of residential and downtown streets, important (and, in some cases, lost) architectural landmarks, city skylines and natural landscapes, important people and institutions, and scenes from the Trent-Severn Waterway including bridges, lift locks, and steamboats.

Postcards from Peterborough and the Kawarthas is both a celebration of the Kawarthas' postcard heritage and a resource for researchers. Its inventory provides a descriptive list of all postcards, print and digitized, currently in the Trent Valley Archives' collections. In addition to raising awareness of the existence of these cards, this book can inform a variety of present and future research projects relating to the history of our region.

ISBN 978-0-9810341-8-8
\$30

Order from: Trent Valley Archives, 567 Carnegie Avenue, www.trentvalleyarchives.com

Postage and handling add \$15 per copy. For international orders, ask for quotes.

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