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PETERBOROUGH MECHANICS INSTITUTE SPECIAL ISSUE

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Cover photo: The Mechanics Institute, from 1868 was at this site at 375 Water Street, renting the rooms on the second floor above the law office at street level. (Photo; Elwood H. Jones, 2022)



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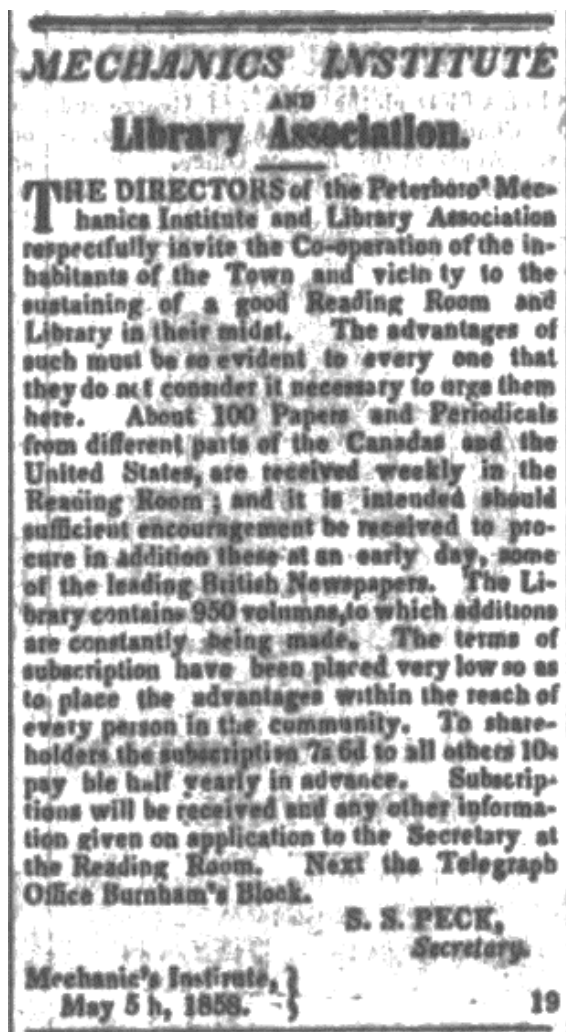


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Making Peterborough's Victorian Library

Elwood H. Jones



The Peterborough Mechanics Institute began in June 1868, and quickly began making a subscription library. Mechanics Institutes had been founded in many places in England and in Canada. In fact, an earlier Peterborough Mechanics Institute had been founded in Peterborough in February 1843, and with G. Haslehurst, printer, it had published a catalogue of its holdings in 1853. According to the title page the organization was known in the community as Peterborough Library and Mechanics' Institute.

A recent cache of archival documents which came to my attention makes it clear that in 1868 the new Peterborough Mechanics' Institute did not have the library of 1853 and began the creation of a library from scratch. The earlier Mechanics' Institute is not noted in *Fuller's counties of Peterborough & Victoria Directory for 1865 & 1866* (Toronto, 1865) or in Poole's 1867 history of the town and county, even though both sources would have reasonably noted such an organization.

In the Peterborough Weekly Review in November 1856 there was a notice that the Peterborough Library and Mechanics' Institute had moved into a building at the corner of Hunter and Water. A Mr. Henderson was the Librarian and G. Haslehurst was its secretary. The library, one door south of the "new Post Office", was open Fridays and Saturdays from 10 to 4.

An advertisement ran in the Weekly Review from May 1858 to March 1859.

The Review, 25 March, reported on the Annual Meeting of the Mechanics Institute which was held on 21 March 1859 for the purpose of electing directors for the current year. Attendance was less than expected, and seemed to suggest that the Institute did not have a good base in the community. The new directors were Thomas White Jr. as

President; Joseph Dundas as Secretary; and W. G. Robinson as treasurer. The meeting also favoured a series of lectures which would for a limited period be free to those attending "for greater success and greater usefulness."

It was noted that the newsroom at the Mechanics Institute deserved to be well used. "Besides papers from almost every Town in the Province, the principal City Dailies, both of Upper and Lower Canada are received, and a number of American papers may also be found upon the tables." The subscription fee was two dollars a year, paid semi-annually in advance, and subscribers had all the advantages of the newspapers and the Reading Room. "The sum to each is small, but in a Town like this the membership ought to be sufficiently large to make the aggregate a very handsome amount." The report concluded "It is only by a combination of interest and contributions; by a zealous unity of purpose, that success can be secured."

Beginning in March 1859, the Peterborough Mechanics Institute and Library Association [notice change of name] sponsored a free lecture in the Town Hall by the Rev. William Scott, speaking on “Ancient Britain.” Dr.

MECHANICS INSTITUTE.
A PUBLIC LECTURE
 WILL be delivered in the Town Hall on Thursday Evening next, under the auspices of the Peterboro' Mechanics' Institute and Library Association, by the Rev WILLIAM SCOTT.
SUBJECT:—ANCIENT BRITAIN.
 Lecture to commence at eight o'clock.
ADMISSION FREE.
 Mechanics' Institute, }
 March 24 h., 1859. } 12

CANADIAN SOCIETY.
 AN adjourned meeting of the members of the Canadian Society will be held at Caisse's Hotel, on Thursday evening next, the 30th inst., at 8 o'clock p.m. Subjects of importance to the welfare of the Society will be brought up, and a full attendance is therefore requested.
 R. S. PATTERSON, Secretary
 Peterboro', March 24 h., 1859. 12

Peterboro' Review
 "Measures, not Men."
 FRIDAY, MARCH 25, 1859.

Burnham spoke on “Mesmerism” for the second lecture. The third lecture, on the Ups and Downs of Life, was delivered by Thomas B. Connolly on 5 May. The report of when he gave the lecture in his home town of Kingston was printed in the Weekly Review, and the charge for this lecture was 12 ½ cents. On 8 July 1859, there was a major editorial commenting that the increased postage for newspapers would have a negative effect on Mechanics Institutes throughout the province as newspapers were its main attractions.

On 8 November 1861, the Mechanics Institute made a concerted effort to get attention.

In March 1863, a notice by George A. Cox, requested people with books from the P.M.I. and L. A. library to return them before a meeting of the directors on 16 April.

From 15 January to May 1866, G. A. Cox requested the immediate return of any books from the “old Mechanics Institute.”

On 6 April 1866, the Review reported that a house that had burned on the south west corner of Water and King had formerly been a place of meeting for the Mechanics Institute which no longer exists. The building had also been a former school and the office of one of the first printing establishments.

It is not clear why the loss of the Mechanics Institute attracted so little attention. It may have been the postage issue that deflated the directors. The reading room clearly had some library books, but Cox’s notice suggests that some books were borrowed but never returned. The lectures attracted little attention or attendance, even though other lectures were well attended in the surrounding area.

The new Peterborough Mechanics Institute began by an appeal for subscriptions to incorporate the Mechanics Institute under new provincial legislation. With a very short period the subscription list reached over 100 subscribers to consent to donating \$2 a year towards the object.

The Board of Directors was operating by mid-June 1868, and the first orders for newspapers were being received by the start of July. The first orders were placed with Wm. Chewett & Co. on Toronto’s King Street, just east

of Yonge.

Surprisingly, the new Mechanics Institute did not begin with the collection of books from the old one. John Carnegie Jr., the president engaged assistance from William Edwards at the Toronto Mechanics Institute who explained the easiest way to set up the library was by having two books, one assigning a number for each member and the second assigning a number to each book. The new library list began with 1.

During the first decade, the books for the new library were ordered from eight book sellers, of which three were based in Peterborough.

- A. B. Kidd, 1872
- Thomas Menzies, 1873, 1874
- Davidson & Co., 1873-1879
- Adam, Stevenson & Co., 1873, 1875
- Matthias & Reid, 1874, 1876

Robert Romaine, 1875,1876

Hart and Rawlinson, 1876

Willing and Williamson, 1877-1879

Interestingly, the files contain no book orders from the first four years. This suggests that this cache is incomplete. It also seems that the Library Committee was operating more effectively and with more confidence by 1873. The books that were donated by the Peterborough Grammar and Union School start to appear around 230, and apparently by 1873.

George E. Shaw, then secretary of the Library Committee in 1873 reported that it had purchased 226 volumes for \$479, and these were “classified under the several headings as required by Law.” These headings were Fiction 3, History 42, Voyages &c, 17; Biography 16; Poetry &c, 9; works of Reference, 4; Essays 16; Philosophy 8; Science and Art, 34; and Miscellaneous 76.

A. B. Kidd, who was a wholesale and retail dealer in books, magazines, newspapers, and sheet music was also selling window shades and musical instruments. Kidd was based in Peterborough and by 1874 Davidson & Co. had taken over their business. The 1872 list is for magazines, monthly and weekly, and three Canadian newspapers, the Montreal Gazette, the Daily Globe and the Daily Mail, the last two based in Toronto. The New York Tribune and Illustrated London News, the Scientific American, Punch were among the quality papers.

The first magazine and newspapers were ordered from W. C. Chewett and Co. which suggests the Peterborough dealer had emerged after 1868.

Thomas Menzies, whose story I have told elsewhere, was based on George Street near Hunter, recently the site of Neilson Jewelers. There were several orders filled for the Mechanics Institute in 1873, with the most extensive being dated 18 December 1873. The first invoice, 8 January, included Grote’s Greece in 12 vols. and Oliver Goldsmith. The next had Leo X, king of Belgium. Then came the ten volume history of Scotland. The final list came to \$110 after the 25% discount, but the returned books totalled almost \$50.

Davidson & Co. was headed by J. Irvine Davidson (1836-1921), formerly in 1865 a partner with George A. Cox. The invoice for 4 August included about 30 titles all related to periodicals; this is similar to earlier lists, but the Montreal Gazette has been dropped; it returned the following May. There are several invoices from Davidson, nearly all relating to periodicals and newspapers.

On one invoice in August 1873, Davidson put an x beside four periodical titles and noted that he was unable to find these titles in “Toronto price lists.” These were Mechanics, Gardener, Coach Builder, and Photograph Journal. For periodicals, Davidson would “supply all magazines &c as above with 10% off for cash quarterly.” George E. Shaw was handling these accounts. In 1875, William English was Chairman of the Library Committee

On the Davidson invoices for 25 January 1876, which are on four long pages listing 130 titles, there are books including Don Quixote, Life of Cook, Parkman’s Works, Old Curiosity Shop, Life among Indians, Oliver Twist, Chess Players Manual, Mark Twain, Middlemarch, Sunday Evenings at Home, Mills Autobiography. Davidson received these books through James Campbell and Co. and from Adam, Stevenson & Co.

The 1877 invoices are again mostly periodicals and newspapers. An invoice for 6 December 1878 again features books, mostly non-fiction. Titles suggest ancient history, adventure, autobiographies and memoirs.

The Mechanics Institute papers also contain invoices, 1873-1875, from Adam, Stevenson & co. who were at 8, 10 and 12 King Street East, in premises near W. C. Chewett who had given advice to John Carnegie and to Davidson in 1868. The lead item here was the 11 volume set of Lord Brougham (1778-1868). This would be the Works of Lord Brougham published between 1862 and 1865. A couple of books written by Charles Kingsley, including the 1872 Town Geology, are also on this list. It and other books on the list were current publications. Several of the books related to world politics, science, religion, geography and travel. The Life of Horace Greeley and the book of sermons by Haweis brought memories of earlier research encounters.

The January invoice of Adam, Stevenson is attached to ones from Thomas Menzies and James Campbell. It is interesting to see invoices dated early in the year. All were being purchased through Thomas Menzies.

Robert Romaine (1820-1892) was a major force in local journalism because of his connection with the Peterborough Review in the 1870s. The Review ran a bookstore and a bookbindery as well as the publishing of the largest circulating local newspaper. In 1875 and 1876, the surviving invoices indicate some of the range of services performed by Romaine. In February 1875, he printed a thousand programmes and the advertisement for the Mechanics Institute lecture by Dr. Bell. He mounted a map of central Africa, and a map of Manitoba. He also printed the circular for the evening classes, and annual meeting of the Mechanics Institute.

The invoices were checked and approved by George E. Shaw, of the Ontario Bank, who was an exceptionally active member of the Mechanics Institute, and other local organizations until his untimely death in 1880. One of the stained glass windows at St. John’s Anglican Church is dedicated to Shaw who was churchwarden, and a key

planner of the changes made at the church, officially completed on 1 November 1882. Shaw was the treasurer of the Mechanics Institute from 1868 to 1880.

An invoice for 1874 shows that Romaine bound or repaired 68 books. There is also a memo summarizing the books that Romaine repaired or bound during 1875-76. The library numbers are given to show which books were affected. He did repairs on ten volumes, and repaired 51 volumes including the case that protected the books. He also did new bindings for 33 volumes.

During 1875, the Library Committee did an audit of their holdings, which identified some missing titles. This was followed with a "Statement of Books out of Library Decr. 14th 1875." The comments on the missing titles include several that were returned, and a few identified who had the book. A couple of Dickens titles, Bleak House and Oliver Twist were noted as "destroyed", but no mention of how this happened. Some titles were blank and in one case the four missing volumes of Froude's History of England had been "Exchanged for 12 vol."

In 1876, Hart and Rawlinson, described as "successors, retail, to Copp, Clark & Co., 5 King Street West, Toronto, sold books to the Mechanics Institute. A letter in February addressed to Geo. E. Shaw, Esq., explaining that the library discount for American books was 25%. Shaw wanted a 1/3 discount, but Hart & Rawlinson said that would be "almost 10% under what they cost." They concluded, "We wish to be as liberal to you as possible but we must live you know." In the two invoices the discounts were 20% and 30%, reflecting this policy. The one invoice indicated for most of the titles what would be their classification in the library. Biographies included lives of Swift, Macaulay, Caroline Herschel, and Mrs. Fletcher. Science books included ones on Chemistry of Light and on Fermentation, and Insectivorous Plants. The philosophy book was Body & Mind. Travel books included Through the Tropics. Those categorized as history included books on Egypt, Persia and Assyria. "Mis" was the code for a book on "Mortality of Liquor Law" which turned out to be "Morality of Liquor Law, an 1875 book by William B. Weeden (1834-1912).

At the end of the 1870s, the main supplier of books to the Mechanics Institute was Willing & Williamson, who were at 10 and 12 King Street East, which were the premises previously used by Adam, Stevenson.

In January 1877, the four pages of titles to supply. The prices totaled about \$240 before the discount of nearly \$60. The titles acquired included the 10 volume set "Chambers Miscellany", Tom Sawyer, Currie's Common School Education, a book on Steam and Steam Engines, History of Signboards, Pepys Diary, Wilds of Sudan, Epochs of History in 4 volumes, Tennyson's Harold, Russell's Recollections, and Authors Classical Dictionary. Several titles were marked as duplicates, and at least one title was returned.

The April invoice was annotated by someone at the Mechanics Institute indicating books that are ordered and some that have already been got. The endorsement said "Invoice of books from Willing & Williams a portion of which was retained and others returned. The titles that were already in the library were A Mad World, Cress of Bering, Ocean to Ocean and Recent Polar Voyages. The ones that were ordered were Wallace's Russia, Spry's Challenger, Kingsley's Life, Les Miserables, The Scotch Naturalist, Tyndall on Electricity, Old Times on the Mississippi, Tom Sawyer, and Shadow of the Sword. A second invoice of the same date was labelled "corrected invoice." There are three more invoices for 1877.

In 1878, the Mechanics Institute ordered quite a few titles from Willing and Williamson. The lead item was the Letters of Duchess of Marlborough. One title was removed from the list because the Rev. Vincent Clementi had ordered a copy of Mottoes for Monuments on his own account. The later invoice, 29 November 1878, had about 100 titles listed on one page; the average title cost \$1.25!

There are some very interesting books mentioned in this invoice. There was More About our Coffee Room which was written by Elizabeth Reid Cotton, Lady Hope published by James Nisbet in London, 1878. W. M. Thackeray's Book of Snobs, first published in 1848 but reprinted as recently as 1870 was purchased. Settlers in Canada is the name of a children's novel written by Captain Frederick Marryat (1792-1848) whose many books drew upon his naval career experience. Charlotte Yonge's Clever Woman of the Family was published by Macmillan in 1848. Bismarck's Letters was published in Germany in 1878. Leggo's *Speeches of the Earl of Dufferin, governor general of Canada, 1872-1878* (Toronto, 1878) was a current publication. There were biographies of Tecumseh, Benjamin Franklin, and Captain Kidd.

The Library Committee was very active through the 1870s. The Rev. Vincent Clementi was the chairman who submitted the 1876-7 committee report. The committee had added 218 volumes to the library which now had 2,105 volumes. The committee had spent \$276.44 and the total value of the library was \$3,174.06. Borrowers had checked out 4,608 titles. The Reading Room was carrying 27 magazines and papers.

Peterborough Mechanics Institute Library Catalogue, 1870s

Elwood Jones, the archivist at Trent Valley Archives, recently acquired a collection of archival papers that he has identified as the Peterborough Mechanics Institute records from the 1860s to the 1920s. The Mechanics Institute became the Peterborough Public Library in 1895. Before that its membership paid subscriptions and were able to enjoy classes in varied subjects from bookkeeping to architecture, lectures and a library for members.

There were earlier libraries in Peterborough. In the 1830s, there was a parish library at St. John's Anglican Church and there was a forerunner of the Mechanics Institute known as Peterborough Library Association and Mechanics' Institute "established 1853" according to its publication, Constitution, By-Laws and Catalogue, printed by G. Haslehurst of Peterborough.

The Peterborough Mechanics Institute was a new creation judging by the documents in this new collection which includes correspondence between James Carnegie of Peterborough with the provincial organization of Mechanics' Institutes headed by W. Edwards.

In those papers there are several fragments containing lists of books in its Library. The lists contain the library number, short title and author surname. We have been able to identify most of the books by using Google searches, Wikipedia and Abebooks as resources. Sometimes there are problems in making reasonable identifications, most likely because the original contains poor handwriting or spelling errors. What follows is a reprint of the earliest catalogue listing books from #1 to #75. The books were shelved in this numerical order, and the numbers are simultaneously accession numbers, call numbers and shelf numbers. Such a system was used in Harvard in the 18th century and at Trent Valley Archives were used in the Pammett, Edmison and Tolmie library collections. Carol Sucee established a simplified cataloguing and shelving system for TVA that is based on the Dewey system.

This new set of papers also contains a document titled "List of Books Sent by the Peterborough Grammar and Union School to the Mechanics Institute." The document is neither signed nor dated but the Union School existed in the 1850s and was succeeded by the school built in 1860 on the corner of Murray and College streets, long known as the Central School. However, it was also known as the Peterborough Grammar and Union School as late as 1869. This could also document some of the collection at Mechanics Institute.

Library Catalogue 1870s

1	Dante - Cary's	25	German Reader Woodbury
2	Success & its Conditions – Whipple	26	Standard Speaker Sargent
3	Political Economy – Rogers	27	Alziro. Voltaire
4	Lucian – text – Sheridan	28	Horace. Text Authors
5	Fasting – Dixon	29	Corneille
6	Paley's Evidences	30	Horace. Authors?
7	Homer – Odyssey – trans	31	Testament. French
8	Constitutional His. Canada – Watson	32	London. Beadkers
9	Moral Science Whayland	33	Free Trade Fawcett
10	Students Manual Todd	34	Outlines of Thouth Thompson
11	Demosthenes. Trans	35	Chemistry Roscoe
12	Hadley Greek Grammar	36	German Literature Thimm
13	German Reader Adley	37	Classical Dictionary Smith
14	Chapsall. French Literature	38	Pensees de Pascal
15	English Grammar Fowler	39	Agassiz
16	Historical Rescurelos Hecreus	40	German Reader German
17	College Life Olin	41	Fables de Fontaine
18	Demagot and Le Bruyere	42	Authors Cicero
19	[Comstock's Chemistry sept 22]	43	Ancient Atlas Johnson
20	History of England – Hamilton	44	Manual Bairs
21	Iliad Homer's Text Leary	45	Guide to Oxford
22	Orations Cicero Text	46	Demosthenes Text
23	Whately's Logic	47	Le Cid Corneille
24	English Literature – Craik's	48	Paris Hachettes

49	Wealth of Nations Smith		Miscellaneous Works
50	Cicero Text Trans	208	Industry of the U States
51	Greville's Memoirs, vol 1, 2	209	Uncle Philips Conversation
52	Pujal	210	Jamaica Enslaved and Free
53	Fruit and Bread Schlickeysen	211	Pithy papers
54	Misanthrope Moliere	212	Persia
55	Odyssey – Owens	213	Naples
56	Religion of Protestants, Chillingsworth	214	Monk & Washington
57	Natural Theology Paley	215	Ramble in the British Isles
58	English Literature Spalding	216	Sir J. Banks & the Royal Society
59	Virgil Trans	217	Travel Tales [not received]
60	Anabasis Xenophon Trans	218	Travel Tales 2 vols
61	Origin of Species Huxley	219	Destruction of Jerusalem
62	History of England Macaulay Vol 1, 2	220	The Feather
63	Roman Antiquities Author	221	Life of Oliver Goldsmith
64	Homer's Iliad Trans	222	“ “ 2 vols
65	Travels in California	223	Glances at Germany, Poland etc
66	Virgils Interlinear Trans	224	Animalcula
67	Cowley's Essays	225	Selections from Old Humphrey
68	Intellectual Powers Reid	226	The Dawn of Modern Civilization
69	Arnold's Latin Prose	227	Genoa
70	Livy Trans	228	Glimpses of Dark Ages
71	Latin Grammar Andrews	236	Washington Irving Mahomet
72	Human Understanding Locke		Books for Reference
73	German Literature Evans	229	Elements of Criticism
74	Sophocles Greek Grammar	230	Encyclopedia Metropolitana
75	Bucher's German Prose Composition	231	Anglo Saxon Derivatives
76	Sadler Cours de Versanns	232	Anglo Saxon Root Words
77	Eastern Question	233, 234	Sketches of the History of Literature & Learning in England

“List of Books Sent by the Peterborough Grammar and Union School to the Mechanics Institute.”

Groles Greece,	12 vol. complete	St. John's Travellers	2 vols
Menzells Germany	3 vols “	Warburton's Hochelaga	1
Humes England	6 vols, volume 5 wanting	Harpers Perils of the Sea	1
Macaulay's England	3 vols vol 1 wanting	Subola's Japan	1
Simpsons Scotland	1	Voyage Round the World	1
Mackintosh's England	3	Drake's and others Voyages	1
Bonner's Rome	1	Mutiny of the Bounty	1
Greens Italy	1	Travels in Chile and Peru	1
Harpers Ireland &c	1	Ten Years in Australia	1
Davis's China	2	White's Mont Blanc	1
Russel's Polynesia	1	Alfred in India	1
Russel's Palestine	1	Cuba	1
Russel's India and Abyssinia	1	Chaucer	8 [1 st vol wanting]
Murrays British America	2	Dryden	3
Crichton's Scandinavia	2	Thomson	2 [2 nd vol wanting]
Russel's Egypt	1	Cowper	3
Russel's Barbary	1	Tupper's poems	1
Flonans Moors of Spain	1	Dante's Inferno	1
Frazers Mesopotamia	1	Young's Myths Thoughts	1
Fletchers Poland	1	Ditto Poems	1
Warburtons Conquest of Canada	2	Collins Poems	1
Cheevers Sandwich Islands	1	Bryants Selections	1
Coltons Bosphorus &c	1	Johnstons Chemistry of ?	1
Brooks Borneo	1	Bucklesbys Meterology	1
Parrots Ararat	1	Mitchell's Book of Heaven	1
Barrows Voyages	1	Humboldts Cosmos	1
Irvings Columbus	1	Zornlins Earth as it is	1
Ditto abridged	1	Somerville's Connection of Sciences	1

Mayhews Wonders of Science	1		Czar & Sultan	1
Philosophy in Sport etc	1		Pleasures of Taste	1
Boy Philosopher	1		Self taught men	1
Keltos Lost Senses	1		Things by their right name	1
Potters objects of Science	1		Distinguished Females	1
Guyots Earth & Man	1		Memoirs of Female Sovereigns	2
Wonders of Geology	1		Prep of doug ?	1
Higgins Earth	1		Industry of the United States	1
Vegetables Substances in Food	1		Uncle Philips Conversations	1
Dick's Sidereal Heavens	1		Jamaica Enslaved & Free	1
Kelsos Lost Senses	1		Pithy papers	1
Macaulays Speeches	2		Persia	1
Ditto Essays	5 [vol 4 wanting]		Naples	1
Memoirs of American Mechanics	1		Mouth & Washington	1
Mrs Signoureys Letters	1		Rambles in the British Isles	1
Prescotts Essays	1		Sir J. Banks & the Royal Society	1
London Times Essays	1		Moral Tales	2 [1 st vol wanting]
Work while it is day	1		Destruction of Jerusalem	1
Quarterly Review papers	1		The Feather	1
Life of Canning	1		Life of Oliver Goldsmith	2 [1 st vol wanting]
Catacombs of Rome	1		Glances at Germany Poland &c	1
Conversations on the English Constitution	1	1	Animalculae	1
Orators of the Age	1		Sketches from Ola Humphrey	1
Conquest of Granada and Spain	1		The Dawn of Modern Civilization	1
Life of Milton	1		Genoa	1
The whale & his captors	1		Glimpses of Dark Ages	1
Footprints of famous Men	1		Elements of Criticism	1
Manners & Customs of Nations	1		Encyclopedia Metropolitana	1
History of English Literature	1		Anglo Saxon Derivatives	1
Boyhoods of Great Men	1		Anglo Saxon Root Words	1
Art of prolonging life	1		Sketches of the history of Literature	
Philosophy of Magic	2		& Learning in England	2
Friendly advice to domestics	1			
Ola Humphreys Walks in London	1			
Ditto Friendly appeals	1			
Ditto Observations	1			
Natural History of Selborm	1			
Indian Traits	1			
The Guiding Star	1			
Natural History of Birds	1			
Life of Sir Isaac Newton	1			
Scenes in Nature	1			
Family Instructor	1			
Martyrs of Science	1			
Juvenile Budget	1			
Juvenile Composition	1			
Festivals & Games &c	1			
Pithy papers	1			
Sinc upon Sinc	1			
How to be a Man	1			
Pursuit of Knowledge under difficulties	1	1		
French Revolution	1			
Guide to Nature	1			
Life of Byron	1			
Balboa Cortez &c	1			
Indian Biography	2			
Columbus & his times	2			
Girls Book	1			
History of Education	1			
Letters to Pupils	1			
Perilous Adventures	1			

Peterborough Historical Society Robert Romaine Occasional Paper

The Peterborough Historical Society began printing annual Occasional Papers in 1980, and their 42nd offering has just appeared. This has been seen as a tangible benefit of membership in the PHS, but it has also led to the publication of important and enduring works on the history of Peterborough. For example, Lois Davidson's book on the Peterborough Law Association and its Library provided useful insights when looking at the formation of the Mechanics Institute library. Meredith Carter's brief history of Jackson Creek has continuing value for people wondering why a creek winds through our downtown.

The latest booklet is by Ken Brown, one of Peterborough's accomplished historians, and tackles Robert Romaine a truly remarkable figure from Victorian times. He was publisher of the Peterborough Review in its formative years, but emerges as an all-round journalist. He had patents for agricultural implements. He played a key role in the production and publication of the Romaine map of 1875, surely the highlight of the historical atlas produced by a parliament of scholars in 1975. Romaine's grasp of the printing infrastructure was a key part of his role in the reorganization of the Queen's Printer operation in Ottawa.

There are lots of surprises in this gem.
Congratulations to the Peterborough Historical Society.

First order of periodicals for the Peterborough Mechanics Institute 1868

Letter copy from J. Irvine Davidson, Secretary of the Institute to Messrs W. Chewett & Co. This is part of a significant file of correspondence related to acquiring periodicals in 1868-1869.

Peterboro, 24th June 1868

Messrs W. Chewett & Co.
Gent /

I duly received your favor of the 19th inst and submitted the same to the Directors at their meeting on Monday evening last. I am now directed to order from you the following Magazines and Papers from you subject to the terms mentioned in your letter of the above date, the Magazines and papers to be supplied from the 1st July. 1 copy of each for 6 months. ... You will please make out account on receipt charging six months in advance for all you can supply deduct discount and send the same to my address and the amount will be remitted at once.

List of magazines and papers to be supplied from 1st July 1868 for six months "all the year Round."

Argosy. Art Journal. One copy each Bailey's mag. of sports, Boys of England Magazine Boys Own Magazine Boys Monthly Mag. British Workman Cassells Mag Chambers Journal Cornhill Eclectic Riviera Gardeners Monthly Mag Goodwoods London Society. Penny Illustrated Paper. Practical Mechanics Journal Temple Bar Artizan
London Engineer weekly Mechanics Mag weekly
Builder Mag " Chemical News (Am Reprint) "
American Artizan " American Journal of Mining "
Scientific American " Bell's Life "
Illustrated London News " Economist "
Lancet " Markham Express "
Punch "

You will kindly mention what you can supply a copy of Worcesters Dictionary – a reply in course will oblige.

Yours truly J. Irvine Davidson Secy to Institute.

[Ed. Note: The letterhead for W. C. Chewett & Co. claims to be "IMPORTERS of English and American Books, Periodicals, Newspapers, & C PUBLISHERS, BOOKSELLERS, LITHOGRAPHERS, ENGRAVERS, PRINTERS, BOOKBINDERS, & C" Their address was Toronto, 17 and 19 King Street East.]

Peterborough Mechanics Institute Membership 1868-1870

Ed. Note: These lists are the earliest membership lists in the private collection of Elwood Jones.

[List 1 c. 1868] Subscription List Mechanics Institute

We the undersigned hereby agree to incorporate ourselves as a "Mechanics Institute" as provided under Chap 72 of the Consolidated Statutes of Canada – and to contribute towards it funds the amount set opposite our respective names.

Nicholls & Hall	5.00	John A. Metherall	2.00	Robt Rowe Senr	2.00
	5.00	Wm Robertson	2.00	Thomas Burke	2.00
	5.00	Robert Fitzgerald	2.00	R. B. Lundy	2.00
Donald Fraser	2.00	John Carnegie Jr.	5.00		
James Fraser	2.00		2.00	On declaration	
Andrew Duglass	2.00	Wm English	2.00		\$101.
Wm Moreland	2.00	John English	2.00	00	
Geo. Gunderson	2.00	A. Comstock	2.00	My list	
John McGregor	2.00	Wm N. Kennedy	2.00	44.00	
John Rose	2.00	Robert Rowe	2.00	Town	
Wm Jackson	2.00	David Breeze	2.00	50.00	
James Whyte	2.00	David Arnott	2.00		
John Fraser	2.00	J. B. Dixon	2.00		\$195.
F. Jackes	2.00	D. W. Dumble	2.00	00	
John King	2.00	Xx		[undated, unsigned]	
Frederick Heuback	2.00	Wm. Helm	4.00		
Robinson Rutherford	2.00	R. Robertson	2.00		
John Douglas	2.00	James Montgomery	2.00		

[List 2 c. 1870] Subscription List for Mechanics Institute

The undersigned subscribe for the above object the sums set opposite their respective names

Robt Romaine	10.00	Grant & Yorke	5.00	A. Goodwin	2.00
John Carnegie Jr	5.00	White & Hamilton	5.00	W. A. Scott	5.00
Wm. Helm	5.00	R. Kinkaid	5.00	Ontario Bank	5.00

George Stethem	5.00	J. R. Ormond	2.00	W. J. Snell	2.00
N. Shaw	2.00	Nicholls & Hall	10.00	Albert Hall	2.00
T. Donnelly	2.00	Wm H. Mitchell	2.00	J. Irvine Davidson	2.00
Geo. A. Cox	4.00	Chas. Perry	2.00	Robt. Dinwoodie	2.00
E. Poole	2.00	Thos. J. Winship	2.00	Charles Leigh Sarney	2.00
Sam White	2.00	Jas W. Denne	2.00	T.M.D. Croly	2.00
James Best	2.00	Jas. Dennistoun	2.00	Wm. Tool	2.00
T. Bradburn	2.00	Jas. Campbell	2.00	Alex. Smith	2.00
W. Cluxton	2.00	John Erskine	2.00	Thomas xxx	2.00
John Bertram	5.00	M. Moloney	2.00	W. J. McComb	2.00
Robt Hamill	3.00	Peter Connal	2.00	George Hilliard	8.00
Jas. S. Stenson	2.00	John Taylor	5.00	T. G. Hazlett	2.00
George Mitchell	2.00	Jas Stratton	2.00	David Pentland	2.00
Frank Mercer	2.00	Wm. Coulter	2.00	W. Lech	2.00
Tobias Fitzgerald	2.00	Chs. Ormond	2.00	A. Sperry	2.00
John Brown	2.00	Robert Rowe	2.00	W. Jameson	2.00
D. Lemay	2.00	Revd. Mr Clementi	2.00	[Richard A.]Goodwin	2.00
Thos Menzies	2.00	Andrew Douglass	2.00	Geo. A. Stewart	2.00
J. W. Gilmour	5.00	Charles Cameron	2.00	Jas. Craig	2.00
Wm. Snyder	2.00	Geo. Burnham	2.00	D. Sutherland	----
J. A. Hall	2.00	John Cameron	2.00		
R. Kingan	2.00	Isaac Robinson	2.00		

{List 3} List of Committees

Property Committee

Wm. English

Heubach

John Doharty

Finance Committee

W. Helm

J. Donnelly

W. Hamilton

Class

J. Carnegie

A. Smith

W. Beal

Library Committee

J. Bertram

A. Sperry

A. Mason

Lecture Committee

J. Erskine

Geo. A. Cox

R. Robertson

[List 4] Peterboro Mechanics Institute 1869, 1870 [Ed. This list was evidently used to collect fees; some may not have paid.]

R. Romaine	J. W. Gilmour	Geo A. Cox	M. Moloney	Anson Sperry
Jno Carnegie	Jno Bertram	Edwin Poole	Peter Connal	William
Wm Helm	Andrew Douglass	Samuel White	John Taylor	Jamieson
James English	Wm. Moreland	James Best	James Stratton	Geo. A. Stewart
W. N. Kennedy	Jno McGregor	Thomas	William Coulter	Ontario Bank
Wm. English	Wm Jackson	Bradburn	Rev. M.	Wm. Hall
James Whyte	John Fraser	James Stevenson	Burnham	Lumber
D. W. Dumble	Robinson	Wm. Cluxton	Chas. Ormond	Alfred Sloman
A. Comstock	Rutherford	Robt Hamilton	Rev. V. Clementi	Francis Sloman
Robt Renfrew	Jno Douglass	James J. Stenson	Chas Cameron	William Mason
D. Williams	Jno R. Metherall	Geo Mitchell	Isaac Robinson	William Johnston
James Rose	R. Thompson Jr.	Francis Mercer	W. J. Green	Alex Gillespie
Thos. Lannin	William	Jno Brown	Albert Hall	Geo. H. Johnston
Wm.	Robertson	D Lemay	J. Irvine	Jr
McCullough	Robt Rowe	Thomas Menzies	Davidson	Alfred Johnston
F. Heubach	Robt Robertson	Wm Snyder	R. Dinwoodie	Thomas
Jno English	Jno Sim	James A. Hall	Chas L. Sarney	Rutherford
Geo. Henderson	James Patterson	R. Kingan	J. M. D. Croly	Thomas
Donald Fraser	Samuel	J. R. Ormond	William Toole	Robinson
James Fraser	Montgomery	W. H. Mitchell	Alex Smith	James L. Burton
Wm. J. Martin	Peter Hamilton	Thos J. Winship	Banker	Robert
Walter Beal	A. Goodwin	J. W. Dunnett	Geo. Hilliard	Henderson
Dr. R. Kincaid	George Stethem	James Campbell	T. G. Hazlett	James Hall
Wm Hamilton	Nathaniel Shaw	John Erskine	David Pentland	Sheriff
Nicholls & Hall	Thomas Donnelly	Andrew Barmen	William Lech	

THE MECHANICS' INSTITUTE.

The annual meeting of the members of the Mechanic's Institute was held on Monday Evening last, for the purpose of electing new Directors for the current year. The meeting was not as numerously attended as it ought to have been; nor doubtless as it would have been, did the interest which ought to be felt in the success of the institute prevail. After some preliminary matters had been discussed the ballot was passed round; and the following gentlemen declared elected:--Messrs. J. Hall, A. Fowles, W. G. Robinson, T. White, Jr., Jos. Dundas, J. Brophy, and R. White.

The Directors at once organized themselves, and proceeded to elect the officers. The result was as follows:

Thos. White, Jr., President,
Jos. Dundas, Secretary,
W.G. Robinson, Treasurer.

It was then resolved that a course of lectures should be delivered, and a Committee were appointed to make the necessary arrangements. It was also resolved that the newsroom be left open to the public free of charge for a limited period. The lectures are also to be free; as the Directors have determined to excite if possible such an interest in the Association as to ensure its greater success and greater usefulness for the future.

The newsroom alone ought to attract the interest of the community sufficiently to induce them to lend their active assistance to promote its success. Besides papers from almost every Town in the Province, the principal City Dailies, both of Upper and Lower Canada are received, and a number of American papers may also be found upon the tables. One hour spent each evening in the Room would be sufficient to keep one thoroughly posted up in contemporary history; and immensely add to the general stock of intelligence. The price of subscription is trifling. A matter of Two dollars a year, paid semi-annually in advance, entitles the payer to all the advantages of the library and Reading Room. The sum to each is small, but in a Town like this the membership ought to be sufficiently large to make the aggregate a very handsome amount.

If the people of Peterboro' would have an Institute of which they might be proud; which would confer upon them solid and enduring advantages, they must lend a helping hand. Our best institutions both in England and in this Country have sprung from quite

The Mechanics Institute

Peterborough Review, 25 March 1859

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If the people of Peterboro' would have an Institute of which they might be proud; which would confer upon them solid and enduring advantages, they must lend a helping hand. Our best institutions both in England and in this Country have sprung from quite as small beginnings as this one. It is only by a combination of interest and contributions; by a zealous unity of purpose, that success can be secured. The Secretary, Mr. Dundas, will be glad to receive the names of such as have not yet joined the Institute, and are desirous of doing so.

House Burned.—

Review, 6 April 1866

On Saturday night, an empty two story frame house, on the west side of George and south of King streets, was found to be on fire and was speedily consumed. The house in question, thirty years ago, was of some interest from its associations with the history of the town. It was at one time a printing office, one of the first, if not the very first, located in this town. It also held the sittings of a Mechanics Institute, now no longer existing. It was used as a school house, and doubtless in other capacities was associated with events and incidents of more or less interest or importance. Some wretched

vagabond applied the match, and the old house is gone. The property, we believe, belongs to the Messrs. Birdsall.

[Ed. Note; we need more clues!]

Fifty Facts About Peterborough

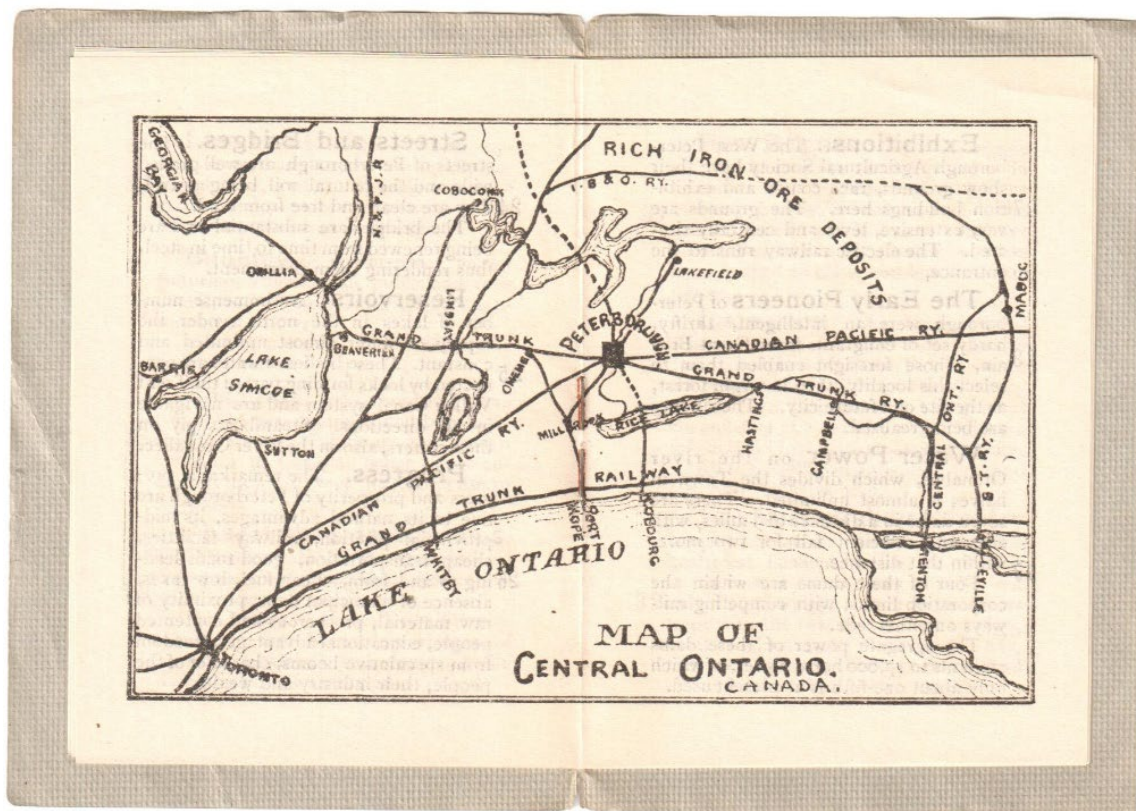
*Issued by the Board of Trade of the Town of Peterborough [c. 1903]
This small pamphlet was found in the new archival cache of Mechanics Institute.*

- 1 **Peterborough**, Ont., Canada is the largest and most important town in the province of Ontario, in population, in area and industrial production. **Population** with Ashburnham about to be annexed is 12,600.
- 2 During the last 10 years it has grown faster than any other town in Canada, and is still growing.
- 3 **Banks**, four of the principal chartered banks of Canada have agencies in Peterborough
- 4 **Railways**, the C.P.R. and G. T. R. radiate from Peterborough in every direction, with miles of siding and commodious warehouses.
- 5 **Market**. Peterborough, situated in the midst of the Midland Counties of Ontario, is by far the best market for the exchange of farm and forest produce. This market draws from a complete circle, having a radius of thirty miles by road and a much greater distance by rail and steamboat. The Market Hall is the most commodious and comfortable in Ontario.
- 6 **Beauty**. Peterborough has long been known as the handsomest Town in Ontario, with its parks, public gardens, shady residential avenues, pretty lawns, glimpses of water, surrounding hills, suburban drives, and River Otonabee.
- 7 **Industrial Works** of the largest types are in full operation here. The principal ones being: The Canadian General Electric Co's works, The Central Bridge and Engineering Co., The William Hamilton Mfg. Co., engines, etc., The Peter Hamilton Implement Manufacturing Co., The Peterborough Locks and Hardware Co., The Auburn Woolen Mills, The Peterborough Carbon and Porcelain Co., The Peterborough Milling Co.s Mills and Factories, also four Saw Mills, three Woolen Mills, three Canoe and Boat Manufacturing Cos, three Flour Mills, three Planing Mills, four Furniture Manufacturing Cos., four Foundries, 1 wholesale Harness Manufacturing Co., three Pork Packing Houses, one Pottery and numerous other smaller establishments.
- 8 **Schools**. There is a first class collegiate institute, six public schools, two separate (R. C.) schools, one convent and one business college.
- 9 **Electric Light**, arc and incandescent. Power generated by water power giving the lowest rates in Canada. Good gas conveyed through the whole town and suburbs. Peterborough is the best lighted town in Ontario.
- 10 **Electric Railway** traversing the whole length and breadth of the town, and contemplated extensions will improve the suburbs. One now building to the river, below the town, where boating, boat houses and bathing beaches will be found.
- 11 **Waterworks**. Water mains and fire hydrants on every street. The clearest and most wholesome water is supplied to consumers (by meter if desired) at tariff rates, fixed by by-law. Excellent fire pressure and unlimited supply. New pumps being put in.
- 12 **Summer Resorts** are numerous in the immediate vicinity. Hundreds of beautiful lakes and rivers lie within easy reach by rail, steam-boat or road. These resorts have a world-wide reputation for hunting and fishing, and attract summer visitors from all parts of Canada and the United States.
- 13 **Parks**. Peterborough, through the generosity of wealthy citizens, has the most extensive park system in Canada. The Horticultural Gardens, public squares and a chain of parks and drives make it a beautiful place to live in. The public Cemetery is also a beautiful park-like peninsula, on Little Lake, at the south end.
- 14 **Health**. Peterborough, being situated on gently undulating, gravel soil, with the River Otonabee, a rapid running stream from 300 to 500 feet wide, traversing the whole length of the Town, and a large creek running across it, is one of the healthiest places in Canada. There are no marshes or stagnant pools within miles of the Town.
- 15 **Press**, Peterborough has three daily papers, three weeklies and one monthly; all good and lively papers and excellent advertising mediums.
- 16 **Real Estate** is cheaper in Peterborough than any large town or city in Canada, there being no "land boomers" here, and prices are graded by distance from the centre.
- 17 **Mineral Deposits**, such as gold, iron ore, lead, marble, limestone, granite, phosphates, lithographic stone, brick clay etc., lie in a quarter of the circle, at a distance of from twenty to forty miles from Peterborough.
- 18 **Homes**. More mechanics and workingmen own their own houses, proportionally than in any other town or city in Canada, and are consequently more settled and less inclined to rove.
- 19 **Mineral Development**. Peterborough stands pre-eminent as a site for iron smelting works, on account of the proximity of iron ore, charcoal and limestone. Coke can be laid down here at a very low price.
- 20 **Law and Order**. Town by-laws as well as statutes, are rigidly enforced here, and the humblest cottage garden and premises require no fences to protect them from marauders.

- 21 **Buildings**, commercial, manufacturing, educational, public and residential are of the most solid and substantial character. Building material of all kinds, made and sold here at low prices.
- 22 **Hospitals**. Peterborough has two of the best equipped and best managed hospitals, (Protestant and Roman Catholic) in Canada, being richly endowed they are of little expense to the public.
- 23 **Charitable Institutions**. The Protestant Home for aged and indigent people is maintained almost entirely by private means. The Barnardo Home for children (a branch of Dr. Barnardo's Homes of London, England) is a depot for the training of domestic servants.
- 24 **Streets and Bridges**. The streets of Peterborough are well graded wide and the natural soil being gravel, they are clean and free from mud. The bridges are substantial and are being renewed from time to time in steel, thus rendering them permanent.
- 25 **Reservoirs**. An immense number of lakes in the north render the supply of water almost unlimited and constant. These bodies of water are connected by locks forming part of the Trent Valley Canal system and are navigable in all directions. Steamboats ply on these waters, also on the River Otonabee.
- 26 **Progress**. The remarkable progress and prosperity of Peterborough are due to its natural advantages, its mid-provincial position, railway facilities, cheap transportation, good roads leading to and from, cheap fuel, low taxes, absence of municipal debt, proximity of raw material, prosperous and contented people, educational advantages, freedom from speculative booms, character of the people, their industry and wealth.
- 27 **Exhibitions**. The West Peterborough Agricultural Society have their show grounds, race course and exhibition buildings here. The grounds are very extensive, level and centrally situated. The electric railway runs to the entrance.
- 28 **The Early Pioneers of Peterborough** were an indigent, thrifty, hardy set of emigrants from Great Britain, whose foresight enabled them to select this locality, then in virgin forest, as the site of a future city. Their hopes are being realized.
- 29 **Water Power** on the river Otonabee, which divides the town in halves is almost unlimited. There are seven dams in a distance of 9 miles, with sites and sufficient fall for two more, within that distance. Four of these dams are within the corporation limits, with competing railways on either side. The aggregate power of these dams amounts to 17,000 horse power, of which only about one-fifth is at present used.
- 30 **Fire Brigade**. The Fire Brigade and appliances are second to none in Canada. The strictness with which the building by-law is enforced, and the general carefulness of the people have made Peterborough's immunity from fire a marvel to other and less fortunate places.
- 31 **Insurance**. The Underwriters' Association of Canada have ranked Peterborough as "Class B" owing to the solid class of buildings, the efficiency of the Fire Brigade and the general character of the people, which gives a safe and full insurance at a very low rate. All the leading companies, fire and life, have agencies here.
- 32 **The Surrounding Country** supports some of the wealthiest and healthiest farmers in Canada. Living on their own farms, they supply, not only Peterborough, but a large export trade with the best cheese, butter, eggs, meat, poultry, grain of all kinds; hay, fire-wood, timber, horses, cattle and all kinds of marketable live stock.
- 33 **Taxes** are very low, there being no municipal debt, taxes only sufficient to pay running expenses are collected.
- 34 **Faith in our Town** is shown by the large amount of stock held by her citizens in manufacturing establishments, thus ensuring permanency of location, and capital is always waiting for some solid investment.
- 35 **Financial Standing** of Peterborough is, without exception, the best of all cities and towns in Canada. It never has to advertise debentures for sale, because as soon as there are any for sale they are immediately bought up by the citizens.
- 36 **Hotels**. Peterborough is remembered by the traveling public for its comfortable, clean, well lighted and heated hotels, their convenience, catering, attendance and reasonable charges. The accommodation of the leading hotels is quite as good as those of the largest cities and the charges about one-half.
- 37 **Municipality**. The Town affairs are managed by a council of 12 and a mayor. Ashburnham (about to be annexed) has five councillors.
- 38 **Peterborough** is the County Town, and has the county court house and registry office, and all the county offices.
- 39 **Societies**, benevolent, fraternal, national, religious and professional have branches here in flourishing condition.
- 40 **Police Force**, the smallest per 1,000 of population in Canada. Owing to the good moral condition of the people and police having so little to do, act as health officers.
- 41 **Navigation**. Peterborough is on the line of the Trent Valley Canal System. A system designed to connect Lake Huron and Lake Ontario. The Dominion Government have from time to time prosecuted this work, and will continue to do so until the gigantic scheme is consummated.
- 42 **Customs House**. The Government finding the imports at Peterborough growing from year to year, have found it necessary to erect a large and commodious building and to employ an increased staff.

- 43 **Manufacturing Chances.** Openings for any or all of the following industries exist in Peterborough. Some of which will have no competition in Canada: Railway Cars and Coaches; Pianos and Organs; Cast Steel works; Malleable Iron Works; Nail and Wire; Rolling Mills; Tool works; Glass Works; Chemical Works; Soap Works; Paint and Varnish Works; Carpet Works. The municipality is prepared to deal liberally with any firm proposing to commence business here.
- 44 **Manufacturing Sites** are good and there are plenty of them convenient to competing railways, good soil, level and dry.
- 45 **Post Office.** Peterborough being a large distributing centre for mails, office and staff are necessarily large. Mails from all point come in day and night.
- 46 **Building and Loan Societies.** The Workingmen's Building & Loan Society, a local company, is a strong and safe one. Two other Loan Companies have agencies here.
- 47 **Public Officers.** The Dominion Government maintain in Peterborough as a central office the following officials: Customs collector; Inspector of weights and measures; Inspector of gas; Inland Revenue Inspector; Engineer of navigation. The Ontario Government maintain the Crown Timber Agent. The United States maintain a consulate agent.
- 48 **Churches.** Peterborough has 11 churches, one of which, a cathedral being the seat of a Roman Catholic bishopric.
- 49 **Institutions.** One of the oldest and best Mechanics' Institutes and libraries in Ontario. It was founded in 1843. A large and thriving Y.M.C. Association, with gymnasium and bath-rooms. The Cheese board is the largest except one in Canada. It represents 58 factories. Two telegraph and two express co's. The Bell Telephone Co. has its District Central office here and has in use in town the largest number of instruments of any town in Canada.
- 50 **The Board of Trade,** composed of the leading citizens, will be happy to give any information and assistance to individuals or companies looking for a place to reside or commence business in. Correspondence solicited. Address all correspondence to the Town Clerk or Secretary of the Board of Trade.

Ed. Note: This copy of the small booklet was in the recently found papers of the Peterborough Mechanics Institute. It was issued by the Board of Trade of the Town of Peterborough, probably in 1903.



Gideon Gibson: An Early Area Peterborough Teacher

Michael P. Dolbey

While browsing the Douro Township Papers at the Archives of Ontario, I came upon the following letter that so intrigued me that I was impelled to discover more about its author.¹

Dummer, September 5, 1832

From Gideon Gibson a commuted pensioner from the 49th Regt.
To his Excellency Colonel Colborne, Lieutenant Governor of Upper Canada.

May it please your Excellency, my family consisting of a wife and four children, has been for the last three weeks placed under the shade of a maple tree during which time I have been searching the depths of the forests of Dummer, endeavoring to find one hundred acres of land whereon I might obtain a livelihood for my family. And as I have the honour – or misfortune (which ever your Excellency may wish to call it) to have a wooden leg my progress through the swamps etc. has been remarkably slow – and I lament to say that Mr. McDonald & Mr. Talbot has refused to locate me on any lot that would be of the least service to me. One lot they say is promised to the Surveyor’s uncle, another is not at their disposal and perhaps a third belongs to the Surveyor himself, etc.

And as I am disabled of the right leg and has received a rifle ball through the right wrist I humbly hope your Excellency will be pleased to order me to be located on No. 27 in the 1st concession of Duro (sic). And as I have fought the Battles of my country on the plains of Canada and manured its fields with my blood, I trust your Excellency will be pleased to order me a slight provision for the ensuing winter.

I remain your Excellency’s

Obedient Humble Servant

Gideon Gibson, Late 49 foot

The experience of Gideon Gibson illustrates the difficulties some settlers had in finding suitable land that had not already been assigned even though it was not being settled upon. In July 1832 Gideon Gibson submitted a petition requesting 100 acres of land as a discharged soldier from the 49th Regiment of Foot. The petition was accepted by Order in Council on August 2, 1832 and the order issued the next day.² However, there is no record of a specific lot being assigned by the Surveyor General’s office. Gibson went to Peterborough and it is assumed that he was directed to the northern lots of Douro and Dummer to select a location. Gibson addresses his letter from Dummer but requested a lot in the adjacent Township of Douro. He was actually located on west half of Lot 27 Concession 1 in the Township of Dummer and obtained the patent for his land eight years later on 4 September 1840.³ As shown in Figure 1, the lots of Douro and Dummer are contiguous and the concessions are numbered increasing east and west away from their common boundary. Because of this, Douro east half Lot 27 Concession 1 and Dummer west half Lot 27 Concession 1 abut each other across the township boundary. The Douro lot requested was a broken lot of less than 100 acres with a boundary on Clear Lake that had already been selected by, and granted to, Zaccheus Burnham as part of his

¹ AO, RG 1-58 Township Papers, Twp of Douro Lot 27- Con. 1. Microfilm MS658, reel 107, p.340

² NAC, Upper Canada Land Petitions. Vol. 210, G17/63, Microfilm C 2033

³ AO, Land Patent to Gideon Gibson, Sept 4, 1840, Lib. CW – Folio 552. Microfilm MS 5784

payment for having parts of Peterborough County surveyed. The lot assigned to Gideon Gibson was a full 100 acre inland lot.

Also shown on the map is land claimed by John Radenhurst, Chief Clerk in the Office of the Surveyor General and nephew of Thomas Ridout, the former Surveyor General who had died in 1829. Radenhurst had purchased Douro east half Lot 25 Concession 4 in 1831 and then assigned to himself the surrounding lands, Lots 25 and 26 in Concession 3, and west half Lots 25 and Lot 26 in Concession 4. He did not perform settlement duties or pay for these surrounding lands until 1839. It is interesting to speculate whether Gibson's references to "land promised to the surveyor's uncle" or "the surveyor himself" might refer to these lands that he may have explored around the edge of Clear Lake. More

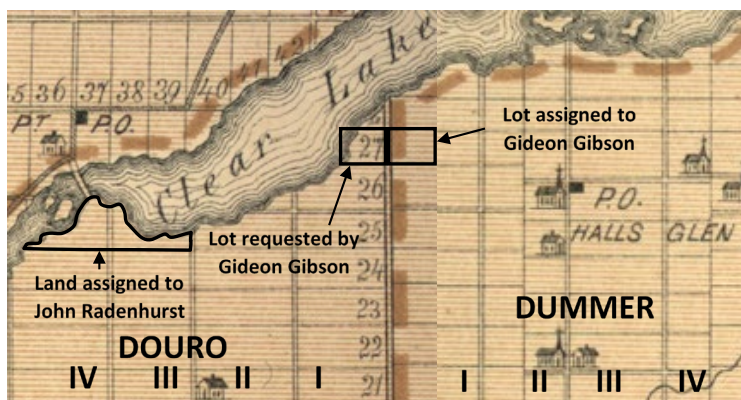


Figure 1. Map of parts of Douro and Dummer Townships showing Lot requested by and assigned to Gideon Gibson. Also shown is land owned by or assigned to John Radenhurst, nephew of the former Surveyor General and Chief Clerk in the Office of the Surveyor General.

probably they refer to Zaccheus Burnham and/or his son-in law, Richard Birdsall who surveyed the townships of Douro and Dummer.

The fact that Gibson acquired the Patent to the lot in 1840 is no assurance that he actually settled on this lot. No reference to his settlement has been found in local history sources or township records.⁴ The Land Registry shows that between 1851 and 1864 the County Sherriff sold virtually all the lot at auction for the cost of unpaid taxes on the land.⁵ Since no reference is made to Gideon Gibson and his family it is assumed that they had left or were never there and this is corroborated by subsequent research.

Gideon Gibson's oldest daughter, Margaret, married Abraham Groves of Emily Township in about 1839 and she and her husband later moved to Garafraxa Township near Fergus, Ontario. In 1939, one of Gideon Gibson's grand-daughters, Catherine Groves Bright, related some family facts to her niece which are preserved at the Wellington Museum and Archives in Fergus, Ontario. A precis of this document follows.

Gideon Gibson, had a colorful career with the British regular army in Canada in the war of 1812, seeing action at the battles of Queenston Heights and Crysler's Farm. It is said that in the former engagement he was only a few feet from General Isaac Brock when Brock fell from his horse, mortally wounded. Gideon was shot in the wrist and left knee (probably in the later engagement). Subsequently the leg was bent backwards, requiring him to wear a wooden peg from the knee to the ground. Gideon returned to County Down, Ireland and trained to be a teacher obtaining what was known as the "Hibernian" certificate. He also married Sarah Cotter and had four children, Margaret, Catherine, Mary-Jane and William. In 1832 Gideon Gibson brought his wife and family to live in Canada. His brother, Charles Gibson and family accompanied them. The Atlantic crossing took six weeks and cholera was rampant on the boat, the first victim dying with his head on 12-year-old Margaret Gibson's lap. After landing in Montreal the family, which had escaped the cholera, travelled by flat-bottomed boat up the St. Lawrence River, eventually reaching the village of Peterborough in Upper Canada, where the Gibson's settled and Gideon taught school.⁶ On 4 October 1833 the Gibson's fifth child, James Oliver Lemon Gibson, was born in Peterborough.⁷

Gideon Gibson's military discharge papers confirm aspects of his military injuries and provide additional details about him. He was born in the parish of Tulleycorbet, County Monaghan, Northern Ireland in about 1788. He joined the 49th Regiment on 15 September 1806. After service in Upper Canada, on 24 June 1814 he was declared unfit for further service due to "a contraction of the right knee joint and general health impairment". At the time of this assessment he was described as "about twenty-six years of age, five feet five inches tall, light hair and grey

⁴ Cole, Jean Murray, *Origins – The History of Dummer Township*, Township of Dummer, 1993

⁵ PLRO, Dummer L27-C1, instrument #s P4227, 9673 & 19341

⁶ Ferguson, Mary, *Some facts as related by Catherine Bright (Auntie Kate)*, Handwritten document, Wiarton, Ontario, 04 September 1939. Wellington Museum and Archives Accession # A2017.187, File 2, Item 1.

⁷ St. John's Anglican Church, Peterborough. Register of Baptisms 1833.

eyes, fair completion and by trade a Weaver”. Gibson’s discharge was approved at York Depot on 5 May 1815.⁸

There is little evidence about what Gideon Gibson did in the area of Peterborough or how long he stayed there. When the Gibsons moved to the Peterborough area in 1832 there were few schools. According to Dr. Thomas Poole, in his 1867 history of Peterborough, the Rev. Samuel Armour started the first school in the town in 1826-7 but little more is known until the Government of Upper Canada passed the new Common School Act that came into force in 1844.⁹ Without further documentary evidence we can only speculate about how Gideon Gibson may have earned a living for his family in the early days. Later when schools became more numerous, pay and living conditions for teachers were still poor and may have required Gibson to live apart from his family. Because of his war disability, Gibson continued to receive an annual pension from the Royal Hospital Chelsea and some of their records survive. They indicate that in July 1859 Gibson was living in Streetsville and received 4½/day.¹⁰ Between 1865 and 1870 he picked up his pension in alternate years in Toronto and London, Canada West.¹¹ Gideon’s granddaughter, Catherine Grove, was born in Garafraxa Township in 1859 and she would have been a young girl during this period. In her recollections she relates the following story. “When he was old and lay resting in the afternoon we grandchildren would get the wooden leg and take it outside to play with it, stumping around.” This indicates that in the latter part of his life he must have visited or stayed with the Grove family at times.

Gideon Gibson’s oldest daughter, Margaret, married Abraham Groves of Emily Township in about 1839 and they stayed there until moving to Garafraxa Township in 1856. One of their sons, Abraham Groves Jr., became a prominent medical doctor and a pioneer in surgery. He is reputed to be, so far as is known, the first surgeon in Canada to successfully perform the operation for Appendicitis.¹² He was the founder of the first hospital in Fergus which is now the Groves Memorial Community Hospital and was a leader in the community. Two of his sons followed him into the medical profession.

Gideon Gibson’s second daughter, Catherine, married George Lamb and they, with Gideon’s wife, Sarah, were living in Peterborough at the time of the 1851 census but Gideon was not found in that census. The Lambs and Sarah Gibson were not found in the 1861 census but Gideon was recorded as a school teacher, aged 76, living in Bowmanville and it indicated that he was a widower. However, the 1871 census shows that Sarah Gibson, aged 80, was still living with the Lamb family now in Emily township. Next to Sarah’s name is the notation, “Husband left”. Sarah Gibson died 15 August 1876, aged 85. Her death was reported by her son-in law, George Lamb, a village councilor of Omemee.¹³

Gideon Gibson’s third daughter, Mary Jane, married a Mr. Morrison but nothing more is known about her. Likewise, nothing is known for certain about his oldest son, William. His youngest son, James, married Mary Harriet Annes in Whitby. They had one daughter, Mary Gertrude Gibson, before James’ early death in about 1871. Mary Gertrude married John Borlase Warren in 1886 and lived with him on the Warren family farm in Brechin, Ontario until her death.¹⁴

Gideon Gibson died 4 December 1878 in Port Hope. His death was reported by undertaker James George who gave Gibson’s age as 95 and stated he was “Bible Christian” rather than Church of England as in earlier census. Death was caused by “old age – 2 years” which suggests, perhaps, that he suffered some degree of senility and may have required care.¹⁵ However, who provided that care is uncertain. According to the 1871 census, a William Gibson, his wife and four children were living in Port Hope. William Gibson was a Grocer, born in Ireland in about 1824. It is possible that he was Gideon Gibson’s son but no documentary evidence has been found to confirm this. William Gibson’s grocery business on Walton Street was advertising in *The Port Hope Times* in January, 1879 indicating that the family was still there when Gideon died. It is possible that Gideon Gibson was living in their care during the final years of his life.

It is fascinating to see where a chance discovery in an archive can lead!

⁸ The National Archives - Chelsea Pensioners British Army Service Records 1760-1913, WO 97 - 631 - 43

⁹ Poole, Dr. T. W., *The early Settlement of Peterborough County*, 1867. Reprint by The Peterborough Printing Co. Ltd, 1967. Pgs 18 & 54.

¹⁰ The National Archives: Wo 22 - Royal Hospital Chelsea: Returns Of Payment Of Army And Other Pensions 1842-1883

¹¹ The National Archives: Wo 23 - Royal Hospital Chelsea: Admission Books, Registers, And Papers 1702-1876, WO 23-65 pg 377

¹² Spaulding, William B., *Abraham Groves (1847-1935): A Pioneer Ontario Surgeon, Sufficient Unto Himself*, Canadian Bulletin of Medical History Fall 1991, Vol. 8, No. 2, pp. 249-262, <http://www.utpjournals.press/doi/pdf/10.3138/cbmh.8.2.249>

¹³ Ontario Deaths, 1869-1937; Deaths 1876 No. 013023 Sarah Gibson
<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:3Q9M-C9B9-XLCJ?i=638&cc=1307826>

¹⁴ Campbell, Mary Warren, *The Early Canadian Genealogy of Mary Gibson*, Warren Wellington Museum and Archives Accession # A2017.187, File 2, Item 2.

¹⁵ Ontario Deaths, 1869-1937; Deaths 1878 No. 009838 Gideon Gibson

Josiah Hunter, Military Pensioner, and his Family

Michael P. Dolbey

Josiah Hunter was one of the many British military men who commuted their pensions in order to receive land in Upper Canada hoping for a better future for their families. Like many, he was assigned a lot on poor land in the north of Douro Township that remains undeveloped to this day. Without support of any kind he and his family survived and eventually thrived. This is their story.

Josiah Hunter swore an Oath of Allegiance on 8 August 1831 and submitted a petition requesting 200 acres of land in Upper Canada on 11 August 1831.¹⁶ This indicates that he probably emigrated from Ireland in that year. The above documents state that he was a native of Ireland, his profession was a Surveyor and his Petition states that he had served in the Sligo Militia for 30 years 7 months retiring as a Sergeant. A note on the bottom of the Petition states that Hunter had produced his instructions showing that he was an Out Pensioner of His Majesty's Royal Hospital at Chelsea from the Sligo Militia at 1/ per day. The petition was approved by Council on 11 August 1831. Records indicate that Hunter was born in Sligo, Northern Ireland in about 1770. He joined the Sligo Militia in 1793 and was discharged at age 53 in 1823.¹⁷ This means he would have been about 61 when he immigrated to Upper Canada. Sligo is a seaport and head town of County Sligo in the north of Ireland. The Sligo Militia was raised on 25 April 1793 and "was broadly based among the private soldiery, with the Officers mainly being landowners, leaseholders and Ulster Scots".¹⁸

It is probable that Hunter traveled to Upper Canada with another Irishman, Patrick Phelan, who submitted his petition for land on the same day as Hunter. Phelan was sent to Peterborough where he was assigned a Lot in the north of Douro Township. Being unhappy with the Lot that he had been assigned and believing that he had not been paid as much pension as he was owed, Phelan wrote three letters to

Government officials requesting redress.¹⁹

In his first letter dated "Stony Lake, January 1832", Patrick Phelan states that "there was another man of the name of Serg. Hunter sent to this place with me but he is gone out of it now Mr. McDonell gave him a change and left me and my family here in a wilderness." Phelan was probably mistaken about the reassignment because no record has been found of Josiah Hunter's original or subsequent location ticket or land. In the *Register for Military Warrants* both Patrick Phelan and Josiah Hunter, formerly a sergeant in the Sligo Militia, are entered on the same page having both received their Order in Council on the same day. Next to Phelan's name is his location, east half Lot 22, Concession 3, Douro, but next to Hunter's name is the note "Cert. for Scrip No 1128 issued to Liam O'Birne Esq. Atty for R. W. Hunter of Peterboro West son & heir at law of Josiah Hunter, 1st May, 1843".²⁰ This indicates that Hunter did not accept the location in north Douro that may have been offered him by the Government Land Agent, Alexander McDonell. He died sometime in or before 1843 at age approximately 73 and his son applied for his father's grant and was issued a "scrip".



George Street looking south from Brock Street 1889. Lot 2 west of George is just to the right of this shot, at what is now Chambers Street. (Trent Valley Archives)

¹⁶ PAC Upper Canada Land Petitions, 1829-1831 (RG 1, L 3). Microfilm C2051, Vol. 234, Bundle H 16, #115

¹⁷ National Archives (UK), WO 97/1100/191, JOSIAH HUNTER Born SLIGO, Sligo Served in Sligo Militia Discharged aged 53 1793-1823.

¹⁸ http://www.igp-web.com/sligo/Military/1802_Sligo_Militia.htm

¹⁹ Dolbey, Michael P., *The Letters of Patrick Phelan – Military Pensioner*, TVA Heritage Gazette, this issue

²⁰ *Register for Military Warrants* AO RG1-C13-Vol.124-pg74, Microfilm MS693 Reel 139

In 1839 Robert Hunter had purchased property in Peterborough on the south side of Brock Street, Lot 2 west of George, from Robert Chalmers.²¹ According to the 1852 Upper Canada census Robert Hunter was born in Ireland in c1812 and he was a merchant in Peterborough. His wife Eliza J. Hunter, born c1828, and daughter Francis, born c1848, lived with him. Josiah Hunter (b. c1823 in Ireland) was married to Alice Hunter (b. 1821 in England) and they had the following children; Henry (b. 1842), George (b. 1850), Lewis (b. 1852), William (b. 1857), Eliza (b. 1860), Sydney (b. 1862), and Josiah (b. 1864). All were Wesleyan Methodists.²²

In 1847, Josiah Hunter Jr., acting for R. W. Hunter, purchased from John Cochrane the east half of Lot 25, Concession 5 in Smith Township for £150. This was a 77-acre broken lot bounded by the Otonabee River about 2 miles south-west of Lakefield. However, no Patent had been issued for this lot. After some difficulty, on 20 May 1852 Hunter obtained the Patent for this land in which he is described as Josiah Hunter, the younger. According to census records Josiah Hunter the younger was born in Ireland in either 1823 or 1825. According to his great grandson, Alex Hunter of Lakefield, he was born on 7 March 1822 and came from Ireland at the age of 7 (1829).²³

Josiah Hunter married Alice Coates and they had seven boys and one girl. The oldest boy, George Washington Hunter went to the United States at an early age. The second son, Lewis Hunter was born 14 February 1852. In 1874 at the age of 22 the land records indicate that Lewis purchased his father's farm for \$3500 but sold it back to him in 1880 for the same amount. Meanwhile, his father, Josiah Hunter mortgaged the farm "and other land" for \$2830 but paid the mortgage off three years later in 1877. Alex Hunter relates that during the winter of 1875 his grandfather, Lewis Hunter, drove a horse drawn sleigh from Peterborough to Apsley and return three times a week taking in supplies to the area logging camps in the recently opened Burleigh Township. Presumably his earnings were paying off his father's mortgage while building equity for his own farm. In 1878, Josiah Hunter entered into an agreement to buy and in 1879 actually bought a Douro farm from Charles Grant for \$4300. The west half of Lot 19, Concession 5 in Douro

just east of Lakefield had been patented to James Nolan in 1848 and it had changed hands a number of times before Hunter bought it from Grant in 1879. Josiah Hunter again acquired a substantial mortgage but this was paid off by early 1882. On 23 March 1882 Lewis Hunter, a farmer of Douro, purchased this farm from his father, Josiah Hunter, a farmer from Smith, for \$100. It seems likely that Lewis had been operating the Douro farm from its initial purchase and had been paying down his father's mortgage before the farm was formerly deeded to him in 1882.

On 21 December 1892, Josiah Hunter III, 28, farmer, of Smith Township married Elizabeth Jane **Girvin**, 25, of Lakefield.²⁴ In 1894, the senior Josiah Hunter sold the Smith Township farm to his youngest son Josiah Hunter III for \$2000. Josiah Hunter Sr., his wife Alice and their daughter Eliza Jane moved into Lakefield in the late 1880s where he lived until his death on 16 February 1911. Josiah Hunter III kept the farm in Smith Township until 1925 when it was sold to William J. Charlton.

Lewis Hunter married Eliza Ann Duff and had two sons, Henry Hector Hunter who died at a young age and Josiah Wellington (Wellie) Hunter. Lewis Hunter sold the farm to his son, Josiah, in 1917 but continued to live on the farm until he died in 1934. Josiah W. Hunter married Mabel L. Nichols and they had two sons, Lewis Alexander (Alex) Hunter (b. 15 September 1920) and Robert (Bob) Wellington Hunter (b. 13 April 1922) both born and raised on the farm. In September 1962, Alex Hunter moved to Lakefield to work at the Lakefield Farm Supply Depot. Josiah W. Hunter and his son Robert continued on the Douro farm until March 1967 when they sold it to Kathleen M. and Milton E. McCracken and they then moved into Lakefield. Alex Hunter continued to live in Lakefield until his death at the age of 98 on 21 November 2017. He was the last Hunter of this family living in the area.²⁵

²¹ Peterborough Land Registry Office. South Brock Abstract book. Instrument # C5783

²² Ontario Census 1852, 1881, 1891, 1901 & 1911.

²³ AO RG1-58 Township Papers for Smith Township E½ L25-C5. Microfilm MS658 Reel 444, Pg 667 & 669; Peterborough Land Registry Office, Smith Township E½ L25-C5 General Registry Book Pg 214; Ontario Census 1881 and 1891; Conversation with Alex Hunter, 2011-09-16.

²⁴

<http://homepages.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~maryc/peter92.htm> 1892 marriages # 010111-92

²⁵ Peterborough Land Registry Office, Smith Township E½ L25-C5 General Registry Book Pg 214 and Douro Township W ½ L19-C5; *The Hunter Family History*, Presentation made by Alex Hunter to the Lakefield Historical Society, 2006-05-25; Obituary for Lewis Alexander "Alex" Hunter <https://hendrenfuneralhome.com/tribute/details/2806/Lewis-Hunter/obituary.html>

The Letters of Patrick Phelan – Military Pensioner

Michael P. Dolbey

Much has been written about the Peter Robinson settlers who endured many hardships as they developed their new homes in the backwoods of Upper Canada. Their appreciation for the assistance and supplies they were given has been noted in the article *The Robinson Settlers of Douro* in an earlier issue of the Heritage Gazette. They also had the benefit of community, the sharing of common interests, hardships and achievements. It is interesting to compare this with the experience of a later group of settlers, the pensioned militiamen who arrived in the same area five or six years later. Some benefitted from the infrastructure developed in the previous few years but many were sent to isolated lots far from the front with no provisions or support. Some, such as Gideon Gibson and Josiah Hunter, retreated back to the relative civilization of Peterborough.²⁶ Others such as Patrick Phelan wrote letters of complaint and pleading but survived by luck and cunning.²⁷ Three letters that Phelan wrote in early 1832 reveal the plight that he and his family found themselves in that was probably typical of that of many other military pensioners.

Letter written by Patrick Phelan to the Military Secretary at Quebec²⁸

Stony Lake, January 1832.

To Military Secretary at Quebec.

Sir, I am directed by assistant Cmdr. General Foote to acquaint you that when he came to Peterborough to pay the commutation pensioners their balance that there was a great mistake in my account. Instead of being at the rate of 1-9 I only got one shilling and sixpence. Now Mr. Foote acquaints me that I was only paid at the rate of 1-3 per day. Your honour, I was Sergeant in the 88th Regt. of Foot and have given up my pension in hopes to better myself and my family but instead of this it only sent me to beggary. I was placed on a lot of land where there was never any person before the other side of Clear Lake where I cannot get in or out only when a man of the name of Mr. Young will send his boat and charge 5 s to his trip. For there was another man of the name of Serg. Hunter sent to this place with me but he is gone out of it since Mr. McDonell gave him a change and left me and my family here in a wilderness. If you don't take me into consideration and my large family we shall all perish here (unknown?) to the world. Sir, if you would be pleased to order for Mr. McDonell to give me rations till my money will come it will keep us alive and if I don't get speedy assistance we will be all lost (unknown?) to any person. Sir, there was (none?) to turn in the world ever since I been in this country as myself and Serg. Hunter in respect of land and the place where we got it. Honour Sir, I (suffer?) you will order me a speedy adjustment and direct it to Patt Phelan, 88 foot, Stony Lake, Near Peterborough.

Sir, I have 8 in family and myself on an (injury?) and was well recommended here by the most Noble the Marquis of Sligo and the Mr. George Clendening, Esq.

Notation added to letter by recipient.

Referred to the Commissary General for such observations as he may have to offer relative to Rate of Petitioners Pension.

----- (Signature indecipherable)

16th Feb / 32

Reply to Patrick Phelan's request for reassessment of his Pension in letter of January 1832:

Patrick Phelan, 88th Foot @ 1/6. No. 79 on ----- List

Commutation		£104. 0. 4
Rec'd in G.B.	£40	
In Quebec	15	
In York	5	
And Do Balance	<u>£44. 0. 4</u>	<u>£104. 0. 4</u>
Josiah Hunter, Sligo Militia, 1/0 No. 354 ----- List		
Commutation		£ 69. 6. 11
Rec'd in G.B.	£35	

²⁶ Dolbey, Michael P. *Gideon Gibson: An Early Area Peterborough Teacher*. TVA Heritage Gazette V25, #1; *Josiah Hunter, Military Pensioner and his Family*. TVA Heritage Gazette, this issue.

²⁷ Dolbey, M. P. *PATRICK PHELAN – Susanna Moodie's "Squatter P"*. TVA Heritage Gazette V23,#2, 2018-08, p3

²⁸ NAC, RG8 "C" Series, Military – British Forces, Microfilm C-2784, Vol. 209, pages 30-1; Reply, page 32

In Quebec	10		
In York	5		
Do Balance	<u>£19. 6. 11</u>	<u>£ 69. 6. 11</u>	

The foregoing is the state of the Accounts of these men, who have been paid agreeably to the instructions received from Home, and if they have any remonstrance to wage, it must be addressed to the proper authorities in England.

Quebec, 22 February 1832

R. J. Routh

Letter written by Patrick Phelan to ? (Probably the Military Secretary at Quebec)²⁹

Peterborough, February 27, 1832.

Honour Sir, I have to acquaint you that I wrote to you before in respect to the balance of my commutation money and got no answer which leaves me in a poor state.

Sir, I was placed on a lot of land 21 miles from Peterborough where there was never a soul before. I cannot get in or out without paying five shillings going and coming so that if I had forty pounds per year it would not stand me here cause the land I got is not worth five pounds after all the money that I gave up to it in hopes to better my family. H. Sir, I must quit this place immediately before the lake breaks up or my family and myself would all perish a--- to the world. Sir, I applied to Mr. McDonell to get a little rashings and has got none which leaves me and my family in a starving situation at present in a wilderness, no house any nearer to me than three miles through a wildwood. I hope you will be so kind as to write immediately and order me some relief or we will be lost here. I am desirous to acquaint you on this business and for God's sake look to me with pity or if not I am undone.

H. Sir, this is not the way it was told at home that I would be used after giving up my fine pension and getting nothing. I am out every week seeking a lot of land and when I come to the Office they are Clergy Reserve or Crown Lots so that I don't know what to do unless to take my family and buy our way back where I hope we will find some money. My H. Sir, I hope you write to me and order me part of the balance till it comes to you for I have been well recommended coming out by the best Gentlemen in any country its of no use to me which your Honour will see and I hope will rule return it to me. H. Sir, my pension was 1s-9p per day and my father tells me that the only paid me with 1s-3p which makes a great difference.

H. Sir, I hope you will not delay this for if you do I will be for ever lost. And direct to
Patt Phelan, Late Sergeant, 88th Foot
Peterborough

H. Sir. As I cannot get any land I must go to York & back. And my family after all the money I paid since I left Ireland till I came to Peterborough for nine in number. (*He and his family are 9 in number?*)

Letter written by Patrick Phelan to Lieutenant Colonel Glegg, secretary of His Excellency Lord Aylmer, Governor in Chief of Lower Canada, (Probably at Quebec)³⁰

Stony Lake, 15 March, 1832.

Sir, I am directed to write to you in regard to the balance of my commuted money. I received at home 1s-9p and I only got 1s-6p here. I gave up my instructions in York and have no more of them. I have been treated very bad here since I came to the country. I have been placed on a lot of land here that is of no use to me. It would be better for me to be transported the day I came to Upper Canada. I was sent three miles beyond the lake where never a soul before and where I cannot get in or out without paying two dollars and I stopped there till I had not one shilling but went for teams and boats and this present day I had to bring my family across the lake before the ice would break or if not they would all perish. And numbers of people that came out after me got choice lots of land near the town of Peterborough and them people never served his Majesty one hour of their life. So I am now without money or land and don't know what to do.

Sir, I have wrote to York to his Excellency and since I got no answer which leaves (me) in a state of starvation and 9 in family. I have no person to give me any relief so that I am in a miserable state after giving up my fine pension in hopes to do better for my children as I have 5 sons. But instead of that, I ruined(?) both them and myself for I have no other way under heaven but to beg my way back to Quebec. What ever I can do after I applied to every one here that belong to the Government and its no use. And many others getting rations torments my face.

Sir, I hope you will send me a answer by the earliest opportunity as I shall try the Post Office every week

²⁹ NAC, RG8 "C" Series, Military – British Forces, Microfilm C-2784, Vol. 209, pages 28-9

³⁰ NAC, RG8 "C" Series, Military – British Forces, Microfilm C-2784, Vol. 209, pages 83-4

which 22 miles from here. And I don't get relief very soon myself and my family will all perish.

Sir, you will direct your letter to
 Patt Phelan, Late of the 88th Foot
 Stony Lake near Peterborough, Upper Canada

30

Stony Lake January 1832

To Mr. Secretary of Justice

Sir I am Directed by assistant Comr General Justice to acquaint you that when he came to Peterborough to pay the Commutation Pensions there was a notice that there was a great mistake in my accounts in respect of being at the Rate of 1-9 I only had one Shilling and Sixpence but Mr. Toole gave me that I was only Paid at the Rate of 1-3

On my going Home I was Injured in the 88th Regt of Foot and had given up my Pension in hopes to better my self and my Family but I had of that it only had me to Begony I was Photed on a Lt. of Lines when there was some more before the other Ser of Peter Lake where I cannot get in or out only when a man of the name of Mr. Sperry Mr. De Lora has beat and Charge 5th to have to do

So there was a other man of the name of Mr. Sherrin sent to that place with me but he is gone out of it now Mr. M. Donohoe have been a Charge and left me with my Family here in a well demerit

So you Don't take me in to consideration and my Love Family we shall all Perish here amidst the Woods - So if you can be please to care for Mr. Donohoe to give me nothing like my Family will come it will be for all alive one of I don't get Speedy of Justice we will be all lost amidst to my sorrow

31/ So there was not have been in the world Love and
 So there in this Country as my self and my Love
 In respect of love and the Plea where we get it
 I am Sir I hope you will care for a Speedy Justice
 and Direct to Mr. Patt Phelan, 88th Foot
 Stony Lake near Peterborough

My Love 8 in Family and my self and my Love
 and we will be Perished here by the most
 noble the Regent of Sijon and the two George
 (Clerking by)

Refer to the Company General
 In such situations as he may
 have to offer relative to the State
 of the Province
 P. Phelan
 1832

Patrick Phelan's first letter dated Stony Lake, January 1832.

John Cosley

Elwood H. Jones

John Cosley was listed in S. James Goodings' *The Canadian Gunsmiths 1608 to 1900* as both a gunsmith and inventor, apparently in Oakville and Lakefield 1869 to 1871. Our inquirer, Mike Kimball, wanted to know what we could add to the story.

John Cosley is listed in the U. S. Colored Troops Military Service Records, 1863-1865, in the 29th Regiment of U.S. Colored Infantry. He was aged 26, and stood 5 feet 8 ½ inches. He was listed as a barber. He enlisted 24 August 1864. He was born in St. Louis county Missouri, but enlisted in East Troy, New York. He was promoted to sergeant, and was mustered out 6 November 1865, in Brownsville, Texas.

Hazel C. Matthews' *Oakville and the Sixteen*, the Oakville history says he had patented two inventions in Ottawa. One was a breach loading rifle and the other was a combination water and feed trough. In the 1860s, he was the editor and publisher of *The Bee*, a newspaper that he printed on a hand press printing front and back pages at once; he may have built the press. He seems to have been in Oakville before 1868.

The 1871 census shows John Cosley and Emily Cosley married and living in Peterborough. John Cosley is described as 35, born in the United States, Church of England, African, and barber. Emily Cosley was 24, born in Ontario, Wesleyan Methodist, Irish origin, and no occupation.

We were able to find Emily (Emeline) Cosley in the 1851 and 1861 censuses for Douro township. In 1851 she was 4, Robert Darling was 49 and Aria [Sara?] Sanderson was 33; there were four children between 1 and 11. In 1861, Robert Darling, farmer, 56 and Sarah Darling, 50 were living in a one-storey log house, and five children aged 9 to 19.

There is a birth record for Albert Hamilton Cosley, 13 October 1871, born of John Cosley and Emiline Darling. John Cosley is described as a barber and whitesmith. Dr. Harvey did the delivery. The birth was registered by J. Edwards. Albert Cosley died in Pembina, North Dakota in 1924; his spouse was Rose Wain, and they had four children including Walter Albert Cosley. Ancestry family tree shows Albert arriving in North Dakota at age 12, 1884, and presumably John Cosley had emigrated then as well.

Another birth record shows Charles Edward Cosley was born 1 January 1877, and his parents were Emmeline Darling and John Cosley, barber. A Mrs. Lesslie was the accoucher, the registrar was Charles D. Macdonald.

A third son, James George, was born in Peterborough in 1878.



For about ten months from March 1874 he advertised "Pictures framed neatly and cheaply, by JOHN COSLEY; also, Oval Frames and Mouldings for sale. George Street, Peterborough."

The 1876 business directory contains an advertisement: "John Cosley, Gunsmith, & General Repairer of Umbrellas, Parasols and all kinds of cutlery. Hair Dresser and Hair Worker. Present address, George Street, but future address will be Water Street, of which due notice will be given." The directory listing

placed him as a tenant at south Brock, west George, part 1.

Thanks to Mike Kimball, Dianne Tedford, Gord Young, John Moldenhauer for their assistance.

Several questions remain. We have established that there were at least two African-Americans tied to gun developments, but it is not clear if John Cosley was a gunsmith; his claim is as a whitesmith. He appears to be a very active mechanic, as judged by his inventions, and he appears to be quite literate. He could have learned many of his trades while serving in the army.

Missouri was a slave state on the eve of the Civil War, but it seems most likely that he was a Free Black even before Abraham Lincoln's Emancipation Proclamation, 1863.

It would also be helpful to know where he went after leaving Peterborough after 1878 and before going to Pembina in 1884. There is so much that we do not know.

Hazel C. Matthews, *Oakville and the Sixteen* ..., (Toronto, U of T, 1953) remains a useful resource. Her account of John Cosley depends heavily on *The Bee*, Cosley's curious newspaper printed in 1868-69 on a hand held press that he apparently built which printed two sides of a page at once. The paper was known for its unusual spelling of everything. A good example is his important account of the organization of a temperance society in 1868.

"March the 3, the reorganization meeting of the oakville temperance society was held in the temperance hall, and with grate success and quietness. after the minute was read, the fooling members was elected: ... the rev Mr. brown delivered a short lecttur on the good cause, with great depth, hwos words feel with such wait upon the ordeanc as to cause 33 to join." [source was *Canadian Champion*, 16 April 1868]

Matthews describes Cosley's two patents: 'a breach loading rife and a combination water and feed trough which folded up so it could be packed underneath a buggy seat.' (p. 262) Her source was Milton's *Canadian Champion*, 5 July 1869, a local newspaper I have not seen.

with Mr. Cosley, he would request his proposer and seconder to withdraw his nomination.

MR. JOHN COSLEY now entered the Council Chamber, and asked leave to speak a few words. He heard that he had been nominated by two gentlemen, who were rather bold to do so without his authority. As he did not feel qualified for the office, he begged to withdraw.

The RETURNING OFFICER asked if Mr. Cosley declined to be a candidate.

MR. COSLEY said he certainly would not stand on this occasion; he would wait till he grew wiser.

MR. TOOLE—Did you authorize any one to propose you.

MR. COSLEY—I certainly did not.

MR. A. HAGGART said he had been accused of presumption in making a nomination, but he was a ratepayer of the town, and he had as good a right to nominate a candidate as Mr. Stevenson or any other elector. He denied the charge of being the machine of Mr. Edmison, who had no knowledge of the nomination being intended. As Mr. Cosley declined to stand he consented to the withdrawal of his name.

MR. WOOD also repudiated the charge that he had been instigated by Mr. Edmison. He saw no cause for so much righteous indignation. Mr. Cosley and Mr. Toole were both artists. Mr. Cosley was an honest man, and Mr. Toole assumed to be one; there was only the difference of color, and in these days of enlightenment that should be no disqualification. He also consented to Mr. Cosley's name being withdrawn, but he called upon Mr. Toole to retract his charges against Mr. Edmison.

MR. TOOLE was not at all disposed to retract. As to the sneer about his honesty, he defied any one to produce proof of his having committed a dishonest action. The action taken that morning was that of a young lawyer, seeking notoriety, and was beneath his notice.

The RETURNING OFFICER declared that, as Mr. Cosley had withdrawn, Mr. William Toole was duly elected Mayor for the year 1878.

For Councillors.

I asked my gun collector friend about Cosley. He commented, "Mr. Kimball will look for a long time for a Canadian made flintlock sporting rifle. I have been collecting Canadian rifles for over 60 years and have never seen or even heard of an example. The late Don Blyth, once described as the "dean" of collectors of Canadian made guns had never seen one. In theory, it is possible that such a gun was made because the first known Canadian gunmakers were active during the last years of the flintlock era. While Cosley is a listed maker, there is no mention of him being Black. Gooding names James Jones (Chatham) as being Canada's only Black gun maker. If there is positive proof that Cosley was Black, I would love to learn of it." I think we have it now.

John commented also, "The Cosley patent is for 'new and useful improvements on breech loading rifles...' The patent drawings show a tilting block action of the Martini style. Like so many patents of the period the patent was not for anything new but for an improvement to an existing firearm. The Martini action was first invented by an American and greatly improved by a Swiss engineer. The Martini Henry rifle was first adopted by the British army in 1871 and used throughout the British Empire for decades. It was also very popular as a sporting rifle action in Europe and Britain.

"I have never seen a rifle marked 'Cosley Patent' and I doubt any were ever produced. That being said, one will likely turn up tomorrow!"

It was particularly interesting to see that his name was entered as a candidate for mayor against the two time incumbent, William Toole. He was nominated by A. Haggart, and seconded by R. E. Wood. Mr. Toole challenged whether Cosley had proof of being a British subject. Wood said he had asked for that. Haggart thought the question was inappropriate and refused to answer. Cosley then joined the meeting, and said he did not feel qualified for the position and wanted his name withdrawn. After some discussion the Returning Officer declared William Toole elected as mayor for 1878.

Cosley was an impressive presence in 1870s Peterborough, and judging from the census for 1871 perhaps the only African American living in this town at that time.

Review, 4 January 1878 reporting on nomination meeting, 31 December 1877

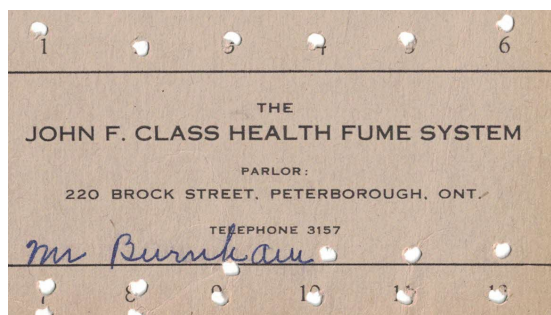
The First Peterborough Spa? - The John F. Class Health Fume System

John Marsh

I had long wanted to read a book called “Three Men in a Boat, To Say Nothing of the Dog.” It was written by Jerome K. Jerome and was published in 1889. It became a popular classic, as evinced by the fact that the copy I obtained is the 92nd impression printed in 1938. I found this copy in Mark Jokinen’s second-hand bookshop on George Street, Peterborough.

The book is a humorous tale of three men rowing a boat up the Thames in England. I found it interesting and amusing. However, ultimately of even greater interest to me were two unexpected enclosures. But not the dried, pressed flower or bookmark quite commonly found in old books. And not a bank note such as I once found in a book at the Peterborough Library book sale. The first enclosure was a small “Get-Well Greeting” card with the rhyme: “When this little get-well message comes to you today, I hope it finds you better in every single way.” On the back of the card is a hand written note to Ernest. “This is the silliest book I ever read. I hope it’s not too silly for your taste. My best wishes, Kay.”

But also, tucked between the pages, was a small business card. It was issued by the “John F. Class Health Fume System”, which was located in a “Parlor” at 220 Brock Street, Peterborough, Ontario. Telephone 3157. On the bottom is a signature of a Mr. Burnham, a well known name in Peterborough. There are twelve numbers around the edge that have been punched suggesting some type of service relating to a health fume system has been provided. This is confirmed in handwriting on the back which acknowledges a payment for 18 “treatments” on 10th July of \$10, and another on 17 July, 1939 of \$15.



Curious to learn more about this business, I resorted to Google and the Vernon’s Directories of Peterborough (available on the TVA website). A very substantial website called Bizapedia (www.bizapedia.com) provided the following information.

“Class, John F. Vaporized Mineral Fume Baths is a Pennsylvania Domestic Fictitious Names filed on May 5, 1927. The company’s filing status is listed as Active. The company’s principal address is 4022 Chestnut Street, Philadelphia. The company has 1 principal on record. The principal is Louis A. Kerwin. Company Age: 94 years, 5

months.”

It is stated elsewhere that two years later, on July 25, 1929, the company’s principal address was still in Pennsylvania but at 23 South Front Street, Harrisburg, Dauphin. The company at this time had a different principal on record, namely E.H. Libert. Curiously and inconsistently, the company’s age was now given as 92 years, 3 months!

Presuming that “John F. Class” was a person’s name, I searched for information on such an individual, but found nothing. Finding information on the John F. Class System was also elusive until I came across an article in “The Nutritional Midwife” of September 2013. It included, for reasons unstated, a description from the Telegraph Herald of “The Formal Opening of the John F. Class Health Institution, June 17, 1930” in Dubuque, Iowa.

The article assured readers that: “There is nothing mysterious about the John F. Class System. The principle treatment consists of enveloping the body in the fumes of scientifically compounded minerals and oils. The fumes are applied at temperatures several degrees lower than body heat, so there is none of the weakening effects of hot vapors, liquids or adhesives.” As a result, it was claimed that: “The fumes drive out toxins from the body through the pores of the skin and counteract infections which may be present. Thus the John F. Class Health System goes to the very root of disease.” The treatment was said to be “especially effective in the treatment of ailments affecting the muscles, joints and respiratory tracts: for example arthritis, rheumatism, lumbago, neuritis, sciatica, colds, asthmas, catarrh, bronchitis and hay fever.” Given that even today nearly everybody suffers at least occasionally from one or more of these afflictions it is not surprising that it had wide appeal.

It was also noted that: “The functions of the John F. Class system are approximated in the famous health resorts where curative waters, vapors and mineralized alluvial deposits are provided by Nature.” “The benefits of health resorts – and much more – can be found at the local John F. Class Institution without spending time and money for travel.” This advantage was summed up in the statement that the Institution was “A Health Resort at

Your Door.” (Why go to the Banff Springs when you can go to the Parlor on Brock Street?)

It seems that the John F. Class system was quickly made available in many cities in the United States and Canada. For example, The Detroit Jewish Chronicle of 24 May 1929 announced: “A Change in Management and Policy of the John F. Class Health Fume System. A system based on the use of natural elements for maintaining and building health. Not only corrects but builds as it assists nature in eliminating the cause of any disease.”



220 Brock Street is now home to a travel agency. There was an extension along Aylmer Street that likely contained the spa.

The Vernon’s Directories for Peterborough yielded the following information on the business in Peterborough and its location. The 1929 edition indicates that there was a “Mineral Fume Baths” at 220 Brock Street. Also at this address were an Ernest Wall and a Mrs. Helen Perrin. The 1930 edition records that Ernest Wall was still at this address, along with a Mrs. K. C. Dishart, but there is no mention of Fume Baths. Similarly, the 1928 edition

makes no mention of Fume Baths at 220 Brock Street, but identifies a Dr. J. H. Eastwood at this address.

An evaluation of the cultural heritage value of the property at this address stated that: “Built in the late 1870’s, the house was constructed for William J. Hall, a property agent and evaluator. William passed away at the turn of the century, and his widow Martha continued to live in the house until 1904. The house then became the home and office of Dr. John H. Eastwood, from 1909 to 1925, who likely used the one storey addition at the rear of the house as his surgery.” An article by Elwood Jones, one of several about the history of the buildings on Brock Street, confirmed this in noting: “Dr. John Havelock Eastwood (1866-1941) 220 Brock Street, home and office before moving to the new Peterborough Clinic at Reid and Charlotte streets.” (Peterborough Examiner, 5 January 2019).

In 1930, use was also made of part of the property by the Northview Pentecostal Church, the first Pentecostal Church in Peterborough. A history of this church, written in 1980, by a charter member, Gladys Asling, states that: “We had prayer meetings at 220 Brock Street in a large barn with a couple of rooms at one end. The place had formerly been used by a doctor and also as the residence of an ostler.” As “the largest room where we met held not more than twenty people,” and the congregation was growing, they soon “moved to an upstairs room in the Bradburn Building at 332 George Street.”(<https://northviewchurch.ca>)

In the 1930’s the house was divided into three units. According to Elwood Jones, “one of which was the Mineral Fume Baths run by Eva Wall. The building was owned by her husband Ernest M. Wall, who was a travelling salesman.” Eva Wall was also a member of the Northview Community Church, which explains why it was possible for the church to have services there.

In 2008, on the recommendation of the Peterborough Architectural Conservation Advisory Committee, the house was given a heritage designation by the City.

The business card indicated payments were made for treatments in 1939. The Walls continued to operate the Baths from their home at 520 Homewood into the 1950s. I have yet to determine when the John F. Class Health Fume System businesses ceased to operate in the U.S.A. and Canada, and whether this was because the treatments were not “eliminating the cause of any disease”, as proclaimed, or for economic reasons, and changing post World War Two health practices and preferences. I would appreciate hearing from anyone who has recollections or information relating to the John F. Class System or what might be called Peterborough’s First Spa.

J. Hampden Burnham (1860-1940)

Elwood H. Jones (2008)

J. Hampden Burnham (1860-1940) was a lawyer who was Peterborough's leading intellectual from 1890 to the 1920s. He was a well-respected author, who spoke with authority on Canadian history. He was also an organizer who helped establish local institutions that



endured.

Burnham was the author of *Canadians in the Imperial Service* (1891), still the definitive work on that subject. He dedicated the book to Lord Stanley of Preston, the Governor General of Canada. His acknowledgments include dignitaries such as Sir John A. Macdonald and Douglas Brymner, Canada's first Dominion Archivist. He includes thanks to people at the Public Records Office and at the British Museum, especially in the newspaper department. Some names with Peterborough connections included E. J. Toker, who was at the Toronto Empire, Miss Harriet E. Boulton, Goldwin Smith, Captain Forbes, R. N. The book was three years in the making and Burnham traveled 12,000 miles, he said, "in search of trustworthy testimony." The book is effectively a biographical dictionary of officers with Canadian roots who served with the Imperial army or the British navy. However, the book is not arranged like a dictionary; he seems to put things into the book when it occurs to him. The chapters are not numbered, but the first chapter is on H. M. 100th Regiment, one of the

units formed because of the Indian Mutiny in 1857. Some of the early chapters are laced with fairly long and fascinating documents. The 100th in 1890 had become The Prince of Wales Leinster Regiment (Royal Canadian) and Burnham discusses their badges and colours. Then comes a long chapter on General Sir William Fenwick Williams, of the Royal Artillery, a hero of the Crimean War battle at Kars. Major General Sir John E. W. Inglis, whose father and grandfather had been Bishops of Nova Scotia, fought in the Rebellion of 1837, and then served in India, where he sealed his reputation as the hero of Lucknow, the city that was besieged for 89 days during the Indian Mutiny. Admiral Sir Provo William Parry Wallis and Admiral Sir E. W. C. R. Owen also get generous treatment. The remaining chapters are shorter (often as little as a sentence) and cover any Canadian or Newfoundlander officer who served. Of particular interest is his description of the first Canadian to receive the Victoria Cross. He reprints the official gazette laying out the rules and details of the Victoria Cross and a description of Queen Victoria on horseback pinning on the first medals. Colonel Alexander Roberts Dunn, of the 11th Hussars, whose father had been the Receiver-General of Canada West for 20 years, received the Victoria Cross for surviving the Charge of the Light Brigade during the Crimean War. He was very active and foolhardy, and doubtless deserved the Victorian Cross.

There are several names that remind me of Peterborough names. Peter Robinson's nephew, Colonel Charles W. Robinson, had a remarkable career as a military instructor at Sandhurst. A son of John Hillyard Cameron, who went to Oxford University, had an army career that took him to Burma, Afghanistan and India. Lieutenant Arthur Romeyn Beck, R. N., was on the ship *Atalanta* when it disappeared in the mid-Atlantic in June 1881; a window to Beck is in St John's Anglican Church. As well, Burnham includes a list of graduates of the Royal Military College in Kingston who had military careers. Lieut. J. N. C. Kennedy was serving with the Royal Engineers in Jamaica. 2nd Lieut. H. S. Rogers was described as a descendant of Major Rogers of the Rogers Rangers who took over French forts in 1759 and 1760.

Burnham's decision to only mention officers shortchanges the descriptions we might have expected of the expeditions to the Riel Rebellion and to the relief of Khartoum, in 1884-5. The book does not include

militia officers, and so people such as W. N. Kennedy are not mentioned. Still, the book is a good example of what could be accomplished with archival research in the late 1880s and early 1890s, in the early years of Canadian archives.

Burnham founded in 1892 the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children, which was renamed Children's Aid Society so it could be tied with the excellent efforts then beginning in Toronto; he managed it for five years. He was one of the promoters in 1897 of the Victoria Museum and the fledgling historical society which nurtured it for at least twenty years. He was one of the founding members of the Peterborough Golf and Country Club, and certainly one of the best local golfers. He was a popularizer of science, as when in 1897 he spoke to the local Natural Science Association about geology and fossils. He promoted support for the Mississaugas, based on 1896 archaeological digs at Rice Lake conducted by David Boyle of the Royal Ontario Museum. He also recorded the oral historical tradition of the Mississaugas as retained by Chief Paudash, and these views were published by the Ontario Historical Society. The narrative remains credible and consistent with recent developments in historical research.

The Peterborough Historical Society published Burnham's oral interview with the pioneer merchant, William Cluxton, under the title "Peterborough Sixty Years Ago." Burnham's talk based on that and other interviews was the second ever presented to the local historical society, and it was so fascinating that two local newspapers published it with an eye to future generations. The first talk to the local historical society, also published in the local papers, was George Dunford's remarkable tale of how he, of all people, built in 1845 the first Peterborough canoe.

J. Hampton Burnham's *Marcelle*, a 1905 novel was about the early history of French and Native interaction in Quebec. It is the story of a beautiful Huron maiden who plays a role not unlike that of Pocahontas of Virginia folklore. What is amazing is Burnham's dogged concern for precision, and his desire to use the novel as a vehicle for teaching about Canadian history. It was too much, perhaps, for one book, but it added a dimension to his life. Once Burnham had defined the principle, he was relentless, even unyielding, in his tenacity.

In Burnham's 1900 novel, *Jack Ralston, or The Outbreak Of The Nauscopees/A Tale of Life in the far North-East of Canada* the hero becomes a

Hudson's Bay factor in Labrador who gets to mediate between local Indians and Inuit. It is interesting that Burnham's two most important novels built around the First Nations.

In 1920, the *Peterborough Examiner* and the *Peterborough Review* agreed to combine their operations. The Examiner became the only daily paper in town, and the Review had the monopoly on job printing. However, Burnham, apparently, retained the right to publish the *Review* occasionally. The Trent Valley Archives has the weekly *Peterborough Review* from the 1930s to the 1970s. I have never seen a copy of the occasional *Review* that Burnham might have printed. Burnham's archival papers, if they still exist, would be of great value in reconstructing Peterborough's local history.

Burnham was twice elected to Parliament, and was the local Conservative MP from 1911 to 1921. In the 1917 election, Borden put together a wartime party that included more than Conservatives. After the war, Arthur Meighen succeeded Borden and continued with the wartime Union Government. Burnham, alone of Conservative MPs, opposed Meighen's decision to continue a wartime mandate in peace time. It is a recurring debate; does the war end when politicians declare it has ended? What consideration should be given to the problems of demobilization and reconstruction? Canada experienced a deep recession, a flu epidemic and some military action against Russia, where the recent Bolshevik Revolution had occurred. Burnham ran in the by-election caused by his resignation, and with the Conservative vote divided, G.N. Gordon, the Liberal candidate, was able to grab a rare Liberal victory and build a remarkable political career on the ashes of Burnham's. Burnham also fought vigorously for the end of the practice of conferring British honours (such as "Sir") on Canadians. After 1921, his political influence waned.

Burnham was a man of firm principles. He was also our first intellectual, and his wide-ranging interests served the local community well. When the Peterborough Historical Society wanted an award to recognize how interest in history and heritage can create great sense of community, it naturally turned to J. Hampden Burnham. As the *Peterborough Review*, 2 May 1940, observed, Burnham was "a citizen of rare uprightness of character, coupled with much more than usual ability, untiring energy, and a breadth of outlook that entitles him to be placed definitely in the ranks of Canada's statesmen."

Picture credit: J. Hampden Burnham (1860-1940), a Peterborough lawyer and politician, may have been the patient at the John F. Class spa. He was Peterborough's most active writer and promoter of social and historical causes from the 1890s to the 1920s. Taken from Elwood H. Jones, Peterborough Golf and Country Club (1997)

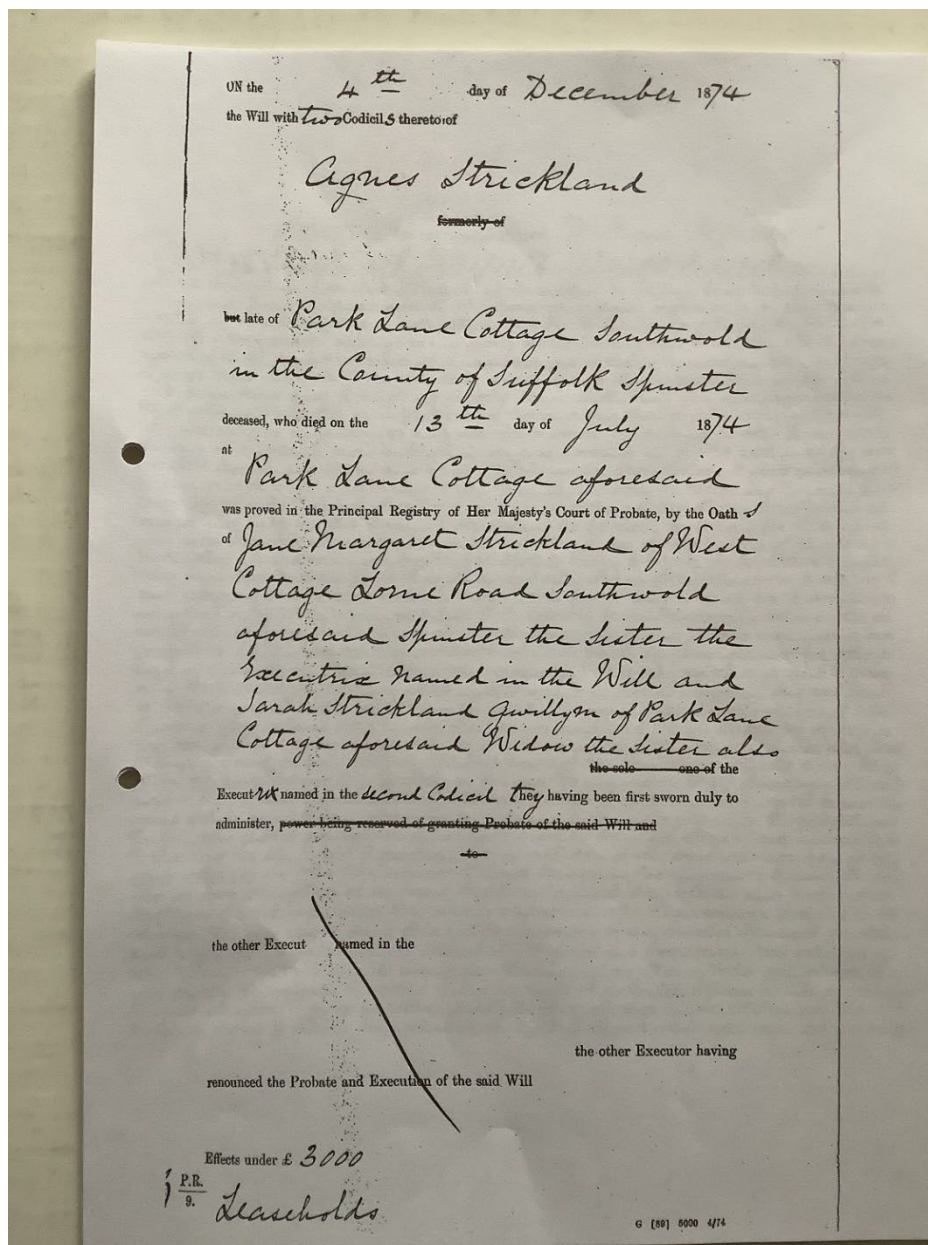
The Agnes Strickland House

Christine Fisher

Ontario's literary ladies Susanna Moodie and Catharine Parr Trail had a sister, Agnes Strickland, whose fame in the 19th century was greater than theirs, not only in her native England but internationally.

Books written in Canada have included a photograph of a large house in Southwold, in England, which claims to have been Agnes's final home and is named 'Strickland House'. However, in my biography *The Strickland Family of Suffolk (1758 to 1899)* I revealed that Agnes lived in a small dwelling named 'Park Lane Cottage'.

I have been puzzled by this contradiction, and have spent the last several months searching for the explanation. The answer is among the Foster family papers in Suffolk County Archives.



There is a lot of evidence that Agnes Strickland lived at 'Park Lane Cottage' and it was the address given on the official letter of Probate, which gave permission for Agnes's Will to be implemented after her death in 1874 (see

picture). The 1881 census implies the cottage was small, for it had only two inhabitants - Agnes's sister Jane Strickland and her housemaid. Jane (in her biography of Agnes) said that 'Park Lane Cottage' "commanded a fine view of ... the ruined church of Dunwich". The red brick cottage on the left in my recent photograph (see picture) fits this description and is named 'Park Lane Cottage'. Agnes bought a piece of land behind her cottage so that it had a large garden.



Park Lane Cottage, the home of Agnes Strickland, 1865-1874, is on the far left in this photo which also shows the extent of her large garden. The sign on the wall reads "Strickland House formerly Lane End." (Christine Fisher)

The next occupant of 'Park Lane Cottage' after Agnes was her sister Jane. Jane bequeathed the property to Mary FitzGibbon, a grand-daughter of Susanna Moodie. Mary travelled to England in 1884 and remained until about 1892.

The next owner of 'Park Lane Cottage' was Charles Foster. He was a solicitor and an executor of Jane Strickland's Will. His first wife was a close friend of Jane, and the two ladies died within a few weeks of each other in 1888.



Charles Foster remarried in Norwich in 1890. His second wife was not local to Southwold and would not have known any of the Strickland family. His only child, Fanny Foster, was born in 1891 at which time his home in Southwold, from census data, was on Gun Hill, not in Park Lane.

Park Lane Cottage and the adjoining cottage also owned by the Strickland family. Note the sign reads Lorne Road. (Christine Fisher)

In Suffolk County Archives there is mention of a site map of the 'Park Lane Cottage estate' dated 1897. There are also photographs (one of which is shown

here) which seems to be a newly built version of the house that can be glimpsed through the gateway on the right in my recent photograph. This building is too large for the English word ‘cottage’, and does not have a view towards Dunwich church.

My first photograph also shows, in the wall by the gateway, a plaque which says ‘Strickland House formerly Lane End’. There is another plaque on the opposing gateway which states (wrongly) that this was the home of Agnes Strickland from 1865 until 1874.

When the 1901 census was taken, Charles Foster’s Southwold home had changed and was at 25 Park Lane (with no house name), and on census night there were eight people living there, of whom five were servants. Charles Foster died suddenly in 1906.

The 1911 census for the first time householders rather than the enumerator answered the questions. Charles Foster’s widow gave her address on the 1911 census as ‘Park Lane Cottage’. She also recorded that the house had 14 rooms - information that had not previously been required and which gives a clear indication that the name ‘Park Lane Cottage’ had been transferred from Agnes’s former cottage to Charles Foster’s new house, despite its unsuitability.



Park Lane Cottage by A. L. Chaplin used on the title page of *“I Am Southwold” The Story of Fanny Foster* by Margot Strickland.

Charles Foster’s widow and daughter knew that Agnes Strickland had lived in ‘Park Lane Cottage’ but with the death of Charles Foster, the significance of the word ‘Estate’ had been lost, and the error had arisen about where Agnes had actually lived.

The second Mrs Charles Foster died in 1922 and her daughter, Fanny Foster, rented out the large house which had formerly been her home, and moved instead into one of the cottages which her father had owned. Ironically, the cottage

which Fanny selected was number 27 Park Lane which she named (or re-named) ‘Park Lane Cottage’. This was the former home of Agnes Strickland.

Fanny Foster gave the name ‘Lane End’ to 25 Park Lane, her own former home. The evidence for this is that in 1938, Fanny Foster leased 25 Park Lane to General Mackesy. Then in 1939, Una Pope Hennessy began work on a biography of Agnes Strickland. In the ‘Acknowledgements’ page of her book, Mrs Pope Hennessy thanked “Miss Fanny Foster of Park Lane Cottage, Southwold” for help in finding information. She also thanked “Mrs Mackesy for allowing her to see Park Lane Cottage, now Lane End”.

Despite Jane Strickland’s clear description of the ‘Park Lane Cottage’ in which Agnes lived, and the oddity of the name ‘Park Lane Cottage’ being associated with two buildings, no one in 1939 seems to have shown any sign of realising that something was wrong.

General Mackesy ended his tenancy in 1955. At this time Fanny Foster employed a mason to fix a “stone tablet in a wall of the house in Park Lane with the name ‘Strickland House’ cut on face” and at the same time to “clean face of old tablet and re-black 67 letters”. The existing wall plaques seem to be the same age and fairly recent. The plaques and their exact wording may therefore have changed, but to an unknown extent, since Fanny Foster’s day.

‘Lane End’ (also known as ‘Park Lane Cottage’) ceased to exist in 1956. It was split into two separate dwellings. The smaller resulting property was named ‘Strickland Cottage’. The remaining larger property was named ‘Strickland House’, which explains one of the gateway wall plaques.

The other wall plaque, stating that Agnes Strickland lived in what is now named as ‘Strickland House’, is the subject of a legal covenant, imposed by Fanny Foster before she sold ‘Strickland House’ in 1956.”



Picture of Agnes Strickland from Jane Strickland's biography of her sister, published 1887.

So there you are - Charles Foster named his site 'Park Lane Cottage Estate'; his widow mis-applied the name 'Park Lane Cottage' to the main house in the development; Fanny Foster unwittingly transferred the name 'Park Lane Cottage' back where it belonged, but has ensured by a covenant that her mother's mistake remains set in stone."

Right St. Edmund's Church, Southwold. (Christine Fisher)

Below: In July 2021 the gravesite of Jane and Agnes Strickland were spruced up and flowered placed on the graves. On hand were Christine Fisher, the clergyman, and the local mayor and his wife. (Christine Fisher)



Modest Hopes

Don Loucks & Leslie Valpy, *Modest Hopes: Homes and Stories of Toronto's Workers from the 1820s to the 1920s*, Toronto, Dundurn Press, 2021, pp xvi, 272

Don Loucks, an architect, and Leslie Valpy, an heritage enthusiast have undertaken to explore the housing used by working class people in the century before 1920. Their houses were between 400 and 900 square feet often built in areas that were less desirable because of the property uses nearby, or because of the smells carried by the prevailing winds. Toronto was a city of pedestrians and the working class tried to live close to work. The authors are concerned that these areas are vulnerable to demolition because there is not enough effort to preserve them.

The authors begin with an overview of the book. They explore the type of housing available to the working classes, and then note the housing is often very basic whether single dwellings, side by side duplexes, or row housing. Many of the people coming to Toronto were immigrants, and the authors think it is important to know the kind of housing they had before emigration. Toronto during this century became a city of cottages, and some examples of working class neighborhoods are explored particularly those most attractive to recent immigrants. Their attention turns to seven such areas: Lombard Street, the Junction, the Ward, Cabbagetown, Corktown, Leslieville and Riverside. Within these areas they highlight the lives and careers of some of the inhabitants. Because it is difficult to have plans of these modest houses, there sketches of such houses that can be identified by surviving buildings.

The philosophical foundation is illustrated by commentators arguing the importance of housing, or presenting models of housing. It was important for workers to live in healthy situations, and small modest cottages were designed by 1851, at the Great London Exhibition, for example, with living room, kitchen and three bedrooms, together with some thought to sanitary uses and heating. These ideas became crossed the Atlantic, as illustrated by the model cottages discussed in the *Canada Farmer* in the 1860s.

In chapter two, the architecture of “Five Modest Hope house types” was discussed. “The foundation of Modest Hope homes is that the people who once lived in them made them important and gave them value.” (p. 24) The designs had shared characteristics. They were narrow, small lots, efficient interiors, high ceilings, inexpensive and easy to construct. From the perspective of the workers buying these houses, the purchase of the house required some sacrifices and careful planning. Many houses were bought with a view to future expansion. The book provides many examples drawn from the areas noted above.

The next chapters discusses the immigrant experience in Toronto, both from the British Isles and from continental Europe. They came from comparatively crowded places and in Toronto found traditional British housing that made the place seem less strange. There was also African and Chinese immigrants in the city.

In chapter four, Loucks and Valpy discuss immigrants in relation to the areas they settled in Toronto. Much of the discussion about the way in which specific areas changed over time.

Some neighborhoods are discussed in chapter five. Some neighborhoods were removed as part of the changing infrastructure of Toronto. The Ward became home to the City Hall and big buildings. Much of Corktown was lost in the building of the Don Valley Parkway. Cabbagetown migrated northwards. Leslieville began as a small village and is now a thriving neighborhood.

The heart of the book, some 100 pages, chapter six, is a collective biography of eight people who settled and thrived in what the authors have dubbed as “modest hopes.” There are many surprising successes, but the main point for the authors is that the houses “helped them to flourish.” (p. 121)

The authors conclude that the workers’ cottages were an “outstanding achievement at that time for all of the families who managed to make them their homes.” (p. 223)

The book is an effort to pull together ideas that have long been part of Toronto’s history but have been lost physically in some case and mentally in all cases as Toronto’s history has been understood in terms of those who were more privileged and lived in grander houses.

Surprisingly, even though Peterborough’s history was a smaller version of this story, many of the arguments apply here as well. In the 1931 census the average family home was 600 square feet, and the city has many areas with houses dating from the 19th century that could be described as “modest hopes.” I think of streets such as Elm Street (now Hopkins), Antrim, parts of Murray Street, and interspersed in Ashburnham and Auburn.

The late Martha Ann Kidd devoted many years to looking at Peterborough’s built heritage. Peterborough never had the grand areas such as Rosedale, Forest Hill or the Annex. However, it did have some very solid buildings that have stood the test of time.

Yankee Bonnet

Dennis Carter-Edwards

In her forward to Beneath the Canopy Peterborough's Urban Forest and Heritage Trees, Sheryl Loucks observed, "Trees have long been part of Peterborough's identity". This was, and still remains the case with one tree in particular. Trees, or rather the generic reference to trees, denotes several streets in Peterborough. Maple, Walnut, Applewood, Forest Hill, Hemlock, Pinewood and Tamarack are but a few of the street designations within the city. Alas, disease, age and urban expansion have often removed the specific species that the street commemorates. In an article titled **The City Beautiful**, the Peterborough Examiner in April 1915 noted, "In the past, citizens have planted trees because they had the beauty of the city and comfort of their fellow citizens at heart and seeing that councils neglected this duty, they did it themselves . . . not only has the city never planted a single tree but various city representatives from time to time have destroyed magnificent trees, the results of the restraining hand of some early citizen who had saved them from the woodsmen's axe or rather the blade of the civic vandal." One such tree venerable tree that was a recognized landmark was the "Yankee Bonnet" tree. In describing her 1832 tumultuous trip up the Otonabee from Rice Lake to Peterborough in her book *The Backwoods of Canada*, Catharine Parr Traill wrote, "Owing to the shallowness of the river at this season, and to the rapids, the steam-boat is unable to go up the whole way to Peterborough, and a scow or row boat, as it is sometimes termed – a huge, unwieldy flat-bottomed machine – meets the passengers at a certain part of the river within sight of a singular pine tree on the right bank; this is termed the "Yankee bonnet" from the fancied resemblance of the topmost boughs to a

sort of cap worn by the Yankees, not much unlike the blue bonnet of Scotland. This same tree was observed by Nicol Hugh Baird while conducting the survey ordered by Sir John Colborne in 1835. In his report, presented in December of that year, Baird noted that

from the mouth of the Otonabee River at Rice Lake, up to Whitlaw's Rapids, a distance of some 21 miles, "the river presents a fine available stream for moderate sized steamers, with the exception of three trifling obstructions . . . Danger Field, Robinson's Island and Yankee Bonnet Shoal." Accompanying this report was a detailed survey of the proposed navigation route that Baird had examined. An intriguing sketch that accompanied his description of the route below Little Lake near Whitlaw's Rapids was a detailed drawing of the pine tree observed by Catherine Traill. The origin of this curious nomenclature is unknown. Nevertheless, Baird's small sketch provides a visual reminder of some of the unique trees that once graced the landscape in and around Peterborough. The Yankee Bonnet Shoal remains a recognized landmark feature on navigations charts for the Otonabee River section of the Trent-Severn Waterway and serves as a reminder of the importance of protecting heritage trees.

References are taken from source material in E. Guillet's, The Valley of the Trent. The survey sketch is held as part of the archival collection of the Trent-Severn Waterway NHSC.



Trent Valley Archives Stoney Lake Historic Puzzles

1. Group in Tent, Roger Camp Upper Stoney Lake. F375 C/36

Jack Fairbairn's uncle, George M. Roger, had with E. B. Edwards purchased Juniper Island in 1883 to host the American Canoe Association regatta. It remained a favourite place to camp. This particular group posed in front of a tall tent, and we get a glimpse of the camping life. Two other tents are visible. Fairbairn has captured the attitudes and the clothing that provide insight into the specialness of cottage holidays.

2. Gower's Camp Grubbe's Island Stoney Lake. F375 C/34

Gower's group of campers stayed at Haselwood, the 1888 cottage on Grubbe's Island a favourite resort on Upper Stoney Lake resort. Note the fascinating 1860s Ensign which contained the shields of early Canadian provinces. Robert W. R. Grubbe (1844-1923), with the Bank of Toronto mainly in Peterborough, was a veteran of the Fenian Raids 1866.

Trent Valley Archives has impressive historical collections relating to Peterborough and the Kawarthas.

These two interesting scenes of early camping and cottaging at Stoney Lake, Peterborough County are copied from our Fairbairn family collection of glass negatives. Jack [J. M. R.] Fairbairn (1873-1954) was the main photographer and the negatives cover aspects of his career with Canadian Pacific Railways, of which he was the long-time chief engineer. Even while the family lived in Montreal they maintained a cottage at Stoney Lake that had been in the family since the 1880s. His private railway car was kept in Lakefield when he was at Juniper Island, and was occasionally used for emergencies.

Trent Valley Archives has been promoting history and archives in the heart of east central Ontario since 1989 and its operations are centred in Selwyn Township in its historic building at 567 Carnegie Avenue. For details see our webpage www.trentvalleyarchives.com and follow us on Facebook.

The puzzles are for sale at Trent Valley Archives, and can be ordered from the web page or by phone or by visiting Trent Valley Archives.



This second photo used for the Trent Valley Archives Heritage Puzzle project was colourized and then cut in 504 pieces to form the jig saw puzzle. The puzzles come in a box that contains the written information about the puzzle pictures as well as what one expects on a puzzle box. I really like the early Canadian ensign, c. 1870, hanging from the roof. Later a tower wing was added to the cottage.

News, Views and Reviews

Little Lake Cemetery Pageant



Volunteers have been filming a version of the Little Lake Cemetery Pageant that was a must for many people in the pre-pandemic years. There is still hope that we will have a live version of the Pageant perhaps in 2022. But the film will be a valuable promotion of this event long after it premieres at Trent Valley Archives.

Trent Valley Archives on Zoom

Trent Valley Archives continued to have special Zoom events for its members, a tradition that began with the pandemic. Our most recent presentations were in August, October and December 2021. We showed the excellent TV show “Spanning 100 Years” produced by

YourTV in co-operation with Trent Valley Archives and which was featured on local TV during August. For the Zoom event, Elwood H. Jones made comments about the history of the Ashburnham Bridge. Marcus Ferguson shared many insights about the production.

In October, the special guest was Matthew Griffis, former professor of libraries at the University of Southern Mississippi, talked about his fascination with the world of post cards, and about his publications on postcards in Peterborough and the Kawarthas and New Orleans. He touched on the development of post cards from business notices to photographic and lithographed works of art. A method of business communication became a favourite with tourists. He discussed some of the local photographers and book sellers in Peterborough who were linked to the golden age of postcards.

The December presentation featured Kathryn Storning in a loving tribute to her grandmother Ruth (Birdsall) Elmhurst, 1888-1974. She wrote a book, *Life & Legacy*, that was inspired by the letters that her grandmother wrote, and which proved to be a glue for the family as its members went in different directions. Kathryn was quite persuasive about the need for people to be proactive about writing stories of their ancestors. If you have the chance, or if it occurred to you to be a good idea then let nothing deter you from researching, thinking and writing what your heart feels. The world will thank you.



Those attending the Zoom meeting were treated to an uplifting talk filled with humour and with everyone pulling for the success of her grandmother.

Kathryn Storning



Peterboro Hockey Club 1925-1926

Elwood H. Jones

Thanks to D'Arcy Jenish shared this photo. His comments are:

I inherited the photo from my great-uncle Bert McLeod, who appears in the photo as B. McLeod, Defense. Bert grew up in Collingwood and earned a degree in pharmacy from the University of Toronto. He played for the Varsity Blues, who were coached by Conn Smythe. Bert came to Peterborough to play for the city's Senior A team and arrived on the train with Irvine Bailey, who appears in the photo as I Bailey, Capt. One of Bert's close friends told me that reporters were at the station when the train arrived, waiting to interview the two promising new recruits.

Bert went on to play seven seasons of professional hockey, six with the Kansas City Pla-Mors of the American Hockey Association and one with the Philadelphia Arrows of the Canadian-American Hockey League.

Bailey, a native of Bracebridge, joined the Toronto Maple Leafs in 1926-27 and became better known as Ace Bailey. He played eight seasons, won the NHL scoring championship in 1928-29 and the Stanley Cup in 1932. His career ended tragically on the night of December 12, 1933. The Leafs were playing the Bruins in Boston. Eddie Shore, a notoriously rough defenceman, upended Bailey, who landed backwards and fractured his skull, an injury that nearly cost him his life.

Bert McLeod made Peterborough his home. He married Olive Leahy, a nurse and the daughter of a Lakefield hotelier. Bert opened a drug store on Albert Street at the corner of Park, opposite Canadian General Electric. Apparently, this was considered a poor location because there were many poor families in the nearby neighborhoods and times were tough during the Great Depression. But Bert was a generous and kindly man, who always filled a prescription even if a family couldn't afford to pay in full and his store flourished.

The Roy Studio marked one of the most successful early years of Peterborough hockey with this collage of the team and its impressive roster of sponsors in what was truly a community effort. This was Peterborough's first significant championship since 1906, and the sixth since 1894. As the Examiner reported, "After an interval of twenty years the blue and white of the Peterborough Hockey Club is again in front...." Earlier titles had been won in 1894, 1895, 1901 and 1902. In 1926, the Peterborough team beat London in a two game total point series, 7-5.

Immediately, the Petes played for the Allan Cup but lost in their first game against Toronto Varsity, a team that the Examiner noted had a shorter season and a longer rest.

City Council tendered a banquet in honour of the Senior O.H.A. champions on 15 April. It was a gala function attended by the "who's who" of Ontario hockey and several score of Peterborough fans. Editorially, the Examiner complimented City Council "for arranging this well merited tribute." Mayor Holloway presided and most of the aldermen were present. William Eason was president of the O.H.A. and Whitby's Sheriff Paxton, the treasurer, both spoke at the banquet, as did the chairman of Canadian Olympic Committee.

The past president of the O.H.A., W. A. Fry of Dunnville presented the John Ross Robertson trophy to J. J. Duffus, president of the Peterborough Hockey Club. Fry also supported the efforts, inspired by the Petes victory, to have an arena with artificial ice in Peterborough's Riverside Park (something that never happened).

W. A. Hewitt, the O.H.A. secretary presented the medals to the members of the team, and Mayor Holloway presented watches, the city's gift to the players, and suitably engraved rings to the trainers, Ed Dillon and George Gauthier.

J. J. Duffus responded to the toast to the team. When the team won, he was grateful for the honour that was his for leading. Citizens should be proud of the caliber of the team members. He commented that three team members had businesses of their own and after a game they all had to get to their shop or factory on time the next day.

Irvin Bailey, the captain, responded on behalf of the players. He said he had played on many teams but this team gave him the most pleasure. It was also gratifying to have the support of the citizens and the promise to go further in future.

Chris Graham, a member of the 1906 winning team, presented Mayor Holloway's Shield to the Rink Rats, winners of the Midget League. They were later introduced as the O.H.A. Senior champs for 1936. Percy Bond, a Peterborough druggist but also on the O.H.A. executive presented the G. N. Gordon, K.C. cup to the team for winning in the city.

The Peterborough Hockey Club held their annual meeting at the end of April to begin plans including fundraising for the next season. Those re-elected included J. J. Duffus president, C. S. Cummer, treasurer, and Ed Wright, team manager.

Members of the Team (based on Street Directory for 1925)

M. Bredin	Mark Bredin Jr, Bredin's Bread, 241 Dublin; home, 418 Donegal
Dr. E. H. Wood	Dr. Edward H. Wood, surgeon, 343 Stewart Street, home and office
L. L. Maguire	Lawrence L. Maguire, agent Charles H. Ackerman, home 631 George
C. H. Ackerman	Lt. Col. Charles H. Ackerman, insurance and investments, 360 Water; home, 475 Hunter
C. S. Cummer	Charles S. Cummer, manager Bank of Montreal, George Street; home, 283 King
J. K. Hughes	John K. Hughes, traveller, De Laval Co.; home 512 Weller
C. K. Lech	Cyril K. Lech, vice-president William Lech and Sons, furriers; home 519 Hunter
F. Convery	Frank E. Convery, works CGE; home 362 Hunter Street
R. M. Glover	Roland M. Glover, managing director Peterborough Examiner; home 572 Charlotte
E. Wright	Edgar P. Wright, manager Fuller Brush Company; home 747 Aylmer north
Mascot	
J. J. Duffus	Joseph J. Duffus, prop. Duffus Motor Sales, 304-318 Water; home, 397 Reid
J. P. Bond	J. Percy Bond, Phm. B. prop Bond's Drug Store, George and Hunter; home, 590 Weller
E. Dillon	Edward J. Dillon, shipper, Quaker Oats; home 159 Stewart
G. N. Gordon	George N. Gordon, K. C., M. P., Gordon & O'Brien, 397 George; home 369 Hunter
E. A. Peck	Edward A. Peck, Peck, Kerr & McElderry, 415-417 Water; home 304 Rogers
W. H. Bradburn	William H. Bradburn, MPP, managing director Bradburn's Limited; home, 503 Homewood

The Players

N. J. McClory, spare	
W. H. Bogardis, left wing	
J. Dwyer, goal	Joseph Dwyer, prop. Auto tire repair; home 382 Stewart
B. McLeod, defense	Bert O. McLeod, druggist, Bond's Drug Store; rooms YMCA
B. Burgess, right wing	Bert Burgess, engineer, CGE; home 369 Brock
G. Gauthier, trainer	George Gauthier, labourer, lives Montreal House, 282-284 Aylmer north
H. Parker, defense	
R. Rose, defense and centre	Robert S. Rose, accountant, FRJ MacPherson Co.; home 333 Rogers
W. Ranger, left wing	Wilfred Ranger, toolmaker CGE; home 276 Romaine
I. Bailey, captain, right wing	Irvine Bailey, works Peterborough Lock Co, Simcoe Street; home 271 William
R. Collins, centre	
L. LeBarr, sub goaler	Lewis W. LeBarr, news agency &c, 160 Charlotte; home 279 William (father & son)
B. Cox, right wing and centre	

Queries

The City Hotel

Heather Aiton Landry

Glen Walker, volunteer with the Maryboro Lodge Museum in Fenelon Falls, asked TVA for assistance in identifying some Peterborough area images. Among them was this photo, identified as “George Street, Peterborough, 1908:”



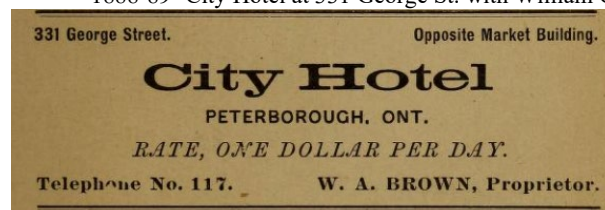
Photo courtesy Maryboro Lodge Museum

Most visible is the sign for the City Hotel; in the windows, signs for “Cigars,” “All Kinds Polish,” and “Pool” can also be seen next door.

The earliest reference we have found so far to the City Hotel is on the 1882 / 1889 Fire Insurance Plan. (see illustration below). The 1887 *Farmers’ and Classified Business Directory for the counties of Durham, Northumberland, Peterborough and Victoria* contains the first instance of the City Hotel in an extant directory.

Subsequent directories indicate: F148 Peterborough Directory including Ashburnham, 1897

-1888-89- City Hotel at 331 George St. with William Clancy as proprietor



-1894- City Hotel at 331 and 333 George St., again with Mr. Clancy as proprietor

-1895- James Dolan proprietor; tobacconists at 329 and 337 George St.

-1897- W. A. (Bert) Brown proprietor. An advertisement appears in the directory during Mr. Brown’s tenure (see below)

-1899- A. Dunn proprietor

-1901- 1909- Martin Connors proprietor, Tobacconist at 329

George St. and at 337, M. Pappakeriazes Tobacconist and Billiards. Yeotes Bros. Shoe Shining is at 339 George St.

By 1910, Martin Connors had given up the hotel business and become a carpenter, leaving 331 George vacant. Snelgrove Cigars was at 329 George, M. Pappakeriazes continued to sell tobacco at 337, while the Yeotes Brothers entered the billiard business.

By 1912, the Bank of Nova Scotia occupied 333-335 George St., and 331 is the Canada Malleable Steel Range Company. Snelgrove continued at 329, and 337 George was home to Yeotes Bros. Cigars and Billiards. Incidentally, JK SmoKing continues the tobacco tradition at 337 George St. to this day.



This famous picture which was used in *Fighting Fires in Peterborough* shows the Fire Brigade on the occasion of the unveiling of the bell, "Protection", being installed on the town hall, then located on Water Street but visible from George Street. Everyone is looking at the bell, but we have the interesting backdrop that shows the buildings that became the City Hotel and the Caisse Hotel. (TVA, Electric City Collection)

Membership Survey

In 2019 we began development of a Long Term Plan addressing ways to enhance the sustainability of TVA for the next 10 years and beyond. Financial sustainability and finding the means to expand to meet our growing collection of 930+ fonds were two priorities.

When COVID hit, like every other non-profit, we scrambled to survive. When we had to close our doors and cancel our walks, tours and Cemetery Pageant we were hit hard financially. We responded with Member Only virtual talks and applying for every appropriate government grant we could find.

We are pleased to report that our members responded, and we have more members as of December 2021 than we did in December 2020. We are also thankful that we've had good success in our grant applications providing short term financial stability and, for now, we are back to planning for the future.

This brings us to the Membership Survey. We want to know how you feel about TVA and about being

a member of TVA. In this survey we focus on how you value the benefits of your TVA membership and your thoughts on how to meet challenges that face the Heritage Gazette.

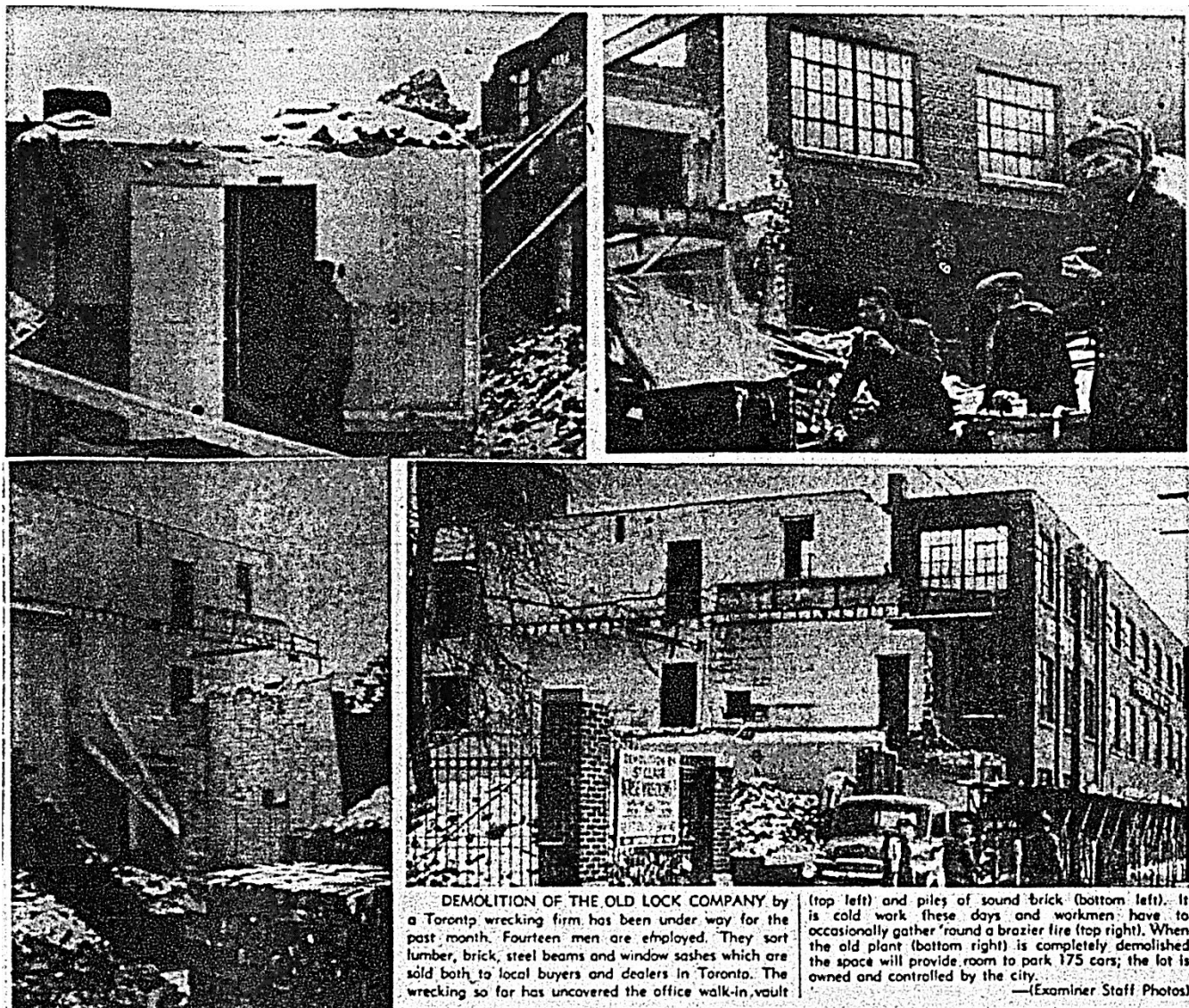
Future Membership Surveys will seek your opinion on volunteer opportunities, our on-line and in-person events and other topics where your opinion will help shape our focus and action.

A link to the online survey has been emailed to you. If you do not use email, you may call TVA to request a printed version. With just 14 questions it is estimated that only six minutes are required to complete the survey.

We look forward to hearing from all our members. If you have a family membership, you can either combine your responses or take the survey individually.

Thank you for your loyalty and support.
Trent Valley Archives Board of Directors

The Old Locks Work



The Examiner was on hand to capture the demolition of the former lock works which were situated on Simcoe Street, now the site of the central bus terminal and parking garage. Thanks to Rob Clarke for sharing this find.



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"Without archives there is no history"

Laurel Thatcher Ulrich