

# HERITAGE GAZETTE OF THE TRENT VALLEY

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*Cover photo: Horses, Pedestrians, and Streetcar, George and Simcoe Street (TVA, Ken Brown postcard collection)*



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# The Fate of the Loyalists

Elwood H. Jones

*Thanks to the Peterborough Examiner*

I Loyalists have been poorly treated by American historians. Gary Nash, writing in *First City, Philadelphia and the Forging of Historical Memory*, linked the treatment partly to the lack of archival sources in the main American museums and repositories. In simplest terms, the important archival records of Loyalists were either carried off with them to their new homes, or were destroyed by the Patriots who took over their residences.

The Trent Valley Archives has been using the motto, "Without archives there is no history." This was inspired by Laurel Thatcher Ulrich's study of Martha Ballard. Martha Ballard would have been unknown except for a one-line newspaper obituary, except that she kept a diary that survived, and an historian (namely Ulrich) took the time to give context to the diary. Martha Ballard lived near what is now Augusta, Maine, and between 1785 and 1812 as a midwife delivered over 1,000 babies, and had only five deaths. Her house was the hive of domestic and female activity. Her husband ran a lumber mill and later was a surveyor, and his footprint is everywhere. She ran, effectively a bed and breakfast for his customers; her living room was used for most of the 30 odd steps in producing homespun linen; and weaving projects were done from her home. When Ulrich tracked her comings and goings she came into contact with more people, and went into more people's homes, than any of the men who were covered in the local histories. Her niece, a celebrated American nurse, deposited Martha Ballard's diary in the Maine State Archives in 1925, and it was dismissed by those who saw it; Martha never mentioned when George Washington came to town! But in the hands of Ulrich, the diary was a goldmine for learning about the "invisible economy" and about the busy and interconnected lives of women and families.

Gary Nash observed (89), "Textbooks have usually taught us that the loyalists who remained faithful to the English crown were too selfish or timid to join the revolutionaries. In truth, the loyalists were a mixed group with widely varying motives." During the 1760s and 1770s, there were many political ideas, some of which prefigure what Canada did in 1791 and 1867. Many were Loyalists because, such as Anglican clergy and Royal officials, they had sworn oaths of allegiance. Anglicans prayed for the Royal Family in their services. Some were forced to assist freely or otherwise the armies that traipsed through their communities.

When I was teaching American history, Loyalists were considered those who were forced to make decisions either by conviction or by circumstance. I tended to prefer the term "American Tory" as a political description.

The classic conception, which was expressed by John Adams, later the second president of the United States, was that Americans divided one third/ one third / one third. One third opposed the revolution, one third favoured it, and one third hoped they could ignore it.

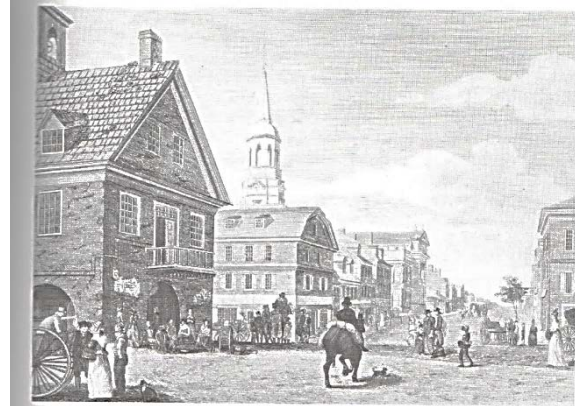


FIGURE 43: William Russell Birch, *Second Street North from Market St. with Christ Church, LCP*. Birch, who issued a series of mostly hand-colored engravings, "The City of Philadelphia," between 1798 and 1800, was the first to visually record the building boom and the popularity of classical architecture. Here he shows Christ Church and the Royal Arms Tavern in the center of the city's commercial district. Birch's views show a neat, orderly, nearly antiseptic city, but the reality was that Philadelphia, like all eighteenth-century cities, was strewn with garbage and manure and reeked with the smells from tanneries, potteries, and butcher shops. For example, the alley running behind the fashionable Walnut Street house of William White, first bishop of the Protestant Episcopal Church, was reportedly so full of garbage that a wagon could not pass through it. Like Currier & Ives engravings of a later period, Birch's views of Philadelphia pleased customers because this was how they wanted to imagine their city.

Gary Nash concluded, "Philadelphia's collecting institutions therefore have little to show that would restore memory about the city's loyalists, except some materials relating to members of the Society of Friends. Many loyalists, such as William Franklin, [Joseph] Galloway, and [the Reverend Jacob] Duche, voluntarily left for England or Nova Scotia or were driven out, talking their papers with them. The descendants of other loyalists who eventually returned had little reason in the nineteenth century to preserve the papers of parents and grandparents who refused to support the American cause. Nor were Philadelphia's collectors much interested in ferreting out archival materials or spending money on them to preserve a record of documenting who chose the losing side in the American Revolution." (89-90)

Those who supported the Revolution believed they were supporting "the glorious cause." American historians wrote about the winners.

There has been a resurgence of interest in the history of Loyalists, and the "Spirit of 1783". In this view, the Loyalists were not the losing side; they were the foundation for a second British Empire, that flourished over the next century: the boast was correctly, that the sun never set on the British Empire.

The distinction that resonated with me was that the American Revolution was about "liberty" while the opposition was about liberties. The first led to the idea that the rule of the majority should prevail; the second believed that people's differences should be respected.

Some historians have written about the Age of Revolution, in which the English Revolution of 1688, the American Revolution of 1775-1783, and the French Revolution of 1789-1815 had a continuity. The rights of individuals were expressed in the French calling cry, "Liberte, Egalite et Fraternite".



The Second British Empire, as it has sometimes been called, was characterized by diversity and by shared community values. The Loyalists were part of that definition. They were not losers, as treated by earlier American historians, but vanguards of a new world in which the Loyalist experience was crucial. The new empire had to respect diversity, the rights of minorities, liberties and the importance of loyalty.

We need to distinguish between Loyalists and Loyalist Emigres. Those who were forced to leave the Thirteen Colonies were Loyalist emigrants. The emigration of 70,000 people from the land they called home was huge by historical standards. The number was smaller than those displaced by the French Revolution, but accounted for a larger proportion of the total population. The emigration was remarkably diverse as well. It included all economic levels, large groups, such as Anglicans, several Indian nations, free Blacks, slaves and others.

The dispersal of Loyalist emigrants was very widespread. Many came to Nova Scotia, Quebec and Upper Canada. Still others went to Jamaica and elsewhere in the Caribbean. Some, especially those with the best political connections, went to England. Within twenty years some had gone to Africa, notably Sierra Leone, and to India, especially in connection with the East India Company. The commercial company was by 1783 seen as exercising governmental powers, exercising powers that were only implicit in their charters. The reality would soon match the 19<sup>th</sup> century boast that the "Sun never set on the British Empire."

Canadian historians and Loyalist descendants have tended to focus on those who came to Canada. This has advantages, and there are sources that give solid foundations for this approach: the papers of Loyalists in archives in Ottawa, Kingston, Toronto, Halifax and elsewhere. And the Loyalist Claims, which were in England have been transcribed and microfilmed, and used. But the national boundary approach also tends to focus on Loyalists as losers rather than as builders. Partly, the contexts are too narrow geographically and chronologically. What, and how, do we decide is significant against which to judge the documents we have found?

Both the Loyalist Emigres and Loyalists survived a brutal war, but they also built a fresh legacy.

## II

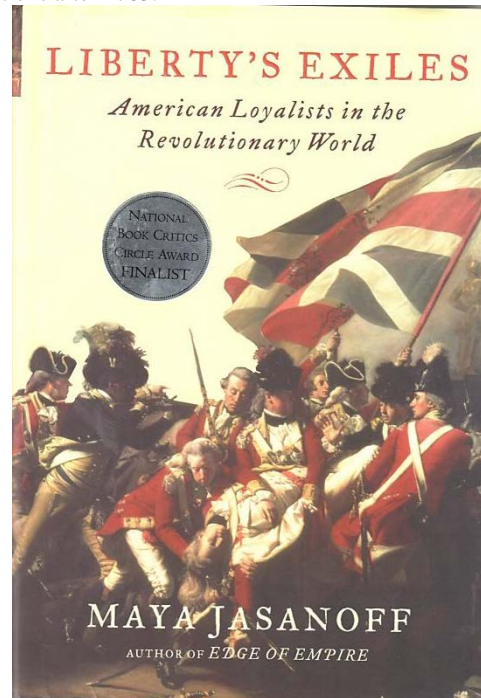
According to Canadian historians the Loyalist emigrants who came to Canada might have felt like losers in the first years as they struggled to regain lost possessions and begin anew in rough situations. However the opportunity to regain their pride came at moments when Canadians had to fight American aggressiveness.

In the Canadian story, the War of 1812 was the first opportunity to get even and also to articulate a political philosophy that reflected the post-1783 experience. To some American observers, the Loyalists introduced a Tory streak to our political ideas.

Such an approach, in my view, overlooks the truth that the Loyalists and Loyalist emigrants in the revolutionary era read the same books as the Patriots. Canadian political ideas need to be examined within the framework of American and British political ideas. Loyalists who came to Canada were more likely to be Whig

than Tory. Only after the War of 1812 did the descendants of the Loyalists add the Tory streak.

However, even though the size of the Loyalist diaspora was 70,000, of which half came to Canada, the numbers pale in comparison to those who stayed in American territories. Also, there were Loyalists who did not emigrate, and there were Loyalists who had fled during the Revolution and were able to return to their former locations after 1783.



Maya Jasanoff, *Liberty's Exiles: American Loyalists in the Revolutionary World*, (NY, 2011) takes an expansive view of the Loyalist experiences, the Spirit of 1783. Jasanoff explores the total diaspora of the American Loyalists in a single volume. To me, this is the most exciting book ever written about Loyalists. It forces us to see more than we ever imagined. She feels that the scope of the disruption to the world of those who opposed the American Revolution is lost when history is focused on national boundaries. While it is reasonable that the history of the Loyalists would be written by sources close at hand, collected in local libraries and archives, Jasanoff wants to summarize the total experience.

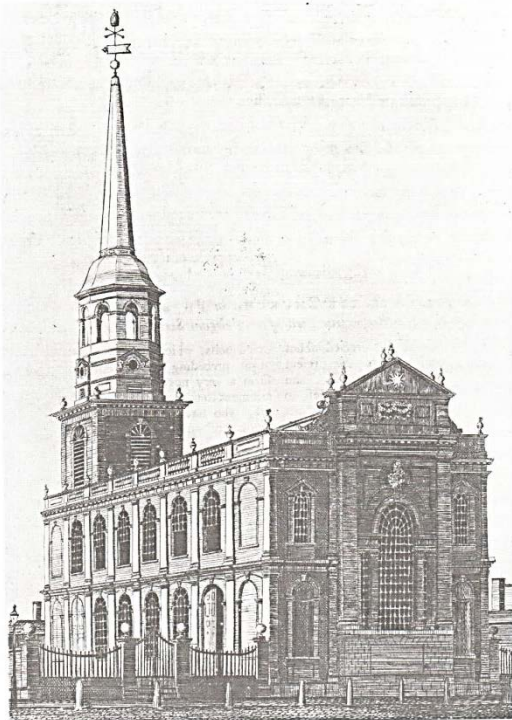
She thinks that it is now easier than it was for historians to trace and study the scattered works of the Loyalists: "personal letters, diaries, memoirs, petitions, muster rolls, diplomatic dispatches, legislative proceedings." Certainly, travel is easier, the best archival institutions emphasize accessibility, and the internet brings many of these documents to your computer screen. However, as she takes an international perspective there are fresh problems. There were different contexts, considerations and relationships in the several parts of the world that received Loyalists. As well, the diversity of the Loyalists was wide; the diaspora included First Nations, freed slaves, and people from the aristocratic to the low-born.

Maybe it is now easier to tackle anew the problem

with which I was obsessed: what became of the Americans who did not have to leave America?

Some, of course, may have moved to new communities, as the western frontier was moving quite rapidly. The British had in 1763 restricted westward movement of non-indigenous people to the peak of the Appalachians. In the 1783 treaty, Britain ceded to the new nation a boundary roughly defined by the Mississippi River. Many Indians, including the Six Nations of the Iroquois, felt betrayed; they were not consulted or included in the negotiations of the Treaty of Paris. So, there was room to absorb people who were uncomfortable with their neighbours.

Since a significant proportion of Loyalists were Anglican could we use the fate of Anglicans in the new republic, United States of America, to show how former and continuing Loyalists became absorbed in the new nation?



*Christ Church Philadelphia, c. 1760*

In broad strokes, some of the devices are seen in the history of the Protestant Episcopal Church. Throughout the colonial period there were no Anglican bishops residing in America. The clergy were trained in England, and the Bishop of London looked after the appointments, and oversaw the SPG and the SPCK. The Archbishop of Canterbury, who resided in Lambeth, not far from the political institutions of Westminster, was consulted and at times was a close partner of the Bishop of London.

With the American Revolution, the Archbishop of Canterbury appointed the first colonial bishop, the Rt Rev Charles Inglis, with his see city in Halifax. Inglis had been one of the key Loyalist pamphleteers, and had been evacuated from New York to Halifax, via London (and four years).

The Anglicans in the United States came up with a different device, and the first Anglican bishop in America

was the Rt Rev William White. The line of succession, so important to Anglicans, was maintained through Scottish bishops.

In my Loyalist Project, I decided to pursue the question of what happened to the Loyalists that were not exiles, or if exiles briefly, were able to return to the new United States.

The Rev. William MacClaneghan became my point of entry, quite by accident. MacClaneghan had been a Presbyterian missionary in the Narragansetts valley, and was upset when he was converted to an Anglican and then assigned by the Bishop of London to be the Anglican missionary in the same valley. He looked for opportunities in nearby Boston but was directed to Virginia, where the Anglican church was established and where countless counties had no clergy.

This took him through Philadelphia where Anglicans in Christ Church, self-sufficient and self-supporting, were wowed by MacClaneghan whose long and dramatic sermons seemed charismatic. St. Paul's Church was created only blocks away to support MacClaneghan. The English prelates blew their leadership and despite them St. Paul's emerged as an independent Anglican parish, and indeed the beacon of evangelical Anglicanism for a century and a half, at least.

After visiting the archives of Lambeth Palace, I was able to reconstruct the details behind the actions of the Bishop of London and Archbishop of Canterbury. The episcopal issue in the coming American Revolution was mainly about Anglicans. The insensitivity of bishops across the Atlantic making decisions in the colonies on issues where they lacked first-hand information or experience helped fuel the wisdom that decisions should be made by those closest to the impact of such decisions; not by those distant at many levels. It was not the Congregationalists in Massachusetts and Baptists in Virginia, but the Anglicans in Philadelphia that defined this issue.

Because the experience of the American Revolution reverberated widely, the archival sources for studying the Loyalists are widespread. American historians were using archival records in the United States, even when the crucial documents were in Britain.

Anglican Loyalists were comfortable in Philadelphia because of the new Protestant Episcopal Church's ability to have prayers for American political leaders rather than the British monarch.

With respect to Virginia and Massachusetts, the Protestant Episcopal Church effectively sprouted wings, curiously through revivalism, forty years later, in the 1820s.

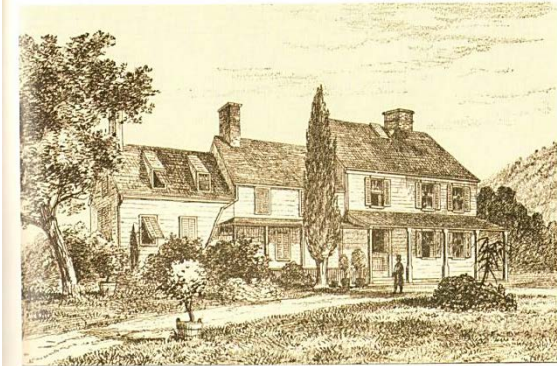
In short, it really took two generations, from 1760 to 1820, to overcome the obstacles that divided Loyalists from Patriots. And because of the experiences of those years, there was a Tory streak in America, too. As historians make better use of archival collections, our knowledge improves.

### III

A very recent book indirectly confirmed my findings that it took 40 years to forget the Revolution or to move beyond the bitterness of those years.

Holger Hoock, *Scars of Independence: America's Violent Birth* (NY, Crown, 2017) removes generations of whitewashing and tells the period of the American

Revolution as one of tense rivalry and brutal bloodshed on all sides: Patriots, Loyalists, Indians. The campaign of General John O'Sullivan to wipe out Iroquoia in 1779 was particularly brutal; scorched earth tactics such as Sherman's march across Georgia in 1864. But some Loyalists were treated brutally, too. Many of these stories were shared in the Loyalist petitions.



*The Beverley Robinson family left their house in the Hudson Highlands in 1777, and the house was used as headquarters for the Continental Army. After 1783, the Robinson family returned to this house. The Robinsons were a prominent family. Beverley received one of the largest compensations from the Loyalist Commission, and later their house was returned. This family was related to the family of John Beverley Robinson and Peter Robinson, whose careers were so important in Upper Canada. (Liberty's Exiles)*

The southern campaign after 1778 had elements of scorched earth tactics, and was particularly bitter; each side blaming the other. However, some were hardened by the war and the longer it went on the less sensitivity was felt for the other side.

How could the British keep a large enough army in America without running into the truism: an army lives on its stomach. It was not easy to live off the land. And the difficulties tied to bringing food to America before the invention of refrigeration made it impossible to supply the army units from Britain.

After the battle of Yorktown (where some 7,000 British and German soldiers went into captivity) the British decided not to send more troops to America. They had since 1778 overestimated the strength of Loyalist and Loyalist the British Troops support in the South. The British had about 15,000 troops in New York City; 10,000 across the South, and more in Canada.

The American general, George Washington, who emerges in this book as very unlikeable, brutal and vindictive, still wanted the French to fight some more. However, for both Britain and France, the war was global.

The British defeated three Mysore armies in India in 1781; seized all Dutch trading ports in India, and captured stations in Padang and on Sumatra, and in west Africa and Ceylon. After setbacks against France and Spain, the British won a key battle (Battle of the Saintes) in 1782 that saved Jamaica and gave a boost to British morale.

However, once a peace treaty officially ended the American Revolution, what was the fate of the Loyalists? First, the Indians did not participate in the treaty making, and they probably suffered worse than any; even the

Oneida who had sided with the Patriots were left without protection against land-hungry Americans. Second, the British negotiators gave far more territory to the new Americans than had ever been considered likely (900,000 square miles, nearly three times the size of the 13 colonies).

Third, the Blacks were hard hit, no matter on which side they sided. They may have done better with Loyalists. About 15,000 blacks left as slaves with the Loyalists; at least, 9,000 free Black Loyalists were among those that went into exile. Many went to Nova Scotia; and many of those were among the founders of Sierra Leone.

Fourth, the Loyalists and their properties were not protected by the treaty, because Benjamin Franklin and John Jay were adamant that Loyalists, more than all others, should be punished. During the later Southern campaigns that pitted Loyalists against Patriots in the South long after Yorktown made it difficult for the British to promote or get reconciliation. In both north and south, the reverberations of the bloody war lingered long after.

Article X of the treaty of capitulation signed by Cornwallis after Yorktown made a distinction between British troops who would be prisoners of war and Loyalist soldiers, who could be treated as "treasonous citizens" to be punished under civil government. The British abandoned the Loyalists. Cornwallis had surrendered a huge army but his reputation in England remained firm; the only black mark was that he had not guaranteed the safety of the Loyalists.

Alexander Hamilton, who had served as aide-de-camp to George Washington, advocated that Americans should not seek revenge even as the peace treaty was being negotiated, because it would cost them the high moral ground.

Holger Hock discussed the "Returning Losers." The treatment of Loyalists was the first issue that the British and American envoys writing the peace treaty considered; it was the last that they settled. Benjamin Franklin wanted to tie the treatment of Loyalists to considerations of reparations to the Americans for the wartime damage which he wanted to blame on the British and Loyalist troops. The return of Loyalist exiles "incited deep anxiety among their Patriot neighbors" (364)

"If the 60,000 or so white Loyalists who went into permanent exile after the war faced uncertain futures, the several hundred thousand who wished to stay in their home communities or return there had to brace themselves for what might lie in store."

Mob rule was scary.

In the environs of New York after 1783, many Loyalists were able to use networks to recover some property, often with taxes attached, and some even received pardons, residency and property rights. "Many were actively prevented from returning even for brief visits, the guarantees in the peace treaty notwithstanding. These guarantees depended very much on the attitudes of local state governments; there was no national protection.

Ward Chipman and Thomas A. Coffin, fairly inoffensive individuals and Loyalists who had hoped to resettle in New York or Massachusetts felt unsafe and chose to become permanent exiles. In the South, the atmosphere was worse. Private feuds were dressed in Patriotic clothing.

Still, some Loyalists, as Holger Hock observes, were able to resettle in America. Alexander Hamilton, who



became the Secretary of the Treasury, argued that America needed all who wished to settle there. Former Loyalists, many of whom had been merchants, could help re-establish Anglo-American trade. Even though the French had been allies of the Patriots in war, the better trade links afterwards were with English merchants.

In 1784, in a test case, Alexander Hamilton defended a rich Loyalist against the Patriot widow Elizabeth Rutgers. When British troops came into New York in 1776, the Rutgers fled abandoning the family's alehouse and brewery. By 1778, British merchants refitted the derelict property, and by 1780 were paying rent to the British Army. A fire in 1783 caused £4,000 damage. Rutgers now wanted to sue a British merchant for back rent under a new law, called the Trespass Act and enacted by New York which allowed former owners to sue for damages caused by British occupants. Patriots had returned in force after the Loyalists left New York. Hamilton's argument was that the British occupants had restored the property and had acted properly under British military law. He also argued that the New York law contravened the peace treaty, which prohibited punitive suits. Hamilton wanted the court to knock down the law. The judge allowed Mrs. Rutgers back rent, but only for the period to 1780. He implicitly accepted the validity of Hamilton's argument.

The Trespass Act was repealed in 1787; Alexander Hamilton, then an assemblyman, was co-sponsor of the repeal. Hamilton hired Loyalist Tench Coxe as his assistant secretary in the Department of the Treasury. Here and there, efforts at reintegration involved both former patriots and former loyalists.

However, Loyalists were not included in the process of nation-building, the annual celebration of past events; or what Hoock called whitewashing of the revolutionary experience. These were what he called the "scars of independence."

In areas where there had not been intense confrontations during the war, I think that there was peaceful reintegration. However, even so, it took 40 years for Anglicans to move beyond the damage of the Revolutionary era. Put another way, it took that long for the message of the Loyalists to be incorporated into the new nation:

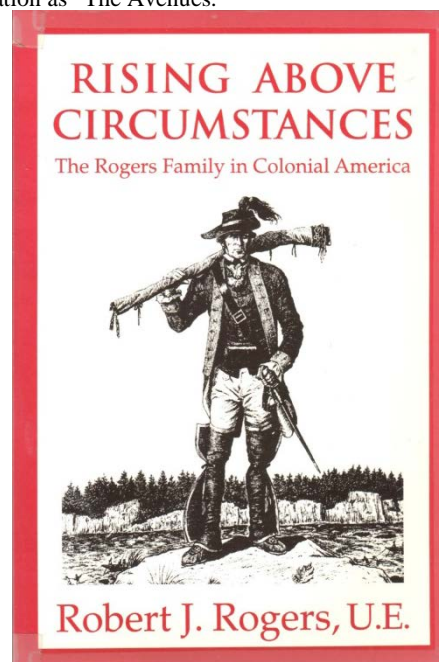
#### IV

When the Loyalist emigres were forced to leave in 1783, that Maya Jasanoff recently described as the "Spirit of 1783", the Ontario locations for Loyalists were fairly close to the "front", along the St. Lawrence and west to Prince Edward County. Cornwall and Kingston laid claim to being Loyalist towns.

It is now clear that the importance of the wide diaspora of Loyalists that carried some 70,000 people to distant spots in the Caribbean, Britain, Nova Scotia and New Brunswick, and Quebec and Ontario was not restricted to one generation. The first emigration was in 1783, but those who came as part of a second migration in 1798, often dubbed Late Loyalist, proved to be committed to the "Spirit of 1783".

Many of those with direct links to what became Peterborough county, really third generation Loyalists, the leadership was tied to the Late Loyalists and their base of operation was Cobourg. Zaccheus Burnham came from

New Hampshire in 1798, and so did the Gilchrist brothers, including Dr. John Gilchrist, a founder of Keene whose later years were largely spent in Peterborough. Burnham's links across the area were sealed when in 1818 he was named Surveyor for the new District of Colborne. In that role, he had the honour of naming Peterborough, Ashburnham and Keene for New Hampshire places close to his boyhood haunts. His son, Mark Burnham, settled in Ashburnham in the 1850s, partly as Rector of Peterborough in charge of worship at St. John's Church. His great achievements were the founding of churches at Zion in Otonabee and in Warsaw, both named St. Mark's. Other Burnham brothers had come to Cobourg and their progeny included Elias Burnham, one of Peterborough's first two lawyers and whose estate was developed in the following generation as "The Avenues."



James Rogers (1728-1790), partly because he has connections to Peterborough, is a good case in point. Robert J. Rogers' *Rising above Circumstances* (1998) has done a thorough job of finding records relating to his ancestor (and the brothers of his ancestor) and that is very helpful. He also visited Trent Valley Archives a few weeks ago. Few Loyalists have been so well understood.

James was a veteran of the French and Indian Wars, and received a large acreage in what became Vermont but was then contested between New York and New Hampshire. After the first shots of the Revolution were fired at Lexington in April 1775, the New York Provincial Congress offered James Rogers a commission as a Brigadier; James refused because he hoped there was a way short of civil war to resolve valid grievances. James was one of the delegates, July to September 1776, at a convention in Dorset to plan statehood for Vermont. James supported a separate state but would not sign oaths to accept the authority of Committees of Safety or their Oath of Allegiance. Vermont was created by 1777. Because of these stands James (but not his family) was forced to leave by April 1777. His lands seem to have been treated as confiscated but the Town of Kent was instructed, but not

until 1779, to provide enough land to sustain Mrs. Margaret Rogers. Because Vermont was not officially recognized as a state by New York and New Hampshire, and the flux of the revolutionary years, decision-making was not always clear.

James Rogers was hampered by lack of clarity in the British Army, partly due to the slowness of their commanders to recognize the seriousness of the situation. James fled to Montreal in April 1777, just as General Burgoyne was launching his attack on the rebels with a plan to meet with General Howe's forces. Burgoyne was defeated at Saratoga and the myth of invincibility was shattered. It was not so easy to supply the British army in what proved, to Burgoyne's surprise, to be hostile territory.

In May 1779, General Sir Henry Clinton gazetted James' brother Robert to form a Loyalist regiment, the King's Rangers, and James became Major Commandant of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion. When James arrived at Quebec City in July, General Haldimand said there were no provisions for his troops. The King's Rangers were stationed at the "key to Canada", Fort St. John (now Sorel) on the Richelieu River. Finally, in August 1781, the British granted full pay to the Loyalist troops. Cornwallis surrendered at Yorktown, 19 October 1781.

By the spring of 1783, it was clear that the Loyalist troops would not be able to return to their homes.

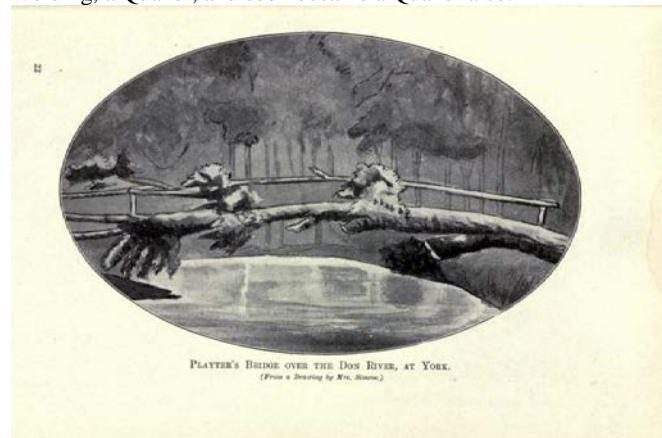
The hopes of James and Robert Rogers were not realized because the British military leadership, and especially General Howe, were more interested in nurturing the Patriots; they seemed to want to be diplomats when what was needed was military leadership.

James Rogers and his wife Mary had five children. The direct link to Peterborough is through their younger son, David McGregor Rogers (1772-1824), who was an MPP in the Upper Canada Assembly, 1796-1816, 1820-1824. He was clearly a major figure in Newcastle District, holding several local offices, and significant tracts of land. Rogers married in 1802 Sarah Playter, and in 1811 her widowed sister, Elizabeth Perry; he had two sons and two daughters by his first wife. In politics, Rogers supported the House of Assembly and its rights, which by 1812 aligned him with the emerging opposition, which I identified with Joseph Willcocks (1773-1814). In 1812, half the members of the small House of Assembly were voting together on most issues in a period when the Executive controlled the political agenda. As Rogers' biographer, Robert L. Fraser, observed, "Rogers represented a brand of loyalism that emphasized the king's prerogatives and the subject's rights brought together in constitutional equilibrium." Ideas flowed easily between Britain, United States and Canada, and Rogers' ideas were influenced by the trans-Atlantic whiggism. Thomas Jefferson captured part of this whiggism when he observed that government is best which is closest to the people.

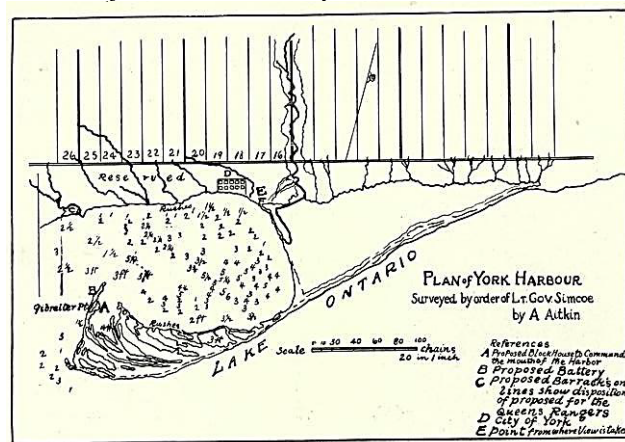
In my biographical essay on Joseph Willcocks, I concluded, "To find a consistent and rational thread in Willcocks's political career it is not necessary to discount his words and emphasize his treason; rather, it may be found by paying closer attention to what he said, when he said it, what he did, and when he did it. Firmly in the opposition whig tradition, Willcocks opposed arbitrary and distant power, valued loyalty to his country rather than to his rulers, and believed in the independence of colonial legislatures. At great inconvenience to his own position, he

pursued a public course consistent with those whig principles." David McGregor Rogers was never a traitor, but he shared these Whig ideas.

David McGregor Rogers' father-in-law was also very distinguished. George Henry Playter (1736-1822) served in the Royal Navy, 1755-1757 and then came to Philadelphia, soon settling in West New Jersey at the Draw Bridge that crossed the Crosswick River. In 1766, he married Elizabeth Welding, a Quaker, and soon became a Quaker also.



In 1776, after Washington's defeat in New York City, the Patriot forces retreated and destroyed the Playter bridge in order to slow down the British pursuit. The British General Sir William Howe asked Playter, who was a shipwright and cabinet maker, to repair the bridge, and he did. This made him a Loyalist, and he shed his Quaker religion in order to fight with the British at the battles of Trenton and Princeton. Playter became an officer for Guides & Pioneers, and operated successfully as a spy. In 1780, he took his family to Nova Scotia for safety reasons, and then rejoined the British army in New York.



FIRST OFFICIAL PLAN OF YORK (TORONTO), 1793.  
(From the Second Office, Chancery Lane, London, England.)

In 1793, Playter had become one of the largest land-owners in what became Toronto; the Don River flowed through his main holding, and he built a bridge, the first over the Don, so it would be easier to visit his sons who were on the east side of the Don. He also owned land between Queen and Bloor in what is now downtown Toronto.

The son of David McGregor Rogers, a third generation Loyalist Emigre was a founder of Ashburnham.



V

One of the best local accounts of local families tied to the Loyalist Emigrants was published in 1885. As we might expect, the local Loyalist descendants were treated as survivors, but in the language of the time they were also seen as builders of new settlements.

C. P. Mulvany's *History of Peterborough Ontario* was his second county history (he had begun with York County) but he probably planned to do more. The first 248 pages of this volume was a history of Canada written in broad opinionated strokes in the style of Macaulay that could be placed at the front of any county history. His discussion of the American Revolution deals only with the American efforts to capture Montreal and Quebec City; the American general Montgomery was killed on New Year's Eve in Quebec City. The second American general, Benedict Arnold, was wounded in the leg. To Mulvany, Arnold was the "Judas of the American Revolution."



*Ashburnham was the centre of the Rogers family world. In 1889, the R.D. Rogers mill was now Mulhern's Otonabee Mills; the brick grocery store is shown at the corner of Elizabeth (now Hunter Street East) and Driscoll Terrace. Note the Cricket Grounds on Driscoll Terrace. Ashburnham was an industrial suburb! (Trent University Archives, Fire Insurance Plan,)*

The county history was a joint effort with researchers who were sent to Peterborough, or who wrote about their part of the county which then included the provisional county of Haliburton. The third part consisted of biographies of leading citizens. The volume is not free of errors, but its greatest strength is that Mulvany and his assistants relied on local sources for these parts. The biographies, for example, reveal the particular people as they wished to be seen.

Even in telling of the Loyalists, Mulvany does not make links between the American history and the people who he called Royalists. However, in telling his story he several times flashed back to the Revolution. For example, he discussed the Loyalist roots of Peter Robinson and his brother, John Beverley Robinson. (274).

Mulvany's most interesting Loyalist stories relate to the Rogers family, whom he described as "descendants of a

remarkable race of loyalist soldiers". (324) Commenting on the 1880s, he observed, "To the patriotic exertions and person popularity of the Rogers' family the various corps of Peterborough volunteers have been always deeply indebted." (324) Col. H. C. Rogers, then postmaster of Peterborough and Rear Commodore of the American Canoe Association [ACA] visited the Rogers' Leap tourist site on Lake George during the annual meeting of the ACA held nearby. Col. Robert Rogers, who had led the Rogers Rangers during the 1750s French and Indian War and later the Loyalist Troops in the Queen's Rangers, was captured by the Seneca Indians, allied with George Washington, and had to run the gauntlet; he escaped certain tortured death by leaping from a cliff into Lake George. (326)

Robert David Rogers (1809-1885), born near Grafton, was the patriarch of the Ashburnham family. Mulvany described his paternal grandfather, James Rogers (1728-1790) as "the hero of a hundred battles" and his maternal grandfather, George Playter (1736-1822), as an "uncompromising Philadelphia loyalist." (584)

In 1840, R. D. Rogers married Elizabeth Birdsall (1822-1875) the daughter of Richard Birdsall, the surveyor of Peterborough and parts of the county and Elizabeth Burnham, whose father gave Peterborough its name. Zaccheus Burnham, a Late Loyalist, came from New Hampshire to the Cobourg area in 1797. They had eleven children who all grew up in Ashburnham: Eliza Maria (1841-1870), James Zacheus (1842-1909), Sophia Louisa (1844-1899), Maria McGregor (1845-1908), Amelia Mary (1848-1917), Mary Birdsall (1850-1851), Cecilia Emily (1852-1853), George Charles (1854-1883), Richard Birdsall (1857-1927), Edwin Robert (1859-1917), and Alfred Burnham (1864-1937).

On the local military front, Mulvany described Col. H. C. Rogers as the commander of "a fine troop of cavalry," the C Company, third Cavalry Regiment of the Prince of Wales Royal Canadian Dragoon Guards. In the 57th Regiment, Lt. Col. J. Z. Rogers was the commandant and Captain G. C. Rogers until he drowned in 1883, and then Lt. R. B. Rogers led No. 3 Company (Ashburnham).



*R. B. Rogers and members of the family at the farm house. This building later became the clubhouse of the Peterborough Golf and Country Club as the club expanded in the late 1920s to 18 holes. (Trent Valley Archives, Taugher fonds.)*

When the Ashburnham Infantry Company No. 2

was organized in 1863, R. D. Rogers was in command, and he was assisted by his son, J. Z. Rogers who in later years commanded the 57<sup>th</sup> Regiment, and more importantly was the founder of the Ontario Canoe Company.

At the close of the military parade in May 1867, the Ashburnham Company gave Major R. D. Rogers a “beautiful and valuable sword, procured from London for that purpose.” The accompanying address “referred to his long connection with the military, both as a volunteer and as an officer of the Sedentary Militia, and recounted for the interest of his hearers something of the memorable incident in Canadian history, the cutting out of the steamer *Caroline*, in the Niagara river, in which feat he had participated.”

R. D. Rogers, during the Rebellion of 1837, was one of the thirty soldiers who captured the steamer “*Caroline*” at Navy Island. It was believed that William Lyon Mackenzie, the rebellion leader, was on the vessel. One American, Amos Durfee, died in the attack. The boat was set on fire and allowed to drift over Niagara Falls. This led to retaliation by some Americans; the dispute was settled by diplomats in the Webster-Ashburton treaty of 1842, which defined what could be accepted as self-defence in international law.

R. D. Rogers, a farmer by training, came to the Peterborough area in 1834, and to Ashburnham in 1842, then styled as Peterborough East. He served as a magistrate for the Newcastle District, and then for the Colborne District and Peterborough County; in 1870 he was the warden of Peterborough County, and was often Reeve of Ashburnham.



*R. B. Rogers, brother of George C. Rogers, was the designer and engineer for the construction of the Peterborough Lift Lock. (TVA, Taugher Fonds)*

Romaine’s 1875 map of the town of Peterborough shows the Rogers raceway was in operation. It controlled the power of the Otonabee River and channeled water to

power several industries on both sides of Elizabeth Street (now Hunter Street). Of these, R. D. Rogers owned a saw mill, a grist and flour mill, and a store. The Otonabee Mill was built in 1848 and during the 1860s and 1870s was producing 250 barrels of flour a day. The store, famously with 1856 carved into the brick of the front gable, replaced an earlier 1842 building. For many years, the family lived above the store. According to the chain of title, this property was deeded to R. D. Rogers by Zaccheus Burnham in 1857.

George C. Rogers helped modernize the mill. Farmers in the surrounding area brought their grain here, and in 1930, the Examiner reported, “Old residents recalling those days, speak of the times when the farmers wagons loaded heavy with grain, stretched more than a quarter of a mile on either side of the mills doors, waiting their turn to be unloaded.” In December 1882, George oversaw the first trial in the Peterborough area of a new process for the manufacture of flour by rolls in the mill; the machinery was fine and the trial very successful.

In April 1883, George Rogers, aged 29, died in a tragic accident on the raceway dam. While adjusting the bracket boards to relieve the dam from pressure by the spring floods, he was thrown into the river and drowned.

Strenuous efforts were made by the men whom he was at the time directing and assisting, to his rescue. It was assumed afterwards that he must have been hurt by his fall from the top of the dam as for a few moments he made little or no effort to save himself. He was a fine swimmer and athlete and could have saved himself under ordinary circumstances. The body was not recovered, despite constant search, until two weeks afterwards.

The attendance at the funeral was the largest in the history of the town. When the band reached the gates of Little Lake Cemetery, vehicles in the procession line were still crossing the Hunter Street bridge.

The Rogers’ boys were notable athletes. R. B. and Alfred excelled at cricket. R. B. and George were medal winners in canoeing and swimming. Peterborough’s athletic fields were in Ashburnham by the 1870s, likely because space was at a premium in the Town of Peterborough.

As Maya Jasanoff observed in *Liberty’s Exiles*, “But some realized that these turbulent times might offer great opportunities as well.” For the Rogers family, the American Revolution had been disruptive and in that context they were victims to Canadians and villains to Americans. However, through subsequent generations, they and the Loyalist Emigrant families with which they were interconnected, had a great impact in Ashburnham. They were victors.



**TRENT VALLEY ARCHIVES**

“Without archives, there is no history.”

## Peterborough Inquests and family history

Dennis Carter-Edwards

In September 2017, the Peterborough Chapter of the Ontario Genealogical Society hosted a one day workshop exploring local resources for researching family histories. I gave a presentation on the use of local medical records as a source of genealogical information. While the prime focus was on the extensive collection of medical records kept by Dr. John Hutchison, the presentation highlighted other available sources. One particular source that was unfamiliar to me prior to preparing the talk, was the collection of Coroner's Reports held by the Peterborough Museum and Archives.<sup>1</sup> These records contain the testimony and coroner's report on the deaths of various individuals from Peterborough and area. In many instances, the deaths investigated were straight forward – drowning, failing health or accidents such as trees falling. However, there were many instances where the cause of death was undetermined or in some cases, death was caused by the person's own hand. The means chosen by these individuals to end their lives varied from poison, to gunshots to a case of an individual dying from swallowing large stones. The evidence taken from witnesses shed useful information not just on the deceased and the manner of their death but on the activities they were engaged in, their associates and descriptions of physical locations.

This article will explore a few examples of coroner's inquests to highlight how this underused set of records can shed new light on aspects of our community's history. It concludes with a list of the coroner's records held by the Peterborough Museum and Archives as a guide for researchers. The office of Coroner owes its origin to the introduction of English Common Law into Canada following the British conquest in 1763. With the division of Upper and Lower Canada in the 1791 Constitutional Act, the office of Lieutenant Governor had authority to appoint coroners. Beyond simply determining cause of death in mysterious deaths, the coroner's inquest could also serve as a judicial body determining criminal charges against an alleged perpetrator. In 1833 the Upper Canadian legislature passed an act relating to "Bailing and Commitment, Removal and Trial of Prisoners," which set out the manner in which evidence was collected and rights of an accused to question the witnesses.<sup>2</sup> The law was amended in 1850 with passage of the Coroners Act. The legislation limited the coroner's jurisdiction to cases where "there was reason to believe that the deceased died from violence or by culpable or negligent conduct . . . as required investigation."<sup>3</sup> Dr. John Hutchison was an early coroner for Peterborough County. In February 1832 he examined the body of James Moore who was suspected of being

poisoned after taking medicine prescribed by a Dr. Scanlon. After carefully reviewing the evidence, Dr. Hutchison cleared Scanlon of any malfeasance and concluded Moore died of a corroding ulcer.<sup>4</sup> Dr. Hutchison died in 1847 after contracting typhus while treating the sick Irish immigrants lodged at Hospital Point. A series of new coroners, some of whom were not trained medical officials, appeared in Peterborough as noted in the various cases recorded in the collection.

A few cases were selected to demonstrate how these records can be used to uncover significant aspects of Peterborough's past. The first case concerns the drowning death of Octave Voiseu which occurred in June 1857. After calling the Inquest to order, Coroner M. Lovell M.D. heard testimony from witness Albert [Gagnier?] who stated under oath:

*I was on the crib with deceased on the 11<sup>th</sup> June . . . as the crib was passing over the Slide at Dickson's Dam, the end of the crib struck the bottom and the force of the concussion knocked us down, shattering the crib. I was knocked off with deceased. I took hold of one of the Cross Timbers with deceased. He was knocked off and caught hold of another piece of timber and was saved. Voiseu I saw afterwards near the other slide, holding up his hand which was the last I saw him alive.*<sup>5</sup>

Albert signed his testimony with his mark, an X. A second witness Gilbert Cardinal provided some additional details of the incident. He stated under oath,

*I was on the Crib with him the day he was drowned. The Crib was run straight on the Slide at Dickson's Dam. As it was passed down the slide, the Crib struck the bottom, knocking the Crib to pieces and throwing me down. I have gone over the Slide every year since it was made. Cribs have struck nearly every time but worse this year then formerly owing to the stones at the bottom of the slide. I saw Voiseu after he was knocked off the Crib. He was near the other slide. It was the last I saw of him alive. It is so dangerous that the men leave the cribs at Dickson's slide and jump on after the cribs go over. One in every ten of the Cribs shatters at the slide at Dickson's Dam, the other slides are safe enough.*<sup>6</sup>

Gilbert also signed with an X

The conclusion of the Inquest was that Octave Voiseu drowned 11 June by being thrown off a Crib of Timber while passing over the slide at Dickson's dam on the Otonabee river. The Inquest further noted that the accident was "entirely owing to the defective and unsafe condition of the slide."<sup>7</sup>

Quite apart from underscoring how dangerous

<sup>1</sup> Thanks to City Archivist, John Oldham for pointing out this collection. The material consists of some 300 individual inquests into mysterious deaths as well as mysterious fires in Peterborough. The Finding Aid for this collection is Peterborough Museum and Archives [PMA], Peterborough County Court Fonds 71-007, Inquests MG8. The new finding aid is searchable by name, date, location of year.

<sup>2</sup> Wood, J.C.E. "Discovering the Ontario Inquest," *Osgoode*

*Hall Law Journal*, Vol.5 No.2 (October 1967), p.246.

<sup>3</sup> Ibid.

<sup>4</sup> Details of the inquest are reported in the *Cobourg Star* 8 February 1832.

<sup>5</sup> PMA, Peterborough County Court Fonds 71-007, Inquests MG8-2 III, #35.

<sup>6</sup> Ibid.

<sup>7</sup> Ibid.



running the large cribs of timber down the Otonabee River could be, the testimony provides other pertinent information. The victim and the two witnesses were, it can be assumed from their surnames, French Canadians who had been drafted into the lumber trade in the Kawarthas. Preliminary research into the early French Canadian presence in Peterborough has indicated at least 250 families of French descent by 1861.<sup>8</sup> Touissant de la Plante from Laprairie Lower Canada, was recruited by Charles Perry to work in his lumber industry.<sup>9</sup> Soon others followed and established a distinct French quarter around Little Lake. It is also noteworthy that Cardinal remarked that Voiseu had drifted over to “the other slide” which indicates there was an additional slide besides Dickson’s slide.

A second case investigated by the Coroner confirms the strong French presence in the lumber trade and provides additional details on the mechanics of the trade along the Otonabee. The case involved the drowning death of Louis Maheux. As was the pattern in the previous case, the body of the deceased was brought to the town hall where the inquest was held and witnesses gave testimony under oath as to the identification of the deceased there present and the circumstances of his death. The inquest was held 15 June 1857 before Doctor M. Lavell.

August Beauford, swore under oath that the body was that of Louis Maheux. As he stated,

*I saw him alive on the 4<sup>th</sup> June about noon. Saw him leave on the crib at the head of Stricklands [sic] rapids. The crib was of Elm timber. Saw or heard nothing more of him until I heard he was drowned at Hall’s Slide or Dickson’s. The timber was owned by Finlay McQuaig. There were no more cribs run that day, the men being afraid to run without a good pilot. I have been on a Crib going over the above Slide and have struck on a rock. Cannot avoid touching the rock even if the Crib was run direct.*<sup>10</sup>

He signed his testimony with an X, his mark.

A second witness, Francis Allard added to the facts surrounding the death of Maheux. He stated

*I know Louis Maheux he was drowned on the 4<sup>th</sup> June at Dicksons dam. I was pilot on the crib it got well on the slide. It was the fault of the slide that made the crib strike. Maheux was washed off. The force which the crib struck caused the picket to break which Maheux had hold of. I consider if the slide was good the men would not have been drowned.*<sup>11</sup>

This was also signed with an X.

The verdict stated that Louis Maheux drowned by being thrown off the timber crib while it passed over Dickson’s slide. The defective state of the slide

at the dam was the direct cause of his death.<sup>12</sup> The testimony identifies the type of wood being floated down the Otonabee River, elm which is quite different than the thousands of white pine cut throughout the Haliburton and Kawartha Districts. The evidence also indicates the time frame for the log boom heading south to mills. The spring freshet would be used to flush the logs cut during the winter down the Trent watershed. In the case referred to, it wasn’t until early June the log boom reached Peterborough. Beauford in his testimony made reference to Finlay McQuaig as the owner of the crib. McQuaig must have been an independent lumber operator since his name does not appear in the comprehensive unpublished study of the local lumber industry by Howard Pammett.<sup>13</sup>

The final case referred to concerned the drowning of Joseph Petalli. Again, witnesses were called to provide identification of the body and evidence surrounding his death. Louis Davignon, from the County of LaPrairie in Canada East, a lumberer by trade, gave the following testimony

*He knows the body now present and lying dead to be that of his late comrade Joseph Petalli of said County of LaPrairie that said Petalli was employed under him as pilot running timber on the river Otonabee on the 10<sup>th</sup> day of the present month May [1859] when the raft he was running down was broken over the slide known as “Boswell’s slide” owing to the absence of the directing Boom and his inability in consequence to direct the raft & further the deponent saith not.*<sup>14</sup>

The recording secretary noted that the witness, Louis Davignon, was in the employ of a Mr. Leper. Thus, there is a tantalizing hint of the organizational structure of the drive. The pilot Petalli was employed by Davignon who in turn was employed by a Mr. Leper, although whether Leper was himself a subcontractor or an actual lumber operator is unclear. Davignon also emphasized the importance of the directing booms to assist with moving the logs along the treacherous waterway.

These brief references are indicative of the rich historical material that lies embedded in the Coroner’s Inquest records. These individual cases deserve closer attention and will be the subject of future articles.

**Ed. Dennis’ summary of the cases included in this fonds is given beginning on p. 14.**

<sup>8</sup> P. Moore, “The Early French Settlers,” in Kawartha Heritage (Peterborough: Peterborough Historical Atlas Foundation, 1981), p.162.

<sup>9</sup> Ibid.

<sup>10</sup> PMA, Peterborough County Court Fonds 71-007, Inquests MG8-2 III, #36.

<sup>11</sup> Ibid.

<sup>12</sup> Ibid.

<sup>13</sup> H. Pammett, “A Survey of Kawartha Lumbering (1815-1965), Trent University Archives.

<sup>14</sup> PMA, Peterborough County Court Fonds 71-007, Inquests MG8-2 III, #55

# CORONER'S INQUESTS IN PETERBOROUGH

Peter Lillico

*This is a reprint of an article that appeared in the Heritage Gazette of the Trent Valley in 2010. Peter Lillico is a prominent Peterborough lawyer. Ed.*

Most of us know of coroners only by television shows, such as DaVinci's Inquest. This is likely a good thing, because the coroner's duty is to investigate deaths. In Ontario, a death from violence, negligence or malpractice must be reported to the coroner, as well as the death of a resident in a nursing home. If death occurs from a workplace accident or to a prisoner in custody, an inquest must be held to determine who the deceased was, and how, when, where and by what means he or she died.

Peterborough County has a long history of coroner's inquests. The records from 1841 on are retained by the Peterborough Centennial Museum and Archives. These tales are tragic, but shed an unflinching light upon the reality of life in Peterborough County in the past.

By far the most frequent single cause of death was drowning, not surprising with our abundance of lakes and rivers. Sometimes the demise was not immediate, as for Thomas H. Caulfield in 1878. He survived his initial dunking at Young's Point, but caught his "death from a chill after his canoe upset." Accidental deaths were common, from a variety of situations. John Bickett died in 1849 in Asphodel Township from being kicked by a horse. Francis Bradshaw was killed "thrown from a wagon while the horses were running away" in 1865. A family tragedy occurred in Otonabee in 1865, with Patrick, James and Michael Crowley all dead from "poisoned gases from a deep well which overcame them." Poor Cornelius Mahoney was "found dead in a sewer trench on Charlotte Street on October 23, 1898."

Alcohol related deaths recur with frightening frequency. William Richgov died in 1856 crossing the Rice Lake bridge while intoxicated. Dozens of deaths are simply noted to be from "excessive alcohol" or "excess of drink, want of good food and exposure to cold" or "intemperance and exposure".

Suicides with poisons like strychnine, paris green (an insecticide or animal poison) and laudanum are all noted. Samuel Duff cut his own throat with a razor while intoxicated in 1866, and sad Emaline Taylor took her life in 1873 by swallowing large stones. Mrs. Margaret Shepard committed suicide by ingesting carbolic acid, in 1892.

Homicides were duly documented, including that of William Montgomery in 1878, "shot to death by R. N. Roddy". In 1881 Joseph Leroque was "stabbed: witnesses heard cry of murder". William Anderson (alias Henry Kelly) was murdered in 1907. The most pitiful entries are the many references to deaths of "unnamed infants". Often the cause of death was quite vague: "Suffocated by persons unknown", or "killed by exposure and neglect". Sometimes the cause of death was horribly clear: unnamed infant Windsor in Lakefield in 1887 was "murdered by his

mother." In 1897 unnamed infant Holbrook was "murdered by his mother and father" in North Monaghan Township.

Drunk driving was a deadly combination long before cars came along. James McAuliff died in Douro in 1869, "struck by horses driven by Mr. John King while driving under the influence of Liquor at a fast rate".

Railroads were also serious dangers. Thomas Brennan was killed in 1884 "accidentally by being run into by a train." Mrs. Mary Detcher died in 1890, "run over by CPR train at George St. crossing." Frank Beaton had the misfortune in 1894 in Peterborough of "being crushed between Grand Trunk Railway cars and the coal shed." George M. Davidson's death also in 1894 resulted from a combination of risks, "struck by street railroad while under the influence of liquor." Somewhat similar was the 1860 death of Archibald Douglas "falling from train while intoxicated".

Jail was a place to be avoided at all costs, according to the coroner's records. Death seems to have been a routine result for prisoners. Consider the death toll in the 1890's alone: Patrick Handrigan died of "natural causes" in the Peterborough County Jail in 1890. Henry Fowler's death in 1891 was from "pneumonia due to exposure and excessive drinking in Jail." Mary Ann McGuire was confined "as a lunatic" to jail, and died in 1892. The following year poor John McGinn passed away there in 1893 from "natural decay". Joseph Garret died in 1894 of "natural causes in gaol (jail) at 81 years." George Ayling died of "old age" while in jail in 1895. Prisoner Dennis Slattery died in 1896, with no cause of death shown but it was noted that he was a "vagrant". Thomas Whitfield died in prison the same year, from pneumonia. Margaret Buchanan's death in 1898 was attributed to "natural causes".

Medically related deaths were also investigated. Arthur Randlett's death in 1906 was "accelerated by the neglect of the Christian Science healer R. J. Todd". Helen Brown died in 1915 from complications of abortion and subsequent medical aid. Her anguished doctor R. E. Brown later committed suicide.

I was startled to read several deaths by "visitation of God", until I finally realized this was a nineteenth century euphemism for what we would now refer to as "natural causes".

To me, the most poignant of all the entries is that of the "unknown negro man", who died in Peterborough in 1853 of "exposure to winter from being denied lodging." I am usually proud of my community and its past, but this made me shrink with shame.

The lives and deaths of our forebears were often unforgiving and harsh. We should honour their memories by learning from their tragedies.

**Peterborough County Court fonds 71-007 INQUESTS MG 8-2**  
**Chronological arrangement**

No	F.A.	DECEASED	PLACE	CAUSE	DATE	CORONER
3	MG8-2 II	<a href="#">Cunningham, Mary</a>	Ops	Suicide by Drowning	1841	Henderson, Francis
8	MG8-2 II	Armstrong, William	Peterboro	Drowning	1848	MacPhail, Alex
9	MG8-2 II	<a href="#">Bowman, Anna</a>	Fenelon	Drowning	1848	Bird, Thomas
5	MG8-2 II	Burke, James	Ops	Naturally	1848	Bird, Thomas
6	MG8-2 II	Copeland, Robert	Otonabee	Naturally	1848	McNabb, John
7	MG8-2 II	Copeland, William	Mariposa	Accidental	1848	Douglas, George
4	MG8-2 II	Homes, John	Ops	Accidently	1848	Bird, Thomas
10	MG8-2 II	McLean, Hugh	Ops	Drowning	1848	Bird, Thomas
11	MG8-2 II	Molony, John	Smith	Accidental	1848	McPhail, Alex
14	MG8-2 II	Bicket, John	Ashpodel	Kicked by horse	1849	McNabb, John
13	MG8-2 II	Blissert, Joseph	Otonabee	Drowning	1849	Benson, John R.
17	MG8-2 II	Daly, James	Ops	Frozen to Death	1849	Bird, Thomas
16	MG8-2 II	Dawkins, John	Otonabee	Accidental	1849	McNabb, John
12	MG8-2 II	Robertson, John	Otonabee	Drowning	1849	Benson, John R.
15	MG8-2 II	<a href="#">Russell, Ann</a>	Emily	Drowning	1849	Henderson, Francis
1	MG8-2 III	Hutchison, Drury	Fenelon Twp	drowning in Pigeon Lake	1851	Benson, John R.
2	MG8-2 III	Phelan, Patrick	Smith	drowning at Youngs Point	1851	Benson, John R.
7	MG8-2 III	Bassie, Maximum	Peterborough	drowning in Otonabee River	1852	Ferguson, James
4	MG8-2 III	Jefers, Joseph	Dummer	accident involving tree	1852	Benson, John R.
5	MG8-2 III	<a href="#">McMullin, Catharine</a>	Dummer	fire (house)	1852	Benson, John R.
8	MG8-2 III	Naylor, Samuel	Ops	run overby a wagon	1852	Bird, Thomas
3	MG8-2 III	unknown	Otonabee	drowning in Otonabee River	1852	Benson, John R.
6	MG8-2 III	<a href="#">West, Mary</a>	Eldon twp	accidently being burned	1852	Bird, Thomas
9	MG8-2 III	Flint, James	Otonabee	drowning canoe in Rice Lake	1853	Benson, John R.
66	MG8-2 III	Murray, Jane	Emily	inflammation of womb	1853	Henderson, Francis
11	MG8-2 III	unknown man	Ashpodel	drowned in Rice Lake	1853	Foley, James
				exposure in winter -denied		
10	MG8-2 III	unknown Negro man	Peterborough	lodging	1853	Ferguson, James
12	MG8-2 III	Chas & Robert Stewart	Emily	burned in a house	1854	Henderson, Francis
15	MG8-2 III	Hoig, Patrick	Ops	heart disease	1854	Bird, Thomas
14	MG8-2 III	Smith, William	Ops	rupture in lungs	1854	Bird, Thomas
16	MG8-2 III	<a href="#">unknown woman</a>	Peterborough	drowning in Otonabee River	1854	Ferguson, James
13	MG8-2 III	Welsh, Redmond	Fenelon	Suicide by Drowning	1854	Bird, Thomas
17	MG8-2 III	Deamidy, Richard	Ops	accident with gunpowder	1855	Henderson, Francis
19	MG8-2 III	Martin, Robert	Ops	overdrinking	1855	Bird, Thomas
18	MG8-2 III	O'Connors, Timothy	Peterborough	fell out of waggon	1855	Benson, John R.
20	MG8-2 III	Ross, William	Otonabee	run over by train car	1855	Benson, John R.
21	MG8-2 III	unknown man	Smith	accidental drowning	1855	Benson, John R.
				accidental drowning in Mud		
22	MG8-2 III	Dixon, James	Smith	Lake	1856	Benson, John R.
				crossing Rice L bridge while		
23	MG8-2 III	Rishgov, William	Otonabee	intoxicated	1856	Read, George
			Peterborough	intemperance & visitation of		
47	MG8-2 III	Brophy, Mary	(town)	God	1857	Lavell, M. M.D.
41	MG8-2 III	Cocklin, James	Peterborough	suffocated under gravel	1857	Benson, John R.
				drowning while swimming in		
42	MG8-2 III	Emmerson, George	Otonabee	Otonabee R	1857	Read, George
44	MG8-2 III	Evans, John	Douro	accidental discharge of gun	1857	McNabb, Jn M.D.
31	MG8-2 III	Gallagher, James	Ops	epilepsy	1857	Allanby, John
30	MG8-2 III	Galvin, Michael	Smith	accidental fall out of tree	1857	Lavell, M. M.D.
24	MG8-2 III	Hawn, Simon	Peterborough	accidental drowning	1857	Lavell, M. M.D.
38	MG8-2 III	Hervie, James H.	Otonabee	accidental drowning	1857	McNabb, Jn M.D.
				drowning Rice Lake from		
40	MG8-2 III	Kidd, John	Otonabee	overturned boat	1857	Read, George
				drowning in race off Rogers		
27	MG8-2 III	Knox, Thomas	Ashburnham	Mill	1857	Lavell, M. M.D.
				Drowning at Dee[r?] Bay		
46	MG8-2 III	LaFevre, Alfred	Douro	Rapids	1857	McNabb, Jn M.D.
25	MG8-2 III	Lowry, Thomas	Peterborough	found in Little Lake	1857	Lavell, M. M.D.



45	MG8-2 III	Maher, Thomas	N. Monaghan	drowning after fall from bridge	1857	Poole, Thos M.D.
34	MG8-2 III	Malveux, Louis	Peterborough	drowning while passing over slide at Mill	1857	Lavell, M. M.D.
39	MG8-2 III	McBain, Charles	Otonabee	intemperance & exposure	1857	Lavell, M. M.D.
43	MG8-2 III	McDonald, Angus	Peterborough	accidental drowning at Dicksons Slide	1857	Lavell, M. M.D.
36	MG8-2 III	Miller, Peter	Smith	accidental death	1857	Lavell, M. M.D.
26	MG8-2 III	Riley, Thomas	N. Monaghan	heart disease	1857	Lavell, M. M.D.
32	MG8-2 III	Sharp, Amos	Ashpodel	excess drink want of good food exposure	1857	McCrae, Amos
29	MG8-2 III	Smith, Richard	Smith	drowned at Nassau Mills at Otonabee	1857	Lavell, M. M.D.
28	MG8-2 III	Symes, James (Indian)	Ashburnham	found dead at station-intoxication	1857	Lavell, M. M.D.
33	MG8-2 III	Vangore, Adolph	Smith	drowning in Otonabee River	1857	Lavell, M. M.D.
35	MG8-2 III	Voiseu, Octave	Peterborough	drowning in Otonabee River	1857	Lavell, M. M.D.
37	MG8-2 III	White, James	Peterborough	excessive drinking	1857	Lavell, M. M.D.
48	MG8-2 III	Woods, John	Peterborough	Visitation of God	1857	McNabb, Jn M.D.
63	MG8-2 III	Boyce, Samuel	Fenelon Falls	burned while intoxicated	1858	Henderson, Francis
62	MG8-2 III	Clark, Mrs. Frances	Lindsay	exhaustion after premature confinement	1858	McLaughlin, A.A.
49	MG8-2 III	Faren, Patrick	Peterborough	accidentally by incautious use of a knife	1858	McKewn, Patrick M.D.
51	MG8-2 III	Graham, Christopher	Lindsay	accidental drowning	1858	McLaughlin, A.A.
52	MG8-2 III	infant	Asphodel Twp.	dead previous to being born	1858	Poole, Thos M.D.
67	MG8-2 III	McPhail, John	Mariposa	accidental discharge of gun	1858	McLaughlin, A.A.
64	MG8-2 III	Munroe, Donald	Oakwood	suicide by cutting throat	1858	McLaughlin, A.A.
61	MG8-2 III	Stubbs, William	Peterborough	accidental drowning Otonabee River	1858	Benson, John R
50	MG8-2 III	Tobin, John	Otonabee	Visitation of God	1858	McCrae, Amos
53	MG8-2 III	unknown man	Otonabee	drowned in R.D. Rogers mill dam	1858	McKewn, P. M.D.
60	MG8-2 III	Askings, Mrs.	Otonabee	accidental drowning	1859	McKewn, P. M.D.
71	MG8-2 III	Campbell, James	Eldon twp	excessive drinking	1859	Clark, P.H.
70	MG8-2 III	Cavan, Margaret	Ennisnmore	Epileptic fit	1859	Benson, John R.
56	MG8-2 III	Clark, Frances	Douro	ruptured abdomen due to fall	1859	Benson, John R.
57	MG8-2 III	Connors, Thomas	Mariposa	drowning in Scugog Lake	1859	Henderson, Francis
69	MG8-2 III	Corcoran, Patrick	Otonabee	drowning from fall over railway bridge Rice L.	1859	Read, George
54	MG8-2 III	McCrea, Donald	Smith	accidental drowning in Otonabee River	1859	McKewn, P. M.D.
68	MG8-2 III	Perry, Edward	Peterborough	death from injuries when boiler exploded	1859	McKewn, P. M.D.
55	MG8-2 III	Petalli, Joseph	Monaghan Twp	drwnd Otonabee improper boom Boswell's Slide	1859	McKewn, P. M.D.
65	MG8-2 III	Purdy, John	Bobcaygeon	<i>nothing noted</i>	1859	Jones, J.J. M.D.
58	MG8-2 III	unknown	Peterborough	deliberate fire at Caisse Hotel Thomas Chambers	1859	Benson, John R.
59	MG8-2 III	unknown	Peterborough	<i>fire at Medore Lavoie, Hunter Street</i>	1859	McKewn, P. M.D.
1a	MG8-2 IV	Carr, Thomas	Otonabee	suicide	1860	Read, George
79	MG8-2 IV	Doris, James	Peterborough	died from exposure	1860	Harvey, Alex M.D.
3	MG8-2 IV	Douglas, Archibald	Emily	accidental death fall from train	1860	Irons, John M.D.
1	MG8-2 IV	Rolliston, S.M.	N. Monaghan	intoxicated	1860	Harvey, Alex
2	MG8-2 IV	Scully, Daniel	Emily	suicide by strychnine poisoning	1860	Irons, John M.D.
10	MG8-2 IV	Blackwell, George	Emily	accidental death thrown from waggon	1860	Irons, John M.D.
7	MG8-2 IV	Brown, Margaret	Ashburnham	accidental death by a fall	1861	Irons, John M.D.
4	MG8-2 IV	Clydsdale, Thomas	Dummer	accidental drowning crossing Otonabee	1861	Harvey, Alex
5	MG8-2 IV	Ferguson, Matilda Ann	Otonabee	suicide by hanging	1861	Foley, James
6	MG8-2 IV	Hall, John	Anson	drowning in Indian River from a boat	1861	McCrae, A. M.D.
8	MG8-2 IV	Handley, Edward	Ops	visitation of God want of care	1861	Irons, John M.D.
9	MG8-2 IV	Mercier, Alex	Ashburnham	accidental drowning in West Cross Creek	1861	Playter, Edward
11	MG8-2 IV	Reuil, Francois	Peterborough	accidentally drowned	1861	Harvey, Alex
				accidental drowning	1861	Benson, John R

80	MG8-2 IV	Thompson, William	Dummer	drowned in Stoney Lake	1861	Harvey, Alex M.D.
11a	MG8-2 IV	Germyn, Rebecca	Emily	accidentally by severe burns	1862	Potts, George M.D.
				accidently falling into		
15	MG8-2 IV	Mallen, John	Ennismore	canoe Pigeon Lake	1862	Potts, George M.D.
83	MG8-2 IV	Murphy, Michael	Lindsay	accidental death	1862	Fidler, J.
81	MG8-2 IV	Sloan, Alonzo	Emily	accidental death	1862	Potts, George M.D.
				accidentally by a gunshot		
13	MG8-2 IV	Spence, Douglas	Eldon twp	wound	1862	Clark, Peter H.
82	MG8-2 IV	unknown boy	Douro	drowned in Otonabee	1862	Harvey, Alex M.D.
12	MG8-2 IV	Walker, John	Bobcaygeon	accidental drowning	1862	Benson, John R.
84	MG8-2 IV	Brunsell, Mary Ann	Lindsay	natural causes	1863	Fidler, J.
				death from a tree falling on		
86	MG8-2 IV	Coughlan, Michael	Mariposa	him	1863	Playter, Ed'rd M.D.
18	MG8-2 IV	Devine, James	Ashburnham	excessive drinking	1863	Harvey, Alex M.D.
				death from a tree falling on		
85	MG8-2 IV	Farrel, John	Lindsay	him	1863	Playter, Ed'rd M.D.
21	MG8-2 IV	French, Grantham	Lakefield	accidental drowning	1863	Benson, John R.
23	MG8-2 IV	Hogan, Catharine	Otonabee	death by burning	1863	Benson, John R.
24	MG8-2 IV	Leary, Patrick	Otonabee	falling off a waggon	1863	McCrae, A. M.D.
22	MG8-2 IV	Millage, Joseph	Lakefield	accidental drowning	1863	Benson, John R.
				inflammation in lungs		
20	MG8-2 IV	Mulcahy, Veronica	Ashburnham	hastened by row	1863	Harvey, Alex M.D.
				Apoplexy caused by		
19	MG8-2 IV	Oglaw, Edmond	Peterborough	accidental fall	1863	Harvey, Alex M.D.
				excessive drinking and		
17	MG8-2 IV	Quinn, Timothy	Peterborough	exposure to cold	1863	Harvey, Alex M.D.
16	MG8-2 IV	Rosebush, S.	Hastings	fire near saw mill	1863	Poole, Thos M.D.
14	MG8-2 IV	Sullivan, John	Monaghan Twp	excessive drinking	1863	Harvey, Alex M.D.
88	MG8-2 IV	Trenouth, Henry	Monaghan Twp	drowned	1863	Harvey, Alex M.D.
				series of fires - causes		
25	MG8-2 IV	unknown	Peterborough	unknown	1863	Harvey, Alexander
87	MG8-2 IV	White, Richard	Emily	natural causes	1863	Playter, Ed'rd M.D.
		Cotten Samuel & Stutt				
33	MG8-2 IV	John	Lakefield	two fires set by	1864	Benson, John R.
32	MG8-2 IV	Cushing, Martin	Peterborough	drowning in mill race	1864	Harvey, Alexander
29	MG8-2 IV	Donaghue, Mary Ann	Peterborough	burned to death	1864	Harvey, Alexander
89	MG8-2 IV	Donahie, Agnes	Ashburnham	drowned in Otonabee	1864	Harvey, Alex M.D.
34	MG8-2 IV	Drake, Frances	Peterborough	drowning in Otonabee by lock	1864	Harvey, Alexander
30	MG8-2 IV	Jenkinson, Isaac	Otonabee	visitation of God	1864	McCrae, A. M.D.
				Suicide by strychnine		
28	MG8-2 IV	Leonard, Ellen	Ennismore	poisoning	1864	Benson, John R.
90	MG8-2 IV	Maloney, Roger jr.	Douro	killed falling between logs	1864	Benson, John R.
31	MG8-2 IV	McMurtry, Catharine	Ashburnham	drowning in mill pond	1864	Harvey, Alexander
36	MG8-2 IV	Rice, James	N. Monaghan	accidental drowning Otonabee	1864	Harvey, Alexander
26	MG8-2 IV	Scott, Edward	unknown	tree fell on him	1864	Lloyd, Phipps
				accidental drowning Otonabee		
37	MG8-2 IV	Stutt, Andrew	Peterborough	R.	1864	Harvey, Alexander
27	MG8-2 IV	Sullivan, Timothy	Peterborough	visitation of God	1864	Harvey, Alexander
				fires-no evidence who set		
35	MG8-2 IV	unknown	Keene	them	1864	McCrae, A. M.D.
						Poole, Thomas
41	MG8-2 IV	Bradshaw, Francis	Peterborough	thrown from waggon	1865	M.D.
47	MG8-2 IV	Chalmers, William	Burleigh Falls	accidental drowning	1865	Poole, Thos M.D.
		Crowley, Patrick,		poison gas from well		
42	MG8-2 IV	John, Michael	Otonabee	overcame them	1865	Poole, Thos M.D.
39	MG8-2 IV	Greens, Michael	Harvey	accidently killed by spa?	1865	Harvey, Alexander
				drowned Deer Bay fall from		
45	MG8-2 IV	Hollaway, John	Harvey	canoe	1865	Harvey, Alex M.D.
46	MG8-2 IV	Murty, Patrick	Monaghan Twp	accidental drowning	1865	Poole, Thos M.D.
38	MG8-2 IV	Pate, Arthur	Peterborough	excessive drinking	1865	Poole, Thos M.D.
44	MG8-2 IV	Ritchie, William	Peterborough	visitation of God	1865	Poole, Thos M.D.
92	MG8-2 IV	Smith, John	Burleigh Falls	exposure	1865	Harvey, Alex M.D.
				dead Pigeon L. marks of		
40	MG8-2 IV	Townshey, Abraham	Harvey	violence	1865	Lloyd, Phipps
91	MG8-2 IV	unknown skeleton	Norwood	unknown	1865	Scott, Stanley
				drowned; timber crib at slide		
43	MG8-2 IV	Venette, Aretias	nil	Dickson	1865	Poole, Thos M.D.
50	MG8-2 IV	Christie, John	Douro	drowning in his pond	1866	Harvey, Alex M.D.

59	MG8-2 IV	de Bois, child of Charles	Harvey	drowning in Buckhorn slide	1866	Harvey, Alex M.D.
56	MG8-2 IV	Dennis, Margaret E.	Monaghan Twp	consumption	1866	Benson, John R.
57	MG8-2 IV	Doherty, Fanny	Peterborough	fit of epilepsy	1866	Poole, Thos M.D.
54	MG8-2 IV	Duff, Samuel	Smithtown	suicide cut throat while intoxicated	1866	Bell, Alex M.D.
60	MG8-2 IV	Elliott, William	Norwood	accidental drowning	1866	Scott, Stanley
49	MG8-2 IV	English, Edward	Ashburnham	death by want & intemperance	1866	Poole, Thos M.D.
78	MG8-2 IV	Heffernan, Patrick	Ashpodel	suicide by hanging	1866	Scott, Stanley
62	MG8-2 IV	infant female	unknown	unknown	1866	Poole, Thos M.D.
58	MG8-2 IV	McCarty, Stephen	Ennisnmore	suicide	1866	Benson, John R.
61	MG8-2 IV	McCue, George	Smith	accidental drowning	1866	Harvey, Alex M.D.
48	MG8-2 IV	Nixon, William	N. Monaghan	accidental by falling limb from tree	1866	Harvey, Alex M.D.
55	MG8-2 IV	O'Brien, Daniel	Ashpodel	natural causes	1866	Poole, Thos M.D.
53	MG8-2 IV	Reardon, Edward	Peterborough	death by falling tree	1866	Harvey, Alex M.D.
51	MG8-2 IV	Wells, George	Peterborough	drowning in Ontonabee	1866	Harvey, Alex M.D.
52	MG8-2 IV	White, Joseph	Hastings	drowning in dam at Hastings	1866	Fife, Joseph M.D.
64	MG8-2 IV	Brownlee, Rebecca	Peterborough	accidental drowning	1867	Benson, John R.
65	MG8-2 IV	Coohey, Timothy	unknown	falling into Little Lake from epilepsy	1867	Poole, Thos M.D.
70	MG8-2 IV	Iverson, Margaret	Peterborough	drowned	1867	Harvey, Alex M.D.
68	MG8-2 IV	Kishegore, William	Ennisnmore	accidental drowning	1867	Harvey, Alex M.D.
66	MG8-2 IV	Maguire, Patrick	Otonabee	drowning in Otonabee	1867	Harvey, Alexander \
63	MG8-2 IV	Mansfield, James	Galway	murdered by E. Harvey	1867	Benson, John R.
67	MG8-2 IV	McKnight, Eliza	Peterborough	suicide by laudenum	1867	Poole, Thos M.D.
69	MG8-2 IV	Pye, William	Peterborough	visitation of God	1867	Harvey, Alex M.D.
72	MG8-2 IV	Murphy, Mary	Ashburnham	died from burns	1868	Harvey, Alex M.D.
71	MG8-2 IV	O'Reilly, Patrick	Peterborough	killed by falling tree	1868	Harvey, Alex M.D.
93	MG8-2 IV	Rogan, Michael	Otonabee	drowned	1868	Benson, John R.
77	MG8-2 IV	Davidson, ?	Minden	accidental drowning	1869	Stewart, Charles
73	MG8-2 IV	Donaldson, Robert	Peterborough	from cold; exposure; pneumonia	1869	Harvey, Alex M.D.
76	MG8-2 IV	Dupree, Remoux	Peterborough	drowned in Little Lake	1869	Harvey, Alex M.D.
74	MG8-2 IV	Harrigan, Margaret	Douro	run over by a train	1869	Harvey, Alex M.D.
75	MG8-2 IV	Stinson, Jane	Peterborough	overdose of oil of cedar	1869	Harvey, Alex M.D.
4	MG-8-2 V	Hett, William	Smithtown	drowned from a canoe	1870	Bell, Alex M.D.
2	MG-8-2 V	McGee, Michael	Otonabee L23C15	drowned in Otonabee	1870	Kinkaid, Robt M.D.
5	MG-8-2 V	Newton, Edward	Peterborough	burned to death	1870	Benson, John R.
6	MG-8-2 V	Nugent, Miranda	Smithtown	natural causes	1870	Bell, Alex M.D.
1	MG-8-2 V	Pretteau, Bellamy	Guilford Twp	Boyd Shanty, natural death	1870	Stewart, Charles R.
3	MG-8-2 V	Rush, John R.	Peterborough	congestion in brain & liver	1870	Kinkaid, Robt M.D.
58	MG-8-2 V	McFarlane, Donald	Otonabee	suicide by gunshot wound	1871	McCrae, Amos
8	MG-8-2 V	Milligan, Robert	Ashpodel L20 C1	excessive drinking	1871	Fife, Joseph M.D.
57	MG-8-2 V	Rae, Andrew	Buckhorn Lake Indian Reserve	accidental drowning	1871	Lloyd, Phipps
7	MG-8-2 V	Rule, John	Otonabee	drowned in Otonabee	1871	Kinkaid, Robt M.D.
10	MG-8-2 V	Steel, Charles	Lakefield	accidental drowning	1871	Kinkaid, Robt M.D.
9	MG-8-2 V	Wilson, Robert	Peterborough	drowned in a drain	1871	Kinkaid, Robt M.D.
12	MG-8-2 V	Chapin, Aaron	Dummer	excessive drinking	1872	Fife, Joseph M.D.
13	MG-8-2 V	Johnston, Charles	Peterborough	drowning in Otonabee	1872	Harvey, Alex M.D.
15	MG-8-2 V	Lytte, John	Smith	old age and cold	1872	Kinkaid, Robt M.D.
11	MG-8-2 V	Rafferty, Edwin	N Monaghan	drowning in Otonabee	1872	Kinkaid, Robt M.D.
60	MG-8-2 V	Ross, James	Peterborough	disease of the heart	1872	Kinkaid, Robt M.D.
14	MG-8-2 V	Russell, William	Douro	accidental drowning	1872	Higgenbotham, Wm
59	MG-8-2 V	Simpson, Irwin	unknown	disease of the lungs	1872	McCrae, Amos
17	MG-8-2 V	Baker, William Henry	Peterborough	drowned in Little Lake	1873	Kinkaid, Robt M.D.
22	MG-8-2 V	Borrowman, Eliz.	Peterborough	drowned in the Otonabee	1873	Kinkaid, Robt M.D.
16	MG-8-2 V	Crow, Edward	Peterborough	drowned in Little Lake	1873	Kinkaid, Robt M.D.
19	MG-8-2 V	Fox, James (alias W. Brenton)	Peterborough	by legal hanging	1873	Harvey, Alex M.D.
21	MG-8-2 V	Graham, George	Keene	drowned in Rice Lake	1873	Marshall, Dean MD
18	MG-8-2 V	Jones, Arthur/Fletcher, Reuben	Blairton	accidental death at Blairton mine	1873	Fife, Joseph M.D.



20	MG-8-2 V	Taylor, Emaline	Smith	suicide by swallowing large stones	1873	Kinkaid, Robt M.D.
25	MG-8-2 V	Callaghan, Lawrence	Otonabee	killed by lightening	1874	Marshall, Dean MD
26	MG-8-2 V	Christie, William	Otonabee	inflammation of lungs	1874	McCrea, Amos
27	MG-8-2 V	Clegg, Abraham	Peterborough -	fire caused by incendiary	1874	Kinkaid, Robt M.D.
		premises	Hunter st			
28	MG-8-2 V	Fowler, J.B. Premises	Peterborough -	fire caused by incendiary	1874	Kinkaid, Robt M.D.
61	MG-8-2 V	Horner, Thomas	Hunter st	drowned in the Otonabee	1874	Kinkaid, Robt M.D.
		law office of	Peterborough			
29	MG-8-2 V	Dennistoun Hall	Peterborough	fire set by Maurice Dunsford	1874	Kinkaid, Robt M.D.
				accidently drowned Scotts Cr.		
24	MG-8-2 V	O'Connor, Nicholas	Peterborough	Harvey	1874	Kinkaid, Robt M.D.
23	MG-8-2 V	Redpath, Peter	Douro	suicide by hanging	1874	Kinkaid, Robt M.D.
30	MG-8-2 V	Brennan, James	Peterborough	congestion in lungs	1876	Kinkaid, Robt M.D.
31	MG-8-2 V	Danford, Charles	Smith Twp	accident while raising barn	1876	Kinkaid, Robt M.D.
62	MG-8-2 V	Doherty, John	Peterborough	drowned in the Otonabee	1876	Kinkaid, Robt M.D.
32	MG-8-2 V	Jarvis, Robert	Peterborough	natural causes in County jail	1876	Harvey, Alex M.D.
34	MG-8-2 V	McMurdie, James N.	Ashburnham	drowned in Little Lake	1876	Kinkaid, Robt M.D.
33	MG-8-2 V	unknown male	Belmont	not known	1876	Fife, Joseph M.D.
40	MG-8-2 V	Dixon Bros store	Peterborough	fire caused by incendiary	1877	Kinkaid, Robt M.D.
37	MG-8-2 V	Kells, Wm Henry	Lakefield	accidentally shot himself	1877	Bell, Alex M.D.
36	MG-8-2 V	Lundy, Charles	Peterborough	natural causes in County jail	1877	Harvey, Alex M.D.
38	MG-8-2 V	Morgan, William	Harvey	drowning	1877	Stewart, Charles R.
41	MG-8-2 V	Quin, Richard	Otonabee	accidently drowned	1877	McCrae, A.M.P.
35	MG-8-2 V	Stevens, George	Peterborough	natural causes in County jail	1877	Harvey, Alex M.D.
39	MG-8-2 V	unknown child	Peterborough	cause unknown	1877	Kinkaid, Robt M.D.
47	MG-8-2 V	Bray, John	N. Monaghan	want, disease & exposure	1878	Kinkaid, Robt M.D.
42	MG-8-2 V	Buckett, Frederick J.B.	Peterborough	morphia poisoning	1878	Kinkaid, Robt M.D.
				deathfrom chill from upset		
46	MG-8-2 V	Caulfield, Thomas H.	Youngs Point	canoe	1878	Bell, Alex M.D.
45	MG-8-2 V	Heath, William	Lakefield	drowned accidently	1878	Bell, Alex M.D.
48	MG-8-2 V	Montgomery, Wm	Peterborough	shot to death by R.N. Roddy	1878	Kinkaid, Robt M.D.
43	MG-8-2 V	Rubidge, F.W.	Peterborough	suicide by gunshot wound	1878	Kinkaid, Robt M.D.
44	MG-8-2 V	White, Richard H.	Peterborough	drowned accidently	1878	Bell, Alex M.D.
53	MG-8-2 V	Bassinault, Abraham	Peterborough	fractured skull	1879	Kinkaid, Robt M.D.
49	MG-8-2 V	Downer, Ida Mable	Ashburnham	run over by a team of horses	1879	Kinkaid, Robt M.D.
54	MG-8-2 V	Fredenburgh, John	Lakefield	natural causes enlarged heart	1879	Bell, Alex M.D.
51	MG-8-2 V	Goldie, William	Peterborough	drowning in the Otonabee	1879	Kinkaid, Robt M.D.
				murdered by motherBridget		
63	MG-8-2 V	infant boy	Peterborough	Sullivan	1879	Kinkaid, Robt M.D.
56	MG-8-2 V	James, David	Otonabee	excessive use of alchohol	1879	Kinkaid, Robt M.D.
50	MG-8-2 V	Kerr, Wm	Peterborough	drowning in the Otonabee	1879	Kinkaid, Robt M.D.
		Strickland, Fanny				
52	MG-8-2 V	Clara	Lakefield	drowning	1879	Bell, Alex M.D.
55	MG-8-2 V	unknown man	Springville	heart disease	1879	Kinkaid, Robt M.D.
1	MG-8-2 VI	Blakely House hotel	Lakefield	fire of unknown causes	1880	Bell, Alex M.D.
3	MG-8-2 VI	Fowler, Andrew	Peterborough	accidently	1880	Kinkaid, Robt M.D.
2	MG-8-2 VI	Fredenburgh, Matilda	Lakefield	apoplexy	1880	Bell, Alex M.D.
4	MG-8-2 VI	White, William	N. Monaghan	suicide by hanging	1880	Kinkaid, Robt M.D.
5	MG-8-2 VI	Cochrane, Alexander	Douro	suicide by gunshot wound	1881	Kinkaid, Robt M.D.
				accidently working Midland		
6	MG-8-2 VI	Huston, Marten R.	Peterborough	RR	1881	Fife, Joseph M.D.
			Peterborough			
7	MG-8-2 VI	McComb Hotel	Simcoe St.	no known causes	1882	Bell, Robt W. MD
10	MG-8-2 VI	Phelan, John	Peterborough	suicide by cutting his throat	1882	Fife, Joseph M.D.
8	MG-8-2 VI	Ritchie, Christian	Galway	suicide by poison	1882	Stewart, Charles R.
9	MG-8-2 VI	Smith, Louisa Matilda	Peterborough	consumption	1882	Kinkaid, Robt M.D.
				cold&exposure after falling in		
11	MG-8-2 VI	Desinault, John	Lakefield	river	1883	Bell, Robt W. MD
15	MG-8-2 VI	O'Neill, Nicholas	Peterborough	death from natural causes	1883	Bell, Robt M.D.
16	MG-8-2 VI	Ottavine, Dominico	Asphodel Twp.	murder	1883	Bell, Robert MD
				accidently by gunshot		
13	MG-8-2 VI	Tomlinson, Arthur	Anstruther	wound	1883	Bell, Alex M.D.
12	MG-8-2 VI	unknown infant	Peterborough	drowning in Rogers mill race	1883	Fife, Joseph M.D.
14	MG-8-2 VI	Waters, Mary	Peterborough	died in gaol of old age	1883	Bell, Robt W. MD
18	MG-8-2 VI	Brennan, Thomas	Peterborough	accidently run into by train	1884	Fife, Joseph M.D.

21	MG-8-2 VI	Dowling, Owen	Peterborough	paralysis	1884	Bell, Robt W. MD
20	MG-8-2 VI	Glenn, Patrick	Peterborough	natural causes in gaol	1884	Bell, Robt W. MD
17	MG-8-2 VI	Johnston, John	Peterborough	died of a bullet wound	1884	Fife, Joseph M.D.
19	MG-8-2 VI	unknown child	Bridgenorth	cause unknown	1884	Fife, Joseph M.D.
24	MG-8-2 VI	Carlyle, George	Peterborough	paralysis & old age	1885	Bell, Robt W. MD
22	MG-8-2 VI	Kenney, Michael	Peterborough	natural causes	1885	Bell, Robt W. MD
23	MG-8-2 VI	Riordan, William J.	Peterborough	natural causes	1885	Bell, Robt W. MD
25	MG-8-2 VI	Sampson, Thomas	Peterborough	natural causes	1886	Bell, Robt W. MD
28	MG-8-2 VI	Brown, Ella	Peterborough	natural causes	1887	Bell, Robt W. MD
26	MG-8-2 VI	Hoosick, William	Peterborough	natural causes	1887	Bell, Robt W. MD
27	MG-8-2 VI	Kave, James	Peterborough	natural causes	1887	Bell, Robt W. MD
36	MG-8-2 VI	unknown male infant	Peterborough	stillborn	1887	Bell, Robt W. MD
32	MG-8-2 VI	Course, William	Peterborough	natural causes	1888	Bell, Robt W. MD
38	MG-8-2 VI	Dixon, Richard	Peterborough	old age and natural causes	1888	Bell, Robt W. MD
34	MG-8-2 VI	Merriam, Joel James	Peterborough	natural causes	1888	Bell, Robt W. MD
33	MG-8-2 VI	Parkenson, Palmer	Peterborough	Suicide by Drowning	1888	Fife, Joseph M.D.
37	MG-8-2 VI	Simon, Elijah	Peterborough	gunshot wound	1888	Fife, Joseph M.D.
30	MG-8-2 VI	(Thorndike) unnamed infant	Oakwood	neglect	1888	
31	MG-8-2 VI	(Windsor)	Lakefield	murdered by his mother	1888	Bell, Alex M.D.
35	MG-8-2 VI	Welsh, Johanna	Peterborough	natural causes	1888	Bell, Robt W. MD
1	MG 8-2 VII	Bacon, Elizabeth	Galway	suicide by poison	1890	Stewart, Charles R.
3	MG 8-2 VII	Detcher, Mrs. Mary	Peterborough	run over by CPR train George crossng	1890	Bell, Robt W. MD
20	MG 8-2 VII	Handrigan, Patrick	Peterborough	natural causes - prisoner in gaol	1890	Bell, Robt W. MD
2	MG 8-2 VII	Holbrook, Eliza	Belmont	exposure to cold want of necessities	1890	Bell, Robt W. MD
4	MG 8-2 VII	burning of SS#12 schoolhouse	Asphodel Twp.		1891	Bell, Robt W. MD
6	MG 8-2 VII	Fowler, Henry	Peterborough	pneumonia /exposure excessivedrink	1891	Fife, Joseph M.D.
5	MG 8-2 VII	Hopkins, Edmund John	Peterborough	natural causes`	1891	Bell, Robt W. MD
7	MG 8-2 VII	Robert	Peterborough	stillborn	1891	Bell, Robt W. MD
9	MG 8-2 VII	unnamed female infant	Peterborough	canoe upset & drowned	1892	Bell, Alex M.D.
8	MG 8-2 VII	Cleminant, John	Dummer	house fire Hunter		
11	MG 8-2 VII	/Gerg& Alymr	Peterborough	arson	1892	Bell, Robt W. MD
12	MG 8-2 VII	Lee, Emma Caroline	Dummer	natural causes - diphtheria	1892	Bell, Robt W. MD
13	MG 8-2 VII	McGuire, Mary Ann	Peterborough	acute mania in gaol as lunatic	1892	Bell, Robt W. MD
10	MG 8-2 VII	Shepherd, Mrs. Margaret	Peterborough	suicide - carbolic acid suffocation by unknown	1892	Fife, Joseph M.D.
23	MG 8-2 VII	unknown female infant	Peterborough	person	1892	Bell, Robt W. MD
22	MG 8-2 VII	Hill, John	Norwood	accidental fall	1893	Bell, Robt W. MD
21	MG 8-2 VII	McGinn, John	Peterborough	natural - in gaol	1893	Fife, Joseph M.D.
16	MG 8-2 VII	unnamed male child	Peterborough	exposure or neglect crushed between GTR car and shed	1893	Bell, Robt W. MD
14	MG 8-2 VII	Beaton, Frank	Peterborough	struck street RR while drunk	1894	Bell, Robt W. MD
15	MG 8-2 VII	Davidson, Gerge M.	Peterborough	in gaol - natural causes 81 yrs	1894	Fife, Joseph M.D.
17	MG 8-2 VII	Garrett, Joseph	Peterborough	drowning	1894	Bell, Robt W. MD
18	MG 8-2 VII	Sheehy, Richard	Peterborough	old age - natural causes in Gaol	1895	Bell, Robt W. MD
1	MG8-2 II	Ayling, George	Peterborough	Apoplexy	n/d	Read, George
19	MG 8-2 VII	Burns, Lawrence	Otonabee	struck by train	n/d	
2	MG8-2 II	Feeley, Mary (child)	Peterborough	Drowning	n/d	McNabb, John
29	MG-8-2 VI	O'Brien, Denis	Otonabee	natural causes	n/d	
		Quin, James	Peterborough			



TRENT VALLEY ARCHIVES

"Without archives, there is no history."

## Peterborough's first love of soccer

Elwood H. Jones

My brief history of sport in Peterborough written as a thread in *Peterborough: The Electric City* (1987) began in 1859. That was an *annus mirabilis* of the Victorian Era. That was early coincident with Darwin's *Origin of Species* (1859), Samuel Smiles' *Self-Help* (1858) and *Tom Brown's Schooldays* (1857). All were key indicators of the importance of athletics, of a strong mind in a strong body, of physical health.

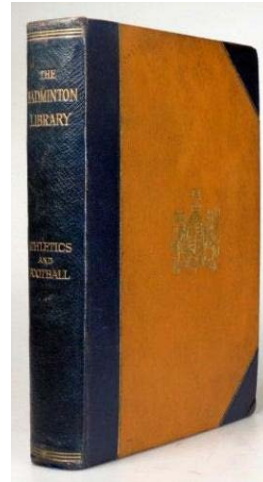
In 1859, some of the leading sports were curling, field sports, shooting and horse racing. Competitive sports such as golf, lacrosse, cricket hit Peterborough by the 1870s; baseball, canoeing and soccer by the 1880s; hockey by the 1890s and rugby football by the 1900s.

Of these, soccer has been the most invisible to local historians. Soccer could be played very informally, for it is so easy to pick teams and kick the ball around. Partly, it is because football means different things to people from differing cultures. Partly it is because in the early days one goal ended the game. Mostly, it was because soccer had different players and different audiences. Soccer before World War I had a strong British flavour. But after that soccer had major rebirths in the 1920s, 1940s, and 1970s. Each new rebirth reflected recent immigration patterns, and changes in the schools about what was appropriate activity.



Soccer was organized across Peterborough and the neighbouring counties, the Central Football Association, in 1881, and annual general meetings were held from 1882 in towns such as Port Hope and Lindsay. During these years, the Midland area hosted a Central Exhibition that rotated between Peterborough, Port Hope and Lindsay. Soccer was not featured at the local exhibitions and rarely on

festive summer occasions such as the Queen's birthday.



Montague Shearman's classic book, *Athletics and Football*, in the Badminton Sports Library became the authoritative source on the rules and culture of football, and went through three editions between 1887 and 1889, and in 1894 was expanded to include the history of the game in the United States.

Shearman argues that football was popular in England from the

middle ages when it was played vigorously and less courteously; too violently for gentlemen. The earliest form of the game centred on a ball big enough to be kicked. "The goals were two bushes, posts, houses, or any objects fixed upon at any distance apart from a few score feet to a few miles." The object was for "either side to get the ball by force or strategy up to or through the goal of the opposite side." (250-1) There was apparently no limits on numbers, and it could be played in streets or over hedges. There was a tradition over the centuries that tied football games to Shrove Tuesday, but there was no limit on what day of the week it could be played. Football survived repressive legislation and criticism of its violence, sometimes associated with riots or death, and property damage caused to windows.

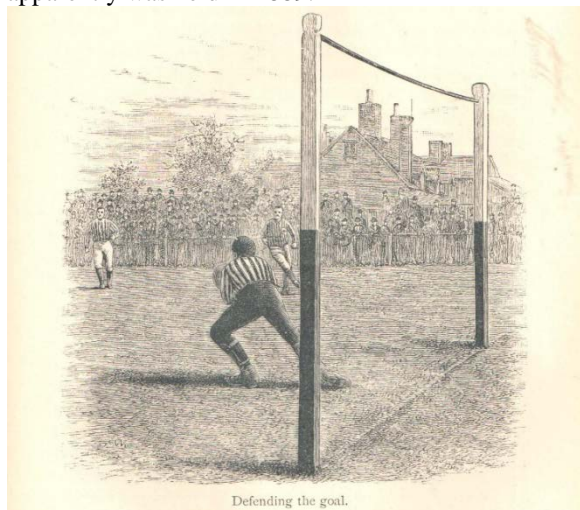
Over time, the dribbling game restricted to kicking became the soccer version of football, and partly this was because most school fields were limited in space. Association Rules for soccer were laid down in 1863; players propelled the ball by kicking it. The major change from earlier years was in tactics; there was less emphasis on the dribbling skills of individual players, although that was still a necessary skill, and more on working on combinations of passing the ball by kicking.

The teams consisted of 11 players: goal, two backs, three half-backs and five forwards, although a half-back might be traded for a forward. Shearman describes in great detail the strategies and skills needed for each of these positions, and the diversity of people who could develop such skills.

There are interesting accounts of soccer in Peterborough county in 1890. Football in



Peterborough may have started as a rural sport, much as lacrosse did in the 1870s. In Apsley, the annual meeting in 1890 of their Athletic Association, mentioned Thomas Stephens and John Blewitt were "Foot Ball Captains." The minutes of the meeting commented that "It was decided to hold a picnic on 24<sup>th</sup> instant, at which a football match will be played – the second contest for the flag." The first contest apparently was held in 1889.



The Victoria Day match report appeared in the *Weekly Review* for May 30. "Two teams from our local Football club – the Red and the Blue – played a second contest for possession of the club flag. The Reds won it last season after a two hour contest. The game opened at 2 o'clock and in twenty minutes the Blues had made two goals from the masterly foot of Mr. Wm. Elmhirst. The ball had been kicked off but a few moments in the third struggle when Mr. Charles Webster, center forward, collide with an opponent so heavily as to stun him. He was conveyed from the field and in a couple of hours was able again to be about. This accident put an end to the game by consent of the captains."

Charles Webster, 23, was the hotel keeper in Apsley; ten years later he was a carpenter in Edmonton, in the Strathcona area.

Coincidentally, there was a "football tournament" at the Agricultural Grounds in Norwood, May 26, on the occasion of the laying of the cornerstone for the Methodist Church, a ceremony organized by the Oddfellows. The Roman Catholics had a picnic in a grove across from their church. That night there were concerts in the Methodist Church and in the town hall, and the Rev. Father Chiniquy gave a lecture in the Metcalf block.

The Norwood football tournament featured two matches, both refereed by Frank Roxburgh, a student at the University of Toronto who was home for the occasion. In the first match, the Norwood High

School team played a Belleville city team to a draw, "one goal each being taken." Those on the Norwood team were A. Hutchinson, goal; J. Jory and J. Breckenridge, backs; E. Smith, J. Quinlan, A. Finlay, half backs; H. Pearce, J. Roberts, right forwards; F. Truscott, centre forward; D. Fraser, H. Bewell, left forwards.



Some of these names could be identified in the 1891 Canadian manuscript census. James Breckenridge was 20. Joseph M. Jory, 21, was a medical student lodging with Dr. Samuel Ford in Norwood. Frank Roxburgh, 19 was the son of William Roxburgh, a prosperous grain dealer. Alfred Finlay, 18, was a bookkeeper. Fred Truscott, 24, a public school teacher was a recent immigrant from England, was lodging with a Norwood dentist, Andrew Rose. David Fraser, 20, was a hardware salesman.

In the second game, the High School team defeated the Stanleys of Toronto, 2-0.

Soccer was clearly here by 1890.



The most helpful description of an early soccer match came in 1890 from the pen of the *Review* reporter. This match featured two teams from Douro, the Northerners and the Southerners. A check in the rural directory for 1901 suggests that the players seem to have come from the south-east part of Douro,

an area between the village of Douro and Indian River. This report was from the *Peterborough Weekly Review*, August 1, but the match could have occurred in the previous two weeks. The location of the field is not clear. Before the 1960s, reporters rarely got by-lines.



‘The field at each kick changes like a kaleidoscope.’

“They met at 3 o’clock in the afternoon and after some short delay play was commenced. The Northerners seemed to have a considerable advantage over their opponents in the beginning, and was it not for a neat stop made by Maurice O’Leary, the rubber must have passed through the stakes. Soon it was rolling about amidst the two lines of forwards and for nearly thirty minutes the goals were in no danger. This caused the backs to get uneasy and leave their relative positions. In a short time, F. Moher stole by the careless backs and passed the ball to M. Guerin, who soon scored a goal for the North men. Time, 48 minutes. The second game resembled the first, inasmuch as the ball rolled about the centre of the field for most of the time and seldom or never passed near the stakes. The strength of the Southern team appeared to be in their forwards, who worked hard and never swerved from their places during the whole game. After 95 minutes W. Guerin scored a game for the South. This only urged each to play the harder. In four minutes W. Guerin again scored and then each side seemed satisfied to stop.”

The following were the players in the Douro match.

Northern		Southern	
J. Walsh	Goal	R. O’Brien	
M. O’Leary	Half Back	W. Walsh	
P. O’Leary	“	A. Whibbs	
Hanrahan	Backs	C. Moher	
J. Guerin	“	J. O’Leary	
F. Walsh	“	J. O’Grady	
W. Guerin	Forwards	F. Moher	
W. Walsh	“	J. O’Brien	

F. Barry	“	M. Meade
N. Smith	“	F. Guerin
R. Hickson	“	M. Guerin

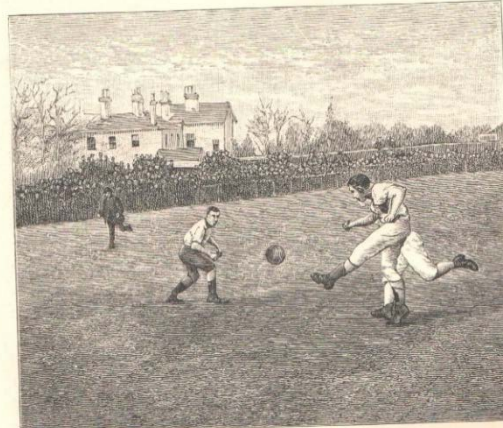
We can identify some of the players. Maurice Mead, 24, was a farmer, and his neighbours included Michael Guerin. Clarence Moher, 22, was a farmer; his father, Patrick, was a cattle drover. Patrick O’Grady, 22, was a neighbor and his parents were David and Catherine O’Grady. Richard O’Brien, 22, and William Walsh, 19, were farm labourers. There were two young men named William Walsh; one was 19 and a farm labourer, and the other was 22, the second of six brothers aged between 14 and 24, of whom James was 18. Francis Moher was 18. There were several Guerin brothers: John, 21 and Martin, 25 were lumbermen, while Maurice 23, and Francis 16 helped around the farm. John Hanrahan, 22, was a carriage maker living with his siblings and his widowed mother. John O’Brien, 26, was a farm labourer living with his three sisters. James O’Grady was 25.

The news reports from May and June 1895 confirmed that football was still prospering in our area. A match between Lakefield and the Peterborough Collegiate Institute was played “as usual” at the Lakefield Agricultural Grounds; Lakefield won 5-0.

Lakefield: W. G. Cox, goal; C. Blomfield and A. Morrison, backs; G. Galvin and D. O’Morin, half backs; S. Redpath and W. Wagner, right wing; W. Slater, centre; J. W. Redpath and T. C. Redpath, left wing.

Peterborough: P. McFadden, goal; B. Simpson, Collins, backs; McPherson and Kelly, half backs; Stone and McIlmoyle, right wing; McWilliams, centre; J. McDonald and Ed Simpson, left wing.

The umpires were J. Northcote, Lakefield and W. Wilson, Peterborough; the referee was J. Slater.

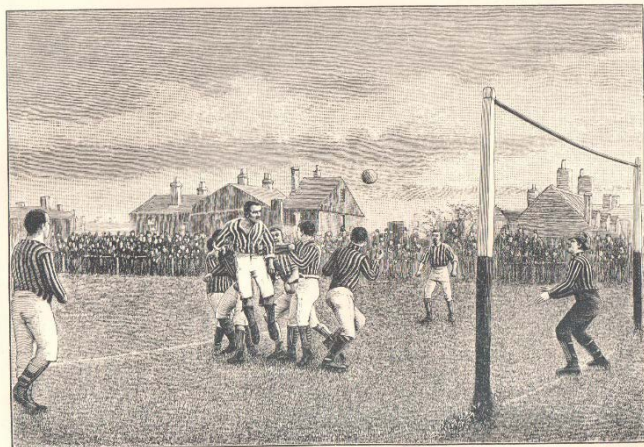


A nasty jar.

A brief item following the Victoria Day weekend noted, “Mr. Matt Clancy, son of Wm. Clancy, formerly of the City Hotel, but now of the



Brennan House, Norwood, was at Millbrook on May 24<sup>th</sup> and in a football match sustained severe injuries. He was kicked in the stomach by another player and was unable to return home until last evening when he was conveyed to town by the 5.12 G.T.R. express from Millbrook on a stretcher and was then taken to Norwood by the C.P.R. local.”



THE ASSOCIATION GAME.

A match on May 25<sup>th</sup> between Keene and Allandale [now Lang] refereed by T. Walsh was won 2-0 by Keene.

Allandale: R. Armstrong, goal; A. Speirs and T. Weir, back; B. Dickson and A. Speirs, half back; J. Edwards, centre; B. Bell, F. Walsh, J. Renwick and J. Dinsdale, forwards.

Keene: F. McLachlan, goal; J. Quinlan, V. McCarthy, back; Din. Roache, A. Sousee, half back; B. Campbell, centre; B. Andrews, J. Roach, J. Miller, Percy Campbell, forwards.

“Another match from the same weekend was played in Indian River and was refereed “to great satisfaction to both clubs” by Michael Guerin, who was on the Southern team in the 1890 Douro match.

“A very interesting football match took place at Indian River last Saturday, May 25<sup>th</sup>, between the Indian River Douro club and the Maple Groves of Asphodel. Both teams played well. One goal was scored in the first half-time by David Garvey, who played on the left wing for the Maple Groves, but in the last half time two were scored by Indian River, which gave them the victory by two to one. Mr. Michael Guerin refereed, and gave great satisfaction to both clubs. The teams lined up as follows:

“Indian River: Maurice Maide, goal; Clarence Moher, William Guerin, back; Richard O’Brien, Patrick Grady, James Welsh, half back; Maurice Guerin, Francis Guerin, right wing; Michael Welsh,

centre; William Welsh, Thomas Barrie, left wing.

“Maple Groves: John Dalton, goal; William Quinlan, James Dalton, back; Andrew Quinlan, Thomas Barrie, Frederick Dalton, half back; Patrick Quinlan, Roddy Calder, right wing; Paul Barrie, centre; John Borland, David Garvey, left wing.”

A new football club was organized in Indian River the following week. Michael Allen was captain and John Lynch treasurer. The team was composed of Thomas Dalton, goal; David Quinlan and Jas Kerr backs; Wm. Quinlan, Patrick Quinlan and Daniel Dwyer, half backs; Michael Allen and John Lynch, right wing; Francis Flood, centre; William Kerr and William Christie, left wing.

The first match that I noticed for the town of Peterborough was played June 28, 1895 at the Driving Park (now the Exhibition Grounds at Morrow Park.) An Otonabee team played the junior Thistles of Smith. “The ball was kicked off by Otonabee, who made rather a strong rush on the Thistle’s goal, but were effectively checked by Simpson and Milburn. After a few minutes’ hot playing in the centre the

ball was secured by the Thistles and a strong rush made on Otonabee’s goal, but without effect, the ball being kicked back to centre. Here the ball was seized by the Thistle forward, West carrying the ball down the field and passing it to Watt, who without further delay drove the ball between the flags. Play continued for about ten minutes when a dispute arose concerning the Otonabee goal keeper coming from beyond his backs, alleging that he picked up the ball and caused fouls, and during the dispute the lacrosse players who owned the field came on and play was postponed. The star game for the Thistles was played by Fred Milburn.”

We can learn quite a bit about soccer in these samples from 1890 and 1895.

Football was more rural than urban, and in the competition for fields on special days it would lose out to lacrosse and cricket.

Local high schools at Norwood, Lakefield and Peterborough Collegiate were supporting soccer.

The game appealed mainly to players between 18 and 25, but there were some older players even in these pioneer days of soccer. Some appear to have been recent emigrants, and might have been key to transmitting strategies and skills necessary to play the game at its best.

Soccer was off to a good start nearly 130 years ago.

*Ed. The illustrations are taken from my copy of Shearman’s book. The author wishes to thank coach Marv Buchan for his enthusiasm and support.*



# Peterborough County Land Records

Elwood H. Jones

We have reached another milestone in the processing of the Peterborough County Land Records. I have been working with our two key indexers over the past dozen years, Don Willcock and Alice MacKenzie. We have been indexing the abstract registers, which are first generation finding aids created by the Registry Offices. They summarize every transaction by name of grantor and grantee, type of instrument, portion of the lot involved, and the amount of money tied to the transaction. Most importantly, each entry is keyed to the instrument number, and the land instruments for Peterborough County (but not always the town and city of Peterborough).

This has been an award-winning project, and we are most proud of the work done by Don and Alice!

There are 209 abstract registers in the Trent Valley Archives. Sometimes the staff at the Registry Office had to rethink the registers, usually in the face of extraordinary activity on a particular lot, or to reflect the development of subdivisions. Some of the books became unwieldy, and were reconfigured as two volumes.

Even so, we know that some abstract registers are missing. We have expended considerable efforts, for example, to find the abstract registers for Cavan and Millbrook, especially as we have the land instruments for both.

The big news is that Alice MacKenzie has completed the indexing of the abstract registers assigned to her. We celebrated with black forest cake!!

We have decided to proceed with indexing those land records for which we have no abstract registers. Heather Aiton Landry and myself tackled the layout of the Excel sheet, and Heather tested its feasibility. Alice has now undertaken the project and is proceeding with great enthusiasm.

The land instruments are organized effectively in a chronological order within each township or community for which there were abstract registers. However, archival researchers, unlike land researchers, do not always know the specific lot, or Registry Office instrument numbers, or the date of transactions, or the people involved. Our researchers normally have surnames to search.

The indexing project was designed with a view of maintaining the integrity of the original search engines, the abstract register, while adding a fresh route of entry. The result has been spectacular.

Most of the land instruments are deeds (grants, bargain and sale, etc.) or mortgages (or release of mortgage). However, there are some surprising variations within the land records.

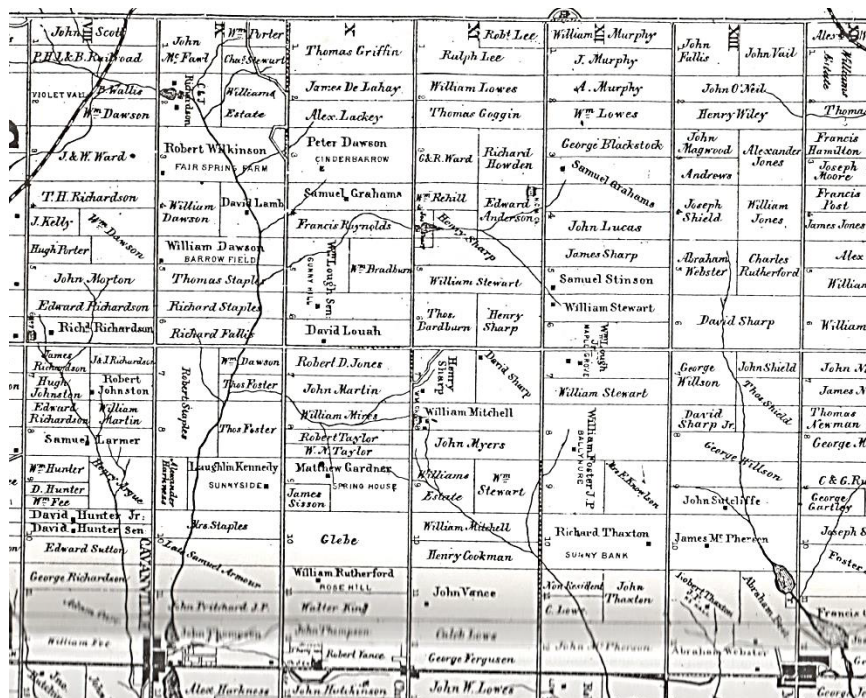
We have noted in the past a few such documents.

We have the lease agreement for the 1927 air field in Otonabee township that was used for one of Canada's first pilot training schools. We also have an extensive document for the transfer of land at Hiawatha to the First Nations.

However, as we undertook the indexing of the Cavan township records we came across an interesting variation on the usual transfer of land by bargain and sale. We decided to share it.

## Articles of Agreement Between Alfred Griffin and Thomas Griffin

TVA, Peterborough County Land Records, F60,  
Township of Cavan, 2998, Folio 98  
Dated 2 March 1867



The Griffin property is marked on con 10 lot 1 at the top centre of this segment of Tremaine's 1861 map of Cavan. Cavanville is on lower left; Mount Pleasant of lower right. (This map was used on the inside covers of *This Green and Pleasant Land*.)

Articles of Agreement made and entered into this second day of March on the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and sixty seven by and between Alfred Griffin of the Township of Cavan in the County of Durham Farmer of the one part, and Thomas Griffin of the same place Farmer of the other part. Witnesseth as follows: The said parties do enter into Copartnership from the date of these presents as Farmers for the purpose of farming that part of Lot number one in the tenth Concession of the said Township of Cavan now and for some time past farmed by the said Alfred Griffin. All the horses, cattle farming

storck, implements of husbandry and all other property and effects belonging to an being upon and used for working the said Farm and also all Crops and other farm produce of every description now being thereon, together with all similar property chattels and effects owned by the said Alfred Griffin and now being upon Lot number twenty three in the sixth Concession of the Township of Hope in the said County of Durham do and shall belong to the said parties jointly as such partners and be their common Partnership properly in equal shares; each party shall devote his whole undivided time and attention in working the said farm and shall be entitled to share the profits derived therefrom, after payment of all rates taxes and assessments in respect to the said lands and business and the ordinary expenses of the said business and shall also bear all losses from the said business in equal proportion. The said Thomas Griffin doth hereby release and discharge the said Alfred Griffin his heirs executors and administrators from all liability upon and in respect of a certain Judgment received by the said Thomas Griffin in the Court of Common Pleas for Upper Canada against the said Alfred Griffin on or about the Twenty fourth day of November one thousand eight hundred and sixty five and upon which Judgement there is now due the sum of Nine hundred Dollars or thereabouts. The profits of the said business after payment of all taxes and expenses aforesaid shall be first used and applied in satisfying and paying off a certain Mortgage upon the said farm from the said Alfred Griffin to one John Elliott, also a certain Promissory Note made by the said Alfred Griffin for the sum of Five Hundred Dollars or thereabouts and now held by one John Biglow. Also a certain other Promissory Note made by the said Alfred Griffin for the sum of one Hundred and Twenty eight Dollars or thereabouts and now held by one Adelaide Coleman: and also all and every other the debts and liabilities of the said Alfred Griffin (except a joint note of the said Alfred Griffin and Thomas Griffin to their Sister Elizabeth Griffin) at the date of these present and the particulars of which cannot readily be ascertained and all the said Partnership, funds and property shall be liable for payment of the said Mortgage notes debts and liabilities. In the event of the said Partnership being dissolved before the said Mortgage notes, debts and liabilities are fully paid and satisfied, the said Thomas Griffin shall and will forthwith pay one half the same then outstanding and shall thereupon be entitled to one equal half part share of the Partnership property money and effects. Upon the said Mortgage notes, debts and liabilities being fully paid and satisfied during the said Copartnership, or under the said Thomas Griffin paying one half the amount thereof outstanding at the time of dissolution of Partnership (in case of dissolution) within six months from the time of such dissolution then and in either of the said cases the said Alfred Griffin shall and will be good and sufficient Deed convey and assure unto the said Thomas Griffin his heirs and assigns in fee simple absolute and free from the Dower of the Wife of the said Alfred Griffin that part of said Lot Number one in the Tenth Concession of the said Township of Cavan described as follows: Commencing at the South West angle of said Lot number one then northerly along the western boundary of said lot Twenty Six chains Twenty five links; Then Easterly in a line parallel with the Southern boundary of said Lot Twenty four chains: Then in a south-westerly direction and in a straight line to a point of the southern

boundary of said Lot distant eighteen chains from the said South west angle of said Lot: then westerly along the said southern boundary of said Lot eighteen chains to the place of beginning, containing by admeasurement Fifty five Acres be the same more or less. The expenses of sawing, and drawing the lumber for an erecting the house and barn now being built upon the said farm by the said Alfred Griffin or for any buildings which he may hereafter erect during the said Partnership upon that portion of the said farm excluding the said fifty five acres, shall be borne and paid out of the said Partnership funds and property. The said Thomas Griffin shall have the privilege from this date to erect any buildings he may see fit upon the said fifty five acres, and to be entitled for his own use to one half the pine timber on the said farm, after the said Alfred Griffin has taken sufficient for the said house and barn he is at present erecting, the said Thomas Griffin however to remove the said pine whenever required by the said Alfred Griffin so to do. The expense of sawing and drawing the lumber for and erecting any buildings by the said Thomas Griffin upon the said fifty five acres shall be borne and paid out of the said Partnership funds and property to the same amount as the said partnership funds and property are used for the like purpose by the said Alfred Griffin as aforesaid. In case of any dispute arising between the said parties touching the matters as aforesaid the same shall be left to the decision of disinterested persons one to be chosen by each of the said parties and the two so chosen may appoint a third to act with them in case they do not agree and the decision of the said two persons or of a majority of the three if three act, shall be binding upon the parties hereto In witness whereof the said parties have hereunto set their hands and Seals the day and year first above written –

Signed sealed and delivered in presence of J. Wright and J. M. Leet

Signed Alfred Griffin  
Thomas x his mark Griffin

East Durham Registry Office

I certify that the within Indenture was by me duly registered on this Eighth day of March A. D. 1867, at half past Twelve O'Clock P. M. in Liber 5, for the Township of Cavan folio No. 98: Duplicate No. 2998: And proved on the oath of Johnson Montague Leet of the Town of Port Hope Student at Law.

George Ward Registrar  
J. Wright Conveyance re Port Hope

### Commentary

Johnson M. Leet (1836-1906) became a lawyer in Huron County. We have some photocopied documents signed by George Ward that came from a philatelist with an interest in postal history.

Check Court of Common Pleas records.

Check Ancestry biography of Alfred Griffin and Thomas Griffin.

Griffins not mentioned in the histories of Clarke Township and Cavan Township in my possession.



TRENT VALLEY ARCHIVES

"Without archives, there is no history."

# The Mill of the Rapids

*Catharine Parr Traill,  
Chambers's Edinburgh Journal, 3 November 1838, 322-323  
TVA, Delledonne fonds, F30 / 116*



*A young Catharine Parr Traill*

One day last week I took a pleasant little trip up the lakes to Yorrit's mill; the canoe was going with corn to be ground into grist, and as my husband was one of the party, and the weather very serene for the time of the year, I made up my mind to accompany him; so, leaving my little ones under the care of cousin Jane, and well wrapped up in my Scotch plaid cloak, I took my seat among the sacks of grain, and determined to enjoy myself as much as I possibly could; my only business being to keep a watchful lookout for the blocks of granite and limestone-rock that lie so profusely scattered up and down the rapid waters by the islands in our lake, and give timely warning of "rocks ahead!" to the steersman – the water at this time being very low, so that it required great skill in the management of our frail craft to keep her from striking on the sunken rocks. In spite of all our care, and my vigilance, we were twice wedged between two blocks of granite, and it required all the united strength of the party to get the canoe afloat again. After these trifling delays, we got on delightfully; the rapids were soon overcome and we found ourselves gently pursuing our calm and easy course in still deep water, with nothing to disturb the glassy mirror of the lake but the sudden splash of the wild ducks (flights of which passed us in abundance, winging their course towards warmer streams, where they might pass the coming winter), or the regular strokes of the oars, as they were plied with steady arm by our rowers. The deep shadows of the dark

fringe of pines slept upon the waters, giving you the idea of perfect repose. The deciduous trees were leafless, and the long sea-green tree moss hung in motionless but melancholy drapery from the cedars and the soft maples that clothed the utmost verge of the low shores along which our little vessel was steered. Here and there I noticed little thickets of woody shrubs, leafless, but gay with bright scarlet berries, which are here called partridge-berries, from these birds making them their food at the season of the year. Of the nature of this shrub, or its fruits, I can at present give you no information, as I have never been able to examine either leaf, blossom, or berry minutely; I only know that nothing could equal the beauty and brilliancy of its effect that morning, for the early sun had not yet melted away the icy crust that encased each separate berry, and they glittered resplendent in his beams, contrasted with the dark evergreens behind them.

After passing the Katchewanook – that, your know, is or lake – with its rapids and islands, and Bessaquaquan lake, on the shores of which is M[oodie]'s clearing, we entered a narrow channel, with a peninsulated shore on either side; the banks, from being low and somewhat swampy in parts, now became steeper and more rocky; large masses of bluish granite and limestone lying in heaps against the shore, as if a natural embankment cast up by the waters. Passing this narrow strait, we entered upon another expanse of water, which is called by the settlers "One-Tree Lake," from a small islet exhibiting on its barren surface a solitary stunted tree – oak, I think it looked like. The head of this lake presented more variety; the shores were prettily indented with little bays, though still nothing that you could call decidedly picturesque. The islands at the upper part were steeper, and I noticed some pretty trees. As to the shore on the left hand, it was dull and monotonous, presenting only that aspect of barrenness and desolation which the fire leaves behind it in its track. Beyond this lake the waters flowed with great rapidity: the channel becoming narrower, and losing its lake-like character, it once more resumes the semblance of a wide, majestic, and swiftly flowing river. In short, I recognized once more my old friend the Otonabee here set free from beds of rice, and choking rushes and weeds, that curb its impetuous career, and deform the purity of its sparkling waters. The higher up we proceeded in our voyage, the narrower and the wilder grew the stream – steep banks, and rapid current so strong, that the nervous strokes of the oars could barely impel our loaded vessel along the upward channel. An upset here might have been attended with fatal results, at least to one of the party; but I felt no fear; the little risk just served to excite and keep one's energies alive and watchful. During the spring floods, and after heavy autumnal rains, these rapids are very strong. One of the Miss Yorrits showed me a little bridge over a cut in the mill-race, above which the water had flowed that spring. The water in the race was then seven or eight feet below the high-water mark.

The mill, with the miller's large clearing, stands on



the Smithtown shore, at the head of the rapids, and just below Clear lake, a fine expanse of water several miles in extent; from the transparency of its waters it takes its name.



*Excerpt from Sandford Fleming's 1848 map of Newcastle and Colborne Districts. Copies of this map are for sale at Trent Valley Archives. The map shows two lakes in the widening of the Otonabee. Notice that Stony Lake is not named here, even though it was used by Traill in 1838.*

I was not sorry to step on shore and warm myself beside the open hearth of the hospitable miller and his kind industrious daughters, who gave me a most hearty, and I believe sincere welcome, to their dwelling. The family had been settled some years on this spot, and possessed in themselves many comforts and some luxuries, to which the later emigrant must long be a stranger. Yet these had had to struggle hard for some years with every disadvantage, for the soil they were located upon was in most parts an accumulation of limestone rocks, and they were many miles from a store, and few lots settled for miles round them, and these only by a few poor pensioners. They had one grand point in their favour; the possessed able-working hands in their own family, the largest part of whom were sons; and with the united strength and industry of the young men without, and the daughters within, the work of the farm went on well. But one of the great resources of the male part of the family was hunting and shooting. The skins of the game were the great object they kept in view. Pat and Francis not only kept the house well supplied with every kind of game, but they made something very considerable every year by the sale of the skins and furs of the animals they caught. These chiefly consisted of beavers, bears, deer, otters, martens, minx, raccoons, squirrels, and muskrats, for which they found a ready market at Peterboro or Cobourg.

The house was never without the finest fish, which they all knew how to spear in the lakes – white fish, salmon, trouts, and bass, which were either dried after the Indian fashion, and exposed to a few hours' smoke in the chimney, or pickled if they could not dispose of them fresh;

deer hams and bear hams were among their winter stores, and the flesh of the beaver, especially the beaver's tail, they reckoned among their dainty meats.

When I first came in, I found the two young women busy dyeing some silks and ribbons black, to make up into bonnets, and I was astonished at the nice fresh black they had produced. The art of dyeing, I must tell you, is among the common accomplishments of a Canadian settler's wife and daughters. All the homespun dresses and stockings, &c. are dyed in the yarn by them, and few of the older settlers' houses are without its indigo vat. Many of the native woods and barks are used in the various processes of dyeing. The butternut produces a fine brown in spring, and a good black can be made with it in the summer and fall. The white oak gives a beautiful purple. The leaves of the stramonium or thorn-apple give a delicate straw colour – with many others that I cannot call to mind. With the uses of the foreign dye-woods and drugs they are all well and practically acquainted. As a

considerable portion of the emigrants of this province are mechanics, it is no difficult matter to get the yarn prepared by the farmer's household woven into cloth. "We make every thing we want, and every article we use for home consumption, with the exception of groceries, salt, spices, and tea, and the finer sorts of wearing apparel," said Miss Yorrit. "We spin, we card, and dye our own yarn; we make up the clothing, both gowns for ourselves, and coats and trousers for our brothers and father; we knit all the stockings, mitts, nightcaps, and comforters, with under garments for ourselves, during the long winter evenings; we burn candles or lamps of the fat we prepare from the beasts that are brought in; we make abundance of sugar and molasses and spruce beer from the maples; we are never without plenty of preserved fruits, for we sugar at command; we make quantities of soap, hard as well as soft; as to feather beds and pillows, we have more than enough from the common fowls, and the wild ducks that the boys shoot; we even make our own shoes, and our brothers make theirs." In short, I cannot describe to you all the useful things these two good industrious girls do.

After I was warmed, I left my two hostesses to pursue their domestic occupations undisturbed, while I walked out on the clearing, to see the operations of the grist-mill; but as I suppose you would not feel deeply interested in my remarks on the machinery, which I should be at a great loss to describe, I shall only take you with me in my out-of-door rambles over the rocky field that skirted the river. Here, indeed, I found abundant food for observation, fresh objects of interest starting up beneath my feet continually in the blocks of limestone that beset my path; these seemed one mass of fossil vegetable or animal substance, sometimes covering the surface of the stone like the rough coating of a rock melon; here were thousands of tiny cockleshells, some so minute that you could scarcely distinguish the form, others large and perfect, presenting the peculiar appearance as if a finger and thumb had

compressed the valves. There was one fossil of such frequent recurrence, that it attracted my attention, and not a little excited my curiosity; this was the outline [323] of a fish; the back-bones, with the long bones attached to either side, and even the forked bones near the fins, in a perfect state. I consumed at least a couple of hours in my rambles amidst these interesting objects, after which I made the best of my way to the mill-house. And now behold us at dinner at the hospitable board of the worthy miller. Many were the apologies which were uttered by Betty and Nora for having no better fare to set before me than what were to us dainties, in the form of a fine, fat, tender, boiled saddle of venison, delicately corned, and cooked most excellently, and served up with greens of the most verdant hue, and white floury potatoes, besides a dish of the finest and most delightful fried fish that I had ever tasted, the preparation of which did infinite credit to Nora's culinary skill. For my part, my voyage up the lakes, and the walk I had taken afterwards, had given me an excellent appetite, and I greatly relished my dinner.

When the repast was over, as I had expressed my intention of walking as far as Clear lake, Miss Yorrit very kindly offered to show me the path which led to it, as she was fearful I should hardly be able to find it without a guide. The afternoon was so fine, and the air so clear and pure, and yet so mild withal, that I felt my spirits quite enlivened; and though the cares and sickness of five years had somewhat tamed the elasticity of my step, and sobered the vivacity of my temper, I found I could enjoy a scramble through the wild woods yet, and overcome the difficulties that beset our rugged path in the shape of huge moss-grown trunks and blocks of granite, with as light a heart as ever I had done. After a winding walk of about half a mile, the hardwood trees began to give place to the somber hemlock, spruce, and cedar; the ground became more thickly interspersed with stones and huge roots twining and interlacing each other like a strange net-work; we knew from these signs that we were drawing near the object of our journey; and soon the bright gleam of the waters, quivering like a shew of silver beneath the full rays of the afternoon sun, broke upon our view. Another minute, and we found ourselves on the rocky margin of Clear lake; and well did it deserve the name from its most transparent waters – so pure that it looked indeed like fluid crystal.

The eternal spirit of silence seemed to preside over this loney but not unlovely spot; its broad still bosom reflecting on its waveless surface the deep azure of the sky, with its few scattered shining white clours. The long lofty lines of pines that fringed the bays and promontories, were mirrored there; but not a sound broke the stillness of the scene, not a bough stirred. There was not even an insect on the wing; bird, beast and fish, were all mute and moveless. The only living thing visible besides myself and my companion, was a solitary heron, on the dry bough of a stunted tree that overhung the lake on the opposite shore, watching with patient vigilant eye the still waters for its finny prey. The sober dark plumage of this lonely watcher, and his quiescent motionless form, rather added to the silent spirit of the landscape, than gave to it the least tone of animation.

At the head of Clear lake are two islands, which form the entrance into Stony lake. One, which I think I heard called Big island, was a majestic elevation of pines. The soft blue haze that rested on these islands had a charming

effect, mellowing and softening the dark shade of the evergreens that crowned them with hearse-like gloom. This same Stony lake do I most ardently long to see. I am told that it contains a thousand wild and romantic scenes, and, in miniature resembles the lake of the thousand islands in the St. Lawrence. In many parts the rocky islands are more picturesque, some of them shooting up in bare pointed craggy pinnacles abruptly from the depth of the water, while others are fancifully grouped, and clothed with flowers and trees. The Indians frequent this lake greatly. As we stood on the margin of Clear lake, on a huge block of stone which I had mounted for the benefit of a more extensive view, I noticed a barrier of limestone rock opposite to us. The land above was cleared. This, I was told, was called the "Battery;" and, in good truth, it would be a fine natural defence in any situation that had required such an embankment. Whilst I was admiring the Battery, and pitying the possessor of the barren looking plain above it, my attention was called by my companion to another mass of rock not twenty paces from that we occupied. "I never look at that stone," said Miss Yorrit, "without its bringing back to my mind the time when my brother John and I were lost in the woods."

Now, I have almost as great a love for a story about being lost in the woods, as I had when a child on the knee for the pitiful story of the Babes in the Wood, I eagerly besought Miss Betty to favour me with the history of her own and her brother's wanderings. It seems that some six weeks after the family first made their settlement in the bush, they had occasion to procure a supply of flour, but whether from some distant settler's farm, or from Peterboro, I cannot precisely remember; be it as it may, they had no road at that time cut, but only the uncertain path marked by a blaze cut on the trees. It is no difficult matter to suppose that two inexperienced bush travelers should lose their way, and that, once lost, they should be left without a clue to regain it. After wandering up and down, hither and thither, in every direction, the poor forlorn ones became completely bewildered, and night set in upon them, amid the pathless gloom of the forest. It was just about the beginning of the fall. The summer had been long, hot, and dry, no rain of any account having fallen for weeks, so that the creeks and springs were all dried up; not a drop of water was to be found; not a berry to relieve the thirst that oppressed them, and which increased to an intolerable degree. Luckily, the young man had a steel and flint in his pocket; but this would have availed them but little, had not his ingenuity supplied him with a substitute for tinder; he stripped the thin silvery bark from the birch, which is of a very inflammable nature, and having beaten it fine upon a smooth stone, and kept it in his bosom to dry it thoroughly, it was found to ignite very readily; and by this means they were soon able to raise a cheerful fire, which answered the double purpose of relieving their minds from the dread of wild beasts, and imparted a cheerful warmth to them during the chilly hours of night. Even as early as the last week in August, the nights and early mornings are frosty, and fire is not only acceptable, but necessary to the comfort of any one obliged to pass the night abroad.

After a long search the following day, they discovered a little water in the hollow of a decayed stump, which had probably been collected for many weeks, and most unpalatable it proved; but thirst like theirs knew no nicety, and they were glad to swallow plentiful draughts of

a beverage they loathed; and then they mingled some of it with a portion of the flour they had with them, and baked a cake upon a flat stone by their fire; but they felt little hunger compared with the dreadful thirst that tormented them. The next day and part of the night were spent in unsuccessful wanderings; on the morning of the third, when despair had begun to tak possession of their hearts, they found themselves among a dense thicket of hemlocks and cedars, and soon their eyes were gladdened by the gleam of water sparkling through the branches. Pushing hastily forwards, they emerged from the mass of evergreens to the rocky margin of a fine expansive sheet of water. "It was here, at the foot of this very block of stone, that we emerged from the forest, and never was the sight of water so precious or so beautiful as this appeared; we knelt down and drank, and bathed our faces, our hands, and our feet in it again and again.; nor did it once enter into our minds that we were almost within sight of the smoke of our own cottage; on the contrary we supposed ourselves to be on the shore of Mud lake, or some of the higher waters, not being aware that our rambles had led us within half a mile of our own home." Under the impression that they were on the opposite side of the township, the question naturally arose to them, what course to pursue to ensure their safe return. This involved some difficulty, their future safety depending upon their decision. At last the young man came to the conclusion, at all events, to follow the downward course of the water, which must eventually lead to some civilised spot, while the contrary would as certainly lead them to the wild unsettled portions of the country. After a minute and attentive examination of the flow of the water and the appearance of the shores, he at length determined which way the current flowed. "Judge of our surprised delight, madam," said my companion, "when, after a few minutes' walk along the stony shore, we found ourselves beside the rapids in front to of our own clearing, though at that time the ground was covered thickly with tees. We could scarcely credit our good fortune; and now we think that in all probability we were never farther than a mile from our own home, when we had supposed ourselves to be far far away from it."

Tales of persons wandering in the woods, and being lost for days, when all the time they were within a short distance of their own habitations, are quite common in the uncleared parts of America.

When we returned from our walk, we found the house beautifully swept, and made as neat as Nora's busy hands could render it. As the grinding of the grist was not yet finished, and we had an hour's moonlight to depend upon, we were easily prevailed upon to take an early tea, which was quickly prepared, with that ready hospitality which is so truly valuable, as it studies the convenience as well as comfort of a guest, imposing neither restraint nor delay. And, truly, if I enjoyed my dinner, I was no less gratified after my walk in the woods by the nice light cakes, baked in a frying pan before the glowing embers of a log fire, and the delicious cranberry jam, preserved with maple molasses, that accompanied them, to say nothing of good fresh butter, and an enormous shanty loaf, hot from the bake kettle on the hearth. But what I enjoyed yet more than the good cup of tea and the nice cakes, &c, was the conversation of our host, a respectable white-haired hale



*The older Catharine Parr Traill*

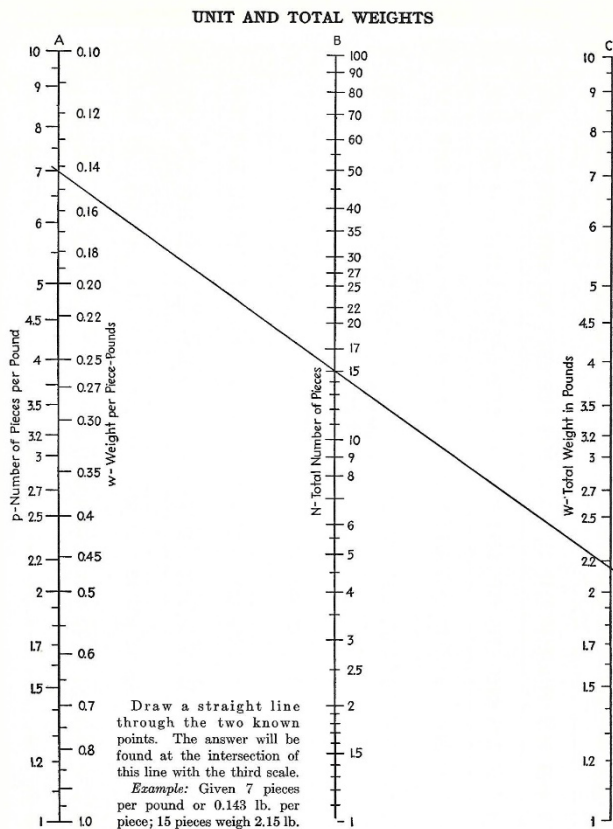
old man. And many were the wild romantic tales he told of "ould Ireland" and the scenes of his infancy. The time, the season, the character of those about you, the peculiar circumstances attending such narrations, will give a charm to it which more sober realities have not the power to excite. The shadows of evening were beginning to grow grey around us as we stood grouped around the red blazing logs of the wide stone chimney – the old silver-haired man, with animated face, speaking with all the energy that an Irishman could throw into his voice; the deep attention and fixed looks of his daughters, drinking in each word he uttered; while in a rude block of stone in the chimney corner, his hands resting on his knees, and his thin pale face upraised with wondering eyes, sat a little orphan boy, the child of a neighbour who had died, leaving three helpless babes to the protection and charity of the world. (I have more to tell you about these poor orphans, but not here.) Ever and anon the pauses between the old man's voice were filled up by the hoarse dashing of the mill-stream, and the deep cadence of the wind among the heavy pine tops on the opposite shore. There was something in all this that harmonized with the subject in discussion, and I had entered so fully into the spirit of the scene, that I was grieved when the summons was sent from the boat to say all was ready for departure.

Bidding a hearty farewell to these hospitable people, we once more embarked on the swift-flowing waters. It was a lovely night; the rapid downward current bore us along with little effort or exertion on the part of the rowers; the moon and stars shone brightly on our watery way; no accident occurred; the canoe did not so much as once grate her sides against the treacherous rocks; and I enjoyed my calm voyage as much as I had done the rest of the day's adventure. The joyous voices of my little ones as we drew near the house told me all were well and safe, and you would have envied papa and mamma the endearing kisses from the sweet lips that were held up to greet them, and the shout of delight with which they received the bits of maple sugar which these good girls had given me for James and Kate.



## Engineer's Tools in 1952

Robert H. Rehder, 2017



The first thing that was needed was to wear a long sleeved shirt with a large size upper left corner rugged front pocket. The engineer needed the long sleeves so he had something to roll up while thinking of how to solve the problem or to cool off a bit. The engineer needed the pocket to provide ready access to personal items such as pens and pencils, both black and red, along with a six inch steel ruler, and a six inch slide rule.

The second thing that was needed was to have a "home" desk and appropriate filing cabinets for the job. The desk had a lot of space for future piles of papers and technical magazines. Others in the office were warned that these future piles must not be disturbed and if they accidentally were moved, they had to be put back in their same order and position so the engineer could find things again.

The third thing was access to pads of plain paper, squared paper, graph paper, logarithm and semi-log graph paper. The office had bookcases with data books and marketing literature used to identify ordering information for various instruments and relays.

The most used tool was a good slide rule. When I was in second year of Queens University, I received a \$25 dollar scholarship and I bought the best slide rule available, the Log Log Duplex Vector by Kuffel & Esser Co., and it has lasted 70 years. SEE FIGURE 1. I could use it for all my calculations as it included angle and exponential functions. When using the slide rule you needed to go through the calculations in your mind or on paper, approximating the numbers so that you knew **where to put the decimal place**. The circular version of the slide rule had just come on the market and some engineers used it because the longer perimeter gave a slight improvement on

accuracy. Normal accuracy was considered to be 3 digits. The principle was based on using logarithmic scales and multiplication was done by adding logarithms.

Specific slide rules were made to enable the engineer to do a quick specific calculation. If he knew the three-phase voltage and the three phase current the slide rule would give him the circuit breaker rating. As the engineers gained experience they would make monographs to help in doing specific repetitive calculations. See figure 2.

A switchgear engineer would be assigned a specific requisition and he was given the pertinent specifications and sales documents. From that time on he was responsible for the details of the design until the job was manufactured and shipped. After a review of the specifications he would draw a one-line diagram of the primary electrical circuit and indicate, by industry standard symbols, the location of circuit breakers, disconnect switches, instrument transformers, protection relays and meters. He then drew an elementary wiring diagram to show the secondary or low control voltage relay coils and contacts to operate the circuit breaker via manual switches and/or by protection relays. These diagrams were normally done on squared paper. A sketch arrangement was made to show the physical shape and size of the unit and a diagram of the control switches, indicating lights, instruments and relays usually on a front door of the unit. While making these diagrams he used his engineering skills to select specific components to meet the specification requirements. To initiate the purchasing or collection of the specific items, the engineer wrote a summary. This summary was printed by hand on transparent paper using a straight pen and black India ink. For a meter for instance, it was given an item number, then a complete description and catalogue number for ordering. After I wrote my first



summary my supervisor reviewed it and emphasized there were to be **no erasures**. If a mistake were made there was just lines drawn through it. If there was a change made in the future, then the old had lines drawn through it and the change printed in at the end and the change number and date were noted in a column for that purpose. With the summary written and the sketches complete it was passed to the drafting room. The mechanical drafting section made an assembly drawing and floor plan for customer's use, making reference to the items on the summary. Detail drawings for specific parts for manufacturing were made and issued to the shop and added to the summary as new items. The electrical drafting worked from the elementary wiring sketches and made detail wiring diagrams for the shop wiremen showing fuse location, terminal blocks and wire path to terminal blocks and devices. When the drafting was complete, the assembly drawing, floor plan, wiring diagram and elementary drawing were passed back to the engineer for review and for his Professional Engineer's Stamp. These drawings along with the job summary were sent to the district office and on to the customer. The engineer goes to the shop to have a quick look when his job is on the assembly floor and he can be proud of his contribution as the job goes to the shipping floor.

## Review Founded Here in 1853 Revived as Weekly in 1934

Tom LaBranche, *Peterboro Review*, 3 November 1949

**McCARTHY & JOHNSTON**  
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Stiles, Benj J, h 230 London  
Stillwell, Cecil J (Elizabeth C), patr C G E, h 9 Brown  
Stinson, Albt E (Charlotte), slsmn, h 508 Stewart  
" Cephas (Marry), h 3721 Water  
" E Arthur (Grace), caretkr Normal Schl, h 197 Brock  
" Edith, mngr Barrie's, lvs V W C A,  
" Frances, 480 Gilmour  
" Frank G (Edna), mfrs agt, h 480 Gilmour  
Stinson, Herbert, Mgr Stinson's Taxi Cab, h 508 Romaine, Phone 480  
" Solomon, wks C G E, 128 Rubidge  
" Wm J (Nettie), mngr, h 576 Harvey  
**STINSON'S TAXI CAB, H Stinson,**  
Mgr; 508 Romaine, Phone 480  
(see advt side lines)  
Stock, Mary M, h 285 McDonnell  
**STOCK'S BREAD LIMITED, James**  
Dutton, Mgr; Bread Manufacturer,  
Office 225 Stewart; Factory,  
283-295 Sherbrooke; Phone 630  
(see advt corner cards and back cover)  
Stocker, Walter (Phyllis L), sept City Parks, h 339 Gilmour  
Stokes, Minnie K (wid Arthur D), lvs Fred M Kiley  
Stone, Arthur (Amy), lab, h 28 Ware  
" Arthur L, 28 Ware  
" Chas E (Hattie), lab, h c s Barnardo av  
" Elva A, bk bdr D D C Daws, 176 Charlotte  
" Giles L, h 618 Bethune  
" John (Jane), h 218 King  
" May, nurse, 638 Armut rd  
Stonchburg, Ernest (Mabel), lab, h 500 Sherbrooke  
Stoncham, Lillian G, dept mgr G Hull Ltd, 611 George, apt 3  
Storey, Clifford T, 294 Mark  
" Fred H (Janet), wks Can Pkrs, h 498 McDonnell  
" Fred R (Nora), lab, h 394 Mark  
" Regd D, clk Sun Life, h 226 Brock  
" Robt B (Bets M), wks Can Pkrs, h 617 Driscoll Terr  
" Sidney H, 294 Mark  
" Stanley W, lab, 294 Mark

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**STOTHAET DAIRY FARM, Alfd**  
Oliver, Prop; w s Water, 3 north Langton, Phone 1398  
" Jas, lvs A Oliver  
" Jas A (Ruby), h 464 Donegal  
" Wm G (Ellen), h 298 London  
Stott, John W (Minnie), farmn Dem W & W, h 120 Dufferin  
Stout, Agnes E, tchr, h 384 Aylmer n  
Strain, Isabel, Mrs, h 187 Bethune  
Strano, B R (Annie), h 328 King  
Stratton, Albt H (Clare), genl mgr Pet Review Co, h 371 Park n  
" Apartments, 373 Park n  
" Mary L, h 373 Park n  
Strickland, G Howard (Elsie M), ment, str Gt A & P Stoves, h 188 Lock  
" Gordon C, repr Lon Life, 607 Stewart  
" Herbt (Joan), elect Can Pkrs, h 5 St James  
**STRICKLAND, JAMES**  
**FORDYCE, K C, M P P**  
BARRISTER, SOLICITOR, ETC  
375 WATER STREET  
PHONE 191  
Residence 369 Hunter w, Phone 2973  
Strickland, Jas F (Amy A), h 350 Hunter w  
" John C (Winnifred), rep Lon Life, h 607 Stewart  
" John C, jr, appr G Whitaker & Co, 607 Stewart  
" Wm H (Agnes), eng C N R, h 315 Reid  
Strong, Ada E (wid Albt E), asst Pub Library, h 87 London  
" Velma, 87 London  
**Stuart (see also Stewart)**  
" Chas H (Georgina), sr clk P O, h 611 Stewart  
" Donald L, cement wkr, 329 Chamberlen  
" Helen A, tchr, 593 Homewood av  
" John R, drvr Sunshine Dairy, 593 Homewood av  
" John W (Anselm), repr Sun Life, h 593 Homewood av  
" Lemman A (Mabel), mldr Admn Hall Ltd, h 520 Chamberlen  
" Margt L, 16 Leverlos  
" Robt N (Edel), collr Pet Fuel & T Co, h 701 Stewart  
" Ronald D, 525 Chamberlen  
" Sophia (wid Robt), h 530 Gilmour

1933 street directory page with Albert H. Stratton listed as general manager of the Peterborough Review Co. and living at 371 Park Street North with his wife Clare.



It required a lot of courage in 1934 to try and revive a local newspaper which had been out of the picture for sixteen years. – This is the story of how it was accomplished by Ernest G. Hand, likeable veteran printer and publisher, now basking in the sunshine of retirement in his native village of Fenelon Falls, Ont. That's where he first learned the business as a wee gaffer in his father's own printing plant. The latter was the founder of The Fenelon Falls Gazette which is still being published.

The original Review, founded in 1853, was first a weekly and for many years a daily until 1918, during



the last few years under the ownership of the late A. H. Stratton. When the latter saw that it was not practical to continue the paper as a daily, he simply closed it up, and continued to operate a printing plant only. Eventually, as business dwindled to an alarming degree in 1934, Mr. Stratton advertised the business for sale.

Ernest G. Hand who had been in business on his own since boyhood, owning a printing and publishing business at Cobalt, Ont., where he published a weekly newspaper and subsequently became a partner in the now wealthy Northern Miner. He had sold his interest in that now famous mining newspaper to the two Pearce Brothers, and was in Toronto working at his trade, until he could pick up a small printing business in a promising little city.

His opportunity came when he saw Mr. Stratton's advertisement in a Toronto paper. He investigated, liked everything about Peterboro which he knew from childhood, and bought the machinery of The Review Printing Co. at what was considered a substantial price, owing to the depression. That was in 1934, at the very depth of the dark days. With considerable foresight, Mr. Hand could see the bright future ahead of Peterboro with its several well diversified industries.

Mr. Hand decided to revive the Review, but as a weekly, distributed to every household free of charge. "The Shoppers Review" came to life in the fall of 1934, and was distributed free of charge to every household in the whole county. It was a small 8-page tabloid, consisting mostly of advertisements, but it met with popular favour from the start. As conditions improved both the printing business and The Review itself showed signs of growth.

In 1938, another veteran publisher, C. E. (Tom) LaBranche, (a former bank manager who went into this business as a hobby) was living in Toronto, playing at being retired. He had disposed of his printing and publishing interests in Three Rivers, Que., where he had been for 20 years.

In addition to a substantial printing business, he had been publishing several weekly newspapers, some in English and some in French, covering a district extending 120 miles to the north, 45 miles west and 65 miles east.

While in Toronto, he heard through some mutual friends that Mr. Hand was looking for a man to help him expand his business. So the two veterans got together, worked as a friendly team until April 1946, when Mr. Hand thought he had had enough of the printing business, and agreed to sell his interest to LaBranche senior. It was a good deal all around.

Peter J. LaBranche received his discharge from the RCAF just in time to come in on this purchase deal. He resigned from the Bank of Montreal to form a partnership with his father and is now managing-director, with the latter as president. This has also proved an ideal arrangement. The Review was placed on a paid subscription basis in September 1946, and has been building up a substantial circulation ever since. It also covers Lakefield.

Some fifteen months later, the other son in the LaBranche family, C. R. (Bud) who, after his discharge from the Navy, was covering the Windsor, Ont. district for Quaker Oats Company of Canada, was invited to join the firm as advertising and sales manager. He accepted and has

been doing outstanding work ever since, completing a "father and sons" team to whom Providence has been very kind.

A staff of three when Mr. Hand started here in 1934 has now grown to 25 in all, and the business has tripled during the last three years. The addition of a second fast automatic press and a second linotype machine has enabled Review Printing to expand its business. As conditions continue to improve, the firm's equipment will be further added to and the Review will continue to increase in size.

This has been accomplished in a little over three years, and as the firm now starts on its 16<sup>th</sup> year, it is again our privilege to extend thanks to everyone who has favoured us with such a gratifying measure of patronage. A capable and loyal staff has played an important part in the growth of this business, with the result that Review Printing Company Ltd. now ranks among the leading printers and publishers of Central Ontario.

The Review, published in tabloid form since May 1946 is one of the few weekly newspapers in Canada featuring colored comics. Its 8 page colored section has proven popular from the start, and has been an important factor in building up a substantial circulation. The subscription rate is \$2 per year anywhere in Canada.

Peterboro merchants have been most generous with their support realizing that advertising in The Review is an investment which pays dividends. Although somewhat in direct competition with the excellent daily newspaper published here, The Examiner, our relations have always been cordial. We are indebted to its management for occasional timely assistance of various kinds, especially in the printing business when Review Printing Company's machinery has been taxed to capacity.

We are grateful to all our readers, advertisers and printing patrons. We shall continue to serve them to the very best of our ability, and shall also continue to work for the good of this community which we have loved since coming here in 1938. -30-

*Ed. Note: This was a fascinating first-hand account of the story of how the Weekly edition of the Review began in 1934, and the transfer to the LaBranches who ran the paper until the late 1970s. It also surprised me to see that A. H. Stratton, the brother of J. R. Stratton who had run the Examiner from the 1870s to 1918 or so. The story as I heard it was that The Review and the Examiner agreed around 1918 to cut their competition. The Examiner would run the only daily newspaper; the Review would run the printing business. I had been told that J. Hampden Burnham kept the rights to the Review newspaper and that he published three or four random issues in the 1920s. I have never been able to confirm these stories, but Tom LaBranche clearly had a different story of the transition of the Review from a daily to a weekly.*

*The Trent Valley Archives has the most complete run of the Peterboro Weekly Review, and also has copies of the Lakefield edition that began in 1949. This history was discovered by serendipity in the Lakefield run of papers.*

*A major project over the last year has been the creation of a searchable digital copy of the Lakefield newspapers across the 1950s and 1960s.*



## News, Views and Reviews

### The Simple Fire



*Fire crews direct water through the windows of the second floor, which houses the studio space for Ash Nayler Photography. (Photo: Laurel Paluck)*



*George Street 1875 looking north from Simcoe Street. (TVA Electric City Collection, F50, 1.076)*

On November 16, 2017, fire struck overnight at 370-374 George Street North, an historic building near Simcoe Street. The building was part of the remarkable streetscape on George Street defined since the 1850s to 1870s of a remarkable series of three storey Georgian

style mercantile architecture. The businesses affected is Simple, which makes its soap products in the building, and Ash Nayler's photographic studio. One half of the first floor of the building was currently vacant. This was one of the vacant spaces featured in 2017's Win This Space competition hosted by the Peterborough Downtown Business Improvement Area. Peterborough Fire Services reported that the fire began on the roof of the building but at press time there were no details about the cause or the extent of the damage. Ash Nayler had been using the studio for shoots, and losing the space and her equipment at this season was a difficulty. The soap-making business, Simple, opened a kiosk in Peterborough Square for the Christmas season.

This historic building from the 1860s was frequently the home of photographers. In 1875, James Little and R. Thompson and Sun occupied this space.

The two stores on the main floor were mostly dry goods businesses, and one of the earliest was the first home of Fairweather's a major downtown business into the twentieth century.

### DEATH'S SUDDEN CALL

#### **The Sudden and Unexpected Death of Mr. Wm. Cumming, Tax Collector**

*Peterborough Weekly Review, 30 May 1890*

A feeling of universal regret and sorrow spread over the community on Friday when the sad news of the sudden and unexpected death of Mr. Wm. Cumming, tax collector, was carried from mouth to mouth. Thursday Mr. Cumming was in his office apparently in his usual health and his death was indeed unexpected and a most severe shock to his family and friends. About twelve o'clock at night the deceased, who had complained of a slight pain in the region of his heart during the day, was taken ill. The physician was summoned and after a short time Mr. Cumming recovered so that nothing serious was feared. Next morning about eight o'clock he was subject to another attack, but rallied considerably. While the doctor was in the chamber, however, the deceased rose his bed, but was compelled to lie down again and had hardly done so when the fatal stroke came, and one of Peterborough's oldest and most widely esteemed and respected residents was no more.

The deceased was a Scotchman by birth and was a fine specimen of the sons of the land of whose nativity he was always so proud. Generous, patient and large-hearted he always had a kind word for all and in his public office of tax collector, a duty which is a trying one, he exercised the same even-temper and kind-hearted consideration which characterized him in his private life. Of him it can be truthfully said that, although he had held some of the most trying offices in the municipality, yet, to-day there is not a man who knew him who will speak anything but words of regret and sorrow at his sudden demise. This universal sorrow and sympathy with his bereaved family were everywhere heard and were most heartfelt. Being one of the

oldest residents in Peterborough and an officer of the town for forty years he was known to almost every citizen and by all he was held in the same respect and esteem.

As already stated the deceased gentleman was a Scotchman by birth having been born in the year 1819 at a place called Balnain, near Dulinbridge, parish of Rosshire and Invernessshire. He was therefore in his seventy-first year when he was so suddenly gathered unto his fathers. He came from the old stock of the celebrated Cummings of Atlyr [Altyre], whose name and history are familiar to all Scots.

About the year 1843 he came to this country and went to live with his uncle, the late Malcolm McGregor, a waggon maker in Ashburnham, which was then called Scotch village. In the year 1850 when the first council of the town which had just been incorporated met, the deceased was appointed constable, which office then included several others. This office he continued to fill through the rough days of the town's early history for several years, when he resigned and was appointed tax collector, which office he has occupied until now. He was one of the grey-haired sires of the local St. Andrew's Society, having been an active and leading spirit in that organization since its inception in 1858. He had at different times held the office of secretary, treasurer and president of the Society and his memory will ever be honoured by the sons of Auld Scotia in Peterborough. He was married twice, his first wife who preceded him to the land of shadows many years ago, being Miss Stenson, daughter of the late Robert Stenson. Four children were the fruits of this union, three of whom, William Cumming, of Montreal, Mrs. Brignall, of Belleville, and Miss Mamie Cumming still survive him. His second wife was Miss Moffat, a sister of Messrs Andrew and John Moffat. By this last union four children, three girls and one boy, were born, all of whom are still living. Mr. Jas. Cumming, who resides in Ashburnham, is a brother of the deceased. The sympathy of the entire community will be extended to the bereaved family in their sad affliction. -30-

#### **Laid at Rest.**

The funeral of the late Mr. Wm. Cumming, tax collector, took place from the family residence on Charlotte Street Monday afternoon and was largely attended. The Mayor, Town Council and municipal officials attended in a body as a last sad tribute of respect to the memory of a most faithful town official whose sudden demise was so generally regretted. The pall bearers were Messrs. T. G. Hazlitt, Chas. Cameron, John Carnegie, Duncan McLeod, Thos. Bradburn and Peter Hamilton. -30-

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#### **Judith Cahorn (1946-2017)**

Cahorn, Judith Olga Barbara – 71, Bridgetown passed away suddenly December 23, 2017 in Soldiers Memorial Hospital, Middleton. Born April 2, 1946, in Montreal she was the daughter of the late Dr. Paul and Gertrude (Katzenstein) Sekely. In keeping with a well established family tradition, Judith got involved early in teaching, first graduating in 1968 from a child psychology program at Dalhousie University, Halifax. She then pursued a license in early childhood pedagogy under Professeur Piaget at the University of Geneva, Switzerland.

At that time Judith also met, by chance, her husband. In 1973 the couple moved to Canada. Further studies brought Judith close to a Master Degree in psychology from the University of New Brunswick in Fredericton, while teaching and coordinating Kindergartens, then teaching French Immersion in the small grades, and nurturing two beautiful sons. In 1980 economic situation forced the couple to head for Peterborough, Ontario and soon Judith, armed with an Ontario Diploma as Early Childhood Educator, was supply teaching for both local school boards until 1988 as she entered a full-time teaching position with the Kawartha Pine Ridge School Board. In 1994 Judith survived against all odds a dreadful heart infection and returned to teaching as soon as she had recovered. In 2003 a sabbatical leave was the opportunity for Judith to complete a correspondence course with the Institute of Children's Literature and then to research in archives and on the ground the tribulations of her parents during World War II. The result was a very interesting book, "The Incredible Walk", published by Beach Lloyd of Philadelphia in 2008.

Since retiring to the Annapolis Valley the following year, Judi Cahorn (her pen name) has published two more books: a mystery novel and an historical story. Judith loved to entertain her friends with some fine cooking, socialize within the local book clubs and writers' groups, enjoyed music as opera, classic, baroque and New Orleans jazz, theatre and reading. She assembled a large collection of dolls from many places, loved to travel, and hike in the Swiss Alps or the Canadian Parks and trails. Swimming and boating were also an important part of Judith's enjoyment of the outdoor life.

Judith is survived by her loving husband of 47 years, Jean Pierre; sons, Jean-Francois (Rebecca Goulding), of St. Ives, England, and Pierre-André (Tara) of Peterborough, Ontario; 5 grandchildren, Isaac, Paige, Travis, Bria, Jacob; sister, Nadine Bjornestad (Erik), of Quebec; a niece and a nephew. Cremation has taken place under the care and the direction of the Kaulbach Family Funeral Home, Bridgetown, where a memorial service will take place 2pm Saturday December 30, 2017 with Rev. Gordon Delany officiating.

*Ed. Note: Judi Cahorn's book, The Incredible Walk, is available from the TVA Bookshelf. It is the compelling story of how her parents escaped from Vichy France during World II by trekking over the Pyrenees. So many families have stories of the difficulties of emigration, and this is a classic example of how to tell those tales.*

#### **Jean Pierre Cahorn Engineering fonds**

Trent Valley Archives also has the papers of Jean Pierre Cahorn, a Peterborough-based consulting engineer for over three decades. The plans have been carefully described by Eric Warburton, whose career working with plans and drawings was great preparation for the task. The over 1,100 plans, 1983-2001 cover dozens of projects, a large proportion meeting the municipal standards for additions. This is a great cross-section of the construction industry over those twenty years, and documents several projects designed by engineers, contractors and architects.

The projects include private residences;



warehouses; commercial plazas; municipal buildings (Curve Lake; Ennismore; ); grocery stores (Blake's IGA, Lakefield; churches (Trinity United; Lakefield United, Bridgenorth United; YWCA); hotels, pubs and restaurants (King George Hotel; Arby's; Otonabee Motor Inn; Empress Hotel); major projects such as Rubidge Hall; 40 Auburn Street apartment building; Otonabee Motor Inn; Lakefield Research; Time Square; Peterborough Club; Jack McGee ChevOlds; and Signature Place.

Architects represented include John F. Reeves; Beck & Earle; C. Walter Noble; Nocol & Johnston; Jon Hobbs and Associates; and Johann de Villiers.

**T.C. Yonge, 41 Years in Grocery Business**  
*Peterboro Weekly Review, 6 October 1949*



In September 1908, 41 years ago, our friendly grocer left the Quaker Oats, Peterboro where he was an electrician, and went into business for himself. He started on the corner of McDonnel and Water Sts. in Peterboro, and six months later moved from that location to a store on the corner of Park and Lansdowne, where he remained for 14 years. After that he came to Lakefield where he has been ever since. His most capable assistant is his daughter, Miss Grace Yonge.

Mr. Yonge was born in Apsley in 1874 and his parents were Mr. and Mrs. J. Yonge, descendants of the Yongs who named Yonge St., Toronto.

Mr. Yonge, with a reminiscent smile, recalls when raisins were 5c a lb.; bacon, 14c a lb.; eggs, 9c a doz.; the best grade of tea sold at 25c per lb.; and the worst blow of all for us now – butter at 12c per lb. Of course, wages in those days weren't like the wages that are paid now. A first class clerk received \$9 a week and Mr. Yonge himself received \$12 a week in the Quaker.

Mr. Yonge has taught Sunday School for 53 years, and is a very faithful member of Grace Gospel Chapel.

When asked if he, from his long years of experience in business, would pass on a word to beginners, Mr. Yonge simply and truthfully said, "Work hard, and keep your credit good. That has brought me through several depressions." Good advice to anyone, whether in business or not.

It is really an honour to know someone as well liked as T. C. Yonge and his wife and daughter. When you talk to some one who has completed 41 years, and successful years I might add, in business, it makes you realize that it pays not to give up when the going gets a bit tough.

**Highballing**

*Gordon A. Young, Lakefield Heritage  
 Re Query arising from his recent book on the Quaker  
 Fire of 1916*

Glad you liked the book, and, that you felt it "told the story" well.

I am answering your question about "Greenballing" and "highballing" by including the editor of our local Heritage Magazine....plus others. Both terms go back to the pre-electric era of signalling.....1860-1880.....depending on the railroad. Some changed faster than others, and, others hung on to the "ball signal" well into the modern era of steam.

Coopers who made barrels, made "beach balls" out of wood. One painted red, and, one green.

When the "green ball" is up a 1950's era steam-freight had the permission to cross another track. Or, "highballing". "Greenball" took on a slightly different terminology when electric signals came in, which meant a certain train was given the highest priority to get from "A" to "F".trains, passenger and freight trains were held, or, put into sidings from "C to E" to let the train pass without having to stop. Undoubtedly, the horrible hurricanes between 1900-1914 may have been "Greenballed", but, there is no oral or other history to tell us.

We are only aware that "Greenballing" was used so that the Quaker executives from Chicago could reach Peterborough. Even, then, we are looking at 12-14 hours to reach here..... average speed back then was only about 50 mph. The steam locomotives back then could scarcely reach 70-mph. Technology after WW-1 shot up like a moonshot.

The second time [with oral history of several including, locally, Ken Mackenzie and his cousin Michael, but, others in New England] was the Halifax Explosion which 100th anniversary was just commemorated the other day. In order to get the "greenball", or, the "highball", conductors were obliged to sign a register, or, a car at a station which was the end of a "block" of track and, the beginning of another block of track.

Bradonna Wood Works, found a HUGE/Massive treasure trove of conductor permission cards that were used at the Buxton Station on the Michigan Central-Canada Southern Railroad line. Why the decade of these cards were never turned to the Division Superintendent will remain a distant mystery. But, in this example Station Master A. Saul, has registered the passing on Thursday night in December of "XW" Extra West train with engine 413 at 11:20pm on Dec. 20th 1900. X-West will then be given permission to leave Buxton for Tilbury Ontario.



This large collection of cards, however, will remain as a **GREAT** legacy [a full decade] of the rail history of the area of Buxton which is already **DEEP** in rich history of another “railroad”, “the underground railway”.

In any event. Hope this has helped you understand the term used in the Quaker book.



### The Ashburnham Station (Nov 2017 issue) Letter to the Editor

*Gordon A. Young*

Thanx for dropping off the Gazette; much appreciated; quite the surprise.

However, I am thoroughly and completely disappointed in the article on the Ashburnham Station. You totally ignored the researching done on finding an exact copy of the second station at Buxton. I know you hate oral history with a passion.

But, when we were able at last to find a station that exactly fits the description of the second station, why are you willing to ignore the oral description of Herb Brooks – Young’s Point; George Brown – George Brown TV/Radio Burnham Street [9 Charles]; Bev Howard – daughter of Claude Rogers; Ted Howard her husband; Stan McBride; Mike Townsend. I don’t get it.

I think we all agree, that Larry Lamb from Bethany, had the wrong description of that building. It **IS** definitely much like Grand Trunk’s “common” freight shed building, but, not a station. The clerestory windows are a dead giveaway.

I realize you have “space issues”, but, it would have been nice to show the improvised lacrosse-grenade thrower.

I am quite sure you will disagree, but, in the photo of Sheridan and Hunter, the original Central School is that “block building” on the corner. Mike Townsend understood that that building remained as “lower school” for a number of years until Central had that wing addition.....189-something.

Again. Its that damn oral history you hate so much from four of the six listed previously. Was that “fancy house” Taylor’s ?

Gord

### Reply from the editor

I am not opposed to oral history. What we need is grounded sources even when the material is oral. There is a difference between speculation and opinion and research even when it comes to oral history.

We have been like ships at sea on the issue of the

Ashburnham railway station. When you declared that the story of the station was finished because there was no room for the station on the property because your high school student had gone through the street directory and said there was none. What he should have been looking at is the fire insurance plans. If you want to build on the article in the Gazette I would be glad to see what you have. But the earlier stuff was not well grounded.

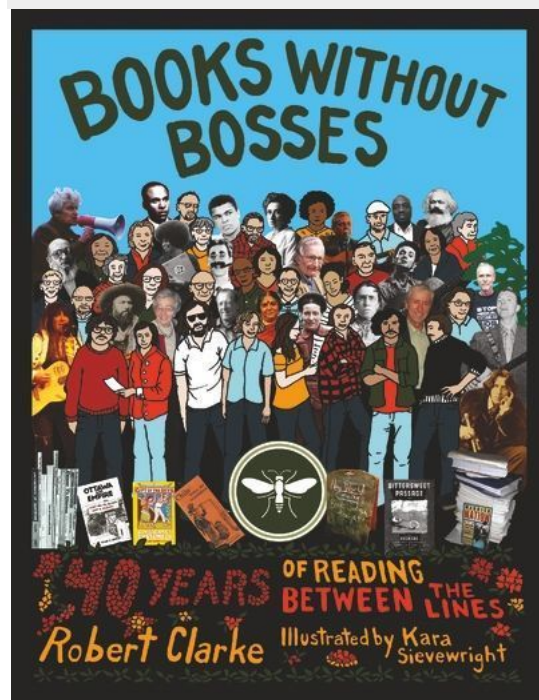
I am sorry you regretted me leaving out your picture. I thought the point was clear without it.

The earlier Central School is **not** in the picture of Sheridan and Hunter. It was on the corner that has the two Belcher houses and was demolished in the 1870s. The second building at Central School was added in the 1870s.

## Discover the power of alternative publishing

By [Rosemary Ganley](#)

Thursday, December 7, 2017



I’ve been thinking quite a bit about the shape of leadership in a community these days.

With the collapse of the American dream, shattered into fragments of bitterness, violence and division, and an appalling leader, we to the North must get busy building up and strengthening an alternate society: civil, honest, frugal, respectful of Indigenous roots, deeply democratic and multi-cultural.

Much, much work to be done, many visions to dream, some sacrifice to endure. What kinds of leaders shall we follow, take cues from, emulate?

In a community such as Peterborough, there are the

visible leaders: elected politicians, scarcely-known school trustees, highly-paid civil servants (administrators in health, education, and policing), companies and banks and business leaders.

But then there is another layer of almost invisible influencers: on-the-ground organizers such as Alan Slavin and Daphne Ingram; moral leaders such as Christian Harvey and Leo Coughlin, Elizabeth Rahman, Julie Stoneberg and Larry Gillman; NGO heads such as Brianna Salmon and Charmaine Magumbe; youth such as Kaia Douglas, Kristin Muskratt and Sneha Wadhvani; philanthropists such as Bill and Betty Morris, educators such as Joe Webster and Jacob Rodenberg, and writers such as Janette Platana and David Tough.

I salute them and their Canadian kind!

It all brings me to two people I consider powerhouses in the formation of conscience in this town: Ferne Cristall and Rob Clarke.

This column will focus on Rob. He grew up in Peterborough, went to Queen's, and was an original member, in 1977, of the alternative publishing house Between the Lines, whose history he has just told in the graphic book, *Books without Bosses: 40 Years of Reading Between the Lines*.

Cristall and Clarke have been back in Peterborough since 1990; Rob, an editor and collective member of the "left wing" Toronto-based publishing house, *Between the Lines*; Ferne a teacher and long-time volunteer for the Reframe Film Festival.

Clarke's new book is a colourful, 53-page graphic novel, 8 by 11 inches, with a cover based on the Beatles' record Sgt. Pepper's Lonely Hearts Club Band. It tells, in comic book format, the story of *Between the Lines*. It is wittily written and robustly illustrated by artist Kara Sievewright of Haida Gwaii.

In a joint project of two entities, the Development Education Centre of Toronto (DEC) and Dumont Press Graphix of Kitchener, "a worker-owned and controlled typesetting and printshop" in the heady days of progressive thought of the 1970s, *Between the Lines* took as its mandate to publish non-fiction books by mostly Canadian authors on social and cultural issues, with non-mainstream viewpoints. It operated out of a United Church, St Paul's Avenue Rd, which also housed Greenpeace and the Toronto Committee for the Liberation of South Africa.

It was a gadfly, which persistently challenged readers to re-think the world around them, asking uncomfortable questions. It did make some people uncomfortable: in 1976, the RCMP reported on DEC in its surveillance report.

BTL had no boss, no owner. it was a collective and has published over 300 influential books, the first one being *The Big Nickel: Inco at Home and Abroad* by Jamie Swift. That book sold at \$5; print runs were usually 2,000 copies.

Says Prof. Fiona Jeffries of the University of Ottawa: "BTL does vital, radical cultural work bringing hidden histories to the surface." It has an unquenchable thirst for social change through the power of bookdom.

Authors have included Ursula Franklin, Mary Jo Leddy, Charlie Angus, Noam Chomsky, bell hooks, and Vandana Shiva.

"This has been a fairly good year" says Rob. "Full-time staff is now at four people, including Peterborough's

Jenn Tiberio."

Rob Clarke's current project is writing *Packed to the Doors: Peterborough's Movie-Going History*, a story that begins in 1897 in the Bradburn Opera House.

Should be an eye-opener.

Visit [www.peterboroughmoviehistory.com](http://www.peterboroughmoviehistory.com). Rosemary Ganley is a writer, teacher and activist. Reach her at [rganley2016@gmail.com](mailto:rganley2016@gmail.com)

## New owner for The Peterborough Examiner

By The Peterborough Examiner  
Monday, November 27, 2017



The Peterborough Examiner has a new owner, but it's business as usual at Peterborough's daily paper, which has been publishing since 1847.

As part of a major transaction between Postmedia Inc. and Torstar, parent company of Metroland Media, The Examiner has been sold to Torstar. The city is also home to a Metroland paper, Peterborough This Week.

The two papers will be operated independently, managed by different divisions of the parent company, and staffed by two separate all-local news and advertising sales teams.

This means you'll see reporters and photographers from both The Peterborough Examiner and Peterborough This Week at important community events, and read different coverage in the two papers. Peterborough will continue to be served by a vibrant mix of local media, as it has for decades.

Details of the transition are still being worked out, and we'll share that as it happens.

The Examiner has been owned by Postmedia since 2015. Prior to that, it was owned by Sun Media, Osprey Media, Hollinger and Thomson newspapers, who bought the paper from the Davies family of Kingston in the 1960s.

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*Ed. Note: We are glad to see that the Peterborough Examiner continues as Peterborough's only daily newspaper. Both the Examiner and Peterborough This Week are now Metroland papers but each will continue to operate as much as possible as before this historic day.*

## Computerized Life in 100-Storey Buildings by Year 2000 is Predicted

*Peterborough Examiner  
Monday, April 1, 1968*

In 2000 AD—32 Years from now—the wife and children will never have to go outside unless they want to, says Robert E. Secord, administrator of the community programs section of the Department of Education.

Predicting that much of city life would take place in 100-storey apartment buildings, Mr. Secord told about 100 delegates to the mayor's conference on leisure Saturday that shopping, school, recreation, church, library and family residences would all be in the same building.

"For those who want fresh air and sunshine, space will be available 200 or more miles away from the urban areas, but personal high-speed helicopters will take just one-half hour to make the journey," he said.

"Once airborne, the plane will be locked into a computer which will bring it in unaided."

"Computers would also control housework, do the cooking, regulate temperature and humidity. Mother will be able to dial to a computer what to cook from the health club downstairs, and it will be prepared by the time she takes to come upstairs in the elevator."

Only 20 per cent of the population would work and for only 20 days a year.

"Things change so fast these days, it's hard to believe. Is that what we say today? Or will we recognize the change and do something about it?" he asked.

Current philosophy is outdated, Mr. Secord said. "We are oriented toward a work ethic."

But to face the future, man has to become oriented to an ethic of leisure.

"People must learn to love to be free in order to enjoy their freedom," he added. "Can we free ourselves of the idea that work and leisure are opposites and learn to gain satisfaction from living life to the full?"

Mr. Secord referred to the old theory of work being the road to prosperity and well-being in the individual as "a lot of crap."

He quoted various statements from Canadian business leaders, such as, "The foundation of our national prosperity was hard work and dedication." "A man will come to less harm from overworking than he will from overplaying." "The values of thrift and hard work are constant values."

The speaker ridiculed these statements and countered with "Life is a thing of ease, or it could be. Our forefathers would consider that our present-day life is a thing of ease."

While some authorities had predicted continuing labor, he pointed out the reduction of the work week from six days to five, and in some cases (as in New York) to three and a half days.

The "authorities: referred to work that they liked, and by doing it they made plenty of money," he said.

"They don't recognize that there are at least two other kinds of work."

"There is the work that people do to support

themselves and their families which is both unnecessary and hateful. Almost 100 per cent of this kind of work can be rendered obsolete."

"Our problem is not how to use machines to do it, but to justify in our conscience that there is no work to do."

The people now holding such jobs would have to be paid for not working, so that they could live, he suggested.

"There is nothing wrong with this except that we can't accept it."

Computers could reduce the number of employees in all areas of work. He predicted the use of vending machines in liquor stores and computerized banking.

A third type of work was the work done for the joy of it, whether it pays or not.

"If we are sure of a guaranteed wage we can 'do our thing,' we can work in recreation, we can give leadership, paint pictures, make pots, square dance, lie in the sun, discuss world affairs, drink beer, argue, get an education or sing in a choir."

"And this kind of life is the life we will have. We need a change in attitude and surely we must be in the forefront of that attitude change. Can we free ourselves of outmoded concepts so that satisfaction lies in living? We must find ways that life can have meaning without relating it to work."

Schools must adjust, and have an important role in changing attitudes, he said. "We have to believe that satisfaction lies in living."

Constant dialogue must be established to discuss that necessity of recreation and leisure, he said, and he suggested that action continue long after the conference was over.

"Recreation is recognized as an essential municipal service," he said. "The municipal recreation department can provide services to other leisure agents and to groups and organizations in the community to assist them in playing an effective role."

Recreation services were essential for dynamic growth and effective development. Education systems should teach students how to make use of leisure time, and prepare for future life. Since education was important, leadership should be the best that can be recruited and trained," he said.

"The philosophy of the leader must be people-oriented and not subject-oriented," he said.

"This will be the society of tomorrow and these are some of the steps that must be taken now."

*ED. Thanks to Heather Aiton Landry for this April Fool's day item*



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"Without archives, there is no history."



## Digitization of the Canadian Expeditionary Force Personnel Service Files – Update of August 2017

Posted on [August 15, 2017](#)

As of today, 476,752 of 640,000 files are available online in our [Personnel Records of the First World War](#) database. Please visit the [Digitization of the Canadian Expeditionary Force Service Files](#) page for more details on the digitization project.

Library and Archives Canada is digitizing the service files systematically, from box 1 to box 10686, which roughly corresponds to alphabetical order. Please note that over the years, the content of some boxes has had to be moved and, you might find that the file you want, with a surname that is supposed to have been digitized, is now located in another box that has not yet been digitized.

So far, we have digitized the following files:

- Latest box digitized: **Box 8101** and last name **Rasmess**.

Please check the database regularly for new additions and if you still have questions after checking the database, you may contact us directly at 1-866-578-7777 for more assistance.

## Horse Racing in Victorian Peterborough County

While writing on Peterborough's celebrations for the first Dominion Day, July 1, 1867, horses figured prominently in two of the more significant activities of the day. Dobbin's history of the 57<sup>th</sup> Regiment and the other local military groups has little to say about horses, and yet it was clear that the citizens of Peterborough bought a horse for Lt. Col. Edwin Poole, the commanding officer of the 57<sup>th</sup> Battalion, formed only months before Confederation. Horse racing that was so important to the afternoon proceedings was not discussed in any local histories. That day marked the inaugural running of the Peterborough Derby; the first running of the Kentucky Derby was in 1875. The Queen's Plate was first run in 1860, and has remained an annual tradition.

Horse racing has a fascinating history. Every year, I organize my life around the Kentucky Derby, the Preakness and the Belmont Stakes, and literally 100,000 people are on the grounds for those races, as well as millions of television viewers. It was a surprise to me when I visited the Belle Meade Plantation near Nashville Tennessee. This southern plantation is one of the most visited heritage sites in the United States, and part of its appeal is its links to horse racing. Two generations of the Harding family pursued their love of Thoroughbreds.

The heritage site has restored the main buildings to the post-Civil War period when the plantation was breeding Arabian thoroughbreds, including horses that became tied to the lineage of virtually every Kentucky Derby winner before Canada's Northern Dancer.

Two big stories are etched in my memory. First, the Hardings gave over a million dollars to support the Confederacy during the American Civil War, 1861-1865. This seemed amazing both for the amount raised, but also because this plantation had no cotton or tobacco, the two crops most associated with American slavery and plantations. Here, the horse and wheat were supreme.

Second, Tennessee was the centre of horse racing before Kentucky. Methodists and other evangelical reformers gained control of the Tennessee legislature and by 1907 had abolished horse racing and gambling on horse races. This was particularly sad, as Belle Meade through the 1880s and 1890s became renowned for the sale of its yearlings at auctions in Nashville and New York, and was recognized partly through the acquisition of famous horses and terrific self-promotion as the greatest breeding farm in America. Tennessee's horse breeding shifted north to neighboring Kentucky. In recent years, horse racing has returned to Memphis under local option, and of course the rise of casinos and a different culture has taken the steam out of the anti-gambling lobbies.

Horse racing and gambling were connected in Ontario, too, and the fortunes of horse racing were heavily affected by this association. In 1886 Canada's Criminal Code was amended "to permit betting between individuals on horse races." In 1908, an amendment of the Criminal Code permitted "betting a race course of any incorporated association." In 1920, betting was supervised by the Federal Department of Agriculture.

The 1881 report of the Ontario Agricultural Commission quoted evidence from Dr. P. R. McMonagle, a key witness who had been breeding horses since the early 1870s. Thoroughbreds were not recommended for general farm use, because they were bred "too finely," and not useful in harness. McMonagle did not breed thoroughbreds and thought they could not be adapted to use in Canada, except possibly if bred with pacers. Some of the best horses, though, had Thoroughbred elements. McMonagle preferred to breed the Hambletonians, a trotting horse.

As well, Mr. Patteson, a leading breeder who had been breeding thoroughbreds for over twenty years, argued there was no market for thoroughbreds in Canada until there was competition for prizes on the turf. Others, too, argued that horse racing was essential to the success of the thoroughbred because there was no other way to raise needed revenue. Patterson said Canada had yet to produce one first class race horse; the best horse, Lady D'Arcy of Toronto, had competed in the United States, and finished second. (1881 Report, page 439)

There were some serious horsemen in the Peterborough area. On the first Dominion Day, the Peterborough Turf Club hosted races on a course that was on the river across from Little Lake Cemetery. The secretary of the Turf Club at that time was Henry Calcutt, who was then a young brewer, a business that required horses. Other names associated with racing that day were Charles Stapleton, part of a family of auctioneers, and also a teamster. Joseph Walton was considered one of the outstanding farmers. Some of the owners may have been tied to farming, but hotels, mills, construction and factories used horses. But horses came in many sizes; those that raced did not also lug wagons.

The Peterborough Turf Club probably began a few years before 1867. In the book *Winners: 150 Years of the Peterborough Exhibition* (1995), I said that horse races had been held in Peterborough as early as the 1850s. In 1838, the Peterborough Sentinel said that the quality of horses in the back country had improved and the star of the December fairs in Peterborough and in Cavan was a young horse owned by Widow McCall of Emily; there was no indication that it was a race horse, though. The first Colborne district fair was held on the grounds of the new court house in Peterborough in 1843, a fact proven beyond doubt in *Winners*. We changed the sub-title of the book because the fair began two years earlier than some historians such as Dobbin and Theobald believed. Recent Peterborough Exhibitions have been numbered mistakenly as if the first district / county fair was in 1845.

Sandford Fleming attended the steeplechase races in 1848 in Cobourg. Horse racing was not tied to provincial fairs before 1865, but in 1848, it was held outside the grounds, in the tradition of “sideshows”.

The descriptions of early fairs are very thin, but at the 1848 Colborne District fair the Peterborough Despatch was disappointed with the quality of the horses on display. It made no mention of horse racing.

In 1858, there were five categories of horse exhibits at the Peterborough fair. The earliest clear indication of a horse race at a fair was at Norwood in 1861. According to *Winners*, 22, there was “heavy betting on a ‘trial of speed’ in which four saddle horses raced a half mile westward and back.” The Peterborough Fair was peripatetic during these years, 1861-1867, because the Court House Park was landscaped and no longer suitable for the fair. Horses and cattle were the major draws at the exhibitions in those years, but I did not notice horse racing.

At the 1875 Central Fair, John Simpson won the ribbon for having the top two-year old. However, while horse and dog racing were popular during the 1870s, when the agricultural grounds were on George Street between McDonnell and Murray, the races were not at the fair. In 1868, horse races were held at the Peterborough Driving Park, presumably the same site as the 1867 Dominion Day races. The fall races were October 20 and 21, beginning at 2 p.m., and admission was 25 cents. The *Peterborough Review* was impressed with the line-up and the prizes, and expected “good sport and keen competition.”

In 1872, the *Peterborough Times* reported that efforts were being made to find a good track to run the horse and dog races. A Mr. Burgh, was described in the local papers as a Yankee representing the Suppression Society, wanted the dog races suppressed to protect the dogs. The *Times* was opposed to “Yankee interference” and “annexation proclivities” and felt the *Examiner* was soft on such things.

In September 1881, the fall horse races were held in conjunction with a baseball tournament, presumably at the Cricket Grounds. There was a “farmers’ trot” and a race in which local hotel keepers had a prize for single horses. It sounds like both races were for trotters rather than for thoroughbreds.

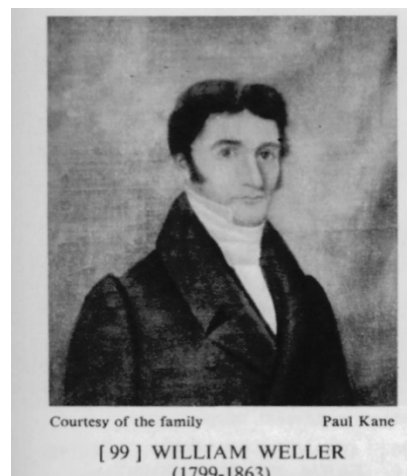
Locally horse races were not linked with the fall fair until 1885 when the agricultural society moved to the park on Lansdowne Street that became the new Peterborough Driving Park, and home to horse racing in Peterborough

until Kawartha Downs was built.

Horse racing had been common at other exhibitions after 1865. However, there was hot debate in fair circles. If the main asset of racing horses was their speed, there had to be opportunities to assess which horse was speediest. On the other hand, it was argued, fairs should be educational family affairs, and the gambling that accompanied horse racing should not be allowed. After 1885, the local fair always described its races as a variation of “trials in the ring” or “speeding in the ring” and the betting was not obvious or sponsored by the fair.

The suggestion in the 1881 Ontario Agricultural Report may have been right. There was no future in breeding and raising thoroughbreds when the moral climate was decidedly against gambling. Without significant prizes, there was little incentive to raise racing horses; but without gambling, the resources for such prizes were too limited.

As with so many things in history, it is not easy to document what everybody took for granted. The few pieces of information at least permit us to spot the boundaries and the issues that concerned earlier generations. The links between gambling, family and horse races remain hot issues.



William Weller ran the first stage coaches in our area, working from his Cobourg base. (Edwin Guillet, Valley of the Trent)

## Driving Forward

Elwood H. Jones

Patrick Leahy, in *Driving Forward*, his recent publication of his M.A. thesis on the importance of the horse in Douro Township during the last half of the 19<sup>th</sup> century contends that the horse was more important than academics realize. Based largely on the experience of William Moher, who kept a splendid diary, Leahy contends that “rural society relied on the horse for almost all of its functions.” The horse was “the best source of motive power for road travel and agricultural work.” (page 3)

Leahy notes that oxen were more important in the early nineteenth century, (in 1851, there were 496 oxen but only 34 remained in 1871. In the last half of the century across Ontario the number of horses per farm increased

from two to 3.2 between 1850 and 1900. According to the Ontario Agricultural Commission report in 1881, the number of horses at censuses were 336 (Leahy says 250) in 1851, 641 in 1861, 340 in 1871, 789 in 1881 and 1229 in 1891. The dominance of the horse declined with the introduction of tractors, trucks and automobiles. Using the assessment rolls for Douro, he finds that William Moher had four horses in 1868 and 14 in 1899, and something in between for the years he found the information. Moher clearly had more horses and land than the average Ontario farmer.

The importance of the horse in working on the farm seems to follow a shift from reliance to grain to mixed farming. I was surprised, as I thought local farms had been engaged in mixed farming since the 1820s. [Check McCalla book] By having more crops and livestock the farmer required more skills and also some crops related to feeding the animals.

William Moher began farming in the late 1840s, and the amount of land he owned in the centre of Douro, eight miles from Peterborough, increased steadily to 350 acres. He moved to new lots, eventually residing on concession 7, lots 9 and 10, and having in 1875 a lot on concession 5, lot 15, adjacent to Buckley Lake. By 1899, he had 400 acres of which 260 had been cleared; the average farm in Douro had fewer than 100 acres. Leahy believes that the horses were useful both on cleared and uncleared land. Besides the crops, there were the wood products.

The more land that Moher owned, the more horses he required. In 1888, for example, he had 230 acres of cleared land, ten horses, and spent part or all of 75 days ploughing. He needed 650 bushels of oats. (page 36)

Leahy pointed to an advertisement that said one man, one boy and a horse rake could accomplish as much as eight to ten men with hand rakes. Horses and cattle were cheaper than men when it came to mowing hay as well.

From 1855 until 1870, William Moher and his brother and sister owned a portable threshing mill powered by one horse on a treadmill. This was built by Mowry in Ashburnham according to plans that Patrick Moher, recently returned from Michigan, had supplied. (42, 43) This was sold to a consortium of 20 farmers and in 1871 was still the only threshing mill in the township. In 1858, for example, the Mohers took the threshing mill to 38 farms in 35 days. By the 1870s, grain harvesting was revolutionized by the mower, the reaper and the binder, all powered by horses. (page 39)

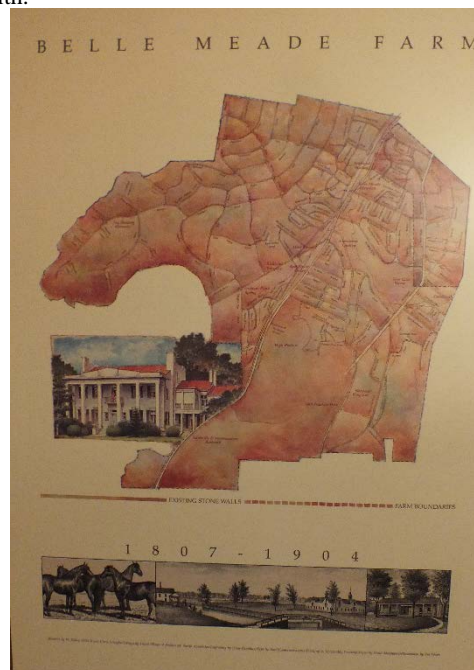
By 1900, steam threshing machines had replaced the horse powered one. Even then, Leahy noted, horses were used to draw the grain from the stooks to the machine.

As the farm technology changed across the half-century, the variety of horses required also changed. With more horses on the farm, the farmer could have heavy horses for pulling heavy machines to lighter horses, some of which would be used on the road. With fewer horses, the question of the ideal farm horse was a real one. Horses were more likely to be driven than ridden.

Horses were used for transportation on the road, and some horses were used for racing, or the non-gambling version called speeding in the ring. In 1888, for example, the Moher family made 255 horse-drawn journeys with one or two horses. After mid-century, there was a daily stage

from Warsaw to Peterborough via Douro.

Horses were also used for hauling and pulling. In the 1880s, William Moher had a milk collecting contract to Lakefield. Patrick Leahy is very good at discussing the logistics of such an operation, and from his own first-hand knowledge is able to reconstruct some possible solutions. The horse and buggy was considered ubiquitous but it is not clear how many people had buggies even by the 1890s. Carriages, which could carry four riders, were comparatively rare, but William Moher had one. In early assessments when taxes were rated on the basis of real and personal property, the carriage was an indicator of personal wealth.



Leahy also notes that wagon trains composed of the horses and wagons of several families bound for Iowa left from Douro in 1857 and 1859; part of the group made a round trip of 1,600 miles.

William Moher was also part of the local horse racing scene. Moher wrote an account of an 1887 trotting match along a measured stretch of road in which he competed against Michael Mahoney a hotel keeper in Douro; Moher's horse, King, won all three heats. At the Warsaw fair that year, Moher had the best single buggy horse and the best trotting horse.

Leahy's conclusion seems to be that one cannot understand rural life in the era of the horse (roughly a century from the 1850s to the 1960s) without giving close analysis to the importance of the horse. This does not seem an unusual suggestion, and it is widely understood by most observers with farm backgrounds.

Leahy's book reads well, but as well as being a farmer he is an historian. The problem for the historian is how to go from the anecdotal individual to the society as a whole. He says that local and academic historians do not say enough about the horses and the individual relationships. I have written about the Peterborough Exhibition, and horses were the number one agricultural draw. However, how do we go past that to talk about the



interconnections of the horse exhibitors and whether there was a horse culture.

I was amazed to learn at the Belle Meade Plantation in Nashville, which I visited many years ago, was a Southern plantation based on racing horses; every winner of the Kentucky Derby for nearly a century was sired from Arabian horses brought to this plantation. The plantation paid a million dollars to the Confederacy during the Civil War, and the horse culture thrived until Methodists got control of the legislature and banned horse racing. The Tennessee horses went to Kentucky and now it is the horse capital of the United States.

I am a great fan of farm diaries, but very few have found their ways to Ontario archives. We have an exceptional 40 year Otonabee farm diary, 1880-1922, at Trent Valley Archives, which Leahy could have used. However, looking at Weir's diary I was struck by some differences compared to Moher. Weir comments on the cost of medicine for horses and is conscious of the impact of horses that die. Weir seemed more comfortable with sharing horses and whatever they might be pulling.

As much as I like diaries, they are individualistic and anecdotal and do not lead to useful generalizations. They can complement other strategies to good effect. For starters they can raise questions about, in this case, the importance of horses. They might draw attention to the wide range of jobs that depended on the horse culture: blacksmiths, farriers, veterinarians, road builders, construction jobs, horse racing, exhibitions, farm workers, livery stables, and taxis.

Was the importance of horses in Douro representative of Peterborough county or of Ontario? Apparently not. Using the census results for 1851-52 census, the start of the period that Leahy examines, Peterborough had .19 horses per capita compared to the provincial average of .21. The most horses per capita were in Peel (.41), followed by Prince Edward (.37), Lennox (.35), Glengarry (.35) and Northumberland (.34) in all of which the number of horses exceeded one-third of the population.

In Peterborough County, Douro (.20) was close to the county average, but the townships with the most horses in proportion to population were Smith (.31), North Monaghan (.28) and Dummer (.23). Interestingly, horses were scarce in the town in 1851, and this may also suggest that horses might have been more prevalent in areas close to towns.

In the end, Patrick Leahy demonstrates the importance of the horse to the Mohers and their neighbours. However, we do not know relationships between farmers, between townships, or between counties. The Mohers had more horses and attachments than their neighbours, and for that they were well-respected.

Patrick Leahy's book, *Driving Forward*, is available from Trent Valley Archives and elsewhere.



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### LAKEFIELD'S CHRIST CHURCH CEMETERY

Elwood Jones and Stan MacLean set out to understand the sometimes confusing history of the Christ Church Cemetery. The resulting book shows that even burial grounds in prominent locations can be subject to neglect as often as to loving care. For genealogists, the message is that one needs to use caution in using sources that relate to cemeteries and convenient lists. Also interesting, is that the history of this burial ground is intertwined with the history of other early cemeteries nearby, and also with three abutting properties.

The first, lot 9 on the west side of Queen Street, was the site of Christ Church Lakefield, built in 1853 and 1854. Samuel Strickland led the efforts to get this church, designed by Kivas Tully. The land was granted by Zaccheus Burnham, and Strickland had collected about £130, some on his recent trip to England.

On August 25, 1858, the Rt. Rev. John Strachan, the Lord Bishop of Toronto did "... set apart, separate and consecrate the said building and Burial Ground to the sacred purposes for which it was designed, under the name and title of the Church of Christchurch Lakefield in order that it may for ever be secured for these ends ...."

The "cemetery lot" was never the site of a cemetery so far as we could prove, but the label was a cause for some reflection. More correctly, it was a gore lot between two local survey lot numbering systems.

In *Through the Years in Douro*, (1966), p. 99, local Christ Church historian John Twist confirmed "Gravestones once in existence were damaged beyond repair, or have vanished completely. Only 40 stones remain, some badly damaged. It is planned to restore them as nearly as possible as they were originally." There have been other changes in more recent times, and this raises questions about who ensured that the rules of the province and the Diocese of Toronto were followed.

The heart of this book is a chart showing all 120 burials that were held from Christ Church, Lakefield, including the details recorded by the presiding minister or lay person. There are now more than 40 stones in the cemetery, and genealogists should be aware that more recent memorials sometimes included names of people not

buried here. Also, the burial sites, for several reasons, are not always known.

The cemetery is well-maintained, but the experiences here might be a good example of what could have happened elsewhere. The book might inspire others to consider their favourite cemeteries with a wider agenda.

The book is available from Trent Valley Archives for \$20. For bulk orders over ten or with other questions inquire with [elwood@trentvalleyarchives.com](mailto:elwood@trentvalleyarchives.com).



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## California Typewriter

*Gary Goldstein, LA Times, 31 Aug 2017*

Doug Nichol's documentary "California Typewriter" is a rich, thoughtful, meticulously crafted tapestry about the evolution of the beloved writing machine for purists, history buffs, collectors and others fighting to preserve or re-embrace analog life.

The film, which first began as a brief look at a struggling Berkeley repair and sales shop called California Typewriter, was expanded to explore the heart and soul of the device as well as to profile a cross-section of typewriter aficionados.

Fans here range from the famous (Tom Hanks, musician John Mayer, author-historian David McCullough, the late [Sam Shepard](#)) to the lesser-known: Toronto collector Martin Howard, Oakland-based artist Jeremy Mayer (who creates remarkable sculptures entirely from typewriter parts), the quirky Boston Typewriter Orchestra and others. They prove a captivating bunch.

The film also weaves in the story of inventor Christopher Latham Sholes, who in the early 1870s developed the QWERTY keyboard as well as the world's first commercially successful typewriter.

Nichol, who also deftly shot and edited the film, never fetishizes or aggrandizes the typewriter, but instead smartly contextualizes its place as a classic symbol of American ingenuity, practicality and style. The irony? Once Jeremy

Mayer and the folks at California Typewriter embraced modern technology — that is, the Internet — to help promote their wares, their businesses really took off.

Oscar voters, keep this one in your sights.

Ed. This year's Reframe Film Festival is featuring California Typewriter as its opening night film. This review from the LA Times was the best succinct review I was able to find for a film that is being partly sponsored by Trent Valley Archives. The film spurred my memories of two years of typewriting classes, which made my switch to computers so much easier. However, as an archivist and an historian I was more drawn to the remarks of David McCullough, the famous American historian.

Typewriters changed the way in which Canadians told their stories, recorded their day to day office practices, and saved copies of their correspondence. I have thrilled at reading drafts by Canadian writers who changed their minds by annotating the typed manuscript.

Modern students who never learned to read or write in script can read typewritten archival documents. In a way, typewriters made archives accessible. The difference between John A. Macdonald and Wilfrid Laurier is the typewriter; Laurier's archives are more accessible.

Documents written by computers have great advantages, but the typing of letters and student essays with carbon paper to create the second or third copies had a patina and uneven type that is hard to match.

The typewriter is also a metaphor. The archival record changes with the ways in which people choose to record their thoughts or transact their business. Some methods are more difficult for archival repositories to preserve, and researchers are more comfortable with the visual and the tactile: for example, the photograph and the typed letter.

For details about the ReFrame Film Festival, running 25 to 28 January this year visit their website. California Typewriter is showing at the Market Hall on Friday, January 26.

## Query: Dumbelliana and the Plunketts

*Steve Plunkett*

First off let me congratulate you and your team on your excellent publication. I look forward to reading it cover to cover. Your articles are interesting and informative.

I found your article entitled "Peterborough Always Had Plenty Of Amusements" interesting but slightly disappointing as the Dumbells were only mentioned in passing ie. "The Dumbells have come again and again". With the surname Plunkett I'm sure you can understand my attachment to this famed entertainment troupe. Merton Plunkett the founder of the company was my great uncle, Albert Plunkett one of the main stars of the show was a great uncle, and Morley Plunkett a member of the troupe was my grandfather.

The Dumbells did play Peterborough numerous times during their illustrious career. My grandfather even retired here after his show business career and lived at 1298 Monaghan Road.

I'm wondering if you might be able to help me on a

couple different fronts.

First off, I'm always looking for Dumbellabilia. I have a programme from a 1926 show in Peterborough, but I'm wondering where I might find copies of other year's shows. Is this something the archives might have tucked away for enquiring eyes? Do newspaper accounts of their visits to Peterborough exist???

Also, there is a good chance that local photographers may have been hired by the Dumbells for publicity shots when they were in town. Would the Roy collection have any sort of index where I might find Dumbell photos would you know?

Over the years I have attempted to delve into Plunkett genealogy. I have my family coming to Canada from Ulster I believe roughly 1850 but I have hit a brick-wall to pinpoint exactly from where they originated....

Reply:

Over the years I have seen passing references to the Dumbells, but we don't have the archival papers. I could try and pull some of those references together. The newspapers, which we do have, would be great for the advertisements and the reviews. Roy Studio did studio shots for several vaudevillians; we have an index to the Roy studio shots, and that might be helpful.

We certainly would be pleased to search Ancestry to see what we can learn.

TRENT VALLEY ARCHIVES,  
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING (AGM),  
APRIL 19, 7 P.M.

Guest speaker, Dr Rae Fleming, author, historian and editor of the recently published history of Victoria County. Book tables for TVA and for Rae Fleming open at 6:30 p.m. Followed by refreshments, and the AGM which will review the events of 2017 and elect the new members of the board of directors. If you are interested in serving on the board please let a current board member know.

For details [www.trentvalleyarchives.com](http://www.trentvalleyarchives.com).

## CONGRATULATIONS

The crew that included Gord Dibb and Dirk Verhulst were honoured to receive the Ontario Archaeological award for best book of the year! This book is available at Trent Valley Archives, \$20.

Heather Aiton Landry has been promoted to Associate Archivist, Trent Valley Archives. She has accomplished much over the past six years and the Board of Directors congratulates her on this well-deserved promotion.

## Other upcoming events at TVA

### *Heritage Week*

Trent Valley Archives will be participating in the Selwyn Township Heritage Day Event on February 24<sup>th</sup> from 10am to 3pm. It will take place at the Niels Pind room at the Lakefield Arena.

### *Drinking in Our History*

On Friday, April 13<sup>th</sup> from 7-10pm, Trent Valley Archives invites you to join its first pub crawl of 2018. The "Scandals and Scoundrels Pub Crawl" will tour three of downtown Peterborough's most noteworthy pubs, where you will hear tales of murder, robberies, police shootouts, ghosts and mysterious deaths. There is time to stop for a drink.

This walking tour will introduce you to our rich public house cultural history which included such establishments as the long gone Montgomery House, Oriental Hotel, Empress Hotel, and Pig's Ear Tavern. Visits to the three pubs on the tour, the Red Dog, Retro's E-Sports (formerly the King George Hotel) and the Black Horse Tavern include tales related by the current pub managers themselves.

Join the tour guides at the city bus stop just east of the Simcoe St. city bus station at 7 pm sharp on Friday, April 13<sup>th</sup>. Reservations are required; groups are limited to 20 persons; the cost is \$22 which does not include the price of your beverage. This tour is not suitable for children; please bring ID.

### *Little Lake Cemetery Women's History Tour*

Our popular cemetery tours begin this season on Sunday, May 27<sup>th</sup> at 2:30pm with a fascinating look at the stories of some of the women who have shaped Peterborough. Meet women who were artists, philanthropists, teachers, businesswomen and housewives and learn about the ways they lived and worked. Reservations are required; the cost is \$17.



## TRENT VALLEY ARCHIVES

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