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TABLE OF CONTENTS

Nellie Wrenshall Grant's Cobourg Connection	Dave Barry	3
Glimpses of the Early Movie-Going Audience in Peterborough	Robert Clarke	14
President's Corner: Connect with Local History	Rick Meridew	20
The Colony Settlers Arrive: This is the 200 th anniversary of the first European settlement in what would become Peterborough	Elwood H. Jones	21
The Milburn Colony Settler	Alastair Robertson, Alston, England	23
Cobourg was the gateway to Peterborough	Elwood H. Jones	25
Peterborough 1837	Cobourg Star, Peterboro' Sentinel	26
Peter Robinson 1825 Settler John Callaghan Lauds His Immigration and his new Homeland in a letter Dated October 8, 1827 and published in the Cork Constitution	Rosemary McConkey	27
Caisse Hotel Inquest October 1859	Dennis Carter-Edwards	30
Leon Caisse: Peterborough's Hotelier Extraordinaire (1854-1867) excerpt	Colum Diamond	33
This City Once Made Much of What Canada Bought. But No More.	Ian Austen, New York Times	35
Peterborough Geographic Association: a Vignette of Peterborough in the later 20 th Century	Peter Adams and Al Brunger	37
Queries, News, Views and Reviews		42
McIlvena and Grant 42; 2 nd Annual Plant Sale June 2 42; Historic Marble Slab Goes Up At Ashburnham Ale House 43; Peterboro' vs Peterborough 43; Quaker Fire Memorial Committee 44; Susan Veronica Guthrie 44; Spanish Flu Hits Peterborough 1918 44; Kwong Hum Remembers the Hum Restaurants back cover; Fallen Italian Memorial 19; Graham Hart Retiring 20		

Cover photo: Alston Train Station, 2009 (Elwood H. Jones)



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Nellie Wrenshall Grant's Cobourg Connection

Dave Barry

Nellie Wrenshall Grant the middle child and only daughter of Ulysses S Grant, the heroic general of the Union Army during the American Civil War and later the eighteenth president of the USA (1869-1877) was once the proud owner of a gracious old Regency style home in Cobourg Ontario, during the early part of the twentieth century. Although she and her family used it primarily as a summer retreat; spending many memorable summers at it from early May to mid October, two historic family weddings were hosted from it, both crammed full of the “who’s-who” of the American military, political and social elite of the day.

Nellie was born on July 4, 1855 in [St. Louis, Missouri](#), the only daughter of Ulysses S. Grant and Julia Boggs Dent. She spent her formative years growing up in Missouri; while her father as supreme Commander of the Union forces lead the “Army of the Potomac” to ultimate victory during the American Civil War. Following her father’s election as the eighteenth President of the USA in 1869, Nellie, by then in her early teens, became the darling of the White House. From there she met her soon to be suitor, a wealthy young British army Captain by the name of Algernon Charles Frederick Sartoris from Hampshire England, who had recently been assignment to the British delegation in Washington.



After a long courtship; Nellie at age nineteen and Algy at age twenty-three were married on May 21, 1874 in one of the most lavish and extravagant events ever to be held in the East Room of the White House. Although Algy had promised President Grant that he would remain in the USA and raise any children from their marriage as Americans, his older brother died soon after and so Algy was summoned home to manage his father’s vast estate. During those early years in England, the young couple joined Algy’s father at his luxurious estate villa in Hampshire, where Nellie as the only daughter of the American President, was received almost as royalty; welcomed by the entire British establishment including Queen Victoria herself. However, during those early years in England, Nellie maintained her American identity, remaining close to her parents and sailing the Atlantic often to visit them and so her first two children were born in the USA; Grant Grenville Edward Sartoris, born 1875 in New Jersey, who sadly died an infant in the UK a year later, and Algernon Edward Sartoris, born in 1877 in Washington DC as her father neared the end of his final term of office. After her father’s retirement Nellie visited the States less and less frequently and went on to become a naturalized British citizen. Over the ensuing years, she and her deceptive husband Algy, living a double standard, as he became more and more involved in the lavish night life of the big European cities, had two more children; **Vivien Mae Sartoris**, born April 7, 1879 in London and Rosemary Sartoris, born on November 30, 1880 at the family’s Hampshire estate.

Some five years later, following the birth of her youngest child, while still living a comfortable but increasingly miserable life, Nellie’s revered father, President Ulysses S. Grant passed away at his summer home near Stamford New York (*July 23, 1885*). Fortunately, Nellie once again sailed the Atlantic, and was at his side as he passed. Three years later, Nellie’s wealthy and respected father-in-law Edward John Sartoris, who had taken Nellie and her young family under his wing, sadly passed away. Some five years after that, with Nellie and her family continuing to live a lavish but miserable life at her father-in-law’s estate, her scandalous husband Algy, now loathed by both sides of the family, died in Italy, the result of his many years of hard living.

Nellie’s thoughts, as a financially comfortable but lonely English widow, now residing in an upscale Sartoris estate in London’s fashionable west end, turned to rejoining her beloved mother back in Washington DC and to rekindling her former American connections. By 1894, with both teen aged daughters living securely among Sartoris family in London and obtaining private school tutoring, and with her son Algernon about to enter Oxford, Nellie removed to Washington DC. There she and her mother Julia Dent Grant, who had recently returned from California where she had been living amongst some of her children, purchased a beautiful old marble fronted home on Massachusetts Avenue and staffed it with some four or five domestic staff. Much to Nellie’s surprise however, although all doors had remained open to her, the old face of Washington had changed forever. Most surprisingly, several of her father’s old Civil War luminaries had moved north of the border and were residing permanently in Cobourg Ontario. Still others had purchased summer homes there, where they resided seasonally, while yet others joined many of their old Civil War comrades there for a few weeks of rest and relaxation each summer.

During the American Civil War (1861-1865) the northern states had scrambled to meet the demands for the high volumes of precious Iron and steel required for building and maintaining their railroads, and to produce the vast quantity of heavy weaponry and munitions, crucial to their success. At the root of their concern had been a limited

supply of local Iron ore, some of it shipped in by rail from as far away as Rochester New York. To fill the void, politicians, military brass and businessmen alike had for years enviously looked north of the border to a large but remote iron ore deposit they called the “Big Ore,” near Marmora Ontario. The leading proponent of developing this deposit had been a local Pittsburg iron and steel magnate by the name of Thomas S Blair, but except for the previous old unworkable overland route which had gone due south to Lake Ontario, no other practical means existed to get the precious resource to market.



Villa St. Joseph, Cobourg.

At the end of the war in 1865, with many of General Grant’s senior officers discharged from the Union Army and entering the economic boom that followed, a Mister George K. Schoenberger another iron and steel industrialist from Huntingdon County Pennsylvania along with his new partner and friend Thomas S Blair headed up new group of local investors to revisit a means of delivering this still much coveted resource to the Pittsburg smelters. At the forefront of their new plan now, was the infamous problem plagued “Cobourg and Peterborough Rail Road,” which had spanned Rice Lake between the first nation community of Hiawatha and Harwood, until 1861, when the center section of this longest but certainly not strongest wood trestle bridge in the world collapsed (*taken down by the spring ice flows*) and was now resting on the muddy bottom of the lake. The town of Cobourg, the major investor in this ill fated venture and because of it, was verging on bankruptcy, sold the entire rail system to Mister Schoenberger and his partners. The following year, Schoenberger and Blair purchased the entire Big Ore works naming the wilderness community Blairton and their venture the “Cobourg, Peterborough and Marmora Railway and Mining Company.” To manage the venture, Schoenberger appointed as his “Managing Director,” his son-in-law; Colonel William Parham Chambliss, who had served courageously as a Captain in the Union Fifth Calvary under the supreme command of General Grant. Chambliss in turn made Cobourg with its excellent rail and Great Lakes connection the base of his operation.

To get their precious ore out of Blairton, Chambliss first constructed a six or seven mile long narrow gage rail

line to the northern reaches of the Trent River, some nine miles south-west of his open pit mine operation. There the cargo was dumped from small custom made rail cars into waiting barges and the steamer "Otonabee" hauled the payload up river through the newly enlarged lock at Hastings and then onward via Rice Lake to the tiny community of Harwood. At Harwood, the ore was loaded into larger standard gauge rail cars for transport the short distance due south along the original old section of the Cobourg-Peterborough rail line to the Cobourg harbor. There, the ore was dumped into large barges and tugged across the lake to Rochester New York. From Rochester, the old existing rail system took over; dumping the precious cargo for a third time into standard rail cars of the recently expanded Buffalo-Rochester and Pittsburgh Railroad for final delivery to the Pittsburgh mills

Chambliss's cumbersome scheme although not perfect, worked reasonably well for a number of years; at its peak delivering some three hundred tons of precious iron ore per day to the hungry Pittsburgh steel mills. However, his scheme was short lived, only lasting about twelve years. By 1878 the **Peterborough & Marmora Railway and Mining Company** had declared bankruptcy and were forced out of business, displaced by much larger and economically viable supplies of Iron ore from the head of Lake Superior.

Nonetheless, from their very early days in Cobourg, Chambliss and his young family had totally embraced the friendly little community, with its many tree lined streets and open spaces, its moderate summer temperatures, its pristine beach with its refreshing summer breezes, and most of all, for its salubrious air; said to contain high levels of naturally occurring Ozone. So in 1873, in spite of his struggling enterprise, Chambliss built a large and gracious Victorian style home on Queen Street and relocated his entire family to Cobourg.

Upon settling his family into their new surroundings, the energetic entrepreneur turned his attention to another endeavor that he had long dreamed of, from first setting foot in Cobourg; to transform the quaint little town with its many natural attributes, its undeveloped tourist industry and its favorable location into a pleasant summer alternative for his many Pittsburg friends and associates, wishing to escape those many hot muggy smog filled days of summer.

The following year amid a downturn in the local tourist industry Chambliss built what was to become the linchpin of his grand scheme; a magnificent new one hundred and eighty room three storey hotel, perfectly located along old King Street, which he aptly named the "Arlington." His magnificent new facility was not only intended to provide an appealing social hub for the many American visitors that he so envisioned, but also to provide them with a striking view and ready access to the pristine beach and shorelines of Lake Ontario, through a large undeveloped park like treed landscape.

With the little town so ideally located along the mainline of the Grand Trunk Railroad, between Toronto to Montreal (*an extension of the vast GTR system south of the border*) it didn't take long for tourists to arrive and welcome his grand scheme with open arms. Although most of his original guests were well heeled Canadians from Montreal and Toronto and even a few from neighboring Peterborough, on their heels came many prominent American industrialists and businessmen, many of them Civil War veterans and their families including several business associates of Andrew Carnegie. Within a few scant years as the popularity of his scheme gained prominence throughout Pennsylvania, Chambliss expanded his plan to include Americans from both sides of the old political divide. To placate this new generation of southerners and Confederate veterans, seeking to escape the stifling summer heat and humidity of the south; many of whom had long bemoaned spending their hard-earned dollars in Yankee establishments, he offered Cobourg and his classy new Arlington as a viable alternative. So, by the late 1870s as his original business was all but defunct, his new venture was beginning to thrive; now bragging a large summer guest list that included a very eclectic mix of Yankees and southerners; businessmen, civic leaders and many war veterans of every rank and file. They arrived in droves, not only from northern cities such as; Pittsburg, New York, Rochester, Niagara Falls, Buffalo, Washington, Chicago, Cleveland and Cincinnati, but also more and more southerners arrived from as far away as New Orleans, Houston and Galveston. Much to his delight, the Arlington had by now taken its rightful place as the most magnificent and illustrious hotel of its kind between Toronto and Montreal and the quaint little town of Cobourg was launched as a truly unique little American summer colony – referred to by many of his well-heeled guests as "Newport North."

The social life of these Americans was primarily centered around the splendid Arlington which during those early days offered many gracious activities such as; ballroom dancing, masquerade parties, amateur theater, musicals, opera, lavish dinner parties, book clubs, classic card games and even Poker and Blackjack. However, for the more adventuresome, train excursions were occasionally offered from Cobourg up through the Northumberland hills to Harwood along the old Peterborough-Cobourg line, from where passengers connected with one of the old Calicut operated steamers for tours of Rice Lake and the Trent River, as far east as the village of Hastings, or up the Otonabee River and into Peterborough.

So appealing had the charming little town become; by the mid to late 1880s at the peak of the Gilded Age, it was no longer just occasional summer visitors that favored the area, but more and more former high ranking Civil

War officers and industrialists arrived, built permanent homes and moved their entire families there, mainly to exploit the many new business opportunities that the young province of Ontario offered. Amongst these early entrepreneurs to name a few were; Chambliss's two brothers-in-laws, both partners in his business ventures; General Charles Lane Fitzhugh from Oswego New York, who had commanded an Artillery Battery under the supreme command of General Grant, and William Hamilton Schoenberger, George K Schoenberger's eldest son. Others included the likes of; General Orlando Metcalfe Coe, who had served under the Union's General [William Tecumseh Sherman](#), and in Cobourg became involved with much of the early [lighthouse](#) construction on the [Great Lakes](#), as well as with the design of the first set of Ontario-Michigan locks at the Soo (*Sault Ste. Marie*) and Brigadier General O. B. Wilcox, a retired [Colonel](#) from the First [Michigan Volunteer Infantry](#), who was now writing various histories of the American Civil War from his new Cobourg location.

However, the traffic wasn't all one way. Many of Cobourg's youth, exposed to the American dream, with its many good paying jobs and more moderate climate, relocated to cities such as; Rochester, Buffalo, Pittsburg and Washington to follow their dream. In other cases, young locals working as domestics or gardeners for the many Americans or as cooks and chambermaids in the local hotels such as the Arlington were poached by the Americans to join them in similar positions in the States. Once in the States, the young Canadians, with their cultural and language similarities settled in largely unnoticed.

Sadly, just as Chambliss's was about to witness the fullness of his dream, the first of two major tragedies befell this ambitious and respected family. On March 22, 1887 at the age of fifty-eight, Colonel William Parham Chambliss died suddenly of a heart attack; leaving a grieving wife and four teenage children and a thriving business to be managed. Never recovering from the shock, Chambliss's dear wife Sallie S Schoenberger-Chambliss shockingly passed away some five months later (*June 15, 1887*). Thereafter, the four orphaned Chambliss children returned to the States to be raised by their Grandparents; George K Schoenberger and his Cobourg born wife Ella Beatty, in Cincinnati Ohio.

By then however, a prominent local citizen, entrepreneur and neighbor of the Chambliss family by the name of Roderick Robert Pringle had assumed the operation of the Arlington. Pringle, was the Canadian born son of a well know Scottish immigrant, who as a young man had served as a commissioned officer in the local Militia during the Fenian Raids (*following the Civil War*), was a staunch Tory and old political crony of Sir John A Macdonald (*Canada's first Prime Minister*) and a horse trader who had supplied many locally purchased horses to the North West Mounted Police during their westward march to Fort Macleod Alberta in 1874.

Some three years later (*1890*) Colonel Chambliss's elegant old Victorian home that he had so proudly built near his famed Arlington was sold. The proud new owner and now a neighbor of Mister Pringle was another influential American industrialist from Buffalo New York; Colonel S Douglas Cornell, a descendent of Ezra Cornell, one of the founding fathers of Cornell University, and a personal friend of President Grover Cleveland. Colonel Cornell and his young family along with his younger brother Richard Rapelyea Cornell of Rochester and his wife, the renowned Soprano, Madam Mary Brooks-Scovel had long been regular summer visitors to Cobourg and patrons of the local arts scene, until Richard sadly passed away in 1885. Although the Colonel and his family continued on, his sister-in-law Madam Mary Brooks Scovel-Cornell while maintaining her small cottage in Cobourg eventually removed to Washington from where she expanded her singing career, going on to considerable national and international renown.

In spite of her fame, Madam Mary Brooks-Scovel, now performing under the persona "Mme de Diaz Albertini," since marrying a Chevalier de Diaz Albertini, a former Cuban diplomat in Washington and an accomplished classical violinist in his own right, returned to her beloved Cobourg some ten years later. Once settled back in Cobourg, the pair proceeded to purchase another gracious old Victorian home¹ on King Street, close to her Cornell relatives and the famous Arlington. Back in Cobourg, Mme resumed her singing career, often now accompanied by her talented husband, where the pair frequently became the featured performers at the Cobourg Opera House (*Victoria Hall*) or at the grand old Arlington; drawing crowds from near and afar. A few years later, Mme encouraged her equally famous brother and Opera star, Chevalier Edward Brooks Scovel, of Milan and London fame, along with his renowned American wife, Madam Marcia Roosevelt Scovel, of the famed Oyster Bay Roosevelt family to join them in the Cobourg arts scene. Soon after, upon completing his education at Yale, the Scovels privileged son, Van Ness Frederick Roosevelt Scovel, joined the foursome at their large Cobourg home.

It was against this backdrop, with her family now all living with her in Washington and her son Algernon about to enter the US Army that Nellie Grant-Sartoris, by now an established Washington socialite and friend of both the Albertinis and Scovels, first appeared on the Cobourg social scene. Although maybe previously a guest at the

¹ Named their new place "Interlaken," meaning between the lakes.

Arlington for a season or two, by the summer of 1900 Nellie had leased from a Mister William F. Ladd of Galveston Texas his elegant old home on King Street. The following year in May of 1901, the little Cobourg weekly newspaper, the "Cobourg World" reported that Mrs. Nellie Grant-Sartoris, following a visit to New York City and Grant's Tomb² was on her way to Cobourg, where she had again rented for the summer the old Ladd Estate.

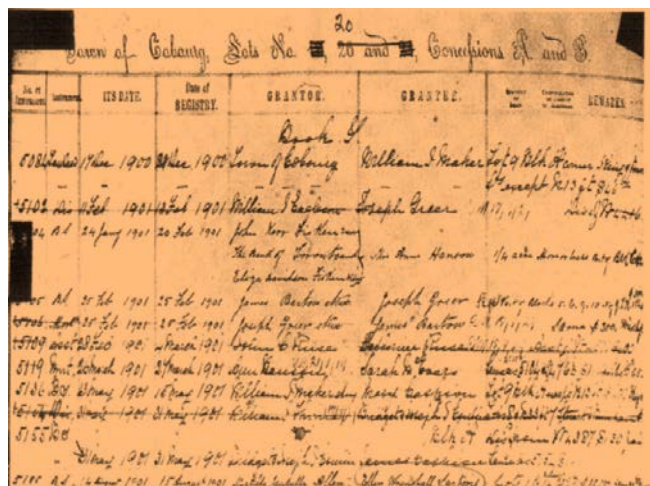
Later that summer amid a dramatic facelift for the little town; including; new concrete sidewalks, a sewage system, and an electric light plant, Nellie's original seasonal plan was about to take a major shift. In August of that historic summer Nellie purchased from a Miss Matilda Isabella Allan³ her large elegant old west end villa along Tremaine Street, which included a twenty-four room Regency style brick home with large wrap around verandas front and back, set on almost three acres of pristine water front property. The "Cobourg World" had gone on to extol her purchase, reflecting how much the local populous would welcome Mrs. Sartoris to their quiet little community. To the Cobourg populous, Nellie with her many years of living in England and undoubtedly developing many little British nuances and customs, seemed a perfect fit for their little community; still cloaked in much of its colonial past, but now increasingly facing many appearances and characteristics of a small American community.

Within a few weeks, Nellie's esteemed mother Julia Dent Grant, accompanied by her Canadian secretary, Ms. Mary Ellen Coffey joined Nellie and her two young daughters Vivian and Rosemary in Cobourg. Now, once again, all three generations of this esteemed American family were comfortably settled, but this time neatly tucked in between the beautiful rolling hills and valleys of Northumberland County and the splendid panorama of the unspoiled Lake Ontario shoreline.

Although not much is known for certain about Mary Ellen Coffey, she is believed to have been a local Cobourg woman, the daughter of Irish immigrant Philip Coffee and his Canadian born wife Margaret Ryan of adjacent Hamilton Township. In 1892 at about the age of thirty-eight, Mary Ellen, like many of her young compatriots went to the States. Although somewhat speculative, she probably went directly to Washington to work as a domestic or as an assistant of some sort for Nellie's good friend Mary Scovel-Cornell. In any case, by 1899 Mary Ellen was working for Julia as her personal "Secretary" at her beautiful new Massachusetts Avenue home that she shared with Nellie and her young family. Her primary responsibilities there seem to have been to edit Julia's long overdue memoirs, a task she had commenced years earlier but for various reasons had never finished.

Cobourg Land Abstracts – August 1901

(Instrument 5185 - Bottom Line)



In Cobourg, it is believed that Nellie largely furnished her new home from local furniture makers and antique dealers, but a few of her or her mother's more prized heirlooms appear to have been shipped in from Washington. Foremost among these was a grand old walnut library table, said to have been her husband's favorite while serving in the White House, along with a large gracious old hall mirror, also claimed to have adorned the walls of the executive area of the White House.

Once settled in, it didn't take long for the entire family to join in the gaiety and frivolities of their new surroundings. Although their social activities were still largely centered on the splendid old Arlington, Nellie and her young family soon became known for hosting a myriad of private socials, tea parties, card games and various other soirees. This

lead Nellie to almost immediately convert her original old horse stable into a splendid new ballroom, replete with new

²*Nellie also occupied a leased apartment near her father's Manhattan tomb.*

³ Miss Allan, was the middle daughter of Mister Hugh Allan had inherited the grand estate from her recently deceased father, Hugh Allan, the formidable Allan Steamship Lines

hardwood floors, several low hanging crystal chandeliers, large lavish windows along the lake side of the building and a very large glass mirror along the opposite wall, to reflect the splendid view of Lake Ontario. Then, to house her gardener, that she hired locally, she eventually built a small stucco guest house adjacent to the main house.

However, for Julia, the aging Civil War hero wife and former “First Lady,” it definitely wasn’t all play and no work that first summer in Cobourg. For, first and foremost on her mind, was the challenge of finalizing those long overdue memoirs. So, in spite of her failing eyesight but with her vivacity and talent for writing and no doubt reenergized by the solitude and beauty of her idyllic new setting; one could well imagine Julia and her assistant Mary Ellen Coffey sitting for hours on end at that favorite old writing table that President Grant had so cherished.

High on the agenda for the rest of the young family though, was what was billed to be the social event of the summer; the upcoming wedding of Miss Rebecca Brooks Cornell of Buffalo New York, the daughter of Richard Cornell (*deceased*) and Madam de Diaz Albertini, (*Mary-Brooks Scovel*) to her childhood neighbor, Mister Roderick Harold Clive Pringle⁴, the son of Mister Roderick Robert Pringle, the former proprietor at the Arlington. As the big day arrived, Nellie, her gracious mother Julia, (*taking a break from her memoirs*) and Nellie’s two beautiful young debutantes, Vivian Mae and Rosemary as planned all attended the elaborate wedding with all its glitz and glamour. Most memorably though on that historic day, Nellie’s eldest daughter Vivian Mae was to meet her soon to be suitor, a friend of the groom and one of the handsome young ushers; Van Ness Frederick Roosevelt Scovel, the privileged son of Chevalier Edward Brooks Scovel, and his renowned wife Madam Marcia Roosevelt Scovel.

The following year, on the balmy summer evening of Friday August 15, 1902, the engagement of Nellie’s eldest daughter, Miss Vivian Mae Sartoris of Washington DC to fellow American and temporary Cobourg resident, Mister Van Ness Frederick Roosevelt Scovel was announced in a very elaborate social event at Nellie’s home.

As announced, on Saturday August 23, 1902, Miss Vivian Mae Sartoris of Washington DC took for her husband at Saint Peter’s Anglican Church in Cobourg, Mister Van Ness Frederick Roosevelt Scovel. Like her own elaborate wedding years earlier, the wedding was very glamorous and lavish, and no doubt the wedding of the century in little Cobourg. It was very much a private affair, crammed full of names from American society; former Civil War officers and a multitude of other prominent friends, and relatives, but most importantly by the bride’s charming grandmother; former First Lady Julia Dent Grant. The Best Man was the groom’s uncle, Chevalier de Diaz Albertini and the ushers were; Captain John Wright of Virginia; Mister John Mason Brown of Louisville Kentucky; Mister Hillhouse Chew of Geneva New York; Mister Roderick Oliver Clive Pringle of British Columbia, the Cobourg friend of the groom accompanied by his own recent bride, Rebecca Brooks Cornell, a first cousin of the groom; Mister W. Carson of Ohio and Mister Phelps Spencer of Watertown New York, a Yale classmate of the groom. Among the many other luminaries were: Mme de Diaz Albertini, aunt of the groom; Mrs. Mary Cass Whitney, aunt of the groom through the Cornell family; Roosevelt Schuyler, cousin of the groom through the Oyster Bay Roosevelt family; Major and Mrs. Waterbury, cousins of the groom; two of Nellie’s old Washington friends, General Fred Bennett Jones and his brother Frank Hatch Jones of Chicago; General and Mrs. Bingham; Brigadier General and Mrs. O. B. Wilcox; Colonel and Mrs. Erwin, and General and Mrs. Charles L. Fitzhugh and other members of the esteemed Cornell family. Following the church ceremony, all guests were carried over to Nellie’s Claremont where an elaborate reception was held. Following the elaborate reception, the bride and groom sailed to Europe for an extended honeymoon in the England and the hill country of Italy.

Upon returning to Washington in the fall of 1901 Julia had corresponded with her old friend Andrew Carnegie regarding publication rights to her memoirs, but unfortunately no agreement was reached. So by the end of the summer of 1902, following her granddaughter’s grand wedding; Julia and her long standing secretary Mary Ellen Coffey although maybe just tweaking Julia’s memoirs a little; had finally produced a completed manuscript. Although it was written in a few different hand writings, including her own and that of her son Frederick Dent Grant; the final version was largely written by the hand of Julia’s long time Cobourg secretary, Mary Ellen Coffey.

Sadly however, in late October of that year, with its many bright crisp clear autumn days and clear blue skies, and hopefully after enjoying a few delightful excursions up into the surrounding Northumberland Hills, ablaze in their brilliant autumn plume, Julia developed a severe case of Bronchitis. On the advice of her Cobourg Physician, she was encouraged to return home to Washington as soon as possible. In a specially ordered rail car, Nellie and her mother Julia, accompanied by a small entourage of several of her long time Cobourg friends and associates; Madame Soria of New Orleans, General and Mrs. Fitzhugh of Washington, and Mrs. Eleanor Tracey of St. Louise Missouri, left their serene Cobourg setting within about a week or so of her illness, and arrived back in Washington on Friday October 17, 1902. Although Julia, in her seventy-seventh year, whom many still described as the “youngest old lady they know,” arrived back in Washington in a somewhat feeble condition and was cautiously confined to fulltime bed rest;

⁴The honorable Roderick Clive Pringle went on to be appointed to the Canadian Senate in 1917.

she was deemed to be in no immediate danger. Sadly however, her condition took a drastic turn for the worse, complicated by heart and kidney problems and she succumbed to her illness on December 14, 1902, with Nellie as with her father and Rosemary at her side.



Front Row - Left to Right

Signor Albertini - Rosemary Sartoris - Edward Brooks Scovel? - Vivian Mae Sartoris & Frederick Roosevelt Scovel -
Nellie Wrenshall Grant-Sartoris - Mme de Diaz Albertini - Roosevelt Schuyler, cousin of the groom?

Back Row - Left to Right

Four Ushers - Frank Hatch Jones - Clive Oliver Pringle

Following her mother's passing, Nellie appears to have commenced a long gradual withdrawn from the Washington social scene; focusing her life more and more on New York City (*with the exception of 1904 of course, when she spent most of the year in St Louis as Chairman of the Board of Lady Managers at the World's Fair*). Although her transition to New York no doubt was mostly driven by her desire to be closer to her daughter Rosemary, who had since moved there, it also provided for a much shorter rail journey up to her Cobourg home. Occasionally however, Nellie and her young family wishing to avoid the still somewhat arduous rail journey opted for the much simpler but also much longer water route; sailing directly between New York and Cobourg. However, within a few short years her frequent voyages between New York and Cobourg were soon to become even more convenient, with the inaugurated of the "Ontario Car Ferry" service between Rochester and Cobourg in 1907. This new much appreciated service now allowed Nellie and her family to take a direct train connection the short distance from New York up to Rochester and then take the short ferry service across the lake to Cobourg, probably cutting their overall travel time at least in half. Consequently, Nellie was finally motivated to complete her long transition out of Washington, and to establish a permanent residence in a very upscale apartment on beautiful Riverside Drive, just down the street from the Grant Tomb in Manhattan New York.

It was therefore during this period as Cobourg's de facto little American summer colony continued to grow in popularity and size, stimulated by the new Lake Ontario access, that Nellie now living permanently in New York appear to have attained the most use and enjoyment of her summer home. Records would indicate, she spent more and more care-free time in Cobourg during this period; often arriving in the early spring and remaining until mid to

late fall; frolicking among their many friends and associates, especially Chevalier and Mme de Diaz Albertini, who now in addition to providing much of the entertainment at the Arlington, had become the sole proprietors of the celebrated old establishment. To make life easier for herself and to maintain her large property during this period, Nellie employed a small domestic staff hired locally, including a male driver and groundskeeper and like other permanent American residents, by about 1905 she had installed a home telephone service to remain in touch with her family during those many carefree days. In addition to her frequent journeys back and forth between Cobourg and New York, on occasion accompanied by her old Chicago friend, Mister Frank Hatch Jones, she also sailed frequently across the Atlantic, sometimes accompanied by her mother's old loyal friend and former Secretary Mary Ellen Coffey, to visit her son Algernon, now discharged from the army and living in Paris or her daughter Vivian, residing with her husband in London.

So, although Rosemary and her husband George Woolston (*married in New York City on October 29, 1906*) appear to have been Nellie's most frequent and faithful Cobourg visitors; her son Algernon along with his young French wife Cécile Noufflard on occasion, returned Nellie's many European visits, travelling to Cobourg to visit her at her summer home. On one such memorable occasion the busy young couple along with their two year old son Herbert Charles Sartoris, are known to have spent an entire week with Nellie, to celebrate her fifty-third birthday with her on July 4, 1908. However, for Vivian and her husband Frederick Roosevelt Scovel, living in London since the death of Frederick's mother Marcia Roosevelt Scovel in 1906; although known to have frequented New York City, it has not been determined how much if ever, they travelled up to Cobourg to visit Nellie at her summer home.

The many new arrivals, the result of the Ontario Car Ferry service from Rochester, were composed of an entirely new mix of visitor; which included many high ranking federal and state government officials, members of Cabinet, U.S. Senators, Supreme Court Justices, wealthy businessmen and in some cases, even famous actors and musicians, all had one thing in common; an interest in a much more active lifestyle. Gone now were the lazy, hazy days of summer masquerades and lavish dinner parties and in came boating, fishing, hunting, horse racing, show jumping, polo, steeple chase, sailing regattas and so on. Foremost amongst this new breed was golf. Many of these new Pittsburgh elites, including members of the prestigious old Duquesne Club and the equally prestigious Pittsburgh Golf Club, now listed their primary addresses as Cobourg; spending more and more time in town and like Nellie many even established permanent telephone service and domestic help to provide themselves with more leisure time. Although some maintained nominal memberships in their old home based golf and business men's clubs, others went on to establish themselves solely as permanent members and leaders of the prestigious new Golf Links golf course of Cobourg. So, it wasn't long until the club began to supplant the prestigious old Arlington as the primary social hub for the many Americans.

Many visitors, following Nellie's lead, with their stays lasting longer and longer and running much later into the fall season, especially those from the Pittsburgh area, couldn't help but notice the local love affair with organized ice-hockey, so, it wasn't long now until members of the prestigious Duquesne Club likewise organized similar leagues in Pittsburgh and encouraged local boys and officials to join them in Pittsburgh, to boost their ranks.

Of course, with this new face of Cobourg, came other hotels and resorts; some springing up in the outlying communities of; Bewdley, Gore's Landing, Harwood and Hastings. The prize for this new more back to nature oriented visitor was the abundance of the much sought after Walleye and Muskellunge, found in abundance in Rice Lake, and downriver as far as the village of Hastings. To shuttle this new tourist class to and from Cobourg, local livery stable operators sprang into action; the likes of Mister John Francis Jones of Hastings⁵ who travelled into the Cobourg train station and ferry docks two or three times a week to pick-up and return his many valued guests to and from his old Hastings establishment - the old Royal Hotel.

Within a few years, accelerated by the introduction of the automobile and the availability of water front property along the shores of Rice Lake and the mouth of the Trent River, many of these small villages came to rival Cobourg in attracting this new more active middle class visitor. As automobiles improved, and the municipalities upgraded their original old hilly and winding roads, summer visitors soon took to pleasant motoring adventures. These charming tree shaded country roads, with their neatly laid out farm buildings adorned by large Lilac stands or apple orchards, the symmetrically fenced fields, the grazing farm animals and the flourishing crops of hay, grain and corn offered the visitor a pleasant summer alternative and further introduced him to the many surrounding little villages and hamlets. Of course, as during the earlier days of train excursions, many still made a full day of it; connecting with various tour operators that operated out of Bewdley, Gores Landing and Harwood, to enjoy scenic boat tours of Rice Lake and the Trent River, framed in by their many sloping Drumlins and rolling Eskers.

It was during this much more active outdoorsy period in the history of the little summer colony that the second

⁵ Mr. J F Jones was the writer's grandfather.

historic wedding occurred at Nellie's home. Nellie, on the pleasantly warm evening of Friday June 21, 1912 in a small social event at her home, announced her engagement to Mister Frank Hatch Jones; Secretary of the Continental Trust and Security Company of Chicago and former Post Master General of the USA under President Glover Cleveland. The grand event was scheduled for Thursday July 4, 1912, coinciding with Nellie's fifty-seventh birthday and her country's 136th birthday. The Cobourg World again went on praise and congratulate her, and to announce that her trousseau was very elaborate and that the wedding would probably be one of the most notable ever to occur in their little town.

As announced, on the evening of Friday July 4, 1912, Nellie's married her old childhood friend and close companion of many years, Mister Frank Hatch Jones, who like Nellie, had also lost his spouse several years earlier. However, because Nellie was still mourning the recent death of her beloved brother, Major-General Frederick Dent Grant; contrary to the news paper report, she had actually requested a very small quiet affair, with only immediate members and close friends in attendance. Nellie was given in marriage by her son, Captain Algernon Edward Sartoris (former US Army) of Paris France, and Frank's brother Mister Frederick B. Jones⁶ was chosen as their "best man." Among the other guests were; Nellie's only surviving brother, Mister Ulysses S (Buck) Grant Junior, proprietor of the U S Grant Hotel in San Diego California and his nineteen year old son Ulysses S Grant IV; Nellie's daughter-in-law Cécile Noufflard-Sartoris and their six year old son, Master Herbert Charles Sartoris and Cécile's sister Mademoiselle Margaret Noufflard of Paris France; her old friends, Chevalier and Mme. Albertini, Mrs. Alice Card of Washington DC, wife of Quartermaster General B C Card; Senator and Mrs. George T. Oliver of Pittsburgh; Ms Lydia Cornell, daughter of Colonel Cornell and Mr. Wright of Buffalo and Mr. and Mrs. Willis McCook of Pittsburgh and a few other close Cobourg friends.

After spending the remainder of their summer in Cobourg, Nellie and Frank moved back to Frank's home town of Chicago in the fall of 1912 and into an upscale Condo on East Elm Street, overlooking the waterfront and the beautiful Oak Street Beach, which like the Cobourg beach, was also popular with summer visitor, as well as for open air summer socials.

AFFIDAVIT
Required before License or Certificate is Granted by Issuer of Marriage Licenses by provision of
The Marriage Act.
Chapter 125, R. S. O. 1907.

014923

I Herby declare that I Married

Groom
Name of Groom Frank Hatch Jones
Age 38 Years
Residence Chicago, Ill.
Occupation Secretary of the Continental Trust and Security Company of Chicago

Bride
Name of Bride Nellie Grant Sartoris
Age 57 Years
Residence Cobourg, Ont.
Occupation None

Witnesses
Name of Witness Algernon Edward Sartoris
Age 19 Years
Residence Paris, France
Occupation Captain

Officiant
Name of Officiant Albert H. H. Jones
Age 38 Years
Residence Cobourg, Ont.
Occupation Minister of the Gospel

Sworn before me at Cobourg **in the County of** Northumberland **this** 4th **day of** July **1912**
Frank Hatch Jones
Albert H. H. Jones

Nellie's happiness was to be short-lived. After spending the winter in Chicago and arriving back in Cobourg in early June of 1913 to reopen their summer home, a series of tragic events was about to unfold, that would forever change their lives. Their troubles began soon after their arrival, when Nellie's long time Cobourg friend and associate, Emily Schoenberger the daughter-in-law of George K Schoenberg passed away. On the heels of this sad event came

⁶ In 1911 Chevalier de Diaz Albertini was appointed Cuban Consul to Canada in Toronto.

He was the brother of the groom and a successful Chicago railway entrepreneur who had earlier attended Vivian's wedding in Cobourg in 1912.

the tragic news that Nellie's beloved daughter Rosemary had been diagnosed with a terminal illness at her home in New York. Overcome with grief no doubt, Nellie sadly suffered a debilitating stroke about this time; thereafter becoming largely confined to her Chicago home.

The following summer, as the dark clouds of war drifted over the little American colony; and Canada alongside Britain found itself at war with Germany (*August 5, 1914*) Nellie's beloved daughter Rosemary passed away at her Manhattan home. Within about a month of Rosemary's passing, Nellie maybe pondering her own mortality and wishing to put her affairs in order, with natural love and affection transferred legal title of her Cobourg estate into her husband's name on September 4, 1914 - the transaction completed and notarized in Chicago, with never a foot set in Cobourg by either party.

As World War I escalated, more of Cobourg's youth, alongside a scattering of American youth, their seasonal neighbors and friends, marched off to war; the little American community, often led by Nellie's old friends the Albertinis overwhelmingly united behind the local war effort. However, as the glamour of the war wore off amongst the horrendous casualty rates, a dark shadow was cast over the lavish lifestyles of the little summer colony. For the many American visitors, including Nellie and Frank, Cobourg had lost its glitter. Although a few families, such as the Fitzhughs, Abbotts Poes, Werners and Albertinis had permanently settled in Cobourg, sightings of famous Americans disembarking from the ferry at the Cobourg docks almost overnight dried up.

From Chicago, the couple appears to have simply shelved any aspirations they may once have held for their beloved old Cobourg home. However, for Frank, it wasn't exactly a case of; "out-of-sight, out-of mind" either. In 1915 he converted Nellie's old telephone listing into his own name, and continued to employ a Mister Edward Mission of Cobourg, Nellie's original gardener as his own gardener or "Yardman." Furthermore, he also appears to have graciously allowed Mr. Mission the continued use of the little gardener's house on the property. One thing for certain though; upon their last joint visit to their beloved old place during the tragic summer events of 1913, the pair appear to have simply walked out and locked the doors behind them, leaving many or all of Nellie's old furnishings and antiques, including those few precious old White House heirlooms behind.

Some seven years later, Frank Hatch Jones on September 23 1921 sold their entire Cobourg estate complete with all of its remaining furnishings and contents to the "Congregation of the Sisters of Saint Joseph" of Peterborough. The sale which came on the heels of the marriage of Katherine Cornell (*the legendary 1930s Broadway star*) in the Cobourg home of Nellie's old friend Lydia Cornell (*the bride's aunt*) was once again finalized with nether party setting foot in Cobourg. The following day, with little flash or flourish; the "Cobourg World" briefly informed its readers, that the Sisters of Saint Joseph's Convent of the Diocese of Peterboro had purchased the fine old residence owned and occupied by Mrs. Nellie Grant-Sartoris, daughter of the late General and President Ulysses S Grant.

Among the many memorable items and pieces of furniture inherited by the Sisters was a large quantity of valuable crystal glass and decanters, Nineteenth century Limoges china, a Louis IV settee, several pieces of antique furniture, old Persian Carpets, a Walnut jewelry box with the initials NGS (*Nellie Grant Sartoris*) carved into it (*possibly a wedding gift*) the large oval mirror that once adorned the ball room and the precious old "French Renaissance Revival" writing table.

Unfortunately, the old library table had been irreverently stashed away in a dark damp corner of the basement, in what the Sisters described as in a state of disrepair; "broken soiled and without much beauty or grandeur." The sisters, recognizing its historic value, almost immediately had the piece repaired and refurbished by a local furniture maker; Mister William Webb of Webb's Woodworking Shop. Upon returning the piece to much of its original grandeur, the Sisters relocated it to their motherhouse; Mount Saint Joseph on Monaghan Road in Peterborough, where it remains to this day, a cherished signature piece and memorial to this grand old history.

None-the-less, with all those dear old family memories and fun filled years behind them, one has to believe Nellie and Frank in the end were both very pleased and relieved to see their historic old place complete with its original old contents and furnishings turned over to such a worthy and celebrated organization. Less than a year later, Nellie Grant Sartoris at the relatively young age of sixty-seven and now under the care of a live in nurse and small domestic staff sadly passed away in her home at 1130 Lakeshore Drive in Chicago, on August 30, 1922. Her husband, Frank Hatch Jones lived on in Chicago for another nine years, where he died on October 2, 1931. Nellie and Frank are buried together with Frank's many ancestors in Springfield Illinois.

The "Congregation of the Sisters of Saint Joseph" upon purchasing the Sartoris estate promptly remodeled the place and converted it into a Catholic Girls orphanage. However, since about 1922, they utilize the historic old property as a retreat center as well as for communal gardening and as a theology of sustainable ecology education center.

Although Nellie had long been removed from the Cobourg scene and maybe forgotten by some, others, the likes of Sister Jane Frances (Plunkett) who was raised in Cobourg and later joined the Congregation of the "Sisters of

Saint Joseph” in Peterborough, in their later book, “As the Tree Grows,” paid particular tribute to Nellie; recalling fondly, how she met Nellie on occasion, when as a child she would accompany her late father on his rounds, delivering coal to Nellie’s Cobourg home.

As a footnote to the story; the historic claim, connecting the old Walnut library table to President Ulysses S. Grant certainly seems very plausible, considering the president’s wife, First Lady Julia Dent Grant was known to have greatly favored this style of furniture in 1869 when she had the [Red Room](#) of the [White House](#) redecorated and furnished with “Herter Brothers” of New York made furniture (*the New York based premiere furniture maker of the day, who specialized in this furniture design*) - the style typified by the extensive use of carved crests of flowers, fruits and game, as well as the extensive use of; busts, scrolls, carved masks, and curved pediments, all of which one can readily see are extensively incorporated into this piece. Furthermore, following the end of President Grant’s second and final term of office in March of 1877, as the White house was reverting to a simpler version of this furniture design, the President and his wife Julia were known to have accepted several such pieces in appreciation for the President’s many years of dedicated and loyal service to his beloved country.

A favorite piece of lasting folklore a remnant of this fine old history has it that years later, as Jacqueline Kennedy the wife of President Jack Kennedy embarked on her own ambitions scheme to redecorate the White House in the early 1960s, is said to have wrote a letter to the Congregation of the Sisters of Saint Joseph’s in Peterborough asserting that a few such cherished pieces be returned to the White House, and in particular, the large cherished old oval mirror. The Sisters obviously stood their ground and continue to appreciate and enjoy these various pieces that still adorn their various homes and properties to this day.



Walnut Jewelry Box Nellie Grant Sartoris

President Grant’s Library Table
Circa 1850-1880 “French Renaissance Revival”

Acknowledgements and Sources

Thanks to Sister Francis Baker, assistant to Mother Superior, Sisters of Saint Joseph Peterborough, Mister Joe Keast Archivist of The Congregation of the Sisters of Saint Joseph of Peterborough, Sister Marry??? resident sister at Vila Saint Joseph in Cobourg, for all the interest and help and for a grand tour of the historic old place, still with much of its original furniture intact, Abigail Miller, Cobourg Archives, and to my friend and fellow amateur local history researcher, Mister Stewart Richardson, raised in the village of Hastings, now a resident of Cobourg. Special thanks and thoughts to my esteemed cousin Sister Ellen Leonard PhD professor emeritus Toronto School of Theology, University of Toronto, for her memories and information and for tweaking my interest in the history and events associated with this grand old home, and last but not least, the reverent old history of the CSSJ, gained from their well- documented publication, “As the Tree Grows.”

Most information pertaining to the glamorous old Cobourg Summer Colony was gleaned from various Cobourg and history society data and related websites such as the 2012 paper produced by Marsha Ann Tate of the Pennsylvania State University, “Of Iron and Ozone,” and from the Cobourg Archives located at the Cobourg Library. Information pertaining to the various family events (at Nellie’s home and elsewhere) came from various period editions of local newspapers such as the Cobourg World, held at the Cobourg Public Library and at the Trent University Archives in Peterborough and the Ontario Archives in Toronto which holds the Northumberland County land abstracts for that period. The USA Census was accessed through “Ancestry.com” at the Trent Valley archives in Peterborough. Other historic newspaper archives, such as the Pittsburgh Press, the New York Times and the Chicago Tribune were accessed through on line subscriptions.

Glimpses of the Early Movie-Going Audience in Peterborough

Robert Clarke

This is my diary, the veracious and trustworthy record of the days of Kathleen MacCarthy, spinster, aged fifteen years, and three hundred and sixty-four days at the present time of writing . . . [December 25, 1905]



In the early years of the twentieth century, the new marvel of motion pictures quickly caught on in Peterborough – just as it was doing elsewhere around the world.

Newspaper articles and ads of the time indicate *where* motion pictures were screened. But just *who* went to the pictures in those days?

The young Cathleen McCarthy (TVA, Cathleen McCarthy fonds)

The news stories and two diaries in the Trent Valley Archives indicate a surprising diversity in attendance – from women and children to a supposedly ne’-re-do-well man, from visiting Roma and a famous local Indigenous athlete and his wife to members of a relatively well-off family. The diaries in particular provide slight details of an older professional man for whom going to the cinema was a special event; and of a young working-class woman, Cathleen McCarthy, who went to the cheaper theatres on an almost daily basis.

At the very first the new “amusement” was something of a “novelty” – “the cinema of attractions,” it has been called – and people often went to see the shows out of curiosity: “Wow! Pictures that move! So life-like! Amazing!”

From 1907 on, movie theatres were a fixture alongside shops, department stores, and offices in downtown Peterborough – although at first they were often short-lived, makeshift storefront enterprises that, based on their ticket price, were called “nickelodeons.” For a while the pictures

were referred to as “the poor *man’s* amusement” (although records reveal that *women* and *children* often made up the primary audience). Given the low price, of a nickel (the cost of a street-car ride), women (sometimes with their children in hand) could easily pop into a theatre for a half-hour or forty-five minutes (the length of the short program) when they were downtown doing shopping or engaged in other daily activities. As the theatre ads often said, “Come when you like and stay for as long as you like.”

Although many people soon “contracted the movie-going habit,” not everyone would admit to it at first. For a while, as the eminent Canadian film historian Peter Morris noted, “Movie theatres were not places in which respectable people cared to be seen. Educated people still considered the movies vulgar, low-class entertainment.”⁷ But quickly, what was at first seen by many as a “passing fad,” by some as dangerous, and by others as even a little childish quickly became a “major part” of the city’s social life.⁸

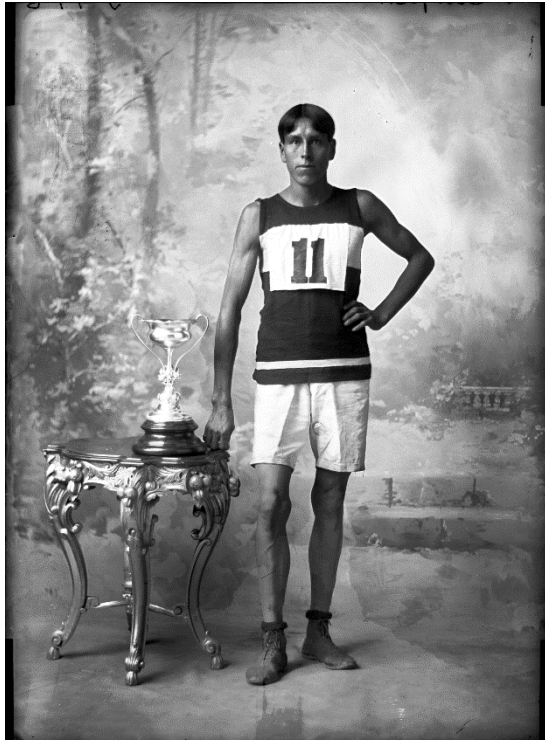
Still, as the records show, from the very first “respectable” people in Peterborough did go to see the short silent films of the time, whether in church and community halls or outdoors on a grassy slope in Jackson Park (in summers from 1905 to 1908). Despite reservations, people from across all classes went to the early pictures –

⁷ Peter Morris, *Embattled Shadows: A History of Canadian Cinema, 1895-1939* (Montreal: McGill-Queen’s University Press, 1978), p.23.

⁸ The view of the motion picture as “childish” comes from “Picture Shows Popular in the Hub,” *Moving Picture World*, May 16, 1908, p.433.

including special showings at the Grand Opera House and more often regular films at the small dedicated theatres of the time. Opera houses like the one in Peterborough offered a scale of prices that accommodated a wide audience, and we know from the survival of theatres as commercial enterprises that “large audiences” turned out on a regular basis.

Newspaper articles provide a few glimpses of the audience. In 1907, for instance, a man named David Hoben (described only as “a frequent offender”) appeared before a judge after creating a disturbance at the storefront “Coliseum” at 432 George Street (the site today of Christensen Fine Arts and Framing). Apparently Hoben had been so offended by what he saw on screen – a “picture of Highland troops” – that he let out “an unearthly yell.” The account doesn’t explain exactly why he did that, but it was enough to land him in court the next day.⁹



Fred Simpson, the 1908 Olympian (PMA)

When the famous group of “gypsies” (more accurately, Roma) were in Peterborough in June 1909, camping on the southern outskirts of town (in what is now the area of King Edward Park in the south end), they decided to take in the pictures at the Crystal Theatre at 408 George Street. They had heard that a film about “Mexican gypsies” was being shown. Some seven or eight of them walked up to the theatre, which was on the west side of George just north of Hunter (where “The Peace Pipe” store is located today). As the newspaper reported (reflecting the conventional prejudices of the time), the “entire contingent” somehow got into the theatre by paying only a nickel in total – and even so they became “indignant” and “kicked up quite a fuss because they didn’t see the picture” (it had closed the previous evening and been sent back to the film exchange).¹⁰

One winter afternoon earlier that same year the Indigenous “road-runner” (and 1908 Olympian) Fred Simpson, born on the nearby Alderville reserve, made a cameo appearance at the Royal Theatre at 348 George St. (where Peterborough Square now is). In those days a “lecturer” was often present, standing up near the screen, to explain what was going on in the silent films; and in this case

the lecturer took the opportunity to introduce the well-known runner to the audience. Simpson had just won great honours as ten-mile champion of the world, and, indeed, the *Examiner*, in a typically racialized representation, referred to him (somewhat proudly) as “the Peterborough Indian.” The local hero (later to become a member of the Peterborough and District Sports Hall of Fame) was accompanied by his wife, Susan (Muskat) of Hiawatha, and at 4:00 p.m., according to the report, they left to make a visit to her home at Hiawatha on Rice Lake.¹¹

Other more in-depth examples of attendance in the earliest days are difficult to come by; but the McCarthy and Grant dairies are revealing – and especially because they represent people from very different social milieus. One of them, running from December 1905 to October 1909, was written by a young office worker in a downtown store; and the other by a well-to-do man who lived in Peterborough from 1906 to 1919.

⁹ “Scottish Picture Aroused Spectator,” *Daily Review*, April 25, 1907, p.4. The man’s family name might have been “Hoban,” not “Hoben.” Based on a review of the city directories of the period, he appears to have been a transient.

¹⁰ Elwood Jones, *The Gypsies That Visited Peterborough in 1909*, Occasional Paper no.21, Peterborough Historical Society, February 2001, p.10; *Daily Evening Review*, June 28, 1909, p.4. Unfortunately, the Crystal was not advertising its film showings in the newspapers and we don’t know the name of the film they were trying to see.

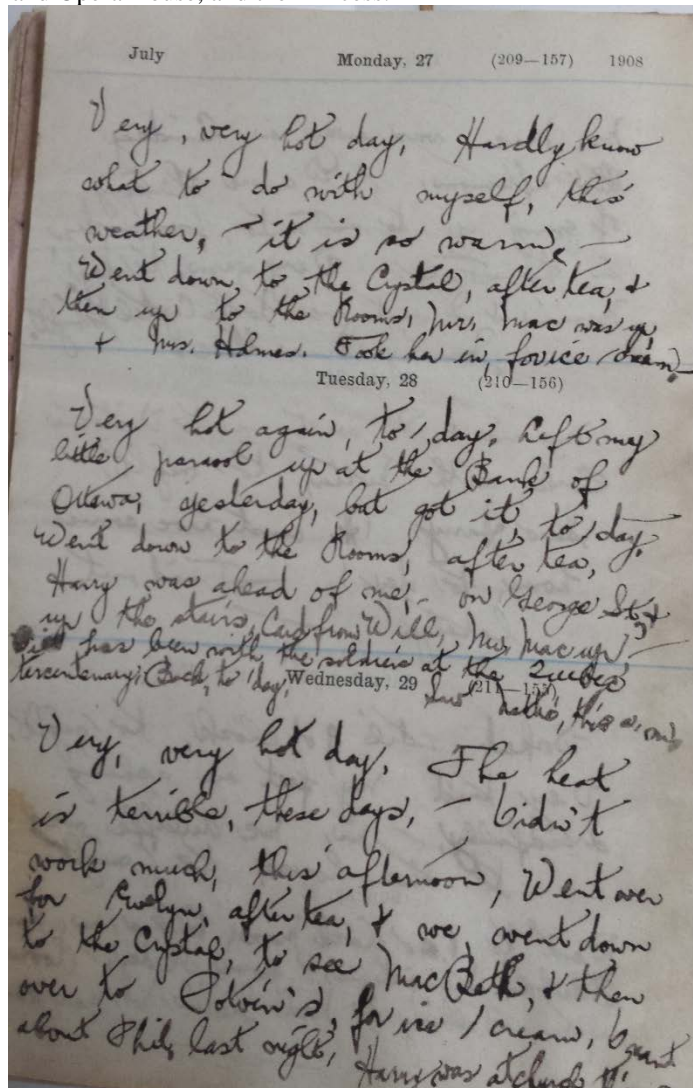
¹¹ *Evening Examiner*, Feb. 25, 1909, p.17; *Evening Examiner*, March 3, 1909; Heather Y. Shpuniarsky and the Village of Hiawatha Book Committee, *The Village of Hiawatha: A History* (Hiawatha, Ont.: Ningwakwe Learning Press, 2016), pp.106–7, 201. For an interesting study of “how ideas about race were embedded in and conveyed through” the *Examiner*’s coverage of Simpson, see Janice Forsyth, “Out of the Shadows: Researching Fred Simpson,” University of Western Ontario, 2010, <http://library.la84.org/SportsLibrary/ISOR/isor2010t.pdf>.

The McCarthy Diaries

In her diaries the teenage Cathleen McCarthy gives a vivid account of the day to day events of her life. She went almost every day to the Total Abstinence Society's "Rooms" (where her mother worked) for tea. She loved ice cream sodas and sundaes, skating and tobogganing, and motion pictures.

McCarthy's diary entries indicate that she went with remarkable regularity to the theatres. She attended the Grand Opera House (established 1905), usually for live performances rather than motion pictures; and frequented the Crystal (her favourite place, est. 1907), the Royal (est. 1908), and the Princess (est. 1909), all of which featured both films and live acts or music. At times she went on an almost daily basis – as, for example, during the week of Aug. 20 to Aug. 27, 1908, when she went to "the pictures"

no less than six times (and the theatres were closed on Sundays). On one of those days, Friday the 20th, she went to both the Crystal and Royal, but that was not an isolated occurrence: in 1909 and 1910 she went to more than one theatre on the same day 12 times. She enjoyed the Labour Day holiday, 1910, by going in succession to the Royal, Grand Opera House, and the Princess.



She often went with her sister and a few times with her mother; sometimes with friends from work or with her closest friend, Evelyn Dorris, who worked at Cressman's department store. A typical note would be: "We all went over to the Crystal, after" – which meant "after" finishing work (which on Saturdays was at nine p.m.), or having tea, usually at "the Rooms," or shopping, or a music lesson. In one month alone, July 1908, for instance, Cathleen "went over" to the Crystal eight times (while also going to view the "pictures" at Jackson Park a couple of times too).¹² Sometimes after the pictures she and the others stopped into Hooper's (a bakery and confectionary store on George Street) for ice cream, or they had "tea at the Chinaman's."

A page from Cathleen's diary, July 1908

In summer 1906, Cathleen went to see the evening "pictures" at Jackson Park ten times. The first time she recorded this event was June 6. Following her "second [violin] lesson at the Conservatory," she then "Went down to the Rooms after, & went out to the Park, to see the moving pictures." She was sixteen years old, and had been working at Frank R.J. MacPherson's plumbing and electrical supplies shop on George Street since age fourteen. Her family was not rich, but she had a little spending money and a budding air of independence.

The first visit she recorded to the Crystal Theatre was on Oct. 10, 1907, shortly after it opened. In December she went there

with a friend to see "The Passion Play" – "the first part of it." On the last day of February 1908 she wrote, "Had a lesson to-night & Evelyn and I went down to the Crystal, after." A few weeks later, on Friday, March 13, it was: "Evelyn & I were to go for a lesson, to-night, but we went to church, & then went down to the Crystal, & Got back

¹² Fonds 572, "Cathleen McCarthy," Diaries, Trent Valley Archives. Although she spelled her name as "Kathleen MacCarthy" on the first page of the diary, the correct spelling as time went on was "Cathleen McCarthy."

too late.” (Her mother was upset.) Other than *The Passion Play*, in her diaries the only other titles she mentioned seeing were *Uncle Tom’s Cabin* and *Macbeth*. One time she commented, after going to the Crystal, “It’s rather amusing.” Another time, after going with her mother and sister, she said, “It is very good!” And, on Oct. 7, 1908, about the Crystal: “It is a fine little place.”

In those days, too, the attraction was not just the latest in silent moving pictures. There was more going on – in addition to a “lecturer” there was plentiful live music for the nickel admission, usually at least a pianist, sometimes a small orchestra – and at times a “trap drummer” produced sound effects to go with the film. On the evening when Cathleen McCarthy first went to the Crystal she would have enjoyed “Mrs. Edwards” (the daughter of the owner) singing one of the song hits of the day, “When the Whippoorwill Sings, Marguerite,” among other delights. As Canadian film historian Peter Lester points out, in the era of early silent films, “spectating” was “but one of numerous activities. . . . Audiences listened, engaged, participated, sang, discussed and basically interacted with one another.”¹³

The Grant Diaries

The Grant diaries provide quite a different angle on movie-going, one involving a family of a different social class. They indicate that, while going to the live “theatre” remained the most common form of amusement for the Grant household, Alexander Grant and his wife did, from time to time, make their way downtown to attend motion pictures.¹⁴ In his study of audiences in a small U.S. city in the early days, U.S. film scholar Roy Rosenzweig noted an “expansion of movie-going into the city’s middle class,” and it seems that this tendency was true for Peterborough as well.

Alexander Grant (PMA, Balsillie Collection of Roy Studio Images)



Grant had arrived from St. Catharines in April 1906, at age forty-three, to take up a well-paying job as superintending engineer of the Trent Canal system. With wife Maude and young son Alex (adding a daughter, Helen, in 1908), the Grants had an income that allowed them, within a year, to buy a large house on a big lot at what is now 580 Gilmour Street, about a twenty-minute walk from downtown – or a quick trolley ride. (They purchased the house for \$5,600, with \$2,100 down.)¹⁵ Their everyday life as recorded in Grant’s diaries offers a good example of how the middle class enjoyed the “amusements” of the day.

With their active social life the Grants appear to have been typical. They gathered with friends for “teas” and card-playing, attended a few lectures, went on summer excursions to nearby lakes, and, with their youngsters, took in the circuses that passed through most summers. One evening they went to the “Peterboro club dance” at the Conservatory of Music. Grant himself took up curling in 1911, exercised at the YMCA, and did a little golfing. He joined the Peterborough Horticultural Society. In 1917 he bought his first automobile, an Overland Touring Car, from Banks Garage for \$930.

Most significantly (for our purposes), the diaries reveal that over the period of 1906–19 one or more of the Grants went to what has been thought of as the “legitimate theatre,” with its live performances, at least forty-two times – and attended the

¹³ Crystal ad, *Examiner*, Sept. 23, 1907, p.5 (although the ad spelled it “Whippoorwill”); Peter Lester, *Cultural Continuity and Technological Indeterminacy: Itinerant 16mm Film Exhibition in Canada, 1918-1949*, Ph.D. thesis, Department of Communication Studies, Concordia University, 2008, p.21. Lester is citing Miriam Hansen, *Babel and Babylon: Spectatorship in American Silent Film* (Cambridge, Mass.: Harvard University Press, 1991), p.93.

¹⁴ For the 1906–1919 diaries of Alexander J. Grant, see the *Heritage Gazette of the Trent Valley*, running from vol. 12, no.4 (February 2008) to vol. 16, no.3 (November 2011).

¹⁵ Diaries of Alexander J. Grant, *Heritage Gazette of the Trent Valley*, Feb. 7, 1907. After inflation, \$100 in 1907 would be worth about 2,431 by 2016. The \$5,600 would be worth about \$136,000 in 2016; the house today would cost considerably more.

new “motion pictures” only twenty-two times.¹⁶ For people like themselves, of higher income, then, going to the theatre was still the primary cultural thing to do, and something of a routine; they went to the motion pictures much less often.

Still, that they did go to the pictures at all, and to the extent they did, is telling: by the 1910s “going to motion pictures” (they were not yet called “movies”) was obviously deemed a proper pastime for such folk. It also became more customary as time went on. After only a very few visits to the motion pictures in the years 1906–14 (7 outings in nine years, not including a night at the Grand Opera House to see “Crocker’s horses,” a program that included films, but with the horses as the main draw), the Grants went to the pictures twice as much – 14 times – in the five years from 1915 to 1919, making 21 times in all.

In contrast, according to her diaries, Cathleen McCarthy visited motion picture theatres 203 times from 1906 to 1910. That doesn’t include events at the Grand Opera House (38), which sometimes (though not often) included motion pictures.

In 1906 and 1907 the Grants were also, like Cathleen McCarthy, among the large crowds attending motion pictures outdoors at Jackson Park. In January 1909 they were curious enough to go out to “the new theatre, the Royal,” then a month old. After that, they didn’t take in another picture for three years, when they joined the diverse audience that must have greeted the extremely popular motion picture “Rainey’s African wild animals” at the Grand Opera House in January 1913. They were at the Grand for the spectacular (and Italian) *Last Days of Pompeii* (*Gli Ultimi Giorni di Pompei*, Italy, 1913) in February 1914; and they went to see what the Empire Theatre was like a few days after it opened on Charlotte Street in summer 1914. Later on, in the fall of 1916, they saw Sergeant Wells and the “Canadian Moving War pictures” and two other war films (including *The Battle of the Somme*). They went to the Empire two more times and took in D.W. Griffith’s grand extravaganza *Intolerance* (U.S., 1916) at the Grand Opera House in March 1917.

Their picture-going was limited to the Opera House, the Royal, and the Empire. There is no indication that they went to the “cheaper” theatres (the Crystal and its successors, the Red Mill and the Strand; the Princess or its successor, the Tiz-It). It appears that they did not go to motion pictures as a diversion or distraction, but more as an occasional special “event.” They went out of curiosity to witness the opening of a new theatre, as marked by their outings in the case of the Royal and the Empire.

The more established live “theatre” remained their first love. Their dates at the Grand Opera House included live performances of *Macbeth*, by the Ben Greet Players (November 1907); *Coming Through the Rye* (March 1908); *Il Travatore*, *Carmen*, and *The Merry Widow* (1909); *Uncle Tom’s Cabin* and *Dockstader’s Minstrels* (1910); and *She Stoops to Conquer*, with the famous British stage actress Annie Russell (1913). They saw the English actors Tom Ferris (doing Dickens in January 1914) and John Kellard (in *Hamlet*, 1916); and many, many more. A highlight might have been the Oscar Wilde play *Salome* in February 1909, “from the wonderful brain of the brilliant but erring Oscar Wilde,” as the *Examiner* noted. Including its notorious “dance of the seven veils,” the performance apparently “pleased [a] large audience,” and “Peterborough people failed to find anything objectionable in the much talked of play.”¹⁷

Moving Picture Theatres: “An Open Public Sphere”

Ironically, Cathleen McCarthy had gone to see at least two of the same attractions – *Macbeth* and *Uncle Tom’s Cabin* – but for her the experience was in the form of the less prestigious film as screened at the cheap motion

GRAND OPERA HOUSE
J. J. Turner & Sons, Owners & Mgrs.
TO-NIGHT! TO-NIGHT!
and every Night at 7.30 and 9 p. m.
Prices—50 and 100
Remember the Matinees, Mondays, Wednesdays and Saturdays at 2.30 and 4 p. m. to all parts of the house.
50c
Complete change of programme—High-class and refined vanderbilt and the largest & very best Moving Pictures, and a first class Orchestra.
DAISY GLENN
The Great Novelty and Serpentine Dancer
CHRIS MEYER and CELIA MASON
in their great Comedy Sketch, entitled
“A Polite Kicker”
Selections by Grand Orchestra
The Grand Opera House is the most comfortable Theatre in the City to spend an hour and see a good Show and listen to a first-class Orchestra. Try it.

PROGRAMME FOR GEORGE ST.
Roller Rink
FOR THIS WEEK
Monday—Beginner’s night Special attention given to all new skaters.
Tuesday—Ladies’ Skating Contest two prizes.
Wednesday—Beginner’s Night.
Thursday—Cronk’s Band Concert
Friday—Beginner’s night.
Saturday—Band

¹⁶ These numbers include theatre- and movie-going both in Peterborough and in places visited outside Peterborough.

¹⁷ “‘Salome’ Pleased Large Audience,” *Evening Examiner*, Feb. 18, 1909, p.7.

picture theatre.

While McCarthy noted going to see the popular religious spectacle *The Passion Play* on film, as it turned out the very last local play the Grants attended in Peterborough was also of a religious bent. They went to see *The Wanderer* at the Grand in January 1919 – and Alexander Grant appeared not to have much liked it. He cryptically remarked on it as being “a representation of the ‘Prodigal Son’ B.C. 1200 – an immoral play.”¹⁸ He was no doubt responding to what one notice described as a play that “attracted chiefly by scenery, dresses, stage-mounting, and a picture of Oriental sensuality and voluptuousness.” The Peterborough theatre audience was no doubt dazzled but perhaps also, like Grant, somewhat taken aback. Shortly before the play came to the city, in London, Ont., it was billed as “the biggest spectacle ever brought to London with a flock of real sheep, dogs and goats, and a large ballet of dancing girls.”¹⁹

As a whole Grant’s diaries – that of a relatively well-off professional (and family) man – indicate that, while going to the live “theatre” remained the most common form of amusement for his household, he and his wife did, from time to time, make their way downtown to attend motion pictures.

Indeed, as Rosenzweig puts it, film-going would quickly become “the first medium of regular inter-class entertainment” – and this would particularly be the case as the exhibition of motion pictures moved into larger, more respectable venues built specifically for the purpose.²⁰ The cinema was becoming “an open public sphere.” Film historian Charles Musser goes even further, arguing: “From the outset . . . the cinema drew its audience from across the working, middle, and elite classes.”²¹ It is very likely indeed that on many occasions the Grants and McCarthies and their friends were all there together, taking in the same pictures (and music) in the same theatre at the same time.

Robert Clarke is a book editor and writer living in Peterborough, and is working on a social history of local movie-going.

Fallen Italians

Berenice Pepe shared this view of the Memorial to Fallen Italians in Toronto. The names of Italians who died in the Quaker Oats fire of December 1916 are on the monument.



¹⁸ Diaries of Alexander J. Grant, *Heritage Gazette of the Trent Valley*, running from vol. 12, no.4 (February 2008) to vol. 16, no.3 (November 2011). *The Wanderer* company was said to consist of 55 people and used two baggage cars on its travels from place to place. “Shows Opening,” *Variety*, Nov. 8, 1918, p.22. The play had previously played in Toronto and Montreal.

¹⁹ “*The Stage*” *Year Book, 1918*, ed. Lionel Carson (London: “The Stage” Offices), p.30; *London Free Press*, Wed. Jan. 8, 1919, p. 10; cited in “The 78 RPM Record Spins,” The Starr Company of Canada, London, Ontario by Betty Minaker Pratt (courtesy of the APN, 2008), <https://the78rpmrecordspins.wordpress.com/2013/02/25/the-starr-company-of-canada-london-ontario-by-betty-minaker-pratt-courtesy-of-the-apn-2008>.

²⁰ Roy Rosenzweig, “From Rum Shop to Rialto: Workers and Movies,” in *Moviegoing in America*, ed. Gregory A. Waller (Malden, Mass.: Blackwell Publishers, 2002), pp.29, 39.

²¹ Charles Musser, *The Emergence of Cinema: The American Screen to 1907*, vol. 1, *History of the American Cinema* (Berkeley: University of California Press, 1994 [1990]), p.183.

President's Corner

Connect with Local History

Rick Meridew

Our 2018 Event Cards are printed and all set for distribution. The headline is "Connect with Local History" and this year we are finding new ways to enable our members and the public to do just that.

We have a great line up of events this season, including some new ones, and you will find almost all of them listed on the Event Card that is available at our office, various locations in Peterborough and on our web site.

The event that didn't make it on our card is a new tour that was left off on purpose. You see although it is scheduled for September 2018 it sold out in December 2017. The event is a bus tour to the United Empire Loyalist Centre in Adolphustown on the Bay of Quinte. It includes a tour of the on-site museum and, with the help of their volunteers, the opportunity to research United Empire Loyalists who may also be your ancestors. The day also includes a scenic ride on the Glenora Ferry and lunch at the historic Inn on the Lake of the Mountain. If you missed the tour this year but would like to go at a future date call us. If there is enough interest, we will start a waiting list for 2019.

"Ballots, Booze & Bullets" is a lively new tour running on three Saturdays in August, the 11th, 18th and 25th from 7pm – 10pm. It examines prohibition era East City. Discover the illicit activities that were taking place across the river in the 1920s and 1930s. The final stop on the tour is the Ashburnham Ale House where you can rest your feet, view TVA's historic marble table top and toast the end of prohibition.

Karen Carter-Edwards is leading a new tour this season. It runs one day only on Sunday August 12th from 2pm – 3:30pm. Karen will guide you through Little Lake Cemetery and introduce you to the stories of several of the movers and shakers who helped shape Peterborough.

Have you attended the Little Lake Cemetery Pageant lately? If not, you might be surprised to find a number of new characters being portrayed and the way the presentations have been enhanced. Many of the characters come to life in what theatre people call "two handers" or a play for two people. May I say that as a result the whole event is much livelier? Several performances are offered on both Saturday September 29th starting at 6pm and Sunday September 30th starting at 1:00pm.

The TVA's Downtown Ghost Walks have been a Halloween tradition since 2003. Costumed guides recount chilling tales of Peterborough's historic and spooky past. But beware, these lantern-lit tours sell out every year so reserve your spot early. Ghost walks are conveniently scheduled to augment your Halloween themed fun on these October dates: the 18th, 19th, 24th and 25th from 7pm-9pm.

Two of our popular tours that take place in Little Lake Cemetery are back by popular demand for 2018.

The "Women's History Tour" takes place on Sunday May 27 from 2:30pm – 4pm. On this tour you will be introduced to women artists, pioneers and business women from Peterborough's past whose lives and

contributions continue to shape our community today.

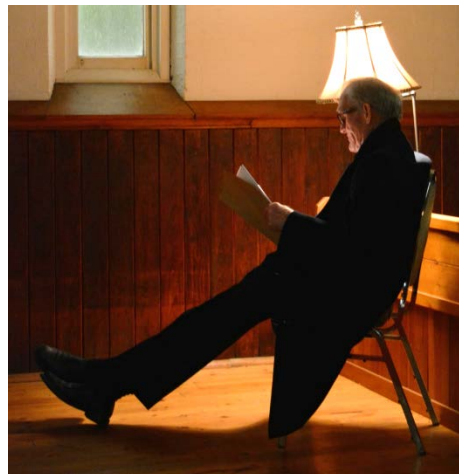
Struggle and tragedy seem to be part and parcel of the human condition. "Tragic Tales" examines some of those struggles and tragic outcomes that faced people in the early days of Peterborough's history. These stories also speak to bravery, strength and hope – also part of the human condition. This tour runs on three Fridays in July, the 6th, 13th and 20th from 7pm – 8:30pm.

Our "Scandals and Scoundrels Pub Crawl" takes place on April 13 and June 8 from 7pm – 10pm. On this tour history is examined through the lens of taverns, hotels and bars. Some tales are strange, and others are murderous, but they are all entertaining and informative. It is thirsty work but there will be time for a drink at each of the historic taverns we stop at.

We invite you to join us and experience history in a fun and informative way. If you have a group of 15 or more perhaps a private tour would be of interest.

For more information on our events and other ways that the Trent Valley Archives can help you connect with local history contact Heather at 705-745-4404.

Graham Hart Retiring



Graham Hart, at CHEX-TV since 1974, retired at the end of April. He has been a familiar face in TV rooms in our area, and he has been a tireless support of history and heritage in our area. This picture taken by Pat Marchen captured Graham when he was preparing for his role as George Morrow, the keeper of the Morrow vault. His well-researched and edited Flashbacks were a regular Thursday feature since 2006. It has been reassuring to know that part of television record was archived at the station, and we hope that his Flashbacks, especially, will be preserved in local archives. We wish Graham all the best in retirement and hope we will see more of him in retirement.

LIFE

HISTORIAN AT WORK

The Colony Settlers arrive: This is the 200th anniversary of the first European settlement in what would become Peterborough

Elwood H. Jones,

Peterborough Examiner, Friday, February 23, 2018 10:09:54 EST PM



The view from the Market Square in Alston, Cumberland, 2009 (Elwood Jones photo)

ELWOOD JONES/SPECIAL TO THE EXAMINER Alston, 2009, looking from the market area past the Anglican church to the

The 1818 emigration of the Colony Settlers from Cumberland was an early example of assisted emigration to the Peterborough area. This was a community organized venture that centred around Alston, England, the highest town in England. Alston Moor is on top of the Pennines, the hills and mountains that are like the backbone of England; its police station proclaims itself "The highest court in the land."

Alston was a commercial centre of the Alston Moor, an area of fine mixed agricultural land. Many of the farmers and their sons were employed in a widespread lead mining operation that was mined beneath their feet, but the commercial links stretched across northern England.

There were many adjustments made to reflect the end of a long century of war, mostly with France. There was a sudden reduction in the need for soldiers and sailors, and many regiments were disbanded. The years between 1815 and 1820 were considered the Radical Years or the miserable years. With less demand for war materiel, there

was less demand for Alston lead.

Colonial Office officials saw advantages in promoting the settlement of disbanded soldiers. In Upper Canada, the area between Kingston and Ottawa. It was desirable to send British emigrants to Canada rather than the United States. A military presence might deter Americans; 1815 also marked the end of the War of 1812 on this continent.

Even though the Thomas W. Milburn Colony was a civilian project, its origins were tied with British policies related to settling military emigrants in the Rideau region. British assistance to emigration should be available to civilians as readily as to military people. As it happened, Alston was prepared to take advantage of these changes in British policy. The wider community surrounding Alston that arranged the details for the emigration of some local families to Upper Canada.

Helen Cowan, an historian of emigration in the 1930s, observed (41): "According to some few theorists,

the vast undeveloped wastelands of the colonies could so be used for the good of the whole empire, of the landlords with overcrowded estates, of the manufacturers seeking new markets, of a government striving to quiet agitators, and of the colonies themselves which needed population."

Lord Bathurst, the Colonial Secretary, informed colonial leaders to enlarge preparations for placing demobilized soldiers.

His office had a document encouraging emigration on "Settlers Proceeding to Canada" by November 1813, and Lord Liverpool, the prime minister, gave his sanction in January 1815. After meeting some resistance in Parliament, the plans for 1815 were scaled down. Notices appeared in Edinburgh newspapers beginning February 25; this was the first notice since 1749, according to Cowan.

The first printed circular letter promising free transportation and land was sent to applicants on February 23, 1818. The conditions were that grants of 100 acres for each settler would only be made to those in groups of at least 10 who locate upon the land granted.

To ensure compliance, each applicant had to pay £10 for each settler, refundable after the settlers are located on their land.

Milburn wrote to the Colonial Office and the reply came on April 9. Milburn was to send the list of intended settlers, and the deposit money to Lord Bathurst. The note also said, "Tonnage has been ordered for their conveyance from Whitehaven to Montreal and his Lordship trusts they will be enabled to sail so as to arrive as soon as the River St. Lawrence is navigable."

Three groups, including the English group of 19 families from Alston, Cumberland, accepted the Colonial Office terms.

The Navy arranged the tonnage for the passage, and agents for transport were at the launch in Whitehaven on 17 May. The Navy billed the Colonial Office £597 1s. 9d.

The Cumberland settlers sailed on the Jason from the port of Whitehaven, only a week or so after the boat had been built. The ship sailed to Quebec City with 110 passengers, of whom 102 had come from Alston and its suburbs.

The road to Whitehaven is mostly downhill, steeply to Penrith, and more gently to Whitehaven, a distance of about sixty miles.

The British government agreed to give 100 acres to each adult male member of the group, and to refund the settlement duties if they made improvements within five years of reaching their land.

The group travelled from Port Hope mostly by water, as there were no roads until the 1840s; the women and children stayed in Port Hope until 1819, and the men established a group home on the triangle that is still evident at the base of the Communication Road, now known as Chemong Road. After the winter they helped each other to build their first homes, shanties or small log cabins, on their respective 100 acre lots which stretched along Communication Road for a few miles.

An historical stone monument was erected around 1992 by members of the Peterborough Historical Society working with Smith Township Historical Society. Gerry Stephenson was the lead volunteer on that project. The

names engraved on the imposing stones were based on Thomas W. Poole's information in his 1867 history of the county. The first settlers were William Dixon and five sons; Joseph Lee and two sons, John and George; John Smith and one son, Joseph; Robert Milburn; Thomas W. Milburn; Robert Walton; John Walton; Margaret Stephenson; John Smith and Walton Wilson.

The Cumberland Settlers came over a period of some 25 years. The first families left children in Alston, where the extended families ensured they were educated before emigrating. This differs from chain migration in which subsequent immigrants come to areas settled by friends, neighbours and family because the initial plan included the idea they would come after completing their education. There may have been chain migration as well. Thomas Hetherington and Thomas Archer brought their families from Alston in 1828 and 1831.

When the Milburn Colony Settlers arrived in Smith Township in the late summer of 1818, they were the first European settlement in the area north of Rice Lake. Settlement was opened after a British treaty with the First Nations. Parts of Smith were surveyed between May and August 1818, just in time for the arrival of the settlers.

A "Memorial from emigrants of Smith Township" addressed to Earl Bathurst at the Colonial Office and dated November 3, 1818 adds useful details. "We the undersigned Individuals belonging to the Colony of Mr. Thos. Milburn from Alston in Cumberland 'I sailed on the Brig Jason Cap't White from Whitehaven on the 17th May last.' The undersigned varies from Poole's list and the list on the monument: John Smith; Walton Wilson; William Dixon; Thomas Moor; John Bailes; Joseph Lee; Jonathan Stephenson Husband of Mary; Robt Milburn; John Walton Husband of Mary Walton; and John Walton.

As well, the letter mentions that Mary Lee and her husband, part of the Colony, were living in Montreal where he was "working on some Public Works there." There are variations from what was placed on the Smithtown monument on Parkhill.

The Colony Settlers, as they self-identified in this memorial, had expected to receive £206, which was their deposit money, as well as half the expenses, £86.3s. for getting them and their luggage from Montreal to Smithtown, which was supposed to be paid back when they were located on their lands.

The Government at York "has given us very little Information when the Money can be paid." Instead, the Government "has given Mr. Milburn an order to draw the Money in London." The problem with that suggestion was that the Colony Settlers had already spent the money, and the refund from London would be much slower than from York (now Toronto). As well, Milburn was in England, and was not expected back in Smith until the fall of 1819.

The refund of the deposit money came before March 1819. They also got a refund of the settlement duties in 1828 after prompting provincial government officials. When Captain Basil Hall and his wife visited Peterborough in 1827, they strolled over to visit these first settlers in Smith Town who were living in "ease and comparative affluence" only nine years after their arrival.

THE MILBURN COLONY SETTLERS

Alastair Robertson, Alston, England

An article I wrote with the title 'EMIGRANTS FROM ALSTON MOOR' appeared in the Alston Moor Newsletter of Spring 1999, Issue 30. In the light of the 200th anniversary of the departure of the Milburn Colonists, I've edited it for re-publication and for public awareness. Should we do something about it?



The Derwenter Clock, Alston, England

Many thousands of people have left Alston Moor over the years, mainly due to economic recession and the decline in the lead industry. Those who left in the early 1800's must have been among the first to do so. In the archives of the Alston Moor Historical Society the fate of a few of these people can be traced.

After the Napoleonic Wars there was heavy unemployment, and administrators of poor relief urged emigration as a solution. The government responded by reversing its former position of opposition to emigration and gave financial aid to emigration schemes. In 1817 a select committee on the poor recommended, *"that all obstacles to seeking employment wherever it can be found, even out of this realm, should be removed; and every facility that is reasonable afforded to those who may wish to resort to some of our colonies"*. There followed a lot of propaganda extolling the virtues of emigration and the first national experiment on a large scale was made in 1819, when Parliament voted £50,000 to be spent on sending 5,000 settlers to the eastern section of the Cape Colony in South Africa. As a general policy, government land in the colonies (ignoring the natives' rights and traditions of course) was sold to settlers at extremely cheap rates to help defray the cost of the

scheme.

However, before the South African experiment, in 1818 two groups of Alston men, most of them with their families, had already left Alston. We know something about most of them, in particular William Dixon, a miner of Leadgate, George Lee, a butcher of Sheepriggs, Joseph Lee, a miner and mason of Flatt, Robert Milburn, a miner of High Nest, Thomas Moore of Knarsdale, John Smith, a shoemaker of Alston, Jonathan Stevenson, another miner of Nest, John Walton of Low Leehouse, Robert Walton of Alston, William Walton, a miner of Wanwood and Walton Wilson of Jollyboard House, Alston (note Jollyboard).

The Alston emigrants, who became known as 'The Milburn Colonists,' travelled to Whitehaven where they boarded the *Jason*, "a square-sterned brigantine" with two masts and a single deck. The ship weighed 159 tons, it was only 79ft long and 28ft 8½ inches wide, to accommodate 110 passengers plus the crew. After what can have been at best an uncomfortable voyage, the *Jason* landed at Quebec on 19th September 1818. The colonists then travelled by flat-bottom boat to Port Hope, Ontario, where the women and children stayed while the men went north to Smith Township to locate their grants of land. There the men built a shanty town in which to live during the winter and then in the spring they located their land grants on either side of what became known as Communication Road. Then they returned to collect their families.

The man who organised it all in Alston was Thomas Milburn, whose occupation or profession is unknown. He was the eldest of four brothers and a sister who all eventually emigrated to North America. Thomas (b.1779) married Ruth Haldon in 1806. He went out to Canada with two servant girls in 1818, to be followed by Ruth and their six children; in Canada the couple had four more children. Only a little is known of the second brother Robert Milburn (b.1781), he married Sarah Walton in 1811 and had three children, John, Margaret and Walton.

The third Milburn brother, William (b.1783) married Mary Varty in 1814 and they had the following children: Robert, John (b.1816) and Mary (b.1817). The family moved to Newcastle-upon-Tyne from where, at some point, William left them to sail to the U.S.A. and settled in Bradford, Pennsylvania. In 1827, his wife Mary in Newcastle received a letter from a neighbour of William's in Bradford telling her that William had married a widow named Polly Millar

and they had had four children!

The fourth Milburn brother John (b.1787) and their sister Peggy (b.1794) also moved to Smith Township near Peterborough in Ontario, where John died without marrying.

Colonist John Walton made something of a name for himself in the New World. He was born in 1799 at Low Lee House, Garrigill, and in 1818 he emigrated with his parents Thomas and Jane Walton (nee Wallis). Part of his story is told in the "History of the Township of Scarboro":

"Having worked in the lead mines in England, he turned his knowledge to account by sinking wells. Many of those sunk in the vicinity of Gooderham & Worts distillery were sunk by John Walton. In 1823 he settled in Scarboro, on lot 35, concession 2, and lot 35, concession 3, for which he paid \$1 an acre. He afterwards sold the north half to Robert Oliver, and lived on the south half. He married Mary Thomson, third daughter of the first settler in Scarboro.

"Mrs Walton carried her butter and eggs to York market, a distance of ten miles, by a footpath through the woods. She received fourpence a pound for her butter, or one York-shilling for two pounds, and the same for her eggs per dozen, taking groceries and other necessaries instead of cash. One takes an interest in learning that at the end of three years the family fortunes had prospered well enough to provide the worthy daughter of a brave mother with a mare called "Kate", and a side saddle on which she might ride to market. After two years more, the industrious couple procured a second steed, and, with ingenious fingers, fashioned for the team a set of harness, from strips of basswood bark."*

(*York was the original name for Toronto. A York-shilling was a British sixpenny piece, equivalent to seven pence-halfpenny currency, or twelve and a half cents.)

Of course there are more stories that could be told of the Milburn colonists, a lot of research has been done in Canada as to what happened next, resulting in the publication of 'Peterborough – Land of Shining Waters,' in 1967, and 'At the Edge of the Shield – A History of Smith Township 1818-1980,' published in 1982. On this side of the Atlantic original documents have been copied and transcribed by historian Dave MacAnelly, and investigations into Alston Moor church and chapel registers have been carried out by myself.

In 1993 in Smith Township there was a plaque erected with an inscription that begins;

"Near this site, nine families from Alston Moor, Cumberland, England – in search of a better life – faced the challenges of survival in a remote wilderness

that would become Peterborough County in 1818."

Should we, the residents of Alston Moor, link up with the people of Smith Township in Ontario to commemorate the 200th anniversary of this small exodus?

Alston's Emigration Society

In England, in common with most parishes, Alston Moor had its own emigration scheme. "An Account of Receipts and Disbursements by the Committee respecting the Emigration to Upper Canada, of Poor Persons belonging to the Parish of Alston Moor, in the Year 1832", showed that £310.16s. had been raised to assist twenty-four households and individuals (a total of 124 people) to emigrate. Upper Canada was the area around Toronto towards the Great Lakes.

Prospective emigrants were obviously means tested, for example one widow received £3, while another received £4, and one family of six received £2, while another family of six received £5.

£200 of the overall sum came from the Greenwich Hospital, £25 from the London Lead Company and the rest was donated by local individuals. A disbursement item of £5.3s.6d was described as "Various Expenses in removing the Emigrants to the Sea Coast &c, &c".

The American and Australian gold rushes in the middle of the nineteenth century tempted many men away from the lead mines. The article in the Autumn 1998 Newsletter gave the example of Stephen Madgen, who wrote home for seventeen years after his arrival in Australia.

Emigration continued into the twentieth century, and between 1911 and 1913 immigration to Australia was 207,816, the main source being the United Kingdom.

On January 1st 1911, Joseph Hodgson wrote from Moonyoonooka Western Australia to his home in Alston. He was newly arrived in Australia and was moving from job to job, being a clerk one week, or a farmhand the next. He describes the climate, with temperatures of 103 degrees in the shade, the differences in farming, particularly the differences in crop yields, and that land could cost as little as 10/- an acre. He enjoys shooting kangaroo and wild turkeys, etc, but good guns were difficult to get.

"Last week there was a very big bush fire here, it was eight miles long and one mile in breadth, so that it lit up the country side at night. Just now they are very common, and there is a one burning now, quite near where I am sitting, but there is a sand belt, and it will prevent it from spreading. So I will sit still and finish my letter."

He says that water is very precious that they really appreciate a good glass that folk in the old country would turn up their noses at. "You haven't got to be too particular about going without a wash sometime and sometime you let your beard grow, but no one's to see you in the Bush."

"Well I don't think there is much more I can say except that you will please remember me to all my friends around the neighbourhood and let them know I am going on first class, and in the Best of Health, so I will conclude with best of love to all at Alston.

*I remain yours aff.
Jos Hodgson."*

Cobourg was the gateway to Peterborough

Elwood h. Jones, 10 March 2018

The earliest settlers coming to what became Peterborough county entered the valley of the Trent via Cobourg. The Newcastle District which included the area that became Peterborough and Victoria county was centred in Cobourg until the new Colborne District was established with its seat of administration in the town of Peterborough, in 1842 with the completion of the District Gaol.

One of the most valuable sources for learning what happened in these early days was learned through newspapers. Even though Peterborough had newspapers as early as 1838, the archival resource is post-1847. Newspapers are a major source for learning who had official roles, who was engaged in mercantile trade, and where businesses were situated, something difficult to discern in the era before street and business directories, from 1865, or our first substantive local history, Dr. Poole's still valuable 1867 history of Peterborough, town and county.

In the years between 1830 and 1847, the best newspaper sources for information about Peterborough was in the local newspapers printed in Cobourg. Peterboro' earliest newspaper was the *Peterborough Backwoodsman and Sentinel* which John Darcus seems to have started in 1837.

The earliest printed reference to a fair in Peterborough appeared in the *Sentinel* in 1837, and the reference has survived because the items was reprinted in the *Cobourg Star*, September 6. "PETERBORO FAIR – The interest which is created by the prospect of our first Fair, through the surrounding country, is such, that we anticipate a good show of all descriptions of cattle – and even in these dull times we have little doubt that sales will be effected to a considerable amount. Independent of its utility as a general market, it will prove highly advantageous to the farmers in general, by bringing into one spot the best cattle of all kinds which the District possesses, and enabling them to learn where they may find the most likely means of improving their own stock."

The *Cobourg Star* printed a lengthy story from the *Sentinel* in September 1837, that reported:

"The enterprising spirit and wealth of our new District is clearly evidenced in the extent, style and superiority of our public buildings – amongst which the English Church stands pre-eminent. Situated on the summit of a beautiful hill, attained by a gradual and easy ascent from George and Hunter Streets on the one side and commanding an extensive view of the Otonabee and surrounding country on the other. The building, which is of stone, is finished in a style of architecture, which for chasteness of design, and solidity of execution, reflects the highest credit on Mr. Scobell, the architect, by whose plan, and under whose superintendence, it has been so creditably completed. The weight of its massive steeple is most judiciously and usefully relieved by the dial of the clock, which we hope our ingenious and truly clever townsman, Mr. Morrison, will soon have finished for the benefit of the public."

Alexander Morrison, who was one of the Colony Settlers from Cumberland, was putting the finishing touches on the Peterborough Clock, which my research suggests came from Alston, Cumberland around 1836. This year is the bicentennial of the arrival of the Colony Settlers, and the clock which has not operated in 1882 is in Peterborough.

Some of the seminal stories that came from those early Cobourg papers have been used in local histories. The first advertisements for the building of an Anglican church in Peterborough appeared in the *Cobourg Star*. The notice of the laying of the cornerstone for St. Peter's Roman Catholic Church also appeared there. News about the local elections, such as in 1836 and 1841, was found in the *Cobourg* papers.

One of the most exciting stories that I shared in my Peterborough Examiner column related to Col. Robert Brown whose large local estate with a grand villa within half a mile of downtown Peterborough appeared as a rental advertisement in the *Cobourg Star*, while Brown was holding a government position in Cobourg. The villa turned out to be a substantial property between Hazlitt and Douro centred on what is now Tivey Street, and is marked by an historical plaque erected by the Peterborough Historical Society.

Recently, while browsing through the Upper Canada papers at the Trent Valley Archives I opened a file from the *Cobourg Star* which consisted of transcribed excerpts from newspapers that had gone to the Colonial Office in England. Quite a few runs of newspapers found their way to London in this way, and fortunately were kept in the official archives. Some of the best runs of early newspapers from Quebec, Montreal and Toronto and smaller places survived this way. It is amazing to think of the circuitous route that these papers travelled.

The newspapers were comparatively small, going to four pages total. Consequently many of the news items are exceptionally brief.

Mrs. Holland, for example, was advertising in January 1831 her school for "ladies of Peterborough and its vicinity" where she was teaching "*Spelling, Reading, English Grammar, Writing, Arithmetic, Geography, and History*, together with *Plain and Fancy Needlework*." In the spring, she would be adding "a few more Young Ladies as Boarders."

In March 1831, James Tylee, who was opposite the grist mills of Hall and Lee, advertised for "A Journeyman for a Carding, Dying and Cloth-dressing Establishment. He must be well acquainted with the business in all its branches, and able to produce a satisfactory recommendation from his last employers, as to capability, honesty and sobriety. N. B. - A person without a family would be preferred, one who would be willing to board with the proprietor."

One unusually detailed story was an 1830 report of the judges who toured some of the leading farms in Northumberland. These included the farms of T. D. Sandford in Cramahe; Benjamin Whitney; Captain

Spillsbury R. N.; Joseph A. Keeler; Thereon Dickensen; and Peter Alger. Of these, Spillsbury had connections to Peterborough, and a street named for him. The judges observed of Spillsbury's place, "The fences well arranged and substantial. The barns, stables, and yards on this farm are very comfortable and convenient. The Judges were much pleased with them, and recommend them to the notice of the farmers throughout the country. Capt. S. has made numerous and valuable improvements on his farm, and raises very good crops on it, considering the natural deficiency of the soil."

A very detailed report of a March meeting held at John Hutchinson's Inn in Cavan appeared in the Cobourg Star, in April 1831. In a series of seven resolutions, the meeting agreed that both the road and water routes to Cobourg and Port Hope needed to be improved and set up a subscription fund to accomplish that.

The Cobourg Star, 10 July 1839, reported the "ARRIVAL OF LIEUT. RUBIDGE, R. N. WITH 181 SETTLERS." Rubidge had been in England for nearly two years, mainly advancing the interests of this, his favourite district, and promoting its "numerous natural advantages."

In 1839, J. B. Fortune of Peterborough and James Wallis of Fenelon Falls had "comfortable boats" plying from Fenelon Falls to Mud Lake (presumably Bridgenorth) where there would be regularly scheduled stage coaches. In 1838, there were advertisements for "fast sailing steamboat", the Sir F. B. Head, running from the Steamship wharf in Peterborough to Claverton, on Rice Lake. "Particular attention," according to the notice, "has been paid to the fixing up of the Ladies' and Gentlemen's

Cabins. Breakfast, Dinner, Wines &c. of the best description will be had on board." There was transportation to the North American Hotel in Cobourg.

W. S. Conger, who would soon become the first Sheriff of the Colborne District, was advertising in July 1839 "that he is now receiving at his old stand, one door east of the Albion Hotel, a large and choice assortment of **Fancy and Staple Dry Goods, Groceries, Crockery, Glassware, Books, Stationer, &c. &c. &c. &c.** All of which have been selected with great care by himself and will be sold at extremely low prices for CASH only."

On June 5, 1838, there was an auction sale for a "mill property and water power" on the Otonabee about eight miles above Peterborough. "The Property consists of 4 acres of Land on the above mentioned River, commanding a fall of almost 11 feet, and an unlimited supply of Water. On the Land there are a double saw mill at present at work; an excellent Three-Story building for a Grist-Mill a part of the works of which are also finished; a handsome house, intended for a Tavern; a good Dwelling-House; and a good Horse and Ox Stable." This was Lakefield, and according to Gordon Dibb's account in Robert Delledonne's *Nelson's Falls to Lakefield*, 21, James Thompson had been forced to sell the mill. It is not clear if the sale was completed, but Dibb says that "the mills, tavern and other holdings" were destroyed by fire. Good local historians were using the Cobourg Star.

Ephraim Sanford, Peterborough's postmaster, was the auctioneer for a sale in September 1838 of town lots and seven building lots, 100 feet deep, fronting on George Street.

Peterborough 1837

IMPROVEMENTS. Ere noticing the Locks, &c., in course of being constructed on the Otonabee, below Peterboro', we cannot deny ourselves the pleasure of dwelling for a few moments on the improvements – both public and private – which have rendered this town worthy, in every respect, to become the capital of the Colborne District; and to vie, in appearance, respectability and business, with most other county towns of a more ancient date.

The original selection of the site of Peterboro's does infinite credit to the foresight of the first projector – being situated on a deep, beautiful and rapid river, which affords an almost inexhaustible extent of water power, until it passes the town, where, expanding at once into a smooth and extensive lake, it forms a natural harbor for the benefit of the inhabitants and a splendid basin at the entrance of the Canal – which is intended to be cut through the village to

avoid the rapids and connect the navigation. It combines all the advantages which can be looked for, either by the merchant, the mechanist, or the admirer of beautiful and romantic scenery.

Surrounded by a closely settled and highly fertile country, whose surplus produce is poured into it, and whose constant supplies are drawn from it, Peterboro' is independent of any outside assistance. Nor is the time far distant, when we hope to see the produce of the "Far West," and the imports of Montreal, lie scattered on its wharfs in a business-like confusion.

The enterprising spirit and wealth of our new District is clearly evidenced in the extent, style and superiority of our public buildings – amongst which the English Church stands pre-eminent. Situated on the summit of a beautiful hill, attained by a gradual and easy ascent from George and Hunter Streets on the one side and

Cobourg Star, 6 September 1837, from Peterboro' Sentinel

commanding an extensive view of the Otonabee and surrounding country on the other. The building, which is of stone, is finished in a style of architecture, which for chasteness of design, and solidity of execution, reflects the highest credit on Mr. Scobell, the architect, by whose plan, and under whose superintendence, it has been so creditably completed. The weight of its massive steeple is most judiciously and usefully relieved by the dial of the clock, which we hope our ingenious and truly clever townsman, Mr. Morrison, will soon have finished for the benefit of the public.

The Scotch Church, on the other side of the town, is also a large and commodious stone building; lofty, plain and substantial, commanding a fine view and most eligibly situated.

The Roman Catholic Church, which is in progress, will also be of stone; and we understand the plan, when carried into effect, will prove highly ornamental to the town, and convenient for the congregation.

In enumerating the stone buildings, we must not pass over Mr. McDonell's beautiful villa, Mr. Duffy's extensive distillery, or Mr. Bedford's capacious brewery, the latter of which we hear will be in full operation in the course of the next month. Mr. Hall's and Mr. Fortye's water-mills are equal to any in the province; and Mr. Shaw's steam mill and distillery give the steamboat wharf a constant appearance of bustle and importance.

The number and superior accommodation of the hotels, show at once the business of the place and the respectability of its visitors – while its well-stocked stores and thronged counters are indicative of the flourishing conditions of the surrounding settlers.

That portion of the town which is extending itself on the eastern side of the river, is also acquiring a steady and increasing business, as Mr. Ferguson's advertisement on the fourth page of this paper clearly shows – while the Lake Distillery, on the borders of the Little Lake, gives a business like appearance to the scene, the beauty of which is greatly heightened by Mr. Wrighton's tasteful villa on the one side, and Mr. Moe's residence on the other.

We cannot leave this subject without particularizing one instance in which Peterboro' certainly surpasses every other town which we have had an opportunity of visiting in this country. We allude to its streets, which being made of very superior gravel that abounds in the neighborhood, and formed under the judicious superintendence of Mr. Robert Chambers – who has not only in this but in so many other instances, sacrificed both his time and purse in forwarding the public interest – present, even in the continued thaw of spring and the heavy rains of fall, a dry and level surface, over which the lightest shoe may walk, fearless of the damp, after half an hour of sunshine.

An Historical Purview and Prelude to the Celebration of The Bicentenary of the Peter Robinson Emigration to the Newcastle District (1825-2025)



The *Heritage Gazette of the Trent Valley* and *Cairde*, the newsletter of the Peterborough Irish Club are publishing a series of historical articles written by Rosemary and Peter McConkey relating to the Peter Robinson settlers in the region of present-day Peterborough. This is the second in the series.

Peter Robinson 1825 Settler John Callaghan Lauds His Immigration and His New Homeland in a Letter Dated October 8, 1827 and Published in *The Cork Constitution*

Like Patrick Barragy in the first article of this series, John Callaghan travelled aboard the transport ship, the *John Barry* as part of the Peter Robinson emigration of 1825. John sailed from Cobh (the Cove of Cork), County Cork, Ireland, to the Newcastle District with his family in the spring of that year. The ship's manifest for the *John Barry* indicates, John Callaghan, aged 44 years, was accompanied by his wife Norah, six years her husband's junior, and their family of six sons and one daughter. Their boys were

: David (23), Cornelius (22), Jeremiah (20), Owen (16), Dennis (14), John (12) and their only daughter was Ellen (18). Ellen later married a Devlin.

John Callaghan and his family were located by Peter Robinson on the North Half of Lot 5, Concession 5 of Emily Township in the Newcastle District. However, as we will see, not all the family members named above came to Emily Township as planned. The early census and assessment enumerations for the township covering the period 1826-1830 indicate that John and Norah's sons,

Cornelius and Jeremiah, did not come to Emily with their parents in 1825, but we know that, by the mid-1830s, both these sons were in the township.

The John and Norah Callaghan family originated in the region of Kitsborough village, just to the northwest of Cork City, where John rented a small farm which he lost, giving him the status of 'reduced farmer.' About 1820, no longer in possession of land, Callaghan opened a public house in nearby Mackey's Cross, which he also lost. In 1824, Callaghan applied to be included in the Peter Robinson emigration of 1825 and at that point he listed his place of residence as Clogheen. In fact he was living at that time in Clogheen Cross, a little to the east of Mackey's Cross, where he was a neighbour of William Waggett, Recorder of the City of Cork, to whom he wrote a letter given below. Clogheen Cross was located in the townland of Coolymurragh, parish of Carrigrohane (Roman Catholic parish of Carrigtohill) in the barony of Cork, in the East Riding of County Cork.

The records for the 1825 Peter Robinson emigration include two documents relating to the John Callaghan family, which are presented here. The first of these items is a letter of reference supporting John Callaghan's application for emigration. This letter, signed by six persons, attests to the good character of John Callaghan and his family and is one of several 'certificates of character' submitted on behalf of this family in 1824 and 1825 as applicants to Peter Robinson for inclusion in his emigrant scheme. The letter reads :

We the undersigned certify that we know the bearer John Callaghan and family these four years past and consider them to be fit and proper persons for Emigration to his Majesty's possessions in Upper Canada. He being a sober and well conducted industrious man experienced in the farming business.

Given under our hands March 29th 1825. Christopher Hely Hutchinson, N. T. Colthurst, John Eyres, Wm. Waggett, Resident of Cork, John Webb LLD, Parker Dunscombe, Charles Leslie

William Burnie, the surgeon aboard the *John Barry*, on which the Callaghans were passengers, recorded the following entry in his surgeon's journal¹ concerning the John Callaghan family: *Cornelius Callaghan left the ship at Cork before sailing.*

In the autumn of 1827, John Callaghan put pen to paper (his internet having contracted a virus!) and wrote to his friend William Waggett, the Recorder (Chief Magistrate) of the City of Cork,

Ireland. Waggett had been a neighbour of John Callaghan when he lived in Kitsborough, near the Mackey's Cross and Clogheen Cross neighbourhood of Cork in the years prior to his emigration in 1825. He was also one of the six prominent persons who had signed Callaghan's certificate of character, cited above, addressed to Peter Robinson two years earlier and supporting his suitability as an emigrant to Upper Canada. This letter, which Callaghan no doubt hoped Waggett would circulate among the many friends he had left behind in Cork, is an excellent and laudatory epistle extolling the success of his family's adventurous relocation to Upper Canada. This letter, a treasure of information, covers the two short years since John Callaghan's arrival in his new homeland. He addresses members of his own family and his friends back in Cork. As well, he sheds light on the reason why his son Cornelius, decided not to emigrate with the rest of the family and disembarked from the *John Barry* just prior to departing from Cobh in Cork.

In his letter John Callaghan speaks vividly and very positively of his new life in Canada and his words need no further elaboration, as the reader will note. Nearly two centuries later, we laud Magistrate William Waggett for having submitted John's letter for publication in the *Cork Constitution*, which, on January 1st of 1828, was copied and published by the *Newry Telegraph* in Counties Down and Armagh. The full text¹ of John Callaghan's letter to Magistrate Waggett is presented here :

Sir.--I take the liberty of communicating these few lines to your honor, hoping they will find you and sister in perfect health, and also P--- D---, Esq. [Parker Dunscombe] and family, which leave us at present in health, thank God for it; and are also in a prosperous way of doing well for my family. I have got 200 acres of most excellent land, needs no manure these many years to come, and 60lbs. of wheat is sufficient seed for an acre, and all other seed in proportion. We sow wheat in both potato and fallow ground in the month of September, and the wheat we sow in April is nearly ripe as soon, but not so productive but better quality flour; as for potatoes there is no bounds to their produce, for on four cuts there is generally a weight of 32lbs; the pumpkins and melons grow any where the seed is set, which is obliged to be reared very tender in your country. As for clearing the land, a man will fall, cut in 12 feet logs, make in heaps, and burn one acre in six weeks. I have at present cleared better than 20 acres, on which at present I have 12 acres in fall wheat, and expects to have six more as soon as I have the potatoes cleared off. The Indian corn is a good crop

in this country, there is about 50 bushels per acre of 60lbs. to each bushel. We hear it reported before we left Ireland, that any letter sent from this by emigrants to their friends, would be carefully examined, fearing bad accounts; it's all false, for there cannot be a bad one sent by any person, except a scheming idle drunkard, who is not inclined to industry. I would be very happy that honest industrious men, who are idling for want of employment, would be here, for the good of themselves, and more so for their growing family, as it's here they could make a property, without rent, rates, or taxes, but enjoy at their table the sweets of their labour. The labourer gets from 15 to 16 dollars a month, with the best of diet, on the same table with the employer. There are plenty different quality of teas growing spontaneously in the woods, and can make plenty sugar from the maple tree; the sap runs from the first March and continues until the middle of April. My family made last season better than 500lb. weight of sugar, two casks of molasses and a barrel of vinegar, all the produce of the maple.

I expect your honor will take the trouble of communicating this letter to my son Cornelius, who remained behind me when we emigrated, by means of bad advisers, which if he can muster as much as will bring him to come next season, with the first vessel from thence to Kingston, from that to Smith's Creek [Port Hope], where he will be within one day's journey of my place, and to inquire there for Mr. Smart, store-keeper, who is a co-partner to John Lester, Esq., and his waggon come from thence twice a week, where he can have the opportunity of getting his baggage brought within ten miles of me, and leave it there until sent for. If he has no means of paying his passage, let him write as soon as possible, that his brother may send him money that would enable him to come, and if possible let him get the letter franked by Sir N. Colthurst, or C.H. Hutchinson, if in Cork.

No more at present, from your well-wisher and former neighbour at Mackey's Cross.

John Callaghan.

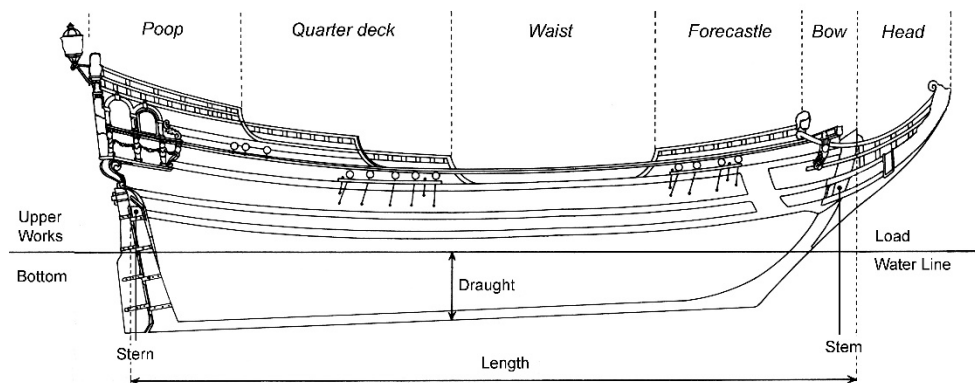
Direct to me, at Emily, 5th Lott, 5th Concession, in the County of Durham, and district of New Castle, Upper Canada, North America.

To William Waggett, Esq., Recorder of the City of Cork, Ireland

From research carried out on the John Gallagher family, we now know that the second oldest son, Cornelius Callaghan, who had decided not to emigrate with the family in 1825, came to Emily about 1833. As well, the third son, Jeremiah, did sail with his parents in 1825, but he left the family group in Quebec and surfaced in Emily Township in 1833. The only children who came to Emily with their parents, John and Norah, in the year Peter Robinson brought out his settlers were Owen, Dennis, John and Ellen (later Mrs. Devlin).

John Callaghan continued to prosper on his farm in Emily and from the land records we learn that John Jr. was deeded title to Lot 5, Concession V in the township. We have no record of the demise of either John Callaghan or his wife Norah. However, they do not appear in the 1851 Canada Census for Emily Township but their children do. There are descendants of John and Norah Callaghan residing in Lindsay, British Columbia, Washington State and in Grand Forks, North Dakota, among other places.

John Callaghan left to us a rich historical legacy in his fine letter to William Waggett of Cork, Ireland, a document which adds to our knowledge of those first difficult years of settlement in Upper Canada, as seen through the eyes of our pioneering ancestors.



Measuring The starboard of a Robinson emigration vessel (Thanks to Paul Allen. This diagram appeared in the Heritage Gazette of the Trent Valley, February 2014.)

William Burnie's comment was in the *Surgeon's Journal of the Transport Ship John Barry between 22 April to 25 July 1825*, in the *Peter Robinson Papers, Peterborough Museum and Archives, Peterborough, ON*. Also we are indebted to Mary Callaghan, a direct descendant of John and Norah Callaghan, for unearthing this historic jewel of her family's past, John Callaghan's letter to Magistrate Waggett.

Caisse Hotel Inquest October 1859

Dennis Carter-Edwards

In an earlier article, I referred to the County of Peterborough's Inquest Records and the potential they have to shed new light on the history of the community, using an inquest into the drowning of two lumber men in the Otonabee River. The Inquest records didn't deal just with fatalities. In the case cited below, the coroner John Robinson Benson called in inquest into a mysterious fire at Caisse's hotel. The testimony of the witnesses, provides some information on the physical location of the hotel, stables and adjacent residences on Hunter Street that were destroyed by the fire. The risk of fire has been well documented by Elwood Jones. However, in this case, the fire was a result of arson, although the culprit and the motivation for the arsonist remained undetermined. There is also reference, although not fully explored, of an incendiary device – in this case a bag of gunpowder or blasting powder left at the front of the hotel/saloon. Perhaps a settling of scores, an insurance scam or maybe reducing the competition in the hotel business. Unfortunately, the inquiry was unable to discover the reasons behind this devious act. Another interesting observation is the brief reference to "the Frenchman" who it was suggested didn't understand English. That a resident or newcomer would feel comfortable working or visiting in Peterborough without a grasp of English might indicate the strength of the French community that he could mingle and function in. The inquiry also makes numerous references to individuals and their occupations. Of particular interest is the two Caisse brothers who appear to have operated the hotel/saloon and may have been early members of the burgeoning French community that eventually concentrated around Crescent Street and the Little Lake area.

The testimony was likely recorded verbatim as the various witnesses gave their testimony which might account for the very loose spelling. In most cases, I have used the spelling as in the original documents with a few notations with [sic] for some of the glaring discrepancies. The original transcript can be found in MG-8-2 III Inquests #58 at the Peterborough Museum and Archives.

County of Peterborough To Wit

An inquisition indented taken for our Sovereign Lady the Queen at the town of Peterborough in the County of Peterborough the twenty first day of October in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and fifty nine before John Robinson Benson, gentleman, one of the coroners of our said Lady the Queen for the said county respecting the origin of the fire on the 13th instant whereby Caisse's hotel and other adjacent buildings were consumed upon the oath of Augustus Sawers, John Thomson, James T Henthorn, William Arnott, Ronald Ban McDougall, Isaac Robinson, Joseph Keele, William Hall, Charles Ormand, Benjamin Green, Thomas James Henthorn, Robert Rowe, good and lawful men of the said town duly chosen and who being then and there duly sworn and charged to inquire for our said Lady, the Queen how and after what manner the said

fire originated do upon oath say: That the fire originated in Mr. Coulter's unoccupied stable; that the building was set on fire by some person or persons to the jury unknown. And in the matter of the powder and fuse found before Caisse's saloon on the night of the 18th instant the jury say that they have no evidence of criminal intention on the part of the person who may have left it there. And so the jurors aforesaid upon their oath aforesaid to say that the said fire occurred in the manner aforesaid.

In witness whereof, as well the said coroner as the jurors aforesaid have to the inquisition set their hands and seals on the day and year and at the place first above mentioned.

Signatures of the jurors

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At an adjourned meeting of the Inquisition on the late fire or burning of Caisses Hotel held in the Town Hall in the Town of Peterborough on the 17<sup>th</sup> day of October 1859

Mrs Julia Brown Of the town of Peterborough saloon Keeper being Sworn saith Witness got up about one quarter past One oclock on Sunday morning herd [sic] a noise in the back yard looked out of the back window could not see any person went to bed again. Herd a noise in the front of the House, got up again went to the front window touched the window which made a small noise and saw a person leave the stoop who went toward the post office witness followed as far as Mr. Wilson's sadler [sic] shop returning saw a parcel on the stoop of Saloon, brought it in then took lit [sic] a candle, got a knife cut the string found two parcels containing gun powder or blasting powder. The two parcels were in a cotton bag, the paper was very thick not common wrapping papers slate coloured, there was in Bag a parcel containing about Sixty feet of fuse wrapped in a neat manner same as if it had been done up in a shop. As soon as I found it was a Powder I diped it in water for fear of being blown up, then went up stairs woke up the boy took him with me to alarm the neighbours went to Mr. Jenkins, Mr. Jenkins son George come in with me then went to Mr. Rowntree who came in to the House soon after me told Mr. Rowntree to go for Mr. Cumings for witness feared the result thought she was in danger and also to alarm the Mayor also Mr. Caiss Mr. Caisse did not rise. Mr. Caisse came to my house between seven & eight Mr. Courtney did not come, the Mayor did not come. Witness sais [sic] the man I saw at the front stoop or platform was low sized and pretty stout Red Shirt or dark sleeves vest with a white back bareheaded or very small cap or head covering, did not run fast. Moon shone bright. The saloon was shut at a quarter past eleven oclock

Julia Brown X her mark

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Thomas Rowntree of the Town of Peterboro, shoe maker being sworn saith On Saturday night or Sunday morning between 12 and 1 o'clock the salon [sic] boy raped at my door. Mrs Brown was not with him. Boy said Mrs Brown wanted witness to go to the saloon t hat there was a man left something there she wanted witness to see it went

down went to the door which was fast. Mrs Brown came to the door let witness in when in brought me over to see some powder saying some person left it at the door. Looked at it the powder was wrapped in a paper also the fuse all placed in a dish of water looked at powder and fuse Mrs Brown wanted to know what was best to be done. Witness mentioned it would be better to send for Mr. Caisse, Mrs Brown wished to have some person Mr. Cummings or the Mayor Mrs Brown Said Mr. Caisse was fatigued and thought she could do without him if the other parties would come, witness went to the other parties would come, witness went to Mr. Cummings asked no person come raped at Mr. Caisse's no answer then went home and dressed and returned to Mrs Browns who seemed uneasy. Witness told Mrs Brown she could not wake up Mr. Case [sic] went back to Mr. Caisse's with Richard {Frenworth ?} who knocked very hard at Mr. Caisse's and woke up the {Paris born?} Frenchman but could not get any other person in the house up. The Frenchman refused to waken Mr. Caisse or did not understand english [sic] witness returned to Mrs Browns saloon saw her told her all I had done. Told what Cummings said and what occurred at Caisse's she did not appear to say anything in reply but was uneasy witness did not go to wake up the Mayor.

The Powder when witness saw it was about the size of a pound of {Swankey?} Tea Mrs Brown was dressed when first witness seen her

Thomas Rowntree

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County of Peterboro To Wit:

Information of witnesses severally taken and acknowledged on the behalf of our Sovereign Lady the Queen touching the burning of Thomas Chambers Tavern known as Caisse's hotel also James Edwards dwelling house, John Robinson's, George Brownlee's and William Coulter Esq dwellings which were consumed by fire on the morning of the thirteenth day of October instant and taken in the town of Peterborough in the County of Peterborough aforesaid this thirteenth day of October one thousand eight hundred and fifty nine before John Robinson Benson Esquire one of the coroners of the said county as follows to wit:

Timothy Sheehan of the Town of Peterboro yeoman being sworn saith on the morning of the 13<sup>th</sup> instant about the hour of half past one was driving past Mr. Caisse Hotel saw a light above the \_\_\_\_\_ of Mr. William Coulter stable ran to Caisse's gave the alarm Mr. Caisse and witness and Caruthers and one other all ran to where the fire was returned to Caisse's bar, went to the kitchen got some dirty water but was to [sic] late the fire then had got into Caisse's stables wanted Caruthers to assist in getting out the water tank he said it was no use could not lift it or something to this effect all who ran out with witness seemed anxious to extinguish the fire Mr. Caisse was not in the bar could not get a pail was not in Caisse yard went into his stable from lane witness is sure if he could get one pail or two of water he could have put out the fire when he first observed it. Caruther also inquired for water witness did not see Mr Caisse after first seeing the fire until he saw him in stable witness took out *himself* [crossed out] assisted in getting out the horses himself [sic] saw the hay and loft of Caisse's stable was all on fire when he got out the second time when

witness first knocked at the barroom door it was locked was not long before it was opened witness assisted in removing all the furniture out of Caisse's Brick building except one of two Bedsteads

~~~~~  
William Coulter of the town of Peterborough

Druggist sworn said Was not at the Fire on the morning of thirteen had a dwelling house and stable consumed by fire on the morning of the 13th dwelling was not occupied There was not anything in the stable was in it about ten days since then was not _____ a loose board about there was not any straw down on lower floor there was an opening between his stable and that of Caisse's of about 6 or 8 inches there were 2 separate walls, witness was insured on the hole [sic] premises to the amount of £200 in the stable office office and never saw any straw in the opening between the stables has not made any application for additional risk to any other insurance office there was a passage between Caisse's yard and that of Coulter by a board of two taken off the fence.

~~~~~  
William Crowther of the Town of Peterboro Music teachers sworn saith was in Mr Caisse's Hotel in the bar about one quarter past one o'clock on Thursday morning heard the cry of fire went out side with Mr Caisse and Mr {Lawly?} of Montreal went round to the back of the House on Hunter Street saw the flames of the stable belonging to the house lately occupied by Mr. Glenn came back to the front of the house went up stairs roused Mr. Gilleys who was in No.17 went to the other rooms knocked on the doors giving the alarm of fire then went to the nursery took 2 of the children over to the saloon, took out some boxes of clothing saw the Piano Melodian and other instruments got out of Caisse's witness assisted in getting other articles of furniture saved. Some person drove to the door and shouted fire Caisse, Lamb and witness ran immediately the alarm was received as a true alarm did not know whose premises were on fire when witness first saw the fire it would not take much to put it out, but could not get any water went to the double doors they were fast could not get any water.

William Crowthers

Mr. Caisse [sic] Mr. Lamb and witness were in the Barroom about one hour before the fire Mr. Caisse and Mr. Lamb went into the office Mr. Caisse went into the Cellar for a bottle of port witness took the children out without being dressed it was about ½ an hour before the fire the Porter was got. Mr. Caisse was absent from the Bar but a short time for the Porter no longer than was needed to bring it.

William Crowthers

~~~~~  
Henry W Green of the Town of Peterboro Millwright being sworn saith that on the morning of the 13th instant went to Caisse's Fire assisted in cleaning out the Bar Room, when the fire was over went into the saloon with Robert Stevenson went from there to Caisse's new Hotel in Burnhams Block saw a lot of furniture supposed to be from the former. The furniture was on the lower story did not go up stairs at all.

Henry Green
~~~~~

Lewis McGregor of the town of Peterboro Innkeeper being sworn saith Was at the Fire in Caisses Hotell [sic] on the morning of the 13<sup>th</sup> helped out with the Piano got all out of the Music Room, went from that into the dining room assisted in getting all that was in that room, then went up stairs, helped to take down some Bedsteads and Looking Glasses, went into the cellar with Mr. Caisse into cellar Kitchen broke off a door between Kitchen and wine cellar got out some casks, got out all they saw that was worth anything asked Robert White Cabman if there was any thing else he thinks he said all was out, but witness saw some things taken out after he left the cellar went out on the street to take care of some things that were saved.

Lewis McGregor  
~~~~~

Isidore Caisse of the Town of Peterboro Saloonkeeper being sworn saith on the morning of the 13th instant his brother came to witnesses door and said the place was on fire, got up looked through a door which he opened and saw flames coming out from Glens stable thinks they were communicating with their own stables but not sure, as my Brother went down stairs witness put on his pants and told the bar keep to get up then ran to nursery for cash Box, met Mrs. Caisse asked for cash Box who said it was safe took out from nursery what he could find there clothing went into kitchen saw some person working in wine cellar.

Witness thinks Mr. Glenns stable was set on fire Witness went to bed ten minutes or so after twelve oclock was asleep when called has not suspicion of any person Witness never saw to his knowledge any opening between his s tables and Glenns went to his room all his things were taken away watch clothes and a ___ has never got an article of them since.

Isidore Caisse
~~~~~

Robert Stevenson of the Town of Peterborough sworn saith he does not k now of any furniture taken from the old tavern to the new one to the best of his knowledge witness has been working in the new Building for a month. Thinks what furniture was there was new

R. Stevenson  
~~~~~

Leone Caisse of the town of Peterboro Innkeeper sworn saith

Between the hours of one and two oclock on Thursday morning the 13th instant was in the Bar room with Crowther and Mr. Lam heard a raping at the front door on Hunter Street heard the cry of fire, ran immediately to the Barroom door and opened it, it was locked, Eastlands man said Glenns stables are on fire, ran as fast as he could to Coulters lane saw the fire in Coulters stable, it was then in one of the stalls reaching from floor to loft ran through Coulters passage into his own yard, knocked at my back door it was locked Mrs Caisse came to the door witness told her to get the children out as fast as she could went to the Stables to see to his horses, there was a man taking them out went into the office got my books away ran up stair commenced throwing out the bedding and save all I

could, got all my things I could down to Burnhams buildings. Witness was insured on furniture \$2140 in the London & Liverpool Mr. Cluxton agent and \$600 in Licquors, [sic] same office has been insured ever since I have been in Peterborough have been insured for same amount 5 or 6 years.

All the Furniture belonging to the House and hotel was in the premises when the fire broke out, with the exception of one Carpet taken to fit a siting [sic] room in Burnhams building the day previous to the fire, I received a small parlour organ valued and purchased for £100 and a pipe of wine £40 the wine was burned. Witness had rented Mr. Burnhams building for a Hotel intending to move into them as soon as the Assizes were over which as to be on the 24th or 25th instant. Thinks it was about 20 or 30 minutes from the first alarm of Fire before it took into his building or dwelling house. Witness has no doubt but the stable of Coulters was set on fire as there was not any person occupying it lost an omnibus and 3 seated wagon & harness & Buffalows not insured.

Think the fire could not be put out by throwing water upon it without an engine when he first saw it the fire was so grate [sic] There was a good deal of Hay in my stable last January I took an inventory of my furniture which amounted to £1885 in the hotel alone and no less than £500 or £600 worth of Licquor as I had in my winter stock.

L Caisse
~~~~~

Robert White of the Town of Peterboro Hostler sworn saith was in Mr. Coulters yard about ½ past 11 oclock did not see any appearance of Fire did not see the fire until the furniture was nearly all removed came in assisting in getting out the Licquors. There was a small Fire engine on the premises it was in good order there was water in Caisses well it was bad used the water of Coulters well Caisses well pump was broke. Never saw any person after hours in Coulters stable. There was water in the Cistern there was a small pump in Cistern.

~~~~~  
Mr. Coulters enquires

The opening or where the board were off between Caisse's stable and Coulters stable was in the upper loft could go from one stable loft to the other thinks there was some rubbish [sic] between two stables the spase [sic] was open in the lane and down in the yard.

~~~~~  
George Brownlee of the Town of Peterboro Tailor sSworn saith went to bed on Wednesday night after eleven oclock Mrs Brownlee woke up saying there was a fire heard Mrs Caisse say Brownless all our s tables are on fire. Witness is insured in the Western office for £250 has been insured 2 or 3 years, witnesses son about 6 years old told witness there was a man broke into cases [sic] house and got under the bed. Mr. Case came and got out of window spoke to Robert White who laughed it off witness saw some man on plat form some time since about 12 oclock looking into the kitchen they were all in bed told Mr. Case who said he believed there was some Scoundrals [sic] going to burn him up Witness had a grate [sic] dread lately of fir e and mentioned it to Thomas Chambers.

At an adjourned meeting of the inquisition held 21<sup>st</sup> October '59

Thomas Wilson of the Town of Peterboro Quarry man being sworn saith says [sic] he knows nothing about the powder found on Caisse's Saloon

~~~~~  
George Jenkins Sworn saith

Mrs. Brown woke him up about one oclock on Sunday [sic] morning 16th instant went into Mrs Browns saloon saw some Powder in a dish it was wet Mr. Rowntree

was there Mrs Brown said she found it at the door looked at it and thought it was Tea, does not know who left the powder there thinks it was in one paper

George Jenkins

~~~~~  
All the within information was severally taken on the day and year and at the place within mentioned before

John B Benson Coroner



*The Stewart House was at Hunter and Water, and in this 1886 photo taken from St. John's Anglican Church appears to be topped with a railing. This was the site of the Caisse Hotel, 1854-1859. The current building on this site, the Commerce Building, was erected in 1894-1895, after yet another fire at this corner. (Trent Valley Archives, Electric City Collection)*

## Léon Caisse: Peterborough's *Hôtelier Extraordinaire* (1854-1867)

*Colum Diamond*

**Editor's note:** *Colum Diamond wrote about the Caisse family in the Heritage Gazette of the Trent Valley, February 2013. We have reprinted one section of that story that helps to place the Caisse Hotels in context, and contains Colum Diamond's discussion of this very example of an inquest record being used for family research.*

### 4.1. The First of Léon Caisse's Two Hotels

During the thirteen years in which Léon Caisse was engaged in the hotel business in Peterborough, his establishments were located in two different spots, both of them brick buildings. In each case, Léon did not own the buildings in which his hotels were situated, but had a contractual rental agreement with their owners. The first of

the two hotels, which Caisse operated from 1854 until October 1859, was the property of Thomas Chambers and was located at the intersection of Water and Hunter Streets. Attached to Léon's hotel and with access to the hotel, was a saloon operated by Léon's younger brother Isidore Caisse.

An examination of the 1846 town-centre map produced by Sandford Fleming would lead one to conclude that the hotel was located on the southwest corner of the intersection. With regard to this first of Léon Caisse's two hotels, in his *The Early Settlement of Peterborough County* (1867), Dr. Thomas W. Poole states:

*Sundry good buildings had also been erected; and among others, the brick hotel owned by Thomas Chambers, Esq., on the corner of Hunter and Water Streets,*

subsequently destroyed by fire. In regard to hotels it may here be mentioned that the "Globe" hotel, on Charlotte Street, was the first brick house erected in Peterborough, and the "Commercial hotel" of Mr. Chambers just mentioned, was the second building of brick within the limits of the town. It stood on the site of his present grocery, and was for a time the leading public house in Peterborough. It was built in 1847, burned down in 1858 and on its site the present two-story building was erected in 1864.

#### **4.2. Destruction by Fire of the First Caisse Hotel (October 1859)**

On the night of Saturday, October 15<sup>th</sup>, 1859, a disastrous fire destroyed Leon Caisse's hotel at Hunter and Water Streets. Although no one was injured in the fire, it was, nevertheless, a tragic incident and represented an enormous set-back for Leon Caisse and his young family. Not only was the entire building utterly destroyed, but an unattached stable standing next to the hotel was also totally lost. During the fire, those fighting the blaze succeeded in salvaging much of the better quality furniture from the hotel was taken out into the street and then moved around the corner to the partially constructed building on George Street which was to become the new Caisse Hotel.

#### **4.3. Inquest into the Fire Which Destroyed the First Léon Caisse Hotel**

Six days after the fire, on Friday, October 21, 1859, an inquest to investigate the fire which had destroyed Caisse's Hotel was held before John Robinson Benson, coroner. Twelve male citizens of the town of Peterborough were impanelled as jurymen and the hearing called many witnesses to testify. The most revealing and useful testimony was provided by Mrs. Julia Brown a saloonkeeper:

*Mrs. Julia Brown of the Town of Peterboro, saloonkeeper being sworn saith: Witness got up about one quarter past one o'clock on Sunday morning and heard a noise in the back yard. She looked out of the back window but could not see any person. She went to bed again. She then heard a noise in the front of the house got up again and went to the front window. She touched the window which made a small noise and saw a person leave the stoop and who went towards the Post Office. Witness followed as far as Mr. Wilson's Sadler shop. Returning she saw a parcel on the stoop of the Saloon, she brought it in then took and lit a candle. She got a knife, cut the string and found two parcels containing gun powder or blasting powder. The two parcels were in a cotton bag. The paper was very thick not common wrapping paper. The paper was slate coloured. There was in the bag a parcel containing about sixty feet of fuse. It was wrapped in a neat manner, same as if it had been done up in a Shop. As soon as I found it was powder I dipped it in water for fear of being blown up. I then went upstairs and woke up the boy and took him with me to alarm the neighbours. Went to*

*Mr. Jenkins whose son George came in with me. I then went to Mr. Rowntree who came into the house. I told Mr. Rowntree to go for Mr. Cummings as the witness feared the result and thought she was in danger. He was also to alarm the Mayor and Mr. Caisse. Mr. Caisse did not rise. Mr. Caisse came to my house between seven and eight. Mr. Cummings did not come and the Mayor did not come. Witness says the man I saw at the front stoop or platform was low sized and pretty stout. He had a red shirt or dark sleeved vest with a white back. He was bareheaded or had a very small cap or head covering. He did not seem fast. The moon shone bright. The saloon was shut at a quarter past eleven o'clock.*

*Signed with her X mark  
Julia Brown*

**Isidore Caisse** of the Town of Peterboro saloonkeeper being sworn saith:

*On the morning of the 13<sup>th</sup> inst. his brother came to his door and said the place was on fire. He got up and looked through a door which he opened and saw flames coming out from Glenns stable. He thinks they were communicating with their own stables but not sure. As my brother went downstairs the witness put on his pants and told the barkeeper to get up. He then ran to the nursery for the cash box. He met Mrs. Caisse asked her for the cash box and she said it was safe. Witness took out from nursery what he could find there, clothing etc., then went into the kitchen and saw some persons working in the wine cellar. Witness thinks Mr. Glenns stable was set on fire. Witness went to bed ten minutes or so after twelve o'clock and was asleep when called. Witness has no suspicion of any person. Witness never saw to his knowledge any opening between his stable and Glenns. Witness went to his room and all of his things were taken away. Neath cloths and as but has never got an article of them since.*

*Signed in his own handwriting  
Isidore Caisse*

Other witnesses, including Léon Caisse, testified that some scoundrels may have been looking to harm him. Léon Caisse stated: "Last January I took an inventory of my furniture which amounted to £1885 in the hotel alone and not less than £500 to £600 in liquors in my stock." He also testified that "he had insurance in the amount of £2140 in the London and Liverpool, Mr. Cluxton agent, and £600 in liquors in the same office."

After all the witnesses were heard, the jury impanelled to examine the evidence relating to the burning of the Caisse hotel, concluded "that the fire had originated in Mr. Coulter's stable; that the building was set on fire by some person or persons unknown."

Shortly after the fire and the inquest called to investigate its cause, the "new" Caisse Hotel on George Street opened for business. Léon Caisse as 'Peterborough's hotelier par excellence' was about to take centre-stage.

# *This City Once Made Much of What Canada Bought. But No More.*

By IAN AUSTEN

New York Times, JAN. 21, 2018



The Quaker Oats plant in Peterborough, Ontario. One of the larger and older manufacturing plants still in operation, the factory is an icon in the heart of the city. Credit Aaron Vincent Elkaim for The New York Times

PETERBOROUGH, Ontario — In his push to [drastically change or kill](#) the North American Free Trade Agreement, President Trump often casts the United States as a victim of a deal that benefits only Canada and Mexico.

But the idea that Canada has prospered at America's expense is a tough sell in Peterborough, a city northeast of Toronto.

For most of Canada's history, Peterborough manufactured much of what Canada bought or used, including chain saws, outboard motors, boats, refrigerators, alarm clocks, locks, oatmeal and electrical motors and generators. The city was so closely associated with an 80-acre General Electric complex in its heart that it became known as "the Electric City."

But no more. This year General Electric, which employed about 6,000 people here at its peak, will add its name to the long list of manufacturers that have left town. The shutdown, which the company attributes to a 60 percent drop in demand over four years for the factory's products, will end the corporation's 126-year history in Peterborough.

G.E.'s closing, like that of other factories before it, has several causes, including a general weakness in the company's power generation business and [lingering problems](#) with its financial subsidiary. But many people in this city of 82,000 see the end of G.E. in Peterborough as just the latest disappointment delivered by free trade.

Bill Corp, a 35-year G.E. veteran whose father and grandparents also worked for the company, will be the last president of the Unifor union local representing most of the workers at the plant. In a tidy house converted into a union hall, he repeatedly said he was not "a very political person."

But Mr. Corp nevertheless contrasted the promises of prosperity made in 1989, when Canada signed a trade deal with the United States that became Nafta, with the pending G.E. shutdown and Peterborough's unemployment rate, which spiked at 9.6 percent last summer, Canada's highest at the time.

His views about Nafta — for which the latest round of talks begins in Montreal on Tuesday — echo those of labor leaders in declining industrial communities in the United States.

"They said it was going to be great," said Mr. Corp, who looks younger than his 57 years. "If this is great, then maybe nothing would be better."

Peterborough isn't an isolated example among industrial communities in Ontario. The Mowat Institute, a research organization focused on the province, calculates that between 2000 and 2011, Ontario as a whole lost about 300,000 manufacturing

jobs. Those that remain are concentrated in food processing — Peterborough has both Quaker Oats and Minute Maid juice plants — and in production of cars and car parts, a sector that was never dominant in this city.

But Peterborough doesn't fit the image of a down-at-the-heels Rust Belt town. It sits at the heart of a spectacular series of lakes that draw vacationers from urban centers like Toronto. A canal popular with recreational boaters winds through the city and raises boats 65 feet in a massive [lift lock](#), an aquatic elevator that has become a local landmark. North of town, the [campus of Trent University](#) is widely considered one of Canada's most important collections of mid-20th-century architecture.

Despite its industrial woes, Peterborough has been growing. Many of the newcomers are people at or near retirement age who have sold their houses in Toronto's inflated real estate market and replaced them with much cheaper, and sometimes superior, homes here.

Yet old factory sites linger as landmarks. The Westclox clock factory, converted into condos and offices, still sits on a hill above the lift locks, though its clock tower no longer functions. The remains of the Outboard Marine Canada plant, where chain saws and Evinrude boat motors once moved along assembly lines, is now a [celebrated museum](#) devoted to canoes.

"This community has changed immensely from where we were back in the '60s," Mayor Daryl Bennett said. Credit Aaron Vincent Elkaim for The New York Times



Mayor Daryl Bennett is not among those who blame NAFTA for Peterborough's industrial losses, and many economists share his view.

"This community has changed immensely from where we were back in the '60s," said Mr. Bennett, a businessman whose holdings include a taxi service. "You could come out of high school here and go to any one of the factories in the city and have a very viable career, raise a family and maintain a good quality of life."

The mayor said that the shift of jobs away from large factories to federal and provincial government offices, tourism, hospitals, the local university and college and smaller manufacturers had begun before the introduction of free trade in 1989. The city's unemployment rate, he added, fluctuates, but is often near the national average. Last month it was 4.9 percent. But he, too, is dissatisfied with

the current pact.

"NAFTA is a very interesting agreement," he said in his somewhat cramped City Hall office. "Mr. Trump is certainly not far-off on the need to make some changes to that agreement, quite frankly. But what those are is better left to the experts."

At the union hall, Mr. Corp's mood was more mourning than anger. G.E.'s last 350 unionized employees make electric motors and generators so large that electrical lines sometimes must be lifted if the products leave town on extra-heavy-duty trucks. Peterborough-made motors turn cruise ship propellers, pump oil, power factories and mines and generate electricity around the world. (G.E. has not disclosed which of its remaining factories will pick up Peterborough's work.)

"The guy that runs a lathe or a guy that runs a [C.N.C. machine](#) or a guy that winds [large motors](#) — they're skilled guys," Mr. Corp said. "But where are they going to get a job as far as government jobs in town? I don't mean that they don't have the smarts to do it. But they're in their mid-40s, mid-50s and they've been tradesmen their whole lives."

Those who do manage to find something, he added, are unlikely to find jobs that include G.E.'s generous benefits or match its pay rates, which start at about 30 Canadian dollars an hour.

Some of Peterborough's industrial icons have survived. Before free trade, picture framers in Canada mostly turned to [Peterboro Matboards](#). But as products from two large American mat board makers moved into the Canadian market after the trade deals, Peterboro failed to introduce new products or modernize its production. By 2001, the company was insolvent and had just seven employees. Then Alan Yaffe, a Toronto picture framer, stepped in, selling his business in downtown Toronto and mortgaging his house to buy the company.

Since then, Peterboro has become something of a trade success story. Mr. Yaffe invested in the plant and expanded the market for its products not just in the United States, but also in Australia and Europe, particularly Russia. The factory now employs 34 people, including two who have been with Peterboro for 50 years.

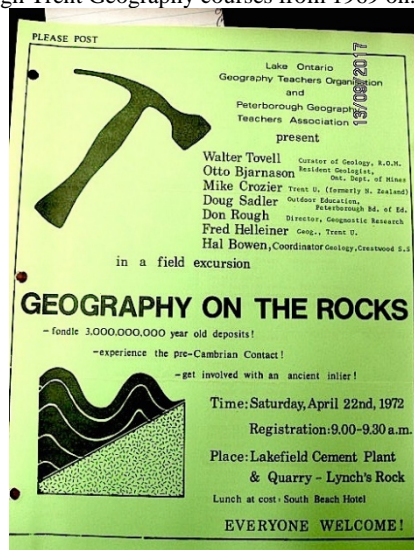
Still, Mr. Yaffe feels that Mexico's low wages have sent too much work south. Whenever Peterboro Matboards advertises a job, about 100 people apply within a couple of days, he said.

"It's totally discouraging, I feel so badly for them," Mr. Yaffe said. "Peterborough's got a good work force, there's no question of that. There's just not places for those people to work. It's crazy what's going on here."

## PETERBOROUGH GEOGRAPHICAL ASSOCIATION: A VIGNETTE OF PETERBOROUGH IN THE LATER 20<sup>TH</sup> CENTURY

Peter Adams and Alan Brunger

When the Department of Geography was founded at Trent University in 1968, the teaching of Geography was expanding rapidly in the schools of Ontario. The Ontario Geography Teachers Association (OGTA), with its journal *The Monograph*<sup>22</sup>, was actively involved in the evolution of the discipline. The Peterborough Geography Teachers' Association (PGTA) was the local equivalent of the OGTA and the regional organization was for central Ontario, the Lake Ontario Geography Teachers' Organization (LOGTO). At the time, teachers in Ontario up-grading their qualifications, consequently, many local Geography teachers were either Trent graduates or prior degree-holders, who up-graded through Trent Geography courses from 1969 on.



Publicity for the "Geography on the Rocks" field trip, the 37<sup>th</sup> meeting of PGTA on April 22 1972.

The PGTA commenced on March 4 1968, with its first meeting in Don MacKenzie's home (President: Glen Burke & Secretary: John Brown) with twelve teachers present. Not until the eighth meeting, on June 3 1969, were those in attendance (12) recorded. The PGTA became active in OGTA, attending provincial meetings, assisting the Trent Geography Department in hosting provincial conferences in 1970 (500 delegates) and 1980, providing two honorary presidents, and publishing articles on Geography teaching in *The Monograph*. It included members from all local high schools, Adam Scott CVI, Crestwood SS, Kenner CVI, Lakefield and District HS, Lakefield CS, Millbrook HS, Norwood HS, Peterborough CVI, St. Peter's SS, and Thomas A. Stewart SS, with a number of members from the Department of Geography, Trent University, I.E. Weldon CVI, Lindsay and a number of local Elementary schools, such as Keene, Confederation, Westmount, and Ridpath, Table 1.

Minutes of the 37<sup>th</sup> Meeting  
of the  
Peterborough Geography Teachers' Association  
at  
Lakefield Quarry, Douro Township,  
ON  
April 22nd 1972.  
Commenced at 9 o'clock at Lakefield Quarry

13/08/2017

| Name                   | Affiliation                            |
|------------------------|----------------------------------------|
| A.L. Crawford          | Peterborough County Board of Education |
| Dudley Hillier         | B.C.I.V.S., Hastings Co., Belleville   |
| Dave McNeil            | N.D.H.S.                               |
| Lloyd Gaskin           | N.D.H.S.                               |
| Gord Osborne           | Frontenac S.S., Kingston               |
| Bill Osborne           | R.R. #10, Peterborough                 |
| Peter Tiesma           | A.S.C.V.I.                             |
| Ray Appleton           | A.S.C.V.I.                             |
| Wendy Dalrymple        | 234 Murray Street, Peterborough        |
| Ken Dalrymple          | 234 Murray Street, Peterborough        |
| L. Dalrymple           | Ontario Hydro                          |
| Hal O'Snell            | Ontario Hydro                          |
| Trev Davies            | 1078 Barnardo Avenue, Peterborough     |
| Hilda Davies           | 1078 Barnardo Avenue, Peterborough     |
| Gwen Garada            | 739 Donagel Street, Peterborough       |
| Fred Helleiner         | Trent                                  |
| John Ganley            | P.C.V.S.                               |
| Rosemary Ganley        | Crestwood                              |
| Don Rough              | Geognostic Research                    |
| Neil Turnbull          | Trent                                  |
| John Nash              | Trent                                  |
| Mike Crozier           | Trent                                  |
| Frank Harrett          | T.A.S.                                 |
| Bill Dafeo             | Trenton High School                    |
| Doug Livingstone       | Trenton High School                    |
| Wayne Andrew           | Kenner                                 |
| Isobel Haythornthwaite | P.T.C.                                 |
| Judy Shaw              | P.C.V.S.                               |
| B. Cosbar              | Trent Library                          |
| Keith Hurduff          | Lakefield                              |
| J. Christie            | Crestwood                              |
| Ed Freeman             | Ontario Department of Mines, Toronto   |
| Marilyn Betts          | Moira S.S., Belleville                 |
| J.R. Chase             | Toronto                                |
| H. Hasselink           | P.C.V.S.                               |
| H. Bowen               | Crestwood                              |
| D. Mackenzie           | P.C.V.S.                               |
| C. Ward                | A.S.C.V.I.                             |
| A. Brunger             | Trent                                  |

Attendance list at the largest field trip meeting of PGTA in April 1972.

This region, with its varied landscapes and the Kawartha Lakes, was a popular destination for university and school trips from around Ontario. PGTA members developed teaching resources for such field trips and to encourage environmental fieldwork in local schools. For example, Glen Burke of Kenner Collegiate, produced a widely used class set of aerial photos of the local area.

PGTA members were active in publishing on topics such as, *Initial Settlement in Douro Township*, in the Perspectives in Geography series of learning materials by Maclean-Hunter Ltd. and "Snow in Geography", and "Lake Ice and Pond Ice in Geography", in *The Monograph*. Early issues of the *Occasional Papers* series of Trent's Geography Department, and of the *Trent Student Geographer*, were devoted to such topics as *Studies in Snow and Ice*, *Measurement in Physical Geography*, *Winter Recreation and Interpretation*, *Water-based Recreation*, *The Climatological Record for Peterborough* and *Introduction to Geographical Studies in the Peterborough Area*. All of these have a strong pedagogical tone. For forty years, Alan Brunger ran the Trent University Map-making competition for Ontario schools (currently organized at <http://www.osmmc.ca/about.php>). Members of the PGTA also produced the first edition of *Peterborough and the Kawarthas*<sup>23</sup>, an introduction to the

<sup>22</sup> Today the Ontario Association for Geographic and Environmental Education, OAGEE, still with its

journal *The Monograph*.

<sup>23</sup> *Peterborough and the Kawarthas*, 3<sup>rd</sup> edition, Peter

Geography of the local region, which included field trip guides. This book is now in its third edition.

#### From PGTA to PGA – October, 1976

The PGTA existed for seven years, ending in 1974-75<sup>24</sup>. It evolved into the Peterborough Geographical Association (PGA), a community-wide group, based on a core of local Geography teachers, which lasted until the spring of 1982. This attracted community members who were not from Geography teaching. Some of these served as officers of the Association. It organized monthly public meetings on topics of environmental and geographic interest, which were generally held in local high schools from October to April inclusive. The PGA also organized public field trips on topics such as “*The Geology of Eastern Ontario*” and “*The Urban Geography of Toronto*”. New arrivals to the community, David and Jacque Wells, said that they joined the PGA in order “to learn about the region and to meet people.”

One notable meeting was held in March 1977 when George Pich (TU) spoke on his time on the faculty at the Australia National University, which sparked comments from visiting Australian teachers, Alf Leaf and Adrian Twitt (PCVS). Of passing interest also is the achievement of Hal Bowen for speaking at both the smallest (nine) and one of the largest (34) PGA meetings, in February 1979 on “*Mastery learning*” and in September, 1980 on the NWT’s “*Thelon River expedition*”, respectively.<sup>25</sup>

This was a period of quite intense community activity in Peterborough, in which concern about the local and global environment was growing, such as the condition of the Kawartha Lakes. The PGA and its individual members were actively involved with such activities. Many members were prominent in other community groups with related interests. For example, John and Heather Christie were key organizers of Peterborough Environment People (PEP), an early community-recycling program (preceding Ontario’s Blue Box Program of the later 1980s, which was itself a pioneering program).

Many members, notably Judy Shaw of PCVS, were involved in Energy Savers Peterborough, a community-wide conservation program that, among many other things, succeeded in getting solar panels onto some City buildings. Doug Sadler, a PGA member, was charged by the School Board to develop “outdoor education” (including school weather stations) and other members were involved with Conservation Authorities, the Buckhorn Wilderness Centre and

parcs and trails programs. Eric and Jean Whiteley, community members of PGA, were the designers and owners of what was said to be the most energy-efficient home in Peterborough and the focus of a like-minded local group.

The basic aim of the PGTA and later the PGA was to strengthen teaching and research in Geography and Environmental Studies in Peterborough. Trent University and the schools developed interdisciplinary courses, including Geographical Information Systems (GIS). At least one local high school (TASS, under Kendal Taylor) instructed GIS<sup>26</sup>. The Geography Department at Trent cooperated with Sir Sandford Fleming College in the development of a programme of both GIS, and computer cartography, credit courses for its students. GIS was eventually adopted by other departments at Trent and is now an accepted tool in fields beyond the environmental, e.g. archaeology.

Thirty-eight attended the PGTA/PGA’s 100<sup>th</sup> meeting on March 9, 1982 when Frank Biss (Director of Development, City of Peterborough) spoke on “*New Industry in Peterborough*”, Figure 2. Interestingly, at the 101<sup>st</sup> meeting in April 1982, members agreed to meet in the following month in order to discuss the revised constitution of the PGA, drafted by John Marsh. However, no meeting took place that May and the record of the PGA ends with the 101<sup>st</sup> meeting!<sup>27</sup>

#### Spin-off activities from the PGTA/PGA

**All-Round Geography** - Fred Helleiner played a catalytic role in the formation of PGTA having participated from one of the first meetings and contributed in numerous subsequent ways. Fred was an informal liaison between the PGTA/PGA and OGTA, in which he served as Honorary President. Fred’s affinity for the great outdoors - he is one of Presquile’s premier birders - led to several noteworthy expeditions, including the aforementioned “Geography on the Rocks” in 1972, several to local natural areas, such as the Buckhorn Wilderness Centre, and most notably, trips to Northern Ontario and Northern Quebec, through which hundreds of Southerners experienced these often-overlooked regions. He also published several field guides and papers, such as the memorable “Throw the map on the floor”, in *The Monograph*<sup>28</sup>. Fred addressed the PGA on at least two occasions. In April, 1975 under the pseudonym of Phred Helleiner, his topic acknowledged Fred’s love of a pun, “The

Adams and Colin Taylor, eds. Trent University, Peterborough, 2009 (reprinted 2017), Occasional Paper 18, Department of Geography, Trent U.

<sup>24</sup> The motion to change the organization’s name from PGTA to PGA was carried at the 45<sup>th</sup> meeting of the PGTA, the AGM, on 27 May 1974, effective in the fall of that year. The first PGA meeting, 46<sup>th</sup> overall, in September, 1974 featured a talk on “The Petes in the USSR-1973” by Roger Neilson (Coach) and Doug Jarvis (Captain).

<sup>25</sup> The largest attendance (39) at a **regular** PGTA meeting was in January, 1973. The largest attendance (85) **ever** was at an **extraordinary** meeting – the **lecture** by Pete Adams on “Canada’s Polar North” in October 1971 at PCVI auditorium. The largest attendance (39) at a PGTA **field trip** was on Saturday,

April 22, 1972, for “Geography on the Rocks”, a field excursion in the Lynch’s Rock-Galesburg Inlier-Burleigh Falls area, led by no less than six experts in Geology and Geography, Figure 1 and Table 2.

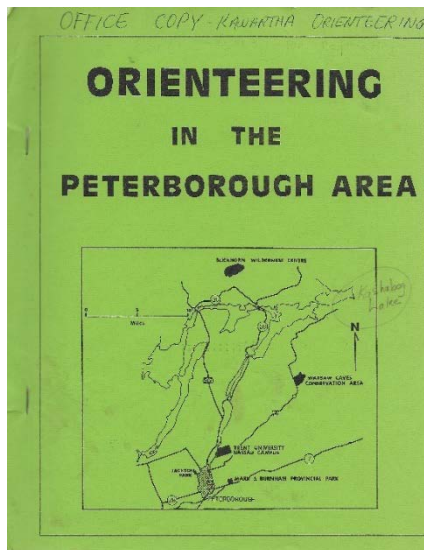
<sup>26</sup> GIS involves computerized storage, manipulation and presentation of spatial information. A Geographer, Roger Tomlinson, who was a student at McGill in the 1960s, created the subject. It spread across Canada and is now universally accepted. Trent and the PGA were pioneers in its evolution locally.

<sup>27</sup> The largest attendance at a regular PGA meeting (43) was in November, 1981, when John and Rosemary Ganley spoke about their experiences during a year spent in Tanzania.

<sup>28</sup> *The Monograph*, No. 2, 1970-71.

phenomena of phishing, phun and phrolic in the Phenelon Phalls Phicity (Aspects of the Recreational Geography of the Trent-Severn Waterway)". His other talk was in September 1978, when Lois and Fred described their recent year on exchange in Nigeria.

**Orienteering:** Peter Adams brought the idea of competitive orienteering to Peterborough and held several meets in 1970-71 at Warsaw Caves Conservation Area and other local parks. In 1973, Al Brunger organized the federally funded Opportunities for Youth project, *Motion Peterborough*, in which eight Trent Geography students surveyed and mapped four local public areas, and organized an orienteering event for local schools and the general public. The students published a book, *Orienteering in the Peterborough Area*, Figure 3, including multi-coloured maps of the four areas, e.g. Jackson Park, Figure 4. One of these was the aforementioned Buckhorn Wilderness Area, which was, in September, 1973, the site of the first "A"-class meet in the Peterborough area, under the auspices of the Ontario Orienteering Association Interest in Orienteering, as a tool for Geography teaching, was the catalyst for the newly formed Peterborough Orienteering Club in 1975, which included several PGA members in leading roles. Their efforts led to the hosting of the annual Ontario Orienteering Championships in 1977 at Northumberland County Forest. In the 1980 Ontario Summer Games, hosted by Peterborough, orienteering was one of the 27 sports, utilizing a new map of the Eels Creek area, north of Haultain in Burleigh Township. In the four years from 1982-85, a popular competition, the Kawartha School Orienteering Series, was held over five successive weeks, in spring and fall. PGA members, Don MacKenzie, Al Brunger, Paul Buttmer, John Christie and Herm Hesselink were key volunteers in this series.



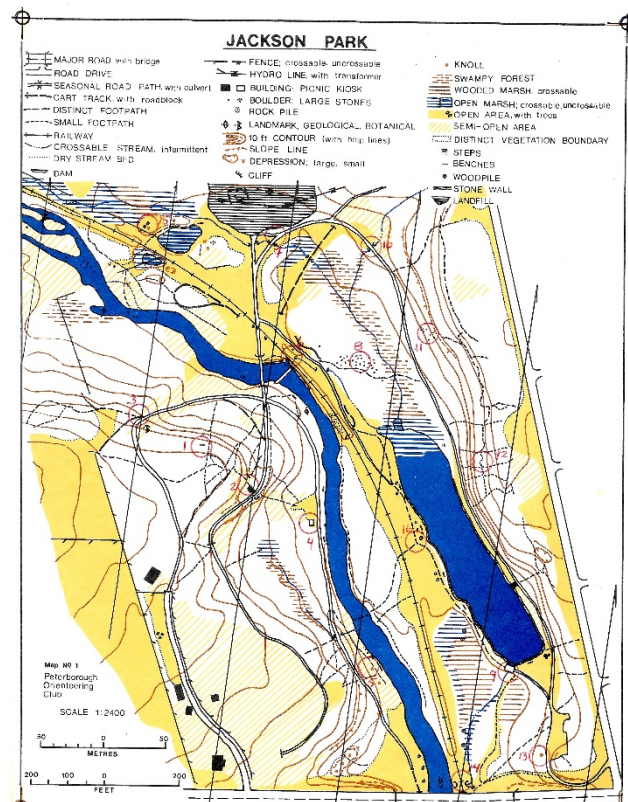
Cover of *Orienteering in the Peterborough Area* (1973 published by Trent University Opportunities for Youth project, *Motion Peterborough*.

**Trails:** This was also the time when recreational trails of various sorts were beginning to appear in the region. Whereas orienteering maps provided permanent markers for recreational

orienteering, *ParticiPaction Peterborough* (under the federal umbrella group, *ParticiPaction Canada*) developed exercise trails (where people could walk, jog or bike between exercise stations). PGA members, notably Peter Adams, were involved in all of these.

John Marsh was a leader in systematizing a local trails network, building trails in Trent University's Nassau (later Symons) campus's fourteen Nature Areas and elsewhere, encouraging bike and nature trails and linking local trails in with the Trans Canada Trail, now known as The Great Trail. This work included the conversion of abandoned rail routes into trails, later part of the **Rails to Greenways Movement**. John Marsh founded the Trent Trail Studies Unit, which is involved in local, national, and international aspects of trails development. A diverse trail network is now an accepted feature of urban and rural areas in the Peterborough region.

**What's does it all mean?** The Peterborough Geographical Association (the erstwhile Peterborough Geography Teachers Association) was active from the late 1960s to the early 1980s. It was a creature of its time, reflecting increasing interest in interdisciplinary studies, particularly the local natural environment. It strove to encourage public interest in broader aspects of the environment, including climate change, water quality and recycling. Peterborough is now enjoying the abundant harvest derived, in part, from seeds so carefully planted by the PGA some fifty years ago.



*Jackson Park orienteering map, Peterborough Orienteering Club, 1973.*



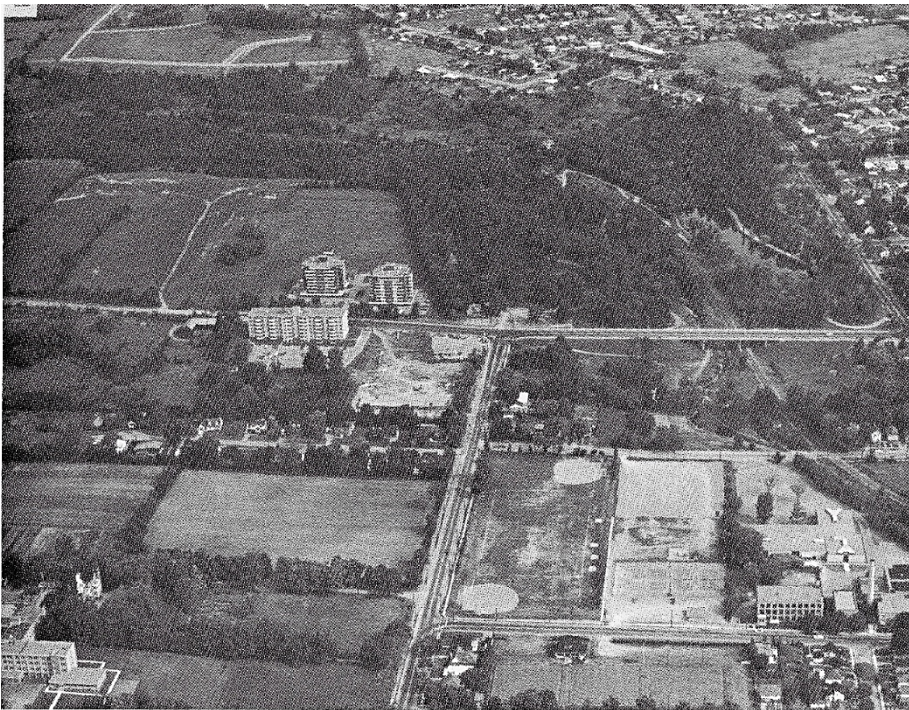
100<sup>th</sup> meeting of PGA at PCVI in March, 1982 (Photographer – Alan Brunger).

Those in attendance (by row).

(Back row – left to right - standing) Fred Helleiner (sitting), Betty McNeil, John Christie, Dave McNeil, Terry Prowse, Nancy Strickland, Pete Adams, Frank Biss, *to be identified*, Bob Hughes, Joan Taylor, Dennis Taylor, Jacquie Wells, David Wells, Herm Hesselink, Eric Whiteley, *to be identified*.

(Middle row –sitting) Charlie Ward, *to be identified*, John Glew, Kathy Ward, Jill Adams, Heather Christie, Wayne Andrew, Don Mackenzie, Jean Whiteley.

(Front row – sitting) *To be identified, to be identified*, Frank Patterson, Ruth Patterson, Larry Keeley (President).  
(Others present and *not yet identified* in the photo: - Judy Coward, Don Hamblin, Evelyn Lower, Jean Moebus, and Bill Sproule.)



*Aerial photography of northwestern Peterborough in 1970 – Jackson Park occupies the upper part with Parkhill Road crossing the view. Note the bridge crossing the Park and Jackson Creek on right hand side. The open land forming the bypass route (aka The Parkway) extends from lower left to upper right. Much has changed in the 47 years since Glen Burke photographed this scene, including residential building on Parkhill Road and a new residence at the Roman Catholic convent, The Mount, lower left. On the right, a skateboard park has emerged, the Lawn Bowling Clubhouse has gone to Nicholls Park as the rugby clubhouse.*

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*Peterborough and the Kawarthas*, 3<sup>rd</sup> edition, Peter Adams and Colin Taylor, eds. Trent University, Peterborough, 2009 (reprinted 2017), Occasional Paper 18, Department of Geography, Trent U. [www.trentu.ca/geography/experience/peterborough-kawarthas](http://www.trentu.ca/geography/experience/peterborough-kawarthas).  
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*Trent Student Geographer*, Trent University Geographical Society.  
*The Monograph*, Journal of Ontario Association for Geographic and Environmental Education (OAGEE).  
*Peterborough Successes: Community organization in Peterborough in the 1970s and 1980s*, Peter Adams, 2011, Occasional Paper 19, Department of Geography, Trent U., Package Plus, Peterborough, (and associated articles in the *Peterborough Examiner* and the *Heritage Gazette of the Trent Valley*).  
*The Runner's Guide to Peterborough*, ParticipAction Peterborough, Steve Dantzer *et alia*. 1980

## Table 1:

**Schools in the PGTA (and later, PGA) and Department of Geography, Trent, with teachers and families involved**  
 (\* indicates school now closed)

- Adam Scott Collegiate and Vocational Institute: - Charlie and Katherine Ward, John and Shirley McCormack, Ron Appleton, Peter Tiesma.  
 Confederation Elementary School: - Frank Spenceley.  
 Crestwood Secondary School: - Hal and Jan Bowen, Paul and Wanda Buttior, John and Heather Christie.  
 I.E. Weldon Collegiate and Vocational Institute, Lindsay:- Cam Vance.  
 Keene Public School: - Trudi Nisbett.  
 Kenner Collegiate and Vocational Institute: - Glen Burke, Wayne Andrew.  
 \*Lakefield and District Secondary School: - Wayne and Lynda Andrew, John Thomas, Bob Hughes, Keith Murdoff.  
 Lakefield College School: - Jim Embury, Doug James.  
 \*Millbrook High School: - Larry Keeley.  
 Norwood District High School: - Dave and Betty McNeil, Lloyd Gaskin.  
 \*Peterborough Collegiate and Vocational Institute: - Herm and Jane Hesselink, Bob Hughes, Don and Joyce MacKenzie, Judy Shaw, Brian Trussley, Graeme Allen (*Australia*), Alf & Rose Leaf (*Australia*), Adrian & Helen Twitt (*Australia*).  
 Queen Mary Public School:- Paula Wagar.  
 Ridpath Public School, Lakefield: - Joyce MacKenzie  
 St. Peter's Secondary School: - John Brown, Ernie Mansell.  
 St. Teresa's Elementary School: -  
 Thomas A. Stewart Secondary School: - Paula Wagar, Kendall Taylor, Bob Hughes, Anne Stirling, Gord Berry, Frank Marchand, John Brown, Frank Marett.  
 Trent University, Department of Geography:- Peter and Jill Adams, Doug and Ann Barr, Alan and Cathy Brunger, Ken Beesley, Miles Ecclestone, Stan Mathewson, John Glew, Fred and Lois Helleiner, John Marsh, Keith Nicol, Nancy Strickland, Liz Symons, Terry Prowse, George Pich, Nigel Roulet.  
 Westmount Public School: - Trudi Nisbett.

**Acknowledgments:** The authors are particularly grateful for the creative help of Fred Helleiner and members of OGFA.

## Queries, News, Views and Reviews

### **McIlvena and Grant**

I found on-line an article you wrote about Apsley wherein you mention the name of a blacksmith Mr McIlvena, seemingly an affable & generous fellow. I am much interested in him as in the 1881 Canadian census the family has a little girl Maud Kerr 8yrs old living with them. Maud was my husband's paternal grandmother and those of us in the family have recently discovered that Maud & her sister Agnes came to Canada as Home Children sailing from Liverpool England 13th May 1880 on the ship "Buenos Ayrean" landing at Quebec 24 May; they were in a group of 120 children escorted on the voyage by Miss Ellen Bilbrough. She then brought them to Marchmont House in Belleville.

I am wondering how long Maud stayed with this family and where Agnes may have been relocated to. I do have info that Agnes was in Knowlton, Quebec c.1890 to 1900 but as yet, no real confirmation/details.

The two girls are photographed at Topley's Studios, Ottawa in March of 1896.

Maud married Alexander Joseph Grant in June 1903 in Montreal. They eventually have a family of two, son Alexander James and daughter Helen Gordon. Grandfather was a marine engineer who worked on the Soulanges Canal in Lachine, PQ.; the Trent-Severn Waterway while living in Peterborough (1908-1911) and then moved to St Catharines after his appointment to Chief Engineer on the construction of the last Welland Canal.

Many thanks, in advance for any info or help you may provide, Regards, Doris M. Grant

*Dennis Carter-Edwards transcribed the Grant diary for the years in Peterborough and we published that in the Heritage Gazette. We included a picture of Maud, who was very short, on their wedding. The Topley Studio was a top rate photographer, and their collection is in the Library and Archives Canada, which is likely where they got that photo. Also there is considerable research being done on the Marchmont home children at LAC, with volunteers from BIFGO; she would have got that information at LAC.*

*There is no reason to expect census information between the censuses. Mind you, the Grants will be in the 1911 census for Peterborough, and they should be in the 1921 census in Welland.*

*It is in the article on soccer that McIlvena is mentioned, and that also appeared in the February 2018 issue of the Heritage Gazette. We also have an account book for McIlvena the blacksmith, who was operating I thought out of Warsaw. One of our members did genealogical research on the McIlvenas about ten years ago. And of course we could use Ancestry for them. However, there is no way to find out when she left them, because it would be between censuses.*

### **TRENT VALLEY ARCHIVES**

#### **2<sup>ND</sup> ANNUAL PLANT SALE**

**JUNE 2, 8AM TO NOON**



Get some great new plants for your garden or donate some extra plants and support Trent Valley Archives!

We are accepting donations between May 29th and June 1st. We appreciate your support which helps keep our not-for-profit archive flourishing.

#### **What items are acceptable donations?**

- All kinds of garden plants including perennials and herbs.
- No house plants please.
- Gardening books and magazines (in good condition)
- Plants **MUST** be non-invasive (invasive plants include goutweed, lily of the valley, periwinkle and climbing ivies)
- Plants **MUST** be potted a week before the sale (please attach identification to the plant)

#### **Where can I drop of donations?**

- Donations can be dropped off at Trent Valley Archives 567 Carnegie Avenue, Peterborough.
- Please drop items off between May 29th and June 1st during our regular business hours (10am to 4pm).

#### **How can I contact the organizer with any questions?**

- Please contact Trent Valley Archives by calling 705-745-4404 or emailing [admin@trentvalleyarchives.com](mailto:admin@trentvalleyarchives.com).

## HISTORIC MARBLE SLAB GOES UP AT ALE HOUSE



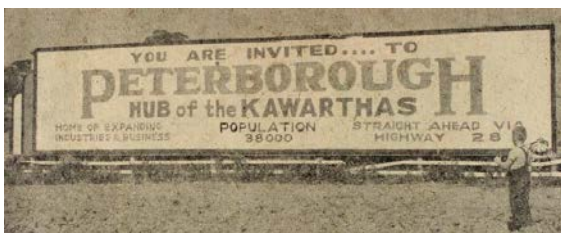
Scott Wood, owner of Ashburnham Ale House, affixes a 200-pound marble slab to the entranceway of his establishment in East City on Monday. The piece, on loan from Trent Valley Archives, dates back to 1910 and has six advertisements engraved in it. It was found in the basement of the former East City Bakery (now East City Flower Shop) in early 2015. The slab was once a tabletop in The Oriental Hotel (1875-1912) on Hunter St. near George St. A slice of the former hotel's building still stands today - it's now a law firm (Lillico Bazuk Galloway Halka).

### The TVA Marble Side Table

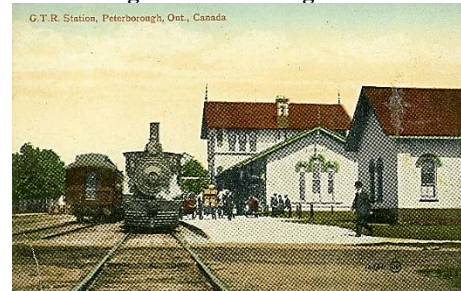
The Marble slab was used as a side table in the Oriental Hotel, and dates to 1904. Notice that Peterborough had a dial phone system, provided by the Canadian Machine Telephone Company for 30 years. This was discussed in earlier Heritage Gazettes. There were two tables that were used from the mid-1970s at the East City Bakery to display the wide assortment of goods in the Christmas and Easter seasons.

The side table is on loan to the Ashburnham Ale House so that it will be seen by more people.

Thanks to Callie Stacey for making it possible for TVA to rescue it, and to Scott Wood for going to some effort to make the side table attractive and accessible.



### Peterborough vs Peterboro



We received an inquiry about when did Peterborough replace Peterboro and Peterboro' as the accepted spelling for the city. The correct spelling was Peterborough from the beginning, 1825.

Of course it is true that the other spellings were common short forms throughout our history. It seems to have been popularized when the railways preferred the short form. This postcard uses the formal spelling, but the train station preferred Peterboro, which appeared on the wall above the triple window. It was also used by newspapers, often routinely, probably because the typesetters were happy to save time.

### Quaker Fire Memorial Committee



Graham Hart, on behalf of the Peterborough Historical Society, presented an award to the committee that was behind the memorial which was erected last year in Millennium Park. The award was presented at the April meeting. L-R Jane Gill, Mrs Parsons, John Parsons, Elwood Jones, Graham Hart, John Gill, and Colleen Allen. (Photo by Paul Lumsden)



Quaker Fire Memorial in Millennium Park. The openings in the monument permit views of the new Quaker Oats. This was a project of The Descendants of the Quaker Fire Organizing Committee, and funded by Unifor. The chairs of the Committee were Jane and John Gill. (Photo by Elwood Jones)

**GUTHRIE, Susan Veronica;** Peacefully at the Peterborough Regional Health Centre (Palliative Care) on Wednesday February 28, 2018, in her 63rd year. Beloved wife of Stephen Guthrie. Loving sister of Marsha Hill (Gary) of Port Perry. Dear sister-in-law of Rick Guthrie (Margaret), Kevin Guthrie (Toni) and Wayne Guthrie (Pam). Daughter of the late Albert and Veronica Rankel. Susan's passion and enthusiasm for art, music and literature will be missed by members of the cultural community of Peterborough. A celebration of her life will be held at a later date. At the request of Susan, private family arrangements have been made with COMSTOCK-KAYE LIFE CELEBRATION CENTRE. Online condolences may be made at [www.comstockkaye.com](http://www.comstockkaye.com)

We were saddened by the death of Susan, a long-time friend and a former student, who brought joy wherever she went. Our condolences to Steve and the family. Steve was a former president of the Trent Valley Archives and has assisted on many occasions in forwarding our work. Thanks Steve.

### Spanish Flu Hits Peterborough 1918

The latest addition to the remarkable Peterborough Historical Society Occasional Papers has just been published. Dale Standen has written a thorough and engaging story of a world-wide epidemic and how it affected Peterborough. "Peterborough and the Spanish Flu: The Challenge of Contagious Disease in the Era of the First World War" gives the wider context of the medical history, and discusses the local preparations and reactions, and the comparative soundness of the local approach. Dr. Amys is one of the heroes in the story. This is the 38<sup>th</sup> annual occasional paper produced by the Peterborough Historical Society since 1980. The PHS occasional papers are generally available at Trent Valley Archives for \$5.



*Influenza victims at Fort Riley, Kan., during the 1918 epidemic. (National Museum of Health, Associated Press)*



### TRENT VALLEY ARCHIVES

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[admin@trentvalleyarchives.com](mailto:admin@trentvalleyarchives.com)

### *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.