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# HERITAGE GAZETTE OF THE TRENT VALLEY

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*Cover photo: Peterborough 1882. The original artwork by William Crothers Fitler was executed for the Picturesque Canada project, and this copy was hand coloured by noted artist Scott Medd. Taken from Peterborough The Electric City by Elwood Jones and Bruce Dyer (Burlington, Windsor, 1987).*



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#### MEMBERSHIP

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##### Annual membership fees

- ☐ Student: \$30 (high school or higher)
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- ☐ Sustaining: \$275\*
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#### ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The AGM for Trent Valley Archives will be a Zoom event and will be held on Thursday, 22 April 2021. The business meeting will cover the usual matters of an AGM. It will be preceded by a special presentation by Bob Reid, discussing the water and rail connections between Campbellford and Peterborough.

Watch for additional details.

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## President's Corner

Alan Brunger

In this last issue of *Heritage Gazette of the Trent Valley*, in volume 25, a look back at the past year is appropriate. During 2020, the Trent Valley Archives endured a period of twelve months unlike no other in its thirty-year history. The spread of the coronavirus, Covid-19, caused a global pandemic and a public health emergency in Canada and all other countries. Shortly after the publication of the February 2020 edition of this magazine, the first effects of the pandemic were evident in North America. The declaration of the emergency had consequences for the operations of TVA, on both a daily basis and in the longer term.

No one, let alone yours truly, could have predicted the course of the subsequent months. My earlier *'President's Corners'* recorded the evolving measures taken at TVA to "keep going" within the stringent protocols of the successive stages of the emergency.

In the event, our activities were postponed or cancelled. Our AGM, guided tours and plant sale – both major revenue sources – were later than usual. Some events, notably the Pageant, were cancelled entirely, with significant loss of revenue.

Some new, virtual, events, including talks by archivist, Elwood Jones, succeeded in extending the archives' "reach" and tested the power of the internet to offer worthwhile possibilities for the future, Covid-19 emergency or not. In the past six months, Elwood has presented three talks, using PowerPoint on Zoom teleconferencing software. The first of these was at the online AGM, on "*Ashburnham (Hunter Street) bridge*", then in October, "*Quaker Oats factory*", and most recently, in mid-December, a review of the Edwards' household diary fonds, entitled "*The Rockland File*".

As I write, in late December, new provincial regulations have imposed a 28-day restriction on organizations, such as ours, which means that the TVA will reopen on Tuesday, 26<sup>th</sup> January, at the earliest, with possibility of an extension, if the viral transmission rate does not decline sufficiently.

Throughout the difficult nine months of the emergency, volunteers have helped maintain TVA's operations in numerous ways. These included service in the Research Room, as hosts to clients and in processing new fonds, and as guides of tours in Peterborough. The tours have been sold out in all instances, which is both gratifying and a welcome source of revenue. The various committees have operated and reported to the Board of Directors, in the regular monthly manner, as always. Meetings have

largely been online, which has gradually become familiar, and has served very well in the circumstances, although most people long for the return to a face-to-face format.

Improvements to the TVA building were completed in the fall largely due to the energy and expertise of volunteer, and Board of Directors' member, Dalt Nyberg. He was the key worker in installing the eaves-trough on the porch entrance by Carnegie Avenue, which was the final, missing guttering on the TVA roof. In addition, Dalt tested the sump pump emergency battery-power backup system. Having found it to be non-functioning, he recommended replacing the old, exhausted batteries, on the two pumps, with ones of marine-grade, which he then acquired and installed. During this period, Dalt was, incidentally, helping the Associate Archivist set up her new laptop computer, with software installation and transfer of files.

In November 2020, Elwood edited another *Heritage Gazette* of exemplary quality, full of members' contributions on a fascinating variety of aspects of local history. All those involved in its production, particularly Elwood, deserve our grateful thanks.

Before closing, I wish to express my shock and sadness at the passing of TVA volunteer, and member of the Board of Directors, Herb Franklin, in early December (*as noted elsewhere in this issue of the Gazette*). Herb was a long-term supporter of TVA and a hardworking volunteer. He brought many skills to the Board of Directors, including his natural friendliness, which will be greatly missed. On behalf of the Board of Directors and members of the TVA, I extend our condolences to Suzann Franklin and the other members of his family.

In closing, I wish to thank the volunteers of the TVA, particularly those on the Board of Directors, and the various committees. I sincerely hope that, in 2021, you enjoy a happier new year than the past one, and that we shall witness a relatively swift return to normal operations at the TVA.





### **PUBLIC RECOGNITION OF THE CAPITAL GRANT FROM THE ONTARIO TRILLIUM FOUNDATION (OTF).**

Trent Valley Archives are most grateful for a Capital grant from OTF in November 2019, for renovation and improvements to its premises and infrastructure. During the past nine months, commencing in late March 2020, these improvements have been undertaken with the great help of the OTF grant for both labour and material costs.

In March, the first of the three components involved the replacement of five, old windows with new double-glazed ones. This immediately improved the interior lighting, as well as providing better insulation and therefore, climate control. The work was undertaken by Chemong Road Home Hardware Centre, in Peterborough. (middle)



In mid-July the next phase of the improvements took place when the local firm, D. James Excavating Ltd., regraded the lawn around the archives, in order to improve surface drainage. In addition, the old gravel was removed from the parking lot and replaced. Five additional parking spaces were also created in this process. (top)

In October, TVA volunteers, completed the third, final, phase of improvements by installing new eaves-troughs and downspouts on the porch at the Carnegie side of the archives. (bottom)



### **PUBLIC RECOGNITION OF A GRANT FROM**

### **THE NEW HORIZONS FOR SENIORS PROGRAMME (NHSP) OF SERVICE CANADA.**

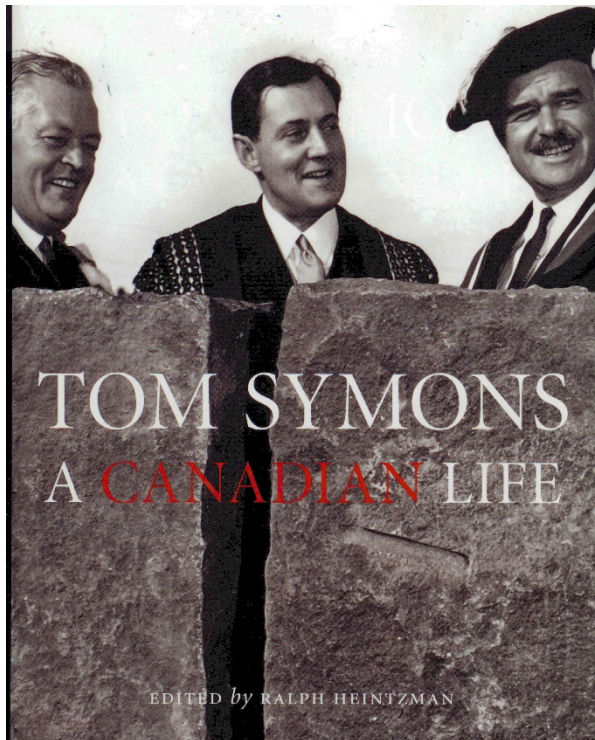
Trent Valley Archives are most grateful for a grant from NHSP in December, 2019, for improvements to its premises and infrastructure. Owing to an overlap with the previously awarded grant from the Ontario Trillium Foundation grant, approval was subsequently received for expenditure of the balance of the funds on computer equipment, for improving the virtual service capacity of TVA.

As a result, a Lenovo laptop computer, a 23 inch monitor, and ZOOM PRO software, were purchased in September 2020, for use, mainly by the Associate Archivist. The equipment has already been most useful in various ways, during the prolonged period of the Covid-19 emergency and associated disruption of the normal operations at TVA.



## TOM SYMONS: A PETERBOROUGH LIFE

*Ed. Note: Vanier Professor, T. H. B. Symons (1929-2021), the founding president of Trent University, passed away on New Year's Day. These comments were written by me in 2011 on the occasion of a conference to mark the publication of an unusual publication, Tom Symons: A Canadian Life.*



Tom Symons is the subject of a current book, *Tom Symons: A Canadian Life*. The book has been edited by Ralph Heintzman, whom I remember as the founding editor of the *Journal of Canadian Studies*, Trent University's first academic publication. My first academic article was published in that *Journal* in 1968, and it was my second pay check as a writer. The book has 20 chapters written by 19 authors. Each of the authors was a partner with Tom Symons at some significant or characteristic aspect of his life. Parts of the book have a biographical flavour, while others are reflections of the moment.

The book inspired a series of events held at Massey College at the University of Toronto, but jointly sponsored by Trent University. The events were free to participants as there were several generous donors. I attended the day-long conference in which most of the authors of the book spoke about their experiences in writing for the book, or of their memories of Tom Symons. As well, I was at the celebratory banquet, which also featured some fascinating insights.

The combination was remarkable. Tom Symons emerges as somehow symbolic of the Canadian spirit for the last fifty years, even though he was unlike any

Canadian we know. Many aspects of his life were familiar to me, as I have shared in some of Tom's enthusiasms, and many of the writers were familiar to me personally or by reputation. Of 16 speakers, for example, eight had Trent connections, and I personally knew seven of them. A ninth had Peterborough connections because of riding in Capital Taxis between Peterborough and Sturgeon Falls and Cornwall. Of the others, there was the Hon. Tom McMillan, a former federal cabinet minister, and John Fraser, the Master of Massey College, who is a leading Canadian journalist whose reporting has led to seminal books on public affairs, most notably the best-selling *The Chinese*. One of the speakers had known Tom Symons since undergraduate years at Trinity College.

The three remaining authors captured quite distinct aspects of Tom Symons' career. Alastair Niven spoke with authority about Tom's remarkable career in serving and promoting the Commonwealth, and its various well-rooted educational partnerships. Christina Cameron, an insider with the Historic Sites and Monuments Board, captured Tom's influence in making federal cultural heritage policy, and in determining sites worthy of historic commemoration. Edward MacDonald, a professor at the University of Prince Edward Island, captured the influence of Tom Symons as the most loyal "Summer Islander"; he has gone to the Island every summer since 1952, and over the past 25 years has been the most effective advocate of the idea of Prince Edward Island as the "cradle of Confederation."

One can easily summarize the contributions of Tom Symons to Canadian public life. He was the founder of Trent University, and a driving force behind the defining characteristics of its architecture, of residential colleges, of small group teaching, and a collegial community in which professors, students and administrators had shared visions. Denis Smith, a member of the inner group at the founding, spoke cleverly of the way these ideas worked in the early 1960s. Without Symons, the university would not have had the same sense of civility and concern for others. As well, the university might not have had the leavening of a university based on small residential colleges. Symons was effective at making his views known in Toronto, by politicians and public servants.



*President Thomas H. B. Symons and Charles Fraser, chair of the Board of Governors greet His Excellency Vanier and his wife on Sherbrooke Street just before the official opening of Trent University. (TVA, Yunge-Bateman collection)*

Jamie Benidickson, now a law professor in Ottawa, spoke from a student perspective. Tom Symons described himself as a “rambunctious undergraduate” but that seemed unlikely. He was, however, able to make significant changes in collegial residential life, notably at Devonshire House. Benidickson was more concerned about student life at Trent. Trent, he said, studied interdisciplinarity and public policy, and Symons invented the concept of “Canadianity” in reference to the totality of subject matter related to Canada. With respect to how we learn, he noted the importance of conversation, the concept of community, and contemplation (rather than conflict). He saw the bus running between Rubidge, Traill, Robinson and Champlain as a unique element in community formation, almost as important as Ron Thom’s architectural environment. The third aspect that seemed important to both Benidickson and Symons was the importance of teachers with scholarly values but “exemplary concern for students.” The Symons Teaching Award has honoured teachers who best represented these values.

Harvey McCue, a Mohawk who came to university when it was still rare for Natives, and became one of the founders, at Tom Symons’ urging, of the Native Studies Program at Trent, the first in Canada and tied for first in North America. As with other students at Trent in the years before 1972, he was amazed at how much independence was given to students to perform above expectations. Symons’ faith in students was remarkably astute.

Sylvia Sutherland, Peterborough’s mayor for 15 years, drew the honour of relating Tom and Christine Symons to the wider Peterborough community. Later, at the banquet, Mayor Daryl Bennett shared his unique perspective on Tom and Christine Symons. While driving Tom around the province, he experienced the world in his taxi-cab.

Symons applied what he learned in Peterborough to the wider world. This was best reflected in Tom McMillan’s discussion of Tom Symons’ work with Robert Stanfield from 1968 to the mid-1970s. It was unusual for a political party to look outside politics to get someone to be in charge of policy initiatives. Stanfield was seeking ways to make the Progressive Conservative party appealing to academics and thinking people. Trent University was accepted as Canada’s outstanding small university. Symons, for his part, was committed to public service, and had shown an ability to develop university policies in the context of public policies which Symons had helped amend. His partnership with Stanfield was amazingly effective. Symons was the patient grey eminence for the Priorities for Canada Conference in 1969, and then headed the Policy Coordinating Committee. Symons found various ways for members of the political party to discuss policy issues. The party emerged from its populist phase under Diefenbaker

with fresh credibility, nearly winning a minority government in 1972 and only losing in 1974 because of Liberal duplicity on wage controls. McMillan felt that the Symons and Stanfield partnership “elevated the political culture of the land as few other Canadians have ever done.” The key was not so much the policies as the process. Following the 1969 Niagara Conference, Symons’ committee held dozens of meetings, generated countless position papers, recruited over 500 experts, and developed 260 resolutions for the 1971 annual meeting. All delegates had packages loaded with information long before the discussions occurred. It was a tour de force, which the convention recognized.

The process may be the key to understanding Symons. His legendary Canadian Studies Commission and the recent commission studying the future of the Trent Severn Waterway gathered briefs, produced reports, revised reports, made recommendations and found ways all along to be open and accessible.

This echoed aspects of how Trent University came to Peterborough. Reg Faryon wrote his famous letter in 1957 suggesting Peterborough should have a college. Robertson Davies hoped for a real university. The local committee met discouragement in Queen’s Park until they found three advisors from Queen’s, Toronto and Western. As Denis Smith observed, Symons orchestrated planning. He developed policies for a university meeting his vision, but he also curried support at the provincial level, among leaders and labour unions in Peterborough, and created wider sympathy for the new Trent University.



*Trent University, c. 1968, seen in an aerial view looking south. (TVA, Electric City Collection, 4.056)*

Many people at the conference could not imagine Canada without Tom Symons. He seemed to be everywhere that mattered as Canadians for half a century hammered out policies related to universities, education, heritage, Canadian Studies, Indigenous Studies, and to culture. Trent was an exciting place where lots was happening. I thrived in its classes, colleges and architecture; I loved its committees and its discussions. I loved its peerless setting across a beautiful river, at the base of a drumlin on one side and a prehistoric river valley on the other. Thomas Jefferson’s greatest achievement, in his own view, was the establishing of the University of Virginia. Tom Symons; greatest achievement was founding Trent University. For Symons, it was the key to all that followed. His was a remarkable life that impacted on some of us more than others.

*Elwood Jones and Trent Valley Archives expresses sincere condolences to Christine and the family. Tom Symons had a remarkable life and embodied the qualities that were synonymous with Trent University.*



## The Carnegie Libraries of Trent Valley

Matthew Griffis

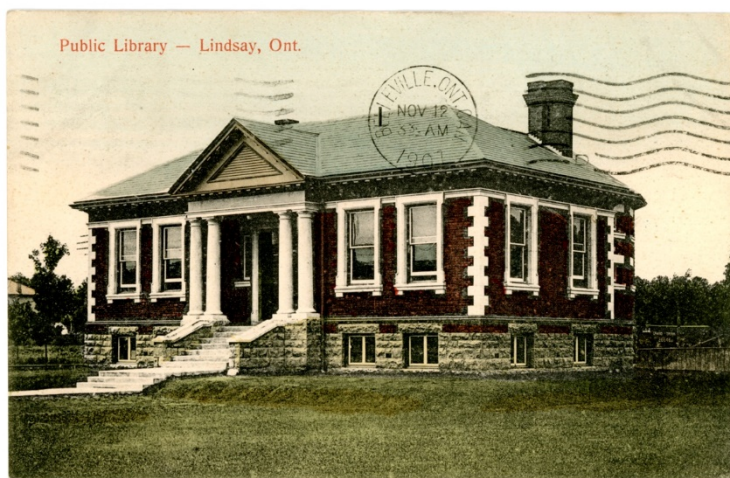
If you know where to look, the Trent Valley region can provide a brief introduction to Ontario's Carnegie libraries, of which over a hundred were built between 1901 and 1924. Carnegie libraries were free public library buildings constructed with donations from Andrew Carnegie, the Scottish-born American steel magnate who, upon retiring in 1901, embarked on a philanthropic campaign to improve educational infrastructure—one that would lead to the formation of the Carnegie Corporation in 1911. Free, tax-supported libraries were Carnegie's most cherished cause, for, as he believed, if access to books and learning remained open to everyone, the "working man" could always improve and advance himself. Such opportunities, in Carnegie's opinion, were a vital component of modern democracy.

Though Carnegie's free library campaign generated controversy at the time—and continues to attract criticism, mainly for its perceived social and political agendas—virtually all historians of public libraries agree that Carnegie's program was the single largest boost to the development of modern public libraries in North America in the last century. In fact, of the 125 Carnegie libraries built in Canada then, most (111) were in Ontario. Of these, the Trent Valley region claimed five: the libraries of Lindsay, Peterborough, Campbellford, Stirling, and Norwood. (A sixth, which was planned for the village of Millbrook and was to serve all Cavan Township, was cancelled due to disagreements between the village and township.) All five communities already had some form of public library prior to their Carnegie application; but, like nearly all small towns back then, none could afford its own dedicated, modern public library building. No wonder Andrew Carnegie would, by the end of his library giving program, fund no fewer than 2,509 such buildings across the English-speaking world.

While only four still operate as public libraries, all five of the Trent Valley's Carnegie buildings remain standing, and, when considered in chronological order, provide a compelling overview of the subject's broader history.

### A Temple in the Park: Lindsay's Library of 1904

Lindsay's quest for its Carnegie library began in 1901, when the town's library board wrote to Carnegie's offices in New York to request a grant. By early 1902, the library program's manager, James Bertram, responded with an offer of \$10,000. Per the program's conditions, Lindsay would have to provide a suitable site for the building and pledge to support its library through taxation at a minimum annual rate of 10% of Carnegie's donation. Lindsay complied and chose a site for its library at Kent Street and Victoria Avenue, fronting the town's Market Park. Although the library board requested small raises after Carnegie's initial offer—thereby increasing Lindsay's grant to \$13,500—the town finished its library and opened it in June 1904.



*A colourized postcard view of Lindsay's newly completed Carnegie library.  
(Credit: the author's collection.)*

Serving a population of about 7,000, the new building followed the "temple in the park" concept typical of the City Beautiful tradition. Its architects, the G.M. Miller & Co. firm of Toronto, designed the library as a 27' x 55' rectangle with an ample, rounded back. The front contained the library's public rooms while the back contained space for up to 20,000 books. In addition to the stackroom, the library's main floor housed the general reading

room, the children's reading room, and a board room, while the library's basement contained a lecture hall, a

separate reading and smoking room for men, a fireproof vault, and a room for the town's historical society. The library's Greek Revival exterior was of red pressed brick accented with white stone; its front entrance sported a four-columned portico, a feature already common among many Carnegie libraries in the United States and Canada.

In the fall of 1977, Lindsay would open a large structural addition to the library's east, leaving the original Carnegie building as a dedicated Boys and Girls Department. Now the library's "Carnegie wing," the structure still serves not just the Lindsay community but the entire City of Kawartha Lakes. Its current address is 190 Kent Street West.

Lindsay's was one of the earliest Carnegie libraries to open in Canada, the first being Sarnia's in 1901. The library's "radial" (fan-shaped) bookstack was also the first of its kind in Canada and would remain one of the country's few such examples. Although to some observers Lindsay's building much resembles a "typical" Carnegie library, like many of the program's early recipients Lindsay was not required to obtain blueprint approval from Carnegie's offices before they received any funds, nor were they expected to follow any model floor plans like many later Carnegie libraries would.

#### A Multifunctional Marvel: Peterborough's Library of 1911

Like Lindsay's, Peterborough's gambit for a Carnegie library dates to 1901. But, unlike Lindsay, Peterborough, then a community of about 16,000, was not so certain that it wanted one. Between 1902 and 1907, concerns over Carnegie's reputation as a less-than-fair employer aroused opposition to the plan from local workers' groups, while others argued that accepting outside funds for a local institution seemed inappropriate—perhaps even unpatriotic, as Carnegie was not even Canadian. Richard Hall, a businessman and trustee of the local Nicholls Trust, was among the latter group, and even donated a pair of empty stores in the city's downtown as an alternative to a Carnegie building.

The Carnegie plan prevailed, however, and in March 1908 Andrew Carnegie offered Peterborough an initial sum of \$25,000—later raised to \$30,000 to help cover cost overruns. And, after donations from the Nicholls Trust helped supply furnishings and books, Peterborough opened its new Carnegie library in February 1911.



*A colourized postcard view of Peterborough's newly completed Carnegie library. (Credit: the author's collection.)*

Because a town's grant was directly proportional to its population, Peterborough's grant was larger than Lindsay's, although like Lindsay Peterborough still had to provide a suitable site for its library and pledge to maintain it at an annual rate of 10% of Carnegie's donation. The city purchased a site on the southeast corner of George and McDonnell streets. It then hired local architects William Blackwell and John Belcher to design the building, which was 71' x 75',

two stories high and fronted George Street, directly across from Central (now Confederation) Park.

Like Lindsay's library, Peterborough's was adorned in red pressed brick and sported a front portico of four columns. Its main floor contained a stackroom, a ladies' reading room, a separate space for newspapers, another for students, and an enclosed librarian's office. Its second level contained a spacious auditorium and a separate room for the local Victoria Museum while its basement contained, in addition to a boiler room and space for book storage, a public restroom and two meeting rooms.

Peterborough's Carnegie library served the community for several decades until, in the mid-1950s, renovations modernized it for the postwar era. Eventually, space needs prevailed and in the mid-1970s the city made room on Aylmer Street for an entirely new library building, which opened in 1980. The former Carnegie building at George and McDonnell streets is now part of City Hall, the main portion of which was built immediately next to the old library in 1950-51.

Peterborough's was one of the last Carnegie libraries built in Canada without any blueprint approval from Carnegie's managers—who, by mid-1908, would add such approval to their list of funding conditions. Peterborough's was also the only Carnegie library in Canada ever to sport columns of rounded brick. Though handsome, such extravagances were precisely why the Carnegie program would eventually inspect blueprints before releasing funds to a community. Carnegie did not want his money "wasted" on "monuments"; he wanted local architects to design functional, sustainable library facilities. He also disapproved of multifunctional buildings—libraries that included spaces for art galleries, museums, historical societies, and such—his only exception being lecture rooms, which, by the last years of his program, Carnegie would allow but only when architects placed them in a library's basement. Peterborough's, therefore, was one of Ontario's very last multi-functional Carnegie libraries.

### One of a Type: Campbellford's Library of 1913

Campbellford mailed its earliest letter to Carnegie in 1905. At the time, its population neared 3,000 and was situated, as the town's application described it, "on the most important centre in the development of the Trent River Canal System now being undertaken by the Dominion Government." Why Campbellford's application stalled for five years is not clear, but when James Bertram finally sent his reply in late 1910, he rejected it. Campbellford, he claimed, was too small to afford such a library. But after the town promised to meet the minimum support requirement, Bertram relented and offered Campbellford \$8,000.



*A sepia postcard view of Campbellford's Carnegie library, ca. 1920s. (Credit: the author's collection.)*

A site was chosen on the northwest corner of Bridge and Ranney streets. For blueprints, Campbellford hired William Austin Mahoney of Guelph, who designed the new library as a square building, one story above grade with a raised basement and a simple front portico. Its main floor contained public reading rooms, a committee room, a librarian's office, and a stackroom at the back. Its basement contained a large lecture room and public restrooms. A side entrance allowed after-hours use of the lecture room—a feature that

would become standard in most later Carnegie libraries. Mahoney was obligated to follow *Notes on the Erection of Library Buildings*, the Carnegie program's new pamphlet of template floor plans. After Bertram approved Mahoney's design, he released building funds and construction on the library began. It was completed in November 1912 and officially opened in January 1913. Now part of the Trent Hills Public Library, the building serves the residents of Campbellford and Hastings. Its current address is 98 Bridge Street East.

Campbellford's library stands out because of its architect, William Mahoney, who, with fifteen such designs in his portfolio, was perhaps Canada's most prolific architect of Carnegie libraries. Mahoney based his Campbellford plan on those he had already completed for Durham, Fergus, and Forest; but in Campbellford's case, he used the Carnegie Corporation's *Notes* pamphlet to tweak his approach. He would continue to refine this plan and reuse it for Carnegie libraries in Aylmer, Port Hope, and Whitby. (Though not a Carnegie-funded library, another Campbellford clone would open in Wellington in 1928.)

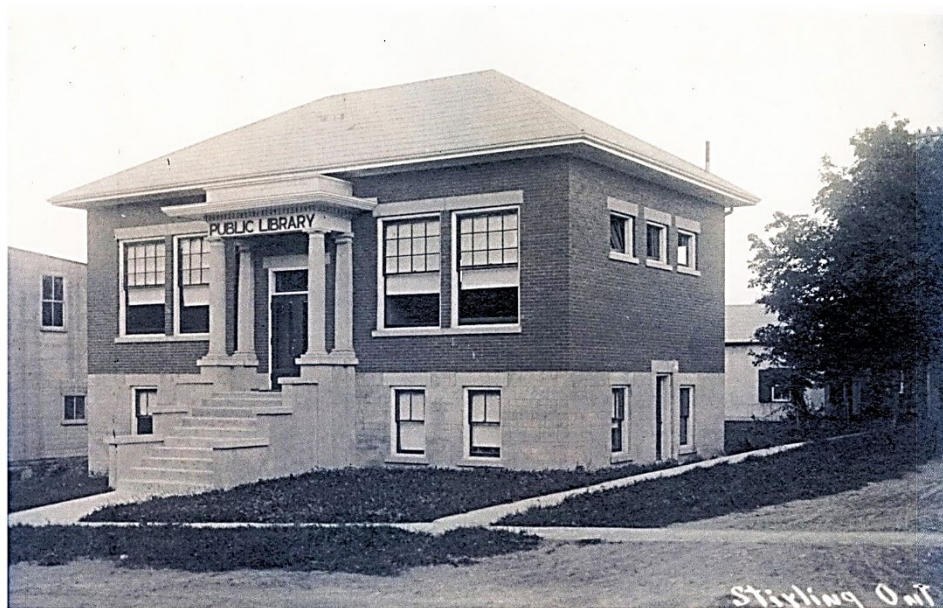
### A Speedy Wonder: Stirling's Library of 1915

Despite his initial response to Campbellford, when Stirling requested its Carnegie grant in March 1914 James Bertram did not take issue with the village's size, which at the time was just under 900 people. Nevertheless, Bertram responded with an offer of \$5,000, per the usual conditions. Stirling accepted and by May had contracted William Mahoney to draw plans. Though the town struggled at first to find a suitable site, it eventually chose the



downtown corner of Front and Emma streets. Construction began in the fall of 1914 and finished by the end of the year. The library formally opened in March 1915.

Though its exterior did not greatly resemble Campbellford's, and its overall shape was more rectangular, Stirling's library followed a similar interior plan, with books and reading rooms on its main floor and a lecture room with separate access in its basement. Today, the building continues to serve as the Stirling-Rawdon Public Library, which in 1989 constructed a spacious addition to the Carnegie structure's northwest side. Most of the Carnegie building's original, red-brick exterior remains intact, including its distinctive front entrance. Its current address is 43 West Front Street.



*A photograph of Stirling's newly completed library. (Credit: Stirling-Rawdon Public Library.)*

That Stirling's quest for a Carnegie library was so quick and without problems is perhaps why it remains one of Ontario's most interesting cases. For starters, Bertram seldom offered grants to communities smaller than 1,000 people; yet Stirling's case suggests that, by 1914, Bertram was relaxing the program's population size expectations.

Moreover, while political conflicts or financial problems often stalled smaller library projects, Stirling's completed itself in record time. That it opened officially on 16 March 1915 — one year and five days after the village's first contact with the Carnegie Corporation — seems even more astonishing when one considers that Stirling had finished the building the previous December.

Moreover, the president of Stirling's library board, Mrs. Minnie M. Potts, appears to have elicited a rare confession from James Bertram, who by this time was notorious among his many correspondents for his confrontational and sometimes even aggressive manner. "Some of the buildings in [the] pamphlet you refer to are badly arranged," he conceded to Potts, who in one of her many letters to Bertram had politely criticized the practicality of the Corporation's *Notes* pamphlet. It is not surprising that Bertram revised his pamphlet several times before the library grant program closed in 1917.

#### Last Call: Norwood's Library of 1924

In contrast to Stirling, Norwood's path to a Carnegie library was perhaps the longest of any Ontario community. It began in February 1914 and ended exactly ten years later in February 1924. But like Stirling, Norwood's population was just under 900 when the village first applied for a library grant. Carnegie offered Norwood \$5,000, per the usual conditions, in June 1914. Norwood was not sure, however, if it could manage the obligatory annual support. Could they not build a suitable library for \$4,000 or even \$3,000? No, Bertram decreed: \$5,000 was the smallest grant the Corporation would offer.

The taxation issue, coupled with the outbreak of war, halted progress on Norwood's library for at least five years. Local leaders eventually resumed contact with Bertram to ask if their grant was still available, which it was. Construction finally began on Norwood's library in 1923 and finished early in the new year. The new library sat on present-day County Road 45, near the village's centre, and officially opened on 18 February 1924. Now the Asphodel-Norwood Public Library, the structure has been expanded to twice its original size.



*A recent photo of Norwood's Carnegie library of 1924. (Credit: the author's collection.)*

Norwood's case stands out for at least two reasons: first, Norwood's was the very last Carnegie library to open in Canada; and second, Norwood's is one of three identical, Tudor-style library buildings opened in Ontario and built from the same set of blueprints. The first opened in early 1923 in Glencoe and was, like Norwood's library, funded with a Carnegie grant. The second, which was not Carnegie-funded, was in Alliston, and opened just four days before Norwood's. All three

communities shared the architect's fee to help save expenses — a plan conceived, or so it would appear, by W.O. Carson, then the provincial Inspector of Public Libraries. Neither the Glencoe nor the Norwood library's correspondence files names the architect, however, to whom Carson merely refers as "a young, Edinburgh man" and whose name may forever remain a mystery.

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No single, comprehensive work about Canada's Carnegie libraries has ever been published. I began one several years ago but had to leave it due to other commitments. I hope to resume that project sometime this year or next. More general works about Carnegie libraries exist, like George Bobinski's *Carnegie Libraries* (ALA, 1969), but focus exclusively on the American side of the story. Only one book has ever been published about Canadian Carnegie libraries: *The Best Gift* by Margaret Beckman, Stephen Langmead, and John Black (Dundurn, 1984). But it covers only Ontario's libraries and is long out of print. *Pillar of the Community*, an occasional paper I published in 2013 through the Peterborough Historical Society, provides an in-depth look at the history of Peterborough's Carnegie library. Otherwise, extensive accounts of the other four libraries examined here are scant. I obtained my information for these cases primarily from archival collections, most particularly old newspaper clippings, old annual reports, and the records of the Carnegie Corporation, which now reside at Columbia University in New York.

I encourage others to complete more research about these and other public libraries in the region. Their contributions to the intellectual life of their communities are filled with untold stories.

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## The Campbell Connection in the North of Douro Township

Michael P. Dolbey

As mentioned in an earlier *Heritage Gazette* article, “United Empire Loyalist Influence on the Early Settlement of North Douro”,<sup>1</sup> a number of lots in the north of Douro were acquired by descendants of Loyalist Alexander Campbell of Adolphustown. Many of his descendants became successful members of Upper and Lower Canadian society.

For example, Alexander Campbell’s oldest daughter, Ann Campbell, married in Montreal a well-established Englishman, Thomas Radenhurst, who held the non-military position of Acting Barrack Master of Fort St. John from 1790 until his death in 1805. Their two oldest sons, William and John Radenhurst, both became Ensigns in the military and during the war of 1812-14 both became Lieutenants in their regiments. Their third son, Thomas Radenhurst Jr., after studying at John Strachan’s school in York, became a prominent lawyer in Perth, Upper Canada.<sup>2</sup> One Radenhurst daughter, Catherine, married in 1813 Captain George Lyon of the 100<sup>th</sup> Foot Glasgow Infantry Regiment which was stationed in Canada. After the end of the war of 1812-14 he led his decommissioned troops to found the Town of Richmond in Upper Canada where he became a successful mill owner and businessman. A prominent member of the community he was at times the local Agent for Crown Lands, Postmaster, Captain of the local militia and elected member in the Upper Canada House of Assembly.<sup>3</sup>

Alexander Campbell’s second daughter, Mary Campbell, married in Montreal, Thomas Ridout who held the position of Surveyor General of Upper Canada from 1810 until his death in 1829. A number of the Ridout sons played prominent roles in early Upper Canadian history.<sup>4</sup>

Other descendants of Alexander Campbell who remained near Adolphustown became some of the most successful and prosperous families of the area. These include the Davis and Bogart families who had been assigned land in north Douro and Alexander Campbell’s grandson, Alexander Campbell Jr., who assisted his sisters, Sarah (Campbell) Davis and Phoebe (Campbell) Bogart in patenting and then selling their land in Douro.

Because of the success of his family, a number of Loyalist descendants of Alexander Campbell of Adolphustown have attempted to trace his origins.<sup>5</sup> Their stories vary but none successfully answers a number of key questions about the family; 1) How did two of his daughters meet and marry well-established Englishmen in Montreal within five years of the family moving to Adolphustown to carve a new home out of the wilderness? 2) How did Alexander Campbell acquire Governor Hamilton Certificates for 700 acres of land when it appears that he played no military role during the American revolutionary war? and 3) How did a number of his grandchildren who had connections to Douro become so much more prosperous than their neighbours in the new settlements near Adolphustown?

Alexander Campbell died in Hallowell Township, Prince Edward County, on 10 April, 1811 at the age of 82.<sup>6</sup> Hence he was born about 1729 probably in Scotland. It is generally accepted that he was in New York province by the mid-1760s where he married and had at least six children; Ann Campbell born in 1765, Sarah Campbell born about 1768, Archibald Campbell born 1769, Mary Campbell born 11 May 1771, Jennette Campbell born in 1772

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<sup>1</sup> Michael P. Dolbey, “United Empire Loyalist Influence on the Early Settlement of North Douro”, *Heritage Gazette of the Trent Valley*, Vol. 23, No. 4, February 2019, 8-20.

<sup>2</sup> William Cox, “Radenhurst, Thomas Mabon, *Dictionary of Canadian Biography* VIII. <http://www.biographi.ca/>

<sup>3</sup> J. K. Johnson, “Lyon, George,” *Dictionary of Canadian Biography* VIII. <http://www.biographi.ca/>

<sup>4</sup> Robert J. Burns, “Ridout, Thomas,” *Dictionary of Canadian Biography* VI <http://www.biographi.ca/>

<sup>5</sup> Alexander Campbell Osbourne, “Pioneer Sketches and Family Reminiscences”, *Papers and Records* Ontario Historical Society, Toronto, 1924, Vol. 21, 213-226; Dr. H.C. Burleigh, *The Campbells of Adolphustown*, Queen’s University Archives, Dr. H.C. Burleigh Fonds, Locator #2324 – Campbell (Alex) (i-ii); Lois D. O’Hara, *Alexander Campbell*, <http://www.uelac.org/Loyalist-Info/extras/Campbell-Alexander1/Campbell-Alexander-1-by-Lois-OHara.pdf>; Jean Norry, *Alexander Campbell of Adolphustown*, <http://www.uelac.org/Loyalist-Info/extras/Campbell-Alexander1/Campbell-Alexander-1-by-Jean-Norry.pdf>

<sup>6</sup> Thos. W. Casey, “More Old Adolphustown Pioneers”, (From *Napanee Beaver*, 30 Aug 1901), <http://www.sfredheritage.on.ca/oldadolphustownpioneers.html>; Tombstone of Alexander Campbell of Adolphustown, White Chapel – Conger Cemetery, Prince Edward Cty. <http://geneofun.on.ca/names/photo/1945078?PHPSESSID=1ff8f61d24c53597e87dadc52266b257>



and Elizabeth Campbell born in 1782.<sup>7</sup> All the children except the last are said to have been born in the then Province of New York but no primary sources have been found to substantiate this. Also, no primary record has been found of Alexander Campbell's wife. However, he was accompanied by a stepson named John Low Campbell. In 1798 John Low petitioned for land and in support of his application Thomas Ridout, then a Justice of the Peace (J.P.), certified that "the person returned upon the U.E. List under the name of John Law Campbell and whose certificate had passed the officer under the same name for his land in Adolphustown, being so entered on the Plan of that Township, is known by the name of John Low, his mother having remarried Alex'r Campbell, & being bred up in the family, he was supposed by some to be of the name of Campbell, but that his proper name is John Low".<sup>8</sup> As part of the same petition Peter VanAlstine, J.P. in Adolphustown, certified that "John Low was a married man in the year 1789 and two children born before that year ..".<sup>9</sup> Hence, John Low was probably born before ~1765 and it is probable that his mother, the former Mrs. Low, was the mother of all of Alexander Campbell's children. Because Low had changed his name from John Low Campbell to John Low he was struck off the original United Empire Loyalist (Old UE) list created after the proclamation of 9 November 1789.<sup>10</sup> On 23 December 1809 John Low submitted a petition to be reinstated to the UE list. In it he states, "That he joined the Royal Standard in the year 1781 at St. John's in Lower Canada where he resided until the year 1784 and since that time has been a resident of this Province as will appear by the annexed affidavits".<sup>11</sup> One of the affidavits annexed is by Alex'r Campbell who states "...John Lowe joined the British Royal Standard in the year Seventeen Hundred and Eighty One and acted and transacted business at that time for himself...". Two other affidavits annexed are by Guysbert Sharp and Daniel Rose who say respectively that John Low joined the Royal Standard in 1783 and 1780 but the 1781 date seems most likely. It is generally agreed that Alexander Campbell and his family stayed in government refugee camps at Sorel until 1784. In 1783 a group of American-Dutch loyalists from New York led by Captain Peter VanAlstine arrived at Sorel. The following year, the Campbell family joined them when they travelled up the St. Lawrence River to settle at Adolphustown.<sup>12</sup> In October of that year, the muster of discharged troops and Loyalists in Township No. 4 (Cataraqui), i.e. Adolphustown, listed Alex'r Cammell (Campbell), Loyalist, with his wife, four daughters over 10, two daughters under 10 and it is noted "two girls absent expected up this fall". Also listed is Arch'd Cammell, Loyalist, a single man with a note "gone to Montreal. Exp back this fall". John Low Cammell, Loyalist, is also listed as a single man.<sup>13</sup>

Many Loyalist refugees arriving from northern New York were housed in camps at Sorel. Government records from the Revolutionary war period (the Haldimand papers) contain many entries pertaining to Loyalists. An index of Loyalist names<sup>14</sup> occurring in some of these books gives 47 references for Alexander Campbell, the third largest number in the approximately 7450 names listed (only exceeded by William Fraser with 65 and John McDonnell with 51 references). This is because there were many Loyalists named Alexander Campbell and sorting out which, if any, references refer to Alexander Campbell of Adolphustown is problematic. At least one Alexander Campbell led a group of Loyalist settlers to Cape Breton.<sup>15</sup> Others may have stayed in Lower Canada and at least five settled in Upper Canada as indicated by names on the Old UE list. These were identified as "Alexr Campbell of Adolphustown, Loyalist; Alexr Campbell Esq. of Eastern District, Lieutenant Royal Rangers; Alexr Campbell of Johnstown, had a wife and four children, Alexr Campbell Jr. of Eastern District, son of a soldier; and Alexr Campbell of Lancaster".

Alexander Campbell of Adolphustown's former biographers have reviewed various sources and have come to different conclusions. Osbourne's description of Campbell corresponds to that in a claim for losses made by an Alexander Campbell in 1787, but this claim was probably made by Alexander Campbell of Lancaster. Burleigh and

<sup>7</sup> Casey, "More Old Adolphustown Pioneers"; William D. Reid, *The Loyalists In Ontario – The Sons and Daughters of The American Loyalists of Upper Canada*, Lambertville, NJ, Hunterdon House, 1973, 49; *Family Trees by Dan Buchanan*, <http://worldconnect.rootsweb.com/cgi-bin/igm.cgi?op=GET&db=danbuch&id=I1391>

<sup>8</sup> Archives of Ontario, *Upper Canada Land Petitions, John Low Campbell, 17 Oct, 1797*, UCLP C4/114, LAC microfilm C 1649.

<sup>9</sup> *Ibid* C4/114a

<sup>10</sup> *The centennial of the settlement of Upper Canada by the United Empire Loyalists, 1784-1884; the celebrations at Adolphustown, Toronto and Niagara, with an appendix, containing a copy of the U.E. List, preserved in the Crown Lands Department at Toronto*, Toronto, Rose Publishing, 1885. Appendix A & B <https://archive.org/details/centennialofsett00unituoft>

<sup>11</sup> Petition of John Low, UCLP L10/16, 10 Feb., 1810. LAC microfilm C-2126

<sup>12</sup> Canniff, William, *The Settlement of Upper Canada*, Belleville, Ontario: Mika Silk Screening, 1971, pp.448

<sup>13</sup> *Haldimand Papers Vol 168*, p 68-69. [http://heritage.canadiana.ca/view/oocihm.lac\\_reel\\_h1655/179?r=0&s=5](http://heritage.canadiana.ca/view/oocihm.lac_reel_h1655/179?r=0&s=5)

<sup>14</sup> *Haldimand Papers Vols 105, 166, 167, 168*. LAC Microfilm C-1475, <http://data2.archives.ca/pdf/pdf001/p000002411.pdf>

<sup>15</sup> *Haldimand Papers Vol 168*, p 51.

O'Hara believe Campbell was the son of the head of the Argyle Settlement that was founded by scots about 1770 near Fort Edward in Washington County, New York. He became a Lieutenant in the Loyal Rangers serving throughout the revolutionary war. But it seems most likely that he is Alexander Campbell of Augusta, a former Lieutenant, who was appointed a Justice of the Peace in 1793. Norry concluded that Campbell arrived in America with his parents as a small boy and was raised in the Dutch community in New Jersey or New York before moving to the Argyle settlement near Fort Edward. He escaped to Sorel in Lower Canada early in the conflict and was not involved in the militia. His background with the Dutch made it easy for him to join the VanAlstine group that settled in Adolphustown. While Norry's account appears to be most credible, none of the biographers provide any insight into the subsequent success of Alexander Campbell of Adolphustown's family.

In the Haldimand papers is a document, compiled on 15 May 1787, entitled *A List of loyal subjects as retired for protection to this province, who for their suffering, loss & services to government have been recommended to receive the sums opposite their names (per muster) as temporary relief*. On the list is "Alex' Campbell, £7, commencing 25 August 1779, a family, recommended by Col. Campbell & Major Gray".<sup>16</sup> Many other names on the list have remarks detailing their service but there is no remark for Alex' Campbell suggesting that he played no military role during the revolution. There are grounds to believe that this is Alexander Campbell of Adolphustown. All were a similar age, Alexander being born ~1729 and Col. John Campbell and Major James Gray in ~1731.<sup>17 18</sup> John Campbell and James Gray had both been Captains in the 42<sup>nd</sup> Regiment (Black Watch) that came to America in 1756 to take part in the *French and Indian War*. James Gray sold out of the Regiment in 1762 settling in America where he married Elizabeth Low, daughter of John Low of Newark, New Jersey.<sup>19</sup> As previously shown, Alexander Campbell of Adolphustown married a Widow Low who had a son named John Low, possibly a sister-in-law of Elizabeth Gray. John Campbell stayed in the army transferring to the 27<sup>th</sup> Regiment which, in 1763 was stationed at Trois-Rivieres, Quebec. There he married Marie-Anne, daughter of Luc de La Corne, a wealthy and influential French Canadian. Campbell was first appointed *Inspector of Indian Affairs* by Governor James Murray in 1765 and later *Superintendent of Indian Affairs*, a civil position with the courtesy title of Colonel during the revolutionary war and later, Lt. Col.<sup>20</sup> Later John Campbell and his wife Marie-Anne lived in a substantial stone house built in 1773 in the centre of Montreal only steps away from the church of Notre Dame.<sup>21</sup> It is believed that they had no children of their own. Lt. Col. John Campbell continued to live in Montreal and work in the Department of Indian Affairs until his death in 1795.

On 31 August 1786 Ann Campbell, the oldest daughter of Alexander Campbell, married Thomas Radenhurst in Montreal.<sup>22</sup> Three years later on 26 May 1789 her sister, Mary Campbell, married Thomas Ridout in Montreal. One hundred years after this time, in 1886, in a biography of Ann Radenhurst's grandson, W. H. Radenhurst, the biographer Rose wrote "An uncle of hers (Ann Radenhurst), Sir John Campbell, was a distinguished soldier in India".<sup>23</sup> It is more likely that either Rose or W. H. Radenhurst misinterpreted the family story and that the person referred to as her uncle was Lt. Col. John Campbell, Superintendent of Indian Affairs in Quebec. John and Marie-Anne Campbell, with a large house and no children of their own, could have provided a home and education for Anne and Mary Campbell. Both John Campbell and his father-in-law, Luc de La Corne, were socially and politically well connected which would have provided the opportunities for the young women to meet their future husbands. It is unlikely, however, that John Campbell was a true uncle of these young women. According to Burke's Peerage, Lt. Col. John Campbell was the oldest son of the Campbells of Glendaruel in County Argyle. He did have a younger brother born in 1794, Lt. Gen. Alexander Campbell, 1<sup>st</sup> Royal Regiment of Foot 1801, on whom he entailed the estates in 1790; clearly this is not Alexander Campbell of Adolphustown. While no primary sources have been found to connect Lt. Col. John Campbell and Alexander Campbell of Adolphustown, the above information suggests that one existed but that the two men were unaware of each others presence in Lower Canada until about 1784.

A connection between Lt. Col. John Campbell and Alexander Campbell may also help to explain how

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<sup>16</sup> *Haldimand Papers Vol 166, p 71-72.*

<sup>17</sup> Douglas Leighton, "Campbell, John," *Dictionary of Canadian Biography* IV [www.biographi.ca/index-e.html](http://www.biographi.ca/index-e.html)

<sup>18</sup> J. F. Pringle, *Lunenburg or the Old Eastern District: Its Settlement and Early Progress*, Cornwall, 1890, 232.

<sup>19</sup> Pringle, *Lunenburg*, 318.

<sup>20</sup> Leighton, "Campbell, John"

<sup>21</sup> LAC / PA-022151 (Mikan 3323056) Colonel John Campbell's residence, old No. 52 Notre-dame Street.

<sup>22</sup> Anglican Christ Church Cathedral, Montreal, 1766-1795. *The Register of the Protestants of Montreal made by me, D. Ch. Delisle Rector of the Parish and Chaplain to the Garrison*. Pg 45.

<sup>23</sup> George Maclean Rose, *A Cyclopaedia of Canadian Biography ...* Toronto: Rose Publishing, 1886, Biography of W. H. Radenhurst, Vol. 2, p 719-720.

Alexander Campbell obtained 'Governor Hamilton's Certificates' for land. Campbell's possession of the certificates is stated on the 'Old U.E.List' and is confirmed by reference to them in an 1801 petition submitted for him by Thomas Ridout, acting as his attorney.<sup>24</sup> Governor Haldimand left Quebec for England in November 1784 and Lieut. Governor Henry Hamilton was in charge until Lord Dorchester, the new Governor, arrived in Quebec one year later in November 1785. Of the approximately 3360 names on the *Old UE list*, only 18 Loyalists are credited with having Governor Hamilton certificates.<sup>25</sup> No petitions for any of these have been found in the Upper or Lower Canada Land Petitions archives. As explained above, no evidence has been found to indicate that Alexander Campbell had taken an active military role during the revolution and he had been settled on his land in Adolphustown before Hamilton became interim governor. One explanation may be that he had a well connected friend who obtained the certificates for him. Earlier in his career, Hamilton had been posted in Trois Rivières (1766) and Montreal (1775) and later was posted to Detroit where he had considerable dealing with the Indians. It is very likely that Lt. Col. John Campbell knew him well and could have submitted a petition for land on Alexander Campbell's behalf.

The marriage of two of Alexander Campbell's daughters to gentlemen who attained prominence was a great asset to his family. In particular, the rise of Thomas Ridout to the position of Surveyor General of Upper Canada ensured that family members were informed of all opportunities available for obtaining land. They also had a high level advocate to deal with problems that arose such as John Low's reinstatement to the UE list and Alexander Campbell's missing Title Documents.<sup>26</sup> In addition to this he was able to assist his sister-in-law, Ann Radenhurst, arrange for the education of her sons, John and Thomas Radenhurst at John Strachen's school in Cornwall and later in York. Later Thomas Radenhurst lived with the Ridout family in York while qualifying to be a lawyer and in 1834 he married his cousin, Lucy Edith Ridout. After serving in the army during the War of 1812-14, John Radenhurst also came to live with the Ridout family in York. He was employed by Thomas Ridout as a clerk in the office of the Surveyor General.

John Radenhurst was born probably at Fort St. John, Lower Canada, on 28 October 1795.<sup>27</sup> He was appointed to an Ensigny in the Royal Newfoundland Regiment in 1811,<sup>28</sup> was promoted to Lieutenant in 1813,<sup>29</sup> and played a significant role during the war of 1812-14 in Upper Canada. After the war he was transferred to the position of Lieutenant in the King's 8<sup>th</sup> Regiment and served at Windsor, Portsmouth and in Ireland until the reduction of the Regiment in 1817 when he returned to Canada as a commuted Half Pay Officer.<sup>30</sup> In 1818 he became a Clerk in the office of the Surveyor General in York, Upper Canada, working for his uncle, Thomas Ridout, Surveyor General. In 1821, he married his cousin, Mary Ridout and they had at least five children.<sup>31</sup> He continued to work in the office of the Surveyor General and made an unsuccessful attempt to be promoted to that position in 1836. His petition was rejected by Lieutenant Governor Sir Francis Bond Head based on a perceived conflict of interest between Radenhurst's position and his private real-estate business.<sup>32</sup> He left the office of the Surveyor General in 1840 after accusations were made that he had abused his office for personal gain.<sup>33</sup> During his years in the office of the Surveyor General he acquired a considerable amount of land in many townships of Upper Canada including parts of five lots in the Township of Douro.<sup>34</sup> He continued his business as a private land agent and also became a clerk in the Crown Office at Osgood Hall.<sup>35</sup> John Radenhurst died at the age of 57 on 11 May 1853.<sup>36</sup>

<sup>24</sup> Upper Canada Land Petitions [UCLP] Bundle C5 #56, LAC microfilm C-1649, images 500-501.

<sup>25</sup> *The centennial of the settlement of Upper Canada by the United Empire Loyalists, 1784-1884* ....., Toronto, Rose Publishing Co., 1885. Appendix A & B <https://archive.org/details/centennialofsett00unituoft>

<sup>26</sup> UCLP Bundle C5 #56, LAC microfilm C-1649, images 500-501.

<sup>27</sup> John Radenhurst's tombstone, St. James Cemetery, Toronto, ON.

<sup>28</sup> Library and Archives Canada [LAC], RG8- C Series, microfilm C2861, Vol. 279 p.1

<sup>29</sup> Ibid., RG8- C Series, microfilm C3502, Vol. 1171 p.99. Adj. Genl. Baynes. General Orders, May 5, 1813

<sup>30</sup> *Canada return to an address of the Honourable the House of Commons, dated 5 March 1839 for, copies or extracts of dispatches from Sir F. B. Head, Bart., K.C.H., on the subject of Canada, with copies or extracts of the answers from the Secretary of State.* Great Britain, Colonial Office. London: HMSO, 1839. page 147-9

<sup>31</sup> Edward Marion Chadwick, *Ontarian Families, Genealogies of United Empire Loyalist and other Pioneer Families of Upper Canada*, Toronto: Rolph, Smith & Co., 1894, 38-39

<sup>32</sup> *Canada return to an address of the Honourable the House of Commons, dated 5 March 1839* .... p 147-9

<sup>33</sup> Edith G. Firth, *The Town of York, 1793-1815, A collection of Documents of Early Toronto*, 1962, p. 83; Lillian F. Gates, *Land Policies of Upper Canada*, Toronto, University of Toronto Press, 1968, p.230

<sup>34</sup> AO, RG61-45 Peterborough County Land Registry, Microfilm GSU 202558, p. 131,132,177,178,179.

<sup>35</sup> *Brown's Toronto City and Home District Directory, 1846-7*, p. 49; Rowsel's *City of Toronto and County of York Directory for 1850-1*, p. 105

<sup>36</sup> Last Will and Testament of John Radenhurst, Archives of Ontario, RG 22-155, Court of Probate Inventory 22, Appendix A1



While working in the office of the Surveyor General, it appears that John Radenhurst was aware of the developments occurring throughout Upper Canada. He would probably have seen the 1828 report of Alexander McDonnell stating that the enterprising Young family were going to be operating a sawmill on the north side of the river adjacent to the north of Douro Township<sup>37</sup> and he was probably aware of the many petitions that had been submitted to the government requesting improvement to the waterway between Lakes Ontario and Huron.<sup>38</sup> He probably recognized that land in Douro near a sawmill and on an improved waterway would become valuable.



Illustration from Catharine Parr Traill, *Backwoods of Canada*. (Trent Valley Archives)

John Radenhurst was in a position to evaluate and take advantage of the potential in Douro. As acting head of the Surveyor General's office he was able to assess what land was available and how to acquire it. His family connections in Adolphustown allowed him to arrange the purchase of Henry Cole's East part L25-C4 in north Douro as previously described. Probably key to this was his cousin Alexander Campbell Jr., the son of Archibald Campbell, the only son of Alexander Campbell of Adolphustown who had also settled in Adolphustown in 1784. Two of Alexander Campbell Jr.'s sisters, Sarah (Campbell) Davis and Phoebe (Campbell) Bogart, had received settlement tickets for broken lots along Lake Katchewanooka in Douro Township in 1824 but settlement duties had not been performed by 1830. On 18 September 1830, Alexander Campbell Jr. was examined by William Chewett of the Surveyor General's office and was recommended to be licensed as a Deputy Surveyor.<sup>39</sup> While not paid directly by the Government of Upper Canada, Deputy Surveyors were licensed by the Government and authorized to collect fees for surveying tasks and for certifying that settlers had fulfilled the settlement duties required in order for them to obtain their Land Patents.

It is believed that Alexander Campbell went to Douro in late 1830 and performed or supervised the settlement duties on Henry Cole's L25-C4 and on his sisters' lands. An affidavit that the settlement duties on Henry Cole's lot had been performed was sworn in York on 30 November 1830.<sup>40</sup> Patents for both of his sisters' lots were issued on

(Formerly APPF) Radenhurst, John, Toronto, 16/6/53 (registration date), Microfilm MS 638 Reel #63.

<sup>37</sup> R. S. Dunford, *Adam Scott – Master Millwright*, Bridgenorth, 2003, p 91. Letter from Alex McDonnell to Peter Robinson, 25 March 1828.

<sup>38</sup> James T. Angus, *A Respectable Ditch, A History of the Trent-Severn Waterway, 1833-1920*, Kingston & Montreal, McGill-Queen's University Press, 1988, p 8

<sup>39</sup> LAC, RG 5 A1, Upper Canada Sundries Vol 102, pp 57978-9

<sup>40</sup> Archives of Ontario, RG1-58 *Township Papers* (ca, 1783-1870) (Formerly RG1 C-VI), Twp of Douro – Microfilm MS658 Reel 107, p 889



21 January 1831.

In February 1831, Samuel Strickland decided he wanted to move to north Douro and wrote letters to the Crown Lands Department, of which the Surveyor General's office was a part, to request land. Strickland received location tickets for his land in September 1831 from Charles Rubidge, acting land agent in Peterborough and he continued to write letters to the Crown Lands department over the next few years as he attempted to pay for and obtain deeds for his land.<sup>41</sup> It is said that he also assisted in locating his sisters, Susanna Moodie and Catherine Parr Traill, on land close to him in Douro. It is very likely that this activity would have come to the attention of John Radenhurst in the Surveyor General's office and that he may have informed his cousin, Alexander Campbell, of opportunities to sell his sisters' lots.

*Samuel Strickland, c. 1860s.*

Alexander Campbell's speculation was spectacularly successful because on 21 December 1833, he sold the 100 acre East part of broken Lot 21 in Concession 6 (Pheobe (Campbell) Bogart's grant) to John W. D. Moodie, the husband of Susanna Moodie, for £200 after first purchasing all his sisters' lands from them for £50 each.<sup>42</sup> A year later, Alexander Campbell sold the 100 acre East part of broken Lot 19 in Concession 7 (Sarah (Campbell) Davis's grant) to Thomas Traill, the

husband of Catharine Parr Traill, for another £200.<sup>43</sup> Moodie had been granted the broken west part of Lot 21 in Concession 6 and wanted to expand his holdings. In her book, *Roughing it in the Bush*, Susanna Moodie

wrote, "... he afterwards purchased a fine lot, which likewise formed part of the same block, one hundred acres, for £150. This was an enormously high price for wild land; but the prospect of opening the Trent and Otonabee for the navigation of steamboats and other small craft, was at that period a favourite speculation, and its practicability, and the great advantages to be derived from it, were so widely believed as to raise the value of the wild lands along these remote waters to an enormous price; and settlers in the vicinity were eager to secure lots, at any sacrifice, along their shores".<sup>44</sup>

The £50 received by each of the Bogart and Davis families and the £300 retained by Alexander Campbell were very large sums in the 1830's. In 1832 the government of Upper Canada was selling land for 5 shillings/acre or £25/100 acre lot, eight times less than paid by Moodie and Traill. These windfall sums provided an enormous advantage to the receiving families, particularly Campbell. Alexander Campbell Jr. gave up surveying and became a prominent businessman in the town of Napanee. Initially he operated a store, stagecoach-stop and post office being Postmaster for many years. Later he built The Campbell House, a three story brick hotel in the centre of downtown Napanee and was the owner of the local newspaper. He built a large stone mansion known as Lorne Castle on a high promontory south of Napanee known as Campbell's Rocks.

The success of many of Alexander Campbell of Adolphustown's grandchildren was due to the successful land speculation of their grants in Douro township. While many Adolphustown loyalists had received settlement tickets for land in Douro township their grants were not strategically located near the water and, unlike the Campbells, they lacked the knowledge and contacts to take advantage of them.

*Michael P. Dolbey is a valued frequent and knowledgeable contributor to Heritage Gazette of the Trent Valley.*

<sup>41</sup> J. Alex. Edmison, ed., *Through the Years in Douro* 3<sup>rd</sup> edition, Lindsay, A.D. Newson Co, 1978, Ltd. Pp 233-237

<sup>42</sup> Archives of Ontario, RG61-45 Peterborough County Land Registry Office - Copybooks of Instruments and Deeds, ca 1820-1909, Twp of Douro Vol. 1, 1827-1841 - Microfilm GS4962, pages 24-25, Inst # 3253, January 2, 1834.

<sup>43</sup> Ibid., Inst # 3791, March 3, 1835.

<sup>44</sup> Moodie, Susanna, *Roughing it in the Bush*, London: Richard Bentley, 1852. page 253

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

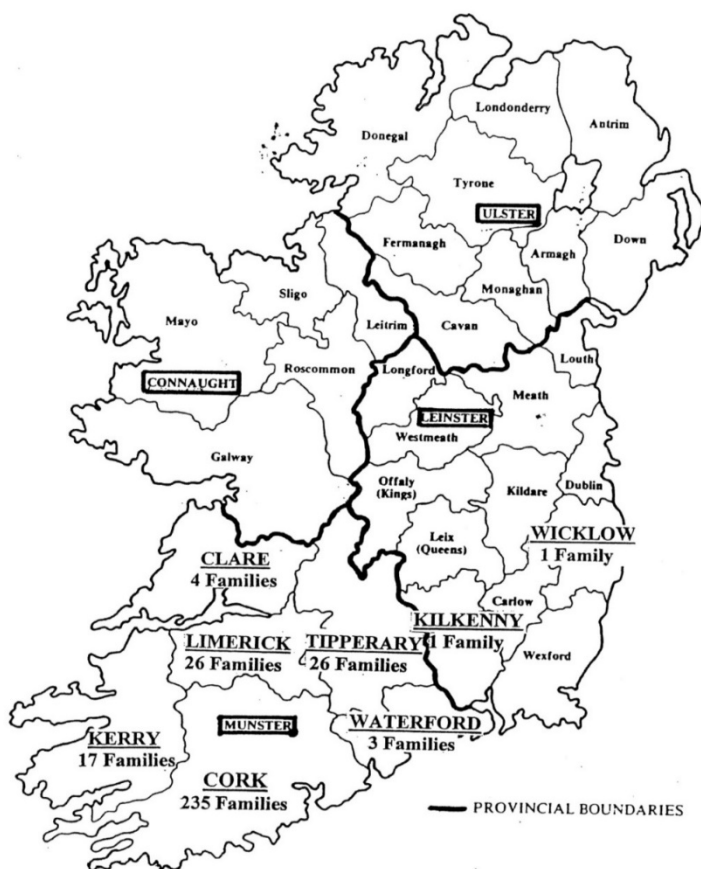


Since 2017 the Heritage Gazette of the Trent Valley is publishing a series of historical articles relating to the Peter Robinson settlers in the region of present-day Peterborough written by Rosemary and Peter McConkey. The following article is the fifth in the series.

### Where Did the Robinson Settlers Originate? Mainly from County Cork

In 1824 and early 1825, Peter Robinson was faced with the formidable task of recruiting and selecting families for the second – and what would be the final – government-sponsored emigration of 1825. Unlike in the first emigration two years earlier where Robinson had to vigorously ‘sell’ the idea of emigrating to a reluctant Irish peasantry, he was now flooded with almost 50,000 requests for the 2,000 places the British Parliament had

approved. The Colonial Office had dictated that a high level of indigency was to be the primary criterion for deciding those to be included in the emigration scheme. In the whole of the southwest province of Munster, poverty was worst in the northcentral and eastern regions of County Cork, and therefore Peter Robinson correctly judged that the concentration of emigrant applicants would emerge from those areas regions of County Cork. As we noted in earlier article in this series, the conditions of poverty, plague, crop failure and famine predominated in the province of Munster which included the counties of Clare, Limerick, Tipperary, Kerry, Waterford and Cork. The map on the following page shows the four ancient provinces and the counties of Ireland at the time of the 1825 Robinson emigration. Cotters (small tenant farmers) or penniless (reduced) farmers and day labourers were largely the socio-economic class upon whom Deputy Secretary of State for the Colonies Robert Wilmot-Horton had instructed Peter Robinson to concentrate his attention when selecting his emigrants. It was upon these folk and their families that the deplorable conditions in Ireland usually fell. The widespread crop failures of 1817 and 1821-22 in Munster, due to the heavy



*The four ancient provinces and thirty-two counties of Ireland at the time of the Peter Robinson emigration of 1825, showing the number of family units selected as emigrants by Robinson from each county.*

*Note : Counties of Origin of all 1825 Robinson Settlers are underlined.*



rains and flooding further prevented the inhabitants from obtaining enough peat fuel for heating. 1823 turned into another poor year for agricultural growth, the cumulative effect of poverty had reduced life in that part of Ireland to a desperate level.

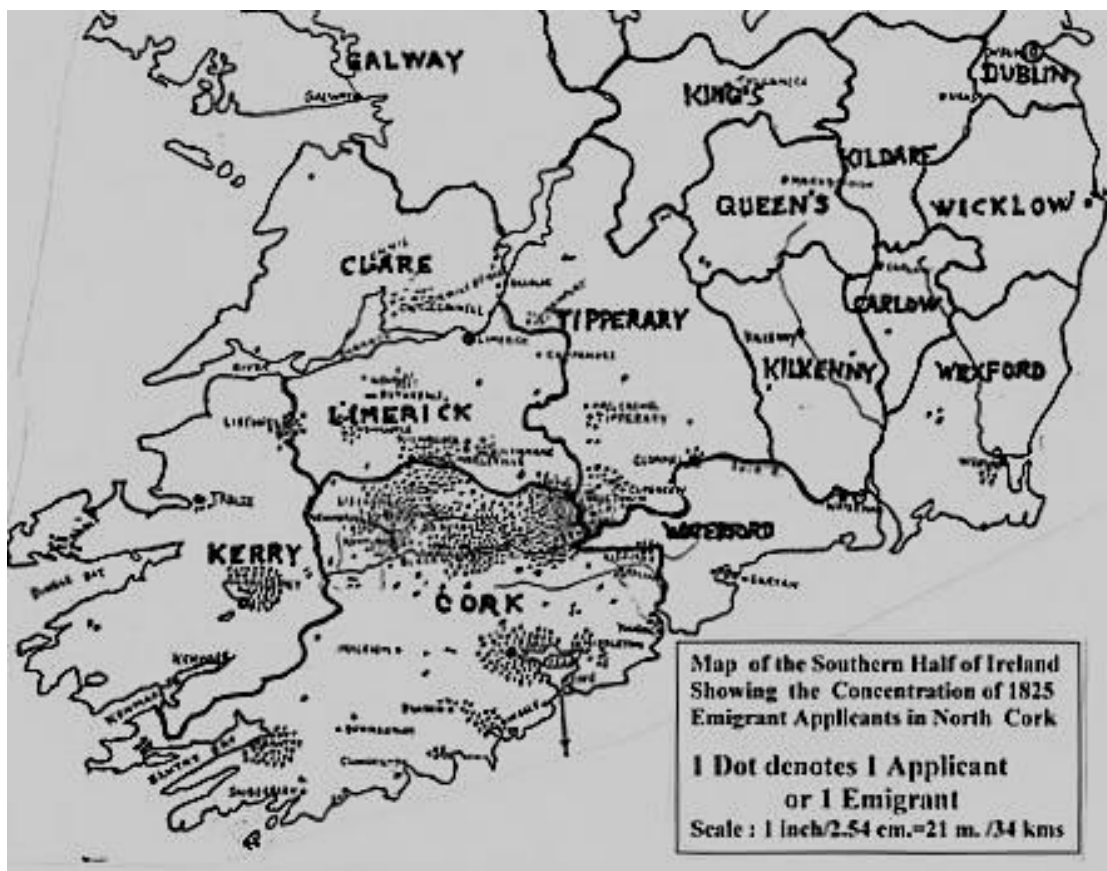
The county of Cork, the largest in Ireland, is rocky and mountainous in the west and rich and fertile in the north and eastern region. The north-central region of County Cork is dominated by the River Blackwater and its valley. Since the largest single contingent of Peter Robinson's settlers came from the valley of the River Blackwater, it warrants further description. The River Blackwater rises in the remote mountains of east Co. Kerry and flows eastward through Banteer, Mallow and Fermoy and then into County Waterford. Lying between the Boggeragh and Nagle Mountains to the south and Ballyhoura Mountains to the north, the Blackwater Valley is a place of great beauty and rich, fertile soil. Isolated from the southern parts of County Cork, the valley was, in earlier times, a region very much its own, with local traditions quite different from those of other regions. Because of its fine agricultural land, the Blackwater Valley was of prime interest to English landlords who exercised control of the region. However, because of the land-lord tenant system, so hated by the local Irish, the Blackwater Valley, which should have boasted an Irish agricultural society of reasonable prosperity, was instead one of the centres of endemic poverty in Munster. As a result, the valley had a long history of political unrest and turbulence. By the early decades of the 19<sup>th</sup> Century, it was notorious as one of the most rebellious and violent corners of Ireland and therefore a major headache to the Anglo-Irish owners of the large estates. Not surprisingly, both the Colonial Office and the local County Cork gentry and landlords saw in the 1825 emigration scheme an ideal way to rid themselves of the double problem of political unrest and the inability and unwillingness of local tenant farmers to pay their rent.

Given the political and economic climate of this region of Ireland in the first quarter of the 19<sup>th</sup> Century, it was inevitable that the largest number of the 1825 Robinson settler group came from the Blackwater area of County Cork. Being prime agricultural land, it was one of the most densely populated parts of Ireland at that time. The Tithe Law of 1823, which stated that all families of all religious denominations, were liable to a tax to support the established Church of Ireland (Anglican). This very unpopular tax intensified local unrest throughout Munster, but particularly in the Blackwater Valley of Co. Cork. Thus the British government, working through the Colonial Office and Peter Robinson, focused its recruiting initiative for the 1825 emigration on the region of the Blackwater Valley.

In his 1933 M. A. thesis on the history of the Peter Robinson Emigrations for Queen's University, Howard Pammett of Peterborough created a map that presents a useful visual summary of the concentration of applicants to be selected for the 1825 Robinson emigration in the Blackwater Valley region of North County Cork. The summary also gives an idea of other counties of the province of Munster, particularly those bordering on the Blackwater where the numbers of settlers applying to emigrate were significant, though less dense than in County Cork. The Pammett map (found on the next page) reveals that, other than the overwhelming number of applicants in the Blackwater Valley, other significant areas which drew emigrants applicants were Killarney and Listowel (Kerry), Limerick, Charleville and Mitchelstown (North Cork), Bantry and Cork City (South Cork), and southwest Tipperary. The following table provides a more precise summary of the number of individuals and family units selected as emigrants District of Upper Canada to the Newcastle for the 1825 Robinson group.

County of Origin	No. of Family Units	% of Total Family Units	No. of Individuals	% of Total Individuals
Cork	227	71.2	1470	73
Limerick	28	8.8	208	10.2
Tipperary	24	7.6	154	7.5
Kerry	17	5.4	101	5
Clare	4	1.3	22	1
Waterford	3	.9	18	.8
Kilkenny	1	.3	4	.2
Wicklow	1	.3	5	.3
Unspecified Counties	14	4.5	38	2
<b>Totals</b>	<b>319</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>2020</b>	<b>100</b>

It is known from research carried out over the last century that, in more than a few cases, the applicants and their families moved from their townland of residence or their village to enhance their chances of being selected by moving closer to the recruitment centres that Peter Robinson had established in the larger Co. Cork towns such as Mallow, Fermoy, Mitchelstown and Cork City. When they applied for emigration selection, they gave their new temporary residence, erroneously but in good faith, to Peter Robinson or to one of his recruiters as if it were their permanent home. This temporary residence was then entered on the emigrant's embarkation ticket as the true place of origin. For example, Timothy and John Curtin, who located in Ennismore Township, are reported on their embarkation certificates as being from St. Anne's, Shandon in Cork City. However, their letters of reference sent to Peter Robinson clearly state that they were both from the townland of Ballynahow near Fermoy, County Cork. It is known that both these Curtin families moved from Ballynahow to Cork City in April 1825 to increase the possibility of being selected for Mr. Robinson's emigration.



A copy of the embarkation ticket issued for the family of William Torpey, taken from the Peter Robinson papers is given in order to familiarize the reader with this type of emigration document. The embarkation ticket was an essential feature of the selection process as it was the emigrant's only proof that he and those named on it were bona fide emigrant selectees and thus could board their ship at Cove.

The family of William Torpey & his wife Mary Fitzgibbon were assigned the West Half of Lot 10, Concession IV, in Douro Township. William died in August of 1826 and his son John, aged 13 years at the time of emigration, later received his father's land as he was enumerated occupying this Lot in the Canada Census of 1871.

No. 9

NOT TRANSFERABLE.

Ireland, 12<sup>th</sup> April 1825

Mitchelstown County of Cork

THESE are to Certify, that the undermentioned Persons, of the Parish of Brigown in the County of Cork, Ireland, have been received by me, as Emigrant Settlers, to be conveyed to UPPER CANADA, and placed upon their Lands, at the Expense of His Majesty's Government.

NAME.	AGE.	
William Torpey	45	Head of the Family. Farmer
Mary	40	Wife.
Thomas	22	
Michael	21	
Mary	19	
Kitty	18	
Thomas	15	
John	13	
Elizabeth	10	
Bridget	6	

Recommended by *Earl of Kingston*

Children

Superintendent of Emigration from the South of Ireland to Canada

The Embarkation Certificate or Ticket Issued at Mitchelstown, County Cork, on 12 April 1825, for William Torpey, His Wife Margaret Fitzgibbon and Their Eight Children, Who Embarked on the Resolution at Cobh (Cork Harbour), Wednesday, 11 May 1825

This article (no. 5 in the series), along with the forthcoming nos. 6 and 7, will complete the discussion and background information on the Peter Robinson emigration of 1825, as it was planned and carried out in Ireland and brought to a successful conclusion when the 2,000 settlers were landed safely at Scott's Plains and assigned to their lots. The greater number of the remaining articles will focus more on specific settler families, their township locations, their place in and contribution to their new home here in the Peterborough region and elsewhere.



## Bridge Years: Peterborough in the 1920s

*Elwood H. Jones*

The 1920s were in some ways a stop gap between the Great War, 1914-1918 and the Great Depression of the 1930s. There were opportunities to be cheerful listening to silent movies, music groups, radio. Aside from walking most people moved by streetcar, and later the bus, but the automobile was already changing the way people saw the world, and Water Street became home to car dealers and automobile accessory experts. Houses were built closer to the ground as most new homes were bungalows and cottages. Shopping was a great pastime, and Peterborough's downtown was dominated by small department stores.

The decade began locally with the consequences of the Quaker Oats fire of 11 December 1916. The company decided to rebuild in Peterborough and its massive buildings dominated the construction scene during 1917 and 1918. The building effectively included seven or eight milling businesses going through several stages of production at this site. In addition to three warehouses, the Quaker Plant was a flour mill, oatmeal mill, a feed mill, and even Puffed Goods, a Package Building, a substation, shipping facilities and marketing and administration. This was really several operations in one factory, the largest mill in the British Empire.

In order to accommodate such a facility, the city had to make many changes of which the most outstanding was the new Ashburnham Bridge, built from 1919 to 1921. This outstanding example of civic engineering and architecture consisted of eleven arches of which the central arch spanned the river. At 235 feet, river arch of the Ashburnham Bridge was at its construction the longest span in a reinforced concrete bridge built in Canada and fourteenth world-wide. The four-fifth of a mile bridge featured a curving roadway and a decorative stretch of 84 terra cotta inserts.

The start of the decade was important for construction workers and others in the building trades as the Quaker and bridge workers commanded union level wages. Nearly always, one-fifth of all workers are tied to building trades. The Peterborough Examiner produced an iconic map in 1922 showing the many plants in Peterborough, and during the 1920s the city attracted other significant industries including Ovaltine and Outboard Marine.

Peterborough had been a significant manufacturing town since the 1870s. But through much of the 1920s and 1930s wages did not match the cost of living. During the war, local industries had to pay union scale to get federal government contracts, but after the war Canadian General Electric, Peterborough's largest works, set the standard for pay and also for blacklisting workers who sought to get unions.

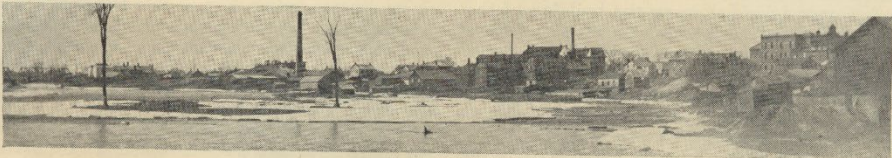
There was considerable interest in remembering the extraordinary support Peterborough had given to the war effort, both overseas and at home. The building of a war memorial was a major accomplishment. The local committee wanted a memorial not a cenotaph and they signed Walter Allward, the noted sculptor, to design it. When Allward became preoccupied with building the Vimy Memorial, the committee insisted on completing the design. Assisted by Gilbert Bayes, a prominent English sculptor, the war memorial was completed by 1928.

The veterans of the war formed the Great War Veterans Association, and then in 1926 at a national convention in Peterborough, the Canadian Legion was launched. During the 1920s, the Ashburnham ladies created a war memorial at the top of Armour Hill, a prominent feature that had been forested under their direction.

One feature of the 1920s locally was that Peterborough's leading export was people. The trend had been noted in several industries since 1870. Forest workers moved west to Michigan, railway workers followed the tracks and the move from horses and carriages to automobiles and trucks led many to move. When Ontario Hydro was formed in 1905, the new power stations founded expertise in Peterborough, which had developed over 20 power plants along the Trent valley.

Peterborough attracted branch plants for Wander Limited, makers of Ovaltine, and Raybestos making brake linings. For a short while in 1921 it looked as if Peterborough would be home to an automobile plant, and in 1928 it attracted Johnson Outboard Motors to town.

Peterborough was changing, though, as job opportunities were increasing in the service sector. There were, for example, over 20 firms specializing in automobiles and accessories, and there were about 100 grocery stores including Loblaw's by the end of the decade. Through the 1920s, the department stores were dominated by three firms, Cressman's, Richard Hall and son, and J. C. Turnbull, but by 1928 Eatons entered the local scene. Shoe stores, hardware stores, ladies wear, dressmakers and pharmacies were prominent downtown. There were several mens wear stores and tailors. Seven national banks had branches downtown.



SKYLINE OF PETERBOROUGH 40 YEARS AGO

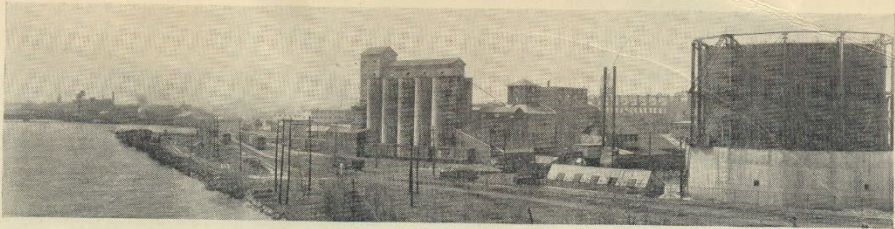
Old Photo by R. M. Roy.

*An Invitation from*

# PETERBOROUGH

*to attend the OLD HOME WEEK June 29-July 7*

Hospitality, friendliness, beauty, romance, memories; rodeos, pageants, fetes, amusement; old-time concerts and dances; all Peterborough County, from North to South and from West to East, alive with the spirit of the brave days of the pioneers; color, glamour, gaiety, provide a background that will delight every visitor to the Electric City in the year 1929 and this is the thought back of the program being laid out by a committee representing all organizations and classes in every section of City and County. And we want YOU with us for the biggest event since Adam Scott and Peter Robinson landed on Scott's Plains to lay the foundations of Peterborough. Come on back!



SKYLINE OF PETERBOROUGH TO-DAY

There were only ten hotels in the downtown. The tourism that would drive a great deal of local business was slowly emerging. Hotels were mainly serving travelling salesmen, but also provided the guest bedrooms and family rooms for local residents whose small houses averaged 600 square feet. Prohibition had been in force since 1916 and



was only eased in Ontario beginning in 1928; doctors and pharmacists did well under prohibition.

Downtown was the home of indoor sports such as pool and billiards. Peterborough's main athletic field was Riverside Park and the East City Bowl, but baseball and soccer matches took place at the Exhibition Grounds. Although never on Sunday, soccer and other sports were played at Nicholls Oval. Hockey had short playing seasons outdoors, and not much longer at Brock Street Arena and the curling rink on Charlotte.

Locally, the decade was defined in its closing years by the Old Home Week which coincided with Dominion Day and the unveiling of the war memorial. The week also attracted two circuses. The hard-working committee assembled the names and addresses of hundreds of people who had grown up in Peterborough and who were now living throughout the continent and further afield. Much of the celebration was marked by trips down memory lane, and special history features in the Peterborough Examiner. The week was a great success.

As the Examiner observed, 2 July 1929, observed, "It was a most happy thought that made the unveiling of Peterborough's war memorial the closing event in the Old Home Week program, and allowed Peterborough citizens, past and present, to pay tribute to the memory of the city's glorious war dead before embarking upon the festivities that would have never been possible had it not been for the courage and patriotism of those gallant soldiers and their comrades."

There was much to celebrate, even as the world was changing. Should Peterborough be planning a bicentennial of the naming of Peterborough?

*An earlier version of this article was prepared for the Rotary centennial history.*

OCTOBER 13, 1924

## POPULATION IS INCREASED 65 SAYS ASSESSOR

Latest Census Shows City Contains 21,726 Inhabitants.

ASSESSMENT \$25,334,300

Only Two Items in Maze of Figures Show Decrease—

The assessment returns just completed by City Assessor W. J. Henry, after months of painstaking work, show a net increase of Peterborough's population. The official correct population of the city is now 21,726.

A comparison of the assessment rolls for 1924 with those of 1923 shows that in most of the streets the exception of school rates only assessment liable for both of which show a decrease.

The total assessment for 1924 is \$25,334,300, against \$24,800,000 for 1923, an increase of \$534,300. The actual value exclusive of buildings last year and \$1,007,005, a difference of \$11,000,000, is this \$14,890,320, or an increase of \$323,320. The value of real property is \$27,165, which is \$334,835 to \$21,260.

	South.
No. of taxable persons.....	1,626
Value of real property, exclusive of buildings....	1,007,005
Value of buildings.....	3,632,025
Value of real property.....	4,639,030
Taxable real property.....	3,194,600
Property liable for School Rates only.....	884,930
Property exempt.....	559,500
Business assessment.....	213,360
Business assessment liable for School Rates only.....	654,930
Taxable income.....	93,675
Total assessment.....	5,600,995
Total number of persons residing in the municipality.....	5,864

performing  
n iron bar

### Old Home Week

*Examiner, 8 OCTOBER 1924.*

A committee has been appointed by the City Council to report upon the advisability of holding an old home week in Peterborough.

The Examiner has frequently expressed itself in favour of such an event, believing that the bringing home of the city's old boys and girls would be a good thing all round, and that Peterborough needs a week's celebration as a novelty and an escape from the usual routine.

However, it is doubtful whether an attempt should be made to stage the affair next year. As several of the Aldermen pointed out, several towns in the district have held such celebrations this year, and that fact would take some of the edge off the local old home week.

Again, it has been suggested that as 1927 is the one hundredth anniversary of the naming of Peterborough that the old home week be made part of a big centenary celebration.

This would be on a larger scale than the usual old boys' reunions and would embrace a long list of events and spectacular features, some of which are already being tentatively planned.

However, the committee will doubtless consider these facts along with other phases of the situation, and at all events the appointment of a committee is welcomed as a sign that the city fathers are interesting themselves in this matter.

Peterborough has been very sedate in the matter of community celebrations, and a departure from the everyday round would be appreciated by the majority of citizens.



## 101 UNEMPLOYED IN PETERBOROUGH

**Conditions In This Line Are Not as Bright as They Were a Few Weeks Ago.**

*Examiner, 13 Oct 1924*

During the past week things have changed considerably in the employment situation in this city, and at present conditions are not as bright as they were a few weeks ago.

Last week things were reported to be fair. In the Canadian General Electric Company some men are working two weeks out of every three, while others are only getting one or two days of work every two weeks.

The Westclox is about the only large factory in the city that is finding enough work to keep their men busy, while things in the textile line are very good.

The De Laval Company is not getting the work that they expected, and a number of men have been laid off in this plant.

With practically nothing at all doing in the iron business and the C. G. E. and the De Laval slack, there is not very a bright outlook for the present unemployed.

During the past month a number of men have left the city in search of work elsewhere, while there are still 101 on the unemployed list.

A number of men have been shipped to the bush, six going this morning, while there is still orders in for a few more men. During last week there were 43 new applicants and 34 replacements, which shows that there are more men applying for work each week than there is work for.

There are a number of short jobs about the city, but they are mostly one and two day jobs.

The building of a new school in Port Hope has supplied work for a number of bricklayers from this city, while there will likely be some more men from this city go to Bowmanville when the new Government Building is started there.

Conditions throughout Ontario are generally slack, while in most places there is a demand for bushmen and farm hands.

## THE MOST BRITISH CITY.

*Examiner, 20 June 1929*

The argument between the respective mayors of Toronto and Kingston as to which is the most British city is one of those controversies that get exactly nowhere and accomplish no useful or desirable purpose.

The Kingston contention is that the Limestone City wins the argument because its population is almost entirely British, and because there are Communistic activities evident in Toronto.

The reply of Mayor McBride—a childish answer it seems, too—is that Kingston is only a village as compared in size with Toronto, and that so far as the Reds are concerned, the steps taken to keep them in check is proof of Toronto's British spirit.

The whole controversy is meaningless. So far as the evidence produced by the rival contenders is concerned, Peterborough has as much right to make the same claim,

inasmuch as over 75 per cent, of our entire population is of British or Canadian descent, while all the Reds in the community could hold a convention in a telephone booth and still leave room for a press table.

But we're satisfied to let the rest do the fighting referring anybody who questions the British spirit of this city to the recruiting record established during the war.

## FOR OLD HOME WEEK.

Local Service Station  
Adds Attractive  
Decorative  
Improvements.

*Examiner, June 1929*

Johnston's Tire, Battery and Radio Service have embellished the exterior of their premises at the corner of George and McDonnell Streets in preparation for Old Home Week. The additional decorations include concreting the space between sidewalk and south side of the building facing the park, this concrete surrounding five dainty flower beds, between each of which stands a balloon tire. A new awning has been erected over the south windows; the color is orange forming an attractive background for the name "Dunlop Tires." In 30-inch black lettering. "Vulcanising" also in black stands out boldly on the drop edge of the awning. Flanking the flower beds a rest chair in orange adds a suggestive finishing touch ....

DA, TUESDAY, JUNE 11.

# SES I

## aduates

### LADIES TO MAKE 5,000 PENNANTS FOR BIG EVENT

Several Organizations Will  
Erect Arches in City For  
Old Home Week.

**COLORED LIGHTING.**

Horticultural Society Will Deco-  
rate Parks and Charlotte  
Street.

A meeting of the decoration committee of Old Home Week was held last evening at the city hall buildings, at which many organizations in the city were represented. A hearty spirit of co-operation was shown by all those who were in attendance.

The different organizations of ladies in the city offered to make 5,000 pennants for Old Home Week. These will be strung on ropes and strung across the street. The ladies will meet in the Y.W.C.A. to sew on these pennants. Here machines will be installed for the work.

The Loyal Order of Orangemen, the Knights of Columbus, the Odd-fellows and the Engineering Society are to erect arches on the main streets. These are to be of a beautiful nature and will be a real decoration to the city.

Overhead lighting, with colored lights will be carried out by the Peterborough Utilities Commission.

The decorating of the parks and Charlotte street is being left in the hands of the Horticultural Society.

The Engineering Society is contemplating on spending four or five hundred dollars on their scheme of decoration which will also remain all summer to beautify the city during the tourist traffic.

T. Garstang, the engineer of many of the Confederation floats is in the city and is willing to help to design floats for the Old Home Week parade. A phone call to A. Furman at 2436 will enable anyone to get in touch with the designer.

## PLANS FOR OLD HOME WEEK ARE APPROACHING MATURITY WITH EVENT TWO WEEKS OFF Splendid Arrangements Made to Care for Peterborough's Big Family.

285 ALREADY BOOKED

Parade Committee Requires Immediate Action to Prepare  
Historical Floats.

*Examiner, 15 June 1929*

That plans laid at the beginning of the year for Old Home Week are working out well was evidenced at last night's meeting of the general Committee. Reports presented by several committee chairmen told of arrangements completed along every conceivable line to add to the effectiveness of the week and the enjoyment of visitors. After a short discussion, started by R. M. Glover following suggestions made to him that revenue might be obtained through charging for the community dancing, it was decided on recommendation of A. J. Costello to adhere to the original idea of providing this event free.

Continuing the discussion of the dancing Mr. Costello told of the splendid program prepared for the feature dance. Tickets will be placed on sale in several stores in the city on Monday, he said, and only four hundred will be available for Peterborough people. With Rotary, Kiwanis and other clubs giving their support, this quantity will be speedily disposed of.

### **United States Float.**

A report from the United States lay committee that a special prom is not considered advisable for July 4 and a recommendation that United States float be entered in the big Monday parade was approved by the general committee.

### **Accommodation Arranged.**

Reporting in a very detailed manner for the accommodation committee, James Dutton expressed complete satisfaction with the outlook though the task of caring for the thousands of Old Home Week visitors will be no light one. There are eighty-five homes listed, offering about 330 double rooms and twenty single rooms. The committee has already received MSB advance registrations, and sixty-five of those registering require sleeping accommodation, taking away fifty-eight double and seven single rooms and leaving 272 double and thirteen single rooms to care for further registrations. In addition to the rooms offered by private residences, the Y.W.C.A. has promised to house thirty persons;

Peterborough Annex will have twenty double rooms available: Jointly, the hotels can offer about 285 rooms, and can accommodate more persons by erecting cots in corridors and parlors. Both the Empress and the Grand are making efforts to discourage commercial patronage during the big week.

### **Parking Space Per Cars.**

Continuing his very comprehensive report, which in its every detail evidenced painstaking work on the part of the committee, Mr. Dutton dealt with the car parking problem. The school grounds, he said, would hold about 1,715 cars; other parking spaces at the rear of the Duffus

building, on C.P.R. property at the freight shed, on the city property (reclaimed ground) near the freight shed, on the public parking square at Sherbrooke and George, on the southern part of the James Stevenson park, on King Edward Park, and on the market square, provide accommodation for 1,000 cars; and then, with about sixty miles of streets providing 300,800 feet of parking space the city can accommodate 31,000 cars, allowing twenty feet between cars.

The committee has arranged, Mr Dutton reported, to have the lavatories at Sacred Heart, South Central, St. Peter's, and King Edward schools available for the public during Old Home Week and has retained the Janitors of these buildings to supervise the parking of cars and the school premises.

### **The Problem of Food.**

When F. H. Dobbin announced last night that 7,600 programs have been sent out to old boys and girls several of the members expressed amazement at the potentialities of the undertaking to which the city is committed "If these 7,800 are all heads of families", said Mr Glover. "They are", interjected Mr Dobbin....."then they may each bring along three or four, and we are likely to have 30,000 people here!"

"That's right", remarked Mr. Dobbin, whose close association with Old Home Week affairs during the past three months has enabled him to assume a certain equanimity in the face of any situation. That the accommodations committee is alive to the urgency of the potential congestion is evidenced in the continuation of Mr. Dutton's report, in which he told of arrangements made with the hotels and restaurants and with non-business organizations. The restaurants have decided in a charge of fifty cents for a regular full course meal, he said, and the hotels will maintain their usual tariff. A la carte service in the restaurants which cater in that way will, of course, be higher. The hotels expect to be able to serve 1,700 meals a day, Mr. Dutton reported, naming the Empress, the White House, the Grand, and the American. The restaurants expect to serve 7,850 meals a day, if needed, while this total will be increased on other days than Sunday by 810 meals. The Y.W.C.A. will serve one hundred meals a day, and light lunches will be available during the week, served by the Salvation Army, the Catholic Women's League, Hooper's lower store, and Coleman Bros., to a possible total of 2,500 a day, Sunday excepted.

### **Wants Floats Made Ready.**

Something in the nature of a bombshell was dropped on the meeting when E. F. Mason's report as chairman of the parade committee was followed by a declaration from Mr. Garstang, whose duty it is to help plan and carry out the decorative features, that he can't find anything to do. His impassioned plea for an early start brought immediate action, the Mayor promising to arrange this morning for firms to have representatives meet Mr. Garstang to-day so that he may start work without delay.

It was pointed out that only a short time remains for the planning and execution of this important work, and if the parade is to equal or surpass the last triumph Peterborough had in this connection, there is no time to be

lost. Mr. Glover expressed the appreciation of the meeting for the general "peppng-up" interjected by Mr. Garstang, and for the enthusiasm he displayed.

#### **Reception Arranged.**

Alderman O. A. Macdonald reported for the reception committee that adequate help has been arranged for the entire week. Boy scouts will assist greatly in the work of directing visitors to points of interest and to their places of lodging. All trains will be met by citizens, and an Information bureau will be maintained on the highway at the entrance to the city, with a twenty four hour service. This report was followed by F. A. Stinson's assurance of the hearty support of the automobile club, whose members will motor out on the highway to meet and greet incoming cavalcades when given reasonable warning. Stickers inviting visitors to use cars will be used by club member and others.

Incidentally, Mr. Stinson mentioned the fact that a permanent building in log cabin style will be erected shortly as a tourists' Information bureau, and suggested that it might be used by the reception committee instead of the tent originally proposed.

Arrangements for beautifying the city are well in hand. Alderman R. S. Cotton, chairman of the decorations committee, reported a proposal by Mr. Garstang that a suitable man be crowned "king of the carnival" brought a report from W. F. Turner that "Happy Jack" Dexter has already been engaged to carry out the spirit of carnival, and will be active on the streets throughout the week.

There were about twenty-five present at the meeting, one of the most enthusiastic and satisfying that has been held. His Worship Mayor Denne, who presided, expressed satisfaction with the present progress, and predicted a splendid success. "It just means keeping at it a few days longer, every one of you," he said as the meeting broke.

### **LARGE CROWD VIEWS FOUNTAIN Recent Addition To Waterworks - Department Watched By Hundreds. FIRST IN CANADA.**

*Examiner, 17 June 1929*

The spectacle of an illuminated fountain in the park at the filtration plant on the Lakefield road for the past week has been attracting the attention and the admiration of all who drive past there after dark. •

This fountain is the first of its kind in Canada and is made by the Canadian General Electric Company. While such illuminated fountains are common in the States, Peterborough has the honor of installing the initial one in the Dominion.

The Peterborough Utilities Commission for some time had the idea that a fountain should be installed in the park. This was crystallized into a fact at a meeting of the body this spring. The work of erecting the fountain was under the guidance of the staff.

#### **35 Feet in Diameter**

The basin of the fountain is thirty feet in diameter with a series of Jets containing five sprays each which forms the outside curtain of water. There is also a central spray which

is caused by a nozzle, and throws the water to a height of thirty-five feet. The miniature Niagara, as colorful in its nature as the falls, is made beautiful by seven under-water electric projectors operated by flashers and illuminating the water with colors of red, green, amber and many combinations of these.

The erection of the fountain entailed a great deal of work such as piping the water and bringing the electricity to the projectors by underground cables. A month ago the men began installing it and had the work completed in approximately two weeks' time.

The Utilities Commission give a hearty invitation for motorists to drive through the park or to stop when they are going by and watch the display.



*Illuminated fountain at Peterborough Filtration plant (TVA, Electric City Collection)*

### **LOOKING ITS BEST.**

*Examiner, 17 June 1929*

Citizens of Peterborough are to be congratulated upon the general air of immaculate cleanliness and neatness that distinguishes the city's residential streets as householders complete their preparations for Old Home Week.

It is evident that the majority of citizens have entered heartily into the spirit of the occasion and have been glad to co-operate by giving their homes and grounds special attention and care. Neither trouble, time nor money has been spared, and the results are apparent in all parts of the city as Old Home Week approaches.

It is doubtful whether at any other time in the city a general effort to dress up the home of Peterborough, and it is safe to say that the army of visitors two weeks from now will carry away with them a permanent impression of a trim and beautiful city.



## FORTY FLOATS ARE PROMISED

...

*Examiner 19 June 1929*

That the first of July parade will be of gigantic proportions and as beautiful as ingenuity can make it is now assured. Forty floats have already been promised, and more are expected; work has started on the construction, and Mr. Oarstang is busy at the decoration. The parade is being arranged under chairmanship of E. F. Mason. The following are entering floats prepared wholly by themselves: Brinton Peterborough Carpet Co; Barrie's, Limited; Beatty Bros.; Canadian General Electric Co.; Canadian Packing Co.; De Laval Co., Ltd.; Dominion Woollens and Worsteds, Ltd.; Examiner Printing Co.; Exhibition Board; Loyal Order of Moose; Maple Leaf Milling Co.; Peterboro Floral Co.; Peterboro Cereal Co.; Quaker Oats Co.; Rye's Pavilion; Sanitary Ice; Teco Stores; J. J. Turner and Sons; Utilities Commission; Veneranda Electric Shoe Repair; Western Clock Co.; William Hamilton Ltd.; Y.W.C.A.; Douro, 3 floats, by P. G. Towns. Assistance in construction and decoration is being given to the following: Canadian Postum Co.; Post Office; Toronto Savings and Loan; Rochester Old Boys; Haboco Stores; Metropolitan Store; Hall's, Limited; Belmont Club; H. B. Taylor and Son; Ashburnham Women's Patriotic League; Mason's Groceries; Lech and Sons.



*Winners of the Gildersleeve Cup three years undefeated, the Peterborough Lacrosse Club was coached by Henri LeBrun. The cup is now in Georgia, having stayed with the family of LeBrun. (TVA, Electric City Collection, 2.074)*

## OLD PICTURES ARE EXHIBITED

**W. S. Merrill Intends Placing Two Portraits of Former Days in Store Windows..**

*Examiner, 20 June 1929*

CHAMPION LACROSSE TEAM.

William S. Merrell is about to establish a precedent that it would be well for other merchants in the city to follow for Old Home Week.

There will soon be on display in his store windows two pictures, which will carry the citizens of the city back to the times when champion lacrosse teams blazoned the

name of Peterborough in championship letters across the continent, when the fire brigade was a volunteer force and used to fight the flames with their hand drawn reels.

In the years of 1879 and 1880 Peterborough, boasted of a lacrosse team that was never defeated. The picture of this team is one that will soon grace Le Brun's window. H. Lebrun was the president of this noted aggregation at that time and it is a coincidence that the picture should appear in a store that has carried his name for over fifty years.

The personnel of the team as in the picture is—Back row—W. Rudkin, J. Coughlin; R. H. Forsythe; H. Halpin; H. Phalen. Centre row—J. Joyal; M. McDonald; H. Rutherford; P. Donahue; Simpson.

These men were Central Ontario Champions for three years, during which time they were undefeated. In 1880 they were the winners of the Gildersleeve Cup. Their fame brought them invitations to play games in such cities as Quebec, Montreal and Toronto, where they upheld the reputation which they had earned....

## TO MEET TORONTO BUNCH

**C.N.E. Directors Send Down Lighting Effect for Exhibition Park.**

*Examiner, 21 June 1929*

... "The exhibition grounds will be a blaze of glory." said Webber Turner.

The Canadian National Exhibition of Toronto is co-operating with the Old Home Week executive here and is sending down their whole lighting effects which will be installed in Peterborough.

### To Meet Toronto Branch

J. Dutton has arranged for as many cars as possible to meet the Toronto motorcade on "Toronto Day" at Scott's Corners on the highway. The delegation from the Queen City will have decorations for each car that meets them and the ride from the Corners to Peterborough promises to be a merry one. The Toronto boys and girls will let Peterborough know when they are leaving so the

reception will be timed in order that the parties will meet near that spot on the provincial road.

Visitors will not have any difficulty to register. Special badges will also be given to the reception and the executive committees.

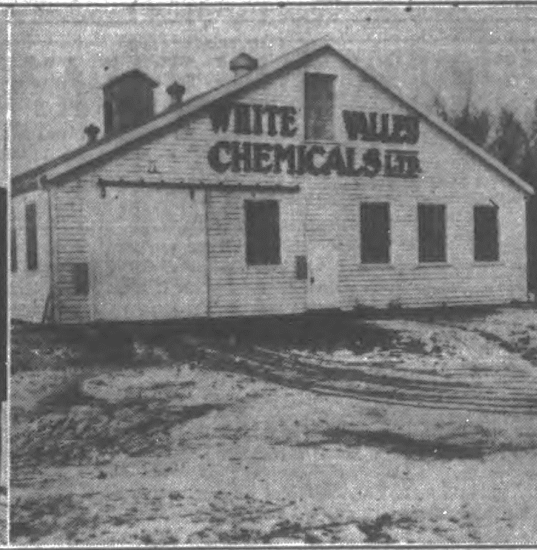
## OLD HOME WEEK PROGRAMS ON SALE

The Official Program Can Be Obtained at the Bookstores.

Any citizen who desires an official program of Old Home Week can obtain a copy at any of the stores listed below. It was not financially possible to get out sufficient of these programs to give one away to each citizen desiring one, in addition to the almost 8,000 mailed all over the world to former Peterborough boys and girls.

The stores where they are to be had are at Soden's Bookstore, Treblloock's Bookstore, LeBarr's and Miss Emmerson's and the cost is only 15c.

## Harvey Township Has a Thriving Industry



Thriving industry in Harvey township is the White Valley Chemicals, Ltd., a recently formed company that mines amorphous calcium carbonate, discovered less than two years ago by W. S. Potts. The intervening time has seen him change from proprietor of a lumber mill to be superintendent of a mine. Mr. Potts is seen at the EX-

TERME LEFT of the group in the picture at LEFT ABOVE. With him are H. L. Garner, general manager of the Peterborough Examiner, and J. J. Duffus, M.P. who made a trip to the plant this week. At RIGHT is the plant itself. Inside it is close to \$100,000 worth of equipment.

(Examiner Staff Photo.)

## Work Horse Sinking Through Mud On Edge Small Lake Is Given Credit For Discovering New Mineral

Examiner, 16 December 1939

Because a work horse sank through the mud at the edge of a tiny lake while hauling logs, and its forefeet came up covered with a white substance that looked like calcimine, W. S. Potts of Harvey Township may be a millionaire before long.

For already, as a result of that whitened foot, a huge refinery stands in that desolate spot in Harvey, a plant that has cost in the neighborhood of \$100,000 so far. A company has been formed with president, general manager, board of directors, consulting engineers, and all the trappings of big industry. It replaces the old saw mill of Mr. Potts, and is named the White Valley Chemicals, Ltd. Mr. Potts is superintendent, and is rumored to have retained a sizeable chunk of the company's stock.

Experimenting completed, most difficulties ironed out, the company is now prepared to work at top speed. The Ontario and Federal Governments have constructed a road leading to the plant from the Bobcaygeon-Kilmount Road, and electric power has been brought in from Lakefield.

Market Not Crowded.

pass through a 325 screen before being bagged. That means that in the screen there are 325 holes to the square inch, which means in turn that the holes must be very small indeed.

It was a lucky day, then, for W. S. Potts when curiosity compelled him to send a sample of the unknown substance to Toronto for analysis. Probably he would never have done it had he not had a friend who was employed by an Ontario government chemical analysis department. That was two years ago this past fall and the intervening time has seen W. S. Potts change from a lumberman to a miner.

### 96 Per Cent Pure

Although the substance is 96 per cent pure when it is dredged from the bottom of the lake, the preparation of it for market use is a difficult matter, one that required tedious research to overcome. It is dredged from the bottom of the lake and carried to the mill on a long conveyor belt. (A steam pipe runs alongside the belt to the water's edge so that operations can be carried on in sub-zero weather). At the mill the most elaborate machinery



**Market Not Crowded.**  
Of market there is plenty and to spare for the material that W. S. Potts found in that tiny lake was amorphous Calcium carbonate, used in a multitude of products, and the White Valley find is the only sizeable deposit ever found in North America. Now imported from England, France and Belgium at a market price of \$17 to \$18 a ton before the outbreak of war, 30,000 tons are used in Canada each year, together with substitutes, and the United States uses vastly more of the substance. Mr. Potts said that a thousand test holes have been sunk and that engineers estimate that close to 4,000,000 tons of calcium carbonate lie at the bottom of the lake. At an average price of \$15 a ton—which is the price the company expects to receive for its product—a gross income of \$60,000,000 lies there waiting to be dug up. The present plant is only equipped to remove about 10,000 tons a year, at which rate there is enough to last for 400 years. Yearly estimated profits, based on 75 per cent. production of plant capacity are \$60,000—gross revenue standing at \$112,500 and estimated total costs, including delivery to Ontario points, \$52,500.

**Strange Substance.**  
Amorphous calcium carbonate is a strange substance; the remains of millions upon millions of tiny animal shells that have lain on the bottom of this tiny northern lake for countless centuries, waiting for a lucky man to find what it was. Small quantities have been found elsewhere, but none have been large enough to work satisfactorily. Here are some of the uses of amorphous calcium carbonate:  
Calcium carbonate, amorphous, is used in the manufacture of asphalt filler, calcimine, ceramics, chalks, and crayons, cigarette paper, cleansers, dyes, engraving, explosives, feed for cattle, fertilizers, fireworks, glazed paper (as coating), insecticides, insulated wire and cable, leather goods, linoleum, medicines, newsprint and book papers, oilcloths, paints, plaster, polishes, putty, rice refining, rubber tires, mats, boots, shoes, textiles, tooth paste and powder, white shoe dressing, window shades, and countless other products. It forms the base of all better paints.  
In appearance it is like pastry flour, but actually it is many, many times more fine, because it has to

mill the most elaborate machinery has been installed to remove the water. Impurities are removed by the fine screen and the product is bagged more than 99 per cent pure.  
The drying process has always been the bug-bear of the industry—for it has a tendency to form into solid concrete blocks when moisture is removed. When the wet substance comes into the mill it is shaken about in a sort of rocker and some moisture removed. Then it travels on to a huge vat and more runs off. Then it is carried along on a conveyor belt to a round drum. The cover of the drum is of a porous material and inside is a near-complete vacuum. The substance is held to the outside of the drum by the suction from the vacuum which also draws through a great deal of moisture. Then it travels on a conveyor belt past a blast of 900-degree air that is drawn by suction from the top of a nearby furnace. This hot air travels over the material and completely dries it. (So intense is the heat from the furnace that were the substance to be passed directly over its top, the metal conveyor would be melted. Then the solidified substance passes under a huge hammer which breaks it up into a fine powder.)

**Danger of Fire**  
The other week fire came close to destroying the plant when heat broke the furnace wide open and scorched the roof of the building. Only presence of a pipe line for such an emergency saved the structure.  
"That just shows what we're up against," commented Mr. Potts. "That furnace was made to specifications, but it went nevertheless." It is being reconstructed now.  
Such is the state of affairs at the newly constructed plant. The only thing worrying Mr. Potts right now is whether he's going to be able to truck out the material this winter. The Ontario government has provided only a small section of snow fence for the new road and has informed him the snowplow will be available for use there only when not in use elsewhere—which presumably means only when there is no snowfall.

**INDIGNANT DENIAL**  
**AMSTERDAM—(CP).**—The official German news agency has denied reports the Reich will sell old masters in its possession for foreign credits.

#### Commentary by Elwood H. Jones

I had never heard of White Valley Chemicals and so was amazed by the September 1939 story that spoke of its potential in glowing terms. It was interesting to see how many uses there were for calcium carbonate, and the optimism that it could be readily mined. However, I had never heard of White Valley Chemicals, and neither it or the Potts were mentioned in the fine history of Harvey Township. So I decided to see what could be learned from the indexed land records at Trent Valley Archives.

The property records are listed for part of Harvey lots 30 and 31 in the 18<sup>th</sup> Concession. This is close to the

Bobcaygeon Road in the very north west part of Harvey. The east half of lot 30, 101 acres, was Crown lands until the patent was issued to John J. Bardeau. This was granted to George R. Potts in May and June 1934, although there was a right of way for Bardeau's cattle to cross the property, and also what might be needed for the Colonization Road. In September 1936, George Roy Potts and his wife Augusta both gave a power of attorney to George Henry Potts, Toronto, and in June 1939 this property was granted to White Valley Chemicals Limited, subject to previous restrictions and the right to remove "merchantable timber".

The land records also contain the conditional sales contract between Ingersoll-Rand for mining equipment and White Valley Chemicals; this was a lien on the property from April to December 1940. The contract included a dry vacuum pump, two electric motors, and a "combination linestarter". The total value was \$501.32.

In December 1940, Emma R. Kaufman, Henry W. Ackerman, John M. Firth and Albert W. Augustine gave a mortgage for \$60,000, and in October 1941 this group had a pending agreement with White Valley.

The Ontario Paper Company Limited gave a mortgage of \$5,000, with several conditions. It assigned the mortgage to John Firth, dated 15 January 1942 and registered 5 October 1944.

In the autumn of 1944, White Valley Chemicals granted much of this lot to Chem-Ore Mines Limited, and Potts held a mortgage for \$45,620.

In January February 1948, George Roy Potts assigned the mortgage to Philip Smith A judgement of foreclosure was made in the Supreme Court of Ontario between May and August 1948; Philip Smith was the plaintiff and Chem-Ore Mines was the defendant. Potts filed a quit claim in October December 1950.

On lot 31, the Crown issued a patent to White Valley Chemicals in April 1941, following several grants for the quarter lots during 1940. The other transactions related to Lot 30 also applied to these lots.

This is a sad story as the results did not match expectations.

When George Roy Potts, born in Haliburton in November 1904, married Augusta Margaret Wright in August 1925 he was an innkeeper in Bobcaygeon. His father, George H. Potts, was a bookkeeper in Haliburton in 1911, and was an innkeeper in Bobcaygeon in 1921, and was granted the power of attorney to negotiate arrangements related to mining on the Harvey lots.

I did not identify a W. S. Potts with this story. Its importance is suggested by the presence of J. J. Duffus and H. L. Garner.



## In Memory of Herb Franklin (1946-2020)



*Photo: Herb Franklin installing a shelving unit in Room G of the Trent Valley Archives. (TVA)*

*Elwood H. Jones, TVA Archivist*

The Board of Directors of Trent Valley Archives has lost one of its most faithful and hard-working members. It is with sadness that we share the news that Herb Franklin passed away unexpectedly and suddenly.

Herb and his wife Sue were sustaining members for many years and recently became Patrons of the Trent Valley Archives.

Herb's past interests remained important as he worked with TVA. He was very knowledgeable about video recording and issues, was very practical and had a great singing voice. He had worked for the city police for 32 years. He was active in scouting for nearly fifty years.

He volunteered on many projects and in every room he entered he brought cheer. He took particular interest in the physical aspects of our heritage property.

The archivist recalled a favourite memory this past summer while watering the fresh lawn he spotted a doe in our parking lot; he was able to capture the photo. He was also my partner on one of TVA's cemetery tours. His sincere friendship and generosity will long be remembered. He was well-informed and was a convivial conversationalist.



One article in this issue captures a project between Herb and the archivist about the location of Blythe Mill. Herb had a terrific interest in local history and at Trent Valley Archives his leadership of the bicycle tour of local industrial sites along the river was exemplary.

We extend our condolences to Sue and the family on this tragic loss.

In tribute to the memory of Herb Franklin Trent Valley Archives was closed on the Saturday of his virtual memorial service. Donations in his memory may be made to Grace United Church and to Trent Valley Archives. FRANKLIN, Herbert (Herb) William (retired Peterborough Police Officer)

Suddenly at his residence on Saturday, December 5, 2020 in his 75th year. Herb was born in Glasgow and at the age of 4 in his wee shorts he immigrated from Scotland with his parents to Canada. He was immensely proud of his McGuffie heritage. Beloved husband and soulmate of Susann (nee Gertley) for over 53 years. Loving cherished father of Robert (Cheryl Bowen) and David (Karen Cymbaluk). Cherished and proud Poppa of Nathaniel, Abby, Anna and the late James. Only son of the late Herbert Victor and Carole. Dearest brother-in-law of Marg and Gerry Hartwick and Sara and Don Elchyson. Special uncle to Kate, Colleen, Jennifer and Ryan. Cherished cousin of Janette Wilson in Glasgow.

Herb worked as a Colour Video Technician at CBC Toronto for 4 years especially travelling Canada in 1967 with the CBC crew. He worked 32 years at the Peterborough Police Services in the positions of general patrol, youth and safety – Elmer the Safety Elephant, Detective, Identification, youth and adult court officer. He took many youth to the Safety Patrol events in

Ottawa. Upon retirement he served for an additional 12 years with the Ontario Superior Court.

His service to give back to the community was huge to him. He served on the boards of Peterborough Youth Services, Canadian Mental Health Association, Trent Valley Archives, Treasurer – McFee Clan Society of Canada. He enjoyed singing Bass with many Barbershop groups – Aces of Harmony, Ganaraska Chord Company, Tri City Gospel Chorus, Maple Leaf Chord Company, Oakridge Mixed Chorus, and Grace United Church choir. In his 47 years volunteering with Scouts Canada, Herb served all sections and in many capacities starting with Group Committee at 11th Knox Peterborough, he supported so many youth to earn their Top Section Awards and mentored many Scouters to achieve their Wood Badge training, was on staff at the World Jamboree in Thailand 2002, Area organizer for Canadian Jamboree 2007, took youth to two CJs in Prince Edward Island and one to Thunder Bay. In addition to many other awards for all his volunteer work with youth in our community, his final achievement was being awarded the Bar to the Silver Acorn in April 2013 for his exceptionally distinguished service to Scouting and the Ontario Volunteer Service Award 2018. A large number of other awards for all his volunteer work with the youth of our community was received. He was an active member of Grace United church from the time he was a wee man from Scotland to the larger-than-life man of today. He was so proud to be a part of 19th Grace Scouting.

There was a private family celebration of life and interment held at HIGHLAND PARK FUNERAL CENTRE, 2510 Bensfort Rd., Peterborough. COVID 19 Restrictions were in place and face coverings were mandatory. In memory of Herb and in lieu of flowers donations to Grace United Church and Trent Valley Archives would be sincerely appreciated by the

family. Online condolences may be made at [www.highlandparkfuneralcentre.com](http://www.highlandparkfuneralcentre.com).

“a hundred years from now it will not matter what kind of car I drove, what kind of house I lived in, how much money I had in my bank account, nor what my clothes looked like....but the world may be a better place because I was important in the life of a child”. Unknown



*One of the photos by Herb Franklin during the July 2020 Little Lake Cemetery Tour “Seats of the Mighty”. Tour leader Elwood Jones, wearing his Covid beard, talks about the Dennistoun family.*

## Zoom Presentations at TVA

During the pandemic Trent Valley Archives has added Zoom presentations to its line up of services to our members. These have been well-received and have helped draw attention to some of the amazing recent additions to the archival fonds at Trent Valley Archives. To date, the three were edited and delivered by our archivist, Elwood H. Jones. He was assisted by Heather Aiton Landry as the presiding host and Rick Meridew and Amelia Rodgers on the technical side.

The first presentation was on the history of the construction of the Ashburnham Bridge (also known as the Hunter Street Bridge) 1919-1921. Trent Valley Archives is working with Marcus Ferguson, Steve Russell and Graham Hart to produce a television show to mark the centennial of the almost official opening of the bridge on the Civic Holiday weekend in 2021.

The second presentation shared some of the rich materials, donated by Scott Baker, Clare E. Bate and Paul Jobe and others. These new collections, all based in a provenance in Quaker Oats records, have enriched opportunities for those interested in doing research on Quaker Oats and on the Ashburnham bridge.

The third presentation was centred on the recent acquisition of the household account books kept by Mary (nee Edwards) Wood at the villa, named Rockland, on the south west corner of Parkhill and Monaghan. The villa is named for the W. C. Edwards lumbering and industrial empire based in Rockland, Ontario and in New Edinburgh, Ontario. The firm was related to James Edwards, a Peterborough town clerk, and his children which included E. B. Edwards and Mary Edwards Wood. The household accounts were amazing in themselves as it showed some of the connections in shopping and education and property maintenance, which were mainly local. Mary Wood was a household manager.

The fourth presentation will take place on February 11. Heather Aiton Landry will look at several fashion themes that can be pursued in Trent Valley Archives’ photography collections. It is possible that we will build future presentations around our rich holdings in photographs. Other ideas are under consideration.

Members can register for the next presentation when they receive an email from Trent Valley Archives.

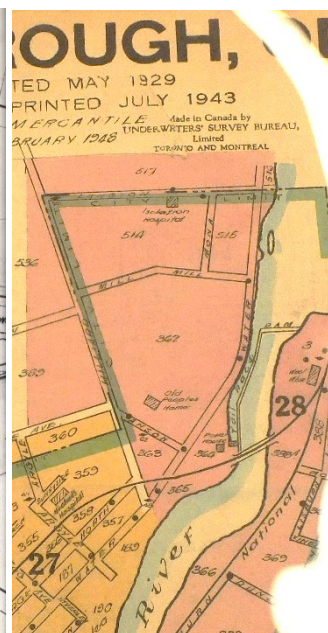
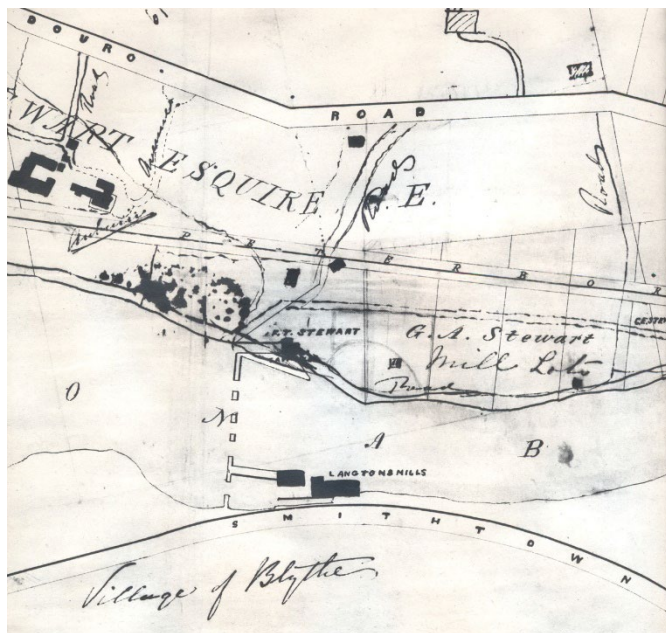


## Looking for Blythe Mills

*Elwood H. Jones aided by Herb Franklin*

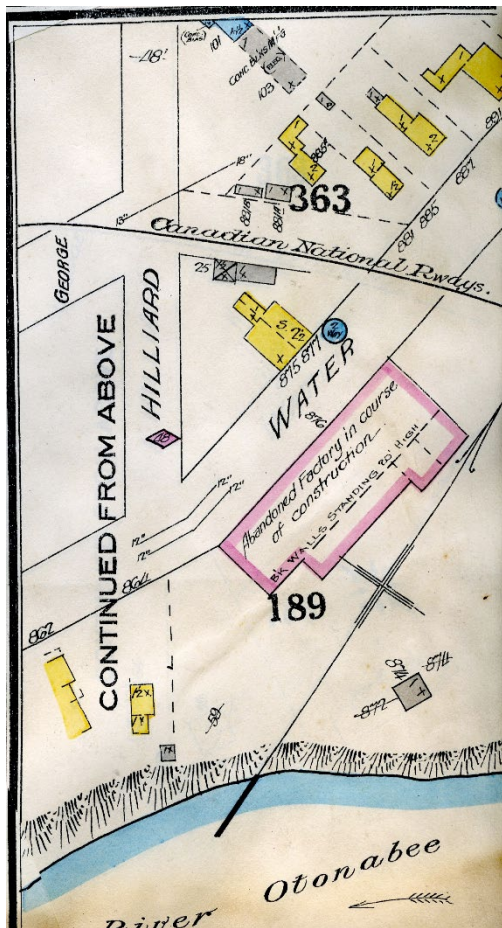


The view from Blythe Mills, 1852, by Anne Langton, looking over to Auburn, the home of Thomas A. and Frances Stewart. (TVA, Electric City Collection) The map below shows the “Blythe Village” across from the Stewart properties. These two illustrations capture what I have taken to be the traditional identification of Blythe Mills.



1943 view of Hilliard and Water area (TVA)

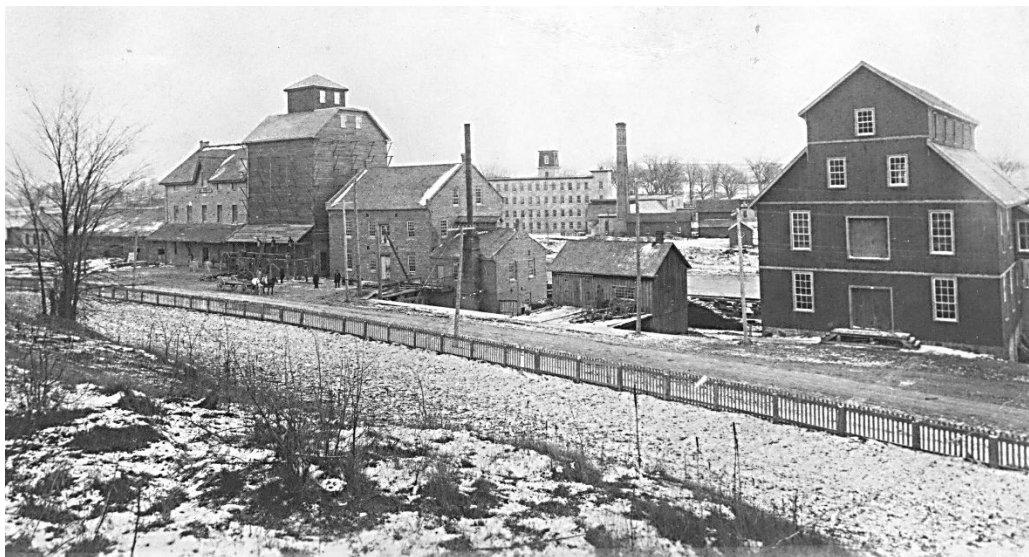




When I wrote a column on the Red Arrow Tire Company [marked as abandoned factory in 1920s insurance plan, left] which built the first part of the building still standing on Water Street and Hilliard, now the site of U-Haul I commented, "This was an historic site, as J. J. Turner noted in December 1921. 'Here once was an industrial community way back in the days when Peterborough was a lumbering centre, and the cabins, a few of which still line the river bank, housed the employees of the lumber mills. Here were located in succession a saw mill, flour mill, woolen mill, the first pumping house of the Peterborough Water Company.'" F. H. Dobbin, Peterborough's outstanding early historian who was very familiar with the site also identified the site as the former Blythe Mills property.

I discussed this with Herb Franklin, as he had taken pictures of what remained of Blythe Mills as part of his preparation and presentation for the Trent Valley Archives bicycle tour working around industries along the Otonabee. I had always associated Blythe Mills with the site on Water Street near Mill Street that most people know as a riverside parkette that was formerly the terminus for the street railway between 1904 and 1928, and is now a favourite site for a police speed trap.

There is another early photo of the northern stretch of Water Street that shows the Auburn Woolen Mill across the river in the background and seems to have been located along the stretch between the Auburn dam and the U-Haul. But until reading these comments by J. J. Turner and F. H. Dobbin I always referred to this as the area that contained the Denne mill and its neighbors before the mill occupied the site at Water and King street, in the earliest days the site of Adam Scott mill.



The question that Herb and I pondered was did the term "Blythe Mills" apply narrowly to the parkette area, or broadly to an industrial suburb clustered on the north end of Water and George all the way between Argyle and

Langton Street. We both preferred the narrow definition, Dobbin notwithstanding.

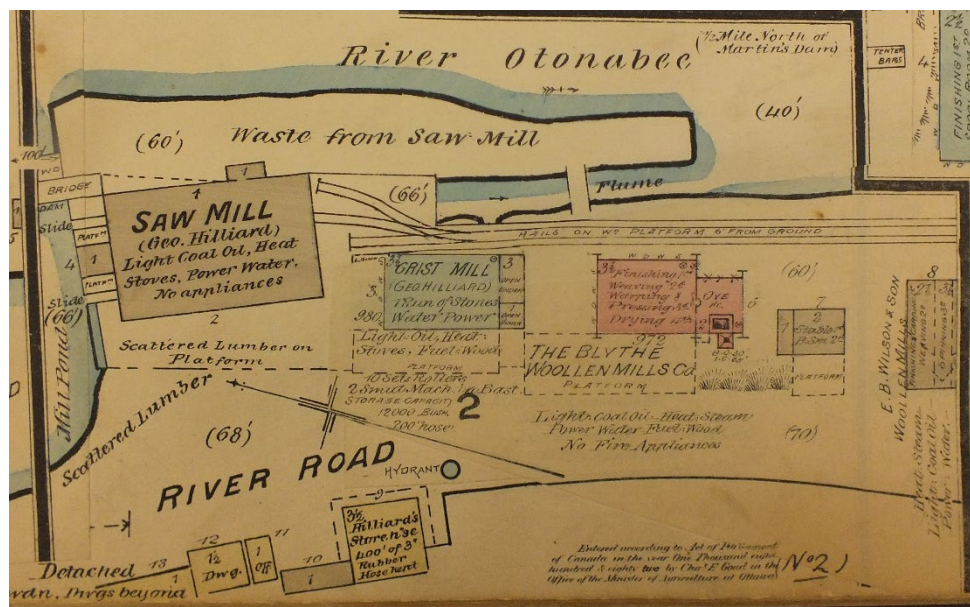
This 1870s photo shows several mills and businesses on north Water Street, in the area across from Hilliard and extending to the Auburn dam. Note the Auburn Woollen Mills across the river form the background of this photo.

The 1875 Romaine map (reprinted in the historical atlas in 1975) shows three mill nodes of which the north end is Blythe Mills and the south end the buildings shown here: at the north, Blythe Mills; the second, George Hilliard's mill, and the third, a grist mill at Block G, known as Martin's mill, and at the north end of Inverlea Park. It looks as if the buildings in the 1870s photo were on the George Hilliard stretch. The key points of reference are the railway track crossing the Otonabee River and the intersection of River Road (now Water Street) and Hilliard.) Notice the Auburn Mill across the river from Blythe Mills.



This map shows Blythe Mills directly across from Auburn. (TVA, Martha Kidd fonds)

We then looked at the fire insurance plans at Trent Valley Archives to see if that could help.



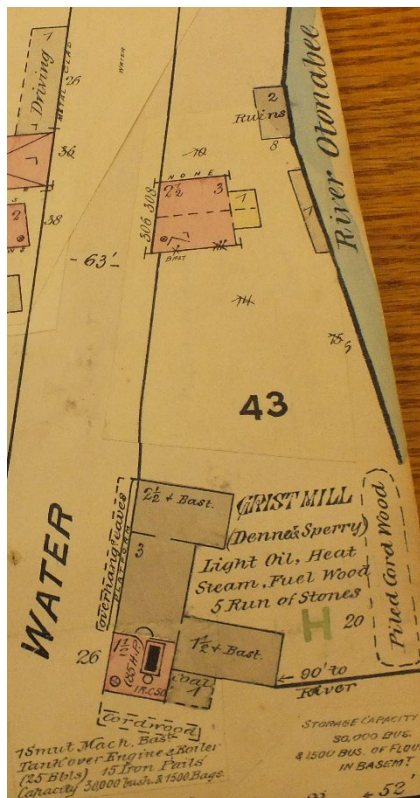
Goad insurance plan, 1882. Notice that Water Street, then called River Road, wandered through the mill property. Herb took pictures of stone from the Grist Mill on the west side of the current Water Street.

We also confirmed that the other well-known photo of Denne & Sperry grist mills was in the 1880s and the



site was Water and King Street, an area earlier known for Adam Scott's 1819 mill and later site of the Peterborough Canoe Company. The history of this block is well-told in *A Block in Time*, which was published by Peterborough archaeologists in 2018, and featuring the report produced by Gordon Dibb.

Herb and I concluded that Blythe Mills should be considered narrowly and include the area near Mill Street and Water only.



1889 Goad's Insurance plans

The Denne and Sperry mill, 1881, on Water at King Street. (TVA, Electric City Collection)



## Blythe Mills

The following article is reprinted as it was the catalyst for Herb and I exploring what was Blythe Mills.

### THE RED ARROW TIRE CO. WILL BUILD ON HISTORIC GROUND FIRST IMPORTANT INDUSTRY TO LOCATE IN THE NORTHERN PART OF PETERBORO' CITY FOR MANY YEARS A PAGE OF HISTORY

F. H. Dobbin, *Peterborough Examiner*, 22 November 1921

In connection with the establishment of the Red Arrow Tire Company, it is quite probable that will follow the wiping out of the little, low cabins or houses that stand on the property along the bank of the river. Such as remain are left of the once thronged locality. The day when the river bank from just below what is now the western side of the Auburn dam to as far south as Hilliard street was lined with a succession of dwellings, in which hands employed in the saw, flour and woolen mills at this point lived all of hasty construction, of wood, without foundations, they wore out, were burned and disappeared.

The establishment of the G.T.R. Lakefield line of roadbed and track cut a swath in the community, and at the time great was the remonstrance. For while the mills were in operation occupancy of these houses was a sort of a catch-as-can idea. There was no rent to pay. None of taxes, and the use was generally bestowed on men int the mills who were valued for reliability and longest of service. That was the idea of late George Hilliard, and it proved to be a paying investment. At one time a sort of public spirit sprang up in the small community and flower beds were laid out in front of dwellings, there was some semblance



of a street for access. Generally, the dwellings were obscured from the roadway (Water Street) by the high piles of lumber that extended away down to near Argyle street and even on the land above Inverlea Park, where was the site of the old government dam and mill building, the first important flour mill, both built by the government.

The Red Arrow Tire Company, in selecting the site for their factory has gone on to historic ground, as far as the city claims, and this will be the first important industry to locate on the norther part of the city for many years. This is quite well and should be encouraged. For the upper section of the city has living and residential advantages not to be sneered at. Dry, clean and accessible by streets and car line, unlimited room for expansion, an entirely cheerful and decent spot for an industrial building. Let us hope that it is only a beginning of the movement that will distribute the industrial places about the city instead of concentrating in one locality.

#### **Of One-Time Importance**

Possibly a short review of the one-time importance of this spot may be interesting. The fall in the river at Auburn presented one of the best places for power development and early in the forties the first flour mill was built. The first flour mill was built and operated by John Langton, afterwards the Auditor-General and eventually in fact the first man to hold that position. Presently there gathered about the mill quite a small hamlet. As one resident put it, the place was "just about as far up street to stop at and the man coming in found it convenient to get out and stretch his legs and take something."

Water-street at the time of which we are writing did not show as a thoroughfare from about Argyle street south. George street at the crossing of Smith street, kept on and about at the entrance to the Barnardo Home swung to the east and crossed through the property on which the residence of James Dennistoun was afterwards built, letting on to the line of Water street lost at the corner of the property of Richard Hall, at that time the home of J. R. Benson. Between Water street and the river were grouped a number of houses. In connection with the large frame flour mill owned by Lee and Hall, afterwards known as Martyn's Mill. The mill was destroyed by fire in later sixties, and the large saw mill on the opposite of the river, went up in smoke a few weeks afterward. The power dam is now submerged under the current of the river.

#### **The Fire Fiend**

In after years the locality became known as Blythe Mills. In 1865 Henry Denne came to the town and bought from John Langton the mills and

property, and afterwards took in as a partner Louis Glover. Mr. Denne sold out eventually and purchased to the old site previously covered by Adam Scott Mill and later by the mill of Hamilton and Fortye who also added and carried on a distillery. This was at the corner of Water and King streets. (Peterboro Canoe Works).

The fire fiend had it in for the Blythe Mills and in 1864 on a memorable April 5<sup>th</sup> the entire property was swept away. William Snyder had acquired the flour mill and his share of the loss was estimated at \$16,000. The shingle mill, rented by Anson Sperry, a grist mill by John Carnegie, and a [...] by Geo. Schneider were all burned. The total loss for the time and circumstances was very bitter.

In 1871 the woolen mill but recently erected went up in smoke with a loss of \$7,000. An enterprising man of the town and period, George Hilliard, afterwards sitting member for the West Riding in the Dominion House for 1872-1880 with John Carnegie rebuilt the saw mill and added a fine flour mill, the latter of stone. The locality was a scene of industrial activity, and the neighborhood grew in importance. But in March 18.. fire again had its way entailing a loss of over \$160,000 and the entire premises were destroyed. Large saw mill, another woolen mill, the mill offices, several dwellings, all disappeared, ruining forever the industrial prospects of the site. For a time, an electric plant was installed in the north end of the stone building the walls of which remained standing. The first power pumping house of the Peterboro Water Company was built out in the forebay of the power dam, and remained in use until supplanted by the power pumping equipment installed in the small, quaint and brick building on the river bank at the new filtration plant.

#### **Share Confederation**

At the date as mentioned the configuration of the shore of the river above the Auburn dam was quite different to what now appears. A marshy bed stretched out into the river. The depth of the current [...] close to the eastern shore of the river and in large volume [...] bring water to the mills a canal or sluiceway was excavated close to the west bank of the river, and in times of low water, the channel of this canal is often exposed. Along this waterway logs were floated to supply the mill. The piling ground extended as far north as the Children's Shelter. In fact, any place where lumber could be piled was made use of for fresh out of the river some of the water had to be gotten rid of before of before shipment. Teaming was in those days an important occupation, the brand of horse and the make of wagon being carefully selected for the purpose.

On the west side of Water street can be seen the remains of the foundations of the mill offices, store house, and traces of many dwellings that stood along the road. One or two of those built in the later days remain, all others have disappeared. From the brow of the cliff that overhangs the street and westward, George Hilliard had a fine orchard, a few old trees are standing; while in the north is the area known as the "Hilliard Farm," and which by the foresight of Mayor Harry Rush, was severed as a reservoir of roof building long before we ever heard of the possibilities of concrete construction. Thousands of yards of good gravel have been hauled from the beds and strewn on an about the streets of the town and city. If anyone be curious to see what has been consumed, and will climb the hill and walk, the cavities – no craters – existing will show how much material has been excavated. At the moderate cost to the city the gravel beds have proved to be a veritable gold mine.

Should the activity for dwellings be found in the north there is ample room west side of Water street, it has a long frontage sidewalk, light, water, and only lacks sewage. That owing to a possible arrangement involving pumping has not been undertaken. But it would seem that with an arrangement of septic tank, to serve several dwellings that the difficulty could be obviated for some years. This land is the property of the city well situated and could be turned to account. -30-

#### **Fire at Blythe Mills Loss about \$22,000.**

*Review, Friday, 8 April 1864*

On yesterday morning, about 3 o'clock, a fire

broke out in or about the saw mills adjoining Blythe Mills, which destroyed the entire mill property and contents. The origin of the fire cannot be discovered. About 6 o'clock on Wednesday evening Mr. Hilliard went around the premises. There had been a fire in the stove in the forenoon, but at that hour the stove was quite cold. The saw and shingle mills were completely in flames when the fire was discovered, and speedily spread to the grist mill. The building and machinery were owned by Wm. Snyder, Esq., and were worth about \$16,000, on which there is an insurance of \$8,000 -- \$5,000 in the Royal and \$3,000 in the Liverpool and London. The saw mill was occupied by Mr. Hilliard, and was being put in a state of thorough repair for the summer work. His loss will be about \$800, on which there is no insurance. A quantity of tools belonging to the millwrights employed at the mill, \$600. Mr. Geo. Schneider's turning shop, loss about \$400, covered by an insurance in the London and Liverpool. Mr. Sperry had the shingle mill, and lost about 100,000 of sawed shingles, besides machinery. His loss will be about \$1500, on which there is no insurance. The grist mill was occupied by Mr. Carnegie, and his loss principally in wheat stored in the mill will be about \$1500 which is covered by an insurance in the British American. Mr. Swanston, baker, had also a quantity of wheat in the mill, which was destroyed. Loss about \$1750, covered by an insurance -- \$1,000 in the Western and \$1,000 in the Montreal. Making a total loss of about \$22,000, about half of which is covered by insurance as above stated.

## **It's Peterborough**

*Peterborough Examiner, 19 December 1946*

It's "Peterborough," not "Peterboro," and The Peterborough Examiner draws attention to the proper spelling. It seems that in referring to the appointment of Harold Scott to the Ontario Cabinet, The Globe and Mail, Toronto, spelled his constituency "Peterboro."

This, concedes The Examiner, "would be quite proper if people who read the name continued to pronounce it Peterburra. But they do not. They pronounce it Peterborrow, thereby turning a vigorous and euphonious name into a mouthful of feeble foolishness."

One can sympathize with The Examiner's exasperation. The name of a place or the name of a person should be spelled the way it or he spells it. Peterborough, Ontario, takes its name from a man whose first name was Peter. One Christopher Robinson, a United Empire Loyalist, came from Virginia to Canada after the American Revolution. His son, Col. Peter Robinson, was sent subsequently to Canada, in 1825, by Lord Bathurst, with some 2,000 emigrants from Ireland. He led them to Indian Plains and settled them on government-granted land. A town sprang up where he camped and, according to Armstrong's "Origin and Meaning of Place Names in Canada", Robinson's friends and the emigrants insisted on calling the place "Peter's Borough," whence "Peterborough."

So there is no question on any score as to the rightness of The Examiner's contentions. By the same token, Ontario schools and Ontario's people might be a little more careful about such things. The Globe and Mail, for instance, does not spell it "Tronna", but the good citizens of that burgh or borough usually pronounce it that way!

And Brantford has not room to be smug. Here the people "Greenwich" with "w" sound included. And they make Delhi, a place in neighboring Norfolk, into "Del-high". And some Bluenosers sneer at what they imagine to be a local pronunciation of

“Dalhousie” as “D’loozy” when (as the Bluenoses say) it should be Dal-how-sie”, with accent on the “how”. But wait a minute for that one! According to Funk and Wagnalls, Brantfordites are nearer the mark than the Nova Scotians. “Dalhousie”, according to this authority, is “Dalhoo-si”, with accent on the second syllable! You never can tell about names unless you take the trouble to look them up. – Brantford Expositor



alphabet which is nearer “burra” than “borrow.”

Letter to the Editor: Burrow or Burra!  
Sir: I am replying to a recent editorial in your paper in which you lightly criticized the short spelling and the pronunciation of the word “Peterborough.”

While I agree that the leaving off of “ugh” is wrong and a sign of laziness, I disagree that the proper pronunciation is “Peterburra” as stated by you. Do you, by chance, instruct the local radio announcers to use this pronunciation?

You are quite right in condemning “Peterborrow” but a check in both Oxford and Webster dictionaries shows borough should be pronounced “burrow.” So why not spell it Peterborough and pronounce it Peterborrow?

Thanking you for the space to disagree, I am

Yours truly, “EMBIÉ”

ED. NOTE: We have no influence over the pronunciation of the local radio announcers. Our Oxford Dictionary gives a pronunciation in the International Phonetic

*Gazette editor: Elwood H. Jones in his book, An Historian’s Notebook, argues persuasively that Peterborough was named for Peterborough, New Hampshire, and not Peter Robinson. The Cartoon is one done by George Cobb for the special edition of the Peterborough Examiner, 1950, to mark the centennial of incorporation of Peterborough town and county.*

## Peterborough in the Newspapers

### RULES FOR BICYCLISTS.

*Examiner 3 Sept 1897*

Never scorch.

Ride on the right side of the street.

Slacken speed at busy corners. Dismount at the busier intersections.

On a side path, the rider who is on the right side has the privilege of the path.

Ring your bell as you meet or pass a vehicle of any description in the dark.

Never pass between two bicyclists riding side by side. Always go to the right side of the pair.

Never ride without hands on handles.

You may be a genius but your peculiarities make others nervous.

Never ride at full speed past a car which has just stopped. You may run into embarking or disembarking passengers.

If a wheelman or a pedestrian are likely to collide a good rule for the wheelman is to dismount and for the pedestrian to stand still.

Never make a short cut across a corner.

Always make a long sweep and keep an imaginary post at the Intersection, on the inside.

If you attempt to pass a bicyclist wheeling in the same direction as yourself between the same pair of rails, ring your bell.

In the dark one ring or whistle from an approaching wheelman means that he is alone, two, three or four rings or whistles mean that there are a number in the Party.



## Hammill and Ball Photographers

*Elwood H. Jones*

Hammill and Ball had a photography studio in Peterborough from 1884 to 1886. The premises had earlier been used by James Little, an accomplished photographer who operated for around ten years before deciding to be a farmer in Douro Township.

Alexander Hammill (1857-1922) was a photographer in Millbrook by 1882, and after his years in Peterborough he was a photographer in York West in 1891. Sometime in the 1890s he moved to Linn County, Oregon, south east of Corvallis, where he was a dairy farmer near the towns of Sweet Home and Shedd. He was married in December 1881 to Elizabeth McCallum and they had three daughters and a son, born between 1883 and 1891. This picturesque part of Oregon was considered the gateway to rivers, lakes and the Cascade mountains.

John Edward Ball (1860-1908) was learning about photography while in Peterborough but was later a farmer, steamboat captain, and inventor north east of Lake Scugog in Cartwright township near Nestleton. He married Margaret Richardson of Cartwright in 1893, and they had four children, including Margaret (1895-1989), Gladys (1898-1986) and Josiah R. Ball (1896-1962).



The photographic gallery of Hammill and Ball was above the Fairweather store and the entrance was from a stairway between Fairweathers and Mills Brothers millinery store. The gallery had eight rooms, including a dark room, a retouching room, and a room that was used in early 1886 as Ball's bedroom. Ball had worked on his father's farm until about three weeks before coming to Peterborough. In Millbrook, he worked in Hammill's artist studio. His father, Josiah Ball, staked his son to join Hammill in Peterborough with a view to learning the trade. When Ball had repaid his father he would succeed his father as Hammill's partner.

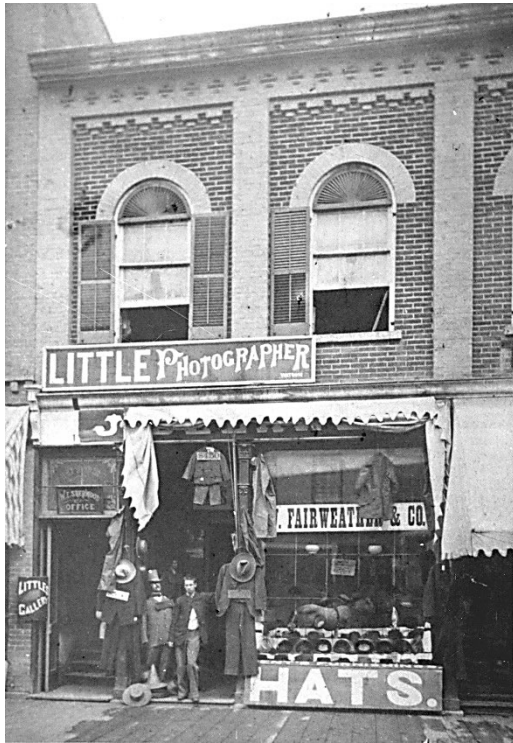
During the summer of 1885, Ball was in the Minden area taking views, mostly ambrotypes.

In March 1886, according to the younger Ball's testimony, Hammill and Ball toyed with the idea of making counterfeit money. Hammill got five dollar bills from the Bank of Toronto, Peterborough branch, and photographed the bills, using dry plate technology. Hammill got paper from the stationery store, and glycerine which could be used for softening the paper. As well, he got red ink to be used for the serial number and blue ink to be used for "Peterborough branch."

Hammill and Ball were linked to a counterfeiting case in 1886 that has been closely researched by Joan Eleanor Banks of Orleans, a grand niece of John Edward Ball. Her report is in the Trent Valley Archives, fonds 872.

In April 1886, Hammill and Ball had made about twenty counterfeit \$5 bills, and Ball was sent to Orillia to

distribute the bills by purchasing small goods and receiving real money in exchange. He claimed to have passed two bills in Lorneville and eight in Orillia where the horse races were attended by large crowds. He did no gambling. A grocer, Mr. McKerracher, told police that Ball had passed a counterfeit bill at his store, and Ball was arrested at the Russell House in Orillia.



In the evidence presented on 3 April, Hammill suggested that he knew nothing and that Ball had a stamp and red ink. When the police searched the gallery they did not find the photographic plate but when Ball, on the second trip, found the plate, the police were surprised that they had missed it, especially since it was wrapped in a copy of the *Weekly Review* and was quite bulky. It was on a low shelf and pushed in about six inches. There was also conflicting opinions about whether the counterfeit bills could be produced from them. Robert G. Sproule, a Peterborough photographer since the 1860s, said the negative was a wet plate and could be done by a skilled hand. Ball had said it was a dry plate negative and that it had been enhanced. Sproule said only the photographer who did it would know if it were enhanced. On advice of his lawyer, Alfred P. Poussette, Hammill said nothing.

Hammill's testimony at the several trials was consistent and credible. On the charge of distributing the counterfeit bills, Ball was acquitted on the grounds that he was the tool of someone else.

Hammill was placed under a heavy bail to the autumn assizes, November 1886. As the crown's case was inconclusive the defense did not have to mount a case. The key witness was George Sproule.

"I am a photographer of twenty years experience. I have never used printer's ink. The plate in my hand is a negative of a \$5 Toronto Bank bill. It is not the work of an expert. The corners are bad – all out of focus -. I know Mr. Hammill to be a fair photographer and a good copier. The plate before me would be very poor work for a man like Mr. Hammill. No one but the one who did it could tell whether the negative was intensified. The retouching done on this is not skilled retouching at all. It is clumsy work. All the copying he had seen of Hammill's work was done on wet plates. He did not think that the bill produced was taken from the negative produced. It would not be out of the way to see red printer's ink in a photograph gallery." It was not clear to Mr. Justice Rose that the possession of this negative carried an implication of intent, and he directed the jury to reach a verdict of not guilty, which they did.

So Ball was acquitted of the charge of distributing counterfeit money and Hammill was found not guilty of intending to produce counterfeit bills.

Hammill continued to be a photographer for the next decade, and then became a dairy farmer in Oregon. Ball became a farmer who had extra talents. In 1891, he was granted a patent for a steam threshing machine. As well, he was a steamboat captain of local renown around Lake Scugog and the Pigeon River.



*Photos are from Trent Valley Archives, Electric City Collection. TVA also has examples of the work of Hammill and Ball including this 1885 portrait of Thomas Eastland.*



## Two Circuses Came to Town During Old Home Week 1929

FRIDAY, JUNE 21, 1929

### CIRCUS BRINGS FAMOUS CLOWNS

Fun-Makers on Sparks' Program This Season Include Well-Known Names of White Tops.

Clowns are not only the delight of children, but their elders as well, for one seldom grows too old to enjoy the pranks and antics of these fun-makers of the white tops, and Sparks has three score of these merry jesters of the saw-dust, all of whom will be seen when the big show exhibits in Peterborough, Monday, June 24, afternoon and night.

Paul Wenzel, one of the producers with Sparks Circus this season, has originated more stunts to cause hilarity all around the town than any man in the business, and his creations have been widely copied and used by his craft in many other circuses.

Another famous clown with Sparks Circus is Charlie Fortune, a noted French pantomimist, who with his dog, "Tex", causes much merriment in his "walk-arounds."

Among other well known "joys" are Joe Lewis, Raq Glaum, Lew Healey, Harvey Spaulding, Pewe Stanley White, Lawrence Smaller, Simon Twins, Midgets, and Sig. Bo Homme.

Sparks Circus is today the largest in the world still giving a daily street parade.

Tickets, both general admission and reserved, may be secured at the show grounds.



### CIRCUS DAY.

The public taste in the matter of entertainment rapidly changes.

The moving picture in its silent form, after dealing a body blow to the legitimate stage, is giving way to the talking screen just as the phonograph declines in popularity before the attraction of the radio. One form of entertainment never seems to lose its appeal, however. The circus remains supreme in its field — the one amusement enterprise of yesteryear that still exercises its old-time fascination. The gilt and tinsel, the horses, the music, the glimpses at strange animals in menagerie wagons, the clowns, the calliope, the lady riders, the smell of the sawdust, the pinkness of circus lemonade — the whole atmosphere of the circus lot lose none of their power to attract as the years pass.

No boy is too young, no man too old to be immune from the thrill of circus day.

True, the adults merely go "for the sake of the children" — but there is a gleam in their eyes that gives them away, a gleam of excitement and exhilaration that tells its own story.

Long live the circus; if it ever dies out there will be a lot of color and romance missing.

### CIRCUS ARRIVES EARLY SUNDAY

Everything Was Quiet When The Examiner Visited Tent City This Morning.  
COOK TENT BUSY.

*Examiner, 24 June 1929*

A spirit of peace and quietness prevailed over the circus at the Exhibition grounds this morning. Instead of the usual shouting and hammering, the place was marked by sleeping darkies and by an atmosphere that was entirely strange to what is expected when a big show arrives in town.

However, the secret lies in the fact, which disappointed many small boys who were on hand early this morning to greet the elephants and clowns, that Sparks' show arrived in Peterborough about five o'clock on Sunday morning and before noon came had most of the tents up and so the employees are afforded a day off.

Only the ragging of "The St. Louis Blues" by a side show Jazz band disturbed the peaceful elephants and the employees who were engaged

in the age-old game of African golf.

Even the hot dogs being cooked on a red hot griddle seemed to sizzle a slumber song.

Young Peterborough was on hand, but in slim numbers; one local lad was noticed in a pair of white plus fours, carrying



water and hay to the animals. Among the drab dress of the other employees who were shuffling around he seemed much out of place in his summer dress and by the alertness that he was carrying out his work.

Smoke was lazily issuing from the steam calliope as it received coal preparatory to steaming up for the street parade. Things began to liven up shortly after ten o'clock when the big wagons began to line up for the street parade.

The busiest spot on the grounds was the cook tent when the ever-endless task of getting meals was taking place. Pounds upon pounds of meat and bushels of potatoes were being prepared to feed the army of workers.

#### **Big Street Parade**

About eleven-thirty the blaring of many horns, and the loud musical notes of the distant calliope announced that the street parade had started. The streets were agog with excitement and the windows were filled with interested spectators as the long pageant wound up George street to King, up Water to McDonnell and then over to George again down to the Circus grounds.

The street parade is always a feature of the circus. Animals from the four corners of the earth were caged up in order that little boys and girls as well as the grown ups could get a good close look at them.

Clowns all dolled up to the minute with various colored paints skipped here and there through the pageant—monkeys jumped up and fawn lions roared, bands blared and the elephants and camels loped along. The comic artists performed in a peculiar manner upon the highest pinnacles of the band wagons as tricksters and runners hurled humorous anecdotes at their audience.

The management of the circus must be possessed of divinely human disposition. Children are a mainstay of the show and filled many of the seats in the big top this afternoon upon whom the big hearted manager has beamed with approval and touched with human goodness will pass out complimentaries like water.

It is a gala day. The circus grounds are a heart for the pleasure of the community this afternoon and tonight, the great heart will throb to its last beat until the circus becomes a memory once more.

## **HARRY LOTTRIDGE SHOWS HERE FOR OLD HOME WEEK**

*Management Announces Many Features Added This Year.*

*Examiner, 29 June 1929*

The Harry Lottridge shows are travelling in their own special ten car train this year, in keeping with the policy of the management which insists upon the employment of most modern equipment possible to obtain. It will arrive in Peterborough Thursday.

Canada's premier carnival is coming to Peterborough under the personal supervision of Harry Lottridge, the owner, and this year it is larger and better than ever before. "I want the public to know that we have spared no effort in our attempt to make the Harry Lottridge shows the best in Canada," Mr. Lottridge stated during a recent interview. "We may not have the biggest, but I am confident that we have the best and cleanest organization playing the Dominion," he continued. "We are bringing four new rides, shows of the highest class and about 30 concessions and it is a pleasure for me to be able to assure the people of Peterborough that every member of our organization is either personally known to me, or comes to us bearing unquestionable recommendations. I have personally reviewed every show before opening and offer them to the public with a feeling of confidence, for I know them to be shows of merit and absolutely clean. We extend a special invitation to the women and children to visit us. Our employees are acquainted with our policy of courteous and respectful treatment, and have been instructed accordingly. We will not tolerate discourtesy."

When asked about the concessions carried this year, Mr. Lottridge said, "We are carrying a number of them new to Ontario, and for this reason I wish to point out that each and every one of them has been carefully examined by us, and that the police

department in every city we play is invited to examine any concession we carry. We have nothing which is looked upon with disfavor by the most conscientious critic and gambling devices have no place on our grounds at the Peterborough Park. The shows are here for Old Home Week.

