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Table of Contents

President's Corner	Alan Brunger	3
Margaret Hall's 1827 Visit to Peterborough	Paul Allen	5
Peterborough Mattress 1873-1970	Gail H. Corbett	13
Faint Mattress Factory Fire 16; Jim Ellis' Career in Municipal Politics (Elwood Jones) 16; Depression Days (G. Wilson Crow) 17		
Queries	Heather Aiton Landry; Elwood H. Jones	18 &
G. B. Sproule photo of a Peterborough home 18; Peterborough Canoe Company Decoys 18; Ginger Beer in Peterborough 36; Julia Sabin 36; The Late Robert H. Gardner 37; Ojibwa Choir 38; William J. Montaigne 38; Jackson Creek and Downtown Peterborough 39; Bray Family 40		
Peterborough's Road to an Airport	Elwood H. Jones	19
What's New in the Archives		22
Insurance Plans 1968 22, 24; West Victoria County Women's Institute 25; Kiwanis Music Festival, 25; List of recent fonds, 23.		
Little Lake Cemetery Pageant 2019	Trent Valley Archives	26
News, Views and Reviews		30
Ontario Volunteer Service Awards 30; Dr. Jessie Birnie 30; [Ashburnham] Ancient Building Falls, A Victim of Progress 31; Land of Triumph and Tragedy 32; Trent Valley Hockey League -- New Book 2, 32		
Bruce Hodgins	Elwood H. Jones	33
Encountering the Other: Peterborough, Minstrel Shows, and the Real Thing – A "Stranger Within the Gates . . ."		
Obituaries; Vern Mulhall; Jerry Sherlock; Viola Lee	Robert G. Clarke	41
An Evening with Elwood		43
		44

Cover photo: Justin Boyd reflecting on JoAnne Potipco to one of the groups taking in the 2019 Little Lake Cemetery Pageant. (Elwood Jones)



TRENT VALLEY ARCHIVES

Fairview Heritage Centre
567 Carnegie Avenue
Peterborough Ontario Canada K9L 1N1
705-745-4404
admin@trentvalleyarchives.com
www.trentvalleyarchives.com

Trent Valley Archives
Fairview Heritage Centre
Peterborough Ontario K9L 1N1
(705) 745-4404

admin@trentvalleyarchives.com
www.trentvalleyarchives.com



TRENT VALLEY ARCHIVES

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Heritage Gazette of the Trent Valley

Elwood Jones, editor
elwood@trentvalleyarchives.com

Trent Valley Archives

admin@trentvalleyarchives.com
Elwood Jones, Archivist
Heather Aiton Landry, Associate Archivist
Dianne Tedford, Reading Room Manager
Carol Sucee, Librarian

Events Committee

Ruth Kuchinad, chair rkuch@nexicom.net

Publications

Elwood Jones, Chair
elwood@trentvalleyarchives.com

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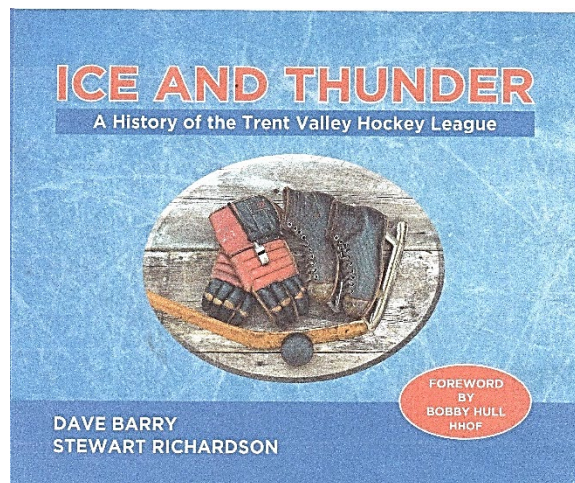
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A new book that will be of interest this hockey season. See details on page 32. We also feature a new book by Ed Arnold on the back cover of this issue. Both will be welcome for Christmas shoppers. Both are carried by TVA along with many other books, including classics of the Trent Valley.

President's corner

Alan Brunger



Peter Adams, Elwood Jones and Al Brunger working on the Champlain book. (Lance Anderson photo)

A year had passed since the death of Peter Adams, former TVA board member and MP and MPP of Peterborough. In May I was invited to attend a tribute to Peter at the Legislative Assembly of Ontario at Queen's Park in Toronto. Peter's daughter Michele, her husband Kevin and their children were in the Visitor's Gallery, along with former parliamentarians, Jeff Leal (Peterborough MPP) and Lou Rinaldi (Northumberland), my wife Cathy and myself.

Tributes to Peter were presented by a representative from each of the three political parties within a time limit of five minutes each. Needless to say, the tributes were effusive in their praise for Peter's achievements, both within and outside of parliament. The following excerpts from the three tributes provide an impression of this moving occasion.

Session 42.1 on Monday, May 13, 2019 at 1030 h.

The Speaker (Hon. Ted Arnott): The government House leader is seeking unanimous consent of the House to allow a tribute to the late Peter Adams, former member of the Legislature. Agreed? Agreed.

We'll start with the member for Peterborough-Kawartha.

Mr. Dave Smith (Progressive Conservative): Peter was born in the United Kingdom. He immigrated to Canada and moved to Quebec, then finally settled in Peterborough,

where in 1968 he founded the geography department at a fledgling university named Trent. At only 32 years of age, Peter was about to play a pivotal role not only in the development of Trent University but also in helping to mould future leaders of our community, our province and ultimately our country.

I first met Peter in September of 1989. At the time, I didn't know that he was the MPP for the riding that I had just moved to or that he was the parliamentary assistant for the Minister of the Environment. At that time, Peter was simply another sports enthusiast from

Trent University greeting students at our culmination of the introductory week for first-year students. Here was a man who had already accomplished so much in his career, and yet his humility, his passion for his community and his love for running was what he portrayed to us that day.

Peter remained a lifelong learner throughout his life, and even found time while he was in politics to continue this. I believe he holds the distinction of being the only sitting MP to embark on a research tour of the Arctic. He was passionate about the environment and continued throughout his life with his research.

He was instrumental in helping the city of Peterborough begin its blue box recycling program, a legacy that will continue to have a long-lasting effect on our community.

Peter was more than just politics, research and environmentalism, though. He was also an avid runner. He is the only person I've ever met who actually ran the Boston Marathon, and he did this on three occasions.

Peter was well known in our community as a family man. I've heard the stories of camping trips together, of how he would light up when he was given the opportunity to speak with his children and then, later in life, his grandchildren.

Peter inspired multiple generations. All who had the opportunity to meet him and spend time with him were blessed and enriched. Thank you, Jill, for sharing your husband with us for as long as you did.

The Speaker (Hon. Ted Arnott): Next we have the member for Oshawa.

Ms. Jennifer K. French (New Democratic Party):

Peter Adams started his adventure in 1936 in Ellesmere Port, a small village on the River Mersey in England. He grew up during World War II, attended the University of Sheffield, found his way to Montreal to complete his PhD in geography and glaciology at McGill, and began his lifelong passion for northern research on snow and ice, working in the Arctic with Fritz Müller on the Axel Heiberg Expedition.

However, High Arctic adventure wasn't the only adventure Peter was destined for. Peter Adams first served as a school board trustee, then from 1987 to 1990 as an MPP in David Peterson's Liberal government, and later, from 1993 to 2006, as a federal MP under Prime Ministers Jean Chrétien and Paul Martin, also serving as a member of the Privy Council of Canada.

Peter Adams was a prolific writer. We have heard about some of his research and know he was well published, but he also wrote a yearly report, written to his community and constituents, accounting for all of his efforts and accomplishments while in office. He described his role as a member of Parliament as this: "It's a sort of balancing act ... my work in Ottawa and Peterborough are not really separate. They are two intricately linked sides of the same coin. They are completely related in my mind and in my schedule. I do national business in Peterborough and local riding business in Ottawa."

I found this Legislature's February 1991 transcripts from the Ontario in Confederation select committee. Peter was presenting to the committee as a concerned citizen, no longer elected, but his words continue to be relevant:

"All parts of the global system are inextricably linked and ... environmental problems do not recognize political boundaries...."

"We have the awesome responsibility for a huge and sensitive part of the Earth's surface, land, rivers, lakes and parts of three oceans, and responsibility for the air above that territory. We have a unique decentralized system of government which has the potential to act locally while also acting at as near a global scale as any nation can, while thinking globally...."

"Of course, these concepts which the environmental movement has adopted are simply bases for good government of any sort."

1050

Peter's service did not end when he retired from politics in 2006. He joined his wife, Jill, in her international volunteer work in Bangladesh, Uganda, Honduras, India and Guatemala.

But Peterborough was Peter's home. By all accounts, including his own, Peter Adams loved Peterborough and was always very active and connected. He was named Citizen of Year in Peterborough in 1981. He was active with local events and organizations.

It is a testament to Peter's commitment and convictions that he was not only a model for others to follow, he was a model that others did follow. He was

inspired by the world around him. He was inspired by the whole world. He learned from it, cared for it, shared it and served it. He was inspired by others, and in turn, we have been inspired by him.

The Speaker (Hon. Ted Arnott): Thank you. Now I'll recognize the member for Ottawa South.

Mr. John Fraser (Liberal): It's truly a privilege to pay honour to Peter Adams, who represented Peterborough as its MPP from 1987 to 1990.

Peter, of course, served as a parliamentary assistant to the Minister of the Environment while he was here and he cared very deeply about the environment. Here are some quotes from Hansard:

"We must view Earth Day for what it is: a chance to see that men, women and children of all ages, all occupations, all nationalities and races share this planet with other living creatures, savour the fascination of nature and reflect on the mystery of that blue and white globe hung in the dark sky."

"When young and old ... combat environmental issues, there is hope."

Peter also cared about democracy. "While every Parliament is representative in the sense that every individual and group in the province is involved in the electoral process, no Parliament has ever been a true cross-section of the people it represents. It is healthy for a Parliament, from time to time, to think about its makeup so that members become more conscious of biases which might develop in it."

Peter's authenticity gave him success at the ballot box. More importantly, it gave him success at life. And what a remarkable life: a husband, father, grandfather, friend, academic, athlete, author, community leader, community champion, teacher, mentor, and parliamentarian.

I know that some of Peter's family is here today. Thank you for supporting your father and your grandfather and, to Jill, your husband. Thank you for the sacrifices you made so that he could represent his community and his country and his province. He couldn't have done it without you.

I would like to acknowledge, again, Jill, his wife of 58 years; the children, Joanne, Michèle, Annette and Will; and grandchildren John, Matthew, Nathan, Anne, Marie, Adam, Aaron, Amélie and Sofia. Of all the things that I've mentioned, you're his greatest legacy. Thank you.

Applause.

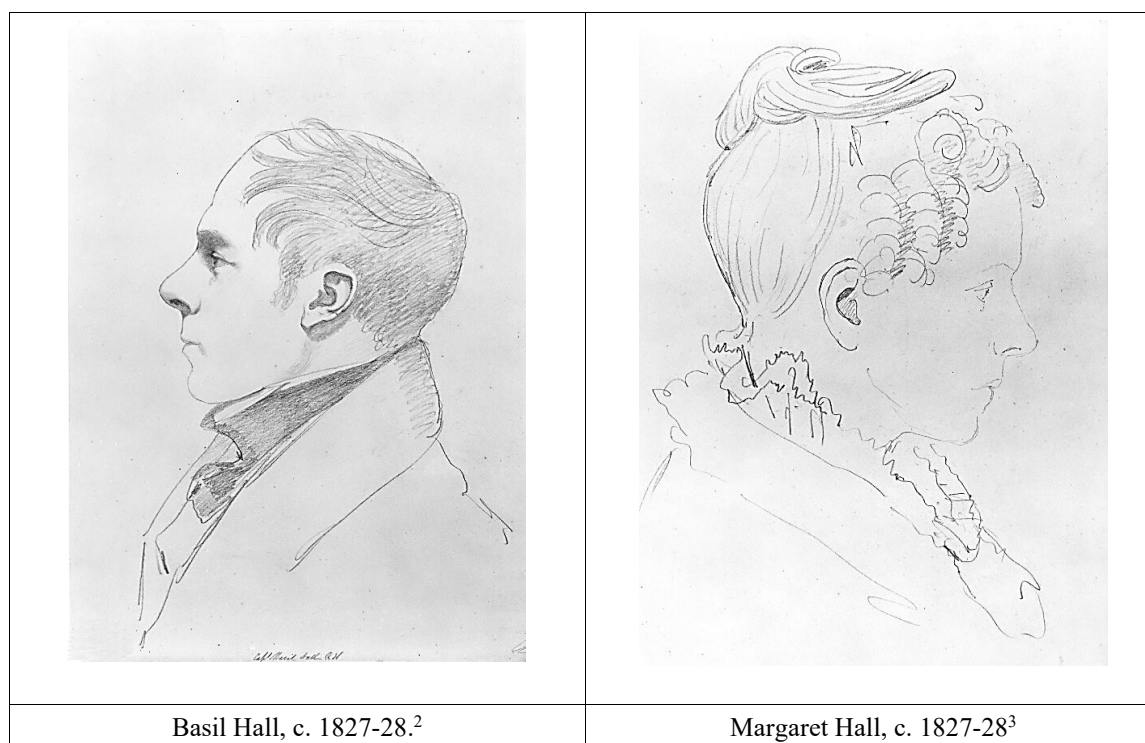
The Speaker (Hon. Ted Arnott): I want to thank all of the members for their eloquent tributes to the public service of Peter Adams and, in doing so, reminding all of us that in the final analysis, we are colleagues, not adversaries.

I want to once again thank the family and friends of Peter Adams for joining us today as we in the Ontario Legislature celebrated his life. Thank you so much.

Margaret Hall's 1827 Visit to Peterborough

Paul Allen

Accounts from a wide variety of sources have left us a wealth of information about the assisted emigration of Irish settlers to Upper Canada in the early 1820s under the superintendence of Peter Robinson. A primary source includes the well-known correspondence, diaries, and books written by visitors and other settlers (e. g. Samuel Strickland and his sisters, Susannah Moodie and Catharine Parr Traill) who lived among the Irish emigrants. We share the less well-known account of Margaret Hall (1799-1876), who traveled to Peterborough with her husband, Captain Basil Hall (1788-1844), in July 1827.¹



Travels in North America, 1827-1828

Basil Hall's *Travels in North America, in the Years 1827 and 1828* (1829) included his observations of the Irish settlement around Peterborough and correspondence with Thomas A. Stewart, Charles Rubidge, and another (unidentified) settler who lived in the area.⁴ His companion volume, *Forty Etchings from Sketches Made with the Camera Lucida, in North America, in 1827 and 1828* (1829), included a likeness of the *Village of Peterborough in Upper Canada*. Richard Biddle's *A Review of Captain Hall's Travels in North America* (1830) argued (we believe, unconvincingly) that Hall had falsified his account of his visit to Peterborough. These works are available online.⁵

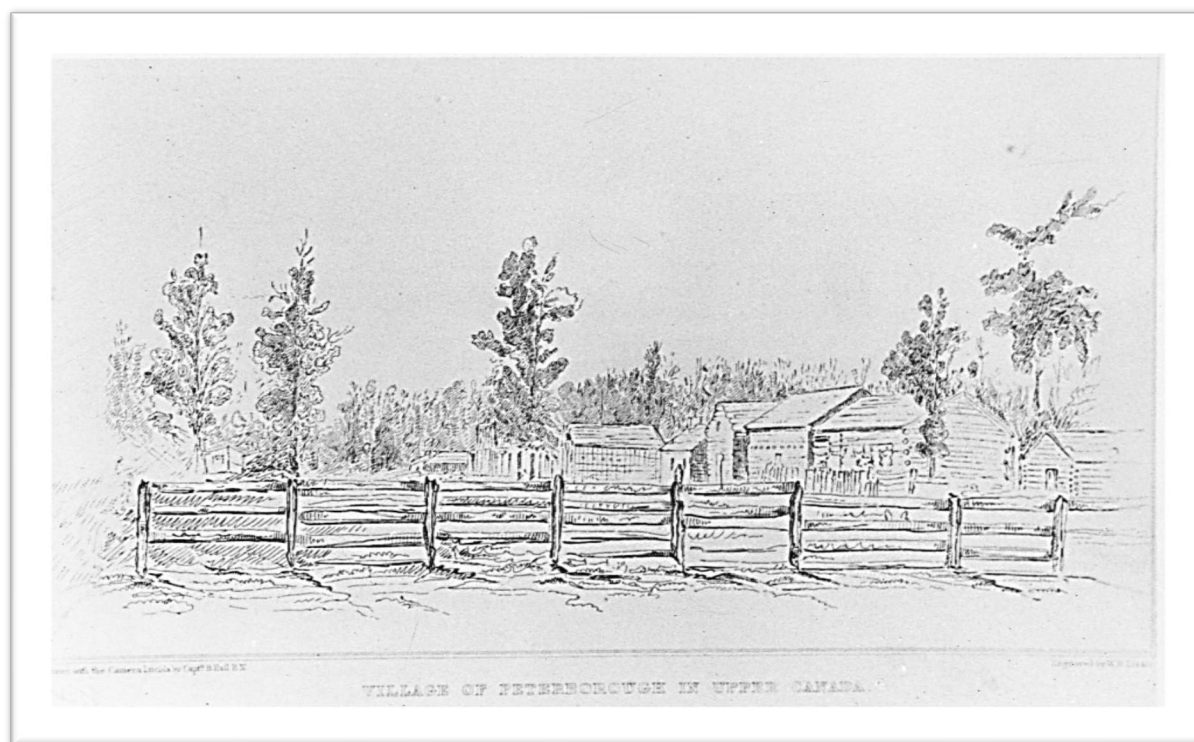
¹ Basil Hall was a British naval officer from Scotland, a traveler and author, who served aboard many vessels in exploration, scientific, and diplomatic missions. Hall married Margaret Hunter shortly after retiring from the Royal Navy in 1823 and together they traveled through the United States and Canada in 1827-1828.

² Basil Hall by Sir Francis Leggatt Chantrey, circa 1825-1830, National Portrait Gallery, London, NPG 316a(62). Accessed at <https://www.npg.org.uk/collections/search/use-this-image.php?mkey=mw02832> on July 30. Creative Commons License for limited non-commercial use applies for both portraits.

³ Margaret Hall (née Hunter) by Sir Francis Leggatt Chantrey, 1820s or 1830s, National Portrait Gallery, London, NPG 316a (623.) Accessed at <https://www.npg.org.uk/collections/search/use-this-image.php?mkey=mw02835> on July 30..

⁴ Basil Hall, *Travels in North America, Volume 1*, pp. 280-350. This illustration is at Trent Valley Archives in both the Electric City Collection and the Martha Ann Kidd fonds.

⁵ Basil Hall's *Travels* is available online at <https://archive.org/search.php?query=subject%3A%22Hall%2C+Basil%2C+1788-1844%22>; Hall's *Etchings* is available at https://archive.org/details/fortyetchingsfro00hall_0/page/n8. Richard Biddle's *Review* is



On his travels in North America, Captain Hall was accompanied by his wife, Margaret, their fifteen month old daughter, Elizabeth, and the child's nurse, Mrs. Cownie. Margaret Hall recorded her own observations in a series of long letters to her sister, Jane. Margaret's letters concerning travels in the United States were published posthumously in *The Aristocratic Journey: Being the Outspoken Letters of Mrs. Basil Hall Written During a Fourteen Month's Sojourn in America 1827-1828* (1931).

The editor of *The Aristocratic Journey* described Margaret as "of middle height, fair, with blue eyes and a merry expression of face. She had a passion for dress and though not beautiful was vivacious and attractive. She talked well, her hair was modishly arranged in ringlets, her Polish cloak, her bonnets, and her evening gowns were in the latest fashion, while her parure of blue topazes was the envy of all beholders. Having a good ear and being musical she picked up languages easily."⁶

As for Margaret's writings, her editor observed that "Mrs. Hall's letters are a triumph of effortless observation ... Her merit lies in her instinct for minute observation and description, by means of which she was able to give a more complete picture of American ways of life than is obtainable from any other tourist of that date."⁷

Unfortunately, Margaret's correspondence regarding her subsequent travels in Canada have remained largely unpublished. We located photographic copies of these handwritten letters in the Library and Archives of Canada several years ago and began transcribing them for publication.⁸ We discovered only recently that *The Heritage Gazette of the Trent Valley* had published, nearly twenty years ago, Margaret's account of her visit to the Irish settlement around Peterborough!⁹ We are pleased to share with a new generation of readers of *The Heritage Gazette*

available at https://archive.org/details/cihm_54134.

⁶ pp. 5-6.

⁷ pp. 6-7.

⁸ Originals held in the Library of Congress, Washington, D. C. - copied by the Library and Archives of Canada in 1956. See <http://www.bac-lac.gc.ca/eng/collectionsearch/Pages/record.aspx?app=fonandcol&IdNumber=103948>.

⁹ Martha Ann Kidd, "Margaret Hall: Our first lady tourist," *Heritage Gazette of the Trent Valley* (2000), 5(3), pp. 4-5. See <https://trentvalleyarchives.com/wp-content/uploads/2018/12/V5.3-Nov-2000.pdf>. See also Elwood Jones, "Captain Basil Hall and Margaret Hall: Peterborough's first tourists," in his *An Historian's Notebook, 100 Stories Mostly Peterborough*, Peterborough, Trent Valley Archives, 2009, pp. 20-22.

our own extended treatment of this valuable contribution to our understanding of early local history.

How did the Halls come to visit Peterborough (of all places) in 1827?

I'd often wondered, how did the Halls come to visit Peterborough, a place well off any beaten path in the Upper Canada of 1827? Captain Hall's account speaks to the *ends* of the visit, but not to its *origins*:

It was late before we reached the town of Cobourg, where, fortunately, we fell into the hands of people of sense and consideration, who allowed us to drop quietly into bed, without overloading us with attentions. This was the more necessary, as we had been hard at work, with little intermission, for six days, and had now a fresh excursion arranged for the next day to a newly-settled part of the country, north of Cobourg, at some distance up the Otonabee [sic] River, which, as every one of course knows, runs into the Rice Lake. Our object was to visit the settlement formed by the Irish emigrants, sent to Canada by Government in the year 1825, only two years before. We wished to ascertain, if we could, what was their present condition, and whether this experiment, – for it professedly was one, – had succeeded or not.

Accordingly, we rose at three o'clock in the morning of the 23d of July, 1827, and reached our destination, the newly erected village of Peterborough, thirty miles north of Cobourg, at half past seven in the evening, more dead than alive with fatigue.¹⁰

Margaret Hall's account, however, suggests that the idea of visiting Peterborough originated with Peter Robinson's brother, John Beverley Robinson, whom the Halls chanced upon when they were visiting the Niagara region, including the Stamford residence of the Lieutenant Governor of Upper Canada, Sir Peregrine Maitland¹¹, and his wife, Lady Sarah¹²:

St. Catharines, Upper Canada, 6th July.

... We set out from the Falls yesterday morning at ½ past five, and came 13 miles to breakfast here, when we found assembled a party of the Directors of the [Welland] Canal, English gentlemen resident at York, the capital of Upper Canada. There were the Solicitor General Mr. Boulton¹³ and his brother,¹⁴ the Receiver General Mr. Dunn,¹⁵ and Col. Wells¹⁶ ... with whom I walked about the whole of the Deep Cut to the River Chippewa or Welland. ... In the course of our walk, we met the Attorney General Mr. Robinson¹⁷ and his brother,¹⁸ with their wives, who had walked on before us – a most pleasing English party, to whose company I was delighted to remove in the drive back to St. Catherine's ... All the English dined together, that is to say, we dined with the Directors and then the Robinsons returned to the Falls. ... [pp. 3 - 4]

Niagara Falls, Upper Canada, 7th July.

The Attorney General & his brother joined us again yesterday morning, and after breakfast we drove to the Harbour, where we spent some hours, and then returned by water to within a short distance of St. Catharine's. The Commissioners then went to their office to transact business ... [p. 4]

[Niagara Falls] 8th July.

Here we are again at our headquarters, the Falls, whence we returned just before dinner.

Yesterday we went to the Governor's Cottage, according to invitation, and found there the two Mr. & Mrs. Robinsons & Col. Wells. Both Sir Peregrine & Lady Sarah Maitland were as kind as possible. ... [p. 6]

During their time together in the Niagara region, the Robinsons and Halls became close acquaintances. William Robinson invited the Halls to stay at his home in Newmarket from July 19th to July 21st – and John

¹⁰ Basil Hall, *Travels in North America*, Volume I, pp. 280-281.

¹¹ Sir Peregrine Maitland (1777-1854), Lieutenant Governor of Upper Canada. Articles from the *Dictionary of Canadian Biography* are also available online. http://www.biographi.ca/en/bio/maitland_peregrine_8E.html.

¹² Lady Sarah Maitland née Lennox (1796-1873). See *Sarah of Stamford Park* <http://www.uppercanadahistory.ca/iteuc/iteuc15.html>.

¹³ Henry John Boulton (1790-1870), http://www.biographi.ca/en/bio/boulton_henry_john_9E.html.

¹⁴ George D'Arcy Boulton (1759-1834), http://www.biographi.ca/en/bio/boulton_d_arcy_1759_1834_6E.html.

¹⁵ John Henry Dunn (1792-1854), Receiver General. http://www.biographi.ca/en/bio/dunn_john_henry_8E.html.

¹⁶ Joseph Wells (1773-1853), Member, Legislative Council, (http://www.biographi.ca/en/bio/wells_joseph_8E.html).

¹⁷ Sir John Beverley Robinson (1791-1863) married Emma Walker in 1817.

(http://www.biographi.ca/en/bio/robinson_john_beverley_9E.html).

¹⁸ William Benjamin Robinson (1797-1873) married Elizabeth Ann Jarvis in 1822.

(http://www.biographi.ca/en/bio/robinson_william_benjamin_10E.html).

Beverley Robinson furnished them with letters of introduction and suggested an itinerary to help them make the most of their brief time in Upper Canada:

York, capital of Upper Canada, 19th July.

... When we had gone about three miles and came to the River Credit, we recollect that Mr. Robinson in his notes had mentioned a tribe of Indians who had lately been converted to Christianity, and had a village a mile or two off the road. ... [p. 19]

New Market [Newmarket], 19th July, 10 o'clock p. m.

... I do not know whether I have made you understand that when we left the [Governor's] Cottage on Monday [July 16] we had no intention of coming so far as we have already traveled and never dreamt of pursuing our course down to Kingston as we now propose, but as we came on we found the interest so great & the difficulties so small that we have gradually come to the resolution of making the whole of the tour chalked out for us by the Attorney General. Our great wish is to get out of the beaten track which is gone over by all the [illegible] who come over from Niagara to York by the Steam Boat and then take the same conveyance to Kingston, so that they in fact see nothing of the interior of the country, and by that means they lose an immense deal of most beautiful scenery, besides missing an opportunity of seeing the state of society in the country. I hope you have a map of Canada, else you will be quite lost in [illegible]-ing of all the places mentioned in this letter. ... [p. 22]

Margaret is especially grateful to the Lieutenant Governor and Lady Sarah Maitland for helping take care of little Eliza so that she might join her husband "rambling about":

8th July [Niagara Falls]

[Lady Sarah] is a particularly quiet person and apparently very delicate. She may have been handsome, but bad health has diminished her beauty sadly, but still she is a very lady-like person, of a very different style from another we have seen of late, and in as quite charmed with her quiet English manner, so thoroughly & essentially kind ... She has five very nice children and is again near her confinement. Sir Peregrine is a remarkably handsome man, with the same quietness of manner as his wife. I had been led to expect that he was much older than Lady Sarah, but he does not look so at all events. His son by a former marriage is his *aide-de-camp*. Their Cottage has a great deal of accommodation, and the air altogether both of the house & grounds is quite English, totally unlike anything we have seen since we left home. [p. 10] ...

15th July [The Governor's Cottage, Stamford, near Niagara Falls]

We shall leave Eliza here and shall probably be absent only two or three days. The Governor and Lady Sarah have urged us so very strongly & kindly to make their house our head quarters during any length of time that it may suit us, that we shall certainly do so. We have certainly a great genius for foraging and it is a capital place for Eliza to remain in whilst we are rambling about. [p. 16] ...

Post's Inn, 27 miles east of York, 21st July

I found a letter awaiting me at Mr. Dunn's from Lady Sarah, who knowing that I would be anxious to hear about Eliza, most considerately wrote. When the Steam Boat came in too, I received a full and particular account of her from Mrs. Cownie. ... Basil had a letter also from the Governor today in which he again assures us that Eliza is no sort of trouble or inconvenience to them, and entreating that we will not allow any mistaken notion to the contrary to interfere with our plans. Nothing can be kinder or more cordial than the way in which they have pressed us to make use of their house in the manner that best suits us. [p.29]

With their daughter entrusted to Upper Canada's first family, the Halls were free to visit Holland Landing on July 20 to witness the government's "delivery of presents to the Indians in that part of the country." After returning to York to regroup, the Halls set off for Peterborough on July 22. Here, we pick up Margaret's long account to her sister:

Peterboro' on the Otonabee River 30 miles West of Cobourg. Upper Canada 24th July.

This is a long date, but unless we were this particular, you could not possibly trace our route – indeed even with this assistance, you will be puzzled unless you have the Canada Company's map. It is most fortunate for us that we were recommended to make this tour, nothing can be more interesting than it is on many accounts, and I think it is most useful – I may say in a moral point of view, as showing what people may do and submit to if they choose to make use of their energies. This little village has sprung up within the last two years. It is part of an establishment of Irish settlers sent out by the British

Government two years ago under the superintendence of Mr. Peter Robinson, brother to the Attorney General, Mr. John Robinson. – It is an experiment which has excited considerable interest in England, & so far it has succeeded well. Mr. Robinson himself is absent at home, as all Canadians call England, tho' they have never been there, but his Agent, Mr. McDonnell,¹⁹ is here and has lodged us in Mr. Robinson's house, where he also lives. But to go back to the 22nd. We left Farley's Inn²⁰ after dinner, and had twelve miles of comparatively excellent road to Cobourg, a beautiful little village on Lake Ontario. Here we had 2 letters to Mr. George Boulton, the brother of the Solicitor General, at York. We drove at once to his house, and of course took up our abode there indeed they had no choice if they had wished it, for the open letters that we brought set forth that we were desired to do so. We arrived about seven o'clock. Our first enquiry was how we were to get up to Peterboro' which turned out to be much further off than we had imagined, and the greater part of the way up a river, the distance he said was never one day, but they thought by setting off at 4 o'clock in the morning, we might get up there by night. You will observe that the whole of this journey, that is to say for seven successive days, we had been getting up between four & five o'clock, besides undergoing an immense deal of fatigue each day – but I must say it agrees admirably with us both. I am sure I never was so well in my life as I am now. Well we desired our waggon to be in readiness to start with us yesterday the 23rd at four o'clock, and in order to resume as much rest as we could, went to bed at nine o'clock, leaving Mr. Boulton to prepare food for our expedition.

Yesterday morning we were called at 3 o'clock, & before four, we, as well as Mr. Boulton, who was to accompany us, were ready, but no waggon made its appearance. Next arrived Mr. Faulkner,²¹ another gentleman who was to be of our party. He went in search of our vehicle, but by this time it occurred to us that we should get on better with Mr. Boulton's gig ... as we had only twelve miles of land journey to the Rice Lake. ... At length we reached the banks of the beautiful Rice Lake, studded with lovely little Islands, and, what added to the pleasure of the scene, we got an excellent breakfast from the woman at the house where we stopped & who told me she came from Coupar Angus.²² Rice Lake derives its name from being at one season of the year covered with rice. – It is about 26 miles long, quite a tiny lake in this country.

We embarked in our boat about nine o'clock, went across the Lake two miles broad and then up the Otonabee River for 21 miles to this place. It is a beautiful river, wooded down to the water's edge on both sides, and the trees more picturesque in form than are generally to be seen in this country. There appears to be nothing but wilderness the whole way up, all the settled country being back from the river, and that immediately on the banks belonging to Absentees. We landed soon after three o'clock, nine miles below this to dine under [35/90] the shade of the trees, which is more pleasing in description than in fact owing to the Mosquitoes, which attacked us most barbarously, but nevertheless we enjoyed the day extremely. We had two good rowers, & Basil, who steered with a paddle, gave them great assistance, so that we arrived here soon after seven o'clock, pretty well fatigued with our day's business. It is on such occasions that we experience the drawbacks of being great people – when tired to death & wishing

¹⁹ Alexander McDonnell (1786-1861), (http://www.biographi.ca/en/bio/mcdonell_alexander_1786_1861_9E.html).

²⁰ Farley's Inn, aka Farley's Tavern, appears in an account of Methodism in Upper Canada in 1826 – 27: "Farley's tavern on the Danforth road, west of its intersection by the road coming from Port Hope, presented comfortable accommodations for the weary traveller, by what was then the main artery of the Province. At this hotel, the itinerants were often fain to call." From John Carroll, *Case and his contemporaries; or the Canadian itinerants' memorial: constituting a biographical history of Methodism in Canada, from its introduction into the province, till the death of the Rev. Wm. Case in 1855*, Volume III, 1871, p. 106. <https://archive.org/details/casehiscotempora03carruoft/page/106>.

²¹ William Faulkner, District Court Judge, Newcastle District, is said to have been the first settler on the Rice Lake Plains. In 1833, Faulkner established a water-powered sawmill on Old Mill Road and built a house he named "Claverton" for his former home in England. "Claverton" is shown on a map of Hamilton Township commissioned by James Grey Bethune in 1833. See Catherine Milne, *Pioneers on the south shore of Rice Lake* (1990), <http://images.ourontario.ca/Partners/Cobourg/0000507411T.PDF>.

²² Coupar Angus is a town in Perthshire, Scotland. Hall's reference "the woman at the house" almost certainly concerns Ann Sidey née Souter or Soutar, wife of David Sidey, owners of Sidey's (aka Tidy's) tavern on lot 16, concession 5 in Hamilton Township. See Catherine Milne, *Settlement of the village of Cold Springs*, (1990), accessed at <https://www.cobourg.ca/en/recreation-and-culture/resources/Library/Cold-Springs.pdf> on July 16, 2019. David Sidey may have been the inspiration for Catharine Parr Traill's character, Duncan Maxwell, in her *Canadian Crusoes, A Tale of the Rice Lake Plains* (1852).

for nothing on earth but to be allowed to go peaceably to bed, you are obliged to keep your eyes open & your mouth shut from yawning. I mean and sit another hour talking commonplaces to the Clergyman's wife, who out of great tho' mistaken kindness comes to pay you a visit. Such was my case last night when Mrs. Armour²³ came just as I was going to make my escape to bed. Basil, fortunately for himself, had already made his exit, but poor I had to sit till human nature could bear it no longer & as my company would not leave me I was obliged to leave them. I am quite refreshed this morning, having slept till eight o'clock after breakfast Mr. and Mrs. Stewart²⁴ came over from Douro, two miles from this. Basil had a letter from Miss Edgeworth²⁵ to Mrs. Stewart, who is in some way connected with her. They came out between four & five years ago, and were the first persons who settled in this part of the country when all around them was forest. For the first year and a half Mrs. Stewart never saw a female except those in her own family. At first they could hardly procure flour sufficient to make a loaf of bread for the sick children. – The house they lived in, the first night they slept in it, had ice on the floor some inches thick, which they had to light stoves to melt & to break away with axes the best way they could in short what they and all those who came had to endure is only to be judged of by seeing what they now consider comparative luxury, log huts, neither plastered nor painted, without [36/90] carpets generally, and a very scrimp supply of furniture of every kind. – Added to their other difficulties they could rarely get servants and had even all the menial offices to do for themselves, and these were people, you will observe, who were used to the comforts an old country and did not come here until they were past that youthful age when all those things appear amusement. I think I should have got into despair if I had been imposed to such miseries, and yet they talk of it all quite cheerfully. It is certainly a good lesson to teach me not to complain of the little trifles that one is apt to be annoyed with.

Basil is gone since breakfast with Mr. McDonnell to visit some of the settlers at different places a few miles off, & I have been walking with the rest of our party here. There is the most striking difference in the people in the States & those here in point of dress. However poor their dwellings may be, and however retired their place of residence, both the gentlemen & ladies here, whether English or Canadian, are always neatly dressed, whilst in the States you find the men in particular such figures sometimes without coats, sometimes without necks cloths, dirty or unshaven looking, and the women either over or under dressed.

Peterboro' 25th July.

I have returned from Mr. Stewart's, this evening, if possible, less in love than ever with a life in the woods, and it really has made me quite melancholy to see two such agreeable persons so well fitted for good society, immersed in the wilderness amongst the stumps of a new clearing. Their house consists of a parlor – 12 or fourteen feet square, furnished with a common deal table and half a dozen chairs, and a small piece of carpet in the centre, the walls are merely the rough logs and the naked beams are in the

²³ Margaret Armour née Douglas (1789-1873), wife of the Rev. Samuel Armour (1785-1853). The Armours emigrated to York, Upper Canada, in 1820; they moved to Peterborough in 1826, where Samuel served as Anglican minister and headmaster of the government school on McDonnell street. Of Mrs. Armour, a descendant writes: "Though an 1854 portrait ... now in the Cobourg Art Gallery, shows her as an austere person, this must be due to the rigours of 'sitting' or the inability of the itinerant artist, for the photo of her in 'widow's weeds' taken in Bowmanville ... shows a gentle, kindly face. And the opinions of the pioneers amongst whom she lived and worked is of a kindly spirit." See Jessie J. Lowe, *The Honourable John Douglas Armour* (1984) <http://images.ourontario.ca/Partners/Cobourg/0000480401T.PDF>.

²⁴ Thomas Alexander Stewart (1786-1847) was an early settler, mill owner, and politician in Upper Canada. Stewart emigrated from County Antrim to Douro Township with his wife and brother-in-law, Robert Reid, in 1822. Basil Hall includes correspondence from Stewart in his *Travels in North America*, Volume 1, pp. 307 – 323. Both have entries in *Dictionary of Canadian Biography*. Stewart married Frances Browne (1794 - 1872) in 1816; a collection of Mrs. Stewart's letters was published in *Our Forest Home* (1902). See also Jodi Lee Aoki, *Revisiting "Our Forest Home": The Immigrant Letters of Frances Stewart*, Toronto, Natural Heritage, 2011.

²⁵ Maria Edgeworth (1767-1849), author of *Castle Rackrent* (1800) and several other novels, was Frances Stewart's childhood friend; they were raised together in all the refinements of high cultivation and maintained a close relationship throughout their lives. In 1824, Mrs. Stewart wrote: "I must turn to a subject which constantly occupies both our thoughts and conversations – Maria Edgeworth's great kindness. It is so good of her when she is in constant intercourse with remarkable people, brilliant from talent, or fashion, or rank, to think so much of me living in the backwoods of Canada in the most remotest place. I can never express how T[homas] and I feel towards her." – Frances Stewart, *Our Forest Home* (1902), pp. 60 – 61.

ceiling, not above eight feet high. Off this is a small strip of a room, still less amply furnished, and off that again a closet for two or three of the children to sleep in. At the other end is the kitchen, and another sleeping closet for the two maid [37/90] servants & the rest of the children. The only thing which gives the house the appearance of the residence of a gentleman is a piano, and round the walls of the parlour, a set of coarse deal shelves on which is an excellent yet small collection of books. We dined with them a party of four, which with Mr. & Mrs. Stewart made six. They have two female servants for their whole establishment, the one who generally cooks was today in bed with the ague, of course the other had to do the cook's duty besides her own work, so that the baby of five months old fell entirely to Mrs. Stewart's charge & also the other poor little boy of two years who has for the last fortnight been suffering from ague, which has reduced him to a degree, and he has become so yellow that they think he is taking the jaundice, which is no unfrequent sequel to the ague. The eldest girl did what she could towards taking one of those two, but she is not above ten years old, & there are two other girls, five in all, and thro' all this labour and care has Mrs. Stewart to struggle summer & winter, with either herself, Mr. Stewart, or some of the children constantly laid up with ague – and yet so much greater were they sufferings when they first settled at Douro that they are now in comparative luxury. Let no gentlemen and ladies come to settle in the woods if they can by any contrivance find a means of subsisting at home – let them reduce their establishment, get a smaller house, cease to entertain, do anything – rather than leave certain comforts, even on the most limited scale, to come to a cottage in Canada. Let them remember that a cottage in the woods is a log hut in the midst of a forest where they must chop down trees, leaving two or three acres of vile stumps around them where they can scarcely get a servant and will frequently be reduced even to washing their own clothes, where there are no beautiful verandahs covered with fine creepers, there is no time for such ornamenting, and the grubs destroy any effort that may be made towards rearing a few flowers and [38/90] vegetables in a miserable garden. I think the case is very different in regard to the lower orders, they have been accustomed to labor from their youth upwards, and with tolerable industry a man is sure to become independent, supposing they come out without a farthing of capital, for the first year they go into service where they will get generally about £25 per annum with this they buy a team of oxen and an axe, go into the woods to chop or any other work by which they increase their means & so as to be able in the course of two or three years to purchase some land, a cow, some pigs and so on, gradually increasing their land and their stock, and the larger their family, particularly of sons, the better, as it is labor that is so expensive and consequently if they have laborers in their own family they are saved that expence. Basil and I walked last night to a place about a mile and a half from here and paid a visit to a family who came nine years ago from Cumberland,²⁶ not “Mr. Robinson's Settlers” as those who were sent out entirely at the expence of Government were called, but they had a hundred acres of land each given to them, for which they had to deposit £10 with the Secretary of State as a security for their settling in the country, but as soon as they had located themselves this sum was repaid to them. They seem exceedingly comfortable and are perfectly contented & happy, as were also all those of Mr. Robinson's Settlers, whom Basil has visited both yesterday & today. Tomorrow we go back to Cobourg, and as we start pretty early in the morning I must go to bed. We drank tea last night with Miss Sweeney,²⁷ the niece of the Catholic Priest,²⁸ who is himself from home, & tonight with Mr. & Mrs. Armour, the Episcopal Clergy Good night.

On board the Steamboat “Charlotte” in the Bay of Quinte, Upper Canada, 28th July.

We have had such hard work since the 25th that I have had neither time nor strength to write. By four o'clock on the morning of the 26th we were awoke at Peterboro' by the violence of the rain,

²⁶ The Cumberland settlers emigrated from Alston, in northern England, to the Peterborough area in the spring 1818. Likely candidates for those visited by the Halls include the families of William Dixon or Joseph Lee, who lived in the vicinity of what is now called Communication Road in Chemong. See Elwood Jones, “Colony settlers put down roots in what would become Peterborough in 1818,” *Peterborough Examiner*, June 23, 2018. Accessed at <https://www.thepeterboroughexaminer.com/community-story/8688298-colony-settlers-put-down-roots-in-what-would-become-peterborough-in-1818/> on July 27, 2019.

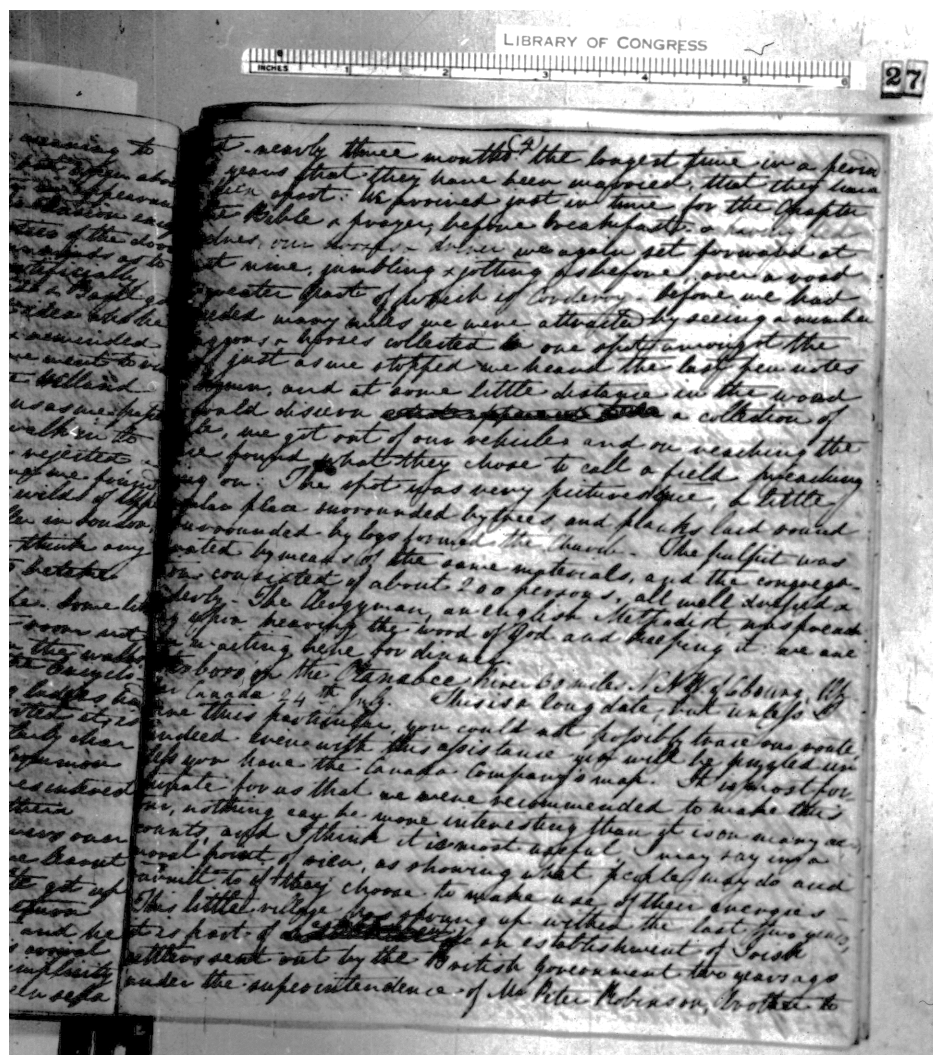
²⁷ Miss Sweeney is unidentified.

²⁸ Fr. James Crowley served as Catholic Priest for the Peterborough area from 1826 to 1833. See C. Pelham Mulvany, *History of the County of Peterborough, Ontario* (1884). <https://ia800300.us.archive.org/14/items/peterborough00unknuoft/peterborough00unknuoft.pdf>.

accompanied by thunder, which was had as a good omen, as it generally clears up the weather in that quarter. Upon this occasion, however, it failed to do so, and the rain continued to fall. We meant to have set off on our return to Cobourg at seven o'clock, and consequently got up in time to breakfast at six. About nine the rain ceased for a quarter of an hour, and covered up with cloaks and buffalo skins, we embarked in our little boat. Fortunately we were now to go down the river instead of up, so that we had a much shorter passage. It rained almost incessantly during the five hours and a half that we were getting to the borders of the Rice Lake. There the gig and the waggon were got ready and between three and four o'clock we set off. [pp. 27-34]

Conclusion

Captain Basil Hall and his wife, Margaret, visited the Peterborough in July 1827 and may well be considered the area's first tourists. Margaret shared her husband's generally favourable impression of the British Government's then two year old "experiment" to settle 2,024 Irish paupers in Upper Canada. Margaret's correspondence with her sister, Jane, is an unvarnished account of the people and the place and is a valuable addition to the extensive body of work that sheds light on the early days of the Irish settlement around Peterborough.



Extract from Margaret Hall's letter to her sister, Jane, beginning about two-thirds down the page and ending with the last four lines: "Peterboro' on the Otonabee River 30 miles West of Cobourg, Upper Canada, 24th July. ... This little village has sprung up within the last two years. It is part of an establishment of Irish settlers sent out by the British Government two years ago under the superintendence of Mr. Peter Robinson, brother to ..."

Peterborough Mattress 1873-1970

Gail H. Corbett



Jim C. Ellis at a Peterboro Mattress display at the Peterborough Exhibition. Note the many messages being displayed about raw materials and finished products. (Gail Corbett)

“The rest of your days depends on the rest of your nights, so sleep on a PETERBOROUGH MATTRESS for the rest of your life.” [1930s]

The Peterborough Mattress Company, first located in Ashburnham on the east bank of the Otonabee River, was in a two-and-one-half storey red brick building. Its twenty horse-power generator was powered by water transmitted from the wheel-house at the foot of Rogers raceway. The factory was conveniently located for delivery by road to all parts of Peterborough county and both the Canadian National and Canadian Pacific railway stations were nearby; the mattresses could ship all over the province.

The first owner of the mattress company, which was also a woolen factory, was William Faint. The Faint family came from Whitby to Peterborough by 1871.

During the early 1870s, Peterborough encouraged new industries. In Fall 1873, the *Examiner* headline read: **Mattress Making, The Peterborough Mattress Company’s Enterprise**. The article said, “The manufacturing industries of Peterborough have been recently augmented by the establishment of another new industry... There is promise of the Peterborough Mattress Company doing a large trade, for every

purchaser of their wares can rely on getting clean, well-made honest goods. THE EXAMINER wishes the firm every success in their new enterprise.”

In the 1881 Ashburnham village census William Faint was a spinner and a carder at Auburn Woolen Mills. By 1891, he was listed as a mattress maker.

In March 1895, *Peterborough Review*, reported a fire at Faint’s Woollen Factory. [see excerpt from *Fighting Fires*.]

The Faint family had two sons, Henry and William, and two daughters. After his wife died, William Faint followed his sons and his sister to Winnipeg. His son Henry died in Winnipeg, age 30, unknown causes. William Faint died in 1907 in Winnipeg.

James Campbell Ellis (1883-1971) and his family came to Peterborough from Verulum Township; his father was an insurance agent. Jim worked at Auburn Mill until he joined William Faints operation in 1898. In 1907, he purchased Faints mattress business. James shifted the emphasis of the business to the mattress side. Because of the new cottages being built in the area of Stony and Clear this was a timely move for the mattress business.

John Bettes (UEL) was a millwright at Quaker Oats who lived next door to Faints factory and was acquainted with William Faint. His daughter Mabel Bettes (1888-1965) married James Ellis in 1911. They continued living next to the factory. Mabel was a

piano teacher and played for the silent movies in the 1920s.

James Ellis told Gwen Findley in the 1960s, "In the old days the mattresses were made of beaver marsh hay brought by horse and wagon from neighbouring Warsaw area. Wool, goose feathers was bought locally. Raw cotton was imported. An old paddle wheel was used to power the cotton pickers. Hay was bought locally. The hay had to be teased and cleaned. It was packed into a wooden frame press whereupon the mattresses cover was stretched tightly. Making a mattress required physical strength."

Beginning in the 1930s, James Ellis introduced tufting. In order to stabilize the mattress and prevent the shifting of the wool and feathers. Without the tufts the mattress in would have heaved in the centre. The stuffed mattress was placed on the "tufting table" and cotton tufts with leather bases were hand sewn with foot long needles and fine cord down through the mattress through "slits" in the tufting table. Later, the tufting was done mechanically using a Droll loop tyer powered by an electric motor.

Over the years, Ellis introduced many improvements in the mattresses. For example, he developed a popular reversible "winter –summer" mattress, with denim on one side and soft satin like surface on the other. Also he used Kapok, which was used on life preservers just below the canvas, to produce light weight mattresses and stuffing in pillows. Goose feathers from local farmers were still purchased and used in pillows and comforters.

With the War Procurement Act of 1914, companies contracted with the government for the provision of supplies. The Peterborough Mattress Company had a contract to produce simple cot mattresses for the military and for the camps and cottages.

Jim "Jimmy" Ellis Jr. told Gwen Findlay he remembered playing around the mattress factory. At the time of the 1916 Quaker fire he recalled that men were dousing the mattresses to protect them from the intense heat and sparks from the neighbouring inferno. Such precautions were taken elsewhere.

In order to encourage Quaker Oats to rebuild after the fire, the city and company agreed there was a need for a high level bridge which would allow vehicle traffic to move above while railway cars delivered supplies or loaded products. With the building of the new bridge, the city expropriated the property that included the Peterborough Mattress location.

By 1927, the city made a compromise with Jim C. Ellis (Sr.). The City paid for dismantling the mattress factory building and moving it to the Ellis

property at 482 Mark Street; the city allowed a "one time only commercial district" in this residential area. The factory backed on to the Grand Trunk Railway just south of Douro Street. Bricks and beams may be seen in the current building which is marked with a Peterborough Historical Society historical plaque.

With effort, the original building had been moved to its new location. The two-and-a-half storey building had used Curtis bricks. The windows reflected the earlier period as did the original double doors which allowed the movement of equipment, furnaces and mattresses. A sturdy fieldstone foundation was erected. The ceiling in the basement was nine feet tall. The picker room where the raw materials such as beaver marsh hay, wool, and goose feathers were sorted was in the basement, as were the stuffing and tufting tables.

The Peterborough Mattress Company was making a new start.

Times were tough during the 1920s and 1930s. Some, such as the Sisters of St. Joseph, were replacing mattresses at their several locations. Mrs. Ellis supplemented the family income by teaching piano. East City students arrived and paid with eggs. There were ways to find enjoyment during these years.

Those were tough years for Peterborough people. Ellis remembered being sent by the mayor to quell an unruly crowd gathered in front of City Hall. He told Council that the merchants would have to extend credit or people would break into the coal sheds and food stores and steal to care for their families.

Jim Ellis (Sr.) focused on his mattress business. Between 1932 and 1934, the provincial government was building the Apsley- Burleigh Road north from Peterborough. Work camps were established to accommodate workers in the construction. The Peterborough Mattress Company was supplying mattresses to the camps.

The economy was picking up. In 1936, James C. Ellis asked his son William John Ellis (Bill) Ellis and his son-in-law George Astell (Lily) to establish the Lindsay Mattress Factory in Lindsay Ontario to assist with the increased demand for mattresses. Orders flowed in from tourist resorts, hospitals and from wholesalers across the province. James C. Ellis, travelled throughout the province securing contracts. The mattress company boomed.

With World War II, there was a fresh demand for mattresses for the armed forces. The Lindsay Mattress plant was closed. William John Ellis entered the RCAF and never returned. He died while testing equipment for the Lancaster bomber.

James C. Ellis (Sr) handed the Mattress Company over to his eldest son, Jimmy Ellis. Two

workers, Philo Owen and Jimmy Halsey, moved from Lindsay to continue working for Peterborough Mattress.



Exhibit of Peterborough Mattress and Spring Company products, c. 1960 (Gail Corbett)

Jim Hunter, the bookkeeper for over 30 years shared memories with me. "Jim Ellis (Sr) asked George to set up the Upholstery department. The second floor of the factory was his domain. He supervised and did some cutting of fabric and always had two seamstresses Mrs. Charlotte Bullock and Miss Hales." After the war Polish and English immigrants were hired and trained: Kasimiey Karpowic (Tony) and Michal Petek (Mike) and from England (Harold Tunicliff). At retirement George set up his own shop and taught Upholstery for the Peterborough School Board. IN 1958, the company was renamed The Peterborough Bedding and Upholstery Company.

In the 1950's, a new spring making machine was imported. Book keeper, Jim Hunter wrote: "In the old days, I well remember going through the bed spring making shed watching two or three workmen as they made bed springs. The wires were hooked into the coils and then to the solid wire frames. Bed spring making was in a shed attached to the house. The smell of oil and wire permeated the air. This was before the spring making machine was imported. Jim (Jr) decided he needed to upgrade and ordered a Spring Making machine from Louisville, Kentucky. The first spring

making machine in Ontario. This was in the 1950's. The American Company sent a man from Kentucky to Peterborough to install the machine. Myriad forms were required for the import. The Spring products

were made in the shed attached to the house. The mattresses were made in the basement of the factory. The company was now Peterborough Mattress and Spring Company.

In the 1950's and 1960's the company had eleven employees and produced 100 mattresses a week; some weeks up to 250 mattresses were made. By the late 1960's sales in the upholstery department surpassed sales of mattresses. The company developed new techniques and improvements for making mattresses.

In the 1950's and 60's the company boomed. New innovative ideas were created in both the mattress and upholstery departments. Two new delivery trucks were purchased. Ray Harding was in charge of delivery.

"Jim B Ellis (Jr) was friends with Harry McGuiness. Both supported the Peterborough Petes. Harry built travel trailers and Jim furnished them with Peterborough Mattresses. George installed breakfast nooks upholstered in fine leather. These were very busy years for the company. Thousands of McGuiness trailers were heading south to Florida in the winter and returning to Ontario camp sites for the summer. Business boomed."

At this time members of the first YMCA Board bought land at Clear lake for the Camp. Several including Mr. Loomis, Chair, James Campbell Ellis and others purchased Clear Lake property straight down to Stoney Lake. The YMCA camps, the Grove School and the Port Hope School for boys provided good markets.

James C. Ellis (Sr) retired around 1950 to Ellis Villa, Clear Lake and still looked for new markets. He donated upholstered church pew cushions to his church: 'the comfortable pew.'

His son, James B. Ellis married Irene Ianson of Viamede, Stoney Lake. Mattresses were being marketed to most tourist resorts in Southern Ontario. In the Kawartha Lakes, inboard and outboard boats sported upholstered boat seats, even upholstered decks. Business was on the rise. Jim Ellis Jr hire two

Jim and Irene renovated and redecorate the shop interior to appeal to the walk-in trade. They created a modern show area on the ground floor showcasing the most recent fabrics and innovations in furniture design and mattress types. New business stationery advertised that they were manufacturers of guaranteed bedding products, inner spring, box spring, foam and felt, continental beds, bed springs, pillows, davenport, chesterfield beds, and antique and modern hostess chairs. Their three new mottos were "Direct from our Factory to your Home. The Rest of Your Days

Excerpt from Elwood Jones, *Fighting Fires in Peterborough*

To this day, some cottages and homes still have Peterborough Mattresses with their label intact.

Faints new factory was hit by fire on 15 March 1895, this time caused by a smouldering spark in the press pipe which carried the dust from the mill floor through the roof. Faints woollen mill now consisted of two buildings. The main building was four storeys high, while the wheel-house and picking room were in a two storey building. Faints daughter had gone to get the books and reported a smoky smell. Faint inspected and found the fire starting. He sounded the alarm, and started pouring pails of water on the fire. The fire brigade was delayed because the steamer was frozen, there was too little hose, and the closest hydrant was on the other side of the river at Queen and Hunter streets. Fortunately there was little wind, and the efforts of the fire brigade brought the fire under control. The flooring, carding machine and rag picker in the picking room were destroyed by the fire, but the buildings were saved.

Elwood Jones

The four incumbents led strongly all election night. Robert Cotton led the way, followed by George A. Macdonald (who later succeeded Denne as Mayor), J. D. Fitzpatrick and Walter Stocker. Cotton was the electrical superintendent at Canadian General Electric. Macdonald was a senior executive at Quaker Oats and would later move to a more senior position in Chicago. Fitzpatrick was one of the owners of a local grocery chain, Fitzpatrick and Geraghty, that had six stores. Walter Stocker had long had



the bill posting and advertising company that had been started by E. C. Hill.

Tuggey was a contractor who had a reputation as a fighter, generally supporting the working class, and those in the construction trades. Ellis was the owner of the Peterborough Mattress Company, an Ashburnham institution.

The election night drama centred on the race between Ellis and Tuggey for the final aldermanic seat. The four leaders were secure, and the other three, except perhaps Fred O. Goodfellow, never gathered momentum. The two who trailed had been running on a bill of rights for people on relief, and the Examiner was glad to see this appeal to class defeated.

The Examiner said the turnout had for the New Year's Day election had been lower than usual because of the slippery streets which kept many electors, "especially the women voters", from the polls. The Examiner said that Ellis,

Depression Days

[134] The salary grab was the main issue in the election of 1930. The result was a draw. Mayor [Roland] Denne was given an acclamation. Three aldermen, Robert S. Cotton; George A. Macdonald and Walter Stocker were re-elected. James Hamilton and Stanley A. Lowe were defeated. Their places were taken by Fred Tuggey, who had been badly beaten in his previous three attempts to gain a council seat. Tuggey was a fighter and an agitator, who was ready to 'sound-off' at every opportunity. He campaigned against paying aldermen and his success on election day proved that the 'salary grab' was not going to be forgotten. The other new alderman was John D. Fitzpatrick, a successful businessman whose drive and ability through the next six years gave strength to the council in carrying the city through the depression.

....

Tuggey immediately attempted to re-open the salary issue but Fitzpatrick, although opposing the method used by the aldermen in voting themselves a salary was not against paying members of the council and declined to second the motion.

As the year progressed, the stock markets hit new lows, but in Peterborough little effect was noticed in the city's economy until late in August when first attention was given to an increasing unemployment problem.

A relief works program of building storm drains, sidewalks, curbs and paving streets at first estimated to cost \$40,000, but later increased to \$80,000, was approved and by December 31, some \$55,000 had been spent and there still remained three months of winter.

...

Relief work cost \$175,000 during the winter of 1931-32 and by this time council had completed the type of public works that the government would approve. Some different way of handling the unemployment problem had to be found. For the single men, highway construction camps were opened in Victoria and Haliburton counties and on the Burleigh Falls-Apsley Highway. The Charity Board reported assisting 1,028 heads of families with provisions, rent and

"the East City contender", had been rewarded for his persistence. In an editorial it commented, "Ald.-elect Ellis has the qualifications to give good service on the aldermanic board, and is to be congratulated on his election, although there will be regret that it had to be scored at the expense of Ald. Tuggey, who has been a hard-working member of Council and has not hesitated to take a firm stand on the issues that came before that body."

Tuggey polled poorly in his home territory, the North Ward, while Ellis won the East Ward (Ashburnham) by a wide margin. There were no speeches by the candidates.

The Examiner, 2 January 1934, published the election results by polls. Tuggey, compared to Ellis, won South Ward by 43 votes; West by 101; and North by 60. However, Ellis outpolled Tuggey by 23 votes in Centre Ward and by 244 in the East Ward. The aldermen were elected city wide even though there were wards.

fuel.

... In March it was reported heads of 775 families who could not be aided through work programs were being given relief.

The depression was at its worst and city employees took a salary cut of from 5 to 20 per cent, and like salary cuts were taken by employees of the Board of Education, the Police Commission and Utilities Commission. The 1933 tax rate remained at 37.6 mills. Industrial workers contributed one day's pay a month to the relief funds and those on salaries in business and industry made similar contributions.

There were protests that the help given those out of work was not sufficient, but the council was doing all it could under the government regulations. Agitators, especially among working men, were making their appearance and the unemployed organized.

In council, Ald. McNabb charged that Ald. Tuggey tried to incite riot during the visit of Governor-General Lord Bessborough by urging unemployed men to step out on the street in front of his car. "It's out there in front of that car you fellows ought to be, telling your wrongs", were the words Ald. McNabb charged Ald. Tuggey used to a group of unemployed who were watching the Governor-General pass down George Street.

The alderman denied using the words and Ald. McNabb had [137] an unemployed man in the spectators' gallery, William Childs, confirm his statement. Tuggey charged he was being framed. He had been outspoken on relief matters, especially paying moneys to unemployed men whom he charged refused to accept relief work.

...

[138] ... But the improvement in economic conditions was only temporary and the winter of 1934-35 again saw increased unemployment. The six camps on the Apsley Burleigh road took 700 men for construction from the city's relief rolls.

Excerpt from Wilson Crow, Our Mayors 1850-1951 which was published by the Examiner in 1967; Ed Arnold updated the work to 2000.

G. B. Sproule photo of a Peterborough House



We had an inquiry about whose house this might be from a distant correspondent who acquired the large framed photograph from a garage sale. He went to the file of historic houses in the city's Heritage files and deduced that this was the Calcutt house on Robinson Street in Ashburnham. However, this identification does not work for me as the Calcutt house is on a hill, and the topography does not seem right. George B. Sproule (1848-1927) was a Peterborough photographer from about 1868 to 1895 before going to Montana.

To me, the house seems more like the house at Aylmer and McDonnell; this would be the view from Aylmer, but the address is 227 McDonnell. Martha Kidd describes this house: Built of solid brick in the late 1860s this was the home of Henry Hartley, a teamster. Modified Gothic in style, it has a centre gable with round top windows, end chimneys, an entrance with side and transom lights, small paned windows and light brick trim."

This is a photo that I had not seen before. As well I have not seen Sproule photos of buildings; his specialty was portraits. Send comments to elwood@trentvalleyarchives.com.



Peterborough Canoe

Does anyone know the stories



Decoys

behind these decoys? What do we know about Fred Gray?



Peterborough's Road to An Airport

Elwood H. Jones

ED. Note: this was the transcript of a speech presented 21 September 2019 on the occasion of a special dinner marking the fiftieth anniversary of the Peterborough airport. It was a great event and there were many people who had great working careers at the airport and the companies tied to it. That story is remarkable and the weekend was marked with many memorable events. The Snowbirds put on spectacular air shows. A replica of the Red Baron aircraft from World War I was a show stopper, and was on display in room where the anniversary dinner was held. My task was a simple one: to review the many missed opportunities that had characterized Peterborough's search for an airport from the 1920s to the 1960s. In a way, the question was why weren't we celebrating the 90th anniversary of flying in Peterborough.

Peterborough people were interested in all things flying and the problem for historians is to understand how Peterborough, Canada's tenth largest city in the 1950s, was the largest municipality with no official airport. Partly it is a story of unfortunate accidents; partly it is a story of timid leadership from City Council; partly it is a story of our scary topography.

There was great excitement in July 1851 when St. John's Anglican Church hosted a *fête rurale* at Merino, the home of James Wallis, in which visitors were taken by carriage to the middle of a field to see a Montgolfier balloon. The Montgolfier balloon was a feature of a weekend in 1901, too.

There was even more excitement in September 1918 when Katherine Stinson, a Texas aviatrix and member of a distinguished flying fame, brought her lightweight Curtis plane which was assembled on the fairgrounds to a delighted audience. The trial flight over Otonabee went well, but on the feature day the flight was cancelled because of high winds.

Captain Harold Ayers came to town in 1927 and established a flying school which attracted 400 applicants within days; the first course ran with 40 students. Ayers had his office at J. J. Duffus' large auto centre at Water and Charlotte, and he had a ten-year lease with Deyell's for a flat 50 acre air field just south of the city along the east side of Bensfort road. He spoke to local service clubs and had considerable support, but he left to become one of the pioneer carriers of Canada's air mail service.

Local enthusiasts had two great opportunities in 1930 and 1931. The R-100, the huge British dirigible flew over Peterborough on a leg from Belleville to Oshawa, and hundreds of people monitored its route on radio and saw its pass over at 2:14 in the morning on August 11, 1930.

Norbert Miller, one of Ayers' star students, won the Tip Top Aerial Race, a marathon race with nine stops across western Ontario. He was a local hero, and had a long career as a pilot, mainly flying out of New Liskeard.

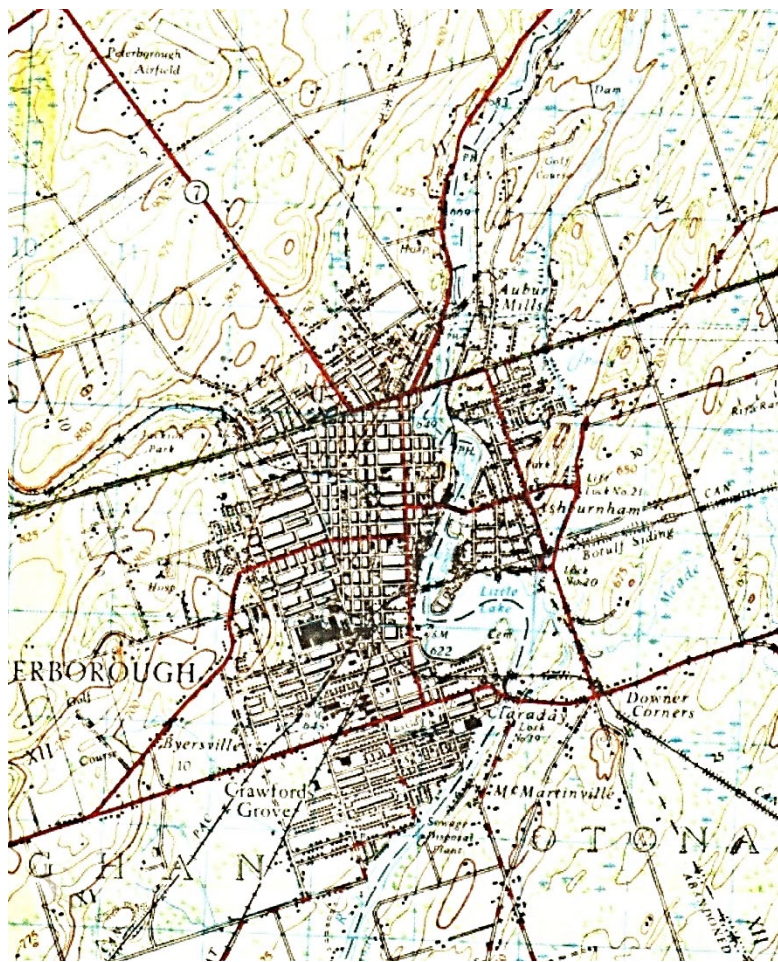
Peterborough made great progress toward getting an airfield that met national standards and underwent surveys to test its viability. The site was on the south side of Lansdowne west of Brealey Drive, approximately including the current site of Peterborough Chrysler. Everything came together in time for the first Peterboro Air Pageant, 24 October 1931. The airfield was cleared for a landing site for pilots connected with the military, and that day pilots flying from Camp Borden en route to Trenton decided to land on the new field early the day of the air show. One pilot flew too fast, missed the landing spot, and crashed into a line of trees on the south side of the field. Two airmen died. The Air Pageant continued as much as possible and even the evening banquet was held as scheduled. Peterborough had to believe this was a safe site, but its future was sealed. Even so, in 1946, the Hon. J.J. Duffus was supporting "a large proposed airport on Highway 28, west of Watertrough Hill," apparently including the site of the 1931 air show and crash. The site had been surveyed for an airport and was projected to cost \$1.5 millions. All he needed was support from the City Council, which never came.

The search for a Peterborough airport shifted to north of the city, on the Milburn field that lay between Chemong and Hilliard on the north part of lot 5 just south of the turn to Lindsay.

The Peterborough Glider Club used Smith Milburn's field during 1931 and 1932. The group met regularly and decided to invest collectively in a used primary level glider plane that would glide eight feet and lose one foot of altitude. The group repaired the plane at South Central School and then Smith Milburn moved the plane to his field where nine members including Fraser Watson, Milburn's son-in-law and Ken Gadd assembled the plane. However, each time the members went to work on the glider, it still was not airworthy. Without a plane, the group seems to have dissolved.

J. J. Duffus, M.P., had another opportunity to pitch Peterborough as worthy of an airport in the winter of 1939-

40. Two federal engineers were in town in November obtaining information about rural fields, and they were accompanied by Duffus, the city engineer, the deputy city clerk and three aldermen. Three federal representatives were in town in January. The leading sites were in the Omemee-Reaboro area and west of the city, at the 1931 site. The Federal opinion was that the Peterborough area was too hilly and had too few sites for safe landings. The city on the other hand did not want to develop a field unless Federal money was forthcoming. In order to have a strong case, City Council welcomed a detailed survey of the Milburn property, with the hope that the property might be developed by a company called Ottawa Airfields. In February, Premier Mitch Hepburn announced that the province had surveyed 30 airfields with a hope of working with the proposed British Commonwealth Air Training Plan. In February 1940 Duffus was appointed to the Senate, but the federal government never recommended a Peterborough site.



In 1946, the Chemong Road property, (shown in the very top left corner of this map) which had been the city's last hope in 1940, attracted the attention of air force veterans, including Flight Officers Vaughn Glover and Ivan Miller, two of the ten ex-servicemen were from Peterborough, and Capt. J.L. Ireland had been a patient in the DVA Hospital on Monaghan Road. Eldon D. Purvis and nine other ex-servicemen, who operated the Canadian Aircraft and Auto Company and the Quinte Flying School, proposed building Skyboro on the property to serve local businesses and tourists. This tourist attraction would have two runways, a hangar, reception area and several tourist cabins and provide services to tourists. Peterborough was attractive also as the largest city in Canada with no official airport. City officials were helpful, as they had already been surveying for an airport. A plebescite was held in December 1946, and local voters turned down the proposal to support Skyboro, described as a "sky harbor", for \$150,000. Because of its small size [about 8.3 acres] the promoters argued that it would be inexpensive to operate and yet would be large enough "to accommodate all types

of planes." Peterborough could get an important municipal airport without waiting.

Apparently, the airport was considered more frivolous than necessary. The Peterborough Examiner observed, "The failure of the airport bylaw showed that the ratepayers are not yet ready to have an airport in Peterborough, and still must be convinced of the necessity of one." In aviation terms, the Examiner observed, the airport bylaw was given "the chop."

The company then looked to raise \$90,000 by selling shares for \$10 each. Its directors included some well-known local men such as Charles Kingan, Robert McClellan and Adam Sands. It also had the support of local pilots, the Chamber of Commerce and others. It was a slow grind to reach the target. However, photos from Skyboro in the 1960s by Ken Wyatt show that it was a busy place. The Ken Wyatt aerial photos only recently arrived at Trent Valley Archives.

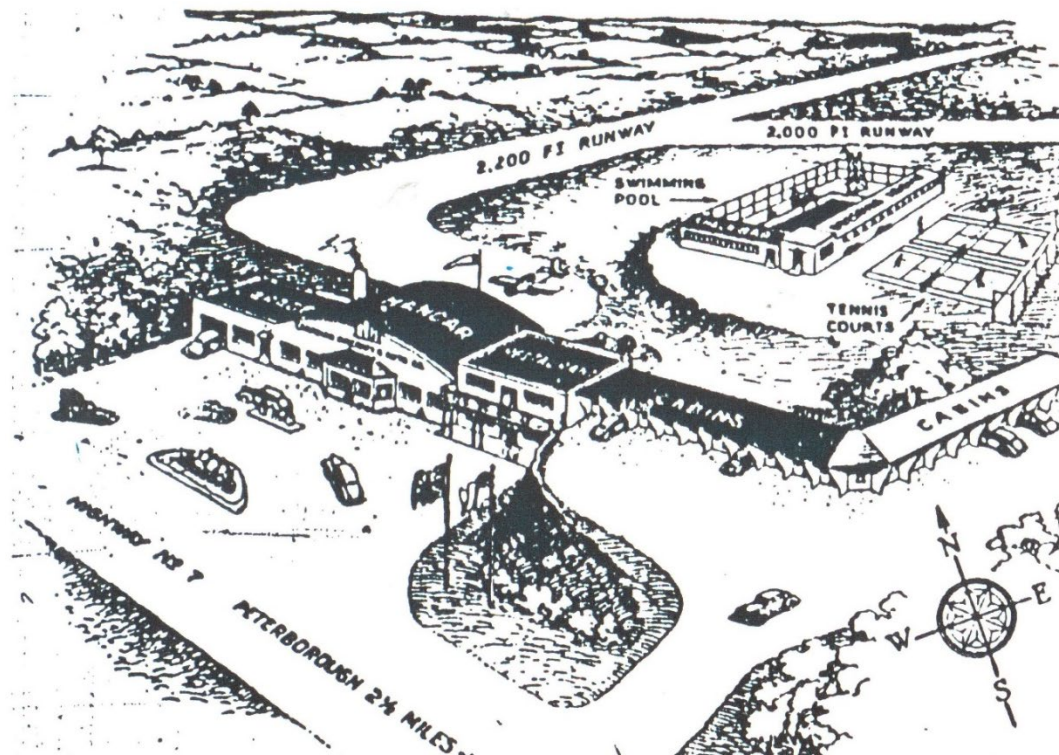
Peterborough had many enthusiasts interested in having a viable local airport. However, some bad luck played its part. Also, it became clear that a municipal airport, as opposed to a private field, required approvals from all levels of government and crucially from the local voters. Through to the 1950s, local opinion seemed to see airports

as a privilege for a few that was costly to the many. After 1951, Peterborough could avoid local plebiscites to get the opinions of property owners by getting approval from the provincial government, as was done when the city purchased the Oakman property.

The last years of Skyboro are entwined with the emerging Oakman airport, purchased by the city in 1968, and now celebrating its 50th anniversary.



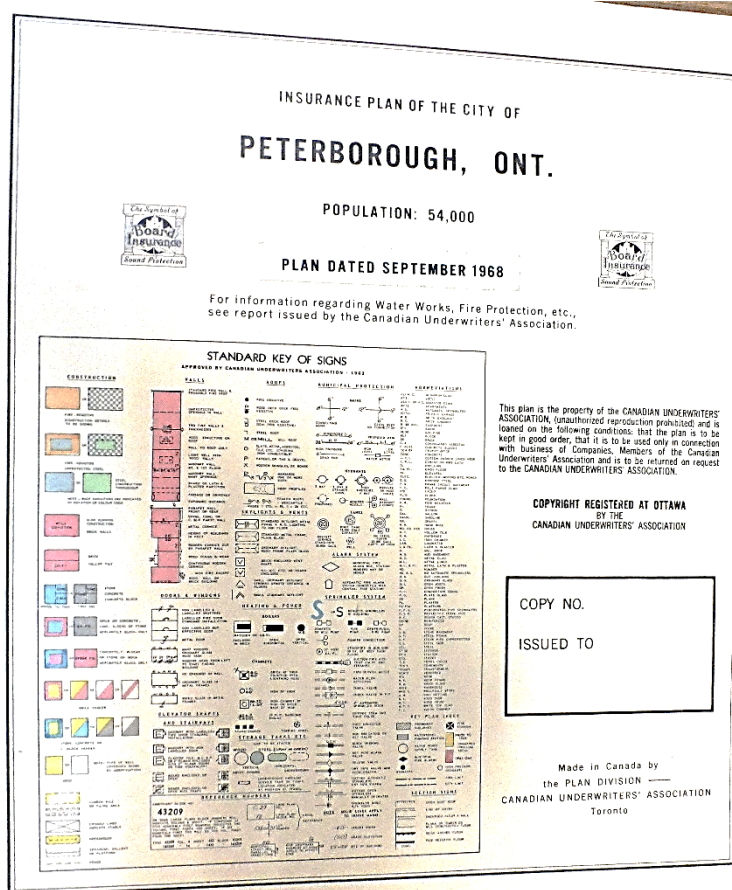
Skyboro in the mid-1960s was still a busy place. (Photo: Trent Valley Archives, Ken Wyatt aerial photo fonds.)



The 1946 plan for Skyboro was more ambitious than what emerged, probably because voters did not favour a bylaw to pay for runways at the proposed airport on Chemong Road.



What's New in the Archives?



The insurance plan of the city of Peterborough was one of the outstanding recent acquisitions. We are grateful to Western University Archives for sharing this. There are over 80 plans documenting parts of the city in 1968. Its focus is on institutions, factories, fire hazards, and the downtown. Going through these plans one was continually surprised. It is hard to imagine places that have disappeared, such as factories, the Civic Hospital, Fairhaven, King Edward School. Even in the tight areas such as downtown between Hunter and Brock and George and Aylmer contain many changes. The plans were designed to be used by fire insurance agents. Now, they are a guide to how well was the city prepared for fires. But more interestingly it is possible to recreate the world of half a century ago. The changes in topography point to wider societal change.

Our insurance plans tied to 1915-1929 have been very popular and will continue to be. The visual and tactile qualities draw the viewers in to a world they never experienced. We have a terrific plan for Hastings village, and for Lakefield. We also have a wide collection of other maps that show aspects of the city. However, none are so closely attuned to revealing the quality and shape of the buildings that lined our streets.

Fonds 793 Smith Hinman family. Scrapbook begun by Smith Hinman in 1882 and containing information related to Cramahe Township, the Methodist church, and particularly the Edville and Dundonald neighborhoods. Family history notes for the Hinman, Dunnett and Mutton families; Hinman Heritage, 1987-1982; Hinman Family Association; Marion Mutton notes and correspondence.

Fonds 794 Peter Van Katwijk fonds Maps, WWII book about the liberation of Holland (Peter was a child there at the time and his story is in the book), correspondence, materials related to local elections, 2 maps of Ontario located in map tubes. Donated by Peter Van Katwijk.

Fonds 795 Oshawa Photo Exhibit 18 vintage prints mounted on Plak-it and relating to Oshawa downtown and environs.

Fonds 796 Scrapbook for 1945 Recycled wall paper book used as a scrapbook by Peterborough person using news photos, maps, and stories between March and July 1945 featuring news of the end of World War II, the death of F. D. Roosevelt, the origins of the United Nations, show business personalities and other matters of wide interest. A calendar for the Dionne Quintuplets is at the very back. The scrapbook tends to be in reverse chronological order. Stories mainly from Peterborough Examiner and Toronto Daily Star. Donated by Marv Buchan.

Fonds 797 Canadian Underwriters Association Insurance Plan for Peterborough, 1968, containing indexes, 98 plates containing plans for Peterborough's factories, warehouses, commercial buildings, schools, churches, and most residential areas adjacent to such facilities. Donated by Robin Keirstead, Archivist, Western University Archives. TVA has additional insurance plans for Peterborough in the Martha Kidd fonds; also for Lakefield; and for Hastings village.

Fonds 798 Peterborough Live Steamers fonds Schematics for model steam engines, issues of Model Railroad, and other materials related to Peterborough Live Steamers, also known as the Steam Club. The club's model track layout was at the home of Neil Coulage, Keene Road, Otonabee township. Donated by the Hulley estate.

Fonds 799 Bill Jordan fonds Photographs and other materials related to Bill Jordan, a Peterborough personality who managed the Trent University Bookstore and was active with Peterborough Theatre Guild and other theatrical and literary groups. Donated by Marjoree Edwards. TVA has an additional Jordan fonds.

Fonds 800 Records of the Kiwanis Music Festival in Peterborough, 1947-2017, including information on organizing; biographies of adjudicators; programs for each year, and often extra gala programs; information on the competitive categories, sites for the competitions and more. Donated by the Kiwanis Club via Terry Hawkins.

Fonds 801 Hastings-Peterborough New Democratic Party Association, Minutes, photos, posters, VHS tapes relating to Elmer Bt campaigns; he became MPP and Minister of Agriculture and Rural Affairs; Mainly 1980s and 1990s. Donated by Mary Smith.

Fonds 802 Trent River Pioneer Museum fonds photograph and article pertaining to the Trent River Pioneer Museum. Donated to Clay-Ireland, March 2019

Fonds 803 Wayne Eastabrook fonds photograph of Brinton Carpet Staff, 1941, and aerial photograph of Outboard Marine, 1950

Fonds 804 Allison Stone fonds Francis Stewart Bible, large scrapbook from Major Gordon Smith

Fonds 805 Alfred Bastien fonds Lithograph print of Alfred Bastien's 1938 painting "Over the Top" portraying the front line during World War I.

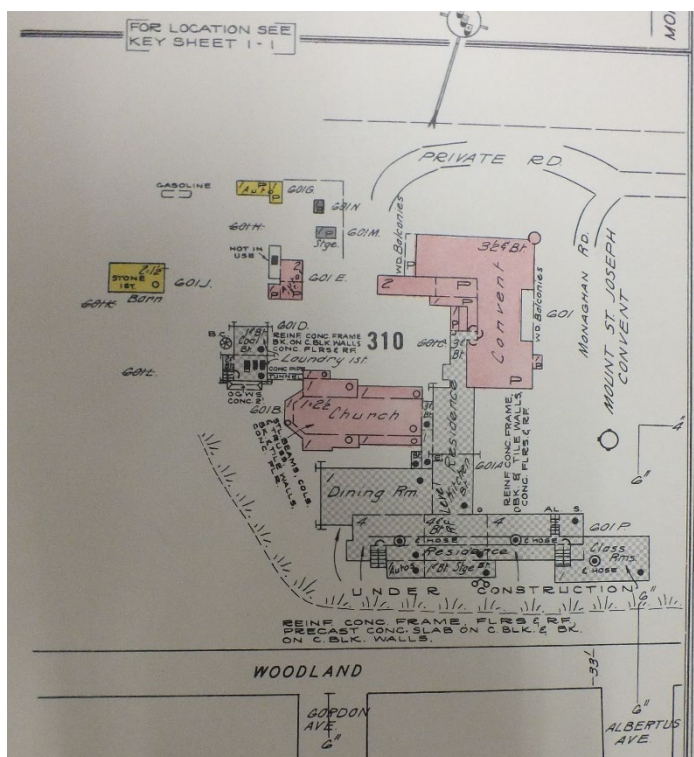
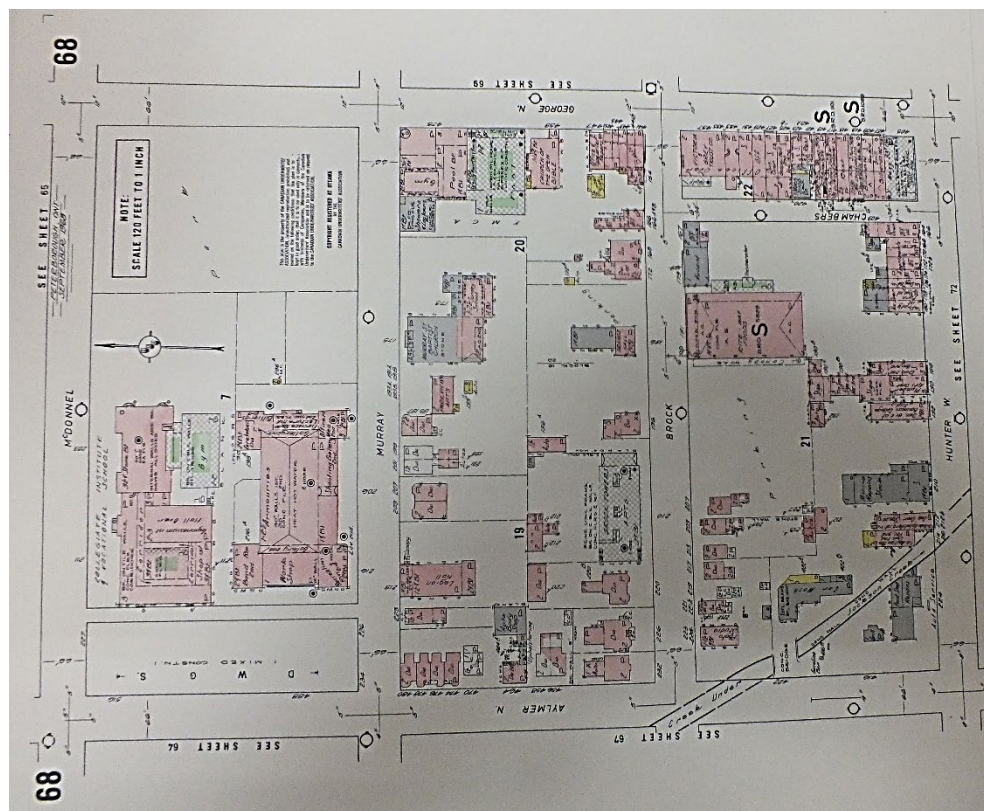
Fonds 806 Tom Milburn fonds Deeds and land documents relating to properties along Chemong Road in Smith Township, lots 6 and 7. Donated by Tom Milburn

Fonds 807 Hooten family fonds Photo album. Acquired by Elwood Jones and donated to TVA.

Fonds 808 Garrett Cox fonds Papers relating to the families linked to Brooke Broadbent's book on settlers from south central England.

Fonds 809 City of Peterborough Elements of the Draft Official Plan, dated 20 June 2019. Included are Project Schedule; coloured plans for Schedules A Urban Structure; B Land Use Plan; C. Central Area Plan; D. Transportation Plan; E. Natural Heritage and Environmental Constraints. Acquired at the Peterborough Pulse event.

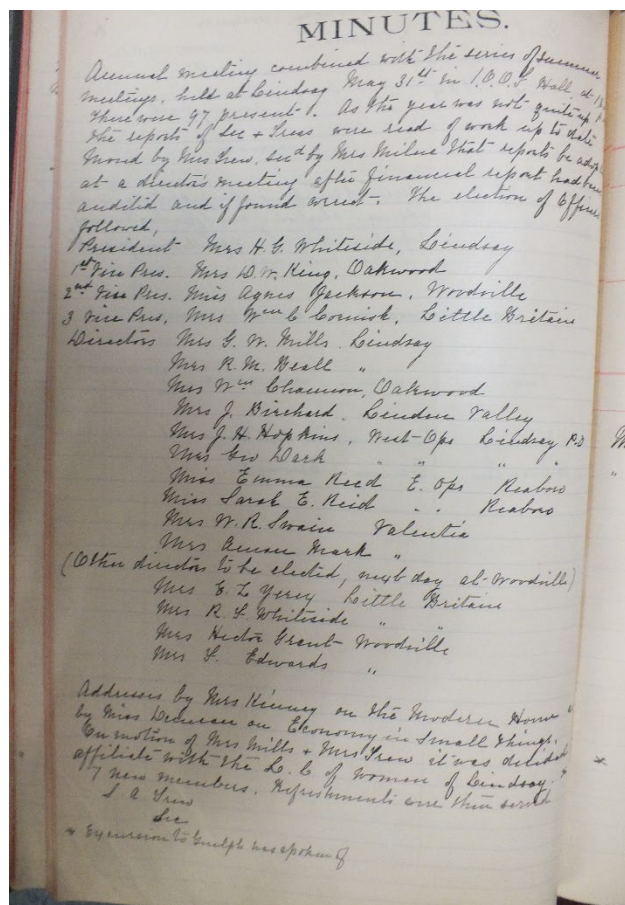
Fonds 810 John Millage fonds Photograph of John Millage and John Leeson Sr. at Deer Bay lumbering site, c. 1905. Donated by Millage, grandson, 2 October 2019



Insurance Plans 1968

The two plans to the left suggest some of the possibilities for using the 1968 plans. The top plan (68) shows the area from McDonnell to Hunter and from Aylmer to George. The plans for PCVS and the Armouries are clearly shown, and include some hints about interior arrangements. Moving south, we get great insight into the layout of the former YMCA, and for the neighboring Murray Street Baptist Church. The former Canadian Legion, now demolished for the building of the new Brock Mission, is clearly outlined. On Brock Street, the former Orange Lodge stands where the Brock Street Parking Lot is now. The map shows how Jackson Creek begins its crossing of the downtown. The second plan shows Mount St. Joseph in 1968, including the new construction on the Woodland side. This has extra interest since this complex is being recreated as The Mount Community Centre. Currently, Trent Valley Archives rents a room in this complex.

West Victoria County Women's Institute



A page from the minutes of the first meeting of the West Victoria County district of the Women's Institute.

One of the largest of the recent acquisitions at Trent Valley Archives, the Women's Institute records for West Victoria County provides terrific opportunities to learn about local women's history. The Women's Institute was founded in the late 19th century as a spin-off from the Farmers' Institute. Its purpose was to help farm women, partly by providing chances for them to learn more about the world of home, farm and county and partly by providing social occasions to counter the loneliness of farm women.

Later the Women's Institutes became immersed in creating and maintaining Tweedsmuir histories for their locale. The former was inspired by Lady Aberdeen, the wife of the Governor-General; the latter, by Tweedsmuir, a later Governor General.

The West Victoria County Women's Institute contains the official records of the district and of several of the branches. The Women's Institutes worked with pre-printed minute books that were

designed to ensure that nothing was overlooked in the running of the districts and the branches. The papers that came to Trent Valley Archives contain impressive runs of the minute books, and a very representative collection of Tweedsmuir histories.

The West Victoria District minute books, 25 volumes, date from 1903 to 1991. As well there are branch minute books for North Ops, 11 volumes, 1944-1997; South Ops, 2 volumes, 1951-1963; The Glen, 4 volumes, 1944-1972; and Bolsover, 9 volumes, 1949-1997. As well, there are five Tweedsmuir histories for these branches. Some of the records relate to years up to 2010.

Family historians will be happy to learn that the records include the names, addresses and other information about the members of these branches. Others will be impressed with the quality of the minutes to allow an exploration of the interests and topics presented at meetings. The minutes vary in quality, but at their best it is possible to recreate the ambiance of the meeting and the reactions of the members. This is a gold mine for social history of the real people of West Victoria County.

Kiwanis Music Festival



The records of the Kiwanis Music Festival are fairly complete, based chiefly on the records of those organizing the annual festivals from 1944 to the present, about 75 years. In most years, there are copies of the programs created for the public. Newspaper clippings generally cover all aspects of the public view of the Festival. Sometimes there are scrapbooks with interesting photos of participants in the festival.

Little Lake Cemetery Pageant 2019

Our production managers, Heather Aiton Landry and Shelagh Neck, assisted by a strong crew of volunteers from various parts of the community, and actors that were passionate and dramatic in their presentation, produced the best Cemetery Pageant ever. The presentations were tightly scripted, and ably directed by Tim Etherington, Isaac Maker and Mary Conchelos, and the actors. There were several researchers and writers. Each of the tours was guided by animated tour guides and wranglers. There were volunteers in the chapel, and Dianne Tedford managed the Trent Valley Archives table which features some of our favourite books, including the history of Little Lake Cemetery. There was an excellent crew of volunteers to set up tents and props, and to make sure that costumes and artifacts were returned. This was a project that depended on a village, and the village of volunteers rose to the occasion splendidly. Thanks to everyone who made this such a memorable event, and a highlight of the local cultural scene's fall season.

William George Morrow and Mary Isabella (Morrow) Walker played by Dennis and Karen Carter-Edwards.

Geoff Hewitson as Alfred Rippingale





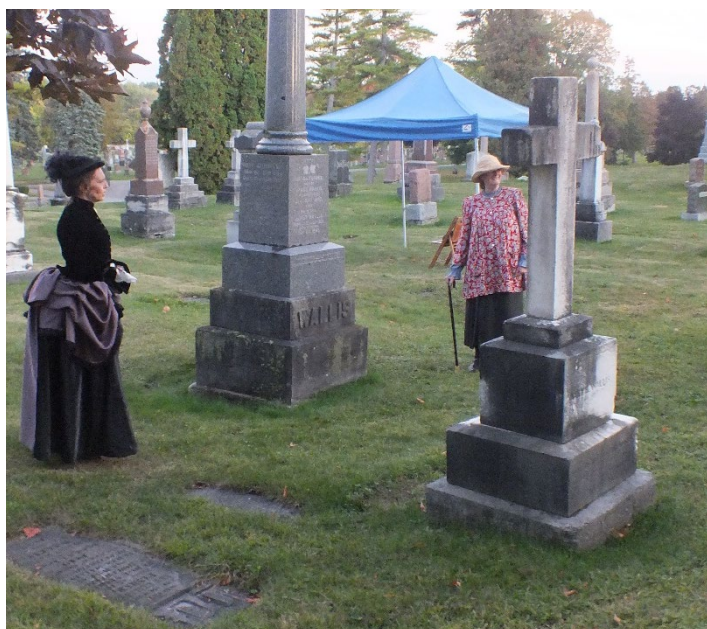
Justin Boyd reflecting on JoAnne Potipco.



Innocence to Ashes Group: the four children (right) were Isabella Armour, Mary Austin, Ernest Young, and Freddie McMaster, playing the parts respectively were June Govier, Kaitlin MacMillan, Isaac Maker, and Sean Quinlan.



Agnes Ryan in the Ryan to Lech skit. Ryan was played by Lauren Murphy, while Sean Quinlan played the roles of James McWilliams, gaoler; the judge; and William Lech the furrier.



Patricia Thorne and Hemione Rivison played the younger and older Katherine Wallis.



Don Willcock and Colum Diamond as Wilson S. Conger and Alexander McDonnell reminisced about past times.



Fascinating music in the Chapel was provided by Michael Ketemer on the hammered dulcimer.

Trent Valley Archives would like to thank the sponsors of our Little Lake Cemetery Pageant:

Hutchison House Museum
Little Lake Cemetery
Peterborough DBIA
Peterborough Theatre Guild
Tim Hortons, Water Street
our many volunteers!



News, Views and Reviews

Ontario Volunteer Service Awards

Heather Aiton Landry, Mary McGee, Madison More and Guy Thompson at the Awards event.



On September 30 some of our archives and cemetery pageant volunteers were recognized at the Ontario Volunteer Service Awards, which took place at the Holiday Inn in Peterborough. Each volunteer was given a certificate and a pin to recognize the number of years they have been volunteering with us. Pictured in the photo (from left to right) is our associate archivist Heather Aiton Landry, and three of the award recipients: Mary McGee (10 years of service), Madison More (youth award) and Guy Thompson (10 years of service). Not pictured, but still receiving an award, are our archivist Elwood Jones (30 years), Michael Ketemer (5 years), Elizabeth King (5 years), Susan Kyle (20 years), Rose Landry (youth award), Doreen Lasenby (5 years), Alice MacKenzie (30 years), Rick Meridew (10 years), and Nancy Misner (5 years).

No matter how long they have been with us, we are grateful to all our volunteers! Without them, we wouldn't be able to do everything that we do to preserve the history of our area and make it accessible to our community. If you see one of our volunteers

next time you're visiting our archives building, attending a tour or event, or just out and about, be sure to thank them for all of their hard work! (Also, we forgot to mention back in June that two of our volunteers - Karen Carter-Edwards and Madison More - were given Civic Awards for Cultural Betterment from the City of Peterborough. Congratulations to them both!)

Dr. Jessie Birnie

*Gord Young
Lakefield Heritage Research*

On Saturday, Sept. 14, Dr. Jessie Amelia Birnie, MD, was honored at the Peterborough Pathway of Fame.

Dr. Birnie was born and raised in Collingwood, attended, public and high school there, and, then attended like her sisters the London[ON] Teacher's College. She returned to Collingwood to teach Grade 8 at the public school, for a number of years.

Then she decided to re-invent herself. She attended the U of T Medical School, then took additional training at Bellevue Hospital's [NYC] adjunct hospital, the Polyclinic Hospital, which focused mainly on women's diseases and other medical issues. She endured a two year residence, and, then somehow, she came to Peterborough.

Here she endured the additional humiliation of not having surgical or general hospital privileges [except for her women patients], for the next five years. While waiting for those privileges, she began a "Baby Get Well" program,

and, other women's issues....in a clinic begun at St. Paul's Presbyterian Church.

But, on Monday Dec. 11th 1916, Dr. Birnie came into her own. The Quaker Oats plant caught fire, then exploded with an enormous concussion. Dr. Birnie rushed to the scene in her new electric-starter Chev to the front of the plant on Hunter Street East, where over two hundred girls and women were streaming out of the fast-ruining fire. Present day relatives of the girls and women remember their family's stories, of how Dr. Birnie was "barking like a serjeant major". In fairness, Dr. Birnie had to be heard over the roar of the fire.

But, it was her steadfastness, and, coolness, that brought the most reassurances to the female staff, as Dr. Birnie worked seamlessly with the Quaker Floor Fire Wardens to evacuate the building. A temporary triage was set up at the nearby James Ellis' "Peterborough Mattress

Company"; until it was deemed to be too dangerous. Later, as the injuries mounted, and, many of the present day medicines did not seem sufficiently effective, Dr. Birnie contacted the local First Nations healers to come, and, bring their medicines; those seemed to be more effective.

With much affection, she was called "Peterborough's Unsinkable Molly Brown". Most remember her for wearing a man's three-piece tweed banker suit, and, was rarely seen dressed in a lawn dress, except for her attendance on Sundays at St. Paul's Presbyterian church which was just a short walk from her boarding house on the same side of the street. However, it was Dr. Mary Walker MD, a Civil War physician/surgeon, the only woman to win the Medal of Honor, who began to wear men's three-piece suits by 1870.

It would appear that, most women physicians and surgeons from that time forward did wear men's suits, not so much as a fashion statement, necessarily, but, to ensure that they were not being viewed as a hospital cook, or, a washer-woman.

Dr. Birnie retired and went to California with her teacher sister, Catharine to stay with her brother John. There the two sisters died within months of each other.

At the Pathway of Fame event, Dr. Jessie Dobyns MD, accepted Dr. Birnie's award and it will be placed in the "Women's Health Unit" within the Peterborough Regional Health Center [hospital]. Dr. Dobyns is part of the medical staff in the "Women's Health Care Unit".

Ancient Building Falls, A Victim of Progress

Examiner, 7 August 1965

One of the oldest building in Ashburnham, dating back to the 1860's, is being torn down. It is the [first of two] building used as council chambers when Ashburnham was still a village separate from Peterborough.

East City historian, John J. McCabe, recalls attending many lively council sessions in this little building during the "gay '90's."

The one-storey brick structure at Mark and Robinson Sts. is being demolished to provide additional playground space for Immaculate Conception School.

In the beginning, it stood beside Ashburnham's first public school which was torn down in 1956. The next year, Immaculate Conception School was built on the public school site, Mr. McCabe said.

Mr. McCabe remembers attending Ashburnham council meetings over a period of years when Henry Calcutt and John Burnham served as reeve.

"Frank Adams was the last reeve of Ashburnham," he said. "When Ashburnham joined the city around 1904 [1903], Mr. Adams became city treasurer."

Besides serving as council chambers, the building now being torn down also served as Ashburnham's courtroom. John Wood was Ashburnham's first magistrate, Mr. McCabe said.

The village's first jail was located in a drill shed behind the town hall at the corner of Hunter and Mark Sts. Later a cell was built inside the town hall here, also known as the market building. It had a concert hall and stage upstairs for village entertainments.

Mr. McCabe said the building now being torn down should not be confused with the old public school.

"The Ashburnham public school torn down in

1956 was quite a substantial building. It had four classrooms and the bell tower customary for schools of that period."

After Ashburnham joined the city, the council hall lay idle for about 40 years, until it was acquired by the separate school board, Mr. McCabe said. The old public school next door was also abandoned once the King George School was built, until it was torn down.

The council chambers building came in handy last year for two extra classrooms for Immaculate Conception School when the school's enrolment outpaced its own classroom space.

Before that, for two or three years it was headquarters for boy scouts, girl guides, cubs and brownies.

USEFULNESS ENDS

Now an addition to Immaculate Conception School is being built and the old building is no longer needed.

Chemong Construction Co. Ltd. expects to have the addition finished with a week. It contains two classrooms, a general purpose room, a staff room, and additional pupil washrooms.

Demolition of the council chamber building began this week by a city firm headed by Fred O'Grady. It will be completed in a month's time.

-30-

Editor's Comments

This article helps establish dates for the buildings that stood on what is now the site of Immaculate Conception School in Ashburnham, at the corner of Mark and Robinson. One building was the village hall, preceding the one that was built at Mark and Hunter. The second was the first public school in Ashburnham.

Jack McCabe, who lived at the corner of Engleburn

and Burnham, had been a keen observer of Ashburnham affairs since the 1890s. He was one of the workers for the building of the Lift Lock; and was a noted athlete.

I took particular interest in his description of the drill hall, that was near the corner of Mark and Hunter. I have often tried to visualize the location of the drill hall. McCabe's description suggests it very nearly abutted the later village hall. I have often wondered if most of the drill hall was beneath the triplex that is on Mark Street. Now it may have been both that and part of what is now the parking behind Black's Distillery.

Fascinating article in its own right, but also food for thought on a few parts of Ashburnham history.

Land of Triumph and Tragedy

The Trent Valley Archives has received a copy of *Land of Triumph and Tragedy* written by Paola Breda and Marino Toppan. Using varied approaches to the experiences and issues of being Italian workers in 20th century Canada, the book commemorates those who died in their work, and yet has a sense of pride for what was accomplished.

It is a superb effort, bordering on the impossible. I told the authors, "The diversity and complexity of this project required real staying power. You should be proud." I particularly enjoyed the well-written account by Berenice Pepe, of the Italian community in Peterborough. The book includes well-written essays by historians, particularly on the history of emigration from Italy to Canada, and on the role of women in the settlement process.

Trent Valley Hockey League – new book.

ICE AND THUNDER

A History of the Trent Valley Hockey League

By Dave Barry and Stewart Richardson

"A forgotten time and place has now been rescued from the dustbin of hockey history and finally the story of the Trent Valley Hockey League has been told."

- *Todd Denault author of "Jacques Plante - The Man Who Changed the Face of Hockey" and winner of the 2017 Brian MacFarlane Award.*

The Trent Valley Hockey League (TVL) was chartered in 1899 and except for breaks during both World Wars and the Great Depression, it continued to operate as an independent hockey league throughout the Trent Valley to the Spring of 1955. Upon its collapse in the fall of 1955, several of the small communities converted to fully governed OHA, Intermediate "C" or "D" level hockey and continued to operate up into the early 1980s, but used the TVL moniker, out of a sense of pride and nostalgia for the old league.

The authors, Dave Barry and Stewart Richardson, provide a fascinating glimpse into the origins of this colorful old league, as well as year by year accounts of league champions and events, with photos and player testimonials. The book is intended to serve, not only as a "hand book" for hockey historians and enthusiasts, but also as a glimpse into the colourful culture and heritage of these many small towns and villages.

Throughout its long history, the league boasts of hosting some nine NHL players, four Stanley Cup winners, two NHL HHOF inductees, four Olympic or World Hockey champions, one USA hockey pioneer and National coach, one Norwegian hockey pioneer and National coach, several OHA major junior or senior players, and several inductees into the Peterborough or Belleville Sports Hall of Fame.

Dave Barry was raised on a farm near Hastings, and in 2001, retired in Peterborough after a long career in the Oil and Gas industry. In retirement, Dave has taken an active interest in local history, and has published several family histories and local history articles in the *Heritage Gazette* of the Trent Valley Archives.

Stewart Richardson was also raised in Hastings and is well acquainted with the Trent Valley Region. Stewart is a member of the Hastings Historical Society as well as SIHR (Society for International Hockey Research). His previous book *Dit Clapper and the Rise of the Boston Bruins* was published in 2012.

Dave Barry expects the book will be launched in October 2019, and it will be available from Trent Valley Archives.

Bruce Hodgins

Elwood H. Jones

One of my best friends and most respected colleague passed away in early August, aged 88.

Bruce Hodgins had an academic career, that culminated at Trent University where he was one of the founders, with Alan Wilson, of the Department of History. Over his years there, he was active in Canadian Studies and Environmental Studies as well. Earlier, he received his Ph.D. from Duke University, and served in history departments at Prince of Wales on Prince Edward Island, and at the University of Western Ontario. He was best known for his courses on Canadian Federalism, which were enriched by his intensive study of Australian politics and history. He served some years as the chair of the History Department, and had a long-time engagement with the Frost Centre, the home for graduate work in Canadian Studies.



Bruce Hodgins relaxing on the Nahanni.

Besides his teaching, his professional career took him on many fascinating research paths. He was the authority of Sandfield Macdonald, who was best-known as the first premier of Ontario but was also a significant politician, an advocate of the double majority, throughout the years of the Province of Canada, whose government spanned what became both Ontario and Quebec in a single province. Lord Durham had hoped the English would prevail over the French, but in practice the French had more unity and clout where it mattered. In some ways, the government of the Province of Canada was a laboratory for the study of federalism that so fascinated Bruce.

Bruce's other major historical interests were tied to the Temagami region. In a project that spanned two decades, Bruce and Jamie Benidickson

researched the history of the region and published the very influential Temagami Experience in 1989. The authors thoroughly tackled the environmental and historical issues tied to the region. As well, Bruce had a longstanding interest in the story of the Rev. Charles A. M. Paradis (1848-1926) who had envisaged Sandy Inlet on Lake Temagami as the capital of a colonization project for French Canadians from Quebec and from Quebec via Michigan.

The fascination with Paradis coincided with many of Bruce's research interests. Colonization had been a movement to counter the emigration of French Canadians to the textile mills of New England, and to build a future for French Canadians in Canada. Paradis' project was west of the areas most affected by Colonization, but much of north-eastern Ontario has strong French roots that dated from the natural movement of Quebecers west. Paradis' proposed capital was on the site that later became the site of Camp Wanapitei which was most important to Bruce especially from 1940 to the present. Coincidentally, this was also the northern point of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Peterborough during the Paradis years.

Bruce was a strong supporter of the New Democratic Party by at least the 1950s, and he ran for the Peterborough federal seat in 1968, the year of Trudeaumania. He lost to Faulkner in an election which many believed he could have won. Walter Pitman had won the long-time Conservative seat in 1960 by-election, and during the 1960s local party strength was impressive. Bruce contested the Peterborough federal riding in 1968, but lost in this year of Trudeaumania.



"Paddling Tommy"
Carol and Bruce paddle NDP Leader Tommy Douglas (his first time in a canoe) across Little Lake, Peterborough, to their nearby home at 7 Engleburn, June 1968

While I was at the Canadian Open golf tournament in 1968 I was reading the *Globe Magazine* feature article by the young Allan Abel on the Peterborough campaign. I felt that the article unfairly painted Bruce as an elitist in a working class

town. Bruce remained influential in the local party ranks until recent years.

Since 1964, Peterborough has been the centre of Bruce's interests. The main offices and governance of Camp Wanapitei was centred on Peterborough by the 1970s, mostly from his home on Engleburn Place. As well, the camp had its office in the Commerce Building at Water and Hunter for about twenty years, and later at McDonnell and Aylmer. Most of the shareholders of the camp had connections with Trent University or Peterborough or both. Bruce was also an active supporter of both the Peterborough Historical Society and Trent Valley Archives as well as the archives at Trent University. Many of Bruce's papers relating to politics and historical research are at Trent University. He was also instrumental in establishing a camping archives for Ontario based at Trent University. As well, the archives of Camp Wanapitei are partly at Trent University and partly at the Trent Valley Archives.

Bruce and I first met at the University of Western Ontario, now Western University, when I was an M. A. student, and he was a young professor completing his Ph.D. thesis. I was studying the London Free Press and Josiah Blackburn in the decade before Confederation. Blackburn was the only journalist ally for Sandfield Macdonald, the important Province of Canada politician from Cornwall and Ontario's first premier and the subject of Bruce Hodgins doctoral thesis that he was then researching and writing for Duke University. We wrote a joint article based on correspondence between Blackburn and Sandfield Macdonald that appeared in Ontario History.

Bruce became the leading authority on Sandfield Macdonald. This was also his entry point into the study of federalism, as Sandfield had defined interesting positions as a quasi-federalist politician and had a Louisiana senator as a father-in-law. Bruce's Trent University courses on federalism became legendary, and some of his ideas on politics, on indigenous issues, on the importance of the North, all flowed from his comprehensive understanding of the philosophical alternatives. The contrasts with Australian and

American approaches to federalism were worthy of better and wider understanding, and he and several colleagues undertook research.

My family's first real visit to Peterborough was to visit with Bruce and his family in 1968. Bruce's office was nearly always in Sadleir House, then the hub of Peter Robinson College. Trent University was taking shape at the Nassau (now Symons) campus, and Bruce gave a tour. The Faryon bridge was planned but not built but Champlain, Lady Eaton, the Chemistry Building and Bata Library had been built.

We became colleagues in the history department at Trent in 1969. Bruce and Alan Wilson had founded the department and they introduced many important features to the teaching of history. Most teaching was done in faculty offices, which tended to be larger than those at other universities. There was great emphasis on reading and research, and the use of local resources was a trademark. The first year history course was on Canadian History because as a young university it was easier to provide reasonable library and bookstore resources. This turned out to be a defining feature of the department which offered a wide range of topics on Canadian history.

While Trent University was a small university from the 1960s to the 1980s, it had a large Arts and Science faculty. Trent had one of Canada's leading history departments because of the depth and variety that it offered. As well, there were fewer lectures but each lecture was given before colleagues and were



superbly researched and topical.

Elwood Jones (and probably daughter Heather) in the garden at Wanapitei, c. 1980.

While the Hodgins family took a sabbatical at Australian National University in 1969-70, our family lived in their house. We remained close neighbors after the Hodgins returned.

They toured by Volkswagen bus from England across Europe and the Middle East to India where they took one of the last Pacific and Orient steamboats operating to Australia. The trip was an adventure, but also gave Bruce first-hand information about Afghanistan and India.

I was only slightly aware of Camp Wanapitei, but that too changed. The Hodgins family had purchased Camp Wanapitei in 1956, and Bruce and his brother Larry were key figures in the development of its reputation for canoe tripping. From its base on Lake Temagami, they organized trips that sent campers, usually led in the early years by the Hodgins, down all the rivers that led into James Bay. In later years, the senior canoe trips reached distant rivers such as the Nahanni, Coppermine and the Moisie.

I never aspired to be a tripper, but I loved Camp Wanapitei. All our family became connected, and my son Mark became an avid tripper. My contributions were more on the gardening, maintenance and business sides. I usually stayed in the Chateau, the heritage log building tied to the camp.

Bruce, Shawn, Carol and Geoff paddling in the Otonabee River near their home, c. 1968.

Bruce's parents had camped on the Paradis site that became Wanapitei and in different ways the campsite was central to Bruce's life. Quite apart from the camping and canoe tripping, it was a site with a captivating history that was closely associated with the local Bear Island First Nation, with the fur trade, Ontario-Quebec relations. Bruce was, with colleague John Jennings, one of the founders of the Canadian Canoe Museum. The camp always maintained a large canoe fleet, and also attracted people who could maintain canoes and even preserve some of the legendary wood canvas canoes.

At heart, it was also a family affair. His wife, Carol, was in charge of equipping canoe trips, designing interesting and practical menus. This was complex work. The camp built Sangeo, the canoe tripping supply base, and Carol was the key leader.



The supplies came from Peterborough, North Bay and Temagami, and they had to be secured against wild life and food issues. Carol's book with hints and recipes for trip canoeing became a runaway hit of the Highway Book Shop. Shawn runs a premier adult canoe tripping operation, and son Geoff is an architect in Perth and the President of Camp Wanapitei. All have played significant roles in the history of Wanapitei.

Although Wanapitei was based in Ontario's North, the operations of the camp were in Peterborough. The shareholder meetings were held here, and the camp recruited its leaders for the coming season in Peterborough. Many of the supplies were purchased here, and vehicle maintenance was always done here. Wanapitei was a significant and complex organization. Its major asset through the years was Bruce's charismatic leadership. He inspired people by his enthusiasm and commitment and forged many external links to the wider canoeing and environmental communities.

Bruce's legacy will be with canoeing, Wanapitei, Trent University, and the Canadian history of federalism and the North. His was a life well lived, several times.

A celebration of his life, featuring memories by former colleagues at Trent and at Wanapitei was held at Trent University, in the Great Hall of Champlain College, October 19.

Thanks to Geoff Hodgins and Nicola Jennings who shared photos.

Queries

Elwood H. Jones and Heather Aiton Landry

Trent Valley Archives sells quality used books at reasonable prices

If you are searching for a vintage book related to the history of Canada, and particularly our area send an email of inquiry to admin@trentvalleyarchives.com and we will give you a speedy response. If we have the book we will tell you the selling price and the shipping costs. Or when you are by our campus drop in and browse. Visitors welcome. Examples of the range of books that we carry can be gleaned from the listing in the May and August issues.

Ginger Beer in Peterborough

WILLIAM CROFT

Among the products that Peterborough has reason to be proud of, as being strictly a local manufacture, is the ginger beer manufactured by Mr. William Croft, one of this city's veteran citizens.

Mr. Croft was, for many years, proprietor of the Croft House, on the corner of Water and Hunter streets, and had one of the largest hotel connections in the county, or, in fact, in the country. Not a farmer or traveler that came to Peterborough was ignorant of Mr. Croft's name, some seven years ago, decided to quit the hotel business and entered into the manufacture of a ginger beer that, if advertised and tested in the larger cities, would ensure a large demand for the same.

Mr. Croft's ginger beer factory is situated at the junction of Park, Sherbrooke and Reid streets. Whilst he pays more attention to the purity and excellence of his ginger beer than to gaudy and too often deceptive display labels, etc., his products are favorably known in every hotel and many private houses of this city.

One point in favor of Mr. Croft's ginger beer is that, as the weeks pass by after it is manufactured, in just such ratio does the ginger beer improve. Too many kinds of ginger beer, if kept beyond a certain time, turn sour or get flat. This is due to cheap ingredients and careless manufacturing. With Mr. Croft's goods, the ginger beer when new is somewhat sweet; however, by keeping the same for a few weeks or months it gets a sparkle and zest not to be duplicated by any but the highest class of goods. It might be noted that a majority of the various brands of ginger beer is artificially aerated, or has sulphuric acid gas (a product of marble dust and vitriol) inserted. Mr. Croft's ginger beer has no artificial gas pumped in, but ferments by process of nature from chemical action of yeast and

choicest ingredients. Were Mr. Croft a younger man, there is no doubt but what his ginger beer would, within a few years, be advertised from ocean to ocean.

CHAS. JAMES

Those who appreciate a good glass of ginger beer, made after an old English formula, should call on Mr. Charles James, 391 Sherbrooke Street. Mr. James has been making ginger beer for a quarter of a century in this city and demand for his goods is ever increasing. Having two rigs on the road, Mr. James, with the assistance of his son and Mr. W. Evans, is noted for prompt delivery when called up by Telephone No. 417.

These two items were part of the same unmarked news or magazine clipping. Any details gratefully received.

In 1901 census William Croft, 75, was born 25 December 1825, emig. From England 1831, Presbyterian, making ginger beer; his wife, Jane, 71, was born 8 April 1819, emig from Ireland, 1846, Presbyterian.

In 1901 census, Charles James, 62, b. 10 Feb 1838, emig 1873 from England, Methodist, also manufacturer of ginger beer. His wife, Sarah James, 56, b. 10 Feb 1838, also emig 1873.

Looking for details.

JULIA SABIN

One of the more frequent inquiries we receive has to do with the history of a home or property. These come from people who are looking to designate a home, mount a plaque, or simply for general interest. Inquirers like to know the name of the person who first lived in a home as well as information about their family and their occupation. Normally, when we search house histories, we are able to find the occupation of the first owner of a home quite easily. Sometimes, the search is more complex.

The house history search for 535 Bolivar Street proved to be one such case. Julia Sabin moved into the newly constructed home in 1913 and is listed in Vernon's Directory as the sole occupant, with no occupation. However, we learned through further research that she was certainly industrious and her story and that of her family, as far as we can understand it at present, is one of perseverance in adversity. The house remained in Julia's family until 1970.

Julia was the fourth of eight children born to Thomas Jonathan Sabin and Jane Martha (Fairman) Sabin. She was born on June 6, 1877. Her father was listed in the 1891 census as a plasterer, but by 1898 was known to be a

contractor. The family lived together at 46 Chamberlain Street (at some point, the house was re-numbered to 498). In the early morning of July 18, 1898, Thomas Jonathan Sabin drowned while fishing in Little Lake. He was 50 years old. Ironically, later that day, he was supposed to sign a major contract for the paving of George and Water Streets in partnership with Mr. T. M. McFadden. Thomas' death left all the children except the oldest daughter, Rose, who had married Robert Wolstenholm, at home with a mother who had been ill with a heart condition for the past two years. Just two months later, Jane Martha Sabin was dead as well. Julia, now the woman of the house, was left to care for her two youngest siblings while the others worked outside the home: Thomas, the oldest, followed their father in his profession; Edward ran a butcher shop on George Street; Lucy and Charles had jobs at CGEJ).

By 1901, one of the younger children, Agnes, was living with her sister Rose and her husband on Charlotte Street. The older boys had moved out and Julia is listed as the head of the household both in the directory and the census for that year. Two boarders are also listed at the address, and Ada Sabin, now 17, has a job as a brass finisher. The 1911 Census lists three boarders and Julia's occupation is listed as "boarding house."

Our resources do not tell us exactly how Julia managed to save the money to purchase the house at 535 Bolivar, although it is likely that running a successful boarding house for about 15 years had something to do with it. We do know that by 1913, she is listed as the homeowner and no boarders are listed. By 1915, her sister Agnes, as well as Rose and her husband Robert are sharing the house. Robert and Rose continue to live there after Julia marries George Smith, a machinist with the William Hamilton Company, in October 1918.

Julia moves to a house on Charlotte Street with George, while Robert and Rose continue to live in the house. Julia died on June 29, 1922 of a cerebral hemorrhage and a "malignant uterus," and George followed her to his death on September 26. He shot himself with a revolver (not at the house on Bolivar Street—he was living on Water Street at the time).

By 1943, Rose Wolstenholm is a widow as well. Another sister, Lucy, had married Edward Lawrence Davis in 1903. Now also a widow, she moved in with Rose. Rose passed away on August 10, 1946, and Lucy continued to live in the house with sister Agnes who had lived with her on Charlotte Street many years before. After Lucy's passing in 1957, Agnes continued to live in the house until September 16, 1970—the anniversary of her mother's death.

The Late Robert H. Gardner

11 March 1900

Thanks to Mitch Parker. Notice that this is one of the ancestors in the Parker family tree. It is uncertain what newspaper ran this obituary. The first stanza of this poem appears quite often on cemetery monuments.

We are called upon to chronicle the death of one of the pioneers of Dummer in the person of Robert H. Gardner who passed over to the great majority on the 23rd of

February 1900, after a short illness.

Deceased was in his seventieth year. He was born in Somersetshire in England in 1830, and came with his father the late Wm. Gardner to this country in 1932 and settled in the Township of Dummer, which was then wilderness.

Deceased's father, Wm. Gardner, served in the British navy during the wars with Napoleon Bonaparte, and was wardrobe-steward on board the Bonaparte when Napoleon was taken to the island of St. Helena. A few years afterwards he received an honorable discharge and a grant of one hundred acres of land in the township of Dummer.

Deceased at thirteen years of age, began shoe-making, which he worked at for four years, then hired in the country as a laborer for the next seven years.

He then married Miss Jane Parker, to whom was born five sons and five daughters, all of whom survive him, except one. They settled on the east half of lot 4, in the 8th concession of Dummer, where he resided about sixteen years; then he removed to the west half of the same lot, where he resided until the time of his death.

Deceased was a very successful farmer, and being a very skillful, economizing man, he secured a vast amount of this world's goods, taking as his motto "Honesty is the best policy" and that "It is more blessed to give than to receive," thanking God at all times for his goodness and mercy. He was a faithful attendant of the Methodist Church for about fifty years.

The funeral took place on Sunday, and notwithstanding the intense cold and storm, a large concourse followed his remains to their last resting-place in the Norwood cemetery. The Rev. R. Taylor, pastor of the Methodist Church, conducted the services.

Mr. Gardner leaves a widow, five sons and four daughters to mourn his loss.

We miss thee from our home, dear father,
We miss thee from thy place
A shadow o'er our life is east
We miss the sunshine of thy face
We miss thy kind and willing hand,
Thy fond and earnest care,
Our home is dark without thee,
We miss thee everywhere

One precious to our hearts has gone,
The voice we loved is stilled
The place made vacant in our home,
Can never more be filled,
Our Father in His wisdom called,
The boon His love had given;
And though on earth the body lies,
The soul is safe in Heaven

When God removes any one who is dear to us, what cordial consolation does it afford, when we have reason to believe he was ready for death. We must not sorrow as men without hope. The change is his great advantage. It would be selfish to wish him out of Heaven, to reside again in this vale of tears. Absent from the body, he is present with the Lord; and though the body must see corruption, it shall not always be the prisoner of the grave. Jesus has engaged to raise it up at the last day, and to fashion it like His own glorious body. Oh let us prepare to follow our pious friends

favored
 with an
 earlier call
 to glory.
 While we
 remain
 below, let
 us be active
 for God;
 and soon
 shall we
 join our
 kindred
 spirits
 before the
 throne,
 unite in the
 song of the
 redeemed,
 and "so be
 forever with
 the Lord."

The Ojibwa Choir

Directed by Chief North Star

SIDE 1

Oh Wah Pa Gish

(Oh for a Thousand Tongues)

Ma gwah mon tain 'see we nin wug

(While Shepherds Watched Their Flocks)

Je sus ish pe ming kah e zhod

(Jesus My All, to Heaven is Gone)

Ge shami ni doo nigei chi mah na quain dum shih

(How Great Thou Art)

Ah yah muh gud suh duh nuk ke win

(There's a Land that is Fairer than Day)

Ka gait 'nuh ning ee ne bo tog

(Alas! and did My Saviour Bleed)

SIDE 2

Chief North Star talks to his Tribe

Pe mah jah yook, wah jee we yalg

(Come on My Partners in Distress)

Doxology

Back in the days when Canada was born, missionaries who worked among the Indians introduced them to the singing of hymns, in great contrast to their war chants. The old hymns that were sung in the Ojibwa tongue in those early days have been out of print for many years, if, indeed, they were ever available in written form at all. This recording by an Ojibwa choir is of old songs collected with great care from all available sources wherever that language or its closely related tongue, the Huron language, is still spoken.

If you understand the words, you will find that God becomes "The Mighty Gitchie-Manitou", and that Christmas takes place "within the Moon of Wintertime when all the stars had fled". Thus a new and strange beauty is born.

The beat of the tom-toms merely adds to the picture of the flaming fire, leaping and fading with the glorious Indian voices as night falls over the land.

On Side Two, Chief North Star, leader and director of the choir as well as being head, in a municipal sense, of Curve Lake Reservation near Peterboro, Ontario, talks to his Council against a background of historic dance beats used centuries ago to plead for bountiful crops, victory in wars, relief from sickness, and a joyful entry into the Happy Hunting Ground. In sharp contrast, the record ends with an Indian version of the Doxology.



Back Row, left to right: Austin McPoe, Alex Knott, John Jacobs, Victor Johnson, Ames Irons.

Centre Row, left to right: Inez Knott, Aileen Irons.

Front Row, left to right: Adely Muskrat, Chief North Star (Dalton Jacobs), Allen Taylor, Gladys Taylor.

On the cover: Allen Taylor

Photography by Montaigne

Technical Rias

High Fidelity 30 to 20,000 cps.

Made with Ampex tape recorders using multiple Electrovoice condenser microphones.

Produced by William J. Montaigne

Sound Engineer Fred Smith

MONTAIGNE LIMITED
PEMBROKE, ONTARIO, CANADA

Ojibwa Choir

We received this cover from a record album and are curious to know any background information that relates to the history of the choir and to the members of the choir at the time this album was made: Austin McPoe; Alex Knott; John Jacobs; Victor Johnson; Ames Irons; Inez Knott; Aileen Irons; Adely Muskrat; Chief North Star (aka Dalton Jacobs); Allen Taylor; Gladys Taylor. Also the producer was William J. Montaigne of Montaigne Limited in Pembroke, ON, who was producing some records in the 1960s.

William J. Montaigne (via Archeion)

Bill Montaigne (1915-1988) was a Pembroke, Ontario-based professional photographer, and was also involved in cinematography, sound recording and television journalism.

Born in Montreal, Quebec Montaigne graduated in 1936 from St. James College in Minneapolis, Minnesota with a B.A. in journalism. After graduation he worked as a freelance journalist for a number of major American newspapers and magazines, and also wrote radio scripts.

Montaigne served in World War Two as a member of a Canadian artillery unit, and while in Scotland, married Barbara Malcolm Hope, a native of Pembroke, Ontario. After the war ended, they settled in Pembroke, and Montaigne began work with radio station CHOV as a commercial representative, involved in advertising, news gathering, writing and producing.

In 1948 Bill and Barbara Montaigne opened Montaigne's Flowers, Gifts and Photography Shop, where he focussed primarily on photographing local events. In the 1950s the photography part of the business expanded to include film productions, sound recordings, and television journalism, with Montaigne freelancing for CBC television. He also became more active in photojournalism, contributing work for magazines, journals, and local newspapers. In the 1970s Montaigne involved himself more in commercial photography, focussing upon weddings, portraits and graduations. In 1979 he published a book entitled "How to Begin and Operate a Successful Commercial Photography Business." Montaigne operated his photography business until his death in 1988.

There is an archival fonds at the Archives of Ontario for William J. Montaigne. For good access go to Archeion, the data base for Ontario archival collections, managed and maintained by the Archives Association of Ontario.

Fonds consists of photographic, textual, sound and moving images material created, accumulated, and maintained by Bill and Barbara Montaigne.
Bill Montaigne fonds

Dates of Creation

1946-1987

Physical Description

ca. 128,000 photographs : prints and negatives

3.9 metres of textual records

1 reel of microfilm (textual records)

3 audio reels; 1 audio disc; 11 film reels

Fonds includes black and white and colour photographic negatives depicting local community life and news events in the Pembroke, Ontario area. Portraits and aerial photographs are also found in the fonds. Three file card indices for many of the photographs in this fonds are also available.

Textual records contained in this fonds include newspaper clippings, story files, proof sheets, and correspondence pertaining to Montaigne's activities as a photojournalist. Fonds also includes three scrapbooks compiled by Barbara Montaigne containing magazine and newspaper clippings, photographs, cards and other ephemera documenting Bill Montaigne's career as a photojournalist, photographer and cinematographer.

Records of Bill Montaigne also include sound recordings and freelance films produced by Montaigne, and some footage of his family.

The records have been arranged in nine series.

For a more detailed description, use this link to the Archives of Ontario's descriptive database:

<http://ao.minisisinc.com/scripts/mwimain.dll/144/PROV/P>

[ROV/REFD+C+239?SESSIONSEARCH](#)

Montaigne audio productions

Dates of Creation

1966

Physical Description

3 audio reels (2 hr., 15 min.)

1 audio disc (45 min.)

Sub-series forms part of

[C 239](#) Bill Montaigne fonds

Scope and Content

Series consists of a recording of nine hymns sung by the Ojibwa Indian Choir at the Curve Lake Indian Reserve near Peterborough, Ontario as well as a voice recording of Chief North Star speaking to his council and Mr. John Fisher, a historian known as "Mr. Canada", narrating between the hymns. The hymns and voice narration were mixed together at a later stage to produce an LP phonograph. This series also contains a recording of ten vignettes of Canadian history read by John Fisher made for radio broadcast during the centennial year. Subjects include early Irish settlement in Canada, War of 1812, World War I, Cape Breton miners, Stratford Festival and Confederation.

This description of what is in the Archives of Ontario is very helpful. However, the back story is missing. How was the choir formed and what were its objectives? What is the link with John Fisher, better described as Canada's best known publicist.

Send comments to Elwood@trentvalleyarchives.com.
Thanks.

Jackson Creek

Q: How does Jackson Creek cross the downtown of Peterborough?

Jackson Creek (known earlier as Dixon Creek, Hamilton Creek, and Jackson Park Creek) flowed from the Cavan swamps, passed through Peterborough, and entered the Otonabee River near Townsend Street. The Creek was the major source of waterpower for the earliest industries in Peterborough because unlike the Otonabee River it was not fast flowing. The Otonabee was harnessed by short canals, called raceways, by the 1860s, and by the 1880s the Otonabee was the best river in the province for producing electricity; there were over 20 generating plants between Trenton and Bobcaygeon by 1900.

Jackson Creek seems to have weighed heavily with Richard Birdsall who surveyed the town in the summer of 1825. The longest blocks, east west, were between George and Aylmer. These blocks had seven town lots compared to two for the other blocks between Park and the river.

This presented some problems as the town developed

as bridges were needed wherever the creek crossed the town lines. Quite early, for example, the intersection of Brock and Aylmer was crossed by bridges going along Aylmer and along Brock. This is scarcely visible now, but if you walk the area one can see Jackson Creek flowing from the northwest to the southeast. The creek was then visible to Hunter Street, where a Hunter Street bridge was built over the creek. The creek is visible again in the Charlotte Mews before it passes under the Charlotte Street bridge. The creek is open off and on to the river. Even so, the creek's course was altered in different areas.

It seemed worthwhile to bridge the creek in several projects because of the compactness of the walking town. Peterborough's population doubled every 20 years until 1920, and so land was at a premium. As well, Birdsall's survey effectively ignored the creek in laying out the lots. In some parts of downtown buildings, including the parking garages on Simcoe Street and King Street, proved to be the bridges.

There have been discussions since the 1950s about making the creek more visible in the downtown area. However, much of the land is owned in small parcels.

Historically, Jackson Creek has been too valuable to be left only for canoeing and recreation.

A version of this response appeared in the current issue of *A Taste of the Kawarthas*, which may be accessed at



Aerial photo of Jackson Creek



Even in 1846, as seen in this segment of Sandford Fleming's map, the town was well-developed along the creek.

Bray Family

Re: photo in the Peterborough Examiner (the Bray family). Not sure of the print date.

Young Edith (deceased) in the photo grew up and married my uncle William Price.

They co-farmed with my grandfather Percy Roberts Price, a veteran of the Boer War on the family farm located just over the hill on the Old Norwood Road and just east of Television Road.

This farm is also where my mother, Beatrice Mary Price (deceased) was raised, along with siblings, Samuel, Percy, William, Dorothy (Brackenridge) and Fred. (All deceased.)

Sam and Fred were veterans of the 2nd world war.

The farm was originally a 100 acre farm until two acres were severed and the Rifle Range School was built on the two acres. My mother attended this school, and I'm sure other family members did as well.

Coincidentally, my wife Mary Lou, (Brinson) whom I had no idea even existed, and her siblings also attended Rifle Range School and walked back and forth in good and bad weather on a daily basis from their family farm, 2 ½ miles east and just off the Old Norwood Rd. No buses! This was during the 1940's.

Rifle Range School for a time, housed the Donwood United Church until the new Church (now Greenwood United Church) was built. Our daughter Carol, born June 1964 was baptised at Rifle Range.

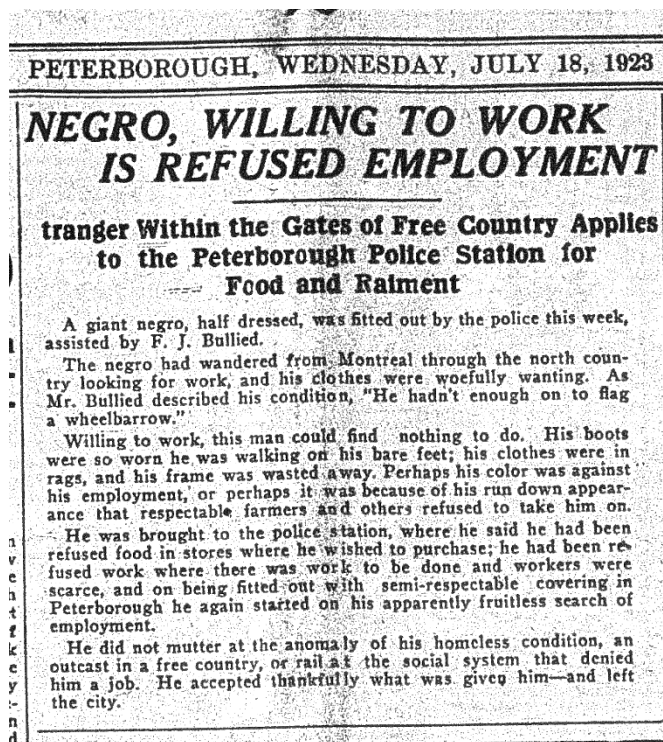
Rifle Range School was the home of local musician Jack Bailey (deceased), at some point after the church moved.

Les French, also in the photo, was Aunt Edith's cousin and operated a locksmith business in Peterborough for many years. His mother was Edith's father's sister.

The information a photo from the past can uncover is interesting.

Encountering the Other: Peterborough, Minstrel Shows, and the Real Thing – A “Stranger Within the Gates . . .”

By Robert G. Clarke



“Negro, Willing to Work Is Refused Employment,” *Examiner*, July 18, 1923, p.1.

The usually delightful task of going through years of old newspapers invariably brings an encounter with moments in time that are as mysterious as they are fascinating – and sometimes disturbing.

For me, as I searched for material about movie-going in Peterborough, one such article appeared in July 1923 under the headline “Negro, Willing to Work Is Refused Employment.”

As the story goes, one day a “giant negro” comes to town – and, the place being Peterborough, it is a predominantly white city of mainly Anglo citizens with, at best, a few Chinese people representing the other. When a Black man arrives out of the blue, it is big news. The police have to be called on for help.

This man had apparently been wandering the countryside in search of work – coming all the way by foot from Montreal. His clothes were tattered, his boots worn away so much that he was walking on bare feet. He had been refused work wherever he went. “He hadn’t enough on to flag a wheelbarrow,” said the city’s Market Clerk Fred J. Bullied (who also doubled as an auctioneer).

The man was taken to the police station, perhaps given some food (the account doesn’t say), outfitted with a new

set of “semi-respectable covering,” and soon after that left town as he “again started out on his apparently fruitless search of employment.”

The story is a peculiar mixture of sympathy for the man – beginning with its headline, “Negro, Willing to Work Is Refused Employment” – and ultimately of a refusal to admit someone from outside the relatively cosy confines of the white dominant culture. He was not, after all, offered a job or a place to stay; he was simply given some clothes and sent on his way.

Then too, the circumstances of this particular visit were abnormal – and they would have been seen to be abnormal at the time.

A little context here might help.

In the summer of 1907 the *Examiner* published a lengthy article about the city’s “foreign population.” By “foreign,” the paper meant anyone not of English, Irish, or Scottish origin. The city had “many” Italians, and a few Chinese, but that was about it for foreigners. (The paper neglected to note that there was at least one family of Greek origin.)

Most significantly, the writer found reason to mention that no “negroes” were to be found amongst the population. And remarkably, with a misguided and undoubtedly racist attempt at humour, the writer noted: “Peterborough seems to be deserted by the negro for some reason that cannot easily be found unless it is that water melons are a rather scarce commodity here.”

It is no surprise really that in 1911 the cabinet of Prime Minister Wilfrid Laurier approved an order in council to prohibit Black people from entering the country for a period of one year. The order was partly in response to what was seen as an “alarming influx of Negro settlers” in Alberta. The reason stated: “the Negro race . . . is deemed unsuitable to the climate and requirements of Canada.” The order was later cancelled, but the prevailing conditions meant that Canada had very few Black immigrants.

I grew up in Peterborough and distinctly remember the first time I saw a Black person in real life (lots of them on movie screens, of course) – and that was not until I was around age twelve or thirteen, in the mid-1950s. My parents had rented a cottage for a month on Clear Lake, and I have imprinted in my mind the sight of seeing, passing by our little beach, a small outboard motor boat with members of a Black family in it. I don’t remember if I smiled and waved my hand at them or if I stood there motionless in shock.

I decided to ask a few friends – people who analyse and study such things – what they thought of the 1923 article.

One of them had perhaps the starkest response: she said she saw a central theme, of negro as animal. Another wondered if there would have been others in this same situation at the time? Why was he alone? It is a “romantic narrative,” she said – with a “gentle giant” character – the “romance of the outsider.”

Someone else said that to call him a “giant negro” is strange enough – but he is also represented as passive, seemingly not angry at his plight. What does the writer mean by “the anomaly of his homeless position”? The *Examiner* writer is sympathetic enough – and takes a mild swipe, both at those storeowners on the man’s travels who refused him food (he must, then, have had a bit of money), and at those who refused to give him work “where there was work to be done.” But the piece offers only the slightest criticism of the “social system that denied him a job.” Was there no job to be had for him in Peterborough?

The account “seems humanistic,” a friend observed – the man is said to be “an outcast in a free country” – but it still fed into a prevailing stream of racism. The story, for instance, describes the white farmers as “respectable,” while the Black man is half-dressed, his clothes “woefully wanting” – so it’s supposedly no wonder they refused to help him.

Then there’s the idea (again) that he is primitive, emerging out of nature; we really know little about where he’s coming from except for the vagueness of him somehow having walked from Montreal. (How would he have done that if he had never received help along the way?) In Peterborough he “accepted thankfully what was given to him” – which harkens back to the stereotypical image of a grateful slave, to a social pattern of “benevolent paternalism.” African Americans, after all, were long considered to be “only half-human beings.”

Most of the newspaper’s readers of 1923 would have experienced little if any first-hand exposure to Blacks – except, perhaps, in the stereotypical versions of stage or screen.

If the 1907 *Examiner* article is to be believed, there were no Blacks living in Peterborough early in the 20th century. It is safe to say that few people of African origin or descent had lived in the immediate area over preceding decades (although there were Blacks in other parts of Ontario and the country as a whole). Word has it that there was a Black barber in Peterborough in the 19th century; and Susanna Moodie, writing in the 1850s, has a disparaging account of an early encounter with such a person:

There was a runaway nigger from the States came to the village, and set up a barber’s poll, and settled among us. I am no friend to the blacks; but really Tom Smith was such a quiet, good-natured fellow, and so civil and obliging, that he soon got a good business. He was clever, too, and cleaned old clothes until they looked almost as good as new. Well, after a time he persuaded a white girl to marry him. She was not a bad-looking Irishwoman, and I can’t think what bewitched the creature to take him . . .”

Still, Peterburians would have encountered Blacks – or their representation – in other ways. The eminently racist blockbuster movie *The Birth of a Nation* (1915) was such a huge draw that, after its initial screening in November 1915, it came back to the city’s theatres again and again. In that film, argues film historian Lary May, the black folks of the U.S. South are “seen as innately dangerous: in spite of their potential for noble deeds, they could never really be trusted.”

From the 19th century until long into the 20th, minstrel shows were immensely popular in town, as they were on the rest of the continent. They were regular attractions on the stages of the Grand Opera House (1905–35) or Royal Theatre (1908–25). Their appeal continued well into the 1930s and 1940s. The shows conventionally featured white performers in blackface, doing singing and dancing and comedy routines while pretending to be black – a tradition carried on most notably by Al Jolson in his stage and screen appearances.

It was a major event when, in February 1911, the Royal Theatre presented, for one day only, a minstrel show that did not have white actors in blackface but instead a “cast of fourteen coloured people.” Top billed were the Reese Brothers and Their Africanders (including “four coloured ladies”), in *Minstrelsy*, along with “Kinky Boys and Girls,” a comedy group, in something called *Southland* – “Singing, Dancing, Talking” – complete with a full brass band and orchestra.

The evening crowd that turned out was so large that it led to jammed aisles and disturbances – and complaints from people who couldn’t squeeze in. When the crowd flowed out onto George Street and blocked the street-car tracks, the police were called in. The police chief later said, “People were packed so tightly that it was impossible to close the lobby doors.” For those inside, he said, “The place was very hot.” A “middle-aged” lady “was so overcome” that she fainted and “had to be carried out into the fresh air until she revived.”

When an attraction called Honey Boy’s Minstrels came to the Grand Opera House in 1923, an *Examiner* writer tried to explain the minstrel show’s “never-ending popularity” in town. He pointed to its dependable repetition of standard songs and dances and long history – dating back to the 1880s – as “an ‘American institution’” with its “sorrow-defying, gloom-dispelling, joy-inspiring, laugh-provoking burnt cork celebrities.”

Not surprisingly, he failed to mention what critics of the genre have long pointed out: how the white performers in blackface did comedy routines based on traditional and “intensely racist” caricatures and stereotypes – depictions, as one writer says, that “helped to popularize the belief that blacks were lazy, stupid, inherently less human, and unworthy of integration.”

It is interesting that the “Negro, Willing to Work” writer did try to humanize the subject of the article. But in the end you can’t help noticing the attempt at an “all ends well” finish to the story. Without any muttering, “He accepted thankfully what was given him” – the city was generous, in its way – and the man left town, going off to who knows where or what.

Thanks especially to Marlene Kadar, York University, and Andrea Fatona, Ontario College of Art and Design, for reading a draft of this article and encouraging its publication.

Robert G. Clarke is working on a social history of moviegoing in Peterborough. Please see his website, <https://www.peterboroughmoviehistory.com/>.

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Vern Redmond Joseph Mulhall

Vern Mulhall, a long-time supporter of Trent Valley Archives, passed away in October in his 96th year. Vern and his wife of 64 years, Maureen, prepared a very useful listing of Henry Hickey's construction projects; Hickey was the father of Maureen. Vern Mulhall was passionate about genealogy and I was impressed with his library and the systematic way in which he approached issues of history and genealogy.

Vern spent his career as a chemical engineer at Canadian General Electric in Peterborough. He was born in Thamesville, Ontario and grew up in Toronto where he was educated at St. Michael's College School and St. Michael's College at the University of Toronto.

Henry Hickey was an accomplished builder even beginning with his 1919 project for J. J. Duffus' garage on the site of what is now the MNR. He also built a major addition at Canadian General Electric in 1930, and worked on projects for Senator Francis Patrick

O'Connor, the founder of Laura Secord Chocolates.

Our condolences to Maureen and the family and friends. Vern's legacy will be strong and lasting.

Jerry Sherlock

Jerry Sherlock, the founder of Joseph Patrick Books passed away on October 19, also in his 96th year. Jerry was a close friend and a colleague with the National Archival Appraisal Board. Locally, he was the appraiser for the Howard Pammatt fonds at Trent Valley Archives and jointly with Elwood Jones the appraiser for the Roy Studio fonds which was eventually acquired by the City of Peterborough; this remarkable nationally significant collection of three generations of the Roy family was transferred to the Peterborough Museum and Archives in 2000. He was particularly proud of participating in the appraisal of the Robertson Davies and Hudson's Bay Company archives, two very complex archival collections that are in different respects outstanding and essential to the proposition that archives are crucial to the understanding of our history, whether from the 17th century or the 20th.

Joseph Patrick Books had great influence on the development of used book stores in Canada. His store was near the Junction in west Toronto. It always specialized in Canadiana and Catholic books. Three of his brothers became Catholic priests; one was Bishop of London, Ontario.

Jerry was a true gentleman and I appreciated every project on which I worked with him.

Viola Lee

Viola Lee was one of my favourite neighbours since 1982. Her family lived in their Cricket Place house since about 1911, and for her it was home for all her 97 years. Her father, Ernest Lee, was a long-time employee of the Post Office. Vi Lee worked for 44 years at Quaker Oats, and shared her memories with me at different times.

Of particular note, she shared the memories of her brother Jack, which provided good detail on what it was like to grow up in Ashburnham in the 1920s. Some of the papers of Jack's wife are in the Trent Valley Archives. I will miss Vi as we so often met while she was walking her dog around my block. She was a really delightful person.



TRENT VALLEY ARCHIVES

Fairview Heritage Centre
567 Carnegie Avenue
Peterborough Ontario Canada K9L 1N1
705-745-4404
admin@trentvalleyarchives.com
www.trentvalleyarchives.com

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Archivist, Trent Valley Archives



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