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From the Cover

Cover photo: Fede Marani, portrait by Cleeve Horne (1912-1998). Marani was architect for Peterborough's City Hall (see story p. 36 ff)

Inside: Peterborough's Sporting Anniversaries. Upcoming TVA Events

Back cover: Alex Bierk at General Hardware Contemporary, Vivian Sun, ARTORONTO.CA

Heritage Gazette Editor



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



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Heritage Gazette of the Trent Valley

Elwood Jones, editor
ejones55@cogeco.ca

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

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North Douro's Hockaday Family and their possible connection to Northcote Farm

Michael P. Dolbey

Many years ago, my wife and I bought an old log house on the shore of Lake Katchewanooka in the north of Douro. Soon after, a neighbour told us that he had been told by Walter Hockaday that our property had been the homestead of the Hockaday family in Douro. I assumed that he was referring to the log house, but this turned out to be incorrect. My subsequent research into the history of my property has led to many interesting discoveries about the history of the north of Douro. One of these concerns the possible connection between the Hockaday family and nearby Northcote Farm, a well-known property created by Arthur Ireland Wright and later owned by the Douglas and Gastle families. It is now the Northcote Campus of Lakefield College School.

There are many Hockaday descendants in and around Lakefield and the north of Douro Township. All are the progeny of Thomas and Mary (Northcott) Hockaday who immigrated to the area from Cornwall in about 1872; their two oldest children, Elizabeth Ann (Eliza b. June 1868) and William Thomas (b. 4 May 1871), were born in St. Austell, Cornwall, England. Their second son, Richard Henry (Harry), was born in Lakefield, Ontario on 22 April 1873.¹ Arriving in Lakefield at about the same time were John and Mary Northcott and their two-year-old son William. John Northcott was probably a relative of Mary (Northcott) Hockaday. Other possible Northcott relatives had settled in Smith township some years earlier which might explain why these families came to the Lakefield area. In 1874, Thomas Hockaday and John Northcott bought adjacent properties, 14 and 16 Chippawa Avenue, in a new Lakefield subdivision opened by Roland Strickland a year earlier. Before emigrating, Thomas had been a farm labourer and John a carpenter. It is presumed that they worked together to build their two houses. The Northcott house stayed in the family name for 53 years. By 1891, the Northcotts had eight children ranging in age from 21 to 4 years. John Sr. continued to be a carpenter. The oldest son, William, 21, was a farm labourer and the second son John Jr., 16, was an "Engineer on Electric Light" employed by E.P. (Edison Power?). By 1911,

only John Sr., still a carpenter and house builder, and his wife Mary remained in the family home.²

Thomas Hockaday had been a farmer before leaving England and farming appears to be what he wanted to do. In 1875, Thomas Hockaday sold his house in Lakefield and entered into a lease agreement with Henry and Alice Mellor to lease their farm for a term of ten years starting 1 August 1875. The Mellor farm was in the Township of Douro and consisted of broken Lot 22 in Concession 6, the north half of Lot 22 in Concession 5 and the south-west quarter of Lot 22 in Concession 5. The lease excluded a 4 acre plot on which the Mellor's house stood but all other farm buildings were included in the lease.³ Henry Foljambe Mellor, born in India in 1843, and Anne Sherwood, born in Germany in 1847, met and married in Lakefield 22 May 1867.⁴ A marriage settlement by Anne's family provided funds to be invested in "the purchase of freehold estates in any of the British Colonies".⁵ They intended to live on their estate while their lessee improved their property. Thomas Hockaday agreed to pay \$30 per annum (pa) for the first 3 years, \$50 pa for the next 5 years and \$60 pa for the last 2 years plus all taxes levied on the property. He agreed to farm the existing cleared property, to clear and bring into cultivation a minimum of 15 additional acres, to maintain all buildings, fences etc. and to leave quietly after ten years. The Township of Douro tax collection records list Thomas Hockaday as the taxpayer for this property for the years 1876, 1877 and 1878. However, in 1879 the taxpayer for this property is listed as Andrew Wilson.⁶ On 20 December 1883, the Mellors sold their farm to Andrew Wilson for \$1850 "free of all encumbrances". It appears that Thomas Hockaday chose or was forced to leave the property between 1878-79. But where did he go? Initially, no records were found for him between 1878 and 1887. A descendant of the Hockaday family told me that the family had a long association with nearby Northcote Farm and even suggested the name was a variation on Northcott, Thomas' wife's maiden name.⁷ Is it possible that Thomas Hockaday moved to the neighboring property purchased by Arthur Ireland

¹ Ontario, Canada Births, 1832-1915, 1873 #017904.

² Bob Delledonne, *Nelson's Falls to Lakefield – A History of the Village*, Lakefield Historical Society, 1999. Page 35;

1891, 1901 & 1911 Canadian census.

³ Peterborough County Land Registry Office, Copybooks of Instruments and Deeds, ca 1820-1909; Twp of Douro Vol.4, 1863-1867, pages 221-224, Instrument # 1527.

⁴ Ontario, County Marriages, 1858-69, Peterborough, Vol.56, page 77.

⁵ Peterborough County Land Registry Office, Township of Douro, Instrument # 1527, 26 December 1883.

⁶ Township of Douro Tax assessment records. Douro-Dummer Public Library.

⁷ Discussion with Eveline MacNaughton of Young's Point,

Wright which Wright called Northcote Farm?

Arthur Ireland Wright was born in Clifton, Gloucestershire, England 14 April 1848, the son of William and Harriet Wright. William Wright was a wine merchant in Bristol and lived with his family at Northcote House in Clifton. In about June 1874, when he was about 25 years old, Arthur I. Wright married Phoebe Louisa Marian Cotton. Phoebe was born in Tamil Nadu, Madras, India on 1 February 1855. Her father was in the Madras civil service for 25 years and both her grandfather, John Cotton and her great grandfather, Joseph Cotton, were Directors of the East India Company and amassed large private fortunes. Clearly Arthur and Phoebe Wright were a family with means.⁸

Within a year of their marriage, Arthur and Phoebe Wright had immigrated to Canada and lived briefly in Methuen Township in Peterborough County, Ontario. On 6 March 1875, their first child, Elsie Methuen Wright, was born. Sadly, she died at about 6 months of age and was buried in the churchyard of Christ Church, North Douro (Lakefield) on 13 September 1875.⁹ About a year later, on 30 September 1876, Arthur Ireland Wright purchased from John Hamelin Lot 24, Concession 5 in Douro Township, the site of what was to become Northcote Farm. In 1880, he added to his holdings by purchasing 12 acres in the southwest corner of Lot 25, Concession 4 from Robert A. Strickland. A history of Northcote Farm provided by Frances Douglas, wife of former owner George M. Douglas, states that the property “was bought in 1876 by a young Englishman, Arthur Ireland Wright, who cleared 40 acres, built the frame and grouted house, the barn and other farm buildings. He worked the land in a vigorous manner and is the real founder of the farm which he called Northcote, probably after the family home in England”.¹⁰

Given Wright’s background and apparent means, it is probable that he hired others to assist him in the creation of Northcote Farm. Thomas Hockaday may have been one of them. Both Wright and Hockaday were from the southwest of England, were a similar age and both had young families. However, Wright had money but little farming experience whereas Hockaday had farming experience but little money. Hockaday appears to have left his lease with Mellor shortly after Wright purchased the farm he called Northcote which was less than 1 km north of Hockaday’s lease. While the circumstantial evidence is compelling it may not be correct.

In the 1881 census, the Wright family were enumerated in Douro. While no locations were recorded, the names of those enumerated before and after them provides an indication of place. Andrew Wilson, Farmer, who had bought the Mellor property, and John Jory, Yeoman, who owned property to the south of Northcote were enumerated before Wright. Following the Wright family were the families of Edwin Roberts, Laborer, George Chalmers, Lumberman, Edward James, Laborer and Thomas Weaver, Laborer who it is believed worked for Wright. Following them are the families of James Ingram, Farmer, and Richard Dunford, Farmer, who owned Lots 23 in Concessions 4 and 3 respectively immediately east of Northcote Farm. Thomas Hockaday was not found in the 1881 census of Douro but was enumerated as Thomas Hackaday in Smith Township. A Farm and Business directory for 1887 lists a Thomas Hockedy (sic) as a tenant in Smith Township, Lot 23 in Concession 7. This is south of the Lakefield-Bridgenorth road about two miles west of Lakefield. On an adjacent lot, Smith Lot 22 in Concession 7, were Robert and John Northcott, possible relatives of Mary (Northcott) Hockaday. Robert Northcott had emigrated from England in 1845 and may have been the reason that the Hockaday family came to the Lakefield area. If Thomas Hockaday went to work for Arthur Wright at Northcote Farm, he stayed for less than three years; no documentary evidence has been found that he was ever actually there.¹¹

By the time of the 1891 census, the Hockaday family was still living in Smith Township but appear to have moved. The family consisted of Thomas, 44 (years of age), farmer; Mary, 46, his wife; William, 20, farmer; Henry, 18, farmer; Frederick, 16, farmer; Lucy, 14; Laura, 12; Eva, 10; and Burt, 3. The surnames of the Hockaday’s neighbors in the 1891 census are Darling, Davis, Allan, Kearney, McNaughton, Bullock and Lane which are names associated with the area north of Young’s Point in Smith Township. It has been stated that the Hockaday family once lived on “the old Fobert farm in Smith”. In a Farmer & Business directory for 1892 Louis (L.G.) Fobert is still listed as being a farmer on Smith Lot 34 in Concession 13. Thomas Hocked (sic) is listed as being a tenant on Smith Lot 35 in Concession 13, the lot next to Fobert’s farm which was owned by Catherine and George J. Chalmers from 1885 to 1909.¹²

The exact timing and circumstances of the Hockaday’s move back to Douro is not clearly

April 26, 2007

⁸ Dolbey, Michael P. “Arthur Ireland Wright, Founder of Douro’s Northcote Farm”. *Heritage Gazette of the Trent Valley*.

⁹ Ontario Registration of Births, 1869-1907, #017574; Edmison, J. Alex., Editor, *Through the Years in Douro 1822 – 1967*, 3rd edition 1978, A.D. Newson Co, Ltd. Page 104, #66.

¹⁰ *Ibid.*, pages 199-202

¹¹ *The Union Publishing Co. of Farmers and Classified Business Directory for the Counties of Durham, Hastings, Northumberland, Peterborough, Prince Edward and Victoria, 1887*; PLRO, Smith Township L22-C7 & W¼ L23-C8.

¹² Edmison, Douro, page 124; *The Union Publishing Co. of Farmers and Classified Business Directory ... 1887*

documented in the land records. In 1894, Thomas Hockaday is listed as a Douro taxpayer and owner of 120 acres of Lot 25 in Concession 4. From 1895 to 1898, both he and one of his sons, Richard Hockaday, were listed as joint owners.¹³ This indicates that they purchased their land and built their house on the west side of Highway 28 about 100 m (300 ft.) south of the north edge of the lot between 1891 and 1894. The original Hockaday house, clad in red painted sheet metal, was later named "The Red House" by the Mackie family who bought it in 1927. It is now painted dark brown and stands at 3840 Highway 28, approximately 70 meters (200 feet) southwest of its original location, having been moved to accommodate the rerouting of Highway 28 between 1950 and 1954. The land registry indicates that the acquisition of this land by the Hockadays was complicated. Briefly, with the building of the road north from Lakefield and the first bridge over the river at Young's Point in 1885, land in the north of Douro became more accessible and valuable. Henry T. Strickland, a land speculator from Peterborough, bought a piece of the east half of Lot 25 in Concession 4 from his brother, Robert A. Strickland, and then purchased what he thought was the remainder of the lot from the heirs of the original owner, John Radenhurst. It appears that both he and the Radenhurst estate were unaware that other portions of the lot had been sold by the County Sherriff to recoup taxes unpaid by the Radenhursts. In particular, they did not own a 30-acre strip across the top of the east half of the Lot which was bought in 1894 by Patrick P. & Cornelius Young. It is believed that sometime after 1891, Strickland sold "all the lot" to the Hockadays who started to build their house on the 30-acre strip owned by the Youngs. The sale between Strickland and Hockaday could not be registered, and it is speculated that Strickland engaged his Ashburnham neighbour, John Burnham, an experienced real estate lawyer, to sort out the problem. Strickland's land was transferred to Burnham in 1894 and Burnham then acquired other portions of the lot owned by C. A. Weller, a Judge in Peterborough. The Youngs would not sell their part of the lot but a 2-acre plot on which the Hockaday's house had been built was exchanged for two one-acre lots, one on Highway 28 south of their house and the other at the east end of the lot opposite the recently built South Beach Hotel. These transactions were registered in the Land Registry. After this, Burnham entered into a private agreement with the Hockadays to sell them the remaining 120-acre portion of the lot. Only after Burnham died in December 1897 did his executors finalize and register the sale of the Lot (all less parts to P. & C. Young & Dr. Douglas) to Richard Hy. (Harry) Hockaday on 17 February 1899.

During this eight-year period of acquiring title to their land, many changes occurred in the Hockaday family. Most significantly, Thomas Hockaday developed Tuberculosis by which he died on 24 September 1898. In his will, Thomas instructed his son, Richard, to sell "the House and lot of about ten acres at present occupied by us" to Thomas' wife, Mary, for her use during the remainder of her life after which it was to pass to their youngest son, Bertie Alfred Hockaday, who it is believed was born with a congenital problem, possibly epilepsy. On 5 July 1899, Richard Hockaday married Bertha M. Northey, daughter of Thomas and Mary (Sanderson) Northey of Burleigh, and they built their farm on the east side of Highway 28 a short distance south of the original Hockaday farmhouse.

On 19 April 1893, Thomas's oldest son William Thomas Hockaday married Mary Matilda Heard, of Young's Point, Smith Township. They moved to property owned by the Heard family, the North ½ of Smith Township Lot 19 in Concession 8 where they remained until returning to Douro in 1906. On 8 May 1906, William T. Hockaday purchased the north half of Douro Lot 24 in Concession 4 and his brother, Frederick G. Hockaday purchased the south half of the same lot. This lot was contiguous with the Harry Hockaday's lot to the north and Northcote farm to the west. Other family members also dispersed during this period. Thomas and Mary's daughter, Elizabeth Ann (Eliza) married Thomas Heard in Lakefield on 18 November 1889 but she died a year later, 21 December 1890 of pulmonary consumption. Their daughter, Lucy Mary Hockaday, married William Wannamaker of Lakefield on 24 August 1898 in Lakefield. Their daughter, Eva May, was a servant in the household of Jno. M. and Mary D. Dinwoodie in Lakefield before marrying Royden B. Kidd, son of Arthur J. and Maggie Kidd of Lakefield.

Meanwhile at Northcote farm, Arthur Wright and his tenants developed the farm until 1884. In 1883 the American Canoe Association held its annual meet at Juniper Island in Stony Lake. One of the participants was Dr. Campbell Mellis Douglas, recently retired from the British Army. Born in Canada and an avid canoeist, he had won the Victoria Cross by using his boating skills to lead the rescue of seventeen men from the Island of Little Andaman in the Bay of Bengal. While attending the 1883 ACA meeting he saw Northcote Farm and purchased it from Wright on 12 December 1883, moving in the following year after Wright had moved to Lakefield. Douglas was not a wealthy man, and it is said that he worked the farm himself with the help of his sons and a part-time hired couple, Mr. & Mrs. Andrew Allan. In 1894 Dr. Douglas left Northcote Farm and returned to England where he rejoined the army. In September 1895

¹³ Township of Douro Tax Collectors Books 1894-1900.

Douro Public Library.

Dr. Douglas returned briefly to Young's Point intending to sell Northcote farm at auction but he was unsuccessful. In August 1898 it was reported that a Mr. D. R. Band of New York was "occupying Dr. Douglas' home on the banks of Lake Kahawanoonkab (sic)", and it may be assumed that he was assisting Douglas to sell the farm. A month later, on 12 September 1898, Mary J. Forbes, spinster of St. Louis, Missouri, purchased Northcote Farm.¹⁴

Nothing is known about Mary J. Forbes or her ownership or operation of Northcote Farm between when she bought the farm in September 1898 and when, still reported as a spinster, she sold the farm on 8 March 1904 to J. H. Hilton Jones, "Gentleman of Douro". It has been suggested that Mary J. Forbes may have been a member of the Forbes family of Dummer Township, but this seems unlikely. Jane Darling, daughter of pioneer settlers John Darling and Francis (Fannie) Crowe was born in Dummer in about 1835. She married George Forbes in Dummer in about 1854 and they raised their family on the east half of Lot 23 in Concession 5 of Dummer Township. They were still there at the time of the 1901 census. Their oldest son, John Hugh Forbes, married and moved to Orrville, Ontario in Parry Sound District before 1901. His Parents, George and Jane Forbes, followed him there where they died in 1909 and 1912 respectively. Some genealogical sites claim that Jane Darling's name was Mary Jane Darling, but no records have been found with the name Mary associated with this person. None of the children or grandchildren of Jane and George Forbes appear to be a candidate for the purchase of Northcote Farm in 1898. A Mary James Forbes, born in St. Louis Missouri 27 November 1867, the daughter of tea merchant Arthur Page Forbes and Theresa Otis James, was issued a U.S. passport in 1891 suggesting she intended to travel outside the United States. However, it is certain that this Mary J. Forbes married Samuel F. Nichols in about 1895 and their first child, George L. Nichols, was born in September 1896 in Illinois and three more children were born there in 1901, 1903 and 1907. It does not seem credible that this Mary J. Forbes would have purchased Northcote Farm using her maiden name and former home in 1898. In 1900, Mary Forbes, a single woman born in Canada in August 1870, was the superintendent of a hospital employing 13 nurses in St. Louis, Missouri. The hospital at 3564 Caroline Street is now the Saint Louis University School of Medicine which was founded by Jesuits and has been a Roman Catholic institution until quite recently. Hence Mary Forbes was probably Roman

Catholic. She emigrated to the United States in 1886. However, nothing more could be found that might link this person to Northcote Farm.¹⁵

John Hanmer Hinton Jones purchased Northcote Farm on 8 March 1904. He was born on 11 December 1870 into a wealthy family in the north of Shropshire, England. His family home, Shellbrook Hall, one kilometer from the Welsh border and ten kilometers from the Welsh village of Hanmer, had been built for his great grandfather, Reverend Richard Hilton, in 1820. It was inherited by Hilton's daughter, Jane, after her marriage to John Jones. Their oldest son, Hanmer Hilton Jones, included the name Hilton when naming all his children and the surname Hilton-Jones was adopted by later generations. Jane's brother was named Richard Hanmer Hilton suggesting that the Hilton family may be related to the Hanmer family who had been ceded the area around the village of Hanmer in the thirteenth century by Edward I. While John Hanmer Hilton Jones was being raised, there were many servants employed in his home and a few farm labourer's families lived on the Shellbrook Hill estate. In census his father, Hanmer Hilton Jones, was described as "living on own means" and "deriving income from the interest of money". It seems likely that John Hanmer Hilton Jones was well off and it seems unlikely that he would himself till the soil on his own farm.¹⁶

How John H. Hilton Jones came to buy Northcote Farm is unknown, but one might speculate about a family connection. In 1895 retired Indian Army Major George M. Bellasis had built a summer home and hotel on the edge of Clear Lake in Douro that he called South Beach House. He employed Mr. and Mrs. Andrew Allen to operate the hotel for several years. After Mr. Allen became ill, the operation of South Beach House passed to Joseph and Ella Hanmer who ran it between 1902 and 1906 and put advertisements for South Beach House in the *Peterborough Examiner*. Joseph Hanmer was born in Salford, Lancashire and emigrated to New York with his parents in the 1890s. After marrying in New York, Joseph Hanmer and his wife and child moved to the Peterborough area in 1898. No direct family connection has been found between Joseph Hanmer and John Hanmer Hilton Jones but the Hanmer name may have brought Jones to visit South Beach house during his search for an established farm property in Canada. Jones' purchase of Northcote Farm was finalized in March 1904 but he probably stayed at South Beach House the previous summer and became aware of the farm which is only about 2 km away. Hilton Jones returned to

¹⁴ Edmison, *Douro*, page 199-204; *Peterborough Examiner*, 25 June 1937, page 8; 11 Sept 1895; 19 August 1898; PLRO Douro Lot 23, Concession 5, Inst. 4681.

¹⁵ Canadian & US census and genealogical sources

¹⁶ English census; https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Shellbrook_Hill; <https://biography.wales/article/s-HANM-HAN-1388>; PLRO Douro Inst. 5328.

England where he married Helen May Unwin on 22 June 1904. They probably came to Canada later that year and their first two children, Ruth Olivia Jones and Nesta Helen Jones were born at Northcote Farm on 28 May 1905 and 2 November 1906 respectively.¹⁷ In July 1907 George Douglas, son of former owner Dr. Campbell M. Douglas, visited Northcote farm and offered Jones \$2500 for the property. Jones, who noted that the house had been painted and that new hardwood floors had been laid from butternut trees cut on the property, thought it was worth \$3000. Later that day they settled on \$2700. Jones told Douglas that he thought that it would be a great pity if Northcote were to be turned into a regular farm.¹⁸

From the time that Dr. C. M. Douglas left the farm in 1894 until George Douglas bought it in 1907 one wonders who was actually tending the farm since its owners were either absent or people of means who probably hired help rather than performed the work themselves.

In the 1901 census two families were enumerated on Lot 24 in Concession 5, Northcote Farm. John J. Kidd, aged 34, his wife Margaret, 33, daughter Olive, 3, and brother Alexander, 29, were living in one dwelling. John Kidd was born in Dummer Township on 17 October 1866 to Alexander and Jeanette (Ferguson) Kidd. His “brother” was actually his cousin who had been brought up in John’s family after his parents had both died when he was young. John J. Kidd was listed as a farmer and was not noted as an employee suggesting that he owned the farm which was not the case. It seems likely that assumptions were made by the enumerator and the question was not asked. No profession or employment status was given for Alexander and it is assumed that he worked on the farm with John. The second family in a separate dwelling consisted of Peter Taylor, 30, his wife Annie, 29, and daughter Loretta, 4. Peter Taylor was employed as a stone mason and reported he had worked 8 of the past 12 months resulting in earnings of \$800, considerably more than farm labourers who typically reported earnings of \$150 to \$250 per year. It is not known if Taylor was employed to perform work at Northcote Farm or whether he was just living there and working elsewhere. Only 2 km away, a power plant was being erected at Young’s Point in 1901 to supply electricity to the cement plant at Lakefield, and

this might have provided employment for a stone mason.

During this period, the Hockaday family were living a short distance north of Northcote Farm. According to Hockaday family lore, before Thomas Hockaday and Mary Northcott were married, Mary had a child out of wedlock who was named John James Northcott, born 29 March 1867. Raised by Mary’s parents in England, William Northcott and Elizabeth Down, in about 1885 at the age of 18 he is said to have come to Canada to live with the Hockaday family.¹⁹ However, he was not found in the 1891 census and no documentation for him has been found until his marriage to Esther McNaughton of Young’s Point on 27 December 1899. During the next seven years they had four children, Ella (1901), Mary (1903), Rhoda (1904) and Eva (1907). In the 1901 census, which occurred shortly before their first child was born, John and Esther Northcott were enumerated twice, first at their home in Lakefield at 3 Chippawa Street and a few days later at Esther’s parents farm just north of Young’s Point. In both enumerations John James Northcott is listed as a farm labourer who is working full time outside the home for an annual salary of \$250 or \$350. Hockaday family lore says that the Hockadays arranged for J. J. Northcott to work at Northcote Farm and that while living there with his family he installed lead water pipes in their house. Some of their children suffered from lead poisoning and they were told to leave the place by Dr. Fraser of Lakefield. It is possible that Northcott was hired either by Mary J. Forbes or John H. H. Jones to operate Northcote Farm during their tenure, but it is unclear when or how much time the family spent there. According to birth records, their first child, Ella, was born at Esther’s parents farm in Smith Township and their next two children, Mary and Eva, were born at 5 George Street in Lakefield. Northcote Farm is midway between the two places.²⁰

In 1901, J. J. Northcott was employed full time as a farm labourer and if working at Northcote Farm, he would have been employed by Mary J. Forbes. While he may have been working with John Kidd who was known to be at Northcote Farm at that time, it occurred too early to explain the story concerning the lead poisoning of his children. In the Trent Valley Archives Delledone Fonds is a photograph labelled *Northcot Farm 1905*. On the right side of the picture is a family group that is believed

¹⁷ PLRO Douro Inst. 4303; Peterborough Examiner, 25 June, 1937, page 8, Obituary for Mrs. Andrew Allan; PE 28 May, 1902, p4; PE 19 July, 1902, p1; London, England, Church of England Marriages and Banns, 1754-1936 for John Hanmer Jones 1904 p.246, #491; Ontario, Canada Births, 1832-1915, 1905 #036515 & 1906 #036053.

¹⁸ George Douglas diaries as related by Katherine Hooke, *George Douglas: Empowered by Northcote Farm*, Wilderness and Canoe Symposium, February 8, 2014.

¹⁹ Birth date from 1911 Canadian census for Peterborough East – Lakefield (region 112-1); Step-parents from Mary Hockaday’s death certificate, Ontario deaths 1918 #048501; On his marriage certificate J.J. Northcott named his parents as John James Northcott and Mary Ann Northcott.

²⁰ Private discussion with Mrs. Eveline MacNaughton (nee Hockaday); 1901 & 1911 Canadian census; Ontario Birth records for Northcott children.



Above: Northcote Farm before 1914.

Left: Northcote Farm 1905. Credits in Footnote

to be John James Northcott, his wife Esther and children Ella, 4, Mary, 2½ and infant Rhoda in a pram.

Around them are believed to be members of the Hockaday family. However, the location of the farm is unclear. It has been suggested that it is Northcote Farm at which Northcott was said to be working. The growth habit of the tree on the left of the picture is suggestive of the row of columnar poplar trees that was a distinctive feature of early pictures of Northcote Farm.²¹ If this is the case, Northcott would have been employed by John H. Hilton Jones who owned the farm at that time. However, the picture could have been taken while the family was visiting a farm that belonged to their Hockaday or McNaughton relatives. By 1911, the Northcott family was still living on George Street in Lakefield and J. J. Northcott was working as a labourer at the Cement plant.

When George Douglas bought Northcote Farm in 1907 it is said that he used it as a place of refuge between his geological exploration trips in the far northwest. It is assumed that he would need someone to tend to the property during his absence, but nothing is known about this early period. However, it was reported in 1967 that Perce Hockaday, son of William, born December 1899, had been the manager of Northcote Farm for over forty years.²²

Mary Hockaday and four of her sons continued to live in the north of Douro during the early part of the twentieth century. William and Richard (Harry) Hockaday both had large families, but few descendants remain in the area. William's house was on the east side of Highway 28 about 1 km south of Young's Point but it has been replaced by a modern bungalow. After Harry

Hockaday's death, his son Walter Hockaday lived on the family farm until his death in 1975. The farm was purchased by Robert C. Ardiel who subsequently donated the property to the Otonabee Region Conservation Authority (ORCA) and it is now part of the Young's Point Conservation Area. The house and barn stood vacant on the east side of Highway 28 until demolished by ORCA in about 2010, see picture below.

Frederick George Hockaday married Florence May Rowe, of Young's Point on 8 May 1918 but Florence died later that same year on November 24, 1918. His house was on the east side of Highway 28 just north of Birchview Road. A picture of his farm taken in about 1920, discovered in the Trent Valley Archives Delledone Fonds, is shown below. Both house and barn still exist but are vacant and in very dilapidated condition. Both Frederick and William's farms have become large aggregate pits. Mary Hockaday and her youngest son, Bert Alfred Hockaday, continued to live in the original Hockaday farmhouse on the west side of Highway 28 just south of present day South Beach/Thelgar Road. Mary Hockaday died of apoplexy (stroke) on February 25, 1918, age 75 years, 11 days. As per her husband's will, Mary left the house and farm of about ten acres to her son, Bert. Bert Hockaday died a few years later, on 19 October 1924. His death was reported in the Peterborough Examiner the following day as follows; "Bert Hockaday of Young's Point took a weak spell while walking along the canal bank and fell into the canal and was drowned. He was 36 years of age and was accustomed to taking weak spells. When found he was lying in the water in front of Mr. Pat Young's residence."

²¹ Northcott Farm 1905 credit – TVA Delledone Fonds #30, 19 J 524 34 Northcott Farm, 1905; Northcote Farm before 1914 credit – George Douglas, via Kathy Hooke, from You-Tube video *George Douglas: Empowered by Northcote*

Farm, <https://www.wcsymposium.com/content/george-douglas-empowered-northcote-farm>

²² Edmison, *Douro*, page 124.



Harry Hockaday Farm at 3827 Highway 28 before demolition in about 2010. Photo by M. P. Dolbey 2007

In 1927 the original Hockaday homestead consisting of a house and farm of about ten acres was sold by the Hockaday family to Dorothy C. E. Mackie of Toronto. Her husband, Alexander Campbell (Cam) Mackie was the head of the Dominion Insurance Company in Toronto, and the Douro property was used first as a summer retreat and later a retirement home. They owned the property until 1965. In the early years the Mackies lived in the Hockaday farmhouse near

Highway 28. In the mid 1930's they bought an old log house and had it moved to their Douro property locating it near the shore of Lake Katchewanooka to be used as a lakeside retreat. Between 1950 and 1954 the Province of Ontario constructed a new Highway bridge over the river at Young's Point and this required realigning the highway much closer to the old Hockaday farmhouse. The Mackies had the old farmhouse lifted from its foundations and moved about 70 meters (200 feet) southwest of its former location to a corner of the property. It was then severed and sold to the Armstrong family. At the same time the Mackies bought the original log house of Wm. Lean and barn of W. J. Davis, both in Smith Township, and had them moved to their Douro property where they were added to the earlier log house by the lake to make their retirement home. It is this house that we purchased many years ago that inspired me to learn more about

the Hockaday family and the early history of the north of Douro Township.



TVA Fonds 30, file 19 J 633 1

Frederick Hockaday's farm circa 1920. It has been suggested that Frederick Hockaday is the man in the cart, Bert Hockaday is standing with the horses and Mary (Northcott) Hockaday is standing by the front door. The photograph was taken from the top of a high hill north of the farm looking south. The driveway leads to Highway 28 to the right of the picture. Birchview Road is at the hedge row running across the picture at the roofline of house and barn.

Arthur Ireland Wright, Founder of Douro's Northcote Farm

Michael P Dolbey

Northcote Farm on the shore of Lake Katchewanooka in the north of Douro Township has many associations with prominent citizens. Founded by Arthur Ireland Wright in 1876, it was sold to Dr. Campbell Mellis Douglas, M.D., V.C. in 1883 who sold it in 1894. His son, George M. Douglas, repurchased the farm in 1907 and used it as his base between trips as a consulting mining engineer and arctic explorer. Living at the farm from his retirement in 1940 until his death in 1963, George M. Douglas was a well-known north Douro personality. After his death Northcote Farm was bought in 1963 by Lakefield's Dr. Huge Gastle. Doctor Gastle became a legend not only for his medical practice, but his community spirit exemplified by the annual sleigh rides held at Northcote Farm for children of the district. In 2007 Northcote Farm became the Northcote Campus of Lakefield College School under an arrangement between the Gastle family and Lakefield College School alumni.²³

Arthur Ireland Wright was born in Clifton, Gloucestershire, England 14 April 1848, the son of William and Harriet Wright. He lived at Clifton Cottage in Clifton with his parents, his grandmother, Louisa Seymour (widow and landowner), brothers William and Henry S. Wright, sisters Harriet A. and Edith S. Wright, seven servants and a governess. By the age of 12 Arthur was attending a boy's school at Beach Road in Weston-Super-Mare, a town on the Bristol Channel about 20 miles southwest of Clifton. At 22 he was again living at home with his family at Northcote House in Clifton. His father was a wine merchant in Bristol.²⁴

On 9 April 1874, when he was about 26 years old, Arthur I. Wright married Phoebe Louisa Marion Cotton in Bedminster District, Somerset, England. Phoebe Cotton was the daughter of Joseph John Cotton and Susan Jessie Minchin. Her father was born in Madras, India and was in the Madras civil service for 25 years. Phoebe was born in Tamil Nadu, Madras, India on 1 February 1855.²⁵ The family returned to

England in 1860 and moved to Clifton, Gloucester, England. Her father died there in 1867 and her mother died in Weston-Super-Mare in 1888. Both her grandfather, John Cotton and her great grandfather, Joseph Cotton, were Directors of the East India Company and amassed large private fortunes while in the Company's services.²⁶ Clearly Arthur and Phoebe Wright were a family with means.

Within a year of their marriage, Arthur and Phoebe Wright had immigrated to Canada and were living in Methuen Township in Peterborough County, Ontario. On 6 March 1875 their first child, Elsie Methuen Wright was born. Sadly, she died at about 6 months of age and was buried in the churchyard of Christ Church, North Douro (Lakefield) on 13 September 1875.²⁷ About a year later, on 30 September 1876, Arthur Ireland Wright purchased from John Hamelin Lot 24 Concession 5 in Douro Township, the site of what was to become Northcote Farm. In 1880, he added to his holdings by purchasing 12 acres in the southwest corner of Lot 25 Concession 4 from Robert A. Strickland.²⁸ A history of Northcote Farm provided by Frances Douglas, wife of former owner George M. Douglas, states that the property "was bought in 1876 by a young Englishman, Arthur Ireland Wright, who cleared 40 acres, built the frame and grouted house, the barn and other farm buildings. He worked the land in a vigorous manner and is the real founder of the farm which he called Northcote, probably after the family home in England".²⁹ Given Wright's background and apparent means, it is probable that he hired others to assist him in the creation of Northcote Farm. Based on the 1881 census, they may have included Edwin Roberts, Laborer, George Chalmers, Lumberman, Edward James, Laborer and Thomas Weaver, Laborer. It is possible that Thomas Hockaday may also have worked for Wright between 1878 and 1881.³⁰

While at Northcote Farm, the Wrights had two more children. A son, Rupert Seymour Wright was born on 31 August 1877 and a daughter, Winifred

²³ Edmison, J. Alex., Editor, *Through the Years in Douro (Peterborough County – Canada) 1822 – 1967*, 3rd edition September 1978, A.D. Newson Co, Ltd. Pages 199-206; LCS announcement, 1 August 2010.

²⁴ 1851, 1861, 1871 UK Census.

²⁵ England and Wales, Civil Registration Index: 1837-1983, Volume 5c/page 1263. (ancestry.com)

²⁶ [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Joseph_Cotton_\(mariner\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Joseph_Cotton_(mariner))

²⁷ Ontario Registration of Births, 1869-1907, #017574;

Edmison, J. Alex., op.cit., Page 104 #66.

²⁸ Peterborough Land Registry Office, instruments

²⁹ Edmison, J. Alex., Editor, op. cit. pages 199-202

³⁰ 1881 Canadian census; Dolbey, Michael P., *North Douro's Hockaday Family and their possible connection with Northcote Farm*, Heritage Gazette of the Trent Valley, TBP.

Harriet Wright was born on 20 October 1880.³¹ It has been written that “The Wrights moved into Lakefield in 1880, after Mrs. Wright, Phoebe, took ill and it was felt that it was ‘safer’ to be closer to the doctors”. Another source states that the Wrights lived at Northcote Farm until 1883, and then bought a house at 115 Ermatinger Street in Lakefield in 1884. Land records show that Wright purchased this property from Thomas Hendren on 21 January 1884 after Northcote farm was sold to Dr. Campbell Mellis Douglas on 12 December 1883. However, it is uncertain just when the Wright family left Northcote farm to live in Lakefield.³²

Sometime during the 1880s, Arthur Wright purchased a steamboat named the *Cruiser* in partnership with her Captain, Benjamin M. Eden. The *Cruiser* had been built in 1878-79 by Thomas Gordon and his partner Sheppie. The steamer, under the command of Captain Benjamin Eden, was 60 feet long with a 12-foot beam and could accommodate 72 passengers. After he purchased the *Cruiser*, “Commodore” Wright had a new more powerful engine installed and he engaged Charles Grylls as Captain. “Business must have been good, for in the fall of 1890, the *Cruiser* was dry-docked in Lakefield, cut in half, and twenty feet added to the center. Now 80 feet in length, it was launched for the second time in April of 1891”.³³ By this time, however, Wright had left Lakefield and moved back to England.

In 1887, Phoebe Wright became ill with pneumonia and died after 4 days on 16 November.³⁴ It is probable that Arthur Wright and his two children, Rupert and Winifred, returned to England soon after Phoebe’s death. By September 1889, he had met and married his second wife, Emily Eliza Fanny Bush.³⁵

At the time of the 1891 UK Census, the family was living with two servants at The Manor House, Cubert, Cornwall, England. Wright’s occupation is listed as “Living on his own Means”. At this time, Winifred was living at home and Rupert was at boarding school in Godalming, Surrey, England.³⁶ Sometime during the next ten years, the Wrights moved to Newcastle upon Tyne where Arthur Wright was occupied as a Land Agent. By 1901 the household, at 8 Lambton Road, Jesmond, Newcastle upon Tyne

consisted of Arthur, his wife Emily and daughter (Winifred) Harriet as well as his brother-in-law, John E. Bush, John’s wife Mable and daughter Violet. There were also 3 servants. It has been said that George. M. Douglas believed that Wright was working as an estate manager for the Duke of Northumberland at this time which is reasonable giving Wright’s location. After retiring Arthur Wright lived in St. Mawes, Cornwall with his wife and daughter, Winifred.³⁷ He died on April 11, 1934, in Clifton, Gloucestershire, England, at the age of 85.



Arthur Ireland Wright in retirement in Cornwall.
<https://www.wikitree.com/photo/jpg/Wright-8448>

³¹ Ontario Registration of Births, 1869-1907, #024952 No.8; #027302 No.15

³² G.Young, Editor, *Mizgiyaakwaa-Tibelh – Lakefield A Look at its Heritage*, Peterborough, ON: Printer Paul, 199 ., Page 376; Delledonne, Bob / Lakefield Historical Society, *Nelson’s Falls to Lakefield – A History of the Village*, Altona, MB: Friesens Corp. History Book Division, 1999. Page 34, 39; Ontario Land records Douro Lot 17, Con. 7. & Lakefield Plan 6 Park Lot 5.

³³ Delledonne op.cit., pgs 34, 39, 105, 108; Tatley, Richard,

Steamboating on the Trent-Severn, Mika Publishing Company, Belleville, ON, 1978. page 86.

³⁴ Ontario Registration of Deaths, 1869-1932, #013587 No.10, O.G.S., Kawartha Branch: Records for Hillside Cemetery, Lakefield, Ontario. # 78

³⁵ England and Wales Civil Registration Index: 1837-1983, 1889/ District: Barton Regis/ Cty: Gloucestershire, Vol. 6a/pg199

³⁶ 1891 UK Census

³⁷ 1911 UK Census

Journal of George Hume Reade Medical Superintendent of the *Resolution*, 1825

Paul Allen, editor

Introduction

On May 11, 1825, the *Resolution* sailed from the Cover of Cork, carrying 61 men, 58 women, and 108 children, emigrants from southern Ireland. This was one of nine merchant ships chartered and modified by the Navy Board for the purpose of carrying passengers in connection with the British government's experimental program of assisted emigration. A Royal Navy Surgeon was assigned to each ship. The Royal Navy Surgeons were responsible for all matters concerning their passengers – medical, discipline, food supply and dispersal, transport around Lachine.

Medical reports kept by the other eight surgeons have been preserved in the United Kingdom's National Archives. Here we present George Hume Reade's account of his superintendence of passengers on the *Resolution* which continued to the final destination in Peterborough, Upper Canada. The original copy is in the Colonial Office records, C.O. 384.17, ff. 321-342. C.O. 384 files are available in microfilm and typescript at Trent Valley Archives. Documents related to the Peter Robinson emigration are available at the Peterborough Museum and Archives.

The introduction to the Kindle edition available on Amazon follows:

On the 12th of June 1825, the *Resolution* sailed into the Port of Quebec, carrying 61 men, 58 women and 108 children from some of the most distressed districts in the south of Ireland. These people were transported, at Government expense, as part of an experimental emigration that settled over 2000 Irish paupers in the backwoods of Upper Canada.

Responsibility for the success of this enterprise fell to Peter Robinson (1785 – 1838), who had conducted a similar experiment on a smaller scale in 1823. Robinson was aided by a team of medical officers – one of whom was assigned to each of the nine ships hired for the trans-Atlantic passage.

Medical journals kept by all of these medical officers – with the exception of the journal presumably kept by the *Resolution*'s Surgeon-Superintendent, George Hume Reade (1793 – 1854) – have been preserved in the National Archives, and detailed summaries have been published recently with the generous support of the Wellcome Trust.

Prior to the publication of these summaries, we had undertaken to transcribe these medical journals in their entirety – a task made challenging not only by the near illegibility of the typical doctor's handwriting, but also by the surgeon's common resort to Latin abbreviations and arcane symbols when prescribing a host of largely unfamiliar medicines for a range of maladies that are unrecognized by modern medicine.

We are proud to make these original transcripts available now as part of Allen's Upper Canada Sundries.

Rounding out these medical journals is our transcription of Reade's highly engaging account of his medical superintendence of the passengers aboard the *Resolution*, and his subsequent care of all of the emigrant-settlers upon their arrival in Upper Canada.

Unlike the other medical officers, who were Surgeons in the Royal Navy, Reade was an Apothecary who had been discharged from the Medical Department of the British Army in 1817, with the grant of a parcel of land in the Perth Military Settlement in the Bathurst District of Upper Canada. About five years later, Robinson settled his first group of Irish emigrants in the same vicinity, and Reade would volunteer his medical services to the emigrants from time to time.

In January 1825, Reade travelled to London, and was soon in touch with Robinson:

20th of January 1825, London

Dear Sir:

Having just arrived from Canada, I thought it might be interesting for you to know that the Irish emigrants under your superintendence are behaving and doing remarkably well. Since May last to the latter end of October, I was in the habit, in my professional capacity, of visiting them weekly and remaining amongst them two or three days in each week.

Neither prepossessed in their favour, nor biased by the numerous reports to their disadvantage, but judging of them, like all other description of emigrants that have settled in the Bathurst District, I must candidly allow that their exertions and manual labour have astonished me. I have personally (generally speaking) viewed their respective improvements – some of them have had actually under crops from six to eight acres, and two or three in a state of forwardness for the fall. And I should say that the average of each man's improvement is four acres. In my official situation of Clerk of the Peace for the Bathurst District, I have, on my examination of the assessment returns, observed that in the Townships in which they are settled, the improvements of the other emigrants do not bear the same proportion as theirs, averaging the limited period of your settlers being placed upon their land, and I have just reason for supposing that they will prove steady subjects and good settlers.

I am, dear Sir, Yours faithfully,

G. H. Reade, Apothecary to His Majesty's Forces, Half Pay

A few weeks later, Robinson was recommending that Reade be appointed one of his Surgeon-Superintendents – a recommendation that was formally accepted by the Navy Office on the 8th of April 1825.

Journal of George Hume Reade

Preparing to Receive Emigrants at Cove (April 13-May 4, 1825)

... The *Resolution* Transport having completed her arrangements for the reception of the Emigrants, we sailed from Deptford on the evening of the 13th April and arrived at Cove on the morning of the 22nd.... Mr. [Peter] Robinson returned to Cork, and immediately proceeded to inspect each Transport and satisfy himself that such accommodation as he deemed necessary for the comfort of those about to embark was provided.

I can bear testimony that, on the part of His Majesty's Commissioners [of the Navy], every arrangement and accommodation that could tend to ensure their health and contribute to their comfort was amply and most indulgently afforded, and I conceive it but justice to state that, from the high state of cleanliness in which each Ship was put, and the conveniences which were afforded, that there appeared a manifest anxiety and paternal solicitude on the part of the Government to alleviate the sufferings and soothe the afflictions of those that were about to separate themselves, perhaps for ever, from their native land, and leave those whom the bonds of affection had united, and the ties of nature had endeared.

I did not by any means imagine that the prevailing desire of the Irish was to emigrate, and I could not but express my astonishment on beholding the numbers that daily crowded the streets of Cork and beset the hotel at which Mr. Robinson resided, all anxious and praying to be received, and I speak within bounds when I assert that twenty thousand would I am convinced each year gladly embrace the encouragement of the Government and be as easily found as one hundred....

Embarking by Steamboat from Cork & Boarding the *Resolution* at Cove (May 5-10, 1825)

The arrangements having been completed for the embarkation of the first division of Emigrants, my charge numbering two hundred and twenty-eight souls, were embarked on the evening of the 5th of May, and with few exceptions, misery, want and every species of wretchedness appeared to have been their companions, the unfavourable state of the weather added to the misery of their appearance. The rain falling incessantly during their passage in the *Steam Boat* from Cork to Cove, and what little covering they brought with them was unfit to make use of, many of them had not a second change of clothes.

Having received them according to their admission tickets and ascertained, as far as the hurry of embarkation on such an evening would permit, that no apparent contagious disease was among them, I proceeded to render their situation as comfortable as I possibly could by affording them dry blankets and beds, and from their exhausted state I directed each man and woman to be served with a glass of wine. Having placed each family in their respective births and satisfied myself that they had

covering sufficient for their families, I directed them to prepare for bed. At this moment, one and all of them called upon their God to bless and preserve their gracious and charitable King and his Government for those comforts which they were enjoying and indeed I truly believe they expressed the feelings of their hearts on that occasion, for their manner and expression would convince those who might not be inclined to place confidence in their assertions that they at least possessed one good quality: gratitude.

At seven o'clock the following morning [May 6], they were served out with provisions for two days viz. Beef, Pork, Flour, Potatoes, Tea, Sugar and Pease with a small quantity of Oatmeal and Bacon, they expressed in very grateful language their satisfaction and they could hardly credit that they were to be dealt with during the passage in a similar manner.

I observed no sickness on board and now considered it a convenient opportunity to impress upon the minds of all the necessity of cleanliness and regularity, which I happily effected not by harsh language or severity but by kind words, and evidencing a good feeling to meet their wishes, reconcile them to their change of situation, and administer to their necessities. Observing strictly this conduct, all appeared to me more thankful than their uncultivated and uneducated ideas could convey for the protection of the Government in raising them from poverty to comparative affluence. Many of them stated to me that they had not tasted Meat for five months, and as to Flour they never had any, except twice or thrice a year.

Such were the descriptions of the Emigrants under my immediate care and superintendence, and it is necessary I should state that they certainly were as to appearance of the very worst character – I mean as to poverty – that came out, but it is a pleasing part of my duty to add that I could not speak too highly of their conduct or say too much in their favour....

I was anxious to ascertain the number of children that had been vaccinated and to vaccinate those that were willing to submit to the operation. With few exceptions all were willing to submit, and I that day vaccinated thirty, but I lament to state that the virus forwarded by the [Navy] Board failed in every instance. I regretted exceedingly this loss and particularly so as I found no possibility of procuring a second supply. On enquiry from Messrs. [John] Tarn, [John] Thompson, and [Francis] Connin, I found I was not singular that they had met with the like failure.

I have already stated that my charges numbered two hundred and twenty eight souls and in that number I had one hundred and nineteen children which occasioned me experiencing more anxiety than I otherwise might have felt at the failure of the virus and more particularly so as I have to relate some cases of Small Pox which appeared soon after....

Sailing from Cove to the Port of Quebec (May 10 – June 12, 1825)

At 12 o'clock [May 10] we weighed anchor the wind S. W., gentle breezes and fine weather and by six o'clock the following morning we lost sight of the land of our nativity.

At noon of the 12th, the winds shifted and blew strong from the Westward. The poor people now became very sea sick and little order or regularity could be observed. I did all in my power to provide nourishment for the young children who did not suffer from sea sickness. At six p. m. a strong breeze from the same quarter and the Ship rolled a great deal. There was evidently a storm approaching, and the Ship was put under close-reefed Topsails, the wind still increasing and at nine p.m. I witnessed a heavy gale. I cannot give a just idea of the situation of these poor people. I was several times between decks during the night and frequently found the children thrown out of their births and their parents so much exhausted from sea sickness as to be incapable of making the least exertion to succour their little children. The gale lasted for two days and during that period the Emigrants were unable to prepare nourishment for themselves. One or two fortunately did not suffer as severely as their companions, and I caused Gruel and Tea to be ready for all and had each family served with sufficient.

On the morning of the 13th, the wind abated and a prospect of fine weather. By noon several made their appearance on deck and I was enabled to have the Ship cleaned out and examine into the health of all. I discovered five with symptoms of Small Pox. These I lost not one moment in separating from their parents and placed on the larboard side of the Sick Bay....

I had several cases of *Typhus gravior* during the passage, which I experienced much anxiety about. Two cases died.... I laboured incessantly for the Public good and I hope in these instances my exertions prevented the contagion spreading which in a crowded Ship must have been attended with the most fatal consequences. Indeed, when I calmly reflect and consider the description of Emigrants under my charge, and their susceptibility from their former habits of life to receive a contagious disease, I cannot feel too thankful for the protection of a merciful providence....

From the 1st of June to the 12th, the day of our arriving at Quebec, nothing of importance occurred. My charges were healthy and in excellent spirits. Their behaviour on transferring them to the [*Lady Sherbrooke*] *Steam Boat* orderly and particularly correct....

Proceeding from Quebec to Prescott (June 12-27, 1825)

We had an excellent passage in the *Steam Boat* from Quebec to Montreal and from there to Lachine a distance of nine miles. Carts were provided for the little children and those in a weak state as also their baggage. Here we remained five days to recruit our charges and prepare for ascending the St. Lawrence in Batteaux.... In Lachine the Emigrants were placed in very dirty and confined barracks. Although none of the settlers of the *Resolution* suffered from the circumstance, yet those of the *Brunswick* were not so fortunate.

Many inflammatory cases occurred and I am

decidedly of the opinion that they were brought on by the close and confined situation they were placed in, and added to this circumstance the particular facility afforded them to get Spirits, which many of them availed themselves of. I would therefore take the liberty of recommending that all future Emigrants should be accommodated in the large and empty store houses, and that their stay should be as short a time as possible.

During the passage from Lachine to Prescott our settlers suffered a great deal of fatigue and particularly in passing the Rapids of the Long Sault when their exertions were required. The waters of the St. Lawrence were unusually low this year, which occasioned the fatigue and in my opinion in a great measure accounts for the unusual sickness of both Provinces and added to the circumstance the excessive heat of the summer months.

We arrived at Prescott on the 27th June, distance from Lachine about one hundred and twenty miles. Our passage up the St. Lawrence from Lachine to Prescott was six days and the different places we put in at each evening were as much as possible for the comfort and convenience of the Emigrants and near a wood for the purpose of preserving the fences of the Inhabitants from injury. I cannot omit the opportunity of noticing the excellent and peaceable conduct of the Emigrants and the good character they established for themselves and their Countrymen. On our passage there was not a complaint of any kind exhibited against them.

At Prescott, the accommodation provided for all was excellent, roomy, and airy, and between the settlers of both Ships we had not more than twenty sick, that out of about four hundred and eighty. I now received over the charge from Mr. Tarn Surgeon of the *Brunswick*, and the immediate superintendence of all devolved upon me. I had a house immediately prepared for the sick that were given to my care and those that might hereafter follow and I regret to say that in a few days my number increased to forty. I anticipated an increase from the great heat of the weather.

As the Emigrants of each Ship arrived, my numbers increased and the total number which in one month passed under my sole and immediate charge numbered two hundred and forty and generally all were cases which required care and attention....

The Emigrants were generally in a very weak state on their arrival at Prescott and Mr. [William] Robinson permitted Irish Comfort as I deemed necessary for their recovery. I had a proportion of fresh Meat issued to each family and Bread baked and given in lieu of Flour. The children had apparently suffered a great deal since their arrival at Quebec, as likewise many of the men and very few of the women. Milk too was provided for such as I conceived absolutely required that kind of nourishment.

The extreme debility of many required the free use of Wine and other comforts, which by Mr. Robinson's permission were provided, and I conscientiously add that I attributed the lives of many to the comforts I was enabled to freely give them.

The Mortality in the place was not by any means so great as the cases of many led me to anticipate. I lost nine, including children, and five of those old chronic cases.

With them labouring under fever, I freely used the Cold Affusion and with most decided advantage.

In this place I received and passed forward to Kingston all the Emigrants. The orderly manner in which the Medical Gentlemen who had charge of them, landed them, does them the greatest credit. I received some sick from all, but particularly after the arrival of the *John Barry* Transport. I had more from this Ship sicker than any other. I can easily account for this circumstance, as on the passage up the River St. Lawrence the Ship grounded and made a great deal of water. The Emigrants were kept constantly pumping and I have been told by many of them as constantly wet. This brought on many cases of sickness...

In Prescott, I remained six weeks and the Emigrants came under my sole care and superintendence. The outcry raised against them previous to their arrival here, I was aware of and I determined, if possible, to convince those individuals, who seemingly were gratified by propagating reports to their disadvantage, that my Countrymen were more deserving the public favour and support than those characters who, without a cause, attempted to arouse the bad feelings of the Inhabitants of this Province against them....

Proceeding from Prescott to Cobourg (August 4-11, 1825)

I left Prescott for Kingston on the 4th August leaving nine cases which I could not move in charge of Doctor [William] Scott formerly on the Medical Staff of the Army and whose disposition I knew to be particularly kind and attentive. Having arrived at Kingston on the 6th I immediately proceeded to take charge of the sick. I found them very numerous and principally cases of fever. From the 7th of the month to the 9th September I had one hundred and ninety cases of fever. The heat at this period was excessive almost unsupportable, the range of the thermometer being for several days in the shade from 102 to 104.

The Grounds upon which the emigrants were encamped was in a low situation on the beach of the Lake and in the spring of the year is covered with water in the morning and evening a thick fog covers that part of Point Henry on which the tents were pitched and I am convinced the circumstance tended to increase the sick. Just previous to my arrival on stating this circumstance to Colonel [George] Burke he immediately provided hospital tents and I had them placed on the rising ground of Point Frederick and nearly all the tents were by the great exertions of Colonel Burke removed there. I collected my fever cases as speedily as possible in the large tents and out of one hundred and ninety cases which I admitted two only died, those twelve hours after admission.

I had many other cases of sickness and the total number which passed under my sole charge at Kingston

numbered 298. I have stated that two only died in the hospital tents. The deaths at Kingston however were thirty-three, in that number 18 under my charge, the remainder previous to my arrival and after my departure from Kingston. It is however necessary that I should state that in the number of deaths the greater part were children of a tender age and the adults who died were principally old chronic cases of dysentery; the most obstinate I ever met with....

Having now embarked the emigrants for Cobourg with the exception of a few cases which could not be removed, I accompanied my charges and relieved Mr. Connin Surgeon [of the *Fortitude*], Royal Navy who had charge of the sick at that place until my arrival.

My sick list at Cobourg varied from one hundred and twenty to two hundred. Many cases of much importance and the remainder of interest and anxiety, the children of a tender age suffered a great deal with diarrhea, dysentery, and hooping cough there were many cases of intermittent and remittent fever....

Proceeding from Cobourg to the Depot at Monaghan (October 11, 1825)

I left Cobourg the 11th of October and proceeded to the Township of Monaghan at which place Mr. Robinson had established a depot for the emigrants where he himself remained and where the emigrants were fixed in small huts until their location. Having ascertained the day after my arrival at the Township of Monaghan those that were labouring under any illness, I found the number complaining about one hundred and seventy five or eighty on a minute examination. I perceived that, out of that number, many cases at least were doubtful, those that I considered so were principally men....

I do with confidence aver that the exertions of the majority of these poor people is truly astonishing and far exceeds any that I had previously witnessed. From their present appearance and efforts much good may be expected and reasonable hopes may now be entertained of their ultimate success. Indeed, I should more properly say that their success is now witnessed, and the objects and expectations of the Government are fully realized, and thus I may be allowed to express an opinion that never was the public money better expended than in rescuing from poverty and starvation these individuals...

Since the landing of the emigrants up to this date the number of sick which I have had under my immediate and sole charge numbered one thousand and eighty-three and the deaths which have taken place including young infants ninety-five.

Peter Robinson 1825-1826

Trent Valley Archives has a rich trove of colonial documents for the period before 1840 and it includes some very interesting correspondence mainly with the Colonial Office. Here is a sample related to Peter Robinson and his 1825 settlers that share his perspectives on several issues. Most pertinent is the interference of a Mr. Bastable who was trying to persuade Robinson settlers during their stay in Kingston en route to Peterborough that they would be wise to look for opportunities in the neighbouring United States. This also led to false reports in William Lyon Mackenzie's paper that money had been wasted. This is very interesting. Our copy is in the Upper Canada Documentary History Project, TVA Fonds 96. These excerpts are also found in Colonial Office, 42, Volume 380, Upper Canada Despatches 1826. Versions of these items might be in the Peter Robinson Papers at the Peterborough Museum and Archives. Trent Valley Archives has a microfilm version on reel B-309, Fonds 96.

From: John B. Robinson. To: Robert Wilmot Horton. Date: January 22, 1826 Received Feb. 28, 1826.

York U. Canada

Jan'y 22d 1826.

My dear Sir,

I have this moment received your letter of the 18th Novr. and I can give you no better proof of my anxiety to satisfy you without loss of time with respect to the principal subject of it, than that I sit down immediately to answer it amidst all the perplexing bustle of the last week of our Legislative session which is to close Thursday week.

It is some time since I have written to any one in England, and I am not sure that in my last letter to you I said any thing about the Irish Emigrants--Within these two months I have forwarded at least [illegible] packets for my brother which were directed to Lord Bathurst but whether they contained letters from himself or from the Settlers only I am not aware--I need scarcely say more of my brother's devoted attention to his charge than that I have never yet seen him since I took leave of him as he mounted the Liverpool Mail, altho' his settlement is little more than a day's ride (70 miles) from us,--but I have heard constantly from him.

You may recollect that my brother having been required by you to come to London after embarking his settlers was detained one week longer than he wished, because You expected some discussion upon the vote for Irish Emigration. Unfortunately this week's delay threw him into a very inferior packet (the Pruthiac [?]) & he arrived at New York after the ship that sailed a week later, so that in effect he lost a fortnight--But I have no reason to think that this produced any material inconvenience beyond the anxiety to himself. The arrangements he had made by letter before he sailed & your dispatches to Lord Dalhousie & Sir P. Maitland insured every attention to the settlers. They were forwarded without a day's delay to Prescott under the charge of the Surgeons of the several ships--There they were taken in charge by Col. Burke, late Superintendent of the mil'y settlement (a half pay Cap't of the 99th Rgt.) who had been ordered by Sir Peregrine upon that duty. My Younger brother had joined them immediately as they were conducted to Kingston at the time Mr. P. Robinson arrived there. He took them without delay to Cobourg & has never left them for one day.--They are now settled upon their lands, well housed, comfortable & contented, grateful for what has been done for them, on perfectly good terms with their neighbours, & making excellent progress in clearing their farms--Not one instance of riot has occurred, nor has one outrage been committed by any of them upon the inhabitants of that part of the Country. They are in the immediate vicinity of many Protestant Irish who came here in 1817-8--& on the most friendly terms with them --They have uttered no complaint themselves, nor has any one complained of them--As to their

being swept away in whole families by illness--the most so that has been know for many years particularly with respect for children--In Quebec & Montreal in almost every part of the United States the mortality among Children was extraordinary during the summer & autumn of last year--The newspapers of that period was filled with intelligence of that kind--but notwithstanding this--& with the disadvantage of exchanging a bracing fresh sea air, for a sultry atmosphere acting upon uncleared forests & the fresh waters of the St. Lawrence which the ascended in boats, sleeping out at night under tents & you will find by my brother's letter which I inclose that from the time they arrived at Prescott, their first halt, to the Octr when they were at the depot in the neighbourhood of their lands (including their stay at Kingston where your friend's correspondent writes that they were dying, by whole families)--the deaths were 28--above 14 & 37 under, including many infants newly born--a mortality I think surprisingly little, & less I imagine than in many towns at the time when the inhabitants were well lodged & exposed to nothing--Yet I am not surprised that such a story should have reached You--I met Col Talbot at The Cottage with the Lt. Govr. as I travelled there from New York, & he told me he had heard that they were dying 30 a day at the depot--I wrote to my brother & found that one old man had died since they arrived there--& yet such reports were circulated even in this Country.

The story of their going to the U States or desiring to go is equally false--

I hope my brother has long ago written to You--I have every reason to think he has. I have not yet seen him since my return from England but look for him daily as he has very lately completed the location of his settlers. His labors have been important, his exertions & his successful arrangement are spoken of in the same terms by all who have witnessed them, & if he has not sent you an account of his proceedings it has been simply because his whole thoughts have been so ardently bent upon the result, that he has not devoted any portion of his time to describing the process--

Be so good, however, as to read his inclosed letter to me No 1--You will see that he was anxious to guard agt. any misrepresentation by which you might be abused--The original of Mr. Reade's letter sent to Major Hillier to be transmitted by Sir P. M. to You will be explanation as to Mr. Bastable's real character & standing here--I am sorry to learn to day that Sir P. has not yet sent this letter to You having deferred it until he had paid an intended visit to the settlement that he might accompany it with the report of his observations--The protracted Session of the Leg'r now about terminating has detained His Ex'y here till this time & as it has happened that this letter has not reached you, which when my brother hears

how you have been tormented, will disturb him not a little. Your friends correspondent, (I have little doubt) is the very contemptible person spoke of in that letter--The Young Army officer You speak of I can not trace--Col. Burke who was with the settlers & who is now here, being a number of our Assembly tells me he recollects no person of that Kind stopping there--I regret that it does not seem to have occurred to you to look at my brothers returns for the names of the Army Surgeons who went out & have returned to England. They were with the settlers after the letter you have extracted was written, & I dare say they could be easily referred to thro' the Admiralty.--

Nothing could have annoyed & perplexed me, more than the perusal of your letter--I hope most sincerely that either by accounts from the Government or from my letter you must have been put at ease, soon after you had sent it--& I reproach myself exceedingly that notwithstanding the uninterrupted succession of Courts & a harassing session of our Legislature of nearly three months continuous have left me without a leisure day I have not given you a triple chance of being fortified agt. the false & ridiculous reports which have found their way to you--I know so much of the whole progress of the weariness & the trouble it has given you--& the responsibility You have incurred--that could I have foreseen it, I would have spared nothing to save you the annoyance you have experienced.

To repair matters as much as possible now, I send you a few of my brother's letters written ass you will see in haste--they may be satisfactory to You--I also send part of a Quebec Mercury which will shew You at once the infamous falsehoods circulated here & their complete refutation--J. Fitzgibbon is the Depy Adj. Genl. of Militia in this province who being called to that Dist. to preside as Judge advocate at a Genl. Militia C. Martial, paid a visit to his Countrymen for his own satisfaction.

Enclosure 2: Peter Robinson to John B. Robinson, October 21, 1825. Smith 21st Oct. 1825

My dear brother

I have been too much occupied of late to spend a few minutes in writing to you--

What with building boating, scow building, and locating the settlers here & I am almost worked up as the only effective junior I had at this place has been laid up for the last fortnight and the Dr. is obliged to attend to other duties [illegible] than of his profession -- Burke arrived here last evening [Editor's note: the following section was stroked out in the original: "he is yet very feeble, and indeed when in health (altho I believe a very good man) will be of not the least use to me -- He is not the sort of man --This is very provoking and it now cannot be helped -- Of this say nothing -- "A Bastable while our people were at Kingston, I am told used every means to induce them to make a regular complaint of their treatment, saying that he would see justice done them, that he was to have conducted the emigration but that I had interfered and I had prevented it--the family lived at [K.....] where some of our people come from--

Enclosure 3: Peter Robinson to John B. Robinson, January 12, 1826. Monaghan 12th Jan 1826

My Dear Brother

I have only been waiting the arrival of some stores from Kingston for the Settlers, to pay you a short visit. Unfortunately the roads are at present almost impassable for sleighs or waggons and there appears some chance of their remaining so--I sent Richie of this department to Kingston 15 days ago, to

Sir J. Harvey, Sir G. Drummond, Col. Cockburn or any Military man from Canada will tell You how worthy Fitzgibbon is of the most implicit credit--"The Emigrant" I understand is a Mr. Stewart from the North of Ireland a Magistrate & one of the most respectable Gentlemen in the Country. He has been settled five years or so in the part of the Province to which the Emigrants are taken--

You may be assured that the result of this experiment cd. not have been more completely satisfactory in all respects--In the contentment--the comfort--the Good conduct & the prospects of the people--The emigrants of 1823 are now completely identified with the other inhabitants & doing remarkably well--with the exception, no doubt of some worthless young men who have happily struggled away--I am impatient when I think of the time which must elapse before you can receive these accounts. I ought not to have left you to the chance, but I took it for granted my brother would write & I think he might have written before this time.

I wished to have added a word or two on other subjects & something more on this, but I write in the House of Assy. in the middle of debate "upon supply". & must close this or lose the post. I have this moment spoke with Col. Burke who sits beside me, & who will give me a particular statement for you in time for the next post. He says nothing can be more false than the account sent you--that the deaths & sickness were by no means out of the common course as compared with the other population.

I am Dear Sir

Yours most faithfully

Jno B Robinson

[This letter contained several enclosures, of which a couple are here printed.]

I am confident this conspiring with them did some mischief, and lessened their confidence in me--However we are now getting on very well, and its impossible for them to behave other than they do, but what may be going on it is not easy to say for I was told this morning that a regular correspondence was kept it between some of the settlers & Bastable and every thing that passed here was reported to him regularly--I never pay any attention to stories I hear, but I thought it as well just to let you know this--

It is very provoking to be trifling with all ones might & then to be misrepresented & probably abroad--When the Bishop saw me last he was exceedingly anxious that I should employ the nephew of Sir Angus McDonell, late of the fencibles but I found on my arrival quite as many [illegible] as I could afford--Best [illegible]

Your Affectionately

Peter Robinson

receipt these articles and to accompany them up--He wrote me on the 4th to say that he then sent off 4 sleighs, & that Others were to leave there the following morning--The snow that fell on the [date illegible] was almost immediately succeed by torrents of rain--so that I fear I shall hear of my loads being strung along between Cobourg and Kingston--If no change

takes place in the weather in a day or two I think I shall run up on horseback, for I must lose no time in examining into the state of the Emigrants of 23 & making my report--so that if I do not soon pay you a visit, I must put it off until I return from Perth.

Imprisoning Mr. Finn, has had a very settling effect and I hear of no threats since--The very reports of the proceedings of your [illegible] house garbled as they are by Mr. McKenzie &c. &c. are calculated to mislead our people who have not had an opportunity of witnessing the conduct of quondam members, who were found in the ranks of the Enemy, notwithstanding their pretensions of Loyalty to their King.

The Settlers are getting on remarkably well, and when, it is considered that I have no power to impose any regulations, other than by persuasion, Merely stopping their rations, the latter of which they can at any time get, & wages besides, it speaks well in their favour--Fitzgibbons last communication pleases them very much--and they pride themselves upon their general good behaviour One of the men I had occasion to dismiss at Cobourg or rather who chose to quit Thomas Stark came to me lately & bro't letters from Cobourg, giving hi, the character of an industrious many & begging that I might be pleased to overlook his former bad conduct & reinstated him--He seems very contrite, and I think I shall--Let this emigration turn out as it may--I know I have done the utmost in my power for its success, and if I did not feel anxious beyond measure

that His Lordship & Mr. Horton should be satisfied that I had done my best to promote a favorite measure of theirs--I could well have left a vast deal of unpleasant drudgery to be done by others. Besides the other evils I have to [illegible]--My health is constantly exposed, and hardly a person has escaped an attack of some one or other of the diseases, unquestionably imported with the settlers--

Mr. Ohara [Ahearn sic] the Priest, had a dangerous attack and is now ill in Cobourg--

Tolerable good evidence this of the Settlers being on their land--a long poem

But love to [illegible] Eve and the young ones--

Affectionately Your brother

P. Robinson

J. B. Robinson Esqr.

[Addendum to the above letter: "Both Mr. Stewart & Mr. Reade [Reid] of Douro, very respectable gentlemen, who are constantly seeing the exertions made by the settlers & their condition came to me and offered to go to York to contradict the statement published in the Colonial Advocate --This I thought unnecessary as the truth would soon be known -- by the return I am making out for the Governor."]

P. R.

Enclosure 4: George Hume Reade to Peter Robinson, December 2, 1825. Copy

Monaghan, 2d December 1825

Sir,

I consider it incumbent on me sufficiently to notify you that an individual named Bastable residing at Kingston, has attempted to interfere with the emigrants under your superintendence, by statements as false as they are unfounded, and tending to awaken in the minds of the emigrants suspicion that Justice is withheld from them.--

During my stay at Kingston I personally observed that he visited nearly every tent, and it has been stated to me by many of the emigrants that he wished of each to state to him any injury or supposed injury under which they laboured and that he Mr. Bastable was willing and ready to take their complaints and see them instantly justified, that the Government allowed £25 per day for comforts and that they were to be provided with every comfort which their situation required -- He desired many to write to him if not immediately located and to their satisfaction and that they were to have every necessary article furnished them and that of the best description -- One emigrant requested to make an affidavit, that his rations were not sufficient & that he was not receiving what the Government allowed -- He stated that he could write to My Lord Bathurst to whom he was well known and that every thing that could be done for those who had any ground of complaint should.

I am aware that Mr. Bastable recommended one of the emigrants to go to the United States and that he would furnish him with letters that would ensure a good reception--a man named Daly was the individual and he was my informant

This interference of Mr. Bastable, led me into several

disagreeable disputes with the emigrants while at Kingston and I am convinced that it has ever since had a powerful influence on the minds of many, making them suspicious, and taking from them that confidence, in you as an agent of the Government, which they possessed fully, previous to meeting with Mr. Bastable

I should have written to you on this subject before, but I felt some hesitation in bringing charges of so serious a nature against any individual if it could be avoided and I was willing to bear with the vexations I met with in consequence rather than do so, thinking that as there would be no cause of complaint the people would see they were wrong in finding fault--However one or two recent occurrences convince me that the evil done by the misrepresentations of Mr. Bastable, is not entirely done away with, for it is common place at this period for many of them, when they feel dissatisfied to say that they know who to write to, and think they have a friend to back them namely Mr. Bastable--

This feeling among ignorant people may tend to results so serious if not soon checked that I feel I should not be discharging my duty as a member of society, sitting under the situation I hold, if I neglected long to call your attention to it--

I have the honor to be Sir

Your most obedt

Humble Servant

(signed) G. H. Reade

Surgeon to the Irish Emigrants

Honble Peter Robinson

P.C.V.S Echoes

Christina Sills

Peterborough Collegiate (both as PCVS and PCI) has played a major role in the shaping of Peterborough, according to Nicholas Ragaz in his 2001 history. It was a constant “through the changes that the community has sustained during the years of settlement, growth, war, poverty, industrialization, and computerization.”

Between 1905 and 1926, “The Collegiate Echoes” was basically a pamphlet with articles written on a wide range of topics. In 1927, the school’s centennial year, *the Echoes*, as it then became known, was published annually until 2011. The Echoes Yearbook is filled with local history including articles written by and about many local characters; people who left Peterborough to accomplish great things; local military history; and wonderful literary stories and prose. Also, each issue had an extraordinary range of advertisements indicating the school’s links to the wider community.

The following list is part of TVAs project to identify in one spot which issues of the *Echoes* were held in our archives or in the in-house research library. TVA gets frequent requests for particular *Echoes*, from researchers doing family history and from those with projects on aspects of the school’s history. With some gaps, our holdings include issues from 1930 to 1977. We welcome donations from those who could fill gaps. As is evident, we accepted duplicates that came with larger collections or which had autographs or comments that added archival interest.

Thanks to the excellent work of the editorial team for the 1938-39 version of *Echoes*, we have an overview history of the first 25 editions of “The Collegiate Echoes” and *Echoes*. That list is appended to this report along with the 1905 editorial on “Collegiate Echoes”. It is nice to know that we have a sample from 1922. As well, we have a glimpse of a more modern near-weekly newsletter from 1960, which was identified as volume 10. The survival of ephemeral items is one of the great things about an archives such as Trent Valley Archives. We welcome even more.

Volumes of Echoes available at Trent Valley Archives, April 2022

Note that the date is always the spring of the school year. This is an excerpt of the final document which can be accessed at the computers in the Reading Room of the Trent Valley Archives.

#16 (XVI)	1930	Library	#27 (XXVII)	1941	Library
#16 (XVI)	1930	Fonds 19 Olga & Bruce Dyer	#28 (XVIII)	1942	Library
#17 (XVII)	1931	Library F. Marlow Banks	#28 (XVIII)	1942	Library
#17 (XVII)	1931	Library Dorothea Duncan	#28 (XVIII)	1942	Fonds 46 Lloyd McCrimmon
#17 (XVII)	1931	Library Jack Thexton	#28 (XVIII)	1942	Fonds 560 Rena Cowey
#18 (XVIII)	1932	Library Jack Thexton	#30 (XXX)	1944	Fonds 774 Clare Galvin
#18 (XVIII)	1932	Library	#31 (XXXI)	1945	Library F. Marlow Banks
#19 (XIX)	1933	Library Eunice Thexton	#32 (XXXII)	1946	Fonds 560 Rena Cowey
#19 (XIX)	1933	Library F. Marlow Banks	Dedicated to “Our unreturning brave”; Also published as a separate booklet		
#20 (XX)	1934	Library F. Marlow Banks	#32 (XXXII)	1946	Fonds 259 Katherine Hooke
#20 (XX)	1934	Library Eunice Thexton	#32 (XXXII)	1946	Library 378.71367 ECH
#20 (XX)	1934	Fonds 863 Ann Ramsay	#34 (XXXIV)	1948	Fonds 259 Katherine Hooke
#21 (XXI)	1935	Fonds 46 Lloyd McCrimmon	#35 (XXXV)	1949	Library
#21 (XXI)	1935	Fonds 926 Florence Trebilcock	#35 (XXXV)	1949	Fonds 259 Katherine Hooke
#21 (XXI)	1935	Library	#36 (XXXVI)	1950	Library 378.71367 ECH
#21 (XXI)	1935	Library	History of Echoes; Foreword by Robertson Davies		
#22 (XXII)	1936	Library 378.71367 ECH	#36 (XXXVI)	1950	Fonds 259 Katherine Hooke
#22 (XXII)	1936	Library Ellen Thexton	#37 (XXXVII)	1951	Fonds 870 Susan Graham-Hendry
#22 (XXII)	1936	Fonds 926 Florence Trebilcock			
#23 (XXIII)	1937	Fonds 926 Florence Trebilcock	#37 (XXXVII)	1951	Fonds 259 Katherine Hooke
#23 (XXIII)	1937	Fonds 939 Ken Vass	#37 (XXXVII)	1951	Library
#23 (XXIII)	1937	Library 378.71367 ECH	#38 (XXXVIII)	1952	Library
#23 (XXIII)	1937	Library Ellen Thexton	#38 (XXXVIII)	1952	Fonds 259 Katherine Hooke
#24 (XXIV)	1938	Fonds 926 Florence Trebilcock	#39 (XXXIX)	1953	Fonds 870 Susan Graham-Hendry
#24 (XXIV)	1938	Fonds 939 Ken Vass	#41 (XLI)	1955	Library
#24 (XXIV)	1938	Library Ellen Thexton	#42 (XLII)	1956	Fonds 870 Susan Graham-Hendry
#25 (XXV)	1939	Fonds 926 Florence Trebilcock	#42 (XLII)	1956	Library
Special 25 th anniversary issue published 1938-39			#42 (XLII)	1956	Library
#25 (XXV)	1939	Fonds 939 Ken Vass			
#25 (XXV)	1939	Library Jim Thexton	#43 (XLIII)	1957	Fonds 870 Susan Graham-Hendry
#25 (XXV)	1939	Library 378.71367 ECH	History of Peterborough Collegiate		
#26 (XXVI)	1940	Library	Fonds 870 Susan Graham-Hendry		
#27 (XXVII)	1941	Library	#43 (XLIII)	1957	Fonds 525 Pope family

#44 (XLIV)	1958	Library	1970	Library
#47 (XLVII)	1960-61	Library	1971	Library
	1965	Library	1972	Library
	1966	Library	1977	Fonds 560 Rena Cowey
	1967	Library	1977	Fonds 926 Florence Trebilcock
	1968	Library	History of P.C.V.S. by Donald Short in 1977 Echoes	
	1968	Library	1977	Library
	1969	Library	1977	Library
	1970	Library		

Collegiate Bulletin (published by P.C.I Literary Society)

A newsletter containing articles

V. 1, no.5 March 27, 1922 Fonds 862 Tim Matthews

Pocket Version (PCVS): the weekly newspaper of Peterborough Collegiate and Vocational School

A sometimes weekly newsletter containing articles

V. 10, no. 1 January 11, 1960 F630 Doug Bacon

V. 10, no. 2 February 3, 1960 F630 Doug Bacon

V. 10, no. 3 February 15, 1960 F630 Doug Bacon

V. 10, no. 4 February 29, 1960 F630 Doug Bacon

V. 10, no. 5 March 14, 1960 F630 Doug Bacon

V. 10, no.6 March 28, 1960 F630 Doug Bacon

V. 10, no.7 April 11, 1960 F630 Doug Bacon

Books about P.C.V.S.

Nicholas Ragaz, *The History of Peterborough Collegiate 1827-2002* Fonds 869 and in Library

The Closure of PCVS: The community response Library 370.971367 CLO

P.C.I. in the 1920's by T. Denis, J. Oliver, C. Snyder, M. Trites, L. Wynn, April 1988 Library

Editors of the first 25 issues

1	1905	Laura Smithson, May Roberts, Stanley Fife	14	1927	Andrew Allen
2	1907	E. A. Mann, Gladys Crane	15	1929	D. Bethune, D. Henry
3	1908	Colin Lees, T. S. Pringle	16	1930	D. Blagrove
4	1909	Maxwell Dobbin	17	1931	Keith Wightman
5	1910	Edith Connor	18	1932	Fern Rahmel
6		Unknown	19	1933	Harold Kitney
7	1917	J. H. Crane	20	1934	Dorothy Henderson
8	1918	W. Stanley Bogue	21	1935	Ferguson Barr
9	1920	A. H. McClure	22	1936	Harold Rogers
10	1921	Helen E. Thompson	23	1937	Hugh Davidson
11	1922	Unknown	24	1938	Ronald Dick
12	1925	Allan Neal	25	1939	Ruth Robinson
13	1926	Andrew Allen			

Editorial Echoes 1905

As reported in 1939 *Echoes*

For many years there has been no Literary Society or Club of any kind in connection with the Collegiate Institute. It seemed that there was nothing to bring us before the public in any way, and even the parents of the pupils, and the friends of the Collegiate knew almost nothing of what was being done within its walls. It was felt that this was not as it should be and last fall, partly to correct this state of affairs, a Literary Society was organized. It has succeeded well and its good results are already manifest. Before it was formed, co-operation among the forms was unknown. The life of each class seemed separate and distinct from that of the others, and these faults have certainly been remedied to some extent by

the Literary Society. Not the least important advantage of the Society is the practice in public speaking which the students obtain through the debates that form part of almost every meeting. Then, too, the fact that that the collegiate possesses an energetic and successful Literary Society leads the students to take more pride in the school, and increases their loyalty to it.

It was felt that the forming of the Society was a step in the right direction, but our enthusiasm and ambition being aroused, some of our number suggested the printing of a Collegiate journal. After a somewhat lengthy discussion, it was decided that the plan was a feasible one, and steps were immediately taken to carry it out. The work of editing

and managing the printing of the paper is to be done by the pupils with some help and direction by the teachers, and almost all of its contents will be contributed by the students. Sub-editors have been appointed, who will take charge of the different departments of the paper, such as sports, nature study, humour, personals, etc. Contributions of various kinds will be received from every form in the school, so that the interest as well as the work will be distributed as evenly as possible. It is expected that each issue will contain a life sketch of some well-known author and abstracts of some of his works. Information concerning the new regulations affecting the departmental examinations will also be published from time to time. Translations by the students of the French and German works which are being read in the upper forms, will also

find a place in the journal. In short, we aim to reflect as comprehensively as possible the different phases of the life of the Collegiate.

The benefit that they will be to the school as a whole will certainly be sufficient recompense for the work connected with it. It is just as good practice to write an article for the paper as to write one of the ordinary class compositions and to those who undertake the editing and managing of the paper, the practice in business system and methods will be valuable. We hope to create a deeper interest and pride in the Collegiate throughout the town through the publication and circulation of *Collegiate Echoes*.

AUCTION SALE OF TOWN PROPERTY AT MY OFFICE ON WEDNESDAY NEXT, 12th Inst.

Review, 6 September 1888

ATTEND ! ATTEND !

Parcel No. 1.—Implement Stand, No. 87 Hunter Street. This Lot is 38 feet frontage by 148 feet deep; the building on it at present will pay a good interest on the cost, while the land is certain to double in value because of the rapidly increasing population of Ashburnham, all of whom must pass this to the Post Office and Markets.

Parcel No. 2.—That Substantial Two Story Brick Residence, fourteen inch wall, 24x34, containing nine rooms, summer kitchen, woodshed, carriage abode, good stable, a first-class cellar, an abundant supply of hard and soft water, with rich, deep soil for garden, quiet and retired situation free from dust or bustle, No. 544 Bethune-st., looking out upon the beauties of nature so fully displayed in Mr. T. Bradburn's fruit garden on opposite side of the street.

Parcel No. 3—Is that Neat, Two Story Brick Veneered Residence, pleasantly situated, with south front on the corner north of Smith and east of Stewart-street, quite new and contains hall, parlor, dining room, kitchen, 4 bed rooms, summer kitchen, wood shed and an extra well-built stable. The cellar deserves special mention. Also water in abundance. The garden is large and is planted with choice fruit.

Parcel No. 4- Consists of 7 Building Lots, good slue, conveniently situated on Dublin-street west, near Donegal, two blocks north and west of Mr Dumble's residence. These lots should command the attention of any person wanting a cheap home or a safe investment. You get them at your own price and they are sure to increase in value.

READER, bear in mind that the above properties are strictly true to the descriptions given, that if you do not know them you are requested to call at my office, where you will get full information. The terms will be made to suit any reasonable buyer and will be made known when each parcel is offered. In conclusion, bear in mind that those properties will be SOLD NEXT WEDNESDAY at my office. That they will be offered as above, commencing with No. 1; that the sale will commence at 3 o'clock, and continue until all are sold. Do not fail to be present on time, and secure some of the bargains.

C. STAPLETON, Auctioneer.

T. HURLEY Agent

How The Weir Diaries Came to Trent Valley Archives

Pat Marchen

Based on *Rest In Pieces - True Tales of Justice and Injustice in 1890s Ontario*, Part II, Chapter 35, in which a pregnant mother of five was accused of chopping the head off her lodger and burning her house down on the coldest night of the year.

...oOo...

I nosed my Camry up the lane toward the house Tom Gray rebuilt after the fire in 1894. A barrier of tall trees hides the house and barn from the sights and sounds of a major intersection scant feet away. I had no idea who the owners were in 2004 and was hesitant about appearing on their doorstep to ask if they knew its tragic history.

Halfway up the drive I was heartened to see an old rural mailbox with the fading name "Bebee" on it. I could not tell if it was a decorative tribute to former owners or a functional mailbox. Property records at Trent Valley Archives where I'd just finished a one year contract told me that the Bebee family owned the property at least until the mid-1970s. I could go to the provincial offices in town to find out who owned it currently but it was easier to drop by and ask.

No one answered my knock so I left a note in the old mailbox and hoped to hear from them.

David Scully's death caught my attention while I was shelving books at TVA. It was one of the cases in a biography about the first provincial police officer in Ontario, "Memoirs of a Great Detective - Incidents in the Life of John Wilson Murray". The case

seemed rather incredible, so I checked the bible of Otonabee Township history, "Forest To Farm: Early Days in Otonabee, Ontario". In the old testament (1975), there was indeed an account of Scully's death, based on newspaper



coverage of the 1895 murder trial. In the new testament (2000) there was biographical information about the Scollies of Otonabee, formerly of Westray, Orkney, Scotland.

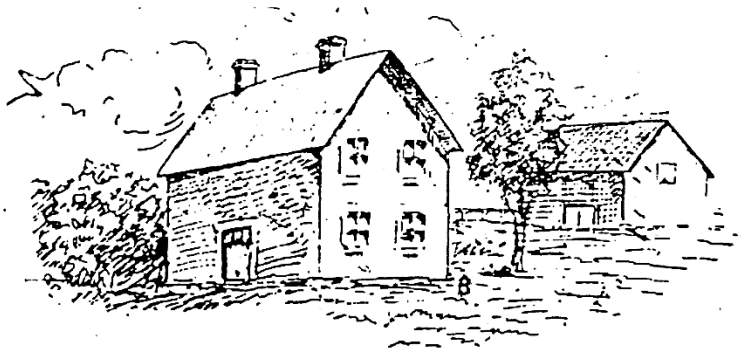
A frequent and favourite visitor to the archives at the time was a retired plumber who lived nearby, Keith Goodfellow. He overheard me talking about the case with a colleague and said his great-grandfather William Scollie was a cousin of the headless victim, David Scully.

Years earlier Keith transcribed newspaper articles about the murder trial for the Peterborough Centennial Museum and Archives. When he heard us referring to HESSIE GRAY as a murderess he corrected us, pointing out that she was acquitted. In our foolishness we disagreed with the verdict, preferring to believe we had our own Lizzie Borden in Peterborough County. In the end we did, but for the wrong reason.

You can't blame us for thinking at first that in David Scully's death the perfect crime had been committed. The detective's story was certainly slanted that way and the testimony against HESSIE by her sister Mary and the pathologist from the University of Toronto made it difficult to believe otherwise. Before the trials there was little information disputing the theory of murder, except for a group of Native men and boys from Hiawatha who saw the fire, but whose eye-witness accounts were dismissed by the press and ignored by the Crown.

Keith had an undated *Examiner* article from the 1970s about Scully's death. It had a contrasty picture of a two-storey frame house that was supposed to be the site where Scully died. The reporter described a visit to the house by Mr. X, a psychic brought in from Toronto. The men had stopped at the *Examiner* office to inquire about places where ghosts might be found and were directed to the old Gray place. An *Examiner* reporter accompanied them.

I had assumed the Gray house no longer existed. My calculations put it on the east side of Keene Road where there was a Country Style doughnut shop and an Esso gas station. I mentioned the case to my husband Jack, an East City Boy, born and raised in Ashburnham. He recalled that years earlier his father showed him a house at that intersection where a strange death had occurred. As we drove by one day he pointed it out, across the road from where I thought it would be. It looked like the house in Keith's old newspaper article.



The Destroyed Gray Dwelling—"B" Indicates Where David Scollie's Body was Found.

I took another look at the neighbourhood maps and realized my mistake. Keene Road skirted to the east around the Gray property, putting the house on the west side of the Keene Road, seemingly in Concession 12, not Concession 11.

It was a thrill to realize that the house Tom Gray rebuilt after the fire of 1894 was still standing. And the thrills just

kept on coming.

I turned to the godfather of local history, Dr. Elwood Jones, and asked if he was aware of Scully's unusual death. If Elwood doesn't know something off the top of his head about a local historical issue or event he can point you in the right direction. As it happened, some of his students at Trent University had written papers on the case and they were in a collection at Trent University Archives – my very next stop.

From the students' work I learned that a preliminary hearing was held in July, 1895. I headed upstairs to Bata Library, found the box containing the appropriate *Peterborough Examiner* microfilm, loaded the reel into a reader and watched as blurry images of old broadsheets sped by. When I reached the articles about the preliminary trial I was rewarded with glorious detail. It was like opening a treasure chest.

There would be many more hours spent at archives and libraries from Ottawa to Ocala as I combed

government documents and newspapers from February, 1894 to the last of the trials in April, 1897. I filled spiral bound notebooks when there was no printer available or used scrap paper to jot down dates and headlines. It took hours of sitting and straining to read the fuzzy grey text but it was worth a stiff neck.

At TVA I located the legal document that spelled out an agreement between David Scully and Thomas Gray. Scully bought his ten acre property with its old cabin and barn in 1880. Born in 1827, he was worried about being cared for in his old age. When the Gray family became homeless he invited them to share his cabin, which led to an agreement between Tom Gray and David Scully: the Grays would feed and care for Scully until his death, when his property and chattels including a horse named Jenny, would go to Tom Gray. It wasn't part of the agreement, but Tom built a two storey house for the family and their lodger over the foundation of the old cabin.

The agreement, dated April 7, 1888, was prepared and signed by lawyer William Armstrong Stratton. David signed his name and spelled it "Scully", not "Scollie" as it would say on his gravestone. Thomas Torrance Gray marked his name with an "X".

Unfortunately, taking care of an old man when she already had several children and a husband did not sit well with Hessie. She was heard complaining about him and even planning his death. After his body was found in the ruins without his head, there were, unsurprisingly, rumours of murder.

I checked the Archives of Ontario online database and was intrigued to see there were four files dedicated to Tom and "Hettie" Gray of Peterborough. It would take a whole day to go to Toronto to see what was in them. Would it be worthwhile, or just a few flimsy pieces of paper with information I already had? I called the AO to see if they could check for me. They could, they did, and the answer was exciting: all together the files were about four inches thick.

I caught a Greyhound for downtown Toronto as soon as I could, the first of many visits. The AO was on Grenville Street, a short distance from the bus station. In those days I could get a return ticket on Wednesdays for \$18. The AO reading room stayed open for a few hours after the archives closed at five p.m., so I would keep myself occupied until rush hour was over and catch an evening bus back. By the time we arrived in Peterborough the barriers in the municipal parking lot were up for the night and I did not have to pay for parking all day. Those giddy days are over, since the AO moved north to York University, where the parking rates are high and unavoidable and the 407 toll road that makes the provincial archives so convenient costs a fortune to use.

On my first visit to the downtown archives I checked in with security and was issued a permanent AO card. I put my jacket and bag in a locker, as required, and advanced to a counter to fill out a request form for the Gray files. I poked around the reading room until a heavy banker's box was quietly delivered from the bowels of the building. It was packed with legal sized manila folders filled with criminal cases from across Ontario in the 1890s. I fingered through and found the files I was after. The title page read:

QUEEN vs
THOMAS GRAY & HETTIE GRAY, HIS WIFE
PRELIMINARY INVESTIGATION BEFORE GEORGE EDMISON, ESQ.
Nelson Butcher & Co., Stenographers

Inside was a stack of neatly handwritten pages recording the proceedings of the July, 1895 preliminary hearing – questions from Crown Attorney Wood, cross-examinations by defence lawyer Stratton, instructions and decisions by Magistrate Edmison and words directly from the mouths of witnesses.

Stenographer Nelson Butcher was my new hero.

Another stack of pages made up the typewritten version of the same document, word for word and line for line on an equal number of foolscap pages. I ordered a copy of the typed transcript to be sent to my home.

Butcher's work was so precise I wondered if he used a phonograph as he had at the preliminary hearing of the Hendershott death in St. Thomas, but the press did not mention a recording instrument at the Grays' hearing. Butcher's usual method was to use shorthand to take notes, which by morning had been typed out by his staff and distributed to the appropriate professionals.

The depositions taken by Magistrate Edmison of the Peterborough witnesses and the four doctors who were at the autopsy were also in the files. I looked for Dr. Caven's observations of violence to the body but there were none. Not even spattered blood stains. He said he couldn't tell how Scully died, because his head was missing.

My next step was to ask the current coroner of Peterborough County for his thoughts on the autopsy done in 1895, sixteen months after Scully died. I called Dr. Peter Clarke's office to explain my odd request and he invited me to drop off the information. His office at the time was at the Peterborough detachment of the Ontario Provincial Police, on a hilltop overlooking the spot where HESSIE's sister Mary McGregor and family had lived, and to where the Gray children fled on the freezing night of the fire from their house a half mile away.

It was a fascinating case, the coroner told me on the phone later, but of course, impossible to offer a conclusive opinion without seeing the body. I asked him about the head separating from the body. He said it is indeed possible for a head to burn off separately from a body as Scully's did. He had seen a body with its head burned off, but would not elaborate. He added that the curled up position of Scully's arms across his chest was natural, as joints will flex in the intense heat that can reach 1500 to 2000 degrees Fahrenheit in a house fire.

Not that I doubted Dr. Clark, but it occurred to me one evening as I handed our beagle the bone from our dinner roast that I could replicate the burning of a vertebrae. After Tucker did a thorough job of cleaning it I fashioned a loose cage around the bone at the end of a wire coat hanger and stuck it in our wood furnace.

It was still whole when I pulled it out four hours later. It looked much the same, cleaner, whiter and it might have shrunk a bit. As I turned it around like I was inspecting a roasted marshmallow I thought my experiment hadn't proved much, when the bone fell out of its cage to the concrete floor and smashed into smithereens.

I stared at the small pile of shards and bone dust. They would be impossible to find in the ruins of a house fire if someone stepped on them while recovering the victim's body.

That made three counts against the theory of murder: the eye-witness accounts of the Natives, the lack of signs of violence to the body and confirmation by a coroner that a head can indeed burn off a body.

At first it was oddly deflating. I thought I was on the trail of a madwoman but HESSIE Gray was just an angry woman pushed to her limits. It was still worthy of investigating. How could so many things go so wrong for her? There should be a credible written account to get the facts right and not gleefully portray an innocent woman as an axe wielding murderess.

I wondered that no one had already written a book about this astonishing event. I decided to write it myself. I had no idea it would take so long.

...oOo...

In the early days of researching I regularly Googled the people and places in the Gray story and was often rewarded with something new. More and more old books and newspapers were being posted online after being scanned with software to make them searchable from my home computer.

In a search for John Graham Weir, the Grays' former employer, an enticing message popped up between two of his distant relatives. Someone named Juanita Mitchell had answered a query sent out by Brian Tennyson, an author and historian in Nova Scotia related to Weir's wife, Lovina Victoria Tennyson.

Juanita's message said her husband William inherited diaries Weir kept from 1880 to 1925, and they were full of information about family, friends and farming. The two genealogists were using [ancestry.com](https://www.ancestry.com). Because I was not a member I could not see their contact information, although I could see their messages. I was no longer working at the archives but my TVA membership entitled me to use their institutional Ancestry membership. I dropped everything and flew there in my car, logged in to a computer and found the same web page. I jotted down the contact information and went straight home to compose an email to Juanita.

Was she nearby, or across the continent? I could not tell. Did she still have the journals or had she sent them somewhere? Her message on Ancestry was already a few years old. Anything could have happened in that time. Fingers metaphorically crossed, I sent an email to Juanita Mitchell, wherever she was in the world.

I distracted myself with other work when a short while later a chime indicated an email had arrived.

Had she replied already? Or did my message bounce back, “undeliverable”? There should have been a drumroll as I clicked to see what was waiting.

It was from my friend Caroline Kikoak in Calgary. We met on a cultural youth exchange between Tuktoyaktuk and Pickering in 1973. Caroline had included me in a chain email that promised that whatever I was wishing for at that very moment would come true – if I forwarded her message to seven more people.

What timing! And what a conundrum. I never participated in chain mail, email or otherwise. I withered and wondered and finally caved. I wasn’t taking any chances. I wrote a note of explanation and sheepishly sent it to seven contacts.

And soon after, my wish was granted. Juanita Mitchell replied. She lived near Hamilton, she still had the journals and said I was welcome to come to see them.

When he died John Graham Weir left everything, including his Romaine Street home and his island cottage to his nephew George Mitchell, because George had taken good care of his own folks in Peterborough and was helpful with John’s wife Lovina when she lay dying. The journals went sideways to George’s brother William’s family, down to Austin Mitchell and then one more generation to William Mitchell and his wife Juanita, the family historian.

It was an agonizing few weeks before I could get there. Juanita met me at the door of their cozy Stoney Creek bungalow and took me in to meet her husband Bill. He was born in 1922, three years before John Graham Weir died. He didn’t remember him but had treasured his diaries over the years.

Juanita led me to a sunny room at the back of their house where I immediately spotted the books in a tall wicker bookcase against a far wall. I did not take my eyes off them as I fairly levitated across the room, my right hand already in position to pluck one out. There was no information on the spines so I took one from the middle.

The cover was marbled paper with the year printed in graceful script on a front label. The book was bound well and fell open easily. Inside, John Graham Weir’s handwriting was neat and easy to read, and as Juanita described, full of gossip and farming matters. I found 1894, settled in a comfortable chair and looked for his account of the fire. Perhaps he was tired or excited when he wrote it on February 23, 1894, because he put it under the wrong date. He caught his error and made a note of it on the top of the page.

This morning when we were going to Laundrigan’s swamp for our loads we found Tom Gray’s house mostly burned down and Mr. Scully’s body in the burning building. After about an hours work I, with some help from John Hunter, succeeded in getting the body out, all but the head, and by the general appearance I think the head was cut off before the fire took place.

Awfully cold today.

I took notes as I read the entries from the dates of the murder trial in 1895 and the arson trial in 1896. I back-tracked to 1882 when the Grays arrived to work and live on his farm and 1883 when Mary and William James McGregor followed them from Canada to Ireland. He had lots to say about the foursome, some of it unpleasant.

Through his neat words I could see the energy John Weir devoted to farm, business and social life. It was clear he adored his wife Lovina, although he spelled her name incorrectly for years. He recorded weather and road conditions, crops planted and harvested, the work his labourers did and the prices he got in town. He wrote about law suits, betrayals and real estate deals. He wrote about his encounters with new technology — a miraculous music machine, too early for a gramophone; automobiles that amazed him at first but raised dust and brought unexpected visitors at chore time; and teenaged pilot Katherine Stinson flying overhead while he worked in his fields the day before an air show at the 1918 Peterborough Exhibition. The show was cancelled due to poor weather but John Weir had his own matinée the day before.

I went back to Stoney Creek a few times. In 2006, I stopped on my way to Ocala, Florida, where the Grays moved after the fire. I thought I had an appointment with the Mitchells but missed them. That must have been when they decided it was time to do something with the Weir diaries. They checked with their children then asked me for suggestions for where the journals could go in Peterborough County. I mentioned the museum and archives in the

city and Trent University Archives, but made my preference clear for Trent Valley Archives. It is not government funded but manages to run on donations, volunteer help and the undying love of local historians.

The Mitchells chose Trent Valley Archives and it was a good fit. TVA volunteers soon had every book transcribed and the journals safely stored in the stacks, awaiting future researchers.

I hope John Graham Weir would approve.

...oOo...

The first time I paid a visit to the house Tom Gray built there was no answer to my knock, so I went to my next stop, Skibbreen, where Francis Walsh lived. Francis was born in 1931 and one of the oldest men in the neighbourhood. I wondered what he might know about the 1894 fire and the headless man down the road, but Francis said he had never heard about it until I told him.

But he did have some good news for me.

The elderly lady who owned the old Gray house, Margaret Bebee, had lived in it since she was a little girl, and she was in her eighties.

I thanked Francis and hurried back to the house Tom built. This time I knocked a lot louder. Margaret's dog Zoë let her know someone was at the door, and soon I was seated and having a pleasant conversation with her.

But you can read about that in my book.

-30-

Rest in PIECES

TRUE TALES of
JUSTICE and
INJUSTICE in
1890S ONTARIO

by Pat
Marchen

Part One
with endnotes and appendix

Queries

Elwood Jones and Heather Aiton Landry

Williams Market Garden

Hi Elwood:

Here is the picture you requested; not sure where or when this was taken.

It's definitely staged. It is stamped by the Roy Studio.

This is my Grandfather's brother Louis Henry Williams, born 1883 or 84. His wife's name was Ruby.

My father told me he owned property where the Minute Maid plant is on Lansdowne Street. Apparently, the soil was very rich. He grew lettuce, celery, and many other vegetables and sold them. I don't have any other information.

Thanks Janice



Reply:

This fascinating picture is quite helpful even though staged for a Roy photo. The date is 1942 (Roy VR 4660).

Louis Henry Williams (1883-1936) was born in England, and in 1901 was the third of six sons of Thomas Williams and Lydia Tickell; in 1901 his wife was Mary A. He was a gardener by trade and ran a market garden in Peterborough, fronting on McGill Street south of Lansdowne. He was married to Ruby Rivington, daughter of Richard and Annie Rivington, 15 December 1913 at St. Luke's rectory by the Rev. F. J. Sawers. He died at age 54, of cancer. His death was reported by his brother J. A. Williams, who was born after 1901. In the 1925 street directory for Peterborough, John A. Williams is listed as a farmer living on the west side of Erskine. The history of North Monaghan has nothing useful even though there is a paragraph about market gardeners in Monaghan Township.

Since the picture appears to date to 1942, it may be a different member of the Williams family in the photo. Roy's view register merely says "Williams Gardens."

Michael Keenan and Anne Carr

We think you have the story of Mike Keenan correct, even though one can hope to find more details. And of course we cannot confirm the family legends.

Our key researcher, Dianne, found an immigration record from Brian Mitchell, Irish Emigration Lists, 1833-1839, listing Michael Keenan as the primary immigrant at Quebec in 1835, 5704.1. She accessed this on Ancestry and it carries the note that there is more information in the document which originates with the Ordnance Survey and is located at the Royal Irish Academy in Dublin.

According to the Land Records [Trent Valley Archives, Fonds 60] for Dummer Township, Lot 7, east half in the third

concession, 100 acres, was patented to William Hall 30 April 1864, [P. 17048] and was B&S [Bargain and sale] to Michael Keenan the following month, 21 May 1864, 11.30 a.m. for \$650 covered by a mortgage from Hall for \$651. [17049] The mortgage was discharged in April 1867.

Michael Keenan sold it to James Keenan, 7 and 15 September 1866 for \$1227. [18872] James Keenan sold it in November 1866 to Nehemiah Hamblin for \$1,600. [19089] Keenan supplied a mortgage for \$1,550, also in November 1866 [19092]. James Keenan assigned the mortgage to William Hall, \$725.50, 3 and 7 July 1867 [19901 or 19081].

There are no further Keenan transactions on this property. It is worth noting that the land instruments are at Trent Valley Archives for 1867 to 1955; earlier and later are at the Archives of Ontario. The instrument numbers are included above.

This suggests that the family was ready to move to Johnville, New Brunswick by 1867; Michael Keenan shows up in the 1871 census in Johnville.

We notice that the family tree on Ancestry suggests that Anne Carr may have been a McCann.

We hope this is helpful. If we can be of further assistance please let us know.

[The family preferred the family legends.]

Stained Glass window



This window came from a building apparently at the corner of Water and Hunter in downtown Peterborough. We were unable to match it with pictures at TVA, and since we do not know in what building these might have been we are hoping that some readers might recognize the window and where it might have been forty years ago.

Dave Ellison and Smithtown Hill

I have reviewed your emails and the pertinent documentation. It is interesting to note your connection with the early roots of Trent University. Thanks for sharing that.

First, it is true that John Edmison sr lived on the third line of Smith until he died.

Second, it is also true that John Edmison sr had a connection with Smithtown Hill House.

I really liked the tribute to the late John Edmison, Sr. (1794-1887) that appeared in the issue of the Daily Examiner, 21 April 1887. It is very rare to get details about the early emigration, the location in different spots in Upper Canada, and a second emigration ten years after the first. He was married to Margaret Ann Hall. I have been working lately with Thomas Ward papers and so it was a surprise to see he shared a farm with Ward until 1832. Then he lived continuously on the lot 11 in the third concession of Smith. Notice that the Examiner commented, "He followed farming with marked success, adding one farm after another, but for the past 20 years he has lived a retired life on the old homestead." His wife died in November 1885 at age 83.

The other pertinent information is contained in land instruments, of which we have originals at the Trent Valley Archives (Fonds 329). These were kept by Irene Boucher (1906-2002) who remained in the Smithtown Hill House until 1987. Henry Cowan bought the two lots (lots 10 and 11 west George, south Edinburgh) from the Crown in 1846 and 1847. He had a mortgage with the Colborne District Building Society in 1847, and sold the property to Joseph Kelso in 1851. Kelso the sold the property to John Edmison in 1853.

The indenture from 24 January 1853 identifies Kelso as resident in the Township of Smith and a manufacturer with a wife, Margaret. John Edmison is called a farmer resident in Smith Township. It covered both lots, but also noted there was an outstanding mortgage by Henry Cowan to the Colborne District Building Society. [TVA, F329, #5a]

The second land instrument, also dated 24 January 1853, with the same identifications, says that Edmison paid £169.13s.9d. It covered "all and singular that certain parcel ... of land and premises...." Measuring one acre "more or less" subject to the mortgage. The principal was subject to 6% interest, and the principal and interest had to be paid in "three equal annual payments" beginning with the first to be paid 23 January next [1854]. The receipt for the first two annual payments is contained within this instrument. [TVA, F329 #5b]

The third land instrument, dated 19 March 1856, is between John Edmison, farmer in Smith township and Mossom Boyd of Verulam township, "Esquire". This document is "in pursuance" of legislation meant to "facilitate the Leasing of Lands and Tenements." Edmison leased the "House and tract of Land and Premises" of the one acre property for a "full term of five years", paying £25 for the first two years and £30 for the next three years, paid half yearly. Further, Edmison agreed to "build a good

stable and shed" before 19 May next.

Boyd was able to terminate the arrangement after two years.

The stone house appears to have been built for Henry Cowan in 1846. In an article published in PrimeTime, December 1995, Martha notes that Cowan owned a stone quarry "opposite the entrance to Jackson Park." Her source is *Weekly Review*, 6 December 1901.

This is a corner of the Sandford Fleming map of 1846. Note the two buildings on Edinburgh Street are a block east of their actual location. This was something I had not previously noticed, possibly because the bulk of the buildings were closer to Hunter and George. (TVA, Electric City Collection, 1.067ab)

I do not have information to share with respect to your house which you think was built for Margaret Stephenson



circa 1818 or 1819.

My memories of Alston are that the town was on a very large moor which was above a lead mining site. However, the road to Penrith was one of the scariest that I have navigated.

I hope this is helpful. [20 February 2022]

In subsequent correspondence, the editor agreed that Sandford Fleming misplaced the Smithtown hill houses by a full block. This was news to me.

Incorporating Mining Companies

Thanks, Elwood,

Laurentian University here has quite a large section of British parliamentary papers. At least they had them the last time I did any serious research there. Unfortunately, they have seen fit to move everything around in the effort to make room for dozens of computer work stations. There used to be a section with several microfilm readers that were connected with printers, even a couple that could print the large 11(?) by 17 (?) paper. As they aged, they just removed them and also the readers so that there is only one active microfilm work station and it's crammed in a location where there is maximum traffic and no room for your elbows. I realize that a lot is online, but there is a lot that can only be accessed on microfilm.

I was fortunate that I completed a lot of research before the LAC stopped inter-library loan of newspaper microfilm. Today, everything is pay, pay, pay!

You might be interested to know that nearly everything of the Ontario Bureau/Department of Mines and its several iterations is online. I can give you the address if you wish. The 1890 Royal Commission on Mining in Ontario is an entertaining volume, a huge file, but accessible online. There are a lot of photos and maps in the Annual Reports. The maps are interesting as they show a lot of local detail that can't be found on the National Topographic series, because they are current to the Mines topics. There is also a historical mining claims section that covers nearly every township in the Province. Some townships have only a handful of maps, while some have dozens. Many are based on the original surveys of the appropriate townships and claims have just been overlaid on them. Quality and usefulness runs the gambit.

The *Dictionary of Geological Terms* defines a "mine" as "any excavation for minerals." surprisingly, there is a journal

called the "*Clay Record*" specifically for brick making etc. We had a teacher in Grade 4 (?) at Queen Victoria that was related to the Curtis operation. All of us boys were enamoured!!!

Thanks for your suggestions. I will do some more legwork before throwing in the towel.
Best regards, Allan



Digital Image Number: 10004722.jpg

Title Stack kiln, Curtis Brothers

manufacturing and selling but was obviously mining clay. I never thought of clay as mining! So I will take a close look at that when I am at TVA tomorrow.

Perhaps it would be useful to give me the names of the pertinent companies.
Best wishes, Elwood

Allan sent the photo of the Stack kiln at Curtis Brothers brickworks, c. 1930, He also sent this note from 1908 Canadian Mining Journal.

Port Arthur.—Existence of a large and valuable deposit of nickel north of the Transcontinental Railway, and 100 miles west of here, is reported by T. H. Crowley, of Peterboro, a prospector, who has a long experience in all parts of Ontario. Crowley arrived in the city recently, en route home, after spending several weeks in that country, and showed a number of excellent samples. One contained both silver and free gold and he said lots of it was to be found north of Wabigoon and Sturgeon lakes. He also claimed to have uncovered at a point some distance northeast, a vein of almost pure nickel, and expressed the opinion that a large ring of it would be found to exist there.

Hi Allan
Trent University

used to have a solid government documents collection but I have not investigated it since the library went mostly digital. This will give me a chance to see what has survived in government documents. At one point I specifically ordered the microfilms for the sessional papers on microfilm. These had been assembled at a microfilm company near Washington DC, and as I recall covered to 1925. There used to be indexes that were printed at intervals, and the index is a useful place to start the search.

At TVA we have a fascinating and thick volume that is the annual report of the Department of Mines. It provided me with one of the best discussions of the Curtis Brick Works which I had always considered to be

On 03/25/22,

Hello Elwood,

I wonder if you could provide me with a little advice.

I am researching several mining companies incorporated in England in the approximate period 1890-1905. I would like to know if those companies are listed in the equivalent of our Dominion Sessional papers and the Ontario Gazette.

Here, in Ontario, mining companies for the most part are reported in the Ontario Gazette, which the last time I researched mining companies in the approximate period, 1883-1910, were only available to be viewed in the Gazette at the Ontario Archives (and some university libraries, apparently).

Some few companies were incorporated in Dominion sources and can be found.

Most of the English-based companies can be found in the London Gazette, but so far as I have had luck, it has been when they have had their charters revoked. I am interested in the incorporations as I would assume they list the major incorporators of record.

If you could direct me to any source, I would much appreciate it.

Thanks, and best regards,

Stay safe, Allan

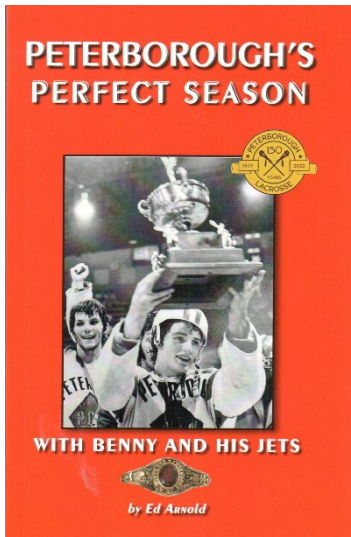
Condon

A former resident of Douro is seeking her Peter Robinson settler ancestors.

Her father is Vincent Condon, (b. 1934) son of Alphonsus Bartholomew (1897-1977) Condon and Kathleen Dwyer (m. 1926). Alphonsus was the son of Bartholomew Condon (1854-1927) and Mary O'Grady (1863-1927). Bartholomew was the son of John Condon.

She is not certain if John is John Condon (1820 or 1821-1872) the son of Thomas Condon and Margaret Sullivan of Fermoy who sailed on the Resolution, or John Condon (1816-1888) son of David Condon (1775-1825) who died en route on the Brunswick and his wife Mary (1780-1854).

Lacrosse's Greatest Season



Peterborough journalist Ed Arnold takes readers on a journey through a remarkable Junior A lacrosse season, describing the ups, downs and characters involved in creating the only undefeated team in Canadian lacrosse history. With Peterborough celebrating its 150th anniversary of lacrosse in 2022 when this book was printed, he gives readers a double bonus, two books in one. One takes readers on a journey through the history of lacrosse and how it took years, decades and a community to build the perfect season. The other is the amazing story of the team's season.

His research leads him to the score sheets found 47 years later and to the players and coaches who not only played for the 1974 Peterborough PCOs, but, those who played against them. As one opponent tells Arnold, when asked what he remembers of that season; "Nothing, we all went to a psychiatrist and had those Peterborough games wiped from our memories."

Arnold brings them back taking readers on a game by game, month by month journey to New Westminster, British Columbia and the Minto Cup, where Benny and His Jets faced their toughest opposition. He looks at the history of lacrosse in the community and the important years leading to the season as well as how and why the team got there.

You'll meet Benny, Evy, JJ, Wass, Boob, T.B. Dunc, Spin, Plunk, Doc, Lafleur, Nails, Mo Jo, Greener, Hughesy, Randy, Ken, Ted, John, PJ, Leroy and The Phantom, in this wonderful year that few other sports teams in the world can boast

of having. . . the perfect season.

They should be the pride of Peterborough, after winning a national championship without losing a game all season, right? They should have been on cereal boxes, in a documentary or a movie, at least enshrined on the wall of its home rink, but as Arnold learns, their accomplishment became, and 150 years after lacrosse started in Peterborough, has become, no more than a shoulder shrug.

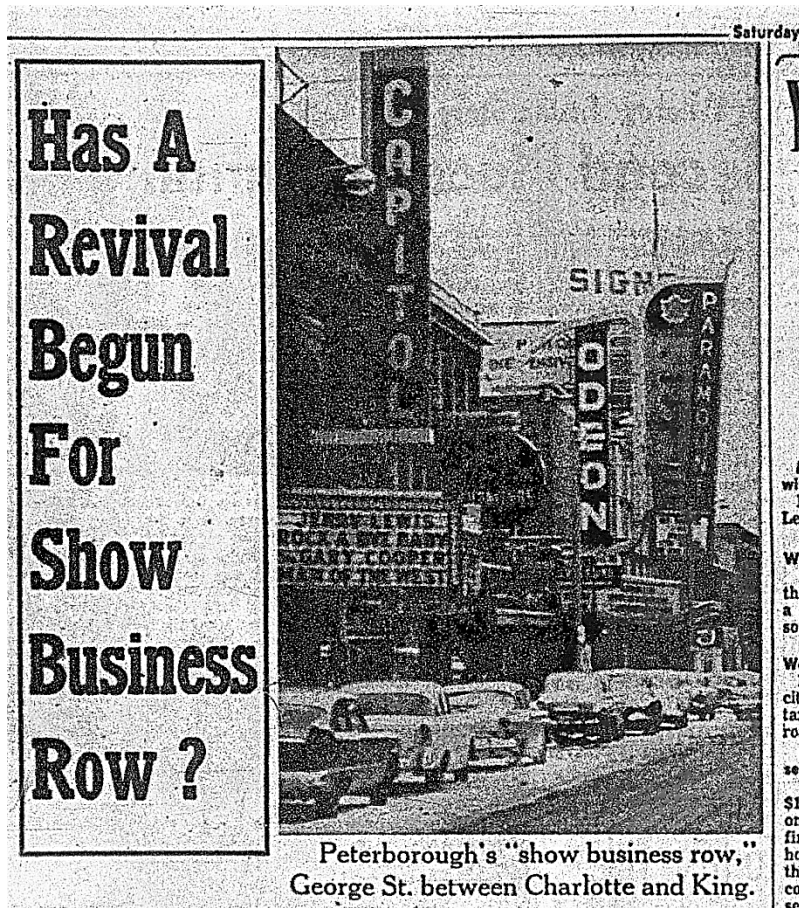
Benny and His Jets needs to be remembered so Arnold does it in his journalistic style while telling the true story of Peterborough's Perfect Season.

The book is available from Trent Valley Archives, \$25. This is a fascinating read containing information about the players, Peterborough in the 1970s, and flashbacks to lacrosse history. Informative in so much more than the games they played. Pp 410. Illustrations. The book featured opinions from teams that played the PCOs, and about the places they played. Would make a great gift for anyone interested in Peterborough, and of course, lacrosse.

“Back to the Movies”? Peterborough’s Theatre Row, George Street, 1959

Robert G. Clarke, peterboroughmoviehistory.com

This striking photo, found in Trent Valley Archives’ *Examiner* collection, appeared (somewhat cropped) in



Peterborough’s “show business row,” George St. between Charlotte and King.

the newspaper on Feb. 20, 1959 – revealing a wintry George Street south of Charlotte, with three large movie theatres – the Capitol, Odeon, and Paramount – with their lavish displays lined up on the left (or east side) of the street (and the Grand Hotel on the west side).

The Capitol marquee announces its offerings: Jerry Lewis in *Rock A Bye Baby* and Gary Cooper in *Man of the West*. The theatre screened these second-run films for only three days – from Thursday, Feb. 5 to Saturday, Feb. 7, 1959 – so sometime during that time, a couple of weeks before the image appeared in the paper, the *Examiner*’s photographer Nick Yunge-Bateman went out in the cold and snapped the picture (along with some others).

Showing at the Odeon was a double feature: *The Lady Takes a Flyer*, with Lana Turner and Jeff Chandler (despite its drawbacks, “an entertaining adult comedy,” said an *Examiner* review) and the less

distinguished *Money, Women and Guns*. Like the Capitol’s movies, they were on screen from Thursday the 5th to Saturday the 7th – and if you can look very closely, you can just barely make out the names on the marquee. At the Paramount was a longer-running feature: Walt Disney’s *Tonka*. Featuring (in a rather regrettable Hollywood fashion) Sal Mineo as an Indian, *Tonka* proved immensely popular, playing from Jan. 31 to Feb. 10.

The shot of the street and a number of other photos appeared in an article by *Examiner* news editor Jim Shrimpton, with a headline that asked: “Has a Revival Begun for Show Business Row?” After a decade of declining audiences, the question was pertinent, with the advent of television usually cited as the main culprit.

The managers of all three theatres, when interviewed, agreed that business was now getting better and that people were growing tired of staying home and watching the small screen. “A night at the movies,” the article argued, “still has something that a night around the television set has not.” The popular films had bigger budgets, half a dozen stars, widescreen, natural colour, and stereophonic sound. And no commercials. Hollywood, said manager Buzz Blondell of the Odeon, was spending more money turning out “blockbusters.”

The primary audience in the 1950s was youthful. Despite TV, children still loved going to movies, as writer

Shrimpton pointed out: “Just slip into the Odeon on a Saturday morning and you’ll see.”

For many years Peterborough’s theatre row – unique for a city of its size – established the movies as an important focal point of a thriving downtown. What made this happen? Paul Moore, a cinema scholar at Ryerson, told me that in his experience it was striking that Peterborough was served so richly, especially by the national chains. As a “big little city,” he said, Peterborough always had “enough people and wealth to support a thriving scene,” and at the same time it was “small enough to be centred upon a bustling downtown.”



Saturday shows are popular with children—and mothers who leave offspring in theatre while shopping.

The 1959 article has another explanation:

“Peterborough cannot be considered a typical Ontario city as far as movies are concerned. Two reasons: there are no big cities, such as Toronto or Hamilton, within an hour’s driving distance where newer and a wider variety of movies could lure Peterborough theatregoers from their hometown; also, the U.S. border is even further away.”

Oddly enough, the paper made this claim around the same time that the *Examiner* was occasionally advertising Cinerama features at theatres in both Toronto and Montreal. (The *Examiner* also advertised the Lindsay Drive-In – in season.) I remember taking the train to Toronto at least once to catch both a hockey game and a movie. But still, the point basically rings true.

In any case, Peterborough’s distinctive theatre row had already lost one beloved member: the Centre Theatre, a block north on George Street, closed in 1955. And one of those three remaining theatres below Charlotte Street would also soon be gone. In August 1961, only two and a half years after this 1959 article about audience “revival,” the Capitol closed its doors forever; and at that same time a single corporate ownership took over the Odeon and Paramount. The famous “show business row” would never be the same.

Preparing the City Hall site

The former municipal buildings were at Simcoe and Water on what is now Peterborough Square. The decision to build a new city hall included the expropriation of several buildings in what was known as the library block.



Jeanne Morrison shared this photo of her father Jim Lavallee and her young uncle Paul. They were sitting at the War Memorial in Confederation Park. However, the view of St. Paul's Presbyterian Church (now demolished) in the background visible over the site of the proposed City Hall.

This reminded me that there are two photos of the site that became the new City Hall in TVA's Electric City Collection. Both were taken by Marlow Banks who was better known as the second generation of Peterborough's bicycle shop.

The two photos are both looking north east from the YMCA building. The first shows the apartment terrace at George and Murray, with a neighboring house, and in the background, the Carnegie Library.

The second photo shows the former home of John J. Turner at 515 Water Street in the distance. More recently, it had been the home of a doctor, and during the next decade served as a site to prepare for the move to the new Peterborough Centennial Museum. This photo also shows some of the buildings that were displaced to prepare for the new police station, built in the late 1960s and since expanded. The Turner house and the Carnegie Library were the last

buildings from the pre-City Hall era.

The removal of buildings prepared the way for two key municipal buildings, but more importantly the new site with its neighbouring churches, YMCA, Armouries and Collegiate created a municipal centre that separated the downtown from the residential areas along George and Water.





It would be lovely if you could find the photo, maybe published in *the Peterborough Examiner* of the day, that Edinborough mentions, of the old farmer pointing out his farm on the terrazzo floor at the opening on October 27th 1951. [We looked but without success.]

Ferdinand Herbert (Ferdie) Marani (1893-1971)

Elwood H. Jones

David Le Blanc, an informed architect critic for the *Globe and Mail* writing in 2019, cleverly summarized Marani's career: "Vancouver-born, Toronto-based Ferdinand (Ferdie) Marani (1893 – 1971) is one of those [?], and he founded a firm that evolved into RDHA, which celebrates its 100th birthday in July. And while Mr. Marani's portfolio bursts with projects that define who we were in those years – the award-winning CNE Grandstand (1947, demolished); the stately Bank of Canada (1958, 250 University Ave.); the corporate office for Shell Oil (1958/1966, 505 University Ave.); the swoopy and futuristic Better Living Centre (1962, CNE grounds); and groovy Sheridan College in Oakville (1969) – it all started at Bloor Street's Diet Kitchen Tea Room in 1919.

"And while it's not clear what was on the menu other than calorie-conscious sandwiches and tea, 72 Bloor St. W., was a place where disgruntled young architects, many back from the First World War, would congregate almost daily to complain, plot and dream of a better city. Here, the young, outspoken Mr. Marani rubbed elbows with John M. Lyle (Union Station), Alvan Mathers and Eric Haldenby (too many projects to list), and, a few years later, New Zealand-born Eric Arthur (who would change the University of Toronto's architecture program from Beaux-Arts to Modernism) and would work for or in association with many of them. There were so many they cheekily christened themselves "The Diet Kitchen School of Architecture." For Mr. Marani's first major work, he partnered with James Paisley (1890 – 1955) on the Medical Arts Building at St. George and Bloor streets."

Ferdie Marani founded his Toronto architectural firm in 1919 which continues to the present through several partnerships and hundreds of buildings in Canada from Prince Edward Island to Manitoba. Perhaps the best known is the Bank of Canada in Ottawa seen on our TV screens whenever there is a rate change!

One of those buildings was Peterborough's City Hall (1951) when the firm was styled Marani and Morris.

Marani was the son of Cesare James Marani, a civil engineer who was, for a time, a lecturer in the School of Practical Science at the University of Toronto, and Sarah Mason, the daughter of a Toronto banker. He attended Ridley College in St. Catharines, Ontario, from 1901 to 1912, and later was an architect for the college. He studied architecture at the University of Toronto, 1912-1914, and then trained in legendary Toronto firms of Eden Smith and

Sproatt & Rolph. After serving in World War I he completed his training and started his own office in 1919. His long career lasted until he died, and many talented architects worked with him during this half century. The Dictionary of Canadian Architects says his interest was in conservative Classical and Neo-Georgian styles.



Ferdie Marani at his desk in the 1950s [Ridley College web site]

Marani's first major work in 1929 was the handsome Medical Arts Building at St. George and Bloor streets. In the 1950s, Marani buildings along Bloor included life insurance head offices for Manufacturers Life, Crown Life, Confederation Life, and two more.

The Shell Oil Building on University Avenue was the start of major changes along that avenue, and a building that I admired in the 1960s when my best friend worked there. The firm, after only eight years, was asked "to almost double the height and add the jaunty, floating roof." Other head

offices on University included Provincial Paper and Abitibi Power and Paper. Nearby, in 1966, after Ronald Dick had joined the firm, a new court house was built on University, west of Toronto's new City Hall.

Marani had an outstanding military career and was connected with several projects of military interest. Besides monuments, Marani and his firm designed a new Fort York Armoury in the 1930's, near the CNE grounds and the old Fort York.

He also remained connected with Ridley College, where he was Honorary President of the Old Boys Association. He designed several buildings at Ridley: the Lower School (Alumni Hall), 1926; Upper School (School House); Merritt House, 1932; a new gymnasium, 1939; Schmon Infirmary; Memorial Great Hall; Memorial Chapel expansion, 1964.

Marani and his partners did many private residences, too, including one for Andre Dorfman, 1937, on Middle Road, Oakville; a nephew, TVA's Andre Dorfman, was a student at Ridley College.

Marani and Morris were called to design the new Peterborough City Hall in 1950. Their Georgian traditions in school buildings, and Modern classical in banks and along University were incorporated into the planning for the city hall. As Arnold Edinborough observed, "Their model was simple, uncluttered, conservative, but attractive." Robertson Davies, writing for *the Peterborough Examiner*, was an astute observer.

"There is little in the design that is venturous or will attract continental comment as a revolutionary piece of municipal architecture. Nor can it be said to be distinctly Southern Ontario or Canadian. In fact, it strongly resembles the New England Town Halls. To say this is not to detract from its worth, for New England has some very fine buildings. It is plain, useful, unpretentious and with a decent simplicity. These qualities recommend it to Peterborough. The clock tower and cupola and main entrance relieve the building of any hint of the merely commonplace. Set back from the street and with ample grounds (which we expect will be handsomely landscaped) it will transform the whole library block and together with the two parks touching it, will give Peterborough at last an attractive, even splendid, civic heart of which we can be proud." Would it be useful to add a note in here about the fact that, as built, the City Hall did not, in fact, take up the whole block with symmetrical wings, because it was decided to retain the old Carnegie Library building on the corner of McDonnell. It is very obvious in the photo below.



City Hall 1950s (Trent Valley Archives, Electric City Collection)

My own assessment, that of an historian well-versed in American history, was slightly different. Writing in 2012, I observed:

“The new city hall was functional, and was large enough to accommodate the Board of Education and the local police department and court. As Faludi had expected, the placement and design of the building had the effect of making Peterborough seem like a well-planned city. As in the spirit of 1893, we had a civic centre that neatly separated the business district from a classy residential area. The building was centered on the block, as if to announce that the days of the Carnegie Library were numbered. Confederation Park was surrounded by other institutional buildings including the YMCA, Murray Street Baptist Church, the Armoury, Peterborough Collegiate Institute, and George Street United Church. Nearby, Victoria Park was crowned by the Peterborough County Court House and surrounded by St Paul’s Presbyterian Church, Central School and St John’s Anglican Church. City government was at the centre of an array of institutions, after being at the heart of the business district for a century.

“In this context, Marani and Morris were properly drawn to the ideas of 1893. In a guide to modern architecture in Peterborough, James Ashby and Susan Algie dismiss City Hall as “one of the more conservative buildings of the modern era in Peterborough” but were impressed with the spectacular terrazzo floor containing a map of Peterborough County. The Vancouver-born Ferdinand Herbert Marani (1893-1971) was a Toronto-based architect whose other major buildings have been described as contemporary translations of the Georgian style. That is an apt description of the Peterborough City Hall. The City Hall has a decorative cupola of small proportions. The central part of the building has a mansard roof, but for the most part is characterized by its lack of ornamentation. There are no Palladian windows, but window panes were small, six panes in the top, and six in the bottom.

“Viewed that way, the building has an affinity with the Peterborough County Court House. The Georgian style is characterized by its symmetry. The central front door would be balanced by the same number of windows going each way. It is generally named for buildings built between 1740 and 1840, roughly the period in which the British Empire was ruled by four Georges. Peterborough’s County Court House was built at the end of that period, and had many vernacular touches. In the first version, the court house had a functional cupola, the window panes were 12 over 12, and the front entrance had a gable roof supported by four pillars.

“With the new city hall, Peterborough acquired a planning department. There are debates about whether planning departments really plan or merely facilitate the obvious. Peterborough’s City Hall was more important and more sympathetic to the city’s architectural history than I earlier suspected. As well, it is satisfying that we can pretend that Peterborough was a well-planned city.”

The creation of a city centre made Peterborough look like a planned city. I now see that Marani and Morris, who were well grounded in Georgian and modern classical styles, were a perfect match for Peterborough.

The story of the building of the city hall continues to inspire change.

[For a full list of projects associated with Marani’s firms see *Biographical Dictionary of Architects in Canada 1800-1950, on the web*. Also on the internet I liked Dave Leblanc, “The Century-long legacy of Toronto’s architecture firm RDHA”, *Globe and Mail*, 26 June 2019; and the really nice profile of Marani’s connection with Ridley College in *The Tiger*. Winter, 2020. I am grateful to Elisabeth Bacque, Marani’s daughter, who now lives in Peterborough, for reigniting my interest in her father’s work, and lending me the profile of the firm written by Arnold Edinborough. Locally, the *Peterborough Examiner* published columns on the city hall by Andrew Elliott and myself.]

News, Views and Reviews

Spark 2022

For the 2022 edition of the Spark Photo Festival we were asked to choose pictures that current photographers could match in a Now and Then format. The exhibit was in the YMCA for April, and was well-received.

F340 C1 Empress Hotel and CKPT Radio January 1960

After the devastating fire in April 1958 the Empress Hotel was rebuilt as a six storey building stretching along Charlotte from Water to George Street. This photo of the George Street frontage shows the entrance to the pub and the neighboring Barries Building, which in 1960 was a fashionable office building. The building was also home to Peterborough Broadcasting and its CKPT radio station. [TVA, Peterborough Examiner fonds]

F90 Bank of Toronto, 1917

Bank of Toronto Building, George and Hunter, Peterborough. Includes Times Printing and Bookbinding, John Kylie; Haynes Photo Studio; H. LeBrun & Co. and adjacent buildings. Known as Grubbe's Bank, the building was a downtown landmark defined by its elaborate false mansard and cone turret. Note the raised awnings over the sidewalk, suggesting an afternoon photo. LeBrun's store had entrances on both George and Hunter. This was the only photo of Haynes Photo Studio which occupied a space used by earlier photographers including xxx Green. [check] [TVA, Martha Kidd fonds]

F724 Peterborough Old Home Week July 1929

Peterborough's Old Home Week in June and July 1929 attracted more work by more people than had any particular event in the city's history, and former residents came from far and wide for the festivities and open houses. The local engineering society, and the Engineering Institute of Canada erected this Memorial Bridge on south George near Dalhousie Street 22-24 June 1929. It was

both a welcome to visitors and an advertisement for the E.I.C. [TVA, Sills fonds]

F340 B4 329 Outboard Marine, 2 April 1958

Johnson Motors, later known as Outboard Marine, took over the site on Monaghan near Romaine in 1928 and quickly became one of Peterborough's most important manufacturing works. Besides Evinrude and Johnson outboard motors the company manufactured Lawn Boy mowers and Pioneer chain saws. After the factory closed in 1990 the company donated the buildings to the Peterborough Canoe Museum.

F340 B4 520 George Street south of Charlotte, January 1959

This winter scene captures Peterborough's theatre district, with the Capitol, Paramount and Odeon theatres. The building on the left is the Barrie's Building, one of the downtown's best built buildings (blueprints of it are at Trent Valley Archives). The fencing at the bottom left corner is for the building site of the new Empress Hotel, then under construction. The J. J. Turner Building is advertising that it makes Signs, and the Grand Hotel is visible on the right.

F340 B4 517 George Street at night 11 December 1954

The Examiner captured the pre-Christmas atmosphere of downtown George Street. While not so obvious at the time, this was classic downtown! Peterborough's downtown George Street was lit with new lighting, the first replacement since 1913, and the city believed this was the best lit street in Canada. Strings of Christmas lights, and some of the stores with neon lit signs added to the festive spirit of the season.

Mechanics Institute

Dr. May's report to the Minister of education on Mechanics Institutes shows that at the time of inspection there were 3,272 volumes in the library, 19 newspapers, 9 magazines and 8 periodicals in the reading room, 241 members; assets \$4,317.07 and liabilities %50. the Government Grant from 1868 to 1880 aggregated \$4,600. the Inspector remarks:

This is a first class Institute, with an excellent Library well arranged and in good order. It occupies two upstairs flats over a store. The Library has good fixtures and there is a Reading Room, a Lecture room, Class Rooms and Recreation Room. There is a large Law Library in connection with the Institute the members of which must be members of the Institute. The library is paid \$180 per annum. The building is

Peterborough Examiner 24 March 1881

open every day excepting Sundays and holidays. Rent \$100. Classes in Drawing and Book-keeping were being conducted at the time of my visit. The Directors receive a grant of \$100 from the Town Council. Their expenditures for the year was over \$1,100. The subscriptions from members amounted to \$249.50.

On Friday evening last, very interesting proceedings took place at the Institute, consisting of an essay by the President J. F. Lewis on "Perseverance" and an address by Mr. W. H. Trout on "Mechanical Drawing," followed by the presentation of prizes to pupils of the Institute classes. The attendance was very small and the proceedings were certainly worthy of a heartier encouragement. The Mechanics Institute

is one of the best institutions of the town, and something ought to be done, not only to give it a greater sympathy from those who ought naturally to be expected to lend it their encouragement and assistance, but to bring it nearer to those for whose especial benefit it is designed. It is discouraging to find that young men who have here every facility for self-education and advancement, seem to prefer the street-corners, the saloons and billiard rooms to the more wholesome and salutary influences of the Institute. The following is a list of the prizes awarded; Mathematical Drawing F. Hilliard 1st \$5.00, W. Redpath 2nd \$3.00; S. Paterson 3rd \$2. Bookkeeping F. Clarke 1st \$5.00, J. Cobb 2nd \$3.00; B. Green 3rd \$2.00

[Thanks to Dennis Carter-Edwards for this and his kind remarks about our special issue on the Mechanics Institute, February 2022]

Gems in the February Heritage Gazette

Hi Bob

Nice to hear from you. Thanks for your memories of the customs house. When I came to town the Customs office was upstairs at the post office on Charlotte Street, and I think it remained there until the Post Office was reinvented. The former office was converted to apartments thanks to the initiative of Erik Hansen.

The post office in Saskatoon although larger reminded me of the Peterborough post office. I worked at the Saskatoon post office for about six years working my way through university. The Saskatoon Customs Office was in the post office.

I thought it was interesting that the Customs Office was considered a sign of Peterborough's commercial importance.

Your comments about Yankee Bonnet reminds me of another story about local oak trees. Basil Hall, the famous traveller and Peterborough's first tourist in 1827 talked to settlers at what would now be the junction of University Road with the Warsaw Road. He told the settler not to cut down the handsome oak and his wish was kept and he later learned that the oak was named the Basil Hall oak. The tree must have stood north east of that intersection. I guess the tree would be 400 years old if still standing. Still it would be interesting to know how long that oak tree was a local landmark.

The two stories that seemed most intriguing to me were the discovery of Peterborough's Victorian library, and the query about John Cosley, the African American barber cum whitesmith and gun specialist.

Thanks and best wishes
Elwood

Dear Elwood et al.,
The recent Gazette contained two items that caught my notice.

One was the 42nd "Fact About Peterborough", the Customs House. I had a curious experience returning to Canada in August, 1970, after a year in Berkeley, CA.

Approaching the border post at Windsor with a car loaded with family and belongings and a camper trailer that to all appearances could have been carrying alcohol, pot or whatever I was expecting something of an ordeal. First an RCMP officer asked me to open the doors, and his dachshund hopped in the back, out the other door and into the front passenger-side door, then back to the officer with tail wagging. I then looked into the office, where a lone official was busy at his desk. He barely looked up, asked me whether I had all my belongings with me, and when I replied that no, I had a trunk following by Railway Express. He then said, "There is a Customs office in Peterborough. Please make your entry there," and waved me away.

The second related to Dennis Carter-Edwards's piece, "Yankee Bonnet" he mentions a number of species of trees formerly to be found in Peterborough. When I first came here in '64 there were several very large and venerable oaks. One at about 510 Gilmour St. was felled not long afterwards. Unfortunately, it was so hollow that the rings could not be counted back to its youth, but I'm sure there must have been well over 100. A second just as large stood in the garden of the Chenoweths' (sp?) house on Gordon Ave. which bore the name "Greatoak". (A tradesman once addressed Mrs. C, as "Mrs. Greatoak".) I don't know what happened to it. There were others. I presume the Parks department knows of them.

It is a very interesting issue!

Robert A. Stairs
Dept. of Chemistry and Biochemistry
Trent University

Peterborough Historical Society

In recent months the Peterborough Historical Society has made additions to its Occasional Papers. The Mark Jokinen book on life in the book business has been updated to the end of the Covid period. He also requested that the cover picture, a painting of his former store on Water Street be printed correctly. Readers will enjoy this. As well, Ken Brown's Occasional Paper on Robert Romaine, one of the best in the series of 43 titles, was released in February. Mae Whetung Derrick's Occasional Paper on Curve Lake was reprinted in large numbers. This was a well-researched paper and adds insights into the experience of First Nations locally.

The most recent publication will be released this month. Christopher Dummitt has written the history of local tennis, particularly of the Quaker Park Tennis Club which marks its 100th anniversary on June 4.

These titles are all available at Hutchison House for \$6 each. Trent Valley Archives also carries most of the 43 titles in this remarkable series.

Trent Valley Archives News

TVA has had a good year landing grants due to a combination of factors, not the least being the close attention to detail by the Grants Committee, chaired by Alan Brunger. We are pleased to report that two Ontario Trillium Foundation

grants have permitted us to hire archival assistants for two very important projects.

The first, running from May to August, permits us to hire Maddie More and Amelia Rodgers to work with Elwood and Heather to update the basic finding aids for our over 950 archival fonds. They are also looking for ways to improve the website presentation to be more user friendly for researchers and visitors.

Even those most familiar with our facilities do not realize the vast resources that we command. Most of our collections are quite diverse and a single word or idea does not begin to capture its importance. We have to look for information in more than one click, and that is not likely to change. However, we can hope that people can more readily identify sources that could be of potential value if they broadened their perspectives. We hope to see progress by the end of the summer.

The second major grant is under Ontario Trillium Foundation's Resilient Communities Fund, running from June 2022 for a full year (with hopes of extensions). Pat Marchen has been hired for the position beginning 15 June. This is the Peterborough Examiner Photo Project 2022. Pat was a photographer with the Examiner for many years and was employed by TVA to work on the Examiner photos donated to TVA in 2011. Much work has been accomplished over the past ten years mainly in response to community requests for photos. We have achieved much with the 1960s Yunge-Bateman photos, and we have thousands of photos that were used by the Examiner over the years, notably from the 1970s to 1990s. However, the main series of negatives covering 1970-2002 will be the main focus of this archival project. We have scanned over 1,000 negatives in the past; this project aims to add up to 80,000 further scans selected from the half million negatives in this rich series. The grant allowed us to get equipment for scanning and for reviewing newspaper use of the photographs.

This is an ambitious undertaking that can be achieved with the assistance of volunteers. First, we need volunteers to carefully transfer 35 mm negative strips to print preservers (which we acquired earlier with the assistance of the County of Peterborough, and for which we are grateful.) We have light tables that allow the viewing of the negatives.

Second, we need volunteers to identify the subjects in the negatives. This can be helped by notations made on the envelopes by the Examiner photographers usually at the end of the day. These can be supplemented by viewing the newspapers around the dates of the photos.

The negatives have to be placed in archival files and placed in archival boxes, which then have to be described in computer finding aids, properly labelled and placed on shelves.

Third, we need volunteers to assist Pat in the scanning of the selected negatives, and ensure that the archival reference is clean, and matches seamlessly to the original negative. As with all archival projects, we organize around the provenance and the respect des fonds. The negatives are

naturally arranged chronologically, as the photos were taken and used that way. However, researchers will also want to access the images by subject and specific events or happenings. This means the digital finding aid must be created.

These are big but rewarding projects. We will make it possible for archivists, historians and researchers to capture elements of the history of our broad community which extends across the city, the county and the neighbouring municipalities between Cobourg, Lindsay and Haliburton.

Application for these volunteer positions can be made to admin@trentvalleyarchives or by visiting Trent Valley Archives. Our archivist will give tutorials and hands on instruction to all volunteers for each of the varied tasks. The phone number is 705-745-4404.

Thanks to Ontario Trillium Foundation, to the Grants Committee, the board of Trent Valley Archives, to our many volunteers, and to our members who have made it possible for TVA to move from success to success over 30 years.

Three friends remembered

I am again drawn to the words of John Donne, Meditation 17. The loss of close friends is a loss to all. "... any man's death diminishes me, because I am involved in mankind, and therefore never send to know for whom the bell tolls; it tolls for thee."

John Moldenhauer, a close friend since 1984, passed away in Cuba on Groundhog Day. In some ways it was a fitting end, but I miss him. Most recently he guided my way to the Peterborough Mechanics Institute papers which were the highlight of our February issue. John had a career as an academic based at the University of Guelph, but his interests turned to his Rising Trout Sporting Books which ran for some 30 years. My main connection was with John as an archival appraiser, mainly working with the National Archival Appraisal Board of which I was a founder and long-time Ontario region chair. He came to Peterborough to appraise archival treasures such as the Pammett papers, the Boyd family papers and the Weir diaries. Some of my favourite sporting books came from his holdings.

Mike Bishop had more direct connections with Trent Valley Archives. Born in England some 80 years ago, Mike and his family emigrated to Peterborough in 1957; one of his earliest local memories was the Empress Hotel fire. I knew him as an accountant at St. John's Church and at Peterborough Lumber, and in later years free lance and at Camp Kawartha. Mike always had a smile and we often exchanged stories about history. Mike was on the TVA Trust Committee from its outset, joined by Tom Robinson and Peter Lillico. He loved my columns in the Peterborough Examiner; he said they read like I was in his living room telling stories. That is a high compliment.

Mike is survived by his wife, Janet, and Heather and Scott, and a grand child, as well as by two brothers, Tony and Andy, and their families. Condolences!

The third friend only recently passed away in Lindsay.

Rae Fleming was a close friend since 1978 when he was a student. Rae became an outstanding historian writing major biographies of Sir William Mackenzie and Peter Gzowski, as well as several books on Victoria County, of which *Eldon Connections* remains a classic.

Our paths were interconnected over the years, with memories personal and professional. He was an early supporter of Trent Valley Archives, and guided the papers of Archie Tolmie here. This remains our best and large collection on all aspects of this history of old Victoria County, aka Kawartha Lakes.

There was a further connection. After a year at Trent Rae went to Saskatoon where he completed his M.A. and Ph.D. theses in history.

Much of Rae's life rotated around Argyle and Beaverton and I had memorable visits to the local historical society and historic jail always topped by a culinary delight of Rae's doing. He was a great friend and I feel his loss deeply, but I have many memories to sustain me.

Good reading

Robert Clarke, one of our assiduous researchers at Trent Valley Archives, has had a second article published in Ontario History, the journal of the Ontario Historical Society. "Mr. Stubbs the Entertainer' and His Travelling Motion Picture Show" is the story of a local showman who introduced movies to a wide swath of our area between 1898 and 1912. James Stubbs (1853-1917) and his family mainly lived on the west side of Water Street north of Edinburgh. Stubbs is a surprising man, but one has to marvel at Robert's ability to dig out stories and make pertinent comparisons. Of course he has done just that during his career as an editor.

This issue of the Ontario History has many other articles of merit. I particularly liked the ones on exhibition parks in Toronto and on firearm retailing in Toronto.

Ed Arnold's latest book, Peterborough's Perfect Season deserves comment even though elsewhere in this issue we shared the blurb about the book, and noted that TVA is selling the book for \$25. The book is amazing.

In some ways a story of a perfect season, 1974, in retrospect is without climax. The defining moment is the last game. However, Ed Arnold saw things differently. This is the story of a dynasty from 1971 to 1976. It is a collective biography of all the people who came together in 1974, mostly focusing on their links to lacrosse, but also their links to friends and to neighbourhoods. It is a story of rivalries, regional and national. It also turns out to be a commentary on how Peterborough has changed since the 1970s. Ed has a keen eye for detail and because of his years in journalism has eclectic interests. The book is a surprisingly easy read.

Trent Canal Book

We are looking forward to the publication of an exciting book from the talented efforts of Bob Reid. The heart of the book is the photographs by David Eason, the Superintending Engineer of the Trent Canal during the 1920s. The photos cover developments along the canal and include stops at locks, dams and bridges along the way from Lake

Ontario to Georgian Bay. Eason's photos are paired with Reid's views a century later. Reid has made precise efforts to replicate the views, and in so doing illustrates quite a bit about the changes over time. Both are excellent photographers.

The second feature of the book is a concise and superb history of the canal.

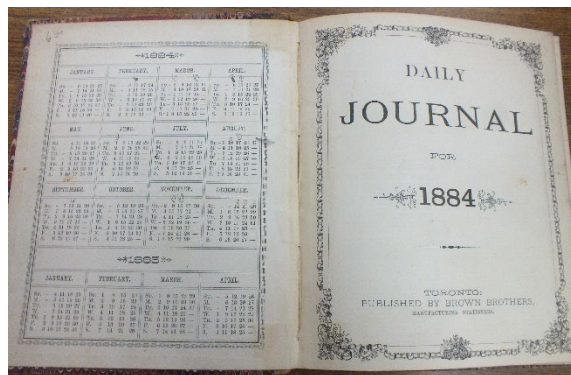
The book will be published by Trent Valley Archives, probably later this summer, \$30. This will be a collectors' treasure.

TVA Zoom Events

John G. Weir's 1884 Diary

Spurred by the pandemic TVA has run a series of nearly bimonthly Zoom events, of which the most recent was at the Annual General Meeting of TVA in April. The Zoom presentation was Elwood Jones speaking on what could be gleaned from the diary in 1884, only one of the 45 years covered in the diaries.

The diaries kept by John G. Weir for 46 years, 1880-1925, are at the Trent Valley Archives thanks to the fantastic detective work of Pat Marchen, a great friend, volunteer and employee. The diaries are one of the best research collections at TVA, have been transcribed and shared and deserve to be used by more researchers. John Weir and his wife had a wide circle of friends, neighbors, acquaintances, customers, people at the Farmers Market in Peterborough, and the many places where the Weirs purchased groceries, services and equipment.



Besides the many people, the diary opens up interesting insights about how people made sense of their world in earlier times. What were their passions? What did they do for entertainment? How did they manage a large farm? What did they share with neighbours?

The Weirs farmed in Otonabee township between the old Keene Road and Ashburnham Drive. Their world included both the rural and the urban for Ashburnham and Peterborough were within easy reach by horse and carriage, wagon, cutter or sleigh.

The diaries were kept in a high-quality book about 8" by 6" which allowed for three entries to a page, with a double page covering the week. Apparently, Sunday was a day of rest for diarists with Brown Brother diaries made in Toronto!

It was common for farmers to keep diaries, although usually less formally and more frugal. In some respects diaries were essential business aids. The farmers world was defined around seasons, and it was helpful to have guides to

past experience with weather, with projects, chores and planting routines. As well, it was important to keep track of the projects, arrangements and activities of farm helpers. Sometimes the diary kept track of what had been borrowed



Exhibition Grounds in 1880s (private collection)

or lent, which often was labour as well as machinery, from neighbours as well as strangers.

The diary occasionally contained information about Weir: his weight, his favourite poems, or new ideas. He was active in the Orange Order, with different churches, and even though he had no children, he was a trustee for the local school. These journals also had pages for keeping track of income and expenditures.

Weir bought his journals from the Review newspaper office, the first in exchange for a load of firewood. He was surprisingly well-read and his subscriptions were recorded in his diary. He subscribed to the Peterborough Review, the Examiner, the Toronto Globe, and the Montreal Weekly Witness. He was reading these for a wide understanding of the pertinent political issues of the day, and he attended speakers that came to town, such as Richard Cartwright speaking on the "Pacific Railway swindle" and what was wrong with Sir John A. Macdonald. But he attended local events such as the circuses, or Orange-sponsored events such as the visit of Father Chiniquy giving his insider perspective on what was wrong with the Roman Catholic Church.

Chiefly, Weir was a farmer, and part of his farm had been cleared by his father as early as the 1830s, and he added to the property even on the eve of 1884, my chosen year for looking at the diary. By 1884, Weir was 44, and he had been married to Lovina Tennyson since New Years Day, 1867. He was in his prime and the diaries captured his interests and

fortune across a productive life. He farmed until he was 75 and even in his final days, retired in Peterborough, he had a farmer's passion growing strawberries.

I was struck by the complexity and diversity of Ontario mixed farming. Weir had pigs, cows and horses, all of which required continual attention; and during the year he acquired horses and colts at local farm sales. He did his own butchering and sold meat at market, but also took animals to the packers. Milk was picked up at the farm gate and taken to Keene. He planted wheat, rye, peas, vegetables, maintained an orchard. He sold hay and firewood to several city businesses. He and his helper, usually one at a time, had many chores. Each crop had different routines for harvesting. He was breaking sod, plowing, harrowing, planting, weeding and

threshing. It was a full year.

During 1884, he was opening new fields, upgrading his house with a new front entrance and verandah, and shingling. There were drainage problems to handle around the house. Some fence was rebuilt; he needed at least 60 poles and barbed wire. There were repairs around the barns and outhouses.

And yet, the Weirs entertained frequently and made many trips abroad, mostly in a horse and carriage for two. On average, they went to Peterborough three times a week. They went to events such as the Peterborough Exhibition, newly opened as the Driving Park. In 1884, Weir went to the Ottawa exhibition, on the recently completed CPR line between Peterborough and Ottawa. The main circus for 1884 was the Forepaugh Show, then probably the best circus show from the "sublime street pageant", the clowns and elephants, four menageries, three rings under the big top, a museum and pageants.



Stores on west side of George Street south of Brock. (private collection)

Open.

Here's a sample from my script on the 1884 diary

On 15 October, "Willie was at Galvin's threshing till noon and in the afternoon he took a quarter day to attend the Irish concert." As part of their 22nd successful season the Grand Hibernica and Dublin Dan Comedy Co. featuring six "great comedians" played at the Bradburn Opera House on 15 and 16 October.

Willie spent a lot of time in bed over September and October and his brother joked that Willie should sell his clothes and "buy blankets for he has slept a good deal during the last six weeks." [23 October]

During October and November Weir and his employees were working on the other house, and eventually built an addition to it. On 10 November, he and Willie "went with two teams around to the Old Cobourg railroad for two loads of cedar to use in the foundation of the addition we are going to build to the other house." On 12 November "we finished putting in the rest of the posts and sleepers and erected some of the studding." The next day, "We framed and put on all the rafters and put up some studs." Then they boarded the roof and did other work. On 17 November, Wilton Tennyson came "to help us to shingle the new part that we are building to the other house." They were also working on a woodshed at this house, and by 4 December were shingling it.

There were breaks during this time. Willie's mother arrived from Ireland and Willie did not work that afternoon. Weir purchased 5,000 cedar shingles from Hilliards mills for ten dollars in July and in November bought another 4,000 shingles plus "a lot of scantling and flooring." Joe Detcher was the clerk at Hilliards.

Ashburnham from the Top

This year, 7 May, Doors Open had three featured walking tours in addition to tours of five buildings. One of the tours, Ashburnham from the Top, was well received. It began with discussions of King George School and the new Kaawaatha East City School. The tour then covered Westclox, William Mills house, and the Fisher family homes and businesses before discussing the block dominated in recent years by St. Joseph's Hospital. There were discussions of St. Leonard's, Providence House, Marycrest, St. Luke's church and rectory, Immaculate Conception Church and clergy residence, and several other aspects of a very fascinating block. Trent Valley Archives was closed for the day in support of Doors



TRENT VALLEY ARCHIVES

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

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"Without archives there is no history"

Laurel Thatcher Ulrich