



# The Heritage Gazette of the Trent Valley

February 2004 • Volume 8, Number 4 • ISSN 1206-4394

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### COVER ART:

Peterborough Collegiate and Vocational students presented a mobile kitchen canteen to the Gordon Smith Institute for Seamen, Liverpool, England, 6 June 1943. Dignitaries from left to right are A.E. Bryan, Canadian Trade Comisioner; Sir Maxwell Fyfe, President of the Gordon Smith Institute; Lord Mayor of Liverpool and his wife; the Reverend C.C. Dicks, presiding Padre.

*Gina Martin Collection*

## The Heritage Gazette of the Trent Valley

published by the  
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at the Fairview Heritage Centre  
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*The Heritage Gazette of the Trent Valley* is published by the Trent Valley Archives, for its members.

We welcome articles relating to local and family history, and to archives, or to the methods by which one may pursue these. Reviews of books or institutions are encouraged. We also include information about the activities of our various committees and projects.

The information and opinions expressed are those of the contributors and not necessarily those of the Trent Valley Archives.

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## A message from the president

WOW – 2004 began with a bang. Our fundraising Spaghetti Dinner and silent auction, 24 January has raised over \$4000. Our sincere thanks go to all those who gave items to the auction, and to those who attended and supported the cause.

Best wishes go to Brooke Pratt who so ably catalogued our genealogy library and assisted with our numerous research requests. She will be leaving us 6 February for a tour of Europe before beginning work on her M.A.

A large number of publications and other items have been generously donated to TVA, and rather than hold a sale, we have decided to sell on the Internet through *ebay* and *bookfinder*. This endeavor is off to a spectacular start. The process has enabled us to go forward with electronic payments for all manner of sales, and we now are able to receive your membership, research or publication fees online through our website. This should prove very convenient for many distant customers and members.

Thanks go to our web hosting benefactors 2001 Group Inc. This 83MB (approximately) website e-commerce system would not be possible without their generous and ongoing contribution ([www.2001group.ca](http://www.2001group.ca))

Many activities are planned for this year. February we will be entering into a new outreach program with the Royal Canadian Legion Branch 52. They are employing a Curator/Archivist to organize the over 6000 items of war memorabilia that has been donated over the years, TVA will be assisting with the cataloguing and providing a training element for their employee. The Annual General Meeting will be held on 29 April at the Peterborough Public Library 7:00 pm, there will be a short business meeting followed by a guest speaker. Our guided tours of Little Lake Cemetery will be resuming every Wednesday beginning in June and continuing throughout the summer. TVA will be taken part in the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebrations of the Peterborough Lift Locks in July.

Revenue Canada has informed us not to issue tax receipts for base membership fees, although we will continue to issue receipts for donations that might be sent when you renew, as well as at other times you make donations. The upside of this is that we may now sell back issues of the *Heritage Gazette*; check our website for availability and prices.

Susan Kyle



Gina Martin (right), is not only a board member, but the talented chef who made the highly acclaimed Italian delicacies and meatballs for the spaghetti dinner.

**T**rent Valley Archives, founded in 1988, is a public advocacy group promoting the preservation, identification and care of archives. It has also advocated more liberal access to archival collections, and a recognition that freedom of information laws should be exactly that. In particular it favours the development of public regional and county archives. It realizes that reorganizations of governments lead to inadvertent destruction of records and offers to help in meeting such difficulties. It supports the work of the Archives Association of Ontario, local heritage organizations and historical societies.

TVA encourages businesses and organizations to include archiving as a part of their records management programs.

Our staff and volunteers are willing to help you make connections. If you haven't yet, please drop in for a tour.



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# The War years at Peterborough Collegiate

by Gina Martin

A walk by Confederation Park on George Street North brings us face to face with one of the more prominent aspects in the history of our city. Nowhere in Peterborough can one be better reminded of the enormous contributions our citizens made to war efforts during the World Wars of the last century. The Cenotaph and War Memorial in the centre of the park solemnly honour our war dead. The Armouries and parade square were the initial training ground for the large number of men and women who answered the call of duty. Across Murray Street the Royal Canadian Legion stands as an institution devoted to both the memory of our local fallen as well as the well being of our many veterans. The park itself was the starting point of the journey to war as everyone assembled there to march down George Street eventually bound for the European front. Against this backdrop the one landmark seemingly out of place would be Peterborough Collegiate and Vocational Institute, commonly known as PCVS. Initially it seems difficult to find a common thread between the school and the military reminders surrounding it. But the fact is that the students and staff of PCVS gave greatly of themselves during the war years and their contribution to the war effort is a remarkable area of study.

A successor to the area's first educational institution, PCVS has enjoyed a renowned and proud history. From its humble beginnings in a log cabin behind Central School on Murray Street to the architecturally impressive building of today, the school has always met adversity with great strength and enthusiasm. Through the rigors of pioneer life, the Great Depression of the 1930s and the World Wars of 1914-1918 and 1939-1945 the school has remained undaunted. When war was declared in 1914, PCVS was well established as students enjoyed all the characteristics and activities common to high school. Sports teams, debates and school rallies were all a part of everyday life. But school life changed profoundly during the war years as scores of present and former students left for duty and the rest were left to carry on.

Unfortunately, the student population for the year 1914 is not on record but, judging from the number of compulsory examinations written, it can be estimated at about 500 students. Eventually 286 students answered the call of patriotism and 58 of them would perish in the flames of war. Naturally most of these students were

from the senior forms of Grade 12 and 13. But there were a number from the lower forms as well as a few female students who worked as nursing sisters.

Regrettably, few records were kept of the years during World War I. Owing to the passage of time and the fact that the school paper and yearbook, the Collegiate Echoes, was shut down between October 1914 and December 1917, there is little first hand account of the school's involvement during the war. But more obscure sources such as minutes from various clubs, committees and assemblies help shed some light on those years.

Like the rest of society, the students and staff at the school seemed unprepared for the changes brought on by war. Initial expectations of a short war soon gave way to weariness and dissolution. There was a huge shift in school population as many students left for war duty while others went to work in local factories and farms to aid the home front effort. Many of the school's functions and offices closed down temporarily. The Literary Society of the Peterborough Collegiate Institute, which every second

Monday held debates, speeches and musical entertainment for the students and staff, did not operate between November 18, 1914 and November 1, 1916. During this time the Society reported only financial affairs of the school as it was felt that any show of enjoyment would be disrespectful to those students on the front. As mentioned, the Collegiate Echoes shut down and when it did again go to press it usually included pictures of overseas students killed in action and periodic pleas for the home front. Student written articles such as "The Importance

of the Wireless in the War" and "Is War Justifiable" appeared frequently. The student "At Home" or "formal" was virtually unheard of for the years 1915, 1916 and 1917. The student council looked after little else but the sending of letters and care packages containing peanuts, cheese and knitted articles in the school colours of garnet and gray which the girls of the school made for the boys in the trenches. Even the topics of student debates held by the Literary Society began to reflect the school's increasingly somber atmosphere. In the years leading up to 1914 topics of debate were generally of an educational or human nature and the scores varied greatly. But during the war years the topics became more politically or morally oriented with very intense debate and much closer scores. A report in the Collegiate Echoes of 1918 stated "Sporting life in PCI seems almost extinct and...our school



Citizens of Peterborough, England received the gift of a mobile canteen from PCVS students 16 July 1942. Making the presentation, from left to right: Flight Pilot Officer Harold Morrow, a PCVS student serving with RCAF 417 Squadron; Hugh Davidson, also a PCVS student serving overseas; Flight Lt. G. Wooll, for Canada House; Unknown; H.J. Farrow, Mayor of Peterborough, England; Frederic Hudd, Office of the Canadian High Commissioner; Grant Smedmore, RCAF, PCVS student.

spirit as far as athletics are concerned is a matter of the dim and distant past." As the war pressed on, life at PCVS became more and more serious as the disparity and duration of the conflict seemingly destroyed the optimism and enthusiasm of youth.

During the war years, the social attitudes of the students and staff seemed to grow more cynical with an obvious negative bias toward anything German. The Collegiate Echoes of late 1917 gave the definition of a germ as "a little bit of animal life living in water." The definition of a German was "another bit of animal life living in beer." The same issue ran a poem entitled "Der Kaiser and the Crown Prince" which satirized the Kaiser's war against King George and made him look like a blood thirsty tyrant with such lines as "Why you don't know me yet mein boy, you never seen me fight. But, dats the von almightiest ding in which I take delight."

The only thing which nearly every student took part in aside from academia and the sale of war bonds was the Picture Enlarging Fund and social events connected with this fund were virtually the only events going on in the school during the war. The fund was designed to raise money to have the pictures of students killed in action enlarged and hung in the school hallways. It was a project upon which everyone agreed and worked on to the fullest. Fund raising concerts were held and the objective was met quite handily as the portraits hung in the school for many years after the end of the war.

The end of the war brought obvious relief to the students and staff of PCVS as celebrations of victory rang throughout the hallways. School was dismissed on Armistice Day and everyone looked forward to the return of overseas students. But the school did not go back to its pre war existence. Instead, the inter-war period at PCVS represented an era of building. The principal, Dr. H.R.H. Kenner, stated in 1931 that he wanted the PCVS Cadet Corps to be tops in the Dominion for "disciplinary" reasons and matters of school pride. But surely the past war experience was on his mind when, in the same year, he changed the cadet officer's training period from once a week to twice; when in 1933 he introduced a First-Aid and Saint John's Ambulance course which was compulsory for all school members; when he made rifle shooting compulsory for all Corps members in 1934; and most notably when, in 1936, a known to be chauvinistic Dr.

Kenner ordered that the Girl's Shooting Club be formed with practices at the Armouries for one half hour after school five nights a week. Upon announcing the girl's shooting club Dr. Kenner joked the teachers would now have to take out additional insurance policies! War bonds continued to flow in and out of the school long after the end of the war and PCVS girls took a wider part in school activities. By 1933, PCVS had the most decorated Cadet Corps in the Dominion, winning many nationwide awards for marksmanship and inspection. A bugle band practiced daily. A War Bond Committee was in full swing in 1935 and, by the beginning of the second war in 1939, the new role of women in the school made it possible for Gwyneth Reade to become the first female head of Student Council. Since the role of PCVS girls had been traditional during the first war it was unheard of to have a female committee chair or board member. This probably contributed to the absence of so many school organizations in the early part of the war. With all of these changes it would seem that Dr. Kenner was determined that if there was to be another war the school would not be as unprepared as it was in 1914.

The interwar preparation was highly successful as the contrast between the student handling of the First Great War and that of the Second was nothing short of staggering. Between 1939 and 1945 PCVS epitomized the unflagging efforts of home front support. School spirit soared and, although attendance was lower, participation in all school events was high. Unlike the first war, school items such as the Echoes and the student newspaper as well as the Literary Society flourished during World War II and familiarized students with the European situation and the well being of the PCVS boys overseas. The Echoes recorded the Active Service List and those killed in action. Each year of the war, the editors dedicated the Echoes to a prominent Allied personality such as Winston Churchill in the 1941 edition. Shop activity began to increase prior to the end of the first war as The Soldier's Aid Society asked for additional classes to help returning soldiers gain skills suitable for civilian work. The popularity of the shops continued to grow throughout the interwar years and, during the second war, industrial activity boomed twenty-four hours. This made it possible for students aiding the home front effort to stay in school

throughout the war. The shops remained open throughout the summer months allowing the important shift work to continue. The Echoes staff made huge scrapbooks containing pictures and addresses of students overseas and made these books available to individuals and organizations wishing to send care packages to the soldiers. Knitting bees were held daily as the girls of the school made many items to be sent overseas, an activity which continued throughout the summer under the supervision of several female teachers. The Echoes again sent Christmas letters and packages to all students in the Armed Forces.

Probably the most notable effort made by PCVS students during the war surrounded the Year Saving Stamp Project and many activities were held in its aid. An objective was decided upon early in each school year as to how the money raised would be spent. In 1942, after a full year's savings, the school purchased and presented a war mobile kitchen canteen to the citizens of Peterborough, England and another one the following year to Liverpool. Later in the war a field ambulance was also purchased and presented making PCVS one of the most prolific institutions regarding war effort fundraising. A financial summary of war contributions recorded in a student council scrapbook is indeed impressive.

Funds raised for war purposes . . . . .	\$10,633.00
Sale of war stamps and certificates . . . . .	\$72,011.00
Articles turned over the Red Cross . . . . .	12,015
Christmas parcels sent . . . . .	537
Christmas letters sent . . . . .	1,740

The war effort then was met with an exuberant "carry on" attitude that took PCVS students and staff through another long and difficult war. Unlike the first war though, school spirit and activity did not diminish as the war pressed on. Instead, it grew with great energy.

The end of both wars was of course very welcomed as students returned to a more normal existence. But the experience of those years will always remain one of the more profound aspects of the school's history. The memorial tablets in the main hallway of the school display the names of all students who lost their lives in those conflicts. They serve not only to keep the memories of the students alive but also to remind us that PCVS indeed deserves to stand as it does along side the Cenotaph, Armouries and Legion as one of the respected participants in that very important time in the history of our city and nation.

# The naming of Peterborough

by Elwood Jones

**P**eterborough was named in 1825, as a compliment to Peter Robinson, who had just led a group of 2000 Irish immigrants to the area surrounding that administrative town. However, public lore has misunderstood the origins of the name, and the circumstances of its adoption. The name was acceptable to earlier settlers as well as the newcomers. The name was chosen by the Hon Zacheus Burnham, and was evocative of his New Hampshire upbringing. Its real local appeal was as a constant reminder that the provincial government had special obligations in this neighborhood.

No story in local history has had more discussion. Every discussion has been affected by the limited use of historical sources, of which the three most accepted are seriously in error in different ways. As well, most commentators have had modern reasons for believing the details they had. History is not simply about sharing facts. But when the facts are wrong, the general public naturally gets skewed versions of the past.

When researching for *Peterborough: the Electric City* I noticed several candidates for the name of what became Peterborough. The Indian name for this place was Nogojiwanong, a name appropriately applied to a river park near Simcoe Street. In the mid-1820s, the names in the air included Scott's Mills, Scott's Plains, Horton, and Peterborough, and perhaps more. There seems little doubt that the first two names relate to Adam Scott, whose mill near the corner of what is now King and Water streets, was the source of the first two names, both of which lacked imagination for what might be. Horton was a reference to Robert Wilmot Horton, the Under-Secretary of State for the Colonies, the great promoter of group immigration as a means of moving poor settlers from Ireland to a colony, arguably to reduce poor law payments in Ireland and spur advancement of the colonies. An 1826 letter from Miss Beaufort to Frances Stewart says, "I am rather sorry you chose the name Peterborough, we think your former choice of Horton much prettier and more uncommon."

Peterborough is no one's last name. The origin of this word was New Hampshire. In Upper Canada, naming rights for geographical features was commonly assumed by surveyors, postmasters or first settlers. In both Ontario and New Hampshire, Keene, Ashburnham and Peterborough are in the same area. The link to New Hampshire is direct and strong.

If a town were "named for" Peter Robinson, a logical choice would be Robinson, a name not overly used. Peterborough, New Hampshire was named for Peterborough, England and that city, formerly St Peter's burh, St Peter's fortified town. St Petersburg is named for Peter the Great, and elsewhere in North America there are many places named Petersburg. If one were naming a city for a Peter, Petersburg would be more likely.

With this background in mind, let's consider the sources that discuss this matter. Most famously, Frances Stewart describes an event at Government House during the visit of the Lieutenant-Governor, Sir Peregrine Maitland, in February 1826. The large party of five sleighs brought many dignitaries, including John

Beverley Robinson, the brother of Peter and also Attorney-General of Upper Canada, and the person who mentioned Peter to Wilmot-Horton. Thomas Talbot, who was bringing Irish immigration to the Talbot settlement in the London area of western Ontario, was also on hand. Local and Cobourg dignitaries included Dr and Mrs Reade, Mrs and Captain Charles Rubidge, James Grey Bethune, and Hon Zacheus Burnham. The narrator of *My Forest Home* says "My mother suggested "Peterborough" in honor of Mr. Peter Robinson and it was at once chosen as most suitable." (2<sup>nd</sup> ed, 91) Frances Stewart was more precise. She said if the place were named Peterborough, Peter Robinson would accept it as a compliment. T.A.S. Hay, in his short history of Peterborough, appended to the second edition of *My Forest Home* says that during Maitland's visit in 1826, "After several suggestions the name 'Peterborough' was unanimously adopted, out of compliment to the Hon. Peter Robinson." Hay was blending the language of Poole and his grandmother.<sup>2</sup>

In 1866, *The Canadian News* reports curiously in an otherwise informative article, "Peterborough takes its name from the Honourable Peter Robinson, who first formed a settlement of Irish immigrants on the north shore of Rice Lake, about forty years ago."<sup>3</sup>

Dr T.W. Poole in his 1867 book, *The Early Settlement of Peterborough County*, says the visit in the winter of 1826, "just one year and a few months after the arrival of the immigrants." The immigrants arrived in Peterborough in August and September 1825, so Poole suggested the visit was in February 1827. However, in this account he refers to the next season as the spring of 1826. His use of the winter of 1826 has likewise confused subsequent readers. Poole's account has been the most available, and has been paraphrased often, errors included.

Poole helps us to identify people who attended the rude levee or the later dinner at Government House on that Saturday night in early February 1826. The guests from York included Col Thomas Talbot and Hon John Beverly Robinson. From Cobourg, Poole mentions the Hon Zacheus Burnham and George G. Bethune, Esq. (surely James G. Bethune). In Otonabee, Captain Rubidge joined the party, and they were met in the town by Peter Robinson and Alexander McDonnell, and chief settlers, of which Poole notes Robert Reid and the Hon Thomas A. Stewart. (19) From *Our Forest Home*, we can add names noted by Frances Stewart: Dr and Mrs Reade; Mrs Rubidge; Frances Stewart; Maitland's son as Maitland's aide de camp; Major Hillier, Maitland's secretary; Col Burke and Doctor Connin. (2<sup>nd</sup> ed, 88-91) Howard Pammett, in his account as reprinted in the *Heritage Gazette of the Trent Valley*, February 2002, (18) confirms James G. Bethune from Cobourg and adds Richard Birdsall and George Burke with the local dignitaries.

After a long discussion of Maitland's visit, Poole continues, "It was soon after, that at a meeting of a few gentlemen residing in the vicinity, the name of "Peterborough" was selected for the future town, in compliment to the Hon. Peter Robinson, to whose exertions in promoting the settlement of the neighboring townships they felt so much indebted. The selection was at once ratified by general consent, and "Scott's plains" ere long ceased to be

associated with the prosperous town." (22)

Nicholas Flood Davin's *The Irish in Peterborough* paid particular attention to the Robinson settlers, Stafford Kirkpatrick and William Cluxton.<sup>4</sup> The Peterborough visit by Sir Peregrine Maitland receives several paragraphs. He notes that many loyal addresses were forwarded to Earl Bathurst, the Colonial Secretary, and that the visit bore fruit: the government built a mill, purchased in 1827 by John Hall and Moore Lee; and a bridge was built over the river. Despite the opportunity, he does not comment on how Scott's Plains became Peterborough, although he notices the spelling of Peterboro' depends on the whim of the writer (364).

C.P. Mulvaney wrote the Peterborough section of the 1884 *History of the County of Peterborough*. Mulvaney, based in Toronto, credited Peter Robinson and Charles Rubidge with immense influence. He comments that the "large and important" Robinson immigration "was the true foundation of the Town of Peterborough, and thence the rising prosperity of the surrounding townships." (252) After an extensive discussion of the Maitland visit in February 1827, Mulvaney begins the subsequent chapter with arresting observations.

The Governor's visit gave such an impulse to the growth of the settlement of Scott's Plains that at a meeting of the leading gentlemen of the neighborhood, held in the year 1827, it was resolved to adopt as the name of the future town, Peterborough, in well-deserved honour of its founder, the Hon. Peter Robinson. This was acceptable to everyone: to the English settlers it recalled the quaint old-time cathedral city; to the Catholics it brought associations of the fisherman-saint to whom, perhaps by an association of ideas, the Catholic Cathedral of Peterborough has been dedicated. (289)

We gain hints of Mulvaney's sources. He used some Colonial Office correspondence, the Robinson papers then in possession of Christopher Robinson, and the evidence in the reports to Parliament. He met with Adam Scott, a son of Adam Scott, living in Millbrook, and the Rev. Vincent Clementi, a son-in-law of Charles Rubidge. Charles M. Ryan, of Toronto, wrote the township histories. Several prominent people submitted biographies to the book.

Francis H. Dobbin<sup>5</sup>, the reigning historian of the next generation, using Frances Stewart's letters, dated Maitland's visit at 4 February 1826. In a *Peterborough Review* column in 1910, Dobbin said: "It was soon after that at a meeting of a few gentlemen residing in the vicinity, the name of "Peterborough" was selected for the future town, to compliment to the Hon. Peter Robinson, to whose exertions in promoting the settlement of the neighboring townships they felt so much indebted. The selection was at once ratified by general consent, and "Scott's Plains" ere long ceased to be associated with the prosperous town."

One of Dobbin's pertinent historical articles in 1923 records his first encounter with the Peter Robinson papers.<sup>6</sup> These had been donated to the Victoria Museum of the Historical Society of Peterborough in 1897, and went to the Peterborough Public Library after the death in March 1917 of Thomas A. S. Hay, who with F. R. Yokome, was the protector of the museum. Dobbin said "nothing of particularity" has been written in forty years.

Howard Pammatt did the most thorough investigation of the questions in his 1933 MA thesis for Queen's. He made good use

of the Robinson papers, the Colonial Office transcripts and the British Parliamentary Papers and the thesis, being published in serial form in the *Heritage Gazette of the Trent Valley*, had a well-founded credibility. He corrected the date of Maitland's visit to 11 February 1826, deferred to Mulvaney's account of the consensus-making, criticized Poole and noted that Frances Stewart's account is unverified. Pammatt noted that Robinson lived in Peterborough from August 1825, Government House was completed in October, and Robinson lived under canvas between August and November, and later made occasional visits to the immigrant depot. (February 2002, 17) On this occasion, town and park lots were given to George Burke, Alexander McDonell, John Smith, Charles Rubidge, Richard Birdsall and George Reade; the patents issued in May 1827. (16) Several grants were given to the Rev Mr Crowley, for the local Roman Catholic church.

In his discussion of Maitland's visit in his 1974 history of Emily Township, Pammatt curtly observed, "... the name "Peterborough" was bestowed on the infant village..." (33) His main interest in that work, of course, was with those who settled on land in Emily.

Ron Borg said the purpose was to include essays by "Peterburians, resident or expatriate." (ix) In a chapter on "Early Days," J. E. R. Munro avoids discussion but aptly quotes the Deputy Provincial Surveyor, John Smith's terse 1827 report to the government: "The name Peterborough has been given to Scott's Plains." (46)

Bill Labranche in his 1975 *Peterborough Scrapbook* largely paraphrased Mulvaney's account. "Indeed their admiration for him was so great that in 1827, at the suggestion of Mrs Frances Stewart, wife of Thomas A. Stewart, the name of the settlement was officially changed from Scott's Plains to Peterborough, in his honour." (6)

A letter, 15 December 1825, from Dr Francis Connin, which Pammatt had also noted as the earliest written proof that the name was in use before Maitland's visit, refers to "Peterborro" and the circular postmark on the cancellation contained "Peterboro" in individual letters. Bob Bowley, a local expert on postal history said this predated the founding of the local post office by five years, and that for 100 years the post office spelled it Peterboro.<sup>8</sup>

Helen Marryat, reflecting on *Our Forest Home* and on the John Strachan letter book, speculated that John Strachan was the source of the name.<sup>9</sup> She also believed that the post office must have started in 1825, in J.G. Bethune's Peterboro store. Bowley notwithstanding, she may be right on the second point. However, her first point is based upon a false assumption that Strachan, because he had power at the centre, could do anything for a former student. Given credible explanations, one should avoid such speculation.

Joyce Lewis wrote an informative article in the *Peterborough Historical Society Bulletin*, February 1976 to mark the sesquicentennial of Maitland's visit. She had been reading the letters of Frances Stewart, which had been edited severely for publication in *Our Forest Home*. These are now in the Trent University Archives. She adds to the list of local notables the John Armstrongs, Sidney Bellingham, Lt A. McDonnell, and Samuel Strickland.

In a year end review of Peterborough's 150<sup>th</sup> year, the *Peterborough Examiner* commented on the Peterborough Historical Society's story. "Peterborough wasn't officially named until several months after the immigrants arrived." After telling

Frances Stewart's version of the story, it reported Nick Nickels' comments that the name came from Zacheus Burnham, who accompanied Maitland on the 1826 visit. Burnham was at the peak of his power as the official surveyor, treasurer of Newcastle District, and a member of the Family Compact. It was named for Peterborough, a place near where Burnham was born, which the *Examiner* mistakenly placed in England. Nickels had been a reporter with the *Examiner*, and was the Burnham family historian. No specific sources were mentioned by Nickels.<sup>10</sup>

Maitland's party included Maitland's son, and his secretary, Major George Hillier. Joyce Lewis writes, "It was during dinner that the subject of a name for the village came up. Mrs Stewart, seated between Sir Peregrine and Peter Robinson, suggested Peterborough. Maitland accepted this compliment to the founder of the village and proposed a toast to the new settlement's growth and success." She notes that the name Peterboro was used on a tavern license in January.<sup>11</sup>

Dr John Gilchrist, the founder of Keene, Ontario, was also born in New Hampshire and settled in Cobourg; indeed quite a few New Englanders found their way to the shores of Lake Ontario, mainly in search of land. With the assistance of Zacheus Burnham, Gilchrist established a mill at Keene, which he named for a village in New Hampshire, about twenty miles from Peterborough, New Hampshire. Coincidences always need explaining. Peterborough, Keene and Ashburnham were in close proximity in both New Hampshire and Ontario, and Zacheus Burnham was always in the best position to suggest a name.

The 1981 Kawartha Conference featured a school history fair, displays and several interesting discussions which were published in the proceedings, edited by A.O.C. Cole and Jean Murray Cole as *Kawartha Heritage*. Dennis Carter-Edwards spoke about Zacheus Burnham, the remarkable Cobourg entrepreneur whose hand seemed to be in every project for promoting the Newcastle District. This included the building and promotion of mills, harbour improvement, canals and railroads. In 1829, for example, he worked closely with Thomas A. Stewart, Charles Rubidge, and James Grey Bethune to get the Cobourg harbor improved and recognized.<sup>12</sup>

The importance of the Burnhams became more evident with several works on Cobourg and Peterborough, and Peter Ennals' biographical sketch on Burnham for the *Dictionary of Canadian Biography* in the volume published in 1985. Of particular note was the fine 1976 article on James Grey Bethune which appeared in *Victorian Cobourg*. Many historians in the 1970s and 1980s were producing studies of communities that considered the different ways in which status could be studied and assessed.

Neil Forkey in a recent environmental history of the Kawarthas summarized wrongly, "These immigrants were so grateful to Robinson that they named the Trent Valley's major commercial centre, Peterborough, after him."<sup>13</sup> The recent immigrants did not get to name Peterborough, but the summary suggests that they should have had a say.

\* \* \*

I referred to the naming of Peterborough a number of times between 1975 and 1987, and each time deferred to the received wisdom, generally saying Peterborough was named in honour of Peter Robinson, in 1826. Mulvaney erred, and confused subsequent observers, as to the meaning of Poole's reference to Maitland's visit in the "winter of 1826"; it was February 1826 not February 1827. Since *Peterborough: the Electric City*, I balanced

the many received interpretations with my own gnawing concern about why a name was "in the air" by 1825. In the *Illustrated Historical Atlas of Peterborough County 1825-1875* (1975), writers were told to capture an 1875 perspective, and I wrote, the town was "named Peterborough in 1826 in honour of Peter Robinson." (63, abridged edition). Twelve years later, in *Peterborough: the Electric City*, I wrote:

When Sir Peregrine Maitland, the lieutenant-governor, visited in February 1826, the village was officially named Peterboro, in honour of Peter Robinson, its valued patron. Peterboro was in use by late 1825, and it is possible the name was suggested by the New Hampshire town, near Keene and Ashburnham, familiar to the Burnhams, John Gilchrist and others. (13)

I used similar language in speeches and articles during the late 1980s. With the new edition of the *Canadian Encyclopedia*, now in a website [www.canadianencyclopedia.ca](http://www.canadianencyclopedia.ca) I say the name came from New Hampshire and was used because Robinson would see it as a compliment.

In a *Peterborough Examiner*, December 2002 review of the recently published letters of Robertson Davies, I commented:

The most interesting explanation of Peterborough came in Davies' 1946 letter (25-27) to H L Mencken, the great American writer who was fascinated with words. He said the proper word for someone from here was Peterboronian, but nothing was more honoured than being a "Peterborough man." ... He also told Mencken that Peterborough's name was a tribute to Peter Robinson; "tribute" is precise. The name came from New Hampshire, but won over other choices because Robinson would see it as a compliment.<sup>14</sup>

The issue was raised recently when the *Peterborough Examiner* was helping researchers with a new edition of a dictionary.<sup>15</sup> The following exchange of views suggested that some could be upset at efforts to downplay the importance of Peter Robinson after the City of Peterborough chose to name both its August civic holiday and its most prestigious local awards in honour of Peter Robinson. It was felt that once we have the uncontested facts people should be content. However, such arguments suggest that history is about the present rather than the past. When we have a usable past we should keep it.

Historians have raised insightful questions. How were decisions made in 1825? Why did the Robinson immigration solidify the power base of earlier settlers rather than the Irish newcomers? Why was the name accepted by different constituencies? Who had the opportunity to advance new names and make them stick? Who was empowered by the choice of names, and the uses made of the choice? Why was the name in the air in 1825? How important is the connection to the Family Compact, to which Peterborough is firmly tied with the government grants of 1827 and the naming of the town? Why does Frances Stewart use the coy expression that Robinson would see it as a compliment? What is the difference between compliment, honour and naming? If one were to name a town after Peter Robinson, what would be the most obvious choices? These are all valid historical questions that open windows into the past. We need to know more about interconnec-



tions, and how decisions are made. We need to read culturally the accounts around which people share their identities. For Peterburians, there is no better entry point into our history.

Referring to Robinson as "its valued patron" drew attention to the political protection that was necessary. Patronage in the language of the 1820s obliged people to support patrons. This was a neat opportunity to do so. Linking the names in the air with Keene and with New Hampshire drew attention to the importance of surveyors and founders in the naming of places. Zacheus Burnham, the Surveyor for the Newcastle District, was from south-west New Hampshire, as was Dr John Gilchrist, the founder of Keene. Historians always question coincidences in history.

Peter's brother was the attorney-general, and Peter became the Commissioner of Crown Lands in 1827. Peterborough saw its future tied to close links to Toronto then and in every subsequent generation; even as recently as the October 2003 election, Peterborough was a bellwether riding provincially.

Saying that Peter Robinson would see it as a compliment is actually quite informative. Of all the names in the air, this was the only one that would please Robinson, and seal connections with the Family Compact. The Scott names were mundane. Horton, although a prettier name, and applied to a place in Nova Scotia, would suggest that people locally valued Horton, the political force behind the Irish migration, more than Robinson who handled the details. Robinson was under pressure to make his books balance and to account for the decisions he had made. Howard Pammett's thesis provides excellent insight into the political pressures.

The Hon Zacheus Burnham was among the people who accompanied Sir Peregrine Maitland to Peterborough in 1826. Burnham (1797-1857) was raised in New Hampshire, and came to the Cobourg area in his early 20s. He was considered a local success story, with over 1500 acres of land when he successfully bid in 1818 for the contract to survey several townships, including Otonabee, Asphodel, Douro and Dummer; his reward was over 13,000 acres. Richard Birdsall, who married one of Burnham's daughter, surveyed Peterborough in 1825, coincident with the arrival of the Irish migration under Peter Robinson. The Birdsalls were among the local guests for the Maitland visit.<sup>16</sup> His only son, the Rev Mark Burnham, inherited most of the estate of his father, and this included significant parts of Peterborough, and Ashburnham, which also was named for a place familiar to Zacheus Burnham.

The naming of Peterborough was a moment of empowerment. The Robinson migration was not just about bringing settlers to this area. Those who had lived here suddenly had hope of a brighter future: Thomas A. Stewart and Charles Rubidge, for example, received government honours. Land chosen in Peterborough had potential value, and the surveying of the land was a confirmation of that. Robinson had promises of future reward. People such as Zacheus Burnham knew that their estates grew in direct proportion with the growth of the district. With Robinson's assistance, the town was able to have petitions granted for a local bridge, a local saw and grist mill, and for land for churches.

This much is clear. In 1825, Peterborough experienced a moment of new opportunities captured by the arrival of nearly 2000 Irish settlers, the surveying of streets in the Town of Peterborough, and the first postal service. The combination empowered not only the new settlers, but those in Upper Canada

associated with its organization and servicing, and also those who had settled in the District of Newcastle in the previous 30 years. The key to future success was tied to keeping connections open with Cobourg and with York. The name Peterborough, of New Hampshire origin, was introduced as a name because of the importance of Zacheus Burnham and Cobourg. It achieved a consensus because it evoked meaning at several levels. It was meant and accepted as a compliment to Peter Robinson. It acknowledged the importance of the emerging district elite. It was a safely English name, in a settlement with many links to the post-Napoleonic Wars migration. It evoked a meaningful trust by Irish Catholic settlers. The name was special, and no government would forget that this was a town founded on promises of continuing support.

## Sources

*[The research for this report was greatly aided by the staff at the Trent Valley Archives who alerted me to many fresh sources. Thank to Pat, Diane and Brooke.]*

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2. Reprinted as Thomas Alexander Stewart Hay, *Short History of the Town of Peterborough 1901* (Peterborough, Peterborough Historical Society, Occasional Paper 24, 2004)
3. *Canadian News*, 14 June 1866, page 379. The apparent source was the Toronto-based Secretary of the Canadian Land and Emigration Company.
4. Nicholas Flood Davin, *The Irishman in Canada* (Toronto, Maclear and Company, 1877) 355-365
5. Dobbin (1850-1932) trained in the world of hard knocks journalism; he had exceptional instincts for defining issues and selecting sure details. By the early 1860s, the young Dobbin was spending time at the Robert Romaine's Review, and in December 1864 began his career in journalism there. Except for a stint as manager of the Lindsay Post, Dobbin remained with the Review, with increasing responsibilities, until he retired in 1914. Dobbin's retirement was extraordinarily active and diverse. For awhile he was sales manager for the Peterborough Canoe Company. In 1914, he was elected to City Council, and with the outbreak of war became secretary of the Citizens' Patriotic Fund; he held both positions to the end of the war in 1918. After World War I, he effectively managed the local efforts to provide housing for veterans, and was secretary of the Owners and Tenants Association. He was effectively producer of the very popular Old Home Week, 1929; hundreds of people returned to their old home town for a week of festivities and the unveiling of the war memorial in Confederation Park. At different times, he was president of the Peterborough Board of Trade, the Peterborough Industrial Exhibition, and the Peterborough Historical Society. He was secretary of the Mothers' Allowance Board, a member of the Children's Aid Society, George Street Methodist Church and the 57<sup>th</sup> Regiment.
6. Dobbin's most important and enduring work, the 1914 encyclopedic "Historical Index of Peterborough, Canada" was only available in typescript and is not widely known; the best copy is at the Peterborough Public Library. He wrote historical articles from 1918 to the early 1920s for the *Peterborough Examiner*. Some of these articles were edited for *Our Old Home Town* (1945); others are in the Dobbin fonds at the Peterborough Centennial Museum and Archives.
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## Teaching the Story of Bible to City's Chinese Residents - Mrs. J. H. Bettes of Peterboro, Prefers Chinese Students to All Others – Uses An Illustrated Bible

Nine Chinese students of the Bible classes at Murray street Baptist Church provided a banquet for their teachers and friends in the basement of the church, last Friday evening, and one of the especial guests of the grateful students at this entertainment was Mrs. J. H. Bettes of the Home Missionary Department of the Salvation Army in this city.

For the last seven years, this lady has taught the story of the Bible to Chinamen who are interested in our Christian religion and its dogmas, and she says she prefers the Chinese as students to all others. With the Bible study, she gives them elementary lessons in reading and writing. Sometimes they come to her with absolutely no knowledge of the English language, just a very little of the queer "pidgin" talk, and then she draws pictures for them, for the Chinese written language is essentially a sign language, and their words are combinations of signs. Anyone considering the elemental beginnings of these word pictures cannot doubt that the Chinese have a sense of humour, when they put two women under one roof to signify the word "trouble"; three ladies means "gossip"; they place the roof sign over a woman and a pig when they want to convey the idea of "marriage" and make the woman and child sign under the same square roof signs means "peace."

### Illustrated Bible

To teach the Oriental the Lord's Prayer, this lady has an illustrated Bible with little pictures. "Our Father, who art in Heaven" is pictured as a venerable old man with a child on his knee; "Thy Kingdom Come" is a pleasant place with peaceful background; "Lead us not into temptation" shows a gloomy Celestial enjoying a naughty game of cards with companions who are smoking and drinking; and "deliver us from evil" shows a pious young lady leading the innocent Celestial from a tempting doorway. To convey the idea of the Divine birth to these minds darkened by centuries of pagan training, they are told that the father of Jesus was a spirit. It is hard for them to grasp the story of the Saviour, of his life, death and resurrection.

Mrs. Bettes merely teaches them the story of the Bible and then "they can go wherever the Lord leads them", a truly religious teaching. She distributes literature to the ten laundries and the three restaurants of the city, with the Chinese War Cry, written in their own language, and one of the chief weapons in the desire of the Salvation Army for the evangelization of China, through herself. And she says that the work has its own reward in the gratitude of her students whom she describes as kind and generous and very receptive.

*Undated clipping, c 1920, from Gail Corbett collection*



Christina Smith Bettes with her Chinese students. Christina was related to the Smiths of Port Hope and Harwood. Her husband John Hiram Bettes was a millwright in Harwood, Birdsall, Lakefield and at Quaker Oats. Mrs. Bettes is the maternal great grandmother of Lakefield author Gail Corbett (Astell) who recalls, "In childhood, the Chinese were always generous to our family, treating us to marvelous meals. I think they never forgot that Great Grandmother Christina had first taught them English and treated them with Christian charity

*from the Corbett Collection.*

# The vindication of R. B. Rogers

G. Young

John Albert Sexsmith, the Conservative M.P. for Peterborough East, summarized the unfair treatment received by R. B. Rogers, the designer and superintendent for the building of the famed Peterborough Lift Lock. The letter, 28 November 1917, is in the Geale-Rogers family papers at the Trent University Archives. Writing to Dr. Read, Minister of Railways & Canals, Ottawa, Sexsmith wrote:

I understand that Guss Porter has gone into the matter with you of my friend R. B. Rogers of Peterborough, formerly Chief Engineer of the Trent Canal in connection with the charges that the Grits brought against him some years ago in connection with the construction of the Hydraulic Lift Locks on the Trent Canal.

As you know there was nothing in the charges but they employed an Engineer named Holgate to investigate these charges and he brought in a report to satisfy those who employed him. This man Holgate has since acknowledged to Cochrane, so Cochrane told Guss Porter, that for party reasons he had made such reports.

Rogers was treated very badly and was not even given a chance to reply to this report and was forced to resign and it was not until a couple of years ago that after three years of pestering by Guss Porter that Minister Frank Cochrane consented to appoint a Commissioner to re-investigate these charges and he appointed C.H. Keefer P. Eng of Ottawa to do so.

Keefer after going thoroughly into the whole matter reported that he found no grounds whatever for the finding of the former Commissioner Holgate but on the contrary he eulogized, the construction of the work in every way and in conclusion stated that "it was a work that any Engineer in the world might well be proud to have been connected with."

Rogers in connection with the construction of these Lift Locks has brought fame and distinction to the whole Engineering Profession of this country and it seems outrageous that after making such a name for himself and the country that he should be treated in such a shabby manner.

Engineers from every civilized country in the world have visited and admired these works. Not only did Cochrane keep delaying and delaying Porter's requests on Rogers behalf for the appointment of a Commissioner to go into the matter but he actually insisted on Rogers paying for the whole expense, some {\$1150} in connection with this Commission, even after Keefer had shown the great injustice that had been done to Rogers.

Mr. Rogers asks that he be reimbursed for this expenditure of this Commission.

Such a case I will venture to say was never before known where an individual has been called upon to pay the expense of a Commission appointed by a Government of the country, especially so when it has been shown that such an individual has been so grossly wronged by the former Government of the country.

I hope you will agree that this matter should be put right and that Mr. Rogers be refunded the amount that he was compelled to pay for the expenses of this Commission.

Rogers was appointed "Superintending Engineer, Trent Canal Works, Peterboro, Ontario," 12 July 1884. The ambitious Rogers was a hard, dedicated worker. As his office was attached to his house, he often worked past midnight on specifications and, later, setting out his arguments with the latest complaints from the infamous and inexperienced Corry and Laverdure. Collingwood Schreiber let Rogers sit in on the discussions of costs, but Rogers' diary entries suggest he was a mere observer. Rogers also had to contend with the continuous parade of political pals looking for jobs; some he fired for incompetence including one who was drunk the morning he complained to Schreiber about his firing.

Walter Francis who later would try and claim that he was the genius behind the lift lock, had less of an education than did Rogers. Rogers had the opportunity to accept Francis' resignation, and in hindsight, should have done so. Rogers may have felt the Christmas spirit or that Francis was knowledgeable and had much to offer.

Rogers regularly took the C. P. R.'s late

mail train to Ottawa which left Peterborough usually at 11:40 PM. The otherwise all-mail train often had a passenger coach at the rear for people like Rogers. Rogers seems to have liked the convenience, and he lost no time from work or family. Rogers was an all-round athlete who loved cricket, ice skating, canoeing, curling and bicycling. In Ottawa, both Schreiber and A. G. Blair, the Minister of Railways and Canals, left Rogers waiting in the outer office for scheduled meetings. Rogers' best allies in Ottawa were the local Members of Parliament.

R. B. Rogers was in great difficulty from the moment the Corry and Laverdure firm were given the contract for building the Lakefield to Peterborough section of the Trent Canal. The kind research of Gerrard Lamont in Ottawa, confirms that the company that destroyed Richard Birdsall Rogers' historic career had never had a federal contract before being chosen to build the Lift Lock under Rogers supervision. Usually the minister making public works contracts exercised his patronage with care, to men who were known, or who had a proven track record, or had well-understood connections. The Corry and Laverdure firm were the lowest bidders for the Peterborough (Little Lake) to Lakefield tender, but should have had more experience or connections.

We have not been able to find any link to the most likely connection, Collingwood Schreiber (1831- 1918), the deputy minister and Chief Engineer of the Department of Railways and Canals. In 1880 he succeeded Sir Sandford Fleming as Chief Engineer of the Canadian Pacific Railway. In 1892 he was named Chief Engineer of the Department of Railways and Canals. In 1905 he was appointed Chief Engineer to the Dominion Government.

It is also not clear why people in the Department of Railways and Canals did not have the highest regard for R. B. Rogers. Rogers had two degrees in engineering: in civil engineering and in mining (assaying) engineering. Although appointed superintendent of the Canals in the Central District, particularly of the Peterborough to Lakefield projects, he was subservient to the political masters in Ottawa. Rogers was the first Central District superintendent of the Railways and Canals Bureau of the

Dominion of Canada to have a university degree. His predecessors were usually men out of Royal Military College or something similar; an Army engineering certification. Even his immediate predecessor locally, John E. Belcher, the renowned Peterborough architect, had no engineering certification. Rogers was endeavoring to complete two hydraulic lift locks, at Kirkfield and Peterborough, both at the same time.

The impressive list of engineers who assisted Rogers included the highly enthusiastic Sir Sandford Fleming; Kivas Tully, the Province of Ontario's Chief Engineer; C. H. Rust, Civil Engineer and Chief Engineer for the City of Toronto; J. Weller, Chief Engineer of the Welland Canal; and Mr. McKenzie, chief Engineer of the Intercolonial Railway.

Rogers' most important allies were Andrew Onderdonk, and his son, Sherley Onderdonk, as well as Onderdonk's superintendent, William Dennon and his son, Francis. Rogers' diary indicates he had frequent contacts with Dennon to discuss the construction operations. Dennon was even brought in to do an audit of Corry and Laverdure's work, after Rogers had a "racket with Corry." There was a need to co-ordinate activities as Onderdonk had the contract on the connecting section of the Trent Canal.

Andrew Onderdonk, a celebrated successful railway contractor, had built the first contract of the Canadian Pacific railway eastbound from present-day Vancouver to well into the interior of British Columbia. Through his brother-in-law, H. B. Laidlaw, Onderdonk had financial support for his engineering projects from the New York bank of James Laidlaw (d. 1932). The bank had funded and guaranteed Andrew Onderdonk and his brother John Remsen Onderdonk through several successful projects including a major water plant in Chicago, several tunneling projects (one in Hamilton ON), and a subway project in New York. Through the Onderdonks and the Laidlaw bank, Rogers had secure financial support for the building of the Lift Lock that was independent of the Ottawa politicians.

Rogers first met Andrew Onderdonk on Wednesday, 28 November 1895, who had won the tender for (apart from building the two lift locks) the most difficult project on the entire canal system. He had to divert the waters of a creek naturally flowing west into Lake Simcoe so it would flow east and supply extra water for the lift lock at Kirkfield. Andrew gave the oversight of

the project to his most trusted superintendent, William Dennon and his son, along with Onderdonk's only son, Sherley, an impressive engineer in his own right. The Onderdonks were even consulted about a problem "with the dump-cars at the Hyd[raulic] Lock."

Sherley Onderdonk (1871-1918) later completed, using similar techniques, the Jerome Park Reservoir begun by his father. Although born in New Jersey, Sherley considered his home to be Durham, New Hampshire where he met and married Edith Congreve (1877-1919) in June 1901, and their only child, Alice H. was born in November 1902. Alice married Henry Dean Quinby, Jr in 1924; they had two sons, Henry D III and Congreve. One of Sherley's mentors was Hamilton Smith, Jr (1840-1900) an international expert in hydraulic engineering who lived in Durham from 1855, working in the engineering and accounting departments of the Cannelton coal mines. Sherley's expertise in hydraulic mining and in financing major construction contracts was vital to Richard B. Rogers particularly when explaining the Lift Lock project to Collingwood Schreiber, and A. G. Blair and others in Ottawa.

Linton Taylor, P. Eng., of Taylor Air Compressor Company, visited Rogers 24 March 1896 and took measurements "for [an] air compressor at hydraulic lock." Taylor Air Compressor Company was the Canadian representative of the American Compressed Air Company.

Dr. Herman Haupt, the president of the American Compressed Air Company, solved many problems for Andrew Onderdonk when he was building the C. P. R. He helped mostly with air-powered drills, air powered tunneling equipment and some caissons work. Brigadier General Haupt (US Railway Corps) was the genius in the American Civil War who created prefabricated bridges which allowed Haupt's railway crews to replace blown-up bridges within hours. As well, Haupt designed the first prefabricated houses. Haupt was the "grandfather" of all the caisson work then and now. Haupt's inventiveness was essential to Rogers' success at the two Lift Locks.

Walter John Strickland Traill, who occasionally came back and forth to his old home town of Lakefield, also helped Rogers. When the lift lock was under construction, Traill was busy buying grain for a number of companies including Peavey Grain, railroad magnate, James J. Hill and

the American Cereal Company (later Quaker). Peavey Grain, at Duluth, Minnesota, commissioned the first Portland cement grain elevators, which used virtually the same construction as Rogers used for the lift lock, something Traill and Rogers likely discussed.

While Rogers was busy with the details of the Lift Lock in Peterborough and Kirkfield, building the canal between Peterborough and Lakefield, and supervising the locks and canals between Hastings and Trenton, developers wished to build a canal from Rice Lake to Port Hope. He also needed, in 1900, to replace the Rathbun owned Beaver Cement Company in Marlbank with the Lakefield Portland Cement Company, a subsidiary of the Owen Sound Portland Cement Company. William Kilbourn P. Eng. (Chemical) brought the needed expertise in Portland Cement when the Owen Sound Portland Cement built Lakefield Portland Cement plant.

How Rogers kept all of this information in his head, we simply do not know. He also had the distractions of family affairs. His wife Mina was chronically ill and required housekeepers, the children were often ill and some family members died, many far too young.

Rogers had powerful and jealous enemies. Henry Holgate who wrote the biased report was later fired and never worked again. Walter Francis who tried to lay claim to the Lift Lock in Peterborough and Kirkfield took Rogers job, but, almost immediately transferred to a project in B. C. and never returned.

Amazingly, Frank Cochrane, Blair's successor as Minister of Railways and Canals, demanded that Rogers pay for Keefer's inquiry! Fortunately, Rogers was repaid. Rogers' nemeses, Cochrane and Schreiber, both disgraces to their offices, have towns named for them.

C. H. Keefer was the President of the Canadian Civil Engineers Society and was always one of R. B. Rogers greatest supporters. His report, a scathing indictment of political interference and political intimidation, eventually vindicated Rogers. Keefer's report had credibility because Rogers had continued to have the support of knowledgeable and helpful friends, not the least of whom were Andrew & Sherley Onderdonk and their senior superintendent, William Dennon. The Peterborough Lift Lock remains the highest and largest compressed Portland cement structure.

*For sources see page 29*

# The places we meet

by Brooke Pratt

Imagine my surprise when I discovered that I had been to the house my grandfather grew up in without my even knowing it. Researching someone else's family history at work one day I stumbled across a reference in the Vernon's Directory for the City of Peterborough: Fred D. Craig, reporter for the *Peterborough Examiner*, resides at 544 Water Street. Right away I knew 544 Water Street was significant somehow. It dawned on me that "544" was the affectionate name for the house a couple of my best friends lived in during our second year as students at Trent University. They called themselves the girls of "544." My memories of the house involved a dinner party and beer, until suddenly I realized I have actually been in my own grandfather's childhood home.

Fred Craig, who worked for the *Examiner* first as a sports reporter and eventually as editor, was my grandfather's father. I have limited knowledge of my own family's history, but I know enough to recognize the names of my ancestors in a city directory or on a census reel. My distance from my own

family's story stems from the fact that I never knew my grandfather himself – he died when I was not yet two years old. All that I know of him now has come from my Nana, from my mother, or from his books. Although I admit with regret that I have not yet read everything John Craig has written, every time I scan the pages of his stories I feel I learn just a little bit more about the man and his life. Living in Peterborough for the past five years I also feel as though he and I have a shared connection through this city. The house at 544 Water Street is proof of the strange and mysterious ways that history, in all its forms, carries its stories from one generation to the next.

The three-story house that is 544 Water Street was built around 1886 by Henry Sherwood. Its first occupant was a man fittingly named George Carton, a grocer who

worked on George Street. My family – Fred Craig, his wife Dorothy, and their only son John – moved into the house sometime around 1928. Previously, they lived down the road at 586 Water Street, but it is 544 that John remembered as his childhood home. Reading through his delightful sketches of Peterborough in the 1930s (in *How Far Back Can You Get?*) I now know that this was the house he was seeing in his mind as he wrote. A house whose walls I have touched and windows I have looked out of. Granted, I did not live there myself, but I still find it incredible that I have indeed been inside of it – walked on

its floorboards and ate in its kitchen. When I made my discovery about 544 I immediately informed my Nana of the coincidence, only to be surprised once more! My Nana herself lived in the house for a very brief time in the 1940s after she and my grandfather were first married. By that point Fred Craig had died, but Dorothy was still living in the same old house on Water Street. My Nana remembers little about the house itself after all these years, but she carries some small details with her to this day. She knows, for instance, that she and



544 - 542 Water Street, French Empire style double tenement built by Henry Sherwood about 1886. The Craigs lived in the left side..

Martha Kidd Collection, TVA

John shared the front room on the second story, and that there used to be (to her astonishment!) a woodstove right in the middle of the kitchen. Well of course, there is no longer a woodstove in the house at all, and when I was there the front room was painted a dark blue and occupied by a girl named Claire. It is funny, all the secrets that the places we inhabit contain.

Curious about the history of the house and all those who called it their home in the days since my grandfather, I tracked the previous tenants through the Peterborough city directories. Interestingly, the house was divided into two apartments shortly after Dorothy remarried and left her home at 544. Going by what I see in the directories, this house seems to have been occupied primarily by a number of widows throughout the 1950s and 1960s. Strangely

enough, in the year 1963 the house was home to a man named Terry Wills, a reporter for the *Examiner* just as my great-grandfather had been. As of 1987 a student was living in one of the apartments in the house – perhaps the first of a string of students who have lived there since.

My fascination with 544 has become a catalyst for me into my Craig family background. As I try to learn more about my grandfather – both through his books and through my Nana's stories – I am also eager to know more about his experience of Peterborough and his family's presence here. After doing some more digging into John Craig's history I have found further links to places in Peterborough that are familiar to me, yet until now, have meant very little. I now, for instance, look at Pete's Sub Shop on the corner of Brock and George with new eyes; this corner lot is the former location of Craig & Mooney, Practical Upholsterers and Furniture Dealers – the Craig in this case being my great great-grandfather John D. Craig. His story is one that was relatively unknown, even to my grandfather. After living with his young wife and his mother for a short time after the war, my grandfather left Peterborough and did not return to live until 1980. I can imagine that returning to the city of his youth after so many years away must have been an interesting experience for him. Indeed, upon his return to Peterborough he wrote a column for the *Examiner* entitled *A Writer Comes Home* in which he reflected on this experience. It is through one of these reflections that he too made a discovery about his grandfather and the Craig family in Peterborough. In the article dated 6 June, 1981, my grandfather tells the story of an auction in Millbrook he and my Nana attended one Saturday afternoon. As they viewed the items up for sale they were intrigued by an old walnut washstand, and as they went to take a closer look they saw that "On the comparatively rough boards forming the back was stamped the legend: 'J. D. Craig, Fine Furniture, Peterborough.'" How



Above, left to right, John Craig and his parents Dorothy (Fenwick) and Fred Senior. Below, Fred Craig worked in the *Peterborough Examiner* sports department for 39 years starting in 1906.

*Photos from a Craig family album.*

wonderful for him to stumble across this relic from his grandfather's past! After this piece ran in the paper a woman contacted my grandfather and gave him a footstool she had, also made by J. D. Craig. To this day the little stool sits upstairs in my Nana's house. I am beginning to see how this string of events is not unlike the circumstances that brought me to know 544 Water Street in a completely new light.

Maybe my introduction to 544 Water Street and its history is not all that remarkable. Its possible that stories like this one arise frequently and

mine is not particularly unusual. But what this story does illustrate is the life that is contained inside each and every building that makes up the city of Peterborough, or any other city for that matter. Places have their own stories waiting to be told and it is up to us to reveal them – it is up to us to be prepared to listen. In our busy lives most of us rarely stop and take the time to hear what history is trying to say, but like me, we might all be pleasantly surprised if we just paid a little bit more attention now and then.

# Names & Names

*From the Delledonne Collection. Written in the style of William Telford, the bard of Smith. Newspaper and date published unknown*

If everybody in this world  
Of every color, creed and fame  
Descended from a common tree  
Please tell me how each got his name.  
In passing along the street each day  
Or looking around the church each week  
I find so many different names  
The reason 'tis hard to seek.

There's Adams and Eves, and Matthews and Moses,  
A Patriarch David, Gardens and Roses.  
A Clark, and a Crawford, a Casement and a Chant,  
A Bell and a Burrows, a Grylls and a Grant,  
There's Fraser and Fitz, and Murduff and Marling  
There's Millars and Suttons, and Sherin and a Darling.

We've Ridpaths and Renwicks, Montgomerys and Madills  
Gilmans, and Charltons both Sam and Bill,  
There's Leonards and Lennox and Jackson and Jull  
A Gibson and a Graham, a Hendren and a Hull,  
You'll find White and Brown, Morgan and Pugh  
We've Wagar and Connell and even a Jew,  
There's Bradens and Bickells, and Davis and Duff  
There's Stuarts and Strickland, and Morrisons enough,  
And squib remembered in Ice House fame  
Now he'd build with concrete or quit the game.

There's Lawless and Lillicrap, Clifford and Cox  
There's Erskine and Everett, and Kennedy and Knox,  
We've Doctors too, like Fraser, Smith and Moore,  
And Druggists like Burgess, Butts and Tanner  
Who deal out dope in a careful manner,  
We've canoes built by Brown, and canoes built by Tate  
And teachers like Simpson, and bakers like Lake.

A David but no Goliath, a Doidge but no Ford  
And Sammy the woodman who gives a full cord,  
We've an Issac and a Stephen, an Abel but no Cain,  
There's Sriver and Stabler, and Peacock and Payne,  
We've Elmsley and Bailey, a Langley and Lemay  
There's Johnson and Jory, and Baptie and Ray,  
There's Theodore in the store and Peter in the mill  
A Blewett and a Ball, a Moon and a Hill.

There's Tiny and the Chief, and Chittick without Clare,  
There's Northeys and Websters and ?? to spare,  
We've a Graham and a Grier, a Chapple but no Church  
And trees in our park of both chestnut and birch,  
Millages there are both mechanics and plumbers  
No Ups, but Downs, no Winters, but Summers,  
There's Johnny and Percy, and Louie also  
Who take you wherever you want to go,  
There's Galvin and Dench from Douro  
Who spend the winter on furlough.

We've Alderman Robinson and Tedford new,  
And Leggott and Twist and Armstrong too,  
There's Watson and Kidd, and Dunford and Dever  
And Purdy and Pearson and Stock and Stenner,  
We've Little and Fairbairn, Taylor and Trude,  
And Garbutt and Preston and many a dude,  
There's McManus and Young, Richardson and Nixon  
There's Edwards and Allen, Killen and Mason,  
We've Clysdale, Campbell, Bullock and Bolton  
We've Sanderson, Junkin, Welbourne and Walton,  
The Hebrew is scarce, he stands almost alone  
And only for Don, would be typified Cognomen of Cohen,  
There's Tom and Wilf and Miltie and Hermie,  
And when there's a fire we see Johnnie and Ernie.

There's Alex and Dick and Russell with his Ford  
And when they start off the neighbors say "Oh Lord."  
There's McFadden at the locks and Dad on the the dredge  
But they both draw the line at handling a sledge.  
Old Ireland is there with her form and Grace  
With the Spences, both George and Perce to uphold the fighting race,  
Old England is there with a few odd Simpsons  
And there is Hawkins and Harrisons and Higgins and Wilsons.  
The Scotch are there with Kemp and Garvey  
MacDonald, Mackenzie and Thompson and Harvey.  
But we must not omit from his Roll Call  
The name of our old friend Paul  
As in doing so would leave us liable  
Because he is mentioned in the Bible.  
Names famous in Peace and famous in war  
Fill box after box and drawer after drawer  
If names increase both domestic and foreign  
The Postmaster will wish he'd never be born.



Mick Allen's pool Hall, Queen St. Lakefield, in the 1920s. In the wheel chair, Michael Allen. Behind the stove, Cliff Galvin. John Allen, Mick's son, is in the door. The two others are unidentified. Delledonne Collection Fonds 30/28-30/10

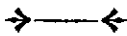
## Peterborough and famine relief in Ireland and Scotland 1847

The Trent Valley Archives is currently accessioning the Martha Ann Kidd fonds. Martha is a TVA board member and has since the 1960s been one of Peterborough's most assiduous collectors of information about Peterborough's history and about the history of heritage buildings. The fonds is an exceptionally rich source of information about the history of Peterborough, and we have made it a high priority to develop a detailed finding aid. One example of her work is the detailed notes on articles that appeared in the *Peterborough Weekly Despatch*. As a sample of those notes we have assembled the articles she had identified relating to the Irish and Scottish famines in the spring of 1847. These sparked a spike in emigration from there to Canada, and in Peterborough we have an Irish Famine monument in Del Crary Park, near the Hospital Point of 1847. Dr John Hutchison, who is identified with Peterborough's history because of the immense importance of Hutchison House, died of the cholera that infected migrants in that migration. That his name is missing from these accounts reminds us that what follows is an excerpt, not a complete record.

To the Editor of the *Weekly Despatch*  
Emily, 23<sup>rd</sup> February, 1847

SIR, — A meeting was held in Metcalfe on Monday last, convened for the purpose of considering the means best calculated to excite a sympathy in the minds of the inhabitants towards their destitute and starving fellow countrymen in Ireland, and to devise some means by which they may be enabled to mitigate in some measure the distress with which their native land is at present afflicted. The following appointments were made, viz. — William Cottingham, Esq., Chairman, Dr. Irons, Secretary, and Thomas Crawford, Esq., Treasurer, it was resolved, that a meeting be held in Metcalfe on Wednesday the 3<sup>rd</sup> March, and at "Downey's Cross" on Saturday, the 6<sup>th</sup> instant, in the former place at 4 o'clock P. M. and in the latter at 12 o'clock, noon, and that the Clergy in this and the joining townships be requested to exert their influence throughout their different congregations, to induce a general attendance. Although the inclemency of the weather at the appointed hour of meeting prevented many from attending, yet, the spirit evinced by those present, and the amount handed over to the Treasurer augurs well for the future.

B.  
*Weekly Despatch, 28 February, 1847*



We beg attention to the Advertisement on our third page, calling a meeting of the inhabitants of this town and in its vicinity, to consider the great distress which obtains among many of our countrymen both in Ireland and the Highlands of Scotland. The want of the most common necessaries of life in many Districts is of the most appalling character, and threatens the very existence of multitudes.—The miseries of hunger must be felt to be understood, yet enough of them is obvious, to awaken compassion in every well regulated mind, — but the misery now so prevalent in the Districts referred to is of unusual aggravation. The strong man is so enfeebled that he staggers as he walks; the hand of the labourer forgets its cunning; the heart of the father is wrung with agony; and the mother is frantic with the cry of starving infants. The peevishness of hunger frowns on the brow, and the children lay themselves down to die; the wail of grief is not heard over the dead, the corpse is borne to the grave unaccompanied by mourners, or alas in some

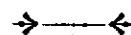
instances unburied, is left a pray to vermin. The streets are deserted, the silence of death reigns in their abodes, except that it is broken by the moan of despair.

Surely such misery will rouse to the most energetic exertion, and there will be found in the hearts of Britons a benevolence equal to the task of alleviating this woe. We are happy to learn, that the most strenuous efforts are being made in England, Scotland and Ireland, to meet the awful emergency, nor are we less happy to hear that the echo of their exertions have reached our shores, and awakened to deeds of kindness. Peterboro and the Colborne District will indeed be unlike themselves, if they fall behind others in the labour of love. We hope to see a full meeting in the Court House on Monday evening, and that something will be done, worthy of our generous population.

The persons appointed to bring the matter before the public, we have no doubt will have some well digested plan of operation to submit for adoption. It may therefore be superfluous to suggest anything upon the subject. We are happy to learn that the subscriptions are to be made for both countries. It is thought about 350,000 are suffering in Scotland, and as many as 3 million in Ireland. In Quebec 3 d of the money raised was voted for Ireland and 1/4 for Scotland, a proportion worthy of the consideration of the meeting on Monday night.

Immediate relief to some extent might be afforded, by remitting to the British Consul at New York, the monies which may be forthcoming that he may purchase provisions there and ship to the relief committees in Scotland and Ireland. This plan may commend itself by another consideration; some ship owners have offered, we are credibly informed, to carry such produce, freight free to the respective committees. The subscriptions on hand might be kept till the opening of the navigation, for although the want is urgent, it is also of a protracted nature, months must elapse meanwhile, supplies must be afforded from charitable contributions. Sympathy may be tender as the last tear which piety draws from above, but on this occasion we wish it to be nerved with manly energy, and liberal as the sun at noon. "I was hungry and you gave me meat."

*Weekly Despatch, 28 February, 1847*





OWING to the unfortunate state of the weather, the Meeting in the Court House on Monday evening last, was less numerously attended than could have been desired. The Ladies, who are, (as they should be) foremost in every work of charity and love, were, with few exceptions, wholly prevented from being present, and several gentlemen, whose presence would have greatly promoted the objects of the meeting were, from ill health or previous engagements, prevented from attending; notwithstanding all this, however, a very handsome beginning was made, and nearly £100 taken up on the spot.

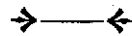
It will be seen from the proceedings of the Meeting, which we give below, that a large and efficient committee have been appointed in Peterboro, to carry out the objects of the Meeting. Provisional committees were also appointed in the several Townships with power to add to their numbers, to whom Subscription Lists will be forwarded. It will be the duty of these several committees to solicit and receive subscriptions from the inhabitants in their respective neighborhoods, and forward them to the treasurer of the Central Committee, to be by them applied as directed by the donors. This arrangement if carried out with spirit, as we trust it will, cannot fail to raise a considerable sum; in fact we should be truly ashamed of a district like this, composed as it is almost entirely of emigrants from Great Britain and Ireland, if it were otherwise.

In pursuance of a Requisition to the Sheriff for that purpose, a Meeting was held in the Court House, in Peterboro, on Monday evening last, in aid of the sufferers from famine in Ireland and the Highlands of Scotland. The Sheriff having been called to the Chair and P. M. Grover, Esq., appointed Secretary, it was moved by the Rev. John Gilmour, seconded by James Wallis, Esq., and Resolved - That the agonizing cry of suffering and woe that comes to us from our Father Land, is the result of famine and nakedness, amid the inclemency of winter, and ought to be answered by the most active and benevolent exertion. The Rev. J. Gilmour in moving the Resolution addressed the Meeting in a most impressive and feeling manner, showing the deplorable state of destitution and misery into which nearly five million of our fellow creatures had been thrown, by the failure of the potato crop. Mr. Wallis, in seconding the Resolution, assured the meeting, that the accounts we had heard were in no wise exaggerated, that he had received private letters from his friends in Ireland confirming all we had heard. Mr. W. concluded by expressing his belief that the appeal about to be made to the people of this District, would not be in vain. The Rev. J. M. Roger, then proposed the following Resolution.

Resolved, — That the plenty which prevails in this land, contrasting so strongly with the state of many parts of Ireland and Scotland, lays us under a debt of gratitude to the giver of all good and that that gratitude can be best employed by a ready communication of our abundance to their necessities.

The Rev. Gentleman then made a powerful and touching appeal to the sympathies of the people, on behalf of the distressed and famishing inhabitants of Ireland and Scotland. — The Resolution was seconded by the Rev. John Butler, who urged all to come forward and give to the extent which God had given them, without enquiring whether it was to feed Englishmen, Irishmen or Scotchmen, that it was enough for us to know that thousands of our fellow creatures were in distress. Mr. Thomas Benson also supported the Resolution in a very excellent speech.

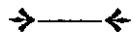
*Weekly Despatch, 4 March, 1847*



INHABITANTS of the Colborne District while you are in the enjoyment of such abundance of the necessaries and comforts of life, remember that nearly FIVE MILLIONS of your fellow subjects in Ireland and Scotland are in a state of the most deplorable destitution, and that hundreds are crying daily for the want of food. From Ireland the accounts are of the most gloomy and painful nature.

The General Committee appointed at the meeting in the Court House to receive subscriptions and donations are now at work, and we beseech those who intend to bestow their mite to do so at once. No time should be lost.

*Weekly Despatch, 11 March, 1847*

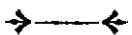


### Relief for Ireland and Scotland

We are happy to learn that the inhabitants of Peterboro are coming nobly up to the work, and that the subscriptions in Town have already reached a larger sum than was anticipated; we wish, however, we could say as much for the country. Some of the collectors complain of the difficulty they have in squeezing even the smallest sums from many persons, — who are in the enjoyment of plenty and amply able to give, — this is wrong, it is the bounden duty of every Christian to give, in proportion to the means which God hath given him. We should recollect that he who gave food, raiment and riches, can also take them away, and although we are now apparently beyond the reach of want, we know not how soon we may be reduced to a like state of misery and destitution.

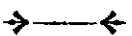
We intend, as soon as the lists are in, to publish the names of all those who contributed, with the amount of their several subscriptions.

*Weekly Despatch, 18 March, 1847*



We are requested to state that a meeting of the Central Committee for the relief of the Sufferers in Ireland and the Highlands of Scotland, will be held in the Court House, on Wednesday the 7<sup>th</sup> day of April next, at 12 o'clock, noon, when it is expected that the several committees in the townships, and others to whom lists have been entrusted will take means to have the amount collected, together with their separate lists in readiness, in order that the Committee of Management may send the amount collected without delay.

*Weekly Despatch, 18 March, 1847*



It will be seen, from copious extracts which we publish to-day that Ireland is still in a most deplorable condition; and that before its devoted inhabitants can possibly receive anything like adequate relief, many thousands more will have sunk beneath the ravages of the two fold calamity that now presses upon them so fearfully.

The humane exertions of the British Government, as well as those put forth on this side of the Atlantic, will, eventually arrest the progress of disease and famine, in this instance out to names

the reflection, that the relief cannot be permanent unless followed up by measures other from those which have now been adopted. The truth is, there is only one remedy for Ireland and that must be to find in some gigantic system of emigration which will place within the reach of wretched inhabitants, the interminable tracts of thine land to be found in the British Colonies.

Ireland does not possess within herself a sufficient quantity of waste lands to afford, it brought into a state of cultivation, a substantial remedy for the existing evil. Such lands in connections with being remotely and unfavorably situated, are, as a matter of course, the very worst in the whole island; consequently the four million of paupers, if banished to such unfavourable places, would soon tire of grubbing out a miserable subsistence on the small barren patch, which would, of necessity, fall to them individually, and at last give it up in despair.

We are happy to find that every exertion, that could be prompted by humanity, has been made in this Town and District, for the purpose of contributing to the alleviation of the sufferings a road national; in connexion with which we may add, that the Members of Otonabee Lodge of the Independent order of Odd Fellows have come forward, to a man, we are proud to say and contributed largely to the general fund. This, in itself, is sufficient to impress, more strongly, upon the community, as it is, in our opinion, a most powerful evidence of the fallings by which the Order is actuated.

*Weekly Despatch, 1 April, 1847*



We have been requested to call attention to a letter of the LORD BISHOP, which appears in another column. The feelings which prompted the writer are creditable in deed, and with doubtless, met with a hearty response amongst the different Congregations of the Church of England, throughout the Province.

In pursuance of the wish of his Lordship's collection will be taken up tomorrow, in St. JOHN's Church, Peterborough.

*Weekly Despatch, 1 April, 1847*



### Irish and Scotch Destitution

Address of the Lord Bishop to the Clergy and Laity of the Diocese of Toronto

MY DEAR BRETHERN, — The accounts from the mother country have for some time — which that famine was approaching our fellow subjects in Ireland, and the Highlands of Scotland, owing to the failure of the potato crop for two consecutive years, which had unfortunately become the principle article — in these unfortunate districts and the last intelligence informs us that the calamity has actually begun. Now although charity, public and private, has already done much in Great Britain to relieve, the growing distress and great sympathy has been — expected, yet the Church, when the judgements of the Lord are abroad calls upon her children in all lands to hasten with their alms and prayers to alleviate, in as much as may be in their power, — by such heavy —. And in especially does she call upon us their fellow subjects whom God has — with abundance, to extend the hand of Christian benevolence to this hour of their actual want. Every — king — must feel how come completely arrest the request of our Father, by whom nature and empires

rise and fall, flourish and decay, and who can in a moment let loose upon his Sire judgements — and famine and pestilence. Were He to hide his face how soon might we be troubled with the like calamity — for the locust, the canker worm, the caterpillar, and the jparmer worm, His great army, are every — to execute His high — and He alone can stay their progress, and restore the ears which they have eaten.

To give some conception of this — visitation, it may be truly stated, that even the pestilence which raged among us some years ago, was much less appalling in its frightful results than the famine now afflicting the Ireland and the Highlands of Scotland it was continued to certain localities but this judgement prays upon its millions and if perhaps, the heaviest affliction that has befallen our Mother Country for many generations.

But on such an occasion, your hearts and consciences will supply motives far stronger than any I can suggest, to improve the glorious privilege of relieving the distress of your fellow Christians, and testify to that love which responds to the cry of anguish from the most distant quarters of the globe, — a love which the Gospel only could reveal.

Under the circumstances, I have to request that a Special Collection be made in all our Churches, on Good Friday, the 2<sup>nd</sup> of April, and that the funds be forwarded to T. W. Michell, Esq., Treasurer of the Church Society, to be transmitted to Ireland and Scots for the benefit of our suffering brethren.

And may God, in his clemency upon our hearts on that day of prayer and deep humiliation, and sanctify our offerings and supplications for good, and let it be our earnest entreaty that He may be pleased to withdraw His heavy hand from those who are suffering under His judgements, and turn away from them that grievous calamity, against which their only security is in His compassion and tender mercy, through the merits of our only Mediator and Advocate, Jesus Christ our Lord.

JOHN TORONTO

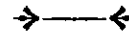
Toronto, 18<sup>th</sup> March, 1847

*Weekly Despatch, 1 April, 1847*



A meeting of the Central Committee connected with the Scotch and Irish relief question, will take place on Wednesday, the 7<sup>th</sup> inst., at 12 o'clock noon, when it is expected that the different other committees will be present and prepared to hand in the amounts received so as that they be forwarded, without delay to the sufferers for whom they are intended.

*Weekly Despatch, 1 April, 1847*



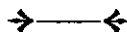
### Board of Health

His Excellency the Governor General, had been pleased to appoint THOMAS CHAMBERS, CHARLES FOREST, JOSEPH SHAW, ROBERT STENSON, AND JAMES HARVEY, Esqrs., to constitute a Board of Health for the town of Peterboro.

It will be seen by this notice, which we copy from the Official Gazette, that a Board of Health has been appointed for Peterboro. — The gentlemen who so kindly came forward with their money and services, to relieve the poor, destitute and suffering creatures, who were literally dying about our streets, will now be relieved from an arduous, and often thankless, duty. We hope the Board of Health — and we have no reason to doubt it — will be equally zealous and attentive. The health of the town greatly depends upon

this; should the unfortunate people be allowed to wander about and lie down in the first vacant house or stable they meet with, and the disease, with which so many thousands of them have perished, be contagious, the consequence would be awful indeed.

*Weekly Despatch, 15 July, 1847*

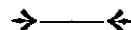


In this day's impression, will be found the Resolutions adopted at a meeting of the Central, or General Committee, for the relief of the destitute of Ireland Scotland, held at the Court House, on Saturday, the 9<sup>th</sup> ult., and which, we feel assured, will give universal satisfaction.

It appears that early in April last, the Treasurer of our Committee informed the Relief Committees of Ireland and Scotland, that certain sums of money had been raised for them, which they were at liberty to draw for at once; our friends in the land of heath and heather, ever attentive to matters of this kind, drew for, and obtained their portion of this fund, – but in Ireland, where they do business differently, they preferred sending out the men, women

and children, and allow us to feed them ourselves. Our Committee became acquainted with the destitute condition of great numbers of these new comers, and, foreseeing what their condition must be, before the close of the approaching winter, very properly resolved to apply the money in relieving the destitute and distressed (if any should be found, and we have reason to believe the number will not be small,) among those who have reached us. The Committee of management, we understand, are actively preparing to carry out the benevolent intentions of the meetings. As winter, cold and dreary winter is fast approaching emigrants should be made aware of the necessity of procuring comfortable quarters; their first business should be to give themselves a thorough cleaning. Their clothes and bedding should also be well aired, in order that there may be no return of disease, the very seeds of which they appear to carry about with them. They should also be careful of their diet, and use as little animal food as possible.

*Weekly Despatch, 9 September, 1847*



## Appendix: Subscribers and Subscriptions April 1847

Subscriptions received by the Treasurer of the Relief Fund for Ireland and the Highlands of Scotland –

Collectors	Ireland			Scotland			Gen'l Fund Ire'l'd			Total Cash £/s/d		
Joseph Shaw & Jas. Wallis	0	0	0	0	10	0	56	13	10.5	57	13	10.5
Robt. Ridley	9	17	6	1	0	0	3	6	3	14	3	9
P. M. Grover	3	16	3	0	0	0	17	2	5	20	18	8
Joseph Walton	0	15	0	1	15	0	1	15	0	4	5	0
William Hall	6	17	6	6	7	6	7	17	6	21	2	6
Dr. Bell	0	5	0	0	6	10.5	0	12	6	1	4	4.5
T. Choate. Dummer	3	13	7.5	3	13	6	7	6	7.5	14	13	9
P. Ryan	3	12	6	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	12	6
John Harvey	2	15	0	2	6	3	5	5	0	10	6	3
James Hall	6	10	0	8	10	0	5	10	0	20	10	0
James Edwards	0	0	0	0	5	0	0	7	6	0	12	6
William Cluxton	3	7	6	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	7	6
John Langton	9	11	10	0	0	0	0	0	0	9	11	10
Rev. J. Gilmour	0	0	0	0	0	0	8	10	0	8	10	0
John O'Brien	3	18	8	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	18	8
J. W. Murphy, Norwood	1	0	0	0	15	0	12	0	11	13	15	11
Mr. Smith, do	1	11	3	0	7	6	0	0	0	1	18	9
Mr. Carr, Warsaw per Rev. McPheps	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	17	6	9	17	0
Mr Short, Otonabee	4	3	9	17	12	6	0	0	0	21	16	3
James Harvey	0	2	6	0	12	6	18	10	11	19	5	11
Charles Perry	0	0	0	2	0	7.5	0	11	3	2	11	10.5
R. Thompson	0	0	0	0	2	6	0	0	0	0	2	6
William Lundy	0	3	2	0	3	9	0	0	0	0	7	6
Thomas Henson	0	7	6	0	5	0	1	13	6	2	6	0
Thomas Fortye	0	11	3	0	12	6	1	6	1	2	10	0

*Weekly Despatch, 22 April, 1847*

# City of Kawartha Lakes Archives

by Dr. R.B. Fleming

When the City of Kawartha Lakes was created in early 2000, two-tier country-wide government was melded into one. The sixteen municipalities, all townships, that formed the County of Victoria, as well one upper tier county council, joined with the town of Lindsay to become the City of Kawartha Lakes. With the disappearance of the old municipal councils, no longer were local records housed at the various municipal offices in places such as Kirkfield, Oakwood and Coboconk where the "archivist" was usually the township clerk, who gave service depending on personality and interests. At one office, researchers were discouraged by the clerk's line, "Oh, we lost all our records in the fire of 1904."

In 2002, records that escaped fires and removal to private homes were brought to the Records and Archives Facility in Lindsay, the administrative centre of the new city. In the old county system, Catherine Hennings was Records Manager for the County of Victoria, which meant that she was in charge of documents pertaining to that upper level of municipal government, such as by-laws, minutes, maps, building permits, some original entries of births, deaths and marriages, general ledgers and historical records including special events and ceremonies. In addition, the old county office, which now is the city hall of the new city, held inactive and semi-active records of various departments.

While continuing to perform the role of Records Manager, Catherine Hennings, who is a graduate of Ryerson University, where she studied records management, is also acting Archivist for the city. Her new office is in a large, climate-controlled building where the records are stored and sorted, at 31 Mary Street, Lindsay. In addition to the old county records, she and an assistant are now in charge of a much larger trove of documents, for which there is a database of all file titles, semi-active records and archival records. Among non-governmental holdings, the Records and Archives Facility holds the valuable sketches of Anne Langton, mostly of scenes in and around Fenelon Falls.

The database is currently accessible only to staff. However, it will be further refined to make it more user friendly for researchers, both employees and representatives of the City of Kawartha Lakes and members of the public. One room has been set aside as a reading room, to be ready for use, the records manager/archivist hopes, within two years when the archives will be open to the public two days a week. Until then, researchers must make an appointment by calling 705-324-9411 ext 136 or 1-888-822-2225 ext 136; or by contacting Catherine Hennings at [chenings@city.kawarthalakes.on.ca](mailto:chenings@city.kawarthalakes.on.ca). To make a request for records, email your name, telephone number and the nature of your request to [rmrequest@city.kawarthalakes.on.ca](mailto:rmrequest@city.kawarthalakes.on.ca).

## Greater Harvey Historical Society and Archives

Bobcaygeon is the headquarters of the Greater Harvey Archives, located at in the old Department of Highways Office on county road 649 just north of Bobcaygeon. It is open Wednesday and Saturdays 10 am to 2 pm or by appointment. Contact David Kemlo at 705-657-1926. Its mandate is the townships of Galway, Cavendish and Harvey, which are in Peterborough County, but of course there were and are many cross-boundary connections with residents of that north-eastern region of the old Victoria County, particularly those who settled along the old Bobcaygeon Colonization Road.

Holdings are varied, from Cem-Search to extensive records from Eastern/Central Ontario, as well as assessment and census records of the three townships. The archives is assembling a wide selection of local history books, and is in the process of becoming a CAP site.



Catherine Hennings, Records Keeper and Archivist, City of Kawartha Lakes, examines a collection of documents in the new climate-controlled facility on Mary St., Lindsay.

The archives is self-financing, except for a small township grant. Its building comes rent free. Like many research facilities, it depends on volunteers such as Guy Scott and Sue Tanney. The small but enthusiastic historical society that operates the archives sponsors an annual bus trip, which this summer will take members and friends to Huron country in and around Penetanguishene. As well as setting up a mobile display at local events, the society has books for sale, and publishes booklets on the area's history. One worthy book, "Harvey Through the Ages, 300 B.C. to the Present," presents vignettes about the township named after Lt-Col Sir John Harvey.

## The Mossom Boyd Family Museum

At Bobcaygeon, the Mossom Boyd Family Museum also has an archives. However, its chief purpose is in-house preservation of the holdings of the museum devoted to the nineteenth century lumber baron and his descendants. The museum and archives are funded by the Sheila Boyd Foundation. The late Ms Boyd was the last surviving grandchild of Mossom Boyd. The archives holds photographs, postcards, maps, books and oral histories, all associated with the family, as well as paper documents, such as minutes of meetings, associated with the museum itself. Since the archives is limited to the family and has no research facilities, it will be of limited interest to the researcher, except those working on the Boyd family itself. One such person was Grace Barker, whose book *Timber Empire, The Exploits of the Entrepreneurial Boyds* (1997), covers the family and its once vast business empire. For copies, contact the author at 905-377-9032 or the Museum.

Archivist Larry Weiler (705-738-0922) comes with good credentials — he is retired from the Archives on Ontario where he was in charge of Ontario land registries, and the records of the Company, Corporation and Partnership Records (the old Ministry

of Consumer and Commercial Relations), among others. He also supervised the Ontario Archives' acquisition of the records of the T. Eaton Co.

If by chance you need to see this limited holding, get in touch with Larry Weiler, who will tell you that most of the Boyd records are elsewhere: business records at the National Archives in Ottawa, and personal records are at the Peterborough Centennial Museum and Archives, Peterborough. To use the limited holdings of the Boyd Museum's archives, an appointment is absolutely necessary.

The Museum is open from the Victoria Day weekend in May to Thanksgiving, 10-4 on weekends, except in July and August when it is closed on Mondays only.

Not to be overlooked in Bobcaygeon is the Kawartha Settlers Village, which features representative pioneer buildings filled with appropriate artifacts, though with no archives.

### **Beaverton-Thorah-Eldon Historical Society and the Beaver River Museum and Archives**

Although Beaverton is not in the City of Kawartha Lakes, the archives of the Beaverton-Thorah-Eldon Historical Society does cover Eldon Township, one of the former sixteen municipalities in the old County of Victoria. While Beaverton and Thorah are in the Region of Durham, the mandate of the archives covers Eldon because during the early 19<sup>th</sup> century, the two townships of Eldon and Thorah were settled as one area under the superintendence of Donald Cameron. The two, along with the village of Beaverton, formed a unified Scots Highland settlement, except when they fought over real estate and theology, mostly Presbyterian, from the 1840s to Church Union in 1925, and beyond.

For Eldon Township research, there are microfilm copies of *The Woodville Advocate* and *The Beaverton Express*, 1878-1973, with some indexing for the earlier years; cemetery transcriptions for Eldon and Thorah townships (many Eldon folk are buried in Thorah's Old Stone Church cemetery); church registers of births, marriages and deaths, mainly for the southern half of Eldon, especially the Presbyterian churches at South Eldon and Woodville; and civil records including births, marriages and deaths, 1906 to 1922, with index. In addition, there are copies of family histories and trees, a copy of a reprint of the *Beldon Atlas of Victoria County, 1881*.

A good beginning is *Eldon Connections* available at [rbfleming@lindsay.igs.net](mailto:rbfleming@lindsay.igs.net). The book, based on research available in the mid-1970s, deals with nineteenth-century settlers, and includes now rare photographs.

Contact person for the archives is the curator, Julie Everett, 705-426-9641. Researchers must make an appointment, and there is a charge. For more details, call the curator. The museum/archives is located in Beaverton (Box 314), 284 Simcoe St W, [Bte.hist.soc@on.aibn.com](mailto:Bte.hist.soc@on.aibn.com).

### **Lindsay Branch, City of Kawartha Lakes Library System**

Not to be overlooked is the considerable collection of the Lindsay Branch of the City of Kawartha Lakes Public Library, which has a small archives and a large reference room with an excellent collection of primary and primary printed documents, including publications of births, deaths and marriages culled by Lois B. Magahay and Ian T. Wilson of the Kawartha Genealogical Society, who sifted through years of local newspapers to bring

together all notices of births, deaths and marriages in various newspapers of the area, from Lindsay to Fenelon Falls and Bobcaygeon. It is a remarkable piece of work that saves the researcher countless hours. For deaths not listed, and not everyone received a formal "notice" in a newspaper, the researcher should look through the news of the village closest to the residence of the deceased.

Also included in this collection are microfilms of local newspapers, a large collection of cemetery recordings, covering not only Victoria County, now the City of Kawartha Lakes, but also adjacent counties. There are census records, vital statistic records, parish registers, land grants records, historical atlases for several counties, and many more records of interest to researchers primarily but certainly not exclusively of the former Victoria County. In an archives are held clippings, maps and photographs, as well as telephone directories.

For more information, contact the Reference Desk of the library at 705-324-7140. E-mail is [lindsaylibrary@city.kawarthalakes.on.ca](mailto:lindsaylibrary@city.kawarthalakes.on.ca). Hours are Monday to Thursday, 10 am to 8 pm, and Friday and Saturday, 10 am to 5 pm.

### **Miscellaneous Research Facilities**

Haliburton, north of CKL and part of the same provincial and federal riding, also has a goodly share of archives and museums. There's the Haliburton Genealogical Society based in Minden, covering a large area from north of the Trent Canal into Haliburton. Contact Lynn Peel, Norland, who is president of the Society. Stanhope Township has a small museum and archives near Carnarvon, and Minden has a museum with a library. Contact person there is Carol Miles-Simmons. Steve Hill and Tom Ballintyne are curators of the Haliburton Museum, the latter being a licensed archeologist. There's the Wilberforce Red Cross Outpost Hospital, and of course the village of Kinmount, which along with a celebrated fall fair, can boast of two museums, a Victoria Railway display in the old railway station; and the Highlands Cinema Museum of Movie History. Although only a few of these sites have archives, if your ancestors came from these areas, you are advised to "research" the landscape and its citizens, who in many cases will be more than happy to point out your ancestral farms and buildings.

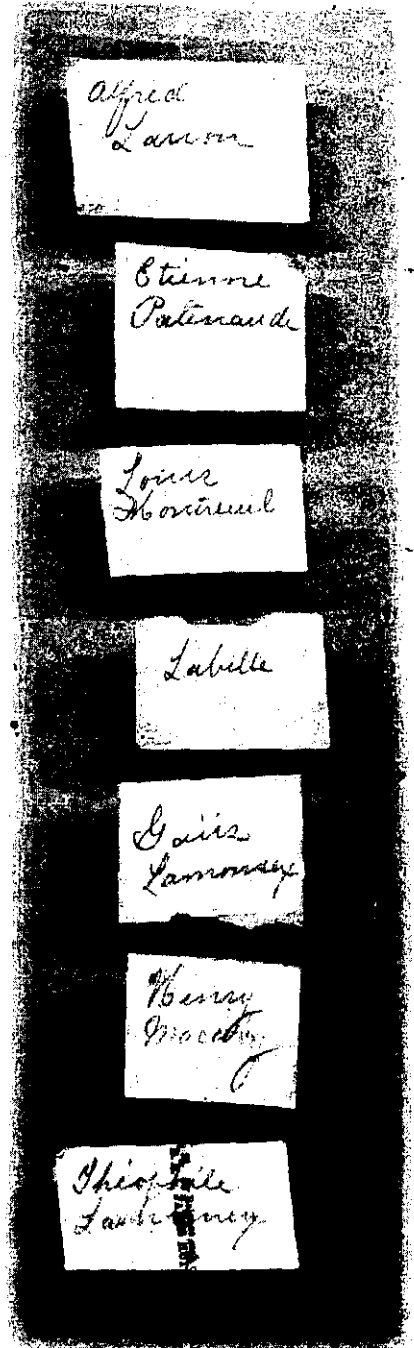
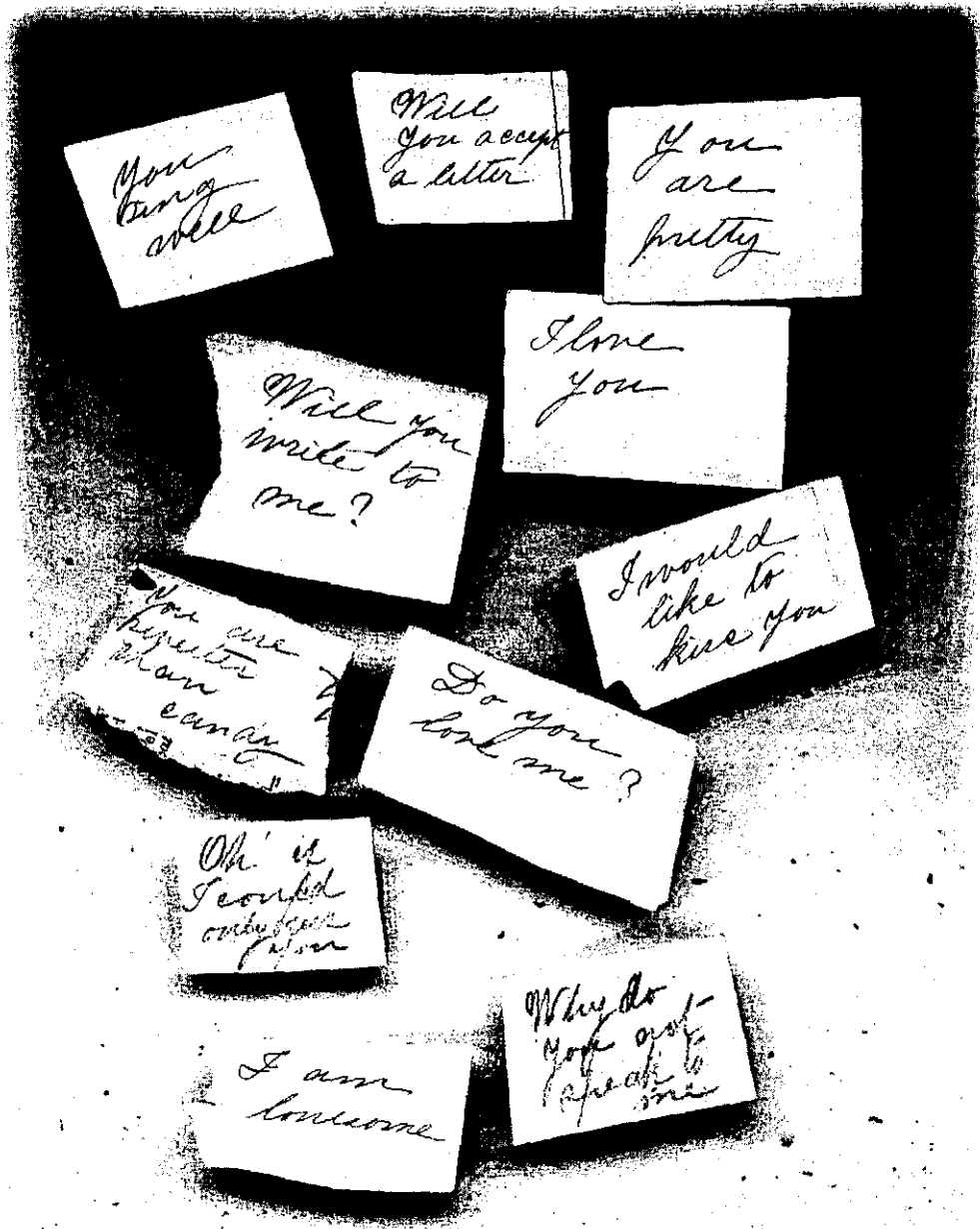
### **Cost of Research**

Please keep in mind that research does not come free, and that you may be asked for a fee per hour or at the very least, a donation. You might even consider a voluntary donation even if not asked.

**Trent Valley Archives  
Annual General Meeting  
April 29, 2004 • 7:00 p.m.  
Peterborough Public Library  
Aylmer St., Peterborough  
Guest speaker: Ed Arnold**

# Love notes to a school girl

The books at the Trent Valley Archives are often found with treasures of pressed flowers, leaves, cards, and newspaper clippings tucked between the pages. Librarian Brooke Pratt discovered an intriguing collection of love notes and boys' names in *The School History of Canada*, published in 1870. The note papers appear to be from pages clipped from another text book. The book owner's name – Adèle Rouse – is written in pencil inside. The names appear to be written in Adèle's hand, but the love notes are written by another. Perhaps one of the boys on one of the slips is the one who pined for a kiss? We thought the month of St. Valentine would be an appropriate time to share them.



# Haliburton Settlers 1901

Union Publishing Co, Farmers and Business Directory for the counties of Durham, Haliburton, Northumberland, Peterboro and Victoria and districts of Muskoka, Nipissing, Parry Sound, Algoma and Manitoulin for 1901 12th ed (Union Publishing Co, Ingersoll ON, 1901) 206-209

The following list of settlers in the Minden and Haliburton area give a good indication of the degree of settlement already; nearly 300 settlers, overwhelmingly freeholders. The year 1901 coincides with the census and it is possible to add that information to what is here. Many of the names will be familiar to readers of the *Heritage Gazette of the Trent Valley*. There are family connections throughout the five counties in which our interest is focused.

Name	Post Office	Con/Lot	Township	Name	Post Office	Con/Lot	Township
206 Armstrong George	Peterson's Corners	freeholder	A 18 Anson & Hindon	207 Robertson Henry Jr	Minden	freeholder	1 14 Anson & Hindon
206 Asling Jane	Minden	freeholder	1 3 Anson & Hindon	207 Rogers Thomas	Minden	tenant	5 2 Anson & Hindon
206 Austin Ed	Peterson's Corners	freeholder	5 7 Anson & Hindon	207 Rumbelow Samuel	Minden	freeholder	A 18 Anson & Hindon
206 Bowes Herman	Minden	freeholder	A 1 Anson & Hindon	207 Schreuder Ferdinand	Minden	freeholder	1 10 Anson & Hindon
206 Boyd John	Peterson's Corners	freeholder	5 5 Anson & Hindon	207 Smith George	Minden	tenant	5 6 Anson & Hindon
206 Boyd John Jr	Peterson's Corners	freeholder	4 4 Anson & Hindon	207 Smith Jamesr	Minden	freeholder	5 6 Anson & Hindon
206 Bradley Thomas	Minden	freeholder	4 1 Anson & Hindon	207 Smith Walter	Minden	freeholder	3 11 Anson & Hindon
206 Bun Frederick	Minden	freeholder	A 4 Anson & Hindon	207 Snell Christopher	Minden	freeholder	5 15 Anson & Hindon
206 Campbell Alex Jr	Mill Bridge	freeholder	5 7 Anson & Hindon	207 Snell JG	Minden	freeholder	6 15 Anson & Hindon
206 Campbell Alexander Sr	Minden	freeholder	6 3 Anson & Hindon	207 Soward HT	Minden	tenant	M 10 Anson & Hindon
206 Campbell Malichi	Minden	tenant	A 7 Anson & Hindon	207 Steele Robert	Minden	freeholder	A 8 Anson & Hindon
206 Clark William	Minden	freeholder	A 5 Anson & Hindon	207 Steele Robert	Minden	freeholder	A 8 Anson & Hindon
206 Cobourn James	Minden	freeholder	4 8 Anson & Hindon	207 Steele William	Minden	freeholder	A 11 Anson & Hindon
206 Corbett Ellen	Minden	freeholder	A 27 Anson & Hindon	207 Stevenson James	Minden	freeholder	2 8 Anson & Hindon
206 Coulter JH	Peterson's Corners	freeholder	4 8 Anson & Hindon	207 Taylor D Jr	Peterson's Corners	freeholder	A 15 Anson & Hindon
206 Crawford John	Peterson's Corners	freeholder	A 19 Anson & Hindon	207 Taylor Daniel Sr	Peterson's Corners	freeholder	A 11 Anson & Hindon
206 Curry CD	Minden	freeholder	M 2 Anson & Hindon	207 Taylor Hugh	Minden	freeholder	6 2 Anson & Hindon
206 Davis Annie	Minden	freeholder	A 3 Anson & Hindon	207 Taylor James	Peterson's Corners	tenant	A 10 Anson & Hindon
206 Delamere JH	Minden	freeholder	M 5 Anson & Hindon	207 Taylor John	Peterson's Corners	freeholder	A 5 Anson & Hindon
206 Dudman Charles	Minden	freeholder	4 12 Anson & Hindon	207 Thompson JH	Minden	tenant	M 1 Anson & Hindon
206 Eastman William	Minden	freeholder	A 2 Anson & Hindon	207 Toy James	Peterson's Corners	freeholder	1 1 Anson & Hindon
206 Fielding William	Minden	freeholder	A 3 Anson & Hindon	207 Walker Thomas	Minden	freeholder	A 26 Anson & Hindon
206 Fuller Joseph	Peterson's Corners	freeholder	A 34 Anson & Hindon	207 Welch James	Hall's Lake	freeholder	A 7 Anson & Hindon
206 Gainer Robert	Minden	freeholder	2 1 Anson & Hindon	207 Welch John	Minden	freeholder	A 3 Anson & Hindon
206 Gannon H	Peterson's Corners	freeholder	5 2 Anson & Hindon	207 Whistle David	Minden	freeholder	3 5 Anson & Hindon
206 Gillis FC	Minden	tenant	A 3 Anson & Hindon	207 Wright C	Peterson's Corners	freeholder	4 3 Anson & Hindon
206 Gouldie John	Minden	freeholder	A 19 Anson & Hindon	207 Wright Walter	Minden	freeholder	A 3 Anson & Hindon
206 Gouldie Samuel	Minden	freeholder	A 21 Anson & Hindon	207 Young EC	Minden	tenant	M 10 Anson & Hindon
206 Hartle DJ	Minden	tenant	M 1 Anson & Hindon	207 Abbott William	Haliburton	tenant	M 2 Dysart etc
206 Hay Alexander	Minden	freeholder	3 8 Anson & Hindon	207 Adams John	Haliburton	freeholder	9 19 Dysart etc
206 Hay Alice	Minden	freeholder	5 9 Anson & Hindon	207 Allcorn George	Haliburton	freeholder	10 23 Dysart etc
206 Hughes Robert Jr	Minden	freeholder	4 5 Anson & Hindon	207 Ames Elisha	Leafield	freeholder	2 16 Dysart etc
206 Hughes Robert Sr	Minden	freeholder	5 3 Anson & Hindon	207 Anderson David	Haliburton	freeholder	13 8 Dysart etc
206 Hulbig John	Minden	freeholder	1 7 Anson & Hindon	207 Andrews WH	Haliburton	freeholder	7 25 Dysart etc
206 Kernohan Alexander	Minden	freeholder	4 3 Anson & Hindon	207 Armborg John	Haliburton	freeholder	3 256 Dysart etc
206 Kernohan Andrew	Minden	freeholder	4 3 Anson & Hindon	207 Atchinson James	Haliburton	freeholder	3 4 Dysart etc
206 Kernohan John Jr	Minden	freeholder	A 6 Anson & Hindon	207 Austin Emerson	Haliburton	freeholder	B 26 Dysart etc
206 Kernohan John & co	Minden	freeholder	4 3 Anson & Hindon	207 Austin Franklin	Haliburton	freeholder	X 12 Dysart etc
206 Lawrence JW	Toronto	freeholder	3 3 Anson & Hindon	207 Austin WJ	Haliburton	tenant	5 11 Dysart etc
206 Leary Christopher	Peterboro	freeholder	1 2 Anson & Hindon	207 Bain Duncan	Maple Lake	freeholder	Q 7 Dysart etc
206 Lindsay A Mrs	Peterson's Corners	freeholder	2 1 Anson & Hindon	207 Bain Henry	Haliburton	tenant	Q 3 Dysart etc
206 Lindsay Duncan	Peterson's Corners	freeholder	1 6 Anson & Hindon	207 Bain JU	Haliburton	freeholder	10 19 Dysart etc
206 Lindsay Robert	Minden	freeholder	A 16 Anson & Hindon	207 Baker Alexander	Maple Lake	freeholder	2 2 Dysart etc
206 Lindsay Wright	Minden	freeholder	A 14 Anson & Hindon	207 Baker William	Maple Lake	freeholder	2 5 Dysart etc
206 Lucas JA	Haliburton	freeholder	A 10 Anson & Hindon	207 Barnum Charles	Maple Lake	freeholder	5 8 Dysart etc
206 McCracken Johnston	Minden	freeholder	A 16 Anson & Hindon	207 Barnum Nelson	Maple Lake	freeholder	4 7 Dysart etc
206 McCracken Richard	Minden	freeholder	A 15 Anson & Hindon	207 Barnum William	Maple Lake	freeholder	5 11 Dysart etc
206 McCracken Sarah	Minden	freeholder	M 1 Anson & Hindon	207 Barry Christopher	Maple Lake	freeholder	6 5 Dysart etc
207 McGreevey Thomas	Minden	freeholder	A 3 Anson & Hindon	207 Barry Francis	Maple Lake	freeholder	6 4 Dysart etc
207 McKelvey George	Minden	freeholder	A 21 Anson & Hindon	207 Barry George	Maple Lake	freeholder	6 1 Dysart etc
207 McKelvey Daniel	Minden	freeholder	M 7 Anson & Hindon	207 Barry Mathias	Maple Lake	freeholder	5 3 Dysart etc
207 McPherson A	Longford Mills	freeholder	1 27 Anson & Hindon	207 Bateman Isaac	Leafield	freeholder	2 15 Dysart etc
207 Morpeth John Sr	Minden	freeholder	5 12 Anson & Hindon	208 Bellairs Theophile	Haliburton	freeholder	9 10 Dysart etc
207 Morpeth William	Minden	freeholder	5 8 Anson & Hindon	208 Bemister George	Haliburton	freeholder	A 11 Dysart etc
207 Mortimer Andrew	Minden	freeholder	2 6 Anson & Hindon	208 Bird JH	Maple Lake	freeholder	6 10 Dysart etc
207 Mortimer James	Minden	freeholder	1 6 Anson & Hindon	208 Boice Frederick	Maple Lake	freeholder	4 14 Dysart etc
207 Mortimer Joseph	Minden	freeholder	2 7 Anson & Hindon	208 Boice Isaac	Maple Lake	freeholder	5 1 Dysart etc
207 Mortimer JJ	Minden	freeholder	1 2 Anson & Hindon	208 Boice W	Maple Lake	freeholder	4 2 Dysart etc
207 Myall Ellen	Minden	freeholder	A 17 Anson & Hindon	208 Borden Peter	Haliburton	freeholder	6 7 Dysart etc
207 Noice Edward	Minden	freeholder	A 23 Anson & Hindon	208 Bowen Daniel	Wickstead	freeholder	6 3 Dysart etc
207 Otto Anel	Minden	freeholder	A 33 Anson & Hindon	208 Bowen Jesse	Leafield	freeholder	2 21 Dysart etc
207 Palmer Alfred	Minden	freeholder	O 3 Anson & Hindon	208 Brohm Henry	Haliburton	tenant	7 14 Dysart etc
207 Parmer John	Minden	freeholder	1 11 Anson & Hindon	208 Brohm Julius	Haliburton	freeholder	6 10 Dysart etc
207 Pfennig Paul	Peterson's Corners	freeholder	4 9 Anson & Hindon	208 Bronson & Weston	Ottawa	freeholder	1 31 Dysart etc
207 Phillips Sylvanus	Minden	freeholder	A 4 Anson & Hindon	208 Brown JL	Haliburton	freeholder	6 4 Dysart etc
207 Prentice Duncan	Minden	freeholder	1 3 Anson & Hindon	208 Bruce Stewart	Haliburton	freeholder	11 16 Dysart etc
207 Prentice John Jr	Minden	freeholder	A 22 Anson & Hindon	208 Burke Archibald	Haliburton	freeholder	5 23 Dysart etc
207 Prentice Thomas	Minden	freeholder	13 1 Anson & Hindon	208 Burke Edward	Haliburton	freeholder	6 17 Dysart etc
207 Prentice William	Minden	freeholder	9 1 Anson & Hindon	208 Burke John	Haliburton	freeholder	5 24 Dysart etc
207 Ransom William	Minden	freeholder	5 4 Anson & Hindon	208 Burton Frank	Haliburton	tenant	B 12 Dysart etc
207 Reynolds Benjamin	Minden	freeholder	6 3 Anson & Hindon	208 Carruthers Thomas	Leafield	freeholder	2 20 Dysart etc
207 Reynolds William	Gelert	freeholder	7 2 Anson & Hindon	208 Clarke HH	Haliburton	freeholder	G 12 Dysart etc
207 Rivers John	Minden	freeholder	5 5 Anson & Hindon	208 Clark Ralph	Haliburton	tenant	H 8 Dysart etc
207 Robertson Henry	Minden	freeholder	1 14 Anson & Hindon	208 Clark Robert	Haliburton	freeholder	9 11 Dysart etc

Name	Post Office	Con/Lot	Township	Name	Post Office	Con/Lot	Township		
08 Clement Oswald	Haliburton	tenant	4 31	Dysart etc	209 McCrae SA	Kennaway	freeholder	9 21	Dysart etc
08 Clinkscale George	Haliburton	freeholder	5 19	Dysart etc	209 McDonald A Mrs	Haliburton	freeholder	6 8	Dysart etc
08 Clinkscale William	Haliburton	freeholder	5 18	Dysart etc	209 McDonald William	Wickstead	freeholder	4 7	Dysart etc
08 Coneybearc William	Haliburton	freeholder	5 25	Dysart etc	209 McEvers Sandford	Haliburton	freeholder	6 19	Dysart etc
08 Cook WH	Haliburton	tenant	N 1	Dysart etc	209 McIntyre Daniel	Maple Lake	freeholder	4 11	Dysart etc
08 Cooper George	Maple Lake	freeholder	4 4	Dysart etc	209 McPherson P	Ottawa	freeholder	11 33	Dysart etc
08 Cowdry WT	Haliburton	freeholder	7 15	Dysart etc	209 Mallory Omar	Lyn	freeholder	4 16	Dysart etc
08 Cruikshanks Robert	Maple Lake	freeholder	3 5	Dysart etc	209 Massales John	Haliburton	freeholder	1 26	Dysart etc
08 Cruikshanks WJ	Maple Lake	freeholder	5 9	Dysart etc	209 Moon John	Haliburton	freeholder	8 8	Dysart etc
08 Curry Albert	Wickstead	freeholder	2 5	Dysart etc	209 Moon Robert	Haliburton	freeholder	8 4	Dysart etc
08 Dagg Samuel	Lochlin	freeholder	1 2	Dysart etc	209 Moon TS	Haliburton	freeholder	8 5	Dysart etc
08 Dart JA	Haliburton	freeholder	12 26	Dysart etc	209 Morrison Alexander	Maple Lake	freeholder	6 6	Dysart etc
08 Dart Thomas	Haliburton	freeholder	12 25	Dysart etc	209 Mumford Saddle	Leafield	freeholder	2 17	Dysart etc
08 Davis C Mrs	Haliburton	freeholder	F 7	Dysart etc	209 Nichol William Sr	Haliburton	freeholder	6 14	Dysart etc
08 Deacon Henry	Maple Lake	freeholder	3 1	Dysart etc	209 Niven Alexander	Haliburton	freeholder	U 6	Dysart etc
08 Deacon Robert	Maple Lake	freeholder	2 3	Dysart etc	209 Orr James	Wickstead	freeholder	2 5	Dysart etc
08 Deacon WH	Maple Lake	freeholder	2 3	Dysart etc	209 Osterhout Benjamin	Frankford	freeholder	8 12	Dysart etc
08 Deas Frederick	Haliburton	freeholder	7 17	Dysart etc	209 Otto William	Haliburton	freeholder	X 9	Dysart etc
08 Doig Walter	Gelert	freeholder	3 1	Dysart etc	209 Overton William	Haliburton	freeholder	H 4	Dysart etc
08 Dover Frederick	Peterboro	freeholder	2 19	Dysart etc	209 Packard Eugene	Maple Lake	freeholder	4 1	Dysart etc
08 Dover James	Haliburton	freeholder	H 6	Dysart etc	209 Pacy James	Leafield	freeholder	2 18	Dysart etc
08 Dugan Walter	Haliburton	freeholder	4 21	Dysart etc	209 Palmer Frederick	Haliburton	freeholder	2 29	Dysart etc
08 Dugan William	Haliburton	freeholder	5 13	Dysart etc	209 Parish Ephraim	Haliburton	freeholder	4 17	Dysart etc
08 Dummitt Joseph	Haliburton	freeholder	7 2	Dysart etc	209 Parish Thomas	Haliburton	freeholder	H 3	Dysart etc
08 Dutton James	Haliburton	freeholder	2 32	Dysart etc	209 Parish Waltersr	Haliburton	freeholder	6 21	Dysart etc
08 Earl William	Haliburton	freeholder	2 2	Dysart etc	209 Paul Joseph	Haliburton	freeholder	9 20	Dysart etc
08 Easton Harry	Haliburton	freeholder	F 13	Dysart etc	209 Paul Joshua	Orillia	freeholder	11 7	Dysart etc
08 Elston Edward	Haliburton	freeholder	6 9	Dysart etc	209 Paul William	Haliburton	freeholder	9 22	Dysart etc
08 Elston WJ Sr	Haliburton	freeholder	6 3	Dysart etc	209 Perrin George	Haliburton	tenant	8 14	Dysart etc
08 Emerson James	Haliburton	freeholder	3 5	Dysart etc	209 Pocket A Mrs	Haliburton	freeholder	12 10	Dysart etc
08 Erskine JR	Haliburton	freeholder	M 7	Dysart etc	209 Pollard DH	Haliburton	freeholder	6 16	Dysart etc
08 Exon James	Haliburton	freeholder	4 4	Dysart etc	209 Potts George	Haliburton	freeholder	7 12	Dysart etc
08 Exon John	Haliburton	freeholder	3 3	Dysart etc	209 Powell Richard	Maple Lake	freeholder	5 5	Dysart etc
08 Ferguson JH	Haliburton	freeholder	1 2	Dysart etc	209 Powell William	Maple Lake	freeholder	5 5	Dysart etc
08 Ferguson Samuel	Haliburton	freeholder	5 11	Dysart etc	209 Preston TH	Haliburton	freeholder	4 22	Dysart etc
08 Freeman Frederick	Haliburton	freeholder	V 5	Dysart etc	209 Price Thomas	Haliburton	tenant	F 8	Dysart etc
08 Freeman James	Haliburton	freeholder	5 2	Dysart etc	209 Prust William	Haliburton	freeholder	M 6	Dysart etc
08 Gainforth Daniel	Haliburton	freeholder	3 26	Dysart etc	209 Roach George	Wickstead	freeholder	1 5	Dysart etc
08 Gainforth James	Haliburton	freeholder	4 27	Dysart etc	209 Reid John	Haliburton	freeholder	T 11	Dysart etc
08 Gainforth William	Haliburton	freeholder	5 16	Dysart etc	209 Roberts Benjamin	Wickstead	freeholder	11 10	Dysart etc
08 Giles William	Haliburton	freeholder	7 22	Dysart etc	209 Roberts James	Wickstead	freeholder	12 5	Dysart etc
08 Gilmour Alexander	Haliburton	freeholder	11 25	Dysart etc	209 Roberts John	Orillia	freeholder	11 8	Dysart etc
08 Gilmour Joseph Jr	Haliburton	freeholder	11 27	Dysart etc	209 Roberts Joseph	Wickstead	freeholder	1 7	Dysart etc
08 Gilmour Joseph Sr	Haliburton	freeholder	10 26	Dysart etc	209 Roberts TK	Wickstead	freeholder	11 5	Dysart etc
08 Gilmour William Jr	Haliburton	freeholder	R 7	Dysart etc	209 Roberts William	Wickstead	freeholder	1 7	Dysart etc
08 Gilmour William Sr	Haliburton	freeholder	10 20	Dysart etc	209 Robertson Edward	Haliburton	freeholder	U 6	Dysart etc
08 Gladhill Thomas	Benmiller	freeholder	1 6	Dysart etc	209 Robson Heber	Wickstead	freeholder	12 8	Dysart etc
08 Gliddon William	Frankford	freeholder	11 9	Dysart etc	209 Sawyers George	Wickstead	freeholder	4 6	Dysart etc
08 Gorrie Daniel	Haliburton	freeholder	G 8	Dysart etc	209 Sawyers N	Wickstead	freeholder	5 6	Dysart etc
08 Gould Robert	Haliburton	freeholder	6 2	Dysart etc	209 Scott Thomas	Kennaway	freeholder	9 20	Dysart etc
08 Gould Thomas	Haliburton	freeholder	5 14	Dysart etc	209 Shaw William	Haliburton	freeholder	4 19	Dysart etc
08 Graham JJ	Forest	freeholder	2 30	Dysart etc	209 Sisson Alfred	Maple Lake	freeholder	4 5	Dysart etc
08 Gray John	Haliburton	freeholder	11 24	Dysart etc	209 Sisson Luke	Maple Lake	freeholder	4 3	Dysart etc
08 Gregory Ira	Wickstead	freeholder	4 6	Dysart etc	209 Smith Johnston	Maple Lake	tenant	1 23	Dysart etc
08 Gregory William	Wickstead	freeholder	5 6	Dysart etc	209 Smith JE	Maple Lake	freeholder	2 1	Dysart etc
08 Griffin John	Maple Lake	freeholder	3 2	Dysart etc	209 Southby RE	Haliburton	tenant	F 1	Dysart etc
08 Griffin Joseph	Maple Lake	freeholder	5 6	Dysart etc	209 Spiers William	Haliburton	freeholder	6 18	Dysart etc
08 Hadley Isaac	Haliburton	freeholder	6 19	Dysart etc	209 Spurr EY	Haliburton	freeholder	G 6	Dysart etc
08 Harrison H	Lochlin	freeholder	1 3	Dysart etc	209 Stephens Nelson	Maple Lake	freeholder	4 6	Dysart etc
08 Henderson E Mrs	Maple Lake	freeholder	6 7	Dysart etc	209 Stewart CE	Haliburton	freeholder	L 5	Dysart etc
08 Henderson John	Maple Lake	freeholder	5 10	Dysart etc	209 Stewart CR	Haliburton	freeholder	8 13	Dysart etc
08 Holland E Mrs	Haliburton	freeholder	6 1	Dysart etc	209 Stothart Adam	Haliburton	freeholder	5 20	Dysart etc
08 Holmes A Mrs	Haliburton	freeholder	5 17	Dysart etc	209 Stothart John Jr	Haliburton	freeholder	10 16	Dysart etc
08 Holmes JE	Haliburton	freeholder	5 27	Dysart etc	209 Stothart John Sr	Haliburton	freeholder	9 17	Dysart etc
08 Horsley Henry	Maple Lake	freeholder	2 4	Dysart etc	209 Stothart Robert	Haliburton	freeholder	10 16	Dysart etc
08 Horsley John	Maple Lake	freeholder	1 2	Dysart etc	209 Stothart William	Haliburton	freeholder	3 22	Dysart etc
08 Howe WE	Wickstead	freeholder	12 11	Dysart etc	209 Stothart WG	Haliburton	freeholder	3 20	Dysart etc
08 Hudgins WJ	Belleville	tenant	5 6	Dysart etc	209 Strike FH	Haliburton	tenant	G 10	Dysart etc
08 Hunter EB	Haliburton	freeholder	2 23	Dysart etc	209 Thavers Stephen	Haliburton	tenant	Q 10	Dysart etc
08 Hutchings James	Haliburton	freeholder	5 21	Dysart etc	209 Thomas Henry	Haliburton	freeholder	7 4	Dysart etc
08 Hutchings William	Haliburton	freeholder	4 18	Dysart etc	209 Walling Henry	Haliburton	freeholder	9 13	Dysart etc
08 Inglis George	Haliburton	freeholder	3 29	Dysart etc	209 Walling Reuben	Haliburton	freeholder	8 14	Dysart etc
08 Irwin JM	Haliburton	freeholder	8 15	Dysart etc	209 Ward Henry	Haliburton	freeholder	Y 3	Dysart etc
08 Jobbitt John	Haliburton	tenant	G 11	Dysart etc	209 Watt Angus	Wickstead	freeholder	12 9	Dysart etc
08 Johnstone George	Haliburton	freeholder	4 29	Dysart etc	209 Watt Donald	Haliburton	freeholder	U 9	Dysart etc
08 Johnstone WH	Haliburton	tenant	3 1	Dysart etc	209 Watt Malcolm	Kennaway	freeholder	8 20	Dysart etc
08 Jones William	Maple Lake	freeholder	4 18	Dysart etc	209 Watt Matthew	Kennaway	freeholder	10 25	Dysart etc
08 Kelliet William	Haliburton	tenant	M 7	Dysart etc	209 Watt Samuel	Wickstead	freeholder	13 10	Dysart etc
08 Leeson Alexander	Kennaway	freeholder	8 22	Dysart etc	209 Watt Thomas	Wickstead	freeholder	4 5	Dysart etc
08 Leeth William	Haliburton	freeholder	R 8	Dysart etc	209 Watt William	Kennaway	freeholder	8 18	Dysart etc
08 Lewis GW	DeerLake	freeholder	2 33	Dysart etc	209 Wensley Charles	Haliburton	freeholder	8 1	Dysart etc
08 Lucas John	Haliburton	freeholder	1 10	Dysart etc	209 Wheeler WJ	Haliburton	tenant	H 1	Dysart etc
209 Lucas JR	Haliburton	freeholder	L 3	Dysart etc	209 Wilson James	Leafield	freeholder	2 20	Dysart etc
209 McBrien Robert	Wickstead	freeholder	2 7	Dysart etc	209 Wilson JC	Wickstead	freeholder	3 8	Dysart etc
209 McCormick Robert	Haliburton	freeholder	4 25	Dysart etc	209 Wilson William	Wickstead	freeholder	2 6	Dysart etc
209 McCrae Matthew	Kennaway	freeholder	10 21	Dysart etc	209 Woods Daniel	Haliburton	tenant	4 8	Dysart etc
209 McCrae Stephen	Kennaway	freeholder	9 22	Dysart etc	209 Worley James	Haliburton	freeholder	A 2	Dysart etc



# The Mysterious Death of David Scully

David Scully's headless body was recovered from the ashes of his Otonabee Township home Feb. 23, 1894, the day it was destroyed by fire, the origin of which was never determined. For six years he had lived with Hessie and Thomas Torrance Gray, who were to inherit the property upon his death in exchange for taking care of him. The deal, struck in 1888, seemed to have gone sour because at 67 Scully was healthy and showed no sign of passing soon. Unhappy with the arrangement, Hessie was frequently heard threatening to kill Scully, once claiming she would cut off his head. A coroner's inquest ruled the death was accidental. The Grays collected on an insurance policy, rebuilt the house, sold it and moved to Florida. A year later, faced with persistent rumours that Scully's death wasn't an accident, the provincial government assigned a police detective, John Wilson Murray, to investigate. He brought the Grays back to Peterborough to face murder and arson charges.

by Patricia Marchen

## PART TWO ~ THE RETURN TO PETERBOROUGH

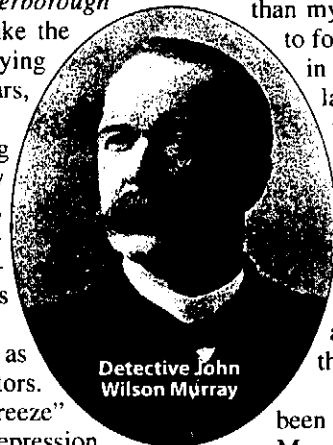
Getting to and from Ocala, Florida, where the Gray family lived, wouldn't have been easy, especially for Hessie, who left shortly after her husband Thomas departed. She made the trip with six children, including a child born two months after the fire.

It's not known which routes the Grays or Det. Murray took, but it's known the constable went by train. The *Peterborough Review* reported Murray went south by rail to make the best possible time. The paper quoted Murray as saying he had no love for travelling in southern rail cars, which "are not fit for a man to breathe in."

Thomas Gray went to Florida by himself, leaving quietly the day after he sold their rebuilt home. Mary and William McGregor, who lived near the Grays, testified at a preliminary hearing they saw him sitting on a wooden box as he drove by in a horse-drawn rig with Hessie, who went with him as far as the Cavanville Train Station.

Ocala had been booming with the rest of Florida as railways opened it up to commercial trade and visitors. The citrus industry was taking off, but the "Great Freeze" of 1894 and 1895 crippled the crop and caused a depression that lasted a few years. Gray was working on the railway for 65 cents a day.\*

It was late June of 1895 when Murray found the Grays in Ocala. He was quoted as saying they were "living in great poverty and squalor. Their house was a shanty, [and] some of their children were running around practically naked."



Since he could not leave the children behind, Murray brought the whole family back to Canada.

His impressions of the trip were recorded in a chapter titled "The Graded Grays" in *Memoirs of a Great Detective*, compiled by Victor Speer and published by Fleming H. Revell in 1905:

"I can see my party now as it looked when we started north. I was the tallest, then came Thomas Gray, then Mrs. Gray, and then six little Grays. We made a human stairway, with my head the top landing and a Gray baby no taller than my knee the bottom step....Despite all my efforts

to form them in columns of two, the Grays persisted in walking Indian file, the tallest first, the smallest last. I led this parade of graduated progeny through the streets of Ocala with a horde of shouting [locals] trailing in the wake of the procession. Tommy Gray sang at the top of his voice all the way to the station...The moment the train started Mrs. Gray began to boohoo, and the six little Grays burst forth into a chorus of caterwauling...Of course this was not pleasant for the other passengers, and several men left the car after glaring at me."

Except for the youngest child, the Grays had been sick with chills and fever for the whole journey. Murray described one woman who showed concern towards the wailing 11-year-old Tommy.

"'Poor little mannie', she said tenderly.

"'G'way, darn you!' howled Tommy. Don't you dare try to kiss me!"

"'What ails the mannie? What's the matter?' said the old lady soothingly.

"'Can't you see I'm crying, you old fool?' howled Tommy.

"For answer, the sweet old lady suddenly reached down and seized the weeping Tommy, and despite his kicks and struggles, lifted him up and laid him across her knees and spanked him soundly."

To the detective's astonishment and the Grays' amazement, Tommy suddenly ceased his howling and looked up and smiled. The other Grays stopped their wailing, but kept a close eye on the woman.

The trip took about a week. The party returned by a route that took them to Jacksonville, Florida, from where they sailed for New York on Saturday, 29 June, stopping at Charleston, South Carolina for 12 hours. They arrived in New York on Wednesday

### The trip to Florida involved several connections:

RAILWAY COMPANY	ROUTE
1) Canadian Pacific.....	Peterborough to Toronto
2) Canadian Pacific.....	Toronto to Hamilton
3) Toronto, Hamilton & Buffalo.....	Hamilton to Buffalo, NY
4) Pennsylvania R.R. ....	Buffalo to Washington D.C.
5) Richmond, Frederick & Potomac .....	Washington to Richmond, Va.
6) Seaboard Airline Railway or Atlantic Coastline Railway .....	Richmond to Ocala, Fla

Another route was from Toronto to New York City. Passengers changed at Grand Central terminal to a ferry, and again at a station in Jersey City.

\* Why he chose Ocala as his destination is not clear, but there was a Peterborough connection. When he was extradited he left his 10 acre property under the care of Harry Fawcett of Peterborough. A website on Ocala History mentions the H.A. Fausett Planing Mill and Fausett Store in that city in 1912. The 1917-18 U.S. civilian draft, also on the web, lists Andrew Dixon Fausett, born in Peterborough, Ontario, 31 October, 1886 and living in Marion County.

right and boarded a train Thursday morning for Hamilton which they reached by midnight. On Friday morning, 5 July they reached Peterborough on the 11:25 CPR train.

As they left the platform led by the detective they were stopped frequently by friends who were at the station to greet them.

They were taken to Police Magistrate George Edmison's office where Mr. W.A. Stratton, a lawyer, appeared on their behalf. The *Review* reported that

Gray and his wife were the most unconcerned looking persons in the gathering that were assembled in the County Magistrate's office this morning. The children were running about, full of life and apparently perfectly happy, and certainly wholly unconcerned, and the parents who have been brought back so many miles to face such serious charges seemed equally unconcerned. Several old friends dropped in and were warmly greeted, and Gray remarked to a reporter that he had friends enough here that they (meaning the Crown) would not have it all their own way. A friend shook hands with Gray with the remark, "I'm sorry for your trouble Tom." "Oh, it's alright," said Gray. "We'll put the saddle on the right horse this time."...When the detective was leaving, he shook Gray and his wife and each of the children by the hand, with a hearty goodbye, which was as heartily returned. Gray remarked, 'Good-bye, Mr. Murray, and thanks for the way you've used us. You treated us like a gentleman'. The children, who had been running around the offices during the proceedings, also seemed to have a most friendly feeling for the detective, who handed the county constable a dollar with which to procure something to eat for the children.

Thomas and HESSIE were taken into custody where they would wait 11 days until the preliminary hearing. Their 15-month-old child went to jail with his mother, and the other children went to stay with friends of the family.

Hessie and Thomas Gray were arraigned at 1 p.m., 16 July, 1895 on charges of murder and arson. Magistrate George Edmison was presiding, Mr. W.A. Stratton represented the Grays, and Mr. R.E. Wood was the Crown Attorney. Representatives from the local dailies and Toronto newspapers were there, and the courtroom was jammed with spectators, most of them being of the "fair sex" according to the *Review*. Murray was sitting next to the Crown Attorney.

At the preliminary hearing the Grays looked better than they looked following their journey from Florida. Hessie had walked into the court while carrying her infant son.

Hessie and Thomas Gray watched the proceedings closely, and didn't seem concerned until the closing hours of the next day.

The first witness was an undertaker, Daniel Belleghem, who arrived at the fire scene by 10 a.m., and found Scully's body had been moved to the barn. He gave directions to keep the barn door shut, but said "people were going in and out all the same."

The courtroom was packed as Belleghem described the victim.

He said Scully's head and part of his feet were missing. The trunk of the body at the neck came to a point and was charred black. He said it protruded by about six inches.

Belleghem said the legs were drawn up, the left leg more than the right. One foot, he couldn't remember which one, was burnt more than the other.

The arms were not folded close to the body, but were half extended leaning towards the body. The hands, arms and legs were stiff and, he said, it was no use trying to bend them. The heart was alright and the bowels were not protruding. The flesh was firm.

Scully wore a flannel undershirt and overshirt, which were not burned much. On the legs were a pair of drawers. There was nothing on the feet.

Belleghem noted the chest particularly, and found him a large, healthy man, with the hair on the breast, unshinged.

The undertaker came to the conclusion the head had burnt off, as there was nothing about the appearance of the neck that would lead him to believe the head was severed. He got a stick and poked through the ashes for some time. His suspicions were aroused when he could find no trace of the head.

He returned to town for a casket and took the body to his warehouse. It was soon taken to Little Lake Cemetery and buried next to the Grays' children, James who died at age 3 in 1891 and Maggie who died at 3 weeks in 1889. Thomas Gray, committed by his legal agreement with Scully to pay for the interment, paid \$35 toward the burial and asked that the casket be changed, but David's sister Mary Scollie, a spinster living with their uncle's family near Allandale (now Lang), told Belleghem to not change it and she would pay the difference.\*

"Subsequently about the first day of June [1895, 16 months after the fire] the body was exhumed in the presence of Detective Murray, Dr. Halliday, myself, Dr. Caven, the Globe reporter, and Dr. Primrose. It was the same grave, the same coffin, the same body," he told the court.

While Stratton was questioning Belleghem, the Gray infant grew restless and could not be calmed. His crying was incessant and he was removed.

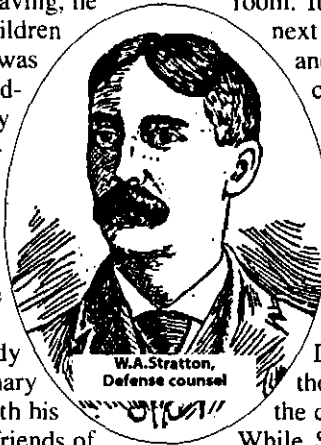
The next witness was John Graham Weir.

Weir and his wife, Lavina, lived a mile and a half south of the Grays, on the same concession in Otonabee Township. Thomas, who was described in various documents as a labourer, plasterer and bricklayer, had worked for him.

Weir arrived at the fire around 7 a.m. Zacheus Burnham was trying to cool down the embers with pots of water where they could see the outline of Scully's remains. Weir and John Hunter (who had died by the time of the hearing) worked together to dig out the body. Although it was a cold day, it was a hot job and they had to stop occasionally to cool down.

Henry Girven pitched in to help to lift out the body. They found it on a straw tick mattress, the basswood floorboards underneath not burned, and still clean until the ashes and debris fell in when the body was moved.

They found Scully's headless body, with his hands folded across the body beneath the blankets, which were tucked in all around.



\* Scully died without a will, and his metal box of documents was destroyed in the fire. His sister Mary inherited his \$1,700 estate, which included \$1,000 and a 50-acre property near Allandale worth \$700. They had two brothers, Joram, a tailor in Connecticut and Robert, a fisherman in Orkney, Scotland, and a sister, Margaret Sinclair in Leith, Scotland. Joram and Mary signed their surname "Scollie", but David signed it "Scully."

They searched for his head without finding it. Weir examined the neck and thought it had been cut off. He didn't think the cut would be so square if the head had burned off. He suggested the protruding bone was two inches long, disagreeing with Belleghem's guess of six inches. The blankets on the shoulders were not burned.

Defense attorney Stratton objected, saying Detective Murray was making suggestive comments to Wood, but they were loud enough for the witness to hear.

Weir continued, and was about to repeat something one of the prisoner's said shortly after the fire at the coroner's inquest, but Stratton objected again, reminding the court had ruled the testimony from the inquest was inadmissible.

Wood (resuming): Was it possible for a body to fall –

Stratton: I object to this way of putting questions.

Wood: Is the question not proper? I was going to ask if in his opinion it was possible for a body to fall from an upper storey and be found in the position it was?

Stratton: I object to the witness...

Wood: What's the matter with the witness? That's what I would like to get at.

Stratton: The witness is only too ready to spit out answers. I submit that it is not a fair way to put a question.

The question was allowed. Weir replied that he did not think it was possible.

When it was Stratton's turn to cross examine Weir, he did not treat the 52-year-old witness lightly. Throughout the hearing he referred mockingly to him as "Detective" Weir. He had escorted Detective Murray around during the investigation, taking him to witnesses and asking his own questions.

Stratton asked Weir if he looked for the victim's missing foot. The answer was no.

Q: Now didn't it strike you strange that you could not find one of the feet? If they cut off the head, why did they cut off the feet?

A: No

Q: Why did you not find the foot that was lost?

A: The foot was really there. There was a portion of it, I could not say how much.

Q: One of the feet. There was no foot on one of the legs, is that not so?

A: There was part of both...

Q: There was one of the feet lost?

A: I could not say one, or the whole of one foot lost. I know there was some part of it. I stated that in the first place.

Q: Will you swear that even though you thought murder was committed in this case that you do not know whether one of the feet was off or not?

A: I was not making a post-mortem examination of the body.

Q: You were making a speech. You are always troubled with that difficulty, making a speech everywhere! You are too anxious for notoriety...

Zacheus Burnham, 55, the neighbour who lived closest to the Grays followed Weir to the stand. He said there was no doubt in

his mind that Scully could have been saved if the Grays had notified him first, rather than running to the McGregors. He said the wind was blowing away from the direction of the room Scully was in, allowing more time to save him.

William James McGregor was the next witness at the hearing. His wife Mary was sister of the accused, Hessie (Newton) Gray.

McGregor told Wood that Scully was a healthy man, but had been seriously ill around Christmas time. He'd last seen him on the Wednesday evening before the Friday morning fire. Scully was walking home from town and looked healthy.

McGregor gave the court several reasons why he thought the Grays were guilty.

McGregor said Gray once told him "I've got the best little woman in Canada. She knew how to get rid of the old brute and it wouldn't do for me to be at home when it was done." This was said in the autumn before the fire, when the accused came home from working in the woods for five weeks and was surprised to find Scully still there.

He was suspicious when days after the fire Hessie was wearing her good dress, when she'd said all was lost in the fire. Her husband's good boots had also somehow been saved.

In 1888, Gray and Scully had struck an agreement in which the Grays would feed, lodge, and clothe Scully, nurse him when he was sick and bury him when he died. In return, on his death they would get his property, a ten acre lot about a mile east of Downer's Corners (the corner of Lansdowne and Ashburnham streets). The deal went sour and Gray wanted out of it. McGregor was about to explain to the crown what Gray's lawyer suggested when Stratton feistily objected. He was the lawyer who'd arranged the agreement.

The cross examination of McGregor by Stratton was intense. He determined quickly that McGregor hated his brother-in-law for several reasons. Gray owed him money he lent him to buy a cow. One night they got into a physical fight with a drunken Gray lost. Stratton accused him of getting Gray "drunk at his own expense" and kicking him in the head. McGregor wouldn't let his children play with their cousins, or let his wife talk with her sister Hessie.

He emphasized the point that when McGregor reached the burning building, kicked open the door, and found the staircase on fire he did nothing to save "the old man."

Q: And those flames burst over your head?

A: Yes sir. From head to foot.

Q: And you did nothing?

A: I did nothing.

Q: She [Hessie] had told you the old man was in the building?

A: Yes sir.

Q: And you did nothing?

A: No.

Q: You did nothing?

A: No.

Q: And your wife came and didn't she cry out to save the old man?

A: Yes sir.

Q: You did nothing?

A: I could not. There was no ladder.

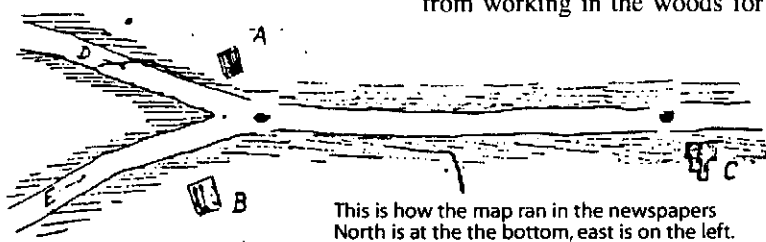


Diagram of Scene of the Fire. "A"–Gray Dwelling. "B"–Zeo Burnham's Dwelling. "C"–McGregor Dwelling. "D"–Keene Road. "E"–Norwood Road.

Q: And the fire only in that part of the building?

A: Yes sir. There was no way of getting in.

Q: And then you tried to throw the crime on those poor innocent people. You coward!

Witness statements conflicted on what McGregor told the Burnhams. McGregor insisted he said that Scully was in the house and it was burning, but the Burnhams claimed he said Scully was "burned up", so they assumed he was dead. Stratton pointed out he hadn't asked the Burnhams for a ladder while he was there.

He questioned McGregor about a letter he wrote to the papers the summer before. McGregor had been told the Grays were saying that he stood and let Scully be burned, so he wrote to the *Examiner* and *Review* to clear himself. He said he would have done it sooner, but Gray asked him to wait until he'd collected the insurance.

The Grays stayed with the McGregors after the fire, even when he'd come to believe they were guilty. His wife Mary begged him to not quarrel with them. He scowled at her from the witness stand. It seems the stress of living with the Grays and the assault on his reputation was taking a toll on his own marriage.

Q: While that man was eating your salt you believed him to be a murderer?

A: I would have pit him out but for my missus.

Q: You believed him to be a murderer while he was staying with you after the fire?

Q: I believed her to be, and he an accessory.

Q: An accessory? Have you been hob-nobbing with Detective Murray?

McGregor denied being coached by Murray, "I do not care any more for him than you."

The court adjourned until eight that evening, when Mary McGregor took the stand. When it was time to cross examine her, Stratton asked if they could resume in the morning.

Wood: This is the last witness. You can get through in two or three hours.

Stratton: I do not feel I can do justice to my clients by going on with the cross examination at so late an hour.

Wood: The witness is –

Stratton (interrupting): Don't alarm yourself. She will always be ready to swear against her sister.

At that, some people in the crowd applauded. The magistrate demanded order and told Stratton to continue. After a few questions, the Gray baby started wailing loudly and neither questions nor answers could be heard. His healthy lungs brought about the adjournment Stratton was denied. The court convened the next morning at ten.

Mary had heard death threats Hessie made against Scully, including one the previous November when Gray was away, and Hessie and Scully had a dispute about a horse. She told Mary that she'd chop his head off and burn the building rather than live with him another winter, or shoot him in Fitzgerald's lane, but only when her husband was away, so he'd be in the clear.

A vicious cross examination continued until one o'clock, when the crown rested it's case.

Stratton contended that there was very little evidence against his clients, particularly Thomas Gray, and that if the crown had more evidence they should be forced to go on with their case.

Edmison pointed out that there was motive and evidence aplenty. He said it was a common practice for the Crown to hold its expert evidence for the trial, and "there have been other cases with evidence nit nearly so strong", but he was glad that he didn't have to decide if the Grays were guilty or not.

He committed them to trial and the Grays were taken back to jail.

CONTINUED IN THE NEXT ISSUE

## Peterborough journalism

by Elwood Jones

Newspapers are an essential source for knowing and understanding our history. Even reporting errors do not detract from the importance of the newspapers, because at the very least we have an entry point into making sense of the particular stories.

Peterborough did not have newspapers in the very earliest days, and the Cobourg papers were the source of whatever passed as news of the area. Not all copies of the newspapers have survived, but the strongest runs of pre-1920 microfilm newspapers is in the Trent University Bata Library, and in the Peterborough Public Library. For weekly newspapers in hard copy, the Trent Valley Archives has strong runs of several Lakefield and Peterborough papers.

The first newspapers in Peterborough were founded in 1837 by John Darcus, Newcastle District Clerk until found guilty of forging bounty claims and pocketed the £1 bounty. Poole identifies these as the *Backwoodsman* and as the *Sentinel*. Mulvaney and Craw suggest it is a single newspaper with a double-barreled name.

Thomas Messenger published the *Chronicle*, edited by James McCarroll, beginning in December 1842. McCarroll, at "no trifling expense," became editor and proprietor in December 1844. The office was first on Brock Street, opposite the court house, in a frame building which Poole notes in 1867 was being used as A. McD. Norton's tin shop. The office moved to Simcoe Street, next to James Stevenson's house, where it remained until the paper ceased publication after a serious fire in the late summer of 1846. George Haslehurst was the printer of McCarroll's paper. The paper was published weekly on Tuesday morning. McCarroll (1814/15 – 1892), a clever and talented writer, dubbed it "A weekly journal devoted to agriculture, commerce, science, public improvement, the diffusion of morality, useful knowledge and general intelligence." McCarroll declared bankruptcy in September 1846, and survived his creditors partly with the help of William Cluxton and James Hall. His office and press were sold at auction in March 1847; his house, in February 1848.

The Peterborough *Despatch* appeared from 19 November 1846 until August 1856, always with George Haslehurst as printer and proprietor. We are printing some articles from the *Weekly Despatch* in the current issue of the *Heritage Gazette*. Haslehurst distanced his paper from the *Chronicle*, of which he had been the printer. He identified his Reform paper as supporting the broad sense of "Responsible Government" and the view that all inhabitants had constitutional rights, and that governments would not be seats of "oppression and misrule." It was published every Thursday from its office on George Street, across from the Market Square.

The great rival for both McCarroll's and Haslehurst's papers was the *Peterborough Gazette*, which was operated by the Rev J. H. Dunsford, an Oxford graduate who was part of the bright settlers, such as John Langton and James Wallis, who settled in the Sturgeon Lake area and then in Peterborough. The *Gazette* most notably represented the Conservative interest and in the election of 1847-48 supported John Langton's bid to be Peterborough's MPP. The *Gazette* was operating by early 1842,

and had disappeared long before the *Review* began in 1853.

The *Peterborough Examiner* has been considered the direct successor of the *Despatch*. Wilson Crow notes one historian considered the paper born in 1846, and christened in 1856. In any case, Augustus Sawers (1819- ) was from August 1856 to 1859 the first proprietor and editor of the *Examiner*. He was succeeded by James Renfrew who conducted the paper for three years until Alexander Graham became the proprietor in May 1862. From October 1863 to March 1864, James M. Dunn was associated with Alexander Graham. In December 1864, James Stratton joined with Alexander Graham. James Stratton bought the paper and in 1877 James R. Stratton succeeded him as editor and proprietor. In 1867, the *Examiner* office was in the Post Office building, and the Liberal paper was published on Thursdays. The daily edition of the *Examiner* was launched in June 1885. When James R. Stratton died in 1914, the paper was purchased by Roland M. Glover, a long-time employee, who had risen from office boy to manager. Ferman R. Yokome was the editor of the *Examiner*, 1882 to 1918. Fred D. Craig, who began at the *Examiner* in 1906, was the editor, 1918 to 1935. The newspaper was bought by Senator Rupert Davies and Harry B. Muir in 1935. Davies became sole owner in 1939 and in March 1946 sold the paper to his three sons, Arthur, Robertson and Frederick. The paper remained in the Davies family until acquired by Roy Thomson in 1968. A. R. Kennedy became editor in 1935, and was succeeded by Robertson Davies who worked in editorial and publishing positions at the *Examiner* from 1941 to 1963.

The *Peterborough Review*, the local Conservative paper, was established in May 1853 with Robert Romaine as the proprietor. He was soon joined by his brothers-in-law, Thomas and Richard White as editors. The White brothers had come to Peterborough with their father Thomas, who ran a footwear store in the town. Romaine had been Queen's Printer for Canada East. The paper was run from 1856 to 1864 by Thomas and Richard White who then purchased the *Hamilton Spectator*, and by the 1870s, the *Montreal Gazette*. Romaine returned to the paper in 1864 after spending some years in England promoting his patented steam plough. Dr Thomas W. Poole was editor of the paper from 1864 until the early 1870s when he

went to Lindsay to pursue his medical career. As well as owning the *Review*, Romaine had a brick-making operation between Sherbrooke and Dalhousie at the river, was a promoter of the local gas works. In 1878, Romaine sold the paper to Toker & Co, a partnership between E. J. Toker and John Carnegie, who were also the chief editorial writers. Toker was editor, 1878 to 1888, when he moved to Toronto to edit the *Empire*. Simon R. Armstrong, later the town clerk, succeeded Toker as editor. In early 1884, the company was reorganized as the Peterborough Review Printing and Publishing Company. The weekly edition of the *Review* appeared on Fridays, and in the mid-1880s, according to Mulvaney, boasted one of the largest circulations in Ontario. In 1878 the company began producing a daily paper, the *Daily Evening Review*, which ran until 1921; the *Peterborough Examiner* bought the subscription lists.

Francis H. Dobbin (1850-1932) in December 1864 began his career in journalism with the *Review*. His father had thought he had gone to work for James Stratton's *Examiner*, and Dobbin inadvertently became tied to the Conservative cause. After a stint as manager of the *Lindsay Post*, Dobbin returned to the *Review* in the 1880s where he held increasing managerial responsibilities until he retired in 1914. After the newspaper was purchased by the *Examiner*, he wrote occasional superb articles on Peterborough's history.

J. Hampden Burnham had been an occasional editorial writer with the *Review*, and during the 1920s ran the semi-occasional *Shopper's Review*. In 1934, Ernest G. Hand, of Fenelon Falls, purchased the Review Printing Company and revived the *Review* as a weekly distributed to homes for free. In 1938, Tom LaBranche (d 1955) became Hand's partner, and acquired sole ownership in 1946. He was joined by his son, Peter, who took over publishing the popular weekly in 1955; the paper ceased operation in the late 1970s. The Trent Valley Archives has the nearly complete run of this paper.

W. H. Robertson and Walter Walsh in 1872 began the *Times*, an independent paper favouring Canadian independence and Canada First. It appeared on Wednesdays until it became a daily, the *Morning Times*, from 1885 to 1914. Its very able editors and ubiquitous reporters included Fred Harris, "Cope" Clementi and Charles Mitchell.

The *Havelock Standard* was established in 1895 by H. B. R. Dryden who sold it in 1896 to Robert Latimer, publisher of the *Campbellford Gazette*. Thomas Percival Lancaster, then twenty years old, purchased the paper in 1897 and ran it for the next 42 years. Lancaster appears to have been very public-spirited and led many crusades for social improvement; he was elected MPP in 1929 and 1933. The paper was sold in 1939 to Fred McKenzie, who published the paper for years. The office copy of this newspaper is now in the Trent Valley Archives.

The *Lakefield Chronicle* was published by G. A. Milner. When the paper was sold in 1894, James Ridpath changed its name to *Lakefield News*, under which name it operated until 1948; Ridpath was the publisher until 1943. The Trent Valley Archives has sample issues of these titles, and nearly complete runs of all Lakefield newspapers since the 1960s.

We also have strong runs of independent newspapers that brought new visions, enthusiasms and good literary and historical writing. Harry Underhill operated the *Peterborough New Paper* for ten months in 1972 and 1973, and we have complete runs of the paper. Harry Underhill has since gone on other literary trails, adding vigour to such publications at *The Tattler*. In the 1970s, a group of talented writers formed around Clifford Maynes to produce the *Common Press*; our issues run from 1975 to 1977.

Clifford Maynes was editor for many years at the *Kawartha Sun*, a paper based in Lakefield but featuring useful interpretative articles on towns, villages and resorts in the whole area. *Kawartha Sun* was produced mostly as a free paper from May 1976. At its peak, around 1981, the paper was a sprightly, must-read publication. It encouraged wider writing by running contests for literary articles and photographs. The paper seems to have been a fortnightly publication, occasionally running weekly. The Trent Valley Archives run begins in 1978 and extends to 1985, by which time the paper had become largely an advertiser with generic filler articles. This paper seems to have become acquired by the Woodroe Nicholson Publishing Company which then published the *Peterborough Sun*, *Peterborough Shopping Market*, and *Peterborough This Week*. The latter title remains current, now a regional publication of the Toronto Star. We have strong runs of these papers to about 1990, but pre-

*continued on next page*

# Hbc's legacy: the Building of Canada

by Yannick Dubé

The exhibit entitled *Mail, Rail Retail: Connecting Canadians*, opens to the public the following day at the Canadian Museum of Civilization in Gatineau, Québec runs until November 2004, the show is produced through an equal partnership comprising Canada Post, CPR, Hbc and the Postal Museum, where Canada Post's collections are housed. It is the first time in Canada's history that three major corporations have partnered, together with a museum, to share with the broader public the story of their trade, and of their contribution to the country.

In 1869 Hudson's Bay Company signed the Deed of Surrender, allowing the new Dominion of Canada to expand its territory. In return, the company received cash and approx. 30,000 sq. km. (7,000,000 acres) of land in the fertile belt. The government of Canada granted some of its new territory to the Canadian Pacific Railway in order to facilitate the establishment of a railway linking all parts of the country. And as the railway travelled westward, it linked many locations previously occupied by Hbc.

A huge supply of arable land and the push for immigration naturally led the three largest landowners in western Canada namely, the government, Hbc and CPR to open land sales offices and actively promote agriculture and immigration in the great, vastly unpopulated west. From then until the beginning of World War I, millions of people came to Canada and used the services of Mail, Rail and Retail.

There are countless interconnections between the three partners in this exhibition, both historic and contemporary. A few very influential people in Canadian history, figures such as Sir

Sandford Fleming and Donald Smith, Lord Strathcona, were associated closely with mail, rail and retail. Fleming invented standard time while surveying to establish the course of the CP rail line, did some surveying for Hbc and served as a director of the Company for over 25 years, and designed Canada's first stamp, the three penny beaver. Donald Smith, a contemporary of Fleming, rose through the ranks of Hbc from clerk to Governor. He was also a director of the CPR, and his most famous act was driving the last spike of the transcontinental railway at Craigellachie, B.C.

People, goods and mail travelled by rail from the port cities to the western provinces. Hbc delivered mail to the more remote communities in Northern Canada, right up until the 1940s. Hbc has always entrusted CPR with a significant portion of its freight traffic, and continues to do so to this day, thanks to intermodal transport. Though Canada Post was the only courier company at one point, it is not so today. Yet, we continue to entrust it with a large portion of our mail. This partnership has further evolved, with the recent introduction of the new epost format.

The 3,000 square foot exhibition explores these themes and much more, from Rupert's Land to today's cities, from mail order catalogue shopping to the impact of war on the businesses involved. Filled with interesting information and original artifacts from the three compa-

nies collections, the displays offer related activities for kids, such as dressing up in an employee uniform from one of the companies.

Once the exhibition closes in Ottawa it will travel across the country. However, this will be its only Ontario stop.

## Mail, Rail, Retail

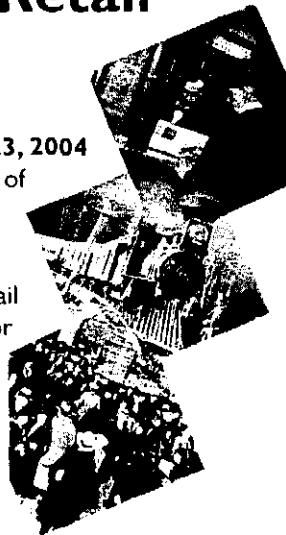
### Connecting Canadians

Nov 21, 2003 to May 23, 2004

at the Canadian Museum of Civilization/Canadian Postal Museum

The post, railway and retail business all played a major role in Canada's history. The combination of all three helped to develop and modernize Canada.

In partnership with Canada Post, Canadian Pacific Railway and the Hudson's Bay Company



to Canada and used the

fer to rescue the papers filled with enduring content.

Jay Amor and Matt Murphy struggled to provide a high quality weekly paper that also depended on advertising revenue: our run of the *Pinnacle*, which did not number its issues, extends from 1986 to 1988. The spirit of these papers was captured by LeeAnne and Brian Lavender, who ran the monthly *Prime Time* from April 1994 until selling the paper to Nicholson Publishing in early 2002. The paper featured a major historical feature in nearly every issue; these columns were supplied by Martha

Anne Kidd, Kathy Hooke and myself. There were other efforts to create papers that were outlets for writing and historical analysis. It is difficult to sustain such papers over time, but many articles that passed through the fleeting issues of this non-mainstream press remain useful insights into the period and into our history. We hope to reprint some of these articles from time to time.

As well, there were other papers published in the county, and there were important magazines published in the city. We hope to discuss these in future issues of the *Heritage Gazette*.

#### Sources, *The vindication of R.B. Rodgers*, page 10

The author wishes to thank those who supported his research over the past six years, and especially thanks Camille Dee, Port Washington [NY] Public Library; Gerrard Lamont, Ottawa, ON; Mylinda Woodward, University of New Hampshire; David Hunter, Norristown PA; David Ouse, Duluth [MN] Public Library; Liz Malloy, Montrose NY; Robert Boyle, Local Studies Librarian, Peekskill NY; Janet Iles, Owen Sound [ON] Public Library; Jon Mularky, P.Eng. F.H.W.A.; John Witham, Parks Canada, Cornwall ON; Janet Bulter Munch, Lehman College Library, NY; Russell Bastedo, N.H.H.S. Library; Elizabeth Mitchell, Belleville Public Library; Antony Pacey, National Museum of Technology and Culture, Ottawa ON; Gillian Barlow, Queens University Archives; Shelia Biles, Librarian, West Point [NY] Military Academy; Orland French, Hastings County Historical Society; Dr. John Everitt, Brandon University; Eileen McCormack, J. J. Hill Library, St Paul, MN; Arlington Heights [IL] Memorial Library; Chicago [IL] Public Library; and Bernadine Dodge and Jodi Aoki, Trent University Archives, Peterborough ON.

### Mary Charles

Mary Charles has begun work as the new City Archivist at the Peterborough Centennial Museum and Archives. The work of the Archives has grown in recent years with the expanded responsibilities as the official repository of the City of Peterborough, and also with the acquisition of the Balsillie Collection of Roy Studio Images. As well, the study about the shape expansion might take at the Peterborough Centennial Museum and Archives [PCMA] has been completed but word has not become public. Mary Charles comes from Ingersoll, Ontario, and spent 11 years as the London Life archivist. Her interest in archives grew out of family research and she believes it is very important to preserve "community, corporate and family memories." She has been very active in the Archives Association of Ontario and we welcome her to this new venue, and look forward to working with her on projects of mutual interest.

### Lift Lock Celebrates 100 years

Peterborough celebrates 100 years of the famed Peterborough Lift Lock with a festive weekend highlighting 9 July. The Trent Valley Archives will be on hand. Gordon Young's article in this issue helps explain the political infighting that cast doubt on R. B. Rogers' terrific accomplishment in designing and overseeing a huge construction project that brought together for the first time the technologies of portland cement construction and hydraulic lift locks. Richard Hayman has produced a striking panoramic piece of art capturing the spirit of the workforce and the accomplishment. The proceeds of the limited print edition are going to the work of the Lakefield Art School. We sold one at the TVA Spaghetti

Dinner, and it was one of the highlights of the evening, attracting many bids and selling at \$400. The Lift Lock is getting renovated in preparation for the big celebrations.

## News & Views & Reviews

### Ivy Sucee receives Rotary award

Congratulations to Ivy Sucee, the driving force of the Hazelbrae Barnardo Memorial Group, who was a recipient of the local Rotary Club's Paul Harris Fellowship Award for her international work with the Barnardo group in England, and for her many activities helping people learn about child immigration projects, about Dr Barnardo's work, and about particular children who came to Canada as part of that emigration.

### Wall of Honour at Confederation Park

Dave Edgerton continues his inspired fight to get a Wall of Honour built near the Peterborough Cenotaph in Confederation Park, Peterborough. He is still hoping that will occur before the end of June 2004 when the city will mark the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the dedication of the Cenotaph designed by the famed Walter Allward and officially unveiled by Sir Arthur Currie during Old Home Week 1929. The City is now developing landscape architectural plans. For information see [www.wallofhonour.com](http://www.wallofhonour.com)

### Canadian Canoe Museum

The Canadian Canoe Museum was open for gift shopping dur-

ing November and December and attracted some 600 visitors for a special thank you day, 27 December. A business restructuring plan is being developed by Kroll Inc of Toronto. The word on the street is that it will likely reopen on some basis in May 2004. The CCM is a key feature of the heritage scene, and we hope it returns with strength for the long haul.

### Trent-Fleming Museum Studies Program

The students this year are developing two major exhibits for the PCMA. One is on the Chinese in Peterborough and the other on the Lift Lock. The students are looking for help on both projects. The one was inspired by Zhongping Chen's excellent article in the *Heritage Gazette of the Trent Valley*. The second exhibit will be installed in May and be featured through the summer boating season and the celebrations at the Lift Lock.

### Peterborough Historical Society

The Peterborough Historical Society has released its 24<sup>th</sup> Occasional Paper. This is an annotated version of Tom Hay's 1901 history of Peterborough which appeared in the second edition of *Our Forest Home*. The book told the history of Peterborough and the Stewart family through the letters that Frances Stewart wrote, mostly to Ireland. Tom Hay was a grandson of Frances and Thomas A. Stewart. Hutchison House hosted its annual New Year's Day Hogmanay. Mary Lavery drew a large crowd to hear her talk about the history of Stoney Lake as seen from the photographs taken during Fred Roy's 1904 excursion to Stoney Lake. The February meeting takes the form, again, of the AGM and a silent auction. The PHS continues to oversee a program to put more historical information signs around the city.

### Peterborough: "Canada's Capital of Kink"

There are mixed feelings about a *National Post* article which told of several local entrepreneurs who specialize in unusual pursuits. Apparently in the Peterborough area, people are crafting whipping posts and wood paddles, customized latex clothing, and dildos, and publishing fetish magazines, and distributing books on cross-dressing, sadism and masochism. Indeed, *Whiplash* won an award from the local chamber of commerce for consumer magazine in-house design. Peterborough has a reputation for being a great place to raise families, but those interested in education and politics have noticed that different subcultures have emerged since the 1960s when Trent University came to town. Even earlier, Peterborough had a strong left wing that enjoyed its greatest success in 1919. Some see this as a modern version of the development of craft industries in the shadow of major cities, such as Toronto, about 90 miles southwest of Peterborough.

### Peterborough Centennial Museum and Archives

The annual report suggests a dip in visitors to about 32,000 (compared to about 34,000 in the previous two years). On the other hand, participation in public programs reached 12,600. PCMA is preparing a travelling exhibit based on Roy Studio vaudeville photographs.

### Lang Pioneer Village

Lang Pioneer Village had nearly 25,000 visitors. Joe Corrigan, the museum manager, says drops in July and September were offset by local partnerships, special events and education outreach. The living history museum is always changing, and has plans to restore a rare Jacquard loom.

### **Children on the road to Ennismore**

The *Peterborough Examiner* continues to publish Roy Studio photos each Monday. Recently they reprinted one titled "Children on the road to Ennismore" because a reader had brought in a postcard, c. 1905, that identified the children as Peter Murphy, Fergus Crowley, Harold Killen, Steve Gannon, Bernadette Crowley, Bertha Gannon, Florence Murphy and Marian Flood.

### **The 'Lunge Hunter**

Nick Nickels and John Craig book on Alex Sharpe (1846-1937), published in 1983, tells a fascinating story. After diversions to talk about the Kawarthas, Algonkian canoe-making and the muskellunge, the authors tell stories linked by the life of Alex Sharpe, always a solitary 'lunge hunter. In March 1901, Alex Sharpe was tried in the Peterborough Court House for the murder of William Hull, who was stealing his wife. He was defended by a young Francis D. Kerr, then of Cobourg. He was sentenced to 15 years, but was paroled in 1908. His earlier life had been spent north of Apsley, but his declining years were spent at Dodsworth Island in Stony Lake, one of the gems of the Kawarthas.

### **Saskatoon's History in Street Names**

John Duerkop, *Saskatoon's History in Street Names* (Saskatoon, Purich, 2000) Pp 272, Illustrated.

John Duerkop gives excellent glimpses into the history of Saskatoon in his history of street names. The book is arranged alphabetically by street name, and except for the streets named by number or letter of the alphabet, includes every street from the earliest days to the latest subdivision. There are also photographs showing streets and subdivisions, and noting change over time. Some years ago, students

in Saskatoon had history projects related to the names of streets, and it would be a great idea for schools everywhere to embrace. In this book, the history is of the names, but a history of how streets in the school district changed, and of the people who lived there would be even better.

### **A Lawyer in Victorian Ontario**

Peter Oliver, ed., *The Conventional Man: the diaries of Ontario Chief Justice Robert A. Harrison 1856- 1978* (Toronto, Osgoode Society, 2003) Pp 647; illustrated.

After a very informative and insightful introduction, the diary begins on page 121. Archivists and historians love diaries, but this is one of the best diaries I have ever seen. It is full of details which allows one to reconstruct parts of Victorian life that are otherwise simply inaccessible. We get to see a man coping with bachelorhood, courting, church and family life. As well, we get excellent details about how one becomes a lawyer, and the routines necessary to be a very successful Toronto lawyer. Robert Harrison makes contacts with people everywhere in the province. He meets people from the Peterborough area on the train, at court proceedings at Cobourg, and even in Peterborough. This is a fascinating book that will appeal to anybody interested in reconstructing the world in which their ancestors lived.

### **Child Emigration**

Marjorie Kohli, *The Golden Bridge: Young Immigrants to Canada, 1833-1939*, (Toronto, Natural Heritage Books, 2003) Pp xviii, 462. Illustrated.

This book is an exhaustive guide on how to research those who emigrated to Canada as children. She looks at the work of different agencies beginning with the Children's Friend Society, Maria Rye, Annie Macpherson, through Dr

Thomas Barnardo, and the Church of England Waifs and Strays Society to a variety of small organizations. There is a major chapter on Roman Catholic work, and chapters on the Poor Law, Reformatories, and organizations specializing in the emigration of women. She gives good examples of what you might find, and points to potential sources to get past dead ends in family history. Kohli has worked with genealogical and historical societies in Waterloo, and has developed a superb website. The bibliography is fantastic and the book is a gold mine.

### **Bob Dunford's Adam Scott**

We are really excited to learn that Bob Dunford's excellent study of Adam Scott and his times is going to press. By all accounts, the book is worth the wait. There has been considerable attention to detail in research, writing and design. Bob has been very interested in establishing comparisons so that we can understand the realities of the world of the miller. Adam Scott has a special place in the history of this part of Ontario. Scott's Mill was built near what is now King and Water Streets in downtown Peterborough. He was among the earliest Europeans to settle in the area, and while people were critical of the mill, there is no doubt that it was a great service to the 500 people who lived in the area in the years before the Peter Robinson settlers arrived. Our members may get the book from our book service.

### **Frederick de la Fosse's English Bloods**

Natural Heritage Books is publishing in June a new edition of the Frederick de la Fosse classic, *English Bloods: In the Backwoods of Muskoka, 1878*, originally published in 1930 with De la Fosse using the pen name "Roger Vardon." Scott D. Shipman, of Huntsville, Ontario, after eight years of

dedicated research, has added considerable detail, archival photos and information on the people who were given aliases. De la Fosse went on to become in 1910 Peterborough's second public librarian, and the first at the new Carnegie library building. The publishers have prepared this summary: *Farming in the Canadian backwoods in the late 1800s was a prospect that enticed many young Englishmen to cross the Atlantic. One such fellow was Frederick de la Fosse, whose well-meaning uncle paid £100 per annum for his young nephew to serve as a farm pupil in the northern reaches of Muskoka. Some years later, de la Fosse, under the pseudonym of Roger Vardon, wrote an illuminating and humorous biographical account of the trials and tribulations of the "English Bloods," the local epithet attached to these young lads attempting to hone farming skills in a land never intended to be agricultural. And, in so doing, de la Fosse chronicles the realities of pioneer life in the area.*

### **Land Registries**

The *Toronto Star*, 1 February 2004, has an interesting article by Alex Bozikovic on how the computer, especially desktop publishing, has changed the work that gets done in land registry offices. Not all of the changes are good, and there are many errors flow from letting lawyers essentially register deeds. It will also be more difficult for researchers in the future. The old ledgers that remain from earlier years, Bozikovic notes, makes it possible to reconstruct the history of neighborhoods, and to get insights into the way the city operated in days when the land registry office was a hive of deal-making activity. The Trent Valley Archives has the land registers for Peterborough county, and it is amazing the history that is captured in those pages.



**FRENCH /  
FFRENCH,  
Harold Harris**  
b. 31 Dec 1891 in  
Birmingham,  
England  
**Harold French**  
also spelled

## Queries & Projects

**Ffrench** came to Canada at an early age with his father John Webb French and his younger sister Olive Margaret French, following the separation of his parents. The family lived on Stewart Street in Peterborough for the duration of Harold's youth. In 1914 he joined the Canadian Overseas Expeditionary Force, and transferred to the British Royal Air Force in 1918. While in Britain he married Laura Stovin (1919), and they soon had their first child. After the war Harold was wanted for a misdemeanor with the RAF, and midway through the year in 1921 the military police came to his door looking for him. Harold jumped out of a second story window, leaving his pregnant wife and son inside, and was never seen by his family again. The family rumor is that Harold returned to Canada after his escape, perhaps visiting his father and sister who were still living in Peterborough. Both John Webb French and Olive Margaret French are buried at Little Lake Cemetery, but the family has never been able to discover what became of Harold. His grandson is currently researching this mystery and is following any leads he can get. He feels that Harold might have changed his surname to Harris or Webb, and he is eager to find Harold's final resting place.

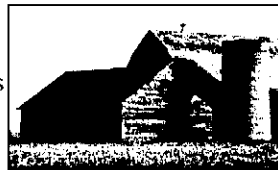
### GILDERS

Looking for ancestors of Thomas Edwin **Gilders** (1843-1898), husband of Sarah Jane **Lockhart** (1852-1940). Both are buried in Bowmanville Cemetery. Would like more information on the parents of both Thomas and Sarah.

*If you can help with these queries, please contact TVA*

### THE RURAL LANDSCAPE HERITAGE OF SMITH TOWNSHIP

John Marsh has completed of his photographic inventory of the rural landscape of Smith Township. He has photographed over 500 barns, fences and farmhouses, which will be published on a website in mid-2004.



Clockwise  
from top:  
near Maples  
Corner,  
Selwyn Rd.;  
farm scene,  
1789 Selwyn  
Road; 1680  
5th Line  
Smith; aban-  
doned house,  
Curve Lake

## Trent Valley Archives Annual General Meeting 29 April 2004

The executive of the Trent Valley Archives announces that its annual general meeting will be held on Thursday, 29 April 2004, at 7:00 pm in the Peterborough Public Library, on Aylmer Street in downtown Peterborough. After dealing with the normal business of an annual meeting, our guest speaker will be introduced.

Ed Arnold, the managing editor of the *Peterborough Examiner*, has been with the paper since 1972; he began in the darkroom and worked his way through the newsroom on every beat, ran the Lakeshore bureau of *The Examiner* and was the city editor. We have asked him to share his memories as a newspaperman, and to talk about different ways in which he and the newspaper have found ways to promote history. In particular, he has been asked to talk about his ongoing crusade for public access to public information.

The general public is warmly welcome.

We look forward to seeing you. Bring a friend.

### Guest Speaker Ed Arnold

Ed Arnold was raised in Peterborough and attended Central, Armour Heights, Grove and Prince of Wales public schools going to Kenner and then SSFC. He joined the *Examiner* in 1972 in the darkroom and worked his way through the newsroom on every beat, took over the Lakeshore bureau of the *Examiner* and was the city editor. He is presently the managing editor.

He has received the provincial Ontario Medal of Citizenship for his work with children in the community and his weekly column. He has received several Canadian Press awards for investigative reporting; feature writing; and editorial writing. He is married to an Ennismore native and has two grown children.

He has written three local books: *Our Peterborough*, *Sketches to Remember*, *Peterborough Church Sketches* and finished a book about Peterborough mayors from 1900 to 2000 that Wilson Crow had started when he was an *Examiner* editor. He also researched and helped write the book *The Flying Bandit*, the true story of a man who escaped from an American prison, set up a new life in Canada and robbed banks, jewellery stores of close to \$3 million. McLelland and Stewart published his most recent work; *Whose Puck Is It Anyway?* It is the diary of a novice hockey team during one season of a fair play system that has started debate in Canada and U.S. minor hockey circles. His latest book, tentatively titled *Hockey Town Canada*, traces the young lives of hockey players and coaches who went through Peterborough to get to the NHL, and will be published by M and S as well. It is scheduled to come out this fall. He has also written the words to several songs with local musician Barry Haggarty.

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