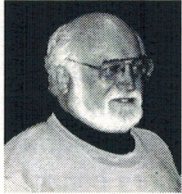
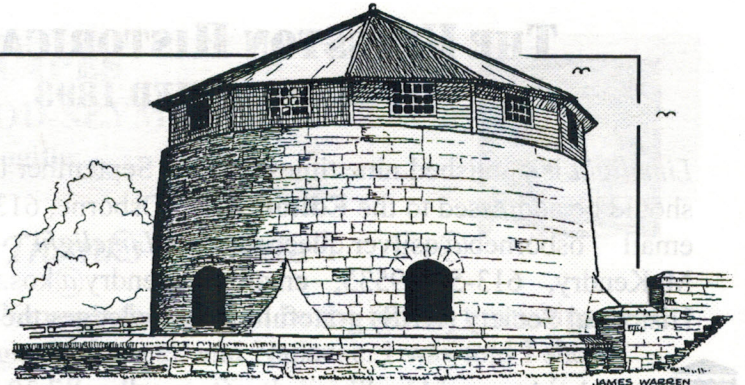


# LIMELIGHT

NEWSLETTER of the  
KINGSTON HISTORICAL SOCIETY

vol 4 no 9 December 2002 ISSN 1488-5565



## A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT



Christmas came early this year! Several members have made generous donations to the Society and they are much appreciated. Your Finance Committee is currently reviewing the cost of our operations and various activities: *Historic Kingston*, *Limelight*, the Murney Tower Historic Site, and the support of various community projects such as First Capital Day. Membership dues have not increased for a decade while costs have been escalating. So, while I have written to thank each benefactor individually, a public recognition of their donations is in order. Thank you.

As 2002 comes a close, we can look back on an active year for the Society. Apart from our regular monthly meetings and publications, the annual commemorations of Sir John A. Macdonald's birth and death, and our Christmas Party, Alan MacLachlan has kept us on our toes with a diverse programme: a tour of the Agnes

Etherington House and Gallery; a tour of the Congregational Church (Masonic Hall); and a bus-trip and tour of Earnscliffe and Kingsmere in October. We look forward to what Alan has in store for next year's special events.

In the meanwhile, don't forget two imminent ones. On Tuesday, 10 December, our annual Christmas Party promises to be another gala occasion with its combination of an interesting programme, seasonal cheer, and the presentation of the Society awards. Then, on 12 January, we will again toast the memory of Sir John the "Scot," "Kingstonian," and "Canadian." No doubt, our guest speaker, Hugh Segal, will have fresh insights into the life and mission of this remarkable Canadian (*look for the insert with this newsletter*).

Seasons greetings to all and I trust that 2003 will prove to be another vital year for the Society.

Brian S. Osborne

Please come to

THE KHS CHRISTMAS PARTY

TUESDAY 10 DECEMBER 7:30 PM

at the DOMINO THEATRE, 370 KING ST WEST

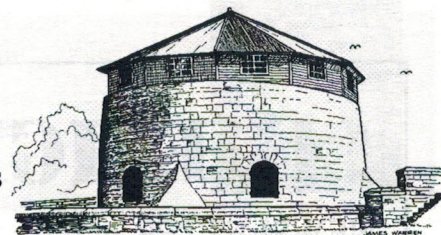
- Speaker: Patricia Beharriell on "The Domino Affair"
- Presentation of the KHS awards
- Great refreshments

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# THE KINGSTON HISTORICAL SOCIETY

## ESTABLISHED 1893



Murney Tower by James Warren

*Limelight* is published nine times a year - September to May. Submissions should be addressed to the **Editor**, Brian Osborne, 613-533-6042, email [osborneb@qsilver.queensu.ca](mailto:osborneb@qsilver.queensu.ca). *Limelight* designer, Jennifer McKendry, 613-544-9535, email [mckendry@kos.net](mailto:mckendry@kos.net). The Kingston Historical Society (KHS) gratefully acknowledges the support of *Limelight's* sponsors.

 KHS holds monthly talks or events, usually at 7:30 PM on the third Wednesday of the month, September to May, usually in the Wilson Room of the Kingston Public Library on Johnson St at Bagot St. Special annual events include a dinner and talk honouring the birthday of Sir John A. Macdonald in January and a ceremony marking his death in June. **New members are welcome!** - individual \$35, family \$40, institutional \$40, student \$25; memberships include *Historic Kingston*, published annually by KHS.

Kingston Historical Society  
Box 54, Kingston ON K7L 4V6 Canada

phone 613-544-9925  
website [www.heritagekingston.org](http://www.heritagekingston.org)

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## BOOKSHELF

done it again. Some of you may have read her 1999 work, *Sisters in the Wilderness: the Lives of Susanna Moodie and Catherine Parr Traill* (Toronto: Penguin Books Canada). These two icons that bulk large in the Canadian imagination were ladies of genteel backgrounds who, handicapped by their choice of particularly feckless husbands, struggled to survive on the edges of civilization in the bush to the north-west of us. Indeed, perhaps we could get Alan MacLachlan to organize a field-trip through the Belleville-Lakefield-Peterborough country that constitutes the Moodie/Traill literary landscape. Gray's most recent book *Flint and Feather: The Life and Times of E. Pauline Johnson, Tekahionwake* (Toronto: Harper

Flamingo Canada) turns to another Canadian national icon. This story of the celebrated poet and performer of mixed Mohawk-English pedigree says much of the mores and society of Canada at the turn of the late nineteenth century. And of Kingston too! Gray provides a penetrating vignette of racial prejudice and snobbery when the local theological martinet, the Rev. Robert Rogers, refused to marry Pauline's parents, George Johnson and Emily Howells, in St George's. Shunned in Kingston, their friends took them to Barriefield where they were welcomed by St Mark's and married on 27 August 1853. The other Kingston connection is Pauline Johnson's friendship with that much neglected figure, Agnes Maule Machar. But that's another story.



## A VOICE FROM THE PAST

Marjorie Simmons writes: *This is an exact copy of a letter found between the walls of an old house on Gore Street, Kingston, in 1975. The original was given to the Kingston Historical Society. On the outside of the letter is written:*

Poh Gallagher  
Wm Henory Sorel  
Canada East

Chicago 20<sup>th</sup> of June 1849

Dear Father:

I take the favourable opportunity of writing these few lines to let you know that I am well and in good health as leaves me at Present and I hope to find you and the family all in the same way. I was Down in New Orleans Past Winter where verry Dull on Account of the Cholera being so bad. John Hill came home last fall and wintered Down the Ilanois River last winter and now he is on the Ilanois Canal. I am now sailing on lake mishagan in the lumber trade. Francis Grumer is in Chicago. Jacob Savage is in St. Louis. Thure is nefue of Captain McGarris up Hure, the cholera is now verry bad in Chicago. Thure is seventeen or Eagteen cases per Day Dying but it is now on the Decline. I expect if I live long Anuf I will com Down this fall to se the folks in Sorel. I have not heard from home since last spring. I want you to write me an answer to this letter as Quick as possible and let me know how the family is Doing and all my intimate friends. Give my best Respects to my unkle and aunt and all the family and let me know if Murrin is going to get Married this Somer or not. This is all as it leave me at present. I am your affectionate son.

James Gallagher.

When you write your letter Direct to Tona Dyrané Philadelphy House Chicago.

James Gallagher at Tona Dyrané.

Philadelphy House Chicago.



**Thank you, Marjorie for this historical curiosity -- and an exercise in cryptanalysis!**

### WE HAVE BEEN INVITED!

The Orillia Museum of Art and History (formerly "The Orillia Historical Society") has extended an invitation to KHS members for their *"Celebration of Sir John A. Macdonald"* on Saturday, **11 January 2003**, in the Saturn Room of the Travelodge at 6.00 PM (cocktails), 7.00 PM (dinner). The speaker is Flora MacDonald.

Tickets: \$35 per person (705-326-4305)



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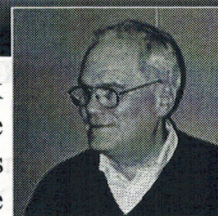
*A wonderful Christmas present!*

*\* special KHS price*



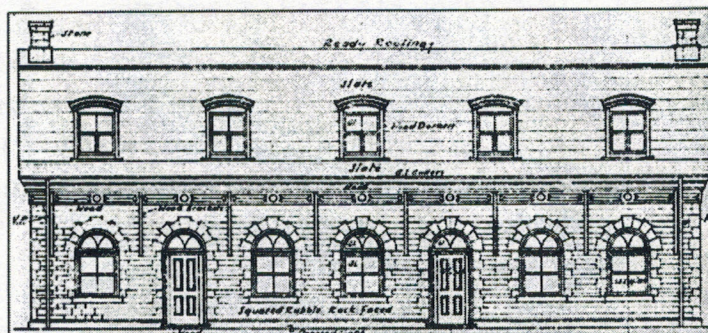
## IMAGES OF KINGSTON: THE RAILWAY VILLAGE

by Stewart Renfrew



When, in the 1850s, the Grand Trunk Railway was planning its route between Montreal and Toronto its management made the mistake of keeping the trains well away from their main competition, the shipping industry. As a result of this decision, the railway lost a great deal of valuable business.

For this reason, the Kingston station was located well outside the city on Montreal Street. The Grand Trunk did not build elaborate facilities here, but since it was the half way point on the journey, and the largest urban area along the line, there was still a considerable establishment. This included the fine stone 1856 station-building (below), a water tower, and the essential water-pump house. There were also facilities for servicing locomotives and rolling stock, and a freight shed. The Grand Trunk also built the fine stone houses known as the Grand Trunk Terrace to the east of the station.



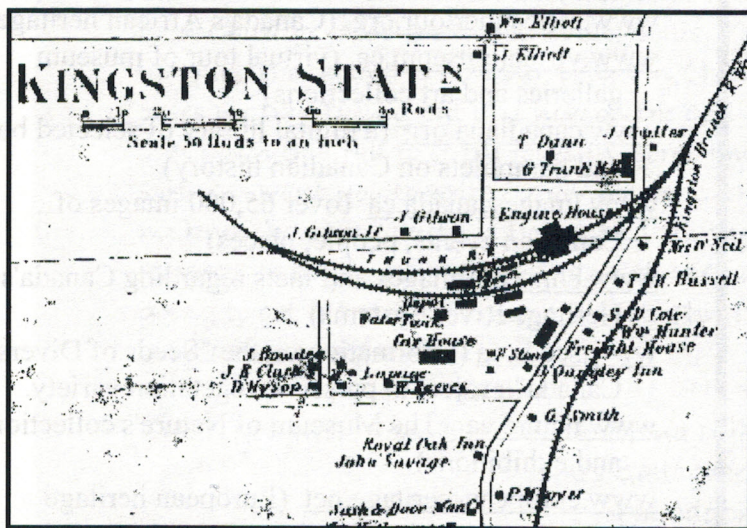
In those early years, there were no dining facilities on the trains so hotels in the area catered to hungry passengers during the twenty-minute stop-over at the station. Very soon, the Grand Trunk Company picked up on this idea and established a two story wood-framed dining hall just across from the station. Later, this building was replaced by a long low brick structure to the east of the station. Many Kingstonsians remember this building as the passenger terminal; the 1856 stone building then became the freight depot.

The first hotels were probably built to house construction workers on the railway before they turned their attentions to feeding hungry passengers from the trains. Since the area was so far from the city, workers on the railway established their homes near the station. These homes attracted stores to cater to the local population and the Depot School served the children in the area. This new community became known locally, if unofficially, as the Railway Village.

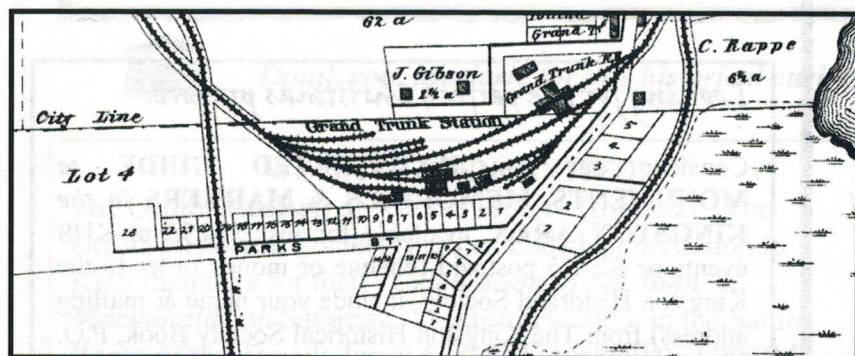


By 1860, the Grand Trunk realized its mistake, ran a branch line to the Kingston waterfront and established a wharf there. In 1885 it added passenger service from "Hanley's" or the "Inner" station at Johnson and Ontario streets. This resulted in the main-line station on Montreal Street becoming known as the "Outer Station." A street-car line was built on Montreal Street and urban development began to reach out to and beyond the "Outer Station." Before long, the "Railway Village" was forgotten.

On 25 October 1974, the new station was opened at its present location on Counter Street near Cataraqui. The old facilities were abandoned and the grand old 1856 station building stands neglected and deteriorating on its original site. Today, many Kingstonians would be hard pressed to know where the "Outer Station" is located let alone the "Railway Village." The story of this area lives on, though, in the wonderful book published recently by Gordon Smithson, *At the Bend in the Road Kingston*.



Walling 1860



Meacham's atlas 1878

Jim Purser of the City of Kingston kindly assisted in the preparation of this story.



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## LETTER BOX

In acknowledging our letter of condolence, Mrs Stanley has contributed yet another insight into the "early days" of KHS. Please see *Limelight's* October issue for a tribute to Dr George Stanley (1907-2002).

Dear Mr Osborne,

*Thank you for your wonderful letter of fond memories and words of sympathy.*

*George had a real affection for the Society. I remember well Col. Strange asking George, "What can we do to put the Society on the map?" And George replied, "Publish a historical annual." And how you have all made that blossom!*

*The early years were hard from cleaning up Murney Tower each year; painting the old cases and lining them with shelf paper; painting cannons! It all seems primitive now. We used to dress up for July 1 and open the Tower.*

*The Society has gone from strength to strength and I read of your programme wistfully.*

*Thank you for your gracious words of sympathy. The "girls" and I are so grateful.*

*George slept away very peacefully with his family nearby.*

*Sincerely,*

*Ruth Stanley*

## WEB SIGHTINGS

For those members who feel house-bound in the winter months, the Ontario Heritage Foundation ([www.heritagefdn.on.ca](http://www.heritagefdn.on.ca)) recommends the following web-sites for those who want some "virtual" travelling and field-work.

[www.heritageontario.org](http://www.heritageontario.org) (information about LACACs throughout Ontario and "Heritage Ontario" on line)

[www.caphc.ca/index.htm](http://www.caphc.ca/index.htm) (an index of Ontario heritage conservation and preservation professionals)

[www.histori.ca](http://www.histori.ca) (ideas for teachers and parents for children to learn about Canada's rich history)

[www.collections.ic.gc.ca](http://www.collections.ic.gc.ca) (Canada's Digital Collection lists 400 web sites relating to Canada)

[www.aboriginalcollections.ic.gc.ca](http://www.aboriginalcollections.ic.gc.ca) (this site preserves Canada's aboriginal heritage)

[www.historylands.com](http://www.historylands.com) (virtual tour of Canada's National Historic Sites)

[www.ourheroes.ca](http://www.ourheroes.ca) (Canada's top-ten heroes)

[www.africanhertour.org](http://www.africanhertour.org) (Canada's African heritage)

[www.virtualmuseum.ca](http://www.virtualmuseum.ca) (virtual tour of museum galleries and art collections)

[www.canadiana.org](http://www.canadiana.org) (a digital library of selected books and pamphlets on Canadian history)

[www.imagescanada.ca](http://www.imagescanada.ca) (over 65,000 images of Canadian events, people, places)

[www.chrs.ca](http://www.chrs.ca) (images and facts regarding Canada's 38 Heritage River Systems)

[www.seeds.ca](http://www.seeds.ca) (information on the "Seeds of Diversity Canada" project to preserve vegetation variety.)

[www.nature.ca](http://www.nature.ca) (The Museum of Nature's collections and exhibitions)

[www.european-heritage.net](http://www.european-heritage.net) (European heritage programmes and policies)

### *Looking for the perfect Christmas present?*

Consider our *An ILLUSTRATED GUIDE to MONUMENTS, MEMORIALS & MARKERS in the KINGSTON AREA*, available for just \$24.95 at KHS events or \$29.95 postpaid (cheque or money order to the Kingston Historical Society, include your name & mailing address) from The Kingston Historical Society Book, P.O. Box 54, Kingston ON K7L 4V6.

*"no city has such a splendid guidebook"* Jack Granatstein



## LANDSCAPES/INSCAPES

### DRAWING NO. 120: THE SHERWOOD-SEYMOUR STORE

by Shirley Gibson-Langille



#### *"Gone But Not Forgotten, Thanks To Fate"*

In 1999, I started to paint *The Town of Greater Napanee* that used to be the former townships of Adolphustown, North and South Fredericksburgh, Richmond, and Napanee. I was told I should go and record the old Sherwood-Seymour Store in Sandhurst, South Fredericksburg, as it was going to be taken down.

I read that it was located on the Bay of Quinte and had been the first large general store west of Kingston. Samuel Sherwood opened the warehouse in the 1780s and ran an extensive enterprise with customers coming from miles away. In addition to household supplies, he sold furniture, farm implements, liquor, took in travellers, loaned money, and hired out his male slave. The business was sold to Benjamin Seymour in 1791. The land was later purchased by the Neilson family who moved it up to the north side of Highway 33. In its new location, it was used as a post office. Dr Allen had lived in the west side of the house and later it was used as a farmhouse. The old building had been empty for some time.

After reading all that, I decided to go and paint it the next day. But I was too late. I was disappointed to find that most of it had already been demolished.

Four years earlier, in 1995, after my Camden East Township Show, I thought of doing North and South Fredericksburgh as my next project.

Three of my historian friends (Vera Babcock, Mona Thompson, Betty Salsbury) took me on a tour of the area and I took many photos along the way. Unfortunately, the photos were misplaced and I ended up doing Storrington Township instead.

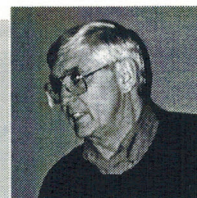
But all was not lost. Just as my *Town of Greater Napanee Show* was nearly completed with 119 paintings all framed and ready, I came across the missing photos. Low and behold, there was a photo of the old Sherwood-Seymour store! Was this fate? I knew that it was. I did drawing No. 120. It ensures that even though the old store has gone, it will never be forgotten.





## SPEAKERS' CORNER with Alan MacLachlan

*Christmas Party! Awards! Join us on Tuesday 10 December.*

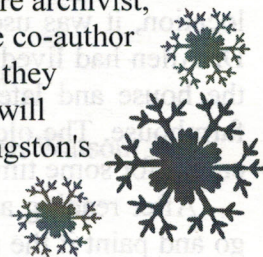


November's KHS meeting saw over 60 members and friends of the society engrossed in the history of "No.1 Armoured Train: Kingston's Connection with the Pacific Coast Defence in W.W. II." **Lou Grimshaw** (below left), a very active member of KHS, brought to life one of Canada's footnotes in military history by using maps and slides. Due to the Japanese take-over of two Aleutian Islands, the best kept secret of the West Coast was brought into existence, namely the armoured train that travelled from Terrace to Prince Rupert, B.C. in 1942. Interspersing his discussion with humour, we were made aware of its construction, use and demise. Following a lively question period, the society retired for friendly discussion and refreshments.



Photo by Jennifer McKendry

Don't forget our Christmas party and awards ceremony on Tuesday **10 December** at 7:30 PM in the Domino Theatre (370 King St West – the stone complex formerly known as Morton's Brewery). **Patricia Beharriell**, the Domino Theatre archivist, will speak on "The Domino Affair." Patricia is the co-author with Ken Weston of *The Domino Affair*, in which they celebrate the 50th anniversary of this theatre. We will glimpse its aches, pains, joys, and triumphs in Kingston's cultural life on December 10th.



Keep these dates in 2003 reserved:



**Sunday 12 January** at RMC at 6:30 PM: the annual John A. Macdonald dinner (please see insert with this month's *Limelight*; information Alan MacLachlan 549-8841). While passengers may be left off and picked up at the front door of the Senior Staff Mess, **PARKING** is restricted to the Parade Square under the direction of the Commissionaire.



**Wednesday 19 February** at the library at 7:30 PM: our Annual General Meeting.



**Wednesday 19 March** at the library at 7:30 PM: Colonel Bradstreet and the Battle of Fort Frontenac by Robert Andrews.

### MEMBERSHIPS FOR 2003

We value every member of KHS. Now is the time to renew your membership for 2003. Please send \$35 for an individual membership or \$40 for family or \$25 for student (cheque payable to the Kingston Historical Society) to Membership, the Kingston Historical Society, P.O. Box 54, Kingston ON K7L 4V6. Donations are, of course, warmly received!