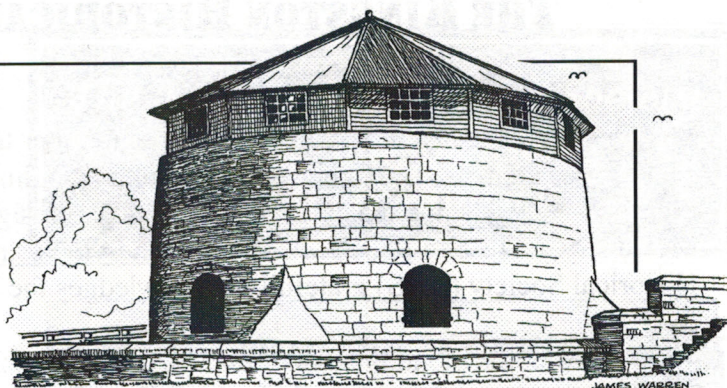


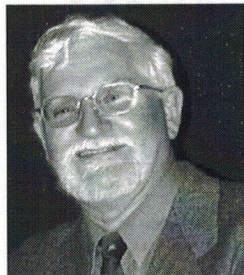
# LIMELIGHT

NEWSLETTER of the  
KINGSTON HISTORICAL SOCIETY

vol 8 no 4 April 2006 ISSN 1488-5565



## A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT



A tiny red flag has been raised by the deliberations of the treasurer and council. We are barely living within our means when strictly considering the operations of the KHS. With a small financial margin, it would be easy to drift into a deficit position. We do have a reserve and investments but these are guarded for a truly rainy day and to help finance publishing and other projects. Thanks to the skill of the Publications Committee, those publishing projects have returned a profit. The prognosis is good for 2006 but — given the tenuous nature of support grants for the Society and the operation of the Tower — it is best to consider options now while we have them.

I was not certain what to expect at our general meeting of 15 March when the possibility of membership fee increases was raised. The

responses then, during refreshments and by later contacts have been positive. Those on “fixed incomes” seemed responsive to a \$5 raise or even a bit more. Let your Council know your opinion.

Following from last month’s look at our volunteers: **Ed Grenda**, our Vice President, is a specialist in grants and grantsmanship, a valuable resource for the Society; **Warren Everett** chairs the Tower Museum Committee, a demanding task made easier with the help of **Doug Petty**; **Heather Home**, an archivist, brings specialist skills to council meetings; **Ted Huber**, as our Membership Chair, is meticulous in keeping track of us, while **Jack Pike**, known to you all, brings wisdom. Our Past President, **Brian Osborne**, occupies ashore, that prestigious maritime position — pilot.

*Maurice Smith*

### THIS MONTH’S MEETING

WEDNESDAY, 19 APRIL, 7:30PM

The **Cataraqui Archaeological Research Foundation**  
hosts the KHS at **72 Gilmour Avenue**.

*For details and a map, please see back cover.*

refreshments

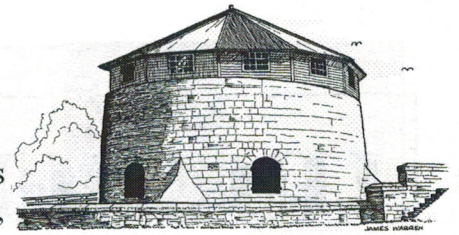
all welcome

President’s Message, 1  
Masthead, 2  
Farmers’ Directory, 2  
The Scribbler, 3  
Vinegar Manufacturers, 4  
Jameson-Cartwright Families, 5  
Heritage Buildings Talks & Tours, 5  
Kingston Artists’ Workshop, 6  
Sponsors, 7  
Speakers’ Corner, 8



# 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**, John Fielding, 613-545-5944, [john.fielding3@sympatico.ca](mailto:john.fielding3@sympatico.ca). *Limelight* is designed by 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

website [www.kingstonhistoricalsociety.ca](http://www.kingstonhistoricalsociety.ca)

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Warren Everett  
John Fielding

Heather Home  
Ted Huber  
Marc Létourneau  
Douglas Petty  
Jack Pike

## *the farmers' directory for all counties in Ontario 1890*

County directories provide genealogists and historians with a wealth of information. Glen Phillips is offering 43 county directories reproduced from *The Farmers Directory for All Counties in Ontario, 1890*. Each county section, copied in its entirety from the original directory, is presented in booklet form. **Frontenac County 1890** (90-FRO) is covered in 57 original directory

pages with over 5,500 listings and sells for \$14.50 plus \$3 postage; included are the farmers living in the townships of Barrie, Bedford, Canoto, Clarendon, Hinchinbrooke, Howe Island, Kennebec, Kingston, Loughboro, Miller, Olden, Oso, Palmerston North, Palmerston South, Pittsburgh, Portland, Storrington and Wolfe Island. Glen Phillips is the author of *The Ontario Photographers List* in 2 volumes. For further

information, to receive a catalogue or to order a book (enclose payment and your mailing address):

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340 Douglas Street  
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phone 1-519-273-6380



Unidentified Ontario farm, coll. Jennifer McKendry



## THE SCRIBBLER with J.W. (Bill) Fittsell

### THE ART OF COLLECTING & DISBURSING



**M**arjorie Simmons (*right*), whose name was inadvertently omitted from last month's unofficial "honour roll of distinguished women members," was one of the friends of the late



photo J. McKendry

Emma Molson (*left*). Marjorie kindly helped sort and find homes for some of Emma's historical collections. Also an inveterate compiler and collector, Marjorie — a noted genealogist and Cataraqui Cemetery advocate — rose, as did Emma, to the rank of KHS vice-president. She selected yours truly for a few of the holdings. Among the Molson papers were reproductions of significant front pages of *The Globe and Mail* and a fine run of *Historic Kingston*, volumes 28 to 33, remaining from those donated to the recent KHS auction.

As a charter member of the "Pack Rat Society," I took the opportunity to return to Marjorie a thick file marked "Milestones," a detailed record of endangered mile markers along Highway 2 from Kingston to Odessa. The exchange did not lessen my bulging files and bookshelves. After 60 years in the writing business in at least four communities, the Fittsell collection is mountainous. I'm a magnet for printed matter. Many of the articles cover local historical topics, including *Whig* files saved from the dumpster.

Notable among the folders are the papers of the late Cliff Bowering, who wrote a public affairs column for the *Whig* in the 1970s. They contain fascinating commentary on civic matters and insightful profiles of subjects ranging from Arthur Phelps and Scott Young to the Bill Maynard case. A social historian might also find interesting a major collection of daily columns from another writer, who concentrated on people and events in the 1980s and '90s and was known to dabble in sports.

Some files contain personal reminiscences—"writ-by-hand" letters—a social custom that is disappearing in this computer age. All in all, it's a treasure, of course, and seems to grow daily despite suggestions from the distaff side to divest myself of inactive files and not leave the dispersal chore to family members.

Like other surviving KHS presidents, I have filing cabinets and banker's boxes loaded with newsletters, correspondence and historical clippings. The lode includes several hundred index-card references, accumulated in hours of reading newspaper microfilms. And there are numerous individual files on nearly every community organization that tell a story of valiant volunteerism but could be classified as "junk."

Where does it all end? What should be retained and what should be preserved? It's a dilemma faced by both amateur collectors and professional archivists. Archivists have expressed an interest. Librarians might find some papers welcome additions to existing upright files on local subjects.

Should the KHS play a role in vetting files and preserving historical collections? Should the Society's space at the Queen's University Archives become a home and clearinghouse for such collections? Is this a cry for help? Three guesses!

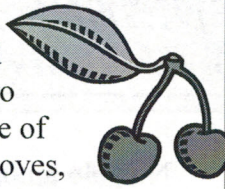


# VINEGAR MANUFACTURERS

## Pickled Cherries

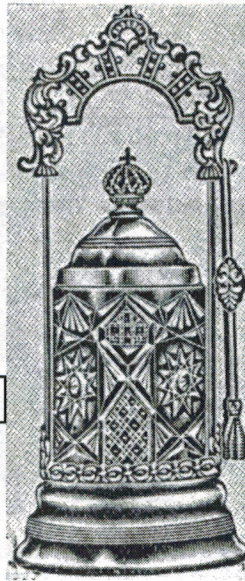
Five pounds of cherries, stoned or not; one quart of vinegar, two pounds of sugar, one-half ounce of cinnamon, one-half ounce of cloves, one-half ounce of mace; boil the sugar and vinegar and spices together, (grind the spices and tie them in a muslin bag) and pour hot over the cherries.

*The Home Cook Book, 1877*



Preserving with vinegar was a necessity before the modern era of refrigeration. Recipes were given for pickled cherries, plums, nasturtions [sic], onions, apples, green tomatoes, various vegetables (called India Pickle), cauliflower, cucumbers, mushrooms (poisonous ones will turn black if an onion is stewed with them), oysters, walnuts, mangoes, as well as tomato mustard, oude sauce and piccalilli (the latter two made from green tomatoes, peppers, onions, spices; oude sauce was stewed all day). Kitchens must have smelt wonderful during the hours of simmering spices, fruit and vegetables. —J.McK.

pickles cruet 1918 Eatons



**Gord Smithson** has researched the locations of some vinegar works in Kingston:

The KINGSTON VINEGAR WORKS COMPANY, 172-4 Ontario St, was probably the earliest producer of vinegar in the Kingston area. Established in 1875 by the company president, J. Gildersleeve, the vinegar works was managed by J. Reynolds. Beyond the first year of its operation, it is unknown how long the business continued.

The HAAZ BROS VINEGAR MANUFACTURERS business, 130-

132 Ontario St, was established in 1883 by brothers Anton and Otto Haaz. It was located between Earl and William Streets and, from 1887 to 1889, was known as A. Haaz & Co. Vinegar Manufacturers. In 1889, the company established a new vinegar works at 375 Bagot St, situated on the east side near the corner of Ordnance St. In 1896, William Murray was co-owner with Anton Haaz. Three years later, the business was purchased by WILSON, LYTLE, BADGEROW CO. of Toronto Ltd, and the former Haaz operation was managed under the new ownership by D.B. Murray. Anton Haaz died about 1911. When the City of Kingston renumbered this portion of Bagot St in 1929, the former vinegar works address 375 Bagot St became 381. By 1931, the Wilson, Lytle, Badgerow Kingston vinegar works had amalgamated with CANADA VINEGAR LTD., and continued under D.B. Murray as the local manager.

The former Canada Vinegars Ltd property was listed in city directories as vacant in 1946. St Lawrence Beverages (soft drinks) was established two years later at this location by Dr R.P. Millan who also operated Rangers Cigar Store at 294 Princess St. In 1954, St Lawrence Beverages was managed by Nelson Phillips. However, by 1956, the business had ceased operation here, the former buildings are long gone, and the former vinegar site is now residential.



Canada Vinegars Ltd, across the road from Artillery Park, is the tall building located on the east side of Bagot Street in this photograph from the 1920s. Coll. Marjorie Simmons

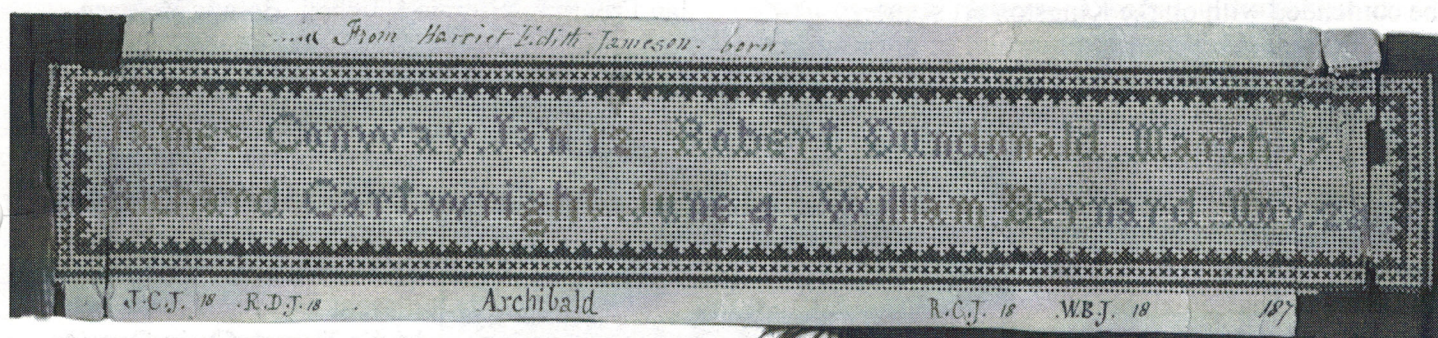


## KINGSTON BOOK MARK RECORDS THE JAMESON-CARTWRIGHT FAMILIES

Girls and women from all classes in Ontario made handicrafts during the 19th and early 20th centuries but, sadly, there is usually no identification on these hand-sewn items and thus their origins are lost forever. Fortunately, *Harriet Edith Jameson* signed and dated (187-) this cross-stitch-on-paper bookmark, which is hand-stitched onto a dark purple ribbon, 2.25 x 26 inches. There are notations in ink on the two long borders and a series of names and dates in green embroidery in the centre. Names which appear on the bookmark, are italicized (they may not refer to that particular person but do indicate re-using names in the family). Harriet was likely the daughter of Mary Jane Cartwright who, at age 25, married *James Jameson*, M.D., Assistant Surgeon H.M. 47th Regiment (son of Janet Walker and *William*

*Jameson*) in 1864. Mary Jane Cartwright was the only daughter of *Robert David Cartwright* (1804-43) and *Harriet Dobbs* (1808-87) who lived in the Cartwright House, 191 King St East. Their sons included *Robert Dobbs*, the Revd. *Conway Edward* and Sir *Richard John Cartwright*. Harriet Dobbs Cartwright's father and brother were named *Conway Dobbs*. Robert D. Cartwright was the son of *Magdalen Secord* (1764-1827) and *Richard Cartwright* (1759-1815), U.E. The following appear on the bookmark: *from Harriet Edith Jamson, born; James Conway, Jan. 12; Robert Dundonald, March 17; Richard Cartwright, June 4; William Barnard, Nov. 24; J.C.J.; R.D.J.; Archibald; R.C.J.; W.B.J.; 187-*

Collection of Jennifer McKendry



### Series of Talks and Tours on KINGSTON'S HERITAGE BUILDINGS for Members of the Frontenac Heritage Foundation

KHS board member and the city's heritage planner, **Marc Létourneau**, launched on 14 March the first of a monthly series on talks and tours of city heritage buildings. Those who attended his presentation — shared with **Peter Gower**, a KHS member and chair of the Municipal Heritage Committee — are now better informed about the significant changes in the rules and laws protecting our built heritage. There are even some financial incentives being offered!

Frontenac Heritage Foundation members are invited to join these meetings at no cost, and so the trick for interested non-members is to become a member for \$40 yearly. Memberships can be

obtained at any of the meetings: Tuesday, **11 April** a talk on the restoration of 62-66 Brock Street (meet at 7:30PM, second floor, 193 Ontario St); Tuesday, **9 May**, talk on the restoration of the James Medley House (same time and place); Tuesday, **20 June**, tour of Sydenham Ward (7PM at same place; pre-register for this event); Tuesday, **11 July**, tour of "La Percherie," a new house in a historic Barriefield Village (7PM at 248 Main St, pre-register for this event); more sessions will follow monthly into the spring of 2007. For further information and to pre-register: please phone Stephen Arnold 483-0269 or email [stephen.j.arnold@sympatico.ca](mailto:stephen.j.arnold@sympatico.ca).



# LANDSCAPES/INSCAPES

## THE KINGSTON ARTISTS' WORKSHOP: 1960-1970

by Shirley Gibson-Langille



In the late 1950s, a group of artists met while taking art classes at the newly opened Agnes Etherington Art Centre at Queen's. As a result of this coming together, it was realized there was a need to join forces for the purpose of furthering their education in art and exhibiting their work. This resulted in the formation of **The Kingston Artists' Workshop (KAW)**, complete with a constitution and an elected president and board of directors. The workshop came into being in April 1960; the first studio was at 106 Wellington St. From then until its dissolution ten years later, the KAW was a force to be contended with on the Kingston art scene.

In the summer months, weekly Saturday outdoor exhibitions were held near the old 1885 CPR station (now Confederation Park) and later at the Kingston Market (*right*) behind City Hall.

An adjudicated exhibition was held annually, the early venues being the Professional Building and the Executive House, and eventually in the KAW's own studio. KAW members also contributed to the community by providing art classes for adults and children.

The KAW was also responsible for quite a stir in Kingston. It all started in February 1961 when an advertisement for nude male and female models for life drawing appeared in the *Whig-Standard*. Wow, did this cause a sensation in our city! We got many crank calls and for a week or more Floyd Patterson's Hot Line on CKWS radio was full of irate callers. Anyway, we hired models, held weekly sessions and, soon, André Bieler and Grant Macdonald joined our sessions ... as fellow artists, of course, not as models! When we lost our studio, André invited us to hold the life model classes at

Queen's and, from that time on, the art department there has been using nude models in their classes.

The KAW constitution decreed that membership would not exceed 25 persons. Some of the members that I believe to be still alive are: Judy Quinton, Arthur Johnson, Hilary Scanlon, Lily Inglis, Barbara Goudie, Shirley Gibson-Langille, George Lavery, Ray Lawton, Bob Blenderman, Bob Swartman, Connie Sedgwick, Bill Kobolec, Roy Holloway, Joan Bray, John Knowles, Susan Paloschi, Bette Ann Carnegie, Donnah Cameron, Mary Tennant, Bob Callaghan, Helen Channon, Gillian McConnel, Jan Frontini, Virginia Mitchell, Brenda Wallace,

Kay Cross and Ralph Allen (an Honorary Member).

Other persons who have passed on, are: Maud Jemmett, Gweneth Travers, David Holmes, Kit Macklem, Fred Schonberger, June Holloway, Florent Buschaert, Ivon Scott, Marie Hamel, Gwen Dawson, Irene McKim, Steve Broady, André Bieler and Grant Macdonald (the latter two were Honorary Members).

In 1985, KAW members held their 25th anniversary at Confederation Park and, in 1996, their 36th reunion, along with a *Retrospective Exhibition*, was held at the Kingston Public Library.

Looking back, the KAW members broke new ground by taking their exhibitions out of the galleries and into the community. In so doing, the public had the opportunity to see and develop an interest in various mediums and, what is more, to experience the joy and satisfaction of purchasing works of art. I like to think that the KAW started a movement, the like of which had never before been experienced on the Kingston art scene.





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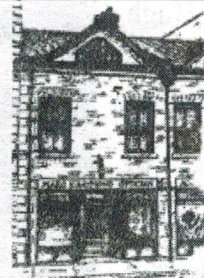
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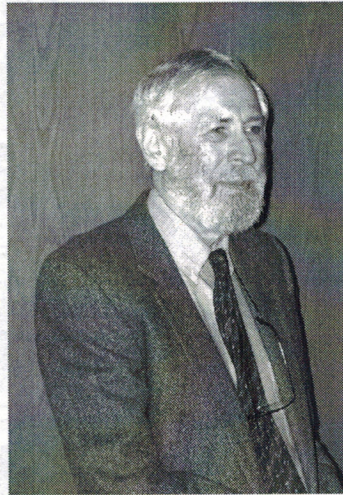
## SPEAKERS' CORNER

with John Abbott

Photograph by Jennifer McKendry



On 15 March, some 60 members of the KHS witnessed a superb exercise in the creation of an historical needlepoint. From his basket of some 40 multi-hued historical threads, ever selecting, nimbly inserting and carefully relating, Professor **Keith Johnson** stitched a tapestry that associated the lives of the Macdonalds (Hugh, John Alexander and Hugh John), the Shaws (Helen and James), the Clark sisters (including Isabella, who was to become John A.'s first wife), the Greens (Nathaniel of American Revolutionary fame, and his widow, thrice married to persons of interest in this needlepoint), as well as Eli Whitney (the famous American inventor of the interchangeable matchlock and the cotton gin). The central figure, to whom our illustrator kept returning, was James Shaw (John A.'s uncle, British patriot, immigrant to America, recipient of a gentleman's education but not a gentleman's remittance, tradesman, contractor, plantation and



slave-owner, sustainer of orphans and the last husband of Nathaniel Green's widow). Into the tapestry, as background, Professor Johnson stitched the American Revolution and the War of 1812, the Yazoo real estate scam, Cumberland Island (one of the barrier sea islands off Georgia's coast), Dungeness (Widow Green's unconventional plantation house) and the immensely profitable — if financially risky — trade in cotton between America and Great Britain. In the last panel, we see Isabella, delicate in health, returning on a winter sojourn to that island off Georgia's coast, where she had spent her formative years, accompanied by John A. on his first and last winter's holiday in the American south. Stay posted. It will all be set out in intricate detail in *Historic Kingston* next year.

### *change in venue!*

on Wednesday, **19 April** at 7:30 PM —

The **Cataraqui Archaeological Research Foundation** will host the KHS at 72 Gilmour Avenue. There, archaeologists, surrounded by the tools of their trade and the artifacts they have unearthed, will

- \* ask "Who cares what's under Market Square?"
- \* explore "The Archaeological Process in Ontario"
- \* explain "Why We Dug Up Kingston's Market Place"

This is an opportunity for historians to visit their down-to-earth cousins in their own digs. Don't miss it.

