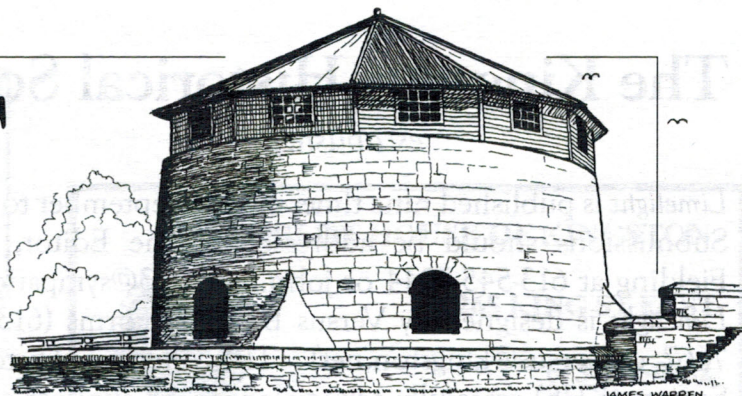


LIMELIGHT

Newsletter of the
Kingston Historical Society

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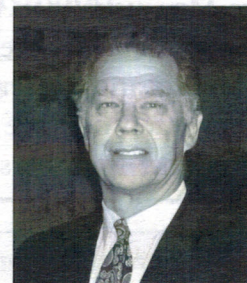
A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

The personal research methods and writing procedures of historians have always intrigued me. I find that a study of these elements reveals volumes about the historian and the arguments propounded. Some historians are fiercely independent, undertaking an enormous amount of research and writing on their own. Other historians prefer to surround themselves with a corps of assistants. The most outstanding in the latter category was Hubert Howe Bancroft, a 19th century American historian who published the first comprehensive history of western North America from Alaska to Panama.

From 1859 to 1869, Bancroft rummaged for source material in the USA, Mexico and Europe. He amassed a collection of 40,000 books. His problem was to transform the research into understandable history. He determined that it would require 400 years to read the research material.

Bancroft hired a phalanx of 600 assistants during the thirty year project. The number of assistants at any one time ranged from 6 to 50. The San Francisco building in which the writing of Bancroft's history took place came to be known as the "History Factory".

At one end of a book-lined room, there was a fascinating filing system formed by several hundred note-filled paper bags hung on a clothesline. At the opposite end, there was a collection of writing tables for Bancroft's assistants: in the middle was Bancroft's large desk flanked by a revolving table for manuscripts.



In 1890 Bancroft's monumental work (39 volumes) was completed. Shortly thereafter, Bancroft had the audacity to print the series as *The Work of Hubert Howe Bancroft* much to the chagrin and resentment of his assistants.

The project also resulted in a prodigious reference library of 60,000 volumes on the West now housed at the University of California.

A combination of egoism and collaboration can occasionally produce something vexingly brilliant.

Edward R. Grenda

THIS MONTH'S MEETING

Wednesday, 16 APRIL, 7:30PM

**"A Heritage Conservation District
for Sydenham Ward"**

Carl Bray

Wilson Room, Kingston Public Library, Johnson St. at Bagot
Refreshments All Welcome

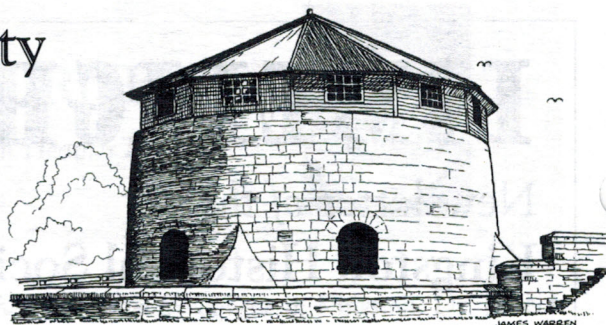
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The Kingston Historical Society

established 1893

Limelight is published nine times a year - September to May. Submissions should be addressed to the Editor, John Fielding at 613-545-5944 or john.fielding3@sympatico.ca. *Limelight* is designed by Versus Business Forms (613-353-7667 or versus@kingston.net) The Kingston Historical Society (KHS) gratefully acknowledges the support of our sponsors in the production of *Limelight*.



Murney Tower by James Warren

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 Street at Bagot Street. 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! Membership rates are \$40 individual, \$50 family, \$50 institutional or \$25 student. Memberships include *Historic Kingston*, published annually by The Kingston Historical Society.

Kingston Historical Society

Box 54, Kingston, ON K7L 4V6
www.kingstonhistoricalsociety.ca

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Something Special This Month

At next month's meeting, on April 16th, 2008, Carl Bray of Carl Bray & Associates will give a talk entitled "A Heritage Conservation District for Sydenham Ward". A "Heritage Conservation District" is roughly defined as being a collection of buildings, streets and open spaces that are of special significance to the community, the individual elements of which combine in such a way as to present a sense of cohesiveness. The district can vary in size from one containing only a few buildings to one that encompasses an entire municipality. It could be a grouping of architecturally significant buildings, the criteria of which may be as a result of workmanship, uniqueness, age, or beauty. Although the buildings within the area may not be worthy of consideration individually, they could, if protected as a group, provide an important heritage resource. Carl is well-known in Kingston as a heritage consultant, and he and his associates are undertaking a District Study to investigate, review and document the cultural heritage resources within Old Sydenham Ward to assess the potential for designation of the area as a Heritage Conservation District pursuant to the Ontario Heritage Act. It is sure to be an interesting presentation.

The Kingston Branch of the Ontario Genealogical Society will meet in the Wilson Room of Kingston Frontenac Public Library, 130 Johnson St., Saturday, May 10, 2008 at 10 a.m. Nancy Cutway will demonstrate "On-line Genealogy: Dealing with Databases". Visitors welcome.

For more information contact Margaret MacDermaid, Publicity, Kingston Branch OGS, 613 373-2666

More about the Richardson Family

It is rewarding, as an editor, when a story creates enough interest that a reader does some more research, expands on a story and we all learn even more about Kingston and Kingstonians. Such is the case here where Peter Gower tells us more about the Richardsons:

George Richardson's will was truly munificent to Kingston. He was an unmarried millionaire at a time when a soldier received \$1 a day. He apparently carried gold in his boots in case of emergency. In his will he left several bequests.

\$10,000 was for the development and stimulation of Art at Queen's. This has grown to a capital fund of about \$466,000, providing annual income of about \$50,000.

\$5,000 was for the improvement and organization of the athletic grounds at Queen's. This was used to start building a stadium in his memory. It would be the site of Queen's Grey Cups victories, and hosted President Roosevelt's visit in 1938. When a new stadium was built on the West Campus, the name was transferred.

\$5,000 was for the improvement of bathing facilities in Kingston. His brother James and sister Agnes both matched this, and the City paid for the rest. \$30,000 was for the charitable and educational institutions of the city, and \$30,000 was for the education and advancement of the children of the married men of Kingston, Frontenac and Hastings who left Valcartier with E Coy 2nd Bn and who were killed or permanently injured. This latter provision was amended in 1932 "to relieve the distress of those who may have been members of ... E Company at any time while ... [he] was a Captain thereof, the members of their families, or their dependents. Giving priority from time to time, however, to the claims of those who may be in distress as a result of the war services of ... E Company."

It is not surprising that there were no less than four memorial services for him on the Sunday following his death.



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KINGSTON CITIZENS ADVISORY BOARD ANNUAL RED SHIELD LUNCHEON

TUESDAY, APRIL 29, 2008

12:00 PM – 2:00 PM

Days Inn Banquet and Convention Centre, Salon B
33 Benson Street, Kingston, Ontario



The history of The Salvation Army abounds with interesting and entertaining anecdotes of the colourful pioneers who set out to establish the fledgling organization in Canada. Join us as **Dr. R. Gordon Moyles** takes us back to the time of Sir John A. Macdonald. Hear the stories of the Army's early days in Kingston, including the encounters of Canada's first Prime Minister with the "Hallelujah Lass", Captain Abby Thompson.



R. Gordon Moyles, PhD, FRCS, is Professor Emeritus at the University of Alberta. He has written more than twenty books, seven of which explore the history of The Salvation Army

Dr. Moyles lives in retirement and is a member of The Salvation Army Edmonton Temple Corps.



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Do you know any of these First World War fatalities? Do you have a photo of any of them? If so, please contact Peter Gower, 613 546 8538 or by email at greatwar@sympatico.ca

Abbot, Harold Rowland, Private
Ackley, George Richard, Private
Aldcroft, George Thomas, Sergeant
Allen, Bertram Kerr, Lieutenant
Andrews, Ernest, Gunner
Armstrong, Thomas Percival, Private
Ashley, Percy, Private
Asselstine, Lawrence, Driver
Attwood, Harry, Private
Badour, Edward Nelson, Private
Baker, Charles
Banks, Edward Henry, Private
Bardock, Walter
Bateson, Matthew, Private
Beadis, John
Beardsell, Harry, Lance-Corporal
Beattie, Ross, Private
Bell, James Henry, Sapper
Bell, Joseph Frank, Private
Bertrand, Dennis, Private
Bickham, William J
Bilow, William John, Private
Blair, Joseph Charles, Private
Boyce, David MM, Corporal
Bremner, Charles Jamieson, Private
Brian, Frederick Overton, ERA 2nd Class
Briden, George Miller, Private
Brooks, John Gordon, Private
Bryant, A R
Bullock, William, Private
Burke, Charles Henry, Private
Burke, William "Baldy", Private
Burns, Patrick Joseph, Gunner
Burtch, Ira J, Private
Caldwell, Lloyd Stanley, Private
Callaghan, Gunner
Campbell, Charles McKenzie, Private
Campbell, Robert, Private
Carman, Albert, Private
Carman, Arthur James, Private
Clancy, Michael, Private
Clarke, B W
Clarke, R W
Clarke, John Ross, Private
Clift, James Arthur, Private
Cobb, Charles Joseph, Private
Cole, Edward William, Private
Collins, John William, Sergeant
Connolly, Henry Edward, Private
Convery Peter Wesley, Private
Conway, Herbert Augustus, Private
Coughlin, Michael Joseph, Private
Crawford, James Wilson, Private
Croft, William Hugh, Private
Cronk, Homer Roy, Private
Cuddy, George, Private
Curtis, Stanley, Private
Dafoe, Amos Roy, Private
Dalglash, James, Corporal
Davey, Frank, Private
Davis, Richard Edwin MM, Corporal
Dixon, William, Private
Dixon, Wilmot, Private
Donnelly, John Joseph
Doolan, Edward, Private
Drake, Walter Charles, Private
Druce, John, Private
Dyer, George Charles, Private
Edwards, Alfred, Private
Edwards, Arthur Leonard, Private
Elliott, Stanley Clarence, Private
Ellis, Sidney Emerson, Flight Sub-Lieutenant
Embury, Leonard Wesley, Private
Ewart, William Andrew, Corporal
Farquharson, John; aka John Cowie, Private
Farrar, Harold John, Gunner (Signaller)
Ferguson, Roderick MacKenzie, Second Lieutenant
Ferguson, William Bruce, MC, Flight Lieutenant
Fergusson, Allan Arklay, Captain
Filtz, John, Private
Fisher, Harry, Private
Fleming, Gordon Addison, Gunner
Fleming, Lloyd
Fox, Alfred, Private
Fox, Frederick, Private
Fox, Robert Willis, Private
Gallant, Clarence Joseph, Private
Giddy, William Charles, Private
Gilbert, John, Corporal
Gooch, Frederick John (Jack), Lieutenant

Gorrell, Richard R, Corporal
Hamilton, Frederick G, Private
Hamilton, Robert, Private
Hannah, James Harold DCM, Lance Corporal
Hanson, Walter Henry, Private
Harpell, Herbert Henry, Private
Harper, Sperry Claude, Private
Harrison, Ross Ambrose, Cadet Pilot (Flight Lieutenant)
Harrison, William, Private
Hart, James Richard, Bombardier
Hartwick, James, Private
Haslett, James Foster, Private
Hawkins, James, Private
Hawley, Robert Harold, Private
Hayes, Andrew Archibald, Private
Henderson, John, Private
Hetherington, James, Private
Hewitt, William Walter, Private
Hiscock, Anna McCaul, Nursing Sister
Hooper, Leonard A, Private
Howard, William, Private
Hughes, Robert Ebdon, Private
Hutton, Thomas, Private
Jackson, Rufus Irwin, Private
James, Wilfred Lawrence, Private
Johnson, James Robert W, Rifleman
Jones, Frank C, Corporal
Kellar, John Brisco, Private
Kelly, Francis Vincent, Private
Kelly, Irwin, Driver
Kemp, Russell George, Private
Kennedy, John, Corporal
King, Edward Arthur, Sergeant
Kinneer, Arthur Jolly, Private
Kiss, Albert George, Private
Lacey, James, Private
Lawrence, Clarence Victor, Lieutenant
Leary, Albert Nathaniel (Than), Private
Lee, Joseph, Private
Leighton, Frederick Keeble, Private
Lemmon, Murney, Private
Litchfield, Thomas, Private
Livingston, (William) Edward, Private
Lockwood, Fred J, Gunner
Loucks, Stanley R, Sergeant
Lowe, James, Driver
Loyst, Roy, Private
Macdonald, Hugh Mackenzie, Private
MacDougall, Baldwin Childerhouse, Second Lieutenant
MacKenzie, Kenneth, Private
Mackney, William Henry, Private
Macpherson, G, Private
MacTavish, Roswell Murray MC, Captain
MacVicar, Charles Ross, Gunner
Manning, Edward L, Private
Marichal, Joseph Phillibert Rene
Marshall, George Arthur, Private
Martin, H C
Martin, John Wesley, Private
Martin, Ralph Maxwell, Private
Matier, James Ernest, Sapper
Mayne, Jasper Moore, Second Lieutenant
Mayne, Victor Charles Moore, Lieutenant
McAuley, Frederick Ronald Lee, Bombardier
McConnell, Leonard James, Private
McConville, Joseph Patrick, Private
McCormack, Hugh Harding, Private
McCormick, John Stewart, Sergeant
McCormick, Joseph Stanley, Private
McCutcheon, Bernard, Sapper
McDiarmid, Jessie Mabel, Nursing Sister
McDonald, Herbert
McDonnell, John (Jack), Private
McGall, Hugh J
McGee, John Patrick, Private
McGregor, Harold Estell, Private
McIlquham, Roy Alexander, Private
McKeever, Richard, Trooper
McMahon, Bruce Metcalfe, Captain
McWaters, William J, Private
Mepstead, Stephen John, Lance Corporal
Miller, Robert
Monds, John George, Private
Monds, Russel Joseph, Private
Moore, Peter, Private
Moran James Joseph, Private
Morris, Basil Menzies, Lieutenant
Mouck, Harold, Private
Murray, George Wynder, Private
Myers, Harry Adolph, Private

Nellis, John Jacob, Private
Nelson, Harold, Corporal
Nicol, Alexander, a/Bombardier
Nourse, Grace Eleanor Boyd, Nursing Sister
Noyes, George, Sergeant
Oldrieve, Ewart Gladstone, Private
Patterson, John (Jim), Gunner
Patterson, Robert George, Private
Penfold, Amos, Sapper
Pepin, Amedee, Gunner
Polmateer, Marshall Bidwell, Private
Powers, Harry, Private
Pringle, William Ross, Private
Quackenbush, George Drayper, Sergeant
Quirt, Albert E MM, Driver
Rae, Alan H, Private
Ravenscroft, Walter, Private
Rawbon, William George, Private
Rea, Ross, Private
Redden, Ernest Horatio, Private
Reed, Clifton Algernon, Lieutenant
Riddell, Russell, Private
Roberts, William Ernest, Private
Rogers, Claude, Gunner
Rogers, John Alexander, Private
Roushorn, Harry Cecil, Private
Ryan, Martin Joe, Driver
Saunders, George Douglas, Private
Savage, James, Private
Savage, William, Sergeant
Scanlan, Joseph V MM, Trooper
Scott, Harry, Gunner
Sharpe, William Frederick Nelson, Lieutenant
Shaw, William Alfred, Private
Shepherd, Elmer, Private
Shortt, Allen Lowe MC, Lieutenant
Simmons, Harmon Joseph, Private
Sinclair, Archibald H, Private
Smith, Clarence James, Sapper
Smith, Edgar, Private
Smith, Henry (Harold), Private
Smith, Hugh Alexander, Private
Smith, John Grant, Lieutenant
Snider, George Okel, Private
Spence, Robert Thomas, Lance Corporal
Spencer, William, Private
Spicer, Harry, Private
Stephenson, Thomas, Private
Stevenson, John David, Private
Steward, Frank, Private
Stewart Robert Gordon, Lance Corporal
Stuart, James Duff, Major
Summers Charles James, Private
Suttle, Garnett, Stoker 2nd Class
Sweetman, James, Private
Teal, William Henry, Private
Tett, Arthur Hopkins, Lieutenant
Thompson, Archer, Stoker 1st Class
Thornton, Howard, Private
Tierney, Michael, Lieutenant
Truelove, William J, Private
Tryon, Frederick Harold, Private
Turpin, Thomas Alfred, Private
Twort, Bernard George, Private
Vaughan, Edward Wilmot, Second Lieutenant
Veley, Frederick, Private
Wagar, Roy, Corporal
Walkem, William Richard, Sapper
Walker, Edwin Job, Private
Walker, Frederick Thomas, Private
Walton, Thomas William, Private
Watts, William, Private
Webb, Joseph, Private
Whalan, John Wilfred, Private
White, Alexander Norman, Private
Whyte, William Martin, Private
Wilkinson, John, Private
Williams, John, Corporal
Williams, Mitchel Wesley, Corporal
Williams, William John, Private
Wolferstan, Stanley, Lieutenant
Wood, Ernest, Private, 144969
Wood, Ernest, Private, 835208
Wood, John Manley, Lance Corporal
Wood, Samuel John, Private
Wood, William Edward, Private
Woodcock, Thomas Milton, Private
Woodrow, William Dempsey, Private

THE HAUNTED HOUSE IN LANDSDOWNE

By Shirley Gibson-Langille

While working on my *All About You, Leeds & The Thousand Islands Exhibition* I heard about the haunted stone house that lies a mile or so north behind the Landsdowne School. Bill Boulton told me that Martha McMullen was born there. She was the mother of the late local poet, Gertrude Bowen Webster. This intrigued me. Bill told me he would try to get permission for us to go there.

On 30 July 2003, I went to the Landsdowne Fairgrounds to take pictures of the extraordinary "Horseless Carriages" that had made a stop there. I met Bill Boulton there. He told me he had permission for us to go and see the house but that he couldn't go that day.

Being eager to see it, I decided to venture there on my own. It was a terribly hot day and in the excitement I forgot to bring my bottle of water. It was very hard walking the mile or more across the field that was full of ruts. When I finally got there, I was shocked to find that the house was surrounded by a barbed wire fence.

After coming that far, I was determined to climb over the fence. I barely managed and surprisingly I didn't tear myself apart!

Soon, I was inspecting the inside of the house. It was only a shell now but you could see that it had been a well built house from the huge beams that lay over the basement and divided the main and upper floors. There were many interesting windows, some broken and others taken out.



Gazing in, I suddenly got a very eerie feeling of the ghosts from the past. What a story this house could tell. It echoed the love, laughter, and tears of all the inhabitants who had once lived there!

I decided it was time to leave. I went out and was startled to find myself face to face with a male cow along with many others behind him. Luckily, I found a stick on the ground. I banged it hard on the house to scare them. When they turned around, I made a beeline towards the fence with the whole herd in hot pursuit behind me. I was so scared I don't know how I got over the fence. I do know I landed head first on the ground and just lay there for sometime shaking.

It was a long hot walk back and I sure was happy to get to my car and a drink of water!

Usually I do all my drawings and paintings on the spot. This time I think you will understand why I did this drawing from my photos!!!!

NOTICE of The 5th ANNUAL AUTUMN EXCURSION

MANSIONS of the 1000 ISLANDS Excursion: Saturday 4 October, 2008

Guided tours of Singer Castle on Dark Island, The Remington Museum,
Fulford Place, The Brockville Courthouse Green.

Cruise on the 1923 wooden tour boat, The MORRISANIA, and Lunch:

All for \$90 for members and \$100 for non-members - only 40 spaces available!

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SPEAKERS' CORNER

with Heather Home



This month Dr. Gordon Dueck's talk was entitled *The History of the Beth Israel Synagogue in Kingston*. Dr. Dueck started his talk with a brief history of the Jewish population in Kingston. The first Jewish immigrant to Kingston was Abraham Nordheimer who came to Kingston in 1840 from New York. Having just been proclaimed the capital of Canada in 1840, Kingston was economically prosperous and strategically located on the St. Lawrence River which likely had an impact on Nordheimer's decision to relocate. There is some question as to whether Abraham came with his brother Samuel, or on his own, but most evidence seems to point to the likelihood that it was just Abraham. Abraham Nordheimer was renowned for his musical talent, described in the *Whig-Standard* as "Kingston's finest musician in the 1840's". He was employed as the music instructor to the Governor General, Sir Charles Bagot. He established a music house in Kingston, for which a location has not been established but would likely have been on Princess Street. After only four years in Kingston, Abraham Nordheimer moved on to Toronto.

Nordheimer was part of the first wave of Jewish settlers to Kingston. Beginning with his arrival in 1840 and continuing for thirty years until 1870, this first group of settlers came to Kingston to escape the poor political, social and economic realities of Germany. This was a very small group, and by 1861 Kingston's Jewish population only totalled five individuals. Another Jewish immigrant who came to Kingston during this first wave of immigration was Simon Oberndorffer, who arrived here in 1857. Oberndorffer was one of the founders of the Hebrew Congregation of Kingston as well as the first president of the Beth Israel Synagogue. He spoke many languages (English, Polish, Russian, German and Yiddish) and was known as an excellent Hebraic scholar. Oberndorffer opened a cigar manufacturing company on Ontario Street and remained in Kingston until the end of his life in 1913. He was greatly involved in community affairs, being elected alderman of Cataraqui Ward in 1892 as well as co-founding the Oddfellows Relief Association. His activities made a lasting impact on Kingston.

Dueck discussed how it was no small feat to organize and build a synagogue at the turn of the century. The first problem that needed to be addressed was that of the congregation. Like today, in the early 1900s there was not a single all-encompassing Jewish congregation in Kingston. At the turn of the century Kingston was home to several

Jewish groups who worshipped amongst themselves. There were at least three separate and distinct groups in Kingston who were brought together in 1908 by the promise of Mr. Isaac Cohen to erect a synagogue for the community. This was realized in the building of the Beth Israel Orthodox Synagogue that opened its doors in 1910. Dr. Dueck pointed out the important financial support that the Jewish community received from the Christian population of Kingston. After purchasing the land on Queen Street as the site for the Synagogue, (now the Springer Memorial Parking Lot) the Jewish community lacked the necessary financial resources to construct the building. Kingston citizens facilitated the completion of this project by contributing financially, paying for an estimated one-fifth of the cost of the construction of the building. It was at this point that Dr. Dueck went on to talk about the relationship between the Christian and Jewish populations of Kingston through the lens of Queen's University. Dueck's research into the Kingston Jewish community has lead him to examine the question of the "Jewish student quota" at Queen's during the war years, and he explained the ideas, prejudices and implications behind the policies that were eventually adopted by the University. All in all it was a warmly delivered talk which led to a number of interesting questions and member discussion.

