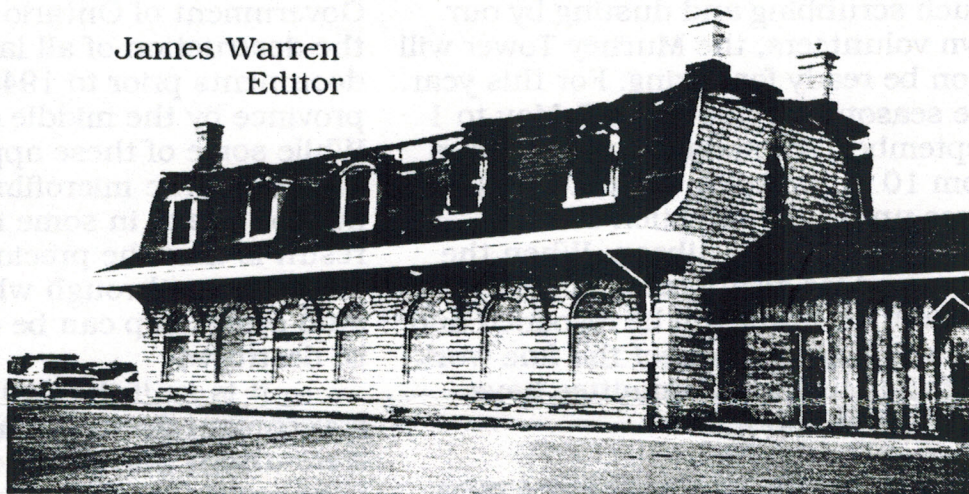




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James Warren  
Editor



*Photo: David St. Onge*

### SAVE THE OUTER STATION

At our February meeting, Margaret Angus reminded us of the significance of the Grand Trunk Railway station, built in 1856 on the line which connected us to Montreal and Toronto changing the patterns of passenger and freight travel from stagecoach and steamboat to the new smoke-belching wood-burning steam locomotive, many of which were built in Kingston. The station is now badly damaged by an arsonist but is owned by CNR who are reluctant to save a building they can no longer use. Should we not join the Frontenac Historic Foundation and the City in seeking to have it restored? Your Executive will discuss this matter at its next meeting. Give them your support and suggestions as to how this can be successfully done.

### OUR MARCH MEETING

Celebrate the coming of Spring by attending our next meeting on 19 March (just before Spring) at 7.30 in the Wilson Room of the downtown

Public Library at 130 Johnson Street. Our guest speaker will be Kingstonian Elizabeth Bardon. Her talk will be about Infant Feeding Practices 1944-1989, the subject of her masters thesis from the University of Guelph. Remember that visitors are always welcome and we hope that they will sign our guest book so we can keep in touch. Refreshments afterwards.

Our next Executive Meeting is a week before, on 12 March, 7.30 pm at Fort Frontenac.

### OUR FEBRUARY MEETING

Rick Nielson delivered an interesting account of the colourful life of George Mink, a most successful black business man in mid-19th century Kingston. An enterprising operator of livery stables and then stagecoaches to York and Montreal, his later life and business were undone by the coming of the railroads, vandalism and old age. How sad that his name is not better known, though he is mentioned in our vignette: Kingston to York by Stagecoach.



## **MURNEY TOWER OPENS SOON**

After a major restoration of the Murney Tower by Parks Canada and much scrubbing and dusting by our own volunteers, the Murney Tower will soon be ready for spring. For this year, the season will run from 15 May to 1 September, seven days a week, hours from 10 to 5, with a dedicated staff of three under the direction of Chief Interpreter Sarah Gibson. When the snow and ice disappear, the mud around the tower will be resodded and you will want to inspect the fine work that the Museum Committee have carried out. Do it.

## **IRISH FAMINE COMMEMORATION**

To commemorate the many Irish refugees of the potato famine who came to Kingston only to be caught up in epidemics of cholera and typhus, a committee has been formed to carry out historical research, publish books and raise funds for a Celtic Cross to be erected on the waterfront. The City has approved a location near the Pump House Steam Museum. If you would like to offer your help, please call Tony O'Loughlin at 389-0754.

## **NOVEMBER MINUTES**

One of the functions of our newsletter is to serve as the Minutes of regular meetings, however informally your editor may choose to present the salient points. He is obliged to note, therefore, that the Minutes for the November 1996 meeting were approved on a motion by Bill Fittell, seconded by Stewart Renfrew, carried. There.

## **DESTROY LAND REGISTRY BOOKS**

The Ministry Of Consumer and Commercial Relations of the Government of Ontario has ordered the destruction of all land registry documents prior to 1940 across the province by the middle of this year. While some of these appear on microfilm, the microfilm itself is not in good shape in some instances. The result is that the precious original information through which historical land ownership can be carried out will be destroyed.

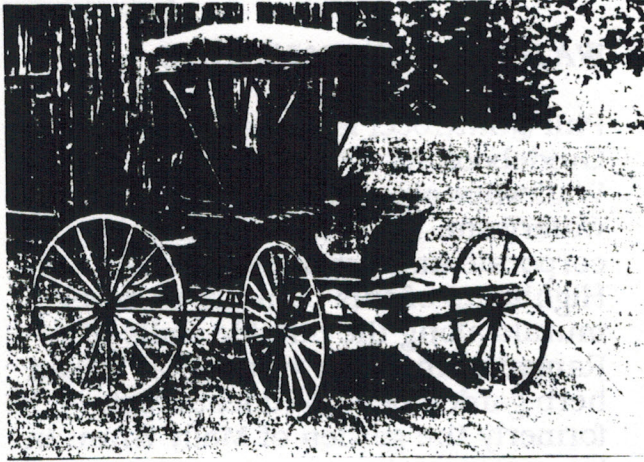
It is as if the Ontario government decided that graveyards were untidy and that, to free up the countryside, all tombstones were to be used as landfill.

Our Society is urged to join a citizen group called APOLROD (Assoc. for the Preservation Of Ontario Land Registry Office Documents). If you care about our provincial heritage, contact APOLROD, 251 Second St., Stouffville, Ont, L4A 1B9 or phone (905) 640-3791. Our Executive must also get involved.

## **OUR OWN ARCHIVES**

The old minute books, documents, maps, photographs and other impedimenta of the Society are stored in a crowded attic in Queen's Archives kindly loaned to us, no charge. Since there is no counter upon which stuff can be examined and identified, much of the material is difficult to access, evaluate and store in a more convenient fashion. Are there any volunteers to help in our continuing efforts to put this valuable material in better order? You there?



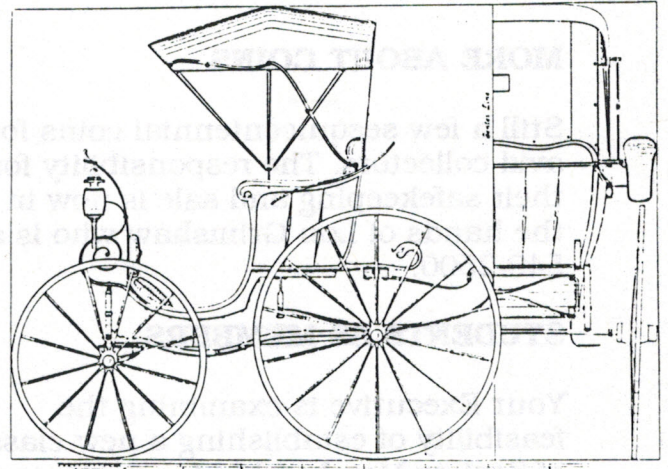


### **THE FAITHFUL DEMOCRAT**

Lennox & Addington Historical Society advise us that they have purchased a Democrat (shown above) made by the Connolly Carriage Works in Yarker about 1910. It is now on display in their museum in Napanee. The Democrat was the folksy name of the one-horse, two-seat carriage which hauled the small family to church or general store, carried the doctor on house calls and allowed ardent lovers to find a measure of privacy. In the States it was called a Drop-Front Phaeton but, shucks, here in Canada we don't go in for them fancy names. How happily we remember the scent of lilacs wafted on the perfume of horse manure!

### **KINGSTON GENEALOGISTS**

Margaret Amson reminds us that the Kingston Branch of the Ontario Genealogical Society will meet in the Wilson Room of the Kingston Public Library on Saturday 15 March at 9:45 in the morning. The topic: Using the Kingston Branch Library resources and will include conducted tours of the facilities. Visitors are always welcome. For more information, call Margaret at 389-1503 after 5 pm.



### **TURNING BACK THE CLOCK**

Isobel Trumpour attempts to revivify forgotten times through the recollections of long-time residents. Her current focus is the site of Ban Righ Hall at the corner of Queen's Crescent and University Avenue. In the old days, Queen's Cres. was Alice Street and University was Gordon Street. At the corner was Gordon School, named because the street was surveyed by Gen. Alexander Gordon, who later commanded the Royal Engineers in Canada West from 1848-1854. In later years, the school became derelict and one old-timer recalled, as a child, that she was convinced that it was haunted as winter winds whistled eerily around the building. If you have such childhood recollections, share them with Isobel at 542-4447.

### **THERE REALLY IS A SANTA CLAUS**

With the merriest of twinkles in his eye, Treasurer Desmond O'Meara informs us that he has received a GST refund of \$2313.50. Things like that never seem to happen to me.



## **MORE ABOUT COINS**

Still a few sesquicentennial coins for avid collectors. The responsibility for their safekeeping and sale is now in the hands of Lou Grimshaw who is at 549-2500.

## **STUDENTS AS MEMBERS**

Your Executive is examining the feasibility of establishing a new class of Society Membership for students in primary and secondary schools at a substantially lower membership fee. Initially, we hope to work with one school as a pilot project, expanding as we gain experience. Students would form a History Club in their own school under the direction of their history teacher.

Our role would be to provide volunteer guest speakers at their meetings, ideally to provide expertise on topics co-ordinated with their history curriculum. Also, we would sponsor competitions for essays, models, plays or live performances for which we would provide prizes.

In many ways, this parallels the work of the Heritage Fair, but in a more personal and continuous manner, though the two could be effectively co-ordinated. By the way, this year's Heritage Fair is on Thursday 22 May and Friday 23. Jim Warren will be setting up our Society exhibit but he needs your help in attending the exhibit during its open hours. Last year there were precious few volunteers for such an important opportunity to show our flag. Think about that, and offer your help now!

## **SHIRLEY DOES IT AGAIN**

Shirley Gibson-Longille has received the Paul Harris Award for community service. We extend our best wishes.

## **WATERFRONT WALKWAYS**

Phil Quattrocci is preparing a 1997 Guidebook for Kingston Paths And Walkways around our splendid waterfront. He is also seeking corporate and private sponsors. Highlights of this plan are to develop murals along the outside walls of Ramada Inn and a traditional Indian herb garden behind Rideaucrest, formerly the garden of Molly Brant in her retirement years.

## **COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP**

Nothing reveals the contributions of our members more than their participation in one or more of our working committees. Here are those who bear the burden of an active Society's business:

### **MURNEY TOWER MUSEUM:**

Ed Grenda (Chair), Doug Petty, Joe Boucher, Beverley Lazier, Peter Gray, Sarah Gibson.

### **WAYS & MEANS:**

Desmond O'Meara (C), Joe Boucher, Marjorie Simmons, Bill Fittsell, Lou Grimshaw, Wally Breck.

### **SIR JOHN A. SERVICE:**

George Henderson (C) Isobel Trumpour, Fred McConnell, John Grenville, Joe Boucher.

### **HISTORIC PLAQUES:**

John Grenville (C), Bill Patterson, Ted Storey.

### **AWARDS:**

Jack Pike (C), Marjorie Simmons, Lou Grimshaw, Bea Corbett.

### **CONSTITUTION:**

Joe Boucher (C), Wally Breck, Ed Grenda.

### **PUBLICATION:**

Jim Warren (C), Donald Desmond, Margaret Burdsall, Joe Boucher.

### **PROMOTION:**

Proposals are being prepared for discussion.