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James Warren
Editor

SPRING HAS COME

As I write, the sun shines brightly, the snow has nearly disappeared and birds are singing merrily in the birch tree. Can another squall be far behind?

UNITING AND DIVIDING

For our April meeting, we welcome our own member, Rev. Bruce Cossar, who will speak of Uniting and Dividing: Church Union in Kingston 1925. Why did three Christian denominations in Canada decide to combine into one United Church? What happened to the twelve congregations as a result?

Rev. Cossar is an Arts '60 graduate from Queens, with Library Science degrees from McGill and Toronto. After two years in the Massey Library at RMC, he helped found Trent University Library and was eventually its Chief Librarian. After studying theology at Knox College in Toronto, he was ordained as a minister of the Presbyterian Church and served for 12 years in the Stirling/West Huntingdon parish north of Belleville from which he retired and came back to Kingston in 1997.

All are welcome to our meeting on Wednesday 21 April at 7.30 pm in the Wilson Room, Kingston Frontenac Public Library, 130 Johnson Street in historic downtown Kingston. Please join us.

ARTISTIC INMATE

At our March meeting, Amanda Gray presented an intriguing account of her success in restoring an 1873 oil painted by an inmate of Kingston Penitentiary. David St. Onge described his success in tracing the life of immigrant Augustus Kruger who painted the picture, using prison and other records. The two presentations worked beautifully together, rewarded by a good house.

SAVING THE COURTHOUSE

On March 9, City Council met to decide upon the disposition of the former Frontenac County Courthouse, unwanted by the city. Eleven delegations of lawyers and historians presented eleven spirited and logical cases for preserving it as a courthouse, using arguments dating back to Queen Victoria's day. Our own presentation was effectively made by Dr. Brian Osborne. Council decided to delay its decision until the matter was presented for public discussion.



*Many have quarrel'd about Religion,
that never practised it.*

OUR MEMBERS

We warmly welcome new members;

Gerald and Marian Roney,
7 Westview Road, Kingston K7M 2C4,
549-3227

Marilyn and Ed Tyerman,
886 Woodside Dr., Kingston K7P 1T2,
634-4087.

Capt. John Grodzinski,
50 Windfield Cres., Kingston K7K 6G2,
547-0184.

Maj. Warren and Susan Everett,
253 Willingdon Ave, Kingston K7L 4J2
545-9316

We regret that we have been
unable to locate student member
Brian Hubner. Please do not leave us!

Life Member Mrs. J.C. Bailey's
telephone number should be (613)
384-8590.

We regret to learn that Life
Member Miss Elma Murton has died
and extend our sympathy to members
of her family.

Margaret and Bernard Burdsall,
who maintain our membership list,
can be reached at 531-8948 or by E-
Mail: burdsall.ve3nb@sympatico.ca

Incidentally, a publisher of a
cultural directory has asked whether
we would let them use our
membership list as a promotional tool.
Our executive has emphatically
rejected the idea.

MURNEY TOWER EMPLOYEES

Vice President Ed Grenda informs us
that there have been 18 well-qualified
candidates for the three summer jobs
we provide in the Murney Tower
Museum. Final candidates will be
announced in the May newsletter.
Documents for the Student Loan
grant have been received.

DR. JENNY TROUT PLAQUE

City Hall has postponed the unveiling
of a plaque honouring Jenny Trout,
pioneering doctor and founder of
Queen's School of Medicine for
Women. While we have been promised
invitations, it may be wise to call Paul
Ross at City Hall 544-6739 if you have
a special interest.

PEOPLE PLACES AND PICKAXES

Shirley Gibson-Langille, artist, and
Christine Hamelin, writer, propose to
produce a series of booklets tracing
the history of seven townships of the
former Frontenac County. Our Society
was happy to sponsor their
application for a grant from the
Kingston Community Foundation, to
which we add our best wishes to them
both.

OUR FRIENDSHIP COMMITTEE

Bea Corbett, Helen Coffee and
Margaret Burdsall have been doing an
increasingly splendid job of greeting
members and visitors to our regular
meetings, having visitors sign the
guest book and encouraging them to
join our ranks. Margaret has prepared
name badges for executive and council
members, each of whom is enjoined to
ensure that lonely people are made to
feel welcome. Added to this, Jennifer
McKendry and her son provide
refreshments which warm the cockles
of the heart. Enjoy, one and all!

KINGSTON GENEALOGISTS

The Kingston Branch of the Ontario
Genealogical Society will meet on
Saturday 17 April 1999 at 9:45 am in
the Wilson Room, Kingston Frontenac
Public Library, 130 Johnson

Street downtown. The guest speaker will be Christian Barber, author of the local history book "Their Enduring Spirit" who will give an overview of research into the families of the Frontenac Park area. All are welcome. For more information, call Margaret Amson at 389-1503 after 5 pm.

WHY AN INTERNET WEB SITE

John Grodzinski of our Internet Web Site Sub-Committee has submitted a significant overview of the possibilities and implications of the Internet for our Society. They are repeated here for your consideration:

AIM: The aim of an Internet site is to communicate the goals of the organization operating it. Examples; Ontario Genealogical Society
Many civilian and military museums
Fort Henry Guard
Toronto Historical Board
Military Re-enactors
Heritage enthusiasts

TYPICAL CONTENT:

Aims and purposes of organization
List of officers
Overview of subject area covered
Articles and information published
Electronic copies of excerpts of publications
Information for ordering publications
Applications for membership

VALUE: The value of a site is the information it offers beyond a simple description. Successful sites offer visitors text, photos, maps, charts, tables and especially prompt response to enquiries. The site must be updated regularly to provide new material. All sites should provide links to other related local, regional and national organizations.

CO-OPERATION: Most sites are independent. If there is an association with others, they become members of a ring linking them. Being part of a

larger site has merit but requires more management and may make specific information less accessible to visitors.

CONTENT FOR KHS SITE:

Recommended minimum for KHS:
Aims of Kingston Historical Society
History of KHS
Details of membership, meetings, publications and items for sale
Murney Tower National Historic Site
General history of Kingston
Selected articles from Historic Kingston
Electronic copies of THEN newsletter
Electronic copy of membership application
Links to the following organizations:
Parks Canada
City of Kingston
Websites of various Kingston military
Kingston Frontenac Public Library
Queen's University
Major Kingston industries
Local cultural organizations
Other local historical/heritage groups

ESTABLISHMENT COSTS:

Internet web sites are provided through commercial providers that charge a fee for the number of megabytes used. For example, some providers offer one megabyte of space free with a subscription and an additional 5 megabytes at a rate of \$20 per month.

Domain name is the address by which the website can be located. A specific domain name can be obtained for a fee.

MAINTENANCE OF SITE:

First, the building and editing of material in computer language for the site. This can be done by the agency which operates it or, more cheaply, by our members.

Second, an individual is needed to regularly monitor queries, get answers and forward them to the person making the enquiry.

FUNDING: Sources of funding may include:

The Kingston Historical Society through its own operating budget.

Grants can be obtained to cover all or part of cost.

Commercial sponsorship can be solicited in exchange for logo and information on the sponsor.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

These have been approved by the Executive Council of our Society:

1. That KHS establish a website.
2. That this site initially be independent; examining expanding it to include other heritage organizations.
3. That funding support be obtained through grants.
4. That it include the material under the heading 'CONTENT FOR KHS SITE' listed above.
5. That design options be investigated.

