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Editor: Jim Warren

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ENGINEERING QUEEN'S

For our final meeting before the summer, Professor W. George Richardson, engineering historian, presents George Grant's Redshirts, an account of how Queen's most distinguished Principal brought engineering education to a nice Presbyterian college. George Richardson has made a career of reviving interest in the history of Canadian technology. Interested as we are in our old buildings, furniture and costumes, we may not pause to realize how much we owe the men (and now the women) who have designed and built our bridges and mills, locomotives and steamboats, motors and mechanisms.

The meeting will be on Wednesday 20 May 1992 at 7:30 p.m., upstairs in the Wilson Room of the Kingston Public Library at 130 Johnson Street, deep in the historic core of our favourite city.

LIFE IN THE PEN

Our April meeting provided a look into life in Kingston Penitentiary through the eyes of Kingston author, actor and retired Correctional Services spokesman Dennis Curtis. In his best raconteur style, he noted the building and early management of the prison, the youngest prisoners, an eight year old boy and a girl of fourteen, famous escapes and riots, and the ingenuity of inmates in growing illegal plants, distilling banned beverages and constructing socially unacceptable weapons. He brought along a few artifacts from the Penitentiary Museum, the one time warden's residence across King Street from the KP. These included a ball and chain, a knife concealed in a book and an early warden's journal. A nice time was had by all.

HONOUR TO SIR JOHN

As is our annual custom, we salute the life and works of our first Prime Minister on the one hundred and first anniversary of his death. Sir John A. Macdonald was buried in Cataraqui Cemetery along with many other of Kingston's distinguished citizens.

Our memorial service will be held at the grave site on Saturday 6 June at 2:30 p.m. The guest speaker will be Ian Wilson, Chief Archivist for the Province of Ontario. Also in attendance will be the Fort Henry Guard, while

music will be provided by the Maybee Men's Choir. We hope you will join us to honour this great Canadian who could teach all of us a thing or two about national unity.

For those who are new to Kingston, Cataraqui Cemetery is along the north east corner of Princess Street and Sydenham Road in what was Cataraqui Village. It is a beautifully hilly and wooded area of 116 acres, and has provided a resting place for nearly 40,000 Kingstonians since 1819. Its entrance gate is off Sydenham at Beach Avenue.

HISTORICAL VIGNETTES

It comes as no news to Society members that Kingston and the region around it embodies some of the most interesting and significant history of our land. To celebrate our centennial, the Society will produce twenty-five historical vignettes, each on a different theme by a different author. Each will appear as an illustrated pamphlet of about 2500 words, written in a style that will whet the curiosity of young people.

The vignettes will be prepared in a uniform format so they can be sold individually in our museum, used as a set in a binder, or hard bound for sale in a bookstore. Over time, additional titles can be added, or old ones revised.

While one tends to think of such favourite topics as Fort Frontenac or the Loyalists, there is a need for popular mini-histories of, say, the Kingston Street Railway, the giant Canadian Locomotive Company, the Kingston Dry Dock and other late nineteenth century themes which may have been closer to the people than the institutions of the rich and famous.

One of the pamphlets will consist of a chronology of Kingston history, to enable the reader to place other subjects in context. Another is to recount the news highlights of the year 1893, including the birth of the Kingston Historical Society.

Each should be inherently interesting, lend itself to pictorial illustration and, of course, be relevant to the history of the Kingston area. Prospective authors may expect to be dragooned into voluntary service shortly.

ABOUT OUR MEMBERS

We note with great sadness the death of Fred Gibson, a popular and distinguished Professor of History. He joined Queen's in 1950 to teach Canadian history, later co-wrote a history of Queen's University. He became Vice President Academic, in 1985 received the Alumnae Award for Teaching Excellence and in 1990 a fifteen year Volunteer Award. Our deep sympathy is extended to his wife and children.

We were alarmed to learn that George Henderson of Queen's Archives had suffered a mild heart attack, but relieved to hear that he is recovering at home. George has been immensely helpful to many of us engaged in historical research, and he is the Society's Vice President of Publications. We miss his presence.

On a happier note, we are delighted to add our congratulations and best wishes to Justice Alan Campbell who has retired after twenty-five years on the bench. The Campbells have been members of our Society since shortly after their arrival in Kingston in 1966.

Engineering historian W. George Richardson of Queen's Department of Mechanical Engineering has been appointed editor of the journal of the History of Canadian Science, Technology and Medicine, entitled *Scientia Canadensis*. We look forward to his talk to our Society on 20th May.

MURNEY TOWER REBORN

Masons retained by Parks Canada and an energetic and imaginative new Curator Adrienne Holierhok are keystones to a rejuvenated Murney Tower Museum, which will open its doors to a breathless public on Saturday 16 May. More than twenty members of our Society have volunteered to assist the three members of staff. A gift shop will appear on the barrack floor, a nice counterpoint to our twin thirty-two pounder carronades. Perhaps most important, our displays of artifacts and archival material will be changed periodically.

A copy of the original 1845 plans of the Murray Redoubt, as it was then known, have been obtained from the National Archives of Canada. Since the actual construction did not quite conform to the plans, your humble servant has remeasured the moat and interior spaces, and is preparing scale drawings from which a saleable poster can be prepared. Working from four previous histories of the tower and the diary of its construction engineer, he is also preparing an historical vignette on the building, one of the centennial series described elsewhere.

We hope that our staff and volunteers can wear costumes of the 1840s and, who knows, perhaps there will be a re-enactment of the dreadful murder that was reputed to have occurred in the stoney interior.



SIR JOHN A. MACDONALD

The scandals and mismanagement of modern politicians are not peculiar to the twentieth century, but what has changed is the lack of humour and humanity in our elected officials, beset as they are by fear of opinion polls, media scrutiny and political correctness.

A member of the opposition in the House of Commons once ran on with a long list of the misdeeds of Sir John A. Macdonald. When it was over and he took his seat in righteous indignation, Sir John rose, smiled and said, "Ain't I the old devil, though?"

SAINT JAMES SEEKS YOUR HELP

Historic St. James Church, like other of our designated stone buildings, has suffered the slings and arrows of Canadian winters since it opened in 1845. Designed by William Coverdale, it was located in what was then the village of Stuartsville, along a cowpath much smoother than the abscessed artery we now call Union Street. It was greatly enlarged in 1888 and further altered in 1926.

Nearing its one hundred and forty-seventh year, its crenellated Norman tower is in desperate need of repair which will cost a million dollars.

An auction is planned for June 25 at 6 p.m. in the church hall. You may be able to help by donating china, decorative objects, small antique furniture, books or other items of cultural interest to the auction. If your children have made off with your best pieces, St. James would probably accept your cheque with grace, or sell your antique back to you.

For assistance in picking up your contribution or for further information, call Jack Grenville at 542-5386.

FROM THE EDITORS

Don Redmond, distinguished editor of Historic Kingston, informs this editor that Volume 40 should be in our hands shortly after you read this. This will contain, in cold print, the talks delivered to our members during the year 1991. Historic Kingston has been produced annually since 1952 and has proved a useful reference for all historians, professional and amateur. Three indices of articles in Historic Kingston have been prepared to date:

Vols. 1 - 20	1952 to 1972
Vols. 21 - 25	1973 to 1977
Vols. 26 - 33	1978 to 1985

Beyond all that, the articles are a good read!

OLD HISTORIC KINGSTONS

Ted Storey has come to the rescue of those seeking back copies of Historic Kingston for research. If asked nicely at 541-0602, he is willing to loan his bound volumes one to ten and individual copies to other members of the Society. Naturally, you would not take advantage of Ted's good nature unless determined to return such precious volumes promptly.

ODE TO SPRING

It is spring, the birds are nesting, grey branches have turned to brightest green, the cold soil has released restless shoots and the silly season has returned after winter hibernation.

In 1811 it was the English Luddites, named for poor insane Ned Lud, who destroyed machinery to protest the industrial revolution. In Kingston it was Greenpeace who helped Dupont Canada celebrate its fiftieth year in our town by disrupting its annual meeting in City Hall.

Beforehand, a noisome herd of carefree students, frustrated socialists and skillful manipulators used microphones to enliven the sunny day with catchy couplets, strident demands and ready profanity. Their brethren and sistern beat makeshift drums, blew whistles and chanted with all the enthusiasm of a pre-school rhythm band. Democracy at work.

Then they swept into City Hall, filling the lobby and upper halls with their noise, now echoed from the walls. Dupont completed essential business before Greenpeace leaders charged their lectern and trashed their information display, making further discussion impossible. Freedom of expression at its finest.

The demonstration was inappropriate. Dupont's Kingston facility makes nylon not chlorofluorocarbons. The plant opened in 1942 when it became apparent that the tough new synthetic, developed to replace Japanese silk for women's hosiery, was ideal for parachutes, glider tow ropes, tarpaulins, tents and cords for aircraft tires in Canada's war effort. Today, the material is better known to sailors for rigging, dunnage, foul weather gear and, of course, ladies' stockings. You know what sailors are.

Incidentally, Dupont was an early proponent of recycling. When wartime shortages interfered with steel supplies for the railway spur to the local plant, they used the abandoned steel rails from the old Kingston Street Railway.

REBELLION

The University of Toronto Press announces a new book by Betsy Dewar Boyce entitled The Rebels of Hastings. Eastern Ontario is generally considered to be the very home of loyal conservatism. However Ms. Boyce reveals the rebellious activities in Hastings County in 1867, a plot to seize Kingston, piracy on the St. Lawrence, the Battle of the Windmill in Prescott, conflict between Orangemen and Catholics and a strange case of bank robbers near Coburg.

Yes, our region had its Reformers even then, and our Tory citizens must be on guard with sword and musket, lest Preston Manning and his band of rebels come charging down 401 to seize Kingston and the Islands. Oh, the book is \$45 in cloth, \$17. in paper.



POSTCARD PICTORIAL

Gordon Smithson had a novel idea. A rabid collector of old postcards and a skillful photographer, he made slides of his postcards to enable them to be seen by a larger audience. But that was not all. In collaboration with Cablenet, he put the images on videotape, with his historical commentary superimposed.

And now you can see it. Tune in to Cablenet 13 on Thursday 21 May at 9:30 p.m. What is more, Cablenet assures me that you are free to copy it on your VCR without fear of embarrassment from the copyright police. You may also want to buy a copy of Gordon Smithson's book *Old Cataraqui Village*, published in 1990. It contains maps, early photos and anecdotes of village life.

THE LOYALISTS ARE COMING THE LOYALISTS ARE COMING

For those of us who thrill to the smell of black powder, the trusty Brown Bess and the tricorne hat, there will be joy on Saturday 6 and Sunday 7 June when the troops and camp followers of the King's Royal Regiment of New York encamp on the grounds of Napanee's Lennox and Addington County Museum. Cooking over campfires in eighteenth century dress, drilling in resplendent uniform

with grim determined eye, no rebel American will be safe. Will they retake northern New York State, and bring the PBS transmitters back to Canada?

Meanwhile, we are pleased to relate that the Loyalist Museum in Adolphustown has been saved, at least for the present, from the bean-counter's ball. It has been decided to take the time to study ways of preserving the Allison House site and make it a more active part of the community. Bully for them, and God Save King George III!

MARINE MUSEUM REFIT

Our waterfront sister the Marine Museum has undergone dramatic changes in the structure and interpretation of its rich cargo of artifacts. Instead of its previous chronological arrangement, its material will be grouped thematically in such subjects as engine hardware, underwater heritage, fine art, ship models, and so on. New colour, lighting and traffic flow will make visits to the Marine Museum more fun than ever. Do go.

The Marine Museum will also sponsor a Chandlery Exchange at the Kingston In-Water Boat Show at Confederation Basin 28 to 31 May. This will give boat owners and marine history buffs an opportunity to dispose of those life jackets, oars, charts and brass hardware that have been cluttering their chart house and replace them with life jackets, oars, charts and brass hardware from someone else's. In fact, an exchange of pelf will be involved, 50% for the donor, 50% to help support the museum. Often these items are more attractive than the boats, which have come to resemble 1950s Cadillacs more each year.

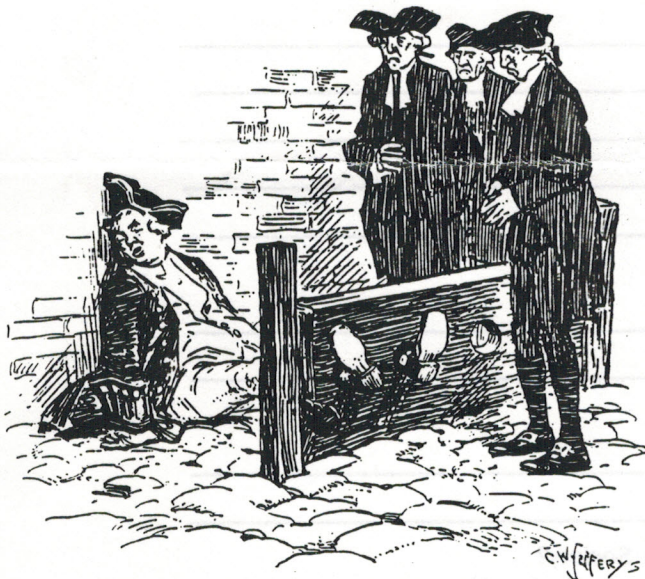
In another cost-cutting move by City Hall, the Marine museum has been asked to take over responsibility for the Pump House Steam Museum nearby. Sadly, steam will be raised for only two special occasions in August and at Thanksgiving, but the static displays of pumps and railroad artifacts will be on view, including the little railroad from the old Friendly Giant television show.

Our hearts go out to Marine Curator Maurice Smith and his staff, who must now operate two museums on a greatly reduced budget.

RESPECT THE AGED

Much of the charm of downtown Kingston consists of its venerable stone and brick buildings and the narrow streets which evoke the horse-drawn era. Despite some garrish signs and tin-clad stone fronts, the historic spirit

of the city remains. One must be vigilant, however. Each year, perhaps, the building owner who most flagrantly flaunts his historical insensitivity should be given the Order of the Sore Thumb. After the presentation ceremony, the miscreant would be placed in stocks in Market Square and pelted with fruit or snowballs in season unless willing to make a significant contribution to the historical society of his choice.



CULTURAL ECONOMICS

The conventional wisdom of opponents to our Kingston Museum is that we cannot raise the funds because of the recession.

The French are raising some five million dollars toward planting a sculptor upon a Labrador iceberg. There, he or she will carve images of nineteen endangered species. As the iceberg drifts away and melts, we will all be reminded of the fragility of the planet.

Is there a lesson here that we seem to have missed?

UNPAID DUES

We are pained to report that fifty of our cherished members have not yet paid their membership dues. We need your response before 30 June so that we will not have to release you from membership. That, in turn, would mean that you would not receive Historic Kingston in our Centennial Year.

If you are unsure of your membership, please call Joe Boucher at 548-8181. He would like to help. Please do not leave us.

We thank those who have so loyally responded. Seventy-two have also contributed the survey information which we will summarize and report upon in a future THEN.

HAVE A HAPPY SUMMER!

MEMBERSHIP FEES AND SURVEY

Your membership fees are now due for 1992. Increasing costs have made it necessary to increase the fee schedule, as shown below. Your prompt payment helps us to better manage the Society's affairs.

Students	\$ 25.
Individuals	\$ 35.
Family	\$ 40.
Life Members	\$350.

Please make your cheque payable to:

Kingston Historical Society and Mail to Box 54, Kingston, Ontario, K7L 4V6

Name _____

Address _____

Postal Code _____ Telephone _____

When did you come to the Kingston area? _____

When did you join the Kingston Historical Society? _____

What are your career skills and expertise?

What are your hobby skills and interests?

Would you be willing to share a little of this experience with the Society?

☐ Yes, indeed ☐ Possibly, let's talk ☐ Rather Not

We wouldn't dare ask your age, but at what stage is your life?

<input type="checkbox"/> Student	<input type="checkbox"/> With children at home
<input type="checkbox"/> Single	<input type="checkbox"/> Retired
<input type="checkbox"/> Married	<input type="checkbox"/> _____

Would you favour the development of a museum of Kingston's civic history?

☐ Yes ☐ Maybe ☐ No

We welcome your suggestions for making the Kingston Historical Society even more vital in our second century. Please write!

Thank you for your help. You may give this questionnaire to any officer of the Society, or mail to Box 54, Kingston, Ontario, K7L 4V6. And thanks again.