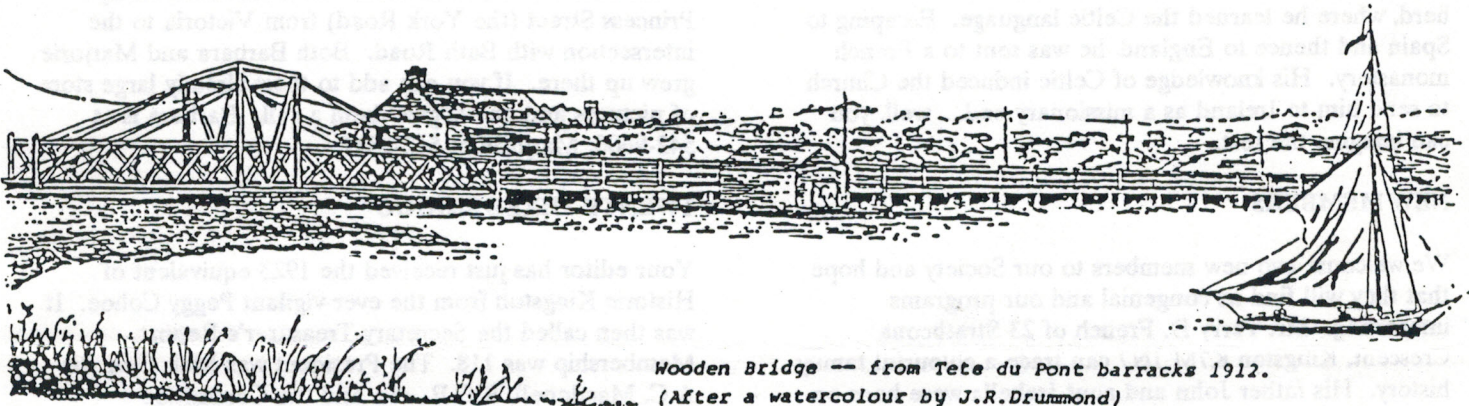




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Wooden Bridge -- from Tete du Pont barracks 1912.  
(After a watercolour by J.R.Drummond)

### MARCH MEETING

One of the most diligent members of our Society is John Grenville, who also superintends Sir John A. Macdonald's home Bellevue House. The subject of his talk at our March meeting is the Penny Bridge in a joint meeting with friends in the Pittsburgh Township Historical Society (from the other end of the bridge). The passage across the Great Cataraqui river has seen several metamorphoses during Kingston's settlement and we look forward to John's account. The date is Wednesday 16 March at 7:30 p.m. in the Wilson Room of the Kingston Public Library at 130 Johnson Street.

### THE NWMP IN KINGSTON

Our February meeting enjoyed a lively presentation by Dr. Wallace Breck as he traced the role of Kingston in the formation of the North West Mounted Police in 1873.

After Confederation, Sir John A. Macdonald was anxious to bring law and order across a sparsely settled new country. In 1873 he formed the North West Mounted Police to establish sovereignty in the west and a peaceful resolution of differences between natives and white settlers. He appointed Kingstonian Maj. Gen. Sir George French to become its first commissioner. Of the first five commissioners of the mounted police, four had a Kingston connection because of its strong military establishment. French served 1873 to 1876, James F. Macleod from 1876 to 1880, A.G. Irvine, a non Kingstonian, from 1880 to 1886, Lawrence W. Herchmer from 1886 to 1900 and Aylesworth Bowen Perry from

1900 until 1923, by which time the force was called the Royal Canadian Mounted Police. Incidentally, the Mounties served in the Boer War and World Wars.

### PUBLICATIONS

It's here! It's here! Volume 42 of Historic Kingston has arrived, celebrating the papers and events of our centennial year. Pictures appear of St. Mark's Church in Barriefield, and the script of the costumed re-enactment of our founding in 1893. Another delightful read, and another quarter inch on my Kingston book shelf. Our congratulations to Editor Donald Redmond for a job well done.

Margaret and Bernard Burdsall have raised a long-overdue issue about the profitability of the publications of our Society. Many copies of Historic Kingston are sold to university libraries here and abroad. If they are sold at a loss, however, we are in fact subsidizing institutions who are better off than we are. Furthermore, mailings to the United States and Europe cost more than local ones. To resolve these matters, your executive has established a price of Can. \$20. for Canadian sales of Historic Kingston and US \$20. for all sales abroad. This will apply to all volumes, regardless of year of issue. Members, of course, receive their copies as part of their membership fee. The book "Sir John A. Macdonald a Remembrance" in dust jacket will sell for US \$25. abroad, CAN \$ at home. Efforts are afoot to sell the rather large stock of old Historic Kingston volumes 20 to 41 presently stored in the attic of Queen's Archives.



## SAINT PATRICK WAS FOREIGN?

Lennox and Addington Historical Society advise us that Saint Patrick was born in 263 AD, the son of Roman citizens in what is now England. He was kidnapped from Chester by pirates, sold to an Irish chieftain as a cow herd, where he learned the Celtic language. Escaping to Spain and thence to England, he was sent to a French monastery. His knowledge of Celtic induced the Church to send him to Ireland as a missionary and.... well, you can imagine the rest.

## NEW MEMBERS

We welcome two new members to our Society and hope that they will find us congenial and our programs interesting. Mr. Terry D. French of 23 Strathcona Crescent, Kingston K7M 1N7 can trace a colourful family history. His father John and aunt Isabella were born on the trek west before the Northwest Rebellion. His grandfather Captain John French was killed at Batoche during this campaign. His grandfather's brother Maj.Gen. Sir Geo. French was the first commissioner of the North West Mounted Police, forerunner of the RCMP. Terry French is a ham radio operator who regularly talks to other hams throughout the world. In 1952, with three partners, he started radio station CKLC and later CFLY-FM, selling out in 1976. Since retirement he has been an active volunteer in Kingston.

We also welcome Mr. John A. Hickman, 106 Richardson Drive, Kingston K7M 2T1. John served 25 years in the RCMP, another 12 in Correctional Services and now offers personally guided historical tours of Kingston while attending a seniors' computer course at LCVI.

We note with regret the passing of one of our older members. Mary Grace Crothers died on 18 February. We extend our condolences to her family including her 19 great grandchildren. Mrs. Crothers was one hundred.

## WELCOME PITTSBURGH HISTORIANS

As mentioned in our notice of the March meeting, we are delighted to welcome members of the Pittsburgh Historical Society on 16 March. Our township neighbours on all sides have always been considered a part of the family and we urge all Kingston members to extend a friendly hand to anyone who appears lost in the crowd.

## WILLIAMSVILLE REMEMBERED

Our secretary Barbara Bonner and council member Marjorie Simmons are considering a history of Williamsville. You may not find it on the map today, but it was once a lively settlement which extended along Princess Street (the York Road) from Victoria to the intersection with Bath Road. Both Barbara and Marjorie grew up there. If you can add to their already large store of pictures and notes, give them a call. Barbara is at 542-9600; Marjorie at 542-9847.

## TWENTY-THREE SKIDOO

Your editor has just received the 1923 equivalent of Historic Kingston from the ever-vigilant Peggy Cohoe. It was then called the Secretary-Treasurer's Report. Membership was 118. The President was Maj. Gen. Sir A.C. Macdonell, K.C.B., etc. and the Committee numbered 14 persons. Kingston could not be induced to celebrate the 250th Anniversary of the founding of the city, or the 30th Anniversary of this Society, so the Society took it upon itself to erect four mural tablets to commemorate the First Parliament of United Canada, 1841; Lord Sydenham's residence at Alwington, 1841-1842; H.M.S. Stone Frigate, 1789; and the Murney Tower landing place of Louis De Birade, Comte De Palluau et Frontenac 1675. Lectures delivered to the Society that year included Negro Migrations to Canada by Fred Landon, Esq., which we hope the editor of Historic Kingston may republish in next year's issue.

## KHS AWARD NOMINATIONS

Dutiful readers of our January newsletter will be aware of the first three recipients of the Kingston Historical Society Award, presented at our Christmas party in Fort Henry. This year, your Award Committee is off to an early start, and has prepared a Nomination Form to encourage you to identify a worthy individual, group or institution who have made outstanding contributions to the preservation and interpretation of local history. The form has been inserted in this newsletter, and we ask you carefully to consider appropriate candidates with specific information about their contributions to our cause. Later in the year, these will be reviewed by the Award Committee in making the final decision. Nomination forms should be sent to the Award Committee, Kingston Historical Society, Box 54, Kingston K7L 4V6.





1857

## LOST TORONTO

McClelland & Stewart have published a revised edition of *Lost Toronto, Images of the City's Past*, by William Dendy, price \$30. First published by Oxford in 1978, it has been revised to include bibliographical references and an index. This sturdy paperback is a treasure of early photographs of Toronto houses, shops, churches, hotels, railway stations and public buildings built between 1807 and 1930, their history told in colourful detail by the author. One unusually interesting series of photographs was an 1857 panoramic view from the roof of the Rossin House Hotel at the corner of King and York Streets, just south of Osgood Hall, a portion of which we show. Its frame and brick dwellings, none more than three storeys high, are a far cry from the gigantic hotels and office buildings to be found there today. The dirt roads, plank sidewalks and the dearth of trees suggest an urban landscape somewhat less romantic than the popular perception. There is no hint of the fragrance of horse manure, for example. Author William Dendy, born in 1948, died of AIDS in 1993, a month before publication.

## ADVERTISING POLICY

While the newsletter of the Kingston Historical Society does not usually accept advertisements, we thought that our readers might want to consider an offer they can hardly refuse:

"GROCERY: Hot cofey, tee, ginger and spruce bear, pies, doenuts, biled eggs, pigs fetes, and sarsiges sold hear. Also fresh and skimmed milke warranted pure with no warter. No ardent liker kept hear." The writer does not identify himself, but requests insertion in the 31 May 1856 issue of the *Daily News*.

## SOAP BOXERS

President Bill Fittell has exercised executive privilege by introducing a new institution to our Society: The Soapbox. For a period of three minutes, when signalled by the President, any member may come forward and speak forcefully on any subject which he or she feels should be brought to the attention of the membership. What a wonderful opportunity to introduce fresh ideas, reveal malfeasance in the executive, correct historical error or just liven up the meeting. I dare you.

## MINUTES, MINUTES, MINUTES

As a simple peasant, your editor finds the endless Reading of the Minutes at our meetings a soporific exercise, akin to three hours of Gregorian chants. On the other hand, my learned friends in the legal profession insist that the historical record of society minutiae must be both accurate and audible. The business of our Society is conducted at our monthly executive meetings, and separate Minutes are kept of them. Your editor reports these proceedings in this newsletter. Lectures at our regular meetings are recorded, of course, in our annual *Historic Kingston*. When President Bill Fittell questioned the need for Reading the Minutes at our February meeting, there was a deathly hush, which Bill took to mean agreement with the practice. The questions that arise in my mind are these: How many records of our historical activities do we need? How many prospective new members do we drive away because of this tedious practice? Thus asketh your editor.



## NAMETAGS

Peggy Cohoe has an excellent suggestion. Why don't we use name tags at our meetings to identify ourselves? Thus could strangers learn to identify us (and vice versa) and all of us begin to address each other by name. Members with executive or other particular responsibilities could be more effectively badgered. But here is another purpose. Often we read an especially interesting piece in a back copy of Historic Kingston yet have no idea what the author looks like. With name tags, those with common interests could be brought closer together. I think it's a great idea and I am willing to start (with Peggy) if you will. Mind you, if you prefer to remain anonymous you can avoid wearing a tag. But then we'll know what kind of person you are, won't we?

## LOUDER, PLEASE

While the microphone and sound system in the Wilson Room of the Kingston Public Library is much improved from last year, it still depends on the determination of the speaker to use it properly. The microphone cannot follow you about the room. It is incapable of raising its head if you are very tall or of turning its head if you choose to stand to one side of the lectern. And it does no good to say "Can you all hear me?" if many of the audience are hard of hearing and fail to hear the question. Or others are too shy to speak up. Perhaps we need to recruit a band of bully boys wearing football sweaters which spell out L-O-U-D-E-R please. (The 'please' could be a little fellow at one end.) Failing any of the above, your editor may embarrass everyone by bellowing LOUDER PLEASE in a drill square voice that will carry down to City Hall. Don't say you haven't been warned.



