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Editor
James Warren

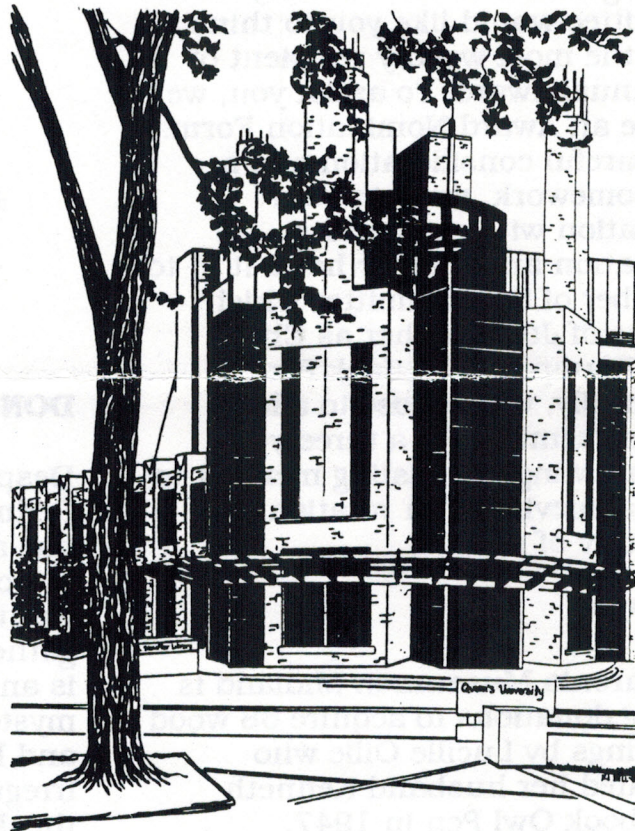
QUEEN'S STAUFFER LIBRARY

Our March meeting will be an unusual one in two respects. First, it will be held in the new Stauffer Library of Queen's University, at the corner of University and Union Streets. Next, we will have as our speaker its Chief Librarian, Mr. Paul Wiens, who will reveal not only the intricacies of the building and its services, but the other libraries, collections and sources to be found on campus. This is something of considerable importance to newer members who may be unaware of the rich material in Queen's, and its accessibility to the public. We will meet in Room 121, just inside the front door, on Wednesday 15 March at 7.30 pm.

Parking can be a problem. We suggest you use the lot to the west of the library which is entered from Union Street. We look forward to seeing you, and do bring a friend.

OUR FEBRUARY MEETING

Our regular February meeting, delayed by an ice storm, was a lengthy account of streetcars in general and the Kingston, Portsmouth and Cataraqui Street Railway in particular, with many slides, an operating miniature railway, surviving relics, a cacophonous musical number, a streetcar bell and alternating talks by Bill Thomson and George Dillon. It was a busy night.



SECRETARY ANYONE?

Our Society is desperately in need of your help if you would like to serve as our Secretary. The job has been made less onerous by limiting it to the preparation of minutes of our executive meetings, once a month. Matters of correspondence, mail distribution and other miscellaneous duties have been taken out of the job description. For either task, a word processor or typewriter is rather necessary. If you think you may be able to help, please call President Bill Fittsell at 549-8354. You will earn his undying gratitude and that of all of us in the executive and council. Why not call now? Please!

AWARD NOMINATIONS

It may seem like a long time until December, but now is the time when the Kingston Historical Society Award Committee would like you to think about the most worthy recipient of our annual award. To assist you, we enclose an Award Nomination Form. After careful consideration and a little homework, write in your nomination with supporting information and mail or hand it in to a member of the committee which consists of Joe Boucher as Chair, Isobel Trumpour and Jack Pike. Incidentally, we propose to add another member for a three-year term, allowing an existing member to retire, achieving both rotation and continuity of service.

OWL PEN

The Huronia Museum in Midland is seeking donations to acquire 68 wood engravings by Lucille Oille who illustrated her husband Kenneth Wells' book Owl Pen in 1947. Together, they presented a delightful picture of farm life in Ontario before the days of mechanization. The book established a Canadian sales record which outsold Winston Churchill's autobiography that year. Lucille Oille Wells is now 84 and will have a major exhibition of her work at the Huronia Museum on Saturday 15 April. Your donations may be sent there, Box 638, Midland, Ont. L4R 4P4. While you are at it, dig out and reread the book. I remember it well.



DON REDMOND STRIKES AGAIN

Despite his stern visage, Donald Redmond has a whimsical side. He has an impressive collection of Meccano which he assembles into giant models of historical machines at gatherings of steam railroad buffs. He is an admirer of that great but mysterious detective Sherlock Holmes and has just compiled an index to an Irregular Quarterly of Sherlockiana for the Journal of the Baker Street Irregulars. And now he has agreed to undertake the task of indexing Historic Kingston, our annual book of historic papers, of which he is also the Editor. Which allows us to announce that he has just released Volume 43, which should have arrived on your doorstep before this. We are indebted to Thomas L. Stix, Jr. of Norwood, New Jersey, for permission to show this portrait of Donald which appears on the cover of The Baker Street Journal index.

THE TRUMPOURS' FIFTIETH

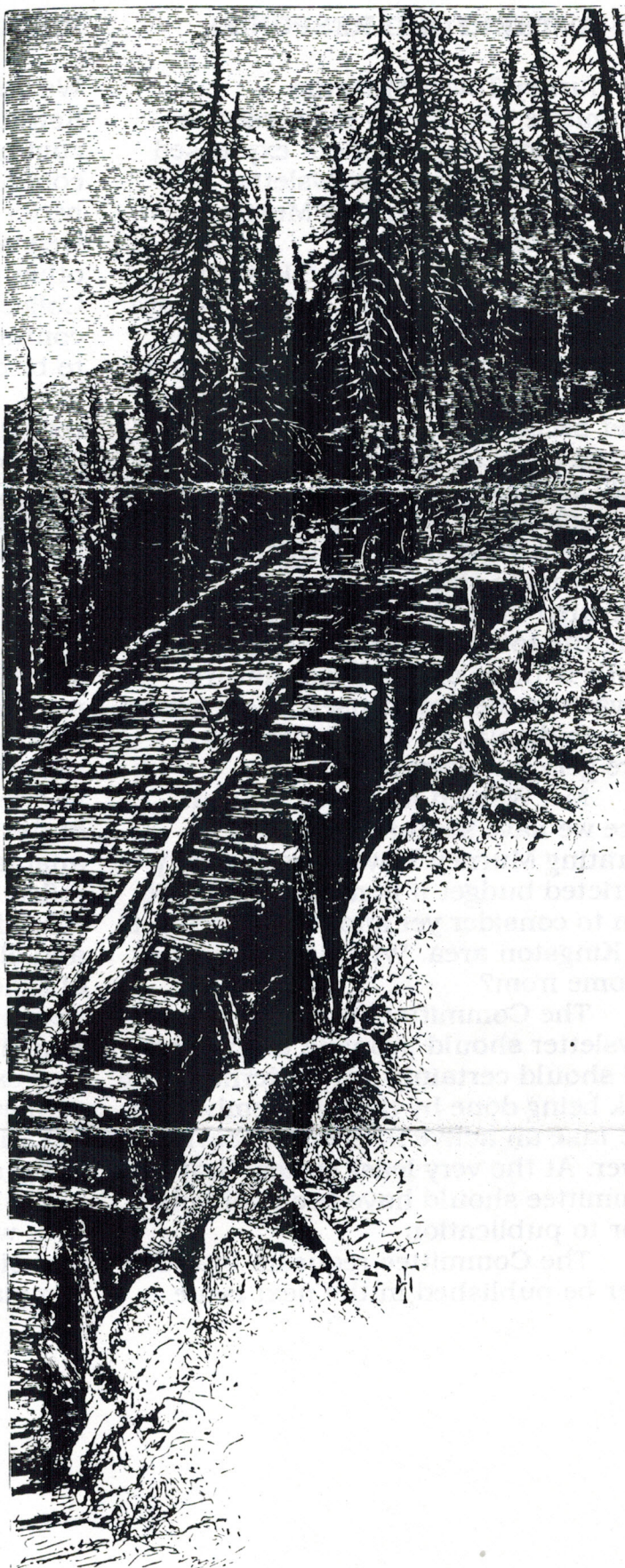
They met in St. John's in 1943. He was a lieutenant in corvettes, briefly ashore from the wearisome job of convoy duty on the Atlantic triangle run. She was a young woman in RCAF uniform, spotting aircraft on radar. They were married on 20 February 1945. However belatedly, we join their three sons, Mark, Noel and Ian and many friends in extending our warmest congratulations to Bogart and Isobel Trumpour, who have contributed so much to our Society.

COUNTRY LIFE IN 1830

When Ben Ackerman was a boy, he found an old book in his grandfather's attic. Published in 1885, it contained the recollections of an old man about his rural boyhood in the 1830s. Ben Ackerman wanted to make a video of the story from a modern perspective but, failing that, prevailed upon Mika Press to republish it. The new edition is called 'Country Life in Canada' by Caniff Haight. The price is \$20. It sounds like an interesting read.

CONTROVERSY THEN?

The question has been raised as to whether THEN should engage in controversial questions, particularly those issuing from the editor, or become a tame 'house organ'. We have received this letter, which we reprint verbatim:



KEN RUTHERFORD RESPONDS

The Murney Tower Museum Committee was deeply distressed to read the editorial comment expressed by Jim Warren in his Newsletter for January 1995 concerning Murney Tower Museum.

Murney Tower is the Historical Society's window on the public. We are most fortunate to be able to use this building at a nominal rent as a form of self-advertisement. Of course it will never become the sort of museum Mr. Warren advocates. The point he seems to miss is that the building itself is the main exhibit. In our recent discussions regarding artifacts we thought we had made it plain that we are principally interested in those items which can bring the tower to life- and these are mostly articles of a military nature relevant to the Tower itself. We have no place to display or store artifacts of more general interest.

Mr. Warren must realize that since we have so much difficulty operating Murney Tower due to a very restricted budget it is most unrealistic even to consider yet another museum in the Kingston area. Where is the money to come from?

The Committee feels that our Newsletter should promote the Society and should certainly not undermine the work being done by the few members who take an active interest in Murney Tower. At the very least we feel that the Committee should have been consulted prior to publication.

The Committee requests that this letter be published in the next issue.

EDITORIAL COMMENT

We have to agree with much of what Ken Rutherford has said, and we must commend his efforts and those of his committee in putting Murney Tower in better order, even showing a profit, as we stated in THEN last October. On the other hand, the item 'Our Museum Collections' in the January issue, which contained the editor's comments, needs to be considered seriously.

As for a suggestion that THEN reflect the general opinion of the membership, our readers are always welcome to submit their views in writing as Ken has done, and your editor would be pleased to publish them.

STYLE AND CONTENT

We try to make THEN as readable as possible, rigorously editing our copy, seeking the apt word and avoiding tiresome cliches. While we do not mean to offend individuals, we feel that some of the Society's customs are anachronistic and inevitably, criticism reflects on individuals. Perhaps there is a fundamental conflict between history and change. Perhaps our Society is out of synch with a changing society and needs to re-examine its methods of reaching out to younger generations. Our executive meetings are well-loaded with everyday housekeeping matters, but there is never time for imaginative brain storming.

If these thoughts have occurred to you, why not put them down in writing and share them with us all. Not just complaints: imaginative ideas!

LITERARY CLUBS OF THE PAST

Heather Murray is an Associate Professor of English at the University of Toronto. She is writing a book about the literary clubs, reading circles, philosophical societies, lyceums and other social groups with a literary bent that flourished in nineteenth century Ontario. They involved lively debate, essay writing and the recitation of poetry. In her research, Prof. Murray has already identified almost a hundred of them, including the Kingston Ladies' Reading Club (1882) but would like to learn about more. If you know of any such groups from the last century, she would be grateful for your assistance. Write her directly through Trinity College, 6 Hoskin Avenue, Toronto M5S 1H8.

GRANT ADVISORY PANEL

Culture Minister Swarbrick has announced the members of the Community Advisory Panel for the Eastern Region. This panel will determine regional priorities for the allocation of funds under the provincial government's Cultural Projects Grant Program. Priorities during 1995-1996 year have already been identified, to include: Projects which promote collaboration among organizations; projects which encourage long-term financial sustainability; and projects which support groups for First Nations, Francophones, the disabled, racial minorities and women.

For Kingston, the panel member is Denyse Hand at 542-6588. The Eastern Region embraces Ottawa (5 members), the ministry (2), and one each for Arnprior, Almonte, Bobcaygeon and Kingston. Comment?

BOOKS FOR SALE

Authors deserve our help, especially history authors. We invited two to join our last meeting to display and sell their books and we want to help them here:

History of the Marches in Canada is by Jack Kopstein and Ian Pearson. It provides an interesting history of military bands in Canada, including many which were based in Kingston, and the origins of many Canadian marches, some of which were based on opera or popular music of the day; even the musical score is included. Privately published, it costs \$10. Jack is active in many musical groups and plays clarinet.

Portland My Home, an illustrated history of Portland Township, is by W.J. 'Bill' Patterson. It is published by Portland Township and costs \$40. Good luck to both.

CENSUS 1841

Most of the Kingston census for 1841 has disappeared except for the old Ward 4, which extended above Princess Street to the waterfront. Thanks to the efforts of Howard Heintz, MA Economics, Queen's, it is now on disc and Bill Fittell has a copy. Moreover, he has passed Howard's summary of the census to Don Redmond and we should see it in Historic Kingston. This was a pivotal time for Kingston, after the war boom of 1812-1814, but before its expansion into a substantial commercial centre toward the end of the century. With a tight budget in the offing, and Kingston's dependance on military and civil servants, what will history say about the end of this century? Be sure to look forward to Volume 144 of Historic Kingston.



SPACE FOR YOUR COMMENTS

LOYALIST HISTORY SOURCES

The author of 'While Women Wept: Loyalist Refugee Women', the Hon. Janice MacKinnon, Saskatchewan's Minister of Finance, will address the Thirteenth Annual Queen's University Archives Lecture. Her lecture is entitled 'In Search of Sources for Loyalist History', and it will be heard in the Lecture Theatre, Room 102, Humphrey Hall on campus. The date is Friday 21 April 1995 at 3:30 pm. A reception will follow in the Frederick W. Gibson Reading Room of Kathleen Ryan Hall. The public is invited to attend these annual lectures whose purpose is to discuss the multiple uses of archives in the community. Loyalists will be especially interested.

Award

NOMINATION FORM

The Kingston Historical Society Award, inaugurated in commemoration of the one hundredth anniversary of the founding of the Society in 1893, is presented from time to time to worthy individuals, groups and institutions in recognition of outstanding contributions to the preservation and interpretation of local history.

Members of the Society are invited to nominate recipients for the award by using this nomination form. Completed forms should be mailed to the Award Committee, Kingston Historical Society, Box 54, Kingston, Ontario K7L 4V6.

Name and Address of Nominator:

Name and Address of Nominee:

Please add your specific comments in support of your nomination:

Continue overleaf if necessary . . .

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