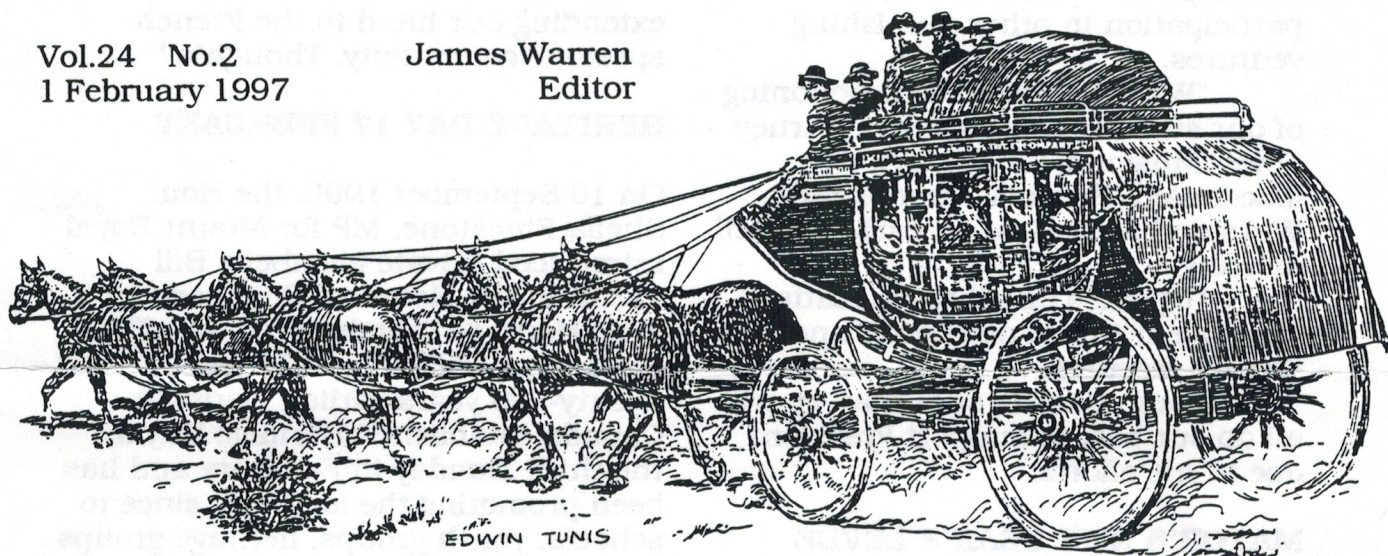




Vol.24 No.2
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James Warren
Editor



RISE AND FALL OF GEORGE MINK

For our February meeting, we welcome Rick Neilson who will tell us the interesting story of George Mink, a black business man who, with his brother James, operated a most successful stage coach service between Kingston, Cobourg and York in the 1840s and 1850s.

We meet on Wednesday 19 Feb. at 7.30 pm. Where? In the Kingston Central Library, upstairs in the Wilson Room. Refreshments will be served by Don McKendry and Lorraine Montgomery.

OUR NEW EXECUTIVE & COUNCIL

Our new executive and council look remarkably like our previous one, with the addition of Bea Corbett, whom we welcome to our Council, and the promotion of Ed Grenda as Vice President Preservation (Museum) and Jim Warren as Vice President Publications. Ed also is filling in as

Membership Chair, in hopeful anticipation of an early replacement. As Vice President Programs, Lou Grimshaw is filling in as Publicity Chair until this post is formalized in this new year. We publish the complete executive and council lineup at the end of this issue.

OUR PRESIDENT REPORTS

Our President Armand Gerard "Joe" Boucher, in his acceptance speech, outlined his plans for a second term:

"Your Executive and Council will undertake such housekeeping duties as reviewing our Constitution and By-laws. Our constitution has undergone some revision over the years, and it may be time again to review it for future needs as we approach the millennium (and) amalgamated local municipalities.

"We will review and may recommend revisions to our museum Statement of Purpose and Collections Policy, (continuing) work undertaken

by the Murney Tower Museum Committee during 1995 and 1996.

"We will also . . . formulate a Publications Policy, relating to our in-house publications, as well as . . . participation in other publishing ventures.

"We will review the functioning of our standing committees- Murney Tower Museum, Sir John A, Macdonald, Plaques, Awards and Ways and Means- at an early Council meeting.

"Updates on all these matters will appear in the newsletter and at general meetings."

Your editor is sure that we will all do our best to support President Joe in his efforts.

MAYOR'S NEW YEAR'S LEVEE

Our Mayor's Levee on New Year's afternoon was the usual splendid occasion, attended by hopeful politicians, academics and ordinary mortals intent on their share of juice and fruitcake. Of special interest to us was the unveiling of a plaque noting Kingston's sesquicentennial as a city by Mayor Bennett and Margaret Gibson, a speech by Dr. Stewart Fyfe and the reading of the plaque by Wally Breck in English and Michel Fontaine in French. The plaque will appear in Confederation Park across from City Hall when spring comes. Soon we hope.

HISTORIC KINGSTON

Editor Donald Redmond announces that Volume 45 of Historic Kingston will appear on your doorstep at the end of this month, recording the papers given at our meetings during 1996. We all look forward to it. While the lithographer continues to be Brown & Martin Ltd., the Editor is

examining competitive prices from other suppliers for future savings.

One suggestion has been the inclusion of a French language summary of articles, or other ways of extending our hand to the French-speaking community. Thoughts?

HERITAGE DAY 17 FEBRUARY

On 16 September 1996, the Hon. Sheila Finestone, MP for Mount Royal introduced Private Member's Bill C-323 in the House of Commons to have Heritage Day declared an official statutory holiday. In 1974, some twenty-two years earlier, Heritage Canada established Heritage Day as the third Monday in February and has been promoting the idea ever since to schools, youth groups, heritage groups and communities. The Ontario Historical Society strongly supports the legislation, which has still not passed into law. They seek our support and urge you to call your MP to see Bill C-323 carried through. With an election in the offing, why not drop a hint to MP Peter Milliken at 542-3243 or better yet, drop a line to his constituency office at 203-11 Princess Street, Kingston K7L 1A1.

THE CROWN FOUNDATIONS ACT

At the provincial level, Finance Minister Ernie Eves introduced Bill 71 The Crown Foundations Act which would allow provincial agencies, public hospitals, public libraries and other cultural organizations and public institutions to establish Crown Foundations. Presumably this would permit fund-raising in the face of declining provincial grants. The common rules for the foundations are now being developed.

We should add our voice to that of the Ontario Historical Society in

urging the Hon. Ernie Eves and Culture Minister the Hon. Marilyn Mushinski to implement this new legislation and announce the qualifying criteria.

OUR MEMBERSHIP NEWS

The good news from Ed Grenda, as Membership Chair, is that our numbers have risen to 143 paid members.

The less happy news is that two of our members suffered serious illness over the holidays, though we are relieved to report that both are back home after major surgery. Our best wishes are extended to Bernard Burdsall, back home with Margaret, and Rene Cadieux reunited with Sharon.

Quite belatedly, we extend the warmest of birthday greetings to young Wally Breck who, on 1st January 1997, achieved the noble age of eighty. We hail thee, Wallace!

MATTERS FINANCIAL

While your editor is moderately literate, he is to a great extent innumerate, particularly where financial statements and balance sheets are concerned. On the assumption that some of our members may suffer the same shameful shortcoming, the following interpretation is the editor's attempt to cut to the essence of the Society's financial position during 1996:

ASSETS:

Investments	\$65,800.00
In the bank	3,049.21
Total assets	\$68,849.21

INCOME

Donations	\$1,295.00
Government grants	1,076.00
Income from investment	4,006.70
Membership dues, net	5,024.54
Coin project, net	6,506.89
Total income	\$17,909.13

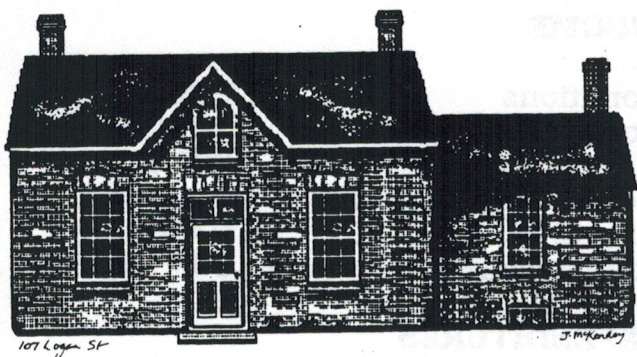
EXPENDITURES

Administration	\$568.58
Publication expense	165.85
Projects (see below)	6,899.95
Bank charges	136.24
P.O. & deposit boxes	69.55
Donations	300.00
Meetings	1,384.52
Newsletter	2,186.72
Sir John A. service	294.28
Telephone	388.59
Murney Tower, net	4,776.06
Historic Kingston, net	4,491.05
Vignettes, net (profit)	+144.23
Awards	97.77
Insurance	1,477.44
Loan to Quarry Press	2,500.00
Total operating exp.	\$25,592.37

SPECIAL PROJECTS

Molly Brant bicent.	\$3,132.22
City Hall art restor'n	1,000.00
Kingston plaque	1,378.38
Heritage Fair	1,389.35
Murney Tower	3,000.00
Quarry Press loan	2,500.00
Total	\$12,399.95

Treasurer Desmond O'Meara provides more detail and comparisons with 1994 and 1995 in his annual report which was distributed to members at the annual meeting. He notes that most special projects were made possible by the success of the coin project. All in all, expenses for 1996 were virtually the same as for 1995.



AT HOME IN UPPER CANADA

Queen's Department of Enrichment Studies offers a new general interest course on the houses and furnishings of 19th century Ontario through slides, discussion and field trips led by our own Jennifer McKendry. She will also offer guidance on how to research your house or property. The course runs from 18 February to 15 April, usually on Tuesdays from 7pm to 9pm except for one morning or afternoon class in Queen's Archives and one Saturday walking tour. The cost is \$128.40 including GST. To register, phone 545-2473. Enjoy!

VOSPER PHOTO COLLECTION

Stewart Renfrew advises that the 300 glass plate negatives in the Vosper Collection have been transmogrified onto a CD-ROM so that they can be viewed at the archives, aided by an index showing the number and title of each. Obtaining an actual print will be subject to a fee for a contact print, copy negative, (to preserve the original negative) and the print which you can keep. No more free lunch.

GEORGE LILLEY COLLECTION

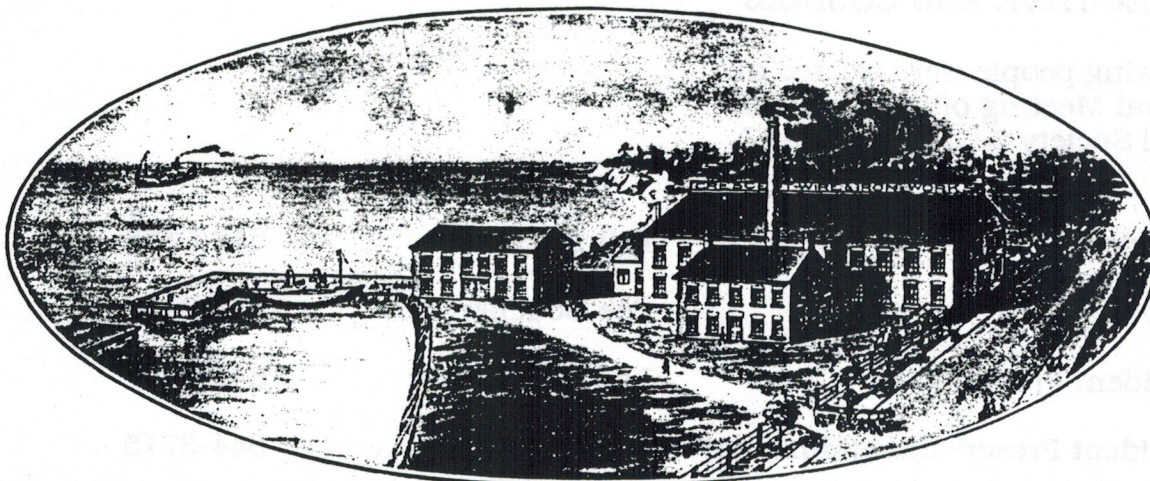
As a matter of interest, contact prints of George Lilley's 342 aerial photographs of the city and waterfront taken in 1948 are now available for

viewing. Before, one had to carefully unroll the original negative, an awkward procedure which threatened to leave fingerprints. His remaining 200,000 negatives await a generous donor to pay for contact prints.

HISTORIC PHOTOGRAPHS

All historic material can be enlivened by pictures, but some can be clarified in no other way. While historical persons, places and events may have been inaccurately portrayed by the painter, the arrival of photography about 1840 provided a visual record that could not be readily questioned. For example, the romantic movie *Gone With The Wind* bears little resemblance to Matthew Brady's grim photographs of the Civil War.

Gord Smithson has suggested that our newsletter could be better illustrated with large historical photographs. Your editor agrees, but is aware of several difficulties. First, it is costly to obtain them. The archives at Queen's, Toronto and Ottawa charge \$15 or more for a copy negative and a sharp print. Second, local collectors are reluctant to part with their original prints. Third, unless original photographs are extremely sharp and provide good contrast, copying machines will not print them well enough to be worthwhile. That is why, until now, our newsletter has used line artwork. To illustrate the problem, one page of this newsletter shows a lithographic view, much like a photograph, of the Crescent Wire & Iron Works. You can see the rather muddy appearance. By contrast, the line drawing at the bottom of the page is quite sharply reproduced. Fourth, your editor regrets that he does not have the time each month to do the necessary pictorial research. Nevertheless he will try.



CRESCENT WIRE & IRON WORKS

Established at 62 King Street West in Kingston in 1895, the Crescent Wire & Iron Works embraces the manufacture of wire goods of every description, including office and bank railing, steamboat railing, wire guards, flower stands, fencing, cemetery arches, sand and coal screens, grill and wrought iron work as well as the re-tinning of wire goods.

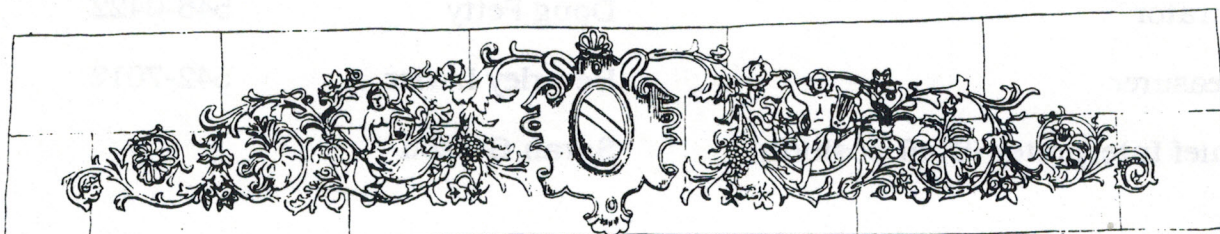
Proprietor F.P. Partridge and his two sons employ a competent staff of expert mechanics and, by keeping the goods up to a very high standard of excellence, they have been successful in extending trade all over Ontario and Quebec.

From an unidentified newspaper article of 1909.

METALLIC ROOFING COMPANY

From 1902 until the 1940s, the Metallic Roofing Co. operated in Toronto, its showroom building covered inside and out with its pressed metal products used to add decorative detail to buildings. Falling into disuse, the building was acquired, carefully recorded and dismantled by the Ontario Heritage Foundation. They selected a few metal pieces to be displayed at the Ontario Heritage Centre in downtown Toronto. The first piece to be restored was the 12 foot (3.6 m) long decorative panel from the facade of the showroom building, illustrated below. It depicts cherub-like figures and vines flanking a cartouche. Classics scholar Professor Roger Beck interprets them as generic poets, each holding a roll of paper, not visible until several layers of paint were removed.

Should you want to view the restored panel when in Toronto, call Elizabeth Resendes at (416) 325-5000 to make an appointment.



1997 EXECUTIVE AND COUNCIL

The following people were elected at the Annual Meeting of the Kingston Historical Society 22 January 1997.

Past President	Bill Fittsell	549-8354
President	Joe Boucher	548-8181
Vice President Programs	Lou Grimshaw	549-2500
Vice President Preservation (Museum)	Ed Grenda	544-3715
Vice President Publications	Jim Warren	544-7410
Recording Secretary	Ed Grenda	544-3715
Treasurer	Desmond O'Meara	546-5439
Membership Chair (Acting)	Ed Grenda	544-3715
Publicity Chair (Acting)	Lou Grimshaw	549-2500
Editor Historic Kingston	Donald Redmond	546-7728
Editor Newsletter THEN	Jim Warren	544-7410
Members of Council	Marjorie Simmons	542-9847
	Bea Corbett	544-7165
	Wallace Breck	544-4876
	Doug Petty	546-0422
	Jack Pike	546-9187
Murney Tower Museum		
Chair	Ed Grenda	544-3715
Curator	Doug Petty	546-0422
Treasurer	Beverley Lazier	542-7012
Chief Interpreter (Staff position)	Sarah Gibson	