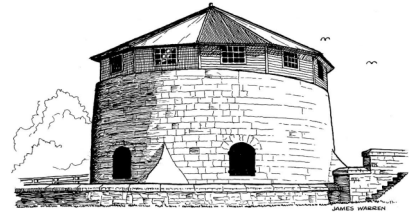


# Limelight

## Newsletter of the Kingston Historical Society

Kingston Ontario Canada



The Kingston Historical Society gratefully acknowledges the financial support of the Ontario Ministry of Tourism, Culture and Sport.



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### *President's Message*

*by Vincent Durant*

**Greetings!** I am writing to bring you up to date about the present state and prospects of your historical society. Throughout the COVID crisis the Council has remained in constant touch electronically, while vigilantly plotting a course ahead.

#### ***Monthly Meetings***

We are still hopeful of salvaging some of the 2020 Fall speakers' program, but it is unlikely that there will be a meeting in September. Dr. Duncan McDowall and his program committee should soon be able to give us further details on this. Presenters slated for the cancelled meetings will be invited to make their presentations in 2021, as soon as we can again gather for our monthly meetings – *the sooner the better!*



#### ***Historic Kingston***

Because we had to cancel May's meeting and the June 6<sup>th</sup> ceremony at the graveside of Sir John A. Macdonald, and may have to cancel one or more meetings this fall, the 2020 issue of Historic Kingston could lack its usual heft. However, Historic Kingston editor Peter Gower is working on an interesting plan that will guarantee a robust edition, with plenty of interesting reading material! More on this will be available in the September issue of Limelight.

#### ***Murney Tower Museum***

Thankfully, we have been able to carry on with programs and "virtual tours" at Murney Tower Museum (Facebook web address below). Simge Erdogan, the museum's manager, sends along these comments:

*This summer, the MTM team has been working on several exciting museum projects that will modernize and renew the museum and increase its operational capacity year-round. Key highlights of this summer are collection digitization and research, development of a new website and a new social media engagement strategy, and the creation of new educational programming activities. This summer will also see the beginning of the work towards developing the museum's next five-year strategic plan which will be launched in 2021.*

Continued next page

## THE KINGSTON HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Established 1893

*LIMELIGHT is published nine times a year, September to May.*

*Please forward submissions to the Editor [betty.andrews@gmail.com](mailto:betty.andrews@gmail.com)*

*Reprinting of articles from the Limelight must be accompanied by an acknowledgment of the Society, the issue and date. Photo credits and by-lines must be retained.*

The Kingston Historical Society gratefully acknowledges the financial support of Kingston Association of Museums, Art Galleries and Historic Sites and the City of Kingston.



*The KHS gratefully acknowledges the support of its sponsors in producing Limelight.*



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Barry Keefe   Alan MacLachlan   Duncan McDowall   Kevin Reed   Anne Richardson   Paul Van Nest

As mentioned later in this issue, under the direction of Dr. Tabitha Renaud, chair of the KHS Murney Tower Committee, Simge and the summer students carried out activities to celebrate the 95th anniversary of KHS operating Murney Tower Museum on behalf of the Government of Canada. Through dedication and teamwork, and as can be seen on the MTM Facebook page, they have accomplished a great deal!

### ***Limelight Index***

Meanwhile, KHS Membership Chair Paul Van Nest sends along a description of the work he's been doing over the past several months on our behalf – indexing the articles contained in *Limelight* and its predecessor, a newsletter called *Then*. Here is Paul's write-up:

*The quality articles written in Limelight are lost to history if we rely solely on members retaining their own copies. So, several years ago, I started scanning and uploading the eight-page newsletters to our webpage. But, without an index, seeking information would be fruitless. Being immersed in our COVID-19 lockdown, I took on the task in earnest. Starting with my own copies, then those in our Archives and finally those found by Jo Stanbridge at the KFPL Library that took us back to January 1992. Indexing is a job best done by professionals, but I have done my best to identify keywords for your searches. The result is a 1,550-entry index sorted by keyword and by author. But do not try to print it; it's 51 pages long. As it can be updated relatively easily, I am open to any corrections and suggestions.*

*Go to [www.kingstonhistoricalsociety.ca](http://www.kingstonhistoricalsociety.ca) > Publications Tab > Limelight newsletters. At the top of this page are the links to PDF and Excel formats for indexes by topic and by author. Take your pick!*

As always, please stay in touch through the KHS website and Facebook pages (links below). Best wishes for the remainder of the summer, and let us all hope that we can soon again resume our monthly meetings.

*Vincent*

KHS website: <https://www.kingstonhistoricalsociety.ca/>

KHS Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/KHSOntario/>

MTM Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/MurneyTowerMuseum/>

It is noted with regret, the death of Patricia McGinnis Buch on 02 May 2020, partner of Alan MacLachlan, a long time member of the KHS.



## Murney Tower

Operated by the Kingston Historical Society

### Summer Activity 2020

Due to the ongoing Covid-19 pandemic, Murney Tower Museum has been forced to operate a little differently this summer. Because the museum was unable to open, our summer staff have transitioned from the role of Interpreters, for which they were originally hired, to Museum Assistants. Our Museum Assistants, Olivia Anstess and Emma Binns, both fourth-year undergraduate students at Queen's University, are embarking on some exciting museum projects in order to improve our operations for future summers.

Olivia's primary project has been the continuation of the digitization project that we began last summer. Every week, she inputted information about a number of artifacts into our electronic artifact database. She is also creating a digital photograph inventory in order to facilitate future curatorial research. In conjunction with her work in digitization, Olivia has been undertaking research on Murney Tower's collections in order to facilitate future initiatives.

Emma began the role of running the museum's social media and planning future programming. Sharing different aspects of the tower and interacting with both followers and fellow museums, Emma has been able to build an online presence for the museum. In terms of programming, Emma has begun planning the creation of a character that would help as a conduit for the programming and feature on the social media platforms. This character will further the museum's connection with children and will help with our ability to work alongside the school curriculum.

Both students are very excited to have been involved in these projects that they are sure will increase efficiency and engagement.



Screenshot of a Zoom meeting with Tabitha Renaud, Murney Tower Museum director. MTM Manager Simge Erdogan, and summer staff Emma Binns and Olivia Anstess.

**Of interest**—The Cataraqui United Church Cemetery has changed its name to Heritage Cemetery at Cataraqui. We have not changed our relationship with Cataraqui United Church. We have amended our by-laws to reflect our change of name. The main purpose of the change is to remove the confusion between us and Cataraqui Cemetery, which is across the road.

From the recent past of the Kingston Historical Society's Proceedings >>> found in *Then* newsletter – January 1992 – A contest was held at the December 1991 gala testing the audience's skill at completing quotations by or about Sir John A. Macdonald, created by Bill Fittsell.

**Also : Dues were raised to \$40 Family, \$35 Individual**



# THE STATE FUNERAL OF SIR JOHN A. MACDONALD

by Brian Porter

Sir John A. Macdonald died of a stroke on Saturday, June 6, 1891 at 10:15 p.m. Dr. Powell posted a death notice on the gate at Earnscliffe, Macdonald's home in Ottawa.

The state funeral was looked after by the undertakers S. Rogers and Son in Ottawa. Macdonald was dressed in his uniform as a Councillor of the British Imperial Privy Council. The Order of the Bath was on his chest. They chose a rosewood coloured rolled steel casket from Connecticut.

**Sunday June 7** – The casket was set up in the main dining room at Earnscliffe, draped in white and purple. Governor-General Lord Stanley of Preston and Cabinet members came to pay their respects along with many family and friends. Toronto sculptor Hamilton McCarthy came to make a plaster cast of his face.

**Monday June 8** - Parliamentary tributes included a very eloquent tribute from Opposition leader Wilfrid Laurier, looking across to Macdonald's desk covered in wreaths.



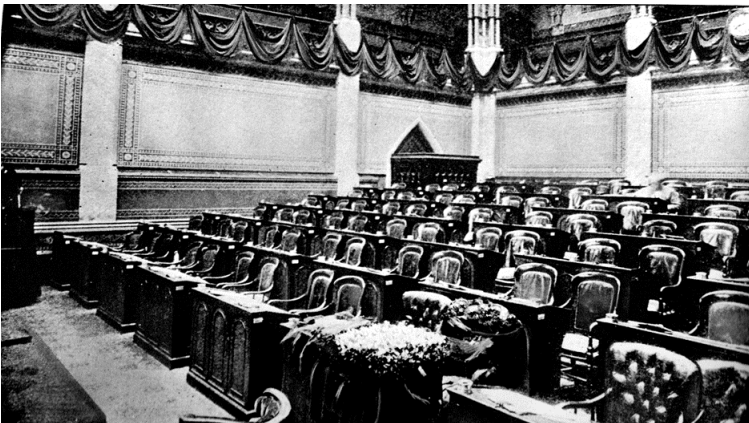
Earnscliffe



Governor-General Lord Stanley



Wilfrid Laurier



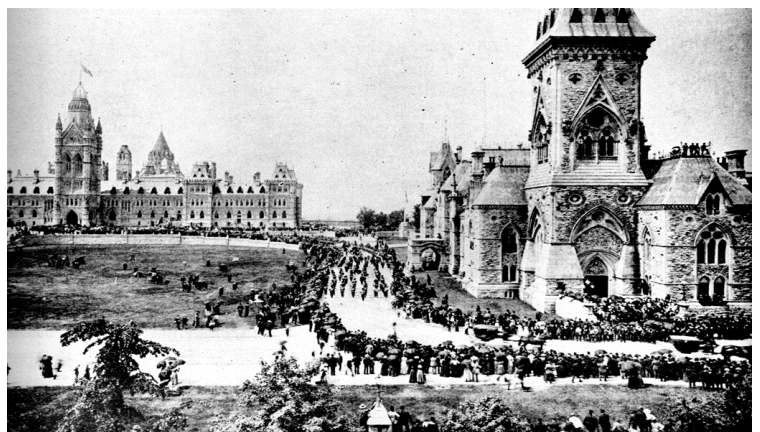
Macdonald's desk covered in wreaths

House of Commons heavily draped



"His loss overwhelms us..... Sir John Macdonald now belongs to the ages, and it can be said with certainty that the career which has just been closed is one of the most remarkable careers of this century.... I think it can be asserted that for the supreme art of governing men, Sir John Macdonald was gifted as few men in any land or in any age were gifted."

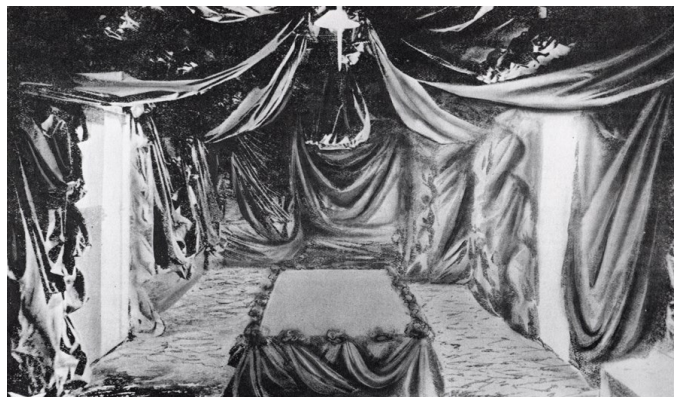
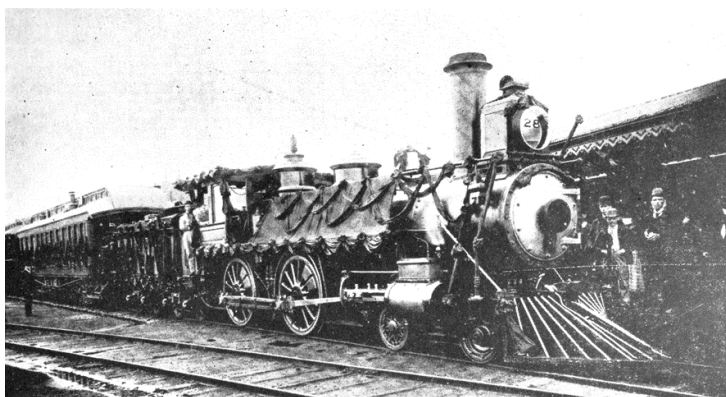
**Tuesday June 9** – His body was moved to the Senate Chamber at 5:00 a.m. All desks and chairs were removed and the public was allowed in at 10:00 a.m. Floral tributes filled one whole side of the room which was draped in black, purple and white. Sentries were on duty at each door as thousands of mourners lined up around Parliament Hill to come and pay their respects.





**Wednesday June 9** – Doors opened from 8:00 a.m. to 1:00 on a very hot day. Souvenir badges, ribbons and medals were sold. At 1:00 the casket was brought from the Senate to the hearse pulled by four horses draped in black. Led by the Dragoon Guards, the Band of the Governor-General's Foot Guards and the band of the 43<sup>rd</sup> Battalion, the procession moved down Elgin Street for a service at St. Alban's Anglican Church.

As they left the church a violent thunderstorm erupted and the crowd scattered for shelter.



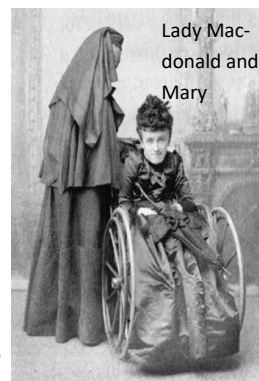
The six car funeral train and the interior of the funeral car were draped in black crepe. The engineer was Patrick J. "Paddy" McFall.

The train made its way to Kingston and large numbers of people from all walks of life gathered in fields along the route and in every small town and village to express their grief and sorrow for The Old Chief, the only leader many had ever known.

**Thursday June 11** – An early train from Ottawa brought M.P. s and Senators to Kingston where City Hall was draped in black and flags were at half-mast. Mourners filed past the casket in Memorial Hall all morning.

At 1:45 the 14<sup>th</sup> Battalion formed an honour guard to the hearse pulled by eight horses. By 2:30 the parade began with the sound of a bugle and muffled drums. The enormous procession began the three mile walk up Princess Street to Cataraqui Cemetery, where John A. had been one of the original shareholders. R.M.C. Cadets with rifles reversed preceded the hearse. The procession took over half an hour to pass any given point along the way.

At the graveside the service was conducted by the Venerable Archdeacon Lauder of Ottawa and the Venerable Archdeacon Bedford-Jones from Napanee. Lady Macdonald

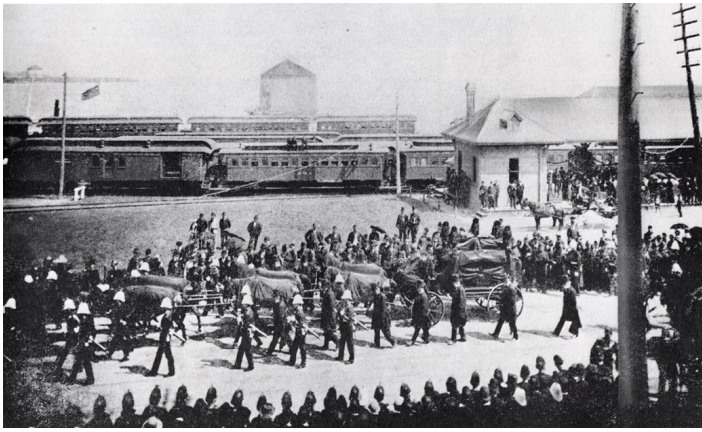


placed a single red rose on the casket. The casket was lowered into the grave about 4:30 and granite slabs were placed around it and an eight inch slab on top fastened down with bolts to prevent grave tampering.



As he promised his mother Helen, he was buried beside her and also his father Hugh, his first wife Isabella, their infant son John Alexander and his two sisters Margaret and Louisa.





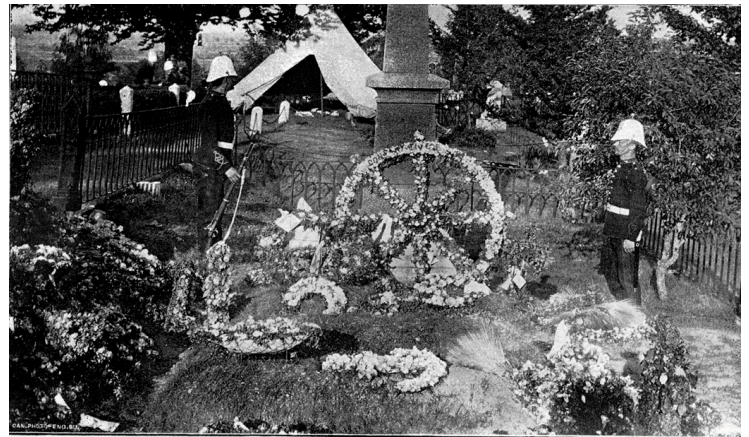
Hearse leaves Kingston City Hall



Bands precede the hearse



Masses of floral tributes at the cemetery



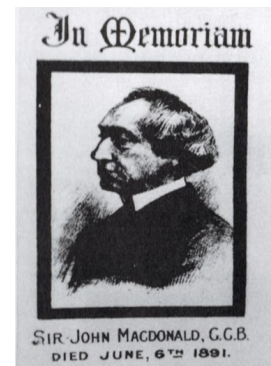
Grave site guarded



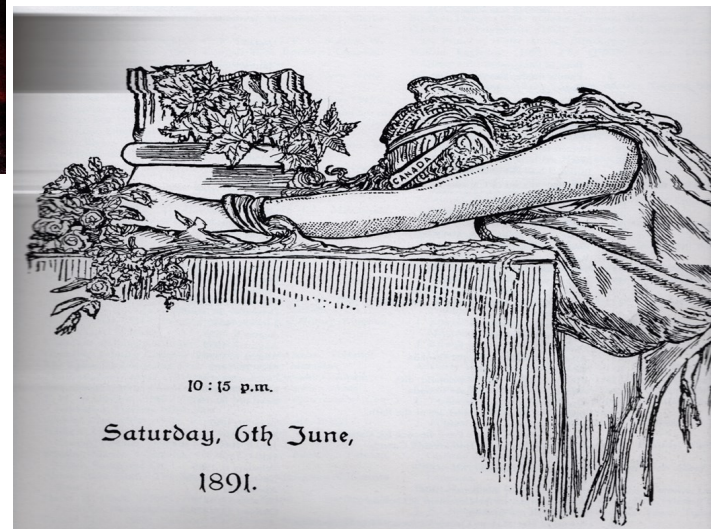
Sir John A. Macdonald

Henry Sandham portrait  
1889

Imperial Privy Councillor  
uniform



Annual  
grave side  
ceremony  
by Kingston  
Historical  
Society

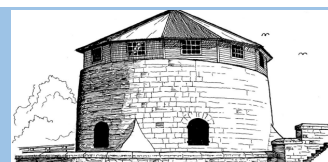




Most people my age will remember first hearing about Radisson and Groseilliers, frequently referred to as “radishes and gooseberries”, when they learned about explorers of Canada in Grade 4. We received a very sanitized romantic picture of these intrepid adventurers. I do remember that they switched loyalties from the French to the English and were the founders of the Hudson Bay Company. Today children learn about Radisson and Groseilliers in Grade 5 social studies but the main focus is on the Indigenous people and the impacts of colonialism, not so much on the heroic Europeans coming to discover the new world! Certainly Mark Bourrie's *Bush Runner: The Adventures of Pierre-Esprit Radisson* disabused me of any of my previous misconceptions of these “gentlemen” explorers. Bourrie presents us with an in-depth and thoroughly researched description of Radisson's early life as an adopted Iroquois and a very enlightening comparison of the similarities and differences in the cultures. Too often the Iroquois have been presented as cruel and vicious, mostly because of the extensive writings of the Jesuits in their correspondence and particularly in the publication of the *Jesuit Relations* which was a propaganda tool to encourage donation of funds for their missionary work. Bourrie balances this by pointing out the many brutalities of European societies during this same time such as in the tortures of the Inquisition and in the many bloody political and religious wars and massacres. Bourrie paints a picture of the incredible life of Radisson who survived twice being captured by Iroquois Nations and both London's Great Plague and Great Fire. As a fur trader he was an unwitting agent of the Jesuits' corporate espionage. He double-crossed the French, English, Dutch and his adoptive Iroquoian families. He was marooned by pirates in Spain and lived through a shipwreck on the reefs of Venezuela. He criss-crossed the Atlantic at least six times. What he and his lesser known brother-in-law and partner Groseillier, (Bourrie describes Groseillier as a totally unscrupulous and dishonest person) achieved, however, in their fur trading ventures led to the founding of the Hudson's Bay Company, which continues to operate today, 350 years later, as North America's oldest corporation. Radisson's final years are summarized by the author in this section: *No longer a man of two cultures, Radisson was just a greedy European with some valuable language skills and insights about how to use Indigenous peoples' manners and laws to manipulate them.*

## Murney Tower

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### Museum Collections: Objects in Focus

For your inner author, here is an inkstand from our collection, one of the most important writing tools of the 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> centuries. An inkstand is a stand or tray used to house writing instruments. First introduced in the 15<sup>th</sup> century, inkstands contained a wide variety of accessories, such as taper stick (a candlestick to hold small tapers), pounce box (for sprinkling pounce), wafer-box (to hold wafers used to seal letters), a penknife and quills.

Inkstands gradually disappeared in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century. Do you know why? Because fountain pens were perfected!

**Inkstand, mid-18<sup>th</sup> century**



## Murney Tower

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### ***Celebrating the 95th Birthday, 2020***

This year on July 22nd, Kingston's oldest operating museum, Murney Tower Museum, turned 95! Although our doors are currently closed to the public because of the current COVID-19 situation, we are still with Murney in heart. As the Murney Tower Museum team, we celebrated the Tower's 95<sup>th</sup> birthday: Monday, July 20<sup>th</sup> through July 26<sup>th</sup>, a series of virtual birthday celebrations on our social media accounts took place; we posted stories, images and videos celebrating the museum's historical and contemporary significance and highlighting its role within Kingston's military history and cultural heritage.

Murney Tower Museum would not have existed all these years without the dedicated and meaningful work of the Kingston Historical Society. Murney Tower is truly the Historical Society's museum. Share with our audiences your thoughts about Murney – let's tell everyone how we feel about the Tower!

*Welcome, new members*

New! Audio books of historical interest by Nick Adams

**Maureen Brites      Paul Charbonneau**

**Eleanor Christopherson**

**Diane Haydon**

**Laurie Keefe**

**Sandy McDowall**

**Heather Miceli**

**Hannah Mitchell**

**David More**

**Wade Morgan**

**Michael Murphy**

**Carol Page**

**Kevin Reed**

#### VOYAGES AND TRAVELS

OF AN  
INDIAN INTERPRETER  
AND TRADER

BY J. LONG

1791

Narrated by Nick Adams

Alexander Henry's  
TRAVELS AND ADVENTURES  
in the years 1760-1776



Narrated by Nick Adams

<https://www.audible.ca/pd/Voyages-and-Travels-of-an-Indian-Interpreter-and-Trader-Audiobook/B086H4K44D>

<https://www.audible.ca/pd/Alexander-Henrys-Travels-and-Adventures-in-the-years-1760-1776-Audiobook/1662112106>

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