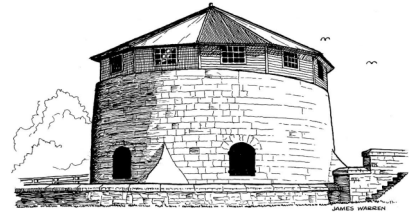


Limelight

Newsletter of the Kingston Historical Society

Kingston Ontario Canada



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President's Message

by Vincent Durant

Despite the shutdown caused by COVID-19, your Historical Society remains active, planning for post-pandemic activities and enhancing our online presence through Facebook and our websites.

As can be seen in the recent CKWS/Global News item (link below), Murney Tower is a busy place! Current activities include cleaning up the Tower. Several no-longer-needed items, such as old cardboard boxes, broken chairs, etc., were recently discarded, and the whole interior received a thorough cleaning. Meanwhile, artifacts are being carefully cleaned and wrapped for storage. We are fortunate to have received extended funding for our summer students; this will allow them to continue working on historical projects and restoration during their academic year, albeit at a reduced number of hours per week.



In my last *President's Message* I mentioned a possible meeting with Frontenac Heritage Foundation, and asked for suggestions on areas in which we may cooperate for the mutual benefit of KHS and FHF. It's not too late to give your feedback, via my email: durantvj@gmail.com

Speaking of meetings, your KHS Council will hold a special planning session in early November. It was suggested by Dr. Duncan McDowall, Program Chair for KHS, "to brainstorm where we go from here." As Duncan sees it, "the landscape has changed", and "we need to address this new horizon in a strategic way." Of course, we will report our findings to you via the KHS website and in Limelight.

Lastly, I would like to mention the 50% discount being offered to current members who renew their membership for 2021 (further details elsewhere in this issue of Limelight). The discount reflects the pandemic-caused suspension of our monthly meetings. For those who are renewing, the rates will be: personal \$25, family \$30, students \$12.50. Thanks go to our Treasurer Peter Ginn and Membership Chair Paul Van Nest for working out the details on this.

Best wishes.

Vincent

Web address: CKWS news item about Murney Tower: <https://globalnews.ca/news/7346313/coronavirus-kingston-murney-tower/>

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

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.

MAILING ADDRESS:

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October's Featured Sponsor

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.

HOMESTEAD

Due to Covid 19 there will be no October KHS lecture.

President: Vincent Durant Vice President: Joe Brites Past President: Warren Everett Treasurer: Peter Ginn Secretary: Don Richardson
Editor, Historic Kingston: Peter Gower Editor, Limelight: Betty Andrews Director, Murney Tower: Tabitha Renaud
Webmaster: Peter Gower Membership Chair: Paul Van Nest pvanneest@cogeco.ca Councillors: Bruce Cossar
Barry Keefe Alan MacLachlan Duncan McDowall Kevin Reed Anne Richardson Paul Van Nest

**Please renew your
KHS membership
now!**

Because several of the normal activities presented to members could not be fulfilled due to the pandemic, the KHS Council recently passed a motion that half of the 2020 paid-up members' fees be used as a credit on the 2021 membership renewal."

KHS Membership Renewal: 2021

- Individual membership: \$50 reduced to \$25.
- Family membership: \$60 reduced to \$30.
- Student membership: \$25 reduced to \$12.50.
- Institutional membership: \$60 remains unchanged.
- Sponsor fee remains at \$300.

An additional donation: The Society would sincerely appreciate any additional donation you may wish to contribute to the Society. Amount: \$_____ (tax-receiptable)

Questions: Please speak to Membership Chair Paul Van Nest, 613-544-6802 or email pvanneest@cogeco.ca

Membership includes the annual journal 'Historic Kingston' and 9 issues of the newsletter 'Limelight' as well as a discounted fees to selected special events. Some sponsors also offer discounts.

Pay by cheque made out to the 'Kingston Historical Society': mail to

Kingston Historical Society, Box 54, Kingston ON K7L 4V6

Pay online from our webpage: www.kingstonhistoricalsociety.ca > Membership

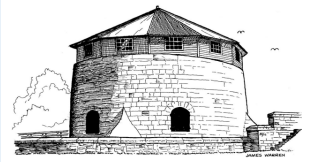
Please indicate, if it is the case, that::

I would like to receive my Limelight online _____

**Please renew your
KHS membership
now!**

Murney Tower

Operated by the Kingston Historical Society



Two **summer students** were hired via the Young Canada Works and Canada Summer Jobs grant programs for May 11th to September 14th. Olivia Anstess and Emma Binns have worked as Museum Assistants. Young Canada Works is potentially going to extend their contracts for another 560 hours covering Fall 2020 and Winter 2021, allowing the museum to complete more exciting projects! We also have a third Museum Assistant joining the team in Fall/Winter, Amy Abraham. This assistant is funded by Canada Summer Jobs.

New Museum Committee: The Murney Tower Museum has now successfully recruited a full steering committee of engaged volunteers with backgrounds in museum studies, cultural heritage, education, finance, human resources, academia and the military. In the past, the museum mostly relied on one key volunteer serving as Director and this left the museum vulnerable to volunteer burnout and succession crises. The introduction of an active committee to help direct staff in the operation of the museum has helped spread out the workload, increased oversight and strengthened relations between the museum and its parent organization, The Kingston Historical Society. The team consists of Tabitha Renaud, Vincent Durant, Simge Erdogan, Don Richardson, Liz Watkins and Tanya Scott.



From the recent past of the Kingston Historical Society's Proceedings

Taken from THEN newsletter – October 1992

Heritage Minutes...there are forty so far, mini-dramas about significant Canadians and events in our history...sponsored by Canada Post, Power Broadcasting, Weston's, McDonald's and all Canadian broadcasters.

*Our member Stewart Renfrew has been appointed Archivist...in Queen's Archives (Technical Service)...

Still Standing

Looking at Regional Architecture with Jennifer McKendry

75-77 Princess Street: “a convenient and elegant building” (excerpt from *Kingston, the Limestone City* by Jennifer McKendry, forthcoming)

Fortunately, this two-storey stone building has survived on the city’s main street for just over 200 years. The street-level storey has been modified with commercial store fronts but the upper stonework is still in place. A cross-section from 1846 shows dormers on the front and back slopes of the roof but the present four (originally three) are recent additions. Described as new in 1817, John Moore rented Major Anderson’s stone house and opened Moore’s Coffee-House and hotel in this “large, convenient and elegant building” with a good yard and stables for horses and carriages (*Kingston Chronicle*, 28 Feb. 1817). In 1821, he added a wing containing 20 single spaces for travellers, as well as enlarging the stables, and renamed it Mansion House Hotel. In September 1826, the Royal Circus took place by paid admission “in rear of the Mansion House Hotel” starting with six beautiful chargers demonstrating a grand military cavalcade and other feats of horsemanship, such as ten-year-old Master



THE MANSION HOUSE,
KINGSTON, U. C.

THE Subscriber respectfully begs leave to notify to the Travelling Public, that he continues to occupy this extensive and well known Hotel.

THE MANSION HOUSE is pleasantly situated in Store Street, being the principal and central street in Kingston; is convenient to all the Steam Boat Wharves, and no establishment of its kind in the Upper Province can surpass it in the excellence and comfort of its apartments, both parlors and bedrooms (thirty-four in number,) all of which are furnished in the very best style.

The Hotel has lately undergone a thorough repair, and is at present in most excellent order and condition for the accommodation of the Public.

The subscriber having kept a Hotel for many years, has acquired experience in that line, and therefore trusts, that with unremitting attention to the comfort of his guests, he will continue to merit public patronage.

In the rear of the Mansion House there is a **LARGE YARD**, and extensive Stabling, and where a Livery Stable is constantly kept.

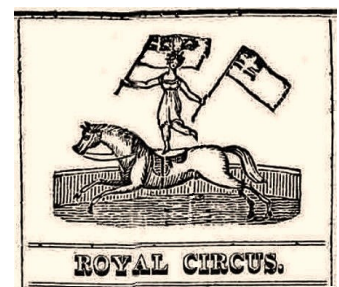
☛ The Mansion House Carriage and Porters will always be in readiness to convey Passengers and Luggage to and from the different Steam Boats.

S. CARMINO.
Kingston, June 22d, 1836.
Upper Canada Herald

Lesslie riding on his head

and a whole company of flying vaulters mounting horses without the use of stirrups. Olympic feats by G. Blanchard in Greek costume were followed by the Haunted Tailor or Billy Button’s Journey to Brentford.

Moore died at age 50 in 1826 and his widow Sarah continued the business. Other tenants followed including a school in the rear part of the hotel. In 1830, Sergo Carmino operated the hotel until his death in February 1842 at age 56. His widow continued but in October the hotel’s furnishings from the 39 bedrooms plus dining rooms, parlours, kitchen, stoves, etc. were auctioned. In addition two excellent horses, their equipment, sleighs and a coach were listed to sell. William Godwin, the next proprietor, changed the name to the North American Hotel in the spring of 1843. This is a glimpse into the early history of a building better known to us as Vandervoort’s Hardware.



Letters Patent in favour of John Counter, Assignee of Charles Tripp for improvements in Stoves

These Letters Patent obtained at Toronto on 28th August 1850 under the Great Seal of Canada West and witnessed by James Bruce, 8th Earl of Elgin and 12th Earl of Kincardine, KT, GCB, KSI, PC, Governor General of the Province of Canada (1847–1854), afford insight into the existence of the virtually unknown Iron Works and Foundry at Kingston called the Ontario Foundry operated under the proprietorship of Kingstonian, John Counter. Counter, a successful businessman and Mayor of Kingston at this time, had engaged Charles Tripp, a Citizen of the United States of America as his foreman in the Foundry operation where in the course of his work there, Tripp had developed a new patterned stove operating on a new principle that he had sought Counter to Patent as his Assignee. By this time, Counter had already invested upwards of one thousand pounds in the manufacture of stoves of a new pattern and on a new principle discovered and invented in his foundry by Charles Tripp. Unfortunately, when this document was found among the Upper Canada Land Grants in the mid 1970s, there were no drawings or illustrations of the new type of stove with the documentation, but surely such would have been submitted with the application for a Patent.

The Iron Works and Foundry at Kingston called the Ontario Foundry operated by John Counter sheds little, if any, documentation apart from reference in these Letters Patent. In October 1855, Counter could not meet a large mortgage payment, and his financial obligations forced him into bankruptcy such that his country house built in 1847 was taken over by a bank in 1856, the same year that his extensive holdings were disposed of by chancery sale.¹ It was in 1855 that distillery, lumber yard, and ship builder industrialist, John Morton of Kingston, purchased the Ontario Foundry located at Mississauga Point on Kingston's waterfront and began to manufacture locomotives for the rapidly expanding Canadian railroad system. Geographer Osborne and historian Swainson observe that the early history of the firm is as murky as its achievements are impressive. How, when, or where Morton the miller-cum-machinist acquired his technological skills is unknown; but it is on record that in 1856 his Ontario Foundry delivered five locomotives to the Grand Trunk, but by 1864 Morton was bankrupt.²

The first iron works in Upper Canada were established in 1801 on the eastern banks of the Gananoque River below the 7.3 metre falls of the village of Lyndhurst by Vermont founderer, Wallis Sunderlin. Now known as the Lansdowne Iron Works, a National Historic Site, where Sunderlin produced cast iron and forged wrought iron goods for area settlers until it was destroyed by fire in 1811 and Sunderlin dying in the War of 1812.³ In operation by 1840, the Kingston Foundry manufactured stationary and marine steam engines plus – at least in the late 1850s – sawmill machinery.⁴ Canada's oldest continuously operating foundry, Alloy Foundry Co. Ltd., of Merrickville has produced sand castings since its founding in 1840. James A. Smart's foundry operation dates from 1854, and by 1856 his Novelty Works were operating on Kincaid St. in Brockville. Counter's vigorous operation of the Ontario Foundry at Kingston by 1850 placed it in the vanguard of the earliest foundries. Nearly 40 years lapsed before other Ontario foundries were established, e.g., the Percival Plow and Stove Co. since 1887 in Merrickville; the Adam Hall foundry in Peterborough was manufacturing since 1887, and the Beach Foundry Ltd. was begun in Ottawa in 1894.

John Counter came to Kingston with his parents about 1820 from Devonshire, England. At first a baker and confectioner, he later expanded his commercial interests into transportation and real estate. His first recorded investment in Kingston was in August 1826 when he bought a £25 share in the Penny Cataract Bridge Company later to become the La Salle Causeway. In January 1836, Counter formed and was first chairman of the Kingston Stave Forwarding Company based on Garden Island. In April of the same year he also formed the Marine Railway Company for ship repair and shipbuilding starting it with his own capital the opening it up to public subscription expanding to include a sawmill, an iron foundry, extensive shops and wharfage rights. He was the first Mayor of the incorporated City of Kingston in 1846 and was elected again in 1850, 1852, 1853, and 1855. In 1842, as mayor, he went to England to borrow money so the town could erect a municipal building befitting the then capital of the province. With John A. Macdonald, he gave a clock for the tower of the new building, completed in 1844, which became the city hall when Kingston was

incorporated as a city in 1846. A strong supporter of the Wesleyan Methodists, Counter donated generously to the building fund for the Victoria Street chapel in 1847. He gave the land and laid the cornerstone, on 17th April 1851, for the Sydenham Street Church, and he served on its management committee. John Counter died 29th October 1862 at the home of his son-in-law at Kingston in virtual obscurity.¹ Today he is remembered where his portrait hangs in the John Counter meeting room at Kingston City Hall, and more recently by the John Counter Boulevard, a major east-west arterial route that passes across the top of *Kingston* from the Cataraqui River to the western end of Princess Street.

Finally, the reader of these Letters Patent finds their dispatch by Robert Baldwin*, of Irish parentage⁵, Attorney General of the Province of Upper Canada, most unusual in making reference to the Right Well Beloved Cousin James Earl of Elgin and Kincardine Knight of the most ancient and Most Noble Order of the thistle Governor General of British North America and Captain General and Governor in Chief in and over Our Province of Canada, Nova Scotia, New Brunswick and the Island of Prince Edward and Vice Admiral of the same etc. ___etc.___ etc___. In fact, Robert Baldwin could rightly claim James Bruce, 8th Earl of Elgin, and 12th Earl of Kincardine as his paternal 3rd cousin.⁶
(GAN, 16 June 2020)

*[Spelling of Baldwin in 1850.]

By George A. Neville

Province of Canada

Victoria by the Grace of God of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland Queen

Queen Defender of the Faith etc___etc___etc

To all to whom these Presents shall come or whom the same may concern_____

Whereas by An Act of the Parliament of this Province passed in the Twelfth year of Our Reign, entitled “an Act to consolidate and amend the Laws of Patents for Inventions in this Province,” it is amongst other things in effect enacted, That any person a Subject of Her Majesty and resident in this province, having discovered or invented any new and useful Art, Machine, Manufacture or Composition of Matter, or any new and useful improvements on any Art Machine, Manufacture or Composition of matter, or the principle thereof the same not being known or used in this Province by others, before his her or their discovery or invention thereof, and not at the time of the application for a Patent in public use or on Sale in this Province, with his consent or allowance as the inventor or discoverer thereof, and desiring to obtain an exclusive property therein, may make application, by Petition in the manner provided in and by certain Acts of Parliament therein recited, to the Governor or Person Administering the Government of this Province, expressing such desire and that the said Governor or Administrator on due proceedings being had as by the said Acts directed to be done shall grant such Patent which shall be good and available to the said Grantee his Heirs, lawful Representatives, or assigns, for the period of fourteen years from the granting of the same after the said Letters Patent shall have been recorded in the manner directed by the said Acts, and upon the assignment of the same previous to the grant aforesaid, for the same period after such assignment shall have been recorded in the Office of the Secretary of the Province. **And** **whereas** one **John Counter** by his Petition to the Legislature of this Province represented that he is the proprietor of the Iron Works and Foundry at Kingston called the Ontario Foundry and carries on business at such Foundry to a large extent that he has invested upwards of one thousand pounds in the manufacture of Stoves of a **New pattern** and on a **new principle discovered and invented** in this province by one **Charles Tripp** a Citizen of the United States of America employed by the said John Counter as his foreman in the said Foundry and that the said Charles Tripp has assigned to him the said John Counter all his interest in the said discovery or invention and is willing and desirous that he should obtain a Patent for the same – **And whereas** the said Charles Tripp not being Our Subject a certain Act of the Parliament of Our Province was thereupon passed by Our Provincial Parliament at their Session held in the thirteenth and fourteenth year of Our Reign entitled [p. 360] “**An Act** to enable **John Counter** to obtain a **Patent** for making **Stoves** of a new Pattern and on a new principle, whereby it is enacted, That for and notwithstanding anything in the said first inventions Act contained to the contrary it should and might be lawful for the Governor General of Our said Province if he should see fit to grant a Patent to the said John Counter for the new discovery or invention in the same manner and to the same effect as the same might have been granted to him under the said first mentioned Act if he had been the discoverer and Inventor of the said new Pattern and new principle which said new Invention or Discovery may be shortly described as follows, that is to say. The nature of the said Invention consists in the addition of flanges to the doors of the stoves by which means when closed they are rendered perfectly air tight – in the admission of cold air into air Chambers on the sides and in the centre of the

Stove which coming in contact with the heated plates prevents their burning, and which, also, being at pleasure admitted into or excluded from the oven, regulates its heat or carries off vapours or steam from it into the main flue of the Stove – and in the mode of attaching a Summer arrangement to the front of the stove by means of which a damper which, when closed is the hansit for ashes from the main Stove to the ash Pit, when raised forms a flue from the Summer arrangement beneath the oven into the main pipe – and of which Invention or Discovery a full drawing description and Specification are to these Presents affixed and hereby made part of the same and Duplicates thereof are deposited in the Office of the Secretary of this Province according to the said Statute together with the said assignment from the said Charles Tripp to the said John Counter bearing date the sixth day of May last past and recorded in the Office of the Secretary of Our said Province on the eleventh day of August in the same year and whereas the said John Counter having applied to Our Governor General of Our said Province for Letters Patent in pursuance of the said Acts, and it being thought fit by Our said Governor General that such Letters Patent should be issued to the said John Counter accordingly – Now know Ye that We of Our especial grace, certain knowledge and mere motion Have given and granted and by these Presents for Us Our Heirs and Successors do give and grant unto the said John Counter his lawful Representatives and assigns and every of them by his and their Deputy or Deputies Servant or Servants, Agent or Agents or such others as he the said Patentee, his lawful Representatives and Assigns shall at any time agree with, and no others, from time to time and at all times hereafter, during the term of fourteen years herein expressed the full and exclusive right and liberty of making, constructing, using and vending to others to be used the said Invention or Discovery within Our Province of Canada in such manner as to him the said Patentee his lawful Representatives and assigns or any of them shall in his or their discretion seem meet, and that the said Patentee his lawful Representatives and assigns, shall and may have use and enjoy the whole profit, benefit, advantage and commodity from time to time accruing or arising, for or by reason of the said Invention or Discovery for and during the term of years herein mentioned To have and To hold receive and enjoy the said license, powers, privileges and advantages hereinbefore granted or intended to be granted unto the said Patentee his lawful Representatives and assigns for and during and unto the full end and term of fourteen years from the said Eleventh day of August in this present year/being the day on which [p. 361] such assignment was recorded in the office of the said Secretary of the Province as foresaid and fully to be complete and ended according to the Statutes in that case made and provided And to the end that the said Patentee his lawful Representatives and assigns, and every of them may the more effectually have and enjoy the full benefit and the sole use, exercises and enjoyment of the said Invention or Discovery as aforesaid, according to Our Gracious intention hereinbefore declared and in pursuance of the Statute in such case made and provided We do by these presents for Us Our Heirs and Successors require and strictly command all and every person or persons, bodies politic and corporate, and all our Subjects whomsoever, of what state, quality, name or condition soever they be, within Our said Province of Canada, that neither they, nor any of them, at any time during the continuance of the said term of fourteen years, hereby granted wither directly or indirectly, do make, use or put in practice the said Invention or Discovery or any part of the same, so attained unto and invented by the said Charles Trip as aforesaid nor in anywise counterfeit, mutate or resemble the same, nor make nor cause to be made any addition thereto or subtraction [sic] therefrom these from whereby to pretend himself, herself or themselves the inventor or inventors, deviser [sic] or devisers [sic] thereof, without the licence [sic] consent or agreement of the said Patentee his lawful Representatives or assigns in writing under his or their hand first had and obtained in that behalf, upon such pains and penalties as can or may be justly inflicted on such offenders or offenders for their contempt of this Our Royal Command, and further to be answerable to the said Patentee his lawful Representatives and assigns, according to Law – and moreover We do by these Presents for Us Our Heirs and Successors will and command all and singular the Justices of the Peace, Sheriff, Bailiffs, Constables and other Officers and Ministers of Us Our Heirs and Successors for the time being, that they nor any of them do not nor shall at any time hereafter during the continuance of the said Term hereby granted, in anywise trouble or molest or hinder the said Patentee his lawful Representatives or assigns or any of them or his or their Deputies Servants or Agents or any of them in or about the due and lawful use, exercise and enjoyment of the said Invention or Discovery aforesaid or in or about any thing relating thereto Provided always that these Our Letters Patent and all liberties and advantages hereby granted shall utterly cease and determine and become null and void, if the said Drawing, Description and Specification do not contain the whole truth relative to the said Invention or Discovery or if such Drawing, Description and Specification contain more than is necessary to produce the desired effect such concealment or addition appearing to have been made to deceive the public or if the said Charles Tripp was not the first discoverer and inventor of the said Invention or Discovery in these Our Letters Patent mentioned, or if the same was known or in use in Our said Province, before the same was invented by the said Charles Tripp and before the application of the said John Counter for these Our Letters Patent in all and each of which cases these Our Letters Patent shall be and remain void.

Rob^t Baldwin

Att^y Gen

By Command

E. A. Mereditte
Assis^t Sect^y

In Testimony whereof We have caused these Our Letters to be made Patent and the Great Seal of Our said Province to be hereunto affixed Witness Our Right Trusty and Right Well Beloved Cousin James Earl of Elgin and Kincardine Knight of the most ancient and Most Noble Order of the thistle Governor General of British North America and Captain General and Governor in Chief in and over Our Province of Canada, Nova Scotia, New Brunswick and the Island of Prince Edward and Vice Admiral of the same etc. etc. etc. at Toronto this twenty eight day of August in the year of Our Lord one Thousand eight hundred and fifty and in the fourteenth year of Our Reign.

Recorded 18th September 1850 R Mackey, Registrar

Source: Upper Canada Land Grants, Liber AG (Special Grants) Reel C-4158, pp. 359-361.

Transcribed by George A. Neville (4 July 2017)

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About the Author

George Neville has served as vice-chairman (1975–77) and chairman (1977–79) of the Ottawa Branch of the Ontario Genealogical Society (OGS) and as editor of its quarterly journal *Families* (1978–1983). From 2010 to 2015 he served as president of The Historical Society of Ottawa and is currently active as the Society's past president.

Information wanted

I would like obtain more information and clarity to a story. I was told that in the 1930's Kingston rejected the office establishment of Ford Canada to manufacture vehicles here.

I heard this story many years ago from the facilitator while attending a "KEYS" job seminar.

Harry Zandbergen <harry1960@123mail.org>



Welcome, new member

Tanya Scott

HERITAGE DINNER UPDATE

Please be advised that, regretfully, we will not be hosting the Society's Canadian Heritage Dinner in February 2021 due to COVID-19.

