

# Limelight

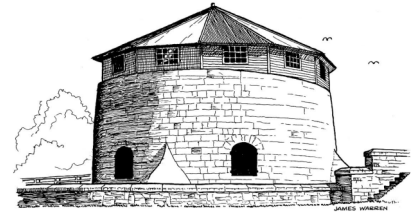
## Newsletter of the Kingston Historical Society

Kingston Ontario Canada

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March 2021



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



### *A Woman for All Seasons*

*Duncan McDowall, Program Chair*

The history and geography of Kingston is punctuated by the Cartwright surname. There is Cartwright Point overlooking Lake Ontario, a Cartwright Street and the stately Cartwright House on King Street. Since the coming of the Loyalists, Kingston has been formatively shaped by Cartwrights: the Hon. Richard Cartwright served early Kingston as merchant, judge and militia defender at one end of the nineteenth century while the redoubtable Sir Richard Cartwright dominated its politics at the other end of the century. Into this formidable male world of Cartwrights one woman managed to carve an indelible mark on the community which she adopted through marriage – Harriett Dobbs Cartwright (1808-1887).

At the Society's February Zoom lecture, Victoria Cosby, a doctoral candidate in history at Queen's, probed the life and legacy of Harriett. Born into an Irish barrister's family in Dublin, Harriett married the Rev. Robert David Cartwright in 1832 and, after a honeymoon in Europe, arrived in her adopted Upper Canadian home. She arrived equipped with predictable "British" attitudes towards the rough and tumble culture of a town on the frontier of Empire. Pious and respectable, Harriet soon however rejected any notion that her life in Kingston would be one of "shapeless idleness" as passive society matron.

At a time when males dominated the formal institutional life of the town, women were obliged to gravitate into voluntary social action. Cosby eloquently chronicled Harriet's unflagging industry in this respect as a member of the Female Benevolent Society with its dedication to community health, immigrant welfare and fundraising. Kingston's first hospital emerged from this impetus, as did assistance to destitute Irish immigrants, widows and orphans. Harriet proved adept at forming alliances with advocates of reform of local prison conditions and mental illness. She taught Bible classes, visited inmates and sang in choirs, all the while maintaining the respectability of a minister's wife and raising four children. She also tried her hand at poetry and painting. In portraying the vitality of Cartwright's life, Cosby displayed her own skills as a gifted researcher and scholar intent on rebalancing the interpretation of women's role in Upper Canadian society. Her smoothly delivered lecture with its accompanying illustrations left a memorable impression on a large Zoom audience.

**KHSmeeting**

**Wednesday, March 3 @7:00 pm**

**>>>>>>via Zoom**

**Marc Seguin** will speak on "The Lighthouses of Kingston: Guiding Ships through the Graveyard of Lake Ontario, 1828 to 1914"

# THE KINGSTON HISTORICAL SOCIETY

*Established 1893*

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*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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## *President's Message*

*by Vincent Durant*

Thank you to all the members who were able to Zoom in to our Annual General Meeting on Wednesday, February 24<sup>th</sup>. For those who could not attend, please check out the material posted on the KHS website. There you will find reports from the various committees, and an overall assessment of the workings of your Society during the past year.



I am pleased to report that we have a full complement of officers – most returning from last year – to carry on the vital work of the Society. We were sorry to see Bruce Cossar, Kevin Reed and Joe Brites leave Council and want to thank them for their support. Joining us this year as Vice President is Paul Charbonneau, who brings a wealth of experience to the group.

Naturally, the pandemic has caused many of our well-laid plans to “go astray”; and yet, through the dogged determination of many, much has been accomplished.

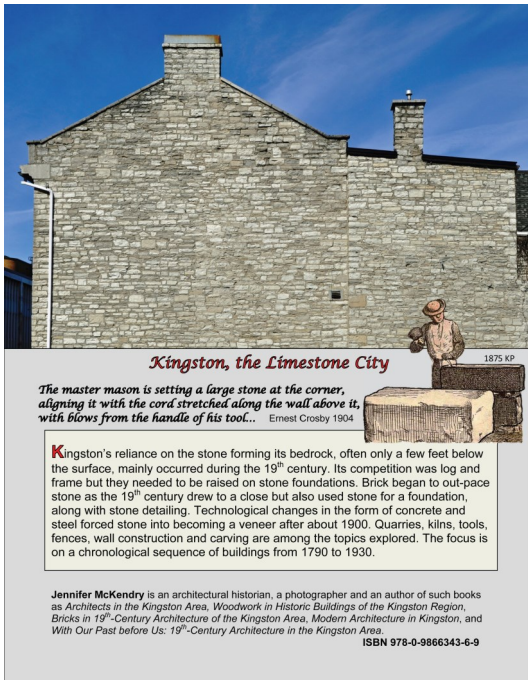
Largely through the efforts of our program chair, Dr. Duncan McDowall, we have been able to carry on with the lecture series that has, over the years, become a mainstay of the Society. Each of the lectures is available on YouTube a few days after the respective presentation (see instructions on KHS website).

A shoutout should also go to the hard work of the staff of the Murney Tower Museum. Although it did not open this year, staff under the capable leadership of museum manager Simge Erdogan and museum director Dr. Tabitha Renaud continued to reach out to the community through the website and other social media. As well, this past year the museum created a dedicated newsletter and moved its artifacts from the donated space at Queen’s University Archives to museum storage facilities.

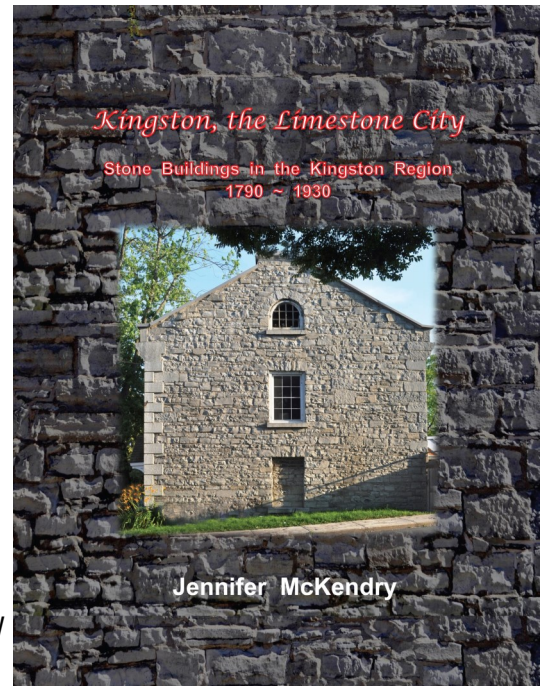
In closing, I want to express my gratitude for the support given during my first year as president of the Society. I am looking forward to working with everyone as we continue sharing the rich heritage of our great city.

*Vincent*

**Jennifer McKendry**, a well-known architectural historian and an authority on regional architecture, has already written numerous articles and books including ones on brick and wooden buildings – this one deals with stone examples from 1790 to 1930 in the Kingston region. The title, *Kingston, the Limestone City*, reflects the city's self-characterization via the motto "the limestone city" from the 1870s to the present day.



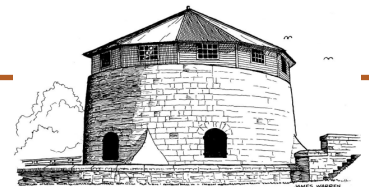
Over 300 pages in colour, aspects of quarrying and construction are examined, along with an extensive illustrated chronology of buildings ranging from simple to complex. Landscaping elements are not forgotten. McKendry notes that one of the subjects of particular interest is carving ornamental elements – an aspect not previously explored in publications. The pandemic restrictions will delay its launch but, in the meanwhile, it is available at Novel Idea bookstore.



## The Kingston Regional Heritage Fair (May 2021)

**Tabitha Renaud writes:**

The Heritage Fair is going virtual this year! Hundreds of local elementary school children from Grades 4-8 will be participating online this year in a huge scavenger hunt and a selection of interactive workshops created by local museums. The schedule is expanding from one day in person to an entire week of online education. Our very own Murney Tower Museum has created a virtual workshop and will be providing scavenger hunt clues. The museum team is very excited to share photos of the fun when it unfolds in May. **The Fair would like to thank KHS for continuing as a sponsor year after year to ensure this event continues.**



Kingston City Council has approved a list of appointments to the 'Sir John A Macdonald History and Legacy Kingston Working Group' from the City's Nominations Advisory Committee.

The appointees include Kingston residents Mary Farrar, Tanya Grodzinski and Ann Stevens. Three self-identified Indigenous community members Laurel Clause Johnson, Candace Lloyd and Dionne Nolan were also appointed to the group.

## *Troubles Along the Border – Part Two*

*by Bill Patterson*

*(Title agreed to by Warren Everett)*

I was greatly interested in Warren Everett's article in the December 2020 issue of *Limelight* for a number of personal reasons. My great-uncle, John Patterson, of Pittsburgh Township, a brother of my grandfather James Patterson, and a member of the 14th Battalion, Princess of Wales' Own Regiment went with the Regiment on June 3, 1866, to Cornwall, where it stayed in garrison until the 18th, when it returned to Kingston. Canadian and British troops gathered there to guard the border with the USA against an attack by Fenian forces gathering in the area of Malone, NY. Another great-uncle, Henry Ruttan, a brother of my grandmother, Grace McLean, who lived in the house that is the Pittsburgh Library today, and was a member of the PWOR, also went to Cornwall. Both received the Canada General Service Medal (CGSM) with the bar for 1866. I inherited John Patterson's medal, which I donated to the PWOR Museum.

My grandmother Grace McLean's husband, Daniel McLean, and his brother, William J. McLean, also received the CGSM for 1866 as members of the Kingston Field Battery, which was officered and manned by men from Pittsburgh Township. In addition, two of Grace McLean's first cousins, William and John G. Baillie, received the CGSM with the bar for 1866 while serving with the PWOR, and the bar for 1870, while serving with the 47th Battalion. (All PWOR members living outside of Kingston were forced to transfer to the 47th in 1867, when the PWOR was declared a city unit only. The Baillies lived just north of Barriefield on Highway 15.)

Warren used the example of an officer in the Royal Canadian Regiment of Rifles who had been awarded the medal with both the 1866 and the 1870 bars. 262 PWOR members were awarded the medal with the 1866 bar; 60 members received the 1870 bar only, while 14 received both bars.

By using a member of the RCRR, Warren provided me with another personal connection. For a number of years I have been working on a biography of Lieutenant-Colonel Francis Edward Wootton, OBE, MC, ED, a Canadian veteran of both World Wars. It so happened that his father, Edward Wootton, was a sergeant in the RCRR at the time of the Fenian Raids but, unfortunately, he died in 1890 - nine years before the medal was issued.

Fortunately, I have a copy of the military record of Sergeant Edward Wootton, who was released from the RCRR on May 31, 1870, with a pension based on 24 years and 85 days of service in the British Army, with 11 years and 261 days spent in the RCRR, the headquarters of which was in the Tete-du-Pont Barracks (Fort Frontenac), Kingston. Although the Regiment was scheduled to be disbanded at the same time that all the British regiments in Canada were to be recalled to Great Britain, it was still a sizeable force on May 24, 1870, when six strong companies joined the PWOR on the Barriefield Common (the site of the present CFB Kingston sports centre) in a ceremonial salute to Queen Victoria on her birthday (a 24 gun salute was fired at noon that day from Fort Henry). The outbreak of another Fenian Raid in 1870 and the Red River Rebellion in 1870, in both of which the RCRR took part, delayed the withdrawal of British forces from Canada until 1871. The last British troops to leave Canada left Quebec City on November 11, 1871. Interestingly, on that same day, 'A' Battery of the newly established Canadian Permanent Force, founded on October 20, 1871, occupied Tete-du-Pont Barracks.



While an exact date for the disbandment of the RCRR is yet unknown, it had to be sometime in 1871. In an article in Volume 1 of *Historic Kingston*, Ronald Way stated that the day of disbandment was June 1, 1870, which cannot be correct because members of the RCRR were issued with the CGSM with the Bar for Fenian Raid 1870 and the Red River Expedition of 1870, both of which took place in the fall of 1870.

Former members of the RCRR who had survived until 1899, applied for and were issued the CGSM, numbered 12 officers and 128 other ranks; 84 received the medal with only the 1866 bar, 16 had only the 1870 bar, 36 had both the 1866 and the 1870 bars, 3 had only the RR bar, only 1 had all three bars.

Today, the Fort Henry Museum has an officer's sword from the RCRR, a photograph of the officers in 1866, and a linen, embroidered tablecloth belonging to the Officers' Mess dining room. It also has an undated photograph of the disbandment of the RCRR in front of the Officers' Mess in Fort Frontenac.

In the attached photo can be seen the following:

1. On the extreme left is the headquarters group consisting of the Commanding Officer (mounted), the Paymaster, the Quartermaster (QM), the Surgeon, the Assistant Surgeon, and the Adjutant (mounted). There is one more officer needed, who probably was another Assistant Surgeon, because the RCRR was composed of older soldiers and allowed 12 married men per company (the normal was 6) resulting in more women and children to be medically administered to ;
2. Behind the Adjutant are the company officers (3 per company) - there are at least 15 (some may have taken the opportunity to return to the UK to join other regiments);
3. There are two mounted officers near the front entrance to the Officers's Mess — they are the Senior Major and the Junior Major;
4. There is a small group of 4 in front of the first company; they are the staff sergeants: Sergeant-Major, Pay Sgt, QM Sgt, and Orderly Room Sgt. There is, in addition, one Colour Sgt for each company — they are in command of the companies, the number of which is hard to count - at least 6, maybe 8;
5. On the extreme right are the pioneers, at least 8 (which would indicate there were 8 companies);
6. Behind the pioneers is the band, which seems to be quite large — because the company buglers (1 per company) are in rear. The Bugle Major is in front.

In searching for more information on the RCRR in Fort Frontenac, Joanne Stanbridge, Kingston-Frontenac Public Library, found an interesting article in *The British Whig* of 27 May, 1870, which told of a shooting at Fort Frontenac. On May 25, 1870, Private Daniel Macnamara of the RCRR, armed with a pistol, went to the Sergeants' Quarters, where he shot Colour-Sergeant Riggs in the face, the bullet exiting out his cheek. Macnamara then shot himself in the head, committing suicide. Riggs was taken to the hospital where he recovered. Apparently, Macnamara had expressed the notion that Riggs was picking on him. Riggs was said not to have been at fault in evidence given by other members of the unit.

The search for the exact date of the disbandment of the RCRR goes on.



## Heritage Conservation Awards for 2020

Frontenac Heritage Foundation, President: Shirley Bailey



**Carynne and Stephen Arnold**, owners of the heritage protected Aiken House at 4255 Bath Road, Kingston. Located near the westerly limit of the City of Kingston near Homeward Avenue and Bath Road, the property has a one-and-a-half storey limestone farmhouse built prior to 1860, and was designated under the Ontario Heritage Act in 2017.

The Arnolds received the Certificate of Commendation, and Certificates of Appreciation were given to a number of tradespeople involved in the extensive renovations: Mac Gervan and Glen Fast of Mac Gervan and Associates Ltd., for the design of two dormers in the wing of the house, William Deguire, of Full House Roofing and Restorations, for installation of charcoal grey metal roof, Zachary Armstrong, Armstrong Construction


for his carpentry on the new dormers, Frank Ottenhof, Stone Mills Masonry for the stone patio and Student Works Painting.

Watch presentation video at <https://youtu.be/dyXF5EPuXxU>

**Konstantinos (Gus) Panageotopoulos**, owner of the Davy House, at 370 Academy Street, in Bath Ontario, Loyalist Township. The Davy House, built by 1819, and designated by Loyalist Township in 2018, is a one-and-a-half storey centre block house, with two balancing set back wings.

Gus received the Certificate of Commendation, and David White, of D. J. White Restorations received the Certificate of Appreciation for the fine woodwork undertaken over several years, including many storm windows, a door with side lights and multiple window surrounds, all carried out with great care and attention.



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

Taken from THEN newsletter – March 1993

March 1993 ...we are pleased to announce that the Kingston Historical Society has paid off the debts of the Murney Tower Museum...

***Till Victory***  
***The Second World War by Those Who Were There***  
by Clément Horvath  
**A book report by Barry Keefe**

An e-mail arrived from France in May of 2018. Someone unknown to me asked if I knew James P.C. Macpherson. I was intrigued, but also a little wary. I replied yes. That began a correspondence that has spanned several years and has culminated in a new book that has been published, first in France in 2019, and very recently in the United Kingdom and North America.

*Till Victory*, subtitled '*The Second World War by Those Who Were There*', is a record of the times and is built on the foundation of actual letters of members of various forces, mostly in Western Europe, between 1939 and 1945. The writers were from France, the United Kingdom, Canada, New Zealand and the United States. The Kingston connection is through my father-in-law, James Pennington Carlyle 'Jim' Macpherson, MC, CSTJ.

The Macpherson family is deeply embedded in Kingston history. Major Donald Macpherson, a veteran of the American Revolutionary War, was the British officer in command at Kingston at the outbreak of the War of 1812 and supervised the construction of the wooden stockade around the town before being called to Quebec City, where he was commissioned Lt. Col. of the 10th Royal Veterans Battalion. He returned to Kingston, where he retired, and was an active member of the community, including as a founding elder of St. Andrews.

Donald's son John Alexander, a lawyer and businessman, served as a lieutenant in the 2nd Regiment of the Prince Edward militia before returning to Kingston and to an untimely death in 1844. His funeral was conducted from his home on Wellington Street.

John A.'s son, James Pennington, was student #38 when he enrolled at the new Queen's College at age 15 and graduated with a B.A. and an M.A. before becoming a lawyer and enjoying a lengthy career in the civil service. Like his father, he was active in the militia, becoming Lt.Col. of the Governor General's Foot Guards in 1886.

Pennington's sons both served in the Great War. John A.C. and Kenneth enlisted with the 38th Canadian Expeditionary Force and served in France. A victim of a gas attack, Major John was invalided back to Britain, then to Canada, where he was appointed to the Military Hospitals Commission in Kingston. The Macpherson family lived on Bagot Street when Jim's sister Dorothy was born.

Given his family history, it was only natural that Jim should respond to the call to arms in 1939. He joined the Cameron Highlanders of Ottawa and by the summer of 1940 he was in Iceland as part of the special Canadian "Z" force assembled to garrison the country at the request of Winston Churchill. A year later the Camerons departed for Britain.

Training ensued to prepare the Canadian troops for the front lines. During amphibious landing training at Castle Toward in Scotland, Jim met Pvt. Betty Taylor, a member of the Auxiliary Training Service from Edinburgh serving at the Castle. They would marry in April of 1943.

Jim landed on Juno Beach on D-Day. It was the letter written about that landing to his parents days later that caught the eye of my French correspondent, Clément Horvath.

Since the age of 10, Clément has been fascinated by the history of World War II. He became an early collector of memorabilia and authentic artifacts linked to the people in wartime. The letters that he found through auctions, collectors, estate sales and the like inspired him to gather the experiences together to form a cohesive account of day-to-day life of those who were directly engaged in action from 1939 to 1945. Not every letter was suited to the purpose. Some were indecipherable, some were too heavily censored, but in the end he focused on 55 individuals, setting them in the context of their time and with a lot of extra material about their units, the battles in which they were engaged and other events.

Jim had been a keen member of a theatre group as a young man and had a great facility with language. In response to a letter from his parents writing to say they had difficulty imagining his surroundings, he replied on 21 June, 1944, from Les Buissons, France:



*Well how's this - just think of a scene from 'Journey's End'. I've moved into an old barn rather the worse for wear, but it's dry. I am writing this from candle-light. The candle is stuck in an old wine bottle. The rough table is stained with chicken blood, there is the remains of a bottle of whisky, an empty jam tin and a couple of pieces of hard tack, an army mug and curiously enough Betty's picture propped up against another empty wine bottle in which my batman has placed 3 very big, very pink roses - Dad will recall many such a familiar scene! Things are comparatively quiet for the present.*

Contrast this with earlier letters describing the carnage of the D-Day landing and the reader will come to understand the importance of these first-person accounts that exist throughout *Till Victory*.

Jim was one of the fortunate Canadians who returned to normal life. He maintained military ties through the Camerons and was Lt. Col. of the Royal Montreal Regiment. He had a long and distinguished career with the Bank of Montreal, including as the manager of the main branch overlooking Kingston's market square. Like his great-great grandfather, he retired in Kingston and was an active member of the community until his death at age 81 in 1998.

Clément's book is a fascinating addition to the literature of the Second World War. It is now available in Canada through Amazon.

**KHS MEETINGS** take place each month from September to May. During the time of pandemic restrictions, they will be at 7:00 pm on **Zoom** on a Wednesday to be announced for each month. Visitors are welcome, after notifying the membership chair at [pvannest@cogeco.ca](mailto:pvannest@cogeco.ca) and receiving the **Zoom link**. Membership includes, besides the monthly lectures, the receipt of 9 issues of *Limelight*, the Society's newsletter, and *Historic Kingston*, the annual journal which is a record of the monthly proceedings of ship also includes discounts at particularly a June 6th Cataraqui Cemetery commemorating the death of Canada. Also, normally, there is an *Existing members will have fees curtailed monthly activities of*

**Please renew your  
KHS membership  
now!**

the Kingston Historical Society. Member-pating sponsors' businesses. There is nor-National Historic Site graveside ceremony da's first prime minister, Sir John A. Mac-event held in Heritage week in February. *for rejoining in 2021 halved due to the 2020.*

### **KHS Membership Renewal: 2021**

Individual \$50 reduced to \$25. Family \$60 reduced to \$30. Student \$25 reduced to \$12.50.

- Institutional \$60 remains unchanged. - Sponsor fee remains at \$300.



## **HOMESTEAD**

*Welcome, new member*

Jack Barnes	Diana Cao	Michael Sheedy
Beverley Frid		Bernard Gelineau
Katie-Marie McNeill		Brent Raycroft
David and Maja-Lisa Thomson		