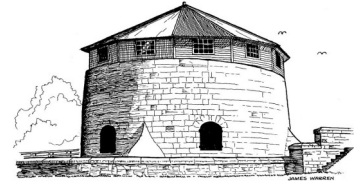


Limelight

Newsletter of the Kingston Historical Society

Kingston Ontario Canada

Volume 24 no 1 ISSN 1488-5565 www.kingstonhistoricalsociety.ca January 2022



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



KHS Meeting Wednesday, January 19, 2022 7pm

via Zoom

Speaker Robert C. Engen

Weathering the Storm: Health Protection and the Canadian Corps during the Pandemic of 1918.

Robert C. Engen PhD, is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Defence Studies at the Canadian Forces College in Toronto, but has lived in Kingston for two decades. He is the author of three books on human behaviour in war, co-author of a forthcoming graphic history of the Battle of Hill 70 in 1917, and is the author of a book on disease prevention during the Second World War, soon to be published. He was lead researcher for the Hill 70 Memorial Project and is writing the next volume of the official PPCLI regimental history. His talk is based upon research carried out for the Canadian Armed Forces' Surgeon-General and was presented to a senior medical advisory committee in April 2020 at the beginning of the Covid-19 pandemic, and was thereafter published in the *Journal of Military, Veterans, and Family Health*.

The Ontario Heritage Trust envisions an Ontario where we conserve, value and share the places and landscapes, histories, traditions and stories that embody our heritage, now and for future generations. ...The Trust safeguards extensive collections associated with our heritage properties and their histories. Beth Hanna, CEO of The Ontario Heritage Trust announced in November the launch of the Trust's digital collections project, providing **access to its collections** and another window into the sites that it protects, beginning with collections from 18 sites from different parts of the province, carrying stories from a range of eras, communities and themes. To learn more visit The Ontario Heritage Trust website.

THE KINGSTON HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Established 1893

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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 acknowledgement 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

We recently reached out to Jennifer Campbell, the director of heritage services for the City of Kingston, to inquire about the status of the SJAM statue and plans for its relocation. Her reply has been edited for space:

"The Sir John A. Macdonald History and Legacy Working Group continues to meet monthly, though the work since September has moved into a phase of writing and editing. The working group has established small 1-2 person teams, each of which has taken a theme [such as] ... Macdonald's early life in Kingston, Indigenous Peoples in Kingston, the Indian Act and Immigration. ... The working group has also reached out to Bellevue House and is looking forward to future alignment and intersection with the work underway to present Macdonald's history and legacy at the National Historic Site."

Regarding the location of SJAM's statue, Dr. Campbell notes that "we are now processing the feedback received through the recent open surveys and Indigenous-led talking circles that were held through October and November. These community engagement opportunities focused on collecting thoughts and input on 1) the proposed relocation of the statue to Cataraqui Cemetery and 2) ideas for future installations at the statue's former location in City Park.

... Staff are now assessing what was submitted and will be presenting a report to Council on the feedback and proposed next steps in early February 2022."

Happy New Year !

Vincent



HOW A BOX OF OLD LETTERS LED TO WRITING A BOOK by Bill Patterson

In the summer of 2002, while preparing to write the history of the Princess of Wales' Own Regiment (PWOR), I made a search of the unit museum looking for historical material. I found an old cardboard box hidden under a display cabinet. When I opened it I found a number of military medals on top of a bunch of old letters, still in their original envelopes. The medals belonged to a Lt F.E. Wootton, Canadian Field Artillery, and the letters were sent by him during the First World War to an address in Winnipeg. There was no connection to the PWOR, so I took the box to RMC thinking that an MA student might be interested.

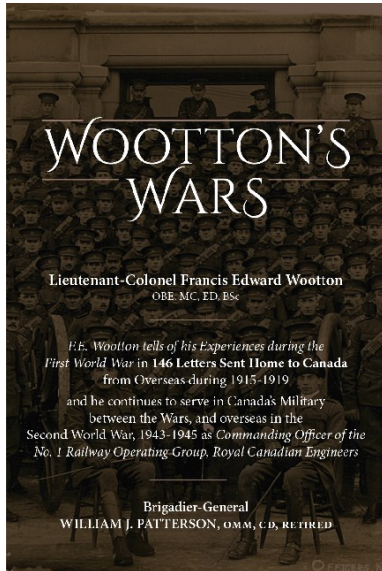
After my book on the history of the PWOR came out in 2004, I thought of the box of letters. I found that no one at RMC was interested in its contents so it had been placed in Queen's Archives, which holds archival material found in Kingston. As I was now engaged in writing another book on military history, I again put the thought of investigating the contents of the box on hold. Two books later, plus a minor stroke, I finally found the time to open the box in 2014.

What I found was a treasure-trove of priceless historical material: 146 letters written during the First World War by a student of engineering at the University of Manitoba, who joined the Canadian Field Artillery (CFA) on November 11, 1914, being recruited in Winnipeg for the Canadian Expeditionary Force (CEF). Francis Edward Wootton (FEW), 29 years old, 6 foot 4 inches tall, was a CPR conductor of 10 years standing, who had left regular employment in 1912 to further his education. While attending Wesley College and the University of Manitoba, he roomed and boarded with the Sharman family of two adult boys and four girls at 535 Bannatyne Ave, Winnipeg — the address to which all the letters were addressed.

To be able to work with the letters, I paid a Queen's student to open all the envelopes, spread out all their contents, and copy them, digitally and chronologically, into yearly groupings: 1915 - 21 letters; 1916 - 35; 1917 - 43; 1918 - 35; 1919 - 12; total 146. Then, I enlisted my good friend Sandy Campbell as editor. First she went through all 146 letters, inserted punctuation, and generally tidied up the letters to make them easier to read. Then she went through my planned layout of a book to tell the story of FEW's life, in other words, a biography. His life was much more than five years of military service, 1914-1919: he served in the Canadian Militia between the wars, and in the Canadian Army (Active) for six years during the Second World War. When not soldiering, FEW worked for the CPR for 47 years, rising from the rank of a day labourer through conductor to divisional superintendent.

All my previous nine books were written for organizations which acted as the publisher. Since I had no experience of soliciting a commercial publisher, I decided to publish the book on FEW on my own, using a local printer, Allan Graphics Ltd. It prints *Historic Kingston*, an annual publication of the Kingston Historical Society, a standard 6 x 9 paperback in black and white with a full colour cover (now in full colour, ed.). I decided to use the same format.

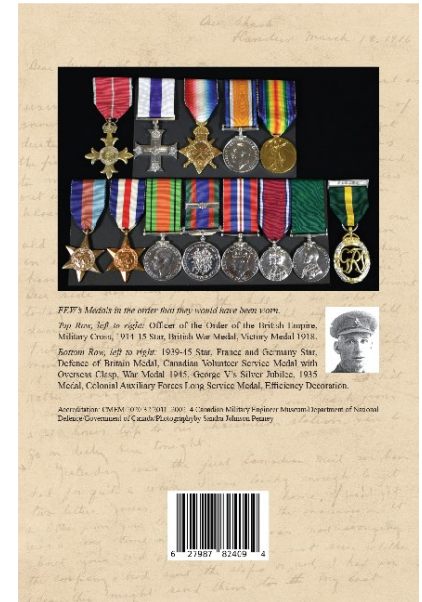
Taking Sandy's advice, I entitled the book "Wootton's Wars." It consists of the usual preliminary material: Short Title page, Title page, Dedication, Foreword (written by my good friend, MGen Frank Norman), List of Illustrations and Maps (41 in total), Preface and Acknowledgements. Then an Introduction is followed by 15 Chapters, and a Conclusion. Next listed are numerous sources of information. Primary: in addition to the 146 letters, FEW brought home 26 examples of First World War memorabilia; Library and Archives Canada has FEW's complete military history, amounting to 83 pages: and a number of Census Reports. Secondary: 15 First and Second World War histories. Then follows a Glossary and List of Military Units connected to FEW.



retirement, he became a Justice of the Peace in Kingston and a member of the KHS Executive before his death in 2000.

When you read the story of his life and look at his only legacy — the 13 medals as shown on the back cover, and on display at the Canadian Military Engineers Museum at the Canadian Forces School of Military Engineering, CFB Gagetown, NB, you will realize what a true patriot he was, and that he should be recognized and remembered. Hopefully, this book will be his memorial.

Edward Francis Wootton's father was stationed in Fort Frontenac as a British Army sergeant, and his son was the last Commandant of the Canadian Army Staff College at Fort Frontenac. After



KHS Heritage and Awards Celebration

We are currently moving forward in planning our “Afternoon Tea” to be held on Sunday, February 27, 2022. The Society is, of course, watching how the Covid 19 situation continues to evolve in Kingston. Any decisions that are made will be communicated to KHS members via Limelight, our web site or email.

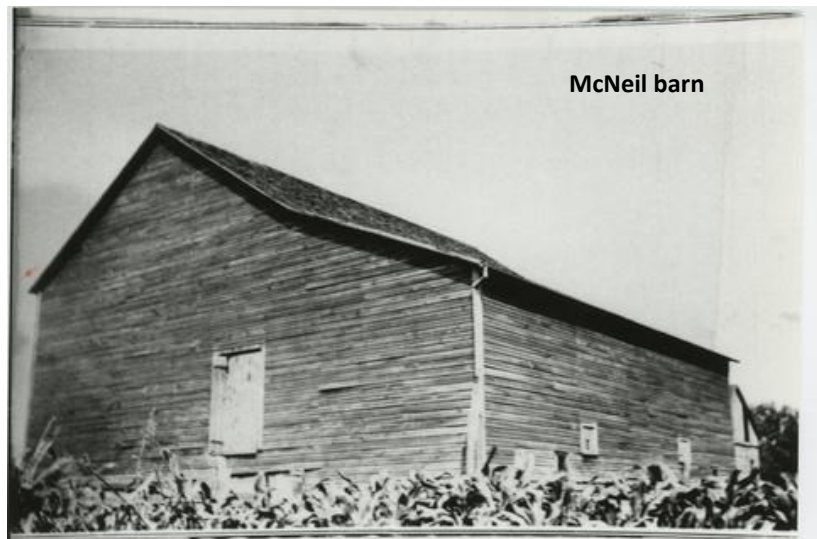
Past President Warren Everett writes:

The success of the Kingston Historical Society is largely dependent on the strength and dedication of the Society's Council. This group manages the direction of the Society, it's finances, programme content, and the usual day-to-day issues that face volunteer organizations. As Past President, I am charged with the task of ensuring that the Council is up to strength. A few members of the Council are stepping down after the AGM in February 2022. Therefore, this is a call to members of KHS to consider joining the Council. Please contact me at warreneverett7@gmail.com if you are interested, or want to discuss the role of a councillor.

A Slow and Steady Beginning for the Leeds and 1000 Islands Historical Society

On a balmy spring evening in 1991, a small group of people sat around a table on the patio of the Golden Apple in Gananoque. We were hosted by Shirley Fernetich who had a passionate interest in the history of our area. Attendees at that meeting included Bill Boulton, who became our first President, Alan Lindsay a historical researcher and genealogist, Shirley Fernetich our host, Mary Joan Barrett, Alexis Girling and Bruce Kibble who owned an antique store in Lansdowne and myself, the current President of the group. Over the next few months, more meetings were held in various locations in Lansdowne and area.

Conversations revolved around the need to preserve our heritage: oral, written and built. One of the catalysts for this meeting was the tearing down of the McNeil barn which local legend says was the oldest barn in Ontario still standing at that time. According to Ernest G. Cook who did an article for the Watertown Daily Times in 1940, it was erected by a passing platoon of soldiers during The War of 1812. (See Fall/Winter 2012 Newsletter).



In 1992, the first official meeting of the Front of Leeds and Lansdowne Historical Society was held at the Community Building in Lansdowne. At that meeting most of the Executive Offices were filled and we were started!

By 1994, we were incorporated under the Ontario Historical Society and published our first newsletter! Five programmes of historical interest were presented and the membership rose to over 60 people. Our display at the Lansdowne Fair brought much interest and membership grew. Lisa Thompson was hired through a government program to help with sorting and cataloguing items which had already been donated to the society. Hilary Ann Hamilton, our second employee also started recording oral histories of local residents.

Amalgamation of the Townships of Front of Leeds and Lansdowne, Rear of Leeds and Lansdowne and Escott Township brought a new name and new focus. We became the Leeds and 1000 Islands Historical Society.

Over the past 27 years the Leeds and 1000 Islands Historical Society has been involved in many projects. Some of these include the designation of Darlingside (a historic home and business on the St. Lawrence River under the National Historic Sites of Canada which does not provide protection for buildings), the restoration of Greenfield School (S.S. #3), the restoration of the Railway Mural at the train tracks in Lansdowne in cooperation with Lansdowne Association For Revitalization, and the research, production and erection of several historical plaques in the Township of Leeds and the 1000 Islands.



Presentation about the Archaeological Dig

We have also heavily supported the development of the Veteran's Memorial in front of Thousand Islands Elementary School . We have given financial support to the Rockport Customs Park, which consists of the old custom house and dock on the St. Lawrence River in Rockport, and the archaeological dig at Lyndhurst where the first iron smelter in Upper Canada was located.

Most importantly, the Leeds and 1000 Islands Historical Society was a partner in forming the Leeds and 1000 Islands Archives. We remain a signatory to the Memorandum of Understanding with the Township of Leeds and 1000 Islands and the LTI Public Library, and provide the volunteer hours to operate the Archives.



Volunteers, Pierre Mercier and Brian Phillips working at the Archives

Currently, we have approximately 140 members and are working with the Friends of Springfield House Complex to conserve Springfield House and the former Escott Town Hall as a heritage centre for the township.

Covid 19 has caused the Society to pause many of our activities, but the organization is hoping to resume public meetings and fund raising in the spring of 2022.

To contact us: Websites: www.ltihistoricalsociety.org (Here you can read past newsletters)
www.ltiarchives.ca **Email:** info@ltihistoricalsociety.org

Mail: Leeds and 1000 Islands Historical Society, P.O. Box 332, Lansdowne, ON K0E 1L0

Saturday, January 15th @ 10:00am Ontario Ancestors Meeting by zoom

Stephen Young will speak on the history of FamilySearch and its products/services. He will demonstrate how to access Historical Records on FamilySearch Ontario collections and how to use them.

<https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZUoce2pqT0oGdd2lzW-NZ-guupnAEg9w4-3>

Please Renew Your Membership for 2022

Send this completed application form, along with a cheque made out to the 'Kingston Historical Society':
Kingston Historical Society, Box 54, Kingston ON K7L 4V6

Name: _____ Street: _____ Apt. _____

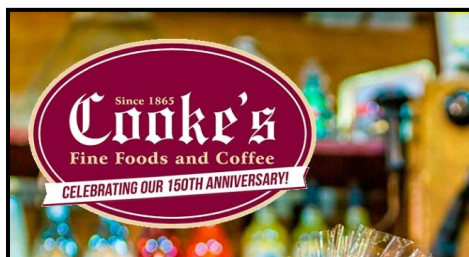
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I would like to receive my Limelight online _____ Email: _____

OR you can pay your dues online with Visa or MasterCard or PayPal:

from KHS webpage > Membership

or eTransfer to treasurer@kingstonhistoricalsociety.ca



Returning Members:

Individual membership: \$50 reduced to \$37.50.

- Family membership: \$60 reduced to \$45.

- Student membership: \$25 reduced to \$20.

- Institutional membership: \$45 - Sponsor fee \$300.

Additional donation: The Society would sincerely appreciate any additional donation that you may wish to make. Amount: \$ _____ (Charitable receipts for amounts exceeding \$19.99)

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

Taken from THEN newsletter – October 1994

Our executive meetings have been held ...in Fort Frontenac, courtesy of the National College of Defence....National College of Defence was closed on 30 June 1994



Murney Tower

Operated by the Kingston Historical Society

Updates from Murney Tower

by Sam Nicholls

Despite the restrictions on our site this past summer, Murney Tower was able to engage with the community in a variety of different ways. Notably, our Curator and Manager, Simge Erdogan-O'Connor, participated in two marketing initiatives that shone some light on the exciting elements of our museum. Mid-summer, Murney and Simge were on YourTV Kingston, in "Kingston Treasures" on July 19, 2021, in one of several programs that featured Kingston's marvelous heritage sites and museums. Simge discussed the Murney Tower's history and current projects there. Following this television episode was another great marketing opportunity for the Tower. At the end of the operating season,



Simge was featured on a Fort Henry National Historic Site podcast, called "Hilltop History," hosted

Murney Tower cont'd

by Al and JJ, which is now on its second season. Throughout the episode, Simge delved into the history of Murney Tower, the Kingston fortification network, and the Martello Tower design. Community partners, including the Kingston Historical Society, KAM and Parks Canada were also discussed. The podcast will be shared on Fort Henry's website. Although our operating season is over, we are grateful for the opportunity to continue to connect with the community through these marketing initiatives hosted by Kingston organizations!

Welcome, new members

Connie Corbett

**SEE display on
Jennifer McKendry's
Kingston, the Limestone City
in a locked cabinet in the
special collections section
(second floor - elevator available)
of the main branch of the Kingston
Public Library on
Johnson Street
Until 1 February 2022**

HOMESTEAD

The Kingston Historical Society Award

is given to individuals, groups and institutions in recognition of their contributions to the preservation, understanding and interpretation of local Kingston history. Kingston Historical Society members are asked to nominate those they believe meet the award criteria. Please send nominations by letter or email, and include the nominee's contact information and the reasons for your nomination. Nominations by mail can be sent to Chairperson, KHS Awards Committee, Box 54, Kingston, Ontario K7L 4V8. If submitting by email send your nomination to Paul J. Charbonneau, KHS Awards Committee Chairperson,

at bearsden1017@hotmail.com

The deadline for nominations is January 7, 2022. The awards will be presented at the Heritage and KHS Awards Celebration (February 27, 2022).



James Reid
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