

Limelight

Newsletter of the Kingston Historical Society

Kingston Ontario Canada

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



Kingston Historical Society Meeting

presented live at 7pm, in the theatre lounge of the
Kingsbridge Retirement Community at 950 Centennial Drive
and simultaneously offered via >>>**Zoom**

The Society is grieved to report that our speaker for October 18th, Suzanne Pasternak, unexpectedly passed away in late August. While we send our sincere condolences to her family, we also honour her legacy as a prominent Eastern Ontario folklorist, local historian, photographer and film maker. May she now rest in peace.

A word of thanks to Craig Pettis

Paul Van Nest states:

...you all won't know what an important role he fills at each of our programs. He logs in as you do on ZOOM so he sees and hears what you see and hear, and he alerts me to problems. He also monitors the chat, so he stays informed in that mode as well. And, as co-host, he can back me up on our technology. So, many thanks to Craig from all of you and me!

18 October 2023

Speaker: **Chris West**,
the board chair of the
Marine Museum of the
Great Lakes, focuses on
the mid-October arrival
of the S.S. Keewatin in
Kingston harbour, as the
new museum ship.

A well-preserved and elegant example of the lake liners that once plied the Great Lakes, the story of the S.S. Keewatin and her role in the Museum's strategic plan will be presented in an amply illustrated lecture.

The Marine Museum of the Great Lakes at Kingston, founded in 1975 and located at the historic Kingston Dry Dock National Historic Site at 55 Ontario Street, is a feature of the downtown Kingston waterfront. In anticipation of [the arrival of the SS Keewatin](#) next month, the museum has updated its name to simply **The Great Lakes Museum**.

From the Kingstonian 21 September 2023

It is noted with regret, the death in Vancouver of Frank Milledge on 23 August 2023, a life member of the Kingston Historical Society. He was in his 103rd year.

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:

Kingston Historical Society
P.O. Box 54,
Kingston ON K7L 4V6
kingstonhs@gmail.com

www.kingstonhistoricalsociety.ca

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.



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President's Message

by Paul Charbonneau

"When I started counting my blessings, my whole life turned around." - Willie Nelson

Fall arrived on September 23rd with cool nights and lovely days. With its arrival many of us start to think about Thanksgiving; its traditions, family gatherings, a plenitude of food and of course reflection on what we are thankful for.

The first official annual Thanksgiving in Canada was celebrated on 6 November 1879, though Indigenous peoples in Canada have a history of celebrating the fall harvest that predates the arrival of European settlers.

Whatever your traditions are, old or new, enjoy this time with family, friends, and neighbours.

I know I am enthusiastic to attend October's KHS Meeting with speaker Chris West, Chair of the newly re-named "The Great Lakes Museum", to hear about the arrival and future for the S.S. Keewatin. Ever since the departure for Thunder Bay of the Coast Guard ship Alexander Henry that graced the drydock on Kingston's waterfront for years, it has felt like something was missing of our historical past. To have as elegant a ship as the Keewatin in residence here will fill that void.

Happy Thanksgiving to all.



INFORMATION PLEASE

BELOW IS AN INTERESTING OUTLINE OF SOME OLD KINGSTONIANS

JAMES CONWAY

jameslconway@hotmail.com

Via degli Orti 4-6
Coreglia Antelminelli 55025
Prov. Lucca
Italy

I write to you from Italy, where I now reside, though I am a Canadian who lived for many years in Ireland. My grandmother's family, the Nelligans, lived in Kingston 1839-1884, with some living on until quite recently. I have been researching them for many years, and I wonder if there are any sources to which you might direct me. The digitised British Whig has been most helpful.

John Nelligan, born in the Rathcormac/Doneraile region of Cork, Ireland, was a soldier in the British Army in Canada 1812-1814, and back in Europe for the Battle of Waterloo 1815. After the birth of his daughter Mary in 1825 in Rathcormack (I believe she later married Matthew Byrne in Pittsburgh, Frontenac, and had a large family), his next child was born at "Kingston Barracks", nominally in England, but I can find no record of such a place. In 1829 another son, my ancestor, was born at sea, and John Nelligan appears to have been assigned a small plot of land at Carleton, now Ottawa. By 1839 he had lost it for taxes, I believe, and he returned to Kingston, where he died in 1842.

His sons, John, Patrick and Bartholomew, appear to have been in Kingston at the time of his death, and the older two sons went to Hamilton.

Bartholomew Nelligan had a fruit stall on Ontario Street between the Anglo-American Hotel and Burnett House (I cannot locate the latter), as well as being a carpenter and contractor. He married Mary Lanigan, daughter of a Kingston hotel keeper called Jane Morgan Clint, and stepdaughter of Patrick Clint. Jane Morgan Clint died, aged 99/100, on 5 January 1907: "the late Mrs. Clint for many years kept the tavern at the foot of Johnson Street", according to the Whig.

James Conway asks:

Do you know anything about this tavern? It is listed consistently in Kingston directories. Does it exist now? Apparently Jane Clint's grand daughter, Mrs. Catherine Matthewson (daughter of Bartholomew) resided in Johnson Street with her in 1907, and was still there in 1910 (her sister Mrs. Cassidy was at 2 James Street). Bartholomew Nelligan was on the City Council in Kingston for many years, and was Chairman of the Board of Works 1867-69 (at the end of 1869 he went to Bay City, Michigan, to work as a carpenter, I imagine to better support his very large family). He was back in Kingston 1871-1884, after which he emigrated to Los Angeles, CA. He returned for a visit in 1903, for something called the Kingston Old Boys Reunion (**Do you know any thing about this?**), on which occasion he was presented with a gold capped cane, which he proudly sports in a family photo taken in Hamilton in August 1903, when he was enroute to California.

I cannot imagine how Bartholomew and his brothers were educated in Kingston in the period 1839-1847, prior to the opening of the Christian Brothers' School. Bartholomew must have tended his two nephews Mike and John, who attended the Christian Brothers' School from 1855/60, I believe (Their father, a ship's captain on the Great Lakes, drowned in a storm on Lake Erie in October 1860). **Do you think the records of early Kingston schools would exist anywhere?**

Kingston Architecture expert, Dr. Jennifer McKendry, gives some answers to James Conway's queries.

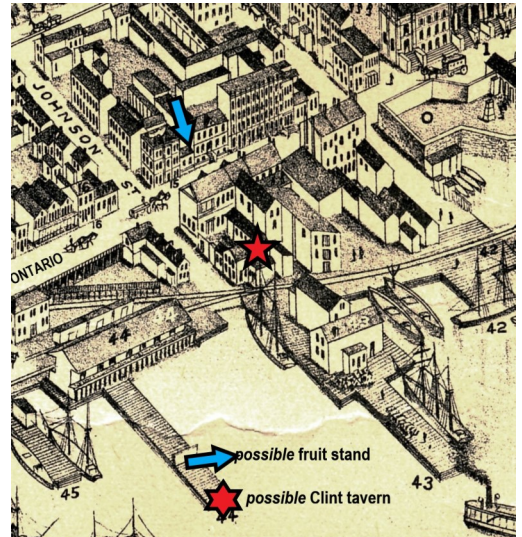
Do you know anything about this tavern?

The tavern no longer exists and it is unlikely there are any good photos of it. It was between St Lawrence Place (at the corner of Johnson & Ontario) and the shore. The 1875 view of Kingston by Brosius shows the general area but it is difficult to be certain exactly which was Clint's. The same source shows the area between the Anglo-American Hotel (Johnson & Ontario) and the Burnett House, which is now known as the Hotel Frontenac on Ontario St. Again, it is guesswork to say specifically which was the fruit stall, which might have been a temporary affair.

The Kingston Old Boys Reunion: **Do you know any thing about this?** It is in the newspaper, but there is no photo of Bartholomew Nelligan.

Do you think the records of early Kingston schools would exist anywhere? An inquiry was sent to the Frontenac County Schools Museum (FCSM) regarding this question. The FCSM replied to James Conway and they are discussing the questions he raised.

1875 BROSIUS TAVERN BIRD'S EYE VIEW OF KINGSTON



Please Renew Your Membership for 2024 now .

New members joining from September through December 2023 will receive credit for the year 2024.

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Paul Van Nest, Membership Chair, KHS, 613-532-1903 (text or phone), pvannest@cogeco.ca

Membership includes the annual journal 'Historic Kingston' and 9 issues of the newsletter 'Limelight', some sponsor discounts and some special event discounts. 'Historic Kingston' may be purchased by non-members for \$35.

INFORMATION PLEASE

THE KINGSTON VETERANS' PROJECT TEAM

Rob Baxter writes: I and a small group of others are currently raising funds for the construction of a "Veterans' Village" that will be built on the grounds of the provincial campus in the city (located adjacent to the new Providence Care Hospital). This facility will be operated by the Homes For Heroes Foundation (H4HF) and will consist of 20 tiny homes that are intended to provide transitional housing to homeless veterans of the Canadian Armed Forces. There are estimated to be about 100 such individuals in the Greater Kingston Area alone who can benefit from the services of the Village, with still others who come from the larger catchment region that the Village will eventually serve (This area will span from Brockville to Port Hope and northward from Smiths Falls to Peterborough).

Each tiny home in the Village will be 300 sq. ft. in size and contain the amenities of a modern home, including a living room, kitchen, bedroom and bathroom. However, more than simply offering shelter to such individuals, a Veterans' Support Centre located in the Village will also provide the means to deliver a special wrap-around rehabilitative and support program to help residents, with the goal of enabling them to return to the community as independent and self-supporting individuals. Over the next twenty years, it is estimated that at least 200 residents can be accommodated in the Kingston Village.

As with the two existing H4HF Villages in Calgary & Edmonton, each tiny home in the Kingston Village will be named in honour of a member of our Armed Forces who gave his or her life in service to Canada. As is the custom of the H4HF, we seek to first contact the living relatives of those who we wish to honour in this manner. For soldiers who served in Afghanistan, this is a comparatively easy task. However there are quite a few that we would like to commemorate whose service dates back to the first and second world wars. As you might imagine, it is a more complicated chore to locate living relatives for these individuals. This is where we require help. At the moment I have two veterans from the First World War who were born and raised in Kingston that we would like to honour in our Kingston Village (See bio's below). **Do you know whether these persons have any living relatives either here in Kingston or elsewhere?**

GEORGE G. R. TAYLOR
CORPORAL, 24th Battalion, C.E.F.

Was born in Kingston, Ontario, in April, 1889. After completing his education at the Kingston Collegiate Institute, he entered the service of the Bank of Montreal, and at the time of his enlistment he was attached to the staff of the Montreal office. He was noted as an athlete, and won unusual distinction for his ability in aquatic sports. Early in 1915 he enlisted in Montreal as a Private in the 24th Battalion, Royal Victoria Rifles; he went overseas with his unit and reached France in the following summer. He was later promoted to the rank of Corporal. He took part in all the operations in which his battalion was engaged in the summer and autumn of 1915. During the intense fighting in Flanders in the autumn of 1915 he was severely wounded by enemy fire during an attack. He died from his wounds on October 8th, 1915.



G.G.R.TAYLOR

Contact :

Rob Baxter

rqhb11@gmail.com

613-539-1788

Biography of Allan McLean Davidson

Allan McLean "Scotty" Davidson was a Canadian ice hockey player and soldier. Born and raised in Kingston, he acquired the nickname "Scotty" due to his Scottish Highland heritage.

He was considered one of the top wingers of the game's early years. He led his Kingston junior team to two Ontario Hockey Association championships in 1910 and 1911. Davidson turned professional with the Toronto Blueshirts (the predecessor to the current Toronto Maple Leafs) in 1912 and was among the National Hockey Association's leading scorers the following two seasons. He captained the Toronto team to winning the Stanley Cup championship in 1914.

Upon the outbreak of the First World War in 1914, Davidson volunteered with the Canadian Expeditionary Force; he was the first professional hockey player to do so. He was killed in action on 16 June 1915, while fighting in Belgium. Hailed as a hero by his peers, Davidson was said to have been killed after refusing to retreat during a battle. A military record reports he was "killed instantly by a shell which exploded near him in the trench." He is commemorated on the Canadian National Vimy Memorial. Davidson was posthumously inducted into the Hockey Hall of Fame in 1950.

By the time he left hockey to fight in the war, Davidson was considered one of the top all-around players in the NHA. Noted for his skating ability, it was said that he could skate faster backwards than most players could forwards. In 1925, Maclean's named him the top right wing when it determined its all-star team of the game's greatest players, an opinion shared by his former junior coach who stated that he was "as good as any player to ever patrol a wing position". The Kingston Frontenacs erected a monument to his memory shortly after his death.

Born: Kingston Ontario,
March 6, 1891
Rank: Lance Corporal
Killed in Action: Age 23 /
June 16, 1915



Kingston Historical Society History Award: Awardees – 2023

Paul Van Nest: Chair, Historical Award Committee writes:

In my Limelight article last month, I did not include the names of the awardees. It is with pleasure that I right that wrong.

SCHOOL

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Noah Ducharme

"Englishes" Spoken Here

The Society's September speaker was Dr. Anastasia Riehl, Director of the Strathy Language Unit at Queen's. Her interest lies in how society creates and uses language. Professor Riehl reminded us that the language we speak is constantly in slow evolution and that its variability is shaped by region, race, gender and heritage. There is no such thing as "Canadian English." Instead, the English spoken across Canada reflects local circumstances and is better understood as a chameleon-like set of "Englishes."

To demonstrate her contention, Riehl described an intensive study undertaken by her research team into the linguistic patterns on nearby Wolfe Island, an island geographically close to Kingston but more distant in the sense of cultural patterns shaped by the island's relative isolation and tight demographic make-up. Through interviews with 108 Wolfe Islanders (out of a permanent population of 1400) Riehl created a "corpus" or database of word and speech patterns on the island. Out of this reservoir of 13,500 words, she was able to isolate certain words that have acquired over time a distinctive island connotation. Words like "rum runner", "somewheres", "treed" (that is, to scare) and "ice cake". The Wolfe Island ferry is universally referred to as "the boat". Similarly, the frequency of terms such as "box social" and "chicken supper" reveals the centrality of certain rituals in island life. A full inventory of these and other island patterns of speech is available at the website **wordsofwolfeisland.com**.

Professor Riehl concluded by suggesting that through such focused studies of how language is shaped by local imperatives we can come to a better and more tolerant understanding of the rhythms of global society and culture.

Our next lecture will be Wednesday, October 18th when we will celebrate the arrival of Kingston's new museum ship, the *S.S. Keewatin*, as part the centrepiece of the Great Lakes Museum. Chris West, the Museum's board chair will be our speaker.

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& Perry^{LLP}**

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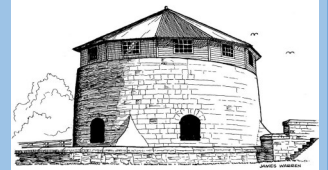
T: 613.507.1209
F: 613.544.8870

HOMESTEAD

Murney Tower

Operated by the Kingston Historical Society

www.murneytower.com



Congratulations to the Murney Tower's Manager and Curator,
Dr. Simge Erdogan-O'Connor, upon her achievement of a
PhD in Cultural Studies!

Some Murney Tower Summer Events 2023 In June, students aged 5-14 from the Kingston Christian School, Glenburnie School, Turnbull School and Amherst Island School visited the tower.

On July 29th, a celebration of the MT museum's 98th anniversary was held with Museum of Healthcare at Kingston, Marine Museum of the Great Lakes at Kingston, Scout's Museum, and Kingston 98.3 MOVE radio station joining in.

The Murney Tower newsletter is a source for information on all activities at this facility run by the KHS, the oldest operating museum in Kingston.

To read about past events at the museum and the people who facilitate them, visit this site.

<https://www.murneytower.com/get-involved>

To stay on top of what is happening at the museum, become a recipient of the Murney Tower newsletter.

Go to info@murneytower.com and sign up!




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