



THE NEIGHBOURHOOD MESSENGER

NEWSLETTER OF THE ADOLPHUSTOWN-FREDERICKSBURGH HERITAGE SOCIETY

Issue Number 1

April 2012

Inaugural Issue: Message from the Editor

The Adolphustown-Fredericksburgh Heritage Society is a small group of area residents passionate about discovering, capturing, preserving and disseminating the history of Adolphustown and North and South Fredericksburgh. Through our newsletter we plan to highlight what we have already accomplished, what we are currently working on, and what we want to achieve. We also hope to stimulate interest and involvement through turning a spotlight on some of the lesser-known aspects of life in our community in the past. Much of our local history remains around us in the form of our homes and farms, and in our many small cemeteries. Much more is in the memories of our long-time residents, and in family photo albums. We want to encourage the sharing of these memories and photographs – they have wonderful stories to tell. In the grab-bag of old photos, newspaper clippings, and stories of the past to populate each issue, we intend to illustrate the diverse and rich lives and accomplishments of those in our community. But most of all we hope to inspire you to join us in capturing all that we can about the places and people who played a part in shaping where we live.

Our Society

Members of the Adolphustown-Fredericksburgh Heritage Society are your neighbours, your friends, your family. We are new to the area or have lived here all our lives. Some of us are descendants of the Loyalists who settled the shores of the Bay of Quinte. We all share a desire to deepen our knowledge of the history of our local community and to share our passion with others.

Our Executive

| | |
|--------------------------|----------------|
| President: | Angela Cronk |
| Vice President: | John Gordon |
| Secretary: | Kathy Staples |
| Treasurer: | Stan MacMillan |
| Book Director: | Peter Cameron |
| Communications Director: | Ted Davie |
| Webmaster: | Susan Wright |
| Newsletter Editor: | Jane Lovell |

Our Meetings

The Society meets every fourth Wednesday in the month at the South Fredericksburgh Community Centre at 6.30 p.m. All welcome!!

Our Website

<http://www.sfredheritage.on.ca/>

Contact Us

If you have questions or suggestions regarding any aspect of the Society, including *The Neighbourhood Messenger*, or anything else of interest to you or to the Society, please contact one of the following-

- Angela Cronk, President (373-8888) angelacronk@gmail.com
- Jane Lovell, Newsletter Editor (373-0199) jane.lovell@kos.net

A Glimpse of the Past

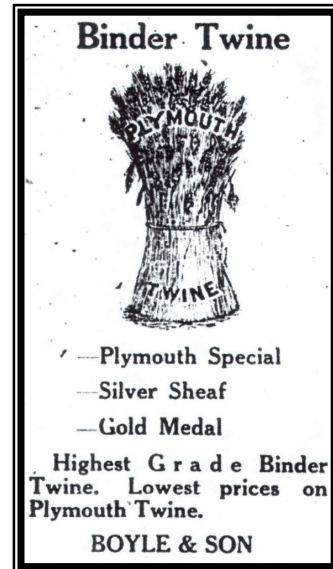


The old Conway Store in the late 1800s, looking east from Road 1, South of Highway 33

Do you have an interesting photo of people, places, or events that show things as they were in the past? Let us feature it here!

Events Calendar

| | |
|---------------------------|--|
| Until April 28 | Lennox and Addington County Museum Guest Exhibition of Frederick Richardson's Paintings |
| April 21 | Adolphustown Township Hall UELAC Genealogy Workshop, 10 a.m. – 3 p.m. |
| May 12 | Bath Fire Hall Bonnet Making Workshop (Time: call 613-352-5071) |
| May 19 – September 1 | Wellington Heritage Museum Tinsmith – The Nash Family's Private Collection |
| May 25 – July 14 | Lennox and Addington County Museum Free Masonry, a History Hidden in Plain Sight Opening Reception May 25, 7-9 p.m. |
| May 26 | Ameliasburgh Historical Museum "Spring Cleaning" |
| May 28 – August 24 | Macaulay Heritage Park Our Sporting Past |
| June 10 – September 16 | Ameliasburgh Historical Museum Remembering Roblin's Mill and the Heritage of Milling in Prince Edward County |
| June 17 | Adolphustown United Church Annual UEL Service - 11 a.m. |
| June 17 | St. Alban's Church Annual UEL Service - 2 p.m. |
| June 19 | Old Hay Bay Church Open for the Season 9:30 – 5:30 daily |



Napanee Beaver
July 9, 1915

**The Society meets every fourth
Wednesday in the month at the
South Fredericksburgh Community
Centre at 6.30 p.m. Please join us!!**

Feature Event: Free Masonry, a History Hidden in Plain Sight

Celebrating the 200th Anniversary of Union Lodge No 9, Napanee, 1812-1972

Courtesy of the Bruce County Museum, this travelling exhibit explores the historical role of Masonic Lodges in Canadian Society. The exhibit is augmented by local Masonic artifacts, including the regalia of W.S. Herrington, K.C., 37th Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Canada in the Province of Ontario.

The Neighbourhood Messenger is an electronic newsletter distributed exclusively to members of the Adolphustown-Fredericksburgh Heritage Society.

As the receipt of our newsletter is one of the major benefits of Society membership, we ask that you NOT forward the newsletter to friends or relatives. Instead, we suggest that you encourage anyone you think might be interested in receiving a copy of The Neighbourhood Messenger to join our Society. A lifetime membership costs \$5, and in addition to ensured e-mail delivery of the newsletter, Society membership entitles those interested in our local heritage to be kept informed of, and participate in, all aspects of Society activities.

Anyone can become a member by sending a cheque for \$5 made payable to the Adolphustown-Fredericksburgh Heritage Society, c/o Kathy Staples, 304 Staples Lane, Napanee K7R 3K7.

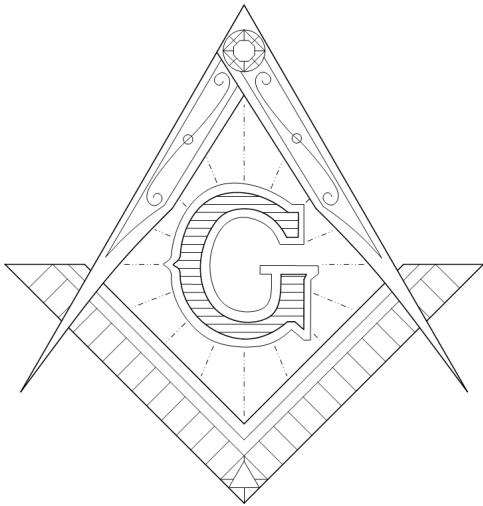
If you are not currently an AFHS member please consider becoming one!

Window to the War of 1812 Generation:

The 200th Anniversary of Union Lodge No. 9, Napanee, 1812-2012

By Jane Foster

On a cold winter day in February 1812, the Freemasons living in the area of the fledgling settlement at the Napanee Mills made their way by horse and cutter over the winding, hilly road several miles south to a meeting of the St. James Lodge in Fredericksburgh. Attending the meeting of the lodge was an opportunity for male comradeship. Bound by formal ritual and oaths of fidelity and loyalty, the members dedicated themselves to self-improvement and mutual aid. These meetings made life less lonely in the thinly populated rural countryside of the Bay of Quinte townships.



St. James Lodge No. 7 had been warranted in 1794 under R.W. Bro. William Jarvis, Provincial Grand Master. Jarvis had been appointed governing head of the first Provincial Grand Lodge of Upper Canada by the Grand Lodge of England. As a young man, Connecticut born Jarvis had served in the Queen's Rangers under Colonel John Graves Simcoe, witnessing the surrender of Cornwallis at the siege of Yorktown, the last major land battle of the American Revolution. In 1785 he went to England where he married, then became an officer in the Western Regiment of Militia in Middlesex. He was made a Mason on February 6, 1792 and in April, he was admitted to the Royal Arch in Lodge 240. The following month, he was appointed Provincial Grand Master of Masons in Upper Canada by the Duke of Athol. Then in July, he was appointed Secretary and Registrar of the Records of the Province of Upper Canada, arriving at Quebec on board the Henniker

June 11. After several days at Quebec, Jarvis sailed to Kingston where the provincial government under John Graves Simcoe as Lieutenant-Governor of Upper Canada, was inaugurated. Bro. Jarvis left Kingston with official staff on 11 September 1792 and was present at the first session of the Provincial Parliament, September 17, 1792 at Newark (Niagara on the Lake), relocating to York (Toronto) in 1796.

Fredericksburgh, where lodge No. 7 met, was one of the oldest settlements in Upper Canada, settled by disbanded soldiers of Sir John Johnson's 2nd Battalion KRRNY and the King's Rangers. To accommodate the desire of members to settle in the same township, surveyors had taken an additional 13 lots from neighbouring Adolphustown. They had also set aside a reserve for a village of Fredericksburgh.

The Masons in Fredericksburgh were the first to build a Masonic Hall, possibly at the Village of Fredericksburgh. The hall was built by Bro. Henry Finkle, reputed to have also built the first frame house in Upper Canada. At a meeting held February 4, 1812, the members signed a petition to establish a new lodge in Richmond Township, a mile west of Napanee. Several members of the lodge lived a considerable distance away, making it difficult to attend lodge. Their petition was successful. Jarvis instructed the officers of St. James lodge No. 7 to install the officers of the new lodge, without number, to be held in Richmond Township.

On March 11, 1812, members of the Fredericksburgh lodge assembled at Abel Gould's tavern on the Napanee River west of Napanee Mills. Joseph Pringle was installed as Worshipful Master, Jehiel Hawley, Senior Warden and Elisha Phillips, Junior Warden. Subsequently, the Lodge met at Joseph Pringle's, a farmer and magistrate, who lived a mile from Napanee on the Deseronto Road, near a settlement at the corner of the York Road and the Slash Road, later dubbed "Liverpool".

The Lodge appears to have remained active during the War of 1812, with new members initiated during 1812 and 1813, including Eleazer Penney, William Pringle, David B. Pringle, John Pringle, Ephraim Scott, Reuben Scott, Lawrence Dickinson, Andrew Thompson, Warren Noble and Seneca Rider.

The Lodge worked under the original warrant until 1817. By 1818, the Lodge was known as Union Lodge, Richmond, and received its number 25. Members were drawn from families living north of Hay Bay, along Big Creek and the Napanee River, upstream and downstream. George Schryver, known as "old Uncle George" and his neighbour, John Bradshaw travelled in from Close's Mills, climbing the high escarpment at Napanee and then downward over the floating bridge at the Napanee River. Jacob Schryver and his neighbour



Daniel Overrocker at Big Creek had to cross the Napanee River the same way. Jacob Quackenbush a tanner in Clarksville, a cluster of shops and homes at the base of the escarpment on the Fredericksburgh side of the Napanee falls, had a couple miles to travel, while Jehiel Hawley, who lived two miles up the Napanee River in Fredericksburgh, adjoining Camden, had further to come, as did Peter VanValkenburgh. Jacob Huffman, Barnard Forshee and Peter Barnhart at Hay Bay could cross the Napanee River west of the Pringles where a ferry linked the Fredericksburgh and Richmond sides at Abel Gould's tavern. The location was easiest for members living in Richmond Township, John German, John Windover and John Demorest, the Pringle brothers, Joseph, Simeon and John and their neighbours to the west, Gilbert Markle and William Sager.

In 1823, the Lodge petitioned to "remove to Fredericksburgh, a few miles east of Richmond Mills, to be held at a shop occupied by Quackinbush (sic) and Fortier until we can build for the purpose of holding the Lodge there or near that place". Whether their petition to move to Clarkville was approved remains unclear, but by 1832, the Lodge had located to Village of Napanee as indicated by a certificate initiating William Bowen into Union Lodge No. 9 of the Village of Napanee. Samuel Benson, a surveyor from Belleville, had just completed laying out the streets for a village. Buildings were few. The Red Tavern (which still stands) defined the junction of Dundas and Bridge Streets. Daniel Pringle's frame Lennox Hotel was a short distance to the west along Dundas Street. Allan Macpherson's gentry inspired home had been built above the falls.

Likely the lodge building was never built. Daniel Pringle, who was Worshipful Master in 1848, may have offered his hotel. During the 1800's, the Lodge rented other rooms including the upper rooms of A.B. Dunning's Dry Goods Store, the Academy north of the Western Methodist Church (Grace) and the A.C. Davis Building. In 1941, the Lodge purchased the former St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church and continues to meet there in 2012.



On Friday May 25, 2012, the Lodge will hold a "Meet and Greet", 7 p.m. – 9 p.m. at the Lennox and Addington County Courthouse and Museum as part of their 200th anniversary celebrations. Ernest Doughty, Union Lodge Historian, will represent at historical review of Union Lodge No. 9 at 7:15 p.m. at the Courthouse. The public is cordially invited to attend.

Jacob Huffman's 18th century apron, in the collection of the Loyalist Cultural Centre, may be viewed on the Lennox and Addington E-History Project at http://lennox-addington.on.ca/e-history/virtual_exhibits/1_loyal_exiles/huffman_apron.html

Then and Now

In 1984 the South Fredericksburgh Historical Committee started photographing and documenting houses in the South Fredericksburgh area. The Adolphustown-Fredericksburgh Heritage Society has continued with this project, expanding it into Adolphustown. Eventually the houses in North Fredericksburgh will also be included in our documentation effort.

Our database contains not only photographs, but also a variety of other details. We start with the most recent photo and work back, collecting old photos from people who share their treasures with us. We document who was given the original land grant, previous and present-day owners, and any unique features of the building along with any changes made over the years. We also note any special previous uses of the building, such as a post office, school, inn or tavern, etc.

Acquiring old photographs of homes from various eras enables us to infer much about the families who lived in those houses. A sequence of photographs can also give a timeline for a metamorphosis from what might have been, for example, a very humble structure, to a more substantial building, possibly reflecting a change in the family's circumstances. The old photographs can also show features now lost, such as porches or verandas, or hidden by subsequent expansion. Alternatively, old photos can show how little things have changed over the decades.

In each issue of *The Neighbourhood Messenger* we will feature a "Then and Now" pair of photos from



Rickerson Hawley House circa 1900

Photo Courtesy of Judy Smith

one of the homes in the area. This issue's pair highlights an old photo that was only recently discovered when a number of negatives were found and printed. While the circa 1900 photo shows only the veranda of the Rickerson Hawley House, that veranda is clearly identifiable in the 2012 photograph, illustrating how little the exterior has been altered over the past century.

Judy Smith has identified the people on the veranda as follows:

From Left to right:

- In shadows at left, possibly Rickerson Hawley
- Isabel Hawley (nee Armstrong), wife of Rickerson Hawley
- Meta Hawley (nee Taylor), daughter-in-law of Isabel Hawley
- Margaret Meikle
- Agnes Smith (nee Meikle)
- Unknown Child
- Deborah Hawley, step-sister of Rickerson Hawley
- Hattie Armstrong, sister of Isabel Hawley



Rickerson Hawley House 2012 Photo Courtesy of Kathy Staples

Clippings

Melancholy Circumstance

On Saturday last, the 5th inst., as the scow was crossing from Adolphustown, at Barker's ferry to Sophiasburgh, with eleven persons, two men, three women; the others boys and girls - and a span of horses and waggon on board. In consequence of the Scow being leaky, and the wind blowing fresh, she filled about mid-way of the ferry, when, melancholy to relate, four of the eleven were drowned; viz. 2 sons of Mr. Bloat's the ferryman, one aged 21, and the other about 14, a son of Mr. Joseph Dorland, of Ameliasburgh, aged 11 years and a young lad by the name of Snyder, aged 13 years, - By the spirited actions of Reuben Height, a lad of about 16 years of age, son of Mr. Daniel Height, Mrs. Height, her daughter, and two girls belonging to the home, were saved; the other girl, a daughter of the widow Trumpour, was saved by the timely assistance of Mr. Wessels with a skiff. The horses swam ashore and the waggon sank, but has since been found. - They were the property of Mr. Height. - Three of the bodies have been found and buried.

Kingston Chronicle
September 14, 1816

NOTICE.
WHEREAS my Wife, ELIZABETH CHURCH, hath, left my bed and board, without any just cause or provocation—I do hereby forbid any person or persons from harbouring her, and from giving her any credit.—And I do hereby give notice that I will not be responsible for any debts contracted by her.
JOHN CHURCH.
Fredericksburgh, 18th March, 1841: 76i

Kingston Chronicle & Gazette
March 27 1841

At J. J. Garvin's, Adolphustown, you can get 2 Shredded Wheat 25c., Mixed Nuts 25c. lb.; Mixed Candy 20c. lb.; Fresh Dates, 2 lbs. 25c.; 2 lbs. Cocoa, 25c.; 15 bars Soap \$1.00; 3 boxes Matches 35c.; Oyster Shell. See the latest designs in Coleman Lamps. 50tf

Napanee Beaver
February 6, 1925

Clippings courtesy of Susan Wright

To see more old newspaper clippings check out the Articles page on our website:

<http://www.sfredheritage.on.ca/articles.html>

Help Us Identify This:



Photo Courtesy of Harry Wells

This photograph was taken in front of the post office on Glen Island, sometime before 1905. Can you identify any of the people in the photo? It is thought that the man on the far left in the "Conductor's" cap is Dougall Dingman, proprietor of Glen Island Resort.

Do you have an old photo for which you cannot identify the people, the place, or the occasion? Let us scan it and we can feature in an up coming issue of The Neighbourhood Messenger. One of our readers might know something that you don't!

If you want to understand today, you have to search yesterday.

Pearl S. Buck

Dowsing

By Judy Smith

Did you ever wonder how your well came about or even how deep it is?

Dowsing, divining and witching are the skills of finding underground water. These date back to biblical times.

A dowser can use a number of different items: a forked stick, L-shaped rods, a crow bar, a bent wire or a pendulum swinging at the end of string with a bobber or a gold ring attached. The most popular is the forked stick of an apple tree or willow branch. Today people use high-tech electronic machines as well.



Dowsing with a forked apple branch

Each person has their own method of using their rod when they experience water; it may go in circles or back and forth or pull straight downward.

A good dowser can tell the depth of the water and its hardness. Veins underground run north to south and east to west.

Finding water is not the only thing done in dowsing. Dowzers can find graves and determine how many bodies are in the grave and if the sex is female or male or an infant. A dowser can be a great asset to a cemetery board.

Some dowzers can determine if a cow is with calf and the sex of the unborn calf. They can even tell the sex of an unborn child in the womb.

A person who does not believe in dowsing to find water can be made a believer by simply having them hold the forked stick or rod themselves and having the dowser put his hands on them, or by having the person hold one side of the stick and the dowser hold the other side of the stick while they walk together holding their other hands. The stick will pull downwards to the point where you can not hold it when water is present.

Dowsing or water witching skills have been present in some families for generations.

In the Adolphustown – Fredericksburgh area there are quite a number of dowzers using a variety of tools of their trade

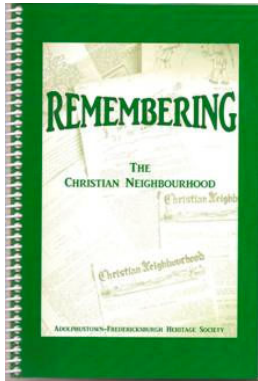
Dowsing is a special gift and each time used leads to an interesting story.

From the Book Shelf

The Society periodically publishes books reflecting our local history. Our catalogue now contains thirteen titles. (See our website (<http://www.sfredheritage.on.ca/Books.htm>) for a full list, along with a brief description of each book.) Every issue of The Neighbourhood Messenger will feature one of our publications; this issue highlights our most recent work.

Remembering The Christian Neighbourhood

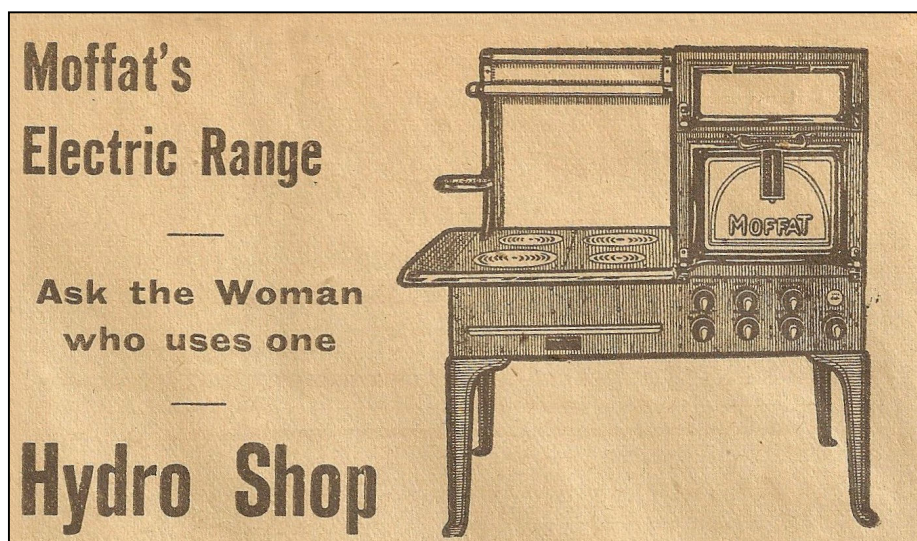
The "Christian Neighbourhood" started in 1949 as a local newsletter for the townships of Adolphustown and South Fredericksburgh. It continued either monthly or bimonthly for a number of years, finally ending in the early 1990's. During this period a number of articles on local history and events were submitted by local residents.



This book is a compilation of 67 of those articles, accompanied by period photographs.

Sample articles include:

- The Building of the Quaker Meeting House
- Old Fashioned Christmas Preparations
- Baseball as I Remember it Down Through the Years
- The Old Hay Bay Road
- The Passing of Little Red Schoolhouses
- The U.E.L. Butter and Cheese Factory
- The Ferry - Then and Now
- Going to School at the Turn of the Century



Napanee Express
August 19, 1924

From the Attic

Do you know what you have in your attic? There might just be a treasure trove of old photos or other fascinating items relating to life in your family and our community from days gone by.

We are looking for old photos and documents from Adolphustown, North and South Fredericksburgh. Would you consider letting us see what you have? Just about any old photograph would be of interest: photos of people, homes, farms, schools, churches, or community or family events. Even if you do not know the people or places in the photos, maybe someone else in the community does. Old publications relating to township businesses, schools and churches often contain fascinating details of life in their era.

We accept items as donations, but would also appreciate the opportunity to scan any photos or documents that you do not want to part with.

Please have a rummage around in that attic – we'd love to know what you find!

Some items we are currently looking for:

OLD PHOTOS or Real Photo POSTCARDS:

- The Adolphustown Town Hall
- The South Fredericksburgh Town Hall at Sillsville
- The U.E.L. Cheese Factory, Adolphustown
- St. Paul's Church, Main Street Adolphustown
- The Old Store at Adolphustown
- The Old Hotel at Adolphustown
- Conway Store
- Conway Wharf
- Phippen Cheese Factory
- Fredericksburgh Train Station
- McDowall Presbyterian Church
- Camp Le Nid
- Glen Island

BOOKLET:

- Constitution and Roll of Officers and Members of Camp Le Nid, 1902

If you are looking for any specific photos or documents, let us know and we will add it to our "Attic" list.



**The Well-Built
Young Man**

If you are well built there is no need of you worrying about a suit to fit.

But if you are not well built, you need the attention of a good clothier, a man who knows and is in a position to supply your needs. In this shop we understand the fitting of hard-to-fit men.

Let us demonstrate to you our ability to fit and please you.

SUITS, READY-TO-WEAR—\$10 and up to \$22

Suits, made-to-measure, \$18 to \$35.

THE GRAHAM CO.
NAPANEE Two Big Stores TRENTON

Napanee Beaver

July 9, 1915

A Curious Thing

Each issue of *The Neighbourhood Messenger* will include a photo of some item from the past. No longer in common use, these items will likely be unknown to many of you. Please contact angelacronk@gmail.com if you recognise the item. Tell us what it is called, what it is used for, during what era it was used, and anything else you can tell us about it. Stories about its use, misuse, or re-purposing would be fun. The next issue will identify the item and relate all we know about it, including what we have learned from our readers. Imaginative guesses for those of you who have no idea what the item is are welcome too!



Submitted by Angela Cronk

What is this?

Do you have some weird thing hanging around your home or barn? Take a photo of it and send it in – we can feature it here in a future issue.

Contribute to *The Neighbourhood Messenger*

We publish *The Neighbourhood Messenger* 4 times a year: in April, June, September and over the winter. If you have an old photograph or newspaper clipping to share, a story to tell, or an event to publicize, let us know. Submissions for the June issue must be received by jane.lovell@kos.net before the end of May.

Contributors to this issue:

Angela Cronk
Jane Foster
Jane Lovell
Judy Smith
Kathy Staples
Susan Wright