

# THE NEIGHBOURHOOD MESSENGER

NEWSLETTER OF THE ADOLPHUSTOWN-FREDERICKSBURGH HERITAGE SOCIETY

Issue Number 14

April 2016

## Telling Our Stories

One of the goals of the Society is to capture the diverse aspects of our past. A long-running project has been taking and collecting photographs of local homes and other buildings. Another way we strive to explore our history has been through articles in *The Neighbourhood Messenger*. Our latest project

### **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  
Webmaster: Susan Wright  
Book Directors: Joan Reynolds  
Elizabeth Vandenberg  
Communications Director: Jane Lovell

### **Our Meetings**

The Society meets every fourth Wednesday in the month at the South Fredericksburgh Community Centre at 6.30p.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*, please contact one of the following:

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

has seen Society members fan out across our townships acquiring oral and written histories and accompanying photographs. In addition, archive and online sources have been scoured for mention of happenings in our communities and the men and women who played a roll in shaping our past. The culmination of the last several years of exploration and inquiry is the Society's latest publication. *Voices, Volume 2, Stories from Adolphustown and Fredericksburgh* is to be released in May. This abbreviated issue of *The Neighbourhood Messenger* will highlight some of the behind-the-scenes discoveries made in seeking out the stories of our past.

## A Glimpse of the Past



AFHS Photo

Boy Scout Cooking Test  
Conway 1938

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

May 14	<b>AFHS Heritage Spring Dinner</b> South Fredericksburgh Hall Displays from 5:30pm Roast Beef Dinner at 6:30pm
May 17	<b>L&amp;A County Museum &amp; Archives</b> 'The Valiants Memorial' Artist and sculptor, Marlene Hilton Moore will present her artistic methods and historical research for 'The Valiants Memorial'. The monuments were unveiled by The Governor General of Canada, Michaëlle Jean, in 2006. The Valiants Memorial is a monument to 350 years of the evolution of Canada through its military conflicts. 7pm
May 21	<b>Old Hay Bay Church Season Opening</b> Open daily 9am - 5pm
May 21, 22	<b>Museums of Prince Edward County</b> Passport to History! Pay 1 admission and visit all five museum sites in the County. Special programs at each museum location, including the annual Loyalist re-enactment at Ameliasburgh Heritage Village and more. 9:30am - 4:30pm Also 'Tales by the Lighthouse' with Janet Kellough at Mariners Park Museum May 22 at 7pm
June 10 - 12	<b>Lafarge 1812 Discovery Centre, Bath</b> Gunboat Weekend 2016 Experience an encampment on the grounds of the 1796 Fairfield Gutzeit House. Friday is 'Education Day', complete with artisans, a blacksmith, and sail & rope-making sessions. Encampments will be open to the public on Saturday and Sunday. Boat races, tactical displays, re-enactments, the Loyalist Beer Competition and more will be featured during the weekend. Visit the <a href="#">Gunboat Weekend website</a> for details
June 12	<b>Ameliasburgh Heritage Park</b> Taste our Heritage: Jam Session Sample jams, jellies, pickles and preserves at 'taste stations' throughout Ameliasburgh Heritage Village. Drop by for the musical "jam session" too! noon - 4pm
June 12	<b>St Alban's Church, Adolphustown</b> Annual UEL Service - 2pm Guest Speaker: Peter Milliken, UEL Descendant, Former long-time MP for Kingston and the Islands, and Speaker of the House of Parliament 2001- 2011
June 19	<b>Adolphustown United Church, Dorland</b> Annual UEL Service - 11am Guest Speaker tba
August 26, 27, 28	<b>Old Hay Bay Church</b> "Roots 2016" A reunion for decedents of the founders of Old Hay Bay Church and for those related to the families of the the youth drown in 1819 Twilight outdoor movie "Discovering Emma" Presentations, Vendors, Re-enactors, Area Tours Visit <a href="#">Old Hay Bay Church Website</a> for details
September 4	<b>Museums of Prince Edward County</b> Homesteading & Harvest Fest Pay 1 admission and visit all five museum sites in the County. Special programs at each site, produce stands, heritage skills/trades, guest speakers on self-sufficiency, corn roasts and musical performances. 9:30am- 4:30pm

*Napanee Standard*  
September 4, 1862

JUDSON'S

MOUNTAIN HERB  
WORM TEA.

Herbs, Barks and Roots  
VERSUS  
Poisonous Minerals and Drugs.

MOTHERS TAKE HEED!

Do you when observing the uneasy actions of your children, consider that it may be more than a mere Cholick that afflicts them? In nine cases out of ten, the cause of the little sufferer's anguish is WORMS, and should be at once looked to.

HEADS OF FAMILIES

Do not let your children suffer, when we present you in

JUDSON'S WORM TEA

A SAFE AND PLEASANT CURE FOR WORMS.  
How much better and safer would it be to have it always in the house. A little delay when a child is taken ill may often be the cause of its death, while acting without delay, and by giving the MOUNTAIN HERB TEA immediately, you will not only save the child a long and tedious illness, and yourself much expense, but also feel happier in knowing that you have done your duty, and perchance saved its life.  
This medicine is combined purely of

HERBS AND ROOTS

NOT A PARTICLE OF  
Calomel or Mineral  
IS USED IN IT.

No more filthy Vermifuge will be used by those who once use this Tea. The only active principle of all other Vermifuges and Worm killers is MERCURY.

GIVE NO  
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Use this Simple, Safe, Vegetable Medicine.  
This Worm Tea was discovered in an unusual way among the Wilds of Northern Mexico—a full account of it you will find in our Almanacs. Ask for the "Rescue of Tula Almanac," of the Agent, and when you have read it, send it to your neighbors, that they may also know of and be cured by this GREAT REMEDY!

JUDSON'S WORM TEA  
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Never Harms—Is Pleasant to Take.

GET A PACKAGE—PRICE 25 CTS.

OBSERVE—Always find the Name and Signature of B. L. JUDSON & CO. and the portrait of Texaco, on each package of this Worm Tea.

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50 Leonard St. New York.

Judson's Worm Tea is sold by one Agent in every Village, and by all Druggists.

**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.

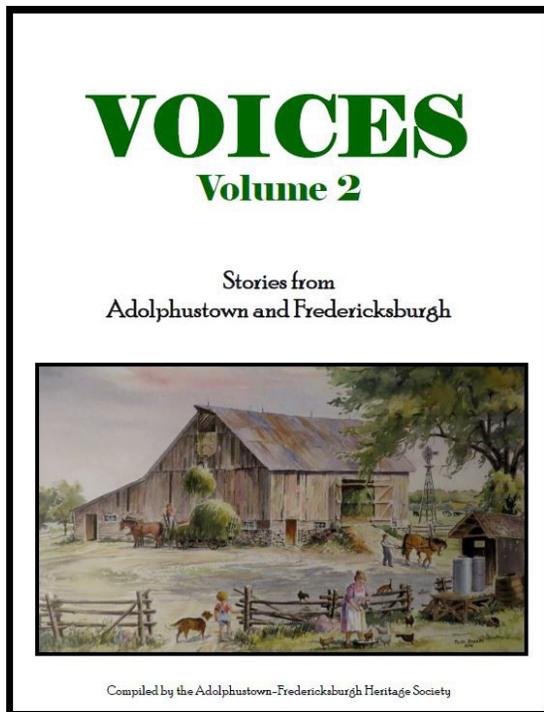
Anyone can become a member by sending a cheque for \$5 made payable to the Adolphustown-Fredericksburgh Heritage Society, c/o Kathy Staples, 1105 - 828 Sutton Mills Court, Kingston, K7P 2S9.

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

## Featured Event: A Book Launch!!

The AFHS has just completed its latest publication. The hugely popular *Voices, Stories from Adolphustown and Fredericksburgh* was released in late 2013. This May we will be releasing a second

volume. Over two years in the making, *Voices, Volume 2* contains 164 stories spanning the 232 years since the Loyalist settlers arrived on our shores. All the stories were submitted by Society members and represent local lore, personal experiences, and the results of research in local, national and online archives. Hundreds of photographs and old newspaper clippings fill the pages of the book.



In honour of the release of *Voices, Volume 2, Stories from Adolphustown and Fredericksburgh*, we will be throwing a Book Launch Party! Please join us at our Heritage Spring Dinner as we celebrate the hard work and dedication of our contributors. Several of the authors will be on hand to talk about their submissions and will give us a peek at the behind-the-scenes inquiry process that enabled them to craft their stories.

Before tucking in to the roast beef dinner there will be plenty of opportunity to take in the many stories to be found by the display boards encircling the hall, and by the many artifacts on view.

## Please join us!

The doors of the South Fredericksburgh Hall at 2478 County Road 8 will open at 5:30 p.m. to allow the the viewing of the displays and and artifacts depicting life from bygone eras. Dinner will be served at 6:30 p.m. Tickets are \$18 and are available from Kathy Staples at [kathystaples0@gmail.com](mailto:kathystaples0@gmail.com) or (613) 767-3100.

## And More Events on the Horizon....

Scheduled for the last weekend in August is “Roots 2016”, an unprecedented gathering at Old Hay Bay Church. In the lead-up to its annual Pilgrimage Service on the Sunday, Old Hay Bay Church will be playing host to a reunion of decedents of the founders of the church and of those related to the young people drown en route to the church in 1819.

### We're Small But Mighty

Kathy Staples

They said it couldn't be done – but we did it! In 1983 a group of dedicated residents met to formulate plans to celebrate Ontario's Bicentennial. It took a year and a half to organize – many fund-raisers – daring ideas – but in June 1984 with parade-marshall Max Keeping, supporting another small area's event, Adolphustown & Fredericksburgh community members joined together to host two weekends of various activities. There are still some of us who shake our heads wondering how we managed to get Fort Henry Guard out of the Fort and into Adolphustown Park. How did we get permission to have a parade on a Township road + a County road + a Provincial highway? Oh, the rules that have come into law during the past 32 years.

Well, we're going to try it again and this time we're moving to the Old Hay Bay Church to celebrate *Roots 2016*. Frequently tourists will ask about the building of the 1792 Methodist meeting house. The Board of Trustees decided to enlarge their annual August Pilgrimage service to a weekend affair. The original subscribers were the “roots” but we could not forget the 10 children who drowned in 1819 on their way across Hay Bay to a church service.

So we started mentioning it to people and, once again, interest has grown and grown. This time we have social media to help us (although at times this can be “too helpful”). People are coming back to their roots. People from the USA (not all were rebels); people from shore - to shore – to, we hope, shore. Napanee is responding helpfully to our plans and we hope that the larger community sets aside the weekend of **August 26-28<sup>th</sup>**. Invite your family & friends to visit then and see what Adolphustown, “the smallest township” in Ontario, can do. We hope to see you there!

### **Roots 2016 Celebration - August 26-28, 2016**

#### **What's Happening?**

**Friday evening:** Something which the pioneers would have never seen – Movie Night showing “Discovering Emma” which was filmed on location in 2000. This movie adds an intriguing twist to the drowning incident of 1819. We are hoping to welcome many of the cast & crew. Come & revisit the magical story while enjoying popcorn & a soft drink. Bring a **flashlight** as there are no streetlights on the Third Concession.

**Saturday all day: opening at 10am** - Vendors & displays with an historic theme – an area bus tour (once in the morning & again in the afternoon) – *Insights (the rest of the story* with Q & A sessions) inside the church – children's play & history area – canteen food by Bath Lions Club – demonstrations – shared genealogy & family tales area - catered roast beef dinner with entertainment by the lively Seventh Town Celtic Trio. Come and enjoy some fun & community spirit.

**Sunday all day: opening at 11:30am** - an old Methodist Hymn-Sing – canteen food by Bath Lions Club – annual Pilgrimage service with Dr. Malcolm Sinclair as guest speaker and special music by the Salvation Army Band – social time with light refreshments – closing catered dinner with entertainment (more to come).

**Further Facts:**

**Parking:** no parking on the church grounds or roadway. Use the Dorland Ball Field with shuttle bus to the church.

**Dinner Tickets:** need to be prepaid as only 200 are available/per night (they have been selling quickly already)

**Bus Tour:** 2 guided bus tours for an approximately two-hour tour (Saturday morning & Saturday afternoon). The tour covers most of Adolphustown & South Fredericksburgh townships. \$10.00 per person. An optional tour book, "Old Sites – New Sights" will be available for purchase at the church.

You can purchase your tour ticket before the tour starts but it will be "First come – first serve" (Bus holds 48 people). **Tickets can be pre-purchased.**

**More Info:** on our [Facebook page](#) as well as on the [Old Hay Bay Church Website](#). Posters & pamphlets are being printed right now. Newspaper/TV/radio later.

**Contact for tickets & info:** Kathy Staples – (613) 767-3100

1105 – 828 Sutton Mills Court, Kingston, ON K7P 2S9

[kathystaples0@gmail.com](mailto:kathystaples0@gmail.com)

**Cheques:** payable to: **Old Hay Bay Church**

**Plan on attending & please tell others about this event**



## The Hay Bay Drownings

There have been numerous accounts of the events of August 29, 1819 that saw the loss of ten young lives in a drowning accident within sight of Old Hay Bay Church. The following article, submitted by Kathy Staples, appeared in the August 22, 1962 edition of the *Picton Gazette*.

### Hay Bay Tragedy Is Recalled – Old Paper indicates Cause

A newspaper has been discovered at the Old Hay Bay Church which tells the story of the fatal drowning which took place near there in 1819 and indicates that the tragedy was probably caused through carelessness.

Rev. H. B. Herrington, of Westbrook, who has been in charge of the church during July and living in the church cottage, has discovered a page from a Napanee newspaper dated December 29, 1882, in which an explanation of the multiple fatality appears. It is in the form of a letter sent to the paper as a result of the report a few weeks earlier of the death of the last survivor of the ill-fated journey, which resulted in 10 deaths.

The letter indicates that the boat carrying the group was overloaded and in poor condition. The party of 18 set out from the north shore of Hay Bay to cross the bay for services. The church is the oldest Methodist Church in Upper Canada and is now maintained as an historic site. Each summer retired ministers occupy the cottage and show visitors the church. Each year a memorial service is held. Rev. and Mrs. Herrington were at the church in July.

...

Hay Bay Church was built in 1792. When it ceased to be used for regular services it became a granary for 50 years and grain was shipped from the site. It was reopened in 1912 as an historic site and the affairs are administered by a trustee board. Recently a history of the church was written by Dr. Arthur G. Reynolds, Archivist and historian of the United Church of Canada and at one time minister on the Adolphustown Pastoral Charge, from 1922 to 1925. In the two weeks following the printing, the book sold 200 copies at 35 cents each, Rev. Herrington reports.

The church is located on the south shore of Hay Bay, 30 miles by road from Napanee.

The article which Rev. Mr. Herrington has come across, in the Napanee Express of 1882, is as follows:

“Mr. George S. Johnson, of Belleville, gives to the public an account of the terrible calamity which occurred in 1819, known as the Hay Bay Disaster.” The matter is brought prominently before the people by the death of the last survivor, Mr. Conrad Cole, of North Fredericksburgh, as reported in the Express a few weeks ago. In the long ago when our grandfathers lived the settlements were sparse, neighbours few, and for miles around the settlements were intimately known, and most of them had either family or business relations. Anything like a disaster was an earthquake in the whole community, especially when the victims belonged to the best families.

The circumstances of the dreadful catastrophe are as follows, says Mr. Johnson:

It had been announced far and wide that the great Israel Puffer, Presiding Elder of the M.E. Church, Midland District, and probably one of the greatest Biblical scholars of his day, was to hold Quarterly services on the 18th and 29th of August 1819, in the oldest Methodist Church situated on the south shore of Hay Bay.

As it was customary in those days Methodists closed their business on Saturday at noon when Quarterly services were held, and with boats, wagons, on horseback, or afoot, made their way to the place of meeting. They would stop with friends or acquaintances over night and until the services were over. On the Sabbath morning referred to 18 persons were gathered on the north side of Hay Bay, all anxious to reach the church before nine o'clock, for the Love Feast. Among

the number were the late Conrad Cole (then quite a lad), his father, his mother, his sister Mary and my father. Some said the last two were affianced, but on this my father never said anything definite. A boat was procured and the whole company embarked. Some demurred to the conveyance, but they finally agreed to proceed. A young man was given a tin dish to bale with, as the boat leaked badly. The company, as was customary in those days, engaged in singing the old Methodist songs. It was thought that the young man with the bailing dish became so interested in the singing that before the boat was half way over he dropped the dish overboard and it went to the bottom.

The water came in so fast that some of the men began bailing with their caps. This created a confusion. The women began to sway from side to side as the water rushed in. My father was a heavy man and an excellent swimmer, so he proposed to lighten the boat. He took off his coat and boots, sprang overboard and started for the shore. Before he had proceeded far he heard a fearful shriek, and looking back he saw heads and hands pointing out of the water. He caught Miss Cole and took her to the boat, which had turned bottom up, and placed her upon it. He then swam to the other side, caught another young lady and was taking her to lock hands with Miss Cole across the boat, when two or three persons caught him with a death grip and drew him to the bottom, the water being some 20 feet deep. By a great effort he released himself from their grasp and came to the surface. Miss Cole had then disappeared, and was probably dragged down by the drowning ones. A few were trying to reach the shore. As my father came to the surface young Cole cried out, "Joseph, help me or I will drown"! Though somewhat exhausted my father swam to him and helped him ashore.

Looking back he saw Mr. Cole trying to save his wife. He caught a rail, went out again and brought them to shore, thus saving three out of the four Coles in the boat. There were eight saved and ten lost. What a change a few minutes can make in our feelings and destinies! No happier company ever started to cross one of the most beautiful pieces of water in Canada than the company that embarked in a leaky boat that beautiful Sabbath 'morning'. In a short time afterwards ten of the number lay rigid in death on the shore, while fathers, mothers, sisters, brothers, friends and neighbours rent the air with cries and lamentations, and like Rachel of old, refused to be comforted.

Instead of a quarterly service, Rev. Mr. Puffer, next day, conducted one of the most solemn funerals ever witnessed in the Bay of Quinte region. His text – Job XIX.26 – was the foundation for a grand discourse.

Most of the bodies were laid near the old meeting house and some were buried elsewhere. Almost the last place I drove my late father was to visit Conrad Cole. He was then working in the garden. When I spoke to him he did not at first recognize me, but when he did he grasped my hand and said, "I am glad to see you, George". He led me to his pleasant home and we as we rested he exclaimed, "This is the son of the man that saved my life."

Never will I forget my last visit with "Uncle Conrad". Little did I think when taking dinner with him and his kind partner, and thinking over the past that it would be our last meeting on earth. I was shocked to hear that in so short a time he had gone. The Cole family were among the pioneers of our country, and settled near my grandfather about the beginning of the present century.

*"History is the distillation of rumour."*

*Thomas Carlyle*

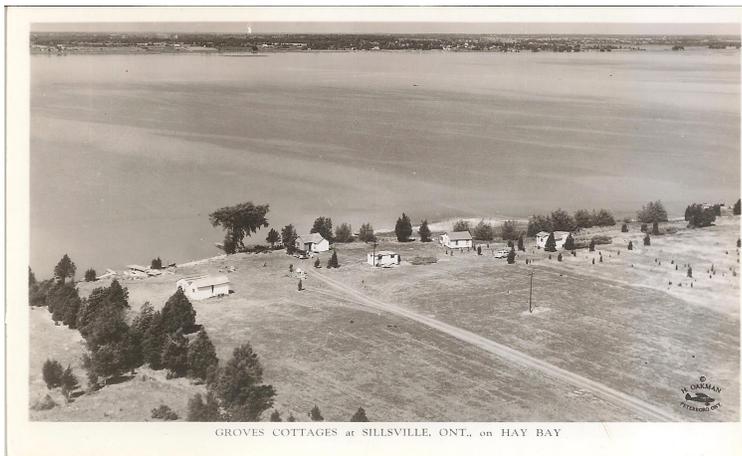
## Help Us Identify This:



Submitted by Judy Smith

It is unknown when this photo of a family gathering at David and Cynthia Parks Homestead on County Road 9 was taken. Judy Smith has identified George Chambers in the front row, and amongst the back row, from left to right: Bruce Parks, Hulda Chambers, and Maggie Chambers. Florence Parks and George Chambers' sister Eva may also be in the photograph. Can you identify any of the other people in the shot?

## Feedback from October's Help Us Identify This



GROVES COTTAGES at SILLSVILLE, ONT., on HAY BAY

We received no feedback as to the actual location or period of operation of Grove Cottages, identified as being at Sillsville on Hay Bay.

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 it in an upcoming issue of *The Neighbourhood Messenger*. One of our readers might know something that you don't!

## Clippings

### A Dark Suit of Clothes

was taken from the office of the Royal Hotel on Saturday night last, 14th August. The parties that took them are known, and will save themselves trouble by returning same at once.

*Napanee Beaver*  
August 20, 1897

### TO BE SOLD,

**T**HAT valuable stand for a MERCHANT or TAVERN-KEEPER in the township of Fredericksburgh, bordering on the Little Creek, near Bradshaw's Mill. The property consists in a neat Dwelling-house, painted Spanish brown, forty-five feet in length and twenty-six feet wide, including a gallery in front, which runs the whole length of the house; the walls and partitions are all built of sound burnt brick; a good brick chimney with two fire-places: there are five rooms on the lower floor, and one bed room on the second. Likewise, a good log store house and a horse stable, and upwards of two hundred acres of most *EXCELLENT LAND*, bounded on the west side by the Little Creek, and on the east side by the east half of lot No. 13, extending from the King's highway southerly, down across the Big Creek.

\*\* For further particulars apply to JOSEPH FORSYTH, Esq. Kingston, or to the subscriber at Thurlow.  
14th Nov. 1810. *JAMES McNABB.*

*Kingston Gazette*  
January 22, 1811

Herbert White, Sillsville, has been appointed deputy game and fisheries warden for the Hay Bay district by the Ontario Government. In the superintendent of Fisheries's letter it is said the appointment has been made with a view to putting a stop to the illegal fishing and shooting that have been taking place around there.

*Napanee Express*  
August 7, 1908

### THE BRIDGE COLLAPSED.

And The Engine And Outfit Went Almost Out of Sight.

FREDERICKSBURG, Aug. 12.—A serious accident occurred this afternoon near North Fredericksburg town hall. A threshing engine owned by W. J. Chambers was moving over to Little Creek, and in crossing Lucas' bridge over Big creek, the collapse occurred. The engine, horses and driver went down with the wreck into several feet of water. The engine is nearly out of sight. One horse was badly marked and bruised, the extent of which is hard to say as yet. The driver, George R. Chambers, swam ashore, badly jammed and bruised about the body. Medical aid was at once summoned, and on examination it was found one rib was broken, and had pierced the lung. At present he rests as comfortably as can be under the circumstances.

This is the bridge the municipal council held a special session two weeks ago to examine and decide as to repairs, or rebuild. Notices were at once posted condemning and warning the public of its condition. In the meantime it is said estimates were to be made on the cost of an iron structure.

*Daily British Whig*  
August 13, 1896

30-3-m

*Napanee.*

The coal pile at the Electric Light plant was afire again on Wednesday.

*Napanee Express*  
July 31, 1908

Clippings courtesy of Susan Wright  
and Jane Lovell

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

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

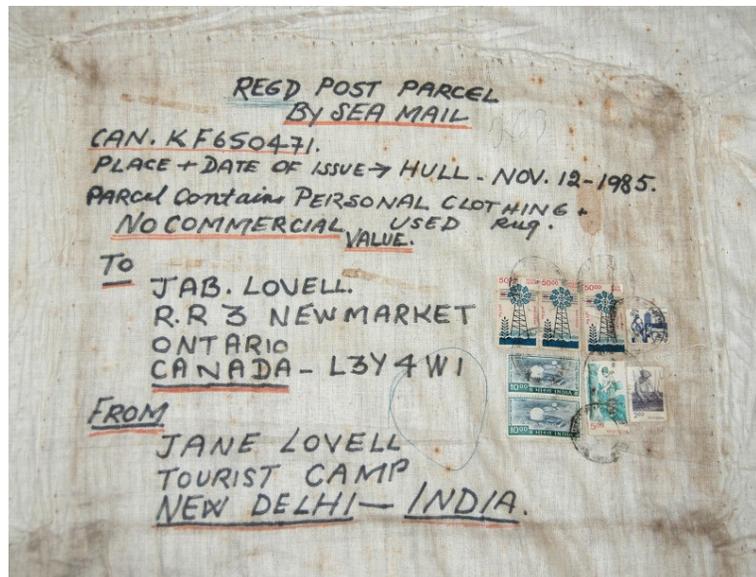
## Voices II: A Backstory

Jane Lovell

Following the Heritage Spring Dinner on Saturday May 14, we will be launching *Voices, Volume 2, Stories from Adolphustown and Fredericksburgh*. Several of its contributors will be discussing the articles they submitted, telling the story behind their submissions and providing additional material supporting the tales told. My submissions for *Voices Volume 2* have to do with mail delivery in Adolphustown and Fredericksburgh. What an endeavour that turned out to be! Here is a backstory of how I came to delve into the history of the small rural post offices that once dotted our townships.

My appreciation of “the post” began with the mailbox at the end of our drive that greeted me as I descended from the school bus one February afternoon after my first day at the local three-room school. My introduction to that roadside mailbox came when I was 11 and my family moved from Toronto to the countryside near Newmarket. This was a brand new metal mailbox from Canadian Tire on which my father carefully printed his name. Amazing to us was that our new address was simply R.R. 3 Newmarket, with no street name or house number. How did the mail lady know how to get our mail to us? Equally astounding was that not only was mail delivered to that box but we could also post letters from there. On Saturday too! Lots of good things showed up in that mailbox: letters from overseas pen-pals (some of whom I corresponded with for decades), weekly aerogrammes to my father from his parents in England (an uninterrupted ritual started when my father immigrated to Canada in the early 1950s and continuing until my grandmother's death in the early 1970s), teen posters ordered from “movie magazines”, a telegram(!) inviting me (alone – without my brothers) to visit my grandmother in England, mail-order stamps for my stamp collection, beads for making funky love necklaces, acceptance letters for entrance to universities.

Of course the Saturday delivery stopped soon after we arrived in the country, and I eventually moved to cities where mail was addressed to the house where I lived and was delivered to the door. One of my addresses was in Paris where I was living as an “au pair girl”. My father sent me little green “records” made on a Dictaphone that I could play on a battery-operated portable record player. What a treat to hear of family doings in the surprisingly true voices of my parents. On several occasions wander lust had me travelling around the globe. With some planning, I was able to arrange to have mail reach me where ever I went. Picking up bundles of letters addressed to me at the *poste restante* at the main post office in such exotic cities as Salzburg, Istanbul, Damascus, and Kathmandu was incredibly exciting, and much anticipated. Such was the significance and delight of receiving letters while abroad in an era when the phone was used only in an emergency and the concept of e-mail had yet to be hatched.



Muslin covering that was sewn around a box of souvenirs sent home from India in August 1897  
Stitching holes are still visible

Moving to Adolphustown a decade ago reintroduced me to rural mail. However, by the time we arrived here civic addresses had been introduced and so the mail delivery person no longer needed to know where every family along the rural route lived. And worse, because we lived at the end of a non-serviced lane, we had no end-of-drive mailbox. The families in our neighbourhood were served by several old rusty green community mailboxes. How disappointing. The nearest post offices were in

Napanee and Bath. I eventually learned that while there are now no small local post offices in Adolphustown or Fredericksburgh, there used to be many. Thinking it a great topic for a couple of weeks of research for an article or two for *Voices Volume 2*, I set out to find out where those post offices had been.

The couple of weeks' research mushroomed into two and a half months. Looking at maps, old newspaper clippings and early land records led to some surprising discoveries, including much community dissatisfaction, and hints of corruption and political intrigue. Who knew!

One of the surprises was the sheer number of post offices once in operation in Adolphustown and Fredericksburgh: Twenty of them! I was able to track down where all but one of them had been, when they opened and closed, and who the postmasters were. That lone remaining post office was a real puzzle.

Let me introduce you to Adolphustown's (or Fredericksburgh's) Ghost Post Office. The starting place for researching my project was Libraries and Archives Canada which has records for all post offices ever operated in Canada. The listings named the post office, its electoral district, when it opened and closed and who the postmasters had been. Nice. Most of the post offices were easy to place: Adolphustown, Dorland, Sillsville, etc. Others were not so obvious (to me) but were marked on the township maps in the 1878 *Illustrated Historical Atlas of the Counties of Frontenac, Lennox & Addington*. The one post office to defy my attempts to locate it is Clapham.

### Clapham Post Office

Name of Postmaster	Date of Appointment	Date of Vacancy	Cause of Vacancy
Edward D. Lalanne	1851-10-06		-
John Clap	1853	1854-06-02	Death
Arthur Chichester	1854-07-01	1855-10-01	Closed

Data from Post Office records at Library and Archives Canada

As I was soon to find out, post offices were most often located in the home or at the business of the postmaster. The most likely candidate for helping me locate the Clapham Post Office, therefore, was Mr. Clap. I could not find a John Clap but did find a John Clapp who died May 27, 1854 and who is buried in the Adolphustown Quaker Cemetery. His date of death is consistent with the Date of Vacancy with Cause being Death for Postmaster Clap. Clapp died on May 27 and the post office was closed on June 2nd. The next postmaster took over a month later on July 1. John Clapp owned Lot 25 in the third concession of Adolphustown from 1836 until 1848, five years before he became postmaster. Neither Chichester nor De Lalanne appear in the land registry records.

I could not find either Clapp or Chichester in the 1851 census but Edward De Lalanne shows up as a merchant born in Montreal and living with his wife, also listed as a merchant, in Adolphustown township. This is confirmed by the entry for Adolphustown in the 1851 *Canada Directory* in which De Lalanne is listed as having a general store and acting as wharfinger (one who manages a wharf). David McWhirter is listed as the postmaster of the Adolphustown Post Office. McWhirter and other landowners on the same census page as De Lalanne owned lots just to the east and west of Adolphustown village. This would place De Lalanne in or near Adolphustown village in 1851, the year he opened the Clapham Post Office.

I have not been able to find a post mark from Clapham, but the postal hammer was produced. At right is the proof strike for the Clapham postal hammer from the manufacturer's records.



The Clapham Post Office closed four years after it had been opened. The closing under postmaster Arthur Chichester is recorded in the 1857 *Appendix to the fifteenth volume of the Journals of the Legislative Assembly of the Province of Canada*.

**List of Post Offices closed within the year ended 31st March, 1856, shewing in each case, the reason for the proceeding.**

Name of Post Office.	Township or Seignior.	Electoral County or Division.	Name of Postmaster.	Reason for proceeding.
Adjala .....	Adjala .....	Simcoe, S. R. ....	P. D. Kelly.. ..	Closed on the opening of "Keenansville." These Offices were held by Station-masters, and when they resigned no one else could be found to take charge.
Arthabaska Stat..	Arthabaska...	Arthabaska.....	G.V. de Boucher-ville .....	
Britannia Mills..	Upton .....	Ragot.....	Thomas McCaw..	
Methot's Mills..	St. Croix .....	Lotbinière.....	Henry Layfield..	
Clapham .....	Adolphustown.	Lenox .....	A. Chichester..	Post-master resigned, and no other person willing to take charge.

Chichester does not appear in census or land transfer records but he had fairly strong ties to Adolphustown. His wife (a Platt) and two of their children are buried in the St. Alban's cemetery.

And that's it. The three postmasters appear to have lived in south Adolphustown, but there is no indication in the records as to where in Adolphustown township the Clapham Post Office might have been located. Just to complicate matters, there is a confusing wrinkle introduced by the Library and Archives record for Clapham which includes "Additional Information: Fredericksburgh". Chasing up on that wrinkle had me finding John Clapp owning Lot 12 in Concession 3 Additional in Fredericksburgh for the period covered by the operation of Clapham Post Office. The lot is on the west boundary of Fredericksburgh on Hay Bay, where Township Road 25 meets South Shore Hay Bay Road. This is in fact a good location for a post office, with a nearby ferry crossing allowing service to the "back concessions" of Adolphustown and Fredericksburgh both north and south of Hay Bay. At the time, there was only one post office in each of the townships and both were along "the front" (Loyalist Parkway). Indeed, residents of the two townships had been petitioning for at least a decade for post offices to service the back concessions.

So. Maybe the Clapham Post Office was in Fredericksburgh. It is certainly a more likely location than one in or near Adolphustown village, which already had a post office. However, such a location does not explain why it would be established there by De Lalanne, who, according to the census data, was very clearly living in or near Adolphustown village at the time. On the other hand, directories of the day were often very "generous" in their scope, so while De Lalanne is listed under Adolphustown, his general store and wharf could have been on Clapp's Hay Bay lot, just to the east of the township boundary. As far as the name of the post office goes, De Lalanne could have named the new post office Clapham because it was on Mr Clapp's lot, or the name could be presenting a red herring, and have nothing to do with John Clapp.

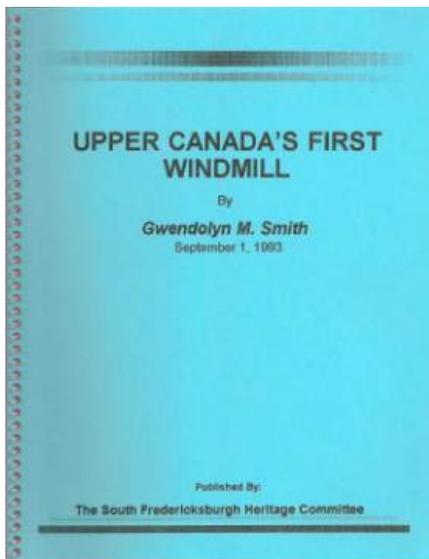
Ultimately, the location of the Clapham Post Office remains a puzzle – a true Ghost Post Office.

This back story is not typical of the outcome of my poking around looking for our old post offices. I found all the others, along with some intriguing revelations about them – all to be revealed in the pages of *Voices, Volume 2, Stories from Adolphustown and Fredericksburgh*.

I had plenty of help from others in researching and illustrating my stories. Special thanks goes to:

- Chris Anstead who supplied me with images of post marks from all our post offices, and who offered invaluable insight into the history of our postal system
- Jane Foster and Shelly Respondek of the Lennox & Addington County Museum & Archives who rustled up all manner of supporting documents and allowed us to use images of maps and envelopes in support of the stories
- Susan Wright who shared her extensive knowledge of our townships and who supplied me with maps and newspaper clippings that added valuable new, and often confounding, information that helped build a robust and comprehensive story of the very significant role the small rural post offices played in the Adolphustown and Fredericksburgh.

## From the Book Shelf



### Upper Canada's First Windmill Gwendolyn M. Smith

Research and documentation confirmed a windmill was constructed on the Bay of Quinte shore adjoining the Upper Gap. This windmill also served a military use against the American Fleet during the War of 1812.

This publication was the source document for research that led to the article **Windmills and Cannon Balls** appearing in the [June 2012](#) issue of the *Neighbourhood Messenger*. Additional information has recently surfaced casting a new light on the history and purpose of the windmill. A follow-up article will be issued in a special supplement.

**A SAFE AND SURE  
REMEDY FOR  
AILING CHILDREN**

**MILLER'S  
WORM  
POWDERS**

CONTAIN NO NARCOTICS,  
EASILY TAKEN, QUICKLY AND  
THOROUGHLY CLEANSE EVEN  
THE MOST DELICATE SYSTEM.  
AS SWEET AS SUGAR

*Napanee Beaver*  
March 2, 1928

## Then and Now



Photo Submitted by Judy Smith

This photograph of the Chambers house was likely taken in the late 1890s.

Situated on North Hay Bay Road, the house today remains almost completely unchanged. The 1½ story wing to the right of the main house has been replaced with a large addition, faithfully reproducing the general form and details of the original wing.



2016



## AFHS News

Angela Cronk

Happy Spring!! I am sure that everyone is enjoying the warmth in the air and taking advantage of every spare moment to be outside!

### Heritage Harvest Dinner

Since our last newsletter, the most notable event has been our Harvest Heritage Dinner last fall. We had two speakers who provided interesting information on two houses – one that used to be in North Fredericksburgh that has been taken apart and another in Bath that is being refurbished!

Jane Foster, Manager of the Lennox & Addington County Museum & Archives shared the story of the life of Casey House and the many clues of how it was enlarged and changed over the years. It was taken apart like a puzzle with the hope that it would be re-built at a different location. Unfortunately, that has not yet happened.



Ron Tasker, the current owner of Ham House on the Main Street of Bath, told his story of reconstructing that building and learning much about the history of it through the process. He also displayed many of the artifacts that he has discovered that helped to reveal the various uses and date the 'lives' of the building.

As you may have noticed, we have changed the time of the annual dinner, now scheduled for Saturday May 14, 2016. We are hoping that this will allow more people to attend and not have to worry about inclement weather. We will be introducing you to our latest publication, *Voices Volume 2*, and in lieu of a speaker, we will have a few readings from the book and have some of the authors give background information and talk about challenges in researching some of these stories. We will also have our extensive collection of displays and artifacts available for your perusal.

Spread the word about our event to your friends and neighbours, especially any newcomers to the area. Hope to see you there!

### A Tree Bee

Several of our committee members had a rather unique "bee" – not of the quilting variety! We were asked to decorate a Christmas tree at the Lennox & Addington County Museum & Archives Christmas Tree Party in December 2015. The theme for all the trees was "The Twelve Days of Christmas" and since we have accumulated a great number of photographs it was decided that we would surround the tree with 'photo ornaments'. The bottom row would be 12 houses, the next 11 children etc. etc. with the top having our logo as the 'star'. Sounded like a great idea until we actually figured out that this would require 78 handmade ornaments - hence the 'Christmas Tree Bee'!

Although our tree did not receive the 'Best in Show' award, it was about the community participation. Interestingly enough, when a photo of the event was published in one of the Napanee newspapers, the photo was of Father Christmas beside our tree with the credit given to the Napanee Heritage Society!! So, all's well that ends well!

P.S. we might have the ornaments on display at our Spring dinner on May 14th.



## A Curious Thing

Angela Cronk



October's Curious Thing

MaryKay Morris submitted this object: This is what MaryKay and her mother, Beth Hicks (née VanDusen), remembers about it. Beth is a direct descendant of Conrad VanDusen, the tavern keeper who was the original owner of the lot that became the Daverne Farm along the Adolphus Reach. This August Beth will be celebrating her 100<sup>th</sup> birthday.

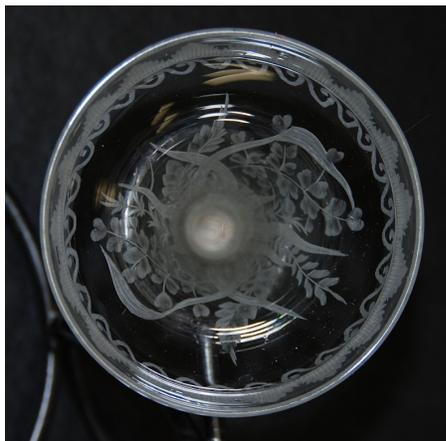
It is 8 to 10 inches tall. The bottom and side support are of cast iron; the top disc is of metal. I love the ornate filigree and overall design of this object. I wonder how old its it? My mom acquired it in 1942 when my sister was a tiny babe with Whooping cough! It was prescribed by Picton's famous Dr. Walmsley, but mom doesn't remember if it was his or someone else's.

Mom said a candle was placed on the bottom and a sort of camphor mixture was placed in the top disc or bowl. The candle would heat the mixture and the vapours breathed by the person with a troublesome head cold. However, Mom said it didn't work as well as her steam kettle and a tent affair over Judy's crib. My sister recovered but it was a critical time for my mother.

### What is this?



Submitted by Angela Cronk



Side and top view of the etched glass object.

Please contact [angelacronk@gmail.com](mailto: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.

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.

## From the Attic

We are looking for old photos and documents from Adolphustown, North and South Fredericksburgh. 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.

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
- Tarry Hall

### CORRESPONDENCE:

- Letters or postcards bearing postmarks from local towns and villages
- Correspondence from someone serving overseas during either WWI or WWII

### 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. **Newly added items will be highlighted in blue!**

## Contribute to *The Neighbourhood Messenger*

We publish *The Neighbourhood Messenger* several times a year. If you have an old photograph or newspaper clipping to share, a story to tell, or an event to publicize, let us know. Please send submissions to [jane.lovell@kos.net](mailto:jane.lovell@kos.net).

### Contributors to this issue:

Angela Cronk  
Jane Lovell  
Kathy Staples  
Susan Wright

All uncredited photos supplied by Jane Lovell