



THE NEIGHBOURHOOD MESSENGER

NEWSLETTER OF THE ADOLPHUSTOWN-FREDERICKSBURGH HERITAGE SOCIETY

Issue Number 9

May 2014

Preservation Successes and Sorrows

One of the Society's driving goals is preservation. The preservation of knowledge through the capture of recollections of community members has always been the focus of our energies. Our efforts in

creating a photo catalogue of area buildings can be regarded as preserving our knowledge of the state of where and how our community has lived and worked over time. With our cemetery work and the collection and scanning of old photographs, we have also had some success in the preservation of the physical artefacts in our midst. This issue of *The Neighbourhood Messenger* celebrates endeavours in preserving not only our built and cultural heritage, but also efforts to maintain or improve our natural environment. Preservation is not always a success story, however. We also need to acknowledge that our heritage is being lost both by inaction and by noble intentions that cannot be realised for a variety of reasons.

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
Sales Director:	Peter Cameron
Cemeteries Director:	Tom Talbot
Communications Director:	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*, 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



Photo courtesy of Susan Wright

Unknown young bathers. Adolphustown 1910-1920

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!

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!

Events Calendar

June 1	Ameliasburgh Historical Museum & Pioneer Village Taste the Heritage - 9:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. Discover "tasting stations" around the Pioneer Village and try some of our favourite heritage recipes!
June 6-8	Fairfield Guzeit House, Bath Port of Bath Marine Heritage Festival (see Featured Events, below)
June 9 to September 15	Old Hay Bay Church Open for the season - 9:30 a.m. - 5:30 p.m.
June 13-15	Conservation Park, Napanee Napanee Riverfront Festival (see Featured Events, below)
June 15	Adolphustown U.E.L United Church At Dorland Annual UEL Service - 11 a.m. Guest Speaker: Rev. Bury Wiseman Service followed by lunch
June 19	UEL Heritage Centre and Park, Adolphustown UEL Flag Raising - 7:00 p.m. Held at the UEL Cemetery in the Park, with participation of Re-enactors. Light refreshments to follow.
June 22	St. Alban's Church Annual UEL Service - 2 p.m. Guest Speaker: Orland French Local Historian and Author Service followed by tea
July 11	Picton Court House 1884 Murder Trial Re-enactment 1- 3 p.m. (see Featured Events, below)
August 23	Lennox & Addington Museum & Archives Lennox & Addington County's 150th Anniversary Celebration featuring the Re-opening of the Museum & Archives - 6 p.m. Tours and Open House



ANOTHER PRETTY YACHTING COSTUME

The girl who is enjoying the summer along the lakeside includes several outing dresses in her summer wardrobe. This trim frock is of cream-white mohair silkette, trimmed with gold and white braid. The bottom of the skirt is protected by white linen braid. The cap, which fits snugly, is of white kid with a black grosgrain ribbon band, and a black leather visor.

Toronto Daily Star
August 3, 1904

Events Calendar

August 16	<p>Macpherson House</p> <p>Historic Walking Tour 11 a.m. – 1 p.m.</p> <p>Tour the neighbourhood around the Macpherson House and learn about early Napanee's unique architectural history and it's prominent citizens. Light refreshments to follow at Macpherson House.</p>
August 24	<p>Old Hay Bay Church</p> <p>Pilgrimage Service – 3 p.m.</p> <p>Guest Speaker: Peter Milliken, UEL Descendant, Former long-time MP for Kingston and the Islands, and Speaker of the House of Parliament 2001- 2011</p>
August 31	<p>Ameliasburgh Historical Museum & Pioneer Village</p> <p>Heritage Activity Day 9:30 a.m – 4:30 p.m.</p> <p>Watch the heritage trades at work! Explore the pioneer village, alive with costumed folk interpreting a 19th century way of life. Tasting stations will be around the village for sampling heritage recipes and stay for the corn roast and musical entertainment too.</p>



Brigantine.ca Photo

The St. Lawrence II, under full sail

Feature Events:

The AFHS will be setting up our display tent at two festivals in June, both celebrating the maritime history of the area. Drop by to say hello and check out the events.

Port of Bath Marine Heritage Festival

From **June 6 to 8th** the grounds of the Fairfield-Gutzeit Society will host a festival celebrating the rich maritime heritage of the Great Lakes. Throughout the 3-day event there will be workshops, races, battles, live music, local brews, and plenty of traditional boats and ships. The highlight of the weekend will be the Saturday June 7th contest of speed between the brigantines *St. Lawrence II*, *Pathfinder*, and *Playfair*. These square-rigged ships will race in the North Channel of Lake Ontario between Amherst Island and the mainland in a revival of the competition for the Friendship Trophy. There will also be several noted speakers making presentations about the maritime history of the lower Great Lakes on Saturday and Sunday.

Friday:

Free public access: Arrival of tall ships, Official Opening of Festival, The unveiling of the "Flight of The Royal George" Monument commemorating the 200th Anniversary Fairfield-Gutzeit House, Lafarge 1812 Discovery Centre, deck tours of ships, Naval encampment, local beer.

Saturday, June 7:

\$7.50 General Admission (good for 2 days) or \$5 for one day. World-unique Brigantine race, deck tours, encampment access, workshops, speakers, live music by local artist and Ian Bell, local beer

Speakers

Sherry Pringle, Local artist and author of "All the Ship's Men" will speak about her book on HMCS Athabaskan

Ian Bell, Curator, Port Dover Marine Museum, returning by popular demand, will teach some Lakes Chanteys

Roger Litwiller, local author of "White Ensign Flying" will talk about HMCS Trentonian and his book about the vessel

John Summers, formerly of the Canadian Canoe Museum, "Sailing by the seat of your pants: the remarkable story of the sliding seat canoe".

Sunday, June 8:

\$5 General Admission: Deck tours, speakers, artillery demonstration, gate prizes, encampment access, workshops, award for best boat in show, winner of bateau race and winner of Friendship Trophy. Tall ships race to Kingston.

Speakers

Maurice Smith, Founder, Marine Museum of the Great Lakes at Kingston will talk about ship building in Kingston

Lena Beliveau, Curator, Marine Museum of the Great Lakes at Kingston will talk about becoming a curator

Workshops: Blacksmithing, Wooden Boat Restoration and Repair, Sail Making, Marlinspike seamanship

Napanee Waterfront Festival

As part of the inaugural Napanee Riverfront Festival taking place the weekend of **June 13 to June 15**, the *St. Lawrence II* will once again grace the waters of the Bay of Quinte, this time sailing up the Napanee River and docking in Napanee for the weekend. The ship will be open for deck tours and over the weekend there will be a heritage vendors' fair, fireworks, crafts and historical reenactments. The *St. Lawrence II* will take part in an event commemorating the 80th anniversary of the demise of the *Lyman M. Davis*, thought to be the last working schooner on the Great Lakes. For a time the *Lyman M. Davis* called Napanee her home port, and in her name there will be a re-enactment of an historic 1800s hydrographic survey to symbolically re-open the Napanee River to square-rigged ships.

Friday, June 13

5:30 p.m.	Re-enactment of Hydrographic Survey on the Napanee River
6:30 p. m.	Tall Ship Arrival
	Opening Ceremonies

Saturday, June 14

9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.	Tall Ship Deck Tours
9:30 a.m.	Naval Re-Enactment at Boat Launch
11:00 a.m. – 8:00 p.m.	Multicultural Festival
Dusk 8:30 p.m.	"Pirates of the Caribbean" Movie in the Downtown

Sunday, June 15

12 noon	Tall Ship Departure for Picton
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The *St. Lawrence II* will be accepting passengers for the voyage from Napanee to Picton. The square-rigged vessel will make its way along the Napanee River out into the spectacular Long Reach, sailing south past Hay Bay and beneath the towering High Shore into historic Picton Harbour. \$100 per person sets you up for a dramatic way of discovering the waterways that once played such an important role in our past – and a stunning way to spend a Sunday afternoon. To book passage or for more detail: info@brigantine.ca

Re-enactment of the Lazier Murder Trial: Prince Edward County 1884

Peter Lockyer

In December 1883, Peter Lazier was shot in the heart during a bungled robbery at a Prince Edward County farmhouse. Three local men, pleading innocence from start to finish, were arrested and charged with his murder. Two of them — Joseph Thomset and George Lowder — were sentenced to death by a jury of local citizens the following May. Nevertheless, appalled community members believed at least one of them to be innocent — even pleading with Prime Minister John A. Macdonald to spare them from the gallows.

The Lazier Murder explores a community's response to a crime, as well as the realization that it may have contributed to a miscarriage of justice. Robert J. Sharpe reconstructs and contextualizes the case using archival and contemporary newspaper accounts. The Lazier Murder provides an insightful look at the changing pattern of criminal justice in nineteenth-century Canada, and the enduring problem of wrongful convictions. In 2011 Justice Robert Sharpe wrote a book about the infamous double hanging that took place in Picton in 1884. The book was called *The Lazier Murder, Picton Ontario 1884*. The outcome of the trial was controversial at the time, and remains that way today.

Justice Sharpe, a Prince Edward County native, gave a fascinating presentation about the trial at the Regent Theatre soon after the book was published. A re-enactment of the trial has been in the works for some time and is now planned for July of this year. Justice Robert J. Sharpe (OCA) author of *The Lazier Murder: Prince Edward County, 1884*, will preside at the re-enactment of the trial in the courthouse where it all took place. Did they get the right men? You be the judge.

The re-enactment takes place on **Friday, July 11, 2014 from 1:00 - 3:00 p.m. at the historic 1834 Courthouse in Picton [44 Union St.]** where the actual trial took place. After the re-enactment participants are invited to tour the gaol and gallows where the men were hung. A reception follows at the Waring House where Huff Estates wine and county fare will be served and Justice Robert Sharpe will answer questions about the trial and re-enactment.

Tickets are \$125/per person with a charitable receipt issued for a portion of the ticket price. **To order tickets go to Eventbrite.ca / Find Events / Picton, Ontario / Lazier Murder Re-enactment**

Proceeds support The Macdonald Project to create a bronze sculpture of Sir John A. Macdonald presenting his first case as a young lawyer in Picton in 1834 in the very same courthouse. Visit www.macdonaldproject.com for more information.

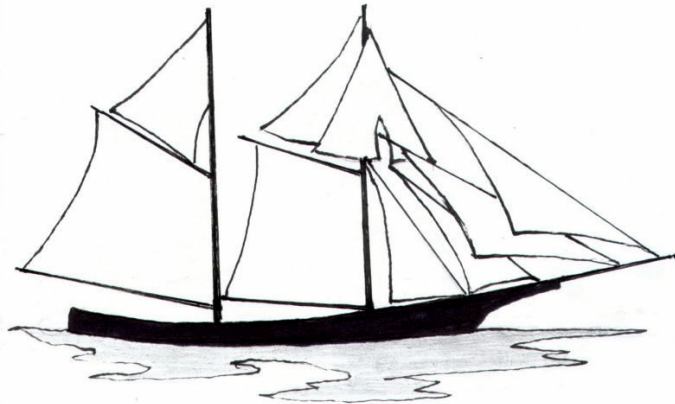


Napanee Beaver
3 July, 1929

The Ignoble End of the Lyman M Davis

Jane Lovell

The maiden voyage of the schooner *Lyman M. Davis* took place in 1873. After six decades in service on the Great Lakes, including delivering coal to Napanee, the *Davis's* demise came swiftly and dramatically. Anchored in Toronto Harbour, the still seaworthy *Davis* was set afire and blown up as part of a spectacle staged by Sunnyside Amusement Association at midnight June 29 1934. Such was the



Lyman M. Davis, as rigged circa 1906

appalling end to the well-built and hardworking vessel once the pride of the fleet managed by its builders Lyman Mason and Charles Davis, owners of the Mason Lumber Company of Muskegon on the shores of Lake Michigan. First commissioned for use in shipping lumber to Chicago to satisfy that city's voracious demand for lumber following the Great Chicago Fire of October 1871, the *Davis* sailed out of Muskegon under a number of owners over next forty years. Modestly proportioned at 123 feet in length and rigged as a fore-and-aft schooner with two masts and carrying a total of nine sails, the vessel soon gained a reputation of not only reliability and steady handling in all weathers, but for speed. For years she reigned champion in many an inter-lake challenge, reputedly losing only once – in the fall of 1915 to a three-masted schooner.

The *Davis* was given her Canadian registry when in 1912 when she was sold to the Graham Brothers of Kincardine on Lake Huron. The schooner remained in the lumber trade, supplying wood products to centres on the lower Great Lakes from the small ports of the Georgian Bay area. She continued to sail out of Kincardine until 1919 when she was purchased by John A. McCullough and Cephus H. Spencer of Napanee and began her new life of shipping coal between Canadian and US cities on Lake Ontario.

A near calamity struck in November 1922 when, fully loaded with coal from Oswego, the *Davis* found herself in blindingly heavy snow off the False Ducks. Captain McCullough maneuvered the ship with skill past Timber Island but was unable to avoid running aground on Waupoos Island. The ship was demasted, but the hull was undamaged. In order to stabilize the ship in the heavy seas a hole was drilled in her hull to allow the hold to partially fill with water. The hole was then plugged. After nine days awaiting salvage, and enduring further damage in a squall coming in from the High Shore while she was being towed up the reach opposite Hay Bay, the *Davis* finally made it back into Napanee with its load of coal.

After nearly a decade in the hands of McCullough and Spencer, the *Davis* was purchased in 1928 by Captain Henry Daryaw of Kingston who continued to use the vessel for the delivery of coal. However, by the end of the 1920s the days of sail were numbered and it was in 1933 that Daryaw sold the *Davis* to the Sunnyside Amusement Association. Sunnyside had been for some years burning derelict ships in the Toronto Harbour as a waterfront entertainment. The fact that the *Davis* was not derelict, and was in fact in good condition, caused a considerable consternation amongst the Toronto public. Spearheaded by C.H.J. Snider, the editor of the Toronto Telegram, a campaign was embarked upon to save the still seaworthy *Davis*, one of the last working Great Lakes schooners, and a well preserved example of the vibrant era of sail-powered commerce on the largest inland waterway in the world. Petitions were circulated, letters written, and funds raised in an attempt to rescue the ship. As residents of the birthplace of the *Davis*, the citizens of Muskegon were perhaps even more outraged, and proposals were made to have the *Davis* returned to their shores and turned into a floating museum in tribute to the heady days of the lumber trade. Eventually the mayor of Toronto, William James Stewart, stepped in and prevented the burning of the *Davis* and persuaded Sunnyside to sell the vessel at a

reasonable price. Sadly, no individual or consortium could raise the funds to purchase the *Davis*, and so Sunnyside went ahead with its plans in the summer of 1934.

The details of the demise of the *Lyman M. Davis* are distressing. Loaded with dry wood and with the tar-coated decks and rigging drenched in oil and kerosene, the vessel was towed out into the Toronto Harbour and set alight. Fireworks in the rigging ignited once the flames had fully enveloped the ship, and after burning for more than an hour, the fire reached the dynamite stowed in the hold. Despite the burning and explosions the transom carrying the ship's name apparently washed up on nearby Hanlan's Island. It wasn't until nearly half a century later, in September 1983, that the *Davis* again made the news: this time on the occasion of the finding of the remains of the hull sitting upright and partially submerged in silt on the Toronto Harbour floor, east of the Toronto Islands. Interestingly, in a 2010 article in the *Napanee Guide* it was reported that a positive identification of the vessel was made when divers found part of the hull containing the telltale plug from the 1922 mishap on Waupoos Island. This is a remarkable discovery considering the environment in which the remains of the *Davis* were found.

Today the wreck of the *Lyman M. Davis* is marked by a privately maintained buoy and constitutes one of the many wrecks whose location is maintained in several international shipwreck databases.

The following video is of a 2006 dive on the *Davis*.

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=C0Yb31LQUuc#t=58>

OLD, RELIABLE & CHEAP
JOHN BLEWETT, Dundas Street,
The oldest established Grocer and Provision Dealer in Napanee, in issuing his annual circular to his customers and the public at large, begs to return thanks for the patronage bestowed upon him during the forty years he has been in business and to convince them that he is now prepared to give better bargains in the line of
GROCERIES, PROVISIONS,
FLOUR, PORK, Etc., Etc.,
than ever before, and defies competition. Note the stock now on hand :
Choice Pork and Hams in large quantities. 1,000 bags and brands Choice Flours. Large quantity of Oatmeal and Cornmeal. 200 half barrels Whitefish and Salmon Trout. Also a quantity of Salt Water Herrings by barrels or half barrels. 200 barrels fine Salt. Immense stock of Oats and Feed of all kinds. A full line of Sugars, Raisins, Currants, Spices, Tobacco, and all other groceries, Fresh and of Best Quality. My stock of Fine Groceries was selected specially for the Christmas trade, and will be found very choice. Soliciting a call and agreeing to fulfill every promise, I am, yours truly,
JOHN BLEWETT.

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Napanee Beaver
30 December, 1882

Arbor Day

Judy Smith

Arbor Day (from the Latin arbor, meaning tree) is a holiday in which individuals and groups are encouraged to plant and care for trees. It originated in Nebraska City, Nebraska by Julius Sterling Morton (1832 –1902). On April 10, 1872 at the first Arbor Day an estimated one million trees were planted in Nebraska. On April 15, 1907 President Theodore Roosevelt issued an "Arbor Day Proclamation" to the school children of the United States about the importance of trees and that forestry deserves to be taught in the U.S. schools. Today, all states celebrate Arbor Day. President Richard Nixon proclaimed the last Friday of April as National Arbor Day.

Arbor Day in Canada was founded by Don Clark for his wife Margaret in 1906 at Schomberg, Ontario. Maple Leaf Day falls on the last Wednesday in September during National Forest Week. Ontario celebrated Arbor Day on the last Friday in April.

Today many countries observe a similar holiday usually in the spring, the date varies depending on climate and planting season.

Since 1980 in Canada we celebrate Earth Day on April 22.

Here are some suggestions on how to celebrate the day – courtesy of the Arbor Day Foundation:

- Celebrate Arbor Day in a personal way by planting a tree yourself
- Plant trees on your own property or volunteer with a local government agency to plant or care for trees on public lands
- Read a book about trees, learn to identify trees in your yard and neighbourhood
- Visit a local park, take a nature hike, visit a nursery
- Attend a class on trees and plant care.

You will meet new people while making a difference in your community.

My personal remembrances of Arbor Day were in the one-room country school – SS#13 North Fredericksburgh. It was a busy but exciting day as you got to go to a nearby woods. First, you cleaned the school and yard. Windows were washed inside and out, blackboards were washed and the brushes cleaned of chalk dust, the floor was swept, and the library books organized. Outside you raked the wood-chips and bark around the woodshed or school wood-pile, picked up twigs and brush, pulled long weeds near the fences and swept out the privies.

Often times a tree or flowers would be planted on that special day.



Photo Courtesy of Jean Corbett

Arbour Day at Hayburn School, Spring 1940

Francis Brooks, Shirley Wagar, Leone Loyst, Orville Brooks, George Wickett

When the tidying was complete the whole school trekked off down the Big Creek Road, up the Chambers side road, across Jennings fields and into the Vanalstine woods. We sang little ditty songs as we journeyed along. We ate our lunch from our metal lunch boxes or honey pails, sat on our jackets, or a rock or the grass itself.

A small brook ran through the woods where the school went, so lots of fun took place trying to catch frogs, tadpoles and water beetles. Some students would put these in their lunch pails. Even pretty marked stones would be kept from that day. I would venture to say half of the school went home with wet shoes and socks and even an occasional hat got wet.

Games like sack, wheelbarrow and three legged races all were played, winners receiving a pretty colored ribbon from the teacher. We also played Red Rover Come Over, Red Light, Simon Says and Touch Tag. The bat and ball were always brought from the school and two boys would choose up teams and then a great game of Scrub Ball took place. Some children picked their first May flowers while in the woods.

As the afternoon drew to a close, the children, tired and hot, would once again cross the fields and up the road to the school. If you were lucky enough to own a bicycle you rode it home or you continued to walk to your destination.

What a day it had been and you knew next April you could experience it all over again. Arbor Day was such a delight!

Remember to plant a tree this year to celebrate.



AFHS photo

Sillsville Arbor Day, early 1920s

In Tree: Albert Lloyd, Don Hough, William Charters (hanging on to tree). Back Row - Flossie Tibbutt, Nellie Lloyd, Fannie Mellow, Edna Cranston, Florence Gilbert, Laura Sills. Front Row - Almeda Charters, Hilda Creighton, Pat Sills, Lulu Roberts, - - Blower, Willie Tibbutt, Leslie Mellow.

Then and Now

Kathy Staples



Photo Courtesy of Susan Wright

This charming photo of "Diana" was taken in April 1938 at the house located at 2436 County Road 8, owned by Mattie (Martin Luther) Hough until his death in January of that year. It is unknown who Diana is or who managed the farm until it was sold in 1940. The house was built circa 1815 by Mattie's grandfather Martin Hough on the property deeded to Martin's grandfather John Hough in 1798.



The Hough House in 2014 taken from a similar perspective as the 1938 shot

The photo below shows how little the exterior of the house has changed in the last three-quarters of a century. The porch was removed and the windows upgraded. A more detailed description of the modifications made to both the interior and exterior the house can be found in Donald Hough's book *Two Centuries in Sillsville*.

Do you have an old photograph of your house? If so, let us know and we can feature it here.



2014

AFHS News

Jane Lovell

In early March the AFHS was invited to attend the Lennox & Addington Historical Society monthly meeting, where Susan Wright was asked to talk about our latest publication, *Voices*. By way of introduction the L&AHS president, Jennifer Bunting, presented a short discourse on the role of oral and social history in the broader context of our community heritage. As a pre-amble to Susan's discussion on how many of the stories appearing in *Voices* were acquired, Jennifer's introduction provided validation to the importance of the work Susan has done in assembling the collection, and highlighted the value of the stories contributed by our members and others in our community.

Jennifer has very graciously allowed us to reprint her introductory remarks for the benefit of AFHS members who did not have the opportunity to attend Susan's presentation.

The "Voices" project is a contribution to social history.

Social history is the study of the past through the experiences of ordinary people.

Social history sometimes converges with **oral history**, a confusing term which refers to the capture of voices and memories of people about the past. Oral history can be one of the most potent primary sources for social history because it includes memories shared by ordinary people.

The gathering of oral history usually includes both rehearsed accounts of the past such as speeches and informal conversations about "the old days" from among family members, neighbours, or co-workers. Before 1940, oral history included both printed collections of stories about past times and recorded interviews with individuals deemed to have an important story to tell.

Though of considerable value, early efforts to record first-hand accounts of the past relied on human note-takers, thus raising questions about reliability and veracity. The temptation to change a word or ignore an uncomfortable reference is overwhelming. Many early interviews were also conducted with no intention of creating a permanent reference collection.

Therefore, historians generally consider contemporary oral history as beginning with the work of Allan Nevins at Columbia University in the 1940s. Nevins was the first to initiate a systematic and disciplined effort to record on tape, preserve, and make available for future research recollections deemed of historical significance.

Although by current definitions, "Voices" is not oral history, it fits within the tradition because it succeeds in gathering experiences shared by a wide variety of people focused around an important topic, in this case life experienced in the south part of Lennox and Addington. It is certainly social history, because the memories of any person, no matter what status, gender, race or economic level are included. The stories are evocative and entertaining and a vital contribution to the documenting of the history of Lennox and Addington.

It is my privilege to introduce Susan Wright of the Adolphustown-Fredericksburgh Heritage Society, who will tell us more about the project.

Jennifer Bunting, 8 March 2014

*"My father used to say that stories are part of the most precious
heritage of mankind."*

Tahir Shah

On May 26th Susan Wright lead a morning tour of several of the small cemeteries in North and South Fredericksburgh and Adolphustown. Meeting at Big Creek, the small group then proceeded to the Lutheran, Sillsville, Rombough, Rikley, Fisher, Loyst, Diamond, Quaker and Trumpour cemeteries. Susan gave a brief history of most the sites and commented on the state of the stones. In all cases witching detected many more graves than stones, and burials beyond the bounds of the marked cemetery. Several of the cemeteries are in need of remedial work, not only in managing underbrush, but also in righting and repairing stones.



Kathy Staples, Glenna Cuthbert, Tom Talbot, Susan Wright, Angela Cronk, Alan Hamilton at Big Creek Cemetery



Two of our smallest cemeteries: the Fisher Burial Plot, left, and a detail on the monument in the Diamond Family Burial Ground, right. Both sites are on the south side of Hay Bay, overlooking the waterfront.



Clippings

ADOLPHUSTOWN -

A sad fatality occurred on Sunday morning last, when a bright young life was lost to our community, in the death of Reginald Beasley. Reggie, with a few companions, was bathing in the Napanee river, when suddenly he sank to the bottom, where his body was recovered some hours later. Reggie enlisted for overseas service in the early stages of the war, with the local corps, and his faithfulness and bravery were recognized by his winning the D. C. M. The funeral took place from S. Alban's church on Tuesday afternoon, a large congregation being present to show their sympathy with the bereaved family. The bearers were Messrs. M. Anions, H. Smith, A. Hines, G. Gurney, F. Goddard and W. McCrudden, all being in soldier uniform. Interment was made in S. Alban's churchyard.

Napanee Beaver
June 21, 1921

Broke into the enclosure of the subscriber, in Adolphustown, on or about the fifteenth day of May, 1816, a bright Bay HORSE about fifteen hands high, seven years old, and natural trotter. The owner may have the same by proving property and paying charges.

Kingston Chronicle
June 15, 1816

In a season when we are contemplating **Communities in Bloom**, it is interesting to remember that a "garden" once spoke veggies louder than flowers, and that the provincial government encouraged school children to plant vegetable gardens.

HOME GARDEN CONTEST

The gardens in the Home Garden Contest, conducted by the Lennox and Addington Branch of the Ontario Department of Agriculture, in the townships of Adolphustown, South Fredericksburg, and Amherst Island, were judged by the Agricultural representative, and according to his report, were on the average very good—with a few outstanding gardens. Following is the standing of the first ten gardens in the competition—the first five of these will receive cash prizes donated by the Ontario Department of Agriculture:—

- 1 Betty Heathcote, S. S. No. 1, Adolphustown.
- 2 Winnie Pretts, S. S. No. 6, South Fredericksburg.
- 3 Donald Miller, S. S. No. 5, Amherst Island.
- 4 Clara Brown, S. S. No. 2, South Fredericksburg.
- 5 George Day, S. S. No. 6, South Fredericksburg.
- 6 Cissy Lewis, S. S. No. 1, Adolphustown.
- 7 Rhoda Marshall, S. S. No. 3, Amherst Island.
- 8 Edna Corke, S. S. No. 3, Amherst Island.
- 9 Nellie Gallagher, S. S. No. 2, Adolphustown.
- 10 John Kearney, S. S. No. 3, Amherst Island.

Napanee Beaver
July 31, 1929

Clippings courtesy of Susan Wright
& Jane Lovell

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

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

A Tile Restoration Project in Adolphustown

Diane Berlet

Decorative tile has been a popular aspect of architectural design for a very long time. Evidence of hand-made, sun-baked clay tiles used in dwellings and structures date back seven to eight thousand years. The Egyptians were the first to discover that firing clay tiles at high temperatures in a kiln made them stronger and more water resistant and such tiles were used in buildings as early as 2000 BC.

Tile art included many forms of painted and decorated tiles. The most intricate and labour intensive products were the encaustic (inlaid designs) tiles. The word encaustic comes from the Greek term for burnt in. Because the inlaid patterns are not painted on but rather burnt in, as it were, during the process of firing, most architects considered encaustic tiles the only type of decorative tile appropriate for church floors or other heavily trafficked areas. The inlaid patterns wear evenly with the surrounding fabric of the tile and the pattern remains visible as the tile wears away.

Tile manufacturing in England received a great boost during the nineteenth century Industrial Revolution when an assembly line process was employed. Decorative tile art played a large role in the architectural design of banks, railway stations, hospitals, churches and ordinary homes in the UK and throughout the colonies during the Victorian era. Incredibly, a fine example of encaustic tile art also made its way to St. Alban's Anglican Church in the small village of Adolphustown in the form of a beautiful tile frieze, featuring sixty-four individual Memorial tiles to early United Empire Loyalists and their descendants, which encircles the interior of the church.



Photo Courtesy of Graem Coles
Interior of St. Alban's Church showing inlaid tile frieze.



Photo Courtesy of Graem Coles
Three tile section of frieze

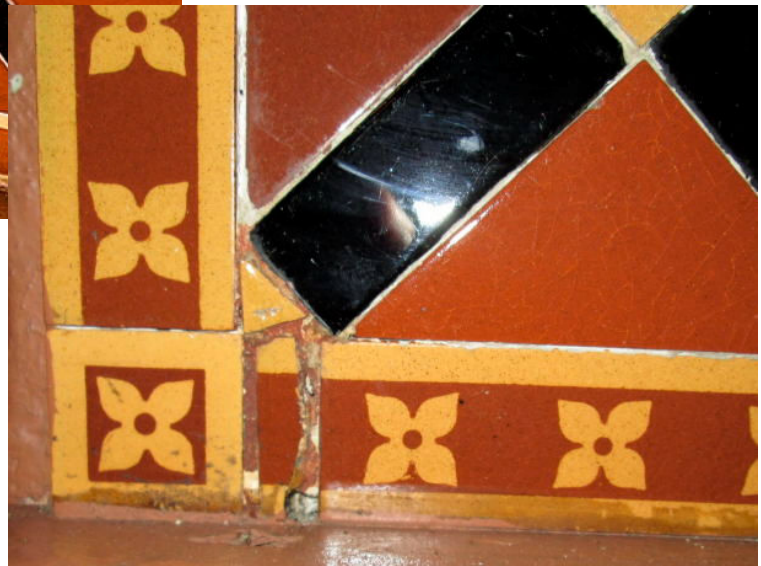
In 1889, the year the first panels of tiles were ordered from the Minton tile works in Stoke-on-Trent, UK, the cost of the manufacture and installation of each Memorial tile was paid for by an individual sponsor (\$7 for a buff coloured tile, \$12 for blue). The St. Alban's tiles were a small part of a far flung distribution of Minton decorative tiles, both within the UK and with British trade partners world-wide, aided by World Fairs and local distributors. Minton encaustic floor tiles can be found in the Houses of Parliament in London as well as throughout the upper hallways, extending into senate office floors in the Capitol building in Washington. Encaustic tiles were also used in fireplace surrounds. Although there were many in churches and cathedrals in the UK, no other North American installation of inlaid Minton Memorial wall tiles such as the St. Alban's frieze has come to light so far.

The frieze, consisting of 12 by 12 inch Memorial tiles, set in an intricate mosaic of smaller tiles, encircles the interior walls above a wainscoting and the tiles are not subject to the passing of many feet. The inlaid letters of the inscriptions are as clear as the day the clay slip was poured into the mould for each tile and the inlaid crosses, fleur-d-lis, and small designs with four petals still glow beneath the glazed surface of each tile. The tiles have always been much admired and although they have stood up well

for more than 120 years, temperature and humidity variation in the church has taken a toll and it was recently noticed that some of the smaller tiles in the frieze were loose or missing and there were signs that preservation work was needed.



A four-petal corner piece and two triangular mosaic tiles are missing in the photo above. In addition, the central four-petal piece is misaligned. The photo to the right shows a poorly set "extension" to a four-petal tile.



To increase awareness of the value of this treasure within the community and as a means to raise funds for restoration, the St. Alban's History Committee undertook a project to write a book about the people memorialized on the walls and to spread the word about the history and artistic merit of the tiles. With the support of the Adolphustown-Fredericksburgh Heritage Society, a successful grant application for \$9,500 from the Ontario Trillium Foundation helped underwrite the cost of the book. *The Loyalist Tiles of St. Alban's*, recording the stories of the 64 Loyalists and revealing the importance of the tiles as an art treasure, was published in October 2011.

A restoration fund entitled The Historical Tile and Book Association was established. By autumn 2013, when profit from book sales was approaching \$5,000, the History Committee felt it could move ahead with an assessment of preservation work required and begin at least the most essential work needed.

The Committee despaired of accomplishing its assessment and restoration goal within such a limited budget. There is an old adage that God has a way of sending an angel when one is needed. St. Alban's recently appointed rector, Dr. John Walmsley, a Yorkshire man, set about finding help. Through

his connections he discovered a young parishioner at St. George's Cathedral in Kingston, a recent university graduate who had established his own business - Cotton Tile Creations. When David Cotton entered St. Alban's he was overwhelmed by the beauty of the St. Alban's tiles which reminded him of the many comparable tile installations he had viewed on a recent trip to Italy. He was willing to make the thirty-mile commute from his Kingston base and assured the Committee that he would work with meticulous care to preserve the integrity and antiquity of the tile frieze. David also understood the budget constraints and agreed that he would work at a special hourly rate and do only the most essential work needed. Although he offers all types of tile installation, David showed a great interest in working with heritage tiles and assured the Committee he considered it an "honour and a privilege to work in such a beautiful church". Imagine!

David was as good as his word. He tested the entire frieze and began carefully removing tiles that were perilously loose. Fortunately he discovered that all 64 of the 12 by 12 inch encaustic Memorial tiles, which were two inches thick, were affixed directly to the lathe layer within the wall and seemed secure. The surrounding tiles in the mosaic were a different story. They were only 3/8 of an inch thick and in order to set these flush with the 2 inch deep Memorial Tiles, plaster had been thickly applied to the wall and the small pieces had been set directly into plaster. There was no adhesive base and in fact no grouting – only a little more plaster squeezed between the tiles to fill any gaps. There was one upside however. As David removed the tiles and cleaned the back surface he didn't encounter the stubborn adhesive he had expected. The plaster simply washed away.

The use of plaster to affix the tiles within the frieze makes sense when one considers that when the tiles were first installed, circa 1889, professional tile installers would have been few and far between in this area and modern adhesives that are used today would not have been available to them. Considering their lack of experience and the tools available to them, the original artisans did a remarkable job of laying the tiles in an intricate pattern, as intended

All the loose tiles removed were carefully numbered. The wall behind these tiles was resurfaced and the newly cleaned tiles were ready for replacement, this time using modern adhesive and special



Loose tiles removed from frieze



Numbered loose and broken tiles



David Cotton at work at St. Alban's

grouting material. Just one problem remained: What should be done about missing tiles or those damaged beyond repair? Would it be possible to match the orange, red/brown or plain black tiles? Especially worrying was the need to replace a few small sections of encaustic or inlaid tiles.

Decorative tiling, so popular in England from mid 1800s until the turn of the century became much less in demand in the twentieth century when the fashion for ornate tiling was supplanted by plain white tiles. Soon after the St. Alban's tile frieze was completed (1909) the great tile factories closed and the making of decorative tiles was relegated to a craft industry. Because of the labour intensive nature of encaustic tile making, which required the making of moulds, careful pouring of different colours of clay slip, the addition of glazing and then long hours of firing, the manufacture of encaustic tiles virtually ceased. The Committee feared it would never find replacements for the missing or damaged pieces in the frieze.

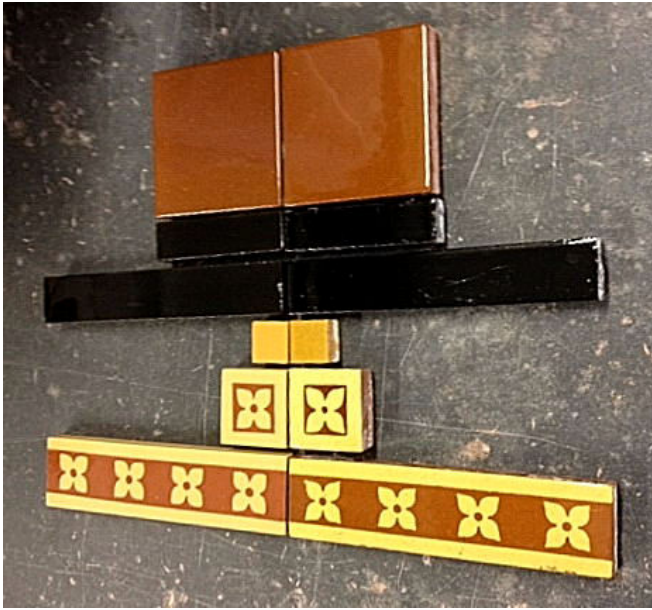
Timing is everything however, and just as the restoration project was being embarked upon it was learned that a tile museum was amongst a cluster of ten museums telling the story of the great nineteenth century Industrial Revolution that had recently been assembled in Ironbridge U.K. The Jackfield Tile Museum, established in 2007 on the footprint of a Victorian tile factory, has a wonderful collection of heritage decorative tiles, numerous workshops and a recently opened manufacturing facility. Twenty-two workers are once again producing decorative tiles on the site of a former nineteenth century tile manufacturing centre. Christopher Cox, a young man who has dedicated many years to learning the art of encaustic tile making, has his own workshop in the museum and is currently working on a commission to make replacements for Minton encaustic tile installations in the Westminster Houses of Parliament in London. He took the time to study the tile samples sent to him from



Chris Cox, of the Jackfield Tile Museum, in front of examples of Westminster tiles he is reproducing for the Westminster Houses of Parliament.

St. Alban's and informed the Committee that he was able to make replacements using original moulds in his collection for the encaustic pieces as well as matching the plain orange, red/brown and black tiles. Remarkably, he found clay on the museum premises which was nearly an exact match for the

red/brown tiles. How fortunate to make contact with the only man with the skill and the required tools to complete the project! Surely a second angel had been sent to assist in St. Alban's tile restoration project. The St. Alban's order was filled for just over \$300.



The photo above is of reproduced tiles, St. Alban's tiles on the right, reproductions on the left (or visa versa? – not!!) The photo to the right shows some of the final product at the Jackfield Museum, in the workshop of Chris Cox.



Although the replacement tiles arrived at the church in October 2013, installation work and grouting was not begun until April 2014 when the worst winter in many years had passed. The final wooden frame was put in place May 5, 2014.



David Cotton re-installing last section of wooden frame.

The heritage St. Alban's tiles are once again secure and it is hoped that they will remain in place for all to enjoy for many years to come. A regular inspection programme is planned and it is hoped that funding can eventually be secured to secure and re-grout all the tiles in the precious St. Alban's frieze.

Help Us Identify This:



Photo Courtesy of Ross Morton

This is an interior shot of a one-room schoolhouse. Do you recognise the schoolroom, the teacher, or any of the children?

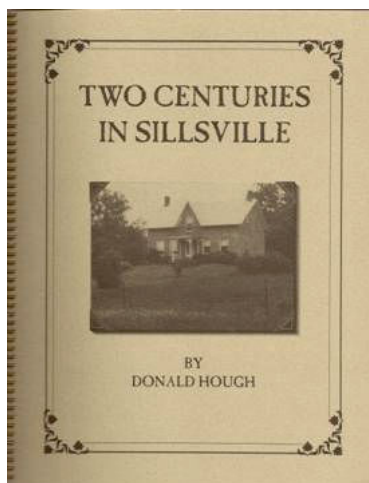
Feedback from February's Help Us Identify This:



No feedback was received to identify this house.

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!

From the Book Shelf



Two Centuries in Sillville

Donald Hough

An extremely well detailed social history of the land and families of the Sillville district of South Fredericksburgh and covering the years from the United Loyalist settlement to 1997. Like other books published by the AFHS, this one contains valuable information for anyone tracing their ancestors from the issuing of Crown Deeds in 1797.

The author draws on public and private documents, oral records, memories and photographs.

And Furthermore....

The February 2014 edition of *The Neighbourhood Messenger* featured articles, photos and clippings on winters in our community.

Lyle Smith identified the "plow" in the **Glimpse of the Past** photo as being a bulldozer. That particular bulldozer was owned by Bruce Van Luven who did construction work locally. Lyle was also able to identify the truck in the **Then and Now** photo as being a ¼ ton Model A belonging to Norm Brooks.

In his 2013 book *Growing up in Adolphustown* Merton Davis writes:

Many people still remember the snow storm of 1944 in Ontario. Our road was blocked for several weeks. In places on the way to Napanee, the ploughs abandoned the road and cleared a trail through the fields. The drifts were huge. We build a snow house under one in our back yard, with windows in the roof and a blanket floor. There was another snow bank that was over ten feet deep. It stretched across the road between our place and Magee's. Father would not let us dig there, for good reasons, I watched the crew progressing up the street with a gang of men and shovels, a bulldozer that went back and forth, and a plough on a truck that took runs at the drifts.

Before our road was cleared Father [Clarence Davis] needed grain, so he and I took the horses and sleigh up to Plesteads by way of Carnahan Bay. The team plunged up, over, and down the drifts. For Father, this trip was made out of necessity, but for me it was another opportunity to go on an adventure.

Judy Smith submitted some "Big Snow" photographs:



James Smith and team and pooch on snow bank, Smithview Farm 1947



Lyle Smith and family at the Smith farm 1975

The Third Concession 1977



The Third Concession
2014

Iceboating was a sport indulged in this past winter and in during winters over the last century. MaryKay Morris recalls her father "telling us how he built an ice boat and sailed it on Half Moon Bay; That's on the north shore of South Bay, where he grew up. My dad had his [iceboat] around the late 1920s."

Check out these fabulous videos of the extremely rare sailing of the old wooden stern steerer iceboats on the Hudson this past winter:

http://youtu.be/pRU1o54A_Uo

This one contains some wonderful old footage and shots of the early ice yachts.

<http://www.nbcnews.com/nightly-news/seemingly-never-ending-winter-joy-ice-boaters-n49426>

UNIVERSAL WANT.

EVERY LADY IN THE LAND REQUIRES AND OUGHT TO HAVE
A RUBBER CIRCULAR OR ULSTER.

Cheapside is the place to buy a Nice Rubber Circular, with hood attached. Cheapside is the place to buy a Nice Rubber Circular, with Cape attached. Cheapside is the place to buy a Rubber Circular with both hood and cape attached.

Cheapside is the place to buy a nice Reversible Rubber Circular. Rubber on one side and fine alpaca on the other.

Cheapside is the place to buy a good Rubber Hood alone. They can be attached to any Rubber Circular. These goods are made of the best rubber, and are therefore absolutely waterproof. They will not crack, as they are as soft as silk. The Circulars are all lengths, to fit the short, the medium and the tall. As before remarked, no lady should be without one; they may save a big doctor's bill.

CHEAPSIDE IS THE PLACE FOR GENTS TO BUY CHEAP AND GOOD RUBBER COATS.

CHEAPSIDE IS THE PLACE TO BUY A GOOD STORM UMBRELLA.

Cheapside is the place for Ladies and Gents to robe themselves so as to defy the raging elements.

Cheapside is the place for Gents to get the best value in Hats and Caps, Shirts, Ties, Gloves, Socks, Cloths
Tweeds, &c., &c.

Cheapside is the place to order a good honest Suit of Clothes, warranted in the fit, trimmings and make.

Cheapside is the place for Ladies to buy everything nice in summer Dress Goods and Trimmings.

Irish and Scotch Lawns, Muslins, Prints, Satcons, Antique Stripe Muslins, Embroideries, Gloves, Hosiery,
Corsets, Parasols, &c.

Cheapside is the place to buy Millinery to the best possible advantage (no stairs to climb).

Cheapside is the place par excellence to buy Carpets and General House Furnishings. Something new every day in Carpets and Cretonnes. Splendid value in Sheetings, Single, Double and 4-fold, bleached and unbleached. Cotton and Linen Pillow Cases, Tickings, Counterpanes, Cretonnes (handsome goods—fast colors) for Curtains, Lace Curtains, Curtain Netts, grand value in Towels and Towelling, Turkey and White Damasks, Unbleached Half-bleached and Bleached Table Linens, Dooley's Table Napkins, Mats, Carpet Moth-proof Filling, Crumb Cloth, Oilcloths, Linoleums, in fact,

EVERYTHING IN GENERAL HOUSE-FURNISHING GOODS.

Cheapside is the place to get a Dress or Mantle made in the height of style and fit guaranteed.

Cheapside is the place to get the best value in Black Satins and Silks, especially the Celebrated Canadian Silk, which is guaranteed pure and not to cut or gloss.

Cheapside is the only place in Napanee where you can get THE REAL CANADIAN SILK. If any person claims to have it. MAKE THEM SHOW YOU THE BRAND WOVEN IN THE EDGE, "Corriveau & Co., Montreal."

Cheapside is the place to buy the most reliable goods at bottom prices.

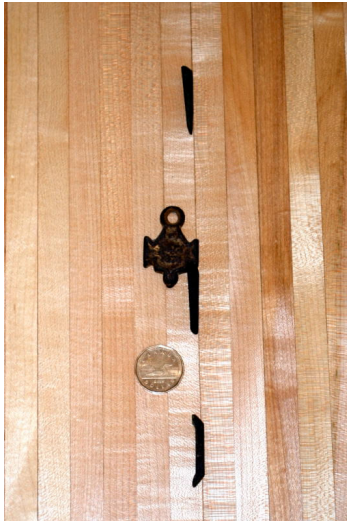
Cheapside is the Mammoth Dry Goods, Carpet, Millinery and Gents' Furnishing Emporium of Ontario.

HINCH & SOTT.

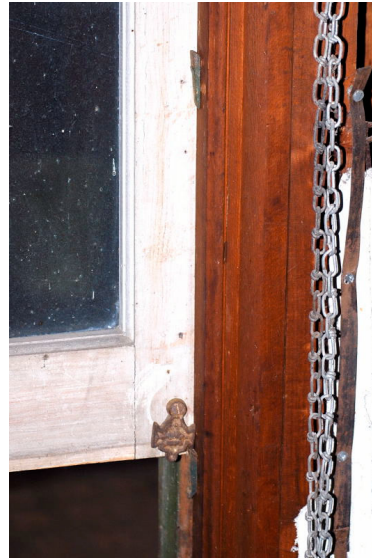
Napanee Beaver
May 28, 1881

A Curious Thing

Angela Cronk



February's Curious Thing



February's Curious Thing is a window latch. The swing latch is attached to the window sash and the stops are attached to the window frame. To lock the window the latch is hooked under the bottom stop; other stops allow the window to be raised and positioned at the level of the stop. This example came from Glen Island. A similar one is shown mounted on a window in one of the cabins on the Island. It is unknown when this type of latch was generally in use. The cabins on Glen Island were built between 1890 and the 1920s. It is likely that the latch above is original to the cabin.

What is this?



Submitted by Angela Cronk

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.

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

Other Correspondence:

- Letters or postcards bearing postmarks from local towns and villages
- Letters from political figures such as Sir W. Laurier, Diefenbaker, etc.
- 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* 3 times a year: in February, May and October. 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 October issue can be sent to jane.lovell@kos.net anytime before the end of September 2014.

Contributors to this issue:

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