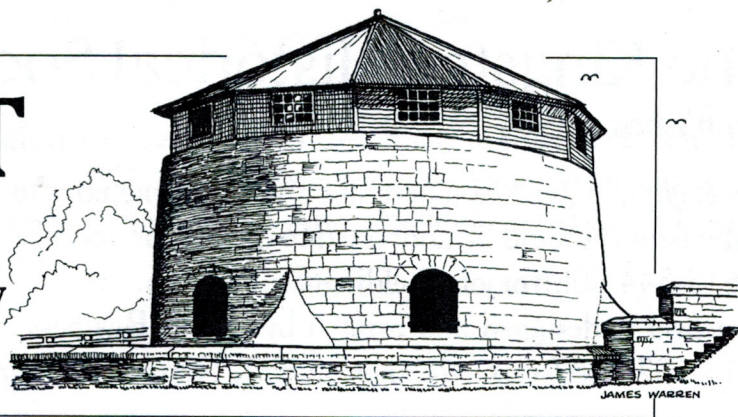


LIMELIGHT

Newsletter of the
Kingston Historical Society

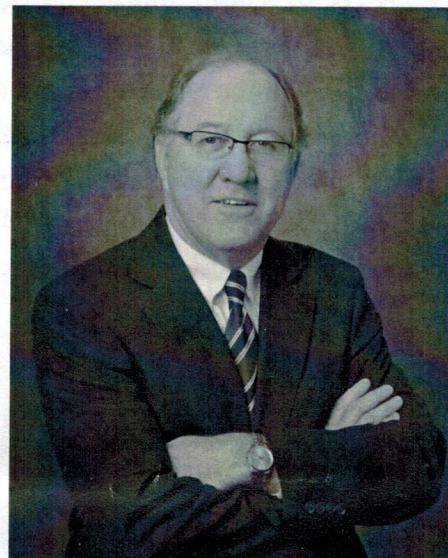
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A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

I was privileged to be able to participate in the recent unveiling of the new Colonel John Bradstreet plaque at Richardson Beach. In my address to the group gathered for the event, I made special mention of City of Kingston staff who initiated the “Kingston Remembers” project, of which the Bradstreet plaque is a component. More such plaques are to be installed throughout the city, either replacing old markers, or identifying newly designated sites. Worth mentioning is the interactive feature of the plaque, whereby someone with a smart phone can scan the QR code on the plaque, and find themselves looking at more information on John Bradstreet housed on the KHS website.

During the recent flurry of media interest in the announcement of the closing of Kingston Penitentiary, there was, as you might imagine, a number of phone calls and e-mails from both local and national media outlets, looking for an historical perspective on the closure. I was very fortunate to be able to refer enquiries to Jennifer McKendry, who is able to speak with authority about such things due to her extensive research. Jennifer was even featured in a live CTV interview on Friday, April 20.



Registrations are starting to roll in for our fall conference. If you're planning on attending, and I hope most of you are, make sure you take advantage of the pre-June 15 savings. Before June 15, the conference will cost \$90.

After June 15, the cost will be \$110. Even at that higher price, the day is a great bargain – eight fabulous presentations, Question and Answers, a panel discussion, lunch, dinner, and a keynote address. This is the first KHS conference in recent memory, and it may be the first ever, but I have no doubt that it will be a sparkling success.

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Gordon Sinclair

The Kingston Historical Society

established 1893

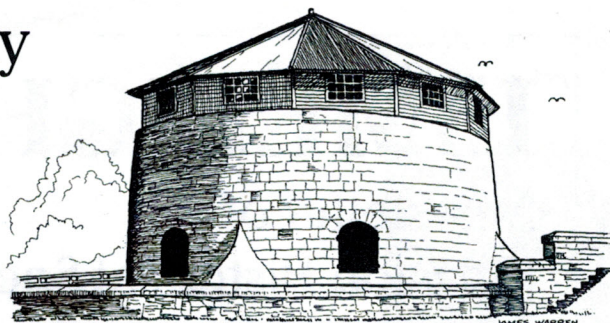
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KHS holds monthly talks or events, usually at 7:30 pm on the third Wednesday of the month, September to May, usually in the Wilson Room of the Kingston Public Library on Johnson Street at Bagot Street. Special annual events include a dinner and talk honouring the birthday of Sir John A. Macdonald in January and a ceremony marking his death in June.

New members are welcome! Membership rates are \$40 individual, \$50 family, \$50 institutional or \$25 student. Memberships include *Historic Kingston*, published annually by The Kingston Historical Society.



Murney Tower by James Warren

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The Kingston Historical Society gratefully acknowledges the financial support of the Ministry of Culture of the Government of Ontario

From the Editor...

In reaction to the President's message of last month and the discussion on taking a stand on issues KHS member Terry Stafford had this to say: "There is absolutely no question that the Society should get involved in heritage issues. If only individuals get involved, unless there are a good number, the concern will be sloughed off, and the issue carried out. The Society is not just here to study history but to preserve it."

We welcome comments from Members or other interested persons about this or any articles we publish in *Limelight*.

After my presentation about the British Home Children in March a number of people approached me with their own BHC stories. The story Joyce Waddell-Townsend on page 4 is an excellent start of what I hope will be a number of BHC stories. If you have a BHC story to tell please send it along.

Colonel John Bradstreet Plaque

The long-awaited Colonel John Bradstreet plaque in Breakwater Park was unveiled Wednesday, April 18 at 1:00. This is part of a welcome initiative on the part of the City of Kingston to replace aging historic markers in the city.

The plaque commemorates the British Col Bradstreet's arrival on August 25, 1758 with 3100 troops in 200-300 small bateaux along the beach between what is now the Murney Tower and the present-day Filtration Plant. The next morning the troops captured and later destroyed Fort Frontenac, the strategic French fur-trading and military post.



The wind-assisted unveiling was greeted with applause from the small crowd gathered.

The triumphant unveiling trio, KHS VP Peter Gower, City Councillor Liz Schell, and KHS President Gordon Sinclair, behind the new plaque and with their backs to the route Bradstreet and his troops would have followed to reach the shore.



THIS MONTH'S MEETING

Wednesday, 16 May 2012 7:30 PM

**“How did we get to Aberdeen Street?:
Shifting Town and Gown Relations
between Queen's and Kingston, 1960s to 1980s”**

Duncan McDowall

Wilson Room, Kingston Frontenac Public Library, Johnson St. at Bagot
Refreshments All Welcome

Library Elevator Out of Commission

Beginning April 2, the elevator at the Public Library will be under repair. The reconstruction is expected to take as long as two months.

Apologies for any inconvenience, but the stairs will be the only access to the second floor Wilson Room for both our April and May meetings.

The story of Alfred Bartholomew

from *British Home Children: Their Stories*

Written by Joyce Waddell-Townsend

In our family, the Shill/Waddells, we have known about "Uncle Bart" (Alfred Bartholomew), a British Home Child, for many years. When he retired, after some 21 years with United Aircraft Corporation during the depression and into WWII he travelled to the United Kingdom to get to know his family. My husband, David Townsend, and I met him in 1954 when we lived in London, England.

Copies of his hand-written story have floated around the family since 1973 but it is only recently that I have been able to piece together the family connections and realize that my grandmother, Ellen, was a Bartholomew. She was born in 1857, married John Shill in 1878 against her father's wishes, and died in Montreal in 1929. In 1908 the Shills left behind in Portsmouth their oldest daughter, Cara, who maintained a close relationship, by mail and visits, with her family in Montreal, and with her Bartholomew cousins in the Portsmouth area. Ellen's father, James Bartholomew, was part owner of the Fontley iron mill near Portsmouth. The mill, founded in 1770, made, among other things, iron rings for the masts of sailing ships to which the sails were attached for lowering and raising. Unfortunately they were no longer needed and as a result the Bartholomew fortunes fell apart in the mid 1840s and James and his father James Bartholomew Sr. ended up in debtor's prison. With the folding of the Fontley iron mill largely due to a government edict against private iron mills the family moved back to the Portsmouth area where my aunt Cara Shill, their oldest child of seven, was able to trace their history. By the time of the 1891 census Alfred was a boy of three, living with his parents and grandfather, James Bartholomew age 69, and seven siblings. His oldest brother, William was 17 years old. Another brother, Herbert James age 15, had already left home. Alfred's youngest brother, Walter 11 months old, died soon after the census and his mother, Harriett, died at age 39 about a year later. William Henry Bartholomew, Alfred's father, died 16 months later in January of 1894. Lilly age 16 and Grace age 14 would have been too young to have responsibility for an elderly grandfather and three young children - Alice, Ida and Alfred. As a result on February 14th, 1894, an unnamed Aunt admitted the 3 young orphans, Alice, Ida and Alfred Bartholomew to Portsea Island Union Workhouse.

It from the workhouse or more likely an adjoining orphanage that Alfred along with 12 others was sent to Canada as a British Home Child under the auspices of the Bristol Emigration Society. Sailing on the SS Megantic Alfred arrived in Quebec City on 5 July 1900. As with many BHC there is some confusion in Alfred's story, however, he says he was taken with some others by some nice ladies to their home in Montreal where he was "fed and cleaned up for two or three days" before being put on a train to St. John, NB. From there he stayed in another home for 2 days before being taken to the train station and given a ticket to Anagance where he had to walk 3 1/2 miles to his placement on Charles Buckley's farm.

Ida was discharged a month later, in March 1894. We know that Aunt Carrie, from the Bartholomew side, came to adopt her and she grew up to be a nurse. Ida married Archibald Reader. The couple had two children - a daughter Wilde, who also became a nurse, and a son who died early but left a son who we think came to Canada some years later. My auntie Cara Shill became particularly close to Uncle Bart's niece Wildie (her family's name for her).

Wilde married Peter Donald and lived in Inverness, Scotland. I visited her there on my first trip overseas in 1952 and again on later trips. She had a daughter who still lives in Inverness with her husband and family. On this side of the "pond" we have lost track of Wilde's nephew but hope to be able to learn more in the future.

Years later, Uncle Bart came to Kingston and met my mother, and other members of the family and later still his niece Wilde came to visit me in Edmonton in the 1980s and I visited the remains of the Fontley iron mill in 1995. My husband and I also visited Bart in Hartford, Connecticut. where he told us about his time as a guard/guide at the local Art Gallery, a job he greatly enjoyed. He was a very nice person, sweet, somewhat self-effacing but positive and self-sufficient.

You can read Bart's story that he wrote at the behest of his niece Wilde in the 2010 copy of *British Home Children: Their Stories* published by the British Isles Family History Society of Greater Ottawa in 2010. You may also find more material of interest by accessing "<http://www.british-immigrants-in-montreal.com>" written by our family genealogist, Debbie Robertson (specifically the pages on the Bartholomew's and Fontley Iron Mill).

Pittsburgh Historical Society 2012 Annual Spring Excursion

Upper Canada Village

Saturday, June 16th 2012

Exploring Upper Canada Village will transport you back in time to the 1860s. A key part of the experience is the authentic buildings, activities and people that make up the village.

-Visit the new Discovery Centre

-Fantastic Fibres and Quilt Show Weekend (June 16th & 17th)

-Traditional lunch served at Willard's Hotel

Departure: 9:00 a.m. from the Rideau Town Centre parking lot.

Return: 5:00-5:30 p.m.

Coach: Franklin Tours

Price: \$60.00 pp (lunch included)

Tickets: Diane Duttle (613) 546-3332 or 1960 Hwy #2, Kingston, ON, K7L 4V1

The KINGSTON HISTORICAL SOCIETY invites you on **Wednesday, 6 June 2012** to remember Sir John A. Macdonald with an event that combines commemoration, pageantry, history and conviviality in a special outdoor setting.

Join us on **Wednesday, 6 June** at 1:30 p.m. at Kingston's Cataraqui Cemetery to remember Canada's first Prime Minister Sir John Alexander Macdonald who died on this day in 1891.

This annual commemorative ceremony features members of the Fort Henry Guard, the Royal Canadian Mounted Police, Bellevue House Staff in period dress, as well as many dignitaries and representatives of local organizations who will lay wreaths at the grave.

The guest speaker for this, the 119th graveside ceremony commemorating the death of Sir John A. Macdonald will be Dr. David Warrick who was a professor of Communications and Humanities from 1975 until his retirement in 2004. In 1988, David and his wife Marilyn bought Judge Edwards Merrill's house in Picton. Sir John A. Macdonald knew Edwards Merrill and the Merrill family well since John A. arrived in Picton as a teenager and joined Samuel Merrill as one of three lawyers practicing at that time. At present, David is Chair of the Steering Committee of the Macdonald Project of Prince Edward County. The purpose of the project is to install a life-sized bronze portrait/statue of John A. Macdonald in downtown Picton commemorating Macdonald's first recorded trial. With this as the backdrop, Dr Warrick's address is titled "The Importance of the Quinte Years in the Life of John A. Macdonald". Ruth Abernethy, the sculptor for the commission, will be in attendance.

Before and after the ceremony, all visitors are welcome to tour the historic and picturesque Cataraqui Cemetery (972 Purdy Mills Road off Counter Street). Refreshments will be served in the outdoor chapel following the ceremony. We look forward to seeing you, your family, and your organization or group.

In case of severe weather conditions, the event will take place in Christ Church Parish Centre, 990 Sydenham Road.



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Announcements of Historical Interest

The **Kingston Branch of the Ontario Genealogical Society** will meet in the Wilson Room of Kingston Frontenac Public Library, 130 Johnson St., Saturday, 19 May, 2012 at 10 a.m. Dr. Agnes Glenn will speak about researching and publishing her book, "Who We Are: A Chambers Family", her ancestors from County Armagh, Northern Ireland. Visitors welcome. Further info at www.ogs.on.ca/kingston

Ontario Heritage Conference 2012

Prepared by Floyd Patterson, with files from Dr. Marcus Letourneau

What will be the concerns of 300 delegates at **Ontario Heritage Conference 2012** in Kingston? A big one is helping communities avoid losing another valuable heritage building to the wrecking ball. Developers of modern buildings and heritage conservation advocates collide over knocking down architecturally important structures in the way of new projects. Ontario's intensification planning policies, to find inner urban space to build on, near already installed under-street services, rather than build costly new, often threatens historic buildings and streetscapes. The live-or-die verdict on a future for historic buildings is at municipal council meetings. If saving the history imposes higher service costs to build elsewhere is it worth it? The answer may be saving the irreplaceable architectural history of a community gives it unique scenic appeal and enhanced property value. Newer strategies to blend progress and heritage conservation, "best practices," will be explained at the conference.

The historic buildings of Ontario communities are tourist magnets and a thriving branch of the economy. They range from the legislative headquarters at Queen's Park to handsome brick and stone 19th century farmhouses and humble rustic worker's cottages. Restoring and preserving heritage structures is helping to revive city centres neglected during the urban sprawl boom. The public's attitude to these oldies has changed from treating them as still-standing trash to admiring their antique attractiveness, wanting to refurbish them, and install modern conveniences inside them for the warm nostalgic feelings this brings them. Thanks to ardent citizen's groups who demanded it, public policy, backed by the Ontario Heritage Act, saves a variety of historic architectural styles in many communities. Segments of the business sector want to tap into this nostalgia worship by buying and restoring a decades- old building for their business address. Kingston, among the first half dozen first settled cities, is a classic example of how really old has become well preserved heritage- new. At the conference we celebrate heritage conservation, wherever it is happening in Ontario, May 31st to June 3, 2012.

Registration online: www.heritage2012.com.

The Architectural Conservancy of Ontario, Community Heritage Ontario, the Frontenac Heritage Foundation, and the Organizing Committee of the Ontario Heritage Conference 2012 are the hosts. Entitled Beyond Borders, Heritage Best Practices, the conference brings together heritage volunteers, advocates, consultants, and government employees. It is located in the historic core of Kingston.

With more than 1200 properties on its municipal heritage register, numerous archaeological sites, and part of the Rideau Canal World Heritage site, Kingston is one of the most historic communities in Canada. It was the first capital of the United Provinces of Canada, and was traditionally a meeting place for cultures. It remains a jewel at the nexus of the Rideau Canal, Lake Ontario, and the St. Lawrence River.

The conference will feature a range of speakers and will reflect on international, national, provincial and local heritage practices. Keynotes include Dr. Hal Kalman and Dr. Randy Mason. It also includes free tours of unique heritage sites such as the Shoal Tower, the Lower Burial Ground and the Old Sydenham Heritage Area. New this year, an additional day of optional pre-conference events; the Architecture of Upper Canada, Heritage Windows, and the Churches of Kingston. The four-day program includes dinners on Friday and Saturday nights. Other than the Architecture of Upper Canada bus tour via the Loyalist Parkway, or a shuttle bus to Fort Henry if needed, events are within walking distance of Kingston City hall, a National Historic Site of Canada. The plenary session will be at St. George's Cathedral and the conference sessions will be held in Memorial Hall in City Hall, St. George's and the Marriot Hotel.

Speakers' Corner

By Alicia Boutilier
Photos by Peter Ginn

1.1 Billion Years of Earth History: The Geology of the Kingston Area Presented By Mark Badham

At the well-attended April meeting of the Kingston Historical Society, Mark Badham, Curator of the Miller Museum of Geology, Queen's University, presented a stimulating talk about the earthly history of the Kingston region. Often I ask our guest speakers if they could provide me with their presentation notes, so that I can ensure that the Speakers' Corner summary is without mistakes (unlike in the promotion of Badham's talk, where I was 0.1 billion years away from his accurate title). Here below I heavily relied on the speaker's kindly supplied cheat sheets.



“To the geologist, every rock tells a tale,” Badham writes. “Sedimentary sandstones tell of ancient beaches or deserts; limestones form from the mud at the bottoms of oceans; and metamorphic rocks form under great heat and pressure.” At least 1.1 billion years ago, the oldest rocks in the Kingston area began. Sediments such as sand, mud and gravel accumulated on the shores of an ancient ocean to eventually form sandstones, limestones and conglomerates. Around 1 billion years ago, these were folded and pushed up into a huge mountain range. Under the intense heat and pressure of continental collision, pre-existing sedimentary rocks changed into their metamorphic counterparts. Shales turned into gneiss, sandstones into quartzite, and limestone into marble – to become the youngest part of the Canadian Shield today, called the Grenville Province.

Between about 1 billion and 500 million years ago, the mountain range completely eroded away, leaving a plain covered with sand, pebbles and boulders. These sediments again cemented to form sandstones and conglomerates that now sit on top of the Grenville-aged rocks. Geography is often a function of an area's underlying geology and geological history. Where the present-day more resistant rocks of the Canadian Shield cross the St. Lawrence River, the harder knobs of gneiss and quartzite did not erode away, each becoming a small island in the seaway.

Around 470 million years ago, sea levels rose to their highest ever, flooding most of North America. The Kingston area was at least 20 degrees south of the equator at the time. Muds in the shallow water of a hot, tropical lagoon eventually became the sedimentary limestone that thinly covers older rocks in this area. The only organisms that could survive these conditions grew in mound-shaped colonies on the sea floor, which today are preserved in the rock garden at the Isabel Turner library, along with wave ripples and mud cracks.

Between 470 million years ago and the present day, very little is known about the geological history of this area. Rocks formed during period have not been found, and most likely eroded away. The final stage in the geological history that shaped present-day Kingston was the Ice Age. Over the past 1.8 million years, huge ice sheets have swept across this area at least four separate times. By about 10 000 years ago, the last ice sheet had melted away leaving a smoothly polished rock surface covered with sand, gravel and till deposits and a scooped-out Lake Ontario. One can safely say that this is probably the oldest history ever presented at a Kingston Historical Society meeting!



After what seemed like 1.1 billion enthusiastic questions, Badham was thanked by Professor James Pritchard, and presented with a polished Kingston Historical Society pin.