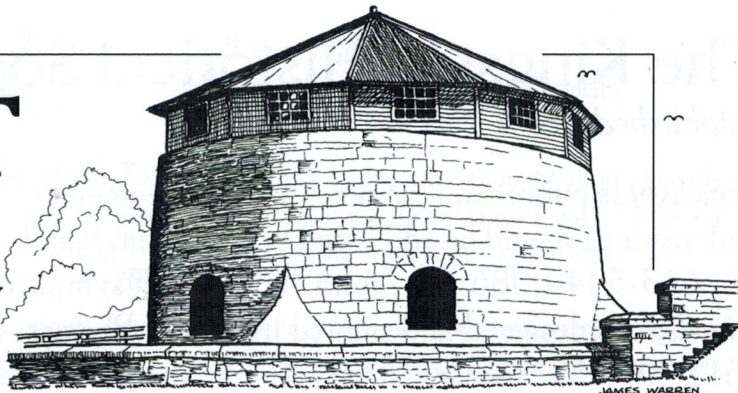


LIMELIGHT

Newsletter of the
Kingston Historical Society

vol 13 no 7 October 2011 ISSN 1488-5565



A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

“The achievements of an organization are the results of the combined effort of each individual.” Vince Lombardi

We are indeed fortunate as a Society to have a group of capable, committed Councillors who work hard on behalf of the society, often behind the scenes. Two such Councillors, Alicia Boutilier and Peter Ginn, pooled their considerable resources at our September meeting at the Agnes Etherington Art Centre to fashion a wonderful story of derring-do and perseverance, told well, in Canada's north, and of the artefacts and works of Native art collected during the period of 1895-98. The fact that the story was about Peter's great grandmother Henrietta Constantine, who eventually settled in Kingston, and great grandfather Charles Constantine, made it all the more intriguing for those present. The recounting of how Henrietta came to donate her well-loved collection through Agnes Etherington to the gallery that now bears her name was another fascinating chapter in the Constantine story.



The Agnes Etherington Art Centre proved an entirely satisfactory place to meet. Thanks to Alicia for making the arrangements. We are, however, back at the Wilson Room for our meeting of October 19.

Have a look at our new, re-vamped website (www.kingstonhistoricalsociety.ca) when you have a moment. Thanks to councillor Jeremy Heil, the updating is nearing completion.

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Exciting developments are happening with the committee designing our 2012 conference “Sideshow or Main Event: Putting the War of 1812 into Regional Contexts”. You should be able to register as early as February for this conference. We'd like to think that the day will be of considerable interest to many of you.

Gordon Sinclair

The Kingston Historical Society

established 1893

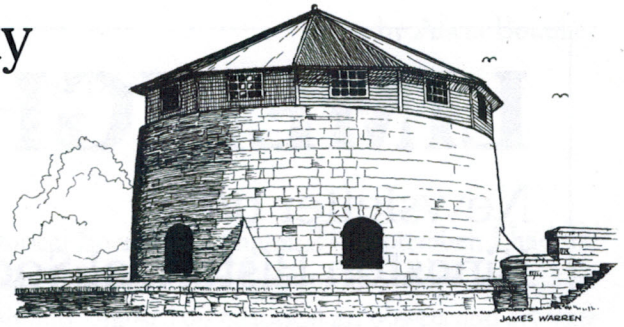
Limelight is published nine times a year - September to May. Submissions should be addressed to the Editor, John Fielding at 613-544-0086 or john.fielding3@sympatico.ca.

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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

Kingston Historical Society

Box 54, Kingston, ON K7L 4V6
kingstonhs@gmail.com
www.kingstonhistoricalsociety.ca

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Announcements of Historical Interest

The Kingston Branch of the Ontario Genealogical Society will meet in the Delahaye Room of Kingston Frontenac Public Library, 130 Johnson St., Saturday, October 15, 2011 at 10 a.m. Bruce Patterson, the Deputy Chief Herald of Canada, will speak about the Canadian Heraldic Authority. Visitors welcome. Further information at www.ogs.on.ca/kingston

Pittsburgh Historical Society 2011 Fall Program

Tuesday September 27th - Gordon Smithson & Norm McWaters

- Gordon Smithson "Reviewing the Central Cheese Factory Tragedy"

- Norm McWaters "Cheese Making and Inspection Requirements"

"Demonstrating An RCA Victrola Type Player"

This will be a look at the tragic explosion at the Central Cheese Factory that happened on July 23rd 1919, that resulted in the death of two local residents. The factory was situated in Pittsburgh Township in the Sandhill Road area. This presentation will be a combination of both visual photos of the damage reviewed by Gordon Smithson, and, some other members of the Society will participate with further information.

Guest Speaker- Norm McWaters, Government Inspector of Ontario Dairy & Cheese Production, will speak on how cheese is made as relates to our first story.

Norm will also have his working vintage Victrola on hand, and will offer some history on this 78 rpm disc player.

Tuesday October 25th - Brian Porter: "Major James Morrow Walsh of the North West Mounted Police - Friend of Sitting Bull"

Walsh, in 1873 was one of the original nine officers of the NWMP. In 1874 he had Fort Walsh built in the Cypress Hills of Saskatchewan, today a National Historic Site. After Custer's defeat in 1876, Sioux Chief Sitting Bull brought 5000 of his people to Canada where he was met by Walsh. Although Walsh laid down the law, Brian will tell how an unusual friendship developed.

Now retired from teaching, Brian Porter was a founding member of the Brockville Infantry Company (1862) of historical re-enactors.

Out of this grew his well known portrayal of Sir John A. Macdonald, often accompanied by his wife Renee as Lady Agnes Macdonald. Brian is also chairman of the Brockville Museum Board, a member of the historic Brockville Cemetery Board and a piper with Brockville Pipes and Drums.

Tuesday November 29th - Alicia Boutilier & Phyllis Vanhorne

Alicia Boutilier: - "The Heritage Quilt Collection at the Agnes Etherington Art Centre"

Alicia Boutilier is Curator of Canadian Historical Art at the Agnes Etherington Art Centre, Queen's University. An MA graduate of Canadian Art History (Carleton University), she has curated historical art exhibitions for galleries across Ontario. Her published interests include late 19th- and early 20th-century Canadian art and the history of private and public collecting in Canada.

Alicia will discuss significant historical and regional quilts in the Heritage Quilt Collection, as well as the history of quilt collecting at the Agnes Etherington Art Centre. Among the quilts highlighted will be the remarkable Barriefield Autograph Quilt of 1906.

Phyllis Vanhorne: - "Quilting - My Perspective"

Phyllis Vanhorne is a lifelong resident of Pittsburgh and has been involved in quilt making for many years. The skill and knowledge in the craft that she acquired led to her being a very successful exhibitor and widely respected competition judge.

Phyllis will be bringing some example quilts and explain some of her own experiences. Of special interest is her many years on the Kingston Exhibition Board.

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Kingston's Flying Heroes

by C.W. Hunt © 2011

A Canadian flier who manages to shoot down five enemy aircraft qualifies as an ace. Of the more than 22,000 Canadians who served in the flying services during World War 1 only 192 achieved that status. Kingston did not have many aces but the few who qualified were noteworthy.



Captain William Henry Hubbard not only shot down twelve enemy aircraft, he won medals more for his other achievements than his prowess as an ace fighter-pilot. Born and educated in Kingston, Hubbard was working in Toronto as a civil engineer when he joined the RFC late in the summer of

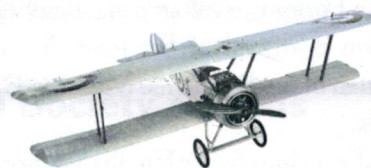
1915. Upon completion of pilot training, he was gazetted a Second Lieutenant on New Year's Day 1916. Near the end of 1916, he was serving with no. 5 Squadron in France where he was wounded in an air battle. He returned to action but was wounded again and hospitalized in October of 1918. Although he shot down many enemy aircraft, Hubbard earned the Distinguished Flying Cross primarily for other achievements. The citation accompanying the award makes that clear. It reads as follows: *During recent operations Hubbard has repeatedly descended to low altitudes to release his bombs and to open machine gun fire on troops and transport. He has shown the greatest gallantry, judgement, and presence of mind. On several occasions he has attacked and driven down out of control enemy aeroplanes. In December, 1918, now promoted to the rank of Captain, Hubbard was awarded the Bar to the DFC. The citation reveals just how valuable he had become as an air warrior:*

This officer has shown great bravery and devotion to duty

in destroying enemy aircraft and in silencing anti-tank guns. On 27th September, flying at altitudes between 200 and 500 feet [a highly dangerous altitude, exposing both Hubbard and his aircraft to heavy ground fire], he has engaged and silenced many anti-tank guns, thereby rendering valuable service. He at the same time completed a detailed and accurate reconnaissance of the area, locating the position of our troops.

But some highly competent airmen were not aces, not because they lacked the ability to shoot down the enemy but because their duties did not provide the opportunity.

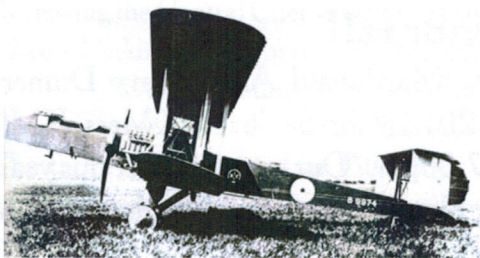
This was particularly true of pilots assigned to coastal patrol by the Royal Naval Air Service. Their job was to roam the waters off the British coast in search of the submarines, which



were creating much havoc by sinking merchant ships bringing vital supplies to England. The task of these aviators was made difficult by the inferior equipment with which they were equipped. This was particularly true of those flying the DH-6. an aircraft so underpowered it could not carry both an observer and a few light bombs. Its top speed was only 70 mph or 113 km/h and its maximum cruising time under three hours. Moreover the pilot's cockpit visibility was limited and his one or two bombs too small - usually about 25 pounds - to make any impact against a submarine's armour. The only tactic available to a DH-6 pilot was to hand drop his bomb over the side of his aircraft and hope it frightened the sub commander away from the sea lane. His most effective tactic was to signal by morse code to the Royal Navy asking them to deploy a vessel to go after the submarine. In this way, they

managed to drive many subs away from the sea lanes frequented by allied merchant vessels. Pilots of the DH-6t derisively named the aircraft the Sky Hook, the Clutching Hand, the Crab and, with mordant humour, the Flying Coffin.

C.A. McConville of Kingston was assigned to 252 Squadron where he had the unenviable task of piloting one of these antiquated weapons. Other Kingston Naval pilots were more fortunate.



2nd/Lt. W. F. Stephens of Gananoque was one of a very few assigned to fly the Blackburn Kangaroo which came into active service for the last six months of the war. With a crew of three, a top speed of 157 km/h., armed with two 303 calibre machine guns and carrying 920 pounds of bombs, it proved to be the British Naval Air Service's most effective anti-submarine aircraft. Stephens was assigned to Squadron 246. Based at the Seaton Carew, it was the only squadron to receive these new fighter-bombers. The Kangaroo was the only aircraft in World War 1 actually credited with sinking a German submarine. Other than the crews of the Kangaroo, the RNAS fliers assigned to coastal patrol had to be content with merely driving the submarines away from the merchant ships they preyed upon. Among the Kingston fliers assigned to this thankless task were W. J. Carroll, I.M. Martin, J. Tomkins, and C.A. McConville. Somewhat luckier were those pilots assigned to the relatively modern Camels. These included G.K. Waterhouse who served in the Aegean

Sea and B.E. Barnum who flew with 204 Squadron patrolling the English Channel. All of these R.N.A.S. pilots carried out a nearly impossible task against great odds, and with little recognition. All were truly heroes. Occasionally, a Naval pilot did receive due recognition. One of these was Flight Sub-Lieutenant Sidney Emerson Ellis. The son of a church minister in Kingston, Ellis joined the Royal Naval Air Service in the late summer of 1916. Posted to No. 4 Naval Squadron in the spring of 1917, he flew



capable fighter aircraft - the Sopwith Pup and later the Camel in which he patrolled the English Channel. He scored his first victory on 25 May when he shot down an Albatross fighter. He repeated this feat in June but in the early days of July he showed his true abilities, shooting down three more enemy aircraft in just four days. His last victory was near Ostend where he shot down a German seaplane on coastal patrol. It was his fifth victory; he had joined that elite club of flying aces. Five days later he was killed when his Camel went into a spin and crashed. He is buried in the churchyard extension of the Adinkerke cemetery at De Panne, West Vlaanderen, Belgium.

C. W. Hunt is the author of six books. His most recent "DANCING IN THE SKY, The Royal Flying Corps in Canada, 1917-1919" is available in book stores across Canada.



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THIS MONTH'S MEETING

Wednesday, 19 October 7:30 PM

Brockville 1, Kingston 0:

The Evolution of Municipal Government in Upper Canada

C. Richard Tindal

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

Refreshments

All Welcome



Mark Your Calendars!!

This year's Sir John A. Macdonald Anniversary Dinner will be held on Wednesday January 11, 2012 at the Senior Staff Mess, RMC. We will gather at 6:00pm for dinner at 7:00pm. Our guest speaker this year will be Mr. Peter Milliken, retired MP for Kingston and The Islands and Speaker of the House of Commons. Our speaker's topic will be "Sir John A. and his Kingston Heritage".

Cost for this year's dinner will be \$60.00 for members and \$75.00 for non-members. A vegetarian meal is available. The Reservation form will be in the November and December Issues of Limelight.

Please note, the dinner will be limited to 96 members and guests.

Kingston Historical Society Awards

Since 1993, the Society has made one or more awards to individuals, groups or institutions in recognition of outstanding contributions to the preservation and interpretation of local history.

Members of the Society are encouraged to nominate those whom they feel meet the criteria for the award. Please do so in writing either on paper or via e-mail, giving the name and contact information of your nominee, and as much information as possible about your reasons for nominating the person, group or institution.

Please send the completed nomination to Chairperson, KHS Awards Committee, Box 54, Kingston, Ontario, K7L 4V8 or to Chairperson KHS Awards, sampa@cogeco.ca.

Awards are presented at the annual KHS Christmas Party in December. Please submit nominations by October 31, 2011.

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Along the Old Road

By Stewart Renfrew

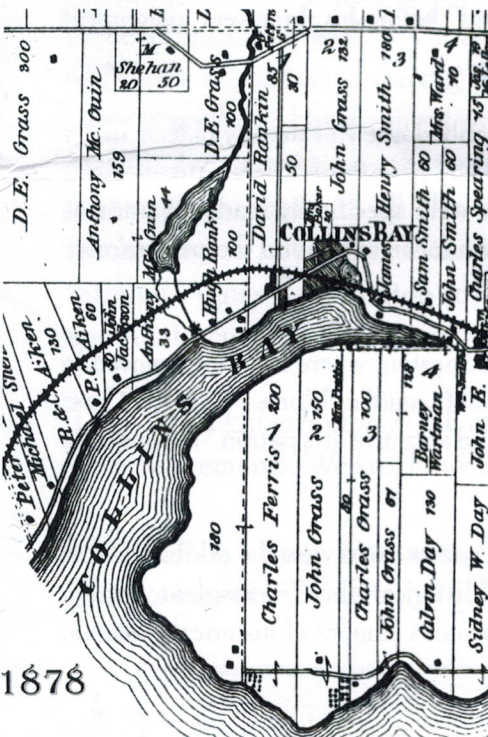
Map supplied by Jennifer McKendry

Last time I talked about the origins of the “Old Road”, now Hillview Road. One of the things I have often thought about the village of Collins Bay is that most visitors to the village today only see that part of the village that runs along the now Bath Road. There is much history along the “Old Road” too and so for the next few of these little essays let us look at some of the interesting parts of that road.

Both of the rail crossings at either end of Hillview Road are now closed but if one were able to once again use them we could start on our journey by crossing the tracks at the east end of the road. There, behind the house now known as 624 Hillview Road, was what we knew as the “Little Woods.” It was a well forested sugar bush that was never used as such in my time, except by two of my school friends who one spring made some maple syrup there when they were in their early teens. We often played there of course, and every one knew that there were three graves in the woods. In fact we knew just where the graves were and saw the grave stones. But no one knew who was in the graves as the writing on the stones was obliterated. In all likelihood the graves contained some of the earliest Loyalist settlers, I believe that a family named Smith, first held the third lot on the second concession but I can find no accurate record of that as the land had probably passed to other hands by the time the registry was started. There was talk in the village when I was a kid that a couple of the older boys dug up the graves to see what was in them and found nothing. This was not surprising as someone buried in the late 1700's in a wooden box would not likely have left much to find by the 1950s. Personally, though we saw evidence of some digging by the graves, I think the boys “chickened out” before they went deep enough to find anything.

Many years later the man who “developed” the area asked my father to show him the graves but it seems little came of that and a road was built into the lovely little woods and rather large suburban houses desecrated its peace. Somewhere behind the houses along Forest Hill Road that back on 624 Hillview Road, I think, lie what ever remains of some of our earliest Loyalist settlers.

“Each in his narrow cell forever laid,
The rude forefathers of the hamlet sleep.” (Gray's Elegy)



A little further along, at 660 Hillview Road, lay the remains of even older inhabitants of the area. I have already mentioned that a deposit of sandy soil, or kame delta to use its technical term, was left there by a departing glacier. This is quite interesting because the soil in this small area is quite unlike the soil around the houses adjacent to that spot. It was something that did not escape the notice of the earliest of Collins Bay's inhabitants. Shortly after building his home there Mr. Wilfred Holder decided to bring in a bulldozer and level some more of the land behind the house for a garden. It was during that operation that they discovered the remains of a native burying ground. The whole business was well reported in the Whig Standard of August 14, 1949. It seems that these were a very early tribe of “Woodlands” natives not the Iroquois, Huron or Algonquins who might have frequented the area after Europeans came to North America. They were not really settlers of course as they were nomadic. On the other hand it seems that they frequented the area for many years and are so far the first known humans to have inhabited the place.

Mr. Holder called on his neighbour Dr. L.G. Berry of Queen's geology department who took the bones and artifacts to a Mr. K.E. Kidd of the Royal Ontario Museum. According to the Whig. article the bones were at a minimum 750 years old. The bodies had been stained with red ochre, there were some artifacts with them and they were buried in very small graves.

Later, a team of archaeologists appeared from the U.S. and spent some time working over the site. We kids were enthralled and I remember Mr. Holder's nephew became quite adept at finding bits of bones and the like in the area. The archaeologists showed us their findings, I particularly remember them showing us the site of a fire pit that was made evident by the appearance of the sand at the site. Imagine looking at a fire pit that was last seen 750 years ago! Unfortunately the bodies Mr. Holder found were the only large find in the area. I suspect that any other material was lost when the land was first bulldozed to build the house.

Speakers' Corner

by Alicia Boutilier

The Constantine Collection of Northern Indigenous Art and Its Travels to Kingston

Presented by Peter Ginn and Alicia Boutilier

Photo by Andy Fyon



At the last Kingston Historical Society meeting on 21 September, I had the pleasure of delivering a joint talk with Peter Ginn on the above topic. The Constantine Collection contains almost 100 historical art objects and artifacts made primarily by Yu'pik, Iñupiaq and Athabaskan peoples, from Alaska, Yukon and the Northwest Territories. Now housed at the Agnes Etherington Art Centre, it was originally amassed by Henrietta Constantine, as she travelled and lived in the Subarctic while her husband Charles Constantine served as Inspector, and later Superintendent, of the North West Mounted Police.

As the great-grandson of Henrietta and Charles Constantine, Peter Ginn has unique “insider” knowledge of their northern adventures. In the first part of the talk, he outlined in fascinating detail how, in 1895, Henrietta and Charles, with their only son Charles Francis, sailed up the West Coast on the crowded steamship “Excelsior,” then transferred to the sternwheeler “Portus B. Weare” at St. Michael, Alaska, to follow the Yukon River to Forty Mile in Canadian territory. Henrietta noted that the trip went “on and on.” Having left Seattle 5 June, they finally arrived at their destination on 24 July. Charles Constantine would oversee “the discovery of the massive Klondike gold strike and the mad rush that followed” before his three-year assignment ended and the Constantines left the Yukon in 1898.

After summing up Charles's later duties, Peter turned the podium over to me, and I described a few of the key objects in the Constantine Collection, such as the remarkable mammoth tusk, which is engraved with the views of several Yukon River communities that the Constantines would have visited or passed by. Some of the objects were specifically made for trade as souvenir art – like the engraved tusks and pipes – while others were intended for use or adornment within the makers' own cultures – like ice scratchers and labrets.

Peter finished the talk by outlining how the Constantine Collection made its final trip to Kingston, where Henrietta moved in 1912 after the death of her husband, to be closer to her son, then a Captain with the Royal Canadian Horse Artillery. There Henrietta befriended Agnes Etherington, a member of the prominent Richardson family and an active arts patron. Through the efforts of both, the Constantine Collection came to Queen's University in 1929.

The KHS meeting took place at the Agnes Etherington Art Centre so that members and guests could view the exhibition The Constantine Collection of Northern Indigenous Art in the galleries afterward. Kingston Historical Society President Gordon Sinclair presented Peter Ginn with the prized Murney Tower pin for the talk and the enormous amount of historical research, which I know is an ongoing effort shared with his siblings.

The next Kingston Historical Society meeting will take place Wednesday, 19 October 2011, at 7:30; and we'll be back in the Wilson Room at Kingston Frontenac Public Library, 130 Johnson Street. C. Richard Tindal will deliver a talk with the intriguing title: Brockville 1, Kingston 0: The Evolution of Municipal Government in Upper Canada.

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