

# Historically Speaking

The Newsletter of the Cobourg and  
District Historical Society

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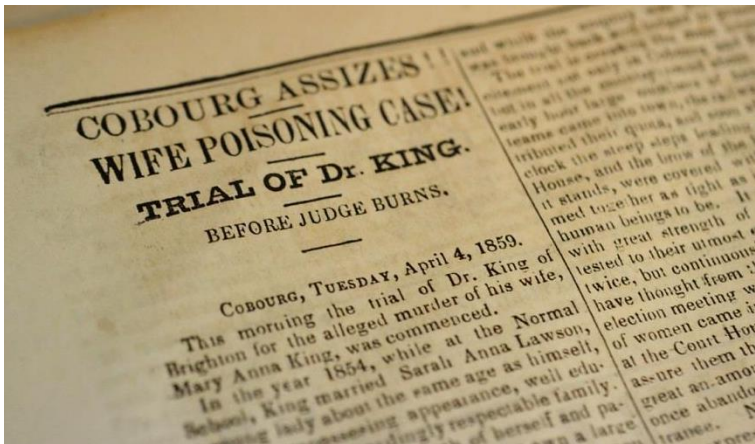
## Historical Trivia Night

The Cobourg and District Historical Society's third annual Trivia Night will be on Friday, November 21 at 7:30pm at the Legion Village Pub, 111 Hibernia Street in Cobourg. There will be nibbles, 50/50 Draw and a cash bar. Trivia Night will also feature a book sale. If you still have history-related books to donate it is not too late to weed your bookshelves and bring your book donations that evening. Tickets are \$2 per person for CDHS members and \$4 per person for visitors. Seating is limited. Purchase tickets in advance by phoning Carla at 289-829-0003.



# Our Previous Meeting

## Dr. King's Grim Tale



Dan Buchanan presented a very well received talk on "The Dr. King Story" at our October meeting. The Dr. King Story is of particular interest to Dan because the notorious murderer was a distant cousin and lived on the same farm near Codrington where Dan grew up. In fact, Dr. King was buried in the front yard of that same house.

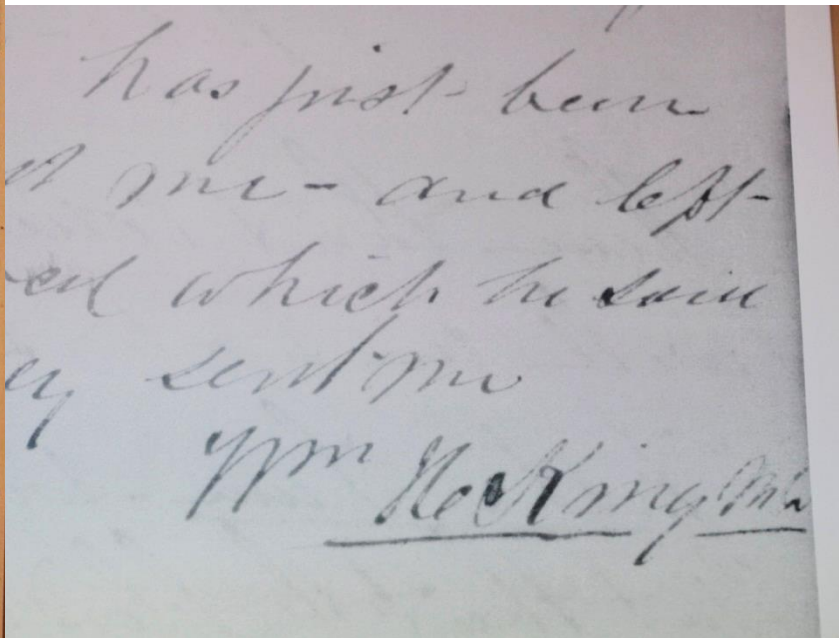
Buchanan's well researched presentation highlighted Dr. King's character. King's trial for the poisoning of his wife captured the popular imagination and consequently the newspaper headlines of 1859. Subsequent to his trial Dr. King, probably a psychopath, unsuccessfully attempted to have a "confession" published in the *Globe* newspaper of Toronto.

Dan now lives in Brighton. He is an avid historian and genealogist who publishes much of his research online at [www.treesbydan.com](http://www.treesbydan.com).

### Dr. King's Confession.

We have received by mail from Cobourg a long communication purporting to be the full confession of the unhappy man now under sentence of death for the murder of his wife by poison. Anything more abominable to be written by a person on the brink of the grave, and professing to be deeply repentant for his crime, we could not conceive. It is filled with base charges against his victim and her relations, and mawkish sentimentality in palliation of the fearful and cold blooded deed for which he is about to suffer. We can have no hand in giving such a document to the public, and earnestly hope, for the sake of humanity, that no publisher will be found to do so. If this reaches the eye of the unhappy man, we would urge him to cast aside the flimsy cobweb with which he seeks to cloak his crime, and to prepare seriously for appearing at that bar where no misconduct of others, real or imaginary, will justify any man's transgression.—*Globe.*

Buchanan noted that a large collection of King related documents and ephemera was recently donated to Proctor House in Brighton. It is hoped that the collection will soon be on display there.



## Future Meetings

Our schedule for 2015:

<p><b>Tuesday, January 27</b> Carla Jones <i>Forgotten Cemetery: The Facts Unearthed</i> Victoria Hall, 7:30pm</p>	<p><b>Tuesday, February 24</b> Peter Wilson <i>Nineteenth Century Historical Atlases</i> Victoria Hall, 7:30pm</p>
<p><b>Tuesday, March 24</b> Ken Willcocks <i>The Restoration of an Ore Car: the Cobourg Connection</i> Victoria Hall, 7:30pm</p>	<p><b>Tuesday, April 28</b> Annual General Meeting <i>Photo Quiz: How Well Do You Know Cobourg?</i> Victoria Hall, 7:30pm</p>
<p><b>Tuesday May 26</b> Tea, Tipples and <i>Long Lost Letters</i> with special guest James Cockburn Meet at 66 King, 7:00pm</p>	



# Membership Matters

## ***New Members***

We would like to welcome Diane Chin who has recently joined CDHS

## ***Membership Renewal***

We have reached a milestone of ninety paid up members for 2014/2015. We are still waiting to hear from eleven of last year's members. Will we hit the 100 mark by the end of this year? For your convenience Alma Draper will bring renewal forms to the Trivia Night.

Of our 90 members, we have one in Salt Spring Island, B.C., two in Calgary, two in Brighton, one in Belleville and two in London. Although these members might not get to our meetings, they write to say how much they appreciate the newsletter, and in return we thank them for continuing to support Cobourg's Historical Society. All memberships not yet renewed are past due. Please mail your dues and membership renewal form to Alma Draper, 10 Madison Street, Cobourg, ON, K9A 5R2.

## ***Look Through Your Bookshelves***

This season we will once again feature our popular sale of history-related books. Please look through your bookshelves for any books you no longer want and make room for others you may want to buy! It is not too late to bring them to our Trivia Night. Your generous donations will assist with our historical society's operating costs.

# Burning Questions

Our older members recall the Cobourg of the past. In addition, many CDHS members have expert knowledge of various historical topics. To tap this wealth of expertise, our newsletter will periodically include a "Burning Questions" section and solicit everyone's answers to the questions posed. Later newsletters will include the best answers. If there is sufficient interest the topic will be discussed at a CDHS meeting.

## ***Burning Question #5***

My brother-in-law is descended from David W. Jex of Cobourg. Jex died in 1927. Before his death he laid sidewalks in Cobourg and put his imprint in the finished product. We think the imprints were at the corners. It is also possible that the imprints were set in the name of Martin Jex who was the contractor for the Commercial Hotel transformation in 1918. Would any of your members have images of a Jex sidewalk imprint?

## ***Comments on Burning Question #5 provided by Judith Goulin***

It is unlikely that you will be able to find sidewalk imprints that are nearly 100 years old! You could look at some of the Jex houses to see whether they have inscriptions on their cornerstones. There are three Jex houses on the north side of Albert at numbers 214, 218 and 224 and the red brick Classical Revival building just north of the railway tracks on the east side of Ontario Street.

There are also three red brick houses on College Street that back onto Jex Lane that may have been built by Jex.

### ***Burning Question #6***

I am a PhD student at the University of Toronto studying the 15<sup>th</sup> century Huron/Wendat occupation of the north shore of Lake Ontario. Through various contacts I have heard of a dig which took place in Cobourg, I believe on the side of a stream or river, in the late 1960s or early 1970s. I have not been able to find out who conducted this excavation or where the artifacts ended up.

If any member of your group could help me with this information I would truly appreciate it. This is important because it is generally believed there was no occupation in this area in this time period but we know this to be untrue and need to prove it. Cobourg was occupied up to about 1500 when the local inhabitants were forced to abandon the area, perhaps by the advancing Iroquois.

### ***Answer to Burning Question #6 provided by Alison Torrie-LaPaire:***

There are three possible sites of which I am aware that fit the description of your inquiry.

The Cobourg/Sandbanks site (AlGm-2/AlGm-3), is located along the south bank of Brook Creek in the east end of Cobourg. It was briefly investigated by Dr. R.B. Johnston of Trent University in 1974. Dr. Johnston registered the site as the Sandbanks site. His observations led him to conclude that the site covered an area of approximately 1.65 hectares. The types of artifacts recovered by Dr. Johnston indicated that the site was a Late Iroquoian village that was occupied in the late fifteenth century. Also in 1974, the site was briefly visited by Mr. William Ross, a provincial archaeologist. Mr. Ross estimated the site may be as large as 4 hectares. Not being aware that Dr. Johnston had already conducted work at the same site earlier that summer, Mr. Ross registered the site as the Cobourg site in 1974. Dr. Johnston's site information was not registered until 1976. Unfortunately, more detailed information for this site is not available. In the 1960s and 1970s, archaeological fieldwork did not follow the same rigorous reporting procedures that are required by today's standards. Therefore we know only the general location of the site and that is likely represents a Late Iroquoian village of at least 1.65 hectares in size.

The Brook Creek site (AlGm-10) is described as a prehistoric campsite. It was discovered during a formal archaeological assessment conducted in 1993 by North York Archaeological Services. It consists of a small pre-contact campsite, and chipped stone artifacts were recovered from the site. Additional archaeological investigation was recommended for this site, which has not yet been carried out. This additional work would be a requirement prior to any development of the area.

The Segal site (AlGm-12) is described as a Middle to Late Iroquoian site of unknown type. It should also be noted that there is a second site also called the Segal site (AlGm-9) that is described as a nineteenth-century Euro-Canadian homestead and would thus not be relevant to

your research. The site was registered in 1996 by Mr. Andre Bekerman, a former resident of the Cobourg area with professional archaeological training. The artifacts recovered from this site included several pieces of Middle to Late Iroquoian ceramic and chipped stone artifacts, dating to ca. 1300-1650AD. This site is located very close to the Cobourg/Sandbanks site, and it's likely that they are actually part of the same site.

## Announcements

### ***Small Town Radio***

Small Town Radio is looking for programs created by local community personalities and groups, and the CDHS is very interested in participating. This is a great opportunity we have to present Northumberland's history in a fun way. Contact Carla Jones at (289) 252-1684 or email [cgrucelajones@gmail.com](mailto:cgrucelajones@gmail.com) if you would like to participate in bringing our history to the air.



### ***Sifton-Cook Heritage Centre Request***

Rob Hunter is working on an exhibit for next year at the Sifton-Cook Heritage Centre, His focus will be on the industries that were on the site at the southeast corner of Termaine and King Streets. These industries include the Woollen Mills, the Matting factory and the Coeey Rifle factory

Rob hopes that some of our CDHS members may have photos of the buildings or people who worked there, perhaps samples of the materials and goods produced, or story about the industries that they would be willing to loan the Heritage Centre for the 2015 season.

If anyone has information please contact Rob Hunter at [robert918@bell.net](mailto:robert918@bell.net) or (905) 373-4975.

### ***Lydia Pinkham***

Judith Goulin is researching the Cobourg branch of the Lydia Pinkham factory that manufactured women's medicine here c.1917-1960. Since there is little specific information that has been recorded, she needs answers to these questions: What year did the Lydia Pinkham factory close in Cobourg? What specific products were manufactured in Cobourg? Approximately how many people did Lydia Pinkham employ?

If you have any information or know someone who does, please contact Judith Goulin at [jgoulin@hotmail.com](mailto:jgoulin@hotmail.com) or (905) 372-7684.

### ***Ontario Historical Plaques***

Alan Brown ([alanlangfordbrown@gmail.com](mailto:alanlangfordbrown@gmail.com)) has created a website, [www.ontarioplaques.com](http://www.ontarioplaques.com), devoted to Ontario's historical plaques. Currently the site contains 1458 pages, each with a photo

of the plaque, a location map, the plaque text, links of interest and comments from visitors. Plaques can be located through an index, a subjects list, a locations list and by a search box.

### ***Future of the Past***

The Northumberland Learning Connection is sponsoring lectures on archaeology on November 20 and November 27. The lectures are from 7:30pm to 9:30pm at the Columbus Community Centre, 232 Spencer St. E., Cobourg. For further details phone (905) 349-3402 or visit <http://northumberlandlearningconnection.ca/currentprogram.htm>.

### ***Lakeshore Genealogical Society***

The Lakeshore Genealogical Society meeting on Thursday, December 11, will feature *The Dr. King Story* presented by guest speaker Dan Buchanan. The meeting is at 6:30pm in the Rotary Room, Cobourg Public Library, C. Gordon King Centre, 200 Ontario St., Cobourg. Visitors are welcome.

### ***World War I Tribute***

Friends of Hilton Hall will present a World War I Tribute based on a book written by Brighton's John Stephens. Local historian Dan Buchanan along with John Stephens will present a unique view of World War I recruitment, send-off, training and trench warfare. The story will focus on the experiences of two young recruits from Brighton as they made their way to the trenches and managed to come home in more or less one piece. The presentation will be enhanced by the music of Ian and Sharon Graham and will perform familiar World War I songs. The event is on Saturday, November 15 at 7pm and again on Sunday, November 16 at 1:30pm. Both times it will be at the Hilton Hall Heritage Centre, 50 Chatten Rd. (east off CR 30 north of Hwy 401).

## **Websites**

There are many websites with great Cobourg-related historical material. Visit any of the following:

Cobourg Museum Foundation: [northumberlandheritage.ca](http://northumberlandheritage.ca)

Snippets of Cobourg history and current happenings: [www.hardscrabble.ca](http://www.hardscrabble.ca)

Cobourg History: [www.cobourghistory.ca/](http://www.cobourghistory.ca/)

Ontario cemetery records: [ocfa.islandnet.com/](http://ocfa.islandnet.com/)

Ontario Historical Plaques: [www.ontarioplaques.com](http://www.ontarioplaques.com)

Architectural Conservancy of Ontario: <http://www.arconserv.ca/>

1878 Northumberland County Atlas in Google Earth:

<http://www.lakeshoregenealogicalsociety.ca/history-area/maps/northumberland1878>

## CDHS Executive for 2014 – 2015

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