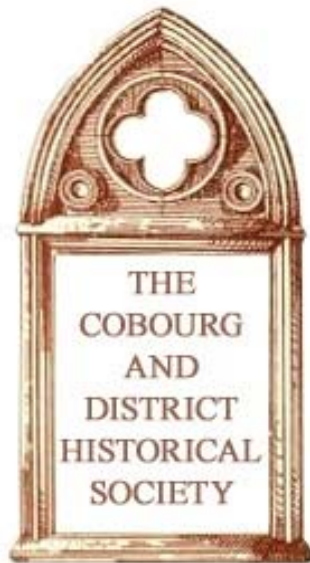


# HISTORICAL REVIEW 27



**2009**



**2010**

# The Cobourg and District Historical Society

## 2009 – 2010

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**2009**

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**Cover Photograph:** Harwood Station, 1896  
Courtesy of McCord Museum, Montreal

October 2009

## Genetics – Royalty and a Cobourg Connection

G.H. Nickerson MD October 27, 2009

### **Cobourg has an unusual nominal connection with Queen Victoria.**

When I was walking recently in Victoria Park, the Town of Cobourg (Saxonization), later along Albert St., en route to play bridge at the IOOF Hall, a flood of memories came back to me - even to my boyhood at Liverpool, N.S .....and in particular something I had noted in a British medical journal 15 years ago.

When I was a boy, between 8 to 12 years of age, going to Halifax was, so it seemed to me in later life, a greater thrill than going to Moscow, London and Madrid - even Wenzhou as an adult.

History was an important subject taught at school and there was much interesting history in Halifax - *the Old Town Clock; Martel Tower; the Church-in-the-round; Government House, and Citadel Hill*. It was pointed out to us in those happy days that *Good Queen Victoria's* father, the Duke of Kent, was responsible for much of Halifax history, indeed that of Canada. We were proud children of *the Empire* at that time.

Let us go back in history to the latter days of the Duke of Kent, the presumed father of Queen Victoria, and the fourth son of King George III. Unhappily, at that time and most anxiously, the year 1818, there was a major crisis in the British Kingdom. There was no certain apparent royal heir to the throne. George III did have 10 sons and six daughters as well as 56 "illegitimate" children, although these illegitimate children were not royal. Worse still the Prince Regent George's only child, Charlotte, had tragically died in childbirth.

### **A. WHAT IS ROYALTY AND WHAT PERPETUATES IT?**

First, let us briefly consider several well-known ancient royal kingdoms:

- a) Egypt - pharaohs married only their sisters - royal blood preserved
- b) ancient Syria, Babylon's King Nebuchadnezzar; King Xerxes of Persia; Alexander of Greece, all were warriors - warlords - and appeared to preserve their rules by power.
- c) Israel - the Israelites asked God for a king in order for them to be like their neighbouring peoples \_ the Philistines etc. Saul a handsome but faulted warrior was given by God to the Israelites. He broke faith with God in that he consulted the witch of Endor in a time of trouble. King David his successor was an even greater warrior and king but was not permitted by God to build The Temple because of his killings - this glory going to his young son Solomon.
- d) There have been many great *royal warriors* in Britain. Only recall the Roman Julius Caesar and Hadrian; then the mythic King Arthur and all his royal knights of the round table. Finally came William the Conqueror from France to be followed by a number of famous "warrior kings" - Richard I, Henry V, Richard III , the *War of the Roses* being fought between Henry VII and Richard III at Bosworth Field.

The "War of the Roses" in which Henry (Tudor of Wales) VII vanquished Richard III vanquished the beginning of the modern British royal line and it apparently was not all righteousness and justice when Henry VII became the established monarch. Considerable controversy has been expressed over the reliability of the historical accounts given for that tumultuous time, particularly that of the "sainted" Sir Thomas Moore who was not a first-hand witness. It was he who perpetuated the tale of the "evil Richard" and his killing of the "little Princes in the Tower". Dorothy L. Sayers, famous British

author, and her associates, all have brilliantly questioned much of the history presented formally about this interesting period by "second-hand witnesses".

Whatever happened, a *warlord*, Henry VII became the king of the English realm. A *nobility* of his followers was established to whom King Henry VII granted extensive lands, privileges, honours etc. to his faithful underling supporters. To this new nobility was given the supervision and *care of the numerous dependent masses of common people* - only slightly above earlier feudalism and the serfs. These common human beings were now raised to *tenants*. Nevertheless they were expected to pay some form of *rent to their landlords* and in this sense their tenancy was somewhat precarious! Their lot in life was improving by virtue of the numerous numbers of their members who were endowed with great mental and intellectual abilities soon to be revealed by the freedom of thought offered by the Protestant Reformation that swept over western and northern Europe in the early 16th century.

Henry VII's successor, Henry VIII - perhaps the most intellectually contributing monarch in British history, was responsible in 1515, for a further reformation in England in that he ruled that everyone in the Kingdom must have a proper name. People took their names after places of *residence* e.g. .. field, brook, river; *trades* e.g.. fisher, brewer, taylor; porter; "son" of e.g. .. Jackson, Johnson; and appearances e.g. .. Large, Small etc.

There were followers of the Princes, Lords, Dukes, Earls, and Kings who adopted those names of rank as their proper names who in no way were related to the king or his peerage - as far as is known. There were numerous "illegitimate" births sired by royalty - King George III being a champion with 56. During my school days I knew boys all of whom bore these noble proper names.

- e) Saudi Arabia - is a special modern case. King Ibn Saud initially was a very minor warlord, a sergeant camel-driver in the British desert army of World War I. Ibn Saud was loyal to the British Crown. Why not make him a king under the tutelage of the United Kingdom and British Petroleum, particularly as there was no longer an urgent need for coal. Oil too was becoming king - \$\$\$\$ OIL! Today Ibn Saud's son, Fahd, is king with many princes, many of whom are named Faisal - perhaps 500 Prince Faisals in all! Distressingly for the western world, Saudi Arabia has given not only massive amounts of oil, but a terrorist Islamic movement known as the Whabbi sect, and a well-known terrorist organization, the Al Qaeda., championed by an evanescent leader, Osama bin Laden.

Warlords are still active today in the medieval state of Afghanistan, a constant source of misery and trouble to the people as well as for those who wish to bring a more civilized life to these unfortunate people.

*What were, or now are, the fundamental characteristics of being royal? Are they physical, blood ( blue or otherwise), intellectual, moral, spiritual or genetic - genes presumed to be more or less of the original warlord or some collateral relative by formal marriage or otherwise? Certainly there have been, and perhaps still are, numerous members of the kingdom far superior in many civilized ways and manners than those descendants of the original established warlord Henry VII. Yet these common people, however admirable, do not qualify as being royal.*

What are the qualities that these historic royal descendants must have in order to sustain and maintain their regal ranks, and to gain approval of the large numbers of their subjects, many of whom have lived in the most unfavourable and even degrading social conditions unknown to their royal masters? The following features for regal rule are suggested and thoughtfully given for you to ponder:

- 1) **Power:** established by warlords- one becomes dominant- that is essential

living in PALACES to impress all subjects; in particular to maintain protection from any usurper in the kingdom who may attempt to grasp their power, both nobility and the common folk.

- 2) **This Power must be maintained by faithful followers** - Princes, Dukes, Earls, Lords primarily – they living ostentatiously in fortified castles in case of challenge to their authority. **Knight - Sir** - are honours which may be bestowed on lesser common folk for their approved wealth and achievement within the kingdom.
- 3) **Wealth-ostentatious wealth - and control over lands** e.g. .. Duke of Norfolk, Wessex, Warwick etc Gold - and money derived from land cultivation and rent - the *landlord - tenant*, relationship.
- 4) **Rules –Laws made for control-** particularly over the thoughtful tenant -the common folk
- 5) **Religious affirmation** e.g. .. Austria-Spain; England; Saudi Arabia etc. - to embellish themselves in the eyes of their God - and again for re-enforcing apparent **control** over the common man.
- 6) **Banners**
  - a) royal standards visible signs of who royalty and their peers truly are; banners exhibiting powerful symbolic mammals (lions) or birds ( eagles) and sometimes auditory symbols (harps and trumpets). The appropriate standard for many kingdoms may well have been three bludgeons over two buckets of blood rampant.
  - b) a coats of arms for the aristocratic supporters of royalty - exhibiting a sword.
- 7) **Guards;** Coldstream, Grenadier; Irish. (Br.); der Kaiser's Guard (Ger.) - Papal Monarchy: the Swiss Guard
- 8) **Pageantry**-pomp & circumstance - a colorful visual statement of power for confirmation and entertainment for the common masses. Horses are prominent.
- 9) **Psychological conditioning of the Common man** to recognize these unique attributes of royalty:
  - a) **distinctive "blood" of royalty:** to be recognized, accepted, and approved as royal blood by followers, peers and commoners alike. Only consider the recent episodes of Edward VIII and Mrs. Wallis Simpson; Diana & Prince Charles; and currently the up-coming issue of Mrs. Camilla Parker-Bowles
  - b) **TO DIE** for King & Country; fur Gott, der Kaiser und der Vaterland etc.

THIS IS THE ROYAL BARRIER :THIS IS ROYALTY AND ITS ASSOCIATED NOBILITY

## B. THE PLACE OF THE COMMON MAN:

Below these elevated types is the **common man** of British descent, a genetic and social pool of humanity unrivaled before our modern civilization. This marvelous pool of humanity, the common man, eventually made Great Britain great among all the nations - in sociology, science, literature, art, medicine, and theology, much of which has been bestowed to the peoples to "the uttermost ends of the earth.", **royalty notwithstanding.**

This common man individually may become **wealthy and prominent**, achieved by recognized acquiring of money and property. Only consider the "*four B's of New Brunswick*": Lord Beaverbrook; Bonar-Law, Prime Minister after World War I; Sir Beverly Baxter, prominent writer and Member of the British House of Commons; Lord (R.B.) Bennett, Premier of Alberta, and wealthy.

Connections may raise one into royalty. Most recently there have been the revered, late "Queen Mum" Elizabeth; Princess "01" and her assumed connection to Charles II (via his mistress Nell Gwyn); we await the fate of Prince Charles' "true love", Mrs. Camilla Parker-Bowles.

Unfortunately, the commoner has always been subject to a landlord, a land-holding prince, or duke; landlord being a term filtered down in our vocabulary to this very day. This term may still have an intimidating aura to the tenant. Some of you in our audience tonight may be the direct descendants of those terrible victims of the Scots enclosures. These pathetic Scots tenants were turned off their lord-chieftain's highland lands only to be replaced by sheep, then a source for wool in great demand for the manufacture of military uniforms- the 1750's - 1850's. Fortunately for Canada, Lord Selkirk, a compassionate Scotsman and peer of the realm, brought many of these distressed, impoverished people to Prince Edward Island, the Red River district of Manitoba, and not a few made their desperate way to Ontario!

**NEVERTHELESS:** Our consideration tonight is that there is a persistent attitude that possibly an error has been made in an earlier mating of the royal persons and that some common blood may have seeped into the British royal veins - the issue being **QUEEN VICTORIA'S PATERNITY**. Let us briefly consider the personalities involved and the evidence that makes Queen Victoria's paternity questioned, her phenotype, - and her perplexing and unknown genotype.

### C. The Duke of Kent:

In 1938 our high-school glee-club went to Halifax to a provincial competition. I had a pretty girl friend and was becoming aware of matters sexual - in an idealistic manner. The Duke of Kent was mentioned whereupon one of the boys stated, "that bastard". He was holed up with a little French girl from Quebec (actually France) named Julie St. Laurent. They had a large lodge at Bedford.

Later we went to see Prince's Lodge and their pretty summer retreat. Actually, the Duke of Kent had a difficult and disciplined childhood, was sent to Germany to learn matters military from a "Prussian drill sergeant" to become a cruel and sadistic overlord and military master. First posted to Gibraltar and later dismissed for too severe discipline, he was posted to Quebec for several years. Then on to the Caribbean to fight the French at Martinique and Guadeloupe via Halifax. Always with him was his beloved Julie St. Laurent whom he had originally met presumably at Geneva or Gibraltar.

Back to Halifax for four years with Julie and his civic contributions to Halifax. When the Duke of Kent left Halifax he had a dozen Newfoundlanders executed just to keep the soldiers orderly and in line. (actually a number were severely lashed and three soldiers brutally executed by order of this sadistic man). "That son-of-a-bitch was soon called home to become the father of good Queen Victoria" stated Charlie, the schoolboy in our glee-club.

Then, again sent to command Gibraltar for a brief period from where he was once more removed for too

**Genotype** – genetic makeup – chromosomes, genes, DNA

**Phenotype** – external physical appearance – resemblance

**Hemophilia** – inherited bleeding disorder usually in males transmitted on female X sex chromosome

Normal female: XX    Abnormal female: X.X

Normal male: XY    Abnormal male: X.Y

**Prophyria** – inherited abnormality of HEME in haemoglobin c.f. George III – dark red to black urine; jaundice; mental aberrations; disorientation & seizures.

severe discipline of the garrison. Home, and made a Field Marshall; whereupon the Duke of Kent was retired. After the fall of Napoleon in 1815 living with Julie would be desirable and less expensive at Brussels where he would live under the patronage of his relative King Leopold of the Belgians. Three lovely years all alone with Julie, and no children to bother their tryst. When, suddenly, one morning at breakfast, Julie choked. Not on her food but what she read in the newspaper - the love of her life was expected to return home to England to father a child to succeed on the throne! Almost thirty years with Julie, the Duke of Kent was now bald and gray, his beard dyed brown to camouflage his age, and never having fathered any child all those years with Julie. What was a royal person to do? He must renounce Julie and return to England and attempt to do his duty!

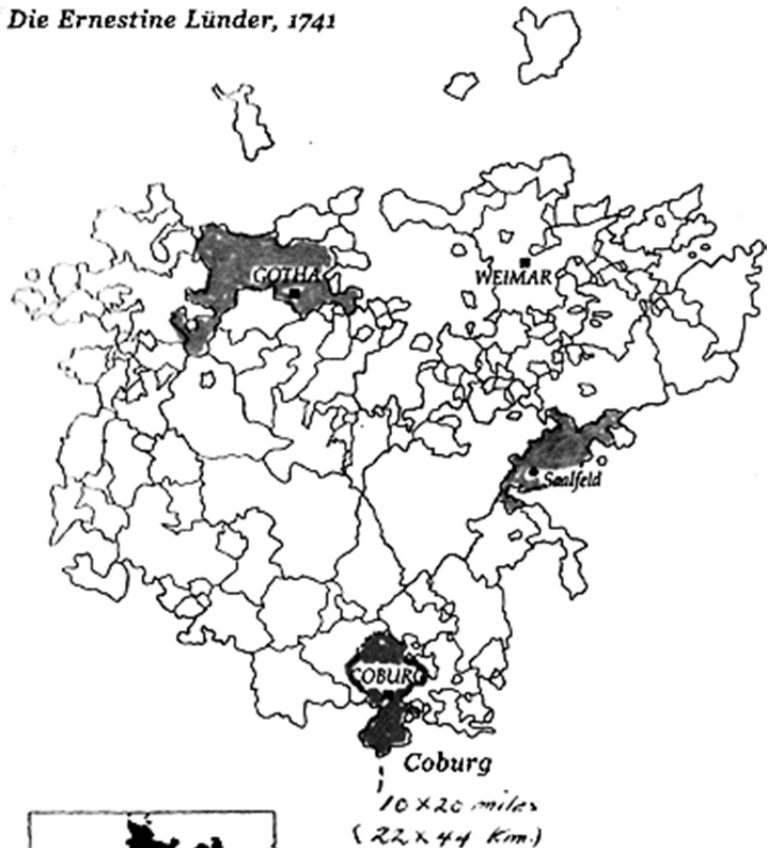
Upon his return he was promptly given a private equerry for all his peripheral needs, in the person of a handsome, ambitious Irishman, **Sir John Conroy**. Sir John "was not a good man; he had his little ways". Sir John left his wife and family of five, and moved right into Kensington Palace to live "intimately" with the Duke of Kent and his wife Victorina. (Sir John stayed on for 17 years after the birth of Queen Victoria. Sir John but was promptly turfed out of her mother's bedroom by Victoria when she became Queen.) What was so vital - so regal - so royal about this sadistic man, the Duke of Kent, to be urgently recalled to the kingdom to become the procreator of a successor for the British Throne when his three older brothers had failed to sire a royal successor?

Was it his intellect; his morality; his royal blood; his genetic make-up; a last resort - although there were others? What was so special about this sadistic man that he was in demand to procreate an heir for the British throne, who had never fathered any child with his paramour, Julie St. Laurent, over nearly thirty years? There has been much romantic speculation about Julie's after-life. Presumably she returned to France and did not die at the advanced age of 106 years at Quebec!

Nevertheless the Duke of Kent now must find a bride and off he and Sir John went to Germany, the land of his ancestors.

First he and Sir John inspected one willing candidate, the 41 year-old *Katherine-Amelia of Baden*. Unfortunately he and Sir John did not like her looks. Then on to Coburg, to inspect the Princess Victoire (1786 - 1861). Victoire was the sister of Leopold of Saxe-Coburg who was in turn married to Charlotte the deceased daughter of George IV. Victorina was also the widow of Prince Leinigen, she having two children, Charles and Fedora, by this prince. These children would become *half brother and sister to*

Die Ernestine Lunder, 1741



The Ernestine principalities and dependencies in Saxony in pre-Napoleonic times. Coburg is to the south, Gotha to the north-west. By accretion they gradually expanded towards each other. Saalfeld, once a Coburg dependency, is to its north-east.



*the future Queen Victoria*. It would make an interesting study and presentation to learn what happened to these half-siblings of the future Queen.

**Let us inspect briefly information about Queen Victoria's family tree .....**

**FIRST:** note that there are eight instances of the Coburg connection in Queen Victoria's family connections; a most sought out place for a marriage partner.

**SECOND:** Queen Victoria's offsprings either gave birth to, or were married to:

- a) Kaiser of Germany
- b) Czar of Russia
- c) King of Romania
- d) Queen of Spain
- e) King of Sweden

**THIRD: What was the attraction by the German Hanoverians to the Coburgers?**

- i) Coburg was only a small principality - 20 x 10 miles; it could not be its size.
- ii) Nor wealth; Coburgers always appeared to need a subsidy when they came to live in England
- iii) They were German, like their compatriots, the rulers of England; and apparently physically attractive as well. Consider the Queen's consort, Prince Albert, a highly intelligent and most attractive man. Again, note the many Coburg marriages on the appended sheet.

**FOURTH:** the high incidence of hemophilia passed on to the progeny of Queen Victoria. It is the female who almost always passes on the genetic disease hemophilia. There is no known incidence of hemophilia in either branch of Queen Victoria's family and, if true, its appearance must indicate a spontaneous genetic mutation in Queen Victoria. "Inherited disease", e.g. progyria and hemophilia have been presented as evidence for the Duke of Kent being Victoria's father. It is to be emphasized that this observation is invalid. Progyria, a disease of hemoglobin metabolism clinically expressed as dark red to black urine, often associated with fits of bizarre behaviour and convulsions. This condition has not been noted in Queen Victoria's descendants, nor has hemophilia been noted in the family of the Duke of Kent.

Now consider the pros and cons of the personalities involved:

*One repeats: the mother of an offspring is always known - the father is never certain!*

***The paternity of Queen Victoria was a straight forward arranged biological union - being that of a mare and a stud ... to sire a royal child for royal succession.***

One emphasizes that the paternity of Queen Victoria was questioned during the 19th century - by both circumstance and reference. Her paternity has again been questioned in the 20th C, in light of the prominent role of the monarchy in the media, and particularly since the specificity of DNA would be conclusive. The British government has refused tissue examination for DNA of the persons possibly involved in the conception of Queen Victoria for political and royal reasons. Consider too, the possible confusing dislocation of numerous persons among the *royal families* all over Europe!

**1) There is remarkably little confirmatory evidence for the Duke of Kent's paternity of Queen Victoria.**

- a) The reproductive histories of Geo. III's sons are spotty and sparse although the reproductive

history of George III is noted to be sensational, considering that George III was a sick man, ill with the inherited disease, porphyria. Nevertheless he was a naughty man, siring 10 royal sons; 6 royal daughters; and 56 "illegitimate" children. Indeed King George III was subject to bouts of rage and irrationality and his numerous "illegitimate" children may have been one prominent symptom of his unusual illness. One hesitates to speculate on his role in the loss of the rebellious American Colonies in 1776.

- b) The Duke of Kent's advanced age, 51 years, exhibiting an unattractive mien, with grey hair, balding and his heavy white beard dyed brown.
- c) His 30 non-productive years with Julie St Laurent, without child, are noteworthy.
- d) The Duke of Kent permitting Sir John to have a "close" relationship with his Coburg wife Victorina - pre-nuptially - and, with Victorina's permission, post-nuptially, for 17 years!
- e) His presumably frail health in that he died within a year of Victoria's birth.

The Duke of Kent's untimely death was associated with removing several pints of the royal blood.

( *Bleeding* to remove the *poisons* from his body was a common form of irrational treatment at that time, along with *cupping*, *blistering*, and *leeches* which were also applied. *These vigorous and disagreeable procedures makes one suspicious and recall this procedure of bleeding by the royal physicians of the departed King Charles II.* Essentially, one recalls, in the case of King Charles, the royal physicians removed two pints of the royal blood without improvement of the King's ague.

Whereupon it was concluded by the royal physicians that they should remove another two pints of royal blood, done again without improvement in the King's ague, whereupon the king "gave up the Ghost!" One may wonder about "foul play" in such cases in those days of feelings of high intensity! )

## **2) CIRCUMSTANTIAL EVIDENCE for Sir John's paternity**

- a) His acknowledged intimacy with Queen Victoria's mother; an acknowledgement given by the respected and revered Duke of Wellington.
- b) Leaving his wife and family of five children to live at Kensington Palace with Victorina for 18 years.
- c) After 18 years of residency at Kensington Palace with her mother, being turfed out in anger by Victoria when she ascended the throne at 18 years of age.
- d) An attractive, ambitious man, out for regal control, power and wealth

## **3) WHAT OF QUEEN VICTORIA HERSELF?:**

- 1) Queen Victoria had an unattractive physique - short and plump, stated to be only 4' 10" tall; her person being idealized particularly in her painted likeness.
- 2) Her phenotype is more characteristic of her Hanoverian ancestors; phenotypically atypical of the more attractive Coburg people so prominently displayed in her family tree.
- 3) The family "hereditary (genetic) disorders" - porphyria and hemophilia given for her Hanoverian paternity are irrelevant.

## **CONCLUSIONS**

- 1) Royalty usually has its inception in warlords, who attain absolute power over the people and in particular submission by the common man. Royalty has filtered down to us today leaving a residue of relatively benign personalities with limited power.
- 2) Royalty is subtly supported by immediate underlings of peerage - princes, earls, dukes, lords, perpetuated presumably, and usually, on an inherited and genetic basis. Apparently these people behind the throne subtly maintain a considerable influence in maintaining the monarchy.
- 3) The "common man" may rise into this peerage by achievement, property and money.
- 4) In the British royal pack of cards, K - Q- J - ; "a joker" and his genes (Sir John's) may have been placed in the deck. One repeats that there has been, and still remains, doubt over the genetic background of Queen Victoria. This persistent doubt, most realistic to many over the years, cannot be resolved until genuine genetic DNA studies have been done on the tissues of the bodies concerned.
- 5) Because of the possible "royal joker's genes" being in the deck - Victoria's royal genes may have "stacked the decks" of at least 6 royal houses of Europe!
- 6) The Town of Cobourg, ON., has vested itself in the "Victorian" story probably more than any city or town in Canada or elsewhere.
- 7) Whatever the paternity of Queen Victoria may be, she will always be remembered as "Good Queen Victoria".
- 8) Her name was given to an unparalleled period of history, The Victorian Age, when Great Britain gave the world the Pax Britannica, social benefits heretofore unknown; civil and social advancements unparalleled; industry, science, schools and universities; Christian belief and hospitals, AND the English language worldwide!

**AND YET HOW THE IRISH WOULD REJOICE and CELEBRATE TO LEARN THAT THEY ARE A SIGNIFICANT HALF OF THE TRUE ROYAL BRITISH LINE !!**

November 2009

## **The Korean War, As They Saw It: Oral Histories From Cobourg's Veterans**

*Ciara Ward*

The Korean War, also known as the "Forgotten War" or the "Unknown War", occurred shortly after the conclusion of the Second World War. The Second World War ended (in the Pacific) in September 1945, and the Korean War began in June of 1950. During the Korean War, 516 Canadians gave their lives, yet only recently has more literature and interest been generated on this conflict, which is part of the reason why I would like to present this talk to you today.

The other part of my inspiration comes from my family connection, as my grandfather, Sergeant William Lyle Robinson, served with the 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion Princess Patricia's Canadian Light Infantry (PPCLI) during this conflict. After his retirement from the Canadian Forces my grandfather gave several local talks about his time in Korea and worked with the local Korean War Veterans Association to promote awareness of the War within our community.

I would like to begin with a little background about the War itself and then go on to share with you some of the experiences of Cobourg's Korean War Veterans whom I have had the great privilege of getting to know.

### **The War**

Initially the Korean War began as a civil war between North Korea (Democratic People's Republic of Korea) and South Korea (Republic of Korea). It is commonly agreed upon as beginning on 25 June 1950 and paused with an armistice signed 27 July 1953, although arguably this conflict is still going on today as North Korea has recently renewed this push for unification.

The war was a result of both North and South Korea attempting to achieve national reunification, under their respective governments. Despite talks between the two conflicting government entities, there were still cross-border raids and ambushes at the 38<sup>th</sup> Parallel. This, combined with the failed elections in 1948, escalated the situation into all-out warfare. Reunification talks ended on 25 June 1950 when North Korea invaded the South. This was answered by a counteroffensive launched by the UN (founded in 1945) to reverse the Northern invasion, which in turn sparked the People's Republic of China to intervene on side of the North. The fighting eventually concluded in 1953 with the re-establishment of the original Korean border, known as the Korean Demilitarized Zone, or the DMZ. In more current events North Korea withdrew from this agreement on 27 May 2009.

### **Canada Enters the War**

In December 1947, Canadian Prime Minister Mackenzie King let it be known that he was less than pleased with his external affairs department for agreeing to assist the UN Temporary Commission in Korea. Despite this, on 27 July 1950, approximately two years after he was succeeded as Prime Minister Louis St. Laurent (who had been involved in the formation of NATO in 1949), and five days after King's death it was decided that a Canadian Army unit would assist UN forces in Korea. In the government's view, Canada would fight not for Korea but for the UN and the principle of collective security.

During the 1950s Canadians accepted and even encouraged American leadership in resistance to the communist expansion that was looming in Korea. However, there was a lingering fear that the Americans were becoming overzealous in defending what they viewed as the "free world." Primarily, General MacArthur was becoming too brazen. Lester B. Pearson, who at that time was the Secretary of State for External Affairs, emphasized that Canada's participation was part of a UN Operation, not part of an American one.

On 30 July 1950 three Canadian Naval vessels: Cayuga, Athabaskan and Sioux, acting as troop transports, arrived on the Japanese coast under orders to sail for Korean waters. The soldiers on these ships were the first Canadians to see action in Korea. In addition to these ships there were five tribal

class destroyers serving under UN Command during this war: the Crusader, Huron, Nootka, Iroquois, and Haida.

Also in July the Royal Canadian Air Force (RCAF) No. 426 Transport Squadron (currently based out of Trenton Ontario and called the Thunder Bird Squadron because of their crest) began the first of the 600 round trips it would make over the course of the war. They carried more than 1,300 passengers and 3,000,000 kilograms of freight. (That's 3,300 tons!) The aircraft used for these transports was the Canadair Northstar, which boasts a Rolls-Royce designed Merlin engines; alongside the United States Air Force (USAF) C-54 Skymaster.

In December the first contingent of Canadians (2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion, Princess Patricia's Canadian Light Infantry) arrived in Korea. In May of 1951 the 25<sup>th</sup> Canadian Infantry Brigade, made up of the Royal Canadian Regiment (RCR) and the Royal 22 Regiment (Vandoos), joined the Princess Pats. Throughout the summer and fall of 1951 UN forces continued their advance toward the 38<sup>th</sup> Parallel, during which peace talks were held in different areas of North and South Korea. These opposing forces faced off against each other across a no-man's land which was comprised of several kilometers in length and width, located very close to the DMZ.

Initially, Canada contributed only three destroyers and an air-transport squadron. The Americans used the UN Secretary General to pressure Canada and other nations to expand their efforts. The Canadian government needed little external pressure; domestic interests exerted the necessary influence. Canada's major difficulty in sending more troops was that there weren't any more. The Canadian Military had been left in a weakened state since the conclusion of the Second World War. Despite this, Prime Minister St. Laurent announced plans for a Canadian Army Special Force (CASF) to carry out Canada's UN obligations.

Pearson and his colleagues had thought that the American leadership in this UN operation was essential for victory, but this opinion seemed to have changed drastically over the course of the war. First, there is the famous case of American President Truman's careless remarks concerning General MacArthur's right to decide on his own about the use of atomic weapons in the war. MacArthur clearly indicated that he wanted to expand the war into China and make it a full out War-on-Communism. This possibly would have lead to World War III. Even Truman's firing of MacArthur on 10 April 1951 failed to remove the public's concerns of the American intent, and their concerns began to grow.

The Canadians fought on rough terrain and in an unfamiliar environment. The UN forces established a stable front, close to the 38<sup>th</sup> Parallel (sometimes referred to as the De-Militarized Zone, or DMZ). Until the formal fighting ceased on 27 July 1953, skirmishes had taken place along this line. In addition to this, the Canadians distinguished themselves in a major engagement at Kap'Yong in April 1951.

### **Cobourg's Korean War Veterans**

After deciding that I wanted to speak about the Korean War I thought it might be more meaningful to connect it to local history. Cobourg has 14 living Korean War Veterans, and I have been able to speak with a few of them, collecting their oral histories, outlining their experiences, etc.

Here are some things I didn't know when I started this little project:

- Out of the nearly 70,000 who served in the United Nations Operation in Korea, 26,791 of those were Canadian, and 28 of those were from Cobourg
- Out of those Canadians 1,558 were wounded
- 560 gave their lives, one of which was from Cobourg (James Morford, 2PPCLI).

To give you a better idea of the numbers involved there were troops sent from the following 14 countries: America, Australia, Belgium, Canada, Colombia, Ethiopia, France, Greece, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, New Zealand, the Philippines, Thailand and Turkey. Denmark, India, Norway, and Sweden provided medical units. Italy provided a hospital, even though it was not a UN member.

### **Petty Officer First Class David Galbraith, HMCS Iroquois**

Dave was actually born in Toronto, and was raised in Cobourg. His father was a member of the Canadian Army and worked on a base in Toronto. When Dave was 16 years old he left high school to work in

Toronto. One day, when he was approaching his 17<sup>th</sup> birthday, he walked past a Naval recruiting poster and stopped into the recruiting office on the York base where his dad worked. Instead of going army like his father, Dave he chose the Navy because his father was an officer with the Army and he didn't want his dad as his boss.

Dave had a 25 year long career in the Navy, eventually making the jump from Navy to Naval Air, which, while still attached to the Navy, was also a component of the Air Force. By trade Dave started out as an electrician in the Canadian Navy, eventually he ended up in Radar Communications. He told me that he had the opportunity to see 32 different countries with the Navy. When he finally retired from the Navy he worked as a Reservist for one year, and took a job in Halifax working as a civilian on aircraft with the Merchant Navy. Throughout his career he was posted to three different ships with both NATO and the UN.

Dave told me a little about his training leading up to the Korean War. They were stationed in Toronto for three weeks, living out of the local YMCA. Every morning he would board a bus with his peers to go to the base and attend classes. But mostly, he said, they sat and waited. Eventually they took a train to Saint John, Nova Scotia, and then went onto Digby. Bootcamp lasted through both summer and winter. He was able to come home to Cobourg for holidays such as Christmas, by hitchhiking. He would send his luggage ahead by train. Even after all these years Dave still keeps in touch with some of the friends he made while at bootcamp.



Before he shipped out to Korea, Dave says that he didn't know anything about the country. He was assigned to the HMCS Iroquois, which had survived an explosion the year before he came on board. Their job was to fire on targets at sea as well as on land. The ship also travelled to Japan frequently to re-supply. Dave said that he saw very little combat, but frequently smaller vessels would fire on the Iroquois. Once, a smaller vessel was so close to them that the Iroquois was unable to return fire, thus the sailors took one of the larger shells and dropped it overboard into the smaller vessel. Dave says the shell was so heavy that it plunged right through the deck and into the water, putting a huge hole in the smaller vessel, and effectively sinking it.

When stationed in Korea with the Navy, Dave said that they received better food than those on the front lines, because resupply was much more consistent. Ice cream lasted for two days, and milk lasted for almost a week. After it ran out they had powdered milk. Dave also stated that every time they entered a new port he preferred to get out and see the country, rather than head straight to the local pubs, like some of his peers. While at sea, Dave said, to stave off boredom they played cards, bridge mostly, assembled models, completed paint by numbers, learned to play the accordion or guitar, which someone had brought aboard, participated in Bingo tournaments organized by the officers and put on skits to amuse one another.

Unfortunately for Dave, the Navy found out after a couple of months of being at sea that he was only 17, and thus not allowed to be serving in battle. Dave told me that by the time they had shipped him home again, he had turned 18 and would have been eligible to stay and fight.

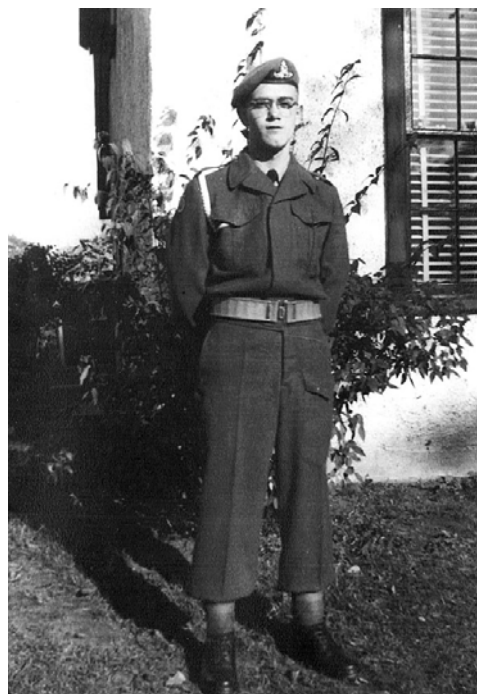
During his career with the Navy outside of the Korean War, Dave survived two near-death experiences, the first was a plane crash with the Air Force off the coast of Bermuda after running out of fuel, and one in a storm at sea. At the end of his 25 year career with the Navy, Dave retired after reaching the rank of Petty Officer First Class (equal to a Warrant Officer). Eventually, he moved back to Cobourg where he worked at Weetabix and then Beldan, for another twelve years. While working at Beldan he attended night school to get his electrician's ticket.

Today Dave is very active locally. He joined the Cobourg Legion over thirty years ago and is the Vice-President. He and other local veterans make themselves available to local high schools to give talks to students about their war-time experiences. While at the Legion he met his second wife, Peggy, to whom

he has been married for 29 years. It was wonderful getting to know them both throughout the course of my research. Dave was also able to direct me to other local Korean War veterans who agreed to share their stories with me.

### **Sergeant James Keeler, 2nd Battalion Royal Canadian Horse Artillery**

James was born March 2, 1930, here in Cobourg. He grew up all over Northumberland County, but his family eventually returned to Cobourg. When James was in the fourth grade WWII began, and naturally school teachers kept students up to date on where the Allied Troops were fighting. James said it was very common in his youth to hear the news that a neighbor's sons, brothers, daughters or sisters had joined the forces, or to see them departing in their new uniforms. He said it also wasn't uncommon to



hear the news that someone from their community had gone MIA or been KIA.

In 1946 the soldiers, sailors, and airmen were coming home and returning to work. In 1950 the Korean War broke out and Canada began to recruit for a Special Force to serve overseas with the UN. Because of this childhood exposure to the military James had almost been conditioned for this kind of life, the life of a uniform. In 1950 James was living in Cobourg and driving a cab for a local cab service, in the summer he picked up a Warrant Officer II at the local armory and took him to meet his train. This fare had a profound effect on James, and a few days later on August 22, 1950 James boarded a bus with four other local lads for Kingston, where they enlisted. James enlisted with the Artillery, and later found himself working as a gunner in 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion Royal Canadian Horse Artillery (2RCHA). He was sent home for three days to set his civilian affairs in order, and then he was back to Kingston where they left for Basic Training (BMQ) in Shilo Manitoba.

If you've never seen the base in Shilo, I can tell you from personal experience that they have mosquitoes the size of small birds, and huge tracks gouged in the dirt, that are easy to fall into and over! While completing his BMQ in Shilo, they were joined by the PPCLI and the RCR. As James neared the end of this training he had to

pick a trade and that trade was Driver/Operator (Radio). After training was complete they would be known as the 25<sup>th</sup> Canadian Infantry Brigade Group, which consisted of:

- The Royal Canadian Regiment (RCR)
- PPCLI
- Royal 22<sup>nd</sup> Regiment (Vandoos)
- Royal Canadian Horse Artillery (RCHA)

His Commanding Officer (CO) was Lieutenant Colonel Bailey. There were also some smaller support units attached to this outfit as well: Tanks, Signals, Service Corps, Engineers, Medical, etc. The Commanding Officer was named Rockingham. Some of James' training took place at an American Artillery summer camp in Fort Lewis, in Washington. This was because Shilo was not large enough to accommodate the amount of troops they were training. James told me that the Fort Lewis camp was used for a summer camp by the Americans and there was no actual insulation, so they were very cold most of the time. At Christmas they were unable to send all but a few lucky men home for the holidays, but civilians from the local towns offered to take in soldiers for the holidays, giving them a family environment in which to pass the holidays.

On April 23, 1951 half the 25<sup>th</sup> Brigade boarded an American ship, named the Edwin D. Patrick, in Seattle Washington, and the other half (including the Vandoos) boarded the Joe P. Martinez. The trip took 12 days and by May 4<sup>th</sup> they were in the Pusan (Busan) Perimeter. When asked what his first impression of Korea was, James replied "You could smell it way before you could see it". Most of the evacuated civilians had been evacuated into the Busan Perimeter and there was no sewage system for those living in such close quarters.

James told me that he believes that the South Koreans were very much like the Dutch, post WWII. Even today the South Koreans, both young and old still honour our Korean War Veterans, they are still expressing their appreciation for Peace Keeping efforts.

James' job was to lay field phone wire, although because of the terrain there was nowhere to hang the wire, and no way to bury it. Tanks and vehicles would run over the wire, making this a more or less a pointless venture, which was soon given up. James' next job was radio operator/driver for the D Battery Commander, Major DH Gillis. The Regiment fired its first shots on the 17<sup>th</sup> of May, north of the Han River. In the morning James remembers that the body of a Korean was found floating in the river not far from their camp. Between the Han River and the 38<sup>th</sup> Parallel they moved the heavy guns thirty-one times in thirty days.

James was not involved with the guns too much, as he was assigned to the CO, he was primarily attached to the TAC Headquarters, where the Commander and staff directed daily operations. He remembers eating breakfast to the sound of the almost daily mortar attacks. James said that the best part of being attached to the CO was the food. As he drove the CO to Seoul often, he was able to eat with the Americans, who had better access to the comfort foods of home: fried chicken, milkshakes, hamburgers, etc. The only thing they did not have was liquor. But the Canadians did, and they traded liquor for food.

Once, when Major Gillis was away for a short period of time, and replaced by a rear echelon Major, James was forced to take this new Major to the front lines. The Major thought a visit to the troops on the front would boost morale. Upon arrival as they trudged through the front line slit trenches and the North Koreans opened fire with mortars and guns. The Major and James dropped to the bottom of the trench and crawled the whole way back to the vehicle, where they rushed back to TAC Headquarters.

Being in the Artillery and thus further back from the front lines there were not many casualties in James' unit. The troops stayed in touch with family and friends through letters, and in their free time they mostly cleaned their weapons and looked after their vehicles. Some men played hockey on the frozen river. James only had one five day leave to Tokyo, Japan.

James left the service on August 24, 1952, as a Sergeant. After leaving the military he went to work at GM, where he had the opportunity to take some courses at Durham College to further his education.

### **Sergeant Peter Hills, 3rd Battalion Princess Patricia's Canadian Light Infantry**

Peter Hills was born on 1 November 1932, in Port Hope. He comes from a military family, having siblings who served in WWII. At 15 years old he was already a Canadian Army Reservist, and by 16 he had dropped out of high school to focus on his military career with 3PPCLI. He said that he initially joined the reserves out of curiosity and because of his family's military background. For the first part of his military career, being too young to be sent overseas, he worked in Chorley Park, in Toronto, filling out everyone's forms, acting as a clerk. He spent a couple of years at Camp Borden, where he completed his BMQ, which consisted of eight weeks of getting up early, 30 mile hikes, etc. He led a fairly typical soldier's life here in Canada up until his deployment to his first and only international tour: Korea.



Peter went to Korea with 3PPCLI; he had the duties of a battalion secretary, and worked under Intelligence Officer Worthington. Peter had an interesting view of the war: since he worked closely with administration clerks to produce, copy and distribute the CO's orders, he saw the war from the administration side. To Peter, the war seemed to be the elimination of too many people, "It was a slaughter" he said. A proving ground for weapons, although at the time, as with many other military operations, the Korean War was known as the "Korean Conflict", as if naming it a war, so close on the heels of WWII, would cause panic. But everyone knew what it was.



While in the field they lived in bunkers underground. They would dig holes and live in them, as well as erect tent cities to act as the divisional rest. He remembers being busy all the time. He stayed in touch with family and friends through letters and ate American rations. At one point they did have the opportunity to try the British rations, however their diets being fairly different from what we are used to, many did not enjoy them. Getting rations was never a problem, "All we needed was ammo", Peter says. Mostly in their spare time they would drink and "chew the fat" (so to speak) in divisional rest and listen to the radio. At times the Canadian Military brought in stage shows to boost morale. Peter remembers a hypnotist who had the troops acting like rabbits and mice on stage.

Close to the end of his tour he received one week of leave in Tokyo Japan. Everywhere the Canadians went, Peter noted, they were treated well and fully supported by the people. His impression of Tokyo was that it was a very large and very nice city. He described a huge Asian market called the Ginza Market frequented by those on leave. It was seven miles long, where cost was figured out by bartering. A trip to Tokyo was not complete however, without a ride in a taxi. Peter told me that the drivers in Tokyo seemed to drive by car year and model, an overall scary experience when your driver has one hand on the horn and one foot on the gas.

Peter retired from the service on 9 February 1954, due to health problems that landed him in Sunnybrook hospital for a time. After this he rejoined the Canadian Military to work for the Air Force Technical Training School where he was in charge of graduate postings, which were determined by class standing. He also worked locally as a clerk with the militia quarters, but when they moved the unit to Peterborough, he stayed behind in Port Hope. After this he worked a few different jobs, notably in the file factory in Port Hope until it was moved to the U.S. in 1991 and the local plant was closed, thus Peter retired.

Today he still lives in Port Hope with his wife Joan, whom he married in 1960. He has been a member of the Legion for 45 years, and is also involved with the Food Bank. Of the military and his experiences, Peter says "we were kids, it was a helluva way to travel free". In 2007 he went back to Korea, with a few other Korea War vets, and, much the same as James' reaction, he couldn't believe how well they were treated by the Koreans.

### **Major Angus Read, 2nd Battalion Princess Patricia's Canadian Light Infantry**

Angus Read was born 21 April 1928 in Virden, Manitoba. At the age of 14, he entered the Canadian Reserves. At the time his father was serving overseas in WWII. As a child, coming from a military family, he loved everything about the military, so it comes as no surprise that in 1944, along with the aid of a forged birth certificate, he pretended to be 18 to get into the regular force. He started out as a Flight Lieutenant with the Air Force before switching to the Army. He completed his basic training in Maple Creek Saskatchewan, and went on to finish his GED earning his high school education, and a spot in the Officers' Training School.



After he finished his officers' training he volunteered to go to Korea. He was sent on to Fort Lewis, then to Japan with an enforcement group. Angus told me that on the ship over to Korea there were 300 Canadian enlisted men, 6 officers, and 1,200 American troops. Once in Korea a Colonel offered Angus a job, as he had no officer attached to him at the time. Angus then went to Battle School, and back to Korea to be a liaison. There were many things that could not be transmitted over the air, thus it was his job to deliver the messages in person.

Angus did not serve in the 25<sup>th</sup> Battalion because his Colonel was moved from 2PPCLI to command the RCR, therefore he remained attached to the PPCLI. His job was to oversee and gather intelligence and make sure it was passed on. They had to be prepared at all times to move their headquarters and to deal with break-ins. Everything was on paper.

He worked at the Headquarters, located in Japan. They had a "two hours on, two hours off" security roster because there were always people trying to steal information from the headquarters. The

Japanese were still recovering at this time and many of them had nothing. Angus told me about how one night he was woken up in the wee hours of the morning as a Japanese woman was seen stealing from the base. She had been stealing old bread crusts to feed herself. They actually ended up taking her in and looking after her. Stealing their discarded bread crusts was considered a criminal offence, but in this case they felt bad for the woman.

Angus, being an officer, was not as lucky as the NCOs in the field were when it came to rations. He was stuck with the terrible British rations, which sometimes consisted of lamb fat smeared on toast, fish for breakfast, that sort of thing. He told me that when he served in Cyprus they had more of a say about what kinds of rations they got, as rations had to be ordered a year or more in advance.

In Japan they had very few women around. They did have Japanese "House Girls" however, who would clean up after them, do their laundry (although they beat uniforms with bricks to get them clean, which meant that uniforms did not last very long). Angus roomed with a Major who preferred to sleep in the nude. He told me that every morning he would get up before the Major and the House Girl would enter their room to start cleaning, and they would argue with each other about who was going to wake the Major up, as neither one of them wanted to encounter him naked. Angus also told me that the House Girls would often refer to him as "Scotia-san", meaning "little one".

Angus also told me that one of the activities they had for officers was cocktail parties, where the women who worked at the headquarters would dress up in kimonos. They did not get too much in the way of entertainment otherwise, as they had to restrict what the officers were allowed to do and where they could go, as there was always the fear that they would be captured. More so with intelligence officers, who handled extremely sensitive information. Sometimes they were allowed to go to local bars, but only in groups and often the Saint John's Nursing Sisters would visit them.

As an Officer Angus said he never had any problems with the enlisted men who served under him throughout his career. "When I ran a unit I insisted they all were up to standard" he also thought it vital to the success of the unit to promote a "sense of belonging and responsibility, pride of unit". He believed a good relationship with troops was crucial; they should not only listen to you, but respect you.

After Korea, Angus had a few other tours, including Cyprus (which they nicknamed "Disneyland" because of the strange rations they were issued), he also served with NATO in Europe for three years, and attended an American Logistics School.

Angus left the Canadian Forces in September 1983, as a Major. After his military career he worked with his son, Brian Read, owner of Horizon Plastics, by attending trade shows. He was also Mayor of Cobourg, the first Cobourg mayor to be a "full-time" mayor. Today Angus lives with his wife Bernice. He has a book coming out soon, which just went to print; an autobiography entitled "Don't Tell Me It Can't Be Done".

### **Sergeant William Lyle Robinson, 2nd Battalion Princess Patricia's Canadian Light Infantry**

Information about my grandfather is hard to come by in my family. One of the sources I have about his time in Korea are his letters to my great-grandmother and grandmother, scrapbooks my great grandmother made with all the PPCLI news stories she could find, and copies of the speeches he delivered to local associations. This is what I am basing the final part of my talk on.

Bill, as he was known to his family and friends, was born in Owen Sound Ontario on 22 August, 1922. He joined the army on 24 August 1942, in Toronto Ontario. He had a tenth grade education from Owen Sound Collegiate and Vocational School. Later in his career the military would send him on some college courses, for accounting and secretarial training. His trade was clerk.

In August 1950 he joined the 25<sup>th</sup> Canadian Infantry Brigade Group and was sent to Petawawa for training, and later to Fort Lewis to train, then on to Seattle, Washington. On November 24<sup>th</sup> he was transferred



into 2PPCLI. My grandfather went to Korea on the Joe P. Martinez, along with the Vandoos. He noted in his letters that the ship itself was 435 feet in length, 65 feet wide, and weighed just over 7,000 tons. They travelled south from Seattle, their first stop was Pearl Harbour. He also notes that the PPCLI were the first Canadian troops to go to Korea, after first landing in Japan.

His impressions of Korea are much the same as James Keeler's. In one letter dated 25 December, he states that he and some friends went into Pusan (Busan) and all they saw was "poverty and filth. Dirty children were running around alleys half-dressed. In almost every door-way children were huddled together, sleeping". Later in that same letter he writes "I have heard many times of war torn countries and now I believe all I have heard".

My grandfather was moved from camp to camp along with the PPCLI and this gave him the unique opportunity to interact with many different soldiers fighting with the UN. On Christmas day he entertained a French soldier who spoke no English, while he spoke no French, thus they communicated through hand signs. He met soldiers from New Zealand, Australia, America, Ireland, British, and of course other fellow Canadians. He also met with war correspondent Bill Bass.

On 1 January 1951 he was stationed at Miryang Korea, and had sentry duties every third night. In March he was in Naju, close to the banks of the Han River, in central Korea. He makes note of the destruction within the landscape, stating that people are living wherever they could, in burnt out shells of buildings, and that some have dug caves in the hillside and live in them with their families, of six or more children. Once they moved on from this location they set up camp in a Paddy Field, and even had rice growing in their tent, next to the stove. Through their travels the PPCLI saw a lot of destruction; dead bodies, skeletons of tanks and other war equipment left in rice fields, garbage, and of course dirty, hungry refugees.

On 24 April 1951 the PPCLI, along with the 3<sup>rd</sup> Royal Australian Regiment (3RAR) won the Presidential Unit Citation for accomplishing their mission under difficult and hazardous conditions just outside of Kap'yong. From further study of this particular instance, I uncovered that he is referring to the Battle of Kap'yong. The battle began on 22 April and lasted three days. Under pressure at the front, the Korean 6<sup>th</sup> Division broke, and South Koreans and Americans were forced to retreat. The mission was to block the two gaps in the UN defensive lines along Kap'yong's borders. The attack was engaged by the Chinese 118<sup>th</sup> Division. 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion of the British Middlesex Regiment and the Royal New Zealand Artillery 16<sup>th</sup> Field Regiment were cut off. 2PPCLI and 3RAR provided a reserve force for retreating units.

3RAR were engaged on Hill 504 by the Chinese. The Chinese had broken through UN lines by the morning of the 23<sup>rd</sup>, and the Australians and PPCLI were then facing the entire Chinese 118<sup>th</sup> Division. There were mortars, hand to hand combat, and bayonet charges. The Australians fell back into a new defensive position, while 2PPCLI was totally surrounded. Captain Mills, commander of 2PPCLI's D Company called artillery fire on Hill 677. By the afternoon of 25<sup>th</sup> April the Chinese had been pushed back, and 2PPCLI was able to be relieved. The Royal New Zealand Artillery 16<sup>th</sup> Field Regiment also managed to withdraw and link up with an American Tank Battalion for heavy gun support, thus ending this mission. After this 2PPCLI was able to continue moving further into central Korea.

That September my grandfather and his unit were nearing the Imjin River, knowing that the Chinese were just across it. He stated that conditions were difficult as it got dark by about 7:30 pm and stayed that way until about 5:30 am. That same fall he was told he was going home and they began the journey. By Christmas he was in Japan. On 1 January 1952 at 12:12 am he arrived in a Vancouver airport, where he boarded a train that would take him to Saint John, New Brunswick to meet with my grandmother and my Aunt. They spent a few days in New Brunswick and then returned to Owen Sound for the last part of his leave before he was posted elsewhere.

My grandfather was bounced around quite a bit in his career, from Camp Borden to Calgary Alberta, to Kingston. In 1960 he was in Egypt, and late in 1961 he transferred to a desk job here in Cobourg with 26 COD.

He retired from the service in 1966, at the rank of Sergeant. In 1972 my grandmother passed away and on 5 May 1979 my grandfather died from colon cancer. I've gotten to know him through his letters and through the power of genealogical research.

To end on a personal note, I would like to say that being able to conduct this research locally has allowed me the great opportunity to get to know our local veterans, but it has also helped me in another way. For a long time my grandfather struggled with an alcoholic addiction (although sober at the time of his death) and most of the stories I have heard from family members have not been positive. My mother knew him best of her siblings, but only in the way that a child can get to know a parent during adolescence. Meeting with these veterans, and hearing their stories has given me a chance get to know my grandfather by proxy, and maybe see what his war might have been like. It has allowed me to explore what war was like for them and to find out what it may have been like for others. It has taught me to be thankful for what our veterans have achieved for us.

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January 2010

## The Way Lies North

Jean Rae Baxter

It was while researching the history for *The Way Lies North* that I came upon many visual images. Some were political cartoons from 1770's newspapers. Others were sketches and drawings of villages, towns and forts. There were also portraits of men and women who had played historic roles and there were paintings commemorating important events. It was only after the publication of *The Way Lies North* (September, 2007) that I saw the use to which I could put these pictures in bringing history to life.

70,000 - 100,000 Loyalists fled from the country that became the USA. Of these,

- 34,000 went to Nova Scotia (including NB)
- 2,000 to Prince Edward Island
- 10,000 to what would become Upper Canada, following the Constitutional Act of 1791.
- 7,000 to what is now Quebec, which at that time extended all the way to the Windsor area.
- 9,000 to Caribbean colonies
- 7,000 to England, Scotland, Ireland

It was the Constitutional Act of 1791 that created Upper Canada, giving the inhabitants the system of Civil Law and landholding that they had been accustomed to the in the Thirteen Colonies.

The Loyalists who fled to what would become Upper Canada were among the first to leave, since many made their way north during the war, not after the war ended with the Treaty of Paris in 1783. Many came from the Mohawk Valley.

[Editor's note – only some of these photos are reproduced here]

### Picture # 1 (Topographical Map)

You see the Mohawk River flowing in a south-easterly direction to join the Hudson River. Once peace had been established in 1763, following the French and Indian Wars, the Mohawk Valley was secure. Its population was mixed. People of English and Dutch descent and members of the Six Nations, principally Mohawks, made up the major groups. There were also black slaves, though not nearly as many as in the southern colonies.

Albany was the capital of the Province of New York.

### Picture #2 (Street in Albany, N.Y.)

Architecture shows the influence of the Netherlands, reminding us that the Dutch preceded the English as settlers here.

My fictitious family made their home near Fort Hunter, located on the east side of Schoharie Creek where it enters the Mohawk River. The fort itself was built in 1711 and named after the colonial governor at that time.



Picture #3 (Fort Hunter)

A most unusual fort.

The building in the middle is a chapel.

From the very beginning, Fort Hunter's purpose was two-fold. It had been designed to protect the settlers. But during that era

there was in England great interest in missionary work and concern for the souls of the Indian inhabitants of the area. This led to the fort's second purpose: to serve as a mission to convert the aboriginal inhabitants to Christianity. "The Society for the Propagation of the Gospel in Foreign Parts," which was established for that purpose, insisted that the fort contain a chapel and a mission house. Queen Anne, who strongly supported this missionary work, donated a set of communion silver.

When the War Of Independence broke out, the Mohawks who lived near Fort Hunter buried the communion silver that Queen Anne had presented to them. Later, on a raid, they dug it up and took it back to Canada with them. Half of the pieces are now at the Six Nations reserve near Brantford, the other half in the chapel at the Tyendenaga Reservation near Deseronto, Ontario. One piece bears the dent of the spade used in digging it up.

The church is long gone. But the parsonage where the minister lived still stands, looking much as it did when the Rev'd John Stuart and his family lived there in the 1770's.

Picture #4 (Queen Ann Parsonage at Fort Hunter)

By 1770 Rev'd John Stuart was appointed Missionary to the Mohawks. He held two services every Sunday - one for the Indian converts and another for the approximately 200 European residents and settlers who resided nearby.

Picture #5 (The Rev'd John Stuart and his wife, Jane Okill Stuart)

Right from the beginning of the conflict, John Stuart was in trouble with the Rebel authorities. In conducting church services, he never omitted Prayers for the King, as set out in the Anglican Book of Common Prayer. He helped Loyalists in every way possible. He knew the consequences, but that did not stop him. In a letter to a friend he described the way his church had been treated:

"I cannot omit to mention that my Church was plundered by the Rebels, & the Pulpit Cloth taken away from the Pulpit; it was afterwards employed as a tavern, the Barrel of Rum placed in the Reading Desk, the succeeding Season it was used for a Stable; And now serves as a Fort to protect a Set of great Villains as ever Disgraced Humanity."

It was in July 1778 that the Board to Detect Conspiracies had the Rev'd John Stuart arrested on suspicion of helping the enemy. He was in "close confinement" for four days, after which he was released on his own parole, not to leave Schenectady. This sentence made little difference to his congregation, of which only three families were left. He had not been allowed to preach for the past two years.

The Rev'd John Stuart was eventually released. After a brief stay in St. John (Now St. Jean, Quebec) he moved to Cataraqui (now Kingston) in 1785. There he conducted church services at the Tête du Pont barracks, a drum being used to summon worshippers. He later founded St. George's Church (now St. George's Cathedral) and Kingston Grammar School, which still flourishes as KCVI.

I have fictionalized John Stuart only to the extent of having him give my Loyalist family a map to guide them to Oneida Lake by following Indian trails and by him making arrangements with Mohawk friends to carry them by canoe from Oneida Lake to the safety of Fort Haldimand on Carleton Island. In fact, this was exactly the sort of thing that did get him into trouble with the Rebel authorities.

A contemporary connection: The Rev'd John Stuart's granddaughter married Sir Alan Macnab, who built Dundurn Castle in Hamilton. Their daughter Sophia married Viscount Bury, the only son of the Earl of Albemarle. And her great-great granddaughter is Prince Charles' wife Camilla, the Duchess of Cornwall. On the royal couple's recent visit to Hamilton, the Hamilton Branch of the UEL Association awarded the Duchess a certificate confirming her descent. She may add UE to her title, if she wishes.



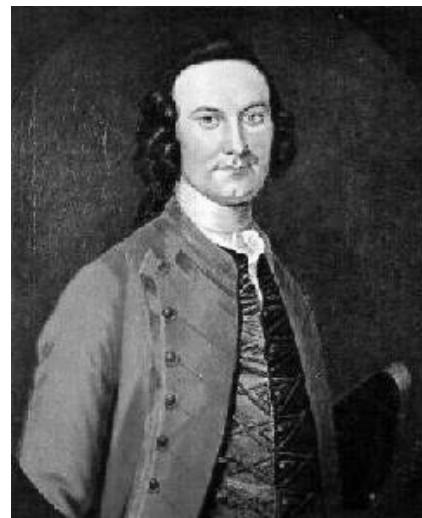
Many of John Stuart's friends and parishioners were Mohawks. It was with John Stuart's help that Joseph Brant translated the Anglican Book of Common Prayer and the Gospel of Mark into the Mohawk language.

Picture #6 (Sir William Johnson)

The principal landowner in the Fort Hunter area was Sir William Johnson, who had been born in Ireland to a wealthy family. He was also the largest slave owner in the Mohawk Valley, possessing 15 slaves.

(The issue of slavery. The Rev'd John Stuart owned several slaves. He spent a year under house arrest in Schenectady, refusing to be freed in an exchange of prisoners of war unless he was allowed to take his slaves with him. He claimed they were personal property (like a piece of furniture), while the Rebels said they were real estate.)

William Johnson had come to North America in 1738 to manage and settle a large tract of land granted to his uncle, Admiral Sir [Peter Warren](#). In 1739 Johnson bought land in his own name on the north side of the Mohawk, where he built a fortified stone mansion which became known as Fort Johnson.



Picture #7 (Fort Johnson)

Picture #8 (North View of Fort Johnson)

William Johnson lived with the Mohawks and learned their language. They adopted him and made him an honorary [sachem](#). In 1755 Johnson was appointed Superintendent of Indian Affairs. He was commissioned as a [major general](#) in the provincial army, and granted the hereditary title of baronet.

In 1769 Sir William Johnson established a school at Fort Hunter. There were 30 pupils, boys and girls. They began school at age 7, finished at 13.

In 1763 Sir William built [Johnson Hall](#), which was larger and more elegant than Fort Johnson. He lived at Johnson Hall until his death 1774. His son John added the blockhouses in 1775 as fighting had already broken out.

Picture #9 (Johnson Hall)



Both Fort Johnson and Johnson Hall have been restored and are open to the public.

Johnson Hall was the scene of lavish entertainment of both his Mohawk and white guests. Entertainment included 'Sport Days' in which local residents gathered on the Johnson's manor and competed in sports such as boxing,

foot racing and horse racing. It was at one of these Sport Days that he met Molly Brant, Joseph Brant's older sister. He noticed her first when she "leapt like a wildcat" behind a young officer riding his horse across the field. Before long, Molly took up residence in Johnson Hall.



Picture #10 (Molly Brant)

There is no authentic portrait of Molly Brant (Konwatsi'tsiaienni). This is an artist's representation of what she may have looked like.

Sir William's wife had died. He was a widower in his 40's when he fell in love with Molly Brant.

At the time when Molly Brant joined the household, John's mother was no longer alive, and Sir William had a German woman named Catherine Weissenberg living at Fort Johnson, along with their three children. She was a servant, and also his mistress. When Catherine unexpectedly died, Molly Brant took over. She managed his home and his estate. She bore him eight children. Molly and Sir William were married by Mohawk rites, an arrangement that suited them both. Molly would have lost her status among her own people if she had become Sir William's legal wife. And one reason why Molly was important to Sir William in his work was her high status and tremendous influence among the Mohawks.

The names of some of their children: Peter, Magdalen (m. Lieutenant John Ferguson), Ann, Susanna.

Sir William Johnson was 59 when he died of a stroke while giving a speech to a delegation of Iroquois chiefs at Johnson Hall. He was buried beneath the altar in St. John's Anglican church, the church he founded in nearby Johnstown. The next day, the chiefs of the Six Nations performed their own memorial service.

Miss Molly was 38 years old when Sir William died. His son and heir, now Sir John Johnson, moved into Johnson Hall. Molly could have lived the rest of her life as Sir William's "relict" in the dowager house on the estate. But she wanted a more active life. With Sir John's blessing she moved with her younger children to the village of Canajoharie, which was close to the fortified village called "Indian Castle" where she had grown up. In Canajoharie, she opened a general store. Part of her business was fur trading with the Indians. During this period of her life she also worked as a spy for the British. The military intelligence she gathered resulted in a British victory at Oriskany, where Joseph Brant's Iroquois force and Butler's Rangers killed hundreds of Rebels in an ambush.

Picture #11 (Eastern View of Canajoharie)



*Eastern view of Canajoharie.*

During the American Revolution, Oneida Indians drove her and her children from their home. The Oneidas were also part of the Six Nations Confederacy. But they had taken the side of the Rebels during the Revolutions.

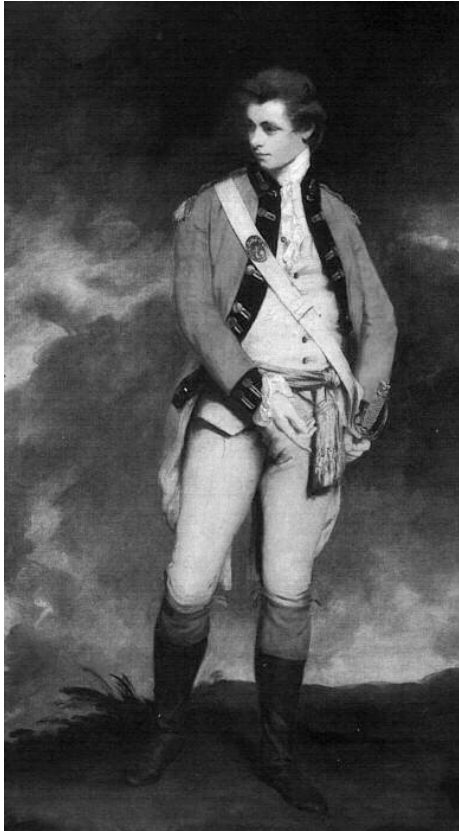
Molly and her children moved first to Fort Niagara, and after that to Fort Haldimand on Carleton Island, which is the setting for most of my novel. Molly Brant became a diplomat in her own right. After the war, Britain granted her a pension and a home in Kingston in gratitude for her work in keeping the Mohawk Nation loyal throughout the war. Molly Brant died in 1796 in Kingston,

where she had lived since 1783.

Her influence was enormous. As Indian agent Daniel Claus commented in 1779, "One word from her goes farther with them (the Iroquois) than a thousand from any white man without exception who in general must purchase their interest at a high rate."

Alexander Fraser, Commander of Fort Haldimand on Carleton Island, declared that the Indians' "uncommon good behaviour is in a great measure ascribed to Miss Molly Brant's influence over them, which is far superior to that of all their Chiefs put together."

When Sir William Johnson died in 1774, his son John took over his title and estates.



Picture #12 (Sir John Johnson)

He was a man of remarkable leadership and organizational ability. During the Revolution, Sir John led a large party of his neighbours' tenants (70 people) through the Adirondack Mountains to the safety of Montreal, which became his headquarters. He then raised two battalions for service in the King's army. In consequence of his loyalty, he lost his lands in the Mohawk Valley.

In 1785, Sir John Johnson was made Superintendent-General and Inspector-General of Indian Affairs. From 1786 to 1781, he was a member of the Legislative Council of the Province of Quebec. He supervised the settling of Loyalists in the upper part of the Province. After a long life of service, he died in 1830.

I have begun with people—the key historical figures important in the part of the Mohawk Valley where my novel is set. Now I shall turn to the political situation.

Picture #13 (British Colonies)

Notice what they are called. Notice that there are more than 13. Quebec. Newfoundland, Nova Scotia, Bermuda.

Where is New Brunswick ? (1784)

Do you see Louisiana? It was 23% of the territory of the USA today. Purchased from France in 1803 for 60-million francs. Approximately 15-million U.S. dollars today.

Notice the grey area. This land was to be reserved for the native people, with whom England had signed treaties. The settlers in the 13 rebel colonies were angry about this. They wanted to take over those lands.

Notice East Florida (now Florida) and West Florida (now Alabama). Strong Loyalist colonies. Ceded from Spain in 1763.

It is often said that the Colonies rebelled. Actually, what happened was more a civil war than a revolution. It has been estimated that one-third of the population wanted independence, one-third wanted to remain part of the British Empire, and one-third just wanted to be left alone.

#### Population of the 13 Colonies

Note that the present population of the USA is just under 304-million (303,824,640)

In 1770, roughly 2,148,000. By 1780, the number had risen to 2,780,000. Taking the mid-point between the two censuses, there were about 2 ½ million white residents of the 13 Colonies when fighting began in 1775. The total white population of the 13 Colonies was half that of present day Toronto.

The Province of New York, one of the more heavily populated, had a population of about 163,000 in 1770. By 1780, it had risen to 210,000. That is to say, at the start of the Revolution there were about 200,000 white colonists in the whole Province of New York, and that included New York City. The total population of the whole of New York Province was half that of present-day Hamilton.

The two basic issues were expansion and taxation.

At the beginning of the 1770's, England was slow to realize that the colonists were deadly serious about "No Taxation Without Representation. Numerous political cartoons of the time make clear how much the taxes and tax collectors were hated.

#### Picture #14 (Reaction to the Stamp Act)

#### Picture #15 (1765 American Stamp Act cartoon)

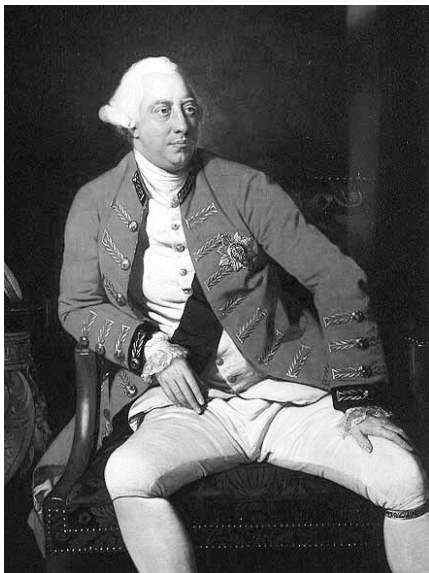
Picture #16 (1774 Lynching) (Notice the symbols in this cartoon)

Picture #17 (Fate of an English Tax Collector)

Picture #18 (British Cartoon: Virtual Representation)

- 1 Highwayman (3<sup>rd</sup> from left)
- 2, 3 French aristocracy and Roman Catholic Church (accomplices with Rebels)
- 4 Judge (on Rebel side)
- 5, 6 Loyalists
- 7 Britannia (blinded to what's going on)
- 8 Quebec City
- 9 Boston

Discontent was not only about the taxes and representation. It had much to do with England's insistence that treaties made with native people be observed. Settlers ignored these treaties and moved west anyway. One order from Lord Haldimand ordered them to withdraw "forthwith." The Rebels made it clear that anyone wanting to move west, displacing the aboriginal population, would have their full support.



Picture #19 (King George III).

However great his mental affliction, King George did care about the Colonies and was aware of the importance of the native people. But his government paid insufficient attention what was going on.

The American Declaration of Independence was adopted on July 4, 1776, though hostilities had begun in the previous year. The British forces consisted of British and Loyalist soldiers, their native allies, and German mercenaries.

When the fighting began, it looked as though the British would succeed in putting down the rebellion. The tide turned in 1777. Late that summer, the British had planned a triple invasion, with three armies under the leadership of General John Burgoyne converging at Albany, New York.



Picture #20 (Burgoyne at the Battle of Saratoga) ["Gentleman Johnny"]

General Burgoyne's army came down from the north, expecting to meet an army coming from the east and one coming from the west. If it had worked, the British probably would have won the war. But the other armies failed to arrive.

Colonel Baum, with a large detachment of German troops, had been defeated at Bennington. Many of the German troops were sick.

Brigadier Barry St. Leger, with his army heading from Lake Ontario into the Mohawk Valley, attacked Fort Stanwix on the way to Albany. The Fort Stanwix defenders fought so stubbornly that St. Leger retreated. He tried again to join Burgoyne's forces, but was halted at Ticonderoga by lack of transportation.

Learning that Burgoyne's army was in trouble, Sir Henry Clinton, who had a

force stationed in New York City, set out to bring reinforcements. Clinton's army had advanced to 50 miles of Burgoyne's army, but did not reach him in time.

Other factors in the defeat were desertions by Loyalist militiamen who had to get back to their farms to bring in the harvest and by Indians who thought it was time to go hunting for meat to last through the winter. Sickness was a problem for all armies. Transportation was a nightmare. Wagons had to be taken apart, carried through swamps or across rivers, then reassembled. The region around Wood Creek, an important portage called the Oneida Carry, was infested with poison ivy.

General Burgoyne's army, outnumbered 20,000 to 6,000 and exhausted after days of fighting, surrendered at Saratoga on October 17, 1777.

Picture # 21 (General Burgoyne addresses his Indian allies)

The text of his speech has been recorded, as well as that of the Mohawk spokesman who agreed to comply. Unfortunately, many warriors were enraged and left. Their desertion further weakened Burgoyne's army.

Picture # 22 (Opposing troops at Saratoga)

Picture # 23 (Burgoyne's Surrender).

The centre figure is General Horatio Gates, known to the Americans as "the hero of Saratoga." General Benedict Arnold also played an important role.

The Battle of Saratoga was a turning point:

1. The victory of the Rebels brought France into the war in support of the Revolution.
2. The ancient Great Peace of the Six Nations was fractured
3. The famous Loyalist regiment, Butler's Rangers was formed.
4. The Mohawk Valley became the scene of bloody fighting for the next five years.



Picture # 24 Butler's Ranger—formal and informal dress

Picture #25 1776-1778 uniform King's Royal Rangers of New York (Royal Greens)

Uniform adopted in 1778.

**Picture #26 Dress of a courier (photo left)**

Notice his leggings, hat, Brown Bess musket, powder horn and cartridge case.

Notice the pack basket (native influence) held by a strap around his shoulders. Clockwise from the basket: lidded pot, rum flask, tump line, tinder box with flint & steel and char cloth, pipe tongs to take ember from fire to light his pipe, frying pan, hand axe and oil cloth for ground sheet.

Picture #27 (Loyalist being dragged from his home)

Notice difference in dress between the wealthy couple and the other people.

After the defeat at the Battle of Saratoga, gangs called the Sons of Liberty, or Liberty men, physically attacked Loyalists, stole their property and burned their homes without fear of the law. And it was not just the Sons of Liberty who terrorized Loyalists. In a "doorstep war" of neighbour against neighbour, many Whigs turned upon their Tory neighbours.

As for the large number of people who wished to remain neutral, that was simply

not allowed. Legally, there was such a status, but it was increasingly disregarded. Local authorities demanded that people sign documents stating that they supported the Revolution.

Picture #28 (Signing on the barrelhead)

The white wig and the frock coat show he was a wealthy man.)

One young man was offered the choice of joining the Rebel army or being hanged. He chose the army.

Communities and families were torn apart. The Rev'd John Stuart and his two brothers were forever divided. Benjamin Franklin's son, William Franklin, the Governor of New Jersey, remained loyal and never spoke to his father again.

Some Loyalists either fled or were driven away. British forts along the border took in Loyalist refugees. One of these forts was Fort Haldimand on Carleton Island, situated less than half a mile south of Wolfe Island and only a few miles from the present city of Kingston.

Picture # 29 (Carleton Island)

To reach Carleton Island, many Loyalists followed the Mohawk River northwest.

Picture #30 (Map showing route to Carleton Island)

Picture #31 (Oneida Lake)

A common route followed was by way of Oneida Lake.

The French called it Lac Vert. This picture shows the curiously strong green tinge of the water, caused by algae, which was as pronounced then as it is now. In the 18<sup>th</sup> Century, there was a strong suspicion among Europeans that the water was unhealthy, if not poisonous. Settlers stayed away. Apart from an Oneida fishing camp at the west end of the lake—used once a year when the Oneidas were laying in a supply of fish for winter, its shores were virtually uninhabited.

From Oneida Lake, bands of Loyalist refugees travelled along the Oneida and Oswego Rivers to Lake Ontario, thence eastward to Carleton Island.

Carleton Island today is on the U.S. side of the international border. Seeing its ruins, one can hardly believe that Fort Haldimand had been a major fort, an important camp for Loyalists refugees and also a shipyard for building warships to carry troops from the eastern end of Lake Ontario to Fort Niagara.

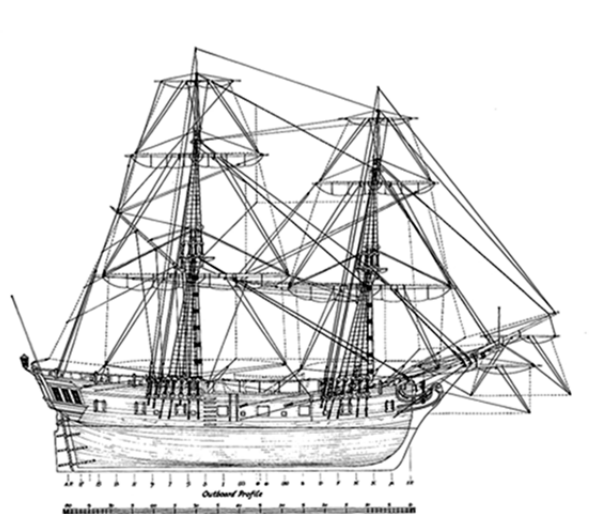
The most famous ship to be built at Fort Haldimand was the 22-gun warship the *Ontario*. It sank in a hurricane only six months after its launch in 1778. For 230 years no one knew where the wreck lay. It was only in the spring of 2008 that two engineers, who had long researched possible locations, found the *Ontario* in deep water off the south shore of Lake Ontario. It rests upright on the bottom, so little damaged that the window glass in the captain's quarters remains unbroken.

Picture #32 The shipwreck discovered in May, 2008.

Picture #33 Drawing of the ship

Picture #34 (Ruins of Fort Haldimand).

When the border between the United States of America and British Canada was established after the war ended in 1783 (Treaty of Paris), England clung to Fort Haldimand even though officially it was no longer a British possession. But gradually England gave way. The fort was abandoned and fell into ruins.





This picture of the ruins was drawn over a century ago. In 2006 I saw what remains from a boat cruising past. Apart from an old tower (still on navigational charts), little is left.

After losing Carleton Island at the end of the war, the British moved their military centre to Cataraqui, returning to the strategic location they had wrested from the French in 1758. This was Fort Frontenac, which had guarded the entrance to the Great Lakes for 100 years.

Picture #35 (Cagusdas . . . Fort Frontenac)

Picture #36 (300px Fort Frontenac)

Fort Frontenac fell to the British under General Bradstreet in 1758.

The French, under their commander, Monsieur de Noyan, had 120 French soldiers and 40 Huron warriors to defend the fort. The English came in the night with 3,000 men. In the morning, there were eleven cannons aimed at the walls. After the surrender of the fort, the British destroyed it.

This was one year before the Battle of the Plains of Abraham (1759).

In the 1770's only a few Indians and people of mixed blood lived amidst the ruins of the old French fort. But its potential had not been forgotten. And every bateau travelling between Carleton Island and Montreal went by its ruins. Here is a drawing of one of the bateaux which brought supplies from Montreal to Carleton Island passing by Cataraqui.



Picture # 37 (Bateaux nearing Cataraqui)

The English never actually rebuilt Fort Frontenac. They established an army base at Cataraqui, as well as a settlement that soon had its name changed to Kingston.

The American War of Independence fractured not only the English Colonies in North America, but also the Iroquois Confederacy. The Mohawks, with their close ties to the Johnson family, were

unwavering in their loyalty. The Seneca, Onondaga and Cayuga nations also tended to support Britain, although less actively than the Mohawks. The Tuscaroras, latecomers to the Confederacy and located further south than the other Iroquois nations, tended to support the Rebels. The Oneidas also took the Rebel side, and that was a much more serious issue due to the close links they had had for centuries with the other Iroquois nations.

The area around Oneida Lake was the traditional home of the Oneida. Like the other Iroquois nations, they lived in longhouses and cultivated crops of corn, squash and beans.

Picture #38 (longhouse)

Picture #39 (Oneida warrior)

Picture #40 (Oneida Indians)

George Washington was determined to destroy the Iroquois, and he made no distinction between those allied with England and those who supported the Rebels. Appointing General John Sullivan to clear New York Province of Indians, he put him in command of four brigades totalling about 4,500 men.



Picture #41 (General John Sullivan)

The plan was simple. Sullivan's army would travel into Iroquois country and destroy everything in its path. Washington outlined the mission objectives to be the "total destruction and devastation" of the Iroquois villages so "that the country may not merely be overrun but destroyed."

Washington warned Sullivan not to accept any offer of peace before "the total ruin of their settlements was effected. "Our future security," Washington wrote, would rest on the "Terror" inflicted upon them. He urged Sullivan to act aggressively and employ his men "in a loose and dispersed a way ... It should be impressed upon the upon the minds of the men wherever they have the opportunity to rush on with . . . fixed bayonet, " to "discourage and terrify" their foes.

It is interesting to note that apple and peach orchards were destroyed, as well as fields of corn, beans and squash. The agriculture of the Indians living in the Mohawk Valley had been diversified during the previous century of contact with white settlement.

The campaign of destruction was an outstanding success. In reporting to Congress, Sullivan boasted that "every creek and River has been traced, & the whole Country explored in search of Indian settlements." He bragged that there

was "not a single town left in the Country of the five nations." The army had wiped out at least forty villages and Sullivan made a "moderate computation" that they had destroyed at least 160,000 bushels of corn.

The British were prepared to help their Indian allies, but that did not include the Oneida. Alienated from the other Iroquois nations and betrayed by the Rebels, their situation was particularly desperate. Only with great difficulty were they able to repair their relationship with the other nations of the Iroquois Confederacy and with the British.

Many of the Loyalist families who set off through dense forests to reach a British fort would have perished without the help of the Mohawks. Their leader was the warrior/statesman Tyendenegea, or Joseph Brant (1743 – 1807).

He had had the advantage of being educated at the Moor School in Lebanon, Connecticut. This was a remarkable institution established by the Rev'd Eleazar Wheelock, a Congregational minister.

Picture #42 (Eleazar Wheelock)

A graduate of Yale University, Wheelock had as his goal the preparation of native people for the Christian ministry. For this purpose, he founded a school for Native American Indians, with the purpose of instilling, in the boys, elements of secular and religious education. The girls were to be taught "housewifery," reading and writing.

The school's Charter stated its goal: ". . . the education and instruction of the Indian Tribes of the land . . . and also of English youth and any others."

Its motto, "*Vox Clamantis in Deserto*," (A Voice Crying out in the Wilderness) seems particularly apt, given the depths of the surrounding forests.

Wheelock eventually enlarged the school and added a college (for the education of both Indians and whites in the classics, philosophy, and literature). At this time he relocated the school to Hanover, New Hampshire, and gave it the name Dartmouth. King George III granted the charter in 1769. Dartmouth College continues today as an Ivy League University, the ninth to be established, and the last one in the present United States to have been established by Royal Charter.

Picture #43 (Dartmouth University)

Joseph Brant attended Wheelock's school in the early 1760's when it was still located at Lebanon Connecticut.

Joseph Brant was the younger brother of Molly Brant. He may have first come to Sir William's notice when he fought in his first battle at the age of thirteen at Lake George. By the age of eighteen he was a frequent visitor to Johnson Hall, Sir William knew him well. Young Joseph was handsome, clever and ambitious. That he would benefit from education was clear. But Sir William did not stop there: he sent four other young Mohawk men along with Joseph to the Moor School.



Joseph, who at one time planned to be a missionary, took full advantage of every opportunity. His Mohawk name, Tyendenagea, means, "He who places Two Bets." As a diplomat, a captain in the Colonial forces, and as a fearless warrior, he became an important man in both worlds

Picture #44 (Joseph Brant) (Photo left)

Picture #45 (Portrait of Brant)

Picture #46 (Joseph Brant Portrait)

Picture #47 (Theyebdobegea)

As a diplomat, he made two visits to England. On one he met King George. On being presented to the King, he refused to bow, asserting, "I am a prince in my own land. But I will gladly shake your hand." King George shook Brant's hand.

If Joseph Brant was a model of loyalty, then his opposite was Benedict Arnold.

Picture #48 (Benedict Arnold)

He became a military hero for the Rebel side, as he had been for the British earlier. He played an important role at the Battle of Saratoga. But he felt that he did not receive the credit he deserved. This was probably true.

Many were critical of him, yet he had the support of George Washington. In 1778, after the British gave up Philadelphia, Washington appointed Benedict Arnold Commander of the City in a show of support and confidence. In Philadelphia he met Peggy Shippen, a lively, pretty 17-year old daughter of a judge. The family had Loyalist sympathies. To court Peggy was not a smart move. The girl's father had misgivings about the match, as did Benedict Arnold's friends and associates. Arnold wooed her anyway, She was 18 and he was 38 when they married.

Picture #49 (Benedict Arnold's wife and daughter)

There are several portraits of Peggy Arnold and her children. They had five who survived.

Peggy liked parties and balls and beautiful clothes. The couple lived well beyond their means, and as a result, Arnold entered into some shady business dealings, including shipping, real estate speculation and authorizing the use of government supplies for his own personal needs. With people in Congress eyeing everything he did, he was soon brought up on charges and was court-martialed. Amazingly, George Washington still supported him. This time he showed his trust by making him Commander of West Point. By May of 1779 Arnold had already begun bargaining with the British. His betrayal was not a spur-of-the-moment idea. The plan took months to work out. The date was to be in July, 1780.

20,000 pounds. Think five million dollars.





Afterwards, Benedict Arnold and his family spent eight years in Saint John, New Brunswick, where he organized a brigade called the American Legion. Enlistment was restricted to deserters from the Rebel army. Never popular in Saint John, Arnold moved to England. Some of his descendents still live in Saint John.

But while Benedict and Peggy Arnold were living the good life, life for the Loyalists who had fled to the northern forts was a different reality.

Picture #50 (Loyalist Refugee Camp) at site of present day Cornwall.

At the camp on Carlton Island, life was typical. The Loyalist refugees lived in six-man army tents. The tents had no floors. There was no source of heat. Rations were limited to salt pork, rice, dried peas and flour. The hardship continued for years and years. It was not until halfway through the 1780's before they would receive their land grants in the country that was soon to be Upper Canada.

February 2010

## Harwood Station Heritage Museum

Pauline Browes

### Friends of the Harwood Waterfront Committee

The Friends of the Harwood Waterfront is a group of enthusiastic residents from the surrounding area who formed an association to plan for improvements to the waterfront area in Harwood while also incorporating the site's railway heritage. A master plan has been created to include the development of a heritage museum showcasing the cultural heritage features of the area. The original train station located in Harwood, built in 1853, was dismantled and moved to Roseneath, Ontario, in 1901 where it became the Orange Hall. The current owners offered the building, at no charge, to assist the group in achieving their vision of a local heritage museum to be located in Harwood.

### Harwood Station Heritage Museum (HSHM)



### HSHM Strategic Directions

- 1) offer authentic history
- 2) provide a compelling, involving, multi-level visitor experience
- 3) position the museum as a unique attraction to residents and tourists, within the region's visitor marketing initiatives
- 4) develop revenue streams to support the development and ongoing operations
- 5) involve stakeholders in contributing to the museum's development
- 6) engage participants in accomplishing the museum's vision and goals

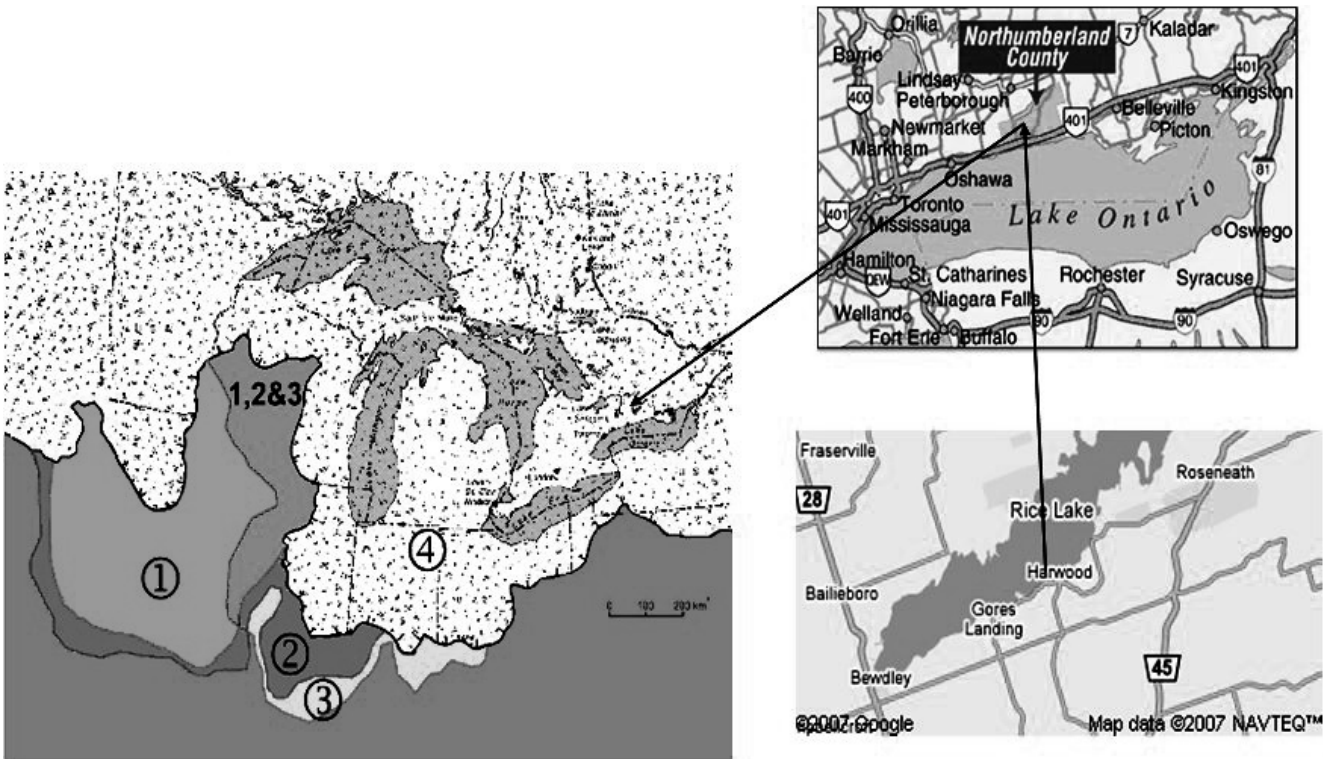
### Phase I – The Railroad Era

- **Original Building Acquisition** – The Harwood train station was built in 1852 and moved to Roseneath (10 miles to the east) in 1905. Funds were raised to pay for the dismantling and numbering of building components as well as for appropriate storage until a suitable location and development of said property can be completed. This milestone has been achieved and was completed in February of 2007.
- **Site Property Acquisition** – The next milestone of phase I will determine the site requirements for the museum as well as selection of an appropriate location. The ideal site would be as close as possible to the original location in the 1850's. There are several sites under review at this time.
- **Reconstruction Of The Railroad Station** – The third milestone of phase I entails the construction of the museum to meet facility specifications while maintaining as much of the original architecture and structure as feasible.

### Growth Plans

- **Phase II - The Pre-Railroad Era**
  - Exhibiting life in the region prior to the railroad
- **Phase III – The Post-Railroad Era**
  - Exhibiting life in the region after the railroad
  - The Cobourg and Peterborough Railway, with its bridge spanning Rice Lake, is an integral part of both the local and Trent Severn Waterway history and heritage. This initiative requires support to preserve and expand the cultural, recreational and economic aspects for the greater Rice Lake area.

### 18,000 Years of History



### 900 – 1500 AD



Samuel de Champlain - 1615

#### The Demise of the Huron – 1650

In 1650, the Iroquois stormed the chief Huron villages.

*[Editors note: The Iroquois took out two major Huron villages in 1647 and two more in 1649. The majority of the Hurons had been dispersed to the east and west by 1650]*

The coming of the Mississauga - 1740

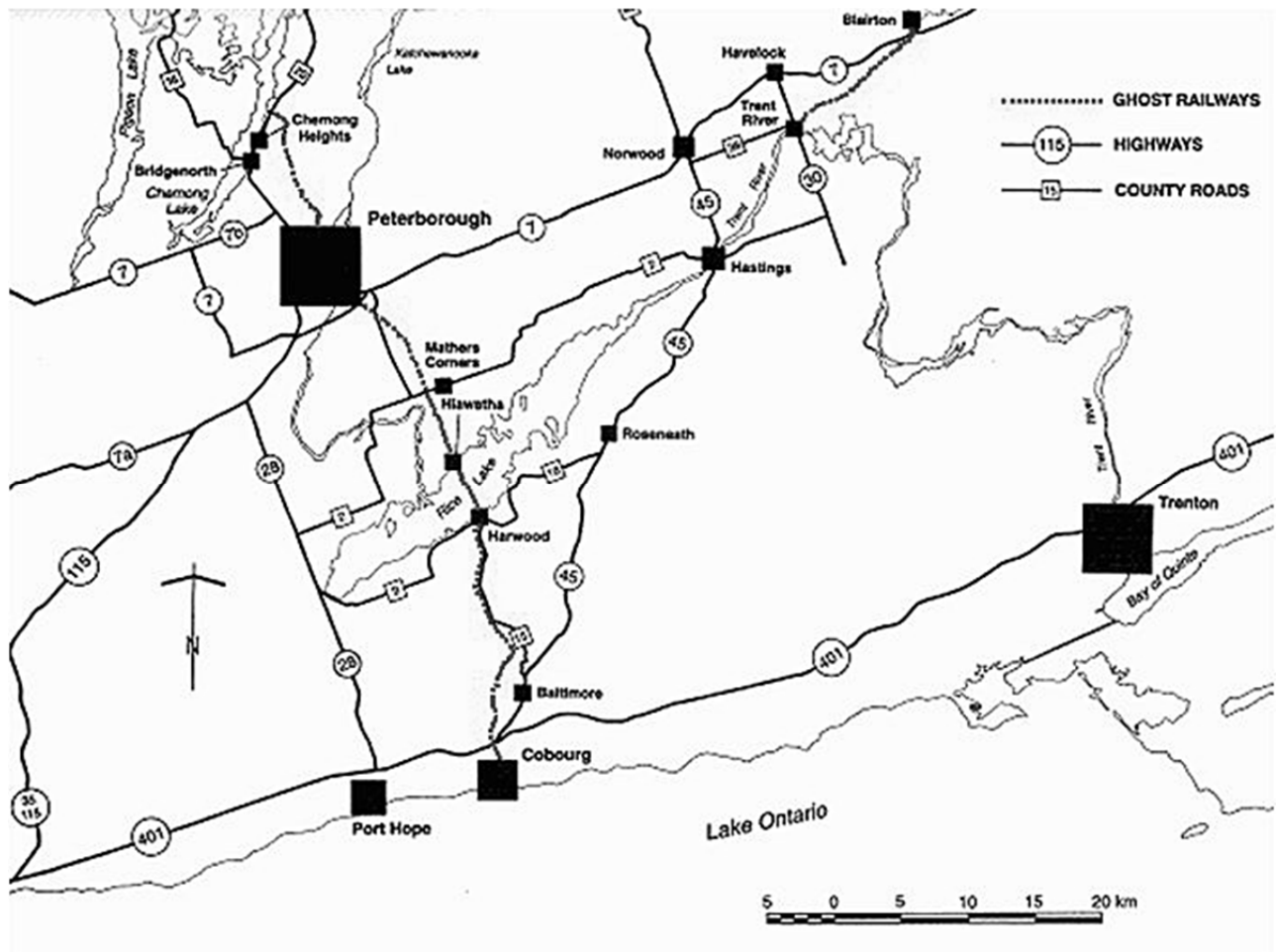
The Europeans are Coming

## The Railroad Days

1837 ----- 1850 ----- 1895



## The Railways

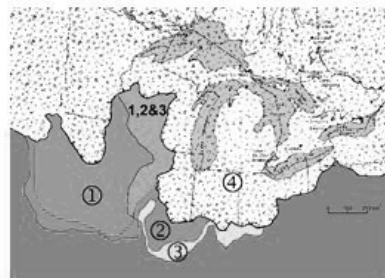


It's our "History", it's our "Heritage", we need to tell the "Story".

### Visit Harwood Station Heritage Museum

Opening May 2010

- A Walking Tour of HSHM
- The Ice Age
- The early human inhabitants
  - The Huron
  - The Mississauga
- The Europeans are coming
- The Cobourg and Peterborough Railroad
- The Agricultural era
- The Recreational era
- A Walking Tour of HSHM
- The Tracks of Time



### Harwood Station Heritage Museum Foundation

- The Harwood Station Heritage Museum Foundation (HSHM Foundation) will be incorporated as a charitable organization and formed to develop, and execute, a plan to raise sufficient funds and operational knowledge to support taking the Museum from "Vision" to "Reality". The HSHM Foundation consists of a Board of Directors who have a deep interest in our heritage and are dedicated to assisting the Museum in achieving its "Mission".
- To be incorporated as a not-for-profit charitable organization - Formed to develop, and execute, a plan to:
  - raise sufficient funds and operational knowledge to support taking the Museum from "Vision" to "Reality"
  - ensure successful ongoing operations of the Museum – share our heritage with future generations



March 2010

## Royal Tour of 1860/Cobourg

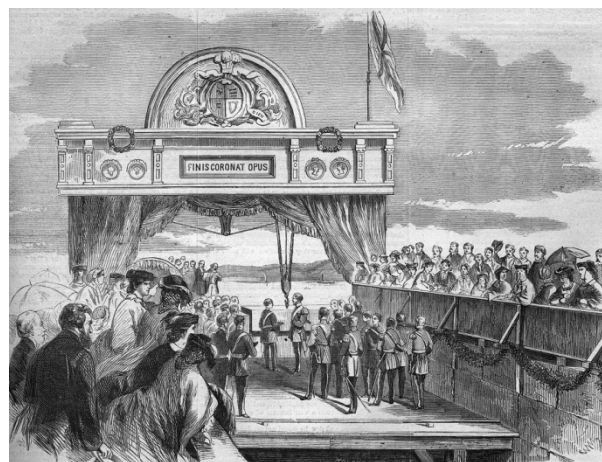
Walter Lewis

In his exhaustive study of the 1860 visit of the Prince of Wales to North America, Ian Radforth observed that "the visit passed from public memory years ago and even in histories of the period it scarcely gets a mention." (1) Growing up in the Cobourg area, I frequently heard the stories of the dance in Victoria Hall and the fuss over crossing Rice Lake on the Cobourg and Peterborough Railway trestle. In Kingston, the story of the Duke of Newcastle's standoff with the Orange Order was part of the fabric of local history. Historians of national history might well have focused on other things, but memory was alive and well in the many of the communities through which the tour passed.

The previous generation had seen vast changes in the social, political and economic landscape of British North



Arrival at St John's



Opening Victoria Bridge in Montreal

America. Steamboats and railroads combined with the electric telegraph and the reformed postal service to move people, goods and information around the region at an ever faster pace. The implications of responsible government were gradually being worked through in the various colonies. Recovery from a sharp economic contraction, the Crash of 1857, had been slow but the parties involved were finally ready to celebrate what had been accomplished. To do that, they had extended an invitation for Queen Victoria to come and lead the celebration. She declined, but offered her 18-year old son, Albert Edward, the Prince of Wales, in her place. In the negotiations that followed the scope of the tour shifted from the province of Canada (what would become Ontario and Quebec), to encompass the other eastern colonies in the region, and eventually a tour through the United States.

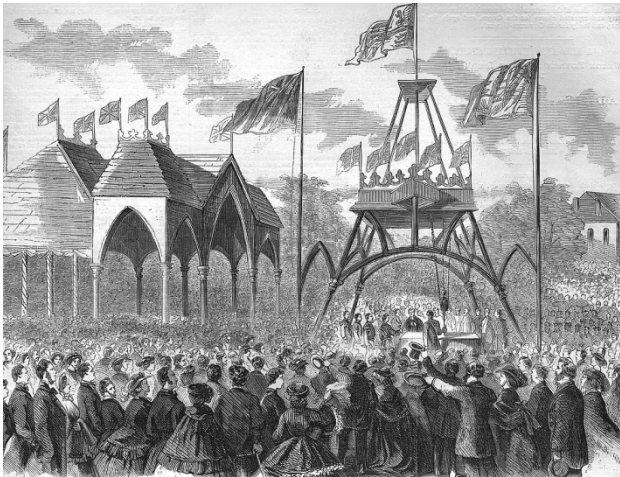
At the heart of the agenda were two major events. After years of shifting the seat of government from Kingston, to Montreal, and then back and forth between Toronto and Quebec City, a new capital for the Province of Canada had been selected: Bytown, or Ottawa as it would become. The Prince would lay the cornerstone of the new Parliament Buildings. In Montreal, the Grand Trunk Railway was delighted that the Victoria Bridge had just been completed, stretching across the St. Lawrence River and linking the rail lines running east from Sarnia, Toronto, Cobourg and Kingston to the south shore of Canada East and on through the state of Maine to the Atlantic.

Ironically, for a tour that was to celebrate the completion of the longest railway in the British Empire, Prince Albert thought a much more effective spectacle occurred when a community was approached from its waterfront. Where possible then, the tour proceeded by ship and steamboat. The Royal Navy handled transportation to and from North America, and up the St. Lawrence River to Quebec City. Beyond that, the Canadian government had chartered one of the newest and finest steamboats in the region, the KINGSTON, to serve the tour as a private sanctuary and "floating palace." Various other vessels were deployed in local services, on the Ottawa River, Collingwood, Sarnia, between Niagara and Port Dalhousie, around Hamilton harbour and across the Detroit River.

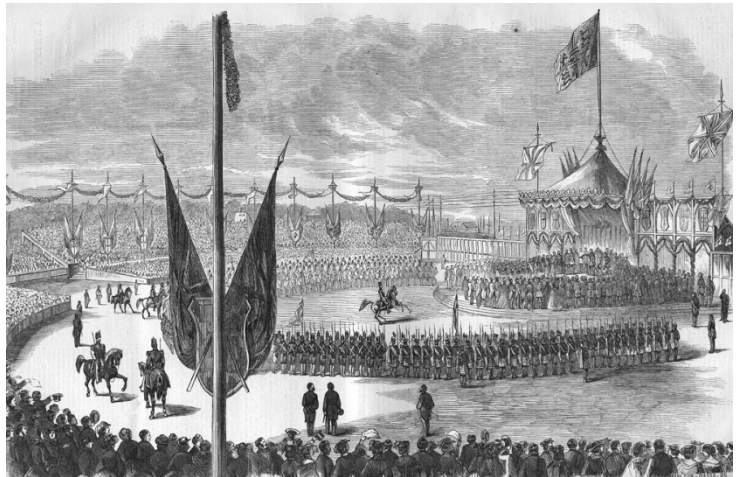


After a relatively quick crossing of the North Atlantic in July, the Prince was taken through a whirlwind tour which touched each of the Atlantic colonies: St. John's in Newfoundland, Sydney and Halifax in Nova Scotia, St. John and Fredericton, New Brunswick and Charlottetown in Prince Edward Island. Each visit was a combination of arrivals, parades, presentations, speeches, balls, more parades and departures. Each of the destinations got its moment in the spotlight, pictures in the illustrated newspapers, and a chance to show off how progress had touched the region. The collective impression of the Prince was of a young man who kept up his end of the required ceremonies and who loved to dance.

It was only after the major events of the tour had passed that politics shifted to the fore. Accompanying the Prince was the member of the imperial cabinet responsible for the colonies, the Duke of Newcastle. Among the crises in British politics that summer was reaction to legislation banning the public display of the regalia of the ultra-Protestant, ultra-loyal Orange Order in Ireland. This legislation did not extend to Canada, but the Duke had made it very clear that



Laying the foundation stone for  
Parliament House - Ottawa



Arriving in Toronto

the Prince should not be seen to acknowledge the Orangemen lest it make a difficult situation in Ireland worse. On the other hand, loyal Orangemen had gathered in great strength in Kingston and refused to see the Duke's point of view. After a day spent negotiating the KINGSTON carried the Royal party up the Bay of Quinte to Belleville. The next morning, the Orangemen arrived in Belleville via the Grand Trunk railway. After a brief, the Royal party left without landing. The KINGSTON steamed back out of the Bay, and set a course for Cobourg.

Around Cobourg, there was a considerable uncertainty with what was going to happen. The Prince was supposed to arrive by rail at the train station on Division Street. If the train was coming, what would the Orangemen do? By midday, the word came that a train with the Orangemen on board had broken down in eastern Northumberland county and the line from the east was blocked. How convenient

Feverishly, the organizers and the crowd in Cobourg got the decorations shifted for an arrival at the harbour where the KINGSTON finally landed at 9:00 p.m., hours late. Here the native born Canadians (no Orangemen need apply) harnessed themselves to the coach and hauled the Prince the few blocks to the dais erected in front of Victoria Hall. Those concerned with the safety of the Prince arranged for the floor of the ballroom to be buttressed with a series of cedar posts in the courtroom below. After the welcoming and the official pronouncements were over, a select party retired to the ballroom for the dancing. Given that most of the party had been confined to the KINGSTON for the last few days, the chance to be out was a great relief. The smaller nature of the gathering was in contrast to the hundreds and thousands in some of the other grand balls to that point in the tour (and that would follow). The dancers saw the sun up before snatching a few hours sleep and getting on their way.

From Cobourg, the next day's journey went up the Cobourg and Peterborough Railway to Peterborough. There was a stop at Harwood to board a small steamer for the Rice Lake crossing, the trestle being seen by some to be unsafe. Another stop was made in Hiawatha, the First Nations reservation on the north shore of the lake. Speeches and a

carriage ride following in Peterborough, another in Port Hope, and again in Whitby, before the royal party rejoined the KINGSTON to make an entrance into Toronto from the waterfront.

What followed was another six weeks of civic receptions, grand openings, balls, steamboat and train travel, interspersed with short periods of private relaxation: seeing the sights at Niagara Falls, shooting on the prairies south-west of Chicago, visiting Washington's tomb in Washington.

All of these events were extensively reported in the press of the day, despite the array of other important stories: the US presidential race that saw the election of Abraham Lincoln, Garibaldi's campaigns for the unification of Italy, or the publication by Charles Darwin of the "Origin of Species". The stories of the tour made many Americans clearly aware of the tremendous loyalty and respect for Britain in the northern colonies. The reports of the Prince's reception may well have disabused many Americans of the casual expectation that those colonies would naturally want to join the Union. Certainly the reporting of the tour, especially in the new illustrated press and the instant books of the period, went a long way towards the emergence of what has become known as the "cult of celebrity". While the residents of the various colonies of British North America became a little more aware of each other and what they had in common, the Secretary of State for the Colonies had also become aware of an emerging gap between legal practice in Britain and these colonies. The discussions surrounding various proposals for what would become Confederation thus got a more sympathetic ear from both the colonists and politicians at various levels.

1. Ian Radforth, *Royal Spectacle: The 1860 visit of the Prince of Wales to Canada and the United States*, (Toronto: University of Toronto Press, 2004), p. 7





April 2010

## Boyd Lumbering 1837-1948

Grace Barker

### *Chronological Listing of Events*

Historical records concerning the family Boyd and their activities in the lumbering business have been preserved in several locations-

The National Archives at Ottawa houses Boyd documents which occupy 120 linear feet of shelf space. They record the various business activities of two generations of the family. These documents were donated to the Archives in 1950 when the main business office at the corner of Canal and William Streets in Bobcaygeon was being readied for occupancy by the Village of Bobcaygeon, the Township of Verulam and the Public Library. A deed was prepared giving title to the old office building to the three parties.

The Boyd files provide a factual record of the development of the family business operation, which paralleled the socio-economic development of the Kawartha Lakes region of south-central Ontario. Unlike many other lumbermen of his time, Mossom Boyd was involved in every aspect of the lumbering operation, from the time the tree was cut down in the forest until it was sold as a finished product. Boyd financed and supervised shanties where the primary cutting operation of lumbering begins; driving the sticks to his sawmill at Bobcaygeon where it was sawn into lumber then rafted to the market place where he set up his own sales outlet at Albany, New York. As well, he was active in the market place in Quebec City where merchants for the British ship-builders waited each season for the huge rafts of masts, spars and squared timbers to be floated down from the tributary streams that fed into the Trent and the Ottawa river valleys.

1834 ... Mossom Boyd arrived in the Bobcaygeon area in the late summer of 1834 taking up settlement on 100 acres of uncleared land on the north shore of Sturgeon Lake. He first planned to turn this homestead into a productive farm. The sawmill at the site of the Bobcaygeon rapids had been erected by Thomas Need, and was already operational. The first set of locks to bypass the rapids at the junction of Pigeon and Sturgeon lakes was being constructed above the mill site.

1837 ... Boyd took over responsibility for the sawmill and store at Bobcaygeon while Thomas Need returned to England for a visit to his homeland. Need returned the following year to Bobcaygeon, but from this time on, Boyd's handwriting appears on the documents concerning the sawmill, the store statute labour books and canal lockage records.

1844 ... Boyd entered into a long-term rental agreement with Thomas Need for the sawmill, gristmill and house on the canal bank in Bobcaygeon, when Need decided to return to England. Mossom Boyd married Carolyn Dunsford, one of five daughters of the Reverend Hartley Dunsford. The Dunsford home, named 'the Beehive', is still standing and on the north shore of Sturgeon lake and is regarded as a fine example of early log structures. Boyd's affiliation with the



A "brag load"

*From "Timber Empire" by Grace Barker. Original courtesy of National Archives of Canada.*

Dunsford family was advantageous, both socially and from a business aspect. Caroline's sister Lydia married John Langton, who later became Auditor-General of Canada. Langton co-signed notes for Boyd in the early years of his business career and the families remained life-long friends.

1848 ... Boyd drove his first raft of pine masts to Quebec City. A neighbour by the name of Kelly was his partner in this venture.

1849 ... Boyd embarked on his second expedition of rafting pine spars and masts down the Trent Waterway to the Quebec market, this time in a partnership arrangement with John Langton and James Dunsford, who jointly financed the cost while Mossom Boyd piloted the raft.

1851 ... The Bobcaygeon sawmill had to be rebuilt. Flooding that was the result of the Buckhorn dam being puddled, raised the water level of Pigeon Lake and rendered the original sawmill inoperable.

1852 .... Langton and Dunsford washed their hands of the Quebec market trade. Boyd accepted financing from a Quebec merchant named Burnett.

1855 .... Boyd borrowed money to buy Crown Land in the northern parts of Verulam, Harvey and Somerville. He needed an assured supply of raw material for his mill which was now operating at an increased capacity.

1857 ... Caroline Dunsford Boyd died, leaving Mossom with six small children ... the eldest aged twelve years. The steamboats *The Woodman* and the *Victoria* were operating on the lakes. Boyd used their services for towing sawn lumber to Lindsay. Bobcaygeon locks had been rebuilt and the boats were able to pass through the locks at Bobcaygeon.

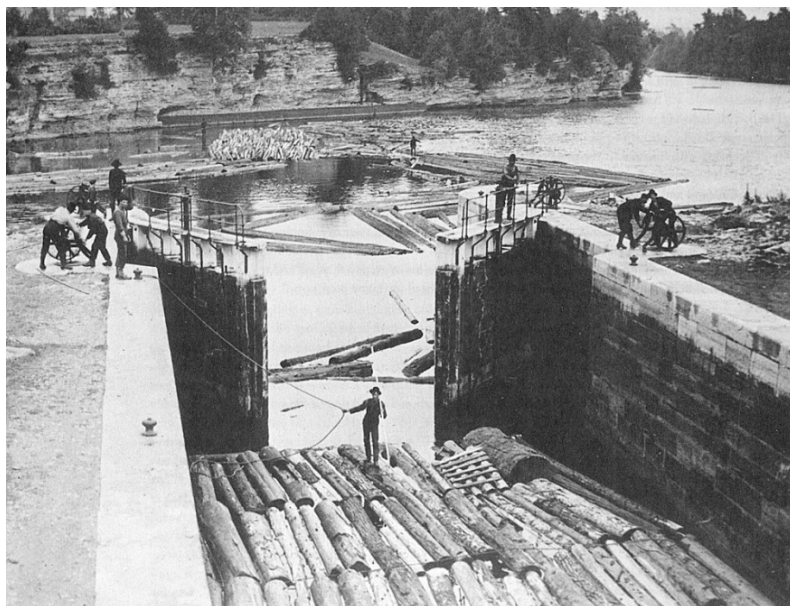
1858 ... Letitia Cust, an old childhood friend from Ireland, emigrated to Canada to marry Mossom Boyd. and to be the mother to his six children. Two more children resulted from this union.

1860 ... Boyd obtained leases for timber rights to Crown land in Monmouth, Snowden and Glamorgan, offered for sale cut-over lands that he had bought outright from the Crown in Verulam, Harvey and Somerville. The sale of these partially cleared lots helped finance future expansion.

1861 - Boyd built a tug at Bald Lake named the *Novelty*. She was listed at 57 tons and was used as a work-boat allowing Boyd to be more independent in towing his own scows of lumber to Lindsay. This was the start of the Boyd shipping dynasty.

1864 ... Sawmill was moved to the new location on the Little Bob River. New mill had much greater capacity and ended the disputes that arose over the congestion around the lock area. Sawdust from the mill on the bank collecting in the river was also a problem.

1868 ... Boyd once again considered increasing the capacity of the sawmill but needed an assured source of raw material to make it worthwhile. Boyd again looked to increasing his cutting rights. He was uneasy with Crown limits



A raft of logs being put through the locks at Fenlon Falls.

*From "Timber Empire" by Grace Barker.  
Original courtesy of Parks Canada.*

which were licensed on a yearly basis. Boyd finally paid Need for the property he has been renting since 1844. Boyd had taken family members into the expanding business, allocating to them key personnel positions to handle the shipment and sale of sawn lumber in the United States.

1869 ... A company was set up at Port Hope (Irwin and Boyd) to handle trans-shipment of lumber to Oswego and Albany, New York. James Irwin was Boyd's son-in-law. Mossom's eldest son Gardiner was the Boyd referred to in this company. He also brought his nephew John MacDonald into the Bobcaygeon office to learn the rudiments of the business. John MacDonald married Mossom's daughter Caroline, and thus became his son-in-law. September 30<sup>th</sup>, 1869 Boyd signed an agreement with the Canada Land and Emigration Co. of London, England, which gave him cutting rights for an assured time limit of ten years on parts of nine northern townships (now in the Haliburton Highlands). On the strength of this agreement, Mossom Boyd decided to once again up-date and increase the capacity of the Bobcaygeon sawmill.

1870 ... Newly expanded sawmill was ready for operation but a season of low water presented problems. The first drive of logs from the Haliburton limits was late getting down to the mill and the water levels in the river had sunk so low they were not able to generate enough power to run the newly expanded sawmill.

1871 ... Another season of low water, hampering efficient use of the mill. Boyd worked at putting in some reservoir dams in the north to help exert some control over water-levels on the Trent waterway.

1872 .... Slump in the market for sawn lumber in the United States.

1874 ... Boyd reported that this was the worst year of his entire career. The market for sawn lumber remained sluggish. Demand for squared timber was off at Quebec City, snow was too deep in the woods to allow felling the usual quota of logs. Finances severely strained.

1874 ... The Huron Trent Valley Canal Company was formed, with Mossom Boyd as President. The government had abandoned its plans to complete a canal to Lake Huron, and a small group had obtained a charter to privately finance and build the canal.

1888 ... Gristmill sold to William Needler of Lindsay. Also a Public Auction of Pure Bred Angus cattle at Dexter Park. Chicago. May 23 & 24 . 1888.

1889 .... Boyd office building completed.

1890 ... Charter granted to Bobcaygeon, Lindsay & Pontypool Railway Company ... M.M.Boyd, President.

1893 .... Napoleon Bonaparte, the buffalo herd sire was brought to the farm from Monterey, California.

1905 .... Steamship service drops off following the coming of the railway.

1894 ... *Esturion* wired for electricity and given a powerful searchlight.

1896 ... Emphasis on TVN Company. *Esturion* rebuilt. New 54 foot screw yacht named the *Calumet* was built.

1897 ... rebuilt *Esturion* launched April 3, 1897. Hull constructed with tamarack ribs and white oak planking. Inherited boiler and upper works from the old steamer but new 38h.p. engine installed.

1903 .... TVN has four ships operating ... Esturion, Manita (right), Ogemah and Empress ... also one tug ... the Ajax replacing the Beaubocage ... Manita was licenced to carry 150 passengers. Sawmill closed down.

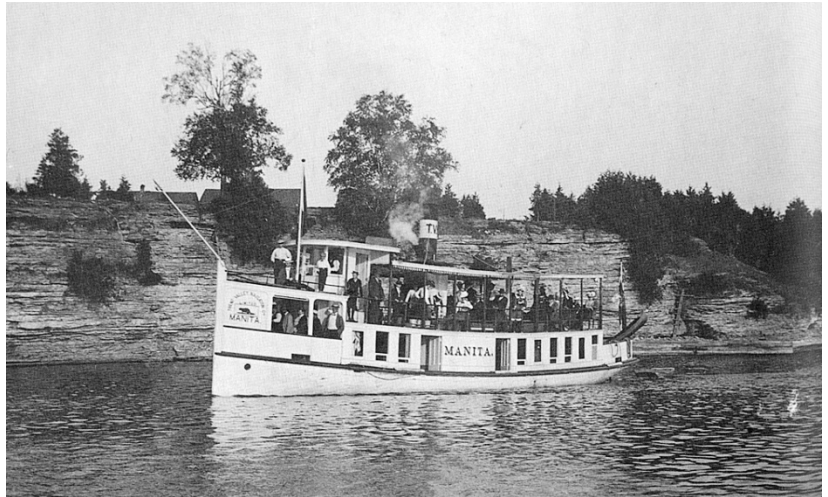
1904 ... The train arrives ... Power plant built on old mill site. The townspeople had electric lights in their homes.

1907 ... First public sale of Polled Hereford cattle 12 bulls and 5 heifers; sale scheduled for June 20th. Delay in rail transport ... rescheduled for July 9th. at Kanakee. Illinois.

1912 ... Trying to sell the TVN Co.

1914 ... Mossom Martin dies. War breaks out. Young Boyd family members went off to serve their country ... many of them did not return.

Business focus centres around business interests in the West. Willie dies in 1919 and the central control from the Bobcaygeon office becomes fragmented.



The Boyd Steamer the Manita.  
From *"Timber Empire"* by Grace Barker.  
Original courtesy of Parks Canada.