

# Historically Speaking

The Newsletter of the Cobourg and District

Historical Society

November 2022 — Issue 335

## Tales of Life in Prince Edward County and Cobourg

Janet Kellough has written and appeared in numerous stage productions that feature a fusion of storytelling and music. As well, she is the author of seven books in the Ontario history based Thaddeus Lewis Mystery Series, the fifth book of which, *Wishful Seeing* was short-listed for the 2017 Crime Writers of Canada Arthur Ellis Best Novel Award and subsequently developed into a play of the same name by Ontario's 4<sup>th</sup> Line Theatre. She has also written two contemporary novels and the speculative fiction thriller *The Bathwater Conspiracy*, which was nominated for a 2019 Alberta Book Publishing Award.

As a storyteller, Janet released two CDs – *Swear On My Mother's Grave*, a collection of Prince Edward County tales; and *Fowke Tales: Live at Lang*, a journey into the roots of Ontario folk music.



Janet will lead a discussion on using local setting, period detail and documented historical characters to add authenticity to historical fiction, and explore how fiction can be used to illuminate and generate interest in local history.

Join us on Tuesday, November 22, in Victoria Hall. Doors open at 7:00 PM for coffee and cookies. The meeting begins at 7:30 PM. Guests are always welcome. Admission, including refreshments, is free for members and \$5 for non-members. All are welcome so bring a friend or two. See you on Tuesday, November 22!

## Our Previous Meeting: If These Walls Could Talk

It started out as a straightforward architectural inventory of Hamilton Township's older buildings; the township had never catalogued its heritage. In 2016, Tom Cruickshank proposed that he was the person to do it. Retired from a career in journalism, he has an abiding interest in local history and heritage architecture which is a subject that he has pursued in five widely praised books.



Tom proposed to document all the farmhouses, bridges, churches and schoolhouses as a kind of archive of Hamilton's history. As he started to tour the backroads and villages along the way, the project quickly took on a life of its own. In addition to cataloguing the wonderful architecture of the township, he also dove into family histories, newspaper searches and genealogical accounts. Now and then, some peculiar facts and even some family secrets emerged. Although Tom's talk focused on the heritage architecture, it also veered into personal histories and news events from the 19<sup>th</sup> century. After all, what's more interesting: a slide show of pretty houses or a slide show of pretty houses that have stories to tell?

If you would like to learn more about the architectural heritage of Hamilton Township there is considerable information online. For an interactive map with house photos go to: <https://storymaps.arcgis.com/stories/2710d822564c4308a132fb3fc8211ef1>. Details of a self-guided tour is available at <https://www.hamiltontownship.ca/en/township-office/resources/Documents/Self-Guided-Tour.pdf>



# CDHS 2023 Program

Tuesday, January 24, 2023

## **The History of the Ontario Car Ferry**

Our speaker, Peter Delanty, is a former Cobourg Mayor, Principal, and recipient of the Governor General's Caring Canadian Award. His past and continuing commitment to many organizations and causes, include his position as Treasurer in 1980 at the newly minted Cobourg and District Historical Society

Tuesday, February 28, 2023

## **Sir Winston Churchill:-His Life and Accomplishments**

A study of Churchill's ninety years of life show him to be a true Renaissance Man. He had a huge breadth of existence not only as a WWII leader but as an author, painter, bricklayer, pilot, horseman and all with a notable wit! Learn the myths and truisms from the Chairman of the Canadian Society, Randy Barber

Tuesday, March 28, 2023

## **More than a Foote: Canadian Women You Should Know About**

Celebrating International Women's Month, speaker Karin Wells' new book is aptly titled for this month's celebration of women. Karin highlights women from the area including Canada's first astrophysicist and a Dr. who discovered treatment for Hodgkins Lymphoma, as well as several others. Karin has included Mina Benson Hubbard whose story she presented last year as the first chapter and will share new source material with us. This is an opportunity to celebrate women who have made a difference.

Tuesday, April 25, 2023

## **HMCS Cobourg**

Our distinguished speaker, Roger Litwiller, is a Canadian author, historian and lecturer. He has written the books, *White Ensign Flying* and *Warships of the Bay of Quinte* as well as articles for magazines and newspapers. HMCS Cobourg was a modified Flower-class corvette that served with the Royal Canadian Navy during the Second World War. She fought primarily in the Battle of the Atlantic as a convoy escort. She was named for Cobourg, Ontario.

**FRIDAY, May 26, 2023**

## **Social and Trivia Night**

Join us for our end of season get-together and since COVID, our first in-person Trivia Night and Social. Sit with members and friends at tables and enjoy trivia covering trivia in all categories from local to Canadian questions, while enjoying a drink and treats. Details will follow.

## In Memoriam:

**Donald Maxwell Fowler, November 7, 1925—April 22, 2022**

*Carla Jones*

Through November, CDHS members remember families and friends of those who died in military service, and honour those who served in wartime.

In January 2019, Captain Donald M. Fowler (Retired) joined the Cobourg and District Historical Society and as he resided in Brockville, I called to thank him for his membership and asked why he had joined our Society.

We discussed his Metis background and that he was a teenage soldier having signed up at the age of 14! Several emails later, we discovered his connection to Cobourg was through his



Second World War veteran Donald Fowler, 91, wearing his medal-adorned Metis buckskin jacket, holds a copy of Dan Black and John Boileau's second book *Too Young Too Die: Canada's Boy Soldiers, Sailors and Airmen of the Second World War on Friday*. Fowler was 14 when he signed up in 1940.

ancestors, the Corrigan family, Jacob Corrigan, a 50 year HBC Officer, Captain Fowler's 3 times grandfather, whose residence is still standing, a beautiful home on the hill at William Street.

Captain Fowler's three times grandmother, daughter of "Mistigoose", was Mary Goodwin Corrigan, died at age 35 and buried at Martin Falls HBC post in September 1823. His biography as the Lead Elder of the Council of the First Metis People of Canada can be read at <https://mnoc.ca/english/donald-m-fowler-2/>

Another connection to CDHS, found in *CDHS Historical Review 26*, page 35, is an article written by our very own Cath Oberholtzer called "Nineteenth Century Fur Trade Families of the Cobourg Area". An excerpt from Dr. Oberholtzer's article follows:

April, 2009

Nineteenth-Century Fur Trade Families of the Cobourg Area  
by Cath Oberholtzer

Many years ago I was told a story about fur trader Jacob Corrigan's native wife who, homesick for the north, erected a tepee in the living room of their Cobourg home. It is certainly true that Jacob Corrigan retired to Cobourg after many years working in the North. However, his Cree wife died 17 years before he settled in the south, and if indeed a tepee had been erected, it more likely would have been outside. The story indicates – at least to me – that it was intended to reinforce (and continues to reinforce) local knowledge that Corrigan's wife was "Indian" and that their children carried her bloodline. This story, and the fact that a Scottish-born Hudson Bay Company trader and his mixed-heritage children had settled in Cobourg, intrigued me."

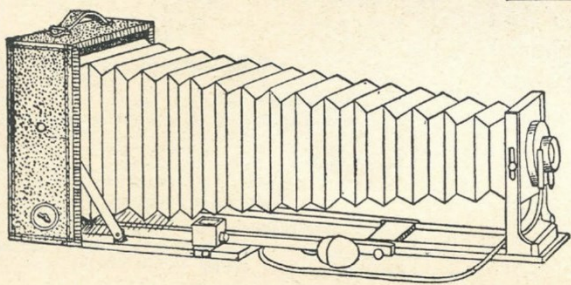
To read more of Dr. Oberholtzer's article, go to <https://cdhs.ca/images/reviews/Historical-Review26-2008-2009.pdf> and scroll to page 35.

Sadly Captain Donald M. Fowler (Donn to us here at CDHS) passed in April of this year.

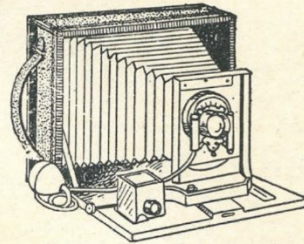
Abigail Miller of Northumberland County Archives put it best when she stated "we regret he was unable to complete his research with us, but I feel privileged to have been able to learn about his work, his incredible story and his ancestors in Cobourg."

## **1901 Eaton's Catalogue**

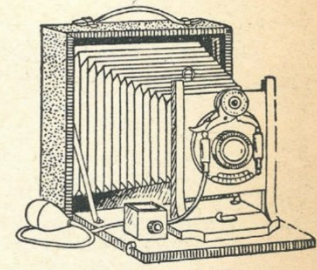
Today almost everyone carries a quality camera with virtually free colour film. Looking through the *1901 Eaton's Catalogue* reminds us how much things have changed in slightly over a century. A century ago most cameras were large and heavy contraptions that required considerable skills to operate. Taking a picture was not just clicking the shutter. Although cameras using roll film were available, many cameras still used sheet film. The individual



Tele-Photo Cycle Poco C.



Cycle Poco, No. 1.



Cycle Poco No. 3.

## Cameras and Photographic Supplies.

Tele-photo Cycle Poco C, is designed especially for lenses with more than one focus, and with the extreme length of draw, all regular lenses now on the market can be used with double and triple focus. The bed is made in three sections, each supplied with rack and pinion focusing attachment. The box is mahogany, covered with morocco grain leather, bellows is of red russia leather, rising and falling front, reversible back, having swing-back attachment or movement. The complete camera is fitted with the Auto shutter, with finger and pneumatic release, setting itself automatically on either time or instantaneous exposure. This shutter is fitted with the Tele-photo three-focus lens. One double plate-holder and sole leather carrying case accompanies each camera. Size, 4 x 5, \$30.00; 5 x 7, \$35.00; plate-holder, 4 x 5, 75c; 5 x 7, \$1.00.

Tele-Photo Cycle Poco B is a long focus instrument, having the Auto shutter, working automatically at any desired speed. The lens is the Tele-Photo Poco three-focus lens, the front lens of which can be removed and the back combination used alone when taking objects at a distance, whereby the image is nearly doubled in size. Then the swings and combinations allow of the pictures being taken in almost any position. An olive color

Cycle Poco No. 1 is, without a doubt, the finest camera of the season for cyclists and tourists. It is such a splendid instrument for carrying around, being unique in its completeness. This camera has all the adjustments of the less compact cameras. It is fitted with the Auto shutter, with Iris diaphragm, and the celebrated Rochester symmetrical lens, which is rectilinear and free from distortion. It is enclosed in a sole-leather carrying case, having a second compartment for plate-holders; the 4 x 5 will carry 5 double plate-holders, while the other sizes will contain four. Each camera is provided with one double plate-holder. Price, 4 x 5, \$25.00; 5 x 7, \$28.00; 6 1/2 x 8 1/2, \$42.00. Double plate-holders, 4 x 5, 75c; 5 x 7, \$1.00; 6 1/2 x 8 1/2, \$1.50.

Cycle Poco No. 2 is one of the most popular cameras which we sell, having all the features of a first-class camera that are essential, viz: rising front, two tripod plates for horizontal or vertical pictures, rack and pinion, reversing finder and level, Unicum shutter with Iris diaphragm, with finger and pneumatic release bulb and hose attached. The shutter is fitted with the high-grade Rochester symmetrical lens. An olive-brown carrying case for camera and plate-holders, along with one double plate-holder, completes this outfit. Price, complete as above, 4 x 5, \$20.00; 5 x 7, \$24.00. Extra plate-holders as No. 1.

Cycle Poco No. 3 is a first-class camera and very popular. The rack and pinion are not on this

holders are the same as for No. 1. Price, 4x5, complete, \$14.00; 5 x 7, \$19.00.

Cycle Poco No. 4 is a new style of camera, meeting requirements hitherto not provided for. It combines the principal features of the No. 4, having rapid rectilinear lens with the Gem shutter. This can also be obtained with single achromatic lens. Each camera is complete in carrying case, sectioned for camera on one end and plate-holder on the other. One double plate-holder goes with each camera. Price, complete with rapid rectilinear lens, 4 x 5, \$11.00; 5 x 7, \$15.00.

Cycle Poco No. 5. We expect that this will be the greatest seller we will handle this year. The camera is made with reversible back, allowing change from vertical to horizontal without changing the focus when once obtained. A rising and falling front, as well as rack and pinion for focusing. There is also a view finder and level, and a popular Unicum shutter with Iris diaphragm, finger and pneumatic release, all classes of action; ball or instantaneous exposure, and speed of shutter from 1-100 to 1 second, as well as bulb and time exposure. A rapid rectilinear lens, of double combination and exceptional quality for its class, is fitted to this shutter. A double plate-holder and combination case accompanies each camera. Extra plate-holders as No. 1. Price, 4 x 5, \$15.00; 5 x 7, \$20.00.

Poco Folding Camera, Series A, has all the movements that are at all required for the

sheets of film came in boxes containing, typically, 12 sheets. These had to be removed in darkness and inserted into film holders. To take a picture the photographer composed and focused the desired image on a ground glass at the back of the camera, inserted the film holder into the camera, removed a slide that prevented light from entering the holder, clicked the shutter, re-inserted the slide and removed the film holder. The process was not yet over! The photographer had to remove the film from the holder in a darkroom, process the film in several liquids – developer, stop bath, fixer – then wash and allow the film to dry. Still no usable photograph. Time to return to the darkroom to make prints!

PHOTOGRAPHIC SUNDRIES.										No. 1 To 150 c
DRY PLATES.										No. 2 To 30c c
THE PRICE IS FOR 1 DOZEN PLATES.										Re
	3 1/2 x 4 1/2	3 1/2 x 3 1/2	3 1/2 x 5 1/2	3 1/2 x 4 1/2	4 x 5	4 1/2 x 6 1/2	5 x 7	5 1/2 x 8	6 1/2 x 8 1/2	8 x 10
New York Record	22c	30c	35c	50c	65c	80c	81.00	\$1.50	\$2.25	
" Crescent	22c	30c	35c	50c	65c	80c	81.00	\$1.50	\$2.25	
" Harvard	22c	30c	35c	50c	65c	80c	81.00	\$1.50	\$2.25	
Lumiere (extra rapid)	22c	30c	35c	50c	65c	80c	81.00	\$1.50	\$2.25	
Standard	22c	30c	35c	50c	65c	80c	81.00	\$1.50	\$2.25	
" Non-sensitized	22c	30c	35c	50c	65c	80c	81.00	\$1.50	\$2.25	
" Orthochromatic	22c	30c	35c	50c	65c	80c	81.00	\$1.50	\$2.25	
Hammer	22c	30c	35c	50c	65c	80c	81.00	\$1.50	\$2.25	
Orthon	22c	30c	35c	50c	65c	80c	81.00	\$1.50	\$2.25	
Transparency	40c	50c	55c	80c	90c	1.40	2.00	2.50	3.00	
				45c	65c	1.10	1.50	2.00	2.50	
<b>DEVELOPING AND TONING TRAYS.</b> Celluloid, 3 1/2 x 4 1/2, 13c; 4 x 5, 15c; 5 x 7, 20c; 5 x 8, 25c; 8 x 10, 40c. Composition trays, 3 1/2 x 4 1/2, 13c; 4 x 5, 15c; 5 x 7, 20c. Xylophen, with lifter, 3 1/2 x 4 1/2, 35c; 4 x 5, 30c; 4 1/2 x 6 1/2, 35c.										
<b>PHOTOGRAPHIC PAPERS.</b> By the Gross or Packet. A few of the smaller sizes of some papers have 2 dozen sheets in a packet.										
	3 1/2 x 4 1/2	3 1/2 x 3 1/2	3 1/2 x 5 1/2	4 x 5	4 x 6	4 1/2 x 6 1/2	5 x 7	5 1/2 x 8	6 1/2 x 8 1/2	8 x 10
Velox, Glossy or Mat	\$1.50	\$1.50	\$2.00	\$2.00	\$2.00	...	\$3.50	...	...	...
Velox, Glossy or Mat	15c	15c	25c	25c	25c	...	35c	...	...	...
Velox Special-gross	...	...	...	...	...	...	\$2.00	...	...	...
Argo Carbon gross	...	...	...	...	...	...	\$1.50	...	...	...
Portrait Mat. doz	...	...	...	...	...	...	15c	...	...	...
Disco gross	...	...	...	...	...	...	\$1.30	...	...	...
Albums gross	...	...	...	...	...	...	2 doz., 20c	...	...	...
Albums gross	\$1.15	\$1.15	\$1.30	\$1.30	\$1.30	...	\$1.25	...	...	...
Albums gross	2 doz., 30c	2 doz., 30c	...	...	...	...	30c	...	...	...
Etching Mat. Heavy	30c	30c	...	...	...	...	60c	...	...	...
Thin Smooth Etching Mat	35c	35c	...	...	...	...	45c	...	...	...
French Satin, Juntins of 25 sheets	30c	30c	...	...	...	...	40c	...	...	...
Nepers Bromide doz	15c	15c	...	...	...	...	35c	...	...	...
Cyko Mat gross	\$1.10	\$1.10	...	...	...	...	\$3.00	...	...	...
Portrait doz	15c	15c	...	...	...	...	30c	...	...	...
Water Tone doz	35c	35c	...	...	...	...	60c	...	...	...
Rein Glossy doz	\$1.10	\$1.10	...	...	...	...	\$1.30	...	...	...
Gelatine Paper 2 doz., 30c	2 doz., 30c	2 doz., 30c	...	...	...	...	25c	...	...	...

# The 1911 Heat Wave Was So Deadly It Drove People Insane

Today's media is filled with apocalyptic stories of how a 1.8°F increase in temperatures will cause massive disruptions and deaths. With the litany of news stories that tomorrow will be the hottest or coldest day ever, it is easy to forget that the lack of air conditioning made things far worse 100 years ago. The stories ignore that the July 1911 heat wave killed thousands of New Englanders and sent many over the brink of madness.

The following material is a condensation of a publication of the New England Historical Society.



During 11 hellish days, horses dropped in the street and babies didn't wake up from their naps. Boats in Providence Harbor oozed pitch and began to take on water. Tar in the streets bubbled like hot syrup. Trees shed their leaves, grass turned to dust and cows' milk started to dry up.

In every major northeastern city, the sweltering heat drove people to suicide.

On July 4, temperatures hit 103 in Portland, 104 in Boston (a record that still stands), 105 in Vernon, Vt., and 106 in Bangor, Maine. At least 200 died from drowning, trying to cool off in rivers, lakes, ponds and the ocean – anything wet. Still more died from heat stroke. The 1911 heat wave was possibly the worst weather disaster in New England's history, with estimates of the death toll as high as 2,000.

June weather had been normal that year, but in July hot, dry air from the southern plains flowed into Canada and then swept south and toward the coast. The hot wind suppressed cool ocean breezes, and the temperature rose 11 degrees in a half hour in Providence.

In Hartford, crowds gathered around the Thermograph near City Hall to watch as the temperature fluctuated between 110 and 112 degrees in the shade. In Cumberland, R.I., the

thermometer hit 130. A farmer in Woodbury left his field when the temperature reached 140 degrees in the sun.

Ice and electric fans were luxuries, air conditioning was unknown. Pedestrians fainted from the stifling heat. At night, the streets filled with exhausted mothers walking up and down, trying to comfort their crying babies. They feared leaving them in their beds, lest they fail to wake up. One police officer described the night during the 1911 heat wave as a “giant wail.”

The City of Hartford flushed fire hydrants and ferries and trolleys allowed people to ride free. Some rode all day. Others went round and round on carousel horses for the slight breeze. Throughout the region, factories closed and mail delivery was suspended.

Parks and beaches were opened for sleeping. In tenement slums, the sidewalks were lined with blankets and mattresses. Sleeping outside had its dangers, as thieves commonly stole hats, coats and wallets.



Visit <https://www.newenglandhistoricalsociety.com/the-1911-heat-wave-was-so-deadly-it-drove-people-insane/> to learn more about the miseries of this heat wave.

# Member Matters

## New Members

Please join me in welcoming our newest CDHS members:

- John, Maureen and Carolyn Crofts (Family membership)
- Barb Pellow (Individual membership)
- Cliff and Grace Rivers (Family membership)

## Announcements

### Hastings County Historical Society

*Invites You to a Public Presentation*

### Learning to Love Lockdown: How the Community Archives Unleashed its Collections

With Archivist Amanda Hill

The Community Archives of Belleville and Hastings County was established in 2010 and is the home for the documentary heritage of our region. In 2016 the archives were moved into a new facility in the Belleville Public Library building.

Archivist Amanda Hill will provide insights into the work of the Community Archives since the move, including an update on the projects to share more than 100 years of Hastings County newspapers and 15,000 historic photographs online.



Amanda trained as an archivist in England in the 1990s and was employed at Canterbury Cathedral Archives, the Essex Record Office and the Universities of Oxford and Manchester. She immigrated to Canada in 2007 and has worked here for the Town of Deseronto and the Archives Association of Ontario. In 2015 she became the archivist for the Community Archives of Belleville and Hastings County.

**Date:** Tuesday November 15, 2022  
**Time:** 7:30 p.m.  
**Location:** Maranatha Church,  
100 College Street West, Belleville



Enter by main front doors. The presentation is in the main auditorium, which allows for plenty of spacing between seats.



## CDHS Executive for 2021 – 2022

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