

# Historically Speaking

The Newsletter of the Cobourg and  
District Historical Society

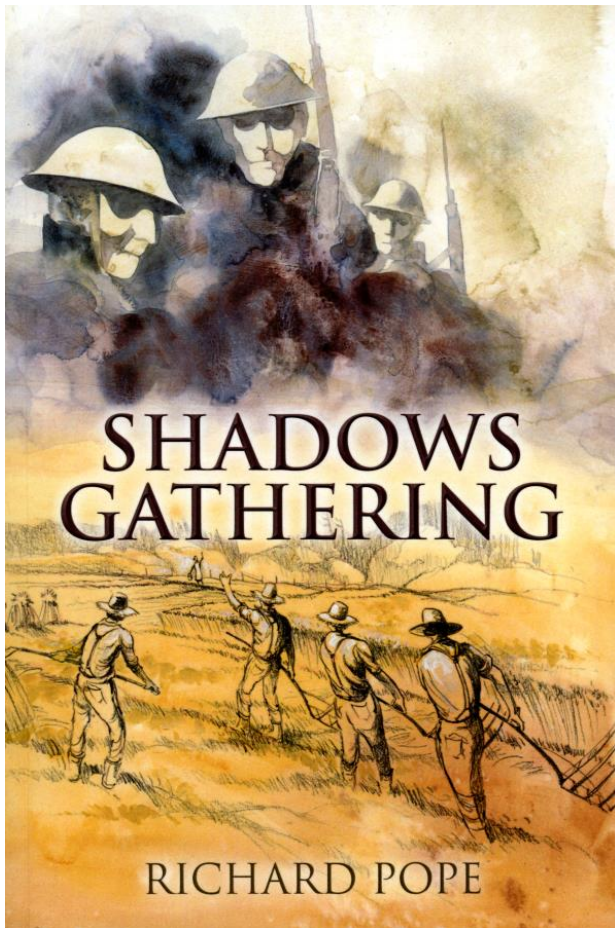
October 2014 — Issue 268

## Dr. King's Grim Tale

Dan Buchanan will be our guest in October and will give a talk titled "The Dr. King Story". Dan grew up on a farm north of Codrington, and now lives in Brighton. He is an avid historian and genealogist who publishes much of his research online at [www.treesbydan.com](http://www.treesbydan.com). The Dr. King Story is of particular interest to Dan because the notorious murderer was a distant cousin and lived on the same farm near Codrington where Dan grew up. In fact, Dr. King was buried in the front yard of that same house. Dan's research into the life and circumstances of Dr. King includes a rich and fascinating history of the people of Brighton in the late 1850s.

The meeting begins at 7:30pm on Tuesday, October 28. Everyone is encouraged to arrive early to enjoy coffee, tea and cookies. Take this opportunity to reconnect with members you haven't seen since the spring, catch up with friends, and introduce yourself to a new member. This is a meeting not to be missed. Visitors are welcome.

## Our Previous Meeting



Local historian, naturalist and author Richard Pope kicked off our new season with readings from his latest book, *Shadows Gathering*. The setting is Haliburton-Muskoka at the turn of the last century. A gifted writer, Richard has captured the language, homes, work and hardscrabble existence of the era.

We heard about the interesting twist of fate that occasioned the author's discovery that a

treasure trove of information was waiting to be uncovered in his cottage backyard, so to speak, but he had to be in another country to find this out!



# Membership Matters

## ***Membership Renewal***

All memberships not yet renewed are past due. Please mail your dues and membership renewal form to Alma Draper, 10 Madison Street, Cobourg, ON, K9A 5R2. You can also pay your dues at our October meeting.

## ***Historical Review***

Alison Torrie Lapaire would greatly appreciate help with preparing our *Historical Review* for publication. She is very busy with her job and does not have the time to do it alone. If you are willing to help, please contact Alison at [alisontorrie@gmail.com](mailto:alisontorrie@gmail.com). She will be grateful!

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

This season we will once again feature our popular sale of history-related books. Please look through your bookshelves for any books you no longer want and make room for others you may want to buy! Bring them to the October meeting for the sale to be held in November. Your generous donations will assist with our historical society's operating costs.

# Historical Trivia Night

The Cobourg and District Historical Society's third annual Trivia Night will be on Friday, November 21 at 7:30pm at the Legion Village Pub, 111 Hibernia Street in Cobourg. There will be nibbles, 50/50 Draw and a cash bar. Tickets are \$2 per person for CDHS members and \$4 per person for visitors. Seating is limited so you can purchase tickets in advance by phoning Carla at 289-829-0003.



## For Sale

A recent realtor's showing afforded a rare opportunity to see the interior of one of the oldest homes in Cobourg. The house at 148 Durham Street was built by James Calcutt around 1832 and was one of the first brick homes in Cobourg. Calcutt was born in Ireland in 1792. His skill at brewing enhanced his fortunes until a political



misstep forced him to quickly emigrate to Cobourg. He setup a brewery in Cobourg and became quite wealthy. Numerous stories, many probably considerably exaggerated, developed around Calcutt's house and the family fortunes. Among the many stories were reports that an Irish assassin was found dead on the Cobourg beach, an escape tunnel was built between the Durham Street house and a house at the current site of the Breakers Motel and that much of the interior woodwork was originally part of a Scottish castle.



The pictures show the rubble-strewn crawlspace that supposedly leads to the entrance of the "escape tunnel" and some of the interior and exterior details that are still extant.



## Burning Questions

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

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

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

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

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

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

## Announcements

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

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



### **Future of the Past**

The Northumberland Learning Connection is sponsoring a series of lectures on archaeology on October 23, October 30, November 6, November 13, November 20 and November 27. All lectures are from 7:30pm to 9:30pm at the Columbus Community Centre, 232 Spencer St. E., Cobourg. For further details visit <http://northumberlandlearningconnection.ca/currentprogram.htm> or phone (905)349-3402.

### **Lakeshore Genealogical Society**

The Lakeshore Genealogical Society has scheduled the following meetings:

- October 9        *Maritime history in Kingston and Cobourg* presented by guest speaker Ron Walsh
- November 13    *Locked in the Library* is a presentation organized by the library staff to familiarize everyone with the 1921 Canadian Census
- December 11    *The Dr. King Story* presented by guest speaker Dan Buchanan

All meetings are from 6:30pm in the Rotary Room, Cobourg Public Library, C. Gordon King Centre, 200 Ontario St., Cobourg. Visitors are welcome.

### **Municipal Heritage Symposium**

A symposium on Building a Municipal Heritage Register will be held on Saturday, October 18th, 2014 from 9:30am – 4:00pm in Victoria Hall, Cobourg. For details see the website at <http://www.cobourg.ca/municipal-heritage-symposium-october-18-2014.html>

### **The Breakaway**

Friends of Hilton Hall will present *The Breakaway*, a story of the natural disaster that happened near Hilton on April 21, 1852. Gravel banks holding back a small lake gave way and flooded Breakaway Creek, killing two men and destroying a sawmill. The flood also damaged The Old Percy Road, which necessitated the building of a new road. Dan Buchanan will reprise his presentation of 2012 when he first told this story to a packed house at Hilton Hall. This time, there is new information and a new historical plaque. After the presentation, we will move down the road to Breakaway Creek to dedicate the new Breakaway Historical Plaque. Visit the Hilton Hall Heritage Centre, 50 Chatten Rd. (east off CR 30 north of Hwy 401) on October 19 at 1:30 pm.

### **World War I Tribute**

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

## Websites

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

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

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

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

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

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

1878 Northumberland County Atlas in Google Earth:

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

## CDHS Executive for 2014 – 2015

President	Judith Goulin	<a href="mailto:jgoulin@hotmail.com">jgoulin@hotmail.com</a> (905) 372-7684
Past President	Ken Strauss	<a href="mailto:ken.strauss@pebblebeach.ca">ken.strauss@pebblebeach.ca</a> (905) 377-9854
Vice-President	Ken Willcocks	<a href="mailto:kenwillcocks@hotmail.com">kenwillcocks@hotmail.com</a> (905) 377-1309
Secretary	Carla Jones	<a href="mailto:cgrucelajones@gmail.com">cgrucelajones@gmail.com</a> (289) 252-1684
Treasurer	Marilyn Harris	<a href="mailto:robertharris7456@gmail.com">robertharris7456@gmail.com</a> (905) 373-7024
Membership	Alma Draper	<a href="mailto:adraper8@cogeco.ca">adraper8@cogeco.ca</a> (905) 372-5839
Programme Chairperson	Alison Torrie Lapaire	<a href="mailto:alisontorrie@gmail.com">alisontorrie@gmail.com</a> (905) 269-8094
Programme Committee Members	Carla Jones Marie Jones Elaine Rostetter Saunders Judith Goulin	
Member-at-Large	Leona Woods	<a href="mailto:leonawoods@sympatico.ca">leonawoods@sympatico.ca</a> (905) 372-7624
Newsletter Editor	Ken Strauss	<a href="mailto:ken.strauss@pebblebeach.ca">ken.strauss@pebblebeach.ca</a> (905) 377-9854