President’s Report
by George Neville

In the September 2015 Newsletter, I reported on the skills and knowledge brought to the HSO Board of Directors by new Directors following their election at the 2015 Annual General Meeting. James Powell has taken to modification of the HSO website with alacrity, and by the time that you are reading this note, major new features of the website will be seen in addition to maintaining the best of the past. Jennifer Stelzer organized and conducted a much appreciated autumn excursion to the Kitigan Zibi Anishinabeg Cultural Education Centre and held promise of continuing as the Tours Chair until the reality of a new job opportunity was seized that precludes her attendance at monthly Board day meetings. Ian Badgley, Member-at-Large, is a great resource person with valuable contacts, but his employment as sole Archivist with the NCC limits his ability to attend HSO Board meetings regularly. George Shirreff, Pro Tem Vice President, has organized a distinctive HSO celebration of Canada’s 150th Anniversary of Confederation with a gala event in the Diefenbunker on Wed., 29th May 2017 – more on that later – and you will hear him speak about Ottawa on Screen at our April 29th monthly meeting.

Major transitions for the HSO and its Board of Directors are in the offering for this year’s AGM on 27th May 2016. Your president of the past 5 years will be retiring office to take up the post of Past President on expectation that George Shirreff will stand and be elected as HSO President. At this May's AGM, Margaret Back, Secretary; Kery Peterson-Beaubien, Treasurer; Arthur Beaubien, HSO Newsletter Editor, and Jennifer Stelzer, Member-at-Large, will be also retiring; hence, there is great need for members to rise to the positions of Secretary, Treasurer, and Tours Chair. With Ed Bebee, Publications Chair, living close to family in Cobourg since last autumn, inevitably his replacement will be sought, but we are managing to operate well digitally at a distance. Likewise, new arrangements and an Editor for the Newsletter are needed. The HSO needs you to step forward to maintain its cherished and remarkable tradition since 1898!

In addition there are several behind-the-scenes activities that the Board of Directors will need to execute themselves or engage HSO members to perform for the regular conduct of the monthly meetings. The meeting room needs to be set up with chairs, projection equipment and screen, a long table set in front of the Salon blackboard (first cleaned of chalk dust) for refreshments, and another long table set against the rear wall near the coat rack for overflow of coats, etc., during cold weather. There will be need for someone to set up and pre-adjust output of the HSO’s portable sound system that Mary Edwards brings (and takes home) to each meeting (for how much longer?) and fit the speaker with the mini-collar microphone (as well as to pack up the components and maintain a reserve set of all batteries for every meeting). There is need to effect liaison for provision and operation of power-point/laptop computer equipment that Ron Elmer has kindly been providing the last 3 or more years. Lacking a member Newsletter Editor who will attend meetings to gather material and maintain a pulse on activities of the HSO, the Society needs someone to gather newsletter material and suggest layout to a technical editor who has enough software layout and photo enhancement expertise to put together the sophisticated newsletter that you have been receiving these past 6 years. These tasks just don't happen; they have to be done by someone; often it has been easier for the CEO to do them than to recruit and then have to verify them. In the short and long run, the Society is what you make of it!
The Historical Society of Ottawa

Patron: His Excellency the Right Honourable David Johnston, C.C., C.M.M., C.O.M., C.D.
Governor General of Canada

The Historical Society of Ottawa was founded in 1898 (as the Women's Canadian Historical Society of Ottawa). Its objective is to increase public knowledge of the history of Ottawa by its publications, meetings, tours, outreach and participation in local heritage events and also by its co-operation with the Bytown Museum, a store of artifacts reflecting Ottawa's history from Bytown days and into the present century. Its P.O. Box is shared with the Bytown Museum, Lt.-Col. By's Commissariat Building, constructed of stone in 1827 and located at 1 Canal Lane by the Rideau Canal between the Château Laurier and Parliament Hill.

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A note regarding Membership renewals - For regular members of The Historical Society of Ottawa, your renewal date is shown on your address label on this newsletter. Please check it and see that you are up-to-date. If not, a renewal form is available for you to photocopy on the last page of this newsletter, or just send us a cheque that shows your current address and phone number.

Coming Events

Friday, April 29
Speaker: George A. Sherriff
"Ottawa on Screen"
Routhier Community Centre*
1:00 p.m.

Friday, 27 May 2016
The Historical Society of Ottawa
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Time: 1:30 PM
Routhier Community Centre
Reports & Elections
Speaker: Hugh Reekie
Caledonia Springs Spa – Eastern Ontario's Hidden Secret

OTTAWA REGIONAL HERITAGE FAIR
(Official Sponsor- The HSO)
Tuesday, 19th April 2016
9:00 AM – 2:30 PM
Site: Canadian Museum of History

Come to view wonderful exhibits and chat with youthful exhibitors. Today’s youth need our support!

*Parking at the Routhier Community Centre - from Cumberland St., between St. Patrick St. and Guiges Ave.
HSO Speaker Profile for Monthly Meeting of April 2016

29 April 2016 - HSO Speaker:
George A. Shirreff - "Ottawa on Screen"

Abstract. Ottawa's roots in the history of motion pictures goes back to Edison and the very beginning of the industry and art form. This presentation will explore the contributions made by various individuals from the Holland Brothers in the late nineteenth century to modern film makers at work in the capital today. World famous institutions such as the National Film Board and Crawley Films began in Ottawa and were major influences in shaping the current landscape of Canadian Cinema.

Profile. Actor, teacher, writer and stage director, George Shirreff brings a variety of perspectives to the H.S.O. While working as an actor, which included roles at the G.C.T.C., N.A.C., C.H.R.O., and Eddie May Murder Mysteries, George started Lakeside Theatre School in Ottawa's west end in the early eighties. From there he moved on to Algonquin College where he was co-founder of the Theatre Arts Program in the Media and Design Dept. Later in the General Arts and Science Program, George was an academic advisor while teaching Film Studies, History, Media Communications and Political Science. His love of local history comes naturally as he is the direct descendent of Charles Shirreff of Scotland who founded Fitzroy Harbour in 1820. Now retired, George looks forward to his involvement at the H.S.O., volunteering in various political activities and furthering his hobby in miniature historical war gaming. George is a graduate of the University of Ottawa and lives in Nepean with his wife Hélène.

Report of January Meeting:
Bill McGee - Ridge Road
Settlers in the Gatineau, 1830-1907
by James Powell

At the January meeting of the Historical Society, Bill McGee gave a fascinating account of the early settlers along what was known as Ridge Road during the 19th and early 20th centuries in the Gatineau Hills. This area was later expropriated by the Federal District Commission (FDC), the forerunner of the National Capital Commission (NCC), in the late 1930s to form Gatineau Park. Ridge Road, the focus of McGee’s presentation, is not to be confused with the totality of the current Trail #1, sometimes called Ridge Road, currently in the Park. The settler's Ridge Road ran from Riley Road in the Township of Eardley in the west to Kingsmere, at or near Booth Hill, in the Township of Hull to the east, along part of today's Trail #1.

Using primary and secondary sources, McGee was able to identify the original owners or tenants of the land, and their families, many dating from the time of Philemon Wright, the American entrepreneur and farmer who established the first settlement in the National Capital Region during the early years of the 19th century. A key reference used by McGee was a book by Mrs. Sheila C. Thomson titled Recollections of Early Days in the Gatineau Hills. Published in 1965, the book draws on the stories of elderly residents of the area, and provides invaluable first-hand accounts of the life and times of the region during the 19th century. Other important sources included official census data, Chelsea tax records, church records, especially those of St. Stephen’s Catholic Church, which was established in 1845, government land grant records, the archives of the Gatineau Valley Historical Society, as well as internet genealogical sources, including Bytown or Bust, which can be found at http://www.bytown.net/.

McGee detailed the many challenges he faced dealing with often partial or conflicting information. In particular, early census data were often incomplete. It wasn’t until the early 20th century that addresses, which were previously provided in agricultural records, were combined with personal information contained in the population census. As well, census data did not always indicate the relationships of the people living at a particular address to each other. By contrast, church records, while useful in detailing family lineages, did not indicate where people lived. Similarly, tax records, ideal for determining the ownership of land, did not indicate whether the owner lived at that address, or rented it to somebody else. Added to such difficulties, the names and spellings of people could vary over time; even birth dates of known individuals might be inconsistent from census to census.
Notwithstanding such hurdles, McGee was able to distinguish with considerable accuracy the names of the original settlers along Ridge Road as well as successive generations, in some cases right up to when the land was purchased or expropriated by the FDC in the late 1930s. Some of the family names will be familiar to Ottawa residents, especially those that hike or ski in Gatineau Park. For example, Camp Fortune and Lac Fortune owe their name to Garett Fortune, the original owner of some of the property on which they are located. The name of the Keogan family, which owned several lots of land along the old Ridge Road, is today remembered by Keogan Cabin, a popular resting spot for hikers and skiers in the Park. Other families discussed included the Dunlops, McCloskeys, the Egans, the Ryans, and the Doyles.

One of the striking features of McGee’s presentation, was the fact that virtually all of the original settlers to the area were Irish, with most having been born in the late 18th or early 19th centuries. Most appeared to have been in their early 30s when they arrived in the Gatineau, indicative perhaps of the challenges of settling the Gatineau uplands; they need to be fit and hardy.

Settlers’ lots varied in size. The earliest settlers were typically given by the government or purchased lots of 200 acres. Later, the usual lot size was 100 acres. Many paid for the land over a twenty-year period. The settlers who did so were often called “five-percenters,” i.e. five percent per year. Farming these lots was difficult. Sitting on the Canadian Shield, Gatineau land is rocky and less fertile than land in the valley. The upside was that the land was not as heavily wooded, and hence could be cleared more easily than in the lowlands. Potatoes also did well in the leaf mould. McGee noted that the average Gatineau farm had 140 acres of land, of which 40 acres were improved, and 12 acres were used for pasture. Two acres could produce 130 bushels of potatoes. Undeveloped land was used to provide wood, on average 35 cords per year.

McGee recounted that most of the Ridge Road settlers were Roman Catholic. Consequently, St. Stephen’s Catholic Church in Chelsea was an important centre for both worship and community life. He added that while education was not compulsory in Quebec at this time, there were three schools in the area, one on Ridge Road on the Keogon property, another near Fox Farm Road near lac Trudel, and a third at lac Meech.

Since the establishment of Gatineau Park in 1938, McGee remarked that signs of its earlier inhabitants have largely vanished. While many of the roads once used by Gatineau settlers are now trails maintained by the NCC, and some of the openings in the forest canopy are vestiges of farmers’ fields, homes and farm buildings are long gone. Only traces of foundations are left in some places. Here and there, hikers today might also spot rock piles created by settlers when they prepared the land for the plough. Non-native species of shrubs and flowers blooming in out-of-the-way places also suggest once-cherished gardens.

At the conclusion of Bill McGee’s engaging presentation, there was a lively discussion on the reasons why Irish immigrants chose to settle and farm in the Gatineau. Given that many of the workers who built the Rideau Canal in the late 1820s were Irish, it was thought likely that settlers were drawn to the area when the canal was completed. Consistent with that hypothesis is the average age of the first settlers. Also, with most of the good farming land in the Ottawa Valley already occupied by American, English and Scottish immigrants, Irish settlers may have had little choice but to acquire higher, more marginal lands.
Demolition of the former Public Works building known as the Lorne Building was begun in the late summer of 2011. Located on Elgin St. between Slater and Albert streets, the Lorne Bldg. served for many years as the National Gallery before the latter acquired its new striking quarters on Sussex Dr. You may recall the three stuffed, shabby, moth-eaten camels that stood within a street-level window along Albert St.

“Public Works used a ‘lease-purchase approach’ to turn the outdated seven-storey office Lorne Bldg. with surface parking lot into a modern 17-storey government office tower [that became the new Finance Bldg. in June 2015]. Insurer Great-West Life won a contract in 2011 – worth $19.5 million in annual lease payments for 25 years – to design, construct, finance and manage the new building. Public Works will continue to own the site and will lease it to GWL for 25 years plus the allotted time for demolition and construction. The space will then, in turn, be subleased back to Public Works” (Ottawa Business Journal, Sept. 17, 2012)
Report of February Meeting:
David Jeanes – Ottawa
Railway History 1854 – 2018
by Jon Church

David Jeanes at the Ottawa Tremblay Railway Station. Photo courtesy David Jeanes.

David Jeanes, with his encyclopedic knowledge and passion for our region’s railway history, didn’t disappoint the crowd that filled the room for the Society’s February meeting. A true tour de force. Only a small portion of David’s talk can be summarized here. Readers can learn much, much more by going to the link below.

Two themes were central to David’s presentation; 1) the role railways played in the overall history and development of Ottawa, and in linking Canada’s Capital to destinations beyond; and 2) the role of local entrepreneurs and financial institutions in the creation of those railways.

At one time, 12 lines entered the National Capital Region. The first was the 54-mile-long Bytown and Prescott which commenced operations in late 1854, just weeks before Bytown became Ottawa. Among other passengers, it was popular with MPs coming to the new capital for the first time.

A different kind of railway, the first horse-drawn Ottawa City Passenger Railway, started service in 1870. Also in 1870, the Canada Central Railway built a line between Lebreton Flats and Carleton Place to connect with the Brockville & Ottawa Railway there, and with the intention to build farther west up the Ottawa Valley. The next year, the St. Lawrence & Ottawa Railway from Prescott, which originally ran via New Edinburgh to Sussex Street, built a branch line from near Walkley Rd. via a Dows Lake bridge to Lebreton Flats.

In 1877 the Quebec Montreal Ottawa & Occidental Railway started service along the north shore of the Ottawa River from Montreal and Lachute to Hull and across the river to Ottawa via the region’s first railway bridge. And by 1886, the CPR’s Transcontinental ran through Ottawa.

Other lines linked Ottawa to major American cities. As early as 1882, J. R. Booth’s Canada Atlantic enabled passengers to travel to Boston by overnight sleeping car. And by 1898, the Ottawa & New York Railway linked the Capital to NYC via Cornwall.

In addition to passengers, Booth’s Canada Atlantic Railway (which ran along what is today’s Queensway) and subsequently, his Ottawa, Amprior and Parry Sound Railway brought western grain and Ottawa Valley timber to Ottawa and on to tidewater ports.

Of course, railways are more than trains and tracks. David’s handout summarized the histories of stations, bridges and tunnels, roundhouses and workshops, the building of streetcars, and perhaps most important, the companies and entrepreneurs, many Ottawa-based, that made it all happen. Those railways brought jobs and economic development to many of the communities they served.

Unfortunately, Ottawa’s railway history also includes corporate mergers (resulting in today’s CNR and CPR), declines in business and services, and the loss of community-important jobs and economic activity. And beginning in 1939 with the taking up of the Montreal via Hawkesbury line, Ottawa’s rail history includes the abandonment of most lines reaching out from the Capital in all Directions. The CPR has not served Ottawa for more than a decade. Canadian National’s Ottawa Valley line was abandoned in 2013. In Ottawa, the 1950 Greber Plan resulted in the elimination of inner-city tracks and the relocation of the Union Station, then across from the Chateau Laurier, and another part of our rail history, to the current station in Alta Vista.

"Canada Atlantic locomotive 619 at speed", Canada Science and Technology Museum, Mattingly Collection, MATT-0674.

"Ottawa Union Station, opened 1912, closed 1966", Canada Science and Technology Museum, CN Collection, CN-000652.

David’s presentation concluded with a look at today’s VIA and O-Train services, complete with the 1965 tunnel under Dows Lake and still used today, and a look ahead to tomorrow’s LRT.

.....Cont'd page 10
Colonel By Memorial
27 May 1915

By James Powell

For history buffs, the Library and Archives Canada website (http://www.bac-lac.gc.ca) is an extraordinary resource with tens of thousands of fascinating photographs, including many of old Ottawa and its residents, readily available to anybody with internet access. Going through images of Major’s Hill Park on the site, I stumbled upon an interesting photograph taken on 27 May 1915 of HRH the Duke of Connaught, the Governor General, unveiling a bronze tablet memorial to Colonel John By. Unfamiliar with this event, a bit more digging in the archives of the Ottawa Citizen (also available on-line), revealed the story behind the picture. Prior to unveiling the famous statue of Samuel de Champlain at Nepean Point, the Governor General officiated at the unveiling of the bronze memorial set in the stone remains of Col. By’s house located at Major’s Hill Park. While the woman in the centre of the photograph is unidentified, she is most likely Mrs J.B. Simpson, the secretary of the Historic Landmarks Association, who handed the Governor General the cord that unveiled the memorial. The Association was responsible for the installation of the memorial to Colonel By.

At the ceremony, Dr William Wilfred Campbell, a noted Canadian Confederation poet, read a poem that he wrote expressly for the event. In it he wondered why Colonel By had not been honoured up until then for his contribution to the building of the Rideau Canal and the founding of Bytown. One of his verses read:

Then what of By of Bytown?
And why is his memory dim?
In all the sweep of your city wide
Does no monument rise to him?
The man who founded and made it,
One of our own staunch men.
Colonel, true, of the Engineers,
Who wrought with spade and pen.

After the unveiling of the memorial to Colonel By, the vice-regal party moved to Nepean Point for the official unveiling of the Champlain statue. At that ceremony, the outgoing President of the Royal Society of Canada, Sir Adolphe Routhier, spoke of Champlain and his contribution to the founding of Canada. (Routhier is famous for penning the original French words to O Canada. The Routhier Community Centre, where the Historical Society holds its monthly meetings, is named in his honour.)

Also unveiled at Nepean Point that day was a boundary marker that had been erected by the Women’s

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Nicholas Sparks Bicentennial

A group of descendants of Nicholas Sparks have planned a reunion at Christ Church Cathedral, Ottawa, to celebrate the 200th anniversary of his arrival in this area in 1816. A committee was formed and has scheduled the event for 3 days, from Friday, June 10th to Sunday, June 12th, 2016. A Facebook page has been set up on the internet that can be found by Googling “Nicholas Sparks 1816 Descendants”. An updated version of the book entitled Looking Back by Naomi Slater Heydon, which is now 30 years out of date, is in preparation.

Hugh Dale-Harris (613-745-5950)
REVEREND WILLIAM DURIE: A GOOD SAMARITAN 1804-1847
by Bryan Cook

Born in Glasgow, William Durie emigrated in 1846 when appointed by the Free Church of Scotland to St Andrew’s Presbyterian Church, Bytown. As a founding member of the Board of Health, he set aside sectarian bias and, with the Sisters of Charity and Fr. Michael Molloy, tended to the sick and dying during the 1847 typhus epidemic brought to Bytown by Irish immigrants from the potato famine. He too succumbed on 12 September 1847, and all Bytown mourned the loss of so selflessly compassionate a man. Public businesses were closed for his cortege and well-attended burial in Sandy Hill Cemetery.

When Sandy Hill Cemetery closed in 1873, Durie’s large limestone sarcophagus was re-erected in Beechwood Cemetery. It was restored and rededicated, for the Church’s 187th anniversary on September 28th, 2015, by its fourteenth Minister, Rev. Dr. Karen Dimock.

The photograph shows the weathering sarcophagus fronted by the headstone of Mary Elizabeth Locke, the wife of William’s nephew John Stewart Durie. William’s brother, John Durie (1813-1895), was a notable Bytown grocer (on Rideau St., Lower Town) and bookseller on Sparks Street. The latter also housed the meetings of the Canadian Bible Society for 65 years beginning in 1855; it still stands, bearing the sign "Bible House" sixty feet above the pedestrian mall.

The eroding sarcophagus inscription has been preserved on an adjacent granite memorial, ending with the words: "Let all readers of this inscription ponder the admonition of God’s Word from which on the last Sabbath of his ministry he addressed his flock: ‘Whatsoever thy hand findeth to do, do it with thy might; for there is no work nor device nor knowledge nor wisdom in the grave whither thou goest.’"

Naturally Bytown’s Bard, William Pittman Lett, penned a tribute to Rev. Durie on September 19th, 1847:

Over the warrior's blood-stain'd tomb
Fair laurel-wreath's immortal bloom;
The Poet and the Patriot true,
Receive the final requiem too
And sleep beneath the sad adieu
From love and sorrowing friendship riven;
And yet the Christian often dies
Unwept when vanish'd to the skies.

Mine be the task to twine a wreath
To blossom o'er the realm of death. Be mine the solemn task to tell,
Tho’ with its grief be mingled pleasure,
How gloriously the Christian fell
Ere time had filled the allotted measure,
And faded from material view
With blessings on his last adieu.

If blest religion’s gentle sway
Can guide the pilgrim on his way
Through sorrow, toil, and trouble here,
And cheer his loneliest hour of sadness
To yonder sempiternal sphere,
Whose very atmosphere is gladness,
Then may we hope, and not in vain,
He roams the amaranthine plain.

If Charity has power to charm
Her chosen dwelling place from harm;
If spotless deeds a record find
Beyond the barriers of the tomb
Where the enlarged immortal mind
Will burst to everlasting bloom!
Then may we hope his soul is where
The weary spirit rests from care.

If pure philanthropy is given
To man, an offering from heaven;
If fruits which spring from such a source,
Are ripen’d by the sun of love
And water’d by that stream whose course
Is from the limpid fount above!
Then may we hope the spirit gone
Is on the right hand of the throne.

If buried friendship claims a tear
To hallow its untimely bier;
If genius to stern death a slave
Calls from the tomb to bid us weep
O'er the land consecrated grave,
Where in death's calm eternal sleep
Her votary slumbers; pause we here,
To grant the tribute of a tear.

If virtue on which angels smile
And honesty devoid of guile
Are worthy of a dwelling place
Embalm’d within the human breast
When he who humbly proved their grace
Is gone to his immortal rest!
Then surely oft remembrance yet,
Will speak his name with sad regret.

.....Cont'd page 13
Pause stranger! pause while passing by,
And mark his record with a sigh;
Nor deem it weak to weep for one
Who often wept o’er mortal ill.
Who would not mourn the good man gone?
While memory keeps him living still,
Each reminiscence ’round his name
Is sweeter, dearer far than fame.

Peace be his lot! beyond the sphere
Of sublunary troubles here,
In that eternal world above
Where golden harps are ringing ever
The notes of never-dying love
With melody sweet, ceasing never!
Be his to join the radiant band
Of minstrels in that happy land!

Full Text of Plaque Inscription

To The Memory of REV. WILLIAM DURIE
by the Congregation of St. Andrew's Church,
Bytown, who are desirous of recording in this
epitaph their testimony to the many virtues
which adorned his public and private character.

He was born in Glasgow in the year 1804,
ordained to the work of the ministry at Earlston
in Scotland in 1834, and inducted to the pastoral
charge of St. Andrew's Church in 1846. After the
brief space of nine months, he was called away
from this earthly scene. He died of typhus fever
which he caught in assiduous attendance upon the
sick and dying immigrants in the memorable year
1847. But although removed from this world, he will
long live in the affections of those among whom as
Pastor he faithfully laboured, and of those also who,
connected with other denominations, accounted it
a privilege to be associated with him in labours of love.

Let all readers of this inscription ponder the admonition
of God's Word from which on the last Sabbath of his
ministry he addressed his flock:

"Whatsoever thy hand findeth to do, do it with thy might;
for there is no work nor device nor knowledge nor wisdom
in the grave whither thou goest."

DEDICATION OF PLAQUE AT REV. WILLIAM DURIE’S RESTORED 1847 MONUMENT AT BEECHWOOD CEMETERY ON SEPT. 29TH, 2015

On Tuesday, Sept. 29th, 2015, at 11:00 a.m., Rev. Dr. Karen Dimock of St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church led a short service at Beechwood Cemetery to re-dedicate the restored monument and to dedicate the recently installed plaque at the grave of the Rev. William Durie, located in Section 37, Lot 68.

Rev. Durie arrived from Scotland in December 1846 to become the 3rd minister of St. Andrew's Church, then commonly known as The Kirk, or The Scotch Church. His eloquent sermons and his deep concern for the poor and sick of all creeds endeared him not only to his congregation, but also to the larger Bytown community.

Rev. Durie's ministry lasted just nine months. In early June, typhus arrived in Bytown with Irish emigrants. Known also as Ship Fever and spread principally by lice, typhus accompanied and struck the emigrants as they travelled. Through the summer of 1847, with others, Rev. Durie and Father Molloy worked hand in hand to do all they could to help Bytown's typhus victims. The strain proved too much, and on Sept. 12th, 1847 at age 43, Rev. Durie succumbed to typhus in the stone manse at the south end of the church.

Rev. Durie's funeral service was held at St. Andrew's, and all places of public business closed during the interment. In sorrow, St. Andrew's congregation erected a large horizontal monument, bearing a powerful inscription, over Rev. Durie's grave. The grave and monument were later moved to Beechwood Cemetery. By 2015, age had taken its toll of the monument, which showed cracks, faults, and a flaking inscription.

This summer, the 168-year old monument was restored by Catherine Paterson PhD, a Conservation Consultant from Guelph, Ontario. The plaque, which bears the monument's original inscription, was prepared and mounted on granite by Beechwood Cemetery staff. St. Andrew's congregation is most grateful to Catherine Paterson for her conservation work, and also to Andrew Roy, Director of Operations at Beechwood Cemetery, and to Beechwood staff for the care taken to preserve the monument and the memory of the Rev. William Durie.

St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church,
82 Kent St., Ottawa, K1P 5N9

[For more information on Rev. Durie, please contact Sheila Urquhart at john.urquhart@sympatico.ca, or go to www.StAndrewsottawa.ca]
Was Preston Street named after Isabella Preston?
Answered by: David Jeanes

The query (January 2016 Newsletter, p. 3): “Was Preston Street named after Isabella Preston, the celebrated horticulturalist who worked at the Central Experimental Farm in the 1920s?”

Preston Street was named many years before Isabella Preston’s time. Preston Street is mentioned in the 1864-65 directory:

ROCHESTER’S TANNERY, John Rochester, jun. proprietor, Preston Rochester’s Survey ....

It is also described in the Ottawa 1869-70 directory:

Preston, running south from Richmond road, Rochester survey, 2nd street west of division. (sic.)

The 1885 Fire Insurance map shows Preston Street. It was then still outside the city limits. City of Ottawa historian Lucien Brault published a list of the origins of Ottawa street names in 1942 in his book Ottawa, Then and Now. He said that Preston Street was named for City Treasurer John Honey Preston. I discovered that Lucien Brault got his list of the origins of street names with the wrong information about Preston Street from an earlier book, Ottawa Past and Present, by A.H.D. Ross, Ottawa, 1927, p. 198 (www.archivecdbooks.ca/Samples/CA0260_Samp.pdf). However, in the Ottawa directories from 1863 onwards I can only find a George H. Preston, tailor and mens’ outfitter. There is no record of a John Honey Preston.

George H. Preston was an Alderman on City Council in that year and also in 1863, when he sat on the Streets and Improvements Committee and chaired the By-Laws Committee.

Here is the 1871 census information for George H. Preston:
PRESTON, GEORGE H.
Sex: Male
Age: 44
Place of Birth: QUEBEC
Religion: Presbyterian
Origin: ENGLISH
Occupation: MERCHANT
District: OTTAWA (077)
Sub-district: St. George's Ward (C)
Division: 2
Page: 55
Microfilm reel number: C-10014
Reference: RG31 — Statistics Canada

In the 1881 Census he was listed as
Name: Preston, George Honey
Sex: M
Age: 54
Place of Birth: Q (Quebec)
Religion: R. Episcopel
Ethnic Origin: English
Occupation: Province: Ontario
District Name: Ottawa (City) (105)
Sub-District Name: St-George Ward (C)
Division: 1
Page: 6
Microfilm: C-13230
Reference: RG31 - Statistics Canada

According to http://www.bytown.net/rochesterjohn.htm →

"Mary Ann Rochester (b.1824) married George Honey Preston. Rochesterville ... after its amalgamation to the city, was still referenced as Rochester Heights. That area could be described as that height of land around Laurier and Bronson extending southward to Gladstone. The John Rochester clan arrived in Bytown, from Rouses Point NY, USA, around 1827 and were engaged as provisioners to Colonel By.

They established a brewery - Dominion Pale Ale was one line that is named in various accounts, being popular to the troops. As well, they developed a tannery, and John Rochester had a sawmill at the Chaudière.

... (George) Rochester was born in Rouses Point, NY, in 1820, moved to Bytown with his family (John Rochester Sr.) in 1828 as provisioners to Colonel By, mainly establishing a brewery of major proportion circa 1829.

... George (son of John Rochester) and Marion Rochester had a family of six sons. George Hamilton Preston Rochester, the third son ...

George Rochester may have been the brother of Mary Ann Rochester, so she and her husband George H. Preston could well have been the godparents of George Hamilton Preston Rochester.

So the only north-south streets of Rochesterville were named after the two families that were linked by marriage, Rochester and Preston.

The east west streets of Rochesterville were Maple, Elm, Spruce, Cedar (now Somerset), Ash (now Eccles), Alice, Poplar, Willow, Beech, etc.

Thanks also to John Morgan and Dave Mullington for their inputs. In addition Dave Mullington found a copy of the 1871 City Directory, and it lists G.H.Preston as living on Daly Street with G.Y.W.P. and J.L.E.P. Preston, both of whom are listed as boarders.

Rochester Street

Rochester Street is named after John Rochester. Born in Rouse's Point, New York on May 22, 1822, Rochester is referred to as one of the 27 American founders of Bytown. He arrived in Bytown in 1833 with a spirit of enterprise and a wagon full of sons. He got wealthy quickly, supplying the

Excerpt from 1881 Census showing listing for George Honey Preston.
military with bread, beer and butchered meat. Coincidentally, he was also appointed inspector of pork and beef on May 17, 1837. In 1856, with his brother James, he established the first brewery in the city.

Of course, the above John Rochester was really the son of the John Rochester Sr. who came to Bytown to provision for Colonel By, and who became Mayor of Ottawa.

John Rochester Sr. was the father in law of George Honey Preston. His other sons included George Rochester, who moved to the Madawaska area, James (as mentioned above), and William. John (James) Rochester was 11 years old when John Sr. arrived in Ottawa with his three (actually four) sons!

Former 19th Century Sandy Hill House on Stewart Street

My great grandparents (Charles Edmund Parson and Lizzie Janet Avery Parson), who moved to Ottawa in 1873, lived at 206 Stewart Street. Their house is long gone and there is now a low rise apartment building in that location. I have attached a photo of their house taken at some point in the late 1800s or early 1900s.


for 35 years. His post-secondary education in Ontario includes an Honours B.A. majoring in political science from Laurentian University in Sudbury in 1974, and a Masters of Public Administration from Queen's University in Kingston the following year.


This book was published in Aug. 2015 by Archive CD Books of Canada, a company from Manotick, ON, that specializes in the digital publication of works of historical, genealogical, or archival interest.

The book deals with the historical development of Hull, widely recognized as a working class community. Formerly a distinct municipality, Hull now forms part of the amalgamated city of Gatineau. The book treats the origins of Hull as the first small town in the Ottawa Valley right up to its emergence as a modern, industrialized city during the 1920s, the third largest in Quebec at the time. Founded by Bostonians in search of prime farm land, very early in the 19th century, Hull also became a centre of the forestry industry in the Ottawa Valley, arguably the prime industry of Canada's economic development during the 19th century. The book traces the evolution of Hull consecutively as a logging, lumber, and pulp and paper centre, and describes workers' role in this development.

For its theoretical base, the book borrows ideas of 2 British historians. E.P. Thompson and Raymond Williams, who argued convincingly that the working class displays culture that is distinct from that of other social classes, and that is reflected in the collective, public life of workers. Hull workers plumbed their distinct culture to derive mutual aid societies, sports and artistic organizations, parish groups, and charities, as well as participating in municipal, provincial, and federal politics in defence of their interests.

There were also the unions that led the major strikes in Hull such as the 1891 strike at the Chaudière industrial area by lumber workers and the 1919 and 1924 strikes by female match workers, the first known strike by women in Quebec, against the E.B. Eddy Co., whose principal owner at the time was none other than R.B. Bennett, Canada's Tory prime minister during the Great Depression of the 1930s. All of these and much more are covered in the book.

This publication should be of interest to historians, social scientists, genealogists, heritage aficionados, politicos, progressive militants, and trade unionists as well as workers themselves. This book also takes the unusual step of naming individual workers and their occupations at several points in the book. To obtain copies of this book, please consult its publisher's website www.ArchiveCDBooks.ca, and refer to catalogue #CA0415.

P.S., Michael Martin is a retired freelance journalist who has lived in Hull ....Cont'd bottom left column

Spring Excursion: Early Hull – Aylmer, QC, Settlements

Saturday, 14 May 2016

Hull Site Visits: St. James Cemetery, the former St. James Anglican Church, Cushing Presbyterian Church.
Guide: Michel Prévost, Archivist, U. of O.

Lunch at British Hotel, Aylmer

Aylmer Site Visits: Symmes Inn Museum, Coach Tour of Aylmer Sites.
Guide: Aylmer Heritage Association, President Micheline Lemieux

$50.00, Tour & Museums
Meals on Your Own

8:30 AM, from Elizabeth Wyn Wood School, 20 Rossland Ave.
(opposite former St. Richard's Church)

9:00 AM, St. Thomas the Apostle Anglican Church, 2345 Alta Vista Drive

Reservations to President
613-729-0579
<george.neville@ncf.ca>

A Shot in the Dark Query
Submitted by Janet McLeod

In clearing out my parents' items following their deaths, I have come across a sterling pin that says "Ottawa" and DA LUCEM DOMINE. The Latin phrase means "Give Light, O Lord", so I thought I would start with a church to see if I could get any information on this pin. My paternal grandfather grew up in Ottawa and attended university there, so this would likely be over 100 years old. Do you know anyone who could give me some information on this pin? I tried another church but got no response or acknowledgement.

Mystery broach of sterling silver reading OTTAWA DA LUCEM DOMINE. Photo by Janet McLeod

The Historical Society of Ottawa gratefully acknowledges the financial support of the City of Ottawa and the Ministry of Culture of the Government of Ontario.

.....Cont'd from page 6

The above changes in rail service, and memories of early railway experiences, produced a nostalgic but vigorous Question & Answer session to conclude a most-engaging account of our City’s history. Want to learn more? Go to www.railways.incanada.net.

Membership Renewal Form
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