



# THE NEIGHBOURHOOD MESSENGER

NEWSLETTER OF THE ADOLPHUSTOWN-FREDERICKSBURGH HERITAGE SOCIETY

Issue Number 17

November 2017

## Discovery

Often as an issue of *The Neighbourhood Messenger* comes together a theme presents itself. This has been the case in the November issue. Articles from diverse sources covering diverse topics do not, at first glance, seem to have a common thread. However, each of the articles was either inspired by a

discovery, or was itself inspiration for further investigation leading to discoveries about our past. Sometimes the discoveries unearth new information, and in other cases the discoveries tie together other known facts. From following clues found in dusty attics, tranquil cemeteries and old family albums, to documenting dramatic current events and long-ago tragic accidents, and on to chronicling holiday pastimes of years gone by, the articles and features in this issue are a testament to our contributors' passion for discovery and their quest to capture our past.

### Our Society

Members of the Adolphustown-Fredericksburgh Heritage Society are your neighbours, your friends, your family. We are new to the area or have lived here all our lives. Some of us are descendants of the Loyalists who settled the shores of the Bay of Quinte. We all share a desire to deepen our knowledge of the history of our local community and to share our passion with others.

### Our Executive

President:	Angela Cronk
Vice President:	Frank Abbey
Secretary:	Vacant
Treasurer:	Stan MacMillan
Webmaster:	Susan Wright
Book Directors:	Joan Reynolds Elizabeth Vandenberg
Communications Director:	Jane Lovell

### Our Meetings

The Society meets on the fourth Wednesday in the month 6-8 times a year at the South Fredericksburgh Hall at 6.30p.m. Check for the next meeting on our website. All welcome!!

### Our Website

<http://www.sfredheritage.on.ca/>

### Contact Us

If you have questions or suggestions regarding any aspect of the Society, including *The Neighbourhood Messenger*, please contact one of the following:

- Angela Cronk, President (373-8888) [angelacronk@gmail.com](mailto:angelacronk@gmail.com)
- Jane Lovell, Newsletter Editor (373-0199) [jane.lovell@kos.net](mailto:jane.lovell@kos.net)

## A Glimpse of the Past



Photo: AFHS

Adolphustown circa 1915

We are trying to discover the identity of the two men on the wagon. Can you help us?

Do you have an interesting photo of people, places or events that shows things as they were in the past? Let us feature it here!

**The Neighbourhood Messenger** is an electronic newsletter distributed exclusively to members of the Adolphustown-Fredericksburgh Heritage Society.

A lifetime membership to the Society costs \$5. In addition to ensured e-mail delivery of the newsletter, Society membership entitles those interested in our local heritage to be kept informed of, and participate in, all aspects of Society activities.

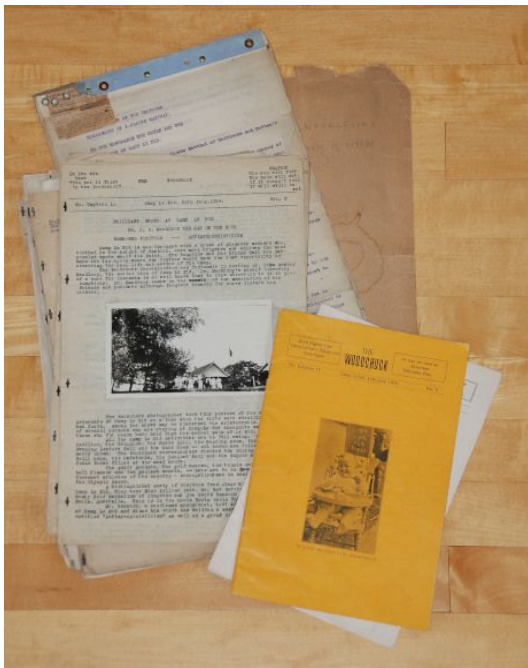
Anyone can become a member by sending a cheque for \$5 made payable to the Adolphustown-Fredericksburgh Heritage Society, c/o Stan MacMillan, 8225 Loyalist Parkway, R. R. # 1 Bath, Ontario, Canada, K0H 1G0

**If you are not currently an AFHS member please consider becoming one!**

## Attic Treasure

Jane Lovell

In July of last year Angela Cronk presented me with a scruffy interoffice envelope. Just a peek at its contents had me whooping with excitement. What I had in my hands was a number of documents pertaining to Camp Le Nid, a "gentlemen's camp" established on Ruttan's Point in 1886.



**Byrne Donation to the AFHS**

How these documents made their way from the Camp Le Nid of the early 1900s to the Camp Le Nid of today is thanks to the curiosity and perseverance of Tom Byrne. The documents themselves consist of some tongue-in-cheek "legal" documents belonging to W.S. Herrington, one of the founders of the camp, and a number of issues of the *Woodchuck*, the camp newsletter edited by Herrington's son Harold (Had). Tom had discovered the documents, along with some photographs and a scrapbook, in the attic of the home of his parents when they sold the house in 1983. The house had been owned by Had Herrington at the time of his death in 1954, and passed into the hands of the Byrne family just under a decade later.

The Byrne family donated the photographs and a scrapbook belonging to Had Herrington to Queen's University Archives through the Kingston Historical Society in 1983. The same year saw the photographs and other items belonging to W.S. Herrington donated to the Lennox & Addington County Museum & Archives. Fast forward to 2016, and Tom found himself looking for a home for the remaining Herrington material. A quick search of the internet lead him to the AFHS website where there are several mentions of Camp

Le Nid, including a plea for any material relating to the camp. Tom contacted Angela, who arranged to have the documents picked up from Prescott, where Tom now lives. Angela then passed them on to me -- much to my delight!

I live on the tip of Ruttan's Point where Camp Le Nid once stood, and since purchasing the property over a decade ago, I have been feverishly researching the camp. By far the richest source of material about the camp has been the Lennox & Addington County Museum & Archives in Napanee. And the most satisfying gleanings from the Archives have been photographs.

An avid photographer, W.S. Herrington captured life at Camp Le Nid from its inception in 1886 to well into the 1930s. Many of these photographs are now part of the comprehensive collection of photographs of Camp Le Nid at the Archives. The photographs show the growth of the camp from just a few canvas tents to a vacation spot with a dining hall, ice house, recreation pavilion (the Bungalow) and several sleeping cabins. Since nothing remains on the site of the camp now except a few stone "foundations" marking the location of the buildings, the photographs are invaluable in "re-building" the camp as it was in its hay-day.



*The Woodchuck* July 26, 1924

**Camp Le Nid guests assembled in front of the Bungalow on the south shore of Ruttan's point**

Not content with recording camp life through photographs, W.S. Herrington sought to document the events at Camp Le Nid through newspaper and magazine articles published nationally and in the Napanee and Kingston papers. The articles found in the Archives' microfiche copies of the local papers have been invaluable in setting timelines for the appearance of various buildings at the camp and in identifying people who were either members or guests of Camp Le Nid.

This is where Tom Byrne's collection of 16 *Woodchuck* newsletters has been such a treasure trove of new information. This is what I found:



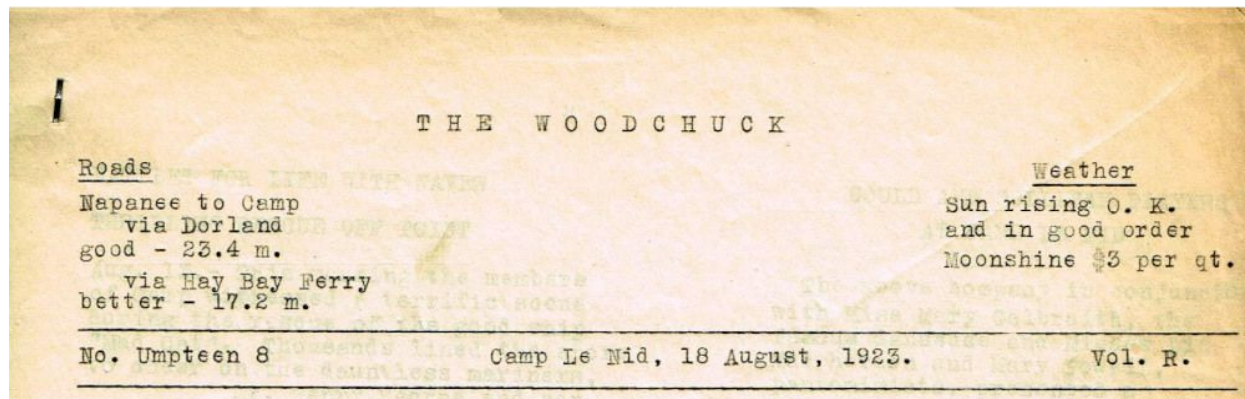
Mr. W.H. Herrington, ed

*The Woodchuck* August 6, 1921

The remains of the folder that had enclosed the newsletters was labelled "Woodchucks, Pty of WHH". Walter Harold (Had) Herrington, as the editor of the newsletter, appears to have kept copies of all issues of the *Woodchuck* published between 1921 and 1928. These newsletters, most of which were typed out on flimsy foolscap stapled or riveted together, were issued weekly during the camp session (usually August and early September) over a span of 8 years. The collection starts with the first five issues, published in July and August, 1921. Interestingly, the final September issue for that year is in the Archives. According to the first issue of 1923, no newsletters were published in 1922. A total of four editions of the *Woodchuck* were published in 1923, ending with a whopping 17-page September issue. Five newsletters came out in 1924 with the September issue being printed professionally in booklet form. No newsletters were published in 1925 and this fact was not noted in the first issue of 1926. Since Had Herrington married in the summer of 1925 it is possible that he was not present at Camp Le Nid that year. 1926 saw only a single issue of the *Woodchuck*, and there were none published in 1927. The final issue of the *Woodchuck* was published



professionally and came out in June 1928, and included events from the 1927 season. It is likely that the newsletter ceased production with that last 1928 issue. As was evidenced by the photo on the cover of the newsletter, Had had started a family, and likely could no longer devote the very considerable time required to pull together a weekly (or even annual) newsletter.



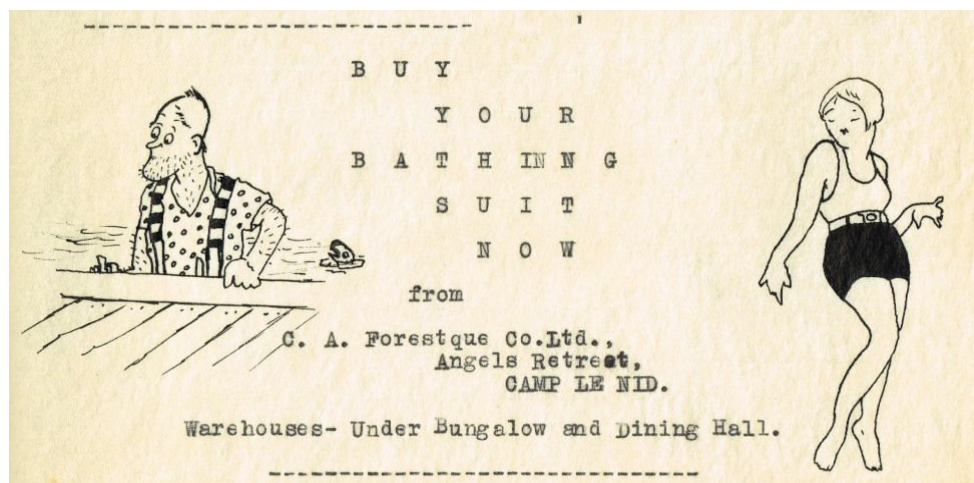
A Woodchuck banner

The newsletters themselves contain not only camp events, poems, songs, plays, sketches and photographs, but also include the names of people who were at the camp during that week or season. Sometimes the "roll call" is a straightforward list, but in other instances some deciphering of the text is required to identify attendees based on their nicknames. Through the efforts of both W.S. Herrington and his son Had in documenting camp events, I have been able to assemble a staggering list of 300 or so people who visited Camp Le Nid over the 60 years it convened on Ruttan's Point. Some on the list are the founding members who returned year after year. Over time, their wives and children also experienced life at camp and were frequent guests. Others on the list appear only once or a few times. It is likely that there were many more guests who were never recorded.

While there are many on the list who are hard follow up on, others are easily identifiable as prominent citizens of Napanee, Picton, Kingston, Toronto and several American cities.

**Discoveries to be Continued....** The next issue of *The Neighbourhood Messenger* will profile some of the attendees of Camp Le Nid who were newly identified through the *Woodchuck* newsletters. All were members of area families.

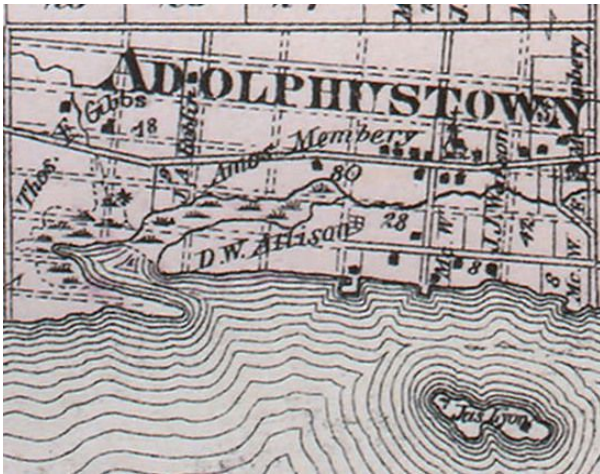
A heartfelt thanks is extended to Tom Byrne for taking the initiative to seek out the AFHS as the recipient of the remaining Herrington papers still in his possession. The Society will, in turn, be donating the material to the Lennox & Addington County Museum & Archives where it will be reunited with the photographs and other items originally discovered in the attic of Tom's parents' home.



The Woodchuck July 26, 1924

## The Story that is Loynes Island

Liz Loynes



Loynes Island

1878 *Illustrated Historical Atlas of the Counties of Frontenac, Lennox & Addington*

This is the history of Loynes Island that was established in 1865 (on some old maps it is Lyons Island, Fiddlers Island, Bass Island).... and remains in the Loynes family to this date. The history of this place and the people who have built it into what it is today stands as a testament to a strong commitment to the land and to the family. It is embedded in the memories of all that have visited and stayed there as a welcome respite from a busy world. It has come through many generations of Loynes and it will continue to make memories for those families to come.

This history was told to Helen Loynes, wife of Dr. James Loynes, in 1959 by Grandmother Ruth Bird Loynes of Napanee who was the second wife of Shore Loynes (Dr. James Loynes grandfather). Shore was originally married to Caroline Eliza

Chalmers (daughter of Peter Chalmers of Adolphustown). The earliest deed we have seen dates back to 1895 when Shore took ownership of the island from the Department of Indian Affairs.

The cottage was built in 1865 (it has been carved in a stone on the old part of the cottage since then) by James Shore Loynes - a carpenter who came from Norfolk England. He arrived on the sailing vessel, the Brig Ann. His mother lived with him and he then married Clarissa (Caroline or Aunt Carrie) Garner but had no children. They lived at the island all year round and he worked as a carpenter. Some time later they moved to Kingston to be near a doctor as James had cancer. He died at the island and was buried at Cataraqui Cemetery- the body being carried there by ship from Adolphustown. The home on the island was then closed except for summers for many years.



Sketch by A.W. Moore circa 1877



James Loynes' nephew, Robertson Loynes, lived in Kingston and then moved to Cape Vincent NY. He and his wife Dora had 6 children: Charles, Mary, Robert, Shore (grandfather to Dr. James Loynes), Fanny and Richard. Dora died in Cape Vincent and so Robertson moved to the cottage with his daughter Mary.

Robertson was a lake boat captain, but not registered. He and his daughter lived at the cottage 25 years after he retired. Robertson died at the cottage and was taken by boat to Cape Vincent to be buried next to his wife Dora (the tombstones with their names on them are still at the Episcopal Church cemetery in Cape Vincent).

Mary continued to live at the cottage alone after her father died and took in a baby from the Pollard family of Adolphustown who's mother had died. They kept a cow, chickens and 2 pigs. Eventually Mary's sister Fanny stayed there part time. Fanny had a baby on the island that died and is buried there.

Shore Loynes had come to the island at the age of 12 and attended school at Adolphustown. He was brought up by James and Carrie Loynes and later moved to Kingston with them. He then moved after James' death, with Aunt Carrie, to Napanee. After the death of his first wife, Caroline (Chalmers), he married Ruth Bird in 1905, who came from England. Shore and his wife Ruth looked after Mary at the cottage, bringing her supplies and they would use the cottage from June till September

Shore and Caroline Eliza had 2 sons, Gerald and a boy that died as an infant. Gerald married Roselia Scarff of Kingston and they had 2 children, Dr. James Shore and Bertha (Dr. Betty Bright). He and Rose eventually divorced and Gerald married Harriet Wartman of Bath. Gerald divided the island between his two children, giving James the original 1865 cottage at the east end of the island and the west end to Betty where she and her husband Dr. Arnott Bright built another cottage in 1954. James and his wife Helen (Barnum of Campbellford) re-opened the cottage after the Second World War and used it as a family summer cottage while they raised their three children, Richard, Margaret and Janet. Betty and Arnott also spent their summers at their cottage with their two sons James and Robert.



**Shore & Ruth Loynes  
1930s**

Richard Loynes took ownership of the cottage from his mother, Helen after his father James Loynes passed away. Jim Bright spent his summers at their cottage for his entire life and the last 25 years with his wife Nancy at his side there. They sold their cottage and the land with it to Margaret Kormos (Loynes) and her husband, Leonard Kormos this past summer (2017).

The 1865 cottage has seen many renovations since the war years - beginning with tearing down both the east and west ends of the cottage, gutting the interior, putting in a septic system, adding a deck and



**1977**



**2017**

bunk room as well as wiring the walls in the event that hydro would ever make its way over there. They of course, also purchased many boats and built docks over the years. When their son, Dr. Rick took ownership, he initially built a boathouse and added a solar system. In 2016, a major renovation was undertaken by Rick and his wife Liz. Three rooms were added, a bedroom, bathroom and sitting room and the kitchen went through a major update. The solar was expanded and the outside deck screened in. This was a huge undertaking as all equipment and supplies were brought over by barge.

Six generations of Loynes have enjoyed this little piece of heaven. Dr. Richard and his wife Liz now spend their summers on Loynes Island and enjoy visits from their children and grandchildren as well as other family members and friends from Texas (where they spend their winters). It is a history rich with wonderful memories of boating, fishing, swimming and enjoying the beautiful sunsets on the Bay of Quinte.

Photos: Liz Loynes

**IN TOWN AT LAST.**  
**Napanee Drug House.**  
**LATE J. S. EDGAR'S.**  
**JOHN A. TAYLOR,**

**PRACTICAL CHEMIST**  
  
**AND APOTHECARY.**

Having had several years experience both in Canada and in New York. in the manufacture of Medicines, &c., takes pleasure in announcing to the inhabitants of Napanee and surrounding country, that he has just received a new and well selected stock of **Drugs Medicines, Paints, Oils, Varnishes, Putty, Brushes, Glass, Dye Stuff, Coal Oil, Perfumery, Fancy Articles, &c., &c.**  
 Having purchased for Cash, I am determined to sell as cheap as any house in Canada.  
 Country Merchants and store keepers supplied with Drugs, Essences, &c., at Wholesale Prices.

**REMEMBER THE STAND DUNDAS ST.. NAPANEE.**  
 JOHN A. TAYLOR  
 Napanee, February 22nd, 1863. 5-ly.

*Napanee Standard*  
 October 31, 1863

## Clippings

**SALE POSTPONED.**  
*Midland District,* } **THE** Sale of the  
*to wit.* } **ASHES** which  
 were of the late *Benjamin Seymour, of Freder-*  
*icksburgh,* & which were seized and taken in  
 Execution by me, is postponed till **MON-**  
**DAY, 4th February,** at two o'clock after-  
 noon.

**CHARLES STUART, Sheriff.**  
 Sheriff's Office, 21st January, 1811.

*Kingston Gazette*  
 January 22, 1811

### It should be Done.

Councillor Aylsworth let drop an idea at the last session of the town council that we think would be well to act upon. He suggested that a new lockup was very much needed by the town, and wished an expression of the council in the matter. He said that the old one had been used so much as a sleeping place for tramps that it was likely to be infested with vermin, and a hot bed for contagious diseases. In common justice it would not be right, in ordinary arrests, to confine prisoners, perhaps innocent, in such a place. A few cells could be fitted up in the basement under the council chamber, at small cost, and which could be warmed and made comfortable without extra cost. Let the old lock-up be retained as a "hotel de tramp." He remarked on the difficulty the police had in taking an unruly prisoner to the police station—no less than five doors having to be unfastened and opened. If the cells were in the basement of the town hall, a single door would give access from the street, and should assistance be required, it could be easily obtained.

*Napanee Beaver*  
 October 8, 1897

Clippings courtesy of Susan Wright  
 & Jane Lovell

To see more old newspaper clippings check out the  
 Articles page on our website:

<http://www.sfredheritage.on.ca/articles1.htm>



## SALE OF UNCLAIMED PROPERTY

By the direction of the Police Committee of the Municipal Corporation of the Town of Napanee I will offer for sale by Public Auction, on the Market Square, on

**Saturday, Sept. 1, '17**

at 10.30 o'clock in the forenoon,  
 the following unclaimed articles now  
 in my possession:

- 3 Gents' Bicycles.
- 1 Gold Plated Gents' Watch.
- 1 Watch Chain.
- 1 Fountain Pen.
- 1 Sailing Skiff, with Oars.
- 1 Hand Grip, containing a number of useful articles.

Proceeds of sale, after deducting costs and expenses, will be paid to the Town Treasurer.

**F. W. BARRETT,**  
 Chief Constable,  
 Napanee.

38-b

*Napanee Express*  
 August 31, 1917

### HOME CANNING.

The Best Methods of canning Vegetables and Fruits, demonstrated by Miss Gray of the Ontario Dept. of Agriculture in the Town Hall last week, proved to be very instructive to the experienced housewife, as well as to the amateur.

The carrots, peas, beans, beets and tomatoes looked so attractive in the glass sealers, everyone went home enthusiastic to add them to their winter stores.

When the weather moderates and the busy season of canning and preserving is over, the Food Resource Committee are arranging for a competent instructor to demonstrate the best method of doing up chickens and other meats which can be sent to the Eoys in the trenches as well as saved for our own use.

*Napanee Express*  
 August 10, 1917



## Then and Now

Kathy Staples



Google Street View 2012

1867 South Shore Road  
Concession 3, Lot 13, Adolphustown  
Original Crown Deed to Joseph Clapp

Burned Sunday October 1, 2017



Fire Photos Courtesy of Mark Davis



Dorland Fire Station is made up of area volunteers. Many old homes burned before due to wood fires & often spread from building to building. This happened in 1907 when the Third Concession was burned from Ruuth's Lane east for about a mile.

## Lost

Jane Lovell

In the fire at 1867 South Shore Road more than just a house was lost. So, too, was the opportunity to have the structure recorded in the AFHS compendium of buildings in Adolphustown and North and South Fredericksburgh. The project of photographing and gathering other data for all local houses, barns and other buildings was started in the eighties in South Fredericksburgh. In subsequent years efforts were made to expand the scope to include Adolphustown and North Fredericksburgh. The purpose of the compendium is to capture how the community has changed over time, and so our collection contains not only the relatively recent photographs but it also includes older ones gathered from other sources. Comparing the new and old photographs show how a building might have been altered over the years, or shows features now lost, such as porches or verandas, or hidden by subsequent expansions. Alternatively, the old photos can show how the building has remained essentially unchanged over the decades.

The **Then and Now** feature often includes photos from the AFHS compendium. Sadly the house at 1867 South Shore Road is an example of the many gaps in our collection. Fortunately we were able to turn to Google Street View to capture an image of the house as it was in 2012. While using Street View to capture images of buildings is an option, the angle or resolution of such shots is not always ideal. Perhaps this untimely loss can serve to encourage a resumption of our photo gathering project. Certainly we would like to encourage members to share with us any old photos they may have of area buildings.

Little is known of the history of the house that was lost in the October fire. The 1878 *Illustrated Historical Atlas of the Counties of Frontenac, Lennox & Addington* shows two houses on the west half of Lot 13. It is possible that the house at 1867 South Shore Road is one of these. Certainly when Ron Reynolds visited the house in the late 1940s when it was part of Harold Magee's farm, the house appeared to be old.



Harold's father, Andrew Magee, acquired the property in 1894. According to Don Hough in *Two Centuries in Hayburn* "Andrew Magee's house was on the Bay side of Hay Bay road, with the farm buildings across, south of the road". The style of the recently burned house was similar to other large two-storey frame houses built by Andrew and Robert Magee elsewhere in the neighbourhood. So, while there might have been an old house on the lot, it was likely not still there, or was demolished when Harold took over that property. *Two Centuries in Hayburn* mentions a number of new houses being built by the Magee family. The first might have been the "Dickson" house on the west side of the Gore Road, shortly after 1892 when Robert Sr finally assembled the Magee family "estate". If Andrew and Robert did, in fact, build the recently burned house, the earliest date would likely be in the late 1890s. They could, of course, built a house there for the previous owners. The brothers were building local houses as late as 1914 when the Duncan Hough house was built at the north west corner of South Shore Road and County Road 8.



Another possibility is that the house at 1867 South Shore Road was built to replace Andrew Magee's house that was destroyed by fire in 1935.

# ANDREW MAGEE DIES-- BURNED TO DEATH

## Other Members Family Narrowly Escape

Early Sunday morning, Mr. Andrew Magee, on the Third Concession of Adolphustown, lost his life when fire broke out and completely destroyed his home with all its contents. The fire was discovered about 1:30 a.m., by Ford Rombough, a neighbor, as he was passing on his way home. Mr. Magee's wife and two sons, Keith and Harold, barely escaped with their lives, but evidently, Mr. Magee was unable to get out of the house on account of the smoke and flames.

As Mr. Rombough was passing the Magee house he noticed the fire and immediately went to the house and raised an alarm. When Mr. and Mrs. Magee were awakened their bedroom was filled with smoke and flames were creeping through the baseboard. Mrs. Magee jumped out of bed and secured some clothing and started downstairs, thinking her husband was following her. Her two sons, who were sleeping in another part of the house, were awakened and also rushed downstairs and out-of-doors, with the impression that their father had gotten outside with their mother. When his absence was noted, an attempt was made to rescue him but the flames had made such headway and the smoke was

so dense that an entrance could not be made into the house. The house, a large frame building, was soon a mass of flames and was quickly consumed, without any of the contents being recovered.

The family had retired about 11:00 p.m., the night previous. Mrs. Magee had, herself, attended the fires and at the time, no trace of any danger from fire was noticed. The smouldering remains of the dwelling were so hot on Sunday, that no search could be made for the body of Mr. Magee, and it was not until Monday that it was found, almost entirely consumed.

Provincial Constable F. W. Barrett and Coroner Dr. D. R. Hall, conducted an investigation on Monday and decided an inquest was not necessary.

The late Mr. Magee, who was 80 years old, had been a lifelong and highly respected citizen of the township. He is survived by his wife, three sons, Keith and Harold at home, George living on a farm nearby, and two daughters, Mrs. Ercell Foster and Mrs. James Bird, also of Adolphustown. There are two brothers, Alex. and John Magee, and a sister, Mrs. R. J. Dickson, also surviving.

*Napanee Beaver*  
January 1, 1936

From *Two Centuries in Hayburn*: "After the tragic fire another house was built on the same site, between the Hay bay road and Hay Bay." This house may be the one that burned in October.

While we cannot definitively date the house at 1867 South Shore Road, it most certainly was built some time before the late 1930s, and possibly earlier.

Fire was not an unusual fate for rural homes. Just to the east of 1867 South Shore Road is the community of Hayburn. Of the 36 houses documented in the AFHS publication *Hayburn 1911*, six had been lost to fire by 1991.



### DISASTROUS FIRE.

A great conflagration occurred in the Township of Adolphustown, on Monday afternoon last. Fire was discovered in the roof of the kitchen of Mr. Jacob Roblin. It was promptly extinguished, but a spark set fire to the barn, and it, another barn, shed and drive house, with contents, including grain and hay, were destroyed.

The flames then spread to Ricker-son H. Hawley's vacant house, speedily licking it up, and on the main part of his farm, rented by Mr. F. M. Joyce. Mr. Joyce was out in the field working, and although he raced his horses home he was unable to save anything. In attempting to rescue his horses, he was badly burned about the face and neck. His house, barn, drive house, etc., with contents, were a total loss, including four horses, (one belonging to Mr. W. T. Ham), fifteen pigs, 3 calves, 200 bushels grain, and quantity of hay. Clothing, furniture, and everything else were destroyed.

The fire then spread to Mr. J. M. Outwater's, and his barn and drive house were destroyed and contents, including several calves.

Mr. Joyce is the greatest loser, being practically cleaned out of everything. The neighbors, however, were kindness itself, and provided him and Mrs. Joyce with clothes, etc. He carried a small insurance, as did also Messrs. Roblin and Outwaters. The wind blew a regular gale at the time, and it was impossible to check the disaster until there was nothing near to burn.

The **Then and Now** feature mentions the fire that ravaged the Third Concession. The May 1907 conflagration made at least two of the local papers, and devastated several families. With the opening of the Dorland fire hall in 2008, such a calamity is now much less likely. This is evidenced in the October 1st fire. While badly scorched, a large tree standing just behind the house was prevented from catching fire and spreading to surrounding forest to the north and west.

### Big Fire at Adolphustown

The third concession of Adolphustown was fire swept on Monday afternoon, May 13. Early in the afternoon a chimney in the home of Jacob Roblin took fire, the wind carried a spark to the drive house, and this, with the barns, became a total loss. The house was saved. The fire then caught in Miss Hawley's farm house adjoining which was vacant, and this was quickly burned to the ground. Then R. H. Hawley's house, occupied by Frank Joyce, with all outbuildings, fell a prey to the flames, together with five horses and fifteen hogs and other stock. Mr. Joyce's family lost all but the clothes they had upon them. Still the flames spread on and Malcolm Outwater's buildings were the next to go. The house was saved and a small machine house.

The loss to every farmer will be heavy, although all carried some insurance. The wind was a perfect gale all afternoon and the neighbors who had gathered to assist had great trouble saving some of the buildings. About one mile was the extent of the fire and every farmer in that radius lost heavily. The schoolhouse was saved.

*Napanee Beaver*  
May 17, 1907

Clipping from scrapbook in  
AFHS collection



1878 *Illustrated Historical Atlas of the Counties of Frontenac, Lennox & Addington*  
Portion of the Third Concession affected by the 1907 fire



## The Wagar Tragedy

Susan Wright

**March 3, 1846**

Five Children Lost in a Fire  
Lot 3, Concession 2, South Fredericksburgh

**MELANCHOLY EVENT.**—Mr. Jacob Wagar, of Fredericksburgh, together with his wife, left their house on the evening of the 2d instant, to attend a wedding, leaving five children at home, the eldest about 13 years old. Mr. Wagar returned home between 8 and 9 o'clock, sent the children to bed, and then went back to his friend's house. On returning late at night, he and his wife beheld the dreadful spectacle of their house on fire, and their five children consumed in the flames, the charred remains of the eldest son dropping from the chamber to the floor below in sight of his distracted parents. It was with great difficulty that the father was prevented from rushing into the fire in a vain attempt to snatch his children from the devouring flames. It is supposed that the catastrophe originated in the children's having set the candle on the window, which set fire to the curtains, as a candle-stick was found there after the fire.



The old house on Lot 3, owned by Jacob's son, George Wagar. It is assumed this is the house that Jacob built to replace the one that burned. This property was later sold to Percy and Irene Merritt and also burned.

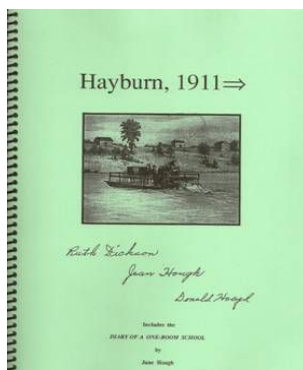
### The Five Children Who Perished in the Fire

Simeon, age 11  
Margaret, age 10  
William, age 7  
Elizabeth, age 5  
Louise, age 4



The current house, built in the 1950s.

## From the Book Shelf



### Hayburn 1911

**Ruth Dickson, Jean & Donald Hough**

Ruth Dickson, a long time resident of the area, has recorded her memories of the Hayburn Community as a child and into her young adult years. The publication also contains property owners listed for the years 1911 and 1991.

The 21 pages include a district map and some 35 pictures of homes, school and church buildings and resident activities. The district map shows where each of some 33 families lived. Also included in the book are children's names and marriage information where it was available.

...&...

### Diary of a One Room School By Jane Hough

Prepared as part of a university correspondence course on Canadian Studies, this book describes the events that occurred in the 1915-16 school year as viewed by the school building. The book comprises 18 pages with text on one side and 7 pictures of buildings and students.

## AFHS News

Angela Cronk

On May 10, 2017, the AFHS held another evening of great food followed by very interesting local speakers. We had four storytellers again this year sharing personal stories, all relating to our area.



Judy Smith told some interesting and entertaining personal stories related to local mischief that occurred at her own shivaree. Although the dictionary definition of a shivaree is "a noisy mock serenade (made by banging pans and kettles) to a newly married couple", it seems that it often involved more than that. All kinds of crazy and funny tricks were played on the newlyweds!



Duncan Hough shared many wonderful stories of growing up in this rural area that many in the audience could relate to and remember! He certainly had a great upbringing -- so much so that he never left the area.



Rebecca Wilkinson, a local author, known as Becky to most of the local folks, also shared some fond memories of her years living here. She spoke about her novels. One of her books titled "The Fourth" is set in Adolphustown in the early 19th century.



Nancy Bruinsma told of her amazing quest to discover knowledge of artifacts that she found at the Kimmert farm outside of Napanee. As a result of her diligence, she coordinated a event last June in which AFHS participated.

**Speaker Photos:**  
Susan Wright



**Joan Reynolds & Elizabeth Vandenburg at AFHS book table  
Royal Flying Corp 100 Anniversary  
Deseronto June 10, 2017**





In the spring of this year we were awarded a grant from the Napanee District Community Foundation to erect signs at two cemeteries: Carsallen Cemetery at 445 River Road, and Trumpour Cemetery along Staples Lane off the 3rd Concession in Adolphustown. The signs were put up at the end of June and we are very pleased with the result. We give our heartfelt thanks to the Napanee District Community Foundation for funding our project, and to the Town and the County for their assistance in designing and erecting the signs.

Photos: Richard Philips



For their Culture Days activity, the L&A District Women's Institute hosted a Canada 150 Art Tree Project at the Downtown Napanee Business Hub on September 30. We contributed to this project by submitting a poster made by Elizabeth Vandenburg that served to share knowledge of the AFHS with the local community.

Many thanks to our small but dedicated group of local residents who work to discover and share the important history of our rural area.



Photo: Elizabeth Vandenburg

## A Hero in Our Midst

Ross Morton

There can be occasions when we learn of unusual events about the lives of our friends and this was the case with Rodney Dove. I came to know Rodney in 1988 some months after his wife Ann became a member of the South Fredericksburgh Heritage Committee. The Doves had moved to Sillsville earlier that year and had purchased their property because of its setting, and because it was within a day's drive of their Montreal family, but not as expensive as in the high price urban markets.

They constructed a four doorway garage with a loft which was attached to their two-story country farmhouse. The loft was their library, fitted with a conference size table and heated by a wood-burning stove. There were times when the Heritage Committee held their monthly meeting in the loft, but unfortunately, this portion of their house was destroyed by fire in 2007.



Photo: AFHS

The Dove's Sillsville house as it appeared in 1989

I had occasions to talk to Rodney about his war-time experiences and although it has been many years since we last chatted I can recall much of what he told me. Rodney had completed his studies and as the Second World War was still ongoing, wanted to serve his country and selected the Navy. He was told he had a larger than average lung capacity following his medical and would be well suited as a Charioteer Operator. Rodney had not heard of the word "Charioteer" and did not know what was involved but assumed those in charge had reason to believe he was right for the job, so he accepted. He said there were times in future years when he wished he had asked a few more questions before enlisting and he was to learn later that lung capacity, did not, in fact, have much to do with being a skilled diver.

The following appeared in the December 20, 2005 edition of *The Telegraph*.

**Sub-Lieutenant Rod Dove, who has died aged 84, won the DSO during a daring attack on Italian shipping by riding a human torpedo into Palermo harbour.**

As the submarine Trooper surfaced in heavy weather off Palermo on January 2/3 1943, Dove and his crewman, Leading Seaman Jimmy Freel, climbed on to the casing wearing their cumbersome diving suits.

Dove recalled that it was the blackest night, with the Force 5 wind off the coast whipping up to make Trooper bounce like a yo-yo on a short string.

Each man worked with one hand, holding on to the submarine with the other, as they unscrewed the wire fastenings to push Chariot XVI out of its container and on to the deck, which was continually swept by waves.

As Trooper lay semi-submerged to allow Dove and Freel to clamber aboard their craft, a breaker suddenly picked up the chariot, lifting it over the casing and dumping it on the other side of the boat.

Both men managed to stay astride; but their limpet mines and magnets for attaching the warhead were washed away, though they did not discover this until much later.

Of the five chariots involved in Operation Principal, Dove and Freel's was the first to find its way under the defensive net and into the harbour. Although the net's lower folds, lying on the seabed, had demagnetised their compass, they reached their target, the 8,500-ton Italian troopship Viminale.

Working underwater, Dove improvised a rope sling to hang the 1,000-lb warhead to the sternpost of the liner and set the timer. Without a compass, he realised that they could not make a rendezvous outside the harbour, and they decided to scuttle their chariot and swim ashore.

He and Freel, who were wearing naval battledress under their Sladen diving suits, were making their way out of Palermo when they had the satisfaction of hearing their charges blow up, badly damaging Viminale.

Shortly afterwards, however, they were arrested by the carabinieri and handed over to the Italian navy who, for several weeks, threatened to shoot them as saboteurs.

While in solitary confinement at Forte Boccea in Rome, they located other charioteers captured at Palermo by singing mock opera - "Is there anyone here from the Navy?" to the tune of She'll be coming round the mountain when she comes.

When Dove tired of re-reading the same ancient magazines, he sketched the Dulwich College crest on the wall of his cell.

Later they were sent to a disused 14th-century monastery at Padula, Calabria, where various escape plans were either detected by their guards or vetoed by the senior British officer.

After the Italian capitulation in 1943, the charioteers were sent by the Germans to a Marlag outside Bremen, and there Dove learned that he had been awarded the DSO. As the war ended and the prisoners were force-marched eastwards before the advancing Russian army, Dove was strafed by the RAF.

On repatriation in May 1945 he found that his special pay for diving and chariot duties had been stopped from the time of his capture; and no appeal could get it restored.

Dove's parents, who had been told that he was missing, found out only eight months after his capture that he was alive when the story of his doings broke in the Daily Sketch.



Freel, who was awarded the Conspicuous Gallantry Medal for his part in Operation Principal, used the chaos in Italy during late 1943 to escape, and fought for several months with the partisans until he could join the advancing British Army.

Operation Principal was something of a Pyrrhic victory: Viminale had been damaged and a new Italian cruiser sunk. But the submarines Traveller and P311, with three chariots and their crews, were lost; six charioteers were captured and two others died. Only one chariot, along with its crew, was recovered.

Rodney George Dove was born on September 1 1921 in south London, where his father - a survivor of the fighting at Arras and an Army lightweight champion boxer - owned several butcher's shops. Young Rod, who gained a scholarship to Dulwich, joined the Navy in 1940 as a seaman.

He was trained to be coxswain of a landing craft but, after an accident in which he lost the middle two fingers of his left hand, he was sent to HMS King Alfred at Hove, where he came top of class in navigation and torpedoes and was commissioned as a sub-lieutenant, RNVR.

Dove volunteered for hazardous duties, without knowing what this entailed, and found himself training for service in human torpedoes or chariots, weapons which Churchill had ordered to be copied from captured Italian models following the successful attack on British battleships at Alexandria.

After experiments and realistic training (in which a colleague drowned) under the rigorous leadership of Commander "Tiny" Fell in Scotland, Dove deployed with Naval Party 450 to the Mediterranean for Operation Principal, a massed attack by human torpedoes against Axis shipping in Italian ports.

After his return to England Dove was sent by the Admiralty to be assistant harbourmaster in Batavia (now Jakarta). He liked the East Indies and, after being demobbed in Singapore, worked for the general traders MacLaine Watson.

When he retired on health grounds in the 1950s, he emigrated to Vancouver, where he joined Air Canada and worked his way from ticket agent to senior ground staff manager.

A lifelong bibliophile, Dove settled on the shores of Hay Bay, Lake Ontario, where he had to build a wing on to his house to accommodate his library. When he became blind he turned to collecting talking books and had the newspapers read to him every day.

Rod Dove died on October 30. He married, in 1949, Helenna Wehmann. They divorced in the 1970s, and in 1984 he married Ann Gifford. Both wives survive him with two sons and two daughters of the first marriage.



Photo: [A22125](#) IWM  
Sub Lieut R G Dove. RNVR

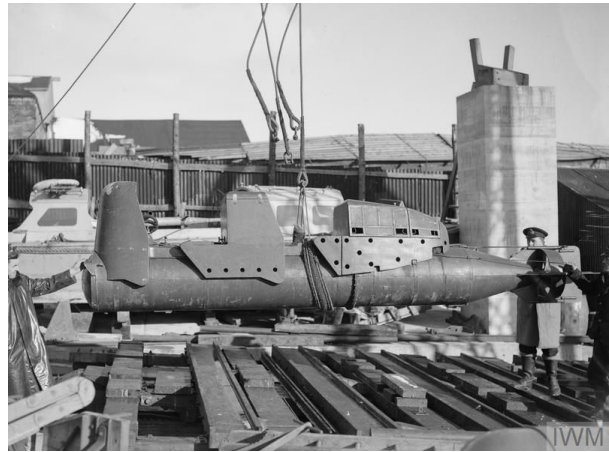


Photo: [A22121](#) IWM  
Chariot craft



Photo: [A22112](#) IWM  
Chariot craft underway



Photo: [A22119](#) IWM  
Commanding officer of the Chariot craft at the controls

Photographs taken by Lt S J Beadell, Royal Navy official photographer, during the course of the Second World War, and now in the collections of the [Imperial War Museums](#).



What Rodney told me regarding the Palermo landing was somewhat different than the write-up of the event in the newspaper. Rodney said that he and his partner did indeed return to the area assigned for their rescue by a submarine but when it did not arrive they had no choice but to go ashore.

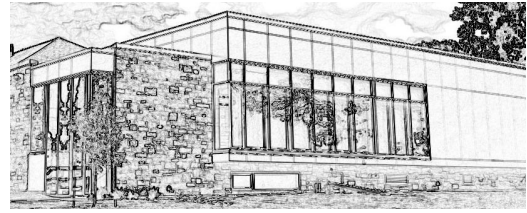
Rodney said much of the stress of being a Prisoner-of-war lessened once he was handed over to the Germans. He said his meals were equal to those of the civilian population, that he always had something suitable to read and that he was treated with respect as an officer, according to the tradition of the Imperial German Navy.

Photo: AFHS  
Sillsville Cemetery

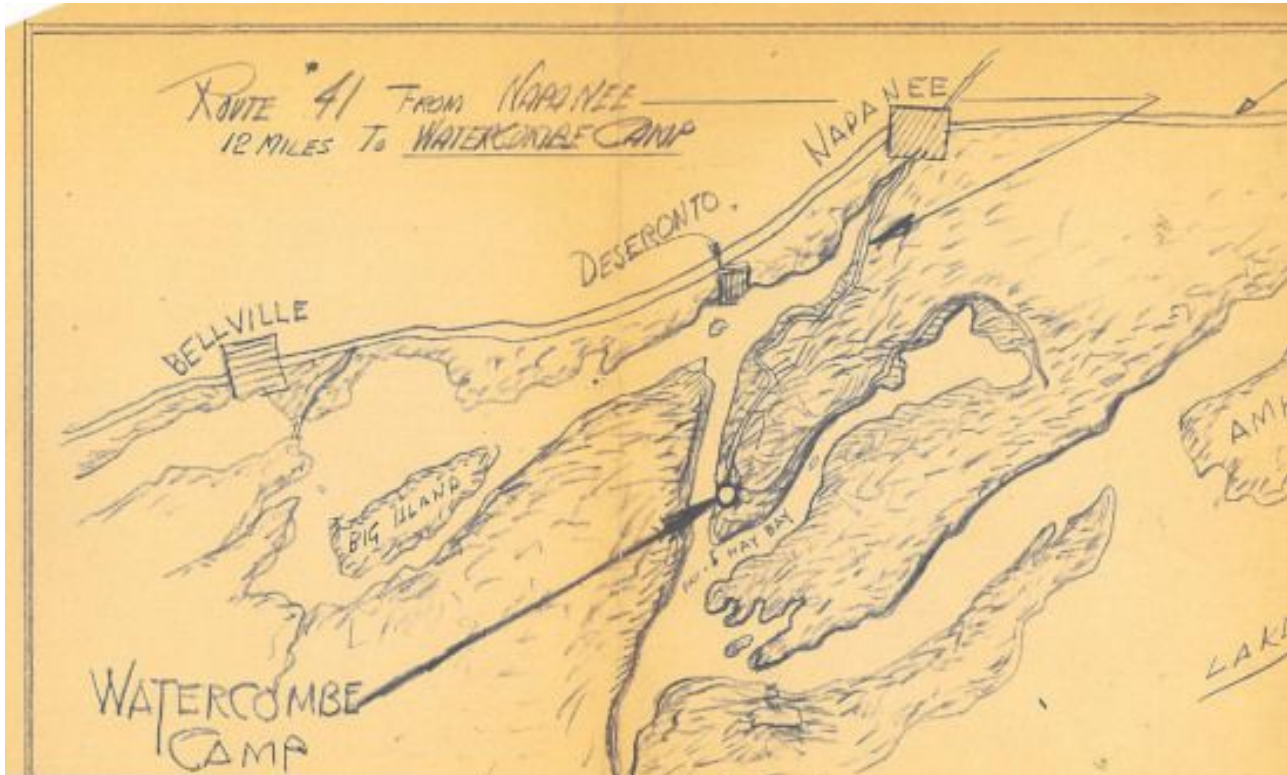
## From the Archives

### The Other Side: Watercombe Camp

Jane Foster, Manager



[Lennox & Addington County Archives](#)



Watercombe Camp fonds, 2016.59, L&A County Archives

#### Watercombe Advertising

In the 1880s, camping in tents and cottages became fashionable. Most people set up their primitive cabins within easy distance of town, some going as far as the Bay of Quinte. Glen Island and Camp Le Nid were reached by steamer. In the early 20<sup>th</sup> century, summer cottages were built along Long Reach, a narrow arm that connects the Napanee River to the Bay of Quinte. By the end of World War One, there were many summer cottages on the Bay.

It was the gasoline engine that brought the Long Reach closer to town. Gasoline engines put power boats on the Napanee River. With inboard engines, usually one to three cylinders, it became easy to cruise at 10 – 15 miles an hour as far as the Reach in a day. The *Red Devil*, a pioneer motorboat, painted scarlet red with blonde mahogany decks, belonged to Charlie Walters, Manager of the Napanee Public Utilities. The *Red Devil* had a three cylinder, 2-cycle engine and could cruise at 18 miles an hour. From 1908-1925, Charlie Walters taxied citizens down the Napanee River to summer cottages and camps on the Reach and the Bay of Quinte, Dr. Ward to his camp on Long Reach and also Walter Herrington with his friends to LeNid camp near Glen Island.

Captain Ward's gasoline launch, the *Parady*, also ferried people to summer cottages stopping at San Souci, Tom Huff's, Bogarts and Watercombe along the Reach and also to Glen Island. In the 1920s, roads were still poorly surfaced and motor cars were owned by only a few.



The River Road used to be known as the "Camp Road" by patrons of Watercombe camp, only twelve miles from town. Just past Bethany, a community recognized today by a small cemetery on a knoll, the road turns south to climb Miller's hill and then continues westward to the Long Reach. At Huff's, a roadway down the hill connected to a ferry to the Prince Edward high shore at Green Point. Just past Huff's, at a corner which bends to the south, a three- to four-hundred foot right-of-way through dense woods winds off to Watercombe. Originally part of the land grant to Christopher German UE which stretched from Hay Bay to the Reach, this end of the former German farm is still densely wooded.

In 1877, the north half of the German farm was sold out of the family and in 1903, was acquired by Adolphus Albert "Bart" Bartlett of Rochester, under Power of Sale. His father had emigrated from England to Adolphustown Township in the 1860s and then located to Napanee. His father, Francis, was an architect, and his brothers, Francis and Frederick, were builders. Bart worked as a jeweler before moving to Rochester in 1888 where he worked as a salesman in a dry goods store. He married Annie E. Huff from Pennsylvania and two sons were born there, Albert Roy and Harold T.

Bart rented out cottages on the Long Reach and supplied ice to more. In the 1920s, he purchased the *Temeraire*, a thirty-foot craft which had been built in 1904 and entered in the Canada Cup Races out of the Royal Canadian Yacht Club in Toronto, the following year. The *Temeraire* was a familiar sight between Picton and Deseronto until her keel was damaged in 1938, as were Bart's other yachts, *Katie Grey* and *Four Winds*.



2016.59.271 Watercombe Camp Fonds, L&A County Archives  
Captain Tim Webb & Albert "Bart" Bartlett on the *Gardenia* of the Royal Canadian Yacht Club 1938

In 1940, Bart Bartlett granted his son, Albert Roy, the west half of his acreage, and also leased lots to Charles Walters, Donald P. Roblin, Werk Poole and William A. and John Grange. A part, the former Samuel Robinson Casey farm, was granted to Clifford Moon and this would later become the Gibbard farm. After Bart died in 1945, his son Albert Roy continued leases and in the next decade, the leases were converted to grants. As well, additional lots were deeded to Edward and Alice Paul, Eileen Metcalfe and Victor Zender. Many of these names were still associated with the cottage community in the 1960s and some cottages were passed down through family members.

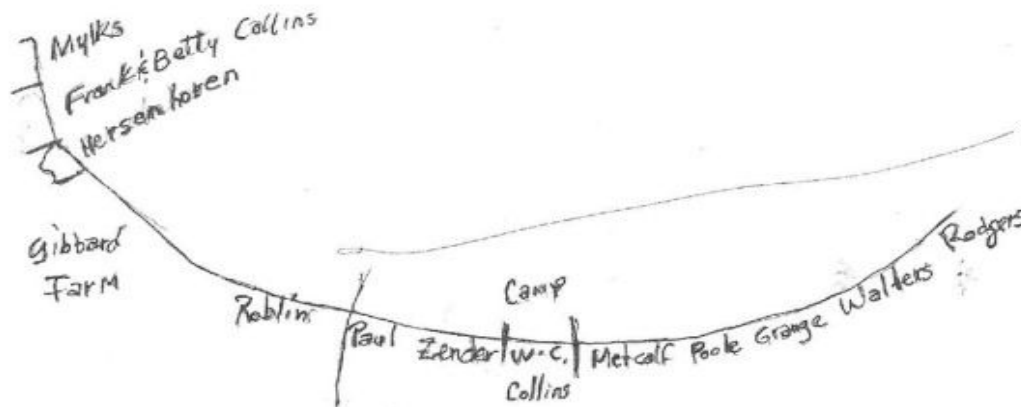


From 1939-1962, Henry Dake "Chet" Collins and his wife and Eva operated Watercombe camp on the water's edge, assisted by their son Francis "Fran" in his teenage years, then by his family. Both Fran and his wife Betty worked for Eastman Kodak in Rochester. Betty had family roots in the Bay of Quinte area and her family had sold farmland for a training island for the RCAF Station at Trenton.

The opening of the Thousand Island Bridge across the St. Lawrence River in 1938 made travel easier for American guests. Before that, guests had to ferry across from Clayton, New York. Regular guests returned each season, including Eddie Kattsenberger, Jack Anderson and Rochester radio personality Louise Wilson Geiwitz.

2016.59.676 Watercombe Camp Fonds, L&A County Archives  
Circa 1960s

A couple summers ago, Chet's grandson Dake Collins visited the County Archives to donate a large number of photographs taken at Watercombe. As well, he shared several stories about summers on the Reach, sparked by fond memories of a vibrant summer camp and neighbouring cottages.



**D. Collins, Watercombe Camp fonds, 2016.59, L&A County Archives**  
**Watercombe community circa 1960**

Watercombe camp was a cluster of cottages between the cottages owned by Zender and Metcalf. "Twin Oaks" with its massive stone fireplace and chimney was the heart of Watercombe. Eva Collins's cabin was the PGO ("Pay and Get Out"), equipped with a doorbell so guests could signal. "The Pines" was a two-storey sleeping cabin with two rooms, one for boys and one for girls. In the 1950s, a shower cabin was added, but before that pitchers of hot water were supplied. "Henry's Throne" was the men's toilet and Chet's grandson had the job of collecting the thunder mugs from the cottages.

Local families worked for the camp or supplied vegetables and eggs. Nellie Robertson cooked for the camp. Her pies were favoured, not only by guests but also, by the raccoons. On one occasion, to everyone's dismay, the raccoons ate the pies she had just baked.

Vegetables and eggs were purchased from Mrs. Miller on Miller's hill. One Sunday, a neighbor, Bill DeSaussure went to get eggs. When he was refused because it was the Sabbath, he told Mrs. Miller to turn her back, then took a dozen eggs and went back to pay her on Monday. Bill was a millionaire industrialist from New Jersey who spent his summers at his cottage on the Bay.



**2016.59.28 Watercombe Camp Fonds, L&A County Archives**  
**Eva Collins and Camp Guest Circa 1960s**

Among Dake's memories were afternoons riding motorcycles on oiled roads with Manly Macdonald's grandson, David. Manly Macdonald had purchased the John Bogart farm between Huff's and Watercombe from Bogart descendants in 1956. Other afternoons were spent playing skipper in the hull of *Temeraire*, or croquet with neighbor children while the women played bridge. The *Evasea*, built by his father Fran one winter, was towed to Watercombe, and was sailed between the Reach and Picton. He later sold the sailboat to Bob Roblin to buy a lot further west where he built "Collins on the Rocks" in the 1950s, on Dr. Ward's old spot, between Mylks and Hersenhoren.



Watercombe was a warm, fun-filled summer place with laughter and music, lively games and quiet evenings in front of the fireplace and days spent fishing, picnicking and sailing. Eighteen- and even thirty-pound Muskie were prize catches pulled from the water. The fish, carved with the initials of the owner, were kept in sawdust and ice in a drive shed. This method was later replaced by a cooler with a Lazy Susan made from a bomb carrier by Chet Collins.



**2016.59.28 Watercombe Camp Fonds, L&A County Archives**  
Albert "Bart" Bartlett (right) outside main cabin Early 1940s

More than a camp, Watercombe was also an extended community. Bill DeSaussure would run errands for the camp in his mahogany boat *Hunter*, while Albert Bartlett was frequently at the Collin's cabin for meals. The families socialized together outside the camp. The Herschenhorn, Gibbard and Collins families attended the opening of Upper Canada Village in 1961. Not only were there fond memories of the camp, but also of visits to Napanee to visit the fair, Olsson's bakery for 5-cent butter tarts, Scotty's barbershop, the town ice locker and the Superior Restaurant.



**2016.59.466**  
Beach at Watercombe 1960s



**2016.59.622**  
Relaxing on the sun deck Circa 1960s



**2016.59.383**  
Dingby sailboat Circa 1950s



**2016.59.369**  
Drying fish Circa 1950s

In 1967, Chet and Eva sold Watercombe. Community is the common thread between Le Nid and Watercombe, with Le Nid being the white collar version and Watercombe, the blue collar community, operated as a business but warmly connected to the neighbouring rural and town community. Today, a map of Lennox and Addington still identifies this spot as Watercombe.

This article has been prepared from the memories of Dr. Allan Walters, published in Lennox and Addington Historical Society Papers and Records, Volume 15 (1976), and also from conversation with Dake Collins at the County Archives.



## A Curious Thing

Angela Cronk



April's Curious Thing

No one was able to help us identify April's item -- so still a mystery!

What is this?



This chair is about 5 feet high.

Submitted by Angela Cronk

Please contact [angelacronk@gmail.com](mailto:angelacronk@gmail.com) if you recognise the item. Tell us what it is called, what it is used for, during what era it was used, and anything else you can tell us about it.

Do you have some weird thing hanging around your home or barn? Take a photo of it and send it in – we can feature it here in a future issue.

*"Very deep, very deep is the well of the past. Should we not call it bottomless?"*

*Thomas Mann*

## From the Attic

We are looking for old photos and documents from Adolphustown, North and South Fredericksburgh. Just about any old photograph would be of interest: photos of people, homes, farms, schools, churches, or community or family events. Even if you do not know the people or places in the photos, maybe someone else in the community does. Old publications relating to township businesses, schools and churches often contain fascinating details of life in their era.

Some items we are currently looking for:

### OLD PHOTOS or Real Photo POSTCARDS:

- The Adolphustown Town Hall
- The South Fredericksburgh Town Hall at Sillsville
- The U.E.L. Cheese Factory, Adolphustown
- St. Paul's Church, Main Street Adolphustown
- The Old Store at Adolphustown
- The Old Hotel at Adolphustown
- Conway Store
- Conway Wharf
- Phippen Cheese Factory
- Fredericksburgh Train Station
- McDowall Presbyterian Church
- Camp Le Nid
- Glen Island
- Tarry Hall

### CORRESPONDENCE:

- Letters or postcards bearing postmarks from local towns and villages
- Correspondence from someone serving overseas during either WWI or WWII

### BOOKLET:

- Constitution and Roll of Officers and Members of Camp Le Nid, 1902

If you are looking for any specific photos or documents, let us know and we will add it to our "Attic" list. **Newly added items will be highlighted in blue!**

## Contribute to *The Neighbourhood Messenger*

We publish *The Neighbourhood Messenger* several times a year. If you have an old photograph or newspaper clipping to share, a story to tell, or an event to publicize, let us know. Please send submissions to [jane.lovell@kos.net](mailto:jane.lovell@kos.net).

### Contributors to this issue:

Angela Cronk  
Jane Foster  
Jane Lovell  
Liz Loynes  
Ross Morton  
Kathy Staples  
Susan Wright