

# THE NEIGHBOURHOOD MESSENGER

NEWSLETTER OF THE ADOLPHUSTOWN-FREDERICKSBURGH HERITAGE SOCIETY

Issue Number 20

April 2019

## A Crisis of the Heart

St. Alban the Martyr United Empire Loyalist Memorial Church has stood at the centre of the village of Adolphustown for the past 135 years. Built between 1884 and 1888 to commemorate the centennial of the 1784 arrival of the United Empire Loyalists, St. Alban's served the local Anglican community well into the twenty-first century. Disestablished in November of 2018, and due to be deconsecrated in the next few months, the church now has a very uncertain future.

### 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 third Monday of the month 5-8 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)

The deconsecration of a church is more than just a loss of a place of worship for the former congregants. When a church is stripped of its sacred status and sold, the building itself may lose the meaning it once held for the community. The loss can be profoundly felt. Often, for the former parishioners, the church is integral to their own personal history: it may have been where they were baptized or married, or where family members have been buried and where they would like to be buried too.

.... Continued on Page 3

## A Glimpse of the Past



Photo: AFHS

A jubilant event held at St. Alban's Church  
Circa 1915

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 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!**

## Events Calendar

May 11	<b>Adolphustown Township Hall</b> Presentation by The Paranormal Seekers on their investigations at the UEL Heritage Centre & Park 1:30pm
May 21	<b>Lennox &amp; Addington County Museum</b> Marc Seguin presents: For Want of a Lighthouse: Building the Lighthouses of Eastern Lake Ontario 1828-1914 7pm
May 18	<b>Old Hay Bay Church Season Opening</b> Open daily 9am - 5pm
May 26	<b>AFHS Spring Heritage Dinner South Fredericksburgh Hall</b> Displays from 5:30pm Roast Beef Dinner at 6:30pm
June 6	<b>Old Hay Bay Fund Raiser South Fredericksburgh Hall</b> Happy Harmony Woman's Choir 2pm
June 15-16	<b>UEL Heritage Centre &amp; Park</b> A WALK THROUGH TIME Historical Encampment and Displays by Re-enactors
June 16	<b>St Alban's Church, Adolphustown</b> Annual UEL Service 3pm Speaker: The Honourable Chris Alexander Former Minister of Citizenship and Immigration
July 13	<b>Old Hay Bay Church</b> 2nd Annual Sunset Service led by Rev. Phil Wilson Celebrating the life of <b>Kathy Staples</b> long time Trustee of Old Hay Bay Church 7pm
July 27	<b>Old Hay Bay Church</b> Genealogy Workshop
August 10 & 11	<b>Old Hay Bay Church</b> <i>Phantoms of Yore</i> hosting a hands on experience connecting with the spirits of the past - all proceeds to the OHBC Restoration Project 7pm
August 25	<b>Old Hay Bay Church</b> The Annual Pilgrimage Service 3pm Window dedication and 200th Anniversary of drowning Speaker: Rev. Mike Putnam

## Heritage Spring Dinner

Please join us at our  
Annual Heritage Spring Dinner on  
**Sunday May 26**

Before tucking in to the roast beef dinner there will be plenty of opportunity to take in the many display-boards and artifacts encircling the hall.

New this year is "**Artifact or Artificion**". Test your knowledge and skills in reasoning to identify the true identity and purpose of some strange object!

And something else new: **Free book draw!** Each guest will be given two tokens to bid on AFHS books. Also in the draw: Framed reproductions of a heritage photograph and of a Ruth Brooks painting.

## Please join us!

The doors of the South Fredericksburgh Hall at 2478 County Road 8 will open at 4:30pm to allow the viewing of the displays and artifacts. Dinner will be served at 6:00 pm .

Again this year: **A cash bar!**

Tickets are \$18 and **must be reserved in advance.**

Please contact Elizabeth Vandenburg at  
**[liz.vandenberg55@gmail.com](mailto:liz.vandenberg55@gmail.com)**

or  
**(613) 373-0099**  
to reserve yours.

## ... Of the Heart

Continued from Page 1

For the broader community, the impact of deconsecration can be as keenly felt. The church may have played a cohesive role in the social life of the neighbourhood -- that sense of community is not easy to replace without the church at its centre. And then there is the history of the building itself. In the case of St. Alban's Church, history abounds -- in its Gothic Revival architecture, in its rare encaustic tiles



Photo: Congregation of St. Alban's Photo Records  
St. Alban's Church 1997

memorializing the United Empire Loyalists who initially settled the region, and in the stained glass windows installed in honour of former rectors and local families.

Much is at stake as the fate of St. Alban's Church is decided. A group dedicated to the preservation of the church and its history, heritage, and role in the local and broader community has been formed. *The Friends of St. Alban's* is striving to find a means by which the church can be preserved and enjoyed by many for years to come.

It is indeed a crisis that has befallen St. Alban's Church -- one that cuts to the heart of many of us who have admired and enjoyed the church, its history and its community for much of our past. It is the hope of *The Friends of St. Alban's* that, with community support, a way can be found to ensure that St. Alban's Church is not lost to our future.

Most of this issue of the *Neighbourhood Messenger* is dedicated to the churches of Adolphustown and Fredericksburgh.



*Napanee Beaver*  
October 5, 1906

*Napanee Express*  
August 24, 1917

Five Large Phonographs  
Given as First District  
Prizes in

### Bread-Making Contest

At Rural School Fairs in Ontario

More than \$2,000 worth of prizes for bread making will be offered at the Rural School Fairs this fall. Among the prizes are five large cabinet phonographs, fifteen Canuck bread mixers, and many attractive books. These splendid prizes will make the contest the most stirring ever held at rural school fairs. Every girl between the ages of 12 and 18 should read all about this fine opportunity, and should begin now to prepare for it. The prizes, under the conditions explained below, will be awarded for the best loaves baked with

**Cream of the West Flour**  
the hard wheat flour that is guaranteed for bread

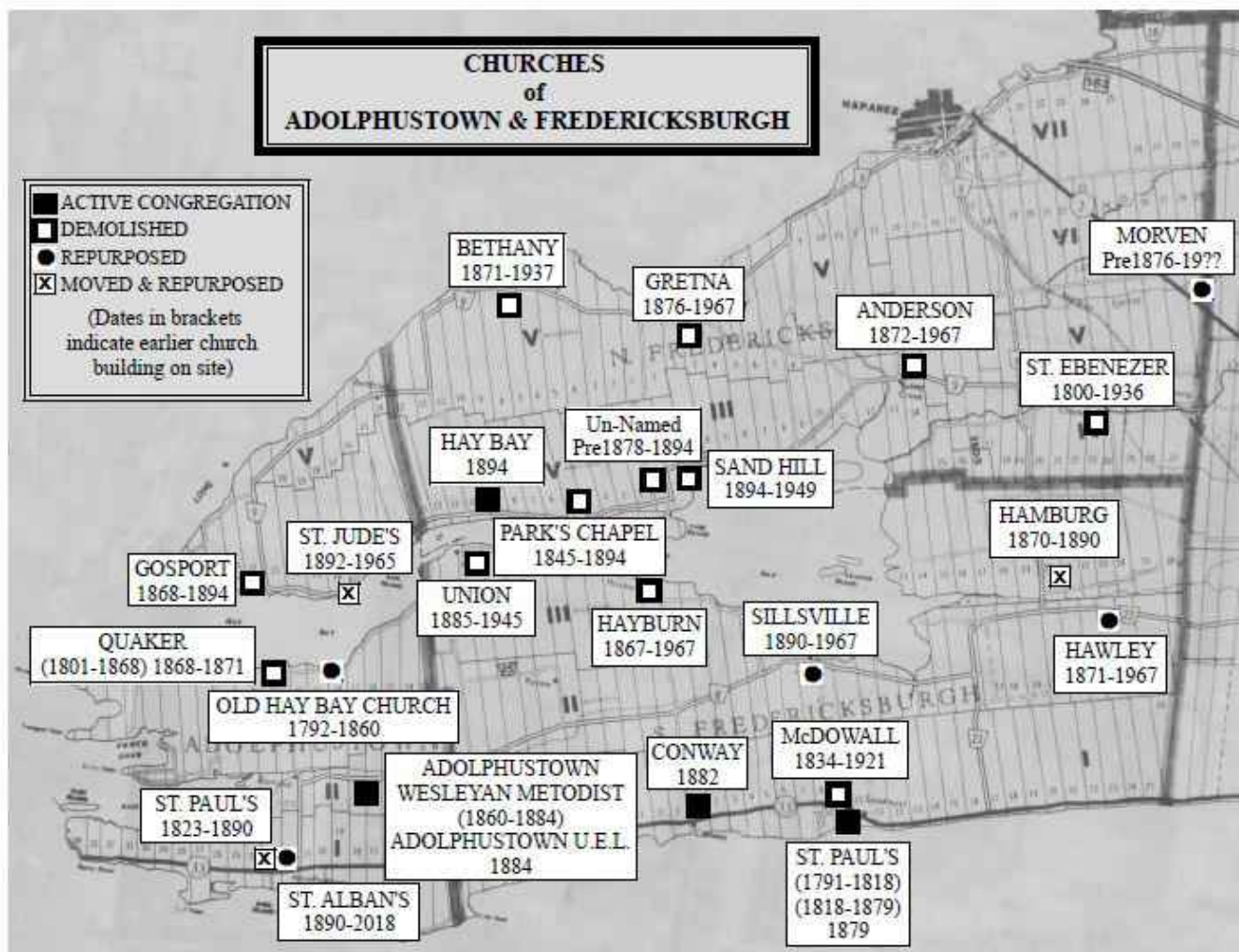
## Where Have All the Churches Gone?

Jane Lovell

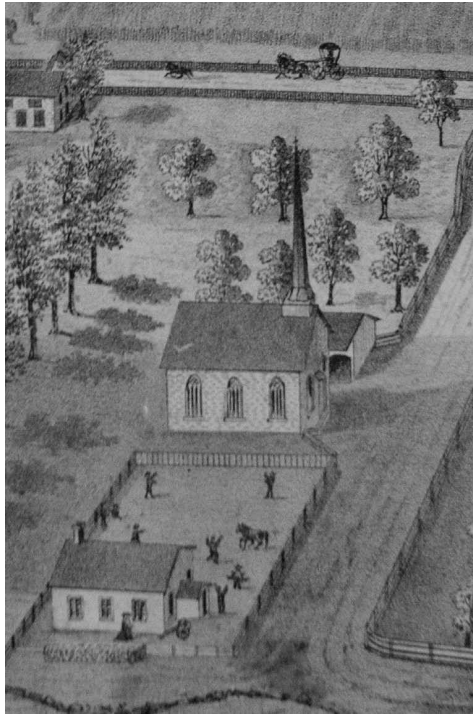
Sadly, most of the churches once residing in Adolphustown and Fredericksburgh are no longer standing. That's the short answer. The longer answer is a bit more convoluted.

The first church in Fredericksburgh was the original St. Paul's Anglican Church at Sandhurst, built in time for its inaugural service on Christmas Day in 1791. Within a year the Old Hay Bay Church, erected along the south shore of Hay Bay, provided a place of worship for the Methodists of Adolphustown. Two churches in North Fredericksburgh were the last to be built -- Hay Bay and Sand Hill, Methodist churches on the north shore of Hay Bay, were both dedicated in 1894. In total, twenty-six churches have been built in Adolphustown and Fredericksburgh over the years. However, that number includes the three churches that stood where the current St. Paul's stands now in Sandhurst, and also includes churches that were replaced by others nearby. A better indication of the number of churches serving the people of the two townships is to count the churches active in 1900. By then the Quaker Meeting House on the south shore of Hay Bay had long since closed, but fifteen other churches were still in use: three Anglican and nine Methodist churches, one each of Lutheran and Presbyterian, and one Union church serving both Anglicans and Methodists. With the closing of St. Alban's, only one Anglican, two United and one Evangelical (formerly Methodist) churches remain active today.

The map below shows the locations of the churches in Adolphustown and Fredericksburgh. The dates indicate years active, not necessarily when the church was built or when it was sold or demolished.



Two churches succumbed to fire. The first was the original St. Paul's in Sandhurst which burned exactly twenty-five years after its opening on Christmas Day 1791. Two subsequent churches replaced the burned church. Sandhurst was also the site of the second church fire. This time it was the McDowall church, just across the road from St. Paul's, which was destroyed by fire in 1921. It was not rebuilt. A number of churches were closed because a new church was built to replace it (Gosport, Sand Hill and its un-named predecessor, Park's Chapel, and St. Paul's Adolphustown). The Hamburg church closed when the Wesleyan (Hawley) and Episcopal (Hamburg) congregations combined. The surplus Hamburg church building was dismantled and moved to Sillsville. Most churches closed,



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

Church and School at Gosport. The church closed in 1894 when the new Hay Bay Church was built.



however, because their congregations were too small to justify their continued existence. The largest number of church closures came in 1967 when the United church closed all but three of their churches in the two townships -- closing six churches in all.

Not all closures resulted in the immediate loss of the church building to the former congregants. Two churches found new life as parish halls. St. Paul's in Adolphustown served as the parish hall for St. Alban's for a hundred years or so after it was closed, and the Bethany church became the hall for the Gretna church from 1937 until the Gretna church closed thirty years later. The Hay Bay United Church on the north shore of Hay Bay became the Hay Bay Evangelical Alliance Church, now the Hay Bay Evangelical Church Fellowship.

Church closure was the death-knell for most of the area churches. Once closed, the church buildings were sold. For ten of them this resulted in their demolition. Several others have been repurposed: After just a few years of use as the South Fredericksburgh Township Hall and then by the Women's Institute for use by community groups, the Sillsville church was divided into apartment units. The churches at Hawley and Morven are currently used for storage. The Old Hay Bay Church on the south shore of Hay Bay has survived as a recognized provincial and national historic site.

In addition to the Hamburg Methodist Church which was dismantled and moved to Sillsville to become their church in 1890, two other churches have been moved. The tiny St. Jude's Anglican Church was closed in 1965 and in 1974 moved two lots to the west along the north shore of Hay Bay to *Perfect Vue Resort* where it was initially used as an antiques store. It currently serves as the resort recreation hall. The most recent and ambitious move came in 1997 when St. Paul's in Adolphustown, no longer in use as the parish hall for St. Alban's, was dismantled and moved to the Demorestville area in Prince Edward County. It was reassembled in its original form (long lost beneath years' of renovations) in 2006. Sold a decade later, the church has since been used as a wedding chapel. It is currently awaiting repairs before once again serving its new community in that capacity.



Photo: Hay Bay Women's Institute Tweedsmuir Book  
Interior of St. Jude's Church 1922

## The Lost Churches

Jane Lovell & Susan Wright

Few photographs remain of the churches of Adolphustown and Fredericksburgh now lost to us. Indeed, none at all are known to exist for several of them. We have no photographs of the Gosport Church, Parks Chapel or Sand Hill Church. Some of the photos appearing below are of poor quality, but are all we have as souvenirs of churches that were once so central to the communities they served.



Photo: Archives of Ontario H 1198  
Hayburn Church 1926



Photo: L&A County Archives N00766  
Gretna Church 1941



Photo: AFHS  
Quaker Meeting House in use as a shed between 1897 & 1912



Photo: AFHS  
Union Church Unknown date



Photo: Centennial Women's Institute  
Tweedsmuir Book  
Anderson Church Unknown Date



Photo: Centennial Women's Institute  
Tweedsmuir Book  
Bethany Church Unknown Date



Photo: AFHS

McDowall Church 1898 (Note band seated at front of gathering)

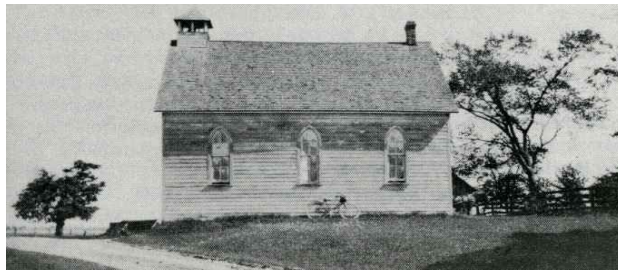
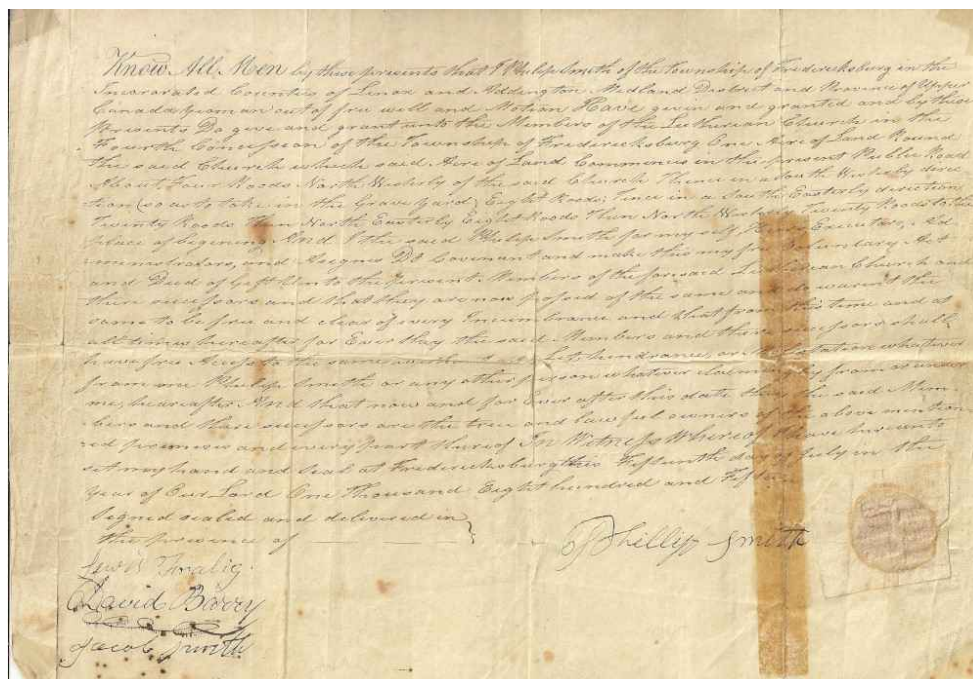


Photo: L&A County Archives  
St. Ebenezer Church  
Unknown date



Source: AFHS  
1815 Deed for  
Lot for St.  
Ebenezer Church

## The Memorial Church

Jane Lovell

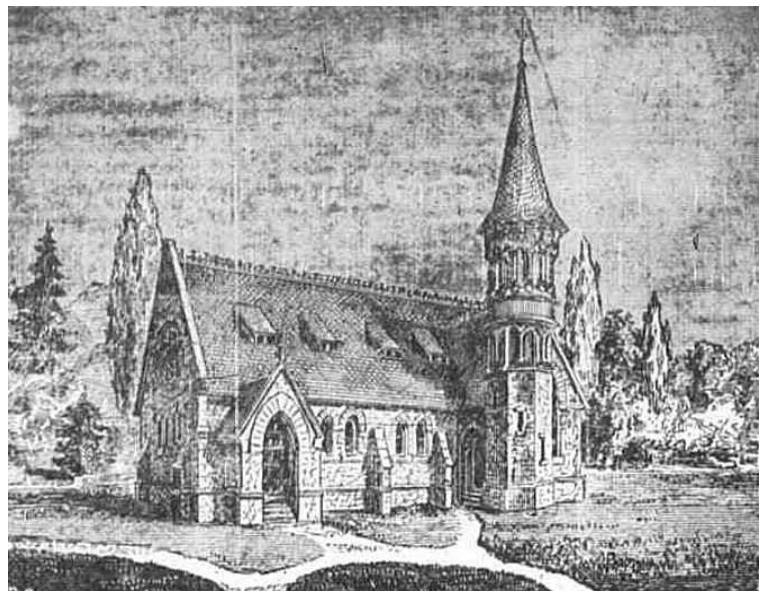
Many of us know St. Alban's as the pretty little stone church in Adolphustown. Petite in size, its architectural and historical significance is huge.

### Huge Architecture

Saint Alban the Martyr United Empire Loyalist Memorial Church is not large, but its architecture gives it a commanding presence. Built between 1884 and 1888, St. Alban's is a rare example of a stone Gothic Revival church in a rural setting. The following description of the church appeared in *The United Empire Loyalists and the Memorial Church Adolphustown, Ontario. A Sketch*, an 1888 petition for funds to complete its interior furnishings:

The Church is of the Early-English Gothic style, solidly built of limestone from the Kingston quarries. At the south side is the Main entrance Porch; an elegant Bell Tower octagonal below and circular above, ascends at the junction of the Nave and Chancel. The Chancel terminates in half decagon, with a window in each face. The dimensions of the Nave are 50 feet by 30 feet, and of the Chancel 24 feet by 30 feet, a fine arch separating these two parts of the Church.

Built to commemorate the centennial of the 1784 arrival of the United Empire Loyalists, this church was intended to be "a Monumental Church of chaste design and finish, according to plans submitted ... by Kingston architects, Messrs. Power and Son." These were lofty aspirations for the small village of Adolphustown, recorded in the 1884-5 *Ontario Gazetteer and Business Directory* as having only 90 inhabitants. Engaging Joseph Power to design the church lent prestige to the endeavour and ensured a certain level of grandeur to the finished structure. Power and Son were well-known and respected architects, having designed many imposing ecclesiastical, institutional, commercial, and residential buildings in Kingston and surrounding communities. Power's submission for the UEL Memorial Church in Adolphustown was a departure from much of his other work – it was in proportion to the small rural village setting while still allowing for some of the more elaborate features of much larger churches. Most unusual among those features, and its most distinctive, is the intricately fashioned bell tower. The bell tower with its conical steeple has long been a prominent landmark for those travelling between Picton in the west towards Bath and Kingston to the east, either by road or by ship along the Adolphus Reach.



Source: *Kingston News* June 6, 1887  
Sketch of proposed design for St. Alban's Church

### Huge History

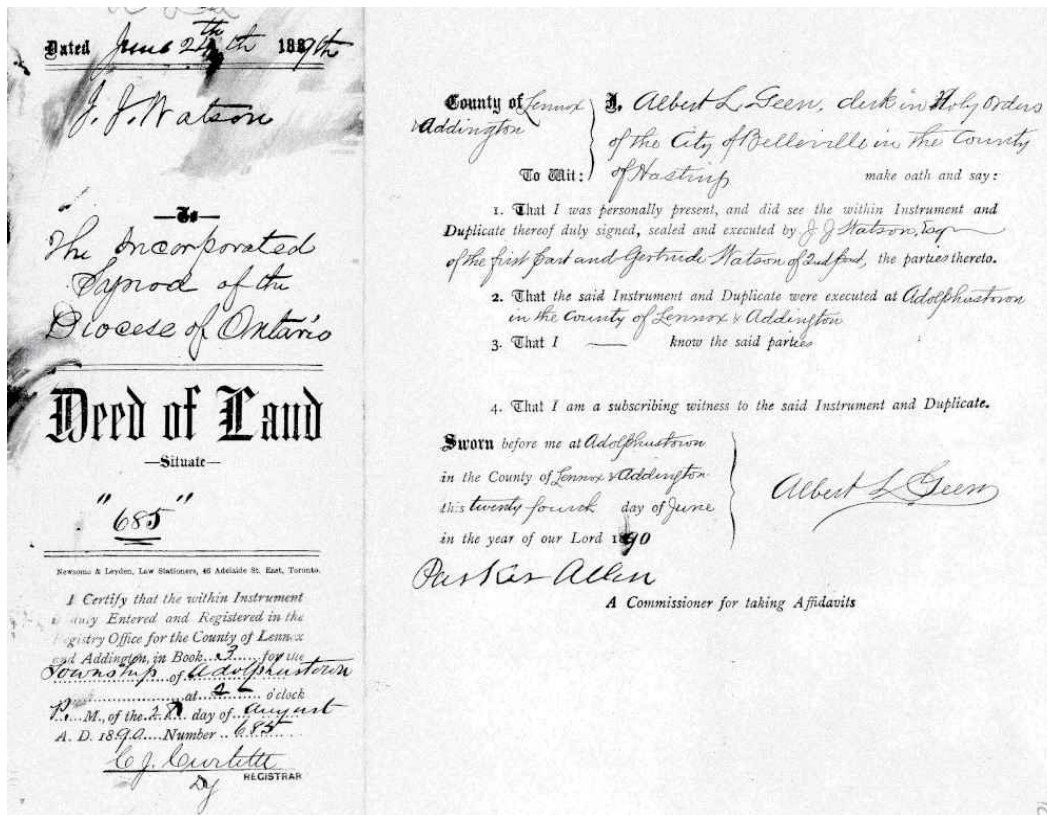
The United Empire Loyalists were prominent among the first settlers to the region and many went on to be influential members of the township, county and province. Celebrating their contributions by erecting a memorial church in their honour provided both an enduring monument and a reminder of the hardships and successes of the forebearers of many families who still reside in the vicinity.



**St. Alban's Cornerstone  
set by Lieutenant Governor  
J.B. Robinson  
June 17, 1884**

The setting of the cornerstone of St. Alban's Church on June 17<sup>th</sup> 1884 was the central event of the three-day celebration held in Adolphustown to mark the centennial of the landing of the Loyalists on the shore below the village. That celebration was one of only three held across the province that year – the other two being in Toronto and Niagara. The Adolphustown celebration was itself historic, with the Lieutenant Governor of Ontario, John Beverley Robinson, setting the corner stone, and having many notables speak, including the local member of provincial parliament, David Wright Allison, and the long-serving member of the federal government, Sir Richard Cartwright.

The Reverend Richard Sykes Forneri can be credited with erecting St. Alban's Church. As the rector of the small timber-frame St. Paul's Episcopal (Anglican) Church in Adolphustown, Forneri conceived of a new memorial church as a fitting monument to the United Empire Loyalists. With great dispatch he engaged Joseph Power to design it, and mason William Evans of Napanee and carpenters Brooks & Lindsay of Kingston, to build it. Not the least of the challenges facing Forneri was acquiring land upon which to build the church. It was through the generosity of John Joseph Watson, a longtime resident, businessman and local politician, that land adjacent to the existing church property was donated.



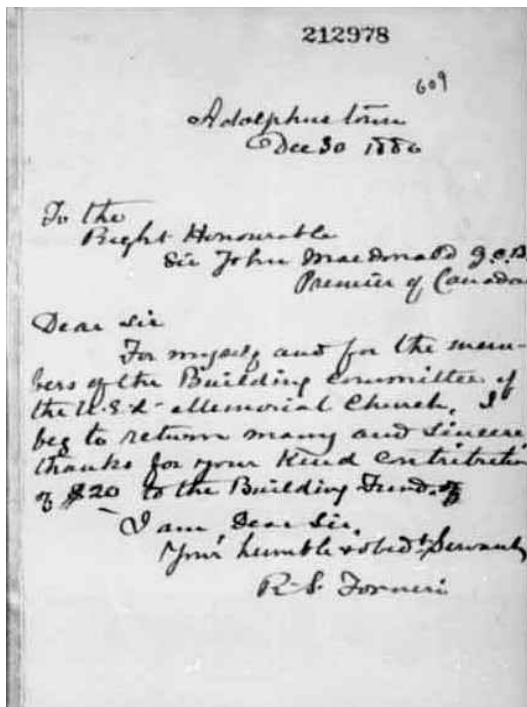
Source: L&A County Archives

Cover and affidavit page of the deed transferring the church lot from John Joseph Watson to the Anglican Diocese, "in consideration of the sum of one dollar". The deed is dated one day before the church was consecrated, and six years after the laying of the cornerstone.

The witnessing clerk Albert Geen was also Rev. Forneri's brother-in-law and assisted Forneri in his ministry from 1885 to 1903. In 1883 Geen's five-month-old daughter died -- a window in her memory was likely one of the first installed in the church.

Parker Allen was a member of the "Adolphustown Celebration Committee" that championed the building of the St. Alban's, and was brother-in-law to Watson.

Given the cost of the church -- in the neighbourhood of \$8,000, a then substantial sum, equivalent to twenty times Forneri's annual salary -- and the very small congregation, paying for the new church was a daunting task. This Forneri achieved through great zeal and perseverance, acquiring subscriptions from around the province. Notable contributors were Lieutenant Governor Robinson, Sir Richard Cartwright, historian and author Dr. William Canniff, and Prime Minister Sir John Alexander Macdonald.

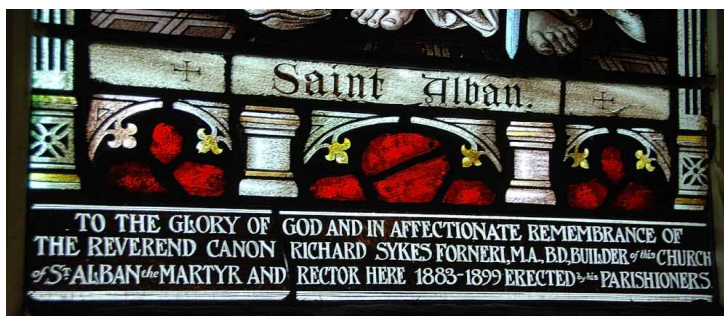


Source: Library & Archive Canada

1886 letter from Rev. Forneri thanking Sir John Macdonald for his \$20 donation

One of Forneri's most impassioned and successful efforts to raise funds was the selling of the sixty-four memorial tiles that encircle the interior of the church. In this he encouraged descendants of Loyalists to commission "Mural Tablets" memorializing their ancestors. Among the men and women whose tablets grace the church walls, many played important roles in the settling and development of the area, in military and church leadership, and in local, provincial and national governance. However, as revealed in the [September 2012](#) and [May 2014](#) issues of the *Neighbourhood Messenger*, it is the tiles themselves that have even more significant historical value. Custom-ordered and manufactured in Stoke-on-Kent, England at the Minton pottery, these are encaustic tiles and are rare examples of an ancient art form that had a brief revival in the mid 19<sup>th</sup> century. The only other known examples in North America reside in the legislative buildings in Quebec City and the Capitol Building in Washington DC.

Initially fitted with clear and coloured glass, the windows of St. Alban's Church also represented an opportunity to raise funds. Parishioners were encouraged to sponsor stained glass windows to replace the originally installed glazing. All five rectangular windows and twelve arched windows in the nave now contain windows sponsored by local families and bear inscriptions memorializing prominent members of the community. The large rose window in the west gable of the nave is the most recently completed and represents a collaborative effort, with individual families each sponsoring one of the thirteen panels of the rose. Many of these windows, installed over the lifetime of the church, were designed and manufactured by the Robert McCausland company of Toronto, the oldest stained glass company in North America. McCausland windows grace many churches, banks and civic buildings in Toronto and elsewhere across Canada. It is rare to find such elaborate stained glass in a small rural church.



St. Alban Window  
Detail



St. Alban Window  
Robert McCausland Co.  
Installed 1926



Photo: L&A County Archives 2015.201.8

Interior of St. Alban's Church taken shortly after the St. Alban window (to the right of centre above the altar) was installed in 1926. The memorial tiles encircling the interior of the church are clearly visible.

Of the seventy men and women whose names appear on the memorial tiles, sixteen are interred in the Anglican cemetery west of the church. Many of their family members and members of other Loyalist families are buried there as well. Eight others, memorialized in the windows, are interred in the cemetery, as are the families of the early rectors, including Reverend Forneri, his immediate predecessor, the Reverend Robert Harding, and the Reverend Job Deacon who was responsible for building Adolphustown's first church, St. Paul's.

The donor of the land on which St. Alban's stands, John Joseph Watson, and many of his family are buried in the private burial ground to the east of the church.

St. Alban's Church in Adolphustown served the spiritual needs of Anglicans within the township for 128 years -- from its consecration on June 25<sup>th</sup> 1890 until it ceased to hold services in November 2018. More importantly, however, it has been a hub of the community, engaging the broader population in a wide range of events held at the church parish hall or the rectory, including concerts, pie socials, fowl dinners, movie and euchre nights, comfort food sales and dances. Held annually since 1938, the UEL Service and Lecture followed by a Loyalist Tea on the rectory lawn has been an enduring event

attracting not only members of the local community but also such notables as the Governor General Roland Michener and journalist and author Peter C. Newman to attend or speak at the service.

### ADOLPHUSTOWN

This Friday evening, the Bi-Nais Dramatic Club of S. Luke's Church, Kingston, will present their four-act play, "Plain People", in the Parish Hall. This entrancing comedy is by the celebrated playwright, Dana J. Stevens, and its presentation by Kingstonians, well versed in histrionic art, insures an evening of more than usual enjoyment. The players are to be accompanied by Shea's five-piece Orchestra, who will furnish the music for dancing after the play.

*Napanee Beaver*

June 11, 1926  
&  
October 15, 1926

### Bazaar and Supper at Adolphustown.

The annual bazaar and fowl supper, under the auspices of the Guild, will be held Friday afternoon and evening, Oct. 22nd, in the Parish Hall, Adolphustown. Supper tickets, 50c. Dancing, Gentlemen, 50c.; Ladies, 25c. Orchestra.

42a

## And Now What?

For St. Alban's Church one era has come to an end. The new era before it is perilous. Once deconsecrated and sold, the church is a risk of no longer being accessible to the public, or the building may be demolished or lost due to neglect.

There can be no question that St. Alban's Church has national historic significance as a monument to the United Empire Loyalist settlers in Canada. The memorial tiles within the church tell of the history of Loyalists who settled locally and elsewhere in Ontario. Many of the men who were instrumental in

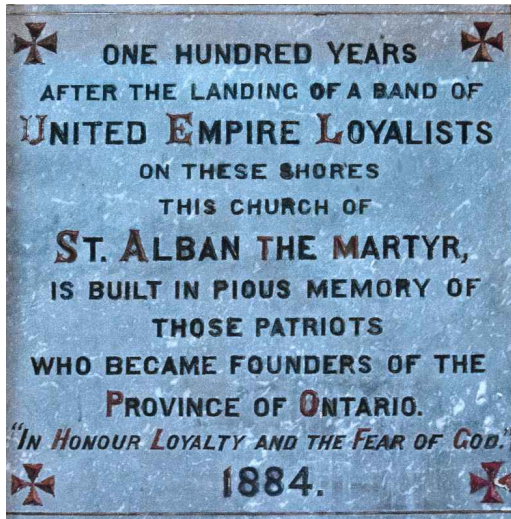


Photo: Diane Berlet

Tablet commemorating the building of St. Alban's Church

supporting or attending the church found success and influence not only within the local community but also provincially and nationally. Throughout its history the church has lent a sense of community and social connectivity to the inhabitants of the region, and for many today the church, through its memorial tiles and windows, is a tie to their own family history.

We should not be demure about our pride in the beauty of St. Alban's Church with its inspiring architecture, rare and artistically significant tiles and unusually rich stained glass windows. Exposure to the world beyond the local community can only serve to put the tiny village of Adolphustown back on the map as a place to discover the history of the United Empire Loyalists in the region. And what a lovely place in which to regain social contact with our neighbours, and to invite others to join us in fellowship -- over a cup of coffee, or while attending a musical event or lecture, or in innumerable other ways.

These are possibilities -- they are ways in which to preserve and celebrate the pretty little stone church in Adolphustown, its history and its place in the social life of the community, for now and into the future.

Can we make the possibilities a reality?

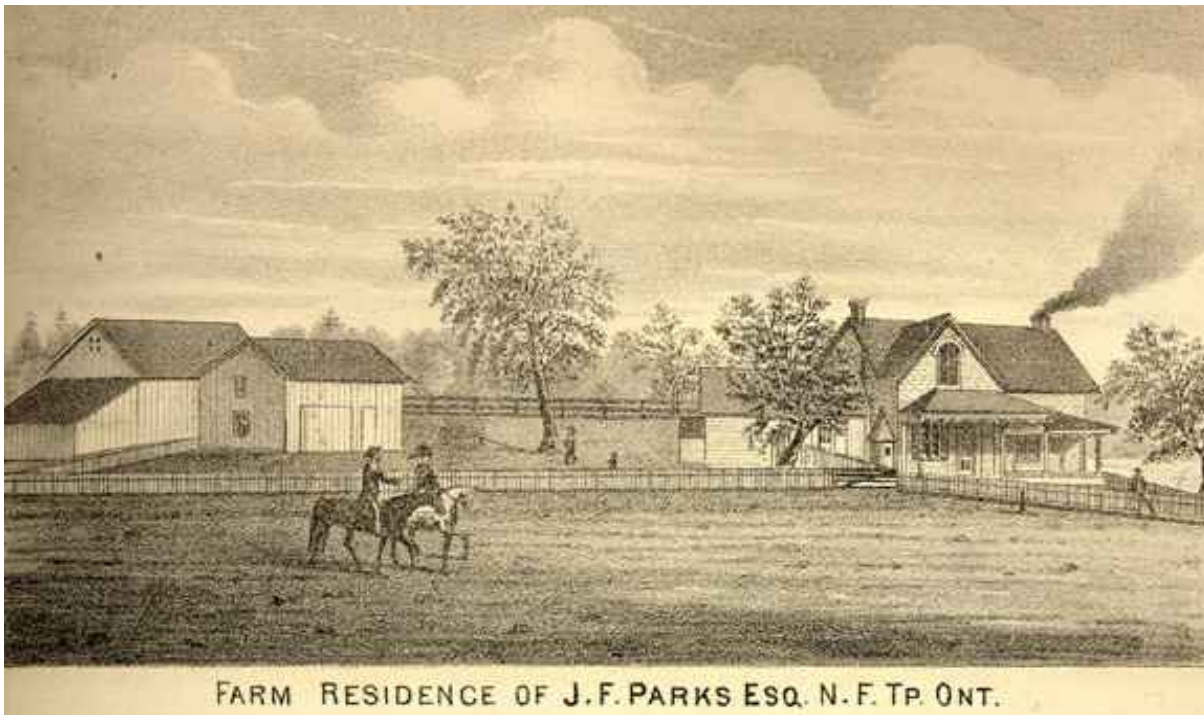


Photo: AFHS

Another interior shot showing tiles and detailing of roof trusses and ceiling panels. The second window from the left behind the altar was installed in 1894. There appears to be stained glass in central the window, but not in the others, dating the photo to 1894-1926.

## Then and Now

Susan Wright &  
Jane Lovell



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



1878 Atlas

West Half Lot 1 Concession 3



Photo: Google Street View

2012

**613 Fitchett Road**  
**West Half Lot 1 Concession 3 North Fredericksburgh**

Lot Originally granted James Forshee 1835

Purchased by Milo Parks in 1837

Transferred to Milo's son John Franklin Parks in 1865

The lot remained in the Parks family until at least 2004.

The farm was obviously prosperous enough in 1878 for John to pay to have a sketch of his farm featured in the *Illustrated Historical Atlas of the Counties of Frontenac, Lennox & Addington*.

The house has remained substantially unchanged for over 140 years.

# Water, Water, Everywhere!

Duncan and Ruth Hough

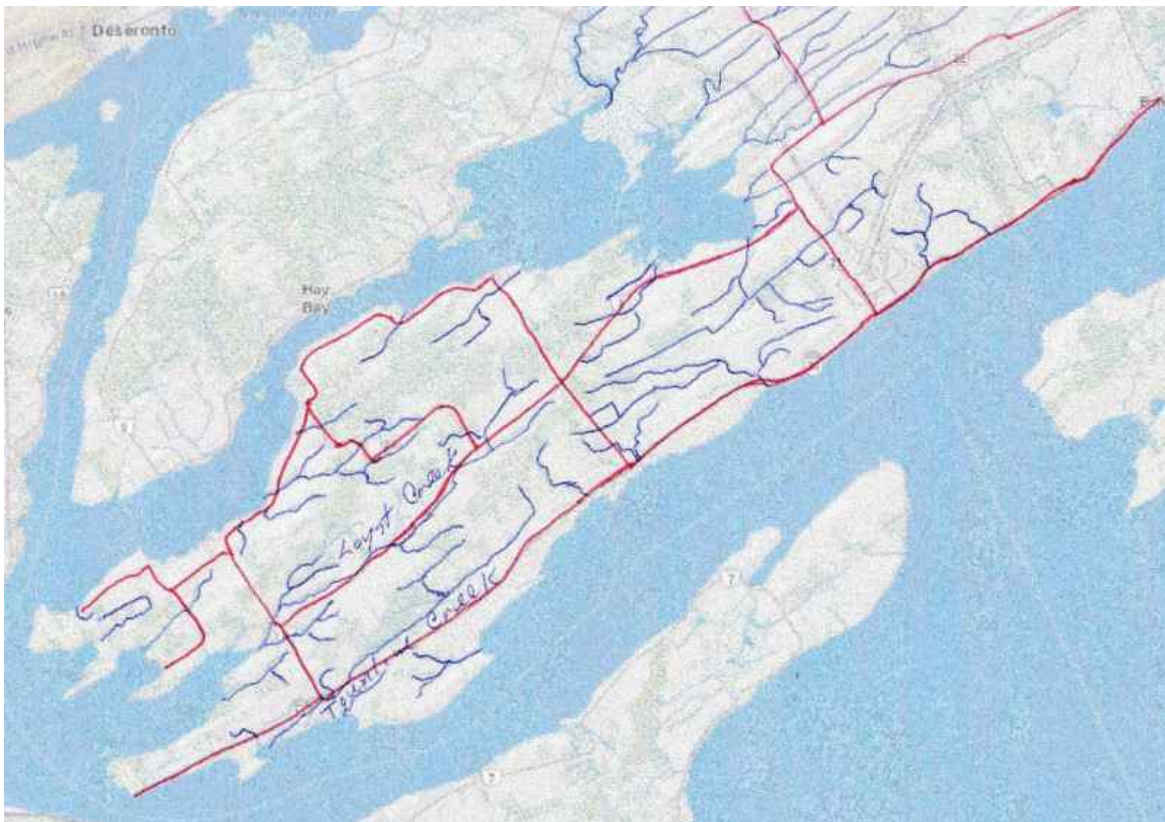
## Part 1 - Surface Drainage

Water is essential for crops to grow. But too much water is a problem as well. When the early settlers began to clear the land, they chose higher, better drained spots for homesteads and cultivation. All the early crops -- wheat, rye, oats, peas, fruit trees and later on barley -- need good drainage.

A handful of soil is roughly half mineral particles (sand, silt and clay). A quarter should be water, held on the soil particles and available to the plant. The other quarter should be air, essential for root growth and the life of all the micro-organisms, which with humus give the soil it's life. If excess water fills the cell pores, crop growth suffers immensely.

In addition, a water logged soil can be compacted by anything from horses' hooves to equipment tires. This crushes the pores in the soil reducing the air-holding capacity. Compacted soil (especially our local heavy clays) bake rock-hard in the summer preventing roots from penetrating. Finally, tilling wet soil results in a rough lumpy seed bed which eventually dries out and results in a drought stressed crop.

So how do we get rid of the excess surface water that comes as rain or snow melt? Natural water courses, outletting into the Bay of Quinte and Hay Bay, existed long before the land was cleared. The topography of our peninsula dictates that nearly all streams run east to west or west to east.



**Map of Watercourses showing  
Loyst & Townline Creeks**

As land was cleared, farmers dug ditches by hand to accelerate the flow of water to the natural water ways. These followed the generally contour of the land. The farms were surveyed north to south; the water naturally moved east-west. Accordingly, most farms received surface water from their higher

neighbour and dumped that water and their own on the lower neighbour. As long as everyone cleared their ditches regularly the system functioned. But clearing ditches was time consuming and hard work. Often farms were rented year to year and ditch clearing was not a priority. Erosion filled in ditches. Cattle tramped them full. Trees grew in ditches. Water backed up and disputes resulted.



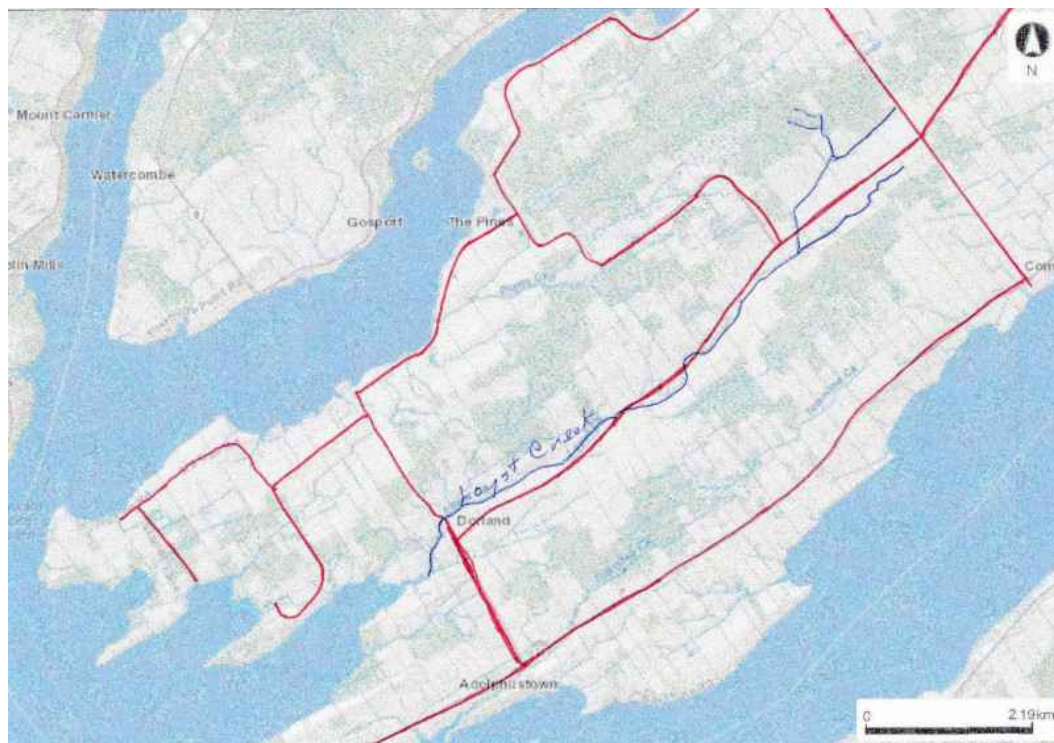
**Blocked Ditch**



**Clear Ditch**

Slope and distance impact how readily water moved to the outlet. Loyst creek starts just north and west of the junction of Number One Road and County Road 8, within the 350-foot contour, at the highest point in South Fredericksburgh. It runs westward from Lot 1 Additional, past Dorland and outlets on Lot 24 Adolphustown on the 250-foot contour. This amounts to a fall of roughly 75 feet in 6 miles, or less than one percent fall. Water flows slowly at best with this slope. Even the slightest blockage causes water to back up and cause problems.

Such a situation is not unique to this area. Ontario legislation was drafted (I haven't determined just when) allowing municipalities to construct common improved drains over an entire water course. If 60% of the affected acreage or 60% of the land owners petitioned for a project, a municipal drain could be constructed. Cost would be levied on the land owners, based on the benefits accrued. In 1924, Adolphustown and South Fredericksburgh co-operated on the Loyst drain project.



**Loyst Drain**

In a letter dated May 26, 1924, drainage engineer Fraser Aylesworth stated "the ditch was made by the settlers in the early days of settlement." The allocated levies for the new drain were based on benefit to nine land owners in Adolphustown and seventeen in South Fredericksburgh as well as to South Fredericksburgh and the County for the benefits to the roads. For some reason no assessment was levied on lands west of Dorland Church.

The calculations show a total cost of one cent less than \$55,000. Levies to landowners ranged from a low of \$77 (Carr) to highs of \$6,365 (Chalmers) and \$ 7,206 (Box). These levies would rival the value of the farms and be out of step with farm income. For every one of the affected farms, milk would have been their major product. In 1919, just five years earlier, the U.E. L. Cheese Factory paid an average of \$973 per producer for the entire year's milk. This would be a big part of the farmer's income. The numbers do not explain how the drain was financed, what it actually cost, and what the individual land owner's actually paid. However, it was dug and functioned for 60 years.

Lot or Pt.	Area in Acres	NAME OF OWNER	Area in Acres	Value of Prop. Benefit	Value of Out-let	Value of In-let	Total Value	Share of Work in Adolph.	Share of Work in South Fred.	Total Cost.
ADOLPHUSTOWN TP.										
Pt. Lot 18-19	169	James Dorland	10	\$21.00	\$3.00		\$24.00	103.12		103.12
W. 1/2 17	86	Mrs. Richard Carr	7	14.00	4.00		18.00	77.33		77.33
E. 1/2 17	86	Andrew Mollwain	11	35.00	10.00		45.00	193.33		193.33
N. 1/2 16	100	George McGee	21	91.00	24.00		115.00	494.06		494.06
S. 1/2 16	100	Clarence Davis	14	21.00	19.00		40.00	171.45		171.45
W. 1/2 S. 1/4 15	155	Marshall Mallory	32	77.00	42.00		119.00	511.24		511.24
N.E. Pt. 15	46	Fred Gallagher	16	91.00	4.00		95.00	408.14		408.14
W. 1/2 13 E. 1/2 14	113	John Humphrey	22	84.00	25.00		109.00	468.28		468.28
N.W. 13-14	105	Harry Johnston	8	14.00	25.00		39.00	167.55		167.55
								2594.90		2594.90
SOUTH FREDERICKSBURG TP.										
E. 1/2 13	110	Robert Campbell	7	35.00	12.00		47.00	201.92	763.11	965.03
Pt. 12	159	James Gallagher	10	28.00	24.00		72.00	309.32	1169.02	1478.34
Pt. 11	25	Hugh Box	4	7.00	11.00		18.00	77.33	392.35	369.59
Pt. 11	115	Frank Loyt	4	14.00	7.00		21.00	90.32	340.96	431.18
Pt. 10-11-12	235	William McCradden	17	77.00	24.00		101.00	433.91	1639.87	2073.78
Pt. 8-9	119	George Loyt	29	168.00	52.00		220.00	945.16	3571.99	4517.15
Pt. 9	166	Epharim Fitchett	20	35.00	65.00	15.00	115.00	494.06	1867.19	2361.24
E. 1/2 8	86	John Fitchett	13	35.00	38.00	20.00	93.00	394.54	1504.98	1909.52
W. 1/2 7	100	Irvine Brooks	32	84.00	52.00		136.00	594.28	2208.14	2792.42
Pt. 7-Lot 6	120	Albert Chalmers	36	187.00	123.00		310.00	1331.81	5033.26	6365.07
Lot 5-W. 1/2 4	175	Hugh Box	50	216.00	126.00		342.00	1507.96	5698.95	7206.91
E. 1/2 4	100	Morley White	25	84.00	29.00		113.00	523.43	1997.07	2520.50
W. 1/2 3	80	Ed. Hanlon	25	56.00	35.00	23.00	114.00	499.76	1850.74	2350.70
E. 1/2 3	70	George Griffith	23	43.00	11.00	23.00	77.00	330.90	1250.20	1581.09
Lot. 2	140	William Lloyd	19	21.00	87.00		108.00	463.99	1753.52	2217.51
N.E. 1/4 Lot. 1	50	Fred Rawlinson	12	14.00	65.00		79.00	339.40	1292.67	1632.07
S.E. 1/4 Lot. 1	50	E. Rutten	5		31.00		31.00	133.18	503.33	636.51
Pt. 6	63	R. Cadman	20			36.30	36.30	155.95	589.38	745.33
				1551.00	988.00	117.30	2656.30	9411.03	33321.42	42732.45
County of Lennox and Addington, County Provincial Highway							350.00	1503.66	5692.72	7196.38
Eleven side Road, Con. 2 South Fredericksburgh							75.00	322.21	1217.72	1539.93
de Road between lots six and seven, Con. 2 South Fredericksburgh							75.00	322.21	1217.72	1539.93
TOTAL ASSESSMENT							\$3156.30	21493.08	8119.16	30262.24

Source: Township of South Fredericksburgh - acquired in 1985 as part of Loyt drain renovation

Table of Benefits of Loyt Drain - 1924

As crop production for livestock feed and cash crops grew more intensive, the drain needed maintenance. In 1985, Elwood Hare (on the former Box farm) and six others presented South Fredericksburgh council with a petition signed by ten landowners asking for maintenance of the Loyt drain. By-laws were passed by both townships, tenders were called and on June 10, 1987, the contract was awarded to Morven Construction for \$64,290. This time it was clear the land owners could pay off their levies over five years at eleven and a half percent interest. This was the 1980s when interest rates were excessive.

The refurbished drain is deeper (5-6 feet), straighter and the banks are sloped to require minimum maintenance. The extra depth allows the drain to act as outlet for tiled drains which vastly increase the benefit of the water course.

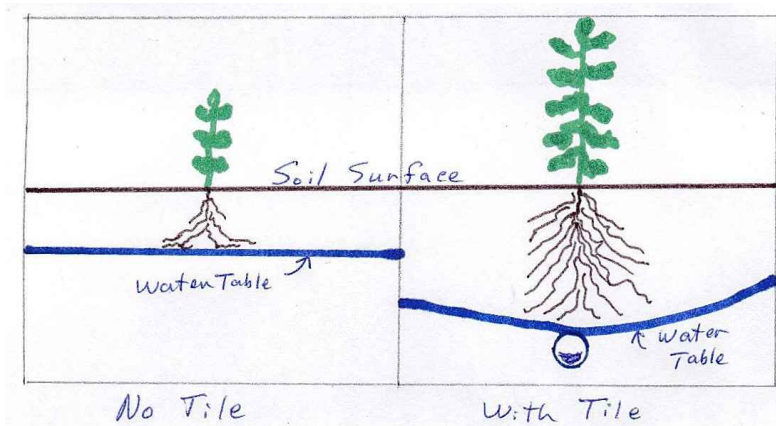


Loyst Drain - 2019

There are other municipal drains in the two townships. The Townline drain runs north of Highway 33 from Lot 5 Additional and outlets through the park in Adolphustown. A drain runs east from Number One Road north of Highway 33 and outlets in Sandhurst. The Charters drain is mentioned in South Fredericksburgh township minutes but it's course I have yet to determine. These drains all function to move surplus water. But, there is more to the story...

## Part 2 - Sub-Surface Drainage

Once we have the surface water drained away, then what? Some soils, especially sands with a slope, would drain by gravity. The heavier, flatter soils require sun and wind to gradually lower the water table. This takes considerable time, especially, if spring rains are frequent. Also, fields usually do not dry out uniformly. Heavier soils, low spots or swales (minor water courses) are the last parts of a field to dry out and allow planting. These are also the most likely spots where winter wheat or alfalfa kill out over the winter. Extra ditches, especially in swales could be a solution, but need regular maintenance and divide fields into smaller and usually odd shaped sections.



Effect of Surface Drainage on Plant Growth

So what is the solution? Put drains underground. A drain below the surface lowers the water table allowing the upper soil to dry out, permitting earlier planting, and resulting in better root and plant growth.

The actual origin of sub-surface drainage is uncertain. Walter Gable, in an article from the Fayette New York Historical Society, references ancient Rome "In 200 BC Cato described the use of brush, straw, poles, stones, boards and tile to drain farm fields. Pliny, in the 1st Century AD suggested the use of roof tiles in drainage."

Such homemade drainage remedies occur locally. On Lot 10, Concession 2, Brian Windover discovered a drain composed of a trench lined on the sides by round stones and covered over by flat stones and soil. Herman Geenevasen of Richmond Ditching, tells me he has uncovered drains lined with cedar rails and then covered over.

A more long-lasting solution has been the use of tiles placed several feet below the surface and connecting to an outlet. Mr Gable recounts how in 1835, John Johnston imported two styles of clay tile from Scotland to his farm near Seneca Lake New York. He hired a local "master of crockery" to make 3,000 tiles that he installed in 1838. Despite derision of his neighbours, "Burying Crockery" the experiment was a tremendous success. Wheat yields on that land increased from 5 to 50 bushels per acre. By 1850, the original manufacturer was producing 840,000 tiles a year. By 1871, there were ten drain tile factories in the area. According to Mr. Gable, the current owners of the land reported in 2003 that some of the original tiles were still working a century and a half later.

We do not know when or by whom the first tiles were installed locally. However, notes by Reg Chapman (former owner of Napanee Brick and Tile) in the L&A Archives suggests that tile were being made in Napanee around 1885. The silicate clay on the south side of the Napanee River is highly suitable for making clay bricks and tile. He noted that at one time or other there were several other manufacturers of tile along the river. Over the years, we have uncovered a number of old tiles. The most primitive appear to be hand-made, not symmetrical, with a flat bottom and of a rough texture. Presumably, these tiles go back to the early manufacture. It appears that shortly after Duncan Henry (my great-grandfather) bought our current farm in 1886, he installed these tile.



**Handmade Tile**

As manufacturing techniques improved, so did the quality of the tile. Many flat bottomed tile have been found in the Sillsville area.



**Machine Made Tile**

As technology progressed, tile evolved to round, durable and finer textured tile. Increasing the diameter increased the capacity exponentially. A 4-inch tile will handle 4 times the water of a 2-inch tile. These became the standard as long as clay tile were used.

In early years, tile was laid down swales to drain wet springy spots or low areas of the field. Trenches were dug by hand. The bottom was smooth, all the while

maintaining a proper grade so the tile would drain and not fill with silt. Standard length of a clay tile was 1 foot. So the number of tiles required was easy to calculate. The tiles were laid end to end with no cement. Water entered the tile at these joints and flowed down hill. Some farmer's laid a bit of tile: some none at all, but a few farmer's did entire farms.

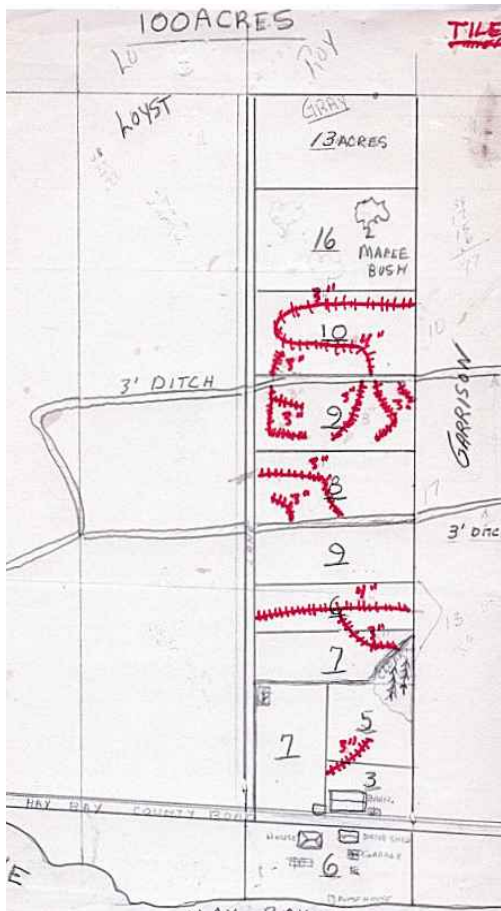


**Round Clay Tile**

In 1975, Ruth and I bought the east half of Lot 3 Additional, which had once been owned by Arthur Loyst, an excellent farmer in his time. Shortly afterwards, Bill Loyst, his son, brought me a hand-drawn map showing tile which had been installed on the farm. Armed with that map, I checked along the ditches and found most outlets for the drains still working after many years of neglect. Duane Cuthill, a contemporary of Bill's, had told me earlier that "Loysts were always on the land earlier than anyone in Sillsville." Tile was the explanation!

Bill told me that when he was growing up in the 1930s and '40s, his Dad was older and the farm operated with hired labour. Apparently, after the hay was harvested, the men would start to hand-dig 2-3 feet deep and lay tile. Arthur would take his car into Brick and Tile and come home heavily loaded with tile. Bill's job was to smooth the bottom of the trench and lay the tile out on the edge of the trench.

The men would actually lay the tile and cover it up. Once the supply of tile began to run out, Arthur went back to town and the cycle repeated.



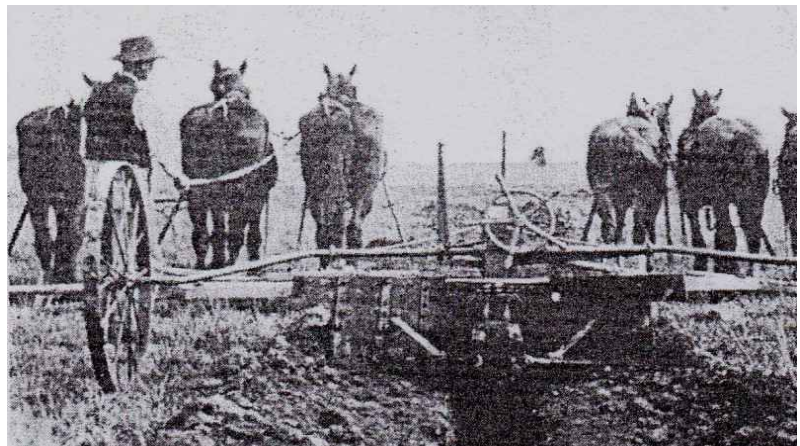
Source: Arthur Lloyst

Tile Map of Former Loyst Farm

From the map and knowing the land, I estimate there was roughly 3,500 feet of tile installed on the farm. The cost (roughly 2 cents per foot) would be significant in the Depression. However the labour of digging in hard soil in July and August is hard to imagine. Such labour led to mechanization. Ditchers pulled by six- horse teams or tractors helped excavate the trench. Whether they would have worked in our heavy clay soils is doubtful.



Clay tile from Loyst Farm still working in 2019



Source: Ontario Department of Agriculture, Bulletin 360  
"Farm Underdrainage" 1934

Horse-drawn Ditcher

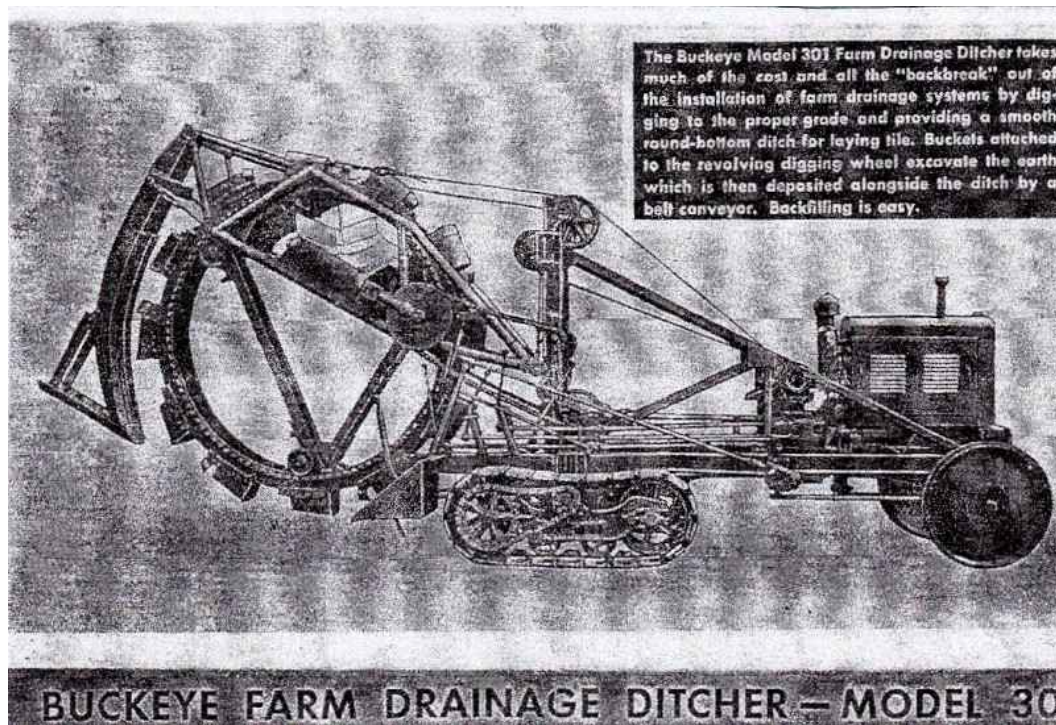
Innovation continued with self-propelled motorized ditchers. In the late 1940s, partners Frank Ham, Archie Wright and Maurice Young purchased a used Buckeye ditcher for \$8,000. They operated it locally, particularly on the Ham and Wright farms at Conway, but also as far west as Orono.



Ham-Wright-Young Buckeye Ditcher - 1950

Photo: AFHS

One operator was Herman Geenevasen Sr., a recent immigrant from Holland. Apparently, at some point, Frank Ham told Herman, "You are too good a man to work for us, you should be on your own." Frank Ham died suddenly in 1952. In 1953, Herman took the advice and bought a used Buckeye 301. Richmond Ditching was born and continues as a family business today.



Source: Herman Geenevasen

#### Geenevasen Buckeye 301 Ditcher

The Buckeye machines were reported to be able to dig as fast as 10 feet per minute and up to 5 feet deep. This potentially could be achieved in light sandy soil but not on our heavy clays. Grade was maintained by the operator sighting on stakes placed along the path by a surveyor using a transit. Clay tile was fed manually into the trench. Herman Jr. remembers his Dad's rule "Two tiles in each hand". The Buckeye machines were a major step forward. However, they had trouble with stones and only worked well in dry conditions. Another Buckeye machine was operated by William Ormsbee in the east end of the township.

A revolution occurred in the early 1970s when two separate innovations coincided. Extruded, high density polyethylene was used to create a corrugated pipe which weighed ounces per foot versus clay at 5 pounds per foot. Perforation in the tile allowed water to enter. It also came in large rolls of 5,000 feet vs. pallets and pallets of clay tile to go the same distance. The other innovation was the development of plows that threaded the tile off the roll and installed it underground without needing a trench. It was fast and required less labour. The boot pushed aside small to medium sized stones, larger ones still needed to be dug out by a backhoe before the final run was made. Laser and computer technology maintained the grade of the tile within a tolerance of a few millimeters.



"Two tiles in each hand"

The results were immediate. Napanee Brick and Tile produced their last clay tile in 1975. The last clay tile in Ontario was installed as a historic event in 2015 near Thedford using leftover tile.



**Tile plow and roll of tile**

Plastic tile and its installation has totally changed sub-surface drainage. No longer is the tile only in specific spots or wet runs. Now it is systematic, covering the whole field at intervals of 30 to 50 foot spacings, depending on need. The pattern of the tile may be simple or more complex. Often it runs at an angle across the slope. Four-inch tile feed into six-inch tile or greater. These may feed into an eight-inch or larger mains to carry water to an outlet, which is a water course or a municipal drain.



**Field with systematic tile layout**

Systematic drainage means the whole field is uniformly drained. The whole field can be planted at one time. Costs vary. Plastic pipe prices rise and fall with the cost of petroleum. Modern plows may cost a million dollars. Excavators and backhoes are needed to dig in junctions, remove large stones and trees. However, Herman Geenevasen tells me he can install 20,000 feet of tile per 10-hour day. That is close to 20 acres.

The rule of thumb is that \$1,200 - \$1,500 per acre is a general cost. Extra costs accrue if one needs to get to an outlet. It's a big bill for 50 or 100 or 200 acres. But according to our own results over 38 years, the expense can be paid back in as little as five years. Crops grow better, planting and harvest are more timely. Soil health is enhanced when the water table is lowered allowing the soil micro-flora to flourish. Water soaks into the soil rather than running over the surface causing erosion. It's no surprise that big tile machines are a common sight.

**All uncredited photos: Duncan Hough**

## Clippings

—A very heavy electrical storm passed over South Fredericksburgh on Sunday night. At Hay Bay the lightning set fire to Charles Parke's house and had it not been for the rain, which came down in torrents at the time, the building would have been consumed. It was not until the morning that the ridge board of the house was observed to have been on fire. Edda McCabe, who lives not far from Mr. Parke's arose and dressed when the storm commenced, and when walking across his dining-room was knocked insensible by a bolt. Beyond a feeling of sickness for several hours after, no other damage was done.

*Napanee Beaver*  
June 23, 1899

Mrs. Thomas Chalmers was hostess to St. Alban's Church Guild on Thursday evening last. There was a good attendance and it was decided to paint the floors of the church.

*Napanee Beaver*  
July 12, 1943

### Mr. Ham's Sicknes.

The many friends of George Ham, Esq., of Conway, South Fredericksburgh, will regret to learn that he is seriously sick, of cancers, which have troubled him for some time. He is able to be about some but is weak and suffers considerable pain. Mr. Ham is one of the oldest and best known residents of his native township, in which he has always lived. He was born near Hamburgh, Fredericksburgh, 86 years ago, and has spent all his days in the same township. He was married 58 years ago to the only sister of our late townsman, M. W. Pruyn, Esq., who is still living and enjoys fairly good health for one of her age. Mr. Ham has long been known and respected as one of the intelligent and successful farmers of this county.

*Napanee Beaver*  
May 13, 1898

The euchre at Miss Allison's on Wednesday evening, sponsored by the Ladies Guild of St. Alban's Church was well attended. There were 12 tables in play. Those winning prizes were Miss Joan Punchard, Mrs. Ray Allison, and Mr. Jim Mack.

*Napanee Beaver*  
January 18, 1943

Surveyor General of Woods & Forest Office  
York, 10th Dec. 1830.  
**P**UBLIC Notice is hereby given, that in future all persons cutting Timber upon the Crown Lands, or Clergy Reserves in Upper Canada, without Licence from this Office, will be rigidly punished, and the Timber so cut, will be seized and sold to his Majesty's use. **PETER ROBINSON.**

*Upper Canada Herald*  
February 27, 1833

Farmers are preparing for sowing, and some of them with high lands expect to put in some seed this week. One man here has already planted his potatoes - put them in on the 9th inst. They are called six week's potatoes, but they are not up yet, and of course nobody knows how they will turn out.

Yours &c., AN EYE WITNESS  
Adolphustown, Mar. 19, 78

*Local Paper*  
March 29, 1878

Clippings courtesy of Susan Wright

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

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

## AFHS News

Angela Cronk

Since our last newsletter, there has not been a lot of activity with the AFHS. Now that spring has arrived, we have been planning our Heritage Dinner for May 26 and look forward to seeing you then.

We presented a cheque to the Glenwood Cemetery in Picton to assist in the extensive repairs that are necessary as a result of an afternoon rampage by two teenage boys last fall.



One activity that never stops is our [Facebook group](#), faithfully managed by Susan Wright. There are over 500 members who have joined the group, who have added their own photos and comments, and who are searching their own family history. They have also thanked the AFHS (and Susan!) for having a forum to learn about our local heritage. Check it out!!

## A Tribute to Kathy

On November 23, 2018, Kathy Staples passed away leaving a large gap in our local heritage groups. She had a keen interest in the local history and genealogy of Adolphustown and surrounding area. One of Kathy's passions was the Old Hay Bay Church, serving as a Trustee and Custodian for 27 years. She was the guiding force in the extensive Bicentennial celebrations in 1984. Kathy also managed the UEL Cultural Centre and Museum at Adolphustown Park for a number of years. She had been an integral part of the Adolphustown-Fredericksburgh Heritage Society since its inception in 2009, serving as its secretary until shortly before her death.



Photo: Susan Wright

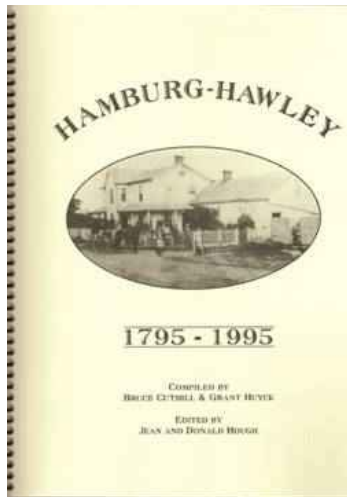
Kathy Staples, at right, working with lifelong residents of Adolphustown Peggy Allison (1919-2013) and Jack Roblin (1919-2010) in identifying people and places in old photo albums.

AHFS Heritage Fair 2010

Kathy was the recipient of the Lieutenant Governor's Ontario Heritage Lifetime Achievement Award in 2012, recognizing her diligence and commitment to preserving our local heritage.

She will be missed.

## From the Book Shelf



### Hamburg-Hawley

1795-1995

Bruce Cuthill & Grant Huyck

A detailed and well documented social history of the Hamburg-Hawley neighbourhood of South Fredericksburgh and the public and private events that shaped the lives of those residing in the community. This publication was compiled using Land Registry and Census record, other official documents, family records and memories.

The book contains valuable information for anyone tracing ancestors beginning with Loyalists from 1784. The two writers have presented, in a clear and easily understood way, all the property ownership transactions as well as children and marriages within the families.

**THE HULLESS OAT SCHEMERS**

Have been abroad and the honest man is doubted.

I again invite the attention of the farmers to our

**PEA HARVESTER ATTACHMENT**



which we are offering on such terms as should secure purchasers.

The immense crop and growth of Peas this season should make the demand good for this attachment.

Remember our Terms,---A fair field, fair work or no sale



Gather a thousand farmers to see it work, and 990 orders will be given at once.

**JOHN HERRING**

Napanee Agricultural Works.

*Napanee Express*  
August 28, 1891

## A Curious Thing

Angela Cronk



November's  
Curious Thing

This 'curious thing' is a "Teapot Oilwick Lamp".

These lamps were first used by miners in Scotland in 1850. Resembling a teapot in shape, the lamps were made out of brass and had a hinged lid over the font and a hook on the back to attach to the miners' caps. The font of the lamp contained fat and oil that would be pulled through a wick to the top of the spout. Even though these lamps were fairly dangerous, they lasted longer than candles and were easier to carry. The Teapot Oilwick lamps had been phased out by 1920.

This lamp was found on the former Ruttan farm, Lot A Concession 2 of Adolphustown, when the farm was purchased in by the Ruuth family in 1949. The lamp is galvanized steel and soldered, and looks as if it was meant to be hung by the hook or carried by the handle

## What is this?



Submitted by Angela Cronk

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

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

*To me, this is about preserving history and making it available to everyone.*

*Sergey Brin (Co-Founder of Google)*

## 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:**

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