

THE NEIGHBOURHOOD MESSENGER

NEWSLETTER OF THE ADOLPHUSTOWN-FREDERICKSBURGH HERITAGE SOCIETY

Issue Number 21

November 2019

Adolphustown & Fredericksburgh - Our Home

"Home" has a warm and welcoming ring to it. Our homes are more than shelters from the weather -- they can provide a feeling of security and a sense of belonging in our local communities. Our homes can represent ties to our past or beginnings of a new life, with many of us living here our whole lives, and others just recently arrived. Some of us grew up here, moved away and came back. There were others, however, for whom a home here was not because they were born here or chose to move here. Such is the case of the British Home Children.

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: Marg MacDermaid
Treasurer: Stan MacMillan
Webmaster: Susan Wright
Book Directors: Joan Reynolds
Elizabeth Vandenberg
Communications Director: Jane Lovell

Our Meetings

The Society meets on the third Thursday of the month 5-8 times a year at the South Fredericksburgh Hall at 2p.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
- Jane Lovell, Newsletter Editor (373-0199) jane.lovell@kos.net

This year marks 150 years since the first of the British Home Children arrived in Canada. In recognition of that milestone this issue of the *Neighbourhood Messenger* will look at some of the children who arrived in Canada through this immigration policy and who found homes, for a time, in Adolphustown and Fredericksburgh.

A Glimpse of the Past



Photo: Ida Hudson

C. Chambers and friends Big Creek Area North Fredericksburgh

Undated

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!

A New Home

Jane Lovell

Finding a new home in Adolphustown or Fredericksburgh was a long and frightening journey for destitute or orphaned children from the industrial centres of Britain in the late 19th and early 20th century. Between 1869 and the late 1940s Canada saw 80,000 to 100,000 children enter the country as part of the British Home Children immigration program. The program sought to relieve the appalling conditions of some of the children in the streets and workhouses of Great Britain and Ireland by sending them abroad to live with farm families as labourers or domestics. Some of the children were orphans, while others were abandoned or admitted to workhouses because their parents or other family could no longer care for them. All of them would have experienced trauma and deprivation before entering the care of the various philanthropic organizations committed to social reform among the poor. It can only be imagined what further trauma and uncertainty these children experienced as they were removed from familiar settings to travel so far away, with the knowledge that they were unlikely ever to return.

It is unclear when the first "Home Child" arrived in our townships, but all spent some time at the Marchmont Home in Belleville. Annie Macpherson was one of the first supporters of the child migrant policy and it was she who, in 1870, established the Marchmont Home as a receiving and placement centre for these children.



Photo: Library & Archives Canada

Marchmont Home, Belleville

1873

The children, most ranging in age from 8 to 16, but sometimes as young as 4 or 5, travelled by ship from Britain to Canadian ports and then on by train to Belleville. Before leaving Britain, each child was given a trunk or bag containing clothing thought appropriate for their new lives in Canada. The items contained in these trunks or bags varied by sponsoring organization but always included a bible. In some instances, it was expressly forbidden for the child to pack personal items such as toys or letters.

OUR WAIFS & STRAYS.

*The Monthly Paper of the Church of
England Central Society for Providing Homes for Waifs and Strays.*

No. 11.—New Series.]

MARCH 1885.

[Price One Penny.]

[Form 5].—*Outfit to be provided for Young Girls sent to Canada.*

3 night-gowns, 3 chemises, 3 pairs of drawers, 2 white petticoats, to be made with bodies if under 8, 2 flannel petticoats, to be made with bodies if under 8, 3 pairs of unbleached cotton stockings, 2 cotton frocks, made high, and with long sleeves and pockets, 2 linsey frocks, 1 warm petticoat for voyage, 1 plain brown ulster, 3 pinafores, 1 straw hat in box for Sunday, 1 red hood for the voyage, 2 pairs of boots, 3 pocket handkerchiefs, 1 brush and comb, and bag, 1 Bible and Prayer Book, 1 box, 2 feet by 1½, to hold everything, and to be addressed, with child's name, and
care of Canada.

It is particularly requested that each child shall have her name written in full on every article of clothing.

Older Boys 1925

1 Overcoat, Scharfe
Hat & cap, gloves
3 suits
4 shirts, collar buttons
4 soft collars, 2 ties
Handkerchiefs
1 jersey
1 overalls
1 pair braces, belt
2 pairs boots
1 shoes
3 pair socks
2 sets woollen underwear
1 hair brush and comb
1 housewife [sewing kit]
1 Bible
Writing material

The children were transported to the port of embarkation where, usually in groups of 50 to 200, they boarded ships for the voyage to Canada. Primarily these were groups of boys but there were also groups of girls and boys, often siblings, travelling together in the same group. For the most part, the groups were unaccompanied, but the passenger lists included notes indicating what organization and sanctioning official was responsible for the group, at what port they were to disembark, and what arrangements had been made for travel onward to their final destination.

Name	Age	Destination
Mr. Wallace	16	Belleville
Mr. Clark	15	Belleville
Mr. Wallace	14	Belleville
Mr. Clark	13	Belleville
Mr. Wallace	12	Belleville
Mr. Clark	11	Belleville
Mr. Wallace	10	Belleville
Mr. Clark	9	Belleville
Mr. Wallace	8	Belleville
Mr. Clark	7	Belleville
Mr. Wallace	6	Belleville
Mr. Clark	5	Belleville
Mr. Wallace	4	Belleville
Mr. Clark	3	Belleville
Mr. Wallace	2	Belleville
Mr. Clark	1	Belleville

Source: Libraries & Archives Canada

Passenger List for the S.S. TORONTO

Departing Liverpool June 2nd, 1889, arriving Quebec City June 15th, 1889

Reverend Robert Wallace, together with his wife Ellen Bilbrough Wallace, ran the Marchmont Home from 1887.

Mr Clark was to meet the boys in Quebec City and arrange train travel on the Grand Trunk Railway to Belleville.

The children did not remain long at the Marchmont Home. The demand for help on the farm was high. And it was at this juncture that more trauma befell children who had immigrated with their siblings. It

was rare that a farm family would want more than one child, and often the most "valuable" child was a boy who could help with farm work. Younger children were usually put in foster care or were adopted, but older girls were expected to serve as domestics and were less in demand. If not fostered or adopted, the children were indentured, with a contract tying them to a family until their eighteenth birthday. The terms of indenture required that the children be housed, fed and allowed to go to school for at least four months of the year. Religious instruction was also to be provided. In theory, the placing organization would check in regularly to ensure that the terms of the agreement were being met and that the children were not being mistreated. The large number of children arriving and the vastness of the area in which they were placed meant that regular visits were rare or nonexistent.

While the resettling of destitute British children in Canada was considered an opportunity for a better life, for most of those children the road to a better life was a painful one. Certainly many a child experienced poor treatment or abuse at the hands of their employer. Some received very little education. All experienced loneliness and the alienation that the stigma of being a "Home Child" brought.

Of course some children were very well treated and experienced a childhood far better than one they could have expected had they remained in the urban slums of Britain. For the children who were placed with families in Adolphustown and Fredericksburgh we know of some happy outcomes. It is harder to tell how difficult those outcomes were to achieve. For some of the other children who spent time in our communities, we know very little. The following are the stories of six families who came here as "Home Children".

William Reynolds Aged 9

When William Reynolds was born in 1879 in the Chelsea district of London, his father was a shoemaker. By the time William was 6, however, his father was in prison and William and his two sisters, aged 9 and 2, found themselves placed in the Chelsea Workhouse.

KENSINGTON AND CHELSEA SCHOOL DISTRICT.
Branch School at Hammersmith.

THE ADMISSION AND

London: Kemner & Co., 90 Fleet Street.—(907-82)

ADMITTED.

13th Week of the Quarter,

Number Admission.	Year and Day of the Month.	Day of the Week.	Next Meal after Admission.	NAME.	When born.	Sex.	ADMITTED.					Total.	Name and Address of Nearest Known Relative.	Number Admitted to the Child's Clothes.	Parish from which Admitted.	Date of the Order of Admission.	Observations on Condition at the Time of Admission and any other General Remarks.
							Boys.	Girls.	From 7 to 10 years.	From 10 to 12 years.	From 12 to 14 years.						
	1886			Doct For			32	25	21	25	103						
1389	Mch 22	M	S	Edbrook Emma Edg	6.1.80	F					7	7	Father, Chas at Mary Place Houses, Mother Emma in Portsmouth Asylum	Kens	22/3		
1390	" 22	"	"	Huffell Harry	8.2.81	M					7	7	Mother, Caroline 1 st of Hammersmith Prother Hill Gate Bri Lee in the wheel, Father, G. Deceased	Kens	22/3		
1391	" 24	Wed	"	Aller Rose	1.1.82	F					1	1	Not known	Chels	24/3		
1392	" 24	"	"	Reynolds Alice	28.6.77	F					1	1	Father Thos Reynolds in Prison	Chels	"		
1393	" 24	"	"	Reynolds Mrs	10/7/79	M					1	1	"	Chels	"		
1394	" 24	"	"	Reynolds Louisa	1.1.83	F					1	1	"	Chels	"		
1395	" 24	Fri	"	Munday Albert	20.5.82	M					7	7	Mother, Eliza in House Father Wm. Deceased	Kens	26/3		
1396	" 26	"	"	Munday James	10.5.79	M					7	7	"	"	"		
1397	" 26	"	"	Philpot Alice Maud	18.5.79	F					7	7	Mother Jane Philpot in House Father John addn and known	K	"		
1398	" 26	"	"	Philpot Ada Mary	20.4.81	F					7	7	"	"	K	"	
1399	" 26	"	"	Philpot John Edw	20.7.77	M					7	7	"	"	K	"	
				Can & Foran			33	29	22	30	114						

When a Child is admitted before Breakfast, the Superintendent is to enter in the Column for "Next Meal after Admission" the letter B; when before Dinner the letter D; and when before Supper the letter S. And when a Child is discharged after Breakfast,

When a Child is admitted before Breakfast, the Superintendent is to enter in the Column for "Next Meal after Admission" the letter B; when before Dinner the letter D; and when before Supper the letter S. And when a Child is discharged after Breakfast, the Superintendent is to enter in the Column for "Last Meal before Discharge" the letter B; when after Dinner the letter D; and when after Supper the letter S.

Source: London Metropolitan Archives

Record of Admission of Reynolds Children to Marlesford Lodge 1886

The Reynolds children were originally admitted to the Chelsea Workhouse on April 11, 1886. This was a general population workhouse, whose inmates included the old or infirm, unwed mothers, those who were mentally or physically ill, as well as families of the very poor and unaccompanied children. It was recognized that the appalling conditions and “malign influence” of the workhouse setting was a poor environment for children, and so children were swiftly moved to residential “Poor Law Schools”.

So it was that six weeks after arriving at the Chelsea Workhouse, the Reynolds children were transferred to Marlesford Lodge. Marlesford Lodge acted as a clearing station, ensuring that, for example, no children with contagious infections were introduced into the population of the school proper. After a month-long stay at Marlesford Lodge the children were moved to Banstead Cottage Homes. This school, dedicated to the education of pauper children, took the form of small houses set out to resemble family homes, with separate school buildings, workshops and recreation facilities, all in a country setting. In addition to classroom lessons, children were taught practical skills to make them employable.

Such was the situation for the Reynolds children for the three years between 1886 and 1889. It was on June 15, 1889, that William boarded the S.S. TORONTO for Canada. William's older sister remained at Banstead for a year before going into domestic service. It wasn't until the following year that their younger sister left Banstead to be placed in a foster home.



Photo: Pearl Davy

William Reynolds

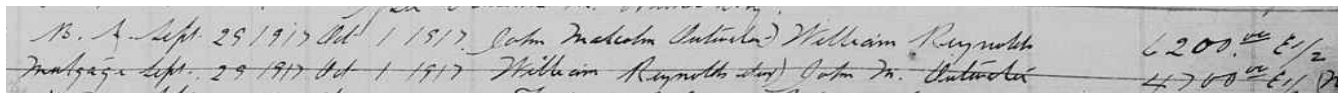
**Photo taken in 1889,
either before leaving
for Canada or on
arrival at the
Marchmont Home**

Details of William's early years in Canada are few. Research done by William's granddaughter, Pearl Davy, indicate that it was through Dr. Bernardo, another advocate for child migration, that nine-year-old William came to Canada in 1889. Bernardo Children were processed for placement in Ontario, along with children sponsored through other organizations, through Annie MacPherson's Marchmont Home in Belleville. The Bernardo records show that William was placed with W. Edley Smith of Adolphustown. The 1891 Census shows a William Randal aged 10 from England working as a domestic in the Smith household. It is likely this is actually William Reynolds. Born September 8, 1879, William Reynolds would have been 11 years old, not 10, when the census was taken on April 6, 1891. However, no trace can be found of a William Randal in any of the many British Home Child records or in censuses or other records.

By the time of the 1901 census, Edley Smith had moved to Algoma and William, now 21, was working as a hired man on the farm of Stewart Ruttan. In 1908, William wed Pearl White of Adolphustown, and by the time of the 1911 census, William was a tenant farmer on Lot 22 on the Third Concession, just up the road from his former employer. Sometime between 1911 and 1913 the Reynolds

family moved to a farm north of Hay Bay near the community of Bay Centre.

The big change in the family's circumstances came in 1917 when William bought 100 acres on the east half of Lot 26 on the Third Concession. Of the \$6,200 purchase price, William was able to pay \$1,500 in cash. A mortgage for the remainder, at 5.5% per annum, was to be paid off within three years.



Source: Adolphustown Land Transfer Abstract Index

1917 Purchase of the East Half of Lot 26, Concession Three

The struck-through entry indicates the mortgage has been discharged.

That William was able to accrue the funds for a down payment on a farm and to fully own it three years later is quite the feat for a “penniless pauper” who could only start saving for himself at the end of his

period of indenture at age 18. By the time William bought the farm his family had grown to include three young sons, and within a few years William and Pearl could boast of having a family of six boys.



Photo: Pearl Davy

Reynolds Farmhouse 1920s

In 1947 William transferred the farm to his third son Donald. The Reynolds' farm holdings increased in 1963 when Donald's older brother Charles bought the West Half of Lot 26 south of the Third Concession Road. By 1997, however, the last of the Reynolds' property passed out of their hands, when it was bought by Hay Bay Genetics. The house and farm buildings were demolished shortly after.

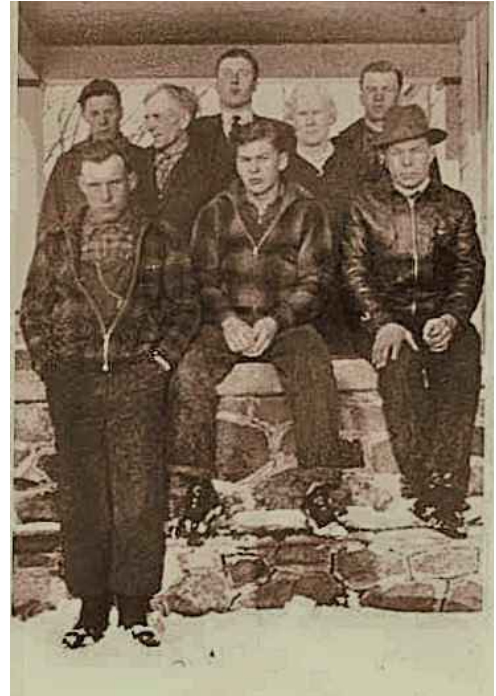


Photo: Pearl Davy

William and Pearl Reynolds on farmhouse porch with sons George, Charles, Douglas, Donald, Morley & Leslie
Circa 1940

William Reynolds

After a lengthy illness, there passed away at the Kingston General Hospital on Dec. 18, one of Adolphustown's most highly esteemed residents in the person of William Reynolds.

Mr. Reynolds was born in England 75 years ago and came to this country as a small boy. He had followed the occupation of farming with success, and of late years was interested in the tourist trade.

He is survived by his wife, nee Ethel Bruce, also six sons of a former marriage, namely, Geo and Leslie of Brockville, Charles Douglas and Donald of Dorland and Morley of Prescott.

His funeral was held at St. Alban's Church, Adolphustown. Rev. Allan Brandon officiating assisted by Mr. Robinson of the United Church. The Anglican choir was augmented by the choir of the United Church. Rev. Brandon delivered a very in-

spiring and comforting message to the bereaved family. The bearers were Messrs. Gordon Mack, Alex Allen, Jack Duffett, William Brooks, George Chalmers and Roy Smith.

The floral tributes were numerous and bore silent tribute to the departed.

FAST RELIEF FOR

**TIRED
FEET**



Post-Express
January 6, 1955

William served as an Adolphustown Township councillor from 1930 to 1934, a telling indication of the respect he commanded within the community.

While William's success can certainly be seen in his ability to purchase and run a farm, his life once established here undoubtedly continued to contain hardship and sadness. Pearl's death in 1944, at 58, would have been a shock to the family. Though William went on to marry Ethel Bruce of Adolphustown, the union was cut short when William died in 1954, aged 75. William is buried in St. Alban's Cemetery with Pearl and his two sons Charles and Douglas. William's second wife Ethel is buried at Adolphustown United Church Cemetery at Dorland with her parents and other members of the Bruce family.

William and Harry Ducie Aged 15 and 11

William Ducie was born in Leeds in 1878. When he was baptized three years later, his father was listed as a labourer. The 1881 census confirms this and notes that William's mother was a "Woollen Cloth Machinist". William's father died in 1889, but by the time of the April 1891 census the family, now including William's three younger brothers Harry, Hubert and George, was still living in the family home. William's mother was supporting the family as a seamstress, with William, then aged 14, contributing by working as a "Paper Strainer". True hardship befell the family in July of that year when William's mother died.

Nothing can be found to indicate how the Ducie boys fared in the aftermath of their mother's death, but within two years they were on their way to Canada.

The *Register of Children Emigrated by the Leeds Board of Guardians* shows that William's three brothers emigrated March 30, 1893. No record for William can be found there, but he does appear on a separate list of *British Children Emigrated to Canada by authority of Boards of Guardians* for 1893. In any event, the passenger list for the S.S. VANCOUVER, sailing out of Liverpool March 30, 1893 and arriving Halifax April 9, 1893 shows all four brothers travelling together. On the passenger list William, aged 15, is categorized as a Labourer, while the other three boys, aged 11, 7 and 4, are listed as Child. Perhaps William, as an older boy, was processed separately by the Board of Guardians. Notes accompanying the over 225 boys on board, ranging in age from 3 to 19, indicated that the party was to continue on to Belleville via the Grand Trunk Railway.

An index of the children at the Marchmont Home lists the Ducie brothers arriving August 16, 1893. This is over four months after they disembarked in Halifax, so perhaps instead refers to the date the boys were placed out. This would have been a traumatic event for the brothers as none of them were placed together. William and Harry, having been placed in Adolphustown Village and The Pines, respectively, were close enough to remain in close contact. However, eleven-year-old Hubert was sent to a family in Castleton, north of Brighton, and four-year-old George was placed in foster care in Galletta, near Ottawa.

7668

List of names & addresses of children from different English Mines brought to Canada 1893 & placed out from Marchmont Home, Belleville Ont. by (Rev) Robert & Ellen A.P. Wallace.

No	Name	Age	Placed with	Post Office	Distance	Township	Con	Lat	Home
1	Cawood Eliza	11	John J. Anderson	Dominionville	1 1/2 Mile N	Kemron	16	6	Leeds
2	Simpson Nellie	9	Eliza A. Kincaid	Roslin	4	Hungerford	2	9	"
3	" Jessie	7	Jacob Archibald	West Huntington	3	Huntingdon	5	31	"
4	Ducie Wm R	15	W.S. Duffett	Adolphustown	Keeps Village Post Office				"
5	" Harry	11	W. J. Kaper	The Pines	1/4	Adolphustown	3	13	"
6	" Hubert	8	Alonzo W. Hryak	Castleton	1/4 " N	Cramahe	7	33	"
7	" George	4	James Riddell	Galletta	1	Fitzroy	5	17	"
8	Simpson George	6	George Thompson	Peabody	1/4 " S	Sullivan	10	22	"
9	Spencer Walter	12	Robert J. Whittle	Bridgewater	3 " NW	Elzevir	2	W 14 1/2	"

Source: Libraries & Archives Canada

Placements of the Ducie Brothers from the Marchmont Home 1893

While the Marchmont list, above, declares that W.S. Duffett "Keeps the Village Post Office", he did not become Postmaster until 1902. Duffett did, however, run the village store, previously operated by his father-in-law J.J. Watson, who had run the Post Office out of the store until his death in 1891.

Most "Home Boys", and certainly the older ones, were placed out as farm labourers. Although Duffett did not own a farm, he did own several acres of garden and orchard in Adolphustown Village. William

may have been employed as a hired hand doing general labour on the Duffett town lots, or he may have helped out in the store.

W. S. Duffett, listed as William's sponsor, was William Sealy Duffett, and is seated at the centre of the photo, below. The photo must have been taken soon after William Ducie arrived as W.S. Duffett's mother-in-law, Gertrude Allen-Watson, seated to the left of Duffett, died in September 1893.



AFHS Photo

William Ducie (at far right) and the Duffett family Adolphustown 1893

George Percival Duffett, Gertrude Allen-Watson, William Sealy Duffett, Effie Dora Duffett,
Mary Adelaide Watson-Duffett, William Richard Ducie
William Harold Ernest Vernon Duffett, John Watson Duffett

While William was working in Adolphustown Village, his brother Harry found himself five miles away in South Fredericksburgh in the community known as The Pines on the farm of William J. Magee. It is unknown how long either of the boys stayed with the families of their initial placements, but by the time of the 1901 census, both William and Harry, now aged 24 and 19, were working as hired men for Theophilus Mackman. Mackman lived in Adolphustown Village but owned part of Lot 14 in Concession 1, and it is likely that the Ducie brothers made the daily trip from the village to work on the farm, two miles to the east.

Within the next few years both William and Harry headed west, settling in Saskatchewan. The 1911 census places William farming near Moosejaw, while the 1916 census has Harry farming in Dunburn, near Humboldt. The degree to which both men were regarded by their adopted communities can be seen in their commitment to public service. William ran as an Independent in the 1929 Saskatchewan General Election, losing by less than 2% of the vote. Harry served for several years as a Dunburn school trustee.

Robert Campbell Aged 8

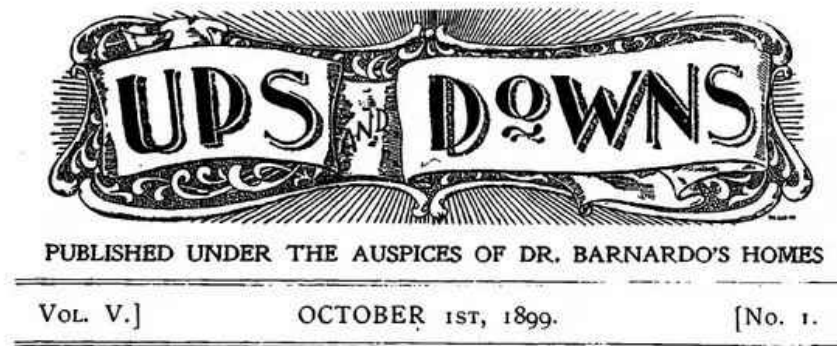
The Duffett family had several Home Children as part of their household. Sometime after the departure of William Ducie, and before the 1901 census, the Duffetts took on 20-year-old Robert Campbell as a hired man. Robert came to Canada under the sponsorship of the Quarrier's Orphan Homes of Scotland. Robert's circumstances prior to coming into their care are unknown, but on May 13, 1887 Robert, then aged 8, boarded the S.S. SIBERIAN in Glasgow, bound for Quebec City. While there were two other Campbells in the party of 110 children, girls aged 10 and 6, it is unknown if they might

have been Robert's sisters. Disembarking at Quebec thirteen days after setting sail, the Quarrier children were sent on to the Marchmont Home for placement on Ontario farms.

The 1891 census has Robert, aged 9, working as a domestic in the household of Wilmot Hawley, on his farm just north of Dorland. It is unclear whether Robert's placement with the Hawleys was his first one; nor is it known if he completed his indenture to Hawley before starting to work for Duffett. Robert married Beatrice Brown of Adolphustown in 1907, and by 1911 Robert was farming on a lot in Adolphustown Township. By 1920 Robert had saved enough to put a \$1,200 down payment on 100 acres on the east half of Lot 13 on Concession 2 Additional in South Fredericksburgh. Robert died in 1940 and is buried in St. Alban's Cemetery.

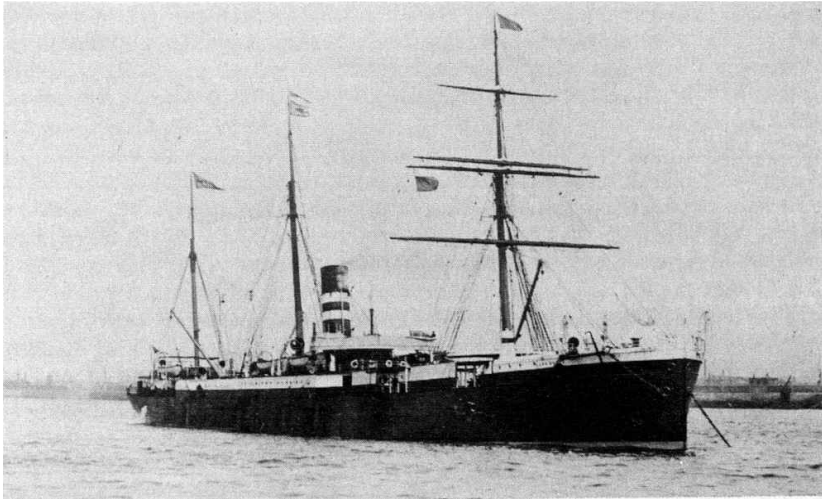
Kate New Aged 13

Fifteen-year-old Kate New found herself in the Duffett household along with Robert Campbell when the census was taken in 1901. Kate had arrived in Canada along with her two younger brothers two years earlier. The party of 103 girls and 143 boys, along with their chaperones, a Matron Mrs. Brown, and a Master William Notman, set sail from Liverpool aboard the S.S. LAKE HURON on July 17, 1899. This group of children from Dr. Barnardo's Homes in England happened to be accompanied on the voyage by Alfred de Brissac Owen, the Superintendent of the Barnardo operations in Canada, and of the Boys Branch in Toronto. From an article written by Owen that appeared in the October 1899 edition of the Barnardo *Ups and Downs* magazine, much can be learned about Kate and her brothers' voyage from the Barnardo Homes in England to their new homes in Canada.



It is unknown whether Kate was at the Village Home for Orphan and Destitute Girls at Ilford, just east of London, or at one of several Barnardo's children's homes in London proper. In any case, all children destined for Canada aboard the July sailing for the S.S. LAKE HURON were transported to London's Euston Station by brakes (horse drawn carriages). It was with great fanfare that the departing children were seen off from the children's homes: "the band was playing and windows above were crowded with the heads of boys who had left their work in the shops and schools to shout farewells and cheers to those who were leaving." Once assembled at Euston Station the children boarded a special train of the London and North-Western Railway to the Riverside Station in Liverpool. Once at the riverside, however, the party was delayed.

The ship, newly engaged by Barnardo Homes, had been undergoing a re-fit to accommodate the large group of children. "We had to arrange a special compartment for girls, another for the boys as far removed as possible from the first. There were washing and sanitary appliances, rooms for master and matron ... [as well as the provision of] bedding, soap, towels, curtains for bunks, hooks for hanging clothes, filter for water, hospital accommodation." While awaiting the last of this work to be completed, the children remained at the station, with the girls seated on the trucks (baggage carts) and benches and the boys along the edge of the platform. At some point during the wait they were supplied "trays of buns and cakes and cases of ginger beer."



Source: Ancestry.ca

S.S. LAKE HURON (1881 -1901)

Late in the day the delayed ship finally arrived and the children were transported by tender to board the S.S LAKE HURON. "She looked particularly uninviting, having a horrible list and an uncleaned, unpainted, and generally dishevelled appearance." Even worse was that they were met by a crew on "a 'wet' sailing day", with both seamen and officers inebriated. There was much confusion in settling the children and their luggage, and it was not until 10pm that the children were given their dinner.

Despite the shambolic start, the rest of the voyage went smoothly. Out of port the crew soon dried out and proved to be kind and helpful throughout the voyage. The children's days were structured around "washings, inspections, parades, meals, [and religious] services." The accommodations were deemed quite spacious with the girls "remarkably snug and well housed." It might be noted that the children and their chaperones were lodged in Steerage; Owen accompanied by his ten-year-old daughter had Saloon cabins.

During the crossing Owen interviewed each of the boys to learn his preferences (to be placed on a farm or near siblings or friends, etc.) and his personality in order to decide on suitable placements. Many of the children had boarded with some small amount of money of their own and this was exchanged for Canadian currency at a rate of one cent per half penny. With the expectation of a good placement, and with Canadian coin in pocket, the children's first glimpses of their new homeland likely added to the excitement of the moment. "The wild and interesting scenery of the River St. Lawrence was beheld to its best advantage, and the youngsters enjoyed themselves hugely on deck and disported themselves to their hearts' content in the bright sunshine."

On disembarking in Quebec City, a special train of the Grand Trunk Railway was engaged for travel on through to Ontario. "We victualled ourselves amply for the journey, one end of the car being loaded up with barrels of bread, tins of corned meat, cheese, boxes of hard boiled eggs, and *et ceteras*." "The girls left us, under charge of Mrs. Brown, at Belleville, to take the branch line to Peterborough, the rest of the party proceeding on the main line to Toronto." This would have been a rushed and traumatic parting of the New family, with Kate disembarking for the Hazel Brae Barnardo Home for Girls Peterborough, leaving her two brothers on board destined for the Barnardo distribution home in Toronto.

With placements for boys decided on the ocean crossing, their stay in Toronto was only long enough to bathe, change clothes, undergo a medical inspection, "with an interval for a short service in the dining room", then off to bed. They were on their way at daybreak the next morning by train for their "situations" or foster homes.

What happened when Kate arrived at the Hazel Brae Home in Peterborough is unknown. It is likely that she and the other girls stayed at least a short time there until placements could be found. It is likely Kate was placed almost immediately, since by July of 1900 she had received her first annual inspection visit, presumably at the the Duffett home.

Kate New (July, 1899).--A boat-ride over the Bay of Quinte brought me to this home, where I found Kate surrounded with every comfort, well liked, and, for her part, content and happy.

Ups & Downs Magazine
July 2, 1900

Organizations bringing Home Children to Canada were required to visit the children regularly to ensure they were being well-treated and to report on their situation and progress. The Barnardo Homes were better than most at following up with the children, both while they were indentured or in foster care, and once they were "out on their own".

Neuman Albert	1899	13	Strand	00	1900	Jun 29	3	1901	Aug 14	1902	Apr 10	1903	Apr 10	1904	Apr 20	1905	Apr 20	1906	Apr 20	1907	Apr 20	1908	Apr 20
New Richard	.	8	Edmonton	0°	Barnardo	Apr 24	8	Oct 10	Jan 10	Apr 10	Apr 20	Apr 20	Apr 20	Apr 20	Apr 20	Apr 20	Apr 20	Apr 20	Apr 20	Apr 20	Apr 20	Apr 20	Apr 20
Philip	.	11	0°	0°	Jul 19	15	Apr 24	Apr 17	Oct 20	Nov 17	May 19												
Kate	.	13	0°	0°	.	3	.	Apr 9	Apr														

Source: Library & Archives Canada

British Children Emigrated to Canada by authority of Board of Guardians

The New siblings' records shows that they arrived in 1899, aged 8, 11 and 13, from Edmonton, a district in north London. Barnardo was the sponsoring organization. The right-hand columns record the date of the first inspection, the number of annual inspections required before the child's seventeenth birthday, and the dates of all subsequent inspections. Kate's brother Richard was only 8 years old when he arrived and so had 8 inspections before he completed his indenture.

Kate did not stay long with the Duffetts -- she appears to have moved twice before her 1902 inspection visit.

Department of the Interior,
List of Pauper Children reported upon by G. Bogue Smart,
Inspector of British Immigrant Children.
Arrivals during 1899.
=====

NEW, KATE

FROM Edmonton Union,
BY Dr. Barnardo.

WITH Mrs. Thomas Hanbidge,
until February, 1902.
P.O. Southampton,

Now with Mrs. (Dr.) Perry,
P.O. Conn,
Wellington County, Ontario.

Age 16 - first class home - employed as general servant in small family - good health - attends Presbyterian Church - character : willing and agreeable - Terms - \$3.50 per month wages.

Kate New is settled and contented. Mrs. Perry states that she is very useful and has done well so far - a very bright girl.

9th April, 1902.

Entries from the *Inspections of British Union Children. Arrivals During 1901 and Previous Years:*

Kate would receive her wages monthly, whereas her brother Philip, below, would only receive a bulk payment at the end of his employment. Richard, right, is still in foster care so no terms are stated. Like Kate, he appears to have moved at least once since he arrived in 1899.

NEW, RICHARD

FROM Edmonton Union,
BY Dr. Barnardo.

WITH W. J. Kennedy, Farmer,

P.O. Omamee,

Victoria County, Ontario.

Age 11 - ordinary, comfortable home - employed at chores - robust health - attends Methodist Church and Sunday School - well behaved -

Terms -

This lad has only been here two months. And they will give him a fair trial.

10th June, 1902.

NEW, PHILIP

FROM Edmonton Union,
BY Dr. Barnardo.

WITH John Hanbidge, Jr., Farmer,

P.O. Mount Hope, Arran Township,

Bruce County, Ontario.

Age 14 - comfortable home : industrious farmer - employed at chores - good health - attends Methodist Church and Public School - good character -
Terms - \$100. at the expiration of four years.

He gives entire satisfaction, and is thoroughly contented. He is doing well, and was the "head" boy in his class at school last winter. Mr. Hanbidge finds him a particularly clever boy.

17th April, 1902.



Ups & Downs Magazine

January 1, 1902

Source: Library & Archives Canada

Kate's last inspection visit took place in April 1903. In September 1905 she married Thomas Pearce. Listed as an orphan born in London England in the marriage record, Thomas was also likely a Home Child. Lack of consistency in date of birth and date of arrival in Canada in various census and other records makes it difficult to track Thomas's arrival in Canada. The couple lived in Guelph and had at least four children, all of them daughters, before Kate died of influenza in 1933. She was 47 years old.

Fred and Lily Noakes Aged 12 and 11

The Noakes siblings appear on the same Marchmont Home placement list as the Ducie brothers, with Fred and Lily Noakes being placed together, joining Harry Ducie at the Pines.

7668

List of names & addresses of children from different English Minors brought to Canada 1893. & placed out from Marchmont Home, Belleville Ont. by (Rev) Robert & Ellen A.P. Wallace.

Name	Age	Placed with	Post Office	Distance	Township	Con. det.	Home
Noakes Lily E.	11	Sam'l L. Peterson	The Pines	1/2	Adolphustown	5	Croydon
Noakes Fred Geo.	12						

Source: Libraries & Archives Canada

Thanks to Lily Noakes' granddaughter, Elizabeth Ferguson, quite a lot is known of the Noakes children.

Frederick George was born in 1879, and by the time of the 1881 census the family had grown to four, with Fred's father supporting them as a bricklayer. The family was still together at the time of Lillian Elizabeth Alice's birth the following year. In 1889, Lily, an older sister Maud, and a younger brother Alfred were admitted to Forrest Grace School, from the Croydon Union Workhouse in south London. Their mother, then at the Croydon Union Infirmary, was listed as their nearest relative. The records kept by the Barnardo Homes for Fred state that at the time of the children coming into their care in 1893, Fred's father had deserted the family seven years before and his mother had been "gone" for two years. There appears to have been some turmoil around the Noakes children at this time. Notes in Fred's records state that Maud, the eldest of the three girls, then 16, and presumably not in care, had come by and been "very abusive" to the staff, informing them that she had "hid away" the youngest sister Lucy.

So it was that of the five Noakes siblings, only Fred, then 12 and Lily, 11, were part of the group of children, including the Ducie brothers, on the March 1893 sailing of the S.S. VANCOUVER out of Liverpool en route to Halifax. Once they arrived in Canada, it appears that Fred and Lily spent very little time at the Marchmont home before being placed with Samuel L Peterson. Peterson was a bachelor living with his sister near the Magee family in South Fredericksburgh.

The Barnardo Homes kept detailed records for both Fred and Lily, including notes taken from visits as well as from letters sent by the children or their host families. Some excerpts:

1893

FRED: July 26 93: *They like the place very much - they are very nice children*

LILY: July 26 93: *Lily + Fred are at the same home with an old bachelor + his maiden sister, they are comfortably situated near Bay of Quinte. Miss Peterson is highly pleased with Lily "she is good natured + smart" Lily seems quite happy in her home.*

FRED: July 26 93: *I met Fred on the road going to have some music with neighbour's boy, he is a bright, smart little lad, the kind that all the neighbours would like. He has a good place with respectable people, will go to school in winter Attends church and Sunday School.*

FRED: Nov 14 93: *Fred writes, "does not think Peterson's a good place for his sister"*

LILY: Nov 14 93: *Fred writes Lily has been going to school all summer. [Ellen Wallace] wrote a letter to Miss Peterson as her brother had written not speaking well of Mr. Peterson.*

1894

FRED: Jan 13 94: *Fred writes "thanks for parcel Like my Place"*

LILY: Jan 13 94: *Libbie Peterson Writes. Have shielded + protected Lily as a mother. Never left her with anyone but brother (hers). Clothed well + sent her to school. Ask our neighbour Mrs. W Magee" Lily writes - "thankful for parcel. Nice home love my mistress"*

LILY: Sept 22 94 *J. Magee writes Miss Peterson is parting with Lily, I should like her.*

FRED: Sept 22 94: *Magee writes "Miss Peterson wished me to state that Fred ran away this Summer"*

FRED: Oct 19 94: *Fred is inclined to be wild, he ran away from Mr. Peterson because Mr. Peterson tried to control him + objected to his swearing. He will be fed + clothed by Tho's McQuain but will not have any restraint exercised over him.*

Lily: Oct 19 94: *Lily is a big handsome girl, so self willed that Miss Peterson was unable to manage her. Mrs McGee "she could not wish for a better girl than Lily" Mrs McGee is firmer with her.*

1895

LILY: Feb 21 95: *J Magee writes : Lily is happy + gives satisfaction"*

LILY: Aug 18 95: *Lily has grown very tall. Mrs Magee is very pleased with her. Improved in character, still room for improvement in her work but on the whole does nicely. School last Winter made fair progress.*

FRED: Aug 20 95: *Tho's McQuain says Fred is a good worker but inclined to be rough also to be wild + troublesome. Has grown very tall. Receiving \$5.00 a month, has invested some of his earnings in the York Loan + Savings Co.*

LILY: Xmas 95: *Lily writes "Thanks for Christmas Card. Am going to school on Tuesday. "*

1896

LILY: July 26 96: *Lily grows very fast she is a tall strong girl. Not attending school. Had a lot of company the day I called so could not arrange wages.*

FRED July 23 96: *Fred has been unsettled for some time, he changes his places frequently making it rather difficult to keep track of him, he is now with Mr Sherman + reported to be doing fairly well.*

LILY: Oct 27 96 *Mrs Magee writes "Lily has attended school whenever the weather permitted. Do not consider her worth wages, she is careless + heedless. Clothes, boots + books come to more than wages she is worth. She is treated as a daughter, satisfied with her home Can remain with us this Winter on these terms + we will consider the matter by spring.*

1897

FRED: Nov 24 97: *Fred has left Mr McQuain + is said to be working in Napanee. Lily says he is at Hotel.*

LILY: Nov 24 97: *Lily is growing quite a young woman big + strong nice looking + pleasant manner, says she is quite satisfied with her home. Mrs. Magee says she had some trouble in the Spring, neighbours interfered tried to coax Lily away.*

1898

FRED: Married 98 *[from Nov 4 99: Fred married Miss Davy]*

1899

LILY: July 25 99: *Lily is a nice looking girl + nearly grown up + begins to feel she can move for herself, seems a little dissatisfied + unsettled. Mrs. Magee quite willing to get her a good place but does not wish for to get with a neighbour.*

LILY: Nov 2 99: *Mrs Magee writes "Lily went yesterday to Fred am glad she has left this neighbourhood -- as company was leading her sadly astray. [Ellen Wallace] wrote for Fred's address*

FRED: Nov 4 99: *Mr. Magee writes "Lily has left us, + gone to live with Fred"*

1900

LILY: July 24 00: *Found Lily has had several changes since leaving Mr McGee + is now at Thos Huffs, Huffs Dock. MacDonald P.O.*

Evidently Peterson household did not work well for the Noakes siblings, with both Fred and Lily leaving after just over a year. Lily moved to the neighbouring farm of W. J. Magee, where she stayed for the next five years. It is unclear whether Harry Ducie was still with the Magees then. Fred's placement reports list his address with Thomas McQuian near the Macdonald Post Office and then at Gretna, on the other side of Hay Bay, along the Napanee River. Ultimately Lily would also move from The Pines on the south side of Hay Bay to near the Macdonald Post Office.



Photo: Elizabeth Ferguson
Fred Noakes 1905

Fred would have completed his indenture by the time he married Nina Louisa Davy of Richmond township in 1896. The last contact address for Fred in his Barnardo placement file is the Rathbun Mill in Deseronto. The 1901 census shows the couple living in lodgings and Fred working as a fireman in Deseronto, likely at the sawmill there. According to various US censuses, Fred left Canada in 1906, establishing himself just north-west of Watertown in Brownville, New York, where in 1910 he was working as a fireman at the paper mill. By 1920 he was still working at the mill, now as a millwright. The family was in rented accommodation then, but by 1930, they owned their own home, valued at \$2,200. Still employed as a millwright in 1940 Fred was earning \$1,240 for 40 weeks of work per year. Fred died in nearby Dexter in 1972; he was 93 years old.

When Lily left the Magees for the household of Thomas Huff of Huffs Docks (now known as Huff's Wharf) she not only found new employment, she also found her future husband in Thomas's brother William.

Thomas and William Huff were living on Lot 19 of Concession 5 in North Adolphustown with their widowed mother Isabelle. Isabelle died in early January 1901, suggesting that the Huff brothers might have employed Lily in 1900 to help with their mother. Lily does not appear in the Canadian census of March of 1901. However, a Lily Noakes does appear in the March 1901 UK census, living with a sister Maud, both born in Croydon. The sisters were living in Tunbridge Wells, just south-east of Croyden, with Maud, aged 22, working as a Shirt & Collar Machine Worker, and Lily, 19, as a Machine Hand.

For Lily to have returned to England from Canada would have been an expensive endeavour. It is possible she had saved enough for the crossing, and if she did indeed return to join her sister Maud, she may have found life as a factory worker far less appealing than a life as a domestic on a farm in Canada. Certainly by 1905, Lily finds herself in Canada and again within the Huff household -- this time as William's wife. The 1911 census shows William and Lily farming on Lot 21 of Concession 4 in North Adolphustown.

As a farmer's wife, Lily went on to raise 12 children, only one of whom did not survive infancy. Lily died in 1957, at the age of 76. She is buried in the Riverview Cemetery in Napanee.



Photo: Elizabeth Ferguson
Lillian Noakes Huff 1905

Agnes, William and Margaret Meikle Aged 15, 9 and 7

The Meikle children's story appears in the AFHS's 2016 publication *Voices, Volume 2*, and will only be lightly touched upon here. One of the most notable aspects of the Meikle children's arrival in Adolphustown was that all three of them were placed together in the same host family. It was particularly unusual to have two girls placed together. Perhaps more notable is that both girls remained within the household of Wilmot and Sarah Hawley from the time they arrived here in 1902 until Wilmot's death in 1923. Although both Agnes and Margaret kept the surname Meikle they were adopted by the Hawleys and were specifically called out in Sarah's will:

I bequeath to my said husband Wilmot Henry Hawley all my estate and interest in Lot Number Nineteen in the Second Concession of the said Township of

Adolphustown for and during the term of his natural life and after his death to our adopted children Agnes Meikle and Margaret Meikle, absolutely.

I bequeath to my said adopted daughter Margaret Meikle my Piano and my said adopted daughter Agnes Meikle my best bedroom Suite and bedding.

Sarah died in 1912, and the Meikle girls spent the next decade supporting and caring for their adoptive father. It seems likely this is one of the few truly happy outcomes to befall the destitute or orphaned children sent to Canada.

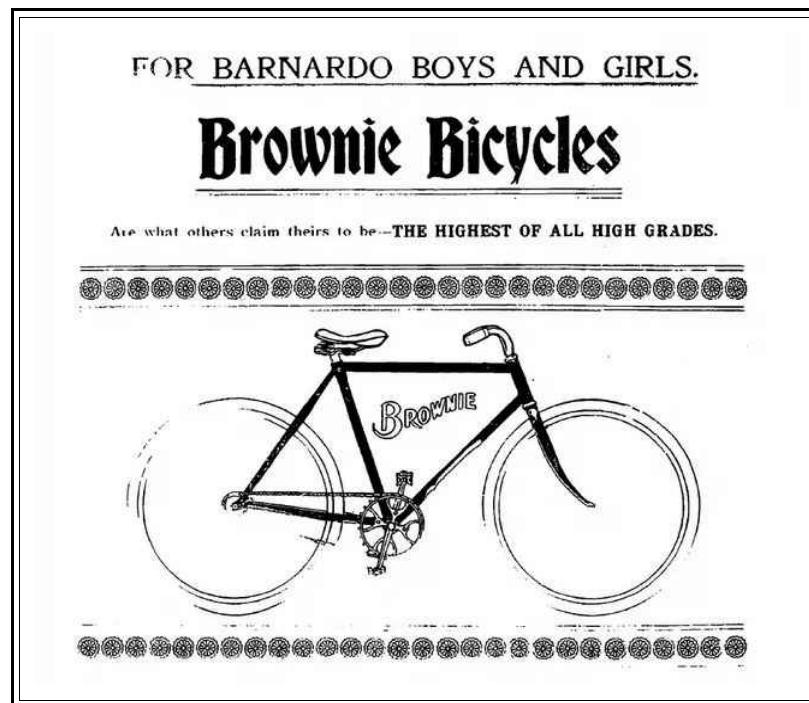
Both sisters married in 1926 and continued to live in the area. Agnes died in 1972 followed by Margaret twelve years later, aged 74 and 84, respectively. Both are buried in the Riverside Cemetery in Napanee.

Others:

In the course of researching the British Home Children known to have come to Adolphustown and Fredericksburgh, several other possible Home Children were identified.

- 1891 census: Walter Church age 18 from England working as a domestic with Samuel Peterson
- 1891 census: Albert Sypley age 12 from England working as a domestic with widow Isabelle Huff
- 1901 census: James Bruce age 12 from England working as a hired hand with Andrew Magee

It is also apparent that several families took advantage of the British Home Children immigration program, namely the Duffetts, the Magees, the Petersons, the Hawleys and the Huffs. It is quite likely that there were other children who came briefly to our townships, only to move on elsewhere in Ontario or Canada. Of the children that settled here, many seem to have fared well, going on to lead successful lives and becoming well-respected members of their communities.



Ups and Downs
July, 1899

Then and Now

Jane Lovell & Susan Wright



1984

AFHS Photo



2002

AFHS Photo



Source: Google Street View
May 2018



October 2019

AFHS Photo

**10454 Loyalist Parkway
Lot 8 South Side of Third Street
Adolphustown Town Plot**

Lot Originally granted to
John Joseph Watson in 1861
Title passed to J.J. Watson's grandson
Dr W.H.E.V Duffett in 1921
Remained in the Duffett family until 1928

Some Subsequent Owners:

Cornelius Mark Christie
Victor C. & Hilda Powley
Leslie & Joy Taylor
Kenneth & Betty Miller

It is unknown when the store was built, but in 1889 J.J. Watson erected a house attached to a store already on the lot. The house is visible only as a chimney in the centre of the topmost photo, and seen at the left in the shot taken after the fire destroyed both the house and the store in September 2002.

At some point the addition seen to the right in the 1984 photo was added. After the fire, the remains of the house and front part of the store were demolished, leaving only the addition and a subsequently added porch, as seen in the 2018 shot.

The boarded-up remains of the addition and porch were finally removed in October 2019, over a decade and a half after the fire that destroyed Adolphustown's last general store.

CHRISTIE'S GENERAL STORE

ADOLPHUSTOWN, ONTARIO

Groceries, Meat, Fishing Supplies

POWLEY'S GENERAL STORE

ADOLPHUSTOWN, ONTARIO

Groceries, Meat, Fishing Supplies

TAYLOR'S GENERAL STORE

ADOLPHUSTOWN, ONTARIO

Groceries, Meat, Fishing Supplies

The Best Muskie Fishing In Ontario

Advertisements in the 1952-54 versions of
The Old Bath Road brochure issued by the
Bath and District Board of Trade

Clippings

ADOLPHUSTOWN

A very unfortunate accident occurred last Wednesday evening. J.L. Haycock, Jr., was driving his car towards the village, when only a short distance from his own place, he met the mail on a strip of very narrow road and the fact that it was raining at the time, Mr. Haycock failed to see the rig in time to stop and rather than strike it he took the risk of turning out and his car went over the bank, which is high and steep at that point. The car caught against a tree which prevented it from going all the way to the water. Mr. Haycock was pinned under it, but the mail-man succeeded in releasing him and took him to his home. Medical attention was secured and no serious injuries were discovered, although he suffered from a number of cuts and bruises and also from shock. The car, which was badly wrecked, was turned over to the garageman, Mr. Smith, Odessa, to be repaired. A gang of men are now engaged in widening the road.

Napanee Express
December, 1923

ADOLPHUSTOWN, Aug 28.—The meetings held by the Brethren of this place are largely attended. They have a large tent to the east of the English church. The wind storm Sunday morning blew down their tent and they had to hold service in the town hall.—Miss Chimeck, Napanee, is visiting Miss Grace Chalmers.—The English church Sunday school will soon have their picnic.—Walter Chalmers has a large field of tomatoes this year; he intends sending them to the canning factory.—

Daily British Whig
August 28, 1896

Notice.

WHEREAS a Mare of a bright bay color, a white star in her forehead, switch tail, and a few white spots on her back, broke into my enclosure at Adolphustown on Friday last, and whereas Willet Casey did unlawfully and without my consent, remove the said Mare from the said enclosure—This is to inform the owner where she may be found, having good reason to suppose that the said Mare does not belong to Mr. Casey, and fearing that he will consider it of too little consequence to inform the owner where she may be found.

BENJⁿ. CLAPP.

Kingston, 28th June, 1815. 4w3p

Kingston Gazette
June 29 1815

New Year's Eve
DANCE
DEC. 31, 1959
AT SILLSVILLE HALL
A Good Time planned for
All.
Everyone Welcome
Sponsored by South Fredericksburg & Adolphustown
Community Club
PRIZES ADMISSION \$1
— Music by The Aces —

Napanee Post Express
December 17, 1959

Clippings courtesy of Susan Wright

the Articles page on our website:
<http://www.sfredheritage.on.ca/articles.html>

Old Fashioned Winter Weather

Duncan & Ruth Hough

"With this old fashioned winter weather we find us shivering and somewhat annoyed with so much snowing and blowing."

Conway Notes in the *Napanee Beaver* February 8, 1947

The winter of 1947 is probably the one the old timers remember and set a standard for years to come. The following are notes in the *Napanee Beaver* giving observations of the season and its travails.

Jan 11 - Dorland - Snowbanks are fence high already

Jan 25 - Dorland - Blizzard the previous week

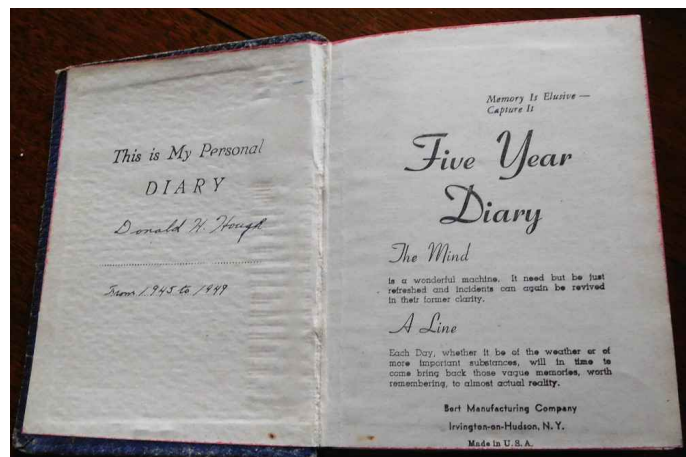
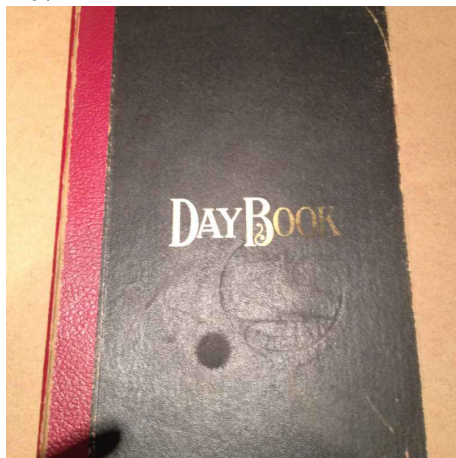
Feb 5 - Napanee - Over one foot of crusted snow had to be cleared from the children's rink at the rear of Trinity Church.

Feb 5 - Dorland - Farmers are getting behind in their work as they have to spend time shovelling snow and have no time for other work. Wood cutting is extremely difficult.

Feb 12 - Dorland - District is just emerging from the depths of snow. Plow just started work on Township roads this morning. Some contact has been maintained with the outside by means of horses, another proof that horses cannot be entirely dispensed with.

Feb 22 - Dorland - Snow, cold and drifting winds occupy much attention. Snow plows no sooner get roads open, then they are full again and the process repeats.

This describes the season so far, but the worst was yet to come. A massive storm hit on Sunday March 2nd and lasted through Monday March 3rd. The effects lasted for a week. We are fortunate to have three diaries available from that period. Bert Fretts farmed on Big Creek Street, west of County Road 8. Wilfred Haight farmed with his son Carl just west of Conway on Highway 33. Donald Hough and his father Harold farmed on County Road 8 at the junction of the Hay Bay Road (South Shore Road today).



Haight and Hough Diaries

The following excerpts from their diaries give a picture of the storm and its consequences.

Sat. Feb.22

- Fretts - Drifting and blowing, Dad did not come over.
- Haight - Cold and windy from North-west. Has been rough all week.

Sun. Feb. 23

- Hough - Has snowed and drifted since Friday night. Roads plowed, but not good. Did not go to church at Conway.

Tues. Feb. 25

- Haight - Cold and snowy weather continues.
- Hough - Roads are bad.

Wed. Feb. 26

- Fretts - Drifting.

Thurs. Feb. 27

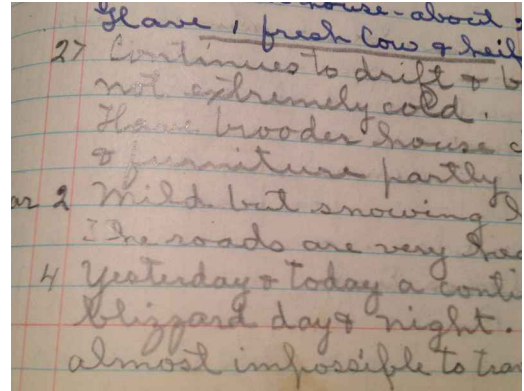
- Haight - Continues to drift and blow but not extremely cold.

Sun. Mar. 2

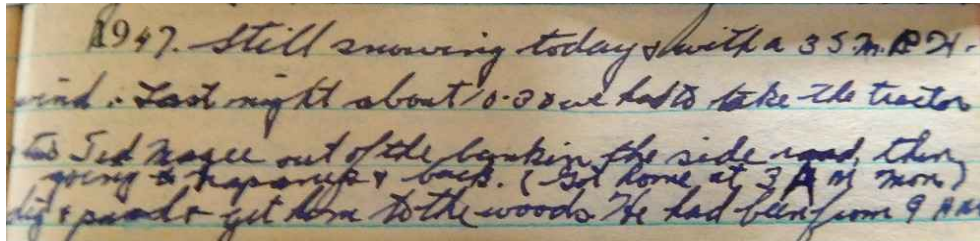
- Fretts - Stormy, Dad did not get over at night.
- Haight - Mild but snowing heavily all day, roads are very heavy.
- Hough - We had one of the biggest storms today, at least a foot maybe 14 inches. Packy snow. Fortunately not too much wind.

Mon. Mar. 3

- Fretts - Still storming. Roads are all filled and hardly any traffic.



Snippet from Wilfred Haight's Diary
February 27- March 4 1947



Snippet from Don Hough's Diary
March 4 1947

- Hough - Still snowing with 35 mph wind. Last night about 10:30 had to get the tractor to tow Ted Magee out of the banks on the sideroad, dig and push to get him to the woods. He had been from 9AM going to Napanee and back. Got home at 3AM Mon.

Tues. Mar. 4

- Fretts - In part of Ontario this is a record snow storm with 30 inches falling in Ottawa. The plow got out a ways from town. Our plow has not been out.
- Haight - Yesterday and today a continuous wild blizzard day and night. Roads clogged. Almost impossible to travel on foot.
- Hough - Today not so bad but still windy. Mrs. Ben Platt [who lived on a farm near where Pickerel Park is today] fell and broke her knee cap. The county plow was to come out here and open the Bay Road to the house. They left Napanee at 8 AM Tuesday and got here at 1 AM. Wed. Tuesday evening, the township plow with Leslie Mellow and Bill Tibbutt had attempted to open the Bay Road. We worked 3 and ½ hours, got to the machine house [less than 200 yards]. Ram the drifts, dig the truck out, back up and repeat. The county 10 Ton truck did not have too much trouble. I went on the Township plow with Bill and Leslie behind the county plow and did not have too much trouble. Got home at 4 AM.

Wed. Mar. 5

- Fretts - The storm has blown itself out. Most roads still blocked. The milk has not gone.
- Haight - Yesterday and today, mild and thawing. We are spending all time available shovelling our way out. Road still closed, even to horses.

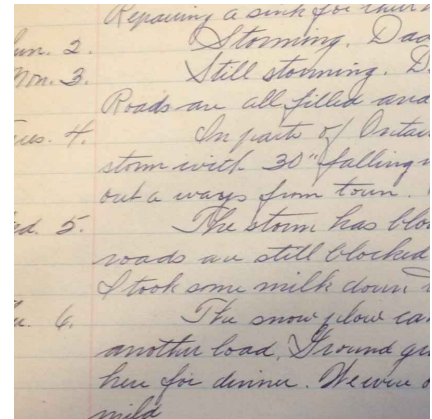
- Hough - Dad and I spent 3 and ½ hours digging from the barn to the road and the rest of the day digging paths.

Thurs. Mar. 6

- Fretts - The snow plow came through, quite mild.
- Haight - Plow went through at 5 PM. We went out and cheered as all traffic has been closed five days. Spent day shovelling. Province is in dreadful shape.
- Hough - Mild and snow settling fast. Have strained back.

Fri. Mar. 7

- Fretts - Helped Ralph [brother who farmed on Ridge Road] shovel in his road.
- Haight - Went to town for chicks. Went around by Bath. Roads are a one track tunnel.



Snippet from Bert Frett's Diary
March 2- 6 1947

The worst was past. The snow settled and the crisis was over. The March 12 issue of the *Beaver* had the head-line "Winter Storm ties up Traffic in Eastern Ontario." The storm started early Saturday evening and steadily increased without letting up until Monday morning. It was most severe from Trenton east. All transport companies ordered their drivers to stop in Belleville and wait for the roads to be cleared.

Also in that issue of the *Beaver* was an account of two men stranded in their car at Frett's hill on the Hamburg road. They left the engine running to keep warm until the snowplow came. They were overcome by carbon monoxide. Fortunately, occupants of other vehicles found them and revived them using artificial respiration.

Also, it was reported that Mrs. Ben Platt was recuperating in Kingston Hospital.

The roads in 1947 were not built up as high as they are now, nor were road allowances as wide. Fences and brush along the sides acted as snow catchers. The Hamburg road (now County Road 8) had ninety degree turns at Sicker's Hill (north of the South Fred Hall), at Galt's corner (where County Road 22 goes east) and double corners on Frett's hill (Ridge Road) and at Big Creek.



Photo: Mertie Ackerman
Doug, Shirley and Evelyn Smith 8225 Hwy 33
March 1945

Snow-moving capabilities were different. Farmers had to dig out manually, no snow blowers or front-end-loaders. Municipalities had poorer equipment. The South Fredericksburgh truck was a retired army truck with limited capabilities. Even the County 10-ton truck would be out-muscled today.

The storm was no doubt a major event at the time. Today, however, it would serve as a fleeting nuisance at most. Times have changed.

A special thanks to Debbie Height for providing access to her grandfather's diary, and to Dave Fretts for sharing the contents his uncle's diary.

AFHS News

Angela Cronk

Welcome to winter - thankfully most of us have plows and snowblowers, unlike the the folks in the previous article!

Since our last newsletter in April, we held our Spring Dinner that coincided with the Old Hay Bay Church renovation fundraising campaign. Judy Smith presented her own composition of the fatal multiple drowning disaster at the church 200 years ago Well done, Judy!!

Once again, we enjoyed the roast beef meal prepared by Diana and Rodney Lloyd.

This fall a group of our members put their work boots on and did some cemetery clean-up at Trumpour Cemetery. We have resolved a few issues with other cemeteries as well.

We continue our plan to have new signs for our cemeteries and other local historical sites with some government funding.

At our AGM earlier this month Marg MacDermaid volunteered to fill our long-vacant position of Secretary. Welcome to the AFHS Executive, Marg!

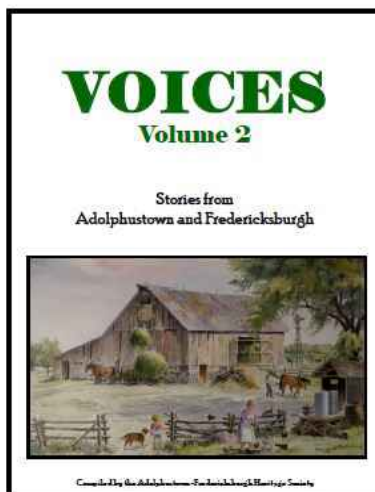
Many thanks to our small, committed group of members who make our work possible!!!



Photo: Angela Cronk
Judy Smith
Heritage Spring Dinner 2019

New joiners are welcome!!

From the Book Shelf



Voices, Volume 2 **Compiled by Susan Wright**

A collection of one-page stories from various contributors.

Historical tidbits about the people and places in the South Fredericksburgh and Adolphustown area.

A Curious Thing

Angela Cronk

Antique Barber's bottle

This vintage hair tonic or perfume bottle was made by a Spanish company during the 1940s. Bourjois made many different shapes and sizes of these bottles with ornate metal trim on top of the glass bottle. This bottle is clear with brass overlay. This bottle with the nozzle is 10" tall x 1-5/8" wide. The hair tonic bottles of that era were very ornate often with coloured glass or sterling silver.



April's Curious Thing

What is this?



Submitted by the Bath Museum

Please contact 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 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.

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.

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