

Quinte Kin

The Voice of the Marilyn Adams Genealogical Research Centre

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Gathering history and serving genealogists since 1969

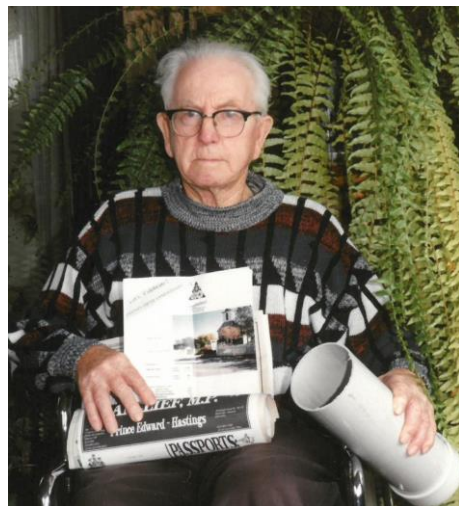
FALL 2019

MR. AMELIASBURGH

DARLENE WALMSLEY

For many years, Harry Bisdee was known as "Mr. Ameliasburgh". He wore many hats, including museum curator, local building inspector, carpenter and store owner, among others. Harry was an active member of Seventh Town Historical Society. The photo below shows Harry preparing materials for the time capsule which was placed in the building cornerstone at MAGRC.

Harry passed away in 2000, and this past summer, he again made his presence known with a document he had hidden away for posterity.



(continued on page 4)

FROM THE PRESIDENT

DIANE GODBOUT

PRESIDENT@SEVENTHTOWNRESEARCH.COM

What an amazing year this has been for us here at the Marilyn Adams Genealogical Research Centre and for that we are truly thankful. As you our members know the highlight of this year was celebrating our 50th and 25th years of existence here in The County. Our very dedicated volunteers have worked very, very hard to accomplish all our event objectives set out in early spring.

The digitizing of our abstract books has moved along very rapidly with Don Criaghead and Tom DeHaan about halfway through the imaging portion of the work. The actual indexing is a much slower project and we are looking for more volunteers to assist with that endeavour.

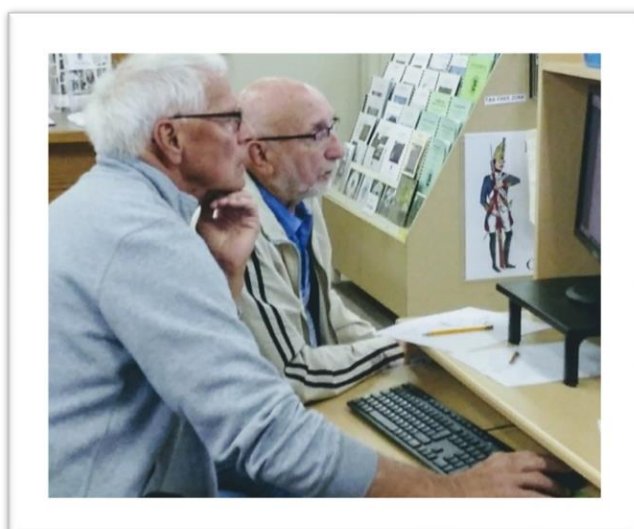
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VISITING RESEARCHERS

We had many family historians and researchers stop by to explore our collections and take advantage of our volunteers' expertise.



Mr. Ernst Kratz came to MAGRC from the UK for Hessian Research (pictured with Hugh Heal)



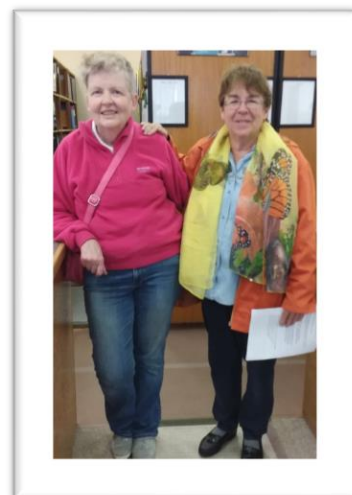
Wayne and Carol Parks visited from Peterborough (Wayne Parks working with Larry Carmichael)



Eugene and Darlene Gerow came from San Diego California to research their Gerow roots in September.



Marylou Walker with Hugh Heal



Terry MacDonald of Calgary and Diane Anthony of Kingston. MacDonald worked with author/historian Tom Johnson on the creation of the Victoria Cross collection.

Not pictured are additional visitors: In July, several visitors from British Columbia as well as Betty Roger from Halifax NS and Debra Bandemer from Clifton Springs NY. In August, Doug DeLong travelled from Paris Illinois.

WE LOVE HEARING FROM YOU

One of the great rewards of helping family researchers is the thrill of making new discoveries that were unexpected. This is what happened when Tom Kennedy reached out to us to learn more about his Belleville ancestors. Here's what he recently posted to our Facebook page:

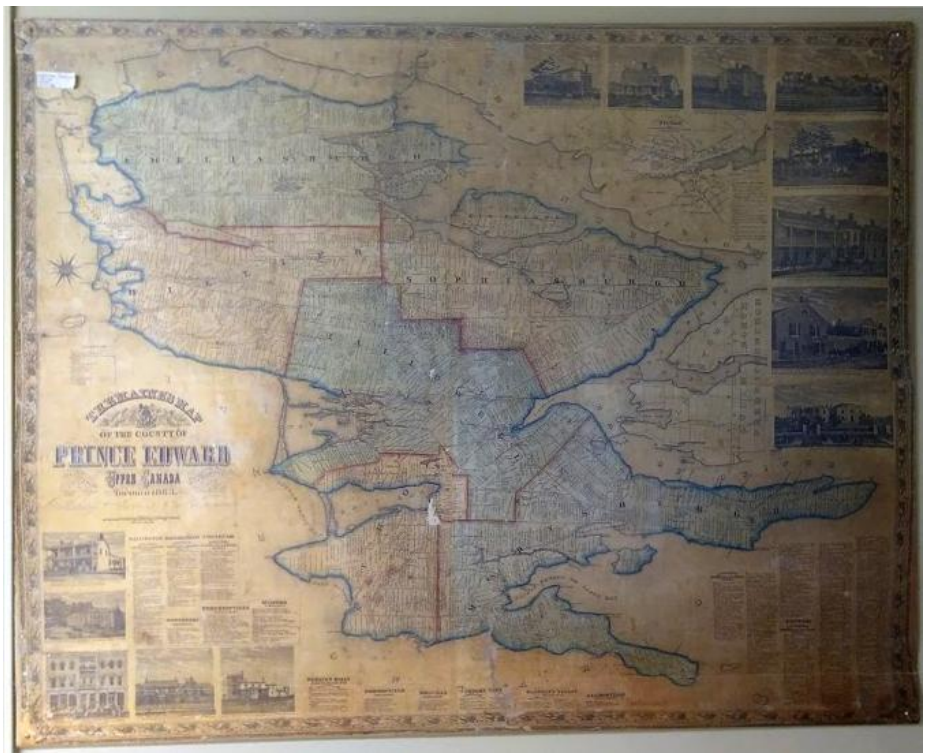
In my continuing quest to learn more about my Belleville ancestors, now extending into neighboring Thurlow and Tyendinaga, I've had thorough, friendly, and also enthusiastic support from Diane Godbout of the Seventh Town Historical Society in Ameliasburgh, whose awesome "detective work" has been instrumental in helping me identify a number of up to now unknown Kennedy and other ancestors in Hastings County. One very special item she was able to locate and send me was a copy of the actual document registering a transfer of land from my 4th great-grandfather Hugh Campbell to his daughter (my 3rd great-grandmother) Margaret Campbell Kennedy in 1855 and registered in 1868. It is really nice and somewhat moving being able to see her actual signature on this document, dated 26 August 1868, when she would have been 60 years old. Somehow seeing a signature makes a person seem more "real" and not just a name in a box on the family tree.

THE TREMAINE MAP

The 1863 Tremaine map of Prince Edward County is one of the most important documents held in The County's public archives. The map indicates original landowners and clearly shows the lots and concessions. Reproduction of the map was undertaken by Katie Klodnicki, who took numerous images of the map and digitally stitched them together, creating a full size, 48x60" reproduction.

Recently, long time MAGRC member Bill Bode, donated a copy of the Tremaine map to our collection. It is now prominently displayed in the lower level, fittingly outside the room housing our land records. We thank Bill for this generous gift.

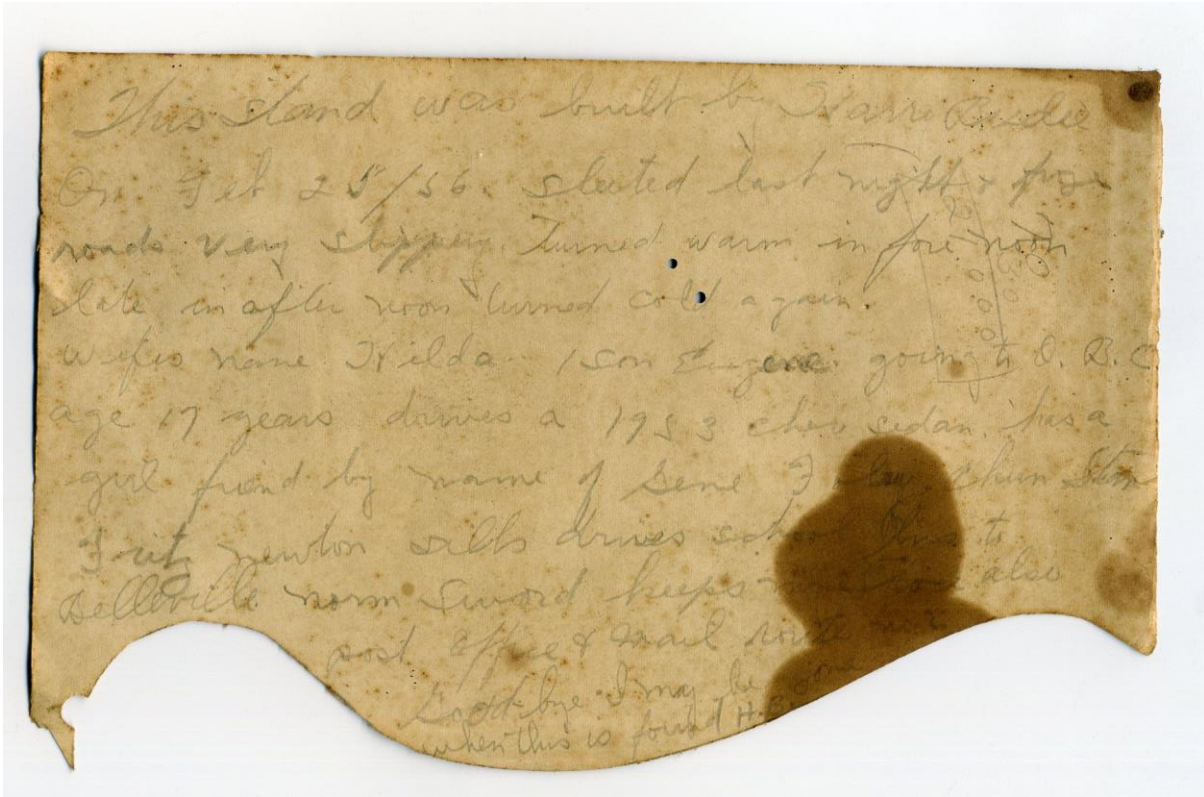
FYI – To raise funds towards the purchase of a new microfilm reader, Wellington Library and Archives is selling copies of the Tremaine map. Maps are available on canvas for \$250 and on vinyl for \$120. See <http://pecarchives.org/> for further details.



MR. AMELIASBURGH

(continued from page 1)

The paper was stained, but the handwritten message was still very legible.



This stand was made by Harry Bisdee on Feb 25/56. Sleeted last night & froze roads very slippery. Turned warm in forenoon late in after noon turned cold again.

Wife's name Hilda. 1 son Eugene going to O.B.C. age 17 years drives a 1953 chev sedan. Has a girl friend by name of Gene Foley. Chum Stan Fritz. Newton Sills drives school bus to Belleville. Norm Sword keeps my store also post office & mail route no 2.

Good bye. I may be gone when this is found. H.B.

IN REMEMBRANCE



George Cunningham, a charter member of Seventh Town Historical Society, saw action in World War II in the Middle East and India. He passed away in 1992.

This November we remember him and countless others who served Canada in conflicts around the globe.

EARLY RECOLLECTIONS OF DEMORESTVILLE PART III

Our installment series from the Barton diaries continues with the family move from Albany to Demorestville. The recollections of Margaret Bourdette Barton (1787-1873) provide a fascinating look into early Prince Edward County and Margaret's life and childhood. Recorded in a notebook by her son Thomas (with illustrations), this is likely the earliest first-person record in our collection at 7th Town.

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FUNDRAISING CAMPAIGN

As Diane Godbout noted, some needed repairs and maintenance projects are on the agenda for the coming year. Contributions to support our building maintenance needs (while we seek out grants) are greatly appreciated. You may send donations directly to Seventh Town Historical Society (address on the last page of the newsletter) by cheque, by your bank's online Interac eTransfer service (addressed to treasurer@seventhtownresearch.com) or you can donate by credit card using our fundraising page at Canada Helps. (<https://www.canadahelps.org/en/charities/seventh-town-historical-society/>)



Charitable receipts will be issued for all donations. Thank you.

Our wish list for 2020 improvements include: water heater replacement; roof repairs; lighting (energy efficiency) upgrades, computer upgrades

FROM THE PRESIDENT

(continued from page 1)

Hugh Heal is in the process of indexing our military records and we hope to have that index available on our web site early in the new year.

Our library keeps growing thanks to the family members that are donating their work and files to our holdings.

As I hope you now know, we have become an official Familysearch Affiliate Library. While this resource can only be accessed while on site, it opens possibilities for our researchers who are ever ready to assist you with your research requests.

We will be closing as usual at the end of this month to do inventory and general maintenance on the building. We will need to replace our hot water tank and investigate how we can make our lighting in the building more energy efficient. To make that happen we need to determine how we can raise money to accomplish this. Your continued membership and donations help our organization to exist.

To our Canadian members we hope you had a wonderful Thanksgiving and to our American friends we wish you a very Happy Thanksgiving. Enjoy your family, as this is what we are all about.

From all of us here at Marilyn Adams Genealogical Research Centre (MAGRC) we wish you a very Merry Christmas and a healthy, happy New Year.

NEW RESOURCES TO EXPLORE



We're really pleased to announce that we have just been designated a FamilySearch Affiliate Library. The designation means 7th Town/MAGRC can provide greater and more convenient access to the wealth of genealogical resources available through FamilySearch.

The popular web service has over 6 billion searchable names and 2 billion images of historical genealogical records—and you get the helpful assistance of our volunteers at MAGRC. FamilySearch adds over 300 million free genealogical records and images online yearly from all over the world and manages the famous Family History Library in Salt Lake City. It has amassed billions of birth, marriage, death, census, land and court records from more than 130 countries to help you discover and make family connections.

We hope you'll stop by and take advantage of this fantastic resource for your research – our volunteers will be ready to help you log on and take advantage of this new resource.

NEWSPAPERS.COM

We've also purchased a limited time subscription to newspapers.com. This is on a trial basis to see if the materials available from this site are relevant to the research requests we work on.

Newspapers.com offers:

- The largest online newspaper archive
- 14,900+ newspapers from the 1700s–2000s
- Millions of additional pages added every month

HOURS: OUR OPENING TIMES ARE 10 A.M. TO 4 P.M. TUESDAYS & WEDNESDAYS APRIL THROUGH NOVEMBER.

WE WILL BE CLOSED DECEMBER AND JANUARY.

MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS

It's membership renewal time again!

Online membership renewal forms are available on our website at:

<https://seventhtownresearch.com/connect-with-us/membership/>

Some important things to note:

- Donation receipts for memberships renewed in 2019 will be sent in late January.
- **At the next AGM, we will be recommending new membership fees at \$30.** Renewals will remain at \$25.
- We now accept payment via Interac eTransfers (Canada only). If you use this method, please use the security answer *2020dues* and be sure to include your name in the message so we can match the payment to your membership. We still require a completed renewal form to ensure we have your updated information.

SAVE THE DATE

ONCE AGAIN, WE'LL BE PARTICIPATING IN THE COUNTY'S FLASHBACK FEBRUARY WEEK WITH AN OPEN HOUSE ON TUESDAY FEBRUARY 25 AND AN EXHIBIT FEATURING THE LIFE OF OWEN ROBLIN.

HAVE YOU HEARD?

In addition to our YouTube, Facebook and Twitter channels, we are now producing monthly podcasts on a variety of topics. So far, we've produced podcasts on: Highlights from the Ontario Ancestors conference; Stories from old photographs; and turning research into biographies. Our next podcast will feature Hugh Heal on his just-released booklet on restoring gravestones -- available from our bookstore for \$10.

You can catch up on previous episodes here:
<https://seventhtownresearch.podbean.com/>

Let us know if there is a topic you'd like us to feature.

EMAIL ADDRESS CHANGES

Update your digital address book with our new email addresses as we're phasing out our xplornet addresses. Here are the main email accounts to note:

info@seventhtownresearch.com (for general enquiries)

research@seventhtownresearch.com
(for research assistance)

webmaster@seventhtownresearch.com
(to report website issues)

treasurer@seventhtownresearch.com
(for sending Interac eTransfer payments)

UPDATED PRACTICES

Over the summer we've been reviewing many of our processes and practices. One outcome is to provide more clarity with respect to usage of materials provided in the course of research. We've developed a *Terms and conditions of use* statement.

The statement's intention is to ensure researchers and recipients of research materials are aware that:

- 7th Town/MAGRC does not necessarily hold copyright to the materials in its possession.
- Copying of materials is for personal study purposes only. Permission should be obtained from the copyright holder if there is an intention to publish.
- Information about living persons should not be distributed or published.
- Sources should always be cited

AMELIASBURGH FAIR



Thelma Coulter with Seventh Town's exhibit at the Ameliasburgh Fair in September.

INDEXERS NEEDED
WITH OUR DIGITIZATION PROGRAM RUNNING AT FULL SPEED, THE NEED FOR INDEXERS IS GREAT. CONTACT US AT VOLUNTEERS@SEVENTHTOWNRESEARCH.COM.

EARLY RECOLLECTIONS OF DEMORESTVILLE PART III

(continued from page 5)

Margaret Bourdette was two years old when she came to Canada in 1789. The family lived near Cataraqui Creek in Kingston. She returned to the United States as a young adult. She returned to Canada and later settled in Demorestville. The second installment of our series of transcriptions picked up with Margaret living in Albany NY.

In this, our 3rd installment, Margaret returns to Canada. Our final chapter of this diary will be Margaret's memories including the witch doctor of Fourth Town.

My mother's story of her moving from Albany to Demorestville District of Prince Edward Canada; On the evening of December the 2nd 1868, I was talking to her at the same time writing in my Diary. I wrote what she told me.

In June, I cannot remember the day of the month in the year 1816, my sister and I started for Canada in a waggon, with four horses before the waggon. At this time this was the mode of conveyance through to Buffalo or Niagara. We took our provisions with us and our bedding also whenever we stayed at night, we slept on our own beds also cooked our dinner; this was the way that travellers usually done. We passed some very pretty scenery; we would often walk for quite a distance. One place where we stayed we had bears flesh for breakfast. This was quite a rare treat; the stopping places on the road cannot remember them all; we overtook a family travelling from Albany bound for Canada; we stopt our team took out our provisions and gave them a share, they being poor. This was a beautiful place in the edge of the woods. We parted never to meet bidding a goodbye.

I remember passing through the Nine Mile Woods at this place. We picked a quantity of berries also saw some wild deer in the road ahead of us. Some of the road through this woods was made of logs. The bridges were very shackly and looked dangerous also very deep gulches with streams running. I remember passing through Martinsburgh and Brownsville.

We stopt to Mr Hauses Hotel keeper he seemed to be a very good friendly man. 2 1/2 miles from his place there was a very steep hill, it was a sight to look at. At the end of a week or more we arrived in the Village called Sacketts Harbour. I saw where the large boat was building; also some of the American Soldiers were stationed there. We left Sacketts Harbour, got weather bound; and stops on the boat we took passage on was a sailing boat, not very large. Mr Cherry was captain.

We stopt on an island while we were here. We all went to a quilting bee had a good time with the inhabitants. Next morning early took the boat for Kingston. Got to Kingston late in the afternoon; we put up to Gare Wordens Hotel while here Mr Williams Carroll called to see us, being acquainted with us in Ballston. He was very friendly and wanted us to go to his boarding house.

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Early next morning we got aboard a sailing vessel, there being no steamers here. The captain's name Bill Yerks, our passengers were Geo Kingsley's Mother; old Mrs. Ayres, 3 men, my 3 children, Mary Ann and myself. We passed up this beautiful bay very quietly.

It took us from before daybreak until just before sundown we reached the 6th Town and landed at Congers Mills. Mr Yerks took our trunks to Mr Congers, here we could not get a conveyance. We went then to Mr Goldsmiths we met him walking out with his lady, he was just married to his second wife.

He told us that he could not bring us to Demorestville and said we must stay all night with him. (Mr Conger had a mill here at this time). Mr David Goldsmith treated us very kindly he told us he would go with us and help us. Best we concluded in the morning that we would try all of the neighbors on the road at this time. We could not get any conveyance; at Granny Frazers Mr Joseph Gerrard overtook us he said that he would hurry on and tell our friends of our coming.

At David Van---[?] Two men working there were Rate and Rastus Howard. They seemed like our brothers, so glad to see us; this was the first time that I had ever seen them. On the long bridge Uncle David met us on horse back. He took the children on horseback, we walk the rest of the way. When we got to Hannahs she seem so pleased to see us for she loved her sisters.

The first house in the village was where Mr Bradshaw lives. Where the church stands, Uncle David had a house. There was a frame house where Mordens Hotel is now and Uncle Demorest house. The Mill was opposite to the street that leads to the Episcopal Church; where Henry Dunning lives was a distillery owned by Major Howell. This is the buildings that were here at the time. The sawmill was over the creek where the mill now stands.

The preacher of this circuit was Thomas Madden and Guillian Demorest used to gather the neighbors together and read to them some sermons that he had in his possession. The preaching was in Guilliams kitchen. The kitchen was well filled; my first three children were cristened by Rev Madden, H M Barton by Elder Case, SS Barton by Flint, the others I cannot remember, they were all christened. This I attended to at the time being a duty that God required of me to put them in his hands.

There were working here at this time Mr Spurr, Millwright, Barker - a labourer, and 4 others all employed by Mr Demorest. Flour \$20 per bbl, pork the same price. All provisions were very high. Not much clearing below the hill. It seemed to grow very fast after we came here.

The neighbours around the country were Rightmires, Eatons, S Bourdette lived on John Allison's farm, on the Island were VanMeers, Thompsons, and Parkes. We used to go to singing school to Aunt Olley's. Old Major Howell lived on the Island also where J. Moran ownes. The scattered tribe of Massassaguas were plenty around these parts but harmless and not any was savage. Smiths had a mill where he ownes now, he had a mill before Mr Demorest. Uncle David boarded with L. Hill, the first that was sold to Squire Colles the day H.M. Barton was born.

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