



THE GRENVILLE SENTINEL

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Annual General Meeting: It was decided to postpone the AGM from January 26th to Feb. 23rd at 7 p.m. at our archives as the number of people who could attend would be restricted because of the pandemic regulations in January. Annual reports will be given with refreshments to follow. Hopefully, we will be able to have guests at our February meeting.

Archives Open: Due to the provincial guidelines, we closed down our research facilities during December, but are open again to accept researchers. We are still requiring an appointment on Tuesdays at this time, as the numbers we are allowed are limited. Please call and leave a message on our answering machine or email ahead so we have time to set up an appointment.

Sandra Shouldice 1943 -2022

We have lost another of our long-time members. Sandra passed away Jan. 24, 2022 at the Wedgewood in Brockville where she had been living since last May. We gave the 2021 Award of Merit to Sandra this past October and it was well-deserved. Her many accomplishments were recorded in the Nov/Dec newsletter. Sandra was a proud United Empire Loyalist descendant. There were so many facets to her personality, her humour, her interest in current events, her love of history, her support of her many friends, and her love of learning and teaching. We offer our deepest condolences to her brothers, Jack, Brian, friend Carl, and to her nieces and nephews. Sandra will be missed very much by all of us.

Prescott Museum and Visitor Centre

Prescott held the grand opening of its new museum on the northwest corner of King and Centre Streets in Prescott on Dec. 4th, 2021, the 286th birthday of Prescott's founder, Col. Edward Jessup. A tremendous amount of work has gone in over six months preparing the facility and planning the exhibits to go on display. Mayor Brett Todd welcomed everyone and thanks were given to Volunteer, Fraser Laschinger, Community Relations Coordinator, Samantha Jodoin-Miller, and Town Staff for all their



Mayor Brett Todd and Fraser Laschinger spoke at the opening of the new museum.

hard work. Todd expressed his pride in a job well done. Todd thanked Fraser Laschinger who had spent many hours doing research and collecting the stories on the artifacts on display there. Fraser spoke to the crowd as well and spoke of “the rich history of the town which deserved to be showcased.”

It was an exciting time for all to see this museum brought to fruition. Visitors were allowed to tour the museum and see the wonderful exhibits telling the story of Prescott’s past. They are still working on putting the finishing touches on the display, so the museum will not be open to the



general public until the spring of 2022.

The museum has a section as well that will be used as a Visitor Centre where people can get information

about the sights around town.



The Grenville County Historical Society has co-operated by loaning artifacts for display in the museum and giving complete access to our files on the history of Prescott and area. Congratulations to the Town of Prescott! Watch for details about the opening in the spring and make sure you pay a visit.

Origins of O’Heaphy’s Pub



O’Heaphy’s Pub in Prescott has become a popular fixture on King Street in the last decade. Old timers will remember the building housing O’Heaphy’s for other businesses that operated out of the site over the course of many years. As a stone building, even the casual observer will discern it is very old and has witnessed a lot of history in its time. The following recounts some of that history.



Prescott in 1900, taken from now-vanished elevator
This building is in the centre of the photo, just to the left of the street.

The town lot on which the pub stands at the south west corner of King and Edward Streets was granted to David Mister by Maj. Edward Jessup Sr. in 1814 for 10 pounds. In 1817, Mister sold the lot to John Scott for 600 pounds, indicating that the stone building housing O’Heaphy’s had been built by Mr. Mister in that period.

This would make the building one of the earliest structures built on King Street and amongst the oldest to survive.

John Scott sold the building to Samuel Gray in 1818, who operated a store in the building and probably lived above it with his family. He died around 1841 leaving the property to his four sons. One of those sons, Matthew, is listed in the 1848 Prescott census as a grocer and has a family. By 1851, his business was listed in the Canada Directory as a dealer in dry goods, groceries and crockery. In 1861, Matthew was 43 and listed as a store keeper. In 1871, he was listed as a merchant. Matthew's wife was Letitia and she acquired an interest in the store, which she conveyed to her son, Francis Joseph Gray, in 1896. He operated a clothing store and is mentioned in Ed McNally's *Stroll Around Prescott*, his recollection recorded in 1960 from the time around the turn of the twentieth century.

By the time F.J. Gray ran his business, ownership of the property, which had other buildings both west and south of the original store, had been subdivided by the Gray family. There were two doors on the original store, an east and a west, as well as at the rear side on Edward Street. Different businesses operated out of these different parts of the building. One of these businesses was a furniture store operated by John Franklin Greer, who in 1938 bought the store on the east side at 101 King Street. Prior to Greer, a Mr. Whitney had a candy store at this location, but he was a tenant. After Greer, the store became a Canadian Tire outlet.



Still later it became the Ashby Shoe Store. Much later in 1975, it became the eastern end of the Alpine Village

Complex, an antique business owned by Don Marshall. After Marshall's death, his niece operated the business for a few years and then closed it. In 2000, renovations were started on the east entrances and it reopened as O'Heaphy's Tavern & Restaurant in 2011. O'Heaphy's has recently been acquired by Pierre Lalonde and is flourishing once again after the recent pandemic shutdowns.

Fraser Laschinger, Prescott - Nov. 2, 2021

William Headlam Diary – Part 4

In the last installment of the diary, Part 3, I wrote about the Prescott Rowing Club and the races held over the course of the summer of 1879 for the club prize, a silver cup. But there were many other activities, including races, during the summer which engaged people's interest. Here are some further entries with the author's commentary in italics.

June 9th H.G. Wiser (Harlow) rowed a heavy skiff this evening one mile and turn in 19.55 (time by stop watch) in a bet of \$4 that he could not do it in 21 minutes.

June 12th Club Cup Race

H.G. Wiser 1st T.R. Melville 2nd J. Dolman 3rd

Harlow was J.P. Wiser's eldest son and was in his early twenties. He had attended a military academy in Sing Sing, New York, and was a competitive sportsman. His father had high hopes for him in his business and a few years later sent him to Kansas and Oklahoma territory to manage his large ranching operations in the U.S. Three days after winning the \$4 bet in a solo race, Harlow came first in the Cup Race match on June 12th, but the second and third place winners that day ultimately won the series and had their names inscribed on the cup, Dolman first and Melville second.

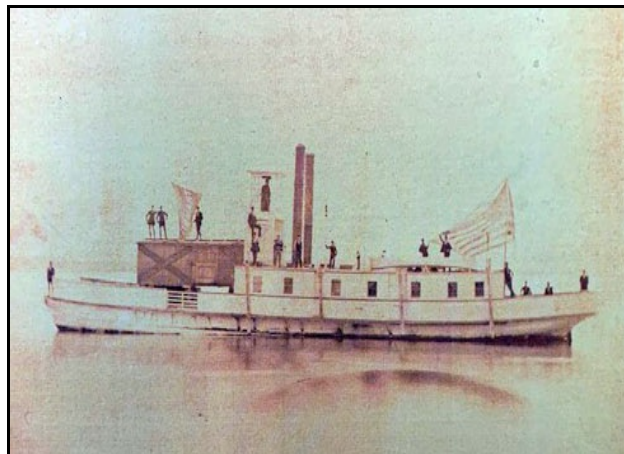
June 16th Hanlan won the championship of England to-day by defeating Elliot over the Tyne course (3 miles) Hanlan won by 10 lengths time 21.01.

Ned Hanlan was from Toronto and a world class rower. Just like today's sports fans, Hanlan's fans closely followed his exploits wherever he competed. Obviously the underwater cable from Britain to Canada brought the news almost as fast as today. Hanlon was to compete and win in a race in Prescott in 1883.

June 23th T. Hibbard and Dolman rowed one mile and turn for \$50. Hibbard won 3 lengths, time 16 ½ minutes.

The stakes for this race represented a month's pay for a well paid position in 1879. One assumes the side betting was pretty fierce.

July 18th Excursion on Str. Transit today to Brockville to see the Melville, Fraser race. Fraser won by about 15 lengths. Prescott boy backed Melville and got pretty near broke.



The Steamer Transit, a rail car ferry, was used to transport cars across the river.

The Steamer Transit was a rail car ferry boat used to transport rail cars across from Prescott to Ogdensburg. Because of its large surface area, it was used on occasions to transport people on day excursions to the Thousand Islands. We can assume the "Prescott boy" was the author of the diary, Headlam, who bet heavily on Melville to win.

July 25th John Buckley died today.



Buckley was the mayor of Prescott and died while holding office. The Buckley (also spelled Buckly) family were prominent businessmen in town over several generations in the 19th century.

From The Vanguard, Jan. 6, 1836:

The following is an article written for the local newspaper in response to a letter written by his friend who had visited Prescott in the 1820s. In the letter the friend had made some disparaging comments about Prescott. The Prescott resident who received the letter was quite incensed and wrote this response, signed "An Inhabitant". This extract was published in The Vanguard by the editor of newspaper.

"And if Tim was a greenhorn and could not get a night's lodging here to suit him in the year 1-22 (January 1822) what has that to do with Prescott being 'a hole' in 1836, when we have half a dozen good houses of entertainment, three or four hundred dwelling houses, many large and well built stone houses and stores, four churches, a Post-office and Custom-house, a handsome College, a Foundry (sic), Distillery, Pottery, & c. & e. Our Foundry has turned out steam engines equal in workmanship to any on the Lakes, we have an establishment for making Coaches, Sleighs and harness, that supplies the country far and near. The Pottery furnishes the whole of that tract between Belville (sic) and Glengarry.

Grenville College.
 Rev James W. Campion, of Prescott, having now completed the above named establishment, respectfully informs the public, that it is now open for the reception of Boarders and day scholars, for board and tuition comprising the English, French, Latin and Greek languages, Elementary and Rhetorical, reading, writing and Arithmetic, history, Geography, elocution, Book Keeping, Geometry, mensuration and the use of the globes &c. &c. £20 per annum—drawing, music, dancing, washing.—Doctor's fees extra. Each Boarder to bring a mattress and pillow, two pair of sheets, blankets, counterpane, the necessary clothing, half a dozen towels, a knife fork, spoon &c. to be returned on leaving school. The pension to be paid quarterly, that is to say every three months, and in advance, commencing from the day of the pupil's entrance.
TERMS FOR DAY SCHOLARS.
 For those in the elements of English \$2 per quarter
 For Reading, writing and Arithmetic, 3 do. per do.
 For the elements of Latin and French, 4 do. per do.
 For pupils more advanced, 5 do. per do.
 Signed for the proprietor JOHN DEMPSEY.
 Prescott 1st. Sept. 1835. 37/1.
 Editors of other Journals would confer a favor by giving the above a few insertions.

The Vanguard, Prescott
Jan. 6, 1836

PRESCOTT POTTERY.
A. GERALDS Junior, begs leave to inform the Public that he keeps constantly on hand, at his **EARTHEN WARE ESTABLISHMENT**, at the lower extremity of Main Street in this Village, a general assortment of
WARE.
 Comprising Jugs from one quart to five gallons; large and small Butter Crocks, Milk Pans, Preserve Jars, Flower Pots, Stove Crocks of various lengths from three to twenty inches, Pitchers, Candle-sticks, &c. &c. together with other articles too numerous to mention;—He ventures to assert that his WARE is inferior to none manufactured in America, and that he can with confidence recommend it to the Public.
A. GERALDS Junr.
 Prescott, 22nd November, 1836.
 N. B. Orders from all parts of the Country attended to at the shortest notice
 Merchants furnished upon reasonable terms, 5/1f.

The Herald, Prescott
Aug. 2, 1837

There is a branch Bank and application for a Bank in the town with a capital of £100,000. We have three common schools well conducted, a Female seminary and the Grenville College affording the means of a finished education, a social Library of the first order, a weekly newspaper and a Monthly Literary Publication, a Branch of Police elected by the inhabitants and authorized by act of Parliament. Situated as Prescott is on the margin of the St. Lawrence, and at the foot of the schooner navigation, it becomes the regular depot of all merchants and the point of embarkation for every traveller from Quebec and Montreal destined to the west. No section of Canada is more healthy or clearer from any contagious disease, nor has a more beautiful and fertile back country, with choice tracts of fine timber lands in the immediate vicinity for ship builders, and an enterprising capitalist of the town has already a ship yard in full operation. The first steam boat that navigated these waters was launched at Prescott, also the largest steam boat that now runs on the Lakes was constructed here. A Rail Road from the Champlain to Ogdensburgh connected with

the Boston Rail Road is going into operation, which when completed in addition to the above mentioned local advantages of Prescott will render it, in a commercial point of view, inferior to no town in the Province.”

Added by The Vanguard editor:

“We hope he informed his friend that our county sends two most enlightened members to Parliament, by whose exertions, measures may now soon be carried that make every dollar in Prescott, two before next year. – They will doubtless both be at their posts, and prove to their Constituents how worthy they are of the high trust reposed in them, and how much they differ from that despicable class of two-sided politicians, who delay taking their seats in the House of Assemble under various pretenses for the first few weeks of the session till they see ‘how things go’ in order to disclaim having taken a violent part against the other side, which they are ready to join the moment their own views deceive them into the belief that such a course will prove beneficial to their private interests.”

Looking For New Volunteers

We are in need of some new researchers who are willing to search through our archives and answer some of the queries that we receive here. It’s hard to keep up with all the requests we get. If you have some experience in searching for your ancestors or looking into records on houses or the history of the area, we would love to have you join our team.

Another position that needs filling is for someone to do the updating on our website. Ralph Street used to look after our website. The website is there, but just needs to be updated regularly.

We have a great group of people on our Tuesdays at the archives and would love it if you would consider joining us.

Memberships

Thanks to those who have renewed their memberships for the year. We do appreciate your support. If you have not looked after this, please take care of it soon, as this will be the last issue of the newsletter you will receive if you have not renewed. We accept checks and we do accept etransfers now to make it easier to renew. We provide six newsletters a year and your membership entitles you to research at the archives for half-price.

Annual Membership: \$20.00

Life Membership: \$200

Make checks payable to Grenville County Historical Society Inc. and forward them to:

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