



# THE GRENVILLE SENTINEL

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Jul/Aug 2022

ISSN 0715-3783

No. 314

## Upcoming Events:

104<sup>th</sup> International Plowing Match & Rural Expo, Kemptville - Sept. 20<sup>th</sup> - Sept. 24<sup>th</sup>, 2022

## First Pottery in Ontario

David Newlands in his book, “Early Ontario Potters: Their Craft and Trade,” told of the first pottery in Ontario:

“The earliest Ontario pottery of which there is a record is that of Samuel Humberstone in Grenville County. Humberstone is particularly interesting as a United Empire Loyalist. He was born in Staffordshire, had worked in Pennsylvania, and was one of those who defended the king's cause with the New York Volunteers. Before 1796 he had established his pottery in Canada.”

Samuel Humberstone was born in England in 1744 training in Staffordshire, married Nancy Thomas, born 1744, a widow with one son, Samuel P. Thomas, born 1773. Together they had two sons, Eli born 1774 and Thomas born 1776. Some records state that Thomas was an adopted son of Samuel and Mary. Was Nancy above a nickname for Mary?

Elizabeth Collard wrote the following in 2003 in the *Humberstone Family* listed on Oxfordartonline:

“They were the only family in the history of Canadian ceramics active during three centuries. Five generations worked in Upper Canada (now Ontario): Samuel Humberstone c. 1744–1823), Thomas Humberstone (1776–1849), Thomas Humberstone jr (1811–1895), Simon Thomas Humberstone (1846–1915) and Thomas Allan Humberstone (1887–1952). Samuel Humberstone,

born and trained in Staffordshire, was Upper Canada's first recorded potter. He had worked in Philadelphia before the American Revolution; as a United Empire Loyalist he subsequently received a land grant and was settled in Grenville County, Upper Canada, by 1796." Samuel was listed in the Old United Empire Loyalists List, Appendix B, when he was granted land in the District of Johnstown, Order in Council 13 Oct. 1807. He was listed as a lieutenant, in the Associated Loyalists, and settled in Augusta Township on part of Concession 1, Lot 27, east half, starting a pottery business on the banks of the St. Lawrence River. Samuel and his son Thomas made coarse earthenware which was put to good use by the pioneer families in the area. Unfortunately none of these pieces have survived. His son, Thomas, petitioned for land in 1796, received a land grant in York, and moved, starting his own pottery there, which prospered for many years.

In *Maitland A Very Neat Village Indeed* by Richard Dumbrille and Stephen Otto, they listed the following: "On the water course near William Wells mills, Samuel Humberstone had established the earliest pottery in Upper Canada about 1795. Fifteen years later a tanner Duty Galloway, built a bark mill near Humberstone and Wells." [Duty Galloway was one of my many ancestors in Augusta Township.]

Samuel and his wife Mary were buried in the Blue Church Cemetery and their

tombstone looks over the mighty St. Lawrence River where Samuel lived just a few miles to the west.

SACRED TO THE MEMORY OF

Mr. Samuel Humberstone who died January 1823 upwards of 70 years; Mary his wife died August 1828 at the advanced age of 90 years.



Below is a commemorative plate that recognized the contribution of the early Humberstone family to the first potteries in Ontario and Upper Canada.



I was fortunate to win the plate in a raffle held at Col. Edward Jessup Branch of the United Empire Loyalist Association's annual dinner several years ago and recently donated the plate to GCHS Archives. On the plate it listed that Samuel's pottery was Ontario's first commercial pottery.

## **South Grenville District High School Awards**

The Grenville County Historical Society congratulates Sam Spencer, this year's recipient of the Goldie Connell History Bursary awarded by our Society annually. We were pleased that Sam also won the Governor General's Medal as top student at the school. Sam is a 5X great grandson of Peleg Spencer who started the mill in Spencerville and 4X great grandson of Peleg's son, David, who was the founder of the village of Spencerville. Interesting to note that Sam's father, Tim, his brother, Ben, and his cousin, Chase, also received the Governor General's Award as the top students in their graduating years.

## **William Headlam Diary – Part 7**

The diary entries are now from the winter of 1879/80 and while indoor activities predominate there is a reference to curling which at that time would have been played on the frozen St. Lawrence River. Commentaries on the entries are in italics.

Dec. 10<sup>th</sup> First game of billiards for the Daniels medal was played last night between Brouse & Caulfield. Brouse won.

*There were two prominent Brouse men from Prescott during this period, Dr. William Brouse and C.C Brouse, who later became the Secretary Treasurer of the Prescott Electric Light Company*

*which started up 6 years later. The billiards player is probably the latter as Dr. Brouse, who had set up his practice in Prescott in 1848, had moved on from being mayor (1862) and federal Member of Parliament (1872-1878) to becoming a Senator in Ottawa (1878).*

Dec. 11<sup>th</sup> Second game of billiard Atkins won against L Rows

Dec. 12<sup>th</sup> Atkins wins medal against Brouse 150-121

Dec. 30<sup>th</sup> W. Caulfield wins medal from Atkins 150-148

Jan. 1<sup>st</sup> 1880 Frank Loney attempted to stab J. Bureau today but fortunately only drew blood.

*The circumstances are unknown but the date, New Year's Day, suggests the stabbing might have been related to festivities that got out of hand.*

Feb. 17<sup>th</sup> The Armstrong ran to Brockville last night breaking ice all the way from McCarthies up.

*The railcar ferry Armstrong was a steam powered boat. In those days the St. Lawrence River froze over completely above Prescott during the winter unlike today when ice only extends out from the shoreline some distance but not to the US side. McCarthy's Brewery was located just west of town at Bradley's Creek where Dewar's Inn is today. The bricks from*

*the brewery were used to build the cabins belonging to the Inn.*

Feb.18<sup>th</sup> Prescott & Ogdensburg Curling Club(s) had a match today. Prescott won by one point. Three Mundels (sic) and Capt. Moore for Prescott.

*The Mundles were a prominent family in Prescott. John Mundle was mayor of Prescott in 1900 and 1901. Edward Mundle was a merchant tailor in the 1880's.*

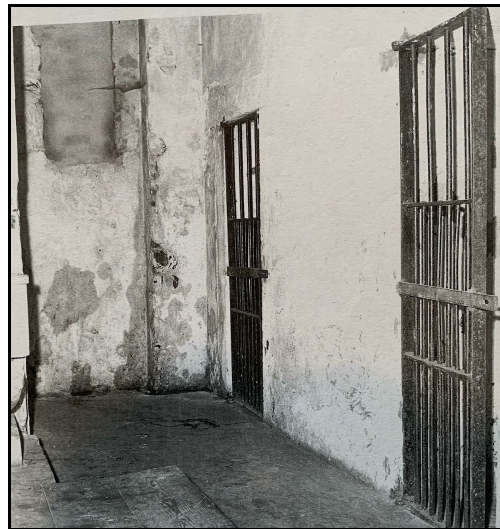
Feb.28<sup>th</sup> H.H. Adams had Bromley fined \$8.75 for calling him a French s\_of B\_\_h yesterday.

March 1<sup>st</sup> Bromley had Adams fined \$8.75 for abusing language.

*These two feuding individuals appear to have enriched the town treasury by these sizeable fines at a time when labourers would have worked a week for this kind of money.*

March 4<sup>th</sup> Bill Mitchell was locked up last night about 12 o'clock for being drunk and disorderly. Sentenced to 6 hours in the lock-up. The Str. Island Dove made a trip today from below.

*The court house for municipal offences was in the town hall and the jail cells were in the basement. Justice was handed out swiftly and efficiently in those days.*



This Prescott jail should have been a good deterrent to people breaking the law.

March 17<sup>th</sup> Prescott beat Brockville in a curling match today.

March 18<sup>th</sup> Robertson married Maggie Dowsley today.

*The Dowsley's were a prominent family in Prescott and intermarried with other Prescott families such as the Glasgow's, the Kingston's, the Reid's and other early families.*

Fraser Laschinger, 2022

### **Cardinal was known for its canals**

The geographical situation of the village of Cardinal, opposite the ancient rapids of the St. Lawrence River named by the French as Pointe au Cardinal and those just west of Cardinal at Pointe au Galop, led to the construction of canals in the nineteenth century to bypass these obstacles to river navigation. The government had started building canals at Montreal in the late eighteenth

century with a canal to bypass the Lachine Rapids and then progressed westwards, constructing canals around each of the rapids between Montreal and Prescott. The last ones were completed at Cardinal by the middle of the nineteenth century.



Benson House in Cardinal

Edwardsburgh was settled first by soldiers in Jessup's Rangers in 1784 and a village at Point Cardinal sprang up with a saw and grist mill that took advantage of the fast moving water. Hugh Munro operated these mills and in 1800 built a stone home that eventually became the home of the Bensons, who founded what was to become Canada Starch in Cardinal and its largest industry. Cardinal Point became known as Munro Point. Another early settler, Henry Lewis, established a business to haul boats through the Galops Rapids. By 1850 there were two hamlets separated by Lewis Street, the one east called Port Elgin and the one west Lewisville. The two were listed as the Village of Edwardsburgh in the 1857 and 58 Canada Directory. Following its incorporation in 1878, the village was named Cardinal, when a post office was established in 1880.

The canals built at Cardinal eventually came to define the geography of the settlement. Initially two canals were built at Iroquois and Cardinal between 1844 and 1846 and then shortly after they were joined by a junction canal linking the two. The original canals had a draught of nine feet but starting in 1888 and ending in 1904 the original canal was deepened to fourteen feet and straightened. During this period (in 1897 to 1900) the canal cut through the north side of the village was excavated, making Cardinal, in reality, an island.



This canal made the southern portion of the village an island for many years. You can see the steeple of the Presbyterian Church on the south side of the canal.

That portion of the canal skirting the river around the south side of the village was closed. The southern canal bank opposite the elevator was cut through to allow river navigation access to the Canada Starch docks. The coming of the St. Lawrence Seaway in 1957 put an end to these canals. The west causeway was completed in 1961 and the partial filling in of the "New Canal" with the removal of the bridge was accomplished in 1967. Thus Cardinal lost its island status and reverted to being a point on the St.

Lawrence River.

Fraser Laschinger, 2022

### **Air Conditioning**

Thanks to a generous bequest from Sandra Shouldice in her will, we were able to put in air conditioning at the archives this summer. This will be so much better for preserving the documents and artifacts stored in our archives. It is wonderful, we have been so much more comfortable working here. If any of you have visited us in the past, you will remember just how hot it used to get in our building. A very big thank to Sandra.

### **Thinking of You**

Our GCHS executive members, Valerie Schulz and Helen Mott are dealing with some health problems these days and we wish both a speed recovery. We miss you both very much.

### **New Members**

We welcome Francine Mitchell, Ann Burns, and David Graham who have become members of our society in 2022.

### **Volunteer Opportunities**

We have lost some of our hard-working volunteers over the last few years. If anyone is interested in working with our group, just give us a call. If you enjoy organizing, indexing, answering

research requests, enjoy looking after buildings, or have computer expertise to share, I think you would enjoy working with us. We meet every Tuesday from 10 to 4, with some staying the whole day and others working part of the day.

### **Memberships**

Annual Membership: \$20.00

Life Membership: \$200

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

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Membership Chair,  
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**Editor:** Bonnie Gaylord

### **Some Late-breaking News**

Prescott Museum, staffed by students, has had a very successful summer with many visitors. Council made the decision to be open with staff every Thursday, Friday, and Saturday starting with Labour Day and will continue with these days until December 17<sup>th</sup>. Be sure to drop in and see all the new exhibits.