



THE GRENVILLE SENTINEL

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Upcoming Events: Our archives will be open 10 to 4 every Tuesday this summer.

Annual General Meeting

Our Annual General Meeting was held on Wednesday, Jan. 25, 2023 at 7 pm. Annual reports were given by each of the board member and several people brought interesting objects to share with the group. Fraser Laschinger brought in his collection of old Ontario licence plates, giving the history of the plates. Other items shown were a 1920s bathing suit, a large feathered fan, an awl for mending leather, and some South Grenville buttons. After the meeting adjourned we enjoyed refreshments and good conversation.

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CHEATING AT SPORTS NOTHING NEW

It would seem that the desire to win at sporting competitions sometimes overcoming personal scruples and honesty is not something that only afflicts today's

hypercompetitive sports scene. Such was the case a hundred and seventy years ago in Prescott when the Prescott Shooting Club, established in 1845, folded after only six years because of cheating. A book detailing the club's activities was in the possession of Walter Webb, the custodian of Fort Wellington, back in the 1940's. In the book was a description of its activities and details of the two competing teams that gathered each fall to determine which could bag the most game. A scoring system was devised for different categories of game, with the highest number of points, 100 each, attached to the largest including bears, wolves or deer, down to smaller game with fewer points attached to each catch. The team with the most points won.



William Henry Plumb & George Plumb
Thanksgiving Day, 1900
Shot, 5 black squirrels, 10 red squirrels, 7
woodpeckers
Photo taken by C. Plumb at "Aunt Sara
Carson's" on farm on North Augusta Road

There was an incentive to cheat, one

would suppose, as the losing team was required to host a banquet where the winning team was treated to a free banquet. Who could resist? As it turned out, not everybody. As the years went on the secretary of the club noted in its record book that certain members were "clandestinely" adding illegal game to their scores. Note was made of members who solicited the aid of Indigenous hunters to add deer that they had caught to their bagged game in the competition.

In 1851, the year that the club closed, the secretary noted that the grand total score of game caught was the highest in the club's short history. Captain Plumb's team had won "and took ample satisfaction for the same at the splendid and most bountiful dinner provided for them on the succeeding evening by Mr. Walsh", the leader of the losing team. It would appear from its subsequent demise of the club, that the dessert course served at the final banquet had featured sour grapes.

Fraser Laschinger, January 2023

William Headlam Diary – Part 10

We pick up from the last installment in the late fall of 1880.

Nov. 15th Hanlan beat Tricket in Australia to-day.

Interest in Ned Hanlan's exploits was widespread as he was amongst the first Canadian athletes to compete on a

world stage, long before the modern day Olympics and World Cup competitions had been created. It is also noteworthy that news of his victory was learned in Canada on the same day.



Ned Hanlan of Toronto

Jan. 4th 1881 The *Henry Plumb* laid up last night crossing on ice from Windmill to Galops.

This entry suggests the ferryboat, which had been acquired six years earlier, was damaged by ice formations in the St. Lawrence River. This January, by comparison, the river is completely free of ice.

Jan. 20th The *Str. Transit* has been breaking ice down at the islands for several days the like was never known before.

The ferryboat Transit was a much larger and heavier vessel than the Henty Plumb as it was designed to carry railcars. This and the previous entry on January 4th suggest that the first month of 1881 was colder than usual and causing ice buildups on the St. Lawrence River. It is also a

reminder that river transport was carried out throughout the winter unlike today when paradoxically we have less ice because of climate change. Of course in those days there were no international bridges and international commerce would have ground to a halt without the boat traffic.

Feb. 19th Last night Mrs. Sayers caught young Quinn trying to jury open my back window about 11:30 PM. He got away.

As noted in Part 9 of the Headlam Diary, the Quinns were a prominent family in Prescott. It would appear one of the younger members of the family was a juvenile delinquent.



Henry Plumb Ferry, 1908

Mar. 8th The *Henry Plumb* made her first trip about 6 AM. *The ferryboat had been laid up for two months because of damage caused by ice.*

Mar. 29th Daniels sold out bar to Bromley to-day.

Headlam was a saloon keeper himself so this news would have been of direct interest to him. The Daniels referred to may have been either Isaac or David Daniels, both of whom had previously held licenses to operate saloons. By 1871 David was listed as being a grocer.

Fraser Laschinger, January 2023

Facebook Groups of Interest

On most of these sites, members reminisce about growing up in the area and share tidbits of oral history and often include old photos from their family collections. You never know what useful information or photos will show up on these sites. More websites were mentioned in earlier newsletters about the different organizations working in the area. Some of these Facebook sites require you to answer questions if you decide to join, usually to ascertain your connection to the group, and to discourage advertisers and scammers from joining the site.

Augusta Township is Awesome! Current news of Augusta Township. The administrator is Hendrik Pape.

History of North Augusta - John Vandervelde collected information from the works of Bernice Eyre, Don Hobbs, and John Baker, all residents at one time of North Augusta. The administrator is Bill Tennant.

Augusta Township - This is the official site for the Municipality of Augusta Township.

Grenville County Historical Society - Tidbits of local history, old photographs, information about our organization, and details shared by participants can be found on this website that was started last year. Administrator: Tom Van Dusen

If You Grew Up in Prescott Remember - Many people have added photos and reminiscences of growing up in Prescott and area. Administrator: Joan Healey

Photographic History of Sites - Tyler Deschamps, a native of Cardinal, has been collecting photographs, artifacts, and history of the area since he was a teenager and has been sharing these photographs on Facebook. So far, he is Administrator of the following sites: In Grenville County - A Photographic History of Cardinal and A Photographic History of Prescott; in Leeds County, A Photographic History of Athens, Brockville, Chaffeys, Gananoque, Lyndhurst; and in Dundas County, Iroquois and Morrisburg. Tyler does an excellent job and many others have added to his collection. Members are allowed to post photos and add tidbits of history to the sites as well.

Prescott Ontario (Official) - This is the official site for the town of Prescott.

St. Lawrence Seaway Ship Watchers

- If you love ships, you will enjoy this site. Anyone who enjoys watching the Great Lakes freighters and the salties that travel along the St. Lawrence River will certainly get their fill of these beautiful ships. Administrator: Michael Folsom

Ship To Shore Chef - Catherine Schmuck is a chef on the ships sailing the St. Lawrence River and writes articles telling about her day on the ships, the meals she cooks for the staff, and the many interesting things she sees along the way. Administrator: Catherine Schmuck

Maitland Tower - Philip Ling has purchased the historic tower in Maitland, built in 1828, which has been used as a windmill, a silo, and a distillery. The owner has been restoring the tower and has started on the buildings on the property as well. He plans to share their history with the general public. Many interesting programs are being run on the property teaching people about the flora and fauna in the area. He has great plans for the site and is continually working to improve it. Philip has collected much information on the tower and is preserving its beauty and history for the generations to come. You can see the Facebook site under Maitland Tower and learn more about his plans at his website at <http://www.maitlandtower.ca>.

Growing Up in Cardinal, Ontario

Canada - This group is for people who grew up in or had ancestors from Cardinal. Many share interesting photos from the past and recall historical tidbits they have learned over the years. Administrator: Sue Ess

T o w n s h i p o f Edwardsburgh/Cardinal - This is the official site for information on the township.

Spencer City (Spencerville) Remember When! This group is located in Spencerville and people share photos and stories about Spencerville. Administrator: Terrance Largy

The Spencerville Mill - This is the last remaining mill on the South Nation River. The site tells about events being held by the group running the mill and they have many interesting historical displays throughout the year. In the mill there are many photographs of local people, houses, and events. Lots of history in this building.

Leeds & Grenville Branch of the Ontario Genealogical Society and Ontario Ancestors - Ontario Ancestors is the parent organization and Leeds and Grenville is one of its branches. Members have a chance to share information and photographs on the Leeds and Grenville site and get help with research problems. At the parent site, you can learn about the aims and objectives of the organization and there is also a lot of genealogical information

there to check out as well.

North Grenville Historical Society - provides historians of North Grenville with a chance to communicate about the history and genealogy of the area. They encourage people to contribute with comments, and queries. You can learn about their organization here, what's available in their archives, and events taking place in North Grenville.

Merrickville and District Historical Society - This site gives information about the society, their meetings, local history tidbits, and how to find them. Individuals share facts about their families and often ask questions about historical info on Merrickville. There is a blockhouse there, built in 1832, affiliated with this group and you will be kept informed of activities taking place in Merrickville.

Northern New York Library Network - This is an excellent site for anyone tracing their family in Leeds and Grenville. NNYLN has digitized newspapers of Northern New York State and these often have references to people and events in Leeds and Grenville. The newspapers are very easy to search and you never know what you might find. I found an article about one of my ancestors telling about his family being robbed while they were at church one morning.

Big Loss for Area

We are sorry to announce that Myrtle

Johnston died on Jan. 10, 2023 in her 91st year. Many will know Myrtle through her work with the UEL organization and the Leeds and Grenville Branch of Ontario Ancestors. Myrtle wrote the newsletter, News and Views, which contained a wealth of information on families in Leeds and Grenville, since the 1970s. She received our Annual Award of Merit in 2015 for her work on transcribing tombstones and making them ready for publication for OGS L & G Branch, for the newsletter she wrote about our area, and for the work she did with the United Empire Loyalist Assoc. as their branch genealogist, helping many through the process of getting their UEL designation. Myrtle will be missed.

Memberships

2023 Memberships are now due

Annual Membership: \$20.00

Life Membership: \$200

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

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