



THE GRENVILLE SENTINEL

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May/Jun 2023

ISSN 0715-3783

No. 319

Upcoming Events: Our archives will be open 10 to 4 Monday to Friday, July 1 to August 31. We have hired Christina Nightingale, who worked at the Prescott Museum last year and has been volunteering with our group since then, will be manning our archives this summer. Christina has a degree in history and intends to go back to school in the fall taking the museum course at Algonquin College in Ottawa. Christina is friendly and will do her best to assist you in your research.

Prescott Museum & Visitor Centre, 202 King Street W., will be open Wednesday to Sunday 11 am- 5 pm. It is located in the heart of downtown Prescott and worth a trip to see all the displays of Prescott's history.

Fort Wellington, Prescott - 370 Vancoughnet Street. Opens May 20 to June 30, Thursday to Monday 10 to 5; July 1 to September 4, daily 10 to 5; Sept 5 to Oct 9, 10 to 5. This is a well-preserved 19th century fortification with costumed historical interpreters focusing on the War of 1812, with many interesting historical exhibits and re-enactments of the cannon firing, cooking over an open fire pit, and uniformed soldiers marching.

Blue Church Ceremony

Sandra Shouldice, past president and newsletter editor of GCHS, was honoured at a ceremony on Sunday, June 4th. Sandra always had a strong interest in the Blue Church, giving talks to groups about its history and writing skits for GCHS walking tours telling about the history of the people buried there. Sandra left a generous bequest in her will to St. John's Anglican Church for the upkeep and preservation of the Blue Church and Cemetery. She was a dedicated teacher, historian, artist, and mentor, and one of her paintings of the church now hangs on the wall there, as well as a photo of Sandra listing her accomplishments. Family members, friends, and GCHS executive members attended the ceremony and reception in Sandra's honour.

The Royal Coronation



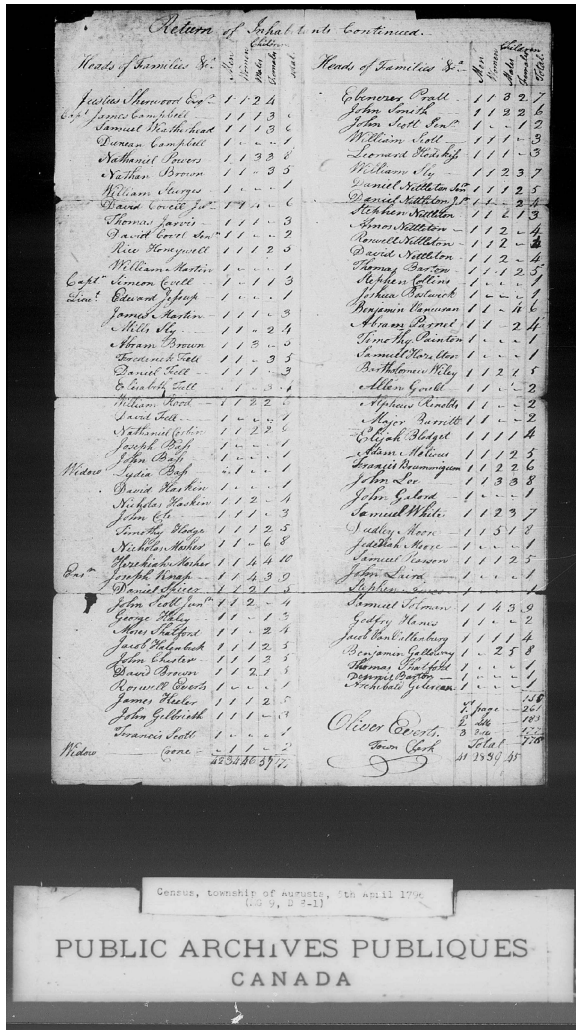
Charles became King when his mother, Elizabeth II, died on September 8, 2022. But on May 6th 2023 at Westminster Abbey, His Majesty King Charles III and Her Majesty Queen, Camilla, were officially crowned and they will serve as king and queen of the United Kingdom and the Commonwealth countries. My husband and I were up at 5 a.m. to watch the coronation on television and stayed glued to the tv until the very end. It was a very moving ceremony with all the pomp and ceremony that one would expect from the British Royal Family. Thousands of well-wishers lined the streets as the procession of the golden carriage travelled to Westminster Abbey for the coronation and then the royal couple returned to Buckingham Palace, where they appeared on the balcony with other royal family members. The coronation ceremony is steeped in centuries of tradition and the

commentators on tv explained the significance of the different articles used during the coronation. I still have a booklet from Queen Elizabeth's Coronation that has photos of the many historic pieces that were in the ceremony, the golden orb, the sword, the crowns, and the carriages. Charles III, like his mother before him, offered a lifetime of service to the people. Long live the King!

1931 Census Available June 1st

Genealogists in Canada are excited about the release of the 1931 Census of Canada. The first official census of the Dominion of Canada was taken in 1871, although many communities kept track of the heads of families living in the area from earlier dates. Unfortunately not all of the records survived, but many can be found at the Archives of Ontario, the National Archives of Canada, on Ancestry.ca or in local historical and genealogical societies. At first there were "Lists of Inhabitants and Assessment Records" that listed the heads of the families, some listed the head of the family, along with the number of males, females, boys and girls. In our area, we are very lucky to have a 1796 census of Augusta Township, which tells the head of family, number of men, women, males, females, and totals. By 1851 the enumerators listed the names of all family members, their ages, and occupations, as well as other individuals living in the household. The census records are available every ten

years after that.



At first these census records were only available to researchers after 100 years, but now census records are open for public use 92 years after the censuses were taken, so the 1931 census was made available this year starting on June 1st. Our volunteers transcribed many of the early census records from microfilm and these are available at our archives. Census records provide us with a wealth of information, helping us sort out family relationships, movement of families, occupations, businesses prevalent in the different communities, and the churches that the

families attended. In our archives, we have copies of many of these early church records that we were allowed to copy from the different churches in Grenville County. They are an important collection that genealogists are able to search for their families. I did a search for my family on Ancestry.ca using the index to the 1931 Census and found some interesting gems listed there. Make sure you check these new records available.

Digital Database

Merrickville & District Historical Society now has an online database of their entire collection. Search for a name and you never know what you might find. William “Priest” Brown was a search conducted that provided good results.

Report of Inspector of Licenses for Johnstown upon the state of the Inns July and Aug. 1848, by John Weatherhead

(Ed. note: Inns in Leeds County were mentioned in this report as well, but they are not included here.)

Adams, Edmund B. - Edwardsburgh

Has 6 rooms, 5 beds, stabling for 10 horses, yard and shed in good order

Adams, Thomas - Kemptville

Has good accommodation, Exceeding the Regulations for Innkeepers

Auld, John- Johnstown

Has 4 rooms, 3 beds, stabling for 6 horses, yard and shed in good order

Brundage, Nehimah - Augusta
Has 3 rooms, 2 beds, stabling for 9 horses, in good order, deficient=one bed, yard and shed

Beckett, Alexander - Oxford
Has 6 rooms, 6 beds, stabling for 6 horses, yard and shed. House and beds=good order, stable, yard and shed, not in good repair

Barrows, Rowland - Merrickville
Has 6 rooms, 4 beds, stabling for 4 horses, yard and shed in good order

Bare, Robert - Edwardsburgh
Has 4 rooms, 3 beds, stabling for 20 horses, shed in good order, no yard

Clothier, Lyman - Kemptville
Has 7 rooms, 7 beds, stabling for 14 horses, yard and shed in a good order

Chambers, Joseph - Westport
Has 6 rooms, 4 beds, stabling for 8 horses, shed in good order, no yard

Dumbrill, Richard - Maitland
Has good accommodation, Exceeding the Regulations for Innkeepers

Eagleton, James - Merrickville
Has 4 rooms, 4 beds, stabling for 10 horses, yard and shed in good order

Healy, John - Oxford
Has 3 rooms, 4 beds, stabling for 6 horses, yard and sheds in good order

Humphries, William - Augusta
Has 6 rooms, 5 beds, stabling for 20 horses, yard and shed in good order

Hawkins, William - Maitland
Has 5 rooms, 3 beds, stabling for 8 horses, shed in good order, no yard

Johnson, Thomas - Oxford
Has 5 rooms, 4 beds, stabling for 12 horses, yard and shed in good order

Kennedy, David - Maitland
Has good accommodation exceeding the Regulations for Innkeepers

King, Thomas - Edwardsburgh
Has 5 rooms, 5 beds, stabling for 8 horses, shed in good order, no yard

Kelly, Michael - Merrickville
Has good accommodations exceeding the Regulations for Innkeepers

Lewis, Henry - Edwardsburgh
Has 7 rooms, 8 beds, stabling for 20 horses, yard and shed in good order

McGregor, William - Kemptville
Has 7 rooms, 6 beds, stabling for 24 horses, yard and sheds = good order

McCargey, William H. - South Gower
Has 5 rooms, 6 beds, stabling for 10 horses, yard and shed in good order

McMillan, David - Wolford
Has 3 rooms, 4 beds, stabling for 16 horses, yard and shed in good order

McMillan, Roda - Edwardsburgh
Has 4 rooms, 3 beds, stabling for 6 horses, small sheds, no yard, poor accommodation

Newell, John - Augusta
Has 4 rooms, 3 beds, stabling for 6 horses, shed in good order, no yard

Robinson, William - Merrickville
Has 6 rooms, 5 beds, stabling for 15 horses, yard and shed in good order

Shaver, George A. - Edwardsburgh
Has 7 rooms, 5 beds, stabling for 16 horses, yard and shed in good order

Shane, Lyman - Augusta
Has good accommodations, exceeds Regulations for Innkeepers

Thrasher, Hamilton - Edwardsburgh

Has 3 rooms, 4 beds, stabling for 10 horses, shed in good order , no yard
shed in good order, no yard

Willson, Samuel - South Gower

Has 6 rooms, 5 beds, stabling for 16 horses, shed in good order, no yard

7, Dec. 1848 Jno. Weatherhead

William Headlam Diary – Part 12

We now enter a period in the diary when there are fewer entries each year until 1890, which marks the last full year of the diary.

1882 May 6th Tuesday night last someone daubed Mills & Co's windows with rotten eggs and tar because he would not join the rest of the stores in closing at 7:30. Dubeau and I went fishing at Ogd. Shipyard today. Caught 3 perch.

It's interesting that store closing hours were sometimes hotly contested in a small town like Prescott. Most stores were family owned and operated and competed for business with similar stores selling similar goods. In order to try having a level playing field, the merchants in town agreed to have similar store hours which gave them evenings off. Generally stores were closed on Sundays. This egging and tarring incident shows what could happen if someone stepped out of line. In the census records of Prescott of this period, the Dubeau family were listed as Dubo, who were French and Catholic. The census taker was

obviously English.

May 6th Saturday The mail boats made their first regular trip each way today.

The term "mail boats" goes back to before trains carried the mails. By 1882, one supposes the regular mail was carried by train throughout the year and that the river boats were primarily concerned with passengers and some freight, although the name carried on.

June 7th Got patent centre-board. Street sprinkler began today.

Headlam often writes about boating but this is a reference to his own participation in the sport. Street sprinkling was a necessary task in the days before paved streets to keep the dust down.

Sept. 19th Odd Fellows excursion to Alexandria Bay.

Prescott had its own Oddfellows Lodge of the international order, which was inaugurated in 1871. In 1884 they started the Oddfellows Band, which was very popular for a time, eventually being replaced by the Citizen's Band organized by the town. The excursion would have been on one of the large ferry boats.

Oct. 6th Bill Mitchell, J. Ward, W. Fortier started for the Burg about 11P.M. and upset off the black buoy

near light house. All drunk. All saved.

One wonders if they did not set off from Headlam's saloon to continue their drinking on the other side of the river.

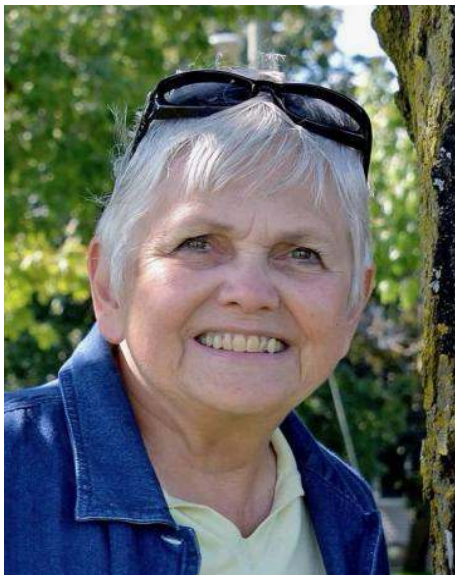
Oct. 20th Joe Dubrule bought D. Higgin's saloon for \$800. Joe is the biggest fool in Prescott for doing it.

Dennis O'Higgins (the "O" was added later) was the owner of the Mansion House hotel and became a very successful businessman in both Canada and the US. Joseph Dubrule was the father of Francis (Frank) Dubrule, who was born in 1887, and went on to become the owner of the Prescott-Ogdensburg ferry. He named a ferryboat after his father, the "Joseph Dubrule".

Fraser Laschinger, June 2023.

Helen Broxham Mott

Feb. 27, 1943 - June 15, 2023



We were so sorry to hear of Helen's passing at her Manotick Retirement Home. Helen, an employee of Foreign Affairs for many years, was an important part of GCHS during her time with us, serving as our publicity director and writing many articles about our society's activities, and many about the events in South Grenville for the newspaper. We all enjoyed the photographs she took of the ships in the Seaway, local wildlife, and the military reenactments in our area. Her expertise and passion for photography was enjoyed by so many and will be missed. Our condolences to her children Christine Turnbull (Tony) and Michael (Tammy) and her three grandchildren Josh, Andrea and William. She will be laid to rest at Beechwood Cemetery with her late husband, Frank.

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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Bonnie Gaylord, Editor