



COLLECTION SPOTLIGHT

Discover the untold stories of Ottawa's past.

Volume 1

Ottawa
ARCHIVES

Table of Contents

Collection Spotlight Anthology – Volume 1	2
Uplands Airfield – Taking flight in Ottawa	3
The Fight and flight of the Civil Service Chieftains.....	5
Revisiting the Royal Ottawa Sanatorium	7
Pierre St-Jean (1833-1900): The man behind the mayor.....	11
Inspectors’ register for the Carleton County Gaol	13
Letter on scotch and a gift of books	17
Shining a light on Ottawa at Confederation and the Parliamentary Reporter’s Gallery	19
Project 4000	23
Souvenirs of Friendship: Gift to the Mayors of Ottawa.....	26
Glass lantern slides	28
Indigenous representation in archives	30
A music phenomenon walkin’ in North Gower.....	32
The Colonial Inn – a dream home.....	35
More than just a corner store.....	37
Buying books from the comfort of home	40

Collection Spotlight Anthology – Volume 1

Discover the untold stories of Ottawa's past

Collection Spotlight highlights the City of Ottawa Archives' collection of photographs, documents, rare books, art, artefacts, and more. New *Collection Spotlights* are added regularly, featuring items selected based on their rarity, value, uniqueness, intrigue, or historical significance. These articles, written by our staff, are posted monthly.

Past articles showcase a variety of Ottawa's unique stories, from the Uplands Airfield to Project 4000, to glass lantern slides, and more.

Uplands Airfield – Taking flight in Ottawa

The Rowat papers at Rideau Branch (MGR033-09) contain a photograph of a landed airplane with a group of fourteen people, thought to have been perhaps either the first airplane at Ottawa or the first commercial night flight there. While neither appears to be correct, it is nevertheless an interesting image taken at the Uplands airfield where, only a few years earlier, Charles Lindbergh had landed and does likely depict a first flight in some sense.



Landed Firestone touring plane at Uplands Field, Ottawa, with tour group.
City of Ottawa Archives | MGR033-09-012

The distinctive markings and appearance of the photographed airplane identify it as an all-metal Ford Tri-Motor owned by the Firestone Tire & Rubber Company of Akron, Ohio. The Ottawa Journal had given over a week's notice that Hugh Carson Co. Ltd., local wholesaler for the Firestone Tire and Rubber Company of Canada, was bringing the company's plane in so that local dealers and their friends could go up for what was for many their first time airborne. Carson's stamp appears at the bottom of the photograph's cardboard backing. Also stamped on the back is the name of the Hands Studios of Ottawa, probably hired to commemorate each flight with a photograph. William McConnell was pilot, with E.J. Quigley as his co-pilot (oddly, later to become the first air mail pilot in Liberia). Arriving with them on the plane were a number of Firestone executives from the Canadian head office in Hamilton, led by the president of the

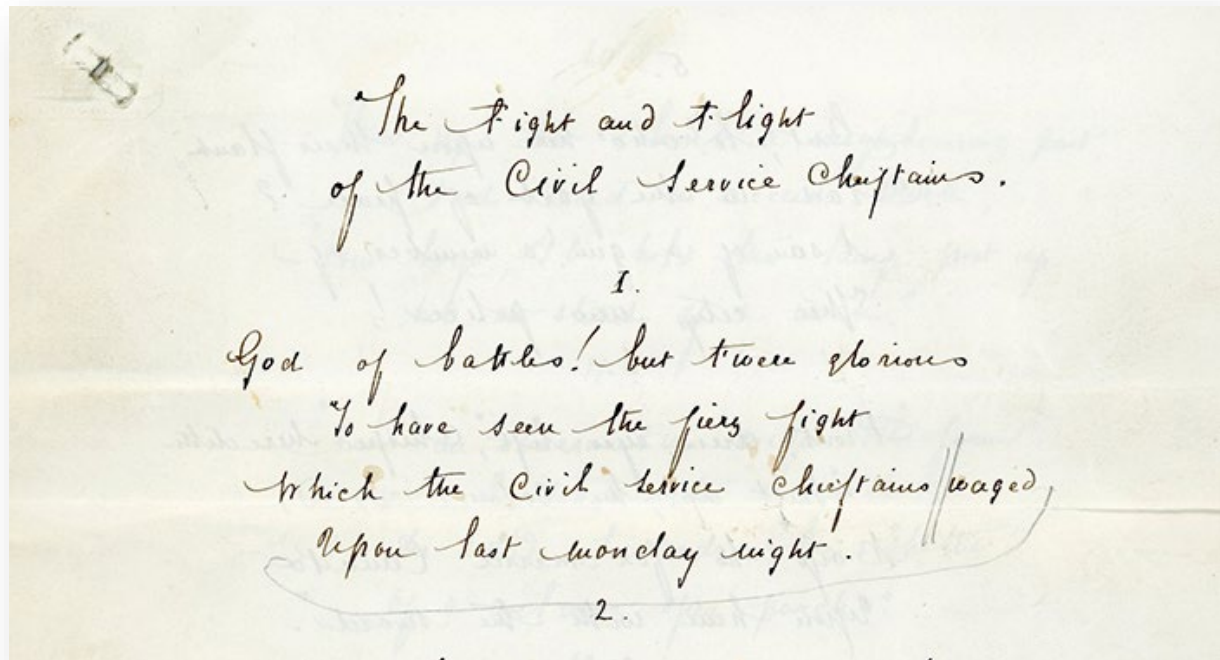
Canadian company, Earl W. BeSaw. The entourage also included J.A. Livingston, trade sales manager, and Russell T. Kelley, advertising counsel, later to become an Ontario cabinet minister. The Firestone plane made almost thirty flights over the city over two days, 17-18 September 1930, on this promotional stop in Ottawa, taking fifteen passengers at a time. But this was not the first time the Firestone plane had been to Ottawa. On October 6, 1929, it landed at the Ottawa Flying Club's aerodrome at Uplands Field as a service plane during the fifth National Air Tour, competing for the Edsel B. Ford Trophy. And the Firestone plane was to return again to Ottawa in August 1931, by which time it had reportedly visited 136 cities in almost 1900 flights, carrying nearly 20,000 passengers.

The man fourth from the left appears to be Russell Kelley, but otherwise the names of the other people who took the photographed flight are not known, so it is unclear how this photograph ended up in the Rowat papers. But there would seem to be a chance that one of the men about to take their first flight was John T. Patterson of Manotick or his son Jack, who together ran Patterson's garage at Manotick in the 1930s and 1940s. Jack married Nora Harris, sister-in-law of William Rowat, in 1932, which could explain how the photograph ended up in the Rowat papers. A further annotation in pencil is recorded on the back: "to keep." Clearly whoever took their first flight in the Firestone plane that day treasured this photograph, which is why it has ended up at Rideau Branch Archives.

Originally published in the Rideau Township Historical Society Newsletter, 2017, written by City of Ottawa Archivist, Stuart Clarkson.

The Fight and flight of the Civil Service Chieftains

This poem (RG 41) was written by Hon. J.C. Patterson and the subject is an *imagined* fight, in the late 1860s, between the Civil Service Rifles and the Ottawa Police on the streets of Ottawa.



1.
God of battles! but t'were glorious
To have seen the fiery fight
Which the Civil Service Chieftains waged
Upon last Monday night.

[. . .]

34.
And now God our noble Queen,
God send our country peace,
And keep our chieftains from the hands
Of the Ottawa Police.

As described in the poem, after a long meeting and a night of drinking, the Civil Service Rifles made their way back to the barracks, in full uniform complete with swords, drunk, and rowdy. They soon ran into members of the Ottawa Police and instigated a fight, forcing the Police to subdue the group. The names of the Rifles involved in the conflict are included in the poem, whereas the names of the Ottawa Police aren't mentioned. In

the city's early days, both the Rifles and Ottawa Police were tasked with maintaining law and order in Ottawa and this didn't always make for an easy relationship between the two forces.

Civil Service Rifles

In 1861, the Civil Service Rifle Corps was formed as a volunteer company in Quebec City from members of the civil service. When the seat of government of the Province of Canada moved to Ottawa the Rifles were headquartered in Ottawa. They merged with the Civil Service Rifle Regiment in 1866 and had their first inspection on January 14, 1866, where they paraded down Wellington Street (now Kent Street). During the Fenian Raids (1866-1870), they patrolled the streets of Ottawa to protect the Capital against a possible attack. The Rifles formed part of the Provisional Battalion under Lieutenant-Colonel Wiley – he is mentioned in the poem as “The Colonel.”

The former City of Ottawa Coat of Arms features an officer of the Civil Service Rifles (image below).



The Civil Service Regiment was disbanded in 1866, yet members continued with the Civil Service Rifle Company until 1879. They were eventually disbanded, later becoming the Governor General's Foot Guards, which were organized by authority under a General Order on June 7, 1872.

Ottawa Police

In the same year that the Rifles came to Ottawa, By-law 235 was passed by the city's council, dated May 26, 1866, to formally establish a full-time salaried Ottawa Police Force. However, the history of the Ottawa Police reaches back to the days of Bytown

and the British Military. Lieutenant-Colonel John By was the first magistrate for Bytown and his successor petitioned Governor General, Sir George Ramsay, Earl of Dalhousie, in 1827, to appoint civilian magistrates. Five magistrates were appointed and acted to ensure peace and order, but also acted as a council. When Bytown was incorporated as a “town” in 1847, the first by-law named town officials and its first police constables and declared the duties of the police force as, “the preservation of the peace and protection of the lives and properties of inhabitants of Bytown, the Mayor, and Town Council of the Town of Bytown.”

Written by City of Ottawa Archivist, Jacinda Bain, July 2022.

Revisiting the Royal Ottawa Sanatorium

Aerial photos from the Alexander Onoszko fonds are fascinating records showing Ottawa’s built landscape from the mid-twentieth century to the 1980s. One of the more striking images I discovered recently is CA008379, “Royal Ottawa Sanatorium”, which shows an institution on extensive grounds wedged between Carling Avenue and Highway 417 during the Queensway’s construction. Realizing I knew little about these buildings and the Royal Ottawa’s history, I set about investigating with help from the Sanatorium’s records, which are held by the Archives in our community records.



Royal Ottawa Sanatorium, 1960

City of Ottawa Archives | Alex Onoszko, MG159, CA008379

Taken in 1960, the Onoszko photo shows the buildings towards the end of their life as a tuberculosis sanatorium. It is hard to believe from how closely the houses crowd around the hospital in the image, but this was once wide-open countryside, and the sanatorium was on the outskirts of the city. This isolation was intentional -- there were no drug treatments for the respiratory disease when it opened in 1910, and a diagnosis of tuberculosis or “consumption” was often seen as a death sentence. This must have been terrifying given its prevalence. In 1905, it was estimated there were over 500 consumptives in Ottawa, with the disease killing twice as many residents as all other infectious diseases combined. The only treatment was rest, fresh air, and good food, which most of Canada’s working-class population could not afford.

The National Sanatorium Association began working in the late nineteenth century to develop specialized hospitals to combat this terrible disease, at a time when hospitals were funded by charitable organizations or privately by its patients. With the local anti-tuberculosis association, they raised enough money from the public to pay for a new hospital in Ottawa for advanced cases, to be named the Lady Grey Hospital after the Governor General’s daughter, a major fundraiser for the new institution. It was only the third such hospital in Ontario.

The Lady Grey Hospital is visible in the Onoszko photo at the far right of the complex. It was built in a secluded wooded area with large grounds and housed 30 beds, all of which were filled within its first year. The hospital was designed to allow for all wards to open their windows towards the south for natural ventilation. This design can best be seen in an earlier photo of the hospital, CA001795.



Lady Grey Building, Royal Ottawa Sanatorium, ca. 1930,
City of Ottawa Archives | Hands Studio, CA001795

Immediately after the hospital opened, there were plans to build a sanatorium for less extreme cases. The Perley Memorial Building (named after its largest funder, lumber merchant George Perley) was the result; in the Onoszko photo, this is the building with a curved front directly south of the water tower. When it was opened in 1913 by H.R.H. Duke of Connaught (Governor General, and son of Queen Victoria), the buildings became collectively known as the Royal Ottawa Sanatorium.

From all accounts, life here was challenging despite efforts to provide entertainment, since treatment consisted of continuous rest for most patients. Roger Power, the Sanatorium's historian, writes in *The Story of the Royal Ottawa Hospital* (1985): "It is hard now to realize that patients spent months and years in the Sanatorium... For some, it was as much as half a normal life time." (p 39) Such long periods of isolation from friends and family truly does seem impossible to imagine.

As Ottawa grew, and awareness in the community increased concerning the need to isolate tuberculosis sufferers, "the San" continued its building program. The Red Cross funded a Preventorium for children in the early 1920s, built to the north of the Lady Grey building (CA027487). Then in the mid-1920s, the Whitney building opened as another residence for adults. In the Onoszko photo, this is the large structure behind and to the north of the Lady Grey building. While WWII stalled further construction, another massive building campaign took place in the 1950s, which resulted in the Infirmary Building (later known as the Carmichael). This is the structure to the far left of the institution's grounds in the Onoszko image.



Red Cross Preventorium, Royal Ottawa Sanatorium, ca. 1930
City of Ottawa Archives | Hands Studio, CA027487

Ironically, while this last major construction phase was taking place, the first drugs for treating tuberculosis were coming into use. No one was prepared for how effective these would be, however. Within years, they had drastically reduced the number of deaths and length of treatment, and for the first time the Sanatorium had empty beds. In 1961, just after the Onoszko photo was taken, the hospital's Board of Trustees allowed for the treatment of any illness/disability and began to add new departments, with a focus on mental health. This led to a name change to the "Royal Ottawa Hospital" in 1969. The last tuberculosis ward closed just one year later. The original hospital buildings shown in the Onoszko photo remained in use until the early 2000s, when the modern complex of Royal Ottawa buildings we know today were built.

With the destruction of the sanatorium buildings, it is as though this important part of medical history disappeared as well. In Canada, we often tend to think of tuberculosis as a disease of the distant past, despite its continuing prevalence in other parts of the world. This is one of the reasons why archival collections like the Onoszko photos are so important; in recording Ottawa's built history, they also record the existence of the hospital that was instrumental in saving thousands of residents and how prevalent tuberculosis really was. In the COVID era, the Royal Ottawa Sanatorium photo reminds us that our not-so-distant ancestors also went through challenging experiences with infectious diseases and can offer us a new appreciation for our public health care system.

Written by City of Ottawa Archivist, Claire Sutton, 2022.

Pierre St-Jean (1833-1900): The man behind the mayor

Mayor Pierre St-Jean's devotion to others and his impact as a person beyond the public image is inspirational. This family-man, whose medical career and need to help others, brought the same dedication to politics. Like most politicians, he wanted to serve others and improve and maintain community services. These same aspirations guide his policy proposals.

Pierre St-Jean, born in Bytown in 1833, was the son of one of the first francophone settlers in Ottawa. He attended the only French elementary school, studying at the College of Bytown, and pursued his medical studies at McGill College (now known as McGill University) in Montreal. Upon his return, St-Jean became one of three francophone doctors in Ottawa. He was hired on to first regular team of staff at the Congregation of the Sisters of Charity at Ottawa (who later established the Ottawa General Hospital). Besides his medical and political careers, he continued to provide free medical care to the poor sent to him by Ottawa's aid societies.



Mayor Pierre St-Jean
City of Ottawa Archives | CA012345

Pierre St-Jean and Joseph Balsora Turgeon, established a literary society: 'Cabinet de lecture', providing reading aloud to illiterate francophones. St-Jean and three other members of the Institut canadien-français of Ottawa established the first francophone newspaper of Ontario called *Le Progrès*. He also helped establish the Orphelinat Saint-Joseph, the Metropolitan Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals and worked tirelessly with the Society of Saint Vincent de Paul. Pierre St-Jean also gave time and money to many francophone and anglophone cultural institutions in the area, such as the Ottawa Musical Union.

In 1882-1883, as mayor of Ottawa, his priorities focussed on developing the city's manufacturing and railways promoting equitable taxation of banking and investments institutions, and improving sewer and sanitary systems. He was able to push a bonus bill through, saving the council from being at the mercy of the Canadian Pacific Railway when it reached Ottawa.

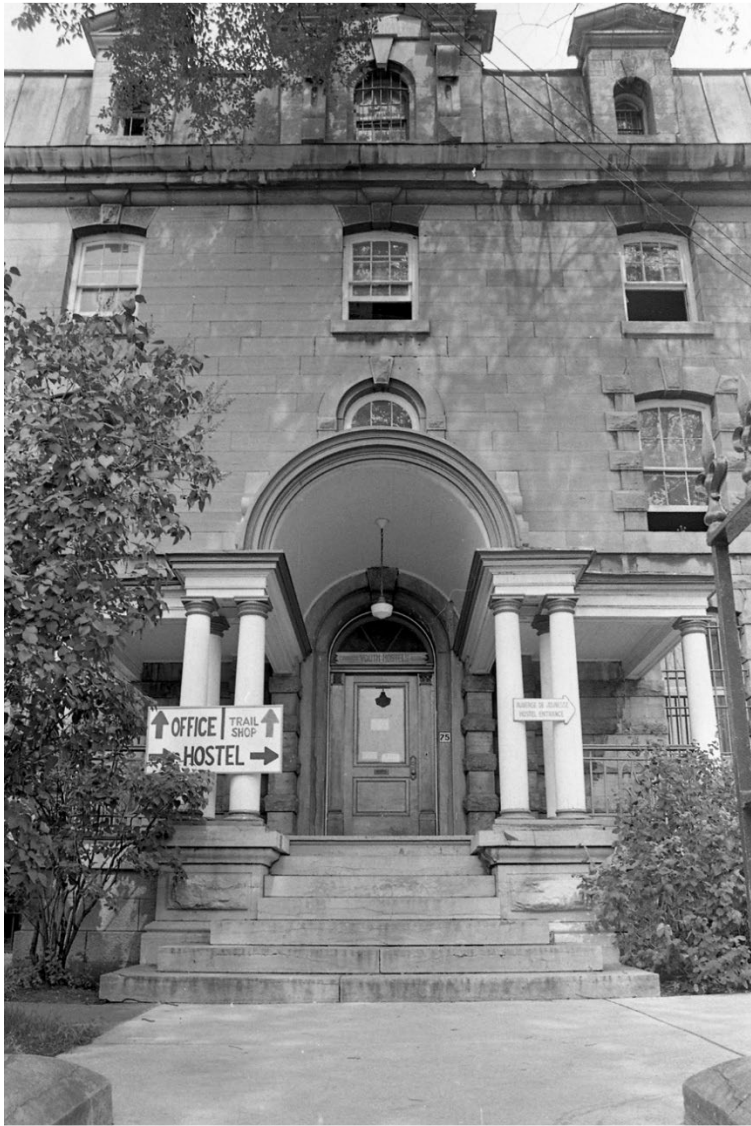
In the House of Commons, St-Jean spoke favourably of amnesty for participants in the Red River uprising of 1869-1870. He advocated for the improvement of the Ottawa River navigation, the protection of rights for minorities regardless of religion, a fair reciprocity treaty, and the construction of the Pacific Railway on Canadian soil, all with a vision of opening the country to emigration.

Despite the intercultural conflicts of the time, Pierre St-Jean's funeral showed how one man's generosity and political aspirations led both francophone and anglophone communities to hold him in high esteem.

Written by City of Ottawa Archivist, Anne Lauzon, February 2022.

Inspectors' register for the Carleton County Gaol

One of the joys of walking through a city is seeing the vestiges of earlier days through the remaining architecture. The Carleton County Gaol, located at 75 Nicholas Street, which operates today as a hostel, is one such interesting building.



Nicholas Street Jail [Carleton County Gaol], August 1975
City of Ottawa Archives | CA027461

At the City of Ottawa Archives, there is a rather unassuming register that contains Inspector's reports on the state of the Carleton County Gaol, from May 1874 to January 8, 1907 (MG274). Reports were made by an inspector twice a year until the 1900s, when only one report was made per year. The register covers 31 years of the jail's

history, and the entries detail the conditions of the prison and cells; the number of prisoners and their crimes; the quality of the food, bedding and clothing; and the state of the building and yard. Each is a vignette, preserving the jail at specific points of time.

In 1868, under An Act to provide for the Inspection of Prisons and other Hospitals, Charities, Prisons and Court Houses, an Inspector of Prisons and Public Charities position was established. The responsibility of the Inspector was to:

. . . visit and inspect every gaol, refuge, reformatory and prison or other place in Ontario, kept or used for the confinement of persons, once in each year or more frequently if necessary, or if so directed by the Minister; and the Inspector may examine any person holding any office or receiving any salary or emolument in any such place, and call for and inspect all books and papers relating to it, and may inquire into all matters concerning that same. (Section 8 (1)).

Originally, there was only one Inspector in the Province of Ontario. John Woodburn Langmuir (1882-1905), the first inspector, held this position from 1868 until 1882. His is the first entry in the register dated May 16, 1874, written in black ink and cursive script. Several of J.W. Langmuir's reports can be found in the Ottawa Daily Citizen. Below is a clipping of one of his reports from the newspaper and his entries found in the register.

PRISON INSPECTION.

The County Gaol Visited by Prison Inspector Langmuir.

Mr. J. W. Langmuir, Inspector of Prisons and Asylums for Ontario, made his customary visit of inspection to the County Gaol yesterday, and the result may be gleaned from the following copy of his report:—

OTTAWA GAOL, 18th April, 1879.

A statutory inspection was made of this jail yesterday, when 37 prisoners were found in custody. Of these 33 are under sentence; three on remand, and one is detained as a lunatic. As the last named is certified to be insane, his transfer to an asylum will take place at once. Larceny, vagrancy, and prostitution constituted the chief offences of the sentenced prisoners. A comparison of the number of commitments of the present with the past year so far, indicate a falling off over 20 per cent.

It is gratifying to note the great decrease in the number of insane committed to our jail. In this respect the County of Carleton is exceptionally favored as compared with the surrounding counties.

The health of the jail is good. There is no sick prisoners in custody at present.

The only hard labor for the male prisoners at present is cutting wood, but stone breaking will commence immediately.

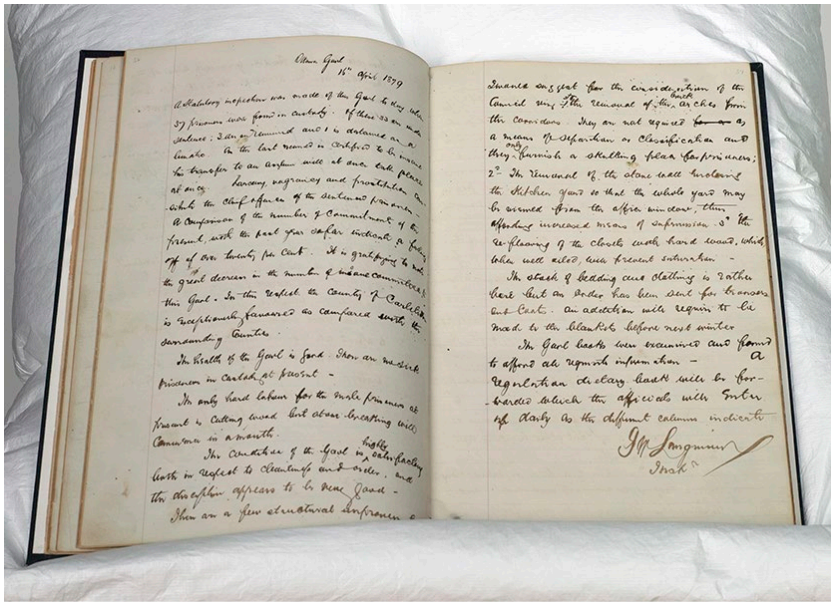
The condition of the jail is highly satisfactory, both in respect to cleanliness and order, and discipline appears to be very good.

There are a few structural improvements that I would suggest for the consideration of the Council, viz., the removal of the brick arches of the corridors. They are not required as a means of separation or classification, and they only furnish a skulking place for prisoners. 2nd. The removal of the stone wall inclosing the kitchen wall, so that the whole yard may be viewed from the office windows, thus affording increased means of supervision. 3rd. The re-flooring of the closets with hard wood, which, when oiled, will prevent saturation. The stock of bedding and clothing is rather bare, but an order has been given for trousers and coats. An addition will require to be made to the blankets before next winter.

The jail books were examined, and found to afford all requisite information. A regulation dietary book will be furnished, which the officials will enter in daily as the different columns indicate.

J. W. LANGMUIR,
Inspector.

Report by Inspector J.W. Langmuir
Ottawa Daily Citizen, April 17, 1879, pg. 3



Carleton County Gaol register City of Ottawa Archives | MG274

There are 56 entries in the register, all written by the Inspectors of Prisons and Public Charities (name later expended to Inspector of Prisons, Charities and Asylums). The entries are primarily written by John W. Langmuir (May 1874-February 1882), Robert Christie (February 1883-April 1890), J.H. Chamberlain (August 1891-February 1902), and R.W. Bruce Smith (January 1905-January 1907).

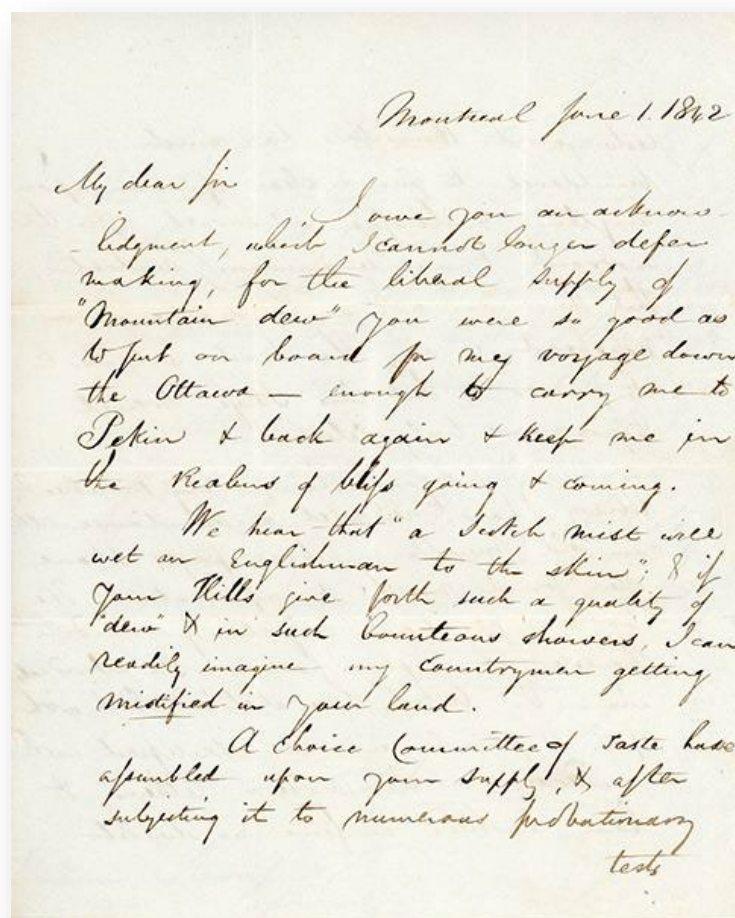
The Carleton County Gaol operated from 1862 to 1972 on land donated by Nicholas Sparks. People were incarcerated for such crimes as murder, assault, vagrancy, operating houses of ill-fame (prostitution), and larceny (theft of personal property). For its time, it was considered modern and acted as a maximum-security prison. However, by today's standards the jail left much to be desired. The cells were small, there was no light or ventilation, and inmates were not insulated from Ottawa's changeable weather. Those serving time had little to occupy or entertain themselves.

Written by City of Ottawa Archivist, Jacinda Bain, January 2022.

Letter on scotch and a gift of books

This 1842 letter from Stewart Derbshire to William Stewart reaffirms that good Scotch and the company of books are universal and transcends time, but also reveals a little on the characters of these two men during the early days of Bytown.

Derbshire writes about the supply of "mountain dew" or scotch that Stewart had given him on his trip down the Ottawa River and states "that this Skye-brewed liquor was truly celestial". The letter was originally accompanied by a gift of two volumes of books, which from their description were most likely: A series of original portraits and caricature etchings by the late John Kay miniature painter, Edinburgh with biographical sketches and illustrative anecdotes, Edinburgh, 1838.



Letter from Stewart Derbshire, Montreal to William Stewart,
Bytown, June 1, 1842 | CA027456
MG110-ABUS 003, p. 1

Derbshire writes:

In going through my Montreal library I have renewed acquaintance with an old friend in whose pages I have often found mirth and information. The book is peculiar, and full of anecdote, character, and graphic power. . . . but I think this book of 'Kay's Edinburgh' will be more at home in your Library than in mine, and I beg you will do me the honour to place it there, with the hope that its contents may sometimes be found to flavour your evening glass of toddy.

Derbshire was noted for his abundant hospitality and generosity, but what is interesting is that these two men were political rivals the year before.

Stewart Derbshire (1798-1863) was born in London to Dr. Philip Derbshire of Bath and Ann Masterton of Edinburgh. He had a varied career as a soldier, lawyer, journalist, politician, and Queen's Printer. In 1837 he worked for Governor General Lord Durham, gathering information in New York on the activities of the Lower Canada uprising. In 1840, he became editor for the Morning Courier in Montreal. Supported by Governor General Sydenham, he won the election to the first Legislative Assembly for the Province of Canada representing Bytown in 1841, defeating William Stewart. He was also appointed Queen's printer in 1841 along with George-Paschal Desbarats. New legislation was shortly introduced which prohibited Queen's printers from sitting in parliament and he did not stand for re-election in 1844.

William Stewart (1803-1856) was born on the Isle of Skye, Scotland, son of Ranald Stewart and Isabella McLeod. His family emigrated to Canada in 1816 and settled in Glengarry County. He moved to Bytown in 1827 and with partner John G. McIntosh opened a dry goods and timber supplies store. He supervised and equipped timber shanties on the Ottawa River and tributaries and sold lumber rafts in Quebec. He was also a founding member of the Ottawa Lumber Association and became a spokesman for lumber operators. In 1841 he ran against Stewart Derbshire for election at the Legislative Assembly for Bytown. Though defeated, he assisted Derbshire in furthering local concerns. He was later elected to the Legislative Assembly for Russell County, 1843-1844, and then Bytown, 1844-1847. In 1846 he drafted the bill to incorporate Bytown and set the town boundaries.

Written by City of Ottawa Archivist, Theresa Sorel, December 2021

Shining a light on Ottawa at Confederation and the Parliamentary Reporter's Gallery

The D. Palmer Howe scrapbook (MG825) is an intriguing album featuring a collection of original black and white photographic prints of Ottawa in the late 1860s and early 1870s. Created around Christmas of 1873, the scrapbook may have been compiled by Howe to commemorate his stay in Ottawa, when he represented the *St. John Tribune* on the parliamentary reporter's Gallery. The images represent the city at a pivotal moment of change and tension as it became the capital of the new Dominion of Canada and provide evidence of the role of the press in this enterprise.



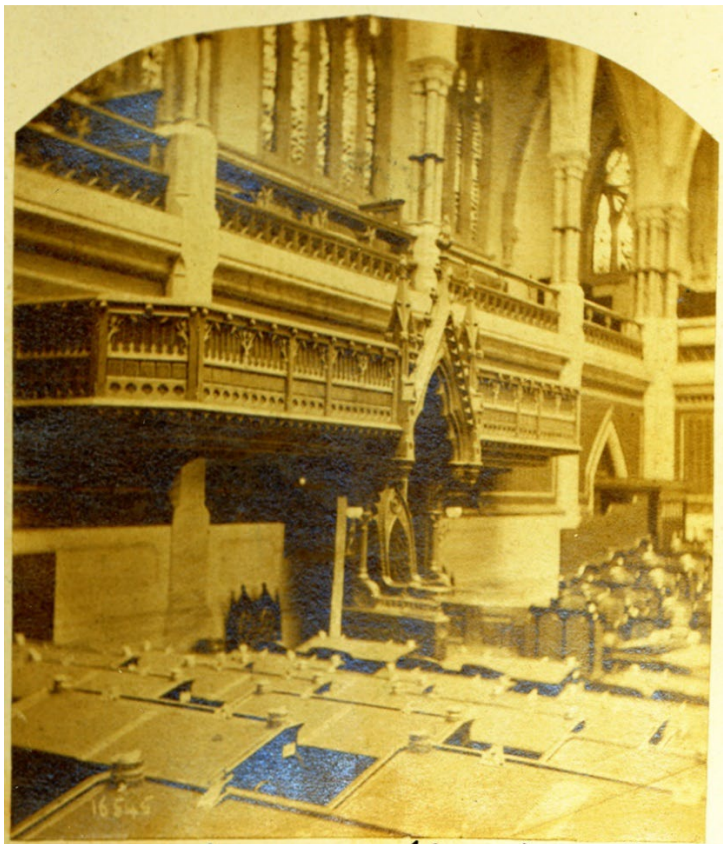
Looking towards Chaudiere Falls
City of Ottawa Archives | MG825 - CA027328

Howe's scrapbook opens with a spread of images of the new and contentiously expensive Parliament Buildings. Of the fifty-one photographs compiled by D. Palmer Howe (1846-1874), eleven depict what was then the largest building project in North America. The building project's lengthy construction between 1859-1876 followed the designation of Ottawa as the capital and continued on far past Confederation. These photos include exteriors of the Centre, West, and East blocks as well as interiors of the House of Commons and Senate chambers, showing their grand Gothic-revival style evoking England's Houses of Parliament and its parliamentary democracy.

The impressive parliament images are followed immediately by a dozen photographs of the Ottawa River and the lumber trade. These document the city's timber slides, mills, and massive lumber pilings, which reveal the continuing dominance of the lumber trade at that time, both for the economy and for Ottawa's physical landscape. One notable

view possibly taken from the parliament escarpment looks towards Chaudière Falls (CA027328) and shows the area's mix of industrial and residential structures, some of which appear precariously built into the side of gullies. Through Howe's scrapbook, we see the contrast of Ottawa's working class and rough industrial aspect next to the formality and regularity of the parliament buildings – a hint of the tension the city experienced in becoming the seat of government.

Indeed, conflict and tension were felt across the new Dominion in the 1860s and 1870s. For decades, Canadian politics had been controlled by the fractious, provincial, elite electorate of white property owners who controlled their position through limiting voting rights and election fraud. Confederation, which was partly intended to resolve inter-regional tensions, was achieved only after years of negotiation and without consultation with the electorate. Responsible government answerable to the people was only in nascent form in the late nineteenth century.



Reporter's Gallery, Parliament Buildings
City of Ottawa Archives | MG825 - CA027325

Playing a significant role in these early days of the dominion government was the press. From the first legislative session in Ottawa in 1866 until 1875, there were no formal

recordings of parliamentary debates. It was down to a small group of newspaper reporters known as the Reporter's Gallery to record the proceedings and transmit them to their newspapers' readers. While the press had reported on government's activities before Confederation, this new self-governing body (formed in 1867 under the authority of the Speaker of the House) gave their activities legitimacy. D. Palmer Howe was one of the early journalists working in Ottawa, moving to the city from New Brunswick to write for the *St. John Tribune* between 1871-1874. A key image in his scrapbook documents what the Reporter's Gallery looked like in the original House of Commons building (CA027325). The Gallery is a broad mezzanine in the Gothic-revival style positioned directly behind the Speaker's chair, its physical location demonstrating from where the press received its authority.



Portrait of the Reporter's Gallery, March 1873
City of Ottawa Archives | CA027326

If the press was part of the democratic process from Confederation onwards, it was also a biased enterprise, with reporters being associated with and receiving patronage from specific parties or politicians. For example, Tom White, whom Howe dubs the "Father of the Reporter's Gallery" in his scrapbook, represented the *Montreal Gazette* during the

same period as Howe and used his newspaper as both a mouthpiece for the Conservative party and a platform for his political career. Moreover, only the elite could become part of the Reporter's Gallery. Elitism is evident in Howe's scrapbook in a group portrait of the Gallery dating from 1873 (CA027326). Based on Howe's captions, we see that the composition of the Gallery in March 1873 reflected the former colonies that had joined the new Dominion of Canada (newspapers from Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, Ontario, Quebec are all represented). They are also all white, middle-class, and male, including Howe himself (shown seated at far left). From our vantage point today, this portrait documents those who were privileged to have a voice in the late nineteenth century, a voice that transmitted their interpretation of parliamentary proceedings and often legitimized the position of those in power, at a time when large numbers of Canadians were still not enfranchised, including Indigenous peoples, women, working class men, and people of colour.

There is more to say about the D. Palmer Howe scrapbook than there is space to discuss here. (The story of the images' probable photographers, William Notman and William James Topley, whose studio sat across from parliament on Wellington Street, is worth a post on its own.) This striking scrapbook shows us a past that seems at once far away from the tidiness of modern Ottawa, and yet so near in terms of the social and political themes glimpsed here. Howe's album hints at how democracy in Canada has always been contentious, a rough and tumble process that has often used exclusion to define and privilege those with power. It is important to remember as we identify past injustices, work towards reconciliation and inclusion, and when we see events that challenge democracy and freedom of expression. Howe's scrapbook reminds us that democracy isn't automatically inclusive or peaceful – we need to work at it to make it so.

Written by City of Ottawa Archivist, Claire Sutton, August 2021.

Project 4000

In 1975, two years after the departure of American troops from South Vietnam, Saigon fell under the yoke of communist forces. Despite the war's end and the unification of Vietnam, the persecution of those who supported the American forces, and the former democratic regime of South Vietnam began in earnest. Millions of sympathizers and former soldiers were sent to re-education camps, forced to move, or imprisoned.

Close to 4,000 refugees arrived in Montréal from among the 5,600 admitted to Canada between 1975 and 1976. In just two years, more than 1.4 million Vietnamese fled their country to find refuge elsewhere. In 1978, conflict between China and Vietnam began, causing a second wave of people to flee the country. An estimated 300,000 people took to the sea through smugglers or human traffickers, but one third would die before reaching land.



Vietnamese in Ottawa – Vietnamese children in a classroom 1980, Peter Brousseau photographer
City of Ottawa Archives | CA027333

In 1979, neighbouring countries such as Malaysia, the Philippines, Indonesia, Singapore, and Thailand stopped accepting refugees, as numbers were too great. In an emergency meeting, the United Nations implemented a coordinated response by member states to the refugee crisis.

Moved by the crisis, Marion Dewar, then-Mayor of Ottawa, brought together community members, religious institutions, associations, and business leaders to discuss possible assistance means. At the meeting, she urged the community to pressure the Department of Immigration to increase the number of refugees to be admitted to Ottawa alone by 4,000.



Ottawa Journal - Thursday, July 5, 1979, p. 47
MG011


With the unanimous support of the Council, Marion Dewar set up public consultations for Project 4000. More than 3,000 people attended presentations and reviewed proposed assistance options.

The City of Ottawa provided \$25,000 to start Project 4000, which was incorporated as a non-profit organization to assist Ottawa residents who participated in the Canadian government's private sponsorship program.

Project 4000 created volunteer groups to coordinate housing, health, education, employment, media relations, and fundraising.

According to the Minister of Foreign Affairs Flora McDonald, Project 4000 was the catalyst that convinced Cabinet members to approve a substantial increase in the number of refugees admitted. Until the dissolution of Project 4000 in 1983, around 2,000 refugees settled in Ottawa under the private sponsorship program and 1,600 under the federal government's program.

It is easy to imagine the culture shock and enormous challenges that they had to face. Marion Dewar helped to create this organization and was a critical instrument and source of support for integrating newcomers into the Ottawa community.


CITY OF OTTAWA VILLE D'OTTAWA

PRESS RELEASE - COMMUNIQUÉ

For Immediate Release - Diffusion sur réception

111 Sussex, Ottawa, Canada K1N 5A1	Cabinet du Maire Accueil de réfugiés Un projet de la communauté d'Ottawa	Information: (613) 563-3251 DATE/ 1e 29 juin 1979
--	---	---

La Ville d'Ottawa, en accord avec les Églises, les associations communautaires et des personnes privées, annonce aujourd'hui un projet communautaire de recevoir et d'installer 4,000 réfugiés. La plupart des 4,000 d'Ottawa, ou la situation actuelle, devrait venir de l'Indochine. Mais les groupes locaux qui voudraient venir en aide à des réfugiés venant d'ailleurs seront acceptés volontiers et pourront participer au projet communautaire d'Ottawa.

Les personnes privées désireuses d'accueillir des réfugiés signalent en ce moment qu'il faut attendre parfois jusqu'à six mois pour que les démarches aboutissent et que les réfugiés arrivent chez nous. La Ville compte sur le Gouvernement fédéral pour fournir plus de personnel et de moyens, outre-mer et au Canada, de façon que les 4,000 personnes auxquelles nous voulons venir en aide, puissent immédiatement partir pour Ottawa. La Ville veut accueillir les premiers avant la fin de juillet.

Le Canada, et notre Ville, ne peuvent pas accueillir tous les réfugiés du monde, d'autres ont besoin d'aide. C'est pourquoi la Ville annonce la création à Ottawa d'un fonds d'aide aux réfugiés d'outre-mer. La Ville prévoit que les sommes recueillies de partout par ce fonds, viendront s'ajouter à l'aide accrue du Canada aux réfugiés des pays les plus touchés.

Le projet de la Ville veut être un effort de toute la communauté. La Ville, en tant que telle, facilitera et coordonnera les efforts dans toute la mesure du possible. Presque toute l'aide apportée aux réfugiés, aide de toute sorte, sera donnée par toutes sortes de groupes communautaires. Beaucoup sont déjà actifs. Ils ont convoqué une réunion pour le 12 juillet, au parc Lansdowne, afin de rassembler tous ceux qui veulent participer à l'organisation et au succès du projet.

La coïncidence de l'annonce de ce projet avec la Fête du Canada que nous nous préparons à célébrer le 1er juillet, ne saurait plus être appropriée.

Beaucoup de problèmes des réfugiés ne seront pas affectés par notre entreprise. Nous espérons toutefois, que ce projet contribuera à amener plusieurs changements aux niveaux fédéral et provincial. Ces changements doivent porter sur le nombre d'immigrants et de réfugiés que l'on laisse entrer chez nous; sur une accélération des formalités d'accueil des réfugiés, qui doivent être distinctes de celles qui visent les immigrants; sur un financement plus généreux, pour établir ces réfugiés chez nous, et pour aider les réfugiés des pays les plus touchés; sur un leadership canadien au niveau mondial en vue d'aider à établir ou à rétablir l'ordre politique et économique partout, de façon que les populations ne soient pas obligées de fuir devant les bouleversements, les conflits, et les privations.

ISS RELEASE COMMUNIQUÉ PRESS RELEASE COMMUNIQUÉ PRESS RELEASE COMMUNIQUÉ PRESS RELEASE COMMUNIQUÉ PRESS RELEASE COMMUNIQUÉ

City of Ottawa press release - June 29, 1979 p. 1
RG007-11-03-01 01

Written by City of Ottawa Archivist, Anne Lauzon, June 2021.

Souvenirs of Friendship: Gift to the Mayors of Ottawa

Giving gifts is a ritual that dates to the ancient world as a goodwill gesture between people of different cultures and clans. In the modern world, this important ritual is a formal diplomatic activity between visiting dignitaries.

For the City of Ottawa, the receiving of “guests” is a formal affair steeped in ceremony. Visitors to Ottawa have included royals, foreign heads of state, political leaders, delegations, and community groups. When guests arrive at Ottawa City Hall, there is a formal welcome and greeting, a sit-down with the Mayor, an exchange of gifts, and the signing of the Mayor’s guest book.



Philadelphia jubilee bowl presented to Her Worship Marion Dewar
City of Ottawa Archives | 2007.0115.1

The bowl was presented to the Mayor in 1982 by Mr. William J. Green III, Mayor of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, United States during Mayor Dewar’s visit for the occasion of Philadelphia’s tri-centennial (300th) anniversary. During this visit, Ottawa’s Mayor presented two of its Royal swans to the City of Philadelphia. Depicted at the centre of the bowl is the signing of the Articles of Confederation and Perpetual Union for the United States, which came into effect in 1781 and formed its first constitution.

The gifts to the Mayor are symbols of the City’s friendship between individuals and countries worldwide. Once given, the gifts remain in the Mayor’s office to be displayed

and viewed by visitors. These gifts are later transferred to the City of Ottawa Archives for preservation as enduring symbols of friendships.



Ceramic vase presented to His Worship Jim Watson
City of Ottawa Archives | 2007.0115.1

The vase was presented to the Mayor in 2011 during a Courtesy Call at Ottawa City Hall by His Excellency Kaoru Ishikawa, Ambassador of Japan. The flowers painted on the vase closely resemble the flowers that grow on the camellia sasanqua tree which is native to Japan. These flowers, camellia sasanqua, bloom from February to mid-March, bringing colour to winter months. The petals colors vary between white to pink and red with a distinctive yellow stamen.

At the Archives, our commitment is to document, preserve, and care for these gifts. The Archives store the artifacts in one of four environmentally controlled vaults, review each artifact for exhibition and prepare them for display for the public to enjoy. Currently, there are several gifts on display in the Gifts to the Mayors of Ottawa at Ottawa City Hall.

Written by City of Ottawa Archivist, Jacinda Bain, May 2021.

Glass lantern slides

In the age of digital photographic slideshows and PowerPoint presentations, this *Collection Spotlight* looks back at the earliest form of photographic slides and presentations. Glass lantern slides, used between 1850 and 1950, were viewed using a Magic lantern projector that transmitted light. They were a popular form of both educational presentations and entertainment.

The City of Ottawa Archives has several sets of glass lantern slides in both its civic and community holdings. They combine both photographic processes, hand-drawn artwork, text, and some hand-colouring.

Amongst the Ottawa Water Works Department records is a set of 48 glass lantern slides, ca. 1880-1926 (RG023-4-1). Most of the slides relate to the Typhoid Fever epidemics of 1911 and 1912 and the city's attempts to clean up Ottawa's water supply and sewage system, which was prone to contamination when untreated sewage drained into the Ottawa River and entered the water supply system. The lantern slides include photographic images of the Ottawa River, sewers and aqueducts, diagrams, plans, drawings, charts, vital stats, and reports. The City Water Works most likely used these slides for public presentations. Ottawa's Topley Studio produced many.



City's attempt to clean up Ottawa's water supply and sewage system
City of Ottawa Archives | CA002258

Diver in Ottawa River's Nepean Bay searching for a leak in Water Works system leads to 1911 Typhoid outbreak, ca. 1911

In the Archives' community holdings, the Stewart Family fonds (MG017) include 242 lantern slides. William Stewart and his family settled in Bytown in 1827, and William's son McLeod Stewart (1847-1926) served as Mayor for Ottawa from 1887-1888. The lantern slides are predominately portraits of local political figures, prominent Ottawa residents, and views of the Ottawa area, ca. 1870 to 1896 (MG017-06-493).



CPR offices, 42 Sparks Street

City of Ottawa Archives | CA002201

Exterior view of CPR offices at 42 Sparks Street, corner of Elgin Street,
[1894-1896]

It also includes a set of lantern slides on the failed Georgian Bay Canal proposal to link Montreal and Ottawa with the Upper Great Lakes. McLeod Stewart was a leading advocate of the proposal and would have used the slides to secure financial support for the project.

Written by City of Ottawa Archivist Theresa Sorel, April 2021.

Indigenous representation in archives

Sticks and stones may break my bones, but words shall never hurt me. A prolific cliché that many of us grew up with as children to counter bullying. However, words do hurt, and if photographs do say a thousand words, an image can be immensely damaging. A search in the City of Ottawa Archives descriptive database on the innocuous phrase "costume party" brings up various photos, including "Lady of Annunciation, Brownie Halloween Party." While the children are dressed in various costumes, the three adults in the photograph are all dressed as "Indians." By our standards today, considering the clothing of ethnic groups or indigenous peoples as costumes is insulting,

"Indigenous" Halloween costumes are offensive to many people. We hope that our voices can inspire others to think twice about selling, buying or wearing these costumes." – Rebecca Hope Gouthro, The Ubysey, October 30, 2018.



Lady of Annunciation, Brownie Halloween Party, 1955
City of Ottawa Archives | CA035009

Nevertheless, these photographs document the past's normative values and perhaps the context of a continuation of practice. How then do the archives preserve history

while not continuing to be complicit in institutionalized colonialism? What context should we place around such photographs? Furthermore, how should we forewarn researchers that there may be emotionally traumatizing content? We are addressing these questions as we look to update descriptions and the Archives content on the Ottawa Museums and Archives Collections web portal.

It is not enough that the Archives addresses the content of its current holdings; we are working on expanding and diversifying the voices and stories of Ottawa citizens that are permanently preserved. To fully understand history, we should preserve records that provide first-person accounts from all the communities that make up Ottawa, including indigenous peoples, black, people of colour, ethnic minorities and the LGBTQ2S+ community.

In the past, Archivists believed in the ideal that we were the custodians of records. We do not narrate or editorialize the meaning of the records. However, this has been determined to be largely unfounded. Objectivity is a mirage that cannot be grasped. We must lay bare our processes and prejudices.

Written by City of Ottawa Archivist John Lund, March 2021.

A music phenomenon walkin' in North Gower

On a sunny day in April 1957, a Desoto Firedome station wagon marked “Imperial Records” pulled to a stop on Highway 16 beside the Ashwood House in North Gower. Telephone operator and amateur photographer Elsie Hyland, working in the telephone exchange office next door, must have seen it stop. As someone got out of the vehicle, she quickly ran out to her own car parked across the street to grab her camera in time to snap a hurried shot – before even getting out of her car – of a bemused Antoine ‘Fats’ Domino, ready to walk up Main Street.



Antoine ‘Fats’ Domino and band/crew member on Main Street, North Gower near Bide-A-Wee, April 1957.

Rideau Archives, Elsie Hyland collection (MGR109-01)

From the photographs, it seems Domino and crew were headed south in the late morning of Thursday April 18, 1957, having performed at the “Biggest Show of Stars of 1957” show in Ottawa the night before. Fats was the headliner, with a line-up of performers including Chuck Berry, Clyde McPhatter, and Paul Williams Orchestra, performing 45 shows across the continent. Domino’s hit single “I’m Walking” was reaching the top of the charts, and the movie “Shake Rattle and Rock” in which he starred had just passed through Ottawa the week before, so the Ottawa crowd had been primed and ready for his arrival. Domino and the other acts did not disappoint, but Ottawa was perhaps lucky. Weeks earlier, Domino had missed several tour dates due to illness, and one of the band cars had caught fire near Washington DC.

In Ottawa, things had been tame. Out on the Auditorium floor, police had kept an eye on things and twice had had to threaten cancelling the show if the audience couldn't stop dancing and remain seated. But there was no racial and drunken tension that newspapers claimed was fuelling violence at some American venues. There had been riots at four Domino shows in 1956, with a Connecticut date being cancelled simply due to the fear of fifth. When the fall version of the 1957 Biggest Show of Stars (which again featured Domino and also Ottawa's own Paul Anka, arriving in Ottawa in November) was getting ready to go on the road, it happened again – a tour stop in Washington DC was cancelled due to riot fears.



Antoine 'Fats' Domino beside Imperial Records tour car on Main Street, North Gower near Ashwood House, April 1957.
Rideau Archives, Elsie Hyland collection (MGR109-01)

Despite these tensions, Domino saw his music making people happy, and indeed it brought them together, in some instances physically, in a way that had never happened before. At that time, some cities in the American South still forced entertainment shows to segregate their audiences, with separate afternoon and evening shows, though a few cities took their spring 1957 Biggest Show date to allow integrated audiences for the first time. Similarly, Domino and other Black musicians wouldn't necessarily be served in all restaurants across the United States. During the fall edition of the 1957 Biggest Show, Buddy Holly famously stormed out of a place that was prepared to serve him but not the Black musicians with him. Bringing a greater consciousness of Black culture was not Domino's chief aim in playing music, but it clearly was one of its results. Things were different in Canada, of course, but nevertheless by the time that Domino was walking up

Main Street in North Gower in April 1957 and posing for Elsie Hyland there was little to no history of any presence of people of African descent in the vicinity. Unlike nearby communities like Ottawa, Hull and Perth, North Gower and Marlborough Townships remained largely uninvolved in the African diaspora until immigration from the Caribbean in the 1960s.

Domino's enormous popularity may have been a factor in bridging the segregation gap, yet the importance of this rock 'n' roll legend is perhaps not well remembered today, even if only judged in terms of his impact in the music industry. By the time of his second appearance in Ottawa that year, in November 1957 at the fall version of the Biggest Show of Stars, Fats Domino had already sold 25 million records in a career spanning less than a decade. The Rock and Roll Hall of Fame credits Domino with more hit records than Chuck Berry, Little Richard and Buddy Holly combined. Domino's music was formative for the careers of Ernest Evans (whose stage name Chubby Checker was a direct pun on Fats Domino's name) and the Beatles, among many others, as well as influencing Jamaican artists developing ska. A prolific artist, Domino left his estate the rights to over 1000 tracks. But even in the 1950s, the real money (for musicians, at any rate) was to be made in touring, not in record sales or royalties. At the time, it has been estimated that Domino was earning the current value of \$4.5 million a year playing live shows.

Ironically, Hyland's photographs catch Domino not performing the music that he loved but on the road to the next gig, posing for a fan's camera, which presented tougher challenges for the star. According to a 2007 Rolling Stone interview, "eating food he hasn't cooked and talking to people he doesn't know rank near the top of his list of least-favorite activities." It is said that Domino stopped playing live shows because he couldn't handle the food anymore. As a Forbes 2017 obituary article put it, "... New Orleans was the only place where he liked the food. He would take his own pots and pans on tour with him."

Perhaps the Ashwood, or the Bide-A-Wee next door, made the cut that Thursday morning, or maybe Fats was simply grabbing a coffee before heading back out on the road.

Originally published in the Rideau Township Historical Society Newsletter, February 2021, written by City of Ottawa Archivist, Stuart Clarkson.

The Colonial Inn – a dream home

In June 1926, just over a mile north of North Gower on what was once the Prescott Highway, a new establishment offering light refreshments was announced. Closing each fall, the Colonial Inn reopened in the spring, often having undergone some improvements over the winter. In 1929, the dining room boasted heat from a newly installed furnace to supplement the charming, though apparently inadequate, fireplace.



A call for help wanted at the Colonial Inn.
The Ottawa Journal, pg. 21, Jul 31, 1926

By 1935, the proprietor, Miss M. Lennan, was billing it as a favourite stop for motorists. Lennan herself described the building on the property as “an old log shack” which she had improved since the 1920s with stucco, plaster, floorboards, cobblestone chimney and fireplace, and finally a new extension.

Due to the impact of the Second World War, she was forced to give up the place, including the six acres she had allowed to lie uncultivated for some time. In 1946, recently discharged Captain Stanley Stevenson obtained the property through the Soldiers’ Settlement and Veterans’ Land Act.

FRIDAY
JULY 29, 1949

THE OTTAWA JOURNAL

The Third Page

Plans uses ner Rd.

Bridge and
plan now
of the full
next Tuesday
the municipal
road. One
has been made
ment signed
age will pro-
building of 200
total cost of

Year.
The Public
works has
been made

in Ottawa for
an office of
the city. Re-
sults of the
work will be
made known
to the public
in the near
future. The
city has been
working on the
plan for some
time and it is
expected that
the plan will
be completed
in the near
future. The
city has been
working on the
plan for some
time and it is
expected that
the plan will
be completed
in the near
future.



GATEWAY TO A DREAM HOME—Three years ago a farmhouse, this home near North Gower was occupied by Mr. and Mrs. Stanley Stevenson. Mr. Stevenson, a Canadian Army captain during World War II and a restaurant manager in Ottawa, dreamed of a home like this for years. It is one of 100's more small buildings, although few compare with it. (Capital Press Photo.)



AT HOME—Mr. and Mrs. Stevenson's longtime dream of a country home for their children and themselves has been realized and here they are with Beverly Ann, an adopted daughter, and son, Terry. (Capital Press Photo.)



DREAM FIREPLACE—Pride and joy of the Stevenson family is their home, the old Colonial Inn, on the Preston highway, two miles north of North Gower; in this lovely stone fireplace, the home is more than 75 years old. (Capital Press Photo.)

THE WAY TO HAPPINESS

Your Own Home-Near North Gower!

By GEORGE BRYAN

HOW can man be happy?

Stan Stevenson, a Second

World War veteran, thinks

he has the answer. In fact

he knows he has it.

His interesting story.

And to those willing to follow

his advice he has an interesting

story.

It began several years ago

when Canadian men were

overseas fighting.

Stan Stevenson was one of

them.

During off-duty hours he used

to sit down and write his wife

often expressing his wish to have

a home in the country on his

return.

Then came the day everyone

had been waiting for. The war

ended and Stan came home.

Discharged as a captain from the

RCAF, he went back to his pre-war

job with Murray's Restaurant

Limited and became manager of

the Lord Elgin Hotel branch

restaurant.

Each night he went home to

his small apartment and thought

more and more of his dream for

a country home. Then he had

to move. It wasn't a winter in

a village outside the city and

his dream began to seem

more and more real.

But the Stevenson had con-

sidered themselves they could

make a go of it and it wasn't

too difficult to convince the

bank.

Finally the word came through.

The disapproved son-in-law

of Stevenson had to agree to

his work in Ottawa and in open

ing began, clearing away the

junk that had grown up around

the place.

Land Cultivated.

By the Autumn of 1947 things

had begun to take shape. The

couple and their son, Terry,

were living with their ac-

quaintance and they spent the

winter in their new home.

A year ago last Spring they

set to work to develop, began

cultivating their six acres of

land, around fruit trees on a

grove near the side of the house

and kept busy until late

Fall.

At that time the "small build-

ing" looked like a country estate

house, built a garage and had

completed the landscaping.

By the Spring, they planned

more fruit trees, keeping the

area of about three acres of

land, around fruit trees on a

grove near the side of the house

and kept busy until late

Fall.

At that time the "small build-

ing" looked like a country estate

house, built a garage and had

completed the landscaping.

By the Spring, they planned

more fruit trees, keeping the

area of about three acres of

land, around fruit trees on a

grove near the side of the house

and kept busy until late

Fall.

At that time the "small build-

ing" looked like a country estate

house, built a garage and had

completed the landscaping.

By the Spring, they planned

more fruit trees, keeping the

area of about three acres of

land, around fruit trees on a

grove near the side of the house

and kept busy until late

Fall.

At that time the "small build-

ing" looked like a country estate

house, built a garage and had

completed the landscaping.

By the Spring, they planned

more fruit trees, keeping the

area of about three acres of

land, around fruit trees on a

grove near the side of the house

and kept busy until late

Fall.

It cost him about \$200 to cul-

tivate the ground and this year

he expects the result of many

hard day's work in his market

garden will net him a good

solid \$1,500 profit.

With Mr. and Mrs. Stevenson

as they welcomed a reporter

came was their 10-year-old

adopted daughter, Beverly Ann,

who arrived to stay last Christ-

mas Eve.

Major Peacock said he was

proud of their work at the farm.

It showed just what veterans

could do with their small hold-

ings.

The Name Problem.

For the best of the happy

family the matter of purchasing

each day in his world in Ottawa

is no longer at all tied up

early in the morning, jumping into

his car and is at work in about

30 minutes.

There's just one problem con-

cerning Mr. and Mrs. Stevenson.

They haven't named their home.

Thinking they had the best

thought of Small Holding and

Station House.

The first three letters of Bal-

con were taken. But Mr.

Stevenson's maiden name, Haley,

he took from the letter Haley

letters of the name Stevenson.

But then they thought again

might stop with people asking

day to what drinking would be

erved with meat. And on the

final decision still has to be

taken.

And they are doing fine.



CANADIAN SCIENTIST—Sir Charles Gowers, director of the British Iron and Steel Research Association, and a noted scientist who assisted Royal Navy warships during the war. He is shown, above, with his family as he arrived in Montreal on the steam Empress of Canada. He is a native of Winnipeg. (CPA Photo.)

"Your Own Home Near North Gower. The Stevenson family moves into the Colonial Inn."

The Ottawa Journal, pg. 3, July 29, 1949

Despite his previous job as manager of the Lord Elgin Hotel branch restaurant, Stevenson had the idea of developing the place not as a dining establishment but as a market garden. After initial preparations, Stevenson planted a grove of fruit trees, totalling 200 trees by 1949, along with one acre of onions, three of potatoes, a half-acre of raspberry canes, and 20 hogs. It is as a fruit farm, of course, that the Colonial Inn is currently known, and the Rideau Archives has recently acquired records of the fruit business there (MGR185), comprised of three volumes of purchasing records spanning the years from 1963 to 1998.

The records show that, in 1965, almost half of the farm's apple sales were made at their market stand, along with bulk orders by Rhiza Meadows of Manotick, Bonell Fruit and Vegetables of Spencerville, G. Scharfe of Kars, and Carsonby Gardens.

Originally published in the Rideau Township Historical Society Newsletter, March 2015.

More than just a corner store

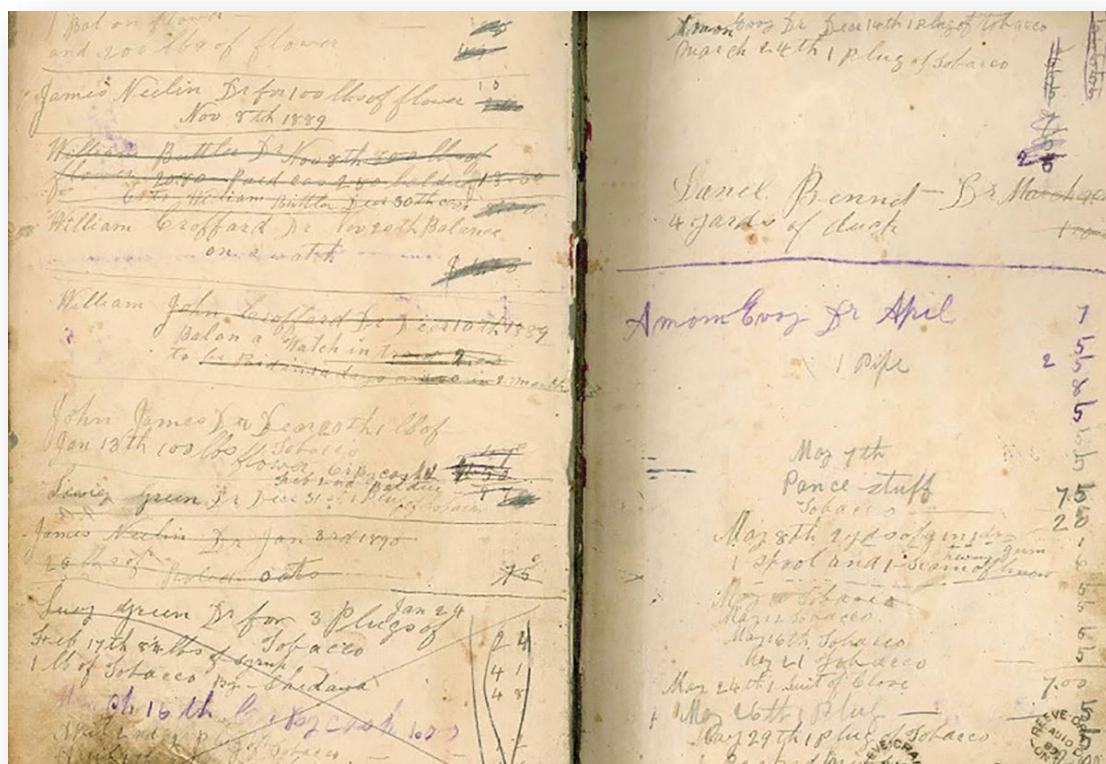
When looking at Rideau Township's Main Streets' photos, the images bring to mind the old general stores that occupied a central location in the small communities of bygone days. We can easily imagine the vast array of goods that these stores made available to their communities: biscuits, stomach medicine, boots, nails, nutmeg, machine oil, tea, stove polish, wallpaper, sugar, books, soap, buttons, harmonicas, carrot seeds, moccasins, cordwood, and endless plugs of tobacco – a far wider assortment even than the modern dollar stores that have to some degree taken their place.



Leach's Store in North Gower, from North Gower Women's Institute
Tweedsmuir History, Vol. 1, Pg 95
Accession no. 1994.09, ref. code MGR049

Thomas Salter's account books (Fond: MGR054) show that he sold all of these and much more at his store in Reeve Craig around the twentieth century. Sometimes the items he sold reflected the changing times: the nun's veiling he sold to William Beggs in 1894, for instance, had only become fashionable in the 1880s; the pink pills purchased by Augustus Arcand were more than likely Dr. William's Pink Pills for Pale People, a product from Brockville, Ontario first produced in 1890 later to be distributed throughout the Commonwealth; and Paris green, made from copper acetate and arsenic trioxide, was a common insecticide in those days. And Salter's store, as was frequent for general

stores, also served as the local post office, as the cancellation stamps on the flyleaf of one account book testifies. So there are records of postage paid on registered letters too. Ready money was rare, with credit being the primary means for making purchases. Still, the books also note some instances of bartering: Henry Keys got an American Waltham Watch in exchange for seven cords of green tamarack.



Pages from one of Thomas Salter's account books
City of Ottawa Archives | MGR054

Too Little Blood


Too little blood! That is what makes men and women look pale, sallow and languid. That is what makes them drag along, always tired, never hungry, unable to digest their food, breathless and palpitating at the heart after slight exertion, so that it is a trouble to go up stairs. They are "Anæmic," doctors tell them; and that is Greek for having "too little blood." Are you like that?

Are your gums pale instead of being scarlet? Pull down your eyelid—Is the lining of it bloodshot and pale? That is where "too little blood" shows.

More anæmic people have been made strong, energetic, hungry, cheerful men and women by

**Dr. Williams' Pink Pills
for Pale People**

than by any other means. They are the finest Tonic in the world; they have cured more people than any other medicine, but you must get the REAL Dr. Williams' Pink Pills, put up in packages just LIKE THIS



The wrapper is always printed in red ink on white paper.

If your dealer does not keep them, or tries to persuade you to take something else, send the price, 50 cents a box or \$2.50 for six boxes to the Dr. Williams Medicine Co., Brockville, and get the genuine by return mail—postage paid.

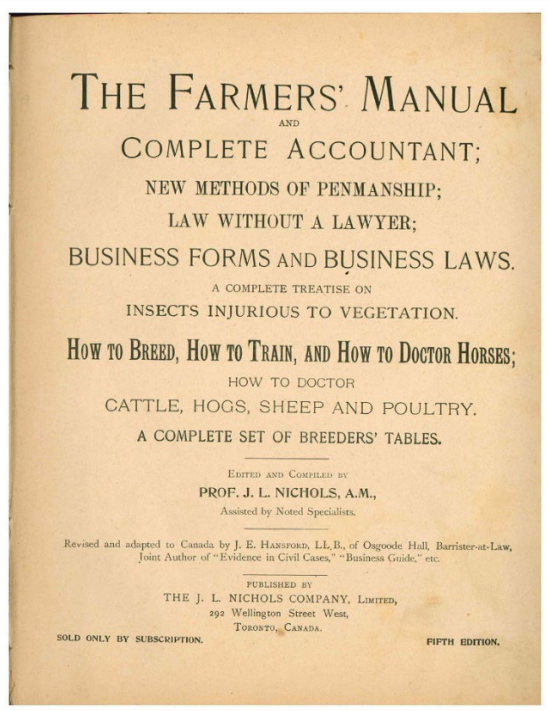
Dr. Williams Pink Pills advertisement
Ottawa Journal, 1898

Buying books from the comfort of home

A century ago, book purchases were often made by local residents from booksellers in Ottawa or some other large town nearby. And certainly, some bought used books from their neighbours. But another popular method of buying books at that time was by subscription.

Subscription books could be bought through the mail or through a travelling book agent, who would visit the farms and homes of prospective buyers with a case full of samples and take subscriptions for books. These books were produced by subscription publishers, located off in distant and larger urban centres. One publisher, Bradley-Garretson of Brantford and Toronto was said to have had two to three thousand agents throughout Canada in the 1880s.

Another subscription publisher was The J.L. Nichols Company, Limited, of Toronto, who published, among other books, *The Farmers' Manual and Complete Accountant*. It is an encyclopedic book that gives advice on veterinarian practices, penmanship, writing contracts, accounting, and similar topics.



The Farmers' Manual and Complete Accountant
The Farmer's Manual, sold only though subscription by J.L. Nichols
Company, Limited
City of Ottawa Archives | MGR020

William Whiting, farming on the first Concession in Marlborough Township, recorded on 4 March 1904 in the blank Weather Notes section of his copy of The Farmers' Manual that he had paid W.H. Percival of Kemptville \$1.75 for it. Whether Percival had himself bought the book through subscription or he was selling copies as a book agent for J.L. Nichols Company, Limited is unknown. Nevertheless, Whiting's copy, held by the Rideau Township Branch of the City of Ottawa Archives in the Ruth Armstrong fonds (MGR020), provides a connection between subscription publishing and the Rideau Township area just at the end of its popularity. By the time of the First World War, this method of book buying was in the decline.

Originally published in the Rideau Township Historical Society Newsletter in June of 2014, written by City of Ottawa Archivist, Stuart Clarkson.