

Petrie Stone Building  
60 Front St. South  
Belleville, Ontario

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Historic Structures Committee  
Hastings County Historical Society

September 3, 1982

23 pages  
H.S.C.



Petrie Stone Building

64 Front St. South

BELLEVILLE, ONTARIO

photo April 24, 1982

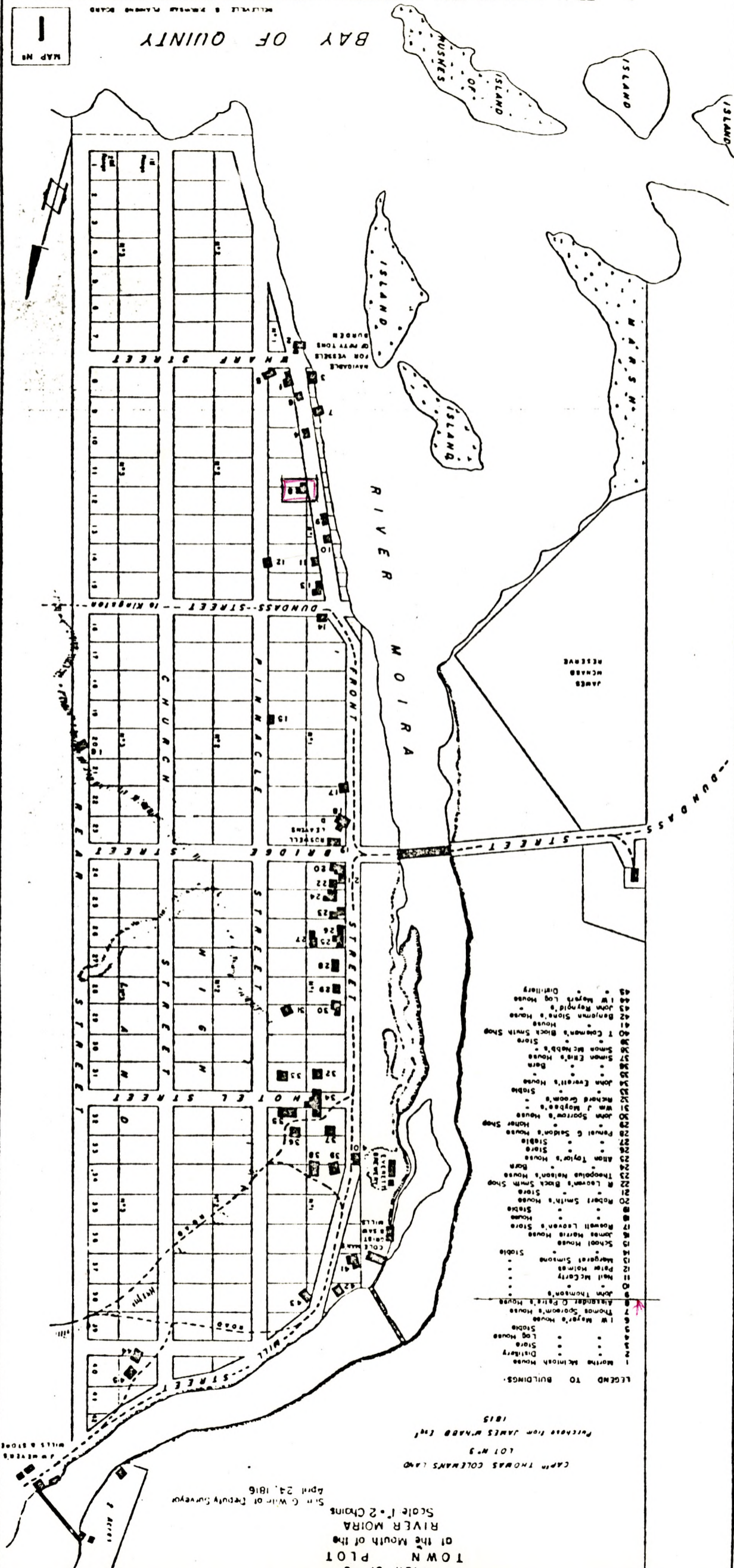
## Petrie Stone Building

1. Location - 64-66 Front St. South, Belleville  
Lot #7, Government Plan  
site - facing the harbour, near the  
river mouth, in the area  
shown on the 1816 map.
2. Owner - Robert Lambert  
3 Plaza Square, Belleville, K8N 4J2
3. Present Status - vacant, for sale  
asking price \$120,000 -  
Lot size 226.39' x 65'
4. Builder and/or first owner - Alexander Oliphant Petrie
5. Date - present on 1845 map of Belleville  
but may have been built much earlier (1820  
- Patent to Alexander O. Petrie April 23, 1846
6. Description of Building - Stone, 2 1/2 storey  
- probably built from stone quarried  
from Moira River.  
- low parapet gable ends terminate  
in stepped corbels  
- Goad Atlas 1878 - 1 storey stone  
building attached to west side  
- fire escape south-west side  
- no specific use  
- Goad Atlas 1888 - no structural changes  
- listed as storage

MAP NO. 1

MILLERS & PARTNER PLANNING BOARD

BAY OF QUINCY



TOWN PLOT  
of the Mouth of the  
RIVER MOIRA  
Scale 1" = 2 Chains  
S. G. Will of Deputy Surveyor  
April 24, 1816

CAPT THOMAS COLEMAN'S LAND

LOT N<sup>o</sup> 3

Purchase from JAMES WHARFF Esq

1815

LEGEND TO BUILDINGS.

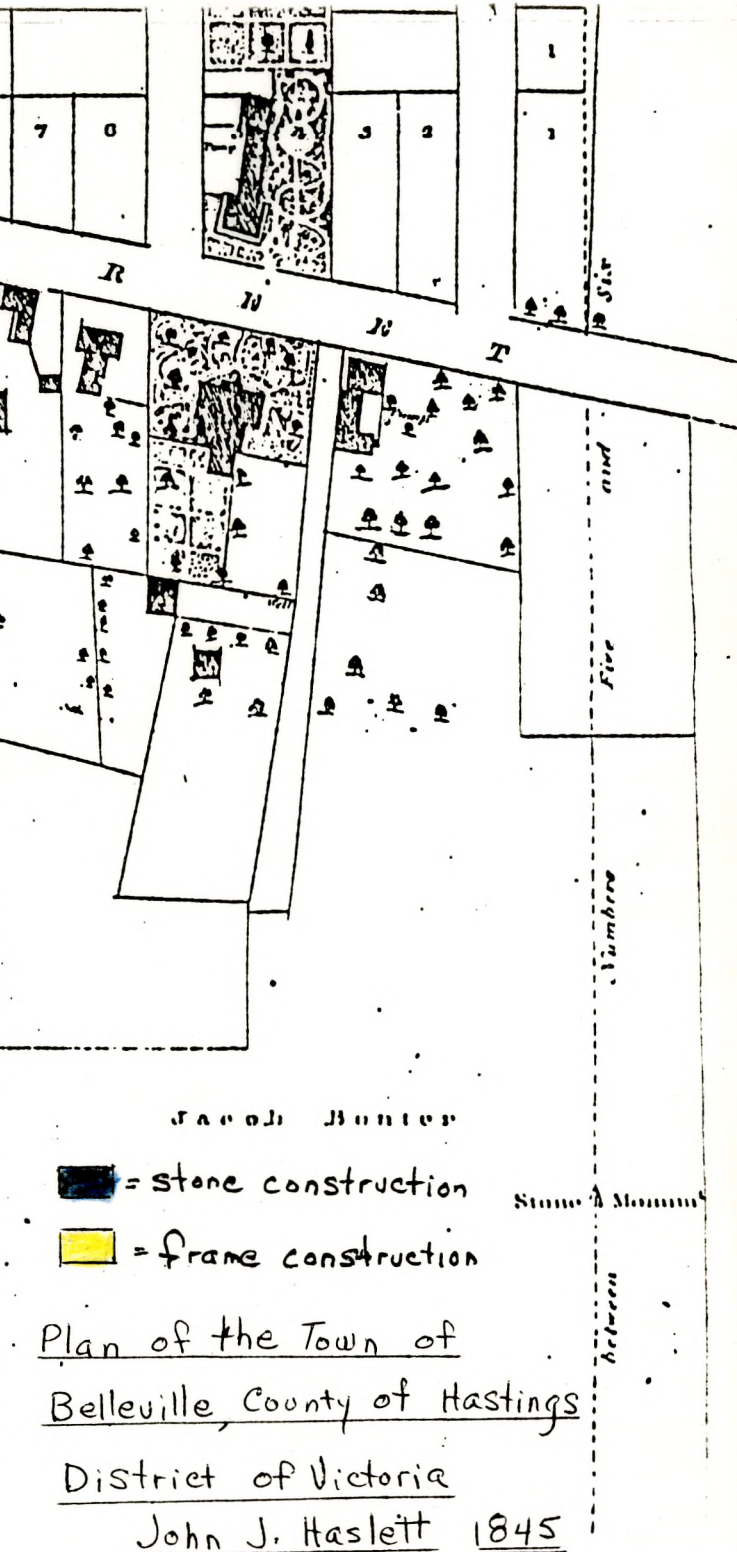
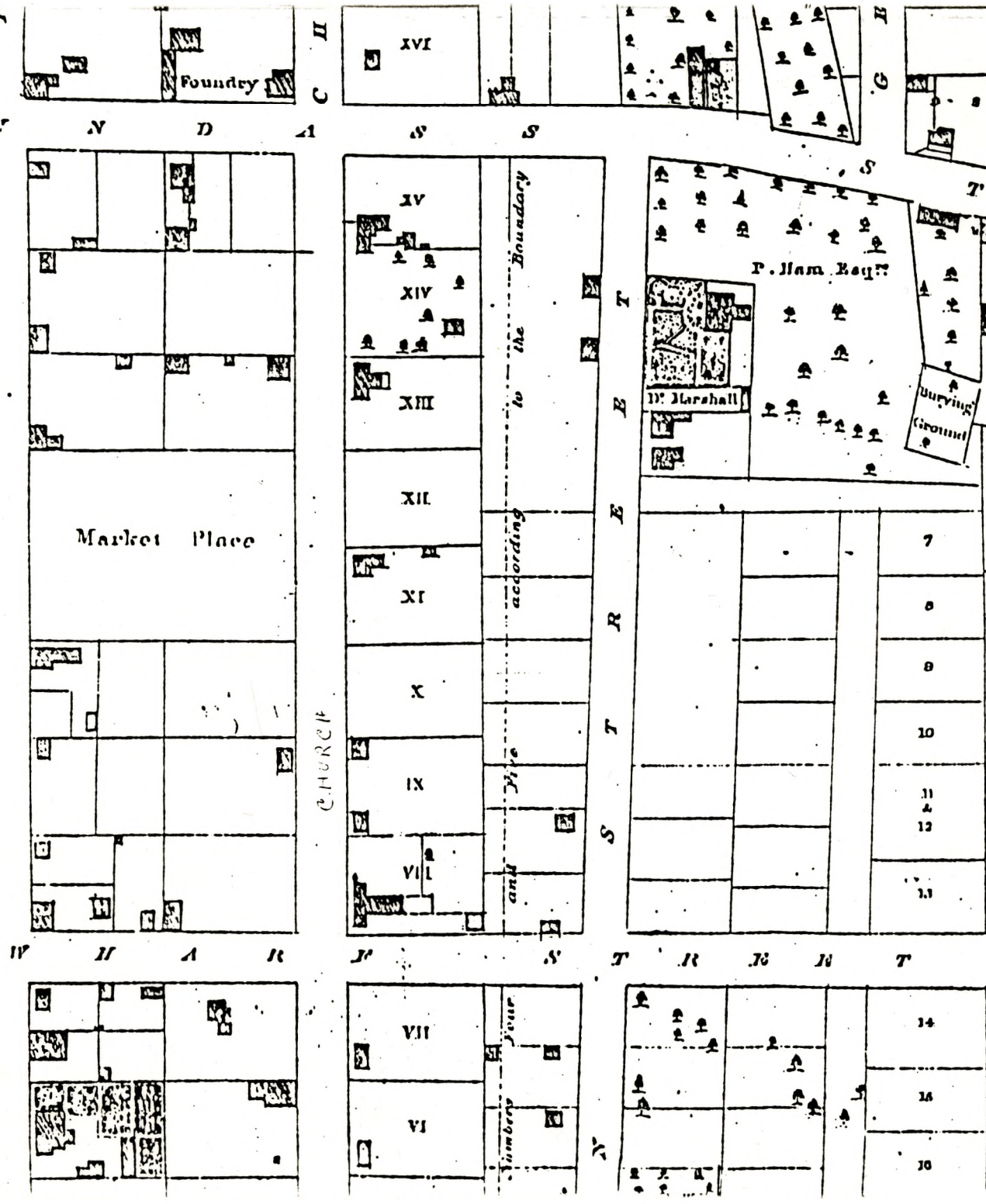
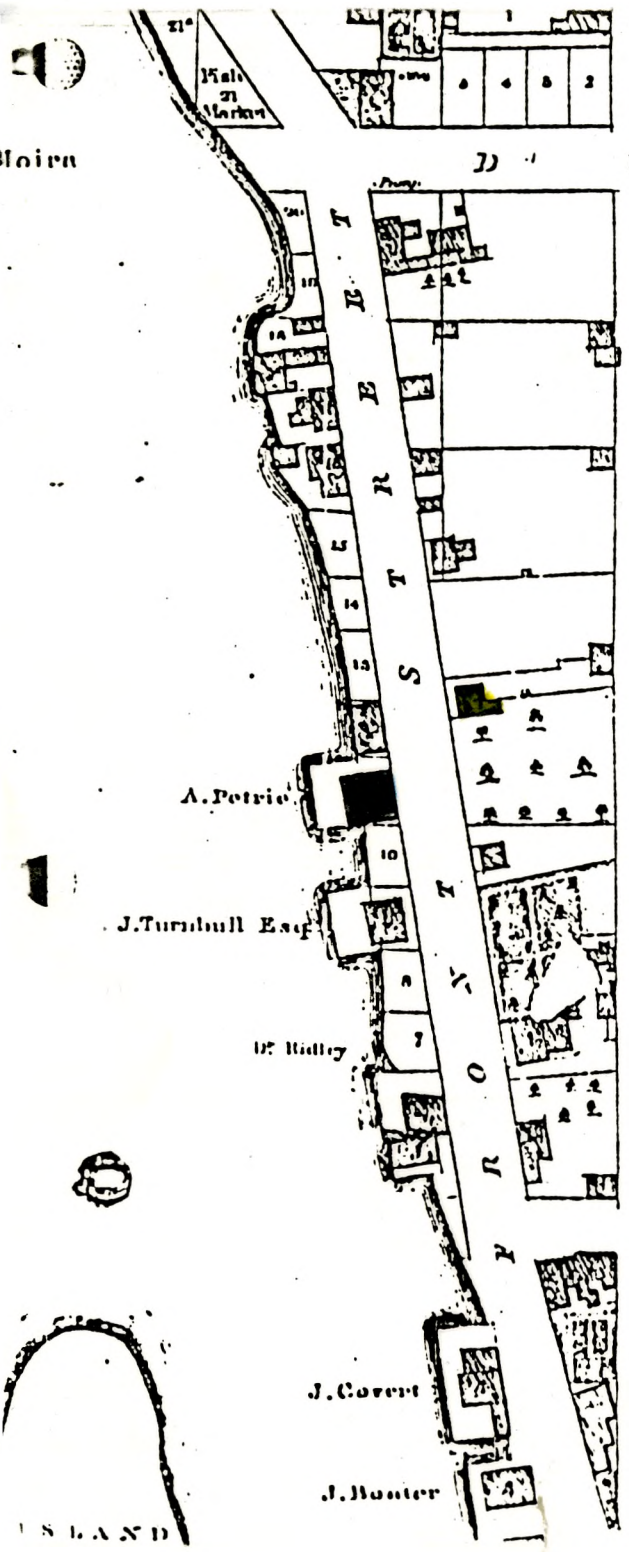
- 1 Mortha Akimosh House
- 2 Dairy
- 3 Store
- 4 Log House
- 5 W. Major's House
- 6 Thomas Sparrow's House
- 7 Thomas Sparrow's House
- 8 Alexander D. Fair's House
- 9 John Thompson's
- 10 John McCarty
- 11 Peter Holmes
- 12 Margaret Simons
- 13 Stoble
- 14 School House
- 15 James Harris House
- 16 James Harris House
- 17 Rowell Leaven's Store
- 18 House
- 19 Robert Smith's House
- 20 Stoble
- 21 Robert Smith's House
- 22 Store
- 23 R. Leaven's Black Smith Shop
- 24 Theophilus Nelson's House
- 25 Barn
- 26 Alton Taylor's House
- 27 Stoble
- 28 Stoble
- 29 Penul & Saldon's House
- 30 John Sparrow's House
- 31 John Sparrow's House
- 32 Wm J. Maybbs
- 33 Richard Groom's
- 34 Stoble
- 35 John Everett's House
- 36 Barn
- 37 Simon Ersk's House
- 38 Store
- 39 Simon McHobb's
- 40 T. Colman's Black Smith Shop
- 41 Store
- 42 Benjamin Stone's House
- 43 John Reynolds House
- 44 W. Major's Log House
- 45 Dairy

"A list of Persons who have erected buildings within the limits of the Town Plot, on the front of the Mississagua Reservation, on the first Concession of the Township of Thurlow, lot number four, and their claims, or pretensions thereto - -

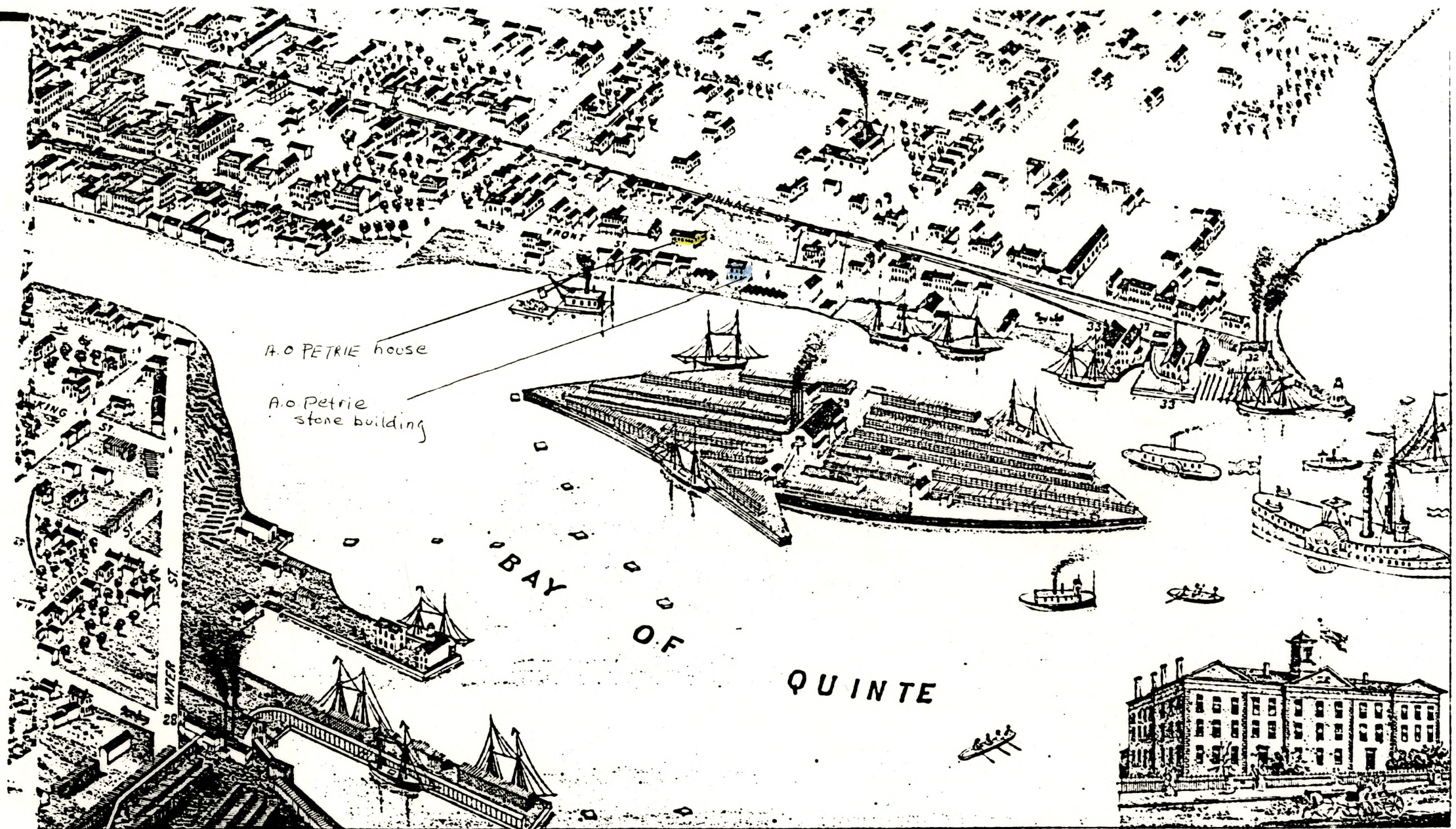
Names	Description of Buildings	What Year Erected	by whose Permission	Numbers	Range	Blocks	
Martha McIntosh	Distillery	1801	by Purchase	7	2	2	
" "	Framed House	1806	I. Ferguson's permission	8	2	2	
" "	Store House	1808	" "	"	"	"	
John W. Meyers	Framed House	1800	Indian Claim	8	2	2	
Martha McIntosh	Barn	1810	Indian permission	8	2	2	
" "	Log House	1799	by Purchase	10	.	.	
Thomas Sparham	Framed House	1802	by Purchase	.	.	.	
Alex. O. Petrie	" "	1814	I. Ferguson's permission	11, 12	2	2	
John Thompson	" "	1804	Indian permission	12, 13	"	"	
" "	" "	1804	" "	13	"	"	
Neil McCartney	" "	1815	" "	14	1	2	
Peter Holmes	" "	1806	" "	14	2	2	
Margaret Simpson	" "	1799	Indian permission	15	1	2	
" "	Stables	1800	" "	16	1	2	
Roswell Leavens	Store	1809	" "	21, 22	1	2	
" "	House	1801	" "	22, 23	1	2	
" "	Stable	1803	" "	23	1	2	
Robert Smith	House	1811	" "	24	1	3	
" "	Store	1813	" "	24	1	3	
Roswell Leavens	Blacksmith Shop	1804	" "	24	1	3	{ not claimed by Roswell Leavens
Theophilus Nelson	Framed Barns	1815	" "	25	1	3	
" "	House	1810	" "	25	1	3	
Allan Taylor	" "	1811	" "	26	1	3	
" "	Store	1811	" "	26	1	3	
" "	Stables	1812	" "	26	1	3	
Penuel G. Selden	House	1811	by Purchase	27	1	3	
" "	Hatters Shop	1811	" "	28	1	3	
John Sparrow	House	1815	Indian permission	28, 29	1	3	
Richard Grooms	" "	1810	by Rent	31	1	3	
" "	Stable	1811	" "	31	2	3	
John Everitt Jun <sup>r</sup>	House	1809	by Purchase	31	1	3	
" "	& Log House	1809	" "	32	2	3	
" "	Barn	1809	" "	32	2	3	
Simeon Ellis	House	1815	Indian Permission	32	1	3	
Simon McNabb	House	1806	" "	33, 34	1	3	
" "	Store	1815	" "	33, 34	1	3	
Thomas Coleman	Log B. Smith Shop	1808	by Purchase	in Street			{ Purch <sup>d</sup> by James McNabb Esqr. To be removed
" "	Framed House	1815	" "				
" "	Log House	1800	by Purchase				
John W. Meyers	Log House	1807	by Purchase	40	2	4	
John Reynolds	Framed Distillery	1815	Indian permission	40	2	4	
William G. Maybee	House	1810	" "	38	1	4	
James Harris	& Log House	1805	" "	29	2	3	
	House	1797	by Purchase	20	Street		
			River Moira				
			28 <sup>th</sup> April 1816				
			Sam. G. Wilmot				

Deputy Surveyor Samuel G. Wilmot prepared the above "list of claims of Inhabitants who have Erected Buildings on the Mississagua Reservation Lot No. 4 at the River Moira" on April 24, 1816, to accompany the "Plan of a Town Plot at the Mouth of the River Moira", which he had completed four days earlier. The "Numbers" column refers to lot numbers from south to north (1 through 42). The range number refers to the west (1) or the east (2) portion of the lot. The block number indicates distance from Front Street (block 1 is closest to Front Street). By reference to these numbers, each of the buildings listed above can be located on the plan. This list and the plan reveal how the land was obtained, how the residents earned a living, and how the Indian reserve was occupied by white settlers between 1799 and 1816. The plan also indicates buildings that were outside the town plot, for example Everett's brewery and Coleman's mills in lot 3 and Meyers' mills and store in lot 5.

The original list and plan are found in the archives of the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources.



Jacob Hunter  
 ■ = stone construction  
 ■ = frame construction  
 Plan of the Town of  
 Belleville, County of Hastings  
 District of Victoria  
 John J. Haslett 1845



**EYE VIEW OF  
VICTORIA**

CANADA.

1874.

**MANUFACTORIES**

- 22 J. M. WALKER & CO. FOUNDRY & MACHINE SHOP
- 23 J. & G. BROWN
- 24 E. BURRELL & CO. FACTORY
- 25 IRVIN DIAMOND FLOURING MILL
- 26 A. N. PRINGLE, PLANING MILL, SASH DOORS & BLINDS
- 27 W. H. VERMILYEA, CARRIAGE FACTORY
- 28 FLINT & HOLTON, STEAM SAW & PLANING MILL
- 29 RATHBURN & SON, STEAM MILL & LUMBER YARDS
- 30 WOOLEN MILLS
- 31 VICTORIA FOUNDRY
- 32 PLANING MILLS
- 33 ELEVATORS

**HOTELS**

- 34 DAFOL HOUSE
- 35 HAWLEY, J. HAWLEY, PROPRIETOR
- 36 ANGLO AMERICAN HOUSE, G. HOGGARD, PROP.
- 37 ALBION HOTEL, T. A. HOLBROOK
- 38 EMPIRE
- 39 DOMINION
- 40 EUPEKA HOUSE
- 41 RAILWAY
- 42 OTHER HOTELS

ALBERT COLLEGE.

1874



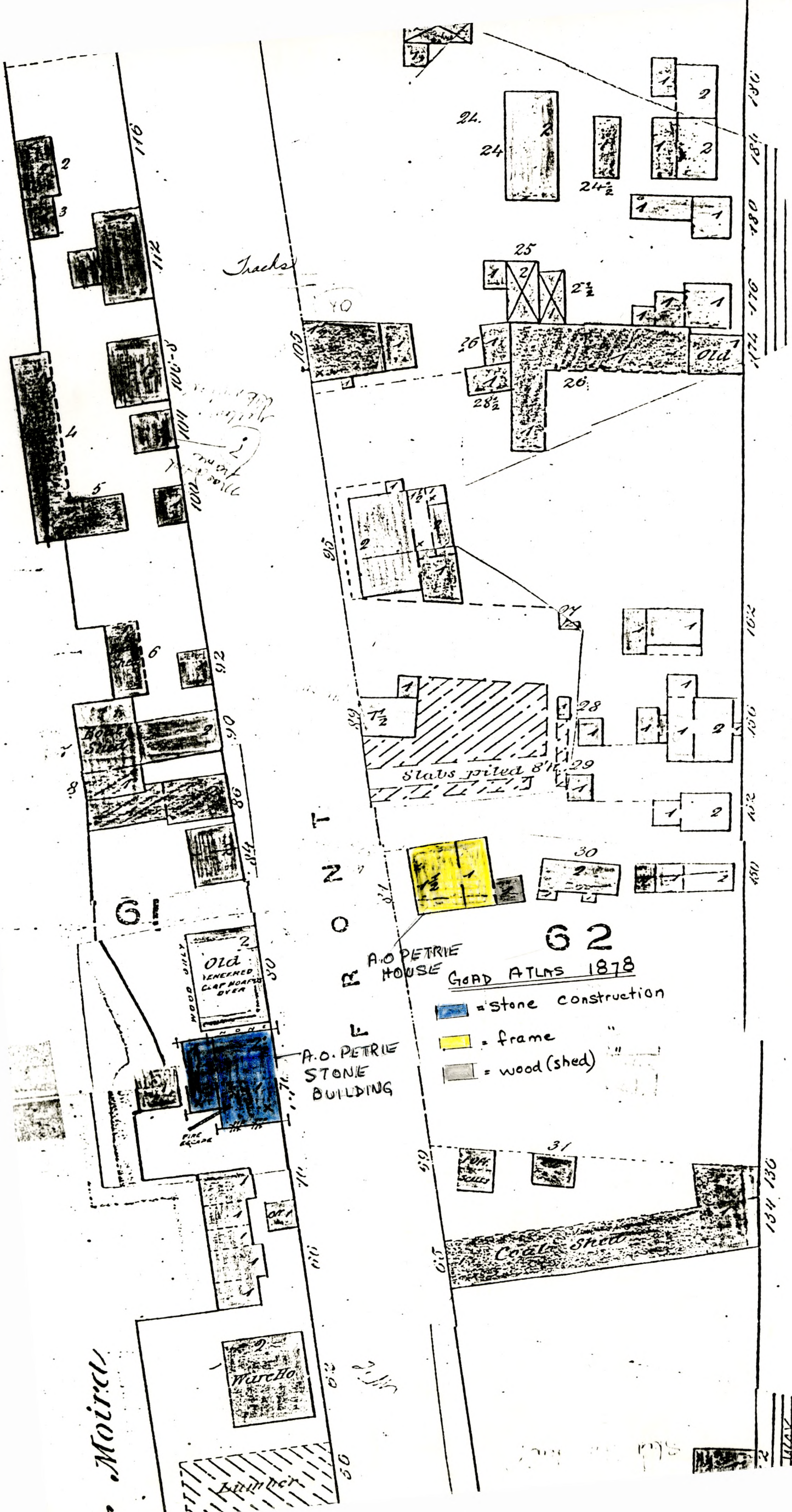
- = stone construction
- = frame construction

Evans + Bolger Map 1877

**T E**

High Water Mark





**62**  
 A.O. PETRIE HOUSE  
 GOAD ATLAS 1878  
 ■ = stone construction  
 ■ = frame  
 ■ = wood (shed)

P I N N A C L E

Mair

MAY



## History of Ownership.

Mill<sup>(1)</sup> (grist) <sup>grain</sup> was erected by Alexander O. Petrie. At the time of construction, there was no causeway to Victoria Island, and therefore the flow of water would have been much greater.

The building has had many uses and owners. It has been used as a storehouse for grain, a warehouse, and a marine supply business.

1861 - A.T. Petrie (son of A.O. Petrie) listed as a grain dealer<sup>(2)</sup>

1871 - Robert Perry Davy and Virgilius Seldon are listed as owners. They were dealers in hides, pelts and wool.<sup>(3)</sup>

1875 - mortgaged to Wm H. Campbell and David Brennan

1879 - purchased by James Leigh who was a miller<sup>(4)</sup>

1900's early - used by Belleville Produce Co. as a warehouse. They were dealers in hides skins and wool.<sup>(5)</sup> Since then it has been used as a warehouse, marine supply and service depot, and a residence<sup>(6)</sup>  
It is now vacant.

- 
- 1846 - Patent to ALEXANDER O. PETRIE (Lot 7)
  - 1869 - Sold to JOHN HAM PERRY by George Taylor (Sherriff)
  - 1870 - Sold to ROBERT PERRY DAVY & VIRGILIUS SELDEN
  - 1873 - Release of Claim to VIRGILIUS SELDEN by Robert Perry Davy
  - 1875 - Mortgaged to WILLIAM H. CAMPBELL & DAVID BRENNAN for \$300.00
  - 1878 - Information taken from Goad Insurance Maps of that year: address-80 Front St.; 1 store, use not specified; stone facade; 2½ storey; fire escape on south west corner
  - 1879 - Sold to HENRY ADAMS
    - Sold to JAMES LEIGH
    - Mortgaged to SAMUEL B. BURDETT for \$400.00
  - 1888 - Information taken from Goad Insurance Maps for that year: address-76 Front St.; 1 store 'storage'; no other changes since 1878
  - 1898 - Sold to JOHN LLEWELLAN LEIGH & SIDNEY MENTON LEIGH (from the Estate of James Leigh)
  - 1911 - Sold to WILLIAM BLACK & SON for \$1,100.00
    - Sold to DOMINION CANNERS LTD. for \$1,500.00
    - Sold to MICHAEL J. LYNCH for \$1,500.00
  - 1926 - Sold to MABEL KATHLEEN BOULTER for \$2,200.00
  - 1934 - Sold to GEORGE J. SAUNDERS & ANITA CATHARINE SAUNDERS
    - Mortgaged to PROSPERE FRECHETTE for \$1,500.00
  - 1941 - Sold to PROSPERE FRECHETTE
  - 1945 - Sold to CLAYTON FRECHETTE & VIOLET PAULINE FRECHETTE
  - 1953 - Sold to JOHN AUGUSTUS GOYER & EVELYN LILLIAN GOYER
  - 1960 - Mortgaged to VICTORIA & GREY TRUST CO. for \$15,000.00
  - 1961 - Mortgaged to ASHTON WILLIAM JOHNSTON for \$15,000.00
    - Mortgaged to ELIZABETH C. WILKINSON for \$11,500.00
    - Mortgaged to SIDNEY SPIEGEL for \$5,000.00
  - 1962 - Mortgaged to ASSOCIATES BUDGET PLAN LTD. for \$5,000.00
  - 1963 - Sold to BANCROFT HOLDINGS LTD.
  - 1973 - Sold to MOMAR INVESTMENTS LTD.
    - Mortgaged to BANCROFT HOLDINGS LTD. for \$26,000.00
  - 1974 - Sold to JOSEPH BURKE & MARVIN HOLYMAN 'J. & M. INVESTMENTS' & ROBERT LAMBERT CONSTRUCTION LTD.
  - 1978 - Sold to JOAN AGNES TRUDEAU & MARILYN ANNE TRUDEAU

## Biography - Alexander Oliphant Petrie

1809 - arrived at Myer's Creek, at the age of 22 yrs<sup>(7)</sup>  
He was born in Scotland.<sup>(8)</sup>

1814 - built a house (frame) on south Front St<sup>(9)</sup> The house on the property to-day is probably the house built by Alexander Petrie.

1812-1814 War - served as a (volunteer) captain at Kingston<sup>(10)(11)</sup>

1814 - March 8 - married Mrs Jennett Murray at Kingston<sup>(12)</sup>

1817 - Master of the Schooner "General Brock" which travelled Lake Ontario from Kingston to York<sup>(13)</sup>

1832 - awarded a seven year licence to operate a ferry between Belleville and Ameliasburg Township.<sup>(14)</sup>

1833 - indicted for Highway Robbery, trial held in Kingston, sentenced to death. A circus agent had contracted with Petrie to take the circus from the Prince Edward County shore to Belleville. Petrie crossed every day for three days and waited. When the circus arrived, they boarded a larger ferry belonging to a competitor, because the winds were strong.

A few days later in daylight, Petrie accosted the circus agent on the Lower Bridge and demanded £3. The agent paid + Petrie gave him a receipt. Petrie

## Biography (continued)

was arrested, and lodged in the Kingston goal.

Petrie's cause was taken up by the citizens of Belleville and the Kingston Press. Executive clemency was granted by Lt.-Gov. John Colbourne because Petrie was a man of "integrity and upright and honourable feelings and was so esteemed by his neighbours" (15)(16)

- reported to have walked from Belleville to Kingston. He had business to transact in Kingston. The boat left without him, so he walked to Kingston and arrived in time to greet the passengers (17)

1841 - President of Police Village of Belleville (18)

1848 + 1850 - served as an Assessor } for Municipal (19)  
1853 served as a Collector } Corporation of Belleville

1860 - 1861 - listed as an Accountant.  
Bank of Upper Canada (19)

1870, Oct 14 - died, age 83 yrs, 6 mo.  
- one of oldest residents of  
the community (20)(23)

1870 - 1877 Allen T. Petrie (son) Chief of Police  
for Belleville (21)(22)

## Conclusions.

- 1) This is the only remaining building on the water side of Front St from the 1845 map.
- 2) Alexander Petrie built the stone building across the road from his house (now #67 Front St. S.)  
The house identified on the 1816 map possibly be still present on the property to-day.

## LOOKING BACKWARDS

GLEANINGS FROM OUR FILES OF BYGONE YEARS

## 20 YEARS AGO

May 25th, 1940

A meeting of the executive of the Toronto Chapter of the Albert College (Belleville) Alumni was held at the home of the president, Mrs. A. F. Phillips. Rev. Principal Bert Hoard outlined at length the splendid growth of the college during the last few years, and assured members that the confidence placed in the faculty of Albert College ranks second to none in the estimation of the faculty of Queen's University, Kingston, with which seat of learning Albert is affiliated. The College is named for the late Prince Consort Albert, husband of Queen Victoria. At the convocation on June 13th, a large painting of Prince Albert, a gift of His Majesty the King, will be hung in the college chapel.

What was said to be a medium-sized bear was seen browsing in the garden of a family named Riley, on the Frankford Road near Wallbridge this week, according to reports from that district. Apparently Bruin had wandered far from his natural habitat, but his new environment appeared to have little effect on him. After sniffing about the garden, the amiable bear ambled off into a nearby thicket and was lost from sight.

Mr. James E. Wallbridge, K.C., of Edmonton, Alta., is spending a short time in town visiting relatives and is the guest of his sister, Miss Amy Wallbridge.

Mr. and Mrs. F. D. Scripture were weekend guests of Mr. and Mrs. Earl Boyd in Ottawa.

## 30 YEARS AGO

May 25th, 1930

**A Long Hike** — As an indication of the strength and endurance of the pioneers of this district, a story about a citizen, Alex. O. Petrie, which is still related by the oldest inhabitants, is interesting. Mr. Petrie had some business to transact in Kingston, which was then the headquarters for military, mercantile and legal business for a considerable area. Transportation in those days was primitive, and bumping over corduroy roads in springless stages or pioneer carts was not a pleasant experience. Boat service, more or less uncertain, was maintained but the speed of the packets was extremely limited according to present day standards, depending a good deal on the quality of cordwood available for fuel to produce steam. Mr. Petrie determined to travel to Kingston by packet, but when he reached the water front, he found that the packet had already cast off and was straightened away for the voyage to the Limestone City. Notwithstanding his urgent signals and the prospect of another passenger, the captain refused to

return and the boat continued her voyage. Mr. Petrie had made up his mind to go to Kingston, and as his legs were strong and his wind good, he proceeded to walk the distance; the result was that he arrived in Kingston in time to welcome the boat upon its arrival. Of course, in those days steamers were rather slow, but it was a notable achievement just the same.

## 40 YEARS AGO

May 25th, 1920

The following from this district will receive the degree of M.D., C.M., at Queen's University: Austin Walters and J. Cummins of this city; William Bowers of Sulphide; Carl Halg of Tweed and Scott Elliott of Hungerford township.

Money placed in milk bottles at homes on the west hill is being stolen. Something should be done to stop this.

Touring motorists are beginning to arrive at the local tourist camp.

Mr. Allan Dempsey, son of Mr. and Mrs. W. C. Dempsey of Ameliasburg, has graduated at the Ontario Agricultural College, Guelph, Ont.

Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Shortt left today to motor to Detroit, Mich., where Mr. Shortt will attend a convention of YMCA executives.

## 50 YEARS AGO

May 25th, 1910

The schooner Freeman has cleared for Oswego to load coal for Capt. N. Allen of this city.

Mrs. S. M. Gilbert of the 2nd concession of Thurlow township has left to visit her nephew, the Rev. N. Gilbert at Dalrymple.

Mr. and Mrs. N. A. Bonisteel are visiting their son, Dr. Bonisteel, in Ingersoll.

Mrs. S. Carr of Toronto is visiting friends and relatives in the city.

Mrs. Stephen Eustace has returned home after spending some time in New York City.

Miss Stella Eustace is home from Toronto on a visit.

The schooner Mazie, with Capt. Matthews in command, has cleared for Oswego.



# CHRONICLE & GAZETTE.

KINGSTON, SATURDAY, AUGUST 10, 1855.

The Assizes for the Midland District closed in this town on Tuesday morning, after being held for seven days. We copy from the Herald a list of those who received the sentence of the court, on Monday evening:

*Jeremiah McCarthy*, for enticing a soldier to desert, 6 months imprisonment.

*Alex. O. Petrie*, convicted of robbery—sentence of death recorded.

*Edward Glina*, convicted of Grand Larceny—three months imprisonment.

*Henry Elson*, the same crime—fined five pounds, and three months imprisonment.

*John Holden*, the same crime—banished for seven years, to leave the province within four days.

*Sylvanus Hussey*, colored man, for stealing an ox—seven years banishment.

*William Whitehead* Grand Larceny—fined forty shillings and two months imprisonment.

*John Kennedy*, obtaining goods under false pretences—four months imprisonment.

*Hugh Graham*, the same crime—four months imprisonment.

It will be seen that the only case punishable with death is that of Alexander O. Petrie. There are many circumstances in this case which should be considered in extenuation of the crime of Petrie. He had always borne up to the time of his arrest, the character of a man of integrity and upright and honorable feelings, and been so esteemed by his neighbours. The offence for which he stood indicted was undoubtedly committed under the influence of strong excitement, but with no intention to murder—it was the result of passion, and not of deliberation. These being the circumstances in the instance of Petrie, they are powerful reasons to move the Executive clemency, which will no doubt be shown in his favour.

Obliged to be absent ourselves from the Assizes, we have been kindly furnished with the following report of his trial.

ALEXANDER O. PETRIE was indicted for Highway Robbery.

*Parker*—The first witness, stated, that a short time ago, he had occasion to cross from Ameliasburgh to Belleville. A dispute arose between Petrie and another person (Hennessey) as to who should carry him. Hennessey's boat was larger than that of Petrie, and as the wind was high, witness determined to cross with Hennessey, and accordingly did so. A few days afterwards witness was crossing the bridge at Belleville; Petrie passed him, and after passing, turned round, and threw a paper at the feet of witness; witness halted, and Petrie then approached him, and presented a pistol at him, and demanded three dollars. The pistol was cocked, and presented to the breast of witness, at a distance of not more than four feet from him. Petrie then said to witness, "you damned villain, it is not your money that I care for." Witness was frightened, and said he would pay him the money, and did so. Witness then asked Petrie if he would give him a receipt for the money, which he agreed to do, and they went into a tavern together, and Petrie gave him a receipt.

*Cross-examined*—Petrie told witness he had a lease of the ferry, offered to take the lease. Witness felt more safe in Hennessey's boat; paid Hennessey; does not recollect that Petrie forbid witness to go with Hennessey, but told him he must pay him, whenever he went with. Petrie had sent witness a challenge a day or two before, by a young man named McKenzie, whom he accompanied himself, and said, "this is my friend."

To a question by King's Counsel, witness said he would not have paid the money, unless under fear of death; he did not consider it a just debt.

*Re-examined* by Counsel for Prisoner—Does not know whether the pistol was loaded or not, or whether it had a flint.

*Richard D'vid sworn*—was crossing the bridge on the 14th, saw Petrie meet the first witness, Parker; saw him take out a pistol, and cock it; and saw Parker take out his pocket book, and give him money; they then went to a tavern; a little afterwards witness went in also; saw the pistol again; could not tell whether it was loaded.

*Cross-examined*—A number of persons were present; Petrie appeared to be in a great rage; could not tell whether he intended any injury to the man; could not say that he thought Petrie would have murdered the money, if he had not considered himself entitled to it.

*John Conklin sworn*—Petrie said to Parker when he met him upon the bridge, pay me or I will kill you on the spot; whether he mentioned the sum or not, witness does not know; Parker took out money and gave him.

*Cross-examined*—Did not at the time know what it was concerning.

*Royal Moore sworn*—Witness met Petrie after the affair on the bridge, who said to witness, "Well, I have got my pay, but it was at the mouth of the pistol." saw witness afterwards discharge the pistol.

*Henry Baldwin* is called as to the character of prisoner—States that he knows nothing to the prejudice of his general character, but when tipsy he is a little rough.

His Lords up before summing up the evidence, made some remarks upon the nature of the offence committed.

The prisoner stands indicted of a capital felony. You are, no doubt, aware that larceny of itself is no longer capital; but when attended with circumstances of aggravation, it then becomes felony even as the law now stands. The learned Judge instanced several cases of this description—taking money from a person violently, putting him in bodily fear, as in the present case: the breaking a house with a design to commit theft, &c. The question here, will be, therefore, whether the prisoner took the money, as it is charged against him, from the prosecutor violently, putting him in bodily fear, and feloniously. If so, it will be your duty to find him guilty, but if you find that the case wants any of these particulars, it will be your duty to acquit him. In order to establish the case, it is requisite to show that the property was taken completely out of the possession, and against the will of the prosecutor, and feloniously. In the present case, I apprehend there can be no kind of doubt that the prisoner did take the money, the only question that remains, is, whether he took it feloniously—*Jurors* *sworn*. I conceive that at present you will confine your attention entirely to the question, whether the taking was a violent trespass, or a felonious act. It is evident, I think, that the prisoner did not attempt to commit a robbery in the common acceptance of the term. The prisoner having a lease of the ferry, at Belleville, considered himself entitled to the amount of ferriage, although the prosecutor, it appears, crossed with another person, with whom Petrie had had some altercation about the carrying of the prosecutor. But the prisoner had no right to redress himself by violence, his remedy was by an action at law.

His Lordship repeated to the Jury the substance of the testimony, and the Jury having retired for a few hours, returned into court with a verdict of *Guilty*.

There were several civil cases of a good deal of importance tried, the details of which are already known to the most of our readers. The criminal calendar, as we have before said, exhibited an amount of crime, quite small in proportion to the population of the District, and very creditable to its inhabitants.

Historic Hastings by Gerald E. Boyce  
Pages 72 + 73

One of the most unusual stories about early travel concerns the ferry between Belleville and Ameliasburgh Township. This ferry had begun operation when Belleville was still known as Meyers' Creek, and the importance of this service led to its operator, David Hennesey, being exempted from military service in the War of 1812. After Hennesey's death his widow kept the ferry for several years. Then in 1832, Alexander Oliphant Petrie of Belleville was awarded a seven year licence to operate a ferry for a £15. 12s. 9d annual rent. Unfortunately business was poor, since others operated rival services.

Matters came to a head in the summer of 1833 when the agent of an American circus company approached Petrie to take the circus, including "wild beasts and stage dancers", from the Prince Edward County shore to Belleville. A price of fifteen shillings was agreed upon. For three consecutive days Petrie crossed to Ameliasburgh where he awaited the arrival of the troop from its engagement at Hallowell (Picton). When the company finally arrived, it hired the larger Hennesey boat to cross to Belleville.

Petrie was infuriated. He sent a challenge to the circus agent and two days later accosted him, presented a loaded pistol to his breast, and demanded three dollars at the peril of his life. The agent paid the money and demanded a receipt, which Petrie gave. Amazingly, this transaction took place in daylight in front of several witnesses on Belleville's lower bridge.

Petrie was then arrested, charged with armed robbery and lodged in Kingston gaol. At his trial in August, he pleaded that the money demanded was simply the contract price to which he was legally entitled as the licensed operator of the ferry. After lengthy deliberation, the jury found him guilty and on the morning of August 6, the sentence of death was rendered by Justice J. B. Macaulay. That same afternoon, Justice Macaulay wrote to the government recommending the case as a proper one for royal clemency. Petrie's cause was also taken up by the Kingston press and the citizens of Belleville. He was described as a "man of integrity and upright and honourable feelings" and Reverend Thomas Campbell wrote that Petrie would rather "submit to Martyrdom in its most excruciating form than do an act that he considered dishonourable or mean". The government pardoned Petrie.

Released from custody, Petrie returned to the ferry service, but some of the people who had testified to his honesty and reliability now began to find fault with his service. Henry W. Yager criticized Petrie's lack of faithfulness and announced that he was prepared to fit out a boat powered by two horses to offer improved service. Augustus Bennett complained of the "great inconvenience sustained by the public" because of inefficient ferry service and proposed to use horse power and later steam power. It was insinuated that Petrie might know something about rival ferry boats having been "broken in someway unknown". Despite these charges and insinuations by Petrie's jealous commercial rivals, the local citizens generally continued to regard him highly and in 1841 he served as president or mayor of the village of Belleville.

The Intelligencer Volume 36.  
Belleville County of Hastings, Ontario.  
Friday Morning, October 21, 1870

### Obituary

The remains of Alexander Eliphant Petrie, the oldest inhabitant of those not born in Belleville, were deposited in their last resting in the Graveyard of the Church of England, on Sunday October 16. The funeral cortage numbered over 1000 persons. The deceased in addition to being <sup>one of</sup> the oldest residents of the town, was a man universally respected for a long life of steady adherence to principle, and inflexible integrity; and though austere in his ways, had a warm heart which was always open to the call of charity, his hand was ever ready and his purse always open to assist a fellow creature. He was born in the city of St. Andrew, Fifeshire, Scotland, May 10<sup>th</sup> 1787, from which city his parents removed soon after to Bannewstone, where the subject of our notice received his education at a Grammar School. At the age of 17, he went to Dundee, in which place he served for a long time, as a clerk in the Customs Department under his uncle, Capt. Eliphant, who was at that time Collector of Customs for that port. His uncle died in 1807 and deceased went to London, where he remained nearly a year, and then returned to Dundee. He served some time in the volunteer force, doing duty at Stirling Castle when the country was threatened with invasion by the French. In 1808, he emigrated to America and spent the winter of 1808 and 1809 at Lewiston on the Niagara frontier and in May 1809 pitched his tent on Myer's Creek (the Mavora) where Belleville now stands; where he lived until a short time previous to the declaration of war by the United States; having accepted a situation in the Commissariat Department he proceeded to Kingston to enter upon his duties. War having been declared, he again became a volunteer and accompanied the expedition that made an attack on Shackett's Harbour. There being no wharves at the time, the British Force had to wade their boats to the shore, deceased carrying Capt. Grey on his shoulder who shortly after met a soldier's death, while bravely leading his men. Deceased was

also on board the "Royal George" when Kingston was attacked by the American fleet. Soon after the war he built and sailed the schooner "General Brock". At that time, goods had to be landed in Toronto by means of scows, there being no wharves. After following the water for a short time, he sold the "Brock" and settled in Belleville where he continued to live until he died. He made several visits to his native land, but found so few of his old friends alive at the time of his last visit in 1850 that he felt himself a stranger in his own country. Before taking a final leave of Scotland, he visited the battlefield of Bannockburn and so great was his love of country, that he brought with him to Canada, a small bag of earth which he requested should be placed under his head, together with a piece of black cloth which he cut from the pall that covered the coffin of Sir Isaac Brock when buried.

This request was religiously performed and Alexander O. Pettie now rests with his head upon Scottish earth, and a piece of the cloth which covered the remains of a soldier he loved and revered, forming part of the bag which holds the earth. In 1852 he met with a serious accident while in the act of saving property during a flood, from which he never recovered and from which he suffered much. This injury hastened his end, and he died on the 14th October last, in the dwelling which he had occupied for over half a century. His beaver and pall beavers were some of the oldest residents in the County, one of whom was a comrade at the battle of Sackett's Harbour and another who knew him in Dundee 70 years ago.

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yet arrived."

**an opportunity of redeeming their promise.**  
The country from Kingston to Phillip  
Luke's, in the valley of Rawdon Creek, and  
from thence to intersect the Grand Junction  
line at Chisholm's Rapids, offers facilities  
for Railway building that are rarely met  
with, and if such a Railway were built, which  
in all probability will take place if this By  
law is defeated in Belleville, let us ask our-  
selves what would happen to Belleville?  
Com

**Visit to a Canadian Vineyard.**  
While in attendance at the late Provincial  
Fair, we received an invitation to visit the  
vineyard of Mr. Solomon White, of Cooks-  
ville. Taking the Great Western cars, we  
soon reached Port Credit Station, where we  
were met by Mr. White's carriage, and a  
couple of miles drive took us to Cooksville.  
It was dusk when we arrived there, and we  
did not attempt to see the garden until  
morning. "Bright and early" we were up  
and out to the grounds where the grapes  
are raised. It was a most interesting sight.  
The grape cultivated for wine purposes is  
the 'Clinton,' which the grape principally  
raised, though there were large quantities  
of Isabella and Catawba for table use. Mr.  
White has about twenty acres of vines, and  
the yield this year has been wonderful for  
Canada. In 1869 the vineyard yielded 12  
tons of first class grapes; in 1870 he esti-  
mates the yield at not less than 20 tons  
besides a large quantity not considered first  
class. From this Mr. White expects to  
make not less than 20,000 gallons of wine.  
He informed us that had he the means, he  
has grapes enough for 50,000 gallons. The  
vines are trained up lattice work fastened  
to upright posts and then to lattice work  
overhead in form of an arbour. On the top  
could be seen the green leaves covering the  
trellis work all over, while underneath  
hang the large luscious bunches of grapes.  
It was more like a lary view than anything  
we had seen before, and the mouth watered  
literally. There was no occasion to say  
'sour grapes' for we could reach them  
and no one to stay our hands.

After breakfast we took a look into the  
cellars. There are three cellars, fitted up  
on the most improved plan, in which are  
stored between 13,000 and 14,000 gallons of  
wine of the vintage of 1866 up to '69, pro-  
nounced by competent judges to be equal  
to the best French wines. In 1867, at the  
Universal Exhibition at Paris, a bronze  
medal was awarded to these wines.

Mr. White has two brands of wine that  
he recommends, the Ontario red, and the  
Niagara white. These brands are purchas-  
ed largely in Toronto and Montreal, and  
Judge Day, who was a visitor at the same  
time at Mr. White's, states them equal, in  
every respect, to the best French wines of  
the same age.

President Jefferson said, "no nation is  
sober when ardent spirits are the common  
beverage, no nation is drunken when wine  
is the beverage." If this is true, how  
desirable to replace the ardent spirits by  
the pure wine. We are not going to argue  
the matter in connection with wine drink-  
ing as a beverage, but for medical pur-  
poses, how desirable to have the real wine in  
place of the miserable logwood and whis-  
key sold under that name. We would call  
the attention of medical men and others  
interested to these wines, believing them  
well worthy of a trial.—Com.

full. Verdict for full costs. The Judge gave  
a certificate for full costs. This case lasted  
all day Saturday, and was a very difficult one  
for a jury to decide, the evidence being very  
conflicting. A. R. Dougall for Piff; Allison  
Attorney, L. Wallbridge, Q. C., for Deit.

Michael Downs, James Mollins, and Henry  
Seeley, committed for want of sureties to keep  
the peace, was discharged on their own re-  
cognizance.  
Court rose about 10 o'clock Saturday night.

**OBITUARY.**

The remains of ALEXANDER OLIPHANT  
PETRIE, the oldest inhabitant of those now  
born in Belleville, were deposited in their  
last resting place in the Graveyard of the  
Church of England, on Sunday Oct 16th.  
The funeral cortage numbered over one  
thousand persons. The deceased in addi-  
tion to being one of the oldest residents of  
the Town, was a man universally respected  
for a long life of steady adherence to princi-  
ple, and inflexible integrity; and though  
auster in his ways, had a warm heart  
which was always open to the call of  
charity, his hand was ever ready, and his  
purse always open to assist a fellow-crea-  
ture. He was born in the city of St.  
Andrew, Fifeshire, Scotland, May the 10th,  
1757, from which city his parents removed  
soon after to Barrowstone, where the subject  
of our notice received his education, at a  
Grammar School. At the age of 17  
he went to Dundee, in which place he  
remained for a long time, as a clerk in the  
Customs Department, under his uncle,  
Capt. Oliphant, who was at the time Col-  
lector of Customs for that port. His uncle  
died in 1807, and deceased went to Lon-  
don, where he remained nearly a year, and  
then returned to Dundee. He served some-  
time in the volunteer force, along duty at  
Stirling Castle, when the country was  
threatened with an invasion by the French.  
In 1808 he emigrated to America and spent  
the winter of 1808 and 9 at Lewiston, on  
the Niagara frontier, and in May, 1809  
pitched his tent on Meyer's Creek, (the  
Mour) where Belleville now stands, where  
he lived until a short time previous to the  
declaration of war by the United States,  
having accepted a situation in the Com-  
missariat Department he proceeded to King-  
ston to enter upon his duties. War having  
been declared he again became a volun-  
teer, and accompanied the expedition  
that made an attack upon Sackett's Har-  
bour. There being no wharves at the time,  
the British forces had to wade from their  
boats to the shore, deceased carrying Capt.  
Grey on his shoulders, who shortly  
after met a soldier's death, while bravely  
leading his men. Deceased was also on  
board the "Royal George" when Kingston  
was attacked by the American fleet. Soon  
after the war, he built, and sailed the  
schooner "General Brock." At that time  
goods had to be landed in Toronto by the  
means of scows, there being no wharves.  
After following the water for a short time  
he sold the "Brock," and settled in Bel-  
leville, where he continued to live until he  
died. He made several visits to his native  
land, but found so few of his old friends  
alive at the time of his last visit in 1859,  
that he felt himself a stranger in his own  
country. Before taking a final leave of  
Scotland, he visited the battle field of  
Bannockburn, and so great was his love  
of country, that he brought with him  
to Canada, a small bag of the earth which  
he requested should be placed under his  
head, together with a piece of black  
cloth which he cut from the pall that  
covered the coffin of Sir Isaac Brock, when  
buried. This request was religiously per-  
formed, and Alex. O. Petrie now rests with  
his head upon Scottish earth, and a piece  
of the cloth which covered the remains of  
a soldier he loved and revered forming part  
of the bag which holds that earth. In  
1852 he met with a serious accident, while  
in the act of saving property during a flood,  
from which he never recovered and from  
which he suffered much. This injury less-  
ened his end, and he died on the 14th  
October just, in the dwelling which he had  
occupied for over half a century. His  
hearsers and pall bearers were some of the  
oldest residents in the County, one of whom  
was a comrade at the battle of Sackett's  
Harbour, and another who knew him in  
Dundee 70 years ago.

**Destructive Hurricane--Many  
Lives Lost.**  
HAVANA, Oct. 16.  
On Friday night there was a severe hur-  
ricane in the bay. But slight damage was  
done however, to the vessels and to property  
in the city. Trees were prostrated, but no  
houses were destroyed.

**Priest Brettargh,** speaking of "muni-  
pal bodies," states I did not think at the time  
that I could hold out any hope as far as the  
Catholic children were concerned, and  
Reverence's reasons appear as we proceed  
quote: "The action of the County Council in  
the Marchmont grant, has proved the cause  
of my tears." From this it appears that  
expects nothing from our "municipal bodies,"  
and may explain with the following  
quotation his Reverence's meaning in  
saying: "the unchristian exclusion of Catho-  
lics from the grant is so glaring, they may  
as well have money nor children." Exclusion  
of Catholics from the grant, forsooth. Who  
and where did they ask for a grant of a par-  
ticular portion of the grant money?  
where is their Marchmont? where their  
immigrant children, that need the grant  
beho answer, where? It is one thing to  
complain before asking, another to complain  
after refusal, but it may be His Reverence  
thinks it the duty of the Council to give  
\$250 for the rent of Marchmont to also give  
equivalent to Roman Catholics unchristian  
as time enough to give when asked, and was  
informed of the object requiring aid, or  
to expect the County Council to adopt a  
course taken by the former government,  
made in the supply bill, giving immorally  
twenty-thirds of the money granted for  
charitable purposes to Roman Catholics,  
while Protestants furnished thirty-third  
fourths of the means. The County Council  
cannot do this. Let His Reverence state  
good reasons why it should be given, and it  
will not be defined an equivalent for the  
\$250, he not even from me. Equal rights  
and privileges is my motto.

**Priest Brettargh** states that for March-  
mont and the "body being" which prompted  
his "objection" had the most profound respect  
for the "body being" on that point. I am  
somewhat sceptical on that point. I do  
better understand the following: For the  
action of the County Council in its mode of  
voting the supplies, I have, I think, stated  
the most profound respect. For the  
reason I think His Reverence on that point  
I am not sceptical, however, the Council may  
act on the subject. His Reverence states  
reference to Marchmont, and its work, being  
an exclusively Protestant movement, that  
it is so narrow and bigoted that it was  
impossible to view it with any other  
eye. Has he forgot "Father Nugent" and  
the "True Witness" endorsement of his  
movement, has he forgotten what the "True  
Witness" says: "But as a Protestant and  
I see Miss Ige is not suited to take charge  
of Catholic children, and I think Brettargh  
himself admits our rights as to Protestant  
children as follows: "But seeing that the  
Protestants object, and I think Brettargh  
ought to know Protestant children are  
adopted and brought up by Catholics, it  
is only equitable plan to open to the  
Protestant party should receive their share of the  
allowance to make the best use of it, they are  
in their own cause." Here then is the  
whole matter, a money consideration,  
the Roman Catholic as an equivalent for  
part of Marchmont to be used, by whom  
they please in "their own cause." This  
is not so, "Priest Brettargh" does not know  
we have better object, before that, we  
must know the wants and requirements of  
the case of Marchmont before we  
give money, simply as an equivalent. Let  
me show the wants to be legitimate.

**Priest Brettargh** states in reference to  
a share of the Marchmont grant, that in  
consideration of which appears to give  
much trouble, that "the Council should  
decide." The Hon. Bill Fildes has  
been the Council? Now, Mr. Fildes, what  
over a more fool, a more arrogant, a  
bigoted and a more unchristian man  
respectable and intelligent man, as  
by a Priest professing to be a man of  
good of peace? Yes, with a few flimsy  
twenty three men elected by the people  
to manage the money and other affairs of  
the county. "The Hon. Bill Fildes" says  
and he is the Council? What a  
twenty two gentlemen of standing, in  
ability, to say nothing of massed "Sham"  
prosecute him for libel? No, let him  
what he is worth.

Allow me to state that I have in the  
past pursued this matter further than I could  
do by "Priest Brettargh" or any other  
able party. I feel I am not in a position  
to begin the warfare, I repeated my attack  
"Brettargh" entered the lists, and while  
maliguing the Council and myself I stated  
the subject. I have many very worthy  
valued friends among my Roman Catholic  
fellow subjects. I have no desire to  
them, I believe that we can do what is  
as possible throw waste money and  
have got to live together in the same  
city, and while we differ in our religious  
opinions, we may live on friendly terms with  
each other, but it is impossible to do this  
when as "Priest Brettargh" impugns the  
"Father the Council" or of an individual  
name costs the responsibility, and there I  
it shall rest.

Again I say, "Priest Brettargh" and I  
without His Reverence throwing in the  
of discord, because the rent given for  
of money was not divided pro rata according  
notions of justice. Let him remember  
letter, commences indignity, and that  
winds up most unchristianly, as well as  
ful.

**Fall Amuses.**  
WEDNESDAY, Oct. 11.  
GEORGE TAYLOR AND WILLIAM J. TAYLOR OF  
THE GRAMMAR SCHOOL. Trustees—Action of  
Court. This is an important action, one in  
which not only the Trustees as a Corporation  
are concerned, but the town. Plaintiffs seek  
to recover possession of part of lot No. 5, 1st  
concession of Thurlow, now in Belleville, on  
part of which the Grammar School Building  
stands. Plaintiffs allege the survey made by the  
boundary line commissioners, subsequent to  
the original survey laying out Thurlow and  
Belleville, changed the western boundary of  
lot No. 5. Surveyor Wright laid out the Town  
of Belleville in 1815 or 1816. Original survey was  
made by either Notte or Anklus. J. M. Benson  
made a survey in 1840.

After examining a number of witnesses and  
putting in papers, the question turned on a  
lease made in 1854 for ten years at \$10 a year  
between Plaintiffs and the Joint Board of Gram-  
mar and Common School Trustees, on which  
the Joint Board had paid rent to the Plaintiffs.  
The Judge thought the lease worked an estopel,  
and directed a verdict for the Plaintiff, subject  
to the opinion of the Court above. The Judge  
taking this view of the case, prevented the de-  
fendants going fully into their defence, and  
contradicting the survey of the boundary line  
commissioners. Jellett & Dickson for Plaintiff  
Diamond, Dougall & Henderson for Deit.

**Clear vs Bronson et al.**—The important case  
of Clear vs Bronson et al was settled between  
the parties. It was action on the case brought  
by James Clear of Faraday against the firm of  
Bronson, Weston & Co. of Ottawa, for the loss  
of the dam and slide of the Plaintiff across the  
York River, through the negligence of the lun-  
bermen employed by the Defendants in clearing  
the river.

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**13th October.**  
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1st C Kirk;  
cheson. Cheese,  
Bristol. 10 lbs

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## Footnotes

- 1) Hastings County Historical Society file <sup>#2482</sup> - Corby Library  
"the father of Allen Petrie had a grist mill at the harbour which still stands just over the tracks on south Front St."
- 2) Personal Census - Sampson Ward - 1861 reel #103  
Box C 1032 - Corby Library microfilm.
- 3) Lovell's Province of Ontario Directory - 1871
- 4) 1884 - Assessment Roll - Foster Ward - City Hall.  
John Leigh - miller
- 5) 1909 - City Directory
- 6) 1913 - 1980 City Directories
- 7) Caniff - Settlement of Upper Canada p498
- 8) Personal Census - Sampson Ward - Belleville 1861  
Canada West - Corby Library microfilm
- 9) Plan of a Town Plot at the Mouth of the River Moira  
Deputy Surveyor, Samuel G. Wilmot, April 24, 1816
- 10) Caniff - Settlement of Upper Canada p553  
an account given by A.O. Petrie of activities
- 11) Mikel, W.C. - City of Belleville History  
List of officers from Myer's Creek + vicinity p85
- 12) Reid - Marriage Notices of Ontario, Kingston Gazette

Foot notes (continued)

- 13) Kingston Gazette - May 17, May 31, June 12, 1817  
Kingston Library
- 14) Boyce, Gerald - Historic Hastings p72
- 15) Kingston Chronicle + Gazette Saturday Aug 10, 1833
- 16) Boyce, Gerald - Historic Hastings p72
- 17) Hastings County Historical Society file # 2482  
clipping from Ontario Intelligencer May 25, 1940
- 18) Mikel, W.C. - City of Belleville History p27, p28, p30
- 19) Directory of Belleville 1860-61
- 20) Hastings County Historical Society file  
Corby Library., Daily Intelligencer, Oct 14, 1870
- 21) Hastings County Historical Society file # P2482  
Corby Library
- 22) Mikel W.C. - City of Belleville History p33
- 23) The Intelligencer, Friday Morning, October 21, 1870  
Intelligencer microfilm, July 1, 1870 - Apr 25, 1873