



# The CABHC Patch

## *News from the Community Archives*

March 2017

### A significant new accession



Volunteers unpacking the Parker materials

It has been a little like Christmas here in the Community Archives over the last week, as we have been busy sorting through a large shipment of records received from the family of Sir Gilbert Parker.

The Parkers moved to Frankford in the 1870s, where Gilbert got his first job in Ruliff Grass's general store. He went on to become a schoolteacher, teaching at Marsh Hill and Bayside schools, and then at the Ontario Institute for the Deaf and Dumb (now the Sir James Whitney School for the Deaf).

Parker left the field of education to enter the church, but left the Bay of Quinte in 1886 for a round-the-world tour, which included a stint as a journalist at the *Sydney Morning Herald* in Australia. He settled in London, England, where he became a successful writer of fiction, with Canada as his main subject. He published several novels, some of which were turned into plays and silent movies.



In 1900, Parker was elected as MP for Gravesend in Kent, a position he held for 18 years. He was knighted in 1901 by Edward VII, and became a baronet in 1915, in recognition of his role in distributing pro-war propaganda to the American people. Parker died in London in 1932 and his body was sent home to Belleville to be buried. His personal records, however, remained in London for many years, until his neice, Kathleen, shipped them to California. Her son has now transferred the containers to the Community Archives, all 15 trunks and boxes, with a total weight of 650lbs!

The boxes contained personal and political scrapbooks, literary manuscripts and financial papers. We will be spending the next few weeks processing these materials and adding them to our online catalogue at <http://discover.cabhc.ca/>.

## Recent Additions to the Archives

2017-15 City of Belleville Council Minutes, 2016

2017-16 Survey plans of Victoria Park area, Belleville, 1954-2005

2017-17 Thompson-Prindle family history, 2016

2017-18 Various Tweedsmuir histories from Hastings County Women's Institutes, 1964-2000

2017-19 Postcard of English Church (St. Mark's), Deseronto, c. 1905

2017-20 Research materials for book on Dr. Oronhyatekha, 2012-2016

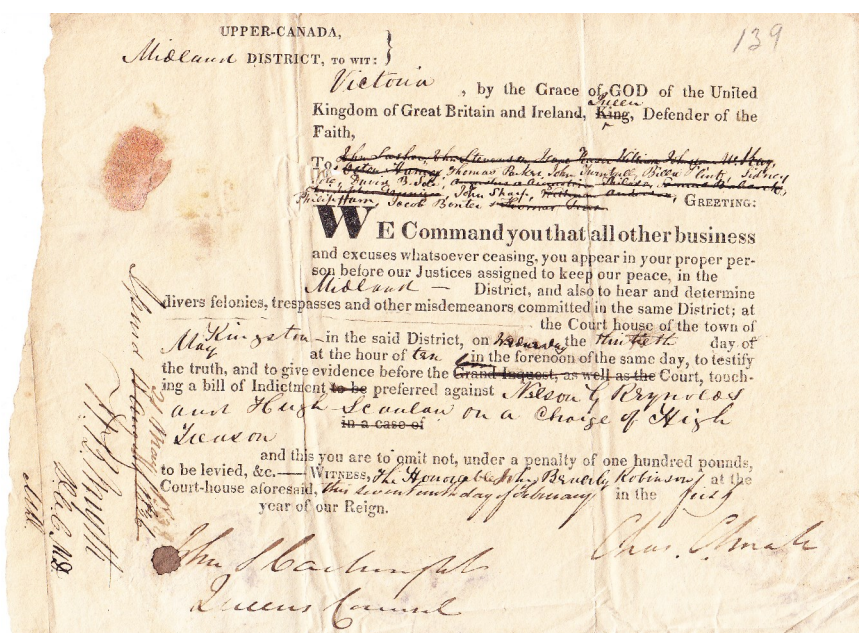
2017-21 Photos of Wayne Foley, Deseronto constable, 1965-1967

2017-22 Various Women's Institute records, 1910-2002

2017-23 Sir Gilbert Parker papers, 1898-1932

## What's in the Display Case?

2017 marks the 180th anniversary of the armed rebellions in 1837 in Upper and Lower Canada. This month, volunteer Trevor Parsons has filled the display case with a selection of local materials relating to the Rebellion, those who suppressed it, and those suspected of taking part.



CABHC: HCHS TR 2003 Subpoena to Billa Flint and others to give evidence against Nelson Reynolds and Hugh Scanlan on a charge of High Treason in Kingston on 17th February 1838

## An unusual find in the Parker papers



One of the tin chests containing the Sir Gilbert Parker papers had a small surprise at the bottom of the box: a set of wooden pieces, and a wooden frame into which they looked likely to fit.

Without a picture to go on, the puzzle was a little challenging, but volunteer Lorna Garbutt completed the task, revealing one of Parker's election posters.

