



Outlook

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Loyalists Light a Hotbed of Methodism

Presentation to the Hastings County Historical Society by Orland French

Belleville once upon a time was a hotbed of Methodism. A hundred and thirteen years ago, the clergy of the town conducted a census of religious adherents to see who was winning the sermon wars.

It turned out to be the Methodists. In 1905 there were 3,636 Methodists in Belleville. Runners-up were the Presbyterians (1,844), Church of England (Anglican, 1,777) and Roman Catholic, 1,717. After that the list dropped off sharply through Reform Episcopal, Salvation Army, Christian Scientist, Quakers and so on.

Past president Orland French, a writer and journalist, spoke to the Society on September 18 on the history of Methodism in the Quinte area. He traced the Methodist movement's growth back to the establishment of the Old Hay Bay Church near Adolphustown in 1792 and the White Chapel north of Picton 17 years later. (Actually he traced the origins of Methodism back to the brothers John and Charles Wesley in the early 1700s, but that's another story.)

"Methodism was introduced to Canada through the immigration of the Loyalists," he said. Loyalists who fled to British Upper Canada from the revolutionaries in the United States longed for the spiritual guidance of their church, the Methodist Episcopal Church. Transient ministers known as "circuit riders" rode from settlement to settlement to minister to displaced Americans. One of these, William Losee, recommended to the settlers at Adolphustown that they build a specific church building, rather than trying to meet in people's cabins.

Although the famous, or infamous, "clergy reserves" established by British survey crews were plentiful, they were reserved for clergy wearing the Church of England cloth. Other churches were discouraged; the land under Old Hay Bay Church was obtained from Paul Huff but not registered on a deed until many

years later. When the Methodist congregation abandoned the Old Hay Bay Church about 1860, the building was sold to a farmer and used as a granary and storage shed for half a century. The Methodists bought it back for its heritage value in 1910, and reopened it for occasional services in 1912. With church union in 1925, the Methodist Church was folded in with Presbyterians and Congregationalists to form the United Church of Canada.

Old Hay Bay Church was designated a National Historical Site in 1999.

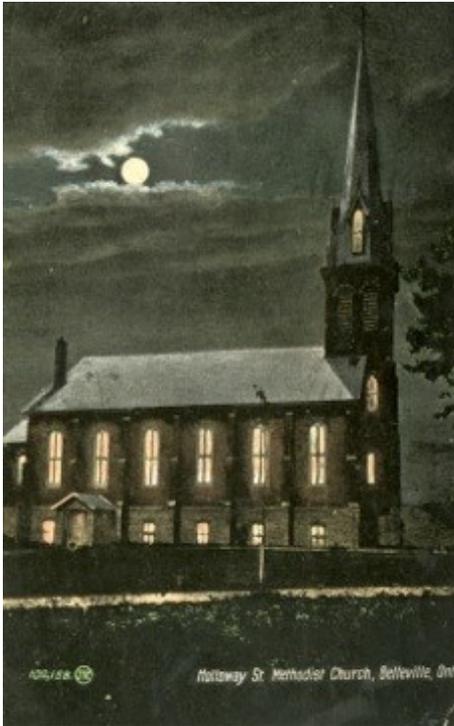
Because of the extensive presence of Loyalists in the Quinte area, Methodism established strong and deep roots in the area. With church union in 1925, Belleville was blessed with a richness of United Churches. This happened in most towns and cities; as a result the United Church seemed to have as many franchises as Tim Hortons has today. Frequently United Churches stood one or two blocks apart.



Tabernacle Methodist Church on hill. Note railway tracks near Pinnacle and old water tower behind church.

“This was ironic since the purpose of church union was to save money by closing a number of redundant church buildings and amalgamating congregations. As it turned out, it was usually the other congregation that was judged redundant and nobody wanted to give up their church. So even today we have church congregations struggling financially to maintain mouldering piles of brick that were intended to be closed nearly a hundred years ago,” French said.

There was Bridge Street Methodist, Holloway Street Primitive Methodist Church and Tabernacle Methodist Church, all within a few blocks of each other. The Presbyterians of St. Andrews opted not to join the union while those on John Street, only a couple blocks away, did. This apparently led to a scurrying of parishioners exchanging pews and even clergy exchanging pulpits, French noted.



Holloway Street Primitive Methodist Church at night

One of the most prominent Methodists in Belleville was Mackenzie Bowell, who was prime minister of Canada 1894–1896. His family settled in Belleville in 1832 and Bowell was registered in the Bridge Street Methodist Sunday School in the same year. An article from the time of his prime ministership said “the religious impressions there, (that is, at Bridge Street Methodist) may have done much for honesty and straightforwardness which even political opponents admit are his.” It may have helped that in 1847 he married “a godly woman,” Miss Harriet Louisa Moore.

Today, various strains of the Methodist philosophy are still obtainable at churches such as the Centennial Free Methodist on Avondale Road or the Wesleyan Methodist Church on Everett Street.

French wound up his talk with a note that Old Hay Bay Church is raising \$300,000 to restore the church and the custodians’ cottage, and that all donations are gratefully received.

Double Murder at Lattimer’s Part Two

By Lois Foster

Last month in Part One, we learned that Arthur Moon was accused of killing two young men, Clayton McWilliams, a clerk at Lattimer’s Drug Store and John McGie, a friend of McWilliams visiting him in the dispensary. It was decided that separate trials would be held for the two April 6, 1925 murders. The main witnesses had been employee Eva Cousins working behind the ice cream counter, and customers Irene Woodley and Isobel Morris.

The *Daily Ontario*, starting on March 8, 1926, carried the McGie murder headlines and stories for four days on the front page. The three young women were the main witnesses. Hugh John McDonald, defence lawyer for Moon, led him through his sad family life: married in 1912; two children; off to war in 1915 for two and one-half years of active service. He was bombed and crushed with stone. The jury’s verdict was manslaughter, but the judge added just one word that sealed Moon’s doom. “Life” for manslaughter.

The March 17, 1926, *Daily Ontario* reported: “Moon Taken to Kingston Penitentiary – Took a Last Look at the Jail’s Grey Walls. The Turnkey, Robert Colling said, ‘Art – be a good boy.’ Moon smiled and said ‘Good-bye, Bob.’ ” A taxi took them to the train, and he was taken into the smoker of the first-class car.

On November 2, 1926, newspaper headlines again were on the front page about the Moon case. From the *Daily Ontario*: “Arthur Moon, lifer at pen, arrived in Belleville last night. He told of excellent treatment he received there. He had been in the tailor department since he went down last April to start his term for life in the manslaughter of John McGie.”

This second trial was for the murder of Clayton McWilliams with all the same witnesses. Hugh John McDonald, lawyer for the defence, asked the jury to consider the mental attitude of Moon on the night in

question and the circumstances of the accused's home life for years. His wife had been seeing Clayton McWilliams, and no warnings from Moon would stop them. The lawyer asked the jury to look at Moon's war service for two and one-half years. "It almost leads one to believe that the soldiers that returned were not the same as when they went away. The crown could have tried the two charges in the one indictment if they so desired, but they saw fit to make two separate charges, although the two murders happened at the one instance. Eight months ago in this courtroom the case was fought for four days and the accused was sentenced to Kingston Penitentiary for life on the charge of manslaughter and now the crown has ordered this man to go through the same ordeal again and have his life again jeopardized." In conclusion, Mr. McDonald argued that a verdict of manslaughter would be in keeping with the evidence.

On November 8, 1926, the jury returned a verdict of life for manslaughter of Clayton McWilliams.

According to retired fireman Stanley Pomeroy, who told Lois Foster when he was about 90 years of age, Arthur Moon got 25 years. He did 12, then moved to Winnipeg. His military records indicate he died on November 11, 1946. No death notice appeared in the Belleville newspaper.



Pioneer Cemetery Comes Back to Life

If you were asked the following two questions, what would be your response? Do you know where Stanley Street is? Do you know what that well-groomed four-acre site, enclosed by a chain-link fence on Stanley Street was used for?

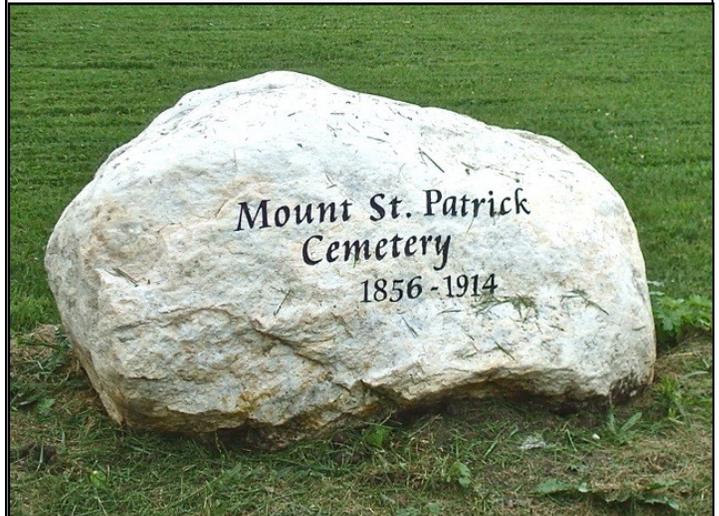
Few people today know that this is the site of Mount St. Patrick Cemetery, the final resting place of over 1000 persons from 1856 to 1914. Over the last 100 years the forest of tombstones that would have stood there have disappeared, and today the apparently empty site is maintained by the St. James Cemetery Board, kept neat and protected, out of respect for those who lie beneath the expanse of lawn.

Historically, the first Catholic cemetery was attached to St. Michael's Church and used from the 1820s until 1856. With that cemetery full, land was purchased on Stanley Street and it served for almost 60 years until it, too, was filled. In 1904, land was purchased

adjacent to the Belleville Cemetery and named St. James Cemetery. Both the old and the new cemeteries were used from 1904 to 1914.

Over the next decades the Mount St. Patrick Cemetery fell into disrepair as brush grew up and stones were damaged. In the 1930s and again in the 1970s efforts were made to clean up the cemetery, remove the brush and the broken stones. For several years the old cemetery, devoid of stones or other markers, has been cared for by the St. James Cemetery Board, enclosed by a sturdy chain-link fence and the lawns mown.

To ensure that current and future generations understand and appreciate that this land is the final resting place of so many of our ancestors, the Historical Society joined in partnership with the St. James Cemetery Board to install a massive quartz boulder inscribed with the name of the cemetery and its dates. The beautiful stone was donated by Parkside Landscaping. On September 16th, a rededication ceremony was held, led by Father John Hibbard, remembering those who lie in these sacred grounds, followed by the unveiling ceremony for the memorial boulder.



A Place Called Wallbridge

By Alexander D. McNaught

The village of Wallbridge is now a quiet little community in the centre of Sidney Township. However, in past times it was the seat of the Municipality of Sidney where councils made decisions for three townships and what is now the City of Belleville

when it was under the jurisdiction of Thurlow. Wallbridge holds the distinction of being home to Ontario's oldest municipal government and was designated a provincial historic site by the City of Quinte West in 2009.

It all began on May 15, 1790, when a group of pioneer settlers held a recorded town meeting to elect officials to manage the affairs of the Township of Sidney. The meeting was held because the government at Quebec, which had jurisdiction over Sidney until Upper Canada was established in 1791, was ignoring their requests for locally elected officials.

Due to its central location in the township, Wallbridge became the logical meeting place for the council and for the courts of session. Many of these early meetings were held in the school and in homes, stores and the inns of William K. Ketcheson and his extended family until the town hall was built in 1850–51. The councils meeting at Wallbridge made decisions that ranged from local issues such as setting the height of fences or the bounty on foxes to national concerns such as land expansion for CFB Trenton.

For over 150 years, from the late 1700s to the late 1900s, this remarkable little town thrived as the hub of Sidney Township. The productive soil attracted farmers, and their needs, in turn, attracted tradesmen and artisans such as blacksmiths, carpenters, wagon makers, a cabinetmaker, cobbler, cooper, seamstress, baker and others. Small industries grew up, including a bedspring factory and a farmer-cooperative cheese factory, all of which led to the need for general stores, schools and churches to serve the growing population. Both Sidney Township and Hastings County situated their road departments in Wallbridge due to its central location.



William James Topley photograph 2282, showing the Sidney Town Hall Cheese Factory on Nobes Road in Wallbridge. CABHC HC02511

However, by the 1970s, Wallbridge had lost all of its industries, the township hall had burned and was not rebuilt, two schools had closed, the last church burned along with the County's road shed, the general stores were gone as were the tradesmen. Also, the world champion cheese factory had been destroyed by fire. The old town hall site was neglected; all that remained was a large concrete vault and concrete steps in a plot of weeds. Signs of decline were everywhere.



Wallbridge: Celebrating Doors Open at the Old Sidney Townhall Park are (from left) Alex McNaught, Sheila Himburg and Peter McNaught.

Then, in the late 1900s a "return to the country lifestyle" came into vogue. Entrepreneurs capitalized on the strategic location of Wallbridge, so close to the City of Belleville with the opportunities for work, recreation, education, religious and social life while enjoying country living. Two housing subdivisions were built in the village and a ribbon of homes along the nearby roads. As a result, the community that was destined to become one more of Ontario's ghost towns was transformed into a desirable suburban/rural community of over 250 persons.

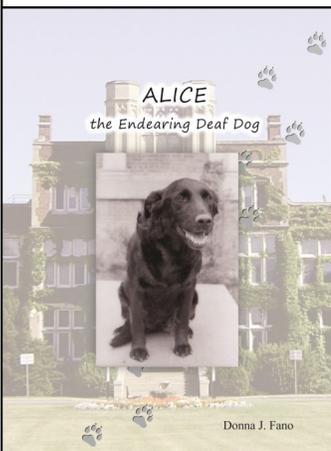
The captivating stories of the events, people, governments, schools, churches, businesses and prominent members of society have been captured in a book, *A Place Called Wallbridge* by local historian Alex McNaught. It is available at the Community Archives on the second floor of the Belleville Public Library building.



Book for Sale

Alice the Endearing Deaf Dog

Donna Fano, Historical Society newsletter editor and retired teacher at the Sir James Whitney School for the Deaf has written a warm and inspiring story about Alice, the deaf dog who shared the lives of students at the school in the 1970s.



Alice arrived at the Ontario School for the Deaf in 1972, a gift from Farley and Claire Mowat. This deaf dog lived with the students and understood sign language. She was a comforting pet to the students for seven years until her accidental death in 1979. But her legacy lives on through the collection of stories, photos and letters, including those sent by the Mowats in this

wonderful new book.

This heartwarming story, *Alice the Endearing Deaf Dog*, is available at the Community Archives and will also be available at the Historical Society's Public Presentations at Maranatha. 34 pages \$10.

On the Home Front Excerpts from *The Intelligencer* October to November 9, 1918

By *Laurel Bishop*

October 3, 1918: "The churches of the provinces are to be asked to co-operate in conserving the available coal supplies. The new Fuel Controller R. Home Smith, ... believes that two or three churches can arrange to hold their services in the one building, and that where union services are not favored the congregations can meet at different hours in the one building. So far the response from the churches has been uniformly encouraging."

October 3, 1918: "At 8.30 last night the advance party of the battalion which will be quartered in this city during the coming winter arrived here by C. N. R. and marched to the Armouries where sleeping quarters were provided for the men. ... This afternoon at 3.30 the remainder of the battalion arrived here with the exception of a party of 25 men who were left be-

hind to clean up camp."

October 7, 1918: "The campaign which will be waged from coast to coast in Canada for the raising of \$500,000,000 for Canada's Victory Loan, 1918 will take place from October 28th to November 16th. The organization in Belleville is being rapidly completed."

October 19, 1918: "There are now twenty-one cases of measles at the Children's Shelter among the thirty-four children quartered there. ... There are no serious cases and Captain Ruston would appreciate donations of fruit and other delicacies which will be appreciated by the children during the convalescent period."

October 26, 1918: "The Honor Flag will be the chief emblem in the Victory Loan Campaign. It is presented by His Excellency the Governor-General to all cities, towns and villages that attain their objectives, and is expected to be flown by them. It is very attractive and is sure to be sought after."

October 26, 1918: " 'Yours for Victory Loan 1918' is the Canadian letter writer's slogan in the Victory Loan campaign. Every one is asked to sign his or her letters in this way. ... It is an easy and yet most effective way of driving home the appeal for the Loan, and it will reach practically every one. Business men particularly are requested to adopt the idea."

October 26, 1918: "Much interest will centre during the Victory Loan Campaign on the Honor Flag. ... There is another honor emblem. The Honor Roll will be seen in all the large stores, offices and factories providing 75 per cent of the employees become subscribers. If 85 per cent buy bonds a sticker will be attached showing that to be the case, and so on up to 100 per cent. To those who purchase bonds an Honor Button will be given. It is about the same size as the buttons given with each purchase during the first Victory Loan a year ago and bears the inscription 'Subscriber, 1918 Victory Loan.' In the centre is the Honor Flag with its five bars and coat of arms."

October 30, 1918: "Subscriber Victory Loan 1918. This window card is given to every purchaser of a Victory Bond with the request that it be hung in the window at least for the duration of the campaign. ... Issued by Canada's Victory Loan Committee in co-operation with the Minister of Finance of the Dominion of Canada."

November 1, 1918: "The first establishment in Hastings County to claim the 100 per cent Honor Flag is that of the Corby Distillery Co. office force. Mr. George Reid yesterday canvassed that establishment and presented them with the 100 per cent card. Now

come along some of you Belleville manufacturers.”

November 2, 1918: “The Victory Loan Parade held this morning was one of the most successful demonstrations yet held in connection with either one of the campaigns for Victory Bonds. The streets were gaily decorated with the flags of the allies, and the crowds along the way were enthusiastic and large. The parade was headed by decorated automobiles following which was the Depot Battalion in full force headed by their Bugle band. ... Following the Battalion were the Veterans in autos. Then a float with the Kaiser hanging in effigy. The Boy Scouts were next carrying boards with appropriate legends urging the buying of the Victory Bonds. The Fire Department which followed made a splendid appearance with the horses and wagons tastefully decorated. After the parade an open air meeting was held on the market square. ... During the parade and throughout the meeting two aeroplanes from Camp Mohawk circled over the street, performing hair raising stunts and dropping Victory Loan Literature which was eagerly picked up by the people on the street. At twelve o’clock sharp after last post being sounded by the Buglers, Kaiser Wilhelm was gently dropped from off the City Hall tower and crashed to the ground with cheers from the onlookers and was quickly pounced upon by the small boys and torn to pieces.”

November 2, 1918: “A number of ladies who are members of the War Workers of West Belleville assembled at the residence of Mrs. Harry A. Thompson, Catherine Street, on Thursday of this week, and made one hundred and eighty-six pounds of fruit cake, which was baked in the oven of one of the city bakeries. The cake will be sent overseas for Belleville boys.”

November 5, 1918: “The coveted Governor-General’s Honor Flag, which is being presented to each District passing its objective for the Victory Loan, has been won by the North Townships, Maynooth District.”

November 6, 1918: “Armistice Delegates Leave Berlin For Western Front. Special Despatch to Intelligencer, Canadian Press, Limited.”

November 6, 1918: “Fully 2,000 people assembled last night in front of Griffin’s Palace Theatre on Front Street to view the Victory Loan films, which are being shown by the Griffin Amusement Co. ... Because of the great interest taken last night the Victory Loan Committee will repeat the programme tonight with much improvement, as the screen from Griffin’s Opera House will be used in place of the small one that was in use last night.”

November 6, 1918: “The Canadian War Contingent Association has shipped three consignments of Christmas comforts overseas for our men in the trenches. A fourth consignment will be shipped next week. ... Personal parcels to be sent by mail will now be attended to and the C.W.C.A. will be glad of the names and address of soldiers especially any soldier who has no relations or friends to think of him.”

November 7, 1918: “From now until the end of the Campaign no man should appear on the streets of Belleville without a Victory Loan button displayed prominently. ... From now until November 16th the greeting of a man without a button should be ‘Where is your Button?’ ”

November 7, 1918: “The unofficial news which reached this city shortly before 1 o’clock this afternoon that the war was over and the armistice had been signed by the Germans caused intense excitement. Despite the fact that the weather was inclement Front Street was soon filled with citizens who were overjoyed at the news. Autos decorated with flags and bunting soon made their appearance, whilst the fire bells rang and whistles from the various factories added to the din. The news proved to be premature.”

November 8, 1918: “Last evening a meeting of the Special Committee of the City Council to arrange a suitable peace celebration met representatives from the Board of Trade, the Great War Veterans’ Association, Board of Education and others to draft a plan of the proposed celebration.”

November 9, 1918: “Yesterday Tyendinaga went over the top for its Honor Flag, the objective being \$65,000, congratulations are in order. This is the second district to win the coveted pennant, and the people of the old township have reason to be proud of the showing made.”

November 9, 1918: “Churches re-open tomorrow after being closed several weeks on account of the influenza epidemic. Special sermons and special music will mark the re-opening. Apart from the novelty of church attendance to those who seldom go, there is an added reason why all should attend tomorrow who can walk or crawl to a sacred edifice. The shadows of war are passing away and the dawn of peace and world sanity demands expressions of thankfulness to the Great Ruler of the Universe who has brought us safely through the storm.”



Tickets are selling fast. If you leave it until the next Public Presentation, which is only a few days before the banquet, you may be too late! Don't be disappointed.

Call Mary-Lynne at 613-961-7091 for tickets.

Annual Banquet and Celebration of History A Murder Mystery Play

WHO STUFFED THE BODY IN THE GRAND TRUNK???

All aboard for history and hysterics! Come join us on the Grand Trunk Railway. The year is 1919. Heroes are just returning from the war. Rum-running is about to kick into high gear. A body turns up on the train. Everyone is suspect. There is a love triangle, an American gangster, a Belgian detective. See if you can solve the case before we get to Belleville station.

Ken MacDougall, Artistic Director of the Stirling Festival Theatre has created this mystery play specifically for the Historical Society. Join this zany group of actors, as they try to solve this mystery while we enjoy a delicious three course dinner. As we celebrate the end of World War I, there will be lots of fun and displays about local heroes who answered the Call of King and Country.

Saturday, October 20, 2018 Travelodge Hotel
Cocktails at 6:00 p.m. with Dinner at 7:00 p.m.

Cost \$65.

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Hastings County Historical Society Presentation

**Topic: The Great Trenton
Explosion of 1918**
With the film, *Playing With Fire—Trenton
and the British Chemical Company*
**Speaker: Film Producer
Sean Scally**

On the 100th anniversary of the great Trenton Explosion during World War I, a powerful film with the true story of the British Chemical Company explosion and its legacy on the City of Quinte West. Based on the book by John Melady, including new evidence which deepens the mystery—accident or intentional—you decide!

Date: Oct. 16, 2018

Time: 7:30 p.m.

Location: Maranatha
100 College Street West, Belleville

(Please use rear parking lot and back entrance and go to Meeting Room.) Bring a friend and enjoy refreshments, conversation and displays following the presentation.

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