



## The Rideau Township Historical Society

*Preserving and Promoting local history for the former Rideau Township*

### May 2020 Newsletter

#### ***RTHS Spring Program***

The RTHS meetings for the remainder of the Spring season have been postponed until it is safe to resume.

Also the Railway Museum in Smiths Falls is not expecting to open this year, so our excursion in June will also not take place.

#### ***Dickinson House***

The Dickinson House Committee is still hoping to open the house July 6<sup>th</sup>. It is not clear at this time what the summer program would look like but all special events would likely be cancelled. Social distancing guidelines would need to be respected. Also at present no one can be in the building unless they are doing maintenance.

The Committee will keep looking for other options to deliver some program this summer and fall.

The other concern is what to do with the summer students. To date, Brian has presented 5 job offers and is awaiting confirmation of grant money, with the hire date to be determined. If we are permitted to hire students before the house opens to the public in early July, this will provide an opportunity for them to undertake preparatory work on artifact maintenance and update the inventory.

#### ***RTHS Tek News***

At the executive meeting in mid-April (conducted via Zoom), they discussed various ways of continuing meetings in this time of social distancing. Possible options are having a real-time presentation of a speaker using Zoom and webinar software, putting links on the website to historical articles, or having presentations in a YouTube format linked to the website.

Before we start to explore options in depth, we would appreciate knowing how many of you would be interested in watching/listening to a speaker on your computer through one of these options. We would do our best to make it user-friendly and give you clear instructions. Please send your comments to our Program Director, Dorothy Gray, at [dorothygray@gmail.com](mailto:dorothygray@gmail.com) or 613-258-7034.

#### ***“We’ve been here before”***

The Spanish flu killed 30 to 50 million people world-wide in 1918-19. In October 1918 alone, 440 Ottawans died from the disease or from associated complications. The Ottawa Board of Health closed schools, churches, theatres, pubs, bowling alleys and poolhalls, shops were closed early, public funerals were discouraged, and public assemblies banned.

The first wave of the disease appeared in early 1918, and was generally mild. The second wave, that fall, was by far the deadliest. It was definitely transmitted by troops returning home. Two other less deadly waves hit in the springs of 1919 and 1920.

The disease did not have its origins in Spain, but it was reported there first because, as a neutral country in the First World War, Spain was not subject to wartime censorship.

The Spanish flu led to some positive changes in Canada, including the creation in 1919 of the federal Department of Health, which established a public health partnership between various levels of government. The Civic Hospital on Carling Avenue, which opened in 1924 with 550 beds, was also a post-Spanish flu initiative.



*Three Alberta farmers stand in a field wearing masks during the 1918-19 influenza pandemic.*

*Thanks to Giulio Maffini for the referral of articles from the internet from which this information is drawn, and to Bruce Deachman for “A century ago, the Spanish Lady came to Ottawa, claiming more than 500 lives” and Taylor Jackson for “The Other Forgotten Pandemic: Canada and the Spanish Flu in 1920”.*

## **Canadians Do Help Each Other**

*Although we are facing some difficult times trying to self-isolate from the COVID-19 virus, it is reassuring, living in a small village, that help is not far away if needed. There is always someone close by who is willing to offer assistance and step up to answer the call, and this has always been the case. Heroes come in all shapes and sizes and respond selflessly. This article appeared in the Kemptville Advance on Thursday, February 18, 1943, and is just one example of how people have always been there for one another in tough times.*

### **KEMPTVILLE ADVANCE THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 18, 1943.**

North Gower Residents Play Heroic Part to Take Woman to Hospital.

Fight Snow Drifts and 35 degrees Below with Woman in Ambulance

We often read of people in the far distant northlands fighting against winter snows and low temperatures and errands of mercy but on Sunday night a journey just as heroic was made by several men of North Gower and two women one of whom was seriously ill.

The woman taken ill Sunday night called in a neighbor who was a nurse who, seeing that medical attention was needed, phoned a Kemptville doctor and from instructions given her she tended the sick woman and on the Doctor's advice began to make arrangements for her removal to the Nursing Home at Kemptville.

To accomplish this, it was necessary for the nurse, Mrs. Carman Allport, to secure transportation. At this time, the wind was high, roads were badly blocked with snow, and it was between thirty and thirty-five below zero.

However, Mr. Jack Cater offered to take out his snowplow and the ambulance of Mr. W. G. McCulla was made avail-

able for the sick woman who was carefully wrapped against the piercing cold. With Mr. Allport and several other volunteers, the party started off with the snowplow in the lead and the driver having to lean out of his cab to see the road, so heavy was the snow blowing. By hard work and much digging and pushing, the plow and the ambulance finally made few miles but it had taken them two and a half hours in bitter cold and blinding wind, but the patient landed safely in the Nursing Home and the plow and helpers immediately commenced the return journey.

This was almost as difficult as the first trip for the snow had quickly drifted into the tracks again and finally with so much work the snowplow broke down and the engine was running red hot. Mr. Cater was forced to leave the plow about a mile south of North Gower and ride with the others.

Next day Mr. Cater suffered much from frost bite on his face which became greatly swollen and very sore and his eyes pained a great deal.

Mr. W. G. McCulla drove his ambulance and he, with Mrs. Allport and all those others who made the trip deserve commendation for their heroic work to assist one in great need.

*And we think we have it rough.*

### **History Repeats Itself.**

**Jane Anderson came across this poem written in 1869, reprinted during 1919 Pandemic. It is Timeless.**

And people stayed at home

And read books

And listened

And they rested

And did exercises

And made art and played

And learned new ways of being

And stopped and listened

More deeply

Someone meditated, someone prayed

Someone met their shadow

And people began to think differently

And people healed

And in the absence of people who

Lived in ignorant ways

Dangerous, meaningless, and heartless,

The earth also began to heal

And when the danger ended and

People found themselves

They grieved for the dead

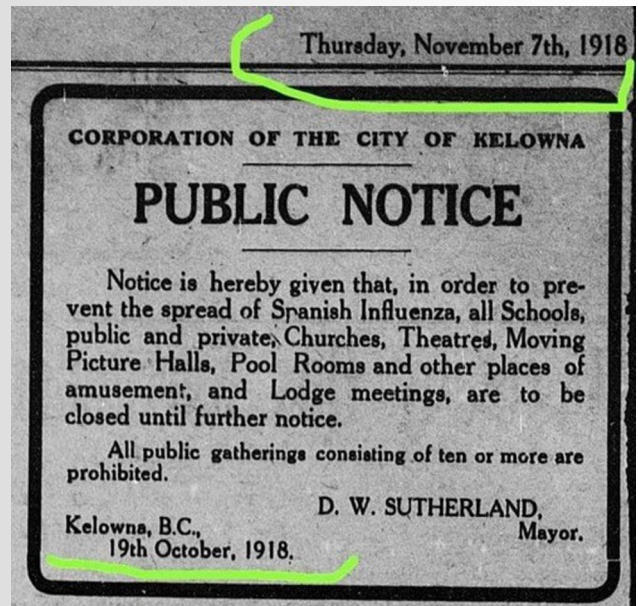
And made new choices

And dreamed of new visions

And created new ways of living

And completely healed the earth

Just as they were healed



Jane Anderson found these pictures taken during the Spanish influenza pandemic, 1918 to 1920. One feels that these pictures, except for the clothes and cars, could have been taken today: the masks, the stretcher, the lockdown.

The graphic above, showing the occurrences of major global pandemics every 100 years, is certainly a curiosity.

## *News from the Rideau Branch, Ottawa Archives*

**Hours:** *The Rideau Archives is open every Tuesday from 9:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., and at other times by appointment. (613-489-2926). [Please note that during the pandemic the Archives is closed.](#)*

**Resources and Services of the Rideau Township Branch of the City of Ottawa Archives:** a monthly feature in this newsletter, celebrating the services and holdings preserved in your community's archives resource centre.

### *Cryderman & Craig, Merchant Tailors and Gents Furnishings*

Rideau Branch Archives is currently closed. While its Main Street North Gower exhibit is inaccessible, here is a short account of one business in the village in the first half of the twentieth century.

With the First World War raging overseas, a small shop opened for business in the heart of the village of North Gower. John H. Cryderman, a tailor, had gone into partnership with Thomas Craig, with his younger sister Geraldine Craig as sales lady. The shop was located in the Craigs' brick home, now 6607 Fourth Line, just a few houses down the road from the Crydermans' home. Rideau Branch has a ledger for the partnership's accounts from 1916 to 1924, as well as a cedar hanger. From the ledger entries, it appears John Cryderman, the elder partner, kept the books.

Cryderman & Craig made suits and did pressing, alterations and repairs. They sold sweaters, socks, suits, pants, gloves, hats, raincoats, shirts, coats, buttons, overalls, mitts, smocks, underwear (recorded in smaller handwriting, perhaps to keep it private), vests, and caps. Carpenter John Baldry, who lived next door to the Crydermans, bought a fur coat in Dec 1921, and a coon lined coat went for \$18 in November 1922, bought by baker Herbert Moore. Cryderman & Craig also sold second-hand goods, as well as "gents' furnishings" such as cuffs, collars, braces, ties, and garters. On top of all this, they even dealt in cloth, lining, flannelette, and patterns. Their business was menswear but also included coats and other items for women.

Business practices are evident in the ledger, with returns being shown as taken within a few weeks of purchase. Prices more than doubled in the time covered by the book, with suits at first selling from about \$20 up to \$40 or more eight years later. This was greater than the inflation rates at the time, which may relate to a post-war boom, fancier materials used, and other general signs of prosperity.

The ledger also shows that the partnership offered terms -- Richard Balance bought a cap and overalls in December 1916 for \$2.85 on credit, at 8% interest compounding per annum plus \$0.25 in costs. Cryderman's mathematical ability is to be praised, since a bill to Mr. Balance dated 1927 was inserted at the ap-

propriate page showing the initial price plus eight years of compounded interest owed at the end of December 1927, all correctly calculated -- but never paid, it seems.

Cryderman & Craig were flexible in terms of payments. In May 1916, Percy Montgomery exchanged hats and paid only for the difference. William Cryderman paid in potatoes and corn in 1917. John Baldry paid by drawing gravel. Ernest W. Crawford paid with batteries for a flashlight in 1924 and by cutting the hair of John Cryderman's son Jack a week later, paying off his current account -- Crawford was one of their best customers and was the first entry in the ledger.

The partnership also made money from renting out rooms. Dr. Bower, a dentist, took possession of rooms on 18 January 1916 and rent paid on the 18th of every month after that. In September he was a little short on cash and paid by working on Jack Cryderman's teeth instead.

Amounts were transferred to a new ledger, as the company continued. But John Cryderman died in 1927, leaving Tommy Craig to pursue his business alone until his own death in 1947.

*Article by Stuart Clarkson*

*Extract from  
Vernon's Farmers'  
and Business Direc-  
tory for the Counties  
of Carleton, Dundas,  
Glengarry, Lanark,  
Prescott, Renfrew,  
Russell and Stor-  
mont, 1916-7  
(Hamilton: Henry  
Vernon & Son,  
1916), Eighteenth  
Edition, p. 112, ac-  
cessed through To-  
ronto Public Library  
on 30 March 2020.  
(<https://static.toronto-public-library.ca/da/pdfs/vernoncarleton00vernuoft.pdf>).*

**NORTH GOWER**  
Gower N Tp. Pop about 400  
Andrews Wm, tinsmith  
Baldry John, carpenter  
Barrows David, harness  
Blair H G, physician  
Clark Benj J, carriage mkr  
Craig Geo & Sons Co, genl store  
Craig R T, implt agent  
Crawford Ernst, barber  
Crawford Wm, blacksmith  
Cryderman Jno H, tailor  
Godkin Wm G, cheesemkr  
Good Henry, shoemkr  
Good Norman, carpenter  
Haggins Alex, physician  
Hicks Wm, thresher  
Leach Geo, painter  
Leach Wm R, grocer  
McCurdy Jos, hotel  
McGee J G, blacksmith  
Mackey Wm M, agent  
Mathews J W, tinsmith  
Moore Herb, baker  
Morphy Wm, carpenter

**Tentative Opening July 6**

**DICKINSON HOUSE**  
**SPECIAL EXHIBIT**  
**Exposition spéciale**

**Date d'ouverture prévue: 6 juillet**

**STEAMBOATS**  
**ON THE**  
**RIDEAU**

**LES BATEAU À VAPEUR**  
**SUR LA**



**Visit Our Third Floor**  
**Visitez notre troisième étage**

In recent months volunteers at the Dickinson House Museum in Manotick have been working from home to prepare a new exhibit, soon to be installed in the third floor display area.

"Steamboats on the Rideau" will tell the story of the age of steam on the Rideau Canal, which was designed from the start with steamboats in mind.

The exhibit has drawn upon extensive research carried out over many years by the museum's founder, Coral Lindsay. It was a labour of love for her and the RTHS is pleased that visitors will be able to enjoy the results of her work.

*On the right, Coral Lindsay*

