



Rideau Township Historical Society Newsletter

March
2021

Preserving and Promoting Local History for the Former Rideau Township

March Meeting Details

The Kellys of River Road



Join us as Theresa Kelly tells us her family story of love, longing, hard work, real estate & luck on River Road.

March 17th, 7:30 p.m.
(via ZOOM)

For joining instructions
please email
susanmckellar68
@gmail.com



Ms. Kelly will tell us the story of her great great grandfather William Kelly's emigration from Kilkenny Ireland, and his transformation from a labourer's life to that of a River Road landowner.

Learn about the founding of the historic St. Brigid's Church & Cemetery, and the beginnings of the first Catholic School in the local district.



Non-members interested in attending this event are asked to register with Susan McKellar (susanmckellar68@gmail.com) in order to receive the login instructions prior to the meeting

2021 Membership Fees PAST Due

Owen Cooke

We are now well into our 2021 program year and it is more than time to renew your RTHS membership.

We have made it easier to pay this year, through e-transfer. Details on that or on how to pay by cheque and mail are on the membership form at the end of the newsletter. Receipts for paid memberships will be issued when we can again meet face-to-face.

Update on Dickinson House Facelift

Brian Earl

Work continues on the shutters and storm windows at the Madison Workshop. Due to lead based paint on the window frames, it was decided to scrape the paint layers off, down to the bare wood. The panes of glass were assigned identification numbers, carefully removed and stored on shelves. Each window frame has an accompanying paper diagram indicating which glass panes go where. The glass will be replaced once the frames are painted. Each window frame was repaired with an epoxy compound and sanded smooth. Damaged cross members are to be repaired or replaced. The shutters will receive similar treatment.



Window Frame on Work Table



Sample of Typical Repair



Glass Storage



Shutters Awaiting Attention

Summer Jobs with Dickinson House Museum

Dickinson House is accepting applications for summer employment in the three positions listed below. Full descriptions of these positions can be viewed on the Dickinson House Facebook Page by following the links:

1. [Assistant Museum Curator](#)
2. [Senior Heritage Interpreter](#)
3. [Heritage Interpreter](#)

If you don't have access to Facebook, you can request the position descriptions by sending an email to:

dickinsonhousemuseum@gmail.com

Report on February Special Presentation

Myra McFarlane

On February 18th some 22 members & guests were treated to a presentation from **Boyd Laanstra, Senior Analyst, Visual Content, for the Bank of Canada** about how Viola Desmond got on the \$10 bill, and more generally, about the process for making our award-winning currency by the Bank of Canada.

First of all, a very public thank you to Boyd for his interesting, informative and moving presentation. As one of our members most eloquently stated: “he is one of the most effective speakers I have ever seen, in such a nice quiet way. Fascinating subject matter too.”

What we learned from Boyd, was that aside from managing Canada’s monetary policy, the Bank takes responsibility for the production of our bank notes through a long-standing contract with the Canadian Banknote Company. In addition to their commercial function, the Bank recognizes that bank notes are in fact cultural artefacts, and are intended to reflect not just our current values as a country, but the values to which we collectively aspire. That’s why, when the Prime Minister announced in 2016 that the next portrait featured on the ten-dollar bill would be a woman, the Bank knew they had to get it right.

They conducted a cross country campaign, asking Canadians to nominate individuals based on some pretty wide criteria: the person had to have been deceased for twenty - five years at the time; had exercised leadership, and had been a Canadian woman. That was it. Over a six week period more than 26,000 individuals or groups visited the website, and 461 women were deemed “qualified for further consideration”. To further narrow the choice, an advisory committee was struck, who added a few other criteria:

The individual chosen had to have:

- Overcome barriers
- Left a legacy
- Resonate(d) with Canadians
- And achieved something lasting

The list was narrowed down to twelve; then a public opinion poll was commissioned, and five names were sent along to the Minister of Finance, who was present, along with Ms. Desmond’s sister, Wanda Robson, at the December 2018 unveiling.

Not only was the portrait subject consulted on, the overall design of the bill was reviewed through several lenses including the CNIB for accessibility purposes, and Ms. Robson, Viola’s sister.

If you take a look at the \$10 bill, you will see that it’s the first bill to employ a vertical orientation, and that the images on the back reflect the overall theme of Rights and Social Justice in Canada.

What Boyd was too modest to mention is that our \$10 is award winning. In 2019 the International Bank Note Society awarded the International Bank Note of the Year award to our own \$10 bill.

He then went on to whet our whistle for more by showing us the short list for the portrait subject for the upcoming \$5 bill. It’s with the Minister of Finance now for decision. The list was developed by an advisory committee on which a historian well known to this group (Charlotte Gray) sat, among several other well known Canadians.

We can’t wait to see the outcome.

Now, lest you wonder why Viola Desmond? Boyd gave us a short history of her singular achievement. You may think you know about Canada’s Black history in Nova Scotia. You may think you know about the Black Loyalists that founded Birchtown, on land they were granted by the crown, and the ongoing tension in Halifax. What you may not know is that in 1946, private organizations were allowed to serve who they wanted, in whatever manner they chose, and not just in Halifax, but that’s another story.

So when Ms. Desmond, an entrepreneur with interests throughout Nova Scotia was effectively refused admission to the main floor of the Roseland Movie Theatre because of her colour, and she chose to challenge that refusal, and was then literally dragged out of the theatre, thrown into jail for the night and brought up before a magistrate the next day with no legal counsel and convicted under the provincial Theatres, Cinematographs & Amusements Act, which ostensibly had nothing to do with race, but as we learned, had everything to do with who could sit where in the theatre.

All this to say, with community support and only 64 years later, Ms. Desmond was officially pardoned by the



Government of Nova Scotia, and 10 years after that, is honoured for being a civil rights pioneer in Canada.

Thank you also to our members, for the provocative questions and lively discussion that ensued.

We can't wait to see the results of the \$5 bill consultations, and to visit the Bank Museum once we are all vaccinated and allowed out of our homes!

From the Archives

Trimbles in China

Stuart Clarkson

Note: Chinese names in this article appear in Foochow Romanized, as in the original texts. This method of spelling Fuzhouese dialect was created by the missionaries of the American Methodist Episcopal Church, as opposed to pinyin, which is the official Chinese romanization for Standard Mandarin Chinese [in some instances given afterwards in brackets]

Lydia Amanda Trimble was born in Marlborough Township on 1 July 1863 to Irish immigrants William Trimble and Ann Jane Hill. The family had moved to North Gower by 1871, where the elder daughters Barbara and Mary married James Wallace and Alexander Callander. But in the later 1870s the parents and younger Trimble siblings moved to Essex County. Here the eldest son, William Hill Trimble, remained with his wife Cynthia Wright, and here their own son Frederick Homer Trimble was born in 1878.

The rest of the family, though, soon moved on once again, this time to Sioux City, Iowa, at a time when that city's population was doubling every four years. The Trimbles became ensconced in local Methodist society, with son John Brownlee Trimble becoming a Methodist minister and benefactor of a local school, Morningside College. One of the younger daughters, Lydia, soon volunteered for the Women's Foreign Missionary Society of the Methodist Episcopal Church, going as a missionary to China in 1889 through the Society's Des Moines Branch.

Her work began in the city of Foochow [Fuzhou], on the southeast coast of China, but soon she had been relocated to the nearby district of Hok Chiang [Fuqing]. The *Annual Report of the Woman's Foreign Missionary Society of the Methodist Episcopal Church* for 1892-3 stated:

Hok Chiang District. — Miss Trimble's removal from Foochow to the District has proved a great blessing, and the Day Schools and the Bible Women most remote from Ngu Cheng [Longtian] feel the current as it sweeps from that power house over spiritual wires. Neither pleasant surroundings nor physical comfort led to

the selection of this wicked city as a centre of work, but because it was most accessible to other stations. A native house was rented, a little money expended to fit it for the Woman's School and home for the missionary, and there our dear sister 'dwells with God for his work.'

Trimble, a true powerhouse, worked tirelessly in her new field of operations, except when called on to attend the Mission's General Conference as a lay delegate for Foochow Conference in 1896. At the day school and eventually also a boarding school she established at Ngu Cheng, Trimble and her fellow missionaries taught students to read the Bible in their own language using Foochow Romanized, which transliterated Chinese logographic characters into the Latin alphabet of their anglophone teachers. Lydia's missionary work was set amidst troubled times, and in an area that was at times also troubled – the *North-western Christian Advocate* reported in 1898 that the house where Trimble lived with the other missionaries, Rev. and Mrs. Main and Miss Allen, had been "attacked and fired into by a mob last winter." All was made more difficult by a repeated lack of sufficient missionaries. *The Gospel in All Lands* reported in 1899 that, in Ngu Cheng in Hok Chiang District, "Trimble has been only resident missionary in that and Haitang District where there ought to be three missionaries."

It seems Trimble was granted furlough in 1903. In the *Official Minutes, Foochow Conference* that year, Presiding Elder Ding Hieng Ngieu of Hok Chiang District stated: "We all earnestly hope that Miss Trimble will also soon return and take up her work here." But Trimble had important work elsewhere, travelling first to her church's 1904 General Conference in Los Angeles. There she requested the building of a college in Foochow. Then, back in Sioux City, she still did not rest but spent her time attending Morningside College. As it happened, her nephew Frederick, son of her elder brother William who had remained in Essex County, was also a student at the same school. His field was architecture and civil engineering. Likely with some encouragement from his aunt Lydia, Frederick travelled in 1905 upon graduating to Hinghua, just north of Foochow, on behalf of the Methodist Episcopal Church, bearing the distinction of serving as one of the first industrial missionaries there.

Lydia too returned to China, and the school she had requested, the first university for women in China was soon becoming a reality, though soon she was absent again on Conference business. *The Official Minutes of the Methodist Episcopal Church* (1908) state:

Both Miss Trimble and Miss Bartlett have done faithful work in the school of the Woman's Board here at Ngu-cheng during the year. Miss Trimble was elected

lay delegate to the General Conference and was compelled to be absent from her work for several months, during which time Miss Bartlett has faithfully and energetically carried out the work formerly assigned to both.”

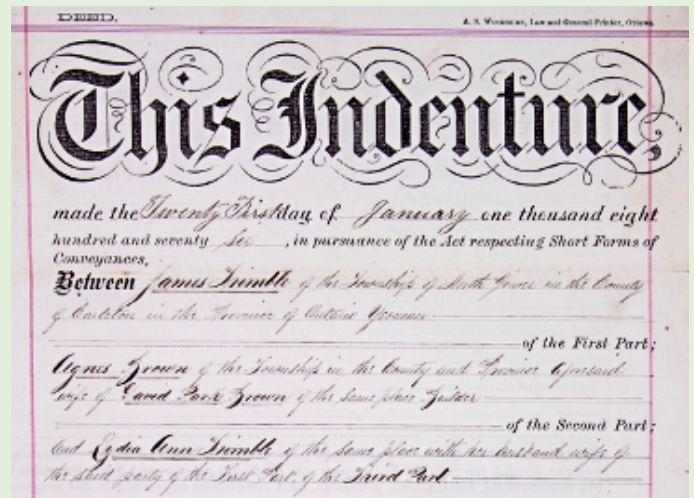
“The Woman's College buildings in Foochow promise soon to be a long hoped for reality. Meanwhile twenty-three girls are taking college preparatory work, living in part of the Girls' School building. Miss Wallace, in charge of that department during the past year, mentions the joy it is to her to teach girls so entirely bent on the acquiring of knowledge. Miss Trimble, who has been appointed President of the college and is supervising the construction of the buildings, is also taking charge of the Girls' Boarding School ...

Thus began in 1908 the Foochow College Preparatory of Foochow Women's College, so named by Bishop W.S. Lewis, resident bishop in Foochow, a former President of Morningside College in Sioux City, who had been supporting Trimble's vision even before obtaining his see in China. Note that Miss Wallace, who took charge of the college prep work, was none other than Lydia Ethel Wallace, daughter of Lydia Trimble's eldest sister Barbara, from North Gower. Wallace had been named a candidate through the Baltimore Branch, as mentioned in the Missionary Society's 1904 annual report. Indeed, Ethel's brother James Hill Wallace had also gone to China as a missionary directly after graduating from the University of Toronto in 1903. So it seems that Lydia Trimble had accomplished much during her 1903-1904 furlough to encourage both family members and Sioux City's elite to support her mission.

Meanwhile, in supervising the construction of the buildings, Trimble looked to her other nephew, Fred. The budding architect, while on furlough in Sioux City for his marriage, was formally named superintendent of construction for the project in 1909. He and Sioux City architect Wilford W. Beach began working together on the college building project before Trimble headed back to China with his new bride in time for both to be listed in the *Directory of Protestant Missionaries in China, Japan & Corea for the Year 1910* under Hinghua. But by September 1911 Fred was in Foochow to set things in motion to prepare the site for laying the foundation for his sister's college, though first to deal with some lingering concerns: there was a cemetery where building had been planned, and an underground cave beneath where the pillars were to be placed. Of the three planned buildings, the first two – Payne Hall, an administration building with classrooms, and Cranston Hall, a dormitory, both named for substantial donors – were done by 1914. Hwa Nan College – variously called the South China College for Women, the Methodist Episcopal

College for Women, the Women's Foreign Missionary Service Woman's College – had finally been established, but not before a last obstacle: money had run out before Cranston Hall had been completed. This issue was resolved by Lydia's brother back in Sioux City, Dr. James Brownlee Trimble, who mortgaged his farm to provide the necessary funds. After a hiatus, additional money was sought starting in 1921 for a third building, to be named Lydia Trimble Hall, with sod-turning in 1922 and completion in 1925.

It was at this time that Lydia Trimble stepped down from her presidency of the college, but she remained in China until her death in 1942. Her nephew Frederick Trimble had returned to the United States by 1915, due to illness and other matters. He went on to design more than 50 schools in Florida, including concept plans for Florida Southern College in Lakeland. Ethel Wallace served as Dean of Hwa Nan College until its transfer to Chinese leadership in 1927 but stayed on until 1948, later writing up its history, *Hwa Nan College: The Woman's College of South China*, for the United Board for Christian Colleges in China in 1956. She died in Ontario in 1963, predeceased by her brother, Major James Hill Wallace, OBE, who apart from military service during the First World War continued to work in China until the 1920s with his wife, poet Kathleen Montgomery Coates.



Bargain and sale by James Trimble and Lydia Ann Trimble, his wife, to Agnes Brown of part Lot 21, Concession 3 in the Township of North Gower, 1876. (Rideau Archives, MGR197-3-21)

One of the few Trimble documents at Rideau Archives is this deed for Lydia's elder brother James Trimble and his wife, Lydia Ann Hill. Born soon after their marriage, it is possible that missionary Lydia Amanda Trimble was named for James' wife. As was common among the Trimbles, James left for the West – in 1889, he took a homestead in Township 50, Alberta, later moving into Edmonton when his wife Lydia Ann arrived in 1891.

Sources: Janet Rice McCoy, “Woman's College, WFMS, Foochow” *United Methodist Church General Commission on Archives and History*; Ethel Wallace, *Hwa Nan College: The*

Woman's College of South China, United Board for Christian Colleges in China, 1956; Provincial Archives of Alberta, "Lydia Amanda Trimble" and "James Andrew Trimble" authority records; Wikipedia, "Fred Trimble"; Lucy, "Kathleen Montgomery Wallace" *Female Poets of the First World War* [blog]; *Torontoniensis* 1905

Dickinson House Volunteer Recruitment



Volunteer Opportunities Dickinson House Museum in Manotick

The organizing committee for Dickinson House is planning for when the museum will once again be able to open its doors to visitors.

The committee welcomes volunteers to join them via Zoom, to work behind the scenes in developing plans for the future.

Fresh ideas are always welcome, and it is a wonderful way to get involved with a jewel in Dickinson Square historic site in the heart of Manotick.

To become a member of our team, email us at dickinsonhousemuseum@gmail.com.

How to Connect with RTHS



www.facebook.com/rideautownshiphistory



rideautwphistory@gmail.com



<https://twitter.com/RideauTpHS>



www.facebook.com/Dickinsonhousemuseum



dickinsonhousemuseum@gmail.com

Sign me up as a member of RTHS



Members of the Society enjoy:

- Monthly meetings featuring engaging presentations, followed by refreshments
- Group excursions to historical points of interest in Eastern ON
- Local books published by the Society, and a monthly newsletter
- Opportunities to participate and contribute as volunteers

For more information visit <https://rideautownshiphistory.org> and facebook.com/rideautownshiphistory.

Please mail this form with a cheque for membership dues payable to: Rideau Township Historical Society, Box 56, North Gower, ON, KOA 2T0, OR pay by e-transfer to rideautwphistory@gmail.com and email a scanned copy of the form to the same email address.

Name:

Address:

City & Postal Code:

Telephone:

Email:

Date:

Are you a new RTHS member?

Yes _____ No _____

Individual Membership \$15 _____

Life Membership \$100 _____

Family Membership (2 adults & school-age children) \$20 _____

Donation \$50 _____

Other Donation \$ _____

Receipts for paid memberships will be issued when we are able to meet face-to-face, but tax receipts for donations will be issued at the end of the year.

Thank you for supporting RTHS!