

# MAYORS

## OF THE CITY OF BELLEVILLE

*A story of the Mayors of Belleville,  
Ontario, 1850-2003,  
with some associated genealogy  
and 19th & 20th century advertisements.*

**Dr. Donald Brearley**

Published by the Quinte Branch, Ontario Genealogical Society, 2011  
Last update: August 2016

## CONTENTS

INTRODUCTION .....	5
About the author, Dr. Donald Brearley .....	5
The City of Belleville.....	5
DAVY, Benjamin Fairfield (1804-1860) .....	6
PONTON, William Hamilton (1810-1890).....	6
O'HARE, John (1825-1865) .....	7
McANNANY, Francis (c1805-1877).....	8
HOPE, William M.D.(1815-1894) .....	9
BROWN, James (1823-1897) .....	10
HOLDEN, Rufus M.D (1809-1876).....	10
FLINT, Billa (1805-1894) .....	11
CORBY, Henry (1806-1881) .....	12
CONGER, Peter deSidnia (c1836-1885).....	13
Advertisements for mayors Ponton, O'Hare, Brown, Holden, Flint & Corby who served between 1850 & 1868.....	14
ROBERTSON, Alexander (1838-1888).....	15
HOLDEN, Thomas Buck (1840-1884) .....	15
FLINT, John James Bleecker (1838-1929) .....	16
HENDERSON, George Eyre (1819-1895).....	17
FOSTER, William Alfred (1837-1881).....	18
PATTERSON, Reuben Spaulding (1820-1900).....	18
LINGHAM, Nelson (1832-1917).....	19
DUNNET, James Waters (1840-1894).....	20
Advertisements for mayors Conger, Robertson, Flint, Henderson, Patterson & Dunnet who served between 1869 & 1885 .....	21
MCINNINCH, Henry (1839-1917) .....	22
BIGGAR, William Hodgins Q.C. (1852-1922).....	22
WILLSON, Benjamin Seymour M.D. (1833-1892).....	23
DIAMOND, Wellington Jeffers (1839-1929) .....	24
TICKELL, George Skinner (1829-1899) .....	25
PORTER, Edward Guss K.C. (1859-1929).....	25

BOGART, Curtis (1848-1922).....	26
WALLBRIDGE, Francis Stewart (1860-1920).....	27
Advertisements for mayors McInninch, Willson, Diamond, Tickell, Porter & Wallbridge who served between 1886 & 1893 .....	28
WALMSLEY, James Ernest (1854-1940) .....	29
JOHNSON, John Wesley (1846-1919) .....	29
GRAHAM, Robert James (1860-1934).....	30
CHOWN, William Whitfield (1851-1928).....	31
SULMAN, Charles Nelson (1870-1947).....	32
McFEE, Allen (1833-1919).....	33
MARSH, Colonel Lorne Wilmot (1871-1928) .....	34
ACKERMAN, Henry Willis (1869-1963) .....	35
VERMILYEA, Alfred G. (1852-1922) .....	35
WILLS, Judge John Franklin K.C. (1864-1934).....	36
PANTER, William Henry (1862-1942) .....	37
KETCHESON, Henry Freeman (1862-1930) .....	38
PLATT, Edward Orren M.D. (1870-1944) .....	38
RIGGS, William Bates (1853-1937) .....	39
HANNA, Charles Edward (1833-1932) .....	40
BENNETT, George Albert (1864-1941).....	41
MIKEL, William Charles K.C. (1866-1950).....	42
GRAHAM, Lt.-Col. Robert James Earl (1896-1939) .....	43
Advertisements for mayors Chown, McFee, Wills, Mikel and Ketcheson who served between 1904 & 1925 .....	44
WILMOT, Charles Eardley A.F.C. (1892-1941) .....	45
DUFF, Morley Puncheon (1873-1957) .....	45
GREENLEAF, Henry Wilbur (1871-1945) .....	46
REID, George Adams (1874-1950).....	47
TICE, George Oliver (1868-1960) .....	48
HILL, Harry (1876-1949).....	49
ARNOTT, Richard Duke Q.C. (1904-1971).....	49
BONE, Jamieson (1887-1958) .....	50

THOMPSON, Glencoe Edgar (1894-1981) .....	51
ROLLINS, Wilmot Harry (1900-1972).....	52
FOLLWELL, Frank Sidney (1906-1992).....	52
STOREY, Denzil Lefroy (1892-1957) .....	53
ALLIN, Howard John (1899-1982).....	54
POTTER, Richard Thomas M.D. (1915-2009) .....	54
HAIG, Alexander McLean (1903-1975) .....	55
BOTH, Gustav Johann (1902-1970).....	56
FORRESTER, Jane Eleanor Parker (1909-2003) .....	57
HYDE, Gerald Bateman (1924-2013).....	57
ELLIS, John Raymond “Jack” (1929-1994) .....	58
SCOTT, James Russell M.D. (1916-2009) .....	58
JEFFREY, Amy Robinson Futcher .....	59
CORKE, John Benjamin (1914-1995) .....	60
ZEGOURAS, George Adam (1937-2012) .....	60
LANGER, Shirley Anne Shecter (1935-).....	61
INDEX to MAYORS .....	63

## INTRODUCTION

### About the author, Dr. Donald Brearley

Donald Brearley is a native of Belleville, son of Dr. and Mrs. Guy Gage Brearley, and a graduate of Queen's University Medical School in 1970. He soon established himself in the practice of his life's work in his home town where he has practiced his profession for 40 years. While compiling research for his "*Physicians from the Belleville Area before 1900*" project (started more than 25 years ago), he also gathered information about the mayors of Belleville presented in these biographies. Dr. Brearley is working on his next project about physicians of the Belleville area who graduated between 1900 and 1910 and welcomes any contributions. He can be contacted at [don.brearley@bellnet.ca](mailto:don.brearley@bellnet.ca).

### The City of Belleville

Belleville, "The Queen City of the Bay" is one of the oldest and most substantial of the smaller cities of the Province of Ontario. It is located on the far famed Bay of Quinte, at the mouth of the pretty River Moira, is on the main line of the Grand Trunk Railway, 113 miles east of Toronto, and is admirably situated in the heart of Ontario's richest farming districts. The County of Hastings, of which Belleville is the County seat, is one of the greatest cheese producing Counties in the Province.

In the year 1787 the Township of Thurlow was surveyed and during the next few years many United Empire Loyalists coming to Canada were granted land around what is now the City of Belleville. The settlement was for a time known as Singleton's River and afterwards was named Meyers Creek. In 1816 the village was laid out by the Crown Lands Department and the name was changed to Belleville by Governor Gore, in honour of his wife Bella. Twenty years after that, in 1836, Belleville became incorporated as an independent municipality, with a population of about 1700. In 1850, she became a town, and in 1878 with a population of about 11,000 she took her place among the cities of Ontario.

Belleville developed thriving manufacturing industries, up-to-date business houses, handsome residential streets, first-class gas, water and sewage systems, plenty of steady power and active business men. The River Moira produced water power and the Trenton Electric and Water Company provided electric energy for the manufacturer, while the Grand Trunk Railway furnished railway connections with the whole continent and water shipment could be made direct to any point on the Great Lakes or to the Atlantic seaboard.

Belleville could point with pride to her magnificent harbour, to her public buildings and parks and to the Bay Bridge, one of the finest structures of its kind on the continent. The Bay of Quinte is long known as a favorite spot for tourists, anglers, yachtsmen and artists. The various steamboat lines gave Belleville excellent service.

The local government is ably and honestly administered by capable and trustworthy men who enjoy the confidence of the people. The affairs of the city are controlled by the Mayor and Aldermen elected by the people. Initially there were four wards, Foster, Samson, Ketcheson and Baldwin with the later addition of Bleecker, Coleman and Murney Wards.

This is the story of the Mayors of Belleville who served from 1850 to 1955 with some associated genealogy.

## **DAVY, Benjamin Fairfield (1804-1860)**

### **Served as Mayor 1850 & 1854**

Benjamin Fairfield Davy was born on August 19, 1804, of Loyalist descent, son of John Davy and Sophy Hoffnagel, in Ernestown Township. In early life he worked in the general store of his brother-in-law Seba Murphy at Ovid, N.Y. and after learning the principles of merchandizing at Ovid he opened a store of his own at Bath, Ontario. He took his younger brothers, George and William into the business and about 1837, he opened a store at Napanee leaving the Bath store in the charge of his brother William. From there he went into partnership with Peter Perry at Whitby where he remained but two years and removed to Belleville. Here he opened a wholesale and retail store, packed pork for the Gilmore Lumber camp on the Madawaska and was also a heavy grain buyer.

In the municipal affairs of the day, the voters elected 12 Councillors, three from each of the four wards, those being Samson, Ketcheson, Baldwin and Coleman Wards. The population of the Town of Belleville at the time was 2,240 and was comprised of 1,285 acres; the first priorities included the erection of a Town Hall and market building and the purchase of two new fire engines. Mayor Davy was elected by the majority of the members of Council and served in that capacity in 1850 and 1854.

That B.F. Davy did well is evidenced by the home which he built, still standing, a grand edifice immediately east of the former Corby Library, on Campbell Street; Gothic in design with tall windows, paired chimneys, and a sprawling verandah.

Genealogy: He married Cinderella Perry on January 20, 1834; the couple had eight children: Cinderella, Robert Perry, Hannah Perry, Louise Fairfield, Elizabeth, John Humphrey, Edward William and Mary Davy. There is a Davy Road in the N.W. section of the city.

Mr. Davy had been in possession of his usual health, when at his office attending to business, he complained of numbness or want of sensation in his arm which almost instantaneously extended itself to the whole of one side. A physician was called and some blood taken but symptoms of apoplexy or congestion of the brain were soon manifested in addition to partial paralysis, which baffled all treatment.

Benjamin Fairfield Davy died at his residence on Campbell Street on March 6, 1860.

## **PONTON, William Hamilton (1810-1890)**

### **Served as Mayor 1852-1853**

William Hamilton Ponton was born in Inverness, Scotland in 1810, the son of Dr. Mungo Ponton, a surgeon, and his wife Grace. He apprenticed with George Cameron a solicitor from Inverness from 1828 to 1831 and immigrated to Canada shortly after the apprenticeship was completed. He was at the Town of York (Toronto) initially but soon removed to Belleville, settling in this city which place was then a wilderness. He was admitted to Osgoode Hall in 1850 and was called to the Bar in 1856. In 1839 he was appointed first Deputy Clerk of the Crown and was also Clerk of the County Court; in May 1854 he was appointed Registrar of the County of Hastings.

Mr. Ponton was one of the first Canadian directors of the Grand Trunk Railway and also served for some time as the private secretary of the Honourable Robert Baldwin.

Fraternally he was a member of the Masonic Lodge and served as Master and Eminent Preceptor. He was a member of St. Andrew's Society and the curling club. In military matters he served at the Front at Prescott during the troubles of 1866. His father Dr. Mungo Ponton was Captain and attending Surgeon of the celebrated Cameron Highlanders in the Irish Rebellion of 1798; Dr. Ponton died at Belleville in 1849, aged 92.

During his long tenure of life W.H. Ponton held many positions of trust; he was Mayor of Belleville when that position was given by appointment, serving as Chief Magistrate of the City in 1852-1853. He was an ardent politician, esteemed and beloved by all persons in the community.

Genealogy: He was twice married, the second marriage to Selina Hanwell born August 29, 1840, daughter of Lt. General Joseph Hanwell of the Royal Artillery, married on November 8, 1870. Besides his widow he was survived by two sons, William Hamilton, born January 28, 1873 and George born 1875, and two daughters, Julia born September 15, 1878 and Grace, born October 15, 1880. George James Ponton joined the North West Mounted Police in 1898 and served in the force until 1904 when he left to join his brother William in Panama as a pioneer with the United Fruit Company. He retired to Eleuthera, Bahamas where he died on March 18, 1973. There is a Ponton Street in the N.W. section of the city.

William Hamilton Ponton, having resided here for about 60 years, died on September 5, 1890.

## **O'HARE, John (1825-1865)**

### **Served as Mayor 1855-1856**

John O'Hare was a native of Ireland and in his youth came to Canada, was trained in the legal profession and soon established himself in Belleville. He followed his profession as a Barrister and was for several years County Attorney and Clerk of the Peace.

In October 1863 he found himself embroiled in a political tug of war which brought about his dismissal as Clerk of the Peace. There was an altercation between himself and the sitting Judge wherein the Judge fined Mr. O'Hare \$40 and he forwarded a complaint to the Government asking for the removal of the County Attorney, Mr. O'Hare; he was summarily dismissed without the opportunity to respond to the allegations submitted by the Judge. The local paper reported the following about the situation: "No matter what the offense may have been, no matter how much he may have deserved dismissal, it was the duty of Government, in the interest of justice and the character of the accused, to have instituted an investigation, and to have acted upon the Report. Why all that anyone has to do is to draft a complaint against a public officer, forward it to the Ministry, and if he is an opponent of the Ministry, he gets his walking ticket, without an opportunity of defending himself".

Mr. O'Hare had the distinction to be the first Roman Catholic to serve as Chief Magistrate of the City in 1855-56 and is the only one of that faith to have served as Mayor of Belleville during its first 110 years.



Genealogy: He married on October 18, 1848, Delia Ada Buell, born January 17, 1829 in Brockville, the daughter of Mr. Andrew Norton Buell who was Master-in-Chancellery at Toronto for many years. They removed to Belleville in 1848 where she was known to be a fine musician, a clever artist and an ardent worker in various organizations connected with St. Thomas Church. They had six children two boys and four girls: Arthur Buell O'Hare was born in 1850 and died in Chicago on August 3, 1924; Dora Helen O'Hare married on September 22, 1882 at St. Thomas Church to Duncan William Shaw; sisters Ellen and Delia O'Hare removed from Belleville after the death of their mother on May 23, 1911 to live at the House of Providence in Kingston where they died on August 26, 1929 and May 22, 1927 respectively. Mary O'Hare was born about 1863 and Charles Norton O'Hare on February 13, 1865, married Augusta Julia Anderson and settled at Superior, Douglas County, Wisconsin, where he served as Under Sheriff, Alderman, City Commissioner, City Comptroller, and Mayor from 1902-1904; he died on December 12, 1954.

Delia's father was known to conduct séances and did so in Belleville, consulting his deceased wife, in 1855 before arranging to build his daughter's home at 231 John Street, a home befitting a prominent lawyer and Mayor. Mrs. O'Hare was interested in the occult and she and several prominent people in Belleville such as Susanna Moodie held séances in their home. There is an O'Hare Street in the S.W. section of the city.

John O'Hare died at his residence on John Street, according to the records available at St. Michael's Church, and was interred at the Church on June 28, 1865.

## **McANNANY, Francis (c1805-1877)**

### **Served as Mayor 1857-1859 & 1861**

Francis McAnnany came to Belleville from the north of Ireland in 1822 and resided here since, engaged in mercantile pursuits for a while and kept a general store and a mill. He was the first Chairman of the old Board of Police and held that position for several years. Subsequently he occupied a seat at the Council Board on several occasions and filled the Office of Chief Magistrate of Belleville in 1857 to 1859 and again in 1861. He held the position of County Treasurer for a number of years and in that capacity gave the greatest satisfaction.

He was a member of the Church of England and for a long time was the Clerical Delegate to the Synod of the Diocese of Ontario in whose deliberations he took an active and prominent part, and the welfare and prosperity of which he always had at heart. In politics he was a strong Conservative; in fact he always liked to be called a Tory. Frequently he took part in the campaigns and invariably exerted himself to secure the victory to the party of his choice. He was a large property holder and the class of buildings erected by him amply attested his taste, liberality and enterprising spirit.

To sum up, he was a citizen such as any community should be justly proud of; he was unostentatious, a pleasing acquaintance, a firm and obliging friend and a capable and efficient Officer. In him, the town lost a valuable citizen, the County a trustworthy Treasurer and his family an affectionate and loving head. It is indeed seldom that a man can attain the popularity, respect and esteem of a particular locality for a lengthened period. In various walks of life he was



universally respected and filled a position in social and business circles which can seldom be aspired to.

Genealogy: Francis McAnnany married Caroline Rannie and their daughter, Frances McAnnany married in Belleville, shortly after her father's death, on June 30, 1880. She erected a monument at the Belleville Cemetery in memory of her father. There is a McAnnany Street in the S.E. section of the city.

Francis McAnnany died at his residence on Dundas Street, aged 73, on October 21, 1877.

## **HOPE, William M.D.(1815-1894)**

### **Served as Mayor 1860**

William Hope was born on January 15, 1815 at Lisburn near Belfast, in County Antrim, Ireland, son of John Hope and Ann Forsyth. In 1822 John Hope came from Ireland to Kingston with his family; the fact that the trip from Montreal up the river occupied three weeks gives a glimpse of the state of things in this country. The eldest son, Robert, went into business as a general merchant in Bath and William was clerk for him for some years. Wm. Hope attended school at Kingston, apprenticed with Dr. Samson in Kingston, attended lectures in N.Y. and graduated from Fairfield Medical College, N.Y. as a Physician in January 1838. He soon established himself in Belleville where he followed his profession for 43 years.

His extensive, and in the earlier days of bad roads, very labourious practice, did not engross his whole attention; everything that made for the improvement of the community had his support. He was a member of the old Board of Police and a long time member of the village council, 1846-1847 and 1856-1859. He was appointed Surgeon to the 2nd Battalion of Hastings Militia in 1847. He served as Mayor in 1860, the year the Prince of Wales visited Canada and the Belleville area. Dr. Hope was interested in education, was a school trustee and was largely instrumental in introducing the free school system, the first municipality in which it was established in Upper Canada. He was appointed Surgeon to the county jail and to the Deaf and Dumb Institute, positions which he resigned on becoming Sheriff. He was a member of the board of examiners of the Medical Council in 1871 and 1872 and he served as president of the Belleville Medical Society, elected by his peers.

Dr. Hope was a member of the Bible Society from its first organization in Belleville and was the president of that branch. He early recognized the folly of the drinking usages of those days and for forty years was a pronounced temperance man. Dr. Hope was, all his life, a consistent and active member of the Liberal Party and in April 1881 was appointed by Mr. Mowat's government as Sheriff of the county.

Genealogy: Dr. Hope was married in 1843 to Augusta, the only daughter of Sheriff Spencer of Northumberland County. Augusta Spencer Hope died about four years after her husband, on August 7, 1898 aged 77. The couple had three children: Ida Georgina -March 23, 1849-April 29, 1910; Edith -April 11, 1852-July 14, 1914 and George, an ex-sheriff of Belleville, June 9, 1854-May 18, 1922. There is a Hope Crescent in the S.W. section of the city.

Dr. William Hope died at the age of 79 on November 28, 1894.

## **BROWN, James (1823-1897)**

**Served as Mayor 1862-1863**

James Brown was born in the Parish Inch, Aberdeenshire, Scotland on October 14, 1823 and came to Canada with his parents when ten years old and early in life learned the trade of moulder. He and his brother, George, bought the old foundry on the lot bounded by Mill, Great St. James and Church Streets from Captain Jacob Bonter in 1846. George died in 1855 and James carried on the business as the G. and J. Brown Manufacturing Company.

He took a keen interest in municipal matters and represented the Town of Belleville as Reeve in the County Council before it was set apart from the County. He was for several years a Councillor in the Town Council and was Mayor in 1862-63. He began his political career in 1861 when he contested South Hastings for the Legislative Assembly with the Honourable Lewis Wallbridge who was at the height of his popularity; the constituency was composed of the Town of Belleville, the Townships of Sidney, Thurlow and Tyendinaga and the Village of Trenton. Mr. Brown had majorities in Belleville, Tyendinaga and Trenton but Thurlow and Sidney went Grit and he was defeated. In 1867 he was chosen as the Conservative candidate for West Hastings for the Commons in the first election after Confederation and defeated Dr. Rufus Holden. Defeated in 1872 when he was again the Conservative standard bearer, James Brown was re-elected in 1874 by acclamation as an Independent; he was a supporter of the Mackenzie Government and was returned again in the 1878 contest.

He had a long and active military career and was made Lieutenant of the Belleville Rifles when that company was formed in 1857. Major Levesconte was his Captain and Sir Mackenzie Bowell was the Ensign of the company. He served at Amherstburg in 1864-65 and at Aultsville in 1866. He was promoted to the rank of Lieut-Col., upon the formation of the 49th Battalion Hastings Rifles in 1866 and retained command of the regiment up to the time of his death.

Colonel Brown was a member of St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church and was one of eight Trustees of the church appointed in 1872 by a special act of the provincial government; he was one of the oldest members of St. Andrew's Society and was identified with the old Order of Oddfellows.

Genealogy: Col. Brown was unmarried; his brother Alexander died in 1888 and he was survived by his sister Mrs. Grace Keith. There is a Brown Street in the N.W. section of the city.

Colonel Brown died on April 24, 1897.

## **HOLDEN, Rufus M.D (1809-1876)**

**Served as Mayor 1864**

Rufus Holden was born on January 16, 1809 in the Township of Augusta, County Grenville. He received his early education at Ogdensburg N.Y. In 1835 he removed to Belleville and opened Holden's Drug Store, the forerunner of the present day Geen's Drug Store; he prospered at his profession as the town grew. Later, he pursued the study of medicine at the Pennsylvania College at Philadelphia and received the degree of Medical Doctor in 1842. He then engaged in

practice at Belleville, and subsequently took a post-graduate course at McGill University in 1844. He presented his credentials and became a licentiate of the Medical Board on June 8, 1844.

For five years he was a member of the Town Council and in 1864 he was a successful candidate for the Mayoralty which position he creditably filled for one year. In 1867 he was the Reform candidate for the vacant seat in the House of Commons for West Hastings but was defeated by Mr. James Brown, the Conservative nominee. He always took an active part in gatherings having their objective the promotion of religion and temperance. Dr. Holden was on the Board of Visitors to Albert College during its initial year, 1857.

Genealogy: He was survived by his second wife, he married Harriet Blacklock on September 23, 1873, five daughters and one son from his first marriage to Elizabeth Clement; she died on May 2, 1869. The married daughters were the wives of the following gentlemen: Rev. Dr. Robert Ferrier Burns (Elizabeth, married at Belleville on July 1, 1852) of Fort Massey Presbyterian Church, Halifax; Rev. Professor William Gregg (Phoebe, married May 10, 1849) of Toronto and Mr. Thomas Ritchie (Mary, married August 12, 1873) of Belleville. Mr. James Clement Holden, the only son (married October 7, 1855), was a partner in a large wholesale boot and shoe manufacturing establishment in Montreal. Dr. Holden built his home, which is still standing, at 144 Bridge Street East, in the 'British Classical Tradition', about 1855. There is a Holden Street in the S.W. section of the city.

Dr. Holden practiced medicine in Belleville for 34 years; he was active up to the time of his death—he became ill while making a house call some two weeks earlier. He was very attentive to poor and rich alike, leaving his bed at all hours of the night to travel through storm and cold, often times with the knowledge that he would never be paid for his trouble. He was full in years, honoured and respected by all who knew him and was a bright example for the rising generation.

Dr. Rufus Holden died on March 30, 1876.

## **FLINT, Billa (1805-1894)**

### **Served as Mayor 1866**

Billa Flint was born in Elizabethtown, Leeds County on February 9, 1805, the son of Billa and Phoebe (Wells) Flint. He was educated locally - he went to school for six weeks when he was ten years old. In 1816 he left for Brockville and at the age of eleven was learning the art of selling goods in his father's store there, removing to Belleville in 1829 where in addition to his labours at Bridgewater, he was a store keeper, saw and grist miller. His centre of lumbering operations was at the village of Bridgewater, Elzevir Township, thirty miles north of Belleville; here he employed up to 300 workmen. He did a great deal of building houses, stores, mills, barns and probably a hundred structures not including log cabins.

He held a great variety of public offices. He was elected president of the Police Board of Belleville in 1836 and made Justice of the Peace the same year; was Reeve of Elzevir for 21 years and of Belleville for 3 years; Mayor of the Town of Belleville in 1866 and Warden of the County of Hastings in 1873. He sat for the County of Hastings in the Canadian Assembly from 1847 to 1851 and for South Hastings from 1854 to 1857. He represented the Trent Division Legislative

Council from 1862 until the Union and was called to the Senate by Royal Proclamation in May, 1867.

Mr. Flint was a member of the Methodist Church of Canada, a liberal supporter of the gospel, a kind hearted man to the poor and exemplary in all walks of life. Few men had a more prominent connection with public affairs and his career was a stormy one; he dearly loved a controversy especially on a political or religious subject.

Senator Flint petitioned the Government to change the name of York River to Bancroft, the maiden name of his mother-in-law, which occurred in 1879; town officials later named three streets after the Flints: Phoebe, Billa and Flint Streets.

Genealogy: He married on September 10, 1827 to Phoebe Sawyer Clement, born on August 3, 1808 at Brockville and died in Belleville on May 24, 1886 and was survived by his adopted son, John James Bleecker Flint. His residence at 180 Coleman Street, built in 1835, still stands. There is a Flint Drive in the S.E. section of the city.

The Honourable Billa Flint died in Ottawa on June 15, 1894.

## **CORBY, Henry (1806-1881)**

### **Served as Mayor 1867-1868**

Henry Corby was born in 1806 in the village of Hanwell, Middlesex County, England. He served his apprenticeship as a baker in London and immigrated to Canada in 1832, settling in Belleville. He arrived with one sovereign in his pocket but with that energy and self-reliance which distinguished him during his long and born career, he began a humble grocery shop at the foot of Front Street. After a short time he started a bakery in connection with his business and soon became the principal baker in the village.

When the Rebellion broke out in 1837, Mr. Corby was one of the first in Belleville to volunteer his assistance in the cause of law and order; he accompanied the Hastings Rifle Company as an unattached volunteer and remained with the company near Gananoque for some time. Returning to Belleville, he and Robert Read took the contract for furnishing the troops with supplies. Shortly after the close of the Rebellion he sold out his bakery to Mr. Hambly and purchased the steamer Queen and ran her between Belleville and Kingston for about four years. He then ventured into the lumber business, later bought a grist mill on the banks of the Moira from Silas Reed, in Thurlow and in 1859 built the distillery which is yet in active operation. In those days it was the practice for farmers bringing their grain to be ground into meal to reserve a portion of it to be made into whiskey - also at the mill, so Henry Corby became interested in the distilling process. The town where the family's distillery was located was renamed Corbyville in 1882.

Mr. Corby was a member of the first Board of Police of Belleville established in 1839. He was returned for several successive years as member for Ketcheson Ward in the Town Council and sat in the County Council as Reeve of Belleville; in the years 1867-68 he occupied the position of Mayor of the Town. In 1867 he was elected a member of the Ontario Legislature for East Hastings, defeating George Henderson and returned in 1871 by acclamation. He was a member of the first fire company ever organized in Belleville and became Captain of No. 2 Company; he was president of the St. George's Society.

Genealogy: On December 24, 1835 while crossing the Bay in his cutter with his young wife and three children, the ice broke under the sleigh and his wife and children died. He was married twice again and had a numerous family. There is Corby Park in the S.E. section of the city.

Henry Corby died on October 25, 1881.

## **CONGER, Peter deSidnia (c1836-1885)**

**Served as Mayor 1869**

Peter Conger was born in Prince Edward County and carried on a large dry-goods business in Belleville for ten years before he removed to Toronto about 1870; he was a member of Council before occupying the Mayor's chair in 1869.

He was in partnership with his brother-in-law Mr. Sparling and started a retail business in coal and wood which developed into the Conger Coal Company. The firm of Conger and Sparling contracted for railway supplies, ties, telegraph poles and coal.

He was an intimate personal friend of the Honourable Timothy Blair Pardee, Commissioner of Crown Lands, when the township was surveyed and was named Conger Township, Parry Sound District, in 1880.

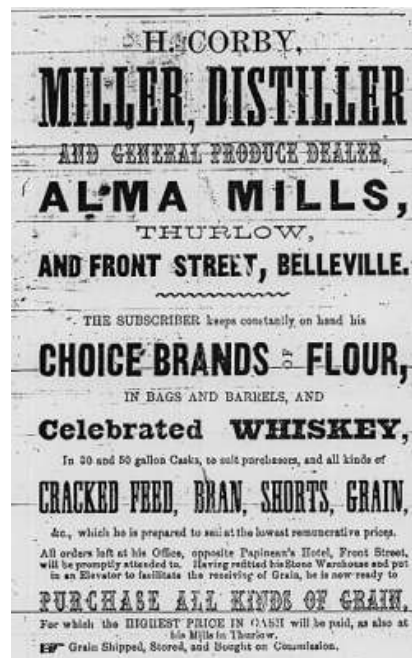
On May 10, 1879 he was severely injured at the opening of the Credit Valley Railroad. Some of his ribs were broken and he sustained internal injuries; this accident led to a lawsuit and his death was no doubt hastened by it. His end was sudden; he fell dead while addressing a Committee at the Toronto City Hall.

Peter Conger was a well known coal merchant with docks situated on the Esplanade at the foot of Lome Street. He attended the meeting of the Committee on Works when the question of a proposed new street south of the Esplanade was being discussed. After his presentation, he resumed his seat and he was noticed by those about him to have been seized with a fit of some kind. Dr. Canniff, Medical Health Officer and a native of Belleville, whose office was in City Hall, was called but Mr. Conger was past all human aid before the doctor could run from his office to the Executive Committee room. He had never been a man of strong constitution and the general belief was that his sudden death was attributable to that accident. His wife, Mrs. Janet Clark Bogart Conger, and daughter had left for Niagara the day previous on the Chicora and on the return of the steamer were informed by Dr. Canniff of the sad event. Peter Conger was interred on August 14, 1885 at St. James Cemetery in Toronto with the remains removed to Belleville on April 20, 1909. Janet Conger died on March 17, 1909. There is a Conger Place in the N.W. section of the city.

Peter deSidnia Conger died at the age of 49 on August 11, 1885.



Advertisements for mayors Ponton, O'Hare, Brown, Holden, Flint & Corby  
who served between 1850 & 1868



## **ROBERTSON, Alexander (1838-1888)**

**Served as Mayor 1870 & 1878-1879**

Alexander Robertson was born in Trenton on December 5, 1838 son of William Robertson and Jane Simmons, the father being a lumber merchant from Glenelg, Scotland. When Alexander was seven years old, the family moved to Belleville where he was educated in the Grammar School and subsequently read law with George Eyre Henderson, Q.C., being called to the Bar in 1864. Since then he was in the practice of his profession, was a sound and able lawyer specializing in investments. He pushed for public enterprises, liked to see the city advance and was an efficient and popular Chief Magistrate.

During the years 1864-1869, Mr. Robertson was a member of the Town Council of Belleville before it became a City in 1878, was Mayor of the Town in 1870 and of the City in 1878-79. He served as a Captain in the militia during the Fenian Raids. He was identified with every enterprise calculated to promote the interests of the city. In 1876 he erected a beautiful brick block building on the East side of Front Street, known as the Robertson Block, and in 1879, the block on the other side of the same street.

In politics he was a Conservative and in 1873 was offered by acclamation the membership of the House of Commons but declined for family reasons. In 1879 he became a candidate for the Local Legislature and was elected by a large majority, representing Hastings West. In 1882 he resigned his seat in the provincial assembly to run for a seat in the House of Commons, which he held during the years 1882 to 1888. He was a Knight Templar in the Masonic Order, President of the St. Andrew's Society and a member and trustee of the St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church.

Genealogy: He married Mary Georgina Stewart, daughter of Dr. Robert Stewart, in June, 1870. She died in April 1874, leaving daughter Ethel Jane who was born July 30, 1871 and she married William Overton Bradley on April 28, 1906, in Belleville; he remained a widower. There is a Robertson Lane in the S.W. section of the city.

Alexander Robertson died in office on February 29, 1888.

## **HOLDEN, Thomas Buck (1840-1884)**

**Served as Mayor 1871 & 1873**

Thomas Holden was born in Oneida County, N.Y. on February 7, 1840, son of Hiram Holden and Letitia Buck, and was brought to Canada when but 2 years old. He attended Victoria College, Cobourg whence he graduated in 1860 and entered upon the study of the law and was called to the Bar in 1863. He followed the practice of his profession with associates and finally carried on business on his own. He was a successful pleader and did a large business.

In politics he was a Reformer and for years was one of the leading men of that Party; twice (1872 & 1874) he was a candidate for the Commons and once (1879) for the Legislature but in each case was unsuccessful. In municipal offices he was more successful and in 1868 he entered the Town Council as one of the members for Baldwin Ward and in 1871, after having filled the position of Chairman of Finance, he defeated Mr. Alexander Robertson for the Mayoralty. One of



the more contentious issues of his term was the need for a cemetery to be located outside of the Town Limits and whether that ownership should be public or in private ownership. At the close of the year he retired but in 1873 he was again a successful candidate for the Mayoralty. Subsequently Mr. Holden sat in the Council for Ketcheson Ward but retired in 1880 on his appointment as the Police Magistrate; he was also appointed a member of the Board of Education. In these appointments he served with distinguished ability and he gave great satisfaction to the law abiding portion of the community.

Mr. Holden held several other public positions largely in connection with religious and charitable movements and never spared himself in the service of his fellow man, of the community in which he lived or of his party and his country. He was a member of the Methodist Church and was active in its behalf. In 1873 he was one of the principals responsible for the formation of the Bay of Quinte Regatta Club.

Genealogy: He was survived by a widow, the former Mary Elizabeth Piper born January 12, 1846, married on July 20, 1864; she died on February 25, 1920. The couple had seven children, three girls: Louisa Lydia February 14, 1869 - January 31, 1941, Letitia April 3, 1871 - April 24, 1952, and Mary Ellen January 11, 1872 - March 10, 1958 and four boys: Hiram William, John Bell, Henry Wilberforce Aikens and Thomas Frederick Holden November 17, 1877 - December 30, 1897; he died at the Gravenhurst Sanatorium for Consumptives, the first such facility for the treatment of Tuberculosis in Canada. There is a Holden Street in the S.W. section of the city.

Thomas Buck Holden died on June 28, 1884.

## **FLINT, John James Bleecker (1838-1929)**

### **Served as Mayor 1872**

John James Bleecker Flint was born adjacent to the city on December 29, 1838, son of Tobias and Eliza Bleecker, and adopted son of the Honourable Senator Billa Flint. After graduating from the local public school, he received a classical education at the city high school and Victoria College and soon after commenced a five year course of law study under the tutelage of the Wallbridge brothers in Belleville. He was called to the Bar in October 1862 and then commenced practice of law here.

Despite his extensive practice, he took an active interest in the town's and city's welfare and occupied positions of trust; In 1869-1871, when Belleville was a town he was a representative from Baldwin Ward and in 1872 was elected as Mayor of Belleville. For 20 years he was Police Magistrate and Magistrate of Hastings County for 9 years.

In politics he was a Liberal and until his appointment as Police Magistrate in 1884 he was active in his party's service, being for five years President of the Reform Association for the County of Hastings. He was not identified with any secret society; he was a member of the Methodist Church and served as an official at that Bridge Street Church. He was active in several philanthropic enterprises and aided in erecting the hospital and home for the friendless.

John J.B. Flint was highly respected throughout the entire Bay of Quinte District where he was universally known and esteemed as a capable and upright Magistrate. In 1893, J.J.B. Flint recounted seeing ghostly apparitions on more than one occasion while sitting at the organ at the

family home on Charles Street. One of his last official acts performed in the city was at the Old Boys' Reunion in Aug. 1925 when he acted as Marshall in the parade which was held during the celebration.

Genealogy: In 1866 he married Eliza Jane, daughter of Ezra William Holton and had but one child who died in infancy. Mrs. Flint was born May 1, 1840 and died in Belleville May 30, 1912. Bearers at J.J.B. Flint's service were: Col. William Ponton, K.C., Messrs J. Elliott, Police Magistrate William Charles Mikel, K.C., Lieutenant B.C. Donnan, Crown Attorney of Hastings County, T.Y. Mills and J. A. Kerr, County Court Clerk. There is a Flint Drive in the S.E. section of the city.

John James Bleecker Flint removed to Los Angeles Ca., where he died on August 16, 1929.

## **HENDERSON, George Eyre (1819-1895)**

### **Served as Mayor 1874**

George Eyre Henderson was born on September 28, 1819 at Picton, Ontario, son of Jesse Henderson and Susan Eliza Thuresson. He was educated locally, entered into the study of law and was called to the Bar about 1850.

He settled in Belleville and was for many years a prominent figure in the public life of Belleville. He was a representative of Samson Ward in the Town Council for about a decade or more. He was an ardent politician and took part in many contests; in 1867 he was the Reform Temperance Candidate for East Hastings in the Ontario Legislature and was defeated by Henry Corby. In 1869 he was an unsuccessful candidate for the Mayoralty but was acclaimed to that position in 1874. After the death of Mr. Charles Coleman, County Attorney, he was appointed to that office which he held up to about 1894, when he retired owing to growing infirmity and blindness.

He was at one time practicing in association with John O'Hare. In 1859 he built the Henderson Block at 397-399 Front Street, a stone building with brick and cast iron facade, which in 2004 received historical designation from the City of Belleville. In those days, entire store fronts could be ordered from a catalogue; it is the only complete cast iron main floor remaining in the city.

Genealogy: He married Julia Teresa O'Reilly of Kingston. A remarkable fact in connection with the death of Mr. Henderson is that he and his two brothers all died within a six month interval in 1895. He was survived by his three sisters: Annie Hulme who died in Belleville on August 11, 1907; Eliza Ann McWhirter who died on July 9, 1910 and Mary E. Burdett, wife of Dr. David Earl Burdett, who died in Chicago on May 10, 1910. He was also survived by two daughters and two sons.

George Eyre Henderson died at his residence on December 29, 1895.

## **FOSTER, William Alfred (1837-1881)**

### **Served as Mayor 1875-1877**

William Alfred Foster was born on the 3rd Concession of Huntingdon on October 1, 1837 the seventh son of Shubael Foster and Phoebe Canniff. He was educated locally and was soon to show his entrepreneurial nature. He speculated on his own account, buying up large numbers of sheep and shipping them to the American market. About 1860 he established a small brick yard at the corner of Hotel and Foster Streets and after about four years he purchased the Bay of Quinte Brick Works and grew that enterprise to be one of the most extensive of its kind in the Province. Mr. Foster was the first manufacturer of pressed bricks in this part of the country; he located his facility just east of the City on the old Kingston Road.

He first entered the Municipal Council in 1867 as a representative for Samson Ward and held some of the most responsible positions such as Chairman of the Street and Fire Committee. In 1875 he was elected Mayor and returned by acclamation in 1876-77; he continued to sit as an Alderman for Samson Ward in 1878.

Genealogy: He was twice married, his first wife was Sophia Lyons whom he married on November 17, 1859 and had four children, Mary, Martha, Frank and Henry. She died in 1873 and he was survived by his second wife, Eliza Ann Palmer whom he married on August 6, 1874, and their son Fred. There is a Foster Street in the S.E. section of the city and Foster Ward is named for Shubael Foster, born on October 10, 1786, who settled here in 1810 and was thus one of the earliest settlers of Belleville; he died on December 8, 1871.

Mr. Foster had gone onto the Bay with his son Frank and George Lingham, son of Alderman Lingham, and they were off down to Point Anne in a small open sailboat. On returning, a stiff breeze came up and the boat began to careen alarmingly. The boat turned over and the crew climbed up on the side of the boat when a gust caught the sail and the boom struck Mr. Foster. The boys were rescued and Mr. Foster's body was recovered the next day.

William Alfred Foster drowned in the Bay of Quinte on September 30, 1881.

## **PATTERSON, Reuben Spaulding (1820-1900)**

### **Served as Mayor 1880-1881**

Reuben Spaulding Patterson was born in Londonderry, N.H. on March 26, 1820 son of Robert and Esther (Spaulding) Patterson his father being at one time a member of the New Hampshire Legislature and a merchant in Londonderry; his mother was a second cousin to Franklin Pierce, President of the U.S. in 1853-1857. In 1829 the family emigrated to western N.Y. and Reuben was educated in the district school and the Perry Centre Academy, Genesee County.

He had a taste for mechanics and learned, with two of his older brothers, to manufacture agricultural implements. He removed to Dundas, Canada West in 1848 and there engaged in the foundry business and moved to Belleville in 1851, establishing the firm R. and R.S. Patterson, his partner being his brother Robert. On settling here, Mr. Patterson promptly and thoroughly identified himself with the interests of the city, then a town, and served in council for fourteen

years being one of the representatives from Baldwin Ward. In 1880 and 1881 he served as Chief Magistrate of the City, filling the Mayoral position most acceptably. He also served as director of the Belleville and North Hastings Railway and held the same position with the Grand Junction Railroad. He was a president of the Reform Association for the riding of Hastings and in 1872 was the candidate of his party for the House of Commons, but the riding was usually Conservative, and he lost. He was a member of the John Street Presbyterian Church and served on the managing committee. Neither he nor any of his seven brothers ever used tobacco or liquor.

Mr. Patterson removed to Whitby where he operated the Brown Patterson Manufacturing Company and maintained a depot at Belleville for the distribution of the company's articles. He was in partnership with Nicholas W. Brown, a member of the Ontario Legislature.

Genealogy: He married in May, 1852, at Niagara Falls, Miss Anna Cahill, of Dundas and had a family consisting of two sons, Robert and Peter Wallace, and daughter Jenny Robert was a book-keeper for the foundry at Whitby. There is a Patterson Street in the S.E. section of the city.

Reuben Spaulding Patterson died at Whitby on March 19, 1900 and was interred at Westfield Cemetery, Westfield, N.Y.

## **LINGHAM, Nelson (1832-1917)**

### **Served as Mayor 1882-1883**

Nelson Lingham was born on April 28, 1832 at Brighton, Sussex County, England and was brought out to Canada when an infant and virtually all his life was spent in Belleville. Mr. Lingham was, during his many years of life, very active and most conscientious in his dealings with his fellow man.

For many years he conducted successfully a brick manufactory business which was situated just east of the city limits, and his building material was widely recognized for its worth.

He always manifested much interest in municipal affairs and his wise council in this direction was recognized by the public. He was a member of the Thurlow Township Council, and in later years identified himself with Civic Government in Belleville. In the years 1876 and 1877, when Belleville was a town, he represented Samson Ward as a Councillor in the Town Council. In 1878 Belleville was incorporated and during that year and three succeeding years, namely 1878 to 1882, he was an Alderman still representing Samson Ward. In 1882 and 1883 he was elected as Chief Magistrate of the city and in 1892 and 1893 he again sat in the Council as an Alderman. During his municipal career, he was ever alert for the best interests of the city. He was a man noted for his unselfish public spirit and was unswerving in his loyalty to the country of his birth and of his adoption.

Fraternally he was identified with the Belleville Masonic Lodge No. 123 and the Independent Order of Forresters. In religion he was a Methodist, being a member of Bridge Street Church.

Genealogy: He was survived by his widow, Fanny Vivian, November 5, 1838 - July 29, 1923, and two sons, Walter Thomas of Belleville, born 1864-August 24, 1937, George of Dayton, Ohio, born December 26, 1869 - December 21, 1928, and three daughters, Mrs. Frederick B. (Ella born May 22, 1871) Smith, married July 17, 1895, Mrs. Thomas Graham (Lena, born April 25,

1879) Lewis, married April 29, 1903 and Miss Ethel born May 20, 1881, all of Belleville; sister Miss Elizabeth Lingham of London, Ontario. In 1862 he was married to Miss Fannie Vivian of Thurlow Township and the couple celebrated their golden anniversary five years before he died. There is a Lingham Street in the S.E. section of the city.

Nelson Lingham died at his residence on Dundas Street on March 11, 1917.

## **DUNNET, James Waters (1840-1894)**

### **Served as Mayor 1884-1885**

James Waters Dunnet was born at Thurso, Caithness, Scotland on January 14, 1840, the son of James Dunnet and Jane Gilchrist Waters. The parents of our subject first moved to Montreal in 1842 and there remained for four years before removing to Pakenham, Ontario. Mr. Dunnet was a resident of Pakenham in 1861 at the time of the arrest of Mason and Slidell upon the high seas (an American Civil War hostage taking event) and at that time he raised a company of volunteers.

Mr. Dunnet left Pakenham in 1864 and proceeded to Peterborough where he commenced business, remaining there until 1870 when he came to Belleville. He had received his education, which comprised English, ancient and modern languages, mathematics, and the other higher branches, at the Academy of Kirkwall, Orkney Islands, and he swept all the first prizes in the classics and mathematics.

He became a Captain in the Volunteer force, active militia in 1862. He afterward became paymaster of the 57th Battalion, Peterborough and a Major of the 15th Battalion Argyll Light Infantry, Belleville. He became one of the staunchest and most prominent dry goods merchants in Belleville.

In 1881 he was prevailed upon by a large number of friends to offer for a seat at the civic board and having accepted the invitation, he was elected and was re-elected in 1882 and 1883. In 1884 he was elected Mayor and again re-elected in 1885. He was a strong advocate of temperance and adopted the Scott Act as his platform when he ran for the Mayoralty.

Fraternally he was for many years connected with the Orange and Oddfellows' Societies and in both these organizations was a member in high standing. In religion he professed the Episcopal faith and served as a church warden for several years. He was superintendent of the Sunday School both at Peterborough and Belleville.

Genealogy: He married Elizabeth Jane Gibson on November 9, 1864. There is a Dunnet Boulevard in S.W. section of the city.

James Waters Dunnet died on June 8, 1894.



## Advertisements for mayors Conger, Robertson, Flint, Henderson, Patterson & Dunnet who served between 1869 & 1885

**P. D. CONGER,**  
IMPORTER OF AND DEALER IN  
**FANCY & STAPLE**  
**DRY GOODS,**  
**GROCERIES,**  
AND  
**BOOTS & SHOES,**  
TWO DOORS NORTH OF PAPINEAU'S HOTEL,  
Front Street, Belleville.

**ALEX. ROBERTSON,**  
**Barrister and Attorney-at-Law,**  
**SOLICITOR IN CHANCERY,**  
**NOTARY PUBLIC, CONVEYANCER, &c., &c.,**  
**OFFICE, WEST FRONT STREET,**  
**BELLEVILLE, C. W.**

**GEORGE F. HENDERSON,**  
**Barrister and Attorney-at-Law,**  
**Solicitor in Chancery,**  
**NOTARY PUBLIC, COMMISSIONER for taking Affidavits for**  
**Lower Canada, &c., &c. Office in the Henderson Buildings, opposite**  
**the Upper Bridge,**  
**FRONT STREET; - - - - - BELLEVILLE.**

**JOHN J. B. FLINT,**  
**Barrister, Attorney-at-Law,**  
**SOLICITOR IN CHANCERY,**  
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**OFFICE, BRIDGE STREET, nearly opposite the Post Office,**  
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**PATTERSON**  
**AGRICULTURAL WORKS**  
**And Iron Foundry.**  
FRONT STREET, BELLEVILLE  
**R. & R. S. PATTERSON,**  
MANUFACTURE AND KEEP CONSTANTLY ON HAND  
MOST KINDS OF  
**AGRICULTURAL IMPLEMENTS!**  
Among which are **THRASHING MACHINES**, for  
eight, six, four, two, and one-horse power, with Gleaners,  
Separators, or Open Cylinders;  
**MANNEY'S AND KIRBY'S**  
**COMBINED REAPERS AND MOWERS,**  
Circle Saw Mills, with or without boring attachment,  
Three styles of Field Cultivators, Steam Traction Engines,  
Three styles of Horse Hoes, Corn Cultivators, Drill & Side Hill Plows,  
Four different patterns of Iron Plows, three sizes of Rockhill Plows,  
two of Pragma, two of Polly Improved, Statbuck Scotch, Lap Furrow,  
Massachusetts, and several of the more common patterns in use,  
**CUMMING'S PATENT FOUR KNIFE STRAW CUTTERS,** for  
Horse or Hand Power,  
Armstrong's Revolving Knife and Reel, for band power,  
Stump Machines, Fox Mills, Field Rollers, both Iron and Wood,  
Garden, Lawn, and Drill Rollers, Clover Mills,  
**GRAIN CRUSHERS,**  
Corn Shellers, Seed Drills, and Corn Planters. Also, **STOVES,**  
Agricultural Engines, Mill Gearing, Engine Work,  
Agnew's Water Wheel for Saw Mills, and  
**CEMENT'S CELEBRATED CENTRE-VENT-TURNING, DIRECT-AND-RE-  
ACTION WATER WHEELS** for Mills and Factories, and warranted to  
give a greater amount of power for the same cost, than any wheel  
in the world, except the Jenvalle Turbine.

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WHOLESALE  
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THE GLASGOW WAREHOUSE is one of the largest and finest Stores  
in Belleville, and as we do a large Wholesale Trade, we are enabled to  
buy in such quantities that we can always command bottom prices, and  
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WE MAKE A SPECIALTY OF  
**CARPETS, LACE CURTAINS, &c.,**  
And will be glad to show customers through our Carpet Rooms.  
Our Stock of Carpets will be found larger than any other  
in the City.

**JAS. W. DUNNET,**  
East Side Front Street, BELLEVILLE

## **MCINNINCH, Henry (1839-1917)**

### **Served as Mayor 1886**

Henry McInninch was born in Ireland on November 21, 1839, son of Robert McInninch and Elizabeth Colgon, and at the age of 14 came out to this country and had lived in Belleville for 40 years. For many years he conducted successfully a blacksmithing business in the city. His older brother, William was a blacksmith and did the work involved with the carriage and blacksmith business. He died on April 17, 1864 after suffering a kick to his lower abdomen by a young horse behind which he stood; Henry took over the business at that time.

In 1878, Mr. McInninch was elected as one of the Aldermen for Samson Ward and for six consecutive years he held that position. In the year 1886 he was elected Mayor of the City and upon completing his term of office he retired from active municipal life.

Fraternally he was a member of the Masonic Eureka Lodge, being a Past Master of that organization.

He was a man who was highly respected by all who knew him and his demise was regretted by a host of friends. The services were under the auspices of the Masonic Fraternity; the funeral was conducted at St. Thomas Church and burial at the Belleville Cemetery. There were many members of his craft present along with fellow citizens to pay their last respects. Bearers were members of the craft namely: Mayor Ketcheson, ex-Mayors C.N. Sulman and H.A. Ackerman, L.R. Terwilliger, Wm. Alford and Chief Newton. The passing of two ex-mayors, McInninch and Nelson Lingham on two consecutive days was a double blow to the local citizens.

Genealogy: he married Margaret McDonough; surviving was a family of two sons and two daughters; the sons were Robert Henry born March 29, 1871, and William John born March 27, 1874, both of Ottawa; the daughters were Mrs. John (Mary Florence) Truaisch born July 5, 1878 of Belleville, married November 28, 1905, and Mrs. Ray (Mabel) Harlor born July 6, 1883 of Mahany City, Pa. married October 20, 1908; two brothers Patrick of Huntingdon and John of Rawdon.

Henry McInninch died on March 10, 1917.

## **BIGGAR, William Hodgins Q.C. (1852-1922)**

### **Served as Mayor 1887-1888**

William Hodgins Biggar was born on September 19, 1852 at Carrying Place, son of J.L. Biggar, former M.P. for East Northumberland. He won honours in scholastic and athletic fields at Upper Canada College. Mr. Biggar was called to the Bar in 1880 and he entered into partnership with John Bell, K.C. of Belleville, General Solicitor for the Grand Trunk Railway System, under the name of Bell and Biggar.

Mr. Biggar was elected Mayor of Belleville in 1887-88 and in 1890 was elected to the Ontario Legislature in the Liberal interest as M.P.P. for West Hastings. He was offered the Speakership of the Ontario Legislature but in 1898 opted to retire from active political life after



two terms to attend to his railway and legal duties. He was made a Q.C. in 1899 and in 1903 he joined the Grand Trunk Railway as Assistant General Solicitor and made General Council in 1910.

Biggar is a town in Saskatchewan and was incorporated as a village in 1909, named after W.H. Biggar, General Council of the Grand Trunk Pacific Railway; the G.T.P.R. made Biggar a divisional point on its line, building a large station and roundhouse. Biggar became famous for its unusual town slogan: "New York is big, but this is Biggar."

Genealogy: A widow, the former Miss Marie Louise Ballow and a family of three sons and one daughter survived him.

The prominent position which he held in connection with the Grand Trunk Railway Company as a Vice-President and senior council was responsible for the large number of railway men in Canada to journey to Belleville to pay their last tribute of respect to one who in life was highly esteemed and in death revered. Not only were railway magnates present, but many employees of the G.T.R. were in attendance. A special train from Montreal brought the remains and also a large number of the officials of the G.T.R. The service was held at St. Thomas Church and interment was at the Belleville Cemetery.

Mr. Biggar was regarded as having the most accurate knowledge of the whole proceedings connected with the building up of the Grand Trunk Pacific Railway.

William Hodgins Biggar died at Montreal on July 7, 1922.

## **WILLSON, Benjamin Seymour M.D. (1833-1892)**

### **Served as Mayor 1888**

Benjamin Seymour Willson was born on May 8, 1833 on the shores of the Bay of Quinte in South Fredericksburg, some six miles from Bath, son of Dr. James Harvey Willson and Jane Seymour, they having married at Kingston in 1828; when he was about 13 his parents moved to the Township of Thurlow. He studied for his profession at McGill University where he obtained his degree and was licensed to practice in Lower Canada in 1855. While training, he was the House Apothecary in the Montreal General Hospital. He immediately established a practice in Roslin (previously known as Willson's Corners) where he resided for a number of years. Afterwards, he moved to Stirling and remained there for 6 years then, about 1873 he removed to Belleville.

He was active in municipal affairs and was elected Mayor of Belleville in 1888; he served as council member and was County Coroner for several years and for one term was a member of the school board.

Genealogy: His wife was the former Miss Susan Gordon Hamilton born on November 22, 1836 at Ernestown, Ontario, daughter of Andrew and Eleanor Hamilton; she died at her daughter's residence in Toronto on January 27, 1911. The couple had three daughters: Blanche Adelia Willson married Archibald Hamilton Rowan Kirtland on July 15, 1893 in Belleville and she died in Toronto on January 20, 1920; Helen Willson married Charles G.L. Kelso on July 13, 1881 in Belleville and she died on April 4, 1929 in Chicago, Cook County, Illinois; and Harriet E. Willson who married John W. Murray on April 1, 1892 at Belleville and she died on December 31, 1904 age 40. There is a Wilson Ave. in the N.W. section of the city.

He was described as a man of the most kindly disposition, prominent to all good works, inoffensive and universally respected and esteemed.

Dr. Benjamin Seymour Willson was deemed a martyr to his professional duty as he died of pleuropneumonia, as a result of a sick call, on January 13, 1892.

## **DIAMOND, Wellington Jeffers (1839-1929)**

### **Served as Mayor 1889**

Wellington Jeffers Diamond was born at Hay Bay on August 10, 1839, son of Mr. and Mrs. John Diamond, one of the United Empire Loyalists who settled in that historic district. He left the farm and came to Belleville to attend the Grammar School and then attended Albert Seminary. He taught school for a couple of years and then began the study of law with the firm of Dean and Diamond. After his call to the Bar he entered into partnership with his brother Abraham Diamond who served as Police Magistrate for a number of years. Later he entered into partnership with F.E. O'Flynn with which firm he was connected until about 1926 when he carried on business in his own name. He was a charter member of the County of Hastings Law Association.

In 1866 when volunteers were called for the Fenian Raid he left Belleville with the 15th Argyll Light Infantry for Prescott and upon the regiment's return he went immediately to Military School in Toronto from which he obtained his officer's certificate.

Mr. Diamond was connected with municipal life for a period of twenty one years; he served in council as Alderman and was elected as Mayor in 1889. For 48 years he was connected with the Board of Education having been appointed in 1881 as its secretary-treasurer and Solicitor. He assisted in the formation of the Horticultural Society; fraternally he was connected with the Belleville Lodge No. 81 I.O.O.F. and served as Noble Grand; he was secretary of Eureka Lodge No. 283 for 43 years.

In politics he was a Liberal Conservative and took a most active part in the party's campaigns; he was appointed to the License Board of West Hastings. He was a member of Bridge Street United Church and occupied official positions in that congregation. He was a lover of sport and took an active part in lacrosse, cricket, quoiting, curling and bowling.

Genealogy: He married Annie Marie Lyon on June 29, 1848; the daughter of Henry Lyon of Belleville, his wife predeceased him by 29 years on July 31, 1900. Surviving were his daughter Miss Elia Mary Diamond, born August 28, 1874 and lived at home and his son Fred Davey Diamond, born September 20, 1871, married Mary Elizabeth Clarke on October 11, 1899; the son was the District Inspector of Weights and Measures of the Belleville Division. There is a Diamond Crescent in the S.E. section of the city.

Wellington Jeffers Diamond died at his residence on Charles Street on December 1, 1929.

## **TICKELL, George Skinner (1829-1899)**

### **Served as Mayor 1890**

George Skinner Tickell was born in Bristol, England at 7 a.m. on Sunday, April 12, 1829 and baptized in St. Augustine Church, Bristol, son of John Skinner Tickell and Eliza Tully Tickell. The family removed to Whitechurch near Tavistock, Devon, England where he received his early education. At the age of 14 he was apprenticed for the term of seven years to learn the trade of cabinetmaker, which business he followed for the duration.

In 1857 he married Hannah Beeltam, a native of Cheltenham, England and shortly thereafter they emigrated to Canada and in the spring of 1858 settled in Belleville.

Mr. Tickell's first religious views were formed with the Congregational body, in England, but coming to Canada any Calvinistic doctrines he may have held were dispersed believing in free grace for every repentant sinner; hence his connection with the Bridge Street Methodist Church. Mr. Tickell was an Oddfellow, being a member of Mizpah Lodge and held several chairs; he was also a Freemason and a member of Eureka Lodge. In politics he was a reformer; during the national policy agitation he gave his support to Sir John A. MacDonald.

He was one of the Aldermen of the City and represented Ketcheson Ward, the commercial ward of the city, for a period of four years and was elected as Mayor of Belleville in 1890. He filled other important positions and was at one time president of the St. George's Society; he was vice-president of the Mechanic's Institute.

He traveled considerably on this continent in connection with his business visiting New York, Boston and Chicago in order to improve his business. He had the largest and oldest business in his line in Belleville and did wholesale trade throughout Canada.

Genealogy: He had four sons, William, Edward, Alfred and Joseph and daughter Annie. His two oldest sons worked with him in his trade.

George Skinner Tickell died at his residence on Church Street on May 8, 1899.

## **PORTER, Edward Guss K.C. (1859-1929)**

### **Served as Mayor 1891**

Edward Guss Porter, son of Robert and Hanna Porter, was born in Consecon, P.E. Co., on May 28, 1859 but had resided in Belleville since 1873. After receiving his preliminary education at Consecon, he attended Albert College, graduating in 1879, studied at Upper Canada College and U. of T. He then studied law at Osgoode Hall and was called to the Bar in 1884; he was created K.C. in 1908. He served as president of the Hastings Bar Association.

He always took a great interest in public affairs and served the city honourably and acceptably as a member of the Council for six years, Mayor in 1891, and was instrumental in bringing to pass many important matters in the interest of the city. In 1902 he was first elected to the House of Commons and was re-elected in 1904, 1908, 1911, 1917, and 1921, serving as a federal member of parliament for 22 years. His career in the House was based on his fearless stand for good, clean, honest government. His legal learning and natural abilities fitted him to fill the

prominent positions among the members of the Bar in Canada. He was one of Belleville's leading citizens at the turn of the century and one of Canada's foremost criminal lawyers. He refused a Supreme Court Judgeship under the Union Government of 1917.

Guss Porter was interested in yachting when Belleville was known around the world as a centre for the sport and for a time he was vice commodore of the Yacht Club; he was a chairman of the Belleville Harbour Commission and the fine dock at the Bay of Quinte was a monument of his interest while a member for this riding. Socially he was a member of the Laurentian Club in Ottawa, a club for members of Parliament and also the Albany Club, an exclusive meeting place in Toronto. Fraternally he was a member of the Masonic Order, identified with Eureka Lodge, Belleville Lodge I.O.O.F. and Benjamin Lodge, Loyal Orange Lodge. He was the first Rotary president of Belleville; in religion he was a Presbyterian.

Genealogy: He married Annie Morrow. His only son Roger, born May 19, 1898, was the light of his father's eye; when the war broke out the son was not yet of age for military service but he answered the call and took his place with the heroes of yesterday. Roger entered the war zone in France and was killed in 1917 while in action. There is a Porter Ave. in the N.E. section of the city.

Edward Guss Porter died on December 23, 1929

## **BOGART, Curtis (1848-1922)**

### **Served as Mayor 1892**

Curtis Bogart was born in Belleville on August 26, 1848, son of Gilbert Curtis Bogart and Ann Meacham. After obtaining a public and high school education locally he attended university where he fitted himself for his chosen profession, namely law. He was called to the Bar and for a number of years conducted a law office in Belleville and was in partnership with others of the legal profession.

He was intensely interested in municipal matters and from the years of 1886 to 1891 was an Alderman of the City, being one of the representatives of Samson Ward. In 1892 the citizens honoured him by electing him Mayor and in his municipal career he exhibited marked ability and his services were much appreciated; he was ever ready to do anything in his power for the advancement of the City on the Bay.

He was active in the old boy's reunions and the success of same was to a considerable extent due to his untiring effort. He was appointed a collector of customs at the G.T.R. Station; in religion was a Methodist being a member of Bridge Street Church. He was a Conservative and previous to his appointment to a Government position took an active part for the party.

Genealogy: He married Ella Burrell on March 16, 1875, she the daughter of Ellis Burrell, an axe manufacturer of the city. Besides his widow, he was survived by two sons and a daughter. Ellis Gilbert Bogart was born on January 3, 1876 and he married Mary Elizabeth Hubley on June 27, 1906; Ellis Bogart died in Brooklyn N.Y. on November 9, 1940. Grace Burrell Bogart was born on August 12, 1878 and she married Clarence Dickinson on December 28, 1910; they died on consecutive days in January 1919 in Killarney, Manitoba from the effects of the Spanish Flu. Maurice Bogart died in Belleville on August 5, 1897 aged 12. Jean Phyllis Bogart was married on

June 28, 1924 to John Richard Huffman. After the death of her husband, Ella Bogart resided at 28 Beaufort Road, Toronto with her son Warren W. Bogart. There is a Bogart Crescent in the N.W. section of the city.

Curtis Bogart died at his residence on Bridge Street on June 15, 1922.

## **WALLBRIDGE, Francis Stewart (1860-1920)**

### **Served as Mayor 1893**

Francis Stewart Wallbridge was born in Belleville on February 17, 1860, son of Francis Wallbridge and Clarinda Stewart. Of United Empire Loyalist stock, he was the great grandson of Elijah Wallbridge who in 1802 settled on 2000 acres in Ameliasburgh. He was educated at the local high school and at Upper Canada College, Toronto and with the inspiration of his uncle, the Honourable Lewis Wallbridge, former Speaker of the House and afterward Chief Justice of Manitoba, he entered upon the study of law and was duly called to the Bar in 1884. He practiced his profession in Belleville continuously and enjoyed the confidence of a very large circle of clients, specializing in real estate for which his training and knowledge of titles had qualified him. He was distinguished for not merely his capacity for hard work and patient assiduity but for his geniality and kindness in dealing with all sorts and conditions of men.

Mr. Wallbridge took a deep interest in public affairs, believing that all national life was founded upon the community, and represented, as Alderman, Samson Ward in the years 1889, 1890, 1891, 1892 and was the efficient and respected Mayor of the City in 1893; thereafter, when the opportunity offered, he made fruitful suggestions founded on experience with regard to the administration of municipal policies. 'The Globe' in a special article, said of him "Having succeeded to the business of his uncle, the Honourable Lewis Wallbridge, Q.C., he won for himself a deservedly high reputation as a man of ability and integrity. Evidence of this is furnished in the fact of his elevation to the Mayor's chair at an age when most men with a predilection for public life regard the position of alderman as a distant dream."

He took great pleasure with agriculture and gardening and was the owner of a fruit farm and apple orchard in Thurlow. He was a devoted member of Emmanuel Church and filled many positions of trust.

Genealogy: He was survived by two brothers, William Holloway Wallbridge of Toronto, barrister-at-law, and John David Stewart Wallbridge of Armstrong, B.C.; and three sisters, Mrs. Mary Everett Caldwell of Winnipeg and the Misses Caroline Kinnear Wallbridge and Clara Hawley Wallbridge at the residence on George Street. There is a Wallbridge Crescent in the N.W. section of the city.

Francis Stewart Wallbridge died following an operation at the General Hospital in Toronto, on November 6, 1920.



## Advertisements for mayors McInninch, Willson, Diamond, Tickell, Porter & Wallbridge who served between 1886 & 1893

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## **WALMSLEY, James Ernest (1854-1940)**

**Served as Mayor 1894-1897**

James Ernest Walmsley was born in Milford, P.E. Co. on January 10, 1854, the son of Andrew and Harriett Walmsley. As a young man he enjoyed the employ of W.R. McRae, wholesale grocer in 1870, and worked for that concern for a decade in Napanee, Kingston and Belleville. He came to this city in 1874 and remained with the firm until 1880 when he formed the partnership of Walmsley and Spafford, wholesale and retail grocers in a store on the north-east corner of Front Street and Victoria Ave. In 1899 he purchased the wholesale business of Pitceathly and Kelso. While in the wholesale business, Mr. Walmsley was associated with three partners, Rev. Dr. Gallbraith, A.J. McLaren and S.M. Kenny. In December 1909, the latter partner withdrew and he conducted the business as J.E. Walmsley and Co., Ltd.

Mr. Walmsley recorded a notable record of service and achievement serving as an Alderman for three consecutive years, 1891-92-93 and as the City's Chief Magistrate for the following three years, occupying the Mayoralty chair from 1894 to 1897. For many years he held the title of Justice of the Peace and was often called upon to preside over the local police court.

He had a lengthy military record having served with the old 15th Battalion, Argyll Light Infantry for over 20 years and retired with the rank of Captain. Fraternally he was a Past Master of the Belleville Masonic Lodge No. 123, Moira Chapter No. 7, R.A.M., Belleville Lodge No. 81, I.O.O.F.; he served as a member of the executive committee of the old Albert College. Over a period of sixty years, he was closely associated with the Tabernacle Church, being an elder, and for over thirty years, the superintendent of the Sunday School, retiring on Apr. 4, 1937 as Superintendant Emeritus.

Genealogy: surviving him were his wife, Ellen Snell who was born on April 16, 1856 and married on October 21, 1880; two daughters, Hazel born July 22, 1894, and Marguerite born September 6, 1896; one son James born May 22, 1900; he was predeceased by son Leon, born July 23, 1887, died December 16, 1937. One sister Mrs. A.B. Sexsmith and two brothers Samuel and Thomas, all of Napanee. There is a Walmsley Place in the S.W. section of the city.

James Ernest Walmsley died on March 31, 1940.

## **JOHNSON, John Wesley (1846-1919)**

**Served as Mayor 1897-1900**

John Wesley Johnson was born at Antrim, Ireland on January 17, 1846, the son of Mr. William Johnson who was a merchant at Antrim. He came to Canada in 1864 and for the greater portion of his life he resided in Belleville. In early life he was a steamboat purser and for some time sailed on the Canadian Lakes. He was widely known as an educationalist and accountant. For years he was associated with Mr. S.G. Beatty of Toronto and Mr. W.B. Robinson of Belleville in conducting the Ontario Business College, a world famous institution; he served as Principal of the College for some years and was a Fellow of the Institute of Chartered Accountants.



He assisted in municipal affairs and for a number of years was a member of the City Council; in 1896 he was a representative of Ketcheson Ward and the following year was elected Mayor, an Office he filled for four years, 1897-1900. It was during his incumbency that the scheme of building the Bay Bridge took practical shape and his financial argument of the taking of stock by the city to the extent of \$30,000 was successful. He was president of the Belleville Gas Company and a member of the Board of Trade. He authored several books bearing upon commercial lines such as 'Johnson's Joint Stock Co. Bookkeeping'. For a number of years he was connected with the 49th Battalion, Hastings Rifles, advancing from a Private to a Major; in the years 1865 and 1866 during the troublesome times in Canada he served with the Canadian volunteers on the frontier.

He was further recognized by the people and was elected as the representative of West Hastings in the Ontario Legislature, which position he held until his death. He advocated the franchise for women on equality with men and lived to see the measure he proposed adopted by the Legislature.

Genealogy: He married first in 1872 to Miss Sarah Smith, daughter of Dr. W.P. Smith of Montreal and in 1886 to May Sawyer, daughter of Rufus Sawyer of Picton. In addition to his wife who died on August 20, 1944, a family of four sons and four daughters survived him. The sons were: Major Gordon B. Johnson a Royal Engineer at Edinburgh, formerly the Canadian representative in Japan; Lieut. John W. Johnson; Wm. P. of Lockport. N.Y., and Wendell, a high school student; the daughters were: Mrs. Kathleen Hepburn of Picton; Miss Ethel of Toronto and Misses Marjorie and Dorothy, instructors in the Hampton College at Hampton, Virginia. There is a Johnson Street in the N.E. section of the city.

John Wesley Johnson died on March 11, 1919.

## **GRAHAM, Robert James (1860-1934)**

### **Served as Mayor 1901-1903**

Robert James Graham was born in Sidney Township on April 2, 1860 the son of Ketchan Graham who served as member of the Ontario Legislature and Eliza Ann Roblin. He was educated in the local schools and early in life entered into business, his early training fitting him for the post he played for so many years in the agricultural and business relations. He was interested in the evaporating of fruit and his business took on an international character. He was a supporter of the Board of Trade of which he served as president and of the Chamber of Commerce, and he represented the Belleville Chamber at a conference in Cape Town, S.A. He served as Chairman of the Board of the Stewart Warner Corporation.

He was a member of the City Council in his early life and in 1901-1903 served as Mayor; he arranged for the consolidation of the indebtedness of the City and established a sinking fund. Years later his son, Mr. R.J.E. Graham became Mayor after a successful Aldermanic career. R.J. Graham followed in the steps of his father as a student of provincial and federal problems; in 1894 he contested West Hastings for the Federal House unsuccessfully against E. Guss Porter and in 1917 he contested the local riding unsuccessfully.

Robert James Graham was one of the pioneer members of the Bay of Quinte Country Club, a member of the Rotary Club, the Moira Masonic Lodge No. 11 and a member of John Street United Church. One of the buildings at Albert College remains a memorial to R.J. Graham whose interest in education was always foremost. He presented Belleville with the site of the present Memorial Park and was chiefly instrumental in the erection of the war memorial which adorns the park.

Genealogy: His wife, the former Miss Grace Almira Roblin was born on August 23, 1865 and predeceased him on January 3, 1927; three sons, George K. Graham, Lt. Col. R.J.E. Graham and R. Bruce Graham and two daughters, Mrs. Jamieson Bone and Miss Grace Graham of Belleville survive. There is a Graham Street in the N.W. section of the city.

Throughout his life Mr. Graham was a man of the most enterprising type in the financial and business sphere which not only had a local interest but also an interest extending over a great part of the Dominion.

Robert James Graham died on May 24, 1934.

## **CHOWN, William Whitfield (1851-1928)**

### **Served as Mayor 1904**

William Whitfield Chown was born in Kingston on December 27, 1851 son of Arthur Chown and Elizabeth Ann Gardiner; after attending the local public schools he entered his father's hardware business. In 1881 he was engaged in business on his own as a dealer in agricultural implements at 30 Montreal St., Kingston; the name 'W.W. Chown' painted on the brick is still legible. In 1882 he moved to Belleville to manage that branch of his father's business and eventually took it over. For some years he was engaged in the manufacture of lanterns but discontinued this because of difficulty over patents.

Active in municipal affairs, William Whitfield Chown served several years as Alderman and was elected Mayor in 1904. He was a member of Bridge Street Methodist Church, was secretary of the Albert College Board and a director and president of the Y.M.C.A.

In 1906 he moved to Edmonton and established a hardware business on Jasper Ave; due to war conditions this had to be abandoned in 1916 when he moved to London, returning to Kingston in 1919 where he was connected with Edwin Chown and Son for the duration. He had been appointed to the General Conference of the Methodist Church from 1902 to 1914 and when back in Kingston was a member of the Sydenham Street Church.

Genealogy: On November 18, 1873 he married Emma Constantia Potter of Moscow and when she died in early 1876 he married Alice Jane Elizabeth Wheeler of Tamworth on October 31, 1876. When in Belleville, Alice Chown served as president of the Women's Christian Temperance Union, the Women's Missionary Society and the Y.M.C.A. Auxiliary. In Edmonton she was president of the Alberta W.M.S. and helped establish the Ruthenian Home for girls in Edmonton. She was born on March 19, 1857 and died on March 25, 1924. Their children were Allan, born July 22, 1877, Russell, born October 17, 1878, Leroy, born September 6, 1883 and Harold, born January 16, 1891. W.W. Chown was survived by five brothers: James Gardiner Chown of Berkeley, Ca. (d. September 14, 1931), Samuel Clark Chown of Lucan, Ont. (d. April

9, 1941), Oliver Chown, (d. January 3, 1948) Alfred Francis Chown (d. December 18, 1931) and Harvey Roger Chown (d. September 25, 1951) of Kingston, and sisters Frances Jane Chown, (d. March 1948) and Mrs. Elizabeth Annabella Muirhead, (d. June 6, 1935). There is a Chown Crescent in the N.W. section of the city.

William Whitfield Chown died in Kingston on April 13, 1928.

## **SULMAN, Charles Nelson (1870-1947)**

### **Served as Mayor 1905-1908**

Charles Nelson Sulman was born on August 8, 1870 in Burford, Ontario, the son of Mr. and Mrs. William Sulman. He attended school in Brantford and later was employed in a wholesale house in Toronto. Having gained some knowledge of merchandising and desiring to enter business on his own account, he came to Belleville in the year 1885, the time of the North West Rebellion, and at the age of sixteen years opened a small wares and novelty business in a store which stood at that time on the present site of the Canadian Bank of Commerce at the corner of Front and Campbell Streets. His venture was successful and later he bought the stock of the Dalton Fair and moved to the store now occupied by the A. & P. Company. Eventually he leased the large store now occupied by the Lattimer Drug Store and carried on an extensive business there for forty five years. For the last nineteen years he lived retired.

Charles Nelson Sulman was a good citizen and throughout the many years he lived in his adopted city he was held in high regard and was popular with many friends. He took a keen interest in municipal affairs and during the years 1902, 1903 and 1904 he served as a member of the City Council. In 1905 he was elected Mayor and he filled the Office with much ability for three years. In religion Mr. Sulman was a member of Bridge Street United Church and for many years he was a member of the Official Board; he also served as Chairman of the Property Committee and Chairman of the Library Board. In the management of the Public Library he took much interest and served as Chairman of the Board for forty years. He served on the City Board of Health and gave his support to all worthy undertakings for the betterment of the city. In politics he was a staunch Conservative and a member of the Conservative Association. Fraternally Mr. Sulman was Past Master of the Masonic Eureka Lodge No. 283, having occupied the chair for four years; also a member of Moira Chapter No. 7 R.A.M. In 1946 Mr. Sulman was presented with the fifty year Masonic Jewel.

Charles Sulman took an active interest in sport in his younger days. For many years he was identified with the Lawn Bowling Club when the greens were on George Street, near Victoria Avenue, William Street and at the present location. He was a past president of this organization and won many trophies throughout the district. Mr. Sulman was also connected with the old Curling Club and served as president.

Genealogy: Mr. Sulman was twice married; first to Effie Belle Garrett who died on April 4, 1897 leaving one daughter, Miss Helen Sulman; second to Clara Isabella Pringle who died on February 8, 1926 leaving one daughter the late Mrs. Alice Isabel Bateman who died on July 2, 1940. Two grandsons Charles Robert Bateman and John Douglas Bateman survived him.

Charles Nelson Sulman died at the B.G.H., after an illness of three and a half years' duration, on December 2, 1947.

## **McFEE, Allen (1833-1919)**

### **Served as Mayor 1908**

Allen McFee was a native of Scotland, born in January 1833. In early life he left his native land and located in the United States. When the Civil War broke out between the North and South, 1861-1864, he enlisted in the Union Army of the North and fought for the freedom of the slaves and a united country. He was captured by the Confederates and spent some time in that hell-hole of a military prison, Libby Prison, where so many Northern soldiers died from exposure and starvation and neglect. He managed to survive the ordeal but carried the effects of his incarceration and hardships in an impaired constitution through the remainder of his life. After the war he came to Canada and located in Belleville about 1868, engaging in business as a jeweler and watchmaker. This business was very successful and was carried on ever since although Mr. McFee retired from active business some years before.

Mr. McFee always took an active interest in the city affairs of a public nature and served very acceptably as Mayor (1908) and Alderman at different times, giving a number of years to the service of the city. He had considerable talent of a dramatic nature and for years was the leader in organizing local dramatic productions of a high order of merit. In this connection he was the donor, each year for twenty five years, of a gold medal to Albert College for Elocution. He was also active in all movements tending to better the welfare of the city, was a member of Belleville Lodge No. 81, I.O.O.F., and was a member of Bridge Street Methodist Church.

Zwick's Island had been bought by the city in order to use the gravel and it was during Mr. McFee's term in office that the land was considered for preservation as a park as it was in every way suitable for such use. Surrounded by the Bay of Quinte, the park is used now for its trails, waterfront, concert space, dog park and picturesque park land; and is considered by Canadians as one of the Greatest Places in Canada.

Genealogy: Mr. McFee was survived by four daughters, Mrs. Archibald (Minty, born January 4, 1872) Dunlop and Mrs. W.B. (Julia, October 28, 1874-January 19, 1947) Herbert, of Toronto; and Mrs. John Albert (Janet, died May 21, 1945) Borbridge, married December 7, 1887, and Mrs. Samuel S. (Maud) Bongard married November 24, 1898, of Belleville; his wife, the former Miss Almira Beckett, preceded him in death by a number of years on September 20, 1880. There is a McFee Street in the N.W. section of the city.

Mr. Allen McFee died at the residence of his daughter, death hastened by a serious fall sustained some time previous, on August 22, 1919.

## **MARSH, Colonel Lorne Wilmot (1871-1928)**

**Served as Mayor 1909-1911**

Lorne Wilmot Marsh was born in Frankfort on June 29, 1871, the son of Mr. and Mrs. John Marsh who moved to Belleville in 1875. Here he received his education in the local public and high schools following which he took a course in the Belleville Business College and for a year attended Toronto University. During the years 1890 to 1892, he was a school teacher at the 1st Concession School of Thurlow. He removed to Belleville to take a position as bookkeeper with Colonel Brown, whose foundry was situated where the Greenleaf Foundry would later follow. Mr. Marsh advanced rapidly and in 1897 he took hold of the run-down manufacturing concern, establishing the Marsh and Henthorne Engineering Works, in partnership with Mr. William Henthorne. Before the war this company confined their activity to the manufacturing of huge derricks and other large implements as well as farm machines. They trebled their venture in the course of the next eleven years. During the war he operated his steel plant at full capacity making munitions (steel shells for the holding of the explosives) for the troops in France, and continued thereafter making implements of peace. The Henthorne interests were later sold to Colonel Marsh. Poor health eventually forced his own retirement and the business was purchased by the Stevens Adamson Company.

In public affairs, he always took a deep interest serving as a member of the Board of Aldermen from 1903 to 1907 and in 1908 was a candidate for the Mayoralty but was defeated by 29 votes. In 1909 he was again a candidate and was elected by a large majority of the people. For two years he served his city well and truly in all his official capacities and once was the Liberal Candidate for the Provincial House in this section.

For over twenty years he was connected with the XV Regiment Argyle Light Infantry, having entered the ranks in 1887. In 1897 he took out a commission in this Regiment and had a rapid promotion since that time to the office of Major and was the next in line for command. Owing to ill health Colonel Marsh was not able to enlist although he tried several times. He took a keen interest in the work of the 15th Regiment in Belleville and made generous gifts to stimulate interest in all things connected to this Regiment.

He was a lover of clean sport and was a familiar figure at all local sporting affairs, especially baseball. He was a devoted member of St. Thomas Anglican Church and was keenly interested in the Auxiliaries.

Genealogy: Besides his widow Zeta born February 24, 1873, there remained one son, John E. Marsh and one brother Arthur Marsh of Belleville. There is a Marsh Drive in the N.W. section of Belleville.

Colonel Marsh died in Belleville on June 4, 1928.

## **ACKERMAN, Henry Willis (1869-1963)**

### **Served as Mayor 1911**

Henry Ackerman was born in Milford on February 9, 1869, the son of Mr. and Mrs. Jacob Ackerman. He attended the public school at Milford and later Model School at Picton, after which he taught public school for five years in the Picton area. Cutting short his teaching career, he attended Ontario Business College at Belleville afterwards becoming associated with the Graham Foods Ltd., manufacturers of dried foods, in this city.

Mr. Ackerman served four years on city council and in 1911 was Mayor of the City. During his term he attended the coronation of King George V.

His community work and public service is indicated by his membership on many different boards and organizations, among them the Belleville Chamber of Commerce and the Belleville Y.M.C.A. He was a charter member of the Belleville Rotary Club and past president of the Belleville Y.M.C.A., having served as the "Y" head for three years from 1918 to 1920. During his early years he was active in curling, lawn bowling and golf.

He was a faithful member of Bridge Street United Church and took an active interest in all aspects of church work. He was treasurer of the church for more than 40 years. At Albert College he was one of the oldest members of the Board of Governors, having served in that capacity for more than 50 years. He acted as bursar of the Board and when the present college was constructed was a large contributor to the college extension fund. His gift to the fund and his work on the college board have been memorialized with Ackerman Hall, the college dining hall, named in his honour. He was a long time member of the Masonic Order and a life member of the Belleville Lodge, No. 123, and was the oldest living past master of Eureka Lodge, No. 283. He was a member of the Shriners and was named honorary president of the Belleville Cemetery Board in 1962.

Genealogy: The Ackermans celebrated their 50 wedding anniversary in 1956. He was survived by his wife, the former Mary Licentia Hochridge; she died on May 19, 1965 and a daughter, Mrs. David (Gwyn Helen) Morton of Hamilton, a grand daughter Mary Beth Morton and a grandson, John David Morton. A son Jack died on July 11, 1956.

Henry Willis Ackerman died at the B.G.H. on July 14, 1963.

## **VERMILYEA, Alfred G. (1852-1922)**

### **Served as Mayor 1912**

Alfred G Vermilyea was born in Sidney Township about 1852, the son of Mr. and Mrs. Henry Vermilyea, and spent all his life in this city and vicinity.

Mr. Vermilyea had an active life and took a deep interest in municipal affairs. In 1905 he was elected as one of the representatives of Murney Ward in the City Council and for seven years was a worthy representative. During those years as a public servant he did what he could for the city's interest. In 1912 he was elected Mayor of the City, the contest being exceptionally lively and close. Mr. George I. Thomas was his opponent and when the ballots were counted, Mr. Vermilyea had a majority of 4. As a presiding officer, he was courteous and by his genial manner made many



friends. He was a member of the Belleville City Council for four years, three years Chairman of the Water Works Department, and Treasurer of the Corby Library since its inauguration.

In religion Mr. Vermilyea was a Methodist, being a member of Bridge Street Church. Although actively engaged in municipal matters, he was ever attentive to his church duties. For years he was not only an officer of the Sunday School, but of the official Board of the Church, occupying an office at the time of his demise. In politics he was a Liberal and had occupied positions in the party ranks.

As a business man, Mr. Vermilyea was proprietor of a grocery establishment at 42 Bridge Street West. This store, with most complete and modern fittings, was stocked with a particularly good display of fine groceries, while very particular attention was paid to the handling of Creamery butter, none being obtainable in the city. Fruits too, foreign and domestic, and always of the highest grade were a special feature of the business. It was a very old established business, dating back forty five years when Mr. J.W. Clark first organized the establishment; Mr. Vermilyea joined in 1875 and was known to follow good, square and honourable business methods with equally satisfactory results for his customers and himself.

Genealogy: He married Antionette Clark on December 8, 1875; she predeceased him on January 7, 1918 and he was survived by his daughter, Mrs. James Brown (Clara Bell) Gibson, married April 12, 1898.

Alfred G. Vermilyea died in Belleville on February 28, 1922.

## **WILLS, Judge John Franklin K.C. (1864-1934)**

### **Served as Mayor 1913-1914**

John Franklin Wills was born September 15, 1864, the son of Thomas Wills, Treasurer of the County of Hastings and Anna Maria (Levesconte) Wills. He was a native of Belleville and following his education in the local schools he was articled to study law with the Honourable Lewis Wallbridge, George D. Dixon and the Honourable R.M. Wills. Following his course at Osgoode Hall he started the practice of law in Belleville with a branch office at Tweed. In 1908 he was made King's Counsel and on the retirement of Judge Edison Baldwin Fraleck was elevated to the Bench on April 21, 1916 as Junior Judge of the County Court of the County of Hastings, and Judge of the Surrogate Court. He graced his high position with the dignity that befitted that Office made himself a friend of any lawyer who pleaded before him and the judgments handed down by him were known for their fairness. Judge Wills was a member of the Hastings Law Library Association and chairman of the Belleville Police Commission.

Judge Wills was for many years a member of the Board of Education and past chairman of that body; he was an Alderman of the City in 1902 and Mayor of Belleville in 1913 and 1914. He took a leading part and interest in the Belleville Old Boys' Reunion and was president of the Reunion of 1920. He took a keen interest in the work of the Belleville General Hospital and his valuable advice and counsel to those governing that institution was gladly and willingly forthcoming. His trips to the British West Indies aroused his enthusiasm for inter-trade between those Islands and Canada and he worked indefatigably towards its promotion. He was a widely and knowingly well-read man and well posted on current events. He was an ardent huntsman, a



member of the Bay of Quinte Yacht Club and was a past Commodore. He was active in golf and was a member of the Belleville Curling Club and was past president of both organizations; he was a member of the Lawn Bowling Club.

Judge Wills was a past president of the West Hastings Conservative Association and for many years was chief lieutenant for Senator Harry Corby when he waged his successful political battles in West Hastings. He served with the XV Battalion, Argyle Light Infantry for a number of years and retired with the rank of Captain.

Genealogy: He married Edith Maud Yarwood born January 30, 1864, on July 16, 1895 and was survived by his wife who died on January 29, 1946 and their son Thomas Yarwood Wills, April 9, 1901-July 2, 1989. There is a Wills Street in the S.E. section of the city.

Judge Wills died in Belleville on January 29, 1934.

## **PANTER, William Henry (1862-1942)**

### **Served as Mayor 1915**

William Henry Panter was born in Belleville on September 6, 1862, son of Mr. and Mrs. John Panter. All his life was passed in his native city which he loved and the advancement and proper government of which, he always had at heart.

For many years he was associated with his father in the grocery and produce business and upon his father's death he carried on the business until about 1930 when he retired.

In civic affairs Mr. Panter took a keen interest and served the city well as an Alderman for thirteen years from 1898 to 1912, with the exception of the years 1909 and 1910. He occupied most of the chairmanships in the council and did excellent work especially as chairman of the finance and public works committees. In the year 1915 he was elected to the Office of Mayor and he filled that position in an able manner for one term. He was a good citizen and throughout his long life he was highly esteemed.

In religion he was a member of the Church of England and was one of the oldest parishioners of Christ Church.

Mr. Panter had great faith in the stability of Belleville and upon his retirement from the retail business he interested himself in real estate and was one of the largest property owners in this city.

Genealogy: He married Francis Elizabeth Northcott on May 24, 1886, she was born on November 1, 1858 and died on March 8, 1941; Two daughters survived him both of Belleville, Miss Erma Panter, born December 14, 1889 and Mrs. Grace Landry Keeler, born June 13, 1897, married Major Keeler on October 29, 1921; two sons, Captain John Panter, born November 20, 1891, serving with the forces in England and Sergt.-Major Francis Sidney Panter, born August 27, 1894, in the pay office at the Brockville Training Centre, married Constance Leola Connell on September 16, 1941; one brother Mr. Fred Panter, Belleville; two grand daughters, Elizabeth May Keeler and Yvonne Joan Keeler; two grandsons, Robert William Panter and John Panter. There is a Panter Circle in the N.W. section of the city. William Henry Panter died at his home on Octavia Street on March 18, 1942.

## **KETCHESON, Henry Freeman (1862-1930)**

### **Served as Mayor 1916-1917**

Henry Freeman Ketcheson was born on October 25, 1862 the son of William Henry Ketcheson and Matilda Snider. His ancestors were United Empire Loyalists and his grandfather was born on a farm owned by Colonel W.G. Ketcheson, near Wallbridge.

He spent the earlier part of his life outside of Belleville, attended school at the little country school house near his home, the Belleville High School and County Model School. For some time H.F. Ketcheson taught school at the Marsh Hill School, and in Tyendinaga. Tiring of this occupation he came and entered the civil service, Post Office Division. For over thirty years though, he made his home in Belleville and carried on in the insurance business which grew to cover the entire Bay of Quinte District.

He was a member of the Masonic Order, Past Master of the Moira Lodge, District Deputy Grand Master, Prince Edward District, a Past Grand Registrar of the Sovereign Great Priory of Canada, Past Preceptor of King Baldwin Preceptory, Knights Templar and Potentate Aid of Belleville for Rameses Temple, Toronto. He was Past President of the Belleville Club and a director of the Springer Lock Works. He was past president of the Chamber of Commerce and the Belleville Board of Trade. He served on the Board of Education and for many years was treasurer of the Children's Aid.

In the years 1916 and 1917 he was Mayor of the city of Belleville and was one of the most outstanding Mayors in the history of the City.

He was one of the leading philatelists of the Dominion and was the author and publisher of the first revenue stamp catalogue in this country. His collection ran into the thousands and included many valuable and rare specimens.

Genealogy: He married Mary Elizabeth Scantlebury on December 2, 1883. He was survived by three sons, all associated with the insurance business and all served their country in the Great War: William Henry Freeman Ketcheson, David V. Ketcheson, M.C. and George E. Ketcheson; and four daughters: Miss Ethel of Toronto, Bessie a missionary in China, Mrs. (Rev.) Ada Manuel, Kapuskasing and Miss Nettie at home. Mrs. Ketcheson died on October 28, 1918. Two brothers, Fred G. of Toronto, George H. of Cannifton and one sister Mrs. Garrison of Corbyville survived him.

Henry Freeman Ketcheson died at his home on Albert Street on November 25, 1930.

## **PLATT, Edward Orren M.D. (1870-1944)**

### **Served as Mayor 1918-1919**

Edward Orren Platt was born on November 5, 1870 in England and came to Canada at an early age. For some time he lived at Plainfield and after teaching school for some years he enrolled as a student at Queen's University. He remained at this institution for one year during which he obtained the degree of Bachelor of Arts and completed the first year in medicine. He then entered the University of Toronto from which he graduated in 1907.

Dr. Platt practiced his profession in Belleville for fifteen years. He took post graduate studies in the hospitals in New York and in 1913 he went to the Old Country, accompanied by his wife, where he spent some time in medical studies at the hospitals.

During the time Dr. Platt practiced in the city he took a keen interest in municipal affairs and when he returned from the Old Country, in the latter part of 1913, he offered his services as an Alderman and was elected to the City Council for the years 1914, 1915, 1916 and 1917. In 1918 he was elected to the office of Mayor and was re-elected for the year 1919. In 1915 he was nominated as the Federal candidate by the West Hastings Liberals and in 1936 stood for the Provincial nomination at the Liberal convention in Madoc, but was unsuccessful.

He later moved to Toronto where he followed his profession for eighteen years. He was also a member of the medical staff at the Clifton Springs Sanitarium for two years, located at Clifton Springs N.Y.; the Sanitarium was built in 1892 and was the home to the Clifton Springs Water Cure promoted initially by Dr. Henry Foster. The water cure was largely based on bathing in the village's highly sulphured water and was popular with the rich and famous for many years.

In 1937, Dr. Piatt returned to this city and lived the retired life since. In religion he was a member of the United Church.

Genealogy: He was survived by his wife, the former Edna Gertrude Garrison, she died on March 24, 1958, and one son, Clarence Piatt of Plainfield.

Dr. Edward Orren Piatt died at his home on Bridge Street East on May 31, 1944.

## **RIGGS, William Bates (1853-1937)**

### **Served as Mayor 1920**

William Bates Riggs was born on August 17, 1853 at Pittsburg, Pa. In the year 1881 he came to make his home at Belleville and shortly after his arrival here he became bandmaster of the Oddfellows' Band; later he amalgamated this band with the 15th Battalion Band, the new organization being known as the Consolidated Military and Oddfellows' Band. He made a great success of this undertaking and acted as bandmaster for twenty years. Eventually he entered the retail piano and organ business, selling also other musical instruments and sheet music, an endeavour he carried on for over 37 years.

When automobiles came into prominence, Mr. Riggs saw the possibilities of the business and disposed of his piano and organ business in order to enter the retail automobile field and he had the first agency for Ford cars in this city. His first garage and showrooms were on Pinnacle Street in the building next to the Quinte Hotel. He was successful from the start in this undertaking and later he built the fine garage and showrooms immediately across the street, upon the lot where once stood the fine brick residence at one time occupied by Dr. Benjamin S. Willson and later by Dr. Horace Yeomans.

Mr. Riggs took a keen interest in municipal matters and served as a member of the City Council for three years. In 1920 he was elected to the Office of Mayor and he had much to do with the making the bay bridge free to traffic. During his term of office the permanent paving of the city streets was commenced. He was chairman of the Mother's Allowance Commission at its inception and continued in office for some years. He served two years on the Board of Education

and for twenty five years he was a member of the Cemetery Board. The City Council appointed him as a member of the Board of Governors of the City Hospital but he was forced to resign this office owing to poor health.

He took an active interest in sports including fishing, deer hunting and bowling; he was President of the Bowling Club for five years. In rifle shooting he was an expert and won many prizes at competitions.

Fraternally he was a life member of the Masonic Eureka Lodge No. 283; it was largely due to his efforts that Eureka Lodge Orchestra was organized about 1919. When the Y.M.C.A. was organized he took an active part in the work and was a charter member, a director and filled the position of President for one year. In religion Mr. Riggs was a faithful member of Victoria Avenue Baptist Church in which he was a Life Deacon and for over thirty one years the choir master.

Genealogy: Surviving him were two sons Mr. Leo B. Riggs of Belleville, Dr. Lester Riggs of Lawton, Oklahoma, and two daughters, Mrs. Vera Lewis and Miss Wanda Riggs both of Belleville. Mrs. Mary Riggs passed away on June 25, three years earlier.

William Bates Riggs died at his residence on July 3, 1937.

## **HANNA, Charles Edward (1833-1932)**

### **Served as Mayor 1921-1922**

Charles Edward Hanna was born in Belleville on May 17, 1883, son of John and Susan Hanna. He was educated in the public and high schools of this city and in early youth was apprenticed to John Wilson Walker in the hardware trade. Following his term of apprenticeship he entered Mr. Walker's employ, later to rise to head clerkship. In 1920 when his employer gave up proprietorship of the business, Mr. Hanna, with Charles Clifford Walker and James G. Galloway took it over and a short time afterwards formed it into a limited liability company as Walker Hardware Co. Ltd. He later became president of the company and under his management the firm grew to be the outstanding hardware business in a large range of territory. For many years he was greatly interested in the work of the Children's Aid Society and was past president of that organization; he served in the same capacity of the Y.M.C.A. He was active with the relief work of the Salvation Army and was dedicated to church activities at the Tabernacle Church.

Mr. Hanna was Mayor of Belleville in 1921 and 1922 and for three years previous to that had sat in the council as Alderman. During his regime as Mayor the purchase of the bay bridge was made; when the Hydro electric system was purchased by the city and the local Hydro Commission formed, he was made its first chairman.

In the bye-election of November 25th, 1924, for the Federal House, as the Liberal standard bearer, he defeated E. Guss Porter, K.C. who had represented the riding for 22 years. While in Ottawa he interested himself in the securing of pensions for the Veterans of the Great War. For his continued efforts on their behalf, the returned soldiers' organizations made him an honorary member of the Great War Veteran's Association, and president of Post 99 Canadian Legion of the British Empire Service League. He was for many years a member of the Argyll Light Infantry as a bandsman and also served as secretary of the Musicians' Union and president of the American Federation of Musicians. He was an active participant in several fraternal circles of the city and

the Wharf Street Debating Club where it was his custom to be in attendance and in general, to supervise and direct the evening of their annual Bun Feed.

Genealogy: On December 26, 1910 he married Rose Belle Calbury in Belleville. Surviving him were his widow and two daughters, Mrs. Rosella Brown and Miss Jennie, two brothers John H. and William all of Belleville; and a sister, Mrs. John Kemp of Santa Monica, Ca. There is a Hanna Court in the N.W. section of the city.

Since the days of his youth, he had been a day-in and day-out worker for civic, church, charitable and fraternal organizations, and not alone had he been a worker but a leader as well.

Charles Edward Hanna died on October 10, 1932.

## **BENNETT, George Albert (1864-1941)**

### **Served as Mayor 1923**

George Albert Bennett was born in March 1864 in Halifax, N.S. and in early manhood he came to make his home in Belleville. During the many years he resided here he was engaged as a builder and contractor. He was successful in business and much important work was done by him including the building of three new public schools in this city, the Queen Mary, the Queen Victoria and the Queen Alexandra.

In the advancement of the city of his adoption George A. Bennett took an active interest and his support was freely given to all movements which had in view the betterment of Belleville.

In municipal and education matters he took a deep interest and for fourteen years he served as a member of the Board of Education; he was a member of the City Council during the year 1921 and during the year 1923 he filled in a credible manner the office of Mayor of the city. At the close of his term as Mayor he retired from active participation in municipal affairs, but some time later, having time to devote to city matters, he again entered the municipal field and was an Alderman during the years 1932 and 1933. As Mayor and Alderman he discharged his duties well; he was a good citizen and was held in high regard by many friends and acquaintances.

In religion Mr. Bennett was a member of St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church. Fraternally he was a member of the Masonic Eureka Lodge, No. 283, and Oxford Lodge Sons of England No. 17.

Genealogy: He was survived by his wife, Ellen.

Interment was at the Mausoleum in the Belleville Cemetery. The honorary bearers were His Worship Mayor Glencoe Thompson, ex-Mayor W.H. Panter, ex-Mayor H.W. Greenleaf, ex-Mayor Charles N. Sulman, City Auditor Fred G. Chamberlain and City Treasurer, Harry B. Stock. The bearers were Messrs. Morley Duff, Harry W. Ackerman, George A. Reid, Jamieson Bone, Harry Hill, all of whom were ex-Mayors of the city and City Clerk J. Wilfred Holmes.

George Alfred Bennett died at his home on Donald Street on March 24, 1941.



## **MIKEL, William Charles K.C. (1866-1950)**

**Served as Mayor 1924-1925**

William Charles Mikel was born in Belleville on March 3, 1866, the son of Mr. and Mrs. William Y. Mikel. He was educated in the local public school and the Belleville High School, later graduating with honours from Albert College. He was a graduate of the Ontario Business College and received his Bachelor of Civil Law Degree from Trinity University in 1890. Mr. Mikel soon established himself in the practice of his profession in his home town. He studied in the offices of Bell and Biggar, Flint & Sherry, and George D. Dickson, becoming a law partner of the last named. Mr. Mikel's defense of James Kane on a charge of murder brought him into early prominence. He was local Master of the Supreme Court of Canada since 1928, had been Crown Prosecutor at Ottawa, Toronto and other places in Ontario, had appeared before the Legislature and Parliament in several important matters and acted as one of the Counsel for the deposition of the Farmers Bank of Canada.

He served as Alderman, Auditor and City Solicitor and was created King's Counsel in 1908. He was one of the founders of the Ontario Bar Association and served as its president in 1911 and 1912. He was named head of the Ontario Municipal Association in 1907 and 1908. In 1924 he was elected Mayor of the city of Belleville by the largest majority ever given any candidate municipally or parliamentary and was returned to that office in 1925 with a still larger majority.

Mr. Mikel was associated with the 15th Battalion, Argyll Light Infantry and he attained the rank of Captain and volunteered for service in the First Great War, but was rejected. He was secretary of the Speakers Patriotic League of Belleville and assisted in recruiting several military organizations for service overseas. He took an active part in the movement to bring about better understanding between English and French speaking Canadians. He took a keen interest in his native city and County of Hastings and wrote "The City of Belleville History" and spoke on several occasions on the construction of a "Quinte City".

In fraternal circles Mr. Mikel was very prominent serving as Second Principal, Moira Royal Arch Chapter, Past Master of the Masonic Moira Lodge, and Council Commander Woodmen of the World. He served as President of the Canadian Fraternal Association in 1918-19, as vice president of the United Empire Loyalist Association of Canada in 1928, and vice president of the Ontario Magistrates Association in 1928.

Genealogy: Mr. Mikel married Miss Lillian Ewen, daughter of Thomas E. Ewen, M.A., on October 26, 1898; along with his wife, he was survived by his daughter, Mrs. Audrey Milne-Jeffrey of Toronto, one sister, Mrs. Essie Frances Robinson of Buffalo, N.Y., and one brother Robert Mikel of Rochester, N.Y. There is a Mikel Street in the N.E. section of the city.

William Charles Mikel died at his home on William Street on October 22, 1950.

## **GRAHAM, Lt.-Col. Robert James Earl (1896-1939)**

### **Served as Mayor 1926**

Robert James Earl Graham was born in Belleville on February 16, 1896 son of Mr. and Mrs. R.J. Graham, of United Empire Loyalist descent. He received his early education in the public schools of the city and was a graduate of Belleville High School and St. Andrew's College, Toronto and attended McGill University for two years. At this point he donned the khaki of His Majesty's Canadian Artillery and distinguished himself on the Fields of Flanders. Returning to Canada, he immediately enrolled at Osgoode Hall from which he graduated to join the legal firm on Ponton, Ponton and Graham in Belleville. He took command of the reorganized 34th Battery Canadian Field Artillery as Major; later he became commanding officer of the 9th Field Artillery Brigade with the rank of Lieut.-Colonel.

Colonel Graham took a distinct pride in the community and followed with keen interest municipal affairs. In 1924 he contested an Aldermanic seat, a position he maintained for two years and served as Mayor in 1926.

He was highly respected in Masonic circles, a member of Moira Lodge No. 11, Quinte Friendship Chapter No. 227, R.A.M., King Baldwin Preceptory No. 6 and Rameses Shrine Toronto. He was past president of the Hastings Bar Association; a member of Bridge Street United Church.

Genealogy: Survivors were his widow, formerly Frances C. Leonard, daughter of Dr. Raymond Alonzo Leonard, Napanee; a son Ralph, two daughters, Barbara and Grace at home and two brothers, George and Bruce of Belleville, and two sisters Mrs. Jamieson Bone and Mrs. Grace Roblin Mair, Dartmouth, N.S. There is a Graham Street in the S.W. section of the city.

Robert James Earl Graham died in a plane accident at Weslemkoon Lake. The plane was piloted by Toronto radio executive Ellsworth Rogers and it is suspected that the glassy surface of the lake caused him to misjudge the altitude and a pontoon-tip flicked the water and the plane turned completely over. They were on a hunting trip and the extreme cold weather may have partially frozen the controls making it difficult to handle. Rogers, in spite of the severe shock from submersion in the icy waters, managed to crawl through the window of the cabin and fight his way to the surface. Attempts to rescue Colonel Graham trapped in the cabin were not successful.

Lieut-Colonel R.J.E. Graham died on November 12, 1939.

## Advertisements for mayors Chown, McFee, Wills, Mikel and Ketcheson who served between 1904 & 1925

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## **WILMOT, Charles Eardley A.F.C. (1892-1941)**

### **Served as Mayor 1927**

Charles Eardley Wilmot was born on July 12, 1892 at Newcastle, son of Charles and Anna, and was educated there and at Port Hope and Belleville. He learned to fly during the First Great War and was the Canadian flying Instructor in Texas and also served at flying camps overseas; he earned his Air Force Cross for his service in the R.A.F. At the conclusion of the war, he went to the Argentine as Chief Pilot in charge of the Handley-Page Flying Mission, leaving England in December, 1919. He was a veteran flier whose private pilot license was the 71st issued in Canada.

Later, he returned to Belleville where he served as Mayor in 1927. In March 1931 he removed to establish himself in Brantford near the home of his wife, the former Miss Isabelle Cockshutt. Squadron Leader Wilmot took part in many of the activities there and was a member of Grace Anglican Church. He was president of the Brantford Conservative Association and was conservative candidate in the Federal election of 1940. President of the Brant-Norfolk Aero Club, he was one its most energetic and successful leaders and many youngsters who were later to distinguish themselves in the R.C.A.F. were often taken 'riding' in the sky over Brantford by Squadron Leader Wilmot. At the outbreak of the Second Great War, he joined the R.C.A.F. on October 15, 1939, and was commissioned as a flying officer and later became Commander of G Flight at Camp Borden.

Genealogy: he resided at The Grove Farm, Tutela Heights, near Brantford with his wife Katherine Isabelle and three children Henry Edmund, Anne Gwendolyn and Michael Eardley. At his farm he successfully specialized in the raising of turkeys. There is a Wilmot Court in the S.W. section of the city.

Unlike so many who die in service with the promise of a bright future unfulfilled, Squadron Leader Wilmot had proved himself a citizen whose contribution to his country and the communities in which he lived had been measured in deeds.

From Camp Borden he went to Uplands and his death came when he was about to advance another step in the service. His appointment to the post of Chief Flying Instructor at Camp Borden had been announced and he was about to leave Uplands where he was acting Commanding Officer of the Station. He was killed at Uplands, two years to the day from the time he enlisted, when, as he walked from a flight office toward a plane which he intended to fly, he walked directly into the path of a taxiing plane and was killed by the whirling propeller of the Air Force plane. Local tales tell of his spirit still roaming his former home at 293 Dundas Street West, Belleville.

Charles Eardley Wilmot died on October 15, 1941.

## **DUFF, Morley Puncheon (1873-1957)**

### **Served as Mayor 1928**

Morley Puncheon Duff was born in Barrie on September 21, 1873, son of Thomas Duff and Alice Jane Gardiner. In early life, Mr. Duff entered the service of the old Grand Trunk Railroad at Allandale in 1907 and progressed through the chain of advancements until he was appointed

Chief Clerk to the superintendent, when the headquarters of the Division was established at Belleville in 1913. From that time until his retirement in 1937, Mr. Duff was the Chief Clerk at this terminal and endeared himself both to management and employees. He was an excellent railway man and his contribution to the success of the Canadian National Railway after taking over the old Grand Trunk was suitably rewarded on his retirement.

He took time out of a busy life to serve his adopted city in several ways. He joined the Rotary on coming to the city and for many years was an active and enthusiastic member; he served faithfully on many committees and projects and also took an active part in the Red Cross Society and for some years served as its efficient president. In the work of the Y.M.C.A. he was always interested and also served as president of the Board of Directors.

In the civic life of the community Morley Duff took an active part; he was elected as an Alderman in 1926 and served for two years and appealing to the electorate was given the highest office, that of Mayor, which Office he held in 1928. He was a faithful administrator and served all classes of citizens intelligently. On completion of his work in council he entered the Public Utilities and from 1932 until 1948 served with distinction on the Commission and was honoured as chairman on nine occasions.

Mr. Duff was for many years an executive member of Eastern Ontario Municipal Electric Association and also served as second vice-president, a position that allowed him to sit on the Ontario Board of the same association. Fraternally he was identified with the Masonic Order, being a life member of the Barrie Masonic Lodge, the Royal Arch Masons and the Preceptory of Barrie. He was a faithful member of Bridge Street United Church and for many years was head of the reception committee. He was the president of the old Central Ontario Baseball League and supporter of the local Grand Trunks Team and later the Nationals, teams who were sweeping to the provincial championships. In his quiet and efficient way he got things done and he left his mark on sport in this community and district.

Genealogy: he married Alice Jane Gardiner who died on December 11, 1959

Mr. Morley Duff was a resident of Belleville for 44 years; he died at the Belleville General Hospital on October 15, 1957.

## **GREENLEAF, Henry Wilbur (1871-1945)**

### **Served as Mayor 1929**

Henry Wilbur Greenleaf was a native of Belleville, born on February 10, 1871, son of Mr. and Mrs. O.C. Greenleaf. All his life was passed in this city and since early manhood he was prominent in the business life of Belleville. For over fifty years he was head of the Greenleaf Foundry and Machine Shop and prior to that time he was associated with his father, Orlando Constantine Greenleaf, who was the founder of the business. The machine shop was operated on Station Street and when the new Belleville Federal Building and Post Office was built, he removed his business to Coleman Street. For the last three years he took no part in the management of the business which was then run by his son, Mr. Errol Greenleaf.

In the affairs of the city Harry Greenleaf took a keen interest and gave his support to all undertakings having in view the advancement of the City. During the years 1922, 1923 and 1924



he served as a member of the City Council and in 1929 he was elected Mayor of the city and filled the office in an able manner. In 1937 he was again elected to the City Council.

Fraternally Mr. Greenleaf was a member of the Belleville Masonic Lodge No. 123 and he was a Past President of the Belleville Kiwanis Club. In religion he was a member of the Tabernacle United Church. Harry Greenleaf was a good citizen and his death brought much regret to many old friends. On Christmas Day last he and his wife observed the 50 anniversary of their marriage.

Genealogy: Orlando Constantine Greenleaf born July 21, 1829 at Eden, Vermont, U.S.A., died May 18, 1910 at Belleville; married on November 19, 1859 at Peterborough to Anna Cecilia Weller, born March 21, 1836, died October 21, 1916.

Henry Wilbur Greenleaf born February 10, 1871 at Belleville, died February 26, 1945; married on December 25, 1894 to Minnie Pearl DeMille born May 7, 1875, died May 19, 1946.

Errol Allen Greenleaf born January 30, 1896 at Belleville, died January 21, 1963, married on October 1, 1924 to Florence Lillian Mossman, born September 29, 1902, died April 18, 1992.

Surviving Henry Wilbur Greenleaf were his wife, the former Minnie DeMille of Stirling; one son Errol Greenleaf of Belleville, one daughter Mrs. S.L. Joss of Belleville; four sisters Mrs. W.H. Gordon, Vancouver, Mrs. George Lovell, Schenevus, N.Y., Mrs. Earl Kidd, Peterborough, and Mrs. S.A. Kent, of Havelock. There is a Greenleaf Court in the N.E. section of the city.

Henry Wilbur Greenleaf died at his residence on Park Street on February 26, 1945.

## **REID, George Adams (1874-1950)**

### **Served as Mayor 1930-1931**

George Adams Reid was born on July 4, 1874 at Centreville, Camden Township, Lennox and Addington County, son of Mr. and Mrs. Robert Reid. For some years he resided at Tamworth where he engaged in the building trade as a carpenter. Later he entered the service of the Canadian Pacific Railway construction department and came to Belleville about 1913 in the employ of the company when the Canadian Pacific Railway line was passing through Belleville. About 1917 he became associated with the agency branch of the Great West Life Assurance Company and served with distinction as district manager for the company with an office in this city. He was recognized as one of the largest producers of insurance in the service of the company and enjoyed the confidence of his clients and the public in general.

George Reid was strongly attached to his adopted city and took a keen interest in municipal affairs. He served the city well as an Alderman during the years 1928 and 1929 and filled the office of Mayor with distinction during the years 1930 and 1931. It was during his term of office as Mayor that the new upper and lower bridges were constructed.

In Hydro matters Mr. Reid was much interested and following his association with the city council he was elected a member of the City Hydro Commission in 1933 and served with marked ability during the years from 1933 to 1938. He was chairman of the Commission during 1934 and 1936. After being off the Commission during 1939 and 1940 he was again elected a member in 1941 and served until 1943.

He was a faithful and valued member of St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church and for many years was a member of the Board of Managers. Fraternally he was a member of the Masonic

Eureka Lodge No. 283 and in the Orange Order he was widely known in the Province and held high offices. He was a member of Loyal Orange Lodge No. 174, Belleville and also the Royal Black Preceptory.

Genealogy: Surviving him were his wife, the former Adeline Coxall, she died on March 29, 1953; one sister Mrs. Sarah Stinson, Tamworth and one brother Robert M. Reid of Napanee. There is a Reid Street in the N.E. section of the city.

George Adams Reid died in his office in the East Robertson Block on April 22, 1950.

## **TICE, George Oliver (1868-1960)**

### **Served as Mayor 1932-1935**

George Oliver Tice was born on June 7, 1868 in Mountain View, P.E. Co., the only son of Mr. and Mrs. Jason Tice. He received his early education there, later attending the Ontario Business College.

In the nineties Mr. Tice took his family to the western provinces where he became engaged in the hotel business at Brandon, Manitoba and Saskatoon, Saskatchewan. He returned to Belleville in 1920 where he acquired the National Billiards Business. He took up auctioneering and became one of the better known of his profession; his services were sought from a wide area. Later he became associated with the J.B. Boyce Company as a car salesman.

Mr. Tice early developed a keen interest in municipal affairs and was elected an Alderman in 1927, a position he held until 1932. In that year he was elected Mayor and conducted the Chief Magistrate's Office faithfully and efficiently until 1935. One of his greatest contributions to the life of the community came when he guided the destinies of the City, and that part of the population hit by the times, in the Depression years.

His sports loves were harness racing and baseball. His name became a household one in racing circles, and his ability as a starter brought him recognition from all districts of this part of the province. He was an ardent baseball fan and followed the Grand Trunk and Nationals baseball teams both at home and away.

Mr. Tice was the bursar of the Ontario Hospital, Hamilton for two years, returning to Belleville to take over the position of vendor of the Liquor Control Board branch at Belleville. Later he was appointed harbour master of the city a position he held until 1958. He was a member of St. Andrew's Church and of the Masonic United Lodge No. 29, Brighton; he was a past Noble Grand of Brighton Lodge, I.O.O.F.

Genealogy: sole survivors were Mrs. Tice, the former Noreen Agnes Shepherd, she died on October 27, 1986, and an only son, ex-Alderman Claude Douglas Tice, city editor of The Ontario Intelligencer; he married on February 4, 1926 to Julia Margaret Pybus, and he died July 16, 1980. Mr. G.O. Tice's first wife, the former Margarite Jane McCaughen, married October 23, 1889, passed away on May 3, 1934. There is a Tice Crescent in the N.E. section of the city.

George Oliver Tice died at the Belleville General Hospital on July 4, 1960.

## **HILL, Harry (1876-1949)**

### **Served as Mayor 1936**

Harry Hill was born in May, 1876 in Thurlow Township, son of Mr. and Mrs. David Hill. All his life was passed in Hastings County; for some time he lived in Madoc but for many years he resided in Belleville. As a young man he learned the trade of a blacksmith and was engaged in this vocation for many years. Eventually he entered the motor car sales agency business which he conducted successfully for many years.

He was widely known and had many friends and acquaintances; he took an interest in the affairs of the city and gave his support to all undertakings for its advancement. He served as a member of the City Council during the years 1929, 1931, 1932, 1933, 1934 and 1935. During the year 1936 he filled in a capable and satisfactory manner, the Office of Mayor. In the election that brought him to office, he lead a field of four for the Mayoralty while seven of eight aldermen were re-elected with new-comer Richard Arnott heading the poll for that position; he would be elected mayor over Hill in the next election. On a separate issue, the electorate of the city also stated through the ballot that they were not in sympathy with Daylight Saving and rejected that change.

In religion Mr. Hill was a member of St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church and fraternally he was a prominent member of the Masonic Order, being a life member of Eureka Lodge No. 283; Past Principal of Quinte Friendship Chapter R.A.M, No. 227; King Baldwin Preceptory No. 6, and the Rameses Shrine, Toronto. He was also a member of the Belleville Shrine Club and of the Belleville Rotary Club.

Genealogy: Mr. Hill was twice married: to Gertrude Augusta Simpkins on January 12, 1898; she died December 19, 1941; subsequently he married Mrs. Alice Walton of Kingston on January 11, 1947. Surviving him were his second wife and two daughters, Mrs. John Edward (Helena May) Darvell of Belleville, married January 18, 1933 and Mrs. Roger Landon (Augusta Miriam) Thompson of London, Ontario, married June 27, 1934; one son Gideon McArthur (Mac) Hill of Belleville born October 18, 1900, and married in September, 1927 to Grace Pound, all by his first marriage; one sister Mrs. Thomas Janey (Gertrude) Ivey, Toronto, married August 6, 1907; one granddaughter Mrs. James Marvin, Belleville. There is a Hillside Street in the N.W. section of the city and a Hillcrest Avenue in the N.E. section of the city.

Harry Hill died at the Belleville General Hospital on September 4, 1949.

## **ARNOTT, Richard Duke Q.C. (1904-1971)**

### **Served as Mayor 1937**

Richard Duke Arnott was born on June 20, 1904, son of Richard Arnott and Ida May Duke, who were married at Ameliasburg on August 25, 1903. He was a lifetime resident of the city, an honour student at Belleville public and high schools and also at Osgoode Hall where he studied law. Called to the Bar in 1927, he first practiced law in the city with the firm of Porter, Payne and Arnott, establishing his own practice on the death of Mr. Porter. He practiced law in Belleville for

44 years and had acted as both Crown Attorney and as Hastings County Solicitor for more than 20 years.

Municipal life attracted Mr. Arnott at an early age and he was elected as Alderman to City Council before celebrating his 30th birthday. He served as Alderman in 1935 and 1936 and in 1937 was elected Mayor, one of the youngest Mayors in the city's history.

From municipal politics Mr. Arnott turned his attention to the provincial field and in 1937 was elected as Conservative M.P.P. for the riding of Hastings West; he served as riding member until 1946.

Mr. Arnott was the first president of the Young Conservative Club and also as a young man he was interested in scouting and sports and played for several Belleville hockey teams. Fraternally he was a member of Eureka Lodge and was a former member of King Baldwin Preceptory and the Belleville Shrine Club.

Genealogy: He was survived by his wife, the former Marion Bernice Lauder died February 9, 1991, son Richard Duke Arnott Jr. born March 18, 1944; daughters Margaret Audrey Winnett of Ottawa, Barbara Grace Walker of Deep River, died July 11, 2010; brother of Mrs. Ida Grace Grabb of Toronto.

Interment was at the Belleville Cemetery. Active bearers were Cecil Heard, W.J. Musgrove, Alderman E.A. Orr, Leonard Hall, Lee Grills, M.P. and R.B. Collins, Q.C.

Honourary bearers included Hastings County Judge J.C. Anderson, H.J. Andrews, Ormonde Butler, Q.C, G.R. Cameron, Q.C, Dr. J.G. Demeza, Dr. R.T. Potter, M.P.P. and Kenneth S. Hill.

Richard Duke Arnott died at the Belleville General Hospital on March 15, 1971.

## **BONE, Jamieson (1887-1958)**

### **Served as Mayor 1938-1939**

Jamieson Bone was born on January 27, 1887 in Dairy, Ayrshire, Scotland, son of Thomas Bone and Catherine Jane Thomson. Thomas Bone was the owner/operator of a leather tanning factory near Dairy.

Jamieson Bone worked for the National Bank of Scotland at the rate of 5 pounds per week. He immigrated to Canada in 1906 and worked for the Dominion Bank.

Genealogy: The subject of our sketch was united in holy matrimony to Florence Eliza Graham (born October 1, 1888, died June 19, 1984) on December 25, 1912, daughter of Robert James Graham and Grace Almira Roblin. In 1913, he was transferred to Swift Current, Saskatchewan and at 25 became the youngest bank manager in Canada. He enjoyed the west with its friendly, hospitable people but his wife longed to return to the city of her birth. A daughter, Grace Graham Bone was born to the couple on November 3, 1913, she married Charles Cecil Ingersoll Merritt; Eleanor Roblin Bone, named after her grandmother, arrived on March 16, 1915, she married Harold Edward Dahl, she died on January 14, 1997 and Florence Jamieson Bone on August 20, 1921, she married Alex Cobb Persons, she died December 11, 1977. All the daughters married servicemen.

Returning to Belleville, he started the Jamieson Bone Company, an insurance brokerage, in 1920 with General Accident Company, at the old Corby Building next to City Hall.

Jamieson Bone served on City Council as Alderman for two years and was promoted to the Office of Mayor for the years 1938 and 1939.

Fraternally, Mr. Bone was connected to the Rotary Club. He served as President of the Dominion Taxpayer's Association. In religion he was a member of St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church. There is a Jamieson Bone Road in the N.E. section of the city.

He was a much respected citizen and upon his death representatives from all city municipal departments, including city hall staff, police and fire department as well as members of the business and industrial life of the city attended the funeral. Honourary bearers were Allan Ketcheson, Jack O'Flynn, A. McLean Haig, Robert Martin, Oswald Scott and Jud Whalen. Active bearers were Ralph, James and Bruce Graham, Louis Bone, James Dahl and Robert Mair.

Jamieson Bone died in Belleville on March 12, 1958.

## **THOMPSON, Glencoe Edgar (1894-1981)**

### **Served as Mayor 1940-1942**

Glencoe Edgar Thompson was born in Belleville on October 17, 1894, son of Thomas Thompson and Margaret McCoy.

Mr. Thompson served 10 years at City Hall, starting in 1936 as an Alderman; he was elected as Mayor during the years 1940-1942 when civic terms ran only for one year. Later he served for some time on the Belleville Parking Authority. He was employed as the provincial liquor manager in the city. Fraternally he was a member of the Moira Masonic Lodge 11.

It was during his term in office that, by unanimous agreement, the City Comptroller was given authority to purchase a special gown for the use of the Mayor. Noting that the Warden of the County wore a special gown at all sessions of the County Council, the consensus was that there should be some way to distinguish the Mayor from the remainder of the council on all occasions: 'To be Mayor of this city is a great honour and carries a great amount of dignity and the Mayor should be fitted with a special gown befitting that office'. The special wardrobe was to be worn during all sessions of the City Council and on special occasions, befitting his High Office.

Genealogy: Glencoe Edgar Thompson was united in marriage on May 12, 1920 to Edna Mae Craig, a native of Hartland, N.B; she died on May 3, 1966. He was survived by his son, Glencoe Leighton Thompson, artillery veteran of W.W. II and the Quinte District assessment commissioner with the Province of Ontario; he married Doreen Moss Ferguson on August 9, 1945 in Belleville and died on March 13, 2011. Also surviving are a grandson, Robert Craig of Fergus, Ontario and a great granddaughter, Christina. Bearers were Harry Way, Finley Smith, James Matthews, Wilbur Purcell and Grant Devolin. There is a Thompson Court in the N.W. section of the city.

Glencoe Edgar Thompson died at the Belleville General Hospital on November 8, 1981.



## **ROLLINS, Wilmot Harry (1900-1972)**

### **Served as Mayor 1943-1944**

Wilmot Harry Rollins was born at Ivanhoe on September 22, 1900 son of Washington Hulsie Rollins and Charlotte Fleming. He lived at Tweed until he moved to Belleville in 1920. He worked for the Houston Lumber Company for 35 years and later acted as bailiff.

Mr. Rollins was a member of City Council from 1938 until 1942, was Mayor in 1943 and 1944 and then returned to city council as Alderman in 1951 and 1952. He served on the public utilities commission from 1953 until 1965 and was a past chairman of the Belleville Harbour Commission. He was strongly supportive of those in the forces during his war time administration and wanted to ensure the proper recognition for the returning men and women in the Service. Post war rehabilitation and planning for the livelihood on the return of the veterans was a priority of his office.

Mr. Rollins, known to many as the Senator, took a keen interest in the affairs of agriculture, and was a director of the Belleville Agricultural Society for many years. He was president of the Belleville Fair for five years and was a life member of the society and had been honoured with a provincial agricultural award in 1954. He was a member of the Wharf Street Debating Club for many years and also served as its president. He was a life member and past president of the Belleville Kinsmen Club, while fraternally he was a life member of the Belleville Masonic Lodge No. 123 and of the Grand Lodge. He was active in provincial and federal politics and was past president of the Belleville Progressive Conservative Association. He was a member of Bridge Street United Church. An ardent sports enthusiast, he took a keen interest in Softball and became a director of the Ontario Amateur Softball Association in 1937; he was an honorary president of the association.

Genealogy: Mr. Rollins married Sarah Maude Houston on June 28, 1924; in addition to his wife, he was survived by two sons, John Fleming Rollins and Maurice Houston Rollins both of Belleville; brother Carl of Belleville and three sisters, Mrs. Albert Clive (Pearl Helen, married May 1, 1912) Cooke of Belleville and Mrs. Donald William (Edna, married October 1, 1924) Campbell and Mrs. Howard Cooke, both of Stirling. There is a Rollins Drive in the N.E. section of the city.

Wilmot Harry Rollins died at the Belleville General Hospital on September 17, 1972.

## **FOLLWELL, Frank Sidney (1906-1992)**

### **Served as Mayor 1945-1947**

Frank Sidney Follwell was born on May 6, 1906 at Devonshire Grove, England, son of Edwin John Follwell and Amy Elizabeth Lennox. He came to Canada as an infant with his parents and lived all his life in the Belleville area. He was educated at the Belleville Collegiate Institute and Queen's University.

Mr. Follwell served as City Alderman from 1941 through 1944 and served three one year terms as Mayor of Belleville, 1945 through 1947. He was an M.P. for the riding of Hastings South

from June 27, 1949 through June 10, 1957, serving a total of 7 years, 11 months and 14 days. Other municipal involvements included a stint with the Belleville Utilities Commission in 1949 and chairman of the Belleville Harbor Commission in 1948 and 1949. He also served as trustee in Sidney Township in younger years; and in later years on the Suburban Roads Committee.

It was during his tenure as Mayor that the City, on June 26, 1946, bought the Arena downtown for \$40,000 and installed an artificial ice plant in order to provide a year-round recreational centre. The arena was the Memorial Civic Centre and its purchase was for the purpose of providing a memorial in commemoration of the persons who served in the Armed Forces during the recent War.

Apart from political and municipal involvement, Mr. Follwell was active in the Masonic Lodge of which he was past grand master, the Belleville Shrine Club for which he served several years as president and the Eastern Star. He was a long time member and past president of the Kiwanis Club of Belleville. He was president of the Belleville and District Chamber of Commerce in 1972, was a past chairman of both the Quinte Victorian Order of Nurses branch and the Red Shield campaign and served five years on the Belleville Housing Authority.

Genealogy: Surviving beside his wife, the former Jean McCoy Bateman were children Mrs. Dan (Elizabeth) Mayer of Belleville, James of Charlottetown, P.E.I. and grandchildren Joseph, Shea and Emily Jean. He was predeceased by brothers Percy, Harry, William, Edward and James and one sister, Ida Duffield. There is a Follwell Court in the N.E. section of the city.

Frank Sidney Follwell died on December 3, 1992.

## **STOREY, Denzil Lefroy (1892-1957)**

### **Served as Mayor 1948-1949**

Denzil Lefroy Storey was born on May 16, 1892 at Thamesford, Ontario, son of Ezra Storey and Laura Blanch Auger. He was educated there and in Ingersoll, Ontario. Mr. Storey married Ethel Catherine Bond on September 30 1914. He was an electrician by trade. He enlisted in the military forces and served in the First World War and was a member of Branch No. 99, Canadian Legion of Belleville.

Prior to moving to Belleville about 1935, he was a resident of Woodstock, Ontario. Here he served for some years as sales manager for the Belleville Lock Company before taking over the presidency of the company. He retired from active business participation in 1955 due to ill health.

He took an interest in municipal government here and was honoured with the chair of Chief Magistrate serving as Mayor in 1948 and 1949. He was highly esteemed in the many circles in which he moved and respected for his integrity and willingness to assist in many municipal ventures of his adopted city. One of his chief interests in life was the welfare and betterment of the lots of crippled children and it was partly due to this interest that he founded the Belleville Shrine Club and acted as its president for a number of years. In Masonic circles he held many high offices and was rewarded with the honour of being elected Imperial Potentate in 1956 and life member of Rameses Temple, Toronto.

In the Scottish Rite, Mr. Storey was a member of the Lodge of Perfection, Kingston; the Rose Croix, Kingston and a life member of Moore Sovereign Consistory, 32nd degree, Hamilton.

He was a member of Cabria, the Past Potentates' Association, and an honorary member of thirty Shrine temples in the United States and Canada. He was a charter member of the Camel Herders of Belleville; a life member of the Belleville Shrine Club Ltd; a director of Shrine Clubs of Rameses Temple and of the Royal Order of Jesters, Court No. 83, Toronto.

Genealogy: surviving him were his wife the former Ethel Catherine Bond, she died on February 15, 1976 and two sons, Douglas Eugene of Belleville and Bruce L. Storey of Woodstock. The Pinnacle Playhouse, the home of the Belleville Theatre Guild, bears his name.

Denzil Lefroy Storey remained a resident of Belleville and died at St. Michael's Hospital, Toronto on November 9, 1957.

## **ALLIN, Howard John (1899-1982)**

### **Served as Mayor 1949-1950**

Howard John (Jack) Allin was born on December 17, 1899 at Hampton, Ontario son of Wesley John Allin and Elizabeth Wright who were married on February 22, 1899.

Mr. Allin was a city Alderman from 1939 to 1949 and from 1963 to 1967; he served as Mayor of Belleville from 1949 to 1950 and was also on the school board. He had been 18 years serving the City prior to his inauguration as Mayor and was committed to running a fiscally responsible administration. Holding down the rate of taxation in the face of mounting demands for increased services and expenditures was one of his foremost objectives.

Mr. Allin was the founder of H.J. Allin Insurance and former plant superintendent at the Stewart Warner Company. He was a member of Bridge Street United Church and was also a member of the King Baldwin Rameses Shrine Club in Toronto, the Belleville Shrine Club, the Masonic Eureka Lodge No. 283, Belleville Chapter and the Royal Arch Masons.

Genealogy: Mr. Allin was the beloved husband of the late Nellie Lewis (died April 22, 1973) and survived by wife Lorraine Langley, she died on April 23, 1988; also survived by sons H. Earle Allin, and Franklin C. Allin both of Belleville; two daughters Mrs. Audrey Hall and Mrs. Bernice Levick both of Belleville.

Honourary bearers were Tom Colden, Jack Langstaffe, Dick Beare, Fred Ethier, George Hammitt, Stan Lennox, Tom Jury and Bill Page. Bearers were grandsons Jim, Bill, Frank and Kevin Allin, Peter Levick, Wayne Cullough, John Hall and Stephen Levick. Members of the Belleville Shrine Club formed a guard of honour at the church and Belleville Cemetery and members of the local insurance agents association also attended the funeral.

Howard John Allin died at the Belleville General Hospital on June 18, 1982.

## **POTTER, Richard Thomas M.D. (1915-2009)**

### **Served as Mayor 1951**

Richard Thomas Potter was born on January 20, 1915 in Belleville. He was educated locally and attended Queen's University from which institution he graduated as a Physician in

1939. He immediately enlisted as a military medic in the Royal Canadian Army Medical Corps and used his experience and expertise as a doctor to treat soldiers who were injured as a result of battles they fought in Europe. He served in an advance mobile unit to care for the injured of war; at the time of discharge he held the rank of Lieutenant Colonel.

Dr. Potter returned to Belleville following his military service and worked as a family doctor and anesthetist. In 1950 he entered municipal politics when he was elected as Alderman in Belleville and ran for Mayor and was elected to that office in 1951, running on a campaign promise to establish a municipal health unit and expand community facilities.

On redistribution, Dr. Potter successfully ran for member of provincial Parliament in 1967 as the Progressive Conservative candidate in Quinte. During the eight years he served as M.P.P. for Quinte, he held three ministerial positions: Minister without portfolio, Minister of Health from 1972 to 1974, and Minister of Correctional Services until 1975. It was said that 'Dr. Potter had been a MASH colonel and treated the ministry as if he was a wartime commander. He was honest, intelligent and determined to bring his ideas to the ministry such as having insured nursing home care as a lower-cost alternative to hospitals'. He served from October 17, 1967 to September 17, 1975.

He decided to retire from politics at the age of 60 in 1975 having brought some badly needed changes in the health and welfare departments. In 1976 he was appointed as regional coroner which required him to close his private medical practice and serve as a full-time public servant.

Genealogy: He was survived by his wife of 68 years, the former Enid Grace Weaver, four children Thomas, Frances, Andrew and Karen; the grandfather of eleven and great grandfather of four. There is Dr. Richard Potter Park in the S.W. section of the city.

Dr. Richard Thomas Potter died at the Oakville Hospital on February 16, 2009.

## **HAIG, Alexander McLean (1903-1975)**

### **Served as Mayor 1952, 1960 & 1962-1963**

Alexander McLean Haig was born in August, 1903 at Campbellford son of Dr. Andrew Haig and Marian Gertrude McLean who were married on July 24, 1895.

A retired Group Captain with the Royal Canadian Air Force, he later studied at Queen's University and Osgoode Hall in Toronto, earning a doctorate in law. He was later made a member of the Order of the British Empire, an order of chivalry established by King George V in 1917.

Commonly known as Mac, Mr. Haig served for many years as an Alderman and first took the Mayor's chair in 1952. He returned through acclamation in 1960 and it was then that he is credited with guiding Belleville out of a difficult financial time. He reorganized the city finances after an inquiry into the city's treasury department and the world championship McFarland Hockey Team. He remained Mayor for a third one year term during 1962-63. He was active in many areas of civic endeavours and ran in federal election campaigns in 1940 and 1945 as a Liberal candidate but lost both bids by narrow margins.

In Belleville he served as president for several organizations including the Canadian Cancer Society, Chamber of Commerce and the Belleville Rotary Club. He also served on the

Belleville General Hospital Board of Governors. He was a member of Bridge Street United Church.

Genealogy: He was survived by his wife the former Mary Elizabeth Roberts, children Trudi Banting, Christie Cox, Andy and Archie, grandsons James Douglas and Alan McLean Banting. Mr. Haig's body was donated to Queen's University for research. There is a Haig Road in the S.E. section of the city.

Alexander McLean Haig died at his residence on the Trent Road on December 13, 1975.

## **BOTH, Gustav Johann (1902-1970)**

### **Served as Mayor 1954-1955**

John G. Both, or as it appears on his birth certificate Gustav Johann Both, was born on January 20, 1902, son of Charles Theodore Both and wife Hannah Booth, the father was born in Germany on January 27, 1860 and his mother a native of Ontario born June 8, 1858. Charles Both was a blacksmith by trade and had established himself at Denbigh, Lennox and Addington County, Ontario.

John G. Both had lived in Toronto before moving to Belleville about 1942. During World War 11 he served with the Department of National Defense in its works and building department. He had also worked for the Ontario Department of Highways for several years. In the Quinte area he worked as a construction contractor for nearly three decades.

He was elected as Mayor of Belleville in 1954 and 1955 and was one of the few first Magistrates of the City who was elected as Mayor without previous experience on City Council. He was a member of Bridge Street United Church.

Mr. Both would seek a third one year term as chief magistrate but was ousted by his competitor, Jane Forrester whose victory in the municipal election made the newspapers as far away as Moose Jaw, Sask., as she was only the ninth women to hold the Mayoral position across the country.

Fraternally Mr. Both was a charter member of the Masonic Temple Lodge, Quinte Friendship Chapter 227, King Baldwin Preceptory No. 6, Belleville, Rameses Temple, Toronto and the Belleville Shrine Club and Zabud Council No. 15 of Belleville.

Genealogy: Besides his wife the former Colombe Pourangeau, he was survived by his son Wallace of Toronto and daughter Mrs. Jean Howie of Napanee; a brother Karl Albert in Kitchener, born September 2, 1894, married Ida Emma Warlich on August 25, 1920 and three sisters, Mrs. Arthur (Maria Margaret) Dawson of Barwick, born December 21, 1884, married April 16, 1902, Mrs. Edwin (Rosa Bertha) Clarke of Thunder Bay, born December 15, 1889, married October 9, 1911 and Mrs. Robert (Eva Louisa) Jackson of Northbrook, born July 6, 1896, married October 11, 1917.

John G. Both died at the Kingston General Hospital on November 26, 1970.



## **FORRESTER, Jane Eleanor Parker (1909-2003)**

**Served as Mayor 1956-1957**

Jane Eleanor Parker was born on Nov 12, 1909 in Chicago, Illinois, daughter of Lionel Montrose Parker and Grace Eleanor Marks. Miss Parker graduated with a Bachelor of Arts degree from Mount Holyoke, an Ivy League Women's College in Connecticut in the early 1930s, worked as a model in New York City for a time and married there, in 1936, to Dr. James Harold Forrester.

The couple settled in Belleville where, in addition to raising a family, Mrs. Forrester was a major force behind the creation of the Opportunity Shop for the Belleville General Hospital Auxiliary and served on the executives of the Auxiliary, the United Way and the Children's Aid Society. In 1954, she led the polls in her first term as city councillor and was elected Mayor in 1955 and 1956, both times running against former Mayor J. G. Both. She championed the development of the City's waterfront for the enjoyment of the public, encouraging the clean up the Myer's Pier area to make it a public treasure. This area was designated as the Jane Forrester Park in 2002, as a tribute to her campaign to rehabilitate the area and Mrs. Forrester was on hand for the ceremony.

Genealogy: Lionel Montrose Parker was a native of Camden East, Ontario; he was united in marriage to Grace Eleanor Marks on June 27, 1908 at Manhattan, New York. Predeceased by her husband in 1982, and by her son George in 1997, Mrs Forrester was survived by her son Steven and his wife Moira, daughter Anne Greaves and her husband William, grandchildren and great-grandchildren. There is a Forrester Court in the N.W. section of the City as well as the Park.

Jane Eleanor Parker Forrester died in Belleville on Sept 8, 2003.

## **HYDE, Gerald Bateman (1924-2013)**

**Served as Mayor 1958, 1959**

Gerald Bateman Hyde was born on Oct 30, 1924 in Belleville son of Charles London Hyde and Sarah Laura Bateman. He was a graduate of B.C.I. in 1943, attended the Institute of Chartered Accountants and later was granted the degree of Professional Manager from the Canadian Institute of Management.

In 1951 Mr Hyde was elected as a School Trustee and served as Alderman from 1953, winning 3 election victories for two year terms. In 1958, at age 33, he was elected as Mayor of Belleville and re-elected by acclamation in 1959. It was during this term in Office that it was discovered a City employee had appropriated funds from the City's accounts to subsidize the World Hockey Championship bid of the Belleville MacFarlands Hockey team. Mr Hyde was not directly involved with the appropriation but took full responsibility and retired from elected office at the end of 1959; he later was elected to the Belleville P.U.C. and served as chairman .

Mr Hyde was active in the Provincial and Federal Conservative Associations, was a Board Member and Treasurer of the Y.M.C.A., Director of the Chamber of Commerce and Board Chairman of Bridge Street Church; he was a champion lawn bowler and filled many posts for the

Ontario Lawn Bowling Association. In 1967 he was awarded the Centennial Medal from the Secretary of State for Canada and in 1975 he was given a special recognition from the Premier of Ontario for Outstanding Achievement in the field of Physical Fitness and Amateur Sport.

Genealogy: He was united in marriage to Margaret (Peggy) McLean on June 17, 1950. Predeceased by his son Edward in 1954 and his wife in 2006, he was survived by sons Gerald, born Jan 25, 1953 and Gordon, born Jan 18, 1958, and daughter Joan born May 25, 1956. There is Hyde Park Ave and the Gerald Hyde Park in the S.E. section of the City.

Gerald Bateman Hyde died at London, Ontario on Nov 2, 2013.

## **ELLIS, John Raymond “Jack” (1929-1994)**

**Served as Mayor 1964, 1965, 1966, 1967**

John Raymond Ellis was born on Oct 31, 1929 at Campbellford, Ontario son of Joseph Henry Ellis and Alice Sergeant. He was an entrepreneur and business manager, rising from a hardware store clerk, to a production manager with Wilson Concrete, to the President of the body representing the concrete manufacturers of Canada.

Widely known as Jack, Mr Ellis was elected as Alderman in the early ‘60s and served as Mayor of Belleville for four terms. He then entered Federal Politics and served five terms as a Conservative Member of Parliament in the House of Commons representing the Ontario electoral district of Hastings and Prince Edward Counties. He was first elected in the 1972 federal election and was re-elected in the 1974, 1979, 1980 and 1984 elections. Described as an outspoken, no-nonsense moralist, he worked for the benefit of the Quinte area and made national notoriety when he spoke out against what he perceived as a waste of Canada Council grants on pornographic poetry. Following his retirement from politics in 1988, Jack threw his efforts into the Association of Former Politicians and served as its Chairman in 1991.

As a notable example of his leadership as Mayor, in Feb 1966, he sent men and snow removal equipment to Oswego, New York when they were hit with a record 102 inch snowfall; he felt that this voluntary gesture was worth the ‘good will’ it would bring from our southern neighbour.

Genealogy: Jack Ellis was survived by his wife, the former Waltraud Hentschel and daughters Connie Lee Burnett, Faye Elizabeth Campbell and son John Raymond Ellis. There is the Jack Ellis Trail at Zwicks Park.

John Raymond Jack Ellis died at the Prince Edward County Memorial Hospital on Dec 1, 1994.

## **SCOTT, James Russell M.D. (1916-2009)**

**Served as Mayor 1968, 1969, 1970, 1971, 1972**

James Russell Scott was born on Mar 16, 1916 at Kingston, Ontario son of James Norris Scott and Maude Mary Hutcheson. He was a graduate of Queen’s University Medical

School in 1941 and served with the Canadian Medical Corps overseas during World War II at Basingstoke Neurological and Plastic Surgery Hospital, England. Associated with the Belleville General Hospital for over 60 years, Dr Scott was Chief of Staff for 6 years, served as President of the Hastings and Prince Edward Medical Society, Hastings County Coroner and Inspector of Anatomy.

Dr Scott was in elected office for 19 years, serving as school board chairman, alderman and 5 years as Mayor; he lost the 1972 mayoral election to Robin Jeffrey by 273 votes. He was the first president of the Association of Municipalities of Ontario and founding director of Extendicare Nursing Homes. He farmed cattle and woodlot, headed the 1961 International Ploughing Match held in Hastings County, was a life member of the Hastings County Historical Society, was a founding member of the Belleville Shrine Club and was founding past campaign chairman of the United Way Appeal. Dr Scott was honorary Major of the Hastings and Prince Edward Regiment for his work in preserving the Belleville Armouries.

Genealogy: Predeceased by his brothers Arthur Scott of Waterdown and John Scott of Burlington, he was survived by his daughters Jane Marcotte and Marianne Chittenden and sons Norris, Robert, Russell and John; also, by 10 grandchildren and 3 great-grandchildren. There is a J Russell Scott Park in the N.E. section of the City.

Dr James Russell Scott died at the Belleville General Hospital on July 29, 2009.

## **JEFFREY, Amy Robinson Futcher**

**Served as Mayor 1973, 1974, 1975**

Amy Robinson Futcher was born on October 13, 1931 near St. Thomas, Elgin County, Ontario, daughter of John Robinson Futcher and Dorothy Elliott Horton. She was raised on a farm, matriculated from St. Thomas Collegiate and from the University of Guelph, Bachelor of Health Sciences (Honours) program in 1956. Following graduation, Robin worked for the Ontario Ministry of Agriculture as a County Home Economist in the Frontenac, Leeds and Grenville Counties. She was united in marriage on October 5, 1957 to Roy Kenneth Jeffrey, a native of Sidney Township and a University of Guelph graduate, and removed to Belleville in 1958.

Mrs Jeffrey was employed by the Hastings County Board of Education and taught Home Economics and English at Quinte Secondary School. She was elected to Belleville Council and served two terms as Alderman in 1967 and 1969, and was elected Mayor in 1972 and was acclaimed to that office in 1974. While on Council, she spearheaded the setting aside of the Potter property in Sidney Township as a conservation area for future generations to use and enjoy. Robin negotiated the purchase of Glanmore House and the funding required to establish and renovate this historic building as the Hastings County Museum, a designated National Historic Site. Robin resigned as Mayor in 1975 and was the Progressive Conservative candidate for the Quinte riding in the September Provincial election. She served on the Milk Commission and the Farm Products Tribunal for the Province and was a President of the Progressive Conservative Women's Association of Ontario. An entrepreneur, Mrs Jeffrey owned and was president of a local travel agency and served on the Board of Governors at Loyalist College.

Genealogy: Mrs Jeffery's maternal grandfather was Edward Austin Horton, the former Mayor of St. Thomas. Her husband, Roy Kenneth Jeffery, predeceased her on August 20, 2014. Their daughter Alison was born in 1961 and named after Robin's twin brother, Alison Horton Futcher. Alison, a graduate with a Law degree from the University Western Ontario, is married and has three children. There is a Robin Jeffery Park in the S.E. section of the city.

Robin Futcher Jeffery, a member of Council, active in civic affairs and private enterprise, lives in the family "cottage in the woods" in Belleville.

## **CORKE, John Benjamin (1914-1995)**

**Served as Mayor 1976, 1977, 1978, 1979, 1980**

John Benjamin "Ben" Corke was born on Mar 24, 1914 at Winnipeg, Manitoba son of Gilbert Benjamin "Darcy" Corke and Marion Georgina Lyall. He was raised and educated there but spent the majority of his time in Belleville where he was engaged as a business man.

Mr Corke first sat on City Council as alderman from 1960 to 1965, returned from 1970 to 1975 and was elected Mayor in 1975, holding the City's top position until Nov 1980. Mayor Corke was re-elected to council as alderman in 1983 and served in that capacity until 1988. He was involved with Christ Church, the Bay of Quinte Yacht Club, with the Rotary Club for 30 years, served on the city's Police Commission, and 20 years on the B.G.H. Board of Governors; he was an avid golfer, curler and served as president of the Belleville and District Chamber of Commerce. He was very active with the Quinte Sports Centre and with fund raising in the community.

In 1977, he and 13 Belleville residents were admitted to the emergency department while representing Royal Canadian Legion Branch 99 at an American Legion function in Syracuse, N.Y.; tests were negative but it was feared they might be symptomatic of Legionnaire's disease.

Genealogy: He was united in marriage to Ena Mildred Walker on Oct 18, 1940 at Geraldton, Ontario. Mr Corke was predeceased by siblings Kathleen McCord, Dr Doreen Sheffield, Kenneth and Lyall Corke; he was survived by his wife, his sister Nora Warren, his daughters, Marianne Adams and Elizabeth Conroy and 3 grandchildren. There is the Ben Corke Footbridge, along the Riverfront Trail, over the Moira River.

John Benjamin Corke died at Belleville on May 18, 1995.

## **ZEGOURAS, George Adam (1937-2012)**

**Served as Mayor 1981-1991, 2001-2003**

George Adam Zegouras was born on Dec 22, 1937 at Anthohorion, Greece son of Adam and Maria Zegouras. He came to Belleville in 1954 and began working for the Dominion grocery store before he and brother Peter launched their own wholesale food company, Belleville Foods in the mid 1960s. He was a successful and prosperous businessman and entrepreneur.

Mr Zegouras' political career began in 1973 when he was appointed to city council after one member of council died. He remained as alderman until 1980 when he successfully ran for

Mayor, a position he held until 1991. In 1995 he ran unsuccessfully as the Liberal candidate for the Quinte riding in the Ontario provincial election. Mr Zegouras held the Mayoral Office again after the election of 2000. He was a member of council for 21 years and Belleville's longest serving Mayor.

As a tribute to their parents, the Zegouras family donated one of Belleville's Heritage Buildings at the corner of Victoria and Church Streets to the Healthy Space housing project. This 4000 square foot Victorian home, complete with a two storey carriage house, was built in 1880 by a local physician and will be a home for those with complex physical and mental health related issues.

Genealogy: Predeceased by his wife of 35 years, the former Diane Karis, Mr Zegouras was survived by his daughters Mariann Geist, Helen Balog, Roula Brigris, son Adam and 6 grandchildren. The George Zegouras Market Square is located in downtown Belleville and is the home of the Farmer's Market.

George Adam Zegouras died in Kingston on Oct 1, 2012.

## **LANGER, Shirley Anne Shecter (1935-)**

### **Served as Mayor 1992-1995**

Shirley Anne Shecter was born on Feb 25, 1935 in Ingersoll, Ontario, daughter of Hyman and Ruby Shecter. She matriculated from North Toronto Collegiate Institute and graduated as a registered nurse in 1957. Shirley was united in marriage in Toronto to Dr. Joseph Langer on Sept 16, 1956 and the couple raised four children. They moved to Havana, Cuba in 1964 where Dr. Langer helped establish the orthopaedic training program for Cuban interns and residents. During their five year stay in Havana, Shirley served as assistant to the editor of an English/Spanish newspaper before being seconded to teach English to the Cuban personnel who would become guides at Pavilion Cuba at Expo '67 in Montreal.

In 1973 the Langers moved to Brighton, Ontario as hoteliers at the White House Inn, an Ontario landmark built in the 1870s. In 1986, Shirley graduated from Queen's University as a mature student with an Honours degree in Spanish and Italian Language and Literature. She was subsequently contracted by Annick Press to translate seventeen of author Robert Munsch's children's story books into Spanish.

Mrs. Langer became involved in municipal politics in 1999 when, as part of a citizens' advocacy movement called Alternative '91, she was urged to run for the Mayoral Office then held by George Zegouras. Shirley was considered a dark horse in the contest and was known primarily as an environmental educator and activist with the Quinte Environmental Resources Association (QERA). However, the electorate wanted change and Shirley Langer was elected and served as Mayor from 1992-1995. She had not previously served on Council and, although inexperienced, dedicated herself to serving the common good. Early initiatives included, Mrs. Langer inviting the Chief of the Mohawk Nation in Tyendinaga to attend and address Council, introducing the gender neutral term Councillor, thereby replacing the traditional alderman name tag, and inviting representatives of the many faith groups in the city to provide spiritual offerings at the beginning of each Council meeting so as to represent the diversity of Belleville.



In 1995, the Langers moved to Tofino, British Columbia where she continued as an environmentalist, advocating for the protection of the old growth forests of British Columbia. Mrs. Langer has authored two books, one entitled *Road's End: Tales of Tofino*, the other *Anita's Revolution*, an historical fiction novel about Cuba's acclaimed literacy campaign of 1961.

Genealogy: Hyman Shecter was born in the rural area of Romania known as Bessarabia. Shirley's mother was born in Drurya, Latvia. Her given name was anglicized to Ruby and her surname was arbitrarily changed to Gerofsky by customs officials at the time of immigration because no one could spell Magarschuk.

Mayor Langer presently resides in Victoria, British Columbia.

## INDEX to MAYORS

ACKERMAN, Henry Willis (1869-1963).....	35	GRAHAM, Lt.-Col. Robert James Earl (1896-1939) .....	43
ALLIN, Howard John (1899-1982).....	54	GRAHAM, Robert James (1860-1934).....	30
ARNOTT, Richard Duke Q.C. (1904-1971) .....	49	GREENLEAF, Henry Wilbur (1871-1945).....	46
BENNETT, George Albert (1864-1941) .....	41	HAIG, Alexander McLean (1903-1975) .....	55
BIGGAR, William Hodgins Q.C. (1852-1922).....	22	HANNA, Charles Edward (1833-1932) .....	40
BOGART, Curtis (1848-1922) .....	26	HENDERSON, George E. ....	21
BONE, Jamieson (1887-1958).....	50	HENDERSON, George Eyre (1819-1895).....	17
BOTH, Gustav Johann (1902-1970).....	56	HILL, Harry (1876-1949).....	49
BROWN, G. & J.....	14	HOLDEN, R. ....	14
BROWN, James (1823-1897).....	10	HOLDEN, Rufus M.D (1809-1876).....	10
CHOWN, W. W. & Bro. ....	44	HOLDEN, Thomas Buck (1840-1884).....	15
CHOWN, William Whitfield (1851-1928).....	31	HOPE, William M.D.(1815-1894) .....	9
CONGER, P. D.....	21	HYDE, Gerald Bateman (1924-2013) .....	57
CONGER, Peter deSidnia (c1836-1885) .....	13	JEFFREY, Amy Robinson Futcher .....	59
CORBY, H. ....	14	JOHNSON, John Wesley (1846-1919).....	29
CORBY, Henry (1806-1881).....	12	KETCHESON, H. F. ....	44
CORKE, John Benjamin (1914-1995).....	60	KETCHESON, Henry Freeman (1862-1930).....	38
DAVY, Benjamin Fairfield (1804-1860).....	6	LANGER, Shirley Anne Shecter (1935-).....	61
DIAMOND, W. Jeffers .....	28	LINGHAM, Nelson (1832-1917) .....	19
DIAMOND, Wellington Jeffers (1839-1929).....	24	MARSH, Colonel Lorne Wilmot (1871-1928).....	34
DUFF, Morley Puncheon (1873-1957).....	45	McANNANY, Francis (c1805-1877) .....	8
DUNNET, James Waters (1840-1894).....	20	McFEE, Allen (1833-1919).....	33
DUNNET, Jas. W. ....	21	McFEE, Angus .....	44
ELLIS, John Raymond "Jack" (1929-1994).....	58	McINNINCH, Henry .....	28
FLINT, Billa .....	14	McINNINCH, Henry (1839-1917) .....	22
FLINT, Billa (1805-1894) .....	11	MIKEL, W. C. ....	44
FLINT, John J. B. ....	21	MIKEL, William Charles K.C. (1866-1950).....	42
FLINT, John James Bleecker (1838-1929).....	16	MILLS, Alma .....	14
FOLLWELL, Frank Sidney (1906-1992).....	52	O'HARE, John (1825-1865).....	7
FORRESTER, Jane Eleanor Parker (1909-2003)....	57	O'HARE, John .....	14
FOSTER, William Alfred (1837-1881).....	18	PANTER, William Henry (1862-1942).....	37

PATTERSON, Reuben Spaulding (1820-1900).....	18	SULMAN, Charles Nelson (1870-1947) .....	32
PATTERSON, Works & Foundry .....	21	THOMPSON, Glencoe Edgar (1894-1981).....	51
PLATT, Edward Orren M.D. (1870-1944).....	38	TICE, George Oliver (1868-1960) .....	48
PONTON, William Hamilton (1810-1890).....	6	TICKELL, G. S. ....	28
PONTON, Wm. Hamilton .....	14	TICKELL, George Skinner (1829-1899).....	25
PORTER, E. Guss .....	28	VERMILYEA, Alfred G. (1852-1922).....	35
PORTER, Edward Guss K.C. (1859-1929).....	25	WALLBRIDGE, Francis S. ....	28
POTTER, Richard Thomas M.D. (1915-2009) .....	54	WALLBRIDGE, Francis Stewart (1860-1920) .....	27
REID, George Adams (1874-1950).....	47	WALMSLEY, James Ernest (1854-1940).....	29
RIGGS, William Bates (1853-1937) .....	39	WILLS, J. F. ....	44
ROBERTSON, Alex.....	21	WILLS, Judge John Franklin K.C. (1864-1934) .....	36
ROBERTSON, Alexander (1838-1888).....	15	WILLSON, B.S., M.D., C.M. ....	28
ROLLINS, Wilmot Harry (1900-1972).....	52	WILLSON, Benjamin Seymour M.D. (1833-1892) .....	23
SCOTT, James Russell M.D. (1916-2009).....	58	WILMOT, Charles Eardley A.F.C. (1892-1941).....	45
STOREY, Denzil Lefroy (1892-1957) .....	53	ZEGOURAS, George Adam (1937-2012).....	60