

Limelight

Newsletter of the Kingston Historical Society

Kingston Ontario Canada

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September 2024



The Kingston Historical Society gratefully acknowledges the financial support of the Ontario Ministry of Tourism, Culture and Sport.



Kingston Historical Society Meeting

Wednesday, September 18, 2024

Peter Gower will present

The Kingston Historical Society's first 131 years ... and the future?

Members will be emailed the Zoom link. Non-members may email kingstonhs@gmail.com for the link before 6 pm, September 18.

(Alan McLeod's talk has been postponed until 2025.)

Ontario's Not-for-Profit Corporations Act (ONCA) and the Kingston Historical Society

by Peter Gower

In 2010, the then Liberal Ontario Government started to clean up the nefarious actions of some of the so-called 'not-for-profit' organizations. It introduced legislation which would make all not-for-profits (like the Kingston Historical Society) have much greater clarity in their bylaws, and similarity and openness in their organization. After eleven years of refining the proposed legislation, Ontario's *Not-for-Profit Corporations Act* (ONCA) came into being on October 19th 2021, to become effective on October 19th 2024.

Our bylaws must be in conformity by that date. This has meant a considerable rewriting of our Constitution and By-laws to conform with the new legislation, though there are minimal and only minor changes. Those who receive a paper *Limelight* will receive a paper copy of the bylaws.

All can access the revised bylaws at <https://tinyurl.com/2uefz8nd>

Your present Council will receive and, it is hoped, approve the new bylaws at its meeting of September 11 and present a motion at the end of the regular KHS meeting on September 18 asking the membership to endorse Council's approval. If you have a concern, please contact a Councillor, or write the KGS at kingstonhs@gmail.com

It is noted with regret the death of George Turcotte on April 30, 2024, a long-time member of the Kingston Historical Society.

It is noted with regret the death of Shirley Gibson-Langille on August 20, 2024, a long-time member of the Kingston Historical Society and a frequent contributor of her art-related articles to Limelight.

THE KINGSTON HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Established 1893

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Please forward submissions to the Editor betty.andrews@gmail.com

Reprinting of articles from the Limelight must be accompanied by an acknowledgement of the Society, the issue and date. Photo credits and by-lines must be retained.

Featured Sponsor

The Kingston Historical Society gratefully acknowledges the financial support of Kingston Association of Museums, Art Galleries and Historic Sites and the City of Kingston.



The KHS gratefully acknowledges the support of its sponsors in producing Limelight.



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Councillors: Betty Andrews, Editor of Limelight; Craig Pettis, Member-at-large; Alan MacLachlan, Sir John A. Macdonald Commemoration Event Chair;
Duncan McDowall, Programme Chair; Liana Shaw, Director of Murney Tower; Paul Van Nest, Membership Chair;
Peter Gower, Editor of Historic Kingston, and Webmaster

President's Message

by Paul Charbonneau

"September days have the warmth of summer in their briefer hours, but in their lengthening evenings a prophetic breath of autumn."

Rowland E. Robinson

Welcome to the beginning of a new KHS season of lectures, events and knowledge exchange. I hope you all spent some quality time exploring our historical city and its many significant sites. By all accounts, tourism numbers have been strong and the latest addition to our inventory of attractions, S.S. Keewatin, has been a strong drawing card for Kingston visitors. Our own little gem, Murney Tower, continues to be a strong contender for tourism visits, read more below for the latest update.



At our meeting on September 18th, we will review a new bylaw document to ensure KHS's compliance to Ontario's Not-for-Profit Act (ONCA). Vice-President Peter Gower has outlined the situation on page 1 and will present the details and a motion to accept the new bylaw governing our Society; it would be great to have you attend for this important update.

A shout out to Councillor Paul Van Nest for balancing all the balls regarding our 2nd Annual KHS History Award. I had the privilege to present two (2) awards last year and can tell you the genuine appreciation the recipients' have for this gift, read more below regarding this years' winners and thank you to Society members and friends who took the time to attend and represent KHS at the nine (9) different ceremonies.

"The pull, the attraction of history, is in our human nature. What makes us tick? Why do we do what we do? How much is luck the deciding factor?"

David McCullough

Kingston Historical Society History Award - 2024 Winners

by Paul Van Nest

The Kingston Historical Society's 2nd annual presentation of history awards to graduating students from Kingston's nine secondary schools took place in June 2024.

The criteria for their selection are as follows:

This award is presented to a graduating student in each of the nine City of Kingston Secondary Schools who has shown an aptitude and passion for history in any of its many forms. As performance in grade 12-level Canadian and/or world history course(s) will be a factor, the student's teachers will have input into the selection of the successful recipient. The criteria may also include the candidate's intention of pursuing further education in the humanities and/or social sciences. In history, we include its many forms: archaeology, anthropology, cultural heritage, social history, museums, etc.

Congratulations to this year's recipients!

<u>SCHOOL</u>	<u>RECIPIENT</u>
LIMESTONE SCHOOL PUBLIC BOARD	
Bayridge	Quinn O'Brien
Frontenac	Ari Leroux
Kingston	Rayyan Mounib
LaSalle	Grace Gibson
Loyalist	Christopher Bakyta
ALGONQUIN & LAKESHORE CATHOLIC BOARDS	
Holy Cross	Ava Burns
Regiopolis	Danica Samson
FRENCH-SPEAKING SCHOOL BOARDS CATHOLIC AND PUBLIC BOARDS	
Marie-Rivier	Colesen Lebrun
Mille-Îles	Seham Kettaneh

Members of the Society who volunteered to present our \$150 awards this year were Jean Baxter, Grant LeDrew, Kat MacDonald, Alan MacLachlan, Michael Murphy, Duncan McDowall and Paul Van Nest. All of us were warmly welcomed at our respective schools and we all made our presentations on stage. Please consider volunteering for a school next year (your choice at this point); email pvannest@cogeco.ca or phone 613-532-1903.

Rescue at Arnhem

By Murray Hogben, Whig-Standard Staff Writer

Abridged by the author from Whig-Standard magazine "Companion," September 25, 1999

What did a quiet, long-retired Queen's University engineering professor and the book and the star-studded 1977 war movie *A Bridge Too Far* have in common? The short answer is: A lot.

Russ J. Kennedy, was born on a farm at Dunrobin, near Ottawa, in 1917, graduated in the spring of 1941, joined the army as a lieutenant, and played a role at Arnhem, in the Netherlands, during the dangerous operation, called Market Garden, in September 1944.

He was there as a 23rd Field Company Royal Canadian Engineers reconnaissance officer and became involved in saving more than 2,000 of the 10,000 members of the British 1st Airborne Division who'd been dropped to capture the bridge at Arnhem...

It all began with Field Marshall Bernard Montgomery's ambitious plan to breach the German lines in Belgium and drive 64 miles northeast across Holland to link up with paratroopers dropped ahead to seize four crucial bridges along the way... Arnhem was to be the last stop before the German border and a projected end of the war.

But Operation Market Garden failed, leading to very high casualties among the paratroopers and the relieving force, and to the destruction of the city of Arnhem.

As the officer in charge suggested in vain to Montgomery, they "might be going a bridge too far," a phrase which became the title of Cornelius Ryan's 1974 book and the 1977 blockbuster film.

On Oct. 1, 1941, Russ Kennedy and his friend Russ Martin, another Queen's graduate, had joined the Canadian Army, and they sailed to England in July 1943 as engineers. They had done much of their training in England on water assault crossings using 20-foot heavy plywood "storm boats" which carried a dozen soldiers and their weapons.

The long-awaited Allied invasion of Europe was launched on D-Day, June 6, 1944, and they were shipped to Normandy four weeks later.

Once Operation Market Garden was launched on Sept. 17, 1944, the engineers had to be prepared to make an assault crossing with boats and pontoon bridges on the way to Arnhem, via Eindhoven and Nijmegen, in case any bridge along the road was destroyed.

The British paratroopers had been dropped west of Arnhem on the north side of the Lower Rhine; the relieving column had to try to reach them by pushing northwest along the narrow paved road from Belgium, under attack and with other rivers and bridges to cross.

By Sept. 25, Kennedy said his commanding officer, Maj. Mike Tucker of the 23rd Field Company, received word that things were not going well at Arnhem and that the British paratroopers needed to be rescued. The British Airborne troops of Maj. Gen. Robert E. Urquhart (Sean Connery in the film) had been dropped west of the city on the north side of the river and had held their ground in the western suburb of Oosterbeek. Further east, in the centre of town, the British under Col. John Frost (Anthony Hopkins) were holding on without heavy weapons at the north end of the bridge.

The plan was for the Canadian company to run the storm boats on the east flank and west of the crossing site where the British 260th Company would use canvas assault boats ...

Kennedy's men had to heave the storm boats and spare motors up the slippery 18 to 20-foot "winter dike"

and the seven to 10-foot-high “summer dike” near the river in the rain and under German shellfire, while Tucker directed the company from the shore.

The boats’ primitive outboard motors – no clutch or reverse – were very awkward to use. The first boat sank because it had been shot up and the second one was then wrestled down to the river’s edge.

“Russ Martin was put in charge of this boat and set out into the blackness of the river to find the Airborne,” Kennedy said. “By now, the German artillery was firing in great style and our own mediums were replying in kind. “

“No one from that boat was seen again [including his friend]. A few minutes later, we had another boat ready and it also disappeared.”

The next crew survived and the fourth boat returned with a load of survivors, but many were wounded. The temperamental outboard motors often failed – requiring them to use paddles and rifle butts to get back – and the overloaded boats were regularly shot up or sunk.

By 8:30 a.m., after he’d gotten the last boat in the water, and there seemed few survivors to pick up, Kennedy found an abandoned storm boat with a dead motor.

“By some fluke, it started for me,” he recalled, so Tucker let him have a lance-corporal and a sapper to look around for Martin’s boat or its crew. Arriving on the north shore, they found a mob of airborne survivors who rushed his boat and sank it in four feet of cold water, a problem Kennedy had to resolve.

Back on the south shore, the trio found an abandoned boat with a motor that had dried out and a third canvas assault boat.

They then took all three boats back – with only a motor on the front one – to pick up more surviving paratroopers and succeeded in this.

Finally, Kennedy and the sapper took the two storm boats back to the north side of the river, one towing the other. Once they had taken on more paratroopers, he found his motor was dead again.

“Our motor finally caught,” Kennedy said. “The machine guns were still firing, the bullets making interesting patterns on the water around us, but they never actually got onto us.”

According to Cornelius Ryan’s book, 2,163 of Urquhart’s 10,000 paratroopers were rescued, plus 160 Poles and 75 Dorsets who’d been sent across to help Urquhart.

The Allies lost 1,500 killed and 6,842 missing, wounded or captured at Arnhem. The Germans had 3,300 casualties, including 1,100 dead...

Kennedy had also been involved in the final assault when Arnhem was captured and in crossing the smallest branch of the Rhine, the IJssel, east of the town. They reached the Ems River crossing in Germany when the war ended in May 1945.

He finished the war still as a lieutenant, but with MC – Military Cross – after his name, presented by King George VI.

After the war, Kennedy came home to the Dunrobin farm where he received a message encouraging him to return to Queen’s to brush up on his engineering by teaching other returning war veterans.

He eventually became vice-principal of Queen’s, retired in 1983 after nearly 40 years, and received an honorary doctorate of science in 1993.

Russ Kennedy died in 2010.

Kingston Unguarded

The history of Kingston provides a textbook example of the effectiveness of deterrence as a military principle. The city's shoreline is punctuated with reminders of structures erected to ward off the menace of attack and invasion: Fort Henry, the Rideau Canal and a string of formidable Martello Towers all projected the message "stay away from here." The continuing presence of a large military establishment on the Barriefield Heights maintains the deterrence.

Only once has Kingston dropped its guard against predators. In 1758, during the Seven Years War (often called the French and Indian War), Kingston was a bastion of French colonial power. That power was made manifest in Fort Frontenac, a stone fortress (whose foundation has been excavated and preserved on Kingston's waterfront) strategically situated at the confluence of the Cataraqui River, the St. Lawrence River and the Great Lakes system. To control this pivotal location was to control access to the continental interior and the St. Lawrence artery to the ocean. For Britain, locked in conflict with France for continental dominance, Kingston was an obstacle of prime strategic importance.

At its May meeting, the Society was given a vivid and erudite telling of how Fort Frontenac fell to British arms after a brief siege in late August 1758. Our lecturer was Ian Macpherson McCulloch, a retired career military officer and prolific military historian, whose *John Bradstreet's Raid, 1758* was published in 2022. Bradstreet was a hard-driving military adventurer – Anglo-Irish, bilingual in origin with a tinge of Indigenous blood – who pushed the boundaries of military obedience and caution. He had partaken in the British capture of Louisbourg. McCulloch brought to life the daunting logistics of mounting a raid into the heart of the continent. Marshalling 2,000 troops – mainly locally, irregular Rangers supplemented with Six Nations Native warriors – Bradstreet came from the south out of the Mohawk Valley, crossing Lake Ontario in bateaux, in what would today be called a "combined forces operation", to catch the thinly-guarded French fort unaware. Deft use of artillery and encirclement brought a quick end to the affair. Plunder, the taking of 118 French prisoners and the total destruction of the fort followed. Bradstreet did not lose a single man in the fray. Even though the British retreated back across the lake, Kingston ceased to be an active ingredient in the war. When they returned in the wake of the American Revolution, the British brought with them the memory of Bradstreet's swift victory and never took the defence of Kingston lightly.

The Society was fortunate in having such a thoroughly-researched and lively lecture from Lt-Col McCulloch. *John Bradstreet's Raid, 1758* is available at Novel Idea, where KHS members receive a discount (just bring your membership card).



6 June 2024 Service Commemorating the Death of Sir John A. Macdonald

By Alan MacLachlan

The forecast was for rain on 6 June and the service was moved indoors. We were very fortunate that Archdeacon Bill Clarke had offered us the historic, and recently desanctified, Christ Church Cataraqui on the southwest edge of the Cataraqui Cemetery as the inclement weather venue.



As in the past several years, Don Richardson served as the MC. The service began with the national anthem led for the first time by the KHS trio: Duncan McDowell, Paul Van Nest and Bill Clarke. A warm welcome was extended to the 50 attendees by Craig Boals, the manager of the Cataraqui Cemetery. Archdeacon Bill Clarke gave a religious reading and a prayer.



Peter Gower, the KHS Vice-president, fittingly garbed in full Scottish highland outfit, welcomed everyone on behalf of the KHS and the Commemoration Service Committee. He then introduced the guest speaker,

Dr. Stephen Smith, an historian with Parks Canada.

Dr. Smith gave an engaging address titled "Macdonald's Four Lives at Bellevue House".

Councillor and deputy mayor of Kingston, Gary Oosterhof, laid a commemorative wreath on behalf of the City of Kingston. [It is interesting to note that Sir John was an alderman for Kingston in 1843.] Anne Richardson then laid a wreath on behalf of the Kingston Historical Society. Both were escorted by Peter Gower.



This was followed by the playing of the Lament by piper Doug Green .



Warren Everett then invited those assembled to join in a toast to Sir John.

The service ended with closing remarks from MC Don Richardson. He expressed thanks to all those involved in making the commemorative service a wonderful testament to Canada's first Prime Minister and major mover in the creation of Canada.

The service closed with the singing of 'God Save The King'.

The Society appreciates the photographic services of Eva Barnes.

Many people participating voiced the sentiment that it was an excellent commemoration of our first prime minister, and a marvellous alternate historic location. A



YouTube video of the service may be found at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1GbVDOXHeKs>

or on our website <https://www.kingstonhistoricalsociety.ca/>

We are indebted to Craig Pettis for producing the video.

We hope to see you next year at the 2025 June 6 service commemorating the death of Sir John A. Macdonald, Canada's first prime minister, and hope that there will be no heavenly moisture.

Battle of Quebec - September 13, 1759

-an article of interest from The Gentleman's Magazine, September 1823

Regarding **Eleanor Job**, in Churchcourt, in the Parish of St. Giles, at the very advanced age of 105 years.

In the first contest between this country and America, she accompanied her husband, who was a soldier of artillery, to the latter country where she attended the army in every campaign that took place as principal nurse in what was called at that time the flying hospital. Her intrepidity and humanity were equally proverbial with the army, for she had been often known to rush forward at the cannon's mouth, on the field of battle, to assist in the dressing of the wounded soldiers, with whom she was held in such regard that she was known familiarly as "Good Mother Job".

At the battle of Quebec she was particularly conspicuous in her heroic exertions to relieve the wounded, and was the person selected on that occasion to prepare for embalming the remains of the brave, gallant and lamented Wolfe. She it was that, on that melancholy occasion, performed the necessary ablution of the internal parts of the body. Her husband having been killed in battle, she returned at the close of the war to this her native country, without any adequate provision for her support, and for the past fifty years she has been a pauper in the parish of St. Giles. It is but justice to the different Overseers, and other officers of this parish, to say, that they have for several years past done everything in their power to render the close of such a life as comfortable as such circumstances could allow. She continued perfectly rational to the last moment, and a few days before her death, was conversing familiarly about the building of St. Giles Church in the year 1733, of which she had a perfect recollection.

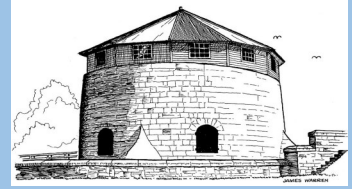
Her features were remarkably fine and prominent, of the Roman order. Mr. Burgess, the parish surgeon of St. Giles's, on hearing of her death, had a cast of the face immediately taken. The daughter, aged 63, the grand-daughter aged 40, and the great grand-daughter aged 15, paid the last tribute of respect and affection to the remains of their venerable parent.



Murney Tower

Operated by the Kingston Historical Society

www.murneytower.com



MT staff 2024 at a Museum opening event in May: Emma MacGregor-Mitchell, Dr. Simge Erdogan-O'Connor, Jago Garrett, George Hocking, Alexa Grandy.

Murney Tower Centennial Update

The Murney Tower 100th anniversary preparations are in progress. Work is being done toward developing an illustrated children's storybook with an Ontario-based book author and illustrator and developing a centennial art exhibition with the Modern Fuel Artist-Run Centre. Individual and corporate donations between May and August of 2024 have raised \$18,000. Donors include

Kingston Credit Community Union

Britton Smith Foundation—Homestead

Ontario Power Generation

James Reid Funeral Homes

Roger 's & Trainor

To donate visit:

<https://www.zeffy.com/en-CA/fundraising/0a7a18bc-b407-4fd2-bbf4-bf6ed2f9d33a>

Murney Highlights

- ★ Awarded second place at the Kingston Regional Heritage Fair
- ★ Received a "Kids Choice Award" for Murney Spy card game
- ★ June launch of Centennial Initiative and Community Fundraiser of \$75,000, for the MT 100th Anniversary

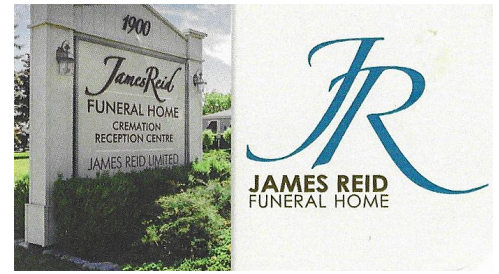
Summer projects of student employees

- Participated in the Princess Street Promenade
- Guided tours of Tower
- Artifact cataloguing work
- Producing Podcasts on *Martellos Around the World*
- Kids Take Over the Museum event with the Museum of Healthcare
- Murney Fest
- Work on interactive script for children's tours
- Researching the history of the Royal Canadian Rifle Regiment, stationed at Murney Tower
- Designing Posts to social media
- Adding to the Murney Tower Dictionary all about the events, people, and buildings that have defined the history of the Martello towers






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Ear to the ground

Elizabeth Durno reporting on events of interest to history buffs

On September 21 at 10:00 a.m. Jenna Lemay will give a presentation to the **Kingston Branch of the Ontario Genealogical Society** that will feature the basics of researching indigenous ancestors in Ontario. Go to <https://kingston.ogs.on.ca/> for the Zoom link.

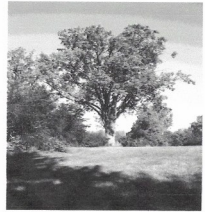
The Kingston and District Branch, United Empire Loyalists will meet Saturday, September 28 at 1:00 p.m. at St. Paul’s Anglican Church Hall, 137 Queen St. to hear Jennifer McKendry speak on ‘The early Buildings of Kingston 1783 - 1830’. The Zoom link is on the website: www.uelac.org/Kingston-Branch





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Julie Arsenault

AN INTIMATE SHOW

AT MURNEY TOWER MUSEUM

7

SEPTEMBER

🕒 6:00-9:00 PM
📍 MURNEY TOWER

DOORS OPEN AT 6 PM
PERFORMANCE AT 7 PM

Murney Tower Museum cordially invites you to a special musical performance featuring Canada’s best-kept secret, Toronto-based singer and songwriter, Julie Arsenault. This special event will take place on **Saturday, September 7th** and bring the Kingston community together in the iconic structure of Murney Tower.

Ticket sales and funds raised during the event will support the museum’s Centennial celebration in 2025.



ONTARIO
HISTORICAL
SOCIETY *Since 1888*

The 136th Annual General Meeting of the Ontario Historical Society will take place on Tuesday, September 10, at 7:00PM. To register to attend, email ohs@ontariohistoricalsociety.ca by Monday, September 9, 5:00 PM. **Dr. Natasha Henry-Dixon** will deliver the keynote presentation:

“The Paradox of Slavery and Freedom in 19th Century Ontario.”

Congratulations to **Robert Banks** for winning the prestigious Keith Matthews Best Book Award for 2023 for **‘*Warriors and Warships: Conflict on the Great Lakes and the Legacy of Point Frederick*’**. The award is given by the Canadian Nautical Research Society for the best book published on a Canadian nautical or maritime subject. The book, funded by the City of Kingston Heritage Fund, is beautifully illustrated with archival images and present-day photographs. It is a *must* for anyone wishing to understand the pre-Confederation quest for mastery of Lake Ontario. For more information about the Keith Matthews Awards, go to this link:

https://www.cnrs-scrn.org/books_and_awards/matthews_e.html

Is the evening not your chosen time to drive? Would you like a ride to the monthly Wednesday night KHS meetings? **Happy to drive at night?** Would you be willing to drive members from your area to the monthly Wednesday night KHS meetings? **If either of the above applies to you, email your info to kingstonhs@gmail.com**

It is hoped a driving pool can be formed so all who wish to be at meetings in person can be.

Welcome, new members

William Thomlinson Roger Davidson
Ryan Smythe Andrea Gummo
Malcolm and Elizabeth Stott

Taken from the newsletter of the Kingston Historical Society of **March 1977**:

On Wednesday, March 16, at 8 p.m. we meet in St. George's Hall for brief business agenda and to hear JENNIFER McKENDRY speak -- with slides illustrating her talk. She entitles it "A Romance Laid to Rest."

and 47 years later, Jennifer is still producing presentations for the Society and articles for its newsletter.

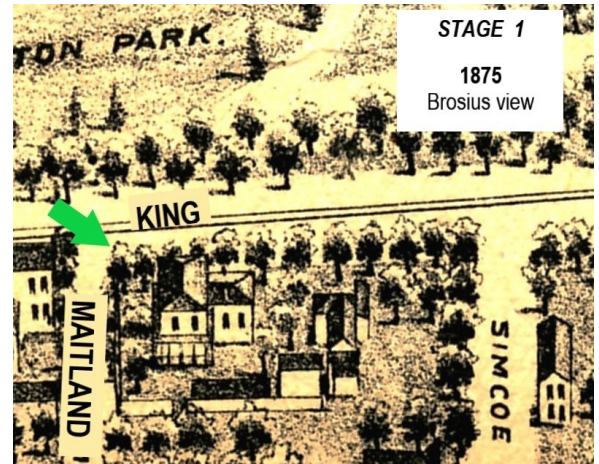
STILL STANDING

Looking at Regional Architecture with Dr Jennifer McKendry

81 King Street East in three stages

Stage 1 begins as early as 1841, when the tax assessment noted John Watkins was in the process of building his two-storey house, described as brick in the census of 1861. However, with its hipped roof and orientation toward Maitland Street (as seen in the 1875 Brosius view), it demonstrated little influence on how Stage 2 was remodelled and thus is of minor importance for the current appearance of the house.

Stage 2 In fact, if we did not have the British Whig description of 1886 that Joseph Upper was remodelling – at a cost of \$4,000 – the house he had purchased in 1880, we would have been tempted to categorize it as a new design. Indeed it was a bold and innovative (for Kingston) style of half-timber. In 1886, the Kingston & Pembroke Railway Freight Shed (demolished) across from city hall was designed in this style by architect William Newlands. This suggests he may have been Upper's architect. If any client was keeping a close eye on how railways were being developed, it was Joseph Upper, who was heavily involved as a contractor and investor with American and Canadian railways, including the K. & P. His travels in the U.S. exposed him to new ideas in architecture. Newlands had illustrated architectural journals for inspiration, for example, Stanford White's design for the James Cheney house (not realized), illustrated in *American Architect* in 1878. Stage 2 resulted in a much larger house than that of Watkins. It was in a distinctive style, as seen in the exposed timber framing (derived from English Tudor buildings), tall chimneys, complex forms, pebble-dash detailing and carvings such as sunflowers. The newspaper in 1896 characterized it as one of the finest in the city.



The newspaper in 1896 characterized it as one of the finest in the city.

Stage 3 saw even more re-modelling, such as larger windows on the west and south as designed by Alexander Wilson in 2018 for Dr and Mrs Derbyshire. It is now on the market for 25 million dollars.