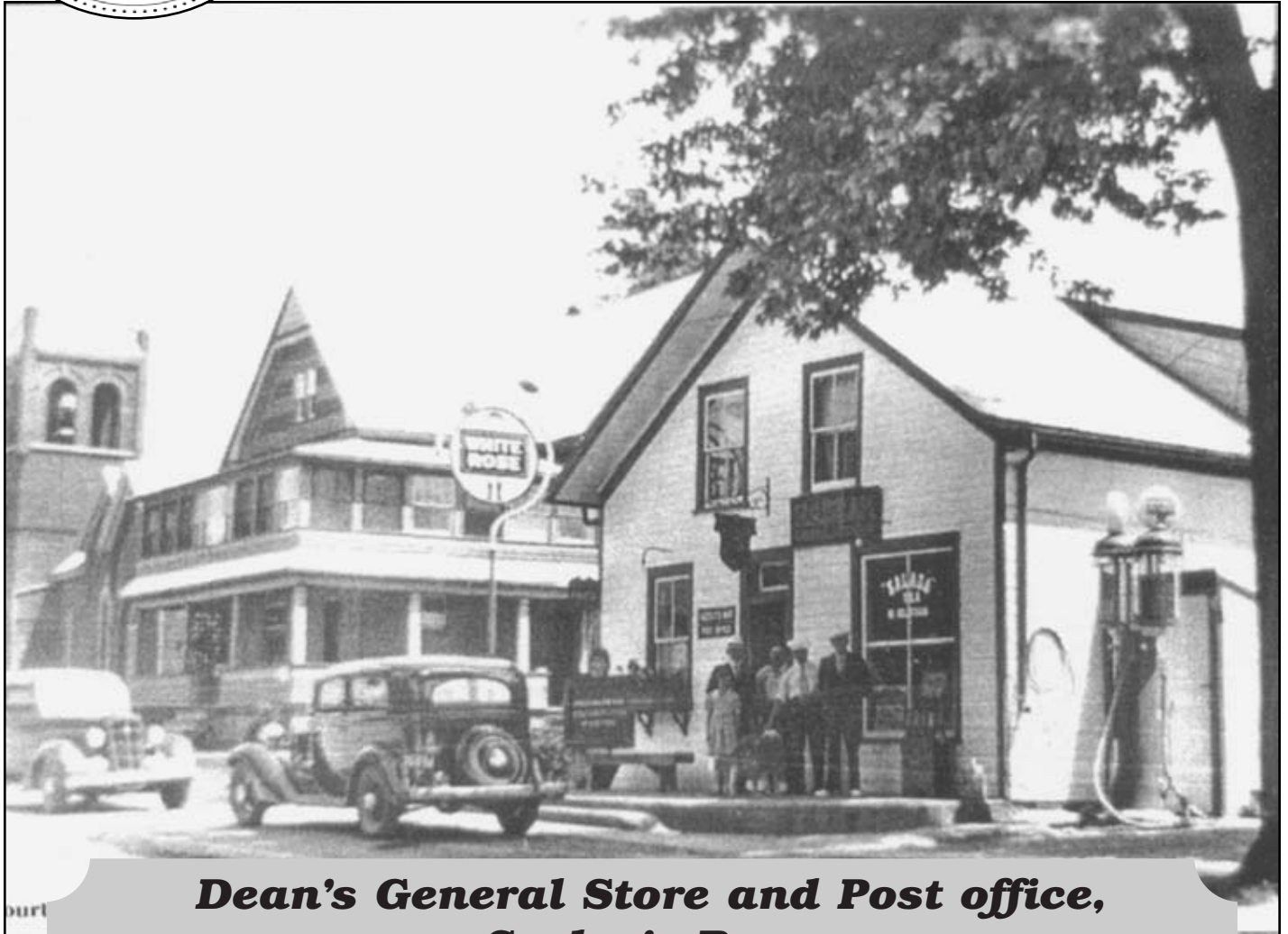




Leeds & 1000 Islands Historical Society



Dean's General Store and Post office, Seeley's Bay.

It was destroyed by fire in 1951 and is now the site of the Seeley's Bay fire hall.

(Photo courtesy Community Heritage Album, LTI Municipal Heritage Committee)

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Dear Members:

Here we go again! For the last couple of years we have been running one issue behind through no fault of any particular person. This past August we finally caught up. It was my intention to start on this issue immediately and have it ready to go to the publisher right after the October annual meeting. Unfortunately a health problem brought me to a standstill. I was very slow in getting my act together to collect the material for this issue. So the lateness is my fault alone and I apologize. I am determined to produce two more in 2008 and once more get back on track.

For a number of years we have had a slide presentation "Lansdowne Then and Now". The idea came to me to do a "Then and Now" pictorial presentation in each newsletter. Then I noticed Reader's Digest was doing the same thing to celebrate their 60th anniversary. Since it is said that there is no better flattery than copying, we present the first in this issue.

Where are all the budding writers out there? I've been looking for them for the last ten years. I would be most happy to have someone submit an article, or volunteer to research an article.

I think we had a good series of meetings in the fall, and excellent attendance as well. We look forward to the winter series.

January 21	Rideau Canal 175.	Pam Buel (Parks Canada)
February 18	The Case of Henry Trail	David St.Onge (Penitentiary Museum)
March 17	History of Gardening – Chapter 1	Ken Willis (Bellview House)
April 21	Dutch Immigration	Henry Smid (Athens Heritage Society)

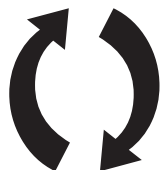
We look forward to seeing you at the meetings.

This organization would not exist without the executive, the volunteers and our loyal membership. Especially, this publication would not come to you in this quality without the hours of work of our publishers, Ted and Pat Hewitt.

"A belated Happy New Year to all."

Bill Boulton - President

MEMBERSHIP FEES



General (Family) - \$10.00 Association - \$10.00 Corporate - \$25.00
Our membership term is Sept. 1 to Aug. 31
Memberships available at any meeting or by cheque to:

LTI HISTORICAL SOCIETY
Box 332 Lansdowne, Ont. KOE 1L0

NEWSLETTERS

As our newsletter binder was growing large, we have decided to split it into two.

Back copies of our newsletters are available for \$2.50 each

Copies 1 through 20 are now available in a three ring binder. Cost \$62.00

Copies 21 through 27 - Cost \$29.50 - Binders with all 27 copies will still be available.

Due to the weight and high cost of postage, if these have to be mailed, postage will have to be added.

Also available now is a binder with a coloured cover insert or the coloured cover insert alone.

Ask the Executive for prices.



Do you remember the Ice Storm January 1998?

Where were you?

THEN
and
NOW



O'Grady Rd. Looking East.



(All Photos by Ted Hewitt)



542 County Rd. #2



Continued on Pg. #8



LEEDS and 1000 ISLANDS HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Slate of Officers – 2006 – 2007

President-	Bill Boulton
1st. Vice-President-	Yolande LaPointe
2nd. Vice-President-	Paul Cote
Past-President-	Bruce W. Foley
Secretary-	Ann Graham
Treasurer-	Duane Dillman
Members at Large-	Mary Robertson Alan Lindsay

Committee Chairs

Communications-	Bill Boulton
Social Chair-	Rebecca Webster
Archivist-	Pierre Mercier
Program-	Ruth Ralph
Membership-	Connie Burns

Heritage Organization Grant

The Historical Society made an application to the Provincial Ministry of Culture for a Heritage Organization Development Grant.

Our application was approved, and we received \$466.00.

This grant will be used to cover the cost of preparation and distribution of our Newsletters.

We wish to thank the Ministry of Culture for this assistance.



YEAR IN REVIEW 2006-2007

FROM THE SECRETARY'S ANNUAL REPORT



September



October

Sept. 18, 2006 - Alan Lindsay displayed material from the Darling Estate.

Oct. 16, 2006 - Bill Boulton presented "150 Years of Railroad". He also made this presentation for the Gananoque Historical Society and the Retired Railroaders group in Kingston

Nov. 20, 2006 - Steven Heaton outlined the history of The Gananoque Journal.

Jan. 21, 2007 - Tim Compeau spoke on the life of Joel Stone.

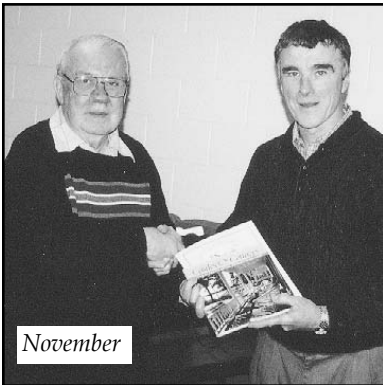
Feb. 18, 2007 - Rebecca Webster organized another successful Show and Tell for Heritage Week.

Mar. 18, 2007 - Shane Sanford spoke of the Restoration of Boldt Castle.

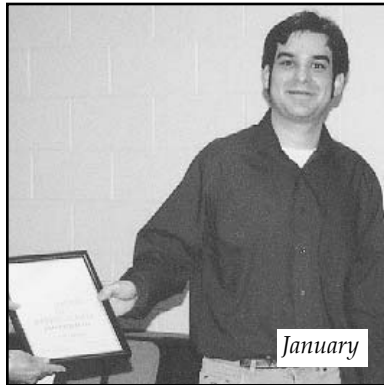
April 15, 2007 - David and Kay Webster demonstrated their Re-enactment activities.

June, 2007 - The Historical Society sponsored a bus tour of the village with commentary for SAIL as part of their Senior's Week celebration.

July, 2007 - We displayed Heritage Quilts at Lansdowne Fair. (No photo Submitted)



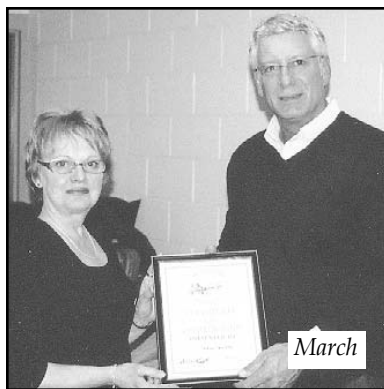
November



January



February



March

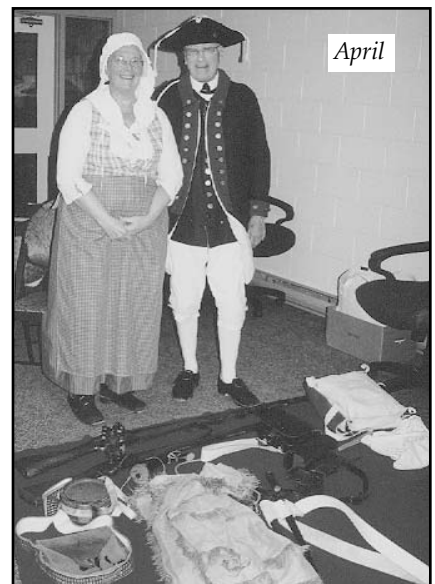


June

Photos in Sept., Feb., April, & June
by Bill Boulton

Photo in October
by Anne Graham

Photos in Nov., Jan., & March
by Bruce Foley



April



NEWSPAPERS

We recently received a box containing copies of old newspapers

The Kingston Whig-Standard - 1942 -1946
Toronto Daily Star - 1942
The Globe and Mail - 1942

The papers are quite different from to-days. They measure 17" x 22.5" while modern papers are 12" x 23.5".

All of the front pages and much of the inside are dedicated to war news. Most have lists of the men wounded, missing or killed. After the Dieppe Raid the list filled one full page.

The following are some notes of local interest from these papers.

August 12, 1942: CKWS Radio went on air for the first time. Kemptville Cheese Board sold 3,849 boxes of cheese. In Eastern Ontario a total of 15,383 boxes.

Aug. 14, 1942: LANSLOWNE; Miss Joan Robinson spent the past week the guest of Miss Marion Armstrong of Brockville. Dick Robinson is holidaying with his cousin, Bud Warner of Brockville. Stanley MacDonald received word on Thursday of the death of his eldest Brother. Robert Storey, Escott, passed away at his home in Escott on Thursday Morning.

Abramsky's Summer Clearance Sale - 40 dresses - \$1.00 each.
Men's slack suits - \$6.00.

Friday Aug. 21, 1942: Ration Book No. 1 will arrive Monday and be distributed by the Dominion post office.

Saturday Aug. 22, 1942: LANSLOWNE; Miss Eleanor Jack arrived home, having completed her training at the Belleville General hospital. Rev. H.S. Cooke and Mrs. Cooke called on friends here this week. Borden Dillon of the R.C.A.F. returned after a week's holiday with his mother. Urban J.B. Warren returned home from Kingston General Hospital. Fred Greenfield, C.N.R. agent, and Mrs. Greenfield left to enjoy holidays.

Monday, Aug. 24, 1942: Kingston fair opens.

Gananoque Market - chickens 30 cents a pound,
eggs 30 cents a dozen,
potatoes 50 cents a peck.

Aug. 25, 1942: LYNTHURST; A most successful dance was held on the community platform Friday evening. Proceeds paid the balance for the construction of the platform, and a donation to the Red Cross. Claude Thomas, R.C.N.R., has returned to Toronto after sick leave at his home. Dr. and Mrs. A.B. Wickware, Ottawa, spent the weekend at their cottage, Wick's Pick, Singleton Lake.

Fall Fairs, Delta. Sept. 7-9.
Lansdowne Sept. 10-12.



THE SEELEY'S BAY MEDICAL CENTRE

By Deb McCann

The Seeley's Bay Medical Centre will celebrate its **10th. anniversary** in the summer of 2008. This article reflects on the progress and successes the medical centre has had over the past years.

In February 1995, Country Roads Community Health Centre held a number of Focus Group meetings throughout North Leeds to ascertain the need for medical, counselling and education services. At a meeting held in the Seeley's Bay fire hall, a group of concerned and interested citizens decided to form an ad hoc committee. This group met to address the needs as perceived by a diverse group from the community.

Members of this committee were Rev. Garvin, Helen Sweet, Deb McCann, Hilda Simpson, Ruth Hatton, Fran DeLallo, Mrs. Carol Johnston, Mary Whitney and Dr. Catherine Ashton. Others joining the committee at various times were Jack and Rita Drynan, Peggy Sweet-McCumber, Joanne Cyr and Carol Johnston to mention only a few.

The committee met at least once a month to discuss ways of addressing needs of the community. They decided at this time to support CRCHC in its mission to expand services to a full time clinic in the Seeley's Bay / Lyndhurst area. In May 1995 they submitted a proposal to the Ministry of Health.

The committee was very aware of the valuable resources and services that Dr. Stanley Webb had, and continued to provide to the area, but were aware of the ever increasing demands for additional services, and at the same time the very challenging job of recruiting physicians for the community.

A committee chaired by Deborah McCann made many phone calls, wrote letters and held meetings with various local, regional and provincial bodies over the next year in order to achieve their goal.

The township council passed a motion to support the committee in its application to the Ministry of Health for under serviced designation. The application process was tedious, collecting and compiling statistics and demographic data. After many months, the committee was informed that the township was granted under serviced designation.

The designation allowed the community representatives to participate in an annual job recruitment at the five medical schools across the province and to advertise and promote the needs of the community. It was very evident in the fall of 1996 that our little community was going to have a lot of work ahead to attract physicians to the area.

In the early spring of 1996, Jack Drynan, a local contractor, and his wife Rita, endorsed the committee's work and indicated they would build a facility for the medical centre and were in the process of starting the building process. Mr. Drynan was successful in his application for zoning and building permits, and the construction for the new centre went ahead. With this support, the committee was energized in pursuing their goal of attracting a physician to the area. The township council agreed to pay the rent of the new space for two years in an attempt to give the committee a better chance to attract a doctor.

The committee held an information meeting in December 1997 to update the community on progress. Assistance was sought from interested community members to form a fund raising committee to raise funds to meet some of the needs to furnish the centre with basic equipment. A large fund raising event was held in the fire hall in May 1998. Advance tickets sold out; even the downstairs had to be used. Community groups, local businesses and the public from a wide area joined the effort. Over \$30,000. was raised to purchase equipment.

(Continued on Pg. #7)



(Continued from Pg. #6) **THE SEELEY'S BAY MEDICAL CENTRE**

Deb McCann received a call from a man who had seen a news story on local television and thought his sister-in-law, **Dr. Briggs**, might be interested. In the same week, **Dr. Kushnir**, who had a summer residence in the area read an article in the local paper and contacted Deb McCann. A couple had purchased property in the area and were relocating from Northern Ontario. One of them was **Dr. Lynn Stewart**. Dr. Stewart was committed to return to work at Queens Medical Centre, but was inquiring about future possibilities. The committee set up interviews with the interested physicians in February 1998. Both Dr. Briggs and Dr. Kushnir decided to relocate to the area in the summer of 1998.

On July 14, 1998 the clinic was finished, and a ribbon cutting ceremony was held at the Legion. The two doctors were introduced and welcomed to the area. Dr. Briggs and Dr. Kushnir started to practice that summer and soon realized it would become a very busy practice. Dr. Briggs was working full time and Dr. Kushnir three days a week. Dr. Stewart joined the practice in September 2000. Dr. Kushnir left the practice in 2002 to pursue her love of Emergency Medicine in Smith Falls. After relocating to this area, **Dr. Barry** joined the practice in July 2005. **In January 2008, Dr. O Connor** will be welcomed to the clinic.

The services of a **Registered Nurse, Extended Class** * was seen as a valuable addition to the centre and a way of complementing the work of the physicians. The first **Registered Nurse, Extended Class**, **Anna Rider** started in the fall of 2000. She left to pursue another position. In July 2002 **Tanya Abrams, RN(EC)**, joined the staff and continues to hold that position today.

Physically the centre has gone through expansions and redefinition of areas within the clinic. The physicians are part of the Family Health Network and hold various evening and weekend clinics for their patients. The evolution of the medical centre and the services it has provided and continues to provide is a direct reflection of the expertise and passion that the physicians and staff bring to the community. With the 10th. anniversary approaching in 2008, this is a good time to reflect on this success. ✍

* **Publishers Note:** The term **Nurse Practitioner** as known by the public is legally called by the **College of Nurses Registered Nurses, Extended Class - RN(EC)**.

(Photo by Bill Boulton)





SEELEY'S BAY and AREA DOCTORS

By Bill Boulton

*There seems to be very little information about Doctors in the area.
All I have been able to find are names and sometimes location.*

- 1852— There are two doctors listed in the area; **Dr. William W. Howard**, Lot 9, Con. 13; and his brother **Dr. Alpheus Howard**, Lot 9, Con. 12 at Soperton. Dr. William resided almost across the road from the Sand Hill or Soperton Cemetery. Dr. Alpheus lived on the other side. He is also listed as living in Lyndhurst.
- 1860— Seeley's Bay began to grow, but had no doctor closer than Soperton or Kingston. By 1890 there were two doctors.
- 1864-65— Mitchell's Canada Directory lists physician **Dr. J. McCammon** in Seeley's Bay.
- Dr. Henry Elliott**, south side Main Street at eastern edge of village. Built house in 1869.
- 1870— Physician **Dr. G. Bowen**.
- 1871— Lovell's Canadian Directory lists **Dr. Thomas Gray**. Another note lists \$10. paid to Dr. Gray for medical attendance on family of Alex Neddo.
- 1881— The Gananoque Reporter lists a woman calling herself **Mrs. Dr. Dorr** has been living in Seeley's Bay for the past year, pretending, it is said, to practice medicine.
- 1890— **Dr. D. Burritt**, physician, Lyndhurst.
- 1890— Physician **Charles H. Burritt**, Lyndhurst. He was a founding member of the Independent Order of Foresters.
- 1893— Physicians **Dr. W.J. Christie** and **Dr. R.J. Gardiner**.
- Dr. Gardiner**. Raised in village and educated at local schools. Built house in 1896. Later **Dr. Young**'s.
- 1899— One of the most prominent houses in Seeley's Bay was the brick residence and drive house constructed for **Dr. W. J. Christie**. Later **Dr. Webb**'s.
- 1901— Physician **Dr. G. H. Brown**.
- Dr. J. Chipman**
- Dr. Doneven**. Moved to Oshawa.
- 1912 - **Dr. F.S. Young** - died 1947.
- 1913 — 1915 — **Dr. Belfie**.
- Dr. Elmer Brown**.
- Dr. Stanley Brown** — Moved to Detroit.
- 1923 — **Dr. Tom Wills**, a local boy.
- 1925 — **Dr. Morgan**.
- 1950 — **Dr. Cornell**.
- 1944-1951 — **Dr. Hewitt**.
- 1950-1953 — **Mr. Thompson**.
- 1954 — **Dr. Stanley Webb**.

(Continued from Pg. #3).

ICE STORM THEN AND NOW

795 County Rd. #2.





DR. FRANK STEVENSON YOUNG

By Bill Boulton

Dr. F.S. Young was born in Forfar 1884. He received his early education there and at Athens High School. He graduated in medicine from Queens University in 1908. He practiced in Seeley's Bay with **Dr. Elliott** in 1911. Dr. Elliott left in 1912, and Dr. Young bought his house and continued the practice. His office was in the house. He did have office hours, but these seemed to mean little to his patients, who dropped in at any time. Often after the stores closed in the evening, whole families would drop in to the office for a visit. Dr. Young mixed and dispensed his own medicine. Medicine would arrive in large bottles from Kingston on the stage coach. Dr. Young treated everything from pulling a tooth to minor surgery. Patients often brought family problems to the doctor for assistance.

The doctors at this time also made house calls, and were on call 24 hours a day, seven days a week. He never took a holiday. Travel was by horse and buggy in summer, cutter in winter. With roads blocked with snow he often traveled on the frozen canal or across fields. He had bells on his cutter so that his patients would hear him coming. He was very considerate of his horse, always rubbing it down and feeding it before he came into the house. Dr. Young served as the township coroner. It was said that during the flu epidemic of 1918 he was so busy he seldom slept. Remember at this time there was no government health plan. Patients paid the doctor themselves, often in goods such as meat, vegetables or hay and oats for his horse. Dr. young also cultivated a large garden of his own, which he enjoyed cultivating himself.

Mrs. Young, the former Ethel Gallagher, had graduated in nursing from Kingston General Hospital in 1906. She assisted her husband in the office and often accompanied him on house calls, especially in the delivery of babies. Youngs had four children, two boys and two girls; producing two doctors and two nurses.

Dr. Young died in 1947 from a heart attack. He had arrived home from delivering a baby just a short time before.



Dr. Young's home and office. *(Photo by Bill Boulton)*

Dr. Frank Young. *(Photo courtesy Mrs. Betty MacPherson)*



DR. STANLEY WEBB

By Bill Boulton

Dr. Stanley Webb was born in Ottawa 1926. He served in the Canadian Army during W.W. 2, but never made it past Petawawa. After the war he was walking down the street talking to a buddy about what they were going to do. At that point he decided to go into medicine. With only a grade 12 education, he took his grade 13 the following winter. He applied to Queens, and was accepted. He jumped on his motorcycle and moved to Kingston. He graduated from the faculty of medicine in 1953.

The Webbs were married in 1952, after June graduated from nursing at the Kingston Psychiatric Hospital. As a nurse, June was able to assist her husband in the practice.

Driving through Seeley's Bay, the Webbs fell in love with the community. Stopping to talk to a gentleman raking leaves, they discovered the town's doctor had just left, and there was an opening for a doctor. In 1954 Dr. Webb moved into the house at 148 Bay Street, which had been built by Dr. Christie about 1900. Having been a doctor's house, it had an office and waiting room built into the front.

Like most country doctors, Dr. Webb made house calls up to 1996, even as far as Wolf Island. For 23 years he was also the doctor for Joyceville Penitentiary. When he returned home at noon, June would have as many as 25 patients lined up for him to see. He usually finished his day after 7p.m.

Dr. Webb was very active in the community. He was a member of the fire department and organized first aid training for them. He formed the forerunner of the Ontario Ambulance Service. He was instrumental in planning Centennial Park and having lights installed. He coached a baseball team for 3 years. Even this busy, Dr. Webb still found time for his family, a son and daughter. Any spare time was devoted to his hobbies, golfing, gun collecting and woodwork.

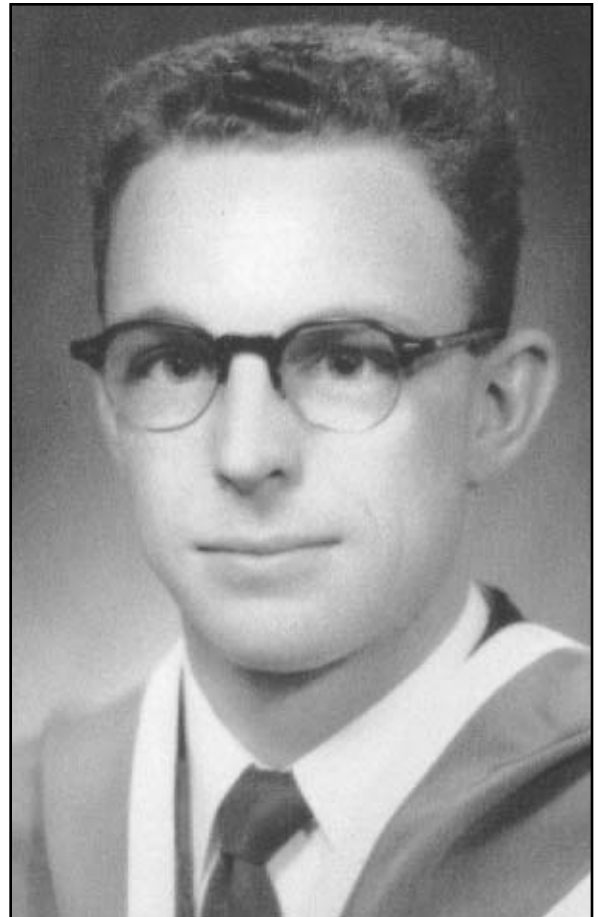
Ill health forced Dr. Webb to close his practice in 1999. Dr. Webb died at age 76 in 2002. He lived an interesting life, said his wife June.

**This article was prepared with assistance from:
The Rear of Leeds and Lansdowne — The Making of Community..
The Gananoque Reporter
Seeley's Bay and District 1967 Profile
Mrs. Betty MacPherson, Mrs. June Webb, Dan Roantree, Art Shaw**



Dr. Webb's home and office. (Photo by Bill Boulton)

Dr. Stanley Webb. (Photo courtesy Mrs. June Webb)





T H I E V E R Y

In the late 1860's the low state of morals in general in Leeds and Lansdowne Rear reached its peak with the publicity given to the exploits of the Leeds gang, otherwise known as the Chase or Briar Hill gang. From 1865 to 1868 a gang of horse thieves based in Briar Hill northwest or Lyndhurst preyed on the farmers of Leeds, Lansdowne and Crosby, raiding homesteads at night, taking in addition to horses an estimated \$3,000. worth of property including grain, harnesses, buffalo robes, firkins of butter, sheep and poultry.

Following are three separate accounts of this gang

Briar Hill Mob Terror Of The St. Lawrence Valley

By Gertrude E. Wheeler

Another bank holdup. "What is the world coming to?" someone asks. We yearn for the good old days. But were they the good old days? Have we forgotten those bandits of the 70's (1870's), the notorious **Briar Hill Gang**? This villainous band of men operated around Lyndhurst, 25 miles west of Brockville.

Unlike present-day bandits, they did not seek cash. They wanted horses, farm equipment and food, and they stopped at nothing. These trigger-happy gangsters terrorized the farmers to a point where they dared not offer resistance. Fear, too, kept the farmers from demanding punishment for the pillagers. The gangsters pursued a mad, unchecked course – looting, burning and killing whenever and wherever it suited their purpose.

In those early days settlers depended on their horses in their struggle to wrench a living from the soil. But often in the morning they would find the stalls empty – their horses gone. Bolts and bars were no protection against the lawlessness of the band.

Once a horse was stolen it was never recovered. No time was lost in disguising its appearance. A brown horse when clipped became mouse-grey. An identifying white star on its forehead was covered with paint of a matching colour. White stockings were camouflaged in the same manner, "They'll not know this chap," one of the gang boasted as he finished a paint job on Farmer Hill's, brown Charlie. The stolen horse was kept in a dense forest or hidden in a rendezvous at Charleston Lake. Sometime later, under cover of darkness, they were taken across the St. Lawrence and sold to a similar organization. This company of schemers in turn disposed of their stolen horses to the Canadian gang. Business thrived for years uninterrupted by the powers of law and justice.

Though stealing horses was their long suit, smaller ventures brought satisfactory returns. Whiffletrees, blankets, log chains and other farm equipment disappeared mysteriously. Everyone knew where they went, but none dared enter a complaint.

They concealed their booty in a dense swamp until it could be safely turned into money. In this, Nature was their strongest ally, for every forest was a wilderness of growth, and an island on Charleston Lake offered a rocky cavern in which they could store their plunder.

One morning in late autumn, a man had a valuable robe filched from his buggy when he stopped at the halfway house on the Athens-Brockville road. He started in pursuit on his horse. The robbers, realizing that it was a lost game, tossed the robe into the corner of the snake-rail fence, and continued in a westerly direction for about half a mile. The farmers of the vicinity, believing that the thieves would return later to get the robe substituted a worthless one and lay in wait with loaded guns. However, the gang evidently smelled a rat and left the neighborhood about 1 a.m.



(Photo By Bill Boulton)

(Continued on Pg. #12)



(Continued from Pg. #11) Briar Hill Mob Terror Of The St. Lawrence Valley

When these rouses weren't engaged in terrifying escapades and highhanded devilry, they reached out for their bag of tricks. Quite frequently one of them chose to walk along the Kingston Road, rightly guessing that he would be asked to ride if a farmer came along the road with a load of wheat. This provided an opportunity for rolling off several bags. These were picked up later by a confrere.

Masquerading as a woman was another trick that usually paid off. One day a man was making a trip to Kingston when he overtook a pedestrian, apparently a woman. He stopped his team and invited her to share his wagon seat. After the pedestrian had accepted the invitation, the driver hadn't gone far before he discovered that the woman was a masquerader, undoubtedly a member of the dreaded Briar Hill Gang. How could he get rid of him? He pondered. Driven by desperation, he made a quick decision. As he let his red bandanna flutter carelessly to the ground, he quickened the horses' pace, exclaiming, "I've dropped my handkerchief. It's a present. I don't want to loose it. Can you get it for me?" "You get it - I'll hold the horses for you," the gangster countered. "Oh, I dasn't leave this team of colts with a woman," the farmer argued. At last his companion climbed down reluctantly and went in pursuit of the wind-driven red square. At that moment it clung to a small knoll a rod or more behind the wagon. The driver drew his rawhide across the flanks of his spirited team, urging them to their utmost speed. Seconds later a bullet whizzed by, barely missing his head.

Strangely enough, the members of the gang were loyal to those with whom they shared the invigorating, pine-scented air and the rolling countryside. The property of their neighbors in the Briar Hill area were never molested. The years rolled by - years filled with terror for the struggling homesteaders. If a farmer dared to threaten punishment, a lighted match was held under his nose as a reminder that the merest wisp of a complaint would bring swift retaliation in the burning of his buildings. But there came a time when overtaxed patience could endure no more. The people promised to lend their aid in bringing about certain and severe punishment. A constable from Brockville was sent for. Accompanied by volunteers from Athens, he started for Briar Hill to ring down the curtain on a decade of devilry. They knew that the barn from which the gang was operating had an underground cellar where stolen robes, strings of bells and log chains were stored. Believing the gang to be within, they set fire to it. A number of the gang scattered. Others seized clubs and began a hand-to-hand encounter, in some cases inflicting serious wounds. But with their ranks in disarray, their regime of high-handed adventure was over. A number slipped away. Some were taken to Kingston where they had plenty of time to reflect on their heyday and to dream of the fine, free world that lay beyond iron bars.

The ringleader evaded capture for a time, but was found eventually in a churchyard, hiding among the tombstones. He made one last bid for freedom. Would the officer take his money - all he had - and in return help him make a getaway? His captor wouldn't listen. He was marched without delay to Kingston where he shared the lot of his associates.

At last their debt to society was paid in time, and prison labor. Once more they were free citizens, but for the rest of their lives they registered nothing of unusual interest or importance. A few years ago the only surviving member of the gang, at the age of 94, slipped up the shadowy trail to join his comrades in the final Great Adventure.

Gertrude Forth Wheeler was born in Forthton. In 1941 she married and moved to the U.S.A., returning to Canada in 1944. She wrote mainly poetry. This is one of a few prose articles she produced

Copied from Leeds and Grenville Genealogical Society News and Views with permission.

One exasperated local summarized the reputation of the gang in October 1868:

"They are not confined to this county, but extend to New York State, where confederates receive and dispose of the stolen property. So well organized are they, that all efforts, so far, to apprehend them have failed. Two Government detectives have been baffled in their efforts to capture and convict them. As winter approaches, they return from various parts and valuable horses begin to disappear. They not only spirit away livestock, but turn to clotheslines for a winter's underclothing; to milkhouses for butter and cheese; to granaries for wheat; to Carding Mills for a wardrobe. Almost knightly daring robberies are committed. But few are recorded. From a small beginning it has grown to a regular band of thieves, with leaders, and spies who are sent out to discover valuable animals. Hiding places are selected within convenient reach. It is a well known fact that the members of the gang openly boast that they are members of such an organization."

(Continued on Pg. #13)



(Continued from Pg. #12) **Briar Hill Mob Terror Of The St. Lawrence Valley**

By January 1869 local inhabitants formed a group called the Ontario Mutual Detective League based in Farmersville. They hired a ring of men to capture and arrest the outlaws. One prominent member of the League was Thaddeus W.H. Leavitt, who later wrote a *History of Leeds and Grenville*. They soon arrested George Chester Chase for stealing a buffalo robe in Seeley's Bay, and James Wheeler, Ephrim Churchill and Torrance McDonald for stealing a quantity of pork. On January 6, a group went to Thomas Chapman's house to arrest him. A brawl ensued, and one man was shot. Those arrested and charged received from one to three years in gaol. Lucy Jane Chapman, the only woman in the gang, was tapped on the wrist with one week in goal, and a \$100 fine. This seemed to spell the end of the Chase Gang. Everyone breathed easier for the next four years.

**From Rear of Leeds & Lansdowne - "The Making of Community on the Gananoque Frontier" by Glenn J. Lockwood.
Used with permission**

There were two distinct groups of men doing some stealing. The first was in the early seventies (?), and was known as the Chase gang. In those days before the advent of cheese factories, people made butter which they sold in great tubs or firkins and these tubs were generally kept in little stone milk houses and they were one of the favorite places for the gang to raid and carry off pounds and pounds of butter. They also stole sheep, cattle and horses. Old Mr. Washburn, who was an uncle of the Chase boys, had a very valuable stallion stolen and the boys came to him and told him that if he paid a certain amount of money the stallion would be returned which he did and the stallion was back in his stable the next morning.

My grandfather had an experience of having some 30 odd sheep stolen and he went out to old Mother Barnes, the fortune teller, and she told him to come back into the neighborhood of Soperton and go down a side road and he would find a lot of sheep in a field and if he knew his own sheep, he could pick them out. Well, he said the sheep would follow him. So he and my father drove down that road and had no trouble at all bringing the sheep out of the field and driving them up. On the way by the house of the owner of the field, who happened to be a county official, and a carpet dealer, he stood and talked to him and he didn't ask where they got the sheep. So some very influential people were behind the workings of the Leeds County gang.

They used to tell the story of the constable coming out from Athens to round up the crowd in a hotel in Delta. Carey Chase, possibly the liveliest actor in the bunch walked into the hotel and dared this constable to arrest him and he bluffed the constable out of any action. They had lots of nerve and got away with a lot.

The final breakup came with the raiding of the Chapman house between Sweets Corners and Morton. Lucy Jane Chapman was alone in the house when the raid was made and the officers claimed she was hiding the men and they searched the house and then decided they were in the barn. They did go on and burn the barn but they did not get any of the men. Three of the men came down through the woods from Sweets Corners to Long Point where they were joined by Cleve Lee. My father drove them from Long Point in the long sleigh covered with straw as far as Rockport where they got a boat and got across. That crowd consisted of Ed Chapman, Cary Chase and Cleve Lee. Some of the others left the country at the same time by various routes and that really closed down the gang's operations in Leeds.

Years afterwards I remember Ed Chapman coming back from Chicago and visiting at our home. Cary Chase did come back and married a widow, a nurse, and settled down and no action was taken against him. He lived and died in Briar Hill.

In the late eighties, there was another gang, the Clutes. There was no connection what so ever between the two groups because all the participants in the Chase Gang were either rounded up or had left the country before the Clutes appeared on the scene at all.

**From an interview made by Mary O'Connor with her father Dr. Fergus J. O'Connor in 1969
Taken from: My Family.com Look What's Happening at Long Point Leeds Cty. Ont.**





St. JOHN'S ANGLICAN CHURCH

By Bill Boulton

It is with regret and sadness we mark the closure and decommissioning of St. John's Anglican Church. It was the second oldest church in Lansdowne, only being beaten by two years by Lansdowne United Church.

St. John's was built in 1878 with stone from the Armstrong quarry. It was finished in "bold rock front" style, the only local building to use that style. Mr. Henry Young was the contractor. Cost of the building was \$3,000. William Beatty describes in his diaries the cooperative work of the community in the building.



The building will be offered for sale. Some of the furnishing have already been sold and removed.

St. John's Church
before 1910.

Photo courtesy St. John's

Interior of St. John's
Church.

Photo by Bill Boulton





Walker/Breckenridge

Thomas Walker and his wife immigrated to Canada in 1854. He worked on the building of the Grand Trunk Railway. While working he was seriously injured. He spoke in gaelic and no one could understand him and he died as a result of his injuries. He is buried in the Stratton Cemetery on the farm of George Gray south of Wilstead. He and his wife Jean Allison (she was born in Scotland the daughter of James and Margaret Hollison) had at least five children. After his death she married, on January 16, 1859, Hugh Breckenridge, (January 1, 1812 - May 22, 1886) a widower with no children, who lived at Halstead's Bay. She may have known Mr. Breckenridge in Scotland. There were several people from the same area of Scotland that settled around Wilstead and one of these, David Bone, was married to Helen Walker who may have been Thomas Walker's sister. The Breckenridges had seven children. Jean Walker Breckenridge died March 24, 1905 at age 78. They are buried in Gananoque Cemetery. Thomas's name also appears on the stone of Ella and Hugh Gray in Gananoque Cemetery and gives his dates as 1819 - 1857.

Children of Thomas and Jean Walker

Marion Alice married **William Henry Tedford**

Susan married **Charles Tedford**

Ella 1854 - 1944 married **Hugh Gray 1849 - 1925** (Ella was born at sea of the coast of Newfoundland on their way to Canada. Children: see below)

Jennie married **Robert Thomson**

Thomas

Children of Hugh and Jean Breckenridge

Euphemia married (1) **Archie Yule** - children Lorne, Jennie (Bruce Shaw), Archie

(2) **David Moore** - no children

James Robert married **Elizabeth McFadden**

David Alexander (lived in Kingston)

Abigail married **Charles Darling**

Archie married **Mary Bennett** - children Roy (Roy married Laura Johnston - children, Ford, Gerald, Archie, Rhea, Edith), Wrennick, Nellie

Hugh 1868 - 1888 buried with his parents

One other child - name not known

Children of Hugh and Ella Gray

Russell 1899 - 1969 married **Keitha Haynes 1903 - 1960** (son Doug)

Fred 1874 - 1943 married **Edith Curry** - no family

Jennie married **Robert Shields** - children Katherine (married Fred Earle), Margerite (married Carmen Grier - parents of Harold Grier)

Pearle married **Wellington Landon** March 22, 1911 - no family (she was his third wife)

Wallace (died 1957) married **Lennie Loney** 1881 - 1971 - children Donald and Doris

Margaret married **Asahel Kyes** September 7, 1897 - children Myron (father of Walter Kyes) and

Rhea married **Clifford Thomson**

Minnie Victoria married **William Kilduff** (they went to Loyminster Alberta) □□□



Paid up MEMBERSHIPS as of JANUARY 1, 2008

<u>LAST NAME</u> <u>FIRST NAME</u>	<u>LAST NAME</u> <u>FIRST NAME</u>	<u>LAST NAME</u> <u>FIRST NAME</u>	<u>LAST NAME</u> <u>FIRST NAME</u>
AALDERS, WINNIE	GIBBINS, CHRIS & GINNY	McCRADY, EARL	STEACY, RICHARD
ADAMS, WINSTON & WILMA	GIBSON-LANGILLE, SHIRLEY	McCREADY, BRUCE & MAXINE	STEACY, ROBERT E.
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ALEXANDER, VIVIAN & PETER	GILBERT, JUNE & DOUG	McDOUGAL, MARILYN	STRACHAN, JOY: MERCIER PIERRE
ANDRESS, DOUG	GRAHAM, ANDREW	McELROY, MARG & GLEN	STUCKLESS, MARLENE
ARROWSMITH, BRENDA	GRAHAM, ANNE & TOM	McKAY, HUGH & MARION	SWAN, MARION & PETER
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GEEKIE, NANCY	MATTHEW, MARY ELLEN	STEACY, PETER E.	

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