

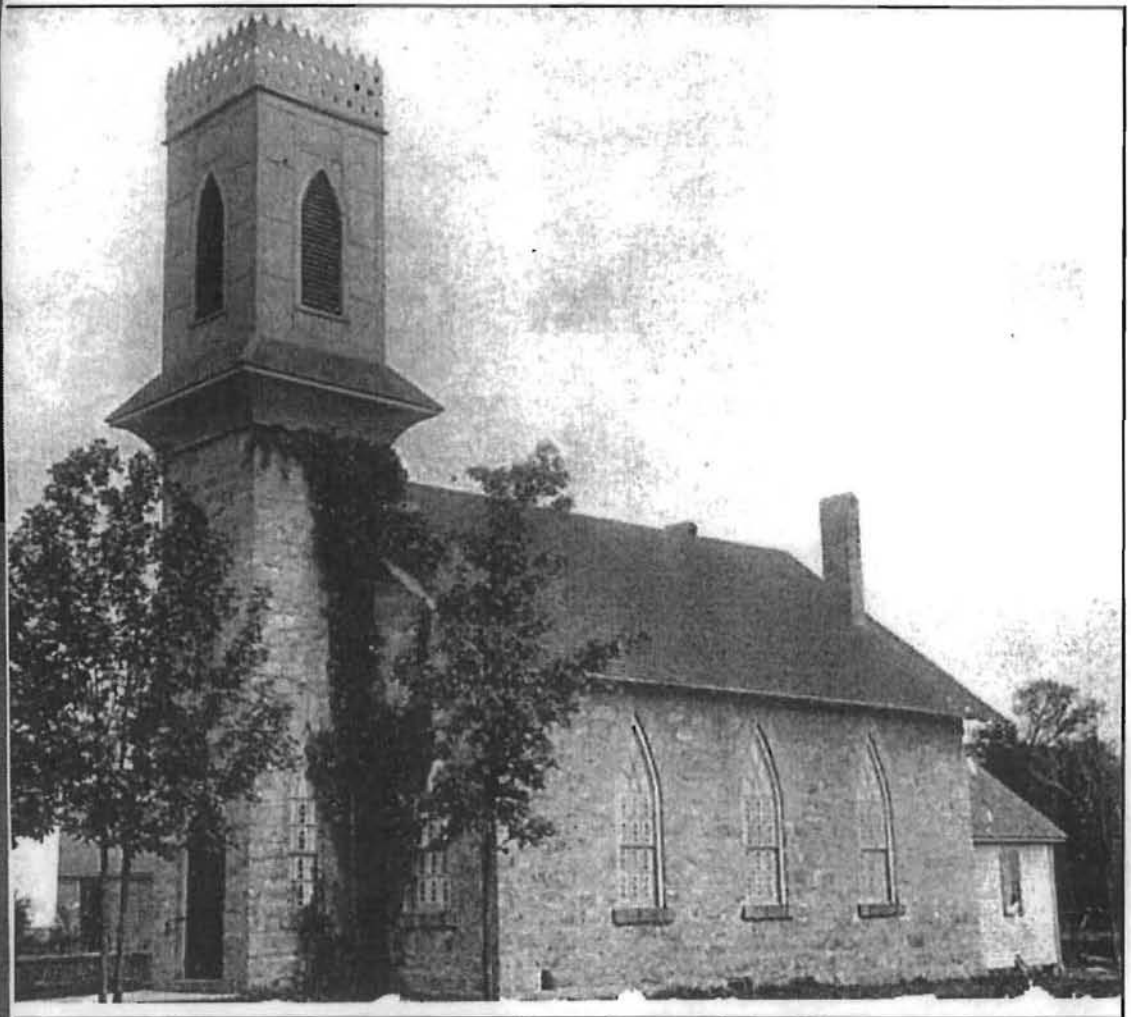
HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

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Number 19

Spring/Summer 2003

\$2.50

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Once again I have to say we have completed another successful year with the Society. Thanks to everyone for their support and enthusiasm.

We are hoping to attract more members from the former Townships of the Rear of Leeds and Lansdowne and Escott so we can better represent the new Township. We hope to feature stories in future newsletters from these areas as well.

Bill Boulton and the Hewitts have done another great job with this newsletter. We hope to see you at the fair and watch for an "open house" at Greenfield School in late August.



Family of Gertrude Bowen

In this newsletter we have featured the poetry of Gertrude Bowen Webster. Both of her parent's families were early settlers in Lansdowne.

Her g-g-grandfather Israel Bowen came to Lansdowne in 1795 and settled west of the village. The Bowen family was featured in our Feb. '98 newsletter. Gertrude's father was William Nelson Bowen.

Her mother was Martha McMullen. The McMullen family lived on the Robert Turner farm adjacent to the Bowens and as Eric Webster said in his presentation to us in March his grandfather just had to go up the hill to find her. Martha was the daughter of James McMullen and his second wife Charlotte Graham.

Family of James and Charlotte McMullen

-Mary Jane

-Martha 1866-1953

-Rachel Amelia

James McMullen had been previously married to Mary Jane Turner only child of Robert Turner and Margaret Kirker. He had two children by this marriage Margaret Ann and Robert. Mary Ann inherited the farm on her mother's death. In 1879 Margaret Ann sold the farm to her father James McMullen. One of the two stone houses north of Lansdowne school (there is only one there now) was where Martha grew up just up the hill from the Bowen farm.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Alan Lindsay".

ALAN LINDSAY- PRESIDENT

COVER PHOTO

CHALMERS PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

(Post Card courtesy Ruth and Harold Grier)

CHALMERS PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH*(By Marguerite Grier and Kathryn Earle)*

Presbyterianism in Lansdowne had its start in 1811 when Rev. William Smart of the Scottish Church, Sallow Street, England, arrived in the community. He travelled the district mounted on a horse, with saddle bags containing a Bible and a Book of Psalms; and carried the Gospel to the remotest settlers in the backwoods.

The Presbyterians appear to have formed their first congregation in Lansdowne on September 15, 1860. Some of the names associated with the foundation are: Thomas Darling, Thomas Shields, William Cornett, Mrs. Rebecca Burns, Mrs. Robert Donevan and Festus Landon.

Chalmers Presbyterian Church was erected in the year 1872, and dedicated for public worship in 1874. The building was erected by Hugh McKay and George Mitchell. Among the first contributors to the Church were the McNeils, Beattys, Reeds, Cochranes, Kerrs, Johnstons, McCormacks, Mooreheads, Findlays, Carnegies, Kirkers, Haigs, Cornetts, Websters, Darlings, Turners, McMullens, Shields, Richardsons and McKays.

The Elders at the time were Wm. Beatty and Alex Cochrane. The following year the Session was strengthened by the addition of Samuel Moorhead.

Church papers circulating in the congregation were the Presbyterian Record, The British American Presbyterian and the Sabbath School Presbyterian.

The first minister of Chalmers Church was the Rev. Andrew Dowsley B.A. In 1876 the Rev. Mr. Dowsley resigned the charge and proceeded to India as a missionary of the Church of Scotland.

1877 - 78 Rev. Alexander Nicholson B.A.

In the latter year Mr. Nicholson was appointed to a professorship in Queen's University, Kingston.

1879 - 81 Rev. Algernon Matthews

1881 - 84 Rev. Godfrey Shore.

Mr Shore was appointed to St. John's Presbytery, N.B. During Mr. Shore's pastorate the Churches at Fairfax and Sand Bay were built.

1885 - 89 Rev. Edward N.B. Millard

1890 -1901 Rev. John Fairlie. In the latter year Mr. Fairlie retired from the ministry and moved to Kingston.



Lansdowne Masonic Lodge #387 - Former Chalmers Church
Picture from Society Files

1901 - 08

Rev. T.F. Heeney B.A.

During Mr. Heeney's pastorate the present manse was built.

1901 - 1927

Rev. I. N. Beckstead B.A.

At the time of Church Union, Chalmers Church was closed and was sold in 1928 to the Masonic Order as a Lodge Hall.

(Thanks to Harold and Ruth Grier for supplying this article.)

QUEEN'S GOLDEN JUBILEE MEDAL



The Society was honoured to be chosen to present the Canadian Peacekeeping Medal to Jock Shields at its April 2002 meeting. Since that time Jock has again been honoured at a presentation in London, Ontario. Captain Jock Shields (Retired), formerly of Lansdowne, Ontario, was recently awarded the Queen's Golden Jubilee Medal. The award was in recognition of Jock's service in assisting Canadian Armed forces veterans and their widows. Jock is also a past national chairman of the Canadian Armed Forces Pensioners'/Annuitants Association. The presentation was made jointly by Hon. Colonel John Drake of the First Hussars Armoured Regiment, and Captain Ed Halayko, national chairman of the Canadian Armed Forces Pensioners'/Annuitants' Association.

The Citation with the medal reads:

The Commemorative Medal for Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II's Golden Jubilee was created to mark the 50th anniversary of the accession of Her Majesty to the Throne on February 6, 1952.

It is awarded to those persons who, like you, have made a significant contribution to Canada, to their community or to their fellow Canadians.

(Photo and material courtesy Jock Shields)



CHALMER'S PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH CHOIR 1904

(Picture courtesy Ruth and Harold Grier)

WILLIAM BEATTY and the BUILDING OF CHALMERS CHURCH*(By Bill Boulton)*

In Newsletter # 18 we used William Beatty's diary to tell of his arrival in Lansdowne and the building of his house. William Beatty was a staunch Presbyterian who often attended church twice on Sunday. In his diary he lists the names of the ministers, and often the Book, chapter and verse of their text. He was one of the leaders in establishing a Presbyterian Church in Lansdowne Station. The following account is taken from his diary.

- Sept. 4, 1868 I went to a meeting at the schoolhouse for the purpose of trying to build a church at the Station. (Lansdowne Station, village name at time) Offered to give a lot, stone & sand. There was over \$400. subscribed
- Sept. 30, 1868 Rev. Mr Smart preached the funeral of Adam Turner. (57 years after arriving in area.).
- Oct. 29-31, 1868 George helped Hugh McKay to quarry, he is raising stone to build a church.
- Jan. 5, 1869 We had a bee drawing stones for a church. There was 24 teams and a number of loaders.
- Jan. 30, 1869 There was a meeting of the building committee this afternoon. It was decided to build a church 36 by 50 feet.
- June 10, 1869 I attended a meeting of the building committee. The estimates was so high that we did nothing yet.
- June 11, 1869 We had a bee to draw stones for the church. There were 13 teams drawing and met to load. Got a good job done.
- June 13, 1869 Ad and Billie plowed and scraped the foundation of the church. I worked in sand pit getting light sand for the church.
- Sept. 6, 1869 I went with Mr. Thompson to Mr. Armstrongs. Got out 4 sills for the church and drew them home
- Oct. 1, 1869 Drew some sand for the church. Billie has been working at the church attending the masons since last Friday.
- Oct. 21, 1869 Helped Thomas Shields and Nathan to draw stones and sand to the church.
- Nov. 6, 1869 I helped Mr. Mitchel's men at the church. They began yesterday.
- Nov. 4, 1870 T. McMullen, W.T. Turner, S. Findlay & Shields to draw lumber from the Rock for the church.
- Nov. 25, 1870 James McMullen & I cleaned out the inside of the church.
- April 13, 1872 Went to Mr. Crosses for 13 bushel of lime for the church. John McKay is plastering it.
- Sept. 10, 1872 Went to Henry Youngs to see the pulpit in the Ebenezer Church before making one for ours.
- Sept. 20, 1872 Worked at church with McCormick, A. Cochran, Wm. Cornett & the Rev. Mr. Weir. Made a bridge in front of church & drew 5 loads of sand.
- Oct. 2, 1872 I had to see about getting the pulpit fixed.
- Oct.4, 1872 Attended the opening of our church. The Rev. Mr. Willson of Kingston preached & the Rev. Mr Gordon assisted. Fine day. There were 19 dollars collected.
- Dec. 11, 1872 Went to Mr. Darling's with Wm. Cornett for stove & pipes for the church.
- Dec. 12, 1872 Helped Wm. Cornett & H. McKay to put the stove & pipes in the church. Cold day..
- Dec. 21, 1872 I got a rod to hang a lamp in the church & a poker for the stove.
- Dec. 22, 1872 Services are being held in both the school house and the church.
- June 1, 1873 We commenced Sabbath School this morning.
- Aug. 27, 1873 I attended a meeting in the church. The Rev. Mr. Coltter lectured. Rev. Mr. Burton came from Belleville to see about raising money to have a minister for a year. There was a good many out.
- Sept. 5, 1873 The Rev. Mr. Matthews preached this morning. The church was full.
- Sept. 6, 1873 Cleaned the church and prepared more seats preparatory to the communion on sabbath.

*(Continued on Page #6)***CHALMER'S PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH CHOIR 1904** (See Page #4)**(Back Row I to r)**

Jessie Srearer (Mrs. J. Foley, James Foley, Emma Keating, W.J. Weir (teacher at Braehead School), Maggie Webster, Mrs. J. Shephard)

(Front row I to r)

Helen Wallace (Mrs. J. Peck), Luella Shields (Mrs. W.J. Weir), Maggie Stewart (Mrs. George Johnston)

WILLIAM BEATTY and the BUILDING OF CHALMERS CHURCH*(By Bill Boulton) (Continued from Page #5)*

- Sept. 7, 1873 There was 53 communicants. The church was filled to overflowing. There was a great many standing.
- April 3, 1874 Ad is at a bee to build a sidewalk from Enneses Corner (*present hardware store*) to the church.
- May 1, 1874 Ad met Mr. Ferguson at the station. He has come to preach to us this summer. He is a student at Queen's College.
- Oct. 29, 1874 Thanksgiving Day
- Dec. 6, 1874 Mr. Dowsley preached at night. We had the new chandelier light for the first time.
- Dec. 13, 1874 The communion was taken in the church at 11 o'clock. There were 6 new communicants admitted. The Rev. Mr. Gordon preached. The church was full.
- Oct. 13, 1876 I went to Fairfax to P. McCormack to meet Sam Moorhead. We walked to A. McCormack, got dinner. Went to members of the church to see what we could raise for a minister. Had middling success.
- Nov. 6, 1876 I attended a congregational meeting in the church. Rev. Mr. Colton in the chair. We concluded to call a minister. I was appointed to attend Presbytery..
- March 8, 1877 There was a bee getting out timber for a shed at the church.
- March 17, 1877 After service we had a meeting of the congregation. They instructed me to write to Mr. Smith to see if M. Wilkins would accept a call.
- March 23, 1877 There was a bee hauling the timber for a shed at the church. There was enough to finish..
- May 31, 1877 I helped at the shed. We got it raised up this afternoon. A great many there. Bible Society meetings, 1877. James Green, Travelling Agent M.A.B.S. Lansdowne Station, Fri. June 22, 7p.m.
- July 3, 1877 We all worked at the church shed. Got the rafters on & beam around the main part, part of roof shingled.
- July 10, 1877 Went to Kingston on the Express to Presbytery.
- July 11, 1877 The Presbytery voted 200 dollars for a supply for Lansdowne and Fairfax.
- Aug. 1, 1877 I went with Sam Moorhead to see if people would sign the call for Mr. Nicholson. They all did.
- Aug. 14, 1877 I met Rev. Mr. Smith at the station. He held a meeting to sanction the call to Mr. Nicholson. It was unanous.
- Oct 9, 1877 The Rev. Mr. Nicholson and Mrs. Nicholson came down from Kingston. We met them at the station and brought them here till their house is fixed.
- Oct. 12, 1877 Mr. Nicholson went to his own house.
- March 10, 1878 Mr. Nicholson had to go to Kingston to take Professor McCoresses place in Queens College his being sick.
- June 21, 1878 I helped on the new street to the church and schoolhouse. We got a grant of 10 dollars to ditch and gravel it.
- Jan. 25, 1879 I went to Gananoque with Hugh McKay to see the Rev. Mr. Gracie about getting a congregational meeting for to give a call to a minister. There will be one on the fifth of February at 2 o'clock.
- Feb. 5, 1879 The Rev. Mr. Gracie moderated a call in the church for Mr. Matthews. It was unanious.
- April 7, 1879 I met Rev. Mr. Gracry at the station. He came for the induction.
- April 8, 1879 I met Messers Wilson, Chambers & Gallaher at the station. Mr Gallaher preached. Mr. Gracey addressed the minister, Rev. Algenon Matthews.
- July 8, 1879 We all went to a strawberry festival for our church in the Agricultural Hall. The Escott Band was up.
- Feb. 21, 1880 There was a congregational meeting to see about building a manse. Very few came. We are going to get lumber.
- Sept. 2, 1880 I helped Rev. Mr. Matthews to move to S. Johnston's house.
- May 21, 1881 I went with Rev. Shore to see some of the members.
- Aug.31, 1884 We have had no minister..
- March 22, 1885 Rev. Mr. Stevenson preached here this morning. No one came to take him to Sand bay. S. Donevan ought to have come. Mr. Stevenson walked to Fairfax and preached at night.
- Oct. 12, 1885 I went to Fairfax to a congregational meeting. We signed a call for the Rev.M. Millard.

(Continued on Page #7)

WILLIAM BEATTY and the BUILDING OF CHALMERS CHURCH

(By Bill Boulton) (Continued from Page #6)

- April 13, 1886 Ad is helping Mr. Millard to move to Turner's house opposite the church. He has rented it for a year. (Now home of Howard and Delene Cross, 1148 Prince Street).
- Jan. 24, 1888 Ad is helping Rev. Mr. Millard to move to James McMullen's house. (present 8 Miller Street, corner of Gilbert) (James McMullin was Gertrude Bowen's grandfather. See Gertrude Bowen Webster article). We have bought it for a manse for the minister and gave nine hundred dollars for it in five years with six per cent interest. John W. Darling gave them a note for 450 dollars, Samuel Donevan \$250., B. Herbeson for \$200. (This house is presently for sale at \$99,000. Interest is still 6% - see Photo Below).
- Dec. 1888 - March 1889 Minister very sick. Someone has to sit up with him every night Students preaching.
- Oct. 9, 1889 Rev. Mr. Millard preached this morning. The church filled every seat full. It was last and only sermon that he was able to preach..
- Jan. 23, 1890 Rev. Mr Gracie held a congregational meeting for to choose a minister. Was for Mr. McPhail
- April 29, 1890 Rev. Gracie preached and had a congregational meeting for to choose a minister. All were in favour of Rev. M. Findlay.
- May 27, 1890 Rev. Mr. Findlay was inducted in the church.
- June 2, 1890 Ad went to Darlings for Mr. Findlay's family. They came on the steam boat from Oninell ???.



CHALMERS CHURCH MANSE

(Photo courtesy Redmond Reality)

CHURCH MANSE

This Manse was built by the combined Congregations of Chalmers, Lansdowne; St. Andrews, Fairfax and Sand Bay in 1910 at a cost of \$3186.10. \$825. had been realized from the sale of the old manse, and the remainder of the cost was apportioned to Lansdowne \$1312.88; Fairfax \$664.17; and Sand Bay \$339.80.

At Union in 1925, this became the United Church Manse. It was recently sold for \$93,000.



(Photo courtesy Ruth and Harold Grier)

**A TRIBUTE TO THE MEMORY
OF GERTRUDE BOWEN WEBSTER 1891 - 1946**

(By Eric Webster)

*From Gertrude Bowen Webster's life
We've gathered precious love,
And learned to treasure simple things,
And value them the more.
Yes, simple things were her delight,
She kept them all in store.
The woodland path that led to home,
The roses by the door.*

*The friendly glow of neighbour's light
Across a snowy field,
O'er all she cast that magic spell
Her gifted pen could yield.
The sunny kitchen held a charm,
The kettle's cheery song,
While letters from home folks, too,
Brought joy the whole day long.*

Mrs. Jennie Moulton



*Gertrude Bowen Webster
(Picture courtesy Eric Webster)*

Gertrude Bowen Webster was a well known poetess and writer of note. Her life's work and ambition was fully exemplified in her writings. In addition to her literary works, she was a devoted wife and mother, and a church and community worker.

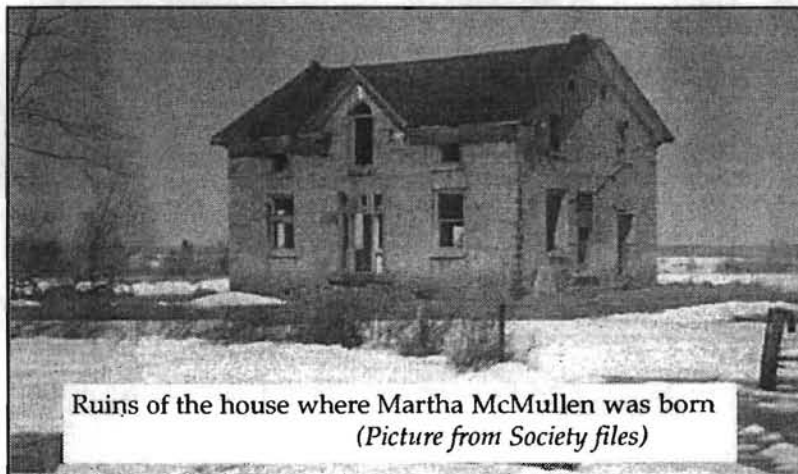
Since she was the last person to bear the family name of Bowen in Lansdowne Township, it might be of interest to relate some family history. Her mother, Martha McMullen, was born in what the Lansdowne School students call "The Haunted House", the stone house which lies directly north of Lansdowne School on the brow of the big hill. Her father, Nelson Bowen, lived a half mile north-west in Fairfax. That farm is now owned by Chris Smith. The ruins of the Bowen house lie at the end of a long laneway, the first farm entrance on the south side of the Fairfax Road. She had a sister Ruby and a brother Ford who died at age 12.

Mother seemed obsessed with the need to write. We have scribbler after scribbler filled with daily diaries, and even booklets made from paper bags sewn together to make pages on which to write. The notes were mainly concerning weather, cleaning and cooking, and notes on trips to church meetings.

There is recorded an incident about school life when the teacher asked the pupils what they were going to do when they grew up. Mother's answer was, "I am going to write a book". The teacher stilled the classmates laughter and said, "I hope I live long enough to be able to read it". She knew how long it would take to write a book of poems, and the cost of publishing.

By age 18 she was writing stories for the Sunday School papers.

(Continued on Page #9)



*Ruins of the house where Martha McMullen was born
(Picture from Society files)*

**A TRIBUTE TO THE MEMORY
OF GERTRUDE BOWEN WEBSTER 1891 - 1946***(Continued from Page #8)*

World War I came along, and in 1916 her father, now Captain Nelson Bowen, sold the farm and moved to Brockville to become a Director of National Service; one, I believe, of four in Canada.

By 1919 my father, Wilfred Webster, persuaded her to marry him, and she moved back to Lansdowne. I arrived on the scene in 1926. At this time she was a regular contributor to the Ottawa Farm Journal, Canadian Countryman, Farmer's Magazine and the New Outlook, a weekly United Church paper. Here she scored two front page printings. (See Photo on Page #12). We were visiting an old neighbour who had moved next door to Sydenham Street United Church in Kingston. Mother heard the organist practicing. She went into the church and absorbed the scene, came home and wrote a poem which she sent to the New Outlook. By chance the General Council of the church was meeting at Sydenham Street shortly after, so the poem went to the front page. Then she wrote a hymn for the General Council and it was printed on the front page of a succeeding issue, and was sung during the proceedings.

During the Depression times, there was no money to print books, and no one had money to buy them. But the human spirit is hard to defeat. People couldn't buy printed books, but for a few cents one could buy a scrap book. Then it was a simple matter of waiting, clipping out the poems printed in papers or magazines, and pasting them in the scrap book. Many were the scrapbooks filled with mother's poems.

While it was impossible to publish alone, five local poets under the leadership of Wallace Havelock Robb of Abbey Dawn, financed the book 'Nin Naunanimin', Indian for 'There are Five of Us'. Then sometime in the 1940's her childhood dream came true, a green booklet with a big G.B.W. on the cover appeared in our house. I know none of the particulars, but it was there. Many local people have copies of it

Reading in her diary of January 1, 1946 we come upon the entry "To-morrow I go to Kingston General Hospital for a check up". There are no more entries. On New Year's Day 1947, her funeral services were conducted in Lansdowne United Church., with burial in Union Cemetery. She, who had written hundreds of poems and articles on a host of subjects, had also written her own epitaph.

RESURGEM

When wrapped in sleep I lay me down
As someday soon I must
And this embodied dream becomes
A bit of dreamless dust
My soul shall shed its chrysalis,
Spread its white wings and then,
Fly to fulfillment in the blue,
For I shall rise again.

G.B.W.

She never craved praise of earth,
Or in wide fields to roam,
But magnified the beauties,
And joy of love, and home,
She needs no monument of stone,
Or plaque with praise entwined.
For homage true in hearts will dwell,
With thoughts she left behind.

Mrs. Jennie Moulton

Ruins of the Bowen house, childhood home of
Gertrude Bowen Webster

(Picture from Society files)*(Continued on Page #10)*

(Continued from Page #9)

The Poetry of Gertrude Bowen Webster

TOMORROW

Tomorrow we must begin to live,
Pouring out love to meet our neighbour's needs.
And minting all the gold of long desires
Into the coinage of substantial deeds.

Tomorrow we must well begin to work,
Discarding frothy fantasies and dreams;
Building in stern reality a house
Buttressed with stone, and braced with oaken beams.

Oh, slothful soul, tomorrow is too late,
And yesterday has vanished with its sun,
Your house is still a visionary thing.
And deeds deferred are very seldom done.

"The day before tomorrow" is the time
To grasp the opportunity that drums
With swift insistence at your careless door -
Tomorrow is the day that never comes!

JUNE EVENING

From my haunt among the hills
I can hear the whippoorwills,
I can see the brush of sunset paint the sky,
A prima donna airily
Trills from out a maple tree,
While the snow wings of cloudland flutter by.

A blue tent is widely spread,
In the great overhead,
One by one the star-points prick a peeping place,
And the silver-spangled moon,
Friend of every friendly June,
Lights the tent by reflection from her face.

Grass beneath my grateful feet,
Carpets this rural retreat,
Where the richest flower fellowships are free.
On the looms of loveliness
Nature wove their fragrant dress
With the skill of her unequalled artistry.

Marvellous it is to me,
Wonder linked to ecstasy
That to mortals Grace yet grants this blessed boon -
To the simple souls who kneel,
To the worshipping feel,
God comes walking down the garden of His June!

(Continued from Page #10)

The Poetry of Gertrude Bowen Webster

SCHOOL DAYS

Today I saw him start to school,
My sturdy little son;
His book-bag on his shoulder, and
Life's lessons well begun.

And as I stood behind the bars,
And watched him down the lane
I learned what other mothers know -
That Love is linked with pain.

I bravely smiled till my wee man
Must turn his back on me.
For I would make his mother's face
A smile of memory.

And then, oh friends, you know the rest -
You have watched them go -
Our straining eyes are blurred with tears
Because we love them so!

That day stands out, defined and clear,
From other days apart,
When children pass from home to school,
And take with them our hearts.

For something of herself goes forth
With every mother's son;
She weaves her daughters' various robes
And girds them every one.

For we are watchers at the gate,
The guardians of home's fire;
We wait while youth goes marching on
To lands of new desire.

But may we fit them first to face
The trials they must meet;
May all the roads that lead to school
Be safe for little feet.

On this symbolic day I pray;
"Father be kind
To little folks who start to school,
And those they leave behind."

Editor's Note

This poem was first published in 1932 when son Eric went off to school. It appeared in print again some 50 years later in 1989 when her great grandson, Evan, started school.

It is interesting to note that Eric's first teacher tells the story that "the sturdy little son" fell on a rock and cut his chin open before class even began. (See Newsletter #15, Page 5)

(Continued from Page #11)

The Poetry of Gertrude Bowen Webster

TO THE IRISH

A Tribute from Lansdowne

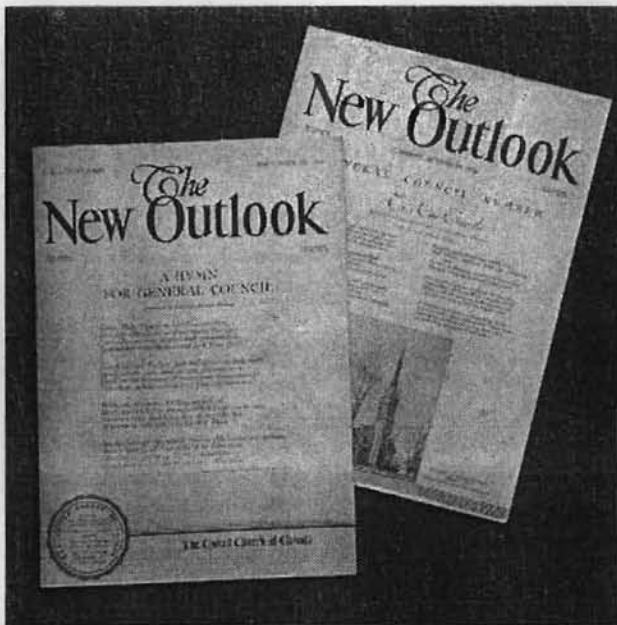
The Irish came to Canada
Long years and years ago,
Yet what they brought to Canada
None but the Irish Know.
They pioneered with homely tools -
Axe, shovel, pick and spade
And theirs were firm, courageous souls
That none could make afraid.

The Irish came to Canada
Long years and years since then,
And they have built for Canada
Stout homes and stouter men;
A race, strong-sinewed, that survives
The crushing blows of fate,
That fight to win and conquer oft
Because its faith is great.

No heart more warm beats on this earth
Than in an Irish breast
Of fervent, glowing friendliness
The Irish are possessed.
A rollicking and ready wit
Sparkles in old and young,
And tenderness still smoothly tips
Each blarneyed tongue.

So here's to Erin's rugged isle!
Though seas roll far between,
The sons of Ireland everywhere
To-day are wearing green,
And lovers of the good "Ould Sod"
Beneath high heaven's arch,
Remember this, their Saint's own day,
The seventeenth of March.

(Originally appearing in the Ottawa Farm Journal)



See Article on Page #9

Studio Photography Courtesy of
Ted Hewitt Photography

THE GRAVE ROBBERS

(By Bill Boulton)

March 12, 1903 - A very exciting time in Lansdowne over the trial of body snatchers.
John Quinn's Diary - see Page #14.



Tombstone of Margaret Smith
at Union Cemetery
(Photo by Ted Hewitt)

In the early days of the 20th century it was quite common for medical students to rob, or arrange for the robbing, of a grave to obtain cadavours for study. Margaret Smith had died on March 9 and was buried in Union Cemetery on March 10.

Edna B. Chant in her book *Edna's Scrapbook* has the following newspaper clipping: While the authorities are trying to decide how to punish the Queen's Medical students who robbed a grave at Lansdowne on March 23, 1903, it might be well to consider how to guard graves of loved ones. The fact that bodies are now bringing a good price on the market should be bourn in mind. Students do not hire a rig, and drive for miles to the cemetery for the fun of it. It is known that in one case their deed of labour extended as far away as Toledo. Many graves are robbed and their relatives never know it. A new grave should be watched every night for a month. After that time, the body is not suitable.

On March 18, 1903 two men were discovered in the act of robbing the grave of Margaret Smith at Union Cemetery at Lansdowne. Her relatives received a telephone message that an attempt would be made to rob the grave that night. Ross Smith and two neighbours hurried to the cemetery and found a team attached to a light wagon tied in the shed. The grave had been opened and two men were in it. One man was caught, but the other got away. The man who was caught said he only came along to drive the team. Both men were in their shirt sleeves and covered with mud. The body had not yet been disturbed but the lid was off the casket. Various tools were lying on the ground. A plan of the cemetery was found in the man's pocket, also a receipt for \$95. for a body. The man said he was a law student. It was later learned that two groups had planned to steal this body.

The Brockville Recorder and Times of Saturday March 28 contains the following information:

Thursday afternoon, word was received from Kingston, that two men had driven eastward, and there was reason to think that they intended securing a body from some cemetery. Constables Consaul and Walts set out to prevent it. They went to Union Church Cemetery, and found two men at a grave. The men were captured, but one escaped. The other, named as J. Hutton, about 25 years of age, of Kingston, was brought before H.C. Mulvaugh and Firman Cross, justices of the peace. He was committed to stand trial, and was taken to Brockville. He pleaded not guilty, and as his lawyer was not in court, the trial was postponed.

We are uncertain of the outcome of the trial. However in Pam and Mike Sykes "Food & Fokelore of the 1000 Islands", Margaret's nephew Ralph Smith gives this result: "After their court appointment and subsequent delays to two promising careers, the law student became a judge. But recidivism claimed the doctor who lapsed into antisocial behaviour; he entered politics."

" G H O S T S T O R Y "

Last issue's letter from J.D.G. Steacy suggested we print some ghost stories. No one has taken my invitation to share ghost stories with us. The following tale may be true, or is it an urban legend? I do not know, but it fits with the grave robbery story.

Editor

It was a rainy, cold night early in the 1900's. Two men robbed a grave, somewhere in the Escott area. They placed the body in the back of their buggy, and covered it with a blanket. They did not realize they had been observed and followed. Some distance down the road, they stopped at an inn to warm themselves and boost their courage with some liquid refreshments. The men following removed the body and returned it to its original resting place. One of them hid in the back of the buggy, and covered himself with the blanket. Suitably refreshed, the grave robbers proceeded on their way. A short time later, their corpse sat up and talked to them. It is said that the two grave robbers left horse, buggy and corpse; and took off on foot for parts unknown.

JANUARY - JUNE 1903
 NOTES from the DIARY of JOHN QUINN

- Jan. 1-3 Blustery, good sleighing. Out collecting thrashing accounts. Took a load to South Lake L.O.L. Foggy day. We drove to Lansdowne
- Jan. 4-10 Very blustery. Mon. election day. Took Maud to Uncle Eds. Val Renold was killed. Went to Portland with Maude. Rented stone crusher. Ground in mill half day. Went to Val Renold's funeral. Went to Gananoque for saw mill machinery.
- Jan. 11-17 Terrible cold and heavy snow, roads all full. Went to Lansdowne to district L.O.L. Drawing home wood from Haskins and Read. Went to Union to meeting. Went to Lansdowne, got horse blankets and bag of salt. Helping put in machinery at mill.
- Jan. 18-24 22 below zero. Collecting for thrashing. George and Mary Somers brought Maud out. S.O.T. meeting at Lansdowne. Took grist to Lansdowne. Old Mrs. Hugh Running died. Mrs. Mallory put in vault.
- Jan. 25-31 Another terrible heavy snow storm. Drawing home green wood. Concert for L.O.L. No. 16. W.N. Bowen's little boy died. Heavy thunder storm and lightning.
- Feb. 1-7 John Quinn and family here. Terrible sleet storm. County O.L. met at Lansdowne. Helped Ross Smith butcher a hog. Mary and I drove to Lansdowne to Quarterly meeting.
- Feb. 8-14 Terrible snow storm. Mary went to Firman Crosses to work. Drawing wood, bought 10 cords. Big rain, roads slushy and bad. W.B. and I went to Athens to look after stone crusher. S.O.T. presented play "10 Nights in a Bar Room". Old Mrs. Willson was buried.
- Feb. 15-21 Drawing wood. Bought new suite of clothes \$17.00. Went to Lansdowne to get a whiffletree. Paid Dunc Reed \$6.00 on wood.
- Feb. 22-28 Nice but cold. Drawing home wood. Drew 2 loads of wood to the stone piles. Weather very soft with heavy rain, snow nearly all gone.
- Mar. 1-7 Drawing wood to the stone pile. Warm day, sleighing bad, buggies are running again. Took load to S.O.T. at Seeleys Bay. Old Mrs. Sam Johnston died.
- Mar. 8-14 Maggie Smith died this morning. Went to Maggie's funeral, she was buried. A very exciting time in Lansdowne over trial of body snatchers. (Note: See page 13 this issue). One of the big team died. Mild weather for March. Cut a pig this morning. Helping C.M. Quinn fit D.B. Johnston's wind mill.
- Mar. 15-21 Very nice warm day, frogs are singing. Commenced to cut wood in yard. Took Martha to Lansdowne, roads very bad.
- Mar. 22-28 Mary was home today. Will Quinn died. Cutting wood. Trial of grave robbers at Brockville. Old Mr. Coohnen died. Mrs. John Fair died.
- Mar 29-Apr.4 Nice but cool, roads are getting dry. Month begins fine and warm. We took box stove down. Cutting wood. Bought two gates from Sam Copeland. Went to Gananoque to see about job of crushing for the town. Rain storm, then heavy snow.
- Apr. 5-11 Drove Miss H. down to Will Landons. Got grey horse clipped. Fixing fence.
- Apr. 12-18 Easter Sunday. Nice but cold. Uncle Andy came here. Cleaning seed grane. James Foley died (Robert's boy). Took a grist to Lansdowne, 40 bushels. Our first crow came.
- April 19-26 Lovely day. Spent day in Lansdowne. Plowed ground for potatoes and corn. Sold 2 yearlings to Ab Cook for \$50. Working at mill, finished sawing. Working for W.B. Warren. Helping O. Sullivan draw hay.. Working at the crusher.
- Apr. 27-May 2 I.O.O.F. had a church parade. Miss Ha was here. Alfred Warren and I went to Gananoque for parts for the crusher. Worked ground and planted potatoes. Moved crusher to F. Crosses. Started to crush stone at Lansdowne. Weather fine and warm, spring work nearly done.
- May 3-9 Mr. James Horton was put in vault. Toby Wart died. Moved crusher to the Giles pit.
- May 10-16 Quarterly meeting. Moved crusher to Asel Kiskus. Moved to Albert Akens. I got hurt and came home. Moved to Joel Webbs. Mrs. Asher Willsey was buried. Spent week at home sick, feeling better by Saturday.

(Continued on Page #15)

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:

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Please give your tapes to any executive member, bring them to a meeting, or drop them in the mail to us.
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Both A & P and Baldree's in Gananoque now have provided bins for depositing your cash register tapes as you leave the store. Please deposit them into the bin marked L.T.I. Historical Society.

JANUARY - JUNE 1903 NOTES from the DIARY of JOHN QUINN

- May 17-23 Moved crusher to Joe Actons. Moved to Gananoque. Repairing crusher all day. Lizzie went to New York. Got crusher fixed up and crushed all day. Everthing went nice.
- May 24-30 Cool and cloudy. Finished in Gananoque and moved to the Junction. Crushed at G. Gardners. Moved to Wood Burn, Will Thompsons.
- May 31-June 6 Crushing on the Loyd Road. Moved to South Lake, W. Bells. Moved to Featherstons. Crushing at Archie McCalpins. Very hot. Dell Molton drowned.
- June 7-13 Went to Eden Grove Church. Moved crusher to Dempsters. Moved to Thomas Herbesons. Terrible big rain all day, nothing done. Came home Saturday night.
- June 14-20 Nice warm day, terrible muddy. Moved crusher to James Boils. Old Mr. John Warren died. Moved to John Boils. Fitting elevators, 2 men sick, we came home.
- June 21-27 Very wet day. Moved a building for T Keating. Helping F Warren saw wood. Terrible heavy rane, R.C.'s picnic spoiled. Crushing at John Boils. Moved to Eldon Moors.
- June 28-30 Another very wet day. Moved to the pits at Legs factory.

Paid up MEMBERSHIPS as of July 2003

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