

# Opeongo Lines

*Heritage Renfrew*

*June 1992*



James McNiece Austin, 1867-1922

Central figure in Renfrew's  
Lumber Baron Festival 1992

## **James McNiece Austin 1867-1922**

### **The Renfrew Businessman**

by Marjorie Lindsay, June 1992

According to The Mercury, a meeting was held in the O'Brien Opera House in 1912 of people who wanted a new hotel in the town. It was estimated that the cost of the project would be about \$47,000. M.J. O'Brien, who was present at the meeting, pledged \$2,500 to get the fund started and he offered to provide a lot in the middle of town, accepting a payment in stock of \$5,000. He was promptly elected chairman of the provisional directors.

Werner E. Noffke, an Ottawa architect, was invited to design the hotel, but money was slow to come in. A year later the fund was still \$16,000 short of its objective, so Mr O'Brien came to the rescue once again with the promise of \$10,000 more. Within days the ground was staked out, and the first sod was turned by Mercury publisher W.E.Smallfield.

One of the other citizens connected with the hotel project was James Austin. Frequent trips to the lumber business in Chapleau, school board, Masonic Lodge, Methodist Church activity, Renfrew Curling Club plus five children did not prevent him from getting involved in a new Renfrew venture. He invested funds in Hotel Renfrew.

Mr Austin succeeded W.E.Smallfield as president of the Hotel Renfrew Company in 1919. Mr Smallfield left Renfrew, having sold The Mercury to Rupert Davies. The directors of Hotel Renfrew Company were M.J.O'Brien, James E.H. Barnet, J.B.Ferguson, J.J.McFadden, Dr B.G. Connolly, J.Alex Jamieson, S.T.Chown, Tom Low, W.E.Smallfield and James Austin.

Stewarts Ltd was another local enterprise in which Mr Austin invested. He was vice-president of Stewarts Ltd from when the company was re-organized in 1912 until his sudden death in 1922. James Austin operated a store in Chapleau from 1886 -1901. He sold the store to devote his time to the Austin-Nicholson Lumber Co. with his partner, George Nicholson. Before going to Chapleau in 1886 at age 20 with his older brother Albert, James Austin had worked for Dean & Sibary, merchants in Renfrew, for about a year.

James Stewart was a farm boy from Admaston who learned and wrought the trade of tinsmithing at Middleville. Peter Stewart, his brother, came

from the farm in 1863. He had a junior position in Wm. Mackay's store. From Mackay's he went into partnership with Malcolm McIntyre and when the partnership was dissolved in 1872, Peter S. Stewart and James Stewart formed a partnership on the site of the present McPhail & Perkins business.

The old established firm of Stewart Bros. demolished their old store in 1883 and began the erection of a new brick building on its site. This new building, which is now owned by McPhail & Perkins Furniture Ltd., was at that time to be the finest building in the village. It was of brick, three storeys high, and was the first building in Renfrew to use steel beams in the construction. The first and second floors were to be heated with box stoves, six on each floor, the six chimneys still being visible, but the third floor was heated with hot water.

This new building had the first freight elevator, an overhead cash trolley from the counters to the office and the counters were made of solid walnut wood. It was a store of importance, a distributing centre for the whole area. Car loads of goods such as salt for cattle, apples, sugar, flour etc came by railway to the warehouse on Lorne Street. This was the end of the railway, called a turntable, on the land now occupied by Martin's truck depot and McPhail & Perkins Funeral Home. The store sold high class merchandise imported from England, Scotland, Ireland and France. Renfrew Creamery butter was sold locally and shipped elsewhere in large quantities.

The officers of Stewarts Ltd were:

George B. Ferguson, president

R.C.Wilson, manager

J.M.Austin

D.W.Stewart Sr, treasurer

Robert McLaren, office clerk.

Some of the staff, circa 1900 on:

James P. Morrison (who later opened a store of his own); Mr Chapman; W.G.Draper, in the shoe department; R.D.Scott, in the shoe department (he later opened his own store); Mrs Charles Mayhew; Mrs L. Pauze and Mrs George Miller, in the millinery department; Mr Villemaire; Harold Smith; Joe Kedroskie; James A. Ready; Cliff Williams; Gordon Mathieson; William Stewart.

Renfrew, in the period 1910-1920 was a booming place, especially during the First World War. Of great importance to the development of industry in Renfrew was the completion of the waterworks and sewage systems in 1897 and development of electric power in the early 1900s by Thomas A. Low, a lifelong friend of James Austin. Mr Austin also was developing power at Chapleau, Ont.

These projects began in 1895 at the same time as the Village of Renfrew achieved town status. Actually, it was a courageous, confident Town Council, led by Mayor James Craig, which made these decisions. The country was in the midst of a downturn in the economy but Council went ahead anyway.

From *The Story of Renfrew*, Vol Two, 1984, Wallie Stewart's story entitled "The First World War":  
*"Few people in Renfrew remember the stirring times of the industries born of the First World War. Will Lee wrote in The Mercury of 1916: 'anyone wishing a new side light on the latest industrial development in Renfrew should take a walk around town between the hours of six and seven o'clock a.m. Hundreds of people are on their way to work.'"*

*"The fuse factory, Energite Explosives Ltd, the O'Brien Munitions and the Renfrew Machinery imported technical skills and supervisory help. Bill Cram was recruited from an American company in 1915 (making nitrocellulose in Texas) and he brought staff to Renfrew, Lyons, Reynolds, Madine and Henderson, to mention a few. The basic office staff of M.J.O'Brien consisted of his son Ambrose, Joe Murray, Herb Jordan and M.T.Duggan."*

*"The contract for the explosives plant was signed in early 1915 but kept very secret, for security reasons,*

*until late September of that year."*

*"After these operations were closed in 1918 the American contingent returned to the USA, but many solid citizens remained, with experience and great ambitions for the community. The Lokens, G.Crogie, Alec Thompson, Cliff Church, F.D.Vickers, E.T.Canter, G.J. Cuthbertson, Syd Howe, M.L.Fuller, the Mackays, Craigs, Kobus, Cybulski and many others became the builders of the twenties and thirties."*

*"The Logan textiles became expert dyers and produced high quality blankets. The Renfrew Milling developed several brands of flour and markets were being developed in Europe."*

*"The Renfrew machinery Co. with their Standard Cream Separator required great precision in machining and balancing the centrifugal bowl of the machine. Scouts were sent to recruit specialists and shortly after, several families speaking a Scandinavian brand of English settled in Renfrew."*

*"Two families in particular left a cultural mark on Renfrew. Soderstrom, an expert machinist, lived on the corner of Raglan and Mutual Streets with three white-haired young children. The father played a musical instrument with the Renfrew band and there were several parties at their house which were different from those usually held in town. As for the other family, there were two brothers named Sondberg. These rugged, handsome young men worked as job inspectors at the Renfrew Machinery Co."*

James McNiece Austin was quietly, but nevertheless, effectively, identified with community involvement in Renfrew from 1905 to 1922. At the same time, Austin-Nicholson Lumber Company frequently required his presence in Chapleau. The CPR made it all possible.

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**James McNiece Austin and the Renfrew Curling Club**

by Marjorie Lindsay, June 1992.

When Mr Austin, widower, moved back to Renfrew in 1905 with his three young children, Allan, 9, Bill, 7 and Lily, 5, he already had several season sof curling experience in Chapleau. Mrs Lily Allan Austin died in 1905, age 37. A native of Renfrew, she was the daughter of James Allan, PLS, and Jessie Gibbons Allan.

James Austin operated a general store in Chapleau from 1886-1901. During the 1890s he saw another business opportunity. The CPR, needing ties to construct their railroad, agreed to buy from Mr Austin all the hand hewn ties that his jobbers could produce. Soon the tie business grew larger than the store. Mr George Nicholson became his partner in 1901. The store was sold and Austin-Nicholson Lumber Co. was born. It would operate until 1956.

The company became the largest tie maker in Canada by 1920, expanding to lumber, laths, sawmills, hydro electric power, townsites such as Nicholson Siding, Dalton, Devon, Sultan in the Chapleau area. Many Ottawa Valley men were employed by the company for their lumber camps. To 'go up' for Austin-Nicholson in the fall until spring worked out well for farmers. Nat Lindsay went up for Austin-Nicholson in 1914. He was clerk at Nicholson Siding, about 20 miles from Chapleau, Ont.

Renfrew Curling Club lists James Austin as a member in 1906. The Thomas A. Low Cup was donated in 1909 for double rink challenge among the Valley clubs, Pembroke, Renfrew and Arnprior, for senior curlers. James Austin curled in this competition as third for a number of years, often with John Mackay, merchant, as skip.

James Austin's involvement with the Curling Club increased dramatically from 1910 until his sudden death in 1922. He was president of the Club in 1912, a skip by this time, and in 1919 he called a directors' meeting on Boxing Day in 1912 to elect the skips for the season; not a usual time to call a meeting.

It was under his leadership in 1912 that a committee was formed to investigate the possibility of building a new rink. David Barr Sr., merchant, John Mackay, merchant, Allan Francis, lumberman, J. A. (Allan) Jamieson, quarryman and James McN. Austin served on it.

Harry Hinchley's History of Renfrew Curling Club 1874-1974 says it well.

*In one of the last matches of the season, the bankers and lawyers, with charity in their hearts, persuaded two rinks of farmers to match their skill with them. The agreement was that the loser was to buy a bag of flour for the poor. Unfortunately the farmers were no match for the wily bankers and lawyers. It ended up that the farmers were stuck for a bag of flour.*

*As the years went by many close matches were fought out in the old rink. They were by no means confined to local rinks but included many with Arnprior and Pembroke as well as other more distant points. With the best of train service at almost any hour of the day or night it was very easy to travel up and down the Valley. The Low and McGarry Cups were up for inter-club competition and these trophies did a great deal to promote competition between the Valley towns.*

*By 1916 Renfrew was a different kind of town than it had been in 1901 when the old rink had been built. The town had grown in population and there were many more businesses and factories than there had been 15 years earlier.*

*By 1916 the town was more prosperous than it had ever been before. There was a war time boom. With good wages and*

*good prices people had more money to spend. There was a general feeling that Renfrew should have a curling rink more in keeping with the town and the times. The thinking was that there should be a new building with four sheets of ice, in place of the old building with two sheets.*

*In order to see if any action should be taken towards having a new rink a special meeting was called in March, 1916. About 25 members turned out. With a club membership of only 56 such a good attendance seemed encouraging so it was decided to call another meeting in April.*

*This meeting was held on April 4th with about 25 members present. The question of a new rink was given very serious consideration. The feeling of the members was generally favourable. As a result a committee was appointed consisting of Dr J.D.Cameron, C.A.Dewey, J.A.Jamieson, C.A.Duff, E.J.Stewart and H.A.Tofield (chairman.) This committee was to look into the matter and to report back at a later date.*

*The committee worked hard on the new rink project all summer. By September they were ready to make their report. A meeting of the curlers was therefore held in Hotel Renfrew right after the Renfrew Fair. The committee reported that they had canvassed the members for finances and for a start they had the promise of \$5,364. More land for a bigger building would be required and they had obtained an option on land at the rear from James Carswell for \$650. Land for a roadway alongside the building could be had from Joe Rousselle. They had secured tenders for a new building, of concrete and brick. The lowest was from M.J.O'Brien for \$7,500.*

*It was decided to form a limited company to build a new curling rink. The name chosen was Renfrew Curling Rink Ltd. There was a capitalization of \$20,000 with 4,000 shares of \$5 each. Provisional directors for the company were appointed. They were James M. Austin, David Barr Sr, Dr J.D.Cameron, Stanley T. Chown, Charles A. Dewey, R. Walker Eady, J.F.French, J. Alex Jamieson, Herb A. Jordan, Thomas Low and H. A. Tofield. To look after legal matters, four lawyers were appointed: E.J.Stewart, S.T.Chown, T. M. Costello, E.A.Wright.*

*Appointed to a financial committee to raise funds were Messrs Tofield, Duff, Ferguson, French and Dewey. Four men with experience in construction were appointed to supervise construction of the building. They were J.A. Jamieson, Sam Cook, C.A.Duff and W.P.Allum.*

*The rink that was to be erected was described in The Mercury of August 25, 1916:*

*"The new rink will be built on the site of the present one. It will be a building 62 feet by 162 feet in size and in its general outline a copy of the rink at Smiths Falls. The concrete foundation will rise some two feet above the ground with pier enlargements at regular intervals and on this will rise the brick walls 14 feet in height."*

"At the front the building will be two storeys high with club rooms on both flats, 14 feet wide on the ground floor and 17 feet wide above extending across the whole 62 feet in width. Both downstairs and upstairs between club rooms and rinks will be glass partitions permitting good views of the players on the sheets of ice which will be four in number."

"It is thought that with the improved facilities for both curling and club purposes the membership in the club will be considerably augmented and the enterprise become at least self-sustaining permitting some adequate remuneration on money invested. Opportunity for reasonable recreation is more than ever a necessity with conditions in Renfrew as they are today."

In November, after the company charter had been received, a meeting of shareholders was called and the permanent organization of the Renfrew Curling Rink Ltd was legally set up. Membership in the club was set at \$10 per annum which allowed the member both club room and curling privileges.

M.J.O'Brien's men rushed construction of the new rink along with all speed. By January, 1917 it was ready for use and play was started on the new sheets of ice. The curlers made good use of the new rink and many happy hours were spent in the club rooms as well as on the ice.

With four sheets of ice there was a great deal more curling. The games of the members showed an improvement and by 1918 they had improved to the point where members had enough confidence to put in challenges for the Chateau Frontenac and the Senator Cups which were being competed for in Quebec City.

This challenge was accepted and Dr Cameron went down to Quebec City with his rink: P.J.Frood,

J.F.French, W.B.Clark. They took along their own irons which were shipped in the baggage car, but when the time came to use these in the match, to the great disappointment of the players from Renfrew, they were not fit to play. They had picked up so much heat in the trip down by train that they were too warm to use and melted into the ice.

Playing with strange irons, the Renfrew men did not do so well. However, they went down in history as being the first rink from Ontario ever to curl at Quebec City.

Renfrew curlers did much better two years later when Renfrew rinks distinguished themselves in play for the Governor-General's Trophy. In the finals at Rideau Hall Renfrew was matched with the Heathers of Montreal. Renfrew was victorious and was awarded the coveted trophy. The rinks which were so successful were: W.J.Acton, R.D.Scott, J.C.Ferguson and T. Airth (Skip) and James Clark, R.Walker Eady, Dr J.D.Cameron and Charles Jamieson (Skip.)

Such curling enthusiasts as Harry Black and Harry Rosenthal of Ottawa said that the lead play of Bill Acton on the Airth rink was the finest display of curling ability ever seen in a Governor-General's final over the whole 21 ends of play.

The new rink proved to be a real booster for club morale. Many bonspiels and social events were held on 'the ice' and comfortable club rooms in the years to come. The back entrance of the rink today dates back to 1916.

Listed among the sponsors of the publication *History of the Renfrew Curling Club 1874-1974* is Lily Austin, Mrs C.B. Boucher, Victoria, BC, for her father, James McNiece Austin.

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The first meeting of the shareholders of the Renfrew Curling Rink Ltd was held at Hotel Renfrew on Nov 21, 1916. The following shareholders were present:

H.A.Tofield  
E.J.Stewart  
James C.Fraser  
R.D.Scott  
Samuel Moffatt  
C.E.Breckenridge  
John Carswell  
J.C.Ferguson  
W.H.Harris  
J.Alex Jamieson  
Wm. P. Allum

A.A.Wright  
A.A.Ferrier  
Guy M. French  
Duncan McLaren  
Samuel Cook  
W.E.Smallfield  
John F. French  
R.Walker Eady  
David Barr Sr  
P.J.Frood  
Chas. A. Dewey  
Chas. Jamieson

Frank D. Vickers  
James McN. Austin  
John Anderson  
Daniel Early  
Richard Millar  
Adam Lindsay  
W.J.Acton  
Thomas Airth  
W.A.Cameron  
M.H. Winter  
W.D.Draper

## *Austin-Nicholson Lumber Company, Dr Harry Foster, vet, and lumber camp horses.*

By Marjorie Lindsay, June, 1992

Robert Harry Foster was born at Scotch Bush, near Douglas, Ont. His education ended at Grade 7 but at age 20 he returned to school to complete Grade 8. He was a student at RCI and graduated from Ontario Veterinary College in 1917, then located in Toronto. Shortly after graduation Dr Foster married Leah Webster of Napanee, Ont, whom he had met at RCI. They had one daughter, Frances, who lives at Paris, Ont. Dr Foster died in 1942.

Dr Harry Foster practiced in Renfrew for a time with Dr J. D. McKillop and later on his own. His office and residence was at 290 Ann Street (Plaunt Street) opposite the public square. Jack Campbell of Admaston recalls that you could always count on hearing a good story or two if you dropped in at Doc's office. As well as handling a busy practice Dr Foster bought and sold horses on commission. His clients included many lumber camps.

Renfrew Archives were lucky in acquiring some of Dr Foster's account books through the efforts of Judy and Earl Anderson. They rescued these books from a small barn on Railway Street when it was demolished to make way for the new ambulance building, some years ago.

Dr Foster established contacts with lumber companies in the area as early as 1920 by shipping cows, steers, lambs and sheep to them. Some early entries from the ledgers are:

Sept 7, 1920	10 cows, 20 steers to Shepard, Morris, North River
Oct 6, 1920	19 steers, 11 cows, to Egan & Edwards, McLearn Bay
Oct 11, 1920	27 steers to McFadden & Malloy, Blind River, Ont
Oct 19, 1920	2 steers, 11 cows to Hawkesbury Lumber Co, Rivington, Quebec
Sept 27, 1921	24 steers; 10 cows to Hawkesbury Lumber Co, Dumoine, Quebec.

The first shipment of horses to lumber camps began in 1926. Austin-Nicholson Lumber Co, Nicholson Siding, was the first client among others, such as James Brown, New Liskeard; Hill, Clark, Francis, Fere River; J & L McRae, Two Rivers; Opeongo Lumber Co, Beauchere, Quebec and Barry's Bay Lumber Co, Barry's Bay.

Doc Foster travelled to lumber camps to treat sick horses, too, such as J.R. Booth Ltd; Egan Estate; Opeongo Lumber Co, Opeongo Forks, Ont. Closer to home, M.J.O'Brien, T.F.Barnet, Samuel Holmes; Wm Dean, Charles Dewey, Dr Mann, Allan Francis and O'Connor & Grace called for Doc Foster's services.

He also arranged summer pasture in the area for Austin-Nicholson teams. Donald Campbell, Ferguslea, recalls that his father pastured lumber camp horses. Hank Legris recalls that as a small boy in Dacre he would watch a long line of horses tied nose to tail passing through to Jim Fennessy's pasture near the Merchand farm near Khartoum.

T.Wayne Crossen's Study of Lumbering in North Central Ontario 1885-1930, with special reference to the Austin-Nicholson Lumber Co., published in 1976, conducted under the auspices of the Ministry of Culture and Recreation for the Ministry of Natural Resources, Cochrane, Ont, refers on page 212 to an interview with Mr J.W. "Bill" Austin, August 7, 1975, who said:

*The Austin Nicholson Company had a full-time veterinary who bought and sold horses for the Company. Dr Foster of Renfrew certified all stock bought by the Company in the fall and in the spring returned to Nicholson to purchase the animals the Company did not wish to keep over the summer. Dr Young of Sudbury also purchased some of the Company's excess stock. At peak times the Austin-Nicholson firm had as many as 300 pairs of horses. A large camp would have as many as 50 pairs.*

*Records show that it often cost more to feed a horse than it did to feed a bush worker. A horse cost up to \$300 to purchase and if it was disabled there was no return on this capital.*

Abitibi Pulp & Paper Company Ltd. Records.

*During the 1922 season the Austin-Nicholson Company produced 1,150,000 railway ties, the majority of which were sawn.*

*"Mr Nicholson Speaks on Woods Operation." Canada Lumberman. Vol 43, No. 22, November 15, 1923, p.52.*

*A large white pine cut on the McNaught Lumber Company's limits measured 56 inches across the butt. The tree produced seven logs each 16 feet long. Canada Lumberman. Vol. 41, No. 14, July 15, 1921, p.43.*

The economic impact of Austin-Nicholson Lumber Co., Chapleau, and Doc Harry Foster on the Ottawa Valley is largely forgotten today. Huge supplies of food and medicine for men and horses were purchased in Renfrew and area. As many as 2,000 men worked seasonally in the lumber camps. Large numbers of horses, cows and sheep were sent to Nicholson Siding to be dispersed to as many as 50 or 60 bush camps in a season, and the CPR made it all possible.

## *James and Flora McDonald Austin and Trinity Methodist Church*

by Marjorie Lindsay, June 1992

Born in Eganville in 1867, James McNiece Austin came from a Methodist family. James and his older brother, Albert, set up a store in Chapleau, Ont in 1886. Albert became a Methodist missionary in 1890 and left the store to his brother, Jim.

James married Lily Allan of Renfrew in 1890. He returned to Renfrew a widower in 1905 with three young children, Allan, 9, Bill, 7 and Lily, 5. In 1907 he married Flora McDonald of Renfrew, a teacher and principal of North Ward school. The McDonald home on Albert Street, Renfrew, became the Austin family home. Two sons, Charles (Chuck) and Jack were born in 1911 and 1912. Marge and Earl Lindsay occupy the home now and, during the Lumber Baron Festival, Heritage Renfrew will offer 'At Home with James Austin and Family' on Friday, July 24, 1992.

The Austins were devoted supporters of Trinity Methodist church, Renfrew. (Recreation Centre today.) Mrs Flora Austin taught Sunday School. Mr Austin participated in local church

affairs and regional conferences. He became ill at a conference in Kingston in June, 1922 and died in Ottawa after surgery a short time later.

John Ferrier recalls regular Sunday afternoon Bible sessions in the living room of the home with his close friends Chuck and Jack, and sometimes Bill Low, taught by Mrs Austin. The boys were usually restless (Chuck was a bit of a cut-up) having attended Sunday School in the morning.

Deb Comba remembers Lily Austin, daughter of James and Lily Allen Austin, in Young People's Group in the early 1920s at Trinity Methodist church. The girls were the 'Keep Together Club' and the boys were the 'Get Together Club'. The girls and boys met as one group under the leadership of Mrs Stanley T. Chown and Mrs Elliott, Harry Elliott's mother. Deb says they had a lot of fun at Sunday School picnics and skating parties.

Mrs Flora Austin supported Trinity St Andrew's United church until she died in 1931.

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Condensed from *The Story of Renfrew*, Vol 2,  
Heritage Renfrew 1984:

In the early years of our local history two Methodist communions, the Episcopalians, reflecting New England organization and Wesleyans, reflecting the Methodism of the British Isles, sent missionaries to minister to people residing at, or near, the Second Chute of the Bonnechere. The Bonnechere Mission, as it became known, comprised the settled parts of Clarendon and Bristol in Lower Canada, as well as Pakenham, Fitzroy, McNab and Horton.

When in 1833 the Wesleyan Methodists and the Methodist Episcopalians decided to unite the members of the Bonnechere Mission were widely divided and for over 50 years the two branches of Methodism maintained separate institutions.

The first Methodist minister to take up residence in Renfrew was Rev. I.N.D. West in 1840. Through his efforts the first Methodist Episcopal church was built in the 1850s on the corner of what is now Hall and Plaunt, on land donated by Mr Plaunt.

Some years later, this church having burned, a

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a new one was erected in 1877 on Argyle Street. Meanwhile, the Wesleyan Methodists had built a new church in 1870, just north of the CPR tracks on Raglan Street.

In 1884 came the final union of Methodism in Canada. The former Episcopal building on Argyle Street was at first used to house the joint congregation but this proved to be too small for the growing community and in 1897 the foundation was laid for Trinity church, a large, modern structure on the corner of Argyle and Patrick Streets.

When on June 10, 1925, the Methodist and Presbyterian Churches were united on a national level, it must have been a difficult period of adjustment. For three years in Renfrew there were two United churches, each with its own minister. Trinity was situated on the corner of Argyle and Patrick Streets, and St Andrew's on Plaunt Street.

Later, Mrs D.W. Stewart Sr bought the Trinity church building, formerly the Methodist church and donated it to the town for use as a recreation centre. Worship services for both congregations were then held at Trinity-St Andrew's.

## *James McNiece Austin and Renfrew Masonic Lodge*

by Gordon Cross, June 1992

In the membership register of Renfrew Lodge No. 122 on the Grand Registry of Canada in the Province of Ontario, Ancient, Free and Accepted Masons, there are three entries with the name 'Austin.'

William G. Austin, Initiated April 6, 1896

James McN Austin, Affiliated Jan 7, 1907

Allan McNiece Austin, Initiated Jan 3, 1921.

William was a brother and Allan, a son, of James. James was a member of Nipissing Lodge No. 420, and it is noted beside his entry that he died on June 30, 1922, at the age of 55.

James was Senior Warden (2nd officer) in 1920 when he was appointed a member, with J. C. Fraser, of a committee to organize the 60th anniversary of the Lodge. The Worshipful Master (1st officer) of the Lodge at that time was Canon William M.H. Quartermaine, minister of St Paul's Church, Renfrew.

On December 28, 1919, James was installed as Worshipful Master of the Lodge, with other officers:

Past Master Canon Wm. M. H. Quartermaine

Senior Warden Matthew Horace Winter

Junior Warden James King Rochester

Chaplain Rev. David H. Hodges

Treasurer Henry Cox

Secretary Hugh McDonald

At the first meeting in 1921, James had the great pleasure of initiating his eldest son, Allan McNiece

Austin, into Masonry. That year proved to be a busy one in the Lodge as there were 11 regular meetings and 18 emergent ones at which 47 degrees were conferred on 23 Masons. Those receiving degrees were:

Allan McNiece Austin

Marvin Young

Alexander Campbell

Arnold M. Bossence

Frank Vickers

James Erwin Colson

Charles H. Wiley

Harold R. Mayhew

Edgar Allan Grigg

John E. Millar

William F. Ritchie

E.J. Stewart

Reginald Wessman

Charles Logan

Erwin McIntyre

Robert F. Bunting

John Richard Easton

John Henderson

George Beatty Burwell

Joseph Leonard Maude

William J. Humphries

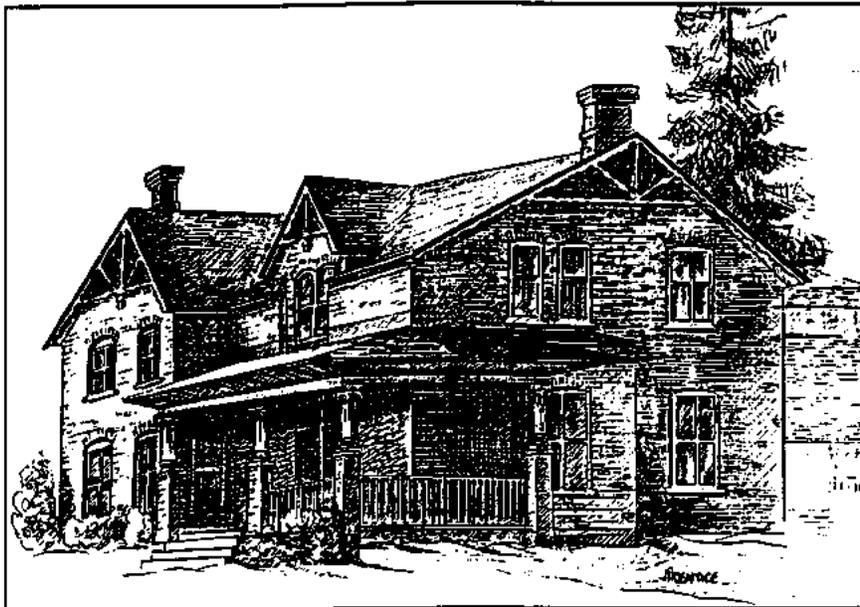
William Henry

On September 5, 1921, Lennox Irving, (husband of Grace Barnet) who had been on an extended trip to the Holy Land, spoke to the Lodge of his travels. He also presented two gavels which were made of olive wood from the slopes of Lebanon. One of these gavels is still used by the Lodge during the Installation of the new Worshipful Master at the May meeting each year.

A special interment service was conducted for James McNiece Austin under the auspices of the Masonic Lodge at Thomsonhill cemetery after the funeral service on July 3, 1922, at Trinity Methodist Church.

### Noted Members of Renfrew Masonic Lodge During the Lumbering Era.

<u>Surname</u>	<u>first names</u>	<u>Age</u>	<u>Initiated</u>	<u>Affiliated</u>	<u>Occupation</u>
Coolican	Henry	36	Oct 1, 1900		Tinsmith
Mackay	Edward		Apr 15, 1890		Lumberman
Mackay	John		Apr 1, 1878		Lumberman
Mackay	Allan C		July 23, 1889		Lumberman
Faichney	W.N.		Mar 26, 1872		Lumberman
Quartermaine	Canon Wm.	47	Nov 7, 1910		Minister
Wade	Alfred S	32		June 1, 1903	Physician
Pottinger	Sydney	21	Jan 1, 1912		Clerk
Low	Thomas A.	29	May 19, 1900		Lumberman
Smith	Thomas McK	29	Aug 1, 1898		Lumber Jobber
Cardiff	George McD	27	Oct 4, 1897		Lumber clerk
Wright	Arthur F		May 4, 1896		Clerk
Airth	Henry J	30	May 2, 1898		Farmer
Smith	Thomas K	30	May 3, 1902		
Yuill	John	46	Oct 6, 1902		Millwright
Gray	Peter	44	July 6, 1903		Lumberman
Barnet	James E.H	23	May 7, 1894		
Donaldson	Samuel	43	June 4, 1894		
Plaunt	Joseph	21	Oct 1, 1894		Clerk
Austin	James McN	39		Jan 7, 1907	Lumberman
Duff	Charles A	27		Feb 1, 1909	
Barnet	Thomas F	42	Apr 2, 1917		
Austin	Allan McN	24	Jan 3, 1921		



The presence of your company is requested at a  
**House Tour and Garden Party**  
 with Lumber Baron

**James McNiece Austin and Family**

**321 Albert St. N., Renfrew**

former Austin Home — now the home of  
 Marge and Earl Lindsay and Family

**Friday, July 24th, 1992 from 2 - 8 p.m.**

**Admission:** \$5.00 per person; children under 12 must be accompanied by an adult.

**Tickets:** Available at Aikenhead's Drug Store, (the Cameron Block) and McPhail and Perkins Furniture Store (formerly Stewarts Ltd.)

**Meet the Baron.** Enjoy lemonade and cookies under the canopy in the garden.

**Program 2-5 p.m.**

2:00 p.m. Call to the Clans - Piper Russell MacKenzie

2 - 5 p.m. For the Kids - Supervised pony ride on the driveway

- Fish Pond on the lawn
- Croquet on the lawn
- Antique Car ride

3:00 p.m. Lumberman Donald Campbell sings  
 (Relative of the Austins)

4:00 p.m. Ottawa Valley Shanty Songs sung by Margaret Lindsay Henderson  
 and the Auto Harp.

Special Aviation Art painting on loan from the Aviation Museum, Ottawa.  
 Artist — Robert Bradford

Sponsored by Heritage Renfrew and Renfrew and Area Chamber of Commerce.



# Bulletin Board

A message from Doris Humphries, president.

## Birthday wishes to Canada.

Canada is marking its 125th anniversary of the signing of a document which says we are organized into one Dominion under the name Canada. In 1867 the provinces signing were New Brunswick, Nova Scotia and Canada. The latter had two parts, Quebec and Ontario, previously known as Lower and Upper Canada respectively.

In the very brief space of 125 years we have grown and changed tremendously. We are still suffering growing pains.

Our prayer is that this wonderful country continues to mature with health and happiness.

## Wanted.

Author Brenda Lee-Whiting is looking for information on the early history of Forester's Falls, Ross Township, and specifically the McCleese family.

She possesses a manuscript sent to her from a family in the United States, never before published, which portrays life in this part of Renfrew County in the late Victorian era and wants to supplement it, especially with old photos of places and people prior to World War I.

Anyone with related material is invited to contact this writer at Post Office Box 467, Deep River, Ont, K0J 1P0.

## Horton flashback

The list of voters for the Township of Horton in 1867 listed 173 names, six of which were non-residents. There were 222 names on the assessment roll so presumably the 49 non-voters were women, or men under the age of 21. The present Horton Township voters' list numbers 2332.

In 1867 the voters' list gave property evaluation figures. The top three were Hon. Francis Hincks, \$4,400; second, Robert Conroy, \$4,300 (property at Bonnechere Point), thirdly, John Warnock, \$2,000, property and inn. The majority were under \$500.

Those members who were unable to attend the June 18 meeting, held at the Library Programme Centre in co-operation with the Upper Ottawa Valley Genealogical Group, missed a treat.

Guest Speaker RUTH MILLS, a costume curator with Parks Canada, gave a fascinating talk entitled *Dating Photographs by Fashion*, illustrated by slides.

Following her presentation, Ruth examined photos shown to her by the audience and gave an opinion as to the possible dates of these pictures.

Lumber Baron  
Festival July 22-25  
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## News flash!

Our newest publication:

*Founding Families  
of Admaston, Horton &  
Renfrew Village*

will be launched during  
the House Tour and  
Garden Party at the  
former Austin residence,  
now the home of  
Earl & Marge Lindsay,  
321 Albert Street,  
beginning at 2 p.m.

The book is priced at \$20.  
No GST!

Out of town members may  
obtain a copy for \$20 plus \$2  
shipping and handling by  
writing to Juniper Books Ltd  
RR2, Renfrew, K7V 3Z5.

Lumber Baron  
Festival July 22-25