



# Opeongo Lines

Preserving Yesterday for Tomorrow

Heritage Renfrew Historical Society Newsletter - Fall 2007

Opeongo Lines is published four times per year, at a cost of \$3.00 per issue for non-members, free for members of Heritage Renfrew. Memberships are available for \$15.00 per year or \$150.00 for a lifetime membership. There are approximately 115 members in the Heritage Renfrew Genealogical Society.



Where was this photo taken? What was the event? When was this photo taken? Who owned the tombstone business shown? Can you make out the name of the tailor?

The pipe band, above, has struck up a reel that seems to appeal to a gathering crowd, save for the relatively short-skirted young lady with the long step about to walk in front of the **Ms. A. McArthur Tailoring** billboard at the corner. She appears just as determined, and just as fashionably dressed, as the little lady shadowing her.

Have you figured out where this interesting photograph was taken? If you said on the corner of Raglan and Railway then you are correct. The photographer was probably a 2nd-floor tenant in the Ottawa House Hotel which was torn down in 1946 to make room for Scott's & Sons Hardware. The spectator standing at the extreme left end of the row of specta-

tors - the lady with the hat - is standing precisely at the corner. Behind her extends Railway Street and off in the distance, just beyond a lone cyclist or pedestrian lies the railway station.

The "Chinese Cafe" sign hangs on a building which still stands today. Just below the "Chinese Cafe" sign is the roof of a covered staircase exterior to the building. Today, the roofline is still visible on the building that today houses the Chamber of Commerce and until recently the Sunshine Coach business. Today the Renfrew Public Library occupies the entire corner of property that, in the photograph above, is for the most part a vacant lot, save for the little "Tombstone" business just west of the Chinese Cafe. The reader should be able to make

out the "Spearmint" Gum sign, near to the same wall on which can be found the Chinese Cafe sign. That "Spearmint" Gum sign seems to be hanging immediately above the "Tombstone" business. But whose tombstone business is this?

A conversation with the proprietor of Campbell's Monuments revealed that the "tombstone" business clearly evident in the photograph, above, might have belonged to the Froats family, of Renfrew. Campbell's Monuments apparently moved up from Belleville or Brockville circa 1958, taking over from the Froats when they closed their business down. A subsequent conversation with Alan Froats of Renfrew confirmed that the Froats' tombstone business was located on

Argyle Street directly across from the present day liquor store (LCBO). Alan Froats' father, however, worked for a Mr. Anderson who owned a tombstone business located on the property on which today is found the Renfrew Catholic Library. Consequently, it is almost certain we are looking at a photograph of a scene in which the Anderson tombstone business features prominently. Froats' father worked for Anderson beginning about 1905.

Reference to the July 1902 R.G. Dun Mercantile Agency Reference Book reveals that in Renfrew that year a Mr. A. Anderson ran a "marble" business with an estimated pecuniary strength amounting to less than \$500.00. The pecuniary strength measurement of success range for that year began with this quantity (\$500.00) and extended to over \$1 million. It is probably safe to say, therefore, that Mr. A. Anderson had probably just started his tombstone business at about that time.

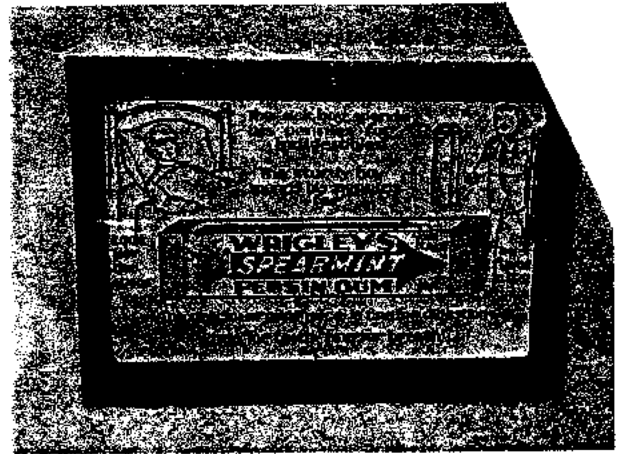
The population of Renfrew in 1902 was only 3,153 persons. Since Mr. Anderson was the only monument creator he probably did well as time went on. Unfortunately, we know little of the number of similar businesses that may have popped up after this photo was taken.

What other clues can we derive from the photograph to help us determine when the photograph was taken? Well, Mrs. McArthur's tailoring business is of not much help, in respect of our July 1902 business directory kindly provided by Mr. R. G. Dun. There is a Mrs. C.J. McArthur listed as owning a business in town, at that time, however her business is not Tailoring. In fact it is difficult to determine from the directory exactly what her business was.

It might be worth focusing in on the relatively unusual monument directly behind and above the man standing at the extreme right-hand end of the row of spectators enjoying the pipe band. That particular monument is the most prominent. It stands relatively tall, it bears two sloped shoulders, and on top there is a prominent cross.

The proprietor to whom we have referred as "A." Anderson, was more than likely Mr. Archibald Anderson. A rather illiterate enumerator identifies an "Archable" (sic) Anderson of Renfrew, in the 1902 census, with a wife whose fore-name cannot be determined from the census, and a family consisting of six children. Among the children are Robert V. Anderson and William A. Anderson. An obituary for Lieutenant A.W. Anderson was printed in the Renfrew Mercury in October 1918. It is almost certain that the "elder brother" referred to below, is Robert V. Anderson. The obituary follows:

Lieutenant A.W. Anderson Killed in Action, reported the Mercury in October of 1918. "Many expressions of sorrow were heard in Renfrew when the news circulated that Anderson, son of Mr. and Mrs. Archibald Anderson of Anne Street, had been killed in action in France. His death occurred just one



month after that of Lieutenant Alfred Anderson's military training began with the R.C.I. cadets, later he was in the Home Guard, he then enlisted in the 130th Battalion and crossed the Atlantic with the 240th Battalion. In civil life he was time-keeper for the C.P.R. on this section of the line. A fine specimen of physical manhood, he was prominent in football, baseball, and hockey circles. An elder brother, also falling on the field of action, predeceased him.

We can also learn something from the Spearmint Gum ad which is visible on the wall above the tombstone business. It is somewhat evident that the words underneath the "Spearmint spear, or arrow" are "Pepsin Gum". The Wrigley's "Spearmint" brand was first introduced in 1893, but it was approximately 1910 when the gum package was introduced. An e-Bay auction claims that the second ad shown in the picture above dates from 1913. This, therefore, would seem to tell us that our photograph of the Renfrew street scene is taken circa 1913. What is perhaps noteworthy is the fact the "T" in the word "Spearmint" extends into the arrow-head. If we look closely at the first ad shown above, which was prevalent around 1910, the downward stroke of the letter "T" is not located in the arrow-head at all. A quick look at the ad on the wall in the photograph would seem to suggest that our photograph was taken sometime after 1913. Finally, an interesting internet site has revealed that Wm Wrigley Jr. went international only in 1910 when he established his first manufacturing



month after that of Lieutenant Ian Mckinnon, who was associated with him in the presentation of colors to the 240th Battalion on the exhibition

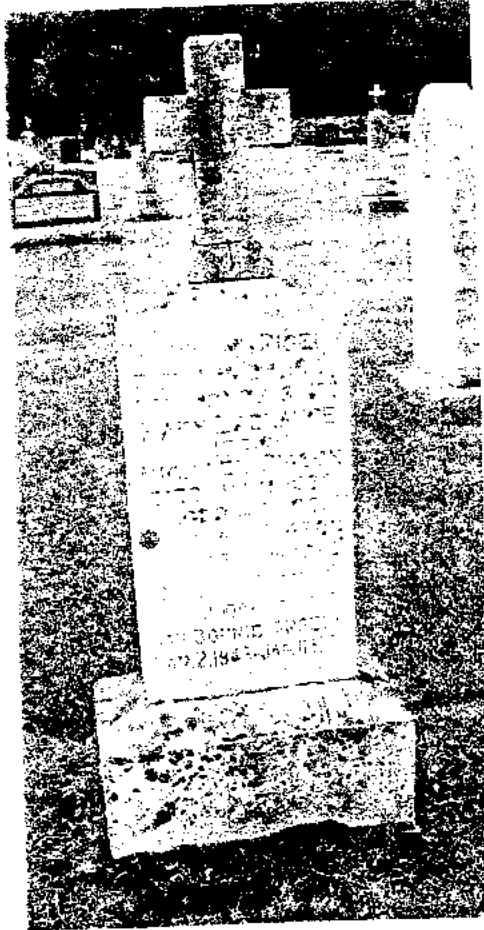
plant outside the US. This plant was established in Canada, while he established another plant in Australia in 1915. We can therefore be certain that the photograph was taken only after a plant had been established in Canada and Canadian distributors for Frigley's gum were assured - that is after 1910.

If we look more closely at the hat worn by the woman at the far left-hand side of the row of spectators we can conclude that the photograph dates after 1911. Based on styles prevalent in England between 1906 and 1911 it may be reasonable to assume that the hat is a hat from that era, and still fashionable in Renfrew after 1911. I believe the most important costume to note is the leggings worn by the two women, one a child, and the man about to walk in front of the McArthur Tailoring sign. Can anyone help?

Returning to the one prominent tombstone, - that being the one with what appears to be a celtic (short stubby) cross without a ring around the cross. As odd as it might sound the tombstone is very unique. A search of seven local cemeteries revealed that in only one kind of cemetery is one likely to find such tombstones with a cross on top - a catholic cemetery. In St. Francis Xavier cemetery the Pigeon tombstone, shown here, is an identical match to the design apparent in our front-page photograph.

Mary Ann Pigeon died August 24th 1928, the tombstone declares. The cross on top matches nicely that found in our photograph. More importantly, the slight sloping of the shoulders also fits well with the pattern in our photograph. Most importantly, no other tombstone from Thompsonville to Woshen to Rosebank to Douglas and Admaston comes even close to the style purchased by the Pigeon family in 1928.

Based on all these clues one cannot help but declare that the date of our photograph is probably post 1913 and pre-1928. If you see other clues that might help narrow the date range, please be sure to write to the Editor of Peongo Lines.



### HOME CHILDREN COMMITTEE REPORT on July 2007 Activities by Dave Lorente

a. Total number of messages sent in 2007 to end of June in response to HC requests: 515

b. Guess who has a home child ancestor? The CBC knows ... and will air a half-hour program this fall on a famous - (some might add >and sometimes infamous=) - Canadian sports personality. Marj Kohli, author of The Golden Bridge, was approached to provide the name of an overseas contact who might comment on TV on the home child record the CBC has received from another (?) descendant. Marj graciously deferred and suggested HCC Renfrew provide the name.

To date the process has involved no less than 20 communications by e-mail and phone over a fortnight. The 2 to 3 hours of >shooting= in the UK will be reduced to 2 or 3 minutes. We trust the person interviewed will be one of the social workers who not only released the documents but also vis-

ited Canada to attend our reunions.

The program format was purchased by the CBC from Britain where the popular AWHO DO YOU THINK YOU ARE series has received very favourable press reports. Watch for it this fall.

(The CBC has released a list of the names of the thirteen personalities to be featured this fall. We are not printing it because it would spoil the suspense of your not knowing.)

### Pot Pourri

c. Another relatively new British website - findmypast.com - is slowly adding tens of thousands of names of outbound passengers lists for the years 1890 to 1929. You may find something of interest there particularly if some relatives did not come directly to Canada or even if they did. Spelling variations, other family members, addresses are sometimes available.

d) Mary MUNK of the LAC has been replaced by Sylvie Tremblay.

e) London England's Penny Illustrated News for 1861-1913 is on line at [www.collectbritain.co.uk/system/paper](http://www.collectbritain.co.uk/system/paper)

f) Welsh Parish records are being microfilmed by the Genealogical Society of Utah.

g) The personnel chart for Barnardos restructured After Care Department has been received. It is called Making Connections.

h) London's The Coram Child has opened on Broadway. It concerns workhouse children and a period that pre-dates the child migration period we in Canada are so familiar with.

### In Memoriam

Home Boy Sam CASTLE, age 95, of cancer on July 14.

### HOME CHILDREN COMMITTEE REPORT on Aug 2007 Activities for Meeting of Heritage Renfrew Directors, 2007-09-04 by Dave Lorente

A. Total number of messages sent in 2007 to end of Aug in response to HC requests: 566

### B. HCC Involvement

1. Peter Silk of Hastings UK did not come as usual for two weeks research this month.

HCC arranged to have a Barnardo contact be on TV in the UK for a segment of this fall's CBC production of WHO DO YOU THINK YOU ARE? but the star of the show took ill and the shoot has been postponed to another date

3. The CBC co-producer has sent us a copy of the British version of the above show on which the Canadian episode concerning a famous descendant of a home child is based.

4. Social worker Alison Gough of Quarriers of Scotland was the guest of HCC and John Sayers of BIFHSGO at the Library and Archives Canada in late August. Alison brought news of a probable future Homecoming for Quarrier children, families and friends.

5. Renfrew Collegiate has again involved us in their Wall of Fame project.

6. We are also involved in next April's RCI Reunion of those who attended in the 1950's.

#### - Pot Pourri

Nova Scotia's fifth Annual British Home Children and Descendants Association Reunion will be held Sat. Oct. 20, at Bible Hill Junior High School, 741 College Rd, Bible Hill, NS. For full details contact Cecil Verge, Chair, Phone (902)-681-6697 or E-mail lowcb@auracom.com

BIFHSGO hosts its 2007 Conference: Celebrate Your Celtic Roots on September 14, 15, 16 at the Library and Archives Canada in Ottawa. Overseas experts on Irish research will be presenters. For full details visit <http://www.bifhsgo.ca/Conference2007.htm>

#### The Fall Fairbridge Gazette C

We have put a Scottish Home Boy who came to Cannington in 1960 (not a mistake) in touch with Dorothy, our branch chair in that community.

Fegan Home Boy Richard (Dick) WRIGHT, who spoke on behalf of all Home Children sent to Canada at our Stratford Reunion moved to a retirement home in St Catharines.

Barnardo Boy Phil LONG is active again and attending local functions after recovering from a serious illness.

Macpherson/Barnardo Boy Art MONK is now living in a retirement home in Beachburg ON and still driving about the local countryside.

Try this Website for free info: [Libraryand.com](http://Libraryand.com).

New Lives for Old, the British National Archives Story of Home Children sent to Canada and Australia, will be published in Britain in October and not last May as previously an-

nounced. The North American edition will be available only next April. Your editor has been promised a copy to review.

#### D - IN MEMORIAM

John COGGINS, he of the mellifluous voice, died last year. May he rest in peace.

## Letters to the Editor

The first concerns an e-mail first directed to the Renfrew Public Library and then forwarded to Heritage Renfrew. Mr. Dilipsinh Gaekwar seems interested in the Renfrew Aircraft and Engineering Plant which he believes may have closed down in 1970. Can anyone help?

Subject: Renfrew Aircraft & Engineering - Plant Closed in 1970? Please confirm the subject noted since I was aware that local News paper had printed the story about this plant closer upon it's acquisition by an American company known as United Aircraft a subsidiary of the Pratt & Whitney Company of US. Sincerely, D. Gaekwar

Our second letter to the editor comes from Elizabeth Driver <liz.driver@sympatico.ca> Subject: renfrew church history. Can you tell me what denomination St Andrew's Church, Renfrew, was before church union in 1925? This information will help me prepare the index for my Culinary Landmarks: A Bibliography of Canadian Cookbooks, 1825-1949 (forthcoming, University of Toronto Press). This is the cookbook published by the church (found in a British Columbia museum!): Cooking recipes / compiled and arranged by the Ladies' Aid / Society of St. Andrew's Church, Renfrew / Published for the Society by Smallfield & Son, printers, Renfrew, / December: 1910. Thank you. Liz Driver

From: Denise Jeffrey [mailto:denise.jeffrey@sympatico.ca]

Subject: Hello from Port Perry, On. I visited your building during the summer months but it was just before closing time. I saw that you had a booklet about John Moffat Ross and Sarah Ed-

munds. John Moffat Ross is my maternal great great grandfather.

Would you supply a service where you could photocopy this information and mail it to me? How much would your fee be for this service? My other great grandparents are Andrew Murphy and Mary Sutherland. Would you have any information about them?

Thanks for you time and I look forward to hearing from you. Sincerely Denise Jeffrey, [denise.jeffrey@sympatico.ca](mailto:denise.jeffrey@sympatico.ca)

Sgt. Stafford-Brown and Mr. Martin Munhall: Thank you for helping me search for information about my grandfather John Coghlan. I have found his family in the Ontario census for 1891 and 1901. He was born in 1889 in Sabine Township (South Algonquin Township), where his father opened the first post office north of Maynooth, at McKenzie Lake. Now I am contacting likely descendants of his siblings in order to learn more about him and his family. My wife and I thoroughly enjoyed our July vacation in eastern Ontario, from the Algonquin Provincial Park to Ottawa. We look forward to returning soon.

John Flynn

From: Pam [mailto:pamlalonde@persona.ca] Subject: Newspaper Archives Is there any way of checking Newspaper archives online. I am looking for an obituary for Mary Jane [Jeanne] Charron nee. [Laronde wife of Maxime Charron who died in Bromley March 29, 1897. Is there a way to find the obit. online. Any help would be appreciated. Thanks Pa. Editor's response: "Paper of Record" (you can find the web-site by that name) used to have the Renfrew Mercury on line, however, they went bankrupt. In the process they had to give up their rights to the Renfrew Mercury since the archived copies were the property of Torstar, I believe. The Renfrew Mercury has yet to re-appear on line.

Dean Black

## RESEARCH:

For those wishing to do research at Heritage Renfrew we have the following aids to help you in your research: The census records for Renfrew County from 1842 to 1901; Census records for Pontiac County from 1842-1901; Census records for Lanark County from 1851-1901; Family histories of local residents which were researched and donated by members; Church records on microfilm: St Francis Xavier Church, Renfrew, Our Lady of Angels Wilno Church; St Patricks Church records which are in binders from 1846 to 1908; Esplanade Roman Catholic Church records up to 1910; We have cemetery recordings for cemeteries local and some for the surrounding area; We have the Ontario Marriage records for Renfrew County done from 1869 to 1890; The books written by Carol McCuaig which have a lot of information on families who settled in this area and who also came into this area from other counties; The Renfrew Mercury from 1871 to 2004 on microfilm; Les and Aldene Church's BMD's from the Renfrew Mercury from 1871-1926; You can order in microfilms from the National Archives for research. It is worth going down to Ottawa to do the research where the cost of parking is very dear indeed. There is no parking at the National Archives building. There are many reference books some purchased and some donated that are very helpful for research; There is also the IGI series on Microfiche of families all over the world with baptisms, marriages on them; Land records also on Microfiche.

We have two reader printers to assist you in printing out information from microfilms. Cost of print outs is 5 cents for each copy; We have microfiche readers as well as microfilm readers without the print out facility; We are open to the public two days a week, Tuesdays and Thursdays and a volunteer should be available to assist you; On Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays you can make an appointment with one of the following volunteers and come in and do your research then. Olga Lewis 432-6958 Joyce McBride 466-2375, Martin Munhall 432-2225. We welcome you to our facility and hope to see you there.

**CEMETERIES:** The following publications and excerpts are available for purchase at Heritage Renfrew: Westford Union \$9.00, Goshen Cemetery \$15.00, and Point Cemetery \$6.00, Flat Rapids Cemetery \$5.00, St Alexander's Cemetery R.C. \$8.00, Hillcrest Public & Lakeside \$9.50, Our Most Precious Blood Cemetery \$8.00, Springtown cemeteries \$8.00, Malch Road Cemetery \$30.00, White Lake Cemetery \$10.00, North Horton Cemetery \$12.00, Haley Cemetery, \$10.00, Rosebank Cemetery \$15.00, Admaston Public Cemetery, \$12.00, St Andrew's Cemetery \$10.00 Opeongo Road Cemeteries \$12.00 Mt. St. Patrick cemeteries \$12.00 plus mailing cost of \$3.50 for first publication and \$1.50 shipping and handling cost, plus mailing cost of \$1.50 each for additional items purchased.

## Upcoming Events

February 2008 - Heritage Renfrew Annual General Meeting  
2008 - 150th Anniversary of the Incorporation of the Town of Renfrew

## Heritage Renfrew Executive Appointments and Active Members 2007

### Executive

President Dean Black 613-432-4354, dcblack@sympatico.ca  
Past-President Audrey Green 613-432-4354  
Vice-President - Vacant  
Treasurer - Ken Stafford  
Secretary Darlene Mask 613-432-6242  
Membership Chair Joyce and Clarence McBride 613-646-2375  
Home Children -Vacant  
Research Darlene Mask 613-432-6242  
Newsletter Publishing Editor Dean Black, 433-3305 dcblack@sympatico.ca

### Active Directors

Vaughn/ Grace Simmons 613-432-2376, Stella Laviolette 613-432-7722, Irene Rekowski 613-432-3423, Pat Patterson, Dave Lorente

### Active Members of the Past Presidents Advisory Committee

Jim MacGregor, Vaughan Simmons, Marjorie Lindsay, Dave Lorente

### Honorary Directors

Carol McCuaig, Helen Clark, Don Campbell

## Heritage Renfrew Meetings

Won't you join us? Heritage Renfrew meets on the first Tuesday of each month, July and August excepted, at 7 p.m. in the Heritage Room at the Renfrew Archives, 770 Gibbons Road, National Archives of Canada facility (off O'Brien Road). You will be a welcomed addition to our team of Renfrew historians and genealogists. Share with us your research interests. We will be pleased to include your interests in our quarterly\* newsletter. Share stories and questions, share successful research experiences and advice. The accumulated experience amongst members of Heritage Renfrew is remarkable. See you soon?

Membership Expiration Notification: Subscribe to Opeongo Lines for the new year! Subscriptions for the calendar year are \$15.00 (\$20.00 outside of Canada). With subscription comes membership and membership gives you: the latest Heritage Renfrew news updates in Opeongo Lines, access to microfilm & microfiche collections held at Heritage Renfrew, including Census Records, Local newspapers (Renfrew Mercury, Renfrew Advance and the Renfrew Weekender), Land records, Birth, marriage & Death excerpts from local papers and other sources, general information, maps, and Cemetery transcripts & reference books.