

The Historical Society of St. Catharines

P.O. Box 25017, 221 Glendale Avenue, Pen Centre,
St. Catharines, Ontario L2T 4C4

Our mission and goal: to increase the knowledge and appreciation of the history of St. Catharines and area. The Society was founded in 1927.
Our Society is affiliated with the Ontario Historical Society.

Our website is: <http://stcatharineshistory.wordpress.com>

March 2013 Newsletter

Lecture Program – April 25, 2013 through November 28, 2013

Program Subject to Change

Thursday, April 25, 2013 – Lecture by Linda Bramble on “Confederates and Civil War Spies in St. Catharines”. At the St. Catharines Museum. Doors open at 7:00 p.m. Society Annual meeting and elections start at 7:30 p.m. with lecture to follow. Refreshments after lecture.

Note: Rather than wait to mail in your membership renewal for the September 1, 2013 through August 31, 2014 membership year, you will be able to renew your membership at these upcoming meetings.

Thursday, May 23, 2013 – Lecture by Nancy Cameron on “Downtown’s Historic Gardens (and Noted Gardeners)” At the St. Catharines Museum. Doors open at 7:00 p.m. Brief Society meeting starts at 7:30 p.m. with lecture to follow. Refreshments after lecture.

Thursday, June 27, 2013 – Lecture by Brian Narhi on “The Burgoyne and Glenridge Bridges”. *Note: this meeting is at the St. Catharines Downtown Library.* Doors open at 7:00 p.m. Brief Society meeting starts at 7:30 p.m. with lecture to follow. We will also celebrate William Hamilton Merritt’s Birthday with cake and refreshments.

Thursday, September 26, 2013 – Lecture by Paul Chapman on “The Electric Street Rail System in St. Catharines”. At the St. Catharines Museum. Doors open at 7:00 p.m. Brief Society meeting starts at 7:30 p.m. with lecture to follow. Refreshments after lecture.

Thursday, October 24, 2013 – Lecture by John Hewitt on “The Garden City Arena” – the arena opened 75 years ago this December 2013. John will tell us about the background, the opening and some of the events that have taken place there. At the St. Catharines Museum. Doors open at 7:00 p.m. Brief Society meeting starts at 7:30 p.m. with lecture to follow. Refreshments after lecture.

Thursday, November 28, 2013 – Show and Tell and Christmas Social. Members will bring their artifacts, old photos and collectibles and spend up to 5 minutes telling us about them. At the St. Catharines Museum. Doors open at 7:00 p.m. Brief Society meeting starts at 7:30 p.m. with lecture to follow. Refreshments after lecture.

The Society gratefully acknowledges the support of the Ontario Ministry of Tourism and Culture

SOCIETY NEWS

Welcome to Our New Members: Sheridan Alder, Mark Cripps & family, Michael & Della Cuttler, Carol Horvat, honorary member Dr. Kate Larson, Sandra & Robin McNaughton, Nadine Martin, Caroline Nolan, Michael Rapsey, Bill & Nina Slack, Marion Stevens, Gloria Terreberry & family and British Methodist Episcopal Church.

In Memoriam: The Society is saddened to announce the passing of its long-time member Colin Keates Duquemin.

November 22, 2012 General Meeting Report: The president welcomed those present. She thanked all who had helped with the most recent newsletter especially Alun Hughes as he battles health problems.

She noted that the Society has received a government grant of \$943 and has donated microfilms to the St Catharines Public Library in memory of a Past President, Philip Adshead. She thanked Dennis Gannon and Brian Narhi for their recent presentation at a local school.

Bill Stevens then reminded us of the upcoming dinner and meeting at the BME Church in January. He showed several photos: Wes Turner receiving his book award and the ongoing demolition of buildings in Port Dalhousie. He announced an exhibition at The Hamilton Art Gallery, an upcoming meeting about the recognition of the Welland Canal Corridor, an exhibit at Rodman Hall and a film on 'You Tube' showing celebrations in Guernsey where Isaac Brock was born.

Our "Members' Show and Tell" then started with John Burtiak acting as 'MC'.

Many photographs were displayed and included:

- The area round Carlton/Ontario Streets; an aerial view of the GM plant in the mid 60's
- A group of employees at English Electric in 1952
- Port Dalhousie "before the Port Mansion was built"
- Woods, a blacksmith on Mary Street.
- The Canadian National Express Office, a photo of the presenter's grandfather on a horse used by the company and a hat badge.
- A 1954 photo of the St Catharines Fire Department
- A 1900's photo of Sarah Smith Warren by Poole
- The Stevenson House (1863) at the corner of Salina and Yates Streets.
- A photo of Herman Gladstone Morrow (with his wife) who received the Military Cross in WW1 and moved to the city to be involved with the Scout movement and the Lincoln and Welland Regiment.
- Photo of a house that used to be near Willowbank in Queenston and has since been demolished
- 1957 photos from the local Soap Box Derby.

Other items shown included silk book marks (c1870), an old gin bottle found while the presenter was doing renovations in his house, 5 metals balls use unknown, a book commemorating the opening of the 4th Welland Canal in 1932, a 1942 City Directory, a Bar Tender's Guide book (Old Mr. Boston), a magazine 'Ryerson Review of Journalism' with an article about the St Catharines Standard and finally a book about the work of Ralph Sketch (his sculptures, including a photo of the statue of Brock's horse 'Alfred' ...the statue now on the green in Queenston).

January 24, 2013 General Meeting Report:

Kate Larson Wows the Crowd!

The Society's lecture program set a record for attendance when over 160 people filled the Salem Chapel BME Church, Harriet Tubman Underground Railroad National Historic Site on **Thursday, January 24, 2013**, to hear Dr. Kate Clifford Larson (pictured below). Even after one hundred years since the death of Harriet Tubman on March 10, 1913, Kate's presentation brought Harriet to life in an inspiring presentation.

Harriet was a true hero and worthy of all the recognition that has been and will be bestowed upon her, both in the United States, where there is a movement to create two Harriet Tubman National Historic Parks, and here in Canada where there are events planned throughout the year in her honour. Our local Cogeco TV interviewed Kate and for 'The Source' program on cable channel 10. This four minute segment can be viewed on 'You Tube' at the following link: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dyAly5ifztY>.



A "Supper with Kate" was held prior to the lecture and this event raised \$1000.00 which was presented to the trustees of Salem Chapel to assist in the continuing cost of maintaining this historic site. The evening was a partnership with the BME Church Salem Chapel. The evening's event, we have subsequently learned, is considered to have been the first event in a series of international events and activities to recognize Harriet in this the 100th memorial year of her passing. We hope that our members will attend the events that are planned over the course of this year.

The Society would like to thank Bill Stevens for his hard work and dedication in making this event so successful.

February 28, 2013 General Meeting Report: A crowd of about 116 members and guests turned out for this meeting. Most of our guests were present or past residents of McNab, who had come to hear our speaker David Hemmings (pictured below) present his research on this interesting and historic part of Grantham.

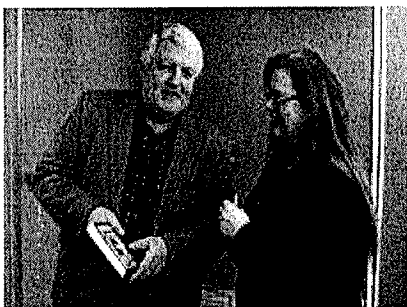


Photo by Bill Stevens.

This enthusiastic crowd now looks forward to David's book on McNab, which will be available in a month's time. We were also pleased to see Anthony Percival's presentation of the Museum's very charming little film clip of the first St. Catharines Soap Box Derby, held on Louth St. in 1947. As well, Denise Bradden of the Beaverdams Society encouraged all of us to support the restoration of the historic Beaverdams Church.

JUST A REMINDER – PLEASE RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP NOW!

Our current membership year is from September 1, 2012 and ending August 31, 2013
Annual membership dues are only: Individual - \$10.00 or Family - \$15.00

Please send the attached form and your cheque to:
The Historical Society of St. Catharines, P. O. Box 25017, 221 Glendale Avenue
St. Catharines, Ontario, L2T 4C4

Your membership information will not be shared with any other group other business.

Remove the form below and return with your cheque ... thank you for your membership!

The Historical Society of St. Catharines – Membership Application

I wish to join as an: Individual ___ Family ____

Enclosed please find a cheque/money order in the amount of \$ _____

This is a New Membership _____; This is a Renewal _____

Names(s): _____

Address: _____

Telephone # _____ email: _____

Yes I wish to receive Society e-mail reminders of Meetings: _____

NEWSLETTER NOTES

The Historical Society of St. Catharines Newsletter is published up to four times per year. The purpose is to inform the membership of issues pertaining to the Society and items of historical interest. Comments and queries should be directed to the Society's postal address. Opinions and comments expressed in the Newsletter are those of the writers and do not necessarily reflect those of the Society. Subscription to the Newsletter is by paid membership only.

Submission Deadline for June 2013 Newsletter is May 1, 2013

**The Annual General Meeting
of the Historical Society of St. Catharines
will be held on Thursday, April 25, 2013**

Minutes of the Last Annual General Meeting Thursday, April 26, 2012

The minutes for the last annual general meeting, which was held on April 26, 2012 in the Burgoyne Room, St. Catharines Museum, were printed in the September 2012 newsletter. Please read the Minutes again and be prepared to vote on acceptance of these Minutes.

Auditors and Nominations to the Board of Directors

Auditors

Financial books closed December 31 and the Board of Directors has appointed Tom Whitelaw and Carol Gaspari as Auditors of the books to prepare an audit for the Annual Meeting on April 25, 2013.

Nominations and Elections

Executive positions are for a two-year term, so the following nominations for these positions that have been received to date are: President – John Burtniak, Past President – Elizabeth Finnie, Vice-President – Brian Narhi, Treasurer – Chris Loat, Secretary – Brenda Zadoroznij. Director positions are for a one year term. The

following nominations have been received to date: (1) John Calvert; (2) Joe O'Brien; (3) Bill Stevens; (4) Ross Tucker; (5) Dave Willer; and (6) Mike Conley.

Please give thought about donating some time to the Society, as we need to ensure that the Society continues with a strong Board. Please contact any Executive member if you would be willing to be nominated for an Executive position.

Constitutional Amendment

There are no amendments to the Society's Constitution being put forward.

Events at Salem Chapel, BME Church Harriet Tubman Underground Railroad NHS

March 10, 2013 marks the 100th Memorial Anniversary of Harriet Tubman. To commemorate the life of Harriet Tubman who is recognized as the most important figure of the 19th century Underground Railroad resistance movement, communities everywhere will be hosting special events and activities throughout the year. Spread the word and encourage organizations, businesses and individuals to plan activities that pay tribute to the life and legacy of Harriet Tubman. Commemoration events at the national historic site at 92 Geneva Street include:

Saturday, March 9 – 3:00 p.m. - General Tubman: Celebrating the Mission. With music provided by local women's choir WomEnchant and words by several dignitaries and local speakers, Harriet Tubman was celebrated, as well as International Women's Day. Harriet Tubman was also a well-known suffragist.

Saturday, April 20 - 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. - Open House - Remembering the Life & Legacy of Harriet Tubman - Self guided tours celebrating Harriet Tubman and the Underground Railroad from Storytelling and/or lecture at 1:00 p.m. Free!

May to October - Tourist season at the Salem Chapel

Saturday, November 9 and **Saturday, December 14** -10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. - Open House - Remembering the Life & Legacy of Harriet Tubman - Self guided tours celebrating Harriet Tubman and the Underground Railroad from Storytelling and/or lecture at 1:00 p.m. Free!

Stay tuned! - Events are subject to change as the Salem Chapel anticipates more visiting scholars, authors and Harriet Tubman descendants throughout 2013.

Charles Ashton HESSON

By: William J. STEVENS

Up until his death, Charles Ashton HESSON was the Honourary President of the Lincoln County Historical Society, the former name of The Historical Society of St. Catharines. I did not know that the Society ever had a honorary president and when I came across this little piece of information, I wondered who this individual was that was so highly thought of that the Society made him the Honourary President. When the Society was formed in 1927, Charles HESSON became Vice-President, a position he appears to have held for a number of years, perhaps up until 1935, as in 1936 he does not appear on the executive list. So he may have been made honorary president in the 1935-1936 (prior to his death) time frame.

Charles was born on March 28, 1860 in Sebringville, Perth County, Ontario.

His father was Samuel Rollin HESSON who was born in Ireland and his mother was Margaret J. POOLEY who was born in Ontario. Samuel was the youngest of seven children that John HESSON and his wife brought from County Antrim, Ireland to Dundas, Ontario in 1830. Sadly John died in Dundas leaving his widow to raise the seven children. When Samuel was about 14 years old the family moved to lands in the area known as the Queen's Bush, in the western part of the province, about four miles from Stratford, then called Little Thames. When Samuel grew up he moved to Stratford, where he married Margaret POLLEY on March 28, 1860. He then moved to Sebringville, Perth County where he opened a general store which included the post office and he also acted as a justice of the peace. In 1865 Samuel moved the family back to Stratford. Samuel continuously represented North Perth in the House of Commons from 1878 to 1891.

Charles attended public school in Stratford where he graduated from high school. He studied law for three years before deciding to give that profession up and head to Manitoba where he worked for the Hudson's Bay Company and for a time was in charge of the freight shipments for the Indian and North-West Mounted Police department supplies. He then went to Brandon, Manitoba and was in the real estate business there. He left Brandon in 1882 returning to Stratford. In January 1883 he began a career in the Inland Revenue Department of the Federal Government in Brantford, then Woodstock, Ingersoll and Windsor before ending up in St. Catharines in December of 1886 where he was appointed Deputy Collector. A year later he was promoted to the Collectorship upon the death of the incumbent, Mr. SEYMOUR. He remained in that position until the amalgamation of the Inland Revenue and Customs Department in 1921 when he retired.

In 1887 Charles married to Agnes Ada LIZARS, the youngest daughter of Dr. J. L. LIZARS, of Toronto. They had three children.

Charles lived in Louth Township for 16 years prior to his death at his summer home, "Louthaven" on the lake shore on Friday, October 16, 1936 at the age of 76 years. His funeral was held on Monday, October 19 in St. George's Anglican Church after which his remains were taken to be buried in the family plot (section H, grave 108) in the Avondale Cemetery in Stratford, Ontario, Percy HULSE being the undertaker.

Until his death he was the honorary president of the Lincoln County Historical Society; he had been an executive member of the Ontario Historical Society; a member of the Library Board; a founding member of the St. Catharines Horticultural Society; member of the Ontario Horticultural Society; member of St. George's Anglican Church and a former warden. He was survived by his wife, two daughters, Mrs. Frederic CONRADI of St. Catharines, Mrs. W. W. (Mona) SANDERSON of Niagara Falls, New York and one son Lionel Ashton HESSON, a well known architect in St. Catharines; three sisters in Stratford and three grandchildren.

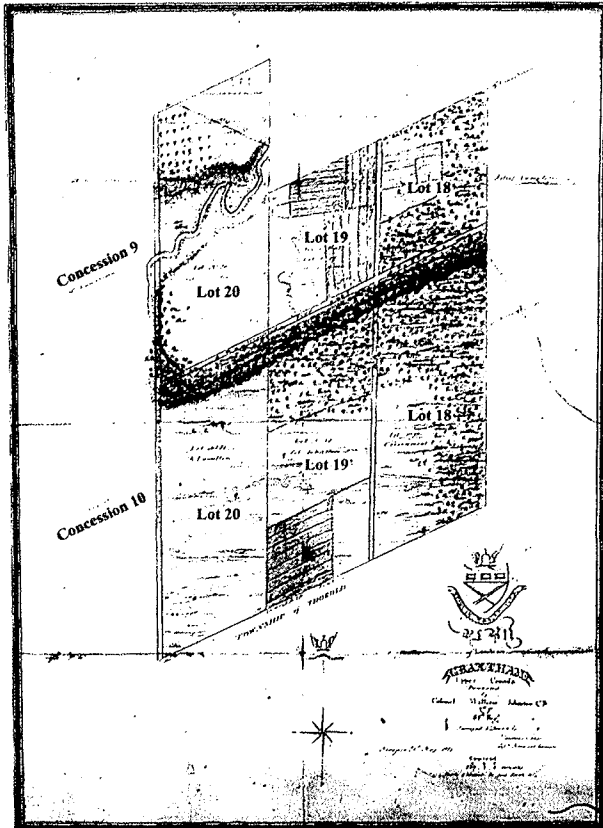
Charles A. HESSON holds a place on page 221 in the book titled *Prominent Men of Canada*.

CANADIAN CANAL SOCIETY MEETING

Sunday, April 14, 2013, 2:00 – 4:00 pm, at St. Catharines Historical Museum, Burgoyne Room. AGM, Membership and Friends Spring Meeting. Illustrated Presentations: Roger Bradshaw – "The Historic and Modern Canals" and John Burtniak – "The Glory Days of Great Lakes Passenger Steamers".
All are Welcome.

THE BROCK UNIVERSITY CAMPUS MAP OF 1822

In the Special Collections department in the James A. Gibson Library at Brock University there is a magnificent full-colour map of Brock's lands as they were in 1822. The map shows land in Grantham Township purchased by Colonel William Johnston, C.B. (Commander of the Order of the Bath) in that year.



Colonel Johnston's Map

It was surveyed and drawn by Claudius Shaw, Deputy Provincial Surveyor, at a scale of 6 chains to 1 inch (1 chain = 66 feet). The map was hand drawn in ink and watercolour on paper, and displays the crest and motto (*nunquam non paratus* — never unprepared) of Johnston's family. The complex scrolling beneath the crest reads "plan." The map shows lot lines and road allowances, the Niagara Escarpment, two creeks, woodland, fields and some buildings. It is a remarkable picture of Brock's campus as it was almost 200 years ago — how many other universities in Canada can claim such an early plan of their property?

The lots shown are 18, 19 and 20 in concessions 9 and 10 of Grantham. Johnston owned portions of all three lots in concession 9, but only lot 19 in concession 10. His land amounted to 299 acres, 1 rood, 5 perches (1 rood = 1/4 acre, 1 perch = 1/40

rood). Other landowners identified on the map are Robert Campbell, Robert Hamilton, John Turney and the Government. Most of Brock's principal buildings today occupy lots 18 and 19 in concession 10; the emphasis in this article will be on lot 19. (For the story of lot 18, see my previous article in the 'Looking back' series entitled "The Theal House at Brock University," published in June 2009.) To the south lies St. Davids Road, and to the east the present-day Glenridge Avenue. Across St. Davids Road is Thorold Township.

Claudius Shaw was Scottish-born and served in the War of 1812. He was a railway engineer and surveyor, and according to Joan Winearls' *Mapping Upper Canada, 1780-1867*, he drew three maps in 1823, one of Upper Canada, and two of Niagara. In 1857 he was included in a *Canada West List of Provincial Land Surveyors*, but though other surveyors have the date of their appointment and place of residence, no details about Shaw are given, perhaps because he had by then returned to Scotland.

William Johnston's life is summarized in the *Dictionary of National Biography (DNB)*. He was born in 1773, and pursued a military career, first with the 18th Regiment of Foot and then with the 68th. He eventually attained the rank of Lieutenant-General. He saw a great deal of action, most notably in Spain during the Napoleonic War, when he served under Wellington. He commanded the 68th in a crucial victory at Vitoria in 1813, but was seriously wounded in the battle. He was knighted in 1837, made Colonel of the regiment in 1838, and died in 1844, leaving a widow, a son and six daughters. The crest of Guillaume Johnston is on a stall plate in the Henry VII Lady Chapel in Westminster Abbey, mother church of the Order of the Bath.

But the *DNB* makes no mention of Canada. Geographically, the closest reference is an expedition to the West Indies in 1801. What, therefore, was Johnston doing buying land in Grantham Township?

Surveys, Treason and Speculation

The area was first settled in the 1780s following the American Revolutionary War. A crash program of surveys began in June 1787, and the land was divided into 100-acre lots, arranged in rows or concessions. The first township to be surveyed was Niagara, followed by Stamford. Grantham was surveyed by Daniel Hazen early in 1788, and the northern part of Thorold by Augustus Jones in the fall of the same year. Both surveyors led fascinating professional and personal lives, especially Jones, who became Upper Canada's leading surveyor prior to 1800 and who was married to two Native women at the same time.

The first owner of lots 18 and 19 was George Turney, who had served as a cadet in Butler's Rangers during the American Revolutionary War. He is named on an Augustus Jones map of 1791, but likely acquired the lots in the late 1780s. He received a Crown patent in 1799. He probably did not live on the lots, for Turney was young and likely lived on the family farmstead on lot 22 in concession 9. After getting married in December 1801 he moved to land he had been granted in north-eastern Thorold, and sold lots 18 and 19 in 1805.

The buyer was Thomas Lane, who took out a mortgage with Turney as mortgagee. Lane already possessed 150 acres of adjoining land in concession 9, for a total of 350 acres. Where he lived is uncertain, but it was probably on his existing land below the Escarpment. Indeed, there is no evidence of anyone living on lots 18 and 19 in concession 10 until much later.

When the War of 1812 broke out Lane turned traitor and fled to the United States (which is somewhat ironic for an university named after the hero of that war). In 1818 Lane's land and that of other traitors were confiscated by the Commissioners of Forfeited Estates. The confiscated land was auctioned off after the War, with lots 18 and 19 being sold separately. Lot 19 was sold first, in 1820, to Alexander Wilkinson of Cornwall for £356 5s. Wilkinson also acquired most of Lane's land below the Escarpment.

Two years later Wilkinson re-sold the land (by letter of attorney) to Colonel William Johnston for the same price. Johnston also bought land in concession 9 from Robert Campbell, making a total of approximately 300 acres. Lot 19 now belonged to Johnston, but lot 18 remained in the Government's hands.

Three questions now arise: first, where was Johnston living when he bought the land?; second, why did he buy the land?; and third, what did he do with the land?

It turns out that Johnston was in Upper Canada after all. The instrument for the Wilkinson sale gives the Town of Niagara as his residence, and the 68th Regiment was stationed at Fort George from 1819 to 1829. Johnston returned to England in 1824, and in May 1825 was promoted to Major-General, which meant he was no longer attached to the regiment.

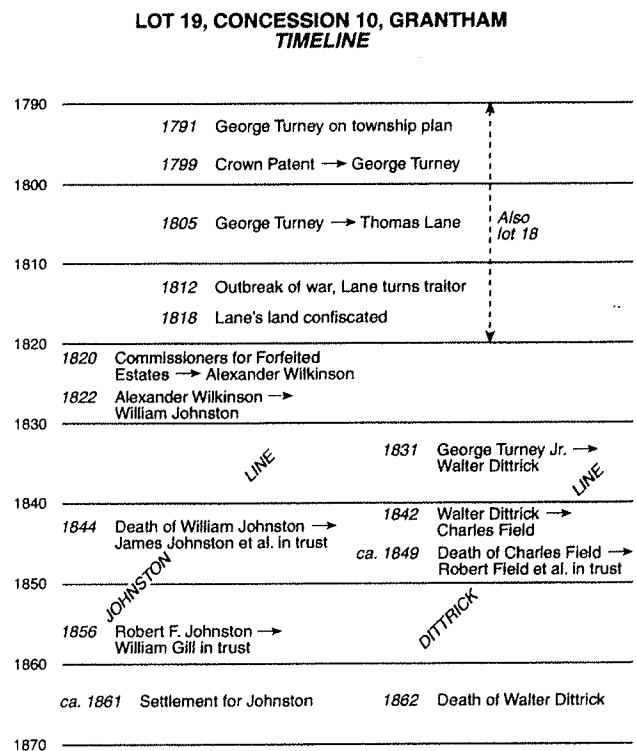
Why Johnston bought the land is uncertain, but one explanation seems most plausible. The purchase was probably a speculative venture, in anticipation of the building of the Welland Canal. The original route planned by William Hamilton Merritt and surveyed by Hiram Tibbett in 1823 had the canal descending the Escarpment west of Brock University near DeCew Falls and then following Twelve Mile Creek to Lake Ontario. Johnston's land occupied a strategic site straddling the Escarpment, close to the route of the proposed canal above and including it below, for as the 1822 map shows Twelve Mile Creek ran right through his land.

As an officer Johnston had certain disposable income, and he was one of the very first to buy shares in the Welland Canal Company at a meeting held in March 1824. To quote the report of the meeting, which is in St. Catharines Museum, "Colonel Johnson [sic] of H M 68 L I Regt [His Majesty's 68th Light Infantry Regiment] who honored the Meeting with his presence, and who is intimately acquainted with the locality of the situation, through which the Canal is to run." It was not until 1825, after construction had begun, that a route east of the university was substituted.

In answer to the third question, Johnston's land was leased out through a local agent, Samuel Jarvis, and upon Johnston's death in 1844 it was bequeathed to his son James.

Dittrick's Duplicity

The sequence of owners seems straightforward, but it was actually anything but. For several decades after Johnston bought lot 19 there was confusion about land titles. This timeline will be useful here.



Lot 19 Timeline

The original owner of lot 19, George Turney, who had sold the lot to Lane, was killed at the Battle of Chippawa in 1814, leaving a wife and a son George. Then in 1831, almost 10 years after the sale to Colonel Johnston, George Junior sold lot 19 to Walter Dittrick, and Dittrick followed by selling the lot to his brother-in-law Charles Field in 1842. Johnston and Field died in 1844 and 1849 respectively, each deeding lot 19 to their descendants in their wills. Both wills make mention of farmhouses; Field at least seems to have lived on lot 19, though precisely where is unknown.

Two further questions now arise: first, how could different people own the same land?; and second, how could they not have known about each other? Four considerations help explain what happened:

- (i) Johnston was an absentee owner living in England, and lot 19 was leased,
- (ii) The Upper Canada administration had limited means of cross-checking land transactions,
- (iii) George Turney Junior had a drinking problem and Walter Dittrick was a rogue,
- (iv) George Turney Senior was dead and Thomas Lane had fled the country.

With both parties to the original transaction gone and Johnston out of the country, Walter Dittrick saw his chance. Through a lawyer he convinced George Turney Junior that Turney still owned lot 19 and should sell it to Dittrick. His arguments were:

- (i) Lane had paid off very little of the mortgage debt,
- (ii) Turney's widow never signed a dower renouncing her claim,
- (iii) The instrument recording the Turney-Lane sale was lost in the War in the burning of the Niagara Registry office,
- (iv) No proof existed that Turney ever transferred the title deed to Lane.

Dittrick persuaded Turney to grant him a quit claim; the latter, needing money for liquor, was only too happy to oblige. Significantly, Dittrick ran Shipman's Tavern in St. Catharines, possibly where Turney did his drinking. Dittrick subsequently sold lot 19 to Charles Field at a great profit (£300 compared to £60).

How could Dittrick get away with this? Were there no witnesses to his wrongdoing? The administration knew nothing. Local settlers had strong suspicions, but seem to have kept silent. Johnston also knew nothing (at least at first, and possibly never). But what about the person leasing land from Johnston? Surely he would have found out, if only as a result of bumping into Dittrick (or later Field) on his land. That never happened, because the leaser was none other than Walter Dittrick himself!

This obviously could not go on indefinitely, and matters came to a head after Johnston's death. A legal action Johnston versus Dittrick was launched in 1844, and culminated in an inquiry and report in the early 1860s. The report, which is in the *Grantham Township Papers*, makes fascinating reading and contains two maps, one of Grantham Township and the other of the property in dispute. It also confirms most of the details mentioned above (e.g. the fact that Turney Junior was a drunk). It includes interviews with Turney's mother and brother John on January 1, 1860. The former lived in "a white frame house near line of railway not far from Thorold." She referred to the sale to Dittrick as "a dark transaction throughout," and felt her son had been cheated. Since Turney himself was not interviewed, he was presumably dead by 1860.

Also included is an interrogation of Dittrick on December 28, 1860. He lived "opposite the Johnston property on the gravel or stone road," and, as the following extract from the report makes clear, was clearly very uncomfortable in answering, and made some incriminating comments.

"I [who this is is unknown] then said 'You sold a portion of that farm over to some person didn't you, I mean the 100 acres on the hill.' He answered 'yes,' and seemed confused, looked out through the room in which I stood to the kitchen or shed where the others were before answering, and stepped back into the room from where he brought the receipt above mentioned, and evidently that Turney and Whalen and the others in the other room or kitchen should not hear his answers. My impression at the time was that he did not wish to have any witness to the conversation."

It turned out that Lane's relatives in the United States did have the deed, and the finding was in favour of Johnston. Field's descendants were out of luck, but Dittrick may have avoided punishment, for he died in 1862. One question remains: who conducted the interrogations? It was probably Johnston's son, Major James Johnston, for the report of the inquiry is in his name.

"Bogus" and Dickson

Dittrick was not the only rogue operating in lot 19. Another was Robert Francis Johnston, who masqueraded as a descendant of William Johnston. This "bogus Johnston" transferred lot 19 to William Gill in 1856, long before the Johnston versus Dittrick matter was settled. Only in 1874 was the land restored to genuine Johnston family members.

Uncertainty about ownership of lot 19 did not end there. In 1885, Richard Theal (presumably Moses Richard, who owned lot 20) signed an affidavit testifying to the fact that Charles Field had indeed died. Theal wrote this as proof, "That this deponent was engaged to take Fields [sic] dead body to the place of burial viz to Niagara. That for some reason deponent could not and did not go ... but deponents brother John Theal did convey it to the place of burial and said John told the deponent said body was interred at Niagara aforesaid." Theal added that Field died on lot 19, concession 10, he saw his dead body, and he was now farming the land, though he had no interest in it. The affidavit, in Special Collections at the St. Catharines Public Library, may have been required to legitimize the sale of lot 19 to Michael Jenkins Griffiths in 1888.

Ownership problems also afflicted other land belonging to Johnston. The *Bishop Strachan Papers* contain many letters from Johnston to agents and lawyers in Upper Canada about the unauthorized sale of a "farm on Twelve Mile Creek" to (William?) Dickson in the late 1820s. The matter was settled in the mid-1830s, when Dickson relinquished his claim.

The location of the farm is uncertain, but it was probably on lot 20 in concession 9. Whether any of this relates to lot 19 and Dittrick is unknown, though the fact that the latter seems to have rented the entire Johnston property suggests it might.

Lot 18 in concession 10, the eastern “half” of Brock University’s land, before it expanded across Glenridge Avenue to lot 17, was also a source of confusion. It belonged to George Turney Senior and Thomas Lane, but was not bought by William Johnston. Readers are referred to my previous article, “The Theal House at Brock University,” for details of this.

Conclusion

Johnston’s map was formerly held in the Regional Collection in the Library of the University of Western Ontario in London, and was donated to Brock’s Special Collections in the mid-1970s. How did it end up at Western?

At the time of his death Johnston not only had almost 300 acres in Grantham, but also 1295 acres in Mosa Township and 800 acres in Ekfrid Township, both in Middlesex County. These townships were not surveyed until the early 1830s, so he would have acquired these lands after this date, long after his return to England. His motive was probably speculation, since the lots are scattered. The “bogus Johnston” was very active here too (he may have been living in Mosa), until the land was reclaimed by the Johnston family.

Presumably the 1822 map was with other maps and documents dealing with Johnston’s transactions in Mosa and Ekfrid Townships. At some point they were transferred to Western, and from here the map was presented to Brock’s Special Collections.

Principal Sources (in addition to those cited in the text): Registry Office land documents; *Report, Commissioners for Forfeited Estates, 1829*; Grantham Township plans; *Brock University fonds*; Dittrick, Theal, Turney and Field family records.

Credits: timeline and layout (Loris Gasparotto); editing (John Burtniak).

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