

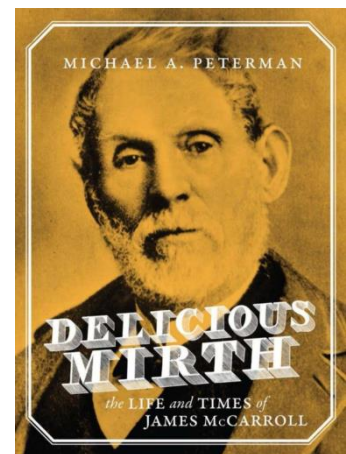
# Historically Speaking

The Newsletter of the Cobourg and District  
Historical Society

February 2020 — Issue 310

## Delicious Mirth: Life of James McCarroll

Our speaker for Tuesday, February 25, is Michael Peterman, Professor Emeritus at Trent University. He taught at Trent for 37 years. He and his wife Cara live in Peterborough but spend time in Nova Scotia each year. He currently writes a fortnightly column called “Culture Matters” for the *Peterborough Examiner* and continues to write books on early Canadian authors and their achievements. His subjects have included Susanna Moodie, Catharine Parr Traill, Isabella Valancy Crawford, Robertson Davies, Timothy Findley, Margaret Laurence, and John Craig. His biography of James McCarroll, entitled *Delicious Mirth*, was published in 2018 to excellent reviews.



James McCarroll came to Canada in 1831 as an Irish teenager from county Leitrim and settled in the Peterborough area. Dr. Peterman will focus on McCarroll’s time in Cobourg (1847-1851) where he taught music, edited a newspaper and worked for the Customs Department. His experiences provide insights into the life of the Cobourg community and local luminaries including William Weller and Henry Ruttan.

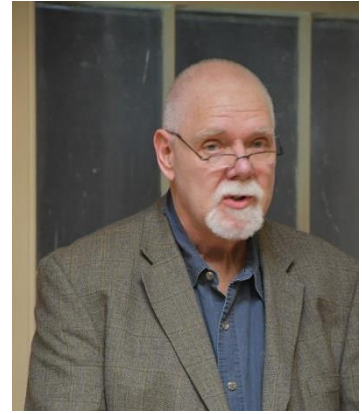
Doors open at 7:00 PM for coffee and cookies. The meeting begins at 7:30 PM. Guests are always welcome. Admission, including refreshments, is free for members and \$5 for non-members. All are welcome so bring a friend or two! See you on Tuesday, February 25.

*Our Previous Meeting*

## **Finding a Forgotten Father of Confederation: Rediscovering the Hon. James Cockburn**



Our January 28 meeting featured two speakers who presented different aspects of their work and the delights of history. Professor Robert Washburn, an award-winning educator in the Journalism program at Loyalist College and also a lecturer in the joint Trent-Loyalist Journalism program, presented new information on the life, work and times



of Cobourg lawyer, Cobourg Councillor and Father of Confederation James Cockburn.

Cockburn is recognized as having participated in the Québec Conference of 1864 and as serving as Canada's first Speaker in the House of Commons. However, his contributions to Canada's early years are often portrayed as of negligible importance. Cockburn is criticized by some historians for lacking fluency in French, was labeled "an inferior man" by Alexander Mackenzie and his destitution in later years was reported as "only relieved by occasional bits of Tory patronage".

Washburn painted a considerably different picture of an astute mind, respected by his neighbours and contributing greatly to our new country. This divergence is just one example of the results of historical research based on original source and proper consideration of the zeitgeist.

Rob Franklin, a Registered Professional Planner and Manager of Planning Services for the Town of Cobourg, is well known to Cobourgians for his stirring, in-costume, re-enactments of important aspects of Cockburn's life. He presented illuminating personal experiences highlighting the importance and joys of bringing history alive for students.

## Future Cobourg Historical Society Programs

Date	Speaker	Topic
February 25, 2020	Michael Peterman	Delicious Mirth: The Life and Times of James McCarroll
March 24, 2020	Leigh Barnum	The Barnum Family History
April 28, 2020	Dave Patterson	The Extraordinary Number of Indian Gifts to the World
May 26, 2020	Randy Barber	Wine and Cheese social at the Loft Discussion of Churchill followed by screening of <i>The Darkest Hour</i>

### Member Matters

#### ***Historical Reviews***

The CDHS would like to have copies of all issues of our annual publication *The Historical Review* available on our website. A limited selection of back issues can already be read at <https://cdhs.ca/resources/historical-reviews>. Unfortunately a number of years are missing from our collection and there are no electronic versions extant. If you have copies that you no longer need or even that you would be willing to loan for scanning, your help would be greatly appreciated. This project is being coordinated by Judith Goulin. If you can help, please contact Judith at [jgoulin@hotmail.com](mailto:jgoulin@hotmail.com)

#### ***New Members***

Please join me in welcoming our newest member: Roslynne Cooke.

## In Memoriam: John Frederick Jolie, 1946-2020

by Judith Goulin

John Jolie, an active and valued member of CDHS for many years, sadly has passed away. He was a high school teacher who specialized in Geography, but his other passion was Local History.



John led a very successful bus trip for our members, highlighting both the geography and the history of Cobourg, Hamilton Township and Peterborough. The account of this trip makes very interesting reading. See *Historical Review* 19, 2001-2002, pp. 20-36, available in the Cobourg Public Library.

On many occasions John was CDHS's guest speaker. One of his favourite topics was the story of the famous, but long-forgotten Arctic explorer and Cobourg native son, Laughlin Taylor Burwash.

For at least a decade John edited our newsletter *Historically Speaking*. Over the years John was often seen in the library's Local History Room, researching yet another event or idea that intrigued his curious mind. Much of his research was the subject for articles he wrote for *The Cobourg Star*. Later he donated the body of his work to the Cobourg Museum Foundation.

Over the years when John's father resided at Palisade Gardens, the residents got to know John as the tall, quiet man who often came to visit his Dad. When John shared his extensive and interesting knowledge of Local History with the residents by giving talks, they were well-entertained.

Abigail Miller, Records and Archival Services Co-ordinator for Northumberland County, commented that "John was one of the very first people I met when I began working at the Archives. He was incredibly warm, generous and so knowledgeable about local history and its impact on the national and international stage. I once drove with him from the Archives to his home, he pointing out facts and interesting tidbits all along the way. I don't think I've ever driven that slowly for that distance."

John Jolie and his legacy will not be forgotten.

# Announcements

## ***Family History Research Information Day***

On Saturday, April 18, Lakeshore Genealogical Society members will be in the Rotary Room of the Cobourg Library to answer questions and help with your research. Visit between 10:30am and 1:30pm. The support will be valuable whether you are just starting out, or need a little help to get over that “brick wall”. At 2:00pm, genealogy expert Leanne Cooper will present *The Wonders of WikiTree: Adventures in Collaborative Genealogy*. There is no charge but registration for the afternoon session is required. Please email: [lgs16215@gmail.com](mailto:lgs16215@gmail.com) to register.

## ***Heritage Cramahe Presents***

Heritage Cramahe is providing an eBook called *How Firm a Foundation* by Eileen Argyris. This is a history of the Township of Cramahe and the Village of Colborne. Download it for free from <https://heritagecramahe.ca/how-firm-a-foundation-by-eileen-argyris/>.

## ***Lakeshore Genealogical Society***

The Lakeshore Genealogical Society has scheduled several meetings of particular interest. LGS meetings are on the second Thursday of the month from 6:30pm to 9:00pm in the HTM Building, 1185 Elgin St. West, Cobourg. On April 6 Linda Corupe will present *Making Her Presence Known*. This talk will guide you through the records in archives & libraries that researchers can use to gain knowledge of female ancestors. Visitors welcome.

## ***-Sifton Cook Heritage Centre***

The Sifton Cook Heritage Centre will reopen on May 16, 2020. During May, June, September and October the Centre is open: Saturdays and holidays from 10am – 5pm. For July and August the Centre is open Wednesday to Saturday and on holidays from 10am – 5pm. From May to October they are open on Sundays from 1pm – 5pm. Visit their website at <https://www.cobourgmuseum.ca/> or phone (905)-373-7222 for further information.

## CDHS Executive for 2019 – 2020

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