

*Peterborough Historical Society**376th Bulletin**April 2011*

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**PHS Meeting,
Tuesday April 19, 2011
at 7:30 pm
Peterborough Public Library
Lower Level Auditorium
Aylmer Street, Peterborough
The Life & Times of Dr John Hutchison
by Gale Fewings, Erin Panepinto, Ann Baker**



Dr. John Hutchison
painted by Arthur Haycock,
from Gores Landing, in 1842

Dr. John Hutchison arrived in North America at 20 years of age, after studying to be a surgeon in Scotland for 3 years. The early history of the Peterborough area can be told in part through the patient records of the doctor. He arrived in the area in 1818, a few years before the town of Peterborough was settled. He lived in several of the townships including Port Hope, Cobourg, Monaghan and Cavan, before moving into Peterborough in 1830. The presentation will focus on the 'life and times' of Dr. Hutchison and his practice in the backwoods of Upper Canada.

Some of his patients would become quite well known in the history of Upper Canada: Susanna Moodie and husband John Dunbar Moodie, Thomas and Catharine Parr Traill, and Catharine and Susanna's brother Samuel Strickland. Thomas A. Stewart, his wife Frances and their family, also counted on the doctor's friendship and medical services. The letters of Susanna Moodie, Catharine Parr Traill, and Frances Stewart are valuable resources in describing the doctor's life.

The speakers will talk about their research and where it has led them in telling the story of Dr. Hutchison's life in Upper Canada. While the doctor himself did not leave behind a diary, or very much in the way of correspondence, some of his patients often referred to him in their writing. The doctor's Birth Registry 1817-1846 and some of his patient ledgers (1830- 1838) have survived and are among the artifacts belonging to the Hutchison House Museum collection. They offer a valuable glimpse into the doctor's practice in the Peterborough area.

In 1845 Dr. Hutchison's second cousin, Sandford Fleming, came to live with the family in Peterborough. Fleming would go on to make his mark in history. When he arrived in Peterborough at the age of 18, he wrote about his early impressions of the community and noted many of his day-to-day activities. Sir Sandford Fleming kept a journal throughout his adult life. The Hutchison House collection also includes some correspondence between Dr. Hutchison and Fleming's father, Andrew.

Gale Fewings, curator of Hutchison House Museum for many years, will share the podium with Erin Panepinto, museum assistant, and Ann Baker, museum volunteer. Erin has worked at Hutchison House for the past three years. Through her experience at the museum she has become very interested in the history of the doctor and his community. Ann became involved with the museum through her studies at Trent University in

the Forensics program. Initially, she was very interested in working with the original documents belonging to the collection. She found the ledgers of Dr. Hutchison so interesting that she took on the task of digitizing and transcribing them for the museum. In her final year at Trent, Ann participated in a project at Hutchison House through the Trent Community Based Education program. For the better part of the past eight months the team have been conducting research for an upcoming virtual exhibit called “The Life & Times of Dr. John Hutchison”. At the April meeting of the Peterborough Historical Society they will share some of their findings.

Mary Lavery

President's message.....

I am constantly reminded of just how active the Heritage Community in Peterborough is. The monthly lecture series by the Society drew another large and generous audience to hear the story of James Kelleher, one of the Peter Robinson Irish who fought in the War of 1812. The Trent Valley Archives is sponsoring a Genealogical Workshop 5 April at the Public Library to help researchers navigate the amazing research tool, Ancestry.ca. The Peterborough Chapter of the Ontario Archaeological Society will feature Janice Teichroeb speaking at their March meeting about her four seasons work at Burleigh. Volunteers at Lakefield are preparing a series of interpretive panels to highlight the changing landscape around the dam and old mill sites. The Trent-Severn Waterway has commissioned a local theatre group to write an historical play to tell the story of the building of the canal. And on it goes. Many of these activities are supported by the volunteer effort and creative fund raising initiatives of a dedicated group of people who embody a spirit of community betterment and commitment to the commemoration of our collective heritage. One such activity is the annual outing sponsored by the Peterborough Historical Society. Your Board is finalizing details for a combined bus/boat tour to one of two possible locations – Port Perry/Scugog Lake or Bobcaygeon/Buckhorn. Stay tune for details. The Board is also reviewing the format and content of our monthly Bulletin. We welcome your comments and suggestions to help us make the Bulletin a more interesting read. There is no doubt that history is alive and well in Peterborough.

Dennis Carter-Edwards

**PHS June Excursion
Wednesday, June 15th 9 am to 4 pm**

Save the day for this most enjoyable bus and boat outing, including lunch. Arrangements are incomplete as yet - but we have a couple of options underway. We expect the tickets will cost \$80.00 including a \$25 income tax receipt as they were last year. They will sell quickly from Hutchison House or the PHS Office. Join us for this fun filled day with historic visits, skits and a beautiful day's outing!

Mary Lavery

The Architectural Conservancy of Ontario

The Architectural Conservancy of Ontario is a registered charity, founded in 1933 to help preserve Ontario's architecturally significant structures, streetscapes and places of natural beauty and interest. The Peterborough branch was established in 2006, one of two dozen branches across the province.

The ACO advocates in the public interest to ensure that your community is one that is attractive, walkable, and respectful of its heritage – in other words, a progressive and desirable place to live.

Please assist us to give Peterborough's past a future by joining your local branch of the ACO. For more information, call 705-930-3322, or visit our website at: www.arconserv.ca

IRISHMAN, SAILOR, SETTLER: The Adventurous Voyages of John Kelleher

Local historian and board member Don Willcock provided an informative and entertaining presentation at the March meeting of the Society, tracing the career of Irishman, John Kelleher, one of the Peter Robinson Irish who emigrated to the Peterborough region in 1825. Part detective story, part historic narrative and part explanation of naval battle tactics, Don described how a terse reference to HMS *Shannon* in the Dr. Burnie journal discovered by Marie O'Connor led him on an intriguing archival search. Kelleher's letter of reference and a notation in Burnie's notes made reference to the frigate *Shannon* which played a key role in the naval conflict in North America. The *Shannon* and the USS *Chesapeake* engaged in a short sharp duel in the summer of 1813 just off the harbour of Boston that resulted in the British capture of the American ship. Kelleher was on board the British warship, having transferred from a commercial ship the *Duck* that was engaged in the cod fishery off Newfoundland. Using contemporary archival images and descriptions, Don explained how naval armaments and tactics were deployed by the British to secure this signal victory. Although Kelleher left no description of his part in this epic battle nor did he apply for the naval service medal he was entitled to, the connection of one of the Robinson Irish to one of the key battles of the War of 1812 reminds us of the intriguing connections that our history abounds with. It is also a timely reminder of the upcoming War of 1812 Bicentennial and the need to research the careers of other naval personnel such as Charles Rubidge in what some have called the first global war.

Dennis Carter-Edwards

Govt. B. Hand	
Govt. Condon	A very good, quiet, industrious & willing family
Govt. Baragay	Spent in cutting up and dividing provisions on the
Govt. Kelleher	Shannon!!! An excellent and willing man, and receiving every recommendation and encouragement from his good conduct, with which I am fully satisfied in every particular. Spent the 3 rd Mate with the provisions and took care of the dogs on the voyage. Family have been sickly since we came to Lachine
Govt. Casey	A very good family - behaved well on voyage
Govt. Ryan	Came on board sickly, Gosh I was on 2 nd June. Did at Lachine Hospital. Wife took sick shortly after, produced a child in the 8 month

Presentation of the Peterborough Historical Society Annual Heritage Awards
Wednesday, April 20, 2011 at Empress Gardens at 7:30 pm

Please visit our website:
www.peterboroughhistoricalsociety.ca

Hutchison House Report

Its springtime again at Hutchison House! The snow is melting, the birds are chirping, signaling the time for spring cleaning! The Cavan boys and gal returned again this year for their annual tradition of scrubbing the keeping room floor. Walter, Jamie, and Corey Baker, Kevin Ivey, and Scotty Milne returned to scrub the floor by hand in record time. A BIG thank you to the boys for your cheerful attitude and strong muscles. Also a thank you to Ann Baker for organizing and supervising the boys and for changing the water buckets. It might not sound like a big job, but the continuous supply of clean water makes the scrubbing go faster. And, what is a clean floor without clean furniture? Thank you to Don Willcock and Bob Laing who helped to move the furniture in and out of the keeping room and cleaning everything as it was put back. The room looks so much fresher thanks to all your hard work!

As usual at Hutchison House staff have been busy, busy, busy trying to complete all the projects on the go, with the occasional group tours and school programs thrown in. The cabinet for the new TV and stand was completed by Barry Payne and installed by Terry Kinmond. The new cabinetry looks wonderful and really adds to the look of the Harvey Connal room.

What would March be without March Break programs? Quieter! Hutchison House was filled with the sounds of children's fun and laughter for four great spring workshops. About 40 kids attended programming over March Break learning how to make playdough, scrapbooking photos of family and friends, making their own lucky leprechaun key chains and "stain glass" shamrocks, and creating and sewing their own puppets. Thanks to new volunteer Mackenzie Heffernan as well as Bob Laing, Stephanie Ritchie and Doreen Jones for helping with the kids. They certainly had a blast! On a personal note, Erin Panepinto deserves a raise! She not only designed the programs, shopped for the programs, and prepared everything for the programs, she also ran all of them. Erin you did a superb job. All of the kids were so excited they kept signing up for more. Well done.

Soon it will be time to get the gardens into shape after the long winter. We have lots to do this year as a result of last year's renovations. The Garden Committee is looking for more members, so if anyone out there has a desire to get your hands dirty or 'green up' your thumb, we'd love to hear from you. In fact, we are looking for new volunteers for all of the committees. You can contact the office at 705-743-9710 or visit our website at www.hutchisonhouse.ca to learn more about becoming a Hutchison House Museum volunteer.

Gale Fewings



Cheyenne, Taylor, Klara, Amy



Josh, James, Cheyenne, Klara, Alex, Gideon, Mikyla