

The Burlington Historical Society  
**GAZETTE**

## Margaret Hayworth

Our speaker for April will be **Robert Hayworth**. Robert will give us the story of the untimely death of his young sister, Margaret, in World War II.

**Hamilton Spectator, 16 September 2016**...Seventy-seven years ago Thursday, more than 1,000 people jammed the area around the Canadian National Railway Station to catch a glimpse of a small casket carrying the remains of a 10-year-old girl.

Margaret Hayworth was among the first Canadian fatalities of the Second World War and Hamilton was reeling in grief over her death. She was knocked unconscious by flying debris when the passenger ship Athenia was torpedoed and sunk in the North Atlantic on Sept. 3, 1939. She died six days later. Her body was transported by ship to Halifax and then by train to the station on James Street North.



This bronze plaque was originally located at St. Andrew’s Presbyterian Church in Hamilton. The church closed in the 1980s. The plaque now has a place of prominence at Knox Presbyterian Church in Burlington.

Photo by Pat Taylor

<p>Join us on April 14<sup>th</sup> 2020 at 7 pm, Centennial Room,                  Burlington Public Library, Central Branch                  To hear <b>Robert Hayworth</b></p> <p><b>Don’t forget – it’s TUESDAY this month!</b></p>	<p><i>In this issue</i></p> <table border="0"> <tr><td>President’s Report</td><td>2</td></tr> <tr><td>Outreach</td><td>2</td></tr> <tr><td>Membership Table</td><td>2</td></tr> <tr><td>Burlington Reeves</td><td>3,4</td></tr> <tr><td>How to article</td><td>5</td></tr> <tr><td>Burlington Gazette items</td><td>6</td></tr> <tr><td>Freeman Station Update</td><td>7</td></tr> <tr><td>From the Archives</td><td>7</td></tr> <tr><td>BHS Executive</td><td>7</td></tr> <tr><td>BHS Membership form</td><td>8</td></tr> </table>	President’s Report	2	Outreach	2	Membership Table	2	Burlington Reeves	3,4	How to article	5	Burlington Gazette items	6	Freeman Station Update	7	From the Archives	7	BHS Executive	7	BHS Membership form	8
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<p>Our last meeting before the summer break will be on  <b>11<sup>th</sup> May 2020</b>                  7 pm, Burlington Public Library, Central Branch</p> <p>Our May speaker is <b>John MacDonald</b>, author and historian</p>																					

BHS Members will receive the BHS Gazette and other communications and can unsubscribe at any time [info@burlingtonhistorical.ca](mailto:info@burlingtonhistorical.ca).  
 Information contained on our website, newsletters and publications is printed in good faith and for general purposes.  
 Editor: Joan Downey

## President's Report *Joan Downey*

We are in the middle of a pandemic. In an attempt to minimize the spread of the disease, the City of Burlington, along with other cities in the area, has closed all public meeting places, including the Burlington Public Library, until April 6<sup>th</sup>. With that closure, our BHS Archives are closed. In the event that the closure is extended affecting our April Public Meeting, I will send an email advising of any changes. As of today it will proceed as scheduled.

It seems that in North America the worst part is surviving the mayhem at grocery stores as panicked people stock up in anticipation of a mass quarantine.

In between writing your autobiography, watching reruns of Friends on Netflix and reading the book you checked out just before the library closed, you may want to go back to the January 2019 issue of the Gazette and read Pat Taylor's article on the Spanish Flu, a pandemic of a century ago.



## Outreach Report *Joan Downey*

During March, Pat presented Villages of Burlington to an Appleby United Church women's group. Pat does a great job and as usual, it was well received. Most attendees were amazed that there were so many unheard of villages and that they were gone, many without a trace.



VILLAGES OF BURLINGTON

Upcoming –

The Salvation Army, 8<sup>th</sup> April – Joan will present The Garden of Canada to one of their groups . Rescheduled to 24<sup>th</sup> June

Burlington Public Library, Central Branch, 21<sup>st</sup> April, 7 pm  
- Joan will present John Waldie. Open to the public.

## Membership Table *Pat Taylor*



*Welcome to our newest member*

*Rebecca Keddy*

We now have 84 members who have renewed for 2020. Time is running out

# Burlington Reeves

## Part VI – James Alexander Mortimer (Nov 9, 1852 – Nov 13, 1924)

### Burlington Reeve 1893



James Alexander Mortimer was born in Wellington Square on the 9<sup>th</sup> November 1852, the son of Richard and Jane Mortimer.

His father was a butcher in Wellington Square. James was the youngest of 4 boys and 1 girl. He grew up in the house which is now 437 Elizabeth Street.

In 2020 it is the Martini House at the entrance to Village Square.

James' brother John was a telegraph operator in Wellington Square. He died at the age of 44.

Brother William and sister Jane both moved to Michigan where they married, and had families. Brother Thomas appears only in the 1851 census, age 5. It is possible he died as a child.

1873 was an exciting year in Burlington. It was the year that Wellington Square and Port Nelson were joined to form the Village of Burlington.

On June 25<sup>th</sup> of 1873, James Alexander Mortimer, age 21, clerk, married Mary Jane Cole, age 19, spinster, both of Wellington Square. The witnesses were James' brother, William Henry Mortimer and Mary Jane's sister, Sarah Cole.

Mary Jane's father, Richard Cole, was a well to do business man in Wellington Square. He had established a successful carriage-making business and then sold it and set up, equally successfully, the Village of Burlington's first bakery and confectionery business located at Lakeshore and John Streets.

Original drawing of Richard Cole's bakery  
by Gertrude Hawcutt, BHS Archives



James & Mary Jane and their family lived at 59 Water Street East. Today that address is 2093 Old Lakeshore Road – across the street from the Water Street Cooker. Their home is still standing, now owned by others.

The house was built in 1875 by Mary Jane's father, Richard Cole. On his death in 1915, the property was bequeathed to his daughter, Mary Mortimer. The 1897 Voter's List recorded James Mortimer, Clerk at the address.



James and Mary Jane had 8 children.

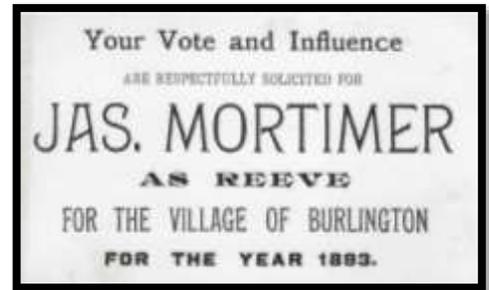
The oldest son, Richard died at the age of 13 years 9 months. Since he drowned on the 31 of January, I assume that he fell through the ice on the lake - perhaps while skating? The other children went on to establish lives of their own.

One of their daughters, Alexandrina (Lena) Northway Mortimer married Elgin Harris, the owner and Editor of the Burlington Gazette. Elgin was very influential in Burlington and went on to become the Mayor in 1921-1922. Lena & Elgin's son, George, also served as mayor in 1930-1935.

Elgin and Alexandrina's home was at 513 Locust street. Today we know it as A Different Drummer Bookstore.

Seated in the centre is Mary Jane Mortimer (1853 - 1941), mother ("Mamma") of Lena Harris, seen in part, standing at the left. James Mortimer (b. 1852, d. 1926) stands at the right. The children have not been identified.

In 1893, James Mortimer, Merchant, became the sixth Reeve of the Village of Burlington. He served for the elected one year term. There is little known about his time in office and this time in the village. The earliest newspaper, the Burlington Gazette, was not established until 1898/9.



[www.findagrave.com](http://www.findagrave.com)

James died of cancer of the esophagus on 15 November 1926. He was 74 years old.

James Alexander Mortimer, his wife Mary Jane and a number of their children are buried in Greenwood Cemetery.

**Of special interest to our BHS Members:** The house at 464 Locust Street was built, ca 1895, as the residence of Richard Cole, the father of Mary Jane Mortimer, a baker and confectioner.

Bought in 1984 by Anne and Bob Wingfield (BHS members) it was restored and renovated as a chiropractic office. Designated under the Ontario Heritage Act in 1985, it still stands today,

All photos from BHS Archives except where stated otherwise.



Are you looking for something to pass the time? Pat Taylor found this article in the book From An Old Man's Memories by W.I. Imlach (Dunnville)

## HOW TO MAKE CLAY BRICKS

A little description of a machine contrived by our builder for working up the clay for the bricks was most ingenious, and will be of interest showing the primitive methods resorted to in those early times. In the first place, a round hole was dug about two feet deep and some ten feet in diameter, and boarded at the side and bottom. In the center a post was set up, in the top of which a hole was bored; into it was placed an extra piece, and attached to a horizontal beam extending over the pit and long enough to hitch a horse or oxen to. This beam or log had alternate holes bored through it, into which hardwood pins were driven, being shorter near the upright, and gradually lengthening to the outer edge of the pit. This extra piece on top of the post formed a kind of knuckle joint, which revolved as the beam was drawn around. The clay was broken up small, with water continually added, the pins in the beam doing the grinding and working the clay up fit to be put in the moulds, which were dried and burned in a brick kiln. Will it shock my readers if I tell them that this ingenious contrivance was called a devil? But bad as this name may seem, in this instance it was not an enemy but a friend, for we could not have made our bricks without it.



Not bricks, perhaps, but close - our own J. Cooke started with handmade concrete blocks out of his home garage on New Street. Eventually that home business grew into J. Cooke Concrete Blocks, the largest producer of concrete blocks in Canada.



Jake Cooke in front of an early company truck

Photo – BHS Archives, Cooke Collection

Remember this sign?



## SUNDAY MOVIES

Burlington Gazette, 18 January 1962

The first Sunday movies in Burlington's history will be shown this weekend at the Odeon Theatre.

In response to a positive vote registered at the December 4<sup>th</sup> municipal election, Town council gave three unanimous readings Monday to a by-law authorizing Sunday Movies.

As a result, the picture "The Singer Not the Song" will open at the Odeon at 1:30 pm. John Grant, theatre manager, said his plans had been ready for some time, in anticipation of favourable action by the town council.

In the election 6,647 votes were cast in favour of Sunday movies to 4,67 against them. The Odeon which seats 425 people is the only regular movie house in Burlington.



Photo by Marcel Potvin,  
<http://cinematreasures.org/theaters/2002/photos/93453>

Editor's note: The Odeon was located at 2013 Lakeshore Road. It had previously been known as Hume's Theatre. Today that building is home to a coffee house and other small businesses.



**Boots AND Shoes.**

Having the best line of Shoes and Strap Slippers we have ever had, we want you to call and examine our lines before purchasing elsewhere.

Strap Slippers from \$1.00 to \$1.75.  
Several different styles and shapes Oxfords from 75c to \$2.50.  
Men's Dongola Lace Shoes \$2.00 to \$4.00.  
Men's Patent Leather Lace Shoes, \$4.00 and \$4.50.

These lines are strictly up-to-date, and prices lower than the lowest. Only too willing to show these shoes.

**W. WIGGINS.**

## Burlington Gazette 18 Jan 1950

William Wiggins died this morning...one of the town's best known and respected citizens died at his home after a brief illness.

The deceased came to Burlington to reside 60 years ago. He was an operator at the CNR station at Freeman and later, station agent at the CNR station at the Brant House for several years.

In 1899 he purchased the shoe store on Brant Street from Mr. Sharpe, which he conducted for many years.

He was pastmaster of Burlington Lodge No. 165 A.M. & F.M. and a charter member of Trinity United Church.

Advertisement from Burlington Gazette  
9 April 1902

## Freeman Station Update *Alan Harrington*



Opening day at Freeman Station is scheduled to be April 18. However, there is still interior work to be done.

So, when the virus lock down is ended - and the crew can get back in and finish work - it will re-open with new displays.

The Friends of Freeman Station look forward to another successful season.

Photo by Alan Harrington

## From the Archives *Joan Downey*

As most of you will know, our member Ed Keenleyside is the author of *We Were Just Doing Our Bit*, a book about each of the war casualties whose names appear on our Cenotaph.

Research for a book of that nature is a major undertaking. Ed obtained information from many sources: the Canadian Armed Forces, Library and Archives Canada, family members, churches, cemeteries, etc. He kept detailed files on each name.

Now that the book has been in print for some time, Ed has generously donated his research files to the BHS Archives – four large bins and a number of binders!

Thank you, Ed from the BHS and from all those future researchers who are going to benefit from all your hard work.



## Burlington Historical Society Executive

Officers (Elected)		Directors (Appointed)		Convenors (Appointed)		Archive Volunteers
President	Joan Downey	Programs	Alan Harrington	Greeting Cards	Anne Wingfield	Peggy Armstrong
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# The Burlington Historical Society

Preserving Burlington's History for Today and Tomorrow

## Membership - 2020

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Postal Code: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email address: \_\_\_\_\_

### Membership Dues (check all categories that apply)

New Member     Family: \$40.00     Senior: \$25.00

Renewal     Adult: \$30.00

Yes, as a **new** BHS member I wish to receive the Gazette newsletter and other e-communications and understand I can unsubscribe at any time.

## Volunteer

**Join our volunteer team** – please circle your interest(s)

RESEARCH - 50/50 DRAW - COFFEE - BYTES OF BURLINGTON - ARCHIVES - NEWSLETTER – OUTREACH -  
MEMBERSHIP - SPECIAL PROJECTS – GENERAL MEETING GREETERS – EXECUTIVE – DIRECTOR -  
TELEPHONE COMMITTEE

## Donation

I wish to make a separate donation to the society in the sum of \_\_\_\_\_

A Tax Receipt will be issued for all donations totalling \$25.00 or more

The Burlington Historical Society is a registered charity # 119217693RR0001

**Mail completed form and remittance(s) to:**

The Burlington Historical Society  
Membership Convenor  
PO Box 93164  
1450 Headon Road  
Burlington, Ontario L7M 4A3

**OR**

Leave it at the Membership table at any General Meeting.

Make cheques payable to The Burlington Historical Society.

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