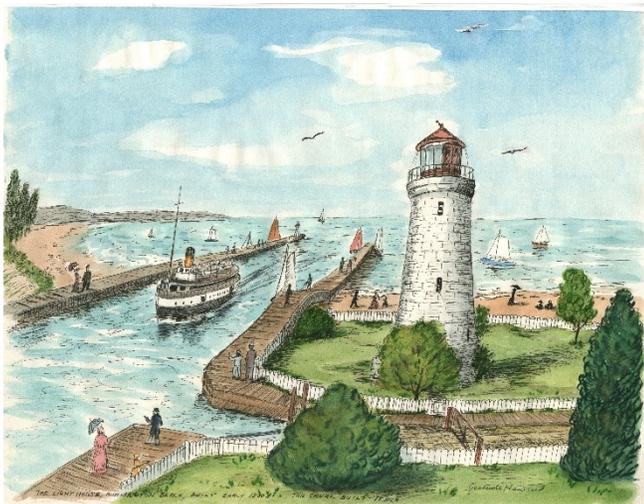


The Burlington Historical Society  
**GAZETTE**

**The Burlington Canal Lighthouse**

We have heard a lot of talk over the past number of years about the fate of the lighthouse and the lighthouse keeper’s cottage.

The Beach Canal Lighthouse Group has worked tirelessly to have this piece of our history restored. We heard from them at a meeting a few years ago about clean up efforts. But then all progress seemed to come to a halt.



Pen, ink & acrylic print by Gertrude Hawcutt, BHS Archives



Our May speaker, Stewart Patch will fill us in on the history of the lighthouse and attempts to save it.

Then he will update us on the exciting plans for 2022 and beyond for both the buildings and that area of the waterfront.

<i>This month:</i>	<i>In this issue:</i>
<p>Join us on 9<sup>th</sup> May 2022                      At 7 pm, via Zoom                      To hear Stewart Patch for an update on the  <b>Burlington Canal Lighthouse</b></p> <p>Invite your friends to join us for an                      entertaining and informative evening</p> <p>Zoom Link to follow</p> 	<p>President’s Message 2                      Membership 2                      Burlington Mayors, Part II 3, 4                      Archives (Schooners) 5, 6                      Did you know? 7                      Does this look familiar? 7                      BHS Executive 7                      Membership Form 8</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 Message *Joan Downey*



As you know, since March 2020 we have had to make many changes to the traditional way in which the society conducts business.

Your Officers and all other volunteers have worked hard to keep in touch and continue to bring you interesting and informative information. During the past 2 years we have continued to publish 8 monthly issues of the BHS Gazette and starting in January 2021 we held monthly meetings via zoom. We had a variety of speakers – even one who was live from Australia! Throughout this time our Facebook posts have continued and interesting information has been forwarded via email. Those few members who do not use email have continued to receive their copy of the Gazette and important communications via Canada Post.

As we go into our summer hiatus we find we are down about 30% on number of members as are other societies in the area. The Zoom meetings were poorly attended with only about 20-25 members per meeting. At our in person meetings prior to COVID we had 50+ members in attendance.

On the plus side we started this period with 240 followers on Facebook and are now up to 850!

Enjoy the summer and we'll see you in September – we hope in the Centennial Room at Central Library.



## Membership Report *Jane Ann Newson*



Since the April Membership article, we now show 62 members who have renewed their BHS Memberships for 2022.

As planned, we have 'moved' 2019, 2020 and 2021 members who were on our ACTIVE listing to INACTIVE status.

Perhaps you haven't yet renewed for 2022 but still wish to do so? Not a problem!

Simply complete the Membership Form on the back page of your MAY Gazette and mail it along with your remittance to the address shown on the bottom left of the form OR email the form and e-transfer your membership dues.

Enjoy your 2022 Summer!

# Burlington Mayors – Part II

## Frederick Davis (Gilbert) Ghent (1875-1943)

### Mayor of Burlington 1917

Frederick Davis Ghent was the second of four children born to United Empire Loyalist Thaddeus Ghent and his wife Hannah Davis. He was born on the family farm on Maple Avenue. Although christened Frederick **Gilbert** he went by the name Frederick **Davis** Ghent and to friends was known simply as Fred.



The Ghent Family L-R: Hannah, Maud, Thaddeus, Fred, Ina & Lucy

Fred grew up and went to school in Burlington. If he went on to pursue higher education the records cannot be found.

On April 6<sup>th</sup>, 1899 Fred married Mabel Elizabeth Dalton. The Burlington Gazette reports that their wedding was a very private affair held in his parents' parlour which was 'beautifully decorated with plants and flowers'. After the ceremony 'a dainty lunch was served and a very pleasant hour was spent in conversation and wishing the happy young couple much happiness'.

After the ceremony they departed for New York for a indefinite period. On their return, the couple moved into their new home on Ontario Street at Maple. Threatened with demolition, in 1998 the home was moved to 282 St. Paul Street where it still stands today.



282 St. Paul St.  
Photo: Pat Taylor

Fred and Mabel had 4 children, a girl and 3 boys. In 1923, tragedy struck the family when their oldest child, Dalton, age 23 drowned in Lake Ontario.

At 11 am, on a Sunday morning, he was surf riding in a canoe about 150 yards from shore, opposite the Brant Inn. The canoe capsized. His friend Allen Davidson attempted to save Dalton to no avail.

The 1921 Census of Canada shows Fred's occupation as 'farmer'. He also took a very active interest in the affairs of the new Town of Burlington. He served as Reeve, Councillor and then in 1917 as the 2<sup>nd</sup> Mayor, a position which he won with a 78 vote majority. He was also a member of the Masonic Lodge, No. 165, A.F.&A.M. He was a member of the Greenwood Cemetery Board and a Trustee of Trinity United Church.



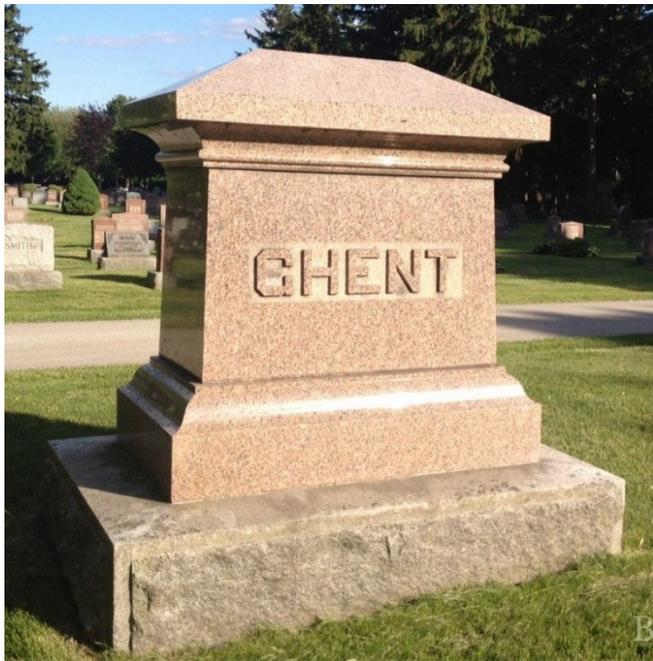
Post Office, Burlington, Ontario, Canada.—2.

Then in April of 1929 he was appointed Burlington Postmaster, a post he held for 14 years, until his death.

Fred's first wife and the mother of his children, Mabel, died of apoplexy (a stroke) at the age of 53, in September 1926. She is buried in Greenwood Cemetery.

In March of 1932 six years later, Fred was married to Margaret Dalton, possibly a cousin of Mabel. Margaret was born in England. She was a music teacher by profession and an organist at both Trinity United Church and later, at Plains United Church.

Fred died of cancer on 25 November 1943. He was 68 years old.



He was survived by Margaret and his 3 surviving children: Dr. Oliver T. Ghent, with the United States Air Force in Alaska; Newton C. Ghent, a trustee of the Burlington Public School Board and Miss Muriel Ghent, a teacher at the public school.

His obituary certainly makes his position of Postmaster of great importance with only one line devoted to his term as Mayor, which is fitting. He

was postmaster from April 1929 until his death in November 1943. He was only the Mayor of Burlington for 1 term.

On Fred's death, this second wife, Margaret, was appointed 'acting' postmaster.

Margaret died in April of 1948 as the result of an automobile accident and is also buried in the Ghent family plot in Greenwood.



We have a street in southwest Burlington named Ghent Avenue. Was it named for Fred?

No, but it was named for his family. This is from the BHS Book "What's Behind the Name?":

*Thomas Ghent, UEL 1770-1824, purchased 205.6 acres of land from Joseph Brant in 1804 and developed it into one of the earliest fruit farms in the area.*

*His son George (Fred's grandfather) built the home still standing at the corner of Brant and Prospect Streets*

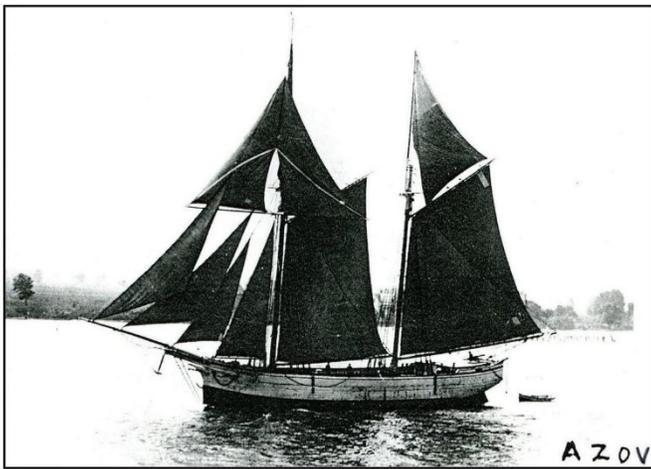


795 Brant Street

## The Schooners of Wellington Square

John Waldie and William Bunton were important names in the development of Wellington Square which, when joined with Port Nelson in 1873, became the Village of Burlington.

In addition to being merchants and wheat traders they were partners in a lake shipping enterprise operating two schooners, the Azor (or Azov) and the Sweepstakes. Each ship had a capacity of about 1200 bushels.



The Azov had an interesting history. The two-masted schooner was built in 1866 at the shipyard operated by John Potter and the accredited master builder John Simpson. It seems to have been named after the sea of Azov, where a Crimean War naval battle was fought in 1855.

The Hamilton Evening Times of September 5, 1866 announced the Launch at Wellington Square – *“Quite a large party assembled at the dock yard of the Square yesterday afternoon, to witness the launching of a new schooner which has been in process of construction for some time past. At 3 o'clock precisely the schooner, full rigged, was let go from the ways, and dashed out into the blue waters of Ontario amidst the cheers of the assembled spectators. The craft is a neatly built one, and reflects great credit on her constructors. She is owned by Messrs. Bunton & Waldie, of Wellington Square. Her owners have our earnest wishes for the future success of the new vessel.”*

Bunton and his business associates operated their schooner mostly on Lake Ontario during the first 18 seasons of her career.

By 1906 having been sold a number of times, she was owned by a Captain John McDonald of Goderich, who had her rebuilt at Sarnia. On October 22, 1911, Azov was southbound on Lake Huron loaded with lumber and shingles for Chatham. She was working her way across the mouth of Saginaw Bay in heavy weather when she began to leak. The crew exhausted themselves at the pumps and the Azov began to settle and became unmanageable. The yawl boat was lowered and crew abandoned the Azov near Point Aux Barques. She eventually came ashore near McGregor Point, about 4 miles south of Port Elgin. The elements broke her to pieces where she lay.

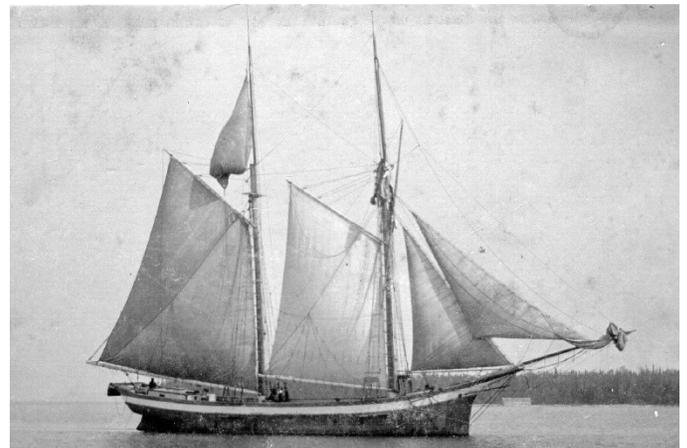


Photo – Ontario Archives

The Sweepstakes Schooner was built in Burlington in 1867, by Melancthon Simpson (brother to John who built the Azov). The two-masted wooden schooner was 119 ft. in length and the hull's maximum depth was 20 ft.

After operating on the Great Lakes for 2 decades, it was damaged off Cove Island in Georgian Bay/Lake Huron in August 1885. From there it was towed into Big Tub Harbour in Tobermory, where it sank in 1885 before repairs could be made.

The remains still lie in Big Tub Harbour. More than 135 years after she sank, the Sweepstakes Schooner is one of the most popular wrecks visited by tour boats, snorkelers and divers.



Photo: [www.tobermoray.com](http://www.tobermoray.com)

Both Waldie & Bunton are remembered fondly for their contributions to Burlington. John Waldie put up the money to purchase land for the town's first library. When it was built he provided funds to stock the shelves with books. Today, Central Library has the Waldie Study Hall dedicated to their first benefactor.

He also had the Knox Presbyterian Church stained glass windows made in Scotland and shipped to Wellington Square packed in molasses to minimize movement and damage.

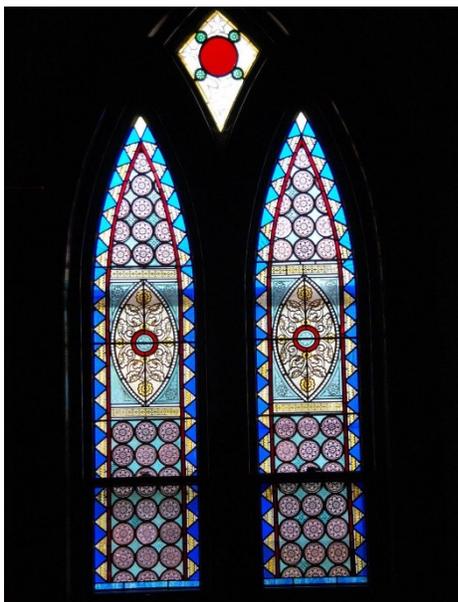
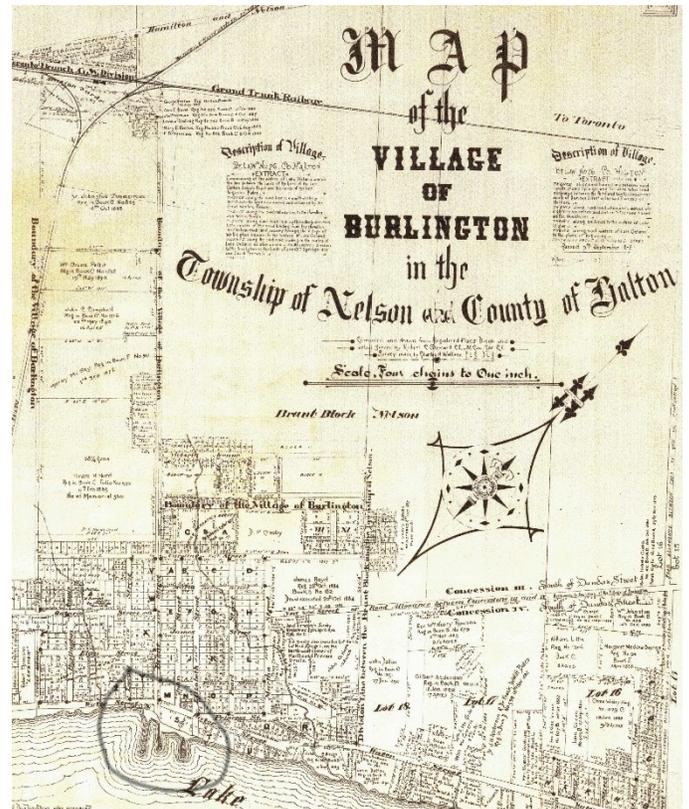


Photo Pat Taylor



Map dated 1890 showing 3 wharves – BHS Archives

In the 1800s and into the early 1900s, at the foot of Brant Street there were 3 wharves to handle shipments of mainly lumber and wheat. One of those wharves was called Bunton's Wharf after its builder, William Bunton. Today, on the north side of Lakeshore Road there is a condominium apartment building named Bunton's Wharf. In front of the building is a sundial dedicated to William Bunton.



Photo: Pat Taylor



Photo:  
www,  
victorianweb.org

**Did you know?** Early politicians required feedback from the public to determine what the people considered important. Since there were no telephones, TV's or radios, the politicians sent their assistants to local taverns, pubs and bars. They were told to 'go sip some ale' and listen to people's conversations and political concerns. Many assistants were dispatched at different times. 'You go sip here' and 'you go sip there. The two words 'go sip' were eventually combined when referring to the local opinion and thus we have the term 'gossip'.

### Does this look familiar?

A member spotted this early photo of Hamilton Market on the internet.

Burlington, Veteran Square, September 2021



Officers (Elected)		Directors (Appointed)		Convenors (Appointed)		Archives Volunteers	
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*The Burlington Historical Society*  
**Preserving Burlington's History for Today and Tomorrow**

**Membership - 2022**

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

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

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

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

**Membership Dues**

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**

Are you interested in volunteering with the Society? Would you like to help us in preserving the history of our City? Tell us a bit about your talents and interests – [info@burlingtonhistorical.ca](mailto:info@burlingtonhistorical.ca)

**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 Director  
 PO Box 93164  
 1450 Headon Road  
 Burlington, Ontario L7M 4A3

Make cheques payable to The Burlington Historical Society

**OR**

e-transfer funds to [info@burlingtonhistorical.ca](mailto:info@burlingtonhistorical.ca)



If you are a new member using e-transfer, please email the completed form to us at the above email

**OR**

Leave it at the Membership table at any General Meeting

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