

FIFTH ANNUAL HISTORICAL WALKING TOUR

Past mayors of Ottawa & Bytown



Fondation du Cimetière

Beechwood

Cemetery Foundation



JOHN ROBERTS ALLEN

Born in Goderich, Ontario in 1872, Allen had a distinguished business career as a broker and was recognized by his peers as a community leader. He was elected mayor of the city of Ottawa in 1931 and held the position until 1933. John J. Allen, entrepreneur and politician, passed away on June 7, 1935.

CHAUNCEY WARD BANGS

Born in Stanstead, Quebec on January 19, 1814, Bangs started his early career as a hatter and furrier with his father. In 1847 he came to Bytown and started his own business in the same field at 34 Sussex. In 1870 he was elected alderman for Wellington Ward and in 1878 was elected mayor of Ottawa. Bangs was also president of the Buckingham Manufacturing Company, which dealt with lumber, which he formed in 1867. Chauncey Ward Bangs, successful merchant and politician, passed away on March 21, 1892.



THOMAS BIRKETT

Born at Ottawa on February 1, 1844, Birkett was recognized as an enterprising and successful businessman who built a hardware business in Ottawa with a large store on Rideau Street at the corner of William Street. He was known to have the most extensive hardware trade in the retail and jobbing lines between Kingston and Montreal. Birkett served on the public school board for many years, was an alderman for St. George's Ward and chief magistrate of the Dominion capital. In 1891 he was elected mayor of Ottawa. Thomas Birkett passed away on October 21, 1920 at the age of 76.

WILLIAM BORTHWICK

Born in Gloucester, Carleton County, Ontario on February 13, 1848, Borthwick was mayor of Ottawa in 1895 and 1896. He also had a very successful career in the grocery trade in Ottawa and was chiefly instrumental in building up the fruit trade at the Capital where he was superintendent of city market for 4 years. William Borthwick passed away on October 17, 1928.



FRED COOK

Born in England in 1858, Cook arrived in Canada in 1882 and started working for the Montreal Star where he served his apprenticeship. In 1886, he came to the Press Gallery of the House of Commons at Ottawa as resident correspondent of the Mail. He was for many years chief of the Canadian News Service for the London Times. Cook served on the Ottawa Public School Board for four years and was alderman from 1894 to 1897. He was elected mayor of the city of Ottawa and served in 1902 and 1903. In his last year, he was editor of Government publications and then assistant of King's Printer, author of two books and president of the Professional Institute of the Civil Service. Fred Cook, an outstanding Canadian journalist, foreign correspondent and politician, died on July 16, 1943.

GEORGE COX

Born in St. Helens, Montreal, Quebec on November 17, 1834, Cox was educated in Montreal and eventually established a successful business as an engineer and lithographer in Ottawa. A conservative and methodist, he served as an alderman for 10 years and was elected mayor of the City of Ottawa in 1894. Cox served as chairman of the Board of Health and Property & Waterworks Committees. Cox became a prominent member of the Masonic Order, the Independent Order of Oddfellows and for five years was president of the Liberal Conservation Association. George Cox, businessman and politician, passed away December 17, 1909.



JAMES DAVIDSON

Born in Ottawa on November 1, 1857, Davidson emigrated to Liverpool, England where he was long engaged in the lumber manufacturing business. He was the pioneer of the ready-made sash, door and other finished lumber goods in Britain. Formerly head of the firm D. & Thackray, lumber manufacturers, when he returned to Ottawa he eventually started business under his own name, having extensive work and mills at Ottawa and at Davidson, Quebec. Davidson was President of the Wholesale and Retail Lumber Dealers Association, an alderman for the city of Ottawa, chairman of the Board of Works and eventually mayor of Ottawa in 1901. He built and owned the Dominion Theater in Ottawa and was president of the Capital Lacrosse Club for six years. James Davidson, manufacturer and the man some said was responsible for the miles of finely constructed and well kept streets, for which the national capital has become celebrated, passed away on October 6, 1911.

MOSS KENT DICKINSON

Born in Denmark, New York, U.S.A. on June 1, 1822, Dickinson lived in Ottawa from 1859 to 1870 during which time he built an extremely successful shipping business. His ships had been on the Rideau since 1844 and he became known as "King of the Rideau" by the 1850's when he had sixteen steamers and sixty barges in his fleet. He was Mayor of Ottawa from 1864 to 1866. In 1870 he moved to Manotick where he ran his stone grist mills. A member of Parliament for Russell from 1882 to 1886 and always an active supporter of John A. MacDonald and his party. Moss Kent Dickinson passed away on July 19, 1897.



JAMES ALBERT ELLIS

Born in Accrington, Lancashire, England on June 2, 1864, Ellis received his education in England where he studied law and emigrated to Canada in 1885. He began his business life as vice-president of the Independent Coal Company Limited and of B. Sinn, Limited. Elected to the Public School Board in 1898 and served as trustee until 1900, he then became an alderman from 1901 to 1903. In 1904 he was elected mayor of the city of Ottawa, holding this post to 1906. He was later re-elected mayor in 1913. President of the Ontario Municipal Association in 1906-07, city treasurer, chairman of the Ottawa Conservative Association and finally elected to provincial politics for Ottawa West. Ellis also served as chairman of the Ottawa Hydro Electric Commission from 1905 to 1916. James Albert Ellis, lawyer and politician, passed away on December 24, 1934.

JOHN PETER FEATHERSTON

Born in Mewhus Grange, Durham, England on November 28, 1830, Featherston was educated at Richmond School, Yorkshire, England. He came to Canada in 1858 and settled in Ottawa, where for sixteen years he was engaged in the pharmaceutical business. He was elected alderman of St. George's ward in 1867, a position which he held for eight years. While on City Council, he chaired the Civic Board of Works and the Finance Committees. Featherston was elected Mayor of the city of Ottawa in 1874 and 1875. A reform party member and president of its association, he was appointed deputy clerk of the Crown, Clerk of the County Court and Registrar of the Surrogate Court in 1879, by the Ontario Government. Featherston, druggist and politician, passed away on June 17, 1917.



HAROLD FISHER

Born in Ontario in 1877, Fisher was educated at the University of Toronto and Osgoode Hall. He immediately embarked on the practice of law and came to Ottawa to enter into partnership. He was created a King's Counsel and later declined an appointment to the Supreme Court of Ontario. Fisher began a career in politics as an alderman, controller and finally mayor of the City of Ottawa from 1917 to 1920. He later entered provincial politics, representing an Ottawa seat in the legislature. It is largely due to his initiative and driving force that Ottawa owes its magnificent Civic Hospital. Harold Fisher, lawyer and politician, died on December 19, 1928.

KENNETH HUBERT FOGARTY

Born in Ottawa on May 8, 1932, Fogarty received bachelor's and master's degrees from the University of Ottawa and graduated from Osgoode Hall in 1948. He began a private practice in Ottawa in 1950. He was sworn as a mayor of the City of Ottawa on January 1, 1970 after almost 10 years as a city alderman and member of board of control. He served as mayor for just over 2 years. Appointed to the bench in 1972, Judge Fogarty, known to many as "Fog" for his deep thundering voice in Court, was still serving upon his death on January 14, 1989.



ROBERT A. HASTEY

Born in Ottawa in 1847, Hasteley in his earlier days conducted a stage coach line to the Gatineau Hills until the arrival of the railway. He served for 17 years as a member of council representing St. George's Ward. He founded the Independent Coal Company in 1901 and carried on business for 18 years. In 1906, he was elected mayor of the City of Ottawa and served for part of the year. One of the successes of which he was extremely proud was the conversion of the old Sandy Hill burying grounds (many of the interments were removed to Beechwood Cemetery) to Macdonald Gardens. Robert A. Hasteley, merchant and politician, passed away on September 8, 1930.

CHARLES HOPEWELL

Born in South March, Carleton County, Ontario in 1864, a contractor by trade, Hopewell served as a city alderman from 1900 to 1907, controller in 1908 and finally mayor of the City of Ottawa from 1909 to 1912. He was also president of the Union of Canadian Municipalities in 1910. He was appointed magistrate in 1922. Charles Hopewell passed away on May 15, 1931.



JOHN BOWER LEWIS

Born in France, John Bower Lewis came to Canada with his parents in 1820. He studied law in Toronto and was accepted to the bar in 1839. While practising his profession in Bytown, he was, for a short time, solicitor for the County of Carleton. At the time of Confederation he was one of the ablest lawyers in the country. He was elected councillor in the first election of Bytown in 1847 and he was chosen mayor in 1848. He was elected Ottawa's first mayor in 1855 and remained in that position until 1857. In 1863, he was chosen as commissioner of Ottawa's police force. It is during his term that Queen Victoria chose Ottawa to be the nation's capital. John Bower Lewis signed the eloquent memorial which Ottawa had sent to the Queen on May 18, 1857. Lewis died on November 20, 1874.

JOHN EDWARD STANLEY LEWIS

Born in Ottawa on February 29, 1888, Lewis started his career in the electrical field and eventually opened his own business in 1914. Lewis entered politics in 1930 as an alderman, then controller and finally mayor of the city of Ottawa in 1936, a position which he held for an unbroken record of 13 consecutive years. He also held the record for being Ottawa's longest serving member and chairman of the Dominion Champion Britannia Club canoe team, a Dominion roller skating champion in 1909 and 1910 and actively worked in local sports. Recipient of the Order of the British Empire, John Edward Stanley Lewis, businessman, politician and athlete, passed away on August 18, 1970.

LAURENCE LYON

Born in Richmond, Ontario on July 6, 1829, the son of George Lyon, one of the founders of Richmond. Lyon received his early education in Richmond and then studied law in Montreal, Quebec. He was elected Mayor of the City of Ottawa in 1867, being an alderman at the same time. He also represented the county of Carleton in the first Parliament after Confederation, serving four sessions. He took his place on the Bench in 1873 and served as County Judge. Robert Lyon, lawyer and politician, passed away on March 25, 1888.

CHARLES HERBERT MACKINTOSH

Born in London, Ontario on May 13, 1843, Macintosh started his early career in journalism by writing dime novels for a Boston publishing house at thirteen years of age. At seventeen, he penned the "Welcome to H.R.H., the Prince of Wales" which was presented to him on his visit to Upper Canada in 1860. Macintosh became editor of the Free Press, Hamilton Times, Strothoy Dispatch, Parkhill Gazette, Chicago Journal of Commerce, the Mail and finally the Ottawa Citizen. Attracted to politics, he served as the mayor of the city of Ottawa from 1879 to 1881. One of his accomplishments as Mayor was the construction of the long awaited Gatineau Valley Railroad, at no cost to taxpayers. In 1882 he was appointed lieutenant-governor of the Northwest Territories, resigning in 1898. Macintosh twice served the capital as a member of Parliament. His last work was Canada's Diamond Jubilee, a history of the Dominion since Confederation. The Honorable Charles Herbert Macintosh, journalist, writer, poet and politician, a man whose career was crowned with honors and achievements, passed away on December 22, 1931.



EDWARD MCGILLIVRAY

Born in Lochiel, Glengarry County on September 15, 1815, McGillivray excelled in mathematics during his education and with ten pence in copper at the age of 16, entered a store in L'Original, County of Prescott, where he served four years apprenticeship at the mercantile trade. In 1835 he came to Ottawa and started his own business where he first dealt in dry goods and groceries and later in the wholesaling of groceries and provisions. A conservative in politics, McGillivray served eight years in the city council of Ottawa and was the first mayor to be elected by the people, in 1858, for a term of two years. Edward McGillivray, politician and one of the leading merchants in Ottawa, passed away on November 23, 1885.

TAYLOR MCVEITY

Born at Richmond, Ontario on February 20, 1860, McVeity received his law degree from Osgoode Hall. In 1887 he organized the Macdonald Club, so named in honor of Sir John A. Macdonald. In 1888 he was elected an alderman. McVeity was also a very active participant in the equal rights movement of 1890. He served as city solicitor for 13 years and was elected mayor of the City of Ottawa in 1914. Taylor McVeity, lawyer and politician, passed away on March 21, 1951



FRANK HENRY PLANT

Born in London, Ontario in 1884, Plant came to Canada in 1900 where he worked in various enterprises. Later he entered the investment business where he was most successful. He was alderman for Capital Ward in 1917-18, controller in 1919-20 and finally mayor of Ottawa from 1921 to 1923 and also in 1930. In 1936 he was appointed to the Ottawa Hydro Electric Commission where he spent 19 years of service, 12 of them as the Commission's chairman. He was president of the Ontario Municipal Electric Association and director-president of the Central Canada Exhibition Association of Ottawa. Frank Henry Plant, businessman, politician and sportsman, passed away on November 7, 1952.

NELSON D. PORTER

Born in Montreal, Quebec on November 29, 1862, Porter came to Ottawa with his parents in 1870 and attended Kent Street School. He established the real estate and insurance firm which bears his name. In 1915 and 1916, Porter served as mayor of the City of Ottawa and survived the controversial issue of water supply to the city, following a severe typhoid epidemic (the Ottawa River was his choice, and he won). An avid sportsman, Porter once played for the Ottawa Hockey Club. Nelson D. Porter, businessman, politician and sportsman, passed away on February 12, 1961.



JOHN ROCHESTER

Born at Rouse's Point, New York on May 22, 1822, Rochester came to Bytown in 1833. With his brother James, he established the first brewery in the city in 1856. He then turned his efforts to the lumber trade and built two large steam mills on the Chaudiere and worked there until his retirement in 1885. Rochester was voted mayor of Ottawa in 1870 and 1871 and was instrumental in the organization, erection and equipment of the Ottawa Ladies College. He was a member of parliament from 1872 to 1884, representing the county of Carleton. John Rochester passed away on September 19, 1894.

MCLEOD STEWART

Born in Bytown on February 6, 1847, Stewart was educated at the University College in Toronto, where he obtained his M.D. in 1870. He was admitted to the Ontario bar in the same year and became one of the country's most distinguished lawyers. He was elected mayor of Ottawa in 1887 and 1888 and he strongly advocated the purchase and setting aside of Rockcliffe for a public park. He was a life member of the Protestant Orphans' Home and was one of the original founders of the Protestant Home for the Aged. He was the first president of the Agricultural Society, a charter member of the Rideau Club, president of the St. Andrew's Society and chief of the Caledonian Society. In the field of business, he was president of the Stewart Ranch Company, president of the Canadian Anthracite Coal Company and president of the Canada Atlantic Railway. Mayor Stewart was also one of the original officers of the Governor General's Foot Guards. McLeod Street was named after him. He passed away on October 9, 1926.



HENRY WATTERS

Born in Ottawa on June 1, 1853, Watters started his early career as a druggist clerk. In 1874 he received his degree from the Ontario College of Pharmacy and started his own business. Throughout his 50 years as a druggist, Watters' efforts and interests on behalf of local merchants was untiring, while participating on numerous committees and councils within the Merchants' Associations of Ontario. With keen interest in politics, Watters was elected mayor of the city of Ottawa and served in the position for part of 1924. Henry Watters, retail merchant and politician, passed away on May 10, 1924.

ALEXANDER WORKMAN

Born in Lisburn, Ireland on May 28, 1798, Workman came to Canada in 1820 and gained great success as an educator in Montreal. In 1845 he travelled to Ottawa and founded the Workman & Griffin, later Workman Company, a hardware merchant business. He acted as a member of the school board and superintendent of schools, as well as city alderman for fourteen years. Serving as mayor of the City of Ottawa from 1860 to 1862, Workman had the privilege of entertaining the Prince of Wales when the latter laid the corner stone of the Parliament buildings. Alexander Workman, merchant and politician, passed away on December 12, 1891.



Fondation du Cimetière

Beechwood

Cemetery Foundation

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◆ HISTORY TOLD, LIVES CELEBRATED ◆
◆ L'HISTOIRE RACONTÉE, DES VIES CÉLÉBRÉES ◆

