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Collection Tales: History has a way of catching up with you

By Paul Robertson, B.J., M.A., Curator

Although they cannot speak to us directly, with a little prodding and some historical detective work, artefacts often have interesting stories to tell us about their origin and use, their owners, and the places they have been. Speaking from my own personal experience, sometimes those tales come a little closer to home than you would ever expect.

One such artefact in the collections of the Museum of Health Care is a finely polished wooden medicine cabinet. Made of mahogany, the 133 cm cupboard could be described as an "all-in-one" doctor's office. It contains tin caddies for spools of plaster bandages, rows of drug bottles with glass stoppers, and spaces for such supplies as a triangular "Esmarch" first dressing bandage, doctor's calling cards, and other instruments. The cabinet and most of its contents were made by Ferris & Co. of Bristol, England at the end of the 1800s. This firm was founded in 1754 and operated well into the 1900s supplying pharmaceutical products and medical instruments.

The medicine chest began its long journey at the end of the 1800s when its original owner Dr. James (Jim) Robert Ronald McCrindle acquired it. The son of a Scottish druggist who had emigrated from Glasgow to colonial Jamaica, British West

Indies in 1859, Dr. McCrindle was born above his father's shop in Michell's Old Medical Hall, Kingston, Jamaica in 1862. Twenty years later his widowed mother returned to Scotland with Jim McCrindle and his siblings. It was there that he graduated from the University of Glasgow in general medicine and surgery in 1885.

After practicing medicine in the United Kingdom for nearly twenty years, the tropical warmth and colour of his birthplace drew Dr. McCrindle and his wife and four children back to Jamaica in 1904. The doctor's nurse Blanche Hopley accompanied them. It is believed that the mahogany pharmacy cabinet also made the trip. Family anecdotes describe the near loss of all the family's possessions

when their ship suddenly sunk in harbour after arriving at the capital Kingston. Three years later on the 14 January 1907 the cabinet survived yet another disaster when a powerful earthquake struck the city and the McCrindle home was reduced to rubble.

In the years that followed Dr. McCrindle ran a general practice from his new home. Like most physicians of his day, he made his own medications and maintained his own dispensary. His *continued on page 2*



This late 1800s Medicine Cabinet served as an all-in-one doctor's office in the UK and Kingston, Jamaica.

continued from page 1

granddaughter Betty James recounts her memory of his patients' reverence for her grandfather. She also notes that he continued practicing medicine until his death in Kingston, Jamaica in 1952. Nurse Hopley (known as "Auntie Blanche" to the younger members of the family) remained a member of the household until she died.

In 1975 Dr. McCrindle's cabinet made yet another long journey when Mrs. James inherited the piece and brought it to Canada. It remained in her Toronto home until she decided to donate it to the Academy of Medicine's Museum of the History of Medicine in 1989. The cupboard's travels did not end here, however.

KGH Auxiliary Celebrates Rich History 'Passionate' Read

The Kingston General Hospital recently launched a book chronicling its complete history called *Purpose & Passion: The Kingston General Hospital Auxiliary 1905-2005*. This detailed history of the volunteer organization recognizes the countless hours served by thousands of local women and men providing much of the non-medical care at KGH.

The book was written by Kingston freelance writer Ellen Barton through the support of the Davies Charitable Foundation and the Community Foundation of Greater Kingston. "I was quite surprised at how much history – interesting details – that existed about the Auxiliary. As I

It was only after an enquiry from his aunt Betty James regarding the whereabouts of her grandfather's medicine chest that the newly arrived Curator discovered it in the collection of the Museum of Health Care in 2004. When the Academy of Medicine museum closed several years after Mrs. James donated the cabinet, it was one of the artefacts transferred to Kingston – Ontario, that is.

My great-grandfather's much travelled pharmacy cabinet is now a treasure in the Museum of Health Care's collections and an able witness to medical education and health care of the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries.

researched the book, I discovered that many of the challenges that affected KGH, such as financial constraints, also affected the Auxiliary. This vibrant volunteer organization did not exist in a vacuum." What she anticipated would be a 100-page story turned into a 280-page volume filled with rich, interesting facts and stories.

Purpose & Passion: Kingston General Hospital Auxiliary 1905-2005 is available for \$22, taxes included, from the KGH Auxiliary Gift Shop, the KGH Auxiliary Tuck Shop and Novel Idea. You can also visit the Museum's exhibit chronicling this rich history in the Kingston General Hospital Hall of Honour.

Coming Up...



- Learn all about the intriguing history of public health campaigns in the Canadian military, during the first and second World Wars, at our 2005 Margaret Angus Research Evening, rescheduled for the spring of 2006. Research Fellow Christopher Webb will reveal the secrets of what was once called "Canada's greatest public menace" – venereal disease.
- The Astonishing Past of Kingston General Hospital Walking Tour begins its 5th season in May 2006. In the meantime, you can book group tours of one of the most unique National Historic Sites in Canada – or, if you want to enjoy this fascinating history in the comfort of the predictable indoors, we now have a portable, slideshow version that you can book for your event or community group. Give us a call for fees and other details.
- The Museum will be partnering with the Kingston Frontenac Lennox & Addington Public Health Unit for World TB day, during their Health Care Professional Information event on Wednesday, March 22, 2006. Want to know more about the past and present challenges of 'Fighting the White Plague'? Why not visit the Museum's exhibit in the KGH Hall of Honour, or visit the Stop TB partnership website, http://www.stoptb.org/events/world_tb_day/, or the KFL&A Public Health Unit website, <http://www.healthunit.on.ca/>.

Would you like to provide an 'uplifting' experience to Museum Visitors?

Now that we have a completed elevator tower and stairwell, the Museum of Health Care at Kingston is looking for generous individuals or organizations who would be interested in sponsoring the installation of an elevator to complete the package! This next step is essential in allowing us to better care for our collections, and provide better access to Museum programs to all visitors, including those facing physical challenges. Please contact Dr. James A. Low at 613-548-2419 or museum@kgh.kari.net if you are interested in this exciting opportunity.

New Endowment Fund Makes Museum's Future More Secure

by Dr. James Low, Executive Director

The continuing development of the Museum is a source of satisfaction to the Board of Directors, staff and volunteers of the Museum. Support of our Endowment fund is essential to ensure this development continues in the future.

The close of 2005 marked the beginning of a much anticipated phase in the Museum of Health Care at Kingston. Phase 1 of the restoration and renovation of the Ann Baillie Building National Historic Site is approaching completion. This includes restoration of the foundations and perimeter drainage; restoration and renovation of level 0 to create museum collection storerooms with mechanical and electrical support systems to provide an optimal environment to benefit the collection; and construction of a stairwell and elevator tower to provide barrier-free entrance and access to the Museum.

The Museum's contribution to the preservation of the legacy of health care is the growth of the collection reflecting the whole spectrum of health care in Canada. The careful documentation of each artefact assures the value of the collection to express the history and science of health care. The most exciting development in this era is the opportunity for the Museum to place the artefact catalogue with images on the Museum website and Artefacts Canada so the collection is fully accessible to the national and international community as a research resource.

None of this is possible without an annual budget to meet the operating costs and particularly the funding for the professional staff that is the key to achieving the mission of the Museum. The only way for a non-profit corporation to assure that the development of the Museum will continue is to have an Endowment Fund that will assure the funding for the professional staff.

Progress is occurring in the development of an Endowment Fund and this year the Board of Directors is particularly grateful to the Loyal Marshall Orange Lodge No. 6 for establishing the "John and Lillian Dodds Endowment Fund".



Dr. J. Low and Members of the Loyal Marshall Orange Lodge #6



John Dodds

John Dodds was born in Edinburgh on April 17, 1913. In 1927 in response to Canadian advertisements for farm workers, he sailed for Canada and reached St John, New Brunswick ten days later. He worked in the farming community initially in New Brunswick and subsequently in the Wilmer – Perth Road area after moving to Ontario. After moving to Kingston John worked at Frontenac Auto Electric for 35 years until his retirement at age 65.

John was a remarkably energetic man. John's first love was his family including his wife Lillian, three boys (La Vern, Lyle, and Bruce) and two girls (Leona and Carolyne). He served on behalf of a number of organizations of which the

most important were his Church and the Orange Lodge.

He was the founding member and first Sunday School Superintendent of Kingscourt United Church. He saw the church through the building of a small church (now the church hall) and then the building of a larger church for a growing congregation. He held many positions in the church, and was Clerk of the Session for 25 years. He also sang in the choir, often as a soloist.

John initially joined Loyal Orange Lodge No 1042 on Perth Road, and later joined the Loyal Orange Lodge No 6 (Sir John A. MacDonald was a past Master) becoming Master in 1960 and Secretary from 1978 onward. He was the organizing and guiding force of the Lodge for many years. Under his direction, it changed over time from a purely fraternal organization into primarily a charitable one.

The Endowment Fund on behalf of John and Lillian Dodds was established by Grenville Guthrie, Colin Blyth, Robert Leonard and Colin Wilkinson of the Loyal Marshall Orange Lodge No 6. This Endowment Fund that will be of long-term benefit to the Museum will in the first instance provide some financial support to the Kingscourt United Church for a period up to 15 years. Thus the Endowment Fund serves the two long-standing interests of John and Lillian Dodds.

Behind the Scenes Tours, Celebrities & One Great Party!

by Mary-Kathleen Dunn, Museum Manager

Ever wonder how we store all of our intriguing artefacts? Over 85 visitors found out when they joined us for an Open House and Reception on October 12th, in celebration of the completion of Phase 1 of the renovation and restoration of the Ann Baillie Building. In attendance were Alan Sullivan, Board Member from the Ontario Heritage Foundation, Dan Couture, head of the Kingston Liberal Association, Joe de Mora, President and CEO of Kingston General Hospital, and city councillors Floyd Patterson and Beth Pater. Guests were treated to behind the scenes tours of the newly renovated, state of the art storerooms, containing a range of treasures including 19th century microscopes, wax anatomical models, and surgical instruments.

“I am delighted that the Ontario Heritage Foundation was able to contribute to such a worthwhile project,” said Ontario Heritage Foundation Board Member, Alan Sullivan. “Supporting sites such as the Museum of Health Care is essential to preserving and protecting Ontario’s rich and varied heritage”.

Phase 1 of the renovation and restoration was funded by the Anna and Edward C. Churchill Foundation, John Dodds & the Marshall Loyal Orange Lodge #6, the Ontario Heritage Foundation, the Ontario Trillium Foundation, the Department of Canadian Heritage Cultural Spaces program, and the KGH Nursing Alumnae.



Visitors including Marine Museum Executive Director Paul George enjoy a behind the scenes tour of the Museum’s new storerooms, given by Curator Paul Robertson, and a sneak peek of the new elevator tower, with words from Dr. Jim Low.



Other Program Highlights...

- Over 70 grade 9 students visited the Museum’s display at Kingston General Hospital’s Take your Kid to Work Day on November 2nd.
- The Museum participated in the Memory Project Roadshow, held at the Kingston Public Library Central Branch on October 26th. The program brought together veterans, youth,

archivists, historians and community members to digitize the oral histories and personal memorabilia of Veterans living in Ontario. A highlight of the Museum’s display was a uniform worn by Nursing Sister Miriam Hartrick.

Storage Relocation Update

by Tim Gregory, Assistant Curator

In July of 2005, the project I like to call “Operation Bring Stuff Down Stairs, Sort It Out, And Assign It To A New Location (While Simultaneously Addressing Conservation Concerns)” officially began. The purpose of this project is to reorganize the museum’s growing collection in such a way as to allow for maximum utilization of space, while also ensuring its long-term preservation. In just six months we have already moved more than one third of the collection to the new basement storage rooms.

Previously, our artefacts (many of which are very small) were stored on non-adjustable shelves in the museum’s old storage rooms, accounting for a lot of wasted space. Our new storage units allow small artefacts to be laid in shallow drawers and larger artefacts to be put on shelves, which can be adjusted to meet their sizes, which means, no more wasted space!

But wait, there’s more! Not only are we drastically improving the storage of our collection, we are also using this opportunity to re-sort it. Previously, newly acquired artefacts were basically put wherever they would fit meaning that related artefacts might be scattered throughout the entire building. Now everything within a specific subject will be stored together. The process of sorting the collection requires gathering up all of the artefacts from within a certain subject and sorting them out according to their uses, their sizes, and their composite materials. We also carefully examine each artefact to address its condition, and determine if it needs any special treatment.

It is a lot of work, but it is well worth it to ensure the accessibility and preservation of the collection. So if you need me, I’ll be in the basement!

Name that Artefact!

by Tim Gregory, Assistant Curator

The Museum of Health Care is constantly adding to its ever-growing collection. Here are a few of the more fascinating artefacts we have recently acquired. Can you guess what they were used for?

It looks like a simple radio, but it is actually a telephone EKG transmitter. This device was used in a process called transtelephonic monitoring for a patient to have their heart monitored from the comfort of their own home. The device is placed against the chest above the heart, where three small metal discs interact with an implanted pacemaker. A telephone receiver is then placed on the speaker and the information is instantly transmitted to the doctor or to a specialized answering machine. These tools are useful for ensuring that the pacemaker is working correctly, especially in the weeks following the implantation. The name of this device was the Medtronic Teletrace 9403 Telephone EKG Transmitter and it was made and used in the 1970s or 80s.

Similar tools are used to monitor heart-beat and blood pressure with the use of electrodes. Some are worn continuously for periods of a few weeks (and you can't get them wet!), and some are even implanted under the skin for months at a time. They are used to record cardiac "events" which a patient may experience and want to record for their doctor. This is useful because you know when you go to the doctor complaining about a specific symptom, it will never happen!

Devices of this type are also useful for people working in remote areas, or for sailors who spend a lot of time on a ship with no physician.



This is the ancestor of a product still used commonly today that can be purchased at any drugstore. Can you guess what it is? The answer is in the picture if you can squint enough!

This is Sampson's Tri-cel Hot Water Bottle OR Ice Bag. This canvas pouch has three pockets, each containing a removable metal canister. The canisters were filled with hot or cold water depending on the treatment required by the patient and used just like a modern hot/cold pad. The individual pouches also allowed the bag to be quite flexible, making it perfect for wrapping snugly around sore arms or legs, or contouring to fit a stiff back.

Though not as convenient as modern pads, which you can simply toss into the microwave or the freezer, it is a big improvement over the bulky ceramic hot water bottles often used around the same time (it was patented in 1904).

Curatorial Corner



Thank goodness for anesthesia! These friendly little fellows are called acetabular reamers and they are used during hip replacement surgery. The bit at the end plugs into a motorized device, causing them to spin rapidly, just like a drill.

The acetabulum is the socket on your pelvis bone into which the head of the femur fits. When the hip is replaced the socket has to be hollowed out so that a cup can be inserted into it. The reamer on the left is used for removing cartilage and bone from the socket. The one on the right is more specialized and would spin in an already drilled socket to make threaded grooves for a cup to screw into. Don't worry, you won't feel a thing!

Hip replacements require delicate precision. These reamers come in sets consisting of a series of reamers of several different sizes so the surgeon can make the socket as big or as small as necessary. For more information about joint replacements, why not come and see the "Joint Ventures" exhibit at the Museum of Health Care!

Artefacts on the Road!

By Paul Robertson, Curator

Several artefacts from the Museum of Health Care's collection remain on loan to out-of-town exhibitions in 2006.

Growing Up in Montréal / Grandir à Montréal at the McCord Museum in Montreal has been extended until 7 January 2007. Visit the McCord Museum website at <http://www.mccord-museum.qc.ca/en/>.

The Caring Profession / Les soins infirmiers - Histoire d'une profession, a major exhibition on the history of Canadian nursing continues at the Canadian Museum of Civilization in Gatineau, Quebec until 7 August 2006. Get a show preview at <http://www.civilization.ca/cmcc/nursing/nursee.html>.

Education Matters

by Tim Crease, Acting Education Officer



Tim Crease, Education Officer

Well, the lovely autumn has left us and we are gearing up for the season of poor weather driving as we continue with the delivery of our outreach programs. The fall saw us deliver programming to 22 classrooms and over 627 kids, including 2 deliveries for the first ever time to high school students. This was an important trial period, as the Museum has this school year implemented a nominal 'cost recovery' fee for the programs. We all know of the valuable efforts that go into the development and delivery of our programs, but it's a tricky thing to charge customers what they are accustomed to receive for free. Obviously the quality of our programs has shone through any potential 'budgeting miasma' our teacher/clients might perceive: of the 22 deliveries over 40% were repeat customers from the last years.

The fall was also witness to the first ever delivery of the Museum's second most recently developed and evaluated program, "The Fight Against Infectious Diseases". A class of enthusiastic French immersion students from nearby Module Vanier (Located in KCVI) came to the Museum for a

walking fieldtrip and, after a guided tour of our exhibits and new storage facilities, we all went back to the classroom to participate in the new program. It was a great success (in English) and our culminating discussions served to prove just how aware and concerned today's students are about this important topic, especially with the world-wide watch on the developments of the 'Avian Flu'.

The development of new programming is a valourous commitment the Museum has made. Our educational consultant Alan Hesketh continues to work on the two topical and important programs concerning today's students, the societal epidemic of obesity and the history and current issues surrounding type 1 and 2 diabetes. These programs are scheduled to be field-tested and evaluated in the new year and available for outreach in the school year 2006-07.

Outreach Education Programs Currently Available

If you know of any teacher or student whose classroom experience will be enhanced by our interesting and academically linked programming, why not let them know about us! For more information or to book a program, call 549-6666 ext. 3916 or email creaset@kgh.kari.net

- Grade 3:** Early Canadian Medicine: Disease, Medicine and Health Care of Early Settlers
- Grade 4:** Avoid it like the Plague: Medicine and Healing in the Middle Ages
- Grade 5:** Medicine and Healing in Early Civilizations
- Grade 6:** Aboriginal Systems of Health Care
- Grade 7:** The Fight Against Infectious Diseases, 1600 - 1850 The Biology, Prevention, and Control of Waterborne Diseases (2 Parts)
- Grade 8:** The History of Health Care in Canada, 1840 - 1914
- Grades 9&10:** Pandemic! The Spanish Influenza (60 minutes) Health Care in World War I (60 minutes)

Museum Hires then 'Lets Go' Seasonal Migrant Workers

by Hugh Caughtem, Undercover Reporter

In a move worthy of the largest 'for-profit' multinationals, the MHC has recently been accused of exploiting several northern Ontario migrant worker leeches who wanted nothing more than to support educational programming and occasionally have their water changed. Sources say that the Museum's Outreach Education Program lured the leech family to Kingston with promises of a blood meal, then promptly put them into servitude scaring schoolchildren whose teachers had had the poor judgment to book the Museum's 'Pioneer Medicine' and 'Medieval Health Care' programs. A spokesperson from the Museum's education office refused comment other than to say, "We like to use inspiring artifacts, compelling imagery and intriguing kinesthetic learning methods in our presentations,



and the leeches never fail to engage students". But at what cost and risk, this reporter asks? And what of the human cost? Sources inside the Museum indicate that while in servitude, the leeches were kept in a refrigerator-like holding cell right next to employee lunches to prevent them any chance of escape or indeed access to legal

representation. This practice may even have led to labour unrest at the Museum, as workers there soon began to whisper about collective bargaining and increased benefits. Several mysterious union agitators were known to have been in the area, seeking to sign up employees and/or leeches to the Brotherhood of Elevator Installers, local 157. When this reporter asked to be granted access to the leeches for an interview, he was told that they had been 'let go', which sounds like an ominous euphemism for being dumped in the Little Cataraqui Creek. Further investigations into the unsavory goings-on in the Education Department will be forthcoming.

Looking for a Few Good Volunteers!

Do you have a passion for health care history? Or perhaps you just love working with people? The Museum of Health Care is now recruiting for the following volunteer positions: Exhibits Assistants, Special Events Assistants, Interpreters, and Cataloguing Assistants. Time commitment ranges from 2 to 12 hours per month. Give Mary a call at 613-548-2419 to find out more, or visit our website at www.museumofhealthcare.ca/postings.ca.

New Volunteers

Donna Caldwell joined us in 2005 as a Museum Interpreter and Cataloguer. Donna has worked as a researcher, writer, teacher and a Philosophy lecturer. Donna regularly welcomed visitors to the Museum on Saturday afternoons during this past summer. While not volunteering at the Museum, Donna can be found at the 10 Thousand Villages store on Princess Street, selling fairly traded handicrafts from around the world.

Kate Graff joined us in the spring of 2005 as an Exhibits Assistant. She recently completed her Honours History and Fine Arts undergraduate degree, and is currently working for the Canadian Cancer Society. So far, Kate has developed an offsite exhibit maintenance checklist for our outreach galleries, and periodically uses it to make sure that our offsite exhibits are well maintained.



Alex Hoffman joins the Museum of Health Care this year, aiding the completion of the online artifact photo-catalog. He is currently majoring in Sociology at Queen's. Originally from London Ontario, Alex is a new resident of Kingston and is very much enjoying his first year.



Jessica Lui joins us as the Administrative and Public Relations Representative. She is currently a third year Sociology major and History minor. Jessica is excited to learn more about medical history's past and hopes that it will further her studies in history. Her vision as the public relations representative will be to increase the attendance of visitors to the museum as well allowing Queen's classes to incorporate trips to the museum as part of the course curriculum.



In November 2005, the Museum took part in a joint program between KGH & Loyalist College, during which students chronicled a 'Day in the Life' of hospital staff. Barry Springle, Loyalist College took this striking image of joint replacements in the Museum's collection. Sharp eyes will find Assistant Tim Gregory featured in this image.

List of Donors

The Board and Staff of the Museum thank the following for their generous donations of time and resources to Museum activities from July – December 2006:

Foundations and Major Financial Donors

The Ballemagh Foundation
The BC History of Nursing
The Churchill Foundation
Dr. Jacalyn Duffin
The KGH Nursing Alumnae
John & Lillian Dodds, & the Loyal
Marshall Orange Lodge #6
Dr. Donald Wilson

Granting Organizations

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Tim Gregory
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Pat Smith
The Bruce County Museum & Archives
Carolyn Kennedy
Nancy Matheson & Bernard Whiting
Freda Wilson
Professor Chris Furedy

and all of our new and renewing Members, Sustaining Patrons, Donors and Volunteers.

We are grateful to all who have helped the Museum. If we have omitted someone, please let us know, and we will be sure to add his or her name to the list in the next Bailliewick issue.

Do you shop at A&P?



Save your A&P cash register receipts and help the Museum of Health Care benefit from the A&P "Save-A-Tape" program. Our mailing address is: Museum of Health Care, Ann Baillie Building, George Street, Kingston, ON, K7L 2V7.



Life has few guarantees but the Museum of Health Care at Kingston offers at least one: the annual payment you will receive from our GiftPlus Annuity.

To learn how you can support the Museum of Health Care at Kingston while receiving a generous annual income, guaranteed for life, please call or write:

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