

LIST OF SIGNIFICANT LOCAL INDIVIDUALS

Revised March 30, 2020

| <i>LAST</i> | <i>FIRST</i> | <i>DESCRIPTION</i> |
|-------------|----------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Ansell | Charles A. | Ansell (d. 1957) was the founder of the Port Weller Drydocks in 1946, and he purchased the old Muir Bros. drydock at Port Dalhousie in 1953. The Port Dalhousie site was used in conjunction with Port Weller until it was closed in 1968-69. Ansell was a long-time resident of Port Dalhousie, and a philanthropic member of the community. Is his surname acceptable for addition to the list, since there is already a Charlie Ansell Park just above Lock 1 on the west side of the canal opposite to the drydock. |
| Badgley | Sidney Rose | Architect who designed the old Carnegie library, the Welland Avenue Methodist Church, Toronto's Massey Hall, and several churches, theatres, and music halls in the United States. |
| Beadle | Delos | Advocated for widespread reforestation of southern Ontario. |
| Birchall | Leonard Joseph | Born in St. Catharines, student at Connaught School and St. Catharines Collegiate, he was a pilot in World War II and recognized for capturing an Italian war ship, then he flew reconnaissance and, when in Ceylon, sent out a message alerting the Royal Navy to impending attack by Japanese fleet. He was referred to as the 'Saviour of Ceylon'. He became a prisoner of war and stood up for other POWs for which he was given the Order of the British Empire. After the war, he continued his service on the Canadian attaché staff, as a member of the Canadian NATO delegation. He received many recognitions including as one of the 100 most influential Canadians in aviation. |
| Bone | Rev. Thomas | First Baptist missionary who served the 2 nd and 3 rd Welland Canals; called "The Sailor's Friend"; author; largely mourned at his death in 1906. |
| Broderick | Ed | Soldier in WWII who was captured and sent as Prisoner of War to "Stalag Luft III" prison camp. Planned the "Great Escape" (with Gord Kidder and Harold Avery). |
| Budd | Barbara | Actor; broadcaster; storyteller who co-hosted CBC Radio's As it Happens for 17 years. |
| Burns | Thomas | Former Mayor of the Town of St. Catharines from 1866-68; lived on Church Street. |
| Burtynsky | Edward | Artistic photographer and environmentalist. |
| Cahill | Lou | Founder of Welland Canals Foundation; member of the Founders Committee of Brock University; promoted the Niagara grape and wine industry; successfully lobbied for a postal stamp commemorating the centennial of the Henley Regatta. |
| Caplan | Frank | Teacher, author, Chair of St. Catharines Museum Board, Heritage Committee, Niagara Community Foundation, founder of Temple Tikvah Reform Congregation, Volunteer Activist with numerous Community organizations, including the Wine Industry Cuvee. |

| | | |
|----------|---------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Carman | James Walmsley | Carman (1835-1903) was a "pioneer journalist" in the city. He was the editor of various newspapers in Belleville, Kingston and Napanee before he purchased the St. Catharines News from P.E. Moyer in 1876. He erected a building at King and Queen Streets, called the Carman Block, where he established his own private banking business. |
| Cavers | Harry Peter | Liberal M.P. for the riding of Lincoln from 1949-57. |
| Chown | M.A. | Member of the Niagara Peninsula University Organizing Committee; also a member of the Brock University Founders Committee; former Mayor of the City of St. Catharines. |
| Clench | Capt. Johnson | Clench (1844-1923) was a native of Niagara-on-the-Lake and the grandson Col. Ralph Clench UEL of Butler's Rangers by his wife, Elizabeth Johnson. He was therefore the great-grandson of Brant Johnson (a part Mohawk also known as Kegnhehtago) and also the great-great-grandson of Sir William Johnson, baronet, of the Indian Department. His father was Lieut.-Col. Johnson Clench (b. 1809), who was Clerk of the Lincoln County Court between 1828-1863. Johnson Clench Jr. was appointed to serve as the Registrar of the Surrogate Court for Lincoln County. He settled in St. Catharines and constructed the large brick house at the corner of Welland Ave and Gerrard St. which was the family home for approximately 80 years. |
| Converse | Dr. Frederick Lewis | Converse (ca. 1795-1841) was a "learned, scientific, experienced" and "eminently skilful" early physician in town. Frequently mentioned in the newspapers. |
| Coombs | A.E. | Collegiate principal; City Councillor; author; historian; involved in forming Boy Scouts of Canada. |
| Coy | Francis & Co. | Longstanding family business downtown for over 130 years. |
| Crabtree | Linda | Founder of Accessibility Niagara (2002); Former Chair of Regional Accessibility Advisory Committee; Former Co-chair of The Mayor's Accessibility Advisory Committee; Recipient of the Order of Canada and the Order of Ontario. |
| Crawley | Alice | Visual artist; founding member of the Niagara Artists' Company. |
| Dolson | Samuel | Constructed James Street wing to former Lincoln County Courthouse, corner of King Street and James Street. |
| Donnelly | Patrick | Member of the Lucan "Black Donnelly" family who survived the massacre of his family; blacksmith who owned several inns and taverns in the area including the Geneva House at the corner of Welland and Geneva. |
| Eccles | William | Eccles (1820-1869) was born in NOTL and settled in St. Catharines in 1847 where he became a successful lawyer. He was mayor of the town (1864-65) and town and county solicitor. Married to a daughter of Col. John Clark. Founding member of the horticultural society. School trustee, and politically active (unsuccessfully ran against Tho. R. Merritt.) |
| Engel | Howard | Author of the Benny Cooperman Mysteries set in Grantham (i.e. St. Catharines). |
| Frolick | Benjamin | Loyalist (Sergeant in Butler's Rangers); contributor to "The Assignment to the Church at St. Catharines", earliest known reference to the settlement as St. Catharines; miller and cobbler. |

| | | |
|-------------|----------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Gadsby | Eli | Operated a prominent marble works company from the 1840s to 1900s that carved many local mantelpieces and tombstones. |
| Garson | William C.W. | Elected to Legislature in 1886; emigrated from Scotland in the 1850s. |
| Gilleland | William Beamer | Gilleland (1841-1899) was the son of an Irish immigrant James Gilleland who settled in St. Catharines around 1830. Gilleland was a successful lawyer, school board trustee, city councillor, mayor (1897-98), member of the I.O.O.F., and trustee of St. Paul Methodist. Brother-in-law of noted architect Sidney Rose Badgley. |
| Gould | John | Loyalist (Butler's Rangers); War of 1812 veteran. |
| Hack | Ernest H. | Owned one of the first McLaughlin Buick cars in the area; former Reeve of Grantham Township and Warden of Lincoln County; served on various boards. |
| Hatch | Doug | President of Bright Wines during the 1970s and until his death; strong supporter behind getting Canadian champagnes recognized worldwide. |
| Headley | Hannelore | Board member at the museum, Rodman Hall, and the Symphony Orchestra; published author; antiquarian bookseller downtown. |
| Hostetter | Herman | Loyalist; warden of St. George's Episcopal (Anglican) Church; War of 1812 veteran. |
| Jessop | Dr. Elisha | Jessop (ca. 1843-1918) was a native of England who settled in Canada with his parents in 1849. Took part in a "gold rush" expedition to B.C. in his youth. School teacher in 1860s and '70s, studied medicine at UofT and graduated in 1875. Practised medicine at Jordan and St. Catharines. Represented Lincoln in the Ontario Legislature between 1898 and 1918. Was medical officer for the 7th Field Battery in St. Catharines. An advocate of athletics. ("Physical culture was more efficacious in maintaining the virility of a nation than the use of drugs.") Well known and respected citizen. |
| Jewett | Pauline | Educator; politician; first female President of a co-educational university; MPP for Liberal party; Vice-President of the Liberal party; received the Order of Canada; women's rights activist. |
| Jouppien | Jon | Philanthropist who made multiple contributions to the community, including the Bicentennial Arts Committee and restoration of Fort George. |
| Kidder | Gord | Soldier in WWII who was captured and sent as Prisoner of War to "Stalag Lift III" prison camp. Planned the "Great Escape" (with Ed Broderick and Harold Avery). |
| Lampman | Archibald | Renowned author, literary critic, "The Confederation Poet"; fellow of the Royal Society of Canada, wrote several poems about St. Catharines. |
| Leavenworth | Hiram | Leavenworth (1797-1857) was a native of New York State and trained as a printer at Auburn. Published his first newspaper (Waterloo Gazette) in New York between 1817 and 1821. Settled at Queenston in 1824 as printer of W.L. Mackenzie's Colonial Advocate. Moved to St. Catharines in 1825 and began printing the Farmer's Journal and Welland Canal Advertiser. Switched to book and job printing in 1843. His print shop still stands at the William Street end of St. Paul Street. Was an early member of the I.O.O.F., and belonged to the Sons of Temperance. |

| | | |
|-------------|-------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Mack | Dr. Theophilus | A prominent settler of Shipman's Corners; sat on various community committees; built the Turkish Baths and the Springbank Hotel. |
| McManus | Sgt. Daniel D. | McManus (d. 1899) served as bandmaster for the 19th Lincoln & Welland Regiment. He had previously served in the 44th and saw action at Sebastopol during the Crimean War. Received six medals including the Victoria Cross. Given a full military funeral, casket conveyed to Victoria Lawn on the gun carriage of a 12 pounder. |
| McMaugh | Capt. Arthur | McMaugh (1854-1914) was a native of Quebec who settled in St. Catharines in the early 1860s. He was a marine engineer and became the captain of a steamer for Sylvester Neelon. City alderman, and an early advocate for the establishment of hydro-electric generation in the city. Served on the Water Commission for the city, was on the Public Library Board, and member of several organizations such as the I.O.O.F., Maple Leaf Lodge &c. |
| McNaughton | Jack | Awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross; a founder of the Merritton Athletic Association; helped finance the Merritton Community Centre. |
| Morningstar | Wilson | First Canadian to apply more efficient turbines to waterwheels for milling. |
| Nesbit | Prynce | Renowned local artist; teacher at Merritton. |
| Nicholson | Arthur Edwin | (aka, Edwin Nicholson, 1881-1945.) Architect with 'Arts and Crafts' partner in Nicholson and Macbeth renowned for Yates and Old Glenridge residences, Central area Schools, Montebello Park Bandshell, and many more throughout the city. |
| Ormston | Alex | (d. 2018.) Alex was a native of St. Catharines, descended from some of the important 19th century families in the city (Merritt, Norris.) He was the former curator of the St. Catharines Historical Museum when it was located in Merritton (he was succeeded by Arden Phair), a long-time member of the St. Catharines Historical Society, and a first-rate historian and researcher. |
| Osborn | William | Osborn (1811-1857) was a native of England who settled in St. Catharines in the 1830s. He was a successful house painter, artist, leader of the Lincoln Brass Band, and editor of the St. Catharines Constitutional newspaper during the 1850s. Associated with the fire brigade, member of the I.O.O.F., and of the "St. George's and Philharmonic Societies." A "noted versifier" who composed a work called "Songs for the Times." Large funeral attended by the I.O.O.F., Fire Brigade &c. |
| Ostaneck | Ladislav (Walter) | Canada's Polka King; recipient of 3 Grammy Awards; Member of the Order of Canada; Inductee Canada's Walk of Fame. |
| Packard | James & William | Founders of Packard Electric Co. in 1894; located in the Neelon Grist Mill at the corner of Race Street and Geneva Street. |
| Pasmore | Paul | Auctioneer for 45 years in St. Catharines. After being diagnosed with Parkinson's disease, he advocated education and support through the foundation of the Niagara support group for others with Parkinson's. |
| Peart | Neil | World-renowned percussionist with the band Rush. |
| Pierpoint | Richard | Loyalist (Butler's Rangers); Freedom Seeker; leader of the African community in St. Catharines. |

| | | |
|----------|-------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Pinnock | Jennie | Pinnock lived on Church Street beside Knox Presbyterian Church (now site of the Landmark Building.) She conducted a series of well-attended seances (initially intended to contact the spirit of her late husband) but she apparently had great success with contacting various other assorted spirits “on the other side.” She published the results of these sessions in a book called “Trails of Truth” in 1930. Some people regarded her as a quack, others believed in her gift and that of her clairvoyant associates. A really interesting and all but forgotten individual. |
| Puccini | Abramo | Raised funds for the war effort in WWI who received a “Great Gold Medal of Merit” and a “Diploma of Honour” from the Italian Red Cross for his efforts; owned one of the first local macaroni manufacturing plants. |
| Ranney | John Latham | Ranney (1817-1904) was a native of Massachusetts who was educated in South Carolina and settled in Montreal before coming to St. Catharines in 1837. He was employed by Dr. Chace, and entered into business on his own as a miller at Lock 2 (Welland Vale.) Had several ships built, and was one of the Welland House partners. Established a brokerage business in Chicago in 1864. Member of the I.O.O.F., a board member of the Suspension Bridge, police commissioner, road commissioner &c. An “honest and upright business man.” |
| Reynolds | Benjamin Franklin | Miller and industrialist responsible for much of the development of Reynoldsville (Power Glen). |
| Roach | George | Famous painter with many paintings displayed in prominent places throughout the City. |
| Rolph | “Happy” | Local farmer and philanthropist. |
| Sabia | Laura | Social activist; feminist; politician; author; the National Chair of the Committee for Women; first president of the National Action Committee on the Status of Women; Officer of the Order of Canada. |
| Salter | W.J. (Hank) | First principal of St. Catharines Collegiate when it opened on Catherine Street in November 1923; he served for 26 years. |
| Samson | Gilbert | Founder of Samson Works on St. Paul Street; reported as being the largest manufacturer of the day (1850s), producing agricultural implements. |
| Sandell | Edward T. | Owner of Taylor and Bate Brewery from 1927 onward, he has been called the “father” of radio broadcasting in St. Catharines. He established CKTB at the Welland House in 1930, which remained a “phantom” station of CKOC of Hamilton until 1933. Sandell was responsible for acquiring the former Merritt home (Oak Hill) for use as a radio station in 1938. Sandell owned the station until his death in 1943, when ownership was acquired by the Burgoyne family. |
| Schenck | L.M. | Started one of the most important canneries in the City in 1894; provided seasonal employment for many; his canned goods were sold Canada-wide. |
| Schram | Frederich | Loyalist (Corporal in Butler's Rangers); surveyed Louth Township; established the first public, non-denominational cemetery in the area. |
| Sexsmith | Ron | Famous singer-songwriter born and raised in St. Catharines. |
| Shipman | Paul | One of the earliest and well-known settlers in the area at the turn of the 19th Century; the former community was referred to as Shipman's Corners. |

| | | |
|--------------|------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Smiley | Sampson and/or Charles | Early settler in Port Dalhousie; labourer; blacksmith; early member of St. John's (Anglican) in Port. |
| Stephenson | Col. Eleazer Williams | (ca. 1798-1867.) Stephenson was a native of Springfield, Mass., who settled in St. Catharines in 1817. He was awarded a contract for carrying the mails between Niagara and Detroit, and he ran a successful stage coach business between those points until the railways forced him out of business in the mid-1850s. He operated two hotels in the city, the old "St. Catharines House" and the larger "Stephenson House" spa hotel. He was a member of the town council, and served as mayor in 1851. He died in late April 1867 when he was ejected from his carriage after the pair of horses hitched to the carriage were frightened and bolted. His wife, who was in ill health, died immediately after hearing the news and "the two funerals will probably take place at the same time." A lengthy obituary and account of the funeral was published in the St. Catharines Evening Journal (April 29 and May 2, 1867.) |
| Stokes | | Stokes Seeds has been recognized worldwide for excellence in seed production for many years. |
| Titterington | John | Miller and greenhouse operator; participated in the 1901 Pan-American Exposition. |
| Tourbin | Dennis | Visual artist; poet; performance artist; novelist' publisher; founding member of the Niagara Artists' Centre. |
| Towers | Thomas | Early businessman who manufactured engines for canal ships and steamers, grain grinding, and planing mill machinery; served in the 1837 Rebellion; major in the Lincoln Militia'; freemason. |
| Triplett | Alfred | Triplett (1819-May 1863) was a well-known and respected member of the black community during the mid-19th century. He was employed by Col. Stephenson at the Stephenson House Hotel, and was noted in particular by Junius in 1856 as being one of the "best servants" at the hotel, "fully-competent, well-liked, much esteemed, and can do up little chores in double quick time." Triplett possessed sufficient means that he was able to purchase property on Lake Street in the block between Queen and William sometime prior to 1852, and was assessed as a freeholder in the town in 1855. Due to his property ownership, he was able to sign an address as an elector of St. Thomas' Ward in 1856, which requested that E.S. Adams, Wm. Donaldson and T.R. Merritt would run as candidates in the municipal election. One of the most well-to-do members of the early black community. |
| Tubman | Harriet | Known as 'Black Moses' to many; she was responsible for bringing a number of slaves to the safety and security of St. Catharines in the mid-1800s. |
| Turney | George | Loyalist; farmer; active in the St. Peter's Church; township officer; fought in the War of 1812. |
| Vollick | Issac | Loyalist (Butler's Rangers); contributor to "The Assignment to the Church at St. Catharines", which is the earliest known reference to settlement as St. Catharines. |
| Weller | John Laing | In charge of planning and construction of the Welland Ship Canal from 1906 until 1917. He was an early proponent on the use of reinforced concrete in construction and he and his engineering staff developed many innovations to complete what was at the time the largest construction project in the British Empire. |
| Westover | William | First wagon maker in the City; served in various township offices; fought in the War of 1812 in the Dragoons. |