



Kingston Frontenac Public Library 2016 Scottish Walking Tour One

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The tour was produced for the May 2016 KFPL "Outlandish" (Scottish-themed) month. It's in two parts:

Tour one is located in the Central Library neighbourhood.

Tour two is located in the St. Andrew's and Skeleton Park neighbourhood.

Free self-guided walking tour. Discover the homes and haunts of Scots who shaped our city. Scottish history in Kingston is full of surprises!

Queen's University, founded in 1841, was modelled on the universities in Edinburgh and Glasgow, and supported largely by the Presbyterian Church. Almost all of its early faculty were educated in Scotland.

Central Library Neighbourhood – Tour one

01 - Chalmers plaque near 118 William

In 1843, a crisis split the Scottish Church. One of the main issues was whether a local congregation should have the right to choose its own minister. In Kingston, those who followed the tradition of having ministers appointed in Scotland stayed at St. Andrews Church (corner of Princess and Clergy Streets.) Those who supported the new Free Church of Scotland started two new congregations: a Scottish church (Chalmers) and an Irish church (Cooke's). For about 4 1/2 years, the Chalmers congregation held its worship services at City Hall. In 1851, a newly-built church opened here on William Street. Services were held here for about 40 years, until a new Chalmers Church building opened in 1890. We'll see it later in this walking tour (Stop 6).

All that remains of the old Chalmers Church is a fragment of stone with a plaque on it. If you look carefully, you can see it on William Street just to the west of the driveway between "Almost Home" and the Annandale apartments. The plaque is on private property, so please stay on the sidewalk.

02 - 73 Sydenham St – McKay

John McKay was born in Scotland, and came to Canada in 1840 when he was three years old. Following in the footsteps of his father (who was also called John McKay) he ran a successful business selling furs and leather, first on Princess St. and later on Brock St. near Montreal St., in the stone building just east of the current Cambodiana Restaurant. John McKay Junior and his wife lived in this house from about 1888 into the 1920s, and raised four children here

03 - 185 William St – Stewart

This was the home of architect James Stewart who also built 200-202 William Street, which is the next stop on our walking tour. Stewart was born in Aberdeenshire, Scotland in 1822 and arrived in Kingston when he was about 21. He worked as a builder on the new City Hall project (1843-44), and supervised the building of the Customs House at the corner of Clarence and King Streets. The Italian design and two colours of brickwork in his personal residence were an innovation. There were no other houses like this in Kingston at the time. In 1859 Stewart moved to Ottawa and still later to St. Louis Missouri, where he pursued a successful career as an architect.

04 - 200 William St – Mackinnon

This double house was built by Scottish-born architect James Stewart and rented over the years to a series of tenants. Among them was a Scotsman named Staff-Sergeant Kenneth MacKinnon. He was a builder by trade, but served more than 20 years with the Royal Canadian Horse Artillery. He and his wife Frances only lived here for a year or two, around 1901. The next year, their son Lachlan was born, and four years later another son, Keith. Sgt MacKinnon served with the Canadian Overseas Expeditionary Force during World War I. He died at Kingston General Hospital in 1935.

05 - 203 William St – Knight

Originally a single dwelling, this was built in 1841 by architect George Browne who also designed some of Kingston's most prominent buildings, including Kingston City Hall and the Smith Robinson building (corner of Princess and Ontario St.) In payment for designing that building, Browne received the lot on which this house was built. He lived and worked here until

1844, when Queen's College bought it for classes and a preparatory school. It was divided into two dwellings in 1862. From 1875-1891, number 203 was the home of Professor A.P. Knight, whose grandfather, Archibald Paterson, led one of the Scottish emigration societies that came from Dumbartonshire in 1821. Dr. Knight served as headmaster of Kingston Collegiate Institute, and later on the medical faculty at Queen's. During the time he lived at 203 William Street he helped to organize the famous Women's Medical College in Kingston and served as its rector.

06 – Chalmers Church intersection of Clergy, Earl and Barrie Streets

Earlier, we saw a stone from the early Chalmers Church (1851-1890). In 1887, Rev Malcolm MacGillivray became the 5th minister of Chalmers, and saw it through the move to this new location three years later. He served for another 23 years. After being elected Moderator of the Presbyterian Church of Canada, he retired from Chalmers. We'll learn more about him later in the walking tour. In 1925, the Presbyterians, Methodists and Congregationalists joined together to form the United Church of Canada. Services are still held here at Chalmers United Church every week.

07 - 161 Earl St – Robertson

From the 1880s until his death in 1921, this was the home of Benjamin Waters Robertson. He and his brother George ran a wholesale grocery business in Kingston, and their brother Thomas sold crockery, lamps and glassware. The whole family had come from the Orkney Islands off the northeast coast of Scotland in 1852. They were members of the Congregationalist church at Johnson and Wellington Streets. In 1874, after a church dispute, Benjamin joined 24 others in forming a new congregation (now Bethel Congregational Church).

08 - 160 Earl St - Agnes Smart Rowland

From about 1883 until 1899 this was the home of Agnes Rowland and her husband Fleming, who was a collector for Inland Revenue here in Kingston. When the Rowlands moved into this house, their son John was about 13, and Agnes's widowed mother, Elizabeth Smart, was living with them as well. The Smarts had emigrated from Dundee, Scotland around 1843, when Agnes was just a baby. For a time they lived in Port Hope, and then moved to Kingston. In January 1899, Agnes's husband died of an abscess and she moved away from Kingston, eventually living

in Toronto with her son and his wife. After her departure, this house became the home of prominent two Kingston architects--first William Newlands and later Thomas Power.

09 - 14 Sydenham St – McIntosh Castle

Several romantic stories are told about this unique property, which was built for the family of Donald McIntosh around 1852. He was from Glasgow, and some say that his family resisted moving to Canada until he promised to build them a castle with a view of Lake Ontario. This site fit the bill perfectly, because it had previously been used for a fortification during the War of 1812. It had a clear view all the way to the lake. Later stories tell that the "widow's walk" on top of the house was built so the lady of the house could discreetly watch any hangings that took place on the gallows behind the court house across the road. Donald McIntosh was in the shipping business with John Counter, with wharves and storehouses near the Marine Railway Yard. In 1857 he sold the property, and later residents included a minister, a broker, and a series of doctors. (The castle is a private residence, so please remain on the sidewalk.)

(10) 24 Sydenham Street - Hochelaga Inn

This house was built in 1879 for a lawyer named John McIntyre who was connected by marriage to the family of Sir John A Macdonald. Around 1901 it was purchased by the Bank of Montreal, and by 1908 the bank manager, Angus MacDonell, was living here with his younger sister Eleanor. They both remained unmarried and lived in this house for the rest of their lives. Eleanor was 47 when she died of heart failure, and about three years later, in 1920, Angus succumbed to diabetes. He is buried in St. Michael's Cemetery in Toronto. In 1985 the property was purchased and converted for bed-and-breakfast accommodations, now the Hochelaga Inn.

11 - 134 Earl St - John A Macdonald

Sir John A. Macdonald had two sisters: Margaret and Louisa. Margaret married Professor James Williamson, and soon her invalid sister, Louisa, came to live with them. Then Margaret died. Sir John A's career kept him away from Kingston for much of the time, leaving Louisa and the professor to get along as well as they could. It wasn't easy. Strong-willed Louisa complained that the professor left books all over the house, and went out too often in the evenings. Sir John A. wrote back, scolding her for disobeying doctor's orders, exerting herself by climbing

stairs, etc. In spite of the tensions, the two lived here for almost a decade. Louisa died in this house at the age of 70

12 - 119 Earl St - Rev MacGillivray

This was the home of Rev. Malcolm MacGillivray, who was the minister of Chalmers Church and Moderator of the Presbyterian Church of Canada. He was born on the island of Jura off the northeast coast of Scotland in 1845. Soon afterward, his family came to Kingston. He graduated with an MA from Queens in 1874 and became the 5th minister at Chalmers in 1887. He lived here from about 1900 to about 1912 with his wife Clara, two daughter and one son.

13 - 108 Earl St – Hermiston

In 1891, this was the home of Mrs. Ellen Hermiston, an indomitable woman who raised six stepchildren on her own. In about 1868, she had married a Scottish widower named Robert Hermiston. He was the pilot of a steamer called the Grecian, and the father of six children from 2 - 17 years old. Just a year after their marriage, he died of heart disease. Ellen raised the family on her own, while running a boarding house on Wellington Street. She lived here briefly, and later worked as a domestic cook for a family in Manhattan. She died in Stormont, Ontario in 1920 at the age of 82.