



©2024 Nine Ships 1825 Inc

NEWSLETTER 2

NOVEMBER 2024



©2024 Nine Ships 1825 Inc.

The Committee promoting and assisting others for the upcoming bicentenary of the Robinson immigration of 1825 was incorporated in February 2024 as Nine Ships 1825 Inc.

The directors are Brendan Moher; Mary J. Smith; Dennis Carter-Edwards; Maureen Crowley; and Elwood H. Jones. All of these have broad experience working with local heritage groups.

The bicentennial of the Robinson Emigration Experiment of 1825 coincided with the first use of Peterborough as a name for this area, for the beginning of local government in several places, including new First Nations villages.

To date members have met with the Irish Ambassador to Canada, the Irish Consul General in Toronto, the Mayors of Peterborough and Kawartha Lakes; the Warden and CAO of the County of Peterborough; Chiefs and community leaders of the local First Nations; with the local Chamber of Commerce and with representatives of local heritage groups.

During recent months we have seen the successful launch of the Nine Ships 1825 web page in late July, the publication of the June newsletter; the application for federal funding; and the terrific beginning of local fundraising.

As well, the ship crew made presentations to the September meeting of the Lakefield Historical Society and Elwood Jones made a power point presentation in Keene, sponsored by the North Shore Women’s Institute. We are planning other presentations including to the Peterborough Historical Society in January. If you wish to book a presentation, please contact Maureen Crowley at nineships1825@gmail.com.

MEET THE REAMEYS



Gary and Joanne Reamey stepped forward in fine style to be our first major donors. Their great support for Bicentennial 1825 was sparked by their personal connection but also their awareness that it takes many people to make great events happen.

The donation includes support for the operating expenses in the early months. This includes the development of a souvenir booklet that contains the program of anticipated events, a summary of the Robinson Emigration of 1825, a list of the emigrants, and a commentary on how to do research on the context of 1825.

The Reameys also hosted a dinner that raised money for the Bicentennial Souvenir which will be free to those who wish it. Thanks to Carl and Kathy Young; Robert and Julie Young; Dr. John and Denise Lyne; and Michael Battaglia and Jennifer Johnson.

We invite others to make donations by e-transfers to NineShips1825@gmail.com. We are excited about the possibilities and let's ensure the success of Bicentennial 2025!

MEDIA LAUNCH

The media launch was held on Tuesday, July 30, 2024, at 11 a.m. at The Peterborough and Kawarthas Chamber of Commerce, 175 George Street, Peterborough. A huge and friendly crowd was on hand for the occasion. Brendan Moher presided and commented on activities already in motion and the efforts at making people aware of 2025. The Irish Consul General of Toronto, Janice McGann brought greetings and spoke on the theme of hope which was widely shared both by the immigrants and those already there.

Elwood Jones and Aaron Robitaille presented the thinking behind www.NineShips1825.com

and showed some of the features of the impressive webpage. Already there are useful descriptions of the emigration, of the Ireland of 1825, suggestions for research, a couple of book reviews, a list of all the immigrants and the ships on which they came. As well, there are descriptions of the Nine Ships: John Barry; Brunswick; Amity; Regulus; Fortitude; Elizabeth; Albion; Resolution; Star.

The plan is to have timely lists of events being arranged by different groups. As well, it is planned to add reviews of sources that can be useful for researchers and future historians.

We have received many compliments and suggestions. There are many ways to navigate the webpage but dropping the headings on the first page is very helpful. The early emphasis was for pertinent events in 2024 but we soon want the web page to feature events happening in 2025. We have tried hard to pack the days from August 1 to 10 with great events.

The web page contained several illustrations from contemporary sources such as the *Backwoods of Canada* by Catharine Parr Trill, and illustrations in Ireland from travel books.





Consul General Janice McGann and Dennis Carter-Edwards view Robinson papers at Peterborough Museum and Archives.

ROBINSON PAPERS AND LANG

Afterwards, the Irish Consul General and her husband were taken to lunch and then escorted to view the Robinson papers at the Peterborough Museum and Archives, and to tour Lang Pioneer Village Museum.

It was an enjoyable day and an auspicious start to Bicentennial 2025.

Thanks to Mary J. Smith for these photos.

We only have a contemporary painting of one of the nine ships, the “Fortitude” which was painted by the marine artist, W. J. Hugill.

The Knights of Columbus Hall will be the centre for mingling and for heritage displays between August 1 and 10, compliments of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Peterborough and the Knights of Columbus.





CHRONOLOGY OF 1825 EXPERIMENT

- April 28 selection of emigrants
- Completed
- Sailed from Cobh 5 May to 21 May
- Reached Quebec 12 June -6 July
- Steamer to Montreal 12 June to 9 July
- York boats to Fort Wellington Prescott 18 June to 9 July
- to Kingston 20 June to 11 August
- to Cobourg 12-31 August
- to Depot (now Peterborough) late August to 20 September; some early October.



COMMUNITY MEETING

The Community Partners Update Meeting featuring members of several community groups, and the Nine Ships 1825 crew was held at the Empress Gardens, on October 8. The room

was perfect for the well-attended occasion and the Empress Gardens supplied beverages, sandwiches and cakes.

There were several presentations. Brendan Moher talked of our several meetings. Maureen Crowley mentioned events being planned by the Canadian Irish Club celebrating 50 years. Groups from Downeyville, Young's Point and Douro and elsewhere shared updates. There was a discussion of events planned for August 2025. Bus and walking tours are being planned and even to Ireland. Questions and presentations from the group covered a wide range.

Elwood Jones distributed plans for the Bicentennial Souvenir booklet. If you wish a

copy by email contact Elwood at ejones55@cogeco.ca.

The plan is to assemble the Souvenir Booklet during December with a view to being printed in early January. **People were encouraged to send their draft plans and any pertinent materials to him by December 1.** The Bicentennial Souvenir will be about 40 pages and the first 1500 copies will be at no charge.

The contents of the Bicentennial Souvenir as projected includes advertisements for our key groups and sponsors, and the program of events. A second section will feature historical commentary. And the third section will feature promotion for tourists as well as guides for exhibits and tours in areas of 1825 interest. The aim is for a keepsake.

Much of the content will come from the Nine Ships web page as a permanent reminder, and some content will be added. The plan is to use QR codes to ensure the web material is accessible and updated.

CANADA IRELAND FOUNDATION



The Corleck Building

Members of Nine Ships 1825 met with William Peat, Executive Director of the Canada Ireland Foundation at their building, Corleck, in Toronto near the entrance to the Billy Bishop Airport.

We exchanged ideas about 2025 and invited the Foundation chair and members of the executive to participate in our events. After the meeting in what will be the permanent home of the Canada Ireland Foundation, Mr. Peat joined us for a tour of the Ireland Park at the corner of the Bathurst Quay to view the new memorial park. There are sculptures designed by Jonathan M. Kearns. The sculptures here are five compared to seven he designed at the Dublin dockside.



Significance of the 1825 Experiment

- Rare experiment to test British government emigration policy: would total support of expenses for 18 months be feasible economically?



©2024 Nine Ships 1825 Inc

NEWSLETTER 2

NOVEMBER 2024

- Exceptional archival resources provide information on every emigrant in the family and the ship on which they sailed.
- Peter Robinson was a well-connected politician and businessman who could handle the logistics of 2,024 individuals, co-operation with the British Colonial Office, the provincial government.
- Failed to meet British government expectations because Parliament wanted instant information.
- The Irish Catholic immigration ensured local diversity in the area.
- There was mutual respect between the First Nations for the newcomers.
- Peterborough's founding is identified with this emigration.
- Significance recognized by events in 1830, 1927, 1975, 2015 and 2025 at least.

AUGUST 2025

Encouraging Plans for August 2025 include:

- Fourth Line Theatre is presenting Megan Murphy's "Wild Irish Geese".
- The Peterborough Canadian Irish Club's 50th Anniversary will begin with the Grand Irish Gathering 2025- August 2, 2025 7 pm - 11 pm Canadian Canoe Museum, Peterborough, Ontario Reception Event Tickets will include Irish entertainment, Canadian Canoe Museum Tours and appetizers.
- Historic Boat Tour August 6, 2025. Historic Cruise the Otonabee River with commentary. 3:30 pm to 5:50 pm
- Downtown Peterborough walking tours from Confederation Park, August 1, 10 am; August 4 and 8, 2 pm; Courtesy of Trent Valley Archives.
- Flag raising, August 1, 2 pm
- The Irish Diaspora; talks and panels with distinguished guests, August 5, 7 pm
- Young's Point Bicentennial, August 3

- Bus tours to Downeyville, Young's Point, Westwood, Douro
- Farewell Ceilidh and Reception, Lang Pioneer Village, August 9.
- Trip to Kingston, 8 August all day
- Mass of Celebration and Farewell, St. Peter-in-Chains Cathedral, August 10, 10:30am

BETWEEN NOW AND THEN:

- History of Downeyville, November 17; and November 22
- New Year's Eve Dance, Downeyville
- Emigration to the Peterborough Area, Museum students at Peterborough Museum; also exhibits of Robinson papers
- Exhibit at Lang Pioneer Village, Wednesday to Sunday, 10-4
- Events around St. Patrick's Day
- Peter Robinson settlers, play, Downeyville, May 9 and 10
- Commemoration of ships sailing, Cobh, Ireland, 9 May 2025
- "Crossing Over", the follow up to "Tide of Hope", TVA Theatre group, Market Hall, Peterborough, 29-31 May. Tickets sold through Market Hall.
- Douro 200th Anniversary, 4-6 July 2025 includes tours, workshops, BBQ and more
- Ennismore Heritage Days, 12-13 July
- Downeyville Heritage Day, 19 July

AND THERE'S MORE

- Ireland Canada Homecoming 2025, Ballyhoura, 15-21 September
- And many many more

For more information

contact peterboroughcanadianirishclub@gmail.com

To share further information contact editor

Elwood H. Jones, ejones55@cogeco.ca

Or Mary Smith at mjsmith@nexicom.net