



MURNEY NEWS

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER







Hello everyone,

Lights are up, houses are being decorated, and holiday songs are filling the air. The holiday season is upon us! November was a busy month for us here at the Murney Tower Museum. This month we launched a new podcast series "Murney Tower Museum History Podcast," which was developed and hosted by our former team member, Cassandra Giarrusso. Each episode offers unique insights into the history of the Murney Tower. The first episode "Road to Murney" is now available on Spotify. Our interns, George and Michelle, have been busy conducting archival research and undertaking collection management work at the museum's offsite storage, developing new curatorial skills and transferring their academic knowledge into practice. Meanwhile, our Manager and Curator, Simge, has been working on important strategic projects including our interactive exhibit project and the French audio tour, which will be launched in the new year.

The team is looking forward to welcoming December with a very special holiday event, "Deck the Halls," which will bring the Murney Tower Museum, Great Lakes Museum, and the Museum of Healthcare together on Saturday, December 2nd for a fun day of holiday crafts, songs, decorations and snacks. We look forward to seeing you there!

SOCIAL MEDIA

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COME AND CELEBRATE THE HOLIDAY SEASON WITH US!



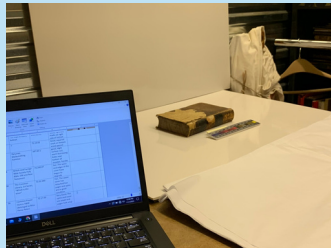
Date: Saturday, 2 December

Time: 10 AM-4 PM

Location: Museum of
Healthcare at Kingston

Click [here](#) to register!

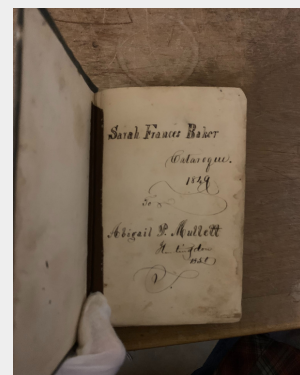




UPDATE FROM GEORGE

In the few months that I've been working as an Intern at Murney Tower Museum, the majority of my time has been spent on collection work, organizing artifacts and digitally archiving collections. While I found all aspects of my internship engaging, my time working with collections has been particularly enjoyable. I go to the collections storage unit once or twice per week, depending on my school workload, and stay for a few hours each session. My work at storage consists of adding the artifacts to our online inventory list, taking photos and carefully re-packaging each artifact to be placed back into storage. Working with artifacts has been an interesting and new way of interacting with history for me. It is much more personal than learning through lectures or researching secondary material. Many artifacts contain clues from their past owners that can help tell their stories, such as an individual's handwritten name on the endpaper of a book or a blacksmith's maker's mark on a tool.

One artifact whose story has become especially interesting to me is a children's book titled "A Present For The Young." The book is a series of short stories and poems teaching Christian moral lessons. Under the cover of the book is a beautifully handwritten message inscribed "Sarah Frances Baker Cataraqi 1849 to Abigail P. Mullett Huntingdon 1850." From this inscription, I was able to find an indirect connection between both their names in the Westlake marriage register of 1855-1880. In 1859 Abigail P Mullett was married in Prince Edward County, between Cataraqi and Huntingdon County. Although Sarah was not present in the witness list, a number of individuals with the surname Baker were. With this information, I was able to backtrack and found that Abigail's mother, Hannah Mullett, was previously Hannah Baker before marrying James Mullett in 1836. Through this information, I was able to find that Sarah was Abigail's grandmother through the 1851 Canada census.



UPDATE FROM MICHELLE

During my position as a research assistant at the Murney Tower Museum, I spent most of my time conducting archival research and working in local archives. During my time at the museum, I organized the Murney Tower Museum's research folders and created a comprehensive list that contains all the important information that the museum has about the history of the tower. In addition, I conducted research into different archives including the Digital Kingston database, Digital Canadian archives, and my favourite, Queen's Archives. My internship often includes working remotely and researching information to add to our existing knowledge of Murney Tower. Working in the archives and uncovering material in digital databases helped me to broaden my perspective on how historical records may help us tell narratives and provide insightful connections. One collection that I found interesting was the historical photo collection within Queen's Archives, which includes Kingston photos and postcards. Among them were old photographs of the Murney Tower and MacDonald Park. These images made me think of community experiences, emotions, and priorities at the time. It also showed me that a location can be filled with stories, perspectives and ideas.

