Barrie Commodore Robert - + His Family in Kingston 1819-34
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READING MOON

COMMODORE ROBERT BARRIE

AND HIS FAMILY

TN

KINGSTON

1819 - 1834

"I want to put in a request, if not too late, for letters. She had bundles and parcels forever from Barrie. I wish William would keep them for me, and any other letters he would think proper to save for me."

Thus wrote Julia, Mrs. Robert Barrie, from Kingston in September 1833 to her sister-in-law, Mrs. William Clayton in Preston, Lancashire. Barrie's wonderful mother, Mrs. George Clayton, had died two months earlier at the age of 82 at Barrie's seat Swarthdale near Lancaster, and it was the ending of her long and remarkable role of family focal point which prompted this request.

Barrie had written to his mother with amazing regularity from when he was sent away to school at Neston in 1783 at age 9, until her death 50 years later. Mrs. Clayton not only preserved these letters, but also the letters and papers of the rest of her family and those of her two husbands, Dr. Robert Barrie and George Clayton. She trained her four Clayton children to do likewise. Barrie, for his part was a faithful correspondent with his two half-sisters as well - Frances and Eliza who married brothers named Lyon.

In 1834 the Kingston Dock Yard establishment was broken up and the Barries returned to England to end their days. In March of the following year when they were comfortably settled again at Ripley Castle, Julia wrote to Frances Lyon in Pulford, Chester this note:

"You have some letters, etc. I think of my husband's. You must absolutely not destroy them, nor send them to him to be destroyed, but make them up into a box or parcel for me to get by any opportunity that may present itself. This is not from a wish to pry into other people's affairs, but it is a shame to destroy all papers as he would do, and I want to collect information about his family; indeed as to your mother's family. If it please God for you to return

strong again I dare say you will help me. She had many anecdotes worth preserving and never I hope regretting the papers she herself destroyed. It is a family propensity I suppose, but I do not have it, and am turning collector apace; and do not wonder to see me figuring in the Herald's Office some day. Only there is no inspiring Sir Robert with a love of antiquitarian lore or pedigrees. But you may lend me a hand."

This does not seem to have had the desired result, for in October Julia wrote to Frances again:

"How perverse some people are, dear Frances, not you and not me, but someone belonging to us both. The matter being his desiring you to send all rubbish without knowing what it is. The truth is that I have an idea you have a quantity of letters, which I wanted privately to have put my own hands on. However, he insists he will make a bon-fire, and I must give in."

Barrie then put his oar in and wrote to Frances three weeks later:

"As to my scrawls, I will not undertake to make any promise of their future fate. Meantime I do not wish or mean any person to see or read them 'till they have pass'd through my hands."

The happy ending to this episode was that many hundreds of letters were preserved through Julia's efforts and retained by Barrie's descendants and by the Lyons through the next three generations. These remained in private hands until a decade ago when the bulk of the letters and papers were sold and dispersed into public institutions in Britain, U.S.A. and Canada including the Royal Military College of Canada. It was this event which has made this evening's paper possible.

1974, the 200th anniversary of the birth of Rear-Admiral Sir Robert Barrie, is an appropriate year for a paper on this interesting sailor. And as Barrie's post as Commissioner of the Kingston Dock Yard and head of the Navy in the Canadas from 1819 to

1834 was the final and the longest appointment of his distinguished naval career, it is also appropriate for the presentation to be sponsored by the Kingston Historical Society.

Around 1875, when the eldest of the Barries' four daughters, Julia Boodle, was about 56 she wrote a series of family memoirs for her children. "Young Juno", as Robert Barrie used to call her in contrast to "old Juno" his wife, starts off as follows,

"Like a romance; like a vain shadow - thus seen the 50 years I look back on, full of memories, full of disappointments. Could one write all truly or honestly, it might be as a romance - for truth is stranger than fiction, and I have had many ups and downs.

What is the first recollection? Playing on the bank of the Cataraqui at Kingston, I think. I see the abode now; and seem again in the Dock Yard with my dear brother. We were very happy together — I do not recollect our ever quarreling. But our childhood was not a happy one for both my parents were strict disciplinarians, and the rod was not spared. I have had many a flogging because I could not spell. It was not obstinacy, I feel now looking back, but a sort of stupid fit that came over a naturally intelligent child.

I think I was a disagreeable child, but not a bad one on the whole. I fancy my parents always having been the leading people at Kingston and being of a higher social position, I thought myself a person of importance as a Barrie - personally morbidly conscious of my awkwardness and want of manners.

Kingston in those days was a small town. There was no bridge to Point Frederick and Barriefield, but a ferryboat called a scow which conveyed carriages over.

We always had a boat from the Dock Yard. There was only one steamboat on Lake Ontario 50 years ago, a lumbering craft called the Frontenac. I can

remember how William and I used to run to see  $\underline{\text{the}}$  steamboat whenever she was heard puffing."

If we surmise that Julia remembered things from age five onwards, the above would be the year from Spring 1824 until Spring 1825 when Barrie packed up the family, because of all the illness they had had, and took them to England where they stayed for five and a half years.

Old Juno arrived in Kingston in May 1820, ten months after Barrie and his half-brother

George Clayton, in order to wait till baby Julia was one and ready to travel. William,
the only son, known as Quily, was three. Old Juno herself was only 26 when she arrived
in Canada to face the new life. Also of the party was Eliza Harvey, an old family friend
a few years younger; Julia's Swiss maid Pernette; and Stephen Yarwood - Barrie's purser in
the <u>Dragon</u> during the American war and more recently, secretary of the Royal Naval Institution; who was coming to be Barrie's clerk and who looked after the party en route.

Barrie had used his lead time to get the building of the large stone warehouse (the
Stone Frigate of to-day) under way and to build the entertainment wing on the Commissioner's
House, the new kitchen, and an ice house. In regard to the latter, Barrie wrote to his

mother at the end of February 1820,

"I am now very busy laying in ice for my ice store. Ice is a necessity here during the summer, and fire and brandy during winter. The Yankees come over on the ice every day. Indeed, our market is supplied for the most part by Nathan's. I purchased two grey colts from a Yankee the other day. He assured me on his word and honour they were 'tarnation bold creatures and that they would go along slick with any horses in the States.' I believe the fellow stole them, as I got horses, sleigh, and harness for 70 pounds Halifax currency. Hitherto I have no cause to repent my bargain, but it is a very common affair for a Yankee to run away with a team of horses, sleigh, etc. from the States and sell them at Kingston."

After Barrie's family arrived, George Clayton departed for home. In September that year, Barrie gave his mother an assessment of the situation.

And Julia added this P.S.

"The old Juno and Miss Harvey are well. They like this country much better than I do, and nothing but the Apothecary's season would keep me here for another week. Juno is not so outrageously fat as she was; but I think she has left off breeding - for which I do not cry, being satisfied with two."

"Yarwood has brought out his family since I last wrote, four very fine children from nine down to a baby under a year. They seemed so pleased with their house in the Dock Yard, and so comfortable, that it is a pleasure to see them."

Barrie was proved wrong about the breeding business. By February 1821 he was writing, "Juno looms very large, and besides she is grown enormously fat." On 9 June a daughter was born and on 25th July was baptised Dorothea in St. George's Church — the predecessor of the present church — and became known as Dolly, and later Dora.

Shortly before Dolly's birth, the Barries had had Sir Peregrine Maitland with Lady
Sarah and their son, Ensign Maitland, as house guests. In August the Barries had Lord
and Lady Dalhousie as guests on the Governor's return from a visit to the upper lakes.
Barrie's mother wrote about the Dalhousies and other visitors as follows,

"I am glad your lots of company got so well over. This rewards the wishes of the female head of a family who strives, like you my dear Julia, to make all agreeable. I am not surprised at your exerting your energies on this occasion as it will spare you witnessing to what an English eye or palate would be uncouth. I have often heard both Lord and Lady Dalhousie highly spoken of. I wish you may meet with females congenial to your ideas, but such I doubt are within your reach often. And I readily feel the want you will have of your friend, Miss Harvey, about whose intended marriage I will only say how sincerely I wish her happiness.

Pernette and Cox going together does not surprise me. It exonerates

Pernette in my mind, who had she not been attached to him, I should have
thought her behavior prior to knowing Cox was to go out with you inexplicable."

Cox was an old retainer of Barrie, who after looking after Barrie en route to Kingston was given a job as joiner in the Dock Yard.

In November, Eliza Harvey was married in the Dock Yard church to Robert MacRobb, a partner in the North West Company. The naval chaplin, Rev. John Wilson performed the ceremony and the Barries had a reception after it.

The following summer Barrie brought Julia with him on an official visit to Quebec.

Julia's description of the canoe trip from Kingston to Montreal is interesting.

"On the first we left home, the little children all well and sweet - we, consisting of my husband and self, Bella, a man servant, Mr. Marks (John Marks - Barrie's secretary), and six boatmen - all in a cedar canoe (surely she must mean birchbark?). The first two nights Bella and I slept in the canoe, giving the tent to the men; and the third night we slept in a little alehouse at La Chine; came down the rapids in the canoe, some of them very grand indeed. The fourth day we got to Montreal."

Just before the year-end 1822, Barrie wrote to his mother about a household accident, as follows,

"Julia had an awkward fall a few days since, down some steps. Little Dolly was in her arms and escaped unhurt, but Julia hurt herself in several places - though not seriously. She is now much better, though I was a little alarmed at first, for besides being naturally of a good weight, she is in no condition for easily getting over heavy falls."

In other words, Julia was breeding again. Barrie's letter continues.

<sup>&</sup>quot;I have some idea of making a small hothouse next year. Ask George to get

me some plans to build from. I want to learn how to contain heat with as little a fire as possible. I shall not, I think, build above 25 feet in the clear by 12. A little hothouse would supply us with a variety of vegetables, etc. which we sadly feel the lack of in the Spring, for our Spring is only a few days from hard frost to a burning heat. The thermometer in my room is now 61°. This time last winter in the same place it was 9 below zero - so out-of-doors climate you cannot depend on. I have this year, tell George, brewed my own ale from the hops of this country - as good ale as ever I drank in England. The Kingston brewers are in arms against me, as I expose their cheats. My very strong ale does not stand me six pence the gallon."

On July 6th 1823, Barrie could report the delivery by Dr. George Colls, the Dock Yard surgeon of their fourth child:

"My dearest mother will be glad to know that at about ten minutes past eight o'clock am, my Julia was safely delivered of a fine girl. Julia had for about three hours a very severe time of it, but now, 7 pm, both mother and cub are, in the language of the schools, as well as can be expected. The cub is a very large fat one, and Julia says it now sucks as stoutly as a child of a month old. From the looming of Julia, I was sadly afraid she meant to have played one of Mrs. Cracroft's tricks and produced at least two."

On August 7th, the babe was baptised Eliza Roberta at St. George's, the family adopting the second name for home use.

The letters through 1823 and 1824 are mainly reports of the children and their countless colds and agues, and Barrie's discouragement over the Navy Boards' lack of interest in the deteriorating condition of the Dock Yard. So provoked was he by the penny-pinching that in April 1824 he wrote to his mother, "I shall not be sorry if I find myself

obliged to resign - for I am heartily sick of Canada and agues.

That Fall Barrie was laid low himself with ague and William was badly wounded in an accident. On 19 December he wrote,

"Tomorrow, William will have been fifty days on his beam end. He can now more than half turn himself. His wound is very much reduced and is evidently healing fast, and I am in hopes he will be able to walk about in a few weeks. Though very much reduced by his wound and confinement, yet for these past ten days he has decidedly been improving in flesh.

Double misfortunes never come single. Eight days ago little Juno fell down and broke her left arm. Dr. Colls was over at Kingston so I stood bone setter. The fracture is a simple one so when the doctor came over, he only removed my rough temporary splinters for his own; and little Julia is walking about, and except her arm being slung, is as well as ever.

The old Juno has a sore thumb and cannot write, and she is much fatigued by her daily and constant attendance on William. I am getting stronger again and trust that next year will bring us better luck. Former letters would acquaint you that I am come to a determination to send Julia and the cubs home if either they or she be attacked again with the cursed fever and ague.

Yesterday people crossed over to Kingston on the ice. To-day there is not a bit of ice to be seen. So much for a Canadian climate. The roads are so cut up with frost one day and hard rain the next that they are scarce passable. The consequence is that we are nearly starved as the farmers can not get to market; and our letters come to hand very irregularly."

Two asides on this paragraph - one modern similarity and one difference. With our wonderful postal system to-day our letters now come about as irregularly as those Barrie speaks of! And as for crossing over the ice from Point Frederick to Kingston

on 18th December, all I can say is that the people of the Dock Yard were a lot braver, or more foolbardy, than the R.M.C. cadets were in my day. Barrie goes on,

"I have a sort of hot-house in the passage to a water-closet. Here I have five or six pineapples - three of which I think will fruit in 1825. I also have peaches and nectarines which stew for fruit. If I can succeed in bringing the pines to perfection, I shall be the first who has done so in Canada. I cut a very nice dish of asparagus for William every other day. I get plenty of small salad, and am now trying the experiment of forcing hops, to make the younger shoots serve for asparagus - which they almost equal. I have a few exotic plants which amuse Julia, or rather did amuse her before William's misfortune."

Before Dolly Gardner could have received this last letter, she was reacting strongly to the reports of continued illness and the possibility of Julia and children coming home. On 10 January 1825, she wrote,

"I cannot praise you and Julia too much for writing and telling truths as to sickness and health. I depend upon your always doing so, for in either joy or sorrow I wish to participate with ye, and have still strength of mind to bear either. But I have firm confidence in your true reports and auger by this Barrie continues on his legs and that dear William began to use them about Christmas day.

I think, my dear Barrie, what you say about your good wife and children leaving Canada if ague again visits them is quite right - provided you can accompany them - for on no account should I like them to undertake the voyage without you. You talk of six months leave of absence. Can you not properly quite leave? Or how much longer do you think of remaining there? I consider you have already had a long residence in a trying climate, and that

for your own and family's sake it is time to leave. But I leave the subject for your own better decision; and may God direct you for the best!"

Dolly, of course, was looking back to her first husband's debilitation in Florida and resulting death at age 32, and likened conditions at Kingston to those of Florida in her day.

There was more illness, so in April 1825 Barrie took the family to England. Let young Juno tell the story.

"When I was six years old we came to England. I can well remember the voyage home from New York, and the icebergs we saw. We went to Lostock on our first arrival in England. It seems to me we posted from Liverpool. I can remember our admiration at the brick buildings and the well-cleared land in contrast to Upper Canada. Dear old Lostock! What a quaint happy place it was. Our dear, kind grandmother, and nobly hopelessly good, gigantic step-grandfather; so kind to us, but astounding us by his broad Lancashire accent. I have seldom seen any trees I so greatly admired as the splendid old Portugal laurels at Lostock. The lawns most beautifully soft with those extra-lovely trees spread out such a distance; and with beautiful horses in them where one could hide perfectly. Then the rockery. And the horse-chestnut trees in flower made all wonderfully beautiful to us. I can never smell a growing plant now that I cannot conjure up old Lostock as it stood then.

Then we children went to Lytham for a happy time at the seaside with our aunt Frances Lyon. Our youngest sister, Georgie, was born at Lostock when we were at Lytham.

From thence we went into Lancaster, a nice place, while all arrangements were made about Swarthdale, which was our future home. I did not like Swarthdale at first - it seemed dreary in winter. Then William went to

school at Ripon, and I was lonely and generally in disgrace for one thing or other. As my mother was busy with the young baby and anxious to make the most of the time my father was in England (he was only home from Canada on leave) she would not continue to teach me, and I was sent to school at Kendall where I passed a very wretched year and a half.

Then came the return to Canada. My father came home and it was arranged we were to go back with him. We left Swarthdale with my father the day George IV died and we heard the bells toll - muffled peels in all the towers we passed. I have never forgotten this.

We were a fortnight at Aunt Eliza Lyon's at Appleton while my parents were at Swarthdale settling my grandmother, who after Mr. Clayton's death left Lostock to Uncle William Clayton and remained at Swarthdale to her death.

From Appleton we went to Liverpool; and there embarked on the Scottish brig

Niagara for Quebec, our new governess, Miss Koster, joining us the very day

before we sailed. We had a disagreeable and long voyage. We went by the

north Irish passage and had very squally weather on the banks of Newfoundland.

We did not leave the Niagara until we reached Montreal - nine weeks after

leaving Liverpool.

We proceeded by steamer and stage to Kingston. I seemed to remember all the places and faces very well; and always seemed to feel Kingston more of a home than England.

The Kingston Chronicle reported the Barries' return as follows,

"On Sunday last, Commodore Barrie, CB, under a salute from the Fleet, which was returned by the Royal Artillery, accompanied by his amiable Lady and five children arrived here from England. The Commodore has been nine months absent on leave — and we rejoice to see his Broad Pendant once more

flying over a department, every member of which feels equal pleasure with ourselves in the safe return of this gallant and justly esteemed officer.

Barrie had taken a partial charter of the <u>Niagara</u> in order to bring to Canada a colt of famed Arab stock named Daghee, a prize bull named Lyon, a prize cow named Sanky, two dogs, and a London phaeton. The animals were left in Montreal for weeks to recover from the effects of the long passage before undergoing the trying boat trip to Kingston before the end of the season. The Kingston paper praised Barrie for importing prize stock to improve the breeds of Upper Canada.

By early 1831 illness was again besetting the Barries. The following is from Julia to Frances Lyon,

"I have nothing in the way of news to tell, not even that plainest and always most comfortable, that we are well - for I am sorry to say, we are no such thing, my husband being very far from well. But it is a great comfort to me our being here with him, and the children are a bit of a pleasure to him. Not that he is ill exactly - confined to his room, or anything of that sort - but poorly and ailing and dispirited withal. He fumes himself into a fever about politics. These are certainly awful times, but as I am not Hamlet, I need not add my lamentations of the times being out of Joint - O cursed spite, that ever I was born to set it right! For I am satisfied I cannot set it right, so will never fret myself about the matter.

"We have been giving a ball to a lot of fine people - and unfine, too, for you must take in all sorts to muster above 120 which we did. If I can find the paper I shall send it to your mother and desire her to send it on to you that you may see how grand we are! It is a capital thing as it enables my husband to take a rest now after his fatigues, and we have had no dinner party since. The only amusement I have is giving the children a dance every week to practice their quadrilles and that is pleasant to me. They are quite

dissipated, and I think this is the gayest place that ever was.

Bye the bye, I like Miss Koster exceedingly. She is rather too easy, but has a thousand good qualities. If you see any of her friends, that may be satisfactory to them."

Barrie's comment on Miss Koster was, "The lasses get on pretty well with Miss Koster, who is a well-informed person, but too much of a daudle to my taste. However, she pleases Juno the old, and this is satis for me; and the girls do improve some.

And young Juno recalled,

"We did not like Miss Koster in our young days — she had no aptitude for teaching, tho very well read. Both she and my mother were women of extraordinarily conservative views. However, Miss Koster had the advantage of having lived in the first literary society of her day. Her father, a leading Liverpool merchant being a very intimate friend of Coleridge and Southey and others who were all frequent guests at their house. We never were allowed to talk in the drawing room, but as we were chiefly in the room with our parents when our lessons were over we heard a great deal of general conversation and were all a strange imitation of childishness and more knowledge of the world than most children."

As to the ball old Juno mentioned, I hope she did find the paper, for the <u>Kingston</u>

<u>Chronicle</u> gave a long and glowing report, which would have interested the relatives at home.

Next, the Barries had sessions of whooping cough lasting for months. Fortunately Barrie had already made arrangements to borrow Sir Peregrine Maitland's country place, Stamford Cottage, at Stamford, near Niagara for the summer months to escape the ague. In late April 1831 Julia wrote to Frances Lyon about the situation,

"I don't think I've written since I last heard from you, and if I tell you my chief hindrance you will at best turn me into ridicule; if not be angry at me. All the girls have had the whooping cough since February. It had subsided but is returned in all its glory, and now I look forward to change of air as the only cure.

Barrie and William are up above - as the higher part of the Province is called - looking at our cottage and spying what we shall want for it. As soon as possible after their return, we are all to go - "we all" being Miss Koster, the four girls, and four maids.

Barrie has the whooping cough badly! It seems the year for all this family to be worried with it. It certainly was provoking, but the time of the year is favorable, and it is better for the children all to have it - even badly - than to wait as Barrie has done, and now to whoop as regularly as the girls do.

I hear of you from your dear mother, who is a regular Gazette office to me, and I dare say, you all hear plenty of me. Yesterday, I cut my first asparagus - 75 heads and some of them very fine. To-morrow I hope to cut 100. But on the whole, Spring is very backward here because it is so much later and shorter than in England. We miss the beautiful green coming out so early and gradually, as in our own hedges or sheltered parks; but I hope to be in time to catch the apple and peach bloom in the land of orchards to which we are going.

We have been crazy this Spring with a bazaar. Now as you know, I am no great worker, so imagine me in March sitting down to work before seven in the morning every day. However our pains were rewarded, for the Charity got £437.19, of which I earned myself nearly a quarter - £103.5s - besides presents I made

to another table. So you see, we are not at the world's end, not yet at our wits end, when we could produce such a sum. We made above 150 articles in the house. Miss Koster says she is not one of the ingenious - all things my comparison, and she is in my opinion very neat fingered. But she is besides, a much more valuable thing - very obliging and enters readily into whatever is going on; and I believe felt as much in the act in our labours and being duly appreciated (by telling) as I did myself. And I thought of nothing by day or night for long!

I am frightened when I think of England and I am thankful we are on this side of the water. We have long been afraid of being reduced according to the program of economy so much talked of. However, late reports never mentioning reductions make us hope we are safe for a year. It would be a great blow to return within a year, after the work it has been coming out - and now I want to stay 5 years altogether."

Well, it did not work out to five years, but at least it was as much as three years and eight months, and not the one year, Julia was fearing at this time. Reverting to the bazaar for the Female Benevolent Society, this was held on the 6th and 7th April in the large public room in Myer's Hotel. In addition to Mrs. Barrie's table, there were four other gift tables headed by Mrs. Stuart, Mrs. Kirby, Mrs. H. Smith and Mrs. H. C. Thompson; and a refreshment table operated by Mrs. Peter Small and Mrs. Macaulay. On the second evening there was a bazaar ball at Myer's; on the management committee of which was John Glover, the Naval Store Keeper at the Dock Yard. The <u>Kingston Chronicle</u> was ecstatic over both events. I'll just quote one line: "It affords us no ordinary degree of pleasure to be able to state that the Ladies of Kingston (including in this designation Mrs. Barrie, whose exertions on this occasion were unremitting) were on this occasion ably supported by the public."

The summer at Stamford was an unqualified success. Young Juno in her memoirs called it "the most delightful summer I ever remember"; and then goes on, "We took furniture from Kingston to rough it for the summer months and a strangely wild and delightful time we had." Young Juno may have felt she was roughing it, but on thinking of those four maids and a governess to look after Julia and four young girls, plus bringing horses and the phaeton from Kingston roughing seems only a matter of degree! William was there in midsummer after a trip to the upper lakes with his father, and Barrie stopped for a brief visit. Barrie reported that while they were at Sault Ste, Marie there were two singular arrivals from the West and the North via Lake Superior within an hour — one from the Columbia river and the other from the Mackenzie river.

William, turning 14, was now 5 ft. 3-1/2" according to old Juno, who added, "I think he means to grow at least a foot." In a letter from Stamford to Barrie's mother she describes her efforts to make a young man of him.

"Quily has quite changed his accomplishments since his father left him in my care; and what do you think I have had him taught? To shoot, to swim, and to ride! He rode 22 miles the other day and was not tired. B picked up a Staff-ordshire man lately, who has been a park keeper, a bit of a gardener; in fact fit for any out-of-door job and I put Quily under his tuition. Now the child shot 9 birds out of 12 shots yesterday and that I call very good doing for a young beginner. He can only swim when his teacher (a young clergyman in the neighbourhood) has a mind to do, for I dare not let him go alone to bathe under the falls! There is a quiet safe place very near, but certainly too near the Rapids to trust him alone. He is exceedingly anxious to learn to swim, and his father is so nervous and afraid for the child that he would never have let him; and now I dare not tell him how Quily got a cut on the head with a pistol he was firing like a fouling piece, for fear of the poor boy being forbidden to touch firearms again. You cannot think how frightened his father is for him. I hope I am properly careful, but I am not willing

to make an old woman of a spirited boy; and I flatter myself he is doing as well with me as he could anywhere, except at sea.

We are a good four miles from the Falls, and sometimes hear them quite boistrously, but not so loud as the whirlpool which shake our windows and make them rattle sometimes; and we are between 2 and 3 miles from that. Above the Falls there is a curious burning spring (it is called). It is a sort of inflammable gas which takes fire on a lighted paper being held above it, and flames up. We have mineral springs, which I have not yet seen. Heaps of beautiful drives; new trees; new flowers, of one of which I send you some seeds."

It is rather odd that when Barrie was so brave and daring all his life, that he should be so timid over his son's development. Barrie was now 57, and perhaps becoming unable to cope with the young. While at Niagara, Julia took in young Lizzie MacRobb who was eight - the same age as Roberta. The mother, Julia's friend Eliza Harvey, had died in Montreal earlier in the year. Although initially, Lizzie came only for the summer months, she was adopted before the Barries left Kingston and remained part of the family until the day she married.

In October, Barrie wrote the following to Frances Lyon,

"I am waiting here for the arrival of the Halifax August mail. When it is received I'm off per steam to Stamford to bring home the old fat wife and cubs. They were all well by the last report. We have cold wet weather here — and a very sickly season: fever, ague, smallpox, measles, poverty, and divers other complaints. I know not how the poor emigrants will get through the winter.

I am trying to get Captain Bayfield who is employ'd surveying the St.

Lawrence to take Quily with him for the winter at Quebec. Bayfield is a clever fellow and I want Quily to improve himself in nautical astronomy before he goes to sea. He grows fast - but is a long, lanky, gawky sort of

chap - careless & dirty, absent to a dangerous degree. But he is clever and what he has learnt he retains - at least he says he does, for in the <u>Tongues</u> he is above my pitch or that of the schoolmaster parson we have here. But at Quebec I hope he will meet some clever scholars more than his match."

Now let's turn to young Juno again for some memories of 1831 - 1832 at the Kingston Dock Yard. First though, she describes her dress at Stamford and those of her sisters.

I was very tall for twelve but had my hair cropped quite short. We all had, for daily wear, brown holland pinafores with long sleeves and high in the neck; and we wont to wear skipping ropes as girdles. Our bonnets were sun bonnets of green crepe, looking like enormous cabbages.

The 66th were stationed at Kingston then, and there were some very patient officers among them. Captain Kingsmill was stationed at the Point and we became very intimate with his family. The Yarwoods were then in England and we were pleased to have new friends. Many an hour have I sat on a pile of cannon balls on the ramparts inventing thrilling narratives for the edification of the Kingsmills and my sisters. I can remember the wonderful plots to this day, and wonder that I can have imagined these sentimental scenes and absurdities which abound in these early productions; only to be equalled by the bathos, the noblesse and ridicule of the romantic and epic poems written about the same time.

There were several amateur plays that winter which were got up among the officers. We had very grand Balls and parties all through the winter. It is odd to think of the decorations for the splendid entertainments. Our large dining-room was hung with flags and lighted by tin sconces. I think the candles were tallow, but I cannot be sure. The company assembled about eight o'clock. In the passage there was on Ball nights, a barrel of punch - always made by my father; and covered with evergreens to look pretty. Every-

body helped themselves to as much as they wanted, and often more than they ought to have had. In those days every man wore his uniform, and all those who had Orders wore them."

A number of the Barries' balls were covered in the press. This one from <u>The Patriot and</u>
Farmer's Monitor describing one in February 1832 complements Juno's memories.

"Last Tuesday Commodore Barrie and His Lady gave a sumptuous Ball and Supper to the Navy, the Military and Gentry of Kingston. The number of guests, rather exceeded the "general meeting of the Inhabitants of Lennox and Addington" and comprised the prime of life of the beauty, elegance and fashion of our residing City. The splendid uniforms of the numerous officers of the gay and lightsome 66th, mingled with the superb variety of elegant female attire gave to the scene a most enlivening charm. The generous hospitality of the kind Host and Hostess was conspicuously solicitous for the comfort and ease of every individual. The youth of both sexes imbibed plentifully the exhilarations of the joyous dance; and the mature, of the ad lebitum libations of fun-engendering punch, and with inspiring champaign.

It being Valentine's Day; just previous to supper, in marched to the crowded dancing room a figure grotesquely habited, bearing before him a multitudinous heap of folded papers, one of which each lady took at random. On opening them, they were discovered to be Valentines of a most tasteful and elegant description, when it may be guessed there was no lack of fascinating smiles.

All in all it was a treat worthy of its free and generous bestowers, calculated to inspire those feelings of respect and affection, which should ever be the tribute to official honours, when accompanied by liberality of heart, and a general manifestation of social and kind feelings."

Juno covers the dreadful cholera summer of 1832 in one short sentence, "In the next

summer we had more sickness, but nothing worth recording." It speaks well for the efforts her father had made to keep the Dock Yard isolated and fit that summer, that Juno does not mention the epidemic. She then goes on,

"In the winter I first <u>felt</u> music. We had some Germans come to Kingston and give two concerts. The music was chiefly Weber. Four of their glorious fugues and choruses sound in my ears even now. And from that day on I started German with a will."

Of these musicians, Lord Aylmer had written to Barrie,

"Should the German musicians, who are now at Montreal, proceed onwards to Kingston to exhibit their talents, perhaps you will have the kindness to take them under your protection. They came thoroughly recommended to us by poor Lady Ogle."

In regard to learning German, Old Juno was fluent and instructed the children. Both parents were fluent in French and young Juno in recalling French lessons at school at Kendall in 1827 wrote, "I had heard French spoken all my life and was always quick at languages." In later life Juno spent some time at the Court of France and was popular with the Royal family.

The following are some interesting snippets from a letter from Barrie to Frances Lyon early in 1833.

"We are all pretty well here. I am not so stout or strong as I used to be - but all things considered I wonder how I have weathered all my attacks so well. Nothing but an iron constitution could have done it.

Juno is in a peck of troubles - we have a large party invited for Thursday next, and this day (Monday) I have turned off our head waiter for slack.

We had a very severe gale of wind last night from the SW. At day-break this morning it suddenly went round to NW and fairly blew one of our doors

from the hinges. Our old wooden house rocked like a ship at sea. It is now fine clear cold weather, blowing smart from the NNW.

When the snow falls, he will proceed to Quebec as I mean him to have another summer cruise with Capt. Bayfield in <u>Gulnare</u>. But if this sad Dutch war is to take place, I must try to get him into some smart sea-going ship. A French union and a Dutch war can never be popular with Jack. (i.e. the British) Our neighbours are at 6's & 7's and are also very near coming to blows. I really think this kick-up on the part of the Southern states will, at no distant date, lead to a dissolution of the Union, even if the present squabble about the tariff be patched up.

Our discontented French-Canadians would gladly rebel if they dared, and would join the Yankey if they thought that by so doing they would establish a republic in Canada. I think a general war will do us all good.

I am anxious to learn the result of your elections. If they go in favour of the Radical Whigs, I fear old England is done for. I am not a regular out & out Tory but a Conservative and a bit of a Radical."

To editorialize again for a second, I sometimes vaguely feel that a war might do us some good too, to give us purpose and unity so sadly lacking to-day. And Barrie's fears in 1833 that England might be done for has a familiar current ring to it.

I wish that there was time to describe the two-month family cruise in the Upper lakes in the summer of 1833, as they are well described in a diary ten-year old Roberta kept of which I will show you three slides; also in young Juno's memoirs, and in old Juno's letters. I'll read only young Juno's opening paragraph.

The summer of 1833 we had an excursion to Lake Superior. My father was going on a tour of inspection and took my mother, brother, Roberta and me with

him. Roberta was to go for a change because she had the ague. We were in our new yacht, also named <u>Bull Frog.</u> Col. Glegg, an old friend of my father's (ADC to Lord Aylmer) was with us. The officers, Messrs. Holbrook, Swainson, Light, and the little doctor Colls - one of the most extraordinary men I have ever met in my life - wonderfully clever, extremely vain, very charming, and a dreadful drunkard."

At the end of August the Aylmers came for a visit on their way to York and the United States, which young Juno recalls briefly,

"Our next event was the visit of Lord and Lady Aylmer who with their officers stayed about a week. As our house would not contain so large a party, the little ones and Miss Koster went to Barriefield and stayed with the Marks; but Dolly and I stayed at home and a dreadful mess I made spilling the tea over in making breakfast."

During the Kingston visit it was arranged that Lord Aylmer would meet Barrie at Fort Gratiot near Detroit for a cruise on Lake Huron to Penetanguishine in mid-September, after Lady Aylmer and her suite parted for a tour of New York state and other parts of the United States. Shortly before Barrie set off for the rendez-vous, word came that his mother had died peacefully at Swarthdale. In a letter to Mary Clayton at Lostock, Julia describes the dramatic effect the news had on Barrie.

"Frances Ewing's letter had long prepared us for this loss, but my husband would not believe it - he used to say that Frances croaked, that William (Clayton) was nervous, anything rather than own he was to live without his mother, which he hardly seemed to make up his mind he was to do. He left this quite altered in looks and so cast down in spirits that I felt quite uneasy about him. However, last night by private hand I had two notes from him written in better spirits and he says he is better. Very likely being obliged to leave home has been of service to him, tho I was so disappointed

with his looks that I should have insisted on going part way with him had it not been necessary for me to stay behind to write letters for him, order mourning, and many other things I had to do.

There is one thing my dear mother promised me, and I value it too much to neglect to put in my claim. She told me I should have the picture of Barrie when a lieutenant with powdered head that used to hang in her dressing closet at Lostock. Will you keep it for me and I consider it as mine."

We will see a colour slide of this portrait in a few minutes. Julia goes on,

"It is fortunate that Barrie's company are only to join him afterwards. He had some days to himself, and he would have occupation to keep him better entertained than playing civils to Lord Aylmer and his A.D.C. He would have part of the ship's duty to do, the Master having invalided and returned to England (I believe) so the schooner went to sea without its complement of officers. When we went, we took Mr. Swainson (my Liverpool friend) from his station at Isle aux Noix, in place of the Master; but this time Barrie has taken no-one, and I am afraid he may be doing more than he has the strength for.

I saw in yesterday's paper the first mention of the <u>Gulnare</u> that I have seen this summer; as thus: you have doubtless heard of the famous naturalist Audubon. He has been to the north in search of new birds and it is in the paper that on the coast of Labrador he met with the <u>Gulnare</u> and received much kindness from Capt. Bayfield and Dr. J. Eally. Now I imagine Quily has probably spent a day in the woods or swamps with such a distinguished character - for I take it for granted that he would be pleased with Quily and make something of him, tho of course, such a child's name was not in the papers. We shall have the little boy turning ornithologist next. "The little boy" tho, I ought to remember is a strapping youth in his 17th year.

I never laugh now, heartily, except when I read some old jokes in a scrap-book. We are contented and comfortable but <u>not</u> amused. In fact there is nothing to amuse one; and even a spider exhausts itself with spinning from itself in due time. So my queer ideas they want freshening up.

I never cumber my mind with politics, but whenever the subject is forced on me I think it would be better to stay on this side of the water, for I have an idea that you are very cut-throaty. Now I think we might form a fine establishment in the newly-laid out town of Barrie, and collect our friends as they went to decay and got frightened. But I cannot inspire my husband with any of my mind, or I do think some such thing should be attempted. Now, it goes for a joke."

As an aside, in comparing to-day the town of Barrie with the places named for the governors and lieutenant-governors of Barrie's time in Canada: Richmond, Port Dalhousie, Kemptville, Aylmer, Maitland, and Port Colborne, it seems to me that Barrie is the one showing the greatest indications of becoming a large city in due course.

In late October, Lord Aylmer wrote Barrie from Sorel thanking him for the Kingston hospitality and cruise and reporting on his wife's expedition.

"I arrived at Montreal on the 5th instant, and after remaining a few days there I proceeded to Quebec where I likewise remained a few days. On the l6th I returned to this place, and on the day but one following, Her Ladyship with her two Aides-de-Camp joined me - all delighted with their tour of the United States. As we were all of us full of our own exploits (Heriot being still here to second me) it was difficult for any one individual of the party to obtain a hearing from the rest - so we all talked together. However, we have now become more tolerant, and have come to something like an understanding. It appears that they made a more extensive tour than they had contemplated, and even got as far as Washington where they were all presented to the President.

Nothing could exceed the attention they met with everywhere, and they are in admiration of the great and increasing prosperity of the States in general.

On the last day of 1833 Julia wrote to Mary Clayton about the memorial to their parents that Barrie and William Clayton were planning for Leyland Parish Church, with text by Rev. Thomas Lyon - Frances' husband. In her letter she includes a hilarious description of the six children as they were near the end of the Kingston era.

"In the matter of the monument Barrie says if all hands disapprove of Latin let it be English - only he fancied Latin is more durable. I am inclined to think English will outlast Leyland! If a plain but handsome monument can be put up for less than half the sum mentioned, as your William says it can be, let it be. Of course done as reasonably as consistent with what is handsome and suitable.

Quily has been with us for the past month. He is as tall as his father and offers to be a deal taller. He is greatly improved in his appearance this year, being browned and filled out, and has the most awful appetite - always craving foods. He is rigging a little ship which his father says he does very nicely, and is learning to turn in the Dock Yard shop which keeps him out of mischief. I am awfully anxious for him to get out to the <a href="Vernon">Vernon</a> (Sir George Cockburn) for he awfully wants a little idea of good manners. However, those he may learn. He is clever and well-disposed and seems extremely adverse to any sort of dissipation; and on the whole is a boy one may do well with, in spite of his ungainly ways.

Julia is an insignificant "freckledlight" girl about half an inch taller than me; awkward and peevish. Dolly is an ugly black dwarf with a mouth so wide and teeth so huge that I am afraid she will swallow herself up - boistrous and passionate, but nevertheless she has a fine disposition and so much animation and fun that she is a universal favorite. Roberta is a pale or tallowy

splatterface, something like a slealthy cunning cat, both in countenance and disposition; but when she is in good humour, so engaging she is charming. Little Lizzy, the adopted, is gentle and soft; and Georgy a great blustering boistrous horse Godmother; rather like Julia having at least the same light freckly complexion. William is the best-looking of the family.

I don't think I have drawn a flattering portrait of them. There are always two sorts of likenesses to be taken and another day I may send one of a more favourable cast. I should not omit Miss Koster - she is always the same, so there is not much need be said - she is a comfort to my life.

We have famous deep snow but the lake roaring great waves like the sea. No ice, but I dare say we shall have plenty."

Young Juno ends the Kingston section of her memoirs to her children with the following paragraph.

"In the Spring came the order for the Dock Yard establishment to be broken up. We could hardly believe it when it was first announced. In fact, my father refused to obey till a remonstration had been made to the then government; but as they persisted in their folly nothing could be done. We left Kingston the last day of May, and my father and the officers returned in the course of the summer."

The news was received by Barrie on 8 March 1834 in four letters, dated 9, 10, and 11 January. The first was a private letter from his good friend on the Board of Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty, Sir John Pechell giving the background; the second was a letter of instructions from Sir John Barrow, Secretary of the Admiralty; the third was a Warrant to pay off the Cockburn and put her into reserve, and the last was a Warrant to strike his broad Pendant and repair to England. Everything was to be effective by July 1st. Word got around Kingston fast, and the British Whig of 11 March carried this notice,

"We are sorry to notice a report that we fear has some foundation for its truth, that the Naval Establishment at Point Frederick will be broken up on 1st August next. The town of Kingston will lose a warm friend and kind patron in the person of Commodore Barrie.

The Kingston Chronicle of 13 May noted,

"Commodore Barrie's full-blooded and imported horse Daghee was sold to-day at noon in the Market Place for the low price of £500. He was purchased by Messrs. Marks, Yarker, and others - a company of gentlemen - and it is intended to keep him in the vicinity for the purpose of improving our breed of horses."

The Montreal Herald of the same date reported,

Commodore Barrie, CB arrived at Orr's Hotel from Upper Canada last night. With his usual zeal for the services in which he has been so long and faithfully engaged, he is supposed to be on a tour of inspection of such stores as may be subject to public auction, preparatory to the reduction of the naval establishment in these provinces."

On 31 May, the day that Julia Barrie and the children left Kingston the Chronicle noted Barrie's final naval salute to mark the King's birthday.

"Wednesday being the anniversary of His Majesty's Birth Day (long may be reign over us!) was celebrated by the Artillery firing at 12 o'clock noon, a Royal Salute, in front of the Market Square, and a feu de joie from the gallant 66th. Another salute at lo'clock reminded the inhabitants of Kingston that it was undoubtedly the last national honor which they would hear paid by a gallant officer to the Head of the Government he has served so long and with so much honor."

On 25th June there was held a "splendid sale of household furniture" at the Commodore's residence; and undoubtedly it was well attended. The Barries brought back to England

many of their possessions, including a suite of French furniture given to them as a wedding present by Napoleon's brother, Lucien, Prince Canino, whom Barrie captured in 1810 attempting to escape to the United States with his family, and had become a friend; a box made from wood of H.M.S. <u>Discovery</u> - Vancouver's ship in which Barrie served on the long voyage; three prints depicting Barrie's famous naval victory at Sagone Bay (of which I'll show you slides) - all of which were conversation pieces in Kingston; and their books, paintings, and sterling silver. Nevertheless, the list of items advertised in the paper for the auction was impressive. It included a vast wine cellar, two pianos, dinner and tea sets, quantities of glass, varieties of furniture, rugs; the phaeton, harness, saddles, sleighs, horses, pigs, bull, cow, etc.

The children's dog, Nero, to whom they were devoted, was sent to Captain Bayfield in Quebec. William left the <u>Gulnare</u> that summer for a ship on the Halifax station. I think he never saw his parents again.

There was no public dinner for Barrie, for some inexplicable reason. However, there was one nice gesture. Captain Gildersleeve's new steam-boat, which was to have been named Cataraqui was christened Commodore Barrie, The Chronicle noted,

"We were pleased when we learnt that by her baptismal rites, the name of a gallant and much esteemed public officer was to be perpetuated among us — that of Commodore Barrie. The new vessel is to be worked by an engine of 70 horsepower, and is expected to be ready about the first of July. Success to the Commodore Barrie."

On the morning of Saturday, 12 July, Barrie, accompanied by John Marks, boarded the passenger steamer St. George in front of his house on Point Frederick and headed for Prescott, on his way to Montreal. Having last summer approached Kingston by water from the St. Lawrence for the first time in many years, passing close to Cedar Island redoubt, Fort Henry, and Fort Frederick, I have a vivid picture of Robert Barrie on the deck of the St. George in clear July weather watching the same topography, and his mind full of memories

of his activities on the lake during the 15 years. Doubtless the men of the Army company on Point Frederick lined the ramparts and cheered him. Possibly some of the soldiery at Fort Henry came down the hill to the waterfront and did likewise, as Kingston's most colourful character disappeared around the point for the last time.

On July 15th, the Montreal Gazette noted the arrival of Commodore Barrie and John Marks, at Orr's Hotel, and went on,

"The officers, marines, and seamen of the <u>Cockburn</u> embark for England in the <u>Hampshire</u> which will clear here to-day. The stores at the naval establishment at The Cross have been transferred to Mr. William Denn, formerly of the Kingston establishment. Mr. Marks will return to Kingston in a few days to assume the duties which have devolved on him singly by the reduction of the establishment."

Also on the 15th July, Lord Aylmer at Sorel wrote the following farewell to Barrie.

"My Dear Barrie:

Before leaving Quebec for this place, I sent off a letter to you at Kingston on Friday or Saturday last. It will probably not reach you before your departure, which I now find by your letter of yesterday from Montreal is on the point of taking place. I very much fear that you will pass so rapidly by Sorel that I shall not have the opportunity of taking you once more by the hand in America; and I have therefore to put upon paper the expression of my hearty good wishes for the health and happiness of you and yours, in all quarters of the globe, and under all circumstances of this changeable life. You are going, I fear, from a country much confused, to one more confounded.

We did all we could to get a sight of Mrs. Barrie and co. - for we were sitting at breakfast when the papers arrived announcing her departure as on that very day from Montreal, and immediately the steamer hove in sight with a vessel in tow, we started off in a moment in the carriage, and on our arrival

at the wharf discovered that the vessel alongside the steamer was not the

Esther but another; and we saw at the same time the Esther under sail going down the river too far off to leave us a hope of being able to reach her.

Finally the Kingston Chronicle of 9 August reported,

"A letter has been received from the barque <u>Hampton</u> off Bic, dated 26th July, stating that Commodore Barrie, C.B., with his officers and men, paid off from the Navy on the Lakes, were then all well, and proceding to England with a fair wind. Capt. Johnson, 66th Regt. is of the party and of good health.

While at Quebec, Mr. Taylor, Assistant Surgeon, had a severe attack of the cholera, but recovered; and sailed with the party. One of the petty officers (William Bowden, boatswain's mate) died of cholera in the hospital at Quebec."

This must be the same vessel the Montreal Gazette called the Hampshire. As the latter article contained many errors which I omitted, I would guess that the correct name was indeed Hampton. In a bitter letter to Lord Aukland, First Lord of the Admiralty, after reaching London, Barrie called her "a deeply-laden wheat vessel". He contrasted how the Admiralty had sent him out in a frigate in 1819 and again in 1827 with his having to find his own passage home as though he were in disgrace. He added that the general impression in Canada was that possibly this was the case, and he requested a mark of recognition to prove otherwise; remarking that he had felt slighted in 1815 when he received only a C.B. and not a K.C.B. which he had felt was merited in comparison with other naval recipients of that honour.

This situation could possibly explain why the citizens of Kingston had not offered

Barrie a public dinner; or conversely why Barrie turned down one, if one had indeed been offered.

Julia Barrie died at Ripley Castle in November 1836, two and a third years after leaving Kingston. In commenting on her mother's early death, young Juno wrote, "I do not think there were ever two people more truly attached to each other, or better suited, than those

very opposite characters. Their 20 year marriage was divided approximately as follows:

Kingston 8-1/2 years, Swarthdale 2-1/2 years with Barrie and 3 years alone, Ripley

Castle 4 years - 1-1/2 before Canada and 2-1/2 after Canada, and Europe at the start

of their marriage 2 years. Kingston was the longest and happiest period, despite Barrie's

occasional grouches. Young Juno has said that she always felt Kingston more of a home

than England; and at least twice old Juno suggested that she would like to consider stay
ing in Canada.

Robert Barrie had had a rugged life at sea, and when unemployed between 1802 and 1804 and 1815 - 1816 he had led a wild existence distressing to his family as a notorious gambler and man-about-town. But when he married at 42 he settled down as a good and contented family man, and never again gambled.

Julia's letters show us what a lively and amusing person she was and how well she understood and looked after her husband. He would miss her dreadfully, and it is small wonder that he survived her by less than five years. He died at Swarthdale in June 1841.

When word of his death reached John Marks at Cataraqui Cottage, Barriefield, through a letter from young Juno, he replied as follows.

"Dear Miss Julia Barrie:

I have purposely deferred answering your letter of June for a little - to generous minds the best of consolation can only pass for its value at last, any attempt to advise not to grieve for the loss of a kind father so beloved by you all, would be like endeavouring to stop the sea-tide from flowing.

Nothing but time and good sense with resignation to the will of God, can heal the contrite spirit, or restore the mind of the afflicted to its natural tranquility. I am sure you and your affectionate sisters will excuse me for adverting to the death of your most excellent parent, whose memory will ever be held by me in the highest regard and esteem. His honorable, upright, and manly bearing, can never be forgotten by those who have had the good fortune

Barrie gave me advantages of knowing his noble-minded character and sentiments as an Officer in high Command, and his opinions on men and manners, which has left a lasting impression on my mind of his worth and value; and I do hope your brother will in due time inherit and possess many of the good qualities and decision of character from which his lamented father was so justly and deservedly respected. This I know he cannot attain at once, it must be left to time and practice. Dr. Johnson somewhere explains that experience is gained by experience; so I trust your intelligent brother will return home safe, well stored with professional knowledge to be the friend and delight of you all.

Kingston is becoming a wonderful place, being the seat of Government. Its population has increased one half in the seven years since you left, and now it is a small town of 8,000 inhabitants I ought to write more about your friends here. Many, many are the kind enquiries about you all; but I must

I am getting old, and if possible, service-worn, yet tough and active and in the enjoyment of good health. Mrs. Marks does not hold out so well. Still she is pretty strong except in the very hot weather when she complains of weakness. She sends her best love to you all, including your young friend, Miss MacRobb.

make up my report of our growing city and your numerous friends in a future -

Please tell Mr. Cracroft of my kind enquiries for him.

I remain with much esteem

at no distant time letter.

Yours respectfully,

J. Marks"

This was the final curtain on the Barrie's connection with Kingston.

# Slides for Paper: "Commodore Barrie and his Family"

#### Slide No.

- I'm showing this slide which belonged in abandoned Part I, because of an interesting Kingston tie-in. It is the lease on a house in St. Augustine, East Florida when a British colony, which Robert Barrie's father, Dr. Robert Barrie, Surgeon's Mate of the 31st Foot, took in 1774 when Dolly was expecting Robert's birth.
- This closeup of part of the top lines shows the item of interest. On the 9th line it says:

.... "as lately in the tenure of Brigadier-General Haldimand."

Thus, Robert Barrie, who was to play such an active part in Kingston when it was a growing town in the boom which followed the end of the War of 1812, was born in May 1774 in a house in the British colony of East Florida previously occupied by the man who was to found both Kingston and Upper Canada.

- 3. This painting of Barrie was made when he was promoted lieutenant on his return from Vancouver's voyage in 1795, age 21. It is the one Julia Barrie requested after Dolly Clayton's death.
- In January 1819 when Barrie was preparing to come to Kingston he wrote to his mother from London, "That you may feast your eyes on my beautiful phiz I shall get a miniature of it taken which I shall give you."

  Barrie was aged 44.
- 5. This is an oil painting by Cecil Jameson of Cheltenham from the miniature, which I commissioned in 1968 for R.M.C.

- 6. This is Barrie's mother, Dolly Gardner in middle age, the recipient of his life-long devotion.
- Perous mill at Bamber Bridge, near Preston, Lancashire. Both with a young son by previous marriages, they were married in 1784 when he was 41 and Dolly 33. They were blessed with four devoted children of their own two sons and two daughters, and both treated the two stepchildren equally devotedly. For 45 years they had a happy life together.
- 8. Lostock Hall near Preston, the Claytons' home, an open house for all members of the family connection. Hundreds of Barrie's letters are addressed here.
- 9. Frances Clayton Lyon, the eldest of the four Clayton children born

  1785 to whom some of the letters I read to-night were addressed. Next
  came George born in 1787, a bit of a drinker etc. who accompanied
  Barrie to Kingston in 1819 and stayed a year. After George, came
  William born in 1790. He founded the Preston Bank and inherited Lostock
  Hall in 1829 on his father's death.
- Here is Eliza Clayton Lyon nicknamed Pious who was born in 1792.

  Barrie did not meet William or Pious until his return from Vancouver's voyage.
- Leyland parish church (St. Andrew's), built 1050, rebuilt 1220. It was here that Dolly and George Clayton met. Their family pew was in the balcony. George and Dolly are buried in the churchyard. You will recall the arrangements Barrie from Kingston was making in 1833 for a memorial plaque in marble to be made and erected on the staircase to the balcony.

- 12. Barrie's uncle and patron Allan Gardner, as a captain R.N.
- 13. Allan as Admiral Lord Gardner. This portrait by Beechey hangs in the Painted Hall, Greenwich.
- Barrie's cousin, Allan Hyde, 2nd Lord Gardner. Two years older than
  Barrie he also became an admiral and died in 1815, 6 years after his
  father.
- 15. I'm showing you these next three slides of prints of Barrie's famous naval battle at Sagone Bay, Corsica because Barrie had the prints on one of the walls of his house on Pt. Frederick, and they will be going back to the point when I donate them to R.M.C.

Corsica was held by the French and well-defended. In Sagone Bay were the following defences: a Martella Tower, a battery of four 18 pounders and mortars, battery of five 9 pounders, 300 troops with their field pieces, and armed inhabitants. Stationed there under protection of the shore force was the 64 gun battleship la Nourrice, and the frigates la Giraffe and L'Eti. Barrie was an acting Commodore of a squadron of three vessels: Pomone, Unité - Captain Chamberlayne - a 38 gun sister ship to Pomone, and Scout - Captain Sharpe - a sloop-of-war. As Barrie approached Sagone Bay the wind died completely.

After consultation with the other captains, it was decided to tow the vessel into the harbour around six pm to ensure that they could escape by dark if necessary. This first slide shows Pomone in front under tow and already starting to return the enemy fire. Surprise, of course, had been impossible, and the French were ready as soon as the British squadron came into view. Unité is also under tow, but Scout

- 15 Cont'd is remaining at the harbour mouth to be in a position to flee with word to Admiral Cotton if disaster should befall Barrie, yet at the same time in a position to join in the bombardment.
- 16. This is the start of the engagement at 6:30 pm. The boats are now tied astern with only one man per boat on duty the rest of the men are on deck with muscats. The action lasted without intermission until 7:30 when smoke was observed to issue from Giraffe. Soon after la Nourrice was ablaze, and the merchantman loaded with lumber for Toulon moored nearby, was set on fire by brands from the battleship. Shortly after the batteries and tower were silenced, and the three ships were completely on fire.
- At this point, Barrie lost no time in towing his ships out of harm's way, where they awaited the explosions which took place in succession. This picture shows <u>Unité</u> and <u>Pomone</u> being kept towards the harbour mouth by the boats, as <u>Giraffe</u> blows up and <u>Nourrice</u> blazes furiously. Soon after <u>Nourrice</u> exploded and some of her timbers falling on the Martella Tower entirely demolished it; and the sparks set fire to the battery which also blew up. The object of the attach being completed, Barrie then withdrew. Miraculously, Barrie's force had only two killed and 25 wounded with a few subsequent deaths.
- A poor picture of Barrie's wife, Julia Ingilby of Ripley, who was reputed to be fine looking. Somewhere there is a portrait of her by Gainsborough but I haven't tracked it yet. In October 1815 Barrie wrote a letter to his mother which doubtless startled and pleased her. It was from Ripley Castle where he was staying with his old crony Sir William Ingilby, who had succeeded to the baronetcy and castle in

- 18 Cont'd May. Barrie said, "I pass my time pleasantly enough here; the rain and the girls have kept me pretty much indoors, and I am not sure that I am not half in love with one of the Misses. When I am certain, I shall cut and run." Barrie was hooked and was married a year later. Barrie was 42, Julia 20.
- 19. These two calling cards plus a homemade one marked 'Mrs. Barrie' were found in the pocket of Dolly Clayton's diary for 1816. As the bride and groom arrived at Lostock for a visit following the wedding they probably left the cards in the hall salver as a family joke.
- The Barries had a honeymoon of nearly two years on the continent which included a visit in Rome with Lucien Buonaparte, shown here, and his family. Lucien had wanted Barrie to marry one of his daughters.
- In September 1818, the Barries settled down at Ripley Castle near
  Harrowgate with 20,000 acres of farms which Barrie agreed to manage
  for Julia's brother, Sir William Ingilby. The tower to the left is
  part of the original castle.
- 22. Drawing room: the portraits on either side of the fire-place are those of Julia and Sir William's parents.
- 23. Barrie made this artificial lake
- 24. These greenhouses were also built by Barrie. Sir William called them a folly.
- 25. And this lovely orangery was also built by Barrie I believe it was after taking on the "stone frigate" on Point Frederick which may have given him an interest in stone masonry.

- This is the offer of the Kingston commissionership, made by Lord Melville, First Lord of the Admiralty.
- A reminder how little known Barrie was in Canada when he arrived in 1819. The Kingston Chronicle reporting from Quebec that on 11 July Barrie had landed, left his first name blank and mis-spelt his surname, and called him Esq.
- 28. By the time the <u>Chronicle</u> reported Barrie's arrival in Kingston, they had him correctly as Captain, but still mis-spelt his name.
- 29. The Dock Yard from Fort Henry, 1818,
- 30. And the Dock Yard and Fort Henry from Kingston, also 1818. If I had used by head I could have borrowed from John Spurr a print showing the Commissioner's house, for a slide,
- Here is a plan of the ground floor of Barrie's house. The entrance faces the Cataraqui River. The square portion on the right was the house as he found it. He added the large wing to the north, and kitchen to the east early in 1820 before his family arrived. In September he reported to his mother, "I have had a rap on the knuckles from the Navy Board for building a wing to my house to make it habitable." One can imagine how pokey the Kingston house seemed after Ripley Castle. At least the 30 ft. by 18 ft. new dining-room and 30 ft. by 16 ft. living-room made large-scale entertaining possible.
- 32. This is the main bedroom floor and each room has a fireplace. There is also a watercloset in the master bedroom in contrast to the four privys downstairs.

- 33. The attic bedrooms are smaller and have no heat. For the maids and young kids!
- 34. This is Barrie's book plate. The Barries brought a lot of books to Kingston.
- 35. And acquired some here, including this one.
- In addition to the book plate, this annual has Barrie's signature,

  Commodore Barrie, at the top of the frontispage shown in this slide.

  Inside is an article on Daghee, the beautiful bay horse Barrie brought back to Kingston the previous Fall. Daghee was a grandson of the celebrated Nesdjed Arabian Shaik that Sir Harford Jones brought back from Persia in the Pomone and was brought ashore alive from the ship
  wreck. The author, a New Englander, called Barrie, "The most hardy, resolute enterprising, and mischievous of the British officers that harbored in the Chesapeake Bay during the war. With Commodore Barrie seeing him often under the relaxations of a flag of truce, we cracked many a good bottle, and many a good joke; which he kindly invites us to do again in his house, as our home should we ever visit Kingston, U.C."
- 37. Major-General Peregrine Maitland, the Lt.-Governor of Upper Canada from 1818 to 1828, and his wife, Lady Sarah Lennox, had become close friends of the Barries by 1823. But when Barrie first met him he had not taken to him, for he wrote to his mother on 12 October, 1819, "The Lt.-Governor of U.C., Sir P. Maitland, I do not like at all. He is a proud reserved chap." In February 1824 he was able to write, "There is a report that Sir P. Maitland is going home this summer. I hope

- 37 Cont'd it is not true for we like him and Lady M very much." On his regular inspection visits to Kingston, Maitland, often with Lady Sarah, would stay with the Barries; and in 1831 Maitland lent his cottage at Niagara to the Barries for a stay of many months.
- 38. Early in Barrie's leave in 1827 to bring his family home, he bought with Julia's money Swarthdale House in the Lune Valley near Lancaster. His family lived here until he came to bring them back to Kingston in 1830; at which time his recently widowed mother was settled in.
- 39. In the British election of 1826, Barrie ran for one of Preston's two seats, teamed with the Hon. E. G. Stanley (later Lord Stanley) for the Torys against the nororious William Cobbett and John Wood. Stanley and Wood got in. The fact that Barrie would be returning to Kingston was used against him widely in the campaign.
- 40. Barrie returned to Kingston as a Commodore of the First Class and First Captain of the schooner Cockburn. This is his Commission.
- When General Lord Aylmer became Governor-in-Chief in 1831, Barrie was delighted for he had known him in the West Indies. The Aylmers and Barries became great friends. When in June 1832 Aylmer laid the corner stone of the Marine Hospital in Quebec, the Kingston Chronicle reported that in reply to the toast to the Army and the Navy, Aylmer had said that he regretted the absence of his gallant friend, Commodore Barrie, who would have been better able than he to return thanks for the honour done his branch of the Service.
- 42. In June August 1833 the Barries cruised the Upper Lakes in the Commissioner's boat <u>Bull Frog II</u>. Roberta Barrie who was born in Kingston in 1823 and had her tenth birthday on the cruise, kept this

- 42 Cont'd journal of the trip.
- 43. First page, entering the Welland Canal.
- 44. Final page, "Awoke and found myself in Kingston Harbor."
- 45. King William IV who in November 1834 made Barrie a K.C.H. and a Kt.

  On leaving Brighton, Barrie's coach was overturned and he was badly
  injured indeed did not ever fully recover from the effects,
- The Barries once again lived at Ripley Castle from the Fall of 1834 till after Julia's death from cancer in November 1836.
- 47. Sir Robert and the children now settled in at Swarthdale House
- 48. St. Cuthbert's Church, over Kellet near Swarthdale, where the Barries attended.
- 49. Interior of St. Cuthbert's. The Barries had their own pew.
- 50. Memorial to Julia placed above the Barrie pew by Sir Robert. Later the children added a postscript to him.
- All Saint's Church, Ripley; immediately outside the castle gates. The Barries are buried in the Ingilby cript, entered from the churchyard on the castle side.
- The Ingilby family chapel in All Saint's Church with a private entrance from the churchyard near the castle gates. There is a memorial window to the Barries here.
- 53. William Barrie, 1817-1873, after his retirement from the Navy, about 1855 1860.

- Georgian Barrie who was a Nursing Sister with Florence Nightengale in the Crimean War. She and Dora turned Catholic after Barrie's death. Neither married.
- Julia and Roberta were married at Ripley Castle on the same day, 18 May 1847 to husbands twice their age. A psychologist could likely find a message here. This is Roberta's monstrosity, Leadbetter Uppelby who was 48 and Roberta 23 when they married.
- This is Rodney Barrie, a great-grandson of Robert, an actor and unmarried. He died last March and I have acquired quite a bit of Robert Barrie material from his estate for public institutions. He was the second son of Charles (William's 4th son). Photo taken around 1965 at age 70.
- 57. Rodney Barrie as Lord Nelson
- Kathleen Barrie, elder daughter of William Adolphus Barrie (third son of William) and a first cousin of Rodney. They were not on speaking terms though I became a close friend of both. Kathleen gave me the Sagone Bay prints and a collection of letters. This photo as an Officer of the St. John's Ambulance, London, was taken around 1960.
- 59. Kathleen Barrie presenting Mayor Robert Bentley of Barrie, Ontario with framed photograph of the R.M.C. portrait of Robert Barrie after whom the city is named, June 1968. A few days earlier she had unveiled the portrait in Massey Library, R.M.C.