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Welcome to the second edition of The Triumvirate! The first edition was a great success and I can only hope that future versions will be just as good or better. From this edition forward, The Triumvirate will in some way highlight a specific historical figure, historical event, or type of history. The goal of The Triumvirate is to explore, and bring attention to, various kinds of historical topics. The Triumvirate aims to provide more than the typical newsletter. It serves as a magazine-newsletter hybrid for the Tri-U community that publicizes university news, events, and updates as well as interviews and articles provided by students.

In anticipation of Black History Month, this edition of The Triumvirate dedicates its feature article and front page to the study of black history in Canada. In her article, doctoral candidate, Carla Marano, explores black history in the Waterloo region. Focusing on the Queen’s Bush settlement, Marano highlights an important part of our local history. The front page of this edition also celebrates black history in Canada. The images featured on the front cover are taken from Brock University’s online collection of black settlers at http://images.ourontario.ca/Brock. The images and records found in this collection explore the Bell and Sloman families. These families were slave descendants who came to Canada after the American Civil War.[1] The two images on the front cover were in possession of the Bell family. The large image on the left is a photograph of Reverend and Mrs. Wright and family, friends of the Bell family.[2] The image on the right features two black gentlemen who posed for John Cooper, a photographer who worked in London, Ontario and St. Thomas, Ontario from 1857-90.[3] Further exploration of black history in Canada will serve to enrich our national narrative.

I sincerely hope that you enjoy this edition of The Triumvirate. Any and all comments and suggestions are more than welcome. Please contact me at fili0380@mylaurier.ca. I apologize for neglecting to include this information in the first edition! I also did not properly introduce myself in the first edition. I am a second year doctoral student studying Canadian history. My interests are medical and nursing history, gender history, and war and society. My research focuses on the Royal Canadian Army Medical Corps in the Second World War, and on the social and professional relationships between physicians, Nursing Sisters, and medical assistants. I authored the articles in the first edition of The Triumvirate.

Happy reading!

Michelle Filice

Black History Month is fast approaching. But have you ever wondered why we celebrate black history in February? Certainly, Black History Month has a history of its own with roots deeply set in the United States. Perhaps few would be surprised to learn that it was an historian who first proposed the idea of dedicating a week to black history. In February of 1926, Carter G. Woodson founded Negro History Week in the U.S. The inauguration of Negro History Week coincides with the era of the Harlem Renaissance, a period in American history when blacks celebrated their unique culture, art, and heritage like never before. Negro History Week fell within the month of February to honour the birthdays of famed abolitionist, Frederick Douglass, and President Abraham Lincoln who ended slavery in the U.S. In the early 1970s, as the word “Negro” fell out of favour among African Americans, the name changed to Black History Week. Then in 1976, the week was expanded to encompass the entire month of February.

In Canada, it seems that blacks in Toronto pioneered Black History Month. February was first celebrated as Black History Month in 1950 at Toronto’s “Shaw Street” British Methodist Episcopal (BME) Church. Then in 1979, the Ontario Black History Society (OBHS) successfully petitioned the city of Toronto to officially mark February as Black History Month. However, it wasn’t until 1993 that the province of Ontario did the same. Then in December of 1995, the House of Commons finally recognized February as Black History Month after a motion by Canada’s first black woman in Parliament, Jean Augustine.

Acknowledging Black History Month in Canada is important for several reasons. For one, it is a time to celebrate the extraordinary achievements of African Canadians and their contributions to this country. But there is more to it than that. Rosemary Sadlier of the OBHS explains that “the greater Canadian community needs to know a history of Canada that includes all of the founding and pioneering experiences [including those of African Canadians] in order to work from reality, rather than perception alone.” In other words, we must all become acquainted with black history in order to achieve a fuller, more complete national narrative. “As a people,” says Sadlier, “African-Canadians have defended, cleared, built and farmed this country,” and in the process have contributed to the development of local communities.

Above: Canada Post celebrated Black History Month by recognizing the accomplishments of Carrie Best and Fergie Jenkins. Best, who died in 2001, was a writer and human rights activist. Jenkins, recipient of the Order of Canada, is the first Canadian inducted into the National Baseball Hall of Fame in New York. For more information on these individuals and the stamp designs, please visit http://www.canadapost.ca/cpo/mc/aboutus/news/pr/2011/2011_feb_black_history_month.jsf
Black History in Waterloo Region

In spite of this, the black presence in Waterloo region remains relatively unknown. Kitchener, Waterloo, Guelph, and their surrounding towns are known for their German, Mennonite, and Scottish heritage. However, there was at one time an influx of black immigration to this area. These immigrants established and settled in the community known as the Queen’s Bush Settlement in the mid-1800s. And like Sadlier mentions above, these black settlers cleared, built, and farmed this tract of land, thus helping to cultivate this now-prosperous region in Ontario.

The Queen’s Bush Settlement was a large, unsettled plot of land stretching the area between Peel Township in Wellington County and the townships of Wellesley and Woolwich in Waterloo County. Measuring twelve by eight miles in size, the Queen’s Bush offered black settlers from the United States the chance to escape the bonds of slavery and a severely racist atmosphere. The population in the Queen’s Bush was a mixed one – both blacks and whites lived there. However, of its 2,500 residents, over half (approximately 1,500) were black. The black population was itself diverse, comprised of fugitive slaves who had run away from their masters, freed slaves who had lawfully gained their freedom, and free-born blacks.

Because the Queen’s Bush Settlement was a forested area, the settlers worked hard to clear the land so that they could establish small homes and farms. Although settlers have been recorded in the Queen’s Bush as early as 1820, the community seems to have been strongest in the 1840s. Several churches were established, catering to the African Methodist Episcopal (AME), Baptist, and Wesleyan residents. Moreover, many of these African-American settlers believed that a solid education would provide them with a brighter future, both financially and socially. As a result, a few missionary schools opened in the Queen’s Bush Settlement. Led by American teachers and missionaries, these schools helped to fulfill this desire for education. Mount Pleasant Mission School was founded in 1843 in Peel Township. Its teacher, Fidelia Coburn, taught black and white children and adults in a small, one-room log cabin. Mount Hope Mission School opened a few years later. By the mid-1840s, these schools had a combined enrollment of over 220 students. Some of those who did not attend mission schools became entrepreneurs, establishing a variety of businesses for the local community.

However, by the mid-1840s the Queen’s Bush Settlement became threatened by the arrival of white immigrants, mainly from the British Isles. The Queen’s Bush settlers had no legal claim to the property on which they lived; under the law, they were simply squatters. So, as more immigrants entered the area, land surveyors began to divide the Queen’s Bush Settlement into sellable lots. As a result, the settlers wrote several petitions to the Governor General, Lord Elgin, seeking aid and support to maintain their property. Although not banished from their land, the 100 acre lots proved too expensive for many black settlers as the arrival of more immigrants drove up property values. Many black and white settlers abandoned their homes in the 1850s, forcing the mission schools and local businesses to close their doors. The black residents resettled mainly in Owen Sound, but also in other parts of southwestern Ontario.

Left: Plaque of the Queen’s Bush Settlement in The County of Wellington and Township of Mapleton.
Photo by Alan L. Brown.
http://www.ontarioplaques.com/Plaques_WVZ/Plaque_Wellington31.html
Scholar Linda Brown-Kubisch writes that many have perceived the short-lived Queen’s Bush Settlement as a failure, especially in comparison to better-known black settlements like Elgin. Nevertheless, she reminds us that the black settlers of the Queen’s Bush accomplished a great deal in a short period of time. Their schools, churches, and businesses “laid the foundation for the future settlement of Wellesley and Peel townships.” Moreover, the Queen’s Bush served as a symbol of antislavery and a refuge for African Americans burdened by racism. “Perhaps most importantly,” she argues, “the existence of this community prompted many slaves to strike out for freedom which otherwise they might not have sought.”

In this way, the Queen’s Bush Settlement is not only essential to the fabric of our local history, but is also part of the national narrative and the international story of immigration to this country. So this February, remember that black history is really a shared history, one that transcends race and region. And that’s a point certainly worth celebrating.

Sources:
“Black History Month Created.” Black History Canada.
http://blackhistorycanada.ca/events.php?themeid=21&id=11
“Queen’s Bush Settlement.” Black History in Guelph and Wellington County.
http://guelph.ca/museumsites/BlackHistory/queens.htm
http://www.blackhistorysociety.ca/black_history_month_en_209cms.htm
From the Perspective of an M.A.

Being a successful graduate student requires a lot of hard work and determination. In an interview with *The Triumvirate*, M.A. students, Anne Vermeyden and Melissa Segeren, explain some of their graduate school experiences, and offer some advice for future graduate students.

How would you describe your first term of graduate studies, in a few words? Was it more difficult or easier than expected?

**AV:** The thing I had the most trouble with was administration. Getting registered in other universities in the tri-U was a confusing process. It was also very stressful as it was much more demanding than undergraduate work had been.

**MS:** My supervisor did a great job preparing me mentally for graduate studies. It was exactly what I was told to expect.

Do you think the winter term will be any different in terms of course work/work load?

**AV:** I am done this term.

**MS:** Now that I have first-hand experience, I know exactly what to expect. The winter term should be a bit easier to handle because I am better prepared.

Which stream are you in – thesis, MRP, course work? Why did you choose this stream, and how are you enjoying it?

**AV:** MRP- It is wonderful. I get to enjoy a variety of courses and have a "mini-thesis" so I can focus on some interesting research.

**MS:** I chose the MRP stream because I enjoy research, yet also enjoy the reading assignments presented in courses. It presented the perfect combination of research and coursework.

How do you like taking courses away from your home university?

**AV:** The Tri-U program gave me the flexibility I needed. I live in Waterloo, and am registered in Guelph, but that does not stop me from studying within my own city at UW and Laurier.

**MS:** I do not plan on taking courses away from my home university (Guelph). I hear it’s both financially straining and time consuming.

What is the one most important thing that you have learned so far about graduate school and/or life as a grad student?

**AV:** Don’t stress too much. I had a bit of a stress meltdown in my first semester, and I had to realize that school isn't the end all and be all of my life. It is an important part of who I am, but not all of who I am.

**MS:** Graduate school is a career. You spend a lot of time with your nose stuck in a book or glued to a computer screen.
Are you a T.A. or R.A.? How do you manage juggling these responsibilities and your own work?

**AV:** I love being a T.A. I think teaching is my calling. I find that marking and corresponding with students is a great break from my own research sometimes.

**MS:** T.A.- Prioritization is key. I designate particular days to work on my TAship.

What project are you currently working on? Is it school work, a conference paper, research, etc?

**AV:** I was just working on a presentation on the DRC for my International Development course with Dr. Muirhead at the University of Waterloo.

**MS:** Research for a final course paper

What are your post-M.A. plans? Will you continue to the PhD level or do you have other goals?

**AV:** I have just applied to teacher's college and am also in the process of applying to do my PhD in either history or religious studies. I want to teach, but I am unsure of what age group I’m most interested in.

**MS:** Complete a Masters in Library and Information Degree at the University of Western Ontario.

Do you have any advice for new graduate students?

**AV:** If you start having a melt-down, seek help. Counselling and access to therapy is free through your university. It honestly changed the way I deal with stress and school, and has given me the tools to continue my education as a happier person ;).

**MS:** Graduate school is a career. Don’t do it unless you absolutely love your discipline and are willing to dedicate the majority of your free time to research and reading.

Any other comments?

**MS:** Despite the stress, I love what I do. My topic is fascinating and there is so much support from both my supervisor and other professors.

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**A bit more about the interviewees:**

**Anne**’s research interests include the history of religion, particularly the history of missionaries. She recently defended her MRP, "Missionaries in Africa as Both Supporters and Opponents of Colonialism and the Africanization of Christianity: The Story of Mabel Easton Buyse.” Her MRP focused on the relationships between an evangelical missionary, colonialism, and African expressions of Christianity. Now that she has completed her degree, Anne is planning on becoming a high school history teacher or a librarian. Anne is married, has two cats, and loves dance.

**Melissa** completed an honour’s Bachelor of Arts degree at the University of Guelph in 2010 with a major in history and a minor in biology. Her research interests center on rural history and include child labour on early twentieth century Ontario farms. She is currently working with farmer’s diaries, comparing the indentured work of British children to the labour performed by family-born children on early twentieth century Ontario farms. Melissa is also interested in the interaction between Native American populations and early European explorers in North America. She intends to analyze the role of Native Americans as tour guides for early explorers in the upcoming semester. When she is not busy with school work and research, she can usually be found outdoors, trying to end her summer breaks with at least one trip to Algonquin Provincial Park!
On Saturday December 3rd, TUGSA held its annual Christmas party at the Huether Hotel in Waterloo. Everyone had a wonderful time playing games, eating and drinking, and chatting with fellow students. It was a great success! Many thanks to Geoff Keelan for organizing the event.

Left: Everyone enjoying themselves at the TUGSA Holiday Social

Please stayed tuned for upcoming TUGSA events such as ice skating, information sessions, and history and film nights. The TUGSA membership fee is only $10 and is well worth your money!

Join TUGSA on Facebook and/or contact TUGSA at tugsamail@gmail.com.
On Wednesday November 23rd, recipients of WLU’s Graduate Travel and Research Award presented their research at Laurier’s Research Day. The event, hosted by WLU’s Faculty of Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies, highlighted the academic work and achievements of various doctoral students. Presenters of history papers included: Gwenith Cross, Alan Downey, Michelle Filice, Jane Whalen, and Whitney Wood. To read an abstract of each student’s presentation, please visit http://www.wlu.ca/page.php?grp_id=36&p=20519. Congratulations to the recipients and best of luck in all their future endeavours!
Throughout this term and next, five talks will be given as part of the rural history roundtable. Come out to support the speakers and learn more about rural history!

RURAL HISTORY ROUNDTABLE
WINTER 2012

This is the 10th Anniversary of the Department of History Rural Roundtable series, University of Guelph.

Name: Dr. Catharine Wilson
Title: "Bees-Gone-Wrong": The Untold Story of Threshing and Barn Raising Bees in Ontario
Bio: Dr. Wilson is Professor of History at the University of Guelph and Coordinator of the Rural History Roundtable
Date: Monday Jan 23, 2:30-4:30
Location: OAC Boardroom, Room 104, Johnston Hall, University of Guelph

Name: Patricia Bowley
Title: "Soybeans and Ontario Crop Agriculture, 1930s-1970s: Responding to a Century of Challenges on the Farm"
Bio: Pat Bowley is a doctoral candidate in the Department of History at the University of Guelph.
Date: Tues Feb 7, 10:30-12:30
Location: OAC Boardroom, Room 104, Johnston Hall, University of Guelph

Name: Becky Beausart
Topic: "Beyond Tea Parties and Calling Cards: Women and Domestic Leisure in Late-Nineteenth and Early-Twentieth Century Rural and Small-Town Ontario"
Bio: Rebecca Beausart is a PhD candidate in the Department of History, York University.
Date: Tuesday Feb 28, 10:30-12:30
Location: OAC Boardroom, Room 104, Johnston Hall, University of Guelph

Name: Dr. Kevin James
Title: The Inn, the Hotel & the Tourist: Narratives of Rural Irish Travel Accommodation, 1891-1920
Bio: Dr. Kevin James is Associate Professor in the Department of History; he is a member of the Scottish Studies faculty and his interests lie in Scottish and Irish tourism history and comparative social history.
Date: Tuesday, March 13, 10:00-12:00
Location: OAC Boardroom, Room 104, Johnston Hall, University of Guelph

Name: Andrea Gal
Title: "A Glimpse into the Everyday Consumption Patterns of Early Twentieth Century Rural Ontario Families"
Bio: Andrea Gal is a PhD candidate at Wilfrid Laurier University
Date: Wednesday April 4, 10:30-12:00
Location: OAC Boardroom, Room 104, Johnston Hall, University of Guelph
The Tri-U Conference will be held on **Saturday, 3 March 2012,** at **Wilfrid Laurier University.**

Proposals for individual papers and complete panels from graduate students and established scholars in all historical fields, especially, but not exclusively, on topics concerning aspects of the circumpolar arctic are being accepted until **15 January 2012.** Please submit paper abstracts (max. 250 words) with contact information to szeller@wlu.ca.

The keynote speaker for “Histories North and South” is Lene Kielsen Holm, from Nuuk, Greenland. As Director, Department for Sustainable Development and Research, for Greenland’s delegation to the Inuit Circumpolar Council; and an award-winning researcher on the Sila-Inuk Project, Lene brings both her lived and her professional experience of traditional knowledge to her discussion of “The Importance of Inuit Knowledge in Documenting Environmental Change: Sila-Inuk, a Study of Inuit Hunters’ and Fishermen’s Observations about their Changing Environments.”

The [2012 Scottish Studies Spring Colloquium](http://www.uoguelph.ca/history/Scottish%20Studies/Colloquia) will be held on **7 April 2012** at Knox College, University of Toronto.

Speakers will include Dr. Amy Blakeway, the Fulbright-Robertson Visiting Professor of British History at Westminster College; Dr. Valerie Wallace, the inaugural Fulbright Scottish Studies Scholar and Visiting Fellow at the Center for History and Economics, Harvard University; Dr. Steven Reid, a Fulbright Scottish Studies Scholar at Yale University; Ms. Sarah McCaslin from the University of Edinburgh; and Dr. Mairi Cowan, lecturer at University of Toronto, Mississauga.

More details will be provided as the day approaches.

A preliminary schedule is available at [http://www.uoguelph.ca/history/Scottish%20Studies/Colloquia](http://www.uoguelph.ca/history/Scottish%20Studies/Colloquia), please note it **may be subject to change.**
The Canadian Society for the History of Medicine will hold its annual meeting at the Congress of the Humanities and Social Sciences at Wilfrid Laurier University and the University of Waterloo between 26 – 28 May 2012. The general theme of this year’s Congress is “Crossroads: Scholarship in an Uncertain World.” Researchers from all disciplines will discuss the history of healthcare and medicine in Canada and elsewhere.

The Canadian Historical Association will hold its annual meeting from May 28-30, 2012 at the University of Waterloo and Wilfrid Laurier University. The Congress theme is, “Crossroads: Scholarship in an Uncertain World.” For more information, please visit http://www.chashc.ca/en/59.
The second volume of the Guelph Series in Scottish Studies has been released. The editors are from the University of Guelph: Elizabeth Ewan is faculty, and Jodi A. Campbell and Heather Parker are PhD Candidates.

About the Book:
In 1994, T.C. Smout pointed to the concentric loyalties which go to make up the identity of those who see themselves as Scottish. Building on the last decade of new research, The Centre for Scottish Studies at the University of Guelph would like to continue this discussion in the second volume in the Guelph Series in Scottish Studies. This collection explores the multi-faceted construction of Scottish identities from the medieval to the modern era.

For more information, please visit:
http://www.uoguelph.ca/history/Scottish%20Studies/Guelph%20Series%20in%20Scottish%20Studies

Contemporary Quebec: Selected Readings and Commentaries
Edited by Michael D. Behiels and Matthew Hayday

Dr. Matthew Hayday has co-edited a new edited collection on Quebec history. Hayday also has a new article on Canadian and Quebec language policies in the book. Details about the book can be found at http://mqup.mcgill.ca/book.php?bookid=2686. It is primarily intended as a reader for upper-year Quebec history courses, but also includes detailed bibliographies and historiographical essays on fourteen different topics related to post-1930s Quebec.
The Challenge of Command: The Royal Navy's Executive Branch Officers, 1880-1919

By Dr. Robert Davison

The following summary of Davison's book can be found at: http://www.uoguelph.ca/history/news/robert-davisons-new-book-challenges-command

In the period leading up to the First World War Britain's naval supremacy was challenged by an arms race with Germany, fuelled not only by military and geo-strategic rivalries, but an onrush of technological developments. As this book demonstrates, steam turbines, bigger guns, mechanical computing devices and ever increasing tonnage meant that the Royal Navy was forced to confront many long-cherished beliefs and sensitive social and political issues.

By looking at key continuities over the period of 1880-1919 the study explores how the service and its officers attempted to deal with fundamental changes in professional requirements, and how cultural and social values underwent a transformation in the run up to the First World War. In particular the book looks at how the executive officer corps was presented with a revolution in naval affairs. As the Navy was transformed into an industrialized workplace, officers were challenged by an alteration in the 'culture of command' as arrangements carried over from the days of sail began to breakdown under the practical requirements of a steam and steel fleet.

The book charts the ebb and flow of the debate and the various ideas put forward to deal with the structural challenges faced by the Royal Navy. The writings of reformers and commentators such as Fisher, Beresford, Corbett, Laughton and Mahan provide the background to the specific problems faced, and are analysed both in relation to the nature of the reforms implemented, and more crucially, the performance of the 'Senior Service' during the First World War.
The Triumvirate