

KINGSHOLME

101 Mill Street West
Kingsville, Ontario

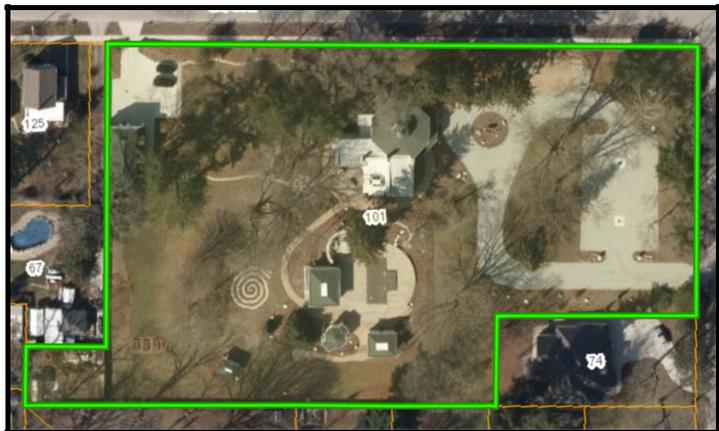
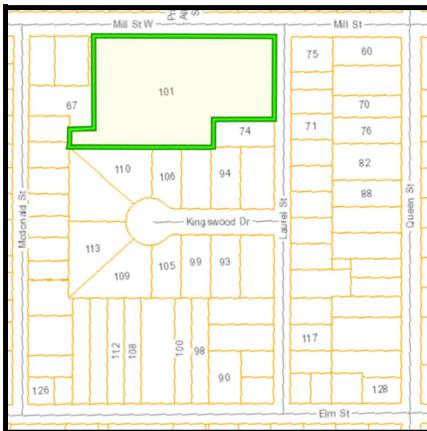


Designation Report

Submitted by the Kingsville Municipal Heritage Advisory Committee
October 2023

Description of Property

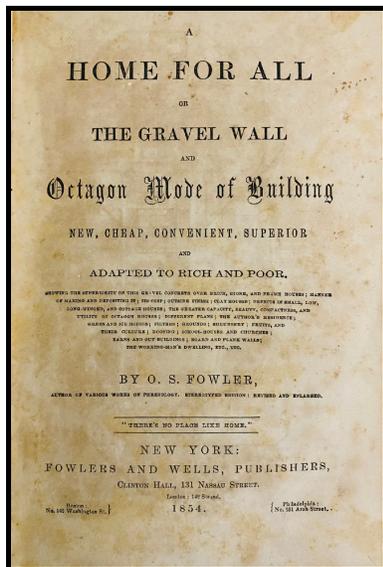
Kingsholme is a two-storey brick house located on a 2.77-acre lot on the south side of Mill Street West in the former Village of Kingsville (formerly the Township of Gosfield). The parcel of land is part of Lots 1 and 2 in the First Concession, West Division, and originally contained nine acres. Built in 1859, the main part of the house was designed in the Octagon architectural style. Two 2-storey brick extensions were added in 1882. The split fieldstone fence on the east and north sides of the property was constructed in 1923 and the coach house, on the northwest corner of the lot, was built in 1927.



Architecture

Kingsholme, the home of the King family for over one hundred years, was completed in 1859. Built for Colonel James King and his wife, Sarah, the original structure was designed in the Octagon architectural style popular between 1850 and 1870.

The popularity of this building style, during this era, can be linked to American Phrenologist Orson Squire Fowler. As described by the Encyclopedia Britannica, phrenology is “the study of the conformation of the skull as indicative of mental faculties and traits of character.”

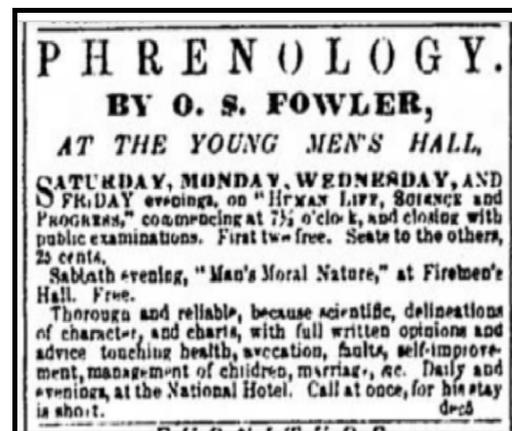


O.S. Fowler, *A Home For All*

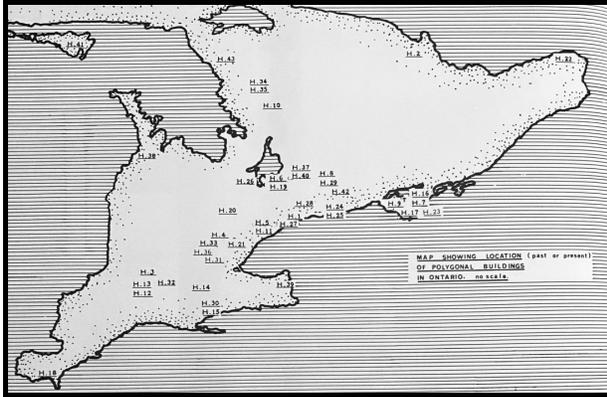
In 1853, Fowler published a book called “A Home for All” with chapters titled “Defects in the Usual Shapes of Houses” and “Superiority of the Octagon Form.” In addition to calculations meant to prove cost-effectiveness of octagonal architecture, Fowler also claimed gratification of “those two primitive faculties, Inhabitiveness and Constructiveness,”¹ according to the teachings of phrenology.

“[T]he octagon form is more beautiful as well as capacious, and more consonant with the predominant or governing form of Nature – the spherical – it deserves consideration.”²

“The most perfect form was the circle, Fowler argued, but it was difficult to build; polygonal structures were therefore the next best, and of these the octagon was the most efficient and practical. It permitted greater ‘receptivity’ of sunlight and air, it eliminated unsightly internal corners, and it reduced the distance between any two points in the house, thus eliminating much of the toil and drudgery of housework.”³



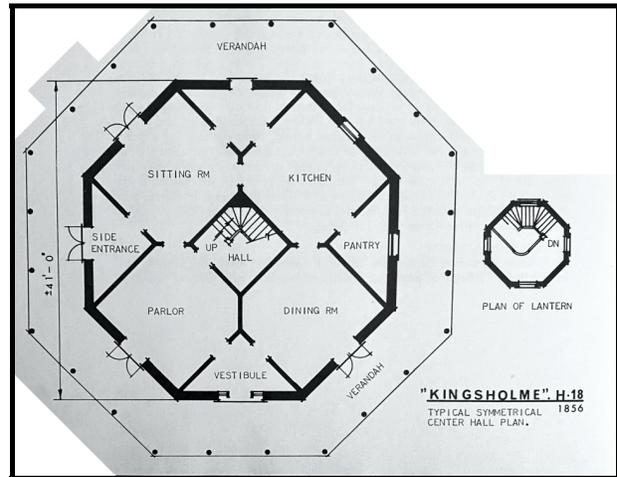
Detroit Free Press, 6 Dec 1856, p.2



John I. Rempel, *Building with Wood*, p.200.

Although many octagonal buildings were constructed in southern Ontario, Kingsholme is the only example of a 19th century octagonal structure located south of London, as illustrated in the *Map Showing Location of Polygonal Buildings in Ontario*, created by John I. Rempel.

As shown in this floorplan, an open verandah encircled the original octagonal residence. "It was here that Mr. King would take his exercise on a rainy evening. Fifty times around was the usual walk."⁴

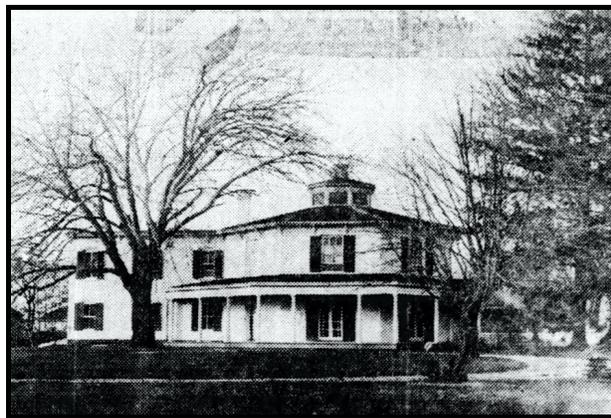


John I Rempel, *Building With Wood*, p.204.



1877 H.F. Walling map

This section of a 1877 map shows the location of Kingsholme on the original 9-acre lot on Mill Street West. Laurel Street and adjacent building lots were surveyed on the east part of the lot in 1878.



The Border Cities Star, 31 Dec 1925, p.39.

Kingsholme is 2-storey brick structure with an eight-sided lantern positioned atop the original 1859 octagonal home.

Between 1881 and 1882, Dr. Sidney King, youngest son of Col. King, made extensive renovations including adding wings on the south and west sides of the home.



The original octagonal structure features a polygonal roof (eight sloping surfaces of equal pitch) meeting the fenestrated lantern through which a central chimney passes.

Later additions have various rooflines, such as flat roofs with parapets on the south and west wings, and a flat roof with a pyramid skylight over the kitchen and dining room (2020 addition).



This square projecting bay, with mansard roof and four windows, was also completed in 1882, and features contemporary architectural elements.



For example, decorative corbels under the cornice of the north-facing bay. Also unique to this part of the building are the cutouts (flat with rounded corners) in the wood frieze above the windows.

Roof trim features moulded frienze and repeating cornice brackets with turned drops. Unique to the lantern is the addition of dentil moulding.



The main entrance is located on the east side of the original home, facing Laurel Street, and includes shutters and boxed corner wood trim. Additional entry doors are featured on either side. The covered verandah features round, smooth columns with Doric capitals. Second storey windows are 6-over-6 sash style with shutters.

The 1882 additions feature segmental arched window openings with brick stringcourse, and raised voussoirs above. Painted timber lug sills support 2-over-2 sash windows and wood storm windows.

The original 1859 octagonal house and both 1882 additions sit on fieldstone foundations.



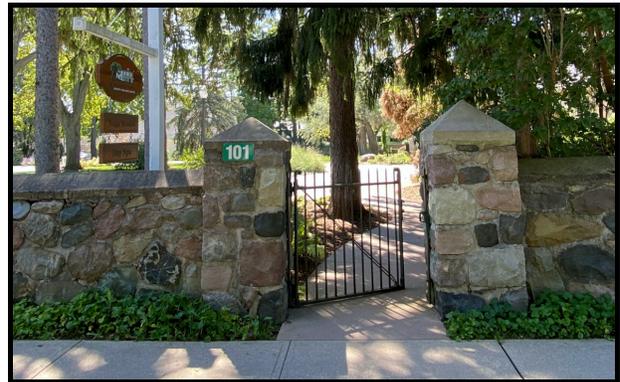


In the spring of 1923, George C. King, living in Detroit, began renovations of Kingsholme in anticipation of moving to Kingsville with his family.

A split fieldstone fence on the north and east sides of his property was constructed by local masons under the direction of Walter Gardner,⁵ taking a full year to complete.

Gardner and his wife, Mary Helen, had been renting a house on Mill Street West, and in July 1923, they were able to purchase the home and begin their own renovations.

The stone fence measures over 450 feet in length along Mill Street West, and over 200 feet along Laurel Street.



Entrance from Mill Street West

Two pedestrian and two vehicle entry gates are flanked by fieldstone pillars with pyramid shaped concrete caps.



Entrance from Laurel Street



Mr. Geo. C. King is just finishing the largest garage in town. It is constructed of brick, concrete block and frame. It will house four cars abreast and several in length. Mr. King is also constructing at the southwest corner of his house a swimming pool, 20 x 35 ft.

The Kingsville Reporter, 11 August 1927, p.4.

The garage was constructed on the west side of the property with access off Mill Street West. The section of fence running from Mill Street to the garage was built with cobblestone instead of fieldstone, presumably in 1927, and was incorporated into the building's design.



Coach House - east elevation



Coach House - west elevation

The second floor was converted into an apartment in 1979 by later owner Walter McGregor.⁶

The 1½-storey “coach house” was constructed in the Colonial Revival building style and features six gabled dormers.

Both north and south elevations feature jerkinhead, or clipped-gable, roof detail.



Coach House - north elevation



WELCOME: Kingswood Inn, the home built by Kingsville's namesake, opens to the public next week for a Christmas Walk Through. Here, from left, interior designer Joan Balsam-Clark, and owners Barb Dick and her parents Helen and Jay Koop stand at the entrance with the Kingswood Inn sign.

The Windsor Star, 6 December 1996, p.8.

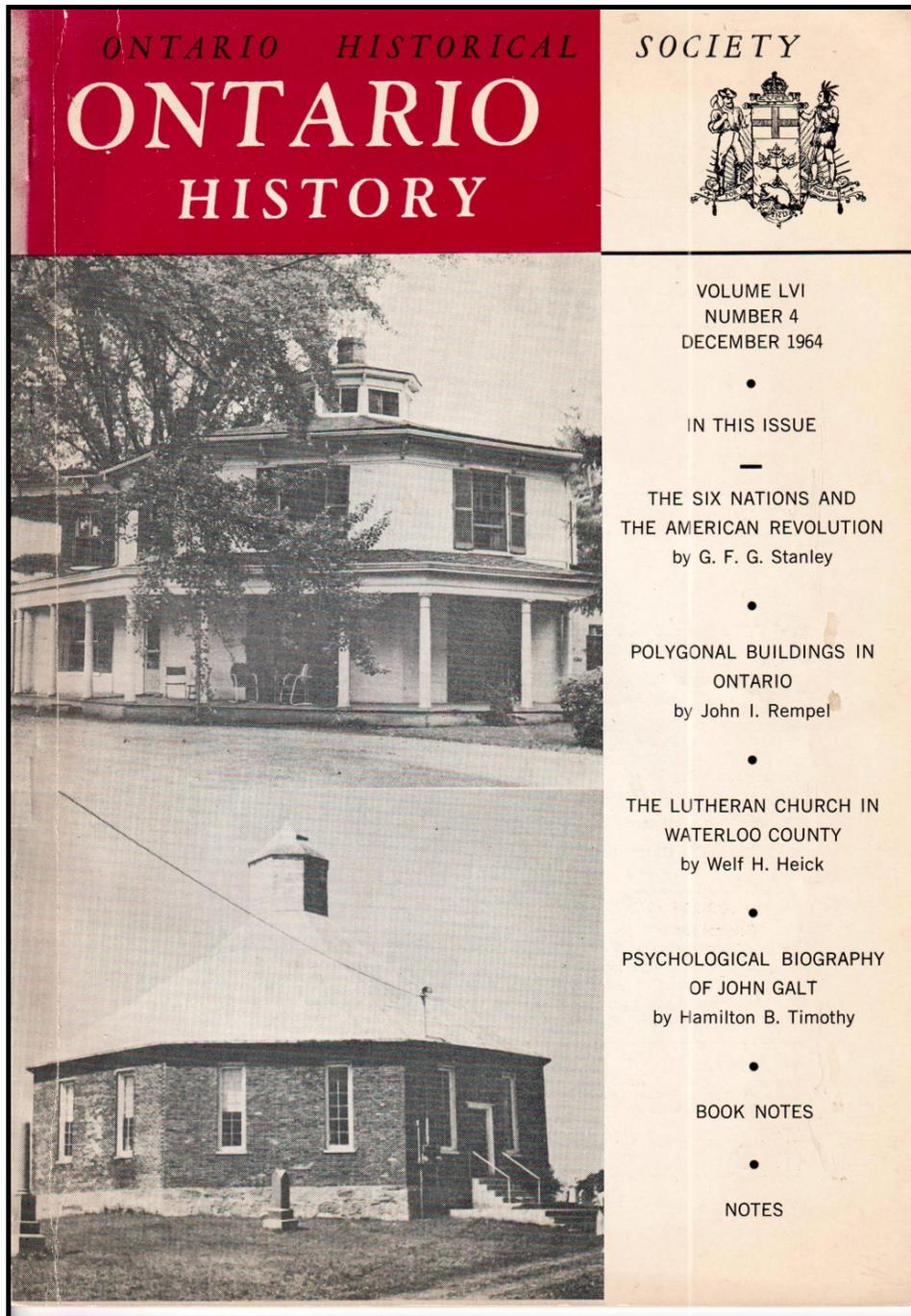
Between the years of 1996 and 2019, Kingsholme was owned by Helen and Jay Koop along with Barb and Bob Dick.

For many years, it was operated as an award-winning bed and breakfast under the name “Kingswood Inn.”

In 2019 the property was sold to Jim and Heather Scott, and their daughter Jordan Scott-Trepanier, who would open a Holistic Wellness Centre and Yoga Studio there, the following year. The Scotts lovingly renovated the home once again, this time making it accessible. They widened the door frames for wheelchair access, added a lovely sunroom, a barrier free washroom, an outdoor Day Spa Area including a hot tub, sauna, washroom and meditation room, and many healing gardens. Jordan lives in the coach house with her husband, Michael Trepanier, and operates the wellness centre.⁷



Estate of Health Website (www.estateofhealth.ca)



THE COVER:

Upper:

KINGSVILLE. This is "Kingsholme," the home of Col. James King, the founder of Kingsville. It is a very fine home indeed. Culture, opulence, and taste are very evident. Not the octagonal central chimney.

Chain of Ownership

Instr #	Type	Date	From	To	Price	Description/Remarks
224	Patent	1 Sep 1797	Crown	Andrew Oulch		200 acres 1st Western Division, Lot 1
228	Patent	12 Jun 1806	Crown	Jonathan Shieffelin		152 acres 1st Western Division, Lot 2
355	B&S	25 Mar 1807	John Askin, attorney for Jonathan Schiefflin	Andrew Oulch		152 acres 1st Western Division, Lot 2
693	B&S	16 Dec 1815	Andrew Oulch	Charles Stewart		Lot No. 1, 1st West Div Lot No. 2, 1st West Div among other lands
144	Will	29 Sep 1850	See Will of Andrew Stewart			
46	Deed Poll	14 Apr 1855	William D Baby, Sheriff	Richard Herrington	£351	Part Lot No 1 Con 1 West Div Part Lot No 2 Con 1 West Div
129	B&S	15 Apr 1856	Richard Herrington & wife	James King	£100	5 acres Part Lot No 2 Con 1 West Div
326	B&S	25 Sep 1857	Richard Herrington & wife	James King	\$230	4 acres Part Lot No 1 Con 1 West Div
3069	Deed	4 Jan 1876	James King	Sidney A King	\$10	9 acres Part of Lots 1 & 2 in Con 1 West Div
2671	Deed	11 Oct 1921	Laura King Reid, Heir of Sidney A King	Charles S King George C King Heirs of SA King	\$3,000	7 70/100 acres Part of Lots 1 & 2 in Con 1 West Div
2703	Grant	2 Nov 1921	George C King	Charles S King	\$1	5 1/2 acres Part of Lots 1 & 2 in Con 1 West Div
2704	Grant	2 Nov 1921	Charles S King	George C King	\$1	2 1/4 acres Part of Lots 1 & 2 in Con 1 West Div
3973	Mortgage	6 Jun 1928	George C King Anna T King	Laura King Reid	\$12,500	
4909	Grant	24 Jun 1936	George C King Anna T King	Laura King Reid	\$18,928	
300158	Mortgage	4 Mar 1964	Walter L M & Helen McGregor	Laura King Reid	\$29,000	
302457	Deed	5 Mar 1964	Laura King Reid	Walter L M & Helen McGregor	\$40,000	
R13455 43	Transfer	30 May 1996	Walter L McGregor	R & B Dick H & J Koop		
CE8796 40	Transfer	29 Mar 2019	B & R Dick H Koop	2647983 Ontario Inc		

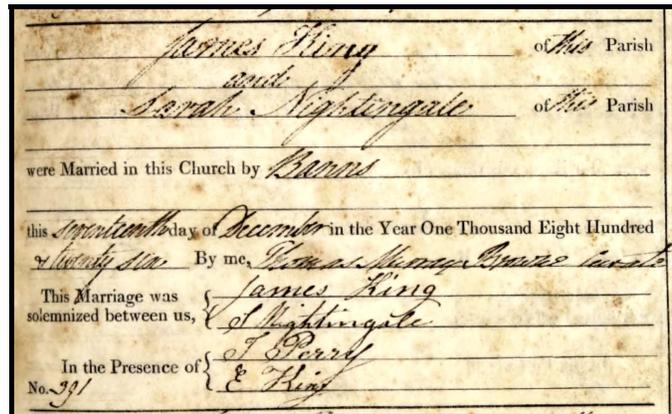
Colonel James & Sarah King



Portrait of Col. James King by D.C. Bell (1877)
Courtesy of Kingsville Military Museum.

Colonel James King was born on 5 January 1805 to James and Elizabeth (née Horton) King in London, England.⁸ The oldest of four children (Frederick, Henry and Elizabeth), little is known about his early life in England. Although many biographies describe King as a graduate of Cambridge University, no record of his attendance may be found in the alumni archives. King must have had some sort of formal education since he was described as "a gentleman and Scholar being the Master of 7 Languages."⁹

At the age of 21, King married Sarah (née Perry) Nightingale, widow of Leonard Nightingale, former Lieutenant with the Cambridgeshire Militia.¹⁰ Three years later, in 1829, King, his wife and her two sons, Leonard and Ernest Nightingale, sailed for New York City and journeyed to Montreal in the Province of Lower Canada.



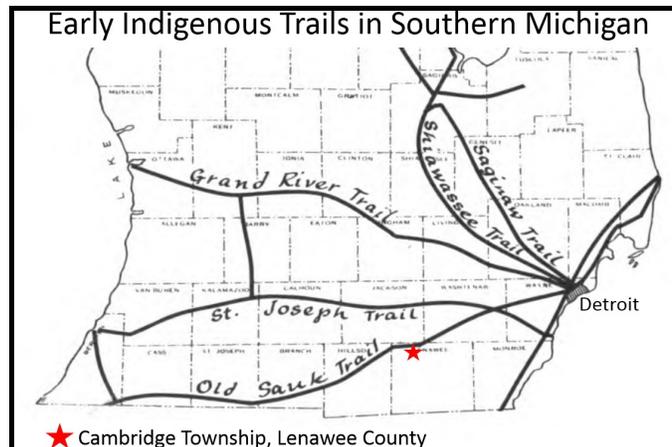
Parish register dated 17 December 1826
(City of Westminster Archives Centre; London, England; Westminster Church of England Parish Registers - Ancestry.ca)

For several years, King was employed as a teacher in Montreal¹¹ at the Union School, established by Benjamin Workman.¹² Born in Ireland in 1793, Workman was a school teacher before emigrating to Canada. Later in life, he studied at the Faculty of Medicine, McGill University. In 1856, Workman "became assistant medical superintendent to his brother Joseph at the Lunatic Asylum in Toronto, where he worked until 1875."¹³

The King family decided to leave Montreal in the fall of 1834,¹⁴ with Benjamin Workman, due to the second wave of a cholera epidemic and travelled to Michigan. It was during the time "when 'Michigan Fever' officially began and with it, brought on a sudden boom in Michigan's population. Public land sales rose from 147,062 acres in 1830 to 498,423 in 1834. By 1835, the \$2,271,575.17 realized on the sale of 1,817,248 acres in Michigan represented 1/7 of the national totals."¹⁵

Between the years of 1829 and 1835, the US federal government financed the construction of a road from Detroit to Chicago that followed Sauk Trail, a path forged by early Indigenous Peoples.

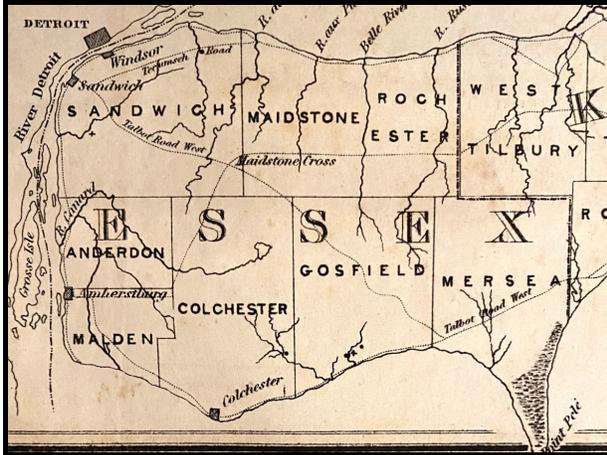
It was in Cambridge Township, Lenawee County, Michigan along the new "Chicago Road" that Workman and the King family settled.¹⁶ King purchased 80 acres of land on 8 October 1835 on a section called the "Michigan-Toledo Strip"¹⁷ and promptly built a log house.¹⁸



Philip P Mason for the Michigan Historical Commission
Michigan Highways From Indian Trails to Expressways (1959)

Following the birth of James and Sarah's first child, James Workman, on 10 November 1835 in White Pigeon, Michigan,¹⁹ the Kings "made up their minds to dispose of their property and retrace their steps to Montreal."²⁰ The urgency to reach Canadian soil may have been due to what is now known as the Toledo War (1835–36), "a boundary dispute between the U.S. state of Ohio and the adjoining territory of Michigan, over what is now known as the Toledo Strip."²¹

In the early autumn of 1835, Michigan and Ohio seemed poised for a pitched battle. Ohio Governor Lucas had announced his intentions to hold a court session in Toledo to establish his state's rights to the land. In response, Michigan Governor Mason gathered 1,200 Wolverine militiamen and marched on the Toledo Strip. The Michiganders were prepared to use violent force to prevent the session from taking place, yet after arriving on September 7, they found they had been outsmarted: the Ohioans had already held a secret midnight court and then fled the area to avoid bloodshed.²²

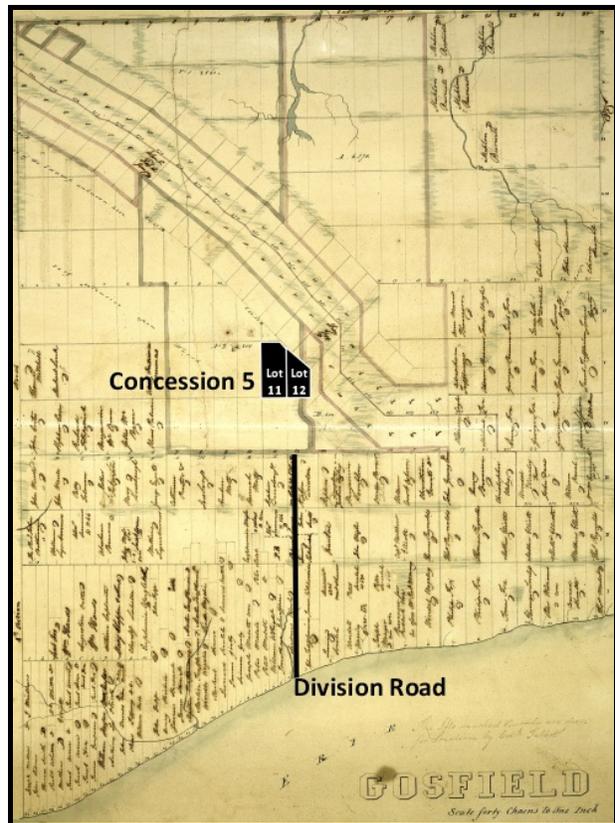


W.H. Smith, *Canada: Past, Present and Future* (1851)

The Kings were able to reach the Village of Sandwich (part of present-day Windsor, Ontario) before the winter weather stopped their progress to Montreal. A house was rented for Sarah and her sons while King "not wishing to be idle, went to Gosfield and took a school."²³ According to Mary Burch's 1880 book "A Family Record," this school was located in a house on Peter Malott's farm, near the lake.

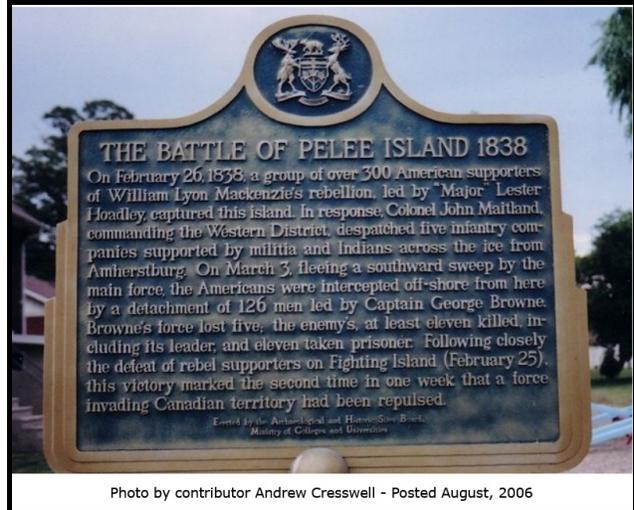
As winter turned to spring, King was hired as a clerk for the Company Steam Mill²⁴ (located on present-day Greenhill Cemetery) and the decision was made to relocate and remain in Gosfield.

On 10 August 1837, King paid the first installment on Lot No. 11 in the Fifth Concession in Gosfield Township. Three years later, he petitioned the Lieutenant Governor of the Province of Upper Canada to exchange Lot No. 11 for Lot No. 12 in the Fifth Concession because he had been "misled by a Diagram of the Township which I have since ascertained to be incorrect."²⁵ King declared he had "made certain improvements on Lot No. 12 in the 5th Concession to the extent of enclosing and nearly clearing 15 acres of Land of erecting stables and other out buildings and partially building a House which has already cost me Thirty Pounds (it being yet unfinished on account of discovering that all these improvements are made on a Lot upon which I have no claim)."²⁶ Approval of exchange of lots was granted in December 1840.



W. Chewett, *Gosfield Township, map* (1832)
Additional information added by Veronica Brown (2023)

1837 was a busy year for the King family. In addition to clearing their newly acquired farm lot, Sarah gave birth to a daughter, Helena Ada, on 19 November. And, at the outbreak of what is now known as the Upper Canada Rebellion in December, King joined the Third Essex Regiment as a Lieutenant.²⁷ While serving in the Militia, he was “present at the well-known engagement on Pelee Island.”²⁸ King was promoted to Lieutenant Colonel after the Militia was decommissioned.



www.ontarioplaques.com/Plaques/Plaque_Essex34.html

*On February 26, 1838, a group of over 300 American supporters of William Lyon Mackenzie's rebellion, led by "Major" Lester Hoadley, captured this island. In response, Colonel John Maitland, commanding the Western District, dispatched five infantry companies supported by militia and Indians across the ice from Amherstburg. On March 3, fleeing a southward sweep by the main force, the Americans were intercepted off-shore from here by a detachment of 126 men led by Captain George Browne. Browne's force lost five; the enemy's, at least eleven killed, including its leader, and eleven taken prisoner. Following closely the defeat of rebel supporters on Fighting Island (February 25), this victory marked the second time in one week that a force invading Canadian territory had been repulsed.*²⁹

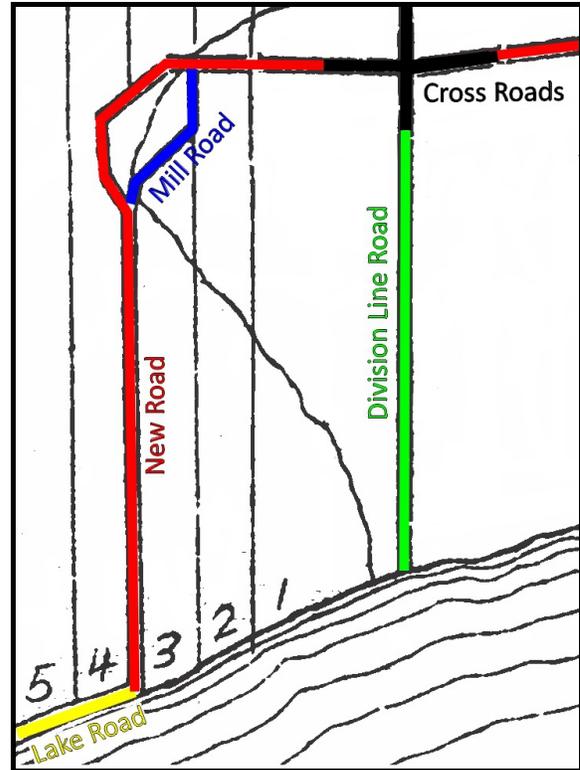


U.C. Surveyor General's Office, *Patent Plan*, (1788-1978)
 South-east part of Gosfield Township
 Cropped and edited by Veronica Brown (2023)

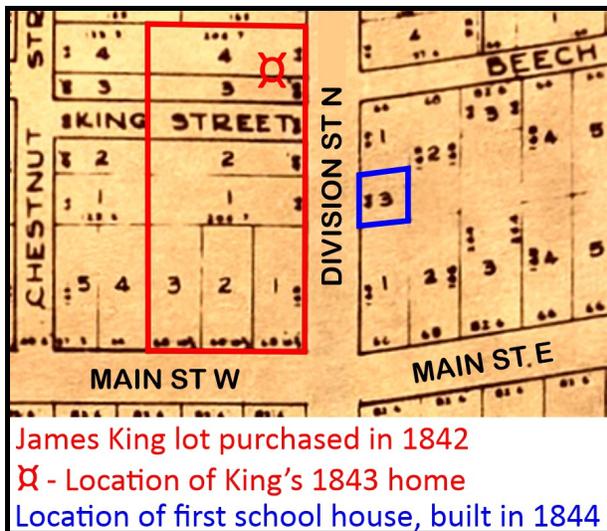
Gosfield Township, during the 1830s, was sparsely populated with most of the development located in the southern part of the township, near Lake Erie. The first post office was granted in 1831³⁰ to the small community of Albertville, where the first commercial dock was built. To transport wood and crops from the west part of Gosfield to Albertville, farmers would use a trail known as the Lake Road which followed the shoreline (present-day Heritage Road).

By the early 1840s, part of the Lake Road was "fast caving down the banks of the lake" and an alternate route was given by the farmers to take the place of the old lake road.³¹

The intersection of the east-west section of the "New Road"³² (present-day Main Street) and Division Line Road came to be known as the "Cross Roads,"³³ and would later be known as "King's Corners"³⁴ and the "Four Corners."³⁵ The farm lot on the east of Division Line Road was owned by Richard Herrington (purchased in 1824), and the farm lot on the west was owned by Andrew Stewart (purchased by Andrew's father, Charles Stewart, in 1815).



Essex County Historical Atlas (1881)
Cropped and edited by Veronica Brown (2023)



James King lot purchased in 1842
X - Location of King's 1843 home
Location of first school house, built in 1844

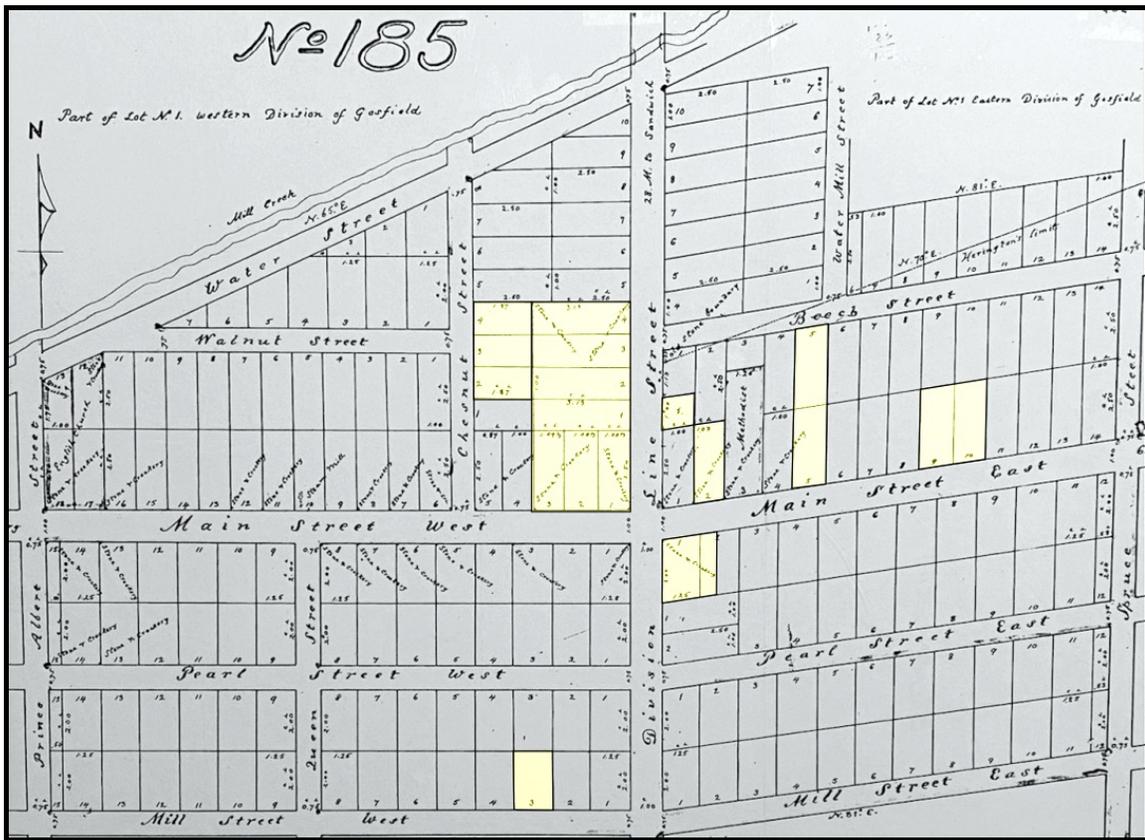
H.F. Walling, map (1877)
Cropped and edited by Veronica Brown (2023)

"Colonel King concluded that he would like to settle the Crops [sic] roads, though surrounded by woods on all sides,"³⁶ and in 1842, the "Schoolmaster"³⁷ purchased two acres on the northwest corner of Division Line and the New Road for £7.10.³⁸ The following year, Col. King built a house on this lot, described as "frame, under two stories."³⁹ The youngest King child, Sidney Arthur, was born in this home in 1844 and has been described as "the first white child born at Kingsville."⁴⁰

In 1844, a schoolhouse was built on the east side of Division Line Road⁴¹ on a lot donated by Richard Herrington.

Col. King proceeded to purchase land on the southeast corner of the Cross Roads in 1845. He built a "Merchants' Shop"⁴² where he sold "some of the articles necessary for the pioneer farmer."⁴³ In 1850, Col. King's store was one of only three located in Gosfield Township: Fox & Co. had a shop at Albertville and Horace Deming at Union.⁴⁴

Near the end of the 1840s, Col. King "induced Andrew Stewart, the owner of the land on the west of what is now Division street, to have it plotted into town lots, an example which was soon followed by Mr Herrington, who owned the land east of the same street. This was the starting point of the town."⁴⁵



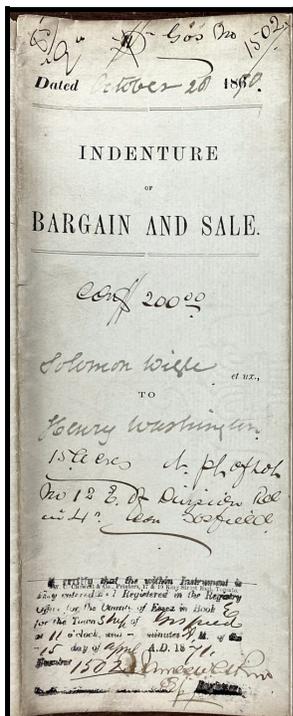
The official "Plan of the Town of Kingsville" was registered on 19 April 1850, as witnessed by James King. High-lighted areas show lots owned by Col. King in the early 1850s.

In addition to being the first Clerk for the Township of Gosfield, King also had an office for conveyancing⁴⁶ to help with deeds, mortgages and other land transactions. "When the matter of naming the town came up, Mr Stewart who owned the land first plotted, could easily have had it named after himself. He, however, very properly said that a man who had courage to build a house in the woods and insist on building a town should have it named after him."⁴⁷

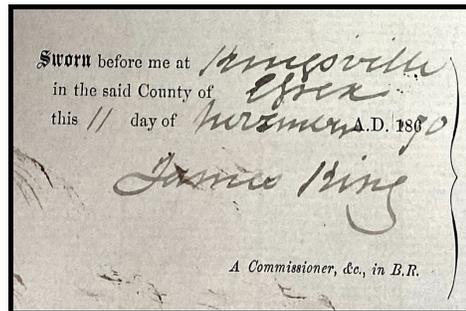
In carrying out his duties as a conveyancer, Col. King drafted legal documents transferring land to people escaping enslavement in the United States and settling in Gosfield.

In 1856, white American abolitionist Benjamin Drew published his book *A North-Side View of Slavery. The Refugee: or the Narratives of Fugitive Slaves in Canada* where he wrote:

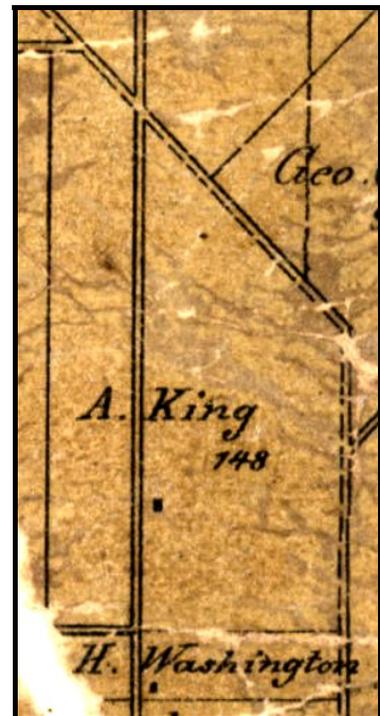
*James King, Esq., Clerk of the Courts for the County of Essex, C.W., thus characterized the colored people of Gosfield: "They are good, loyal subjects, and good, honest people. They are as moral as any people. There is no fault to be found with them at all."*⁴⁸



Ontario Land Record Instrument Number 1502



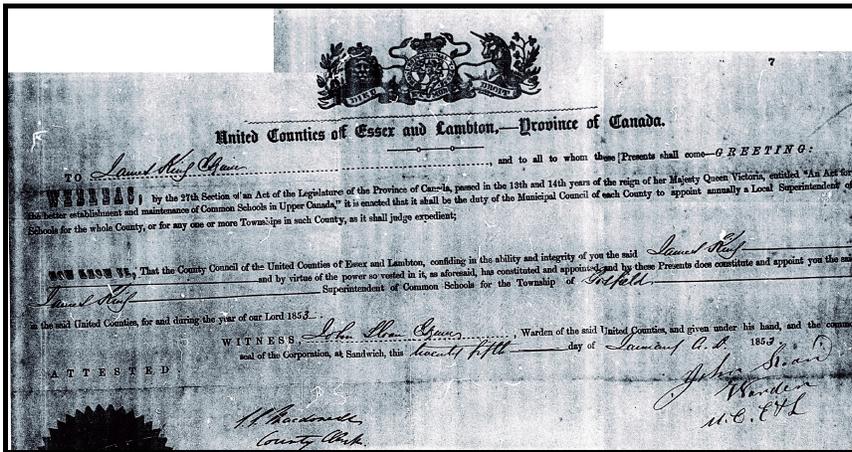
Col. King executed a deed in 1870 from Solomon and Ann Wagle to Henry Washington, who had escaped slavery prior to the Civil War. Washington purchased 15 acres on the north part of Lot 12 in Concession 4, adjoining Alfred King's farm located on Lot 12 in Concession 5.



H.F. Walling, map (1877) Lot 12, Concessions 4 & 5

Prior to purchasing this farm land, Washington owned and lived on a lot on Mill Street West, located a few hundred feet from Kingsholme.⁴⁹

The 1850s proved to be a decade of growth for this new community. The second post office to be established in Gosfield was named “Kingsville” on 6 April 1852⁵⁰ and “the first townhall owned by the township of Gosfield was built in Kingsville”⁵¹ on the south side of Main Street West soon after. Also in 1852, St. John’s Anglican Church was built on north side of Main Street West, with Col. King being the first Rector’s Warden . The Commercial Hotel was built by Samuel Rose on the north side of Main Street East in 1853, and a year later it was purchased by Col. King for £300.⁵²



Certificate of Appointment from the Warden of the United Counties of Essex and Lambton, Province of Canada (1853)

While still teaching, Col. King was appointed Local Superintendent of Schools for the Township of Gosfield in 1853.⁵³ When a new school was built on Walnut Street in 1858, Jasper Golden became the new teacher.⁵⁴

Col. King was appointed the Issuer of Marriage Licenses for the Township of Gosfield in the spring of 1855 with the following instructions:

Before issuing a License, the issuer will be very careful to ascertain that no legal impediment exists to the Marriage of the parties, and should either or both be under age, he will require a Certificate of Consent from the Parents or Guardians. He will then cause one of the Blank Bonds to be executed by two good and sufficient sureties.

The charge for a License is thirty shillings; from which sum the Issuer will retain ten shillings for his own services, and remit the remainder (twenty shillings) to the Receiver of Fees, Provincial Secretary’s Office. The money, together with the executed Bonds and Certificates of Consent, &c., when required, is to be forwarded as each supply of Licenses becomes nearly exhausted, and new blanks are required.⁵⁵

Throughout the 1850s, Col. King continued to acquire property: 50 acres in the Third Concession on Lot 4, five acres in Lot 2, First Concession West Division, and four acres in Lot 1, First Concession West Division.⁵⁶ Professionally, Col. King was a notary public, Collector of Customs,⁵⁷ Justice of the Peace, Clerk of the 3rd Division Court and Clerk for the Township of Gosfield.⁵⁸

In 1859, the King family moved into their newly-built home (Kingsholme) on the 9-acre lot located on the south side of Mill Street West.⁵⁹ Col. King, his wife Sarah, and their children James (26), Helena (23), Alfred (21) and Sidney (18) were all listed as living in this house in the 1861 Census of Canada.



King family plot, Church of the Epiphany Cemetery.

Sarah Perry Nightingale King died on 24 April 1864 at the age of 60. Little is known about her death, but she is buried in the King family plot in the Church of the Epiphany cemetery.

Col. King continued working throughout the 1860s and into the 1870s, until his retirement.

In 1876, the day before his 71st birthday, Col. King divided his property between his three sons. James Jr. was given the lots on the northwest and southeast corners of Division and Main streets. Alfred was given the 50-acre on the Second Concession, the hotel on the north side of Main Street East and the old school lot on the east side of Division Street North.

The family home and 9-acre lot on Mill Street West was given to his youngest son, Sidney.⁶⁰

Helena, only daughter of Col. James and Sarah King, married a successful local doctor, Edward Allworth, in 1867. Perhaps Col. King gave the couple a monetary gift in lieu of property, since they began significant improvements on their Pearl Street West property in the fall of 1876.⁶¹



Allworth family home. *Courtesy of the Kingsville Archives*

Col. King's oldest step-son, Leonard Geoffrey Nightingale (1821-1885), married the daughter of the late Elder [Richard] Herrington in 1843. Soon

after, they emigrated to the then new state of Illinois⁶² where he entered into the lumbering business. The Nightingales returned to Kingsville in 1865 and Leonard took over his step-father's general store, operated the tannery on Mill Street West⁶³ and, between the years of 1869 and 1880, was the auditor for Essex County Council.⁶⁴ Leonard and his wife, Lucinda (1824-1893), had two children: Florence (1850-1919) and Ernest Edward (1854-1919).

Ernest Alexander Nightingale (1823-1904), "kept a grocery store here, and was bailiff from 1850 to 1854"⁶⁵ before settling down to a quiet life of farming. At the age of 46, Nightingale married Polly, the widow of Andrew Stewart (owner of farm Lot Number One, West Division) and daughter of Richard Herrington (owner of farm Lot Number One, East Division).



J.W. and Harriet King home on Division St. S.
Courtesy of the family of J. Sidney Green.

James Workman (1835-1914), Col. King's oldest son became a successful businessman in Ohio after attending school in Port Clinton. In 1861, he married, Harriet Smith (1840-1912) of Port Clinton and returned to Kingsville. King was an early insurance agent,⁶⁶ secretary of the Kingsville Natural Gas Company, and some of his other businesses included a general store, tin shop, and hardware store. James and

Harriet has six children: Fanny (1866-1926), James Sidney (1869-1940), Angeline (1871-1924), Gertrude (1874-1945), Mabel (1877-1960) and Abby (1881-1882).

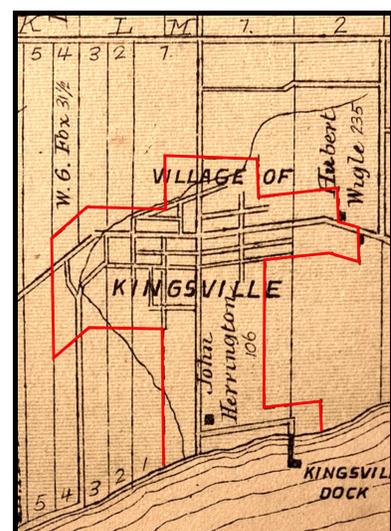
Col. King's second son, Alfred Luther (1840-?), conducted a "Livery Stable" on the north side Main Street East⁶⁷ next to the Commercial Hotel in the 1860s until it was destroyed by fire in 1879.⁶⁸ Alfred was involved with a variety of commercial endeavors during the 1880s, including a cheese factory in Cottam,⁶⁹ a factory for the manufacturing of Hanlan Washing Machines in Ohio,⁷⁰ building and operating a roller rink in Tilsonburg,⁷¹ a flour mill with David Conklin,⁷² and a saw mill.⁷³ In 1871, Alfred married Maria Hurlburt (1849-1926), whom he met when she stayed in Kingsville visiting her sister, the wife of Minister Ezra Stafford of the Methodist Church.⁷⁴ Together they had three children, Sarah (1874-1959), Alfred (1875-1949) and Isabella (1878-1955) and between the years of 1884 and 1891, the Kings lived in no fewer than six different locations. Maria took a teaching post in Kingsville in 1893, and in 1897, she travelled with the children to visit family in Minnesota,⁷⁵ eventually settling in Washington State without Alfred.

Dr. Sidney Arthur King (1844-1907) was Col. King and Sarah's youngest child. Like his oldest brother, he attended school in Port Clinton, Ohio and went on to attend the Victoria School of Medicine (Cobourg, Ontario), graduating in 1867. Dr. King practiced medicine in Kingsville until 1893, "when he withdrew from his profession in order to give his undivided attention to his increasing business interests."⁷⁶ These enterprises included land development, various gas and oil companies, steamship and railways companies, and financial services. In 1872, Dr. King married Esther Wigle (1850-1881), daughter of Solomon Wigle, and together they had five children.

As for the community Col. King helped develop: in 1877, residents of the unofficial "town" of Kingsville petitioned Essex County Council for incorporation, which was granted on 21 June 1877.

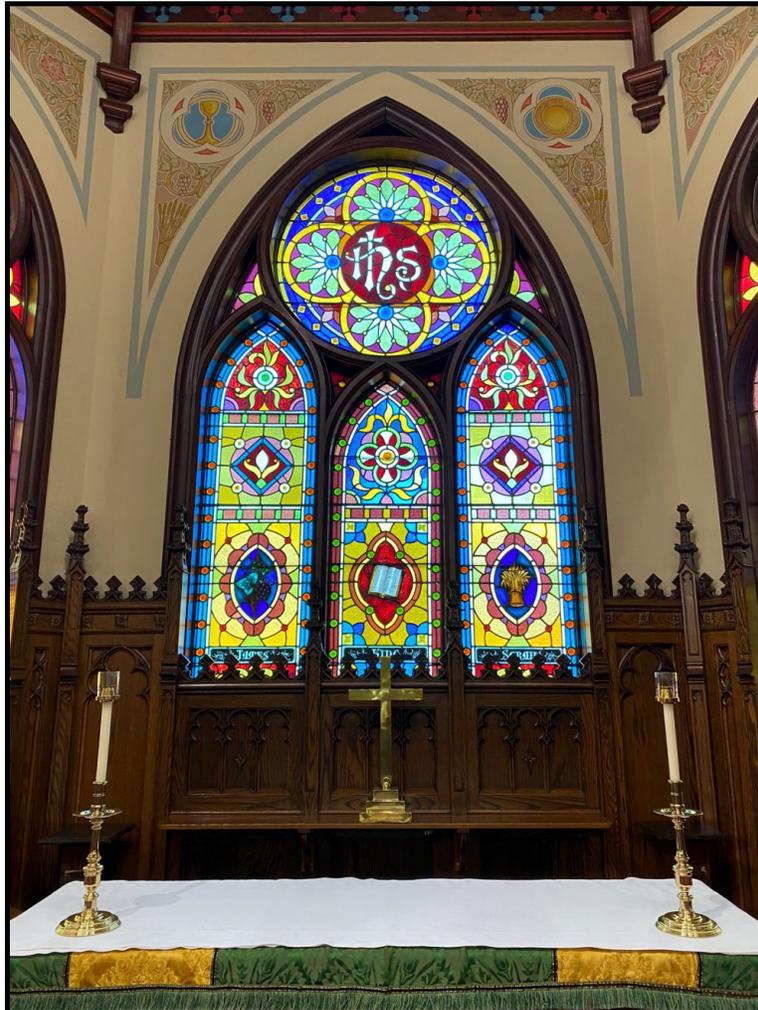
BY-LAW No. 227,
To incorporate the Village of Kingsville, in the Township of Gosfield, in the County of Essex.
 Passed June 21st, 1877.

Minutes of Essex County Council (1877)



Illustrated Atlas of the Dominion of Canada (1881)

Colonel James King, “respected pioneer of the county of Essex”⁷⁷ passed away on 13 September 1880. “Finding his health failing, he resigned all offices, and has since lived quietly among his children.”⁷⁸ According to his obituary in the Amherstburg Echo, “The funeral took place on Wednesday and was largely attended. Flags were at half-mast in the village on Tuesday and Wednesday.”⁷⁹

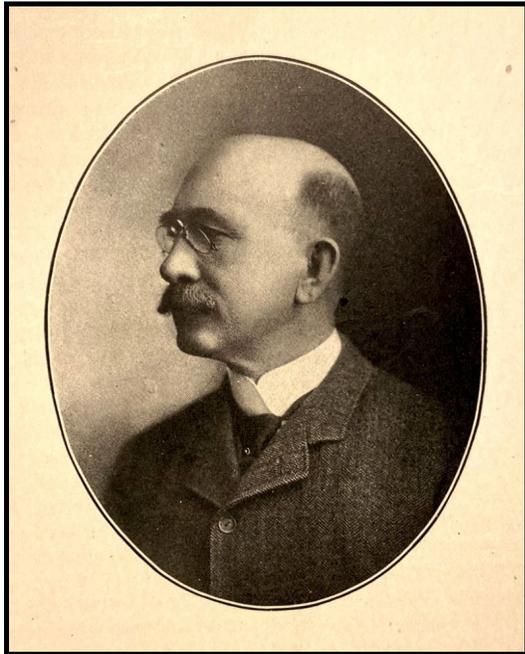


Memorial Stained Glass window dedicated to James and Sarah King
Courtesy of Church of the Epiphany, Kingsville, Ontario.

“The street leading from Division street to Spruce [*sic - Chestnut*] on the south side of the Town Hall, has never been named. At the last meeting of the council it was christened King street in honor of the founder of the town, the late Col. King. It was on this street the late Dr. S.A. King was born. The house in which he lived and spent his boyhood days, was torn down only a few years ago.”

(The Kingsville Reporter, 9 November 1911, p.5)

Dr. Sidney Arthur & Esther King



Commemorative Biographical Record (1905)

Sidney Arthur, youngest child of Col. James and Sarah King was born on 23 January 1844 in a small frame house located on the present-day site of the Kingsville Post Office (corner of King Street and Division Street North). In 1859, the King family relocated to their newly constructed home on Mill Street West.

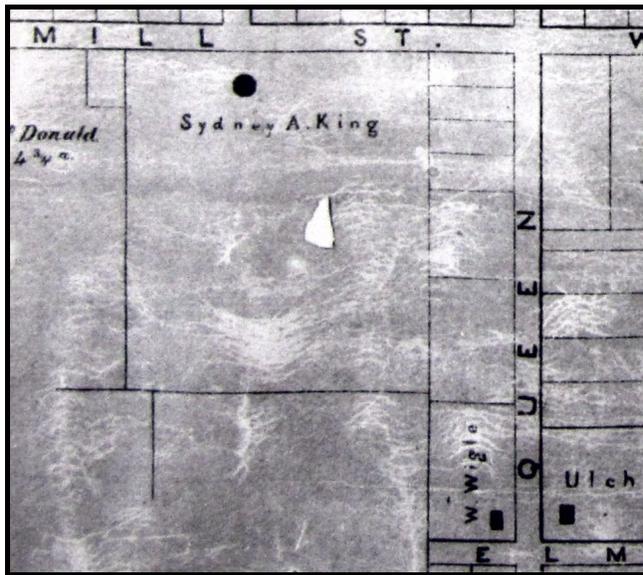
Sidney "received his literary education in the public schools of [Kingsville] and at Port Clinton, Ohio."⁸⁰ Entering Victoria College (Cobourg, Ontario) in 1864, he graduated with a medical degree three years later.⁸¹

Continuing his father's military service, Sidney "organized and commanded a company of volunteers"⁸² during the Fenian Raid in June 1866. As reported during the 1895 reunion of the No. 7 Infantry:

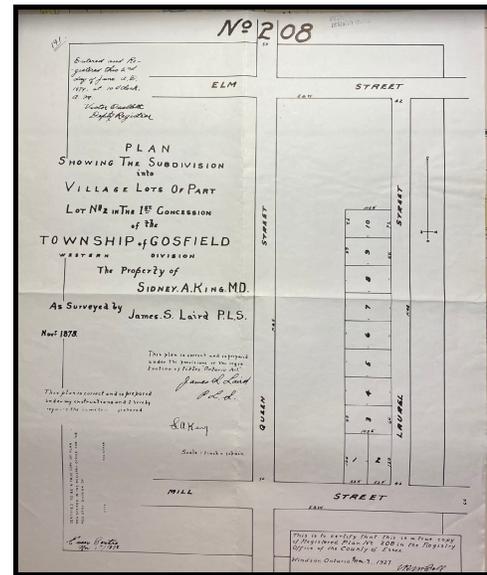
These brave men rallied for the defense of our shores in the year of '66 against the Fenians. It was a bright Sabbath day in June, when the information was received that a large troop of Fenians had left Sandusky, Ohio, and were wending their way towards our shores. The news spread like wild fire from house to house and messengers were sent to the various members of company No. 7 to shoulder arms and hasten to headquarters. Most of the members were farmers, and upon hearing the news they at once left their homes to answer roll call and prepared for battle. Being filled with that true patriotic spirit they did not flinch at the fate that was apparently before them, but advanced bravely to the front, determined, if necessary, to give up their lives in defense of their homes and country.⁸³

In 1872, at the age of 28, Dr. King married Esther Wigle (1850-1881), daughter of Solomon Wigle "who was such a prominent figure in Essex in the early days and a member of the first Provincial Legislature."⁸⁴ The newlyweds lived with Col. King in the house on Mill Street West and the following year, Dr. King was appointed the Collector of Customs⁸⁵ after his father stepped down.

When Col. King divested himself of his properties in 1876, Dr. King received the 9-acre property on Mill Street West, including the 1859 home. Two years later, Dr. King had the east part of the lots surveyed and divided into building lots along a new street called "Laurel"⁸⁶ named, according to family history, after his daughter Laura.



H.F. Walling, map (1877)



Registered Plan 208 (1878)

The next few years would prove very difficult for Dr. King: the death of his 13-month old daughter, Florence, in 1879, then his father's death in 1880 and ending with the death of his wife, Esther, at the age of 30. According to Dr. King's obituary, "She was of a most lovable disposition, and her death in 1881 was a life long sorrow to him."⁸⁷ Dr. King would never remarry.

After these tragedies, Dr. King entered a very busy, productive period. In 1881, he sold The Kingsville Reporter, the local newspaper he started in 1876⁸⁸, began construction of a new customs office on the southeast corner of the "Four Corners," and a 3-storey brick fruit and vegetable evaporator plant.⁸⁹ The following year, he made "several alterations and additions to his fine brick residence."⁹⁰

In the spring of 1884, Dr. King partnered with James H. Smart to purchase a portion of John Herrington's farm⁹¹ on the east side of Division Street South that was subdivided into building lots. The new streets created were: Maple, Myrtle, Prospect, Erie and Park, and Lansdowne Avenue.⁹²

By acclamation, Dr. King became Reeve of the Village of Kingsville in 1887,⁹³ and would hold that office until retiring from local politics in 1894.⁹⁴ Such was Dr. King's popularity, an article was printed in 1888 describing one of his adventures:

*Dr. S.A. King was suddenly called to Pelee Island on Monday evening of last week. The bad state of the ice after the rain made the crossing quite dangerous, and it requires more nerve than ordinary doctors possess to cross lake Erie at this time of the year; but more is expected of the doctor than most men, as with all his other accomplishments he is a soldier, and would cross Lake Erie on a cake of ice ten feet square if duty called, with nothing but his medical reputation for a paddle.*⁹⁵

In January 1889, natural gas was discovered in Gosfield South and Dr. King was an early supporter. He became the president of the Kingsville Natural Gas and Oil Co,⁹⁶ and when the Ontario Natural Gas Company was formed in April 1892, Hiram Walker was president and Dr. King vice-president.

Between the years of 1891 and 1900, Dr. King was Vice-President of the Lake Erie and Detroit River Railway, or "Hiram Walker's Railroad," and President from 1901 until 1902⁹⁷ when it was sold to the Pere Marquette Railway.⁹⁸

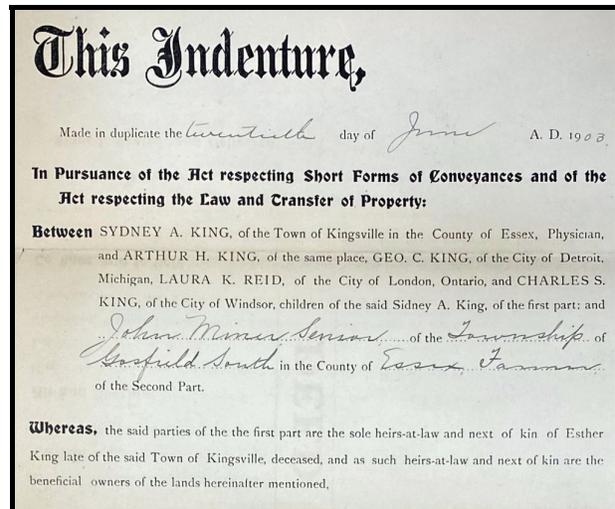
In addition to travelling on behalf of the Ontario Natural Gas Company to Pennsylvania and Virginia in 1892,⁹⁹ and London, England in 1893,¹⁰⁰ Dr. King was also developing building lots along the lake shore with Darius Wigle. Located west of Kingsville, 71 lots were surveyed in 1893 and offered for sale.¹⁰¹

Dr. King retired from his medical practice in 1893¹⁰², and at the end of his term as Reeve in 1894, decided not to seek re-election. "The business of the Ontario Natural Gas Company, of which he is president, demands nearly the whole of his attention, and since the gas is being supplied to Windsor, Walkerville and Detroit, he finds it necessary to live in Windsor most of the time."¹⁰³ In 1895, Dr. King resigned as the Collector of Customs for Kingsville.¹⁰⁴

Although Dr. King stepped back from some of his public duties, he continued his military service with D Squadron of the 1st Hussars. During the yearly exercises in London in the summer of 1897, Dr. King was promoted to District Staff Surgeon.¹⁰⁵ Five years later, he received his long service medal with the inscription: "Presented to Surgeon-Major and Hon. Surgeon Lt-Col. S.A. King 1st Hussars."¹⁰⁶

In 1903, Dr. King and his four children planned out an addition to Greenhill Cemetery on land Esther King had inherited from her father, Solomon Wigle. The original cemetery was laid out by Wigle in 1879.

John Miner, Sr. purchased a plot in Greenhill Cemetery from Dr. King in 1903 for \$18. Although, the deed wasn't registered until 1915.



Ontario Land Registry, Instrument Number 1708.

Arthur Hamilton (1873-1906), oldest son of Sidney and Esther King, continued the King family tradition of military service. "He entered the ranks when young as a private, and steadily advanced until he had attained the rank of Colonel."¹⁰⁷ While serving in the South African War (1899-1902), Col. King contracted fever from which he never fully recovered.

Second son, George Clarence (1874-1953), was also a member of the D Squadron of the 1st Hussars, earning a promotion to the rank of Captain in 1897. A graduate of the University of Toronto, King was the manager of the Addison Hotel in Detroit from 1906 until 1916 when he began training to serve in the First World War. Reaching the rank of Major, King served with the 241st Battalion overseas.¹⁰⁸

Anna Laura (1876-1975), only daughter to survive into adulthood, also attended the University of Toronto. She married Frank Reid, of London, Ontario, in 1900. During the First World War, Reid served overseas with the rank of Lieutenant-Colonel. Afterwards, Col. Reid and Laura went "to England with Shell Oil Co. and remained in England and Europe until his retirement in 1933."¹⁰⁹

Youngest son, Charles Stanley (1880-1944), was president of the Windsor Ice and Coal Company, Ltd., the British American Brewing Company, Limited, and the Peninsular Security Company.¹¹⁰ As stated in his 1944 obituary, his family included his wife "Nenone; one son, Peter, on special duty with the mechanized transport division of the Canadian Army overseas; two daughters, Mrs Charles (Barbara) Donaldson, and Wren Annette King, stationed at HMCS Cornwallis, N.S."¹¹¹

Dr. Sidney King died on 8 July 1907 at the age of 63. "Of a deeply affectionate nature, the loss of his son [Arthur] was a severe blow to the deceased, and undoubtedly hastened his death."¹¹² Pallbearers included close personal friends Dr. McKenzie, Jack Miner and W.A. Smith. "A special train from Walkerville brought a large number of prominent business men, both in financial and social life, from Walkerville, Windsor, Amherstburg and Detroit, many of them business associates and all personal friends of the deceased."¹¹³

In addition to his interests in gas and oil companies, Dr. King was also "President of the Iron Brown Paint Co., Detroit; President of the McCloskey Fence Co.; President of Kingsville Woollen Mills; Vice President of the Western Peat Fuel Co.; President of Girardot Wine Co.; Director of the Essex Loan & Savings Co.; Director of the Empire Accident and Surety Co.; Vice President of Wheeler Steamship Co., New York; President of the Manitoulin Lumber Co."¹¹⁴

*Application has been made in the surrogate court to probate the will of the late Dr. S.A. King. The inventory, which accompanies the application, places the value of the estate at \$187,000. Of this amount \$149,000 is in stocks in different companies and remainder in real estate or cash. The executors are Geo. Pearse and Curtis Green, Kingsville. According to the terms of the will the estate is to be divided equally among the three children. The amount the government will receive in succession duties at 5 per cent, is more that \$9,000.*¹¹⁵

Serial No. on Roll	Name and Post Office address of Taxable Person.	Address of Property	Occupation (in the case of farmers, state whether of separate, divided, joint, or widow's interest, name of the party)	No. of Lots, House, etc., or other description of the land or other property, lot or number in case of Municipal, Village, town and other persons not assessed for taxes	No. of Lots, House, etc., or other description of the land or other property, lot or number in case of Municipal, Village, town and other persons not assessed for taxes	Assessed value of the parcel (exclusive of quantity of building thereon)	Value of buildings	Total assessed value (exclusive of Real Personal)	Total amount of Taxable Real Estate	Total tax of the roll (School, Poor, etc.)
1	King Sidney Arthur Dr. K.	63 W. B. St.	General	Mill North South pt 2	7	1000	3000	4000	9305	
"	"	"	"	Mill & Laurel E. S.	1 2 2	200	250	450	"	
"	"	"	"	Mill South pt 2	4 pt 2	75	250	325	"	
"	"	"	"	Eric North	6, 7, 8,	150		150	"	
"	"	"	"	Eric North	3, 4, 5	120		120	"	
"	"	"	"	Sonsdunger West	31	150		150	"	
"	"	"	"	Green East North	3	400	1600	2000	"	
"	"	"	"	Kanadawu W. pt 1-11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16	2-	600		600	"	
"	"	"	"	" " 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22	2-	0		0	"	
"	"	"	"	Boonack South 43, 6, 7, 8, 9 pt in 3	1-	275		275	"	
"	"	"	"	Boonack North South lots 1, 2, 3, 4	1-	200		200	"	
"	"	"	"	Boonack North South lots 1, 2, 3, 4, 5	1-	200		200	"	
"	"	"	"	Boonack North South lots 3 & 4	1-	80		80	"	
"	"	"	"	Boonack South South	5	40		40	"	
"	"	"	"	St. Bridget Roman Catholic S. pt 2, 7, 10	3-	175		175	"	
"	"	"	"	Boonack North S. pt 5	1-	40		40	"	
"	"	"	"	Custom House Precinct E. S.	1-	200	300	500	"	

Town of Kingsville, Property Assessment Roll, 1907.

As laid out in Dr. King's will: "I bequeath my residence in Kingsville and all the adjoining grounds in connection therewith belonging to me, to my three children hereinbefore mentioned to be held by them jointly and in equal shares and so to be retained by each and all of them unless they should at any time mutually agree to otherwise dispose of the said property."¹¹⁶

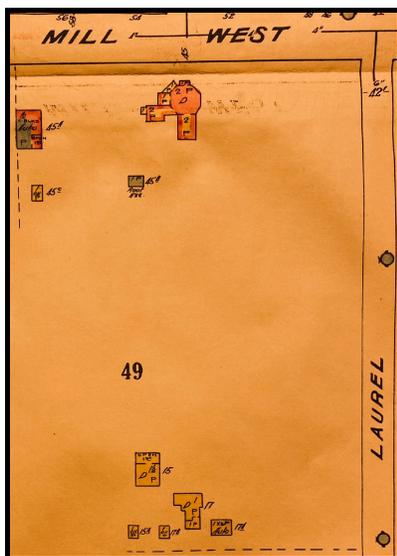
For the first few years after Dr. King's death, the family home was only used for short visits, since Laura lived in London, Charles in Windsor and George in Detroit. However, when George was sent overseas during the First World War, his wife, Anna, and their twin daughters, Helen and Alice, stayed in Kingsville for months at a time.¹¹⁷

In the early 1920s, Laura and her family moved to London, England, and in October 1921, she sold her interest in the King homestead to her brothers Charles and George for \$3,000.¹¹⁸ George and Charles divided the property with George retaining Kingsholme and 2.25 acres of the lot, and Charles receiving the vacant 5.5 acres in the southern portion.¹¹⁹ Charles built a summer home on his lot in the spring of 1922.¹²⁰

According to Charles King, grandson of Charles S. King:

The big summer house, or cottage, was built on the north part of my grandfather Charles Stanley King's southern part of the property. At some point, probably later in the 1920s, the house was moved farther south and farther in from Laurel Street. I remember my father telling me that the house was raised up and placed on rollers and pulled by a team of horses. It had four or five bedrooms and a screened porch the width of the house.

When my parents, Peter and Jessie King, were married in 1946, they moved to Kingsville into a small house that was connected to the large cottage by a covered breezeway.¹²¹



Fire Insurance Plan (1950)



North Elevation of CS King's cottage. Courtesy of the King Family.

Major George C. & Anna King



Windsor Star, 15 February 1928, p.3.

In 1906, a year after George Clarence King married Anna Thompson (1871-1940), the couple moved to Detroit where King became the manager of the Addison, a luxury hotel on Woodward Avenue. In 1916, the family, including twin daughters Alice and Helen, moved back to Canada so King could attend military training in London. "During World War I, Mr. King served with the 241st Battalion and then in a staff capacity in both England and France and was retired with the rank of major"¹²²

The Kings purchased Kingsholme from the Major's siblings in 1921 and began extensive renovations in preparation of relocating to Kingsville and becoming a "professional farmer."¹²³ As reported in October 1923: "Geo. King has had masons at work at his home, Mill St. West for some months, putting up a stone fence on the east and north sides of the

King homestead. There are several hundred feet of it. It is probably the longest and finest fence of this character in this county."¹²⁴

Renovations continued into 1924 and the Kingsville Reporter opined: "Geo. King has now the most natural and beautiful grounds in South Essex"¹²⁵ and "when all contemplated alterations are complete, he will have one of the finest homes in town."¹²⁶

As reported in 1927, "Mr. Geo. C. King is just finishing the largest garage in town. It is constructed of brick, concrete, block and frame. It will house four cars abreast and several in length."¹²⁷ The following year, Major King was elected president of the Essex County Automobile Club. He would go on to serve as president of the Ontario Motor League beginning in 1930,¹²⁸ and was a director of the League until his death in 1953.

These renovations and upgrades must have come at a premium because the Kings mortgaged this property to Laura King Reid in 1928 for \$12,000.¹²⁹

Colonel Frank Aspinal & Laura King Reid



The Windsor Star, 11 October 1960, p.17.

When Laura King was married to Frank A. Reid in Kingsville on 10 October 1900, it was described as “undoubtedly the greatest social event of the season,”¹³⁴ and the bride was described as “undoubtedly the most popular young lady in the county, her genial manner making her beloved by all.”¹³⁵

Reid was described as “a prominent business man, of London, Ont.,”¹³⁶ who was also “in command of the 7th Fusiliers in London.”¹³⁷

During the First World War, Reid was a member of the general staff of the Canadian Expeditionary Force under Sir Sam Hughes.¹³⁸ “Later he was in charge of the Canadian elections with the troops in France.”¹³⁹ During service overseas he was awarded the C.M.G. (Commander of St. Michael and St. George).¹⁴⁰

After the war, the Reids moved to England where Col. Reid was employed by Shell Oil Co. and remained in England and Europe until his retirement. He was in the brokerage business both in England and in Canada.¹⁴¹

Mrs. Frank A. Reid, with her daughter, Miss Esther Margaret, will be presented to Her Majesty Queen Mary at a court in Buckingham Palace on May 10. Mrs. Reid, who is the former Miss Laura A. King, of Kingsville, is a sister of Mr. Charles S. King, of Devonshire Road, and a niece of Colonel Ernest S. Wigle, K.C. She is well-known in the Border Cities.

The Windsor Star, 24 April, 1929 p.35.



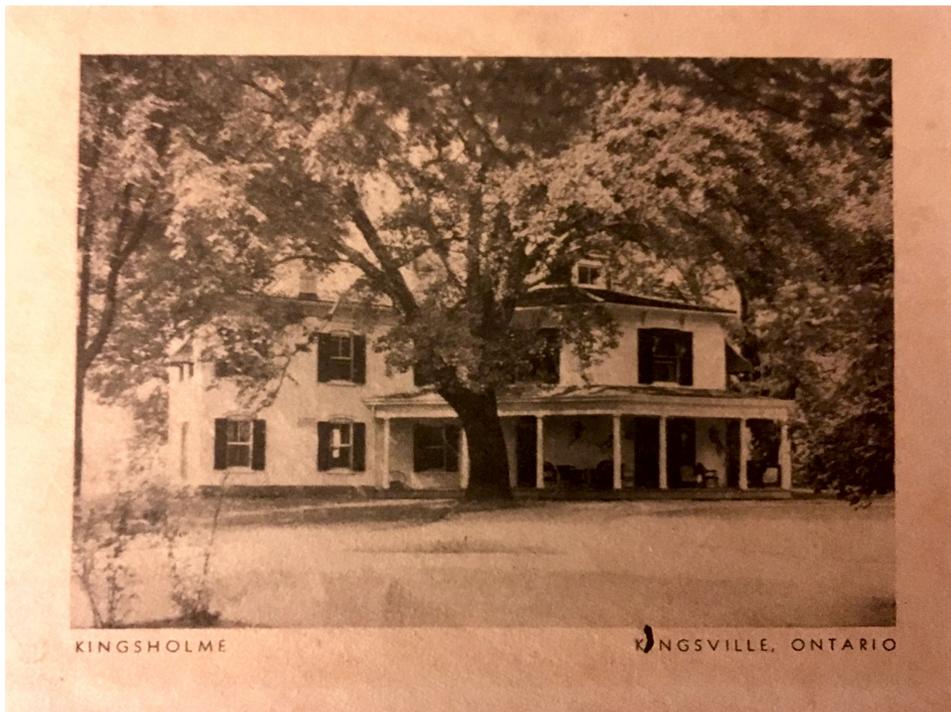
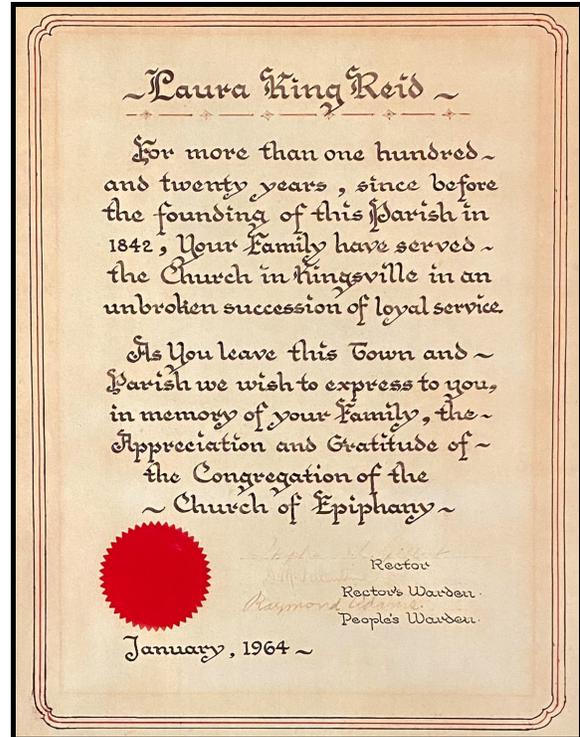
The Windsor Star, 24 April, 1929 p.35.

The Reids became owners of Kingsholme in 1936 and used it as a summer home until the beginning of World War II restricted their travelling, and they became full-time residents.

Laura King Reid spent her years in Kingsville supporting various charities, including the IODE (Imperial Order Daughters of the Empire) and the Women's Auxiliary of the Church of the Epiphany.

In 1960, in recognition of her volunteer work, Laura was "presented with a life membership in the Women's Auxiliary of the Anglican Church of Canada, Diocese of Huron."¹⁴²

Kingsholme was the site of many fundraising activities hosted by Laura.



"Christmas card sent from Laura to my great-grandmother Josephine Allworth Perley in 1937"
- Christi Brogan¹⁴³

Col. Frank A. Reid died in 1961. Three years later, Laura sold the King homestead to her cousin Walter L. McGregor and moved to Walkerville. Laura passed away in 1975 at the age of 98.

Colonel Walter Leishman & Helen McGregor



The Windsor Star,
9 October 2007, p.A3.

Col. Walter L. McGregor (1917-2007) was the son of Walter Leishman McGregor, Sr (1875-1933) and Esther Wigle McGregor (1886-1959). McGregor, Sr., was a successful Windsor businessman and “during the Great War he raised the 241st Battalion, C.E.F., and proceeded overseas with it as lieutenant-colonel.”¹⁴⁴

Both father and son were associated with The Essex Scottish, now The Essex and Kent Scottish, which “is one of Canada's oldest infantry regiments. It has a regimental history that dates to 1749 as French militia at Fort Pontchartrain (Detroit) although it has unbroken lineage dating to 12 June 1885. Essex and Kent counties produced the first militia organization in Ontario and the first units to engage in combat (1794) outside Canada.”¹⁴⁵

*In 1927, The Essex Fusiliers received word that they were going to be converted into a Highland unit. Recruiters believed that the appeal of Highland dress (kilts) could help stimulate the pace of enlistment. One of the most visible features of that Highland character was the Pipe Band of the Essex Scottish Regiment. Walter McGregor provided the funds for the new uniforms, which would make use of the McGregor tartan. When the Second World War broke out, the peacetime militia regiments were mobilized intact and on August 19 1942, the Essex Scottish units faced a horrific hail of artillery fire on the stony beaches of Dieppe, France.*¹⁴⁶

While serving with The Essex Scottish, McGregor would have first-hand experience with the Dieppe Raid:

“Within minutes of landing on Dieppe’s beaches on Aug. 19, 1942, he and more than 500 other Essex Scottish Regiment soldiers and officers were sprayed with German bullets and artillery shells. More than 100 of them were killed in action and hundreds more were injured. Along with other surviving Allied troops, many of them were marched off to German prison camps, where McGregor spent 2½ years.”¹⁴⁷

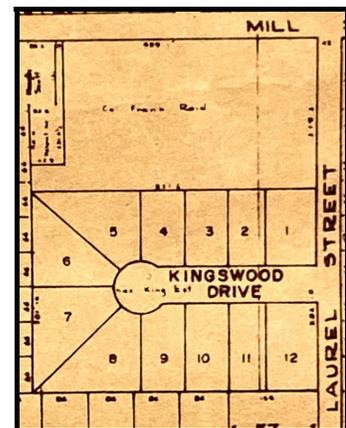
Shortly after returning home at the end of the war, McGregor was married in Windsor.



The Windsor Star, 14 July 1945, p.20.

Col. McGregor and his first wife, Helen Young McGregor (1916-1983) purchased Kingsholme in 1964 from Laura King Reid. The following year, the McGregors bought from the heirs of Charles Stanley King the lot to the south and in 1972, created a subdivision around a new road call Kingswood Drive.

When Col. McGregor passed away at the age of 90 in 2007, he was survived by his second wife, Eileen Coulter McGregor.



“Mr. McGregor practiced law in Windsor and Kingsville for over 40 years. Former Commanding Officer and Honourary Colonel of the Essex and Kent Scottish Regiment, Chairman of the Board of Governors of the University of Windsor, IODE Memorial Hospital, and President of the Ontario Hospital Association.”¹⁴⁸

Dieppe vet laid to rest



Members of the Essex and Kent Scottish Regiment carry the casket of Col. Walter McGregor past the honour guard at his funeral Wednesday. McGregor, a former regiment commander and local lawyer, died Friday at the age of 90. He took a leadership role as a young captain in the 1942 raid on Dieppe, in which 500 regiment soldiers took part. One hundred were killed and many more were wounded or taken prisoner. McGregor spent 2½ years in a PoW camp, but after the war rarely spoke of his experiences.

The Windsor Star - Bev MacKenzie

The Windsor Star, 11 October 2017, p.6.

Endnotes

1. O.S. Fowler, *A Home for All or the Gravel Wall and Octagon Mode of Building* (New York: Fowlers and Wells, 1854), p.13.
2. Ibid, p. 88
3. John I. Rempel, *Building With Wood* (Toronto: University of Toronto Press, 1967), p.177.
4. *The Windsor Star*, 21 September 1935, Third Section, p.1.
5. *The Kingsville Reporter*, 26 June 1924, p.5.
6. Town of Kingsville files, Minor Variance Application, 6 February 1979.
7. <https://estateofhealth.ca/history-of-the-estate>, retrieved 1 September 2023.
8. *Commemorative Biographical Record of the County of Essex*, (Toronto: J.H. Beers & Co.), p.196.
9. *King Family Papers*, 1834-1880, part of the MacDonald Historical Collection at Windsor's Community Museum.
10. The National Archives; Kew, Surrey, England; Records of the Prerogative Court of Canterbury, Series PROB 11; Class: PROB 11; Piece: 1710 (retrieved from Ancestry.ca)
11. *King Family Papers*, 1834-1880, part of the MacDonald Historical Collection at Windsor's Community Museum.
12. http://www.biographi.ca/en/bio/workman_thomas_11E.html
13. <https://archivalcollections.library.mcgill.ca/index.php/benjamin-workman-fonds>
14. *King Family Papers*, 1834-1880, part of the MacDonald Historical Collection at Windsor's Community Museum.
15. https://project.geo.msu.edu/geogmich/michigan_fever.html (retrieved 21 July 2023)
16. Richard Ellenden Bonner, Editor, *Memoirs of Lenawee County Michigan, Volume 1* (Wisconsin: Western Historical Association, 1909), p.349.
17. United States, Bureau of Land Management. Michigan Pre-1908 Homestead & Cash Entry Patent and Cadastral Survey Plat Index. General Land Office Automated Records Project, 1994 (retrieved from Ancestry.ca)
18. Richard Ellenden Bonner, Editor, *Memoirs of Lenawee County* (Wisconsin: Western Historical Association, 1909), p.350.
19. Archives of Ontario. Registrations of Deaths, 1869-1948 (MS 935, reels 1-694).
20. "Death of Col. King" *Essex Record*, 16 Sep 1880, p.1.
21. https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Toledo_War (retrieved 22 July 2023)
22. Evan Andrews, *The Toledo War: When Michigan and Ohio Nearly Came to Blows* (<https://www.history.com/news/the-toledo-war-when-michigan-and-ohio-nearly-came-to-blo>)

ws), accessed 3 September 2023.

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