



A SOCIAL AND LEGAL HISTORY OF 292 SOMERSET STREET WEST,
OTTAWA

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West side of house showing emergency door added in 1963. The door was converted to a window in 1983, and the porch demolished to improve access to the parking lot.

A house history is a living document...it is always evolving – author unknown

The buildings at 292 Somerset Street have seen many uses: a family home, stables, doctors office, retirement home, rooming house, cult centre and most recently as business offices. Over the years, it has also been associated with a number of notable Ottawans, including Lt-Col John By, founder of the city, and Warren Soper, who brought modern utilities (electricity, telephone, gas) to Ottawa.

The Murphys build 292 Somerset Street¹

In 1848, Thomas McKay demonstrated that it was possible to saw lumber in his mills at the Rideau Falls, barge it to Montreal for onward transfer by ship or rail, and still sell it at a profit in Boston or New York. By 1870 1,700 saws at mills at the Chaudière and Rideau Falls filled the air with noise and the stench and smoke of smouldering sawdust, and coated the rivers with a scum of splinters and sawdust. Millions of board feet of lumber were stacked in every corner of the city to dry and wait for shipment to market (Taylor p 51, Gwyn p 40.)

Thousands of country folk and immigrants arrived in Bytown (Ottawa after 1855). There were jobs at the mills. There were jobs and business opportunities big and small in the lumber trade. There were even more opportunities and jobs providing housing and services to the growing population in the city and the surrounding countryside. Between 1840 and 1850 the population doubled. It almost doubled again in the next decade, and grew by 50% between 1860 and 1870 (Taylor p 210)

One of the many families who arrived looking for work were the brothers Martin, Michael and Matthew Murphy.

Martin Murphy was born in Tipperary, Ireland, about 1830. He immigrated to Ontario with his brothers and probably with his parents some time in the 1840s, about the time that the great famine drove millions of Irish abroad. In the 1861 census he is recorded as living with his employer, a merchant in Yorkville, then a village outside Toronto. That same year he married Isabella McCurdy in Toronto, and the couple took

¹ The house was originally numbered 330. The street was first numbered about 1875, and renumbered in 1898. For convenience the current numbers are used unless otherwise indicated.

up residence in Yorkville. Isabella died, and Martin moved to Ottawa in 1863 to join his brother Michael in rooms on Redpath Street (now under the approaches to the Macdonald-Cartier Bridge). Michael was working on construction of the new parliament buildings, while Martin was listed simply as a “labourer”, part of that army of toilers essential to the Victorian economy, who picked up physical work wherever it was available: digging ditches, felling timber, harvesting crops, and doing the heavy labour of construction. (Census 1861, CD 1861, MR Carleton 1868-11-08)



Sparks St looking west from Kent St 1866. The Murphys' house probably looked much like the one in the left foreground. (LAC C-11384)

In 1868 Martin married Mary Burns, also born in Ireland but 15 years his junior. The couple moved to Bidy Street near Metcalfe Street (probably today's Lisgar Street). Over the next few years the city directory describes Martin as a “labourer”, “teamster” or “waggon driver”. If Martin indeed owned his own team of horses, he would have commanded a much better wage than most labourers, and it might explain how Martin and Mary were able to save enough to pay the premium price asked for the lot under 292 Somerset Street West, and also why they kept the whole lot.

Mary bought the lot in November 1876 from James Maclaren, representing the Ottawa Freehold Association, developers of the By Estate, for \$900 (\$250 in cash and a

mortgage to Maclaren for 649.25 at 7%) and assumed the mortgage that the Freehold Association had given the By family. The latter must have been quite small, as it was paid off in less than three years.(RO 14381, 14715, 17877)

Unusually for the day, the Murphys kept the whole oversized lot, rather than splitting it and selling half to another buyer. On their lot, the Murphys built a frame house of one and half storeys, with a long tail of sheds behind, possibly to stable their horses.

For the first two years, they shared the house with Martin's younger brother Matthew, a member of the Dominion Police. By 1878 Martin himself had also hired on with the Dominion Police.

The Dominion Police force was established by the Federal government in 1868 soon after the assassination of D'Arcy McGee on Sparks Street in April 1868. McGee's death was blamed on the Irish Republican Brotherhood, or Fenians, a largely American group that sought Irish independence through violent attacks on Britain and British colonies. With McGee's death, an existing office that monitored Fenian threats was expanded to a small security force to guard Parliament and members of the government. Thus Martin's job was similar to that of today's Parliamentary Protection Service. After his retirement, the Dominion force went through many changes and expansions before it was merged with the Royal Northwest Mounted Police to form the RCMP in 1920.

The Murphys continued to own the house for another fifteen years. We know almost nothing of their family life. Brother Matthew moved out in 1879, perhaps he married?, and brother Michael bought a farm on the Aylmer Road in South Hull before 1881. Mary and Martin had no children. Mary is listed in the *Citizen* for January 1890 as having donated \$1 to the St Patrick's Home for orphans. (Census 1871, 1881, OC 1890-01-05)

At the outset of development in the 1870s, the stretch of Somerset Street between Elgin and Bank, close to the commercial centre of town, attracted a mix of housing and incomes: messengers, labourers, craftsmen, clerks, professionals and merchants living side by side. However, as the years passed the higher ground and oversized lots attracted wealthy people who wanted to build substantial houses on a main street to demonstrate their success to the passing public. The humble frame cottage of the Murphys must have stuck out more and more among the proud square brick houses around it.

The By Estate and Somerset Street

“Buy land, they’re not making it any more” advised Mark Twain (an author noted for his lack of financial acumen). As newcomers flooded in to Bytown and Ottawa, people with savings took that advice. Real growth was surrounded by a penumbra of speculation as landowners subdivided in hopes of attracting buyers, and investors bought clusters of lots in different areas in hopes of reselling at a profit.



Lt-Col John By and Esther By in 1832: silhouettes given to the major contractors on completion of the Rideau Canal, signed and dated by By. These are the only authenticated portraits of the Bys. (Andrews p 146)

Everyone, except those rich enough to keep a carriage or hire a cab, had to walk everywhere, picking their way through the mud and garbage in summer and accumulated snow in winter. Although people were accustomed to walking long distances by our standards, those who could afford it sought to live close to their jobs. So, the mill workers at the Chaudière huddled on Lebreton Flats, right next to the mansions of their employers along Albert Street.

While speculators bought and sold lots as far away from the city as today’s Westboro and Vanier, investors found, to their chagrin, that for much of this period, the

By Estate, the land immediately south of the city, was not for sale, but available only on lease.

John By of the Royal Engineers retired from active service in 1821, ready to enjoy his new status as a landed gentleman. The widowed By had married Esther March, the heiress of a wealthy London printer, and her trustees had bought a small estate and country house, Shernfold Park in Sussex, for the new couple. In this, the world of Jane Austen, ownership of land brought financial security, social standing and political privilege. The Bys, he “florid and jovial”, she “agreeable and accomplished”, enjoyed the entrée to county society, and took on some of its concern to ensure that family land holdings passed unimpaired from generation to generation. At the same time, By, raised in a family business, used his new wealth to expand his holdings and invest in securities (including shares in the Midland Bank in Upper Canada).

When, in 1825, the British government decided to build the Rideau Canal as part of a plan to improve the defences of Upper Canada, By was tapped to take charge, based on his high reputation and previous experience in Canada. By agreed, and arrived at the site of Ottawa in September 1826 to begin the massive task of designing the Canal, hiring contractors, establishing supply lines, and laying out a townsite to accommodate and service the canal workers, as well as his own family. Once this work was well in hand, By looked for opportunities for personal profit from the growth of the new town, and in 1831 bought lots C and D in Concession B, and lots D and E in Concession C of the Rideau Front of Nepean Township, the land today bounded by Laurier Avenue, the Rideau River, Mann and Gladstone Avenues and Bronson Avenue.

By subdivided his property into large five and ten acre lots and rented them out on long leases to the farmers and gardeners who would be feeding the new town. Whatever his plans were, they did not work out as expected. Construction of the Rideau Canal was caught up in the struggle of Parliament to gain control of the army’s budget from the Crown (like today’s police budget, Parliament paid the bill but had no say in how the money was spent). Parliament succeeded, but By’s career was cut short. In 1832, shortly after the opening of the Canal, he was recalled to England and resigned his commission. He left his trusted civilian assistant, John Burrows, in charge and never returned (or even took much interest in his Nepean lands) before his death from a series of strokes in 1836, aged 53. (Andrews)

By may have intended to manage the estate in the English fashion, i.e. to retain the freehold and let individual building lots on long leases, or simply to wait until demand had pushed up property values before selling. By had two daughters, but no sons. Under the laws of the day, there was a danger that his property would end up in

the hands of sons-in-law and be lost to his own descendants. Thus, By left his own property (as opposed to Shernfold Park and other property which belonged to his wife) in trust for his grandchildren, or if none survived, for his nearest male relative, thus ensuring that it remained in the By family. The income from the trust was to support his wife and daughters, and also pay a number of annuities to friends and family.

Esther and the children and grandchildren all died between 1838 and 1851. On the death of the last annuitant, By's sister-in-law, in 1862 the trust was dissolved and the lands inherited by John By's cousin Charles William By. In the very different economic environment of his day, Charles William wasted no time in selling By's property holdings in England, and then turned to the lands in Nepean. Some time before his death in 1865, Charles William began buying back leases west of Bank Street, laying out streets and selling town lots. To accelerate development, in 1872 the By family gave Tylee and Moberly, a firm of London solicitors, power of attorney to manage and sell the estate.

The new agents hired Pinhey, Christie and Hill, a law firm of old Ottawa families, as their local agents. The lands east of today's Bank Street were subdivided, possibly by the surveyor, lawyer (and future mayor) John Bower Lewis. They then hired Hector McLean, a well-known local auctioneer who had overseen the development of many subdivisions, to sell lots by auction. With the land off the market for so long, the lots sold at first for premium prices. At one of his auction, in May 1875, in the midst of the "long depression" when rents were falling because of the number of vacant houses in town, McLean sold lots on Lisgar, Cooper and Somerset Streets for between \$550 and \$1200. (By comparison, Besserer rarely got more than \$500 for lots in Sandy Hill, and most lots in Ottawa sold for \$200)². (OC1875-05-28, OC 1886-07-15, Gwyn p 52, Elliot p 124)

In 1876 Tylee and Moberly arranged to sell all of the remaining By Estate to the Ottawa Freehold Association, a partnership of the lumberman James Maclaren, the mill and mine-owner Robert Blackburn, and the banker Charles Magee. The associates paid \$100,000 in cash, and gave Tylee and Moberly a mortgage for \$400,000 payable in ten years at 5%. (RO 14381; OC 1878-06-25).

The new owners marketed aggressively, benefitting from the high floor price established by the auctions. Unusually for the day, they also paid for the City to grade the central 30' of the road allowance for each street. Although they had to continue By's policy of renting large lots to the south of Somerset Street, they were able, for a few years,

² Perhaps spurred by this success, McLean attempted to open a subdivision on the Richmond Road just west of Holland. Its failure wiped out his business, and he left Ottawa. (Elliot p 124)

to charge a standard price of \$1200 for corner lots and \$800 for “inside” lots. However, with the continuing Depression, prices fell. In 1878 the associates were unable to sell 90 acres (about 20% of the original purchase) for \$200,000. They soldiered on, but by the 1890s were selling lots for \$650. (RO 14381, OC 1876-12-07, 1878-06-25)



A caricature of Edward Seymour, 12th Duke of Somerset, from 1869.

To provide access to the large lots in his plan of 1831 By laid out a limited number of streets. One followed the line between lots C and D, half way between the north and south boundaries of the estate, so By named it “Centre Street”. At some time after 1843, when much of the Reserve land along the Canal was sold off, the owners laid out a street called Isabella, connecting on an angle with Somerset.

In June 1874, to prepare for the introduction of door-to-door mail delivery, the City began giving streets official names, posting street signs and numbering houses. Among other changes, the name Isabella was extended to cover both Isabella and Centre Streets. However, before the end of the year Isabella Street was officially renamed Somerset Street, possibly at the request of Tylee and Moberly. They were among the first developers in Ottawa to choose street names as a marketing tool, naming many of their

new streets after prominent Canadian and Imperial notables, such as Cartier, Salisbury and Gladstone).³ (OC 1874-06-02)

Alexander H. D. Ross, writing in 1927, stated that the street was renamed for Edward Seymour, 12th Duke of Somerset, (that's Seymour as in Jane Seymour, wife of Henry VIII, who made the family's fortune). Ross was born in Ottawa in the 1860s, the grandson of John Burrows, so one can assume that he remembered this, or was told it by the old-timers he consulted. However, many of Ross' other stories of the origin of street names come straight from his imagination, so we cannot be sure. (Ross p 199)

Somerset was a prominent politician in Britain, at a time when Canadian newspapers closely followed Imperial events. Although by 1875 he was no longer a cabinet minister, he used his seat in the Lords to support continued strong economic and political ties in the Empire. He was married to one of the three Sheridan sisters, celebrities of the day, and so uncle of Lord Dufferin, Governor-General from 1872-1878. As well, he was in the public eye as the author of popular books on major topics of the day such as *Christian Theology and Modern Scepticism* (1872) and *Monarchy and Democracy* (1880). In short, Somerset was well enough known that the *Citizen* could suggest in January 1880 that Somerset, gloomy about "the threatening outlook for society" in England, should be "shut up in some new part of the world" with Mr Goldwyn Smith, equally gloomy about "the shockingly bad state of public ...morals in Canada"⁴. (OC 1874-03-20, 1880-01-30)

³ The junction was at the point where Somerset now curves north just east of Macdonald Street. At some point this section was renamed "McDermott Avenue" after the landowner. In 1889 the City voted, with McDermott's agreement, to extend Somerset directly east to the Canal in hopes that the Federal government would then build a bridge to the Sandy Hill side. The extension was never opened. (OC 1889-07-24)

⁴ Goldwyn Smith retired to Toronto in 1871 after a long academic career in Britain and the United States. A "Manchester Liberal", he argued in a stream of articles and books that Canada made no economic or political sense, and was kept independent of the United States only to benefit a corrupt political and business establishment.

Somerset Street in the 19th Century

Lord Dufferin, arriving in Ottawa in 1872, lamented the “wilderness of wooden shanties spread along either side of broad strips of mud” (The Dufferins enjoyed their six years in Canada). By the time the stretch of Somerset east of Bank began to build up, the City government had worked to address some of the worst problems. Board sidewalks made walking safer, though crossing the roadways of unsurfaced mud could still be an adventure. Water mains brought running water to the house from the pumping station on Fleet Street, eliminating the daily visit of the water cart. However, the polluted water in the mains also brought periodic epidemics of typhoid and cholera.⁵ Brick and clay tile sewers drained away the storm run-off that flooded every basement and turned the streets into mudholes capable of drowning the unwary. The sewers at least reduced the constant and, in summer, overpowering stench of sewage. (OC 1878-05-14, 1880-05-13)

Streets were mud, trampled down by passing traffic, with the occasional visit from a horse-drawn scraper. About 1890 the City began to spread a thin layer of crushed stone on top of the mud, but most streets remained unpaved until manufactured asphalt became available in the 1920s. An 1879 newspaper noted boys digging mud from Somerset Street to level a hole in a back garden. Streets were not cleaned, leading to complaints about people dumping their garbage on the roadway (1887) and “the unbearable stench of dead dogs” (1888). Other residents complained that the City was doing nothing about the cows who roamed Somerset Street, browsing on the gardens. (OC 1879-10-07, OJ 1887-03-18, 1888-05-09, 1888-09-22, 1888-10-09)

Manners were also rougher. Early in April 1879, the neighbourhood “boys” congregated near a house on Somerset to serenade a newly-married couple with “the usual bells and horns”. When invited to disperse, they threw stones at the house. Shots were fired and “a most exciting battle was raged” until the police arrived. (OC 1879-04-06)

⁵ Water remained untreated until the opening of the filtration plant on Lemieux Island in 1928, spurred by a particularly bad typhoid epidemic. The poor quality of Ottawa’s water supply was a severe damper on tourism.

The first houses built on this stretch of Somerset, in 1876, included the Murphys' frame house, the "comfortable cottage" of a speculator, and the large brick house of the architect James Mather. By 1885 there were 11 houses on Somerset between Bank and Elgin, with a mix of styles and occupations. However, as the economy recovered, more big houses replaced the "comfortable cottages". By the 1920s a society matron in an Ottawa-based novel could ask whether someone lived on the "right" or the "wrong" side of Bank Street.(OC 1877-07-14, Macbeth)

The following are some of the notable residents of this stretch of Somerset St during the 19th Century.

James Mather bought the lot at the south-east corner of Somerset and O'Connor at auction in 1875 for \$1200, the highest price recorded in that sale. Newly arrived in Ottawa, he designed and built a fine brick home (today's Mama Teresa Restaurant) as an advertisement for his practice, and a sign that with his business connections, he was a substantial citizen of the town.

Mather (1833-1927) was "a man o'parts" in the Scottish tradition. A carpenter, in his native Scotland, but with good schooling, he taught himself architecture. Finding limited success in his new profession, in 1872 he immigrated to Ottawa to join his brother John, established as manager of Allan Gilmour's lumber mills. With the patronage of his brother and other lumbermen he quickly began to receive commissions, and probably had more influence than any other person on the look of the city as its buildings morphed from a huddle of shanties to self-consciously noble structures of brick and stone.

Of his many commercial buildings, only the Woods Building at 66 Queen Street and the former YMCA on Metcalfe (now a hotel) have survived fire or demolition. Institutional buildings remaining include First Baptist Church, the older portions of Lisgar Collegiate and the Model School (the back portion of the Heritage Block at City Hall). He also built a number of residences, including Laurier House. Aside from his professional practice, Mather was a director of Pritchett-Andrews Co., and President of Beechwood Cemetery. In 1892 Mather built himself a new house in the southern portion of Sandy Hill, an area just starting to develop, and sold his home to Fred Carling.(DAC; BW)

Carling, the son of Sir John Carling, the brewer and cabinet minister, moved to Ottawa in 1885 to marry Eva, the daughter of G.B. Pattee, another sawmill owner. In 1889 he took over as manager of Carling brewery in Ottawa, located at 144 Albert Street, current site of the Sheraton Hotel, a post he seems to have held for many years. By 1910, Carling listed his profession as "banker", and was an active property developer. Among

other projects, he built a retail building on Sparks Street for lease to Murphy-Gamble. (the building survives as the Bank of Nova Scotia), and the Strand, an early movie theatre.

With their family connections, the Carlings participated actively in Ottawa's high society, attending theatricals at Government Houses, and afternoon teas and card parties with the Lauriers and Bordens. They carried out the volunteer work expected of the wealthy, but Fred was also a "man about town" whose obiter dicta were reported in the newspapers. He was in the public eye for his involvement in organizing amateur athletics. At various stages he was President or on the Boards organizing football, lacrosse, rowing and hockey, and donated several trophies for football and shooting. He was noted as a guest when the Ottawa University football team was presented with medals to mark their win of the Grey Cup (1902).



Robert Skead, date unknown (ancestry.ca)



Sir John Thompson, 1891 (Wikipedia)

Carling sold the house in 1900. In 1908 the Carlings inherited 149 Somerset St West (today the Army mess) and may have lived there. In 1913 they commissioned a new house at 385 Laurier Avenue East, where they lived until Fred died in 1943. The house has since been demolished to enlarge the grounds of Stadacona Hall, currently the Embassy of Brunei. Eva moved to an apartment in the Roxborough, on the present site of Confederation Park. (OC 13-06-04).

Robert Skead, "lumber merchant", lived at 324 Somerset from 1886 until his death in 1897. His family immigrated from northern England in 1827 and settled in Bytown in 1832. Alone, but usually in partnership with his elder and wealthier brother, Senator James Skead, he exploited timber limits across Ontario and built and operated sawmills. He was a partner in the new mill town of Westboro, originally called Skead's Mills. The Long Depression caused many of his business interests to fail, while he began to suffer from severe rheumatism. His interests shifted to agriculture, and in 1879 he bought and developed a farm on the Montreal Road on the east side of Blair Road⁶. About 1885 a wild fire wiped out the farm house and out buildings. Skead sold his farm and bought the house on Somerset, where he lived for the rest of his life.

Prime Minister Sir John Thompson was recruited from the bench of Nova Scotia to become Minister of Justice in the cabinet of Sir John A Macdonald. Like many politicians of the day Thompson left his family at home in Halifax, staying in a hotel or boarding house for the four or five months he had to be in Ottawa each year. When he became Prime Minister, he decided to bring his family to Ottawa, and rented 230 Somerset Street (the present Soccer Canada headquarters) for the winter of 1892-1893. The following winter the family rented on Lisgar Street, but Thompson, grossly overweight, died in 1894 of a massive stroke while having lunch at Windsor with Queen Victoria.

The photographer William James Topley built 272 Somerset as a family home in 1897. Born in Montreal in 1845, Topley came to Ottawa in 1868 to open a branch studio for W. H. Notman. In 1875 he bought out Notman, and established himself as *the* photographer for Society in Ottawa, producing portraits, recording mansions, and creating large composite photograph/paintings of social events. Topley maintained a separate studio on Sparks Street, but about the time he turned direction of the business over to his son Walter, the studio was moved to the house at 272 Somerset.

William continued to be active as a photographer, but spent an increasing part of each year with his daughter, first in Edmonton and later in Vancouver. With the invention of the cheap and convenient "brownie box" camera, the demand for studio work declined. The Topleys sold 272 Somerset in 1922, and closed their business soon afterwards. W.J. Topley moved to Chapel Street in Sandy Hill, where he lived till his death in 1930. At his death the body was waked at 272, with the cooperation of the owner of the day.

⁶ Although not part of the Rothwell farm, this area is today considered part of Rothwell Heights. The section of Blair Road north of Ogilvie Road was until 1968 called Skead Road.



**William James Topley as a young man.
(Urbsite "The Topley Studio", Decem-
ber 2012**

William moved in different social circles from the Carlings: he was an active member of the Dominion Methodist Church at Queen and Metcalfe Streets, and served on the boards of the Canadian Bible Society, the YMCA and the Humane Society.

Starting in the 1880s, a number of owners of the larger stores on Sparks Street lived on Somerset Street. The first goods to be manufactured on an industrial scale were textiles and iron goods like tools, nails and screws. The first modern stores, where one could buy ready-made items, sold dry goods and hardware. As the range of ready-made consumer products expanded, dry goods stores, with their networks of buyers and experience in transport turned into department stores, initially selling clothing and small household items.

Frederick Graham built 215 Somerset in 1899, and lived there till his death in 1923. Graham came to Ottawa in 1880 from the countryside, intending to set up as a dealer of agricultural equipment. Instead he went to work for Charles Bryson, a dry goods merchant, and within a year Bryson had taken him on as a partner. Bryson focused on buying, while Graham managed the store.

Bryson-Graham was the first "department store" in Ottawa, and with Graham's management expanded rapidly, acquiring new space in 1883, 1887, 1890, 1892 and 1900. It was credited with being the first store in Ottawa to introduce fixed prices, rather than

bartering with the customer, as well as the first store in Ottawa to introduce the comptometer, an early form of adding machine. A 1920 Ottawa Citizen supplement hailed Bryson Graham as "Ottawa's Greatest Store". The last surviving partner, Graham died in 1923. The store itself grew increasingly old-fashioned, a dark warren of rooms and levels, long after competing businesses had invested regularly in improving displays, freshening decor and introducing services to make shopping a pleasant recreation instead of a chore. After years of declining business, it finally closed in the 1950s..



Cypher "SG" and date (1909) above the door of the Gamble house at 267 Somerset Street.

A longer-lived, business was Murphy-Gamble, hailed as Ottawa "premier department store". The organizer of this success was Samuel Gamble, who came to Ottawa from Montréal in 1891, aged 18, to open an Ottawa branch for his employer, the dry goods merchant John Murphy. In 1893 Murphy sold his Montréal store to the Robert Simpson Company, moved to Ottawa and took Gamble on as a full partner. Among other innovations, Murphy-Gamble was one of the first stores to give its clerks a weekly half-day off during the summer holiday season (1899). The store prospered, and in 1910 moved to a new specially-designed building at 118 Sparks Street, built for the firm by Fred Carling.

In 1903, Samuel married Grace Murphy, the daughter of his business partner. In 1907 he paid \$4,650 for the vacant lot at 267 Somerset Street, and built a substantial house, setting his cypher (SG) and the date (1909) over the door. However, he enjoyed the house for only a few years, as he died of a heart attack at his office in 1913. Mrs Gamble took over the business and married John Hammill, the Secretary-Treasurer. The new couple moved to 138 Lewis Street, facing Minto Park. Mrs Hammill kept 267 Somerset, but divided it into three flats. After she was widowed for a second time in 1921, she moved into one of the flats in 267 with her children, and lived there till selling the house about 1930.(OC 1903-08-28, 1907-11-05)

Like the Topleys, the Gambles did not move in “Society”, but were active in the Dominion Methodist Church. Gamble was a noted golfer at the Hunt Club, a member of the Laurentian Club and the Masons as well as serving on the Board of the YMCA.



George Orme, date unknown (City Archives, MG-017-06-326)



Orme's original store, sometime between 1870 and 1895.

George Orme, another Sparks Street merchant, built 299 Somerset in 1886 and lived there till 1909. George was about seven years old when his father James immigrated from Scotland to Belleville in the late 1850s. Initially James made wooden toys, but opened a music store in 1861. In 1866 he moved his business to Ottawa, where he sold sheet music, pianos, reed organs and other instruments.

In 1867, the newly united Presbyterian Church in Canada voted to allow instruments (rather than simply unaccompanied singing) in worship and James was hired as the first organist for St Andrew's Presbyterian Church on Wellington Street, probably playing a reed organ from his own store. When the current church was built in 1872 a pipe organ was installed, and James, by then over 60 years old, found the new instrument beyond him and resigned. In 1882, after the death of his wife Charlotte, he returned to Scotland to live with his daughter, dying there in 1893. The firm had already incorporated as J.L. Orme and Son in 1866 and George and his cousin Matthew took over direction of the business. (standrewsottawa.ca)

A new building, part of a row, was erected in 1895. A fire in 1902 damaged the store and resulted in major renovations. The building was later demolished to make way for an extension to the Metropolitan Life Building.

By the 1890s Orme's was the Ottawa dealer for prestige Canadian and American piano makers (Heintzman, Steinway, and others), and Orme began to expand his interests. In 1895 an extension was built through to Wellington Street to house the "Orme Concert Hall". The Hall hosted celebrity musicians of the day, including the Venezuelan pianist and opera singer Teresa Carreno, the "Valkyre of the piano", who appeared in January 1901. However it was not a business success, and soon closed. (setlist.fm)

In the early 1890s, James Back, possibly working for Orme, and certainly with his backing, designed and patented a series of improvements to the manufacture of guitars and mandolins, assigning half-ownership of the patents to George Orme. Orme began manufacturing guitars and a whole family of mandolins, all under the oversight of Back. About 1896 Orme seems to have licensed the Elias Howe company of Boston to make the instruments for the American market, under the name "Howe-Orme".

In 1902, George brought Owain Martin, a supervisor at the Heintzman piano workshops, to Ottawa to establish the manufacture of pianos. The former Wellington Ward market building at Queen and Lyon Streets was purchased, and the craft workshop produced 300-500 hand-made pianos a year under the "Orme" and "Martin-Orme" labels. About 1914 the workshop was re-equipped and shifted from hand-crafting to mechanized production. Orme also began printing and publishing the works of local and Canadian composers.

George died in Vancouver in 1916: he may have retired from active management before this. Certainly the business began shifting away from the making of instruments. All manufacturing of guitars and mandolins seems to have moved to Boston, and all production stopped about 1915. A modern luthier and collector suggests that, aside from the effect of George's death, the sweet and gentle tone of the Orme instrument, ideal for the home and schoolroom, could not compete with the stronger sound of the Gibson guitar, made for the stage. The instruments remain a prized item for modern collectors.

Similarly, manufacture of pianos ended shortly after the death of Owain Martin in 1923. Following the changing market, Orme's continued to sell instruments, but focused on the new instruments of choice for most Canadian households: the gramophone and the radio. Furniture and appliances became increasingly important, but the

music portion of the business lasted until the late 1950s. The current business, incorporated in 1950 as J.L. Orme and Sons, sells furniture, fixtures and interior design from its stores in South Gloucester and Cyrville. (OJ 1895–09-24; Lost Ottawa 2016-10-13 Wikipedia; Urbsite 2013-04-21, 2016-05-25 “Peeling Back the Layers”; CE).

George was noted in October 1895 as a member of the Official Board of the Eastern Methodist Church, and in 1905 as “identified with many other institutions”, including the Perley Home, the Old Man’s Home (today the Glebe Centre), the St Andrew’s Society, the Corinthian Lodge, the Masons and the Board of Trade. As President of the Protestant General Hospital, Orme raised the money to equip a pathology lab to bring Dr W.S. Lyman, longtime resident of 292, to Ottawa. Orme was also President of the Rollo L Crain Company, a director of the Ottawa Dairy (later Borden’s) and owner of a large ranch at McLeod, Alberta. (OC 1895-10-10, OJ 1904-08-13)

Warren Soper builds a new 292 Somerset

In September 1892 Mary Murphy died “of paralysis” aged about 45, without having borne any children, and apparently without leaving a will. Shortly afterwards, Martin moved in with his brother Michael and family in South Hull, and rented out the house on Somerset. Martin continued to walk to Parliament from Michael’s farm, retiring only in 1896, and died there in 1904. (OC 1892-09-10, OJ 1904-02-24))

The new tenants were George and Mary Johnston, attracted no doubt by the stables and sheds available for their horses and cabs. Johnston was one of 40 cab drivers registered in Ottawa at the time. Unusually, the City Directories of the day (which listed only the employed residents of the household) listed both George and Mary, and sometimes Mary alone. Whether this means that Mary also drove cab, or perhaps handled the books and correspondence while George drove is unknown.

Because Mary Murphy died intestate, her two sisters and their husbands claimed ownership. To settle the dispute, in 1900 Martin agreed to pay the Burns family \$900 for title to the house. To raise the money, he mortgaged the house for \$1,000 at 5%. That Fall Martin sold the house for \$1,900 to Edward Wallace, who quickly sold it to his business colleague Warren Soper for \$2,000. An era had ended: the Johnstons moved to 16 Lyon Street (now part of the grounds of the Supreme Court). The humble frame cottage and sheds were demolished.

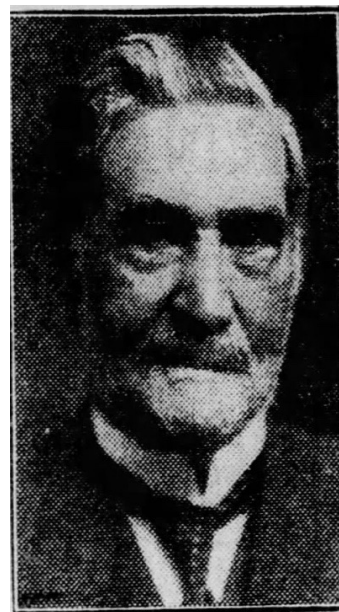
Warren Soper and his business partner Thomas Ahearn probably had more influence than anyone else on how the residents of Ottawa lived for several generations: they introduced telephone, electrical and gas service, modernized public transport and worked hard to maintain a monopoly of all these services.

Young Warren was brought to Ottawa in 1854, aged two, from his birthplace of Old Town, Maine. Once McKay had demonstrated the profitability of the trade in sawn lumber, the City recruited experienced mill-owners from New England and New York to develop the greater potential of the power at the Chaudière Falls. They in turn attracted colleagues from their home communities, including Warren's father Albert. Whatever his original purpose in coming to Ottawa, Albert was soon a partner with J.R. Booth in the biggest sawmill at the Chaudière. The Sopers built a substantial house on Bridge (now Booth) Street on Lebreton Flats, near the homes of the other millowners, which clustered along what is now Albert Street.

Soper met his future partner Thomas Ahearn in elementary school. Ahearn was a neighbour, the son of a blacksmith on Duke Street. Both became telegraph operators, and by 1875 Soper was Ottawa manager of the Dominion Telegraph, and Ahearn (after a short stay in New York working for Western Union) manager of the competing Great North West Telegraph. In 1876, either as part of Dominion or as a parallel exercise, Soper opened the first telephone exchange in Ottawa. He later became involved in the establishment of the Bell Telephone Company of Canada, and hired Ahearn in 1880 as the Ottawa manager.



Warren Soper, portrait used in the Ottawa Electric Railway employees' newsletter ca 1900.



Edward Wallace, picture printed with his obituary, (OC 1926-09-20)

At the same time, Ahearn and Soper were cooperating on side ventures. In later years, Ahearn claimed that while he was the tinkerer, it was Soper who showed how the pair could make money. It is probable that Soper, with his background in the tight-knit, mostly American, business community at the Chaudière provided the capital and contacts until Ahearn found his feet. A major break came in 1879, when the pair won a contract to supply telegraph equipment for the operations of the Canadian Pacific Railway across Canada. (Angus)

With the profits from this contract, Ahearn and Soper incorporated in 1882 as electrical consultants, selling and installing telegraph, telephone and electrical equipment. In 1887 they bought the Canadian rights to Westinghouse's patents, bid successfully for the contract to convert the City's streetlights from gas to electric lamps, secured water rights at the Chaudière and began generating electricity using Westinghouse's alternating-current system.

Within a few years Ahearn and Soper controlled the City's electricity supply, with hydro generators at both the Rideau and Chaudière Falls as well as the gas supply, from works initially in Lower Town and later on Lees Avenue. By 1893 they also controlled the City street railway, with Ahearn developing the equipment (such as electric heat) to permit winter operation of electric cars. In connection with the street railway, they began the manufacture of transit and railway equipment (using Westinghouse motors). and of small electrical parts to supply their own and other car builders. The street railway spawned the Ottawa Land Company, a property development firm, Warren Avenue in the district now called West Wellington being one of several streets named after the principals.

Increasingly Ahearn became the public face of the company, keeping a high profile in both the business and political community, while Soper seems to have kept out of the limelight. In 1891 he built himself a house at the north-east corner of Metcalfe and Nepean (present site of the parking garage for 160 Elgin) and a cottage on the hillside above the new streetcar line to Rockcliffe Park. In 1908 he demolished the cottage and built a large house christened "Lornado" after his favourite literary character, "Lorna Doone". After his death in 1924, the house changed hands several times and today serves as the residence for the American ambassador. (OJ 1924-05-17)

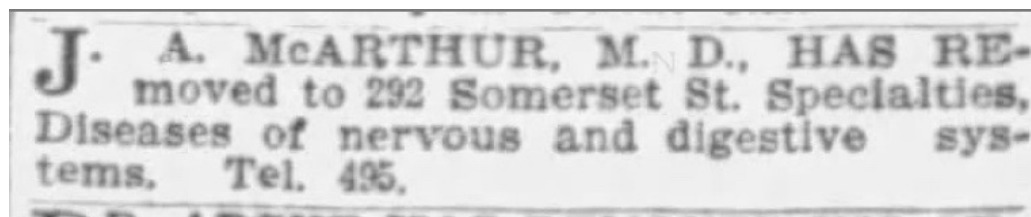
At some point, Soper became associated with Edward Wallace. A generation older than Ahearn and Soper, Wallace immigrated to Ottawa from his native Ireland in 1857, aged 19. Within a few years he was a successful merchant and an investor in Ottawa's first railway, the always close-to-bankrupt Ottawa and Prescott. He later developed personal friendships with Thomas Ahearn and Sir Wilfrid Laurier and was a fi-

nancial backer of Ahearn and Soper. In 1888 he was recorded as “building” the new Masonic Temple on Sparks Street, and shortly afterwards withdrew from his other business interests to focus on investing in real estate.

In 1899, Wallace, along with Thomas Ahearn, Warren Soper, and others, incorporated the Ottawa Building Company (with Soper as President), and in 1905 much the same group incorporated the Wallace Realty Company (with Wallace as President). Both companies bought and sold property and built and managed commercial and residential buildings, though the Realty Company also acted as a real estate agent. The shareholders “transferred” some of their holdings to the new companies, but all continued to deal separately in property on their own account.

At 292, Soper was clearly looking for a business opportunity. Wallace may have simply drawn Soper’s attention to the potential value of his new lot and sold it to his friend at a small profit. Or, Wallace may have resold the lot to Soper with an agreement that Wallace would build a house on the lot. Such arrangements were common and usually leave no trace unless something went wrong.

The plans of the new house have not survived. However the plans from 1963 suggest that a visitor entering the sizeable foyer, which could double as a waiting room, could enter an office (suitable for a doctor or lawyer), a large reception room or climb a grand staircase to the private parlour and bedrooms on the upper floor. The main floor also contained a dining room, a day room or bedroom and probably a kitchen (though this may have been in the basement with the laundry room). Stairs led from the kitchen to the basement, and a back staircase linked the kitchen to the upper floor. A separate staircase led from the upper floor to additional rooms in the attic.



Ad in the Ottawa Citizen, 7 May 1903

The house appears to have been finished and lived in by the spring of 1902, as a resident placed several advertisements to sell children’s toys: a hoop and later a “girl’s bicycle \$8, almost new”. The name of the main tenant is unknown, but living with them was the widowed Mrs John Leslie. In 1873 James Mather built a new house at Theodore Street (Laurier Avenue East) and Chapel for John Leslie, a jeweller on Sparks Street. On

John's death in 1897 Mrs Leslie sold the house to a group of prominent Liberal party supporters (including Thomas Ahearn), who presented it to Prime Minister Wilfrid Laurier. There's no record of where Mrs Leslie lived after that, but she is recorded in the *Citizen* as living at 292 when she donated to the Christmas Cheer Fund in December 1902. (OC 1902-04-23, 1902-05-15, 1902-12-26)

The following June Soper sold the new house to Louise M McArthur, wife of Dr John Alexander McArthur, for \$8,300, taking back a mortgage for the full price at 8%.

Dr McArthur was born between 1845 and 1850, listing his birthplace variously as Scotland and Port Elgin, Ontario. We do not know where he trained, but by the 1880s he was practising in Berlin (now Kitchener) Ontario, where he met and married Louise in 1883. Both partners were in their 30s, and there were no children.

The McArthurs moved to Ottawa after 1891, and McArthur began to specialize in "nervous and digestive disorders". Beginning May 1903 he advertised his move to 292 Somerset, specifying office hours of 9-12, 2-4 and 7-8 pm. The ads stopped in 1906, and in 1908 the house was sold back to Soper for \$11,500. The McArthurs retired to Oak Bay, a suburb of Victoria, where he died of a heart attack in 1912. Louise then moved to live with her sister in the Parkdale district of Toronto, where she died in 1938. Both John and Louise are buried at Beechwood.

Dr Warren Soper Lyman and Mary Louise Lyman, 1908-1962

Once again owner of the house, Soper rented it to his nephew and godson Dr Warren Soper Lyman. Lyman brought his bride there on their marriage, and she lived there until her death in 1962.

Warren Soper's sister Emma married Elbert Lyman in Ottawa and moved with him to Dubuque, Iowa, where young Warren was born in September 1876. His given names of "Warren Soper" suggests that his Uncle stood as his godfather, with an obligation to help his nephew in the world. Emma died shortly afterwards. By 1878 Elbert had remarried and moved the family to nearby Davenport, and finally to Knoxville, Tennessee, where Elbert himself died in 1894, at the age of 45. That same year W.S. Lyman entered college in Grinnell, Iowa, After two years at Grinnell, he registered as an immi-

grant at Windsor, Ont, joined his aunt and uncle in Ottawa and began study at McGill University in Montreal, graduating with a medical degree in 1903.



Dr W.S. Lyman, portrait printed with announcement of his appointment as "internal house surgeon" April, 1904 (OJ 1904-08-13)



Dr W.S. Lyman, portrait printed with his obituary, 1952

Between terms at McGill, young Warren enjoyed the entertainments of Ottawa's high society: long canoe trips along the Gatineau and Lièvre Rivers, hunting trips to the Black River in the Pontiac, dancing at State Balls at Government House, "trolley parties" to Britannia on a chartered streetcar, dinners at Victoria Park in Aylmer, tennis and cricket tournaments.

Effective 1 April 1904 Dr Lyman was appointed one of four "inside house surgeons" at the County of Carleton Protestant General Hospital on Rideau Street, the *Journal* noting proudly that Dr Lyman was an "Ottawa boy". His contract was renewed for 1905, but in 1906 he moved to the Montréal General Hospital to serve as resident surgeon and later to train as a pathologist and bacteriologist. He returned to Ottawa in 1908, and opened a private practice as a family doctor in the house rented from his uncle at 292 Somerset Street.

The Superintendent or Lady Superintendent (both titles were used) of the Protestant General Hospital and its associated Lady Stanley Institute for Trained Nurses at this time was “Miss Meiklejohn of Quebec”, hired in 1900 directly from her own nurse’s training at the Royal Victoria Hospital in Montréal. Mary Louise Meikeljohn’s first task was to oversee reorganization and expansion of the hospital to handle an increasing number of patients (94 in February 1900). As the hospital was privately funded, she spent a good part of her time with fundraising groups like the Women’s Auxiliary, the Committee of Doctors’ Wives and the May Court Club. She also began a long campaign to create a national registry of trained nurses, hosting in 1908 the meeting to organize what became eventually the Canadian Nurses Association. (OJ 1900-02-23, 1903-06-30, OC 1900-04-11, 1905-02-07, 1907-11-18)

Dr Lyman and Miss Meikeljohn renewed acquaintance on his return, and must have become engaged, as Mary Louise resigned her position in September 1909. In November 1910 the couple were married in a private ceremony at Holy Trinity Anglican Cathedral in Quebec City and after a honeymoon in the Southern United States, returned to the house at 292 Somerset.

A series of want ads over the next few years is almost comic in the old vein of “she was a good cook as cooks go, and as good cooks go she went”. More seriously, it’s a reminder that home life in 1909 was difficult without domestic help, whether paid servants, maiden aunts, family or neighbourhood children. Starting with their arrival in their new home, the Lymans advertised almost continuously for servants. As employers had lamented since the earliest days of Ottawa, finding and keeping reliable servants was a continuing problem.

- February 1911: “Wanted: a good housemaid for family of two.”
- April 1912: “Wanted: a general servant who can cook in family of two where housemaid is kept”
- June 1912: “Wanted a cook-general and house parlourmaid; references required”
- November 1912: “Wanted a cook-general, two in family, housemaid kept, must have references”
- December 1912: “Wanted at once, experienced house parlourmaid; must have references”:
- February 1913: “Wanted, a house parlourmaid and experienced general; family of two”
- September 1913: “Wanted, cook-general, family of two, references required.” (OC 1911-02-02, 1911-04-19, 1912-06-26, 1912-11-28, 1912-12-11, 1913-02-04, 1913-09-10)

The couple also kept pet dogs. We know that at least one of them seems to have had a penchant for wandering. A 1929 want ad notes that a dog was lost “on the road

between Wilson's Corners and Wakefield", while another from 1934 specifies a "black and white cocker spaniel".(OC 1929-10-21, OJ 1934-11-10).

Dr Lyman must have had boundless energy, given the range of his professional work, or it may be a sign of how little medical work was available in a city of 100,000, especially given the cost to patients.

Soon after his return to Ottawa, Dr Lyman was hired at the (Roman Catholic) General Hospital on Water Street (today Bruyère Street) as a pathologist, but in 1910 moved to the Protestant General Hospital as their first pathologist (George Orme, as President of the Hospital Board, led a special fund-raising drive to equip a pathology lab). As one of the few pathologists in town, Lyman was called to testify at coroners' inquests and at civil and criminal trials. A typical sensational case arose in 1914, when local newspapers picked up rumours that a man found dead on the St Patrick Street bridge had been murdered. Dr Lyman testified that the victim's injuries were more likely the result of being knocked down and run over by a passing streetcar: there were no sidewalks or streetlights on the bridge, and streetcars at the time did not have headlights.

In 1919 Lyman was part of a delegation that went to Toronto to press for passage of a bill to allow the City to borrow money to build the Civic Hospital. Though he resigned as pathologist in 1918, he continued as a physician at the Protestant General Hospital, and the Civic Hospital until 1925.

That year, the Civic Hospital Board grappled with the question of whether the hospital should be open to all doctors, or remain "closed". At the time, Dr Lyman and a colleague treated all the patients in the public wards, though they would if possible consult the patient's regular doctor. Lyman argued that this was an efficient system. Others disagreed, arguing that two part-time doctors could not possibly treat as many as 70 patients at a time, and that many were neglected. This raised the modern-sounding complaint that many patients who were in hospital (which was free) should have been in convalescent homes (which were not). Others argued that the closed system was "not equitable" as it denied younger doctors the experience they needed.⁷

Lyman may have resigned as "physician" in opposition to the new "open" policy. However he remained a resident (full-time) surgeon, and in 1934 was appointed Chief

⁷ The arguments were over the public (i.e. free) wards. Presumably a patient who paid for their bed was treated by their own doctor at their own expense.

of Medical Services. Lyman was one of the representatives at the opening of the Faculty of Medicine at the University of Ottawa in 1931. (OC, OJ 1925-07-31, obituary)

As well as his positions at the Civic Hospital, Lyman took turns on the monthly rota of doctors serving the Perley Home for Incurables, and from 1934 served as Chief of Services at the Strathcona Isolation Hospital (OJ 1934-06-15). He also served with the dispensary of the May Court Club, recommending patients to receive free medication through the charity.

In the wider community he served on the board of the Victorian Order of Nurses, was active in the Anti-tuberculosis society, and in the creation of the Shernfold School in 1927, a charity foundation to provide schooling for special needs children. In 1932 he was selected by the Province to head a medical enquiry into "the cancer problem", and in 1937 was consulted by the Board of Public Health on whether schools should close during the ongoing polio epidemic. Lyman advised that children would probably be safer in school than out of it, and that most cases of polio struck before school age. (OJ 1932-04-19, 1937-08-24)

In parallel with these activities, Dr Lyman continued to serve as a family physician in private practice. In October 1912 he attended the victim of one of the first automobile accidents in Ottawa. A woman who was staying with the Sopers at Lornado was run down in front of the Château Laurier by the car of Sir Clifford Sifton. Sir Clifford, or his chauffeur, was driving on the wrong side of the street (OJ 1912-10-29). By 1929 he was referred to as a "specialist in internal medicine", something noted in his obituary.

Lyman was active in professional associations, and was honoured as a founding member of the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada. He was also elected to the Royal Society of Canada in recognition of his medical expertise.

In 1941, aged 65, Dr Lyman resigned his various appointments, but remained with the Civic and Strathcona Hospitals as a consultant, and kept his private practice.

Among all these activities, the Lymans found time for a social life. They belonged to a "society" church, All Saints, Sandy Hill and to the Country Club. Dr Lyman also belonged to the Rideau Club and two service clubs (Rotary and Kiwanis). He continued to play tennis at the Rideau Tennis Club, and took up golf at the Rivermede Club on the Aylmer Road. In early days the Lymans spent their summer holidays at country hotels, in 1911 at Kirk's Ferry on the Gatineau, and in 1912 at the Highland Inn in Algonquin Park. The reference to losing a dog in the Gatineaus in 1929 suggests that they may have built a summer cottage by that point.



A 1922 postcard celebrating the launch of the RMS Majestic, the fastest and most luxurious ship crossing the Atlantic in the 1920s. The Lymans used it to return from England in 1923.

Although by the social rules of the day “Mrs Dr Lyman” was not permitted to work, she continued to press for professional training and registration for nurses. In 1913 (and probably after) she was a delegate to the national meetings of the Canadian Nurses Association and its predecessors. On its 50th anniversary the Association made her an honorary life member to recognize her role in its foundation. In August 1914 she was recorded as a delegate at the Household League, a “meeting of several leading Canadian women” gathered to consider how to prepare Canadian homes for the coming war. (OC 1913-05-04 1914-08-21)

The Lymans visited England in 1923, leaving Montréal 13 May and arriving back in New York on June 13, having made the return voyage on the RMS Majestic, the largest, fastest and most luxurious liner on the North Atlantic run. They sailed again for Liverpool from New York in October 1926, the press noting that they planned a tour of hospitals in London and Edinburgh. (OC 1926-09-22)

Warren Soper finally sold the house to Dr Lyman in 1919 for \$1, five years before his own death in 1924. W.S. Lyman continued to use his home office until his death from

a heart attack in 1955. He was waked at Hulse and Playfair on McLeod Street and buried from All Saints Church to Beechwood Cemetery.

After his death, Louise continued to live in the house, but converted part of it to two, possibly three flats. She continued to follow her interest in nursing, serving as honorary president of the Alumnae Association of the Lady Stanley Institute until her death in November 1962. As there were no close family in Ottawa, the contents of the house were auctioned off, with the auctioneer W.S. Walker advertising "a rather interesting collection" of antique and vintage furniture. Mrs Lyman's estate was valued at \$249,517 for probate, with the house valued at \$47,000. The estate was split equally among Mrs Lyman's three sisters and Mrs Violet Rice, who had served as Dr Lyman's nurse-receptionist for many years.

Somerset Street in the Lyman Era

After the First World War, Somerset Street continued as a street of large homes. A few merchants remained, such as the Butterworth family at 324, but increasingly the residents were managers and professionals. The Gamble house in particular in later years housed the diplomatic representatives of China, Peru and Poland.



Somerset Street looking west from Metcalfe Street in the winter of 1916. The house at the left is 272, the Topley Studio. The porches of 282 and 292 can be seen beyond. (Courtesy Robert Smythe).

In the 1920s the street began to attract doctors, so that by the mid-1920s there were more than ten physicians or surgeons living and practising on the three blocks between Elgin and Bank (as well as salesmen of medical equipment). The concentration led to the construction nearby of the first purpose-built medical building in the City (the Medical Arts Building, opened in 1927 at Metcalfe and Gloucester Streets), followed by the Medical Clinic at the corner of Metcalfe and Somerset (opened 1940, demolished

1971), and the Doctors' Building at Metcalfe and Maclaren (opened about 1956, now awaiting demolition).

Hiring domestic servants became more difficult after the First World War, and an increasing number of wealthier families began leaving their big houses for apartments in the new luxury buildings lining Elgin and the adjoining streets. Others converted parts of their houses into flats which could be rented out. By 1927, eleven properties between Elgin and Bank were listed as "apartments", most with the owner on site.



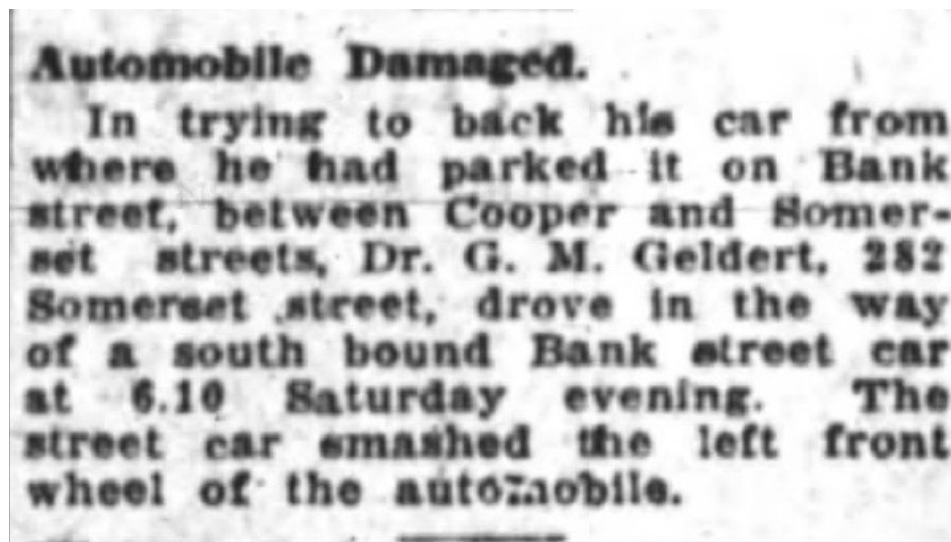
**Metcalfe Street looking north from Somerset Street, 1938. To the left, a house designed and built by W.M. Hodgson in 1879 and demolished in 1940 to make room for the Medical Clinic. The stone house beyond was built in the same year for Sir Leonard Tilley, then a Federal cabinet minister. To the right, the lawn of the Laurentian Club, which faced Metcalfe with a side entrance on Somerset
Ottawa's Past (Facebook), posted 2022-01-25, source not noted).**

The first commercial operations appeared. George Burney, Funeral Director, began operations from his home at 338 Somerset in 1922, however an on-site funeral parlour did not open till the 1930s. Also in 1922, the Independent Order of Oddfellows, a fraternal club, bought the house at 332 as a meeting place for their order and the associated Hazel-Rebekah Lodge. The first restaurant on the street was the short-lived Mualma Tea Rooms, which operated 1935-37 at 331 Somerset.

Dr George McKinley Geldert, was hired from Montréal in 1914, aged 33, as the first dedicated anaesthesiologist at the Protestant General Hospital. He also practised privately from his home, advertising “painless childbirth, dental and surgical anaesthesia”. Geldert was an early motorist and member of the Ottawa Hunt and Motor Club, and was noted in the newspapers for an altercation with a streetcar in 1922. He also had an interest in stamp collecting, serving as president of the Royal Philatelic Society of Canada, and later became a member of the Ottawa meeting of the Oxford Group, a movement prominent in the 1930s that promoted the “four absolutes”: Honesty, Purity, Usefulness and Love. (booklives.ca)

In 1922 Dr Geldert bought 282 Somerset from the insurance agent Robert Gorman, who had built the house in 1894, and moved his family and medical practice there.⁸

Aside from his medical practice, Dr Geldert was also a tinkerer fascinated by the rapid advances in radio. By the end of the First World War, radio technology had been improved to the point where voice and music could be broadcast to receivers at home (though the receivers were expensive, bulky and difficult to tune⁹). Building your own radio receiver had the same cachet as building your own computer fifty years later. Clubs for enthusiasts sprang up everywhere. When the Federal Government began weekly broadcasts on experimental station OA in 1922, the Ottawa Radio Association (of which Geldert was founding president) arranged to provide live programming, rather than the usual recorded music.



⁸ This is consistent with the City Directories and newspapers of the day, but conflicts with the Ottawa Life article cited.

⁹ Early receivers had not one but three tuning dials which had to be adjusted in parallel.

When the Government closed the station, the Association opened its own station. The *Citizen* announced that the Association's new station, CKCO, "will resume broadcasting activities Thursday next, March 20 at 7.15 pm", with the gala return of "Uncle Jim, the young folks' friend", live music by local singers and the chamber orchestra from the Eden Cinema, a talk by the Minister of Health and Soldiers' Resettlement and announcement of the evening's hockey scores.

Programming, initially two evenings a week, continued to be a mix of live music from local bands and singers, children's stories, news (supplied by the *Citizen*), box scores for sports, and talks, some regular (e.g. from the Ottawa Field Naturalists's Club) some from people in town for local events. Sunday evening broadcasts followed soon: a church service or a talk by a priest or rabbi, then a concert of sacred music. Unusually for 1924, when the controversy over Regulation 17 still raged, programming and announcements were in both French and English.

Dr Geldert housed the station in his own house at 282 Somerset. Geldert's daughter later recalled that as soon as family dinner was over, volunteers from the Radio Association moved the production equipment into the dining room, and hung curtains to transform the parlour into a studio. Other rooms were requisitioned as a monitor room and a green room. In the earliest days only the two announcers and the technician were paid: everyone else, including the performers, volunteered. Later Dr Geldert began selling sponsorships for programs to pay for musicians, though when actual advertisements were introduced is not known.



Dr G.M. Geldert (left) with organist Jesse Crawford from New York in the new dedicated studio for radio station CKCO at 272 Somerset. This is said to be at its inauguration in 1931, but unless this is the console for a small unit pipe organ, the date is unlikely. (Ottawa Life, Nov 2014)

By 1930 the Association had folded, and Dr Geldert was owner and operator of CKCO. In 1931 Geldert bought the former Topley house at 272, moved his family there, and created a purpose-built studio on the upper floor. Geldert kept his office at 282, and converted the upper floors to flats. The station expanded its broadcast hours and became increasingly professional, hiring out of town celebrities and “name” artists to perform as well as buying in outside programming, e.g. on bridge playing.

Geldert retired in 1949, sold his radio station (now CKOY) to the Southam newspaper chain, closed his office and sold both 272 and 282. CKOY remained at 272 Somerset until 1954, when it moved to the former McKellar house on Richmond Road. (anon “Dr G.M. Geldert, a Pioneer of Radio Broadcasting”, Ottawa Life Magazine, 2014-11-18. C Lacasse “CKCO\CKOY\CIWW Oldies 1310\1310 News - History” Old Ottawa’s past (Facebook), posted 2022-01-28; OC and OJ 1922-1930)

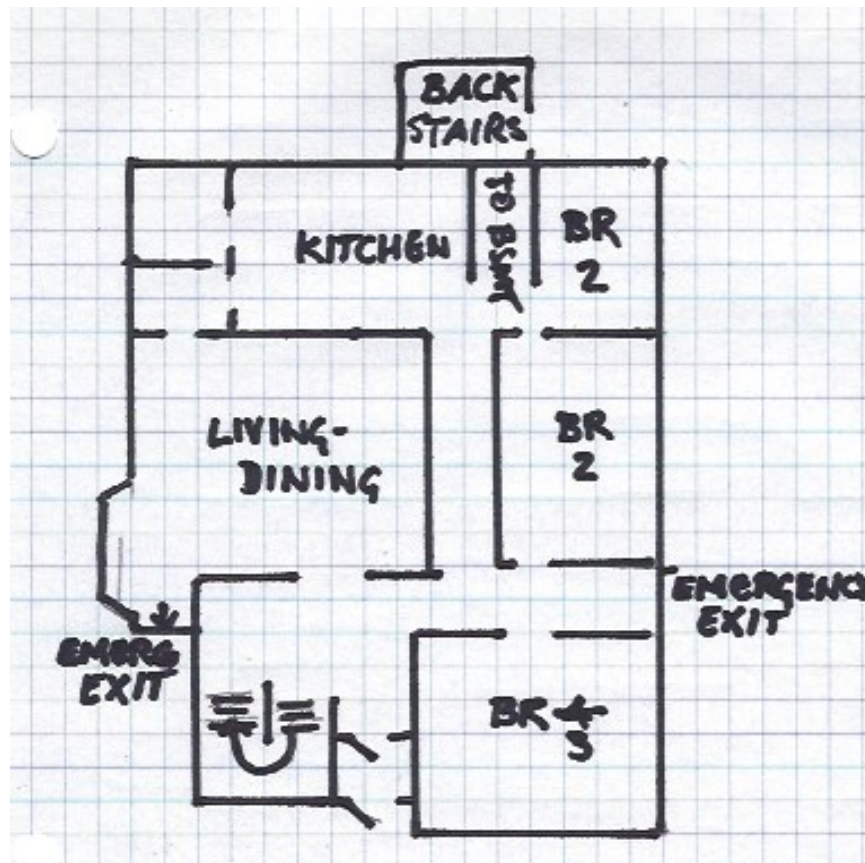
The Crestwood residence and after, 1962-1973

Royal Trust, executors for the estate of Margaret (sic) Louise Lyman, put the house up for sale late in 1962 after the auction of the contents. By April 1963 the real estate agent Ted Atkinson took a newspaper ad for the still-unsold house: a “former doctor’s office and residence suitable for conversion to residential or office use” for sale for \$49,500.

The house finally sold to Michael Nesrallah in November 1963 for \$30,000, rather less than its probate valuation of \$47,000, with Royal Trust taking back a mortgage of \$25,000 at 6%. (OJ 1963-04-03, RO 469749)

Nesrallah clearly bought and renovated 292 to serve as a retirement home. Whether this was a partnership between Nesrallah and Earl Lapp from the beginning, or whether Nesrallah recruited Lapp to operate the home is unknown, though Lapp’s description of himself in 1965 as “operator renting home” suggests the former. Certainly Nesrallah paid for the extensive renovations made to the house at the time, and was the respondent to a mechanic’s lien filed in May 1964 by J. C. Robinson, a suit not settled until 1967. Nothing is known for sure about Michael Nesrallah, though the Lapps and Nesrallahs may have been family friends. In any case, Lapp opened the Crestwood Retirement Home in 1964.

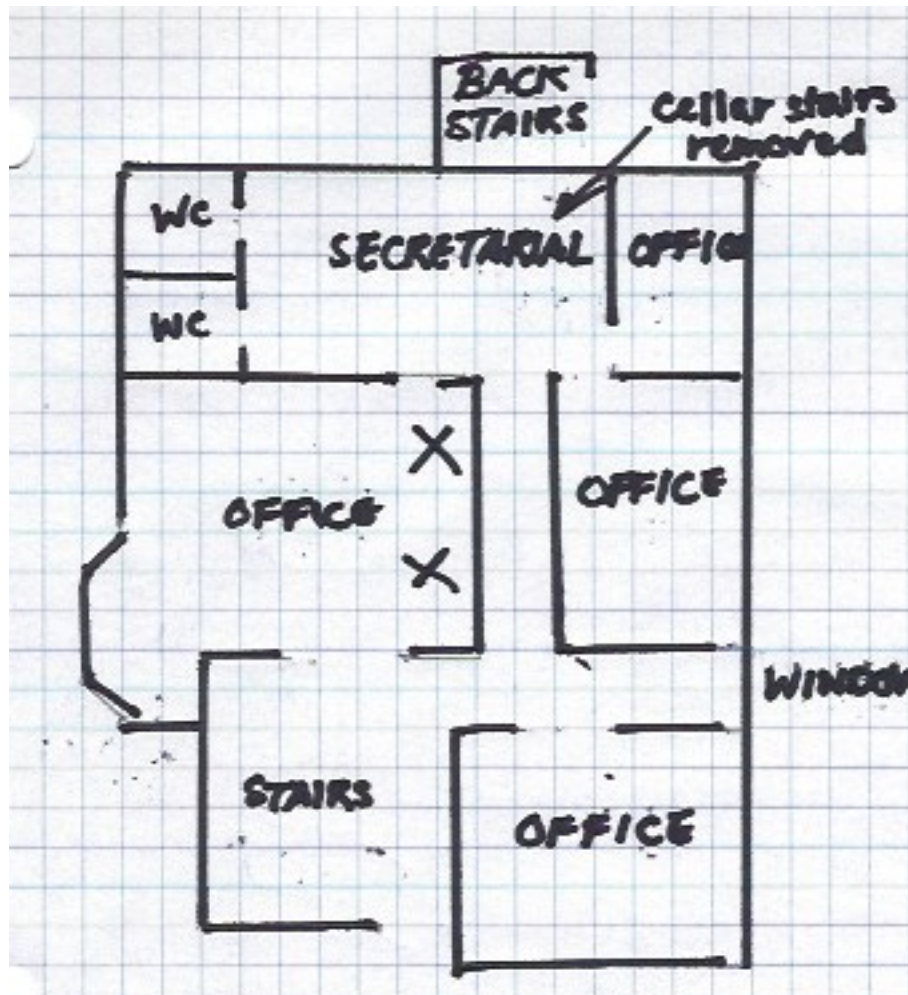
Samuel Earl (or Earle) Lapp was born in Frobisher, Saskatchewan in 1926, but seems to have moved to Ottawa with his family, as he was noted as a student at Lisgar Collegiate in 1939. He attended St Paul's-Eastern United Church, and married Ruth McKnight there in 1947. There are fleeting mentions in the press: Ruth at her parent's 50th Wedding Anniversary in 1950, Earl injured in a collision in 1953 at Bronson and the Driveway. Earl died in 1979, Ruth in 2007; they don't seem to have had any children.



Ground floor of 292 after renovations of 1963 (from plans filed with the City)
Note the two emergency exits installed. A fire escape and an emergency exit from the second floor were also added. The figures after BR may indicate the number of bed permitted in the room.

Earl's background and the reason for opening a retirement home are unknown. Although charities had operated retirement homes for the indigent for some time, the concept of moving to a retirement home by choice was relatively new: the first public homes in Ontario were opened only in 1960. When the home was first advertised, it was listed in the Classifieds under "Room and Board" "private and semi-private accommodation for elderly people", presumably because no one knew where else to put it. (OC 1964-11-04)

To prepare 292 for the Crestwood Home, Nesrallah and Lapp turned the large reception room into the main living and dining room, possibly adding doorways to link the main room to the kitchen through a servery. The other ground floor rooms were converted into bedrooms, as was the upstairs parlour. The top of the back stairs was converted into a "lounge", and the attic renovated to provide two rooms for Mr and Mrs Lapp and two rooms as "staff quarters". A fire-escape was installed running from an attic window to the ground, and an emergency door cut through the wall of the upstairs foyer to provide access. For some reason, the plan shows that doors led directly from one bedroom to another, as well as into the corridor, indeed there's a note (as if a change requested by the building inspector) "new door here". Oddly enough, there's no indication of toilets or a bath room.



Ground floor plan of 292 after the renovations of 1983. "X" marks the location of two washrooms installed in 1970 and removed in 1983. The emergency exit on the west side was removed, as were the stairs from the kitchen to the basement.

The Voters List for the 1965 Federal Election shows the Lapps living on site along with 13 others: 10 single women and 3 single men, some of whom may have been resident staff. The list for 1968 shows Earl as “manager”, and Ruth as a civil servant, now living with 11 others. In 1965 Lapp advertised for a “practical nurse”, and subsequent ads mention “nurse on duty” (OC 1965-05-09)

In 1966 a fire in two bedrooms caused extensive damage, and residents had to be moved to other accommodation. In August Crestwood was again advertising, now under “Nursing Homes” as “Crestwood Rest Home, redecorated ground floor and second floor private rooms, reasonable rates, nurse on duty”. Semi-private rooms seem to have been eliminated in the renovation. Board is no longer mentioned, but must have been implied, as there is no mention, as later, of kitchen facilities. (OC 1966-08-02)

Whatever early success it may have had, the retirement home closed about 1968, and the Lapps moved away. Though the voters list for 1968 still shows the Lapps living on site, the City Directories for 1968 and 1969 list 292 as “no return” and “vacant”. In 1969, someone (perhaps Michael Nesrallah himself) opened 292 as a rooming house, a notice from December under “Rooms to let” offering “rooms, meals optional”, with a different phone number from that listed for Crestwood.

About 1972 the living-dining room was closed, converted into additional rooms and toilets. Ads, with yet another new telephone number, were placed under “furnished apartments for rent” for a variety of accommodation: bed sitting room with shared kitchen and bath, single and double rooms with rangette and refrigerator. Rents scaled from \$60 a month (presumably for a small room in the attic) to \$90 for a bedsit with housekeeping and parking. The 1972 City Directory lists 11 apartments: seven no return, two vacant, and two occupied (one double and one single). (OC 1969-12-18, 1970-07-20, 1970-07-21, 1971-01-29, 1972-04-03, CD)

The building’s reputation took two black marks in 1969: in July a 36-year old resident was arrested for pointing a rifle at a neighbour, and in December a 19-year old resident was arrested after trying to pay for a meal at the Diamond BBQ (a long-time fixture near Bank and Slater Streets) with counterfeit money. The arresting detective was Tom Flanagan, later Chief of Police. (OC 1969-07-14, 1969-12-11)

Post-war Somerset Street

After the Second World War, Somerset Street continued much as it had in the 1930s: the buildings all a little more tired looking, but the same mix of houses and flats, with doctors and insurance agents working from home offices.



Above: Malak receiving the key to the City, 17 May, 2000. (Ottawa Citizen)

Right, Malak (right) with his older brother Yousuf Karsh, sometime in the 1940s (karsh.org)

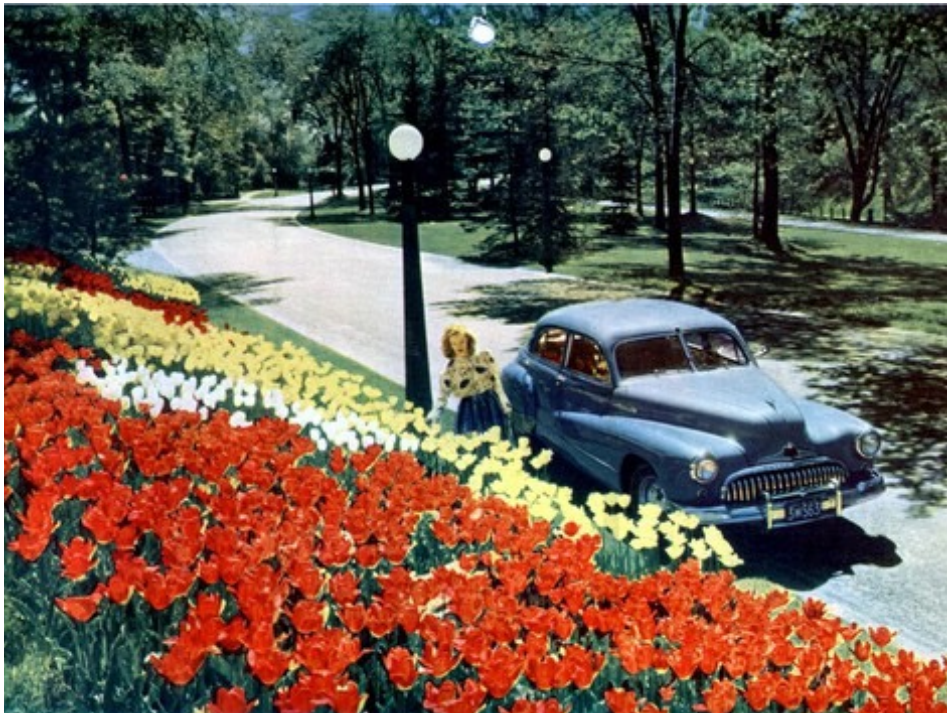


Commercial pressures from Bank Street brought change first to the north side of the block between Bank and O'Connor. Several retired homeowners opened tourist homes, an older, down-market version of the B&B, rather than converting their spare rooms to flats. Mrs. Mariana Gardeau bought 331 Somerset in 1946 and opened the "School of Modern Languages", which continued to operate into the late 1970s, some time after Mrs Gaudreau had moved away.

Perhaps the most notable business to open in the block was the studio of Malak Karsh, younger brother of Yousuf. The Karsh family, Arabic-speaking Armenians from modern Turkey, were caught in the ethnic violence of the collapsing Ottoman Empire, and Yousuf, then 14, and Malak, then seven, fled with their parents to Aleppo in French-ruled Syria. The family at once sent Yousuf to join an uncle in Canada. In 1937, Malak came to Canada to join his brother, who was already an established portrait photogra-

pher in Ottawa. The brothers worked together for a short time, but Malak soon struck out on his own, at first under the name of Mr Malak Karsh, but by May 1941 as just "Malak". Although he did some portrait work, in a style very different from that of his brother, he focused more on news and commercial work, and by 1940 was selling work to newspapers across Canada.

Malak Karsh married Barbara Holmes at St John's Church on Elgin Street in 1942, and in 1946 bought 315 Somerset St for \$9,750 as a studio and a home for his growing family. When the family moved on, Malak kept 315 for his studio until he downsized his operation in 1981 and moved it to the family home at 292 Laurier Avenue East. Whatever 315 looked like in 1946, by the 1970s its porch had been demolished, the front yard paved, the bricks painted grey, and a super-graphic of 'Malak' painted sideways over the front door.

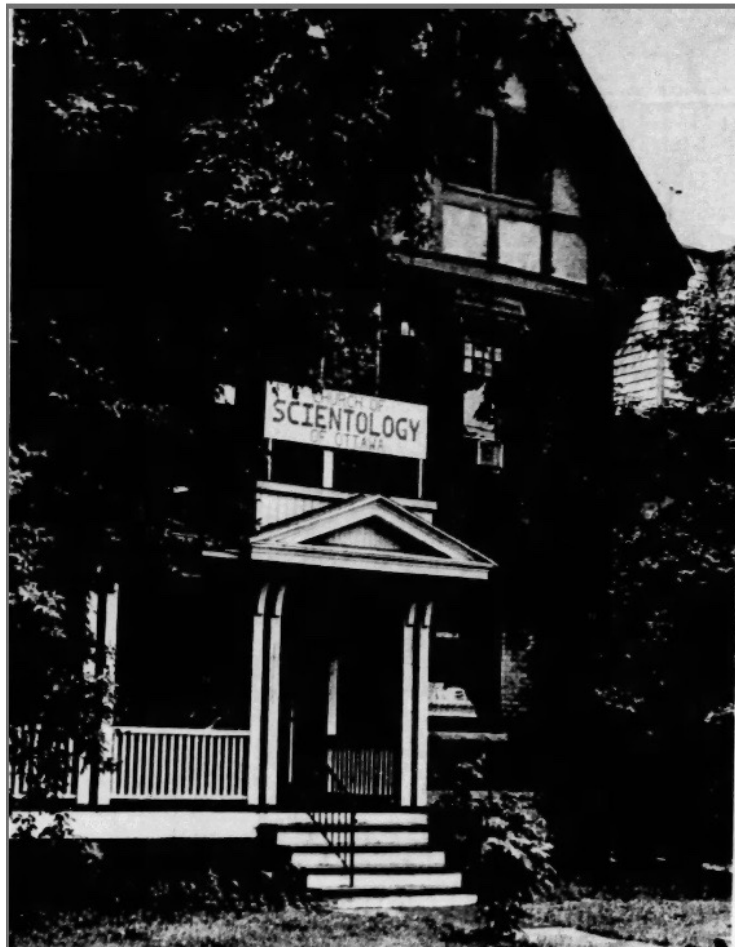


Tulip beds along Dows Lake in the late 1940s, before the shore of the Lake was filled in to move the Driveway away from the beds. (Malak photo reprinted by the Ottawa Citizen 2017-05-08)

Malak enjoyed the varied landscape and seasons of his new home, and hoped to share it through his photography. A special pleasure was photographing the annual spring display of tulips, and in 1952 he went to the Ottawa Board of Trade to propose an annual Tulip Festival to publicize the occasion and promote tourism. The result was the Festival of Spring, which has now been held annually since 1954. In 2000 Malak was

awarded the key to the City to recognize his contributions. (OC 1938-10-03, 1940-11-09, 1942-12-05, 2017-05-08 | OJ 1942-05-27; CD)

The first high-rise on the street, the Saguenay apartments, was built in 1963 at 270 Somerset on the former site of the Topley house, destroyed by fire. The Kenson Apartments on the former site of the Laurentian Club at the corner of Metcalfe followed in 1970, and most of the houses on the south side of the block between Elgin and Metcalfe were replaced with office or apartment buildings in the next ten years. A few houses were demolished on the north side between Metcalfe and O'Connor to make way for the Abiwin Co-op in 1986, but in a sign of changing attitudes, three of the original houses, including the Gamble house, were incorporated into the new project.



292 Somerset in 1974, photo by Barry Gravelle to accompany a *Citizen* article "A cult's strange spy plot" (1974-07-24)

The owners of the Topley House at 272 were the first on the block to convert their building to commercial use, as early as the 1960s. Among other tenants, the composer Rex Le Lacheur rented the the former radio station as a music studio. The owners of 292 followed next, with the complete conversion to office space in 1983, and neighbouring landowners followed, spurring a spate of renovations and improvements to the buildings. Similarly, in the block between O'Connor and Bank, an influx of restaurants in the 1980s led to renovations and restorations to create the destination "Somerset Village". To cap the changes, the City declared the street part of a Heritage District in 1999.

292 Somerset as an Office Building, 1973-

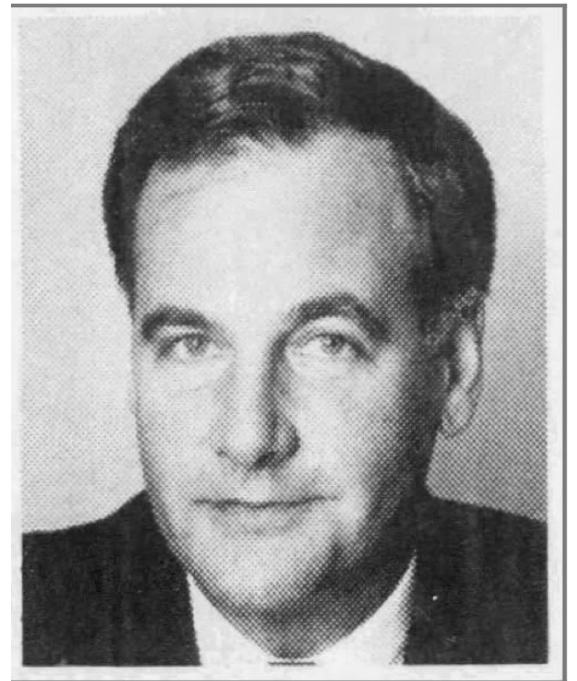
In January 1973 the Church of Scientology rented space in 292 Somerset to house its new mission in Ottawa. In the "Age of Aquarius" the newish faith drew a lot of interest, and was the first group featured in a *Citizen* series on "new religions in Ottawa". The whole building was "freshened up" for the new tenants. The Church installed offices, a reading room and meeting spaces, but Mr. Nesrallah continued to rent out the upper floors as flats. The building was a centre for the Church's campaigns against medication as a treatment for mental problems and its "Alcoholism Task Force" on treatments for alcohol addiction. In 1974 the Church was a centre of controversy as it pressured the Better Business Bureau to release the names of people who had filed complaints after paying for services, part of a campaign directed by its international headquarters. After four years, the Scientologists declared that the rent for the "large blue and white house" (\$1300 a month) was too high, and moved, initially to an office building on O'Connor Street, and more recently to space on Montreal Road in Vanier. (OJ 1973-01-08,1973-01-27, OC 1973-01-20, 1973-09-08, 1977-08-22)

Nesrallah put the house on the market as soon as the Scientologists decided to leave. An ad from August 1977 from real estate agent J.J. Nader offered the "former Scientologist building being used as residences and offices, with 14 rooms, 3 bathrooms, 4 fireplaces, 2 garages and ample parking" for \$150,000, "owner takes first mortgage". A month later Nader advertised "3 storey building, currently vacant, excellent location for professional or residence, ample parking and garages." The house remained unsold and was taken off the market, The City Directories for 1978-1982 describe the building as "vacant". Nevertheless, Nesrallah was able to pay off his original mortgage in March 1979. (OC 1977-08-23, 1977-09-23, CD, RO NS 47754).

In 1982 Nesrallah made further renovations to convert all of the interior for office use, repairing and repainting the exterior to give it its present look. Money must have been tight, as a mechanic's lien was filed by Carlo Plumbing and Heating in January 1983. In March 1982 Larry O'Farro of Royal Trust advertised "LAWYERS, DOCTORS, ACCOUNTANT FIRMS, ETC A prime location, excellent 3 storey brick building suitable for executive offices....\$225,000". The house was sold in March 1983 to the "journalist-lawyer" J Stuart Langford, who paid \$210,000, giving Nesrallah a mortgage for \$125,000. (RO NS 177010, 182317)



J. Stuart Langford, an advertisement in 1981.



Ivan M.G. Ibbitson, from an announcement in 1980.

There are few references to Langford. He was described in 1982 as a "journalist-lawyer", and he advertised the opening of his new law office on Rideau Street in March 1981. In 1972 his play "The Mackerel" gained an honourable mention in the Ottawa Little Theatre's annual Canadian Playwriting Competition. In 1974 he was a candidate for mayor, and after the campaign wrote to the *Citizen* to suggest that its election coverage reported more on "hoopla" than "what was said." In 1982 he wrote a book on the new constitution which was judged by a *Citizen* reviewer to be "thoughtful and incisive, putting into context the charter of rights around which so much political argument revolved." Langford may have been married to the "Mrs Langford" who was a real estate agent for Sampson and McNaughten on Sparks Street. (OC 1972-07-17, 1974-12-12, 1977-05-04, 1982-06-05).

It's not certain whether Langford occupied the building himself or rented it out, but in May 1985 he sold the house to Ivan Ibbotson and Peter Seto in trust for \$495,000. Ibbotson was manager of the Ottawa office of Gardiner Watson Ltd, a firm of stockbrokers. The office moved into 292 in June 1985, and became part of the Canadian subsidiary of Dean Witter Reynolds (later Dean Witter) in 1986. A Citizen profile of the newly merged firm led off with "A charming old house with a glowing fireplace isn't usually the setting for an investment business". Ibbotson noted that the move away from Metcalfe and Sparks (where most financial firms were located at the time) gave the firm access to parking, more flexible space and room to increase its use of computers. The merged company continued to occupy the building until December 1988, when Ibbotson and Seto sold the building to the law partners Hugh Brennan and Rolland Hedges for \$845,000. The two lawyers took out mortgages of \$730,000.



292 Somerset St as the new home of Brennan and Hedges, 1989. (OC)

Hugh P Brennan and Rolland Hedges were admitted to the bar in 1982 and formed a partnership, advertising in 1989 that they offered "a full range of services in real estate, commercial law, civil litigation, family law and estates". Brennan was in the public eye in the 1990s as he tried to have the courts use the Charter to strike down laws against prostitution.

The law firm moved into 292 in the summer of 1989, but the partners also seem to have used the building to finance further investments, as they took out additional mortgages in 1990 and 1993. Though all but the original first mortgage were discharged by 2002, the partners were sued by the City for back taxes, settling in May 2000. It was also at this time (1999) that the City designated the building part of a heritage district under the Ontario Heritage Act, as a category 2 building “compatible in scale, material, and detailing with a mixed-use environment” and one that “reinforces heritage mixed used category”.

In late 2003, Brennan decided to dissolve the partnership and sell his practice, at least partly because of chronic eye problems. The principals sold the building to the Canadian College of Health Service Executives through Commvesco Levinson-Viner for \$825,000. At least temporarily one of the lawyers continued to work from the building, and at least one other office and one flat were rented until the College took over the whole space.

The College (as of 2012 the Canadian College of Health Leaders) describes itself as a “national, member-driven, non-profit association” that provides training, tools and accreditation to develop “high-impact leaders” able to “influence others to work together constructively.” The Ottawa office also serves as the national headquarters. In 1985, the organization had 2,500 members nationally, but has grown to 20 chapters and some 4,000 members.

In 2019 the College moved to office space at 150 Isabella Street, and sold 292 Somerset to the current owner, Westboro Property Holdings, for \$1,670,000. Westboro Holdings, owned by John King and Larry Mohr, operates a real estate brokerage, currently under the Engel and Völkers franchise.



East side, showing fire escape and emergency doors installed in 1963.

Sources for more information

Abbreviations used in footnotes

BW. beechwoodottawa.ca

CD - City Directories

CE - The Canadian Encyclopedia

CMHC - Canadian Museum of Health Care

DAC...dictionaryofarchitectsincanada.org

DCB - Dictionary of Canadian Biography

LAC - Library and Archives Canada

RO - Ontario Land Registry Office no 4

VL- Voters Lists for Federal Elections (accessible through ancestry.com)

Sources

Ancestry.com - a database of family-related information from multiple sources (directories, newspapers, census, birth, marriage and death records, etc.) In some cases records (e.g. census, marriage registers) have been posted as a whole, in other cases individuals post information they have come across. Access by subscription. The institutional version can be consulted without charge at the City of Ottawa Archives.

Andrews, Mark: For King and Country: Lieutenant Colonel John By, RE, indefatigable engineer, Merrickville: Heritage Merrickville Foundation, 1998. The most thorough biography of By, focusing on his achievements as a civil engineer.

Angus, Fred "Seven Hundred Days" Canadian Rail 377, Nov-Dec 1983) An account of Ahearn and Soper's successful campaign to gain the electric streetcar franchise in 1891, with extensive background on the pair..

City Directories - published annually (or more recently biennially) can be consulted on microfilm at the Ottawa Public Library, or in paper at Library and Archives Canada. The Directories list the names of adult residents house-by-house. Older volumes also indicate occupation, sometimes age and relationship, and whether the resident was an owner or renter. Especially in later years, Directory information is not always reliable.

City of Ottawa file on 292 Somerset Street. A fee (currently \$65) is charged for consultation. Documents can be copied for a further fee. The file currently contains the building permits from 1963 and 1983.

City of Ottawa "Centretown Heritage District", including a descriptive sheet for 292 Somerset (from 1999).

Collectors' Weekly, 2010-07-01 "Legendary Luthier Rick Turner on Howe-Orme Guitars"

Dictionary of Canadian Biography (available online without charge),.

Elliott, Bruce *Nepean: the City Beyond*. Nepean: City of Nepean, 1991 - A history of the former City of Nepean. useful because much of the former City of Ottawa was at some point within the municipality of Nepean, and much of the development of Nepean was an extension of or response to the growth of Ottawa.

Gwyn, Sandra *The Private Capital*. Toronto: McClelland and Stewart, 1984. Focuses on the personal and home lives of prominent residents of Ottawa from 1865 to 1911

Library and Archives Canada. The website collections.ca provides access to those parts of the collection that have been digitized, as well as introductions to their other collections of material.

Macbeth, Madge (writing as Gilbert Knox): *The Kinder Bees*, Toronto, 1935. MacBeth was for many years social columnist for the Citizen, as well as a novelist. She published two satires under the pen name "Gilbert Knox". In both stories, outsiders collide with the stodgy high Society of Ottawa.

Ottawa Citizen - articles from the Ottawa Citizen newspaper can be searched on newspapers.com, but more recent articles require a special subscription. Can be consulted without charge at the City of Ottawa Archives and the Ottawa Public Library.

Ottawa Journal - articles from the former Ottawa Journal newspaper can be searched on Newspapers.com, a subscription-based service which can be consulted without charge at the City of Ottawa Archives and the Ottawa Public Library.

Ontario Land Registry Office 4, Judicial district of Ottawa-Carleton, located at the Court House on Elgin Street. Abstract records trace all instruments (deeds, mortgages and other contracts) registered against a property. All records before the mid-to-late 1990s can be consulted without charge on microfilm. More recent records are only available online: instruments can be consulted without charge, but a fee is charged to consult the abstracts. All records are now available on line through onlands.ca, but a fee is charged.

Ross, A.H.D: *Ottawa Past and Present*, Toronto, Musson 1927. A mostly anecdotal history based on Ross' memories and conversations with early residents. Unfortunately nothing is attributed, so that's difficult to distinguish what he heard from what he decided "must be so".

Taylor, John Ottawa, an Illustrated History. Toronto,; Lorimer, 1986 - a work with more of a focus on themes of urban history in Canada than the Elliott history.



Backstairs. The vinyl siding upstairs suggests that this may originally have been a sun porch. In the renovation of 1963 it was enclosed and converted into a “lounge”.

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Parking lot and the back stairs. A double garage once stood here, but was demolished, probably as part of the 1983 renovations.

Other Ottawa house histories by Marc Lowell and partners

Available for reference in the Ottawa Public Library Main Branch, Ottawa Room

Posted online at <http://househistory.tricolour.ca/>

“Caplans in the Capital”: the Caplan family

Centretown

46 Cartier St (former Carmichael Inn and Spa)
25 Gilmour St
43 Gilmour St (Clarke House)
45 Gilmour St (Fagan House)
59 Maclaren St (Harris House)
660 Maclaren St (available online through johnkingteam.com/blog)
18 Queen Elizabeth Driveway (Haydon House)
25 Somerset St W (Addams House)
300 Somerset St W (Mamma Teresa’s Ristorante)
110 Waverley St
117 Waverley St (available online through johnkingteam.com/blog)

Lowertown

507 and 509 Clarence St
518 Clarence St
524 Clarence St / 102 Wurtemberg St
18 and 20 Rockwood Ave
78 and 80 Wurtemberg St

New Edinburgh

113 Crichton St

Sandy Hill

585 Besserer St
633 Cumberland Street
89 Daly Ave (Gasthaus Switzerland)
27 Goulbourn Ave (available online through johnkingteam.com/blog)
27 Sweetland Ave (available online through johnkingteam.com/blog)

McKellar

842 Byron Ave

Westboro

466 Melbourne Ave