

Cobourg, Ont.

Sojourns to Cobourg:



Looking across Cobourg toward the
Arlington Hotel, c. 1910.

Cobourg and District Historical Society Archives 2007.2020.37

WHEN PITTSBURGHERS SUMMERED IN ONTARIO

By Marsha Ann Tate, Ph.D.



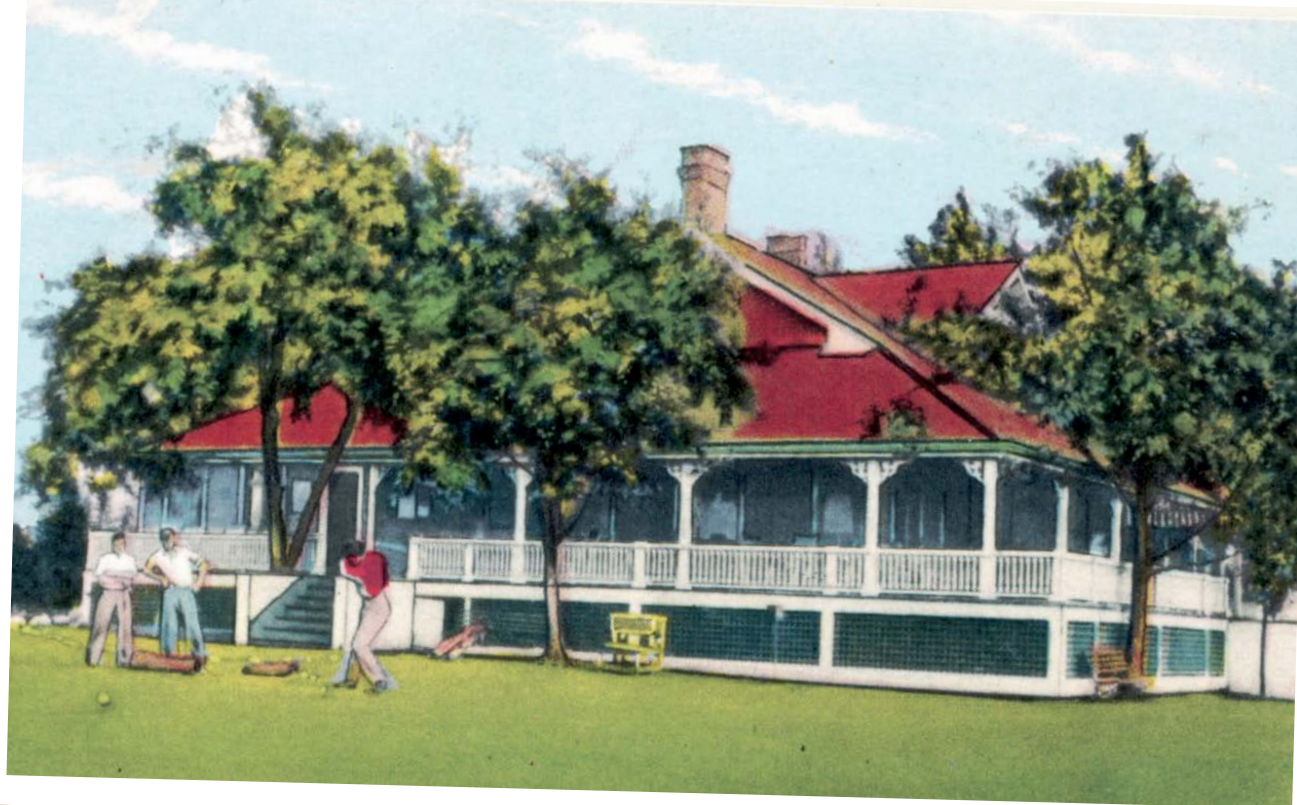
COBOURG, BEACH.

The Beach at Cobourg, c. 1915.

CHDS Archives 2007.2020.50

The Cobourg Golf Club had dressing rooms for the ladies and gentlemen, a verandah along the entire length, and grass cut by a horse-drawn lawnmower.

CHDS Archives 2007.2020.129



In bygone days, summer visitors arriving at Cobourg's harbor aboard one of the Lake Ontario car ferries were greeted by enthusiastic youngsters who waited for American passengers to toss coins into the harbor waters, where the intrepid adolescents eagerly snatched them up.¹

Cobourg, Ontario, a community nestled on Lake Ontario's northern shore across from Rochester, New York, was favored by Pittsburgh's well-to-do summer vacationers. It began as a base of operations for Pittsburgh businessmen tending to iron interests in nearby Marmora and grew into a leading North American resort during the late 1800s and early 1900s. Cobourg's historical importance lies not only in the number of

summer visitors from Western Pennsylvania and elsewhere throughout the United States, but also the unique character of those visitors.

During the latter half of the 19th century and into the early 20th, summer's arrival in Pittsburgh marked an annual ritual: many of the city's wealthy denizens migrated to the mountains, lakes, and springs of the surrounding countryside. Their destinations included South Fork, Bedford Springs, and Blue Ridge Summit. Likewise, families summured in New York's Adirondack Mountains, or journeyed to seaside resorts throughout the northeastern United States.² A select group of Pittsburgh's affluent families, however, opted to venture even further afield for their summer sojourns—namely, over the U.S. border to Ontario, Canada.

Endowed with moderate summer temperatures, refreshing breezes, a spacious beach, and a nearby picturesque lake, Cobourg's natural assets were not fully realized until the late 1800s. Early settlers to Upper Canada initially considered the area to be nothing more than a "cedar swamp" and therefore, largely avoided settling there.³ When a permanent settlement was established in what would become Cobourg some years later, the pioneer families were predominantly American.⁴ Thereafter, as local Cobourg historian Edwin C. Guillet recounts, American settlers "were joined by emigrants from England and Scotland, most of them discharged half-pay army and navy officers whose services were no longer required after Waterloo."⁵ These new arrivals eventually helped instill a "military *esprit de corps*" in Cobourg that lasted through the early 1900s.⁶

During the 1830s, Cobourg's harbor was refurbished to improve the handling of passengers and freight, and to facilitate the region's lumber and grain exports.⁷ Over the next two decades, other facets of the town's transportation infrastructure were refined: a Lake Ontario ferry route linking Cobourg with Rochester, New York, in the 1840s, and subsequently the Grand Trunk

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Railway division, which ran through Cobourg and linked Montreal with Toronto, opened in 1856.⁸

Nonetheless, by the mid-1860s, Cobourg's seemingly good fortune swiftly turned to despair. The town's fiscal woes were largely attributable to its substantial investment in the failed \$1 million-plus Cobourg and Peterborough Railway, combined with escalating costs associated with the construction of a new town hall.⁹

As Cobourg struggled financially in the mid-1860s, the United States Civil War was exacting a terrible physical, psychological, and economic toll upon the Union and Confederate states' military and civilian populations. A burgeoning demand for iron and steel products such as armaments and rails necessitated an ongoing quest by Western Pennsylvania's iron and steel industries for new and readily accessible sources of iron ore. One ore deposit that had attracted the Pennsylvania industrialists' attention even before the war was situated approximately 50 miles north of Cobourg in Marmora.¹⁰ The

Civil War ended in 1865, but entrepreneurs continued to mine Mamora ore and arrange its conveyance to Western Pennsylvania.¹¹

In the 1860s, George K. Shoenberger (son of Pennsylvania's late "Iron King" Peter Shoenberger), with several Pittsburgh associates, assumed control of the Mamora mines and the ill-fated Cobourg and Peterborough Railway, and formed the Cobourg, Peterborough, and Mamora Railway and Mining Company.¹²

Using Cobourg as their base of operations, George Shoenberger and his partners visited Marmora often as they readied mining and shipping operations. However, over time, the American industrialists' Canadian commercial forays took an unusual turn as family members and friends began joining the businessmen on their northern journeys.¹³

In 1873, buoyed by their kith and kin's fondness for Cobourg, George Shoenberger and his brother-in-law William Chambliss (a Civil War veteran and first managing director of the Cobourg, Peterborough, and Mamora Railway and Mining Company) joined with

other investors to construct the Arlington Hotel. It would be the first of many designed specifically to cater to affluent Americans. The *Cobourg World* expressed confidence that the flurry of hotel construction and other revitalization efforts portended a promising future for Cobourg:¹⁴

We have thought it desirable in this issue, to give a sketch of the many improvements, both in the way of new buildings and of refitting which are now being effected in this town. It must be a matter of congratulation to our citizens, after so many years of depression in business and apparent inactivity that the good town of Cobourg is at last taking an evident turn for the better. ...

First, let us refer to The Cobourg Hotel (subsequently renamed the Arlington Hotel)—this work, as most of our readers know, has been undertaken by a Company, with the intention of building up an extensive and comfortable hotel, which shall furnish accommodations to the many visitors to the town, especially during the summer months. ...

This fine hotel will be built of red brick; will be three stories high, with



Cobourg residents and American summer visitors, c. 1895. Back row: Ida Yates, daughter of Octavius Yates and Elizabeth Daintry Yates; Virginia Chambliss; Charles Lane Fitzhugh (General); Edith Daintry; Henry Fitzhugh; Front row: George Chambliss. Louise Daintry; Ella Beatty Shoenberger.

Courtesy Cobourg Public Library, 920-16.

a Mansard roof, and two towers and cupolas, it will present a very imposing appearance, and will be a credit (sic) to the town. ...The cost of the hotel, before furnishing will be about \$20,000. ... Mr. Flanigan's Hotel—This will be a new Hotel, three stories high, of white brick, situated on King Street, next to Mr. Waldie's store. ...

Extensive alterations and improvements are being made upon the premises of Col. Chambliss. The Colonel is also about to erect a new and beautiful iron fence around the north and west sides of his extensive property, at a cost of \$1,000.¹⁵

These developments marked Cobourg's first major steps in its transformation into a major North American resort community.

Pittsburgh's iron and steel manufacturers epitomized this exclusive group of *nouveau riche*, which included U.S. merchants and businessmen who profited from the production

and sale of goods and services during the Civil War and thereafter. The Arlington Hotel's developers were confident that Cobourg's fresh air and unspoiled surroundings would prove as beguiling to their counterparts, who were accustomed to living amid the smoke and soot of Pittsburgh and other industrialized areas, as it had to family and friends.¹⁶

The Shoenberger family, although primarily associated with Pennsylvania's iron and steel industries, was no stranger to the lodging and resort business. Two decades earlier, in 1853, George Shoenberger's brother, John, joined fellow Western Pennsylvanians Colonel Chambers McKibben, General Simon Cameron, George M. Lauman, and Colonel J. W. Geary to purchase Bedford Springs, a renowned southern Pennsylvania resort that served as the summer residence of President James Buchanan.¹⁷

PROMOTION

During Cobourg's development as a summer resort, it seemingly attracted most visitors through word-of-mouth advertising because many seasonal residents maintained familial and/or commercial associations. To publicize Cobourg as a newly established summer resort to a broader population, George Shoenberger and William Chambliss launched a marketing campaign in Pittsburgh and other U.S. cities, extolling Cobourg's varied natural amenities.¹⁸ *Souvenir of Cobourg, Ontario, Canada*, is typical of those promotional materials' obsequious yet enduring depiction of Cobourg:

Cobourg is situated on a broad level valley, having Lake Ontario on its front, with green hills and fruitful orchards in the background. The summer climate of this region is unexcelled for its evenness of temperature and cool,

Residence of Mr. Wallace Rowe "Cottesmore Hall", Cobourg, Ont.



Cottesmore Hall, c. 1920, the largest summer home in Cobourg, was built and owned by Wallace H. Rowe, president of the Pittsburgh Steel Company. The hall's Colonial Revival design was produced by the Pittsburgh architectural firm Rutan and Russell; the contractor was Constable Brothers of Pittsburgh and Erie, Pa.

Courtesy Cobourg Public Library, 720-127.



Arlington Hotel, c. 1915, built by George Shoenberger and William Chambliss, was the first of many Cobourg hotels designed to cater to affluent Americans. It contained 150 rooms, of which 120 were bedrooms with private parlours. It had a dining room, bar, games room, parlour, commercial rooms and barber shop.

Courtesy Cobourg Public Library, 720-4.

bracing air, and is famous for the ozone, the quantity of sunshine, and freedom from fog, dampness or winds. The Lake affords good boating and bathing, and the surrounding country is unsurpassed for driving, riding and motoring. Maskinoge, bass and trout fishing can be had within easy driving distance. This is the best summer resort, and the healthiest and prettiest spot in Canada. ...

Splendid parks, churches and schools. Good train service on the main line of the G.T.R. [Grand Trunk Railway], and a Daily Ferry, winter and summer, between Rochester, N.Y., and Cobourg, makes it very accessible to New York and Pittsburgh.¹⁹

The idea of improved health through increased ozone was crucial to drawing American visitors to Cobourg. During the mid-to-late 19th century, ozone was believed to possess therapeutic properties, with numerous scientific and popular works devoted to the topic.²⁰ Some physicians believed that a combination of cold temperatures and ozone found in mountain and sea air helped

relieve hay fever symptoms.²¹ A few doctors even proffered that ozone influenced “the intellectual and social development of races,” and delegates attending the 26th Meeting of the American Medical Association formally asked the chief of the United States Signal Service that “if it is within his power, to note in his daily weather reports the quantity of ozone in the atmosphere in different sections of the country.”²²

Eager to capitalize upon ozone’s allure, Cobourg promotional materials emphasized the area’s reputedly large amount and superior quality of ozone. “There is an abnormal amount of ozone in the air second only to the Alps in Switzerland,” proclaimed one undated

Cedarmere hotel brochure.²³ Although scientific evidence did not necessarily substantiate the lofty claims regarding Cobourg’s ozone, ozone remained a significant selling point for the resort community.

Several practical factors also afforded Cobourg valuable strategic advantages over its many resort rivals. These factors included, among others, easy rail and water access to and from the rapidly expanding U.S. metropolises of Pittsburgh, Cincinnati, Buffalo, and Rochester; likewise, to and from the similarly expanding Toronto, Canada, approximately 75 miles distant.

Moreover, the region’s rail and water transportation system, originally constructed

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to convey coal, coke, lumber, and other goods between Canada and the United States, was easily adaptable to passenger traffic. For example, two car ferries²⁴ and a train²⁵ to transport those passengers significantly improved access to Cobourg.

Cobourg engaged in a longstanding rivalry with Port Hope, its slightly smaller neighbor seven miles to the west; both communities vied for Lake Ontario shipping, and to a lesser extent, the summer tourist trade. Jacob Dutcher, U.S. Commercial Agent at Port Hope from 1880 to 1887, noted in a dispatch that although Cobourg's "exportations" were "limited compared with Port Hope...its location being immediately on Lake Ontario, renders its facilities for shipping either by rail or water...excellent."²⁶

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SUMMER VISITORS

Throughout the 1880s and 1890s, an array of wealthy Western Pennsylvanians and their families began venturing to Cobourg each summer. Among these were current and former associates of Andrew Carnegie, along

with other notable Pittsburgh area personages, including: William Latham Abbott (chairman of the Board of Directors of the Carnegie Steel Company until his retirement in 1892); James O'Hara Denny (socially prominent businessman); Charles Donnelly (businessman who owned or co-owned a number of prime properties in downtown Pittsburgh, as well as in "the hump," East End, North Side, and manufacturing districts); Frederick G. Kay (lawyer; founding member of the Pittsburgh Club); George Tener Oliver (U.S. Senator); Wallace Rowe (president, Pittsburgh Steel Company); Charles Speer (banker and financier); and John Walker (chairman of Carnegie, Phipps & Co., a forerunner of the Carnegie Steel Company, until his retirement in 1888; Walker was also a director of the H. C. Frick Coke Company).²⁸ Joining the Pittsburgh contingency were military and government figures such as Generals Orlando Metcalf Poe, Charles Lane Fitzhugh, and Benjamin Cozzens Card; U.S. Supreme Court Justice E. D. White; and performers such as stage star Lydia Cornell.²⁹

Scores of Union and Confederate veterans, representing every military rank from private to general, vacationed in Cobourg. Although many came for the pleasing climate, some families from the former Confederate states were attracted to Cobourg simply because it was situated outside of their former Union foe's territory.³⁰

This coming together of former adversaries was embodied in the presence of Mrs. Ulysses S. Grant, wife of the former Civil War general and U.S. president, and Mrs. Jefferson Davis, wife of the former president of the Confederate States of America. These two remarkable women not only resided in adjoining summer cottages in Cobourg but also reportedly formed a friendly rapport. Nellie Grant Sartoris, daughter of President and Mrs. Grant, established a permanent residence in Cobourg.³¹

The perennial influx of American visitors fostered a budding service industry in Cobourg. Cooks, maids, handymen, and other similar employees were needed to build and maintain Cobourg's large summer estates, to cater banquets and parties, and more. Although a number of these domestic staff members were full-time employees who accompanied their employers to Cobourg each summer, others were strictly employed on a seasonal basis.³² Various local and U.S. newspapers regularly detailed the goings-on of Cobourg's affluent American visitors, but the press rarely mentioned their domestic employees, with the exception of occasionally noting "and maid(s)" and/or "and nurse" in published lists of hotel guests.³³

During the 1890s and early 1900s, a number of new hotels were constructed and existing ones refurbished to accommodate the

ever-growing number of American visitors.³⁴ In July 1899, “a grand ball...largely attended by resident tourists” was held to celebrate the opening of “the new ‘Baltimore’” hotel.³⁵

Wealthy Americans also began renting, buying, or building private residences in downtown Cobourg or the surrounding countryside. Estates with names like Sidbrook (William Latham Abbott), Ravensworth (Fitzhugh family), Balmuto (Shoenberger family), and Cottesmore Hall (Wallace Rowe) cropped up throughout the district.³⁶ Willis McCook’s summer home, constructed from 1909 to 1910 on property he purchased from fellow Pittsburghers William L. Abbott and Wallace Rowe, demonstrates the considerable time and labor invested in building the seasonal residences:

About 25 men are employed this week excavating for foundation, sewer, etc. for Mr. McCook’s new residence. A landscape gardener will lay out the

grounds and there is a probability that a large number of men will find employment for a year or more.³⁷

THE SOCIAL SCENE

During the 1870s and ’80s, Cobourg’s social life centered upon the Arlington and several other nearby hotels, with activities consisting of “hops”, dances, soirees, and other events hosted and/or attended by seasonal and permanent residents.³⁸ A *Cobourg World* correspondent who attended a summer 1894 party at the Arlington Hotel apologetically informed readers: “We are sorry we could not obtain a complete list of those who attended, this being an entirely new department for Cobourg in the way of entertainment.”³⁹ However, as Cobourg’s summer homes grew in size and grandeur, the focus on the social scene shifted from hotels to private estates. Progressively more lavish events frequently attracted 100 or more guests.

Although dances and dinners remained popular into the early 1900s, those pastimes were increasingly supplemented by sporting events and extravagant outdoor parties. The Cobourg Horse Show, inaugurated in 1905, exemplified Cobourg’s new high-profile, open-air activities. The show, which quickly garnered a reputation as one of North America’s foremost equine events, drew competitors and spectators from across Canada and the United States.⁴⁰ Events at the 1912 show, including a world-record jump by a bay gelding named Confidence, garnered coverage in newspapers throughout North America.⁴¹

By the early 1900s, golf emerged as one of Cobourg’s most popular summertime sports. An August 1900 *Daily Picayune* (New Orleans, Louisiana) exposé about Cobourg society noted, “Golf—here as well as elsewhere, holds sway, and every day the well-kept grounds are dotted with the enthusiastic lovers of the sport.”⁴²



Charles Donnelly purchased Strathmore in 1904 and his family used it as a summer residence for nearly a decade. Over time, it became a girls' training school, then a boys' training school, and in 1968 Brookside School became part of the Correctional Services Branch of the Provincial Government.

Courtesy Cobourg Public Library, 720-229.

Cobourg Golf Club's major shareholders included summer residents from the Pittsburgh area, such as William L. Abbott, Charles Donnelley, George M. Howe, George S. Oliver, and Wallace H. Rowe.⁴³

LINKS BETWEEN CANADIAN AND U.S. RESIDENTS

Weddings were among the highlights of Cobourg's summer social scene. Often-ostentatious nuptials commonly took place at St. Peter's Anglican Church in downtown Cobourg. The brides and/or grooms usually came from American summer colony families, while their spouses often came from prominent Cobourg or other Canadian families. The wedding guests, sometimes numbering up to several hundred, included a mix of local and seasonal residents, and individuals and families who journeyed from the U.S. to attend. Following the ceremonies, newlyweds and guests proceeded to lavish receptions at nearby estates to enjoy food, drink, and dancing. Cobourg newspapers

routinely published gift lists, often including objects fashioned from silver or gold, with the names of the respective givers.⁴⁴

Two of Cobourg's most notable weddings involved members of the Grant family, namely, Ulysses S. Grant's granddaughter, Vivian May Sartoris, and the second marriage of his daughter, Nellie Grant Sartoris. In fact, the August 23, 1902, marriage of Vivian Sartoris and Frederick Roosevelt Scovel, a cousin of Teddy Roosevelt, was considered one of the most elaborate weddings in the town's history.⁴⁵ A decade later, on July 4, 1912, Vivian's mother, Nellie Grant Sartoris, married Frank H. Jones, of Chicago, at the bride's summer home in Cobourg. Guests included many well-known personages from Pittsburgh and elsewhere, including Senator and Mrs. Oliver, Mr. and Mrs. Willis McCook, and an array of U.S. and foreign diplomats.⁴⁶

As the summers passed, Cobourg's seasonal and permanent residents developed a sophisticated and select social circle. Beyond forging familial bonds via marriage, Cobourg's Canadian-American elite entered into joint

business ventures, recreational pastimes, and community improvement projects.⁴⁷

Although wealthy Americans certainly constituted the core component of Cobourg's summertime visitors, many middle- and working-class families from the United States also visited Cobourg thanks to excursions organized by fraternal organizations, railroad companies, or various other groups. A May 21, 1888, letter to the editor of the *Friends' Intelligencer* detailed an upcoming excursion to Cobourg for attendees of the Genesee Yearly meeting:

Arrangements have just been perfected with Captain Dunlap of the Steamer Norseman to take Friends from Charlotte to Cobourg, thence by rail to Trenton Junction, and return, for \$5 round trip, provided there are 25 persons; (20 persons or less for \$5.25 each). Meals and berths extra. Tickets to be obtained on board of the boat. Fare from Rochester to Charlotte 20 cents each way.... Cars leave New York Central Depot, Rochester, at 7:35 p.m., on Fifth-day, 7th inst., for Charlotte, to connect with the boat. J. D. Noxon. Medon, Fifth mo. 21st, 1888.⁴⁸

W. H. Shoenberger, c. 1890, was a shareholder in the Cobourg, Peterborough, and Mamora Railway Company.

Courtesy Cobourg Public Library, 921-9.



Although the less affluent families' visits to Cobourg sometimes lasted only a few fleeting hours, they made the most of their brief respites with picnics on the beach or strolling downtown.⁴⁹

WANING DECADES

Until the outbreak of World War I, Cobourg's summer colony seemed largely undisturbed by either national or international political events. Nonetheless, the four-year-long global conflict ultimately marked the beginning of the resort's gradual decline. By fall 1914, nearly 10 percent of the men of Cobourg and the surrounding area had enlisted for military service. Meanwhile, Cobourg's permanent and seasonal residents united in support of the war effort, in part by organizing various fundraising events. A September 4, 1914, *Toronto World* article described a garden party jointly organized by Mrs. Charles Speer of Pittsburgh and Mrs. Frank Hess of Philadelphia. The party reportedly raised Can\$900, with another Can\$480 collected via "a subscription list opened in connection" with the gathering.⁵⁰

Although vacationers continued coming to Cobourg throughout World War I, the summer seasons were more subdued than in previous years, as the community faced increasing labor shortages, rationing, the shifting of industries from domestic to military production, and other challenges.⁵¹ Despite the cessation of hostilities in 1918, Cobourg never again attained its pre-war renown as a resort destination.⁵²

Various American families continued to summer in Cobourg following World War I, but the lavish social events of years past had faded.⁵³ In the early 1920s, the Arlington Hotel, formerly the heart of Cobourg's social life, permanently closed. Nevertheless, "the Newport of Ontario" was not the only resort experiencing problems. In August 1921, the *New York Times* reported that the

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fabled Newport, Rhode Island, itself was losing wealthy visitors to the somewhat less ostentatious, upstart seaside resort of Southampton, Long Island. In truth, Southampton may have also been siphoning some of Cobourg's summer clientele during this period. The *Times* article also noted that during the "last two or three seasons," a growing number of "wealthy families of Pittsburgh" were going to Southampton.⁵⁴

During Prohibition, Cobourg still attracted Americans seeking libations. In 1929, Cobourg attempted to curb the flourishing cross-border shipping of liquor during the July 4 weekend by enacting a municipal rule to "prevent thirsty visitors from crossing on boats and laying in a stock of liquor to consume or take back with them."⁵⁵ With the onset of the Great Depression, a number of the colony's old-time industrial families had lost portions of their wealth in the stock market crash. Meanwhile, the families faced increasing tax burdens, thanks to newly implemented income and/or property levies. Many were forced to sell or abandon their Cobourg summer homes.⁵⁶

A number of other factors also contributed to Cobourg's decline as a premier resort destination for Americans. Automobiles and airplanes were quickly supplanting older forms of transportation such as ferries and passenger trains. Auto and air travel not only offered travelers expedient and relatively inexpensive alternatives to water and rail transportation,

they also afforded a ready, speedier means of reaching new and more far-flung locales. Additionally, preferences for leisure activities changed markedly over the course of the 20th century. Southern locales such as Palm Beach, Florida, or Havana, Cuba, offered visitors not just escape, but a tropical ambiance. And on a practical note, most modern businessmen, unlike their 19th-century predecessors, could ill-afford to spend months away from their workplaces.⁵⁷

Cobourg continued to enjoy an influx of American excursionists until Ontario car ferries ceased in the early 1950s.⁵⁸ It has been almost a century since wealthy Pittsburghers ventured to Cobourg for summer sojourns. Many of their large summer residences no longer exist—they either met a fiery demise or were torn down after falling into disrepair.

Nonetheless, vestiges of the once-illustrious northern resort remain. St. Peter's Anglican Church stands at the corner of College and King streets, and several homes of Pittsburgh industrialists grace King Street, including: Sidbrook, former residence of William Latham Abbott, at 411 King Street East; Strathmore, former residence of Charles Donnelly, at 390 King Street East; and Midfield, former residence of George Howe, at 427 King Street East.⁵⁹

The histories of Pittsburgh and Cobourg are indelibly intertwined and thus afford unique insights into the leisure activities of prominent Western Pennsylvanians and other

Dungannon Farm, c.
1910, the summer
residence of Pittsburghers
Senator George Oliver
and later his son, George
Oliver, Jr.

Courtesy Cobourg Public Library, 720-48.



Americans following the Civil War. More importantly, the summer sojourns to Cobourg illustrate the significant yet oft-overlooked role this Ontario resort played in the economic and social lives of its permanent and seasonal residents, all of whom called it home. ☀

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¹ The anecdote is based upon a description provided by a one-time Cobourg "harbor diver" in Ted Rafuse, *Coal to Canada: A History of the Ontario Car Ferry Company* (Port Hope, Ont.: Steampower Publishing, 2000), 52.

² By the late 1800s, hundreds of resorts, springs, and spas were scattered throughout the United States. While Pennsylvania boasted a number of these locales, the majority of them were located in New Jersey and New York. Marsha Ann Tate, "A Directory of North America's Spas, Springs, and Resorts of the 19th and Early 20th Centuries," unpublished manuscript, 2010.

³ Frederick H. Armstrong, *Handbook of Upper Canadian Chronology*, Revised ed., Dundurn Canadian Historical Document Series 3 (Toronto:

Dundurn Press, 1985); Edwin C. Guillet, "The Town of Cobourg, 1798–1945," *Canadian Geographical Journal* 30 (June 1945): 288. See also Percy Lloyd Climo, *Early Cobourg: Featuring Settlement, Local Government, and a Variety of Other Events and Records* ([Canada]: P. L. Climo, 1985). John R. Spilsbury, ed., *Cobourg, Early Days and Modern Times* (Cobourg, Ont: Cobourg Book Committee, 1981).

⁴ The community of Cobourg, initially known as Amherst, and later Hamilton, was first settled in 1798. In 1819, the community's name was again changed to its designation of Cobourg. "Cobourg," in *Industries of Canada: Historical and Descriptive Review* (Montreal: Historical Publishing Company, 1886), 80. Guillet, 1945, 289.

⁵ Guillet, 289.

⁶ Robert D. Mikel, *A Cobourg Remembered: The Art Gallery of Cobourg*, July 24–August 30 (Cobourg, Ont: Art Gallery of Cobourg, 1981). Snelgrove, "Cobourg," in *Encyclopedic Canada, Men of Canada*, v. 5 (S.l.: s.n., 1896).

⁷ The Cobourg Harbor Company was formed in 1830 for the purpose of improving the town's harbor facilities. John R. Spilsbury, ed., *Cobourg, Early Days and Modern Times* (Cobourg, Ont: Cobourg Book Committee, 1981), 3.

⁸ Ibid; "Dominion of Canada," in *Industries of Canada: Historical and Descriptive Review* (Montreal: Historical Publishing Company, 1886), 59.

⁹ Victoria Hall (the town hall) reportedly cost over \$100,000. Meanwhile, the initial cost of construction of the Cobourg and Peterborough Railway was \$1.1 million. "Cobourg," 80; "Prospectus: Cobourg & Peterborough and Marmora Railways" (Cobourg, Ont: World Office, 1865), 2; Spilsbury, 6; Snelgrove, 230.

¹⁰ In addition to Marmora, the Pennsylvanians were also keenly interested in the adjacent "'mountain' of iron rich ore" located in the neighboring town of Blairton, named for the "largest stockholder" in the venture, Thomas S. Blair of Pittsburgh. G. C., "Trip to the Belmont Iron Ore Beds," *Cobourg Sentinel*, July 6, 1867; "The Iron Trade: The Pittsburg Blast Furnaces," *New York Times*, May 7, 1874, p. 2;

Spilsbury, 109. For a brief historical overview of the iron and steel industry in 19th century America, see "Introduction," in *Iron and Steel in the Nineteenth Century*, ed. Paul F. Paskoff, *Encyclopedia of American Business History and Biography* (New York: Facts On File, 1989), xv–xxxvii. For more information about Marmora and Blairton, as well as early iron making in Ontario more generally, see Andre L. Philpot, *A Species of Adventure: The Story of the Ironmasters of Upper Canada* (Marmora, Ont: Irontown Publications, 1990).

¹¹ "Appomattox Court House National Historical Park—the Surrender Meeting between Lee and Grant," [Washington, DC]: U.S. National Park Service, <http://www.nps.gov/apco/surrender.htm> (accessed January 28, 2010).

¹² At one time, George's father, Peter Shoenberger (1782–1854), was believed to be one of the wealthiest men in Pennsylvania. His diverse holdings included ownership or co-ownership of iron furnaces and forges in Pennsylvania's Juniata Valley and elsewhere throughout the state, as well as over 100,000 acres of timber, ore, and limestone within the state. In addition, Peter Shoenberger co-founded and served as president of the Cambria Iron Company (also known as the Cambria Iron Works), a pioneering U.S. rail producer, in Johnstown, Pennsylvania. For more information about Peter Shoenberger and his varied enterprises, see Calvin W. Hetrick, *The Iron King: The Story of Dr. Peter Shoenberger, Early Ironmaster of Central Pennsylvania—His Industrial Empire, His Family, His Times* (Martinsburg, PA: Morrison's Cove Herald, 1961); John A. Heitmann, "Peter Shoenberger," in *Iron and Steel in the Nineteenth Century*, ed. Paul F. Paskoff, *Encyclopedia of American Business History and Biography* (New York: Facts On File, 1989), 309–311; "Iron and Steel," *The New York State Mechanic, A Journal of the Manual Arts, Trades and...* (1842): 146; G. C., "Trip to the Belmont Iron Ore Beds," *Cobourg Sentinel*, July 6, 1867; "Prospectus, Cobourg, Peterborough & Marmora Railway and Mining Company" (Cobourg: s.n., 1865); *The Arlington Hotel* (S.l.: s.n., n.d.).

- ¹³ Spilsbury, 109–110; “The Arlington Hotel,” *Cobourg World*, May 5, 1899.
- ¹⁴ *The Arlington Hotel* (S.I.: s.n., n.d.); “The Arlington Hotel,” *Cobourg World*, May 5, 1899. According to marriage records housed at the Cincinnati Historical Society Library, William Chambliss married Sallie Shoenberger on February 25, 1863. Both William and Sallie Chambliss died in Cobourg: William on February 22, 1887, and Sallie on June 15, 1887. For a scholarly examination of Pittsburgh’s smoke problem, see John J. O’Connor, Jr., *The Economic Cost of the Smoke Nuisance to Pittsburgh* (University of Pittsburgh, 1913).
- ¹⁵ “Improvements in Cobourg: Building operations in town,” *Cobourg World*, July 4, 1873. A hotel named the Cobourg Hotel was already in operation prior to the construction of the Arlington. The Cobourg Hotel Company, a stock company formed by Shoenberger, Chambliss, and others, developed the Arlington Hotel. Chambliss was elected President of the Cobourg Hotel Company following a December 1875 reorganization of the business. “Cobourg Hotel Company,” *Cobourg Sentinel*, December 18, 1875, p. 3; “Personals,” *Cobourg Sentinel*, February 27, 1875, p. 3.
- ¹⁶ *The Arlington Hotel* (S.I.: s.n., n.d.); “The Arlington Hotel,” *Cobourg World*, May 5, 1899.
- ¹⁷ [Bedford Springs Purchased], *New York Times*, August 2, 1853, p. 1. According to an August 2, 1853, *New York Times* description of the Bedford Springs sale, the Pittsburgh-based partnership reportedly paid \$170,000 for the springs, hotel, and 1,500 acres of adjoining land. The article also notes that the new owners intended to make renovations “estimated to cost not less than \$250,000” to the property, which was nicknamed “The Carlsbad of America.”
- ¹⁸ While a number of secondary sources report that a physician was sent to Pittsburgh and other U.S. cities to promote the health benefits of Cobourg, to date, the author has not located a primary source to verify the claim.
- ¹⁹ *Souvenir of Cobourg, Ontario, Canada* (Cobourg: A. J. Gould (issuer). Reprinted with additional text, 1980, by the Cobourg Chamber of Commerce).
- ²⁰ Examples of works about ozone and related topics from this period include: Benjamin Simons Lucas, Jr. (1855), *Malaria, its supposed causes, effects, and relation to ozone, a thesis presented to the Medical College of the State of South Carolina*; Thomas Andrews, (1856). *On the constitution and properties of ozone* (book); and E. S. Gaillard, *Ozone: Its relation to health and disease: an essay which received the Fiske Fund premium of the Rhode Island Medical Society, June 1861* (the essay was published in the September 1864 issue of the *Boston Medical and Surgical Journal*).
- ²¹ George M. Beard, “Hay Fever, or Summer Catarrh,” in “The Proceedings,” *New York Times*, November 13, 1874, p. 1.
- ²² “Fourth Day,” *Medical and Surgical Reporter*, May 15, 1875. “Ozone and Great Men,” *New York Times*, April 14, 1881, pg. 8.
- ²³ [Cedarmere Hotel Brochure] (S.I.: s.n., n.d.).
- ²⁴ *Souvenir of Cobourg, Ontario, Canada*; Rafuse, 2000, 1, 64–65.
- ²⁵ Rafuse, 2000, 36.
- ²⁶ Jacob C. Dutcher to John Davis, Assistant Secretary of State, September 24, 1884, United States Department of State, “Despatches from United States Consuls in Port Hope, Canada, 1882–1906 [microform],” General Records of the Department of State; National Archives at College Park–Archives II, College Park, Md.
- ²⁷ [“Our Population has Increased at the Rate of about 500 a Year”], *Cobourg Sentinel*, May 2, 1874.
- ²⁸ “William L. Abbott Will,” *New York Times*, May 8, 1930, p. 53; “Speer–Denny Wedding Today: As Speer Family is in Mourning, Event to be Quiet Affair,” *Pittsburgh Press*, June 28, 1906; “Test of Demand for Real Estate: All of the Donnelly Estate Properties Will Be Sold, Is Court’s Order,” *Gazette Times*, September 7, 1911; “John Walker is Dead, Was a Steel Pioneer: One of Leaders Who Blazed Way for Development of Industry in Pittsburgh,” *New York Times*, June 25, 1932, p. 13.
- ²⁹ Guillet, 288; “Pittsburg’s Millionaires: Fortunes that Have Resulted from the Protective Tariff,” *New York Times*, October 20, 1888. A comprehensive list of Cobourg’s summertime visitors of this era is available at Marsha Ann Tate, “The American Summer Colonies at Cobourg & Lake Muskoka, Ontario,” <http://www.mtateresearch.com/CobourgONSummerColony.htm> (accessed December 14, 2010).
- ³⁰ Spilsbury, 111.
- ³¹ Ibid; “Mrs. Grant and Mrs. Davis,” *Kansas City Star*, September 28, 1902, p. 21.
- ³² Interview with the son of a seasonal domestic staff member, May 2005.
- ³³ [“Arlington Guests”], *Cobourg World*, June 29, 1894.
- ³⁴ Spilsbury, 110–111.
- ³⁵ “Cobourg’s Summer Guests,” *Cobourg World*, July 21, 1889.
- ³⁶ “Ravensworth,” *Century Home*, March–April 1983; *The Poplars* (S.I.: s.n., n.d.); Robert Washburn, “Well-known Cobourg Figures Have Owned The Poplars,” *Cobourg Daily Star*, June 26, 1996.
- ³⁷ [“McCook Purchases Cobourg Property”], *Cobourg World*, September 3, 1909, p. 1; “Mr. McCook Lets Contract,” *Cobourg World*, November 27, 1909, p. 1.
- ³⁸ Guillet, 288ff; Spilsbury, 111. “The Book Party at the Arlington,” *Cobourg World*, August 3, 1894.
- ³⁹ Spilsbury, 112; Guillet, 1948, 187, 189.
- ⁴⁰ Spilsbury, 114–115; *Souvenir of Cobourg, Ontario, Canada*. Guillet, 1948, 159.
- ⁴¹ “Confidence Gains World’s Record: Sifton Gelding Eclipses His Own Performance over High Jump : Clears 7 Feet 10 5/8 Inches,” *Duluth News Tribune*, August 28, 1912, p. 11.
- ⁴² A.S.P. “Society: At Cobourg,” *Daily Picayune*, August 19, 1900, p. 16.
- ⁴³ Edwin C. Guillet, *Cobourg, 1798–1948* (Oshawa, Ont: Goodfellow Printing Co., 1948), 229.
- ⁴⁴ “Wedding at St. Peter,” *Cobourg World*, July 12, 1901.
- ⁴⁵ “Grant’s Granddaughter Weds Frederick R. Scovel,” *New York Times*, August 24, 1902.
- ⁴⁶ “Nellie Grant Sartoris is Now Mrs. F. H. Jones: Daughter of Late General Married at Her Home in Canada,” *Philadelphia Inquirer*, July 5, 1912, p. 10.
- ⁴⁷ Snelgrove, 232. The state of Cobourg’s infrastructure at the end of the 19th century is reflected in comments F. J. Gasquet, one of New Orleans’ prominent business men, made to a *Daily Picayune* reporter following a trip to Cobourg. Gasquet told the reporter he was “very much surprised to find that such a small city at Cobourg, with a population of 5000 or 6000 people, had a better water works system than the great city of New Orleans.” “The Water Supply: A Prominent Citizen Makes an Interesting Suggestion,” *Daily Picayune*, September 24, 1898, p. 3.
- ⁴⁸ J. D. Noxon, “Rates to Genesee Yearly Meeting,” *Friends’ Intelligencer*, May 26, 1888, p. 334.
- ⁴⁹ Ibid.
- ⁵⁰ “Many Cobourg Volunteers,” *Toronto World*, September 4, 1914. For a more detailed history of Cobourg during World War I, see Percy Lloyd Climo, *Cobourg, 1914–1919: A Magnificent Sacrifice* (Cobourg, Ont: P. L. Climo, 1986); Robert D. Mikel, 1981.
- ⁵¹ Ibid; Robert D. Mikel, “A Cobourg Remembered: The Art Gallery of Cobourg, July 24–August 30” (Cobourg, Ont: Art Gallery of Cobourg, 1981).
- ⁵² Guillet, 288ff.
- ⁵³ Spilsbury, 115. Information regarding the nature and condition of Cobourg’s hotels during the late 1920s can be gleaned from inspection records and applications for a Standard Hotel License under Section 140 of The Liquor Control Act (Ontario) (File RG 36-1-0-807, et al.), Archives of Ontario.
- ⁵⁴ “Newport has a Rival Now: Southampton Presenting Its Claims to be Considered the Summer Social Centre,” *New York Times*, August 14, 1921, p. 74; Spilsbury, 116.
- ⁵⁵ Ontario also implemented a provincial rule that prohibited “border stores” from selling more than “two bottles” of liquor “to a tourist who is not remaining in the town or city where he buys them.” From “Ontario Puts Drink Curb on Tourists from Here Today,” *New York Times*, July 4, 1929, p. 17.
- ⁵⁶ Ted Rafuse, “A Brief History of Brookside,” <http://www2.kpr.edu.on.ca/brook/riro/page2.htm> (accessed October 18, 2004). In 1913, Charles Donnelly’s Cobourg residence was one of the first to compulsorily change hands owing to its owner’s financial downfall. The Donnelly property was “assumed by the Trust and Guarantee Company of Pennsylvania” and eventually sold to a Toronto buyer.
- ⁵⁷ Ibid; Spilsbury, 115–116.
- ⁵⁸ Rafuse, 2000.
- ⁵⁹ Cobourg Local Architectural Conservation Advisory Committee (LACAC), “Cobourg Sesquicentennial House Tour: Saturday, June 13, 1987,” Cobourg Public Library Archival Files (Vertical files).