



PORTS



Lake Ontario Shippers & Travellers

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LAKE ONTARIO INTERNATIONAL STEAMBOAT COMPANY

Steamers MAPLE LEAF & HIGHLANDER

LAKE ONTARIO LINE

Cobourg • Port Hope

steamers

HIGHLANDER

Captain D McBride

MAPLE LEAF

Captain Schofield

leaving

Charlotte

at the

Port of Rochester

on

Monday & Wednesday

arriving

Port Hope & Cobourg
Ontario

connected to

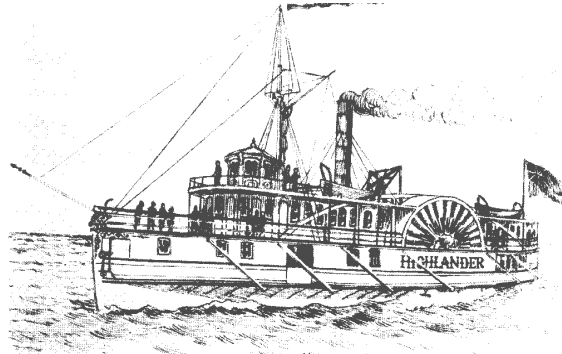
• Cobourg & Peterborough Railway
• Port Hope, Lindsay & Beaverton Railroad

Lake Ontario
International Steamboat
Company

Captain Robert Kerr, master Cobourg Ontario

Canada Steamboat Office

George Darling • Rochester ticket agent
93 Waverly Block



HIGHLANDER 1850-1871 *

MAPLE LEAF 1851-1857 (to 1864)

Capt Robert Kerr, home ports Cobourg, Port Hope
second captain, Shofield from 1857

Rochester Agent, George Darling, Canada Steamboat Office,
110 State Street, Powers Bldg, Rochester.

Sailed, Charlotte NY to Cobourg ON, Port Hope ON.

Carrying passengers & cargo. 173 feet in length, two stacks,
three decks, 32 staterooms; designed to carry 508 tons
of freight. Owned by a Canadian and Rochesterian,
registered in Canada.

Taken down the St Lawrence River to Boston and sold to
Lang & Delano, then Spear & Delano, leased to the USA
during US Civil War as troop carrier.

Sank off Jacksonville Florida February 1864

on a mission to carry passengers from Palatka; hit a mine.
(source: Roch Union & Advertiser)

CAPTAIN ROBERT KERR

Operated steamer Maple Leaf between Rochester and Port Hope and Cobourg
for Lake Ontario International Steamboat Company until 1857 (then Capt Shofield)
Capt Kerr became Toronto Harbourmaster and died 1876.

(Captain Robert Kerr listed as captain of steamer BURLINGTON ran Lewiston, Queenston,
Port Dalhousie and Toronto.

(Reference: Barlow Cumberland, "Lake Ontario", Niagara Falls US Library.)

"Here's what I have on great great granddad.

Robert Kerr, born Co. Antrim, (N.) Ireland, c1806-07, died March 3, 1876 (age 69), Toronto
The earliest reference I have to him being in Toronto is 1829. Died after a six-day bout of acute
pneumonia. At time of death, Capt. Kerr was the deputy harbour master/ lighthouse keeper
in the Toronto Harbour, Queen's wharf. The small, octagonal lighthouse (built 1861) he kept
is still intact and resides in a Toronto park, near Exhibition Park. During his time as deputy
harbour master, Capt. Kerr lived at Queen's Wharf in a small house, just a few steps away.

Earlier in his career, he was a prominent lake boat/ steamer captain on Lake Ontario,
skipping the Maple Leaf, Admiral, Gore and Burlington, among others. He also piloted for the
Royal Mail line. He and his family moved often. Capt. Kerr, along with his wife, Mary Ann
(Henderson) Kerr, are buried at Toronto's historic Necropolis Cemetery, Section N55.

Capt. Kerr had at least three children, the male child, named Robert Kerr (1845-1916).

Following in his father's footsteps, Robert Jr. also went into the transportation business,
rising to a senior position with the Canadian Pacific Railway (also owner of steamships).

Robert Kerr Jr. has a town in Saskatchewan, Kerrobert, and a mountain in British Columbia
named for him: Mount Kerr. All the best, Grant Kerr"

* (drawing: Metropolitan Toronto Library Board)