

And the Quinte area, says the writer who has also lived in London, Sudbury, Peterborough, Kingston and Toronto, "is a hothouse of individuality.

"It tends to throw up real characters. This area is full of eccentrics. That's what I find fascinating to write about."

Jennie Batley is just one of those characters.

"She was a very unconventional female. In those days, there were respectable women and there were those who were below the pale."

While in the Quinte area, Batley's respectability was certainly questionable. But, later in life, as a farmers' wife, she seems to have achieved that mark.

The role of women in the booze business reflected the role of women elsewhere in business at that time: they typically didn't have one. While writing his earlier popular book, *Booze, Boats and Billions*, Hunt remembers thinking it "a terribly masculine book.

"I just didn't find much about women."

In his book *Whiskey and Ice*, Hunt

wrote about Ben Kurr's mistress, Kate. Still, her role was not major.

"I'm very aware of that fact that women were just appendages," Hunt noted.

For this and future publications, Hunt set up his own publishing company: Billa Flint Publications. Ever fond of irony, Hunt pointed out Flint was not only a businessman and politician in the area, he was also a leading prohibitionist.

Works in progress include *Dancing In the Sky*, about the First World War air training program, and *Dockside Democracy*, a piece about the Wharf Street Debating Club.

In his latest research, Hunt uncovered more information pertaining to his earlier book *Whiskey and Ice*.

"Anybody who has the book can send a self-addressed stamped envelope and I'll send them the twist ending," Hunt said.

Gentleman Charlie & The Lady Rumrunner is available in Belleville at W. & R. Greenley Booksellers, Changing Times and Chapters, in Picton at Books by the Bay, and in Trenton at Desjardins Books. Or, readers can drop by the Mariner's Museum near Milford to pick up a book and see the tender used by Mills and Batley in their escapades. The book costs \$7.50.



Sarah MacWhirter
The Intelligencer

Gentleman Charlie

and The Lady Rumrunner



Photos submitted.
After leaving the Quinte area, Jennie Batley and Charlie Mills lived briefly in Erie, Pennsylvania where this photo was taken, before settling on Mills' father's farm outside Sanborn, New York.



When smuggler Charlie Mills owned the Adele, it was painted grey making it especially difficult for the Coast Guard to spot it in the dark of night.

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