



Story Angles for  
***The Kite That Bridged Two Nations:  
Homan Walsh and the First Niagara Suspension Bridge***  
(Calkins Creek / Boyds Mills Press)

A Mystery: During the kite flying contest, weather stranded competitor Homan Walsh in Elgin, Ontario for eight days when his kite string broke. To this day, no one has solved the mystery of who sheltered Homan during those eight days. Can the public help with this history mystery?

Reinvented Ferry: The kite flying contest changed the fate of Maid of the Mist forever. Once serving as a ferry between America and Canada, the service reinvented itself after the contest as a popular tourist boat operation, a service that exists to this day.

Calling All Walshes! As legendary as Homan Walsh is in the history of kite flying and bridge building, searches for the relatives of the young competitor have come up almost empty. Where are the Walshes?

Tipsy Gravestone: Oakwood Cemetery in Niagara Falls, New York is known for its famous stunts and founding families. But legendary kite flyer, Homan Walsh, who laid the first line for the first suspension bridge over the Niagara River, is also buried there with his family. Although he worked in Lincoln, Nebraska as an adult, he requested that his burial be at Oakwood. Over time, his gravestone had tipped a bit (perhaps looking for a good wind?), but it has been righted once again.

### **Experts – Contact Information**

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