

LAKE SCUGOG

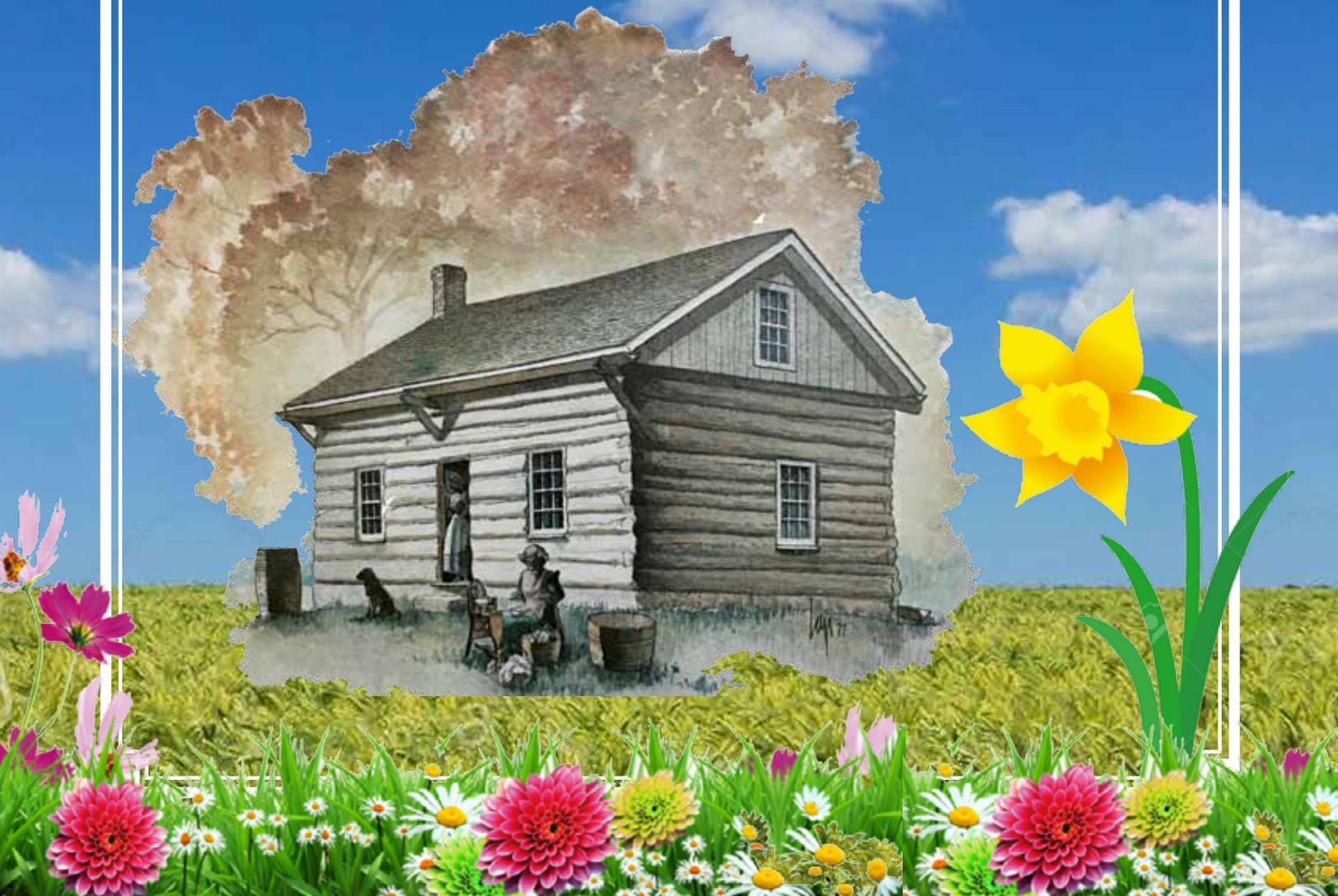
HISTORICAL

SOCIETY

2021

Spring

NEWSLETTER

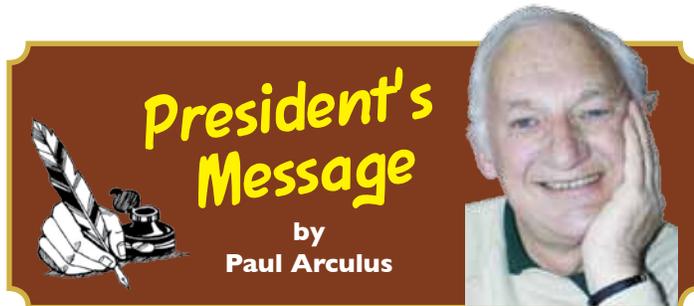


Lake Scugog Historical Society

DEDICATED TO THE HISTORY OF THE LAKE SCUGOG AREA - ESTABLISHED 1969



Spring
2021
Edition



WOW! Many things have happened since our last newsletter... and yet.... many things are still the same. We are still in the middle of severe restrictions of social interaction due to Covid 19, but, Trump is now the former president, even though his shadow still looms large over the continent, and will probably do so for many years to come.

On the good side, due to the generosity of several people, our Historical Society continues to thrive on many levels. Our project headed by Peter Hvidsten, to digitize the local newspapers and put them online for all to use, has received a generous donation from the Brock family. Many Thanks.

Due to Covid19, the Ontario Archives has not been able to operate normally. As a result the access to copies of early newspapers has been halted, thus slowing down progress on the project. Nevertheless, as soon as restrictions are removed, we are in an excellent financial position to continue the project.

In addition, several people have made donations to the LSHS enabling us to continue our regular meetings once the Covid19 restrictions are removed.

I would also like to take this opportunity to Peter for designing this newsletter. Peter has agreed to take on the responsibility of this challenge for a few issues. His expertise in graphics, fonts and displays is astounding. Thanks again Peter.

Marilyn Pearce has agreed to organize two new ongoing columns for this, and future newsletters. The first is a series on "Early Families of Scugog Township." The second is "Around our Durham Museums" that will take a look at the museums in Durham and the programs being offered by them. I know that Marilyn

will welcome information to further these projects along.

We are hoping that by the time you receive this newsletter, we will be hearing of specific plans for vaccinations in the near future. That will enable us to have a better idea of when to begin making specific plans for meetings, walks and other Lake Scugog Historical Society activities.

For that light at the end of this long tunnel, we thank all our front line workers, and those behind the scenes.

Take Care and Stay Safe.

Paul Arculus,

President, Lake Scugog Historical Society.

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You can find us on Facebook or contact us at:

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Or by mail at:

LSHS 175 Perry St. Port Perry, On. L9L 1B8



Lucy Black

The Gerrow Family History

Written and submitted by Lucy Black



Bakery in approximately 1925 baby Lola Gerrow in her mother's arms, Grant Gerrow on the far left.

Hank's Bakery

Everyone in Port Perry has a favorite delicacy that can only be purchased at Hank's Bakery: cinnamon buns and knots, danish pastries, carrot cake, eccles cakes, strawberry pie, sausage rolls, and their newest confection - butter tart doughnuts... Residents and tourists alike love the fragrance wafting down the street early in the morning when the bakery begins to produce its wide array of sweets and savoury baking. What many people don't appreciate is that there has been a bakery in the same location on Queen Street since 1884. Isn't that an incredible piece of local history!

Hank's Bakery is associated with a couple of the oldest family names in the Township of Scugog. In May 1924, Elijah Henry Gerrow bought the bakery from H.S.White and renamed it E.H. Gerrow and

Son. It was known locally as Gerrow's Bakery. Elijah's son Grant was the baker. He had apprenticed as a baker in Oshawa and now was able to bake in Port Perry. Across the street from the bakery was a Bell Telephone exchange. It was located on Queen Street where the current décor shop, Adorn, is now situated. Pearl Kent worked on the switchboard as the Chief Operator.

Apparently it didn't take long before the lovely Pearl attracted Grant Gerrow's attentions. She was also being courted by some other young men in the community but she married Grant in Lindsay in April 1928.

Many years later, her daughter Kent Gerrow (later Farndale) worked at the Bell Telephone exchange, as well. She kept the job for seven years and only stopped when "dial" came in 1958. She started work there at age 13, working summers and weekends all through school and saving her income to invest in Canada Savings Bonds. She remembers being shocked when she discovered that she had to pay income tax on her investments. She remembers her father telling her, "we live in the best, most beautiful country in the world - I don't want to hear you complain about paying tax ever again."

Grant Gerrow paid his father back for the bakery and completely took it over in by about 1930. His wife produced the lemon pie fillings at home and Gerrow's pies were known to have lots of extra filling - not like other boughten pies with skimpy amounts. Pearl Gerrow was particularly famous for her lemon pie filling. Her daughter, Kent, still remembers the good smells produced when her mother was making yet another batch of filling at home.

In those first, early days, Grant Gerrow kept a horse

Continued on next page



Port Perry Bell Exchange, from left, N. MacGregor, N. Wallace, H. Causley, W. Causley and chief operator Pearl Kent at desk.



Grant Gerrow's delivery wagon and horse.

Gerrow - from previous page

and wagon and would make weekly deliveries of baked goods to outlying areas. There was a regular circuit between Port Perry all the way to the far reaches of Prince Albert. The horse named May was kept in a small barn on the corner of Queen Street and John Street. It was a favorite Halloween prank for the neighbourhood children to break into the barn and borrow the wagon for their revels, often abandoning it down by the lake or somewhere else in town when they were done. Grant Gerrow would have to search for his wagon the next morning and repair the barn door after their foolery. It later became his custom to leave the barn door open on Halloween nights to facilitate their fun and prevent damage to the barn.

Kent has many fond memories of the bakery during her childhood. She particularly remembers returning to the bakery after dinner each night to help her father slice and wrap the fresh bread in waxed paper. People still tell her that they miss the Gerrow bread and Chelsea buns.

The Gerrow family (alternate spellings are Giraud and Gerow) can trace their roots back to France in 1665. Daniel Giraud and Jeanne Dorcas were French Huguenots and immigrated first to England and then to the United States of America in 1720. In 1750 they came to Canada as United Empire Loyalists determined to remain loyal to the British Crown. Through ten generations and widespread travel across the country, descendants eventually made their way to the Township of Scugog. They inter-married with the Platten family in 1893 and again in 1896. The Plattens were among the early non-Indigenous families homesteading on Scugog Island.

Joseph Gerrow (b.1800/d.1888) served in the War of 1812 reportedly under the command of Major-General Sir Isaac Brock. It is thought that he initially served as a carrier of dispatches. Joseph married Parmelia Trull (b.1804) in 1822, the daughter of Col.

John W. Trull. As no minister of the Church of England was available, they were legally contracted in marriage by a Justice of the Peace.

Upon completion of his military service, Joseph was given a land grant in Peel County. Parmelia desired to be closer to her family and they moved to Darlington Township. A third move, by ox and cart, sometime between 1851 and 1861 brought them to Scugog Island. It is known that Joseph was bilingual in French and English, and that his wife taught him to read and write. He was a protestant and was very active in the church. Descendants of Joseph's retain his bayonet and rifle. His wife Parmelia practiced nursing care and midwifery in the Scugog community and grew and collected her own herbs.

It is believed that she learned many of her natural remedies and treatments from the Mississaugas who taught her how to use these things. The Gerrow farm on Scugog Island was on Lot 7, Concession 9, Pine Point Road and was known as Pinehurst. Joseph and Parmelia had seven children: William (b.1825), Elijah (b.1830-d.1909), Joseph (b.1836-d.1912), John (b.1840-d.1921), Lydia (b.1823-d.1907), Elizabeth (b.1825-d.1901), and Phoebe (b.1833). A simplified family tree has been included for your reference.

The Gerrows and Plattens are only a few of the legacy families that have so enriched our community over the years. We are blessed to have the always gracious and charming Kent Farndale enthusiastically supporting so many important local initiatives. Her support of all arts endeavours is legendary as are her contributions to Lakeridge Health, Durham College, Ontario Tech and now the Oak Ridges Hospice.



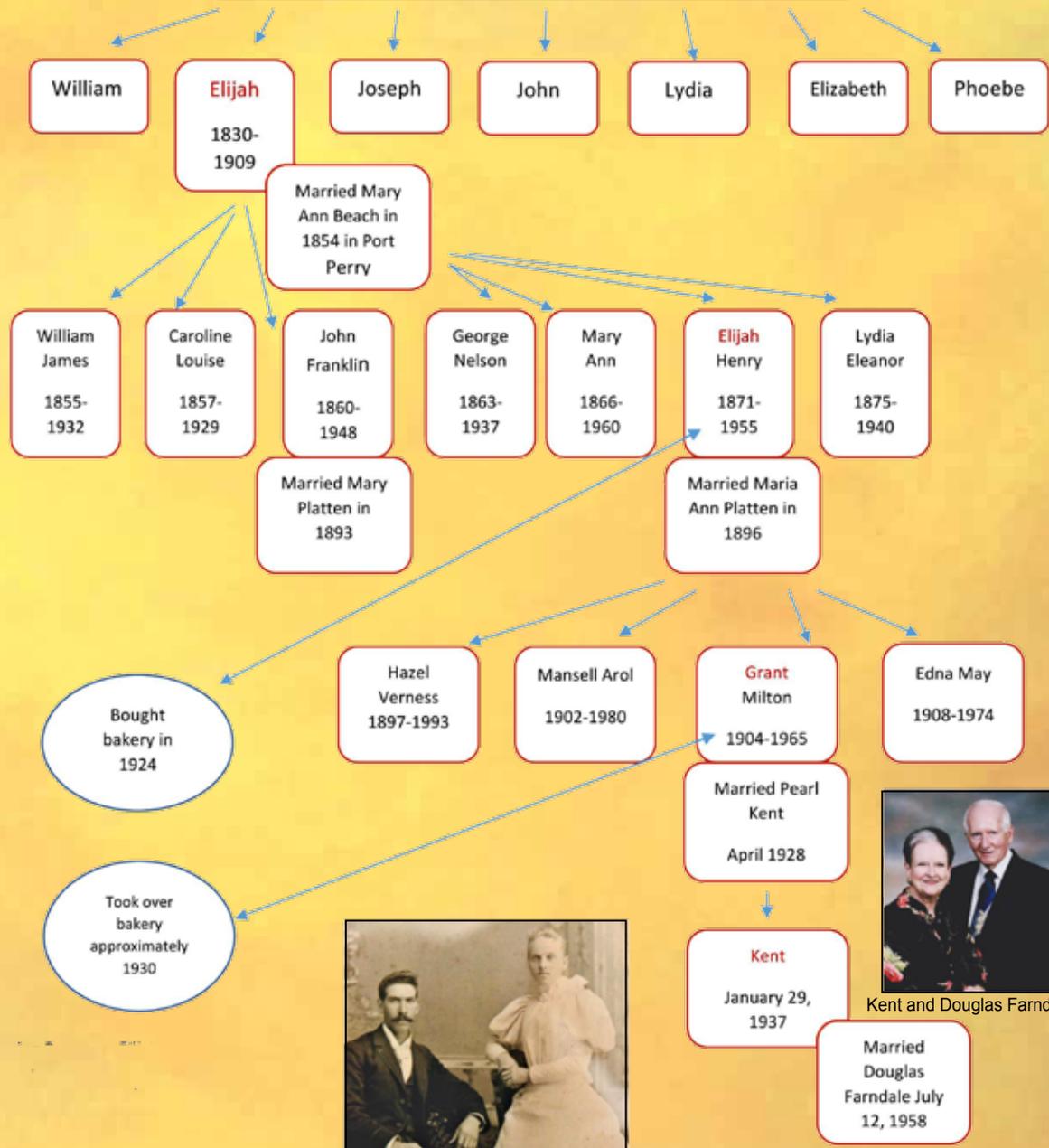
Front view of Gerrow's Bakery during the 1940s/



Gerrow Family Tree

Joseph Gerrow (1800-1888) + Parmelia Trull Gerrow (1804-1886)

Married 1822 in Newcastle



Wedding Portrait: Elijah Gerrow and Maria Ann Platten
Married October 14, 1896 in Port Perry

Kent and Douglas Farndale

Scugog's Sporting History



Ryan Rogers

Hit Hard, Run Fast, Turn Left

Submitted by Ryan Rogers, Chair of the Scugog Sports Hall of Fame

If you took a peek into the Scugog Sports Hall of Fame's (SSHOF) artifact collection, one thing would immediately jump out at you: softball features prominently in Scugog's history!

Everything from trophies and pennants, to championship jackets and stirrup socks reside in our collection representing local sponsors, players, coaches, organizers, administrators and even umpires.

We've got patches, lapel pins, and programs, and game sheets, autographed softballs, and even an old-time four-fingered glove!

This extraordinary collection has grown to such proportions thanks to retiring SSHOF member and volunteer curator for the collection Wayne Venning's love of the game. The committee remains truly grateful for the foundation Venning built, and his care, attention and love for the game are enshrined in the SSHOF and its collection.

Known as "Mr. Softball," the Blackstock ballplayer began his more-than-20-year term as an executive for Port Perry Softball in the early 1960s. Plus, he umpired, managed a team and coached in every division from Squirt to Senior Men's. He's been recognized by the Ontario Amateur Softball Association (OASA) with the F. R. Feaver Memorial Trophy for outstanding contributions to the sport (1995-96), as well as the Outstanding Service Award (1997).



Wayne Venning

Softball jackets representing many teams throughout the years feature prominently in the collection. Historically, those jackets symbolize accomplishment and dedication, says present collection curator Leanne Ashbridge and committee member Marilyn Pearce.

"Those who grew up in those eras (the '50s, '60s and '70s) remember people wearing those jackets," says Ashbridge. "Those winners wore those jackets like a medal."

In the post-war era, communities across Ontario grew up playing hockey or curling during the winter, and baseball/softball in the summer, adds former mayor Pearce.

"For guys and girls in high school, it was a tradition," says Pearce. "You went out and played softball, it's just what you did. That's why teams were so successful – there weren't all these other options. Just hockey in winter and softball in the summer."

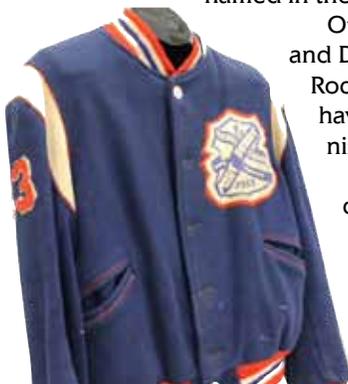
From those furtive years, many impactful builders in the softball world have called Scugog home, including Wayne Venning. Carolyn Best and Joe Fowler both have local ball diamonds named in their honour to recognize their impact on softball in Port Perry.

Others like Vin Walker (inducted into the Softball Canada Hall of Fame in 1997), Dave Dalton and Don Cochrane (instrumental with Port Perry and District Minor Softball for decades) and Rodd Foster (multi-championship winning career with the Greenbank Gamblers fastball team) have committed themselves to taking local ballplayers to great heights, and have been recognized through induction in the SSHOF.

Many more softball contributors from our community are destined for the SSHOF, in the continuing tradition of commitment and dedication to sport, for the love of the game.

The Scugog Sports Hall of Fame committee is continuously interested in hearing from the community about potential inductees, or anyone interested in getting more involved with the committee as a member or volunteer.

To contact the SSHOF, or nominate an athlete or builder worthy of induction, visit Scugog.ca/SportsHallofFame, call 905-985-8698 or email recreation@scugog.ca.





Paul Arculus

PETER JONES & the Mississaugas of Scugog

Researched and written by Paul Arculus



CONTINUED FROM FALL 2020 EDITION OF THE LSHS NEWSLETTER

As the Europeans slowly began to settle among the Mississaugas, the problem of land ownership quickly became an issue. Peter Jones, as the son of a white surveyor, had a clear understanding of the dilemma faced by the Mississaugas. He was well aware that the Mississaugas needed to obtain deeds and titles, in the European tradition, to acknowledge their ownership of their lands before it was taken over by land hungry Europeans. Once the land had been surveyed by Peter's own father and his assistants, ownership of the land had been handed out to officials, soldiers and prominent citizens of Upper Canada, with little, or no consideration of the indigenous people already living on the land.

In January 1828 Peter Jones and other Mississaugas met with the Lieutenant Governor, Sir Peregrine Maitland, to discuss land ownership in Upper Canada. The establishment in Upper Canada, with the Church of England as its church, viewed Methodism as American and not worthy of consideration. Maitland, a devoted member of the Church of England, rejected Methodism, indeed,

Maitland regarded the Indians' affiliation with the Church of England as a prerequisite for government support.

Jones challenged Maitland's position "Was not man a free agent with a right to worship God according to the dictates of his own conscience?"

The meeting failed to achieve any agreement. Later that year Maitland was moved to Nova Scotia and replaced by Major General Sir John Colborne. Meanwhile, a change had also taken place among the Credit Mississaugas. Two of their chiefs died and Peter Jones was chosen to replace one of them. At this time his missionary work included, Rice Lake, Carrying Place, Grape Island, Holland Landing, as well as Lake Scugog.

At Scugog Lake he met a hundred Indians and heard good accounts of their faithfulness. He held services, taught them the Lord's Prayer and the Ten Commandments.

By 1829 the mission at the Lake Scugog waterfront was firmly established. On January 1, 1829, as chief of the Credit Indians, he reported to his people that; Jan 1, 1829. At Scugog he found many Indians and heard good tidings... There were thirty scholars in the school. They were building a new school house, twenty-two feet

square... logs hewn on the inside, floor of split basswood and roof of basswood troughs. A hundred and fifty Indians occupied nine bark wigwams.

In Reach, by the Lake, camps of Indians were found, services held and twenty-four baptized. The party left and made their way back to the Credit Mission.

FUNDRAISING

Money was needed to pay for food and supplies for the missionaries. As a Mississauga chief and Methodist missionary, Peter Jones made his first fund raising journey to the United States with William Case in 1827. Peter was invited to address the tenth anniversary of the Missionary Society in New York in 1829. He was well received and continued his successful fund-raising tour by speaking at Troy, Baltimore, Philadelphia and Boston.

His success in the United States led to an invitation to undertake a fund-raising tour of Britain in 1831. The tour was again organized by William Case who was now the Superintendent of the Methodist Episcopal Church in Canada. Peter was to be accompanied by the Reverend George Ryerson and later to be joined by his brother, Egerton Ryerson.

The party arrived in London to their first public event; the anniversary of the Missionary Society on May 12. Peter gave a well-received address to an audience of over four thousand. While on this highly successful tour he made more than one hundred speeches and sixty sermons to interested groups all across England, Scotland, Wales and Ireland. Peter's reputation as a missionary and preacher reached the King and Queen; William IV and Adelaide, Queen Victoria's parents. He was invited to Windsor Castle on April 5, 1832 to spend time with the Royal family. The King and Queen were so impressed with Peter that a special commemorative medal was struck and presented to him later. (This medal was pictured in the last article) Many portraits of Peter Jones after that time show him proudly wearing the medal around his neck.

ELIZA FIELDS

While at a conference in London, Peter met Eliza Fields, the firstborn daughter of a wealthy candlemaker from Lambeth, a suburb of London. She was one of thirteen children in a devoted Anglican family who were fervent supporters of the Bible Society and the Missionary Society. Peter and Eliza's relationship blossomed quickly. As the time of Peter's visit to Britain came to an end, the couple decided to marry but they did not have time to arrange

Continued on next page



Photograph of Peter Jones taken in Edinburgh.

Peter Jones - from previous page

their wedding in Britain so they decided to pledge their marriage vows later that year in New York. Peter returned to his home on the Credit and in early September made the journey to New York to meet Eliza as she arrived from England with her friends and relatives, accompanied by Egerton Ryerson.

Upon arriving in New York, Eliza was appalled by the racism that she witnessed, contrasting so sharply with attitudes in Britain. This was at the time (August 1833) that the Parliament in London enacted legislation abolishing slavery throughout the British Empire. This action was the culmination of progressive abolition legislation that had begun in 1772 with a case that determined that a slave becomes free the moment he sets foot on English territory.

During this period Britain was in the midst of a tsunami of humanitarian reform, one of the most significant societal upheavals in the history of western civilization. Along with the abolition of slavery, the unprecedented reforms included, the abolition of debtors prisons, the work of Elizabeth Fry and prison reform, the elimination of child labour, the creation of the Metropolitan Police, Trade Unions, the Penny Post, Roman Catholic emancipation, and a succession of Factory Acts beginning in 1833, controlling working conditions and hours of labour. In 1829, as part of criminal reform, Robert Peel ended death sentences for theft, and in 1832, electoral reform began with the Great Reform Bill. The flowering of Romantic English Literature was underway and the Victorian Age was about to begin. All of this took place in the midst of railway mania. This was a breathtaking era.

A number of factors had contributed to this momentous upheaval; the efforts of a popular Quaker movement, the influence of the novels of Charles Dickens, and the political leadership of humanitarians and philanthropists such as William Wilberforce, Zachary Macaulay, Robert Peel and Lord Shaftesbury, all influenced by the spiritual and religious conviction of a man who had a profound influence on Peter Jones. That man was John Wesley,

JOHN WESLEY

John Wesley was born in 1703, the fifteenth child of Samuel and Susannah (White) Wesley. Samuel and Susannah's youngest son Charles also became a scholar at

Oxford University before becoming a priest in the Church of England. John also became an Oxford University scholar and was ordained as a priest in 1728. He walked the length and breadth of Britain preaching at small family gatherings, at mass meetings with thousands in attendance and at week-long camp meetings, exhorting his listeners to follow the example of Christ. His message and faith went beyond denomination, challenging his audience to follow the teachings of Christ in every aspect of their personal daily lives.

In addition to his preaching, John Wesley maintained friendships and an extensive correspondence with several leading philanthropists. One such friend was William Wilberforce, a Member of Parliament and a figurehead in the struggle against the lucrative slave trade.

THE DRIVE FOR LAND TITLES CONTINUES

Back in Upper Canada, in 1834, York was renamed Toronto and incorporated as a city. On January 6, 1836, Sir Francis Bond Head replaced Sir John Colborne as Lieutenant Governor. Immediately after taking office, ignoring all the directives from London and the commitments that John Graves Simcoe had made with the Mississaugas to ensure their secure settlement on lands in Canada, Sir Francis Bond Head decided that, since the Credit River Mississaugas lived on a huge tract of fertile land that would be ideal for new arrivals from Britain, he would take possession of that land for the Crown and the Mississaugas should be moved to Manitoulin Island.

But in the policy of Sir Francis Head, we observe, notwithstanding the tone of benevolence which he assumes, the avowed intention forthwith to deprive them at one fell swoop, of all their remaining reservations, taking a million and a half acres of the richest land in all Canada from one tribe, six square miles of fertile land from another, a like quantity from a third, besides various other at times. ...It includes cultivated lands appropriated by individuals as well as houses, schools, and churches..... they are called upon to abandon the advantages they are just beginning to enjoy, and are to be banished to the 23,000 rocks of granite dignified by the name of Manitoulin Islands.

This action gave Peter Jones a new sense of urgency to resolve the issue of land treaties for his people. The only

Your Donation is important!

As we must rely on fundraising and donations to continue to operate as Historical Society, the Board is always looking at ways to make giving simple for our donors.

Over the past year we have been investigating various ways to ensure the security of on-line donations and are pleased to report that you can now donate through the CanadaHelps Organization - www.canadahelps.org. (by the way they are a charity too).

Simply visit their website and enter our name Lake Scugog Historical Society. CanadaHelps will issue you a tax receipt on-line. They then transfer the funds to us. What could be easier!!

Please help as we continue to try and stay sustainable through a Pandemic.

Donate today!



2020 Annual General Meeting Report

The 2020 Annual General Meeting, which highlights the societies event activities of 2019, was finally held on Jan. 26, 2021 with 12 members in attendance. The Annual and Financial Reports were approved.

Our thanks to the Trent University History Dept. for their assistance in helping us through our 1st Virtual Zoom Meeting. Our next AGM is scheduled to be held in May of 2021 at which time we need to elect a new executive board.

We are one executive member short at this time so if you would be interested in joining us at this level please let us know – we could really use someone with web-site/social media experience as we begin to launch our new web-site and the Scugog News Digital collection (1857-1930).

way to resolve the issue was to go above the Lieutenant Governor. Peter decided to take advantage of the reputation he had developed in England and requested a meeting with the Colonial Secretary in London, Lord Glenelg.

On March 3, 1838, Peter had the first of several meetings with Glenelg and made the case for his people.

So long as they hold no written document from the British Government to show that the land is theirs, they fear that the white man may at some future date take their lands away from them, and the apprehension is constantly cherished by observing the policy pursued by the United States government.

Lord Glenelg needed no persuading and assured Peter that he would use his influence to obtain the correct and legal title deeds for the lands that the Ojibwa currently occupied. Numerous accounts of Bond Head's incompetence in administering Upper Canada, had already reached Glenelg's desk. The Mackenzie-led skirmish at Montgomery's tavern on Yonge Street had been put down but the aftermath was still simmering. This was particularly disturbing to Glenelg.

Peter's first meeting occurred just as Glenelg received the information that Bond Head had refused to carry out several of Glenelg's directives. On March 23, with Peter Jones' account of affairs still fresh in his mind, Glenelg's patience with Bond Head reached an end. Glenelg relieved Bond Head of all diplomatic and administrative duties in Upper Canada and recalled him to London. Bond Head, was forced into early retirement to his home near London.

Peter celebrated by continuing his second and even more successful fund-raising and speaking tour in Britain. On August 20, Peter met with Lord Glenelg again at his Downing Street office.

His Lordship made several enquiries about the Indians in the west and about Manitoolin [sic] Indian Settlement. I told his Lordship that I had visited the Island; that in my opinion, it was unfit for an Indian settlement as the Island was rocky and the soil was very poor: that the Indians objected to their settling on that Island.

Lord Glenelg made a note of Peter's comments and informed him that he had arranged for Peter to have a personal audience with Queen Victoria. At Windsor Castle on Friday September 14, 1838, dressed in his "Indian costume" Peter Jones was presented to the young queen.

Lord Glenelg introduced me to Her Majesty by my Indian name as Chief of the Chippeway Indians in Upper Canada.

Although the meeting lasted less than half an hour, the young monarch

told him that she had already agreed to Lord Glenelg's proposal to grant title deeds to the Ojibwa.

Following the meeting with the Queen, Peter and Eliza set sail for North America, again stopping in New York, to be greeted with news of the plight of the Seminoles in Florida and the horrors inflicted on the Cherokee Nation. This was the infamous "Trail of Tears," in 1838 in which members of the Cherokee Nation were force-marched from Georgia to Oklahoma. More than 4,000 Cherokees died on this death march.

Upon arriving at his home on the Credit River, Peter resumed his missionary work including several visits to the Mississaugas at Lake Scugog.

The Story of Peter Jones will be continued in the next newsletter.

COMING SOON!

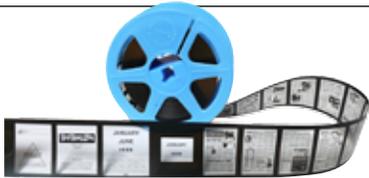


Historic Mills of Scugog Township

Research has begun on a project to identify and archive the many old mills in Scugog Township.

We are looking for old photos as well as stories of the mills, their owners and their employees. We have at this time identified many from the 1878 Ontario and Durham atlases but what we need are the stories of what happened to them.

If you can help please email or call us. We anticipate the story to be ready for our summer newsletter so you can visit these former sites that tell the story of our early beginnings.



Scugog Digital Project Update

FINALLY - after months of delays, and waiting and waiting – the Scugog Digital Project will soon be moving forward.

Word was received in February that microfilm reels have been retrieved from the “Library and Archives of Canada” collection and work would begin soon on the digitizing of our newspaper files.



Samples of the files have been forwarded to us for inspection, and the committee of Paul, Marilyn and myself are satisfied with the quality, taking into account the condition of the century old newspaper files.

Jess Posgate, our representative at “OurDigital World”, has set up our preliminary online site, on which we can add information pertaining to the LSHS as we move forward.

Jess expects the digitizing of the files - 1857 to 1930 will be completed by the end of March, if there are no further delays. When “OurDigital World” receives them, they will be ingested onto the Scugog Digital site and it will become operational shortly after.
J. Peter Hvidsten, LSHS Director



Who is Jonathan B. Blong?

Submitted by Evan Monsma

“One of Scugog’s New Generation Of Young Historians”



Evan Monsma

I have always wondered who some of the downtown Port Perry builders were, so I did some research. It just so happens that one of the names of a builder down there was named Jonathan B. Blong, so I have decided to do an article on him.

Jonathan Blong was born on March 12, 1854 in Toronto. He was the youngest son of Henry and Aldred (Easton) Blong. At an early age, he was in an accident that caused him to not be able to use one of his legs. And even after that accident, he still

went on to build great things.

He married Sophia Lydia Gates on July 1, 1873 and they had three children: Henry, Lilly, and Robert. The Blong family came to Port Perry around 1882. Mr. Blong was a good investor. He bought the Royal Arcade from Joseph Bigelow and he renamed it the Brunswick House.

In 1885, after the fires of 1883 and 1884, Mr. Blong built a series of buildings on Queen Street known as the Blong Block. After Dr. J.H. Sangster’s home was destroyed by a fire in 1893, Mr. Blong purchased that property. He built a house for him and his family known as Beechenhurst.

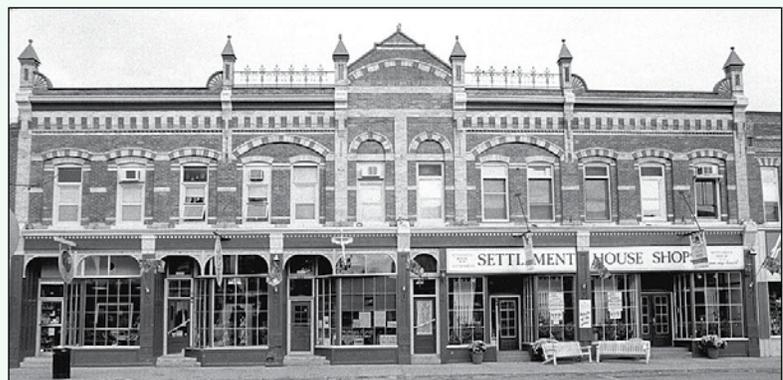
As his health decreased, he moved back to his original hometown of Toronto in 1908. He passed away seven years later on March 20, 1915 at the age of 61. The cause of death was pneumonia.

Even though his life was short, he is still an important part of Port Perry history.

It is amazing that his buildings still stand today.



Jonathan Blong



The Blong Block was built in 1885, and when this picture was taken in 1999, it was home to Settlement House.

THE BONGARDS

Cattlemen & Merchants of Prince Albert

Submitted by Janis Carter 2021 – a COVID-19 Project



Janis Carter

Sometime in the late 1850's and early 1860's, three Bongard brothers, Jacob, Conrad and Abram, along with some of their extended families, moved from Prince Edward County, Ontario to the village of Prince Albert, Reach Township, Ontario County, Ontario. The Tewkesburys were descended from United Empire Loyalist (UEL) families and had been settled in Prince Edward County for a couple of generations.

The Bongards were also descended from a family who fought in the American Revolution. However, as opposed to UEL, the original Bongard settler had been part of the Hessians, a group of German mercenaries who fought along with the British during the war. About 40 Hessian families had stayed in Canada and settled in Prince Edward County and eventually married into many local families, several of which were UEL families.

JACOB BONGARD, 1823 - 1881

Jacob and his wife Sarah Taylor came to Prince Albert, presumably in the late 1850's ahead of his brothers. In 1871 he is listed as a butcher and in 1881 he is listed as a drover. Jacob died in 1881, age 58 and is buried in Pine Grove Cemetery, Section B, Prince Albert.

His wife, Sarah Taylor, died in 1900, age 72, at the home of her daughter in Coldwater, Simcoe County, Ontario and is buried with her husband in Pine Grove, Prince Albert. At the time of her death, she had only three of their eight children still alive; James, of Beatty & Bongard, Port Perry; Emma Langdon, Michigan, USA; and Florence Gray, Coldwater.

Jacob and Sarah's children:

1. Josephine born about 1852, married Stephen Arkels in Prince Albert in 1881; he died in Simcoe County in 1889 and she died in Prince Albert in 1898
2. James T 1856 – 1858 buried Pine Grove Cemetery age 18 mo, next to his parents
3. Emma, born about 1858, married R V Langdon of Reach Township; moved to Michigan
4. John F died May 1859 aged 3 weeks
5. William E born about 1859, married Elizabeth Ann Gurley in 1886 and moved to Oshawa, Ontario
6. James Arthur, born 1860, died 1932, married Sarah Wright of Reach Township in 1889. She died in 1921 in Port Perry. He is listed as a Harness Maker. They had two children. He became a partner of Mr Beatty in a harness manufacturing business, which moved to the current (2020) address of 158 Queen St Port Perry, Ontario.
 - a. Myrtle D, born 1891, still single at the time of her father's death
 - b. Roland, born 1892, moved to Whitby, then Florida
7. Frank Leslie 1861 -1862, buried in Pine Grove Cemetery with his brothers and next to his parents.
8. Florence Maud born about 1866, married John Gray of Coldwater, Simcoe County in 1866. They eventually went to California.

Sarah's parents are also listed with the family in 1861,

Robert Taylor age 70 and Ann age 68, along with Sarah Taylor age 22 (married) and C.A. Taylor (female). Also listed is Abram Bongard, residing in Raglan, not married.

Jacob seemed to be well regarded by the community as evidenced in an article in the North Ontario Observer, published in Prince Albert, Dec 1879, concerning a surprise party given to him by his neighbours and fellow church goers.

In the 1869 and 1871 Prince Albert Directory Jacob Bongard and A Bongard are listed as butchers.

ABRAM CANIFF BONGARD, 1833-1910

Abram's obituary states that he came to the area in 1855. In the 1871 census, Abram lists himself as a butcher; in 1881, 1891 and 1901 he is listed as a drover.

However, Port Perry merchant records and his obituary tell us that for 45 years he was a buyer and seller of cattle, travelling many miles around the region, buying stock to export to Europe, Toronto and Montreal. He was a member of the local school board, the Presbyterian Church and a steward of the Prince Albert Lodge of AF & AM. Travelling around the area, he became a familiar face to a large population and was known as being honest and knowl-

Continued on next page

A. Bongard

AT PORT PERRY.

A. BONGARD begs to inform the inhabitants of Port Perry and surrounding townships, that he has established and is determined to *drive with vigor* a general

Meat and Grocery Business!

In Port Perry, next door west of Thompson's Hotel, where he will always keep on hand a full Stock of **CHOICE MEATS, FISH and GROCERIES** of every description

AT SUCH PRICES as will put COMPETITION out of the QUESTION!!!

TRY MY GREEN, BLACK, and JAP'D TEAS—RAISINS, CUR RANTS, SYRUP, TOBACCOS.—HADDOCK, HER RINGS, &c. FRESH OYSTERS—best grades—always on hand.

PORT PERRY, Jan. 15. 1873 A. BONGARD.

LSHS MEMBERSHIP NEWS

SPRING 2021



EVEN THOUGH we have been “locked-down” for much of the past year your Historical Society has seen many positive signs as we enter 2021. Since our last newsletter we have received some very generous donations towards our operations and our Capital Program – a big thank you to all who contributed in 2020 as the year ended and then again in 2021 as the year started.

The Society also conquered the new technology of ZOOM and were able to host their 2019 Annual Meeting virtually in January of this year with 12 members in attendance and we will be in touch in May about our 2021 Annual Meeting (activities of 2020).

While our financial situation has improved our membership numbers continue to drop off. We presently have 20 Life Members and 36 Annual members. Last year, the Board decided that the 2019 members would be automatically renewed for 2020 as all our programs were cancelled. Plans are to kick off a 2021 Membership Drive prior to our Annual meeting in May and we will be in touch with those who have not renewed since 2019. Hopefully by late summer or early fall we will once again be able to host our historical walks and the Speaker Series which are free to all members as well as discounts on our publications.

Please consider renewing your membership and if in doubt as to whether your membership has lapsed please feel free to contact us at lakescugohistoricalociety@gmail.com. You can also mail in your membership or drop off at Books Galore 175 Perry St. and we do have E-Transfer at lakescugohistoricalociety@gmail.com as well.

Thank you once again to all those who helped out after our last newsletter – we appreciate your support and as you read our newsletter the Society is looking forward with much optimism to 2021.

Marilyn Pearce
Membership Secretary

Bongard - from previous page

edgeable in his business.

At some point he was a partner with a Mr Robinson in business as evidenced by an ad found in an 1874 newspaper. No type of business is mentioned.

In the 1884 Prince Albert Directory, A Bongard is listed, livestock and butcher.

- Abram continued to live in Prince Albert until his death and is buried in Pine Grove Cemetery, Prince Albert. I have not been able to trace what happened to his wife Mary Ross, born 1845. They had six children, all born in Prince Albert, most who were in California between 1900 and 1919.

Abram and Mary's children:

1. Sarah J born about 64, married Stewart Bruce of Reach Township in 1890. By 1900 he has passed away and she has gone to California; she died in New York

2. Elizabeth P (Bessie) born about 1866, married Mr James Wayne in 1901 and they were in Florida by 1910

3. Robert Ross b 1868, married Elsie Johnston in Toronto in 1897

4. John Ellis born 1872, died 1897 age 22 and is buried with his father in Pine Grove Cemetery

5. Alice Mable born 1874, married William Welch in 1912 in Saskatchewan and they moved to California in 1919

6. Charles Wesley born 1877, married Nellie Kloepfer in 1905; lived in Toronto for a while and went to USA

Conrad Thomas Bongard, 1828-1915

Conrad Thomas Bongard, 1828-1915, and his wife, Eliza Jane Tewkesbury were still living in Prince Edward

County in the 1861 census, but were in Prince Albert by 1871. Eliza's grandfather, Jacob Tewkesbury died in Prince Albert in 1867, so, presumably the family had moved by then. In the 1871 Census, his name is listed as Thomas. Conrad's occupation is listed as a drover in 1871 and 1881.

Conrad has been identified as having the occupations of bailiff, store keeper, music teacher and sailor. Family lore says that, as a sailor, he crossed the ocean 44 times. None of Conrad and Jane's family remained in Prince Albert, some having gone to Toronto, where Conrad and Jane ended up as well.

Also living in Prince Albert were Jane's parents, William Tewkesbury and Mary Taylor and some of their family and William's parents Jacob and Elizabeth Burley. Robert Taylor is buried in the same plot as Jacob and Elizabeth and William and Mary, presumably he is the father of Mary, wife of Wm Tewksbury and of Sarah, wife of Jacob Bongard.

William had a druggist and grocery business in Port Perry in 1857.

William and Mary's two daughters were both school teachers in Reach, both died in the 1930's both single.

Conrad and Eliza Bongard had ten children, some of whom stayed or returned to Prince Edward County and some went to Toronto and beyond.

The youngest daughter, Ethel Gertrude was married in Toronto, to William G Campbell. This couple became the great grandparents of my son-in-law and of Rob and Doug Ford, of Toronto.

Doug Ford is currently the Premier of Ontario.

Resources: The Ontario Observer, The North Ontario Observer, 1852 Reach Collectors Rolls, many books of Paul Arculus and Peter Hvidsten about old Port Perry, Kellie Love, Ancestry.ca.



Shannon Kelly



Scugog Shores Museum Village & Archives update

Submitted by Shannon Kelly, curator, Scugog Shores Museum

Over the last several months, staff has been busy updating the collections database, and tackling some long overdue research and collections projects. Despite the shutdown, it has been a great time to get caught up on our to-do list!

Thank you to everyone who participated in the fun and informative virtual talk on Friday, February 19 called "The Garden: The Story and History of Famous Flowers", presented by Lianne Harris via Zoom. Lianne has been a history, culture and social studies resource specialist for the Toronto District School Board for almost 20 years, and is the author of several books. We are looking forward to booking a couple of more talks with Lianne in March!

Pending COVID restrictions in place at the time, we are planning for our usual May opening.

The Rock Snake, one of the many positive community initiatives that emerged during COVID-19, will be on display at the Museum this summer. This wonderful time capsule, made up of over 1,000 rocks capturing our shared community experiences over the last year, was moved by volunteers to its new home at the Village. If you haven't visited the Museum in a while, this will be a great year to check it out, and maybe even add a rock to the snake!

Currently, we are tentatively scheduling some small-scale events over the summer. We are also hopeful that we will be able to hold the 52nd annual Canoe the Nonquon, albeit in a slightly different form compared to previous years. Stay tuned for more information!

It has been a challenging year for everyone, but we are optimistic and looking forward to the future!



Harlan and Norine Clark collecting eggs in the barn on their farm, just west of Prince Albert, in 2008.

Norine and Harlan Clark bequest \$435,000 to the Scugog Shores Museum

We are very grateful and excited to announce that the Museum received a bequest from the Estate of Harlan and Norine Clark, in the amount of \$435,000.

Harlan George Clark (1922-2009) was born in Reach Township. Norine Leona Aileen Clark (nee Stewart) (1923-2019) was born in Port Perry on September 18, 1923.

Harlan and Norine grew up around Port Perry, and met at a local skating rink. Harlan worked at Peel's Poultry Farm in Port Perry, and Norine worked at Brock's in Port Perry as a book keeper and in sales, until they were married on April 22, 1943.

In 1945, Harlan and Norine bought a 2.8 hectare poultry farm at 1511 King Street, Port Perry. Starting in 1947, and lasting over six decades, they sold their fresh eggs from their stall at the St. Lawrence Farmer's Market in Toronto.

Rising at 2:00 am every Saturday morning, they never missed a single market. Harlan was known to his customers as the "Egg Man".

They were active volunteers of the Scugog Shores Museum, and members of the Historical Society in the 1970s until the mid 1990s. They lived their entire life on their farm together.

The Museum will be forming a committee to formulate a plan to best honour their memory. We are looking forward to an exciting future.

A Catholic Mystery?

Submitted by J. Peter Hvidsten



J. Peter Hvidsten

It's no wonder that historians often refer to their research as "a work in progress", or a "living history", since there is always new information being discovered, which might conflict the previous records.

This appears to be the case with the identity of the old Port Perry Catholic Church, which was located at the corner of John and Casimir Street.

The top left photo, from Scugog Shores Museum Archives, is a picture taken circa 1878, and labelled "W. M. Church" which means, Wesleyan Methodist Church. This church was officially opened in October 1874, then sold 10 years later and officially opened as a Catholic Church in March 1885.

In October 1886, just a year-and-a-half after the Catholics purchased the W. M. Church, an article was published in the *Toronto Mail* newspaper, with a sketch of the new Catholic Church in Port Perry. That sketch, left centre, shows what appears to be a very similar building, but with a different steeple.

Both illustrations show a building with four windows along each side; an external staircase with an entrance through the base of the tower and identical window an entrance designs.

While it is possible that steeple/spire was damaged and replaced between March 1885 and October 1886, no records have been found to prove that theory.

As can be seen in the photo, bottom left, taken circa 1910, the church steeple is identical to the sketch of 1886. There are four windows along the side, and a staircase leading to the entrance – just as in the sketch, leading to prove that the John Street church did not change externally from 1885 to 1910.

In July 1915, during an electric storm which swept through the area, the steeple of the Catholic Church was struck by lightning and the church caught on fire. In spite of the best efforts of the fire brigade, the steeple was totally destroyed and about \$2,000 or more damage was done to the interior of the church.

Once again, no records can be found to verify whether, when the church was repaired, if the steeple was replaced.

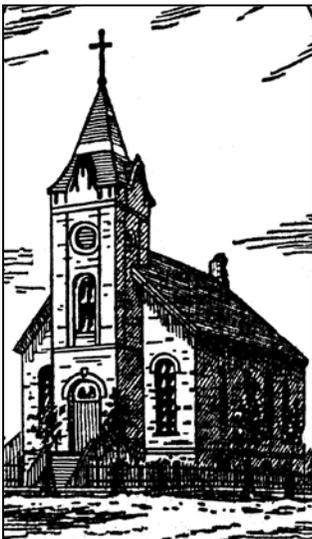
But the most mysterious discrepancy emerges years later. A 1960 photo, bottom centre, shows the Catholic Church with no tower or steeple, and only three windows along the north side of the building. A second photo, bottom right, taken in 1975, as the church was being dismantled, shows the of the south side of the building, with only three windows.

Extensive research has been undertaken to determine if following the fire, the entire tower was removed and not replaced.

But, the real mystery remains! How can a church with four windows down the side of the building in early pictures, have only three windows along each side when it was dismantled almost a century later.



W.M. Church, circa 1878.



Catholic Church, circa 1886.



Catholic Church, circa 1910.



Catholic Church, 1960.



Catholic Church being removed, 1975.



Around *our* Durham Museums:

Cannington & Area Historical Society

By Edith Koekstra - Cannington & Area Historical Society



Edith Koekstra

The Cannington Historical Society was started in 1976 by a group of people who wanted to preserve local history. They decided to celebrate the centennial of the village of Cannington by creating a museum. Over the next couple of years, buildings were rescued from a variety of locations and brought

Two log cabins were moved from local farms. The Brandon cabin (1830) represents the Ontario settlers' first home and the Francis House (1855) is set in 1867 and represents a second generation settler home. The Derryville Loyal Orange Hall (1934) was moved to the Cannington Historical Museum site and a railway station (1906) was moved from Mount Albert. A post and beam driving shed (1901) completes the village.

The village is open on weekend afternoons from 1-4 from May to September, and will open through the week by appointment. It is also possible to organize a program to learn more about how the settlers lived. We have special events on Canada Day at the museum and are the final stop on the Haunted Trail each Halloween!

We were very excited to acquire the last remaining Blacksmith Shop in Cannington in 2012. It is also one of the last in Ontario to remain in its original location.

We showcase old blacksmith tools as well as a forge. Our shop also shows a cutter and a cart similar to what would have been constructed in the 1895 building. We are pleased to have recently received a Brock Heritage Plaque for this great building.

The Doors Open annual event, part of Canada Culture Days, is held on the last Saturday in September at the Blacksmith Shop.

We hold regular meetings when speakers share their particular historical interests with the membership. These meetings are open to the public. Please see our website and Facebook page for more information - [Home \(canningtonhistoricalsociety.ca\)](http://canningtonhistoricalsociety.ca)

Since the museum, Blacksmith and Carriage Shop and the Society are operated totally by volunteers, we always have projects that need to be done. We aim to Preserve the Past, Protect the Present and Enlighten the Future.



Brandon Cabin



Francis House





Janice Whitaker Sandy

HERMIT OF THE NONQUON

A TREASURE OF A TALE

A Legend for Seagrave

by Janice Whitaker Sandy

Thank you to everyone who has offered their time to read this short article. As a reward I pass on to you a most wonderful treasure. This treasure is a book—a truly magical book. If you read it I assure you that you will be set back in time in a humorous and light-hearted way, and transformed into a villager of Seagrave in it's very early days.

There is nothing more rewarding when doing historical research than when coming across something written by someone who was present at the time. Diaries, personal notes, biographies and autobiographies are fun reads and most informative. The book that I am about to suggest to you, however, is a fiction tale but I am certain you will agree is equally as informational. The book is called "Hermit of the Nonquon" written in 1893 by Charles Nelson Johnson. It can be found at the "Internet Archives" and is free to download.

You might say the story begins at a hotel on Kingston Road which local historians will agree existed as Moode Farewells Tavern. (Many might also be familiar with the story of the murder of John Sharp that took place at Moode Farewell's trading post on Washburn Island in the very early 1800's. It is interesting to note here that the pioneer Farewell settlers of both Oshawa and Seagrave were, in fact, one and the same.)

The story "*Hermit of the Nonquon*" is a delightful tale centred around a tenacious young girl named Gabrielle who's admiration for her father, sense of adventure, curiosity and compassion do not go unrewarded.

The multicultural characters in the story who are undoubtedly derived from local villagers of the time have been given non-identifying names but the story was made real as I found my bearings using old maps that accompanied me as I read along with the characters on their journeys. The story may be only a fanciful tale, yet so wonderfully entwined are the characters and plot, giving impressive descriptions of people, places and events that I am left wanting to believe that the story is a true one.

Photo: Dr. Charles Nelson Johnson



The author Dr. Charles Nelson Johnson, MA., D.D.S., LD.S., MD.S., LL.D., FA.CD, an untold legend of Scugog, was not only a writer, speaker, instructor, and humanitarian but also a master of dentistry. He was born on a farm in Blackwater, Brock Township, Ontario on March 16, 1860 to Winthrop Johnson and Laura Moore Johnson. On March 16, 1938, at the age of 78, he had a heart attack after a busy day at his desk and passed the next day, which was a Sunday, peacefully in his home at 6118 Sheridan Road, Chicago Ill.

Charles Johnson was educated at Port Perry. Upon graduation from high school, he was indentured for five years to Drs. Patterson and Fenton of Port Perry, men of high professional attainments and skillful in all branches of dentistry. Under such tutelage, young Charles made great progress, and at the end of his indentureship in 1880, immediately advanced to the Royal College of Dental Surgeons in Toronto. In 1881 he graduated with high honours, being the Gold Medalist of the class.

His profession took him to Collingwood where he married Fannie Patterson the daughter of his preceptor and from there they moved to Chicago Illinois where he became the faithful father of two daughters and an influential, and beloved member of the Illinois State Dental Society. To even summarize the distinguished biography of Charles Nelson Johnson and his extensive career is too substantial for this article but deserves to be its own eloquently written essay.

Hermit of the Nonquon is a "must read" and a "must share" for anyone interested in Lake Scugog History. It was so enjoyable to read that I did not want the story to end and am left wishing there is a part 2 still to come. This is a book that I will surely revisit time and again. I welcome your thoughts and comments at sandyjanice@yahoo.com .

You can download *Hermit of the Nonquon* for free at the Internet Archives at the following link: <https://archive.org/search.php?query=Hermit%20of%20the%20Nonquon> (Look around while you are there for the archives contain a fascinating and free to use library of inexhaustible information.)

Volunteers Needed!

If you love history and are interested in volunteering at the Scugog Shores Museum, please contact: Shannon Kelly SKelly@scugog.ca

Get
involved

If you would like to help the Lake Scugog Historical Society, please contact: Paul Arculus - arculusp@sympatico.ca

If you would like to join our email list please let us know.

Email: marilyn.pearce@sympatico.ca



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IN MEMORY OF IRVIN "IRV" GIBSON

We are extremely sad to report the passing of a truly loyal supporter of the Historical Society and the Museum, Irvin Gibson.

"Irv" passed away on New Years' Day here in Port Perry.

Irv was one of those generous and friendly people who, when asked, would never refuse to offer a willing hand in any task at the Museum. In this way, with a broad smile and generous spirit, he was involved in many of the Museum's building projects. But Irv will probably be most affectionately remembered for his participation in the fund raising projects that involved entertainment, particularly when music was involved.

He played the guitar and sang at numerous fund raising projects and "Pioneer Days." His love of Country and Western music gained him many friends over the years. He became noted for his rendition of the Hank Snow/Johnny Cash song "I've been Everywhere Man." In this song, the lyricist lists a tongue twisting list of the towns he has been to. Irv always received a roar of approval for his rendition of this song.

His wife Dorothy was always at his side giving him support, and Irv and Dorothy's children, Terri, Gary and Coralee all became involved in Canoe the Nonquon.

Our thoughts and prayers are with the Gibson family as they mourn his passing.



Irvin "Irv" Gibson
1935 - 2001