



# Newcastle Village and District Historical Society Newsletter

Spring 2004 - Issue # 82

## Coming Events

### April 5<sup>th</sup> 2004

A general meeting featuring Lynn Hodgson will take place in the Lions Room at the Newcastle Community Hall at 7:30 PM . Lynn is the author of *Camp 30: Word of Honour* and *Inside Camp X* . Many people will remember when the Prisoner of War Camp was located just outside of Bowmanville during the WW2 and will be fascinated by the tales that Lynn will have to tell of the prisoners that were held there and other little-known stories. The invitation is open to everyone to attend. There is no admission fee, but a collection will be taken to cover the costs and refreshments will be served.

### May 3<sup>rd</sup> 2004

This will be our Family History Night with the history of two local families being presented by their descendants who are still living amongst us. Alec Martin will be speaking on the Martins who came to the Newcastle area from County Down Ireland in 1841 and Mort Lake will talk about the Lake Family who farmed on the lake shore and who also were involved very much in the development of this area.

### October 17<sup>th</sup> 2004

The Directors are planning an Antique Road Show type Event at the Newcastle Community Hall for October. As this event is still in the planning stages we would appreciate any expertise that anyone has in this area especially any leads to competent appraisers, chiefly those who would volunteer a few hours to our cause. More information on this event will be forthcoming in future issues.

## Notice of Motion

**To amend the Constitution of the Newcastle Village and District Historical Society at the meeting of the Society on 3 May 2004**

**Amendment to Article IV Executives and Officers Section 1**

**ADD:**

**1B: Standing Committees :**

**a: Membership**

**b: Newsletter**

**The Chairperson shall be appointed by the Executive and hold office at the pleasure of the Executive and shall be voting members of the Executive Body.**

**Explanation:**

**These Committees play a significant and important role in the on-going work of the Society and as such should be active members of the Societies Board with voting privileges.**

## President's Message

Welcome to Newcastle Village and District Historical Society's 2004 season. I would like to thank all the directors from last year, who returned: Francis Jose, Ron Locke, Sanford Haskill, Helen Schmid, Carl Good, Wayne Blackburn, Ron Locke, Myno Vandyke and a special welcome back to Dorothy Brown and Farncomb LeGresley. We have great year planned for our members. We have our season starting off with a special speaker coming in on April 5 to the Lions' Room at 7:30 PM this will be Lynn Hodgson with a presentation on Camp 30, the old boys school in Bowmanville. The Preservation Award will be done on this evening also.

On May 3 we have Family Presentation Night with Mort Lake and Alec Martin doing a presentation on their families.

On October 17 we will be hosting an Antique Road Show style event at Newcastle Community Hall with a small fee for each item, some local people will do this. Please watch for more information on these up coming events.

We are still looking for volunteers for Tuesday Mornings to work in the Historical room. It is only two hours a week. If you are interested in this please email me at [susanl.brown@sympatico.ca](mailto:susanl.brown@sympatico.ca) or call me at 905-987-4249. There are a few Events that will be going on with in our community over the next few months that might be of interest to our members. We have the New Clarington Museum Archives opening on April 3 at 61 Temperance Street in Bowmanville, which we will have a small display. We have a plaque being dedicated in honour of the Lovekin Family on April 27, on the Wilmot Trail just off of Cobble Dick Road in Newcastle. The Trade Show on May 27 at the Newcastle Community Hall.

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### Rambling Comments From the Editor's Desk

Since we presented the first Preservation Award to Darrell & Eleanor Cook last year we have received many favourable comments on this award, so it has been decided to make this an annual presentation.. The recipient will not be notified, but will be as surprised as the rest of the audience when presented with the award at the April 5<sup>th</sup> meeting.. Plan to be there to see who gets the award this year.

Several comments and suggestions came from our members concerning Dorothy Brown's article on property names in the last issue. Dorothy appreciates the input and is assessing the new information. She will have an updated list for us in the near future.

Thanks to Diana Grandfield for submitting the Samuel Wilmot article. I appreciate all the submissions and will attempt to run them all.

Myno has been busy again researching the Elliot Museums and we publish the first installment of his Elliot Article here in this issue. He promises the next installment for the next issue.

Please feel free to contact me with any ideas you may have for future articles or for ideas on speakers that you would like to see at our general meetings.

This letter below is from the collection of Francis and Erla Jose.  
We thank them for sharing it with us

Lancashire & Cheshire Relief Fund

Mansion House

London 2<sup>nd</sup> Feb'y 63

Sir

I have much pleasure in acknowledging the receipt of your letter of 9<sup>th</sup> Jan'y enclosing the sum of £24.11.5 being an amount raised by the residents in the Village of Newcastle C.W. in aid of the Distressed Cotton Operatives of the Mother country. I am desir'd to convey the warmest thanks of this Lordship & the M. H. (*Mansion House*) Committee for this kind and generous assistance on behalf of the distressed poor in the Cotton Manufacturing districts of England.

A Walbridge Esq  
rec. of Newcastle  
C.W.

I am Sir  
Your Obed't  
Joseph Gibbs  
Secretary

Newcastle United Church received a call some time ago from Georgeanne Sproed. She's trying to find out information around her great-great-grandmother.

Steven Pearson and Elizabeth (nee Mowry) gave birth to Eliza Jane in Newcastle in 1857. That's all the information she has and was wondering, as Eliza Jane went to church when it was the Methodist Church, if we could provide her with any other family information.

Have any of you ever come across these names. Her e-mail address is gdsproed@aol.com. Her telephone number is 360-573-3115 which is apparently the Bellingham, Washington area in the USA.

Thanks for any help you might be able to give her.

*Submitted by Erla Jose*

## Major Samuel Street Wilmot

Excerpted from *Upper Canada Sketches* by Thomas Conant 1898 Courtesy Bowmanville Museum

### A Wealthy Surveyor

Major Wilmot was one of the early settlers and lived near Newcastle, Durham County. He married the daughter of John Steigman (sic) a surveyor. From him he learned field surveying, and did many years' work for the Government. A relative of mine lived for years with Wilmot and was to have been his heir\*, but left him too soon. He told me that Wilmot was implicitly trusted by the Government, and often he had gone out surveying with him, and many times to York to make reports to the Government. During these years of surveying Wilmot picked out many desirable lots for himself, and ultimately got a title to them all. Consequently, as you may easily understand, he became a very rich man. Asa Wallbridge lived near him, upon a very large farm. This neighbour was the forefather of all the Wallbridges in this part of Upper Canada, a most influential family. Both these farm homesteads were overflowing with abundance - great houses, many cattle, sheep, hogs and horses, and everything which then represented a rich and prosperous home yet, my relative said, Wilmot would pack provisions in a one-horse waggon, stow in his compass (the theodolite had not come into use at that time ), tripod and chain, sit down in the bottom, and take the young man, my relative, with him to spend a

whole week in surveying, perfectly happy and contented.

One day they were passing Wallbridge's about the usual pig-killing time, and Wilmot accosted Wallbridge thus: "Good morning Mr Wallbridge; would you like to buy some pork?" "No, Mr. Wilmot," was the reply, " I have as much pork as you have." Then Wilmot added facetiously, "We (sic) thought perhaps you wanted some grease to try your pork in," thus intimating that Waibridge's hogs had not a reputation for fatness.

These men with their families lived most enjoyable lives, happy, free and contented, with the greatest of plenty of homely fare. But as Wilmot grew older Newcastle grew, and the forest was cleared; the settlers became more and more and prosperous; well-built houses replaced the log houses, carriages the pioneer-cart, and other luxuries of civilization became the daily portion of the people. Yet on a fine morning Wilmot would hitch a yoke of oxen to a cart bestride the axle, and having secured a long gad, would drive into the village post-office at Newcastle and home again. Carriages and horses he could not take to, although then a very wealthy man.

# **The Elliott Museums**

*By*

*Myno Van Dyke*

First, we will start with a bit of family history. George Elliott Sr. was born in England in 1819 and came to Port Granby in 1834. He accumulated some land on the Broken Front as well as on Concession One and Two. He had three children, George Jr., Arthur and Henry. Arthur was born in 1848 and married a Port Granby girl, Margaret Stainthorpe and they set up a home there filling it with seven children. They had Herbert, Bruce Sr., Minnie, Ada, Roma, Edna and Winnifred. Bruce Sr., married Luella August Wade (daughter of Symons Wade) and they raised six children; DeWayne, Bruce Jr., Jack, Harward, Norma and Francis (unfortunately, a daughter, Blanche, died in childhood). Bruce Jr. married Winnifred Jones and they had five sons; George (married Helen Morton), Russell (married Audrey Bickle) Donald (married Edna Denault), Bruce (married Carol Cox) and Robert (married Mary Bevan).

In 1926 Bruce Elliott left the family farm and bought a piece of property on the “King’s Highway” a mile or so east of the village of Newtonville for \$250. Bruce wanted to work on cars and this purchase set his dream in motion.

In those days the old Highway Two was just a gravel two lane road but it was the main route between Montreal and Toronto. Bruce took advantage of this busy road and started selling gasoline. He installed four pumps, each representing a different brand; Shell, B/A, Goodrich Bluestar and Sunoco. Folks in those days were very loyal to their “brand” of gasoline and by doing this Bruce was able to satisfy them all.

In 1929, Bruce married the girl from the farm next door, Winnifred Jones. The following year there was a considerable expansion in the business. Bruce’s brother Jack joined the business and they obtained a “wrecking licence”. Now Bruce would travel around the countryside with his tow truck and bought up wrecks and derelict cars, which were stored on the property behind the garage. They also repaired vehicles (making good use of the many spare parts they were accumulating) in their “shop” on the north side of Highway Two and they also opened “tourist cabins” next door to the garage. Even though this was now the “depression years” business went well for Elliott’s garage.

When Canada was involved in WW2, a significant change took place at the Elliott’s Garage. The war effort required scrap metal and Bruce received work that they wanted all of his scrap cars. Bruce was not pleased. He traveled to Ottawa and argued that he should be allowed to keep his scrap vehicles in Newtonville. His argument was that new parts for cars and trucks were now in short supply and the public needed his used parts. He also promised that he would find scrap metal for them in lieu of the cars he had in his yard. They finally capitulated and agreed to let him keep the vehicles.

When WW2 began, Canada was hard-pressed for military vehicles. Soon production began at General Motors in Oshawa and other factories to supply jeeps, trucks and other specialized military vehicles. Four-wheel drive was unheard of until this time. Also around this time, in 1946, Bruce's son George began working in the business, followed by younger brother Don in 1951.

After the war, Bruce started buying up surplus military vehicles. Local farmers really liked the four-wheel drive trucks and jeeps, especially for bush work. Many of them had not been used at all during the war and were virtually new. The Elliott's brought in surplus vehicles from army bases all over Ontario. These federal auctions of surplus military vehicles continued for a number of years after the war.

In 1958, the Elliott's faced a new challenge. The "401". The new highway was slowly being build and now the bulk of the traffic from Toronto to Montreal by-passed the pretty little village of Newtonville. Before long the gasoline sales and motel/cabins business was drying up. Now what?



1931 photo shows the cabin sign and you can see the addition to the business



These photos were scanned from Old Auto's article Dec. 15, 2003 and Newcastle Reporter, Sept. 2003. George is on left with glasses, Don on right..

1928 shows Bruce Elliott standing to the right with one of his four gas pumps



## Board of Directors 2004

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