



Newcastle Village and District Historical Society Newsletter

Summer 2007 - Issue # 89

COMING EVENTS

Every Tuesday & Saturday 9AM to Noon

As you know, our room in the Community Hall is open to the public every Tuesday morning. For some time your directors had discussed also having the room open at a time more convenient for school children and those who work during the day. We are now open to the public every Saturday morning as well as every Tuesday.

30 Aug 2007

Our 2006 Sesqui "Memory Books" have arrived!! Page after page of full colour photos depicting the events in Newcastle during 2006. Everything from the Polar Dip to the Santa Claus parade; and of course the July long weekend when Newcastle pulled out all the stops and threw a huge three day party. The books are available in both soft and hard cover and may be ordered from the Village Card & Gift Shop or at the Historical Society Room on Tuesday or Saturday mornings and will also be available at our tables at the Fall Fair in Orono, the Heritage Fair in Oshawa and the Fall Festival in Newcastle.

Watch the local papers & your e-mail for the date of our official book launch party, which will be held, at a date to be announced shortly, in September.

Sept 6, 7, 8 & 9 2007

Fall Fair at Orono. Come see our display in the arena. A new addition this year to our genealogical information is a full transcription of the 1871 census for all of Clarke Twp. We will also have on display some 19th century agricultural equipment recently donated by Ron Locke.

Sept 30, 2007

Heritage Fair, McLaughlin Public Library in Oshawa. The NV&DHS will have a table of genealogical material there again this year. Drop by and visit and take in the other displays too.

Oct 7, 2007

Newcastle Fall Festival. Our room in the Community Hall will be open to visitors all day and will feature a Fall Harvest display. We are also planning to conduct several walking tours of the village.

Nov 11, 2007

Remembrance Day. Our room in the Community Hall will be open to visitors all day and be filled with a special Remembrance Day display. Those who have taken in the previous two years' display know that we put on a good one so don't miss this one. Also, if you have any items of a military nature, from the American Revolution to the Korean War and wouldn't mind lending them for the day, please contact your Society's curator, Leslie Wilson, at 905 983 5890.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

This has been at times a very hot summer - hot enough that having our room open on some Tuesday or Saturday mornings was something your president deemed potentially dangerous to room attendants and therefore cancelled a few of them. Bev Jeeves brought her music camp students in one day and they enjoyed looking at the photos and articles of things musical in the village during the 19th and 20th century. Ron Locke had recently donated a box of mostly iron items found over the years in the fields, flower beds and vegetable gardens on his property and as they'd spent the past 150 years or so in the ground anyway there seemed little reason not to let the children handle them. The kids had a grand time trying to guess what each thing had once been used for but were a bit disappointed to learn that something they took to be tomahawks were simply mundane lath & roofing hammers!

"Harbour House", the residence of members Herb and Florence Taylor, as many of you know has been sold. The present owners are among our more recent members and are looking forward to making further restoration of their new home. We also welcome Maria Kordas as a new member. I hadn't seen Maria in years, but recognized her immediately. Both she and I call Clarke High School our alma mater.

Ed Vanhaverbeke has been doing amazing things with the old brick buildings at 101 King Avenue West; known to village residents for years as "*The House of All Nations*". We will probably have to come up with a new name for it soon as the restoration and renovation work is quickly turning what had become an eyesore into a very attractive building both inside and out. One of your Directors, Judith Clapperton, has already opened The Village Linen Cupboard on the ground floor of the east section of 101 King Ave W. Drop in and check out the line of linens and specialty items she is carrying as well as the restoration work.

Does anyone have or know the whereabouts of any photograph of the building? The society is especially interested in ones taken prior to 1900. However it seems 101 King Ave West wasn't a popular subject to photograph at any point in the 20th century either therefore we are interested in any photos of the building; no matter how recent.

RECENTLY DONATED

Grain Cradle from the Beman farm	among several items donated by Ron Locke
Newcastle Mills Account Book	among several items donated by Herb & Florence Taylor
Photographs - 1879 - of Walls home & family	by David Walls of Holly Michigan

In the next issue we will feature an article about the Walls family of 19th century Newcastle and the recent visit by David & his wife to our room.

Newcastle Village & District Historical Society Executive for 2007

President	Leslie Wilson	905 983 5890	c/o GBjeeves@rogers.com
Past President	Myno Van Dyke	905 987 5482	myno@sympatico.ca
Secretary	Beverley Jeeves	905 987 5180	GBjeeves@rogers.com
Treasurer	Francis Jose	905 987 4789	gladibrae@sympatico.ca

Directors: Carl Good, Judith Clapperton, Helen Schmid, Alan Kirby, Farncomb LeGresley, Sanford Watts Haskill, Ron Locke and Don Brown

Please check your receipts to see if you've paid your 2007 annual dues. (We know many of you haven't!)

Mail your cheque to: Newcastle Village & District Historical Society
Attn: Ron Locke
Unit 3, 20 King Ave. W
Newcastle ON
L1B 1H7

THE HERRIMAN DOCTORS

Nathaniel Herriman Jr, who was born in 1758 in Chesterfield MA or Norwich CT and died ca 1810 in NY state, was the progenitor of three generations of Herriman doctors of Ontario. In May of 1797 the Herriman family arrived in Hamilton Twp U.C. from Rupert VT. A month later something happened that is worthy of Ripley's "Believe it or Not"; their little daughter Diadama went missing and was believed by the family to have been abducted by Indians. About 1816 a young white woman, raised on the Six Nations Reserve near Brantford, married a native man of the area. Her children used the surname Herriman and claimed their mother's given "white name" was Diadama!

Nathaniel's wife was understandably devastated by the mysterious loss of Diadama and possibly because she could no longer bear the thought of living on the lot allocated them near present day Cobourg, they moved to Cramahe Twp where at least three of their remaining four daughters married local men before the elder Herrimans and their younger children returned to the USA in 1806/07. Their eldest son, John Clarriman Herriman, by 1807 was 24 years of age and living in Darlington Twp. He was married there that year to Elizabeth, a daughter of Daniel Lighthouse II, U.E. of Darlington, and continued to live in Darlington until 1811 at which time he may have returned to the USA to settle his recently deceased father's estate. (His brothers Luther & Nathaniel III served in Canada during the 1812-15 War, but there is no record of J.C. Herriman having served on either side.) In 1821 J. C. Herriman and his younger brother Luther, with their wives & children, were living in Clarke Twp on Lot 20 Conc 01 but had left Clarke by the spring of 1825.

It is not known where John Clarriman Herriman and Luther Herriman studied to become medical doctors, but by the 1830s, if not earlier, they were physicians. About 1835 or so Dr J C Herriman moved to Green Bay WI and as yet no further records of him have been found. Dr Luther Herriman remained in Ontario and lived in the Cobourg area until the late 1840s / early 1850s when he was again back in Clarke Twp where he and his family were enumerated in 1851 as residents of the Orono area. For some reason Dr Luther was enumerated that year as a yeoman rather than a physician. At the time his son, W. L. Herriman, was noted as being a resident of Toronto but his younger son, Elbridge Albert Herriman, age 18, was still living at home with him.



Dr Weston LeRoy Herriman
First Secretary of the Children's Aid Society

Weston LeRoy Herriman was born Dec 23rd 1831 in Hamilton Twp, in or near Cobourg, to Dr Luther Herriman & his 2nd wife, Abigail Dean. He attended local schools and then taught school for a while before studying medicine at King's College, then Trinity College, and finally Queen's University where he, (with seven others from Trinity College) graduated in 1855, at the head of his class.

"I have been asked why we left Toronto and came to Kingston to graduate," he said. "For two years, I attended lectures in the medical department of old King's College, which then became defunct by Act of Parliament and, being forced to leave King's College, I went to Trinity College medical school and attended lectures for one session. That being the end of three years of studies, I was allowed to be examined in certain subjects, and if I passed, I would be done with them. I understood that all prospective graduates must subscribe to the '39 articles' of the creed of the Church of England, but after passing, I was told I could not graduate unless I was a bona fide member of the Church of England, which I was not. I was born a Methodist, have lived a Methodist, and am likely to die a Methodist. So, I and others had to seek shelter elsewhere. We came to Queen's and graduated without any religious test." -Dr W. L. Herriman, last surviving member of the Class of '55; at Queen's Medical School 50th year jubilee celebrations; Queen's Medical Quarterly 1905

After his graduation Dr Weston L. and his father appear to have practised together in Orono until Dr. W.L. and his brother Elbridge A. (by then also a physician) served with the Union Army at Lincoln Hospital in Washington D.C. When the American Civil War ended the brothers returned to Canada. Dr E. A. practised in Lindsay until he and his family moved to Grand Forks North Dakota in 1883/84. Dr W. L. upon his return lived & practised in Newcastle.

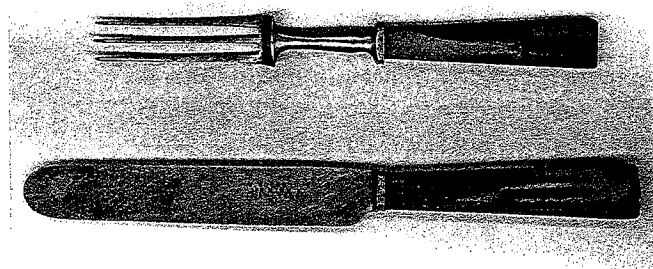
Dr W. L. Herriman was twice married, both times to daughters of Nathan Choate of Hope Twp and it may have been for that reason he bought a house in Port Hope in 1871. How much time, if any, he spent in the house until the mid 1880s is uncertain. About 1884 or so Dr Alfred Farncomb set up his medical practice in Newcastle and Dr W.L. Herriman took up permanent residence & medical practice in Port Hope until 1897 when he sold his Port Hope house to his eldest son and set up a practice in Lindsay Ontario. Dr W.L. Herriman died in Lindsay on Oct 14th, 1908 in his 77th year.

In 1867/68 the eldest son of Dr W. L. Herriman was born, probably in or near the village of Newcastle, and in due course he followed his father, uncle, grandfather and great uncle into the medical profession. He was to perhaps have a greater and more lasting influence than all of them combined; for Dr William Choate Herriman was the founding director of the Ontario Hospital - now known as the Clarke Institute.

THREE TABLE KNIVES & THREE MATCHING FORKS

From the estate of Lena Kimball/Graham [1918-2006]

They are estimated at this time to have been made circa 1840 to 1860 and possibly purchased locally; if not from a Newtonville or Newcastle merchant, perhaps one in Port Hope or Cobourg. However, more research is required as the "wineglass neck" of the forks could suggest a much earlier, possibly even late 18th century, date. The shape of the handles of the knives is one that continues to be used by many cutlers to this day.



The handles are neither wood nor bone but horn. The tang or shaft of the steel extends all the way through the handle and then was peened at the end. Also a brass pin was inserted through the horn and the steel tang at the half way point on the handle. These precautions ensured that the horn has not, in a 150 years or more, parted company from the business end of its steel partner.

In the 1850s, then as now, these humble tableware items were not as expensive as sterling silver ones; but this place setting for three probably represents a week (or more) of wages for the average person of that era.

They are stamped: W WOODHOUSE 133 High Street Harnesdale

in 1593 an ELIZABETH WOODHOUSE of Sheffield, Yorkshire England - married master cutler LIONAL GARDINER
in 1643 a WILLIAM WOODHOUSE - cutler of Ecclesfield Yorkshire, died
in late 17th to early 18th century a JOSEPH WOODHOUSE - was a cutler of note at the Sheffield cutlery works
in 1737 a WILLIAM WOODHOUSE - was a witness to the will of John Bullus, a cutler of Sheffield, Co York England

Well into the 19th century the surname WOODHOUSE was still associated with the Sheffield Cutlery Works.

It is perhaps not unreasonable to suggest that W. WOODHOUSE of 133 High Street Harnesdale (a district of London) was related in some way to the Woodhouse cutlers of Sheffield. Although he did not stamp his wares as 'Sheffield' the steel in these knives and forks is of a quality that would have been readily recognized by British and Colonial customers alike as being, or at least equal to, Sheffield steel. He may well have purchased steel 'blanks' from the Sheffield works in Yorkshire.

SHEFFIELD STEEL

By the 14th century, Sheffield was becoming noted for its manufacture of quality knives, and Chaucer's miller carried a Sheffield knife in the Canterbury Tales. By the 16th century, the city was producing a wide variety of cutlery, and it was Thomas Boulsover's invention of Sheffield Plate (silver-plated copper), in the early 18th century, that made Sheffield world renowned. Cutlery made of Sheffield steel was regarded highly in 19th century England.

Sheffield's Assay Office opened in 1773, and [continues to] stamp precious metals with the city's crown mark.

Sheffield has an international reputation for steel-making, which dates from 1740, when Benjamin Huntsman discovered the crucible technique for steel manufacture, at his workshop in the district of Handsworth. This process had an enormous impact on the quantity and quality of steel product and was only made obsolete, a century later, in 1856 by Henry Bessemer's invention of the Bessemer Converter which allowed the true mass production of steel. Bessemer had moved his Bessemer Steel Company to Sheffield to be at the heart of the industry. A more recent major Sheffield steel invention was that of stainless steel by Harry Brearley in 1912, and the work of Profs. F. B. Pickering and T. Gladman throughout the 1960's, 70's and 80's was fundamental to the development of modern high strength low alloy steels. - source, Wikipedia

DOES ANYONE HAVE THE ANSWER TO THIS PUZZLE ?

1877 Nov 07 "BELWOOD's(sic) man" buried 08 Nov St George's Register

This cryptic entry in the register at least tells us the sex of the following:

1877 Nov 07 , age 31 yrs broken stone Bond Head Cemetery

In the history business the answer to one question frequently leads to at least one more. In this particular case that is, why did "Bellwood's man" die on the same day as:

1877 Nov 07 BELLWOOD, MARY ELIZABETH age 22 yrs 6 mon Bethel/Bellwood Cemetery
daughter of Charles Bellwood & his wife Minerva Ann Munro

If anyone happens to be rooting around in the Ontario Vital Statistics/Death Registrations for 1877 Clarke Twp, keep your eyes peeled for the name of a 31 year old man who died on 07 Nov of that year and the cause of not only his death but that of young Mary Elizabeth Bellwood too. The NV&DHS would really like to know the answer!

A QUESTION ANSWERED

1866 Jan 09 MILLS(?), JAMES age 1 year 4 months & 14 days Bethel/Bellwood Cemetery
son of Wm & Sarah

By the time the remaining stones in this little cemetery on the Third Concession at the 115 Highway were recorded the transcribers were unsure as to what the boy's surname had been as the stone was badly worn. On 21 August 2007 it was confirmed by David Walls of Holly Michigan as "Jamie" WALLS, son of William Walls & his wife Sarah Smedley.

CALLING ALL MEMBERS

We desperately need **proof readers**. This can be done at home at your leisure. We provide you with photocopies or on-line images of the original and a copy of the transcription. The task is to compare the transcription against the original and note any errors or omissions on the transcription copy.

We will also soon need people to help us catalogue our holdings. This is expected to take a year or more as everything must be marked with a code that refers back to a master catalogue which will be both hard copy and digital. Many of our articles must also be photographed. Some of the skills required (but not all skills required of every volunteer of course) are: neat handwriting, sew a straight basting stitch by hand, data entry and photography.

Do we have any re-finishers? For about a year your curator was supposed to have been working on removing the paint from an infant's cradle and returning it to the original finish. Mea culpa, but it's not done yet! Also, many of the wooden parts of our agricultural implements require a coat of beeswax to be applied and the iron parts treated with strong tea. The curator can show you how this is done if you are willing to try your hand at it but are unfamiliar with the process.

Photography combined with driving or walking more your thing? Our next publishing endeavour (now that the 2006 picture book is finally off the press) will be a book of Newcastle and area buildings explaining the historical and or architectural significance of them and at least one photo of each building. A few we hope to include interior photos as well. The exterior photos, in most cases, must be taken between mid November and late April as the leaves of trees and bushes obscure the facades of many of the buildings.

Perhaps research is up your alley - we need **article writers** for the newsletter. Pick any local topic of interest to you, research it and write up a half page or so.

We are also looking for **room volunteers** for Tuesday and Saturday mornings. If you can spare two to three hours give our secretary a call with your available times. Duties include everything from greeting visitors and encouraging them to sign our guest book and perhaps deposit a dollar or two in the donation basket to polishing silver and dusting shelves. It's an excellent opportunity to acquaint yourself with the items held by your society.

MAPLEHURST

It is amazing to watch the growth of Newcastle and surrounding area. What fifty years ago was a little rural village of about six hundred inhabitants is now a community that will soon reach the ten thousand mark if it hasn't already. Among the properties that will soon see big changes is the south half of Lot 35 Concession 02 - the home of Ron Locke.

The 1808 census/assessment indicates EBENEZER HARTWELL living there at that time in a one storey house made of round log. The 1809 census/assessment indicates Ebenezer had 2 one storey houses of round log. One of two houses was a tavern. During the 1812-1815 War, Aecheaus Moody Farewell served as a despatch rider. He carried despatches from Jabez Lynde's tavern, seven miles (*to the west of his home*) west, in Whitby Twp, and HARTWELL's TAVERN, 12 miles east, near the location of Newcastle. Belden Atlas of N&D, 1878

The land was sold in 1817 to Jabez Lynde of Whitby Twp who sold it in 1824 to SAMUEL STREET WILMOT. Although ownership of the south 160 acres of Lot 35 Conc 02 was not registered in the name of ALLAN WILMOT until 1850, he had probably assumed "proprietorship" of the property by 1830 or so. A title search of the 10 acres in the south east corner of the lot in 2007 purportedly indicated the present house was built in 1831 although Allan was not married until 1833/34 and, according to his daughter Elizabeth/Lizzie Wilmot, built the house after his marriage. "At the age of 29 father [ALLAN WILMOT *born November of 1804*] courted and won the favour of Julia Ann Turner (The Fair Maid of Quinte) and rode regularly the long journey to Belleville to visit her. He used to tell us as he neared his destination he would draw his horse up by some road side pool and tidy himself by the shining water. After his marriage he lived with Grandfather [*Samuel Street Wilmot*] until the big timbered and wide boarded farm house was built [*on Lot 35 Conc 02 immediately to the west of the Anglican cemetery*] when it and one hundred and sixty acres of land became his and he proceeded his own way and founded a large family." - Aunt Lizzie Reminiscences



Maplehurst circa 1990: the home of Allan Wilmot, the Samuel Rickard family and Ron & Betty-Lou Locke

In 1895 SAMUEL RICKARD purchased the property and named it "MAPLEHURST". With Sam's death in 1934 it passed to his son NORMAN RICKARD and when Norman died it passed to his daughter WINNIFRED RICKARD-WERRY who died in 1966. Ron Locke purchased the south east ten acres of the lot, the part on which the barns and house stood. However, Ron & Betty-Lou will be moving as their land as well as most of the original Allan Wilmot farm were purchased this summer by Algoma Orchards who intend to move their base of operations to that location; that is assuming they can find a good source of water!