



NEWCASTLE VILLAGE AND DISTRICT HISTORICAL SOCIETY

NEWSLETTER - MARCH /APRIL 1989

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SIGNS OF SPRING - With the longer days, and the vagaries of March telling us that spring is around the corner, we look to our old newspapers to see what happened in March and April in earlier years. On April 12th of 1906 we find Joseph Coulson has been sick, but his friends "are pleased to see him on duty at the Corner Store once more."

Joe had noticed the change in season, and was prepared with a business like thought for the women of the community. He suggested that "Now is the time when busy women get sewing out of the way to clear the decks for action in house cleaning. We are ready with Spring Goods, first shipment just arrived." And to tempt his customers out into the fresh air, he pointed out that "the cases of new goods are here and next week we will show them to you in our East window, so you can have your Easter choice made in good time." He then went on to say, "we are always pleased to show the goods. Don't be afraid to come in if you don't wish to buy, your presence testifies to your kindly interest."

One message that the villagers of Newcastle got that spring from their Orono News, that meant more to them than to most of us, was that "Jean is getting his driver in shape and some of the fair ones are anticipating a pleasant time this summer." There can't have been too many men in 1906, in Newcastle, called Jean! Can any of our readers guess who it was?

April was the month to get the Barrel Factory working again. In the News, of April 26th 1906, we are told that two car loads of staves had arrived at the Factory, and Manager Robinson expected to "commence manufacturing barrels on Monday week."

Easter brings an opportunity as well as a reason, to face spring weather, and do some travelling. Mrs Colwell left on a Monday in April 1906 for Ashcroft, B.C., on a visit to her husband who was on the G.T.R. survey. Miss Mary Mulligan was also on the move, returning home from Toronto, and Wilmot Thorne arrived from New York to attend the wedding of his sister, Eileene Thorne, who was marrying D.B.Simpson of Bowmanville.

In April of 1907, a sure sign of spring was that Capt Goldwin "put the canvas on the Helen, getting ready for the lake season," and at the same time, the Viking made its first trip from Newcastle to the city with a cargo of gravel. Not only was the waterfront busy, the Council had "messrs Tom Quinlan & Son fixing up the streets with the grader drawn by their traction engine."

And the true sign of a Canadian spring..."April 18, 1907: New Maple Syrup, at W.Wagstaff's store.

WHO BUILT THE BOND HEAD HOUSES? - One mystery, in the history of Newcastle, is the collection of empty houses said to be in Bond Head at the beginning of the 1840's!

The original source of the information seems to be "SMITH'S CANADIAN GAZETTEER," published in Toronto in 1846. Coles brought out a reprint of the Gazetteer in their Canadiana Collection, just prior to 1970. The paper-bound volume, containing a little more than 280 pages, carries a description of the contents on the front cover, and it is said to contain, "Statistical and General Information Respecting All Parts of the Upper Province, or Canada West." All the towns and principle villages in the province at that time, are described, along with details of stage and steamboat fares; principle hotels and taverns; lists of exports; quantity of crown land for sale in each township, as well as "a mass of other desirable and useful information for the man of business, traveller, or emigrant."

A description of Newcastle is found on page 124 : "A pretty little Village in the township of Clark, five miles east from Bowmanville, and seventeen from Port Hope; it contains about 300 inhabitants. Churches and chapels two, viz., Methodist and Congregational. There is an Episcopal church a mile and-a-half from the village. Post Office, post every day. Professions and Trades.-Eight stores, one druggist, two tanneries, two taverns, one axe factory, two saddlers, four blacksmiths, two waggon makers, four tailors, two shoe makers."

All the villages and towns are listed in alphabetical order, and on page 17 we find a list of the exports from Bond Head harbour, along with a general description: "A Village and Shipping place on Lake Ontario, one-and-a-half miles from the village of Newcastle; contains about fifty or sixty houses, which are very much scattered; about one third of which are unoccupied; no store open; one tavern open; two or three shut up. There is a considerable quantity of marsh about the harbour. There is in the village an Episcopal Church, and a grist mill.

So the question arises, "who built the houses in Bond Head!"

In the land deed records, which can be found on microfilm at the Ontario Archives, an Indenture, #3503, of March 16th 1837, describes how Henry Ruttan, Sheriff of Cobourg, seized lands belonging to Richard Every, and sold them at public auction. The land consisted of the south half of Lot 27, in the 1st Concession, Clark Twp, and Lot 27, Broken Front.

In both historical and modern terms, Bond Head can probably be described as being "all the land situated in Lot No.27, Broken Front, between the Lake and the railway tracks, and that part of Lot No.28, between Mill Street and Graham Creek, also from the Lake to the railway tracks." So the property Sheriff Ruttan was selling in 1837, was the bulk of the land that became Bond Head. The "south half of Lot 27, in the 1st Concession," would be the property from Metcalfe Street, to just above the present day 401 highway.

The public sale took place on Saturday, March 4th, 1837, and the highest bidder was George Manners, of Haldiman County, who paid Three Hundred Pounds for the property. The witnesses to the indenture included a student at law, Robert Armour, of Cobourg, George Hamilton Grierson, of Cobourg, and Deputy Sherrif Charles Ruttan, Gent.

Three years before the sale, Richard Every, of the Twsp of Clarke, Yeoman, took out a mortgage, with the Bank of Upper Canada, on these same two sections of land, described as being 200 acres in size. The mortgage, registered as No.2687, was for 309.17.03.

In paying Three Hundred Pounds, George Manners appears to have paid a reasonable price, and it is likely that he was buying "a farm." The old John Every farm, in fact, with a modest house, and a few outbuildings, probably not in the best of condition.

The public sale took place in March of 1837. One year and nine months later, in December 1838, George Manners, of Haldimand sold the 200 acres to George Strange Boulton and Benjamin Clark, both of Cobourg, and Robert Chas Manners, of Haldimand Twsp. The date was December 12th, 1838.

In between the two sales however, the Bond Head Harbour Company had been formed. The act incorporating the Company was passed on the 6th of March, 1838, having been sponsored, and carried in the assembly of Upper Canada, by the member from Cobourg, George Strange Boulton.

Details can be read in the Upper Canada Gazette: "Whereas the prosperity of the Newcastle District would be materially advanced, and be highly advantageous to the public, should a Harbour be erected in the Township of Clark....And whereas from a survey made by N.H. Baird, Civil Engineer, of Lots 27 and 28, of the said Township, the front of said lots is considered a most desirable situation for the erection of a Harbour; And whereas George Manners, and others, have a petition....be it therefore enacted....That the said George Manners, Benjamin Clark, Hervey P.Andrews, Donald McTavish, Alexander Jack, Henry Munro, Edward Clark, A.Wilmot, John Middleton, George G.Boswell, Daniel Perry, R.H.Catherwood, Asa E.Walbridge, William McIntosh, William Brock, Jael Beman, Richard Lovekin, Samuel Street Wilmot, together with all such other persons as shall become stockholders.....be a body corporate....under the name of "The President, Directors and Company, of the Bond Head Harbour Company."

There are another 17 sections to the act, and they stipulate that the Company shall be authorized to construct a Harbour in front of lots 27 and 28... which shall be fit, safe and commodius....to erect all such moles, piers, wharves, buildings and erections whatsoever, as shall be useful....that the Directors are empowered to contract with the owners of land through which they may determine to cut and construct the Harbour. The Company has full power to demand tolls, and these are given for a long list of items, including: pot & pearl ash, per barrel, six-pence; pork, whiskey, salt beef and lard, per barrel, four-pence; merchandize, per ton, five shillings.

Passage of the act came in the third session of the assembly, in the 1st year of the reign of Queen Victoria.

The above would seem to be at variance with any tradition that Charles Clarke bought property from the Every (or Avery) family.

We then find a sale dated 20th December, 1840, in which George S. Boulton, Benjamin Clarke & Robt Chas Manners, the latter said to be a merchant, of Bond Head, sell two lots on the north east corner of Mill Street and Queen St, in Bond Head, to John Amiot, Inn Keeper, of Port Hope. The land that Amiot was buying, appears to be part of the property now owned by Horace Walton-Ball. Sale price was \$50. This mention of Robert Charles Manners is the earliest record, found so far, that names a resident of Bond Head.

Nineteen days after the sale to Amiot, Benjamin Clarke, of Cobourg, and his wife Harriet, and Robt Chas Manners, and his wife Mary Plummer, sell all their share in Bond Head property, with a small exception, to George S. Boulton, for One Hundred Pounds. All "the sth half of Lot 27, 1st Conc & all of Lot 27, Broken Front," excepting 8 acres, in the Broken Front, "5 chains north of Queen Street, owned by Clarke and Manners." This 5 acres is not described in detail.

All three gentlemen, Boulton, George & Robert Manners, were very active in buying and selling land in the Newcastle area. In March of 1842, Boulton sold 81 acres, Lot #5, in the Broken Front, Clarke Twsp, to Robert Charles Manners. By this sale, Boulton was actually selling to Manners, the as yet undeveloped townsite of Port Granby. At the same time Manners bought 2 acres of Bond Head land from Boulton, described as being south from the baseline road, between Manners and Victoria Streets, the latter now shown as "Prospect" on present day maps.

It might be useful at this point to say a word about maps. When property is sold in the Village of Newcastle, today, reference is made to the "Hanning Plan." More will be said about Hanning on another occasion, but his Plan dates from January 1868, and it indicates that the first street east of Mill St, running from Boulton at the water, to Silver Street, just south of the railroad right of way, is called Manners Street. On the Belden map, ten years later, that street is called Manvers, as it is on a planning maps of the Town of Newcastle of current date. This gives us two streets called Manvers, in Newcastle, the other running north from the junction of Mill and Wilmot Sts!

In the 1840's mention is made of "Land as surveyed by J.S. Donoly" and village lot numbers on the Donoly plan do not match lot numbers as laid out by Hanning.

In an agreement drawn up on the 10th of April, 1841, George S. Boulton made another sale to Amiot of land in Bond Head. The property consisted of 4 lots, 4/5 of an acre, between Boulton and Bond Streets, for \$400. The lot numbers do not agree with numbers on the Hanning plan, so for the moment it has not been established, just where they were located. Amiot paid fifty dollars down, and took out a mortgage for three hundred & fifty dollars.

In the above sale, Amiot is still said to be of Port Hope. However, in a sale of Sept 28th, 1844, he is described as "Inn Keeper of Bond Head." On this second occasion, he and his wife Elizabeth, sell the property at the corner of Mill and Queen to John Beverly Robinson, the younger, Esq, of Toronto, for \$75. The land was surveyed by J.S. Donoly. The sale was witnessed by Alexander McDonell, a yeoman of the Twsp of Clarke, and by James Henry, miller, of the Town of Bond Head.

In 1841, Boulton sold Bond Head property to John McChesney, Thomas Tamblin, Benjamin Clarke, Robert Roy, Wm Eakins, and D.E. Boulton. In 1842 sales were made to Robert C. Manners, G. Clifford, Robt Ballantyne, Lewis Moffat and Wm Metcalfe. In the period 1843 to 1845, buyers were Wm Eakins, Lewis Moffat, Robt A. Connolley, James Treleaven, Thos Henderson Jr, Alex Cavan Sr, Wm Lee Jr, Henry C. Boulton, Caroline Boulton, Wm S. Boulton, and Benjamin Clarke.

Looking at the other side of the street, the west side of Mill Street, Bond Head, was an original Crown Grant to King's College in 1828. That included all 84 acres, and who should King's College sell it to in 1843, but George Strange Boulton! He made two sales of this property in 1845, one to John Treleaven, and the other to John Curtis. Remember that this was land close to the Creek, swampy, and not so desirable. John Treleaven sold his 2/5 acres in January 1846, to Andrew McNaughton, the Newcastle merchant, and later the same year Boulton sold 6 acres on the west of Mill Street to Wm McIntosh, the mill owner on Mill Street.

On November 23rd, 1843, Boulton sold 3 lots to Richard Vaughan, Yeoman, of the Village of Bond Head. This was the land at Mill St and Metcalfe, where Vaughan established his blacksmith shop, and where he was joined by Daniel Massey.

In 1846 Stephen H Vaughan, carpenter, bought 2/5ths of an acre from Boulton, on Mill Street, in Bond Head. This was the "McEvoy" or "Harbour House" property now owned by the Taylors. John Treleaven, in the "Yates" house, would be Vaughan's backdoor neighbour.

A lot of names, and a lot of buying and selling! However, these details are the building stones for a better understanding of early days in Newcastle, and are worth some study.

Our search for Bond Head residents has so far uncovered the names of twenty some families. It will take a good deal of record reading to determine just what part each member of the village played in building the community, and who constructed the "fifty or sixty" houses.

GRANDMOTHERS AND GRANDFATHERS - Please! Would each member of the Newcastle Historical Society please write a dozen lines describing one of their grandparents, or their spouse's grandparents, and send it to: Herb Taylor, RR#3, Mill St Sth, Newcastle. You don't have to have known the grandparent, just a story you heard. The grandparent need not have lived in Newcastle, in fact, need not have lived in Canada at all! Please write today!

MY GRANDFATHER JOE TAYLOR - My grandfather was born near the town of Omagh, in Co Tyrone in Northern Ireland. He came to Canada as a child age 6, and we have the boat ticket, which lists the 9 people who travelled together. The ship was the Marchoness of Abercorn, and sailed from Londonderry for Quebec, on June 11, 1847. My grandfather had two brothers with the same name. That is, there was a brother called Willie, and another called William. Even my father didn't know how this happened, but a few years ago, I located a woman in California, a daughter of Willie Taylor, and she had the answer. She told me that Willie age 4, had been handed to the Taylors as they left Ireland to go to "a new and better life," and she asked that they take her son, but that they not change his name!

So there were two in the family! Willie, had been born a "McClintock," but was raised as a Taylor, and died a wealthy merchant in the States. Last September, my wife Florence and I, visited a Mrs McClintoch in Ireland, and were guided to a spot in Co. Tyrone, and thanks to the help from Mrs McClintock, Taylors stood again on Tullyrush Hill, for the first time in 141 years.

Herb Taylor - March 1989.

COLLECTORS' FAIR

Sunday, February 5 dawned sunny and bright and all roads led to Newcastle Community Hall for the Newcastle Historical Society's 1st Collectors' Fair. Soon after 9 a.m. the hall became a hive of activity as members, friends and collectors prepared for the exhibition. By 10:30 all was ready and visitors were already waiting at the door. Throughout the day a constant flow of spectators toured the approximately 30 exhibits viewing the artifacts, memorabilia and antique treasures, admiring the handicrafts, and reading historical records.

Over 400 people attended the event and comments from both exhibitors and visitors confirm this as probably the most successful project in the short history of our society. The success of the event is largely due to the efforts of Pat Macdonnell and Mabel Goode who planned and organized the event and our sincere thanks goes to them.

EXECUTIVE MEETING

The program for the May meeting of the society will be a showing of the video tape which Ron Locke recorded at our Collectors' Fair. This excellent film includes a view of every exhibit at the show and an interview with each exhibitor. So -- if you missed the show or were too busy with your own collection to see the others, you will have an opportunity to see it on May 15. (Another date for your calendar)

SUGGESTION BOX

Do you know someone that you would like to hear speak at one of our meetings?

Would you like the executive to find a speaker for a particular topic of interest to you or some of your friends?

Do you have ideas for a project you think our society should undertake?

Any other suggestions? If so, call the president at 987-4789 and let him know.

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