



NEWCASTLE VILLAGE AND DISTRICT HISTORICAL SOCIETY

NEWSLETTER - SEPTEMBER 1990

**

MARK YOUR CALENDER:

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Saturday, September 15th:- A tour of Sydenham Museum, Oshawa, at 1:30 p.m. Members will meet at the Community Hall, Newcastle, at 1:00 p.m. Those driving should take 401 to the Simcoe Street exit and travel south to Lakeside Park. The tour will take about one hour. The museum consists of three buildings and includes Guy House, now used as an office, built c.1835; Henry House, a restored period home, c.1870; Robinson House, a series of gallery exhibits. The museum, like the Oshawa harbour, was named after Charles Poulett, Lord Sydenham, who became governor in Canada in 1839. Sydenham opened Canada's first parliament in Kingston, Ontario, in June of 1841.

OUR 2ND COLLECTOR'S FAIR:

Sunday, October 21st, 11:00 to 4:30 - You will remember the great success of our first COLLECTOR'S FAIR, the result of the great effort put forth by YOU & the organizers, Mabel Goode and Pat Macdonnell. The 2nd can be just as successful if YOU WILL HELP! We have the same excellent team of GOODE/MACDONNELL but they need YOUR support. Members who can offer a helping hand in the kitchen...assistance with ticket taking...time to give "collectors" a break away from their collections...please call AUDREY GOGARTY, 987-4950, and offer your services.

There will be a "Members Table," and we would like to see items from your collection. Put together a sample of the china you have collected, or your shaving mugs, egg cups, souvenir spoons, dolls, gum cards, first editions, photographs, autographs, whatever!...and call MABEL, 983-5514, or PAT, 987-5411, to say that you will participate!

RECENT DONATIONS:

Some excellent gifts have just been received: Original deeds for his Bond Head property from Alden Wheeler; a jewelry case, from Grant Cooper and Anderson Smith & Co Ltd, manufactured in what was once the Massey Building; copies of an excellent collection of newspaper clippings from Nellie Garrod Haigh, giving details of early Newcastle and Bond Head history.

OUT OF THE MISTS, A History of Clarke Township, 338 pages, by Helen Schmid and Sid Rutherford will soon be out of print. Until the end of 1990 copies will be \$19.95 plus postage and handling. After that date \$21.95. Postage & handling: \$2.55 in Ontario; \$3.15 to West and Atlantic; \$3.60 to B.C.; \$5.30 to U.S.A.

FLIGG'S MILL - by Ken Stephenson.

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The long talks I had with Joseph Heard usually occurred in the evening. On this particular occasion my mother sent me out to the mailbox at the highway with a letter to be posted. Our box was just outside the old man's little cottage and the squeal of the mailbox door invariably brought him to look out and ask whoever it was, to come in for a chat. It was a cold night, in the winter of 1932-33 and I can recall vividly stepping through his door into the centre room, into the warm smell of the single coaloil lamp, the woodsmoke smell of the stove and strong tea. I mentioned that while swimming back at the creek (Graham) the previous summer, I had seen a washed out mill dam. That was the key to unlock his memory.

"Yes, you were looking at Solomon Fligg's mill dam. That would be lot 24 concesssion 2 Clarke. It was a very important place when I was young. All of the farmers east of Newcastle from the lakeshore to the fourth line, and east to Hope Boundry, brought their grist to be ground in that mill. The wagons from the south and east went up the road that is now cornered by the C.P.R. embankment, turned east at the creek and on up to the mill. From the north they came down an old right-of-way that's closed now. It came down beside Jim Fisher's land. Yes a very big pond."

The kettle sizzled softly on the stove in the quiet room. In the orange lamplight his kindly face seemed gaunt.

"Oh yes. Yes, I shot lots of ducks up at the east end of the pond where it was shallower. And a few pigeons. Not many. They were getting scarce." He got up to put a piece of wood on the fire and then reached behind a little partition and withdrew a single barrel caplock muzzle-loading shotgun. "I've had this gun since I was just a little older than you are," he said. "It's put a fair bit of meat in the pot."

And then it was time for me to leave, to step across the silent highway and the snow covered field, down into the valley and up the south side, through the woodshed and into the kitchen.

"You had a nice long visit," my mother said.

"Mr Heard showed me his muzzle-loading gun."

"That's nice."

Mothers are strange people.

Those were the years of depression. Of frozen Christmasses. My gift did not come on Christmas, but somehow my mother and brother arranged it, and I became the speechless owner of that old gun. Today it holds a place in my home and in the eyes of the family, that verges on the revered.

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NEWCASTLE ORCHARDS.

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In our last newsletter we asked if anyone knew what had happened to the Orchard family found living in Newcastle in the 1891 census. With several phonecalls and a couple of visits from neighbours, we found out! They went West. **

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THE ORCHARDS OF NEWCASTLE AND CANADA WEST:

Hilda Tamblin phoned to report on information found at the Clarke Museum. Hazel Crago and her husband Jack brought us genealogical information on the Orchard family, and their relations the Selbys, drawn up by Georgina Spies (nee Selby). They also brought a textbook written by W.J.Orchard who was listed as "school teacher" in the 1891 census record, and a collection of notes written by E.Dorrene Powell. Additional information was also found in old newspaper records:

** NEW STATESMAN, June 10 1896 - NEWCASTLE: Mrs A.G.Orchard, Winnipeg, who has been visiting her mother Mrs.A.Simmons has returned home. [Ed.Note: Mrs.A.G. was born Anne Simmons, and became the wife of Alfred Orchard, the "druggist" in the 1891 Newcastle census.]

We catch a glimpse of the Orchard family at an August wedding in the year 1898, also reported in the NEW STATESMAN:

*** ORCHARD-DAVEY...An event of more than ordinary interest took place in Leskard on Tuesday, August 9 in the marriage of Miss Ettie Davey. A large company of friends and relatives began to assemble at the residence of the bride's father early in the afternoon. At the appointed time the groom, Mr.W.J.Orchard, of Indian Head, Assa., entered the drawing room attended by his best man, Mr.J.W.Rickaby. The bride followed leaning on the arm of her father, handsomely attired in cream henrietta and satin and carrying a pretty flower bouquet. Miss Gertie Davey, bridesmaid, was becomingly gowned in cream and silk and wore a handsome pin, the gift of the groom. The ceremony was performed by Rev.W.H.Adams, the responses of the young couple being made in a clear voice as they took each other for better, or worse. After the ceremony the bride was the recipient of the hearty congratulations and best wishes of the large company present, and then adjournment was made to the dining room where a beautiful feast had been spread. Here post-prandial oratory was indulged in, speeches being made by the officiating clergyman and by Mr.R.Moment and others.*

All the important gifts appear to be listed, giving an interesting insight into what was appropriate for such an occasion in August of 1898.

Cheques were presented by John Davey, father of the bride, Mrs.Orchard, mother of the groom and Mr.& Mrs.Selby. Mrs.John Davey, mother of the bride, gave the young couple a dinner set. The grandmother of the bride gave a silver cake basket, while two brothers and a sister of the bride gave a glass fruit dish in silver with curry spoon, and a dozen silver forks; sisters of the groom gave a silver berry spoon; Harry Orchard, and his wife from Indiana, gave half a dozen silver coffee spoons. It was a happy day for the local silver merchants! Other gifts included: silver and gold berry spoons, a silver pickle cruet, a silver dinner cruet, a table lamp, a glass fruit dish, silver biscuit barrel, silk embroidered table centre piece with doylies, silver cake plate and silver cake basket, silver and glass cheese dish, silver syrup jug and tray, silver butter dish, a mantle clock, silver butter dish with knife, a \$5.00 gold piece, cheneille table cover, a china fruit set, a \$10.00 gold piece, a fancy china plate holder, two silver sugar spoons from two different guests, a linen table cloth, two art pictures framed in gold, a pair of towels, a dozen china butter dishes, a lamp mat, a handkerchief case and a glass butter dish. **

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As noted in an earlier newsletter, the Orchards were not the only ones moving West from Newcastle!

**** WEST DURHAM NEWS, April 1891 - NEWCASTLE:** *A Large number of people have left for British Columbia and the North West. W.MacIntosh sold tickets to R.Cowan, I.Coathain, Alex Laing, I.Ralph and Mat Clarke for Victoria, B.C.; to Anson Walton, Calgary; Chris Argall, Brandon; Miss Henry, Moosomin; Chas.Downing and Thos.Downing, Regina.*

HARVEST EXCURSIONS were offered by the Grand Trunk Railway System, and advertised in late summer newspapers. The same issue of the **NEW STATESMAN**, that announced the **ORCHARD-DAVEY** wedding had an ad for: **FARM LABORERS EXCURSIONS** to Winnipeg, Brandon, Portage la Prairie \$10. Also to points on Northern Pacific and Great Northern Railways...ticket must be used to destination by Aug 31st 1898. Good going from stations east of Toronto to Kingston, August 18. On surrender of Standard Certificates on or before November 16, return tickets will be issued for \$18. The route is over Grand Trunk and connections via Chicago and St.Paul...to Manitoba, Minnesota and North Dakota.

The same 1898 issue of the paper, under the heading **PLENTY OF WORK**, stated that: *According to the latest reports, there is a big scarcity of labor in Manitoba harvest fields. It is claimed that between 5,000 and 6,000 additional men are required and that the railways are experienceing much difficulty in obtaining that number.* ******
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WESTERN SETTLEMENT: Settlement of the Canadian prairies was peaceful compared with what happened south of the boarder. Many say this was due to the fact that in Canada law enforcement arrived before the settlers. Louis Riel and the Red River Rebellion of 1869-70 told Ottawa that the West would need a special type of military force. The Royal North West Mounted Police were formed in 1873 by the government of Sir John A. MacDonald.

Three years later, the Sioux in Montana, ambushed General Custer at Little Big Horn on June 25th 1876. That was "Custer's Last Stand," and Custer was in the west because white miners had invaded Sioux territory looking for gold. In 1876 the Americans spent \$20 million fighting the Indians. (At that time, the whole Canadian Budget was less that half that figure.) Canadian legislators opted for peace, and the Canadian equivalent of "The Last Stand" was Treaty No.6, the Fort Carlton-Fort Pitt Treaty of Aug/Sept 1876 with the Plains and Woods Cree.

An attempt to attract settlers to Manitoba and the Candian West in 1880 failed, largely because of unoccupied land in the U.S., and crop failures in Manitoba. From the **TERCENTENARY HISTORY OF CANADA**, published by Colliers in 1908, we are told that few settlers arrived in the Canadian Northwest prior to 1898, and it was in August of that year that Ettie Davey married William John Orchard. Prior to this, the northern counties in the States were settled and organized by immigrants from our North West who were dissatisfied with prospects in Canada.

By 1898 territory in North and South Dakota and Oklahoma was gone, and syndicates were formed by Americans and Canadians with assistance

