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NEWSLETTER - JANUARY 1992
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NEW OFFICERS...

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** Ring out the old! Ring in the new!
We have nominations for a new executive: President, Herb Taylor; Vice President, Loraine Lover; Treasurer, Jean Rickard; 2 Year Directors, Lynn Lovekin, Ron Locke, Denis Schmiegelow; Membership, Florence Taylor; Archives, Pat Macdonnell; Newsletter, Herb Taylor.

** Our Past President will be Francis Jose; 1 Year Directors will be Mabel Goode, Kay Stephenson, Ken Stephenson.

** We are looking for a Secretary and would be very pleased to hear from any volunteers!

JANUARY MEETING...

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On very short notice, a meeting has been arranged for this coming Monday, Hansel Monday.. Epiphany, January 6th, 1992, at 7.30 p.m., in the Lions Room at the Newcastle Community Hall.

Our guest speaker for the evening will be Professor James Lovekin, whose subject will be "*Indians and Early Settlers of Newcastle.*" It promises to be a very interesting evening. Coffee and cookies will be served.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING,,.

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The Annual General Meeting will take place this coming Monday, Jan 6th.. 7.30 p.m...the Lions Room, Newcastle Community Hall. Election of officers will take place. Further nominations should be given to Pat Macdonnell 987-5411, Francis Jose 987-4789, Herb Taylor 987-5433, or presented at the Annual General Meeting.

45th ANNIVERSARY...

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The Newcastle Lions Club will celebrate its 45th Anniversary on May 9th, 1992. Started in the United States, in 1916, Lions Club members dedicate themselves to helping "*those* less fortunate than themselves."

We had an interesting display featuring the Newcastle U
Lions Club in our show case in the Centennial Room
last year, put together by Pat Macdonnell and Mabel
Goode. Items, belonging to Mrs Goode, included an old
tie and hat, different pins, old calendars and a banner.



Mrs Goode also supplied a photograph showing the Charter members of the Newcastle Club. Two Historical Society members, George Walton and Ken Stephenson, were Charter members.

Over the years, several of our Historical Society members have served as presidents of the Lions Club. These including Ray Goode, Ron Locke, Dick Lovekin, Brenton Rickard, George Rickard & George Walton. Harold Gibson also served as president. Brenton Rickard, the current president, is serving a second term.

This is the time of year when we look back at the trail behind us, in an effort to guess where the path ahead may lead.

In this Newsletter, we take a brief look back, at our village, during the dying days of 1924 and the birth of 1925.

Headlines during 1924 told the villagers that...

- Regina: FRUSTRATED WESTERN FARMERS FORM CO-OP.
- Toronto: POSTAL WORKERS WALK OFF JOB.
- Toronto: LARGEST FINE EVER IN FORMER ONTARIO TREASURER FRAUD CASE.
- Boston: FIRST NHL GAME PLAYED OUTSIDE CANADA.
- Ottawa: MAJORITY OK'S FORMATION OF UNITED CHURCH.

The holiday season, and the New Year, found various members of the village with different concerns. Irene Baskerville wondered about a new job that she had accepted in Toronto. John Garrod wondered about the weather. He and a small army of boys had made a rink on the west lawn of the Community Hall so the young folk of the village were able "to enjoy Canada's national pastime to the limit." Merkley Clark, Chairman of the Newcastle Board of Education was trying to find out about winners of the Samuel Wilmot Gold Medal for the years 1901, 1905, 1906, 1908 and 1909, so the Board could frame a list and hang it in the school as a permanent record. [Editor's Note: We can all find out about the Medal on Monday night. Prof. James Lovekin won the Samual Wilmot Gold Medal a few years ago!]

Other members of our community... in 1925.. .with more time to ponder and larger fields to contemplate...had their thoughts echoed in the January 8th edition of the CANADIAN STATESMAN.

Times are changing, said the STATESMAN, and pointed out that post offices were being closed because of the new rural mail delivery service. Some "corner groceries" were also closing for the same reason. "The practice of farmers meeting at the post office for their mail and spending an hour or so chatting with neighbours.... has gone forever... The rural mail delivery daily has put those in country homes in touch with the wide world as few intelligent homes are without a daily paper. It is, too, a great convenience for prompt sending and receiving letters. Not many farmers would favour doing away with the rural mail service that they now enjoy."

Neu; Year's Greetings

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7(ENt) TOI THE24 4N35 TO ALL OUR
.READERS, VERY, tEsT WISHRS FOR A
:TADDDY AND PROSPEROUS NEW YEAR

.S. BRITTON,
&Grocei" Plowcal*

The CANADIAN STATESMAN went on to say: "Those of us who can go back in memory to country homes, habits and customs and forced self-denials and intellectual and physical hardships and inconveniences well realize the wonderful advances made in country life and conditions within a half-century.

"The Farmers' Advocate well says that family visiting seems to have followed most of our old-time methods into the scrap heap, where now repose many admirable though outdated customs.

Come to think of it, we are making startling advances Inside ten years it may be possible travelling by the air route, to spend a weekend in Europe and return to work without causing any more excitement than though we had gone from our home town to Toronto, London, Ottawa or other convenient town or city."

GOOD COKE is cheaper than wood and is the equal, to the best Coal. I have a scruply of the best Coke obtainable. Highest grade of Anthracite always on hand. Geo. Jamieson Newcastle
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The editor showed considerable insight, but like a lot of other people, he had no way of knowing what was going to happen to the price of a gallon of gasoline! In February of 1925, several hundred members of the Ontario Motor League went to Toronto to talk with Premier Ferguson, to protest a new tax of "two cents" to be placed on gasoline. They did not win their argument, and found to their horror that the tax was to be "three cents!"

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Two Newcastle residents who probably weren't thinking much about gasoline taxes were Bob and Martha Walton. They were married on the last day of the Old Year, December 31st, 1924. Bob Walton was a brother of George Walton, and their parents Mr & Mrs Anson Walton lived at the north west corner of King and North Streets. George Walton, who served as Reeve of our village for several years, is currently a member of our Historical Society.

"Mr Robert William Walton, Newcastle's popular West End Grocer, and Miss Martha Abar , Campbellford, were married Wednesday afternoon, in Bowmanville by Rev.J.U.Robins. The happy young couple left for the C.N.R. station, to take the train to Peterborough and Campbe/lford.

A party of friends from Newcastle motored with them to Bowmanville and showered them well with rice and confetti."

Bob Walton was not only a popular grocer in the community, he was also a popular singer, and the CANADIAN STATESMAN of January 1925 went on to point out that Bob "found time to devote to voice culture and has won high favour of late as a baritone soloist, having taken part in many programs in and outside of the village. He is also a good athlete and takes keen interest in baseball and hockey. His bride is the daughter of Mr and Mrs John Abar, of Campbellford, where Mr Abar is a successful merchant. As a school teacher Miss Abar taught succes fully for some years at one of the finest schools in Thurlow in close proximity to Belleville and since September has been teaching in Port Arthur. For two or three years Miss Abar has spent part of the summer vacation with Miss Janie Singer, Newcastle-on-the-Lake, and naturally made the aquaintance and won the friendship of many especially the young people in the village and vicinity. She is an accomplished musician."

The Waltons took only two days for a honeymoon and returned to Newcastle on the evening of January 2nd, accompanied by the bride's mother, They took up residence in their apartment in the Polkinghorne Block, which Bob had "*newly furnished in taste and elegance,*" and all Newcastle extended "*best wishes and congratulations to the groom and his popular bride.*"

The Walton wedding party may not have paid much attention to gasoline taxes, but they probably took note of the newly decorated railway station. Painters had just finished renovating and redecorating the waiting room and office of the C.N.R. making them "*bright and attractive.*" The trimmings and the hot water pipes which heated the rooms were all done in gold paint, with the result that Mr J.E.W.Philp, the genial station master, "*truly appears in his splendid domain, like a king in a gilded palace.*"

The "*Newcastle Independent,*" in 1925, was a two or three coloumn section on the last page of the CANADIAN STATESMAN. The information on the Walton-Abar "*YULETIDE MARRIAGE*" is from the Thursday, January 8th, 1925 edition of the *Newcastle Independent.*

The *Newcastle Independent* tells us that the "*Methodist Church held a prayer and watch night service New Year's eve. At midnight church bells and Newcastle's Big Ben in the tower of the Community Hall with one accord rang out the Old Year and in the New.*"

HAPPY NEW YEAR NEWCASTLE .

"*Happy and delightful family gatherings were held in many Newcastle homes and in the vicinity New Year's Day.*"

DIAMOND WEDDING...

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In 1924 and 1925 there were still a number of men and women living in Newcastle who had been children in early pioneer families. One of these was William Carter Blackburn, who lived on Mill Street, just south of what was then the Methodist Church. William Carter, born 1842, had one brother and five sisters. Their father, William Blackburn Sr, had owned the north half of Lot 35, Conc.4, in about 1846.

In 1925, the New Year started in Newcastle, with what the CANADIAN STATESMAN described as a "*unique occassion* in the home of Mr & Mrs W.Carter *Blackburn, Mill St.,* when the worthy couple celebrated the *60th* anniversary of their marriage." The celebration took place on January the 1st.

Mr Blackburn was one of the leading pioneer sheep breeders of the country. He specialized in Leicester sheep, was well known as a breeder and exhibitor, and the offspring of his flock formed the basis of many of the better flocks in the Province. He was said to be industrious and successful in general farming, and while living in Newcastle, in his retirement, he still retained an interest in the sheep bred and reared by his son Mark Blackburn.

The Blackburns left the family homestead when their son Fred married. They lived with their son Mark for a short period, and then moved into Newcastle in 1917, buying the Varcoe property on Mill Street.

There is a 2 storey red brick house on the Varcoe property today. The house is no. 274 Mill St South. Geo.S Boulton sold the property to Richard Varcoe in the summer of 1857. In the assessment record of 1870, H.Brent is said to be the occupant, but members of the Varcoe family were still owners in 1876 when they also owned the brick building known as the "Commercial Hotel" adjacent to the Grand Trunk Railway. This information is from land records at the ONT.ARCHIVES.

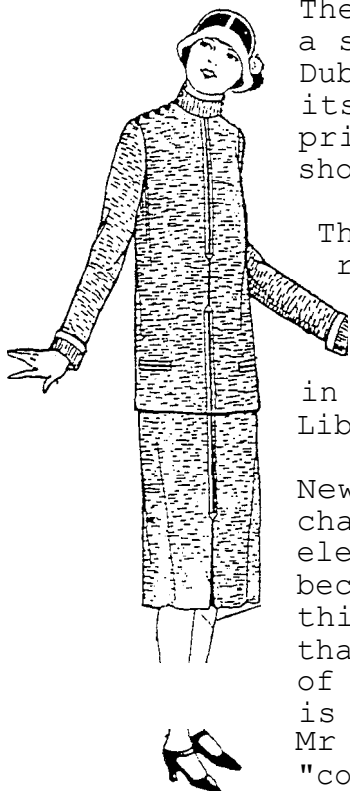
William Carter Blackburn was a Methodist, and after moving to Newcastle he, "continued his life-long habit of attending church regularly, and in fine weather and foul, every Sunday morning, he could be seen wending his way with measured steps to the Methodist Church where he takes his place in one of the front pews and delights to join in the service of worship."

Mrs Blackburn did not attend church services.. .not since she had lost her sight. In her latter years she seldom left her home but was happy to have friends and neighbours call for a friendly conversation.

In 1925 Mrs Blackburn was age 83, he was 82. Mrs Blackburn was born Elizabeth Johns, the daughter of John Johns. Her parents were from Cornwall, England.

The Newcastle Independent of Jan 8 1925 says that William Carter Blackburn, son of William Blackburn, "first saw the light of day on the farm now owned and occupied by Mr W.A.Gibson, Clarke Twsp. At the age of two years he moved with his parents to the farm on the Darlington Clarke Townline, where his son now lives and which has been known ever since as the Blackburn homestead." The farm on the Townline is on Lot 35, 4th Concesssion, and is called the "W.C. T.Blackburn" farm on the Tremaine map of 1861.

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The dress on the left is a Balbriggan Dress. Balbriggan is a seaport in Co.Dublin, 22 miles north from the City of Dublin. The town is long noted for hosiery manufacture and its salt-water baths. A Balbriggan dress was regularly priced at about \$15.00 in Clarke Twsp in 1925. The one shown was on sale in Dec.1925 for \$8.50.

These were changing times for Newcastle. The Government run C.N.R. had taken over the old Grand Trunk company in January of 1923. Mr J.E.W.Philp was going to retire from his station duties in 1925. Arthur Meighen had taken over as Prime Minister from Sir Robert Borden in 1920, and Meighen had then been defeated in 1921 by the Liberals under their new leader W.L.Mackenzie King!

Newcastle women...all Canadian women...got their first chance to vote in 1921 in a Federal Election! In the same election Agnes McPhail, a 31 year old Ontario Schoolteacher became the first female member of the House of Commons, and this presented a problem. Standards of behaviour dictated that women should wear a hat when in public, but the rules of "the House" stated that "Every member desiring to speak is to rise in his place, uncovered, and address himself to Mr Speaker." Miss McPhail was expected to speak while "covered,"

GEORGE JAMIESON...

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George Jamieson was postmaster for Newcastle from 1919 to 1948. In 1923 the post office was moved from the north-east corner of King and Mill Streets, where "Fat Daddy's Pizza" is today, to the Community Hall. Assistants at the post office at various times were Minnie Lovekin, Amy Hunter, Jane Singer and Rena Thomas. The Jamieson "Coal" ads are from 1925 issues of the CANADIAN STATESMAN.

Cheap Fuel

Coke, will but Your Mel
bill on't third. I have a
supply of the best obtain-
able.. A trial order vrill
convince you.'

Geo. Jamieson
Newcastle Ont.

In 1924/25, Newcastle experienced a real winter:

"Older folk who talk reminiscently and fondly of old fashioned winters are experiencing one which seems to compare favourably with those which made the deepest impression on their memory. Lately it has been snowing every other day or oftener. There is good sleighing everywhere and all the ground in field and wood, in town and country lies deeply hidden under a mantle of the beautiful."

John Garrod's rink turned out to be a great success and late in January a sleigh load of young people from "Shaws" enjoyed an evening's skating on the Community Rink.

"Farmers and others who have bought wood lots from Mr Clarence Mitchell, Morgan's Corners, with a five-year cutting privilege are taking advantage of the good sleighing to haul this season's cut out of the swamp."

"Mr Reg. LeGresley has beaten his neighbours: His winter's and summer's wood is drawn from swamp and cut into stove lengths, the last by Mr Geo. Moffat's sawing machine."

The Newcastle Independent," January 22 1925

!! WE ARE REMINDED THAT MEMBERSHIP DUES ARE DUE !!
SINGLE/\$7.00; FAMILY/\$10.00; CORPORATE/\$12.00.

PLEASE MAKE YOUR. CHEQUE OUT TO *NEWCASTLE HISTORICAL SOCIETY*, AND SEND IT TO MEMBERSHIP, *NEWCASTLE HISTORICAL SOCIETY*, UNIT 3, 20 KING WEST, *NEWCASTLE, ONTARIO, L1B 1H7*.

We look forward to expanding our membership this year. Please tell your friends and neighbours about our society. By becoming members they will receive our Newsletter 6 times a year; support efforts to preserve our heritage; discover interesting facts about our village, about our district, as well as our homes and properties.

Wishing you health, hope, peace, and a measure of prosperity in the coming months.

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NEWCASTLE VILLAGE & DISTRICT HISTORICAL SOCIETY
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