

NEWCASTLE VILLAGE AND DISTRICT HISTORICAL SOCIETY

NEWSLETTER - January - February 1995
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THE ANNUAL MEETING...of our Society will be held on Monday, February 6th, at 7:30 p.m., at the Community Hall...in Newcastle, in the MEMORIAL LIBRARY ROOM. Also on that evening... SHOW AND TELL...bring an item of interest and tell us all about it. Refreshments will be served.

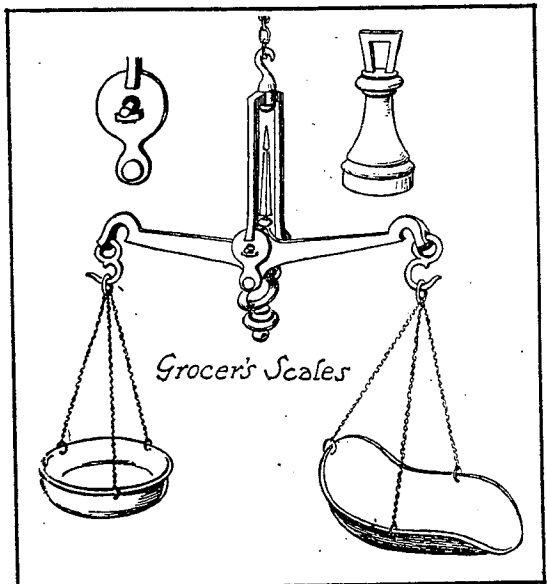
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NEW YEAR POETIC THOUGHTS...

A FEW SWIFT YEARS, AND WHO CAN SHOW WHICH DUST WAS BILL AND WHICH WAS JOE? Oliver Wendell Holmes(1844-1926) said that, which shows what can happen when a medical doctor becomes a poet! One of Judge Richard Lovekin's great uncles was a doctor and a poet, but first...on a more positive note, we turn to the Faerie Queen by Edmund Spenser(1552-1599):

.....TAKE THY BALANCE IF THOU BE SO WISE,
AND WEIGH THE WINDS THAT UNDER HEAVEN DOTH BLOW;
OR WEIGH THE LIGHT THAT IN THE EAST DOTH RISE
OR WEIGH THE THOUGHT THAT FROM MAN'S MIND DOTH FLOW.

Faerie Queen, Bk v, Canto ii, St.4.



Edmund Spenser, said to be "one of the strongest influences in English literature"...Shakespeare, Milton, Dryden, and Pope all owed debts to him...was a neighbour to Sir Walter Raleigh in Ireland. Sir Walter visited Spenser, and the visit led to the publication of the Faerie Queen. We take note of this event because at the time, both Raleigh and Spenser were living at Kilcolman...Earls of Desmond land, in County Cork, Ireland.

KILCOLMAN...

Raleigh fought a battle at Kilcolman, and lost a son there. Two hundred years later, in 1779 Richard Lovekin Sr, of Grainge, County Cork, built a house at Kilcolman and lived there 16 years before migrating to North America. His son Richard Lovekin Jr, living on Lot 35, Concession I, Clarke Township, named it Kilcolman Gardens, and we find the name Kilcolman today on the farm of our Society members, Lynn and Judge Richard Lovekin.

A LOVEKIN WEDDING . . .

Richard Lovkin Jr (1770-1840) married Theodosia Bates (c.1786-1850) and they had 5 sons, the youngest being James Patrickson Lovekin (1818-1893). He was interested in poetry and when he graduated from the Upper Canada Academy, in Cobourg, in 1841, he read a poem he had written whose subject was 'Osceola,' a Seminole Chief, famous for his fighting in Florida against United States forces in 1835-1842.

James Patrickson (1818-1893) married Isobella Shaw and they had 5 sons, including two bright young men, twins, who died in their early 20's. The twins were George Shaw Lovekin and Frederick Patrickson Lovekin, and their brother Frederick Baldwin Lovekin was grandfather to Judge Richard Lovekin, a director of our Society, and his brother Professor James Lovekin.

George Shaw became a banker, and worked briefly in Toronto and Rochester. Brother James became a doctor, and in his day was the youngest graduate from the McGill medical school. Several years ago, along with "New Year Best Wishes," we received a copy of a very interesting letter from Helen Lovekin Symonds, our member Richard Lovekin's mother. She tells us that it was written by George Shaw Lovekin...and sent to his twin brother Dr James P. Lovekin.

The letter deals with a Thompson Ballagh wedding and we note that in 1850 a Thomas Ballagh, who may have been related, was a trustee and member of the Presbyterian congregation in Newcastle. Nineteen years later, on February 13th, 1869, George Shaw Lovekin wrote the following letter, dated in Newcastle:

Dear Bro,

Your favor is rec'd this morning. I was away for about two days to Thompson Ballagh's wedding. Perhaps you would like to hear about it. I went down to Port Hope by the morning train. Was not very keen having been up till pretty late for two nights previous, the first at Mrs Boat's a sort of surprise party and the next night at Wes Walton's, Maria being down. However, when I got to Port Hope about 9 o'clock, I went up to Jno Carson's to see if they knew anything about the show and to find out where "Ballagh Shepherd" of which firm Thompson is a partner "hung out." I found that they were going to see the thing themselves and I then went to Thompson's store. After waiting a little while, Alick Ballagh who is working with Thompson came along. He was pleased to find me down and anticipated a huge time. Thompson soon came up and the groomsman Shepherd his partner. Then was fixed one of the store clothes which in A's case was pretty heavy. You know what color his hair is. Well it was naturally fair when I got to town but having been put through his tonsorial facings by a barber his moustache and whiskers assumed a jet black appearance in violent contrast to the much lighter color of his hair. But if he was suited, I was. I did not take the trouble to having a clean shave or dyeing my moustache. Thompson was fixed up fit to kill and after getting outside some of the Curse of Canada, he was ready to start. Not so however, were all the others whom Thompson had invited to go with him. After waiting

some time, Thompson swelling around in white kid and tie about half past one, I guess it was, the procession was formed, Tom leading in a cutter with the groomsman. The side beggars all had fine turnouts - about the fastest horses in Town - splendid rigs. Thompson drove like lightning and the rest tried to keep in sight. He did not put on a top coat, I suppose to show his broadcloth and as sleighing was of the kind known as mud sleighing. You may judge for yourself how his cloth looked. The day was splendid and warm which took off what little snow and the sleighs shreiked on the gravel and all went as a marriage bell till we got to John's where we stopped 20 minutes for refreshments and started again John joining in the string this time. I rode with him. They all drove furiously as before the sweat streaming off the poor brutes of horses. Instead of going straight east from the goal to Baltimore they went through Cobourg to make a show. By so doing we had to go about 2 1/2 miles off course. While in Cobourg we stopped at a tavern and women and all the contents of the sleighs liquored up. After several draughts we started again, Thompson leading as before feeling slightly elevated to judge by the way he drove. Off for about 4 miles through the snow, slush and mud. We went through Baltimore and about 1 mile further came to the consumation of our journey. The preacher was there and the knot was tied making the second that day as Whalen had been hanged in Cobourg about half past eleven. After tea there were lots of girls, stunners I tell you and it took some time to get acquainted.

Tom Carson, a swell, proposed to me to go over to Baltimore where there was an Orange soiree going on. He had seen some of the girls when we were going through to the wedding that he knew. After a splendid time over there among the girls we had to tear ourselves away for fear the folks at the wedding would miss us. When we got up there again the wedding was going fast and furious. The girls were SOME you bet, none of your hot mush milk and water kind of mincing the thing but the kind that would play right up to you, splendid dancers. I got soft on a little gusher they called Belle of Baltimore. I had a good deal of opposition from one of the young Riddles who was fighting on his own dung hill but I think if I were to judge from the way she squeezed my right in the right hand reel I had a chance. When you are in Rome do as the Romans do. Tom Carson who puts on a great deal of style didn't get on very well, the girls not appreciating his style. They kept it up till daylight when we started for Port Hope, got there at a quarter to eight and came home having had a splendid time.

I sent something back which I think will touch the heart of the Belle of Baltimore in a soft place.

Your brother George.

CARVETH CORRECTIONS . . .

Correcting details that appeared in the June/August 1994 newsletter: it was John Carveth(1826-1906), born in Cornwall, England, who was married on Feb 26 1857, in St George's church, Newcastle...and the bride was Mary Ruddock(1833-1880).

There were close ties between the Ruddocks and the Carveths. In 1861, Richard Ruddock, Mary's father, leased a schooner to John

Grain Grain

WANTED AT THE FIRE PROOF ELEVATOR
AT GRAND TRUNK STATION,
NEWCASTLE

The highest current market price will
be paid for any quantity of Wheat, Barley,
Peas, Rye and Buckwheat, delivered at
the above elevator. Or, if preferred, will
receive, insure, and ship for owner at two
cents per bushel.

JOHN CARVETH
Newcastle, Oct. 1867

Carveth, & 5 yrs later, John bought, or rented, the Ruddock mill at Leskard from Mary's brother. The mill became known as the "Carveth Mill."

By March of 1867 John and Mary Carveth had moved from Port Hope to Leskard and a letter of that date, found in OUT OF THE MIST tells us that "Mary is almost tired out with moving and frightened that some of the children might get drowned in some of the ponds."

A CARVETH WEDDING...

The following letter, from the collection of Helen Schmid, was written by George Henry Carveth, a son of John Carveth, and was sent to his aunt, Mrs Ann Waddell, who was a sister to George's mother. ("Annie" who acted as bridesmaid was probably George's sister, the future Mrs Charles Higbee.

Dear Aunt Annie,

As you know from Pa and grandpa, I married Miss Crozier last Thursday in Toronto. The wedding was arranged to be as private as possible, only my own family and grandpa being asked by me to be present.

The groomsmen were S. Stewart of Toronto University and J. McBride, Head Master of Newcastle High School. Annie and Miss Sara Chalk acted as bridesmaids. Annie will tell you how the bride looked, etc.

We came home Thursday evening and found Lizzie Chalk (Mrs Aikens) had prepared a welcome for us, a regular blow out. I was forced to teach Friday as the Head Master, not knowing why I asked for a holiday, refused to let me off. Since he has apologized.

We are very comfortable here and shall be glad to see you and Mrs Waddell at any time. You know the girl and I don't think you dislike her.

With best respects to Mr Waddell and love to the youngsters.

I remain,

Truly yours,

(signed Geo. H. Carveth)

NEWCASTLE ROYAL OAK . . .

Check your latest...No!...check your old Sheridan Nurseries catalogue...there are no Sheridan catalogues any more...they are valuable historic items...look up "OAK"...& you will find 6 or 7 oaks listed...but nary a NEWCASTLE ROYAL OAK.If you want to find out about these very special trees you have to talk to Hazel Crago or Dorothy Trenwith.



May 12th 1937 - This was Coronation Day in Great Britain when George VI & Elizabeth were crowned in Westminster Abbey (where all Kings and Queens of England have been crowned since 1066.)

In England, May 29...every year...has been called OAK APPLE DAY and oak leaves and oak apples (what we call acorns) have been worn in remembrance of when Charles II hid from Cromwell's Roundheads by climbing an oak tree.

So, to celebrate Coronation Year, the "Men of the Trees Society" sent a supply of Royal Oak Acorns and Royal Oak Seedlings to Ontario in 1937 to be distributed among schools in Ontario. The hope was that in later years NEWCASTLE ROYAL OAKS might stand tall in Ontario School yards as a reminder of the historic event that took place on May 12th 1937.

The Lake Shore School in Newcastle received some of these trees, and Hazel Crago...then Hazel Powell...thinks it was her brother Donald who brought a tree home that was planted beside her father's house. Hazel's mother, Marjorie Selby, daughter of Isaac Newton Selby married Samuel Powell; she taught school for a short time at Elizabethville, near Kendal, and then she and Sam moved to Morgan's Road, living near the lake on the West side of the road. The tree grew and matured but didn't ever seem to produce many acorns. Maybe this summer we can find some so that more NEWCASTLE ROYAL OAKS can be grown in Clarke Township.

There are two other ROYAL OAKS in the Village. On the north side of Wilmot Street, just east and north of the hydro transformer installation there is a plaque beside a NEWCASTLE ROYAL OAK which says:

THIS ROYAL OAK FROM WINDSOR FOREST, ENGLAND,
WAS PLANTED HERE AT THE TIME OF THE
CORONATION OF GEORGE VI, 1937 by WILLIAM J.
KENEFICK, WHO WAS BORN in NEWCASTLE in 1863;
ERECTED BY HIS SON, EDGAR J.A.KENEFICK FOR
CANADA'S CENTENNIAL YEAR 1967



The other NEWCASTLE ROYAL OAK is on Edward Street, west of the Anglican Church. Dorothy Trenwith, who until a few years ago, lived on the south west corner of Church and Edward Streets tells the following story:

Dorothy was born in Toronto, and was just 20 months old when her mother died and she went to live with her grandfather George Alfred Trenwith, and her "Aunt Louise" in West Toronto. Her grandfather who had worked for 41 years for the Grand Trunk

and CNR railroad, retired in about 1924, and moved to Newcastle. Grandfather Trenwith really enjoyed Newcastle, and Dorothy can remember him heading off to fish up at Rice Lake, in a large McLaughlan touring car, with Mr Smith from the Box Factory.

A NEWCASTLE ROYAL OAK was planted on the park area between the Community Hall and the CIBC Bank, and Aunt Louise was at a special service for the planting. Aunt Louise was a director of the Horticultural Society and had a ROYAL OAK seedling. She saw Joseph Coulson at the village ceremony, suggested to him that he help plant a tree on Edward Street, and so Joe Coulson and Grandfather George Trenwith planted a NEWCASTLE ROYAL OAK on Edward on the north west corner of the Trenwith property. The tree was threatened by the street widening that happened a couple of years ago, but several members of our Society, including Ralph Whincop were there supporting Stephen Oakley...and the tree was saved.



THANK YOU, THANK YOU...

Pat Madonnell for all you do for our Society... for looking after all of us...for looking after our Historic Collection... organizing our Tuesday openings of the Memorial Library Room... Helen Schmid for your help along with Pat in documenting our Collection...Mabel Goode, director...and Ray Goode for the time and effort to make our special occasions even more special...Lynn Lovekin and Royal Lee, directors, for being "there" when wanted...Lena Graham, director, for newsletter ideas and so much positive support...Francis Jose, treasurer, Erla Jose, vice-president Ken Stephenson, and director Dick Lovekin...all of you for your help in identifying people, places & historic processes ...the knowledge base of the research section of the newsletter department. Thank you Ron Locke for doing such a good job with our membership, Audrey Gogerty for knowing the best cookie makers in Southern Ontario, and Eunice Streeter for enthusiasm, historical research and Christmas cake.

1995 MEMBERSHIP FEES ARE DUE! SINGLE/\$8.00; FAMILY/\$12.00
PLEASE MAKE CHEQUES PAYABLE TO THE
NEWCASTLE HISTORICAL SOCIETY,
& MAIL TO RON LOCKE, OR "MEMBERSHIP," AT THE ADDRESS BELOW

MANY THANKS!

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