

NEWCASTLE VILLAGE AND DISTRICT HISTORICAL SOCIETY

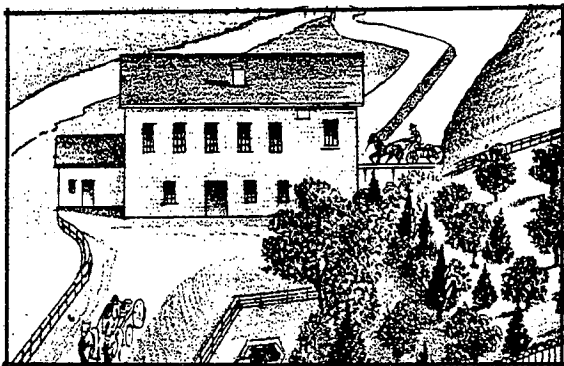
NEWSLETTER ** May, June 1995

SQUAIR'S MILL . . .

The building at the bottom of this page is Squirrel's Mill on Wilmot Creek. It was built about 7 years after "our mill"...our mill at Pt Newcastle on Mill Street where Gordon and Hope Carveth live today. Squirrel's Mill contained parts made by Hart Massey... made here in Newcastle. It sent flour to "our Harbour," and it ended its days at about the same time as our Mill. The drawing of the mill is from the H. BELDEN ILLUSTRATED ATLAS of 1878 where it is called "Lockhart's Mill," but more about that later.

WATERFRONT TRAIL . . .

Our local WATERFRONT TRAIL was opened on June 1st with an official tour taking place from the western border of Darlington Provincial Park to the Parkette at the foot of Mill St in Bond Head. Members of our Society met the official tour which included Mr David Crombie and Mayor Diane Hamre as they cycled onto Mill Street and parked their bikes. We offered them "Historic" iced water imported directly from Academy Hill, Haldiamnd Twp, the original homestead of Daniel Massey, and then escorted them to the foot of Mill Street, commenting on, and answering questions about, the history of Newcastle. Additional members from our Society and members of the Chamber of Commerce had gathered at the waterfront and the occasion was toasted with applejuice served by the Chamber. Our Society welcomed the visitors; Mr Crombie and Mayor Hamre then autographed a number of booklets specially prepared by Herb Taylor for the occasion, dealing with Newcastle History...and copies were presented to Mr Crombie and the Mayor.



We have since received a letter from Mayor Hamre which says in part..."Dear Herb, On behalf of the Council of the Municipality of Clarington I would like to express our appreciation to all of those people who worked together to make June 1st, 1995, the Official Opening of the Waterfront Trail through Clarington, such a tremendous success."

PRESIDENT'S POT LUCK LUNCH...

Almost 40 members gathered at "Harbour House," the home of Florence and Herb Taylor, on Sunday, June 4th. Members brought a marvellous supply of food, the weather was great, and everybody had a good time. We were pleased to have as special guests Evva Henry of Picton, Ontario, daughter of Lionel Massey, grddaughter of Vincent, and great granddaughter of Chester Massey who was responsible for the building of our Community Hall. With her were her husband Eugene Henry, and their sons Eugene Jr and Michael. Also present were Larry and Laura Baldwin, of Toronto, friends of the Taylors. Larry Baldwin was born just east of Bowmanville, and is a member of the famous Newcastle Baldwin family. We were pleased to have these guests meet Judge Richard Lovekin, Lynn Lovekin, and Helen Lovekin Anderson...as well as Farncomb LeGresley...and Reg LeGresley...all representing pioneer families of special interest to our community.

JULY 16TH - We are reminded of our invitation to Ron and Betty Locke's for a POT LUCK SALAD SUPPER, Sunday, July 16th, 1995. Bring cold meats, salads and suchlike; arrive at 2:00 for fellowship and a treasure hunt; supper will be at 5:00 pm.

GO SOMEWHERE...

For many, May and June are the time of year to get in the car and go somewhere...

May 1922 - More autos passed through the village Sunday than was ever seen on one day and no immediate prospect of the streets being oiled. - ORONO NEWS, May 18.

May 1922 - Mr & Mrs John Douglas accompanied Mr and Mrs J. Anderson Smith on a motor trip to Toronto. Mr and Mrs Parnel and family motored out to Cavan for a short trip with friends.
- ORONO NEWS, May 25th.

June 1995 - Two members of our Historical Society went for a drive and had a picnic at Thurne Parks earlier this month. They ate their lunch sitting on the bank of Wilmot Creek, just south of the site of Squair's mill, and had a very pleasant time. On a sunny summer day this is quite a nice thing to do. Other members might like to have a picnic sitting on the edge of Wilmot Creek and we suggest the following.

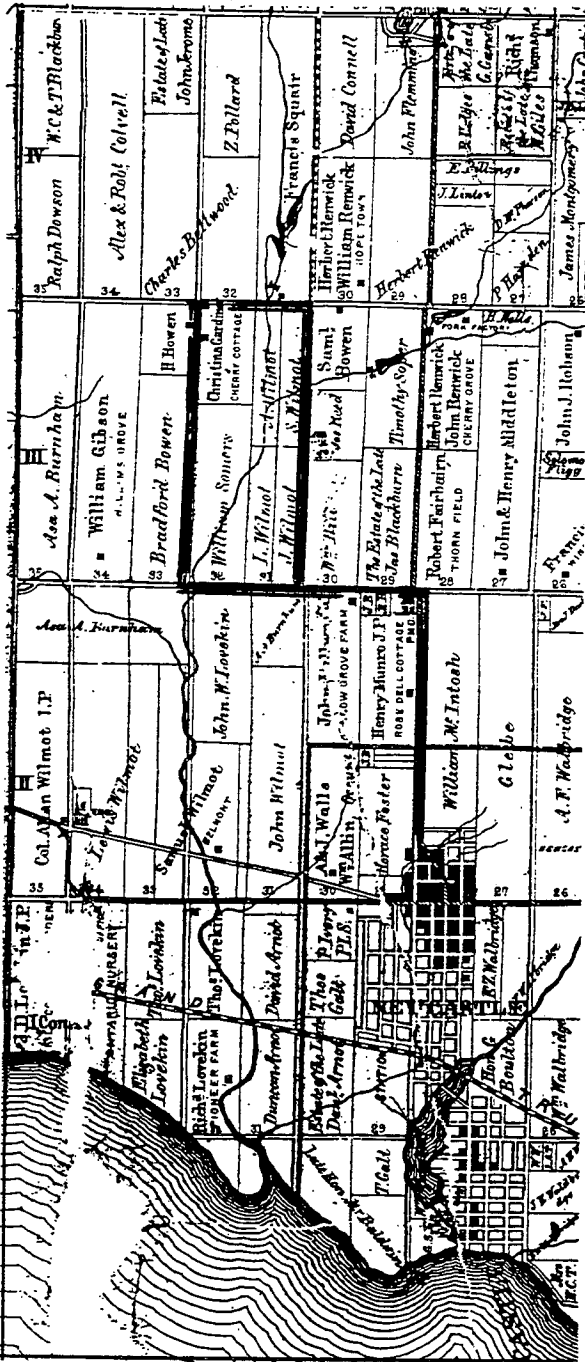
SUMMER PICNIC ON WILMOT CREEK...

DRIVE NORTH out of Newcastle, past the drugstore, up Manvers St and on under the railway tracks. Before Highway 115 was built, this road went on to Orono, and the intersection just ahead was Tricky's Corners. TURN RIGHT at the concession road, and STOP for a few minutes at the old cemetery...the Bethel Methodist Cemetery.

<This Summer Picnic information is from the book THE TOWNSHIPS OF DARLINGTON & CLARKE by John Squair...also from Grace Gibson, Francis and Erla Jose, Hazel Crago and Eastman Steves, as well as the BELDEN ILLUSTRATED ATLAS. Thank you all.>

The Bethel Cemetery, dating from about 1848, contains the graves of many of the families whose farms we will pass in our short drive. Stop for a moment and note your surroundings. There is a lilac hedge on three sides of the cemetery, and when the lilacs are in bloom it would be a good time for your picnic.

You are now at Tricky's Corners standing on what was once the



farm of Robert Fairbairn. Robert, like his father Robert Sr, was an important local merchant. When Robert Sr first arrived in Canada he ran a store for Charles Bowman in Bowmanville. Robert Jr lived in Newcastle, was a Justice of the Peace, a general merchant, and in early days owned a village lot in Newcastle where what some call the "International House" stands today ...on King St opposite the old Post Office. He married twice, his first wife being Sarah McIntosh, a daughter of William McIntosh, an even more important merchant of Newcastle.

Wm McIntosh eventually owned the mill in Bond Head that gave Mill Street its name, but at an earlier date he bought Lot 28, Conc.2, ...the land from Trickey's Corners to King Street...which is to say he owned the north side of King Street in Newcastle from Rod McArthur's dental building to the baseball park. (There were no stores in Newcastle at that time.)

We don't know where Robt Fairbairne is buried, but his wife is buried at St George's, and the little we know, suggests a sad story. The stone at St George's says: Sarah McIntosh wife of Robert Fairbairn deceased July 29 1853, AE 17 y's & 8 mo's. Robert was 8 yrs older than his young wife, and they had probably just been married.

TRICKEY'S CORNERS...

Joseph Miller Trickey (1809-1883) "a remarkable man." Henry Munro had the farm diagonally across the corner from the cemetery, and Charles, a son of Mr Munro's married a daughter of Joseph Trickey. Charles was also a partner of Trickey's, and with the latter's skill in metalwork, they manufactured the best farm forks made in this part of Canada. At a later date Charles deserted his wife and family, and Trickey moved to Renwick Corners.

DRIVE WEST. Follow signs pointing to CLARKE 3RD CONCESSION that will take you under highway 35 & 115. STOP before turning onto Concession Road 3.

On the right is farm land that belonged to the Blackburn family. On Jan 26th 1852, James Blackburn Jr, died; his wife died 2 hours later. The neighbours were stunned. Two of the three children moved away from Clarke Township, but Eleanor Blackburn married Charlie Allin of Newcastle.

Ahead of us, on the other side of the concession road was the homestead of Henry Munro, one of the most important members of the early Newcastle community. He often held the position of Commissioner in the earliest days of local government. He was a magistrate, and when the Township Council was first formed he was treasurer. He was a member of parliament for Durham from 1854 to 1867, an active Primitive Methodist and a chapel was built on his property, resulting in the cemetery on the opposite corner of the intersection.

TURN RIGHT and drive west. You pass the Allin orchard and the M.H.Pedwell farm on the left...the Lockhart Road on the right. You come to a small bridge which crosses Wilmot Creek. Cross the bridge and TURN RIGHT onto Pollard Rd. You are now heading north. The water on your right is Wilmot Creek, but it soon turns east & disappears into the trees. Note the old rail fence on the left. To get around some trees it becomes a true "snake-line" fence.

You are on a good paved road, and it rises. There are new houses and lawns on the right, but on the left you soon see the great spread of the Newton Selby farm. Newton is a 1st cousin to Hazel Crago and their grandfather was Isaac Newton Selby (1864-1939). Before moving to the 3rd concession the Selbys lived on Toronto Street, on the old Robert Steen property. That's near where the Baldwins lived, and the house is the only one there today, near where the WATERFRONT TRAIL crosses a field and arrives at Toronto Street.

Newton and his son Stephen will handle as many as 700 head of cattle on this farm, all kept indoors. The animals are bought when they weigh anywhere from 400 to 700 lbs, and sold at 1200 to 1400 lbs. The land is used for growing feed for the animals and is stored in those huge silos.

In earlier days this was Bowen property...Bradford Bowen here at the south end, with their house on the 3rd line...Henry Bowen ahead at the north. There is a splendid old house on the Henry Bowen farm...and great out buildings. This house, derelict now, was for a short time the home of Rod Carveth. Earlier Rod owned and operated Eastman Steves garage on King Street, Newcastle. He had a dispute with the gasoline supplier, moved across King Street and built a gas station and Ford dealership that became our present day fire station. He bought the Henry Bowen place... and then retired back to the Lindsay/Peterborough area.

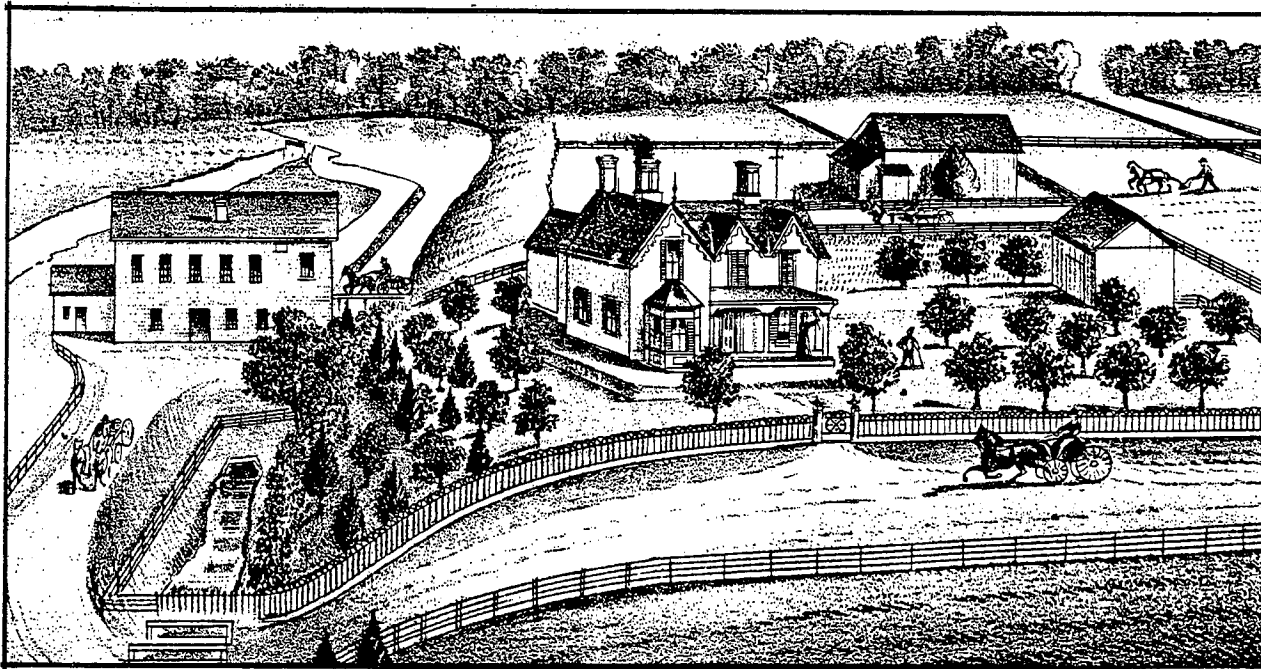
Look far to the left; a vast countryside. You can see traffic 3/4 of a mile away on the next side road which is the road between Clarke and Darlington.

The Gibson farm, or farms, are beyond the Selbys, stretching from the "3rd line," the 3rd concession road...to the 4th. William Gibson (1806-1894), from Cornwall, owned all 200 acres and called his farm "William's Grove." He divided his property between 2 sons and his grandson William Hyslop Gibson, living on the 3rd line, became known as the "Apple King of Ontario." This is the farm where Grace Gibson our Society member and her husband Harold lived, owning 80 acres on the south and 20 acres at the north end of the township lot. Norah Story...Norah Gibson...lived on the 100 acres in between. In 1925, when the Gibson farms were owned by William Hyslop and his cousin David, there was a bad frost. It happened early in the fall and each cousin was said to have lost 2500 barrels of apples.

TURN RIGHT onto the 4th Conc. road. The first school attended by John Squair was in the field to the left. DRIVE AHEAD and Thurne Parks is on the right. TURN IN. There is a small parking area, Wilmot Creek is just a few steps to the east, and to the south is a cool inviting woods.

This property is part of the Ganaraska Region Conservation Authority. You can follow a path and find yourself in a cool cedar woodlot surrounded by a carpet of ferns. There are a few ancient willows, small shrubs and various wild flowers. And down a short but steep bank is Wilmot Creek...and you pick a spot to sit and have your lunch.

Stand in the parking lot and look north across the road. Read page 352 and have JOHN SQUAIR tell you about walking past where you are standing...in 1855...on his first day going to school. Two of his companions were Robert and Hanna Atkinson, older brother and sister to Joseph the future Toronto Star publisher. Walk out of the park, cross the road and look at the creek. Squair's mill was on the left. A clearing for the mill and a log house were started in December of 1850, and John Atkinson, buried at Bond Head, the father of Joe, was the first miller.



"Greenbank Villa" Res. & Mills of, A. Lockhart, Clarke Twp, 1878.

