

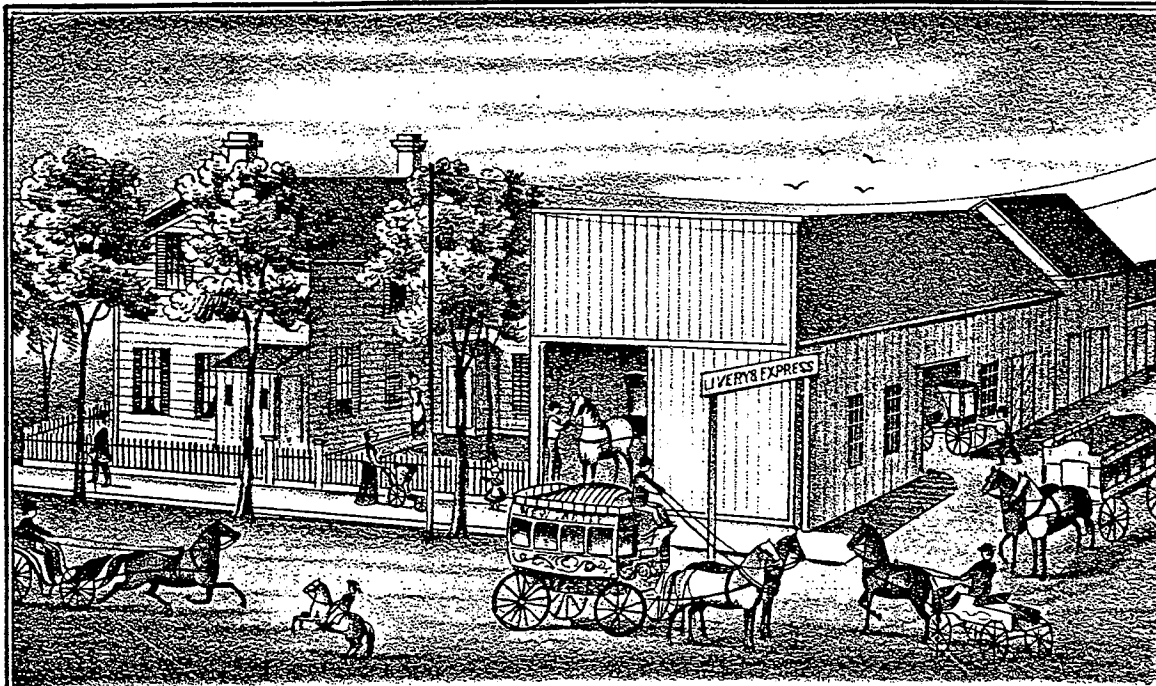
# NEWCASTLE VILLAGE AND DISTRICT HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Newsletter \*\* November & December 1996

**W**inter weather “-- the lake is a perfect barometer, in the weather to come to us for twenty-four to forty-eight hours in advance, to all who will observe it. For instance, suppose we have our coldest winter days, when everything about is held in the tight embrace of Jack Frost, and there is no sign of mild weather, or any release from the intense cold. Look abroad upon the lake just as the sun is setting, and a light yellow band hangs above the surface of the water. Then in a few hours Jack Frost leaves us, and a thaw is at hand.”

<From “LIFE IN CANADA,” published in 1903, by Thomas Conant.>

**O**ld landmarks passing. The drawing below shows the residence and stables of Thomas Douglas, Newcastle, Clarke Twsp, Ontario. <From the Beldon Atlas>



*From the ORONO NEWS, April 20<sup>th</sup> 1922 -*

**T**he old livery barn, one of Newcastle's ancient structures, built between 80 and 100 years ago, is being torn down by the present owner, Mr T. W. Jackson, to be rebuilt into a garage at his residence. This building was originally a marble shop but when it passed into the hands of the late W. R. Bradley it became a livery barn which it has continued to be until the present. Messrs Thomas and John Douglas succeeded Bradley, and then became the present owners. One by one the old landmarks are passing. How many of the original buildings that went to make up the village in the old days are still standing? This is now the Laundromat corner - Beaver and King Streets. Brenton Rickard started his plumbing and heating business on this corner in 1958, with a show room on King Street, and his work shop in the back.

# THE NEWCASTLE MARBLE WORKS IN 1858

John McDonald and George Metcalf were marble cutters by trade, and they owned and ran the firm that made grave markers in Newcastle. It was known as the McDonald and Metcalf marble works and they were here in the village from before 1858 to after 1870. Some of the local people bought gravestones in Rochester, in New York State, but we can see the McDonald name on stones at Bowmanville Cemetery. John McDonald and his wife Mary were born in Scotland, he was age 41 in 1858, she was 35. The Metcalfs were English, he was 31, she was 36 in 1858. <'61 Census p.5>

Louis Strowger, who, at age 26 was an inn-keeper in Port Newcastle, as a younger man (age 21 in 1858) was a marble cutter, and probably worked for McDonald and Metcalf.

## A McDONALD METCALF STONE

TIMOTHY SOPER - died June 30<sup>th</sup> 1878, age 90.

MARGARET SOPER, wife of Timothy, - died December 5<sup>th</sup> 1862, age 70.

Timothy Soper was the first European child born in the Township of Sidney, on the Bay of Quinte. Timothy's father, Leonard Soper, was born in 1762, and emigrated from the U.S. to Canada in 1788. This may have been the Leonard who owned a house in Port Newcastle rented by Samuel Bryson, sailor, in 1858. Timothy and Margaret are buried at Bowmanville. On the bottom of the marble marker it says "McDonald Newcastle."

**S**how and Tell - At our meeting in February, along with the Annual General Meeting, we will have a Show and tell program. Bring a photograph, an object - bring a story - related to family history to share with our Members.  
That's Monday, February 3<sup>rd</sup>, at 7:30, at the Community Hall, in Newcastle.

## MORE 1858

To set the stage for an understanding of life in Newcastle and District in 1858 we note the following:

1844 - 24,000 bushels of wheat pass through Bond Head Harbour, also 2065 barrels of flour, 70,000 feet of lumber and 290 bushels of potatoes. <Smith's CANADIAN GAZETTEER.>

1851 - Bond Head Harbour changes its name to Port Newcastle.

1851 - the first postage stamp is issued in the Province of Canada.

1851 - June 21<sup>st</sup>, Premier George Coles of PEI and the leader of the opposition, Edward Palmer, settled a dispute with pistols. Palmer fired first and missed; Coles raised his arm and fired into the air.

1852 - the anti-slave novel *Uncle Tom's Cabin, or Life Among the Lowly*, sets sails records in the U.S.

1853 - women in the Province of Canada, had just entered the teaching profession. By 1853 there were more women teachers than men; the men made 40% more in salary than the women.

1856 - Oct 27<sup>th</sup>, the first train passes through Newcastle village.

1856 - Cobourg is a booming transportation centre; 13.7 million feet of lumber are exported from the port after arriving by rail; also 200,000 bushels of wheat. <CHRONICAL OF CANADA.>

1857 - a law is passed saying that all government accounts shall be recorded in dollars and cents - ending the use of pounds, shillings and pence.

1858 - You pump water in your yard and you hear a whistle. You know it is a steam train. You have seen a train at the Newcastle station, but you have never been on one. You read a copy of the TORONTO GLOBE newspaper. Reform leader George Brown, the editor, says "the railway is nothing more than a profit making scheme for a corrupt government."

## DOLLARS AND CENTS

We study the 1858 Assessment Roll for a brief view of the village in dollars and cents.

Hart Massey owned 5 pieces of property with a total value of \$8,500.00. However, William McIntosh who owned the mill on Mill Street owned property worth \$11,300.00. As far as property was concerned, William was the wealthiest person in Newcastle in 1858. The mill, on 4 acres of land, was valued at \$7200 while Massey's foundry, on 2 acres, was \$4000. Both families lived in houses valued at \$600.

In earlier days, for example in 1846, valuations were based on the number of stories in a house, additional fireplaces, and frame or brick construction. We do not know how the assessor made his valuations on Newcastle land and houses in 1858. However, we do know that the size of the lot made a considerable difference in the value placed on a property.

The year 1858 - it was just 17 years after George A Jacobs bought the corner village lot where the IGA store is today. That was the first village lot sold by George Strange Boulton. By 1858 there were more than 16 merchants in the village: Jacob Casselman, John Carmichael, James Wilmot, A.A. Sabine, George Templeton, Jos Beach, Robt Fairbairn, Samuel McCoy, Mr Seaton, John McNaughton, Andrew McNaughton, David McNaughton, E. A. McNaughton, Elizabeth McIntosh, and her son William McIntosh. A man like George A. Jacob was also a merchant, but he was classified as a "gentleman," in the Assessment along with farmers who owned land in the village area, plus retired farmers in the village as well as others who were hard to classify. The list of "gents" included Asa Wallbridge, C.S. Powers, Henry Munro, Horace Foster, John James Robson and Hiram Hodges.

One might think of the early merchants as the people who built the village. But many of the men who REALLY BUILT THE VILLAGE were still living here in 1858 - the carpenters. Some had money enough to buy their own homes - and thought that owning a home in Newcastle was a good thing. They were called "freeholders." Others who rented a place to live were called "householders." The carpenters were:

Wm Babcock age 52, (h), renting a house in Port of Newcastle, on 1/5<sup>th</sup> acre, valued at \$300  
Robert Davy, 34, (f) freeholder, owned a house north of King St, 1/5<sup>th</sup> acre, \$600  
Adna Ferguson, 41, (f), concession 1, lot 28 - 1 & 2/5<sup>th</sup> acres, valued at \$2400. (!)  
James Gairdner, 33, (h), renting a house north of King St, owned by Fligg, 1/5<sup>th</sup> acre, value \$300  
John Herbert, 45, (f), north of King, 1/5<sup>th</sup> acre, \$500  
William Milligan, 25, (h), renting a house owned by Asa Wallbridge, concession 1, lot 28, 1/5 acre, value \$500  
Alex Petre, 35, (h), in a Wm Strowger house in Port of Newcastle, 1/5 acre, \$300  
Thomas Petre Sr, 63, (f), Port of Newcastle, 2/5<sup>th</sup> acre, \$300  
Thomas Petre Jr, 30, (h), renting a house from Thomas Taylor, Port of Newcastle, 1/5<sup>th</sup> acre, \$300  
John Pool, 59, (f), north of King St, 2/5<sup>th</sup> acre, \$600  
Richard Ralph, 25, (f), concession 1, lot 28, 1/5<sup>th</sup> acre, \$200  
Truman Scott, 26, concession 2, lot 29, 3/4 acre, \$600  
John Treleaven, 40, (f), in Port of Newcastle, 1/5<sup>th</sup> acre value \$400 or \$500 (?).

John Treleaven owned 2 properties. One would be his house, the other his work-shop. By 1861 he owned a steam powered, 8 horsepower planing machine, which used 20,000 ft of lumber a year to produce flooring, siding, sashes and doors. We don't know what equipment he owned in 1858.

So who owned the best houses in the village? That is a very hard question to answer. William Brock, gent, owned two properties, on either side of Baldwin Street, one valued at \$1000 on 4/5<sup>th</sup> of an acre, the other \$1600 on 1 1/4 acres. Jerry Brien, age 40, a laborer, rented a property of 1/5<sup>th</sup> acre in Port Newcastle from George Boulton - value \$100. That seems to be the high and the low. Francis Gibson, sailor, age 24 - who along with J.J. Robson was a ship owner in later years - owned a house in the Port valued at \$300.

Samuel McCoy, merchant, on the north side of King Street had a house valued at \$800. Joseph Honey, shoemaker, age 43, also on the north of King Street, had property valued at \$820. Honey probably lived in a building that was both his home and his shop. Living nearby was John Hitchins, age 30, a wagon maker. He probably lived in a small house and worked in a shed on property he rented from Calvin Brown. It was valued at \$200. There were very few properties in Newcastle valued at less than \$200.

There is only one woman listed in the 1858 Assessment Roll; Elizabeth McIntosh. She was a merchant and a widow in 1858. She appears to have run the store while son William Jr, ran the mill and was the village "grain merchant." In 1858 Elizabeth was age 47; she was a Stebbins, and her sister married George A. Jacobs. She had four sons living in 1858 - William Jr, age 26, Albert age 19, Robert who would become the village doctor, age 17, Thomas age 14. She died in 1864 - and she and her husband William are buried at St George's.

## PORT OF NEWCASTLE STORY

In 1858, John James Robson's property at Harbour House, including the barns and sheds was valued at \$1000. Frederick Farncomb, collector of customs, next door at Ebor House, was listed at \$600. The 1861 census says that Farncomb was living in a "rough cast" house, and Robson in a 1½ story house, so "Ebor House" was not built yet in 1858.

In 1846, Stephen Vaughan bought 2 village lots, for a total of 50 pounds, from George Strange Boulton. The land was on the east side of Mill St in Port Newcastle. (Harbour House is on this land today - the home of Florence and Herb Taylor.)

Vaughan built a house on the two lots and sold the land back to Boulton - who then sold it to John James Robson - who paid 175 pounds. This sale took place in 1851. Robson was buying a 1&1/2 story house - the same building that was on the property in 1858 - and valued, along with barns and sheds at \$1000.

John Squair in *DARLINGTON & CLARKE* says, on page 565, that one pound, five shillings was equal to five dollars in 1855. That is, one dollar equalled five shillings - thus the 175 pounds that Robson paid equalled about \$700. So in the seven years that Robson owned his Bond Head property, from 1851 to 1858, it increased in value about \$300 or 42 percent. However, we don't know what improvements had been made to the property between 1851 & 1858 - and the Robson house appears to have been situated on a 3 village lots in 1858 - not 2 lots as in 1851 - although there is no record of the purchase of additional land.

### **Our Historical Society would like your help!**

- please volunteer to serve on the executive of our Society.*
- volunteer to help in our Massey Memorial Library Room.*
- submit any suggestion or suggestions that you think will benefit our Society.*
- do you know someone you would like to see as an officer of our Society?*
- Ask them -- get their agreement to serve -- and submit a nomination.*

Submit nominations to Pippa Schmiegelow, 987-4856, who is a member of the Nominating Committee - or submit your nomination to any of our officers.

All the present officers of our Society have served in a number of capacities, for a number of years. The executive would like to share the joy and excitement of being an officer of our Society. Please - those interested - make yourselves known to Pippa Schmiegelow, 987-4856, any of our executive: President Herb Taylor, Vice President Ken Stephenson, Secretary Eunice Streeter, Treasurer and past-President Francis Jose, Directors Lena Graham, Lynn Loyekin, Dents Schmiegelow, Mabel Goode, Jean Rickard; Archives Pat Macdonnell, Membership, Ron Locke, and Social Convener, Florence Taylor.

These Ads are from  
The ORONO SUN  
& NEWCASTLE GARLAND  
of April 9<sup>th</sup> 1857

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## C. ALLIN

MANUFACTURER AND DEALER IN

### CABINET FURNITURE

Looking Glasses, Sofas,  
Divans, Ottomans,  
Mahogany Chairs, Marble,  
Center, Sofa and Side tables,  
Card and Fancy Tables,  
Bureaus, Secretaries, Book  
Cases, Quartette, Hall, Music,  
Corner and Toilet Stands,  
French Bedsteads, Dinning  
Tables, Wash Stands, Chairs,  
&c., &c.

Warehouse - North Street,  
Newcastle

N.B. - This Furniture shall not  
be excelled in quality, style and  
beauty, by that of any other  
establishment in Canada, while  
the prices shall be the lowest  
and most satisfactory. Please  
call and examine qualities, &c.  
Newcastle, February 1856.

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### FOR SALE

AN ELIGIBLE TAVERN,  
WITH A BAKERY AND  
STORE, attached in the  
thriving Village of Newcastle,  
on the Kingston Road, one mile  
from Bond Head Wharf, and  
half a mile from the intended  
Station of the Grand Trunk  
Lines of Railway -

There are excellent Driving  
Sheds, Stables and Yard  
erected. The house is built of  
brick and contains ten Bed-  
rooms, three fitting rooms, one  
Dinning-room, Bar, and a very  
extensive and dry cellar. The  
above premises will be sold  
upon every advantage in terms  
and immediate possession can  
be had if required.

W. COUCH

Proprietor on the Premises  
Newcastle, July 21<sup>st</sup> 1855

## NEWCASTLE LUMBER YARD

BY  
G. A. JACOBS

**K**EEPS CONTANTLY  
on hand a general  
assortment of Lumber, Timber,  
Window Sash, Blind, Pannel  
Doors, Water Lime, &c., &c.,  
which will be sold at the very  
lowest remunerating prices  
Newcastle, January 1856.

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### WANTED

TELEGRAPH POLES  
FOR THE  
ELECTRIC TELEGRAPH  
BETWEEN

ORONO & NEWCASTLE  
CEDAR OR TAMARACK  
POLES 20 feet long and 4  
inches at the top. They must be  
laid at proper distances on the  
road.

For further particulars apply to  
J. L. TUCKER

or. W. ALLIN

Orono, Jan 28 1857

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### EMPIRE HOUSE

BY ASA COLLINS

MAIN STREET, NEWCASTLE  
Good Stabling and Attentive  
Ostlers

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### EXPRESS

THE BRITISH & AMERICAN  
EXPRESS COMPANY

HAVING made arrangements  
for the transmission of Money,  
Parcels, Merchandise of every  
description, collection of  
Notices, Bills, Drafts, &c., in  
charge of special messengers to  
all parts of the Canadas and the  
United States. Merchants and  
others can forward Heavy  
Freights in an quantity, by the  
Passenger Trains, at reduced  
rates.

\*\* No charges for Cartage.  
Agents in all the cities and  
principal towns.

W. R. BRADLEY, Agent

## A SALE OF BANKRUPT - STOCK AT NEWCASTLE

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JOHN CARMICHAEL, having  
purchased at a Bankrupt Sale  
an immense stock of *Dry  
Goods, Clothing, Milinery,  
Groceries, Boots and Shoes,  
&c.,* has determined on clearing  
out his entire Stock before the  
end of March and will  
therefore, after this date,  
dispose of his entire stock,  
commencing at 8 o'clock,  
A.M., each day, at unusually  
low prices.

Produce taken in Exchange  
for Goods.

**TWO ACTIVE SALESMEN  
WANTED**

N.B. - Liquors for sale,  
Wholesale and retail.

- For particulars see hand-bills  
and posters -  
Newcastle, Feb 22 1856.

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### WANTED

**TWO WAGGON MAKERS**  
The Subscriber will give high  
wages and constant  
employment to two good steady  
hands.

Apply immediately to  
HIRAM EDY  
Orono, C. W.

Orono, March 5, 1857.

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**GEORGE M. REID, M. D.  
EDINBURG**

Member of the Royal College  
of Surgeon's, Edinburg.

**NEWCASTLE**

**SURGERY** - In Mr Brown's  
Building opposite the Empire  
House.

Residence - Empire House.

March 26 1857.

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**L. STONE**

General Blacksmith and Horse  
Shoer, King Street, Newcastle.

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**A. H. HUNTER**

Agent, Montreal Telegraph  
Line, King St, Newcastle.

A new slate of Officers for our Society will be submitted to the Membership at the Annual General Meeting on February 3<sup>rd</sup>, 1997. Please consider helping your Society. Please call or write or e-mail on any subject dealing with the running of our Society.

**THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE NEWCASTLE VILLAGE AND DISTRICT HISTORICAL SOCIETY WILL BE HELD ON**

**FEBRUARY 3<sup>rd</sup> 1997**

**Changes in four (4) By-Laws shall be considered and voted on by members in good standing.**

*It has been proposed by our Officers that several changes be made to our By-Laws. The changes, and final wording, will be voted on at our Annual General Meeting.*

Page.3 (2) - OLD - There shall be 4 classes of membership: senior, junior, family, corporate.  
*NEW: There shall be 3 classes of membership: Single, Family, Corporate.*

Page.6 (e) - OLD - The Secretary will write the Annual Report to be presented at the Annual Meeting. *NEW - The President will write an Annual report to be presented at the Annual Meeting.*

Page.9 Article X - OLD - Item (1) A quorum for all annual, general & special meetings - shall be fifty percent (50%) plus one (1). Item (2) A quorum for all Executive Meetings shall be six (6) members. *NEW - (1) At all annual, general or special meetings, a vote of 50% plus one of members in good standing, present, shall carry the vote. (2) A quorum for all Executive meetings shall be six (6) officers.*

Page 10, item (6) a, b, & c - OLD - Officers of our Society, the President, Vice President, Secretary, and Treasurer, shall be limited to one year terms of office.  
*NEW - Item (6) a, b, & c, the "length of term of office, of officers and executives" shall be deleted.*

*We are pleased to have receive a copy of the Directory of Heritage Organizations and Institutions in Ontario - from Dorothy Duncan at The Ontario Historical Society, and to hear that Dr. Dorothy was awarded an Honorary Doctor of Laws Degree at the University of Waterloo Convocation in October.*

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Annual Membership: SINGLE \$8.00; FAMILY \$12.00