



Newsletter ** January - February - March 1997

We may be sure that when our population rivals that of the United States to-day, and when our numerous seats of learning have duly leavened the mass of our people, any reliable particulars as to the early history of our country will be most eagerly sought after.

From *LIFE IN CANADA*

Written in OSHAWA, January 1903 by Thomas Conant.

CHIPIT SQUARES - by BERNEICE MILLIGAN

1 pkg chipits. I use butterscotch but can use chocolate; 1 cup peanut butter; 10 oz pkg of coloured marshmallows; 1/4 cup of butter or margarine. Melt chipits, butter & peanut butter, then cool a few minutes; add marshmallows & spread in a pan. I use margarine & grease a 9 x 12 pan. Hope you understand this.

Berneice. < From a note to Florence Taylor - in 1995 >

With much sadness we remind members of the death of Berneice Milligan, a longtime member of our Historical Society. Berneice not only made great cookies, for almost every Society meeting - but day after day she made life easier for all who knew her. Berneice was always available - always willing to help - whatever the cause.

Her father was William Milligan, and her mother Mamie Taylor from Minden, Ontario; Bernice had one sister, Jean, and they were raised on the family homestead at Newtonville. A young boy named Arthur Merrill, raised in the family, was drowned on July 7th, 1957. By all accounts, Berneice was born in Newtonville, where she lived all her life. She was very active with church work. She was a member of the Historical Society, the Horticultural Society, the Eastern Star Society - and for a number of years she was the mail carrier in Newtonville and the surrounding villages. After Berneice's father died, she lived with her mother in a new house, on a lot on the old family property. In latter years, her widowed sister Jean (Mrs Roy Hall), also lived in a new house on the Newtonville property.

Berneice's grandfather was Captain William P.K. Milligan, a hero of the Boer War. From the **ORONO NEWS, THURSDAY APRIL 10th 1902** - "It is with regret we read the name of Captain Milligan among those who were killed in South Africa, during the engagement at Hart River on March 31st. He leaves a wife and family to whom the entire community extend the most heartfelt sympathy."



Captain Milligan's picture is in **OUT OF THE MISTS**, p.182, with a story about a monument erected to his honour at Newtonville, on Victoria Day, in 1904.

THE JUBILEE STAMP - Canada's Jubilee Stamp was issued on the June 10th 1897. Queen Victoria said of the Boer War - "THE QUEEN IS NOT INTERESTED IN THE POSSIBILITY OF DEFEAT." The woman who was called "THE QUEEN" died in 1901 after a reign of 63 years. The Victorian era had come to an end.

Boers ** Orange Free State ** the Transvaal ** Ladysmith

Clarke Township people knew the names connected with the Boer War. They read them in the local papers. Great Britain was on one side and the Transvaal & the Orange Free State on the other. At first the British suffered defeats - at Ladysmith, at Kimberly, and Mafeking. Then, in June of 1900, British troops had some success and were able to occupy Pretoria, the capital city of the Transvaal. The end was at hand - peace was in sight. A treaty was signed on May 31st 1902.

Families in Durham County knew about the Boer War. A number of Durham men went to Africa as part of the 2nd Contingent Mounted Rifles a group of 398 officers and men. Joe Darby and John Findlay talked to their Clarke neighbours about joining the fourth contingent - and Mr H.A. Adams sold his big Hackney and it was one of the many horses shipped to South Africa.

SPRINGTIME & WATER & MUD

ORONO NEWS - THURSDAY - APRIL 10th 1902 - The same newspaper that announced the death of Capt Milligan reminded Newcastle village readers of their wet basements and told them that *"an effort is to be made to improve the drains so as to prevent flooding of the cellars in the future."* To solve the problems brought on by the heavy spring rains *"drains were tapped"* on King Street and *"force pumps"* were put in place. A large crowd of local citizens watched the performance - and by the 3rd week of March the flooded cellars were *"back to normal."* However, in April it was back to the pumps as the cellars filled up with water.

Another spring problem was mud on the village streets. The rains in Clarke had been extra heavy in 1902, so much so that the Newcastle doctors circulated a petition - among the rate payers - asking for a special privilege from the Council to ride their bikes on the village walks during the muddy weather. The popularity of two-wheeled bikes was something new in 1902.

The heavy rains also caused some problems at the Fish Hatchery. There was a dam at the Hatchery - on Wilmot Creek - which formed the Mill Pond - and water from the pond turned the dynamos to make electricity for the village. The water also ran the equipment in the chopping mill to make chop. In the spring of 1902 the dam broke away, so there was no electricity, and no chop. Local farmers had to go to Orono with their grists.

CHOP - Bags of oats and barley, "the grist," were taken by farmers in their wagons, to the grist mill where the oats and barley were ground together making "chop." Farmers fed the "chop" to their pigs. Ken Stephenson remembers going with his older brothers to the grist mill at Wilmot Creek, back about 1928/1929 - when George Robinson Jr was doing the chopping.

ALFRED ELLSWORTH was the Newcastle photographer and shoe dealer. His shop was at 40 King St East, the building now occupied by the "Love Your Pet Store." At an earlier date this building belonged to Thomas Douglas, the mail carrier - that's the Thomas Douglas who with Wilson Bradley had the Livery Stable and ran the village Express Agency. Alfred bought the building from Douglas in 1872 for \$1000. His shop sold footwear for ladies, men and boys - including overshoes and slippers - he sold trunks and valises - and there was a printing outfit in the store. As a photographer, Alfred claimed to be able to do "bromides" that he could enlarge to life size. In 1902, Alfred was a widower, and his mother, Mrs May Ellsworth, a widow, lived with him. She died in March of 1902 and was buried "at Port Newcastle." [We note that if graves do not have markers the burials do not get recorded in cemetery records. There is no record of Mrs Ellsworth's burial in the WHITBY/OSHAWA GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY - BOND HEAD CEMETERY RECORDS.]

*Bond Head
7*

1902

"WOOD BEES" were held to cut wood for use in the summer, at the end of the winter, while there was still snow in the wood lots, making it easy to use horse and sleigh. Stephen Jose had a successful "wood bee" in March, and villagers noted that with all the effort that went into the event, only one axe handle was broken. Mat McCarthy and James Rowland had wood bees - as did Alf Lake - and all were well attended. A number of neighbours and farmers turned out and cut summer wood for Mrs Rose, a widow, who lived between Newcastle and Newtonville, and William Knight spent a week at Highland Creek putting up his mother's summer wood. William Knight was said to live at "Moonlight Avenue, Beaver Street." [Where was/is "Moonlight Avenue?"]

The **ORONO NEWS**, of March 27th published on Thursdays, told its readers about a special event that had just taken place in Newcastle:

"There was a partial eclipse of the moon visible here at 3:00 p.m. on Monday. Fred tried a snapshot as it passed the photo gallery." [Nice to have an Eclipse pass a shop on King St - Fred would be Alfred Ellsworth - the paper didn't say how the snapshot turned out!]

Spring in the District wasn't just mud and floods - spring was also maple syrup, streams full of fish, ducks swimming and cattle grazing down at the Lake, potatoes planted, things painted and repaired - and people you hadn't seen for a long time on the streets and in the shops at Easter.

Easter Sunday was on March 30th.

William Spencer of the G.T.R had a short visit with his father - Mrs Frank Sainsbury and son Max from Port Hope visited the Ellsworth's - Frank Rowland of the Richmond Hill Bank was home on a visit, and so was Harry Rowland. The students were back too, including R.W.Allen from Trinity University - and the **ORONO NEWS** said that Newcastle had the largest gathering of Easter visitors in years.

William Pearse was having a great time making maple syrup on the old pioneer farm which he had rented the previous fall - but Maple Syrup in Newcastle meant William Wagstaff's store on King Street. Some said the establishment was one of the *"most up-to-date groceries east of Toronto"* - and sold the best brand of fruit - *"always in season"* - also *"fancy groceries of every description constantly in stock."*

On March 27 it was reported that James Stapleton, east of the village, was the first to start spring seeding - and William Delong planted potatoes in his garden on March 24th *"being the first in the village to perform that necessary duty."*

In April of 1902 villagers were wondering when work might start at rebuilding the harbour which was in very bad shape. The old port was still active and April saw the first boats of the season arrive. On April 17th the stone hookers "Maple Leaf" and "Viking" were both at Port Newcastle and one of the captains would be awarded "the hat" that was always given to the first ship of the season.

By June of 1902 Alf Lake was handling stone for the harbour company to repair the wharf - and a Mr A. Bowen sold what the **ORONO TIMES** called *"the historic Bond Head property known as the Lakeview Hotel, and grounds"* to Alf Lake. We assume the hotel referred to was the old Bennett Hotel on Boulton Street at the Bond Head Parkette corner.

1902

Mrs Olive Sanford was the youngest daughter of Samuel Wilmot (1822 - 1899) and Helen Matilda Clark (1834 - 1910). Samuel and Helen had 3 daughters - Helen, Mary & Olive - (and 4 sons) - and were the owners of "Belmont," and the Fish Hatchery at Newcastle. When Samuel died the family property at Belmont went into the hands of son-in-law Duncan James Galbraith and his wife Mary Wilmot - Mary the sister to Olive Sanford.

Mrs Olive Sanford - often referred to in the press as one of the most beautiful women in Canada - had 2 summer homes, and 3 husbands. Mr Henry Sanford, Vice Pres of Adams Express of New York City was her 3rd husband and she married him in September of 1898. One of her summer homes was in Connecticut, and the other was "Chestayne," in Newcastle, built by Charles Massey (1848-1884). "Chestayne" is the house just east of the red-brick "Massey Building" on King St; that is no.97 King St East - until recently the office of J. Anderson Smith Co Ltd.

On April 10th 1902 it was announced that Mrs Sanford, *"who is attending the Toronto Horse Show, where she has secured a box seat,"* had been in Newcastle during the week. She had ordered repairs from the Electric Light Department for her summer residence, as she was planning an early arrival this year in the village. This would put some pressure on the electric people because it was thought the power dam - owned by her brother-in-law Duncan Galbraith - might not be repaired until early summer. In the meantime Mrs Sanford took her niece, Miss Eileen Thorne (daughter of Helen) to see the horse show and to visit with friends in Toronto.

St George's Church Annual Report.

The Report published in April 1902 showed that the Church was in very good financial standing - but the correspondent to the ORONO NEWS suggested that there was one thing villagers would like to know - namely - *"Why did the church buy goods out of town that can be bought in the village, and we believe from its own members. The church cannot expect the merchants to support it when they will pass their doors and support merchants of other towns. The merchants have complained of this long enough, and we believe they will now act accordingly."*

Maybe St George's would be in the market for eggs - and William Gibson would be their man. William, of the celebrated fruit farm, was trying something new and had just had a very successful winter with a new collection of hens. His "egg money" was about \$58.00 each month at the first of the year. His neighbours were impressed and noticed the good profit to be made with hens when properly handled.

George Eilbeck, Newcastle merchant couldn't expect much business from St George's. Yes - he was an undertaker - but also a cabinet maker - and he was a Methodist. Eilbeck's also sold *"everything in the toy line"* including Dolls, from 1cent to \$1.00.

By mid April, Duncan Galbraith had a force of men rebuilding the dam at the Fisheries. Also in April, Mrs Sanford had an expert from New York City checking out the electric service at her residence. It was found that the system was somewhat defective.

Newcastle was shipping about 75,000 barrels of apples a year in 1902. The Lovekins, Gibsons, Osbornes, Colwills and Bowens were the large local apple growers.

1902

As 1899 came to an end, Dr Farncomb sold his drug business to William Scobell of Bowmanville.

**NEWCASTLE
DRUG STORE**
**We Take Eggs
As Cash For
WALLPAPER**

At first the "new" drug store was advertised as "SCOBELL & FARNCOMB, of Newcastle, Ontario, but by 1902 it was advertised as THE NEWCASTLE DRUG STORE, and was said to be the best place to buy Wall Paper and Paints -

"the latest American and English patterns - the very shade and design to make your home beautiful."

Dr Farncomb, no longer the village druggist, and needing an office, leased rooms in the Parker block - formerly occupied by the Times Office. F.B. Lovekin moved his office from the Parker block to the Barfett block.

THE NEWCASTLE DRUG STORE was where Becker's Milk is today. James Parker's "block" was the 2nd building next to the IGA corner - James Parker was a Newcastle shoemaker for 40 years. The Barfett block was next to Parker's. Robert Barfett, (probably the son of Newcastle harness maker John Barfett) took over Miller's dry goods and groceries at this location in about 1883.

Mr Scobell the new druggist, needing a home in Newcastle, moved in with Mr Davison the school principal - and had hired Arthur Rowland as an assistant at the drug store. In mid March John Pool had started work on repairing the Walbridge house getting it ready for Mr Scobell who moved his furniture in shortly thereafter.

A Mr John A Polkinghorne had taken over the Music Hall - above THE DRUG STORE - and he contradicted statements circulating in the village that scenery had been removed from the Music Hall. He claimed that only a few "old frames" had been removed. He also stated that the Hall would be furnished with up-to-date modern chairs, which would be a great improvement. The changes would be *"highly appreciated by all the citizens."*

MARK YOUR CALENDAR ***

PRESIDENTS POT LUCK LUNCH - SUNDAY, JUNE 8TH, at 12:00 NOON **

Florence and Herb Taylor invite members of the Society to a Pot Luck Lunch at Harbour House (the McEvoy House) 579 Mill Street South - on Sunday, June 8th 1997. Coffee, tea and soft drinks will be supplied. Anyone needing transportation - or questions answered - please call the Taylor's at 987-5433.

THE MASSEYS OF NEWCASTLE **

In the year 1847 - Daniel Massey and his wife Lucina Bradley moved from Haldimand Twsp to the village of Newcastle, where he joined forces with Richard Vaughan, in a small foundry on Mill St, to manufacture farm implements. In 1879 the company announced that it was moving to Toronto - and in 1891 the company became MASSEY HARRIS. In 1953 there was a merger with the FERGUSON Co and from 1958 the company was known as MASSEY FERGUSON. By 1962 MASSEY FERGUSON was the largest selling tractor brand name in the world.

A supplement in a recent issue of the ONTARIO FARMER says *"no other farm machinery company has made a bigger contribution to the mechanization of world agriculture. MASSEY FERGUSON has produced innovations in farm equipment that improved farming almost everywhere in the world."*

The ONTARIO AGRICULTURAL MUSEUM **

July 17TH TO 20TH — The 150th Anniversary of MASSEY-HARRIS-FERGUSON WILL BE CELEBRATED THIS SUMMER at (what was until recently called) the ONTARIO AGRICULTURAL MUSEUM, at MILTON, ONTARIO.

The Milton site, south of 401 and west of Toronto contains over 30 buildings and 80 acres, that illustrate the history of agriculture in Ontario. It includes one of the largest agriculture equipment collections in North America - with an impressive display of Massey-Harris-Ferguson equipment.

For more information, including details regarding Camp Sites and Bed & Breakfast accommodation please call (905)878-8151 or Fax (905) 876-4530.

The Newcastle Village & District Historical Society had hoped to be able to attend the Milton events - as a group - but transportation is not available. If any members have suggestions regarding this matter please contact Herb Taylor at (905) 987-5433

We expect to have a Society Picnic late in July at Ron & Betty Locke's including a study tour of the land granted by Major Wilmot to the Rev T.S. Kennedy, Rector of the English Church, of Darlington and Clarke, in 1847, that includes St George's Cemetery.

In the ORONO NEWS of March 27th, 1902, we read -

that Mrs Malcolm, wife of George Malcolm, M.A., of Stratford College Institute, who was buried at Newcastle on Saturday, was raised in Newtonville - *"the only sister of Capt. Milligan, now quarantined with the last contingent with small pox in the lower province."*

The above tells us that Captain Milligan, Berneice Milligan's grandfather, was in Quebec in February, or early March of 1902, on his way with the last contingent to South Africa. Two weeks after the above notice, readers of the **ORONO NEWS of April 2nd** were to learn that Captain Milligan died during the engagement at Hart River, on March 31st.

A piece of string on a "world globe" placed so one can measure "how the crow flies" tells us that Orono, Ontario, is 8000 miles away from the Orange Free State in South Africa - 9600 miles by way of London. The first successful Trans Atlantic Cable was laid in 1866. News of the events that took place in South Africa in 1902, probably traveled by way of the cable and could be reported in the weekly **ORONO NEWS**, ten days after they happened.

<Note: there is no record of the burial of Mrs Malcolm in Genealogical Cemetery Records. >

Thank you to Audrey Gogerty for telling us about Berneice Milligan. Other information in this newsletter is from 1902 copies of the **ORONO NEWS**, the **WEST DURHAM NEWS** and the **BOWMANVILLE NEWS**.

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NEWCASTLE VILLAGE & DISTRICT HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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

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