

# NEWCASTLE VILLAGE & DISTRICT

## HISTORICAL SOCIETY. 1999

Newsletter \*\* May, June, July, 1998

The NEWCASTLE COMMUNITY HALL was a gift from Chester D. Massey (1850-1926) who married Anna Vincent. They had 2 sons, Vincent, born in 1887 - who became Canada's first "Canadian born" Governor General - and Raymond Hart born 1896 - a famous Hollywood actor who appeared in many films including "Abe Lincoln in Illinois" and "How the West Was Won." He also had a major roll in the early TV series Dr Kildare where he took the part of Dr Gillespie." Anna Massey died in 1903.

#52.  
see  
back

Chester Massey was one of five children born to Hart Almerrin Massey (1823-1896) and his wife Eliza Ann Phelps (died 1908) - and a grandson of Daniel Massey (1798-1856) and Lucina Bradley. Daniel came to Bond Head Village in 1847 and was a partner for a short time with Richard Vaughan who had a blacksmith shop as well as a small foundry - on Mill Street, near the harbour - where he made simple farm items such as ploughs, potash and sugar kettles.

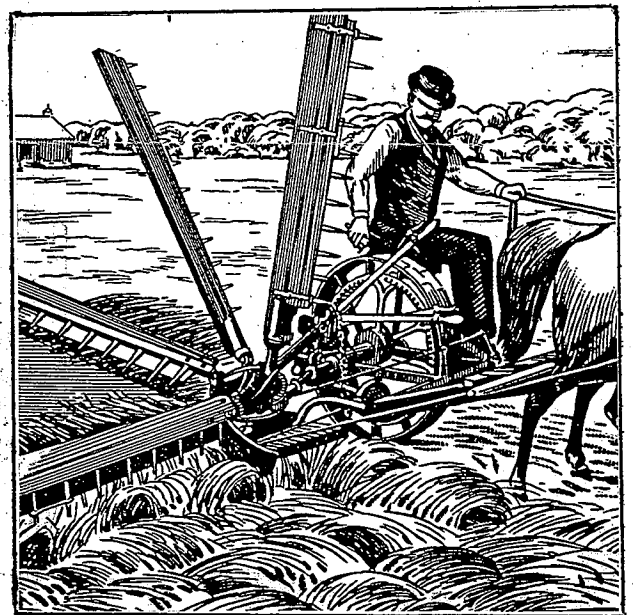
Very soon Daniel was making harrows and cultivators - just the beginning of what was to become the famous Massey-Harris - and Massey-Ferguson - farm equipment company. The company moved to Larger quarters in Newcastle, and in 1879 moved to Toronto. Then, some 40 years later, Chester Massey came back to Newcastle and rebuilt the old Massey house - now gone - beside the factory on King Street. Here he would spend part of his summers, and at the same time he built our Hall - the Newcastle Community Hall - and gave it as a gift to the village.

*"An important event in the life of the village took place on Saturday afternoon last when the first sod in connection with the new Community Hall, donated by the Massey people, was turned. Two bright young scions of the family, Lionel and Hart Massey, grandsons of the late Hart Massey, had the honour. Speeches were made by Mr Vincent Massey, Mr A. A. Coldwell, Thos Montague and others. The proceedings opened with a Prayer by Rev. J. E. Fenning. Reeve George P. Rickard presided. The attendance fell short of what might be anticipated."*

- ORONO NEWS - Sept 29 1921.

*"A number of teams are at work excavating the foundation and basement of the new Community Hall which will cost upwards of \$80,000 it is estimated. Villagers now realize their grave mistake in persuading Mr. Chester Massey to cut down the original plan from 700 seat capacity for the public hall to 400 seats and a meeting was held Tuesday evening at which it was resolved to make an effort to induce Mr. Massey to revert to the original plan."*

- ORONO NEWS - Oct 6, 1921





*The following is a guide to items found in our Historical Society room:*

WELCOME TO OUR HISTORICAL SOCIETY ROOM. This room was a library when our Community Hall was first built.

The Library Board have placed between 600 and 700 volumes on the shelves of the Memorial Library Hall, being the first installment of the books to be placed there. - from the ORONO NEWS - Sept 6 1923

FARM MACHINERY - Under the imposing title "THE NEWCASTLE FOUNDRY AND MACHINE MANUFACTORY, C.W., the Massey activities were moved from Bond Head Village to King Street, Newcastle Village early in 1849. A number of plows were made, also improved harrows as well as other tools, including a "stump puller" which was adapted for use with one or more oxen - one or more horses - or even two or more men.

A BOARD - a wooden board - found by Ron Lock in the wall of his house - which once belonged to Alan Wilmot. It is thought that the board was cut by a "pit saw" in about 1832.

A Municipal Bowling Club was organized at a meeting held in the Council Chamber last week. The aim is to enrol a membership of fifty. A Bowling green is to be fitted up on the Community Hall Lawn. This is a game to enthuse real sports. - from the ORONO NEWS - Sept 6 1923

LAWN BOWLING - the John Douglas cup - for Community Bowling - on green grass in the park to the east of the Community Hall - where the car park is today - was won in the 1927 annual competition by H.S Britton, C.R. Carveth, Geo Jamieson, and F.W. Rickard who acted as skip.

COAL - Owing to the strike it is impossible to get immediate delivery, but I have sufficient quantity on order to take care of all my customers. Make sure of your next winter's coal by booking your order early.  
George Jamieson - an ad in the CANADIAN STATESMAN - July 20 1922

APPLES APPLES APPLES - Near the lake in Clarke Twp is a great place to grow apples. Some of our apple families are the GIBSONS, LOVEKINS, OSBORNES, COLWILLS, BOWENS. We have a picture showing the FIRST PRIZE EXHIBIT, with hundreds of apples, at the NORTHUMBERLAND AND DURHAM FRUIT GROWER'S WINTER FAIR - the exhibit by W.H.GIBSON of Newcastle.

THE DRESS - it is a wedding dress, c.1886 - worn by Anna Vincent Massey, wife of Chester Massey, mother of Vincent and Raymond. The dress was donated to our Society by Melodie Massey, wife of Hart Massey. Hart was a grandson of Chester Massey, who had the Community Hall built, and donated it to our Village.

In the year that our Community Hall was built, some skirts on some dresses were different from the skirt on Anna Massey's dress. The ORONO NEWS of the day reminded readers that they might have noted the controversy regarding several modern happenings in the Orono - Newcastle - Bowmanville area - and commented on in the "VOICE OF THE PEOPLE" in the GLOBE newspaper.

*"Some people never get any farther along the way than on this question, some hit out at progressive euchre and stay in that rut, some are getting on the house-tops and belching out great quantities of hot air on the short skirt as we have it today, and so it goes. Those ruts are a funny thing for if you let those people just rut-a-long in a short time they will get out of sight, unwept and unsung, and they wonder why you do not come to their way of thinking, but most people abhor a rut so keep out or you may have a blow-up."*

- from the ORONO NEWS





The WINDSOR HOTEL - in an old black and white photograph - was on the corner across the street from the Community Hall which is now our new RONA hardware store.

BOOKS - we have Professor Squair's classic book THE TOWNSHIP OF DARLINGTON & CLARKE for sale in our Library Room. There are also copies of OUT OF THE MIST by our member Helen Schmid for members and visitors to read - and we also have a collection of the Ontario History journal.

VARIOUS BRICKS - There are bricks in the room from the WOOLEN MILL, the GRIST MILL, and other Newcastle buildings. In the early days, bricks were made of clay found on the same village lot where the building was built.

Work on the Community Hall is going slow just at present. A couple of Brick-layers from Kingston started work this week making three men only on the job but we expect it to speed up shortly.

- ORONO NEWS - July 13 1922.

GEORGE EILBECK, was a village merchant in the early 1880's. He had a store "*of large dimensions*" on King Street in 1916 - with fancy goods, furniture, upholstered goods, pictures, stationery "*which combine comfort and adornment in the home. Special attention is given to undertaking and embalming. Goods are sold for cash.*"

CANADA'S FIRST FISH HATCHERY - we have page - in French - which shows the fish ponds, museum and other buildings that were part of the Fish Hatchery and the government fish breeding grounds established by SAMUEL WILMOT (1822-1899). Wilmot Creek, west of the village, crosses No 2 highway - near highway 115, and in early days "*everybody came with spears and got their winter's supply of fish.*"

JOHN STEEN (1841-1928), carpenter - born in Newcastle - was a taxidermist. His father was Robert Steen, born Co Tyrone, Ireland, who died May 26, 1885, age 84, and is buried with John and six other members of the family in Bond Head Cemetery.

BOX FACTORY - 3 photographs of all the employees at the Box Factory - dated 1937 - 1947 - 1954. The J. Anderson Smith, Box Factory - where boxes were made at one time for most of the dinner services (knives, forks and spoons) in North America.

When the 3M Company - the Minnesota Mining & Manufacturing Company - "*one of the world's most interesting corporations*" had what they called a "*very special celebration*" - 30 years of Manufacturing "SCOTCH" Brand Video Tape, and they produced a SPECIAL ANNIVERSARY VIDEOCASSETTE, which was placed in a special wooden case - the case was made of mahogany at The Box Factory - in Newcastle, Ontario.

In 1984 Pope Paul arrived in Toronto and brought with him - as part of his attire - some very famous Vatican treasures. When he arrived - his rings along with other valuable items were carefully unpacked from their "travel case" and placed in a mahogany chest - designed and made in Newcastle, Ontario, by J. Anderson Smith Co Limited.

GENEALOGICAL SEARCH - we have newspaper clippings, books, a variety of documents, some Assessment Records, a few old telephone books, also deed abstracts and some photographs, etc, etc, that may help with your search. If you have a question - just ask !!



AN ENVELOPE for a bill - in Case no.7 - that was mailed and sent about 1.5 miles by post. The envelope contained a drug store bill - was mailed in Newcastle by the Newcastle druggist - and sent to CAPT FRANK GIBSON, schooner captain, in the Village of Bond Head.

In the same case with the envelope is a TELEGRAM - from John James Robson - the village "shipper" - to Capt Frank Gibson, schooner captain, who was in Port Hope. The message was:

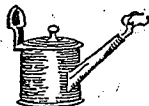
"MUST TRY TO GET LUMBER FROM VINNIE OR GO TO KINGSTON FOR STONE."

We sometimes forget that there was a telegraph service available in the village before the first trains arrived. Hiram Hodges, JP, was village postmaster and telegraph operator in 1864.

In Case no.8 there are photographs of the HARMONY BAND - a class at BROWN SCHOOL - and members of a NEWCASTLE SOFTBALL TEAM.

SCRAPBOOKS - we have several - ask to see them.

On page 45 in ALBUM #3, there is an interesting newspaper photo of a gathering of new Massey farm machines in Newcastle Park, on King Street. The delivery of new machines to local farmers called for a day of celebration.



#### ALBUMS

They contain a great variety of material - post cards, newspaper clippings, menus, programs, photos, showing early village scenes, long forgotten stores, people, special events.

ALBUM #3 - page 5 - a picture of Joe Atkinson in a top hat and tails.

Joe Atkinson was born in Newcastle in 1865, and lived with his mother in a boarding house where she looked after mill hands. She died when he was age 14 - Joe said it was from "overwork" - and he got a job in the same local mill. The mill burned and Joe got a job at \$6 a week - as a reporter. That was the start. He went on to become the President and the Publisher of the Toronto Star, and owner in 1899. Joe worked at the Star for almost 50 years - and was considered to be one of the best newspaper publishers in North America.

#### From SMITH'S CANADIAN GAZETTEER - 1846:

**NEWCASTLE VILLAGE** - a pretty little Village in the township of Clark, five miles east from Bowmanville, and seventeen from Port Hope; it contains about 300 inhabitants. Churches and chapels two, viz., Methodist, and Congregational. There is an Episcopal church a mile and a-half from the village.

Post Office, post every day.

*Professions and Trades.* - Eight stores, one druggist, two tanneries, two taverns, one axe factory, two saddlers, four blacksmiths, two wagon makers, four tailors, and two shoe makers.

**BOND HEAD** - A Shipping place and Village on Lake Ontario, one and a-half miles from the village of Newcastle; contains about fifty or sixty houses, which are very much scattered; one-third of which are unoccupied; no store open; one tavern open; two or three shut up. There is a considerable quantity of marsh about the harbour. There is in the village an Episcopal Church and a grist mill.



1921 - the sod was turned for the Newcastle Community Hall by LIONEL and HART MASSEY. They were the sons of VINCENT MASSEY (bn.1887) - and their uncle was RAYMOND MASSEY (bn.1896) who played Abraham Lincoln in many Hollywood films.

Hall construction pictures show (1) Steel construction of the Community Hall - (2) the Village Park which became the bowling green and is now the Hall parking lot - (3) excavation by horse and wagon.

Mr Bevis left on Monday to start work on another contract leaving Mr Bolton in charge at Community Hall. The Architects were down on Wednesday of last week inspecting the work - - which is now beginning to assume shape. The weather has favoured the workmen this past few weeks and marked progress has been made. The men will start putting the slate on the roof this week, it is expected.

- from the ORONO NEWS - Nov 23 1922.

MUSICAL SOCIETY BAND OF NEWCASTLE - this picture was taken by A.ELSWORTH, the Newcastle Village photographer. ALFRED ELLSWORTH, born in the US, a widower, lived with his mother, on King Street, 2 buildings this side of the laundromat. He was called a "shoemaker," but - besides making and selling boots, rubbers and overshoes, he sold trunks and valises. He also had a printing press in his store, and he "*conducted a photographic studio.*"

We have a picture of the ship *The ARGYLE* at Port Newcastle. *The ARGYLE* was very similar to the *Francis Smith* - the model ship in the glass case - which was a birthday present to Eric Richard Lovekin in 1936.

There were no passengers left here on *The ARGYLE* Tuesday morning on account of the rain and fog.

from the ORONO NEWS, June 25 1903 -

*The ARGYLE* makes its last trip of the season from this port tomorrow. ORONO NEWS, Sept 17 1903

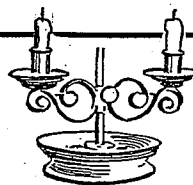
We have a copy of a drawing of the early Vaughan shops- the foundry and the blacksmith shop - in Bond Head - produced many years ago by some printer called "Toronto Litho." This drawing is probably an artist's conception of what the small foundry and the adjacent blacksmith shop looked like. In the 1848 Clarke Twp census RF Vaughan is listed as a "Founder" as is John Scott who lived nearby. Also listed in the Bond Head area is John Ratcliffe - and these three men - Vaughan - Ratcliffe and Scott - may have been the total workforce that Daniel Massey joined with in 1847. We have a very interesting "First Census of Canada - c.1790, by C.G Lyon" in our historical collection - and Lyon mentions a Richard Vaughan born in 1809. This may be our "Founder" - in that age 39 would seem appropriate. When Daniel Massey joined Vaughan, Daniel was age 49 and he is listed in the 1848 Clarke Twp census as a "farmer."

THE PEOPLE OF DURAM COUNTY(1790-1812) A preliminary guide produced by Leslie Wilson, to assist in researching family roots. It contains the names of many early settlers in Durham County as well as a list of the Durham Militia, June 1812 to March 1815.

STREET LIGHTING. In 1896, SAMUEL WILMOT established electricity at his fish hatchery at "Belmont." The street lighting system at the time consisted of 10 lights near 80 houses. The power was turned on at dusk and off about midnight. The light overhead on the north wall was used in Newcastle until a few years ago.

Plaque on the North Wall:

This Library was established & is maintained by the Citizens of Newcastle as a Memorial to those of her Sons who Served and Fell in the Great war 1914-1918.



In case no.12, is a drawing of DANIEL MASSEY (1798-1856) who married LUCINA BRADLEY.

The Masseys and the Vaughans were both from Haldimand Township-- and the Masseys moved from Haldimand to Bond Head in 1847. One wonders what a "move" was like in 1847! The distance is 40 miles - the roads were dirt and very rough. What goods did they bring with them? Table and chairs? How many wagon loads? Daniel and Lucina brought their seven children - and one little girl called ALIDA was born in Newcastle.

Case no.13 - BOB WALTON - a very popular singer in Newcastle - a baritone soloist - as well as a village grocer. He was also a good athlete and played baseball and hockey. His parents were Mr & Mrs Anson Walton, who lived in the old brick house on the north west corner of King and North Streets.

THE NEWCASTLE LIONESSE CLUB has quietly slipped away. Now Lionesses attend meetings with the Lions. The Club was started in 1952 - as the Lionette Club - and we have Kay Stephenson's jacket on display along with a photo album - and a very interesting scrap-book. The Club has also deposited various records with us.

Case no.14 - On display are dishes used for "suppers" in the Hall. Some date from 1923 - some were made in "occupied Japan."

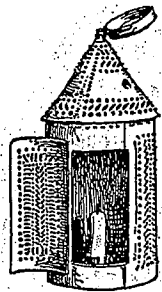
Citizens will be glad to hear that Mr Frank Evans has decided to move back to this town. There is more satisfaction and real life in living with those you know than amongst city strangers most of whom haven't the time to make your acquaintance. - ORONO NEWS - July 13 1992.

HARBOUR MODEL - We have a model of our harbour and are reminded that The Bond Head Harbour Company was incorporated in March of 1839. The SMITH'S CANADIAN GAZETTEER, mentioned earlier, lists *Exports from Bond Head Harbour during 1844*: They were 24,000 bushels of wheat, 950 Bushels of oats, 2065 barrels of flour, 28 barrels pork, 50 barrels potash, 41 barrels pearlash, 82 barrels whiskey, 70,000 feet of lumber, 10 kegs butter, 6 kegs of lard, 290 bushels of potatoes and 4 oxen.

1901 - June 6 We never saw the wharf in such a dilapidated condition as at present. The planking is badly broken up with the heavy traffic, being dangerous for man and beast.

A real estate deal of considerable importance was completed last week, whereby Mr C. D. Massey of Toronto becomes owner of the former Massey Homestead in Newcastle, and lately occupied by Mr D. J. Galbraith. We understand it is the intention of Mr Massey to remodel and equip the premises as a first class summer home. This will be a very important addition to Newcastle's large and growing summer colony and the whole community will join in giving a royal welcome home to their own illustrious son, Mr C.D. Massey.

- CANADIAN STATESMAN - Dec 14 1922



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